

Dr. Ted Merwin to speak at Ithaca College on March 21

On Wednesday, March 21, at 7:30 pm, in Textor 102 on the Ithaca College campus, author Dr. Ted Merwin will present a talk on the rise, fall and rise again of the Jewish deli and its role in American Jewish life, "Pastrami on Rye: An Overstuffed History of the Jewish Deli." For much of the 20th century, the New York Jewish deli was considered an iconic institution in both Jewish and American life.



Dr. Ted Merwin

gogue as the primary gathering place for the Jewish community," said organizers of the event. "Ultimately, upwardly mobile American Jews discarded the deli as they transitioned from outsider to insider status in the middle of the century. Now, contemporary Jews are returning the deli to cult status as they seek to reclaim their cultural identities."

"As a social space, it rivaled – and in some ways surpassed – the syna-

The lecture is sponsored by Ithaca College's Jewish Studies Program and is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Rebecca Lesses, coordinator of Jewish studies, at rlesses@ithaca.edu or 785-3556. Individuals with disabilities requiring accommoda-

tions should contact her by e-mail or phone.

To see *The Reporter's* review of the Merwin's book, visit www.thereportergroup.org/Article.aspx?aID=4204.

Community Passover seder at TC on March 30

Temple Concord will continue its tradition of offering a Passover seder for the community. This year it will be on the first night of Passover, Friday, March 30, at 6 pm, at Temple Concord, 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton.

Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell will lead the seder rituals. The kosher-style Passover meal will be catered by Phantom Chef Catering chef Michelle Bank McIlroy. Traditional seder foods will be served, as well as Passover desserts,

kosher wine and other beverages.

Paid reservations are due by Friday, March 23. Contact the Temple Concord office at 723-7355 or Templeconcord@stny.rr.com to make reservations. The cost will be \$36 per person, \$15 for children younger than 13, or free for children 2 and younger.

For financial assistance to attend the seder, contact Goldman-Wartell at 723-7355, or Jewish Family Service or the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton at 724-2332.

"Start-Up Nation" tech fair at BU on March 15

Binghamton University will host the Start-Up Nation Innovation Fair on Thursday, March 15, from 5-8 pm, in Old Union Hall. The event is intended to attract more than 250 students, from a variety of disciplines and fields of study, to a technology and innovation showcase and internship fair. The program, coming to 15 campuses across the U.S. this year, is made possible by Israel Ideas and Hasbara Fellowships.

The core of the event will be an expo, in which 10-12 early stage Israeli companies will exhibit their technologies, products and services. As part of the Expo, floor space will be carved out for internship opportunities. Another component of the event will be a moderated panel discussion with the entrepreneurs.

Local partners for the program include, among others, the Office of Entrepreneurship and Innovative Partnerships at Binghamton, the Center for Israel Studies, Hillel at Binghamton, the Fleischman Career

Center, the Freshman Research Immersion Council, the Binghamton University Zionism Organization and Alpha Kappa Psi – Business fraternity.

The Innovation Fair can be a key piece of Israel advocacy on campus and the goal is to enable students to see Israel "beyond the conflict" through the lens of innovation and technology. The target audience is comprised not only of affiliated Jewish students who already lean pro-Israel, but also non-Jewish students who may be impartial toward Middle-East geopolitics. The focus is on innovation, education and job opportunities for students – an opportunity for companies to recruit paid and unpaid interns by meeting students face-to-face, collecting resumes and starting conversations that may lead to internships.

For more information, contact Haley Silverstein, program coordinator for Start-Up Nation Technology Fair, at 201-491-6934 or hsilverstein@hasbarafellowships.org.

JFS seeks Passover funds for needy

With people beginning to prepare for Passover, which begins on Friday, March 30, Jewish Family Service is asking the local community to do a mitzvah by contributing funds to help the needy.

"Your kindness and generosity will enable 12 Jewish families who are struggling financially to purchase Passover foods required to celebrate a seder and to help them carry on the Jewish traditions that are so important to us all," said Roz Antoun, director of Jewish Family Service.

Checks should be made out and sent to Jewish Family Service, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850 with "JFS Passover donation" noted in the memo line. Donations must be received no later than Wednesday, March 21, so that Jewish Family Service will have time to process and distribute the funds.

"In these difficult economic times, the community's generosity will surely brighten the celebration of Passover for the recipients and remind those families that they are being remembered," said Antoun.

Spotlight

With theme of "Together We Will," BBYO convention sounds prescient note on teen action

By Pamela Ruben

(JNS) – Mike Signer, who served as the mayor of Charlottesville, VA, during the rally and protests last August that brought white supremacists to the forefront of international attention, recalled that he was about 8 or 9 when he heard his first antisemitic slur.

"Growing up in Northern Virginia, the last thing I wanted to be was different, so I assimilated," he told more than 3,000 Jewish teens attending the annual BBYO International Convention held recently in Orlando, FL.

It wasn't until his late 30s, when Signer made his first trip to Israel, that he said he

became comfortable with his Judaism.

That didn't seem the case for the Jewish teens who packed convention halls and meeting rooms during the four-day conference. Delegates traveled from 49 states and 36 countries, including from as far away as China, for the celebration of Jewish teen spirit, listening and learning from speakers in the worlds of entertainment, social justice and Jewish organizational life.

But before they got into the bulk of the program, a moment of silence was held in memory of the 17 people – 14 students and three staff members – killed in the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL, some 200 miles south of Orlando, on February 14, the first day of the conference.

Recognition of that loss continued throughout the next few days. Yet despite a lingering pall of sadness, a sense of excitement also seemed to prevail.

"I love going back to connect with friends



U.S. gymnastic's Olympian Aly Raisman addressed the BBYO convention. (Photo by Jason Dixon Photography)

from all over the world; it is the only way we can all see each other in one place," said Lexi Sussman of Cleveland, who was attending her third convention.

In addition to Signer, speakers included Susan Bro, whose 32-year-old daughter, See "BBYO" on page 11



The BBYO International Convention in Orlando, FL. (Photo by Jason Dixon Photography)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Telling her story

The youngest Schindler's list survivor continues to tell her story, including at the U.N.

..... Page 5

Scientific news

Israeli and U.S. astronomers may have found proof of dark matter; and more.

..... Page 6

The final frontier

An exhibit in New York looks at the Jewish relationship with space, astronomy and science fiction.

..... Page 9

Special Sections

Legal Notices..... 4
Book Review..... 4
Financial Planning..... 8-9
Classifieds..... 12

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE NOTES

Chicago, here I come

ROZ ANTOUN, DIRECTOR

If you haven't heard of the Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies, let me acquaint you with this newly formed organization. It came into being in the last few years when the decision was made by the leadership of both the Association of Jewish Family and Children's Agencies and the International Association of Jewish Vocational Services to creatively merge the groups together. The conference is titled "Unifying Our Human Service Voice." At the end of April, the inaugural conference of NJHSA will take place in Chicago.

NJHSA describes itself as "a guiding force in Jewish human services, strengthening and supporting vocational, family, healthcare, elder care, disability and all other human services agencies and the people they serve for the best practices, research, innovation and partnerships." The membership consists of more than 120 Jewish Federations, Jewish Family Services and Jewish Child and Family Service organizations. The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, namely Sima Auerbach, has encouraged me to attend this conference and I am thrilled to say that I am going.

Why would I travel all the way to Chicago to attend? I believe in these trying times, with the threat of cutbacks to our human services safety net, it is imperative that I keep

abreast of government cutbacks and economic changes that are affecting the lives of the most vulnerable and needy in our community. I believe that in my work I will be called upon to make policy decisions to handle the struggles that my clients face. So I need the education, stimulation and human contact of colleagues that not only do the kind of work I do, but within the Jewish framework.

Interestingly, when I was a young college student, I was guided to work independently and produce papers and research on my own, without the collaboration of fellow students. Then, during the years when I studied for my master's degree in social sciences at Binghamton University, the structure changed and teamwork became the guiding principal. It took time for me to handle the change in focus and, I must tell you, that working in teams is not always easy because personalities, individual power struggles and goals can derail the process. But I see that the team approach allows for new and innovative ideas to bubble up, thereby creating new visions and concepts.

At this stage of my life, I really enjoy meeting people, feeling the excitement of new experiences, and am personally motivated to share my ideas with others and integrate their ideas with mine. The old fears of wondering if I can

hold my own are long gone, thankfully, so I hope to take in a lot of learning, make new friends and come back to town refreshed and full of knowledge that can benefit our agencies locally.

David Axelrod, former President Barack Obama's chief campaign strategist, will open the conference with a fireside chat about today's political climate and its impact on the human service sector. There will be more than 25 workshops to attend, spanning the categories of advocacy, collaboration, innovation and service delivery. Just to give you a taste of the workshops, I'll mention two: "Supporting and Advocating for Refugees during the Trump Era" and "Impactful Responses to Jewish Poverty." And one last one for now: "Innovations in Funding Partnerships to Ensure Sustainability."

The great thing about these workshops, from what I can tell, is that I will gain useful information for making Jewish Family Service a stronger, more efficient and proactive agency in this community. The materials will be generalizable to other Jewish and non-Jewish organizations.

I'm looking forward to this upcoming personal experience and reporting back to you with new energy and ideas. If you have any questions, concerns or input, please contact me at 607-724-2332 or Rozjfs@stny.rr.com.

Opinion

The land where antisemitism still fails

By Jonathan S. Tobin

(JNS) – The numbers are pretty scary.

The Anti-Defamation League's annual audit of antisemitism in America shows a whopping 57 percent increase in incidents from 2016 to 2017. That's a big number, and it's likely to generate alarm in the Jewish community and nationwide as news outlets seize on the figure to ponder what's going wrong.

That also means that everyone should get set for a barrage of think pieces about the rise of hate in President Donald Trump's America, debating whether the White House Twitter account and supposed rising influence of the alt right are shaking the foundations of tolerance to the point where we all should be very worried.

But a closer look at the numbers, including the raw totals rather than just the percentages, tells a slightly different story than the screaming headlines. Incidents of reported antisemitism did increase in the United States in 2017 and any such rise is lamentable. Even a single incident is one too many.

