

THE REPORTER

Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton

February 22-28, 2019
Volume XLVIII, Number 8

BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK

BD luncheon on March 9: "Connecting to Israel: The Israel Fellows Program at BU and Beyond"

On Saturday, March 9, Beth David's luncheon speaker series will feature Bar Darchi, the Binghamton University Campus Israel Fellow. An Israeli native, Darchi completed her military service there. She graduated from Ben Gurion University in the Negev, with a major in Middle East studies and Israel studies.



Bar Darchi

Now in her second year as an Israel Fellow at Binghamton University, Darchi will talk about the goals of the Campus Israel Fellows in North America Program and what led her to become involved in it. The program is based in Hillel and other university Jewish student organizations. In 2017, there were 85 Israel Fellows who were *shlichim* (emissaries) at more than 150 campuses around the world. They interacted with close to 23,000 Jewish students and were involved in Israel education events that attracted more than 37,000 students.

"I am so proud to be a peer ambassador," said Darchi. "There is such a wealth of talent and enthusiasm in BU's Jewish student population. I love working with these great future leaders and engaging them in activities that give them a deeper appreciation of the land of Israel, its people and its culture."

Darchi will discuss the kinds of programming she is involved in through Hillel. "Bar's energy and enthusiasm make her the perfect representative of the very best of Israel," organizers said. "We look forward to hearing first-hand from Bar how her working with students has opened her eyes to what American campuses can accomplish and are accomplishing in order to foster a love of Israel and all that it has to offer."

Beth David's luncheon speaker series takes place the second Saturday of the month

after Shabbat morning services and is open to the community. There is no charge for the luncheon, but Beth David welcomes donations to the Luncheon Fund in order to keep the program going. Donations can be made in honor or in memory of someone, or to mark a special occasion. Those wishing

an acknowledgment to be sent to the person being honored, or to the family of someone being remembered, can indicate that, along with the necessary information. Donations may be sent to Beth David Synagogue, 39 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905, Attention: Luncheon Fund.

TC to hold Women's Seder on March 24

On Sunday, March 24, at 1 pm, Temple Concord Sisterhood will hold a Women's Seder in the Kilmer Mansion, 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton. The meal will be catered by Phantom Chef, which is owned by Temple Concord member Michelle McIlroy. A new hagaddah will be used this year. It was adapted from one created by several other Sisterhoods and women's groups, according

to Women's Seder Co-chairwomen Rachel Coker, Sandy Foreman and Carol Herz. Copies will be provided.

Those interested in attending should make reservations with their payment of \$36 per person to the temple office by Wednesday, March 13. Label checks for the Women's Seder. A vegetarian option for the meal is available, but must be requested in advance.

Beth David to distribute Purim gifts

One of the *mitzvot* of Purim is to deliver gifts to the poor on the day of the holiday, which occurs this year on Thursday, March 21. Rabbi Zev Silber of Beth David Synagogue will distribute gifts to local needy families through the Jewish Family Service, and to Israeli poor through the Od Yosef Chai charitable organization.

According to the rabbi, the *mitzvah* requires that a minimum of two gifts be given to at least two poor people, and that the gifts should be large enough to gladden the heart of the person who receives them. Purim, being a holiday dedicated to "*simcha*" – joy – requires that all Jews can rejoice. "The poor rejoice when they have the means to sustain their lives, leading to the importance placed on this *mitzvah*," explained Silber.

"Even though the practice has emerged

to spend much more on extravagant gifts to one's friends and on the Purim feast, this is a mistake," Silber said. "Our tradition clearly teaches that one should spend the bulk of his Purim budget on gifts to the poor. Indeed, our sages teach that whoever gladdens the soul of the poor orphans and widows is likened to the *Shechina*, the Divine Presence." In order to facilitate the performance of the *mitzvah*, one may give money prior to Purim to an agent to distribute the funds on Purim day.

To participate in the *mitzvah*, donations may be sent by Monday, March 11, to Beth David Synagogue, 39 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905. Donors are asked to mark their checks as "Purim charity" and specify whether they wish the money to be distributed locally or in Israel. For more information, call Silber at 722-9274.

Shalach manot service offered through Chabad's Women's League

Women's League for Chabad is currently accepting orders for its annual *shalach manot* service, which allows Binghamton residents to send packages of food and holiday greetings to local friends and acquaintances on Purim day. Purim will be celebrated this year on Thursday, March 21.

"It's Purim made easy," says Ilene Pinsker, project chairwoman. "It's a stress-free, very reasonably priced way to fulfill the *mitzvah* of *mishloach manot*, sending gifts of food on Purim, and a wonderful way to show your friendship and care. We do all the work for you and your friends get fabulous packages from you!"

For individuals who want to say "Happy Purim" to their friends outside of the community, Women's League offers Purim greeting cards that can be sent anywhere in the continental U.S. for a charge of \$4. All orders must be received no later than Thursday, March 7.

Anyone who has not received an information packet and order form, or who is seeking additional details, should call the Chabad Center office at 797-0015.

For this project, the Women's League is in need of volunteers to assist in assembling the packages and in their delivery on Purim day. Anyone who is able to help should call the Chabad office.

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.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Treading the boards
A teen actor discusses his Jewish heritage and Broadway debut as the lead in "Dear Evan Hansen."
..... Page 6

To the moon and beyond
Spacell's creators hope its upcoming moon launch will inspire Israeli children to study STEM.
..... Page 8

Science snippets
Weizmann Institute researchers look at the brain's neural code and discover plants can "blink."
..... Page 9

Special Sections
Legal Notices..... 4
Book Review..... 4
Health and Wellness..... 6-8
Classifieds..... 12

Opinion

Title IX and “*tikkun olam*”

By Risa Isard

(JNS)—“There’s a word for that,” Bunny Sandler told me when describing her family’s Judaism. “To fix the world and make it better.” *Tikkun olam*, I thought on the other side of the phone from my dorm at Duke University, where I was researching the pre-history and early years of Title IX.

Thanks to Title IX – the federal law Sandler spearheaded that prohibits discrimination based on gender at federally funded educational institutions – girls and women are learning about ourselves and preparing for our futures in unprecedented numbers. As of 2017, women comprise 56 percent of those pursuing post-high school degrees, and more than 3.3 million of us play sports in high school and college (compared to just 40 percent and 310,000, respectively, pre-Title IX).

Sandler, who passed away from cancer on January 5 at her home in Washington, DC, left a legacy in a world that if not fixed (she would say it’s not) is at least better (indisputably).

Bernice Resnick was born in Brooklyn, NY, though her parents called her Bunny, based on her Yiddish name Bunya. Jewish immigrants from Russia and Germany, they instilled in her a “love of social justice.” She wanted me to know this – that her passion for leaving the world better than she found it came from her roots, just as she wanted me to know the stories that followed.

As a girl, Sandler loved school. And she excelled. “I knew I was going to college before I knew I was going to high school – before I knew what high school was,” she told me. As a teen, she knew education was her future. After summers working on a farm during World War II, she thought, “I would be better off doing something more intellectual and less physical with the rest of my life.” And that’s what she did. After skipping grades to graduate from New York City’s public Erasmus Hall High School at age 16, Sandler went off to Brooklyn College, New York City’s first public co-ed liberal arts college.

Sandler’s educational career continued. She graduated from Brooklyn College in 1944 with a psychology and education degree, and went on to earn a master’s degree

in clinical and school psychology from City College, which when she graduated in 1950 was not yet fully co-ed. At the University of Maryland, she earned an Ed.D. in counseling and personnel services, which she received in 1969. She had accomplished much and was poised to achieve her goal of becoming a professor, working with kids in schools and teaching people how to be good counselors. But that’s where it stopped.

And where Title IX started.

Today, girls and women can choose intellectual and physical futures. And when we come up against sex discrimination in education – when we are denied access to the same opportunities as our male counterparts in the classrooms or on the sports fields, when we face sexual harassment and assault on campus, when we are left out because we are pregnant or already mothers... – we have more than a word for it.

Thanks to Bunny Sandler’s *tikkun olam*, there’s a law for that: Title IX.

Sandler would retell her story to anyone who would listen: She applied for a faculty position at the University of Maryland. She asked a friend on the hiring committee why she wasn’t even considered, and he remarked unremarkably: “Let’s face it. You come on too strong for a woman.”

She went home, cried and blamed herself, not yet convinced of sexism. “I thought ‘I never should have spoken up in graduate school ... I probably came on too strong.’” Quick to explain further, “In those days I was much more ladylike ... I certainly was not what I would consider a strong woman or abrasive.”

She told her then husband what happened. After discerning that there were “strong men” in the department, he knew it wasn’t about Sandler at all.

There’s a word for that, her husband told her: sex discrimination.

A lightbulb went off. “It was the first time I had ever thought of myself as having been discriminated against,” she recalled. The new perspective prompted her to remember two similar experiences. She was previously declined a position because she was a mother, which at the time was an occupational hazard. Shortly afterward, an interviewer insulted her with: “You’re not a

professional. You’re a housewife who went back to school.”

She could see the pattern of discrimination. And she assumed it was illegal.

Sandler used her research training to learn what recourse she had. She found a report from the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights that included a footnote about a federal executive order prohibiting organizations receiving federal contracts from job discrimination. It was intended for factory and construction workers, and initially excluded sex as a protected class. A recent amendment made it apply to gender. “I literally screamed. I was alone in the house. It was a eureka moment,” she remembered. Sandler had made the connection: universities and colleges had federal contracts and could not discriminate against women.

It was only a matter of time before the executive order would be enforced as such.

Sandler first filed a class complaint against every college and university in the United States with federal contracts. The complaint specifically mentioned the University of Maryland, though that wasn’t a priority for Sandler, who never filed against the university on her own behalf. “That wasn’t what I was interested in. I just wanted things to get better and to be fixed.”

She would go on to file more than 350 complaints, implicating more than 2,500 schools.

For the next two-and-a-half years, between 1970 and June 1972 when Title IX was signed into law by President Richard Nixon, Sandler and a handful of motivated citizens and members of Congress undertook at times a widespread effort and at other times a set of stealth strategies. “We’re trying to figure out... how do you change things? One way is you change laws.”

The goal was a cultural shift and it was a success. Today, girls and women can choose intellectual and physical futures. And when we come up against sex discrimination in education – when we are denied access to the same opportunities as our male counterparts in the classrooms or on the sports fields, when we face sexual harassment and assault on campus, when we are left out because we are pregnant or already mothers, and when we are looked over for faculty positions or not paid comparably to our male colleagues – we have more than a word for it.

Thanks to Bunny Sandler’s *tikkun olam*, there’s a law for that: Title IX.

Risa Isard is a Washington, DC-based expert in sports policy, with a focus on the intersection of sports, gender, sexuality and social issues. You can follow her on Twitter at @RisaLovesSports.

In My Own Words

Cults of personality

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

My political innocence ended with the assassination of Robert Kennedy. I’ve never read any biographies of him because I still don’t want to know the mistakes he made and the faults he had. That remains my one case of political naivete. Since then, I’ve come to admire people’s *actions*, rather than people themselves, because no one is perfect. The problem is that some folks are placed on a pedestal and their admirers believe they can do no wrong. This includes religious figures, actors, singers, writers and politicians.

Over the last two decades what I think of as cults of personality have appeared, particularly in politics. When Barack Obama was running for office, people I knew spoke of him as if he was some kind of saint. Now, he seems like a great person, but he was a far from perfect president. If anything, he was too nice: sometimes presidents have to get down and dirty to get their legislation passed. Some of his foreign policies created more problems than they solved. Please note that I voted for him twice, so this is not sour grapes from someone who

preferred his opponents. I’m just being realistic about what he accomplished, and, yes, he did accomplish some great things. But he was not perfect.

