

# THE REPORTER

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## Major U.S. policy shift on Judea and Samaria

By JNS staff

(JNS) – U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced on November 18 that the United States is softening its stance on Israeli settlements in Judea and Samaria. This is a reversal of the 1978 State Department legal opinion that such neighborhoods are “inconsistent with international law.”

“Calling the establishment of civilian settlements inconsistent with international law has not advanced the cause of peace,” said Pompeo. “The hard truth is that there will never be a judicial resolution to the conflict, and arguments about who is right and who is wrong as a matter of international law will not bring peace.”

However, Pompeo said the United States will not take a position on the legality of settlements, and the new policy will not extend beyond Judea and Samaria. He said that the ultimate status of these neighborhoods must be decided by Israelis and Palestinians.

Pompeo added that it’s “hard to imagine” more isolation of Israel at the United Nations as the Jewish state is repeatedly criticized at the world body, including in U.N. Security Resolution 2334 in December 2016, in which the United States abstained from the measure instead of using its automatic veto power, therefore allowing for it to pass in what some deemed as a final shot at Israel by the Obama administration.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he is “deeply grateful” to the Trump administration for its policy shift. “Today, the United States adopted an important policy that rights a historical wrong when the Trump administration clearly rejected the false claim that Israeli settlements in Judea and Samaria are inherently illegal



U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo (State Department Photo by Michael Gross)

under international law,” Netanyahu said in a statement. “The Trump administration policy is also correct in stating that those who have categorically denied any legal basis for the settlements not only deny truth, history and the reality on the ground, they also set back the cause of peace, which can only be achieved through direct negotiations between the parties.”

The announcement is consistent with the Trump administration’s support of the Middle East’s principle ally, including, but not limited to, recognizing Jerusalem as Israel’s capital and relocating the U.S. embassy there from Tel Aviv; merging the U.S. Consulate General with the embassy; defunding U.S. assistance to the Palestinian Authority due to its support of terrorism; withdrawing from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal; and recognizing Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights.

The move came a week after the United States criticized the European Court of Justice to require products coming from Judea and Samaria, eastern Jerusalem and the Golan Heights not to be labeled “made in Israel.” Specifically, it noted the Psagot Winery case.

## Federation 2020 Campaign continues

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton is still looking for donors interested in contributing to its 2020 Campaign, which kicked off on October 27.

“Can the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton count on your support for 2020?” asked Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Federation. “We are working hard to ensure that our local Jewish community maintains its vital institutions, such as the Jewish Community

Center, *The Reporter*, Jewish Family Service and more.”

Marilyn Bell, co-chairwoman of the 2020 Campaign, added, “If we as a community do not take care of our needs, nobody else will. Please join our other donors and make a pledge to the Jewish Federation today.”

For more information or to make a pledge, contact the Federation office at 724-2332.



## Israeli students win award for making honey without bees

By Brian Blum

(Israel21c via JNS) – With the global population of bees in decline, honey could become a rare commodity on supermarket shelves.

That’s why a team of 12 students from the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology has been working for the past year on the development of a bee-free honey. It’s produced by the bacterium *Bacillus subtilis*, which “learns” to make honey following reprogramming in a lab.

Their efforts have met with success: The team won a gold medal at the recent iGEM (International Genetically Engineered Machine) competition held in Boston. Some 300 teams from universities around the world took part. This is the sixth gold medal Technion students have won at iGEM since it was established in 2004 by the

Massachusetts Institute of Technology to give students the opportunity to experiment in synthetic biology.

In addition to developing the science, an equally important component of iGEM involves creating a real business enterprise. The Technion team created its own website and a catchy company name: BeeFree.

“Our vision is to create a sustainable BeeFree honey using engineered bacteria, which will process a nectar-like solution using secreted enzymes that mimic the honey stomach environment,” the website <https://2019.igem.org/Team:Technion-Israel> states. (The honey stomach, or crop, is used by bees to store liquids for later regurgitation.)

The team collaborated with two Israeli technology firms: Bio-castle, which makes See “Bees” on page 3

## Uzbekistan signs agreement with Israeli high-tech firm to help fight water shortage

By JNS staff

(JNS) – The government of Uzbekistan signed a memorandum of understanding with the Israel-based company Watergen in an effort aimed at harnessing and using the company’s patented technology to make clean drinking water out of ambient air.

The agreement was signed on October 29 by Uzbekistan’s Minister of Innovation Ibrohim Abdurakhmonov and Michael Rutman, Watergen’s vice president of marketing and sales. Thousands of GEN-M atmospheric water generators (or AWGs) produced by Watergen will be dispatched to different towns and cities in the country facing major water shortages, including in Bukhara and Samarkand.

