

# THE REPORTER

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BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK

## Temple Beth-El Arts Committee hosts Summer Jewish Film Festival on Aug. 22

The Arts Committee of Temple Beth-El in Ithaca will conclude its annual Jewish film festival with "The Last Suit" on Thursday, August 22. Doors will open at 6:30 pm for free refreshments and socializing. The film will begin at 7 pm. Tickets are \$8 at the door (check or cash only). The film is appropriate for children ages 10 and above. Teens are encouraged to attend.

"The Last Suit" (Spain, Argentina 2018) depicts a Polish-born Holocaust



A scene from "The Last Suit."



A scene from "The Last Suit."

survivor who decides to travel from Buenos Aires to Lodz to fulfill a promise he made nearly 70 years earlier. "This late-life road movie boasts plenty of poignant and humorous moments as the protagonist meets a variety of helpful characters along his journey," note committee members. It has English subtitles.

The film festival is brought to Ithaca through Israeli Films, National Center for Jewish Film and Outsider Pictures. For further information, call 257-9924.

## Temple Concord receives Sacred Sites Grant

The New York Landmarks Conservancy has announced 23 Sacred Sites Grants totaling \$256,000 awarded to historic religious properties throughout New York state, including \$8,000 to Temple Concord in Binghamton to help fund a conditions report and architectural plans to guide major masonry and roof repairs.

Temple Concord was established in 1950 in what is today the only surviving river front mansion among a group of four designed by Binghamton architect C. Edward Vosbury. The mansion was constructed in 1898 for Dr. Jonas Kilmer, president of the Kilmer Swamp Root patent medicine company. In 1964, the congregation built a modern addition to the mansion to house the sanctuary and additional offices. The architects of the new wing were Benjamin Bloch and Walter Hesse, New York City architects active in synagogue design, with Herbert Shalat as

associate architect. French-born modern stained-glass artist Jean-Jaques Duval designed the stained glass windows in the modern sanctuary.

In addition to education and worship, the synagogue and Kilmer Mansion are open for many community activities such as periodic concerts, a holiday artisan marketplace with 200 customers and 40 vendors, YWCA fund-raisers, an annual clothing sale, a monthly book club, a Community Hunger Outreach Warehouse food pantry, polling site for local elections and the Hanukkah House Museum, an educational event hosting 400 visitors annually. Combined, these programs



Temple Concord

and activities reach about 7,000 people per year.

"We feel it is very important to help maintain religious structures that provide a sense of history and place to communities," said Peg Breen, president of the New York Landmarks Conservancy.

"Many also provide social service and cultural programs that benefit people beyond their congregations."

The Sacred Sites Program provides congregations with matching grants for planning and implementing exterior restoration projects, technical assistance and workshops. Since 1986, the program has pledged more than 1,493 grants totaling

more than \$11.1 million to almost 805 religious institutions statewide.

The New York Landmarks Conservancy has led the effort to preserve and protect New York City's architectural legacy for more than 45 years. Since its founding, the Conservancy has loaned and granted more than \$52 million, which has leveraged more than \$1 billion in 1,550 restoration projects throughout New York, revitalizing communities, providing economic stimulus and supporting local jobs. The Conservancy has also offered pro bono technical advice to building owners, both nonprofit organizations and individuals. The Conservancy's work has saved more than a thousand buildings across the state, protecting New York's "distinctive architectural heritage" for residents and visitors alike today, and for future generations. For more information, visit [www.nylandmarks.org](http://www.nylandmarks.org).

## Jewish Food Festival in Scranton Aug. 18-22

The annual Jewish Food Festival in Scranton will be held Sunday, August 18, through Thursday, August 22, at Nay Aug Park in Scranton. Opening day hours on Sunday, August 18, will be from 11:30 am-7 pm. Monday through Thursday, the hours

will be from 11:30 am-2 pm for lunch and 4-7 pm for dinner.

Organized by the Jewish Discovery Center, the free-admission event features ethnic food, entertainment, kids-zone play area, live DJ and daily specials.

The menu will feature an assortment of traditional "Jewish favorites" as well as Israeli and Middle Eastern food. There will also be a barbecue grill and a bakery tent to complement the celebration of ethnic kosher food.

The festival at Nay Aug Park will continue all week featuring daily grill specials. This year, the festival will offer takeout orders with curbside service. "Simply make your selections online or by phone and your order will be ready within 30 minutes

— brought to your car," said organizers of the event.

Nay Aug park, the city of Scranton's largest park, grants residents and visitors "a touch of nature" amid the city landscape. Walking trails, picnic areas, kid-friendly rides, playgrounds, Olympic-sized swimming pools and a waterslide complex are among the attractions. The Everhart Museum is also located within the park. A gorge and waterfalls within the park have

See "Scranton" on page 5

## Rowdy at Camp JCC



For the second year, United Way donated books and bags from its summer reading program to some of the Camp JCC kids, who were also able to meet Rowdy from the Binghamton Rumble Ponies, on July 29. (See more Camp JCC photos on page 11.)

### Save the Date!

• Sunday, September 22 •

Jewish Federation Party for Sima Auerbach's Retirement

Join us for brunch,

10:30am-12:30pm at the JCC

\$5.00 per person - reservations required - call 724-2332 or email [director@jfgb.org](mailto:director@jfgb.org).

Please RSVP by September 9, 2019.



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## Student to student: Growing up Jewish in a Gentile world

ISAAC KARP

Throughout my high school years at Binghamton, I met people of many diverse backgrounds. In my 10<sup>th</sup> grade AP physics class, I became good friends with Andrew Osburn, who also grew up on the West Side of Binghamton. His mother is Jewish and his father is Catholic. He grew up in an environment where Christianity was the dominant religion. However, he still found a way to learn about his Jewish faith. His mother made sure to instill Jewish teachings in him from an early age. Furthermore, until he completed his bar mitzvah, he regularly attended Temple Concord. Osburn accomplished much during his time in the Binghamton school district. Some of his major achievements include being president of National Honor Society and winning the Angelo Zucco Scholarship Service Award. He will attend Villanova University next year and is double majoring in mechanical engineering and business. Like many young Jews who grow up half Jewish in today's society, he faces challenges of misunderstanding and exclusion. By looking at Osburn's story, a microcosm of the issues we struggle with as a small-town Jewish community stand out. The following interview has been lightly edited.

Karp: Let's begin by talking about your childhood. Do you want to speak a bit on growing up in the Binghamton area?

Osburn: I grew up on the West Side of Binghamton... on Mathews Street. I was in a neighborhood with a bunch of other kids my age growing up.

Karp: And they were mostly Catholic and Protestant?

Osburn: Yeah, I didn't have any Jewish friends in my neighborhood... I went to Temple Concord since I was born, and the Jewish community at that temple specifically was mostly from Vestal, and it was really small still, but I think for my sister – she was a little bit older and there were more Jewish kids in her class, but, for me, there were only a few and they mostly lived in Vestal. So, the people I spent time with were mostly Christian. I mean my best friend at the time was Unitarian, so he was the closest thing to Jewish I had.

Karp: So, you grew up in a half Jewish household, but when were you first truly exposed to Judaism in a serious way?

Osburn: I think that the way I was brought up... I would always go to temple, I would learn Hebrew, I would go to Hebrew school. My weekends were especially centralized around my religion [Judaism].

Karp: That's the same for me growing up, but I was attending a school with only Jews, whereas you were in public schools with barely any Jews.

