

THE REPORTER

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JFS “Beyond the Rainbow” now to be held Feb. 26

Jewish Family Service, in conjunction with Pride and Joy Families/Lesbian and Gay Families Building Project and Temple Concord, will hold the program “Beyond the Rainbow:

Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender/Queer in the Binghamton Jewish Community” on Tuesday, February 26, at Temple Concord, 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton. The event was postponed

due to inclement weather.

There will be no charge for the program and the light dinner. The dinner will be held at 5:30 pm, with the program running from 6:15-8 pm.

Those still interested in attending need to RSVP to Roz Antoun again at 724-2332 or rozjfs@stny.rr.com to prepare enough food and materials for all participants.

Temple Beth-El to hold annual Evening of Jewish Storytelling, Poetry and Music on Feb. 2

A celebration of life, community and the arts will take place on an upcoming winter evening in Ithaca. Celebrating 20 years of original stories, traditional tales, folk and contemporary poetry, and live music from around the world – Temple Beth-El of Ithaca will host its Annual Evening of Jewish Storytelling, Poetry and Music on Saturday, February 2, at 7:30 pm.

According to organizers, “This event has become extremely popular over the years, drawing participants together for an intimate and cozy evening—a real reminder

of times past. People who might otherwise never cross paths listen, laugh, shed a few tears together, perhaps, and get to know each other. The idea is to get away from the computer and television screens and share a moment of slower pleasures, together. In addition, there are always complimentary, traditional homemade treats while listening to the treasures of the night. This year’s celebration offers an exciting and diverse selection of storytellers, poets and musicians both young and old. The Cornell University Klezmer Ensemble will participate, as will



Lenny Rosenfield and Albert Alexander performed a skit at the 2018 storytelling event.

Mel and Sol, a local acoustic duo comprised of Will Fudeman and David Frumkin. The event ends at about 9:30 and has an intermission. Families with children are welcome.”

The celebration will take place downstairs in the social hall of Temple Beth-El, located at the corner of Court and Tioga streets in downtown Ithaca. A donation of \$4 per individual and \$8 per family is requested to cover costs.

For further information, contact the temple office at 273-5775 or visit www.tbethiaca.org.

TC book club to discuss “The Trick: A Novel” on Feb. 6

The Temple Concord book club will meet on Tuesday, February 6, at 10:30 am, in the Temple Concord library. The book to be discussed is “The Trick: A Novel” by Emanuel Bergmann, a historical novel with dual storylines that eventually intersect. (To see *The Reporter’s* review of “The Trick,” visit <http://www.thereportergroup.org/Article.aspx?aID=4787>.)

In early 20th century Prague, a rabbi and his wife are unable to have a child until very soon after the rabbi returns from war. The boy, Moshe, has little interest in learning Torah—instead, he learns to open locks from their locksmith neighbor. In the early 1930s, Moshe runs away to follow the circus and becomes “The Great Zabbatini.” Decades later in America, the nearly 11-year-old Max

Cohen blames himself when his parents announce they are getting divorced. Max finds an old record of his father’s, labeled “Zabbatini: His Greatest Tricks.” Unfortunately, “The Love Spell” is completely damaged, but Max is determined to locate Zabbatini to ask him to perform the miraculous spell to reunite Max’s parents. From prewar Prague to Hitler’s Berlin to World War II to present-day

Los Angeles, Moshe and Max’s family are destined to meet.

The book club follows the Binghamton City School District closings due to wintry weather. If Binghamton schools are closed, book club will not meet. However, if there is a one or two hour delay, it will meet as usual.

For additional information, contact Merri Pell-Preus at merrypell@gmail.com.

“Beth David’s 55 Years on Riverside Drive: Sharing the Memories” talk at Feb. 9 BD luncheon

On Saturday, February 9, Beth David’s luncheon speaker will be Marlene Serkin. “February marks 55 years since Beth David Synagogue has been at 39 Riverside Drive,” organizers said, “and Marlene Serkin has vivid memories of the move, memories she will share with all of us. She will describe what the event was like when the Torah scrolls were moved to their new location, as well as talk about the rabbi at the time, community members who were actively involved in making the move possible and memorable events that have taken place at Beth David since the move.”



Marlene Serkin

Serkin grew up in New Jersey. “I come from a family of volunteers,” she said, “and I am proud to be carrying on that tradition.” Married in 1951, she and her family moved to the Binghamton area when General Electric transferred her husband Jack, a mechanical engineer, to its Johnson City plant. “At the time,” Serkin said, “my three children ranged in age from 3½ to 9, and I decided to get involved in volunteering so that I would meet people and do some good.” The Serkins joined Beth David as soon as they moved to the area. After

participating in Beth David’s Sisterhood, Serkin volunteered in community organizations that included Hillel Academy, the Jewish Community Center and Chabad. For many years, Serkin ran the rummage sales at Beth David, as well as Chabad’s *shalach manot* program. She has served as the president of the Regional Chapter of Women’s Branch of the Orthodox Union; treasurer of Hillel Academy; vice president and secretary of Beth David Synagogue; and president, vice president and treasurer of Beth David Sisterhood. “To this long list of service,” organizers said, “we can add the title of local historian of Beth David and the community. Marlene has always been and continues to be our go-to authority on just about everything. We are delighted to have her enlighten us about Beth David’s history in its Riverside Drive location, and can’t think of a better way to mark our 55th anniversary!”

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, but Beth David welcomes donations to the Luncheon Fund in order to

keep the program going. Donations can be made in honor 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 may be sent to Beth David Synagogue, 39 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905, Attention: Luncheon Fund.

Key document on Bezeq could clear Netanyahu in Case 4,000

By Akiva Bigman

(*Israel Hayom* via JNS) – A newly unearthed document could undermine a key premise in Case 4,000, a corruption case in which Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is considered suspect.

Case 4,000 centers on an alleged conflict of interest involving Netanyahu, Bezeq and the Walla news website, which Bezeq owns. The police allege that Bezeq’s controlling shareholder, Shaul Elovitch, ensured positive coverage of the Netanyahu family on Walla in exchange for the prime minister promoting government regulations favorable to Bezeq that would cement the telecom giant’s market share and be worth hundreds of millions of dollars to the corporation.

Police investigators say Netanyahu went out of his way to push for regulation that allowed Bezeq to merge with Yes, a provider

of satellite TV, as part of the illicit deal with Elovitch. Investigators say this was clearly a quid pro quo because Netanyahu used his clout to override the objections among various officials in the Communications Ministry and expedited the approval process in a way that gave Elovitch favorable treatment.

However, a new document from the minutes of a meeting held by the Communications Ministry’s Cable and Satellite Broadcasting Council on June 23, 2015, shows that the merger was approved without any objections and only after the proper procedures were followed.

According to the minutes, which were released after a freedom of information request by the Movement for Quality Government in Israel, the council chairwoman asked, “Who is in favor of the merger?” and then ruled, **See “Key” on page 5**

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Opinion

Reclaiming service: Planting the seeds of Jewish values

By Rabbi Benji Levy

(JNS) – In our fast-paced interconnected world, it can be so hard to do a good deed in a truly selfless way. When we run a marathon for charity and post about it on social media in order to encourage donations, we are all too often more interested in counting the “Likes” from friends than the money we’re raising for the cause.

