

THE REPORTER

Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton

BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK

January 12-18, 2018
Volume XLVII, Number 2

Trump officials advised Israel to expand Jewish prayer at Western Wall, prevent it at Temple Mount

By Ron Kampeas
WASHINGTON (JTA) – The annual State Department report on

ANALYSIS

religious freedoms emphasizes Trump administration efforts to maintain the status quo on Jerusalem's Temple Mount and encourage religious pluralism in Israel. In the report released on January 4, the Israel section reflects the importance that the Trump administration attached to tamping down tensions that exploded in July after terrorists killed two Israeli policemen on the Temple Mount and Israel installed new

security measures there. It also casts the U.S. ambassador to Israel, David Friedman, whose nomination came under criticism from Jewish groups because of his previous lacerating attacks on liberal Jews, as a champion of pluralism.

The report makes specific reference to attempts by non-Orthodox Jews to conduct prayer services at the Western Wall, which abuts the Temple Mount. "The U.S. ambassador and embassy officers spoke with government officials and Knesset leaders about the impor-

ance of maintaining the status quo at the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif and not escalating tensions through provocative actions or statements," it said. "In meetings with government officials, embassy officers stressed the importance of religious pluralism and respect for non-Orthodox streams of Judaism."

The section on the Temple Mount, a site holy to Muslims and Jews, is unusually lengthy and documents in detail what appear to be official Israeli actions challenging the status quo. The "status quo" refers to agreements whereby the

Waqf, the Muslim religious authority that answers to Jordan and the Palestinian Authority, holds religious authority on the Temple Mount itself. For decades the Waqf has banned Jewish worship on the plateau – in agreement with successive Israeli governments – while allowing Jewish visitors.

"Despite the Israeli government's policy prohibiting non-Muslim worship at the site, some Jewish groups escorted by Israeli police at the Haram al-Sharif/Temple Mount performed religious acts such as prayers and prostration,"

See "Wall" on page 8

TI-TC Adult Ed. to hold brunch on Jan. 21

The Temple Israel/Temple Concord Adult Education Group will present "The best of the Yiddish Radio Project (with a sprinkling of 'Old Jews Telling Jokes')" in a brunch program on Sunday, January 21, at 10 am, at Temple Israel. Steve Gilbert will be the facilitator.

In four programs between December 2011 and December 2016, the Adult Ed. Group presented episodes of the acclaimed 2003 NPR Yiddish Radio Project. Gilbert has selected three of his favorite episodes for a second showing, accompanied by a slide show of photos of 1920s-60s New

York City, roughly the era of Yiddish radio. The episodes are:

◆ "Victor Packer – The One Man Network": An avant-garde poet turned programming director, Packer experimented with every genre imaginable in an attempt to fill his daily four-hour slot. The results have been called "brilliant" and "hilarious."

◆ "The Radio Dramas of Nahum Stutchkoff": Stutchkoff is said to have created some of the most intense, intimate and emotional dramas ever broadcast on radio to provide listeners the opportunity

to experience what life was like in the Jewish tenements of New York City. The Yiddish Radio Project profiles a "forgotten genius" of the 20th century and airs one of his classic episodes for the first time in 60 years.

◆ "Commercials on Yiddish Radio": Yiddish radio stations in the 1930s and 1940s devoted a considerable portion of the broadcast day to commercials for businesses large and small. As Henry Sapoznik recounts, "These commercials provide a unique insight into the everyday life of New York's Jewish community."

In February 2012, the TI Adult Ed. Group presented 40 one-minute(ish) videos from the "Old Jews Telling Jokes" collection. Gilbert will sprinkle seven or eight of his favorites throughout the program.

"January 21 is likely to be a cold, gray, day," said organizers of the event. "Why not brighten it up with a delicious brunch, a lively, entertaining and informative program, and some good friends?"

A \$5 donation for the brunch will be accepted at the door. RSVP by sending an e-mail to the Temple Israel office (titamy@stny.twcbc.com), or calling 723-7461.

BD luncheon speaker to discuss Judeo-Spanish in the 20th century on Jan. 13

Beth David's Saturday, January 13, luncheon speaker will be Bryan Kirschen, assistant professor of Spanish and linguistics in the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures and the Linguistics Program at Binghamton University. In 2017, the *New York Jewish Week* named him as one of its "36 under 36" for his work on Judeo-Spanish. With his recognized expertise in Judeo-Spanish (often referred to as Ladino), Kirschen will explore the role of language in the assimilation of Sephardic

Jews in the United States over the past century.

At the start of the 20th century Kirschen says, as many as 60,000 Judeo-Spanish-speaking Sephardim immigrated to the United States. Not only did they find themselves in a country where English was the majority language, but also in cities where other varieties of Spanish were spoken. In addition, Sephardic



Bryan Kirschen

Jews found themselves situated against a backdrop of more than two million Yiddish-speaking Ashkenazim, and many often questioned the utility of their mother tongue. Kirschen has conducted field research and has gathered oral histories of Judeo-Spanish speakers, many in their 70s and 80s. "They represent such rich lives and histories," Kirschen says. "They have much to share."

Kirschen's 2007 undergraduate degree in Spanish from Binghamton University included courses in Hebrew and Arabic. Through his later studies as a graduate student in California, Kirschen said he became particularly interested in Judeo-Spanish, a language that combines elements from Spanish, Hebrew and Arabic, and has a cultural connection to Sephardic Jews who lived in Spain until 1492. While pursuing doctoral studies, Kirschen co-founded a

See "BD" on page 3

JLI winter course to look at the art of communication

"How has social media and all of our devices affected our society and the ways we now communicate?"

What are the pros and cons of digital communication? What does your communication style reveal about you as a person? Why is it so hard to really listen to others and what is to be gained by doing so? What makes words so powerful? How do we ensure the listener takes away the same message we intended to communicate? How do great and effective leaders communicate? How do we know what and when to share and when do we hold back? Is conflict always a bad thing?

These and many other questions will be

addressed in JLI's all new winter course, "Communication: Its Art and Soul." The six-week course will be taught twice locally at the Chabad Center. The evening section will be held on Mondays at 7 pm, beginning on January 22, and the morning section will be held on Wednesdays at 9:30 am, beginning on January 24. The course fee is \$79, or \$140 for couples and multiple sign-ups.

Interested participants are urged to register before January 12 to ensure ample text book supply.

"The rise of the internet, mobile phones and social media has profoundly changed the way we relate, interact and communicate with one another. It's high

time we reclaim the almost lost art form of communication and this course is an important and thought provoking step in that direction," commented Rivkah Sonim, course instructor. "In this course we will explore the subject of communication, thoroughly exploring everything from mystical anthropomorphic references to human communication to the practical nuances of context, tone and even body language. All of us can use deeper understanding of this most central aspect of human living; we all want to be better spouses, siblings, children, friends and co-workers!"

Physicians can earn nine CME credits

for attending "Communication: Its Art and Soul," and earn an additional six with self-study texts and completing an on-line quiz.

Like all JLI programs, the course is designed to appeal to people at all levels of knowledge, including those without any prior experience or background in Jewish learning. All JLI courses are open to the public, and attendees need not be affiliated with a particular synagogue, temple, or other house of worship.

Those wishing to join the course may call Chabad at 797-0015, e-mail Slonim at rslonim@Jewishbu.com or visit www.myJLI.com for registration and for other course-related information.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Book talk at TC Sisterhood
The community is invited to attend Temple Concord Sisterhood's program of book reviews.
.....Page 3

Kosher in Portugal
An uptick in kosher food production in Portugal is tied into a growing awareness of its Jewish history.
.....Page 7

Unfinished business
The documentary "Remember Baghdad" posits Jews have "unfinished business" in Iraq.
.....Page 8

Special Sections
Legal Notices..... 4
Book Reviews..... 4 and 6
Business Profiles..... 5-7
Classifieds 12

In memoriam

Remembering Aharon Appelfeld, from charnel house to whorehouse to a home in Israel

By Thane Rosenbaum

NEW YORK (JTA) – Arguably the world's greatest writer of fiction about the world's foremost nonfiction atrocity, the Holocaust, died on January 4 in Israel. Aharon Appelfeld, a Holocaust survivor himself and one of the icons of Israel's first generation, was 85. No writer captured and reclaimed the lost world of European Jewish life with as much imaginative intensity and heartfelt longing.

The author of more than 40 books, written in Hebrew and translated around the world, he was the recipient of the Israel Prize for Literature in 1983 and a finalist for the Man Booker International Prize in 2013. Like the surreal events that shaped him, however, Appelfeld was a writer of great elusiveness and paradox. While he was known as a Holocaust writer, a label he rejected, he was also a man, and a fiction writer, who was nearly impossible to categorize.

After all, he was orphaned at 8 years old when his mother was murdered by the Nazis, and he and his father were sent to a concentration camp in what is now Ukraine. Separated from his father, Appelfeld did not realize until 20 years later that he, too, had survived. They miraculously reunited in Israel – a reunion he was never able, emotionally, to write about.

Everything else he experienced, however, he reimagined feverishly. No writer who survived the Holocaust, and whose memories inspired their writings, had been dealt such a vividly colorful and yet traumatizing childhood experience. Although a small boy, Appelfeld escaped from the camp and lived in small towns and the forests of the former Austro-Hungarian Empire – creases in the geography of Romania, Transylvania and Bukovina.

He lived among and was helped along by horse thieves, fortune-telling Gypsies, self-described witches and working-girl prostitutes. He became a shepherd and a caretaker of lame horses. Later, he worked as a cook for the Soviet army. All this before a bar mitzvah he was still too young to have and, given everything else, God would not have noticed.

A prostitute became his surrogate mother. Each night, he once told me, in a studio flat through the scrim of a hanging bedsheet that separated his tiny bed from the larger one of his caretaker, all made luminous by ambient light, he watched his guardian angel sexually satisfy her drunken clientele – the boy observing through the projected screen, hearing the moans and grunting sounds, seeing shadowy movements that ushered him into accelerated puberty. In the upside-down See "Appelfeld" on page 11

Opinion

Defining "occupied" and the semantic battle for peace

By Jonathan S. Tobin

JNS

In a demonstration of how completely at odds his views are from those of the foreign policy establishment, U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman reportedly asked the State Department to stop using the term "occupied territories" and instead refer to the "West Bank." According to accounts that have filtered out of Foggy Bottom, the State Department said no. But we are also told that after pressure "from above" – i.e. President Donald Trump, the current boss of everyone at State as well as Friedman – the issue has yet to be decided.

If this strikes you as a lot of bother about mere words, you're wrong. These words are part of a high-stakes battle to determine the outcome of the debate about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

For most observers, Friedman's request demonstrated anew that he was a bad choice for ambassador since he has a record of support for the Jewish presence in the West Bank. But Friedman is correct that using the term "occupied" isn't neutral. It backs up the Palestinian narrative that Israelis are alien colonists in territories where only Arabs should have rights. Israel's position is that the ultimate disposition of the West Bank or, to use the biblical as well as geographic term that was applied to the area before 1949, "Judea and Samaria," is a matter of dispute in which both sides have a legitimate argument. To call the territories Judea and Samaria is also a political statement, just like "occupied territories," that indicates siding with the idea that Israelis have a right to be there.

But the use of words as weapons can lead to a muddle. "West Bank" is itself geographic nonsense. It is a relic of the illegal Jordanian occupation of this area as well as the Old City of Jerusalem from 1949-1967. At that time, the Hashemite kingdom had two "banks," with an East – the area currently known as Jordan – as well as the West, which was taken by Israel during the Six-Day War.

Although Gaza functions as an independent Palestinian Hamas terror state, and much of the territory as well as most of the Arab population of the West Bank is governed by the Palestinian Authority, the fact is Palestinians do consider themselves "occupied" by Israel since it exercises security control over the area. Many Israelis also want to rid themselves of that burden, which brings their troops into contact with Palestinians in a way that further embitters both sides.

