

THE REPORTER

Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton

July 19-25, 2019
Volume XLVIII, Number 29

BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK

Israel Scouts Friendship Caravan community performance on Aug. 1

The Israel Scouts will perform on Thursday, August 1, at 7 pm, at the Jewish Community Center, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal. Their performance will be followed by refreshments and a meet-and-greet with the Scouts. The Scouts will spend the day with the campers at Camp JCC playing traditional Israeli games. The evening performance will be free to the community, but RSVPs would be appreciated by calling the JCC office at 724-2417, ext. 110.

Founded in 1919, the Israel Scouts were the first Zionist youth movement in Israel and the first egalitarian Scouting movement in the world where boys and girls participated together. The first delegation was sent to the United States in 1958. Today, the Israel Scouts, *Tzofim*, remain the only non-political youth movement in Israel and are supported mainly by the Ministry of Education and Culture.

Like Scouts throughout the world, the

At right: The members of this year's Israel Scouts Friendship Caravan.



Tzofim are said to be "always prepared" and learn the principles of "working with spirit" and "providing community service." Out of 60,000 *Tzofim* throughout Israel, only 100 are chosen annually for the *Tzofim* summer delegation.

The *Tzofim* Friendship Caravan travels throughout North America, visiting summer camps and cities. In representing Israel, the *Tzofim* Friendship Caravan members use song and dance as their means of expression. The Caravan features 10 teenagers and two adult leaders. The Scouts' performance seeks to convey Israeli culture, music and tradition, bringing with them a message of peace and friendship. Their professionally choreographed song and dance routines are said to be charged with natural enthusiasm and energy. Audiences are encouraged to dance, sing and enjoy the spirit of Israel.

Admission is free to the community thanks to a generous donation from the David and Virginia Eisenberg Foundation.

Safe Haven plans 75th anniversary events

On Monday, August 5, at 7:30 am, church bells in Oswego will ring to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the arrival of a train carrying 982 Holocaust refugees to the Fort Ontario Emergency Refugee Shelter. That morning, former refugees, their families, invited officials, religious leaders and news media will board buses, visit cemeteries and conduct memorial services at the graves of refugees who died on the ship carrying them from Italy to the United States and at the shelter during its 18-month operation. Afterward, the group will gather for a private box lunch on the site of the 1944-46 shelter dining halls and living quarters.

At 2 pm, a free public 75th anniversary commemoration program will be held near a memorial monument at Fort Ontario State Historic Site dedicated to the "Fort Ontario Refugees and the millions of victims of the Nazis who never had an opportunity to start a new life." The Syracuse Pioneer Women/Na'amat erected the monument near the

Lake Ontario overlook parking lot during the first refugee reunion in 1981.

Paul Lear, Fort Ontario superintendent and historian, will introduce a program of speakers, who will include former refugees, their families, religious leaders, Jewish groups, historians, public officials, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum curator and historian Rebecca Erbelding, Safe Haven Holocaust Refugee Shelter Museum President Kevin Hill and representatives of organizations with historical ties to the shelter.

Speakers will deliver remarks on their personal memories of life at the shelter, events and circumstances leading to the formation of the Fort Ontario Emergency Refugee Shelter, how the shelter affected and continues to affect the lives of former refugees and city residents, how it was administered and operated, its historical significance and legacy, and its impact on U.S. refugee policy since World War

II. A memorial service will conclude the public program.

At 6 pm, a 75th Anniversary Refugee Reunion Dinner with guest speakers introduced by Hill will be held at the Lake Ontario Event and Conference Center at 26 E. First St., Oswego. The dinner is open to the public and reservations are required. Buffet dinners will cost \$50 and plated kosher dinners \$40 per person. Dinner reservations and event sponsorship forms may be obtained by contacting Judy Rapaport at 315-591-1050 or email jcrap53@gmail.com.

The Fort Ontario State Historic Site is located at the north end of E. Fourth Street and the Safe Haven Holocaust Refugee Shelter Museum is located at 2 E. Seventh St., Oswego.

For more information on the Fort Ontario Emergency Refugee Shelter, or 75th anniversary commemorative events, contact Lear at 315-343-4711, or visit the Friends of Fort Ontario Facebook page or www.fortontario.com.



The memorial monument at Fort Ontario State Historic Site is dedicated to the refugees and the millions of victims of the Nazis "who never had an opportunity to start a new life." The monument will be the focal point of 75th Anniversary Refugee Shelter commemorative activities.

Enjoying a swim with Camp JCC



Sabra K, 1 and 2 campers went swimming at Cole Park on one of their day trips. For more photos of week two at Camp JCC, see page 7.



Refugees at the Fort Ontario Emergency Refugee Shelter on August 5, 1944, during customs processing and baggage retrieval.

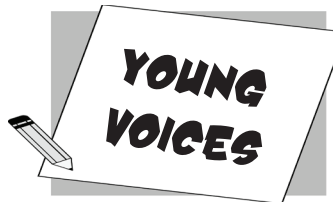
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Culture shock: Jewish youth and identity in small town America

ISAAC KARP

Growing up Jewish while attending a non-Jewish public school has taught me many lessons. This diverse education broadened my scope of understanding and appreciation for others. Being part of a diverse community of students and teachers has also allowed me to reflect on my own religion and cultural identity.

After this summer, I will begin my senior year at Binghamton High School, a place I consider more than just a school, since it feels like I live so much of my life either in it or with friends from it. However, I didn't always attend public schools. Before BHS, before West Middle School, I spent six years at Hillel Academy, a local private Jewish elementary school.

The most obvious difference between Hillel, West Middle and BHS is the student population – and I'm not just talking about Jews! At Hillel, I was the only member of my fifth grade class. When I arrived at BHS, I was one of hundreds in the ninth grade. While the increased numbers were terrifying at first, the transition from an

all-Jewish school to a place where I could count on one hand the number of Jews was the biggest culture shock I have ever experienced.

