

THE REPORTER

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Children of Abraham to host Passover seder for non-Jews on March 3

The Children of Abraham will host a Passover seder for non-Jews on Sunday, March 3, from 2-4 pm, at Temple Concord, 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton. Members of the Jewish community will be needed to host tables and assist preparation of seder plates and snacks. There is a charge of \$10 for those who can afford to pay.

"The Passover seder holds a particular fascination far beyond the Jewish community. Muslims revere Moses as a prophet, the Exodus from Egypt inspired African-Americans in their quest for freedom and justice in America, and

many Christians consider the seder to be the setting of the Last Supper of Jesus," said Eve Berman.

"I was approached on more than one occasion by Christian leaders asking if we could have a seder for them to experience how we as Jews observe Passover and the meaning it has for us as Jews. So we looked at how to offer this for our non-Jewish neighbors," said Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell.

This seder for non-Jews is being designed as an educational opportunity for the community, to experience Passover in a wholly Jewish context. While Goldman-Wartell of Temple Concord and Rabbi Geoffrey Brown

of Temple Israel will lead the seder, the goal is for each table to have a family-like experience. "Anything we can do to share the seder's symbols, in particular, those on the seder plate and how they relate to the story of the Exodus, will make memorable connections for participants," added Brown. A member of the Jewish community will serve as table host, helping with the rituals of the seder plate, and sharing their own experiences of Passover. At the conclusion of the event, each table will share their reflections on the experience.

The menu will include vegetarian matzoh ball soup and macaroons. Grape juice

will be used in place of wine to respect the Muslim prohibition on alcohol use and for those who also refrain from alcohol.

Contact Temple Concord at 723-7355, or e-mail interfaithbroomecounty@gmail.com if you are interested in assisting at the event. Help is needed to host tables, to prepare the seder plate and matzoh ball soup, and to cleanup.

Non-Jews can sign up for the seder at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0D4AAFAF2AA2FC1-children1>.

See www.interfaithbroomecounty.com for more information on the event and to sign up to volunteer.

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 to-

gether. 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.

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.

Iraq war veteran, grandson of Holocaust survivors Elan Carr tapped as antisemitism envoy

By Jackson Richman

(JNS) — After a 21-month-long vacancy awaiting the appointment of the U.S. State Department's special envoy to monitor and combat anti-semitism, the Trump administration has picked Iraq War veteran and attorney Elan Carr to fill the position. "I hope I make the difference. At the end of the day, all that matters are results and impact," Carr told JNS. "And that's what I pray — that I should have an impact on this terrible [problem]."

Carr, 50, arrived in Baghdad in October 2003 and served as an anti-terrorism officer in a unit under U.S. Central Command. He participated in Jewish life in the Army, including having a Passover seder to leading Friday-night Shabbat services to lighting the Hanukkah menorah in the former palace of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein. It was there that Carr's grandfather sat behind bars in 1948 for five years in response to Israel's founding; he was convicted on a fabricated charge of disseminating Communist propaganda and calling Muslim witnesses "liars," according to his grandson. "My mother remembers him coming to the door with shaving cream on his face when they arrested him," Carr told *The Times of Israel*

in 2013, adding that she "remembers vividly the hysteria."

In 1950, while in prison, the rest of the family moved to Israel, where Carr's father eventually joined them. There, Carr's mother underwent army service in intelligence, followed by studying for a graduate degree in Middle Eastern and Islamic studies in New York City, where she met her husband.

Carr grew up in New York and was educated at a Jewish day school, traveling to Israel annually. However, he has recognized the Alpha Epsilon Pi chapter at the University of California, Berkeley, for helping to shape his Jewish identity. "To be part of an organization that is profoundly connected to Jewish nationhood, the brotherhood of *Am Yisrael* ['the Jewish people'], is eye-opening, awakening," he told *The Times of Israel*.

After graduation, he earned a law degree from Northwestern University. Carr then practiced litigation at a New York law firm and, in the 1990s, assisted in creating Israel's initial public defender's office. In Iraq, where he served until 2004, along



Elan Carr (Photo by Elan Carr/Facebook)

with analyzing threats and recommending actions, Carr served as a judge advocate in the American military's judicial system, prosecuting enemy combatants before Iraqi judges at the Central Criminal Court.

Since returning to the United States from Iraq, Carr served as a criminal gang prosecutor with the Los Angeles County Deputy District Attorney's office. Carr, a Republican, unsuccessfully ran for Congress in 2014 against Democratic Rep. Ted Lieu. He lives in L.A. with his wife and two daughters.

The special envoy to monitor and combat anti-semitism is not subject to Senate confirmation, as it is not an ambassador-level position. However, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bipartisan bill in January that would elevate the status of the position to that of an ambassador, thereby requiring Senate confirmation. Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ), who introduced the measure, did not respond to a request for comment on Carr's appointment.

Nonetheless, the Jewish community applauded the selection. "Elan Carr is a

very good choice. He has been devoted to the issues relating to antisemitism for many years," Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, told JNS. "He understands the history, as well as the current challenges. I am confident he will work assiduously to address the rising tide of antisemitism abroad."

"There is mounting evidence of increased antisemitism coming both from the right and the left. Today, there is growing political, as well as social, antisemitism that reflects the overall growth of antisemitism in Europe," continued Hoenlein. "We in the United States need to watch these patterns carefully, and learn from past and current experiences in Europe to fight antisemitism effectively."

AEPi Foundation Executive Director Andy Borans told JNS that Carr is "absolutely the right person for the job... There's probably nobody better on the planet than him for this post. His lifelong commitment to serving both the United States and the Jewish people is legendary. He is a committed Jew and pro-Israel advocate, and is smart as a whip. He is an extremely successful prosecutor."

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Opinion

Ireland's surprise attack

By Clifford D. May

(JNS) – On International Holocaust Remembrance Day in America and Europe, recognized annually on January 27, people were working hard to draw attention to and advocate for an end to antisemitism. They can look forward to permanent employment. Antisemitism is a virus that can be treated, but not cured. It morphs.

It's been said before, but bears repeating: In the 20th century, the goal of extreme antisemites was a Europe "cleansed" of Jews. In the 21st century, the goal of extreme antisemites is a Middle East "cleansed" of a Jewish state. For many, "Never again!" means never again in the 20th century will European Jews be slaughtered by Nazis. As for Middle Eastern Jews in the 21st century, they're fair game.

Ali Khamenei, the supreme leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, expresses this candidly. "Israel must be burned to the ground and made to disappear from the face of the Earth," he has said.

Eager to set those fires are Hezbollah and Hamas. Jeremy Corbyn, leader of Britain's Labour Party, has described both groups as "friends."

But that's just talk. The pertinent question is what can be done to further imperil Israel and the Jews who live there? Recently, the lower house of the Irish parliament passed legislation (78 votes to 45) offering one answer: Wage economic warfare against Israel, in particular by criminalizing a range of business transactions with Jews in

the West Bank, eastern Jerusalem and the Golan Heights.

You should know – as perhaps some Irish parliamentarians do not – that the Golan Heights came under Israeli control after Syrian attacks in the Six-Day War of 1967. No one who identifies as a Palestinian lived there then or lives there now. The implication that Israel should hand over the Golan – and its indigenous Druze population – to Syria's mass-murdering dictator Bashar Assad is ludicrous.

As for eastern Jerusalem, it contains the Jewish Quarter of the Old City – a place where Jews have lived since the time of King David more than 3,000 years ago. Through slaughter and forced exile, foreign invaders, one after another, have attempted to make them "disappear."

Jordan's Arab Legion seized and occupied eastern Jerusalem in the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. Also conquered: territories that had been known as Judea and Samaria, thereafter renamed "the West Bank." Losing them was the price Jordan paid for joining in the 1967 war against the Jewish state.

On several occasions since, Israeli leaders have offered to turn over more than 90 percent of the West Bank to Palestinian leaders in exchange for peace. Those leaders – there have been only two, Yasser Arafat and Mahmoud Abbas – have refused. What they have insisted upon instead is land for and recognition of a Palestinian state while continuing their fight to eliminate the Jewish state.

Some proponents of the boycott, divestment and sanctions campaign forthrightly state that as their goal. Oth-

ers insist they favor a "two-state solution," with Israel's withdrawal from "Palestinian territories" seen as a step forward. But that theory has been tested.

In 2005, the Israelis withdrew from Gaza, a territory taken from Egypt in the 1967 war. Soon after, Hamas fought – literally, not metaphorically – Fatah, its rival. Hamas won and turned Gaza into a platform for continuing attacks against Israelis using missiles, terrorist tunnels and other means. Hamas leaders have consistently said they will never accept Israel's existence within any borders.

Irish parliamentarians might want to play out the hand they are attempting to deal. Israel withdraws from the West Bank. Hamas takes over from Fatah. Missiles are launched at nearby Tel Aviv. Israelis defend themselves. Bloody battles take lives on both sides. Over time, the West Bank resembles Gaza or now, Syria. Is this really the result Ireland wants to facilitate?

There is a chance that the legislation passed by the Irish parliament will fail to become law, though probably not because the arguments I've made above have resonated. Ireland has attracted some of America's largest companies, including Apple, Microsoft, Google and Facebook. They pay lots of taxes and provide lots of jobs.

Obedying the Irish law would likely mean violating existing U.S. federal law that prohibits American firms from participating in foreign boycotts not endorsed by See "Ireland" on page 11

Assimilation and the American Jewish immigrant experience

By Jonathan S. Tobin

(JNS) – It was one of those moments that make so much of the culture of 21st-century America cringe-worthy. Recently on NBC's "Meet the Press," longtime network star Tom Brokaw was criticizing supporters of U.S. President Donald Trump and analyzing their fears about immigration, whether of the legal or illegal variety. During the course of his remarks, Brokaw said something that was judged to be politically incorrect. While he implied that hostile attitudes toward immigration were rooted in racism, he also said the following: "I also happen to believe that the Hispanics should work harder at assimilation. That's one of the things I've been saying for a long time. You know they ought not to be just codified in their communities, but make sure that all their kids are learning to speak English, and that they feel comfortable in the communities. And that's going to take outreach on both sides, frankly."