“We are giving the people of Uzbekistan a safe and simple alternative for dealing with a very difficult problem they are facing,” said Rutman. “Our technology offers the people of Uzbekistan a method to acquire fresh water on a daily basis.”

With a weight of just 780 kilograms, the GEN-M is easily transportable and can make

as much as 800 liters of water per day. Each unit contains an internal water-treatment system and needs no infrastructure except a source of electricity in order to operate.

The Central Asian nation has been in need of a secure water supply, as it’s one of only two countries in the world that is “double landlocked” from the oceanic seas. As a result, it has relied on the Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers for a fresh-water supply. In recent years, however, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan have established hydro-power dams at the headwaters of both rivers, undermining Uzbekistan’s ability to use them as sources.

The patented, heat-exchange GENius technology in each of Watergen AWGs creates water by cooling collected air at its dew point. Subsequently, the water goes through physical, chemical and biological treatments, followed by a mineralization process to maintain its cleanliness, tastiness and healthy quality.

The technology made a splash during Uzbekistan’s Innweek 2019 exhibition



L-r: Watergen Vice President of Marketing and Sales Michael Rutman and Uzbekistan’s Minister of Innovation Ibrohim Abdurakhmonov signed a memorandum of understanding to improve the availability of clean drinking water using the company’s technology. (Photo courtesy of Watergen)

in late October at the Uzexpo centre National Exhibition Complex in the capital of Tashkent. The annual exhibition, which is

attended by representatives from the United Nations and dozens of countries, features new forms of technology to improve the living standards and economic conditions in the country.

On that note, Uzbekistan’s Deputy Prime Minister Aziz Abdulkhakov said, “In light of Uzbekistan’s water shortage, Uzbekistan desperately needs technology such as that provided by Watergen in order to improve its water sector.”

The GEN-M saw success as part of a pilot project in May at an orphanage in Bukhara that houses 120 children.

Uzbek Jews derive from both the more religious and traditional Bukharan Jewish community, and the more progressive, Europe-extracted Ashkenazi community. In 1989, as many as 94,900 Jews lived in Uzbekistan, though fewer than 5,000 remained in 2007, mostly in Tashkent. About a dozen synagogues remain in the country. Most Uzbek Jews are now Ashkenazi due to the immigration of Bukharan Jews to Israel and the United States.

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# Trudeau's new government expected to maintain steady support for Israel

By Jackson Richman

(JNS)—Despite Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau overcoming corruption allegations and winning re-election in October, he is set to govern with a minority government that will likely include support from parties to the left of his Liberal Party, such as the New Democratic Party and the Green Party. Whether this possible scenario could change the Canada-Israel relationship remains to be seen.

“Most of the issues that will appear on the parliamentary docket are domestic in nature, and a more progressive orientation in terms of social policy will align closely with the community's own agenda,” Shimon Koffler Fogel, CEO of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, told JNS. “It is not likely that Middle East issues in general will feature on the agenda, and notwithstanding some misperceptions about the NDP, there is a consensus amongst the federal parties on the core issues related to Israel. So BDS, for example, is rejected by all parties; the IHRA definition of antisemitism is supported by all parties; etc.”

During his first term, Trudeau – whose party won 157 seats, a decrease of 20, in the recent election – spoke out

against BDS. “It's not right to discriminate or to make someone feel unsafe on campus because of their religion, and unfortunately, the BDS movement is often linked to those kinds of frames,” he said earlier this year.

Also during Trudeau's tenure, Canada's parliament froze relations with Iran and designated its Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' Quds Force as a terrorist organization.

Canada is home to approximately 392,000 Jews, comprising 1 percent of its population. The community is highly urbanized, with 87 percent living in just six metropolitan areas: Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, Winnipeg, Ottawa and Calgary. Like their American Jewish brethren, Canadian Jews are supportive of Israel, though opinions are divided on the level of support for Canada's relations with Israel. Some 59 percent of Canadian Jews who support the



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau met in Davos, Switzerland, on January 24, 2018. (Photo by Amos Ben Gershon/GPO)

Liberals think Canada is “about right” in its level of support for Israel. In contrast, 60 percent of Canadian Jews who identify with the Conservatives believe Canada is insufficiently supportive of Israel, according to a study by the Environics Institute.

Even if the topic of Israel comes up in the next government, said Fogel, “we do not anticipate any shift in formal government policy or the positions that have been staked out by the Liberal government over the last four years. We expect the same voting pattern at the [United Nations] and its agencies, a careful review of commitments to UNRWA (given the recent scandals and formal investigations of the agency) and an expansion of the bilateral relationship on many fronts, including trade, innovation, cybersecurity and intelligence.”

