

# THE REPORTER

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## Federation to celebrate Israel at 70 on June 24

By Reporter staff

The Federation of Greater Binghamton will hold an “Israel at 70 Celebration” on Sunday, June 24, at 5:30 pm, at the Jewish Community Center, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal. Jonathan Tobin, the editor-in-chief of JNS – Jewish News Syndicate, will speak about “The Miracle of Israel.” The event will also include a dinner with Israeli cuisine. The cost to attend will be \$20. Reservations must be made for the evening in order for the Federation to have enough food for those attending. To make a reservation, contact the Federation at 724-2332 by Tuesday, June 19.

“Leave politics at home and join us in cel-

brating the miracle of the state of Israel,” said Sima Auerbach, executive director of the Federation. “Jonathan Tobin wrote a wonderful column that appeared in *The Reporter* that reminds us not to take for granted Israel’s existence. The evening will give our community a chance to spend time with friends, enjoy Israeli food, learn about Israel and celebrate the Jewish homeland that came into being in 1948.”

In addition to being the award-winning editor in chief of JNS.org, Tobin is a contributing writer for *National Review*,



Jonathan Tobin

a conservative magazine of opinion and ideas. He is also a columnist for the *New York Post*, *The Federalist*, *Haaretz* and the *New York Jewish Week*. In his writing, he covers on a daily basis the American political scene, foreign policy, the U.S.-Israel relationship, Middle East diplomacy and the Jewish world.

Before coming to JNS, Tobin was first executive editor and then senior online editor and chief political blogger for *Commentary* magazine for eight years. Prior to that, he was editor-in-chief of the *Jewish Exponent*

in Philadelphia for 10 years and before that, the editor of the *Connecticut Jewish Ledger*. His writing has appeared in many other publications, including *The Jerusalem Post*, where he wrote the “View From America” column for many years. He has won more than 50 awards for his writing and appears regularly on television commenting on politics and foreign policy. Along with J.J. Goldberg of the *Forward*, he tours the country debating politics and Jewish issues.

“I’m looking forward to hearing Jonathan Tobin speak,” Auerbach added. “His talk promises to be fascinating. Help us celebrate this ‘who-would-believe-it event’: the 70<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Jewish state.”

## JCC Annual Meeting on June 14

On Thursday, June 14, the JCC will host its Annual Meeting. All JCC members, friends and supporters are welcome to attend. The evening will begin at 7 pm with drinks and a dessert buffet prepared by chef Victor Torres. Background music will be performed by Kim Metaxas and the JCC Community Band.

After some opening remarks by JCC

President Carrie Wenban, the cast of the Jan DeAngelo and Company’s production of “Cabaret” will perform a few numbers from the show. The evening will continue with the presentation of awards honoring those individuals who went above and beyond in their service and dedication to the JCC this past year.

The meeting will conclude with the

installation of the 2018-2019 JCC Board of Directors.

The Executive Committee includes Carrie Wenban, president; Jeff Platsky, treasurer; Bonnie Brown, secretary; Lillian Levy, past president; Mark Walker, Federation liaison; and Susan Walker, fund-raising.

The board members include Neil Auer-

bach, Lisa Berk, Bonnie Brown, Amanda Chiarot, Michelle Foster, Charles Gilinsky, Gerry Hubal, Rhonda Levine, Jeff Loew, Sarah Manasse, Emily Rose, Justin Salkin, Jeff Shapiro and Rita Shawn.

The event is free to the community. Anyone planning on attending is requested to call the JCC office to make a reservation at 724-2417.

## Temple Beth-El Arts Committee to host summer Jewish Film Festival beginning June 13



The Arts Committee of Temple Beth-El of Ithaca will hold its annual Jewish film festival with a series of three films this summer. It will take place in the social hall of the temple, located at the corner of Court and Tioga streets in Ithaca, on three Wednesday evenings. The line-up includes “Shalom Bollywood” on June 13, “The Sturgeon Queens” and

At left: The first film in the Jewish Film Festival will be “Shalom Bollywood.”

“Bagels in the Blood” on July 25, and “The Band’s Visit” on August 22. Doors will open at 6:30 pm for free refreshments and socializing. The films will begin at 7 pm. Tickets will cost \$8 at the door (check or cash only). All films are appropriate for children ages 10 and above. Teens are encouraged to attend.

“Shalom Bollywood: The Untold Story of Indian Cinema” (India, 2017) is a documentary revealing the long history of the Indian Jewish community and the role

that Jewish women played in the shaping of India’s movie industry. Because Hindu and Muslim women were not allowed to perform on screen, Jewish women starred in the films for decades.

“The Sturgeon Queens” (USA, 2014) and “Bagels in the Blood” (USA, 2016) are two documentaries concerning food purveyors: Russ & Daughters Jewish Gourmet Grocery Store in lower Manhattan and Montreal’s Fairmount Bagels. “Wait until See “Film” on page 4

## TI/TC Adult Ed. to present “My Name is Asher Lev” reading on June 10

The Temple Israel/Temple Concord Adult Education Group will present a brunch program on Sunday, June 10, at 10 am, at Temple Israel. The program will be a reading of the play “My Name is Asher Lev” by Aaron Posner – a spin-off from the book written by Chaim Potok.

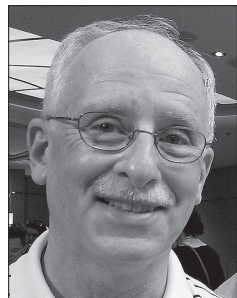
The role of Asher Lev will be portrayed by Andy Horowitz, a graduate of Binghamton University who also has an M.B.A. from Syracuse University. Horowitz is the artistic director of Galumph Dance Company. He has also performed in multiple films and stage productions. Over a 25 year professional career, Horowitz has performed his choreographic work at more than 3,000 venues in 30 countries. He is the co-winner of the Edinburgh Festival’s Critics Choice



Sima Auerbach as Rivkeh Lev



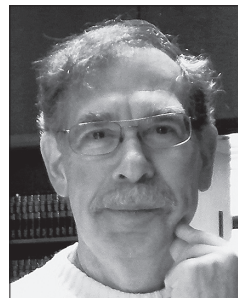
Rabbi Geoffrey Brown as the Rebbe



Steve Gilbert as Aryeh Lev



Andy Horowitz as Asher Lev



Ben Kasper as Jacob Kahn

Award, the Moers International Comedy Arts Prize, and was the 2007 recipient of the Broome County Heart of the Arts award.