For saying this, Brokaw – a liberal icon and darling of the mainstream media for decades – was called a "white supremacist" by the left-wing Latino Victory political ac-

tion group. Democratic presidential candidate in the 2020 elections Joaquin Castro accused him of "xenophobia." The National Association of Hispanic Journalists went even further. Its president, Hugo Balta of MSNBC, denounced the very idea of assimilation, saying "assimilation is denying one culture for the other."

In response to this, Brokaw did what anyone who values his acceptance in liberal circles would do. He issued an apology saying how terrible he felt. But his first attempt was not judged abject enough, so he issued another even more humble one in which he praised one commentator who had savaged him for his heresy.

But the problem with this discussion is not just that Brokaw underestimated the extent to which orthodoxy on this subject is strictly enforced. It's that the whole concept of immigrants trying to fit into America has gone out of fashion, and this is, as Brokaw tried to point out, helping fuel hostility to newcomers.

The story of the Jewish immigrant experience in the United States is, in this respect, instructive. Efforts to

become and be recognized as Americans were the priority for those who flooded into the country in the last decades of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th. Yet alongside the ardent desire to fit in was the recognition that however much we achieved here, it was still important for Jews to preserve their particular identity and faith in a new land where they were a small and sometimes despised minority.

The tension between those two trends wove the fabric of American Jewish life in the 20th century as immigrants strove to learn English and establish themselves financially, while also investing in institutions that would make it possible for them to be both Americans and Jews. While Jewish immigrants initially lived in enclaves where their language, culture and faith dominated, the struggle to learn English and to learn about America was always important. But above all, it was a community that valued education and strove incessantly to give their children opportunities to succeed.

See "Immigrant" on page 11

In My Own Words

Trying to be optimistic

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Her answer to my comment on her Facebook post was: "Since when you are my glass half-full friend?" Her original post was a complaint about the bitter cold winter weather we had recently. My not-exactly-perky reply was something along the lines that "we're one day closer to spring." That isn't what one would normally expect from me. But, when a week earlier someone answered weather complaints with that comment, it actually made me feel better. So, I've regularly been using it on myself when I start to feel down about the cold and ice.

Of course, I'm contrary enough to think of what that would mean in different seasons. However, I'm *not* going to spend my summer saying, "We are one day closer to winter," because that feels negative. I know someone who, after July 4, whines that summer is over. I don't want to hear that because it's important to enjoy the warmer weather and the greater number of daylight hours. The idea is to focus on the positive.

I've written before that I am an Eeyore who wants to be a Tigger, but I don't always succeed. (For those

folks who aren't familiar with Winnie-the-Pooh, Eeyore is a pessimist of the first order and Tigger is so joyous he can't stop bouncing.) I'm starting to feel that too many of my conversations end on a negative, rather than positive, note. Well, some folks might say on a realistic note, especially when it comes to discussing the future of print newspapers. Still, feeling down all the time is not a great way to live. Finding something positive can be helpful, even if it surprises some of my friends to hear me talk that way.

Being with upbeat positive people does help. They can put me in a good mood, which means that I feel happier, at least when I'm with them. It helps if they do acknowledge reality – noting difficulties, but seeking ways to overcome them. However, we don't have to always dwell on life's problems. It doesn't help us feel better or come up with solutions.

I had a conversation recently with someone about whether or not I could afford to retire. The amount of my Social Security isn't going to be great and I don't have

any pensions to offset the amount, nor will I be receiving any large inheritances. The person I was talking to felt depressed when I gave this realistic assessment. However, I don't feel that way: I have food, clothing and a roof over my head. I have a job with health insurance. To paraphrase my father, "no one is shooting at me." My neighborhood is safe. I have far more than many people in this world and I'm not going to whine and complain about that. That would make me ungrateful and spoiled.

I am not an optimist by nature. But a continually pessimistic attitude can spoil the joys of life. Judaism asks that we appreciate the world and what we have. That's the basis of so many blessings: from the morning blessings during which we show we are grateful for everything from our being able to see to being born a free person, or the blessing after meals when we offer thanks for our food. We should not only appreciate the larger blessings we have, but the little ones that occur every day. It may be hard for us pessimists to do that, but the results are worth the effort.



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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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Opening up the world of audiobooks to kids with learning disabilities

By Josh Hasten

(JNS) – Rashi Kuhr says that it would always take him a long time to read a book. But Kuhr, a 46-year-old immigrant to Israel from the United States who was born with a learning disability, says that around 15 years ago, his life changed forever. With the release of the Apple iPod and the newfound availability of audio books, a whole new world opened up for him, in which he was able to enjoy the pleasure of reading at a fast rate since he could listen to the words of the book and follow along simultaneously.

As a result of that experience, in 2016, Kuhr – now an educational psychologist in the Ma’ale Efraim school system located in the Jordan Valley – decided to found the Israel Audiobook Project, an organization that enables thousands of special-education students throughout Israel to experience the joy of reading books. Kuhr, along with his partner Moshe Saltzman, who handles the technical aspects of the organization, decided that the first book they wanted to produce in an audio format would be the Roald Dahl 1964 classic, “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.”

He tells JNS that “we approached Roald Dahl” – The Roald Dahl Story Company Ltd. manages the copyrights and trademarks of author Roald Dahl – “in England and explained that we wanted to turn their book into an audiobook, and give it out for free to special-education students in Israel. I assumed they would ask for a substantial sum of money, but they agreed and gave us the rights for just \$1,000!”

Kuhr then approached the Israeli publisher of the book, which donated the translation rights to his organization for free. After finding a professional voice talent to read the book for the recording, they were on their way.



L-r: Moshe Saltzman and Rashi Kuhr, founders of the organization. (Photo courtesy of Israel Audiobook Project)

Once the audiobook was available and uploaded to the organization’s website, Kuhr was able to give the password to special-education teachers across the country to access the Hebrew-language audio version of “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.” “The kids loved it,” he says. “They were so excited to be able to finish their first book.”

Since that first audiobook was created, Kuhr says that an additional 10 books have been translated, recorded and uploaded. “Over 10,000 kids have listened to our books in over 600 schools all over Israel,” he says. Kuhr notes that the current goal is to try and produce at least 10 new books annually over the course of the academic year.

In order to make that goal a reality, his organization has developed relationships with more publishers and authors in order to get the rights to additional books. According to Kuhr, most of them are generally thrilled to be a part of the project.

Tzlil Zagury is a fifth grade special-education teacher in an elementary school in the Jewish community of Nili, in the Binyamin Regional Council in Judea and Samaria. She utilizes the audiobooks as part of her curriculum. She tells JNS that when her students listen to the audio and follow along with a book, “you can see that they are now able to process what they are reading. It’s like the brain takes a picture of the words [in the story]. All of a sudden, they understand, and that leads to them having a feeling of success.” Zagury hopes to expand the project further, offering more hours of reading to more children.

Michal Malka has a 10-year-old daughter named Ma’ayan in the Nili School’s special-education program. She says that before being introduced to the audiobooks, her daughter couldn’t read and was intimidated to even try doing so. But ever since the audiobooks were introduced,



A picture of some of the books provided by the Israel Audiobook Project. (Photo courtesy of Israel Audiobook Project)

Malka says that her daughter “has developed confidence. She has the will now to try and understand more, and to read more. It’s a start.”

Thanks to Kuhr, not only are Jewish children in special-education classes now being given the audiobook experience, but Israeli Arab children as well. Kuhr has partnered with Almanarah – an organization committed to assisting people with disabilities in the Arab sector – and they have started translating the books into Arabic as well, to be used by Arab children in special-education classes, free of charge. So far, two books, including “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory” and “The Wizard of Oz,” have been translated from English into Arabic and made into audiobooks as a result of this new partnership.

But the greatest challenge? Securing funding to create more audiobooks. Right now, the project relies on volunteers to read the audiobook recordings, and the income is minimal since Kuhr insists that students not be charged for See “Kids” on page 9

Book Club celebrates member’s birthday



Members of the Tuesday Morning Book Club at Temple Concord celebrated Ruth Dorfman’s birthday at the February meeting. L-r: Ruth Dorfman with her daughter, Nancy Dorfman, Ann Weissman and (standing) Lani Dunthorn.

Women TIES event postponed

The Women TIES Binghamton luncheon, which was scheduled to be held on February 12, was postponed due to inclement weather. The event will now be held on Wednesday, March 13.

Carr Continued from page 1

“We offer our heartfelt congratulations to Elan Carr, a close friend of the Israeli-American Council, as he steps into his crucial role,” said IAC CEO Shoham Nicolet. “This appointment is an important milestone for our community, and we stand behind [Carr] in his role defending not only the Jewish people, but also the values of America and the free world.”

OF NOTE

Ferentinos

Leah Ferentinos, daughter of Fran and Peter Ferentinos of Binghamton, has been appointed to a two-year fellowship as communications fellow and associate research scholar at Yale Law School’s Information Society Project, an intellectual center supporting its interdisciplinary scholars on issues of law, technology and society, and its initiatives The Floyd Abrams Institute for Freedom of Expression and Yale’s Media Freedom and Information Access Clinic. The MFIA clinic authors amicus briefs and promotes scholarship and law reform on questions that affect both traditional and new media.

Ferentinos will be researching issues at the intersection of law and technology, and translating scholarly legal arguments or case developments into accessible white papers, op-eds, press releases, and funder proposals and reports, and facilitating the communications of a national network of law school accountability clinics.

The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to **Laura Letson** on the death of her mother, **Claire Rosenblatt**

Community Calendar

The Community Calendar can be found on the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton’s website, www.jfgeb.org, by clicking on “calendar.”

