

# THE REPORTER

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BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK

## Committee seeks to form Southern Tier Jewish History Museum

By Reporter staff

A committee met via Zoom on February 11 to discuss forming a Southern Tier Jewish History Museum at the Kilmer Mansion. The museum's mission would be to inspire people from every background to connect with and preserve the history and culture of the Jewish community in Binghamton and throughout the Southern Tier.

The committee is looking for those interested in becoming members of its Board of Directors as part of the process to receive a non-profit status. It is also looking for people interested in being involved in the formation of the museum, even if they don't want to be on the board.

The purpose of the museum would be to collect and preserve historical



Members of the committee to form a Southern Tier Jewish History Museum met on Zoom on February 11.

artifacts and archival materials that tell the story of the Southern Tier's Jewish heritage; provide educational exhibits and programs for school students and the general public; and place the history of the Jewish people of Binghamton and the Southern Tier into a regional, national and international context.

"I'm very excited about the museum and the opportunity to learn more about the history of our local Jewish community," said Lisa Blackwell, who has been chairing the committee. "We welcome input from all parts of the community as we work to celebrate our past."

Anyone interested in being on the Board of Directors or volunteering with the museum in other capacities should contact Blackwell at [lrblackwell@gmail.com](mailto:lrblackwell@gmail.com).

## Film Fest to hold virtual screening of "Space Torah"

By Reporter staff

The Jewish International Film Fest of Greater Binghamton will hold a virtual showing of the short documentary "Space Torah" on Thursday, March 4, at 7 pm. The showing will be followed by a discussion moderated by its executive producer, Rachel Raz. "Space Torah" tells the story of NASA astronaut Dr. Jeff Hoffman, who participated in five space missions and brought a small Torah with him on one mission.

People will be able to register on the Federation website, [www.jfgeb.org](http://www.jfgeb.org). There is no charge for the film, but donations will be accepted. In addition, viewers will be invited to a follow-up question-and-answer session with Hoffman on Monday, March 15, from 7:30-8:30 pm. The link to the Federation discussion and viewing, and the link to make a reservation for the Hoffman

meeting will be sent after the reservation is made.

During his five space missions, Hoffman brought a variety of Jewish objects with him into space. On his last mission in 1996, he brought along a small Torah scroll on board the Space Shuttle Columbia and, on one Shabbat while orbiting the Earth, read from the book of Genesis. Hoffman noted that taking religious objects into space allowed him to bring his own tradition with him during his missions, but that the Torah scroll had special meaning – serving as a symbol of



NASA astronaut Dr. Jeff Hoffman read from a Torah scroll during one of his flights. (Photo used with the permission of NASA, courtesy of the Space Torah Project)

the holiness of human life.

Hoffman, who became an astronaut in 1978, performed four spacewalks during his missions, including the first unplanned, contingency spacewalk in NASA's history and the initial repair/rescue mission for the Hubble Space Telescope. He was the

first astronaut to log 1,000 hours of flights aboard the space shuttle and the first Jewish American male astronaut to fly into space.

In addition to her position as executive producer of "Space Torah," Raz is the director of the Early Childhood Institute of

the Shoolman Graduate School of Jewish Education of Hebrew College in Massachusetts. She also directs the Boston-Haifa Early Childhood Educators' Connection, serves on the Israeli American Council advisory committee of KESHET and is a board member of UMass Amherst Hillel. In addition, she is the author of the children's books "ABC Israel" and "The Colors of Israel."

"Join us for this fascinating documentary," said Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Federation. "I have had the pleasure of viewing this short film and it was wonderful to learn about Dr. Jeff Hoffman, the first Jewish astronaut, and why it was important to him to bring Jewish objects on his missions. I look forward to hearing what Rachel Raz has to say about the film and hearing from Dr. Hoffman in March."

## TC to host community musical Passover program for 3-6-year-olds and their families

By Reporter staff

Temple Concord will host a musical Passover program for 3-6-year olds and their

families featuring award-winning musician and early childhood music educator Ellen Allard on Sunday, March 14, at 11:30 am.

The Zoom program will be open to the community and is sponsored by a community grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater

Binghamton. Other smaller Jewish communities and congregations will also be joining the program. For Zoom information, contact Temple Concord at 723-7355 or [templeconcordbinghamton@gmail.com](mailto:templeconcordbinghamton@gmail.com).



Ellen Allard (Photo courtesy of Ellen Allard)

According to the Reform Judaism website, "Ellen Allard is synonymous with the very best in children's music. She is a multi-award winning children's recording artist, composer, performer and early childhood music educator, drawing on a rich tradition of musical experiences in presenting her lively and captivating concerts, keynote presentations and workshops for family See "Musical" on page 3

## TBE Ithaca to host 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Jewish stories, poetry and music evening

Temple Beth-El, in Ithaca, will hold its 22<sup>nd</sup> annual evening of Jewish stories, poetry and music on Saturday, March 6, at 7:30 pm. The evening will be held virtually this year.

"A celebration of life, community and the arts will take place on March 6," said organizers of the event. "The event celebrates 22 years of original stories, traditional tales, jokes, folk and contemporary poetry, and dynamic live music from around the world."

Organizers added, "This event has become extremely popular over the years, drawing participants together for an inti-



Lenny Rosenfield and Albert Alexander are shown performing at a past event. (Photo by Marjorie Hoffman)

mate and cozy evening; a real reminder of times past. Although we are not able to be physically together this year, we will create the opportunity to enjoy the warmth of our community and richness of our heritage. With a virtual presentation, people who live in other locales can easily attend."

Register in advance for the event at [https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZ0pcOCrrT4oGNS\\_Hpgj5UCjsDgNni-HyGgcQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZ0pcOCrrT4oGNS_Hpgj5UCjsDgNni-HyGgcQ). For further information, contact the temple at 273-5775 or visit its website at [www.tbeithaca.org](http://www.tbeithaca.org).

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# BGU researchers advocate using shells to monitor pollution

By JNS staff

(JNS)—Ben-Gurion University of the Negev researchers advocate using seashells to monitor currently undetected industrial pollution from factories and desalination plants along the Israeli coastline and worldwide.

“We have quantified trace amounts of heavy metal enrichment from desalination plants on the Mediterranean coast of Israel,” says Professor Sigal Abramovich of BGU’s Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, and head of the Laboratory for Foraminiferal Research. “Our Israel field research and published studies demonstrate the potential of detecting heavy metal traces in foraminiferal shells as a tool for monitoring the coastal facilities industrial footprint. This includes areas that are considered clean marine reserves.”

Abramovich is working with an international network of oceanographers to encourage countries around the world to adopt regular foraminifera monitoring based on the

methods developed in her lab. Using spatial-temporal monitoring, the researchers can now detect heavy metals at very low concentrations in the shells, even before they are considered to be pollution.

Foraminifera are unicellular organisms that produce calcite shells from seawater. Their shells store the chemical and physical properties, including pollution and as a result, provide the basis for most climate research. Foraminifera shells are among the most ancient and abundant fossils. As a result, they are considered one of the most important archives of ancient and modern oceans.

They grow their shells by sequentially adding chambers, each of which provides a chronological sequence to monitor many factors, includ-



Ben-Gurion University of the Negev researchers advocate using seashells to monitor currently undetected industrial pollution from factories and desalination plants along the Israeli coastline and worldwide. (Courtesy photo via JNS)

ing pollution. Their high diversity and presence in all marine habitats make them ideal candidates for monitoring ongoing pollution and its impacts.

Abramovich and her BGU team include Dr. Danna Titelboim, Nir Ben Eliahu, Chen Kenigsberg, Sneha Manda and Doron Pinko. Other collaborators include Professor Barak Herut from the Israel Oceanographic and Limnological Research Institute and Dr. Ahuva Almogi-Labin from the Geological Survey of Israel. This research has been supported by the Israeli Ministry of Science through the BMBF-MOST program, the Israel Science Foundation and by a German-Israeli Foundation for Scientific Research and Development grant.

## Opinion

# Israel and the Temple Mount’s five Muslim rivals

By Daniel Pipes

(JNS)—Everyone knows about the Jewish-Muslim tussle over claims to rule Jerusalem, with its Palestinian lie that Jerusalem has no role in Judaism, and also the pro-Israel rebuttal that the Koran does not mention Jerusalem.

But there’s another heated, if less public, battle over Jerusalem (Arabic: al-Quds): not about the right to rule the city, but regarding authority over the Temple Mount (Arabic: al-Haram ash-Sharif), the holy esplanade containing two antique and holy edifices, the Dome of the Rock (built in 691 C.E.) and Al-Aqsa Mosque (705 C.E.).

◆ **Palestinian Authority:** Controlling the Temple Mount is absolutely central to the P.A.’s mission. It may lack the economic and military resources of a state, but it wields two unique powers: day-to-day management (thanks to Israeli deference) and wide international support for its claim to rule eastern Jerusalem.

The P.A. zealously sustains these powers by intimidating Israel with its calls for Muslim outrage and leftist anti-Zionism. As the effective ruler atop the Temple Mount, it is the status quo power resisting any change.

◆ **Jordan:** Amman enjoys many formal privileges but has minuscule sway on the ground. The 1994 Jordan-Israel peace treaty states that “Israel respects the present special role” of Jordan in “Muslim Holy shrines in Jerusalem” and grants “high priority to the Jordanian historic role in these shrines.”

One scholar mistakenly translates this into a supposed custodianship, “with its attendant duties of maintaining, protecting, and regulating access to the shrines.” Indeed,

Israel colludes with relatively friendly Jordanian kings to hide their impotence because that pretend “special role” is, in the words of Nadav Shragai, “The central anchor that bolsters their monarchical rule, granting it legitimacy in the face of Islamic extremist elements in Jordan. A weakened presence on the mount, Jordan fears, will necessarily also undermine stability in the kingdom to the point of presenting an existential threat.”

◆ **Saudi Arabia:** The Saudis lack influence but acutely aspire to some power to enhance their international standing. John Jenkins, a former U.K. ambassador to Riyadh, explains why: “Iran has always challenged them on the legitimacy of their custodianship of Mecca and Medina. If they were to add a third shrine to their list, it could enhance their claims to be the absolute [religious] leaders of the Islamic world.” The Israelis could hand Riyadh such power, simultaneously sweetening a peace treaty and lessening Palestinian control.

◆ **Turkey:** The Ottoman Empire ruled Jerusalem for four centuries (1516-1917), after which Turkish authorities abruptly lost interest in the city. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan recently renewed claims to its holy places, culminating in an October 2020 statement that “this city that we had to leave in tears during the First World War... is our city, a city from us.”

Ankara has backed those words with tens of millions of dollars to promote Jerusalem’s Turkish heritage, win support for Turkey’s claims over the Temple Mount, and challenge Israeli rule. Allied with Hamas, the Turks do not cooperate

with the Jewish state, which in turn wants to limit its role.

◆ **Morocco:** Chairing the Organization of Islamic Cooperation’s Al-Quds Committee and hosting its headquarters since the committee’s founding in 1975 gives Moroccan kings a certain influence over the Temple Mount – despite a distance of 4,000 kilometers (2,485 miles).

The committee also has a subsidiary, Bayt Mal Al Quds Agency, which funds Islamic interests in Jerusalem by donating prayer rugs, building houses, helping with renovations, etc. Symbolically, Moroccan Foreign Minister Nasser Bourita prayed at Al-Aqsa in March 2018 to send “a strong message of support for the Palestinian cause.”

Generally, Moroccan kings ally on Temple Mount issues with Saudi kings to diminish Jordanian kings. Winning its goodwill presumably had a role in Rabat’s December 2020 decision to normalize relations with Israel.