See “Trudeau” on page 3

## Opinion

### In My Own Words

## The EPA, the Paris agreement and human health

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

It doesn't take an advanced degree in science or medicine to realize that ingesting heavy metals and ash is dangerous to the health of humans and other animals. It is nearly impossible to control something once it's in our

### Date change

The Women Ties Greater Binghamton Luncheon event advertised on page 3 of the November 8 issue of *The Reporter* has been rescheduled from November 19 to Thursday, January 9.

soil or water supply, including if those chemicals will be ingested through food contaminated by that same soil or water. I think if you asked most people, “Do you think it's a good idea to poison yourself?” the answer would be “no.” So why are we letting our politicians make laws and rules that allow that to happen?

In the same issue earlier this month, our local secular paper contained articles about a United States Environmental Protection Agency rollback of rules about coal production and the U.S. secretary of state formally announcing to the United Nations that our country was withdrawing from the 2015 Paris Agreement. The EPA was rolling back rules

aimed at protecting us from dangerous heavy metal and ash from coal plants, which, in simple terms, means the coal plants are now freer to poison us. The reason? It will save the plants money. Why is the U.S. leaving the Paris Agreement? According to our secretary of state, it's due to the economic burden the agreement places on our country.

I'm not going to argue here about whether or not climate change is real. In some ways, that's irrelevant to the problem under discussion. The real problem is easy to describe: money vs. human health, the difference between larger salaries and bonuses for those running industries and the health of the citizens of our country. Perhaps those rolling back protections think they and their families will escape the health consequences of their actions. Maybe they can, at least for a while. But someday there will be nowhere safe from the harm being done to our planet.

In addition, the coal industry is dying. Alternative sources of energy are growing and nothing is going to change that. Automobiles replaced the horse and buggy, and alternative energies are replacing coal. Rather than fighting this, it makes more sense to look ahead and figure out what to do next. Also, when the EPA talks about how rolling back the rules reduces costs, it isn't including the cost of cleaning our rivers, streams and creeks in that figure. It doesn't include the health costs for people who are made sick by that water. Unless they are figuring that in, thinking, “Hey, we'll boost the economy by putting people to work cleaning the water and have to have even more doctors and nurses to treat all the sick people.” I really, really hope that no one is thinking that.

As for the Paris Agreement, all hope is not lost. The agreement says that no country can withdraw the first three years after the agreement was ratified. That means that the withdrawal isn't complete until the day after the 2020 elections. I'm not certain that will stop President Trump from cutting back as much as he can. Unfortunately, far too often our president feels that agreements and deals are made to be broken or renegotiated after they've been set by all parties.

Money vs. human health. As anyone who has suffered health problems or watched a loved one struggle with ill health knows, no amount of money will replace what's lost. And it's not even as if the average person will benefit from what's occurring. There will be no trickle down of money; there will only be a trickle down of medical bills, poisoned water and food, and potential loss of life.

## Corrections

In the November 15 issue of *The Reporter*, the printers accidentally reprinted pages 7 and 8 from the November 7 issue. Missing were the last paragraphs of several articles.

◆ The jump for the page 1 “Teaching through podcast”:

For example, he notes that “my podcast ‘Bisexual Shakespeare’ is about my book ‘Shakespair [Sonnet Replies to the 154 Sonnets of William Shakespeare],’ where the bard is my guest and I'm the host, so every time he recites one of his 154 sonnets, there's one by me on the facing page, responding to his thought, feeling and perception in his own sonnet form, rhythm and rhyme pattern. In ‘Qur'an and Poetry’ and ‘Jews & Christians in the Qur'an,’ I interview the speaker persona of the Islamic scripture in responding with original poems to passages I love. In ‘Rilke: Love and Conflict,’ I interview the greatest German-writing poet of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, replying to him in the stanza forms he taught me. In ‘King Solomon the Lover,’ I quote from my complete verse rendering of the biblical Song of Songs, and then reply with nearly 300 love poems of my own.”

Bidney also explores other themes in his work, including “expanding approaches to gender in verse ranging from Renaissance England to 19<sup>th</sup> century Germany to medieval Persia,” making connections between eastern and western culture, and reviving ancient poetry formats. Each of these is reflected in his podcasts and the works of poetry he's written.

As of this interview, Bidney is working on a podcast called “Sufi Lyrics in the Egyptian Desert,” which will show the inspiration for his latest book. “In 2011, I spent a month in Egypt, teaching English in a desert farm settlement, reading widely in Sufism, and listening to legends and songs recited or sung by my neighbor, Pakistan-born

Sufi calligraphic painter Shahid Alam,” he said. “The podcast, like the introduction to my poetry book, will show how seeds planted in the 90 poems I wrote during that month-long stay at Sekem (an hour from Cairo) grew and flourished in later poems and books.”