The other readers include Steve Gilbert as Aryeh Lev, Sima Auerbach as Rivkeh Lev, Rabbi Geoffrey Brown as the Rebbe and Ben Kasper as Jacob Kahn.

In a review of “My Name is Asher Lev” which was performed in Washington, DC,

in November 2017, Tim Treanor wrote: “The business of an artist is not much different than the business of a baseball umpire, though his field of vision is bigger. The artist must see the world, and then call it as he sees it. Thus the artist finds himself at odds with his world’s participants and enthusiasts, the players and the fans, who see the world through the

conventions and protocols of their communities. He is at best misunderstood and frequently scorned and even hated. This is particularly true when the community itself is beleaguered by the outside world.”

The play raises a series of questions: What do we owe our parents? What do we owe ourselves when we possess a special gift? Is there a way to honor both? Is it inevitable to cause pain? How do we make choices and what are those consequences?

Contact Tammy Kunsman at Temple Israel by Tuesday, June 5, to make a reservation and allow organizers to prepare sufficient food. Call or e-mail the temple office at 723-7461 or [titammy@stny.twcbc.com](mailto:titammy@stny.twcbc.com). The cost of the breakfast brunch will be \$5.

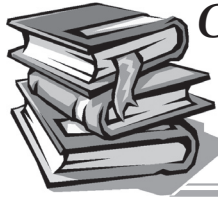
### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**Torah and U.S. law**  
The June 9 Beth David luncheon talk will look at “Perspectives on Capital Punishment.”  
..... Page 3

**Conversion laws in Israel**  
Israel’s Chief Rabbinate proposes stricter regulations for conversions that will affect American converts.  
..... Page 4

**News in brief...**  
Israel aids Guatemala after earthquake; Argentine court rules Alberto Nisman was murdered.  
..... Pages 7-8

**Special Sections**  
Book Review..... 2  
Legal Notices..... 4  
Gifts for Dads and Grads..... 5  
Classifieds..... 8



Off the Shelf

# Religion, gangsters, antisemitism and politics

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

When the number of books on my to-review stack gets very large, I usually try to write a multi-book review that features more works than a normal review. Sometimes I just pick random works; other reviews offer works with similar themes. This review features four mysteries. However, these novels are so different that, at times, it's easy to forget they belong to the same genre. The first is a detective procedural; the second, the middle book in a trilogy about gangsters, which also offers insights into the Jewish community; the third, a literary novel about antisemitism; and the fourth, a thriller with a political angle.

## "Holy Ceremony"

I'm a fan of detective series, whether the sleuth is a professional or an amateur, so "Holy Ceremony" by Harri Nykanen (Bitter Lemon Press) had an immediate appeal. Ariel Kafka, a Jewish lieutenant in the Helsinki Violent Crime Unit, is an interesting character: he's a non-practicing Jew, who, at times, finds himself involved in the Jewish community, almost against his will. This is the third book in the series (the review of the first, "Nights of Awe," can be found at [www.thereporter.org/Article.aspx?aID=2684](http://www.thereporter.org/Article.aspx?aID=2684)) and there is once again a religious connection, although this time it's a Christian one.

A dead woman's body is found covered with religious text and an envelope addressed to "Ariel Kafka" is discovered at the

scene. That begins a cat-and-mouse game between Kafka and the writer, who calls himself "The Adomer of the Sacred Vault." Several murders may be connected and the only link seems to be a religious school for young boys. Is the "The Adomer" the murderer or is something even more sinister occurring?

Kafka is a great character: he has a droll sense of humor and an admirable dedication to his job, even when he experiences antisemitism from fellow police officers. The plot is complex and filled with surprises. It's not necessary to have read the first two books to enjoy this one and fans of police procedurals will find much to admire.

## "Gangster Nation"

The saga of Italian hit man Sal Cupertine, AKA Reform Rabbi David Cohen, continues in "Gangster Nation" by Tod Goldberg (Counterpoint). In the first novel of this trilogy, "Gangsterland," Sal transforms himself into a rabbi at a Los Vegas synagogue with the help of plastic surgery and a stack of Jewish books. (See *The Reporter* review at [www.thereporter.org/Article.aspx?aID=3797](http://www.thereporter.org/Article.aspx?aID=3797).) His killing of three FBI agents in that book also means that he has to keep his whereabouts a secret. Sal is helped in this by his business partner, Bennie Savone, both of whom benefit from a scheme that uses a Jewish funeral home to secretly bury Mafia and gang murders.

"Gangster Nation" offers three narratives. The most fun is that of Sal as Rabbi Cohen. He successfully manages his congregation using a combination of his newly learned Jewish knowledge and his hitman background. He is tempted to put his hitman skills into action when he disapproves of someone's behavior. According to Sal, the Mafia has strict rules for what a man must do if he leaves his first wife and no one dares break them. So it doesn't sit well with him when a member of his congregation dumps his wife and flaunts his new, young girlfriend.

Sal's wife Jennifer is featured in another plot line. She worries not only about Sal, but her young son's behavior and whether or not someone looking to kill the two of them. Also on Sal's trail is former FBI agent Matthew Drew, who wants to find Sal in order to avenge the murder of his partner Jeff Hooper.

While "Gangster Nation" contains a great deal of humor, at least when talking about the members of the synagogue, the novel takes a more serious turn after the events of 9/11. Sal's life is complex and difficult, and made worse by the fact that his original plastic surgery was not a success. His face not only seems to be melting, but he's in a great deal of pain and finds it difficult to eat. This problem sets up the novel's cliff-hanger ending that will leave readers eager to discover what happens next.