I also see a cult of personality surrounding President Donald Trump. That means that those who might otherwise disapprove of his actions find no fault with him. For example, he is supported by many Evangelicals who normally would not approve of someone who not only has been married three times, but committed adultery during all three marriages. Others read into his words what they want to hear: antisemites, racists and homophobics act on what they believe are coded messages in his speech. President Trump is not responsible for those who misinterpret him, but his own speech – lashing out against those who oppose his policies and rude name calling – gives others permission to speak the same way and, unfortunately, that speech sometimes turns into violent actions.

There was also a cult of personality surrounding Senator Bernie Sanders. The fact that some of his admirers refused to

vote in the 2016 presidential election because he was not the Democrat’s candidate shows that they considered him more than a politician. Losing a nomination is part of the democratic process. When a candidate I want to win doesn’t get my party’s nod, I still vote because it’s important to make my voice heard. Voting for the lesser of two evils is better than not voting at all.

Cults of personality also seem to be forming around some new members of Congress. The diversity in the current Congress is great. The House of Representatives more closely represents the American population than when it was mostly filled with white, Christian men. However, just because someone belongs to a minority group or sounds interesting and fun doesn’t mean they’re perfect. Their comments and actions need to be as carefully watched as those of the current administration. Admire the actions of these new congressmen and congresswomen if you wish, but also remember to express your disapproval when necessary. That’s what makes democracy work.

Addendum

The following photo was received too late to appear in the annual Bar/Bat Mitzvah Planning Guide.



Cara Miller

August 18, 2018

Eileen and A. Daniel Miller
Temple IsraelJewish Federation
OF GREATER BINGHAMTONSuzanne Holwitt, President
Sima Auerbach, Executive Director

607-724-2332 ~ www.jfgeb.org

The Reporter Editorial Board

Rachel Coker, chairwoman
Rebecca Goldstein Kahn, Ben Kasper,
Toby Kohn, Richard Lewis,
Robert Neuberger, Dora Polachek

HOW TO REACH THE REPORTER

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

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

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

Extension#/Department ~ 1. Advertising 2. Business Office
3. Art Department 4. Circulation 6. Editorial/NewsTHE
REPORTER

Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton

BINGHAMTON, NY

OPINIONS

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

LETTERS

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

ADS

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

DEADLINE

Regular weekly deadline is noon, Wednesday, for the following week’s newspaper.

Executive Editor Rabbi Rachel Esserman

Layout Editor Diana Sochor

Assistant Editor Ilene Pinsker

Advertising Bonnie Rozen

Production Coordinator Jenn DePersis

Bookkeeper Kathy Brown

Proofreaders

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

“The Reporter” (USPS 096-280) is published weekly for \$36 per year by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, 500 Clubhouse Road, Vestal, NY 13850-3734. Periodicals Postage Paid at Vestal, NY and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Reporter, 500 Clubhouse Road, Vestal, NY 13850-3734 or reach us by e-mail at TREPORTER@AOL.COM.

www.thereporter.org

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 Communi-

ty” 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.

TC Shabbat service on March 8 to commemorate 30th anniversary of Women of the Wall

On Friday, March 8, at 8 pm, Temple Concord’s Shabbat service, will focus on the 30th anniversary of Women of the Wall. The service will commemorate 30 years of activism for women’s equality in religious life and the public sphere. Coordinators of the service are encouraging all members of the Jewish community to attend the service. It will be held

in the sanctuary at 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton.

The service will be conducted by Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell with songs led by Shari Neuberger and readings by members of Temple Concord Sisterhood. The *oneg* that will follow the service will be in honor of those who made this 30th anniversary possible.

At right: Holding the Torah is Anat Hoffman, one of the founders of Women of the Wall, in 1988 at the Kotel. On the right is Barbara Thomas, a member of Temple Concord and past president of Temple Concord Sisterhood.



Wedding and engagement photos wanted

The Reporter is looking for photos of couples who became engaged or married in 2018 for the annual Wedding, Prom and Party Guide issue (coming March 15).

Please mail or drop off these photos with identification – not written on the photos but on a separate piece of paper – including the names of all those in the photo, date and place of the prom. Please do so by Tuesday, March 5. Photos can be dropped off Monday-Thursday 8:30 am-5 pm; and Friday 8:30 am-4 pm. They can also be e-mailed, in TIF or JPG format, to TReporter@aol.com; please note in the subject line that a wedding/engagement photo for The Reporter is attached and include the necessary information in the message. Or they can be mailed to The Reporter, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850.



The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to Arie Ullmann on the death of his son,
Jeremy Ullmann

Lone soldiers get a helping hand on annual “Personal Errands Day”

By Nefesh B’Nefesh staff

(JNS) – Nefesh B’Nefesh and Friends of the Israel Defense Forces recently hosted its sixth annual “Yom Siddurim,” or “personal errands day,” for lone soldiers. The day, organized with the Israel Defense Forces’ Human Resources Department, acts as a one-stop shop for them to complete a wide range of errands so they can spend their days off from the army rejuvenating, rather than attempting to navigate the often challenging Israeli bureaucracy to get chores done on a short time frame.

From driving tests administered on-site to tax consultation, passport and ID assistance, and even an employment workshop, lone soldiers also had the opportunity to receive one-on-one personal consultation from Nefesh B’Nefesh and FIDF on acclimating into post-army life in Israel.

“Military service is hard and complicated for every soldier, and even more so for lone soldiers,” said Maj. Gen. (Res.) Meir Klifi-Amir, FIDF national director and CEO. “Their decision to come to Israel and enlist in the IDF is a brave and noble act – one that is rooted in a deep sense of mission, determination and love of the country.”

He assured that “FIDF supporters will continue to stand by their side and support all lone soldiers with a range of services during and after their military service, out of gratitude and profound appreciation for their contribution and to ensure that not one of them ever feels alone.”

As part of an ongoing relationship between New York Yankees President Randy Levine, his wife Mindy and Nefesh B’Nefesh, the baseball team sent over a special delivery of hats, shirts and bandanas, all branded with the slogan “We Love Lone Soldiers” especially for the event. Mindy Levine flew in to deliver the merchandise and speak with the soldiers.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu attended “Yom Siddurim,” in cooperation with the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration, Ministry of Interior, the Jewish Agency, Keren Kayemeth Lelsrael, the Jewish National Fund-USA and Yahad. Other notable dignitaries there included Knesset



Israeli Justice Minister Ayelet Shaked with a lone soldier at “Yom Siddurim,” or “personal errands day,” for lone soldiers in the Israel Defense Forces. (Photo by Shahar Azran)

members Yoav Galant (Likud) and Pnina Tamano-Shata (Yesh Atid); Minister of Justice Ayelet Shaked (New Right); and Minister of the Interior Aryeh Deri (Shas).

More than 3,500 lone soldiers from around the world, including more than 1,000 from North America, are currently serving in the IDF. About 1,600 lone soldiers from 70 different countries benefitted from Nefesh B’Nefesh and FIDF’s personal errands day. In 2018 alone, 393 lone soldiers made *aliyah* through Nefesh B’Nefesh.

“The fact that our youth come here and make the sacrifice to join the IDF – and protect us and protect Israel – is a spectacular thing. There is nothing more beautiful about the whole *aliyah* process than the lone soldiers who leave their families, leave what they knew back where they were born, to come to Israel to serve the Jewish people,” said Nefesh B’Nefesh benefactor and businessman Sylvan Adams, who himself made *aliyah* in 2015.

“For me,” he said, “the work that is being done here at this event is so important. To make these lone soldiers come here and feel like they are part of the Israeli family and help them integrate into Israeli life... it’s a beautiful thing.”



At left: A group of lone soldiers in the Israel Defense Forces with Mindy Levine, wife of president of the New York Yankees Randy Levine, and co-founders of Nefesh B’Nefesh Rabbi Yehoshua Fass and Tony Gelbart, during “Yom Siddurim,” or “personal errands day.” (Photo by Shahar Azran)



Howard Hanna
Real Estate Services

SUZANNE L. KRAUSE
Licensed Real Estate Broker

Call: 607.760.3366
Office: 607.772.1177
Fax: 607.772.2435
suekrause@howardhanna.com
howardhanna.com

JCC PURIM CARNIVAL

SUNDAY, MARCH 24
1-3:30pm

Admission:
\$5 child / \$1 adult / \$20 max per family

Menu for purchase:
Hamentaschen • bagels • knish • snacks

Come dressed in your favorite costume!
Face painting • carnival games
Inflatable fun • Prizes & more!

JCC binghamton 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850
www.binghamtonjcc.org

ERNEST H. PARSONS FUNERAL HOME

Faithfully Serving Broome County Since 1928



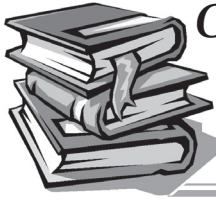
PRE-ARRANGEMENTS AND PRE-FUNDING AVAILABLE

Joseph Fritsch
Managing Director

71 Main St., Binghamton, NY 13905
Phone 607-724-1336
Fax 800-948-5844

parsonsfuneral@yahoo.com
www.ParsonsFuneral.com

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE



Off the Shelf

Parents, drugs, religion and sibling rivalries

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

When looking to review the increasing number of books on my pile, I sometimes decide to review two books together. Usually the decision is made before I read them. That works out well in some cases, since I try to pair books with similar themes or which complement each other. In other cases, the books don't completely mesh. That is the case with two novels – "The Book of Norman" by Allan Appel (Mandel Vilar Press) and "The Comedown" by Rebekah Frumkin (Henry Holt and Company) – they were publicized as comedies, although the latter book was described as a "dark comedy." While both works are humorous, they also offer looks at religion and family relationships. However, their plots take very different turns.

The title "The Book of Norman" is a take-off on "The Book of Mormon." When, in 1967, Norman Gould is asked to leave rabbinical school, he expects to spend the summer eating *treif* (for example, bacon and cheeseburgers) and smoking dope with his brother, Jon. Norman doesn't know how he is going to break the news to his mother, Pauline, that he's not going to be a rabbi, but figures Jon will help. However, instead of the hippie version of his brother he

expects, Norman finds a clean-cut Jon, who is off drugs and looking to convert to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (also known as Mormons). Jon wants Norman to tell Pauline he is converting, but, although Norman no longer wants to be a rabbi or keep kosher, he doesn't want his brother to convert.

In addition to the shocking change in his brother, Norman is also upset that his mother is dating Mr. Footlick, the executive director of their temple and a man the brothers dislike. Norman feels it's inappropriate for Pauline to date because it's less than a year since his father, Paul, died. Matters get complicated when Pauline and Mr. Footlick arrange for the brothers to work at the temple's summer camp, whose counselors also include two beautiful Israeli women. Norman fixates on the two, whom, in his desperation, he comes to consider angels from God.

The real struggle between Norman and Jon, though, is over the soul of their father. Norman thinks that Paul, who disparaged all religions, died as a Jew and would want to remain one. Jon wants Norman to sign an agreement so the church can offer baptism to their late father, whose soul

would then go to Mormon heaven. For Jon, this means all their family – even those who died in the Holocaust – could be together in heaven. Although Norman has no clear idea of what happens after death, the idea of converting their father strikes him as offensive. With some help from his Israeli angels, Norman wants to prevent the baptism and, if possible, bring Jon back to Judaism.

