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As April elections loom, Israeli party leaders face daunting issues

By Israel Kasnett

(JNS) – Politics in Israel moves fast. National elections were on December 24

ANALYSIS

and immediately, commentators on television, radio, online and in print, as well as nearly every citizen in Israel, have begun making predictions. By the time election day rolls around on April 9, a right-wing coalition will have led the country for 10 years, with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the helm. Will a right-wing government lead again after April and will Netanyahu once again serve in the top job?

These are typical questions, but the timing and circumstances are less so. Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit has just been handed a recommendation by the state prosecutor and Israel Police to indict Netanyahu for corruption in three separate cases. Mandelblit's decision, expected possibly within the next few weeks, could directly affect the outcome of this election

campaign – and everyone knows it.

So why elections now, and what will they focus on? Yohanan Plesner, president of the Israel Democracy Institute, told JNS that “especially now, when the coalition is fragile, there is an interest among the different actors to go for an early election.” All parties have an interest in going to early elections, according to Plesner, including Education Minister Naftali Bennett, Finance Minister Moshe Kahlon and the ultra-Orthodox. “The most important actor is, of course, the prime minister, who has both substantive political reasons and reasons that have to do with his legal status.” Plesner admitted that Netanyahu is “ostensibly leading in the polls.”

From a legal standpoint, assuming the attorney general will indict, “the common wisdom is that it is in Netanyahu's interest to go to early elections after the indictment, but before there is a final decision,” he said.

“This is the right time for the prime minister to go for an election because it means he will enter the hearing process in a position assuming, as he hopes, [to] gain a fresh new mandate from the Israeli public. He will be able to claim, ‘Well, I've obtained a mandate from the Israeli people who were aware of the intention to indict me, but nevertheless have chosen to elect me for this position.’ This would make it more difficult for the attorney general to reverse a decision made by millions of Israelis.”

What is the focus of the April elections? In terms of the substance of the elections, it remains to be seen. Plesner believes that the elections will be about “competence” both in terms of security and the economy. “So far,” he said, “Netanyahu's ratings are relatively good, but both environments might change.”

Gayil Talshir, a senior lecturer in political science at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, told JNS that at this point, the gist of

these elections have not yet been defined. Unlike Plesner, however, she believes it might focus on “collective identity,” and not on economics and security. “It's not clear what the right-wing is going to campaign on,” she said. “You would suspect it would be on security, and that Netanyahu is the only one who can make Israel secure.” But she speculated that Jewish residents of Judea and Samaria would say that Netanyahu is not tough enough on security, “therefore I am not sure the security or terror issue will be central. It's clear the anti-Netanyahu camp is going to try to put Netanyahu on the spot, but it's not clear it will be helpful. Usually, the right-wing in Israel gathers around the wounded, so I'm not sure it will be a good tactic.”

Talshir believes that the anti-Netanyahu camp will campaign “both around issues that are anti-Netanyahu himself and on issues over saving Israeli democracy,” such as See “Elections” on page 7

BD luncheon on Jan. 12: “Travels With Charlie: The American Southwest”

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 21st 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, New Mexico.

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, NY, 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



Charlie Manasse

Beth David Synagogue, is on the Executive Board of the Jewish Federation of Greater 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.

Operation Brotherhood



At right: Sylvia Diamond and Roz Antoun waited for the meals they were to deliver on December 25 as part of Operation Brotherhood at the Bandera's Holiday Dinner. (See page 5 for more photos.)

Tax statements from Federation

As donations are no longer tax deductible, the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton would like to know if its donors wish to receive a tax statement “letter” this year. Those interested in receiving a letter are asked to contact the Federation office at 724-2332 or aajfbc@stny.rr.com to help control costs.

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The Jewish food trends you'll be seeing in 2019

By Shannon Sarna

This article originally appeared on The Nosh.

What a year — delis opened, delis closed, we talked about rainbow bagels, and reviewed the history of pickles in America. And now it's time to look ahead to what will be happening in Jewish food for the coming year.

Bread is back

For all of you who have scooped your bagel or who decided to go gluten-free for non-medical reasons, guess what: Facebook's research on food trends confirms that bread is back and better than ever. Naturally-fermented breads like sourdough are considered good for your gut and overall

health, especially those made with whole grains. "Food start-ups are innovating bread with processes like 'slow carb baking,' or slow natural fermenting, which creates breads with lower glycemic indexes (GI). In the process, they are also creating loaves with increased bioavailability of nutrients," their 2019 trend report says. So you can go back to eating bread every day, just like Oprah, without any guilt. Make an extra challah, or even try making your own rye bread.

Tahini tahini everywhere!

Yeah, we know tahini has been all over restaurant menus, infiltrating Pinterest and more widely appearing on supermarket shelves for years. But since we know tahini

is a good fat and incredibly versatile for sweet and savory dishes, the reign of tahini is just beginning. Middle Eastern and Israeli cooking are also gaining wider and wider popularity in America, which means there is likely to be more roasted cauliflower with tahini and baked goods made with tahini appearing on restaurant menus and showing up at dinner parties. So make sure your pantry is stocked. Here is some more info on tahini.

