

U.N. condemns Israel with six resolutions in one day

By JNS staff

(JNS) – The United Nations on November 30 continued its streak of frequently condemning the Jewish state, passing six anti-Israel resolutions.

The first, titled “The Syrian Golan,” passed with 100 votes in favor, 12 against and 62 abstentions. For a second consecutive year, the United Kingdom broke with the European Union to vote against it, joining the United States, Israel, Canada, Australia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands and a few others.

According to the nongovernmental organization U.N. Watch, which monitors anti-Israel bias at the world body, the measure is “oblivious to genocidal massacres taking place now in Syria, and its security implications for Israel and the civilians of the Golan Heights,” and it “ignores Syria’s history of shelling Israeli communities, its

leader’s calls for a ‘war of annihilation’ against Israel and Syria’s 1967 aggression that led to its loss of the territory.”

The second, titled “Jerusalem,” was adopted with 148 votes in favor, 11 against and 14 abstentions. Israel and the United States were joined by Canada, Australia, Guatemala and six others to vote against.

According to U.N. Watch, this resolution “implies that Israeli administration of Jerusalem hinders freedom of religion when in fact the opposite is true – before 1967, Jordan destroyed Jewish holy sites and denied access to Jews, while under Israel all faiths have access to the city and enjoy full freedoms.”

The third, titled “Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat,” which appropriates U.N. funds for anti-Israel purposes, passed with 96 votes in favor,

13 against and 64 abstentions. The United States, Israel, Australia, Canada, Moldova, Hungary, Honduras, Guatemala and others voted against it.

“The DPR serves the biased special committee and is dedicated to spreading anti-Israel propaganda the world over,” said U.N. Watch. “Its 16-member staff is grossly disproportionate to the U.N.’s other four divisions which cover enormous geographical regions.”

The fourth, “Special information programme on the question of Palestine of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat,” was adopted with 152 votes in favor, eight against and 14 abstentions. The United States, Israel, Canada, Australia, Guatemala and a few others voted against the resolution.

“The program eschews a balanced approach by overtly choosing the Palestinian over Israeli narrative, ignoring terrorism against Israeli men, women and children, and other daily realities of Israeli life,”

stated U.N. Watch. “Resources devoted to anti-Israel propaganda are taken away from other worthy causes.”

The fifth, “Peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine,” passed 156 votes in favor, eight against and 12 abstentions. The United States, Israel, Canada and Australia and four others voted against the measure, which solely blames Israel for no peace in the area.

The final resolution, “Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People,” was adopted 100 votes in favor, 12 against and 62 abstentions. The United States, Israel, Australia, Canada and Hungary joined several other countries to vote against the resolution. The committee invited Temple University professor Marc Lamont Hill to speak on November 28, where he advocated for “a Free Palestine From the River to the Sea,” in addition to making other anti-Israel comments. Hill was fired by CNN as a contributor the next day.

Israel signs \$5 million tech deal with Brazil

By Marcus M. Gilban

RIO DE JANEIRO (JTA) – Israel and Brazil have signed an agreement to invest \$5 million in technology cooperation and innovation over the next five years. Israel has been reaching out to Latin American countries, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visiting twice in less than a year.

The memorandum of understanding between the Israeli government’s tech investment arm, the Israel Innovation Authority, and the Brazilian Agency for Industrial Research and Innovation was announced on December 10. “This agreement is an important first step in the path of technological cooperation, and we anticipate an increase in joint technology collaboration between Israel and Brazil in the coming years,” said Aharon Aharon, CEO of the Israeli Innovation Authority.

The program will support large-scale

collaboration projects involving technology, the life sciences, energy and agriculture for up to 24 months, the Ctech news website reported. “Investment in innovation and the allocation of resources for technological development are key to sustained economic growth, increased productivity and creating significant economic value,” Eli Cohen, Israel’s minister of economy and industry, said.

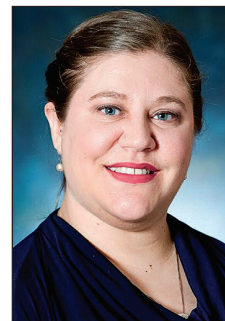
The agreement will be deployed through a joint venture company to be funded by both parties aiming at improving the technological capabilities of companies, promoting activities in the industrial sector and facilitating specific projects, Exame magazine reported.

Israeli companies will be entitled to 12 months of support and may renew funding for a second year after reviewing project results.

Rabbi Marley Weiner to speak at TI/TC program

The next Temple Israel/Temple Concord Adult Education program will be held on Sunday, December 16, at 10 am, at Temple Concord. Rabbi Marley Weiner will discuss “Twenty to Work and Thirty to Full Power: Jewish Innovation by Millennials and Gen Z.”

