

THE REPORTER

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BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK

Bikes and Brews event at Binghamton JCC

The Jewish Community Center will host its first ever Bikes and Brews event on Sunday, June 3, from 12-4 pm. The cost is \$45 per person, for both JCC members and non-members. Pre-registration is required and due by Friday, May 25. Participants must be 21 years or older. The entire community is welcome and encouraged to attend.

The day will begin at the JCC where bikers – who must have their own bicycle and helmet – will meet for a quick road and bike safety orientation before taking a three-mile road ride to downtown Binghamton. Participants will receive a token, which is good for one beer at both Galaxy Brewing Company and Water Street Brewery, as well as a commemorative t-shirt. After the group has visited both breweries, there will be transportation back to the JCC, where participants must have their own rides home.



Aquatics Coordinator Ellie Barvinchak and Youth Director Lynette Errante

Participants are also welcome to bring cash for additional drinks or food.

“This inaugural event is perfect for

groups of people as well as individuals,” said Ellie Barvinchak, JCC aquatics coordinator and one of the Bikes and Brews organizers, adding that participants will “enjoy a fun afternoon of leisurely outdoor

exercise and a sampling of delicious local micro-brews.”

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

Weiss couple to be honored at TI on June 2

The community is invited to honor and celebrate Dr. Robert “Bob” and Diana Weiss for their dedication to Temple Israel on Saturday, June 2, at 10 am at the synagogue, 4737 Deerfield Pl., Vestal. A celebratory *kiddush* luncheon will follow Shabbat services. The celebration is free and open to the public. RSVPs are requested by Tuesday, May 29, to Temple Israel by calling 723-7461 or by e-mailing Tammy Kunsman at titammy@stny.twcbc.com.

Bob is part of four generations of members of Temple Israel. His parents, Dr. Martin and Gertrude Weiss, were among the original founders of Temple Israel, when it opened on Exchange Street in Binghamton in 1923. At that time, Martin served as vice president of the temple, while Gertrude served as president of the first Temple Israel Sisterhood.

Bob and Diana were involved in the development and construction plans for two Temple Israel buildings, culminating in the newest Temple Israel, which opened its doors in 2016. Bob was on the building committee of the original Vestal synagogue and Diana was a participant in the adult bat mitzvah class at Temple Israel under Rabbi Jacob Hurwitz. “They have always been proud members who are consistent contributors whenever called upon,” says son Jonathan Weiss, who is a current temple board member.

Bob and Diana have many children and grandchildren: Lynn Myers, Mitchell Weiss,



Diana and Robert Weiss

Vicki (and Glen) Shapiro and Jonathan (and Tracey) Weiss. Grandchildren are Alexis and Renee Shapiro and Margot and Natalie Weiss. Over the years, Temple Israel has been a part of the Weiss’ family life events, including marriages, bar and bat mitzvahs, baby namings and *brit milah*.

“We at Temple Israel are happy to have the opportunity to honor Bob and Diana Weiss, who, along with their family, have been members here for many years. We are now planning this event to show our appreciation and say thank you for the support, dedication and generosity they have shown to our synagogue,” says Barbara Zelter, event coordinator.

For those who are unable to attend, but would like to honor Bob and Diana, contributions may be made to Temple Israel in their honor.

Fashion on display at Intersisterhood



The annual Intersisterhood event took place on May 2 at Beth David Synagogue. The event featured a fashion show with clothes from Vintageness and commentary by Vintageness owner Inessa Raytenberg (in front with flowers). Modeling the clothes were Sisterhood members from the three local synagogues. (See more photos on page 3.)

Esserman wins Syracuse Press Club award

By Reporter staff

Rabbi Rachel Esserman, the executive editor of The Reporter Group, won a 2017 Syracuse Press Club Professional Recognition Award for her column “Privileged Advice.” It took second place in the “all print: column” category.

“I am pleased to win another Syracuse Press Club award,” Esserman said. “Members of our local community have told me when they enjoy my columns, but it is always nice to receive professional recognition.”

Writing is one of Esserman’s favorite parts of being executive editor. “I really feel I’ve accomplished something when I’ve done some writing,” she said. “In fact, I like rewriting better than writing the first draft. It gives me a chance to play with words and refine my ideas. Writing columns like this also gives me a better understanding of our social and political circumstances.”

“Privileged Advice,” which can be found on *The Reporter* website at www.thereportergroup.org/Article.aspx?aID=4617, tells about Esserman’s reaction to an article about a book written by the daughter of a billionaire. The author of the book gave advice to women, but seemed unaware of the cushion money provides her. “Those of us with sufficient funds don’t realize the difficulties others



Rabbi Rachel Esserman

face,” Esserman said. “We should stop for a moment before offering advice to those whose needs we don’t understand.”

In her column, she wrote, “I’m going to include myself in those who live a life of privilege, even though most people would not consider me rich – even with the combined salaries of my full time and part time employment. However, I recognize how much better off I am than many people.”

Esserman noted that many people take for granted not having to worry about money for rent, food or clothing. “Many working people are one or two steps from a disaster they can never recover from – be it the loss of a job or a medical emergency that leaves them in debt,” she added.

In the column, Esserman also questioned why she reacted to the article about the book: “Why did I react so strongly to the article about this new book? I realized that it’s because I’ve been thinking about the importance of money in another context: the guilt people have when they have to choose between two options, neither of which leaves them feeling good about themselves. Yet, when talking to people about these choices, I sometimes come to an interesting conclusion: If money were not an issue, then the choices they had to make would be much easier.”

Happy Shavuot!

THE REPORTER GROUP

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Opinion

Engage in values discourse about Israel through iEngage

By Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell

In an increasingly polarized political environment, the Israel conversation across America has become toxic and divisive. This has concerned me in making it harder for us to have conversations about many important topics, but the lack of in-depth conversations about Israel has been glaring in its absence. I have been concerned since I came to Binghamton about the lack of conversation and exploration of our identity and understandings of Israel, and our relation as American Jews with the country and its people. I am hopeful that the iEngage program will help us begin to unpack the diverse ways in which American Jews think about and talk about Israel.

The Shalom Hartman Institute of North America has embarked to transform the nature of the Israel conversation. I am excited and honored to be part of bringing one of the Hartman Institute's iEngage programs to our Jewish community along with Temple Concord, Temple Israel and the Jewish Federation. We will be utilizing the iEngage program "Israel's Milestones and their Meanings" to facilitate nuanced, pluralistic, values-based conversations about Israel. Three key events – the Balfour Declaration

in 1917, the U.N. approval of the Partition Plan in 1947 and the Six-Day War in 1967 – changed our reality and unleashed ideas and emotions, which influenced different paths that Israel took in forming its identity.

The program includes exploring traditional and contemporary Jewish texts, which model a diverse and values-based conversation on the spectrum of views about Zionism and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict. There are also videos that will be used as part of the sessions and which will also be available to all program participants online, along with other supplementary articles and readings.

We will be engaged in memory not history, focusing on the meanings of the events and what we can learn from them. We will be looking at these events with a focus on the possible meaning and significance for Jewish life in the past, present and future.

The curriculum was designed to help participants leave opinions, rigidity and defensiveness at the door. The purpose of this course is to enable Jews to talk to other Jews, which I think is a good thing. I hope you concur with me on this. The goal of iEngage is not to gloss over our disagreements, but to attempt to create a shared space of value discourse, where people with differing political positions

can join together in thinking about and discussing values and principles, which can transcend our differences.

It is my hope that people will sign up for this program to explore the issues together, to learn about other perspectives, and also how to listen to others and express one's own views in ways in which we can hear each other, learn from one another and grow together.

I am committed to fostering a learning environment that will be respectful of all perspectives and all participants, while challenging us to learn and grow beyond what we knew and understood before this program. While Rabbi Geoffrey Brown and I will be leading the first two sessions on Thursdays, May 31 and June 21, this spring, we expect participants to continue with the series in the fall for the remaining six sessions.

Please contact Temple Concord or Temple Israel so we can order program books for participants. The cost for the entire program is \$20 per person for the program book and internet access to additional resource materials. I am excited to offer this program together with Temple Concord, Temple Israel and the Jewish Federation.

Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell is the spiritual leader at Temple Concord.

From Berlin to... Babylon?

By Orit Arfa

(Sephardi Perspective via JNS) – I recently met with a Jordanian couple on a day tour I give to Dresden from Berlin. They were friendly, even after learning that I'm Israeli (and American). We kept the topic of our conversations, at first, about life in Germany and the sites. But on the way back to Berlin, the topic turned political, yet amicable. Ironically, when Arabs and Jews meet in Berlin, they stand a better chance at seeing the "other" as individuals, and not an automatic representative of either the "Palestinian" or "Israeli" narrative.

The man told me how he has close family living in eastern Jerusalem, but that the Israeli government forbids him from visiting them. He is "Palestinian," and his family lived in Jerusalem before the founding of the state. He can't enter the land of his forefathers. He didn't evince anger about the loss, rather shame. I agreed it was too bad and didn't go into the usual polemics how the Arabs started the war

and ran the risk of losing it, along with their land. Nor did argue that the Arab forces encouraged many to flee, with promises to return.

But as we said our good-byes (they gave me a nice tip, too), I thought about the land of my forefathers that I haven't seen. No, not Israel. Not Poland. I've already visited the graves of my paternal ancestors in Lodz, a few hours' train ride from Berlin.

I'm talking about Iraq.