As it turns out, a big slice of the uptick stems from the bomb threats made against Jewish Community Centers last

year by a disturbed Israeli teenager. Take those out of the totals – and arguably, that is something the ADL should have done even before the report was released – and the percentage drops to 43 percent. That's still distressing. But before everyone starts setting their hair on fire about the likelihood of pogroms in America, it's also important to put the numbers in context. Does anyone really think that 1,825 incidents in a country of 326 million people constitute an epidemic of antisemitism?

Equally important, it's vital to see what has happened in America and measure that with global trends because to be sure, a genuine rising tide of hate is calling into question the future of Jewish life in Europe. Moreover, before we return – as the ADL, and a host of liberal organizations and pundits, did a year ago at the time of the fake bomb threats – to blaming antisemitism on Trump and his administration, we should also be pressing for the real sources of antisemitism and the most potent threats to Jews.

One fact is incontrovertible: The number of reported incidents of antisemitism in this country has nearly doubled in the last two years.

Fortunately, most of it is confined to vandalism, which accounts for more than half of the total. The fact that the number of assaults related to antisemitism actually went down – a 47 percent decrease from 2016 – is also encouraging.

Yet even if all we were discussing were cases of cemetery desecration or swastikas drawn on synagogues or schools, it would still be worth asking why it is that these sorts of crimes are increasing. Is it, as the ADL implies in its summary of the audit, because perpetrators felt more emboldened to break the law in 2017 than before?

At the same time, the amplified number of incidents represents a marginal phenomenon in a country where Jews are readily accepted in virtually every sector of society. According to the ADL's own global audit of antisemitism, the United States has among the lowest levels of antisemitism in the world.

Whatever levels do exist in America, they are nothing compared to those in Europe, where hatred for Israel comes from both liberal elites and Muslim immigrants – two very different sectors that have combined to create a wave of prejudice leading to violence and intimidation.

See "Fails" on page 3

In My Own Words

Finding a photograph

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

I recently discovered a photograph of my younger brother Larry that I'd never seen before. For those of you who don't know, Larry, who died in 2010, was developmentally disabled. His specific type of disability is known as Down syndrome, although other words were used in the past before changing times made us more careful about how we label people. The photos I was looking through were not family photos, so I didn't expect to see his face peeking out from behind several other people. I did recognize his grin right away. It was a real gift to get this unexpected glimpse of him.

It was funny to find the photo just before Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month, which took place in February. Larry knew he was Jewish – just say Jewish and he would point to himself and say, "Me" – but I don't think he understood what that meant. This was someone who proudly hugged his box of matzah, stood with us to light Hanukkah candles and sang "Eyn Kelohanu" for every

holiday, but who also loved Santa Claus so much he had a Santa costume he wore most of December and who, one year, requested that his birthday cake have a picture of Ho Ho Ho (as he called him) as the decoration.

Larry's Jewishness came from several sources, in addition to our family: at one point, Beth David Synagogue had a youth group that arranged programs for those with developmental disabilities. Broome Developmental Center also had holiday gatherings for several Jewish holidays, which were organized by the local Jewish community. That's when Larry first had his own rabbi, the late Rabbi Jacob Hurwitz. Larry loved attending events at both places.

I never planned to do rabbinic work locally with the developmentally disabled community because I worried Larry wouldn't understand what that meant in terms of our relationship. However, he had no problem telling the difference between when I was the rabbi and when I was his sister. He enjoyed the programs I led, whether it was

a holiday celebration at the Center or a visit to Temple Concord's sukkah.

Larry also enjoyed the times he took part in local Jewish community celebrations. I remember how much he enjoyed the Purim spiel we took him to one year. My father was ready to leave long before Larry. In fact, when partway through, I asked him if he wanted to go, he said, "No." He laughed and had a wonderful time – at the dinner, the service and the spiel.

In my chaplaincy work, I still meet people who knew Larry. It's wonderful to hear them talk about him. We laugh over his terms of endearment – for example, cow or "freap" – but they also mention how he could tell when they were sad and the ways he tried to make them feel better. Hearing that is wonderful, just like finding that photo was. What Larry taught my family is that having developmental disabilities doesn't limit your capacity to love or your ability to bring joy to others.



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HOW TO REACH THE REPORTER

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

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

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

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

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Assistant Editor Ilene Pinsker

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www.thereportergroup.org

Flo Balin to give BD March 10 luncheon talk on "Growing Up in Binghamton"

On Saturday, March 10, Florence (Flo) Balin will be Beth David's luncheon series speaker. She is in the process of writing a book about Jewish life in Binghamton, and her talk will include material from that project. Born and raised in Binghamton, she will share her experiences of what Binghamton and the Jewish community were like when she was growing up.



Florence (Flo) Balin (Photo by Dora E. Polachek)

information to share."

Born in Binghamton to immigrant parents, Balin remembers her grandfather's bakery, located on Exchange Street behind the Sons of Israel synagogue, the precursor to today's Temple Israel. She will relate the role her maternal grandfather, Jacob Weisman, played in making the Little Shul on Carroll Street come into existence. "My grandfather was the Little Shul's first president," Balin says, "and Rabbi Moses Margolis was its rabbi. It is an even greater pleasure for me to be able to share my

memories at Beth David since the Little Shul eventually became Beth David on Riverside Drive."

One of three children, Balin attended local schools. "I always loved music and performing," Balin says, "and I've been doing that since I was 7 years old." Balin recalls WNBC, Binghamton's only radio station at the time, and her singing songs on the weekly children's program. Her involvement in the JCC began when she was in high school. "On Saturday nights, the Arlington Hotel was quite the social scene," Balin recalls, "with the high school's Jewish sororities and fraternities holding their dances there."

TI/TC Adult Ed. to hold brunch on March 11

The Temple Israel/Temple Concord Adult Education Group will hold a brunch program on Sunday, March 11, at 10 am, at Temple Israel, 4737 Deerfield Pl., Vestal. Blake McCabe, a Ph.D. student in anthropology at Binghamton University, will speak on "Jewish Identity in Law and the Film 'The Other Son.'"

McCabe holds a master's degree in anthropology from

Binghamton. She is an alumna of Hillel Academy and currently teaches at Temple Israel's Hebrew School. For her graduate research in anthropology, McCabe has looked at cases of contested Jewish identity in Israel and the Diaspora, and how it is portrayed in film. McCabe will speak about her research, including an exploration about how Jewish identity contrasts between religious law, government law and individual beliefs.

"The quintessential questions of 'who is Jewish?' and 'what does it mean to be Jewish?' are still two of the most salient questions among the global Jewish community," said organizers of the brunch. "We will see how Jewishness is portrayed in the film 'The Other Son' and through a House of Lords court case in the United Kingdom. The film was shown at the International Jewish Film Festival in Binghamton in 2014 and portrays the complexities of Jewish identity in religious law and Israeli social policy. It addresses the impacts the resulting contradictions can have on an individual's identity and even civil rights both in Israel and Diaspora."



Blake McCabe

The cost of the brunch is \$5 per person. To make a reservation, contact the Temple Israel office at titammy@sny.twcbc.com or 723-7461.

Hillel Academy students donate for Purim

At right: Students from Hillel Academy collected money to brighten the Purim holiday for members of the Jewish community. On February 28, they gave the funds to Jewish Family Service to be distributed. In front (l-r): Zoe Friedman, Moussia Slonim and Shterna Chein. In back: Morah Hadassah Slonim and Roz Antoun, director of Jewish Family Service.



Fails.....Continued from page 2

When it comes to the United States, however, who's driving the increase of what is still a low level of Jew hatred? The popular answer remains Trump.

The president's tone-deaf response to incidents like the racist rally last summer in Charlottesville, VA, has lent credence to efforts to credit the bump in hate incidents to his Twitter account, as well as to the general lowering of the level of discourse that makes extremism seem more acceptable.

But it would be a mistake to fall into the same trap that the ADL fell into last year when it jumped to the false conclusion that the wave of bomb threats at JCCs was inspired by Trump. He is, after all, the same man who has implemented the most pro-Israel foreign-policy agenda in history. Trump is also the one with observant Jewish children and grandchildren, all of which would be considered milestones of acceptance and ecumenical harmony were they associated with any other president.

Just as, if not far more, alarming than the possibility that some extremists got the wrong message from Trump's tweets is the fact that incidents of antisemitism on college campuses nearly doubled in 2017 with an astonishing 89

percent increase. This goes hand in hand with the virus of hate sweeping through Europe that focuses on delegitimizing Israel and its friends via the BDS (boycott, divest and sanctions) movement. Though it masquerades as concern for human rights, BDS is, like anti-Zionism, a form of Jew-hatred. And it is far more of a threat than stray graffiti incidents because it seeks to make life intolerable for Jewish students.

It is to this problem, which is gaining ground and legitimacy on the left, rather than the isolated and despised hate of the alt-right or the Ku Klux Klan, that we should be devoting the most energy.

Even as we rededicate ourselves to dealing with these threats, let's not forget where we live. The United States is not the hellhole of hate that the headlines about the ADL audit seem to indicate. American exceptionalism is the main reason why official hatred of the Jews never quite caught on in the United States. For all of its problems, America is still the land where antisemitism continues to fail. Anyone who forgets that understands nothing about this country or antisemitism itself.

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

OF NOTE

Rouff

Lana Rouff will be honored by the Broome County Council of Churches with a Life of Commitment Award at its 20th annual Faith in Action Volunteers Awards Banquet, which will be held on Thursday, May 3. The Faith in Action program is an interfaith, volunteer care giving service. For more information, visit <http://broomecouncil.net/>.

