

THE REPORTER

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Giving a face to the Federation

Auerbach retires as Federation director June 30

By Rabbi Rachel Esserman

In 2008, when Sima Auerbach began her position as executive director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, the Federation office was a quiet place. “No one walked in,” she said. “Now people drop in just to talk. *It’s great.*” That ability – to make people feel welcome and at home – is the hallmark of her time at the Federation.

Everything from her popular “Hello, it’s Sima” columns on page two of *The Reporter* to the many programs she’s organized for the community shows her desire to bring people together. In some ways, her mission at the Federation was to give back to a community that she said opened its arms to her and her husband, Neil: “We lived in Great Neck, NY, before – a cliquish community. Binghamton was the opposite and we fell in love.”

Auerbach noted that she had the advantages of working with a board and a community that was willing to accept change. “All the presidents and boards I’ve worked with trusted me and let me make changes and do things my way,” she added. “Who would have thought that changing the Campaign from freezing February to four months earlier in October would work? But it did because this community was willing to try and accept change. I needed to make the

Jewish Federation more about this community and try to bring it together – *b’yachad* – and not just about money.”

Another thing she is proud of is how there has been an increase in connections and shared activities among local Jewish organizations. Auerbach noted that, although the community has decreased in size, its spirit and donations have not. “The challenges of a shrinking community: I haven’t overcome the size problem, but we have overcome the thought that decreasing size would make a change in total amount of dollars donated to the Federation,” she said. “People stepped up to the plate and increased and again increased their gifts. I have been astounded by the generosity.”

She suggests that size may be a problem in the future. To offset that, Auerbach believes that the Federation needs to find ways to connect with younger generations. “We need to figure out what attracts younger people,” she noted. “We need to invite them to tell us how they can help protect and prolong our precious Jewish community.”

“When I began at the Federation, I started to think about programs beyond



Sima Auerbach

the Annual Meeting and Super Sunday,” she continued. “Roz Antoun was a partner in our early program developments: teaching mah jongg, women’s night out and lunch and learn, which led to many other ideas and activities.” Among these were the 92nd Street Y programming, the Jewish International Film Fest of Greater

Binghamton, the Yasher Koach awards, the Israel at 70 dinner with speaker Jonathan Tobin, the PJ Library and her “Hello, it’s Sima” columns.

Auerbach noted, “I wanted the community to feel part of the larger picture so we brought programming from the 92nd Street Y directly to Binghamton. And I personally love the Film Fest. It was a dream of mine to bring it here and, with the incredible committee, we’ve done it for six years

and will keep doing it. I am also proud of bringing the PJ Library here. We now have 108 Jewish children getting a book of Jewish content monthly.

“I love reading the Yasher Koach awards, which allow each Jewish organization in the area to publicly honor a member for his/her dedication and hard work,” she noted. “I think it’s wonderful that these volunteers are acknowledged for all they contribute to the community and that it’s done during the Annual Meeting or Super Sunday, when a large number of people gather. We need to celebrate each other, no matter what organization we donate our time to.”

One thing that surprised Auerbach was people’s reactions to her column in *The Reporter*. “People would stop me when I was shopping to talk about my most recent column,” she said. “I was amazed that people were so interested in what I had to see “**Director**” on page 3

Matching gift for Reporter donations

By Reporter staff

An anonymous donor has agreed to match up to \$10,000 for donations made to *The Reporter’s* Voluntary Subscription Drive postmarked by the end of June. A letter asking for voluntary donations in support of the paper was sent in late May to all members of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton.

“This is wonderful news,” said Rabbi Rachel Esserman, executive editor of *The Reporter*. “It’s getting more and more difficult to get advertising, so all community support is appreciated. Our very small staff works hard to create a paper worth reading.”

Sima Auerbach, executive director of the Federation, noted, “*The Reporter* is the one-stop place to find out what’s happening in our Jewish community. Whether you’re interested in what’s happening at

the Federation, the JCC, Hillel Academy, the synagogues or the College of Jewish Studies, it’s all in the paper. There are also articles about members of our community doing interesting things and articles of



interest about Israel, which means there is something in the paper for everyone.”

Shelley Hubal, incoming executive director of the Federation, added, “I’ve come to realize the value of *The Reporter* when it comes to making certain people know what is happening in our community. Whether it’s the film fest, organizations’ annual meetings or events, the paper lets you know what’s happening.”

To make a tax deductible donation, send a check made out to *The Reporter* to 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850, or stop by *The Reporter* office. For more information, call 724-2360, ext. 254.

Rabbi Brown to speak at Vestal library on July 8

On Monday, July 8, from 7-9 pm, Rabbi Geoffrey Brown, spiritual leader of Temple Israel in Vestal, will deliver a lecture titled “And What about the Children?” at the Vestal Public Library. The talk will focus on the Holocaust, depicting case studies and statistics that describe the tragic and often brutal treatment of children by the Nazis during World War II.

Of the 1.5 million children murdered by Hitler’s Nazi regime, approximately one million were Jewish children. Because of their vulnerability, the Nazis advocated kill-

ing children of “unwanted” or “dangerous” groups either as part of the “racial struggle” or as a measure of preventive security. The Germans and their collaborators killed children for these ideological reasons and in retaliation for real or alleged partisan attacks.

Organizers said, “Please join the Vestal Library for this challenging, yet compelling session to learn about the fate and demise of children during the Holocaust.”

The Vestal Public Library is located at 320 Vestal Pkwy. E., Vestal (near the Vestal High School and the Vestal Museum).

Temple Beth-El Arts Committee to host Summer Jewish Film Festival

The Arts Committee of Temple Beth-El invites the community to its annual Jewish film festival with a series of three films this summer. It will take place in the social hall of the temple, located at the corner of Court and Tioga streets in Ithaca. The line-up includes “Walk on Water” on June 27, “Yoo Hoo Mrs. Goldberg” on July 18 and “The Last Suit” on August 22. These are all Thursday evenings. The doors will open at 6:30 pm for free refreshments and socializing. The films will begin at 7 pm. Tickets are \$8 at the door (check or cash only). All films are appropriate for children ages 10 and above. Teens are encouraged to attend.