This behavior leads me to believe that perhaps the closest we can come to achieving true selflessness is through focusing on the good we leave behind for future generations. Such a legacy will allow them to reap the benefits of our actions long after we have passed on, and long after we stand to benefit in any way from the benevolence of our act – the ultimate demonstration of altruism.

I am reminded of the well-known talmudic tale about the encounter between the sage Choni HaMa’agel (the “Circle-Maker”) and a young man planting a tree (Ta’anit 23b). As the young man secures the sapling in the ground, Choni looks on curiously, wondering why he is making such an effort for this type of tree, which will take around 70 years to bear fruit. “How can you be sure that you will live another 70 years, long enough to derive benefit from this tree?” he inquires. Without skipping a beat, the man replies: “Just as my ancestors planted trees for me, I am planting trees for my descendants. Everyone should merit being born into a world full of trees.”

This story highlights the importance of thoughtfulness, forward-thinking and generosity. At the same time, it underscores the very essence of Jewish continuity.

Traditionally, Jewish continuity has been viewed through the lens of the family unit, defined primarily by one’s commitment to raise a Jewish family. This narrow scope, however, negates the transcendental echo left by the indelible impression we leave on everyone that we

encounter. To connect our present to both our past and collective future, we must ensure that we leave behind a world that our descendants will be proud to inherit.

Joel Westheimer and Joseph Kahne, two American-born 20th-century academics known for their works on citizenship education, suggest three core components to participatory civic typology: responsibility towards the personal, communal and societal realms (“The Politics of Educating for Democracy,” 2004). With all that is broken in our world, there is no shortage of opportunities to roll up our sleeves and get to work in all three realms. Service, charity, volunteer work and other selfless acts comprise the ethical element of our gift to the next generation.

In fact, acts of service and benevolence embody core Jewish values that can be traced all the way back to Abraham and Sarah. Our forefather Abraham personifies the three components of Westheimer’s and Kahne’s approach to civic typology: assuming personal responsibility (acts of *chesed* or lovingkindness, like welcoming visitors to his tent), participation in communal efforts (acts of *zedakah* or charity, such as the designation of wells to be used by all who need) and social-justice-oriented activism (acts of *tzedeq*, including lobbying for the righteous citizens of Sodom). His natural ability to exemplify these acts of inherent goodness was the very basis upon which he was chosen to be the progenitor of the Jewish people.

Working diligently to improve our world is an unmistakable hallmark of the Jewish way of life and a contribution that we bestow upon every new generation. Over the last few decades, record numbers of young Jewish men and women have picked up the mantle of service, giving of their time, talents and energies in order to make a positive impact on the world, both in the short- and long-term. These positive acts are often motivated by that same sense of responsibility that

has characterized the Jewish people since time immemorial.

Data gathered from several surveys conducted by service organizations has revealed that the vast majority of Jewish volunteers do not mind whether the framework through which they volunteer is Jewish (“Volunteering + Values Values,” A Repair the World Report on Young Jewish Adults, June 2011). This service is, of course, impactful for the wider world, but our inability to connect these participants to their Jewish identities through their own passionate benevolent pursuits represents thousands of missed opportunities.

The world of volunteerism and service encapsulates a myriad of entryways back into the organized Jewish world for those hovering on its fringes. Helping them harness and rechannel their passion, energy and sense of communal and societal responsibility is a vital step in reconnecting these young adults with their heritage. As such, contextualizing their service as an inherently Jewish value and as an inseparable part of what it means to be a Jew in the world today could serve as a transformative catalyst for strengthening our collective Jewish future.

The Torah tells us that a person is like “a tree in the field” (Deut. 20:19). Much like a tree, a person needs proper sustenance to grow and thrive. Values anchor us to our moral inheritance and provide us with the nourishment that allows us to reach our potential, eventually bearing fruit that may be shared with the global family of nations.

At a time when identity ties are generally weakening among young people, linking their moral values to our shared destiny could assist in allowing their Jewish identity to flourish. What’s more, Jewish identity is not owned or monopolized by any one particular age, stage or generation. Needs, perspectives and attitudes change and differ from one group to the next. As such, in each epoch, we must **See “Service” on page 3**

In My Own Words

Medical expenses

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Years ago, a friend of my father used to tell a story about being in the hospital. When he was leaving, he asked for a detailed listing of his expenses and one struck him as odd. The hospital administrator explained it was for the wooden board placed under his bed to support his bad back. The friend said, “Then give me the board since I paid for it.” I don’t remember how the tussle ended, but I thought the idea was excellent since the hospital used the same board over and over, yet charged each individual its initial expense.

That story came to mind after reading that the Trump administration has ordered hospitals to post a price list for every service they perform. Some commentators are calling the results a fiasco. That, however, is not due to the administrative order, but the hospitals’ response: their lists are impossible to decipher due to the numerous abbreviations used for procedures – abbreviations that make no sense to

a layperson. The idea itself is a good one, though, but its enforcement should include forcing hospitals to make their price listings clear and easy to understand. Additionally, those who request it should also be given information about which expenses will be covered by health insurance and which they will have to pay themselves: it doesn’t help to know the amount your insurance covers if you don’t know the cost of the procedure.

Why would this help? Health costs are skyrocketing and hidden fees abound. One of President Trump’s campaign promises was to reduce the cost of health care. There are cases where a hospital charges two to three times as much for a procedure as another hospital in the same city. Knowing this would allow consumers to make an informed decision – that is, assuming that both hospitals have the same high standards. This might also force hospitals to explain why the costs differ so greatly.

It’s difficult to think of health care as just another consumer item, but, when you have limited funds, medical costs can bankrupt you or keep you in debt for years. Comparing the cost of medical care is really no different from comparing the cost of the same model of car at different dealers or viewing a variety of houses before deciding what to buy. Even when thinking about our health, it doesn’t hurt to have a realistic idea of our financial obligations for a procedure or operation.

While the lists in their current form are not particularly helpful, rather than give up on the idea, we need to encourage the government to force hospitals to make this information available in ways that people can understand and use. If insurance companies and consumers choose a less expensive option for the same care, then the cost of medical care will decrease. The hospitals that offer the best care for the least cost should be rewarded with our patronage.

Letters

Second Generation Holocaust Survivors decry the terrible carnage at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh

The following letter is from the Gathering of Second Generation Holocaust Survivors in Ithaca, <https://iaujc.org/2nd-generation-holocaust-survivors>.

To the Editor:

Second Generation Holocaust Survivors in Ithaca (Ithaca 2G) decry the terrible carnage at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh on October 27, 2018. The shooting was the worst American antisemitic atrocity in the more than 350 years that Jews have been in this land. It was motivated by hatred against Jews and also against immigrants. The Tree of Life Synagogue is a prominent sponsor of the venerable

Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (or HIAS), which today provides assistance to all immigrants. This sponsorship made the synagogue a target for a man who fears and hates refugees and anyone who is the “other.” Jews have long been the “other” and a target for bigots.

We of Ithaca 2G want to keep alive the histories of our parents as well as the histories of others among the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust. We want this in part as a memorial for survivors, but also as a warning to all about where antisemitic and anti-immigrant acts can lead.