“Have you forgotten the date of your organization’s event? Can’t remember when the CJS lecture is? Do you want to hear what’s happening at the next Federation board meeting? Are you planning an event and want to make sure there are no conflicts? Then go to www.jfgeb.org and hit “calendar,”” said Sima Auerbach, executive director of the Federation. “This is your Community Calendar! All the events this amazing community holds are listed – and if you do not see what you were looking for, call us at 724-2332. In a community of this size – where people belong to several organizations or synagogues – we want to make certain that people don’t miss an important event or meeting.”

Updates or additions of events for the calendar can be made by contacting the Federation through its website (click on “calendar” and then “click here to request a change to the calendar”) or by calling 724-2332.

Please donate all your unwanted/unused items for us to sell at the JCC Yard Sale

All proceeds go to our fitness program!

Items We Accept:

- Gently used clothing
- Gently used shoes
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Off the Shelf

Stories about the human condition

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

Many people think of the Talmud as a legal compendium – a text filled with laws about ritual practice, correct business conduct and ethical behavior. While the Talmud does offer legal discussion and rulings, that's not the only material included. The Talmud also features stories, fables and legends that teach life lessons, although their morals aren't always obvious at first glance. In "The Land of Truth: Talmud Tales, Timeless Teachings" (The Jewish Publication Society), Jeffrey L. Rubenstein, a Skirball professor of Talmud and rabbinic literature at New York University, shows how these deceptively simple tales contain far more depth than one might expect.

Rubenstein selects stories in order to show the wide range of human behavior discussed in the Talmud. Divided into three sections, the book looks at "The Human Condition," "Virtue, Character, and the Life of Piety" and "The Individual, Society, and Power." Each chapter contains one or more stories, along with several different ways to understand the lessons they might teach. As Rubenstein digs deeper into each tale, he shows how the rabbis offered different ways to view the world. For the author, this means many of the stories are still relevant today and offer wisdom readers can use in their own lives.

For example, in the chapter "Men Are from Babylonia, Women Are from the Land of Israel," Rubenstein notes that, while the legal aspects of marriage (including betrothal, divorce, adultery, widowhood, etc.) are discussed in the

legal sections of the Talmud, the sections that feature stories "focus on relationships between the sexes in all their dizzying complexity. These sources offer visions of marriage that cannot be expressed in legal terms, addressing such issues as what it means to be a good spouse, how to respond to the needs of the other, the character traits required to make a marriage work... No utopian document, the Talmud realistically portrays the challenge of sustaining marriage." This is shown in a story about a man who makes requests that his wife takes far too literally. This so irritates her husband that he orders her to do something foolish in public.

At first, it's difficult to tell if the woman answers her husband's requests literally because she doesn't understand them (for example, when he asked for a small amount of lentils to eat, she cooked him two) or if she is upset with being ordered around by someone who shows her no kindness. Rubenstein looks at the story from both angles, showing how each offers a different view of married life. In addition, he discusses how linguistic issues might have caused some of the couple's problems – the Aramaic spoken by the husband, who originally lived in Babylonia, was not exactly the same as his wife's, who was born in the land of Israel. The story ends with a cryptic blessing by a rabbi that, at first, might seem irrelevant, but whose meaning Rubenstein explains. In fact, the rabbi's words may allow husband and wife to continue their marriage.

The chapter "The Land of Truth" looks at the question of whether it's possible to always speak the complete truth. The first story tells of a rabbi who moved to a town where everyone always speaks the truth; because of this, no one in the town dies young. When the rabbi tells a white lie, the result is disastrous. Also offered is a debate between the House of Hillel and the House of Shammai about whether one should offer an accurate description of a bride. The House of Shammai says one should tell the truth, even if it hurts someone's feelings. The House of Hillel counters this by noting that there is no purpose depreciating something that is already done (whether telling a man his bride is ugly or that a purchase he made was a bad one) because it is too late to make a change. Rubenstein also discusses a television show and a film that portray the problems caused by always speaking the complete truth, rather than tempering a response. The resulting mess shows that it's sometimes better for people not to share everything they are thinking.

Another story in the chapter tells of how the Angel of Truth is thrown out of heaven after telling God not to create humankind because they will be liars. Rubenstein believes that story teaches "truth functions as a link between the world of humans and the realm of the divine. Without a sufficient commitment to truth, when lies and deceit proliferate on earth, the connection between heaven weakens and society implodes. But neither can absolute truth comfortably See "Human" on page 7

LEGAL NOTICE

SOUL FLOW, LLC; Art. of Org. filed with SSNY on 10/29/18; Office location: Broome County. SSNY design. 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.

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

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.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF

LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY UNDER NEW YORK LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY LAW

1. The name of the limited liability company ("LLC") is BIH Trucking LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is February 1, 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: 26 Timberland Drive, Binghamton, NY 13903.
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

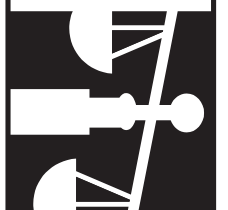
1. The name of the limited liability company ("LLC") is Maggie Blake, LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is February 6, 2019.
3. The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the LLC is located is Broome.
4. The Secretary 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 507, Port Crane, NY 13833.
5. The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

Northern Tier PT, OT, SLP, PLLC: Articles of Organization filed with SSNY on February 6, 2019. Office: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent for LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 948 Allie Buck RD Nanty Glo PA 15943. Purpose: physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech language pathology and any lawful business.

For information on legal notice advertising, contact Bonnie Rozen at 724-2360, ext. 244 or bonnie@thereporter.org

Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton

THE REPORTER



As Africa grapples with demographics on a grand scale, Israel is ready with its expertise

By Israel Kasnett

ANALYSIS

(JNS)—With its fast-growing population and enormous resources, Africa is poised to dominate the global conversation in the 21st century. Yet this vast continent is not without its equally large environmental and demographic challenges as it continues to rapidly develop.

“Things are changing dramatically in Africa. And Africa is an increasingly important continent for the future stability of the world. Africa is the largest exporter of human refugees and has enormous, awesome resources. For that reason, there has been a new scramble for influence in Africa,” Dore Gold, president of the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, told JNS.

And Israel, with its world-renowned expertise in areas such as technology, agriculture, water management and security, is poised to lend assistance to these African nations as they seek to grow.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s recent trip to Chad, during which the two countries re-established diplomatic ties, highlighted the strides Israel has made in Africa. The trip also broke a record for the Jewish state. This is the first time in Israel’s history that, out of the 193 or so recognized countries in the world, Israel now has dip-



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (front, left) at the Presidential Palace in Ndjamena, Chad, on January 20. (Photo by GPO/Kobi Gideon)

lomatic relations with 160 of them. That is considered a solid diplomatic achievement, and it is one that Israel hopes to continue to improve upon.

“The world has changed,” Gold said. While he didn’t want to speculate on which countries would next institute diplomatic ties with Israel, he did admit that change is in the air.

“The constraint on ties with Israel vanished,” Gold said. “The reason why Chad cut ties with Israel in 1972 had nothing to do with the Arab-Israeli conflict. The reason Chad cut ties with Israel is because Chad had Moammar Qaddafi breathing down its neck. But today, Qaddafi is gone and Libya is almost gone. As a result, Chad felt complete freedom of maneuver that it didn’t have previously.”

The question for Israel is what African country will it seek to bridge diplomatic relations with next? Speculation points to Mali and Sudan, and perhaps Morocco.

Yonatan Freeman, of the political-science department at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, told JNS regarding possible renewed ties between Israel and Mali, Liberia plays an important role since that is where Netanyahu met the leadership of Mali when he attended the ECOWAS summit in 2017. Freeman noted that when Netanyahu was there, efforts were made to connect him with leaders of other countries Israel does not have formal ties with for the very purpose of laying the groundwork for similar developments.

During a state visit to Israel in 1983, Liberian President Samuel K. Doe said, “We in Liberia shall do our best in persuading some of our friends, African countries, to reconsider their decision and to resume relations with the state of Israel.” Notably, it was Liberia that cast the deciding vote at the United Nations in 1947, leading to Israel’s establishment.

“Generally speaking,” Freeman continued, “there are others in Africa, but even wider in the Muslim world” who are interested in establishing diplomatic bonds with Israel. “We are in talks with others. I saw some reports that this could include a country like Kuwait. There are also reports about Pakistan and Bangladesh.”

Freeman pointed out that these countries, in addition to Chad, are Muslim. Netanyahu will likely soon be visiting Morocco, and this will have great impact on Israel’s relationship with non-Arab Muslim countries.

Freeman said this relationship could broaden the closer we get to the peace deal that U.S. President Donald Trump will be announcing since “part of the deal will include language about recognition of Israel by the Muslim world.”

He added that Muslim countries could create pressure on the Palestinians to accept the deal. “They could say, ‘You’re either with the deal, or you’re not with us.’”

The scholar emphasized two more issues. One, noted Freeman, is that “for the first time, Israel has diplomatic relations with 160 countries. No. 2 is that Netanyahu’s trip to Chad is something which really shows that the supposed pressure [President Idriss] Déby had from Palestinians and others didn’t work. This is something that really shows that Israel is somewhere else since the ‘70s. We don’t have to beg anymore. Other countries are begging to know what our secret is.”

This change has manifested itself in the way Israel’s popularity in Africa has grown, even among Muslim-majority nations. These countries want Israel’s expertise in technology, agriculture, security, trade, water expertise and more. “There were issues with negotiations over land in the ‘70s, but in the end, it took two years [for the Egypt-Israel treaty] – not just for Egypt to prepare, but for the Arab world to prepare. For months, they were pressuring Egypt [against making a deal with Israel]. Not everyone agreed with what Egypt was doing,” said Freeman.

“What happened here,” he observed, “is that yes there was pressure, but it was pressure the other way, with other countries saying, ‘Go ahead, Chad, [renew diplomatic relations with Israel] because we are going to be doing it, too.’”

NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

U.K. Jewish watchdog group: 16 percent increase in antisemitic attacks in 2018

British Jewry reported 16 percent more antisemitic incidents in 2018 than in the previous year, breaking the record for the third year in a row, and tripling since 2013. The Community Security Trust, British Jewry’s largest antisemitism watchdog group, reported on Feb. 6 that the most common type of attack is verbal at 29 percent of attacks, or 483 reported incidents. In attacks in which victims described their perpetrators, 64 percent were described as European and 37 percent Arab, black or South Asian. The Community Security Trust noted that violent antisemitic assaults were down 17 percent from 2018, with 123 physical attacks reported. There were 148 incidents directly linked to British Labour Party and the public debate over antisemitism sparked by party leader Jeremy Corbyn.

Women in Business

A paid advertising section.

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THE REPORTER
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 www.Moonwinkies.com
 sarah@Moonwinkies.com
 Hours: Tuesday & Wednesday - 10am-2pm & 5-8pm
 Thursday - 10am-2pm
 Friday - 10am-2pm & 5-9pm
 Saturday - Check our Calendar on Facebook for Special Events
 *Scheduled Birthday Party’s and Private Events upon Request



Women in Business

A paid advertising section.



Kristys Imagination Photography

Specialty: Weddings, portraits, special events, seniors, pets
 Name: Kristy Johnston
 Phone: 607-221-1225
 E-mail: kristyphotography@gmail.com
 Website: www.kristysphoto.com
 Hours: By appointment only

Kristys Imagination Photography is a locally owned business in the Binghamton region providing on-location photography services for any occasion, such as weddings, portraits or other special events. Sessions are done on location by appointment only, and provide you with quality photography services in the comfort of your own home or the location of your choice.

"I have always had a passion for photography and therefore decided to pursue it as a career," says owner Kristy Johnston. "I truly enjoy what I do as a photographer. I get to capture some of life's most important and precious moments."

Offering a variety of products and photography services, Kristys Imagination Photography is your professional on-location photographer.

For more information, call 607-221-1225 or e-mail kristyphotography@gmail.com. You can also see a portfolio and more information at www.kristysphoto.com.

Did you know?

(NAPSA) - "Women small business owners recognize the importance of the web, mobile marketing and social media to engage, capture and nurture customer relationships, and they are increasing investments in these resources to drive growth," reports David L. Brown, chairman, CEO and president of Web.com.

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222 Water St • Downtown Binghamton
607.771.6063 • lostdog.cafe

Lost Dog Café

Specialty: Eclectic food and a friendly atmosphere
 Location: 222 Water St., Suite 101
 Binghamton, NY 13901
 Names: Elizabeth Hughes and Marie McKenna, co-owners
 Phone: 607-771-6063
 Website: www.lostdogcafe.net
 Facebook: Lost Dog Café Binghamton
 Hours: Mon.-Sat. 11:30 am-10 pm, closed Sun.

Lost Dog Café debuted October 21, 1994, in a funky old garage on Main Street with a love of good food, good people and a strong sense of community as inspiration. In April 1997, the café moved to 222 Water St., downtown Binghamton. The café has become a favorite place for lunch, dinner or just hanging out, and features live music, poetry readings, art exhibits and charity events.

In June 2012, the Lost Dog opened a lounge and additional catering space accommodating 80 seated guests and 140 for cocktail parties. In March 2004, Lost Dog Café was inducted into the Small Business Development Center's Small Business Hall of Fame. The owners of Lost Dog Café were also awarded the Small Business Association's Excellence Award in April 2004 and Greater Binghamton Chamber Business Persons of Year Award in 2012.

Moonbeam's & Dolliewinkie's

Specialty: Pottery and art experiences
 Location: 217 Front St.
 Vestal, NY
 Owner: Sarah Milligan
 Phone: 607-321-3083
 E-mail: Sarah@moonwinkies.com
 Website: www.Moonwinkies.com
 Facebook: Moonbeam's and Dolliewinkie's Pottery & Art Studio
 Hours: Mon. closed; Tues.-Wed. 10 am-2 pm, 5-8 pm; Thurs. 10 am-2 pm; Fri. 10 am-2 pm, 5-9 pm; Sat. by appt.

Moonbeam's and Dolliewinkie's is a pottery and art studio where people of all ages and experience levels can come to be creative with clay and other media. The studio has scheduled wheel time, as well as classes for adults, teens and children.

"My idea to have a studio space where people could feel comfortable exploring the creative side began when I was throwing clay at a studio," says owner Sarah Milligan. "I fell in love with the art form as soon as I stuck my hand into the mud. I wanted to share my favorite art form with other people in an environment that felt like home and allowed people to be artistic in their own way."

The studio also hosts birthday parties or private events for small groups. Check its calendar on Facebook for special events.

607.648.3358

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Thank you,
 Bonnie Rozen
 Advertising Executive

**THE
REPORTER**

Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton

Office of Amy R. Cousins, M.D. Aphrodite Medical PLLC

Specialty: Well woman care and abortion
 Location: 149 Vestal Parkway W.
 Vestal, NY 13850
 Name: Amy R. Cousins, M.D.
 Phone: 607-785-4171 or 1-800-676-9011
 Website: www.AmyCousinsMD.com
 Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9 am-5 pm, Some Saturdays 10 am-2 pm

Dr. Amy Cousins has been providing gynecological care and abortion services since 1989. She has cared for women on Medicaid and those who lack insurance with the help of the Aphrodite Access Fund.

"The need has been especially great lately and women are desperate for funding," said Peg Johnston, manager of Dr. Cousins' office. "The truth is that offices like ours need help to continue to be accessible to patients, so we are gratefully accepting donations to the Aphrodite Access Fund." Donations in any amount may be sent to PO Box 642, Vestal, NY 13851.

Phantom Chef LLC

Specialty: Off-premises catering, drop-off catering, small on-premises events, culinary classes
 Location: 49 Washington Ave.
 Endicott, NY 13760
 Name: Michelle (Bank) McIlroy
 Phone: 607-765-2408
 E-mail: info@phantomchefcatering.com
 Website: www.phantomchefcatering.com
 Facebook: Phantom Chef LLC
 Hours: Variable

Phantom Chef is owned and operated by Chef Michelle (Bank) McIlroy, who trained at the prestigious Culinary Institute of America. A native of South Africa, Chef Michelle has tasted her way around the world, sampling the foods and flavors of many cultures.

Phantom Chef, established in 2009, specializes in off-premise catering, drop-off catering and small on-premise events, as well as classes at a newly renovated culinary studio in Endicott. Chef Michelle focuses on personalized events and catering for Jewish occasions, as well as customizing menus for special diets, such as kosher, gluten-free and vegetarian.

"Whether you are planning an intimate dinner for two in your home, a corporate luncheon, or a special occasion for 200, we will tailor the menu to meet your culinary tastes and your budget," says Chef Michelle. "Fresh, local, farm-to-table, seasonal food is our specialty."

Susan Jablon Shoppe

Specialty: Cold process soap making
 Location: 12 Alice St.
 Binghamton, NY 13904
 Name: Susan Jablon
 Phone: 607-748-2302
 E-mail: susan@susanjablon.com
 Website: www.susanjablon.com
 Hours: Every Sat. 10 am-noon by appointment

Learn to make your own natural cold process soap. Perfect for beginners or on any level, join Susan Jablon Shoppe's soap making classes and explore the world of luxurious plant-based butters and oils. Create your one-of-a-kind artistic soap bars and go home with a full two pounds of soap (that's nine full bars!), perfect for your personal stock or gift giving!

Hint: Your soap making journey is even better with a friend! Parties welcome!

Swags and Slipcovers

Specialty: Custom window treatments and slipcovers
 Location: 45 Clark Ave.
 Binghamton, NY 13901
 Name: Kathy Ritter
 Phone: 607-648-3358
 E-mail: kathy@swagsandslipcovers.com
 Website: www.swagsandslipcovers.com
 Hours: Mon.-Fri. by appointment

Swags and Slipcovers will help you beautify your home by providing custom window treatments, slipcovers, upholstery and accessories, such as pillows, cushions and bedding. There are many styles of window treatments, such as swags, panels, valances and shades. Manufactured cellular and pleated shades are also available. Kathy will assist you in choosing the right treatment depending on your need for privacy, light control or just to beautify your home.

Slipcovers are custom fit and add new life to your furniture. Decorative trims can be incorporated to create a unique look. Swags and Slipcovers offers a free one hour, in-home consultation, with a large selection of quality fabrics to choose from. View projects created by Swags and Slipcovers at www.swagsandslipcovers.com.

Israeli cannabis comes to America in relevant form, that of “repairing the world”

By JNS staff

(JNS) – With Israel having just approved medical cannabis to be exported, the United States is a destination for the Israeli firm Tikun Olam, which is Hebrew for the Jewish obligation to “repair, heal or fix the world.”

Although it is illegal under U.S. federal law, 33 states permit medical marijuana, including Washington state and Delaware – the only two states currently selling Tikun Olam’s line of oils, topicals, tinctures and other kinds – in addition to California and Florida, where they both will be selling the company’s products in the near future.

Its facilities in Southern California will be located in Adelanto and cost \$20 million, while their operations in Florida will partner with VidaCann to create vape oils,



Avidekel cannabis products from Tikun Olam. (Photo courtesy Tikun Olam)

tinctures, capsules and topicals that will be offered through the Jacksonville-based cannabis grower’s dispensaries and delivery service. It is illegal in the United States to transport marijuana across state lines; therefore, the Israeli manufacturer will at least either build its own facilities or find partners in each state.

Tikun Olam Chief Marketing Officer Stephen Gardner told Forbes contributor Julie Weed that the brand is selling what “is genetically identical to what has been tested.”

“We aren’t saying our products are the only forms of cannabis that can be effective,” said Gardner. “It’s just that ours have been rigorously studied.” He added that “we’re not competing with recreational brands. We are introducing products that are backed by science.”