Five years ago, the Pew Research Center revealed that young Jewish Americans were engaging with their Judaism in “startlingly new and different ways.” But what are those ways, and how can they revitalize modern Jewish life from all angles? Everything from democratization of serious text study to new Jewish melodies



Rabbi Marley Weiner

are “ripe for the taking” in this session about the next generation of Jewish engagement.

Weiner is in her second year as the senior Jewish educator at Hillel at Binghamton, and is a member of the 2017 graduating class of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. She is also a member of independent *minyanim*, a lover of Limmud NY and a Jewish music enthusiast.

Brunch is included in the \$5 entrance fee and all are welcome. Reservations are appreciated and can be made by calling the Temple Concord office at 723-7355.

Hanukkah celebrated around the community



Teens lined up in front of the Jewish Community Center at the community Hanukkah party on December 6 and gave readings for each “candle” they held.



Hillel Academy students sang several Hanukkah songs at the community Hanukkah party at the JCC. (See page 5 for more photos of Hanukkah around the community.)

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JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE NOTES

Beyond the rainbow: LGBTQ in Binghamton's Jewish community

ROZ ANTOUN, DIRECTOR

I wish I knew it all, but I know I don't. For me, the world seems to be spinning out of control and I can't keep up, and not for the lack of trying. I look at my kids and grandkids, and wonder how they got so big so fast. Although I try to keep up with the tech world by buying an iPad and iPhone, and am becoming skilled at using their features, I feel like I am running backwards. I do give myself credit for trying, but wish that either my brain could work faster or the earth would spin slower.

So, no matter how much I try, there are things I am clueless about. And, although English is my first language, and I think I am well educated, there are words and concepts that I have never heard before or that have no meaning to me at all. Recently, I was reading through an e-mail that hit my inbox, noting something about "cis-gender." "OK," I said to myself, "am I supposed to know this?" Well, I didn't, so I googled it and was flooded with information on gender identity that left me questioning what this was

all about. Have you ever had this happen to you?

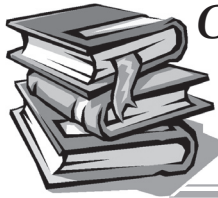
Fortunately, Rabbi Rachel Esserman was in her office at *The Reporter* and, being that she is one of my dear friends and educators, I trotted down the hall to ask for her help, feeling a bit stupid yet motivated to gain a bit of understanding of a topic I didn't even know how to approach.

I must tell you that it is a good thing to come to an age where I am no longer afraid to show others my foibles for fear of being ridiculed. Age has given me a steel shield that protects me from feeling too foolish about things that would have undone me years ago. Today, I figure that it is better to take a risk, get informed and, hopefully, gain an understanding of this society and the world. And secondly, craving information about people I love and respect that might help me be more open, accepting and kind, and help me cause no pain to others for lack of knowledge on my part.

So, when I asked Rabbi Rachel if she had ever heard of

"cis-gender" she smiled, not because of the silliness of my question, but because she had already been introduced to LGBTQ language and concepts from her rabbinical association. And as usual for us, not only did she share useful information with me, but we both disclosed to each other our feelings that we lacked an understanding of gender identity issues and how a better understanding would help us be more welcoming, inclusive and affirming of LGBTQ people who are friends, family, neighbors and associates.

We were instantly off and running in talking about organizing a program for our Jewish community focused on increasing understanding of the unique issues impacting LGBTQ individuals. Fortunately, at the same time, I got the Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies newsletter highlighting a downloadable program that was put on by Jewish Family Service of Metrowest, NJ, called "Beyond See "Rainbow" on page 4



Off the Shelf

Fairy tales, Jewish style

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

Fairy tales and Judaism: the two don't seem to mix. Yes, fantasy can be found in rabbinical writings – that is, if you consider golems, demons and angels to be fantasy. Rarely, though, have any fairy tales been written with Jewish themes, especially as novels for adults that include not only fantasy elements, but a love story. That has changed with the release of two recent novels – "Spinning Silver" by Naomi Novik (Del Ray) and "The Sisters of the Winter Wood" by Rena Rossner (Redhook Books/Oribt) – that not only contain fantasy elements, but ground them in realistic aspects of Jewish European history.

"Spinning Silver" is the more ambitious of the two works in that it contains interrelated stories focusing on several levels of a society that resembles medieval Russia. It focuses on the lives of three women: Miryem, Wanda and Irina. Miryem is the daughter of an unsuccessful Jewish moneylender. Her father is too kind-hearted to force people to repay their loans. When her mother becomes very ill, Miryem takes matters into her own hands, collecting payments on loans long overdue so they will have enough

food and warmth for her mother to survive. This doesn't endear Miryem to the villagers, but she hardens her heart, believing that she has no reason to show pity to those who would let her mother die rather than repay their loans.