I remember one night, when I lived for a few months with my Iraqi grandmother in Givatayim near Tel Aviv, I saw her cry in the corner, listening to Arabic love songs on the radio. I asked her if she was OK as tears rolled down her wrinkled, 80-something-year-old face. She said the songs make her think of Iraq and the good times she had there. Since the Nazi-inspired Farhud pogrom drove Iraqi Jewry out, I don't think she ever really enjoyed life in Israel as much as she did in Baghdad, where she married

and gave birth to my mother. She suffered a lot in Israel, with the premature loss of her husband and brother to health complications. She didn't live with as much luxury and even, up until the persecution of Jews in Iraq, with as much security.

She made the most delicious Iraqi foods, which I long to replicate, but which are way more complicated than matzah-ball soup. Safta knew the recipes masterfully by heart for kubba, tibit and those Iraqi, date-filled Purim hamantashen. The Jewish world produces countless kosher cookbooks on Ashkenazi delights, but hardly any for Iraqi delights.

My mother is extremely proud of her Sephardi heritage, even though she has since been "Ashkenized." She prays at an Ashkenazi *shul* every Shabbat, but she still takes her Sephardi *machzor*, prayerbook, with her on the High Holidays, feeling great nostalgia for the Iraqi cantors that See "Babylon" on page 8

In My Own Words

Frustration

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Code red: my political and social frustration levels are just about at their highest. There are so many irritating and potentially dangerous things happening that I almost don't know where to begin.

I can't tell you the words I'd use if given the opportunity to talk to former New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, because they aren't polite. First, it's necessary to say that Schneiderman denies the charges against him and he has not been found guilty in a court of law. My frustration stems from him doing *anything* that might have potentially damaged his political career. He was one of the good guys and did what an attorney general is supposed to do: *protect the citizens of his state*. What also irks me is that there is at least one high level government official who has admitted publicly (on tape) that he touched (grabbed) women's [you need to fill in the word here because I can't print it in a family-friendly paper] without their permission, yet feels no need to resign from office.

Then there's the black performer who claimed that being a slave was a choice. Talk about blaming the victim! It seems he has no knowledge of the history of slavery in the U.S. or how institutionalized racism has taken its toll

on the black population. At the same time, I read about those who believe that Jews are to blame for what was done to them in the Holocaust. There's more of a connection between these two thoughts than one might expect. Similar reasons have been given to explain the oppression of blacks and Jews: they wear funny clothes; they talk differently; they eat different foods; they can't be trusted; and they regularly cheat and steal. It's so much easier to blame the victim than be forced to change how we think about someone different from us.

Then, there's the fact the United States backed out of the Iran deal. It shouldn't matter what you think about the original deal. What *should* matter is that the United States stands by its agreements. That's why even people who originally opposed the deal think that this is a mistake. The Iran deal was not made between President Barack Obama and Iran. It was made between the *United States government*, Iran and numerous other nations, including Russia and China. A contract can't be declared null and void just because one party decides it doesn't like it. Now, no one – and I mean, *no one* – is going to believe that our country will stand by its contracts. Actually, having read

about President Donald Trump's handling of his business contracts – his frequent refusal to pay the amount originally agreed in a contract – I can't say I'm surprised that he's doing the same on the governmental level. However, this time he is playing fast and loose with the reputation of the United States, and that is something to be taken seriously.

Perhaps worst of all are the attacks on journalists. No one claims that journalists are perfect. The desire for a scoop sometimes gets the best of some of them. For TV news, the ratings race means they sometimes look for sensationalist news, rather than hard news. However, a democracy *cannot* function without journalists. I find it horrific that the worst cries of "fake news" come from a man who has publicly admitted to making up facts during meetings. Yes, President Trump has publicly admitted that he makes up facts and figures. Then he cries "fake news" when he doesn't like what someone publishes about him. The job of a journalist is *not* to say nice things about the president; the job of a journalist is *not* to support government officials or policies. The job of a journalist *is* to uncover when government officials don't tell us the truth. That's how a democracy works.



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OPINIONS

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

LETTERS

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

ADS

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

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www.thereporter.org

TC Happy Hour with Jan DeAngelo on June 2

On Saturday, June 2, at 6 pm, Jan DeAngelo will sing and play piano at the Temple Concord Happy Hour in the Kilmer Mansion at 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton. All members of the community are invited. Happy Hour is free and sponsored by the Temple Concord Outreach Committee.

“Jan DeAngelo has recorded several albums and is a much sought after vocalist and pianist,” according to Happy Hour organizers. He has performed all over the United States, Canada and Italy.

DeAngelo plays and sings in many styles, including musical theater, cabaret, opera and pop. He was the recipient of the Friars Club Award from the Theater Department at Binghamton University in 1987. DeAngelo received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Broome County Arts Council in 2012.

“Spend time with friends and make new ones at Happy Hour. Enjoy refreshments, DeAngelo’s entertainment and

sing along,” said organizers of the event.

After a brief *Havdalah* service to close Shabbat, attendees who wish may continue with dinner at 7:30 pm at a downtown Binghamton restaurant.

RSVP by calling Temple Concord at 723-7355 or send-

ing an e-mail to templeconcordbinghamton@gmail.com so organizers know how many to plan for. Those coming to dinner are asked to leave their name and the number in their party for a reservation. Reservations must be made by Wednesday, May 30.

TC Sisterhood Shabbat and installation on May 18

Temple Concord Sisterhood Shabbat and installation of 2018-2019 officers will be held on Friday, May 18, at 8 pm, at Temple Concord, 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton.

Sisterhood Shabbat is being organized by Cathy Eckert and Shari Neuberger. Members of the Sisterhood will

participate in the service.

Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell will be the installing officer for the officers and Board of Directors members. Sisterhood will sponsor the *oneg* following installation and services. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

“Faces: Holocaust” exhibit on display at the JCC

The Jewish Community Center, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, is holding the exhibit “Faces: Holocaust” through Thursday, June 14, in the meeting room. The artists are from SUNY Broome, who drew faces of marginalized and overlooked people for the exhibition series “Faces.” The exhibit at the JCC is the second in the series.

The exhibit showcases a series of classical realist larger-than-life-size portrait drawings rendered in charcoal, pencil and mixed media along with life stories that represent survivors, as well as those who perished during the Holocaust. SUNY Broome Associate



Above, left and right: The exhibit “Faces: Holocaust” is now on display at the Jewish Community Center. The artists are SUNY Broome students and the portraits represent survivors and non-survivors of the Holocaust rendered in charcoal, pencil and mixed media.

Professor Patricia Evans’ beginning drawing students seek to tell the story of sacrifice and struggle, and to make a difference through form and content. Part of their project was researching the history of Holocaust survivors and non-survivors, including their birth and death records, culminating into a lesson on social and cultural history.

The JCC requests that people call its office at 724-2417 to find out if the meeting room, which is located just off the lobby, is available for viewing. The lobby is open Monday-Thursday from 8:30 am-8 pm and on Friday from 8:30 am-4 pm.

Intersisterhood featured a fashion show



At left: Approximately 60 people attended the Intersisterhood fashion show on May 2 at Beth David Synagogue. Inessa Raytenberg, of Vintageness, whose clothes were used during the fashion show, is shown on stage.



L-r: Barbara Zelter, Beverly Rozen and Dora Polachek.



L-r: Lynne Green, Maxine Rosenberg and Barbara Wolfson.



L-r: Sandra Paston, Sima Auerbach and Fern Sternberg.

NEWS IN BRIEF

From JTA

Bahraini official supports Israel’s right to defend itself

The Bahraini foreign minister said Israel had a right to defend itself from Iran. The message on Twitter on May 10, a day after Israel once again struck targets in Syria believed to house Iranian materiel and personnel, was unusual for an Arab leader in its blunt defense of Israel. Bahrain is one of a number of Gulf states that have in recent decades moderated their views on Israel and allowed Israelis to visit and do business, but expressions of unadorned support for Israeli military action are exceptional if not unprecedented. “As long as Iran has breached the status quo in the region and has (yet to) evacuate its troops and missiles, any state in the region, including Israel, is entitled to defend itself by destroying the sources of danger,” Sheikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa said in Arabic on the social media website. Israeli combat aircraft hit Iranian military installations overnight May 10, in response to a barrage of rockets on the Israeli-held Golan Heights. As many as 23 troops with Syrian and allied forces were killed.

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Off the Shelf

Stories and secrets

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

Almost every family has its secrets – the stories elders don't share with their children or grandchildren. These secrets can have a greater effect on future generations than might be expected. In two recent novels – “The Last Watchman of Old Cairo” by Michael David Lukas (Spiegel and Grau) and “The Diamond Setter” by Moshe Sakal (Other Press), the characters not only explore family history and secrets, but the relationship between Jews and Arabs in the Middle East.

I loved the first novel by Lukas (*The Reporter* review can be found at www.thereportergroup.org/Article.aspx?aID=2072) and was worried about having too high expectations for his second. Fortunately, my fears proved unfounded: “The Last Watchman of Old Cairo” is another wise and charming work. The author offers three narratives: one that takes place at the turn of the 21st century; a second looking at real-life British sisters Agnes Lewis and Margaret Gibson during the year 1897; and the third telling the story of Ali, a Muslim orphan who becomes the night watchman at the Ibn Ezra Synagogue in Cairo in the 11th century C.E. By the end of the novel, the connections between the three plot lines become clear and offer a greater understanding of the history of Jews and Arabs in Cairo.

The novel opens almost like a fairytale, taking readers to a time long past “when Cairo was two cities and the Jews but a tribe among them.” It's then that Ali is hired as a night watchman at the synagogue. He soon comes to be treated as a part of the Jewish community, although the synagogue elders don't reveal all their secrets to him, especially not the one about the mysterious scroll hidden

in the synagogue's attic. The scroll, however, will play an important role in his life.