Osburn: I don't think there were any Jewish kids in my class until middle school.

Karp: Yeah and that's kind of crazy because you grew up with this religion, but in the life you are experiencing most days, Judaism is not really present.

Osburn: I always remember how different I felt, especially around the holidays, when in class we would talk about Christmas and make Christmas decorations... and my classmates I think felt different from me because they would ask me about my holidays and I could tell they were confused and bored when I would tell them I made latkes and about my family's traditions, but as kids you don't understand... and it was harder for me to share my experiences as a result. I think this made my parents expose me more to Christianity, so I could assimilate with the other kids and know what they were experiencing.

Karp: It seems to me through my experience at Binghamton, and maybe yours as well, that there is an inherent ignorance to what Judaism really is as a religion and a culture within these public schools among students who are not Jewish. I mean classmates would constantly ask me: Do you celebrate Easter or Ramadan?

Osburn: I always got Kwanzaa! The biggest thing people See "Student" on page 8

## Opinion

From the Desk of the Federation Executive Director

### In gratitude

SHELLEY HUBAL

Grandma was a bad cook. It's true. My beloved Grandma Hannah was known for many things: creativity, generosity, beauty and being a kind spirit. Cooking, not so much. Grandma was both an innovator and a health nut, which is not a good combination in the kitchen. Recipe measurements were treated as suggestions. Matzah balls were made with egg whites and no oil. Cookies with bananas instead of sugar. I will never forget the Thanksgiving when tomato juice was the first course. (We still laugh about that one.)

Despite Grandma's reputation for poor culinary skills,

we still looked forward to Shabbat dinner or a Sunday night gathering around her table. Why? Because dinner was more than the food: it was being in a place where you knew you were loved, where you were supported, where you learned about the world and enjoyed one another. Those are the things that nourished us all.

As I think of a new path for our Jewish Federation, I feel much like my grandmother. I can't help but ask, "Is this choice good for the health of the community?" Or, "Is this a meaningful direction that will bring the community together in an enjoyable, welcoming way?"

I want you to know that I am setting the table for this community and *everyone* has a seat. There will be challenges, but the good will of this community will endure. Through educational and cultural programming, we will continue to learn and grow together. The important work of Jewish Family Service will support our neighbors in need. Our allocations will maintain this community's vital organizations. The Federation, with your support, will continue to have a healthy, meaningful bounty where all are welcomed and appreciated. Our door is always open.

In My Own Words

### Kushner and Baltimore

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

President Donald Trump's recent tweets about the city of Baltimore highlight the problems of low income housing in large cities. Many of these buildings are not well taken care of, with landlords refusing to make repairs and/or create safe environments for living. What is ironic, though, is that these tweets also brought to light a problem created by someone closely connected to the president: his White House innovations director and senior advisor, Jared Kushner, who is also his son-in-law, is the owner of housing projects in the city the president disparaged.

According to Businessinsider.com, "Kushner holds ownership of several Baltimore-area structures that have been so embroiled in housing violations and mismanagement that Kushner has been called a 'slumlord.'" The same article noted that "a 2017 investigation by ProPublica and *The New York Times* called 'The Beleaguered Tenants of Kushnerville' detailed how a subsidiary of the real-estate firm Kushner Companies functioned and the poor living conditions that plagued residents in complexes bought under Kushner's oversight." According to the investigation, the "decrepit conditions includ[ed] leaking ceilings, maggots in living-room carpet, and raw human sewage coming from a kitchen sink. The report also includes mention of multiple

retaliatory lawsuits against tenants who tried to move out." Kushner's company has also been fined for more than 200 code violations by Baltimore County.

Since Kushner's family is Jewish, I wondered about the *halachic* (legal) obligations for a landlord. According to Torah.org (<https://torah.org/learning/business-halacha-5757-vol2no15/>), Jewish landlords do have certain legal obligations and it's interesting to compare these to American ones. According to the ruling on the website, Jewish landlords are required to make certain a rental unit is in good shape before someone moves into it. What is required of the landlord after someone moves in depends on the circumstance. If the problem is caused by normal use, then the landlord is required to fix it. If it's by an outside factor (vandals, etc.), then the landlord is not required to fix it, but neither is the tenant. That means that the tenant cannot be held responsible or have to pay for repairs.

Even if the Kushner Companies has chosen not to follow *halachah*, it is still required to follow American law. According to the Baltimore County Rental and Housing Laws (see [www.peoples-law.org/baltimore-county-rental-and-housing-laws](http://www.peoples-law.org/baltimore-county-rental-and-housing-laws) for more details), among the many things landlords are required to do are "to replace or repair any of the following which are missing or deteriorated:

exterior architectural features which create an unsafe condition; exterior walls or other vertical supports; roofs or other horizontal features; exterior chimneys; crumbling or exterior plaster or masonry; ineffective waterproofing of exterior walls, roofs, and foundations; and all other exterior construction, including broken windows and doors." No difference is made between those problems caused by regular wear and tear, and those caused by vandals.

Of course, all this begs the real question: If the president of the United States thinks any area of our country is a "disgusting, rat and rodent infested mess," is it not his responsibility to do something about it? The Trump campaign slogan was "Make America Great Again." Does that apply to all of the United States, or only those areas that support him? Shouldn't the president be asking his Justice Department to help Baltimore take action against those who are responsible for the buildings and areas that are a "disgusting, rat and rodent infested mess" (even if it is a member of his extended family), and seek financial aid to help solve some of the city's problems? Instead of name calling, he should be suggesting legislation or working with Congress to make change possible. Unfortunately, these ideas don't seem to be part of the operating procedure of the current occupant of the White House.



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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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# Fund-raising concert at Kilmer Mansion on Aug. 22

The Parlor City Flute Ensemble will perform "An Evening of Americana Music" on Thursday, August 22, from 7-8:30 pm, at Temple Concord in the Kilmer Mansion, 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton. Refreshments will be available during the intermission. Tickets are \$15 at the door; students will be admitted free. The event is a fund-raiser for the

Kilmer Mansion Campaign. Monies raised will help with the cost of the present renovations of the Kilmer Mansion. The Parlor City Flute Ensemble, which is led by Melanie Valencia, utilizes C flutes, piccolos, bass flutes and alto flutes in its arrangements. "The concert is family friendly, with an aim of being entertaining for all," said organizers of the event.

# TI to hold annual picnic on Aug. 18

The Temple Israel annual picnic will be held on Sunday, August 18, at 2 pm, at the temple. All food will be served inside to allow the event to take place rain or shine. The entire community is welcome.

There will be children's games, tours of the VINES gardens and a 50-50 raffle, which will include handmade

gifts by Sandy Paston and Hersh Rozen. Traditional picnic foods will be available.

The cost is \$10 per person and there is no charge for children under 13. Reservations are required and may be made by calling Tammy Kunsman at the temple office, 723-7461.

# Chenango River Theatre to perform Jewish-themed play "The Immigrant: A Hamilton County Album"

The Chenango River Theatre will perform "The Immigrant: A Hamilton County Album" by Mark Harelik from August 16-September 8.

The play tells the true story of a Jewish immigrant in rural central Texas beginning in 1909. A young Russian-Jewish immigrant pulls his banana cart into Galveston, a town with more than 1,000 Baptists, but no Jews. The immigrant, who has escaped pogroms in his native country, is seeking refuge in "the land of the free." The play follows him through 30 years of his life: making a home

and raising a family, in addition to being befriended by some members of the town.

