

# THE REPORTER

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## JFS to offer “Beyond the Rainbow: LGBTQ in the Binghamton Jewish Community” on Jan. 29

Jewish Family Service, in conjunction with Pride and Joy Families/Lesbian and Gay Families Building Project and Temple Concord, will hold the program “Beyond the Rainbow: Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender/Queer in the Binghamton Jewish Community” on Tuesday, January 29, at Temple Concord, 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton. There will be no charge for the program and the light dinner. The dinner will held at 5:30 pm, with the program running from 6:15-8 pm. The community is invited to attend. (The snow date will be Tuesday, February 26.)

The purpose of the program is to make the Binghamton Jewish community a more welcoming place for LGBTQ people and create allies. Roz Antoun, the director of JFS, noted, “We hope this program will help increase our Jewish community’s understanding of the unique perspectives of LGBTQ individuals. Topics to be covered will include the basics of sexual orientation and gender identity, and how to be more welcoming, inclusive and affirming of LGBTQ people who are friends, family, neighbors and associates.”

The event will include presentations by Rabbis Barbara Goldman-Wartell and Rachel Esserman of the multiple genders mentioned in the Bible and the Talmud. A panel including Harry Cohen, Claudia Stallman and others will offer first person accounts by folks who live at the intersection of Jewish and LGBTQ identities. Trainer and teacher Alex Compton-Monell will lead the discussion about gender identity and sexual orientation, and how to be an ally.

According to Claudia Stallman, one of the event organizers, “This program

is both personal and professional for me, given my work at Pride and Joy Families, Binghamton’s LGBTQ family organization. I was so glad that Roz approached me with the idea of doing some sort of educational program together. I am looking forward to learning more about what Judaism has to say on this subject and engaging in this community conversation.”

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

## Jewish approach to criminal justice to be studied at the Rohr Chabad Center this winter

With criminal justice reform currently taking center-stage, the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute – the world’s largest Jewish adult education network – is launching a course that explores the Jewish approach to the questions of crime, punishment and justice. “Crime and Consequence” is a six-part series that will be offered beginning in February locally as well as at hundreds of locations worldwide.

The United States of America has the highest rate of incarceration in the world. A reported 2.3 million Americans are in prisons and jails: almost a quarter of the world’s prisoners are in America.

In a rare show of bipartisan workmanship, the First Step Act passed the Senate

in December and is soon expected to become law. Among other provisions, the bill gives prisoners new ways to earn early release, expands compassionate release for terminally ill prisoners and will keep inmates closer to their families. The bill is said to have brought the debate about criminal justice into focus; Americans are discussing the value of tougher or smarter reforms, fairness of mandatory minimum sentencing as opposed to judicial discretion and whether prison is at all effective in reforming criminals.

JLI’s “Crime and Consequence” course will tackle these questions from a Jewish perspective, addressing topics such as “What’s the purpose of prison: punishment, deterrence

or rehabilitation?,” “What’s Judaism’s position on the death penalty?” and “Can criminals ever make amends, and, if so, how?” The course will draw on ancient Jewish sources, while using contemporary materials to give a modern context to the discussion.

Course participants will discover that the Jewish approach to justice goes well beyond the reforms in the First Step Act, providing alternative sentences for non-dangerous criminals that are tailored to fit the crime, and advocating for rehabilitation programs that continue well after punishment has been served.

“The debate over the First Step Act shows that Judaism’s timeless truths and insights about human nature, society and

wrongdoing are as relevant today as ever before,” said Rivkah Slonim, course director. “JLI’s ‘Crime and Consequence’ course brings these important Jewish perspectives home to our own community.”

The program has won early endorsements from law professors and criminal justice campaigners.

Dr. John H. Laub, a professor in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Maryland, welcomed the course. “Questions about the causes of crime and the appropriate governmental response have challenged and bedeviled social thinkers for centuries. Indeed, such big questions have no easy See “Justice” on page 3

### Spotlight

## For the past decade, Innovation: Africa has taught developing nations how to improve their lives

By Noa Amouyal

(JNS) – Imagine giving birth in the dark. For those fortunate enough to have a charged smartphone, the husband will use the phone as a makeshift flashlight, enabling the doctor to see what his hands are doing. Or imagine bathing, cooking and cleaning with contaminated water, and feeling sediments of dirt brush up against your skin as you attempt mundane everyday tasks like washing your face.

For many Africans, what is inconceivable to the developed world is their reality. In Central Africa alone, “fewer than three out of five children make it through primary school, and almost half the population has no access to clean water,” according to a December UNICEF report.

“We have women who go to the hospital at night to give birth and there’s no electricity, so they use kerosene. There are some cases where doctors and nurses ask patients to come with their own source of light,” Leria Moshi from Tanzania told JNS.

Moshi was one of the 24 local Innova-

*At right: Sivan Ya’ari spoke with residents of a village in Uganda who are the beneficiaries of Israeli technology being exported to the continent. (Photo courtesy of Innovation Africa)*



tion: Africa (or IA) employees who came to Israel in December for a two-week training course in innovation and community development. Their trip, which was coordinated in partnership with Israel’s Agency for International Development Cooperation and the Center for International Agriculture Development Cooperation, gave them “an eye-opening” look at the latest in Israeli technology that can help turn back the tide

of poverty sweeping the continent.

For nearly 10 years, the New York-based Innovation: Africa has demonstrated that a little can go a long way. With simple Israeli technology, it is teaching developing nations in the continent how to create self-sufficient infrastructure and bring access to clean water, education, refrigeration for vaccines and medicines, and food security to the region.

To date, the organization has installed

Israeli solar, water and agricultural technologies in more than 200 villages in 10 African countries that has impacted the lives of some 1.3 million people. But most importantly, its program teaches local community leaders, project managers and engineers how to maintain the technologies given to them so they can be self-reliant.

“We are using Israeli innovations to empower and transform the lives of others,” said its founder and CEO, Sivan Ya’ari, at a December 18 ceremony at the Peres Center for Peace and Innovation honoring several milestones: a 10-year anniversary for IA, 60 for MASHAV and, of course, Israel’s 70<sup>th</sup>.

“President [Shimon] Peres understood that we cannot live on an island of prosperity, and that it is our duty to share,” she said. “He understood that poverty and ignorance enable terror, and that we can stop it if we chose to empower the other.”

It is a message that the African delegation has internalized during their time in Israel. “Israel believes in not letting other people See “Africa” on page 4

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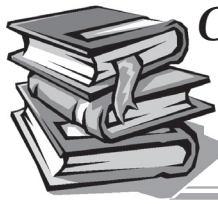
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Off the Shelf

# Halakhah from several angles

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

What exactly is halakhah? The concept is more difficult to understand than one might expect, at least according to Chaim N. Saiman's "Halakhah: The Rabbinic Idea of Law" (Princeton University Press). Saiman, who is a professor in the Charles Widger School of Law at Villanova University, looks at halakhah from an unusual viewpoint: he's interested in how legal disputations also came to serve as religious practice. He notes that his "book is largely an attempt to explain halakhah as experienced from within... the halakhah castle to an audience standing outside it... the goal is not to unearth the history of halakhah but to offer a constructive account of the interpretive and conception practices presented within it." In simpler terms, Saiman explores the way halakhah works for the Jews who study it for legal and spiritual reasons.