A scene from “Walk on Water.”

“Walk on Water” (Israel 2004), starring Lior Ashkenazi and Knut Berger, is an award-winning film by internationally-ac-

claimed director Eytan Fox which explores the motives, strengths and, ultimately, the humanity of an Israeli assassin sent to rectify a wrong committed five decades earlier. Several languages are spoken, as the plot moves from country to country. The film has English subtitles.

“Yoo Hoo Mrs. Goldberg” (USA 2009) is a documentary on television pioneer Gertrude Berg. She was the creator, principal writer and star of “The Goldbergs,” a popular radio show for 17 years, which became television’s very first character-driven domestic sitcom in 1949. Berg received the first Best Actress Emmy in

history and paved the way for women in the entertainment industry.

“The Last Suit” (Spain, Argentina 2018) depicts a Polish-born Holocaust survivor who decides to travel from Buenos Aires to Lodz to fulfill a promise he made nearly 70 years earlier. This late-life road movie boasts plenty of “poignant and humorous moments” as the protagonist meets a variety of “helpful characters” along his journey. The film has English subtitles.

The film festival is brought to you through Israeli Films, National Center for Jewish Film and Outsider Pictures. For further information, call 257-9924.

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Study finds Jewish teens flourish socially, emotionally and spiritually when connected to youth groups

By Deborah Fineblum

(JNS) – There was a time when “Don’t trust anyone over 30” was the mantra for the young. But if a new study of Jewish teens – the largest of its kind ever attempted – can be believed, the situation is much different today, news that will no doubt come as a huge relief to parents.

Eighteen-year-old Yael Berrol is intimately involved in Jewish life – be it in her Conservative synagogue in Oakland, CA, where she teaches fifth-graders in the Hebrew school; during her 10 years at Camp Ramah in Ojai, CA; in Israel, where she rode with an ambulance crew; or at events at her B’nai B’rith Youth Organization youth group. “The best part of BBYO for me are the conventions, a real connection with Judaism and a weekend away with a bunch of Jews,” says Berrol, who’s one of a handful of Jewish students in her high school. “Being together is when I feel like my true self.”

More than 17,000 Jewish teens like Berrol participated in an online survey, developed by the Jewish Education Project and Rosov Consulting. Most of the names came off lists from 14 youth groups representing Jews of all backgrounds, including Bnei Akiva, National Council of Synagogue Youth, Young Judea, CTeen, United Synagogue Youth and the Union of Reform Judaism Youth.

“We were basically interested in the lives of Jewish teens and understanding the impact of youth groups,” says Stacie Cherner, director of learning and evaluation at the Jim Joseph Foundation which, with the Lippman Kanfer Foundation for Living Torah, and the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, funded the study. The funders were especially interested in teens’ social and emotional development, “how these programs impact them in these ways,” says Cherner. One happy surprise: how many teens actually took the time to complete the survey.

The almost 18,000 respondents came in part from the youth groups that contributed and from a link pushed out through social media. “And we were all impressed with the honest, thoughtful answers we got,” replies Cherner.



Jewish teens took part in United Synagogue Youth’s International Convention. (Photo courtesy of United Synagogue Youth via Facebook)

Among the findings:

- ◆ Jewish teens like their parents; they enjoy spending time with their family and often look to their parents for guidance and to demystify the world around them.
- ◆ For most teens surveyed, Jewish beliefs and practices are closely linked with their family relationships and loyalties.
- ◆ The respondents believe teens need help in coping with pressures like academic pressure, self-esteem issues and a fear of failure.
- ◆ Jewish teens see social media as a mixed blessing, saying it can both cause stress and help them deal with stress, as well as connect with friends and help change the world.
- ◆ Most of the teens (75 percent) identify as Jewish (and 16 percent claim to be culturally Jewish), but many of those who say they have “no religion” also hope to engage with Judaism at some point in the future.
- ◆ Many (45 percent) rank antisemitism as a problem for today’s teens, though few feel personally threatened.
- ◆ Most of the teens (71 percent) report either a strong or very strong connection to Israel, with the majority of those who have not yet traveled hoping to do so one day.

Most crucially, the study found that teens active in a Jewish youth group (regardless of denomination) tend to flourish socially,

emotionally and spiritually as compared with those who are not. They also report feeling more connected to being Jewish, have higher self-esteem and better relationships with family, friends and other adults, and feel empowered to make positive change in their world.

“The parental issue was the big surprise,” says Rabbi Michael Shire, dean of the Graduate School of Education at Boston’s Hebrew College and a member of the study’s advisory board. And, he says, together with the results of a few other studies, it makes “a pretty good case for religious education and youth groups specifically. It seems that, along with a strong family and the belief in a higher power you’re connected to – this makes for someone who’s healthier in every way. It’s almost like these young people have a protective shell around them.”

Carl Shulman regularly sees these trends in action. “In our programming, we look at Jewish values, including how they were expressed in the civil-rights movement and other social-justice causes,” says Shulman, the youth engagement adviser at Temple Etz Chaim, a Reform congregation in Franklin, MA. “And we make sure it’s tied to Jewish tradition – something in the Torah or Talmud that speaks to them.”

Shulman says youth-group advisers play a “unique role” in a teen’s life. “We’re a cross between a teacher, a friend and a camp counselor,” he says. “So they feel they can be open about their thoughts and feelings and confide in us.”

One feature of the study, giving the participating youth movements feedback on how their teens stacked up in a variety of ways, provided much-appreciated input, says NCSY’s International Director Rabbi Micah Greenland: “This is a terrific opportunity to learn about what our teens are gaining from involvement with us. It invites us to better understand and reflect on where we are relative to the field and where we have room to grow.”

Over at URJ, staff are also evaluating the results. “We knew it anecdotally,” says Miriam Chilton, URJ’s vice president for youth. “But now we have the data that demonstrates that participation in Jewish groups goes a long way toward achieving our goals of seeking meaning and seeing themselves as connected to both Jewish tradition and the world.”

