

## Annual Purim Carnival at JCC on Feb. 25

The Jewish Community Center will host its annual Purim Carnival on Sunday, February 25. The event will run from 1-3 pm and costs \$5 per child and \$1 per adult, with a \$20 maximum per family. The entire community is welcome and encouraged to attend. All proceeds will go to benefit the JCC Youth Department.

The event is held in celebration of the Jewish holiday of Purim. The Festival of Purim commemorates the salvation of the Jewish people from the evil Haman. On Purim, children and adults dress up and celebrate by giving gifts and *tzedakah* (charity). Everyone, young and old, is encouraged to come dressed as their favorite Purim

character or in any costume of their choice. The JCC Kids Connection staff members, who run the event, create different themed costumes each year.

There will be a number of activities geared toward children, including carnival games, inflatable play areas, crafts and face painting. All games earn children points that can be traded in at the prize table. Traditional Purim treats, like hamantashen, which are fruit-filled triangular cookies, will be available for purchase along with other food items.

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



The Jewish Community Center will host its annual Purim Carnival on Sunday, February 25.

## Chabad's community Purim Feast on March 1

Reservations are now being accepted for the annual Chabad Purim Feast to be held on Purim day, Thursday, March 1, at 5:30 pm, at the Chabad Center in Vestal. Dinner will be preceded by a "last chance" megillah reading at 4:30 pm for those who did not hear the megillah read earlier.

The program will include dinner catered by Dougie's BBQ and Grill from Teaneck, NJ (vegetarian options and a kiddie menu will be available), *l'chaim*, desserts, music

and dancing. The cost for the program is \$15 per person, \$12 for students and seniors (over 65), and \$6 for children under 12 (children aged 2 and under are free). Participants are urged to come in costume and will automatically be entered into a raffle. There will be a parade of children in costume.

To make reservations, call the Chabad Center office at 797-0015 or online at [www.Jewishbu.com/PurimFeast](http://www.Jewishbu.com/PurimFeast).

## 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 continued. "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.

## Federation board meeting open to community

The Jewish Federation will hold a full board meeting on Wednesday, February 22, at 7:30 pm. The community is invited to attend. Those interested in attending should make a reservation by calling the Federation at 724-2332 so that enough materials will be available.

## Big Galut(e) Klezmer Ensemble to bring epic Yiddish tale to life at Cornell University on Feb. 21

"Monish," by I.L. Peretz, is the story of an irascible Satan, his irresistible wife Lilith and a young Jew who just wants to be left alone with his books. On Wednesday, February 21, at 7:30 pm, the Cornell Jewish Studies Program and Cornell Department of Music will present an evening of music and dance, inspired by Peretz's classic poem. Created and performed by Big Galut(e) Jewish Music Ensemble, the production features an original score of klezmer music and tangos, an English text in verse and a trio of dancers bringing the characters of "this humorous and poignant tale to life." The performance will take place in Barnes Hall on Cornell's Ithaca campus; tickets are not required.

The score was created by Sanford Margolis, professor emeritus of piano and former instructor of Yiddish at Oberlin College, soloist with the Minneapolis Symphony, and veteran performer of jazz and klezmer music. The music



L-r: Big Galut(e) members Richard Sosinsky, Sasha Margolis, Robin Seletsky, Michael Leopold and Mark Rubinstein.

is performed by Big Galut(e), winner of the Simcha Prize at the 2017 International Jewish Music Festival in Amsterdam. The ensemble was recently featured at the Glimmerglass

Festival and New York Klezmer Series, and has been described by critics as "soulful and unselfconsciously poignant," "jubilant" and "a real treat for open minds."

Big Galut(e) strives to present "meaningful and exciting experiences" of Jewish music through its repertoire spanning five continents and six centuries. Writer/narrator Sasha Margolis is violinist for Big Galut(e), author of the novel "The Tsimbalist" and an occasional actor on TV. Choreographer Colby Thomas has performed widely throughout Europe and America in productions of Lloyd Webber, Offenbach, Bernstein, Sondheim, and Rodgers and Hammerstein, and is currently stage director and lecturer in voice at SUNY Oneonta. Other Big Galut(e) members include clarinetist Robin Seletsky, guitarist Michael Leopold, accordion player Mark Rubinstein and bassist Richard Sosinsky. Dancers Kelsey Hall, Emily Walling and Kristin Goodwin are students at SUNY Oneonta.

More information is available at <http://jewishstudies.cornell.edu>.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

#### Israeli wines

Some Israeli winemakers are now using native and ancient grape varieties in their wines.

..... Page 3

#### Siberia's soldiers' shul

A century-old Siberian synagogue built by abducted child soldiers is now back in Jewish hands.

..... Page 7

#### News in brief...

Israel's Ariel University given full accreditation; and Abbas meets with Putin in Moscow.

..... Page 9

#### Special Sections

Legal Notices..... 4  
Book Review..... 4  
Women in Business..... 5-8  
Classifieds..... 9

## Opinion

## Gaza needs to look in the mirror

By Jonathan S. Tobin

(JNS) Gaza is broke. As a recent front-page *New York Times* feature explained at length, the conflict between the Gaza Strip's Hamas overlords and the Fatah party that runs the West Bank has resulted in a cash crunch that has left many of the compact area's two million people without money. Along with Gaza's inadequate infrastructure, the resulting poverty from this crisis contributes to a general picture of despair for many Palestinians.

Of course, the notion that everyone in Gaza is starving is an exaggeration. As journalist Tom Gross points out, Gaza's thriving malls continue to operate, as does its water park, restaurants and hotels, inconvenient facts that are missing from the *Times* story and most of the coverage of the current crisis.

But even if we concede that the talk of a humanitarian crisis in Gaza is probably exaggerated if for no other reason than we've been hearing variations on this theme for 25 years, there's no question that most of the people there are poor and have little hope of improving their plight.

This means, as it almost always does, that Israel will be blamed for this awful situation. Since the world considers that Israel is still "occupying" Gaza, and is therefore responsible for the coastal territory's problems, it is only natural that the worse things get there, the more opprobrium will be directed at the Jewish state in international forums and the press.

This is wrong, but not just because Israel hasn't occupied Gaza since 2005.

In 2005, then Prime Minister Ariel Sharon withdrew every Israeli soldier, settler and settlement in an effort to create a de facto separation between Jews and Arabs. The international community cheered when philanthropists purchased the greenhouses built by Jews in order to give them to the Palestinians. The intent was to allow Gaza to become an incubator of development and peace. But within hours of the withdrawal, the greenhouses were demolished by angry Palestinian mobs determined to erase every trace of the Jewish presence.

This goes a long way toward explaining why poverty is endemic in Gaza. It's true that Israel has blockaded the territory since Hamas seized control of it in a bloody 2007 coup, though it has continued to allow food and medical

supplies in and to pay for its electricity. Egypt has also severely restricted entry to Gaza. Both countries were rightly determined to isolate the Islamist terrorist state.

That crunch was exacerbated when the P.A. began to squeeze Hamas by cutting off its financial contributions to Gaza in order to force the Islamists to cede power. There have been two sets of public employees in Gaza – one paid by Hamas and the other paid by the P.A. The current money crunch means tens of thousands of people in both groups are now out of cash.

**If Gaza is poor, it's because the welfare of the Palestinian people or even the building up of a state that would protect them and their interests has never been the primary goal of either Hamas or Fatah.**

**... [I]f the focus of Palestinian nationalism had been on state-building and enabling their economy and vital services to thrive, the people of Gaza wouldn't be in this fix. Had even part of the money spent on waging a pointless war against Israel been spent on infrastructure, Gaza couldn't be depicted, albeit often falsely, as the poorest place on Earth.**

But Gaza's problems go deeper than the question of who pays for Hamas and Fatah patronage jobs, or which of its governing factions is paying the bills for its bureaucracy. If Gaza is poor, it's because the welfare of the Palestinian people or even the building up of a state that would protect them and their interests has never been the primary goal of either Hamas or Fatah.

The United Nations pays for schools and other services via its UNRWA refugee agency, which exists to keep Palestinian refugees in place in order to perpetuate the conflict with Israel. Just as importantly, foreign donors

have poured billions into both the West Bank and Gaza in the past two decades. Yet little of that money has been spent on providing a better life for the people of Gaza.