Saiman notes that halakhah is usually translated as Jewish law, but the literal meaning of the word – "the path" – better explains how the halakhic system works. The reason for the common translation is that most people think of halakhah as the laws that have governed Jews throughout the century. Yet, Saiman shows how it has a far wider range. In fact, he believes the halakhic system functions in four different ways, none of which are mutually exclusive: "Halakhah is concurrently a system of governing rules and practices, a forum for legal analysis, a platform of religious expression, and an object of devotional study."

Over the course of his work, Saiman examines each of these ways of looking at halakhah. One of the most interesting chapters looks at halakhah as "non-applied" law. Halakhah developed during Greco-Roman times when Jews didn't have sovereignty over the judicial system and could not, for example, practice capital punishment. That did not stop the ancient rabbis from discussing in great detail who would be deserving of

capital punishment and how that punishment would be dispensed. A great many Jewish institutions and practices – including the Temple, sacrifices and the priesthood – were no longer relevant once the Temple had been destroyed. Yet, one of the first works of halakhah, the Mishnah, acts as if the laws it includes were still being meted out by a court system. Saiman notes that the halakhic system "adopts an as-if jurisprudence; detailing regulations *as if* the Temple in Jerusalem stood in all its splendor; *as if* the Jewish people were sovereign in the land; *as if* the Sanhedrin exercised its powers; and *as if* Jewish criminal law was routinely enforced in accord with mishnaic doctrines."

Saiman also discusses how it's possible to understand rabbinic theology through halakhic arguments, even if the rabbis themselves don't specifically speak in theological terms. The study of halakhah was the way these Jews connected to God after the destruction of the Temple. While they engaged in study partly for its own sake they also believed studying Torah – written and oral Torah – helped them learn how God wanted them to behave. The Torah (in its largest sense as encompassing all biblical and rabbinic writings) was said to contain all the knowledge one needed to function in this world. Every detail in the Torah – no matter how minor or unimportant it seemed – had something to teach these rabbis and their students.

In "Halakhah," Saiman also explains how Jewish study over the years has changed. He notes that while medieval codes, such as Maimonides' "Mishneh Torah," were supposed to limit the need for discussion about the correct way to follow a law, that quickly changed. Codes themselves became objects of study and commentary. Commentators varied as to whether they were looking for practical applications of halakhah or offering theoretical

ideas that would never be put into practice. The study of halakhah is still considered a religious practice today, not only in *yeshivot*, but at synagogues and community centers. Another example of contemporary study is the Daf Yomi movement, through which people of all ages and branches of Judaism agree to study a page of Talmud a day. Some do so for religious reasons; others just enjoy the intellectual challenge.

Saiman includes a chapter on the founding of the state of Israel and its relationship to halakhah. He notes that halakhah offers no guidance on how to govern a modern state because the different texts offer too many options. There also is no structure on how to turn these theoretical laws into functioning governmental rulings. One example is the halakhic idea of the importance of saving a life: "Halakhah requires a passerby (Joseph) to drop everything and spend time and money to save Benjamin's life. How does this individual mandate translate to state policy? What emergencies must a halakhah state plan for? What should its health policy look like?... Since the mitzvah of saving lives is paramount, must the entire Gross Domestic Product of a halakhah state be devoted to healthcare? Who pays, and by what mechanism are scarce health resources to be allocated? And who makes these decisions?" The answers to these questions can't be found in current halakhic texts.

This review only touches on a few areas that Saiman discusses. The concepts he uses can be difficult to grasp at first since his view of halakhah is very different from other works on the subject. However, his writing will appeal to scholars and laypersons who are willing to work a little to understand his ideas. "Halakhah" offers fascinating insights into how the rabbis transformed their religion into the study of law and how that transformation still informs Judaism today.

## Opinion

From the Desk of the Federation Executive Director

### Hello, this is Sima

SIMA AUERBACH

I mentioned some words about tax deductions in my last Hello and would like to amend what I had written.

Although the personal exemption was eliminated by the new law, the standard deduction was nearly doubled. It's now \$12,000 for single people and \$24,000 for married couples filing jointly; for married taxpayers who are 65

or older, or blind, each spouse receives an additional standard deduction amount of \$1,300. For a single individual or head of household meeting the same criteria, the additional standard deduction amount is \$1,600. While the charitable deduction was left unchanged and is still tax deductible, your ability to claim the charitable

contribution deduction will depend on whether you have enough charitable and other itemized deductions to exceed the standard deduction.

Hope this is clear.

P.S. Went to visit Abraham on his one month birthday. I wish him a less complicated world!

In My Own Words

### Mexico and Central America

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Mexico recently announced that it would spend up to \$10.6 billion from funds already received from the United States to create government initiatives, which will help those living in poverty in Mexico and Central America. While it is unfortunate that it took President Donald Trump threatening to cut aid if the caravans traveling to the U.S. to seek refuge don't stop, it makes sense to improve the lives of Mexicans and Central Americans so they won't feel the need to leave their countries. These efforts are long, long overdue.

Before people say my support of this initiative makes me anti-immigration and asylum, let me be clear: I fully support allowing people to immigrate or seek asylum in our country. I will always be grateful that my ancestors were allowed to enter the U.S. In addition, I appreciate the regular influx of hard working people – of all nationalities,

skin colors, ethnicities and religions – who have made our nation a better place to live. However, wouldn't it also be wonderful if people didn't feel forced to leave their homes due to oppression, poverty, natural disasters or war?

Most immigrants enter the U.S. for economic or safety reasons. This is not an easy choice. Underlying their decision usually is a sense of desperation that's difficult for those of us living in safety in a land of plenty to understand. Just think of what they leave behind – their families, language and culture – to start fresh in a new place. These are the people who come to the United States willing to take hard and back-breaking work, and to risk being treated as second class citizens – because they know no English or speak with an accent – in order to have a better life.

The newspaper article I recently read about this topic quoted analysts who said this initiative wouldn't work, at

least in the short term, because there is an enormous amount of governmental reform that needs to take place. But, just because the problem isn't easily solved, does that mean we shouldn't try to make a difference? The caravans are a symptom of a greater problem, whether it's corruption in the Central American and Mexican governments, the need for greater knowledge and technology in those countries, or the financial resources to recover from disasters and violence.