Only a minority of Israelis supports the settlement movement that wishes to hold on to all of the West Bank forever. A majority of Israelis would probably embrace a two-state solution that would mean giving up many, but not all, of the settlements. But after the last 25 years, during which the Jewish state has repeatedly traded land and gotten more terror instead of peace, a cross-party consensus now exists that deems further withdrawals foolhardy until the Palestinians give up a political culture rooted in hatred and rejectionism.

"Occupation" isn't the only semantic battle. Critics of President Trump's statement recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital dismissed it as mere words since the U.S. embassy isn't being moved from Tel Aviv to Jeru-

salem anytime soon. Trump's statement didn't preclude a two-state solution or a re-division of Jerusalem in order for part of it to serve as the Palestinians' capital. Far from demonstrating U.S. favoritism to Israel, his was actually a neutral stance that acknowledged at least some of the city belongs to Israel. It is those who insist on "occupied" and in denying recognition of Jerusalem who are the ones showing favoritism, though not to Israel.

P.A. leader Mahmoud Abbas responded to Trump by denying that Jews have rights over any of Jerusalem. Though at times Abbas has spoken in support for peace, this stand reaffirmed the steady stream of P.A. propaganda that denies the legitimacy of a Jewish state no matter where its borders might be drawn. When push comes to shove, even Palestinian moderates still think of all of Israel, and not just the West Bank and Jerusalem, as "occupied" territory. That's not just symbolism or semantics. That's a prescription for endless conflict.

Seen in that light, what Trump and Friedman have said doesn't seem quite as outrageous as their detractors assert. Until the Palestinians are ready to concede that their century-old war on Zionism has been lost, the debate over whether the West Bank is disputed or occupied will be moot. As long as they think all land under Jewish control on either side of the 1967 lines is occupied, peace will remain a purely academic concept no matter which words are used.

Jonathan S. Tobin is editor-in-chief of JNS. Follow him on Twitter at @jonathans_tobin.

In My Own Words

Secret technology

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

I know an issue is complex when I find myself agreeing with both sides. I'm referring to an article in the local secular paper about U.S. police using a secret technology, originally developed for the military, that allows them to track suspects by the signals emitted by their cell phones – even if they aren't making a call or sending a text.

Law enforcement officials say the device helps them locate criminals because they can track the suspect and learn information about his/her surroundings. The article notes that suspects apprehended using the device have committed murder, assault, robbery, rape and kidnapping. The police have been doing this without a warrant, which is part of the problem. Law enforcement officials believe the information they receive from the phones do not come under the privacy guidelines that require them to have a warrant.

While civil liberties advocates admit that the device has helped the police, they say it goes too far, particularly when used without a warrant. They question who is using the device and how they are using it, and believe clear rules need to be established. Some want to make certain that it's used in appropriate ways – that is, with a warrant – although others want to ban the devices entirely.

Looking at the larger picture offers some other issues to consider, including what happens if the device falls into the hands of someone other than law enforcement. Think of what a dictator could do to control his/her enemies if they had the device. Corporations could also abuse the device to increase their profits or to ruin a competitor.

Turning to Jewish law to find an answer was not completely helpful. Judaism recognizes the right for privacy; for example, the doorway of your house is not supposed

to be positioned so that you can see into someone else's home. You're not allowed to look into other people's windows or enter their homes without their permission. Yet, when it comes to the protection of the community, Jewish law is far more lenient. The good of the group can be considered more important than the rights of any particular individual. This idea is considered especially relevant when fighting terrorism, although where the line between community safety and the right to privacy should be drawn is still under debate.

Fortunately, our court system and our legislators are looking for answers to some of these questions and problems. As technology continues to evolve, we'll continue to face difficult decisions about privacy issues, and the rights of governments versus those of individuals. We can only hope a reasonable balance will be found.



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER BINGHAMTON

Dr. Howard Warner, President
Sima Auerbach, Executive Director

607-724-2332 ~ www.jfgeb.org

The Reporter Editorial Board

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

HOW TO REACH THE REPORTER

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

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

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

Extension#/Department ~ 1. Advertising 2. Business Office

3. Art Department 4. Circulation 6. Editorial/News

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

OPINIONS

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

LETTERS

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

ADS

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

DEADLINE

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

Executive Editor Rabbi Rachel Esserman

Layout Editor Diana Sochor

Assistant Editor Ilene Pinsker

Advertising Bonnie Rozen

Production Coordinator Jenn DePersis

Bookkeeper Kathy Brown

Proofreaders

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



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

www.thereporter.org

Rabbi Rachel Esserman to review books at Temple Concord Sisterhood program on Jan. 28

Rabbi Rachel Esserman will review three novels at a Temple Concord Sisterhood program on Sunday, January 28, at 11 am, at 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton. The community is invited to attend. The fee is \$3. Reservations should be made by calling the temple office at 723-7355 by Friday, January 26. Brunch will be served. The snow date is Sunday, February 4.

Esserman will review "Young Jane Young" by Gabrielle Zevin, "Yiddish for Pirates" by Gary Barwin and "Forest Dark" by Nicole Krauss.

"I am again looking forward to reading these three novels and talking about them during what is one of my favorite events of the year. The three novels have very different plots so I hope there will be something of interest for everyone," said Esserman. "Don't worry if you can't read the books before the review. I try never to give away too much of the plot. However, the themes of these works should be fascinating to talk about."

"Young Jane Young" tells the story of a young Jewish woman who is a congressional intern and has an affair with her married boss. The book looks at the fallout once the affair is discovered and she is given the blame. The novel shows the different turn her life takes after the affair. Publishers Weekly says the novel "offers a satisfying and entertaining story of reinvention and second chances in the wake of a political sex scandal."

"Yiddish for Pirates" was the winner of the Stephen Leacock medal for humor, short-listed for the Scotiabank Giller Prize and nominated for the Governor-General's Award for Literature. It has been called "a hilarious, swashbuckling yet powerful tale of pirates, buried treasure and a search for the Fountain of Youth, told in the ribald, philosophical voice of a 500-year-old parrot."

"Forest Dark" focuses on personal transformation in a novel that interweaves the stories of two disparate individuals—an older lawyer and a young novelist—whose transcendental search leads them to the same Israeli desert. It is a Publishers Weekly Best Book of 2017. Esserman is the executive editor and book reviewer for The Reporter Group. Her editorials and reviews have won awards from the American Jewish Press Association and the Syracuse Press Club. In 2016, she won first place in the Syracuse Press Club for her editorial, "Opinion or fact." In 2015, she won first place in the Syracuse Press Club for her book review, "Difficult parts of life." In 2014,



Rabbi Rachel Esserman

she won second place for the print editorial, "Unacceptable Treatment."

Her work has been published in "The Women's Torah Commentary" and "The Women's Haftarah Commentary." She also has written a book of poetry, "I Stand by the River."

In addition, she serves as the Jewish chaplain for the Broome Development Disabilities Service Office in Binghamton. She is a freelance rabbi and adult education leader, which includes being rabbi-on-call for local Reform and Conservative synagogues, lifecycle events and hospital visits, and she has taught for various organizations in New York and Pennsylvania.

Esserman received her rabbinic ordination and master of arts in Hebrew letters from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Wyncote, PA. She received her bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of Pennsylvania.

NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

Pence slated to visit Israel, Egypt and Jordan in late January

Vice President Mike Pence will visit Israel, Egypt and Jordan from Jan. 19-23, the White House announced on Jan. 8. On the upcoming visit, Pence will hold talks with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, Jordan's King Abdullah and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The vice president, who has historically been a strong supporter of the Jewish state, will visit Jerusalem's Western Wall and give a speech to the Knesset. Pence's trip to Israel will come after multiple delays. The vice president was originally slated to visit in mid-December during Chanukah, but that was pushed back several days due to the pending U.S. tax reform legislation. Ultimately, Pence canceled his December visit. Pence is not expected to visit with Palestinian leaders, who announced in December that they would not meet with him due to President Donald Trump's decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

Comedian Judy Gold at Auburn Public Theater

Comedian Judy Gold will appear at the Auburn Public Theater, in Auburn, on Saturday, January 13, at 8 pm. Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$17 at the door.

Gold has had stand-up specials on HBO, Comedy Central and LOGO. She has also written and starred in two critically acclaimed, Off-Broadway hit shows: "The Judy Show – My Life as a Sitcom" (Outer Critics Circle Nomination) and "25 Questions for a Jewish Mother" (GLAAD Media Award – Outstanding NY Theater and Drama Desk nomination – Actor). *The New York Times* called "25 Questions for a Jewish Mother" "fiercely funny, honest and moving."

Gold recently appeared on "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert" and has had numerous appearances on talk shows such as "The View" and "The Today Show." Her other recent TV appearances include guest-starring roles on "Broad City," "Friends From College," "The Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt" and "The Jim Gaffigan Show." She also won two Emmy awards for writing and producing "The Rosie O'Donnell Show." In addition, she has written for *The New York Times*, Huffington Post and CNN.com.

For more information visit <http://auburnpublictheater.org/> or contact the theater at 315-702-8309.

BD Continued from page 1
group called ucLADINO where students interested in Judeo-Spanish could meet and share their interest in the language. The group holds a yearly symposium, with participants coming from around the world. Kirschen was recently invited to be a keynote speaker at the event. Kirschen received his Ph.D. in 2015 from the University of California, Los Angeles, where he specialized in Spanish, Judeo-Spanish and sociolinguistics.

Speaking about his scholarly research, Kirschen says, "I thought it would be a great way to learn about my own religious background but from a different stance—continue my studies in Spanish and my interest in language, and really learn about something that I thought was so linguistically, culturally and historically rich."

"We are thrilled to have Bryan return to Beth David," organizers say, "and to share with us his latest findings about such a rich topic. He is one of the leaders in the field of Judeo-Spanish and, as attendees will see, he is also a gifted speaker."

Beth David's luncheon speaker series takes place the second Saturday of the month after Shabbat morning services and is open to the community. There is no charge for the luncheon, but Beth David welcomes donations to the Luncheon Fund in order to keep the program going. Donations can be made in honor of or in memory of someone, or to mark a special occasion. Tax-deductible donations can be sent to Beth David Synagogue, 39 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905, Attention: Luncheon Fund.

Bar/Bat photos needed

Can we have your mug? Kids mugging for the camera and formal photos, that is. For *The Reporter's* annual Bar/Bat Mitzvah issue (coming February 9), we need photos of all teens who became bar/bat mitzvah during the calendar year of 2017. We are looking for one of the teen by him/herself, as well as a photo of the celebration with family and friends.

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

The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to the family of

Janette DeLeon

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

William "Bill" Lafer



Howard Hanna
Real Estate Services

SUZANNE L. KRAUSE
Licensed Real Estate Broker

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

Want to kvell?

Did your child grow up as a member of the local or regional Jewish community? Are they doing something interesting in their chosen fields of study or work, or have they earned scholarly or professional awards? Or are they still minors at home, but doing major things? Want to share your nachas with the community? Then write to **The Reporter** at TReporter@aol.com, with "Kvelling in The Reporter" in the subject line, and let us know what your kid is accomplishing so we can make a note of it.



It just makes cents to advertise here in *The Reporter!*

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

THE REPORTER
Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton

BNG to NYC EVERY DAY!