Bidney's podcasts are available on [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com); his website, [www.martinbidney.org](http://www.martinbidney.org); and his Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/martin.bidney](http://www.facebook.com/martin.bidney).

To read the complete interview, visit [www.thereporter-group.org/Article.aspx?aID=5363](http://www.thereporter-group.org/Article.aspx?aID=5363).

◆ The jump for the page 2 book review:

Although it covers an important topic, “24/6” is easy to read. Shlain writes simply and convincingly about her own experience. She encourages readers to try a tech Shabbat and is honest enough to mention when she or her husband have sometimes broken theirs for work-related reasons, but not often. In fact, she notes that the tech Shabbat works because the time is set, meaning they usually are forced to fit their schedules around the Shabbat, rather than trying to fit the Shabbat around their schedules. Shlain is also clear that she is not looking for a seven day week with no work, but rather a constrained time that forces her and her family to live without their screens.

While those who already observe a tech Shabbat, or some type of variation on it, won't need much convincing, others may feel it's impossible not to be attached to the larger world. They would be the ideal readers of “24/6” if only so they can learn how to make certain they are controlling their connection to devices, rather than being controlled by them.

To read the complete book review, visit [www.thereporter-group.org/Article.aspx?aID=5363](http://www.thereporter-group.org/Article.aspx?aID=5363).



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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.

#### DEADLINE

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[www.thereportergroup.org](http://www.thereportergroup.org)

# Celebrate end of Shabbat in Ithaca on Nov. 23

The IAUJC Campership Initiative, PJ Our Way, Temple Beth-El/Rabbi Felix Aber Religious School and Congregation Tikvun v'Or invite all to end Shabbat together with *Havdalah*, singing, crafts and snacks on Saturday,

November 23, from 6-7:30 pm, at 4H Acres (Kiwanis Building, 418 Lower Creek Rd., Ithaca). *Havdalah* is the ceremony that marks the symbolic end of Shabbat and ushers in the new week.

Organizers invite all ages to “sing by candlelight and relive your memories of camp!” Additional information may be found at [www.facebook.com/events/563797447699684/](http://www.facebook.com/events/563797447699684/).

# TC to hold Holiday Artisan Marketplace on Nov. 24

The eighth annual Holiday Artisan Marketplace will be held on Sunday, November 24, from 10 am-4 pm, in the social hall and Kilmer Mansion at Temple Concord, 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton. The Marketplace has grown to be a juried artisan event. Helene Philips is chairwoman of the Temple Concord Sisterhood sponsored event.

Artisans from around the region will be featured and will sell their hand-crafted jewelry, hand-knitted scarves, table runners, pillow covers, blankets, wine bottle covers, pet treats, novelty t-shirts, posters and plaques, handmade pens, photography, paintings and many other one-of-a-kind hand-crafted items.

There will also be a homemade bakesale with Marsha Luks and Roz Antoun serving as co-chairwomen. Lunches will be sold and prepared by Deb Saltzman and other volunteers. Admission to the Holiday Artisan Marketplace will be either cash, a non-perishable food donation for CHOW or a contribution to the Kilmer Mansion Restoration Fund.

# TC Sisterhood white elephant gift exchange

Temple Concord Sisterhood will hold a white elephant gift exchange with wine and cheese on Sunday, December 8, from 5-7 pm, at Temple Concord, 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton. Reservations should be made by Wednesday, December 4, to Phyllis Kellenberger at [pweinste@stny.rr.com](mailto:pweinste@stny.rr.com) or 727-8305 or 723-2193. The

program is free for all Sisterhood members. There will be a \$3 charge for non-members. Each attendee should bring a gift-wrapped item from home that she no longer wants. Participants will have the opportunity to exchange their “gift” for something else. “This promises to be a lot of fun,” said Kellenberger.

There also will be an opportunity to shop in the Hanukkah House Judaic Shop.

# TI Sisterhood to celebrate Hanukkah on Dec. 10

Temple Israel Sisterhood will host a Hanukkah celebration on Tuesday, December 10, from 7-9 pm, in the social hall. Members and guests are welcome to attend. The program will include a mystery gift exchange, an idea that Lois Levitt had several years ago. People should bring a wrapped gift (\$10 price range) of general interest with no identifying information. Gifts will be placed on a table and participants will be given instructions to pick a gift, open it and trade with someone if desired. Refreshments

will be served, and Steve Gilbert will provide music and songs (sing-alongs welcome). The cost to attend will be \$5 per person to cover the cost of food. RSVP to Tammy Kunsman in the temple office at 723-7461 by Sunday, December 1, so organizers know how much food to prepare. Comments or questions should be directed to Co-chairs Barbara Gilbert, Lynne Green or Kathy Hurwitz.