Marijuana

If you haven't yet seen CBD marketed near you at stores or cafes, get ready, because you probably will. Cannabidiol See "Food" on page 5

Opinion

Amos Oz's fiction is forever, while reality left his politics behind

By Thane Rosenbaum

(JTA) — The young nation of Israel has witnessed in recent years a dwindling of its founding generation — from the passing of statesmen like Shimon Peres to the recent death of novelist and political activist Amos Oz. Oz was 79; Israel is but 70. Oz was old enough to witness Israel's fight for independence, and now his death turns the page on yet another chapter of its improbable resurrection — with an old language that became new again.

Oz had a lot to do with that. He imbued Hebrew with a literary style and gave it a novelistic voice, finding new ways to maneuver the *aleph* and *bet* so that a once purely liturgical language suddenly possessed a richly lyrical descriptive power.

The author of 40 books, including 14 novels, and hundreds of articles and essays, many of which delved into the messy politics of the Middle East, Oz was Israel's first great man of letters, an old-school public intellectual in a brand new nation with many jobs to fill — from the brawny to the brainy. Those patriarchs and matriarchs made the saying "next year in Jerusalem" both a reality and redundancy. With little natural background, they willed themselves to become equal parts poets, farmers and soldiers.

Oz was a living embodiment of those multiple duties. After his mother's suicide, which occurred the year before his bar mitzvah, he came of age on a *kibbutz* and fought in two of Israel's wars. He then published acclaimed novels such as "My Michael" and "Black Box," as well as the literary memoir "A Tale of Love and Darkness," that captured the finer points of domestic Israeli life, the yearnings and sexual passions, and the madness of a people who reinvented themselves so soon after nearly being annihilated en masse.

Long before Netflix's "Fauda," or the inexplicably sabra-accented Wonder Woman, Oz, through the 45 languages in which his novels were translated, introduced the world to

Israelis in all of their rambunctious, high-strung, pattering essence — the *kibbutz* kibitzers, the brave sabra boys, the Mizrahi misfits, the lost European intellectuals trying to scrape out a life of the mind in a barren desert. Without the wizardry of Amos Oz, many around the world would have had no knowledge of Israeli society, no feel for its people, no sense that they were more real than Jews from, well, Oz. And Israelis would not have known how they appeared in the imagination of one of their own.

The Start-up Nation had to start somewhere, and Oz was not only there at the beginning, he also captured the mood, rhythms and sorrow of its people for nearly every decade of Israel's existence.

But there was more. Israelis related to Oz not only as a storyteller, but also as unofficial statesman. He was one of the founders of Peace Now. Indeed, he was among the first, almost immediately after the euphoria of the Six-Day War, to attribute a doomsday prophecy to the capturing of Arab land. In his writings and public statements, Oz spoke of a moral corruption that could only be corrected by a two-state solution. No longer was he a mere fiction writer; he had become the conscience of a nation and a pesky activist in its political culture.

Beyond advocating for Palestinian justice, Oz blamed Israel's government for not making Palestinian statehood a reality. For a time, many Israelis, especially those who identified with the left-wing, social democratic Labor and Meretz parties, joined Oz in promoting an idealized view of Palestinian intentions and a self-flagellating opinion of Israeli policy.

But now, so many years after the failed Oslo Accords, with multiple wars in Gaza and Lebanon, ISIS and Hezbollah in Syria, a nuclear Iran, and intifadas of the suicide-bombing, mortar-throwing, car-ramming, knife-stabbing and incendiary kite-flying variety, Israelis have largely abandoned the aspirations of Peace Now. The vision for Israel that Oz helped pioneer had suddenly become

anachronistic, a byproduct of a bygone, hope-filled era.

The hardened reality of Palestinian rejectionism, violence and incitement left many Israelis cynical and contemptuous of Oz's misspent idealism. Sephardic, Russian and Orthodox Israelis formed their own political movements that mowed over the humanistic *kibbutzniks* and Peace Now advocates like a political bulldozer.

In response, some of Oz's later books dealt with issues of betrayal, fanaticism and zealotry — as if he was taking on his critics, Palestinians and even himself. But no one would have expected what Oz told a German interviewer in the summer of 2014 when asked about Israel's military conduct during the Gaza War, and the killing of Palestinian civilians standing shoulder to shoulder with Hamas terrorists: "What would you do if your neighbor across the street sits down on the balcony, puts his little boy on his lap, and starts shooting machine-gun fire into your nursery? What would you do if your neighbor across the street digs a tunnel from his nursery to your nursery in order to blow up your home or in order to kidnap your family?"

The founder of Peace Now, who never gave up on the dream, gazed at Gaza not with the romanticism of a novelist, but through the eyes of a protective father. And to the surprise of many, despite the civilian dead, he acknowledged Israel's true moral dilemma and the tragic dimensions of this theater of war. An insistence on peace — that it must come "Now"! — is not a sustainable political strategy when peacemakers are nowhere to be found and martyrs are aplenty.