The novel looks at Jewish and Mormon theology through rather jaded eyes. It proved interesting at times, but also slowed the action. Norman is funny when describing why the Jewish Bible appeals to him: "The stories in the Hebrew Bible, especially the family ones, though likely not literally true, seemed derived from real events. You just get the feeling how screwed up and complex the relations are. I mean we're not called the *children* of Israel for nothing. All the family jealousies, Joseph and his brothers, the fratricidal Jacob and Esau, and the infanticidal Abraham, with the father's knife over the heart of his child, whew! Even Adam and Eve were playing games with each other and ducking blame, as far back as the Garden of Eden. Ah, my family members. See "Parents" on page 11

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of 86 Leroy LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/9/2019. Office Location: Broome Co. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom service of process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Mark B. Yonaty, 45 Lewis Street, Binghamton, New York 13901. Purpose: any lawful activities.

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

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

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

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

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY: The name of the limited liability company is: 19 Avenue B Associates, LLC (the "Company"). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State

was January 9, 2019. The county in which the principal place of business of the Company shall be located is Broome County. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the Company upon whom process against it may be served. The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the Company, to Hinman, Howard & Kattell, LLP, Attn: James W. Orband, 80 Exchange Street, Suite 700, Binghamton, NY 13901. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY: The name of the limited liability company is: CJA401, LLC (the "Company"). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was January 7, 2019. The county in which the principal place of business of the Company shall be located is Broome County. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the Company upon whom process against it may be served. The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the Company, to Hinman, Howard & Kattell, LLP, Attn: James W. Orband, 80 Exchange Street, Suite 700, Binghamton, NY 13901. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

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

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

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF

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

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

1. The name of the limited liability company ("LLC") is Square Deal Holdings, LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is January 23, 2019.
3. The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the LLC is located is Broome.
4. The Secretary of State of the State of New York is hereby designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or her is: 3004 Pleasant Drive, Endwell, NY 13760.
5. The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

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

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

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

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.

Notice of Formation of NIYA NICOLE LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 2/12/2019. 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: Niya Carrington, 2011 Chatterton Avenue, Bronx, New York 10472. Purpose: any lawful activities.

Notice of Formation of Vision 72, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 02/05/19. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 45 Lewis St., Binghamton, NY 13901. Purpose: any lawful activities.

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

1. The name of the limited liability company ("LLC") is SLC SEL, LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is February 13, 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: 1694 Union Center Maine Hwy, Endicott, NY 13760.
5. The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

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



Published by the Jewish Relations of Greater Binghamton

NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

Visegrad group cancels summit in Israel after Poland row

The Visegrad group of four central European countries has announced it has cancelled its meeting in Israel after Poland's decision to pull out of the summit following comments by Israel's new foreign minister about alleged Polish collaboration during the Holocaust. The Israeli Foreign Ministry said that the leaders of the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary would instead hold separate meeting with Israeli leaders the week of Feb. 18. "It will not be called Visegrad, because this entails the presence of all four," an Israeli official said. "It's going to be a summit with Visegrad members." On Feb. 17, the same day that Netanyahu appointed Yisrael Katz Israel's new foreign minister, Katz told Israel's i24 news channel that "I am the son of Holocaust survivors, we will never forgive and never forget, and there were many Poles who collaborated with the Nazis." Quoting former Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Katz added "Shamir said that ever Pole sucked antisemitism with his mother's milk. Nobody will tell us how to express our stance and how to honor the dead." Polish ambassador to Israel Marek Magierowski called the comments "shameful and racist" and said Katz's "really astonishing" remarks were "utterly unacceptable." The comments were made after Netanyahu said at the recent Warsaw summit that Poles cooperated with Nazis during the Holocaust, and that no one has been sued for asserting this truth, criticizing Poland's Holocaust Law which forbids accusing Poland of complicity with the Nazis, under penalty of law. Morawiecki replied on Twitter that Poland was a victim of Nazi occupation, and never cooperated with Germany during World War II.

Yisrael Katz tapped to be Israeli foreign minister

Israeli Knesset member Yisrael Katz has become Israel's acting Foreign Minister after being nominated by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and voted in by the Cabinet on Feb. 17. Katz, who is currently Israel's minister of intelligence and transportation, earned support from right-wing Israelis for his support for the annexation of the Golan Heights, his opposition to the unilateral Israeli disengagement from the Jewish areas of Gaza called "Gush Katif" in 2005, and previous calls to sever ties with the Palestinian Authority and exert complete Israeli sovereignty over all of Judea and Samaria. He placed third on the Likud Party list in the recent primaries. Katz was congratulated for the appointment by Energy Minister Yuval Steinitz and Public Security Minister Gilad Erdan, both of whom were considered contenders for the position. Netanyahu went ahead with the vote under pressure from the High Court of Justice under petition of the Movement for Quality Government in Israel, due to the abnormally high number of ministerial positions he has kept for himself. The prime minister still retains the defense and health portfolios.

Rise in antisemitic incidents in Germany in 2018

Antisemitism in Germany is on the rise, with 60 percent more violent attacks and almost 10 percent more antisemitic incidents overall in 2018. Last year, 1,646 incidents involving attacks on Jews were officially reported to German police, including 62 violent offense that left 43 people injured. Jewish leaders have suggested that the far-right Alternative for Germany (or AfD) party is largely responsible for the rise, with members having dubbed the Holocaust memorial in Berlin a "monument of shame," and the Holocaust a "speck of bird poo in over 1,000 years of successful German history." At the same time, Jews have experienced increased attacks by Arabs who have migrated to Germany, including an incident last year in which a 19-year-old Syrian whipped an Israeli man with a belt, calling him *Yahudi*, or "Jew" in Arabic. Days later, hundreds of people rallied in support of the German Jewish community wearing traditional Jewish head coverings in an event called "Berlin Wears a Kippah."

IDF drill simulated conditions of war with Hezbollah

The Israeli army underwent a simulation within the past week to train troops for combat missions in conditions similar to those in Lebanon, announced the Israel Defense Forces on Feb. 15. Conducted by the 401st Brigade of the Armored Corps, the exercise was the largest one in recent years, reported Channel 12 news. The troops completed the training alongside the Israeli Air Force, in addition to the intelligence and engineering corps. According to the IDF, dozens of armored personnel carriers, tanks and helicopters were used. "As the situation in Syria stabilizes, Hezbollah is returning its forces to Lebanon," Col. Dudu Sonago told Channel 12. "They are no longer a guerrilla organization, but a real army. They fought there in regiments of companies and battalions, very similar to the military. ... They operate in civilian areas and are ready with a large quantity of anti-tank missiles," added Sonago. "This is a challenge the IDF must train for." The training occurred in the aftermath of "Operation Northern Shield" in December, which the IDF launched to destroy Hezbollah terror tunnels.

Iran rejects accusations of antisemitism by Pence

After being accused of antisemitism by U.S. Vice President Mike Pence, Iran's foreign minister retorted that the claim was "laughable," and that "Iran has always supported the Jews; we are just against Zionists." The incident occurred on Feb. 16 at the Munich Security Conference after Pence visited the Auschwitz concentration camp in Poland earlier that week. He said that Iran harbors "vile antisemitic hatreds and threats of violence," adding that "the Iranian regime openly advocates another Holocaust, and it seeks the means to achieve it." Pence added that Ayatollah [Ali] Khamenei himself has said: "It is the mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to erase Israel from the map." Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammed Javad Zarif slammed back and called the Holocaust "a disaster." Zarif's ministry spokesman Bahram Qasemi said Iran had a "historic and cultural record of coexistence and respect for divine religions, particularly Judaism," and that its policy toward the Jewish state was due to "the aggressive and occupying nature of the Zionist regime ... which is a killing machine against the Palestinian people."

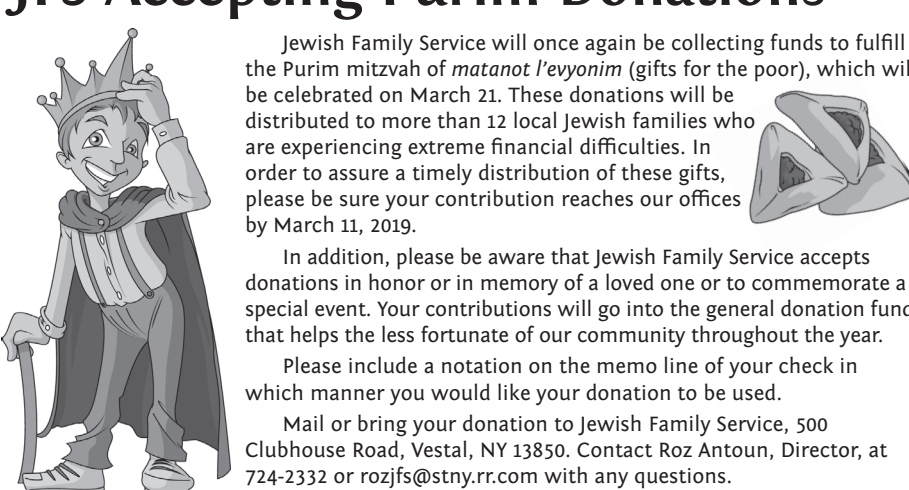
JFS Accepting Purim Donations

Jewish Family Service will once again be collecting funds to fulfill the Purim mitzvah of *matanot le'evyonim* (gifts for the poor), which will be celebrated on March 21. These donations will be distributed to more than 12 local Jewish families who are experiencing extreme financial difficulties. In order to assure a timely distribution of these gifts, please be sure your contribution reaches our offices by March 11, 2019.

In addition, please be aware that Jewish Family Service accepts donations in honor or in memory of a loved one or to commemorate a special event. Your contributions will go into the general donation fund that helps the less fortunate of our community throughout the year.

Please include a notation on the memo line of your check in which manner you would like your donation to be used.

Mail or bring your donation to Jewish Family Service, 500 Clubhouse Road, Vestal, NY 13850. Contact Roz Antoun, Director, at 724-2332 or rozjfs@stny.rr.com with any questions.



the Kosher Store

Featuring the largest kosher selection of fresh meat, poultry, dairy, frozen & grocery in the Central New York area.

 <p>15 oz. • All Varieties Where Available Tabatchnick Frozen Soup 2/\$3</p>	 <p>14.1 oz. Where Available Osem Chicken Consomme 2.99</p>
 <p>12 oz. In Wine Sauce or Vita Herring in Sour Cream 4.99</p>	 <p>8 oz. or Tofutti Cheese Slices • Where Available Tofutti Cream Cheese 2/\$6</p>
 <p>12 oz. Select Varieties Tofutti Cuties Ice Cream Sandwiches 3.99</p>	 <p>13 oz. Select Varieties Wolf's Kasha 2.99</p>
 <p>Empire Kosher Fresh Chicken Breasts \$6.99 Lb. or Empire Kosher Fresh Chicken Drumsticks, Thighs or Leg Quarters 2.99 lb.</p>	 <p>Empire Kosher 12 oz. Chicken Sausage 2/\$10 or 7 oz. Empire Kosher Sliced Turkey, Turkey Salami or Turkey Pastrami 2/\$8</p>
 <p>16 oz. • Beef For Stew \$8.99 or Meal Mart Ground Beef 7.99</p>	 <p>32 oz. • Frozen or Meal Mart 25 oz. Egg Rolls With Mushrooms And Vegetables \$8.99 Empire Kosher Chicken Nuggets 9.99</p>
 <p>4 oz. PICS Smoked Salmon 5.99</p>	 <p>24 oz. Pier 33 Salmon Portions Value Pack 13.99</p>

Exclusively at the Binghamton Store
Foundry Plaza • 10 Glenwood Avenue • 770-7151



Prices effective Sunday, February 24 thru Saturday, March 16, 2019.