9 Daily Round Trips
Free WiFi
Express Services
On-Line Ticketing

The CHOICE is YOURS



SHORTLINE
Coach USA
A STAGECOACH GROUP Company

Visit us on the web at www.thereportergroup.org



Off the Shelf

Searching for the soul

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

There are several ways to review books that ask readers to take a leap of faith. You can be a skeptical reviewer – asking that the author prove her beliefs in concrete terms. Or, as a clergy person, you can look at the work from a professional point of view – seeing if it suggests insights that can be used for chaplaincy or spiritual guidance. Or you can regard the book as offering a personal journey that might increase your own spirituality. Since, for me, it's impossible for someone to prove their religious beliefs – that's why they are called beliefs, not facts – it usually matters less that I agree with the spiritual ideas offered than if they describe concrete ways to better the world and/or my life.

So my focus when reading Naomi Levy's new work "Einstein and the Rabbi: Searching for the Soul" (Flatiron Books) wasn't on the question of whether or not the soul exists, but on the lessons the author teaches about how to live our lives. The inspiration for her work was reading a letter written by Albert Einstein. She was surprised to learn Einstein was answering a question from Rabbi Robert S. Marcus, who wrote to the scientist after the death of his young son. This exchange took place shortly after World War II when Marcus served as a chaplain in the U.S. Army and later helped Jews who had been imprisoned in concentration camps. Levy wonders what Marcus wrote that

triggered Einstein's answer. The scientist was not known as a religious man, but he wrote about freeing oneself from the delusion that one is separate from the rest of the universe – a description that Levy recognized as the way she feels about the soul. Levy's work takes her on a journey to learn more about the correspondence between the two men, while at the same time offering readers a way to better connect with their own souls.

Levy believes that the soul is not a metaphor, but something real, even if we can't see it. This idea leads her to ask several questions: "What if the soul is a spiritual See "Soul" on page 8

LEGAL NOTICE

G & B BREWING, LLC - NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY ("LLC")

Articles of Organization of G & B BREWING, LLC filed with the NYS Secretary of State (NYSS) on 11/29/2017. Office of LLC is in Broome County. NYSS designated as agent for service of process against it. NYSS shall mail process to 72 Lewis Road, Binghamton, NY 13905. Business purpose: any lawful activity

Notice of Formation of 3310 East Main Street, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/10/17. Office location: Broome Co. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 3630 Montebello Street, Santa Ynez, CA 93460. Purpose: any lawful activities.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
The name of the Limited Liability Company is: TONY'S LAWN CARE & SNOW REMOVAL LLC (the "Company"). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was November 27, 2017. 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 3571 Smith Drive, Endwell, New York 13760. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

Notice of Formation of a Limited Liability Company (LLC): Name: CoreLife of Albany, LLC, Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 11/20/17. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated LLC agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: LLC, Attn: John G. Dowd, PO Box 1905, Binghamton, NY 13902. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose. Date of dissolution: None.

Notice of Formation of a Limited Liability Company (LLC): Name: J & P Khamken Industries, LLC, Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 11/10/17. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated LLC agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: LLC, Attn: John G. Dowd, PO Box 1905, Binghamton, NY 13902. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose. Date of dissolution: None.

Notice of Formation of Popcorn Realty, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/28/17. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 300 Plaza Dr., Vestal, NY 13850. Purpose: any lawful activities.

STATE OF NEW YORK
SUPREME COURT : BROOME COUNTY

SUMMONS
Index No.: EFCA2017002568
RJI No.: 2017-1432-X
Assigned Justice:
Hon. Rita Connerton, A.J.S.C.

VISIONS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION,

Plaintiff,
v.
ALBERT D. MILLER, JR., if living, and if he be dead, any and all persons who are wives, widows, grantees, mortgagees, lienors, other claimants against the assets of the decedent and/or his estate, heirs, devisees, distributees or successors in interest of such of them as may be dead, and their husbands and wives, heirs, devisees, distributees and successors in interest, all of whom and whose names and places of residence are unknown to Plaintiff; DOUGLAS S. MILLER, ALBERT DANIEL MILLER, III a/k/a A. DANIEL MILLER a/k/a DANIEL MILLER, TIMOTHY MILLER, CORTLAND COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES, NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE, THE STATE OF NEW YORK; and UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Defendants.

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the complaint in the above-entitled action and to serve a copy of your answer on the Plaintiff's attorney within 20 days after the service of this summons exclusive of the date of service or within 30 days after completion of service, if service is made in any other manner than by personal delivery within the state. The United States of America, if designated as a defendant in this action, may answer or appear within 60 days of service hereof. In case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint.

Broome County is designated as the place of trial. The basis of venue is the location of the mortgaged premises.

Dated: October 6, 2017
s/ William M. Thomas
William M. Thomas
ASWAD & INGRAHAM, LLP
Attorneys for Plaintiff
Office and P.O. Address
46 Front Street
Binghamton, NY 13905
(607) 722-3495

NOTICE

YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME

If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home.

Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property.

Sending a payment to your mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action.

YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER TO THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT.

NOTICE

To: All Defendants, as described in the foregoing Summons

The foregoing summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an order of the Honorable Rita Connerton, an Acting Justice of the Supreme

Court of the State of New York, dated November 30, 2017, and filed with the complaint and other papers in the office of the Clerk of the County of Broome, at Binghamton, New York.

The action has been commenced to foreclose a mortgage given by Albert D. Miller, Jr., to Visions Federal Credit Union. Said mortgage secures the sum of \$100,000.00 and was recorded in the Broome County Clerk's Office on June 27, 2013 in Book 3627 of Mortgages at page 286. Said foreclosure action will result in the sale of the mortgaged premises at a public auction, under a referee, and will terminate any and all interests and claims in and to the mortgaged premises. No money judgment is sought.

The mortgaged premises subject to this action is commonly known as 905 Neal Road, Town of Union, County of Broome, State of New York and is more accurately described in the above referenced mortgage.

Dated: December 11, 2017.
s/ William M. Thomas
William M. Thomas
ASWAD & INGRAHAM, LLP
Attorneys for Visions Federal Credit Union
Office and P.O. Address
46 Front Street
Binghamton, New York 13905
Tel: 607/722-3495

Notice of Formation of a Limited Liability Company (LLC): Name: Red Beard, LLC, Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/13/17. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated LLC agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: LLC, Attn: John G. Dowd, PO Box 1905, Binghamton, NY 13902. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose. Date of dissolution: None.

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

1. The name of the limited liability company ("LLC") is Rowe 1024, LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is December 18, 2017.
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: 225 Lester Avenue, Johnson City, New York 13790.
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: Community Connection Ventures, LLC (the "Company"). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was December 18, 2017. The county in which the principal place of business of the Company shall be located is Broome County. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the Company upon whom process against it may be

served. The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the Company, to Hinman, Howard & Kattell, LLP, Attn: Ryan M. Mead, 80 Exchange Street, Suite 700, Binghamton, NY 13901. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY:
The name of the limited liability company is: Moore Family Holdings, LLC (the "Company"). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was December 18, 2017. The county in which the principal place of business of the Company shall be located is Broome County. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the Company upon whom process against it may be served. The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the Company, to Hinman, Howard & Kattell, LLP, Attn: Ryan M. Mead, 80 Exchange Street, Suite 700, Binghamton, NY 13901. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY:
The name of the limited liability company is: Perna Family, LLC (the "Company"). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was December 18, 2017. 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, Suite 700, Binghamton, NY 13901. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

Notice of Formation of Limited Liability Company (LLC)
Fly Cutz Barbershop LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on November 13, 2017. Office Location: Broome County 138 Front Street, Binghamton, NY 13905. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: 138 Front Street, Binghamton, NY 13905. Purpose: to engage in any and all business for which LLCs may be formed under the New York LLC law.

Notice of Formation of TDS Enterprises of Broome, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/14/17. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 1865 NYS Route 11, Kirkwood, NY 13765. Purpose: any lawful activities.

1104 MONROE STREET, LLC, Art. of Org. filed NY DOS 12/3/13, Broome Co.S/S C/O The LLC 204-15 23rd Ave., Bayside, NY 11361. To engage in any lawful act or activity. Perpetual existence. Full indemnification.

DKM Management Group LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) 10/3/2017. Cty: Broome SSNY desig. as agent upon whom

process against may be served & shall mail process to Michael DiFrancisco, 3698 Collector Ln., Bethpage, NY 11714. General Purpose.

Notice of Formation of Limited Liability Company (LLC)

Name: Gerchman Enterprises LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on December 27, 2017. Office Location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: 2001 Bernard Blvd, Endicott, NY 13760. Purpose: to engage in any and all business for which LLCs may be formed under the New York LLC law.

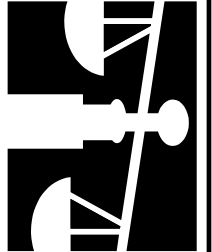
NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY UNDER NEW YORK LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY LAW

1. The name of the limited liability company ("LLC") is Chris' Diner, LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is December 28, 2017.
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: 192 State Street, Binghamton, NY 13901.
5. The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

Notice of Formation of SMStenta LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/29/2017. 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: Santino Stenta, 816 Dickinson Drive, Vestal, NY 13850. Purpose: any lawful activities.

Notice of Formation of HARPURSVILLE CNC, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/02/18. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 226 Parkview Dr., Harpursville, NY 13787. Purpose: any lawful activities.

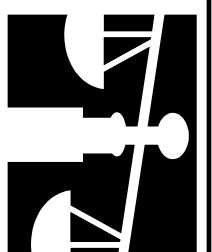
Notice of Formation of Sarah L. King, LCSW, PLLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/02/18. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 427 Chrysler Rd., Endwell, NY 13760. Purpose: to practice the profession of licensed clinical social work.



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



Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton



TC held consecration of students



L-r: Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell consecrated Temple Concord students Noah Grills, Violet Krasno and Allison Eisenstadt on December 16.



L-r: Allison Eisenstadt and her mother Carolyn Eisenstadt, Noah Grills and his parents Sara Grills and Brian Grills, teacher Michele Artus, and Jonathan Krasno and his daughter Violet Krasno at the children's consecration on December 16.

FEMA extends assistance to houses of worship

By Ron Kampeas

WASHINGTON (JTA) — The Federal Emergency Management Agency will now extend assistance to houses of worship, reversing years of policy that excluded such aid.

“Private nonprofit houses of worship will not be singled out for disfavored treatment within the ‘community centers’

subcategory of ... nonprofit applicants,” FEMA said in guidance for 2018 issued on January 2.

Orthodox Jewish groups, which have been lobbying for legislation that would codify the inclusion of houses of worship for assistance, welcomed the change.

“We at the Orthodox Union have been working for more than 15 years to have

this policy changed,” Nathan Diamant, the O.U.’s Washington director, said in a statement. “We thank the Trump administration for righting this longtime wrong and treating disaster-damaged churches, synagogues and other houses of worship fairly — on the same terms as other nonprofits such as museums, community centers and libraries stricken by natural disasters.”

Agudath Israel of America said the change is consistent with White House backing for legislation advancing through Congress. “Unfortunately, unnecessary and unfair limitations placed specifically on houses of worship by FEMA have presented formidable challenges, precluding such relief,” it said in a statement.

See “FEMA” on page 11

Business Profiles

AUDIO CLASSICS

Specialty: Audio-Home Theater-Video-Guitars
 Location: 3501 Vestal Rd. Vestal, NY 13850
 Phone: 607-766-3501 or 800-321-AUDIO (2834)
 Fax: 607-766-3501
 E-mail: steve@audioclassics.com
 Website: www.AUDIOCLASSICS.com
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/Vestal-NY/Audio-Classics-Ltd/231680698962?ref=nf
 Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8 am-5:30 pm, Sat. 11 am-4 pm

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

Endwell Rug Company

Specialty: All types of flooring
 Location: 3646 George F. Highway Endwell, NY 13760
 Owner/Manager: Glenn Grosso
 Phone: 607-748-7366
 Website: www.EndwellRug.com
 Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8 am-9 pm, Sat. 8 am-5 pm, Sun. noon-5 pm

Endwell Rug Company is a family owned, full-service flooring retailer. Endwell Rug offers a wide selection of all types of flooring, both commercial and residential, with expert installation of all products sold. The company’s philosophy is to inspire trust and confidence in its customers by giving impeccable service in a warm, friendly atmosphere.