◆ **Israel:** Israel faces two hostile actors on the Temple Mount – the P.A. and Turkey/Hamas – and three actors quasi-willing to work with it – Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Morocco. Until now, Israeli leaders have lacked the imagination to exploit this rivalry, with its great potential psychological impact. One idea: encourage Emirati rulers to join the other three kings to undermine P.A. legitimacy. Another: revive Ehud Olmert’s initiative to sponsor a committee overseeing Jerusalem’s Islamic sanctities.

The ball is in Israel’s court.

Daniel Pipes ([DanielPipes.org](http://DanielPipes.org), @DanielPipes) is president of the Middle East Forum.

This article first appeared in Israel Hayom.

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

## In My Own Words

# “We lost a year”

“We lost a year.” As the first anniversary of the pandemic hitting the U.S. approaches, some people are mourning what they see as a lost year. I question the value of looking at the past year through that lens. Should we not instead celebrate our resilience? Aren’t our lives more than career advancement, schooling, travels, etc. Is surviving a year of a pandemic – physically and/or mentally – not enough, not something of which we should be proud? Would people talk the same way if the U.S. was at war, or facing major ecological disasters – earthquakes, fires and floods – that completely disrupted their lives?

Please note that I am not saying that people don’t have a right to complain about all that has not occurred during the pandemic. Everyone needs to feel that sorrow and mourn the family, friends and events that they’ve missed. My reaction to the comment of a “lost year” doesn’t come from the current pandemic, though. It’s far more personal than that because I spent almost 20 years of my life that would be counted as “lost” on the scale these people measure.

What happened during those years? That time could be

called the “didn’t years”: didn’t support myself, didn’t get a degree, didn’t hold a full time job, didn’t get married, didn’t have children – didn’t do all the things and more that people are saying were put on hold for one single year. One year? I had almost 20 of them caused by health problems beyond my control.

This makes me sound bitter and I don’t like sounding or feeling that way. That’s why I can’t read articles about our lost year. I need to look forward, to feel gratitude for what I have and all I’ve managed to gain. There was no miraculous cure, just years of work trying to get healthy. And I’m the lucky one: I know people who will never climb out of that hole – who are going to spend the rest of their lives not knowing when they get up in the morning if they will be able to accomplish anything that day. And there is the fear in the back of my mind that my problems will return. I don’t dwell on it, but it’s always there.

As a result of this, I try to practice what might be called radical gratitude – that is being grateful for things we normally take for granted. My father used to say to me

something that I hated at the time, but which I now say to myself when things go wrong: “No one is shooting at you.” That’s not something many people across the world – and that includes too many in the U.S. – can take for granted. I have heat, light, food on the table and enough disposable income to make my life more than comfortable. I am better off than the vast majority of people. And the one thing I for which I am especially grateful for? I had wonderful parents who believed in me and tried everything they could to help me get healthy. Not everyone with health problems is as lucky.

“We lost a year.” No, we *didn’t* lose a year. We lived through this past year as best we could – some experiencing great joy and others great sorrow. We plugged through the days, worrying about work or worrying that we didn’t have work, fearing for our own health and frightened for the health of our loved ones. But what we need to recognize is that we *lived* every day – lived our lives with laughter, with tears, with despair and with hope. That’s why this year counts and that’s something we should never forget.



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### OPINIONS

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

### LETTERS

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

### ADS

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

### DEADLINE

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# TC Sisterhood to hold “Voices of Biblical Women and Food” program

Temple Concord Sisterhood will welcome Rabbi Rachel Esserman and Deb Daniels for “The Voices of Biblical Women and Food” program to be held on Sunday, February 28, at 11 am, via Zoom. Esserman will discuss Leah and Hannah and Daniels will cook plant-based kosher pareve-vegan recipes inspired by these two biblical women. The recipes and discussion come from “Feeding Women of

the Bible, Feeding Ourselves” by Kenden Alford.

The program is free and open to the public. Options to join the Zoom meeting include contacting Lani Dunthorn for the link at [lani.dunthorn@yahoo.com](mailto:lani.dunthorn@yahoo.com), or joining the meeting at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3897224889?pwd=VHFBTXljazFWTjB4aHMxc3RicVhZUT09>, meeting ID 389 722 4889 and passcode 335836; or join via

phone: 1-646-558-8656 (New York), meeting ID: 389 722 4889 and passcode 335836.

Esserman said, “The first time we did this it was just for Temple Concord Sisterhood members. We had such a good time that Deb and I decided to do it again (with different biblical women and different food) and open it to the whole community. Deb did such a wonderful job demonstrating the recipes that we’ve been calling her Sisterhood’s own Rachael Ray. Join us for some food for thought and some healthy food for your body. The questions offered in the book are relevant today and give us much food for thought. The recipes offer us a different way to explore the lives of these women and our own view of the world.”

Daniels said, “The description given in the book is ‘Uplifting the Voices of Hebrew Biblical Heroines and Honoring Them with Simple, Plant-Based Recipes.’”

## TI/TC adult ed. to hold musical program on March 7

The Joint Temple Israel/Temple Concord Adult Education Committee will present a musical program, via Zoom, on Sunday, March 7, at 10 am. The Zoom link for the program is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81770015264?pwd=eGJmSGZUeEM5TGvna0x5eIY0aFIZUT09>, meeting ID 817 7001 5264 and passcode 548453.

“We’ve invited people with a combination of musical talent, availability and willingness (even better, eagerness) to perform to participate in the program,” said Steve Gilbert, co-chairman of the TI/TC Joint Adult Education Committee, who is organizing the program. “During the

program, each performer will introduce her/his offering, and then will perform live from their homes, or run a pre-recorded audio or video file of the performance. This is an informal program and will include performers of widely varying experience. The program is meant entirely to be fun for performers and audience alike. Hope to see you then!”

To take part in a Zoom planning session, sign up on the scheduler form at <https://forms.gle/TKF1MoXxJc-18JRGm9>. For additional information, contact Eve Berman ([eberman@stny.rr.com](mailto:eberman@stny.rr.com)) or Allen Alt ([aalt@stny.rr.com](mailto:aalt@stny.rr.com)).

### NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

#### Syracuse U. tables resolution to adopt IHRA definition, cites Palestinian rights

Syracuse University’s Student Association tabled a resolution on Feb. 22 to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance’s working definition of antisemitism after several members expressed concern regarding the definition’s language. SA President Justine Hastings, along with others, said antisemitism should not be equated with anti-Zionism and worried about how the IHRA definition affects Palestinian rights. Some members were also concerned

about a clause in the bill that denounces the BDS movement. The bill was introduced on Feb. 15 by SA member Noah Wagner. Hastings and SA members suggested that the bill adopt only certain parts of the IHRA’s definition, but Wagner and the bill’s co-author, Kate Berman, co-president of the Chabad House at SU, were unwilling to change the language. “Anti-Zionism is antisemitism. Not denouncing BDS is antisemitism,” said Wagner. “We just have concerns about what is going on around the country, and I think that it is especially important to adopt this and that we have a stance against this.” The bill will be tabled until May, which is when the next legislative session begins.

## Musical..... Continued from page 1

audiences and educational conferences across the country.” Allard has won several Children’s Web awards for her work, including the albums “Sing it! Say it! Stamp it! Sway it! vol. 1,” “Sing it! Say it! Stamp it! Sway it! vol. 3,” “Sing Shalom: Songs for the Jewish Holidays” and “Good Kid.” Her music has been recorded by other artists, and her compositions have been used in schools, synagogues and summer camps. It is also taught to cantorial students attending Hebrew Union College’s Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music in New York City and the Hebrew College in Newton, MA.

“I’m pleased that we will be able to offer Ellen’s music to the Binghamton community,” said Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell, spiritual leader of Temple Concord. “I’ve followed her career and music for years from CAJE

conferences to workshops and webinars. I had the pleasure of attending her Shabbat morning service for families at the URJ Biennial in Chicago, sitting on the floor with everyone, moving, etc., with her and her puppet, Mimi the Mermaid. I’m certain children and their parents will enjoy this wonderful program.”

“This is the first of our community grants,” said Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Federation. “I’m pleased it’s being used to reach the younger children in our community. I think this will be a great way to introduce them to Passover.

A second program with Allard focusing on Israel will take place on Sunday, April 11. For more information, see future issues of *The Reporter*. Allard will be offering a training session for those involved with programming for younger children online in addition to the two family programs.

For more information about Allard, visit her website at <https://ellenallard.com> or view her Youtube channel at [www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=Ellen+Allard](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=Ellen+Allard).

### In Business


#### Davidson Fox

Davidson Fox, an accounting firm at 53 Chenango St., Binghamton, announced that it has purchased Kenneth A. Peworchik, CPAs, an Ithaca and Horseheads accounting firm, and will now be operating in that region out of those locations. Davidson Fox will continue to offer existing and new Ithaca-area clients accounting and financial analysis services, auditing, tax services, as well as operational and management consulting, mergers and acquisition, payroll and more.

*The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to Babs Putzel-Bischoff on the death of her husband,*  
**Charles Bischoff**

*The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to the family of*  
**Marvin Richard Schad**

*The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to Victor Shevchenko on the death of his father,*  
**Anatoly Shevchenko**



## DEADLINES

*The following are deadlines for all articles and photos for upcoming **REPORTER** issues.*

ISSUE	DEADLINE
March 12-25.....	March 3
March 26-April 8 (Passover) .....	March 17
April 9-22.....	March 31
April 23-May 6 .....	April 14

**All deadlines for the year can be found at [www.thereportergroup.org/contact-us/faqs](http://www.thereportergroup.org/contact-us/faqs) under “Q: What Are the Deadlines for the Paper?”**

### Wanted: wedding and engagement photos

*The Reporter* is looking for photos of couples who became engaged or married in 2020 for the annual Wedding, Prom and Party Guide issue (coming March 12). Please e-mail photos, in TIF or JPG format, to [TReporter@aol.com](mailto:TReporter@aol.com) by Tuesday, March 2; please note in the subject line that a wedding/engagement photo for *The Reporter* is attached. Please include the names (including maiden) of the newlyweds or engaged couple, date of the wedding and city/state of residence.





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Off the Shelf

# Women and the war over kosher meat prices

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

“We’re not making riots... But if we cry at home, nobody sees us. We have to help ourselves.” Those were the words Rose Baskin spoke to City Magistrate Robert C. Cornell during her trial at the Essex Market Police Court on May 16, 1902. Although she received a \$3 fine for her conduct, that didn’t stop her and other immigrant women from taking to the streets again to protest the high cost of kosher meat. In “The Great Kosher Meat War of 1902: Immigrant Housewives and the Riots That Shook New York City” (Potomac Books/University of Nebraska Press), Scott D. Seligman looks at how uneducated, Jewish, immigrant women fought to shut down every kosher butcher shop in New York City until they lowered the price of meat.

Determining why the price of meat was increasing was far more complex than these women knew, and Seligman discusses the Beef Trust formed by large meat packing businesses. Their combined power allowed them to control the price of everything from butchered meat to the cost of refrigerated train cars used to transport the beef across the country. Seligman also notes the government’s role in finally breaking this trust’s monopoly. However, for this reader, what’s of greatest interest is how these immigrant

women – women who had never before played a role in public life – turned a simple protest into something greater.