Not surprisingly, adds Chilton, most NFTY/URJ teens ranked higher on social justice than on the ritualistic aspects of Judaism. “It’s not good or bad, but it is reflective of Reform values,” she says.

Another take-away for Chilton: multiple points of contact result in maximum impact. “Those involved in youth group, their temple, Israel and a Jewish camp, for instance, had the most positive impact,” she says. “And given the number of our families who have just one Jewish parent, whose connection may not be as strong, we can look to offer a wide variety of programming. It gives us a pretty compelling case for the best ways of working with the next generation.”

For David Bryfman, The Jewish Education Project’s incoming CEO, this study’s biggest gift is “giving organizers of Jewish youth organizations a good look at the outcomes they’re having in outreach today. Basically, the study shows the more kids doing Jewish activities the more engaged they are.”

See “Teens” on page 7

Opinion

In My Own Words

Add a blessing

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

My answer took me by surprise. During Shavuot morning services this year, we were asked to silently add our own blessing to those included in the prayer book. What came to mind was gratitude for being able to work. The reason that thought was a surprise is that I’ve started to take for granted the fact I can work full time – even if I still need more sleep than many people and have to be careful I don’t overdo. There were years I didn’t have the energy to hold a job and the people who knew me then are often amazed at what I am able to accomplish now.

My gratitude was most likely due to the fact that, a few days before the holiday, I visited a friend who is having severe health problems. Years of treatment have finally caught up with her and she is no longer able to work. What bothers her most is the idea that she’s not contributing to the world – that her existence is pointless.

In American culture, if you’re not making money, you’re often treated as if you have no value. What our culture doesn’t understand or appreciate is how the simple fact of our existence adds goodness to the world. I told my friend that her life was still a gift to her family, even if she couldn’t do much – even if all she could accomplish in a day was getting out of bed, getting dressed and sitting in a chair. And it didn’t even matter if on some days she couldn’t get out of bed. Her love and caring was what mattered.

I was lucky enough to learn this from my younger brother, Larry, when I was young. Larry had Down Syndrome, but he understood what was important about people. He didn’t care how much money you made or if you had a fancy house or car, or went on expensive vacations. His only concern was, were you a nice person? Then you were wonderful and deserved a hug. With Larry, I always knew I was special.

This idea is also found in Judaism. We are *all* created in the Divine image. The one mystical concept I like is the idea that we *all* have a spark of the Divine within us – if only we look close enough, look beyond the surface and see what’s inside. We count in a minyan (prayer quorum) even when we are unable to walk, see or hear. Even if our minds begin to wander, we still matter. Every mitzvah we do – every commandment we follow – is important, even if it’s only enjoying a festive *kiddush* or holiday meal.

Too many times, we take our physical abilities for granted – at least, until we lose them. We get used to life as it is and don’t contemplate how we were when we were young or how we may be in the future. But pausing to think about this – pausing to be grateful – reminds us of just how miraculous our lives are and what a gift we have been given.



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

LETTERS

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

ADS

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

DEADLINE

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www.thereportergroup.org

The Reporter wants the community to *kvell* with you

If your baby was born between July 2018 and July 2019, submit your baby's picture to *The Reporter* for the annual Family Focus issue, which will be published on July 5. Pictures must be delivered by Tuesday, June 25. Parents and grandparents are welcome to put a photo into an envelope and stop by or mail to *The Reporter's* office at the JCC (500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850),



slide it under our door if we're not open, or e-mail to TReporter@aol.com as a JPG or TIF. Please include the baby's name, sex, date of birth, parents' names, grandparents' names and great-grandparents' names.

Photos may be picked up at *The Reporter* after July 5 or include a self-addressed stamped envelope and it will be mailed back to you.

TI VINES garden a community effort

The community is pitching in to create the Temple Israel VINES garden. There are currently 20 raised beds in place. The next step will be seeding and protecting the garden with a double fence to keep out deer neighbors.



At right: The raised beds at the Deerfield Place Community Garden at Temple Israel.



Workers came from across the community.



Volunteers at the VINES Deerfield Place Community Garden at Temple Israel lined up raised beds.

Director.....Continued from page 1

say. I was told that it made people feel as if they knew me. To me, that meant they felt there was a friendly face waiting for them at the Federation."

There will be some advantages to retirement. "Neil and I plan to see our children and grandchildren more often," she said. "Perhaps, I'll get the graduate degrees I've always wanted. I know I will stay active in this community, but, who knows? Maybe we'll take a trip to Vienna, Budapest, Prague or Berlin? Maybe I'll finally get back to the JCC gym. I've always worked, so maybe I'll even sleep late."

Auerbach noted that she couldn't have

done her job without the help of numerous volunteers: "The job includes many tasks that I couldn't have done alone. Everyone helped - from my board members, to those who manned the gates at events to those who cooked, peeled and slaved for Federation events. Thank you to all who went to the bank, worked endlessly and tirelessly in the kitchen for dinner and a movie events, and other food events, or who shopped for food for meetings and... I could go on and on, but there are just too many tasks to list. A *shaynem dank* to all those who helped make these past 12 years wonderful and special."

Visit us on the web at www.thereporter.org

TC to host Pride Shabbat service on June 21

On Friday, June 21, at 8 pm, Temple Concord will hold its third annual Pride Shabbat evening service with guest speaker Bat-Ami Bar On.

Organizers invite the community to "celebrate diversity within the Jewish community as we celebrate Pride month in Binghamton and the country with a special Shabbat evening service. We hosted the Beyond the Rainbow: Welcoming LGBTQ+ People in our Jewish Community Ally pro-

gram in February and learned we need to be even more open and publicly welcoming and inclusive as a congregation. This service is an important part of our taking this public inclusive stand."

Bar On is a Temple Concord member and a Binghamton University professor of philosophy and women, gender and sexuality studies, and the director of the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities at Binghamton University.

TC honors members



Temple Concord honored four volunteers during its annual Congregational Meeting on June 11. L-r: Allen Alt, Lew Hecht, Barbara Thomas and Dr. Ted Major were honored for their leadership on the synagogue board and in numerous other roles.

Early deadline for The Reporter

The July 12 issue of *The Reporter* will have an early deadline of Monday, July 1. No exceptions will be made.