When one man is unable to make a payment, Miryem agrees to an exchange: his daughter, Wanda, will work for her parents in order to pay off his loan. Wanda is nervous at first because she knows nothing about Jews – for example, she believes the bookkeeping records Miryem keeps are Jewish magic because Wanda never learned to read or do sums. However, Wanda comes to appreciate life with Miryem's family because, unlike her father, they never beat her and they make certain she has enough to eat.

The fantasy elements come to the fore after Miryem boasts that she is so successful she can turn silver into gold. She meant that as a metaphor, but her boast is taken seriously by the king of the Staryk, a group that resembles fairies as much as they do humans. The Staryk are greatly feared by the villagers because they spread snow and cold, enough to kill someone caught in their kingdom. It is this boast that connects Irina to

Miryem. Irina is the daughter of a nobleman who treats her with disdain because she is not beautiful enough to make a good match. Yet, Staryk silver helps her attract the attention of the tzar, who is more than he seems. A battle between two forces of nature – ice and fire – develops, and the battle threatens everyone. To say more would reveal too much of a very clever plot filled with numerous twists and surprises.

The first-person narratives of "Spinning Silver" can be confusing at first since the character speaking is not identified. However, it quickly became easy to determine the section's focus. The blend of realistic and fantasy elements worked well and created a sense of wonder due to the beauty of the descriptions, particularly those of the Staryk kingdom. What was fascinating is that each of the three women come to love and care for different groups of people – something that brought them into conflict because to choose one side might mean the destruction of the other. The characters felt real and human – even when fantasy elements were present. "Spinning Silver" is an awe-inspiring novel with a wonderful, satisfying ending. See "Tales" on page 3

Opinion

In My Own Words

It's almost never about the workers

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

The recent announcement of layoffs at General Motors plants raises an interesting question. No, I'm not talking about tariffs and subsidies, although both play a role in the political discussions about the layoffs. I'm interested in whether or not businesses have any responsibility to their employees under a capitalistic system. Now, the U.S. business world is not pure capitalism: the laws against monopolies and the subsidies given to failing businesses (ones considered too big or too important to fail) prove our society has a modified form of capitalism. That doesn't negate the question, though.

If we're being honest, the sole purpose of almost every business is to make money. In fact, even if a business has another purpose, if it doesn't make money to support itself, it will have to close (unless the business is supported by a rich person who doesn't mind losing his/her money). This means more than just breaking even. The business must not only be able to pay all its bills, but make enough additional money for its owner to live on. How much money is enough is open to debate, but, when it comes to capitalism, no amount is considered too much. Just think of the yearly list of the richest people in the world: if having

a great deal of money wasn't considered a sign of success then the list wouldn't be compiled. After all, there is no list of moderately rich people, or people who are just breaking even, or people with the greatest amount of debt.

This doesn't mean that an owner can't be concerned about the people who work for him/her. It actually makes sense to have happy workers because they work better. Any benefits – from health insurance to bonuses – usually get cut when a business hits hard times. An owner is not going to fire him/herself if profits decrease. If the business needs extensive changes in machinery or production, few managers/owners think about cutting their own salaries to fund those changes. The cutting of benefits and layoffs are what usually happen.

Some might argue that it's capitalism for the workers and socialism for businesses – at least, very large businesses – because of the subsidies the government offers those businesses. But the bottom line is that a business can make whatever decisions it wants (as long as it doesn't break the law) and, while people might be upset, there isn't much that can be done about it, especially if it makes economic sense for the company. The ripples that a business closing

causes though society are not the problem of the business, even if its closing adversely affects others. It's great if the owners think about that and take precautions to help those affected, but, in capitalism, it's really not their responsibility.

However, it is the responsibility of the government to protect its citizens. I'm not sure that the government can tell a business there can't be layoffs, or that it can't invest in machinery rather than people. That would be called socialism, something many people condemn – at least, until they benefit from it.

I'm not saying that our capitalistic system is perfect or that it's even the best system. Judaism has strict rules about how a person is supposed to conduct themselves when doing business, for example, paying wages on the day they are earned and being honest when using weights and measures, to mention only a few. But it doesn't require businesses to hire workers, only to follow the rules when they do. The U.S. business world also has to follow U.S. laws. But let's never pretend that the overwhelming majority of decisions made in the business world has anything to do with the employees. When businesses make decisions, it's almost never about the workers.