The Endwell Rug Company achieves these goals by operating with a rigorous set of values that guides everyone from owner to installer: excellent product knowledge and experience, superior customer service, teamwork and dedication, honesty and integrity, and a respect for all people. Staff extend their ethic of caring into the community with substantial support as a group and individually.

You will find staff helpful, knowledgeable and committed to providing everything you need to have a gorgeous, stylish floor.

Ernest H. Parsons Funeral Home

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

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

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

Keeping your business running smoothly

(NAPSI) — According to the latest statistics from the U.S. Small Business Administration, 80 percent of the 28.8 million U.S. small businesses have no employees, placing a heavy burden on the business owner when it comes to juggling every detail of running a company. From IT issues to customer service and even facilities management, a small-business owner must be a jack-of-all-trades.

Fortunately, some banks are recognizing the need for more specialized support for small-business owners and

are carving out a niche to better serve them. Here are three ways small-business owners can get more from their banking partner from Gerry Litrento, senior executive vice president, retail and business banking at BankUnited:

1. Relationships Matter — Banks that specialize in serving small-business clients understand the financial pressures they face and will assign a relationship manager with expertise to help them endure the challenges of today’s competitive market. See “Smoothly” on page 7



TL INTERIORS, LLC

- Complete Residential & Commercial Interior Design
- Custom designs for kitchens - baths - additions - etc...
- Custom Window Treatments - shadings - installation

From small rooms, to entire buildings - I will help you create your dream home or office!


TERRY LUDWIG
 607.761.0601
 TLINTERIORSLLC@STNY.RR.COM
 WWW.TLINTERIORS.COM

HOPLER & ESCHBACH FUNERAL HOME
 “A new family tradition”

Personal Service
 Professionalism
 Experience You Can Trust

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

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




Women's OB/GYN Associates
 is pleased to welcome
Melodye Onysko,
 ANP, CNM

Melodye's personal warmth and extensive knowledge helps patients interested in holistic approaches to women's health care.
 She is now accepting new patients who are seeking:

- Traditional and Holistic Gynecology
- Early Pregnancy Care
- Birth Control Options including IUD's and Nexplanon
- Infertility Counseling and Testing
- Menopausal Support with Bio-Identical Hormone Therapy
- Weight Management

Melodye Onysko offers the area's only Optifast program including Advanced Body Composition and other Nutritional Supplements!

607.754.9870
 Women's OB/GYN Associates
 401 Main Street, 1st Flr.
 Johnson City, NY 13790
 my.womensobgyn.info



Dr. Carol Miller,
 Dr. Marianne Davis and
 Karen Castoro FNP

Book Review

A journey of spiritual reawakening

BEN KASPER

It is estimated that there are approximately six million Jews in the United States. A substantial number, however, are unaffiliated and do not identify with one of the major denominations. The challenge facing organized Judaism is to invite, as well as encourage, those outside the tent to come inside. This may appear to be an impossible challenge, but there may be hope from one individual's inspirational journey.

"My Adventures With God" by Stephen Tobolowsky (Simon and Schuster) is a fascinating, profound, revealing and humorous discovery by an author in search of his Jewish identity. The book is an autobiography of his early years,

his life as an actor and his becoming a husband and father.

The author begins with some reflections about his early childhood experiences, which are not unlike many children who grew up in the 1950s. Hebrew school and Sunday school were not the most popular after-school activities. The author reminisces about those early years when he was around 6 years old by writing, "The teacher read about the beginning of the world. Adam and Eve. Cain and Abel. Seemed like nothing but trouble from the start. One brother murdered the other brother. God tried to destroy the world. He drowned everybody. Noah saved the animals. Abraham had a son Isaac, who he tried to kill with a knife. Then came Joseph. He was beaten up and thrown into a pit. Who were these people? Why were they so awful?"

Despite his early negative impressions, the author continued in religious school until the age of 18. He admits that he stopped when he went off to college. He did not attend services in a synagogue again for almost 20 years. He would be roughly 40 by the next time he considered visiting a synagogue.

When he finally decided to attend services, after being invited by the rabbi, he found 25 individuals, mostly elderly, at a Shabbat service. The rabbi encouraged everyone to begin with singing "Hiney Ma Tov." Tobolowsky writes, "He began leading the congregation. Everyone was singing. I began thumbing through the prayer book hoping I could find where we were. It was hopeless. I pretended to look at some prayers, trying to remain inconspicuous in my lack of participation. It was not to be. The rabbi held up his hands. 'Stop, stop, stop.' ... he said, 'Now is not the time to look at our prayer books. Now is the time to sing. With our hearts. With joy. We are here. We are together. It is the beginning of the most beautiful time of the week. It is Shabbat. Let's try it again.'

"The rabbi began the song once more. I sat silently in the back row.... The song continued without me. The rabbi noticed. He held up his hands again. 'Stop, stop, stop.'....

"He addressed the house: 'You know, we all come here for different reasons. For some of us, it may have been a long time since we've been in a synagogue. We may not know our prayers anymore. We may not even remember our Hebrew. It doesn't matter... It just so happens I know Hebrew very well. I will do the prayers for you. All you have to do is sing la-la-las - and be happy. Just be happy you are here.'"

There is no magic formula or recipe to persuade individuals to attend and participate in services. Individuals, like the author, have to decide what is meaningful in their lives. It is said that human beings have multiple needs and we need to nourish the physical, the mental and the emotional, as well as the spiritual.

The journey of spiritual reawakening also requires a rabbi who is warm, welcoming, sensitive and creative. The author was indeed fortunate in finding such a spiritual leader. Tobolowsky reports that after that first encounter he became an active member for the next 10 years.

Later in the life of the author, there emerges a conflict between his religious observance and his professional life as an actor. He visits his rabbi and admits that he will miss services because of travel and a very busy work schedule. He asks for suggestions from the rabbi. The rabbi, after some reflection, suggests reciting a prayer, like the *Shema*. Then his spiritual mentor decided to be slightly more specific. "Say the prayer whenever something good happens to you," he recalls the rabbi telling him. "You should also say the *Shema* whenever you have avoided a calamity. That way, you will see how blessed you are."

Tobolowsky had a near death experience and also averted being a victim of a terrorist attack. There are abundant examples of small and large miracles described in these pages.

"My Adventures with God" will make you smile, perhaps even laugh. You might learn a few lessons in Judaism. Reading this book might even encourage you to attend Shabbat services.

Mailbox Shorts

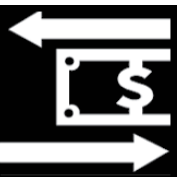
Shalom Hartman Institute webinar

The Shalom Hartman Institute will hold a webinar as part of the Created Equal Project on Wednesday, January 24, at noon Eastern time, 9 am Pacific time and 7 pm in Israel. Elana Stein Hain will speak on "On the Jewish Canon and Male Privilege."

Webinars are streamed live on the Shalom Hartman website and on Facebook. An e-mail reminder with viewing instructions and links is sent one day prior to the webinar. Created Equal: Men, Women and the Ethics of Shared Leadership is a research project that seeks to address persistent inequities around gender, race and class by considering how Jewish ideas and experience can inform the struggle to pursue the ethical. For more information, visit Shalomhartman.org/createdequal.



Business Profiles



Garufi Law P.C.

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

Garufi Law P.C. has been serving the Southern Tier for over 25 years. Carman M. Garufi started the practice in March 1991 with an emphasis on Matrimonial/Family Law. Since 2007, he has been selected one of the Best Lawyers® in America for Family Law. Garufi has been honored as a New York Super Lawyer® the last five years, and he is Binghamton's Best Family Lawyer for 2017. He is a past President of the Broome County Bar Association.

Sandra J. Garufy is of counsel, with experience in Family Law and Criminal matters, assisting with Wills and Estates. Alena E. Van Tull joined the firm in August 2010 and handles Family Law/Matrimonial matters, Criminal matters, Elder Law and Landlord/Tenant matters. Harini Ganesh joined the firm in October 2015, bringing expertise in Business and Intellectual Property. Ganesh also handles Family Law matters.

Hopler & Eschbach Funeral Home

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

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

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

The Reporter

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

With 50 years' experience in sales, and celebrating 22 years at *The Reporter*, Bonnie truly enjoys working with people to get the word out about their businesses, and helping them to create the look they want for their print ads. "Satisfaction guaranteed" is her mantra.

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

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

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



ENDWELL RUG & Floor
"THE BEST FLOOR SHOW IN TOWN"

Our promise to you...

COMPLETE CUSTOMER SATISFACTION!
FREE ESTIMATES • FREE MEASURING

- Hardwood • Laminate • Luxury Vinyl Tile
- Area Rugs • Sheet Vinyl • Carpeting

A wide array of styles, designs and possibilities - contact us now to see how we can help you decide what floor will best fit your needs. You can shop with confidence knowing that we are recognized in the industry for excellent product selection and knowledge and outstanding customer service.

8 Carbon St.,
Oneonta, NY 13820
Phone: (607) 432-1105
Fax: (607) 433-1821
Mon - Wed 8 AM-6 PM
Thurs 8 AM-8 PM • Friday 8 AM-6 PM
Sat 9 AM-5 PM • Sun 10 AM-3 PM

We're proud to be
family owned and operated since 1939!

ENDWELL RUG & Floor
"THE BEST FLOOR SHOW IN TOWN"

3646 George F Hwy.,
Endwell, NY 13760
Phone: (607) 748-7366
Toll-Free: (800) 526-3466
Mon.-Fri. 8 AM-8 PM
Sat. 8 AM-5 PM Sun. 11 AM-4 PM

WWW.AUDIOCLASSICS.COM

AUDIO • HOME THEATER • STEREO

Phone/Fax **607-766-3501**

BUY • SELL • TRADE • REPAIR • CONSIGN

3501 Vestal Road Vestal, NY 13850 Hours: Mon-Fri 8-5:30 • Sat 11-4

PHONE 607.724.2360, x244
800.779.7896, x244
FAX 607.724.2311
E-MAIL bonnie@thereportergroup.org
www.thereportergroup.org

THE REPORTER

Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton

500 CLUBHOUSE ROAD • VESTAL, NY 13850-3734

Bonnie Rozen

ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE
Member of Success Network since 1998






Why some food makers in Portugal are going kosher

By Cnaan Liphshiz

(JTA) – Portugal’s tallest mountain range, the Serra da Estrela, is known for its waterfalls, turquoise lakes, terraced hillsides and bike paths amid vast woods. In winter especially, tourists from all over northern Europe flock to the sunny Serra, a thinly populated plateau the size of Rhode Island, for its wines, world-renowned sheep cheeses and regional dishes (think breaded sweet sardines and Juniper beef stew).

In addition to these delicacies, Serra da Estrela in recent years has also emerged as Portugal’s undisputed powerhouse for kosher food – an unlikely development in a region with about 50 Jews.

In December, one of Serra da Estrela’s oldest producers of olive oil, Casa Agricola Francisco Esteves, located in the town of Manteigas, launched a new kosher label in time for Hanukkah, the holiday when Jews celebrate a miracle connected to oil.

In the nearby town of Covilha on the range’s southern tip is the Braz Queijos cheese factory, which in 2009 obtained a kosher certificate for most of its products, becoming the first to do so in Portugal in modern times. Five years earlier, a winery in the same town produced what was said to be Portugal’s first kosher-certified wine in centuries. And in 2010, the town of Belmonte began hosting an annual kosher market ahead of Rosh Hashanah.