Thane Rosenbaum, a novelist, essayist and law professor, is the author of "The Golems of Gotham," "Second Hand Smoke," "Elijah Visible," "The Stranger Within Sarah Stein" and, most recently, "How Sweet It Is!"

The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of JTA or its parent company, 70 Faces Media.

In My Own Words

Political theater

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Miss one week of writing and the world spins out of control. I'd hoped to have a column in last week's paper about the potential shutdown of the federal government, adding that at that point I didn't think it was going to happen. Turns out I was wrong. That hasn't changed my thoughts about the *additional funds* for the wall that President Donald Trump is demanding.

First, the 2019 budget contains \$1.6 billion toward a border wall so it's not as if Congress isn't offering support for the wall. So why did the president have a meeting with Nancy Pelosi and Chuck Schumer on December 12 and request a total of \$5 billion for the wall — a meeting that they were not told would be televised? It was political theater: theater that makes noise about nothing in an attempt to distract the American people from other events related to the Trump administration.

What are those actions? That same week, Michael Cohen admitted that Trump was present during the discussion of illegal actions with the publisher of the *National Inquirer*. Former national security adviser Michael Flynn was ex-

pected to be sentenced the next week, which shows that, even if Trump didn't know about Flynn's activities, his choice of advisors was certainly flawed. There is also the gross misuse of the Trump Foundation, the investigation of which was going on at that time. The foundation has since shut its doors, but not before the attorney general of New York state noted that she hoped to bar Trump and his three oldest children from the boards of other New York charities due to their conduct at the foundation.

So, the shut down of the government distracts people from all the other unpleasant things happening around the Trump administration and I think Trump knows this. If that sounds bizarre, just remember that during the shutdown of the government during the Obama administration, Trump said, "And the president's the leader and [Obama] has to get everyone in a room and lead and he doesn't do that. He doesn't like doing that — that is not his strength. And that's why you have this horrible situation going on in Washington too. It's a very, very bad thing and it's also embarrassing worldwide." Well, Trump did that — got people in the room

— but he had nothing to lose either way the meeting went. He had to know he wasn't going to get an extra \$5 billion, but he does know theater and that's what he created. So, he has his fuss and a government shutdown he claims to be proud of and, in the meantime, fewer people focus on Cohen, Flynn and Trump's foundation.

While this might make a great reality show, unfortunately, this is real life and people are going to suffer. What disturbs me most is that the president doesn't seem to care. But, really, why am I surprised? The Trump administration is not about helping people; it's not really about making America a better place to live. Instead, it's all about Trump, who sees the world in a "Me versus everyone else" light. If you're with him, you're a great, really great person. If you're not, then you're bad, really bad. What this situation really is, is sad. No, more than sad: it's pathetic. Our president's attempt to undermine the American political system needs to be stopped *now* and Congress needs to get some backbone and act for the greater good of our country and all of its citizens.



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Temple Israel 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.americaisraelstours.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 Sisterhood game afternoon

On Tuesday, January 8, from 12-3 pm, Temple Israel Sisterhood will host a card and game afternoon in the synagogue's social hall.

The cost of admission to the event is \$5, which

includes a light lunch and one entry into a raffle drawing. Advance reservations are requested and should be phoned in to Tammy Kunsman in the temple office at 723-7461.

Beth David Sisterhood meeting at Endicott library

On Wednesday, January 9, from 1-3 pm, Kenneth Roman, Tech Center manager and young adult librarian at the George F. Johnson Library in Endicott, will present a program on "Social Media Safety" to members and friends of the Beth David Sisterhood at the Endicott library.

Light refreshments will be provided during the instruction on how to protect your privacy and keep your identity safe while using social media. "Learn how to keep in touch with children, grandchildren, friends and long lost relatives, with the knowledge that you are not likely to be

victimized by unscrupulous people using the internet to steal your identity," said organizers of the event.

RSVP to Marlene Serkin at 729-3235 or mserkin@stny.rr.com. Should the weather force a cancellation, the meeting will be rescheduled in February.

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. Reservations must be made by Sunday, January 6, to Lani Dunthorn at lanidunthorn@yahoo.com, 238-1102 or 348-4099.

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 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 17th-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.



Rabbi Rachel Esserman

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 won a second place 2017 Syracuse Press Award for her column titled "Privileged Advise." She serves as the Jewish chaplain for Broome Development Disabilities Service Office. Her work has been published in "The Women's Torah Commentary" and "The Women's Haftarah Commentary" (both by Jewish Lights Publishing). She also has had a book of poetry, "I Stand By The River," published by Keshet Press of Temple Concord. A Reconstructionist rabbi who says her first love is teaching, she sees her position on *The Reporter* as an opportunity to educate the public about Judaism.

Using Israeli techniques, aid groups train first responders in India, Sri Lanka

By Jackson Richman

(JNS) – The American Jewish Committee and United Hatzalah have been training emergency responders in India and Sri Lanka on how to respond to situations such as terrorist attacks and natural disasters.

The training started on December 23 in Gurugram and spread to New Delhi, where the United Hatzalah team provided lessons to dozens of first responders, followed by conducting a combined drill for the participants, utilizing Israeli procedures.