After I left Hillel, I had a tough time at West Middle. The only people I knew were some of my basketball teammates from the Catholic Church League, which I ironically became involved in the summer after I left Hillel. Nevertheless, the transition to a place where I basically had no friends made each day a struggle. Making new friends from scratch is not the easiest challenge to take on, especially coming from such a tight-knit community like Hillel. I did make a couple of close friends and, eventually, I worked my way up. Without the relationships I developed throughout my years at West, attending the high school would have been even more difficult. Being forced into this situation increased my open mindedness and enhanced my social skills. Looking back on my first year at West, I realize this was the time where I could either persevere or give up. Adaptability is the defining word of my middle and high

school years, and every sacrifice I made to adapt constantly reminded me how important my roots really are.

However, being in a school that had barely any awareness, let alone appreciation of Judaism, confused me. How could I reconcile my assimilation into a secular culture while still retaining those parts of Judaism I hold most dear? This question is one many young Jewish people face today.

In future columns, I hope to explore these issues, while also analyzing in depth the relationship young Jews like me have with their community. I will interview local community leaders, members and students, and investigate how they identify and maintain Jewish culture, not just in Binghamton, but other nearby locales, as well. I will explore the perspectives of both the older and younger generations to find out how they think about Jewish youth culture and identity. I will also analyze how others understand Jews by examining online media platforms and the discussions that occur regarding the position of Jews in modern America.

Opinion

Wading into the world of philanthropic partnerships

By Vinna Katz and Romina Ruiz-Goiriena

(JNS) – In a world riddled with problems in need of solutions, philanthropy should be accessible to all. At the very least, this is something we strongly believe.

It all started at the first Tel Aviv University International Gala. We were the youngest people in the room – by several decades. We realized that we were both craving a space that other organizations had overlooked. Considering Tel Aviv University is known for innovation, we decided it was time to do some innovating ourselves. Millennials and Gen Xers were hit with the worst economic recession since the Great Depression, but they still give more money and time per capita than previous generations. We decided to take advantage of that passion; by the end of the night, we had a plan.

Young people everywhere have a desire to make an

impact in the world and often do so by getting involved in their local communities first. A recent "Millennial Impact Report" (2017) showed that 44 percent of those surveyed were willing to support a local issue versus 12 percent who were willing to support a national or global issue. As a result, we created a young leadership program, LocalTAU, as an outlet for young professionals to help solve real-world problems in their local communities by connecting to Israel's leading center of higher learning, Tel Aviv University.

Living in South Florida, we are on the frontlines of climate change and are dealing with a host of issues in dire need of solutions, including stormwater runoff. For those who are unaware, stormwater runoff is rainfall that flows over a ground surface, such as roads, driveways, rooftops and paved surfaces. The problem with this is that the water

doesn't soak into the ground; instead, it runs off surfaces, taking pollutants like pesticides, oils and trash with it into vital bodies of water. If not quickly resolved, this devastating crisis will cause ecological, economic and health implications for millions of people, including ourselves, who live along the coasts of South Florida.

LocalTAU offers engaged, passionate leaders the opportunity to identify local issues and source innovative solutions from world-renowned TAU research. In the process, it creates awareness, community and synergy between TAU and young activists in cities across the United States. LocalTAU uses a self-funded grant model to bridge philanthropy and startup methodologies, including pitch competitions, pilots and agile adaptation.

TAU professors and students gathered in downtown See "World" on page 3

In My Own Words

Immigration

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

It's very difficult for me to separate debates about immigration from my understanding of Jewish history. I'm not just talking about the Holocaust and how many additional people might have survived if the United States (and other countries) had opened their doors for those escaping from Europe. Expulsions have occurred in almost every Western nation and many of those in the Middle East. Sometimes the option of converting was available, but, for many, the only choice was death or exile from a place where their families may have lived for hundreds of years.

That said, I can intellectually understand the debate about immigration. On the one hand, some people feel borders should be open to anyone needing refuge or looking for a better life. On the other hand, other people believe a country has the right to decide who can enter its borders and that includes everything from restricting the number of people it lets in to determining where those people come from. The debate continues with discussions about what should occur after people immigrate. For example, some people say that immigrants should be allowed to keep their ethnic and religious identities, along with being allowed to speak the language of their previous nation. Others believe that if you move to France, you need to learn to speak French. If you move to Germany, you need to learn to speak German. If you move to the U.S., then you need to learn English. They also believe that doing otherwise is a disservice to the immigrant's children, who need to know the new tongue

in order to advance in society. As for ethnic and religious identities, all countries have restrictions: The United States, for example, doesn't allow polygamy or child marriages. The expectation is that everyone living in our country will respect its rules.

Both sides have legitimate arguments. Completely open borders actually makes no more sense than completely shutting them does. Should we be only accepting those who are tired, hungry, poor or seeking asylum, or should we only allow in those who have a certain level of education and can already speak English? I've heard people saying that only those who can be productive should be allowed in the country, which would have prevented a great many of our ancestors from immigrating. A friend, however, greatly disagrees with letting in those with advanced degrees because she feels they take jobs away from her family, whose members have worked hard to educate themselves.

What is problematic – no matter which side of the argument you are on – is what's happening to recent immigrants to the U.S. Forget the debate about what the camps should be called because that's irrelevant. The condition of those places is horrific and we – yes, you and I and everyone in the U.S. – are responsible because our government represents us. And we can't pretend we don't know what's happening because pictures and statements on the TV and in newspapers and the Internet have shown us what is being done in our name.

Some people say that if the immigrants would just stay in their native countries, they wouldn't be placed in camps or have their children taken from them. But very few people want to leave their homeland – their families, customs and languages – unless they feel desperate. Immigrants are so desperate that they are willing to do the jobs most Americans don't want, including spending long hours picking crops in the blinding heat of summer so we can have inexpensive food. And, even if we don't want them in our country, we still need to treat them humanely. If you don't feel that way as an American, then you need to feel that way as a Jew.

Judaism demands that we *not* oppress the stranger in our midst. Don't believe me? Check the Bible and look at these verses – just two of many – that speak to this topic:

◆ Exodus 23:9: "You shall not oppress the stranger, for you know the heart of a stranger, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt."

◆ Leviticus 19: 33-34: "When a stranger lives with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the home born among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God."

Even if you want to send all the immigrants in those camps back to their native lands, you must still treat them decently when they are within our borders. The conditions of the camps are a violation of Jewish law and an embarrassment to anyone who believes in America.