The reason is that almost all of the resources that have poured into Gaza for infrastructure have paid for Hamas' military efforts. Vast sums have been spent on creating enormous underground bunkers for Hamas leaders and fighters, and to store their missiles and other weapons. Each time Hamas launches terrorist wars against Israel, these structures are rebuilt and enlarged. We were often told during those conflicts that it is unfair that the people of Gaza have no air raid shelters. But in Gaza, the shelters are for the bombs, not the people.

Just as much has been spent on building an equally vast network of tunnels aimed at the Israeli border. The purpose was to facilitate murder and kidnapping raids into the Jewish state, as we saw during the Israel-Hamas war in 2014. Since then, even more terror tunnels have been built and Israel has been forced to build an underground barrier to prevent the tactic from succeeding.

But if the focus of Palestinian nationalism had been on state-building and enabling their economy and vital services to thrive, the people of Gaza wouldn't be in this fix. Had even part of the money spent on waging a pointless war against Israel been spent on infrastructure, Gaza couldn't be depicted, albeit often falsely, as the poorest place on Earth.

That's why the people of Gaza and their rulers need to look in the mirror when they talk about their plight. Blaming Israel or Egypt or the indifference of the world for their situation ignores the fact that the cash crunch and grinding poverty of many Gazans was the inevitable result of their own choices. At every point in the last century, the Palestinians have chosen war instead of peace. They prioritized a war whose goal remains Israel's destruction over building a state that could live in peace alongside that of the Jews.

That doesn't mean we shouldn't have some sympathy for them or that efforts to ameliorate their plight shouldn't be undertaken. But those who wish to help must – as the U.S. is belatedly doing – demand that the Palestinians stop spending on terror. Until they do, philanthropic intentions won't do a thing to change the situation.

*Jonathan S. Tobin is editor-in-chief of JNS – the Jewish News Syndicate. Follow him on Twitter, @jonathans\_tobin.*

## In My Own Words

And while we're *not* talking about politics...

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

The first draft of this column was written between glances at the snow falling outside my window. Those of you who have visited *The Reporter* offices will know I was not at the Jewish Community Center. (The editorial office doesn't have windows.) I gave my staff the option of working from home when the storm hit last week and figured that was also the safest bet for myself. (My fear was not about getting to the JCC, but driving home later.) The weather also led me to muse about a variety of minor, but important, pleasant aspects of my life.

## Garages and garage door openers

One of the technological miracles of the 20<sup>th</sup> century is the garage door opener. In the winter, it's wonderful to push a button and have the door open without having to get out of the car and deal with the snow and the ice. Since our driveway is on a slant, stopping the car also meant that I lost traction and usually had to back out into the street in order to get enough power to make it to the top of the driveway and into the garage.

Even more important to me, though, is being able to park in a garage. As I get older (and more easily tired), I really appreciate not having to clean my car off in the morning. The worst part is not snow. That comes off easily. It's the ice on the windows that takes forever to scrape off. I remember giving myself an extra 20 minutes every winter morning to have enough time to clear the windshield enough to see. I realize this is a minor irritation, but minor things add up and can make a great difference by the end of a day.

## Another thought about music

When I couldn't listen to music, I used to get really irritated when reading articles about how it helps reduce stress. As a person who used to have music in the background almost all the time, it was frustrating to lose this great resource. While I still can't hear music unless I'm concentrating, I find that even actively listening to songs once a week really does help. This also means that those songs float through my head at other times during the week, which is really nice. (If you don't believe me, just ask folks at the JCC who see me walking around the building while lip syncing to music only I can hear.)

One of the places I most miss listening to music is in the car, but I've started singing the songs I've heard at my last music session and it really helps. (I tried this prior to receiving the cochlear implant, but it didn't work. I needed that outside sound first.) I was recently driving to work on a rainy, dreary, who-wants-to-go-to-work-in-this-weather kind of day, so I decided to sing some sunny day songs. To my surprise, they lifted me out of my funk. It helped that I belted out the songs at the top of my lungs. (There was no one else in the car and the windows were closed, so it didn't matter how loud or horrible I sounded.) This doesn't always work, but it was helpful that day and I was really grateful for the easy change of mood.

## Good attitude

I have a tendency to obsess about work-related problems. On the one hand, revisiting the issue (over and over

and over again) does help me think of useful options and discover a solution. On the other hand, it can be very stressful, especially when revisiting the issue makes it difficult to sleep. So I was pleased the other week, which was not one of my better weeks, when I managed to say to myself, "This will all work out one way or another." At the time, it seemed like something had gone wrong in almost every aspect of my life. However, I recognized that most of the problems were minor, although that didn't stop me from obsessing about a few of them. (That's just a part of my basic nature.) What I did do was stop myself from obsessing about all of them – particularly the ones that would most likely settle themselves without a lot of thought on my part.

I realized that I made a deliberate choice to have a better attitude. Now this doesn't work, of course, when the problems are major ones – for example, a life threatening illness, a divorce or the loss of a loved one. It actually makes sense to be upset or angry or grieving, so trying to change those strong emotions is not helpful. However, we can try to do something about the little irritations, those that just spoil things when they add up. I'm trying to keep those minor irritations in perspective, partly by reminding myself of all the good things in my life. It doesn't always work, but, for me at least, it's worth a try. Then, maybe someday, I'll be able to retire that chronically cranky feeling that descends on me far more often than I would like.



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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.

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# TC Sisterhood 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 it 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 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 by calling 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 up 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."

## TC Sisterhood held book review



Rabbi Rachel Esserman (standing at right) spoke about three books during her annual Temple Concord Sisterhood book review on January 28. A brunch was held before the talk.



Rabbi Rachel Esserman is shown with the three books she reviewed for her annual Temple Concord Sisterhood book review.



After the talk, Rabbi Rachel Esserman (on right) spoke with Eileen Orringer about one of the books.

# Israel's wine industry grows better with age

By Eliana Rudee

(JNS) – Israeli winemakers say that, just like the beverage they produce, their industry is growing better with age. More than 50 Israeli wineries, together with international brands, were displayed in the "Sommelier 2018" exhibition from January 15-16 in Tel Aviv. In the past, this gathering – Israel's largest annual wine event – was only open to professionals in the industry. But this year, it was opened to the public in the evenings.

In the past few years, Israeli exports of wine and spirits have been consistently growing at around 6 percent annually, according to the Israel Export Institute. "In comparison to how small and young we are, it's quite amazing to see the accomplishments of Israeli wines," said Ayala Singer, director of marketing development for the 35-year-old Golan Heights Winery, one of Israel's veteran wineries.

Singer has seen the winery evolve dramatically during the last decade – on a parallel track with the Israeli wine industry. "The industry has developed tremendously, and the amount of quality wine is growing year by year," she told JNS. "Everybody wants to be at the cutting edge of quality and innovation, and is searching for the unique essence of Israeli wine. We like to believe that we have some say in the development of the industry and are leading the flag of wine culture."

Most of the industry in Israel uses international grapes from Western Europe, brought by Baron Edmond James de Rothschild from France 150 years ago. But recent wine

trends have seen a move toward the use of local Israeli grapes, specifically the ancient Bittuni and Marawi varieties, which flourish in their indigenous climate and soil.

Recanati Winery was the first to restore Marawi and Bittuni in the Judean hills of Bethlehem, and Barkan Winery is following suit.

Dr. Shivi Drori, co-owner of Gvaot Winery and head of the Wine Research Center at Ariel University, where he lectures on the indigenous grapes of Israel, said, "To understand the varieties, we are collecting archaeological remains of grapes from archaeological sites around Israel, matching them to existing varieties.

"Surveying the whole country, we found more than 600 vines, and after analyzing them genetically, we found 80 unique Israeli varieties, which is a huge amount," claimed Drori. "We are now characterizing them, trying to find which are suitable for quality wine production. We currently have in our hands 10 varieties that show high wine quality and make for very interesting, full-bodied wines."

The local grape varieties have not only found success in entering the Israeli industry – they are also changing Israel's wine narrative. Drori said, "Today the story of a wine is as important as it's quality, if not more important. Part of my job to help the Israeli wine industry make its



Bottles from the Derech Eretz winery at the Sommelier 2018 exhibition in Tel Aviv. (Photo by Eliana Rudee)

story, and reconnect to its biblical roots, to the 4,000-year-old story of wine making."

