

THE REPORTER

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BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK

BD luncheon to feature talk about Jewish presence in Brazil

On Saturday, January 11, Beth David's Luncheon Speaker series will feature Roberta Borger, who will give a talk titled "Growing Up in Two Worlds: From Sao Paulo, Brazil, to Binghamton, NY." Borger will speak about the history of Jewish presence in Brazil, as well as share her life story. A Brazilian citizen and resident of Sao Paulo, she will discuss her personal experiences growing up Jewish in a country known for its mixture of cultures, traditions and influences.



Roberta Borger

"What was it like growing up Jewish in Brazil, where Jewish roots trace back to the 16th century?" organizers of the luncheon asked. "Has integration always been peaceful? Has assimilation become one of the biggest threats to Judaism? And now, with the newly-elected far-right president, has the perception of Judaism changed? These are a few of the questions that Borger will address in her talk."

"I have always loved studying about religions," Borger said. "It's a passion inherited from my great-grandfather, a rabbi,

and my grandfather, a historian."

Born and raised in Sao Paulo, Borger was active in its Jewish community. She was a student through middle school at the Chaim Nachman Bialik Brazilian-Israeli School. Her family belonged to the Israeli-Paulista Congregation and she was a member of its youth group which met every Saturday for activities, lectures, discussions and events.

In 2006, Borger spent a semester at Tel Aviv University after receiving a Masa scholarship, which is given by the government of Israel and the Jewish Agency for Israel, through contributions of the Jewish Federations of North America and Keren Hayesod-UIA. She is also the recipient of an award for scholastic merit from the Armando Alvares Penteado Foundation. After receiving her bachelor's degree in screenwriting from Anhembi Morumbi University in Sao Paulo, Borger moved to the U.S. in 2008 and obtained a second bachelor's degree in creative writing from SUNY Purchase. In 2014, she received her master of fine arts in creative writing from

Chatham University in Pittsburgh, with a double major in fiction and in children's writing, and a concentration in travel writing. She subsequently moved to Binghamton, where she is currently completing her Ph.D. in English and creative writing. Her poems and short stories have appeared in *The Acentos Review*, *The Brooklyn Voice*, *Lux* and other literary magazines.

"Roberta has a wealth of knowledge," organizers say. "She is our first speaker from Brazil and we look forward to finding out more about Jewish life there, as well as her own personal experiences within that community."

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.

U.S. State Dept. offers grant for project to combat antisemitism in Europe

By JNS staff

(JNS) – The U.S. State Department is offering a \$1 million grant to combat antisemitism in Europe.

The department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor is partnering with the special envoy for monitoring and combating antisemitism "to counter the rise of antisemitism in Europe as manifested through hate crimes such as acts of physical violence, desecration of religious community sites and religion-based discrimination. Combating antisemitism is part of promoting religious freedom globally," said the department in an announcement on December 13.

The project would be between two and four years long, according to the announcement. DRL would support the initiative "by strengthening the legal sector to identify, respond and prosecute crimes related to antisemitic hate focusing on physical violence, desecration of religious community sites and religion-based discrimination in three to five countries in the Europe region," stated the department.

Examples include, but aren't limited to, "training and resources to law enforcement, lawyers, judges, CSOs, vulnerable communities and others in the legal or advocacy sector on current laws regarding hate crimes and anti-discrimination, including national and international standards of antisemitic hate crime; identifying and prosecuting cases; providing victim support; and strategies to engage with local Jewish communities to both prevent and respond to antisemitic hate crimes."

The program could also include "creating national or regional networks of legal sector actors trained in prosecuting cases and supporting victims"; "engaging law students on identifying and responding to antisemitic hate crimes"; "monitoring implementation of local and national laws, including court-case monitoring and reporting abuses to national, regional and international bodies to hold governments and law-enforcement accountable"; and "engaging in strategic litigation to set case-law precedent regarding antisemitic hate crime."



A memorial stone at the site of an old Jewish synagogue in the French city of Strasbourg was vandalized in March, following the February 19 discovery of swastikas on 80 gravestones in a Jewish cemetery in the village of Quatzenheim, also near the border with Germany. (Photo by EJP)

TITC adult ed. program on Jan. 12 to discuss Mussar

The Adult Education Committee of Temple Israel and Temple Concord will host a program on Sunday, January 12, at 10 am, at Temple Israel. Rabbi Geoffrey Brown will provide an introduction to the Jewish spiritual path of Mussar. Mussar has been described as a study of Jewish ethics. There is a cost of \$5 per person for the breakfast.



Rabbi Geoffrey Brown

Brown has been leading an ongoing Mussar class at Temple Israel for the past several months. Mussar study employs a variety of approaches to internalizing Jewish values. The course itself has been described as "an immersion process," and

includes readings and discussion questions, maintaining a journal, meeting with a partner for a study session and then meeting as a group to contemplate and reflect on the text.

Mussar, in the words of Mussar Institute founder Alan Morinis, "shows us how to realize our highest spiritual potential, including an everyday experience infused with happiness, trust and love."

To make a reservation, contact Tammy Kunsman titammy@stny.twcbc.com or 723-7461. Reservations would be appreciated by Wednesday, January 8, in order to have sufficient food.

Happy Hanukkah



The Hillel Academy fourth-fifth-graders posed in front of the Hanukkah display. Clockwise: Mika Friedman, Mushky Chein, Thea Yarkony, Aaron Sambursky, Shai Yarkony and Shmulik Slonim. (See more photos on page 5.)

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Chanukah

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Opinion

Marginalizing womanhood and Judaism on campus

By Bianca Kermani

(JNS) – In 1851, Sojourner Truth – abolitionist, feminist and former slave – delivered her pivotal speech titled “Ain’t I a Woman?” at the Women’s Rights Convention in Akron, OH. She shared her strife, her struggle and her ever-growing frustration with society and government alike.

Just released from the oppressive grasp of slavery, she sought to achieve and prosper. As a woman and a feminist, she supported the suffrage movement that had been avalanching into national advancement with great speed. Yet as fast as they had been moving, they had been leaving behind members of their cause they believed were not of the same group. In the eyes of the rest of the women in attendance at this convention in Ohio, Sojourner was not a person of concern for their cause. As a black woman, she was excluded from women’s rights causes.

Despite her passion and yearning to see a United States overflowing with gender equality legislation, she was not deemed as “one of”; instead, she was “them.” She was essentially excluded from the advancements of one of her identities on the basis of societal rejection of another. Imagine: a woman unable to advance as a woman because she happens to also be black – identities serving as obstructions for the expression of other identities.

College students today are welcomed to their campuses with droves of student organizations hurling fliers at them. Our universities, especially mine, pride themselves on values of inclusivity, equity and diversity. As a college student and first-generation American, I am no stranger to balancing my mix of identities and juggling them in the various groups with which I spend my time. For the most part, I am accepted – at least, at first.

I soon came to realize that our campus had opportunities that represented my identities and advocated for their advancements. As a woman, the Women’s Center advocated for my advancement in the medical field as a student of

the sciences. At my social-justice-focused college, I was provided a platform to engage in dialogue for issues that held importance for me: gun control, for instance. As a Persian American, I was able to find friends that shared the culture, could speak with me in Farsi and made me feel more at home. Yet as close to these groups as I was, my Zionist identity would immediately compromise our relationships. Once I became open about my support for the Jewish state, relationships completely shifted. As a woman, I was shamed for not standing with my female Palestinian peers. As someone in Thurgood Marshall College – one of the six undergraduate colleges at the University of California, San Diego – I had to now fight for my seat at

At my social-justice-focused college, I was provided a platform to engage in dialogue for issues that held importance for me: gun control, for instance. ...Once I became open about my support for the Jewish state, relationships completely shifted. As a woman, I was shamed for not standing with my female Palestinian peers. ...I had to now fight for my seat at the table when discussing issues of immigration, apartheid and equality; I was depicted as a supporter of the problem.

the table when discussing issues of immigration, apartheid and equality; I was depicted as a supporter of the problem. As a member of the Persian community, a number of my countrymen regarded me as a traitor – not a true Persian, not a true college student, not a true woman.