## "My Darling Detective"

Sometimes the line between a literary novel and a mystery is hard to define. That's the case with "My Darling Detective" by Howard Norman (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt), which takes place during the 1970s. The work isn't a traditional mystery: The detective is the girlfriend of narrator Jacob Rigolet rather than the hero himself. The plot is set in motion when Jacob attends an art auction only to see his mother step forward and throw ink at one of the photos being sold. Her presence is a surprise since she's living in a rest home after having a nervous breakdown several years before. Martha, Jacob's girlfriend, is the police officer interrogating his mother and her research leads her to several interesting discoveries.

Although at first Jacob seems to have no interest in his past, he begins some exploration in his own right and helps uncover the secrets his mother has been hiding for decades, including murder, antisemitism and a mysterious disappearance. Even with these events, "My Darling Detective" concentrates more on atmosphere than plot, although it's still enjoyable in an offbeat way. None of the main characters are Jewish, but the way some Canadians felt about Jews in pre-World War II is clearly shown. The ending is exciting and sections – particularly the letters home from a soldier fighting in World War II – are moving.

## "Winter Warning"

The words I wrote in my notes after finishing reading Jerome Charyn's "Winter Warning: An Isaac Sidel Novel" (Pegasus Books) were "wild and weird." The author offers an introduction that explains the history of Sidel for those readers like myself who never read any of the previous works. In the current novel, which takes place in the late 1980s, Sidel has accidentally become the first Jewish president of the United States, although the members of his party don't have any faith in his leadership. Sidel is a former cop who trusts almost no one, and that includes the members of his administration and his White House staff. The one exception is someone from his past: a former prime minister of Israel, who has his own secrets and a dark side.

The real action begins during a meeting at Camp David when a band of mercenaries attacks those at the retreat and Sidel has to find out not only what's happening, but on whom he can depend. The plot of "Winter Warning" is very convoluted, but intriguing. It was difficult in the first part to keep track of the characters, although that might not be a problem for those who've read previous books. The action gets very exciting in the third section and raised some interesting moral questions. However, that still wasn't enough to make me want to read earlier works in the series.



## Mailbox Shorts

### Yidstock Music Festival

Yidstock: The Festival of New Yiddish Music will take place from July 12-15. The seventh annual Yidstock celebrates the klezmer and new Yiddish music with a wide-ranging lineup of concerts, workshops, talks and other programs. This year's lineup includes David Krakauer's Acoustic Klezmer Quartet, Heather Klein and Joshua Horowitz, Tsvey Brider, featuring Anthony Russell and Dmitri Gaskin, Beyond the Pale, The View from Toronto, with Eric Stein, Sarah Aroeste and Anthony Russell, and the Socalled String Quartet.

All events will take place at the Yiddish Book Center, 1021 West St., Amherst, MA. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 413-256-4900 or visit [yiddishbookcenter.org/events](http://yiddishbookcenter.org/events). For the full schedule for Yidstock, visit [www.yiddishbookcenter.org/yidstock](http://www.yiddishbookcenter.org/yidstock).

## Opinion

### In My Own Words

## Sports, patriotism and the right to protest

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

I have zero interest in sports. If I never saw, read about or attended another sporting event, I could live a very happy, productive life. I do understand the various reasons why people love sports, but I feel like I've put in my time. My father was a very big sports fan and he liked someone to watch the games with him, whether he attended them in person or viewed them on TV. He was also a golfer and liked to talk about his golf game – shot by shot – so I learned to half listen and nod my head.

I do remember one thing he said about his fellow golfers, some of whom had been high school athletes. At least once during each round, they would stop to take aspirin because of the injuries they suffered while playing high school football. That's why I've never objected to sports stars making large salaries. If their employers are making a fortune, those putting their body on the line should get a fair share. After all, they're the ones who have to deal with the pain and anguish caused by injuries. That doesn't end

when they retire from the game. Like my father's friends, they may suffer for the rest of their lives.

What I've never understood is why the national anthem was played before games. To me, professional sports are an entertainment like movies, plays and concerts. We don't feel the need to perform "The Star Spangled Banner" before those events. I have no objection to its being played, but I think it makes us confuse patriotism with our feelings about football and baseball. You can love the United States and still dislike sports.

Since sports and patriotism have become conflated, it becomes a powerful symbol when a player kneels, rather than stands, during the national anthem. This nonviolent, silent protest has caused a great deal of fuss. Our right to free speech includes non-verbal communication and the players are exercising that right. Plus, no one is physically injured when the players are kneeling and no property is being damaged. I understand both sides of the issue: some

feel that kneeling is disrespectful to the U.S. and its armed services, while others believe that institutionalized racism is more disrespectful to the democratic ideals for which our country stands.

A recent change (at least, as of this writing) is that NFL players will no longer be required to be on the field for the national anthem, as they were in the past. However, if they are on the field, they will now be required to stand. If they don't, the team can take disciplinary action against them. If the team doesn't, then the National Football League can fine the team. This may sound like an OK compromise, but no one discussed this with the NFL Players Association, so this has not been agreed to by all sides. Another option has not been discussed, at least in the articles I've read: We could stop playing the national anthem before sporting events and stop confusing sports with patriotism. We could also recognize that not every citizen has shared equally in the freedoms the U.S. offers.



**Jewish Federation**  
OF GREATER BINGHAMTON

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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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# TI to celebrate historic anniversaries of its adult b'not mitzvah on June 8



Members of the 1979 adult bat mitzvah class.



Members of the 1980 adult bat mitzvah class.

The Sisterhood of Temple Israel invites the entire community to attend an *erev* Shabbat service on Friday, June 8, at 7:30 pm, to commemorate the milestone anniversary of the congregation's original adult bat mitzvah class.