He argued that when pricing wine, one must compare 6-year-old and 600-year-old bottles not just on their quality, but also on their story. He hopes that in a few years, every Israeli winery will have at least one wine from local indigenous grape varieties. "This will bring tourists to Israel," he said.

"It's not interesting to come for a cabernet wine, but the ones used 2,000 years ago in the time of King David? This is very interesting.

See "Wine" on page 6

## Mailbox Shorts

### Solveitchik on Purim

Koren Publishers Jerusalem and OU Press announced the publication of "Megilat Esther Mesorat HaRav," which features commentary based on Megilat Esther (the Book of Esther) and the Purim Ma'ariv (evening) service based on the teachings of Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik. The book is edited by Simon Posner, Eluyahu Krakowski and Moshe Genack. The commentary has been collected from Soloveitchik's writing, notes and lectures. In addition to the material about the evening service and the megillah, it contains halachic (legal) analysis of the rules of the holiday and thoughts on the nature of Purim.

### 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](mailto: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.

## Community Calendar

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

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

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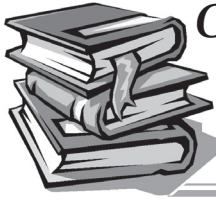


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Off the Shelf

# Israelis – part one

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

Politics and religion inform many novels about Israeli society. Yet, daily life for the average Israeli is not really much different from those who live in other countries. There are the same family joys and sorrows, the same business successes and struggles, that form the main focus of life almost everywhere. The novels in part one of this review concentrate on that aspect of Israel, and show that the country's moral and ethical dilemmas are not restricted to Israeli-Arab relations.

### “Waking Lions”

One moment – one decision – can change the course of a lifetime. That's what Eitan Green discovers in Ayelet Gundar-Goshen's fascinating “Waking Lions” (Little, Brown and Company). Eitan's life has already taken an unwanted turn: he and his family moved to Beersheva when his career as a neurosurgeon was derailed due to a conflict with the professor who served as his mentor. While his wife, Liat, who works as a police detective, and their two children have adjusted to their new home, Eitan finds himself more and more frustrated. Then one night, after an unsatisfying time at work, he decides to drive in the dunes surrounding Beersheva, even though it's dark. Unable to see, his car hits an African immigrant. Believing they are alone, Eitan does the unthinkable – or, at least, an action he once assumed would be unthinkable: He leaves the man on the side of the road and drives away. Unfortunately for Eitan, there is a witness: Sirkit, the man's wife, who shows up at Eitan's door – first demanding money and then his medical services for other illegal immigrants. When Liat is assigned to investigate the African's death, Eitan must

again face the moral and ethical implications of his act.

Gundar-Goshen explores a variety of issues: how our perception of ourselves may differ from our actual behavior; the relationship between spouses, including whether it's possible to ever truly know someone; the lingering prejudice against poor Sephardic Jews; and the plight of African refugees who are afraid to return to their native lands. The author's view is intensely personal, giving readers a nuanced, detailed view of her character's inner lives that is incredibly well done, even if once in awhile a character's introspectiveness seems a bit too much. Gundar-Goshen's greatest triumph, though, is her slow and careful revelation of Sirkit's inner life, one that remains invisible to those unable to see past her status as an illegal immigrant. The impossibility of truly understanding a person – unless you've shared their history – serves a major theme throughout the novel.

“Waking Lions” is an eye-opening work about Israel and human nature. Book club readers may find themselves agreeing with both sides of the issues raised, while lovers of literary fiction will definitely want to add Gundar-Goshen's novel to their must-read list.

### “Three Floors Up”

An apartment building is like a miniature city: each person lives in separate, but loosely connected worlds. In Eshkol Nevo's excellent “Three Floors Up” (Other Press), the lives of three tenants are explored in close detail. What connects their stories – in addition to the fact all three live in the same apartment building – is that each of the main characters is in desperate need of a confidant with

whom they can share their troubles. One of the first floor apartments is occupied by Aron, who confides in an army friend he hasn't seen in ages. Hani, who lives on the second floor, writes letters to a childhood friend, to formulate an objective view of the changes in her life. Devora, a retired judge who lives on the third floor, speaks to the past by relating her tale to her late husband by means of an old answering machine whose message he recorded.

All three narrators are facing a crisis in their lives: Aron is distraught over whether an elderly neighbor did something unspeakable to his daughter. His fear begins to undermine not only his marriage, but his sanity, as his obsession distances him from those he loves. Hani is unsatisfied with her life as a stay-at-home mother, especially during the times her husband must travel for business. She understands not only her own complaints, but how her husband could successfully rebut them. This doesn't prevent her from breaking one of his rules: when her brother-in-law shows up at the apartment door, she invites him inside, even though he's wanted by the police. My favorite section focused on Devora, who lived her life according to her husband's high standards, even when that meant not supporting their only child. Now that she lives alone and no longer works, Devora finds herself at a loss. A decision to attend a demonstration in Tel Aviv changes the course of her life.

Each section in “Three Floors Up” is compelling and Nevo manages to create believable characters and suspense about their behavior. His book is a wonderful look at human nature and Israeli society.

See “Israelis” on page 5

## LEGAL NOTICE

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.

### 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.

Notice of Formation of Aponi Aerial Services, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/24/18. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 1704 Campus Dr., Vestal,

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

NY 13850. Purpose: any lawful activities.

Notice of Formation of Stickle & Sons, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/24/18. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 1350 Millburn Dr., Conklin, NY 13748. Purpose: any lawful activities.

Notice of Formation of Ta Realty Properties, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/24/18. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 83 Endicott Ave., Johnson City, NY 13790. Purpose: any lawful activities.

### NOTICE UNDER NEW YORK LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY LAW SECTION 206

Notice is given of the formation of Abell Productions, LLC (the “Company”) for the transaction of business in the State of New York and elsewhere.

1. The name of the limited liability company is Abell Productions, LLC.
2. The Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State on 01/22/2018.
3. The county in which the office of the Company is to be located is Broome County N.Y.- principal business location 824 Shale Dr., Endicott NY 13760.
4. The Secretary of State is designated as the agent of the Company upon whom process against the Company may be served. The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process served against the Company to the Company at 824 Shale Dr. Endicott NY 13760.
5. The registered agent of the Company upon whom and at which process against the Company can be served is 824 Shale Dr. Endicott NY 13760.
6. The purpose of the Company is to engage in any lawful act which limited liability companies may be organized under the New York LLC.

### NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY UNDER NEW YORK PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

### LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY LAW (“LLCL”)

1. The name of the professional service limited liability company (“LLC”) is WILBUR D. DAHLGREN, PLLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is January 30, 2018.
3. The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the professional service LLC is to be located is Broome County.
4. The Secretary of State of the State of New York is hereby designated as agent of the professional service LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the professional service LLC served upon him is: 99 Corporate Drive, Binghamton, NY 13904.
5. The character or purpose of the business of the professional service LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

Under Section 1203 of the Limited Liability Company Law

Notice of Formation of Bandel Properties, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/31/18. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: P.O. Box 435, Harpursville, NY 13787. Purpose: any lawful activities.

Notice of Formation of Newbsanity, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/31/18. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 782 Dunham Hill Rd., Binghamton, NY 13905. Purpose: any lawful activities.

Notice of Formation of Four Corners Assessment and Counseling, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/31/18. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 231 Main St., Vestal, NY 13850. Purpose: any lawful activities.

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# Deciphering the past

## Archaeology agency: clay seal points to 2,700-year-old Jerusalem "governor"

By JNS staff

(JNS) – A stamped piece of clay dating back to the First Temple period, whose inscription in ancient Hebrew states that it belonged to the “governor of the city” of Jerusalem, was recently discovered during an archaeological dig in the Western Wall plaza and was presented recently to Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat.

Barkat said it is “very overwhelming to receive greetings from First Temple-period Jerusalem.”

Although the clay seal is small, measuring 0.5 by 0.6 inches in diameter and 0.1 inches thick, the Israel Antiquities

Authority said its discovery is significant because it supports biblical accounts of a Jerusalem governorship that existed 2,700 years ago.

“This shows that already 2,700 years ago, Jerusalem, the capital of Israel, was a strong and central city,” said Barkat.