It was as if someone had etched “Zionism” on my forehead. This was my only identity – a clear contradiction to anything else I thought myself to be. My other identities were no longer valid. Even some Jewish students who had fallen prey to villianization imposed on them had felt no shame in shaming me. My relationship with the various parts of myself became stranger, as if my campus’ interpretation of me had made me a stranger to myself.

In January, the Women’s March had nationally excluded

me as a Zionist since national organizer Linda Sarsour had declared that Zionists cannot be feminists. So I did not go. In March, I was asked to leave our university’s March for Our Lives because students did not believe pro-Israel rhetoric was in agreement with the values of gun-control legislation. So I conversed, acknowledged defeat and left.

In May, I learned of Sojourner Truth – the abolitionist, the feminist, the former slave who, with her various identities – found unity and not contrast. She found complementary values in the various parts of her, not antitheses. My second year, I did not flee even when conversations met a state of “agree to disagree.” I did not let others convince me that my identity was invalid because of the socially constructed theories that it was a contradiction to others.

From fear of excluding others, whose identity may be popularized as a contradiction to my own, we are excluding others. From fear of excluding women from the polls, women were excluding their sisters of color. The advancement of marginalized groups are leaving behind those of their own causes, marginalizing them even more.

Sojourner Truth did not stand by as other American women were voting in the polls. Nearly 200 years later, we cannot stand idly

by and blindly claim that this is the time of our minority groups. As a proud Jew and Zionist, a descendant of one of the most persecuted groups in the history of humankind, a first-generation American to refugee parents from antisemitism-riddled Iran and a student at the University of California, San Diego, I beg the rest of my campus, society and country not to advance without me. Do not leave me behind! As Sojourner pleaded, “Ain’t I a woman? A daughter of immigrants? An American?”

Bianca Kermani is a third-year international studies-linguistics and global health double major with a minor in general biology, studying on a premedical school track at the University of California, San Diego. She is the 2019-20 CAMERA fellow representing UC San Diego.

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

In My Own Words

Spending money

It felt like odd timing to finally start reading a collection of short essays, “Latest Readings,” by Clive James. The review copy had been accidentally sent to me in 2015 (as far as I can discover, James is not Jewish) and sat on my to-read pile since then. Shortly after beginning the book, I saw that James passed away at the end of November, a few days after I started his work. James’ opening essay noted how sick he was, so his death was not a surprise. His death brought to mind the one other work of James’ I’d read: his novel “The Silver Castle,” which was published in the 1990s. The story, which focuses on the Bollywood film industry, greatly influenced my thinking about the different ways people spend money.

His influence helps explain the debates I’ve had with a friend who works in social services about how people should spend the funds given them. Most of the time they have no option: the money for doctor bills, rent, medicine etc. is given directly to the person or business owed. Both of us feel that made great sense because it removes any temptation that the money will be put to a different use. Where we differ is in

the use of discretionary funds: money donated, for example, for holidays that is given with no restrictions on its use. My friend thinks the money should be spent carefully – perhaps to ease grocery bills over a number of weeks or saved for emergencies. I think, if the money is gift, they have the right to use it however they wish, even if it means taking a trip, eating at an expensive restaurant or other purposes my friend considers frivolous and unwise.

What gave me an appreciation of why people spend money in ways my friend considers foolish comes from having read “The Silver Castle.” Most of the plot is fuzzy in my mind since I read it so long ago, but what stood out was this: People who have never had much money don’t feel they can count on having that money in the future. Therefore, they believe it’s better to spend it on something they can enjoy now, rather than saving it for future expenses. After all, they don’t know what the future holds and the money may go to waste or be lost if they don’t spend it right now.

I was reminded of this difference in monetary philosophy when reading an article recently about why poor children don’t generally do as well on the marshmallow test. For those who are unfamiliar with this research, it’s based on a simple test. Children are placed in a room that contains a plate holding one marshmallow. Before leaving the room for a short period of time, the researcher says that if the child doesn’t eat the marshmallow, he will receive a second marshmallow when the researcher returns. The children who wait for the second marshmallow are thought to do better in school and work than children who are unable to wait. The bias occurred when the researchers didn’t consider why a child might eat the marshmallow immediately: some children’s lives are so precarious and unstable that

the child knows that if he doesn’t eat the marshmallow immediately, then, in five minutes, the marshmallow might be gone. Think about that for a minute: a child might lose the little they have if they don’t eat/spend it immediately because the adults in their lives might take what little they have. So, if you feel the future is uncertain and the world is not steady or dependable, you might grab what you can and enjoy it now, and worry about an uncertain future when it arrives.

The irony of my thinking that it’s OK for people to spend money on something they love is that I’m a saver. But if I had very little money and someone gave me a gift, I’d really have to debate if I would put it aside to use as needed or enjoy something – dinner out, the books I’ve wanted to buy – rather than using it to ease my daily life. The \$50 wouldn’t make that much of a difference if it’s spread over five weeks of grocery shopping, but it would make for a decent one-time shopping spree.

Is there a right way or wrong way to spend and/or save money? That’s hard to say. After all, my financial decisions have been questioned because I am a saver, not an investor. That means that I don’t receive much interest on the money I have, but I also haven’t lost any in stock market fluctuations. Yes, some people make up money lost over a period of years, but others I’ve known have never recovered those funds. I have to admit that my philosophy of money comes from my family: it was what I learned from my parents and from being raised in a middle class atmosphere. That’s why I so appreciated “The Silver Castle.” It taught me that people look and act differently because of their circumstances. It also made me extremely grateful for the benefits I’ve received.

Correction

In the December 20 issue of *The Reporter*, the Jewish Family Service Chanukah greeting ad on page 12 mistakenly noted Roz Antoun was JFS director. She retired in the spring and Rose Shea is the new JFS director.

Also, on page 11, the holiday greeting from the Preus family was missing the name Ari.

The Reporter apologizes for the errors and any confusion they may have caused.



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OPINIONS

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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NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

Jerusalem youth orchestra selected to perform at Carnegie Hall

Jerusalem's Hassadna Wind Orchestra has been selected to perform at New York's Carnegie Hall in April as part of the New York International Music Festival. The teen orchestra, consisting of 48 high school students, is one of six ensembles from around the world selected to perform at the New York venue. At the festival, Hassadna will compete with orchestras from the Czech Republic, Poland and the United States. "The festival will take our young musicians on an unforgettable musical and human journey. It will be special for us to represent Israel in the most beautiful way we know," said the orchestra's artistic director, Ronit Berman, as reported by *The Jerusalem Post*. Clarinetist Naor Akuba, 18, said, "All the greatest musicians in the world played at Carnegie Hall. I cannot believe that we will be next in line. I cannot wait to step on stage with my friends." The orchestra is still trying to raise funding to attend the competition.

More than 40 Israelis detained at Moscow airport

More than 40 Israelis were detained on Dec. 18 at Domodedovo Airport in Moscow and their passports confiscated. The passengers, including children, were brought to a pre-prepared area where Russian security personnel questioned them. Following two hours of questioning and fingerprinting, all passengers were released. The incident followed the arrest and imprisonment by Russian authorities of 26-year-old Israeli Naama Issachar, who was discovered with 9.5 grams of cannabis in her checked luggage on a connecting flight through Moscow on her way to Israel from India several months ago. It is believed that Issachar's heavy sentence may have been designed to pressure Israel into stopping the extradition to the United States of Russian cyber-criminal Alexei Burkov, who after four years of incarceration was ultimately sent to America on charges of hacking U.S. credit-card databases.

Australian court sentences two in ISIS bomb plot foiled with IDF help

An Australian court on Dec. 17 sentenced two brothers to a total of 76 years in jail for an Islamic State-inspired plot to blow up a United Arab Emirates Etihad Airways flight from Sydney to Abu Dhabi in 2017. Australian-Lebanese brothers Khaled and Mahmoud Khayat had planned to disguise a bomb as a meat grinder and pass it to an unwitting third brother who was about to board an Etihad Airways flight, *i24 News* reported. A fourth brother, who is a member of ISIS, was overseeing the plot from abroad, while the bomb's components and the instructions regarding its assembly were provided by the terror group. When the plot failed, the suspects began planning another attack, this time using poison gas, according to Australian authorities. They were arrested in the early planning stages. According to the report, Israel claimed in 2018 to have tipped off Australia about the plot, revealing that the intelligence came from its secretive Unit 8200, which deals with signals intelligence. The judge in the case said the unwitting brother had been targeted by the others because of his drinking, clubbing and gambling, and because he was gay.