It was on April 7, 1978, that, for the first time at Temple Israel, 27 adult women conducted the Friday evening Shabbat service as a culmination of a year of study for their bat mitzvah. In 1979, an additional 20 women celebrated the completion of the second adult bat mitzvah class at the synagogue, and, in 1980, 11 more women were bat mitzvahed in the third class.

As 2018 marks 40 years since the *siyyum* (graduation) of the original class, members from all of the adult bat mitzvah classes will participate in leading the *erev* Shabbat service.

The evening service will be followed by a celebratory *oneg* Shabbat. To ensure an adequate supply of refreshments for the occasion, RSVP to Tammy Kunsman in the Temple Israel office at 723-7461 or e-mail [titammy@stny.twbc.com](mailto:titammy@stny.twbc.com).



Members of the 1978 adult bat mitzvah class.

## OF NOTE

### Bank

Jenni Bank, daughter of Dr. Les and Barbara Bank of Vestal, will make her Carnegie Hall debut on Sunday, June 17. She has been selected as the mezzo soloist for Haydn's "Lord Nelson Mass" and Schubert's "Mass No. 4 in C" and will perform with the New England Symphonic Ensemble. She also recently made her first appearance at Lincoln Center with the New York City Opera, playing Mrs. Twist in the U.S. premiere of "Brokeback Mountain."

## TC to host interfaith service for Pride Month on June 13

Temple Concord will host the People of Blessing Service as part of Pride Month on Wednesday, June 13, at 7 pm. The service affirms diversity in community, lifting up the common thread amongst us and affirming people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. The theme for this year's service is "Celebrating Our Differences."

The service will include music, readings, speakers and a shared blessing by community clergy. The offering for

the evening will go to support this annual service and other programs of the Pride Coalition. All are welcome. Refreshments will be provided following the service.

Temple Concord is located at 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton. For more information, contact Carol Gallagher ([cgallagher@gmail.com](mailto:cgallagher@gmail.com)) or Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell at Temple Concord (723-7355, [rabbigoldmanwartell@gmail.com](mailto:rabbigoldmanwartell@gmail.com)).

## BD luncheon on June 9

Saturday, June 9, marks the final Beth David Saturday luncheon program of this year. Speakers Aaron Alweis and Richard Lewis will speak about "The Torah and American Law: Perspectives on Capital Punishment."

"We could not wish for more experienced speakers than Aaron and Dick in all matters judicial," organizers said. Alweis and Lewis will compare what the Torah has to say about capital punishment with what is stipulated in American law. Under what conditions is the death penalty warranted according to the Torah? What are the textual foundations for capital punishment in the United States Constitution? What are the interpretative debates that have been raised in each sphere? "An eye for an eye immediately comes to mind when we think of capital punishment," organizers said, "but as Aaron and Dick will show, something as serious as ending another's life raises important questions in both Jewish law and American law."

Alweis obtained his B.A. from Syracuse University, with a major in history. He obtained his M.B.A. from the University of Michigan. Since 1986, he has been a senior court reporter with the New York State Unified Court System. He is a registered professional reporter, certified realtime reporter and a certified realtime captioner in the National Court Reporters Association. An active member of the Jewish community, he is a former president of Hillel Academy of Broome County, and is currently second vice president, *gabbai* and chairman of the Ritual Committee at Beth David Synagogue.

Lewis obtained his B.A. from Ithaca College, and his law degree from John Marshall Law School. He is licensed



Aaron Alweis



Richard Lewis

to practice law in New York, Florida, Pennsylvania and Illinois. He has been practicing law in the area for more than 40 years. He is the past president of the Broome County Bar Association, and is currently the vice president for the Sixth Judicial District for the New York State Bar Association. He is also a recipient of the Ted Gallando Award. In the Jewish community, he has served as president of Hillel Academy of Broome County and of Temple Israel. He currently serves on a number of boards, including *The Reporter*.

Beth David's luncheon speaker series takes place the second Saturday of the month after Shabbat morning services, and is open to the community. There is no charge for the luncheon. Since the monthly series' continuation depends on the generosity of contributors, Beth David welcomes donations to the Luncheon Fund in order to keep the program going. Donations can be made in honor of or in memory of someone, or to mark an occasion. Those wishing an acknowledgment to be sent to the person being honored or to the family of someone being remembered can indicate that, along with the necessary information. Donations can be sent to Beth David Synagogue, 39 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905 Attention: Luncheon Fund.



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**HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE**

# Hillel Academy heard lecture on the synagogues of Italy



At left: The students at Hillel Academy listened as Dr. Howard Warner spoke about the synagogues in Italy.

## Film.....Continued from page 1

you taste the refreshments!" said festival organizers.

"The Band's Visit" (Israel, 2007, Arabic, English, Hebrew with subtitles) is now a Broadway musical. Come and see the original Israeli film about eight Egyptian musicians, comprising the Alexandria

Ceremonial Police Orchestra, who arrive by mistake in a small town in Israel's Negev Desert.

The film festival is brought to Ithaca through Menemsha Films, 7<sup>th</sup> Art Releasing and Sony Classic Pictures. For further information, call 257-9924.

# Israel's conversion laws are about to get stricter

By Ben Sales

(JTA)—Jewish converts in America may have a much harder time being accepted in Israel because of a new set of regulations proposed by Israel's Chief Rabbinate. If adopted, some activists in Israel say, the new guidelines for religious courts could drive a deeper wedge between Israel and Diaspora Jewry.

The Chief Rabbinate, which controls Jewish marriage, divorce, conversion and burial in the Jewish state, is largely run by *haredi* Orthodox leaders. For years it has clashed with rabbis in America — even Orthodox ones — who have more liberal interpretations of Jewish law.

The Chief Rabbinate does not consider non-Orthodox Judaism to be valid, so it does not accept the authority of Conservative and Reform rabbis. And in recent years, it has had a series of public disputes with Orthodox rabbis whose authority it rejects.