Visit us on the web at www.thereporter.org

Broadway teen actor opens up about his Jewish heritage and the role of a lifetime

By Shiryn Ghermezian

(JNS) – If you were 16, and it was two days before you made your Broadway debut as the lead role in the Tony award-winning musical “Dear Evan Hansen,” you would likely be extremely nervous.

“It’s getting really, really close. I am very, very nervous,” Andrew Barth Feldman, a high school junior, told JNS, “but also very excited. Really, really excited. It’s going to be electric, and I can’t wait. I’m using [the nerves] as much as I can, especially with Evan, who is such a nervous person. It’s pretty easy to channel that energy into him.”

On January 30, the Jewish teenager took to the stage as the title character in “Dear Evan Hansen,” a musical about a high school senior who has severe social anxiety that holds him back from connecting with people and making friends, which is all he really wants to do.

The Long Island resident describes his character, Evan Hansen, as somebody who feels very alone and “in the hyper-connectivity of social media. With that in the background, he’s finding it extraordinarily difficult to connect and that’s really all he wants – to be seen and to help others as much as he can, to be as seen and heard as possible.

“I think every teenager at some point or usually at many points, if not all the time, feels that same need to connect, and feel seen and heard and validated,” he said. “Evan’s need for that is amped up more than most of us,

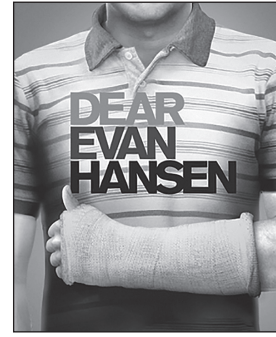
but it’s something that we can all relate to. I think everyone, when they see Evan, remembers a time in their life when they needed that as much as he did.”

The actor’s mother is an alumna and administrator at his private high school, Lawrence Woodmere Academy; his father lives in Manhattan; and he has an older sister. His Reform Jewish family celebrates the holidays (Hanukkah being his favorite) and goes to synagogue; he said Judaism has “always been part of my DNA.” He went to a Jewish nursery, Hebrew school and had a bar mitzvah, all of which he feels “very lucky” to have experienced. His Jewish identity has made him a “really well-rounded” person, he said.

“I think being a Jewish person in Long Island, you’re really a part of something bigger, and there are lots of Jewish people around us, and it creates a community and something to bond over from a very, very young age,” he told JNS while taking a break from tutoring, which he does 15 hours a week to keep up with his schoolwork while preparing for “Dear Evan Hansen.”



Andrew Barth Feldman (Photo by Nathan Johnson)



Poster for “Dear Evan Hansen” (Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons)

Aside from a few casual and quick references to bar mitzvahs – and something about getting to second base with an Israeli soldier in the script – it’s never specified if Evan Hansen is Jewish himself, but Barth Feldman said in his mind, his character definitely is. He explains that there are components in Evan’s family dynamic life that resemble a Jewish family structure, but, he added, “I think it’s never really specified because he’s so universal and because everyone can be seen in him, no matter

what denomination or race or etcetera.”

The creative team behind “Dear Evan Hansen” consists of a number of Jewish talents aside from Barth Feldman, including Benj Pasek, who co-wrote the music and lyrics for the show; Steven Levenson, author of a book by the same title; and the show’s producer Stacey Mindich, who saw Barth Feldman perform last June at the National High School Musical Theater Awards, known as the “Jimmys,” and offered him the lead role in the Broadway musical.

See “Actor” on page 11

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Welcome to our newest practitioner, Heather Nannery, FNP!

Heather serves women seeking care that includes annual well woman visits, nutritional counseling, IUD’s, and other gynecology concerns.

Request an appointment with Heather Nannery, FNP, by visiting our website at www.womensobgynassociates.com or by calling our office at 607.754.9870.



Women’s OB/GYN Associates

401 Main Street, 1st Flr. • Johnson City, NY 13790
607.754.9870 • www.womensobgynassociates.com

Israel’s Hyfit rolls out a smart, portable workout system

By Abigail Klein Leichman

(Israel21c via JNS) – Two ambitious young Israelis set out to solve a problem people grapple with all year long: staying fit. Due to weather, cost and just plain inertia, going to the

gym can be dull. Working out inside can be boring (and the inertia battle remains).

In come co-founders Guy Bar and Dan Strik, who declare that an exercise mechanism will never collect dust in the basement. The product is called the Hyfit Wearable Gym, a portable smart workout ecosystem incorporating IoT technologies, the first in a line of related products.

The Bluetooth-compatible suspension-training system, which looks a little like a TRX suspension trainer, builds full-body strength and core stability using a system of ropes and webbing that works against gravity and one’s own body weight. There are 250 possible exercises that can be performed with the Wearable Gym, which is constructed of waterproof materials and comes with a wireless charger.

Embedded sensors send live motivational feedback to individuals and their trainers (if they have one) about a user’s workout results such as repetitions accomplished, resistance used and calories burned. A companion app uses that data to plan the next routine so users don’t get stuck in a boring rut.

Though the patented Wearable Gym is still in pre-order phase – with the first batch expected to ship in March – Bar and Strik have raised about \$880,000 and aim to be no less than the next Apple of fitness.

Seven years ago, they were selling imported TRX suspension-training equipment to Israeli army bases. After a while, they recognized a need for more advanced gear that would motivate people to keep up their fitness routine, work out wherever and whenever they wanted, and track their performance.

They started developing the Wearable Gym three years ago, See “Workout” on page 8



If you are looking for someone to help an aging parent, Home Instead can help.

- Companionship
- Light Housekeeping
- Meals & Nutrition
- Transportation



607.723.3600
satwood@HomeInsteadbc.com

Each Home Instead Senior Care® franchise office is independently owned and operated. © 2017 Home Instead, Inc.

To advertise, contact Bonnie at 724-2360, ext. 244 or bonnie@thereportergroup.org



EMSCULPT®

SCULPT MUSCLE AND BURN FAT

Finally, a non-invasive body sculpting solution, proven through MRI, CT scan, Ultrasound and animal histologies that builds the foundation to one’s appearance, while burning fat. Best of all, **EMSCULPT** is anesthesia and needle free.



Learn more at www.emsculpt.com and Sculpt 'EM today.



Southern Tier Dermatology & Aesthetics

Medical, Surgical and Cosmetic Dermatology

SCHEDULE A CONSULTATION

(607)729-2777

BINGHAMTON GASTROENTEROLOGY ASSOCIATES, P.C.

Leslie Bank, M.D.

Amine Hila, M.D.

Ali Marhaba, M.D.

Amanke Oranu, M.D.

Atif Saleem, M.D.

Gregory P. Scagnelli, M.D.

Mark V. Shumeyko, M.D.

Martha E. Langhorne, FNP-BC • Alissa J. Strojny FNC-BC • Michele Traverse, FNP-BC

607-772-0639

40 Mitchell Ave., Binghamton, NY 13903

Who knew – Hebrew could be the basis for many English and European words

By Ariel Ben Solomon

(JNS) – English and European words such as alphabet, earth, loco and habitat could come from Hebrew, according to an independent Israeli linguistics researcher who has written a number of unpublished dictionaries, articles and books. According to the English Oxford Dictionary, the word etymology refers to “the study of the origin of words and the way in which their meanings have changed throughout history.” Researchers can make inferences based on studying the roots of words and their meanings, trying to piece together their history, though it’s far from an exact science.

Modern works on the subject are lacking, and one Israeli – Tony Dacre Barat, 73, born in Romania and now living in Akko, Israel – has studied linguistics on his own as a hobby for the past four decades. He and his wife, who has a Ph.D. in architecture, live on a stipend from the government of \$1,200 a month. Tony knows Hebrew, Yiddish, Romanian, French, English and some in other languages. In 1951, he immigrated to Israel with his family and served in the army, studied political science at Haifa University and later studied linguistics for one year in Paris.

Barat noticed during his studies in Paris that nobody was making the links from European languages to Hebrew, and that there was no desire to do so. “Hebrew is a much older language as well, so it makes sense the roots of words go back before Latin or Greek,” he theorized.

In 1990, Barat returned to Romania and started a consulting company with his wife, assisting Israeli investors. “Modern scholarship does not deal at all with the etymology of European or world languages from Hebrew,” said Barat. “It seems crazy at first, as Hebrew is written from right to left. But if you look more closely, similarities can be discovered.”

Scholarship exists on the connection between Hebrew and European languages, noted Barat, adding that he has around 1,500 books in his personal library that touch on the subject, often indirectly.

Barat has many theories regarding the Hebrew roots of certain European language words. Take the word “earth” in English, which in Hebrew is *eretz*, or the word more associated with land, *adama*. In Arabic, it is *ard*, German *erde*, and in Romanian *tara*. The ending of these words can have differing pronunciations whether ending with a “se,” “te” or “de” sound. If you experiment with the different ending accent on these words, they sound quite similar.

Or, for example, the word “phrase” (which is the same in French), which Barat concludes comes from the Hebrew three-letter root *paras* or *faras* from the Hebrew word spelled *pey-resh-shin*, which means to interpret. In Spanish, the word is *frase*, in Romanian *fraza* and the same sound in Russian. The Online Etymology Dictionary says the word comes from the Greek *frasi*, but Barat infers it originates in Hebrew.

The word *loco* in Spanish means “crazy,” “distracted” or “deranged,” and, according to dictionaries it comes from the Andalusian Arabic *lawqa*, signifying a foolish person. Barat theorizes that it comes from the Hebrew word *laka*, meaning to be defective, to become ill or to receive lashes. In Aramaic (a Semitic language that replaced Hebrew for local Jews and which was displaced by Arabic in the seventh-century C.E.), *laka* means to be stricken with a disease. The Hebrew word *likui* means suffering from a deficiency.

Another is the word “habitat,” which Barat thinks comes from the Hebrew word for house, *bayit* or *ha-bayit*. The Online Etymology Dictionary puts it as originating in 1762 as a Latin term on English flora and fauna, literally “it inhabits.”

Also, “the word alphabet comes from Hebrew,” claims Barat, noting that it is credited to having a Greek origin. *Aleph* is the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet, and *bet* is the second and the equivalent to the English “b.” The letter “d” in English is usually attributed to the Greek delta, “but I think it refers to the fourth Hebrew letter *daled*.”

Asked if there is any way to prove the origins of words beyond theorizing one way or the other, Barat responded: “It is not about proving it, just connecting words that are close. Nobody really knows definitively where many words originate.”

See “Words” on page 11

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Understanding AFib

(NAPSI) – If you or someone you care about is among the estimated 46 million Americans age 65 or older – or hope to be someday – here’s something you should know. Seniors are at the highest risk for developing an irregular heartbeat, called atrial fibrillation or AFib, that, left untreated, could

increase their risk for stroke by five times and doubles the chance of heart-related death – but you can protect yourself.

AFib is an increasingly common condition, affecting more than 2.7 million Americans. The chances of developing AFib

See “AFib” on page 8

Life Sculpt Laser Treatment
A Nationally Renowned Procedure, Available Right Here in Your Hometown

BEFORE **AFTER** **BEFORE** **AFTER** **BEFORE** **AFTER** **BEFORE** **AFTER**

We offer a wide variety of services that are performed at a state-of-the-art facility including:

Cosmetic Surgery

- Facelift and Facial Rejuvenation with Artisan Laser Treatment
- Breast Augmentation and Lifts • Tummy Tucks
- Fat Grafting • Body Contouring with Life Sculpt™
- BOTOX®, Facial Fillers, Spider Vein Treatment
- Obagi™ Skin Treatments

Reconstructive Surgery

- Face • Maxillofacial • Congenital Deformities • Hand
- Eyes and Ears • Breast Reduction & Reconstruction

Armando B. Mata, MD, FACS

Binghamton Plastic Surgery

Lourdes Tower • Suite 106 • 161 Riverside Drive • Binghamton, NY
607.729.0101 • www.abmatamd.com

Family & Cosmetic Dentistry
BinghamtonDental.com

Shakun, Salomons & Bray
DENTAL P.C.