The women who led the strike (as the war was called) against the butchers lived on the Lower East Side and had recently moved to this country. Most of them still spoke Yiddish and followed traditional Jewish practices. As Seligman notes, “Many [of them] sought to lead lives similar to those they had in Europe, and to make as few compromises as possible with the customs of their adopted land. They had left Russia to escape poverty and persecution, not to change their culture.” That meant they kept kosher homes and bought only kosher meat and poultry. They also didn’t appreciate the lifestyle of the uptown German Jews who had been in this country longer and had already assimilated into American life. The split between the two groups was partly based on their religious practice since the German Jews attended Reform synagogues and did not always follow traditional law.

The Orthodox women of the Lower East Side saw the increasing price of meat as a threat to their way of life. A few women gathered for a meeting and began spreading the word through the community – calling for additional meetings, and using newspapers

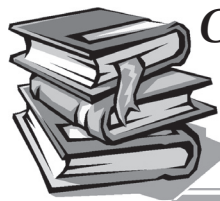
and word of mouth to organize the strike. Although the strike was supposed to be non-violent, violence often did occur. Protesters attacked butcher shops that refused to close – smashing windows, pelting the butchers with produce or bricks, and destroying the interiors of the shops. People who bought meat were also attacked. The meat taken from butcher shops was not divided among the protesters, but rendered uneatable. The police were called to stop the protests and attacked the women, some of whom were arrested or injured. This led to Jewish men taking part in the strike – whether because they didn’t want to see the women hurt or because they felt they would be better able to use their connections to reduce the cost of the meat. This process occurred not just in the 1902 strike, but during several other strikes that took place over the next 20 years.

The meat strikes spread from New York City to other cities and states. Unfortunately, it also pitted Jew against Jew. Most of the Jewish butchers were barely making a living and, after being forced to close during the strike, several were unable to reopen. Seligman discusses their dilemma and explores how the kosher butcher system was organized in New York City. He also writes about the failure of Rabbi

Jacob Joseph, who was brought to the U.S. to serve as chief rabbi of New York City, to control that system. Unfortunately for Joseph, life in America did not lend itself to the same communal structure that worked in Europe. It was also interesting to read about the antisemitic attack that occurred during Joseph’s funeral and how the Jews attending were blamed for the actions of those who attacked them.

The story featured in “The Great Kosher Meat War of 1902” resonates in contemporary times when women – and men – take to the streets to protest injustice, much as Rose Baskin did in 1902. Seligman writes easy-to-read prose, making this book perfect for scholars and non-scholars to appreciate his research. Its introductory timeline and its list of those connected to the strike made it easy to keep track of the events and the people involved. Anyone interested in life on the Lower East Side during the turn of the last century, Jewish women’s history or Jewish immigrant life will enjoy learning about this intriguing episode of Jewish American history.

*Editor’s note: “The Great Kosher Meat War of 1902” was a finalist for the 2020 National Jewish Book Award’s American Jewish Studies Award.*



Off the Shelf

# What does a rabbi think about that?

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

Different opinions and rabbinic debate: those were staples of Jewish religious dialogue as Judaism moved from a sacrificial-based religion to a prayer-based one. As technology changed so did debates on what Judaism thinks about everything from

electricity to plant-based meat. In contemporary times, most of these discussions take place within Jewish movements, rather than between them. However, Moment Magazine has a different idea: how about asking rabbis from different movements their opinion on

an issue and publish them together? Thus was born the magazine’s “Ask the Rabbis” feature in 2005. A selection of these questions and answers can be found in “Can Robots Be Jewish? And Other Pressing Questions of Modern Life” edited by Amy E. Schwartz (Moment Books/Mandel Vilar Press).

The rabbis who answer the questions come from almost every part of American Jewish life: Independent, Humanist, Renewal, Reconstructionist, Reform, Conservative, Modern Orthodox, Sephardic, Chabad and ultra-Orthodox. Schwartz does note it is difficult to get rabbis from the extreme conservative end of the spectrum to comment on such issues as gay rights and women rabbis, something for which the magazine had been criticized. She suggests that those rabbinic figures feel uncomfortable acknowledging something they think should not exist, while also noting that, for some, there are limits to what they feel should be discussed in a Jewish forum.

For this reader, that’s a minor quibble. What is fun is not only seeing where the rabbis disagree, but when those who are far apart on the religious spectrum make similar points. Some rabbis focus on the question asked, while others use the question as a starting point for a series of related ethical ideas. Some answers are very serious, while others are funny (specifically those offered by Modern Orthodox Rabbi Irving (Yitz) Greenberg – just check out the conversation he holds with “his robot” when answering whether a robot can be Jewish).

The 30 questions are broken down into six categories – “Science,” “Sex,” “Modern Life,” “Values,” “Politics” and “The Nature of the Universe” – although some could just as easily be found in a different section. They include practical everyday ones, such as “Should Jewish children sing Christmas carols?” “Does politics belong on the bima?” and “Are we commanded to vote?” Some readers will be surprised at the psychological-based questions, for example, “Should Jews strive to be happy?” and “What sins should we atone for in our use of social media?” Parents will also be interested in learning “When and how should Jewish parents discuss sex with their children?” For those interested in social actions, relevant questions include “According to Judaism, are there fundamental human rights?” and “Does Jewish law forbid racism?”

The answers to the question “Should we edit our children’s genes?” shows how seriously the writers take the different options

science offers. They note the good that comes with preventing diseases like Tay-Sachs, but also mention the problems that could rise from use of the technology, including the creation of “designer babies,” which raises fears of eugenics. What was particularly interesting is that – as Schwartz notes – “the rabbis with special expertise in this topic – those who are physicians or specialize in medical ethics in addition to their rabbinic credentials – were the likeliest to respond that we still don’t know enough about this technology to weigh its risks and benefits.”

Rather than asking whether Judaism allows abortion, the question raised was “When does life begin?” The result is one of the most nuanced and careful discussions of abortion I’ve ever read. It was also interesting to see how each person approached the question. For example, the Independent and Humanist rabbis quote from the Talmud to support their positions, as does the ultra-Orthodox rabbi. All writers allow for some type of abortion, noting that, while the fetus is a human being, it depends on its mother for life. While Schwartz notes that none of their opinions should be taken as official Jewish doctrine, their insights offer interesting ways to view the debate.

The question of “Are tattoos and body piercings taboo” offers a wider spectrum of answers. Some authors believe it’s up to the individual to decide, while more traditional rabbis reject doing either. Schwartz notes that several writers offer “a nice selection of variations on ‘It depends.’” What is interesting is the ways that the rabbis used this question to not just talk about tattoos and piercings, but other aspects of the body – including the idea that our bodies are a gift from God, which should be treated appropriately.

“Can Robots Be Jewish?” serves as a fun learning experience. Its reasoned answers offer a great deal of food for thought and allows readers to ponder opinions they might not have otherwise appreciated. In addition to reading it on one’s own, the work would be great for classes, both for teenagers and adults. It’s also perfect for study groups.

## Community Calendar

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

## PASSOVER 2021 Greetings

March 26 (Deadline: March 18) Personal Greetings and Health Care Greetings

Passover is traditionally a time for sharing with family, friends and strangers. While your seder table may not be large enough to fit all these people, you can share the warmth of this holiday with the entire local Jewish community by placing a Passover greeting in *The Reporter*. You may choose from the designs, messages and sizes shown here - more are available. You may also choose your own message, as long as it fits into the space of the greeting you select. (Custom designs available upon request.) The price of the small greeting is \$20 (styles I & J), the medium one is \$38 (styles G & H), and the next sizes are not shown. The next actual size is 3.22” x 2.958” and is \$57. The largest size is 3.22” x 3.95” and is \$76. To ensure that your greeting is published, simply fill out the form below and choose a design that you would like to accompany your greeting, or contact Kathy Brown at 724-2360, ext. 244 or [advertising@thereporter.org](mailto:advertising@thereporter.org). Checks can be made payable to *The Reporter* and sent to: *The Reporter*, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850.

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# Jewish resources to occupy your family during social distancing – part 32

By Reporter staff

A variety of Jewish groups are offering online resources – educational and recreational – for those who are not allowed out of the house. Below is a sampling of those. *The Reporter* will publish additional listings as they become available.

◆ The Bennett Center for Judaic Studies of Fairfield University will hold several virtual events in March and April, including “Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing: Jewish and Christian Women as Allies in Anti-Racism” on Tuesday, March 16, at 7:30 pm; “Hitler’s American Friends: The Third Reich’s Supporters in the United States” on Monday, March 29, at 7:30 pm; “The Rise and Destruction of the Jewish Fashion Industry, Berlin 1836-1939” on Tuesday, April 13, at 7:30 pm; and “State of Play: The Political Future of the American Jewish Community” on Monday, April 26, at 7:30 pm. For more information or to register, visit [www.fairfield.edu/undergraduate/academics/centers/bennett-center-for-judaic-studies/lectures/](http://www.fairfield.edu/undergraduate/academics/centers/bennett-center-for-judaic-studies/lectures/).

◆ The Center for Jewish History will hold several virtual programs in March, including a discussion of The YIVO Bruce and Francesca Cernia Slovin Online Museum’s inaugural exhibition, “Beba Epstein: The Extraordinary Life of an Ordinary Girl,” on Tuesday, March 2, at 1 pm; “Survival on the Margins: Polish Jewish Refugees in the Wartime Soviet Union,” featuring Eliyana R. Adler on Wednesday, March 3, at 4 pm; “Leaving Behind the Froyen-vinkl, or How Women Functioned in the Male World of Yiddish Literature” on Monday, March 8, at 1 pm; a discussion of “Legal Sabotage: Ernst Fraenkel in Nazi Germany” with author Douglas G. Morris on Thursday, March 11, at 2 pm; Ayala Fader in conversation about her book “Hidden Heretics: Jewish Doubt in the Digital Age” on Monday, March 15, at 4 pm; “The Tenor of Irish-Jewish Relations in 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> Century New York” on Wednesday, March 17, at 7 pm; and historian David Nasaw in conversation about his book “The Last Million: Europe’s Displaced Persons from World War to Cold War” on Wednesday, March 24, at 4 pm. For more information or to register, visit <https://programs.cjh.org/>.

◆ Aleph will hold the Zoom series “Embodying the Divine Mystery: A Kabbalistic Movement Journey” on Sundays, February 28 and March 7 and 14. The course fee is \$36 per session and it suggested that all sessions be taken. For more information or to register, visit [www.aleph.org/civicism/event/register?reset=1&id=322](http://www.aleph.org/civicism/event/register?reset=1&id=322).

◆ The American Sephardi Federation will hold “New Works Wednesdays with

Daniel Tsadik” on Wednesday, March 3, at noon. He will discuss his new book “The Jews of Iran and Rabbinic Literature: New Perspectives.” For more information or to register, visit <http://americansephardi.org/event/new-works-wednesdays-with-daniel-tsadik/>.

◆ HUC-Connects will offer several courses in March, including “Kashruth (Jewish Dietary Laws), Community, and Control: Shehitah (Ritual Slaughter) Manuals and Their Afterlives in Early Modern Europe” on Monday, March 1, at 1 pm; “A Spark of King David: Rabbi Israel Najara’s Poetry and Music” on Tuesday, March 16, at 1 pm; and “Infertility in the Ancient World” on Tuesday, March 9, at 6 pm. For additional course listing, more information or to register, visit <http://huc.edu/huc-connect/huc-connect-2021>.

◆ OFEC Hub will offer new virtual courses for children and adult during March and April. For course listing, more information or to register, visit <https://iac360.org/home/ofek-hub/>.

◆ The Museum at Eldridge Street will hold the virtual talk “Time-Travel Storytime: Frances Perkins, Champion of Workers’ Rights” on Sunday, March 14, from 2-3 pm. The suggested donation is \$8. For more information or to register, visit [www.eldridgestreet.org/event/time-travel-storytime-frances-perkins-champion-of-workers-rights/](http://www.eldridgestreet.org/event/time-travel-storytime-frances-perkins-champion-of-workers-rights/).