Hoping to clarify exactly which Orthodox rabbis meet its standards, the Chief Rabbinate recently published a list of draft

criteria for religious courts in the Diaspora. If a religious court meets the criteria, the Jewish conversions it conducts will be recognized by the Chief Rabbinate. If not, the Chief Rabbinate will not consider its converts Jewish. The same goes for Jewish ritual divorces: The Chief Rabbinate will accept them only if they are performed by a qualified religious court.

This matters for non-Israeli converts and divorcees if they ever want their religious or marital status recognized in Israel. Those who convert in America under an unrecognized religious court, for example, would not be able to marry in Israel because the Chief Rabbinate controls Jewish marriage there. Likewise, divorced individuals would not be able to remarry in Israel if their Jewish divorce is not recognized. Children from a female convert's second marriage would be forbidden to marry a Jew.

The document's language is in the past tense, which means it could apply retroactively — rejecting the status of Jewish See "Laws" on page 7

# LEGAL NOTICE

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")

1. The name of the foreign limited liability company ("LLC") is WHITE ANGELICA LLC.
2. The date of filing of the application for authority with the Secretary of State is April 24, 2018.
3. The jurisdiction of organization of the LLC is the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the date of its organization is July 30, 2015.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. The principal office of the foreign limited liability company is 226 Jones Road, Friendsville, PA 18818
7. 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.
8. 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

1. The name of the limited liability company ("LLC") is Kingsforge Holdings LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is May 1, 2018.
3. The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the LLC is located is Broome.
4. The Secretary of State of the State of New York is hereby designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or her is: 109 Sergeant Street, Johnson City, NY 13790.
5. The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

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

1. The name of the limited liability company ("LLC") is Duff's Dairy Treats, LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is May 2, 2018.
3. The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the LLC is located is Cortland.
4. The Secretary of State of the State of New York is hereby designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or her is: 5378 Gee Brook Road, Cincinnati, NY 13040.
5. The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

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

1. The name of the limited liability company ("LLC") is Appraisal Pros. LLC, 26 Ritchie Rd. Binghamton, NY 13901

2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is April 30, 2018.
3. The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the LLC is located is Broome.
4. The Secretary of State of the State of New York is hereby designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or her is: 26 Ritchie Rd., Binghamton, NY 13901
5. The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY: 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

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

### Notice of Formation of 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.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY: The name of the limited liability company is: Sepp Windsor Holding Company, LLC (the "Company"). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was May 10, 2018. The county in which the principal place of business of the Company shall be located is Broome County. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the Company upon whom process against it may be served. The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the Company, to Hinman, Howard & Kattell, LLP, Attn: Ryan M. Mead, 80 Exchange Street, Suite 700, Binghamton, NY 13901. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY: The name of the limited liability company is: PocketPsych LLC (the "Company"). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was 05/15/2018. 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 145 Cray Ave. Binghamton, NY 13905. The purpose of the business of the Company is the lawful business purpose of dissemination of information regarding mental health.

### JTS Claims LLC - NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY ("LLC")

Articles of Organization of JTS Claims LLC filed with the NYS Secretary of State (NYSS) on 5/4/2018. Office of LLC is in Broome County. NYSS designated as agent for service of process against it. NYSS shall mail process to PO Box 2531, Binghamton, New York 13902. Business purpose: any lawful activity

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY OF MVP INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS LLC

The Application For Authority of MVP Innovative Solutions LLC was filed with the NYS Secretary of State (NYSS) on April 17, 2018.

The Certificate of Formation was filed with the Secretary of State of Delaware on November 17, 2017. Office and principal business location is in Broome County, New York. NYSSS designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. NYSSS shall mail process to: 65 Hospital Hill Road, Binghamton NY 13901. Registered Agent and address required to be maintained in State of Delaware: Agents and Corporations, Inc. 1201 Orange St- Ste. 600, Wilmington, DE 19801. Authorized officer where copy of Certificate of Formation is filed with: Secretary of State of Delaware, PO Box 898, Dover DE 19903. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

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

1. The name of the limited liability company ("LLC") is CARRILOU, LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is May 25, 2018.
3. The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the LLC is located is Broome.
4. The Secretary of State of the State of New York is hereby designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or her is: 297 West Whitcomb Hill Road, Barton, NY 13734.
5. The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY: The name of the limited liability company is: Tucker Enterprises, LLC (the "Company"). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was May 10, 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: Christopher L. Roma, 80 Exchange Street, Suite 700, Binghamton, NY 13901. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

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# BD Sisterhood to reflect on year at closing meeting

By Paula Rubin

On Wednesday, June 13, Beth David Sisterhood will hold its closing meeting for the year 5778. Beginning at 7 pm at the synagogue, 39 Riverside Dr., Binghamton,

all women in the community are invited to enjoy an evening of schmoozing and dairy desserts, along with reflections on the past and a glimpse of what's ahead on next year's calendar.

Members are encouraged to bring any photos or articles they have about the synagogue/Sisterhood. "Everyone loves to look at old photos, especially if it is one of themselves," noted Program Vice

President Susan Wright.

The meeting is free and open to all women in the community. RSVP to Marlene Serkin at 729-3235 by Sunday, June 10.

## TI Sisterhood hosted book review program



Attendees at the May 22 Sisterhood program gathered in Temple Israel's chapel for prayers and a candle-lighting ceremony prior to the book review of "Haven." There were six tapered candles lit in memory of the six million Jews who perished during the Holocaust.



Members of the community listened as Merri Pell-Preus discussed the book "Haven," which highlighted the rescue and resettlement of close to 1,000 Jewish refugees to Oswego, NY, at the height of the Holocaust.



Maxine and Louis Rosenberg lit one of the six candles during the ceremony in memory of the six million. Marcy Cohen and Joyce Sambursky were among the attendees.



Merri Pell-Preus explored the finer points behind the story of "Haven."



At right, l-r: Kathy Velenchik, Rita Bleier, Roz Antoun and Marti Kliensky enjoyed some desserts at the conclusion of the program.



At right, l-r: Pepi Levene, Jane Zuckerman and Heidi Thirer were among the many participants who had the opportunity to socialize following the book review program.