*The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to the family of*  
**Adrienne Sue Bennett**

*The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to Paul Levine on the death of his mother,*  
**Renee Levine**

*The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to the family of*  
**David G. Stearns**

# Trudeau..... Continued from page 2

Former Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper eliminated aid to UNRWA in 2010, though Trudeau restored it in 2016. CBC columnist Neil Macdonald told JNS that the issue of Israel was not discussed much during the recent campaign. “Israel was entirely absent as an issue in the recent election

campaign, ignored by all parties, with the possible exception of Andrew Scheer’s promise to follow [U.S. President Donald] Trump’s initiative and move the Canadian embassy from [Tel Aviv] to Jerusalem,” said Macdonald, adding, “Trudeau has no such plan and never has.” Trump relocated the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem in May 2018.

# Bees..... Continued from page 1

a product that biodegrades contaminants in water (the team used it to collect the proteins needed to make synthetic honey), and Tsuf Globus, which produces herbal “medical honey.” Students from six different disciplines – biomedical engineering, medicine, biotechnology and food engineering, industrial management and engineering, chemical engineering and aerospace engineering – came together to create BeeFree. “The [win is] definitely exciting, but equally important is the intellectual property created around the project,” said Prof. Roe Amit, who heads the Technion’s Synthetic Biology Laboratory for the Decipherment of Genomic Codes. For honey-lovers, continued availability of the sweet stuff will be its own reward.

Scheer’s Conservative Party, which won 121 seats, an increase of 26, in last month’s election, overwhelmingly approved a resolution at its policy convention in Halifax in August 2018. It stated that were the party to win the next majority government, it would recognize Jerusalem as Israel’s capital and move the country’s embassy there. Scheer indicated his enthusiasm to recognize Jerusalem as Israel’s capital shortly after he was elected party leader in May 2017. Macdonald added, “The NDP has not only avoided the topic, it actually dismissed a candidate in the Maritimes who was critical of Israel,” referring to Rana Zaman, a social activist and Muslim who won in May the NDP nomination in Dartmouth-Cole Harbour, Nova Scotia, and was ousted earlier this year after several Twitter posts from last year denouncing Israel’s response to violent protests along its border with Hamas-controlled Gaza came to light. However, NDP refused to drop Miranda Gallo from the race in the Montreal borough of Saint-Laurent, despite her support for BDS. Gallo came in third in the election, which was won by incumbent Liberal MP Emmanuella Lambropoulos.

At right: Honey sold by Israeli Druze at a roadside stand in the Carmel area of northern Israel on July 29, 2017. (Photo by Anat Hermony/Flash90)



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## Early deadlines for The Reporter

Due to holiday closings, the deadlines for the following upcoming issues of *The Reporter* are as follows. *No exceptions will be made.*

Issue .....	Deadline
Friday, December 6 .....	Monday, November 25
Friday, December 20 .....	Wednesday, December 11
Friday, December 27 .....	Monday, December 16
Friday, January 3 .....	Monday, December 23
Friday, January 10 .....	Monday, December 30

G & H Promotions Presents...  
17TH ANNUAL  
**HOLIDAY TRADITIONS ARTS & CRAFT SHOW**  
Binghamton University's West Gym  
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Off the Shelf

Messy lives

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

They strove to do something great, something meaningful, but, objectively, the results were a disaster. That loosely describes the main characters in two recent novels: "Revolutionaries" by Joshua Furst (Alfred A. Knopf) and "Donna Has Left the Building" by Susan Jane Gilman (Grand Central Publishing). However, the novelists approach their characters' lives from very different viewpoints. In "Revolutionaries," Freedom (Fred) Snyder tells the story of his famous 1960s radical parent, Lenny Snyder, while, in contemporary times, Gilman's narrator, Donna (Cohen) Koczynski, looks to regain the joy of her wilder younger years.

Lenny Snyder is clearly based on Abbie Hoffman (Furst even thanks Hoffman in his acknowledgments), but rather than hearing from the founder of the Yippie protest movement, Furst recounts Lenny's life from his son's perspective. Unlike his father, Fred avoids the limelight, but can't seem to avoid people who want to learn more about Lenny. The novel reads like one side of a conversation, with Fred offering information about the parts of his father's life he saw when he was a naive child and, later, a slightly more cynical teenager. Fred also debates how much of Lenny's behavior was based on his desire for a new society and how much was caused by Lenny's mental health issues.