Prince Charles to visit Israel, "occupied" Palestinian territories

(*Israel Hayom* via JNS) – Britain's Prince Charles has accepted an invitation by Israeli President Reuven Rivlin to take part in the Fifth World Holocaust Forum at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem in January. The event, titled "Remembering the Holocaust, Fighting Anti-Semitism," is a joint project by the World Holocaust Forum Foundation and Yad Vashem. Scheduled for Jan. 23, it will commemorate the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp and make a clear statement that antisemitism has no place in global society. Rivlin said that the upcoming forum will be taking place at a "very important historical moment... with the voices of Holocaust denial and antisemitism once again rising." He added that no quarter would be given to any individuals, organizations, politicians or heads of state who "falsified the truth" or tried to ensure that the Holocaust was forgotten. British Ambassador to Israel Neil Wigan said he was pleased that the prince had accepted Rivlin's invitation and that on his upcoming visit would "see a bit more of Israel." The United Kingdom also revealed that the prince's itinerary will include a visit to the "occupied" Palestinian territories, where he will be a guest of Palestinian Authority leader Mahmoud Abbas.

Israel admits shipment of Qatari emergency vehicles into Gaza

Twenty rescue and firefighting vehicles donated by Qatar were admitted into Gaza in coordination with Israel on Dec. 17, according to Gaza officials. Included in the shipment were multiple SUVs fitted with water pumps, to bolster the region's emergency vehicle fleet, which had previously consisted of just 33 vehicles, including a single fire truck with a hydraulic platform. Gaza Civil Defense spokesman Raed al-Dahshan called the acquisition "unprecedented," noting that no new firefighting equipment had been allowed into Gaza since 2007, when Hamas took control of the region.

BD Sisterhood meeting on Jan. 8

Beth David Sisterhood will meet on Wednesday, January 8, at 1 pm, at the Binghamton Historical Society in the Broome County Public Library, 185 Court St., Binghamton. Attendees will gather in the main lobby. The guided tour will last about an hour.

"Come, learn and share your knowledge," said organizers of the event. "Some of our members' memories go back 60 years, and we'll also be addressing contemporary issues."

The winter storm date for the event is Tuesday, February 5, at 1 pm.

BD Sisterhood meeting featured Federation executive director

At right: Beth David Sisterhood's December 11 meeting featured a presentation by Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton. Hubal posed with Sisterhood members before her presentation.



L-r: Susan Wright, Kerry Wright and Judy Silber schmoozed after the Sisterhood's December 11 meeting.



Shelley Hubal addressed the Beth David Sisterhood, introducing herself, presenting her ideas for the Jewish Federation's role in the larger Jewish community and asking for feedback.



L-r: Cathy Velenchik, Beth David Sisterhood's co-president, called the meeting to order and Susan Hubal, recording secretary, read the minutes of the November meeting.



Kathie Shelly (left) and Marti Klionsky (right) talked with Shelley Hubal (center) after her presentation.

Early deadline for The Reporter

Due to holiday closings, the deadline for the following upcoming issue of *The Reporter* is as follows. No exceptions will be made.

Issue Deadline
Friday, January 10 Monday, December 30

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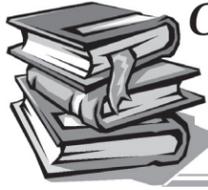
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Off the Shelf

Jews and war – before, during and after – part 1

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

For the past several years, I've written a year-end, two-part book review to catch up on the number of novels about World War II that multiply on my to-read pile. Although I was expecting to do the same for this year, something different happened. One book that I thought was about World War II actually took place in Russia just as World War I was beginning. Then I realized two works that reference World War II actually take place after the war. This led me to expand a bit the time period covered. What all of the novels have in common is their view of Jewish life during periods of crisis: no matter where they live, war is never good for the Jewish community.

"A Bend in the Stars"

In pre-World War I Russia, it wasn't easy to be Jewish. In fact, German Jews were thought to be far luckier, at least according to Rachel Barenbaum's "A Bend in the Stars" (Grand Central Publishing). Some Russian Jews were protected – those who were considered "useful" to the state. Even so, Vanya Abramov knows that his colleagues and students at the university consider him a Jew before they think of him as a mathematician. However, not even being useful may save Vanya when the czar of Russia needs cannon fodder for his war against Germany. Vanya and his sister, Miri, realize that it's time to leave the country with their only living relative, their grandmother, even though this will prevent Miri, a physician, from becoming Russia's only woman surgeon.

Vanya's great hope is to solve a question about Einstein's theory of relativity, something he believes will get

him hired by an American university. After leaving with Miri's fiancé, Yuri, in search of the information he needs to complete his mathematical equations, Vanya plans to meet Miri and their grandmother, and then sneak out of the country with them. Unfortunately, plans go awry. Instead of traveling with their grandmother, Miri sets out to find her brother with the aid of Sasha, a wounded soldier she's rescued. With communication difficult and enemies looking for Miri and her brother, the question becomes whether each will be successful in their search. Will Vanya solve his scientific riddle? Will Sasha serve as an aid or a hindrance? Most important, will the siblings escape from a land that permits its citizens to persecute and murder its Jewish population?

This brief outline of the plot doesn't do justice, though, to the novel's depth of character. Vanya and Miri's passion for their work plays an important role in their lives. Vanya lives and breathes science. Although Miri loves her fiancé, she also dreams of being a surgeon – of being able to save lives. Both Yuri and Sasha are keeping secrets that show just how horrible life can be for Jews in Russia. In fact, underlying the whole story is the precarious nature of Jewish life in that country, a place where the members of the Jewish community are considered blameworthy no matter how and where they live.

"A Bend in the Stars" is a tale of heroes and cowards, a story filled with love and passion. This dramatic work will keep readers on the edge of their seats as they quickly turn pages to discover how the different plot elements finally come together.

"Wunderland"

How much should people sacrifice for the good of their nation? Are individuals more or less important than the general good? And what if those sacrifices include destroying the ones we love? Those questions are explored in "Wunderland" by Jennifer Cody Epstein (Crown Publishers), which takes place in New York City in 1989 and in Berlin during the Nazi era. The answers to these questions affect more than one generation.

Ava Fisher is upset to learn that her estranged mother, Ilse, has died. Her death leaves unanswered the many questions Ava has about the past. Ilse refused to speak of her work during World War II or talk about her relationship to Ava's unknown father. Why was Ava placed in an orphanage after her grandparents died? Why did it take so long for her mother to claim her once the war ended? Even more puzzling are the letters included in the package announcing her mother's death. They are addressed to Renate Bauer, someone whose name is completely unfamiliar to Ava. Who is Renate and why did Ilse write her letters that she knew she was never going to send?

What Ava doesn't know is that her mother and Renate were once great friends. In fact, the two were practically inseparable until Ilse became enamored with the Nazi cause. She is drawn to the Nazis because they make her feel her life has meaning and purpose. Renate, too, wants to be part of that world until she learns her own family's secret – that her father is Jewish. Ilse so believes in the cause that she abandons her friend – at least, in public. See "War" on page 8

LEGAL NOTICE

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 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



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

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.

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

1. The name of the limited liability company ("LLC") is Industry Building Blocks LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is December 3, 2019. The effective date of the Articles of Organization is January 1, 2020.
3. The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the LLC is to be located is Broome County.
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: 28 Vestal Avenue, Binghamton, NY 13903.
5. The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

Harvey A Sherman LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) 12/4/2019. Cty: Broome. SSNY desig. as agent upon whom process against may be served & shall mail process to Harvey Sherman, 59-50 261st St., Glen Oaks, NY 11004. General Purpose.