◆ Tikvah Open University will hold the virtual seminar “The Foundations of Jewish Conservatism” on Thursdays, March 4, 11 and 18, from 7-8:30 pm. The class is taught by Eric Cohen and there is \$100 fee to attend. For more information or to register, visit <https://tikvahfund.org/tikvah-online/the-foundations-of-jewish-conservatism/>.

◆ The YIVO Yiddish Club will hold two virtual events: “Michael Wex and Yiddish Humor” on Sunday, February 28, at 2 pm (<https://yivo.org/YiddishClub1>) and “Rokhl Kafriksen and Contemporary Yiddish Culture” on Sunday, March 14, at 2 pm (<https://yivo.org/YiddishClub2>). There is no fee to attend, but registration is required.

◆ FIDF Live – featuring host, media personality and former lone soldier Joel Chasoff – will bring stories of the men and women of the IDF directly to viewers. The show will also feature base visits and spotlight donor. The 30-minute episodes will air every other week at 8:30 pm. To view the site, visit [www.fidf.org/fidflive](http://www.fidf.org/fidflive).

◆ The Tikvah Fund offers Ruth Wisse’s course on “‘Daniel Deronda’: George Eliot’s Novel of Jewish Nationalism.” The eight lectures can be found at <https://tikvahfund.org/course/daniel-deronda/>. There is no

charge to listen to the lectures and registration includes a study guide.

◆ LIBERATION75 will hold virtual programs to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of liberation from the Holocaust from May 4-9. The programs will include lectures, films, interactive exhibits. There is no cost to attend. For more information and to see the schedule, visit [www.liberation75.org/conference](http://www.liberation75.org/conference).

◆ YIVO is offering courses in Yiddish language, Jewish history and Jewish culture that are open to the general public. For course listings and more information, visit [www.yivo.org/classes](http://www.yivo.org/classes).

◆ The Herb Alpert School of Music will hold free programs “Celebrating Klezmer and Yiddish Music: Past and Present” in March, including “Famed Clarinetist David Krakauer Featured in Jewish Music Masterclass” on Tuesday, March 2, at 8 pm; “Remembering Theodore Bikel – Actor, Activist, Idealist” on Thursday, March 4, at 8 pm; and “Album Drop: Clarinetist and Composer Michael Winograd” on Thursday, March 25, at 8 pm. For more information or to register, visit <https://schoolofmusic.ucla.edu/resources/lowellmilkenmaje/celebrating-klezmer-and-yiddish-music/>.

◆ The ICenter is offering a certificate program in “Experiential Israel Education,” a six-week hands-on program that “invites each of us to render our own color palettes and design new educational frameworks for deepening relationships with Israel and Israelis.” For more information, visit <https://certificate.theicenter.org/>, phone 847-418-8336 or e-mail Ari Berkowicz ([ari@theicenter.org](mailto:ari@theicenter.org)).

◆ Ritualwell will hold a program for teens ages 13-19 called “Rainbow Lev: Jewish LGBTQ+ Teen Leadership Program” on

Wednesdays, March 3, 10, 17 and 24, from 7-8:30 pm. The cost is \$144 for the four sessions; scholarships are available upon personal request. For more information or to register, visit [www.tickettailor.com/events/ritualwell/482038](http://www.tickettailor.com/events/ritualwell/482038).

◆ Halah, <https://jerusalem.com/halah/>, offers contemporary Israeli literature in English.

◆ The Jewish Feminist Songbook Project will hold the virtual concert “Adding Their Voices: Women of the Bible” on Sunday, March 7, at 2 pm. The concert honors groundbreaking composers giving Jewish feminist voice through song to the women of the Bible. For a list of performers and composers or to register, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/adding-their-voices-women-of-the-bible-tickets-138156641233?aff=ebdssbeac%3Cbr>.

◆ Americans for Peace and Tolerance will hold the webinar “The Failure of Jewish Leadership: ‘Where’s the ADL?’” on Wednesday, March 10, at noon. Charles Jacobs will interview Prof. William A. Jacobson, of Cornell Law School, and Jonathan S. Tobin, the editor-in-chief of the Jewish News Syndicate. For more information or to register, visit [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_XQKNFpmyS-bO6gXp70CEy4A](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_XQKNFpmyS-bO6gXp70CEy4A).

◆ Jewish Women’s Archive will hold the virtual course “Jewish Women, Race, and Ethnicity in America” on Thursdays in March at 8 pm. Sessions will stand alone; details will be announced at a later date. For more information, visit <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/FZ76uCU/MarchHistoryCourse>.

For additional resources, see previous issues of *The Reporter* on its website, [www.thereporter.org](http://www.thereporter.org).

## A new bee species is discovered in Israel

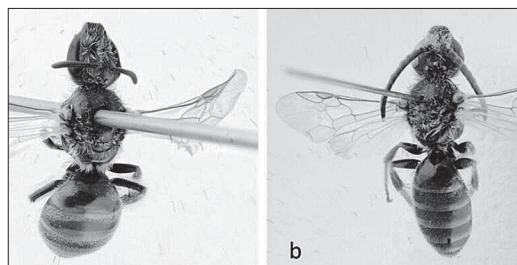
By Abigail Klein Leichman

(Israel21c via JNS) – A new species of bee unique to the sand dunes of Israel’s coastal plains has been identified and described by Alain Pauly, a taxonomist from the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences in Brussels.

The species was named *Lasioglossum dorchini* in tribute to the Israeli bee researcher Achik Dorchin of the Steinhardt Museum of Natural History at Tel Aviv University. This new type of bee is considered especially exciting because a decline in the world bee population is putting crop pollination in danger.

Crop pollination relies mainly on managed colonies of the domesticated honeybee. However, wild, unmanaged bees are also highly effective in pollinating natural and agricultural systems.

Native bees are the most important wild pollinator group. This is why researchers have been trying to conserve native bee habitats in Israel’s coastal region, where large-scale eucalyptus plantings caused



The newly discovered *Lasioglossum dorchini* bees – female on left, male on right. (Photo by Alain Pauly/Belgian Journal of Entomology)

dramatic changes in habitat characteristics and decreased local biodiversity.

Israeli and Belgian researchers led by Professor Yael Mandelik and Ph.D. candidate Karmit Levy from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem spent the past five years studying the effect of restoration activities and specifically how they are benefiting the local bee population. It was during their studies at Alexander River National Park that they found the new wild bee species.

See “Bee” on page 11

## Annual Campaign 2021 CONTINUES

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# Israeli archaeologists may have discovered 2,000-year-old market in City of David

By JNS staff

(JNS) – Excavations by Israeli archaeologists suggest the existence of a 2,000-year-old Jerusalem market in the City of David, the Israel Antiquities Authority said recently in a statement, i24News reported. Archaeologists and historians call the road that is being excavated under an eastern Jerusalem Arab neighborhood the “Stepped Street,” also called the “Pilgrims’ Path” or the “Pilgrimage Road.”



Israel Antiquities Authority archaeologist Ari Levy (partially seen) held a 2,000-year-old measuring table found near the Pilgrimage Road at the City of David in eastern Jerusalem. (Photo by Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)

A rare ancient measuring table and dozens of stone measurement weights that were excavated suggest that the location in the Pilgrimage Road served as a major town square – a center for trade for those traveling to the Temple – during the Second Temple Period.

“The volume standard table we’ve found, as well as the stone weights discovered nearby, support the theory that this was the site of vast trade activity, and perhaps this may indicate the existence of a market,” said Antiquities Authority archaeologist Ari Levy in a press release. “The fact that there were city-specific weights at the site indicates the unique features of the economy and trade in Jerusalem during the Second Temple period, possibly due to the influence of the Temple itself.”

The excavation has to date revealed the top of the stone table, which Levy said would have belonged to the market’s manager or *agoranomos* (from the Greek word *agora*, meaning a central public space), who was in charge of supervising weights and measurements of commodities traded in the city of Jerusalem.

Professor Ronny Reich, an archaeologist and expert in ancient Jerusalem who was among the first to find portions of the



Workers dug at Pilgrimage Road in eastern Jerusalem, near the City of David in 2020. (Photo by Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)

sewer system that led to the discovery of the Pilgrims’ Path, said, “Other stone artifacts were very popular in Jerusalem during the Second Temple; however, so far, excavations in Jerusalem have only

uncovered two similar tables that were used for measuring volume – one during the 1970s in the Jewish Quarter excavations, and another in the Shu’afat excavations in northern Jerusalem.”

## HEALTH & WELLNESS

### Scientists at Tel Aviv University develop new gene therapy for deafness

By JNS staff

(JNS) – A new study from Tel Aviv University presents an innovative treatment for deafness based on the delivery of genetic material into the cells of the inner ear. The genetic material “replaces” the genetic defect and enables the

cells to continue functioning normally. The scientists were able to prevent the gradual deterioration of hearing in mice that had a genetic mutation for deafness. They maintain that this novel therapy could lead to a breakthrough in treating children born with various

mutations that eventually cause deafness. The study was led by Professor Karen Avraham of the Department of Human Molecular Genetics and Biochemistry at TAU’s Sackler Faculty of Medicine and Sagol School of Neuroscience. The paper was published in EMBO Molecular Medicine on December 22.

Deafness is the most common sensory disability worldwide. According to the World Health Organization, about half a billion people suffer hearing loss, with this figure expected to double in the coming decades. One in every 200 children is born with a hearing impairment, and one in every 1,000 is born deaf. In about half of these cases, deafness is caused by a genetic mutation. There are currently about 100 different genes associated with hereditary deafness.

“In this study, we focused on genetic deafness caused by a mutation in the gene SYNE4 – a rare deafness discovered by our lab several years ago in two Israeli families, and since then identified in Turkey and the United Kingdom as well,” reports Avraham. “Children inheriting the defective gene from both parents are born with normal hearing, but they gradually lose their hearing during childhood. The mutation causes mislocalization of cell nuclei in the hair cells inside the cochlea of the inner ear, which serve as soundwave receptors and are essential for hearing. This defect leads to the degeneration and eventual death of hair cells.”

Shahar Taiber, one of Avraham’s students on the combined M.D.-Ph.D. track, explained that “we implemented an innovative gene-therapy technology; we created a harmless synthetic virus and used it to deliver genetic material – a normal version of the gene that is defective in both the mouse model and the affected human families. We injected the virus into the inner ear of the mice so that it

entered the hair cells and released its genetic payload. By so doing, we repaired the defect in the hair cells and enabled them to mature and function normally.”

The treatment was administered soon after birth, and the mice’s hearing was then monitored using both physiological and behavioral tests. “The findings are most promising,” says Professor Jeffrey Holt from Boston Children’s Hospital and Harvard Medical School, a collaborator on the study. “Treated mice developed normal hearing with sensitivity almost identical to that of healthy mice who do not have the mutation.”

The scientists are now developing similar therapies for other mutations that cause deafness.

“This is an important study that shows that inner-ear gene therapy can be effectively applied to a mouse model of SYNE4 deafness to rescue hearing,” says Professor Wade Chien, M.D., from the NIDCD/NIH Inner Ear Gene Therapy Program and Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, who was not involved in the study. “The magnitude of hearing recovery is impressive. This study is a part of a growing body of literature showing that gene therapy can be successfully applied to mouse models of hereditary hearing loss, and it illustrates the enormous potential of gene therapy as a treatment for deafness.”

