

# THE REPORTER

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## In Austrian jail, Holocaust historian indicts the country for how it handles looted Jewish property

By Cnaan Liphshiz

VIENNA (JTA) – If Stephan Templ’s trial and imprisonment in Austria were meant to silence his criticism of the country’s Holocaust restitution system, then his prosecution was clearly a failure. Templ is an Austrian-Jewish historian of the Holocaust who has written critically about his country since 1995. In 2015, he was sent to jail for nearly a year on controversial fraud charges tied to his family’s own claim for compensation – and spent his time in prison diving even deeper into his area of expertise.

The result is a new book that for the first time chronicles how modern-day Austria gave its seal of approval for flawed restitution practices that were overseen by former Nazis. Those practices, Templ shows, in essence validated Nazi-era policies that were used to rob Austrian Jews of what little compensation they sought to receive for vast assets that they had been forced to sell to Aryans.

“The wrongly imprisoned experience a special kind of frustration: Your thoughts get into a cycle about where you are and who put you there,” Templ, 57, told JTA. His sentence was decry as a miscarriage of justice by dozens of leading Holocaust historians.

Templ was convicted of fraud for not listing an aunt on his survivor mother’s

restitution claim, which he filled out for her. Neither Templ nor his mother wrote that they were the only claimants to the property. Austria has no law requiring restitution applicants to list other relatives. In previous official correspondence about the claim, Templ did list his aunt, which he argues means he had indeed informed the Republic of Austria of her existence.

The 75 historians, including Americans Deborah Lipstadt and Michael Berenbaum, suggested in a joint statement that Templ’s prosecution looked like a vendetta by the Austrian judiciary, which the Freedom Barometer index of 2016 ranked as the least independent in Western Europe. The Anti-Defamation League also protested Templ’s sentence, as did the human rights lawyer Robert Amsterdam and Stuart Eizenstat, a former U.S. deputy secretary of the Treasury who helped set up Austria’s restitution system.

Efraim Zuroff, Eastern Europe director for the Simon Wiesenthal Center, told JTA about the case: “It looks like revenge, like they wanted to get back at him for his criticism. I’m not a jurist, but it looks like an injustice.” Templ currently is facing a civil libel suit by Claire Fritsch, a legal adviser to the restitution authority who served as the main witness in his criminal court case. She claims she was libeled by his defense team’s attempts to undermine her testimony.

In Templ’s English-language book – which is titled “Austria’s Living Ghost” and was scheduled for publication online ahead of International Holocaust Remembrance Day on January 27 – he examines the work of Austria’s Arbitration

Panel for in Rem Restitution, a body set up in 2002 to review the restitution work done immediately after World War II on properties that in 2001 were in the state’s possession.

Until the 1990s, Austria had claimed that it was principally a victim, not a perpetrator, of Nazism. No one has been convicted of Nazi war crimes in Austria in more than 35 years, according to the Simon Wiesenthal Center. And whereas people with a Nazi past were removed from positions of influence in neighboring Germany, in Austria they were allowed to serve as judges, teachers and even restitution officials. (Walther Kastner, for example, was a former Nazi official who was entrusted with advising on restitution issues in the 1940s.)

Austria even had a former Nazi, Kurt Waldheim, as president until 1992 – the year that Austrian officials began to drop the victim attitude, which is now described as a “myth” on official Austrian government websites. But that myth has had far-reaching implications for Austria, said Templ, who in 2001 led groups around Vienna on tours of stolen Jewish property. He pointed out building after building, using a loudspeaker to name the families whose ancestors bought the assets for a fraction of their true worth from Jews fleeing for their lives.

“The lack of de-Nazification is the reason Austria now has in government, for the second time already, a party that was founded by an SS officer,” he said of the far-right Freedom Party, which joined the coalition in December.

Austria’s victim myth also tainted how the Austrian state handled the return of Jews from concentration camps, prosecuted Nazi war criminals and settled restitution issues. Concerns about this process led to a 2002 review by the Arbitration Panel, as part of a restitution treaty that Austria signed with the United States in 2001. Thanks to the treaty, Austria has paid at least \$670 million in compensation. But even that may have been the tip of the iceberg in a country that had



Kurt Waldheim in 1971. (Photo by Keystone/Hulton Archive/Getty Images)

at least 200,000 Jews before the Holocaust, many of them wealthy.

Templ’s research shows that out of nearly 2,000 restitution cases handled in the 1940s and 1950s, the Arbitration Panel reopened and declared unjust a total of only nine cases. It intervened in another 18 cases that had not been the subject of a claim, he said. “This seemed to me like an astonishingly low number, considering the prevalence of injustice that went on in 1940s and 1950s restitution,” Templ said.

Take, for instance, the case of Anna Freud, the daughter of Viennese psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud. Following her claim for restitution for a handsome estate that the Nazis stole from her family in 1938, she received in the 1950s a sum equivalent to \$80, Templ’s research shows. However, that property was not reviewed in 2002, because the estate was privately owned and therefore not in the purview of the Arbitration Panel on state-held properties. “So in prison, I set out to review for myself the claims that the Arbitration Panel had reviewed before me,” Templ, a bespectacled intellectual with “a wry sense of humor” and a passion for carpentry, said during a rare visit to Vienna (following his release from prison in 2015, Templ is spending most of his time in his Prague home, in what he terms self-exile).

The findings, he said, surprised even him. One case deemed fair by the Arbitration Panel involved an apartment building in See “Austrian” on page 2



Stephan Templ outside a building in Vienna, which he claimed from the Austrian state, on October 27, 2014. (Photo by Cnaan Liphshiz)

## BD Feb. 10 luncheon talk on “Eating Challah in Havana”

Beth David’s Saturday, February 10, Shabbat luncheon speakers will be Rhonda Levine and Arieh Ullmann. They will discuss “Eating Challah in Havana.”