Please accept our deep gratitude for the enormous outpouring of sympathy in the form of contributions made, messages and cards sent and, participation in the memorial tribute evening, after the recent passing of our father, father-in-law and grandfather, Rabbi Zeev Dov Slonim, obm.
May we share happy occasions always and only,
Rabbi Aaron Slonim and family



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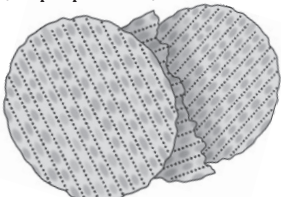
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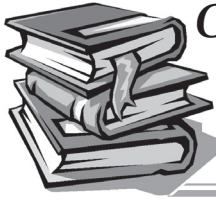
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Off the Shelf

Political comics

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

Warning: If you have no sense of humor about Jewish continuity, the Diaspora versus Israel debate, Jewish American communal politics or the Israeli government, then you definitely *won't* want to read Eli Valley's "Diaspora Boy: Comics on Crisis in America and Israel" (OR Books). Of course, you'll miss some very funny and extremely challenging looks at the extended Jewish world. Valley's style is satire a la Mad Magazine, meaning that his drawings are caricatures and his humor heavy-handed, but he also has a gift for duplicating the double talk offered by some Jewish communal and political leaders.

His comics are a response to what Valley calls the preposterous way Jewish communal organizations view Israel and the Diaspora. He notes that the comics were drawn "partly as a defense of the Diaspora and as a way to explore the meaning of pride after a century of denigration." For Valley, the American Jewish community is

flourishing since young Jews feel proud of their Jewish heritage, even though they affiliate less with older Jewish organizations. He sees communal fears of Jewish continuity as a waste of time and effort. The difference between what young American Jews think about Israel and the defense of Israeli policies offered by communal Jewish organizations form the basis of his most controversial comics. Valley does note that these same cartoons are considered less controversial in Israel, where more criticism of the country is allowed.

Fortunately for the reader, Valley offers commentary on his strips. Some need little, while others receive a full page of discussion. This is important, though, because, when I read some of the comics before reading the commentary, I was unable to determine the specific events or proclamations to which he was referring. That's partly due to the comics appearing years after they were written. Some of

the figures featured were also unfamiliar to me, or at least, I was unable to determine who they were by the drawings. Valley's explanation of the satire also shows why some of his critics misread the comics: they don't appreciate the Mad Magazine tone, particularly Valley's tendency to take things to extremes – something not everyone can tolerate. However, he challenges readers to take off their blinders and see how their reactions may be affected by emotion, rather than reason. This makes the strips worth reading, even when you disagree with him.

Among my favorite comics are:
 ♦ "What If... Batman and Robin Worked in the American Jewish Community," which takes an extreme look at the American Jewish community's fear of assimilation.
 ♦ A hysterical view of the changing meaning of Hanukkah in "The Festival of Lights."
See "Comics" on page 8

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of Kidz Kingdom LLC

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

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

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

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

Notice of Formation of Aponi Aerial Services, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/24/18. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 1704 Campus Dr., Vestal, NY 13850. Purpose: any lawful activities.

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NOTICE UNDER NEW YORK LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY LAW SECTION 206

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

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

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY UNDER NEW YORK PROFESSIONAL SERVICE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY LAW ("LLCL")

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

Under Section 1203 of the Limited Liability Company Law

Notice of Formation of Bandel Properties, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed

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

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

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

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF Dapper Rascal Studio LLC Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY ON 04/14/2017. Office: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to Eva Duarte 8 Highland Avenue Binghamton, NY 13905. LLC at 60 Court St, Binghamton, NY 13905. Purpose: any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of Amogh, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on January 18, 2018. Office location: Broome County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or her to: 1012 Siena Lane, Vestal, NY 13850. Purpose: To engage in any lawful act or activity within the purposes for which limited liability companies may be organized pursuant to Limited Liability Company Law of the State of New York.

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

1. The name of the limited liability company ("LLC") is Badland Outfitters, LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is February 15, 2018.
3. The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the LLC is located is Broome.
4. The Secretary of State of the State of New York is hereby designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or her is: 54 Spicebush Lane, Tuxedo Park, NY 10987.

5. The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY: The name of the limited liability company is: Plateia Properties, LLC (the "Company"). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was February 20, 2018. The county in which the principal place of business of the Company shall be located is Broome County. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the Company upon whom process against it may be served. The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the Company, to Hinman, Howard & Kattell, LLP, Attn: Ryan M. Mead, 80 Exchange Street, Suite 700, Binghamton, NY 13901. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY: The name of the limited liability company is: New Leaf Cider Co. LLC (the "Company"). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was February 20, 2018. The county in which the principal place of business of the Company shall be located is Broome County. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the Company upon whom process against it may be served. The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the Company, to Hinman, Howard & Kattell, LLP, Attn: Ryan M. Mead, 80 Exchange Street, Suite 700, Binghamton, NY 13901. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY: The name of the limited liability company is: K&K Real Property LLC (the "Company"). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was February 20, 2018. The county in which the principal place of business of the Company shall be located is Broome County. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the Company upon whom process against it may be served. The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the Company, to Hinman, Howard & Kattell, LLP, Attn: Ryan M. Mead, 80 Exchange Street, Suite 700, Binghamton, NY 13901. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

NOTICE UNDER NEW YORK LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY LAW SECTION 206

Notice is given of the formation of Get Air Vestal, LLC (the "Company") for the transaction of business in the State of New York and elsewhere.

1. The name of the limited liability company is Get Air Vestal, LLC.
2. The Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State on February 14, 2018.
3. The county in which the office of the Company is to be located

is Broome County N.Y.- principal business location 2220 Old Vestal Road, Vestal, NY 13850.

4. The Secretary of State is designated as the agent of the Company upon whom process against the Company may be served. The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process served against the Company to the Company to the LLC, c/o United States Corporation Agents, Inc., 7014 13th Ave, Ste 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228.
5. The registered agent of the Company upon whom and at which process against the Company can be served is United States Corporation Agents, Inc. 7014 13th Ave, Ste 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228.
6. The purpose of the Company is to engage in any lawful act which limited liability companies may be organized under the New York LLCL.

Notice of Formation of Ballyhack38 LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 02/20/18. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 320 N. Jensen Rd., Vestal, NY 13850. Purpose: any lawful activities.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY: The name of the limited liability company is: JP Defense Holdings LLC (the "Company"). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was February 26, 2018. The county in which the principal place of business of the Company shall be located is Broome County. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the Company upon whom process against it may be served. The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the Company, to Hinman, Howard & Kattell, LLP, Attn: Ryan M. Mead, 80 Exchange Street, Suite 700, Binghamton, NY 13901. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

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

UP IN THE AIR, LLC

Articles of Organization were filed with the NY State Dept. of State, Division of Corporations and State Records on February 12, 2018. Office and principal business location: PO Box 102, Binghamton, Broome County, New York. Secy. of State designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: PO Box 102, Binghamton, New York 13903, principal business address of the LLC, Purpose: any lawful activity.

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The youngest Schindler's list survivor is still telling her story

By Ben Sales

NEW YORK (JTA) – Eva Lavi's earliest memories are of the Holocaust.

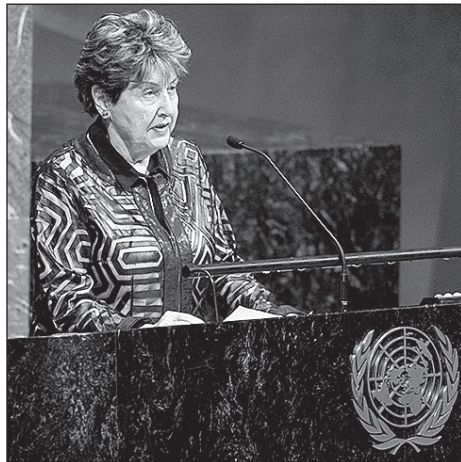
She remembers how her mother made her hide outside in below-zero weather, clutching a standing pipe, as Nazis searched her home in Poland. She remembers her father telling her to swallow a spoonful of cyanide – better than death at the hands of the Nazis – only to have her mother object at the last minute. She remembers seeing her twin cousins shot to death as they ran up a hill at a labor camp.

Lavi was 2 years old when Nazi Germany took over her hometown of Krakow in September 1939. Now 80, she wants to make sure her stories aren't lost after she's gone.

"There was no childhood for children my age," she said recently in a speech to the United Nations General Assembly following International Holocaust Remembrance Day on January 27. "Regularly, we saw, heard and understood everything the Nazis were doing to us. At 6 years old, children were cynical old people trying to survive."

Lavi is the youngest survivor to have been on Schindler's list, the Jews saved by German industrialist Oskar Schindler and immortalized in Steven Spielberg's 1993 film. Lavi was put in a ghetto in Poland with her family immediately after the Nazi takeover, transferred to a labor camp and then to Auschwitz.

After being saved by Schindler, who sheltered hundreds of Jews who worked in his kitchen goods and armament factories,



Eva Lavi, who was 2 years old when the Nazis invaded Poland, addressed the United Nations recently. (Photo courtesy of the Israeli mission to the U.N.)

Lavi lived a quiet life in Israel. She served in the Army, lived on a *kibbutz*, worked as an administrative assistant and raised a family. She remembers the early years in Israel when survivors were disparaged as weak and passive. But as interest in the Holocaust increased, she became more vocal in recounting her experience. Now she speaks to groups at Yad Vashem and the Israeli Holocaust authority, and travels to Poland every year with a group of high school students.

"It's true testimony from someone who was there. It's not a story," she told JTA in a separate interview, adding that once Israelis

became interested in the Holocaust, "the survivors opened their mouths and began to tell the story. It's not just a story. It's the worst and cruelest thing that happened in the world."

Although Lavi now regularly returns to Auschwitz, she says the experience still isn't easy. Each time, she finds herself looking around in horror and crying. But by now she's used to it.

"Every time I go, I cry here and there because it's a terrible thing," she told JTA. "Every person that went there saw the ovens, the gas chambers. Everything was real. It's very scary, but because I've gone so many times, I take it differently. I don't think about myself. I think about how the kids are reacting."

Lavi also feels a sense of urgency in telling her story because she thinks the world hasn't gotten better since she was liberated. There are groups that still seek to annihilate Jews and other minorities, she says.

And she called the Polish bill that would criminalize those who blame Poland for the Holocaust a "disaster." Yes, she says, Poles were killed, too, at the Nazi death camps. But she adds that the Poles were no angels, citing Polish violence against Jews during and after the war.