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

THE REPORTER
Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton
BINGHAMTON, NY

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

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

www.thereporter.org

“All politics is local”: U.S. mayors travel to Israel to enhance relations on municipal level

By Jackson Richman

(JNS)—Turn on any cable-news channel and the majority of the focus will be on national leaders like U.S. President Donald Trump or Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi. And while politicians on the national level indeed command attention, state and local politics move forward at the same time, often at a quicker pace in terms of legislation and reaction to crises. Citizens often feel a more direct impact from resulting policies: From helping local businesses and revitalizing a city’s downtown to basic trash pickup, mayors and local leaders serve as the backbone of getting things done across America.

International exchanges also occur among this set of legislators that doesn’t often get prime-time headlines. Just recently, in fact, a bipartisan delegation of U.S. mayors – four Democrats and one Republican – visited Israel with the American Jewish Committee’s Project Interchange as part of an effort to enhance U.S.-Israel relations and learn practical tools at the municipal level.

Led by Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, the trip included the following mayors: Shane Bemis of Gresham, OR; Michelle De La Isla of Topeka, KS; Rick Kriseman of St. Petersburg, FL; and Kathy Sheehan of Albany, NY.

“Los Angeles and Israel share so much – vibrant cultures, beautiful landscapes, diverse communities, ties of family and friends, our experiences as dreamers and our common belief in democracy,” said Garcetti in a statement by AJC. “Our delegation is showing how cities lead on the world stage, how mayors get things done, and how urban centers can tackle everything from innovation and climate change to immigration and economic growth.”

According to AJC, the visit is intended to provide these local policymakers with a first-hand understanding of Israel, and its economic and social entrepreneurship. AJC said that the goal is for these mayors to observe Israel’s democracy, diverse society and regional challenges.

During the visit, the mayors met with their Israeli counterparts to discuss best practices for their home communities on smart-city development, economic growth technology startups, urban revitalization and city administration. They also spoke with an executive from Intel in Israel.

“Part of the reason I travel outside of not only my city and state, but our country, is we see our city as an opportunity, especially in the technology area, where in Israel it is a startup capital of the world, really, in the largest hub of tech outside of Silicon Valley,” said Kriseman. “We think there are opportunities for companies that may have started in Israel to locate a branch of their business, their U.S. location, in our city, so we’re going to continue to look for opportunities.”

Kriseman mentioned meeting several times in the past with the Florida-Israel Business Alliance and an Israeli business called ECONcrete, which uses environmentally friendly concrete methods and first started in St. Petersburg. See “Mayors” on page 4



A bipartisan delegation of U.S. mayors visited Israel with the American Jewish Committee’s Project Interchange as part of an effort to enhance U.S.-Israel relations and learn practical tools at the municipal level. (Photo courtesy of AJC Project Interchange)

The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to **Frieda Brill** on the death of her sister,
Blanche Rosenberg

World.....Continued from page 2

Miami in April to pitch their innovative solutions in a “Shark Tank”-style competition in front of an audience comprised of nearly 100 Floridians, government officials and civic leaders, as well as local and national American Friends of TAU leaders.

Two innovative proposals were selected from dozens of applicants to participate in the pitch competition: “Hybrid Biofilters” and “The Drain Box.” The esteemed judges’ panel consisted of many high-profile individuals, including the former highest-ranking Hispanic scientist in the Obama State Department, city of Miami officials and Florida International University officers.

The judges challenged both teams regarding the sustainability of their potential solutions due to Florida’s frequent hurricanes, the tendency for its bodies of water to flood, concerns about mosquitos and Zika virus, and ultimately, the cost of implementation. After private deliberation, the judges returned to offer their analysis of the proposals and announced the winner. Ultimately, the judges preferred the “Hybrid Biofilters” proposal, citing its low cost and sustainability.

“Hybrid Biofilters” proposed directing stormwater away from city streets, using environmentally friendly methods

to purify it and then turning it into an easily accessible water resource. The team was awarded \$20,000 to begin researching and piloting the practical implementation of its solution.

Professor Dror Avisar of the winning team became passionate about Florida’s water issues, which he stated are intrinsically tied to climate change. According to Avisar, “After spending a week in South Florida meeting with leaders and local officials, winning the competition was the icing on the cake.”

This collaboration between TAU and South Florida is the first step to solving not only stormwater runoff, but various other widespread issues in the future. The impact of this pilot was palpable. A number of institutions pledged their support to implement the Hybrid Biofilters, while others expressed interest in providing additional funding. We also succeeded in attracting a whole demographic that not only had never been to Israel, but also were not of any religious affiliation.

Ultimately, we plan to go global and launch new chapters as close as Canada and as distant as Australia. The only way to face and solve global challenges is by investing and believing in the next generation of leaders. LocalTAU is the beginning of something big, and we’re excited to continue bringing our world together – one solution at a time.

Vinna Katz is an entrepreneur and one of the youngest board members of the American Friends of Tel Aviv University. Romina Ruiz-Goiriena is an award-winning journalist who covers immigration and politics. She has served as a reporter for Haaretz, France24, El Mundo, AP and CNN. Together, they created LocalTAU.

Community Calendar

The Community Calendar can be found on the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton’s website, www.jfgeb.org, by clicking on “calendar.” Updates or additions of events for the calendar can be made by contacting the Federation through its website (click on “calendar” and then “click here to request a change to the calendar”) or by calling 724-2332.

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Off the Shelf

Poverty in the midst of riches

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

Not every Jew who came to the United States settled in an urban area. During the 19th century, there was an experiment: Jews from Europe were placed on farms in rural areas across the U.S., including the Midwest. As portrayed in Rosellen Brown's "The Lake on Fire" (Sarabande Books), these farms were often not successful as the immigrants knew little to nothing about farming. This left them with little time for anything frivolous, although one young woman, Chaya, is sent to school in a nearby town to learn English so she can help her family when they needed English to speak. When her education is cut short, she finds herself longing for a different type of life. Running away to Chicago with her younger brother, Asher, Chaya quickly learns that it's not easy for someone with few skills and an accent to make her way in that city.