In early November, they traveled to Havana, Cuba, to attend a conference. During their stay, they explored various aspects of Havana’s Jewish life. They visited synagogues, attended Shabbat services and a Shabbat dinner at one of the three synagogues, viewed a Holocaust exhibit and spoke with fellow Jews about what it is like being Jewish in Cuba today.

“Cuba has fascinated so many of us for so long,” organizers say, “and we are indeed fortunate to have Levine and Ullmann share what they learned during their recent trip.”

Levine is professor of sociology, emerita, at Colgate University where she taught for 35 years. A renowned scholar, Levine is the author of seven books, including “Class, Networks, and Identity: Replanting Jewish Lives

from Nazi Germany to Rural New York.” In addition to her books, she has published articles in numerous journals and edited volumes. She was the recipient of the 2016 Jerome Balmuth Award for Teaching, awarded annually to a Colgate faculty to celebrate and recognize “superb and transformative” teaching of Colgate students. In addition, Levine also received the 2014 Sidney J and Florence Eaton French Prize, awarded annually to a Colgate faculty in recognition of excellence in inspirational teaching. She has served on numerous committees, held elected office in a number of professional organizations and served on several editorial boards. An active member of the local secular and Jewish communities, Levine is currently the chairwoman of the College of Jewish Studies. She has also served on the Board of Directors of the Broome County Urban League and currently serves on the boards of the Jewish Community Center and

Beth David Synagogue.

Ullmann is associate professor of management, emeritus, at Binghamton University where he taught business strategy and international business since his arrival in Binghamton. A native of Switzerland, he arrived in Binghamton in 1981 with his family from Berlin, Germany, and joined Beth David Synagogue in 1982. For many years, he taught in the Executive M.B.A. at the Technion in Haifa during the summer months.

He is a past president of Beth David Synagogue and of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton. He currently serves on the boards of Beth David Synagogue, the Jewish Federation and the Binghamton Philharmonic Orchestra.

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



L-r: Arieh Ullmann and Rhonda Levine

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.

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# Austrian. . . . . Continued from page 1

Vienna's Alserbach Street owned by the Stianssy family. The Aryan buyers paid only 38 percent of its real worth in 1939. Of that sum, the Nazi state stole 80 percent through racist "emigration taxes" devised to defund Jewish sellers. The other 20 percent went to a frozen account and from there to the coffers of the Third Reich, his research shows. In 1951, Austrian restitution officials declined to return

## NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

### Israel implements "gradual reopening" of its embassy in Jordan

Israel's is implementing the reopening of its embassy in Jordan the week of Jan. 30, after the Israeli and Jordanian governments earlier in January announced an agreement to restore the diplomatic office. The embassy had been closed since July 2017, when an Israeli security guard at the site fatally shot two Jordanians in what the Israeli government described as an act of self-defense. As part of the compromise to restart full diplomatic relations, Israel was forced to apologize for the incident as well as a previous incident involving the killing of a Jordanian judge at an Israel-Jordan border crossing in 2014. Israel also offered financial compensation to the families of the Jordanians killed in the incidents. Israel is expected to appoint a new ambassador to Jordan in the coming weeks.

the "emigration taxes" to the Stianssy family, essentially validating their extraction.

Yet the Arbitration Panel in its 2014 review stated that it "cannot conclude that the settlement reached in 1951 represents an extreme injustice." In so doing, Templ writes, "the Panel confirms the injustice."

Leopold Stianssy died in Prague on November 20, 1939. His wife, Martha Stiansny, was murdered in Auschwitz. Three of their close relatives were murdered by 1945.

Among the dozens of reviews flagged by Templ is a 2012 case concerning the sale of a forest 45 miles southwest of Vienna by the Hartenstein family. It, too, was not found to be "an extreme injustice," even thought the family by 1957 received less than half of the land's value, according to the panel. Templ's research suggests they only got 10 percent of the property's real value.

"I expect that now that I've been jailed, my criticism of Austria will be seen as a vendetta," Templ said. "And I guess I have an agenda – but the numbers and the facts do not, and they tell a story that is much bigger and more important than my own."

Queried by JTA on these cases, Josef Aicher, chairman of the Arbitration Panel for In Rem Restitution, stood by his organization's findings. "To assess 'extreme injustice' the Arbitration Panel has developed a complex case," he wrote, based on "restrictions on freedom of contract and discrepancy in value: The more the two criteria are pronounced, the more likely it is that an extreme injustice exists."

He added that the Arbitration Panel has so far issued

138 recommendations for restitution with an estimated total value of \$59 million. According to Templ, all these recommendations pertain to only seven assets.

Citing independent appraisals, Aicher said that "virtually all real estate that had been confiscated by the state was restituted in its entirety after the war" as well as 60 percent of the properties sold under duress.

Crunching these numbers allowed Templ to find purpose and calm his nerves in prison, he said. But it wasn't easy.

On a rare afternoon off from prison – Templ served time in a medium-security facility that allowed some inmates brief day passes – he "suddenly became very aggressive" toward a friend who came to visit him. "When you see that life goes on while you're stuck there, it releases some anger in you," he said.

On one of his first days in prison, a longtime prisoner showed him around the place, he recalled. "When we reached the showers, he told me: These showers aren't for you because they have water coming out" – a remark Templ believes was an antisemitic reference to Nazi gas chambers. Another prisoner harassed him with reference to Israel, he said.