"There are a range of ways we work to promote Israel," Shira Loewenberg, director of the Asia Pacific Institute at AJC, which has a humanitarian fund, told JNS.

Loewenberg said this particular initiative is "highlighting a strength Israel has," which is the ability to respond to various disasters. She remarked that United Hatzalah has an "innovative and successful program" to train rescue workers.

Doing so, Loewenberg elaborated, can "create good will" between Israel and other countries. "Israel is not just about conflict," she emphasized.

"It is eye-opening to see how emergency-response systems work in different countries, and how much we can share with one another and learn from each other," said Dov Maisel, vice president of operations for United Hatzalah, who is leading the mission.

"The teams in India are professional and are excellent at providing assistance," he continued. "They even had a few fire-rescue motorcycles, which are similar to what we use in Israel to arrive at emergencies faster."

"We are adding to their already existing knowledge base," he added, using "numerous styles of emergency triage and disaster management from a number of different angles. Our team is comprised of EMS experts, as well as some of Israel's elite search-and-rescue professionals who have been at disasters all over the globe."



A mass casualty incident training and preceding lecture in Gurugram, India. (Photo courtesy of United Hatzalah)

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Off the Shelf

Banking, business and family

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

The antisemitic trope claiming that Jewish bankers control the world's finances partly rests on the house of Rothschild. The Rothschild family fortune began in the mid 18th century in Frankfurt, Germany, with Mayer Amschel Rothschild, whose sons opened branches of the bank across Europe and England. In order to keep their funds within the family, many (although not all) Rothschild men married cousins or other relatives. These inter-family marriages also occur within the Goldbaum family, Natasha Solomons' fictionalized version of the Rothschilds, whose story is told in her new novel "House of Gold" (G. P. Pitman's Sons). Solomons explores the Goldbaums' place within society and the limitations being a member places on them. While the main focus of the novel is on the personal lives of the characters in the early part of the 20th century, it also offers a glimpse of the business world in which they worked.

Although the novel contains a wide cast of characters, Greta Goldbaum takes center stage. Greta, a member of the Vienna Goldbaum family, is a bit of a rebel whose behavior frequently irks her mother. She's not pleased when her parents announce she's to marry Albert Goldbaum, a member of the British branch of the family. Greta wonders what it would be like to be an ordinary rich person – one who might marry for love. She's reminded by another family member of one reason for the tradition: he notes, "We may do business with princes, chancellors and kings, but to them we are only Jews. Rich Jews. Powerful Jews perhaps, but they do not

quite trust us. And we know that only family can be trusted. And understanding that is a great gift."

However, what creates a successful business partnership may not work for someone's personal life, as Greta and Albert discover. Why the family arranges their marriage without having them ever meet is not even explained and the beginning of their married life is rocky. Greta is alone and lonely, even when she and Albert share a home with his parents and his brother, Clement. With the men in London most of the week and the women in the country, Greta, who has no friends, finds time weighs heavy on her hands. Her mother-in-law gives her advice, which does help, as does the fact that her brother, Otto, is sent to London to learn more about the British side of business. The personal life of the family takes precedence in the plot until World War I arises, an event that affects the Goldbaum family personally and professionally. Family members are forced to make a difficult decision about their priorities: do they help the nation in which they live, or focus on their business connections with family members on the opposing side?

Solomons also explores the lives of several characters who deviate from their prescribed roles. Clement has no head for business and overeats to sublimate his other desires. He knows that even though he is the oldest, he is not the son his father wants to inherit the family business. Although his character is flawed, he is not unfeeling: he is the first to notice that Greta is unhappy and do something to improve her life. While Clement fails the family on the business side, Henri Goldbaum's fault is found in his personal life. He becomes infatuated with an actress who is not Jewish. To wed without permission would get him expelled from the family business. While not all members of the family are still observant Jews, intermarriage is still considered out of the question. Yet, Henri, who works for the Paris branch of the bank, deeply loves his work and wants to remain in the family's good graces.

Solomons acknowledges the privileged life the Gold-

baums lead. A very minor character, Karl, an orphan who lives in the tunnels beneath the Vienna Goldbaum house, highlights the depth of poverty found in that city. People scavenge what food they can find from the sewers and sleep wherever they can find a space outdoors. Karl looks forward to when families like the Goldbaums have a party because they give the leftovers to the city's poor. Karl appears several times to offer readers another view of the early 20th century.

However, the introduction of Karl doesn't mean that some characters are not aware of the blessings they have. For example, when sending packages to the striking workers in London, Greta notes that "she was relieved to do something useful. The lurid newspaper descriptions of the squalor of the slums and the misery of the strikers' children were simply too awful. And yet [she] also harbored the unpleasant feeling that the good she was achieving was mostly to ease her own conscious, and that even if the Goldbaums dispatched every lettuce and every strawberry from their own beds to strikers' children in Southampton or London or Liverpool, it would make no difference at all. Nothing she could do would secure them the three extra shillings they demanded." She's also aware that the corset she wears (and hates) costs more than the amount the strikers were being paid each week. The Goldbaum men, though, see unions as threatening the status quo and oppose giving into strikers demands.