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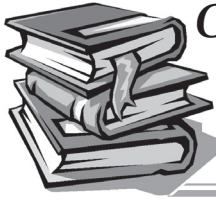
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Thank you in advance for your generosity!

THE REPORTER

Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton



Off the Shelf

Pre-nation intelligence gathering – the Arab section

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

Although I review books on a wide variety of subjects, I usually shy away from two non-fiction topics: politics and Israel. That made me debate whether to ask for a review copy of “Spies of No Country: Secret Lives of the Birth of Israel” by Matti Friedman (Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill). Even when the book was receiving good reviews, I still hesitated. Then I remembered enjoying Friedman’s two previous works, including his memoir about his Israel army service, “Pumpkinflowers: A Soldier’s Story.” (*The Reporter* review can be found at <http://thereportergroup.org/Article.aspx?aID=4510>.)* His ability to combine the personal with the political in that book became the deciding factor for reading his new work.

The personal and political also play a role in “Spies of No Country.” Rather than trying to write a complete history of the founding of the state of Israel, Friedman focuses on one small, little known aspect of that time: the Arab Section. That means his work concentrates “on a period of twenty pivotal months, from January 1948 through August of the following year; on two Levantine port cities eighty miles apart, Haifa and Beirut; and on four young people drawn from the margins to the center of events. I was looking less for the sweep of history than for

its human heart, and found it at these coordinates.” Three of the four men featured were born in Arab countries, the fourth in British Palestine. The reason for their recruitment was their ability to pass as Arabs: they spoke Arabic as a native language and were indistinguishable from Muslim and Christian Arabs.

When people think of spies and Israel, they generally think of Mossad and its intelligence gathering. The original intelligence sections were something very different: its members had little training and made due with almost no funds. Not only did agents not receive a salary, they frequently had to pay for their own transportation; the four men about whom Friedman writes even started a business in Beirut to help pay their expenses. The author notes that the reason for choosing these particular men was due to their involvement in key events and the fact they left better records than most. The four are described by Friedman as:

- ◆ “Havakuk, born in Yemen, was gentle – a quiet watcher.
- ◆ “Isaac, the janitor’s son from Aleppo, had the muscles of a small boy who’d decided he wouldn’t be bullied, and the determination of someone who’d come a long way uphill.
- ◆ “Yakuba, raised on the streets around the vegetable market in Jewish Jerusalem, was volatile and unusually brave.
- ◆ “Gamliel was cautious and the most intellectually inclined, the only one who’d finished high school.”

These four men’s actions were successful – I don’t want to spoil the suspense by giving away too many details – but not everyone sent on a mission survived. Several events are difficult to read about because of their brutality. Some of the book’s most interesting sections, though, center on how Zionism changed with the immigrations of Jews from Arab countries. When European Zionists first envisioned Israel, they expected the country

to uphold their political ideals and values. What they didn’t expect was that they would soon be outnumbered by Jews from Arab countries. According to Friedman, “Soon it began to dawn on observers that the Jews of Islam weren’t going to be a splash of color on the state of Theodor Herzl’s Viennese imagination. There were too many of them. The newcomers were going to alter the enterprise itself.” Unfortunately, European Jews often treated these newcomers as second-class citizens, with the repercussions of their actions still being felt today.

Friedman does an excellent job making history into a human enterprise: I came to care about these men and found their stories – of missions successful and unsuccessful – interesting and, at times, moving. The four men’s dedication to a state that was only beginning to exist was fascinating, especially in light of the fact that they began their missions around the same time Israel became a nation. We tend to take it for granted that Israel will continue to exist, but these men, who were living in Arab territory, were unsure if there would be a country to which they could return or if they would be left in limbo in Beirut for the remainder of their days. Their thoughts about the continuing Israeli-Palestinian conflict makes for depressing reading: most see the Arab desire for revenge as never ending.

Those looking for a complete history of the 1948 war or Israeli espionage will need to look elsewhere. But those aren’t Friedman’s concern: his easy-to-read prose offers a different, personal view of Israel – one often ignored in many textbooks. Anyone interested in Israeli history will find it worthwhile reading.

*The Reporter review of Friedman’s second work, “The Aleppo Codex: A True Story of Obsession, Faith, and the Pursuit of an Ancient Bible,” can be found at <http://thereportergroup.org/Article.aspx?aID=2740>.

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.

LEGAL NOTICE

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

1. The name of the limited liability company (“LLC”) is L & C Hemp Farms, LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is May 6, 2019.
3. The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the LLC is located is Broome.
4. The Secretary of State of the State of New York is hereby designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or her is: 14 Tobey Road Harpursville, New York, 13787.
5. The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

Notice of Formation of Saccyo Holdings, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 04/24/19. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o John Sacco, 100 Oakdale Rd., Johnson City, NY 13790. Purpose: any lawful activities.

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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: 98 Scotts Landing Road, Southampton, NY 11968.
5. The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

WILLIAMS & WILLIAMS CONTRACTORS LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 5/3/2019. Office in Cortland Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 4004 West Cheningo Rd., Truxton, NY 13158, which is also the principal business location. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY: The name of the limited liability company is: Faughnan Business, LLC (the “Company”). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was May 9, 2019. The county in which the principal place of business of the Company shall be located is Broome County. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the Company upon whom process against it may be served. The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the Company, to Attn: Sharon Faughnan, 1 Williams Place, Binghamton, NY 13903. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

Notice of Formation of Grace Valentine Services LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/09/19. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Ralph W.V. Sedore, 136 N. Jensen Rd., Vestal, NY 13850.

Purpose: any lawful activities.

Notice of Formation of Binghamton Blonde LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 05/08/19. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 145 Kay Rd., Endicott, NY 13760. Purpose: any lawful activities.