Public Notice of Canopy Growth USA, LLC's Application for Authority to do Business in New York State Pursuant to Section 802 of the Limited Liability Company Law

Canopy Growth USA, LLC, a limited liability company formed in Delaware on October 11, 2018, has filed an application for authority to do business in New York State. Its application was filed with the New York Secretary of State on November 4, 2019. Canopy's office in Delaware is located at 1209 Orange Street, Wilmington, DE 19801, and its authorized officer is Phil Shaer. Its principal office is at 35715 US Hwy 40, Ste D102, Evergreen, CO 80439. The New York office of Canopy Growth USA, LLC, will be located in Broome County, at 47-51 Pine Camp Drive, Kirkwood, NY 13904.

The Secretary of State has been designated as an agent upon whom process against Canopy may be served. Upon service, the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of that process to Canopy at 595 Pacific Ave., 4th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94133.

Canopy Growth USA, LLC, is a company formed for hemp cultivation and the manufacturing and distribution of hemp products.

Notice of Formation of V1IA 1 LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/10/2019. 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: Vulf Kovnat, 80 N. Hudson Street, Johnson City, New York 13790. Purpose: any lawful activities.

NOTICE OF FORMATION.

Life By Design Wellness, LLC (LLC). Articles of Organization filed with NY Dept. of State (SSNY) 6/10/13. Office located in Broome County, SSNY designated agent for service of process. SSNY to mail copy of process served against LLC to Nicole Raymondi, 690 Mariposa Ave., Apt. 203, Oakland, CA 94610. LLC purpose is any activity authorized by law.

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THE REPORTER
Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton

Hanukkah and more at Hillel Academy



Rabbi Moshe Shmaryahu and pre-kindergarten-first grade students posed in front of a display of hanukiyot and students' Hanukkah-themed art.



At right and above: On November 6, Hillel Academy students visited Vestal Fire Station 4, on the Vestal Parkway. The field trip consisted of an hour-long tour and presentation. The presentation included a review of fire safety rules and a show-and-tell of fire equipment.



The second- and third-graders posed in front of the Hanukkah display. Clockwise: Meyer Knapp, Moussia Slonim, Sloane Weinstein, Micah Yarkony and Shternie Chein.

Israel's largest menorah now in Sderot

By JNS staff

(JNS) – A giant Hanukkah menorah (*hanukiah*) was inaugurated in the southern Israeli city of Sderot on December 17 at an event attended by Jewish Agency Chairman Isaac Herzog and Sderot Mayor Alon David.

The 12 meter-high menorah, the largest in Israel, was donated by the Dutch organization Christians for Israel (or CVI) to show solidarity with residents of towns near the Gaza border. The event was also attended by Dutch Chief Rabbi Binyomin Jacobs and CVI Chairman Pim van der Hoff, whose organization is also committed, through Keren Hayesod, to supporting Jewish Agency programs for Gaza-border residents.

Herzog said at the event that “this huge *hanukiah* that made its way to Sderot all the way from the Netherlands is a symbol of the tremendous support Gaza border residents also receive from friends of Israel across the globe. The solidarity that members of Christians for Israel wanted to express with Sderot and the surrounding communities is heart-warming. Let’s all hope the light of candles brings resilience and quiet to all who live here. The Jewish Agency will continue to support Gaza border residents, together with our partners at the Jewish Federations of North America and Keren Hayesod.”



The Hanukkah menorah in Sderot. (Photo courtesy of the Jewish Agency)

Chanukah Greetings

Happy Chanukah



Brenda Schlaen, Randy Friedman
Ellie, Mika and Zohar



May the candles on our menorahs light the way to world peace. 

Charles & Paula Rubin and Family

Happy Chanukah



The Wolff Family
Michael & Wendy
Aaron & Carly
Emily & Melissa



From our family to yours,
Happy Chanukah!

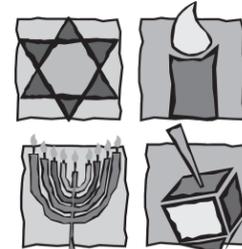
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Wishing Everyone a **Happy Chanukah**



Jonathan, Ilka & Juliana Kloss

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From Colorado, Buffalo, PA and NYC...
Our family wishes each and everyone a **Happy Chanukah!**



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Sarah, John, Matthew & Lauren Hunter – Lyons, CO

We wish you and all of your family a year of blessings



Steven & Sandra Malkin and family

Kids in the kitchen light up Hanukkah

By Ethel G. Hofman

(JNS) – Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights, is one of those holidays that takes over everything. The pantry overflows with bottles of oil and baking ingredients at the ready, kids decorate the house with dreidels and chocolate gelt coins, the menorahs get dusted off, and there are whispers of gift requests. This year, the eight-day affair started on the night of December 22 and lasts through Monday, December 30 – later on the American calendar than usual, but always falling on the 25th of the Jewish month of Kislev.

For grandparents, parents and kids, it's the perfect opportunity to relax, talk and learn. Spending quality time together is a life skill, as is spending time in the kitchen. And there's more to it than just measuring and mixing – health, science, math, nutrition and even family history are all involved. Before beginning to handle food, make sure to wash hands and roll up your sleeves. Grandparents can tell the story of a particular dish or baked good handed down through generations. Then there are the questions: Why does a cake rise? How many quarters make a whole cup? Which ingredient goes in first? How long do you mix? Fine motor skills are practiced through kneading, mixing, whisking and all the actions used in preparing something they love to do (and better yet, love to eat).

If you're cooking with little ones, adult supervision is needed, especially with tasks related to the stove or oven. Other recipes are so easy that they can attempt to do it themselves. So what if the bread rolls for the "Menorah Candles" are squashed or the "Wacky Cake" mixture is



For grandparents, parents and kids, cooking during the eight days of Hanukkah is the perfect way to relax, talk and learn. (Photo by Pixabay)

plastered up the sides of the baking dish? The results are good enough to eat, and there's always that satisfied look of "I made it myself."

To a sweet and Happy Hanukkah!

Broccoli Tree Soup (Dairy)

Serves 2

This is one way to get them to eat greens. My toddlers always called broccoli florets "trees."

Cook's Tips: Cut florets into smaller florets. At a pinch, use prepared mac-and-cheese from the market.

1 cup macaroni, cooked
 cup grated cheese
 1-1½ cups vegetarian broth
 About cup broccoli florets
 Place the cooked macaroni into a medium saucepan.
 Stir in the cheese and 1 cup broth.
 Heat over medium heat to melt cheese. Do not boil.
 Add more broth, if desired.
 Stir in the tiny broccoli florets and heat through.
 Pour into bowls and serve.

Hanukkah "Menorah" (Dairy)

Serves 9

Besides lighting the candles on the menorah, it's fun to make one that's good enough to eat.

Cook's Tips: Adults should shred lettuce for little kids. Microwave cream cheese 15-20 seconds for easy spreading. Stack 4 to 5 slices bread on a cutting board and trim crusts. Save crusts for cheese sticks (recipe below). Instead of carrots, quartered small strawberries may be used for flames.

9 slices whole-wheat or white thin-sliced bread
 3-4 Tbsp. cream cheese
 2-3 baby carrots, sliced on diagonal about ¼-inch thick
 2 cups shredded lettuce
 Lay bread slices on a board. Spread thinly with cream cheese.
 Roll each one up like a jelly roll. Press lightly.
 Arrange on a large platter or board to resemble candles.
 Insert a carrot slice at top of each "candle" to resemble flame.

Spread a line of shredded lettuce at bottom of cream-cheese rolls. Chill or just eat at once.

Cheese Sticks: Place crusts on a baking sheet. Toss in 1 tablespoon melted margarine, then in 1 tablespoon Parmesan cheese. Bake at preheated 375°F oven for eight to 10 minutes, or until beginning to brown. Cool before eating.



Hanukkah "Menorah." (Photo by Ethel G. Hofman)

Jammy Pennies (Pareve)

Makes 9-12

Cook's Tips: No need to remove crusts. No cookie-cutter? Use a juice glass. Use any favorite preserves. Substitute margarine for peanut butter. If not eaten immediately, cover with plastic wrap and chill.