Devin C. Baker called the play "an endearing, engaging work with heart, intelligence and insight" on the website St. Louis.

On the website Backstage, Paul Birchall wrote, "If wholesome is your bag, then playwright Mark Harelik's rag-to-riches dramography of his grandfather, a Jewish immigrant who came to America in hopes of finding a better life and lived happily ever after, provides agreeably cheerful and lightweight drama."

For information about dates, times and the cost of tickets, visit [www.chenangorivertheatre.org/Chenango\\_River\\_Theatre/The\\_Immigrant.html](http://www.chenangorivertheatre.org/Chenango_River_Theatre/The_Immigrant.html).

## OF NOTE

### McIlroy

Michelle (Bank) McIlroy, owner of Phantom Chef Catering, won a HYPE award for hospitality. Fifteen awards are given by the Greater Binghamton Chamber of Commerce in order to recognize young professionals who have demonstrated success in their career, industry or in making a positive change in the Greater Binghamton community.

# Israeli Scouts spent a day at Camp JCC



A caravan of Israeli Scouts spent August 1 at the JCC, leading a variety of activities for Camp JCC campers during the day and performing a community concert that night.



Above: Israeli Scouts spent time with campers at the Jewish Community Center.



At left: An Israeli Scout played a ball game with children attending Camp JCC.

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Off the Shelf

Jewish food

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

Our cultural identities are informed by the way we live our lives: the clothing we wear, the music we listen to, the movies and TV shows we watch and, last but not least, the foods we eat. Food has always played a major role in Jewish life – although what constitutes Jewish food is the subject of frequent debate. An increasing amount of literature focuses on Jewish cuisine and two recent works show the breadth and depth of these studies. While “Haroset: A Taste of Jewish History” by Susan Weingarten (The Toby Press) is a serious exploration of the Passover tradition, “The 100 Most Jewish Foods: A Highly Debatable List” edited by Alana Newhouse with Stephanie Butnick (Artisan/Workman Publishing Company) is a humorous collection of essays about 100 different Jewish foods. An added treat is that both works feature numerous recipes.

While several foods eaten at the Passover seder (for example, matzah and bitter herbs) are mentioned in the Bible, the same cannot be said for haroset. Although it’s spoken of in the Mishnah, the question asked is whether or not eating it on Passover should be considered a mitzvah (something commanded by God). However, the comments don’t explain what ingredients were used to make haroset. There is a hint that Jews had been eating some food with spices before the destruction of the Second Temple, but Weingarten notes that is a matter of debate. Since the Mishnah says that flour should not be added to haroset, the food might not only have been consumed on Passover.

The specific ingredients used for haroset have varied by culture, with contemporary Askenazic Jews generally settling on a mixture of apples, nuts and wine (with some individual differences). However, almost every nationality of Mizrahi and Sephardic Jews seems to have their own specific recipe. None of the mixtures would have originally been very sweet, even those using apples, because, before modern times, most apples were tart. At one point, pear was among the fruits added, particularly in Germany. More typical were dates, figs and pomegranates. Several varieties of nuts were used, including walnuts, almonds and chestnuts. The first mention Weingarten found of wine being used as part of the mixture is in the 11<sup>th</sup> century. The previous liquid most used was vinegar. All of these mixtures, however, contained spices; among the different ones used were ginger, pepper, cinnamon and cloves.

Another aspect of the haroset that has generated discussion is exactly what the food symbolizes. For example, there are commentaries that say the haroset represents the clay that the Israelites in Egypt used to make bricks. (In some traditions, people actually mix clay, grit or dirt into their haroset.) The spices represent the straw used to make the bricks. The explanation for using apples in haroset comes from a *midrash* (rabbinic story) about Israelite women who seduced their husbands under apple trees after pharaoh declared that all male Jewish babies were to be killed. If this had not occurred, Moses would not have been born,

so some rabbis believe haroset should be eaten in memory of those apple trees. According to the Jerusalem Talmud, haroset symbolizes blood, although whose blood is not specified. Weingarten believes this symbolism may have been the origin of the blood libels of Europe. For example, in 1329, Jews were accused of using Christian children’s blood to make their haroset. Although many American Jews learn that haroset represents the mortar used to cement the bricks the Israelites made, that explanation is mentioned only in passing.

“Haroset: A Taste of Jewish History” is a perfect work for anyone interested in the evolution of Jewish food culture. Weingarten includes so many fascinating details about the development of haroset that it was difficult to decide which ones to discuss. For those looking to try different types of haroset, the concluding chapter contains more than 25 recipes from across the world.

While “Haroset: A Taste of Jewish History” is a serious work, the essays in “The 100 Most Jewish Foods” range from serious to laugh-out-loud funny. The book design is beautiful, from its table of contents, which features pictures of the foods to be discussed, to the clever illustrations by Joanna Avillez. Many of the short essays are followed by a recipe for the food under discussion. The essayists include scholars, food writers, chefs, novelists and artists. The list of foods chosen was controversial when it originally

See “Food” on page 6

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY:

The name of the limited liability company is: 3 Flying Squirrels, LLC (the “Company”). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was June 5, 2019. 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: Ronald L. Greene, Esq., 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 J.M. Link LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 05/13/19. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: J.M. Link LLC, 931 Glendale Dr., Endicott, NY 13760. Name and address of the registered agent upon whom process may be served: United States Corporation Agents, Inc., 7014 13th Ave., Ste. 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: any lawful activities.

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

1. The name of the limited liability company (“LLC”) is Bows & Bandanas Grooming Salon, LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is July 9, 2019.
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: 870 Chenango Street, Binghamton, NY 13904.
5. The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

Notice of Formation of BLOOM THERAPY LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER PLLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 06/27/19. Office location: Broome County. SSNY

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Notice of formation of a Limited Liability Company. Name: Ikjot Properties, LLC. Purpose is to engage in any lawful activity. Office location is Broome County. Articles of Org. filed with NY Secretary of State (NYSS) on July 10, 2019. NYSS is designated as agent upon whom process may be served; NYSS shall mail service of process against the LLC served upon it to: 2613 Princeton Dr, Vestal, NY 13850.

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1. The name of the limited liability company (“LLC”) is T.V. Dairy, LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is July 15, 2019.
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: 2847 Route 13, Cortland, NY 13045.
5. The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

Notice of Formation of SLC Rentals LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 7/16/2019. Office Location: Broome Co. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom service of process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Ish K. Chopra, 128 Brown Road, Vestal, NY 13850. Purpose: any lawful activities.

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

1. The name of the limited liability company (“LLC”) is Bingwest LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is JULY 12,

2019.

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: 132 Washington Street, Binghamton, NY 13901.
5. The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

Brooklyn Sanctuary LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) 7/12/2019. Cty: Broome. SSNY desig. as agent upon whom process against may be served & shall mail process to 4510 3rd Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11220. General Purpose.

Notice of Formation of Oquaga Lake Life LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 7/18/2019. Office Location: Broome Co. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom service of process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: George Slavik, 9 Carolyn Court, Endwell, New York 13760. Purpose: any lawful activities.

61 Walnut St LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) 3/28/2019. Cty: Broome. SSNY desig. as agent upon whom process against may be served & shall mail process to 61 Walnut St., Binghamton, NY 13905. General Purpose.

Notice of Formation of Cayuga Lake Marine Services, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 07/05/19. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 3713 Wildwood Dr., Endwell, NY 13760. Purpose: any lawful activities.