Notice of Formation of PWC Estate, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 05/13/19. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 450 Plaza Dr., Vestal, NY 13850. 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 KW Fitness Vestal, LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is May 22, 2019.
3. The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the LLC is located is Broome.
4. The Secretary of State of the State of New York is hereby designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or her is: 3032 Vestal Road, Vestal, NY 13850.
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: Binghamton Northside Development Group, LLC (the “Company”). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was May 24, 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 Attn: Robert J. Pornbeck, 132 Prospect Avenue, 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: 252 Chenango Street Management, LLC (the “Company”). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was May 24, 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 Attn: Robert J. Pornbeck, 132 Prospect Avenue, 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: Huron Logistics, LLC (the “Company”). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was May 21, 2019. The county in which the principal place of business of the Company shall be located is Broome County. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the Company upon whom process against it may be served. The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the Company, to Hinman, Howard & Kattell, LLP, Attn: James W. Orband, 80 Exchange Street, Suite 700, Binghamton, NY 13901. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

Notice of Formation of Bloom Tax Partners LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 05/17/19. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 31 Lewis St., Ste. 401, Binghamton, NY 13901. Purpose: any lawful activities.

Lumina EC, LLC. Art. of Org. filed with SSNY 5/20/19. Office location: Broome Cty. SSNY desig. agent for process & shall mail to 115 Henry

St #3305. Binghamton, NY 13902. Purpose: any lawful activity.

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 desig. as agent upon whom process against may be served & shall mail process to 557 Park Ave., Binghamton, NY 13903. General Purpose.

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New survey compares Israeli, American, French Jewish opinions on Judaism, Israel

By JNS staff

A set of surveys conducted by the American Jewish Committee of Israeli, American and French Jews has brought to light “significant differences” in outlook toward Israel – and toward each other – between the groups.

On the question of the importance of being Jewish to their lives, 51 percent of Israeli Jews said it was “most important,” 29 percent very important and just eight percent “not too” or “not at all” important. Among American and French Jews, 41 percent and 33 percent found it “very important,” respectively, 35 percent and 32 percent “somewhat important” and 24 percent and 32 percent “not too” or “not at all” important.


A significant contrast was also found in the three groups’ outlook on the Jewish nation. While 31 percent of Israeli Jews

consider American Jews their siblings and 47 percent their cousins or extended family, just 13 percent of American Jews see Israeli Jews as their siblings, with 58 percent viewing them as cousins or extended family and 28 percent not seeing Israeli Jews as family at all. Thirty-one percent of French Jews said they consider Israeli Jews their siblings. While 62 percent of American Jews believe caring about Israel is a “very important part of my being a Jew,” 72 percent agreed that “a thriving state of Israel is vital for the long-term future of the Jewish people.” Among Israelis, however, while 50 percent said “living in Israel is a very important part of my being a Jew,” 91 percent said the long-term future of the Jewish people was linked to the future of the state of Israel.

Regarding a two-state solution to Israel’s conflict with the Palestinians, 51 percent of Israelis either “strongly


oppose” or “somewhat oppose” a two-state solution, with 39 percent in favor of the idea. Among younger Israelis, 42.4 percent “strongly oppose,” along with 56.8 percent of ultra-Orthodox Israelis. The study also showed that 50 percent of Israelis say not a single Jewish community in the West Bank/Judea and Samaria should be dismantled for the sake of such a solution. Yet just 26 percent of American Jews oppose a two-state solution, with 64 percent supporting the creation of a Palestinian state on land in the West Bank/Judea and Samaria.

A majority of Israelis, 63.5 percent, said it is “not appropriate for American Jews to attempt to influence Israeli policy on such issues as national security and peace negotiations with the Palestinians,” while 57 percent of American Jews felt they should have a say.





Mazel Tov Noah on your double major, magna cum laude graduation from the University of Maryland!
We are so proud of you and the man you are. We wish you love and good luck as a software engineer at Appian.

Love,
 Mom & Dad



Dear Samantha,
 Congratulations on all your achievements, from being Salutatorian, to earning a full IB diploma and more things than we can list here. You are truly an amazing young lady!!!
 We couldn't be more proud of you if we tried. You have an amazing future ahead of you and we can't wait to see where it takes you. But more than anything, we just want you to be as happy as you've made us. Good luck at Northeastern University, and we know you'll have the time of your life in Dublin in September.
 We love you beyond words!!!
 Mommy and Daddy



Congratulations Melanie!
 I have learned so much from you over the years. Your work ethic has always pushed me to do better.
 I am so proud to call you my sister and I love you very much. I can't wait to visit you at USC and for you to visit me at Northeastern.
 Love you, Sammy


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To place a simcha, please contact Bonnie Rozen at 724-2360, ext. 244 or bonnie@thereporter.org




Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton




To my amazingly beautiful, kind and intelligent sister Samantha Tuberman
 Congratulations on making it through BTS with honors, IB and becoming Salutatorian to top it all off!
 You make me proud to be your big sister every single day. The young woman you have become is inspiring and incredible in every way and I cannot wait to see all the big things you accomplish at Northeastern University and beyond.
 I love you so much,
 Melanie

Dear Melanie,
 Congratulations on your graduation from The George Washington University. You are a brilliant, motivated and dedicated young woman that is going to do great things. We are so excited for you to attend the University of Southern California (USC) Sol Price School of Public Policy to pursue your Master's Degree in Public Administration. We can't wait to visit you!
 We couldn't be more proud of you if we tried.
 We love you so much,
 Mommy and Daddy




To our dearest Granddaughters Melanie & Samantha
 Each of you have incredible accomplishments with Melanie graduating from the honors program at The George Washington University with honors and with Samantha graduating Binghamton High School as Salutatorian of your class.
 We are so proud of you and wish you both Congratulations! Hold tight to the dreams you have today and walk boldly in their direction. So proud of all your achievements and may all your dreams come true.
 Much love,
 Grandma Joyce, and in memory of Grandpa Jack, Grandpa Marvin and Grandma Maxine



Isabella,
 Continue to climb and aspire to excellence. With love and pride we send you our sincere congratulations on your graduation from The Lawrenceville School.
 We know that you will continue to expand your horizons as you further your education at Cornell's Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management this fall.
 Love,
 Mom, Dad, Nick, Max, Melissa, Nolan and Chloe



BeHa'alotcha, Numbers 8:1-12:16

Kindling of lights

RABBI SCOTT L. GLASS, TEMPLE BETH-EL, ITHACA

This week's scriptural reading opens with a description of Aaron's kindling of the menorah in the wilderness tabernacle. It is a very brief part of the total reading, but it is always the section of which I think when I think of the *parasha*. Perhaps the fact that the *haftarah*, too, speaks of a menorah (this one imagined by the prophet Zechariah) contributes to that association, given the many students with whom I've studied this portion in preparation for *b'nai mitzvah*. There are other significant parts of the reading, but this is always the first thing that comes to mind and with that, the great symbolism of light. Every faith tradition seems to have a special place for the kindling of lights – in joy, in sorrow, to mark a beginning, to help remember. We use light to symbolize hope, faith, knowledge, even the soul of humankind. When one thinks of passing on great knowledge

and wisdom, we speak of enlightenment. We often envision teachers igniting a spark in the souls of their students.