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NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

At Human Rights Day conference, Israeli minorities praise Jewish state

The Zionist organization Im Tirtzu held its sixth annual Zionist Conference for Human Rights on Dec. 10 in Tel-Aviv. During the conference, which takes place annually on international Human Rights Day, Im Tirtzu CEO Matan Peleg explained that the conference aims to underscore the unbreakable connection between Zionism and human rights, and to counter those who use the call of human rights to slander and delegitimize Israel. The event opened with a panel on the topic of the integration of minorities in Israel and featured Chairman of the Christian IDF Officers Forum, Captain (res.) Shadi Halul, Muslim social activist, Kazim Khalilieh, and Druze attorney and activist Hazar Gadben. "There is no country that is more just than Israel," said Halul during the panel, "which provides full and equal rights to all of its citizens. As a minority, I can testify to all the horrors that Christians experienced and continue to experience in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Egypt – but in Israel, we live freely in peace." Kazim Khalilieh, who presents pro-Israel lectures around the world, discussed the difficulties of advocating for Israel as a member of the Muslim community. "It's not easy to go against the current," said Khalilieh. "Two years ago, my parents stopped talking to me because of my support for Israel. But that is who I am; I need to stand up for the truth." Hazar Gadben called on those who slander Israel to "wake up." "All the radical-Left Jews who slander and demonize Israel need to wake up and understand that if they were the minority in Israel, they would go back to being 'Jews with big noses' and would be oppressed to no end." The panel was followed by a discussion on the topic of Israel's legal rights, featuring Ze'ev Jabotinsky, the grandson of the famous Revisionist Zionist leader, and Yishai Fleisher, the spokesperson of the Jewish Community of Hebron. The conference concluded with an award ceremony, in which Im Tirtzu's Zionist Prize for Human Rights was awarded to social activist and bereaved father Boaz Kokia, whose son Ron was murdered last year in a terror attack, and Rabbi Arie Levy, the founder of Rescuers Without Borders, which provides medical assistance to those in need throughout the world.

Ohio man arrested for planning attack on synagogue

A 21-year-old man from Holland OH, was arrested by the FBI on Dec. 7 for planning an attack on a local synagogue. Damon Joseph was charged with a count of attempting to provide material support to the Islamic State. "Damon Joseph was allegedly inspired by ISIS's call to violence and hate. He planned to attack the victims, based on their religion, at a

Tales Continued from page 2

Like Miryem in "Spinning Silver," the two main characters in "The Sisters of the Winter Wood" are Jewish. The sisters – Liba and Laya – stand apart from the Jewish and secular communities of their small town, though. They live at the edge of the woods with their parents, Tati and Mami, who keep to themselves, partly because Mami converted to Judaism, something that caused both of their families to reject them. Yet, there is another reason for their separation, one that becomes apparent when Tati's brother appears, saying their father is sick. That night Liba discovers her parents' secret – their magical heritage – that changes the way she views herself and her sister.

With their parents off to visit Tati's father, Liba tries to take care of Laya, but Laya is soon intrigued by a group of mysterious men who come to their village. They offer fruit that has the power to make people drunk; they also spread rumors about the Jews' evil deeds when people begin to disappear. To complicate matters, a number of bears suddenly also appear in the woods, something that frightens the villagers – Jewish and non-Jewish. Liba seeks help from the other Jews of the town to protect herself and her sister, but is afraid that, if they learn of the sisters' magical heritage, they will be rejected.

Each sister tells her side of the story in alternating chapters of prose and poetry. Liba's prose shows her more sensible view of the world. She loves learning and talking with her father, and wishes she could attend the boys' school and study Torah. Judaism means a great deal to her and she is unable to understand her sister's lack of interest in their heritage. Light and airy narrative poems tell Laya's side of the story. She has little interest in learning; instead, she longs to see the world beyond their simple village. Both sisters must learn to understand their true natures and to accept each other's different roles in the world.

The plot of "The Sisters of the Winter Wood" is exciting as readers not only learn what happens to Liba and Laya, but discover the wider fantasy elements of their heritage. The pages move quickly and even readers who aren't fond of poetry will find Laya's sections easy to read. While there are realistic elements in this novel, it feels closer to pure fantasy than "Spinning Silver." However, both works show just how precarious the lives of Jews in Eastern Europe were – how they were treated as scapegoats and blamed for events far beyond their control.