The subject puts me in mind of a quote from Pirke Avot (Sayings of the Fathers) that has appeared in this column before: "It is not your responsibility to finish the work, but neither are you free to desist from it." So my answer is, "Allow people to immigrate to our country. Give asylum to those who need it now. But also help make it possible for people to remain in their homelands by helping make those homelands as safe and economically solvent as our own."



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# American Southwest talk at BD luncheon on Jan. 12

On Saturday, January 12, Beth David Synagogue's Luncheon Speaker Series will begin 2019 with guest speaker Charlie Manasse. He will focus on his recent vacation in America's Southwest, sharing his experiences related to the Jewish elements he discovered in states including New Mexico. How did Jews end up in that part of America? When are the records of their first arrival there? What is Jewish life there now, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century? These are among the topics that will be explored by Manasse.

"I aim to offer an informative and entertaining presentation," Manasse said, "and look forward to sharing some of my off-the-beaten-track encounters, including meeting the chief judge of the Tribal Court of San Juan Pueblo, Navajo Reservation in New Mexico, who is not only fluent in Navajo and Hopi, but happens to be Jewish and from Brooklyn, of all places!" Manasse will also share his Shabbat experience as part of the morning services in Albuquerque, NM.

Longtime residents of upstate New York, Manasse's parents fled Nazi Germany in 1938 to come to the United States. A few years later, they bought a farm near Greene, where they were in the cattle dealer business. They are described in Professor Rhonda Levine's 2001 book, "Class,

Networks and Identity: Replanting Jewish Lives from Nazi Germany to Rural New York." Born in Greene, Manasse attended high school there, and later moved to Whitney Point. He graduated with a degree in economics from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. He subsequently returned to be part of the family cattle business. He was in the auction business and was the owner of the Whitney Point Livestock Auction. Manasse was a professional automobile auctioneer for 30 years, working from Buffalo to Boston. As a member of the NYS Auctioneer's Association, he served on the board and as president. He was also inducted into the NYS Auctioneer's Hall of Fame.

Manasse's positions in local government include having served as supervisor of the town of Barker for six years; at that time, he was the youngest supervisor in New York state. Presently, he is the supervisor of the town of Triangle.

A longtime member of the Jewish community, he serves as first vice-president of Beth David Synagogue, is on the Executive Board of the Jewish Federation of Greater



Charlie Manasse

Binghamton, and is house chair of Beth David and the JCC.

"Charlie has a wealth of knowledge of so many things," organizers say, "and his adventures are always a source of fascination. His experiences in America's Southwest will surely spark vivid memories for those who have been there; for those who haven't, it will be an eye-opening talk, particularly as it relates to the Jewish aspects of his trip."

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, however, 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 Sisterhood annual book review on Jan. 13

On Sunday, January 13, from 11 am-1 pm, Rabbi Rachel Esserman will review three books at the annual Temple Concord Sisterhood book review, at Temple Concord, 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton. The snow date is Sunday, January 20. The program is open to the public. Brunch will be served at a cost of \$3 per person.

The books to be reviewed are "The Ruined House" by Israeli novelist Ruby Namdar, "Heretics" by Leonardo Padura and "You'll Miss Me when I'm Gone" by Rachel Lynn Solomon.

Esserman said, "I am once again looking forward to the Sisterhood book review. The first two novels will be challenging literary works, one of which is translated from Hebrew and the other from Spanish. For the first time, I'm reviewing a young adult novel, but the dilemma these young Jewish women find themselves in is anything but simple. The Sisterhood book review is one of my favorite events of the year and I can't wait to read these intriguing novels."

Namdar's "The Ruined House" won the Sapir Prize, Israel's highest literary award. There was controversy over the win because Namdar does not live in Israel. A rule was passed saying all winners must now live in Israel. *The New York Times* called the book "a masterpiece," although not all reviewers agreed. It tells the story of Andrew P. Cohen, a professor of comparative culture at New York University, who is at the zenith of his life, but the manicured surface of his world begins to crack when he is visited by a series of strange and inexplicable visions involving an ancient religious ritual that will upend his comfortable life. This literary novel includes pages borrowed from the Talmud as the author explores ideas about ancient Israel.

Padura's "Heretics" has been called "a sweeping novel of art theft, antisemitism, contemporary Cuba and crime." The



Rabbi Rachel Esserman

plot looks at what happened to a Jewish family escaping Europe with a valuable Rembrandt. The painting disappears, but 70 years later is put up for auction. The novel travels from the tenements and beaches of Cuba to Rembrandt's studio in 17<sup>th</sup>-century Amsterdam, telling the story of people forced to choose between the tenets of their faith and the realities of the world, between their personal desires and the demands of their times.

Solomon's "You'll Miss Me when I'm Gone" is a young adult novel about young twin Jewish women who are tested for a genetic illness. One tests negative, while the other tests positive. The novel explores their relationship as they deal with the idea that one

of them will die young.

Esserman is the executive editor and book reviewer for The Reporter Group. Her editorials and reviews have won awards from the American Jewish Press Association and the Syracuse Press Club. She also serves as the Jewish chaplain for Broome Development Disabilities Service Office. A Reconstructionist rabbi who says her first love is teaching, she sees her position at *The Reporter* as an opportunity to educate the public about Judaism.

# TI planning trip to Israel

Temple Israel is planning a group trip to Israel for fall 2019 or early winter 2020. An interest meeting was held on December 9 at Temple Israel. A second meeting will be held on Sunday, January 13, from 4-5 pm, and a third meeting on Sunday, February 10, from 4-5 pm. All interested members of the Jewish community are welcome.

Under consideration is the 11-day Jewish Heritage Journey to Israel run by American Israel Tours, which is geared for active adults. The trip includes two nights in Tel Aviv, two nights at Kibbutz Lavi Hotel Galilee and

five nights in Jerusalem. Complete land packages start at \$1,875, hotel options vary. Flights are not included, but the group will try to get a group rate and can arrange for transportation to Newark airport.

Organizers say, "It will be a life-changing trip. Please join us on January 13 at Temple Israel to learn about the trip."

More information can be found on the American Israel Tours website, [www.americaisrael.com/jewish-tours-israel/new-jewish-heritage/](http://www.americaisrael.com/jewish-tours-israel/new-jewish-heritage/), or by calling 877-248-8687. Other questions can be directed to Rabbi Geoffrey Brown at Temple Israel.

# TI/TC adult ed. program on Jan. 27

The next Temple Israel/Temple Concord Adult Education program will be presented on Sunday, January 27, at 10 am, at Temple Israel. The program will be a viewing of Manfred Kirchheimer's documentary "My Coffee with Jewish Friends." The film director interviews a cross-section of the Jewish community, raising such questions as: How does our Jewish identity impact your life? Is our Jewish identity enhanced because of Israel? Does an increase in antisemitic incidents make us more sensitive to our religion? Did the Holocaust strengthen our Jewish traditions or undermine them? The film has been called a thought-provoking collection of views, opinions and beliefs.