But the troubles stopped when Muslim Chechen inmates, who are known for their ruthlessness and mob connections, discovered he could speak Russian and could therefore help them with German-language correspondence, he said. "As soon as the other inmates saw me hanging out with the Chechens, suddenly the behavior toward me changed."

Asked whether he considers himself a victim, Templ said: "Judge for yourself. Victim is a word with considerable resonance in modern-day Austria. And a little bit of irony, too."

## Opinion

From the Desk of the Federation Executive Director

### Hello, this is Sima

SIMA AUERBACH

This past Wednesday, we celebrated another New Year, the holiday of Tu B'Shevat, the New Year of the Trees. The reason behind the holiday may sound a bit unusual: it came about during the time of the Temple to help Jewish farmers establish when they should bring their produce from recently planted trees as an offering to God. Today, we celebrate by eating fruits and nuts, especially those from Israel, such as grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives and dates. But aside from eating delicious food, I like Tu B'Shevat because it reminds us to appreciate something so amazing that we often overlook: a tree.

Trees provide us with so much – from food to shade to oxygen and so much more – yet we rarely take the time to appreciate their existence. As with many things in our life, they become our norm and can be taken for granted or overlooked.

Why am I writing about something taken for granted or overlooked? Because, in our midst, we have something I do not want you to ever overlook. Our small Jewish community is unique. The Jewish Federation, *The Reporter*, Jewish Family Service, the Jewish Community Center, Hillel Academy, College of

Jewish Studies, Beth David Synagogue, Temple Israel, Temple Concord and all that Binghamton University offers – the Department of Judaic Studies, Center for Israel Studies, Hillel at Binghamton and Chabad.

Support our small family with your funds and your time. The Jewish Federation is in the throes of the 2018 Campaign. If you have not contributed, please do so now.

P.S. On an entirely different subject: We celebrated the one year birthday of our granddaughter Edythe Jean on January 29. More on the first year to come.

In My Own Words

### Miscellaneous complaints

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Ever have something get under your skin and just irritate the heck out of you? That's happened several times during the past few weeks. So I thought this column would be a great opportunity to discuss what has been bothering me. Or, using less polite wording, the following rants are a way to get these irritations out of my system.

Here we go again...

I attended the recent women's march in Binghamton. One marcher kept cropping up throughout the march, standing on statues and the backs of trucks to display a sign that read something like "Washington, DC, has been the capital of Israel for decades." That's probably not the exact wording, but the meaning is clearly the same. What irritates me about this type of protest is that it forces me to once again focus on the wrong part of the problems in the Middle East. I end up speaking about something that should have been laid to rest decades ago: No, Jews and Israel do not control the world or the United States. Life might be easier if we did, but that statement is simply not true. Do Jewish Americans try to influence the U.S. government? Certainly we do, just as Muslims and Christians also try to influence U.S. policy. And while we're on the subject of the two countries: Should either of them be denied the

right to exist because they are not perfect? Um, please show me a perfect nation and I'll get back to you on that. In the meantime, claiming that Jews control our country just distracts us from the real issues; having to answer this question *again* is a waste of time and energy that could be put to better use.

Is anyone really....

The abortion issue is heating up again. However, before we can discuss the specifics of when/if abortions should take place, we need to get one thing out of the way first – the name of the movement I support. I am pro-choice, not pro-abortion. In fact, there is *no* pro-abortion movement. No one is picketing gynecologists' offices telling women to abort their babies. No one is standing outside of clinics telling women they shouldn't have children. Most of us who are pro-choice are actually pro-birth control – meaning that the optimal society is one where no woman would have an unwanted pregnancy and have to decide whether or not to have an abortion. I'm willing to work with people from all movements to create that world. However, if you are anti-birth control, then it's difficult to discuss the issue because easy-to-access, reliable birth control is the surest way to prevent abortion.

And please remember: nothing will prevent abortions from occurring: there have always been abortions and there always will be. The only change is that they would again be illegal and dangerous.

Just leave her alone...

People who read this column are aware that I am not a big fan of President Donald Trump. However, it really irritates me when people pounce on everything his wife, Melania, does. My feelings about her are basically neutral because I don't care one way or the other about what she wears or thinks. That leaves me feeling less critical than many people who find something wrong in everything she does. Her clothes are too expensive or her shoes are inappropriate. She doesn't support something, or even worse, she does lend her voice to an issue. The comments and criticisms range from rude to mean; some of them are not only unfair, but cruel. The important thing to remember is that Melania did not run for office and her every move does not affect our country. There are far more important issues to write and think about. So, please, leave the woman alone and focus on the politics and policies of the folks who matter and can make a difference.



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# Beth David to distribute Purim gifts through JFS

One of the *mitzvot* of Purim is to deliver gifts to the poor on the day of the holiday, which occurs this year on Thursday, March 1. Rabbi Zev Silber of Beth David Synagogue will distribute gifts to local needy through Jewish Family Service and to Israeli poor through the Od Yosef Chai charitable organization.

According to Silber, "The mitzvah requires that a minimum of two gifts be given to at least two poor people, and that the gifts should be large enough to gladden the heart of the person who receives them. Purim, being a holiday

dedicated to *simcha* (joy), requires that all Jews can rejoice. The poor rejoice when they have the means to sustain their lives, leading to the importance placed on this mitzvah.

"Even though the practice has emerged to spend much more on extravagant gifts to one's friends and on the Purim feast, this is a mistake," Silber said. "Our tradition clearly teaches that one should spend the bulk of his Purim budget on gifts to the poor. Indeed, our sages teach that whoever gladdens the soul of the poor orphans and widows is likened to the *Shechina*, the Divine Presence."