William R. Shakun, D.M.D.
David Salomons, D.D.S.
David C. Bray, D.M.D.
Adam J. Underwood, Ph.D., D.D.S.

New Patients Welcome

- Crowns & Bridges
- Cosmetic Bonding & Bleaching
- Invisible Braces

723-8377
18 Leroy Street, Binghamton, NY

ASTHMA & ALLERGY ASSOCIATES P.C.
1550 Vestal Parkway East, Suite 4, Vestal

Elliot Rubinstein, M.D. | Mariah M. Pieretti, M.D. | Rizwan Khan, M.D. | Joseph Flanagan, M.D. | Stella M. Castro, M.D. | Julie McNairn, M.D. | Shaan Waqar, M.D.

Pediatric & Adult Allergists

- Hay Fever • Asthma • Sinus • Food
- Coughing • Sneezing • Wheezing
- Ears Popping • Red, Watery Eyes
- Drippy, Stuffy Nose • Itching/Insects

For more information and appointment
1-800-88-ASTHMA or allergistdocs.com

UHS Orthopedics

Get back to your life!

UHS Orthopedics offers highly advanced surgery for knee, hip, and shoulder replacement.

Visit us today at nyuhs.org or call 771-2220.

UHS Orthopedic Center
4433 Vestal Parkway East
Vestal, NY 13850

nyuhs.org

Did you know?

- Roughly 36 million Americans have some degree of hearing loss.
- Approximately one in three people between aged 65-74 and nearly half of those aged 75+ has hearing loss*.
- Hearing loss is the third most common health condition in the U.S. after heart disease and arthritis.

*National Institute on Aging.

Call today to schedule an appointment and trust your hearing health to Tri-City Hearing!

HEALTHY AGING Starts with HEALTHY HEARING

Services:

- Complimentary Digital Hearing Aid Demos
- Complete Hearing Healthcare
- Hearing Aid Adjustments
- Accepting Most Insurances
- Hearing Aid Repairs

Complimentary Hearing Screenings

Amanda VanFossen
NYS Licensed Hearing Aid Dispenser

Ashley Hardy
NYS Licensed Hearing Aid Dispenser

Now seeing patients at Cortland Hearing Aids!

Tri-City Hearing

200 Plaza Drive, Vestal, NY 13850 | (888) 318-2789

With SpaceIL launch, Israeli children can dream about “reaching the moon” and beyond

By Yaakov Lappin

(JNS) – In 2019, a team of Israelis will make history when an unmanned spacecraft they built will launch from Cape Canaveral, FL, destined for the moon. SpaceIL, an Israeli non-profit organization, has teamed up with defense giant Israel Aerospace Industries to build the spacecraft. When it touches down on the lunar surface, Israel will join an exclusive club consisting of the United States, Russia and China, which have sent spacecraft to Earth’s nearest neighbor.

“This is a major source of pride,” Ofer Doron, general manager of IAI’s Space Division, told JNS. “If the small state of Israel can do this through a civilian mission, then the sky and space are not the limit. Israeli children can dream about reaching the moon and taking on the next challenge. This is a story of initiative and Israeli daring, which allows us to do the unbelievable. It’s a highly complex technological mission, with many challenges.”

The story of Israel’s journey to the moon began in 2010, when Google announced its Lunar Xprize for the first team that would land a spacecraft on the moon. The contest spurred three young engineers – Yariv Bash, Kfir Damari and former IAI employee Yonatan Winetraub – to build, launch and land an unmanned lunar spacecraft and found SpaceIL.

SpaceIL’s other stated goal is to inspire the next generation in Israel and around the world to study science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The NGO attracted more than \$100 million in donations from the private sector, mainly from Morris Kahn, and Dr. Miriam and Sheldon Adelson, who also contributed a large amount

from the very beginning. Israel’s Science and Technology Ministry contributed 7.5 million shekels (nearly \$2 million) to the project.

SpaceIL’s educational programs have reached approximately a million Israeli pupils so far. At the same time, engineers from IAI and SpaceIL got to work building the spacecraft at IAI’s Space Division. “Infrastructure and technological know-how are needed for this project,” said Doron. The unique cooperation between a startup NGO, whose business model is based on donations, and a large defense corporation enabled the project to literally take off.

No team that entered Google’s competition managed to get a spacecraft to the moon in time for the deadline, but that has not stopped the Israeli initiative. The Israeli craft is due to launch in the first quarter of 2019 on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket to an altitude of 60,000 kilometers. From there, it will enter a series of widening orbits, which will land it on the moon’s Sea of Tranquility region after two months. “We have calculated the precise route that will take it on a lunar orbit,” said Doron. “Once on the moon, it will conduct scientific missions with the Weizmann Institute of Science [based in Rehovot, Israel], checking the moon’s magnetic fields.”

The lunar spacecraft has also recently been fitted with

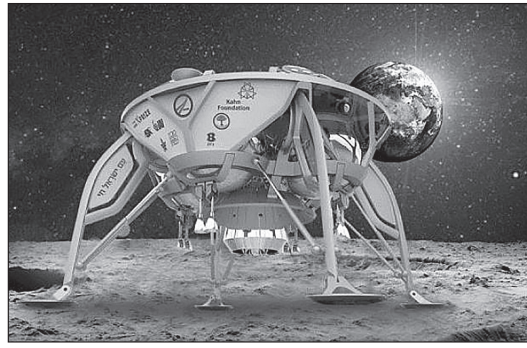


Illustration of the SpaceIL lunar space craft.

a laser reflector that will allow NASA to have a precise reference point on the moon. “We think it will be active for a few days, before intense heat overcomes it,” said Doron.

But the spacecraft will also have a more enduring mission after being fitted with a time capsule that will remain on the lunar surface indefinitely. It consists of three discs, each containing hundreds of digital files, including national symbols, like Israel’s

Declaration of Independence, the Bible, Israel’s national anthem and the Israeli flag. It will also contain cultural objects such as paintings, collected over many years from the public for sending to the moon; dictionaries in 27 languages; encyclopedias, such as Wikipedia, to reflect knowledge accumulated by all of humanity thus far; Israeli songs; the “Wayfarer’s Prayer”; and photographs of Israeli landscapes. “With no plans to return to Earth, the spacecraft and information within the time capsule’s disks will possibly be found and distributed by future generations,” said IAI.

“This is another step on our way to the moon,” said Ido Anteby, CEO of SpaceIL. “Inserting the disks into the spacecraft, which is a real ‘time capsule,’ indicates the spacecraft’s readiness to blast off from the launch site in a few weeks. SpaceIL’s crews and IAI have

See “Launch” on page 12

HEALTH & WELLNESS

AFib

increase with age, affecting about 9 percent of people over age 65. Other risk factors include uncontrolled high blood pressure, underlying heart disease, family history, obesity and sleep apnea. Lifestyle factors that could increase your risk include excessive consumption of alcohol, smoking and prolonged athletic training.

AFib occurs when electrical signals in the upper chambers of the heart become chaotic, disrupting the regular rhythm of the heart and its ability to efficiently move blood through its chambers; that is, AFib causes the heart’s upper chamber to quiver rather than to pump. When blood collects in the upper chambers or moves slowly, a clot can form and potentially cause a stroke if it is pumped out of the heart and travels to the brain.

While technology has made it easier for medical professionals to detect AFib, older patients may not experience or could fail to recognize symptoms, which can include a fluttering heartbeat, heart palpitations, light-headedness or feeling winded even while at rest. Other, less common

symptoms include chest pain or fainting.

“For many people, stroke is their first symptom of AFib,” says Patrick T. Ellinor, M.D., Ph.D., director of the Cardiac Arrhythmia Service at Massachusetts General Hospital.

The good news is that recognizing the symptoms of AFib and getting treatment can significantly reduce the risk of stroke. “AFib is a leading cause of stroke, but it is treatable. That’s why it’s so important to understand your risks and recognize any symptoms you may have,” Ellinor said.

Treatment for AFib using blood thinners has also become easier, thanks to new medications that don’t require repeated blood tests and are more effective at stroke prevention. For

Continued from page 7
some people, a surgical procedure in which the disruptive heart tissue is destroyed, called a cardiac ablation, can also be effective in preventing future occurrences of AFib.

If you suspect you have AFib, meet with your doctor and continue with any treatment, even if you no longer experience symptoms, Ellinor said.

For further facts about AFib, including risk factors, symptoms and treatment, visit the American Heart Association at www.heart.org/afibawareness.

The American Heart Association’s AFib awareness campaign is made possible with funding from the Bristol-Myers Squibb/Pfizer Alliance.

Workout

despite having no capital or business connections. They chose to headquarter Hyfit in Los Angeles because of its proximity to Santa Monica, CA, the unofficial “capital of fitness.”

The company’s software developers are based in Tel Aviv, along with COO Elad Elkalai and Itai Segev, international sales and business-development manager. Elkalai is heading to China shortly to oversee production.

The founders have also been to the Far East to discuss a possible distribution deal in Asia with consumer electronics maker Xiaomi. Industry forecasters predict the workout-equip-

Continued from page 6
ment market in the Asia-Pacific region will grow rapidly in the coming years, especially in India and China.

Segev notes “a successful campaign on Kickstarter for our first product, the Wearable Gym, in April to May 2018. We had \$120,000 in pre-order sales from the first month only.”

And, he adds, Forbes magazine “named us one of the most promising startups in the world.”

The full article can be read on [Israel21c](http://Israel21c.org/israels-hyfit-rolls-out-a-smart-portable-workout-system/), www.israel21c.org/israels-hyfit-rolls-out-a-smart-portable-workout-system/.

Joseph M. Newmark, M.D.
Board Certified

Carri Ross, PA
Chloe Pusey, NP

Diseases of the Skin, Hair, Nails
Dermatologic Surgery
In Office Phototherapy & Laser Surgery -
Hair Removal & Age Spots
OBAGI BLUE PEEL & CHEMICAL PEELS
BOTOX & RESTYLANE
PERLANE, JUVEDERM, RADIESSE,
TATOO REMOVAL
skin**better** science now offered

4104 Vestal Executive Park, Suite 203
Old Vestal Road, Vestal, NY **797-9036**
drjosephnewmark.com

Susquehanna
NURSING & REHABILITATION CENTER

282 Riverside Dr., Johnson City, NY 13790
Area’s Premier Rehabilitation Center & Traditional Nursing Home

Golden Days
SUSQUEHANNA
Licensed Home Care Services Agency

282 Riverside Drive
Johnson City, NY
607-729-9206 susquehannanursing.com

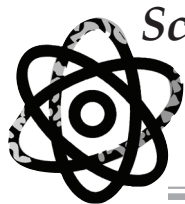
Lee Medical, PC
41 Arch Street, Johnson City
607.729.2121

Comprehensive Women’s Healthcare offered in office:

Routine Annual Gynecology Exam
Women’s Primary Care
Mammogram / Breast Care
Bone Density
Laboratory Testing

Bai O Lee, MD
Mary L Barr, PA-C
Patricia Vincent, PA
Kelly Werner, PA-C

WELCOMING NEW PATIENTS
607.729.2121
www.binghamtonwomenshealth.com



Three updates from the Weizmann Institute of Science

WEIZMANN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE STAFF

All too human

Professor Rony Paz of the Weizmann Institute of Science suggests that our brains are like modern washing machines – evolved to have the latest sophisticated programming, but more vulnerable to breakdown and prone to develop costly disorders. He and a group of researchers recently conducted experiments comparing the efficiency of the neural code in non-human and human primates (www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0092867418316465) and found that, as the neural code gets more efficient, the robustness that prevents errors is reduced. Their findings, which appeared in *Cell*, may help to explain why disorders as ADHD, anxiety, depression, PTSD and even autism are common in humans.