Life in their village in Europe and on the farm had not prepared Chaya for a large, bustling city like Chicago. She is stunned by the fact that "Everything moved. Of course she knew in theory, but it hardly seemed possible in fact, that they had lived on that prairie – nothing but slender dancing grass and scabbed earth – while *this* existed. The air was thick, rich, rank, fishy, buttery, harsh with manure. And the hurrying crowds, thousands of skirts in thousands of colors sweeping the street, and more, by far, black-suited men beneath bobbing hats." With the help of a kind stranger, Chaya and Asher find their way to the Jewish section of the city and board in the small apartment of a recent Jewish widow, Mrs. Gottlieb. Chaya finds work in a cigar factory, but has to take an evening job, too, in order to make ends meet. The work is exhausting as she watches her dream of a better life disappear.

Chaya also worries about Asher, who refuses to attend

school and spends his days wandering the streets of Chicago. He is fascinated by the city and explores its alleys, learning about the people who live there. He also becomes a poor-man's Robin Hood – taking small objects from stores and people's pockets, and passing them on to the unemployed and homeless he meets. Since he looks even younger than he is and reads beyond his age level – even though he doesn't always understand the words – Asher is invited to entertain in rich people's homes where he is treated like a trained monkey. Between these visits and his friendships with those who have even less than he does, Asher dislikes anyone who has money to flaunt. This becomes a problem when Chaya is befriended by a non-Jewish man from a rich family. Could this be a way for her to escape poverty, or would she be leaving one type of bondage for another? Plus, will Asher disown her if he feels she's betrayed him by joining those he disdains?

While "The Lake on Fire" doesn't stint on plot, the most interesting sections focus on the moral and ethical decisions the characters must make. For example, Chaya wonders about the motives of her suitor, Gregory: Does he truly care for her, or is she part of his experiment to learn more about the poor of Chicago? Motive does matter to her, as seen when she compares Gregory to the prince in the fairy tale Cinderella: "I wonder if the prince loved Cinderella because he plucked her out of the ashes, not in spite of it. Because she was her terrible sisters' servant while he was riding around the forests on the castle grounds and going to parties and drinking champagne and – whatever things they do at that castle. That would make a man feel much better about himself." Mrs. Gottlieb, on the other hand, thinks that Chaya should be grateful for everything Gregory does for her and be glad that a wonderful man

like him loves her and wants to help her.

However, gratitude is a difficult thing – particularly when the gift is either impractical or when Gregory doesn't notice something she really needs. For instance, when he buys her a beautiful dress before their visit to his parents, she bristles at its impracticality. What she really needs is new shoes to replace her worn ones. Gregory doesn't understand why she can't be more graceful about accepting gifts and Chaya wonders if she will ever be able to feel grateful as long as others are suffering. It doesn't help that Asher disapproves of the dress. To him, it makes her look like the people he hates at the parties he performs at – people who have a great deal of money, but refuse to pay a living wage or treat the poor as if they were subhuman. When they are at his parents' party, which features enough food to feed her and Asher for weeks, Gregory complicates matters by noting, "All this will go on with you or without you, Chaya, whether you approve or not." While she does know that, it doesn't make her feel any better.

The prose in "The Lake on Fire" is dense – focusing more on feelings and descriptions than actions. This made the novel move slowly at times due to the sheer number of words used to describe what is happening in people's thoughts or what they see around them. The beauty of Brown's work, though, is that she has not written a Cinderella story: Chaya is not looking to be relieved of her class consciousness, even while she hopes to someday escape poverty. The question of whether she will be able to make Asher understand how she wants to change her life is something that troubles her throughout the novel. "The Lake on Fire" gives insights into human hearts and debates whether love can overcome the economic realities of the world.

Mayors. Continued from page 3

Sheehan of Albany told JNS about a meeting with one Israeli startup that could help them better connect with their constituents. This startup has "a new product that is focused solely on municipalities and helping us to better understand public sentiment, so that's something that's of interest to me to follow up on," she said.

"AJC has worked closely with mayors and municipal leaders for decades on issues of mutual concern," said Melanie Maron Pell, AJC managing director of regional offices, who joined the delegation in Israel. "The mayors learn a great deal about high-tech and economic development, immigration absorption, diversity and emergency services that will assist them in their governance of their respective cities."

In addition to visiting historical and cultural sites, the delegation visited Tel Aviv; Haifa; Israel's border areas, including up north near Lebanon; and Jerusalem, including the Old City. The delegation also met with Palestinian civic and business leaders in the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank. Several sessions dealing with Israel's strategic environment, diversity and coexistence, and interreligious cooperation were discussed, according to AJC.

Sheehan mentioned hearing about "some of the approaches around workforce development and workforce issues," adding that while Israel currently has a low unemployment rate, the West Bank and Gaza exhibit the opposite. On the trip, she did observe efforts in the West Bank to recruit engineers in improving the area's technology sector and universities "to ensure that they're accessing the full workforce that is available."

The mayors also met with leaders across the political and

social spectrum, including Israel President Reuven Rivlin, U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman, high-ranking government officials, leaders of Israel's minority communities, and Jewish and Arab civil society leaders. They also received a briefing from Brig. Gen. Nitzan Nuriel regarding the security situation in neighborhoods near the Golan Heights and the Gaza Strip.

Bemis recalled that one of the most memorable moments of the trip was going to an event at a small community school in Kiryat Shmona. "It felt exactly like I was in my own city. The parents were the same, videotaping... the kids. Parents had smiles on their faces. The kids were



A bipartisan delegation of U.S. mayors visited Israel with the American Jewish Committee's Project Interchange as part of an effort to enhance U.S.-Israel relations and learn practical tools at the municipal level. Here, they spent time at an Israeli school. (Photo courtesy of AJC Project Interchange)

singing the same way, albeit in a different language," he described. "And the grandparents were there."

He continued, saying "it was just so familiar to the mayors because it was like, 'Kids are all the same, no matter where they are.' Obviously, parents are still the same, no matter where they are."

The delegation also observed how Israel balances the preservation of its heritage with modern municipal management and the provision of social services. Sheehan said that Haifa, like Albany, is a diverse city, specifically in terms of religion. "In looking at the differences even among communities we visited in Israel, it also sort of resonated because I look at New York state, for example, and you have New York City with its own issues," she said. "And then you have the rest of New York state, which is very different."