"House of Gold" is well done, but far from perfect. Parts of the plot – particularly a later glitch in Albert and Greta's marriage – read like a soap opera. Sometimes it feels as if the author is lecturing readers through her characters, particularly in the sections that take place during World War I. While the antiwar sentiments are wise and well thought out, they didn't feel integrated into the story. However, what Solomons does excel at is creating interesting characters whom readers care about even when the plot sputters or the action drags. "House of Gold" is an impressive work offering insights into a world few readers will ever experience.

Community Calendar

The Community Calendar can be found on the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton's website, www.jfgb.org, by clicking on "calendar." To update or add events to the calendar, contact the Federation through its website (click on "calendar" and then "click here to request a change to the calendar") or by calling 724-2332.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY: The name of the limited liability company is: 45 Pumphouse Rd LLC (the "Company"). The date of filing of the Application of Authority of the Company with the Secretary of State was November 6, 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 the LLC, 23 Overlook Avenue, Cliffside Park, NJ 07010. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

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 Tripphammer, 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 Sec'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

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Operation Brotherhood supported Bandera's Family Holiday Dinner



Sisters Judy Hess and Elaine Greene were ready for their first of three deliveries.



Joan Sprague – the brains behind the operation.

On December 25, Operation Brotherhood and other community volunteers worked at the 29th Bandera's Holiday Dinner. Operation Brotherhood is sponsored by the Jewish Family Service under the auspices of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton.

Joan Sprague coordinated volunteers to package and deliver the nearly 1,000 meals

going to those unable to attend the dinner. Many of the volunteers have been donating their time for several years. Operation Brotherhood organizers said, "Their assistance, generosity and time are greatly appreciated. As the rabbis taught, deeds of loving kindness surpass all other types of charity. Thank you to our volunteers."



Howard Schwartz (at right) delivered dinner to Gerald and Collette Wickham.



At left: Heidi Bowne checked the dinners she took to people in hospice care.



Tom and Lani Dunthorn with boxes ready to be delivered.



Roger Westgate, a driver, and Ben Kasper got acquainted prior to delivering meals.



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Food Continued from page 2

(CBD) is a non-psychoactive substance that comes from hemp plants. So just to clarify, consuming CBD isn't the same as eating a pot brownie. CBD won't get you high, but is said to calm anxiety and nerves and even help you sleep. And since it's gaining greater popularity (the coffee joint downstairs from our office carries it, for example), we predict it will be showing up in a wider variety of foods and stores including Jewish foods. But it's not just CBD that is making its way into foods and coffee shops. The Israeli ice cream company Vaniglia served up cannabis-flavored ice cream this past year. And ICYMI, Joan Nathan was featured on *Viceland* making "weed-infused matzah balls."

Faux Meat

Whether it's for health reasons, ideological reasons, or kosher reasons, faux meat has been on the rise and is sure to gain even further visibility and popularity in 2019. In 2018, the Impossible Burger made a splash among vegetarians and kosher keepers alike, since it is considered to taste more "like meat" than other veggie burgers and even bleeds like real meat. Several kosher restaurants began carrying it in 2018 and many more are likely to add it to menus in the coming year. Jackfruit has also gained popularity as a plant-based alternative to pulled pork or brisket. Whole Foods' predictions for 2019 included fake meat snacks, saying, "Plant-based foods will continue to surprise and inspire – this year taking on the meat-based snacking world of jerkins and pork rinds you may associate with the corner store and road trips." Bring on the tofu jerky, we are ready.

Pierogies and other comfort foods

Facebook's research says that comfort foods are on the rise and, when the hipsters of Brooklyn embrace a cuisine, we know it's about to get expensive and trendy. At DeKalb market in Brooklyn, the Pierogi Boys are serving up classic, hand-made pierogies, cucumber salad and borscht at their hip stall. This past fall The Gefilteria teamed up with Polish Chef Ewa Malika Szyk-Juchnowicz and the Polish Cultural Institute New York to host a Polish food-focused pop-up restaurant. And in the last year, fast-casual Teremok, aka the "McDonalds of Russia" opened several locations in the U.S. Teremok has since closed its NYC outpost, but I haven't given up on the hope of pierogies making a splash in 2019. Make your own pastrami pierogies with this recipe.

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Weekly Parasha

Vaera, Exodus 6:2-9:35

Hearing the message

RIVKAH SLONIM, EDUCATION DIRECTOR, CHABAD OF BINGHAMTON

Classically, people respond to a messenger with a promise. They seek a leader, a prophet, the bearer of good news or at least renewed hope. But sometimes even this natural, basic response fails them.