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

1. The name of the limited liability company (“LLC”) is RY Lending, LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is July 19,

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2019.

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: 132 Washington Street, Binghamton, NY 13901.
5. The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

Notice of Formation of Leona Properties, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 07/10/19. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 309 Harding Ave., Endwell, NY 13760. Purpose: any lawful activities.

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

1. The name of the limited liability company (“LLC”) is M and B Plumbing and Heating, LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is July 23, 2019.
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: 24 Dorman Road, Binghamton, NY 13901.
5. The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

Notice of formation of TAYLORLEEFIT LLC. Art. Of Org. filed with the Sect’y of State of NY (SSNY) on 03/06/19. Office in Broome County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC, 136 E Service Road Binghamton, NY, 13901. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

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

1. The name of the limited liability company (“LLC”) is G. Long Properties, LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is August 1, 2019.
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: 2065 Clark Hollow Rd, LaFayette, NY 13084.
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: Binghamton Car Company, LLC (the “Company”). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was July 12, 2019. 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: James W. Orband, 80 Exchange Street, Suite 700, Binghamton, NY 13901. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

Notice of Qualification of Meridian Clinical Research, LLC. Authority filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 07/19/19. Office location: Broome County. LLC formed in Nebraska (NE) on 06/29/00. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Meridian Clinical Research, LLC, 3319 N. 107th St., Omaha, NE 68134, Attn: David Roehr, Legal Dept. also the address of the principal office. Arts of Org. filed with the NE Secy. of State, Robert B. Evnen, 1201 N St., Ste. 120, Lincoln, NE 68508. Purpose: any lawful activities.

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# Connecting to Judaism through writing

**By Rabbi Rachel Esserman**

Some writers focus on one format, for example, writing either fiction, nonfiction or poetry. That's not the case for David Ebenbach, who has published short stories, novels, poetry and Torah commentary. His most recent work is a collection of poetry called "Some Unimaginable Animal" (Orison Books), which includes poems based on biblical stories and Jewish holidays.

In an e-mail interview, Ebenbach mentioned that Judaism plays a major role in his life. "I'm married to a rabbi, so that probably tells you something. (I even have a t-shirt that says, 'Real men marry rabbis')," he said. "I'm pretty engaged and invested in Judaism, both as a religion and as a civilization – and, for me, my connection to writing is often indistinguishable from my connection to Judaism. I think about one when I'm doing the other. They are both at the center of my efforts to find meaning, to repair the world and to live my life the right way."

That means that Judaism is also a major focus of his writing. "So, because it's hard to disentangle Judaism from my writing, Judaism shows up in my work a lot," he said. "Certainly that's true in terms of characters, where it's my default; my characters are automatically Jewish unless I go out of my way to make them something other than Jewish. The way I figure it, why shouldn't Judaism be the norm? It is in my life!"

This becomes very clear in his poem "The Rabbi's Advice," which contains a twist on a Jewish folktale. "I love that folk tale," he noted. "For those who don't know it: an



David Ebenbach

overwhelmed man goes for help to his rabbi and the rabbi advises him to bring all of his livestock into the house with him, which makes a crazier situation much crazier, and then, of course, when the rabbi tells the man to remove the livestock again, the man is so relieved that he now sees that his normal life isn't so bad. For me, this is a charming tale, but one with a questionable take-home message."

In writing his poem, Ebenbach sought to offer a different version of this message. "Sometimes when a person is suffering, it's helpful to say 'Hey – get over it – things could be worse' (which is what the rabbi in the tale essentially does), but a lot of other times the most helpful

thing is to acknowledge and honor the person's suffering," he added. "And I think that, probably because of a long history of trouble, Jewish culture leans a little too heavily on that first option: Hey – it could always be worse. So I wanted to write about that."

Writing gives Ebenbach a chance to see the world from a different angle. "I love the power of writing – and particularly poems, which seem well-suited to bold statements and notions – to allow us to consider new ideas and to see familiar ideas in new ways," he noted. "So in 'Some Unimaginable Animal,' I offer alternate versions of all kinds of things: the Garden of Eden narrative, traditional ghost stories, the Rosh Hashanah *Tashlich* ritual and even the Big Bang."

He does enjoy all the different formats in which he writes. "I have found it incredibly useful to write in multiple

forms – short pieces of fiction, novels, poems, essays and the occasional play – because each one is good at certain things and not as good at others and I need to use all of them if I want to be able to write about everything that interests me," he added. "Generally I head to poetry when the material needs to focus more on imagery and language, and to fiction when it needs to focus more on character and narrative. And then there's drama, which is usually when I get sick of my usual work and just want people to talk the way people talk and move around the way people move around, and I don't want to get lost in description or clever narration at all. So using all the forms means I don't get bored and I keep access to whatever I want to write about."

In his work "The Artist's Torah," Ebenbach combined Torah study and the exploration of the nature of creativity. "There's a famous declaration in our text Pirkei Avot that I really love: 'Turn it [the Torah], turn it, for everything is in it,'" he said. "This idea, attributed to Ben Bag Bag (who had a fantastic name), is exciting for two reasons. First of all, it tells me that I'm in the Torah, and that my

## Scranton. . .Continued from page 1

been named a National Natural Landmark. A pedestrian footbridge opened in 2007 to access parkland across the Roaring Brook.

For more information about the festival, to download an event map or to browse the menu, visit [www.Jewish-FoodFest.com](http://www.Jewish-FoodFest.com) or call 570-587-3300.

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**Food..... Continued from page 4**

appeared on the Tablet website. Some of the dishes are rarely cooked in modern times, while people debate the edibility of others. (For example, some people love gefilte fish, while others think it looks and tastes like road kill.) In her introduction, Newhouse explains the foods included are the ones “that contain the deepest Jewish significance – the ones that, through the history of our people (however you date it), have been most profoundly inspired by the rhythms of the Jewish calendar and the contingencies of Jewish experience. That many of them are also delicious is obvious, and Darwinian: It’s how they’ve survived as long as they have.”

While the list includes obvious Jewish foods – matzah, bagels, flanken, hamantashen and chicken soup are just a few examples – it also features some – Chinese food, black-and-white cookies, Entenmann’s (particularly its doughnuts), geese and cottage cheese – that some readers may not associate with Judaism. (For example, I grew up in an area that used to have only one Chinese restaurant and my first introduction to black-and-white cookies was a non-Jewish coworker who bought one as a weekly treat from the local non-kosher bakery. My desire to have goose someday comes more from Charles Dickens’ writing, which I read long before I knew that goose was the Jewish European fowl of choice.)

The real fun of the book – and it is really fun to read –

is agreeing or disagreeing with the authors’ opinions. For example, I completely disagree with Marc Tracy’s comment in “Hebrew National Hot Dogs” about the use of ketchup on hotdogs, which he seems to think is sacrilegious. (Although I now love mustard, ketchup is still my condiment of choice and that includes on hotdogs.) Ráchel Raj writes of “Flódni,” a multilayered cake that sounds difficult to make, but wonderful to eat. Unfortunately, no recipe is included. (Not that I would actually make it, but I might have tried to convince a friend to try.) The essay about “Apples” by Dan Barber is funny because it includes the story of Adam and Eve told from the point of view of the apple. Shalom Auslander writes of his hatred of cholent and how depressed he becomes when people want to talk to him about it. While the subject may make him depressed, readers will laugh at his comments. Newhouse, the editor of the book, notes her agreement with a young rabbi that getting rid of good “Kiddush Cookies” is the true cause of Jewish secularism. While there are so many other essays worthy of discussion, it’s impossible to discuss them all. However, I do feel it’s important to note my complete agreement with Tom Colicchio that “Whitefish Salad” is far better than lox.