Back home, Tikun Olam has been experimenting with 32 genetically unique strains of marijuana for assistance with diagnoses and side effects related to autism, cancer, Crohn’s disease, Parkinson’s disease, Tourette syndrome, fibromyalgia and more.

The company funded a study at Ben-Gurion University in the Negev and Soroka Medical Center in Beersheva that discovered 30 percent of patients reporting significant improvement and 53.7 percent of patients reporting moderate improvement related to symptoms such as depression, seizures, restlessness, tics and rage attacks after taking the cannabidiol-rich treatment with an additional 1.5 percent THC on a frequent basis.

The study also showed that more than 80 percent of children with autism-related symptoms who took cannabis oil enjoyed moderate to significant improvement in their condition.

Human..... Continued from page 4

dwell on earth among humankind, as humans cannot live up to its angelic and divine standards. Beyond the human propensity to sin, too much truth can prove corrosive to human relationships.” There needs to be balance between complete truth and caring about others’ feelings.

Rubenstein ends his work with “Standing on One Leg,” which tells of a Gentile who was willing to convert to Judaism if someone could teach him the entire Torah while he’s standing on one leg. Shammai chases the man away, but Hillel converts him, saying, “That which is hateful for you, do not do to your fellow. That is the entire Torah. The rest is commentary. Go and learn it.” Rubenstein believes that Hillel’s statement has often been misunderstood. He notes that the Torah can *not* be explained in a single sen-

tence and thinks Hillel felt the same. What many who read the story don’t understand is that “go and learn it” – that is how you need to study Torah – is the most important part of Hillel’s declaration. Rubenstein believes there are no shortcuts to wisdom and that “anything worth learning, be it a meaningful way to live one’s life, a religious tradition, or a moral vision, requires patience (as modeled by Hillel), time, and perseverance.”

“The Land of Truth” is an excellent introduction to talmudic tales. Readers need not have any prior experience with the Talmud in order to understand Rubenstein’s explanations. His work is appropriate for individual study or use in a group setting. Most important, the author succeeds in showing how stories from the Talmud can offer insights into modern life.

Women in Business

A paid advertising section.

The Cat Doctor

Specialty: A full service veterinary hospital providing medical, surgical, dental and behavioral care for cats of all ages.

Location: 423 East Main St. Endicott, NY 13760

Owner: Darcy Sobel, D. V. M.
Phone: 754-7221

Hours: Mon. and Fri. 8 am-5 pm, Tues. and Thurs. 12:30-8 pm, Wed. 8 am-3 pm

The Cat Doctor is celebrating 24 years of caring for cats and their people. This year, Dr. Susan M. Szczotka and the staff welcomed Dr. Darcy Sobel back to The Cat Doctor family.

The doctors and staff at The Cat Doctor recognize that cats are important family members and treat each individual with special attention to their age, temperament and health conditions. Preventive medicine is practiced by providing complete physical examinations, behavioral counseling, dental care, diet management and appropriate vaccinations. The hospital has advanced radiology capabilities, providing instant, superior quality, digital x-rays as well as digital dental x-rays for the detection of early tooth disease below the gumline. The hospital now offers abdominal ultrasound for early detection of organ problems. When illness does occur, thorough and caring medical and surgical treatment is tailored to each patient.

The Reporter

Specialty: Advertising
Location: 500 Clubhouse Rd. Vestal, NY 13850

Name: Bonnie Rozen
Phone: 607-724-2360, ext. 244
Fax: 607-724-2311

E-mail: bonnie@thereportergroup.org
Website: www.thereportergroup.org
Hours: Mon.-Thurs., 10:30 am-5 pm, Fri. 10:30 am-4 pm

With 51-plus years’ experience in sales, and the sale executive at *The Reporter* for the past 23 years, Bonnie truly enjoys working with people to get the word out about their businesses, and helping them to create the look they want for their print ads. “Satisfaction guaranteed” is her mantra.

“I feel a great sense of responsibility to my clients and to our community,” says Bonnie.

Bonnie is the current president and the past treasurer of Success Network, a business association in the Twin Tiers of New York since 1998.

Call her today to discuss options for advertising in *The Reporter* and in its sister papers: *The New Jewish Voice* in Stamford, New Canaan and Darien, CT; *The Reporter* in Scranton, PA; and *Jewish Observer* in Syracuse, NY.

Tri-City Hearing

Specialty: Hearing healthcare
Location: 200 Plaza Dr., Suite B Vestal, NY 13850

Name: Amanda VanFossen
Phone: 607-217-5399
Fax: 607-237-0349

E-mail: amandav@cortlandhearingaids.com
Website: www.Tri-CityHearing.com
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8am-4:30 pm

The staff at Tri-City Hearing understand how important the sense of hearing is to overall health and wellness. Amanda VanFossen is a NYS Licensed Hearing Instrument Specialist who provides specialized expertise in hearing assessments, as well as fitting and fine-tuning hearing instruments to a variety of hearing losses. Her passion for helping people hear better begins with exploring hearing solutions together and maintaining follow-up care to optimize hearing wellness.

It is Tri-City Hearing’s mission to foster ongoing relationships with its patients throughout their journey to better hearing. As part of its Hearing Wellness Program and to encourage community members to take an active role in their hearing health, Tri-City Hearing provides free comprehensive annual hearing screenings. Getting a baseline hearing test is especially important for those age 55 and older.

Cut through the chaos and stay organized

(StatePoint) – Want to be better organized? From making and keeping appointments, to completing your to-do list, there’s no reason to get overwhelmed. Try these tips and tools from life.ataglance.com for a more organized life, no matter how much chaos is thrown at you.

◆ Personalize it. The easiest way to stay organized is by having a planning system that reflects your personality. Watch yourself surpass your goals by using tools that fit your style, like color-coding, symbols or stickers. Remember that not all personalization has to be for efficiency purposes. Patterned tape, fun designs and motivating quotes can be a great way to keep you committed and make your planner a reflection of yourself.

◆ Double up. The best way to stay on top of important items is to double up – use digital technology in tandem with traditional paper to capture important notes, dates and more. Keep work-related meetings, contacts and events, as well as personal events or appointments, in your phone, but See “Chaos” on page 8

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Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month Volunteers bond with residents at “special” center in the Negev

By Shelley Elk

(JNS) – When Nina Paul first visited ALEH Negev Nahalat-Eran several years ago, she wept. “Having experienced so many of the residential rehabilitative facilities in the States, I saw immediately the difference at ALEH Negev,” she said. “Not only was it a beautiful environment on the outside, it was doubly beautiful on the inside thanks to the staff, the program, and the incredible love and care given.”

With sprawling green lawns and water features surrounded by views of Israel’s Negev Desert, this 25-acre village looks more like a retreat center or resort. Yet it is the residents, caretakers and American supporters like Paul who make it such a “warm and loving community” for Israel’s special-needs community.

When Paul and her husband Ed’s son, Max, was 8, they discovered a rare brain tumor that needed immediate resection, ultimately causing extensive damage. The resulting major behavioral and medical problems fol-



ALEH Negev, which hosts volunteers from around the world, provides services, care and support to people with disabilities and special needs. (Photo courtesy of Jewish National Fund)

lowing the surgery turned the Pauls’ world upside-down, including the need for specific residential rehabilitative assistance, which was not available in their hometown of Cincinnati.

“If we would have had a place like this in the United States for Max, who knows where he might have been today?” posed Nina. She and her husband turned their pain into action.

It was Nina who helped introduce the idea of adding initiatives for people with special needs to the growing portfolio of partnerships of Jewish National Fund-USA. Though her efforts, ALEH Negev became the first of four partners brought on who provide services and support to people with special needs and disabilities.

With the help of Jewish National Fund, ALEH Negev provides rehabilitative services, medical care and education for people with severe disabilities, encouraging them reach their potential for communication and development. The See “Bond” on page 9

Women in Business

A paid advertising section.

Warren Real Estate – Susan G. Stephens, Licensed Associate Real Estate Broker, ABR®, SRES®, GRI

Specialty: Residential real estate, new construction, relocation specialist, land
Location: 3456 Vestal Parkway, East Vestal, NY 13850
Name: Susan G. Stephens, Licensed Associate Real Estate Broker, ABR®, SRES®, GRI
Office: 607-217-5673
Cell: 607-725-8258
Fax: 607-238-7344
E-mail: SueStephens@Warrenhomes.com
Website: www.suestephensrealtor.com
Hours: By appointment

Whatever your real estate needs, Susan “Sue” Stephens can assist you. Sue, Licensed Associate Real Estate Broker, ABR®, SRES®, GRI, is a Relocation Specialist, Multi-Million Dollar Producer and Award Winning Agent with Warren Real Estate. She provides full-time real estate services for buyers and sellers at all price levels, and has the regional knowledge and proven track record necessary to successfully help you buy or sell a home or land.

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Specialty: Providing the ultimate journey of rejuvenation through relaxation
Location: 4535 Old Vestal Rd. Vestal, NY 13850
Name: Karen Latta
Phone: 607-644-9123
Fax: 607-754-0502
E-mail: info@whiterosedayspa.com
Website: www.whiterosedayspa.com
Facebook: White Rose Day Spa
Hours: Mon. 10 am-5 pm, Tues-Fri. 9 am-8 pm, Sat. 9 am-5 pm, Sun. by appointment only

The White Rose Day Spa and Hair Design debuted in 2002. “At that time, we were the premier facility to offer all services under one roof,” says owner Karen Latta. “Sixteen years later, we are still going strong. In 2012, we purchased our own building and we were able to expand our services with additional chairs for manicures, pedicures and additional rooms for facials and massages. We also have a barber onsite. We now offer expansive facial treatments, lash extensions, spray tanning and a wide variety of massages.”

White Rose Day Spa and Hair Design offers permanent cosmetics by Bonnie Drum and teeth whitening by Anthony Bronner. Dr. Tali Martin is now providing botox, needling and medical grade peels.