Almost nine hundred years later, Agnes and Margaret visit Cairo to meet their friend, Solomon Schechter, another real life character, who is an instructor at Cambridge University. Schechter has made an amazing discovery: he's found a treasure trove of books and papers stored in the attic of Ibn Ezra Synagogue. Schechter and the two women want to transport the papers and books to Cambridge so scholars can study the material. Agnes and Margaret also hear rumors about a mysterious scroll that's said to have been written by the ancient biblical scribe Ezra. The two women dream of seeing it with their own eyes and attempt to discover where the scroll is hidden.

In the 21st century, a first person narration tells the story of 26-year-old Joseph, a graduate student and the son of a Jewish mother and Muslim father. Joseph's narration begins three months after his father's death, when a mysterious package arrives. It includes a photograph and plaque related to the Ibn Ezra Synagogue, which is where his parents first met and his father served as the last Muslim watchman. Joseph finds the contents of the package so intriguing that he travels to Cairo to learn their history. What he discovers changes the course of his life.

“The Last Watchman of Old Cairo” is a moving story that I read slowly in order to savor the prose. Readers, especially those familiar with the history of the real life Ibn Ezra Synagogue, may guess the direction of the plot, but the real pleasure is in seeing how Lukas connects all the different strands of his tale.

While “The Last Watchman of Old Cairo” contains straight forward narratives, Sakal plays with the idea of truth and fiction in “The Diamond Setter.” Parts of the story are told in the third person and feature several generations of two Jewish and Muslim families. What partly connects them is a famous blue diamond. Unfortunately, the jewel was stolen from Menashe, a member of the Jewish family whose members now live in Tel Aviv, but who were originally from Damascus. Stories of two generations of the family are featured throughout the novel and reveal secrets of which the younger generations are unaware. The Arab family, which was originally from Jaffa, now lives in Syria. One of its younger members, Fareed, slips illegally into Israel in order to return the blue diamond to the jeweler. On the way, he finds himself involved in the gay scene in Tel Aviv, where he meets Menashe's nephew, Tom.

In addition to helping his uncle at his jewelry store, Tom is writing a novel. His first-person sections play with the narrative line since he claims to be writing the novel currently been reading. However, he notes that he is embellishing the plot, rather than just relating what is occurring around him. Tom also includes conversations with Menashe and a friend, who complain that post-modern literature – of which “The Diamond Setter” is an example – contains too many plot lines and extraneous material that forces the reader to puzzle out the different connections. In addition, Tom raises the question of whether his material is political because it speaks to the right of return: whether Fareed's family's home, which is now part of Israel, should See “Secrets” on page 8

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of Upstate Holdings 1, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 03/26/18. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 978 Vestal Ave., Binghamton, NY 13903. Purpose: any lawful activities.

Notice of Formation of a Limited Liability Company (LLC): Name: Remington Consulting Solutions, LLC, Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 3/23/18. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated LLC agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: LLC, Attn: John G. Dowd, PO Box 1905, Binghamton, NY 13902. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose. Date of dissolution: None.

Notice of Formation of Tony Tools, LLC

Arts. Of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 03/27/2018. Office location: Broome Co. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, P.O. Box 339, Binghamton, NY 13902. Purpose: any lawful activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY: The name of the limited liability company is: 81 State Hospitality Group, LLC (the “Company”). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was April 4, 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.

Florence V. Properties, LLC. Art. of Org. filed w/ SSNY 1/24/18. Office in Broome Co. SSNY designated for service of process and shall mail to Reg. Agent: US Corp. Agents, Inc, 7014 13th Ave. Ste. 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: Any lawful activity

Notice of Formation of Deerfield Place Associates, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY

(SSNY) on 01/22/04. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 300 Plaza Dr., Vestal, NY 13850. Purpose: any lawful activities.

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

- The name of the limited liability company (“LLC”) is Frazier Apartment Management, LLC.
- The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is April 20, 2018.
- The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the LLC is located is Broome.
- 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: 2309 North Street, Endicott, NY 13760.
- The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

Notice of Formation of a Limited Liability Company (LLC): Name: W3ZEN, LLC, Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 4/3/18. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated LLC agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: LLC, Attn: John G. Dowd, PO Box 1905, Binghamton, NY 13902. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose. Date of dissolution: None.

Notice of Formation of Chapin Street, LLC

Arts. Of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 04/11/2018. Office location: Broome Co. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, c/o 101 Jefferson Avenue, Endicott, NY 13760. Purpose: any lawful activities.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY OF FOREIGN LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

UNDER NEW YORK LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY LAW (“LLCL”)

- The name of the foreign limited liability company (“LLC”) is WHITE ANGELICA LLC.
- The date of filing of the application for authority with the Secretary of State is April 24, 2018.
- The jurisdiction of organization of the LLC is the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the date of its organization is July 30, 2015.
- The County within the State of New York in which the office of the foreign Limited liability company is to be located is Broome County.
- The Secretary of State of the State of New York has been designated as agent of the foreign limited liability company 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: 226 Jones Road, Friendsville, PA 18818.
- The principal office of the foreign limited liability company is 226 Jones Road, Friendsville, PA 18818
- The name and address of the authorized officer in its jurisdiction of organization where a copy of its certificate of organization is filed is: PA Department of State, Corporation Bureau, 206 North Office Building, 401 North Street, Harrisburg, PA 17120.
- The character or purpose of the business of the foreign limited liability company is any purpose allowed by law.

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

- The name of the limited liability company (“LLC”) is Kingsforge Holdings LLC.
- The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is May 1, 2018.
- The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the LLC is located is Broome.
- 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: 109 Sergeant Street, Johnson City, NY 13790.

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

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

- The name of the limited liability company (“LLC”) is Duff's Dairy Treats, LLC.
- The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is May 2, 2018.
- The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the LLC is located is Cortland.
- 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: 5378 Gee Brook Road, Cincinnati, NY 13040.
- The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

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

- The name of the limited liability company (“LLC”) is Appraisal Pros. LLC, 26 Ritchie Rd. Binghamton, NY 13901
- The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is April 30, 2018.
- The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the LLC is located is Broome.
- 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: 26 Ritchie Rd., Binghamton, NY 13901

- 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: 55 North Main, LLC (the “Company”). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was May 3, 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 JEFF'S QUALITY BAIT LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 04/26/18. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 244 Bean Hill Rd., Endicott, NY 13760. Purpose: any lawful activities.

THUNDER CLOUD PROPERTIES, LLC - NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (“LLC”)

Articles of Organization of THUNDER CLOUD PROPERTIES, LLC filed with the NYS Secretary of State (NYSS) on 4/25/2018. Office of LLC is in Broome County. NYSS designated as agent for service of process against it. NYSS shall mail process to 1963 Bradley Creek Road, Endicott, NY 13760. Business purpose: any lawful activity

Notice of Formation of CK's Carwash, LLC

Arts. Of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 04/24/2018. Office location: Broome Co. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 2099 Partridge Lane, Binghamton, NY 13903. Purpose: any lawful activity.

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TC religious school end of year events

Temple Concord wrapped up its year of religious school programming with a potluck breakfast and special honors for this year's teachers on May 5. Longtime soloist Jason Flatt, who is graduating from Binghamton University this spring, received special recognition during Shabbat services.



At right: Jason Flatt, longtime soloist, received special recognition during Shabbat services.

U.S. dedicates Jerusalem embassy amid jubilation, violence

By Marcy Oster

JERUSALEM (JTA) – The United States dedicated its newly established embassy in Jerusalem in a high-profile ceremony attended by Trump administration officials. Both Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President Reuven Rivlin pronounced the *Shehechyanu* prayer during the May 14 afternoon ceremony, which is said when one is thankful for a new or unusual experience.



A newly hung sign pointing to the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem, which was inaugurated on May 14. (Photo by Ben Sales)

"Today we officially open the United States embassy in Jerusalem. Congratulations it's been a long time coming," President Donald Trump said in a video greeting. "Israel is a sovereign nation with the right like any other nation to determine its own capital."

"Today we follow through on this recognition and open our embassy in the historic and sacred land of Jerusalem," Trump said. Its opening, he said, was "many, many years ahead of schedule."

The dedication came as Gaza's Health Ministry reported that Israeli defense forces had killed at least 50 Palestinians during protests by tens of thousands of Palestinians who were massed on the territory's border with Israel. More than 2,400 were injured. Thousands of Palestinians also marched in See "Embassy" on page 11



Religious school students dressed down on the last day of school.



Religious school teachers were honored.

Business Profiles

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 E-mail: DeRue@celebrationswithderue.com
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Dr. Carol Miller,
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Birthright from the *sabra* side: The Israeli perspective

By Eliana Rudee

(JNS) – While it is well known that Birthright trips provide American participants with a transformative, often life-changing experience, it is perhaps less known that the young Israelis who accompany the participants on the trip often have similarly transformative experiences. Young Israeli Ayelet [her name has been changed to protect privacy], a 23-year-old computer scientist, and Racheli [last name held on request], a 22-year-old speech therapist, accompanied a Mayanot Birthright trip from March 12-19 with the goal of traveling the country with contemporaries eager to learn more about the life of young Israeli adults.

Both reported that contrary to what they had expected before the trip, the experience made them question stereotypes about Americans, contemplate their Jewish identity and boost their pride about their own society and land. Ayelet, who is in the midst of planning a summer trip abroad with friends, hoped that the experience would shed

light on what it's like to meet foreigners and travel with the same group of people for a week. Racheli, who has family in the United States, wanted to get to know other American Jews in hopes of doing another national service in America or joining a U.S. summer camp in the future.