"You sort of see the same thing in Israel," she continued. "There's Tel Aviv, which is a very different place than some of the cities we visited that were clearly different from the cities we visited on the West Bank, but also different from some of the northern cities we visited."

While the mayors saw many of the aspects that make Israel "special," they said one of the biggest takeaways was that no matter whether they are in small-town America or in the Middle East, many of the daily challenges remain comparable. "The issues of a mayor are not that dissimilar, no matter where they are in the world," said Bemis, who cited garbage pickup and potholes as examples. "One of the other big takeaways that the mayors felt was that a mayor is a mayor, no matter where they're at. The issues are almost always the same."

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of LG HOSPITALITY LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 6/10/2019. Office Location: Broome Co. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom service of process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Palmer J. Pelella, Esq., P.O. Box 309, Owego, NY 13827. Purpose: any lawful activities.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY: The name of the limited liability company is: Melissa Anne Hackford, LLC (the "Company"). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was June 5, 2019. The county in which the principal place of business of the Company shall be located is Broome County. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the Company upon whom process against it may be served. The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the Company, to Hinman, Howard & Kattell, LLP, Attn: Ronald L. Greene, 80 Exchange Street, Binghamton, NY 13901. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY: The name of the limited liability company is: Parlor City Resources LLC (the "Company"). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was February 6, 2013. 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 c/o Robert W. Carey, Esq., 122 State Street, Suite 220, Binghamton, NY 13901. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

HNLT Innovations LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) 5/6/2019. Cty: Broome. SSNY design. as agent upon whom process against may be served & shall mail process to 557 Park Ave., Binghamton, NY 13903. General Purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY: The name of the limited liability company is: 3 Flying Squirrels, LLC (the "Company"). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was June 5, 2019. The county in which the principal place of business of the Company shall be located is Broome County. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the Company upon whom process against it may be served. The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the Company, to Hinman, Howard & Kattell, LLP, Attn: 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 J.M. Link LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 05/13/19. Office

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

location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: J.M. Link LLC, 931 Glendale Dr., Endicott, NY 13760. Name and address of the registered agent upon whom process may be served: United States Corporation Agents, Inc., 7014 13th Ave., Ste. 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: any lawful activities.

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

- The name of the limited liability company ("LLC") is Bows & Bandanas Grooming Salon, LLC.
- The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is July 9, 2019.
- The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the LLC is located is Broome.

- 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: 870 Chenango Street, Binghamton, NY 13904.

- The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

Notice of Formation of BLOOM THERAPY LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER PLLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 06/27/19. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Bloom Therapy Licensed Clinical Social Worker PLLC, Attn: Chenango Place, 7 Court St., Binghamton, NY 13901. Purpose: to practice the profession of licensed clinical social work.

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Israeli national baseball team takes first step in qualifying for 2020 Olympics

By JNS staff

(JNS) – Israel’s national baseball team took its first step toward qualifying for the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo over the July 7 weekend, winning the Confederation of European Baseball’s European Championships Pool in a perfect 6-0 sweep.

Team Israel, which overcame the Greek, Serbian, Bulgarian, Irish and Russian teams to take first place in its group, will now advance later in July to a three-game playoff series against the winner of the second Pool B group, Lithuania. The winner of that series will move up to Pool A, and the top five teams from that group will advance to

Olympics qualifiers in Parma, Italy, at the end of September.

Though many of Israel’s players were recruited from outside the country, seven began their baseball careers in Israel and five are native-born Israelis.

“This team represents the best of Israel baseball, with players who have vast experience both on the professional stage as well as in colleges,” Peter Kurz, Israel Association of Baseball president and general manager of Team Israel, told *The Jerusalem Post* from the site of the win in Bulgaria. “With Team Israel’s great sixth-place finish in the 2018 World Baseball Classic tournament after See “Team” on page 7



Israel’s national baseball team in 2018. (Photo courtesy of Israel Baseball Association)

beat the heat ice cream scoops

Schoolhouse Creamery

Location: 17 Fox Farm Rd.
Windsor, NY 13865
Owners: Lena Colpitts and Susan Colpitts
Phone: 607-499-2015
Facebook: Schoolhouse Creamery
Hours: Sun.-Sat. (all week) noon-9 pm
Most Popular Flavors: Sea Salted Caramel Cookies and Cream, Brown Butter Bourbon Truffle, Dark Chocolate Raspberry Truffle, Cookie Doughlicious, Green Mint Chip and Peanut Butter Cup

In an old, one room schoolhouse, the Schoolhouse Creamery offers traditional soft serve flavors, along with a variety of blended flavors, too. The Schoolhouse Creamery carries 32 different flavors of Hershey hard ice cream, including both yogurt and reduced fat with no sugar added.

“We can make milkshakes with any of our flavors and sundaes with toppings of your choice,” say owners Lena Colpitts and Susan Colpitts. “In addition, we make a variety of ice cream sandwiches, along with ice cream cakes and even frozen cupcakes, too.”

Scoopy Dooby Ice Cream

Location: 45 Lewis St.
Binghamton, NY 13901
Name: Mark Yonaty
Phone: 607-743-3818
Website: www.scoopydooby.com
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 5-10 pm, Sat.-Sun. 3-10 pm (hours may vary)
Most Popular Flavors: Camp Fire Smores, Toasted Coconut, Power Play

Scoopy Dooby Ice Cream is a fun, energetic ice cream shop located in a historic part of Binghamton’s history, the Lackawanna Train Station. There is a wide variety of ice cream flavors and sundae toppings. Scoopy Dooby’s features Gifford’s Ice Cream, which is kosher, and maintains a kosher certificate on premises.

There is indoor and outdoor seating, including on a great patio. Off street parking is available.

Suzy Q’s

Location: 1110 Chenango St.
Hillcrest, NY 13901
Phone: 607-723-3206
Hours: Mon.-Sun. 12-9:30 pm
Most Popular Flavors: Moosetracks, Cappuccino Crunch

Suzy Q’s ice cream shop offers 64 flavors of Hershey’s ice cream along with three soft-serve ice creams: chocolate, vanilla and twist. Both sugar and waffle cones are available. Suzy Q’s also offers Flurries, milk shakes, malts and soft drinks.