Additional contributors included Professor David Sprinzak from the School of Neurobiology, Biochemistry and Biophysics at TAU’s George S. Wise Faculty of Life Sciences. The study was supported by the U.S.-Israel Binational Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the European Research Council and the Israel Precision Medicine Partnership Program of the Israel Science Foundation.

The research paper is available at the journal’s website at [www.embopress.org/doi/full/10.15252/emmm.202013259](http://www.embopress.org/doi/full/10.15252/emmm.202013259).



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# On the Jewish food scene

## Jewish and vegan

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

This time I promised myself it would be different. This time I would actually make some of the recipes. Well, I may have had the best of intentions, but they went nowhere. The main problem is that I don't have most of the ingredients on hand and really don't want to buy things I might only use once. (Please note that my cupboard does not even contain flour, and my spices are generally limited to garlic powder, onion powder and cinnamon.) That doesn't mean I didn't love "Beyond Chopped Liver: 59 Jewish Recipes Get a Vegan Health Makeover" by Kenden Alford (Turner Publishing Company). Alford, known for her Jewish Food Hero website (<https://jewishfoodhero.com/>) and newsletter, is interested in healthy, meat-free, dairy-free, plant-based recipes, and the recipes in this book look really interesting.

If we weren't in the midst of a pandemic, I would have invited a friend to a vegan

"Matzo Ball Soup" soup-off. She swears by hers (and her kids love it), but it would be fun to see if Alford's is better. However, "Beyond Chopped Liver" is more than rethinking and remaking Ashkenazi food. She also includes many foods of Sephardi/Mizrahi origin. For example, "Red Lentil and Chickpea Harira Soup" and "Spiced Yellow Lentil Soup" also look really good.

Before sitting down to write this, I was out in the cold, so the soups caught my interest first, but Alford offers everything from bread and dips to salads, main courses and desserts. The "Pomegranate Sorbet" sounds perfect for a hot, summer day and I was tempted to make it because it has the fewest ingredients, but she recommends using vodka or flavored alcohol and they don't carry those at my grocery store. (I have not been in a liquor store since the pandemic started, so what little alcohol

supply I had ran out a long time ago.) However, I am going to keep that in mind for when summer returns.

If I were going to ask someone (after the pandemic, of course) to make a great meal for me, I would want the following menu:

- ◆ Bread (for what is a Jewish meal without bread): Challah (if a Shabbat meal) or "Yael's Stovetop Pita."
- ◆ Dips (as an appetizer): Hmm, we would need a choice of dips to go with that pita, so I'd like the "Roasted Eggplant and Yellow Pepper Spread" and "Roasted Pumpkin and Apple Spread."
- ◆ Soup: The ones I already wrote about above – "Red Lentil and Chickpea Harira Soup" and "Spiced Yellow Lentil Soup" – still sound good.
- ◆ Salad: No lettuce in any of these, so I'd choose either the "Beet and Walnut Salad with Spiced Non-Dairy Yogurt" or "Carrot

Salad Plus." However, a few others also look interesting.

- ◆ Main dishes: Oy, there are so many choices it's hard to narrow it down. But I'm going to go with either "Stuffed Cabbage Rolls" (which I like, but never made) or "Sweet and Sour Meatballs." But since no side dishes are listed, these would work since we need something else to eat with the main course: "Sweet Three Starches and Fruit Kugel" and "Twice Baked Sweet Potato Tzimmes."
- ◆ Dessert: Since someone else would be baking for me, I'm willing to be ambitious (on their behalf). "Creamy Berry Cheesecake Parfaits" or "Fudgy Flourless Chocolate Cake" sound like the perfect ending to any meal.

Now, sigh, I have to convince a friend to cook for me. Hmm, maybe that will work if I also offer them a copy of "Beyond Chopped Liver."

# HEALTH & WELLNESS

## Moving into a retirement community during a pandemic

Choosing a Continuing Care Retirement Community can prove beneficial for seniors, especially during the pandemic. Seniors may feel especially isolated during the pandemic when people stop visiting over concerns of spreading the disease. Retirement communities can allow for safe socialization through smaller dining venues and activities. Residents can also attend meetings and exercise classes held through a facility's dedicated TV channel, if the CCRC has one.

The things to look for when choosing a CCRC include maintenance-free living, fitness and social activities, housekeeping services, dining options, entertainment, grounds maintenance and landscaping services, and priority access to the assisted living and skilled nursing center. These are the major components of a CCRC, along with the guarantee that once a person qualifies for admittance, even if their finances begin to run low, they will never be asked to leave.

The CCRC should also offer a healthy lifestyle with plenty of social opportunities and a maintenance-free lifestyle. During

the pandemic, there should be thorough sanitation of all common areas to ensure that seniors are safe in their environments. Delivery of meals throughout the pandemic should be available for those who have concerns about going to the dining room for a meal.

Financial stability is also a key factor for moving into a community now. The costs are established, and once a resident qualifies for admittance, they are never asked to leave even if their resources run low. There are no surprises, such as needing to replace a furnace, appliance or other major home repair.

Among other things to look for are accommodations that are bright and spacious, and which provide one-level living with all amenities included in one monthly fee. There should also be outside spaces with porches, patios and decks for people who enjoy sitting outside in the nicer weather.

*This information was supplied by Mary Kay McKinney, who is executive director of independent living at Good Shepherd Village, a continuing care retirement community.*



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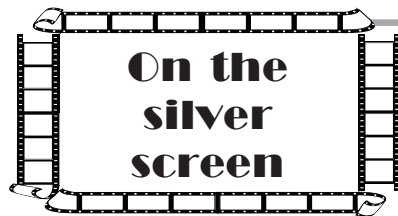
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## Yahrzeit for Izzy: Remembering Kirk Douglas, part I

BILL SIMONS

This is Izzy's first *yahrzeit*. He died a year ago on February 5, 2020, the 10<sup>th</sup> of Shevat on the Jewish calendar. For his children and family, the tradition is to light a memorial candle. And for those of us who knew Izzy at a distance as Kirk Douglas, it is an appropriate time to reflect on the legacy of a significant Jewish-American life. During a journey that spanned 103 years, Douglas achieved fame, wealth and significance as an actor, producer, author, social activist, philanthropist and founder of a performing dynasty, most notably represented by son Michael.

He was born Issur Danielovitch in 1916 to Jewish parents, impoverished Russian immigrants, in Amsterdam, NY. The family shortened their surname to Demsky, and everyone called the boy Izzy. Yiddish was the language of the home. An only son, Izzy had six sisters. Herschel, the father, eking out a meager living as a ragman, descended into physically abusive alcoholism. As he worked odd jobs helping the family make ends meet, Izzy endured taunts and beatings from antisemitic gangs. Despite the grim circumstances, his mother, Bryna, encouraged Izzy to believe in himself. So, too, did his high school English teacher: Mrs. Livingston introduced Izzy to poetry, drama and romance.

A good student and outstanding wrestler, Izzy worked his way through St. Lawrence College. He enlisted in the Navy prior to Pearl Harbor, served as a gunnery and communications officer in the Pacific during World War II, and suffered injuries due to the accidental discharge of a depth charge.

After the war, Douglas resumed his dream of becoming an actor. Acting offered figurative and literal escape from his Dickensian coming of age. In that time and that place, it was politic to change his name from the Jewish-identifier Izzy Demsky to Kirk Douglas. His Jewish identity followed a certain arc. A bar mitzvah at 13, the young Izzy resented the demands of religious study. Although associated with Jewish projects in middle age, Douglas drifted away from religious observance. During the last decades of his long life, Douglas' Jewish identity intensified, evidenced by Torah study, strong support for Israel, a second bar mitzvah and

conversion of his wife, Anne, to Judaism.

It is as an actor that Douglas is best known. Between 1946 and 2008, he appeared in more than 90 films, the featured star in most of them. Douglas' acting style was memorable and mesmerizing, but not subtle. An intense, manic hypermasculinity animated his screen personae. The cinematic Douglas fought fiercely, suffered profoundly and exulted in the pleasures provided by wine, women and food. Although compact at 5'9", 175 pounds, Douglas possessed a powerful masculinity and energetic athleticism that he impressed upon the characters he portrayed. Possessed of a strong, commanding, urgent voice and ruggedly good looking with light brown hair, clenched teeth, cleft chin, strong column-like neck, broad shoulders and tapered waist, he provided an easy mark for impressionists.

Insecurities fueled by the lingering resonances of childhood deprivation, ferocious ambition and a combative template meant that Douglas was not always easy to live or work with. His frequent co-star and frenemy Burt Lancaster asserted, "Kirk would be the first person to tell you he's a very difficult man – and I would be the second." Despite his demanding personality, Douglas was a major box office attraction, and he made a number of acclaimed and important films.

For his riveting performance as the 19<sup>th</sup>-century Dutch painter Vincent van Gogh in "Lust for Life" (1956), Douglas received an Academy Award nomination in the Best Leading Man category. Douglas captured the brilliant, tortured passion of van Gogh, dramatizing the artist's sublime use of light and color in landscape and portraiture, as well as the depression and psychosis that led van Gogh to severe his own ear and to subsequently commit suicide. To inhabit van Gogh's personae, Douglas, possessed of a remarkable facial resemblance to the artist, remained in character off-screen. "Lust for Life" contributed to a major revival of interest in van Gogh's paintings.

In "Paths of Glory" (1957), a powerful, realistic anti-war film, French soldiers are caught in the futile carnage of trench warfare during World War I. As French Colonel

Dax, Douglas is ordered to lead his men in an impossible assault on an impregnable German position. To cover up his own failure, a general orchestrates the court martial of three soldiers under the pretext of cowardice. Dax, an attorney before the war, defends the soldiers in a trial corrupted to make the accused scapegoats for the failed operation. An unjustifiable guilty verdict is followed by the execution of the three soldiers. Douglas' Dax projects a moral outrage not easily forgotten.

Ironically, "Lonely are the Brave" (1962), a relatively small modern cowboy drama, ranked as Douglas' favorite film. For a city boy, he rode well atop a horse. During Douglas' boyhood, antisemites set fire to the stable that housed the draft horse that pulled his father's rag wagon, burning the horse to death. In "Lonely are the Brave," Douglas' character (Jack Burns), a rugged individualist who battles against the encroachments of civilization, is traumatized when his beloved horse (Whiskey), crossing a major highway, fatally collides with an 18-wheel truck.

Given the attempted Washington, DC, coup on January 6, 2021, "Seven Days in May" (1964) is a particularly relevant film. The political thriller marked a collaboration between Douglas and screenwriter – and Binghamton native – Rod Serling. "Seven Days in May" underlines that the greatest peril to democracy comes from demagogues in positions of power. As Marine Colonel Martin "Jiggs" Casey, Douglas plays a key role in thwarting a plot to replace the democratically-elected president with a military regime. The film ends with an exhortation for democracy to remain vigilant: "The whisperers and the detractors, the violent men are wrong."

*Part II of this Kirk Douglas series will examine "Spartacus," his most famous movie within its Cold War context, as well as the Jewish themes and content in several of his major films.*

*Bill Simons is a professor of history at SUNY Oneonta, whose course offerings include sport and ethnic history. He is also the co-director of The Cooperstown Symposium on Baseball and American Culture, and served as a speaker for the New York Council on the Humanities.*

# Financial Planning

## Ten tips for teaching your children about saving

(StatePoint) – Kids often view money as having one function only: to buy stuff, right now. Give a young child \$5 and he'll likely spend it all, often looking for things that cost \$5.