Accordingly, we speak out against bigotry and hatred

with a message of tolerance and love. In this current atmosphere of fear and rejection, we embrace the Jewish value of caring for the refugee.

Members of Ithaca, NY 2G: Eileen Berlow, Claudia Brenner, Celia Clement, Ann Racker Costello, Severin Drix, Elizabeth Earle, Esther Edelman, Yvonne Fisher, Karen Dashiff Gilovitch, Louise Kahn, Peter J. Kahn, Cindy Kaufman, David Kay, Vally Kovary, Miriam Najman-Bisk, Dani Novak, Haya Novak, Betsey Windmuller Roberts, Nava Scharf, Barbara Strupp, Thomas S. Windmuller, Mariana Federica Wolfner and Neil Zusman



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607-724-2332 ~ www.jfjb.org

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HOW TO REACH THE REPORTER

Mail ~ The Reporter, 500 Clubhouse Rd. Vestal, NY 13850

E-mail ~ TReporter@aol.com • Fax ~ 607-724-2311

Phone ~ 607-724-2360 or 800-779-7896

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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.

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Executive Editor Rabbi Rachel Esserman

Layout Editor Diana Sochor

Assistant Editor Ilene Pinsker

Advertising Bonnie Rozen

Production Coordinator Jenn DePersis

Bookkeeper Kathy Brown

Proofreaders

Barbara Bank, Eleanor Durfee, Fran Ferentinos,
Leah Ferentinos, Rebecca Goldstein Kahn,
Merri Pell-Preus, Heidi Thirer



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TC to hold *Havdalah* Happy Hour with Jan DeAngelo

On Saturday, February 2, at 6:30 pm, Temple Concord will host Jan DeAngelo and his two quartets of Seton High School students, who will perform selections from "The Marvelous Wonderettes" and "Forever Plaid," which they will also be performing at Seton the next weekend. The event will be held in the Kilmer Mansion, 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton. All members of the community are invited. The Happy Hour is free and sponsored by the Temple Concord Outreach Committee.

After a brief *Havdalah* service to close Shabbat, attendees who wish may continue with dinner afterward at a local restaurant. Those interested should make a reservation by calling Temple Concord at 723-7355, or sending an e-mail

to templeconcordbinghamton@gmail.com, so organizers know how many to plan for. Temple Concord will make

the reservation and everyone will pay for their own dinner. Reservations must be made by Wednesday, January 30.

TI Sisterhood to host Feb. 8 Family *Kabbalat* Shabbat, potluck dinner

The Temple Israel Sisterhood will hold an *erev* Shabbat event on Friday evening, February 8. The evening will begin at 5:30 pm with a family-oriented, kid-friendly *Kabbalat* Shabbat service that will include music. Im-

mediately following the service, there will be a potluck dinner. Participants are requested to bring menu selections that are either vegan, vegetarian or dairy. RSVP to Tammy Kunsman in the temple office at 723-7461.

Demonstration of 3-D printer at BD on Feb. 17

On Sunday, February 17, from 10-11:30 am, Harold Kohn will demonstrate and explain how 3-D printing works at Beth David Synagogue, 39 Riverside Dr., Binghamton. The event is sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton and is open to the community. Breakfast will be served. The cost to attend is \$5. To RSVP, call Charlie Manasse at 765-3304.

Kohn will discuss what 3-D printing is, how it works and what sort of things can be done with it.

Manasse, who organized the event, said, "Harold Kohn

is a retired engineer who has his own 3-D printer. As a friend of Toby and Harold and, being curious about 3-D printers, I asked him about it. I was invited to their home for dinner and a demonstration. With the technology in its infancy, he bought a 'kit' and put it together. He has done several upgrades and modifications. I've heard about file formats stored with endings .com, .odt, and .gif. The inventor created a new .g file format. Other engineering software writers are writing to this format. The amount of new, free stuff is crazy. This demo can be appreciated by

anyone from artsy to just plain curious. You do not need to be an electrical engineer. I'm not and I loved it."

Kohn has made a working model of a Toyota five-speed manual transmission, square gears, some spiral vases and much more. He has agreed to demonstrate the printer, and explain the process and operation.

Following the 3-D printer presentation, there will be an exploratory discussion for those interested about forming a unified community service group that would not be defined by congregation membership or identity.

How a simple sandwich can prime kids for school

By Josh Hasten

(JNS) – When is the last time you did something so mundane, like making a sandwich, and took the time to realize that those two slices of bread with some fillings and condiments in-between could be a tool toward breaking the cycle of poverty? Well, one Israeli nonprofit organization is doing just that – using sandwiches to fight poverty and hunger among school-aged children across the Jewish state.

Known as Nevet ("sprout"), this Ra'anana-based organization currently provides 8,000 children in 130 schools from 50 municipalities throughout Israel with a breakfast sandwich each morning during the school week. That amounts to 1.3 million breakfasts per year. The students come from low-income families or dysfunctional homes, and only through Nevet's meal program are they able to take part in breakfast, considered by many nutritionists as the most important meal of the day.

Nebet CEO Rotem Yosef explains to JNS how it works:

"At the beginning of every academic year, principals from schools with students from low-income families approach us and fill out a form on our website, giving us details on how many kids are in need of meals. We then decide based on our criteria and budget how we can help."

Nebet explores the socio-economic status of the city/community where the school is located, the income of the parents in that area and the welfare status of the region to determine if students qualify. If an institution's students meet the criteria, that school will find fresh whole-wheat bread at its entrance every morning, delivered by a central bakery Nevet works with. Every two-and-a-half



Staff with Nevet, an organization based in Ra'anana, Israel, prepared breakfast sandwiches for children in need throughout the country. (Photo by Omri Shapira)

weeks, a Nevet driver will drop off all of the fillings for the sandwiches, such as tuna, pastrami, hummus or tahini. Nevet works with licensed nutritionists to ensure that the students are receiving only healthy foods.

One of Nevet's biggest concerns is also to make sure that the privacy of the students who receive the sandwiches is maintained to avoid any embarrassment. Yosef explains that "by 8 am [the school makes sure] the sandwiches are ready and in the school's office. The packaging doesn't have a brand of any kind on it, so it looks like it came from home."

She adds that "the students don't even know that Nevet is a partner in this. They think it [the sandwich] came

from the school. We want them to think that their school isn't just about grades or discipline, but a place where they can get their basic needs – like a second home, especially for kids from dysfunctional families."

But how can something as simple as a student receiving a sandwich break the cycle of poverty? Yosef refers to the well-known saying, "Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime." "We [Nebet] are giving the schools, the 'fish,' and the educational system is then teaching them how to fish," she says.

She adds, "If someone starts at point 'A' and he can learn, he can accomplish [things] and arrive at point 'B.' But if he is hungry and can't focus, he can't learn, and he will stay at point 'A'. This little thing, the sandwich, gives him the same starting point as everyone else. He can learn, get an education and get out of the cycle of poverty."

Nebet's website includes research depicting a direct tie between school breakfast programs and academic performance. Studies show that eating breakfast regularly See "Kids" on page 5

Service..... Continued from page 2

find our own unique conduit for connecting with Jewish values. Ultimately, however, these values are eternal with no specific allegiance to one era or another.