"I was in Auschwitz and there were Polish prisoners," she said. "But what they say, that the Poles were all sweetness and light? No. In any case, they didn't really like the Jews."

As the Holocaust survivor population shrinks – Lavi was born just two years before the war – she sounds conflicted about how

best to perpetuate Holocaust memory. On the one hand, she acknowledges that survivors' stories are extensively documented. On the other hand, she knows nothing is more powerful than a first-hand account.

One way to transmit the experience, she says, is movies. She's grateful for the research work that Spielberg did while making "Schindler's List," which won the Academy Award for best picture. One scene featuring her as a child, she says, is mostly accurate: Nazis separated her from her mother, but Schindler saved her by telling the guards he needed her small fingers to operate machinery. She believes that movie and those that have followed play a positive role in educating people about what happened – even if some are fictional.

"They did a lot of movies that had influence," she told JTA. "They engaged the heart, even if they're not true, but they have to be faithful to truth."

After decades of telling her story around the world, Lavi says addressing the United Nations gave her a sense of closure. For years she has carried guilt for surviving where so many perished. But with this speech, she said, she achieved something to justify her life.

"It was very hard to be a child survivor," she told JTA. "I felt guilty. I began to talk to God: Why did he save me? I imagined my Jewish brothers, me and them together, we're walking, and then God pulls me out. Now that they've sent me to the U.N. to speak in front of the world, it's as if I did something to satisfy God after my death."

Jerusalem campus pioneers new approach for treating abused children

By Shoshana Kordova

JERUSALEM – When H. first arrived at the Haruv Children's Campus in Jerusalem, he was an emotional wreck. A young boy who had witnessed domestic violence, H. was showing developmental delays and a destructive tendency toward toys and other objects. He needed psychological care, but he also needed occupational therapy to help master motor skills and figure out how to use physical activity to regulate his emotions. (H.'s name and other details have been omitted to preserve the family's privacy.)

Getting therapy for children is typically the parents' responsibility, requiring them to navigate bureaucracy to obtain a referral, organize an evaluation, wait for a spot to open and schedule time for sessions. But the Haruv Children's Campus, which opened last year to improve treatment for Israeli children who have suffered abuse or neglect, is changing that.

Haruv offers occupational therapy at its 43,000-square-foot campus within a campus at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Mount Scopus location, allowing H. to

receive not just psychological treatment but also occupational therapy in the same place.

More important, Haruv is approaching the problem of child abuse and neglect holistically – providing services to children and their families, training therapists and teaching other adults and professionals how to recognize and thwart child abuse. The approach could be a game changer in Israel, and other communities around the world are now looking to Haruv as a model.

"We want to train professionals better and to develop better treatment methods," said Haruv Institute Director Asher Ben-Arieh, a professor at Hebrew University's Paul Baerwald School of Social Work and Social Welfare, and the university's Haruv chairman for the study of child maltreatment.

The Haruv Institute was founded in 2007 as a training and research center. The new campus opened in January 2017 and was created by overhauling two unused dormitories and the surrounding grounds, including a distinct carob tree – "haruv" in Hebrew. Eight organizations involved in treating abused or neglected children

are now housed at Haruv.

The Schusterman Emergency Center for Children and Families provides a temporary home for 20 children removed from their families. Outpatient clinics treat about 100 children a day, including those with special needs. The Meital Center offers treatment for victims of sexual abuse up to age 18. Beit Lynn treats children who have been sexually abused, as well as minors who demonstrate sexually abusive behavior. The National Council for the Child, which advocates for child welfare, provides treatment and helps

child victims of violence and sexual assault with legal remedies.

In 2015, some 40,000 Israeli children were referred to social services due to neglect or abuse, according to a report from the council. About one-third of the children were reported for suspected neglect, one-quarter for physical abuse and 11 percent for sexual abuse. Additionally, about 367,000 Israeli children were considered at risk.

For children at risk of being harmed, it is vital for the adults in their lives to notice that

See "Children" on page 8

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SCIENTIFIC NEWS

Israeli, U.S. astronomers may have found proof of “dark matter”

By JNS staff

(JNS) – A team of American and Israeli astronomers may have uncovered the first-ever proof of the existence of the mysterious “dark matter,” one of the building blocks of the universe, while attempting to detect the earliest stars in the universe through radio wave signals.

The discovery by the team, led by Professor Judd Bowman of Arizona State University, which was published the week

of February 28 in the journal Nature by Professor Rennan Barkana, head of the Department of Astrophysics at Tel Aviv University’s School of Physics and Astronomy, suggests that the signal is proof of interactions between normal matter and dark matter in the early universe.

“Dark matter is the key to unlocking the mystery of what the universe is made of,” said Barkana. “We know quite a bit about the chemical elements that make up the

earth, the sun and other stars, but most of the matter in the universe is invisible and known as ‘dark matter.’”

Barkana said that while the existence of dark matter is inferred from its strong gravity, astronomers have no idea what kind of substance it actually is. As such, dark matter is one of the top remaining mysteries of physics.

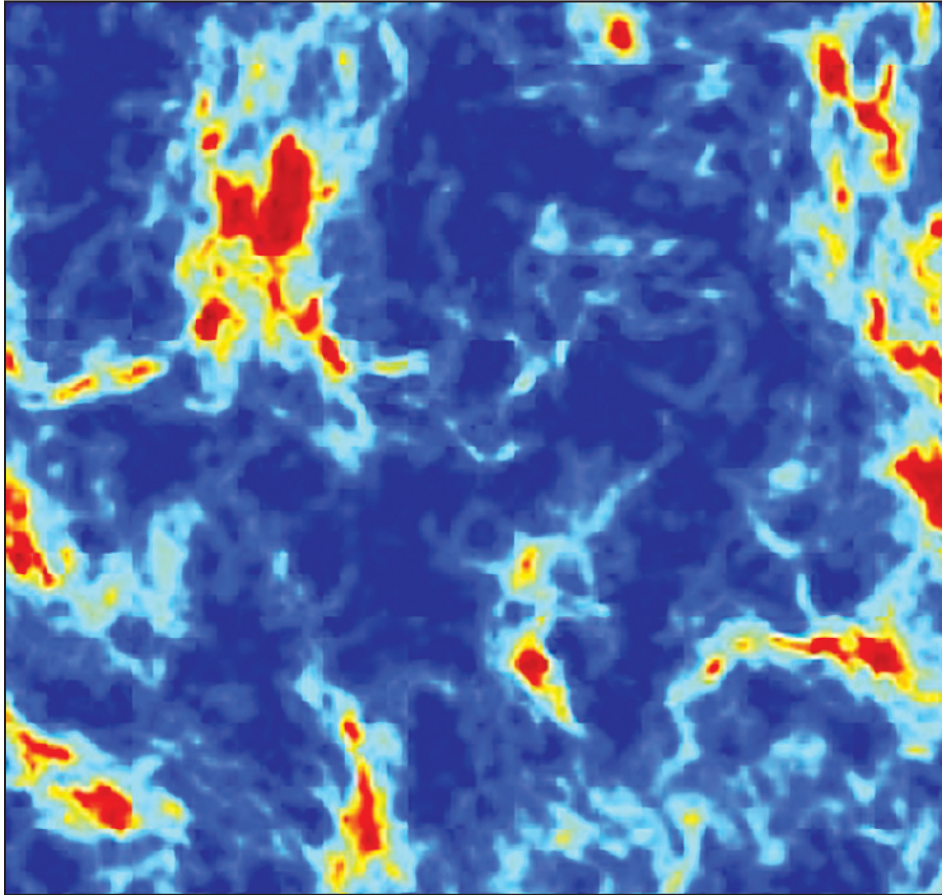
However, when the scientists studied the radio signal from the early universe, they found that it had a larger amplitude than predicted, indicating that the primordial gas was colder than expected. This suggests that the gas cooled through the interaction of hydrogen with dark matter.

“I realized that this surprising signal indicates the presence of two actors: the first stars and dark matter,” stated Barkana. “The first stars in the universe turned on the

radio signal, while the dark matter collided with the ordinary matter and cooled it down. Extra-cold material naturally explains the strong radio signal.”

Physicists have long expected dark matter particles to be heavy, but the recent discovery indicates that they are likely low-mass particles, which has the potential to reorient the search for dark matter in the universe. Based on this, Barkana predicts that dark matter produced a very specific pattern of radio waves that can be detected with large array of radio antennas such as the SKA, the largest radio telescope in the world, which is currently under construction in South Africa.

“Such an observation with the SKA,” said Barkana, “would confirm that the first stars indeed revealed dark matter.”



The pattern of radio waves on the sky caused by the combination of radiation from the first stars and the effect of dark matter. Blue regions are those where the dark matter cooled down the ordinary matter most strongly. (Photo by Professor Rennan Barkana, via JNS)

Israeli satellite yields photos of Jerusalem

By Israel Hayom staff

(Israel Hayom/Exclusive to JNS.org) – The Venus research satellite, operated by the Israel Space Agency at the Science and Technology Ministry, transmitted its first images from outer space late last summer, among them images of the Jerusalem area. The state-of-the-art imagery makes it possible to see Jerusalem and its environs with “unprecedented quality.”

The Jerusalem area is prone to brushfires, particularly during dry seasons. The information Venus provides will help scientists develop new methods of characterizing the area’s ecosystem, understand and reduce risk factors for the fires, and study the effects of global warming.

“The beauty of Jerusalem can also be seen from outer space,” Israeli Science and Technology Minister Ofir Akunis

said. “This is just the beginning. In the coming years all of humanity will benefit from these images, which will help trailblazing research in the fields of environment protection, earth sciences, water and food.”

The Venus satellite was launched on August 1 in French Guyana, with its mission to last three and a half years. It is a joint project between Israel and France’s National Center for Space Studies. The satellite was built by Israel Aerospace Industries and includes an Elbit Systems-designed camera capable of snapping photos on 12 different wavelengths, and a new electric engine developed by Rafael Advanced Defense Systems.

Venus has also transmitted images of Marseille in France, agricultural fields near Phoenix and tropical forests in Peru.