Milk shakes can be made using any of the Hershey’s ice creams. The Flurries can be made with Oreos, Heath bars, peanut butter cups, M&Ms, Reese’s Pieces, Nestlé Crunch bars, gummies and more. Other toppings include regular and fat-free/sugar-free hot fudge sauce, caramel, chocolate syrup, peanut butter, butterscotch, walnuts, pecans, marshmallow, pineapples, strawberries, blueberries and raspberries. Sprinkles come in rainbow, chocolate, pink, red, white, blue and more.

Suzy Q’s offers chocolate or vanilla ice cream cakes, and can make special order ice cream cakes from any of the 64 ice cream flavors. For special cakes, call Suzy Q’s at 723-3206.

Valley Creamery

Location: 36 North Main St.
Newark Valley, NY
Name: Amy Vanderpoel
Phone: 607-222-1003
Facebook: Valley Creamery
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 2-9 pm, Sat.-Sun. noon-9 pm
Most Popular Flavors: Milkshakes, sundaes

Amy Vanderpoel is the owner of Valley Creamery in Newark Valley, NY, now open for its second year. “I bought the business a year ago and love running it,” says Amy. “We offer a wide variety of hard flavors, and the traditional soft chocolate, vanilla and twist. We have had our difficulties, but with a dedicated, hardworking staff and great products, I know we can succeed.”

Valley Creamery offers Perry’s brand ice cream, and creates a variety of sundaes and milkshakes. Valley Creamery also offers hot dogs, chips and sodas. There is outdoor seating and a playset for children.

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Balak, Numbers 22:2-25:9

A people that dwells apart

RABBI GEOFFREY BROWN, TEMPLE ISRAEL, VESTAL, NY

Balak. Yet another *parasha* – Torah portion – is named for a non-Israelite. Yitro, the wise and noble father-in-law to Moses, is honored with the first. Yitro is known for schooling Moses' insane governance by suggesting that Moses share his judicial responsibilities with others. Balak, on the other hand, is no friend to Moses and the Israelites. Balak is the king of Moab. He regards the Israelites as "many" and "mighty," and that the Israelites "cover the eye of the land." This imagery is borrowed from Exodus' plague of locusts, an unfavorable and fearful image. Balak exemplifies state-sponsored physical power, or lack of power, in the ancient world. He has witnessed the strength, perseverance and Godly protections of the multitude traveling the southern wilderness – the children of Israel. Balak understands that defeating the Israelites on the battlefield was unlikely and that instead, using the otherworldly skill of the renowned pagan prophet Bala'am, with special powers to bless and curse, was a sure cure to Balak's Israelite ailment.

Even though it is Balak for whom our *parasha* is named,

it is Bala'am who is identified as the main character in this week's drama. The Talmud justifiably refers to this *parasha* as the "Book of Bala'am." Robert Alter, the contemporary and commentator-translator of the Hebrew Bible, remarks that the Book of Bala'am contains high comedy and observes that Bala'am, a seer who cannot see, is ironically cast into a story about seeing! It appears as comic relief in that Bala'am's donkey has better vision than the donkey owner. The story goes that Bala'am's donkey, while ferrying his owner to curse the Children of Israel, found its path obstructed by a sword-wielding angel. The donkey could see the angel. Bala'am could not. Not only could the donkey see, but the donkey could also talk, the first talking animal in the entire Torah. (Our counting of talking animals will exclude the Garden of Eden story's mythological serpent!) The poor beast of burden was struck by the seer repeatedly, who could not see why the donkey abruptly stopped on the path, until the angel revealed himself to Bala'am.

This famous seer-prophet is revered in the ancient world

and is regarded as its most successful magician who claims to harness and manipulate God. It is undeniably God who ends up controlling Bala'am. The Moabite king, Balak, sought him out because he was the best. However, each time that Bala'am tries to make good on his job contract, to curse the children of Israel, his words are God's words, words of blessings. This famous blessing placed in Bala'am's mouth by God and attributed to Bala'am is a now common liturgical song sung in houses of prayer and campfires alike. "How goodly are your tents, O Jacob, your dwellings, O Israel!" (*Mah tovu, o-h-lecha yaakov, mish-kan-o-techa Yisrael.*) A lesser quoted passage from his God-induced blessing is, "... For from the top of the crags do I see them, and from the hills do I gaze on them. Look, a people that dwells apart, amongst nations it is not reckoned..."

A people that dwells apart. These words, by all modern measurement, were prophetic then and continue to be so in the present. Isn't this the way the world has viewed Jews See "People" 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:
 Shabbat, July 20.....9 am
 Mincha after kiddush
 Weekday Services:
 Mornings:
 Sun., July 21.....8:30 am
 Mon.-Fri., July 22-26.....7 am
 Evenings:
 Sun., July 21.....8:05 pm
 Mon.-Thurs., July 22-25.....8:15 pm
 Classes: Rabbi Zev Silber will hold his weekly Talmud class every Tuesday evening after services.

Penn-York Jewish Community

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

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 Brith Sholom

Affiliation: Unaffiliated
 Address: P.O. Box 572, 117 Madison St., Cortland, NY 13045
 Phone: 607-756-7181
 President: Bruce Fein, 607-423-3346
 Service leaders: Lay leadership
 Shabbat services: Either Friday evening at 7:30 pm or Saturday at 10 am from Rosh Hashanah to Shavuot. Holiday services are also held. Check the weekly e-mail for upcoming services. Contact the president to get on the e-mail list.
 Religious School: Students are educated on an individual basis. Temple Brith Sholom is a small equalitarian congregation serving the greater Cortland community. Congregants span the gamut of observance and services are largely dependent on the service leader. The Friday night siddur is "Likrat Shabbat," while the Saturday morning siddur is "Gates of Prayer." The community extends a warm welcome to the Jewish student population of SUNY Cortland, as well as the residents of local adult residences.