Paz, who is in the Institute's Department of Neurobiology, says that anatomical differences between humans and other primates have been described by researchers – particularly our large prefrontal cortex and its extended number of neurons. But differences in the neural code – the “software,” in contrast with the “hardware” (the physical structure) – have not been explored.

Raviv Pryluk, a research student in Paz's group, devised a way to test and compare the efficiency of the neural code in several regions of the brain. “We defined efficient communication as that which uses the least amount of energy to transmit the maximal information – to pass on as complicated message as possible with the fewest ‘words,’” says Pryluk.

The researchers recorded the electric activity of single neurons in both humans and macaque monkeys in two regions: the prefrontal cortex, where higher functions like decision making and rational thinking occur, and the amygdala, a more evolutionarily ancient region that is responsible for the “fight or flight” basic survival functions, as well as emotions. Paz and his group worked in collaboration with Prof. Itzhak Fried of Sourasky Medical Center in Tel Aviv and UCLA Medical School in Los Angeles. Patients with pharmacologically intractable epilepsy come to Fried to have electrodes implanted for diagnostic purposes, providing a rare opportunity to record the electrical activity of single neurons in the human brain. Also participating in this research were Dr. Hagar Gelbard-Sagiv of Tel Aviv University and Dr. Yoav Kfir, at the time a research student in Paz's group.

The findings of the research provided support for the “washing machine” theory of brain evolution: the neural code in the “more evolved” prefrontal cortex is more efficient than in the amygdala, both in humans and monkeys. And the neural code of both areas in the human brain was more efficient than its monkey counterpart. But the higher the efficiency of a particular neural code, the less robust it was in resisting errors. Paz likens the amygdala to the washing-machine drum: “It's not highly sophisticated, but it is less likely to fail – which is important to animals' survival,” he says, adding, “The lower resistance of the human amygdala to errors may play a role in exaggerated survival-like responses in inappropriate contexts, such as those we see in PTSD and other anxiety disorders.”

Pryluk says, “Evolution works with tradeoffs. There may be a zero-sum game between efficiency and robustness; and our complex, multidimensional brains have gained one at the price of the other.”

Fried states that “Comparing single-cell recordings from human and monkey brains is a large step forward toward answering the question of what makes the human brain unique.”

Paz adds: “Why, on the one hand, do humans have such superior learning, cognitive and adaptive abilities and, on the other, this tendency to anxiety, depression, and other mental diseases? We have shown that these may be two sides of the same coin.”

Paz's research is supported by the Adelis Foundation; the Irving and Dorothy Rom Family Discovery Endowment Fund; the Irving B. Harris Fund for New Directions in Brain Research; the Bernard and Norton Wolf Family Foundation; the Leff Family; the Oster Family Foundation; Mr. and Mrs. Gary Clayman; Rosanne Cohen; the estate of Toby Bieber; and the European Research Council.

Plants blink: proceeding with caution in sunlight

Plants have control mechanisms that resemble those in human senses. According to a new Weizmann Institute of Science study, plants adjust their photosynthesis to rapid light changes using a sophisticated sensing system (www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2589004218301548?via%3Dihub), much in the way that the human eye responds to variations in light intensity. This sensory-like regulation operates at low light intensities, when the photosynthesis machinery is most efficient but also most vulnerable to sudden light increases.

A widely accepted view has been that since the more sunlight a plant absorbs, the more energy it has for growth, photosynthesis would tend to increase proportionally to sunlight intensity. Only upon reaching a level at which excessive radiation causes damaging “sunburn” would the

plant turn on repair mechanisms and turn photosynthesis down. Prof. Avihai Danon of the Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences and his colleagues evaluated plant fluorescence (light re-emitted by nonproductive photosynthesis, used as a noninvasive proxy to measure photosynthesis levels) at low light exposure – and were surprised to see a back-and-forth pattern.

Prof. Danon initiated a collaboration with Prof. Uri Alon of the Department of Molecular Cell Biology, whose lab studies biological networks and circuits – among them, those in the human body. The team – Avichai Tandler (from Alon's lab) and Drs. Bat Chen Wolf and Vivekanand Tiwari (from Danon's lab) – exposed *Arabidopsis thaliana*, model plants from the mustard family, to a series of step-by-step, 10-minute-long increases in light intensity in the low to moderate range, roughly equivalent to outdoor morning light – that is, below the level that causes stress to the plants.

As reported in *iScience*, the scientists saw that the fluorescence, instead of rising steadily when the light grew stronger, soared for a short while at each step, then dropped back to the initial level. Each time, its peak was smaller than at the previous step. This was because, as the researchers found, when the light grew stronger, fewer photons arrived at the plant's photosynthetic reaction center than would have been expected from the increase in light intensity. Each time, the researchers had to double the light's intensity to produce the same fluorescence peak as at the previous step – a pattern typical of sensory mechanisms in bacteria, animals, and humans.

These findings supply evidence that, under low-light conditions, the control mechanisms of photosynthesis resemble those operating in such sensory systems as, for example, human vision. When the pupils adjust to the brightness of light, these adjustments not only protect the retina, but ensure that we remain sensitive to our surroundings despite changing light conditions. When the pupils are narrow, we distinguish only high contrasts in lighting. In low-light conditions – for example, at dusk – the pupils widen, letting in more light and enabling us to identify objects that differ only slightly in their reflected light.

In the same manner, the photosynthesis antennae – the light-harvesting complexes of proteins and chlorophyll molecules in the plant – shrink in bright light and enlarge under low-light conditions. Like pupils, when the antennae grow larger, they harvest the light more efficiently and grow more sensitive to small changes in light intensity – but they also become more vulnerable to change, especially sudden change.

“Plants handle photosynthesis in a cautious manner that sacrifices efficiency in the short term for the sake of long-term stability,” Danon says. “In a way, the photosynthesis machinery ‘senses’ the environment, making rapid adjustments to the amount of ‘harvested’ light before the situation runs out of hand, rather than escalating its activity in an uncontrolled manner until sustaining damage.”

The newly discovered controls kick in fast, buying time for the slower mechanisms that adjust photosynthesis to developing conditions. This exquisite coping strategy is one of the ways in which plants make the most of sunlight under rapidly changing outdoor conditions – such as, for example, when clouds come and go, or when the wind alters the angle of leaves to the sun.

Alon's research is supported by the Kahn Family Research Center for Systems Biology of the Human Cell; the Sagol Institute for Longevity Research; the Braginsky Center for the Interface between Science and the Humanities; the Zuckerman STEM Leadership Program; the Rising

Tide Foundation; the European Research Council; and the Leff Family. Alon is the incumbent of the Abisch-Frenkel Professorial Chair.

Israeli and Czech scientists join forces in advancing drug discovery

To expand the ties between the Israeli and Czech scientific communities, their countries are developing new forms of collaboration among talented young scientists. One such project is the “Joint Prague-Weizmann Winter School on Drug Discovery.” This week of professional lectures is attended by more than 120 scientists and students from around the world. The project provides a unique opportunity for young Israeli and Czech researchers to meet and discuss the latest trends and challenges in drug development, as well as to meet with world leaders in academia and experts from such multinational pharmaceutical giants as MSD, Roche and Astra Zeneca.

This year's winter school, organized by the Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry (or IOCB) of the Czech Academy of Sciences, the University of Chemistry and Technology in Prague, and the Weizmann Institute of Science, was held for the first time in Israel at the Weizmann Institute, from December 3-7.

Prof. Martin Fusek, deputy director of the IOCB Prague, which is one of the co-organizers of the event, said: “After organizing four consecutive and successful sessions of Summer School on Drug Development in Prague, the IOCB Prague and the UCT Prague were approached by Prof. Irit Sagi, Dean of the Feinberg Graduate School of the Weizmann Institute, with an interesting offer to organize an annual winter school jointly – every other year in Prague and then in Rehovot. Right now, it's our first Joint School stemming from this new tradition, and I would like to thank my colleagues from the Weizmann Institute of Science, especially Dr. Nir London and Dr. Haim Barr, for the excellent organization and a very friendly atmosphere. I am very pleased to be able to deepen cooperation with this top research organization.”

Among the attendees of the event were Czech Ambassador to Israel H. E. Martin Stropnický; Prof. Karel Melzoch, rector of the University of Chemistry and Technology in Prague; Dr. Zdeněk Hostomský, director of the IOCB Prague; and Doc. Jan Konvalinka, co-organizer and vice-rector of Charles University, Czech Republic.

“There was tremendous interest in attending from all over Israel, and the interaction between the Israeli and Czech scientists will surely lead to fruitful collaborations. I look forward to expanding the scope of this school in the coming years,” says Co-organizer London of the Weizmann Institute.

The initiative and the conference were supported by the Feinberg Graduate School and three of its Research Schools: the Solo Dwek and Maurizio Dwek Research School of Chemical Science, the Ekard Research School of Biological Science, and the Lorry I. Lokey Research School of Biochemical Science.

The Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel, is said to be one of the world's top-ranking multidisciplinary research institutions. The Institute's 3,800-strong scientific community engages in research addressing problems in medicine and health, energy, technology, agriculture and the environment. Young scientists from around the world pursue advanced degrees at the Weizmann Institute's Feinberg Graduate School. The discoveries and theories of Weizmann Institute scientists are said to have had a major impact on the wider scientific community, as well as on the quality of life of millions of people worldwide.

JCC & Jablon Studios
**Costume Jewelry
 Mirror Class**
Sunday, March 10 • 3-5pm
\$30M/\$40NM
 Make a gorgeous one-of-a-kind
 costume jewelry mirror frame that's perfect
 for any wall, room or desk!
 Held at Jablon Studios, 1 Alice St., Binghamton, NY 13904.
 For information or to register, contact the JCC at
 607-724-2417 or HarryC@binghamtonjcc.org
JCC binghamton
 500 Clubhouse Rd.,
 Vestal, NY 13850
 www.binghamtonjcc.org

Our Annual
**Wedding, Prom &
 Party Planning Guide**
is coming soon!
 To advertise in this annual,
 keepsake section, please contact
Bonnie Rozen at 724-2360, ext. 244 or
bonnie@thereporter.org
 Issue Date: March 15
 Ad Deadline: March 7
THE REPORTER
 Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton



Ki Tisa, Exodus 30:11-34:35

Turning to idols

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR, THE REPORTER GROUP

When Moses left the Israelites for 40 days, they were bereft and turned in their despair to idol worship. What are we lacking today that so many of us, too, have turned to idols: treating the Western Wall and the graves of saints as tangible signs of God's presence, as though by going to these places God is more likely to hear our prayers? Have we, like the Israelites of old, lost our way?