Atright: Jerusalem, as seen from outer space via the Venus research satellite. (Photo by Venus satellite)

Israeli scientists simulate Mars environment in Negev

By Israel Hayom staff

(Israel Hayom/Exclusive to JNS via JNS) – Six scientists and technical experts “landed on Mars” on February 15, or rather at a secret and isolated site near Mitzpe Ramon in southern Israel to participate in the D-Mars Project – a first-of-its-kind simulation in Israel in conjunction with the Israel Space Agency and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Space.

Through February 18, the participants were to be disconnected from the world, conduct experiments, live in a structure designed to be compatible with conditions on Mars and move around wearing space suits. The purpose of the project is to research and simulate possible life on Mars in the near future.

“Space agencies around the world are already busy with preparations for the journey to Mars and [finding] solutions to

the multitude of technological challenges on the way to getting there,” said ISA head Avi Belsberger.

“Among the challenges people are trying to solve: building a spaceship and engine suitable for the lengthy journey, the effects of cosmic radiation on human beings, shipping and erecting a structure there, life in a small and isolated group, communication with earth and more,” he said. “Israel has already contributed to preparing for the mission to Mars, and in the technological developments to protect people against radiation.”

Mars simulations take place in a small number of places around the world. A large simulation is currently underway in Utah, where Weizmann Institute of Science research student Roy Naor was sent by the ISA to represent Israel.

Mitzpe Ramon, in the Negev Desert, See “Mars” on page 12

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Children Continued from page 5

something is wrong and stop it. So Haruv aims not just to train professionals to provide better treatment, but also adults who see children on a regular basis, like doctors and teachers, to spot problems and take action.

“Our approach at the institute is that each professional who interacts with children is relevant, especially teachers,” said Shira Avrahami, Haruv’s education coordinator. “They see most of the children in the country for several hours a day. Teachers have an important role in discovering that there’s a problem, as well as in helping children afterward.”

Goshen, a nonprofit on Haruv’s campus founded by Israeli pediatricians to help doctors assist families with children’s developmental challenges, teaches doctors to identify the circumstances surrounding abuse. “The earlier the intervention, the higher the chances of success and the lower the cost,” said Dr. Eitan Kerem, the chairman of pediatrics at Hadassah Medical Center and board chairman at Goshen.

A Goshen workshop several years ago gave Dr. Yael Zimmerman, a family physician who works at clinics in the Jerusalem area, a chance to explain to other doctors what she experienced when she saw signs of unexplained bruising on a 2-month-old baby’s ribs. After hearing that the mother had seen a similar mark on his body the previous week, Zimmerman referred the baby to the emergency room and called ahead to say she suspected abuse. X-rays taken at the hospital showed multiple fractures. The father is suspected of abusing the baby, who has since been moved to his grandmother’s care.

“There’s never 100 percent proof of abuse, so you have to go with your suspicions, with your intuition,” Zimmerman said. “We are the advocates for children whose own families are harming them.”

Ultimately, Ben-Arieh wants children who have suffered trauma to be treated exclusively by professionals trained and certified to treat abused kids because children’s treatment needs are unique. For example, he

noted, Haruv provides dental care because many dentists are not aware that putting foreign objects into an abused child’s mouth may trigger the trauma of sexual assault.

One way Haruv is already starting to implement Ben-Arieh’s vision is through the occupational therapy clinic, where Stav Dekel-Amir, who heads the occupational therapy division, has helped H. and his parents figure out which situations distress him. His parents have been given tools to help H. soothe himself by manipulating rice-filled socks and heavy balls.

All told, more than 80 percent of the Haruv campus’ cost came from the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. Other donors included the Wohl Legacy, Israeli municipal and government sources, and two other family foundations.

In addition to its work in Israel, Haruv is exporting its model internationally. Haruv USA, based in Tulsa, OK, is working with police and local government agencies to provide training on child abuse and neglect, and with Jewish communities in Oklahoma, Maryland and Colorado to provide guidance on recognizing signs of child abuse. The group is also planning to train counselors and American Jewish youth groups and summer camps.

Haruv also run workshops for rabbis from the Conference of European Rabbis, trains social workers from Germany and South Korea, teaches youth workers in Madagascar, and provides training sessions for parents in South Africa on parenting methods.

“I want the professionals to be even better, more skilled, coming up with better treatments and better ways to prevent abuse,” Ben-Arieh said. “I want to change the whole field.”

This article, sponsored by and produced in partnership with the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, is part of a series about how young Jews are transforming Jewish life in the 21st century. This article was produced by JTA’s native content team.

Comics Continued from page 4

◆ “Jews and Comics,” which satirizes books that suggest all comic book superheroes have Jewish roots.

◆ A controversial look at what occurs when liberal Jews begin discussing Israel in “The Incredible Hulk.”

◆ “Bucky Shvitz, Sociologist for Hire,” which focuses on the divide between young Jews and Israel, and the larger Jewish community’s reaction to the issue.

“Diaspora Boy” is an oversized paperback: measuring 12 inches by 14 inches, it

was difficult and clumsy to hold. However, if the comics were printed any smaller, reading them would be a problem, especially for older eyes. Valley’s comics are obviously not for everyone. Sometimes he goes a bit too far, although even when his material is vulgar, it’s still usually funny. Almost everyone will find something offensive in his work, which is also what makes it good satire.

To see more examples of Valley’s comics, visit www.orbooks.com/catalog/diaspora-boy-eli-valley.



At right: The comic “What If... Batman and Robin Worked in the American Jewish Community” by Eli Valley.

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How can you protect yourself from identity theft?

(NAPSI) - While there are many advantages to living in a connected world, the rise in cybercrime poses risks to our personal information. So how can you safeguard this information while enjoying online opportunities to achieve your financial goals?

One important way you can help protect your identity is by regularly reviewing your credit reports. Doing so is not only a responsible habit to begin as you establish your credit history, it can also be a way to identify incomplete or inaccurate information, as well as accounts that may have been opened erroneously. For free copies of your credit reports from Equifax, Experian and TransUnion, visit www.annualcreditreport.com.

“Reviewing your credit reports is an easy

way to monitor your financial commitments,” says Francis J. Creighton, president and CEO of the Consumer Data Industry Association. “While lenders and credit-reporting

companies have a number of sophisticated security protocols in place to help prevent identity theft and fraud, there may still be instances where a criminal can gain access to your personal information and cause a problem.”

After you receive your credit reports, review them carefully to make sure all the accounts are yours. If you notice an account that you don’t recognize, or something is not correct, contact the credit-reporting agency as soon as possible to communicate

See “Theft” on page 9

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All spaced out: Exhibit boldly goes where Jews go... into the final frontier

By Shiryn Solny

(JNS) – A new exhibition debuted in New York on February 26 that explores the connection between Jews and something outside of our own world: outer space. (And no, it's not a reshewing of the Mel Brooks short movie by the same name – that rather ingenious rip-off of "Star Wars" – though it eventually comes into play.)

At the heart of "Jews in Space: Members of the Tribe in Orbit" is the story of the Jewish relationship with the solar system, rooting all the way back to the B.C.E. era. Visitors are taught about the connection between astronomy and Judaism, rabbinical figures who studied lunar activity and the various Jewish astronauts (with a nod to Ilan Ramon, the first Israeli astronaut for NASA, who died along with six other Columbia shuttle crew members upon re-entry on

February 1, 2003) who participated in space exploration programs and missions.

On display at the exhibit, presented by the Center for Jewish History in collaboration with the Yivo Institute for Jewish Research, are roughly 40 artifacts, including rare 18th- and 19th-century rabbinic texts on astronomy and cosmography in Hebrew, German and Yiddish; Judaica taken into space; rare science fiction periodicals; and other materials from literature and pop culture.

Melanie Meyers, the Center's senior manager for reference and outreach and the exhibit's co-curator, said the exhibit "traces all the various accomplishments in these different areas of talking about space, thinking about space, going into space – and that Jews were involved in all of them. People don't necessarily know that."

The initial idea, related Meyers, popped up while she and her husband were watching an episode of "Star Trek."

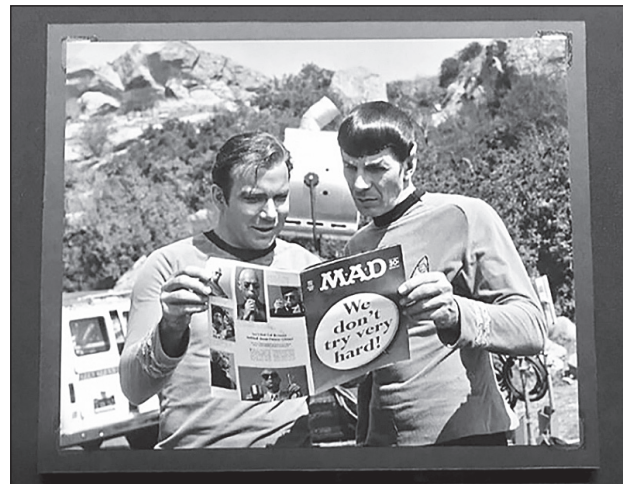
"It was actually his idea," acknowledged Meyers. "He was the one who came to me and said, 'I can't believe you've never done an exhibition on Jews in science fiction.'"

She started thinking about it, eventually approaching Yivo's Edward Portnoy, who became the co-curator. "Let's toy around with a bunch of astronomy books," she recalled. "Once we started talking about it, we were just rolling."

Portnoy told JNS that when Meyers approached him with the idea, he was already working on another exhibition about rare rabbinical material from the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, which included many books on astronomy written in Hebrew. He suggested that they do a "much broader exhibit" about Jews in space that would include his findings connected to astronomy, cosmology and its roots in the Jewish culture. Together, they decided to pull the name for the exhibit from the popular 1981 Mel Brooks comedy film "History of the World, Part I," which featured a parody trailer called "Jews in Space" that eventually inspired the movie "Space Balls."

Quite appropriately, an autographed photo of Brooks, which personally belongs to Meyers, is on display at the exhibit.