Parents play critical roles in teaching children financial fundamentals, including the importance of saving. Here are 10 ways to teach children to make smart money choices:

1. Bring out the piggy banks. Have children divide their money into three banks or jars for spending, saving and

giving. This helps them understand spending is not the only use for money. To make the rewards of saving more concrete, consider matching some of their saved funds.

2. Give your child opportunities to earn. Consider paying your child an age-appropriate allowance. You may decide to tie it to chores, or simply provide a small stipend without conditions.

3. Open a savings account. Many banks and credit unions offer savings accounts for kids, with low-balance minimums

and maintenance fees, goal-setting tools, and even rewards for reaching goals. The benefit of saving regularly will become apparent as your child watches the account balance grow.

4. Help them identify personal saving goals. Are they eyeing a new toy or video game? Hoping to see a movie or ball game? Help children determine how much their "want" costs and make a plan for saving up.

See "Saving" on page 9

## Quick Reference Guide to Planned Giving

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Put a bequest in your will (gifts of cash or a share or the residue of your estate)

Create a charitable gift annuity

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Contribute a life insurance policy you no longer need or purchase a new one and designate a charity as the owner

Make a qualified charitable donation directly from your IRA (after age 70½)

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An income tax deduction and immediate charitable impact

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Exemption from federal estate tax on donations

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Reducing taxable income



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# Jewish organizations slam ICC decision to open war crimes investigation against Israel

By JNS staff

(JNS) – Jewish groups and legal experts are directing harsh criticism at the International Criminal Court at The Hague over its recent ruling that it has jurisdiction to investigate Israel for war crimes.

A three-judge panel ruled that Judea and Samaria, the Gaza Strip and eastern Jerusalem are within its jurisdiction, as “Palestine [is] a State party to the ICC Rome Statute.” The 2-1 decision cleared the way for ICC Chief Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda to open a war-crimes probe into Israel Defense Forces actions.

On February 6, Israeli Prime Minister called the ruling “pure antisemitism,” and the U.S. State Department issued a statement opposing the ruling.

NGO Monitor, together with three other groups, have jointly filed an amicus brief with the ICC that lays out the legal and factual flaws behind the argument that the ICC has jurisdiction to investigate Israel.

According to NGO Monitor’s legal adviser Anne Herzberg, the court’s ruling is “hardly surprising.”

“The ICC prosecutor has been gunning for Israel for several years, and has been working closely with European-funded terror-linked NGOs to craft bogus indictments against Israeli officials,” she told JNS. “The fact that Palestine is not a state, that the Oslo accords expressly prevent the court from asserting jurisdiction and that the prosecutor made up a fake rule to go after the Jewish state, were ignored. And the judges have repeatedly flouted the ICC’s own procedures to try and manufacture a case against Israel.

“NGO Monitor has found that many of these radical groups benefit from European governmental financial support,” said Herzberg. “In other words, anti-Israel animus and political machinations are more important to the court than preserving its credibility. European donors of the terror-tied NGOs and the court share responsibility for this legal travesty.”

Former Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations Danny Danon, who currently serves as chairman of the World Likud, also had harsh words for the ICC chief prosecutor. “If anyone should take the stand, it should be ICC Chief Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda,” said Danon, adding that the ICC has “once again chosen to demonize and persecute

Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East,” he said in a statement on February 6.

Danon further stated that “this hypocritical and antisemitic ruling” by Bensouda “focuses on Israel while ignoring countries who carry out horrific human rights abuses every single day. This lack of accountability is a misuse of the ICC’s power and position, a perversion of justice, and much worse, enables the real and sickening exploitation to continue. The decision has broadcast the ICC’s true colors to the international community.”

Professor Eugene Kontorovich, Director of International Law at the Jerusalem-based Kohelet Policy Forum, agreed that the ICC has no jurisdiction in this case, calling the ruling “lawless.”

“The ICC’s acceptance of jurisdiction to investigate a non-member state on behalf of a member that is not a state, and its conclusion about jurisdiction, are lawless and entirely results-oriented,” he told JNS. “The ICC has treated Israel by a standard it has applied to no other nation. It makes a mockery of the Oslo Accords and shows Israel that it gains nothing from concessions, while the Palestinians face no consequences from unilateral action.”

Kontorovich noted that the Biden State Department recently asked that neither side in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict take action to change the status quo at this time. “Now the P.A. [Palestinian Authority] is seeking to establish borders via the ICC, rather than negotiations. One wonders how Washington will react to this,” said Kontorovich.

Representatives of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations also rejected the claim that the ICC has jurisdiction in the case, charging that the court was “politically and ideologically motivated” since its own founding statutes “limit its involvement to disputes between sovereign states only.”

In a statement issued on February 7 and signed by its executive team, the Jewish umbrella group called the ruling a “distortion of international law” and said that the court’s ruling “undermines its own legitimacy as an unbiased judicial forum.”

The group said they appreciated the U.S. State Department’s statement regarding the ruling.

*JNS note: The Assembly of State Parties to the Rome Statute on Feb. 12 elected British attorney Karim Khan the new chief prosecutor of the International Criminal*

*Court. Khan is currently assistant secretary-general of the United Nations. He is best known for leading the U.N.’s special team investigating Islamic State crimes in Iraq, according to Reuters. Khan, who is to begin his nine-year term on June 16, replaces ICC Chief Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda, who has been the focus of criticism for her role in the ICC’s Feb. 5 ruling that court has jurisdiction to open a criminal investigation against Israel for alleged war crimes committed against Palestinians in eastern Jerusalem, Gaza and the Palestinian-controlled areas in Judea and Samaria. One of Khan’s first decisions could be whether or not to proceed with such an investigation. He will also have to decide if the court will continue to pursue an investigation into the United States for alleged war crimes committed by American troops in Afghanistan, begun last year by Bensouda.*

## NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

### Stevie Wonder earns Israel’s Wolf Prize

Legendary singer-songwriter Stevie Wonder was awarded Israel’s Wolf Prize on Feb. 9 along with a group of laureates in the arts and sciences. The “Superstition” singer received the award for “his tremendous contribution to music and society enriching the lives of entire generations of music lovers,” according to a statement from Israeli President Reuven Rivlin’s office. Wonder, 70, is only the second black recipient to receive the Wolf Prize in the music field, following opera singer Jessye Norman. He shares the music award with Austrian composer Olga Neuwirth. “Both Neuwirth and Wonder, though fundamentally different in genre and style, have pushed the boundaries of their art, each in his/her own realm of expression, to serve as a vehicle for universal values and humanistic ideals,” said the state-owned nonprofit Wolf Foundation, which administers the award to promote excellence in science and the arts. Giorgio Parisi received the prize for physics; Joan Steitz, Lynne Maquat and Adrian Krainer won the medicine prize; and Leslie Leiserowitz and Meir Lahav won in the field of chemistry.”

# Financial Planning

## Saving..... Continued from page 8

5. Make family events money management exercises. Planning a vacation? Give middle- or high-schoolers responsibility for planning and saving for one aspect of the vacation, such as a family meal or an evening’s entertainment.

6. Introduce investing. For older children, explain that money they save can be used to “own a piece” of a good business, either by buying the company’s stock or by finding a mutual fund that holds this kind of stock. Talk about businesses your child knows, such as Disney, Apple or Starbucks.

7. Model daily spending and saving decisions. By discussing money-making decisions with your child as you

shop, cook and pay bills, you provide concrete examples to model. When deciding whether to prepare dinner at home or go out, talk about the savings created by staying home and how those savings could be used.

8. Use your grocery store as a classroom. Show your child how to comparison shop, checking unit prices of similar items and deciding which is better. Consider sharing a portion of the “savings” with them, to dedicate to something of their choice.

9. Involve children in household money management. Enlist their help in opening bills, identifying what they’re

for, and circling amounts payable and due dates. This gives them an appreciation of routine living expenses and the need to save to pay for services like electricity and water.

10. Engage your CFP professional. Ask your certified financial planner professional to speak to your child about smart money choices. This can be particularly valuable for kids leaving for college.

Giving young children first-hand money management experience will make it more likely that they develop the framework necessary to manage personal finances as adults. For more tips, visit [letsmakeaplan.org](http://letsmakeaplan.org).

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Tetzavah, Exodus 27:20-30:10

# Kindling our inner menorah

RABBI ZALMAN CHEIN, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND RITUAL, CHABAD OF BINGHAMTON

The current series of Torah portions discusses the construction of the *Mishkan*/Tabernacle, the predecessor to the Holy Temple, and its contents. God instructed Moses, "And they shall make for Me a holy place and I will dwell within them." (Exodus 25:8) This describes the purpose of the *Mishkan* and the Holy Temple: We are to build a physical structure in which God's holy presence will rest and be revealed. The words "within them," rather than

"in it," further teach us that God is charging each of us with building an inner temple, in order to welcome God to dwell within ourselves.

This week's Torah portion begins by discussing the menorah that stood in the *Mishkan* and the Holy Temple: "And you shall command the children of Israel, and they shall take to you pure olive oil, crushed for lighting, to kindle the lamps continually. In the Tent of Meeting, outside

the dividing curtain that is in front of the testimony, Aaron and his sons shall set it up before the Lord from evening to morning; [it shall be] an everlasting statute for their generations, from the children of Israel." (Exodus 27:20-21)

God commanded us that the menorah be kindled daily. When the Tabernacle was in use, it was kindled there; later, it was kindled in the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. Nowadays, See "Menorah" on page 11

## Congregational Notes

### Temple Concord

Affiliation: Union for Reform Judaism  
 Rabbi: Barbara Goldman-Wartell  
 Address: 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905  
 Office hours: Tues.-Fri., 10 am-2 pm  
 Phone: 723-7355  
 Fax: 723-0785  
 Office e-mail: TempleConcordbinghamton@gmail.com  
 Website: www.templeconcord.com  
 Regular service times: Friday, 8 pm; Saturday, 10:35 am, when religious school is in session.  
 Hebrew school: Hebrew school meets at 4:15 pm and 5:15 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the school year unless otherwise noted.

All services and programs are online only. Friday night Shabbat services will start at 7:30 pm in February. There are also new Zoom links for Torah study and "Havdalah with a Bonus."

Friday, February 26: 7:30 pm, Shabbat services with Rabbi Linda Henry Goodman, rabbi emerita of Union Temple of Brooklyn, and Jason Flatt on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81957095574?pwd=SGR-TU21rZFMzZml2Mzk1dncyTlFuUT09>, meeting ID: 819 5709 5574, passcode 097653.

Saturday, February 27: 9 am, Shabbat school; 9:30 am-12:30 pm, "Misrashin" the Megillah; Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell will teach "The Upside-Down World of the Megillah" at 9:30 am on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88298087579>; and at 7 pm, "Havdalah with a Bonus" on Zoom with Rabbi Rachel Esserman at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89741791260?pwd=MzZN-Q0trQWhycGFZdzloczExUkhXdz09>.

Sunday, February 28: 11 am, "The Voices of Biblical Women and Food" hosted by Rabbi Rachel Esserman and Deb Daniels at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3897224889?pwd=VHFbTXljazFWtjB4aHMxc3RicVhZUT09>, meeting ID 389 722 4889, passcode 335836; or via phone at 1-646-558-8656, meeting ID 389 722 4889, Passcode 335836. (For more information, see the article on page 3.)

Wednesday, March 3: Sisterhood schmooze at 6:30 pm.

Thursday, March 4, at noon: "Why Can't Mother Vote? A conversation with Bill Haltom," which tells the story of Joseph Hanover, an Orthodox Jew who fled Poland in 1895 and found a new life in Memphis, TN. As a young citizen of the U.S., he read the Constitution and did not understand why the right to vote was not extended to all Americans. He led the fight for the ratification of the 19th Amendment. To register for the event, visit [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYuf-GhrT4sH-tU5-UP-11YD6qLD6qAps\\_nh](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYuf-GhrT4sH-tU5-UP-11YD6qLD6qAps_nh).