In addition to healing the fractured world around us, service experiences can be an essential component in making Jewish identity more relevant to this generation. But it won't truly take root unless we plant the seeds of Jewish values within the initiatives themselves throughout programming, as well as through preparatory and follow-up reflections and engagement.

As they take part in a range of worthy causes – from natural-disaster relief projects and housing construction drives to food-distribution initiatives and refugee work – young Jews should feel an explicit sense of Jewish rootedness and belonging through the assistance they provide. With the right education and guidance, through giving they can receive a deeper understanding of who they are, and forge a connection with the generations of givers who came before and will come after.

After all, it's one thing to become an agent of change, but another thing entirely to discover that you are part of an intergenerational story of social activists. By reframing service initiatives

through the Jewish lens, we can give young Jews, who may be hoping to become part of something "bigger than themselves," the greatest gift of all: a reminder that they already are.

We are living in auspicious times. We need to reflect on the long and arduous journey that a seed travels until it becomes a fruit – a lesson also learned from the talmudic tale of Choni HaMa'agel, where we see that the germination process may take as long as 70 years.

That makes this year – the 70th since the establishment of the modern state of Israel – the perfect opportunity to reap what was sown by previous generations and continue to plant. We must now expand the definition of Jewish continuity and highlight the importance of our ethical legacy by reclaiming service as a core Jewish value.

Rabbi Benji Levy is CEO of Mosaic United, a partnership between Israel and the global Jewish community dedicated to addressing wide-ranging approaches to Jewish engagement and raising the playing field to ensure a stronger Jewish future. A recent *oleh* from Australia, he previously served as dean of one of the largest Jewish schools in the world, Moriah College.

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★ **COMMUNITY MOVIE NIGHT** ★

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Saturday, February 9 at 6:30pm

Bring a blanket, chair or pillow and come relax with family and friends as we watch a fun movie! Plus, enjoy free popcorn!

\$2 per person/\$10 family max




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Off the Shelf

Science and religion

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

Spoiler alert: “The Rabbi’s Brain: Mystics, Moderns and the Science of Jewish Thinking” by Dr. Andrew Newberg and Dr. David Halprin (Turner Publishing Company) raises more questions than it answers. That’s not necessarily a bad thing, especially if you’re working in a new field of science, in this case, neurotheology, which looks for connections between neurobiology and theology. The authors focus on Jewish neurotheology and what research could teach scientists and spiritual seekers.

Newberg and Halprin are both Jewish and scientists; in addition to his medical studies, Halprin has also completed rabbinical training at Yeshiva University. What the authors seek are links between the brain and religion, for example, understanding how the brain affects what we believe and how we experience our religious practice. They note that while some studies have been done about religion in general, few have focused on Judaism. Included in their study

are suggestions for possible connections between Torah, Jewish practices (*davening*, Shabbat, etc.), mysticism and why people belong to different Jewish denominations.

“The Rabbi’s Brain” begins with the basics for those unfamiliar with science and Judaism, although some knowledge of Jewish practice is handy. In the section on neurobiology, the authors offer an introduction to the structure of the brain and what functions its different sections perform. They also include information about how people perceive reality (or what is assumed to be reality – something they discuss in more depth when looking at mysticism). The work also includes a general look at Jewish theology and history (particularly in the Diaspora) in order to speak about how the religious Jewish psyche developed.

The authors are realistic when discussing what they’re attempting to do, for example, examining the many challenges they face in creating valid scientific studies. While

it may be possible to see how parts of the brain work, it’s not easy to measure how people perceive what they are experiencing. Even asking about the experience doesn’t always make for objective data in that it may not be possible to put the experience into words that fit a scientific pattern. The authors also recognize that there are many different types of religious ideas and experiences, which make it difficult to define the basics of even one faith. One example they note is that religious leaders within Judaism view God in a wide variety of ways, so coming up with a definition of God that works for all may be impossible.

In order to begin learning about rabbinic religious experiences, Newberg and Halprin did a survey of 160 rabbis from the Reform, Conservative, Orthodox and Reconstructionist movements. Among the things they learned was that Reform, Conservative and Reconstructionist rabbis claimed to have **See “Science” on page 5**

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 Michelle Irene, LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is December 4, 2018.
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: 1199 Cornell Avenue, Binghamton, NY 13901.
5. The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY: The name of the limited liability company is: 2353 Triphammer, LLC (the “Company”). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was December 18, 2018. The county in which the principal place of business of the Company shall be located is Broome County. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the Company upon whom process against it may be served. The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the Company, to Hinman, Howard & Kattell, LLP, Attn: Ronald L. Greene, Esq., 80 Exchange Street, Suite 700, Binghamton, NY 13901. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

Notice of Formation of 1016 Vestal Parkway Land, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/10/18. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 48 Harrison St., Johnson City, NY 13790. Purpose: any lawful activities.

Notice of Formation of a Limited Liability Company (LLC): Name: CoreLife of Hamburg, LLC, Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/5/18. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated LLC agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: LLC, Attn: John G. Dowd, PO Box 1905, Binghamton, NY 13902. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose. Date of dissolution: None.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY UNDER NEW YORK PROFESSIONAL SERVICE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY LAW (“LLCL”)

1. The name of the professional service limited liability company

(“LLC”) is POPE & POPE PLLC.

2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is December 5, 2018.
3. The date of existence of the LLC is January 1, 2019.
4. The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the professional service LLC is to be located is Broome County.
5. The Secretary of State of the State of New York is hereby designated as agent of the professional service 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 professional service LLC served upon him or her is: 99 Corporate Drive, Binghamton, NY 13904.
6. The character or purpose of the business of the professional service LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

12 Grand Realty LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) 12/26/2018. Cty: Broome. SSNY desig. as agent upon whom process against may be served & shall mail process to 8423 Third Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11209. General Purpose.

Notice of formation of KE ESTATES LLC. Art. Of Org. filed with the Secty of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/28/18. Office in Broome County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC, 3401 E Main St, STE C Endicott, NY 13760. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

SOUL FLOW, LLC; Art. of Org. filed with SSNY on 10/29/18; Office location: Broome County. SSNY desig. as agent upon whom process against may be served & shall mail process to 27 Clarke Street, Binghamton, NY 13905. Purpose: Any Lawful activities.

Notice of Formation of GFG LLC. Articles Of Organization filed with SSNY on 1/11/18. Office Location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 720 River Road, Binghamton NY 13901. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of 86 Leroy LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/9/2019. 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: Mark B. Yonaty, 45 Lewis Street, Binghamton, New York 13901. Purpose: any lawful activities.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY UNDER NEW YORK PROFESSIONAL SERVICE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

LAW (“LLCL”)

1. The name of the professional service limited liability company (“LLC”) is KURT SCHRADER PLLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is December 7, 2018.
3. The date of existence of the LLC is January 1, 2019.
4. The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the professional service LLC is to be located is Broome County.
5. The Secretary of State of the State of New York is hereby designated as agent of the professional service 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 professional service LLC served upon him or her is: 99 Corporate Drive, Binghamton, NY 13904.
6. The character or purpose of the business of the professional service LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

Notice of Formation of Zoe Zerwekh NP in Psychiatry, PLLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/28/18. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 46 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905. Purpose: to practice the profession of a nurse practitioner in psychiatry.