A large chunk of the exhibit focuses on the Jewish connection to modern-day science fiction and pop culture. Materials include original covers of "Amazing Stories," the first magazine composed solely of science fiction, started in 1926 by Jewish inventor Hugo Gernsback, who coined the term (though he was said to have preferred the term "scientifiction"). A number of Jewish science fiction writers are represented in the exhibit, as well as a sci-fi story written in Yiddish in 1929, and various images of the main



A photograph of Jewish actors William Shatner and Leonard Nimoy on the set of "Star Trek." (Photo courtesy of Center for Jewish History)

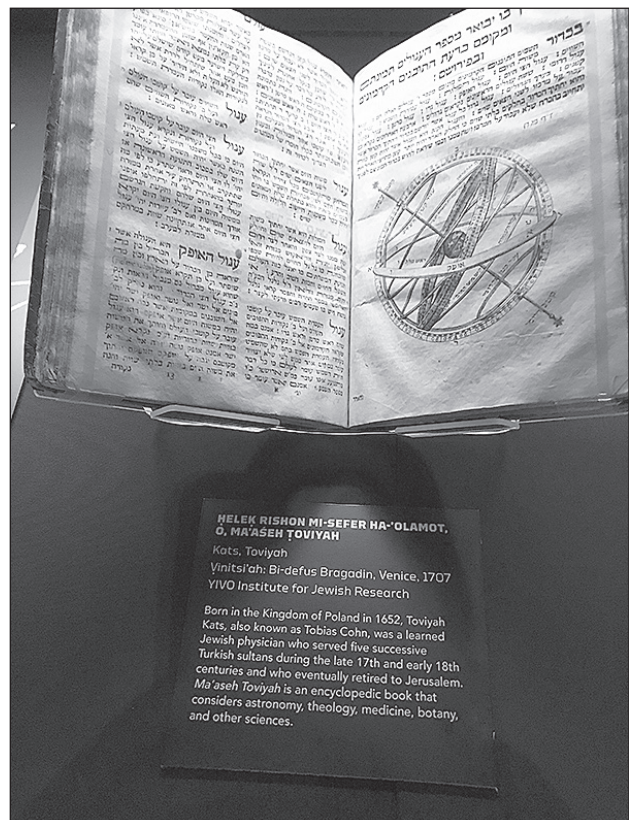
characters in the "Star Trek" television series, Capt. James T. Kirk and Mr. Spock, played by Jewish actors William Shatner and Leonard Nimoy, respectively.

But perhaps the most interesting items featured in "Jews in Space" (and personal favorites of Meyers) are the Judaica taken into space in 1993 and 1996 by Jewish astronaut Dr. Jeffrey Hoffman. Hoffman's inaugural space mission in 1985 made him the first Jewish American male astronaut in orbit and, during his 1996 mission with the Space Shuttle Columbia, he became the first astronaut to bring and read from the Torah in space.

The astronaut personally carried with him a silver dreidel, a traveling menorah, silver Torah yad (or "pointer") and a mezuzah. Other items that were part of his PPK (Personal Preferred Kit) include a silver Kiddush cup, a Havdalah set and a plaque with the Hebrew prayer for safe travels written on it. All artifacts on display were donated by Hoffman himself.

"It was wonderful that he lent them to us," said Meyers. "We picked them up from him personally in Massachusetts. We got to spend some time with him and learn about his experience being a Jewish astronaut, what the artifacts meant to him.... I was sort of overcome [with emotion]. I barely make it out of New York City and these things made it into orbit."

See "Frontier" on page 12



An encyclopedic book discussing astrology, theology and other sciences on display in the "Jews in Space" exhibit. (Photo by Shiryn Solny)

FINANCIAL PLANNING

Theft..... Continued from page 8

the discrepancy. You can contact all three nationwide credit-reporting agencies online, by phone or by mail. Whichever method you choose, the credit-reporting agency will investigate disputed information and respond back to you with the results.

In a case of identity theft, the credit-reporting agency will work with you to place a fraud alert on your credit reports that can help prevent erroneous transactions from appearing in the future. A fraud alert informs creditors that you may have been a victim of fraud, and encourages them to take steps to contact you to verify your identity. Once a fraud alert is in place, you can choose to remove it at any time online. Under federal law, fraud alerts are free and are shared among the three credit-reporting agencies.

If you have been a victim of identity theft and false accounts have been opened in your name, you may want

to consider a security freeze. A security freeze restricts access to your credit report without your permission and may prevent unauthorized individuals from opening new accounts in your name. These are free for identity theft victims and, depending on the state, senior citizens as well. For all other consumers, there may be a fee, based on individual state laws. Consumers should keep in mind that security freezes aren't for everyone, especially those who are actively seeking credit or plan to apply for credit in the future, such as for making a large purchase or applying for a loan.

It's important to safeguard your information wherever you can. Regularly checking your credit reports to make sure your information is correct, and being aware of the tools available to help you protect your identity, are great places to start. Consumers interested in getting copies of their free credit reports should visit www.annualcreditreport.com.



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Did you know

(NAPSA) – To help teens make informed choices about their financial futures, from buying a car to paying for college, Junior Achievement launched JA My Way, a free, interactive online resource that provides valuable information on how money works. Learn more at www.JAMyWay.org.



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Weekly Parasha

Vayakel-Pekudai, Exodus 35:1-40:38

Promises to keep

RABBI BARUCH BINYAMIN HAKOHEN MELMAN, TEMPLE ISRAEL OF THE POCONOS

Memory: We fear losing it. Alzheimer's is dreaded for stealing memory. We are a people of memory. Our memory keeps us inoculated from false promises, treaties and illusions, false messianists and false friends.

God keeps his promises. *Baruch she'amar vehaya ha-olam*: He decreed it and fulfilled it. God is our role model of integrity – of promises made and fulfilled. Do we have any idea how awesome it is to be alive to witness the ingathering of the exiles and the rebirth of Israel after untold generations of waiting? Two millennia of remembering both the promise and the Promised Land – we remembered the promise. And so did God.

Our *parasha* this week, Vayakel-Pekudai, borrows its name from the remembrance narrative of God, who re-

members His promise to Sarah *imeinu* (Gen 21:1). *Pakad* means “remembered” (His promise). “*VeHashem pakad et Sarah ka'asher amar*” – “And God remembered Sarah as he said he would.”

God said he was going to give a child to Avraham and Sarah, and He did! God followed through on His promise. And in the wilderness, the *midbar*, the promise is again fulfilled. In Vayakel-Pekudai, God has Israel build the *Mishkan* (Tabernacle) and the vessels and the vestments just as He said He would have us do back in Terumah/Tetzaveh.

What spiritual meaning concerning “*pakad*” do we learn from this connection between Sarah *imeinu* and the *Mishkan* of this week's *parasha*? We realize that the creation of the *Mishkan*/Tabernacle is essentially a recreation of the

spiritual energies of Sarah's tent. Betzalel and Ohaliav are the appointed artisans charged with recreating that “tent.” Indeed, the name Betzalel means “in the shade of God,” i.e., in God's tent, while Ohaliav means “my Father is my tent/shelter.”

Sarah's light permeated her tent and granted her family a glimpse of the supernal radiance of Heaven, prefiguring Aaron's role as keeper of the eternal light (*ner tamid*). When she passed on the light went out, but it was restored when Rivkah moved in as Yitzchak's wife. Its stewardship then passed on to Rivkah and from her to all the holy mothers of Israel. Every Jewish woman who lights the holy lights for the Sabbath and festivals in a sense becomes the high See “Keep” on page 11

Congregational Notes

Temple Israel

Orientation: Conservative
Rabbi: Geoffrey Brown
Address: 4737 Deerfield Pl., Vestal, NY 13850
Phone: 723-7461 and 231-3746
Office hours: Mon.-Thurs. 8:30 am-4 pm; Fri. 8 am-3 pm.
E-mail: titammy@stny.twcbb.com
Website: www.templeisraelvestal.org
Service Schedule: Tuesday, 6 pm, Friday, 5:30 pm; Saturday, 9:30 am.

On Saturday, March 10, at 9:30 am, services will be led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown. The Torah portion will be Exodus 35:1-40:38. The haftarah will be Ezekiel 36:16-38. The kiddush sponsor will be Arthur Siegel.

On Saturday, March 10, at 10 am, there will be a creative service and pot luck lunch.

On Sunday, March 11, at 10 am, there will be an Adult Ed. program and brunch. The speaker will be Blake McCabe who will speak on “Jewish Identity in Law and the Film ‘The Other Son.’” The cost is \$5 per person. RSVP to Temple Israel if you plan to attend.

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

On Friday, March 23, at 5:30 pm, there will be a Kabbalat Shabbat dinner.

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

Rohr Chabad Center

Affiliation: Chabad-Lubavitch
Rabbi: Aaron Slonim, E-mail: aslonim@binghamton.edu
Address: 420 Murray Hill Rd., Vestal, NY 13850
Phone: 797-0015, Fax: 797-0095
Website: www.Chabadofbinghamton.com
Chabad on the West Side
Rabbi: Zalman Chein, E-mail: zchein@JewishBU.com
Address: 27 Bennet Ave., Binghamton, NY 13905
Phone: 722-3252

Regular service times: Daily 7:30 am, Friday evening 6 pm, Shabbat morning 9:30 am, Maariv and Havdalah one hour after candle-lighting time, Sundays 9:30 am. Linking Hearts for youngsters with special needs: This program connects Jewish special-needs children and teenagers, ages 5-14, who have mental, physical and/or functional disabilities, with student volunteers who will visit participating youngsters weekly in their homes.

To join the mailing list, for up-to-date information on adult education offerings or to arrange for a private tutorial, for details concerning the Judaica shop and resource center, or for assistance through the Piaker Free Loan Society or Raff Maasim Tovim Foundation, call Chabad's office at 797-0015.

Norwich Jewish Center

Orientation: Inclusive
Rabbi: Dena Bodian
Address: 72 South Broad St., Norwich, NY 13815
Contact: Guilia Greenberg, 373-5087
Purpose: To maintain a Jewish identity and meet the needs of the Jewish community in the area.
Adult Ed.: Saturday morning study is held at 10 am. Call for more information and to confirm.