Toledo-area synagogue in the name of ISIS, and hoped that it would lead to the deaths of many and spread fear," said Assistant Attorney General John Demers in a statement from U.S. Department of Justice. "His alleged actions would be an assault on the liberties and respect for humanity we hold so dear," continued Demers. "We will continue to make every effort to prevent such attacks from occurring." "This man spent months planning a violent terrorist attack on behalf of ISIS here in the United States, and eventually targeted a Jewish synagogue in the Toledo area," said U.S. Attorney Justin Herdman. "The charges describe a calculated man fueled by an ideology of hatred and intent on killing innocent people. The FBI, our police and Justice Department employees are to be credited for working to stop the defendant before he could act." According to Acting Special Agent in Charge Jeff Fortunato of the FBI's Cleveland Division, Joseph ultimately decided "to target two Toledo-area synagogues for a mass-casualty attack in the name of ISIS" and "will now be accountable in a court of law for his pursuit of a violent act of terrorism upon our fellow citizens attending their desired house of worship." On Oct. 30, Joseph and an undercover FBI agent communicated regarding the deadliest attack in American Jewish history at the Tree of Life*Or L'Simcha Synagogue in Pittsburgh. "I admire what the guy did with the shooting actually," said Joseph. "On behalf of the citizens of Toledo, I would like to thank the FBI, Homeland Security, the Toledo Police Department and all law-enforcement agencies who played a role in helping to prevent a potential catastrophe," said Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz in a statement. "We cannot tolerate hate directed toward people of Jewish faith or of any other religion, and [the Oct. 27] mass killing at a Pittsburgh synagogue is a reminder of just how real this threat is. ...As Hanukkah concludes this evening, all Toledoans should reflect on the holiday's themes of liberation, identity and, most importantly, freedom from religious persecution," added Kapszukiewicz. If convicted, Joseph faces up to 20 years behind bars.

Senior Chad official defends President Déby's visit to Israel

(MEMRI via JNS) – During a Dec. 1 press conference, Chadian politician Mahamat Zene Bada praised Chadian President Idriss Déby's recent visit to Israel. Bada, who is the secretary-general of Chad's ruling political party, MPS (Patriotic Salvation Movement), said that Israel is recognized by the United Nations, and asked: "What evil are we doing if we go to Israel to seek knowledge in the fields of agriculture and breeding?" He said the people of Chad should be proud of their president and pointed out that Israel had been involved in establishing the Chadian Security Company and the Chadian Youth Movement. He also mentioned that many Chadians have been trained in agriculture in Israel.

Israeli medical-marijuana company plans Nasdaq listing

The Israeli medical marijuana firm InterCure, whose chairman is former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, has been planning to list itself on the Nasdaq stock exchange by mid-2019, controlling shareholder Alex Rabinovitch announced on Dec. 6. "We consider ourselves a pharma-grade cannabis leader and the major market for pharma players is Nasdaq," he said. InterCure is already on the stock exchange in Tel Aviv, valued at \$117 million, with its shares skyrocketing 1,300 percent so far in 2018. The firm raised \$12.1 million through a private funding round led by Rabinovitch and Gary Fegel, the founder of private-equity company GMF Capital. It raised another \$5 million the week of Nov. 30 with help from Israeli-American billionaire Adam Neumann, the CEO and co-founder of WeWork. Approval from the Israeli government for the country's cannabis industry to have export licenses remains pending.

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HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to Stuart Green on the death of

his wife,

Lois Kincaid Green

The Jewish Federation and Jewish Family Service will once again be coordinating OPERATION BROTHERHOOD – delivering meals on December 25 through the Bandera Family Free Christmas Dinner Project.



Please call Roz Antoun
at (607) 724-2332
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and to participate.



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If you are pregnant and are currently scheduled for OB care, your OB appointments will be transferred automatically to Dr. Carol Miller's schedule effective Monday, December 3, 2018.

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We Matched!

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton is pleased to announce it raised \$10,000 to match a gift made by a generous donor.

The Federation thanks the matching gift donor for **believing** the Federation is the heart of the community. It also thanks everyone who increased their donation for **proving** the Federation is the heart of the community.

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Rainbow.....Continued from page 2

the Rainbow.” It was a discussion about LGBTQ needs in the Metrowest community and how JFS could respond. Perfect, I thought, “Why reinvent the wheel?” In a flash, I had Claudia Stallman of the Pride and Joy Families/Lesbian and Gay Family Building Project at Binghamton University

and Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell on board with Rabbi Rachel and me to develop our own local program.

So, I am now asking you to save the date of the evening of Tuesday, January 29, for our Jewish Family Service “Beyond the Rainbow: LGBTQ in Binghamton’s Jewish

Community” program. The snow date is set for Tuesday, February 26. More information will follow as the details of this panel discussion and presentation come together.

Please call me, Roz Antoun, director of JFS, at 724-2332 for more information.

Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton celebrated “We Are Jewish Faces” with the PJ Library at the JCC!



Jewish Federation OF GREATER BINGHAMTON

LEGAL NOTICE

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

- The name of the limited liability company (“LLC”) is D Squared Home Improvements, LLC.
- The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is October 29, 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: 208 W. Main St, Endicott, NY 13760.
- 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 SSE3, LLC
- The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is November 13, 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: PO Box 5721, Endicott, NY 13763.
- The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

Notice of Formation of LGT Plaza Drive, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/01/18. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 450 Plaza Dr., Vestal, NY 13850. Purpose: any lawful activities.