3-4 slices whole-wheat bread
 2 Tbsp. softened peanut butter
 2-3 Tbsp. preserves, any flavor
 Lay bread slices on a cutting board. Spread thinly with peanut butter, then with preserves.
 Cut out with a small cookie-cutter, about 1½ inches in size. Don't worry if circles include crusts. Arrange on a platter and serve.

Chocolate Haystacks (Pareve)

Makes 8-10 mini stacks

Cook's Tips: Set bowl on a kitchen towel so that it doesn't slide while stirring. Instead of shredded wheat, substitute corn flakes. Spoon into paper mini-muffin cups instead of a baking sheet.

2 Tbsp. margarine, cut in pieces
 2 Tbsp. honey
 1 Tbsp. sugar
 2 Tbsp. unsweetened cocoa powder
 1½ cups shredded wheat, coarsely crushed
 Spray a cookie sheet with nonstick baking spray. Set aside.

Place margarine and honey in a medium microwave-safe bowl. Microwave 45 seconds. Stir. If not melted, microwave in 15 second bursts.

Add the cocoa and mix until smooth.

Add the shredded wheat, stirring to coat almost completely.

Drop in heaped teaspoonfuls onto prepared cookie sheet.

Refrigerate 30-40 minutes or until firm.

See "Kids" on page 11

CHANUKAH GREETINGS FROM THESE HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS



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NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

Holocaust museum, day care, JCC to be built in Perth

The Australian government will spend \$6 million to build a Holocaust museum in the city of Perth as part of a plan to redevelop the Jewish area in the suburb of Yokine. It is slated to include “an iconic Western Australian community facility” with a Perth Holocaust Museum and William Cooper Memorial. The area will also have a day-care facility and a Jewish Community

Center. The capital of Western Australia, Perth was founded in 1829. It wasn’t until 1892 that the Perth Hebrew Congregation was founded; its actual synagogue opened five years later. Australian Finance Minister Mathias Cormann said that “it was clear that the Center needed a once-in-a-generation redevelopment. Since then, we have been engaging with the community to develop a proposal, and this vision will now become a reality.” As many as 10,000 Jews live in Perth, which is served by a number of local synagogues and Chabad Centers.



CHANUKAH GREETINGS FROM THESE HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS



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The offices of the former Binghamton Gastroenterology Associates, PC, practice will stay the same and remain on the campus of UHS Binghamton General Hospital at 10-42 Mitchell Ave. in Binghamton. For more information or to schedule an appointment please call us at **772-0639**.

The following providers are now welcoming patients at UHS Gastroenterology:

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
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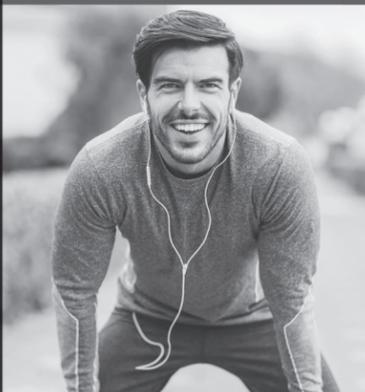
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War.....Continued from page 4

but, in her heart, she finds herself talking to Renate, even though they can no longer be friends.

Ava's story works in reverse – going back in time – while Ilse's tale moves forward from her early years until the stories overlap and readers learn what really happened. I was expecting some type of surprise: the fact that it created such emotion – there were tears in my eyes as I read the end of the novel – shows just how powerful and moving "Wunderland" is. I came to care about everyone – even Ilse – because Epstein is clear-eyed about her characters' faults and virtues. The author also shows how easy it is to delude ourselves into believing the greater good of our actions outweighs the pain – a reminder we still need today.

"The World That We Knew"

I've mixed feelings about Alice Hoffman's novels and was fully prepared to pass on her latest work "The World That We Knew" (Simon and Schuster). Then I read that one of the characters was a golem. Since I'm a sucker for works containing that mystical creature, I asked for a review copy and am so glad that I did. However, those who prefer realistic fiction should not be put off by the other worldly aspects of the book (which include visions of angels and demons) because it's the human element – the power of love – that makes the novel work.

After her 12-year-old daughter, Lea, is attacked by a Nazi soldier, Hanna Kohn knows the only way to protect Lea is for her to leave the country. Hanna can't help Lea

escape because she doesn't want to leave her mother, who is too ill to flee. In a desperate attempt to protect Lea, Hanna visits a rabbi rumored to have created a golem. It is the rabbi's daughter, Ettie, though, who created the creature – a woman golem they named Ava. Hanna charges Ava to take care of Lea as if she were her own. Ava so promises, and Ava and Lea, along with Ettie and her sister, travel toward Paris.

Once in Paris, Ava and Lea take refuge in the house of a distant relative. There Lea finds her soul mate, something that gives her hope she will survive after the Nazi invasion of France. Missing her mother and unsure of why Ava stays with her, Lea resents her caregiver. Ava, however, learns what it means to care for someone as much, if not more, than you care for yourself. Additional characters help create depth, especially those helping Jews flee from the Nazis. Learning the reasons they risk their lives for strangers shows a different side of the war; some of these sections are based on actual events.

"The World That We Knew" got under my skin in a way I didn't expect. It's difficult to combine fantasy elements with the events of World War II, but the mystical themes didn't overwhelm the reality and horrors that occurred during the war. At one point, Ettie wishes she had created golems for all the children threatened by the Nazis – in fact, to have created an army of golems to fight against them. Instead, the characters risk their own lives to defeat evil. Underlying their efforts is the power of love.

Mailbox Shorts

Diller Teen Tikkun Olam Awards

The Helen Diller Family Foundation is now accepting applications Diller Teen Tikkun Olam Awards for 2020. The awards recognize up to 15 "extraordinary" Jewish teens annually with \$36,000 each to put toward education or to support ongoing social impact projects. The Diller Teen Tikkun Olam Awards seek teens showing significant initiative and leadership in creating and leading a new endeavor – or who have considerably deepened or expanded an existing project – that embodies the values of *tikkun olam*. The deadline for applications is January 8. For more information or to submit an application, visit www.dillerteenawards.org.

Photographs of Jews

The Jewish Museum of Florida – FIU will hold the exhibit "Zachary Balber: Tamim" until March 15. Zack Balber uses portrait photography to uncover the camouflaged identity (tattoos) of some of unconventional Jews. Balber, Jewish himself, connected with the men he photographed while rediscovering his own heritage. For more information, visit <https://jmof.fiu.edu> or contact the museum at 305-672-5044.



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As temperatures drop, check tire pressure more often

(NAPSI) – You may notice, when the weather turns colder, the tire pressure monitoring system (or TPMS) light on your dashboard lights up more frequently. The Car Care Council recommends checking your tire pressure regularly during the winter to help keep the TPMS light off and your vehicle safe.

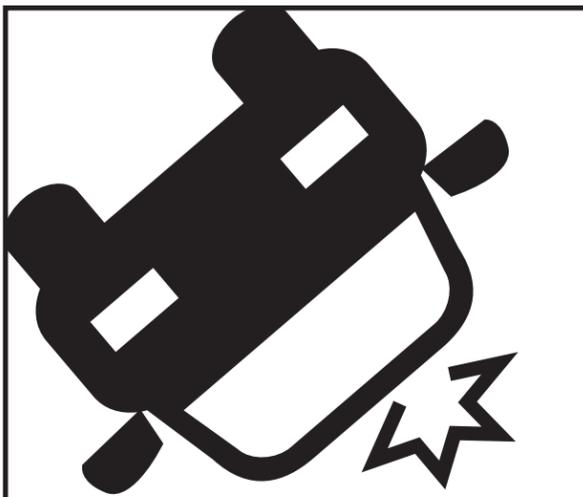
"It's typical at this time of year for motorists to get TPMS warnings and then get worried about their tires," said Rich

White, executive director of the Car Care Council. "Often drivers will see this in the morning when it's coldest. If the temperature warms, the light could turn off, but it's likely that tires will still be a few pounds per square inch (or PSI) under-inflated. This is why it's important to check tire pressure regularly."