In a review in *The New York Times*, Ken Jaworowski wrote: "In the film he speaks with more than 20 people and comes away with countless viewpoints, as well as

some smiles and bittersweet tales. The most thoughtful discussions are with those who have lost faith in a God, or whose beliefs have altered over time."

Simon Abrams, in *The Village Voice*, wrote: "Political head-butting and crabby bon mots energize a series of wide ranging conversations about the nature of secular Judaism in this consistently entertaining documentary."

Community members are invited to have breakfast with their Jewish friends at Temple Israel. In order to cover a partial cost of the film, the Adult Ed. Committee will be charging \$10 for the breakfast. The community is advised to contact Tammy Kunsman in the Temple Israel office at [titammy@stny.twcbc.com](mailto:titammy@stny.twcbc.com) or call 723-7461 to make a reservation by Wednesday, January 23, so organizers can ensure sufficient food and sufficient seating for the movie.

# Justice..... Continued from page 1

answers. In light of the current bi-partisan support for criminal justice reform, especially at the state and local level, the course is timely and important. I am glad to see the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute take on this topic in a thoughtful and productive manner," he said.

"We are now at a moment of changing attitudes among policymakers and the general public regarding the world-record prison population in the United States. With increasing calls for a change in our approach to crime and punishment, the JLI course is quite timely in helping to frame these issues for a broad audience," noted Marc Mauer, executive director of the Sentencing Project.

Two of JLI's other adult education courses - "How Happiness Thinks" and "Living with Integrity" - are on a list of just 66 programs recommended to prison wardens nationwide as recidivism-reducing by the Federal Bureau of Prisons as part of the new prison reforms.

In Binghamton, the course will be offered at the Rohr Chabad Center in Vestal on six consecutive Mondays at

7 pm beginning on February 4, and on six consecutive Wednesdays at 9:30 am beginning on February 6.

The cost for the course, which includes the text book, is \$79 for individuals and \$140 for couples or multiple sign-ups. The course is accredited for Continuing Legal Education in most states, including New York.

To sign up, write to [rslonim@chabadofbinghamton.com](mailto:rslonim@chabadofbinghamton.com), call the Chabad Center at 797-0015 or register online at [myjli.com](http://myjli.com).

JLI, the adult education branch of Chabad-Lubavitch, offers programs in more than 960 locations in the U.S. and in numerous foreign countries, including Argentina, Australia, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands, Panama, Russia, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, Uruguay and Venezuela. More than 400,000 students have attended JLI classes since the organization was founded in 1998.

*The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to Terri Bennett on the death of her husband,*

**Shepard "Shep" Bennett**

*The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to Earl Gordon the death of his brother,*

**Phillip "Butch" Gordon**

*The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to Debbie Saltzman the death of her mother,*

**Bea Saltzman**

# Wine & Paint Night

A fun evening of guided painting, wine and friends! We will help you create a painting unique to you! Fee includes wine, light refreshments, paint & canvas

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 19 • 7pm**  
**\$30M / \$40NM**

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# Africa . . . . . Continued from page 1

suffer," Robert Khahosi, an IA project manager from Uganda, told JNS while touring the Old City of Jerusalem. "Like Moses, who lost one sheep and had to leave his other 99 sheep to look for the missing one, Israel is going back and making sure everyone is accounted for. We are that missing sheep."

How, then, does IA enact such radical and practical change in these communities? In Khahosi's Uganda, for example, installing solar panels, solar pumps, water tanks and taps brought clean drinking water to villages where residents had to walk some three hours for access to non-contaminated water.

IA community developer Abraham Ngobeni saw similar transformations in his native Bushbuckridge, South Africa. "Women would collect water from open sources, where they would just gather water with their hands on the river banks," he told JNS. "Sometimes, they'd travel long distances to do this. Innovation Africa changed that. In six months, we completed 11 projects. Now women don't have to walk long distances

to collect water. IA came as a savior."

While touring Israel's agriculture and energy-research centers, like the Volcani and Arava institutes, the delegation learned how the technology they are already using back home can be upgraded. Mercy Tayim, for one, is particularly interested in seeing the implementation of hydroponics in her home country of Cameroon.

This relatively new Israeli technology takes urban gardening to the next level. With hydroponics, no soil is needed. Instead, nutrients like fish excrement, duck manure or fertilizers are used in a water solvent. This is ideal for urban spaces that have little farmland or areas with limited fertile soil. "In many places [in my country], there isn't much free land, so this is a great option," Tayim told JNS. "In other places, there is a surplus of land, but it's not fertile. So lots of areas suffer from famine. If we can train people to use these technologies, we can help relieve our food-scarcity problem."

Exporting this technology could be useful far beyond

the continent's borders. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 54 percent of the world's population lives in urban areas and that population is expected to increase to 66 percent by 2050.

But Ya'ari is most gratified when she sees how her organization affects people on an individual level. "It is priceless to see the eyes of children looking at a bright light bulb for the first time, and to witness children and mothers tasting clean water," said Ya'ari.

However, Ya'ari believes IA's work has just begun. "Although we've helped over one million people, it is only a drop in the ocean," she said. "There are still over 600 million people in Africa without energy, and 350 million people searching for water every single day. Now that Israel is strong, by sharing its innovation we can bless other families in the world. We can fulfil our destiny, and by sharing our innovations we can take action and stand up to our responsibility to be a blessing and realize our purpose, which is to better this world."

## Business Profiles

### AUDIO CLASSICS

Specialty: Audio-Home Theater-Video-Guitars  
 Location: 3501 Vestal Rd.  
 Vestal, NY 13850  
 Phone: 607-766-3501 or 800-321-AUDIO (2834)  
 Fax: 607-766-3501  
 E-mail: steve@audioclassics.com  
 Website: www.AUDIOCLASSICS.com  
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/Vestal-NY/Audio-Classics-Ltd/231680698962?ref=nf

Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8 am-5:30 pm, Sat. 11 am-4 pm  
 AUDIO CLASSICS, located at 3501 Vestal Rd., in Vestal, has grown to be one of the premiere providers of quality audio and home theater systems for a wide range of tastes, environments and budgets. Featuring products from McIntosh, Bowers & Wilkins, Marantz, Levinson, Klipsch, JBL, VPI, Magnepan, Denon and more. AUDIO CLASSICS is the dream come true for all music lovers. Now add custom design for your new home or commercial project, a vast array of quality pre-owned equipment and a liberal trade option. AUDIO CLASSICS offers more of the good for less than any other dealer. Want more? With pleasure! Visit its superb website at www.AUDIOCLASSICS.com.