“The 100 Most Jewish Foods” is delightful and its design makes it a perfect housewarming or holiday gift for anyone interested in food and/or Judaism. It’s easy to read

and fun to debate. Readers may also want to compare their favorite recipe to those offered in the book, or try some new or unusual food. There is certainly plenty in the book to enjoy and love.

**Mailbox Shorts**

**Jewish podcasts**

The podcast “Adventures in Jewish Studies,” created by the Association for Jewish Studies Podcast, can be found at <https://associationforjewishstudies.org/public-programs/adventures-in-jewish-studies-podcast>. According to the website, “Podcast episodes are designed take listeners on exciting journeys while exploring a wide range of topics, from the contemporary to the ancient, in ways that are informative, engaging, and fun.” Recent episodes include “Portnoy’s Complaint at 50,” “The Yemenite Children Affair and the Story of the Mizrahi Jews in the Development of the State of Israel,” “The Origins of the Jews” and “Appetizing: An American New York Jewish Food Tradition.”

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**NEWS IN BRIEF**

From JNS.org

**Israel reportedly fought to get Turkey dropped from F-35 program**

Israel made a concerted effort to convince the United States to drop Turkey from the F-35 stealth fighter program out of concern for its qualitative military edge in the region, Channel 12 news reported on July 31. Israel's diplomatic efforts to stop the sale reportedly began when Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan purchased the advanced Russian S-400 air-defense system. Israel was concerned that Turkey would leak information about the advanced F-35 to neighboring countries. Washington, too, seemed concerned about Turkey possessing both F-35s and the S-400 system, saying possession of the planes "cannot coexist with a Russian intelligence collection platform that will be used to learn about its advanced capabilities." The U.S. dropped Turkey from the program, despite the latter's order of more than 100 of the advanced aircraft at a price tag of \$1.4 billion. "President Erdogan was given a very clear choice. Unfortunately, he has clearly made the wrong one," said Reps. Eliot Engel (D-NY) and Michael McCaul (R-TX), respectively top Democratic and Republican members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Israel has ordered 50 F-35s from the U.S., with 16 delivered thus far.

**Federal appeals court rules in favor of Facebook in case on Hamas terror victims**

By Jackson Richman

(JNS) – A federal appeals court on July 31 sided against victims of attacks by Hamas who looked to hold Facebook accountable for allegedly enabling a social-media platform for the U.S.-designated terrorist group to promote its objectives.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the 1996 Communications Decency Act, which monitors Internet material, protected Facebook from liability.

"Merely arranging and displaying others' content to users of Facebook through such algorithms – even if the content is not actively sought by those users – is not enough to hold Facebook responsible as the 'developer' or 'creator' of that content," wrote Judge Christopher Droney of the three-judge appeals court panel.

However, Chief Judge Robert Katzmann dissented and wrote, "Over the past two decades the Internet has outgrown its swaddling clothes. It is fair to ask whether the rules that governed its infancy should still oversee its adulthood."

The plaintiffs, who included Stuart and Robbi Force, whose son 28-year-old Taylor Force was stabbed to death in Israel by a Palestinian in 2016, asked for \$3

billion in damages from Facebook for allowing a platform for Hamas to promote, encourage and celebrate terrorist attacks in Israel. The complaint mentions Hamas attacks against five Americans, four of whom were killed, in Israel between 2014 and 2016.

"More must be done to hold Facebook accountable for providing a platform for Hamas," David Ibsen, executive director of the Counter Extremism Project, told JNS. "Unfortunately, the existing U.S. regulatory framework created in 1996 is no longer adequate to provide solutions and relief to individuals that endure the consequences of terrorist misuse of Facebook and other platforms.

"Terrorist groups have clearly used Facebook to host meetings, distribute propaganda and organize activities, despite the tech giant's promise to aggressively target this content," he continued. "Moreover, Facebook's recommended friends feature connects known terrorists with other supporters across the globe. The victims and their families should be empowered to hold these multi-billion-dollar companies accountable for turning a blind eye to terrorist activities on their sites."

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In 2006, the Greater Binghamton Sports Complex was built and since then owner Bob Kashou, his family and staff at the Dome have been very busy. With six indoor astro turfed fields and two outdoor fields, the sports complex hosts many sports tournaments and events year-round.

The GBSC has built a Binghamton soccer program. In addition to the teams that won state cups last year, the U13 girls' team of mostly local girls won a state cup again. A total of five Binghamton area teams winning state cups is another record for this area.

GBSC provides sports for boys and girls of all ages, 2-70 years old. The GBSC is advancing other sports programs in the area: lacrosse, baseball, softball, flag football and field hockey.

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 Phone: 607-727-5798  
 E-mail: sarah\_manasse@keybank.com  
 Website: www.keybank.com

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# Student.....Continued from page 2

ask me is how are you Italian? I thought you were Jewish. People sometimes box in what it means to look and be Jewish, which is frustrating.

Karp: Before you had your bar mitzvah you went to Israel. Can you talk about your experience in Israel and how it compares to here in relation to being Jewish?

Osburn: I remember that I went during my seventh grade year, which was really close to my bar mitzvah, and I took two weeks off from school to go to Israel. I had never seen so many Jewish people in my life. I thought there were a lot of Jewish people in my mother's childhood community in Massachusetts, but, when I went to Israel, there were so many people who shared the same faith as me... it was like nothing I have experienced before and... it changed my view of Judaism.

Karp: That must have been eye-opening because at a young age it lets you know that there is a large community of people out there who share the same religion with you.

Osburn: Yeah, for me in Binghamton I felt isolated... which prevented me from being comfortable in my own faith.

Karp: Now let's transition to how your faith influenced your education. I know throughout your school years you became enamored with science and computer engineering, topics which are secular to a great extent. Do you think that after your bar mitzvah there was a time where you [changed] your understanding of Judaism?

Osburn: I think after my bar mitzvah I became more disconnected from Judaism. I previously was forced to go to temple, but after my bar mitzvah, when it was more my decision how to interpret and practice my faith, I didn't feel like I was truly accepted at temple and I didn't really succumb to the traditional way of practicing Judaism.

Karp: This [is an] issue in small town America, where Jews go to schools dominated by other religions, and com-

plete this intensive study period of the Torah and Hebrew leading up to their bar/bat mitzvah, [and] often feel like they have no reason to continue going to synagogue or are less inclined to go after they finish this ceremony. Why is this such a prevalent problem?

Osburn: It's difficult to say because the timeline is at an interesting place. In Judaism, the coming of age is at 13 years old, but in American society it's more around the 18-21-year-old range when people often begin making radical decisions for themselves. Since you are given this freedom at such a young age, for me, at least, it felt like I had done my duty as a young Jewish person. I feel like people often come back later because they miss out on the opportunity of being part of this community.

Karp: Not only for that reason, but also because they need to bring their children to synagogue to prepare them for their bar/bat mitzvah. It's ironic in a way because a major point of the bar/bat mitzvah is to allow the student to involve themselves more within the religion, but it almost has the opposite effect in many cases.

Osburn: It's almost like a natural progression, similar to a graduation from school. Once you complete this difficult task, many people feel as though they need to take a break, or they need to move on to another subject.