In this week's *parasha*, Ki Tisa, the Israelites become fearful when Moses does not return from Mount Sinai and they ask Aaron to build them a god. Because of this request, most commentators paint the Israelites as a faithless, worthless people who denied the wonders and miracles that took place before their eyes. Yet, this is not what the text says. Once the golden calf is built, the Israelites declare, "Israel, this is your god, who brought you

out of the land of Egypt." It is not that they've forgotten who God is; they've just lost touch with how they should perceive God's image. They still know all that God did; in fact, that is why they're so frightened. What they fear is that without Moses, they will have no channel to God – that without Moses, the God who did all these wonderful things for them may desert them.

The text also shows that God was aware of the problem and somehow knew that the Israelites, who were still recovering from the evils of slavery, might need something tangible in order to believe that the Divine presence was with them. How appropriate, then, that when they left Egypt they were led by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. For many, the pillars must have served as a tangible proof of God's presence. And what is the tabernacle if not

a visible sign of God? The previous two Torah portions contain detailed descriptions of the tabernacle that Moses and the Israelites are to build, a tabernacle that would be filled "with the glory of God." (While classical scholars debated whether or not God decided to build the tabernacle only after the golden calf, the result is the same: a tangible reminder that God is among the people.)

Yet, there are limits to what God will allow. The people are allowed to pray neither to the golden calf nor to the tabernacle; neither of these physical things are God. Nor will Moses be enshrined as their unique conduit to God. This is made clear at the end of Deuteronomy when Moses transfers leadership to Joshua. The ceremony is done before the community so that all Israel will know **See "Idols" on page 11**

Congregational Notes

Beth David Synagogue

Affiliation: Orthodox Union
 Rabbi: Zev Silber
 Address: 39 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905
 Phone: 722-1793, Rabbi's Office: 722-7514
 Fax: 722-7121
 Office hours: Mon. closed; Tues. 10 am-1 pm; Wed. closed; Thurs. 9 am-1 pm; Fri. 10 am-1 pm
 Beth David e-mail address: bethdavid@stny.rr.com
 Rabbi's e-mail: rabbisilber@stny.rr.com
 Website: www.bethdavid.org
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/bethdavidbinghamton
 Shabbat Services:
 Shabbat, Feb. 23 9 am
 Mincha after the kiddush
 Weekday Services:
 Mornings:
 Sun., Feb. 24 8:30 am
 Mon.-Fri., Feb. 25-March 1 7 am
 Evenings:
 Sun., Feb. 24 5:30 pm
 Mon.-Thurs., Feb. 25-28 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.

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.

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 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.twcnc.com
 Website: www.templeisraelvestal.org
 Service Schedule: Tuesday, 5:30 pm; Friday, 5:30 pm; Saturday, 9:30 am
 On Saturday, February 23, at 9:30 am, Shabbat services will be led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown. The Torah portion will be Exodus 30:11-34:35. The haftarah will be I Kings 18:1-39. Bonnie Brown and Sylvia Horowitz will sponsor the kiddush following services.
 On Sunday, February 24, at 10 am, there will be a Hebrew/Sunday school Challah Bake.
 On Sunday, March 3, at 11 am, there will be Rabbi Geoffrey Brown's Mussar class. All are welcome.
 On Tuesday, March 5, at 7 pm, there will be an Executive Board meeting.
 On Sunday, March 10, at 10 am, there will be an Adult Ed brunch. More information will follow.
 On Wednesday, March 13, at 2 pm, there will be a Sisterhood Chair Yoga class. The cost for the class is \$5.

Penn-York Jewish Community

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

Congregation Tikkun v'Or

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

Kol Haverim

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

Friday, February 22, light candles 5:26 pm
 Shabbat ends Saturday, February 23 6:28 pm
 Friday, March 1, light candles 5:35 pm
 Shabbat ends Saturday, March 2 6:37 pm

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 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.
 On Tuesday, February 26, at 4:15 and 5:15 pm, there will be Hebrew school and, at 5:30 pm there will be a dinner followed by the Beyond the Rainbow program at 6:15 pm.
 On Thursday, February 28, 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, March 1, at 8 pm, there will be Shabbat evening services.
 On Saturday, March 2, at 9 am, there will be religious school; at 9:15 am, there will be Torah study; at 10:35 am, there will be family Shabbat services led by the hey class students; and at 11:35 am, there will be a potluck Shabbat lunch.

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.

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

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

On Sunday, March 3, at 3 pm, certified sommelier Dr. Laura Winter Falk will discuss wine making in Israel. The talk is for those over age 21 as those attending will be able to taste kosher wines paired with food. The cost is \$15 per person. RSVP by Monday, February 25, to Samantha Lesser at slesser@frontiernet.net.

On Thursday, March 7, at 7 pm, David Powers, professor in the Department of Near Eastern Studies at Cornell University, will discuss "Biblical and Quranic Narratives" as part of the temple's adult education series.

Norwich Jewish Center

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

Words Continued from page 7

Professor Gerald Leonard Cohen, an expert in etymology at the Department of Arts, Languages and Philosophy at the Missouri University of Science and Technology, told JNS that Barat's arguments would receive "sharp criticism" from academics, who would point out the weaknesses in his suggestions. For example, Barat claims that the word "alphabet" comes from Hebrew, but actually, "it derives from Phoenician. The Greeks had considerable contact with the Phoenicians, and the Phoenician language was very similar to Hebrew."

According to the Encyclopedia Britannica, Phoenicians were merchant traders that by the second-millennium B.C.E.

"had colonies in the Levant, North Africa, Anatolia and Cyprus. ...Their alphabet became the basis of the Greek alphabet," it stated.

Cohen noted that "the Greeks borrowed the alphabet from the Phoenicians, making several changes along the way." For instance, the Phoenician language did not have letters for vowels, and so Greek needed to develop them. And *aleph bet* (alphabet) wound up as *alphab t-os* in Greek. But on a positive note, continued Cohen, "amid all the fanciful suggestions, Barat may have wound up spotting a few items that really are worth pursuing, and perhaps other scholars will develop them into polished, scholarly articles."

Actor Continued from page 6

He is representing the Jewish community now with taking on Evan Hansen, and expressed pride in the number of Jewish members on the show's team. "We're doing it!" he said. "I think Jews love to take ownership and, rightfully so, of those of us who can make it, so I'm happy to give another one. I think it's so necessary to see Jewish people playing roles like this that aren't stereotyped and are authentic to the experience... I think Jews can absolutely find reflection in 'Dear Evan Hansen' and so can everyone."

Barth Feldman first fell in love with theater at the age of 3 when he saw "Beauty and the Beast" on Broadway. When he was 8, he starred in his first show: a community theater production of "Annie" in which he played Mr. Bundles, the launderer at the orphanage who has an unrequited love for Miss Hannigan. "Dear Evan Hansen" is his first professional production.

For his bar mitzvah project in 2014, he started Zneefrock Productions, a theater company run entirely by teens that fund-raises for the charity NEXT for Autism. The theater company he founded is still going strong; last year, Zneefrock put on a production of Jason Robert Brown's musical "The Last Five Years" about a failed marriage, with a different gender pairing at each performance to showcase various types of relationships.

His passions include "Star Wars," Disney and Horizon Organic chocolate milk – all clearly evident from his

Instagram page – but he said his social life has always revolved around theater, and that most of his close friends are also "theater geeks."

"The love of [theater], the passion for it, has always been there. The escapism – that power to go to another world at the drop of a hat – is something that has always fascinated me and appealed to me," he explained. "It's always what I've wanted – to be a part of this world, and to be a part of this community and be on this stage. I just never ever in my life imagined it would happen so early. I'm so lucky and so excited to have this opportunity, and I'm gonna do my best to make it count."

He is the youngest person to take on the title role. All of his predecessors were in their 20s when they played Evan, and Jewish actor Ben Platt, who won a Tony Award as the first to star in the title role, was 23 when the show opened on Broadway in 2016.

Barth Feldman said "it adds a level of responsibility" being the youngest to ever play the character, and it shows "that 16-year-olds and teenagers can handle roles like these, equipped with the right tools. But I think about it also in a sense that I don't have to play a teenager; I am a teenager. I don't have to pretend to be one. I'm really excited to take away that level of suspending the audience's disbelief."

He shared some advice to young actors hoping to succeed in show business, saying "learn as much as you can and from as many people as you can. But trust your instincts because you are a person, and if you're in theater, you are probably a very emphatic person. So if you can tap into that and combine that with your natural human being instincts, you can create a fully formed person."

"But in that same way," he added, "to build your craft you have to keep working hard and want to keep growing. You're never done growing. You're never done learning."

Parents Continued from page 4

Everywhere you look, such a mess of miscommunication; it just had to be true." At least, that appears to be true of Norman, Jon and Pauline. The novel's ending is realistic, which means it won't satisfy all readers. However, the truly comic sections – including an outrageous basketball game – offer relief from the serious looks at the afterlife.

While Gould family relationships were easy to understand and remember, I was grateful for the two family trees placed at the beginning of "The Comedown." They proved useful in a novel that not only featured a wide variety of characters with complex relationships, but whose chapters included sections that took place in different decades. The plot revolves around two men – Jewish drug addict Leland Bloom-Mittwoch and drug dealer Reggie Marshall. While Leland thinks of Reggie as his best friend, Reggie can barely tolerate Leland's presence. The reverberations from a murder and a stolen briefcase (said to contain a great deal of money) affect Reggie's wife and two sons, and Leland's two wives and their sons. Many of the characters interact with each other over the 50-year period the novel covers.

The novel not only tells the story of Reggie and Leland, but that of their wives, their children, their children's girlfriends and more. Although a great deal happens, not all of it is relevant to the central story, but it does allow the author to give readers a panoramic view of the different people in the two family trees. What stood out was the excessive use of illegal drugs, not just in the sections that took place during the 1960s, but during contemporary times. Leland calls drugs his medicine and believes the world would be far better if everyone took that medicine. Judaism also plays a role in his life: sometimes he rejects the religion, while, during others, he joins a synagogue and becomes partly observant, if still a drug addict. Leland is funnier when he questions religion, for example, comparing worship to a Ponzi scheme: "Maybe the deal was God was only real if you believed in God, so you made Him and all this benefits of covenant-ing with Him real just by opting in. It was like a pyramid scheme if pyramid schemes worked: Leland would tell two friends about how great God was and they'll tell two friends and all of them would reap the benefits of being religious Jews. That was how Christians worked, though. Jews didn't want you telling two friends because those two friends may not be special enough to be Jews."

"The Comedown" is filled with unpleasant people, although I did come to admire a few of them. As scattered as the plot seems at first, the author manages to pull the sections together in the end, although the novel did leave me with some unanswered questions. The epilogue features a completely different character – one not included on the family trees – so readers are given an outsider's view of the many other characters who wander through the novel's pages. I was left with mixed feelings about the book: the writing is well done and the view panoramic, but it also left me unconcerned about the fates of the majority of its characters.

Idols Continued from page 10

that when Moses dies, God will not desert them, but will instead speak through a new leader. And to make certain that the Israelites do not mistakenly believe that they should still approach God through Moses, Moses is buried in the desert, the site of his grave unknown so that no one will visit and pray to it, rather than to God.

What the Israelites lacked, and the reason for their sidestep into idolatry, was the knowledge that their God was not limited to a particular place, that their God did not have to be approached only through a particular person. Even today, it's hard to believe in a God who can't be seen, especially when we are surrounded by practitioners of many other religions, which still have physical representations of their gods. It's not easy to feel that we are holy enough to talk directly to God; better, perhaps, to let another speak for us, we think – but that's not the Jewish way.