In order to facilitate the performance of the mitzvah, one may give money prior to Purim to an agent to distribute the funds on Purim day.

To participate in the mitzvah, donations may be sent by Thursday, February 22, to Beth David Synagogue, 39 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905. Donors are asked to mark their checks as "Purim charity" and specify whether they wish the money to be distributed locally or in Israel. For more information, call Silber at 722-9274.

The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to the family of **Geraldine Crone**

## Chabad's Women's League offers local and national *shalach manot* service

Women's League for Chabad is currently accepting orders for its annual *shalach manot* service in which Binghamton residents can send attractive packages of food and holiday greetings to local friends and acquaintances on Purim day which will be celebrated this year on Thursday, March 1.

"It's Purim made easy," says Ilene Pinsker, project chairwoman. "It's a stress-free, very reasonably priced way to fulfill the mitzvah of *mishloach manot*, sending gifts of food on Purim, and a wonderful way to show your friendship and care. We do all the work for you and your friends get fabulous packages from you!"

For individuals who want to say happy Purim to their friends outside of the community, Women's League offers Purim greeting cards that can be sent anywhere in the continental U.S. for a charge of \$4. All orders must be received by Pinsker no later than Thursday, February 15.

If you have not received a complete information packet and order form or are seeking additional details, call the Chabad Center at 797-0015. For this project, Women's League is in need of volunteers to assist in assembling the packages and in their delivery on Purim day. Those who are able to help with this project are asked to call the Chabad office.

## TC Havdalah Happy Hour on Feb. 10

Temple Concord will hold a *Havdalah* Happy Hour on Saturday, February 10, at 6 pm, at the temple, 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton. (The snow date is Saturday, February 24.) The community is invited to attend. "Warm up with your friends and make new ones," said organizers of the event. After enjoying refreshments, fellowship and a brief *Havdalah* service to close Shabbat, those who wish may

continue the party with dinner at 7:15 pm at a Binghamton area restaurant.

There is no charge and no reservations are required for the *Havdalah* Happy Hour, but those who would like to attend dinner should call Temple Concord at 723-7355 no later than Wednesday, February 7, and leave a name and the number people attending.

## Temple Concord to make Miriam cups on Feb. 25

The Temple Concord Sisterhood program "Making Miriam Cups" will be held on Sunday, February 25, at 11 am, at Temple Concord, 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton.

A light brunch will be served, according to Helene Philips, program organizer. The fee will be \$5 to cover the cost of supplies. Anyone who owns a wine glass they want to decorate and transform into a Miriam cup may bring this with them for a lesser fee, which they may discuss with Philips. Cups will be decorated with beads

and other light-weight materials that will be provided. Participants may also bring their own decorations, including light-weight jewelry. Participants should wear clothing they won't mind getting messy and bring an apron or smock.

Call Philips with any questions at 729-4714. Reservations should be made through the Temple Concord office at 723-7355 by Thursday, February 22, so the correct amount of materials will be provided. The program is open to the public.

According to "The Journey Continues: The Ma'yan Passover Haggadah," "A Miriam's cup is a new ritual object that is placed on the seder table beside the cup of Elijah. Miriam's cup is filled with water near the beginning of the seder. It is a symbol of Miriam's well, the source of water for the Israelites in the desert. There are many legends about Miriam's well. It is said to have been a magical source of water that followed the Israelites for 40 years because of the merit of Miriam. The waters of this well were said to be healing and sustaining waters. Thus Miriam's cup can be seen as a symbol of all that sustains us through our journey, while Elijah's cup is seen as a symbol of a future Messianic time."

### Community Calendar

The Community Calendar can be found on the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton's website, [www.jfgeb.org](http://www.jfgeb.org), by clicking on "calendar."

Updates or additions of events for the calendar can be made by contacting the Federation through its website (click on "calendar" and then "click here to request a change to the calendar") or by calling 724-2332.

### YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!

For information on advertising, please contact Bonnie Rozen at 724-2360, ext. 244 or [bonnie@thereporter.org](mailto:bonnie@thereporter.org)

### JFS Accepting Purim Donations



Jewish Family Service will once again be collecting funds to fulfill the Purim mitzvah of *matanot l'evyonim* (gifts for the poor). These donations will be distributed on March 1, 2018 to more than 12 local Jewish families who are experiencing extreme financial difficulties. In order to assure a timely distribution of these gifts, please be sure your contribution reaches our offices by February 22, 2018.

In addition, please be aware that Jewish Family Service accepts donations in honor or in memory of a loved one or to commemorate a special event. Your contributions will go into the general donation fund that helps the less fortunate of our community throughout the year.

Please include a notation on the memo line of your check in which manner you would like your donation to be used.

Mail or bring your donation to Jewish Family Service, 500 Clubhouse Road, Vestal, NY 13850. Call Roz Antoun, Director, at 724-2332 with any questions.



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Off the Shelf

# Jews in the Emerald Isle

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

Several novels I've read over the past few months opened with a new literary device: the prologue takes place in contemporary times and features an unnamed character whose story unfolds over the course of the work. Most of the time it's clear that the person featured is one of two characters and part of the fun is trying to determine that person's identity. While Ruth Gilligan does use this device in the prologue to her moving and intriguing "Nine Folds Make a Paper Swan" (Tin House Books), it's featured in a far more complex way. Her opening focuses on two unnamed characters and the novel offers the stories of several people who live in different time periods. The connections between these characters are far more tenuous, although no less emotionally affecting when finally revealed.