### Disaster Clean-up

Specialty: Full-service fire and water damage restoration  
 Name: Arthur Diamond  
 Location: 1612 Watson Blvd.  
 Endwell, NY 13760  
 Phone: 607-748-0128  
 Hours: 24/7, including holidays

Disaster Clean-Up is a full-service fire and water damage restoration company. The company covers all of Broome County and the Southern Tier, and has trained technicians on call 24/7, including holidays, to respond to emergencies. Disaster Clean-Up is proud to offer the most advanced technology and largest capacity for drying and dehumidification in all of the Southern Tier. Services range from mold removal to moisture testing to cleaning of buildings and their contents, and more.

From the smallest fire or water loss in your home to the largest commercial disasters, Disaster-Up can do it all.

### Ernest H. Parsons Funeral Home

Specialty: Funeral  
 Location: 71 Main St.  
 Binghamton, NY 13905  
 Name: Joseph Fritsch  
 Phone: 607-724-1336  
 Fax: 607-724-1337  
 E-mail: parsonsfuneral@yahoo.com  
 Website: www.parsonsfuneral.com  
 Hours: 24/7/365

The Ernest H. Parsons Funeral Home, located at 71 Main St., Binghamton, has been a landmark since 1928 and is located in the J. Stewart Wells Mansion, built by renowned architect Isaac Perry, who completed construction in 1867.

Ernest H. Parsons owned and operated the funeral home from 1928 until his death in 1976. Charles Mills purchased the funeral home after Ernest's death and continued the tradition until his retirement in 2012. The current owners – J. Fritsch, R. Fynboe, S. Pitkorchemny and K. Vakiener – strive to uphold the original motto of the founder: "Let Us Serve You with Understanding." Parsons Funeral Home offers distinctive service with respectful attentiveness to the ceremonial rites and the utmost consideration of families' desires to accord a last tribute of affection and esteem to their departed loved ones.

### Garufi Law P.C.

Specialty: Legal services  
 Location: 68 Oak St.  
 Binghamton, NY 13905  
 Owner: Carman M. Garufi  
 Phone: 607-722-5000  
 Fax: 607-722-5626  
 Hours: Mon.-Fri., 8 am-5 pm

Garufi Law P.C. has been serving the Southern Tier for more than 27 years. Carman M. Garufi started the practice in March 1991 with an emphasis on Matrimonial/Family Law. Since 2007, he has been selected one of the Best Lawyers® in America for Family Law. Garufi has been honored as a New York Super Lawyer® for 10 years, and he has been named a Best Lawyers® Lawyer of the Year for Family Law in Binghamton for 2019. He is a past President of the Broome County Bar Association.

Sandra J. Garufi is of Counsel, with experience in Family Law and Criminal matters, assisting with Wills and Estates. Alena E. Van Tull joined the firm in August 2010 and handles Family Law/Matrimonial matters, Criminal matters, Elder Law and Landlord/Tenant matters.

## Did you know?

(NAPSA) - Growing small businesses can simplify collaboration by using productivity apps that bring chat, meetings, files and business apps together into one platform. To help, Microsoft's chat-based workspace, Teams, is now available in a free version. Read more at [aka.ms/freeteams](https://aka.ms/freeteams).

To learn more about 10 all-star microbusinesses, including how they got their starts, tackled challenges, and the techniques and technologies that have led to their success, download the Microsoft e-book at [https://info.microsoft.com/10under10eBook.html?wt.mc\\_id=AID608734\\_QSG\\_145084](https://info.microsoft.com/10under10eBook.html?wt.mc_id=AID608734_QSG_145084).

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## NEWS IN BRIEF FROM ISRAEL

From JNS.org

### Haredi mother wins Tiberias marathon

A *haredi* mother of five from Jerusalem won the Tiberias Marathon on Jan. 4, the first ultra-Orthodox woman to take first prize in the event. Bracha Deutsch, known by her friends as "Speedy Beatie," finished the race in 2 hours, 42 minutes and 18 seconds – the fifth fastest time for a female Israeli marathon runner – and was cheered across the finish line by her husband, a yeshiva teacher, and her children. Deutsch, a 29-year-old who made *aliyah* from New Jersey eight years ago, told Ynet that she did not anticipate winning the race. The victory marks Deutsch's fourth marathon. She competed in the Tel Aviv Marathon while seven months pregnant and began training for the trials just three years ago. Though Deutsch's time would have qualified her to enter the 2016 Olympic games, the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo entry requirements demand a completion time of 2 hours and 36 minutes.

### Hebrew U. prof. to give anti-Israel speech in Europe

A senior professor at Hebrew University, Prof. Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian, is scheduled to deliver a lecture later this month in Amsterdam accusing Israel of exploiting Palestinian children to promote arms sales. The conference, "Technologies of Violence at Damascus Gate," is being organized by the Faculty for Israeli-Palestinian Peace, an international group that "stands against the concept and process of normalization" with Israel. According to the event description, first reported on by *Makor Rishon* newspaper, Shalhoub-Kevorkian will

explain how Israel uses the "bodies and lives" and "daily suffering" of Palestinian children in order to improve its weapon sales. Through the "the voices and writings of Jerusalemite children who live under Occupation," explains the event promo, "she will reveal how surveying, imprisoning, torturing and killing can be used as a laboratory for states, arms companies, and security agencies to market their technologies as "combat proven." Shalhoub-Kevorkian is the Lawrence D. Biele Chair of Law at Hebrew University, which faced criticism the week of Jan. 4 after a professor was filmed scolding a student who attended class wearing an IDF uniform. In response to the lecture, Hebrew University responded that "the lecturer accepted the invitation to the conference on her own initiative, without the involvement of the university or connection to her position."

### Malaysia blocks entry to Israeli swimmers for world championship

Malaysia has denied Israel's Paralympics swimming team from entering the country to partake in the World Para Swimming Championships in July. The event, to be held in the Malaysian city of Kuching, is considered crucial as the outcome will affect the competition of the 2020 Paralympics in Tokyo, which will host more than 600 swimmers from 70 nations. Israel and Malaysia currently have no diplomatic relations. Israeli Olympic Committee Chairman Nisim Sasportas told Ynet, "In principle, everyone says that it will work out, but we have still not received an invitation or visas. We are continuing to apply pressure."



# Business Profiles



## Hopler & Eschbach Funeral Home

Specialty: Funeral services, burials and cremation  
Location: 483 Chenango St.  
Binghamton, NY 13901  
Name: Kurt M. Eschbach  
Phone: 607-722-4023  
E-mail: hoplereschbachfh@aol.com  
Website: www.hefuneralhome.com  
Hours: 24-hour service, 365 days a year

When faced with the death of a loved one, Hopler & Eschbach Funeral Home invites you to turn to its caring staff to help guide you through the funeral process. Deeply experienced and knowledgeable in the performance of Jewish burial customs, Kurt Eschbach and his staff are the most qualified professionals in the community to help plan and carry out your funeral or memorial services. They provide services at your synagogue, the funeral home or cemetery, and also provide cremation services and funeral pre-planning.