Notice of Formation of Broken Arrow Farms, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/01/18. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 109 East Cherry Rd., Quakertown, PA 18951. Purpose: any lawful activities.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY: The name of the limited liability compa-

ny is: 45 Pumhouse Rd LLC (the “Company”). The date of filing of the Application of Authority of the Company with the Secretary of State was November 6, 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 the LLC, 23 Overlook Avenue, Cliffside Park, NJ 07010. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

Notice of Formation of a Limited Liability Company (LLC): Name: Minaxi Patel Family Company, LLC, Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 11/2/18. 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.

To place your legal notice, contact Bonnie at 724-2360, ext. 244 or bonnie@thereporter.org

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

- The name of the limited liability company (“LLC”) is Junk-N-Java LLC.
- The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is December 3, 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: 136 East Service Road, Suite 301, 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: 2 Lane Xpress, LLC (the “Company”). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was December 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.

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

- The name of the limited liability company (“LLC”) is Bone Creek Farm, LLC.
- The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is December 4, 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: 231 Shaver Hill Road, Deposit, NY 13754.
- The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

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Hanukkah celebrated around the community



The Chabad Center and Binghamton University students organized a Hanukkah procession through downtown Binghamton.



In preparation for Hanukkah, Temple Concord religious school students made hanukkiot.



Community members waited for the entertainment to start at the JCC's Hanukkah party.



JCC Early Childhood Center children entertained the audience with a few songs at the community Hanukkah party at the JCC.



Community members and Binghamton University students celebrated Hanukkah with dancing on Hawley Street in Binghamton.



Attendees at Beth David Sisterhood's annual Hanukkah party on December 5.



At left: Teens led the annual torch walk for the community Hanukkah party at the Jewish Community Center on December 6.



Children in the JCC's after school Kids Connection program and other community members attended the outdoor hanukkiah lighting at the start of the community Hanukkah party on December 6.



Cantor Moshe Shmaryahu sang Hanukkah songs, accompanied by Mary Lou Muratori, at Beth David Sisterhood's annual Hanukkah party.



L-r: Gabe Shore, Ayelet Rosenbloom, Lily Rosenbaum and Danielle Plaue "got lit" for the Hanukkah procession through downtown Binghamton.



Thirty cars topped with electric menorahs lined up for the Hanukkah procession in front of the University Downtown Center in Binghamton.



L-r: Judy Silber, Lillian Sommer, Susan Hubal, Kathy Ashman and Harold Kohn sampled the latkes and other food at Beth David Sisterhood's Hanukkah party.

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Weekly Parasha

Vayigash, Genesis 44:18-47:27

The call for justice

JIM BRULE, MAGGID, SYRACUSE

With this week's *parasha*, Vayigash, we draw close to the end of the first book of Moses. The portion tells the story of the reconciliation between the sons of Jacob, the reuniting of Joseph and Jacob, and the beginning of our centuries-long stay in Egypt.

In his revelation to his brothers, Joseph anticipates their dismay and quickly forgives them their wrongs against him. In Everett Fox's translation, Joseph says, "For it was to save life that God sent me on before you," and later adds, "It was not you who sent me here, but God!" Your crimes, Joseph consoles, were not evil, but part of God's plan. If it were not for the opportunity that I created in Egypt by storing up food, Joseph implies, then our people would surely have perished in the seven-year famine.

The portion encourages us to apply this same under-

standing to our exile in Egypt, for the Eternal One tells Jacob, "Do not be afraid of going down to Egypt, for a great nation will I make of you there." The reader of Torah, who knows the centuries of misery that are about to ensue, understands that this servitude is part of God's plan to transform us into a great nation. The pain may be great for the unfortunate generations of slaves, but it is worth it for it is all in God's plan.

The question of evil in God's world – theodicy – is a rich and complex question, and one I cannot ever believe will ever be answered satisfactorily. I hope to be able to shed a little bit of light on it, however, in this season of long nights.

A few years back, I was blessed with the opportunity to visit India and Nepal, where I witnessed poverty that is perhaps among the most severe on this planet: the average

income in Nepal is barely over \$200 per year and over a third of the country is below the official poverty line.

People of this region – largely Hindus – also believe that their suffering is part of God's plan. However, their religion teaches them that they will be reincarnated over and over until they have paid back the spiritual debt they have accumulated over all those lives. So, while I may not pay for a sin in this life, I will pay for it in a subsequent life. Such a solution has a certain intellectual power. While it is hard to see the good that comes from a person starving to death in the street, it is perhaps a little easier to understand when you believe they did something wrong in a previous life and that by enduring such severe pain in this life they may find Nirvana more quickly.