Even after the first few days of the program, the American participants surprised both women, who had admittedly expected them to be a bit naive. Ayelet, who had “heard a lot about Taglit and Americans,” said she was “amazed and surprised” when she found the participants to be “very nice and mature,” as well as good conversationalists. Racheli noted that she could tell from their many questions that they “really wanted to know more, feel and discover Israel.”

“In the desert star-gazing experience, I was so surprised about how people shared such deep thoughts,” said Ayelet. “I was thinking about myself and my life in a particular way, and to hear how [broadly] others were thinking was really touching.”

Racheli, who also found the desert experience particularly “deep and touching,” added: “I can tell they had a goal when they came.” She told JNS that “the way they chose to share was amazing. In the desert, some people said such deep things about their families and challenges, and shared them with us.”

According to tour guide and Mayanot tour educator Daniel Charter, who led Ayelet's and Racheli's group, the connection between the American and Israeli participants is his favorite part of Birthright. “Being a part of this is my most important work; on the other hand, it is completely not dependent on me,” he told JNS.

One of Mayanot's central programs of every Birthright trip is a workshop about Jewish identity, where participants and Israelis are asked to express what being a Jew means to them. According to Charter, this activity – and Birthright, in general – “gives the Israelis a chance to see the Diaspora and its great challenges to Jewish life in a new light, while



Racheli [last name held on request] and American participants at Masada. (Photo by Eliana Rudee)



A group photo of Mayanot 322. (Photo by Eliana Rudee)

showing them what a special place they live in and what huge opportunities there are for making an impact while creating an adult life here.”

Racheli reflected on this activity: “I had so many questions for the participants. We are all Jews, but it is so different. Everyone experiences Judaism as a completely different thing.” She maintained that the activity made her delve into her own Jewish identity. “It's easy to be Israeli and Jewish,” she told JNS. “All my friends are Jewish, and I experience Israel every day. I don't get to think about [identity] that much. I just realized how hard it is to be Jewish in a non-Jewish country. I now think about it not as something you take for granted.”

Similarly, Charter maintained that “it is a great irony of history that the current and next generation of Israelis take for granted the most amazing and even miraculous project of the Jewish people: the state of Israel.” See “*Sabra*” on page 9



Business Profiles



Ernest H. Parsons Funeral Home

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

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

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

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See “Connections” on page 7

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in f

How Israel's tech scene is helping wounded combat veterans

By Ben Sales

TEL AVIV (JTA) – When Elad Horovitz was shot in the head during Israel's 2014 war in Gaza, his first concern was survival, not how to maintain peripheral vision while driving. Horovitz, then 20, was shot through his left ear and right eye. Somehow he survived, losing half of his hearing and sight, and underwent two years of rehabilitation before he was able to return to normal life. Now he's a psychology student at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

He has a driver's license, but his vision problems provide obstacles: Horovitz can't see past the right corner of the car, making it difficult to drive on the narrow streets that crisscross Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and other Israeli cities. That, however, changed recently.



At left: Shoshi Rushnevsky, the founder of Restart, hopes "Makers for Heroes" will make the lives of wounded veterans a little easier. (Photo by Ben Sales)

At a South Tel Aviv garage, Horovitz watched as a couple of computer engineers worked on his car. One bent under the open hood while the other crowded the left side of the steering wheel with electronics. One small rectangular screen was connected to sensors on the front-left corner of the car, blinking if it got too close to anything. A camera similar to the now-common rearview cameras was for Horovitz's blind spot.

"Today, I can do almost everything and I drive a lot, almost every day," he said. "If I avoid going down narrow streets, it's just because I'm a little scared. Now I'll stop avoiding it. So these are things you can overcome and that reduces the presence of my wound day to day."

The Horovitz project was one of 14 showcased at "Makers for Heroes," a Tel Aviv event at which wounded former soldiers worked with 150 Israeli tech engineers to devise solutions to problems posed by their disabilities. After two months of prepping, the veterans and their tech teams met in the basement of a WeWork office and spent much of the next 72 hours building their products with code, 3-D printers, polymers and the electronic guts of medical devices.

Some of their innovations seemed like they would be helpful to a broader clientele. One team created a wristband that could sense the advent of a panic attack by measuring the wearer's pulse and the moisture on their skin, then playing a soothing song or providing a different distraction. Another project aimed to prevent blood clots by wrapping a veteran's legs in blood pressure sleeves and pushing blood back up the veins.

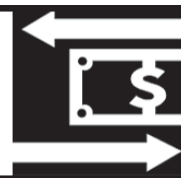


Elad Horovitz, whose vision was affected after he was shot during Israel's 2014 war in Gaza, tests a device that will make it easier for him to drive. (Photo by Ben Sales)

The teams were drawn from Tel Aviv's tech ecosystem. Some took off three days from their jobs to participate in the "make-athon," while some local startups sent teams to participate. "These soldiers gave us everything they can – their health, their entire life," said Shoshi Rushnevsky, a former Israeli tech worker and the founder of Restart, an organization that aids wounded Israeli veterans and organized the event with the Reut Institute think tank. "Let's take our connections, our knowledge, our experience, and See "Tech" on page 9



Business Profiles



TL Interiors

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

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

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

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 Fax: 607-785-9862
 Website: www.womensobgyn.info
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/WomensOBGYN/
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Women's OB/GYN Associates serves patients with individual attention and caring excellence. The team of providers offers care in the following areas: routine gynecologic exams, obstetrical care, menopause, incontinence, osteoporosis, contraception, advanced body composition, the area's only Optifast weight loss program, Young Living Essential Oils and more. Dr. Marianne (Shantillo) Davis has a special interest in adolescent health care and working with patients experiencing infertility. Karen Castoro shares her enthusiasm for healthy living and wellness to encourage those in her care. Melodye Onysko shares her expertise in holistic health care and weight management support. Dr. Carol Miller is committed to promoting women's health through a healthy diet and lifestyle.

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Connections Continued from page 6

This is especially important for small-to-medium-sized businesses. It is much more cost effective to keep an existing customer than obtain a new one. According to a study by the Rockefeller Foundation, 68 percent of customers will leave a business if they do not feel cared about or appreciated. Deepening customer relationships will save you money, time and effort in the long run – and it will keep valuable customers coming back.

How are those relationships built? Much like any relationship, they're built through attention, effort and being proactive. A recent survey conducted by Microsoft revealed that more than half of consumers want to connect with their favorite brands on a monthly or bimonthly basis. Another 18 percent said they would prefer weekly or daily interactions. The survey also found 64 percent of consumers think it's important or very important for a brand to understand their buying preferences and expectations.

In short, customers expect you to understand their needs and act on them. To win in a modern world where your competition is down the street and online, you must

become obsessed with your customers and demonstrate your obsession often.

Building customer connections can be easier than you think. Start with these three tips:

- ◆ Exceed expectations. Ask yourself what more you could be doing to go above and beyond for your customers. People want value in what they buy and they want to be valued by you. This could mean giving something to customers without seeing an immediate return for your business.
- ◆ Prioritize customer service. When asked what keeps them loyal to one brand over another, nearly a third of survey respondents said they valued customer service over incentives. Focus on improving service by encouraging responsiveness and solution finding.
- ◆ Use the digital landscape. Social media is arguably the most powerful way to engage customers and online tools can help you prioritize your customer's needs. Remember, people want to hear from you, so don't be afraid to engage directly on multiple channels to show them you care. Be authentic – you may be amazed at the results.

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Dairy, first fruits and more: Welcoming Shavuot with customs of the season

By Deborah Fineblum

(JNS) – I’ve often heard (and many rabbis lament) that Shavuot is the only major Jewish holiday many Diaspora Jews have never heard of or ever celebrated. If you are one of these newbies to the holiday, its origins and its practices, you’re not alone. To see if you fall into this category, take this little quiz.

On Shavuot, Jews mark which of the following (more than one may apply):

- 1) The new year of the trees.
- 2) The anniversary of the destruction of the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem.
- 3) The day the Torah was given on Mount Sinai.
- 4) The anniversary of Kristallnacht.
- 5) The day of the year Jews brought their first fruits to the Holy Temple.

(The correct answers to the question above are numbers 3 and 5).

For starters, the two-day holiday (celebrated just one day in Israel) begins this year after Shabbat on Saturday, May 19, and ends at nightfall on Monday, May 21. Shavuot means “weeks” in Hebrew, arriving seven weeks after Passover and concluding the counting of the *omer*, which begins on the second day of Passover. More widely known, it celebrates the moment some 3,330 years ago when the Israelites interrupted their wanderings in the wilderness long enough to stand together at the foot of Mount Sinai. There, amid thunder and lightning, they were given nothing less than the secret power – God’s living laws in the form of the Torah – that would guide and propel their descendants into becoming the longest-running religion on Earth.

For Moses, brokering the giving of the Torah was the high point in an illustrious career as God’s right-hand man. For those recently freed slaves, the revelation at Sinai was a chance to experience God directly, when they agreed unanimously that “we will do and we will hear.”

The holiday is one of the *shalosh regalim*, the three biblical pilgrimage festivals, and marks the wheat harvest in Israel. The Torah teaches us to bring the first fruits of our harvest to God on Shavuot, but since the destruction of the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem, Jews have had nowhere to bring these fruits. There is little else in the Torah to guide our celebrations, except from refraining from work. Note: Tying the holiday to the giving of the Torah was added after Second Temple days.