This uptick in kosher food production is occurring amid Portugal’s growing awareness of its rich Jewish history. Perhaps hundreds of thousands of Jews lived in Portugal before 1536,

when Portugal’s church and royal house joined the Spanish campaign of expulsion, executions and forced conversions known as the Inquisition. The kosher trend is a way to “reconnect with our past,” according to Jose Braz, the cheese maker, who is not Jewish.

On a national level, Portugal and Spain have both undertaken moves to atone for the Inquisition. In 2015, for example, both countries put into practice laws adopted two years earlier that have permitted some 5,000 descendants of Sephardic Jews to obtain Spanish and Portuguese nationalities. The measures were the world’s first Jewish laws of return since Israel passed its own in 1952.

Coupled with government investments of millions of dollars in Jewish heritage sites, officials in Madrid and Lisbon describe the move as correcting historical wrongs. But some observers believe it is also motivated by a desire to revive the Portuguese and Spanish economies, where unemployment is double the U.S. rate and more than a quarter of adults under 25 are jobless.

“The Sephardic Diaspora can be viewed as a large pool with the potential to benefit Spain and Portugal’s economies, provided that pool can be drawn to visit, settle and invest,” said Michael Freund, founder and chairman of Shavei Israel, a Jerusalem-based nonprofit that runs outreach programs for the descendants of Sephardic Jews.

Officials from both countries regularly cite tourism when spending public funds on restoring and highlighting Jewish heritage sites. For example, the recent \$8.25 million investment in Portugal’s

Rotas de Sefarad project – a statewide network of routes that highlight Sephardic heritage – “must contribute to strengthening tourism,” Celeste Amaro, a Portuguese Culture Ministry official, told the *Journal Do Centro* newspaper in November.

But in the Serra da Estrela region, where many non-Jews have Jewish roots, gestures toward Judaism are more personal than those of Lisbon, according to Rabbi Elisha Salas, Shavei Israel’s Portugal envoy, who is based in the town of Belmonte. That municipality holds an annual kosher products market under the supervision of Salas, who ensures that the products brought there for sale by local farmers – including honey, olives and bread – meet the requirements of *halachah*, or rabbinic law.

“I don’t go over their financial reports, but I can’t see a huge demand for kosher products in Portugal that would make a certificate profitable,” he said. “What’s at work here in Belmonte is that you have firms and factories with owners who have Jewish roots, so they seek to get closer to Judaism at least through the products they make.”

That may be true, but the operators of newly kosher ventures seem unwilling to elaborate on that connection. Patricia Duarte Madeira, the director of the Esteves oil factory, told JTA that she sought a kosher certificate only to serve the needs of customers in Belmonte, which she defined as “one of Portugal’s largest Jewish communities.” (While it’s true the city is home to one of Portugal’s three functioning synagogues, the Jewish popu-

See “Food” on page 9

Business Profiles

TL Interiors

Specialty: Custom design, personal and professional service
 Owner/Interior Designer/Event Planner: Terry Ludwig
 Location: PO Box 863
 Vestal, NY 13850
 Phone: 607-761-0601
 Fax: 607-785-2872
 E-mail: TLInteriorsLLC@stny.rr.com
 Website: www.TLInteriors.com
 Hours: By appointment

“We have a great team and love creating environments that inspire our clients,” says Terry Ludwig, owner of TL Interiors. “We strive to understand our clients’ desires and create the ideal space for them to manifest and sustain the life of their dreams.”

Terry has been serving residential and commercial interior design needs for more than 30 years. Three full-time interior designers on staff provide comprehensive design and project management for homes and businesses, design working floor plans and elevations for construction and fabrication requirements, reflected ceiling plans, specifications and procurement of materials, fixtures, appliances and accessories needed to complete any project. They also create beautiful custom window treatments.

Terry has worked hard to build her business and is a certified NYS women-owned business. She is a certified dealer for Hunter Douglas window shades, Shaw Flooring, Daltile and many others.

Smoothly • • Continued from page 5

Relationship managers can be a small-business owner’s best resource when it comes to managing finances; they can anticipate needs, troubleshoot, and provide a wide array of products and solutions to help clients achieve their goals. Small-business owners who take the time to get to know their relationship managers can find them to be valuable and trusted partners.

2. Money to Grow With – Whether a business owner needs to acquire upgraded equipment, finance expansion plans or smooth out cash flow, a well-capitalized bank with decision makers at the local level can provide quick access to loans, lines of credit, letters of credit and much more. Clients who already have established relationships with their bank may have an easier road to accessing the funds they need. Since documents don’t always tell the whole story, it helps to have someone at the bank who understands the business and can speak on its behalf.

3. Products and Services Tailored to Fit – Banks that offer a full suite of treasury management products and services help business owners perform banking activities quickly and easily, leaving more time for growing the business. Treasury management professionals are made available to consult with business owners to better understand their unique needs and implement solutions to optimize cash flow, streamline receivables and manage accounts.

Women’s OB/GYN

Associates

Specialty: Women’s healthcare
 Location: 401 Main St., 1st Floor
 Johnson City, NY 13790
 Names: Dr. Carol Miller, Dr. Marianne (Shantillo) Davis, Karen Castoro FNP and Melodye Onysko ANP, CNM
 Phone: 607-754-9870
 Fax: 607-785-9862
 Website: my.womensobgyn.info
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/WomensOBYGN/
 Hours: Mon.-Fri. by appointment

Women’s OB/GYN Associates serves patients with individual attention and caring excellence. The team of providers offers care in the following areas: routine gynecologic exams, obstetrical care, menopause, incontinence, osteoporosis, contraception, advanced body composition, the area’s only Optifast weight loss program, Young Living Essential Oils and more. Dr. Marianne (Shantillo) Davis has a special interest in adolescent health care and working with patients experiencing infertility. Karen Castoro shares her enthusiasm for healthy living and wellness to encourage those in her care. Melodye Onysko shares her expertise in holistic health care and weight management support. Dr. Carol Miller is committed to promoting women’s health through a healthy diet and lifestyle.

To learn more about these women’s healthcare providers, or to contact the office of Women’s OB/GYN Associates, visit my.womensobgyn.info and “like” their page on Facebook.

ERNEST H. PARSONS FUNERAL HOME

Faithfully Serving Broome County Since 1928



PRE-ARRANGEMENTS AND PRE-FUNDING AVAILABLE

Joseph Fritsch
 Managing Director

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

parsonsfuneral@yahoo.com
 www.ParsonsFuneral.com

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

Advertise in the next Small Business Profiles

If you are the owner or manager of a small business, *The Reporter* has a unique advertising opportunity for you! **SMALL BUSINESS PROFILES**, the highlight of our May 7 issue, will feature an advertising section of display ads in a variety of sizes to suit your copy. Plus, for all ads over 4 col. inches, we will include a FREE mini feature using the information you provide.

May 7 issue • Ad Deadline: April 29

Contact Kathy at 724-2360, ext. 244 or advertising@thereportergroup.org to advertise



THE REPORTER

Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton

GARUFI LAW P.C.

Family Lawyers for All Your Legal Needs

CARMAN M. GARUFI
 Attorney at Law Since 1983
 Family Law & Matrimonial Matters
 2017 Best Lawyers in America and
 Binghamton Family Lawyer
 of the Year 2017

ALENA E. VAN TULL
 Attorney at Law Since 2010
 Matrimonial & Real Estate

HARINI GANESH
 Attorney at Law Since 2012
 Family Law & Business Contracts

SANDRA J. GARUFY
 OF COUNSEL, Attorney at Law Since 1989
 Criminal Matters & Wills & Estates

68 OAK STREET • BINGHAMTON
www.garufilaw.com
 (607) 722-5000

Protagonists of “Remember Baghdad” feel Jews have “unfinished business” in Iraq

By Eliana Rudee
JNS

When thinking of the words “refugee” and “Middle East,” many displaced groups come to mind. But few know that some of the original refugees of the region were a million Middle Eastern and North African Jews whose history often entails hangings, imprisonment and finding refuge in Israel. The critically acclaimed documentary “Remember Baghdad,” released this year upon the 100th anniversary of the British-Ottoman battle over that city during World War I, is the untold story of Iraqi Jews – filmed through their eyes.

Their story is not always one of simply fleeing to arrive in the Jewish state. About half of Iraqi Jews fled to countries outside of Israel and still yearn for what once was. Many of them long to return to Iraq and have even applied for citizenship, voted in elections or purchased a home in Baghdad. “I feel that there is unfinished business there,” Edwin Shuker, one of the film’s four protagonists, tells JNS. “To say that we are gone, finished and that we’ve left forever is unbearable for me. Nobody

should be required to cut his roots or lose ancestry.” Shuker says Israel is the eternal physical and spiritual Jewish homeland, while the U.K. is “the country and people that gave me physical and financial security, the freedom we never had, a beautiful family and the opportunity to rebuild my life after escaping Iraq.” Yet he believes that due to changing geopolitical conditions in the Arab world in recent years, Arab states like Iraq might be ready for a new relationship with Jews that includes business ties and tourism.

“There is a big change in the mindset of the Arab street toward Jews. ... The gates are being breached in a big way,” he says. To this end, Shuker says Israel should initiate “a proper national debate within Iraqi Jewry and wider sects of Jewish refugees to review where we stand with countries [where we had lived].” Shuker has gone as far as buying a house in the northern Iraqi city of Erbil and visits frequently.

David Dangoor, one of the film’s other leading protagonists, fled Iraq for the U.K. 50 years ago and says that Iraq’s Jewish past is “like a distant bell ringing in the back of our heads, always

reminding us where we came from.” He speaks of fond memories in Baghdad involving Jewish festivals, outdoor gatherings and other elements of a “vibrant” community. “Until the 1951 evacuation of the Iraqi community, Iraqi Jews would go abroad to make their fortune in Europe or America, but would always come back to marry an Iraqi,” he recalls.

Dangoor, who has not been back to Iraq since 1959, was hopeful for change following the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003, and even applied for Iraqi passports and voted in the subsequent elections with his father. “But unfortunately, things have regressed,” Dangoor tells JNS.

In Dangoor’s estimation, the “prospect of Jews going back to Iraq has been deteriorating over the last few years and the Middle East has been sliding backwards for the whole 20th century.” But he says there is still room for hope, considering that “the darkest hour is just before daybreak and I do feel there are intellectual Iraqis who feel they have lost part of the country’s soul when the Jews left.”

He continues, “My dream is that Iraqi Jews

See “Iraq” on page 9

Wall.....

the report said.

The declarations of U.S. sensitivity to Muslim claims to Jerusalem’s holiest site come just weeks after President Donald Trump recognized Jerusalem as Israel’s capital, precipitating a crisis in U.S.-Palestinian relations. “Incidents of attempted Jewish prayer at the Haram al-Sharif/Temple Mount increased from previous years, according to local NGOs, media and Jewish Temple Mount movement groups, and occurred on a near-weekly basis,” it said. “During Jewish holidays, such as Passover, Tisha B’Av and Sukkot, tens of Jewish Temple Mount activists engaged in prayer on the site. In most cases, Israeli police acted to prevent them from praying and removed them, but in other cases, some of which were documented on social media in photos and videos, the police appeared not to notice the acts of prayer.”

Also addressed at length is Israel’s treatment of religious minorities, including detailed passages on non-Orthodox prayer at the Western Wall. “The Israeli government did not implement a Cabinet agreement reached in January to establish a Reform, Conservative and mixed gender prayer platform along a separate portion of the Western Wall,” the report said. “Reform, Conservative and women’s Jewish groups including some Orthodox Jewish women’s groups lobbied for the proposal, whereas ultra-Orthodox Jewish religious leaders and political figures continued to oppose the plan.”