### Community Calendar

The Community Calendar can be found on the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton's website, [www.jfgeb.org](http://www.jfgeb.org), by clicking on "calendar." Updates or additions of events for the calendar can be made by contacting the Federation through its website (click on "calendar" and then "click here to request a change to the calendar") or by calling 724-2332.

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## Weekly Parasha

Shelach Lecha, Numbers 13:1-15:41

## The meaning of *tzitzit*

RABBI GEOFFREY BROWN, TEMPLE ISRAEL, VESTAL

This week's *parasha*, Shelach Lecha, has a variety pack of teaching gems imbedded in it including but not limited to:

- ◆ Spies – Check out the land and consequences of reporting half-truths.
- ◆ Working and unfavorable outcomes for being caught working on Shabbat.
- ◆ *Tzitzit* – Fringes – blue thread or not, it still functions as a reminder.

Let me provide more insight into the law – *halachah* – about *tzitzit*. Every day we recite the *Shema* and pronounce the verse, “Speak unto the children of Israel, and bid them make fringes on the borders of their garments throughout their generations...”

According to the Talmud (Menhot, 43b), this precept, the wearing of the four-corner garment with *tzitzit* on each corner, is equal in weight to all precepts. How could this singular act be equal to all other acts? The

greater question may be, “What kind of reminder of good behavior can we hand humanity to keep humanity focused on good will?”

*Tzitzit* are, in their own right, a mathematical model of symbolic gigantic proportions, exemplifying all that is Torah. Examining the way in which *tzitzit* are wrapped, it is clear that the intention is to convey being reminded of 613 commandments through the mathematical formula intentionally incorporated into the *tzitzit*'s knots and twists and wraps design.

There are a total of eight strings and five knots that are a physical representation of the Torah's 613 mitzvahs. Each letter in the word *tzitzit* is assigned a number because each letter in the Hebrew alphabet has a corresponding numerical value (Gematria). The numerical values of the five letters that comprise the Hebrew word *tzitzit* add up to 600. Add the eight strings and

five knots of each tassel, and the total is 613.

The *tzitzit* function both as a commanded reminder of the 613 and a visual reminder. “And you shall see it and remember all the commandments of the Lord and do them.”

This teaches that seeing leads to remembering, and remembering leads to doing. When you see something with your own eyes, you tend to believe it. If you can both see and touch the reminder symbol then what a wonderful functional, visual, sensory symbol representing the whole-some moral teachings that is Torah.

Because teaching that seeing leads to remembering and that remembering can lead directly to doing is exceedingly productive. When we each thoughtfully act on what we have learned, both by seeing and intimately embracing and eternalizing the teachings of our vast and enriching Torah, the world becomes a better place.

## Congregational Notes

### Temple Concord

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

On Friday, June 8, at 8 pm, Shabbat evening services will be led by Suzanne Holwitt.

On Saturday, June 9, at 9:15 am, there will be Torah study.

On Wednesday, June 13, at 7 pm, Temple Concord will host the People of Blessing Interfaith Service for Pride month.

On Friday, June 15, at 8 pm, a Pride Shabbat service will be led by Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell.

On Saturday, June 16, at 9:15 am, there will be Torah study.

### 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.

### Temple Beth El of Oneonta

Affiliation: United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism  
 Rabbi: Molly Karp  
 Address: 83 Chestnut St., Oneonta, NY 13820  
 Mailing address: P.O. Box 383, Oneonta, NY 13820  
 Phone: 607-432-5522, 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.

### 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, June 8, 7:15 pm  
 Shabbat, June 9 ..... 9 am  
 ..... Mincha after the kiddush  
 ..... Maariv 8:10 pm

Weekday Services:  
 Mornings:  
 Sun., June 10 ..... 8:30 am  
 Mon.-Tues., June 11-12 ..... 7 am  
 Wed.-Thurs., June 13-14 ..... 6:50 am  
 Fri., June 15 ..... 7 am

Evenings:  
 Sun-Thurs., June 10-14 ..... 8:25 pm  
 Fri., June 15 ..... 7:15 pm  
 Classes: Rabbi Zev Silber will hold his weekly Talmud class every Tuesday evening after services.

On Wednesday, June 13, at 7 pm, Beth David Sisterhood will hold its closing meeting for the year. Members are encouraged to bring any photos or articles they have about the synagogue/Sisterhood. The meeting is free and open to all women in the community. RSVP to Marlene Serkin at 729-3235 by Sunday, June 10.

On Wednesday, June 13, at 7 pm, Beth David Sisterhood will hold its closing meeting for the year. Members are encouraged to bring any photos or articles they have about the synagogue/Sisterhood. The meeting is free and open to all women in the community. RSVP to Marlene Serkin at 729-3235 by Sunday, June 10.

### Norwich Jewish Center

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

### Temple Beth-El of Ithaca

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

On Friday, June 8, the oneg Shabbat will be hosted by Barbara and David Regenspan.

On Saturday, June 9, services will be held at 10 am; Mincha at 4:30 pm will include the bat Torah celebration of Barbara Regenspan.

On Friday-Saturday, June 29-30, the b'nai mitzvah of Maya and Alex Green, children of Rivka and Keith Green, will be celebrated.

Friday, June 8, light candles ..... 8:19 pm  
 Shabbat ends Saturday, June 9 ..... 9:21 pm  
 Friday, June 15, light candles ..... 8:23 pm  
 Shabbat ends Saturday, June 16 ..... 9:24 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, June 9, at 9:30 am, services will be led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown. The Torah portion will be Numbers 13:1-15:41. The haftarah will be Joshua 2:1-24.

On Friday, June 8, at 7:30 pm, the adult bat mitzvah classes of 1978, 1979 and 1980 will celebrate their 40<sup>th</sup>, 39<sup>th</sup> and 38<sup>th</sup> anniversaries. An oneg will follow the service.

On Sunday, June 10, at 10 am, there will be an adult ed program at Temple Israel. Andy Horowitz, Steve Gilbert, Sima Auerbach, Rabbi Geoffrey Brown and Ben Kasper will read the play “My Name is Asher Lev.”