There are, however, quite a few age-old (and some newer) traditions for celebrating the holiday:



in May 2009, Ultra-Orthodox Jews followed an ancient biblical command and harvest wheat with a hand sickle in a field near the central Israeli town of Modi'in. They will store the wheat for almost a year and then use it to grind flour to make unleavened bread for the week-long Passover festival. (Photo by Nati Shohat/Flash90)

- ◆ All-night (or at least late-night) learning. *Tikkun Leil Shavuot* (“Repair of Shavuot night”), instituted by the mystics of Tzfat in the 1500s, is so named because the tradition is to stay up all night learning to make up for our ancestors oversleeping on the morning they were to receive the Torah. After a full night of study, many attend early services and enjoy a communal breakfast before stumbling home to bed. Families whose kids need their sleep often hold late-night Jewish storytelling parties.

- ◆ Cheesecake, blintzes and other dairy delights. This beloved tradition (at least for the lactose-tolerant) reflects the Israelites’ 40-year trek to the land “flowing with milk and honey.” Another connection: Jews compare the words of Torah to the sweetness of milk and honey.

- ◆ An extra charitable deed or act of kindness. Based on the command the Torah gives us (Vayikra 23:22) to leave the corners of our field unharvested so the poor and the convert can come and take it at night (a Jewish sensitivity: gleaning in the dark, they won’t be embarrassed by their situation).

- ◆ Decorate homes and synagogues. Some fill their homes with greenery for the holiday, as do some synagogues.

- ◆ Celebrate converts. This honors Ruth, the most notable Jew-by-choice, whose story we read on Shavuot. Ruth, destined to be the great-grandmother of none other than King David, was known for her commitment and for stating: “Your people will be my people, and your God my God.”

Reform

Celebrating the receiving of the Torah is one reason that Reform and Conservative congregations have long scheduled their confirmation ceremonies for teens on the holiday. “The fact that our young adults confirm and affirm their connection with Torah and Jewish identities at this time is fitting,” says Rabbi Benjamin David, senior rabbi at Adath Emanu-El in Mount Laurel, NJ. “It’s especially powerful since they are now more mature than when they were bar and bat mitzvahs, and able to embrace Judaism more as adults.”

Shavuot also gives an opportunity for Jews to learn together, says Rabbi David. A case in point: For the first time this year, his congregation will be learning late into the night at a local diner with members of two other synagogues.

“The story of Ruth reminds us to welcome the other and the Jewish imperative of social justice,” he says, “and creating a safe place and insisting on human dignity for everyone.”

Conservative

One up-and-coming theme among Conservative congregations is a focus on celebrating the natural world. So says Rabbi Joshua Rabin, director of innovation at the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. “At some congregations, they march around the *shul* with baskets of produce as a way of re-enacting the bringing of the *bikkurim*, the ‘first fruits,’ and at others, they learn at their *Tikkun Leil Shavuot* about the Jewish theme of protecting our world. But there is a greater emphasis now on the environment,” he says.

Rabin also notes that the book of Ruth resonates with Conservative Jews. “Ruth is both part of a tribe, the Moabites, singled out as the enemy, and yet is seen as the paradigm of the act of choosing Judaism so much so that the messiah is destined to come from her. That Torah can have internal contradictions and still be divine is a core tenant of how Conservative Jews tend to see Torah.”

See “Shavuot” on page 11

Babylon..... Continued from page 2

make her almost as emotional as my grandmother was that night she cried.

But the Jewish world also hardly ever talks about Iraq and Jewish life in Arab lands. Every other day you’ll see a headline about Germany or Poland, and something Holocaust-related, but one would think, from the dearth of coverage, that Jewish life never existed in Baghdad, when it was Baghdad – Babylon – that was the cradle of Jewish intellectual civilization, the first Diaspora where

Jews thrived and developed their great legal, literary and religious traditions.

Aside from the work of a few underfunded organizations, we don’t hear of any serious attempts to recover Jewish property there, to open Jewish archives in Arab countries and to create Jewish “heritage” tours in those lands. I realize that it’s physically unsafe, but why not prepare for an eventual Mideast “March of the Living”?

Baghdad is a part of my soul from which I’ve been largely cut off. Jewish life in Middle Eastern lands has become a side note to Jewish history. Perhaps, when Israel was founded, Jewish life in former Babylon no longer wanted to be glorified. After all, Babylon is the archetypal symbol of the Diaspora, and here Jews are returning from the seat of the first exile! Why cry by the rivers of Babylon now?

But we should. While Germany owed the Jewish people the most after World War II (so the focus on German restitution is understandable), these days the Jewish people are in conflict with Arab lands, not Europe. While Palestinians lay exaggerated and often illegitimate claims for their own land, Jewish property in Arab lands has never even been put on the table.

And now I understand why it didn’t even cross my mind to tell the Jordanians that my land was also taken away. I was never taught to believe that the heritage and property of my Iraqi forefathers are also my right.

But now that I think about it, Iraq is also my ancestral homeland – maybe not spiritually, the way that Israel is, but historically and culturally – and definitely culinary-wise. Why can’t I see the house where my grandmother’s family lived? To hear the music my grandmother loved, at its source? To see the land where the Babylonian Talmud was written? In Israel, Arabic is not taught as a mandatory language in schools, even though about half the country hails from Arab lands and Israel is situated in an Arabic region.

Since living in Berlin for two years, I’ve come to terms with my father’s Ashkenazi side. But now it’s time to come to terms with my mother’s Iraqi side, to push for the possibility for me to return there and see where my grandparents met, where my great-grandfather played drums for the royal court and where his family prayed. Just as we can’t be afraid that Jews are returning to Berlin, as a historical correction, let us now change focus to Babylon, where organized Judaism once blossomed.

And the next time Palestinians complain about land dispossession, let’s be sure to mention our losses in Arab lands and the blockade made against our Arabic heritage.

Orit Arfa is an author and journalist based in Berlin. She holds a B.A. and M.A. in Jewish studies. Check out her work at www.oritarfa.net.

Secrets..... Continued from page 4

belong to him and whether Tom’s family has any right to that which they left behind in Syria. Over the course of the novel, Tom discovers a connection between Fareed and his family – one the older generation kept hidden.

In the afterward to the English-language edition of his novel, Sakal gives some family background, mentioning which parts of the story are fiction and which are truth. While this helps place “The Diamond Setter” in historical perspective, the novel never completely gels. Parts of it are lovely, with great stories of times past in the Middle East. Unfortunately, the first person sections, while interesting, distracted from my ability to suspend my disbelief in the tale. Sakal may have done this deliberately, though, in his attempt to write a post-modern novel. Still, the many disjuncts and disconnections in the story made it difficult to appreciate.

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Israel unleashes powerful strike capabilities after Iran hits first

By Yaakov Lappin

(JNS) – In striking more than 50 Iranian military targets within 90 minutes early on May 10, the Israel Defense Force displayed just a sample of its advanced, intelligence-fueled precision firepower, dealing a crushing blow to Iran’s assets in Syria.

ANALYSIS

This exchange of fire represents a new, stepped-up phase in the escalating Israeli-Iranian standoff in Syria.

Much of Iran’s military infrastructure in Syria was destroyed in this wave of strikes, likely leaving the Quds Force – the overseas elite Iranian unit trying to consolidate its presence in Syria – reeling.

The Quds Force has been busy in Iran, building missile and rocket bases, drone bases, importing Shi’ite militia forces and trafficking heavy weapons into the region. It had begun launching direct attacks on Israel in contrast to Iran’s older pattern of aggression, which was based on activating proxy attacks.

Most disturbingly, the Quds Force had begun initiating the next stage of Iran’s takeover of Syria. All of these efforts had one goal: to be able to use Syria as a springboard for attacking Israel.

The Iranian axis in Syria, with the help of Russian airpower, has nearly completed its victory over the Sunni rebel organizations and could now turn its attention to stage two of its Syrian project: Israel.

The Iranian leadership has made no secret of its intention to establish a grand, radical Shi’ite empire across the Middle East, stretching across Iraq, Syria and Lebanon – and beyond. These imperial ambitions threaten not only Israel, but the region’s Sunni powers, which is why these states are in full support of Israel’s self-defense measures.

Iran’s mistake was to underestimate Israel’s ability to put a stop to this plan. On May 8, the Quds Force, led by the charismatic and notorious Gen. Qasem Soleimani, dispatched a truck rocket-launcher toward Israel. As it drove south of Damascus, preparing to fire on Israel, it was destroyed in a missile attack.

The ability to detect such a developing threat in real

Sabra Continued from page 6

Ayelet also discovered that while she loves being secular, the trip and its experiences helped her understand “how important it is that if I go abroad, I will keep Jewish traditions.” She found it sad that many American Jews were only “Jew-ish,” and before the trip didn’t even grasp the enormity of the Holocaust, which she believes “is important because it’s who I am.”

In addition, both young Israelis (like the New Yorker who has never been to the Statue of Liberty) were able to visit sites that – even living in Israel their entire life – they had not been to, such as Israel’s Independence Hall in Tel Aviv. “It made me want to explore more of Israel, both new places and the places I already know,” said Racheli.

Touring the country and seeing Israel from others’ eyes actually opened the eyes of the two Israeli women, as well. “The Americans said that what they really liked the most about Israel are the people. I knew that Israeli society was warm and accepting, but to hear it again makes me proud to live” here, Racheli told JNS. “I am more proud to be Israeli now.”

Likewise, Ayelet said that after visiting the Taglit-Birthright Israel Innovation Center – a display of Israeli technology, entrepreneurship and advances in research and development – “I knew we were awesome! I really love Israel and it’s a good place to live, but I realized at the innovation center how special we really are. When Israelis want to make a difference, we do it.”