Notice of Formation of Devon Feehan Racing, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/20/18. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 175 Garret Rd., Windsor, NY 13865. Purpose: any lawful activities.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY: The name of the limited liability company is: 19 Avenue B Associates, LLC (the “Company”). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was January 9, 2019. The county in which the principal place of business of the Company shall be located is Broome County. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the Company upon whom process against it may be served. The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the Company, to Hinman, Howard & Kattell, LLP, Attn: James W. Orband, 80 Exchange Street, Suite 700, Binghamton, NY 13901. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY: The name of the limited liability company is: CJA401, LLC (the “Company”). The date of filing of the Articles

of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was January 7, 2019. The county in which the principal place of business of the Company shall be located is Broome County. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the Company upon whom process against it may be served. The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the Company, to Hinman, Howard & Kattell, LLP, Attn: James W. Orband, 80 Exchange Street, Suite 700, Binghamton, NY 13901. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY: The name of the limited liability company is: CDF Enterprises, LLC (the “Company”). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was January 15, 2019. The county in which the principal place of business of the Company shall be located is Broome County. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the Company upon whom process against it may be served. The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the Company, to Hinman, Howard & Kattell, LLP, Attn: James W. Orband, 80 Exchange Street, Suite 700, Binghamton, NY 13901. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY: The name of the limited liability company is: Dixie3116, LLC (the “Company”). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was January 7, 2019. The county in which the principal place of business of the Company shall be located is Broome County. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the Company upon whom process against it may be served. The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the Company, to Hinman, Howard & Kattell, LLP, Attn: James W. Orband, 80 Exchange Street, Suite 700, Binghamton, NY 13901. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY: The name of the limited liability company is: White Birch Ventures, LLC (the “Company”). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was November 20, 2018. The county in which the principal place of business of the Company shall be located is Broome County. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the Company upon whom process against it may be served. The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the Company, to Hinman, Howard & Kattell, LLP, Attn: Christopher L. Roma, Esq., 80 Exchange Street, Suite 700, Binghamton, NY 13901. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY UNDER NEW YORK LIMITED

LIABILITY COMPANY LAW

1. The name of the limited liability company (“LLC”) is Square Deal Holdings, LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is January 23, 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: 3004 Pleasant Drive, Endwell, NY 13760.
5. The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

Notice of Formation of Cecily Anders Psychology, PLLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/11/19. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 15 Jane Lacey Dr., Apt. C, Endicott, NY 13760. Purpose: to practice the profession of Psychology.

Notice of Formation of Lakeside Tech, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/14/19. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 2601 Princeton Dr., Vestal, NY 13850. Purpose: any lawful activities.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF VANITY FUR NY, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/24/19. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Vanity Fur NY, LLC, 3 Grand St. Binghamton, NY 13903. Purpose: any lawful activities.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY: The name of the limited liability company is: DCG Holdings, LLC (the “Company”). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was January 25, 2019. The county in which the principal place of business of the Company shall be located is Broome County. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the Company upon whom process against it may be served. The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the Company, to Hinman, Howard & Kattell, LLP, Attn: Ryan M. Mead, 80 Exchange Street, Suite 700, Binghamton, NY 13901. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

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Microplastics discovered in marine invertebrates along Israel's coastline

By JNS staff

(JNS) – A new Tel Aviv University study finds that microplastics – tiny pieces of plastic ingested by aquatic life – are present in solitary ascidians, or marine invertebrates, all along the Israeli coastline. Ascidians are sac-like marine invertebrate filter feeders.

The research also confirmed the presence of plastic additives, i.e., “plasticizers,” which are substances added to plastics to increase their flexibility, transparency, durability and longevity.

The research, led by Professor Noa Shenkar of the School of Zoology at TAU's Faculty of Life Sciences and the Steinhardt Museum of Natural History, was published in the January 2019 issue of “Marine Pollution Bulletin.” The study was conducted in collaboration with Professor



A colony of *Didemnum molle*. Ascidians like this have been ingesting tiny pieces of plastic and related plastic additives in seawater, according to researchers at Tel Aviv University. (Photo by Silke Baron/Wikimedia Commons)

Dror Avisar, head of the Water Research Center at TAU's Faculty of Exact Sciences, and Aviv Kaplan, a postgraduate student in Avisar's laboratory.

“This is the first study that examines plastic additive contamination in marine organisms in the Eastern Mediterranean and Red Sea,” says Gal Vered, co-author of the study and a Ph.D. student in Shenkar's laboratory. “Solitary ascidians are highly efficient filter feeders and are excellent examples of the state of pollution that affects many other marine organisms. Our findings are extremely disturbing. Even in protected beaches, there was evidence of microplastics and plastic additives in ascidians. In fact, at every sampling site, we discovered varying levels of these pollutants.”

Shenkar noted that “this is a direct result of human use of plastic. It may seem that plastic bags and bulky plastic products that we notice floating in the sea are the major problem. But a more important cause for concern is the fragmentation of these products into small particles that are then ingested by many organisms and reach even the deepest zones in the ocean.”

Some 350 million tons of plastic are produced worldwide every year, and the number is rising. The research suggests that if plastic is found in ascidians, it's probably present in other sea creatures, as well.

The researchers are currently preparing their results for policymakers interested in preventing further damage to Israel's coastline. They are also continuing to investigate the extent and effect of plastic pollution on the coral reef of Eilat.

“By communicating our results to the public,” said Shenkar, “we hope to further enhance public awareness of the actions everyone can take to beat plastic pollution.”

Kids. Continued from page 3

has a positive effect on behavior and atmosphere in class; students who eat breakfast perform better than others in class assignments, are more focused and more motivated.

While Nevet is able to accommodate a large number of children, some 13,500 youngsters remain on the program's waiting list; at the same time, Nevet estimates that hundreds of thousands of others could benefit from its program. According to the Israeli government's National Insurance Institute, there are 814,800 children living below the poverty line in Israel.

Yosef notes that major local companies have come on board as donors and as volunteers (and sometimes, as both) to help Nevet, including eBay, Wix.com, Bank Leumi and others. Partnering companies assist in several ways, she says. Some adopt a specific school for an entire year and help prepare sandwiches weekly. Other companies prepare large quantities of sandwiches for many schools, sometimes on a quarterly basis. Another Nevet program allows students to visit some of the companies weekly as part of a mentoring program in which professionals are paired with struggling learners to tutor them in math or English.

Moti Cohen, a retired school principal who volunteers with Nevet, saw first-hand the impact that the organization's sandwich program had on his students when he directed a school in the central Israeli city of Ramle. He tells JNS that before Nevet's sandwiches arrived, “there were kids who would buy breakfast at the local kiosk near the building; those who couldn't afford to would just stand there on the side and wouldn't eat. But after we joined the program, those kids

received food, and were able to concentrate on their studies and learn, so it made a huge difference.” Cohen spends his volunteer time meeting with various municipalities around the country, advocating that they partner with the organization.

While Nevet does not receive government funding, local municipalities and school systems partner with the program and contribute 50 percent of the budget needed toward sandwich distribution in their jurisdictions. Nevet raises the other 50 percent from private donors in Israel and abroad (via P.E.F.—Israel Endowment Funds Inc.). “The municipalities must understand the great need [for this program], so I come in as a retired principal and explain the situation,” says Cohen. “I think it helps a bit.”