The seal was discovered in dust piles collected during the IAA’s conservationist operations in the area. The IAA’s Dr. Shlomit Weksler-Bdolah, who is involved with the Western Wall Plaza excavations in association with the Western Wall Heritage Foundation, said the seal “had been attached to an important transport and

served as some sort of logo, or as a tiny souvenir, which was sent on behalf of the governor of the city.”

*At right: A newly discovered ancient clay seal’s inscription in ancient Hebrew states that it belonged to the “governor of the city” of Jerusalem. (Photo by Clara Amit, Israel Antiquities Authority)*



## Israelis . . . . . Continued from page 4

### “Petty Business”

What happens when one branch of a family has more financial success than another? The mixture of love and jealousy that results informs the plot of “Petty Business” by Yirmi Pinkus (Syracuse University Press), which takes place in Tel Aviv in the 1990s. While there are four Shlossman siblings, its sisters Tzippi Zinman and Dvora Saltzman whose petty rivalries fuel the tale. Dvora, whose husband, Shraga, is a financial failure, envies her sister’s trips to Europe. Tzippi is sympathetic since Dvora was the one forced not only to take over the failing family business, but care for their younger sister, Bina, who has developmental disabilities. A plan is hatched to take the whole family to Europe – including their brother, Avrum Sholossman, and elderly Aunt Marsha. To help Dvora earn enough to pay for herself and her husband, Tzippi offers her sister a business opportunity that creates even more family complications.

The true focus of the novel, though, is Pinkus’ satirical look at family relationships and the city of Tel Aviv. While the problem of terrorism periodically raises its head, it’s daily life that takes center stage, particularly the petty problems of daily life. The biggest threat – at least to these business owners – are the government’s tax collectors, who sneak into their stores to see if they are keeping accurate receipts. The arguments between renters and building owner are very funny, particularly the renters who keep an unprofitable business open just to spite their landlords. Pinkus also shows how families have their own peculiarities: In the case of the Shlossman siblings, it’s the discussions of each members’ bowel movements that creates worry and humor.

The one problem with “Petty Business” is that its satirical approach distances readers from the characters, making it more difficult to care about what happens to them. That distance prevented the one true disaster

from being as affecting as it might have, although it made it much easier to read about the tragedy. However, deep feeling does not seem to be Pinkus’ intent and this complaint should not deter those seeking a humorous look at Israeli life.

### “An Egyptian Novel”

The title of Orly Castel-Bloom’s recent novel is misleading: “An Egyptian Novel” (Dalkey Archive Press) feels more like a series of vignettes, rather than a single cohesive work. The work focuses on the Kastil family, Egyptians who immigrated to Israel in the 1950s, first settling on a *kibbutz* and then moving to Tel Aviv. Family legend claims they arrived in Egypt after the Spanish Inquisition and some would have remained in that country except for the creation of the state of Israel.

Part of the work feels like satire, particularly the sections that take place on the *kibbutz* – with the family being expelled for voting incorrectly on a political issue that

referenced events happening in Russia. The two brothers and their wives, whose lives are the main focus of the book, label their daughters, rather than referring to them by name. For example, the cousins are known as older daughter and only daughter – descriptions they can’t escape even when they have children of their own. Decades pass between chapters and make it difficult to understand what changes occurred in their lives. This and the blunt prose left me feeling little sympathy for the characters and their problems. My favorite chapter, “Year of the Pig,” focused on a completely different aspect of the family: those few who remained in Spain after the expulsion. The story of these Crypto-Jews featured the most coherent plot in the book.

“An Egyptian Novel” does show how Egyptian Jews became part of Israeli society. Readers who don’t expect a well-integrated novel and are willing to follow wherever Castel-Bloom’s fancy takes her may enjoy this work.

# Women in Business

A paid advertising section.

## Women in Business Advertising Directory

Business Name	Name	Page # of ad	Business Name	Name	Page # of ad
Berkshire Farm Center & Services for Youth	Kaitlyn Kiley.....	5	Sue Seibold-Simpson, N.P. - Office of Amy R. Cousins, M.D.	Sue Seibold-Simpson, N.P. ....	8
Cat Doctor, The.....	Susan M. Szczotka, D.V.M. ....	7	Susan Jablon Shoppe.....	Susan Jablon .....	8
Farmer’s Insrance.....	Terianne Rogers-Snyder.....	5	Swags & Slipcovers.....	Kathy Ritter .....	6
Kristys Imagination Photography.....	Kristy Husband .....	8	TL Interiors.....	Terry Ludwig.....	7
KoKeDaMa Flora.....	Jasmine .....	5	Warren Real Estate.....	Sue Stephens.....	7
Lost Dog Café/Coffeehouse.....	Elizabeth Hughes .....	8	White Rose Day Spa & Hair Design.....	Karen Latta .....	5
Nancy Basmann Photography.....	Marie McKenna		Women’s OBGYN Associates.....	Dr. Carol Miller .....	7
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# Wine . . . . .Continued from page 3

People love the story," added Drori.

But just as Israel has begun to reclaim its historical connection to the region through wine, proponents of the anti-Israel BDS movement have tried to change the story of the region.

For many wineries in Judea, Samaria and the Golan Heights, the pressure of BDS is real. Singer recounted "a situation in Germany, where for a couple of hours, supermarkets took our wines off their shelves," but apologized hours later. Despite the BDS efforts, Golan Heights Winery's exports are "rising year by year," she said.

Likewise, Vered Ben Sadon, manager of marketing for Tura Winery in the Samaria region of Mount Gerizim, had sold grapes to wineries that have now terminated their partnership with Tura due to political reasons. But Tura has garnered awards in many international wine



The Sommelier 2018 exhibition in Tel Aviv. (Photo by Eliana Rudee)

competitions, as blind tasting helps the Israeli wine industry dodge politics.

Ben Sadon and her husband, Erez, got married 22 years ago and, as a young couple, they moved to Samaria to "to settle the land for religious reasons," she said. "We began the winery in 2003 with 1,200 bottles. Today, we are producing 100,000 bottles a year. Our first wine came out in the market in 2006. We sent it to exhibition and got the first award internationally for our merlot, and today we have more than 50 awards, in the Czech Republic, France, England and in the most important competitions.

"A big part of what we are trying to do is sell Israel as a product," Ben Sadon told JNS.

She added, "Every day is like a miracle. We see it with our own eyes. Customers every year say they see a big change in wine quality. We are very proud of what we are doing."

## Women in Business

A paid advertising section.

### Berkshire Farm Center & Services for Youth

Specialty: Non-profit child welfare agency  
 Location: The Galleria  
 2-8 Hawley St.  
 Binghamton, NY 13901  
 Name: Kaitlyn Kiley, Foster and Adoptive Home Finder  
 Phone: 607-772-3123  
 E-mail: kaitlynkiley@berkshirefarm.org  
 Website: www.berkshirefarm.org  
 Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8:30 am-4:30 pm

Berkshire Farm Center & Services for Youth is a state-wide, non-profit child welfare agency with a distinguished, 126-year history of providing specialized therapeutic and educational services to children and families.

Children who need foster and adoptive families have often been removed from their birth families for reasons of abuse, neglect, abandonment and/or other issues endangering their health and/or safety. Many of these children are filled with fear, anger, confusion, and/or a sense of powerlessness at having been removed from the only home they have ever known. Many are sibling groups, older children, or young teens. Some have developmental, physical, emotional or behavioral problems. They all need safe, supportive, loving homes.

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### Farmers Insurance - Rogers-Snyder Agency

Specialty: Insurance: home, auto, business, specialty products  
 Location: 217 Vestal Parkway E.  
 Vestal, NY 13850  
 Name: Terianne Rogers-Snyder  
 Phone: 607-235-5126  
 E-mail: trogers1@farmersagent.com  
 Website: https://agents.farmers.com/ny/vestal/terianne-rogers-snyder  
 Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9 am-6 pm

As a Farmers Insurance agent, Terianne takes the time to identify the coverage that best fits her customers' needs. Her process is straight forward and personalized to help make you smarter about insurance. With 23 years of insurance experience, she has the knowledge and experience to help you understand your coverage options. If you are looking for auto, home, renters or business insurance, Terianne can help you.