Temple Concord

Affiliation: Union for Reform Judaism
 Rabbi: Barbara Goldman-Wartell
 Address: 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905
 Office hours: Tues.-Fri., 10 am-2 pm
 Phone: 723-7355
 Fax: 723-0785
 Office e-mail: TempleConcordbinghamton@gmail.com
 Website: www.templeconcord.com
 Regular service times: Friday, 8 pm; Saturday, 10:35 am, when religious school is in session.
 Hebrew school: Hebrew school meets at 5:15 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the school year unless otherwise noted.
 On Friday, July 19, at 6:30 pm, there will be a BYO Picnic Dinner and, at 8 pm, there will be a Shabbat Visual Tefilah service, in the library, led by Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell.
 On Saturday, July 20, at 9:15 am, there will be Torah study.
 On Friday, July 26, at 8 pm, there will be a Shabbat Visual Tefilah evening service for World Refugee Day and U.N. Refugee Convention Anniversary, in the library, led by Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell.
 On Saturday, July 27, at 9:15 am, there will be Torah study.

Congregation Tikkun v'Or

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

Kol Haverim

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



Friday, July 19, light candles before 8:17 pm
 Saturday, July 20, Shabbat ends 9:16 pm
 Friday, July 26, light candles before 8:11 pm
 Saturday, July 27, Shabbat ends 9:10 pm

Temple Israel

Orientation: Conservative
 Rabbi: Geoffrey Brown
 Address: 4737 Deerfield Pl., Vestal, NY 13850
 Phone: 723-7461 and 231-3746
 Office hours: Mon.-Thurs. 8:30 am-4 pm; Fri. 8 am-3 pm
 E-mail: titammy@stny.twcbc.com
 Website: www.templeisraelvestal.org
 Service Schedule: Tuesday, 5:30 pm; Friday, 5:30 pm; Saturday, 9:30 am

On Saturday, July 20, at 9:30 am, Shabbat services will be led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown. The Torah portion will be Exodus 32:11-14; 34:1-10. The haftarah will be Isaiah 55:6-56:8. Alan Piaker and Al Lavker will sponsor the kiddush.

On Sunday, July 28, at 4 pm, there will be a Mussar class.

On Friday, August 9, at 7 pm, there will be Shabbat on the Road at Vestal Park Nursing Home.

On Saturday, August 10, at 8:30 pm, there will be Tisha B'Av services.

On Sunday, August 18, at 2 pm, there will be the Temple Israel Family Picnic. The cost is \$10 per person, children under 13 free.

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.

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: Randy Ehrenberg
 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 Saturdays, July 27, and August 24 and 31, at 5 pm, Rabbi Scott Glass will continue to teach a Perek in the Pardes" class studying "Pirkei Avot, The Ethics of the Fathers."

Jewish Community Center

FUN IN THE SUN AT CAMP JCC



Campers played a round of gaga at Camp JCC.



Campers at the second all-camp party on July 12.



Teen campers in the TLC group participated in the human knot trust-building exercise.



Campers played a game of oversized field hockey at Camp JCC.



Campers played dodgeball in the JCC's gym during Camp JCC.

JCC Friendship Club

The JCC Friendship Club met on July 10 to discuss an article that Sue Herzog cut out of *The Reporter*. It was about a city in the eastern part of Ukraine that sold public land with mass graves to someone to build housing. Although not all those buried were Jewish, most were. They were killed during the Holocaust. The discussion went from "how could they build a foundation" to "would they dig up the bodies and bury them some place else."

are rising and some islands in the oceans may be completely covered. He told us of the differences between the islands of Hawaii in the Pacific Ocean and Greenland in the Atlantic Ocean.

We discussed antisemitism in this country compared to that of Germany during World War II and today. Rabbi Rachel Esserman was invited to join our discussion and comment on this article. She said that the graves were very shallow. Because of the shortage of land for burial, we discussed alternatives, such as cremation and mausoleums. We thanked Rabbi Esserman for her input.

The meeting was called to order by Sylvia Diamond. Because we did not meet in our regular room, we did not have an American flag. We then said the Pledge of Allegiance to a virtual flag. Bruce told the meaning of the word "virtual" that was told to him in college. It goes like this: if you can see it and it is there, it is real; if you can't see it and it is there, it is transparent; if you can see it and it is not there, it is virtual; and if you can't see it and it is not there, it is gone.

Before the meeting started, we discussed climate change. It was very warm today. Bruce Orden mentioned that the water levels

On Wednesday, July 24, we will celebrate Ann Brilliant's birthday. Sue's husband Howie will present a sing-along program with his guitar. Come join us at 1:30 pm at the JCC.

Sylvia Diamond
President

Team.....Continued from page 5

beating some of the top teams in the world still fresh in their minds, their motivation is at an all-time high to represent Israel on this international stage and to go all the way to Tokyo in 2020."

Former Israel Air Force pilot Danny Grossman, who has taken part in fund-raising as well as assisting foreign-recruited

players integrate into Israel, told the *Post* that New York Yankees President Randy Levine and Los Angeles Dodgers President Stan Kasten have donated suites for their use as they prepare for Olympic qualifiers, and have reached out to fellow MLB owners and executives to take part in supporting Israel's team.

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For information, please contact Bonnie Rozen at 724-2360 ext. 244 or bonnie@thereportergroup.org

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NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

Hamas distances itself from official's call to slaughter Jews worldwide

After a senior Hamas official gave an "impassioned" speech on July 12 calling for Palestinians to slaughter Jews around the world, the terrorist organization issued a statement distancing itself from the statements, saying they "don't represent the movement's official positions," and that its conflict is with Israel and "not the Jews or their religion." "All of you seven million Palestinians abroad, enough of the warming up," Fathi Hammad told rioters at the Gaza-Israel border on July 12, in a speech broadcast on Hamas-run Al-Aqsa TV. "You have Jews everywhere and we must attack every Jew on the globe by way of slaughter and killing, if God permits. ...O, the people of the West Bank, until when will you be quiet?" he said. "We want knives to come out. Five shekels. How much does the neck of a Jew cost? Five shekels or less? ...We will die while exploding and cutting the

necks and legs of the Jews," he enthused. "We will lacerate them and tear them to pieces, Allah willing!" The remarks, which were brought to light by the Middle East Media Research Institute, an organization which monitors Arab media, were rejected by Hamas, which posted a statement to the effect on its website. "These statements do not represent the movement's official positions and consistent, adopted policies that stipulate that our conflict is with the occupation, which is occupying our land and sullyng our holy sites, and not with Jews around the world or with Judaism as a religion," the statement said. Hammad ultimately walked back his statement, posting his support for "Hamas' consistent, adopted policy of limiting its resistance to the Zionist occupation that usurps Palestine's land and defiles its holy sites" to the Hamas website. Secretary-General of the Palestine Liberation Organization Executive Committee Saeb Erekat also tweeted on July 15 that "the just values of the Palestinian cause include love for freedom, justice and equality. The repugnant statement of Hamas leader Mr. Fathi Hammad about Jews doesn't represent any of them. ...Religion shouldn't be used for political purposes," he said. In an interview with *The Times of Israel*, Erekat said Hammad's statements made him want "to vomit."