The funeral home and parking areas are newly renovated and spacious. Staff work diligently to provide the highest quality service at a cost that is 10-30% lower than other funeral homes. With their quality service, fair pricing and newly renovated facilities, Kurt and his staff believe you will make Hopler & Eschbach Funeral Home your new family tradition.

## Howard Hanna - Suzanne (Sue)

### Krause

Specialty: Residential real estate  
Location: 4747 Vestal Parkway East  
Vestal, NY 13850  
Name: Suzanne (Sue) Krause, Licensed Associate  
Real Estate Broker  
Phones: 607-772-1177  
607-760-3366 (cell)  
E-mail: suekrause@howardhanna.com  
Website: suzannekrause.howardhanna.com

Sue Krause is a licensed associate real estate broker with Howard Hanna in Vestal, NY. After working in real estate in California and Massachusetts, Sue returned to real estate in the Greater Binghamton area in 2007, after spending many years as a successful healthcare consultant. She is a consistent multi-million dollar producer and President's Council member, and would love to help you with any of your real estate needs!

## The Reporter

Specialty: Advertising  
Location: 500 Clubhouse Rd.  
Vestal, NY 13850  
Name: Bonnie Rozen  
Phone: 607-724-2360, ext. 244  
Fax: 607-724-2311  
E-mail: bonnie@thereportergroup.org  
Website: www.thereportergroup.org  
Hours: Mon.-Thurs., 10:30 am-5 pm, Fri. 10:30 am-4 pm

With 50 years' experience in sales, and celebrating 23 years at *The Reporter*, Bonnie truly enjoys working with people to get the word out about their businesses, and helping them to create the look they want for their print ads. "Satisfaction guaranteed" is her mantra.

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

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

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

## Women's OB/GYN Associates

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

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

To learn more about these women's healthcare providers, or to contact the office of Women's OB/GYN Associates, visit [www.womensobgyn.info](http://www.womensobgyn.info) and "like" their page on Facebook.

## Did you know?

((NAPS) - Job hunters can find useful connections and ideas on LinkedIn, which has more than 10 million job listings and handy job-hunting hints at <http://blog.linkedin.com>.

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## Weekly Parasha

Bo, Exodus 10:1-13:16

# Bo: The heavy heart

RABBI BARUCH BINYAMIN HAKOHEN MELMAN, TEMPLE ISRAEL OF THE POCONOS

The Talmud teaches us *Rachmana liba bae*, meaning "God wants our hearts." God wants us to have a heart connection with Him. And if we are to have a heart connection with God, how much more so are we to try to achieve such a connection with God's creatures, our fellow creatures! It's hard enough to love a stranger, but does that extend to our enemy, as well? Or even to hidden negative aspects of ourselves which we project onto others, people we may have turned into our enemy because they remind us too much of our own darker sides?

In Leviticus 19:18 the Torah says that we should "love our neighbor as (we love) ourselves." The Hebrew reads *ve'ahavta le're'achakamocha*. *Reah*, meaning "neighbor," also has the same spelling as *ra'ah*, meaning "bad" or "evil." So it could also be understood as teaching that we should try to love our bad or evil neighbor as ourselves.

This makes sense, because through the act of trying we could ignite a change and turn him around. We may fail in the end, but we need to try just the same. To give up trying is to abandon hope for a better world.

Or, as said above, we may have turned them into our enemies merely because something about them reminds us of unfinished business we need to take care of in our own souls. We are projecting our own undealt with evil onto them. They may even have come into our lives for the sole purpose of reflecting back to us what defects in our own souls need fixing. Perhaps we only were reborn into this world to fix that exact defect that is being reflected back to us.

Many people react instinctively and mimic our actions or emotional states. Some people may respond to a loving gesture with love. The answer to darkness is light. The answer to hate is love. But hard core evil is oblivious to such

gestures. Such evil is beyond the pale. But only through showing love can we learn to tell the difference between redeemable evil and unredeemable hard core evil, that we must then vanquish or be vanquished in turn.

In the story of the Exodus from Egypt, the usual translation tells us that Pharaoh's heart was "hardened." But those who know Hebrew know the root for the word "hard" is *kasheh*, with the letters *koof*, *shin* and *hey*. But here the Torah uses the root word *kaved*, with a *koof*, a *vet* and a *dalid*. This means heavy, not hard.

Parshat Bo Ex 10:1 "...*bo el paro ki ani hichbadti et libo...*" "...come to Pharaoh because I made his heart heavy..."

In a sense, God wants Moshe to come to Pharaoh to cheer him up, to bring him out of his melancholy and sadness. The Torah thus is teaching us that there is a special **See "Heart" on page 8**

## 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:  
 Fri., Jan. 11 ..... 4:35 pm  
 Shabbat, Jan. 12 ..... 9 am  
 ..... Mincha after the kiddush  
 ..... Maariv 5:55 pm  
 Weekday Services:  
 Mornings:  
 Sun., Jan. 13 ..... 8:30 am  
 Mon.-Fri., Jan. 14-18 ..... 7 am  
 Evenings:  
 Sun., Jan. 13 ..... 4:40 pm  
 Mon.-Thurs., Jan. 14-17 ..... 7 pm  
 Fri., Jan. 18 ..... 4:45 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 Ithaca

Affiliation: United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism  
 Rabbi: Scott L. Glass  
 Address: 402 North Tioga St. (the corner of Court and Tioga streets), Ithaca, NY 14850-4292  
 Phone: 273-5775  
 E-mail: rabbi@tbeithaca.org and secretary@tbeithaca.org  
 Website: www.tbeithaca.org  
 President: Jerry Davis  
 Sisterhood President: Julie Paige  
 Director of Education: Rabbi Suzanne Brody  
 Administrative Assistant: Jane Griffith  
 Services: Friday 8 pm; Saturday 10 am, unless otherwise announced. Weekday morning minyan 7:30 am (9 am on Sundays and legal holidays).  
 Religious School/Education: September-May: Classes meet on Sunday, 9 am-12:30 pm and Wednesday afternoons, 3:45-5:45 pm. The Midrashah (eighth-grade and high school) classes will meet at times designated by their respective teachers.  
 Adult Ed.: Numerous weekly courses, several semester-long courses and a variety of mini-courses and lectures are offered throughout the year. Call the temple office for more details.  
 On Friday, January 11, services will be held at 6:15 pm.  
 On Friday, January 18, at 8 pm, a Sisterhood Shabbat will celebrate the 101<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Women's League for Conservative Judaism. An oneg Shabbat will follow services.  
 On Saturday, January 19, at 10 am, Sisterhood Shabbat will continue. A kiddush luncheon will follow services.