See "Call" on page 7

Congregational Notes

Temple Israel

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

On Friday, December 14, at 7 pm, there will be Shabbat on the Road at Vestal Park Nursing Home.

On Saturday, December 15, at 9:30 am, services will be led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown. The Torah portion will be Genesis 44:18-47:27. The haftarah will be Ezekiel 37:15-28. Mike Azersky and Lynn Greene will sponsor the kiddush following services.

On Sunday, December 16, at 10 am, there will be a TI/TC Adult Ed. brunch at Temple Concord. The speaker will be Rabbi Marley Weiner, senior Jewish educator at Hillel at Binghamton. The cost is \$5 per person.

On Tuesday, December 18, at 7 pm, there will be a Board of Trustees meeting.

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 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.

All Friday evening services December 7 through January 11 will be held at 6:15 pm.

On Saturday, December 15, Bet Havdalah will be held at 5 pm.

On Sunday, December 16, Nitzanim will be held at 9:30 am and the IAUJC Phone-a-thon from 2-6 pm.

On Tuesday, December 18, there will be a Sisterhood board meeting at 7:15 pm.

On Thursday, December 20, the temple board will meet at 5:30 pm.

Beth David Synagogue

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

Fri., Dec. 14 4:15 pm
Shabbat, Dec. 15 9 am
..... Mincha after the kiddush
..... Maariv 5:35 pm

Weekday Services:

Mornings:
Sun., Dec. 16 8:30 am
Mon.-Fri., Dec. 17-21 7 am

Evenings:
Sun., Dec. 16 4:20 pm
Mon.-Thurs., Dec. 17-20 7 pm
Fri., Dec. 21 4:20 pm

Classes: Rabbi Zev Silber will hold his weekly Talmud class every Tuesday evening after services.

Norwich Jewish Center

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

Temple Brith Sholom

Affiliation: Unaffiliated
Address: P.O. Box 572, 117 Madison St., Cortland, NY 13045
Phone: 607-756-7181
President: Bruce Fein, bfein@twcny.rr.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.

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.

Friday, December 14, light candles 4:14 pm
Shabbat ends Saturday, December 15 5:15 pm
Friday, December 21, light candles 4:17 pm
Shabbat ends Saturday, December 22 5:18 pm

Temple Concord

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

On Friday, December 14, at 6:30 pm, there will be a Shabbat BYO picnic dinner. At 7:30 pm, the Seton Catholic Theology Student Honor Guard will be in attendance. At 8 pm, there will be a Human Rights Shabbat evening service led by Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell with theology students from Seton Catholic High School, followed by an oneg sponsored by Sisterhood.

On Saturday, December 15, at 9 am, there will be religious school; at 9:15 am, there will be Human Rights Shabbat Torah study; at 10:35 am, there will be Shabbat family services with birthday blessings led by Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell and Jeff Strosberg; and, from noon-4 pm, Hanukkah House will be open.

On Sunday, December 16, from 10 am-noon, there will be a joint Temple Concord/Temple Israel Adult Ed. brunch with Rabbi Marley Weiner speaking on "Jewish Innovation by Millennials and Gen Z"; and, from noon-4 pm, Hanukkah House will be open.

On Tuesday, December 18, from noon-4 pm, Hanukkah House will be open; and, at 4:15 and 5:15 pm, there will be Hebrew school.

On Thursday, December 20, the religious school winter break begins so there will be no classes; from 4-7 pm, Hanukkah House will be open; and, from 5-7 pm, the CHOW pantry will be open.

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.

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 Oneonta

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

NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

Bahrain FM defends Israeli campaign to eliminate Hezbollah tunnels

(The Tower via JNS) – In a surprising public defense of Israel, the foreign minister of Bahrain said on Dec. 6 that the Gulf state supported the Jewish state’s operation to expose and destroy Hezbollah’s cross-border tunnels, reported *The Times of Israel*. “Is terrorist Hezbollah’s digging of the tunnels under Lebanon’s border not a flagrant threat to Lebanon’s stability, which it shares responsibility for?” Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa wrote on his Twitter account, in Arabic. “Who bears responsibility when neighboring countries take upon themselves to eliminate the threat they face?” Shi’ite-majority Bahrain and Israel both fear Iran’s growing influence in the region and oppose Tehran’s military expansionism in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Yemen. In a second tweet, Al Khalifa wrote: “International powers see it as a dangerous threat and the Lebanese state doesn’t comment,” sharing a link to an article in a Lebanese newspaper about Israel’s operation. Al Khalifa’s statement echoes views expressed by representatives of the United States, European Union, Canada, Austria and Germany, who all expressed support for “Operation Northern Shield,” which Israel launched on Dec. 4. So far, the Israeli military has detected two terror tunnels that stretched from Lebanon into Israeli territory. The *Algemeiner* reported on Dec. 7, citing rebel-affiliated media outlets, that Hezbollah has begun mobilizing missiles from Syria to southern Lebanon in a bid to counter a potential wider military campaign by Israel. Earlier this year, Bahrain officially supported Israel’s right to defend itself against Iranian aggression in Syria.