According to the U.S. Tire Manufacturers Association, for every 10 degree drop in temperature, tire pressure decreases one to two PSI. Checking the tire pressure is important for vehicle safety, tire life and gas mileage. Incorrect tire pressure can lower gas mileage by 0.3 percent for every one PSI drop in pressure of all four tires and improve fuel efficiency by up to 3.3 percent when the correct tire pressure is maintained.

"Tire pressure should be checked at least monthly. It is important to note that newer cars with tire pressure monitoring systems may not alert you until the tire is significantly under-inflated, so you may want to check it more frequently," said White. "It is important to check tire pressure whenever there is a significant weather change and more often during the winter months."

The Car Care Council is the source of information for the "Be Car Care Aware" consumer education campaign promoting the benefits of regular vehicle care, maintenance and repair to consumers. For a copy of the council's Car Care Guide or for further information, visit www.carcare.org.



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Successful heart surgery using sound waves takes place for first time in Israel

By JNS staff

(JNS) – A cardiac catheterization using sound waves was successfully performed for the first time in Israel on December 15 by the Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem. The procedure was done to treat a complex case of severe arterial congestion, reported the Tazpit News Agency.

The 66-year-old patient had calcium build-up and doctors used special equipment developed by SHOCKWAVE after a previously performed catheterization failed to help the issue.

The treatment consists of “the deployment of a tiny balloon filled with fluid and tiny balls at the point where there is a build-up of calcium within the artery,” according to Tazpit. “After the balloon is in place, sound waves are triggered to create a rapid movement of the balls which create cracks in the calcium inside the artery. The cracks allow for the elasticity of the artery and the insertion of a stent in the same location, without damaging the artery.”

Dr. Yaron Almagor, director of the Catheterization Unit at Shaare Zedek Medical Center, said the new method is “significant news for many patients who have up until now had to undergo complex treatments and surgeries.”

In the past, catheterization had not been possible to treat complex cases of calcium accumulation in the arteries because it could damage or rupture the artery. Instead, patients suffering from congestive arterial congestion had to undergo bypass surgery.



Follow these safe driving tips in snow

(NewsUSA) – Winter comes with its own set of challenges, including lower air temperatures, lack of visibility, fewer daylight hours, falling snow and, of course, icy roads. These can certainly make for some hazardous driving conditions, which is why experts say you should dig out your ice scraper, gloves and snow shovels before hitting the road.

“Don’t set off like a tank commander with a tiny hole cleared,” says Andy Smith, a patrolman in Canada.

The safest way to prepare for winter driving is to be proactive before an emergency occurs. The following tips from www.tricoproducts.com will give you some ideas on how to drive safely all winter long:

◆ **Surface Conditions.** Roads and drive paths are likely to be covered with rain, sleet, snow and ice, which causes slippery driving conditions and reduces tire traction. Consider using snow tires in areas where winter weather is severe. It’s also important to inspect your tires for uneven wear, cupping and proper tread depth. Also consider the last time you had the tires rotated, balanced and aligned.



◆ **Emergency Situations.** Winter weather increases the chance of getting into a car accident. Pack an emergency kit to leave in your vehicle at all times. Consider including safety items such as flares, medical supplies, jumper cables, a flash light, batteries, a small shovel and tire chains. Also

consider comfort items like blankets, gloves and snacks.

◆ **Clear Vision.** Snow, ice and fog diminish your visibility, creating dangerous driving conditions. Remove all debris from your windshield, windows and outside mirrors before driving. Replace your wiper blades with extreme-weather blades for a stronger wipe to battle heavy rain, snow and ice buildup.

◆ **Vehicle Performance.** Follow the recommended maintenance schedule in your vehicle’s owner’s manual to avoid hard starts, stalling and lost power during colder weather. Keep your gas tank above the halfway mark because empty tanks collect condensation, which damages the engine.

◆ **Some regions experience heavy snow and dangerous ice storms, others find an increase in rainy conditions and in some places, temperatures may just cool down a bit. Regardless of location, the winter season brings a climate change that all drivers should consider.**

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- Southern Tier Physical Therapy Association
- Temple Israel Riverside Cemetery Committee
- Tioga County Stop DWI



Miketz, Genesis 41:1-44:17

Knowing who we are

RABBI BARBARA GOLDMAN-WARTELL, TEMPLE CONCORD

There are some interesting threads that connect this week's Torah portion and the story of Hanukkah to our lives today. When Joseph's brothers journey to Egypt in search of food for their families, they unknowingly come face to face with Joseph. The text gives us hints at the tension of these encounters, especially when Joseph demands they bring Benjamin to him. Their concern for their father's health and well-being breaks the ice and moves their path toward reconciliation. It is complex, with many steps. We can follow the progression until Joseph reveals himself to his brothers by speaking in Hebrew, saying, "I am your brother Joseph." There is still uncertainty about what will happen next. Joseph is in a position of power, and his brothers are rightfully afraid he will take revenge on them. As we know, he does not. Joseph and his brothers

acknowledge the past and put it to rest. They move to Egypt and are one extended family.

The Hanukkah story chronicles the divisions within the Jewish community at the time of the Syrian Greeks in Israel. The Hasmonean revolt against the outside ruling authorities was not supported by all the Jews. But, as their oppression increases, the revolt brings about independence for Israel under the Hasmoneans. The people come together to be able to live openly as Jews in their own country. They come together to clean up Jerusalem and the Holy Temple after the war. Each year at Hanukkah, we celebrate the miracle of their victory over the Syrian Greeks, our ability to live our lives as Jews and the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem.

The stories don't end at these points. The brothers and

their families, and the Jews living in Israel, had to work with the new worlds in which they lived: Jacob's family had to learn to live in Egypt, while the Jews in Israel learned to live independently under Hasmonean rule. The same is true of our world today. Both in the United States and in Israel, it is important that we know who we are before moving forward to chart our future directions. Studying our texts and history is one step. Another is to look back at our lives – our past actions and choices – and take responsibility for them and acknowledge our weaknesses, mistakes and accomplishments. It is from this place that we can come together with renewed energy to move forward into our future.

We have the opportunity to be counted in Israel's future. See "Who" on page 11

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. 28 9 am
 Mincha after kiddush
 Weekday Services:
 Mornings:
 Sun., Dec. 29 8:30 am
 Mon.-Tues., Dec. 30-31 7 am
 Wed. Jan. 1 8:30 am
 Thurs-Fri., Jan. 2-3 7 am
 Evenings:
 Sun., Dec. 29 4:25 pm
 Mon.-Tues, Dec. 30-31 7 pm
 Wed., Jan 1 4:25 pm
 Thurs., Jan 2 7 pm
 Classes: Rabbi Zev Silber will hold his weekly Talmud class every Tuesday evening after services.

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
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 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.

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.

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 27, the Hanukkah celebration potluck dinner will begin at 6 pm. RSVP was required by December 24.

On Saturday, December 28, at 9:15 am, there will be Torah study. There will be no religious school or morning service. Hanukkah House Museum will be open from noon-4 pm.

On Tuesday, December 31, there will be no Hebrew school.

On Thursday, January 2, there will Hebrew school at 4:15 pm and 5:15 pm. The CHOW pantry will be open from 5-7 pm.

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 Latke Party will be held on Sunday, December 29, at 6 pm, in the social hall. Those attending are asked to bring a menorah and candles for the group lighting event. RSVPs were required by December 27.

On Saturday, January 4, at 7 pm, in the social hall, Havdalah will be led by Cantor Richard Rosenfield, followed by a Hoedown Fun Dance led by Richard Rosenfield, to celebrate the new calendar year. There will be refreshments and dance instruction. RSVPs to Richard.and.Lise@gmail.com or 607-257-1638 would be appreciated, but are not necessary.

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.

Friday, December 27, light candles before 4:20 pm
 Saturday, December 28, Shabbat ends 5:21 pm
 Friday, January 3, light candles before 4:26 pm
 Saturday, January 4, Shabbat ends 5:27 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 Saturday, December 28, at 10 am, there will be Shabbat services led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown. The Torah portion will be Genesis 41:1-44:17. The haftarah will be Zechariah 2:14-4:7. A kiddush will be sponsored by Sylvia Horowitz and Lois Levitt.