Key. Continued from page 1

“The merger is approved unanimously.”

The minutes also show that three senior officials from the ministry who participated in the meeting did not voice any objection to the merger. The council signed off on the merger, and only then did Netanyahu, as the newly appointed communication minister, sign off on the merger.

In fact, the council meeting was only the final step in a drawn-out regulatory process. Deliberations on the possible merger go back as early as 2004 and in March 2014, more than a year before Netanyahu became communications minister, the Israel Antitrust Authority gave it a green light.

Netanyahu became communications minister in May 2015, about a month before the ministry's regulatory council approved the merger. This means that he only had about a month in which he was in a position of influence in the decade-long approval process.

Science. Continued from page 4

more mystical experiences than did Orthodox rabbis did. Far fewer Orthodox rabbis (only about half) thought there was more than one possible path to God, while rabbis from other movements were more open to the idea. The question of whether emotions or rational thought processes had a greater effect on their religious beliefs varied between the movements. However, Orthodox rabbis had the most balanced reactions, saying their beliefs were based equally by both. There were introverts and extroverts in all movements, and the percentages in each did not vary greatly.

The authors also explore ideas about how different parts of the brain might affect one's religious ideas and experiences. They suggest that one's previous experience may create different neural paths that help explain why people are attracted to one experience, yet find no meaning in another. However, their discussions are conjecture because studies have not yet been done to verify their ideas. While “The Rabbi's Brain” is not a self-help book, the authors do seem to view neurology as a possible way to improve people's religious experiences, although they don't have much specific research to offer at the moment.

Parts of “The Rabbi's Brain” are fascinating, particularly when the authors cite studies that have already been done; readers may wish there were far more of them. Those only interested in brain science might find the work contains too much detail about Judaism, while those looking only for a primer on Judaism should look elsewhere. What Newberg and Halprin do offer are exciting ideas for numerous experiments that may answer how our brains affect our beliefs.

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Mishpatim, Exodus 21:1-24:18

Placement matters

RABBI SCOTT L. GLASS, TEMPLE BETH-EL, ITHACA

Some years ago, I read a brilliant *d'var* Torah by my colleague Debra Orenstein, who made the point that the laws in *parashat* Mishpatim, this week's Torah portion, share a common theme. The question of what goes where and the sense that placement matters form an unspoken connection among the laws stated here. There are the laws for returning lost objects; Mishpatim tells us to put things back in their proper places. Three times a year we belong in the place that God has chosen, i.e., Jerusalem. Don't boil a kid in its mother's milk; it simply doesn't belong there. Transgressions involving the misappropriation or misplacement of property are enumerated: Taking a neighbor's garment in pledge overnight, stealing, being a careless guardian. Twice in this reading, we are instructed how to treat the stranger. Who is a stranger but a displaced person? And why are we enjoined to treat strangers kindly? Because we have been in their place, having been strangers

in the land of Egypt. This portion teaches that places and placement have spiritual meaning, says Rabbi Orenstein.

On one of my many trips to Israel, we stood overlooking the Valley of Jezreel from atop the fortress of Megiddo, and the natural beauty of the vista was overwhelming. It wasn't that I'd never seen a beautiful natural scene – riding up Route 13 through Cortland or Route 81 to Syracuse, one can imagine oneself in parts of the Galilee – but there was something special about that place, a crossroads where thousands of years ago, the security of the kingdoms of Israel and Judea were protected, the land across which the prophets and sages trekked, the earth which our ancestors worked and from which they harvested the first fruits of their labors to bring as offerings to the temple in Jerusalem, and we were standing right there. It was both the natural beauty and the historical significance that hit us. But, that's not to say that one could not stand, say, at the edge of the

Grand Canyon or overlooking Niagara Falls and sense God's presence in majesty of creation.

But it is history that makes a range of ordinary places holy for us. Of what significance would the outer retaining wall of the Temple Mount have for us if it was not there that generations of our ancestors prayed and wept over the sacking of Jerusalem, the destruction of the temple and the exile of our people? How would that wall be any different from any other pile of rocks were it not for the history that it saw? Of what importance would a small island off of Manhattan have if it were not there that thousands of our immigrant-ancestors first saw the promise of America? Why else would the thought of Ellis Island bring tears to our eyes?

Our tradition teaches us that when we pass by a site where miracles once happened, we are to recite a benediction – *she asah nissim l'avoteinu bayamim haheym* – praising God See “Matters” on page 7

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, Feb. 2 9 am
..... Mincha after the kiddush
Weekday Services:
Mornings:
Sun., Feb. 3 8:30 am
Mon.-Fri., Feb. 4-Feb. 8 7 am
Evenings:
Sun., Feb. 3 5:05 pm
Mon.-Thurs., Feb. 4-7 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 Slonim
E-mail: aslonim@binghamton.edu
Address: 420 Murray Hill Rd., Vestal, NY 13850
Phone: 797-0015, Fax: 797-0095
Website: www.Chabadofbinghamton.com
Chabad on the West Side
Rabbi: Zalman Chein
E-mail: zchein@JewishBU.com
Address: 27 Bennet Ave., Binghamton, NY 13905
Phone: 722-3252
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.
Linking Hearts for youngsters with special needs: This program connects Jewish special-needs children and teenagers, ages 5-14, who have mental, physical and/or functional disabilities, with student volunteers who will visit participating youngsters weekly in their homes.
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.

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.

Temple Brith Sholom

Affiliation: Unaffiliated
Address: P.O. Box 572, 117 Madison St., Cortland, NY 13045
Phone: 607-756-7181
President: Bruce Fein, bfein@twcny.rr.com
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 5:15 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the school year unless otherwise noted.
On Friday, February 1, at 8 pm, there will be Shabbat evening services led by Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell.
On Saturday, February 2, at 9 am, there will be religious school; at 9:15 am, there will be Torah study; at 10:35 am, there will be Shabbat family services; and at 6:30 pm, there will be a Havdalah Happy Hour with Jan DeAngelo and Seton students performing.
On Sunday, February 3, at 10 am, there will be a Sisterhood rummage sale (buy one coat or jacket and get one free) and, at 2 pm, there will be Confirmation class.
On Tuesday, February 5, at 10:30 am, the Temple Concord Book Club will meet and, at 4:15 and 5:15 pm, there will be Hebrew School.

On Wednesday, February 6, at 7 pm, there will be a Sisterhood board meeting.

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

On Friday, February 8, at 8 pm, there will be Shabbat evening services with a 9 Adar Constructive Conflict focus led by Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell. The oneg will be co-hosted by Claudia Stallman and Rob Neuberger in honor of their “special” birthdays.

Temple Beth El of Oneonta

Affiliation: United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism
Rabbi: Molly Karp
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. Rabbi Karp conducts services and holds classes in Torah, beginning Hebrew and Maimonides.
For the schedule of services, classes and events, see the website.

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.