"Nine Folds Make a Paper Swan" takes a rare look at Jews who live in Ireland. Gilligan is ambitious: her work opens in 1901 and continues through contemporary times. Three main characters rotate chapters in each of the five sections, which are very cleverly named, although it may take readers a minute to make the connection. The first character, Ruth, arrives in Ireland as a child. Her family was part of a group escaping from Russia who were tricked by their ship's captain into thinking they'd arrived in the United States. Instead, they found they had disembarked in Cork, Ireland.

Although the rest of the family believes the situation to be temporary – just until they can save enough money to join Uncle Dovid in the new world – Ruth feels at home in the Emerald Isle.

A second narrative line focuses on Shem, a teenager in the 1950s, who has been placed in an asylum for the mentally disturbed because he's suddenly unable to speak. The asylum is run by the Catholic Church and the only other Jew is his roommate, Alfred, who resents having to share their very small room. Shem is forbidden to write, although he sneaks into the bathroom with whatever paper he can find and scribbles notes about how much he misses his mother. When Alfred, who is confined to a wheelchair and whose hands shake, discovers Shem's notes, he tells the teenager he will supply him with paper in exchange for his transcribing the story of Alfred's one true love. Listening to Alfred reminds Shem of the reason behind his affliction: his rabbi's lesson on *lashon hara* (evil talk). Not speaking is the only way to protect the person he loves.

In contemporary times, Aisling, the only non-Jewish main character, moves from Ireland to London for a career as a journalist. She falls in love with Noah, whose Jewish background doesn't seem important – at least, until the two visit his family on Hanukkah. Although Aisling has become interested in Jewish holidays and

rituals – searching the web for information – it still comes as a surprise when Noah says he won't marry outside his religion. Aisling then begins a journey of self-discovery, one that takes her back to Ireland to spend Christmas with her family. During that vacation, she must decide whether to remain Christian or convert to Judaism.

While at first some of the characters seemed unappealing, as Gilligan slowly revealed their thoughts and desires, I came to care about all of them. The author touches on Irish antisemitism, particularly in the first years after the Jews arrived in Cork, but also before World War II, when Irish politicians wanted to keep the country neutral in European disputes. In practical terms, this meant not letting any Jewish immigrants enter Ireland. However, that isn't the main focus of her work. It's storytelling – Jewish and Irish – that is the soul of her novel.

"Nine Folds Make a Paper Swan" contains some very sweet stories – for example, why Ruth's father called her mother the princess of the bees – to heart-rending sad ones after people's secrets are revealed. The reader knows more than the characters, which is why I was so affected by what happened to Ruth, Shem and Aisling. Although the beginning of the book was a bit of a struggle, Gilligan's unusual novel proved well worth the effort.

## LEGAL NOTICE

### 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 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.

### Notice of Formation of Dust Bunniez Cleaning, LLC

Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. Of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/08/2017. Office Location: Broome County. Princ. office of LLC: 908 Irving Ave. Endicott, NY 13760. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it must be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC at the addr. of princ. office. Purpose: any lawful activity.

To place a legal notice, please contact Bonnie Rozen at 724-2360, ext. 244 or [bonnie@thereporter.org](mailto:bonnie@thereporter.org)

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

1. The name of the limited liability company ("LLC") is El Pulpo Mexican Restaurant and Grill, LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is January 16, 2018.
3. The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the LLC is located is Broome.
4. The Secretary of State of the State of New York is hereby designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or her is: 30 Fenton Avenue, Binghamton, NY 13901.
5. The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

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

1. The name of the limited liability company ("LLC") is Crew4, LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is January 19, 2018.
3. The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the LLC is located is Broome.
4. The Secretary of State of the State of New York is hereby designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or her is: 870 Conklin Road, Binghamton, NY 13903.
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: The Venue at Beagell Farms, LLC (the "Company"). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary

of State was January 19, 2018. The county in which the principal place of business of the Company shall be located is Broome County. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the Company upon whom process against it may be served. The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the Company, to Hinman, Howard & Kattell, LLP, Attn: Ryan M. Mead, 80 Exchange Street, Suite 700, Binghamton, NY 13901. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

### Notice of Formation of Kidz Kingdom LLC

Arts. Of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/1/2017. Business location: Broome County. Princ. Office of LLC: 1241 Front St, Unit 2, Binghamton NY 13905. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC at the addr. of princ. office. Purpose: any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of Hypnosis for Healing, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/16/18. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 418 West Chenango Rd., Castle Creek, NY 13744. Purpose: any lawful activities.

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

1. The name of the limited liability company ("LLC") is Leadership Solutions Advisers LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is January 24, 2018.
3. The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the LLC is located is Broome.
4. The Secretary of State of the State of New York is hereby designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or her is: 1873 State Route 7, Harpursville, NY 13787.
5. The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

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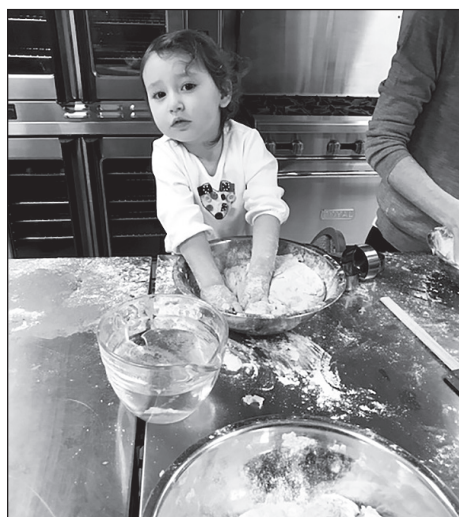
# Temple Israel held challah bake



Sandra Paston was among those who attended the Temple Israel Challah Bake on January 19.