She added that she hopes the participants come away with a similar message and image, noting concern over way the international press often covers Israel in a one-sided manner regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict and status of the Palestinians. Ayalet wants them to represent the “true Israel” – the positive, progressive people that they are – and to keep the negativity at bay.

Likewise, Racheli wants them “to get something from this journey for the rest of their lives, something that will change the way they see—and to feel and know they belong here.”



Israeli soldiers seen near the Israeli-Syrian border in the Golan Heights on May 7. (Photo by Basel Awidat/Flash90)

time – and take action – is exactly the kind of unparalleled intelligence and strike capabilities that enable Israel to be a step ahead in its conflict with Iran.

But the Iranians did not take the hint. They tried again on May 9, firing 20 rockets at IDF positions on the Golan Heights. The IDF was prepared, intercepting the rockets with Iron Dome missile-defense system, and then going on the offensive in a massive wave of firepower.

Israel’s operation on May 10, which was the largest conducted by the Israel Air Force in years, required extraordinary intelligence-gathering abilities, and in particular, the know-how to map out the various locations in which the Quds Force had taken root. This intelligence was then converted into the capability to fire guided munitions at the targets in large quantities in little time.

Several of Syrian President Bashar Assad’s air-defense batteries made the mistake of getting involved in the fight, firing surface-to-air missiles at Israeli jets. They paid a price for that decision; a good number of units were destroyed in Israeli counter-strikes.

These events ultimately mean that Iran tried to force

the Jewish state to accept its presence in Syria, and the effort completely failed. Iran ended up losing more than 50 military targets and Israel’s message to Tehran – to exit Syria immediately – received a powerful boost.

It’s too soon to know if this round of fighting has ended. But Iran is unlikely to give up on Syria so quickly. Despite the blow absorbed, the Iranians will likely make a new attempt to move into Syria, smuggling new kinds of weapons, and preparing the ground for future attacks on Israel.

The events of recent days have marked the start of a new phase in a long-term Iranian-Israeli conflagration. This is a conflict, however, that began when Iran came to Israel’s borders to threaten and attack it, and not the other way around.

So far, Hezbollah has kept out of this conflict and this is welcome news. Iran is unlikely to want to risk its proxy ensconced in Lebanon, preferring to continue pointing Hezbollah’s 120,000 rockets and missiles at the Jewish state.

Mailbox Shorts

“Art of Jewish Song”

The Milken Archive has added a new virtual exhibit, “The Art of Jewish Song: Yiddish and Hebrew Part 2,” to its website. The exhibit looks at Lazar Weiner’s “Three Poems by Abraham Joshua Heschel” and a group of 12 songs that probe humans’ relationship with a higher power. It continues with songs of love, faith, God and the meaning of life by Weiner, Leonard Bernstein, Yehudi Wyner, Sholom Secunda and Max Helfman.

To see the exhibit, visit www.milkenarchive.org/articles/virtual-exhibits and click on “The Art of Jewish Song: Yiddish and Hebrew Part 2.”

Tech Continued from page 7

help the wounded get out of the cycle of injury. The injury cycle can really get you stuck. That feeling of immobility is what we want to set free.”

The Israeli government funds rehabilitation for its 51,000 living wounded veterans—a population that receives public sympathy in a small country where most citizens are subject to a mandatory draft. Wounded soldiers also receive public benefits following their rehab.

Restart’s mission is to support the soldiers after the government scales back its obligations to them, providing them with benefits to ease their daily lives. One program matches 15 wounded veterans with professional mentors who can help them find jobs and burnish themselves professionally. “Makers for Heroes,” which has taken place twice, aims to bring Israeli tech prowess to bear on helping the veterans.

“There’s an inclination after the war to neglect the wounded soldiers,” said Niv Efron, an Israeli veteran who was shot in the chest and hand in the 2014 Gaza war and underwent six surgeries. Efron participated in the first iteration of “Makers for Heroes” two years ago, where his team built a device to help him do pull-ups.

“You can’t blame them,” Efron said of Israelis who stop paying attention to the wounded. “They need to go back to work. But the wounded soldiers are still there.”

The engineers brought experience ranging from bio-


medical tech startups to Israel’s security tech industry. For the most part, the veterans themselves did not take part in the tech development. They were there to test out their teams’ innovations and guide them on what would be most helpful. They also helped figure out which projects would be possible to complete within a three-day period. Horovitz, for example, decided not to pursue creating a hearing aid that would alert him when someone was speaking to his deaf ear.

“I told them my problem, we discussed it, they came up with the idea and they banged it out,” said Assaf Dory, an Israeli American who had his leg amputated after being wounded twice on police duty in Florida. His team was fashioning a cushion that would allow the ex-Israeli soldier to sit in any chair. “It’s amazing to see all these professionals dancing, doing their thing,” he said.

None of the products will end up being licensed by a tech firm. Instead, they will all be uploaded online, complete with plans and open-source code. The idea, Dory said, was to help the veterans and empower them. If someone wants to copy any of the ideas, he said, they can go ahead.

“It’s the ability to do something you couldn’t or thought you couldn’t,” Efron said. “We find a product to enable [a veteran] to do what he wants to. It will also show him that even with his limitations, he can still do things.”

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Weekly Parasha

Bamidbar, Numbers 1:1-4:20

Names and numbers

RABBI SCOTT L. GLASS, TEMPLE BETH-EL, ITHACA, NY

A quick perusal of the first portion of the book of Numbers does not exactly fill us with narrative delight. The first chapter opens with a census. Chapter two doesn't hold out that much promise, either; it discusses the physical design of the Israelite camp as it traveled through the desert. In case you're interested, it was square in shape, reminiscent of the way the covered wagons moving west in the 19th century used to camp at night. Then we read about the responsibilities of the Levites. If any of you Levites want to know what it is you're supposed to be doing, you might

want to refer to the *parasha*, though, as you will see there isn't much practical information for present-day Levites. You may, however, find it interesting to note that the *Kohanim* were considered very much a part of the tribe of Levi [this is for you *Kohanim* who consider yourselves "a cut above" the rest of us], with Elazar, Aaron's son, serving as its tribal prince. The careful reader may also find it interesting that just when we think we were going to get a full genealogy of Moses' family [see Numbers 3], the Torah gets sidetracked and we never do read about his descendants, only Aaron's.

Because of the census, the book is referred to in English as "Numbers." In Hebrew, it is Bamidbar, which means "in the wilderness," and the book's story takes us from Mt. Sinai through the wanderings of the children of Israel to the boundaries of the Promised Land. This is a wilderness as much in social terms as in geographical terms, the people constantly complaining, losing sight of God's beneficence and Moses' benevolence, and reverting back to their slave mindset. There are cracks in the leadership class, as well. **See "Numbers" on page 11**

Congregational Notes

Beth David Synagogue

Affiliation: Orthodox Union
 Rabbi: Zev Silber
 Address: 39 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905
 Phone: 607-722-1793
 Rabbi's Office: 607-722-7514
 Fax: 607-722-7121
 Office hours: Mon. closed; Tues. 10 am-1 pm; Wed. closed; Thurs. 9 am-1 pm; Fri. 10 am-1 pm
 Beth David e-mail address: bethdavid@stny.rr.com
 Rabbi's e-mail: rabbisilber@stny.rr.com
 Website: www.bethdavid.org
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/bethdavidbinghamton
 Shabbat Services:
 Friday, May 18 7:15 pm
 Shabbat, May 19 9 am
 Mincha after the kiddush
 Maariv 7:50 pm
 Weekday Services:
 Mornings:
 Sun., May 20 9 am
 Mon.-Fri., May 21-25 7 am
 Evenings:
 Sun., May 20 8:05 pm
 Mon-Thurs., May 21-24 8:10 pm
 Fri., May 25 7:15 pm
 Classes: Rabbi Zev Silber will hold his weekly Talmud class every Tuesday evening after services.

Rohr Chabad Center

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

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.

Congregation Tikkun v'Or

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

Temple Concord

Affiliation: Union for Reform Judaism
 Rabbi: Barbara Goldman-Wartell
 Address: 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905
 Office hours: Tues.-Fri., 10 am-2 pm
 Phone: 723-7355
 Fax: 723-0785
 Office e-mail: TempleConcordbinghamton@gmail.com
 Website: www.templeconcord.com
 Regular service times: Friday, 8 pm; Saturday, 10:35 am, when religious school is in session.
 Hebrew school: Hebrew school meets at 5:15 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the school year unless otherwise noted.
 On Friday, May 18, at 8 pm, there will be a Sisterhood Shabbat and Installation service led by Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell and Shari Neuberger.
 On Saturday, May 19, at 9:15 am, there will be Torah study and, at 7 pm, there will be an erev Shavuot Ice Cream Extravaganza which will include ice cream with toppings and flowers, Shavout traditions and time to schmooze. RSVP to Temple Concord by Thursday, May 17.
 On Sunday, May 20, at 10:30 am, there will be a Shavuot and Yizkor service followed by a dairy potluck lunch.
 On Monday, May 21, at 7 pm, there will be the Annual Congregational Meeting.
 On Friday, May 25, at 8 pm, there will be Shabbat evening services led by Rob Neuberger.
 On Saturday, May 26, there will be no Torah study.

Penn-York Jewish Community

President-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.