We find ourselves in the season of commencements. There will be numerous newspaper columns, internet videos and TV clips of graduation speakers encouraging students to look ahead to the future (I expect that's why the ceremonies are called "commencement" ceremonies). For a moment, though, I would urge graduates to periodically look back to take note of the people who kindled a spark in them, who saw their potential and offered encouragement and support. It often takes years before we realize how, and by whom, we were supported through our formative years, through the challenges and obstacles that we encountered along the way; the individuals from whose trust and belief we drew a sense of self-confidence and assurance.

As I prepare for retirement, I have been sorting through many photographs and came across a stack of some taken following my rabbinic ordination 43 years ago. I had forgotten how many people (and who) had come to celebrate with us. I was moved to tears to be reminded how many people there were who stood by me through my early life and rejoiced with me as I achieved something that was so important to me. And I realized just how fortunate I've been through the arc of my life to have been inspired and enlightened by so many wonderful people, individuals who passed the light on to me and made it possible for me to pass the light on to others.

As the *parasha* closes, Miriam and Aaron are bad-mouthing their brother, Moses. It is not a flattering picture of See "Lights" on page 7

Congregational Notes

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, June 21, at 8 pm, there will be a Pride Shabbat evening service led by Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell with guest speaker, Bat-Ami Bar On. (See related article on page 3.)

On Saturday, June 22, Torah study will be at 9:15 am.

On Tuesday, June 25, from 7-8:30 pm, there will be a Temple Concord Sisterhood program "Jewish Customs and Traditions Around the World." Sisterhood invites all community members to attend.

On Friday, June 28, at 6:30 pm, there will be a BYO picnic dinner in the garden; at 7:30 pm, there will be Shabbat in the Garden services led by Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell and Shari Neuberger.

On Saturday, June 29, at 9:15 am, there will be Torah study.

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, 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.

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, June 22 9 am
..... Mincha after kiddush
Weekday Services:
Mornings:
Sun., June 23 8:30 am
Mon.-Fri., June 25-28 7 am
Evenings:
Sun.-Thurs., June 23-27 8:30 pm
Classes: Rabbi Zev Silber will hold his weekly Talmud class every Tuesday evening after services.

Norwich Jewish Center

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

Congregation Tikkun v'Or

Affiliation: Union for Reform Judaism
Address: PO Box 3981, Ithaca, NY 14852; 2550 Triphammer Rd. (corner of Triphammer and Burdick Hill), Lansing, NY
Phone: 607-256-1471
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, June 21, light candles before 8:25 pm
Saturday, June 22, Shabbat ends 9:25 pm
Friday, June 28, light candles before 8:25 pm
Saturday, June 29, Shabbat ends 9:26 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, June 22, at 9:30 am, Shabbat services will be led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown. The Torah portion will be Numbers 8:1-12:16. The haftarah will be Zechariah 2:14-4:7. Debbie Schepis and Beverly Rozen will sponsor the kiddush.

On Saturday, June 29, at 9:30 am, there will be the bar mitzvah of Ari Green.

On Sunday, June 30, at 4 pm, there will be a Mussar class with Rabbi Geoffrey Brown.

On Thursday and Friday, July 4 and 5, the office will be closed.

On Friday, July 12, at 6:30 pm, there will be Shabbat on the Road at Brookdale Senior Living (Elderwood).

Temple Beth-El of Ithaca

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

On Saturdays, June 22 and 29, July 13 and 27, and August 24 and 31, at 5 pm, Rabbi Scott Glass will teach a Perek in the Pardes" class studying "Pirkei Avot, The Ethics of the Fathers."

On Thursday, June 27, at 6:30 pm, the TBE Arts Committee summer movie series will kick off with "Walk on Water" (Israel, 2004, 103 minutes, English subtitles). The contemporary road movie takes its characters around Israel and later to Berlin as it examines the role the past still plays in the lives of the young people of Israel and Germany. The movie will be shown at TBE through Israeli Films, National Center for Jewish Film and Outsider Pictures. The public is invited to attend. Doors will open at 6:30 pm for refreshments and schmoozing, with the film starting at 7 pm. The cost is \$8 at the door (cash or check only). (See related article on page 1.)

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.

Teens. Continued from page 2

The study was also designed to go well beyond the previous emphasis on youth groups as nurturers of Jewish continuity, he adds. "Here we're looking at how their engagement makes them not just more Jewish, but a better person, a better member of the community, more effective in the world and just more human. Some people might argue that this isn't the traditional use of youth group, but if we don't help them thrive, none of the rest of it really matters. Besides," he notes, "when you can get the Reform, Conservative, Orthodox and even the unaffiliated to sign onto the same study, you're already doing something right."

The No. 1 finding, he says, is "even though we knew that youth groups have a huge impact on teens, right up there with day schools, Jewish summer camps and trips to Israel, this study actually shows the power of that involvement."

"We got confirmation that generally speaking, we're doing a really good job in Israel engagement with our teens, with Jewish tradition, and how much Shabbat and the holidays matter to them, and even the extent to which they attribute these values to their NCSY involvement," says NCSY's Greenland. "But we can also see that we are below average in the realm of taking responsibility for making a difference in the world at large. And, in addition to everything else we do, that's something we've been talking about a lot since the results came out; it's pushed us to look at ways to enhance that quality, too."