L-r: Joy Yarkoni, Rebecca Ioffe and Maxine Rosenberg at the Challah Bake.



Rebecca Ioffe, age 2, kneaded challah dough along side the adults.



L-r: Lynne Green and Zina Ioffe had fun baking challah.

## TC Sisterhood members made pasta



Shown are those who attended Temple Concord Sisterhood's pasta making class on January 21, which was held at Phantom Chef Catering. Phantom Chef donated 20 percent of the sign-ups to Temple Concord's Religious School as part of its Cook for a Cause program.



Chef Michelle McIlroy (on left) explained what to do once the pasta was rolled.



Attendees had the opportunity to roll pasta or make ravioli. L-r: Rabbi Rachel Esserman, Suzanne Holwitt, Deb Daniels, Marsha Luks and Roz Antoun.



At the end of the class, attendees had an opportunity to taste the pasta and ravioli they made.

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Yitro, Exodus 18:1-20:23

## Standing together at Sinai: Torah lessons of inclusive leadership

RABBI MARLEY WEINER, SENIOR JEWISH EDUCATOR, HILLEL OF BINGHAMTON

This week's portion is about holy revelation, and how we as a community prepare to create a Covenant with God. And even today, it has much to teach us about how we can build holy communities.

In the days before the encounter at Mt. Sinai, the children of Israel prepare furiously. They wash their clothes, they array themselves around the mountain, but most importantly, they democratize their leadership structure.

Shortly before the Revelation at Sinai, Moses is met in the desert by his father-in-law Yitro. As an outsider to the camp, Yitro notices immediately that his son-in-law is overwhelmed by the task of advising, teaching and judging the Israelites all by himself. He also notices that the people themselves are having to wait, often for the whole day, to have their questions answered. He im-

mediately points this out and offers a new solution of a more diffuse leadership. In Yitro's model, many different leaders are able to take control according to their level of understanding and capacity. Moses implements this plan, which immediately makes things easier for himself and for the whole community.

Judaism has never been the possession of only one prophet or visionary leader. While Moses leads the people, it is the entire community of Israel that receives the central revelation of the Ten Commandments. All are equals, all hear the same words. And thus, all have a say in building the Jewish community as it continues, first through 40 years in the desert, and then through millennia of refinement and reflection and reconstruction.

And in this political moment, when so many women are

speaking up at the constant barriers to inclusion, including within our own Jewish community, I think of Moses. I think of how Moses cedes power, and how the Israelites willingly shoulder the burden. And how it is this democratization of power that makes the people ready for Revelation.

The secret to community success is not one type of leader who holds the reins of power through personal charisma or through harassment and bullying. Quite the opposite. The more space we make for diverse leadership, the more successful and vibrant our communities become. I look at the recent Golden Globe awards, with lifetime achievement awards for Meryl Streep and Oprah Winfrey, and I think how their unique messages and examples of women's power have been a driving force for women like me.

See "Sinai" on page 7

## Congregational Notes

### Temple Concord

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

On Friday, February 2, at 8 pm, Shabbat services will be led by Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell.

On Saturday, February 3, at 9 am, there will be religious school; at 9:15 am, there will be Torah study; and at 10:35 am, there will be family Shabbat services.

On Sunday February 4, at 10 am-2 pm, there will be a Sisterhood rummage sale.

On Tuesday, February 6, at 10:30 am, the Tuesday Morning Book Club at Temple Concord will meet; and at 5:15 pm, there will be religious school.

On Thursday, February 8, at 5:15 pm, there will be religious school.

On Friday, February 9, at 8 pm, Shabbat services with Visual Tefillah will be led by Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell.

On Saturday, February 10, at 9 am, there will be religious school; at 9:15 am, there will be Torah study; at 10:35 am, there will be family Shabbat services; and at 6 pm, there will be Happy Hour and Havdalah.

### 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.

### Norwich Jewish Center

Orientation: Inclusive  
 Rabbi: Dena Bodian  
 Address: 72 South Broad St., Norwich, NY 13815  
 Contact: Guilina 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.

### 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, Feb. 2 ..... 5:05 pm  
 Shabbat, Feb. 3 ..... 9 am  
 ..... Mincha after the kiddush  
 ..... Maariv 6:25 pm

Weekday Services:

Mornings:  
 Sun., Feb. 4 ..... 8:30 am  
 Mon.-Fri., Feb. 5-Feb. 9 ..... 7 am  
 Evenings:  
 Sun., Feb. 4 ..... 5:05 pm  
 Mon.-Thurs., Feb. 5-Feb. 8 ..... 7 pm

Classes: Rabbi Zev Silber will hold his weekly Talmud class every Tuesday evening after services.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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 equalitarian congregation serving the greater Cortland community. Congregants span the gamut of observance and services are largely dependent on the service leader. The Friday night siddur is "Likrat Shabbat," while the Saturday morning siddur is "Gates of Prayer." The community extends a warm welcome to the Jewish student population of SUNY Cortland, as well as the residents of local adult residences.

Friday, February 2, light candles ..... 5:01 pm  
 Shabbat ends Saturday, February 3 ..... 6:03 pm  
 Friday, February 9, light candles ..... 5:10 pm  
 Shabbat ends Saturday, February 10 ..... 6:12 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, 6 pm, Friday, 5:30 pm; Saturday, 9:30 am.

On Saturday, February 3, at 9:30 am, services will be led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown. The Torah portion will be Exodus 18:1-20:22. The haftarah will be Isaiah 6:1-7:6 and 9:5-6. The religious school students will participate in the Shabbat service, which will be followed by a cholent lunch. The kiddush sponsor will be Nellie Roth.