In this week's *parasha*, Moses delivers an audacious and buoyant message from God to the Jewish people: "I am God, and I will take you out from under the burdens of Egypt, and I will save you from their labor, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment. I will take you as a people for Myself, and I will be a God to you..." (Exodus 6:6-7)

The Jews' response? "And they did not listen to Mo-

ses out of shortness of breath and from the hard labor." (Exodus 6:9)

One commentary teaches that the term "shortness of breath" should be understood both literally and figuratively. The Hebrew word for breath, *ruach*, also means spirit. In other words, they weren't able to heed Moses' call not only due to physical exertion, but also, and perhaps primarily, because they lacked the spirit. Why were they so disheartened? Because Moses had already appeared to them once with news of impending redemption, but things had only gone from bad to worse. Now, when Moses came with this new message, he found them unreceptive. Having suffered in

bondage for so long, and having just experienced profound disappointment, their deep faith was shaken. They simply could not embrace the possibility of freedom.

In the history of Egypt, not a single slave had ever escaped. How could an entire nation ever walk free? Moses was a dreamer, they must have thought. It is just not realistic to hold out such high hopes, only to have them dashed yet again. And so the people were utterly despondent and spiritless and could not hear, i.e. absorb, Moses' message.

The iconic Chasid, Reb Mendel Futerfas, used to say: "If you lose your money, you've lost nothing. Money comes See "Message" on page 7

Congregational Notes

Beth David Synagogue

Affiliation: Orthodox Union
 Rabbi: Zev Silber
 Address: 39 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905
 Phone: 722-1793
 Rabbi's Office: 722-7514
 Fax: 722-7121
 Office hours: Mon. closed; Tues. 10 am-1 pm; Wed. closed; Thurs. 9 am-1 pm; Fri. 10 am-1 pm
 Beth David e-mail address: bethdavid@stny.rr.com
 Rabbi's e-mail: rabbisilber@stny.rr.com
 Website: www.bethdavid.org
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/bethdavidbinghamton
 Shabbat Services:
 Fri., Jan. 4 4:30 pm
 Shabbat, Jan. 5 9 am
 Mincha after the kiddush 5:50 pm
 Maariv 5:50 pm
 Weekday Services:
 Mornings:
 Sun., Jan. 6 8:30 am
 Mon., Jan. 7 6:50 am
 Tues.-Fri., Jan. 8-11 7 am
 Evenings:
 Sun., Jan. 6 4:30 pm
 Mon.-Thurs., Jan. 7-10 7 pm
 Fri., Jan. 11 4:35 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.
 All Friday evening services through January 11 will be held at 6:15 pm.
 On Friday, January 18, at 8 pm, a Sisterhood Shabbat will celebrate the 101st 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 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 5, at 9:30 am, Shabbat services will be led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown. The Torah portion will be Exodus 6:2-9:35. The haftarah will be Ezekiel 28:25-29:21. Alan Piaker and Moira Shirvan will sponsor the kiddush following services.
 On Sunday, January 6, at 4 pm, there will be a b'nai mitzvah parents meeting.
 On Tuesday, January 8, from 12:30-3:30 pm, there will be a Sisterhood game day at Temple Israel. At 7 pm, there will be an Executive Board meeting.
 On Tuesday, January 8, from 12:30-3:30 pm, there will be a Sisterhood Game Day at Temple Israel and, at 7 pm, there will be an Executive Board meeting.
 On Wednesday, January 9, at 7 pm, there will be a Sisterhood meeting.
 On Thursday, January 10, at 1:30 pm, there will be a Caring Community meeting.
 On Sunday, January 13, at 4 pm, there will be an Israel trip interest 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.

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 4, light candles..... 4:27 pm
 Shabbat ends Saturday, January 5 5:28 pm
 Friday, January 11, light candles..... 4:34 pm
 Shabbat ends Saturday, January 12 5:35 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, January 4, at 8 pm, Shabbat evening services will be led by Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell. The oneg will be sponsored by Barb and Steve Dickman.
 On Saturday, January 5, 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 6, from 10 am-2 pm, there will be a Sisterhood rummage sale – enter through the main doors; and from 2:30-4:30 pm, the Confirmation class will meet.
 On Tuesday, January 8, at 10:30 am, the Book Club will meet; at 4:15 and 5:15 pm, there will be Hebrew school; at 6:30 pm, there will be an Executive Board meeting; and at 7:30 pm, there will be a Board meeting.
 On Thursday, January 10, at 4:15 and 5:15 pm, there will be Hebrew school; from 5-6 pm, the CHOW pantry will be open; and at 7 pm, there will be the final session of the iEngage program.
 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 30th yearzeit of her father, Israel Berman.

Congregation Tikun 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.



Elections.....Continued from page 1

the public media, the civil service, the judiciary and all of the other democratic institutions they perceive as being under attack by Netanyahu.

As reported earlier, the White House said that the election could also affect the timing behind the rollout of its Mid-east peace plan, dubbed the "deal of the century" by the Trump administration. According to Plesner, "Netanyahu has nothing to gain, even if Trump submits a peace plan. It won't work in Netanyahu's favor because it will force him to choose between the [Israeli political] far-right and the president of the United States. It's a choice Netanyahu will not want to make. Whatever elements in the plan that will be in favor of Israel, there will also be elements that will require Israel to compromise. This will leave room for some [politicians] to position themselves on the right of Netanyahu and the Likud, and he does not want that to happen."