Iran says it's now willing to negotiate if U.S. lifts sanctions

Iranian leaders now say they are willing to return to negotiations with the United States if Washington lifts sanctions that occurred under the 2015 Iran nuclear deal. U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew from the deal in May 2018, reimposing sanctions and enacting new financial penalties against the Islamic Republic. "We have always believed in talks ... if they lift sanctions, end the imposed economic pressure and return to the deal, we are ready to hold talks with America today, right now and anywhere," said Iranian President Hassan Rouhani in a speech on July 14 after months of "angry and threatening" rhetoric against the United States and Israel. In that time, the Iranian economy has been feeling the pinch of increasing sanctions. Nevertheless, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo dismissed those demands, saying they were "the same offer that he offered to [Secretary of State] John F. Kerry and [U.S. President] Barack Obama."

Report: Hamas trying to trick IDF soldiers into releasing information via WhatsApp

Hamas operatives are attempting to use the messaging application WhatsApp to lure Israeli soldiers into providing sensitive information, according to a report by Ynet. According to the report, Hamas operatives are posing as Israeli soldiers and contacting troops through the application, asking for information on troop movements and scheduled exercises. "The IDF is aware of the enemy's activity and is following its efforts over social media," said the IDF in a statement. "We call on all military and civilian personnel to act carefully and responsibly." The statement went on to say that "we would like to point out that this year marks the anniversary of 'Operation Heartbreaker,' in which the IDF exposed Hamas activity against IDF soldiers on social media. The operation contributed greatly to raising the awareness and alertness of the soldiers, which is also reflected in the current situation." In January 2017, the IDF uncovered a Hamas effort to lure male soldiers into providing sensitive information on social media by masquerading as women. Since then, there have been hundreds of reports of suspicious individuals attempting to make contact with Israeli soldiers. Israel has subsequently launched two operations - "Hunter's Network" and "Operation Heartbreaker" - to uncover and eliminate such online threats to Israel's security. The IDF has warned soldiers not to upload classified information to social networks, only to download applications from reputable application stores and not to enter into online relationships with people they don't know personally.

Israeli, Palestinian business group tours Dead Sea area, eyeing economic engagement

Israeli and Palestinian businessmen toured the Dead Sea region recently with the aim of building on the seeds of mutual cooperation planted during the June "Peace to Prosperity" economic workshop in Bahrain. Participating in the July 9 tour were founder and president of the Judea-Samaria Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JS Chamber) Avi Zimmerman; Palestinian businessman and co-founder of the JS Chamber Ashraf Jabari; Megilot Regional Council head Arie Kohen; the council's tourism and culture branch director, Orit Hershtig; and a number of local Israeli and Palestinian business leaders. Throughout the day, the delegation visited the Beit Ha'arava plant, the Kalia beach, the Minus 430 Gallery and the "Biankini" Moroccan restaurant. "We are engaging with numerous business models that expand cooperation between the Israeli and Palestinian business communities," said Zimmerman. "We thank all those who have helped make this tour happen as well as those who are leading strategic collaborations with the JS Chamber." Jabari, who attended the Bahrain workshop, said "the meeting today is a direct continuation of the economic workshop in Bahrain, as well as the continued efforts of the JS Chamber to promote cooperation between Israeli and Palestinian businessmen. Meetings like the one that took place today give us the ability to expand our practical measures and our joint business ventures in the region." According to Kohen, the Dead Sea area is "a bridge between countries, cultures and religions. We are proud to be an international region, enabling real partnerships in tourism, employment and commerce. We will promote every initiative that will connect to the vision that we live every day."

People. Continued from page 6

throughout history? Haven't we, as Jews, also accepted our differentness as a source of pride? Reviewing the words of several of our established commentators may provide understanding to the people that dwells apart text. Rashi, our medieval French sage, suggests that Bala'am is simply predicting a secure future for the Israelite people. His interpretation of dwelling apart may be from the positive lens of our distinguished and different Torah tradition and that we are well rooted in our ancestors' vision. Rabbi Joseph Hertz, a 19th century U.K. scholar and U.K. chief rabbi, agrees with Rashi, saying that to dwell apart is to mean that Israel has always been a people isolated and distinguished from other peoples by its religious and moral laws, and by the concept of divine chosenness. Hertz also is saying, rather politely, that even as Jewish tradition differs from other religious practice, Judaism is not hostile toward other cultures. An 18th century sage, Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch, looks to Bala'am's dwelling-alone words as true and clear prophesy. Bala'am has a panoramic

view of the children of Israel's encampment city. He sees it as if seeing the future, during which Israel will live in an insulated land without much intercourse with other nations. It will sustain its internal national mission as a national social body and will not seek its greatness as a nation among nations. It will not seek control of the world, rather, it will seek peaceful, cooperative coexistence with other peoples and nations. If only, if only. There is no reality today that would allow for Israel's insulation from other nations. A hint of peaceful coexistence would be welcomed. For that matter, there is no way to turn back the clock of millennium to cast the Jewish people differently than Bala'am described us in the Torah. Unlike other people before us, we have not been allowed to fully assimilate in any society in which we lived - ever. Our separateness may be our history's curse, but in my opinion, it is what has sustained us. Our dwelling apart may actually be the blessing that God intended, for how can one be a light unto the nations if you are like everyone else?

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