Friday, March 5: at 7:30 pm, HIAS Refugee Shabbat.

Saturday, March 6: at 9:15 am, Torah study at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88298087579?pwd=eTVkMDRV-VlpwTmZvMkdYTm1OK0w1Zz09>; and at 8 pm, HIAS Refugee Shabbat Havdalah with refugee advocates and activists across the globe. Advance registration required. To RSVP, visit [www.hias.org/get-involved/events/refugee-shabbat-havdalah](http://www.hias.org/get-involved/events/refugee-shabbat-havdalah).

Sunday, March 7: at 10 am, the joint Temple Concord/Temple Israel Adult Education Committee will hold an informal musical program via Zoom, which will include performers of varying experience. (See article on page 3.)

### Temple Brith Sholom

Affiliation: Unaffiliated  
 Address: P.O. Box 572, 117 Madison St., Cortland, NY 13045  
 Phone: 607-756-7181  
 President: Carol Levine, 315-696-5744  
 Cemetery Committee, 315-696-5744  
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Temple-Brith-Sholom-114006981962930/>  
 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 Facebook page or 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.

### Synagogues limit face-to-face gatherings

For specific information regarding services (including online services), meetings and classes at any of the area synagogues, contact them by phone or e-mail.

### Beth David Synagogue

Affiliation: Orthodox Union  
 Rabbi: Zev Silber  
 Address: 39 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905  
 Phone: 722-1793, Rabbi's Office: 722-7514, Fax: 722-7121  
 Office hours: Mon. closed; Tues. 10 am-1 pm; Wed. closed; Thurs. 9 am-1 pm; Fri. 10 am-1 pm  
 Beth David e-mail address: bethdavid@stny.rr.com  
 Rabbi's e-mail: rabbisilber@stny.rr.com  
 Website: www.bethdavid.org  
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/bethdavidbinghamton

### Temple Beth El of Oneonta

Affiliation: United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism  
 Rabbi-Cantor: George Hirschfeld  
 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. For the schedule of services, classes and events, see the website.

### Penn-York Jewish Community

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### Rohr Chabad Center

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 E-mail: yohana@Jewishbu.com, gohana@Jewishbu.com  
 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.  
 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.

Chabad will be holding pre-Shabbat virtual programs. For more information, visit [www.JewishBU.com/S2020Partnership](http://www.JewishBU.com/S2020Partnership).

### Congregation Tikkun v'Or

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

Friday, February 26, light candles before..... 5:32 pm  
 Saturday, February 27, Shabbat ends ..... 6:34 pm  
 Friday, March 5, light candles before..... 5:40 pm  
 Saturday, March 6, Shabbat ends ..... 6:42 pm  
 Friday, March 12, light candles before..... 5:49 pm  
 Saturday, March 13, Shabbat ends ..... 6:50 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-3:30 pm; Fri., 8 am-3 pm  
 E-mail: titammy@stny.twcbc.com  
 Website: www.templeisraelvestal.org  
 Service Schedule: Tuesday, 5:30 pm; Friday, 5:30 pm; Saturday, 9:30 am

On Fridays and Tuesdays at 5:30 pm, services will be led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown via Zoom.

On Saturday, February 27, Shacharit services will be held at 10:30 am via Zoom. The Torah portion is Exodus 27:20-30:10 and the haftarah is Ezekiel 43:10-27. At 6:30 pm, there will be Havdalah services via Zoom. Both will be led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown.

On Sunday, February 29, at 10:30 am, Rabbi Geoffrey Brown will lead Torah study via Zoom.

An Executive Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 2, at 7 pm, on Zoom.

On Saturday, March 6, Shacharit services will be held at 10:30 am via Zoom. The Torah portion is Exodus 30:11-34:35 and the haftarah is Ezekiel 36:16-38. At 6:45 pm, there will be Havdalah services via Zoom. Both will be led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown.

The Temple Israel/Temple Concord Adult Education Committee will hold a program on Sunday, March 7, at 10 am, on Zoom. The program will be a celebration of Jewish music performed by local members of the community. (See article on page 3.)

### Norwich Jewish Center

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

### Temple Beth-El of Ithaca

Affiliation: United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism  
 Rabbi: Rachel Safman  
 Rabbi Emeritus: 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  
 Presidents: David Weiner and Linda Aigen  
 Sisterhood President: Julie Paige  
 Director of Education: Rabbi Suzanne Brody  
 Administrative Assistant: Jane Griffith  
 Services: Fri. 8 pm; Sat. 10 am, unless otherwise announced.  
 Weekday morning minyan 7:30 am (9 am on Sun. 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.  
 For upcoming services and events on Zoom, visit [www.tinyurl.com/HappeningAtTBE](http://www.tinyurl.com/HappeningAtTBE).

### 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.

# Polish ruling on Holocaust libel case causes profound concern among Jewish groups

By Faygie Holt

(JNS)—A ruling issued by a court in Poland on February 9 is meeting fierce criticism from Jewish groups and others who claim that the decision will silence further examination of the role of Polish citizens during the Holocaust.

The criticism comes after a court found that the authors of “Night Without End: The Fate of Jews in Selected Counties of Occupied Poland” – Jan Grabowski, professor of history at the University of Ottawa in Canada, and Barbara Engelking, director of the Research Centre for the Extermination of Jews – must issue a retraction of their work and apologize to the niece of Edward Malinowski,

a Polish man, who was briefly mentioned in the book as being complicit in the murdering Jews during the Holocaust.

“There are those in today’s Poland who want to deny or deflect the fact that some of their countrymen abused and even killed Polish Jews during World War II. They only want to remember the horrors wrought on the Polish nation by the Nazis, while denying this sordid truth,” Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center and global director of its Ed Snider Social Action Institute, told JNS.

“The Jewish people simultaneously revere the memory of thousands of Righteous Poles who, often at great personal

risk, saved Jews during this period, while at the same time denouncing the people who abused and killed Polish Jews. Polish history is complicated, and the only ones who should be apologizing are those who seek to rewrite it,” he said.

The libel case in Poland stems from a controversial 2018 law passed by the Polish government that made it a civil offense to make false accusations about Polish history in the Holocaust. The law originally included criminal penalties, but was amended after an international outcry from Jewish groups, as well as outrage in Israel, which led to strained relations between the countries at the time. Despite the passing of some 75 years since the end of the war, Poland still struggles to come to grips with its history from 1939 to 1945.

In 1939, the country was home to 3.3 million Jews; in 1945, it had been reduced by 90 percent to an estimated 300,000 survivors.

The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany and the World Jewish Restitution Organization issued a joint statement on February 9, saying, in part: “The history of the Holocaust requires independent scholarly research that must not be subject to inappropriate efforts at pressure by politicians and the courts. This verdict is a concerning example of Holocaust distortion against which the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, of which Poland is a member, has taken a stand.”

Gideon Taylor, president of the Claims Conference and WJRO’s chair of operations, added that, “Poland must encourage open inquiry into its history, both the positive and negative aspects, in order to build a society for the future, based on solid ground and a genuine understanding of the past.”

Prior to the ruling, officials from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum weighed in on the case and said that lawsuit “raises serious concerns about the future of independent Holocaust scholarship in Poland and elsewhere. This is one of several troubling trends in the region and beyond . . . Honestly reckoning with Holocaust history is essential to the health of societies. Unfettered scholarship and open public discourse are necessary in order to uncover the full scope of Holocaust history and understand its continued relevance.”

# Holocaust museum to be inaugurated in Oporto, Portugal

By Israel Hayom staff

(Israel Hayom via JNS) – Oporto, the second-largest city in Portugal after Lisbon, plans to inaugurate a new Holocaust museum. It will be the city’s first museum of this kind. Oporto Jewish community President Dias Ben-Zion and the mayor of Oporto, Rui Moreira, will preside over the opening ceremony, which was scheduled to take place on January 20.

It was to be attended by a host of dignitaries, including UNESCO Focal Point for Holocaust Education program official Karel Fracapane, head of the Portuguese delegation to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Ambassador Luiz Barreiros, commissioner of the Never Forget National Program for Holocaust Remembrance Marta Santos Pais, the bishop of Oporto and the president of the city’s Muslim community. The government was to be represented by the secretary of state for culture.

The Oporto Holocaust Museum, the brainchild of the local Jewish community, portrays Jewish life before the Holocaust. It also delves into the Nazi expansion in Europe, labor and extermination camps, the Final Solution, the death marches, the post-war period and the founding of the state of Israel.



The new Holocaust museum in Oporto, Portugal. (Courtesy photo sent via JNS)

Under the auspices of members of the Oporto Jewish community whose parents, grandparents and relatives were victims of the Holocaust, the Oporto Holocaust Museum will develop partnerships with Holocaust museums in Moscow, Hong Kong, Europe and the United States. This article first appeared in Israel Hayom.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

### Israeli gov’t flies 6-year-old boy from Ethiopia for cardiac treatment

The Israeli NGO Save a Child’s Heart, along with the medical team at the Wolfson Medical Center in Holon, has provided life-saving treatment to thousands of children from around the world in the past 25 years. Despite travel limitations caused by the coronavirus pandemic, this year has been no different, as it continues to help kids like 6-year-old Benjamin, who landed in Israel on Feb. 12 from Ethiopia in order to receive urgent cardiac treatment. Since the outbreak of the pandemic, SACH has continued its mission, conducting medical efforts in accordance with Israel Ministry of Health

guidelines. The work has been made more difficult by the implementation of the “closed skies” policy, and ultimately, the shutting down of Ben-Gurion International Airport in January with the aim of curbing the spread of COVID variants. In spite of these restrictions, SACH has continued its work, providing the Health Ministry with requests on behalf of a number of critically ill patients who require immediate care. Although not a member of Ethiopian families immigrating to Israel, Benjamin was able to join a recent group flight from Ethiopia sponsored by the Jewish Agency for Israel. He is currently being hosted at the organization’s Legacy Heritage Children’s home while he undergoes an initial examination that will enable doctors to determine his treatment.

### Israel completes housing for Guatemalans who lost homes in 2018

Israel’s embassy in Guatemala recently finished its housing development in the town of Escuintla for families whose homes were destroyed in the 2018 Fuego volcano eruption. On Jan. 31, Israel’s Ambassador to Guatemala and Honduras Mattanya Cohen personally handed over the deeds to all 39 families receiving new houses. The homes sit on “Jerusalem Capital of Israel Street,” the 19<sup>th</sup> street in Guatemala with that name. “The state of Israel promised, and we are happy,” said Cohen in a statement. “Israel will always continue to assist our friend and ally Guatemala.” Israel and Guatemala have seen growing ties in recent years. In May 2018, Guatemala moved its embassy to Jerusalem just two days after the United States opened its own mission in the city, which was recognized as and declared Israel’s capital by the Trump administration in December 2017. The blast in June 2018 killed more than 190 people – more fatalities than any previous activity caused by Fuego, which is one of Central America’s most active volcanoes. Following the blast, Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu offered Israeli medical and logistical aid to Guatemala. A team of Israeli doctors and members of the Israeli emergency organization IsraAid also flew out to the Central American nation to help locals. Israel’s ZAKA emergency service also provided aid.

## Menorah. . . Continued from page 10

we continue to fulfill this commandment with the daily kindling of the menorah in our personal inner temples.

Our sages teach us that there were many miracles associated with the menorah. I would like to share two of them.