The novel follows the basic outline of Hoffman's life: the protests at the Democratic convention in 1968, the free love movement, his arrest for selling drugs, his time underground (leaving his wife and son to manage on their own), his surrender years later and the sad ending of his life. What will strike readers is the mixed feelings Fred has about his father. On the one hand, he feels Lenny is a hero. On the other, he could be a scary person whose moods were unstable. Parts of Fred's early upbringing would qualify as child abuse today, although Lenny and his wife believed their style of parenting freed Fred from the conventions of society.

In the novel, Lenny's being Jewish played a role in his arrest. Fred notes how fearful people were of the havoc caused by the hippie and Yippie movements. Fred feels that, by the 1970s, people were tired of that chaos and arresting Lenny would show that these revolutionaries were really just a bunch of hoodlums. Fred notes, "How helpful, then, if Lenny - chaos incarnate - turned out to have never been more than a dirty Jew, a fast-talking petty thief finally exposed to have built his whole career on the exploitation of their children's sweet, wishful dreams. Look! This man was no angel of light! He never intended to lead you back to Eden! This is who he is, who he's always been. A

stooped, hook-nosed creature on the make for a big score." The beauty of "Revolutionaries" is that it shows just how complex a person Lenny was, as it clearly reveals his faults and his desire to remake the world into a better place. This is not a work for those who prefer to keep their heroes on a pedestal. Instead, Furst shows the roller coaster life that Lenny led and how his family - particularly his son - struggled to survive the sudden, and sometimes unexpected, twists and turns.

While Lenny's son writes of his father's ups and downs, Donna Koczynski offers a view of the mess her own life has become. The 45-year-old's world comes crashing down around her when she returns home from a convention for her job as a "culinary ambassador" for Privileged Kitchens (meaning she sells their products) to discover something very upsetting about her husband, Joey. Although Donna is a recovering alcoholic, the shock about her husband does not lead her to drink, even though everyone, including her two children (Ashley, who is in college, and Austin, who is in high school) expects that of her. Unable to settle back into her regular life, though, Donna decides to make a pilgrimage: "A great rock 'n' roll pilgrimage in honor of my best former self... I'd feel my way in the dark driving See "Messy" on page 7

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of Walsh Development, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 04/17/08. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 3209 Vestal Pkwy. East, Vestal, NY 13850. Purpose: any lawful activities.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY: The name of the limited liability company is: The Brickyard Endwell, LLC (the "Company"). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was August 22, 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, Binghamton, NY 13901. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY: The name of the limited liability company is: Lainger Group, LLC (the "Company"). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was August 28, 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, Esq., 80 Exchange Street, Binghamton, NY 13901. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

Notice of Formation of CASN, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/01/19. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 2 Catherine St., Binghamton, NY 13905. Purpose: any lawful activities.

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

- The name of the limited liability company ("LLC") is DAVIDGE HOLDINGS, LLC.
- The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is OCTOBER 10, 2019.
- 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: 3004 Pleasant Drive, Endwell, 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: The name of the limited liability company is: 15 Ketchum, LLC (the "Company"). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was October 17, 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 Donna Stack, 17184 Bay Street, Jupiter, FL 33477. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

Notice of Formation of Access Auto Mart LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/1/19. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 32 Chenango Bridge Rd., Binghamton, NY 13901. Purpose: any lawful activities.

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

- The name of the limited liability company ("LLC") is Harvey's Karate Studio, LLC.
- The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is October 29, 2019.
- 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: 1837 Haighs Pond Road, Rome, PA 18837.
- The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

Notice of Formation of Carol A. Clark Farm, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/17/19. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 98 Tide Point Ln., Kilmarnock, VA 22482. Purpose: any lawful activities.

Notice of Formation of JEDMF LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/31/2019. 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: James E. Farrell, 9 Crestmont Road, Binghamton, NY 13905. Purpose: any lawful activities.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY: The name of the limited liability company is: Next Level Hospitality Group, LLC (the "Company"). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was November 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: Ryan M. Mead, 80 Exchange Street, Ste. 700, Binghamton, NY 13901. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

Soulon Education LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) 10/26/2019. Cty: Broome. SSNY desig. as agent upon whom process against may be served & shall mail process to Gisela Xiangdong Jia, 2 W. 32nd St., Ste. 503, New York, NY 10001. General Purpose.

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

- The name of the limited liability company ("LLC") is HEATH C-TOWER, LLC.
- The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is November 7, 2019.
- 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

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

of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or her is: PO Box 658, Binghamton, NY 13902.