On my last visit to Israel, I visited the Western Wall and was moved to write down my thoughts: "Its cracks are filled with paper, / Sheets covered with hopes and dreams. / Yet when I stand before the wall, / my hands are empty, / Contain no petition to place / Within its mortar and brick. / If I kiss the wall / And insert a wish, / If I light a candle / At the grave of a saint / And whisper a prayer, / Will God do as I seek? / I do not believe / In the magic of a holy place. / I do not believe / Miracles require more than belief. / I do not believe / The wonders of the universe / Are owned by time or space."

Today we should require no golden calf. The need to be in a particular place to feel close to God, or to pray to or through someone else rather than directly to God, is a failure of belief on our part, a failure to show that we know that God is with us no matter where are we and what our circumstances. Will we prove that our faith is stronger than that of the ancient Israelites, or will we reveal ourselves to be as frightened of our world as they were of theirs?

Moving any time soon?

Whether you're moving across town or across the country, please let *The Reporter* know so you can stay up to date on community news and quickly receive the paper at your new (or temporary) address!

E-mail reporter@aol.com with "Reporter Address change" in the subject line, or call 607-724-2360, ext. 254, to let *The Reporter* know about your new address.



Jewish Community Center

JCC Friendship Club

The JCC Friendship Club met on February 13 and saw half of the movie "Yentl." Thanks to Bruce Orden, we saw Barbra Streisand star in the video that takes place in eastern Europe in 1904. Yentl lives with her father and listens to him teaching young boys. She wants to learn about Jewish laws also. We hear her father tell her that it is forbidden. We hear one of his students say that "a woman who studies Talmud is a demon." In another scene in the market, we see a man selling "sacred books for men and picture books for women." The man would not sell her the sacred book she wanted until she said it was for her father. After her father dies, there is a scene at the cemetery. When the rabbi asked who will recite *Kaddish* at the graveside, Yentl said she would do it. She was told that she could not do that, but she took the book from him and recited the prayer for the dead. Next we see her cutting her hair. She is dressed like a boy and is accepted into a yeshiva before the video is stopped. Next week, we will see the other half of the movie.

The meeting was called to order by Sylvia Diamond. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Ann Brillant said the blessing over the cookies. It was nice to meet again after missing two weeks because of cold and snowy weather. Before leaving, Sylvia read a few "daffynitions" from a book written by Charles G. Waugh, Joseph Leff and Sam Sibert. Some of them are: day break – when there is no school; expelled – time out for bad behavior; history major – living life in the past; and language requirement – words. Hopefully we won't have snow storms on a Wednesday again so we can meet. Join us at 1:30 pm at the JCC.

Sylvia Diamond
President

Mailbox Shorts

Exhibit on French Holocaust children

The Fairfield University Art Museum and the Humanities Institute will hold the exhibit "Ghosts: French Holocaust Children," an installation of sculptural and photographic work by Hirsch Projects until March 2 in the museum's Walsh Gallery, in the Quick Center for the Arts.

During World War II, more than 11,000 Jewish children were deported from France to Nazi death camps. These children were among more than 75,000 French Jews deported under the Nazi plan for the "Final Solution to the Jewish question." Of those French Jews transported, only 2,564 survived the Shoah. At most, 300 of these Jewish children survived. "Ghosts: French Holocaust Children" is a three-dimensional installation of sculptural and photographic works that acts as a commemoration to these children's abbreviated lives. The project was created based on documents and photographs collected by author, lawyer and Nazi-hunter Serge Klarsfeld, which have been reinterpreted and presented in the form of three 1/5-scale boxcars containing more than 600 expressionistic portraits of these deported children, plus a series of mural-sized individual portraits.

For more information, visit fairfield.edu/museum.

Parenting podcast

Kveller, a Jewish parenting website, now offers a weekly podcast called "Call Your Mother" at www.kveller.com/call-your-mother. The podcast is hosted by Kveller contributors Jordana Horn and Shannon Sarna. "Call Your Mother" seeks to offer "a weekly deep dive into the beautiful hot mess that is parenting while Jewish." Each episode will include an interview a Jewish mom and plans to shed light on a variety of issues, including addiction, antisemitism and sex.

HOPLER & ESCHBACH FUNERAL HOME

"A new family tradition"

Personal Service
Professionalism
Experience You Can Trust

COMPARE OUR PRICES
We charge far less than other area funeral homes

Kurt M. Eschbach, Funeral Director
483 Chenango Street Binghamton
607-722-4023
www.HEfuneralhome.com

NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

Nefesh B’Nefesh to host six “*aliyah*” events in March

Nefesh B’Nefesh will host multiple *aliyah* events across North America in March enabling prospective new immigrants to Israel (*olim*) to be as prepared as possible. The March events are co-hosted by Nefesh B’Nefesh, Israel’s Ministry of Aliyah and Integration, the Jewish Agency for Israel, Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael and the Jewish National Fund-USA. The tour will commence on the East Coast with Nefesh B’Nefesh’s annual “Mega Event” in New Jersey for the first time, which will provide a slate of resources for retirees, young professionals, families and singles looking to make *aliyah*, including “MedEx,” a dedicated track of seminars and personal meetings for medical professionals. On March 11-12, *aliyah* seminars will be held in South Florida and Canada titled “Dollars and Sense,” which are planning sessions on budgeting, cost of living, housing and job-related expenses and calculating earning potential in Israel. In addition, on March 12-13, a large-scale Aliyah Fair will head west to hold events in Los Angeles and the San Fernando Valley. The event is open to those intending to make *aliyah* in the near future, as well as those in the initial planning stages. Participants will have the opportunity to speak with like-minded individuals thinking about making Israel their new home. The parallel “MedEx” conference will provide the opportunity to meet with top representatives from the Israeli Ministry of Health Licensing Division, the Israeli Medical Association and Israeli Health Funds. Representatives from hospitals in Israel

will also be in attendance to meet with prospective *olim*. Professionals in various medical fields will be able to start the process of transferring their professional license to Israel on the spot. Visit <https://www.nbn.org.il/mega-events/mega-event-2019/#overview> to learn more about the March 10 Mega Event in New Jersey.

Israel rejects official visit U.N. Security Council to assess lands for future Palestinian state

Israel has rejected a request by the U.N. Security Council to come to Israel and assess lands the Palestinians demand be given to them for a Palestinian state, according to a report by Ynet. Equatorial Guinea’s U.N. ambassador and current UNSC President Anatolio Ndong Mba was authorized to pitch the idea to Israeli and Palestinian ambassadors. While Palestinian Ambassador Riyad Mansour was reportedly enthusiastic about the idea, Kuwaiti Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi said Ndong Mba told the council in a closed-door session on Feb. 13 that Israel has declined the idea, adding that individual ambassadors would still be welcome to visit. The request came after the United States thwarted an Security Council statement promoted by Indonesia and Kuwait, and blocked by additional Arab delegates expressing regret that Israel did not renew the Temporary International Presence in Hebron mandate, which it has resigned every six months since 1994.

College at Oxford U. debating ban on kosher meat

A college at Oxford University in England is considering a ban on kosher and halal meat from its dining hall. The school’s student government, the Junior Common Room, passed a proposition that any slaughtered animals served should be stunned before being butchered. Jewish law requires that an animal be healthy and not injured before kosher ritual slaughter, or *shechita*, and that rendering it immobile is prohibited; hence, the animal cannot be used. Although the college said it would increase its kosher and halal choices, it is looking into the nonbinding JCR motion. “We want all our students to feel comfortable and well looked-after, including at meal-times,” a college spokesperson told the BBC. “We are looking into expanding our provision of halal and kosher meat, and also providing more lactose-free, gluten-free and meat-free options, following a request by the JCR.” The president of the university’s Jewish Society, Nicole Jacobus, told the outlet: “The very fact that this amendment was passed in a JCR meeting without a Jewish student being able to challenge it highlights the lack of diversity and awareness of other cultures amongst students in Oxford. ... The vote to ban kosher food only makes the diversity issue worse, as it shows that Jewish students are not only poorly provided for, but that they cannot actively practice as Jews at Somerville [a constituent college at Oxford].”

Launch. Continued from page 8

completed testing of the spacecraft and its systems, and are preparing for the beginning of the amazing and complex journey that exemplifies innovation, creativity and courage.”

Yonatan Winetraub, one of three SpaceIL founders, placed the time capsule into the spacecraft on December 18. “This is a very emotional moment. We do not know how long the spacecraft and the time capsule will remain on the moon,” he said. “It is

very possible that future generations will find this information and want to learn more about this historic moment.”

The spacecraft, which weighs only 600 kilograms, will be the smallest to land on the moon. Most of this weight is fuel, and it will number only 150 kilograms when it lands. Its maximum speed will exceed 36,000 kilometers an hour. Doron concluded that “ultimately, this is a badge of honor for Israel’s space capabilities.”

Eye-Catching
Classifieds

SUCCESS NETWORK
Success Network is a small business association whose members are exclusive in their category and are organized to assist each other in providing and receiving business leads.
Enjoy a free lunch on us when you become a member!
For more information or if you are interested in membership, please contact Bonnie Rozen at (607)724-2360, ext. 244.
Businesses helping businesses grow!
www.successnetworkbc.com

YOUR HEATING & PLUMBING SPECIALISTS
BAKER'S PLUMBING & HEATING
We Also Do Natural Gas Conversions & All Plumbing Work
Free Estimates • Fully Insured • Residential & Commercial
We Install, Service & Repair...
Furnaces • Air Conditioners
Water Heaters • Gas Fireplaces
SERVING BROOME & TIOGA COUNTIES
754-6376
pbaker927@yahoo.com

ALBRITE ELECTRIC
ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR
607-748-2105
Residential & Commercial
• Troubleshooting • Panel Upgrades •
• Outlets • Switches • Generators •
• Indoor/Outdoor Lighting • Electric Heat •
• And ALL Your Electrical Needs!
Fax: (888) 831-7958
Email: ksa@albriteelectric.com
www.albriteelectric.com
Licensed & Insured

GARY RILEY
I'll drive you or
I'll deliver your vehicle near or far,
pets welcome!
REFERENCES AVAILABLE
607-760-0530
GRILES45@GMAIL.COM

Need someone to drive you close to home?
I can drive you to:
• Restaurants
• Doctor Appointments
• Shopping
• Casinos
• Airports Closer to Home
• ?
Bob Howe • 607-427-2534
References provided

SUE E. RAPP, LCSW-R
Counseling for
teens & adults
All major insurances accepted
300 Main Street Vestal, NY 13850
srapp@stny.rr.com
607-743-4536

HANDYMAN 4 SENIORS, INC.
All your home maintenance and repairs, along with in-home care services. These care services include but are not limited to:
• Bath Assistance
• Meal Prep
• Cleaning
• Shopping, etc.
John Jacoby M.C.
Valerie Jacoby C.N.A.
(Licensed & Insured)
888-540-0320
www.handyman4seniors.com

COOK'S TREE SERVICE
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
Fully Insured
Free Estimates
Our 50th Year
NEW YORK CHAPTER
ISA CERTIFIED ARBORIST
Professionals In All Phases Of:
• Tree Care • Tree Stump Removal
• Trimming Trees Shrubs & Tall Hedges
• Tree Insect & Disease Identification & Treatment
WWW.COOKSTREESERVICE.NET
607-748-2347
4 Pumphouse Rd Vestal, N.Y.

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!
For information on advertising, contact Bonnie Rozen at 724-2360, ext. 244 or bonnie@thereportergr.org

Dashing Queen
NAIL & SPA
Bring a friend!
Purchase one service and second guest gets service only for half price!
Available only January - March
(20% Tips of original price would be appreciated)
951 Vestal Parkway East Vestal, NY 13850
760-6219 • 798-8880