Congregation Tikun v'Or

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

Beth David Synagogue

Affiliation: Orthodox Union
Rabbi: Zev Silber
Address: 39 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905
Phone: 607-722-1793
Rabbi's Office: 607-722-7514
Fax: 607-722-7121
Office hours: Mon. closed; Tues. 10 am-1 pm; Wed. closed; Thurs. 9 am-1 pm; Fri. 10 am-1 pm
Beth David e-mail address: bethdavid@stny.rr.com
Rabbi's e-mail: rabbisilber@stny.rr.com
Website: www.bethdavid.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/bethdavidbinghamton
Shabbat Services:
Friday, March 95:45 pm
Shabbat, March 109 am
..... Mincha after the kiddush
..... Maariv 7:10 pm
Weekday Services:
Mornings:
Sun., March 118:30 am
Mon.-Fri., March 12-167 am
Evenings:
Sun., March 116:50 pm
Mon.-Thurs., March 12-156:50 pm
Fri., March 166:55 pm
Classes: Rabbi Zev Silber will hold his weekly Talmud class every Tuesday evening after services.

Penn-York Jewish Community

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

Kol Haverim

Affiliation: Society for Humanistic Judaism
Address: P.O. Box 4972, Ithaca, NY 14852-4972
Phone: 607-277-3345
E-mail: info@kolhaverim.net
Website: www.kolhaverim.net
Chairwoman: Abby Cohn
Kol Haverim: The Finger Lakes Community for Humanistic Judaism, is an Ithaca-based organization that brings people together to explore and celebrate Jewish identity, history, culture and ethics within a secular, humanistic framework. KH is part of an international movement for Secular Humanistic Judaism and is affiliated with the Society for Humanistic Judaism, a national association with over 30 member communities and congregations around the country. Established in the spring of 1999, it offers celebrations of Jewish holidays, monthly Shabbat pot-lucks, adult education, a twice-monthly Cultural School for children, and a bar and bat mitzvah program.
KH welcomes all individuals and families, including those from mixed religious backgrounds, who wish to strengthen the Jewish experience in their lives and provide their children with a Jewish identity and experience.

Temple Brith Sholom

Affiliation: Unaffiliated
Address: P.O. Box 572, 117 Madison St., Cortland, NY 13045
Phone: 607-756-7181
President: Louis Wilson, louiswilson1995@yahoo.com
Service leaders: Lay leadership
Shabbat services: Either Friday evening at 7:30 pm or Saturday at 10 am from Rosh Hashanah to Shavuot. Holiday services are also held. Check the weekly e-mail for upcoming services. Contact the president to get on the e-mail list.
Religious School: Students are educated on an individual basis. Temple Brith Sholom is a small equalitarian congregation serving the greater Cortland community. Congregants span the gamut of observance and services are largely dependent on the service leader. The Friday night siddur is “Likrat Shabbat,” while the Saturday morning siddur is “Gates of Prayer.” The community extends a warm welcome to the Jewish student population of SUNY Cortland, as well as the residents of local adult residences.

Friday, March 9, light candles 5:45 pm
Shabbat ends Saturday, March 10 6:46 pm
Friday, March 16, light candles 6:53 pm
Shabbat ends Saturday, March 17 7:54 pm

Temple Concord

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

On Friday, March 9, at 8 pm, Shabbat services will include a public ceremony for Jew by Choice Máirín Kirchner.

On Saturday, March 10, at 9 am, there will be religious school; at 9:15 am, there will be Torah study; and at 10:35 am, there will be Shabbat family services with birthday blessings led by Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell and Jason Flatt.

On Tuesday, March 13, at 5:15 pm, there will be religious school.

On Thursday, March 15, at 5:15 pm, there will be religious school and at 7 pm, the Mahloket Matters Program will be led by Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell.

On Friday, March 16, at 8 pm, Shabbat services will be led by Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell.

On Saturday, March 17, at 9 am, there will be religious school; at 9:15 am, there will be Torah study; at 10:35 am, there will be Shabbat family services led by the religious school students, Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell and Jeff Strosberg; and at 11:35 am, there will be a pot luck lunch.

Temple Beth-El of Ithaca

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

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

On Saturday, March 10, Tot Shabbat will be held at 11:15 am.

On Sunday, March 11, at 7 pm, “Jews in Film: a Viewing and Discussion” will be led by Elliot Shapiro, the Knight Foundation director of the Writing in the Majors program at Cornell University. He also directs the University Courses Initiative and the Faculty Seminar in Writing Instruction.

Temple Beth El of Oneonta

Affiliation: United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism
Rabbi: Molly Karp
Address: 83 Chestnut St., Oneonta, NY 13820
Mailing address: P.O. Box 383, Oneonta, NY 13820
Phone: 607-432-5522
Website: www.templebetheloneonta.org
E-mail: TBEOneonta@gmail.com
Regular service times: visit the temple website for days of services and times
Religious School/Education: Religious School, for grades kindergarten through bar/bat mitzvah, meets Sunday mornings. Rabbi Karp conducts services and holds classes in Torah, beginning Hebrew and Maimonides. For schedules of services, classes and events, see the website.

Keep Continued from page 10

priest of her home, which we call the *mikdash mi'at*, or the miniature sanctuary.

Just as Adam was lonely without Chava, as Yitzchak was lonely without Rivkah, so, too, was Israel feeling lonely in the wilderness. Modern man leads an atomized, adamized lonely life. Yet we have the secret of returning to God's home. Anticipating our existential solitude, God instructs His Tabernacle be built amongst us, so that He may dwell within us so as to assuage our loneliness. He will be our "Eve" in the garden. We need only open our hearts to let Him in.

Just as the barrenness of Sarah could be reversed so as to produce and nurture a child, so, too, could the barrenness of the wilderness be reversed so as to produce and nurture a particular nation's unique God consciousness that could enrich the world via the emanation of the Divine light. So let us as bearers of the God consciousness and the sense of the absurd venture out into the world to make it a brighter and lighter place, a place of holy light and of holy laughter. Let us shed light upon the darkness. And bring laughter and joy to those who are sad.

BBYO Continued from page 1

Heather Heyer, was killed when a car drove into the crowd of counter-protesters last summer in Charlottesville; two-time Olympic gold medalist Aly Raisman, who just a few weeks before the convention publicly confronted Larry Nassar, the USA Gymnastics physician convicted of sexually abusing her and hundreds of other young athletes; Jonathan Greenblatt, CEO of the Anti-Defamation League; and 31-year-old actor Josh Peck.

Throughout his remarks, Signer, who now sits on the Charlottesville City Council, implored the young people gathered to go into public life with "courage and confidence. ...Fringe elements are unacceptable," he said. The Jewish people can have a place in "healing the breaches and wounds of the world."

Wisconsin delegate Andrew Kazan agreed. "When you see how terrible hate is first-hand," he said, "you can see why we need to combat extremism and antisemitism."

Focusing on the event's theme, "Together We Will," Signer shared that BBYO teens would be part of the generation that takes leadership to the next step – something being exhibited in real time in the wake of the school shooting in South Florida. There, teens the same ages as the conference participants were becoming budding activists, trying to make sense of lethal attacks in America's schools (at press time, 18 school shootings have occurred since January 1).

For her part, Bro is seeking a way to bring meaning and something positive from her daughter's death. The room was pin-drop quiet as Bro, too, embraced the convention's theme, asking participants to be the force of change that eradicates hate.

Bro described Heyer as an ordinary person, but one who was willing to stand up for what she believed. The crowd buzzed in support as Bro passed on a quote from Heyer: "If you are not outraged, you are not paying attention."

Asked where she finds the energy to carry on, Bro responded, "I have to make something out of her death. I can't just let it go. I am not allowing that." She also looked to the teens for help, saying "you have to be the force for change."

To that end, she invited the teens to speak with her, but with one caveat: "Tell me what difference you're making, so the world can be a better place."

Raisman, who received the BBYO "Stand UP" award, spoke of the importance of Judaism in her life. She noted "amazing memories of Jewish holidays," which were a time of bonding in her tight-knit family. "If you are not close to your family, surround yourself with people that support you," she said. "There's a lot of ups and downs in life, and it's important to have people you can go to for advice."

The native of Needham, MA, also expressed concern about bullying on social media, including victim shaming, body-shaming and judging. "What you guys have to think about is no matter how many followers someone has, everyone has feelings. Always be kind to one another," she encouraged.

Alluding to the gymnastics sexual-assault scandal, Raisman acknowledged that "everyone is a survivor of something."

In a more intimate leadership question-and-answer session titled "It's a Woman's World," Raisman told BBYO delegate and moderator Gabrielle Gorowitz from the Gold Coast Region in Florida that "if someone is suffering abuse, they to need tell someone, and then someone else, until someone finally listens."

Caryl Stern, president and CEO of UNICEF USA, described the audience as pieces of a puzzle who could make a difference. She invited the delegates to join her in helping kids in need fulfill their potential.

Speakers also included Jason Kander, president of Let America Vote and a former secretary of state in Missouri; singer Melanie Galiardo; and Zachary Pamboukas, a third-grader who was born with a partial arm. The 8-year-old received a "Spider-Man"-inspired limb from a 3-D printer created with the help of Israeli engineers and Limbitless

Jewish Community Center Comedian Judy Gold to perform at JCC on March 25

Emmy award-winning comedian Judy Gold will appear at the Jewish Community Center, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, on Sunday, March 25, at 7 pm. Doors will open at 6:30 pm. Tickets are \$25 in advance or \$35 on the day of the show. The tickets may be purchased at the JCC desk.

Gold won two Emmy Awards for writing and producing "The Rosie O'Donnell Show" and was nominated twice for the American Comedy Award's funniest female stand-up. She was awarded the *Keshet Hachamat Lev* Award 2012 for GLBT activism in the Jewish community and the United Jewish Appeal – Mother of The Year Award in 2007. She also received the GLAAD Media Award 2007 Outstanding New

York Theater: Broadway and Off-Broadway for "25 Questions for a Jewish Mother." *The New York Times* called "25 Questions for a Jewish Mother" "fiercely funny, honest and moving."