### KoKeDaMa Flora

Specialty: Plant craft and flower art classes  
 Location: 34 Chenango St. Suite 209  
 Binghamton, NY  
 Name: Jasmine  
 Phone: 607-237-3065  
 E-mail: kokedamaflorea@gmail.com  
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/kokedama.flora  
 Hours: Mon.-Sat. 3-7 pm, closed Sun.

KoKeDaMa Flora is a plant craft and flower art studio started by Jasmine after teaching a "Create Your Own Terrarium" class through the Continuing Education Department at SUNY Broome. Her studio is located in downtown Binghamton at 34 Chenango Street, on the second floor in suite 209. Jasmine holds classes at her large work table, surrounded by her latest work and extensive plant collection. KoKeDaMa Flora also offers classes through SUNY Broome. Follow KoKeDaMa Flora on Facebook and Instagram for notice of upcoming classes.

See KoKeDaMa Flora at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Farmers Market every Saturday from 9 am-1 pm. KoKeDaMa Flora will be at two events next month: on March 10-11 at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Farmer's Market's Home Grown: A Farm Artisan Market and then on March 23-24 at Binghamton University the Springtime Craft Show.

### Kristys Imagination Photography

Specialty: Weddings, portraits, special events, seniors, pets  
 Name: Kristy Johnston  
 Phone: 607-221-1225  
 E-mail: kristyphotography@gmail.com  
 Website: www.kristysphoto.com  
 Hours: By appointment only

Kristys Imagination Photography is a locally owned business in the Binghamton region providing on-location photography services for any occasion, such as weddings, portraits or other special events. Sessions are done on location by appointment only, and provide you with quality photography services in the comfort of your own home or the location of your choice.

"I have always had a passion for photography and therefore decided to pursue it as a career," says owner Kristy Johnston. "I truly enjoy what I do as a photographer. I get to capture some of life's most important and precious moments."

Offering a variety of products and photography services, Kristys Imagination Photography is your professional on-location photographer.

For more information, call 607-221-1225 or e-mail kristyphotography@gmail.com. You can also see a portfolio and more information at www.kristyhusbandphotography.com.

### Lost Dog Café

Specialty: Eclectic food and a friendly atmosphere  
 Location: 222 Water St., Suite 101  
 Binghamton, NY 13901  
 Names: Elizabeth Hughes and Marie McKenna, co-owners  
 Phone: 607-771-6063  
 Website: www.lostdogcafe.net  
 Facebook: Lost Dog Café Binghamton  
 Hours: Mon.-Sat. 11:30 am-10 pm, closed Sun.

Lost Dog Café debuted October 21, 1994, in a funky old garage on Main Street with a love of good food, good people and a strong sense of community as inspiration. In April 1997, the café moved to 222 Water St., downtown Binghamton. The café has become a favorite place for lunch, dinner or just hanging out, and features live music, poetry readings, art exhibits and charity events.

In June 2012, the Lost Dog opened a lounge and additional catering space accommodating 80 seated guests and 140 for cocktail parties. In March 2004, Lost Dog Café was inducted into the Small Business Development Center's Small Business Hall of Fame. The owners of Lost Dog Café were also awarded the Small Business Association's Excellence Award in April 2004 and Greater Binghamton Chamber Business Persons of Year Award in 2012.

### Nancy Basmann Photography

Specialty: Portraits, bar mitzvah, real estate/architecture; street portraiture for art galleries  
 Location: 4816 Country Club Rd.  
 Vestal NY 13850  
 Name: Nancy Basmann  
 Phone: 607-731-1626  
 E-mail: nancy@nancybasmann.com  
 Website: nancybasmann.com  
 Hours: Mon.-Fri. and Sun. 10 am-noon, 2-6 pm

Nancy Basmann is, by Professional Photographers of America, a Certified Professional and Master Photographer who has won many national awards and has images in art books. "To my clients," Nancy narrates, "I bring the eye and the skill of a capable photographer. My interest is to show the client as they wish to appear. My consultations are sociable and my shoots are enjoyable, with refreshments and teamwork. I shoot into a computer so my clients view the images as we progress and suggest changes. My output runs the gamut of papers with linen and other textured sprays, and for my clients' walls, framed fine art prints, and prints on aluminum, canvas, or mounted on polished acrylic."

### Did you know?

(NAPSA) - A University of Phoenix survey found the majority of hiring managers have employed military veterans and recognize them as possessing superior experience to those who have never served.

Compared to civilian counterparts, hiring managers noted veterans' discipline and ability to work both under pressure and with a team set them apart. To learn more, visit www.uschamberfoundation.org/hiring-our-heroes.

# A century-old Siberian synagogue built by abducted child soldiers is back in Jewish hands

By Cnaan Liphshiz

TOMSK, Russia (JTA) – When two strange men approached 8-year-old Herzl Tsam in an alley of his hometown in what is now Ukraine, he knew that he had to run as fast as his legs could carry him. In 1851, as a Jewish boy from a poor family in a shtetl near Volyn, he knew he was in danger of becoming a Jewish Cantonist – the Russian-language term for forcefully conscripted child soldiers. For 29 years, until 1856, these children had fallen victim to one of the cruelest measures ever applied against the Jewish population of Russia.

Like approximately 75,000 Jewish children who were abducted and turned into Cantonists, Tsam could not outrun his captors – likely professional kidnapers who enforced the 1827 act handed down by the czar, Nicholas I, obliging Jewish communities to provide 10 Cantonists per 1,000 residents. But unlike most of the other victims, Tsam resisted pressures to convert to Christianity, instead climbing through the ranks on pure merit. One of only a handful of Jewish officers in the czar's army, he retired in 1876 with honors as a colonel at the age of 41 and started a thriving Jewish community and a synagogue for other army veterans like him in this Siberian city.

The present-day Jewish community of Tomsk – a sleepy city of 500,000 residents located 2,000 miles east of Moscow – recently honored Tsam's memory during a ceremony in which the municipality returned to the community the synagogue that he had built nearly 120 years ago. Known as the Soldiers Synagogue, it is a dilapidated structure covered in snow and ice whose windows are boarded up to keep out squatters. But it is still a beautiful building and one of the few wooden synagogues of its kind still standing today.



The building that used to house the Soldiers Synagogue in Tomsk. (Photo by Cnaan Liphshiz)

"It's an important day," Levy Kaminetsky, a Chabad emissary who moved with his wife, Gitty, to Tomsk in 2004, told JTA at the community's main synagogue, amid preparations for the ceremony. "His story, the story of the Cantonists, is a story of endurance, faith, courage and revival. And in that sense, it's one of the major stories of the Jewish people in Russia and beyond."

Today, the synagogue that Tsam and his comrades built is a shadow of its former self. Dwarfed by the adjacent public prosecutor's office, the cedar structure is surrounded by leafless bushes and a host of huts that used to be storage units, but now are full of trash and rusty tools. The interior of the synagogue was gutted decades ago. After its confiscation in 1930 by Soviet authorities, it was turned into a theater and later a crowded and poorly heated

apartment building where 17 impoverished families shared a communal kitchen.

The city found alternative housing for the tenants in 2014 ahead of its planned return, but homeless people took over the property in the interim, delaying the return and further deteriorating the building's condition. The trash-littered floor now has deep holes and exposed wiring that require from the local community of 1,000 an investment of funds it does not have.

"We are being offered this building now, so we need to take it," Kaminetsky said in the Great Synagogue of Tomsk, the city's only functioning synagogue, which is located a mile away from the Soldiers Synagogue. "Honestly, it's not perfect timing, but we owe it to Tsam's legacy." He said the community "will have to find a way to restore" the building, possibly by appealing to donors outside Russia.

In addition to the 75,000 Jewish Cantonists, Russia had hundreds of thousands of non-Jewish ones, according to Yosef Mendelovitch, a rabbi from Jerusalem who in 2010 published a comprehensive book about the Jewish Cantonists. "In its neutral sense, the term Cantonists simply means youths who were taken by a czarist decree to a military boarding house," he said. "It was a prestigious institution dating back to the 18th century and a good opportunity for poor boys to get an education and income. Many non-Jewish families wanted their children to be Cantonists."

Under the czar's laws on Cantonists, of which Jews were initially exempted, seven youths older than 16 were to be placed in a military boarding house for every 1,000 residents. But in 1827, Nicholas I scrapped the exemption for Jews and lowered the conscription age for that community alone to 12. He also upped the quota, requiring from Jews 10 children per 1,000 residents. It was part of an attempt

See "Siberian" on page 11

## Women in Business

A paid advertising section.