Friedman’s efforts to promote interfaith understanding get multiple mentions. “Embassy-hosted events, including an interfaith Ramadan *iftar* and an interfaith Thanksgiving dinner, promoted the reduction of tensions between religious communities and an increase in interreligious communication and partnership within society by bringing together representatives of many faith communities to ad-

vance shared goals, and exchange knowledge and experience,” the report said.

It refers to the West Bank and eastern Jerusalem as “occupied.” Friedman was reported in recent weeks to have urged the State Department to drop the nomenclature, although the State Department has described the reports as erroneous.

The report also suggests that Israeli claims on Jerusalem do not necessarily extend to largely Arab eastern Jerusalem. “The Israeli government formally annexed East[ern] Jerusalem in 1980, although no other government, including the United States, has recognized this annexation,” it says in a parenthetical aside in its Occupied Territories section. Trump had said that in recognizing the city as Israel’s capital, he was not determining a final status outcome for the city.

One feature of the report was to include Palestinian terrorist attacks as possible violations of religious

Continued from page 4

freedoms. “Because religion and ethnicity were often closely linked, it was difficult to categorize much of this violence as being solely based on religious identity,” the report said by way of explanation.

In releasing the overall report, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and his department emphasized countries that have “systematic, ongoing and egregious violations of religious freedom.” These included Pakistan, Burma, China, Eritrea, Iran, North Korea, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Saudi Arabia was a notable entry: One of the Trump administration’s success stories has been the “vast” improvement of U.S.-Saudi relations, as opposed to tensions between the Saudis and the Obama administration.

Soul.....

entity, a holy guide, an eternal messenger of God dwelling within us? What if the soul can see what our eyes can’t perceive? What if the soul has longings and needs and wisdom to offer us about our higher calling and true love, and the very purpose of our lives?” Levy also feels that a person’s soul lives on after their death and remains part of our world, if only we are open to appreciate and experience that connection.

Most of “Einstein and the Rabbi” is organized around what Levy calls the three levels of the soul:

◆ *Nefesh* – “the foundational level of the soul... The greatest gift of the Life Force is the power to act, to rise above our own paralysis and to transform intention into achievement.”

◆ *Ruach* – “the wisdom of the heart, the realm of emotion and particularly love... that helps us let down our defenses so we can experience intimacy. It is also the aspect of the soul that opens us to our calling.”

◆ *Neshamah* – “opens our eyes to glimpses of heaven here. Time melts and gives way to eternity. Death becomes less frightening and less final. We may begin to realize that our deceased loved ones are never far from us, or perhaps that they never left us.”

While her explanations about the three levels of soul did not resonate with me, Levy’s description of her search to learn more about Marcus, including the people he helped and who still remember him, were beautifully written and very moving. Levy also describes her own life lessons – what occurred after the loss of her father, who was murdered when she was 15, and her battle with disfiguring

skin cancer. Woven within the chapters are heart-warming stories and impressive life lessons about others she’s met along the way. Levy uses specific examples to teach about her soul-changing activities, including a wonderful chapter on how Shabbat can be “a free trip to paradise and you don’t have to travel anywhere to get there. All you have to do is rest.” She reminds someone who comes to her for counseling that “the Sabbath teaches us to take back our lives, to balance work and home, prose and poetry, ego and soul. On the Sabbath the present gives way to the eternal. Time releases its stranglehold over us. We’re no longer ruled by the clock. We can stop rushing and stressing.”

Early in her work, Levy offers readers four questions to ponder – questions that speak to the direction their lives are taking. Even those who don’t believe in the soul may find the questions useful if they ask them from a psychological viewpoint:

“1. What has my soul been trying to tell me that I’ve been ignoring?”

“2. What activities and experiences nourish my soul that I don’t do enough of?”

“3. What does my soul want me to repair that my ego is too stubborn or too fearful to repair?”

“4. What does my soul want me to reach for?”

Whether speaking about soul, mind or body, these are excellent questions that anyone dissatisfied with their lives should consider. Readers willing to suspend their disbelief will be inspired by “Einstein and the Rabbi.” Even if those who can’t may still find it helpful in discovering a path to a more grounded and meaningful life.

Continued from page 4



Women in Business

If you are a woman who owns or manages a business, **The Reporter** has a unique advertising opportunity for you!

WOMEN IN BUSINESS, the highlight of our August 13 issue, will feature an advertising section of display ads in a variety of sizes to suit your copy. As a bonus, for all ads over 4 col. inches, we’ll include a FREE mini feature using the information you provide.

August 13 issue
Ad Deadline: August 5

For information, please contact Charlie Pritchett at 724-2360 ext. 244 or advertising@thereporter.org

Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton

See what's brewing!

Our Dine-Out section is featured in these issues:

January 1 (deadline December 31)
February 12 (deadline February 4)
April 9 (deadline April 1)

Contact Kathy Brown at 724-2360, ext. 244 or advertising@thereporter.org




Obituaries are accepted in *The Reporter*

Regular rates apply.
To place an obituary, call Bonnie at 607-724-2360 x244 or [email bonnie@thereporter.org](mailto:bonnie@thereporter.org).

Trailblazing a new breed: biblically inspired, bourbon-style Israeli whiskey

By Eliana Rudee
JNS

Noam Cohen and Alan Cohl are confident that their new breed of whiskey will echo Israel's success in making the desert bloom. They are creating Israel's first distillery for American bourbon-style whiskey, hoping to trailblaze the Israeli market for the spirit and bring an added level of sophistication to an Israeli cocktail culture that is just starting to take off.

Without local competition in their niche and little consumer experience in Israel with the whiskey they're striving to produce, Cohen and Cohl – immigrants from New Jersey and New York, respectively – are confident that their brand, Legends Distillery, will win the hearts and palates of the Jewish state.

The distillers believe they have the perfect recipe for success: pairing their established bourbon-style whiskey recipe with Israel's biblical tourism industry. (They'll need to call their creation something other than "bourbon," as international trade agreements restrict that name's usage to products made in the U.S.)

According to the Kentucky Distillers' Association, the number of licensed distilleries in that state, which is the birthplace of bourbon, has more than tripled since 2012. Israel is capitalizing on bourbon's unprecedented popularity, a trend characterized by increased demand for cocktails made with whiskey and other liquors.

In Tel Aviv, the cocktail scene is gaining steam with the annual Whiskey Festival, the Whiskey Bar and Museum, and the summertime Cocktail Festival, in which many of the drinks use bourbon as a main ingredient. Jerusalem, too, boasts several award-winning cocktail bars. To Cohen and Cohl, this is a testament to the growing sophistication of Israelis' taste buds, which yearn for a quality bourbon-style product.

Israel's first whiskey distillery was Milk and Honey, and two others have followed suit: the Golan Heights Distillery, focusing on two-grain whiskey; and Pelter Distillery, specializing in brandy, with its whiskey not yet on the market. But Cohen and Cohl are certain that scotch, single malt whiskey and brandy are not in competition

with their bourbon-style whiskey or with their marketing concept and image, which is why Legends hopes to share resources and work with the other distilleries in the future.

"We are working to develop this burgeoning market and Israeli palate together," Cohen tells JNS.

The Israeli market is "ripe" for the rise of whiskey and there are also many different aspects of whiskey production that find much more meaningful expression in Israel as compared to anywhere in the U.S., he says. For instance, Cohen explains that the area of Israel in which Legends will be located has rich limestone, which naturally deionizes water and has low iron content, and is therefore chemically suitable for bourbon production.

While corn is not traditionally an Israeli grain, says Cohen, "we have farmland in an area where we will grow our own; the land in that area is very *mat'im* (fitting) for corn." The locally obtained water, he says, will make for high-quality, locally produced whiskey.

Legends has partnered with an American distilling expert on a distilling technique whose proprietary aging process enables the production of a top-level spirit in a small fraction of the time it would normally require. According to Cohen and Cohl, this process will get a quality product on the shelves within only 15 months, instead of the usual five to seven years of aging that bourbon usually requires.

Further, unlike the pre-existing distilleries in the Jewish state, Legends hope to augment Israel's tourism industry by offering a product drawn from domestically harvested grains and inspired by the Bible. The distillery is planned to be located in the Elah Valley, the site of the biblical story of David and Goliath. Fittingly, Legends's flagship spirit – Slingshot – is a clear reference to the battle between David and Goliath, which took place a stone's throw away from the distillery's location.

At the same time, Slingshot's flavor and texture is punctuated with complex notes of oak and leather, and its long, warm finish evoke imagery of the American frontier and its colonial bourbon industry, the very inspiration for their product.

Indeed, even the distillers' branding fuses these images – featuring a wagon wheel, an unmistakable

symbol of early Americans' drive to cultivate their new country, that rests upon the trunk of an olive tree, an ancient symbol of perseverance and gritty determination. By combining these themes, Legends strives to bring the same ingenuity employed by Israel's early pioneers in making the desert bloom to the nascent Israeli whiskey industry.

Cohen and Cohl hope that tour groups of all denominations and affiliations will "top off" their visits to the Elah Valley with a distillery tour and a glass of biblically inspired Israeli whiskey.

Food Continued from page 7

lation is about 50, according to Salas.) Madeira twice declined to answer when asked whether her family has Jewish roots.

Braz, the Serra da Estrela cheese maker, also appeared skittish about his connection to Judaism. Although he had told the Israeli media that he descended from Anusim (Jews who were forced to convert to Christianity) – and he also told JTA that at least one of his grandmothers was aware of her Jewish ancestry and had retained some Jewish customs – he downplayed the matter in the Portuguese media. "I think all of us here have Jewish DNA, but it's speculative," he said in 2009 during an interview with the *Publico* newspaper about the Israeli media's interest in his kosher cheese.

Braz noted a 2008 study suggesting that 20 percent of Iberia's population has Jewish genes. "But I'm Catholic, I recently hosted the bishop of Guarda at the factory," he said, adding that his "real interest is cheese," not genealogy.

Yet many houses in Serra da Estrela require no research to demonstrate their Jewish provenance. In the town of Trancoso, near Covilha, for example, the stone walls of many homes feature well-preserved incisions made during and after the Portuguese Inquisition. Some marks read "horror" in Hebrew when read inversely; some ancient door frame panels include hollows that once would have held a *mezuzah*.

Visible only in small towns with concentrations of forcefully converted Jews large enough to give them some safety in numbers, the markings were preserved by the former owners as a "way of showing, without saying, that they remember who they really are, where they come from," said Shavei Israel's Freund.

The subterfuge extended to the kitchen: The country's Alheira de Mirandela sausage, whose "generous amount" of garlic tends to overpower the taste of its other ingredients, was especially developed during the Inquisition for Jews who sought to eat kosher while appearing to be consuming pork like the general population.

Freund said such techniques are a testament to the brutality of centuries of persecution that extinguished what was considered one of the world's most illustrious Jewish communities. "After centuries of silence and persecution, it's almost inevitable that people with Jewish roots should be careful about advertising it," he said. "But for people in the food industry, obtaining a kosher certificate is a way of doing so in a tangible way that doesn't bring up too many personal questions."

Iraq Continued from page 8

and Israel will be that link to Iraq, to help provide friendly leadership to the Middle East and show the way they can transform themselves to positive contributors in the way Israel has done in the short 70 years of its existence. It is a strong dream of mine that I feel one day Iraqi Jews will be welcomed in bringing advancement to Iraq."

But this change, he says, must be linked to recognition of Israel – and even if the Iraqi government embraces the Jewish state, Dangoor argues that the former vibrancy of Iraq's Jewish community would still be a key missing element. "The thing that was most precious about Iraq is now very much manifested in Israel," he says.