Karp: Very true. Moving on, another issue with young Jewish culture in places like Binghamton, is the lack of programs that allow us to explore our Judaism post-bar mitzvah.

Osburn: I mean me, and you, share a similar upbringing, but we didn't even really connect until last year, which just shows the weakness of having a Jewish community within this secular public school system. There should be resources we can use to help us with maintaining our faith throughout our years at the high school. I know if I could be a resource to a younger Jewish kid when they enter the public school system, I would. This sort of

program would be beneficial to everyone.

Karp: The funny part is that the Catholic youth programs are highly inclusive, they allowed me and you to play basketball and soccer with classmates at school we would see every day. They allowed us to assimilate into a community which we otherwise might feel excluded from.

Osburn: On those teams, the topic of faith wasn't central, but it was part of it. There is a prayer before games, and there is the understanding of playing in a church, but it was more about living real life with religion being the basis, but not interfering. This may be a model the Jewish community can take from.

Karp: Speaking about models, one of your major influences is Albert Einstein. And while his secular accomplishments dominate his legacy, his Judaism always lurked in the background. How do you think people like him give you the chance to express yourself freely even on topics which may conflict with your faith?

Osburn: The way I was taught to always ask questions and apply my beliefs into real life situations gave me the chance to become a better student. Something for me which is important within Judaism is the expectation to use elements within religious teachings to solve modern problems.

Karp: Definitely. Now we're almost done, so let's take the chance to look back at your high school career. You are attending Villanova in the fall; can you reflect on the path it took for you to reach this point?

Osburn: It was less of climbing a mountain and more of riding a roller coaster, with all the ups and downs I faced. Along the way, I learned that it's important to be secular, but know and appreciate what your religion is. Most of what I accomplished is attributed to the Jewish ideals of my upbringing. I also know that from the history of our people, perseverance is an essential part of being human.

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 Location: 1124 Frost Rd.  
 Endicott, NY 13760  
 Name: Ann Ozark  
 Phone: 607-754-8397  
 E-mail: aozark@stny.rr.com  
 Website: www.annozarkphotos.com  
 Hours: By appointment

Ann Ozark is passionate about photography. She has enjoyed photographing people, places and events for businesses and families in the Greater Binghamton area for more than 25 years. Whether you need a portrait for social media/advertising purposes, or your company needs event coverage, Ann has the expertise to get the job done. She has worked with interior decorators and realtors to showcase homes and buildings. If your family is celebrating a special occasion, she can capture the fun and candid moments for lasting memories. Do you have a family member with mobility issues? She does on-location portrait sessions.

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**NEWS IN BRIEF**

From JNS.org

**Rouhani warns that “war with Iran is the mother of all wars,” calls for peace**

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said on Aug. 6 that any war with his country would be “the mother of all wars,” and insisted Iran be allowed free travel in the Strait of Gibraltar. “Peace with Iran is the mother of all peace, war with Iran is the mother of all wars,” said Rouhani according to the Reuters news agency. Speaking live on national Iranian television, Rouhani also demanded “a strait for a strait,” saying that “it can’t be that the Strait of Hormuz is free for you and the Strait of Gibraltar is not free for us,” referring to ongoing tensions between Iran and Western powers in the Strait of Hormuz, where Iran has recently captured three oil tankers. Tensions began in June when the United States accused Iran of shooting down a U.S. reconnaissance aircraft and came close to launching strikes against the country. Soon after that, Britain seized an Iranian tanker off the Gibraltar coast, accusing it of carrying oil to Syria in violation of E.U. sanctions. Since then, Iran has seized three oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz, and is currently holding two of them in Iranian waters. The United States responded by announcing the formation of a coalition – dubbed “Operation Sentinel” – to secure vessels in the Persian Gulf. In July, Britain proposed a European-led maritime protection force, but European countries have been reluctant to join. Despite the tension, Rouhani said that “the Islamic Republic of Iran favors talks and negotiations and, if the U.S. really wants to talk, before anything else it should lift all sanctions.” Nonetheless, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Aug. 5 that he had turned down an offer from

a U.S. senator to have a one-on-one meeting with U.S. President Donald Trump at the White House. Trump withdrew the United States from the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action last year, reapplying sanctions which were in place prior to the agreement.

**Netanyahu sends Egypt message of solidarity following Cairo terror attack**

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Aug. 5 offered his condolences to the families of the 20 people killed in a terrorist attack outside a downtown Cairo cancer hospital on Aug. 4, condemning the attack and expressing Israel’s solidarity with Egypt. “We extend our heartfelt condolences to the families of the innocent victims, and wish a speedy recovery to the injured,” Netanyahu said in an English-language statement. “We stand by the Egyptian people in their battle against terrorism.” Initial reports said the incident was caused by a multi-car accident, but Egypt’s Interior Ministry later revealed that a car packed with explosives had plowed into other vehicles on Corniche boulevard along the Nile River, igniting other cars and wounding at least 47 people. Egypt’s main cancer hospital was damaged in the attack, with dozens of patients evacuated after parts of the facade and some rooms were damaged. It was the deadliest attack in Cairo since the Islamic State group bombed a chapel next to the main Egyptian Coptic Christian cathedral in December 2016 during Sunday Mass, killing 30 people. Egypt’s Interior Ministry has accused Hasm, a group linked to the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood, with the attack, though it indicated that the bomb-laden car was actually in transit to its true target when it detonated. Egyptian President Abdel Fatta el-Sissi vowed to “face and root out terrorism,” and expressed his condolences to the families.

**Writing**

Continued from page 5

work and insights about how to approach my work must also be in there. That’s an audacious idea. The second reason this declaration excites me is that we’re told that we find everything not by just leaving the Torah inert in front of us, but by turning it – by interacting with it, in other words; engaging with it, looking at it from many different angles. I love that.”

His belief that the Torah has a message for everyone can be found in his work. “When I settled in to write ‘The Artist’s Torah’ – a series of chapters on each of the weekly Torah portions, every one of them digging for wisdom on the creative process – I found that the Torah, when turned this way and that, was actually overflowing with wisdom for artists,” he noted. “I assume that goes for all professions and life paths – I bet you can find yourself in the Torah, whether your thing is business or healthcare or customer service or politics or professional wrestling. For me, because of who I am, it’s about creativity. When

I watch the matriarchs naming their children, that tells me about different experiences of creation; the building of the *Mishkan* reminds me about the role of planning and intuition in creative work; the roles of the priests make me think instinctually about the roles of the artist; the repetitions in Deuteronomy get my mind focused on revision; and on and on and on.”

While much of his writing is serious, humor does play a role. “One of the things I’ve been exploring in my most recent books is humor,” he noted. “When I was just getting started, I had the feeling that literature had to be deadly serious, even though life isn’t consistently serious and is in fact often absurd. Meanwhile, I’m steeped in a Jewish worldview that has, despite some very traumatic history, nonetheless turned to humor again and again. And so this collection, ‘Some Unimaginable Animal,’ tries to make the case that poetry can be funny sometimes.”

He notes, that, ‘for example, in ‘Some Unimaginable Animal,’ there are a number of ‘First’ poems – ‘The First Insect,’ ‘The First Mammal,’ ‘The First Primate’ – where I basically make up what it might have been like to be the first-ever insect to exist, or mammal, or whatever. Those were a lot of fun, and one led to the next. And then I’ve also written a lot of ‘I’m going to’ poems. ‘I’m going to write a whodunit’; ‘I’m going to write a book on religious intolerance’; ‘I’m going to write my own procedural drama.’ Those were fun, too. I’ll tell you: writing a poem about what you’re going to write is much easier than actually writing the thing you say you’re going to write.”