### Office of Amy R. Cousins, M.D.

#### Aphrodite Medical PLLC

Specialty: Well woman care and abortion

Location: 149 Vestal Parkway W.  
Vestal, NY 13850

Name: Amy R. Cousins, M.D.

Phone: 607-785-4171 or 1-800-676-9011

Website: www.AmyCousinsMD.com

Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9 am-5 pm, Sat. 10 am-2 pm

Dr. Amy Cousins has been providing gynecological care and abortion services since 1989. She has cared for women on Medicaid and those who lack insurance with the help of the Aphrodite Access Fund.

"Sometimes women need funds for a taxi or gas to get home, or for a portion of the fee," said Peg Johnston, manager of Dr. Cousins' office. "Lately, women's needs are increasing and Medicaid reimbursement is substantially below costs, so we are gratefully accepting donations to the Aphrodite Access Fund." Donations in any amount may be sent to PO Box 642, Vestal, NY 13851.

### Phantom Chef LLC

Specialty: Off-premises catering, drop-off catering, small on-premises events, culinary classes

Location: 49 Washington Ave.  
Endicott, NY 13760

Name: Michelle (Bank) McIlroy

Phone: 607-765-2408

E-mail: info@phantomchefcatering.com

Website: www.phantomchefcatering.com

Facebook: Phantom Chef LLC

Hours: Variable

Phantom Chef is owned and operated by Chef Michelle (Bank) McIlroy, who trained at the prestigious Culinary Institute of America. A native of South Africa, Chef Michelle has tasted her way around the world, sampling the foods and flavors of many cultures.

Phantom Chef, established in 2009, specializes in off-premise catering, drop-off catering and small on-premise events, as well as classes at a newly renovated culinary studio in Endicott. Chef Michelle focuses on personalized events and catering for Jewish occasions, as well as customizing menus for special diets, such as kosher, gluten-free and vegetarian.

"Whether you are planning an intimate dinner for two in your home, a corporate luncheon, or a special occasion for 200, we will tailor the menu to meet your culinary tastes and your budget," says Chef Michelle. "Fresh, local, farm-to-table, seasonal food is our specialty."

To advertise, contact Bonnie Rozen at 724-2360, ext. 244 or [bonnie@thereportergroup.org](mailto:bonnie@thereportergroup.org)

**THE REPORTER**  
Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton

### Susan Jablon Shoppe

Specialty: Cold process soap making

Location: 12 Alice St.  
Binghamton, NY 13904

Name: Susan Jablon

Phone: 607-748-2302

E-mail: [susan@susanjablon.com](mailto:susan@susanjablon.com)

Website: [www.susanjablon.com](http://www.susanjablon.com)

Hours: Every Sat. 10 am-noon by appointment

Learn to make your own natural cold process soap. Perfect for beginners or on any level, join Susan Jablon Shoppe's soap making classes and explore the world of luxurious plant-based butters and oils. Create your one-of-a-kind artistic soap bars and go home with a full two pounds of soap (that's nine full bars!), perfect for your personal stock or gift giving!

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### Swags and Slipcovers

Specialty: Custom window treatments and slipcovers

Location: 45 Clark Ave.  
Binghamton, NY 13901

Name: Kathy Ritter

Phone: 607-648-3358

E-mail: [kathy@swagsandslipcovers.com](mailto:kathy@swagsandslipcovers.com)

Website: [www.swagsandslipcovers.com](http://www.swagsandslipcovers.com)

Hours: Mon.-Fri. by appointment

Swags and Slipcovers will help you beautify your home by providing custom window treatments, slipcovers, upholstery and accessories, such as pillows, cushions and bedding. There are many styles of window treatments, such as swags, panels, valances and shades. Manufactured cellular and pleated shades are also available. Kathy will assist you in choosing the right treatment depending on your need for privacy, light control or just to beautify your home.

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Vestal, New York 13850

[SueStephens@WarrenHomes.com](mailto:SueStephens@WarrenHomes.com)  
C: 607-725-8258  
O: 607-422-3108 F: 607-238-7334

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

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# Women in Business

A paid advertising section.

## The Cat Doctor

**Specialty:** A full service veterinary hospital providing medical, surgical, dental and behavioral care for cats of all ages.

**Location:** 423 East Main St.  
Endicott, NY 13760

**Owner:** Susan M. Szcotka, D.V.M.

**Phone:** 754-7221

**Hours:** Mon. and Fri. 8 am-5 pm, Tues. and Thurs. 12:30-8 pm, Wed. 8 am-3 pm

The Cat Doctor is celebrating 23 years of caring for cats and their people.

The doctors and staff at The Cat Doctor recognize that cats are important family members and treat each individual with special attention to their age, temperament and health conditions. Preventive medicine is practiced by providing complete physical examinations, behavioral counseling, dental care, diet management and appropriate vaccinations. The hospital has advanced x-rays capabilities, providing instant, superior quality, digital x-rays as well as digital dental x-rays for the detection of early tooth disease below the gumline. When illness does occur, thorough and caring medical and surgical treatment is tailored to each patient. Said Dr. Szcotka, "We treat your cat like our own because we really do love cats."

## 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.

## 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.

## Warren Real Estate - Susan G. Stephens, Licensed Associate Real Estate Broker, ABR®, SRES®, GRI

**Specialty:** Residential real estate, new construction, relocation specialist, land

**Location:** 3456 Vestal Parkway, East  
Vestal, NY 13850

**Name:** Susan G. Stephens, Licensed Associate Real Estate Broker, ABR®, SRES®, GRI

**Office:** 607-217-5673

**Cell:** 607-725-8258

**Fax:** 607-238-7344

**E-mail:** SueStephens@Warrenhomes.com

**Website:** www.suestephensrealtor.com

**Hours:** By appointment

Whatever your real estate needs, Susan "Sue" Stephens can assist you. Sue, Licensed Associate Real Estate Broker, ABR®, SRES®, GRI, is a Relocation Specialist, Multi-Million Dollar Producer and Award Winning Agent with Warren Real Estate. She provides full-time real estate services for buyers and sellers at all price levels, and has the regional knowledge and proven track record necessary to successfully help you buy or sell a home or land.

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## White Rose Day Spa & Hair Design

**Specialty:** Providing the ultimate journey of rejuvenation through relaxation

**Location:** 4535 Old Vestal Rd.  
Vestal, NY 13850

**Name:** Karen Latta

**Phone:** 607-644-9123

**Fax:** 607-754-0502

**E-mail:** info@whiterosedayspa.com

**Website:** www.whiterosedayspa.com

**Facebook:** White Rose Day Spa

**Hours:** Mon. 10 am-5 pm, Tues-Fri. 9 am-8 pm, Sat. 9 am-5 pm, Sun. by appointment only

The White Rose Day Spa and Hair Design debuted in 2002. "At that time, we were the premier facility to offer all services under one roof," says owner Karen Latta. "Fifteen years later, we are still going strong. In 2012, we purchased our own building and we were able to expand our services with additional chairs for manicures, pedicures and additional rooms for facials and massages. We also have an area dedicated to men for hair cutting. We now offer expansive facial treatments, lash extensions, spray tanning and a wide variety of massages."

White Rose Day Spa and Hair Design offers permanent cosmetics by Bonnie Drum, teeth whitening by Anthony Bronner and electrolysis by Jackie Dennis. Dr. Tali Martin is now providing botox, needling and medical grade peels.

## Women's OB/GYN Associates

**Specialty:** Women's healthcare

**Location:** 401 Main St., 1<sup>st</sup> 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:** www.womensobgyn.info

**Facebook:** www.facebook.com/WomensOBGYN/

**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.

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**NEWS IN BRIEF**

From JNS.org

**Ariel University receives full state accreditation, despite being located in West Bank**

Israel's Knesset voted on Feb. 12 to make Ariel University in Samaria the state's ninth accredited institution of higher learning. The vote officially places the university under the auspices of Israel's Council for Higher Education. Parliamentarians voted in favor of the bill, 56-35. Full accreditation will enable Ariel University to advance plans to develop a medical school. Ariel, one of Israel's largest Jewish settlements, has approximately 20,000 residents. Accreditation of the university had been difficult to achieve, in part due to its location in "Area C," a section of the West Bank under Israeli military and civilian control. No other Israeli universities are located in the disputed territories. Jerusalem Affairs Minister Ze'ev Elkin celebrated the Knesset vote in a tweet, urging the government to apply full Israeli law across the entire region, writing since "applying Israeli sovereignty on Ariel University, let's begin to apply Israeli sovereignty on Israeli communities in Judea and Samaria." In the days leading up to the vote, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu tabled a scheduled vote in the Likud Central Committee that would push the government toward extending Israeli law throughout the entire West Bank, insisting that any such initiatives would need to be fully coordinated with the United States. The White House has denied that any such conversations have been taking place.