Another significant development, besides the announcement of the elections, was that Kahlon said he will not sit in the government if Netanyahu is indicted. "I don't see a majority after the elections that will be willing to sit with Netanyahu," said Talshir. She also said it is possible that Netanyahu voters who do not want to vote for someone else will not go out to vote at all, resulting in a low voter turnout.

One thing to look for, she noted, are the generals who are entering the political fray, including former Prime Minister Ehud Barak and former IDF Chiefs of Staff Moshe Ya'alon, Benny Gantz and possibly Gaby Ashkenazi. They are entering or returning to politics to counter the common misconception that Netanyahu is supposedly the only one who can maintain Israel's security and best defense. Also of note: Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations Danny Danon reportedly resigned from his position at the world body to put his name into the Likud Party political fray this spring.



View of the Plenary Hall during a session for the vote on a bill to dissolve parliament at the Knesset in Jerusalem on December 26. (Photo by Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)

Another issue, according to Talshir, is the economy. The "yellow vest" protests that began in Paris have spread to other parts of the globe, including Israel. Consumer prices are rising in Israel, and so far a smattering of protests have taken place, but it's possible this movement will grow in the next few weeks and thus have a significant impact on the outcome of the election.

The right-wing Likud Party currently has a clear lead on any other political party, with a projected 30 seats in the next government, according to one poll. The right-wing party Bayit Yehudi would gain three seats, while the left-wing Zionist Union would fall 15 seats from its current 24 to just nine. Clearly, at least at this point, Israel is looking at another right-wing government in the next Knesset.

While it's still too early to tell what Mandelblit will decide and what effect that will have, Talshir was confident: "I don't think we are going to see a Netanyahu government after the indictment."

Message...Continued from page 6

and money goes. If you lose your health, you've lost half. You are not the person you were before. But if you lose your resolve, you've lost it all."

Before Moses could give the Jews a message, he needed first to bring them to a place where they could hear it. They needed first to believe that there was a future; that they could and would defy the odds. This may be the reason God had first appeared to Moses from within a burning bush: a metaphor for the Jewish people, unassailable and unvanquished, come what may. Before the message, there is this truth Moses must convey: Jews are never consumed.

Moses brought new hope to a depressed, dispirited nation. He returned to them the fiery spirit they had lost, and eventually, through the miracles of God, the promise was fulfilled and the dream became destiny.

To be out of breath is normal. To be out of spirit is something the Jewish People can never afford. May we never lose the spirit.

JCC Friendship Club

The JCC Friendship Club met on December 26. Some of our members are in Florida for the winter. The few of us who were at the meeting want to thank Bruce Orden for showing us half the video of "Babe." It is a story of a pig who talks to other animals. It is for children, but I haven't seen it and I am enjoying it. The deeper meaning is that it is about relationships. The story starts with a farmer winning the pig at a county fair by guessing its weight. The farmer takes the pig home. One of the animals asked the pig his name. He said he did not know it, but his mother called him and the other baby pigs Babe. And that is how he got his name. As you can see, it is a comedy. The scene shortly before the halfway point was when the sheep dogs were gathering the sheep into a pen for the farmer to shear off their wool. When he was done, he told Babe to get the sheep out of the pen. He ran around them like he saw the dogs do. The sheep laughed at him. The dog told him to nip their heels. He nipped one and then apologized, saying that he didn't mean to hurt anyone, but he is supposed to get them out of the pen. One sheep said, "Just tell us." He did and the farmer was amazed to see the sheep walk slowly out to the field in double file. We will see the other half next week.

The meeting was called to order by Sylvia Diamond. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Ann Brilliant said the blessing over the cookies. Sylvia gave the treasurer's report. We discussed upcoming programs, such as a book report about an American Indian child stolen at birth and brought up in a Jewish family. Sometime in January, we would like to go to the Roberson Museum.

Join us on Wednesdays at 1:30 pm.

Sylvia Diamond
President

NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

Israeli Aerospace invents wings to make F-35 jets invisible to radar

Israel Aerospace Industries has developed a component for the outer-wing set of the F-35 stealth fighter jet that will make it invisible to radar, according to an announcement by the company. The company said it will develop a new production line for the next 20 years, which is anticipated to begin producing outer wing sets at the beginning of 2019 as a subcontractor for Lockheed Martin, and is expected to generate revenues of \$2.5 billion in the next 10 to 15 years. "The construction of the new production line significantly upgrades IAI's technological capabilities, automation and robotics, and will enable the company to establish itself as a major player in the military and civilian aerostructures," IAI said in a statement. An estimated 811 pairs of F-35A wings are expected to be produced by 2034, and will include an Automatic Fiber Placement material that is woven of tiny threads. This will give planes the ability to evade radar detection. The F-35 fighter jet contains parts from several Israeli defense companies, including Elbit System Cyclone, which made the center fuselage composite components and Elbit Systems Ltd., which made the pilots' helmets. Israel's Air Force owns 14 F-35Is and is expected to receive a total of 50 planes to fill two full squadrons by 2024. Israel may buy a third squadron, or the new Boeing F-15I.