Friday, February 1, light candles 5 pm
Shabbat ends Saturday, February 2 6:01 pm
Friday, February 8, light candles 5:09 pm
Shabbat ends Saturday, February 9 6:10 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: Tues., 5:30 pm; Fri., 5:30 pm; Sat., 9:30 am
On Saturday, February 1, at 9:30 am, Shabbat services will be led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown. The Torah portion will be Exodus 21:1-24:18. The haftarah will be Jeremiah 34:8-22, 33:25-26. Arthur and Suzanne Siegel will sponsor the kiddush following services.

On Tuesday, February 5, at 7 pm, there will be an Executive Board meeting.

On Friday, February 8, at 5:30 pm, there will be a Sisterhood Kabbalat Shabbat potluck dinner. RSVP to Lynne Green at 723-7272. All are invited to attend.

On Saturday, February 9, at 9:30 am, there will be a Hebrew/Sunday School Shabbat.

On Sunday, February 10, at 4 pm, there will be an Israel Trip Interest group meeting.

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.

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
E-mail: info@tikkunvor.org, Website: www.tikkunvor.org
Presidents: Miranda Phillips and Shawn Murphy
Rabbi: Brian Walt
Religious School Director/Admin. Coordinator: Naomi Wilensky
Services: Fridays at 7:30 pm unless otherwise noted. Family services and Tot Shabbat once a month at 6:30 pm. Call for weekly schedules.
Religious School: Preschool through seventh-grade classes meet on Sunday mornings. Sixth-grade Hebrew and seventh-grade b'nai mitzvah classes meet on Wednesday afternoons. Adult Ed: Mini courses throughout the year. Adult Hebrew offered regularly. Call the office for details.

Temple Beth-El of Ithaca

Affiliation: United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism
Rabbi: 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: Jerry Davis
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.

On Friday, February 8, the hey-vav service will be held at 6:15 pm. A Shabbat dinner for the students and their families will follow.

On Sunday, February 10, at 3 pm, the film “The Forgotten Ones” will be shown in the temple social hall.

Jewish Community Center

JCC to hold mosaic *hamsa* hand class on Feb. 4-5

The Jewish Community Center will hold a mosaic *hamsa* class aimed at teens and adults on Monday, February 4 and Tuesday, February 5, from 6-8 pm each night. The cost, which includes all supplies and both nights of the class, is \$30 for JCC members and \$40 for non-members. The class will be held at Jablon Studios, 14 Alice St., Binghamton. The entire community is welcome and encouraged to attend. Pre-registrations

and payments are required.

Participants will be guided in the creation of their *hamsa* hand by local public artist and frequent JCC instructor, Emily Jablon. Jablon has been active in Binghamton's art scene for several years, and has designed many public art installations, including the mosaic on the JCC's playground wall. The *hamsa* hand is a symbolic depiction of the open right hand, believed by

many cultures to be a sign of protection. "The class is an excellent group activity, giving couples or friends the opportunity to spend time together creating elegant and striking artwork that will serve as an excellent gift or conversation piece for the home," said class organizers.

For more information about the *hamsa* hand class, JCC's Adult Programming or the JCC, contact the JCC office at 724-2417.

Family Movie Night at JCC to feature "Toy Story"

The Jewish Community Center of Binghamton will hold a Family Movie Night on Saturday, February 9, featuring "Toy Story." The movie will begin at 6:30 pm, with doors

opening at 6:15 pm. The cost is \$2 a person, with a \$10 maximum per family. The entire community is welcome.

"Before 'Toy Story 4' hits theaters, join us to revisit

the Disney and Pixar classic 'Toy Story.' A guaranteed good time for all," said organizers of the event. Attendees are asked to bring a blanket, pillow, or chair to use during the movie.

For more information about the movie night or the JCC, contact the JCC office at 724-2417.

Matters.....

who wrought wonders for our ancestors in those days—one could walk the highways and byways in Israel muttering blessings all day long.

Although the places of natural beauty that leave us awestruck do not need markers to indicate that they are somehow set apart, inspiring, ordinary places of a spiritual significance that may easily be missed. Who might know Anne Frank's House from others without some indication? Who would recognize an alleyway leading up to the Temple Mount as sacred ground without a sign saying "holy place"? The patriarch, Jacob, was one of the first to mark hallowed ground by dedicating a monument at the place where he had his personal epiphany in the form of angels ascending and descending a ladder. He awoke to the realization that the place where he'd fallen asleep was sacred and he named it Beth-El. He saw it as a *makom kadosh*, a holy place. And, of course, the memory of that place lives on in our synagogue which, like so many others, took the name of that place to signify to those who enter that it, too, is a sacred place. While sacred places do, sometimes, require markers to signal their special nature, sometimes they don't; sometimes the marker comes in the form of the people who surround you, the warmth that envelopes you, the feel of the place.

But naming is important, for sometimes it is just that act of naming that makes of a site a sacred place, that invests it with personal as well as communal holiness. Whether it's a grave marker or a monument or a building, we have devised ceremonies to make of them something more than a slab of concrete or a pile of bricks. I think of the Temple Beth-El of my youth and the cornice atop the Corinthian pillars of the main entrance where engraved is the phrase "To the Glory of God and the Brotherhood of Man," and I think of how grand the dedication of that building must have been.

Some sites are holy because they suggest the inherent presence of God; history confers sanctity on other places; still other places are designated as holy, perhaps presumptuously, by us as we dedicate them to God and invite God there to dwell.

But for the Jew, there are other, perhaps more significant sacred places. When we speak of the "Egypt" of the Exodus and the "Israel" of times ancient and recent, these aren't merely place names, they carry with them the weight of historical memory and all of the emotions that centuries of ancestors have attached to these mythical yet real lands. They carry with them the stories of the great and wondrous, the ultimate in despair and discouragement, hopes and dreams. As part of our collective memory, we relive them by constructing new holy sites throughout the year—whether it's a sukkah to remember the way in the wilderness, or a seder as a reminder of the redemption, or Shabbat that is meant both as a remembrance of the Exodus and a foretaste of the world to come—for these are both sanctified times as well as reconstructed sacred places. The beauty of these places for us is that although they are collective in nature, they are also layered with the personal memories that imbue them with individual meaning.

As we mark the last moments of Shabbat, we perform *Havdalah*, the ceremony that separates Shabbat from the rest of the week. It can be a highly spiritual moment—the darkness pierced by the light of the braided candle, the symbolic departure of the *Neshama Yeteira*, the extra soul we gain on Shabbat, the end of a day of rest and rejoicing and the re-entry into the mundane work week, singing of our hopes for the coming of Elijah the prophet to announce the coming of the Messianic Age. But for me, even the experience of *Havdalah* with the Abayudaya in Uganda almost two decades ago cannot surpass the wonder of my first at-home *Havdalah* many years ago. I make that distinction because from the time I was a little boy, I had seen *Havdalah* in the synagogue setting, but up until I was 10 or 11, I had never seen anyone do it at home and it was very different. I don't know if it was the intimacy of the experience or the people involved or what, but it was and still is the most beautiful *Havdalah*, and it is one of my sacred places. I was visiting the home of my friend, Joel Bernards, of blessed memory. His father was a rabbi, though not of the pulpit variety. He worked for one of the large Jewish communal organizations headquartered in New York. It was the end of a winter Shabbat afternoon of games and hanging out with Joel and his sister, Reena. Their mother had called us

Continued from page 6

up from the basement for *Havdalah*. We gathered around the kitchen counter, a rather informal setting, and suddenly all was dark. Unlike the synagogue basement where there was always some light from the hallway or some place else, it was pitch black. And unlike the buzz of whispered voices of parents waiting to pick up their children from the temple *Havdalah* party, there was complete silence. Then, a match was struck and the candle was lit and the light reflected the warm smile of my hostess and the grave seriousness of Rabbi Bernard who began to chant the words of *Havdalah*. My 11-year-old soul was elevated to a place that I had rarely known, certainly not in a kitchen, and I ached with the desire to have this for my very own. I must admit that I have rarely felt that I've recreated for myself the feelings of that first experience, but it's not for lack of trying. It's one of the sacred places that was created for me and to which I return from time to time.