"If we design programming that reflects the way young people see the world, we'll be able to maximize personal development and Jewish identity and commitment," says URJ's Chilton. "This study also gives us a benchmark so if we adjust something now, we can look back in a few years and see how we're doing."

"The study sends a clear message that Jewish engagement doesn't have to end at bar or bat mitzvah if you provide young people with programming they see as meaningful," says Bryfman. "If the Jewish youth organizations can provide that, the teens will be there."

"What we've learned from these teens is that they are very Jewishly identified, though their ways of expressing it may not be the same," says Jim Joseph Foundation's Stacie Cherner. "It's confirming to us that we're on the right path - that our investments are having a positive impact."

As California teen Berrol puts it: "We don't have many Jews near us, but my parents have made it easy for me to connect. Our family friends are mostly Jewish, Camp Ramah is like my home, and my synagogue is where I go when I'm missing being with other Jews, when I need that grounding, in community and in my authentic self."


To see the entire study, visit www.jewishedproject.org/genznow.



Yael Berrol (right) and her station partner, Evan (last name withheld on request), at the Meitar MDA station outside of Beersheva. (Photo courtesy of Yael Berrol)

Lights. Continued from page 6

the older siblings, but given the rebellious climate of that moment, it is not entirely surprising. While Moses seems to be oblivious to their complaints, the Almighty is angered by their treatment of Moses. God scolds them, defends Moses and then strikes Miriam (who seems to have been the instigator) with what appears to be leprosy. Aaron implores Moses to pray on behalf of their sister. Without hesitation and with no show of anger or annoyance, Moses does pray for Miriam's healing. While God insists that she be excluded from the camp for at least seven days, it is clear that Moses' prayer on behalf of his sister is heeded. The story is not just a tale of sibling rivalry, but of Moses' love and consideration for his siblings. Moses owes his very life to his sister, and as he ascends to greatness it's his brother and sister who support him. I'd like to think this was Moses' way of acknowledging their sparking a light inside of him and standing by him. Maybe this is Moses' way of looking back with gratitude.



Missed an issue of *The Reporter*?
Want to read an article again, or have out of town family read it?

The Reporter's website, www.thereporter.org, offers access to full issues in PDF format. You can find them in the "Current & Past Issues" section, accessible from the main menu bar at the top left of the page, dating back to the April 22, 2016, issue. The site also highlights several articles from each weekly issue of *The Reporter* dating back to September 2007 - those can be found under "Publications - The Reporter" at the bottom of the menu bar.

Jewish Community Center

JCC Friendship Club

The JCC Friendship Club met on June 12 and shared stories about pictures that some of us brought. Sue Herzog brought in a picture of her parents with her. Her mother, Ada Brummer, was holding Sue when she was about 1 year old. Ada just celebrated her 98th birthday this month and it was amazing to see her as a young woman. Ada showed a picture of herself when she was 24 and even remembered the dress she was wearing. Sue added that she was the oldest child and had a younger brother and sister. Sylvia Diamond said that she was the oldest child in her family and also had a younger sister and brother. Sylvia showed a picture of herself at the age of 6 or 7. It was taken at her dance recital. She said she was given dance lessons because she was very shy and her parents thought it would help her overcome it. She explained that she had a speech impediment and wouldn't talk. After speech therapy at school in second grade, she was able to talk normally. If you know her today, you would not say she is shy.

We also talked about our musical pursuits. Ann Brilliant said she played violin in school. Sylvia said she played clarinet in her high school band. Sue said she liked to sing and tried out for her school chorus. None of us continued our musical pursuits after high school.

The meeting was called to order by Sylvia. After the

Pledge of Allegiance, Ann Brilliant said the blessing over the cookies.

On June 5, the group attended Roberson Museum and saw an exhibit of photographs of wild animals. We also saw posters from World War I and local women who voted for the first time after the suffragette movement.

At the meeting on June 26, we will play Bingo for prizes and also celebrate Sylvia's birthday. On July 4, she will be 87 (not bad for a child who was very shy!). Come join us on June 26 at 1:30 pm at the JCC.

Sylvia Diamond,
President

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NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

Despite border issues, Israel reopens Gaza fishing zone

Israel has reopened the Gaza fishing zone to 10 nautical miles off the coast, despite recent tensions due to border riots, rocket attacks and incendiary balloons launched into Israel from the Gaza Strip. Jerusalem totally shut down the Gaza fishing zone on June 12 after Hamas failed to hold up its end of a ceasefire agreement with Israel, which included a total cessation of violence, balloon launches and rocket attacks in exchange for a 15-mile fishing zone and an array of economic incentives. On the morning of June 18, a cluster of balloons bearing a suspicious package landed in Kibbutz Nahal Oz near the Gaza border. Police sappers neutralized the package. No injuries or damage were reported. Two days earlier, on June 16, a delegation from Qatar arrived in Gaza to distribute cash to needy families and United Nations work programs, in coordination with Israeli security. An Egyptian security delegation was expected at the end of the week to discuss maintaining calm along the Israel-Gaza border, according to a report by Israel's Kan news.

Merkel to Tehran: Uphold the nuclear deal, or there will "be consequences"

German Chancellor Angela Merkel warned Iran on June 18 to uphold the stipulations of the 2015 nuclear deal or else face repercussions. "We are pushing for Iran to keep to [the

nuclear accord]. If that is not the case, there will, of course, be consequences," she said, without specifying what the ramifications would be. A publication in Germany, *Bild*, called on Berlin to end its kowtowing to Tehran. "That's why there must finally be an end with the appeasement, the talk of Iranian partners, an agreement that supposedly makes the world safer. The current Iranian government, the mullahs, are not partners. For us and for our most important allies, they are only one thing: a threat," wrote *Bild* journalist Maximilian Kiewel. While Germany has sanctioned Iranian airline Mahan Air, it has taken favorable steps toward the Islamic Republic, it helped create the Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges, or Instex, a financial mechanism, to evade U.S. economic penalties on Tehran. The week of June 14, the German parliament rejected a bill to ban Hezbollah, an Iranian proxy, from the country.