On Saturday, February 17, at 9:30 am, Steve Gilbert will host kiddush in honor of the anniversary of his bar mitzvah.

On Monday, February 19, the office will closed for Presidents Day.

On Tuesday, February 20, at 7 pm, there will be a Board of Trustees meeting.

### Temple Beth-El of Ithaca

Affiliation: United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism  
 Rabbi: Scott L. Glass  
 Address: 402 North Tioga St. (the corner of Court and Tioga streets), Ithaca, NY 14850-4292  
 Phone: 273-5775  
 E-mail: rabbi@tbeithaca.org and secretary@tbeithaca.org  
 Website: www.tbeithaca.org

President: Jerry Davis  
 Sisterhood President: Julie Paige  
 Director of Education: Rabbi Suzanne Brody  
 Administrative Assistant: Jane Griffith  
 Services: Friday 8 pm; Saturday 10 am, unless otherwise announced. Weekday morning minyan 7:30 am (9 am on Sundays and legal holidays).  
 Religious School/Education: September-May: Classes meet on Sunday, 9 am-12:30 pm and Wednesday afternoons, 3:45-5:45 pm. The Midrashah (eighth-grade and high school) classes will meet at times designated by their respective teachers.  
 Adult Ed.: Numerous weekly courses, several semester-long courses and a variety of mini-courses and lectures are offered throughout the year. Call the temple office for more details.

On Friday-Saturday, February 2-3, Sisterhood Shabbat will be celebrated to mark the anniversary of Women's League for Conservative Judaism. Friday services will be at 8 pm, followed by an oneg; Saturday services at 10 am will be followed by a kiddush luncheon.

On Friday, February 3, Tot Shabbat will be held at 11:15 am.

On Friday, February 9, the Teen Takeover service will be held at 6:15 pm, followed by Shabbat dinner.

On Saturday, February 10, Shabbat Yeladim services will be held at 11:15 am.

On Sunday, February 11, at 7 pm, "Israeli Cinema: a Viewing and Discussion" will be led by Deborah Starr, associate professor of modern Arabic and Hebrew literature and film in the Department of Near Eastern Studies at Cornell University.

### Congregation Tikun v'Or

Affiliation: Union for Reform Judaism  
 Address: PO Box 3981, Ithaca, NY 14852; 2550 Triphammer Rd. (corner of Triphammer and Burdick Hill), Lansing, NY  
 Phone: 607-256-1471

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.

# Jewish Community Center

## Snow day at Kids Connection



L-r: Felix Yu, Andrew Bonsick and Sofia Moroz enjoyed playing in the snow on a day off from school at Kids Connection.

At right: Sumayah Brown enjoyed sledding on the JCC's hill with Kids Connection.



L-r: Abby Pietras and Adriana Wenban played in the snow on January 17 at Kids Connection.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

#### Netanyahu to Putin: Israel will "stop" Iranian encroachment in Syria, Lebanon

In his meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Jan. 29, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned Putin that Israel will "stop" Iranian encroachment in Syria and Lebanon. "The question is: Does Iran entrench itself in Syria, or will this process be stopped. If it doesn't stop by itself, we will stop it," Netanyahu told reporters as he was leaving Moscow. "We also spoke about Lebanon, which is becoming a factory for precision-guided missiles that threaten Israel. These missiles pose a grave threat to Israel, and we will not accept this threat," he added. The Israeli leader said that Iran is "in the process of" building weapons factories inside of Lebanon. "I explained our policy. These are not idle words," he said. "The Russians understand our position, they understand well the significance that we give to these threats." Netanyahu's rhetoric comes after an IDF spokesman made a rare plea to the Lebanese people, in a letter published by a Lebanese opposition news website, that their countries could head toward war if Iran and Hezbollah continue to build up their presence in Lebanon. "Lebanon has become - both by its own actions and omissions and by a blind eye from many members of the international community - one large missile factory," IDF spokesman Brig.-Gen. Ronen Manelis wrote for the Lebanese website Ahewar. Netanyahu also said that he discussed the Iran nuclear deal with Putin, saying that he raised his "objections" to the accord and echoed what he has heard on the issue from President Donald Trump. "I can't speak for the Russian position, but they understood that if certain changes weren't made, it is very possible that the U.S. would make good on its threat" to pull out of the agreement, said Netanyahu.

## JCC family movie night to feature "Aladdin" on Feb. 10

The Jewish Community Center of Binghamton will hold a family movie night on Saturday, February 10. The night will begin at 6:30 pm and will cost \$2 a person, with a \$10 maximum per family. The entire community is welcome and encouraged to attend.

The featured movie will be Disney's "Aladdin." Attendees are asked to bring a blanket, pillow or

chair to use during the movie. Light refreshments, including popcorn, will be provided. All proceeds generated from the event will go to benefit the JCC Youth Department.

For more information about the movie night, JCC Youth Programming, or the JCC, contact the JCC office at 724-2417.

## JCC offers creative classes for teens and adults

The Jewish Community Center will hold two classes geared toward teens and adults - "Make Your Own Bath Bomb" and "Wire Wrapping and Beading." The bath bomb class will be held on Sunday, February 11, from 1-3 pm, at a cost of \$20. The wire wrapped jewelry class will be held on Sunday, March 25, also from 1-3 pm, at a cost of \$40. Prices for both classes include supplies. The entire community is welcome and encouraged to attend.

The "Make Your Own Bath Bomb" class, taught by Harry Cohen, "is perfect for anyone who needs a fun afternoon or a romantic gift for a loved one," he says. Those who take the class will end up with four chocolate truffle scented bath bombs, in the color of



The "Wire Wrapping and Beading" class will include learning how to make a pair of earrings.

their choice, as well as a copy of the step-by-step instructions on how to continue to make their own bath bombs.