**Two Israelis nearly lynched in Jenin, saved by P.A. forces**

Two Israeli soldiers who accidentally entered the Palestinian city of Jenin on Feb. 12 were attacked by a mob of dozens of young Palestinians who also stole one of their weapons. The two soldiers, a man and a woman, were lightly to moderately injured. Images of the female soldier's bloody face circulated through social media, after she was

injured from shattered windshield glass. She was evacuated to a hospital in Afula. Video from the attack shows the mob haranguing and attacking the soldiers as they cried out. An initial investigation found that the soldiers had been misdirected into the Palestinian city by the Waze navigation app on their journey from Shavei Shomron in Samaria to Afula in the Jezreel Valley. A Palestinian Authority policeman intervened to protect the Israeli soldiers, ultimately firing into the air to disperse the crowd. More than 100 members of the P.A. security forces were called out to escort the soldiers to safety and return their jeep to Israel, according to a P.A. security official interviewed by *The Jerusalem Post*, who also said that the effort was made both to protect human life as well as to prevent Israeli reprisals in Jenin if either of the soldiers were killed.

**Abbas meets Putin in Moscow in attempt to reduce U.S. role in peace process**


Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas met with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Feb. 12, in an attempt to sideline the United States and strengthen Russia's role as a power broker in negotiating an outcome to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Abbas has been attempting to increase the number of countries involved in solving the conflict, while Israel has been leaning toward the United States. In January, Putin stated that he was "deeply concerned" by the U.S. administration's decision to recognize Jerusalem, expressing its belief that it would "block possible paths to peace in the Middle East." Yet, on Feb. 12, Putin informed Abbas that he had spoken to Trump just prior to the meeting, stating, "naturally we spoke about the Palestinian-Israeli settlement." Putin then passed along a message from Trump, adding, "I would like to convey to you his best wishes." Abbas is scheduled to address the United Nations Security Council on Feb. 20, where he is expected to denounce U.S. President Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of the state of Israel, and call for the immediate recognition of a Palestinian state.

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Terumah: Exodus 25:1-27:19

# Mishkan and mikdash

RABBI BARBARA GOLDMAN-WARTELL, TEMPLE CONCORD

At first glance, it appears that the *Mishkan* (Tabernacle) and *mikdash* (holy place) in this Torah portion are one and the same. There are detailed instructions for how the *Mishkan* is to be constructed. Only in this portion is the word *mikdash* used on its own, possibly referring to the *Mishkan* or possibly not. Later in the Tanach, Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem is called a *beit mikdash*. God is to dwell in this holy space. While we understand that God is everywhere, it is clear in the Torah that the Israelites need a place, a focal point, where they can focus their prayers and actions, a place where they can feel God is with them in a special way on this earth. The people are so motivated to make this happen that when God instructs Moses to tell the Israelites to bring gifts to build the *Mishkan* as their heart moves them,

Moses and Aaron are overruled with gifts to make the *mikdash*, the holy place for God in their midst. This is the most successful development campaign of all time. They had to ask people to stop bringing these free will offerings, the gifts from their hearts, as they had more than they knew what to do with. These gifts were not *mitzvot* (obligations); it was not *zedakah* (doing the right and just thing), which we are obligated to do; these were gifts from their hearts.

How do we create a *mikdash*, holy space in our world today? Again, it is by our actions from our hearts, which bring us together as a community, when we care about and for one another. We are taught from the sages that the Second Temple was destroyed because of *sinat hinam* (baseless hatred). We can learn from this that we make

room for God's presence in our world when we treat one another with love, when we give others the benefit of the doubt. We create holy space when we give of ourselves to help others, to build our communities, both in the Jewish community and in the larger community. The *Mishkan* moved from the Temple in Jerusalem to our homes, to our tables where we gather and share our meals together. A *mikdash*, holy space, is not a building, limited by walls. It is about the relationships between people and the constructive actions we take to fight against *sinat hinam*, searching for the humanity we share with all people. Holy space is where we make our world a better place by helping one another, learning how to communicate with each other and focusing on improving the quality of life for all.

## 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 16, at 8 pm, Shabbat services will be led by Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell and Jason Flatt.

On Saturday, February 17, at 9:15 am, there will be Torah study. There will be no religious school due to Presidents' Day weekend.

On Tuesday, February 20, at 5:15 pm, there will be religious school.

Wednesday, February 21, at 2 pm, is the deadline for Purim dinner reservations.

On Thursday, February 22, at 10:30 am and 7 pm, the Mahloket Matters Program will be led by Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell. At 5:15 pm, there will be religious school.

On Friday, February 23, at 6 pm, there will be a BYO Shabbat picnic dinner. At 8 pm, Shabbat services with visual tefillah will be led by Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell and Jason Flatt.

On Saturday, February 24, 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 Shabbat family services.

### Rohr Chabad Center

Affiliation: Chabad-Lubavitch  
 Rabbi: Aaron Slonim, E-mail: aslonim@binghamton.edu  
 Address: 420 Murray Hill Rd., Vestal, NY 13850  
 Phone: 797-0015, Fax: 797-0095  
 Website: www.Chabadofbinghamton.com  
 Chabad on the West Side  
 Rabbi: Zalman Chein, E-mail: zchein@JewishBU.com  
 Address: 27 Bennet Ave., Binghamton, NY 13905  
 Phone: 722-3252  
 Regular service times: Daily 7:30 am, Friday evening 6 pm, Shabbat morning 9:30 am, Maariv and Havdalah one hour after candle-lighting time, Sundays 9:30 am.  
 Linking Hearts for youngsters with special needs: This program connects Jewish special-needs children and teenagers, ages 5-14, who have mental, physical and/or functional disabilities, with student volunteers who will visit participating youngsters weekly in their homes.  
 To join the mailing list, for up-to-date information on adult education offerings or to arrange for a private tutorial, for details concerning the Judaica shop and resource center, or for assistance through the Piaker Free Loan Society or Raff Maasim Tovim Foundation, call Chabad's office at 797-0015.

### 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.

### 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  
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 Shabbat Services:  
 Friday, Feb. 16 ..... 5:20 pm  
 Shabbat, Feb. 17 ..... 9 am  
 ..... Mincha after the kiddush  
 ..... Maariv 6:45 pm  
 Weekday Services:  
 Mornings:  
 Sun., Feb. 18 and Mon., Feb. 19 ..... 8:30 am  
 Tues.-Fri., Feb. 20-Feb. 23 ..... 7 am  
 Evenings:  
 Sun., Feb. 18 ..... 5:25 pm  
 Mon.-Thurs., Feb. 19-Feb. 22 ..... 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 16, light candles ..... 5:19 pm  
 Shabbat ends Saturday, February 17 ..... 6:21 pm  
 Friday, February 23, light candles ..... 5:28 pm  
 Shabbat ends Saturday, February 24 ..... 6:30 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 17, at 9:30 am, services will be led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown. The Torah portion will be Exodus 25:1-27:19. The haftarah will be I Kings 5:26-6:13. The kiddush sponsors will be Steven and Barbara Gilbert in honor of the anniversary of his bar mitzvah.

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

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

On Saturday, February 24, at 10 am, there will be a creative service and pot luck lunch. At 7 pm, there will be Minyan Martini Mania at the home of Alan and Julie Piaker. Those planning to attend should RSVP to the office and indicate what dish they will bring.

Those who wish to recite the Mourner's Kaddish during a weekday service can contact Howard Schwartz at schwerz@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.

### 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 Wednesday, February 28, the Purim Carnival will be held at 5:30 pm, a light dinner at 6:30 pm (RSVP required) and the eve of Purim megillah reading at 7 pm.