The temple office will be closed Tuesday-Wednesday, December 31-January 1.

There will be an Executive Board meeting on Tuesday, January 7, at 7 pm.

There will be family services and a dinner on Friday, January 10, at 5:30 pm. The cost TBA.

A TI/TC Adult Education Brunch will be held on Sunday, January 12, from 10 am-noon. Rabbi Geoffrey Brown will discuss Mussar. The cost is \$5 per person. (For more information, see the article on page 1.)

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.

Congregation Tikkun v'Or

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

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.

NEWS IN THE SCIENCES

From JNS.org

Common zip software can calculate entropy

Entropy, a measure of the molecular disorder or randomness of a system, is critical to understanding a system's physical composition. In complex physical systems, the interaction of internal elements is unavoidable, rendering entropy calculation a computationally demanding, and often impractical, task. The tendency of a properly folded protein to unravel, for example, can be predicted using entropy calculations. Now, a new Tel Aviv University study proposes a radically simple and efficient way of calculating entropy. "We discovered a way to calculate entropy using a standard compression algorithm like the zip [file] software we all have on our computers," explains Professor Roy Beck of TAU's School of Physics and Astronomy. "Supercomputers are used today to simulate the folding or misfolding of proteins in diseased states. Our study demonstrated that by using a standard compression algorithm, we can provide new insights into the physical properties of these proteins by calculating their entropy values using a compression algorithm. Having the ability to calculate entropy meets an urgent need to harness the incredible power of computer simulations to address urgent, timely problems in science and medicine." The research was led by Beck, and conducted by Ph.D. students Ram Avinery and Micha Kornreich at Tel Aviv University. It was published in *Physical Review Letters* on Oct. 22. According to Beck, the research has endless applications. From biomedical simulations to basic research conducted in physics, chemistry or material science, the new algorithm would be simple to use on any computer. "A high school student used our concept to calculate the entropy of a complex physical system: the XY model," he says.

"Although this is considered a challenging problem with regard to entropy, the student accomplished it with very little guidance. This demonstrates how easily this method can be used by almost anybody to solve very interesting problems." The idea for the computational method came about when Avinery and Kornreich discussed entropy from the point of view of information theory. They wondered how well this idea might work in practice as well. "They simulated a few standard physical systems with entropy values they can compare to," says Beck. "Soon, they found that the simulation data file size after compression rises and falls just as the expected entropy should. Shortly after that, they realized they could convert the compressed file size into a usable value: the physical entropy. Surprisingly, the simple conversion they used was valid for all the systems studied." The researchers are currently expanding the application of their methodology to a varied selection of systems. "Since we started working and talking about our work, we have been approached by many researchers from very different fields, asking us to help them calculate entropy from their data," adds Beck. "For now, we are concentrating on simulation of protein folding, a timely and urgent topic that can benefit tremendously from our discovery."

FDA OKs Israeli device that extracts medical results based off drop of blood

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved an Israeli startup device that can quickly extract results based off just a drop of blood. However, unlike the former startup Theranos, which falsely claimed that it could test for diseases based off blood from the prick of a finger (and whose founder and deputy were criminally charged), Sight Diagnostics's OLO blood analyzer conducts just the complete blood-count test (or CBC), which calculates white

blood cells, red blood cells and platelets in somebody – a procedure that currently can take up to a day and consists of large laboratory machines. "The CBC is frequently used as a data point in determining whether an ailment is viral or bacterial," said Carlo Brugnara, director of the Hematology Lab at Boston's Children's Hospital and a Harvard Medical School professor, in a statement by Sight Diagnostics. "In rarer cases – involving acute leukemia, for instance – a CBC can make the difference between life and death." To use the OLO blood analyzer, "the physician or nurse pricks the patient's finger and places a drop of blood into a disposable plastic cartridge that is inserted into the OLO, which looks like a small home printer. The machine, equipped with a camera, takes thousands of images of the millions of cells within the sample. Software developed by the firm based on machine learning algorithms analyzes the images and provides the results in a printout or via e-mail," reported *The Times of Israel*. The FDA approval will permit diagnostic providers, hospital labs and outpatient clinics to use the blood analyzer.

U.N. General Assembly adopts Israeli resolution on ag. tech.

The United Nations General Assembly on Nov. 26 adopted a resolution sponsored by Israel on "Agricultural Technologies for Development." A total of 147 countries decided to vote in favor of the resolution. The Arab League chose to abstain from voting, instead of voting against the measures. The Israeli resolution, which aligns with the U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres's policies to eradicate poverty and hunger worldwide, is intended to help improve access to agricultural technology capabilities for developing countries, helping fulfill the secretary-general's goal of promoting sustainable development. The measures build on Israel's capabilities in agriculture, irrigation and water-management practices, and youth job creation in agriculture, and are consistent with Israel's longstanding cooperation with other countries, especially in Africa. The "overwhelming support" that the resolution received was said to indicate its importance for many nations around the world, especially developing countries. Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations Danny Danon thanked the countries that supported the resolution, saying that "Israeli technologies have made the state of Israel a global power of knowledge and innovation that contributes to the global development effort. The countries that chose not to support us are the very ones that need to implement this resolution the most. Their decision to stick to their political biases only ends up harming their citizens, who are thirsty for the technology and advancement opportunities outlined in the resolution."

Carmel-U. of Haifa partners with Canadian cannabis firm to treat PTSD

Marking Israel's latest groundbreaking step as a world leader in medical cannabis innovation, the University of Haifa's commercialization and business arm has entered into an agreement with a Canadian cannabis firm that will target the treatment of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (or PTSD) and related mental-health conditions. Under the newly signed agreement, the university's wholly owned subsidiary Carmel-University of Haifa Economic Corporation Ltd. has provided British Columbia-based Allied Corp. with a proprietary pre-clinical animal model that enables Allied to pursue specialized pharmaceutical cannabinoid research and pharmaceutical product development. With its new access to the Carmel-owned animal model, as well as University of Haifa's world-class laboratory facilities and scientific faculty, Allied will be able to conduct the pre-clinical phase of the development of AC001, the pharmaceutical product it is developing for the treatment of mental-health conditions. After completing both the pre-clinical research phase and human clinical trials for AC001, Allied will seek to market and license the product globally.

Kids Continued from page 6

Wacky Raisin Cake (Pareve/Vegetarian)

12 servings

This goes all the way back to the Depression, a time when dairy ingredients were expensive and scarce. You probably have all of these ingredients on hand in your pantry.

Cook's Tips: Any leftovers may be frozen. Instead of raisins, stir in fresh hard fruits, such as finely diced apples or pears. No white vinegar? Substitute lemon juice. Don't worry if cake mixture is smeared on inside of pan. It's wacky!

- 1½ cups all-purpose flour
 - 1 cup sugar
 - 4 Tbsp. unsweetened cocoa
 - 1 tsp. baking soda
 - 6 Tbsp. vegetable oil
 - 1 Tbsp. white vinegar
 - 1 tsp. vanilla extract
 - ½ cup raisins
 - 1 cup water
 - Confectioners' sugar to sprinkle (optional)
- Preheat oven to 350°F.

Into an ungreased 8×8-inch cake pan, dump in flour, sugar, cocoa and baking soda. Stir to mix. Roughly spread out with a wooden spoon to cover the bottom of pan.

With wooden spoon, make three holes in flour mixture. Pour the oil into one hole, the vinegar into the second hole, and the vanilla and raisins into the third hole. Pour the water over all.

Stir to mix using a big fork, making sure no white streaks remain.

Bake in preheated oven for 30 to 40 minutes, or until a tooth pick inserted in center comes out clean.

Cool before sprinkling with confectioners' sugar (optional) and cutting into squares.

Strawberry Soda (Dairy)

1 serving

- ¼ cup strawberries, fresh or frozen
- Bottle of sparkling water
- 1 scoop strawberry ice-cream or frozen yogurt
- Box of cookies (i.e.: sugar, butter, vanilla wafers, plain biscuits)

In a mug or tall glass, crush berries with a fork. Fill the glass half-full with sparkling water. Add the ice-cream; stir. Serve with a cookie on the side.