The "Wire Wrapping and Beading" class, taught by Kuwana Dyer-Pietras, will give those attending the chance to learn how to make a matching set of jewelry - a pair of earrings and a necklace. Participants will get to pick their own beads to customize their jewelry to their liking. If participants want to continue to make jewelry once the class is over, there will be the option to purchase the tool kit from the instructor for an additional fee.

For more information about the classes, JCC Adult Programming, or the JCC, contact the JCC office at 724-2417.

## Breakfast ball at the JCC



Superheroes and princesses were among the 210 people who attended the Jewish Community Center's Breakfast Ball on January 21, which benefitted the JCC's Early Childhood Center.

## Sinai..... Continued from page 6

In my work as a Hillel rabbi, I am proud to build a camp where my students can act as chieftains of thousands and hundreds and tens. I am grateful for the women who came before me to serve as Yitros, exhorting the powers that be to spread the power and the burden, and to the powerful men who, like Moses, listened to their wise advice. I hope that the example I build on Binghamton's campus will help contribute to a world in which the leadership of all people

is valued, and we can build holy community together, each according to his or her talents.

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**NEWS IN BRIEF**

From JNS.org

**Israel's FM to meet Palestinian PM to boost economic cooperation and push for negotiations**

Israeli Finance Minister Moshe Kahlon will meet with Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah in an effort to boost economic cooperation, according to Israeli media reports. The premise behind the meeting, which would follow a meeting between Kahlon and U.S. Special Representative for International Negotiations Jason Greenblatt, is that the U.S. and Israel believe economic cooperation is a key component of any peaceful coexistence between Israelis and Palestinians. This will be the first meeting between senior Israeli and Palestinian officials in several months. Kahlon will reportedly urge Hamdallah to consider participating in U.S.-brokered peace negotiations. Palestinian leaders boycotted the recent visit to Israel by Vice President Michael Pence, in response to President Donald Trump's official recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and his intent to move the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. At the recent World Economic Forum in Davos, during a joint appearance with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Trump warned that the P.A. might pay a significant price for failing to cooperate with the U.S. "They disrespected us a week ago by not allowing our great vice president to see them, and we give them hundreds of millions of dollars in aid and support," Trump said. "That money is not going to them unless they sit down and negotiate peace." Earlier in January, P.A. President Mahmoud Abbas launched a tirade against Trump, saying "may your house be destroyed" and declaring that the Palestinians "will not accept for the U.S. to be a mediator... after what they have done to us."

**Poland advances law criminalizing references linking country to the Holocaust**

The lower house of the Polish Parliament passed a law the week of Jan. 29 banning the use of the term "Polish concentration camps," in an attempt to lay blame for the Holocaust squarely on German Nazis and exonerate Poles from being complicit in the crimes that left more than one million Polish Jews dead during World War II. The law's passage was met with harsh rebuke across the Israeli political spectrum. During his Cabinet meeting on Jan. 28, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said, "The law is baseless; I strongly oppose it. One cannot change history and the Holocaust cannot be denied." Defending the law, Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki posted on Twitter that the Auschwitz con-

centration camp "is the most bitter lesson on how evil ideologies can lead to hell on Earth. Jews, Poles, and all victims should be guardians of the memory of all who were murdered by German Nazis. Auschwitz-Birkenau is not a Polish name, and 'Arbeit Macht Frei' (work will set you free) is not a Polish phrase." Morawiecki continued, "A gang of professional thugs enters a two-family house. They kill the first family almost entirely. They kill the parents of the second, torturing the kids. They loot and raze the house. Could one, in good conscience, say that the second family is guilty for the murder of the first?" Member of Knesset Yair Lapid, leader of the Yesh Atid party, tweeted, "I strongly condemn the new law that was passed in Poland, which attempts to deny the involvement of many Polish citizens in the Holocaust. No Polish law will change history, Poland was complicit in the Holocaust. Hundreds of thousands of Jews were murdered on its soil without them having met any German officer." Netanyahu and Morawiecki spoke on Jan. 28 and "agreed to immediately open a dialogue between staffs of the two countries, in order to try and reach an understanding over the legislation," according to a statement from Netanyahu's office. It is unclear whether the Israeli-Polish talks will lead to any changes in the legislation, which still needs to pass through the Polish Senate before becoming law. A Polish government spokesperson tweeted that the dialogue between the countries "will not concern sovereign decisions of the Polish parliament."

**Israel and Croatia agree to pursue \$500 million F-16 fighter jet deal**

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Croatian Prime Minister Andrej Plenković have agreed to advance the sale of Israeli F-16 fighter jets to Croatia. "This development is another expression of the deep ties between the two countries," the Israeli Prime Minister's Office said in a statement. The agreement, which was reached during a meeting on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, the week of Jan. 26 would see some 30 aging F-16 fighter jets sold to Croatia for nearly \$500 million. The deal would require approval by the U.S., which produces the Lockheed Martin jets. Croatia has been looking for some time to replace its fleet of 12 Soviet-era Mikoyan MiG-21 fighter jets and has examined offers from other countries, including French Mirage jets and Sweden's Saab JAS-39 fighter jets. Israel, which has the largest contingent of F-16s outside of the U.S., has been retiring its fleet of F-16A and F-16B fighter jets in recent years, and has reportedly offer Croatia a mix of both the older F-16A/B variants as well as F-16 C/D versions, which are still in active service in the Israel Air Force, *The Jerusalem Post* reported.

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