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

Breakfast Ball
Sunday, January 27 at 10am

Come eat breakfast with your favorite characters to help support the ECC!

Children are encouraged to dress like their favorite characters and will have the opportunity to get their picture taken with a character for a \$5.00 fee. *RSVP's appreciated.* Please contact Marley at 724-2417 ext. 413 or email MarleyV@binghamtonjcc.org.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

IDF data sheds light on number of rockets, attacks, arrests in 2018

The Israel Defense Forces released statistics on Dec. 30 showing that attacks by Hamas on Israel have risen dramatically in the last three years. According to the data, Israel was hit by 1,000 rockets and mortars in 2018, with 250 intercepted by Israel's Iron Dome missile-defense system and 45 landing in populated areas. The majority of the projectiles were fired into southern Israel in late November, when nearly 500 rockets were launched at Israel in just 48 hours after a botched Israel Defense Forces' commando raid in Khan Younis. The IDF responded to the attacks by targeting 865 terror and military positions in Gaza. In 2017, Hamas fired 35 projectiles at Israel and even less the year before that. To date, Israel has completed 27 kilometers of an underground barrier to prevent the digging of tunnels to cross from Gaza into Israel. Israel has destroyed 15 terror tunnels in the past year. According to the IDF, seven soldiers and nine civilians were killed, and 199 injured, in 87 terror attacks in 2018. Stone-throwing attacks were also down to 2,057 from 5,082 in 2017. Stabbing attacks were up to 17 from five in 2017. A total of 406 weapons were confiscated by authorities this year. The IDF said that a total of 3,173 Palestinians were arrested by security authorities in 2018.

IsraAID launching new aid initiative to train medical professionals

The disaster-relief nongovernmental organization IsraAID will launch a new, international initiative to train doctors, dentists, nurses, engineers and mental-health professionals to respond to disasters. The IsraAID Humanitarian Professionals Network will launch on Jan. 10 in Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay area. "IsraAID draws on Israeli social innovation and expertise to benefit people in need around the world," said Seth Davis, executive director of organization's branch in the United States. "We are now leveraging our organization's unique capabilities to train professionals in the United States interested in developing life-saving skills and joining humanitarian relief missions globally, hand in hand with professionals from Israel. The network will equip skilled individuals in hands-on disaster relief experience and provide enhanced capacity if local disaster were to strike." Current IsraAID missions have provided assistance in multiple disasters including the November 2018 wildfires in California; violence in Uganda; cyclones in Vanuatu; and refugee crises in Greece, Kenya and Bangladesh.

Despite reports, Danon staying on as Israel's ambassador to U.N.

Despite reports of his quitting, Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations Danny Danon announced on Dec. 29 that he is staying at Turtle Bay and will not run for Knesset in the April 2019 elections. "Under the leadership of PM @netanyahu, @IsraelinUN continues to achieve unprecedented accomplishments in the diplomatic arena," tweeted Danon. "During this challenging period, I will continue advancing Israel's position at the UN, & will not participate in the upcoming Knesset elections." He added, "The role of Israel's ambassador to the UN is one of great responsibility, and I will continue to strengthen Israel's standing during this trying time." Positions include, but aren't limited to, blocking attempts by the Palestinians for full state membership at the United Nations, in addition to the constant anti-Israel bias in the world body.

Welcome rains arrive in Israel as threat of sixth year of drought looms

A massive storm front arrived in Israel on Dec. 27, as heavy downpours spread from the north to the southern coastal plan, helping to abate a six-year drought that has severely depleted the Kinneret. The storm system was accompanied by a significant drop in temperatures and risk of flooding in the Judean Desert, the Dead Sea region and the Jordan Valley. Heavy rains dropped more than a half-inch of rain on Kibbutz Ayalon in the Western Galilee in just one hour, and the Mount Hermon site in the Golan was closed on Dec. 27 due to rainfall and heavy fog, with snow expected to fall. Heavy rains were also recorded throughout Judea and Samaria, and the Sharon and Dan regions. Hailstorms were recorded in Caesarea, Pardes Hanna-Karkur and other parts of the Sharon region. The abundance of water was good news for the Kinneret, otherwise known as the Sea of Galilee, which has suffered through a six-year drought that has brought water levels so low that Israel's largest body of fresh water is no longer being pumped. As of the morning of Dec. 27, the Kinneret had risen 4 centimeters in a week, bringing it to 214.54 meters below sea level, but still 1.54 meters below the lower red line. That level remains below what can be used for drinking water and a mere .33 meters from the black line – a historic low below which it is believed that the Kinneret will become unpotable. Israel has built two desalination plants on Israel's coast, where processed Mediterranean Sea water now provides more than 70 percent of Israel's drinking water. In August, authorities warned that if heavy rainfall does not arrive in Israel this winter, water rationing may be put into place. Though the storm was predicted to weaken and dissipate on Dec. 28, additional rains were expected on Dec. 29-30, to be accompanied by occasional thunderstorms.

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