On Thursday, March 1, at 7:30 am, a Purim service will be held.

On Thursdays, March 1, 8 and 15, at 7 pm, "Origins of the Passover Seder and Haggadah" will be taught by Ross Brann in the Hecht Library.

### 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.

# Jewish Community Center

## Brendan Doherty debuts as Binghamton JCC's new HPER director

Brendan Doherty has joined the Jewish Community Center of Binghamton as its new Health, Physical Education and Recreation director.

A Binghamton native, Doherty first became involved with sports and physical education at a young age, with his sister going Division I in softball, and his father playing basketball at Oneonta, as well as volunteering as a coach at numerous youth organizations throughout the city. It was through his father that he got involved in basketball, which earned him a Division II scholarship in Erie, PA, after graduating from Binghamton High School in 2008. He spent a lot of time

concentrating on performance training and fitness, and then transferred to SUNY Cobleskill, where, by his junior year, he was running all pre-season workouts with the basketball team, as well as training local players during the summer.

Doherty graduated with a bachelor of business administration in technology management. After a short stint in the insurance business, he realized that sports and fitness are his true calling and began working as a recruiter for SUNY Broome, as well as creating a strength and conditioning program at the college.

Inspired by his mother's volunteer work with local youth organizations, Doherty began working with non-profit groups, and said he it to be very fulfilling and purposeful. This led him to a position with the Sgt. Henry Johnson Youth Leadership Academy, a facility for incarcerated youth in Delaware County. Doherty oversaw sports and recreation programs for the entire facility, and said he found the position to both challenging and rewarding.

Beginning his new position as the HPER director at the JCC, Doherty is planning to "maintain the high-quality product

our families have grown to expect from the JCC sports and recreation programs, and provide a foundation for these programs to grow organically." All current sports and recreation programs, such as Sunday Hoopsters and the Elite basketball training camps, will continue to run under Doherty's direction, and he will be expanding the program over time with complementary and additional programs, as well.

Doherty plans to focus on growing the JCC's Fitness Department by developing the personal training and group fitness programs already in place, and eventually bringing in new programs to keep the department "fresh and on the cutting edge."

"We feel very fortunate to have Brendan as part of our staff," said Sheryl Brumer, JCC executive director. "Because he has worked closely with Dan Whalen over the past few years running sports programming here at the JCC, as well as participating in programs as a youth himself, under Tom Foley's tenure, he already has a head start and we are expecting great things from him."

For more information about the JCC Fitness Department, call the JCC office at 724-2417.

### JCC ECC celebrated Tu B'Shevat



On January 31, Wendy Green, JCC Judaic coordinator, read stories to teach the JCC Early Childhood Center children about Tu B'Shevat.



ECC children planted seeds and did arts and crafts projects for Tu B'Shevat.

### JCC ECC entertained by Tri Cities Opera



At right: Tri Cities Opera performers Stacey Geyer, Tascha Anderson, Scott Purcell and John Cockerill sang songs from movies such as "Lion King," "Hercules," "Frozen" and "Anastasia" for the JCC ECC children on February 1.

## Siberian.....Continued from page 7

to convert as many Jewish boys as possible to Christianity. Many boys younger than 12 were drafted by professional Cantonist hunters, according to David Kuzhner, a Tomsk Jewish historian who has studied the community's origins.

Dubbed "Hapuns," these hunters received bounties for each boy they delivered. Some Hapuns worked for rich Jews, who sent them to prey on poor ones to fill the quota. Some of the families of the boys snatched by Hapuns were allowed to see them just one more time before they were shipped to boarding schools in Siberia and beyond. "Weeping mothers brought food to give to their boys," Kuzhner said. "More often than not it was the last kosher meal they ate in their life."

But Tsam and hundreds of other Jewish Cantonists stuck to their faith, either resisting efforts by teachers and commanders to convert them or returning to Judaism once they were discharged. "They and the synagogues they built are a testament and inspiration for the Jewish people," Mendelevitch said.

The Soldiers Synagogue is also part of its Siberian region's crumbling legacy. Built in typical Siberian style, the building features elaborate window frames and a roof with a thorny crown of wooden pegs. Uniquely in Tomsk, the woodwork on the facade has dozens of Stars of David and an annex that faces westward, to Jerusalem, because it used to house the Torah ark.

This city, which is known for its ice sculpture gardens in winter, when temperatures often drop to 22 degrees below zero Fahrenheit, has hundreds of broken-down wooden houses of the same period. Eclipsed by communist-era housing projects, they stand on the brink of collapse, leaning like drunkards in strange angles and literally groaning under the hundreds of pounds of snow and ice that accumulate here on rooftops for months without melting. On long winter nights, the sound of trees breaking under that weight echoes in seemingly deserted streets.

Against this desolate background, Jewish community life is said to be thriving. During the High Holidays, 300 people flock to the main and only functioning synagogue. Confiscated from the Jewish community during communism and turned into a courthouse, it was returned 15 years ago, renovated and reopened in 2010. It has a mikvah and a preschool, where small children, cocooned in colorful overalls as thick as space suits, scamper about the snowed-in playground. There's even

a tiny Jewish elementary school with 15 students, and the third floor has a recreation room for teenagers and young adults.

"Despite its remoteness, Tomsk is a renowned university city and Jewish students enjoy a space with a ping-pong table and free WiFi," said Boris Ramatsky, chairman of the Jewish Community of Tomsk. His grandfather was the last *shamash*, or custodian, of the Soldiers Synagogue, he said.

Tomsk's intellectual character has been good for Jewish community life. Banned during communism from universities in present-day Ukraine and Russian major cities, Jews were allowed to enroll in Tomsk's universities and especially its polytechnic institute. Many of them stayed. But this intellectual character also created friction between Tsam's congregation of army veterans and the established community, with its many doctors and businessmen, according to the historian Kuzhner. This tension was the trigger for building Tsam's synagogue in the first place, he said.

The trigger came in 1905, when one of the veterans, Moshe Gurevich, came with Tsam and a few of his friends to what was then the main synagogue of the city to make an *aliyah* — giving a blessing before the reading from the Torah scroll — to celebrate the birth and circumcision of Gurevich's son. But the men, who were likely happy and probably somewhat inebriated, were turned away from the Kaminersky Synagogue by the rabbi's son, who suggested they go read from the Torah "outside or in a locker room somewhere," said Kuzhner, who has the memoirs of Tsam, who died in 1915.

The former soldiers, who had withstood threats and humiliation in the army as children to hold on to their Judaism, "were deeply offended and decided then and there to start their own synagogue." Ironically, the Kaminersky Synagogue was destroyed without a trace during communism, whereas Tsam's synagogue is still standing, even if just barely. During the Soldiers Synagogue's 24 years in existence, it attracted many congregants who were not army veterans, partly because it was more centrally located than the Kaminersky *shul* from which the soldiers had been turned away.

Unlike Tsam and Gurevich, many Jewish Cantonists did not withstand the pressure to convert to Christianity in the military frameworks to which they were forced, according to Mendelevitch, himself a former prisoner of Zion in Soviet Russia who was jailed for planning to hijack a plane to Israel. He went on hunger strikes over the refusal to provide him

with kosher food in jail. "What's striking in the story is not that many converted, but that some children, as young as 8 and 10, were able to resist," he said. "They are an inspiration for the entire Jewish people, if not for humanity at large."

Notwithstanding, many Cantonists started families that eventually assimilated. But thanks to social networks and growing interest in the Cantonists' story, some of their descendants are retracing their Jewish roots today. Like Ludmilla Lvovna, a history teacher in her 60s who last year found on Facebook distant relatives in Israel. The discovery made her research her family tree and find that her maternal great-great-grandfather, Wolf Bulwacher, was a Cantonist Jew who married a Jewish woman named Hannah.

"It seems I am descended from Kohens," she told JTA during her first visit ever to a synagogue, referring to the priestly class of Judaism. But standing in the women's section of the Tomsk synagogue, Lvovna said she neither feels Jewish nor identifies as such. "I mean, clearly I am," she said. "But for me the discovery was more about finding knowledge than readjusting my sense of identity. A person should know where they come from. That's why I made the research. And it's nice to suddenly have relatives in Israel, Canada, Australia — a big Jewish family!"

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