To see Reporter reviews of several of Ebenbach’s previous works, visit [www.thereportergroup.org/Article.aspx?alD=4769](http://www.thereportergroup.org/Article.aspx?alD=4769) (“The Guy We Didn’t Invite to the Orgy”), [www.thereportergroup.org/Article.aspx?alD=2832](http://www.thereportergroup.org/Article.aspx?alD=2832) (“Into the Wilderness”) and [www.thereportergroup.org/Article.aspx?alD=2997](http://www.thereportergroup.org/Article.aspx?alD=2997) (“The Artist’s Torah”).

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# Stumbling

MAGGID JIM BRULÉ, SYRACUSE, NY

As Moses begins his recitation of the history of the release from Egypt and 40 years' worth of wandering, even the casual reader will notice differences between earlier accounts and his recollection. Some readers will find this problematic and try to decide which account is "correct"; others will use it as an excuse to reject both. And still others will attempt some intricate gymnastics to make each version completely factual.

I prefer to take the storyteller's view: why has the telling of this story changed? A great verse to exercise this on is Deuteronomy 1:37 – "Against me, too, the Lord was incensed because of you, saying, 'You, too, shall not come there.'" In short, Moses blames the people for his

not being allowed to enter the Promised Land. This flies in the face of Numbers 20:18, where God explicitly tells Moses that he will be denied entry for striking the rock. What do we do with these different versions?

Let's begin with a reminder: Moses is human and subject to many human frailties, including manslaughter. Now, here he is, at the brink of the Promised Land, the bitter taste of his punishment fresh in his mouth. What does he do? He blames the people, instead of admitting to his error – or at least accurately recalling the event.

What can we learn from this?

Moses, our greatest leader, who partnered with God to deliver us from slavery, was far from perfect. At times he

was brilliant, loving, daring, just, compassionate... and at others, he was angry, insulted, overwhelmed, despondent. Do we reject Moses because of his flaws? Of course not! But we continue to hold him – especially as a leader – to the same expectations that we know God holds for us. It would be wrong of us to do any less.

Actions have consequences – for each of us. No matter our station, no matter our history, we must strive to live our lives to the standards set so often before us: to love each other; to care for the widow, the orphan and the stranger; and to be the best version of ourselves that we can.

Even when we stumble – *especially* when we do.

## 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, August 9, at 8 pm, there will be a Shabbat Visual Tefilah service led by Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell.

On Saturday, August 10, at 9:15 am, there will be Torah study and, at 8:30 pm, there will be a Tisha B'Av program at Temple Israel.

### 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 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.

### Temple Brith Sholom

Affiliation: Unaffiliated  
 Address: P.O. Box 572, 117 Madison St., Cortland, NY 13045  
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 President: Bruce Fein, 607-423-3346  
 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 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, 5:30 pm; Friday, 5:30 pm; Saturday, 9:30 am

On Friday, August 9, at 7 pm, there will be Shabbat on the Road at Vestal Park Nursing Home.

On Saturday, August 10, at 9:30 am, Shabbat services will be led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown. The Torah portion will be Deuteronomy 1:1-3:22. The haftarah will be Isaiah 1:1-27. The kiddush sponsors are Judy Simon and Moira Shirvan.

On Saturday, August 10, at 8:30 pm, there will be Tisha B'Av services.

On Sunday, August 18, at 2 pm, there will be the Temple Israel Family Picnic. The cost is \$10 per person, children under 13 are free. RSVP and make payment to the office.

On Saturday afternoon, August 24, there will be the bat mitzvah of Jordyn Goldberg.

### Congregation Tikkun v'Or

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

### 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.

Friday, August 9, light candles before..... 7:54 pm  
 Saturday, August 10, Shabbat ends ..... 8:54 pm  
 Friday, August 16, light candles before..... 7:45 pm  
 Saturday, August 17, Shabbat ends ..... 8:44 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:  
 Shabbat, Aug. 10..... 9 am  
 ..... Mincha after kiddush  
 Weekday Services:  
 Mornings:  
 Sun., Aug. 11 ..... 8:30 am  
 Mon.-Fri., Aug. 12-16 ..... 7 am  
 Evenings:  
 Sun., Aug. 11 ..... 7:40 pm  
 Mon.-Thurs., Aug. 12-15 ..... 7:50 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 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: Randy Ehrenberg  
 Sisterhood President: Julie Paige  
 Director of Education: Rabbi Suzanne Brody  
 Administrative Assistant: Jane Griffith  
 Services: Friday 8 pm; Saturday 10 am, unless otherwise announced. Weekday morning minyan 7:30 am (9 am on Sundays and legal holidays).  
 Religious School/Education: September-May: Classes meet on Sunday, 9 am-12:30 pm and Wednesday afternoons, 3:45-5:45 pm. The Midrashah (eighth-grade and high school) classes will meet at times designated by their respective teachers.  
 Adult Ed.: Numerous weekly courses, several semester-long courses and a variety of mini-courses and lectures are offered throughout the year. Call the temple office for more details.

On Saturday, August 10, the eve of Tisha B'Av service will be held at 9:15 pm. The Book of Lamentations will be read.

On Thursday, August 22, at 6:30 pm, the TBE Arts Committee summer movie series will conclude with "The Last Suit" (Spain, Argentina, 2018, 92 minutes, English subtitles). The film tells the story of a Polish-born Holocaust survivor who decides to travel from Buenos Aires to Lodz to fulfill a promise he made nearly 70 years earlier. The public is invited to attend. Doors will open at 6:30 pm for refreshments and schmoozing, with the film starting at 7 pm. The cost is \$8 at the door (cash or check only). The movie will be shown at TBE through Israeli Films, National Center for Jewish Film and Outsider Pictures.

On Saturdays, August 24 and 31, at 5 pm, Rabbi Scott Glass will continue teaching a "Perek in the Pardes" class studying "Pirkei Avot, The Ethics of the Fathers."

The annual Temple Beth-El summer picnic will be held on Sunday, August 25, from 4-7 pm, at the Upper Buttermilk State Park, which has an \$8 per vehicle entrance fee. Interim Rabbi Miriam Spitzer will be in attendance. Dinner will start at 5 pm and a scavenger hunt at 6 pm. Those attending are asked to bring a dairy dish to pass and to e-mail the temple office at secretary@tbeithaca.org with the dish being brought.

# Jewish Community Center

## CAMP JCC COLOR WARS AND MORE



One of the Camp JCC Color Wars activities included feeding pudding to a partner while lying head to head.



Above: Camp JCC's teen campers and their counselors went to the Old Port on July 30 during their four-day trip to Montreal, Canada.



At left: The TLC campers cooked their own dinner at the Alexandrie Montreal Hostel, where they stayed during their trip to Montreal, Canada.



Campers practiced their strokes during a lesson at Camp JCC.



Members of the red team participated in Camp JCC Color Wars on August 2.



Members of the red team participated in a Camp JCC Color Wars activity on August 2.

### JCC Friendship Club

The JCC Friendship Club met on July 31. We saw the first half of the video "Boyn-ton Beach Club." Sue Herzog's husband delivered the video at the beginning of the meeting. The sound was poor, but Bruce Orden was able to get subtitles on so we could understand what everyone was saying. The story is about people who live in an active retirement community. Sue showed half the video and planned to show the other half next week, but not everyone wanted to see the rest of it, so we changed the plan to have a game day. To make the program more enjoyable, we read a few jokes from the book "The Best of One Liners" by Hen-

ny Youngman. One of the jokes was, "My wife wanted her face lifted. They couldn't do that, so they lowered her body."