Women’s OB/GYN Associates

Specialty: Women’s healthcare
Location: 401 Main St., 1st Floor Johnson City, NY 13790
Names: Dr. Carol Miller; Karen Castoro, FNP; Melody Onysko, ANP/CNM; and Heather Nannery, FNP
Phone: 607-754-9870
Fax: 607-785-9862
Website: www.womensobgyn.info
Facebook: www.facebook.com/WomensOBGYN/
Hours: Mon.-Fri. by appointment

Women’s OB/GYN Associates serves patients with individual attention and caring excellence. The team of providers offers care in the following areas: routine gynecologic exams, obstetrical care, menopause, incontinence, osteoporosis, contraception, advanced body composition, the area’s only Optifast weight loss program, Young Living Essential Oils and more. Karen Castoro, FNP, shares her enthusiasm for healthy living and wellness to encourage those in her care. Melody Onysko, ANP/CNM, shares her expertise in holistic health care and weight management support. Heather Nannery, FNP, is now accepting new patients seeking gynecological care. Dr. Carol Miller is committed to promoting women’s health through a healthy diet and lifestyle.

To learn more about these women’s healthcare providers, or to contact the office of Women’s OB/GYN Associates, visit www.womensobgyn.info and “like” their page on Facebook.

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Chaos. Continued from page 7

also keep that information in writing on calendars and in your planner. Be sure to mark each appointment and every coffee date in the daily section of your planner, while designating bigger events in your life, like weddings, travel or home renovation projects, in the monthly section as well. Paper-based planning can help keep you on track and allow you to reflect on your successes. Planners and calendars can make it easy to organize your life by day, week or month.

◆ Celebrate successes. Take time to review your progress and see what you have accomplished. It will give you a sense of control and completion, and can motivate you to keep going. Celebrate successes as they occur, but don’t get disheartened if something on your to-do list carries over to the next day, week or month. Staying motivated will help you be more productive and be a reminder of how well your system is working.

◆ Check it off. There is nothing more satisfying than getting important things done – except when you physically cross it off your list. Be sure to give yourself some sort of visual satisfaction for completed tasks. This should be done on both your digitized and paper-based to-do lists.

◆ Categorize. Everyone has things that must get done to keep life running smoothly, as well as a list of what they would like to get done in their spare time. Categorize your lists so you can prioritize the must-do’s first and then, when you’ve crossed out your urgent tasks, tackle those other to-dos. Categorizing will help you identify your busy times – as well as some extra space in your schedule – so you can plan accordingly.

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Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month

Belly-filling, heart-warming: An evening in Jerusalem's Yachad Café

By Deborah Fineblum

(JNS) – It only happens once a month, so you'll want to mark your calendar well in advance. Because, like with other classy German Colony restaurants, you're better off making a reservation if you don't want to be left outside in the Jerusalem cold, staring at the happy diners inside.

But if do find yourself gazing through the window at the Yachad Café, you'll quickly notice something very different from other fine dining establishments. In such eateries, the wait staff swoops down, pad in hand and efficiently takes your order before moving on to the next table.

Whereas here at Yachad (in Hebrew meaning "together," "in unity"), your servers are much more likely to introduce themselves and share a thought or two, even if it's just that they're happy you came out to see them and eat the food they've been working so hard to make for you.

And another thing about the Yachad Cafe is that, despite the hustle-bustle of the city outside, no one here seems to be in a hurry. Because the clientele don't come just for the delectable food (and it is good), but because they're eager to support these young people with disabilities as they work hard to learn a trade and be empowered to support themselves someday.

It's been seven years since Yachad, a program of the Orthodox Union, opened a chapter in Israel (joining the

dozens of chapters across the United States and Canada) and it's been hosting all manner of programs for families who have a child with disabilities, including get-togethers, holiday celebrations, trips and community Shabbatons across the country. But during that time, they kept hearing from families whose special-needs children had finished school (at age 21 in Israel) and needed a next step in preparing to meet the world.

So a year ago, Yachad opened the doors to a vocational training center in Jerusalem's German Colony, a full-time program to give young adults with special needs from English-speaking homes a chance to learn the skills – and grow in the confidence – needed to maximize their chances of independence in the future. That includes working on every detail that goes into running a café.

Keeping the flow of diners moving at a good clip was the goal of the maître d' on a recent evening, Yoel Serman, whose day job is the director of the Israel Yachad program. On the other 29 days of the month, Serman reports, this restaurant – replete with cloth tablecloths, fresh flowers, cool background jazz and a menu of soup, salad, fish and pasta – is a workplace-skills classroom. The training center gets its main support from the OU, with private donations, family contributions and a handful of volunteers also key to operations here, as are the diners who come out each month to give the program (and the members) a boost both in morale and money.

"The entire idea is inclusion," says Serman. This inclusion, he adds, works both ways: The person with disabilities is included in the world, and the person who comes out to support Yachad is including the person with disabilities in their minds and hearts as an individual they can relate to. Among the skills they learn: how workplace settings require a behavioral code a bit more businesslike than social settings do.

"It's a great time," Jerusalem resident Alan Novetsky said with a grin. "And it's a great cause."

Food service – from menu design to cooking, from serving to cleaning up – is just one of the skill sets Yachad teaches in its vocational training program here. Indeed, from 9 until 3, five days a week, the 15 members learn everything from elder care to retail sales, from customer



Yachad Israel member Elazar Ben-Dov with OU Israel Executive Director Rabbi Avi Berman at the Yachad Café. (Photo courtesy of the Orthodox Union)



Yachad Israel member Rachamim Friedman served at the café. (Photo courtesy of Yachad)

service to child care. In addition, members visit a different workplace each week that to date has included a clothing store, a memory loss residence and a high-tech shop, to explore what it's like to work in these environments.

Among the diners that evening was Rabbi Avi Berman, executive director of OU Israel. Whenever he's in the country, he can be counted on to come out for the monthly café. And sometimes he brings along OU supporters "because on those nights, you get to see an unbelievable amount of love and care between all kinds of Jews, where someone shows up just to help another Jew feel like more of a mensch," he says. "I only wish my brother-in-law with disabilities had had Yachad when he was growing up."

Wearing his OU kippah, Berman says Yachad is "an See "Café" on page 11

Bond Continued from page 8

village, the only one of its kind in Israel, empowers residents and outpatients to develop a greater degree of independence and become productive members of Israeli society.

Five years ago, Shraga Evers, a Dutch immigrant to Israel, started a volunteer pilot program at ALEH Negev with a handful of volunteers from Europe to work with the residents. Inspired by this, Nina worked with JNF to establish the Max Paul Volunteer Program at ALEH Negev. This evolution of the program will expand the village's capacity for volunteers, allowing "caring and passionate" people from around the world to live and learn in the village.

In 2018 alone, ALEH Negev hosted 50 international volunteers and is aiming for a 50 percent projected growth to welcome 90 volunteers in 2019, which Evers is certain will exceed their projections.

"At the core of the program is the unparalleled opportunity to integrate learning and giving, while working with the most vulnerable population," said Michal Shani, director of the Max Paul Volunteer Program.

Volunteers can spend anywhere from three weeks to a year living and working alongside the residents and caretakers. The program also strives to integrate the participants within the Negev's diverse communities and cultures.

For Daniel Hunt, a 19-year-old volunteer from Australia, the lessons learned at ALEH Negev were more impactful

than he could have imagined. "When I first arrived, I did not think it was possible to connect with people who have severe disabilities, many of whom are completely non-communicative," said Hunt, who said he did indeed forge bonds with residents over his six-week stay.

"Every person takes something different away from their time there. It resets the volunteers' views of what is important and what is trivial," said Evers, reflecting on the experiences of the volunteers who say their lives have been transformed by their involvement.

And it's just the beginning. The Max Paul Volunteer Program will offer internships in various medical-professional specialties, including hydrotherapy; speech; occupational and physical therapies; therapeutic horseback-riding; pet, dog and bird therapies; garden therapy; special education; nursing; and pre-med. Jewish National Fund is working to raise the necessary funds to further expand the program, including plans to break ground on new building facilities to accommodate the growing number of volunteers and interns.

Kids Continued from page 3

the books. His goal is to model the organization after the Harold Grinspoon Foundation's PJ Library, a U.S.-based organization that mails free age-appropriate books and music CDs to Jewish (and interfaith) families on a monthly basis. A branch of the PJ library does exist in Israel.

Kuhr is also adamant about the importance of the project for children with special needs. "I feel that some students latch on to reading from a young age, and if their parents read to them and go to the library, those kids are successful at school. Other kids' parents don't connect to reading, and [those kids] are drawn to video games and videos. They don't meet their full potential," he explains. "I want to hook those kids on becoming consumers of high-quality audiobooks and podcasts in their free time."

The Israel Audiobook Project, a recognized nonprofit, is currently in the midst of a Jgive Campaign in order to secure funding for additional books.

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Weekly Parasha

Tetzaveh, Exodus 27:20-30:10

The missing (ever present) birthday boy

RABBI LEVI Y. SLONIM, DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMMING AND DEVELOPMENT, ROHR CHABAD CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDENT LIFE AT BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

Ever been to a birthday party where the birthday boy or girl is missing? Everyone is there; there's plenty of food, celebration and gifts but the star of the hour is missing.

To a certain degree, that is what happened in this week's Torah portion – only in a different way. Let me explain.

From the Torah portion in which we learn of his birth until his passing at the end of the book of Devarim, this is the only Torah portion to not mention Moses' name. On the onset, this seems strange. Especially considering the fact that this portion coincides more often than not, with the birthday of Moses on the 7th of Adar. Of all weeks to not mention his name, this week?