Gold has had stand-up specials on HBO, Comedy Central and LOGO. She also wrote and starred in the Off-Broadway show "The Judy Show – My Life as a Sit-com," which received an Outer Critics Circle nomination.

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

For more information, call the JCC at 724-2417.

"Wizard of Oz" at the JCC



U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley addressed the BBYO International Convention. (Photo by Jason Dixon Photography)

Solutions, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing children with affordable bionic limbs.

Pamboukas' enthusiasm for his super-hero-like appendage drew both smiles and tears as he insisted, "I do everything everyone else can; I just do it in my own way."

Jonah Rubenanko from BBYO's Ohio Northern Region said Pamboukas inspired him: "I'm studying 3-D modeling at school and someday hope to be part of these solutions."

Omer Bar-Lev, a member of the Israeli Knesset who founded Acharai ("Follow me"), which works to empower thousands of marginalized Israeli youth each year, told the gathering that "youth organizations are the key to success, to what we can do."

Self-acceptance, repairing the world and eradicating hate were all common convention themes, made more relevant by the presence of several Holocaust survivors, who addressed the group. In "Zikaron BaSalon: Survivor's Stories," more than 50 teens helped support a movement to bring Holocaust remembrance beyond a yearly commemoration and "into people's living rooms," as the project name imparts. Along those lines, when survivor Trudy Album told of her experiences during World War II in Hungary and Czechoslovakia, Ariana Rabinovich of Fort Collins, CO, videoed the presentation to share with classmates for a school project.

The convention also featured learning labs, leadership activities, Shabbat and *Havdalah* celebrations, and entertainment by Daya and Fetty Wap. First-hand accounts from Holocaust survivors reinforced the responsibility of remembrance, and off-site visits to local nonprofits emphasized the importance of communal involvement for all ages. Teens visited sites that included Clean the World; Emeril Lagasse Foundation Kitchen House and Culinary Garden; and the Renaissance Senior Center. They also heard from two-time Olympic soccer gold medalist and LGBTQ activist Abby Wambach, and watched videos sent to them from Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley.

During a live session moderated by BBYO's Teen Press Corps, actor Peck – known to parents for Nickelodeon's "Drake and Josh," and to teens as a YouTube and social-media influencer – answered questions from Eva Hayman (Northern Region East, Northern Virginia) and Olivia Landsman (Gold Coast Region, Florida) about a variety of topics, including self-acceptance, and the rewards and challenges of growing up in the public eye. Asked what it was like having his awkward years chronicled on television, the actor quipped: "Kids going through the same stages can feel a little better knowing it's going to end up OK." (He then posed for pictures with more than 500 teen delegates.)

BBYO's CEO Matthew Grossman noted the convention was the largest of its kind, gaining 500 new delegates since the 2017 summit in Dallas and first-time delegates from Australia, China, Colombia, Mexico and Spain. He attributed the strong growth of the event to the organization being teen-led, coupled with its pluralistic environment.

"There's no need for focus groups when kids are planning exactly what they want," he said. "Teens are more than the center of conversation; they're running it."

Pamela Ruben is an author and freelance writer based in Orlando, FL.



L-r: Jewish Community Center Maintenance Coordinator Joel McLennan and Facilities Manager Jamie VanAbs joined in the Purim fun by dressing as the Cowardly Lion and the Tin Man from "The Wizard of Oz." VanAbs' dog Tikki stood in for Dorothy's dog Toto.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

With U.N. exhibit, Israel sends message that “3,000 years of history cannot be denied”

(Israel Hayom/Exclusive to JNS via JNS) – As part of his five-day visit to the United States, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was to stop at the headquarters of the United Nations in New York on March 8 to check out an exhibit aimed at providing archaeological proof of the continuous Jewish history in Jerusalem. The exhibit – a joint effort by the Jerusalem Affairs and Heritage Ministry, and the Israeli Mission to the United Nations – follows a series of resolutions passed by the international governing body denying Jewish ties to the city. Ambassadors, diplomats and senior U.N. officials have all been invited to view the exhibit, which presents authentic archaeological findings unearthed in Israel alongside replicas of other historical items that serve to illustrate the connection between the Jewish people and Israel’s capital. Among the findings on display are a 2,700-year-old seal impression inscribed in ancient Hebrew, which was discovered in January, and an inscription from the seal of biblical King Hezekiah, who ruled from 727-698 B.C.E. and helped build Jerusalem into an ancient metropolis. Danny Danon, Israel’s ambassador to the United Nations, said: “The historical truth is the best answer to the attempts to dispute the eternal connection between the Jewish people and their capital.”

AIPAC head calls for creation of a Palestinian state in conference address

The head of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee called for the creation of a Palestinian state in his address to the organization’s annual pro-Israel conference in Washington, DC. AIPAC CEO Howard Kohr told the 18,000 attendees on March 4 that everyone must work “toward that future: two states for two peoples. One Jewish with secure and defensible borders, and one Palestinian with its own flag and its own future,” he said. He added that “today, that dream seems remote. This is tragic.” Kohr also blamed Palestinian leadership for avoiding direct talks with Israel, saying that “peace begins by talking” and lamented that “it has been nearly eight years since [Palestinian Authority] President Abbas has had direct talks with an Israeli prime minister.” Kohr declared that “there is no substitute for direct negotiations” and “there are no short cuts to peace. You can’t do it through the United Nations, not through the European Union and not through Moscow.” Kohr’s remarks came on the eve of a scheduled meeting between Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and U.S. President Donald Trump. While the Trump administration has not been as forceful as past U.S. administrations on the issue of Palestinian statehood, reports the week of March 2 suggested that the administration’s possible peace proposal includes a call for a demilitarized Palestinian state with its capital in eastern Jerusalem. However, it remains unclear whether or

not the Trump administration’s peace plan will move forward given its strained relations with the Palestinians, as well as the legal troubles currently plaguing both Trump and Netanyahu.

Israeli judge, prosecutor scandal leads to judicial inquiry

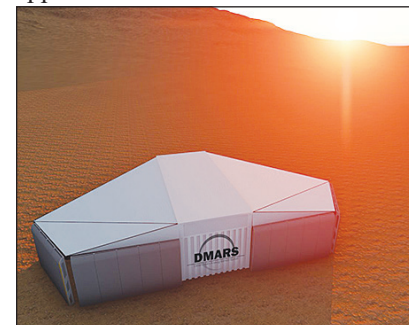
The president of Israel’s Supreme Court announced the establishment of an official inquiry into the relationship between judges and law-enforcement officials the week of March 6, following the collusion of a judge with a state prosecutor in a case involving Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The announcement was made after Tel Aviv Magistrate Court Judge Ronit Poznansky-Katz was found to have coordinated her remand rulings with a state prosecutor for suspects implicated in a corruption case involving Netanyahu and the Israeli telecom giant Bezeq. The week of March 2, Justice Minister Ayelet Shaked initiated disciplinary proceedings against Poznansky-Katz, who will not face criminal proceedings at this time. Judge Eliezer Rivlin, the ombudsman handling complaints against judges, found that a dialogue of text messages over several months between Poznansky-Katz and Israel Securities Authority attorney Eran Shacham-Shavit was “highly inappropriate.” In the exchange, Shacham-Shavit told Poznansky-Katz that the Securities Authority would ask her to release some suspects while continuing to remand others. “Try and act surprised,” he wrote. “I’m practicing my surprised face,” she responded before apparently agreeing to the request. The Bezeq corruption investigation, dubbed Case 4000, examines whether Bezeq owner Shaul Elovitch ordered his Walla news site to give favorable coverage to Netanyahu’s family in exchange for the prime minister, who was communications minister at the time, advancing regulations benefitting Bezeq. Netanyahu denies any wrongdoing in these cases.

First lawsuit filed under new Polish “Holocaust law”

A Polish campaign group has filed the first legal action under the new Polish “Holocaust Law” that criminalizes any suggestion that Poland took part in crimes against the Jewish people during World War II. The Polish League Against Defamation is suing Argentina’s *Página 12* daily newspaper for using a photograph of Polish soldiers who fought against Communists after the war to illustrate an article on the Jedwabne pogrom of 1941, in which Nazis and local Poles massacred at least 340 Jews. “The combination of these two threads: information about the crime on Jews in Jedwabne during the German occupation and the presentation of fallen soldiers of the independence underground is manipulation, an act to the detriment of the Polish nation,” the organization said in a statement. *Página* claimed not to have received any legal notice, only discovering the suit from the international news. Approximately three million Polish Jews were murdered by the Nazis – about half of all Jews exterminated in the Holocaust. While thousands of Poles risked their lives to protect Jews during the war, some of the largest and most known Nazi extermination camps – including Auschwitz, Sobibor, Treblinka and Majdanek – were located in Poland.

Mars Continued from page 6

is considered one of the only places on the planet with conditions relatively similar to those on Mars. The area resembles Mars in terms of its topography, geology, aridity, appearance and isolation.



At left: An artist's rendering of the D-Mars station in Israel's Negev desert. (Photo by D-Mars Project)

Frontier Continued from page 9

At the February 26 opening event, Portnoy told JNS that the public response has been overwhelmingly positive. “I personally enjoyed the pop culture side of it. As much as it was interesting to see the religious artifacts and what the Jewish astronauts brought with them to the space trips, my favorite part was seeing how the Jews influenced pop culture and sci-fi,” Miriam Spritzer, 32, told JNS. “I thought the exhibit was very well put together. It was small and to the point.”

Professor David N. Myers, president and CEO of the Center for Jewish History, said the exhibit is meant to showcase that “just as Jewish history spans a huge span of time, so, too, does it range across a vast expanse of space. And it turns out that Jews have been preoccupied with space for thousands of years.”

“Jews in Space: Members of the Tribe in Orbit,” is presented at the Center for Jewish History until June. In May, the museum will host an evening with Hoffman and Dr. Valerie Neal, curator and chairwoman of the Space History Department at the Smithsonian Institution.



A look into “Jews in Space: Members of the Tribe in Orbit.” (Photo courtesy of Center for Jewish History)

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