The meeting was called to order by Sylvia Diamond. Ann Brilliant said the blessing over the cookies. We all said the Pledge of Allegiance. On Wednesday, August 14, Deb Foreman will play piano for a musical program. On Wednesday, August 21, Rosanne Pinker will be the speaker. There will be no meeting on Wednesday, August 28. Come join us on Wednesdays when we are at the JCC at 1:30 pm.

Sylvia Diamond,  
President

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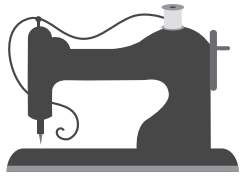
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## NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

### U.S. senators call on Poland to pay Holocaust victims for property stolen by Nazis

A bipartisan group of 88 U.S. senators signed a letter on Aug. 5 to U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, asking him to “act boldly and with urgency to help Poland resolve this issue comprehensively” of compensating Holocaust victims whose property was stolen by German Nazis. Crediting Pompeo with raising the issue in a statement in February about the matter, the senators said they were “deeply troubled” with Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki responding that the issue has been “resolved.” “Now is the time, while the last Holocaust survivors are still alive, to back up our words with meaningful action,” wrote the senators. “We encourage you to pursue bold initiatives to help Poland to resolve this issue as quickly as possible.” Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY), Sens. Lamar Alexander (R-TN), Dan Sullivan (R-AL), Deb Fischer (R-NE), Roger Wicker (R-MS), Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-MS), Roy Blunt (R-MO), Pat Toomey (R-PA), Mike Enzi (R-WY), Mike Crapo (R-ID), Bill Cassidy (R-LA) and Richard Shelby (R-AL) did not sign the letter. JNS has reached out to those senators for comment. The letter came less than a month ahead of U.S. President Donald Trump’s planned visit to Poland on Sept. 1 to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of World War II. It would be Trump’s second visit to Poland since July 2017. Poland is the only affected nation that doesn’t have legislation dealing with confiscated restitution from the last century. In March 2018, 59 U.S. senators called on Poland to pass and enact such a law. In May, Morawiecki said that were Poland to pay restitution for those whose property was stolen in the Holocaust, it would violate “international law and would also be a posthumous victory for Hitler;” therefore, “something like this will never happen.” Eric Gallagher, the Washington representative of the World Jewish Restoration Organization, told *Haaretz* that the letter “demonstrates once again that the United States Congress has not forgotten about Holocaust survivors and remains steadfast in pursuing justice for them.” Approximately 90 percent of Poland’s Jews were killed in the Holocaust.

### All of Judea and Samaria now under Palestinian jurisdiction, P.A. officials say

The Palestinian Authority will treat all of Judea and Samaria as being under its administrative and security control, P.A. Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh said on Aug. 4. Speaking at a meeting in his Ramallah office with owners of homes demolished by Israel in July in Wadi Hummus, Shtayyeh said that “Israel no longer respects any of the signed agreements and deals, [treating] all areas [in the West Bank] as if they were Area C. Accordingly, we will deal with all areas as if they are Area A.” Area A of Judea and Samaria is fully controlled by the P.A. according to the Oslo Accords, while Area B is administered by the P.A. but under Israeli military control. Area C, comprising some 60 percent of the territory, is under full Israeli control. Israel demolished several buildings in Wadi Hummus in the eastern Jerusalem neighborhood of Sur Baher in July following a lengthy legal battle. Israel maintained that the buildings had been erected too close to the security fence, in violation of a military order. Residents argued that the buildings were in Area A, and that the P.A. had given them construction permits. Israel’s High Court of Justice ruled against the residents, paving the way for the buildings to be demolished. P.A. leader Mahmoud Abbas, partially in response to the demolitions, announced that the P.A. would halt implementation of all agreements with Israel, including on security coordination, and said a special committee would be formed to that end. P.A. Deputy Minister of Local Government Ahmed Ghoneim, whose ministry is tasked with urban planning, including the issuance of construction permits, told *The Media Line* that with this latest move, the P.A. was following through on Abbas’s decision. “We are implementing the decision [to cut ties with Israel],” said Ghoneim. “On the order of [P.A.] President [Mahmoud] Abbas, a committee has been formed to develop mechanisms to follow through.” The P.A., he added, was just acting in accordance with the 1993 Oslo Accords, which called for the transfer to the Palestinians of the vast majority of the West Bank 18 months after elections for the Palestinian Legislative Council. The elections were held in 1996. “From a political point of view, the terms ‘A,’ ‘B’ and ‘C’ no longer exist to us,” said Ghoneim, adding that “from a professional and technical perspective, we will apply planning policies in Palestine at three levels: national, regional and local.”

### Telegraph report: Corbyn has “radicalized” Labour members into attacking Jews

Some members of the United Kingdom’s Labour Party have become “radicalized” under the leadership of Jeremy Corbyn and are now publicly attacking Israel and Jews, according to a dossier submitted to an official inquiry, *The Telegraph* reported. The 200-page report, which was submitted to the Equality and Human Rights Commission – a government body in the United Kingdom that enforces equality and non-discrimination laws – revealed how a number of Labour members have become “obsessed” with Israel since Corbyn’s election as party leader in 2015, and that “hard-core antisemites” specifically joined the party because of him. In one case, a party member who had made no public Facebook comments about Israel before Corbyn’s leadership began is now posting more than 300 times per year on the topic, including a claim that “Zionists ... bankrolled Hitler before and throughout WW2 ... all for one goal [...] Israel.” One Labour Party member had only made one public post about Israel before Corbyn’s election, but by the following September, she posted two videos based on antisemitic tropes, including one titled “The Zionist conspiracy and the UK Government.” The report was compiled by David Collier, who said that Corbyn’s election “established the toxic environment which enabled the growth of rampant anti-Zionist hostility and inevitably antisemitism,” and that he found a “clear pattern” supporting the “general assumption” that the Labour Party was “invaded by extremists when Jeremy Corbyn became leader,” according to *The Telegraph*. A Labour spokesperson commented on the report, saying that some of those listed are suspended while others are not party members.

### El Paso’s Jewish community stands in solidarity following deadly shooting

The Jewish community of El Paso, TX, is offering support to the Hispanic community following the Aug. 3 deadly attack at a Walmart in the city that borders the southern United States. El Paso, America’s 22<sup>nd</sup> largest city with an estimated population of 682,669, is more than 80 percent Hispanic or Latino, according to the U.S. census. Of the 22 people now confirmed dead by gunfire on Aug. 3 at a Walmart adjacent to the Cielo Vista Mall, at least seven were Mexican citizens, and of the 26 injured in the attack, at least nine were Mexican nationals. El Paso’s Jewish community of 5,000 have been encouraging people to donate blood and participate in a fund-raising campaign for victims of the attack, Rabbi Stephen A. Leon, the emeritus rabbi of B’nai Zion, a conservative congregation affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism and the Jewish Theological Seminary, told *The Jerusalem Post*. On Aug. 4, they attended a large municipal interfaith-prayer vigil. “As soon as we know who the victims are, we will reach out to them,” he said. “As Jews, our job is to make the world a better place. We have to fight the fight even stronger.”

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