To understand this, we need to reference the painful episode of the sin of the golden calf. Following that trag-

ic event, Moses pleaded with God to forgive the people. Moses returned to God, and said: "I beseech You. These people have sinned a great sin, and they have made for themselves a god of gold. Now, if you will forgive their sin and if not, I beg you, blot me out of Your book which you have written." (Exodus 32: 31-2)

The Talmud (Makot 11a) teaches that when a *tzaddik*, a righteous person, says something, even conditionally, as was the case here, God did ultimately forgive the people. Those words have to be fulfilled in some way. For this reason, his name is missing from this one portion in the Torah.

Moses is ready to give up being mentioned in the entire Torah, the books and the work that he taught and labored over and cherished perhaps more than anyone else that ever

lived on the face of the earth. And yet, to defend his people, being the faithful shepherd that he was, he was ready to have his name omitted and not be mentioned in any way at all – as long as the Jewish people would be forgiven.

Indeed, this is the greatest testament to Moses. And yes, this is the most befitting way to commemorate his birthday – by highlighting his incredible commitment to the Jewish people.

Like with all parts of the Torah, there is a message for us to take into our lives. Do we have what it takes to put ourselves to the side in total devotion for the people that we love, care about and have a responsibility toward?

Based on the teachings of the Lubavitcher Rebbe of righteous memory.

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. 16 9 am
 Mincha after the kiddush
 Weekday Services:
 Mornings:
 Sun., Feb. 17 8:30 am
 Mon.-Fri., Feb. 18-Feb. 22 7 am
 Evenings:
 Sun., Feb. 17 5:25 pm
 Mon.-Thurs., Feb. 18-21 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: Guilina 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 15, at 6:30 pm, there will be a Shabbat BYO Picnic, at 8 pm, Shabbat services with Visual Tefillah will be led by Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell.
 On Saturday, February 16, at 9:15 am, there will be Torah study. There will be no religious school or services.
 On Tuesday, February 19, at 4:15 and 5:15 pm, there will be Hebrew school.
 On Thursday, February 21, 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 22, at 8 pm, there will be Shabbat evening services led by Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell.
 On Saturday, February 23, at 9 am, there will be religious school; at 9:15 am, there will be Torah study; at 9:30 am, there will be Tot Shabbat; and at 10:35 am, there will be family Shabbat services.

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 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 15, light candles 5:18 pm
 Shabbat ends Saturday, February 16 6:19 pm
 Friday, February 22, light candles 5:26 pm
 Shabbat ends Saturday, February 23 6:28 pm

Temple Israel

Orientation: Conservative
 Rabbi: Geoffrey Brown
 Address: 4737 Deerfield Pl., Vestal, NY 13850
 Phone: 723-7461 and 231-3746
 Office hours: Mon.-Thurs. 8:30 am-4 pm; Fri. 8 am-3 pm
 E-mail: titammy@stny.twcbc.com
 Website: www.templeisraelvestal.org
 Service Schedule: Tuesday, 5:30 pm; Friday, 5:30 pm; Saturday, 9:30 am
 On Friday February 15, at 5:30 pm, there will be a Scout Kabbalat Shabbat and dinner. All are invited to attend.
 On Saturday, February 16, at 9:30 am, Shabbat services will be led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown. The Torah portion will be Exodus 27:20-30:10. The haftarah will be Ezekiel 43:10-27. Florence Balin and Ben Kasper will sponsor the kiddush following services.
 On Monday February 18, the Temple office will be closed for Presidents' Day.
 On Tuesday February 19, at 7 pm, there will be a Board of Trustees meeting.
 On Sunday, February 24, at 10 am, there will be a Hebrew/Sunday school challah bake.

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 15, Ithaca Mayor Svante Myrick will speak after the 8 pm service. His topic will be "Antisemitism is the Fuel of White Nationalism – Lessons from Modern Poland."

On Wednesday, February 20, at 7 pm, Rebecca Lesses, associate professor and Jewish studies coordinator at Ithaca College, will discuss "Women and Jewish Magic" as part of the temple's adult education series.

Friday-Sunday, February 22-24, KADIMACON will be held at Temple Beth-El. Kadimaniks will conduct the 8 pm service on Friday and will participate in the Shabbat morning service.

Friday-Saturday, March 1-2, an interim rabbi candidate visit is tentatively scheduled.

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.

NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

Arab residents raze historical archaeological garden in Jerusalem

Arab residents of the village Nabi Samuel, north of Jerusalem, recently razed the archaeological garden at the Tomb of the Prophet Samuel, utilizing heavy machinery apparently to construct a parking lot as a way of collecting parking fees from visitors. Regavim, a nonprofit organization that seeks to guard Israel's land resources against illegal takeover and construction, reported the development occurring without permits and against the law. It filed a request with the Civil Administration, the law-enforcement body in Area C, calling for the work to cease immediately. "The Civil Administration and the Israeli government must do everything in their power to block the construction of the parking lot," wrote attorney Avi Segal in his letter to the Civil Administration. "The authorities' negligence has caused a major blow to the archaeological finds as well as to the rule of law." "It is difficult to assess the extent of the damage to the archeological site or the potential damage to the still-unexplored, ancient sub-strata," added Yishai Hemo, Regavim's field director for Judea and Samaria. "We have seen damage to important sites throughout Judea and Samaria, caused by construction in areas of tremendous historic significance and destruction of antiquities, in complete disregard of the law. We have said it before: People who care about the land of Israel don't cause it harm. The government must stop the destruction."

Israeli tech comes to help with Brazil's water crisis

Brazil will receive 10 generators that use Israeli technology to produce pure, clean-drinking water from ambient air, according to Brazilian Minister of Science Marcos Cesar Pontes. The revelation came to light on Feb. 5 when Pontes was in Israel as part of Brazil's mission to this year's Cybertech conference in Tel Aviv. During his visit, Pontes toured Watergen's headquarters, where he tasted the fresh water produced by the GEN-350. He also met with Watergen's president, Dr. Michael Mirilashvili. Each of the 10 units is a GEN-350 atmospheric water generator, developed by the Israel-based company of Watergen. A single GEN-350 can produce up to 900 liters of water per day. According to Pontes, the GEN-350s will be installed in schools and hospitals throughout Brazil, particularly in areas that lack safe drinking water. Weighing just 800 kilograms, the GEN-350 is easily transportable and can be installed anywhere, even in remote places. It is provided with an internal water-treatment system and needs no infrastructure to operate except for

electricity. Watergen's donation to Brazil comes at a critical time for the country. Two weeks earlier, a dam at a mine in Brumadinho collapsed, leading to the deaths of more than 130 people and injuring about 200. Brazil has also been coping with water shortages in recent years. In 2018, authorities restricted millions of residents to daily water quotas due to a continuous drought. The previous year, Brazil declared an official emergency in hundreds of cities due to a significant lack of water. A number of experts claim that the water shortage in Brazil, which affects more than 800 municipalities across the country, is due to climate change, the rapid expansion of agriculture, poor infrastructure and insufficient planning. Israel's technology has come to the rescue of other countries that have faced ecological and environmental disasters. Two of Watergen's GEN-350 units were dispatched to India's southern state of Kerala to help residents of the region recover from devastating monsoons that struck over the summer of 2018. Watergen's efforts to make clean water available around the world earned the company its place on the World Economic Forum's list of the world's top technology pioneers in 2018.

Osem negotiating with Nestlé to sell Israeli snack in U.S. grocery stores

The popular Israeli snack Bamba could be widely distributed to U.S. food markets in the near future. Osem Group, which manufactures the peanut-butter-flavored treat, has been negotiating with Swiss-based Nestlé, the largest food and beverage company in the world. "[Osem] will see Bamba become a staple in the diet of U.S. kids. Osem itself is a wholly owned subsidiary of Nestlé. If the agreement is finalized, Bamba will be added to Nestlé's baby food division, which distributes such popular brands as Gerber and NAN," reported the Israeli financial-news site Calcalist. An Osem spokesperson told Calcalist on Feb. 7 that although the firm is working strenuously to sell Bamba in North America via its U.S. subsidiary, it is not in talks with Nestlé over Bamba's distribution. Bamba, an Israeli childhood and nutritious staple, is credited for reducing Israel's peanut-allergy rates since it first sold in the 1960s. The treat also comes in a strawberry flavor. A 2015 study by the U.S. National Institutes of Health "involving hundreds of babies under a year old at high risk for developing peanut allergy, established that kids could be protected by regularly eating a popular peanut butter-flavored Israeli snack called Bamba. A follow-up study later showed those kids remained allergy-free even after avoiding peanuts for a year." Of course, many people cannot eat Bamba if they already suffer from existing peanut-based allergies.

Café..... Continued from page 9

important investment. Here in Israel, it gives these wonderful human beings who are living here, but still part of Anglo culture, a place where they feel welcome. And now they have this incredible opportunity for vocational training to help them stand on their own feet and feel they are accomplishing something."

Nowhere is the value of this project more obvious than at home. "Exciting and hopeful" is how Atara Reichel describes the change in her 23-year-old daughter, Yaera, who lives with developmental delays and communications challenges. "Instead of shyly sitting on the sidelines, she's getting involved and wanting to help," she says. In the last

year, Reichel reports that Yaera has blossomed in self-confidence and openness to new experiences: "The positive feedback has pushed her outside her comfort zone." But, although this Jerusalem mom (the family made *aliyah* from New York in 2004) had heard about her daughter's progress, she notes that "seeing it that night with my own eyes meant everything to me."

Next up for the vocational program is getting these young adults into internships, where they can try out their new job skills under the watchful eye of a job coach. So far, two of the members are already interning, with more in the works.

"We think of the center as filling a real need as a transitional program that can take them from school to feeling that they have a place in the world," says the vocational center's director, Lisa Galinsky. "We think of it as a university for learning the kinds of skills they'll need in the future."

The café is clearly a key part of that vision, as members greet each diner the moment they walk through the door. "It's a pleasure to be able to support this organization," said Jack Cadrandl of Jerusalem, heading out after dinner. "All of them are incredibly warm and friendly."