When it came time to construct the menorah, God instructed Moses to chisel it from one solid block of gold, rather than welding together the various components. Moses had a hard time comprehending how to achieve that. God, therefore, told him to take the gold and throw it into a fire, and the menorah was miraculously formed.

Another miracle: The Talmud (Tractate Shabbat 22b) asks, “Does God need the menorah for its light? During the 40 years that the Israelites traveled in the desert, God’s light led them!” What was the purpose of the menorah burning inside the Temple when no one was there? God provided light for the Israelites; why would He need them to kindle flames?

The Talmud replies, “This light was a testimony to all that God’s presence rests amongst Israel [i.e., God performs miracles for them.] What miracle [is being referenced?] All of the menorah’s cups received the same amount of oil to burn from evening until morning, yet the western one burned until the next evening when it was time to rekindle the menorah.”

The flames of the menorah bring fire and light. Fire symbolizes passion and warmth, and light reveals its surroundings.

In our inner temple, too, we each have a fiery passion for what is good and right. We kindle our menorah when we let that passion spread to every fiber of our being. Once kindled, our menorah spreads light, shining and illuminating our surroundings with goodness and kindness. This sets off a chain reaction, helping those around us to find their own inner fire, ultimately illuminating our entire world and ushering in the final redemption, when the prophets say there will be only peace and happiness. May we soon merit this era!

## Bee. . . . . Continued from page 5

The discovery was recently published in the Belgian Journal of Entomology.

“Beyond just the professional excitement of discovering a new species that was previously unknown to science, this finding has broader applicative value in helping us better understand bee communities, their habitat requirements and the pollination services they may provide,” said Mandelik.

This article was first published by Israel21c.



“Selection” of Hungarian Jews on the ramp at Auschwitz II-Birkenau in German-occupied Poland, May-June 1944, during the final phase of the Holocaust. Jews were either sent to work or to the gas chamber. (Photo courtesy of Yad Vashem Photo Archives, Jerusalem)

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



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## NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

**Israeli Cabinet approves proposal to recognize, compensate for Yemenite “children affair”**

The Israeli Cabinet on Feb. 22 approved a proposal to recognize the “Yemenite, Mizrahi and Balkan children affair” and provide financial compensation to the affected families, the Prime Minister’s Office said in a statement. The “children affair” refers to the disappearance of an estimated 1,500-5,000 babies and toddlers of new immigrants who arrived in Israel between 1948 and 1954. The majority of these hailed from Yemen, though a considerable number were from the Balkans, Iraq, Morocco, Tunisia and Libya. Jews from these latter countries are known as mizrahim, or “eastern.” The parents of the missing children have claimed over the decades that they were told by authorities that the infants had died, either at birth or subsequently, yet were given no documentation and were informed of no places of burial. This aroused suspicion that the children had been taken and put with families of European origin – Ashkenazim – particularly Holocaust survivors. “This is among the most painful affairs in the history of the state of Israel,” said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. “The time has come for the families whose infants were taken from them to receive recognition by the state and government of Israel, and financial compensation as well.” Such compensation “will not atone for the terrible suffering that the families went through and are going through,” said Netanyahu, adding that he has asked the education minister to include the “Yemenite children affair” in the school system’s textbooks. The compensation approved by the Cabinet, according to Netanyahu’s office, totals 162 million shekels (\$50 million), to be allocated as follows: 150,000 shekels (\$45,977 ) to the families of children whose death, or cause of death, was not revealed in real time or whose burial place was not disclosed. In the case of children whose fate remains unknown, the families will receive up to 200,000 shekels (\$61,300). Those families determined to be eligible for the compensation by one of the three commissions that dealt with the affair will be able to file their claims between June and November of this year, according to the Prime Minister’s Office.

**Hate mail to French Jewish Parliament member: “Soon the camps again”**

The Paris prosecutor’s office opened an investigation after a Jewish member of the National Assembly, France’s lower house of parliament, received antisemitic hate mail, according to the European Jewish Congress. Parliament member Yael Braun-Pivet published the offensive e-mail on Twitter. “Yid, prepare yourself, soon the camps again,” it read in part, referencing Nazi German concentration camps during World War II and the Holocaust. Replete with threats and insults, it also evoked international Jewish financial conspiracies. In response, Parliament member Yael Braun-Pivet posted: “Faced with such filth: denounce, file a complaint, never let anything go.” Fellow parliamentarians came to Braun-Pivet’s defense, as did Justice Minister Eric Dupond-Moretti, who said “these words are to be vomited ... these insults are addressed to the whole nation. I wish it with all my heart [that] justice will be done.” French Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin also tweeted: “Infamous and unbearable. All my support to Yael Braun-Pivet.” Braun-Pivet, an attorney whose family came to France to flee the Nazis in the 1930s, said she was “particularly moved” to see “the national representation united” for the day.

**Blinken stresses importance of two-state solution in call with Israeli counterpart**

U.S. Secretary of State Tony Blinken stressed the importance of the two-state solution in a phone call on Feb. 22 with his Israeli counterpart, Gabi Ashkenazi. Blinken emphasized U.S. President Joe Biden’s belief that “the two-state solution is the best way to ensure Israel’s future as a Jewish and democratic state living in peace alongside a viable and democratic Palestinian state,” said the U.S. State Department. The Biden administration has promised to improve relations with the Palestinians, including reopening the PLO’s mission in Washington and restoring aid that was cut off by the Trump administration. The call also comes amid a push by the Biden administration to return to the Iranian nuclear deal, which America withdrew from in May 2018. While the readout of the call between Ashkenazi and Blinken did not specifically mention Iran, it did note that the two discussed “regional security challenges and the importance of continued cooperation in addressing these issues.” Earlier on Feb. 22, Blinken spoke to the U.N.-backed Conference on Disarmament, when he again reiterated that America would rejoin the deal with Tehran if it comes back into “strict compliance” with the pact. However, Iran has called for economic sanctions imposed under former President Donald Trump to be lifted before such dialogue were to begin. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said going back to the original agreement would pave the way for Iran to acquire a nuclear weapon.

**Israel’s National Library gifted 15<sup>th</sup>-century scroll of Esther**

One of the world’s oldest scrolls of Esther was recently gifted to the National Library of Israel in Jerusalem, the library’s blog announced on Feb. 22. The scroll, dating from medieval times, was a gift from long-standing supporters of the library Michael Jesselson and his family. Scholars have determined that the scroll, known as Megillat Esther in He-

brew, was written by a scribe on the Iberian Peninsula around 1465, prior to the Spanish and Portuguese expulsions that happened at the end of the 15th century. Their estimation was based on both stylistic and scientific evidence, including Carbon-14 dating. According to Yoel Finkelman, the curator of the library’s Haim and Hanna Salomon Judaica Collection, the new addition is “an incredibly rare testament to the rich material culture of the Jews of the Iberian Peninsula. It is one of the earliest extant Esther Scrolls, and one of the few 15<sup>th</sup>-century *megillot* in the world.” Finkelman added that the library was “privileged to house this treasure and to preserve the legacy of pre-expulsion Iberian Jewry for the Jewish people and the world.” The Scroll of Esther is read worldwide in Jewish communities during the holiday of Purim, which this year begins after sundown from the night of Feb. 25 until sundown on Feb. 26. The scroll, which the library has made available online ([https://www.nli.org.il/en/manuscripts/NNL\\_ALEPH002593515/NLI#\\$FL160821234](https://www.nli.org.il/en/manuscripts/NNL_ALEPH002593515/NLI#$FL160821234)), is written on leather with brown ink and in a Sephardic script emblematic of a Torah scroll. On the first panel are blessings traditionally recited before and after the reading of the scroll, which attests to its ritual use in the Iberian Jewish community, says the library. According to experts, few existing such scrolls exist from the medieval period, particularly from the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Torah and Esther scrolls from pre-expulsion Spain and Portugal are even rarer, with only a handful known to have survived. Prior to the donation, the scroll was the only complete 15<sup>th</sup>-century megillah in private hands.

**Israeli nanosatellite hitches ride on NASA rocket to ISS**

A nanosatellite from Tel Aviv University began its travel to the International Space Station when it launched from Wallops Island, VA, on a NASA resupply spacecraft on Feb. 20. The TAU-SAT1 nanosatellite, which is approximately the size of a shoebox and weighs less than six pounds, is the first to be wholly designed, developed, assembled and tested independently in an Israeli university by researchers and students. After the NASA rocket docked with ISS, the astronauts released the nanosatellite into orbit. It is expected to be active for several months. TAU-SAT1 was created at the university’s Center for Nanosatellites, an interdisciplinary endeavor between the Iby and Aladar Fleischman Faculty of Engineering, the Porter School of the Environment and Earth Sciences, and the Soreq Nuclear Research Center. It was completed about four months ago and sent for pre-flight testing to the Japanese space agency JAXA. “It’s a big day for TAU,” said Professor Colin Price, head of the Porter School. “We have now joined the ‘Civil Space Revolution’ called New Space, in which, unlike the Old Space, not only giant companies with huge budgets and large teams of engineers can build and launch satellites.” Data collected by TAU-SAT1 will be extracted using a satellite station built on the roof of the university’s engineering building, said Dr. Ofer Amrani, head of TAU’s Miniature Satellite Lab. The data it collects will help scientists design protective equipment for astronauts and space systems, which can be easily damaged by cosmic radiation.

**IAF founding member, 105, promoted to colonel**

Israel’s top military brass was on hand on Feb. 19 for the promotion of Alex Ziloni, 105, to the rank of colonel in honor of his “many decades of dedication to the state of Israel,” the Israel Defense Forces said in a statement. Ziloni, who arrived in the country from Poland when he was just 5 years old and served as an engineer in the Royal Air Force during World War II, went on to become a founding member of Israel’s air force. In May 1948, the same time the country was born, 95 percent of the air force’s combat-ready crews were World War II veterans, mainly from English-speaking countries. Ziloni served in the corps until 1960, participating in aerial operations during the Suez Crisis. He retired with the rank of lieutenant-colonel and went on to serve as a military attaché in Washington. In January 1948, Ziloni negotiated the purchase of 21 single-engine, lightweight Auster planes from the British. “When the Foreign Office in London heard of the sale of the aircraft there was an immediate and very angry reaction,” state the archives of Machal, the overseas IDF volunteer organization. Britain had imposed an embargo on the shipment of planes and equipment to Israel while continuing to supply armored cars, machine guns, artillery, fighter planes, anti-tank guns and anti-tank shells to Egypt, Iraq and Jordan “in preparation for the conflict to come,” explained Machal. The British also maintained the 7,000 strong Trans-Jordan Army, which was led by British officers. “These small aircraft did a great job. Manned by a pilot and bomb-chucker, they were used for bombing the enemy with small bombs dropped onto the targets manually; for aerial reconnaissance; communications; for transporting food and medicine; and for transporting sick and wounded personnel,” said Machal.

**Israel in top 10 of world’s most innovative countries**

Israel was ranked seventh among the world’s 60 most innovative economies, according to the Bloomberg Innovation Index published the week of Feb. 5. The Jewish state went down one spot from its standing in 2020 and two places from 2019, where it came in fifth place. South Korea was ranked as the world’s most innovative country and took the title from Germany, which fell to fourth place this year. The East Asian nation has taken the top spot on the index for seven of the nine years that it’s been published. Following South Korea were Singapore and Switzerland, which each moved up one spot, and were ranked second and third, respectively. Sweden was ranked fifth, followed by Denmark and then Israel. Finland, the Netherlands and Austria followed the Jewish nation, as the United States dropped out of the top 10 this year, falling two spots to 11<sup>th</sup> place.

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