- 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 Bonniemills LLC.
- The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is November 8, 2019.
- 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 2039, Binghamton, NY 13902.
- The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

Sevak LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) 11/7/2019. Cty: Broome. SSNY desig. as agent upon whom process against may be served & shall mail process to 1000 Front St., Binghamton, NY 13905. General Purpose.

Notice of Formation of Buckler Security Products, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/31/19. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 53 Highland Rd., Binghamton, NY 13901. Purpose: any lawful activities.

Notice of Formation of Elsmere Island Partners, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/01/19. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 320 N. Jensen Rd., Vestal, NY 13850. Purpose: any lawful activities.

Notice of Formation of AJEM Group LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 5/22/2018. 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: Alan Anzaroot, 98 Main Street, Binghamton, NY 13905.

Purpose: any lawful activities.

Notice of Formation of Carol A. Clark Farm Operations, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/30/19. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 98 Tide Point Ln., Kilmarnock, VA 22482. Purpose: any lawful activities.

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

- The name of the limited liability company ("LLC") is MCREY FARM, LLC.
- The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is NOVEMBER 12, 2019.
- 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: 3599 STATE ROUTE 26 GLEN AUBREY, NEW YORK, 13777.
- 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 At Home Rentals - Binghamton, LLC.
- The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is November 15, 2019.
- 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: 570 Caldwell Hill Road, Lisle, NY 13797.
- The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

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## Weekly Parasha

Chaye Sarah, Genesis 23:1-25:18

## The meaning of life

RABBI GEOFFREY BROWN, TEMPLE ISRAEL, VESTAL

Chaye Sarah, the life of Sarah, this week's *parasha*, is anything but the life of Sarah. The Torah begins by informing us that Sarah has reached the ripe age of 127 years immediately followed by the verse, "And Sarah died in Kiryat Arbah, which is Hebron, in the land of Canaan." At first glance, the *parasha's* title may appear to be deceptive since one might expect that its naming might infer details about our first matriarch's life. (Understand, too, that the *parasha's* name has more to do with the first verse's most significant word or words.) A literal translation of the text reveals a nuanced depiction of Sarah's years: One hundred years, and 20 years and 7 years, beautifully explained in this *midrash* (Genesis Rabbah).

Each number contains important information about Sarah's life and character because each of the specified ages – 100,

20 and 7 – has a unique quality: The *midrash* tells us that the quality of age 7 is innocence, the quality of age 20 is strength and the quality of age 100 is wisdom. Taken together, the emphasis on the numbers composing Sarah's age means that Sarah was able, throughout her life, to simultaneously embody the unique qualities of each age. As Rashi puts it, "The years of Sarah's lifetime: All were equal for the good."

Based on Sarah's years and the attributes associated with her 100, 20 and 7 year meanings, we can now regard Sarah's death pronouncement and how her beloved Avraham dealt with her death. "...and Avraham came to eulogize Sarah and to cry for her." (Gen. 23:2)

These few words depict Avraham's response to his dearly beloved's departure from his world. Our Torah describes Avraham's reaction to the loss of his life companion setting

the tone and indeed action of how we ritualize our funeral practice today.

Avraham mourned mightily for his Sarah. Then he cried for her. Then he buried her.

The Hebrew word, *hesped*, can be translated as either funeral address-eulogy-manifestation of mourning or, according to the Tosefot, a medieval commentary of the Talmud, "beating on the heart." Avraham is the first person in the Torah to take the time to recall the goodness of the life of his Sarah following her death. The two of them together made a life that revolutionized the ancient world. The belief in One God, their chosen life guided by the Supreme One, and their passing this new ethic and belief onto Isaac is central to our post-biblical Judaism. See "Life" on page 7

## Congregational Notes

### 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, Nov. 23 ..... 9 am  
 .....Mincha after kiddush  
 Weekday Services:  
 Mornings:  
 Sun., Nov. 24 ..... 8:30 am  
 Mon.-Wed., Nov. 25-27 ..... 7 am  
 Thurs.-Fri., Nov. 28-29 ..... 8:30 am  
 Evenings:  
 Sun., Nov. 24 ..... 4:20 pm  
 Mon.-Wed., Nov. 25-27 ..... 7 pm  
 Thurs., Nov. 28 ..... 4:20 pm  
 Classes: Rabbi Zev Silber will hold his weekly Talmud class every Tuesday evening after services.

### Congregation Tikun v'Or

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

### Temple Beth El of Oneonta

Affiliation: United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism  
 Rabbi-Cantor: George Hirschfeld  
 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.  
 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  
 Phone: 607-756-7181  
 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 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 4:15 pm and 5:15 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the school year unless otherwise noted.