"I like the people," says member Yitzhak Friedman, whose hearing aid makes it possible to understand his customer's dinner orders. "I like it when they are deciding what to eat."

While on the other side of the room, Elazar Ben-Dov cups a small diner's chin in his hand. "That's a cute baby," he says with a mile-wide smile as the mother beams. "That's a really cute baby."

The evening, organizers report, was a solid success – its 4,000-shekel profit destined for the Yachad Vocational Scholarship Fund. But the café's bigger success is harder to quantify.

"I loved bringing people their food," said member Shimmy Cohen the next day. "Because I loved making them happy."

To learn when the next café will be held, e-mail atkina@ou.org or call 02-656-8048. For more information on Yachad's Israel programs, visit www.yachad.org/israel.

Ireland..... Continued from page 2

Washington. More than two dozen state laws also penalize firms that engage in such boycotts.

In 2017, the United States accounted for two-thirds of all foreign direct investment in Ireland. So, in the end, this law could have more impact on Ireland's economy than on anything happening in the Middle East.

Irish Foreign Minister Simon Coveney has said the legislation also may run counter to European Union trade regulations. Ireland's attorney general has called the bill "legally unsound."

Based on such considerations, the executive branch of the Irish government may find a way to shelve the legislation – again, based on what it will cost Ireland, not because it's perceived as unfair and discriminatory, or apt to fuel more and bloodier conflicts between Palestinians and Israelis.

Final point: There are disputed territories around the world, yet Irish parliamentarians have had little to say about Turkey's occupation of northern Cyprus, Russia's annexation of Crimea, Morocco's claim to the Western Sahara or China's stranglehold on Tibet.

In only one Middle Eastern country do Jews, Arabs, Muslims, Christians, Druze and others hold citizenship, vote on a regular basis and enjoy freedoms. Only one country in the world has given up land for peace and is willing to do so again. Irish politicians now want to single out that country for punishment. It's their special way of commemorating International Holocaust Memorial Day.

Clifford D. May is president of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies and a columnist for The Washington Times.

Immigrant..... Continued from page 2

In a famous excerpt from the *Yiddish Forverts* newspaper's storied "Bintel Brief" column, an immigrant reader asked Editor Abraham Cahan what should he do about his son's desire to play baseball since "I want my boy to grow up to be a mensch, not a wild American runner." In response, Cahan urged his correspondent to let the boy play since it was a healthy occupation and, unlike in Russia or Poland, Jews in America didn't have to hide in their homes from non-Jews. Most of all he wrote, "Let's not raise our children to be foreigners in their own country." Far from being a cocoon in which Jews could isolate themselves from other Americans, the institutions of Jewish life facilitated assimilation rather than opposing it. The lore of the Jewish immigrant experience – like Leo Rosten's classic "The Education of H*Y*M*A*N*K*A*P*L*A*N" – was one in which the immigrant struggled to assimilate, rather than resist it.

Of course, it wasn't just baseball that drew Jews away from the urban shtetls, like the Lower East Side, where immigrants congregated. The lure of mainstream American culture was irresistible, and the result was that within a couple of generations, many Jews had worked their way into the middle and upper-middle classes of society.

Moreover, America didn't really demand a stark choice between their heritage and fitting in. As U.S. Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis pointed out in defense of American Zionism, "To be good Americans, we must be better Jews, and to be better Jews, we must become Zionists."

The difference between today's immigrants and those who came from Europe a century or more ago is not one about their ability or value, or even their capacity to assimilate if given the chance. America was built on the diversity and strength of its immigrants. The overwhelming majority of Hispanic immigrants today are, in that respect, no different from the Jews who arrived a century earlier. But what Brokaw was referring to is the contemporary emphasis on multiculturalism that has devalued the need or the urgency for immigrant populations to assimilate in the same manner as in the past. To the extent that this way of thinking discourages today's immigrants from going through the same rites of passage as their predecessors is doing real harm. Anyone who thinks that hasn't added to their burdens or believes that it is only racism at fault is deeply mistaken.

Xenophobic hostility to immigrants is as old as the United States. Resistance to newcomers – whether they were Germans, Irish, Italians, Jews or Chinese – is part of the context of American history in which we can understand some deplorable attitudes toward Hispanics. But leaving aside separate arguments about respecting the rule of law and opposing those who flout it by entering the country illegally, Brokaw was right about the importance of assimilation. Those who denigrate it are doing neither Hispanics nor any immigrant population any favors.

Jonathan S. Tobin is editor-in-chief of JNS – Jewish News Syndicate. Follow him on Twitter at @jonathans_tobin.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

U.S. warns of action against companies trading with Iran

The United States on Feb. 7 warned those who seek to do business with Tehran, thereby violating U.S. sanctions on the regime. "Anyone actually using it to trade on anything other than humanitarian activity is going to be sanctioned by the United States," said U.S. Ambassador to the European Union Gordon Sondland. "We'll find them and sanction them, and they won't be doing any business with the United States." This threat implies that the European effort to create a special purpose vehicle to circumvent U.S. sanctions on Iran will "will sit there and will be little used," he said. Sondland's words follow the U.S. State Department saying

in late January that it is "closely following" the Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges, or INSTEX, that enables European nations to still do transactions with the Islamic Republic despite U.S. financial sanctions. INSTEX was set up by Germany, the United Kingdom and France (the three European signatories of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, collectively referred to as the E3). This attempted workaround is expected to be discussed at an upcoming meeting of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, reported Bloomberg.

U.S. slams Iran amid reports of another failed space launch

The United States denounced Iran after the regime reportedly underwent a second failed space launch in less than a month "in defiance of the international community"

by developing and testing ballistic missiles. "Space-launch vehicles use technologies that are virtually identical and interchangeable with those used in ballistic missiles, including in Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs)," said U.S. State Department spokesperson Robert Palladino on Feb. 7. "This attempted launch furthers Iran's ability to eventually build such a weapon that threatens our allies." The development came as Iran launched a satellite-carrying rocket into space in January that successfully passed its first and second phases, but did not reach "necessary speed" in the third stage of its release. In light of the failed launches, the State Department accused Iran each time of violating U.N. Security Council Resolution 2231, which adopted the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

Citing "immediate need," U.S. to acquire Iron Dome missile-defense systems

The United States military announced on Feb. 6 that it plans to acquire Israel's Iron Dome missile-defense systems, citing "an immediate need," according to Israel's Defense Ministry. "The Iron Dome will be assessed and experimented as a system that is currently available to protect deployed U.S. military service members against a wide variety of indirect fire threats and aerial threats," said U.S. Army Col. Patrick Seiber in a statement. "While Iron Dome has been in operational use by the Israeli Air Force since 2011 and proven effective in combat, it should be noted that the U.S. Army will assess a variety of options for its long-term IFPC solution," continued the statement. However, Seiber said "no decisions have been made regarding the fielding or experimentation of Iron Dome in specific theaters." The Israeli manufacturer and state-owned Rafael Advanced Defense Systems Ltd., which initially developed the Iron Dome system, confirmed the agreement without giving further information to the press.

U.S. blocks U.N. condemnation of Israel over ending Hebron observer force

The United States has blocked a proposed U.N. Security Council statement which would have criticized Israel for ending the Temporary International Presence in Hebron's mandate. In January, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced that he would not renew the mandate for the TIPH, a Norwegian-led organization that Israel has accused of anti-Israel discrimination and infringement on security operations undertaken by the Israel Defense Forces. The proposed statement, circulated by Kuwait and Indonesia, would have expressed the U.N. Security Council's "regret" over the "unilateral decision," which they say would harm "efforts to foster calm" and would be antithetical to "protect[ing] the Palestinian civilian population in Hebron" and in the surrounding area. TIPH was established 24 years ago as part of the Oslo Accords, and tasked with "creating a sense of security among the Palestinians in Hebron [by] monitoring and reporting efforts to maintain normal life in the city" following the killing of 29 Arabs in the Tomb of the Patriarchs and Matriarchs by right-wing radical Baruch Goldstein in 1994. The mandate was set to be temporary and requires Israeli renewal every six months. Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations Danny Danon welcomed the U.S. move at the world body. "There is no place in Israel or anywhere in the world for an international force to harm the country in which it operates. Instead of maintaining order and neutrality, TIPH observers used violence, created friction with the civilian population and interfered with security forces," Danon said in a statement. "The United States stands by Israel's right to not renew TIPH's mandate and to act on its own accord to ensure stability, without the help of a violent, biased international force. That the Palestinians want to maintain violent observers in Hebron attests to their intentions," he said.

UAE minister: "There is no enmity between us and Israel"

(The Tower via JNS) – Zaki Anwar Nusseibeh, a minister of state in the United Arab Emirates government, said the week of Feb. 5 in an exclusive interview with Sohrab Amari of *The New York Post* that "there is no enmity between us and the state of Israel," a groundbreaking statement that would have been unthinkable in the not-so-distant past. Nusseibeh made the comments as Christian and Jewish leaders gathered in Abu Dhabi for the first-ever papal visit to the UAE and the Arabian Peninsula. "The invitation to the Holy Father solidifies the UAE's status as the most responsible power in the Persian Gulf region," observed Amari. "And it gives testament to the Emirati leadership's determination to transcend the bloody, cruel fanaticism that has disfigured the House of Islam and brought ruin to Christians and other minorities unfortunate enough to dwell inside it." To back up his assessment, Amari referenced a recent YouGov poll that found that opinions in the emirate "overall are often nearer to that of Western samples than to fellow [Middle Eastern countries] when it comes to general attitudes to world religions." While the UAE restricts freedom of worship for non-Islamic faiths in the public sphere, religious minorities can practice their faith in private without government interference, which has given the UAE the reputation of being the most liberal of the Gulf states. Amari acknowledged that freedom is not absolute in the emirate. However, he asked: "Which is preferable, the joyful materialism of nouveaux riches Emiratis or the extremism of the Muslim Brotherhood, Islamic State, Hezbollah, Hamas and other groups of the kind?"

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