Israel Civil Administration reports P.A. planting trees to lay claim to land

According to a report by the Israeli Civil Administration, the

Palestinian Authority is attempting to lay claim to hundreds of thousands of acres of land by planting millions of olive trees in a bid to put facts, quite literally, on the ground. Written by the head of the Agriculture Department of ICA and publicized by the Lavi civil-rights organization, the report states that “according to data collected by the Palestinian ministry, the space on which the trees were planted amounts to some 975,000 dunams (241,000 acres) on which 14.7 million olive trees

have been planted, 11.9 million of which bear fruit.” More than a million of those trees were planted in a recent effort. The Regavim pro-Israel watchdog organization reported that from 2013 to 2017, hundreds of new agricultural sites were planted on thousands of dunams, and that 150 new roads were laid by the Palestinian Authority, stretching over hundreds of kilometers. According to Israel’s Land Law, the continual agricultural presence of a farmer affords him rights to the land.

Jewish Community Center

JCC Friendship Club

The JCC Friendship Club met on December 5. Members heard Dr. Gerald Hubal, a retired dentist, talk about good dental care. He said that good care of healthy teeth is the same at all ages: brushing after meals and flossing to prevent tooth decay, as well as gum and bone loss. Some older people have all their teeth. Some people have lost teeth not only due to decay, but due to an injury, a fall, or gum or bone disease. He said that brushing teeth is not enough, but stimulating the gums around each tooth is important because the tissues in the mouth are constantly changing. For example, when a tooth is pulled, the tissues fill in the space of the empty socket. Loss of teeth affects one’s ability to eat and talk. He suggested that missing teeth should be replaced and that there are tools, such as x-rays, to help diagnose any problem. He continued by saying that dental hygiene is not cheap.

Those present asked questions. Someone asked what

toothpaste to use. He did not recommend a brand, but said to get one that is *not* abrasive because it can erode the gums and the outer covering of the teeth. He said that he is retired from private practice, but still works part time at SUNY Broome in the dental hygiene department. He brought gift bags for us that contained a toothbrush, toothpaste, dental floss and mouth wash. We want to thank him for sharing this information with us. His wife Susan was present. Some of us knew her. Sylvia Diamond’s children were in the same classes with their children. Sue Herzog has known them for decades.

The meeting was called to order by Sylvia. Ann Brilliant said the blessing over the cookies after

the Pledge of Allegiance. Bruce Orden will show the movie “Babe,” which is about a pig, at a future meeting. We meet at the JCC on Wednesdays at 1:30 pm.

Sylvia Diamond
President

Call.....Continued from page 6

This view commonly leads to a very passive (as opposed to pacifist) view of life: don’t complain, don’t grumble, pay your dues and move along. Not all Hindus feel this way, of course, but it was clearly the prevalent attitude during our visit there.

Joseph’s journey teaches us a very different lesson. Yes, his *tsuris* may have been part of God’s plan and yes, our exile in Egypt may have been part of God’s plan, but simply stepping back and saying, “Ach, what can you do, it’s God’s plan?” is not the answer.

Had Joseph simply lain in prison, waiting out the term of his sentence passively, he never would have risen to the position of Pharaoh’s “father” in Egypt. Had he simply rested on his laurels with his position, he never would have amassed the stockpiles of food necessary to save our people. And had he not forgiven his brothers – after duly assessing their remorse – but let them return in ignorance to starvation and death, then we as a people would not have survived.

All too often the well-meaning among us offer the well-intended consolation of “It’s God’s will.” Sometimes some of us may derive some comfort from those simple words, but at best they only tell half the story, and at worst they leave us feeling hollow and abandoned.

What matters most is not whether the pain is God’s will, but what we will do with it. For we are compelled, not by a belief in endless cycles of rebirth or the fear of the fiery furnace, but by the call for justice that we ourselves must bring to God’s world in God’s name. We are not given the luxury of sitting back and resigning ourselves to the suffering of the world, but instead are charged to *pursue* justice in this world, and let God worry about the next.

Theodicy – the question of the place of evil in God’s world – literally means “the justice of God.” Let us in this season of darkness seek out the opportunities to illuminate the world with our reflection of God’s justice by following the prophet’s call to unlock the fetters of wickedness, set free the oppressed, share bread with the hungry and clothe the naked. Then each act of our own pursuit of justice will light the world brightly and enduringly.



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