### 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, January 11, at 8 pm, Shabbat evening services will be led by Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell. The oneg will be hosted by Eve Berman in honor of the 30<sup>th</sup> yearzeit of her father, Israel Berman.  
 On Saturday, January 12, at 9 am, there will be religious school; at 9:15 am, there will be Torah study; and at 10:35 am, there will be Shabbat family services.  
 On Sunday, January 13, at 11 am, there will be the Sisterhood Book Talk and Brunch with Rabbi Rachel Esserman.  
 On Tuesday, January 15, at 4:15 and 5:15 pm, there will be Hebrew school.  
 On Thursday, January 17, at 4:15 and 5:15 pm, there will be Hebrew School; from 5-7 pm, the CHOW pantry will be open; and at 7 pm, there will be the iEngage program snow date.

On Friday, January 18, at 6:30 pm, there will be a Shabbat BYO Picnic Dinner celebrating Tu B'Shevat - The New Year for the Trees; at 8 pm, there will Shabbat evening services led by Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell. The oneg will be hosted by Walt Selan.

On Saturday, January 19, at 9 am, there will be religious school; at 9:15 am, there will be Torah study; and at 10:35 am, there will be Shabbat family services.

### Temple Beth El of Oneonta

Affiliation: United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism  
 Rabbi: Molly Karp  
 Address: 83 Chestnut St., Oneonta, NY 13820  
 Mailing address: P.O. Box 383, Oneonta, NY 13820  
 Phone: 607-432-5522  
 Website: www.templebetheloneonta.org  
 E-mail: TBEOneonta@gmail.com  
 Regular service times: visit the temple website for days of services and times  
 Religious School/Education: Religious School, for grades kindergarten through bar/bat mitzvah, meets Sunday mornings. Rabbi Karp conducts services and holds classes in Torah, beginning Hebrew and Maimonides.  
 For the schedule of services, classes and events, see the website.

### Kol Haverim

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

Friday, January 11, light candles ..... 4:34 pm  
 Shabbat ends Saturday, January 12 ..... 5:35 pm  
 Friday, January 18, light candles ..... 4:42 pm  
 Shabbat ends Saturday, January 19 ..... 5:44 pm

### Temple Israel

Orientation: Conservative  
 Rabbi: Geoffrey Brown  
 Address: 4737 Deerfield Pl., Vestal, NY 13850  
 Phone: 723-7461 and 231-3746  
 Office hours: Mon.-Thurs. 8:30 am-4 pm; Fri. 8 am-3 pm  
 E-mail: titammy@stny.twcbc.com  
 Website: www.templeisraelvestal.org  
 Service Schedule: Tuesday, 5:30 pm; Friday, 5:30 pm; Saturday, 9:30 am  
 On Saturday, January 12, at 9:30 am, Shabbat services will be led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown. The Torah portion will be Exodus 10:1-13:16. The haftarah will be Jeremiah 46:13-28. Debbie Schepis will sponsor the kiddush following services.  
 On Sunday, January 13, at 4 pm, there will be an Israel trip interest meeting.  
 On Friday, January 18, at 5:30 pm, there will be a Kabbalat Shabbat pot luck dinner. RSVP to the office.  
 On Monday, January 21, the temple office will be closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.  
 On Tuesday, January 22, at 7 pm, there will be a Board of Trustees meeting.

### Norwich Jewish Center

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

### Congregation Tikkun v'Or

Affiliation: Union for Reform Judaism  
 Address: PO Box 3981, Ithaca, NY 14852; 2550 Triphammer Rd. (corner of Triphammer and Burdick Hill), Lansing, NY  
 Phone: 607-256-1471  
 E-mail: info@tikunvor.org, Website: www.tikunvor.org  
 Presidents: Miranda Phillips and Shawn Murphy  
 Rabbi: Brian Walt  
 Religious School Director/Admin. Coordinator: Naomi Wilensky  
 Services: Fridays at 7:30 pm unless otherwise noted. Family services and Tot Shabbat once a month at 6:30 pm. Call for weekly schedules.  
 Religious School: Preschool through seventh-grade classes meet on Sunday mornings. Sixth-grade Hebrew and seventh-grade b'nai mitzvah classes meet on Wednesday afternoons. Adult Ed: Mini courses throughout the year. Adult Hebrew offered regularly. Call the office for details.

### Penn-York Jewish Community

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

### Temple Brith Sholom

Affiliation: Unaffiliated  
 Address: P.O. Box 572, 117 Madison St., Cortland, NY 13045  
 Phone: 607-756-7181  
 President: Bruce Fein, 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.

# Jewish Community Center

## JCC to hold Wine and Paint Night on Jan. 19

The Jewish Community Center of Binghamton will be holding an adult Wine and Paint class on Saturday, January 19, at 7 pm. The cost is \$30 for JCC members and \$40 for non-members. The entire community is welcome and encouraged to attend.

The class, run by JCC youth director and licensed art educator Lynette Errante, is an opportunity for any adult to complete their own painting, guided by art teachers. Canvases, all paint and brushes, wine and light refreshments will be provided for the event.

Adults of all skill levels are welcome to attend and will receive guidance from two art instructors. Those who plan to attend must pre-register and prepay at the JCC main office to ensure space. All proceeds from the class will go to benefit Camp JCC programming and scholarships.

For more information about the Wine and Paint Night, JCC Youth Programming, Camp JCC, or the JCC, contact the JCC office at 724-2417.

At right: Participants in the 2018 Wine and Paint Night.



## Annual Breakfast Ball at the JCC on Jan. 27

The Jewish Community Center will host its annual Breakfast Ball on Sunday, January 27, at 10 am. Admission is \$5 per person, with a \$20 per family maximum. Reservations are appreciated and can be made with Marley Vavra at 724-2417, ext. 413, or by e-mail at MarleyV@binghamtonjcc.org.

The event is family oriented and open to the entire community. "Children and their families can come and eat breakfast with their favorite characters," said Vavra, the JCC Early Childhood Center administrative assistant and one of the event organizers. Several Disney, Marvel and DC characters will be in attendance, including Cinderella, Belle, Spiderman, Power Rangers and more. There will be formal photo opportunities for kids to take pictures with their favorite characters for a \$5 fee, benefitting the JCC ECC.

The breakfast will feature standard breakfast offerings. There will be other activities, such as music for dancing, coloring and a formal story time. "We wanted to host a fun event for children and their families to attend," said Vavra.

The contributions from the fund-raiser go to the JCC's Early Childhood Center. The ECC is a place that "provides



The Power Rangers posed with children at last year's breakfast ball.

a warm and caring environment where children explore, experiment, play, grow and learn to ask questions." Programming is offered for infants through age 5, including full-day daycare and preschool, half-day preschool, art

and physical education classes, and Universal Pre-Kindergarten. "The proceeds go toward items needed in the classrooms that create an overall better environment for the children," said ECC Assistant Director Nichole Fuller. Proceeds from previous Breakfast Balls purchased items such as thermometers, cots and classroom manipulatives.

For more information about the Breakfast Ball, ECC programming, or the JCC, contact the JCC office at 724-2417.