Swift "Sufganiyot" (Dairy)

Makes 12

In Israel, sufganiyot or doughnuts, are always served at Hanukkah time, when even El Al Airlines check-in counters often have platters of these oil-based treats to sample.

Cook's Tips: Buy doughnut holes from market. Besides preserves, you may use peanut butter, cream cheese or grated cheese. Use cinnamon-sugar instead of confectioners' sugar.

- 12 doughnut holes, plain or glazed
 - 2 Tbsp. preserves
 - Confectioners' sugar (optional)
- Cut each doughnut hole in half. With a teaspoon, scoop out a teaspoonful of crumbs from 6 halves.

Use the end of a wooden spoon to make a smooth hole. Spoon about ½ teaspoon of preserves in each hole. Top with the remaining halves, pressing lightly. Roll in confectioners' sugar or cinnamon-sugar.

To make cinnamon-sugar: In a small jar, measure 1 tablespoon granulated sugar and 1 teaspoon cinnamon. Cover; shake well to mix.



Sufganiyot. (Photo by Pixabay)

Who Continued from page 10

direction through the upcoming World Zionist Congress elections, which will be held January 21-March 11. The World Zionist Congress is held every five years, continuing the legacy begun in Basel, Switzerland, in 1897 that was founded by Theodore Herzl. Today, it is the official channel for world Jewry to have an impact on Israel. The World Jewish Congress serves as the parliament of the Jewish people. I hope you will vote in this election, making informed decisions about which party you will support when casting your vote. The World Zionist Organization utilizes the World Zionist Congress to establish its policies and internally elect leadership to the bodies that define executive policy, departmental direction and budgetary decisions, including the Jewish Agency of Israel and the Jewish National Fund.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

Trump administration rebukes Senate recognition of 1915 Armenian Genocide

The Trump administration rejected on Dec. 17 the non-binding U.S. Senate resolution recognizing the 1915 Armenian Genocide. The upper chamber unanimously passed the measure the week of Dec. 13 recognizing Turkish massacre that took the lives of 1.5 million Armenians. "The position of the administration has not changed," U.S. State Department spokesperson Morgan Ortagus said in a two-sentence statement. "Our views are reflected in the president's definitive statement on this issue from last April." U.S. President Donald Trump commemorated the genocide – without actually using that word – in an April 24 statement in "the memory of those who suffered in one of the worst mass atrocities of the 20th century." The resolution had previously been blocked by Republican senators, reportedly at the request of the Trump administration, has attempted to maintain good relations with Turkey, which slammed the passage. The House passed its own resolution in October.

Jewish refugees left roughly \$150 billion worth of goods, property in Arab nations

Jews who fled Arab countries in the years following the establishment of the state of Israel left behind approximately \$150 billion worth of property, according to an Israeli government analysis obtained by *Israel Hayom*. The report, which was completed with the help of the National Security Council, notes that Jews who were expelled or fled Arab nations in the late 1940s and '50s left some \$31.3 billion worth of property in Iran; \$6.7 billion in Libya; \$1.4 billion in Syria; \$2.6 billion in Yemen; and \$700 million in Yemen's temporary capital of Aden. The authors of the report said the numbers represent a "conservative" estimate not adjusted to reflect current inflation rates. Methods used to compile data for the report remain classified; however, *Israel Hayom* reported that "the parameters examined in the report include rural and urban property, businesses' value, loss of income and potential income, and loss of communal property, to name a few." Social Equality Minister Gila Gamliel is expected to share the findings with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in the coming weeks. In 2010, the Knesset passed a law requiring compensation for lost property to be part of any future peace deal signed between Israel and an Arab country.

Eilat first city in Israel to ban disposable plastics on beach

Eilat became the first Israeli city to pass a bylaw banning the use of disposable items from its beaches. The ban, approved by the Eilat City Council on Dec. 11, forbids people from bringing disposable items onto the beach – whether made of plastic, aluminum, cardboard, paper or any other material – and prohibits the sale of all disposable products at kiosks or restaurants by the shore. Lawbreakers can be fined up to 730 shekels (\$210). The bylaw, which exempts bottles, needs to be approved by the Interior Ministry before taking effect, according to *The Times of Israel*. "The city of Eilat on the Red Sea coast greatly depends on its natural resources, including the hills around it and the Gulf of Eilat, with its rich and unique coral reefs. These resources are inalienable assets for Israel, Eilat and its residents, and a focus of global tourism," the text accompanying the bylaw stated. "One of the most important threats to the nature values in the area, especially the sea, is disposable products, particularly disposable plastic goods. These are a serious hazard to health and the environment, and damage the city's facade and the value of its tourism product." The text added that disposable items break down on land and in the sea "into particles of various sizes that harm marine and land wildlife, which misidentifies plastic and particles as food, or gets entangled in them and dies from strangulation or internal damage." Disposable items are also "an eyesore" on land and the sea surface.

Report: Pompeo lifts hold on U.S. economic aid to Lebanon

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo helped release nearly \$115 million in U.S. economic assistance to Lebanon after a hold was placed on it, reported Bloomberg on Dec. 12, citing four people familiar with the situation. According to the outlet, "the hold on the Economic Support Funds, which had not been previously reported, was imposed by Bonnie Glick, the deputy administrator at the U.S. Agency for International Development, after deliberations with Deputy National Security Adviser Victoria Coates and hard-liners in Congress, the people said. Pompeo called Glick on Dec. 12 and told her to release the money, they said." The \$114.5 million released in economic assistance backs "good governance, civil society, water supply and sanitation, basic education, higher education and private sector productivity programming," according to a notification sent to Congress on Dec. 12 and obtained by Bloomberg. The U.S. State Department, National Security Council and USAID had no comment on the matter. Recently, the United States released \$105 million in military assistance to the Lebanese Armed Forces, despite concerns from Israel that the LAF has worked with the U.S.-designated terrorist group and Iranian proxy Hezbollah.

Nefesh B'Nefesh "Initiative for Zionist Innovation" grant applications open

Together with the Steinmetz Herskovitz Family Fund, *aliyah* agency Nefesh B'Nefesh is seeking applications for its 2020 "Initiative for Zionist Innovation" grant, which aims to empower new immigrants to Israel committed to strengthening and building their communities in Israel. The grant will offer mentorship, networking assistance, seed funding and logistical support to impact Israeli society through new initiatives and community-building. While it can take time for recent arrivals to find their place in Israeli society, according to Nefesh B'Nefesh, "many newcomers embrace the opportunity to innovate and build communities through a variety of creative ideas." "From the moment they step off the plane, they are looking for a sense of community to help them integrate and adjust into their new lives," said Rabbi Yehoshua Fass, co-founder and executive director of Nefesh B'Nefesh. "While there are already many incredible communities and infrastructures that exist in Israel, we applaud and support those olim who seek to build and improve within their own neighborhoods to create a model of community-building throughout the country." Israel immigrant and philanthropist Marty Herskovitz added that his partnership with Nefesh B'Nefesh would enable grant recipients to "create new models of community structure that will enrich Israeli society for many years to come. ...The Steinmetz Herskovitz Fund places a high importance on the concept of community building and leadership within Israel," he said. Eligible candidates must have made *aliyah* from North America and the United Kingdom, or have a confirmed *aliyah* date before Jan. 1. Applicants must submit a mission statement for their initiative, a business plan and explanation of how Nefesh B'Nefesh can help advance their venture by Jan. 10. Successful candidates will be announced by March 25.

Israel headed for another round of elections on March 2

Israel is officially headed for its third round of elections in less than a year, following marathon Knesset sessions on Dec. 11 and overnight into Dec. 12. The last act of Israel's short-lived 22nd Knesset was to set the date for new elections on March 2. The bill passed with 94 lawmakers voting in favor and none opposed. It also granted parties tens of millions more shekels to spend on their campaigns – \$124,000 per Knesset member and \$200,000 per party – in its first and only piece of legislation. The figures represent a 30 percent increase over the funding for the previous election.

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