Temple Beth-El of Ithaca

Affiliation: United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism
 Rabbi: Scott L. Glass
 Address: 402 North Tioga St. (the corner of Court and Tioga streets), Ithaca, NY 14850-4292
 Phone: 273-5775
 E-mail: rabbi@tbeithaca.org and secretary@tbeithaca.org
 Website: www.tbeithaca.org
 President: Jerry Davis
 Sisterhood President: Julie Paige
 Director of Education: Rabbi Suzanne Brody
 Administrative Assistant: Jane Griffith
 Services: Friday 8 pm; Saturday 10 am, unless otherwise announced. Weekday morning minyan 7:30 am (9 am on Sundays and legal holidays).
 Religious School/Education: September-May: Classes meet on Sunday, 9 am-12:30 pm and Wednesday afternoons, 3:45-5:45 pm. The Midrashah (eighth-grade and high school) classes will meet at times designated by their respective teachers.
 Adult Ed.: Numerous weekly courses, several semester-long courses and a variety of mini-courses and lectures are offered throughout the year. Call the temple office for more details.
 On Saturday, May 19, the erev Shavuot service will be held at 8:30 pm, followed by a study session.
 On Sunday, May 20, a Shavuot service will be held at 10 am, followed by a dairy dish-to-pass lunch. At 9:30 pm, there will be an erev Shavuot 2 service.
 On Monday, May 21, a Shavuot 2 service will be held at 10 am; Yizkor will be recited.
 On Wednesday, May 23, from 4-6 pm, Ithaca area fifth-, sixth- and seventh-graders – from Temple Beth-El, Tikkun v'Or, Kol Haverim and unaffiliated – are invited to attend "Big Questions: Being Jewish in Middle School," a PJ Our Way Program, at Temple Beth-El. RSVPs were due by May 9.
 On Thursday, May 31, at 6:30 pm, Temple Beth-El's Annual Sisterhood Celebration Dinner will be held in the Social Hall. RSVPs were due May 14 by e-mail to Robyn Koren at robynkoren@yahoo.com or by phone to Gail Zussman at 387-5925.

Friday, May 18, light candles 8:02 pm
 Saturday, May 19, light candles after 9:03 pm
 Sunday, May 20, light candles after 9:04 pm
 Monday, May 21, yom tov ends 9:06 pm
 Friday, May 25, light candles 8:09 pm
 Shabbat ends Saturday, May 26 9:10 pm

Temple Israel

Orientation: Conservative
 Rabbi: Geoffrey Brown
 Address: 4737 Deerfield Pl., Vestal, NY 13850
 Phone: 723-7461 and 231-3746
 Office hours: Mon.-Thurs. 8:30 am-4 pm; Fri. 8 am-3 pm.
 E-mail: titammy@stny.twcbc.com
 Website: www.templeisraelvestal.org
 Service Schedule: Tuesday, 6 pm, Friday, 5:30 pm; Saturday, 9:30 am.
 On Saturday, May 19, at 9:30 am, services will be led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown. The Torah portion will be Numbers 1:1-4:10. The haftarah will be Hosea 2:1-22. The kiddush sponsor will be Myrna Dubofsky.
 On Sunday, May 20, at 9:30 am, there will be first day of Shavuot services, including Yizkor. There will be no second day services.
 On Monday, May 21, the office will be closed for the second day of Shavuot.
 On Tuesday, May 22, at 7 pm, there will be a Sisterhood book review of "Haven." RSVP to the office.
 On Saturday, May 26, at 9:30 am, there will be the b'nai mitzvah of Alexander and Susannah Stuppel.
 The annual congregational meeting has been rescheduled for Tuesday, June 19, at 7 pm.
 Those who wish to recite the Mourner's Kaddish during a weekday service can contact Howard Schwartz at schwerz@stny.rr.com or call the temple office one-and-a-half weeks or more before the date to ensure time to make up a minyan. Temple Israel holds weekday minyan services on Tuesdays at 6 pm and Fridays at 5:30 pm. For those who prefer a different day to coincide with a yahrzeit date, contact the temple to make arrangements. To see a video on how to recite the Mourner's Kaddish, visit <http://templeisraelvestal.org> and look under "Worship."

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.

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.

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 Rabbi: Molly Karp
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 Mailing address: P.O. Box 383, Oneonta, NY 13820
 Phone: 607-432-5522, E-mail: TBEOneonta@gmail.com
 Website: www.templebetheloneonta.org
 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.

Deciphering the past

Discovery of Bar Kochba-era coin declared at Lag B'Omer

By JNS staff

(JNS) – As Jews across Israel and around the world celebrated Lag B'Omer, a holiday commemorating the life of anti-Roman Torah sage Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai, Israeli authorities announced that they had found a symbol of the revolt by Shimon bar Kochba against the Romans in the form of a small bronze coin.

The single round coin was discovered as part of an archaeological excavation in a limestone cave outside the city of Modi'in. Etched on one side is a seven-branched date tree bearing two clusters of dates and inscribed with the letters *shin mem ayin* for Shimon, the leader of the rebellion against the Roman occupation of Israel. The other

side contains an etching of a grape leaf and the abbreviated inscription "L'Herut Yerushalayim" or "For the Liberty of Jerusalem."

The find took place as part of a joint excavation carried out by the Defense Ministry's Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (or COGAT), Bar-Ilan University and Ariel University.

Archaeologists noted that the distance of the find, which included potsherds and glass shards, from Jerusalem indicates that the revolt had spread far from the city that stood at the center of the rebellion. The Bar Kochba rebellion, or "Great Revolt," lasted three-and-a-half years. During that time, more than 1,000 Jewish towns and 50 fortresses were

destroyed, and hundreds of thousands of Jews were killed.

Rabbi Akiva – the mentor of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai – was one of many rabbinical leaders who supported Bar Kochba and believed that he would be a messiah for the Jewish people. After news of his criticism of the Roman occupation reached Roman leadership, Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai was forced to flee with his son, Rabbi Eleazar, living in a cave for 13 years. He died on the 33rd day of the Omer – known as Lag B'Omer – a day that was subsequently celebrated due to his elucidation of the secrets of Jewish mysticism, named the Zohar.

The coin is believed to have been minted between the third and fourth year of the Bar Kochba revolt (136-134 C.E.).

Embassy

protest in the West Bank.

A large stage with an American flag motif was erected in Jerusalem's Arnona neighborhood, where the existing U.S. consular headquarters will take on many of the embassy functions. Previous administrations declined to move the embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, preferring not to buck the international consensus that the city's status was disputed until resolved by negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians.

Among the administration members attending the May 14 ceremony were Deputy Secretary of State John Sullivan, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Assistant to the President Jason Greenblatt, who serves as Trump's special envoy to Middle East negotiations. Trump's senior adviser and son-in-law, Jared Kushner, was also in attendance, along with his wife, Ivanka Trump, who also serves her father as a top presidential advisor.

The Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995, which passed both houses of Congress by overwhelming votes, recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and called for relocating the embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. A presidential waiver signed every six months until now has allowed successive administrations to suspend moving the embassy on the grounds that this was "necessary to protect the national security interests of the United States."

The U.S. president asserted that the United States continues to "support the status quo at Jerusalem's holy sites, including the Temple Mount, also known as Haram al Sharif."

Kushner asserted that the embassy move shows that the United States can be trusted and that, "When President



The U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem sits on a traffic circle recently named for President Donald Trump. The compound is in the middle of Arnona, a residential neighborhood in the city's south. (Photo by Ben Sales)

Trump makes a promise, he keeps it." Trump, he said to applause, also kept his promise in exiting the "dangerous, flawed and one-sided Iran deal." Kushner added: "Iran's aggression threatens the many peace-loving citizens throughout the region and the entire world," and that "in confronting modern threats and pursuing common interests previously unimaginable alliances are emerging."

Netanyahu thanked Trump "for having the courage to keep your promises," and called the opening of the embassy a "great day for peace. ...You can only build peace on truth. And the truth is that Jerusalem has been, and always

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will be, the capital of the Jewish people, the capital of the Jewish state," he said.

Netanyahu praised the Israeli soldiers protecting the country's borders "even as we speak," an acknowledgment of the day's unrest.

The White House wholly backed Israel's measures, which were drawing sharp criticism from human rights groups and a number of U.S. lawmakers. "The responsibility for these tragic deaths rests squarely with Hamas," White House spokesman Raj Shah said at the daily briefing for reporters. "Hamas is intentionally and cynically provoking this response and as the secretary of state [Mike Pompeo] said, Israel has the right to defend itself."

Several of the speakers, including U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman and Rivlin, reminded the audience that exactly 70 years ago, nearly to the moment of the ceremony, the United States under President Harry Truman became the first country to recognize the new state of Israel.

The ceremony opened with a prayer by Baptist Pastor Robert Jeffress, who praised Trump's "tremendous leadership," and ended with a benediction by Pastor John Hagee, the founder of Christians United for Israel. Ivanka Trump and Mnuchin, the highest-ranking White House official, unveiled the official U.S. seal on the building.

Also during the ceremony, Israeli fighter jets struck five Hamas targets in a military training facility in northern Gaza. "The strike was conducted in response to the violent acts carried out by Hamas over last few hours along the security fence," the IDF said.

Shavuot

Orthodox

At synagogues like Beth Joseph Congregation in Phoenix, AZ, teens and adults turn out for all-night learning, followed by early services the next morning. "In order to satisfy them spiritually we know we need to satisfy them physically," says Rabbi Harris Cooperman, who directs development at the Phoenix Hebrew Academy and is one of some eight teachers of a wide range of Torah topics that night. As for the snoring that sometimes greets his talks, he takes it in stride. "It's a normal human function," he says. "The main thing is for them to be able to function the next day and be in *shul* for the Ten Commandments. If they can function enough to do that, it's great."