Supporting Israel is not just sentimental, but practical for Dangoor. Four years ago, he bought a house in Israel and has traveled there nine times this past year. His charitable foundation

is a contributor to Bar-Ilan University's medical school, the Weizmann Institute of Science, and various educational and heritage-based projects in Israel. "I am conscious of the fact that most of my ancestry would have given nearly everything to live in Israel with an army, parliament, technology and the universities we have now," says Dangoor. "All my ancestors prayed for a return to Israel. When we talk about a homeland, I don't think either Iraq or Britain approaches Israel. Iraq is history and community, Britain is refuge and Israel is homeland."

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

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

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



*Our Annual
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Planning Guide
is coming soon!*

To advertise in this pull-out keepsake section, contact Kathy Brown at 607-724-2360, ext. 244 or advertising@thereporter.org

Issue Date: January 29
Ad Deadline: January 21

THE REPORTER
Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton



Frogs on a heap

RABBI BARUCH BINYAMIN HAKOHEN MELMAN, TEMPLE ISRAEL OF THE POCONOS

The *Kotel* was a pleasure to visit and immerse myself in prayer. At least on Shabbat, no one would interrupt my *davening* and deep meditation by tapping me on the shoulder in the middle of prayer with requests for *tzedakah*. They say *tzedakah* saves from death, but so does prayer, so each has their place.

The *Kotel* is not a fancy building. It is just stone. Ancient stone. Stones below and stones above.

Stones everywhere. Stone is eternal. Hashem is eternal. The Earth was first stone before there was vegetation or animals. Hashem was present before anything else.

In prayer we must set aside our egos and the material husks that encase the spirit. Synagogues are like the stones of the *Kotel*, physical places that allow our spirits to soar and connect to the Divine, only less so. They vibrate like the stones. Only the intensity varies, according to the intensity of the prayer.

Many synagogues today find themselves in trouble when they place monetary or materialistic values over spiritual ones. When education and learning and prayer enjoy a low priority, apathy and malaise are the bitter fruit. It is a pointless, empty enterprise. Their long-term assurance is not guaranteed. The synagogue is a meeting place of prayer and study. This is its core central function, its *raison d'être*.

A remarkable textual allusion in the *parasha* offers a rich homiletic support to this idea. As the plague of frogs halted, their rotting frog corpses were gathered in "gigantic heaps, fouling the air with their vile stench." (Ex. 8:10) "*Vayitzberu otam chamarim chamarim vativash ha'aretz.*"

Notice that the word for heaps, "*chamarim*," in the Hebrew is spelled minus the letter *yud*, the usual plural indicator. The duplication of the word *chamarim* serves to call our attention to a deeper understanding of the word, in the sense of "CHoMeR," or materialism. Most tellingly

is the verb "*vayitzberu*." Its root is TZiBuR, meaning a congregation, i.e., a "gathering." In a sense, then, the Torah is warning synagogues about misplaced priorities. And the doubling of the missing *yuds*, so striking in their absence, spells a name often referring to God.

How often God Himself is missing from synagogues. There is no room left for Him, for He is crowded out by the massive ego heaps and materialism run amok. So what this is really teaching us is that when the spiritual is missing, from out of a heightened and disproportionate focus on the material, a foul temper then rules the day.

The purpose of the synagogue is similar to the purpose of the land of Israel: to be a vessel for the spiritual development of its inhabitants. Ego is to people what materialism is to values. Both have their place, but neither should predominate. Physicality, the physical structure, is but to See "Frogs" on page 11

Congregational Notes

Beth David Synagogue

Affiliation: Orthodox Union
 Rabbi: Zev Silber
 Address: 39 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905
 Phone: 607-722-1793
 Rabbi's Office: 607-722-7514
 Fax: 607-722-7121
 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:
 Friday, Jan. 12 4:35 pm
 Shabbat, Jan. 13 9 am
 Mincha after the kiddush
 Maariv 6 pm
 Weekday Services:
 Mornings:
 Sun., Jan. 14 8:30 am
 Mon.-Fri., Jan. 15-19 7 am
 Evenings:
 Sun., Jan. 14 4:40 pm
 Mon.-Thurs., Jan. 15-18 7 pm
 Classes: Rabbi Zev Silber will hold his weekly Talmud class every Tuesday evening after services.

Norwich Jewish Center

Orientation: Inclusive
 Rabbi: Dena Bodian
 Address: 72 South Broad St., Norwich, NY 13815
 Contact: Guilia Greenberg, 373-5087
 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 schedules 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: 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 Saturday, January 13, Shabbat Yeladim services will be held at 11:15 am.

On Friday, January 19, the dalet-hey class service will be held at 6:15 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 and Friday, 5:30 pm; Saturday, 9:30 am.

On Saturday, January 13, at 9:30 am, services will be led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown. The Torah portion will be Exodus 6:2-9:35. The haftarah will be Ezekiel 28:25-29:21. The kiddush sponsor will be Jonathan Weiss.

The temple office will be closed on Monday, January 15. There will be a Board of Trustees meeting on Tuesday, January 16, at 7 pm.

On Friday, January 19, at 6:30 pm, there will be Shabbat on the Road at Brookdale Senior Center.

Steve Gilbert will present the "Best of Yiddish Radio Project," an Adult Ed. Brunch and Program, on Sunday, January 21, at 10 am. The cost is \$5 per person. (See article on page 1.)

Those who wish to recite the Mourner's Kaddish during a weekday service can contact Howard Schwartz at schwertz@stny.rr.com or call the temple office one-and-a-half weeks or more before the date to ensure time to make up a minyan.

Penn-York Jewish Community

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

Congregation Tikkun v'Or

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

Temple Brith Sholom

Affiliation: Unaffiliated
 Address: P.O. Box 572, 117 Madison St., Cortland, NY 13045
 Phone: 607-756-7181
 President: Louis Wilson, louiswilson1995@yahoo.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 egalitarian 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.

Friday, January 12, light candles 4:35 pm
 Shabbat ends Saturday, January 13 5:37 pm
 Friday, January 19, light candles 4:43 pm
 Shabbat ends Saturday, January 20 5:45 pm

Temple Concord

Affiliation: Union for Reform Judaism
 Rabbi: Barbara Goldman-Wartell
 Address: 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905
 Office hours: Tues.-Fri., 10 am-2 pm
 Phone: 723-7355
 Fax: 723-0785
 Office e-mail: TempleConcordbinghamton@gmail.com
 Website: www.templeconcord.com
 Regular service times: Friday, 8 pm; Saturday, 10:35 am, when religious school is in session.

On Friday, January 12, at 8 pm, Shabbat services will be led by Hollie Levine and Brendan Byrnes. The oneg will be hosted by Eve Berman in memory of her father.

On Saturday, January 13, at 9 am, there will be religious school; at 9:15 am, Torah study; and at 10:35 am, there will be family Shabbat services led by religious school staff and Jeff Strosberg.

On Tuesday, January 16, at 5:15 pm, there will be Hebrew school; at 6:30 pm, there will be an Executive Board meeting; and at 7:30 pm, there will be a board meeting.

On Thursday, January 18, at 5:15 pm, there will be Hebrew school.

On Friday, January 19, at 8 pm, Shabbat services will be led by Rabbi Rachel Esserman. The oneg will be hosted by Pam and John Burgman.

On Saturday, January 20, at 9 am, there will be religious school; at 9:15 am, there will be Torah study; at 9:30 am, there will be Tot Shabbat; and at 10:35 am, there will be family Shabbat services led by religious school staff and Jeff Strosberg.

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.

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.

Jewish Community Center

Third Annual Breakfast Ball at the JCC on Jan. 21

The Jewish Community Center of Binghamton will host its third annual Breakfast Ball on Sunday, January 21, at 10 am, at the JCC, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal. Admission is \$5 per person, \$20 per family max. Reservations are appreciated and can be made with ECC Assistant Director Nichole Fuller at 724-2417, ext. 431.

The event is family oriented and open to the entire community. "Children and their families can come and eat breakfast with their favorite characters," said Marley Vavra, the ECC administrative assistant and one of the event organizers. Several Disney, Marvel and DC characters will

be in attendance, including Snow White, Rapunzel, Spiderman, Power Rangers and more. There will be formal photo opportunities for children to take pictures with their favorite characters for a \$5 fee, benefitting the Early Childhood Center.

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

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

and caring environment where children explore, experiment, play, grow and learn to ask questions." Programming is offered for infants through age 5, including full-day day-care and preschool, half-day preschool, art and physical education classes, and Universal Pre-Kindergarten. "The proceeds go toward items needed in the classrooms



Princesses posed at last year's Breakfast Ball.

that create an overall better environment for the children," noted Fuller. Proceeds from previous Breakfast Balls were used to purchase items such as thermometers, cots and classroom manipulatives.

For more information about the Breakfast Ball, ECC programming, or the JCC, contact the JCC office at 607-724-2417.

The JCC is a not-for-profit organization and partner agency of the United Way and the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton that serves the community at large regardless of age, race, religion and sexual orientation. Financial assistance is available to all who qualify as long as funds remain.

Frogs

serve spiritual ends. The body is the vessel for the soul's manifestation and expression.

Indeed, even America, in its mandate to espouse the freedom and safety of its people, was envisioned by its early Puritan founders to be a New Israel, seeking freedom of worship to escape the spiritual bondage of the Church of England. America was their Promised Land, England was their Egypt, while the oceanic voyage was their Exodus, their crossing of the Great Sea. Freedom was but to serve spiritual ends. America is the physical vessel by which the values of freedom, liberty and justice could become a

Continued from page 10

beacon of hope for the peoples of the world.

It behooves us today to take this lesson to heart. Let us ponder its meaning, drawing from the message of our timeless Torah. As long as we make God the center of our lives, seeking to understand the proper path of our life's true work, we shall be spiritually free. Only when we see each other as fellow reflections of the Divine, as true brothers and sisters to one another, will we always be able to count on each other for support. For without that common bond, we are all, one another, merely but frogs on a heap.

Appelfeld

world of the Nazis, this kindhearted prostitute became his Mother Theresa.

This was the degenerate world that he knew, and that had oddly raised and protected him. He was too young to appreciate that he had being given a choice between a death camp and a madhouse. His life was saved by the latter. Such indelibly sordid memories on the lam provided him with the gift of a grist few writers – Jewish or otherwise – could ever imagine.

Appelfeld's characters live out their days in advance of the oncoming devastation, seemingly oblivious to what lies ahead, naively focusing on trivial details instead of the Nazi menace that would soon nearly erase all of Jewish life in Europe.

His writing was spare and allegorical; he was a teller of tales rather than a chronicler of the ungodly details of murder. He intentionally never wrote about the camps, gas chambers, killing fields or death marches. But he wrote poignantly about the aftermath, the hesitant, halting and improbable recovery of the survivors both in Europe and in Israel.

Arriving in Israel two years before its creation, he quickly learned Hebrew, which added to his survival kit of six other languages. Unlike the other notable Israeli fiction writers – A.B. Yehoshua, Amos Oz and David Grossman – Appelfeld wrote mostly about the impending dead and the broken remains of Jewish life before and after the Holocaust. Among Israeli society starting anew and glorifying the bronzed farmers and chiseled soldiers of the IDF, Appelfeld was admired, but regarded as a relic of a time the nation wished to forget, or at least gloss over. This is one of the reasons why he was as widely read in the Diaspora as within Israel itself – a European writer displaced in the new Jewish homeland.

Which all made sense for other reasons of European symmetry. No one would have wished such a childhood on anyone, but fate cares little for what's fair, and Appelfeld was uniquely equipped to make fine use of so rich a legacy – and proximity to fellow men of European letters. Although younger by several years, he grew up on the same street in Bukovina as the novelist-essayist Joseph Roth and the German poet Paul Celan, the latter also a Holocaust survivor. What a glittering literary address, an urban incubator of Jewish writing of the highest order. Three men of short stature, but giant

Continued from page 2

Jews with outsized reputations, preordained to recall and retell.