Antisemitic graffiti found spray-painted on two public schools in Canada

Antisemitic and other racist graffiti was discovered in two public schools in Brandon, Manitoba, Canada, on June 15. The graffiti was apparently spray-painted on Vincent Massey High School and Linden Lanes school during the early hours of the morning. Brandon Police Staff Sgt. Guy Roberts described the vandalism consisting of "antisemitic comments and logos," in addition to "racial slurs including the 'N'-word," reported the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. "It's shocking, and it's disgusting, and it's something that has no place in today's society," he told CBC. "But unfortunately, there's people that will feel that they need to spread hate in this fashion." Roberts added that the schools attempted to remove the graffiti. Overall, 2,041 antisemitic incidents in Canada were reported in 2018 – a 16.5 percent increase from the previous year, according to B'nai Brith Canada. "While vandalism and violence continued to target members of Canada's Jewish community, harassment was the most dominant form of anti-Semitic expression in 2018, with a 28.4 percent increase compared with 2017, representing a 61.5 percent increase since 2015," said the organization. Incidents of vandalism decreased from 327 to 221, as violent antisemitic attacks also dropped, from 16 in 2017 to 11 in 2018.

Ukrainian city to build residences atop mass Jewish grave

A mass grave of Jews murdered in the Holocaust has been sold by a Ukrainian city to a residential building developer who is planning to establish real estate projects on the site. Some 5,000 Jews were shot dead in the city of Poltava in eastern Ukraine after the Nazis reached the location in September 1941. They, along with many non-Jews who were also murdered, were buried in a mass grave. Now, the municipality is planning real estate development on the site, despite protests from the local Jewish community and the Ukrainian Institute of National Remembrance. Israeli Ambassador to Ukraine Joel Lion issued a letter to Poltava Mayor Oleksandr Shamota urging him to cancel the plan. "As a representative of the State of Israel, the state of the Jewish people, and as a son of Holocaust survivors, I speak on behalf of those who cannot speak anymore and appeal to your conscience and to the members of your city council to stop this historic injustice," Lion wrote. "I expect immediate action. You can choose between justice and injustice." Copies of the letter were also sent to Ukrainian Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman, Culture Minister Yevhen Nyschchuk and multiple Jewish community leaders. Jews comprised almost 10 percent of the Poltava population when the Nazis arrived in the city (which is currently home to 300,000 people) and constituted an important center of Jewish life. Many of the nearly 13,000 Jews living there escaped prior to the occupation. Yitzhak Ben-Zvi, the second president of Israel, was born in the city, and the *Hamodia* and *Hapeles Haredi* newspapers were established there. Last year, the "Grieving Mother" monument for Holocaust victims in Poltava was vandalized with "Heil Hitler" and "Death to the Kikes" spray painted on it.

Trump administration not inviting Israel to Bahrain summit, according to report

The Trump administration will not invite Israeli officials to its upcoming economic summit in Bahrain on June 25-26 when it reveal the first part of its "highly anticipated" Mideast peace deal for Israelis and Palestinians. Axios and Israel's Channel 13 first reported the development. Although Israel was told by the United States that it would receive an invitation, when it didn't arrive in the past few days, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said behind closed doors that he wasn't going to "chase an invitation," though the prime minister's office denied that. Netanyahu has no issue with Israel not being invited and respects the decision, a senior Israeli official told Channel 13 and Axios. "The goal of the workshop in Bahrain is to present our economic vision for the Palestinian people," said a senior U.S. official. "As such, we want to focus on the economic aspects and not the political ones." In addition to Israel, Russia, China and the Palestinian Authority will not be in attendance. The European Union will only send a "technical level official" to Bahrain, said European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs Federica Mogherini, who met with senior White House adviser and presidential son-in-law Jared Kushner the week of June 14 in advance of the conference.

Former Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi dead at 67

Former Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi died on June 17 at the age of 67 after passing out during a court session. The Muslim Brotherhood member led Egypt from 2012, following the ouster of longtime head Hosni Mubarak, until Morsi was ousted himself in 2013 following massive demonstrations, primarily in Cairo. Morsi was known to have a negative view of Israel, including condemning the Jewish state's "Operation Pillar of Defense" in the fall of 2012, response to rockets launched by Hamas in Gaza toward Israel. In 2010, Morsi said, "The Zionists have no right to the land of Palestine. There is no place for them on the land of Palestine. What they took before 1947-48 constitutes plunder, and what they are doing now is a continuation of this plundering. By no means do we recognize their Green Line. The land of Palestine belongs to the Palestinians, not to the Zionists." That same year, he called Israelis "blood-suckers," "warmongers," and "descendants of apes and pigs." Morsi lived for a time in the United States, working as an assistant professor at California State University, Northridge, from 1982 to 1985. An expert on precision metal surfaces, he also worked with NASA in the early 1980s, helping to develop engines for space shuttles. In 1985, Morsi quit his job at CSUN and returned to Egypt, becoming a professor at Zagazig University, where he was appointed head of the engineering department. He was a lecturer in the engineering department there until 2010. He was first elected to parliament in 2000. In response to his death, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said, "May Allah rest our Morsi brother, our martyr's soul in peace."

Bnei Brak Torah scrolls recovered in Palestinian barn

Israeli security forces recently discovered four Torah scrolls stolen from a synagogue in the city of Bnei Brak hidden in a barn in a Palestinian Authority town near Nablus, along with a hunting rifle and ammunition. The scrolls, worth tens of thousands of dollars, were stolen on June 10 from the Orot Hatorah synagogue on Rabbi Akiva Street – one of the oldest synagogues in the city and once used by Rabbi Avraham Yeshaya Karelitz, the Chazon Ish. The synagogue itself was vandalized with holy books strewn across the floor. The scrolls were located in a barn housing sheep in the settlement of Aqraba. Five Arab men in their 20s from Aqraba and eastern Jerusalem were arrested in connection with the theft. A hunting rifle, ammunition and fireworks, which are often used as weapons due to their explosive capabilities, were also uncovered. The scrolls will be returned to the synagogue following a police investigation.

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