Rabbi Barry Gelman of United Orthodox Synagogues of Houston is offering some "creative spins" on the late-night learning, with some classes leaving enough time to switch out so both mom and dad get a chance to learn, other classes just for women and still others scheduled for the daytime so congregants can sleep and be refreshed and ready to learn, plus all-night learning for the teens. "We

have a diverse menu for our diverse membership," he says.

Chasidic

Besides staying up all night long learning Torah (fueled by equal parts cheesecake and coffee), many observant Jews also emphasize the importance of involving children in the Shavuot festivities. "That's because, before God agreed to give the Torah to the Jewish people, He required guarantors," says Rabbi Mendel Bluming, co-director of Chabad Shul of Potomac, MD, with his wife, Sara. "The Jews offered their children as guarantors that we'd treasure the Torah and make it our guide in life. And that's why we honor the children and make sure they're in synagogue to hear the Ten Commandments."

Grownups have plenty to learn from the small guarantors, adds the rabbi. "They have an openness and trust that can easily be lost to cynicism as we grow older," he says. As a reward for this pure faith "and to show the sweetness of Torah," the kids who come to the Chabad House can expect ice cream in 10 colors, one for each commandment, and a "mountain" of toppings.

Women and girls also light candles to usher in the holiday

Continued from page 8

on both the first and second evenings of Shavuot. On the second day of Shavuot, the *Yizkor* memorial service is recited.

Despite the different emphasis and traditions, in many ways Shavuot is a "surprisingly trans-denominational holiday," says Rabbi Sara Sapadin, an adjunct rabbi at the Reform Congregation Emanu-El on New York City's Upper East Side. "When you really look at it closely, you will see that we all celebrate the giving of the same Torah and in many of the same ways."

Classic Cheesecake

- 1 cup graham-cracker crumbs
- 3 Tbsp. sugar
- 3 Tbsp. butter, melted
- 5 pkg. (250 g. each) brick cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup sugar
- 3 Tbsp. flour
- 1 Tbsp. vanilla
- 1 cup sour cream
- 4 eggs

Heat oven to 325°F. Mix crumbs, 3 Tbsp. sugar and butter; press onto bottom of 9-inch springform pan. Bake 10 minutes. Beat cream cheese, 1 cup sugar, flour and vanilla in large bowl with mixer until blended. Add sour cream; mix well. Add eggs, 1 at a time, mixing on low speed after each just until blended. Pour over crust. Bake 1 hour and 10 minutes, or until center is almost set. Run knife around rim of pan to loosen cake; cool before removing rim. Refrigerate overnight or for at least 4 hours. (Recipe courtesy of Kraft Foods)

Numbers

with disputes among the Levites and even between Moses and his siblings. It is not a happy time.

But that's in the rest of the book; I should really be focused on the portion for this week. As I mentioned at the outset, some may find *Parashat Bamidbar* less than exciting. Of what possible interest can lists of names and numbers be? Does it really matter to us who the prince was for the tribe of Simeon or Dan? [Shlumiel ben Tzurishaddai and Ahiezer ben Amishaddai] How can it possibly make a difference exactly how many men over the age of 20 there were in the tribe of Naftali? [53,400]

In fact, I do find these seemingly trivial facts interesting, even important. To my mind, they elevate the accounts we have in the Bible to a new level. We don't just have the general history of our people with an outline of historical events. The Torah is filled with these little details that sometimes seem repetitive even to the point of annoyance. Who among the readers and listeners doesn't find the rhythm of reading the verses in chapter one containing the census figures mind-numbing? And yet, these are the details, the trivia that make history interesting. The best way to realize this is by taking the text apart verse by verse.

If we read the list of tribal princes as just a list of names,

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it is no more interesting to us than an attendance list in school. But, each of those names means something. Who was this Shlumiel that his name was slowly transformed to "Shelmiel"? Some of those names are used even to this day, while others fell out of use. Why? The list of names adds a personal touch to this early history. And isn't it the same way for us? When we search archives, newspapers and files for information about the early history of an institution, a synagogue, for example, the names are what add spice to the outline of the story. Friends or relatives or relatives of friends... we read a name and we can attach an identity to an incident and it suddenly comes more alive for us. Numbers are no different. It's not only accountants who pore over lists of figures; I suspect we all do it from time to time. People peruse the newspaper listings enumerating those who owe taxes, they read with interest lists of donors and their contributions. Numbers add those same type of details that make history a little more tangible.

It is true that this first portion in the fourth book of the Bible does not rival the intrigue and suspense found elsewhere. Still, the significance of the names and numbers should not be overlooked. I'd be curious to know what you might have found meaningful.

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THE REPORTER
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NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

Al-Qaida calls on Muslims to carry out *jihād* against U.S. in response to Jerusalem embassy move

In a five-minute video titled "Tel Aviv is Also a Land of Muslims," Al-Qaida leader Ayman al-Zawahiri called on Muslims to carry out a *jihād* against the United States in response to America's decision to move its Israeli embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Al-Zawahiri, an Egyptian surgeon, took over the radical terror organization after founder Osama Bin Laden was shot dead by American forces in 2011. Al-Zawahiri railed against the Palestinian Authority as the "sellers of Palestine" and against U.S. President Donald Trump as "the true face of the modern Crusade" who could only be met with "resistance through the call of *jihād*," according to a transcript by the SITE monitoring agency. He also said that Bin Laden called the US "the first enemy of the Muslims, and swore that it will not dream of security until it is lived in reality in Palestine, and until all the armies of disbelief leave the land of Muhammad." Hamas called on Gazans to engage in violent protests and break through the security fence with Israel on May 14, at the same time as the U.S. embassy inauguration festivities would occur in Jerusalem.

Activists protest "nakba" ceremony at Tel Aviv University

Dozens of activists from the Zionist organization Im Tirtzu demonstrated on May 14 against the annual *Nakba* Day ceremony held by Arab and far-Left students at Tel-Aviv University. Im Tirtzu activists together with a number of wounded IDF veterans waved Israeli flags, chanted "Nakba Nonsense," and passed out flyers. The activists also brought a 12-by-6-foot sign reading "Nakba Nonsense" and distributed books titled "The Jewish People's Rights to the Land of Israel," which according to Im Tirtzu details the legal rights of the Jewish People to the Land of Israel under international law. Im Tirtzu CEO Matan Peleg said that the sole purpose of the *nakba* is to undermine the existence of the state of Israel. "We cannot afford the luxury of allowing this anti-Israel propaganda to go unchallenged," said Peleg. "We are here sending a clear message that we will not be silent in the face of this deceitful attempt to rewrite history." "It is important to unapologetically call the *nakba* what it is: nonsense," added Peleg. Liran Baroch, chairman of the Forum of Wounded IDF Veterans for a Secure Israel, said it was "absurd" that Tel-Aviv University provides a platform for a protest that calls for the destruction of Israel. "Every reasonable person understands that the Nakba lie is tantamount to a call for Israel's destruction and prevents peace," said Baroch. "As soldiers who were wounded while defending our homeland, we are outraged that Tel-Aviv University would provide a platform for radical-Leftists and Arabs to call for Israel's destruction."

Israeli-American study leads to sunscreen restrictions in Hawaii to protect coral reefs

Due to a scientific study conducted in partnership with Israeli scientists, the Hawaii state legislature banned the use of certain sunscreens, citing danger to the state's delicate coral-reef ecosystem. A study uniting marine scientists from Tel Aviv University, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, the U.S. National Aquarium, the Haereticus Environmental Laboratory and the U.S. National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, concluded that oxybenzone and octinoxate – two chemicals commonly used in sunscreen – are harmful for coral reefs. The study sampled coral reefs off the coast of Eilat, Hawaii and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Researches determined that the chemicals were found in the highest concentrations in the coral reefs that were the most frequented by tourists, and that they contributed to bleaching of the reefs, morphological deformities, DNA damage and endocrine disruption. Many sunscreen manufacturers are already phasing out the two ingredients in favor of more natural alternatives. The authors of the study estimated that 10 percent of global reefs are at risk of high exposure, and that the chemicals were found in seawater within the American coral reefs in concentrations as low as 62 parts per trillion – the equivalent of a drop of water in six-and-a-half Olympic-sized swimming pools – and as high as 1.4 parts per million, more than 12 times the amount that would damage coral.

Some 15,000 Palestinian rioters in Gaza descend on border with Israel

Some 15,000 Palestinian rioters in the Gaza Strip took part in protests along the security fence with Israel on May 11. "Today, approximately 15,000 Palestinians participated in riots along the Gaza border. The rioters hurled pipe bombs, rocks, & grenades, sabotaged security infrastructure, & burned tires," the Israel Defense Forces Spokesperson Unit wrote on Twitter on May 11. The IDF said that it responded with riot dispersal means and firing in accordance with the rules of engagement. The protests were part of weekly "March of Return" demonstrations organized by the Palestinian terrorist group Hamas since March 30 and ahead of "*Nakba* Day" events on May 14 and May 15. Palestinians call Israel's Independence Day, which falls on May 14 on the Gregorian calendar, as the *nakba* or "catastrophe." The Hamas-run Gaza health ministry said one man was killed after being shot in the chest, and at least 146 were wounded in clashes with the IDF. Additionally, Palestinian rioters also vandalized and ignited fires on the Gazan side of the Kerem Shalom humanitarian border crossing. These rioters further damaged gas pipelines that run from Israel to Gaza that serve Gazan residents, according to the IDF. "This is the second time in recent days that rioters have harmed & attempted to sabotage humanitarian efforts that Israel & other countries carry out. Hamas is responsible for everything that happens in Gaza, above & below ground," the IDF Spokesperson Unit added.

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