Appelfeld was also linked to Celan in other ways. Along with Elie Wiesel and Imre Kertesz, Appelfeld was among the few writers who survived the Holocaust, wrote about the experience and didn't end his life by suicide. Each of the others – Celan, Primo Levi, Jerzy Kosinski, Piotr Rawicz, Jean Amery, Tadeusz Borowski and even Bruno Bettelheim – did. The only one to live and write in Israel, however, was Appelfeld. Perhaps his contributing role in the resurrection of his people enabled him to look beyond the nightmare and sidestep the trauma.

Over a decade ago, the literary scholar and Holocaust survivor Geoffrey Hartman invited me, Appelfeld and the American novelist E. L. Doctorow to speak at Yale University about the fictional and testimonial elements of Holocaust literature. (Yes, I did feel humbled and outmatched.) Appelfeld spoke about his use of fiction to conceal some truths while revealing perhaps far more profound emotional ones. Doctorow, cagily, approached the lectern and merely recited an inventory of personal artifacts the Nazis had confiscated from Jews as they first entered the concentration camps: "shoes, eyeglasses, thimbles, coats, hats, wallets, scarves, prosthetics, teeth..."

Simple possessions, emblematic of a lost world. Cruelly taken away and forever gone.

And the more precious: Hartman died last year; Doctorow, the year before. And now Appelfeld, gone, too.

Thane Rosenbaum is a novelist and the author of "The Golems of Gotham," "Second Hand Smoke," "Elijah Visible" and, most recently, "How Sweet It Is!"

Community Calendar

The Community Calendar can be found on the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton's website, www.jfjb.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.

JCC Friendship Club

The JCC Friendship Club met on January 3. Instead of discussing current events, as planned, we read humorous printouts from the computer. Jeff Foxworthy wrote about upstate New York, "You know all four seasons: Almost winter, winter, still winter and road construction." Sylvia Diamond brought some Yiddish Zen Haiku printouts. Some were: "On Passover we opened the door for Elijah. Now our dog is gone." "If there is no self, whose arthritis is this?" "Today I am a man, tomorrow I will return to seventh grade."

Rabbi Moshe Shmaryahu stopped in

and we discussed having Purim parties in the nursing facilities. Afterward, Rabbi Benny Kellman joined us for a while. He said that he would hold a Tu B'Shevat seder at our meeting on Wednesday, January 31.

I would like to thank the Jewish Community Center for providing us pizza, salad and cupcakes left over from a party this afternoon.

The JCC Friendship club meets every Wednesday at 1:30 pm. Come join us.

Sylvia Diamond
President

FEMA

The U.S. House of Representatives in December approved a bill that allows federal disaster relief funds to go to houses of worship. The Senate is considering parallel legislation.

Under rules in place until the end of 2017, relief funds from FEMA could not go to churches, synagogues and other houses of worship due to concerns about separation of church and state. Other institutions, like community centers or zoos, received the funds. The money reimburses the institutions for aid they provide to victims of natural disasters.

The new rule allowing houses of worship to receive FEMA assistance, like the one it replaced excluding such assistance, is a matter of executive branch policy and not a congressional mandate. A future president could reverse the allowance, which is why Orthodox groups will still continue to lobby

Continued from page 5

for the bills in Congress, Diament told JTA.

A bipartisan group of lawmakers has long pushed for the change. In September, amid a string of hurricanes ravaging the Gulf Coast and the Caribbean, President Donald Trump tweeted his support for churches receiving FEMA funds. "Churches in Texas should be entitled to reimbursement from FEMA Relief Funds for helping victims of Hurricane Harvey (just like others)," Trump said on Twitter.

Advancing the bill in the House were Reps. Peter King and Grace Meng, respectively a Republican and Democrat, both from New York, and Chris Smith (R-NJ). The regions they represent were hard hit by Tropical Storm Sandy in 2012. Leading the Senate's legislation are Sens. Roy Blunt and Claire McCaskill, respectively a Republican and Democrat from Missouri, James Lankford (R-OK) and Ted Cruz (R-TX).

THE 3RD ANNUAL BREAKFAST BALL

Sunday, January 21 • 10am

Come have breakfast with your favorite characters! Children are encouraged to dress up and can have their pictures taken with characters for an additional fee. RSVP's appreciated - please contact Nichole Fuller at 724-2417 ext. 431 or email nicholef@binghamtonjcc.org \$5/person or \$20/family

500 Clubhouse Rd.
Vestal, NY 13850
(607)724-2417

www.binghamtonjcc.org

NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

Syrian army reports multiple Israeli missile strikes

The Syrian army alleged on Jan. 9 that the IDF attacked Syria three times earlier in the day with jets and ground-to-ground missiles. A Syrian military statement broadcast on state-run media reported that Israeli warplanes fired on Al-Qutayfah in the suburbs of Damascus from Lebanese airspace at 2:40 am. The Syrian military claimed that the regime's air defenses returned fire on the Israeli aircraft and struck one of the planes. Israel then reportedly fired a ground-to-ground missile from the Golan Heights at 3:04 am, which the Syrian army also allegedly intercepted. The Israeli military then reportedly fired a final round of four missiles from Tiberias, with the Syrian air defense system intercepting one of the rockets while the others ostensibly struck their targets and caused property damage near a Syrian military post. Israeli media reports said that the target of the alleged strike was a missile base belonging to the Lebanese terror group Hezbollah.

Israel bans 20 BDS groups from entering country

Israel's Strategic Affairs Ministry on Jan. 7 published a list of 20 groups affiliated with the BDS movement that will be barred from entering the country. Israeli Strategic Affairs Minister Gilad Erdan referred to the list's publication as "another step in our work to thwart anti-Israel boycott organizations. ...The state of Israel will actively prevent such groups from spreading their falsehoods and odious methods from within the country," he said. The list's publication comes after the Israeli Knesset last year passed legislation that denies entry visas to known BDS activists. The list, which includes BDS groups from the U.S., Europe, South America and South Africa, will be enforced in March. The U.S.-based groups on the list are the American Friends Service Committee, American Muslims for Palestine, Code Pink, Jewish Voice for Peace, Students for Justice in Palestine and the U.S. Campaign for Palestinian Rights.

Israel finalizes \$1 million donation to hurricane-ravaged Houston Jewish community

The Israeli government has finalized a \$1 million donation to the hurricane-ravaged Jewish community of Houston following last year's flooding from Hurricane Harvey. Israel's Diaspora Affairs Minister Naftali Bennett said in a video message, "Tough times are... when us Jews show our unity; they are an opportunity to rally and help one another." On Jan. 9, Israel's Consul General to the Southwest Gilad Katz and leaders of the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston were to sign an agreement for the funds to be distributed among a number of community insti-

tutions that were damaged in the storm. While Houston experienced widespread flooding due to Hurricane Harvey, its Jewish community was hit particularly hard, as 71 percent of the city's more than 60,000 Jews live in areas that were heavily flooded. The hurricane damaged three of Houston's largest synagogues as well as a JCC, a senior care center and a Jewish day school.

UNICEF acting to add Israeli military to list of "grave violators of children's rights"

(Israel Hayom/Exclusive to JNS) – The United Nations Children's Fund is spearheading a campaign to include the Israeli military on a U.N. blacklist of "grave violators of children's rights" that includes terrorist groups like Islamic State and Boko Haram, according to a new report by the NGO Monitor watchdog group. The report, which according to Fox News was presented to senior U.N. officials in recent weeks, illustrates how a UNICEF working group – composed mainly of radical organizations involved in the campaign to delegitimize Israel – plays a central role in anti-Israel blacklist efforts. The NGO Monitor report shows how UNICEF opted to ignore violations of children's rights by Palestinian organizations in the Gaza Strip, when it admitted "the working group was not in a position to document cases of child recruitment and use of children in armed conflict owing to a number of factors, including security and protection risks related to collecting comprehensive and detailed information." The anti-Israel organizations behind the UNICEF working group have in recent years published false and misleading reports on the IDF's arrest and purported abuse of Palestinian minors involved in attacks that were later entered into a UNICEF database, lending them legitimacy. A number of these organizations, including Defense for Children International – Palestine, have ties to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine terror group.

Terror victims urge deduction of terrorists' salaries from Palestinian Authority tax funds

(Israel Hayom/Exclusive to JNS) – Hundreds of families of terror victims on Jan. 7 urged Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to deduct the salaries that the Palestinian Authority pays terrorists and their families from P.A. tax funds collected by Israel. Under the 1993 Oslo Accords, Israel collects taxes on behalf of the P.A. to the tune of about \$100 million per month. Israel then transfers the money to the P.A. The P.A. uses a considerable portion of these funds to finance the stipends it pays to terrorists and their families. In 2016, for example, these payments amounted to \$334 million, or 7 percent of the P.A.'s total budget for salaries and about 20 percent of the foreign aid it received.

Eye-Catching

Classifieds

YOUR HEATING & PLUMBING SPECIALISTS
BAKER'S PLUMBING & HEATING
We Also Do Natural Gas Conversions & All Plumbing Work
 Free Estimates • Fully Insured • Residential & Commercial

We Install, Service & Repair...
 Furnaces • Air Conditioners
 Water Heaters • Gas Fireplaces
SERVING BROOME & TIOGA COUNTIES
754-6376
 pbaker927@yahoo.com

Sue Garing Honey
 Raw Local Honey Varieties
 Spring • Summer • Fall
 Propolis, Pollen, Beeswax candles
 Try a sample at the
 Binghamton Regional
 Farmers Market,
 840 Upper Front Street
 9-1 Saturdays all year
 bcregionalmkt.com
 suegaringhoney.com
 607-775-5041

It just makes cents
 to advertise
 here in
The Reporter!
 To advertise, contact
 Kathy Brown at
 607-724-2360, ext. 244 or
 advertising@
 thereporter.org.


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


COOK'S TREE SERVICE
 RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

 Fully Insured
 Free Estimates
 Our 48th Year
 NEW YORK CHAPTER
ISA CERTIFIED ARBORIST
 Professionals In All Phases Of:
 • Tree Care • Tree Stump Removal
 • Trimming Trees Shrubs & Tall Hedges
 • Tree Insect & Disease Identification & Treatment
WWW.COOKSTREESERVICE.NET
607-748-2347
 4 Pumphouse Rd Vestal, N.Y.

KEVIN MICHA CONSTRUCTION
 Interior and Exterior Remodeling
 Specializing in kitchens and baths
 For a free estimate, call 607-221-5985
 Licensed and insured

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

Please support our advertisers...
 tell them you saw their ad here in **The Reporter**
 Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton

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


LICENSED & INSURED

 NO JOB TOO SMALL
Ron Schmidt
MASTER ELECTRICIAN
607-341-2289
 RESIDENTIAL
 Wiring, New and Old Construction
 All types electrical
 Serving the Tri-Cities Area

Cleaning Services:
 • Green Cleaning
 • Real Estate Cleaning
 • Passover Cleaning
 • Domestic Cleaning
 • Office Cleaning
 • Commercial Cleaning
 • Construction Cleaning
 • Window Cleaning
 house cleaning & special projects
\$25 per hour

Dust Bunnyz
 Cleaning Service
 www.dustbunnyz.com
(607) 644-8886
 Bonded & Insured

A Gift for You and Your Loved One
 New Book by Martin Bidney
*A Lover's Art:
 The Song of Songs in Musical
 English Meters, plus 280
 Original Love Poems in Reply –
 A Dialogue with Scripture*
 Mystical, Mythical, Whimsical:
 Lyrics in Solomon-Style to Woman, Wisdom, World
 Jewish and Cosmopolitan
 Dialogic Poetry Press
 Available from Amazon