### Moving any time soon? Or just leaving town for a few months?



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 [treporter@aol.com](mailto:treporter@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.

# LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of a Limited Liability Company (LLC): Name: Minaxi Patel Family Company, LLC, Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 11/2/18. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated LLC agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: LLC, Attn: John G. Dowd, PO Box 1905, Binghamton, NY 13902. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose. Date of dissolution: None.

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

1. The name of the limited liability company ("LLC") is Junk-N-Java LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is December 3, 2018.
3. The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the LLC is located is Broome.
4. The Secretary of State of the State of New York is hereby designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or her is: 136 East Service Road, Suite 301, Binghamton, NY 13901.
5. The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY: The name of the limited liability company is: 2 Lane Xpress, LLC (the "Company"). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was December 4, 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: 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 Bone Creek Farm, LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is December 4, 2018.
3. The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the LLC is located is Broome.
4. The Secretary of State of the State of New York is hereby designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or her is: 231 Shaver Hill Road, Deposit, NY 13754.
5. The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY: The name of the limited liability company is: Lucky 516, LLC (the "Company"). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was December 10, 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 Lucky 516, LLC, 516 Hooper Road, Endwell, NY 13760. 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: Brink Street, LLC (the "Company").

The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was December 11, 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 Richard D. Lang, 430 Broome Corporate Parkway, Conklin, NY 13870. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

Notice of Formation of Sayarot, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/02/18. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 22 Grand Blvd., Apt. 2L, Binghamton, NY 13905. 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 Michelle Irene, LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is December 4, 2018.
3. The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the LLC is located is Broome.
4. The Secretary of State of the State of New York is hereby designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or her is: 1199 Cornell Avenue, Binghamton, NY 13901.
5. The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY:

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

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

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

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

1. The name of the professional service limited liability company ("LLC") is POPE & POPE PLLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is December 5, 2018.
3. The date of existence of the LLC is January 1, 2019.
4. The County within the State of

New York in which the principal office of the professional service LLC is to be located is Broome County.

5. The Secretary of State of the State of New York is hereby designated as agent of the professional service LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the professional service LLC served upon him or her is: 99 Corporate Drive, Binghamton, NY 13904.
6. The character or purpose of the business of the professional service LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

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

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

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

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

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**U.S. NEWS IN BRIEF**

From JNS.org

**Leading Senate Democrats seek to block pro-Israel bill**

Senate Democrats were reportedly seeking to block pro-Israel legislation introduced the week of Jan. 4 that Republican leadership that was scheduled for Jan. 8. Sens. Ben Cardin (D-MD), Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) and Bernie Sanders (I-VT) each tweeted opposition to a vote advancing the legislation, citing the partial government shutdown over the past few weeks due to U.S. President Donald Trump not getting funding for a wall along the border with Mexico. The proposed measure rolls four bills that were introduced in the previous Congress, but were not enacted before the end of the year. Among the measures included were ones to enhance U.S. defense and security assistance in the Middle East, improve the U.S.-Israel strategic relationship, enable state and local governments to fight the anti-Israel BDS movement, and slap on new sanctions against the Syrian regime. Sanders tweeted, "We should block consideration of all bills on the Senate floor until we end the Trump shutdown and reopen the federal government." "Senate Democrats should block consideration of any bills unrelated to opening the government until Sen. Mitch McConnell and Senate Republicans allow a vote on the bipartisan bills the House passed to open the government," tweeted Van Hollen. "Mitch, don't delay. Let's vote!"

**Rep. Tlaib uses antisemitic line to attack Republicans' pro-Israel bill**

Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib (D-MI) attacked Republican lawmakers and opponents of the anti-Israel BDS movement on Jan. 7 by saying "they forgot what country they represent." In response to a Twitter post by Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) blasting an anti-BDS bill introduced the week of Jan. 4 by Republicans as "absurd," Tlaib posted: "They forgot what country they represent. This is the U.S. where boycotting is a right & part of our historical fight for freedom & equality. Maybe a refresher on our U.S. Constitution is in order, then get back to opening up our government instead of taking our rights away." The proposed anti-BDS legislation is one of four bills combined into one – the Strengthening America's Security in the Middle East Act – introduced on Jan. 3 by Sens. Marco Rubio (R-FL), Jim Risch (R-ID), Cory Gardner (R-CO) and Mitch McConnell (R-KY). "This 'dual loyalty' canard is a typical anti-Semitic line," tweeted Rubio. "#BDS isn't about freedom & equality, it's about destroying #Israel. And if boycotting #Israel is constitutionally protected, then boycotting companies that boycott #Israel is also constitutionally protected."

**Heart. . . . . Continued from page 6**

value in comforting the sad, even those who intend us harm. Perhaps the act of kindness will awaken them to do *teshuvah* and repent of their ways.

Can you imagine how unbelievably sad Pharaoh was to have been oppressing Israel? When you oppress others and cause them pain, you are really projecting your own sense of unworthiness onto the other. That is the reason why Pharaoh's heart was heavy. It wasn't "hardened," as is often mistranslated. His heart was heavy. The pain you inflict on others *always* comes back to you, adding layer upon layer, weighing you down with unbearable heaviness. The more pain he inflicted on Israel, the more his own burden increased. This is a life lesson of universal truth for each of us to ponder.

The word *bo* reflects the intimacy of casual relations. Moshe could enter Pharaoh's presence at will. Why? Because Pharaoh drew deep pleasure from Moshe's presence. Anyone so connected to Hashem ultimately brings pleasure to the soul of even the wicked, so as to assuage the sense of utter abandonment from the Source of Life. No guards were necessary. Moshe could enter at will. Pharaoh saw to that!

So in a sense, the deepest sense, actually, Pharaoh enjoyed Moshe's presence in the same pathological sense that a naughty child enjoys negative attention. Negative attention is better than no attention at all! Moshe's pointed admonitions were actually gratifying to one who had always seen himself as the ultimate ruler, who now realizes that his evil is coming back to haunt him and that his evil may have placed him beyond the pale, placing him beyond Hashem's mercy. Even Hashem's harsh judgment on some level is better than being ignored!

So here the Torah is actually speaking on the deepest level about human relations. The soul craves a Divine connection, preferably a connection of mercy. But lacking that, even harsh judgment will suffice. This is a parable for all of us, and for each of us. The eschatological end times of ultimate messianic redemption will dawn among us either from a quality of delicious sweetness, or *cv*'s (*chas veshalom* – "God forbid"), a quality of harsh judgment.

*Maaseh avot siman lebanim*. The deeds of our forefathers are signposts for their children (us). Those who oppress and show cruelty to others have, in a sense, chosen Pharaoh as their father. It is said that we choose our parents before birth. We are *rachmanin b'nai rachmanim*, merciful ones descended from merciful ones. May our actions reflect our parentage and bring down mercy from heaven in their holy merit.

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