On Tuesday, June 19, at 7 pm, the annual congregational meeting will be held.

On Thursday, June 21, at 7-9 pm, iEngage session two will be held at Temple Israel. Sessions are led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown and Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell. The cost for the series is \$20 per person for materials. Contact the Temple office to register.

### 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.

### 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.

### Congregation Tikun v'Or

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

# Laws . . . . . Continued from page 4

converts who formerly were accepted in Israel. In other words, a convert accepted by the Chief Rabbinate this year could be rejected next year.

The criteria demand that the courts be permanent and operate year-round. Their rabbis must demonstrate fealty to Orthodox Jewish law and be endorsed by a major Orthodox organization.

This means non-Orthodox rabbis and rabbinical courts will be rejected. So will graduates of Yeshivat Chovevei Torah, a liberal Orthodox seminary in New York City, because they are not recognized by the Rabbinical Council of America, the major U.S. Orthodox rabbis' group. Ad hoc religious courts, often set up in small communities for a specific person's conversion, also will not be approved.

If two courts are serving the same local population of Jews, only one will receive approval. Courts that want to apply for approval must submit their rabbis to an exam on Jewish law administered by the Chief Rabbinate.

The Chief Rabbinate says the criteria are an attempt to set transparent, objective standards. At a recent Knesset meeting on the proposed criteria, Knesset member Uri Maklev of the *haredi* United Torah Judaism party said that "clarifying what is Judaism is an obligation in [rabbinical] courts and a fundamental principle upon becoming part of the Jewish people."

In the past, the religious authority has rejected the qualifications of an Orthodox rabbi because it deemed him insufficiently observant of Jewish law. That's what happened in 2014 when the Chief Rabbinate rejected a conversion affirmed by Rabbi

Avi Weiss, a liberal Orthodox rabbi and the founder of Chovevei Torah.

But in other cases, the Chief Rabbinate has rejected rabbis' authority simply due to bureaucratic confusion. In 2015, one of its district courts rejected the authority of Rabbi Haskel Lookstein, a widely respected Modern Orthodox rabbi in New York, even though Israel's chief rabbi vouched for him.

As of now, one midlevel bureaucrat, Rabbi Itamar Tubul, decides which rabbis and marriages are accepted by the Chief Rabbinate. Last year, JTA obtained a so-called "blacklist" of Diaspora rabbis whose authority the Chief Rabbinate had rejected.

Critics are calling the criteria demeaning and overly strict. Itim, an Israeli nonprofit that works to navigate and challenge the Chief Rabbinate's bureaucracy, called the list a "power grab."

"These 'criteria' show the Chief Rabbinate's disdain for world Jewry, blatant attempt at power consolidation and profoundly un-Jewish approach," Rabbi Seth Farber, Itim's founder and director, said in a statement. "Itim will fight this using every legislative and legal tool available."

The Israel Democracy Institute think tank called the document "very problematic."

"The proposal creates a reality in which the Israeli rabbinate extends its monopoly over Jews' personal status in areas of marriage and divorce beyond Israel," Shuki Friedman, director of the institute's Center for Religion, Nation and State, said in a statement. "Thus the rift between Israel and Diaspora Jewry could grow, many Jews around the world may feel alienated, and immigration to Israel could decline."

# Jewish Community Center

## JCC Friendship Club

The JCC Friendship Club met on May 30. We enjoyed listening to Myra Memis talk about the masks worn in Chinese opera. The people who are in the cast not only sing, but perform dances, sword fights, martial arts and more. The masks the performers wear tell who they are. Someone who wears a clown mask is good and one who wears a demon mask is bad. The colors represent who they are also. Red, black and purple stand for a good person. Green means that he is evil. The villain wears white. Myra said that this started 3,500 years ago in the Song Dynasty. She said the Monkey King was a humorous character.

Myra told a Jewish connection. She said when the last child in the family is married the dance that is done by the guests around

the parents of the child is called a Mezinka. When her last child was married, her friend, unbeknownst to her, got her collection of masks, and the guests danced around her and her husband wearing the masks.

We then celebrated the birthday of Ada Brummer with an ice cream cake brought in by her daughter, Sue Herzog. We sang "Happy Birthday." There were five candles on the cake for her to blow out. We congratulated her on turning 5. It is funny, because she is much more than 10 times that.

On Wednesday, June 13, we will discuss an article about TJ Watson and the connection of IBM and the Nazis in World War II. Come join us at 1:30 pm at the JCC.

Sylvia Diamond  
President



Members of the Friendship Club are shown with Myra Memis and masks used in Chinese opera. Seated (l-r): Ada Brummer and Memis. Standing (l-r): Susan Herzog, Sylvia Diamond, Bruce Orden, Renee Fromer and Ann Brilliant.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

From JTA

#### Israel sends aid to Guatemala in wake of deadly volcano eruption

Israel has sent emergency aid to Guatemala following the eruption of the Fuego volcano. The eruption on June 3 of the volcano, which is located less than 30 miles from the capital Guatemala City, left at least 25 people dead and dozens injured, according to reports. It is not yet known how many people are missing. The volcano, whose name means fire in Spanish, erupted twice: just before noon and again after 6 pm. Some two million people were affected by its ash, according to *The New York Times*. On the evening of June 3, Israel announced that it had sent a delivery of food and medicine to the Central American country. Israel's Foreign Ministry said it also discussed with local authorities how else it could be of assistance. In May, Guatemala moved its embassy to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv in a ceremony attended by President Jimmy Morales. The move came two days after the United States made its transfer.