And then there are the holy places of collective memory, paramount among them a real yet mythical locus known as Sinai. Its reality is not just based on history, but on memory. Its mythical character stems from the fact that no one really knows where it is and, too, from the nature of the memory. Perhaps it can best be described by this true story that goes back about 35 years or so. I was in Tel Aviv, for reasons I do not remember, and I was going to take an intercity taxi from Tel Aviv back to Jerusalem. Traveling alone, I approached the *sherut* driver with the ticket I'd purchased at the dispatcher's desk, gave him my suitcase to store in the trunk and climbed into the back of the large Mercedes, taking a seat facing another passenger, a Chasid, who smiled at me as I sat down. "Shalom Aleichem," he said to me pleasantly. "Aleichem Shalom," I returned his greeting quietly. "How are you?" he asked rather familiarly. "Fine," I said warily. He smiled at me warmly, as if indicating that I should have recognized him. I said, "Have we met before?" Smiling more widely he exclaimed, "Of course! We stood together at Sinai!" I couldn't help but laugh.

The tradition does teach, based on the words in Deuteronomy, that we all stood at Sinai—both the generation of the wilderness and all of the subsequent generations—we stood together to enter into the covenant with God. But I'd never encountered that notion in real life. And yet, for the Jew, Sinai looms large both in the collective psyche and in personal memory, whether real or imagined. It is the ultimate sacred place where we experienced God and there were witnesses to that experience. One could say that it is at Sinai where that sacred place and sacred story intersect with the personal life of each Jew, or should; for it is that revelation that forms the basis for the whole of our spiritual existence. Whether it is a real place or not, whether we actually stood there or not, it is the idea of Sinai that imbues our lives with sanctity and morality. It is there that the ethical cornerstone of our civilization was laid. So, when we read the various and sundry laws of Mishpatim, the laws that form the beginning of the constitution of our ancient people, perhaps we can transport ourselves back to that place and draw some measure of the great inspiration, enlightenment and vision of that moment.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Irish bill to criminalize commercial activity with Israel advances

The Irish parliament advanced on Jan. 24 a bill that would prohibit commercial activity connected to areas that were outside Israel's pre-1967 territory. The final tally of its first reading in Irish lower parliamentary house, the Dáil, was 78-45, with three abstentions. If enacted, it would make Ireland the first European Union nation to criminalize doing business beyond the pre-1967 lines, including eastern Jerusalem and the Golan Heights. Violators could be subject to a fine of almost \$285K or five years in prison. Irish Foreign Minister Simon Coveney expressed opposition to the bill, which he warned the Dáil about on Jan. 23, saying that if enacted, Ireland would violate E.U. law and would face "potentially very significant fines, as well as legal costs" of at least, if not more than, \$1.7 million. The Irish Senate, Seanad Éireann, approved the bill last year. It is now making its way through the Dáil for a second reading as part of the five-stage legislative process.

JCC Friendship Club

The JCC Friendship Club met on January 23. We had a rousing time singing "Golden Oldies" to the piano playing of Phil Calli. His wife, Carol, led the singing. We were given song sheets with the words to most of the songs. The first song was "In the Good Old Summertime." There is a line in the song, "She's your tootsy-wootsy," which led to a discussion of whether the young people today would call a special friend "tootsy-wootsy." Would they even know what it meant? The next song was "It's a Sin to Tell a Lie." When asked, we all said we would never tell a lie. Then one member held his nose and said, "Don't grow!" We sang loud and clear "Bei Mir Bist Du Schon." Phil said the Andrews Sisters sang it and made it famous. We ended by singing "Sunrise, Sunset" from "Fiddler on the Roof."

Ann Brilliant said that she taught English at Union-Endicott High School for 40 years before she retired. Phil said that he started his career by teaching at Maine-Endwell High School before going into administration.

The meeting was called to order by Sylvia Diamond. Ann said the blessing over the cookies after the Pledge of Allegiance. We discussed how much we enjoyed eating at a local restaurant last week. Next week, Bruce Orden will show the movie "Yentl." Join us on Wednesday at 1:30 pm at the JCC.

Sylvia Diamond
President

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NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

Paralympic Committee strips Malaysia of right to host event

Malaysia was officially stripped of the right to host a Paralympic swimming championship by the International Paralympic Committee on Jan. 27 after issuing a ban on Israeli athletes. "Politics and sport are never a good mix," said IPC President Andrew Parsons in a statement following the decision. "We are disappointed that Israeli athletes would not have been allowed to compete in Malaysia. ... The Paralympic Movement has, and always will be, motivated by a desire to drive inclusion, not exclusion," he added. "Regardless of the countries involved in this matter, the IPC would take the same decision again if it was to face a similar situation involving different countries." Malaysia banned Israelis from the World Para Swimming Championships in Borneo earlier this month, with Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad saying Israeli athletes would not be welcome, and Foreign Minister Saifuddin Abdullah declaring that his country would "not host any more events involving Israel or its representatives." Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesperson Emmanuel Nahshon praised the decision, tweeting that "this is a victory of values over hatred and bigotry, a strong statement in favor of freedom and equality. Thank you @Paralympics for your brave decision!!!" In 2015, two Israeli windsurfers had to withdraw from a competition on the island of Langkawi after Malaysia refused to issue them visas. Two years later, in 2017, Malaysia refused to host a FIFA world soccer conference due to the planned attendance of an Israeli delegation.

Czech lawmakers accept definition of antisemitism

The Czech Republic parliament's lower house adopted a widely accepted definition of antisemitism on Jan. 25, ahead of International Holocaust Remembrance Day on Jan. 27. In a nonbinding resolution, lower house speaker Radek Vondracek said the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's definition could assist authorities deal with hate crimes. According to the IHRA, "Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities." Antisemitism in the Czech Republic is at a relatively low level. Czech President Milos Zeman is a close ally of Israel. The week of Jan. 18, Moldova endorsed the IHRA definition, while the European Union did so in December.

Belgian high court hears suit against kosher slaughter ban

Belgium's Constitutional Court heard a lawsuit against laws passed by two of the country's largest regional governments, banning kosher and halal slaughter. It was brought by the Belgian Federation of Jewish Organizations (or CCOJB), the representative body of Belgian Jews, with support from the legal think tank the Lawfare Project. The lawsuit says that the ban in Wallonia and Flanders violates religious freedoms guaranteed in the European Union's Charter of Fundamental Rights. The European Court of Human Rights has previously labeled *shechita*, or kosher ritual slaughter, as "an essential aspect of practice of the Jewish religion."

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