#### Man arrested in repeated vandalism of suburban Boston eruv

A local man was arrested a day after police in Sharon, MA, posted on Facebook that the suburban Boston community's eruv had been repeatedly vandalized. Yerachmiel E. Taube 28, was arrested on June 2 on charges of malicious destruction of property, destruction to a religious organization, interference with civil rights and disorderly conduct. He was scheduled to be arraigned on June 4 in Stoughton District Court. According to Jewish law, an eruv is an artificial boundary that allows Jews to push and carry objects outside their homes on the Sabbath and holy days. The eruv is made up of a series of poles and string. Some 40 volunteers for the Sharon Eruv Society, which helps maintain the eruv on a weekly basis, had offered a reward for information about the vandalism. The eruv was constructed in 1990. On June 1, Sharon Police in their post reported that the eruv "has been the subject of extensive vandalism over the last few weeks." The post included photos of downed poles and markers that make up the boundary markers.

**The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton celebrates**  
**"The Miracle of Israel"**

**ISRAEL at 70** 1948 - 2018  
**CELEBRATION**

**Sunday, June 24, at 5:30 pm**  
**Jewish Community Center, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal**

**Jonathan Tobin, the editor-in-chief of JNS/Jewish News Syndicate, will speak about "The Miracle of Israel"**

**Join us for a dinner of exquisite Israeli cuisine - \$20/person**  
**Reservations must be made for the evening by contacting the Federation at 724-2332 by Tuesday, June 19**



Jonathan Tobin is the award-winning editor in chief of JNS.org, a contributing writer for National Review. He is also a columnist for *The New York Post*, *The Federalist*, *Haaretz* and *The New York Jewish Week*. In his writing, he covers on a daily basis the American political scene, foreign policy, the U.S.-Israel relationship, Middle East diplomacy and the Jewish world. Before coming to JNS, Tobin was first executive editor and then senior online editor and chief political blogger for *Commentary* magazine for eight years. Prior to that, he was editor-in-chief of *The Jewish Exponent* in Philadelphia for 10 years and before that, the editor of the *Connecticut Jewish Ledger*. His writing has appeared in many other publications, including *The Jerusalem Post*, where he wrote the "View From America" column for many years. He has won more than 50 awards for his writing and appears regularly on television commenting on politics and Jewish issues.

**Simcha Photos**

The Jewish Community Yearbook needs photos from July 2017-present for their simcha pages!

- Engagements • Weddings • Babies
- Bar/Bat Mitzvahs • Graduations
- Confirmations

Please drop off at the JCC or email a .tif or .jpeg file to  
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**NEWS IN BRIEF**

From JTA

**German nationalist party co-head apologizes for calling Nazi era “speck of bird poop” in country’s history**

The co-head of the nationalist Alternative for Germany party said that he regrets calling the Nazi era a “speck of bird poop” in German history. Alexander Gauland, a 76-year-old attorney and journalist, made the statement on June 2 to a meeting of the party’s youth wing. He said in remarks that were widely reported and widely condemned that Germans must take responsibility for 12 years of Nazi rule but that “Hitler and the Nazis are just a speck of bird poop in more than 1,000 years of successful German history.” A group of party moderates on June 3 condemned Gauland’s remarks and called for a public apology. Gauland on June 4 issued a statement in which he said that he had used the words “bird poop” to express his “deepest contempt for Nazism. ...It was never my intention to trivialize or deride the victims of this criminal system,” he also said, according to the Associate Press. Chancellor Angela Merkel through her spokesman on June 4 called it “shameful that we have to deal with such comments by a lawmaker in parliament.” The spokesman also said that the government “strongly rejects” any downplaying of the Nazi era. In national elections last year, the Alternative for Germany Party, or AfD, which was launched in 2013, finished in third place, securing 94 seats in the national parliament, the Bundestag, which has 709 seats in all. Bjorn Hocke, the AfD party leader in the eastern German state of Thuringia, caused a stir last year when he said that paying too much attention to the Holocaust was making German history “appalling and laughable.” He called the Holocaust memorial in Berlin a “monument of shame” and has recommended a radical departure from “these stupid politics of coming to grips with the past.”

**Argentine special prosecutor Alberto Nisman was murdered, appeals court confirms**

Argentine special prosecutor Alberto Nisman was murdered as a direct consequence of his accusation against former President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner of a cover-up

of Iran’s role in the 1994 AMIA Jewish center bombing, a federal court ruled. The Argentinean Federal Chamber of Appeals on June 1 backed the federal judge who is leading the investigation, Julian Ercolini, who ruled last December, more than two years after Nisman death, that it was a murder and not a suicide. On Jan. 14, 2015, Nisman sued the president at that time, claiming that Kirchner and other officials of the government decided to “not incriminate” former senior officials of the Islamic Republic and tried to “erase” their roles in planning the bombing of the AMIA Jewish center in Buenos Aires that left 85 dead and hundreds wounded due to an agreement with Iranian officials. Four days later, Nisman’s body was found in his apartment, with one shot in his head, just hours before he was to present evidence to Argentine lawmakers that the government covered up Iran’s role in the bombing. According to this upper-level court, in the current investigation “there are clues with sufficient importance to sustain as a hypothesis that the destiny of Nisman ... was decided as a consequence of the nature, seriousness and scope of the complaint filed a few days before,” wrote judges Martín Irurzún and Leopoldo Bruglia. The court confirmed the original murder ruling by Ercolini and his indictment of the security officials who were tasked with protecting Nisman at the time of his death. In that December ruling, the judge also charged Diego Lagomarsino, a former IT employee of Nisman’s, as an accessory to murder. The Federal Chamber of Appeals also urged the judge to continue “with the speed and seriousness that such a grave fact imposes.”

**Israeli pop star Shiri Maimon will make Broadway debut**

Israeli singer Shiri Maimon will debut this fall on Broadway in the starring role of Roxie Hart in the musical “Chicago.” Her run with the production will begin on September 21 at New York’s Ambassador Theater. She announced her new role on June 3 after appearing in Times Square as part of the March for Israel parade and the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations for the state of Israel. Maimon, 36, recently starred in a production of “Evita” at Habima, the national theater of Israel in Tel Aviv, where she reportedly was seen by the “Chicago” producers. She recently completed her third season as a celebrity judge on the Israeli version of “X Factor.”


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