On Friday, November 22, at 8 pm, there will be a Shabbat evening service led by Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell.

On Saturday, November 23, at 9 am, there will be religious school; at 9:15 am, there will be Torah study; and at 10:35 am, there will be a Shabbat morning service with religious school consecration led by Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell.

On Sunday, November 24, from 10 am-4 pm, there will be the Temple Concord Sisterhood's Holiday Artisan Marketplace. (See article on page 3.)

On Tuesday, November 26, at 4:15 pm and 5:15 pm, there will be Hebrew school.

On Thursday, November 28, there will be no Hebrew school and no CHOW.

On Friday, November 29, at 8 pm, there will be a Shabbat evening service led by Rabbi Rachel Esserman.

On Saturday, November 30, there will be no religious school, Torah study or Shabbat service.

### 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.

### 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.

### Rohr Chabad Center

Affiliation: Chabad-Lubavitch  
 Rabbi Aaron and Rivkah Slonim, Directors  
 E-mail: aslonim@binghamton.edu, rslonim@chabadofbinghamton.com  
 Address: 420 Murray Hill Rd., Vestal, NY 13850  
 Phone: 797-0015, Fax: 797-0095  
 Website: www.Chabadofbinghamton.com  
 Rabbi Zalman and Rochel Chein, Education  
 E-mail: zchein@Jewishbu.com, rchein@Jewishbu.com  
 Rabbi Levi and Hadasa Slonim, Downtown and Development  
 Chabad Downtown Center: 60 Henry St., Binghamton  
 E-mail: lslonim@Jewishbu.com, hslonim@Jewishbu.com  
 Rabbi Yisroel and Goldie Ohana, Programming  
 E-mail: yohana@Jewishbu.com, gohana@Jewishbu.com  
 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.  
 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.

Friday, November 22, light candles before ..... 4:19 pm  
 Saturday, November 23, Shabbat ends ..... 5:19 pm  
 Friday, November 29, light candles before ..... 4:15 pm  
 Saturday, November 30, Shabbat ends ..... 5:15 pm

### Temple Israel

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

On Saturday, November 23, at 9:30 am, there will be Shabbat services led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown. The Torah portion will be Genesis 23:1-25:18. The haftarah will be I Kings 1:1-31. The kiddush sponsors will be Ben Kasper and Marcia Hofstein.

On Wednesday-Friday, November 27-29, the temple office will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday.

On Tuesday, December 3, at 7 pm, there will be an Executive Board meeting.

On Tuesday, December 10, from 7-9 pm, there will be a Sisterhood Hanukkah celebration with refreshments and a gift exchange. Cost of \$5 per person will be collected at the door. RSVP to the office. (See article on page 3.)

On Saturday, December 14, at 10 am, there will be a Learners Service.

On Monday, December 16, at 7:30 pm, there will be a Ritual Committee meeting.

### Temple Beth-El of Ithaca

Affiliation: United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism  
 Rabbi: Miriam T. Spitzer  
 Rabbi Emeritus: 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, November 23, Jeff Spitzer will lead participatory singing with new melodies during the morning Shabbat services. There will be a breakfast at 9:30 am before services; RSVP to Jane Griffith in the temple office at secretary@tbeithaca.org or 273-5775.

### Kol Haverim

Affiliation: Society for Humanistic Judaism  
 Address: P.O. Box 4972, Ithaca, NY 14852-4972  
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 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.

# JDC holds Active Jewish Teens conference in Kiev

*Editor's note: Due to a printer's error, this article did not appear in last week's printed issue of The Reporter.*

By JNS staff

(JNS) – More than 400 Jewish teens from around the world gathered for the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee's sixth annual Active Jewish Teens Conference in Kiev recently to celebrate their growing role in fostering local Jewish identity and community.

A bar and bat mitzvah ceremony for five teens (a conference first) was to serve as a model of commitment to Judaism, leadership and taking action in regional communities. "My hope is that when I stand up there in front of my peers for my bar mitzvah, I serve as an inspiration for what is possible when you embrace Jewish values and commit to community," said Ilia Buzunov, one of the *b'nai* mitzvah participants from Kiev who works with Jewish youth at the Halom JCC, one of JDC's flagship community centers in the former Soviet Union. "I was a teenager when I first found out I was Jewish. From that moment, my life was completely changed, and today, six years later, I am a proud Jew, doing what I love – working to make my community better every day."

The gathering from November 7-10, which is created and run by AJT teens, draws participants from across the former Soviet Union, including Ukraine, Russia, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. The theme – the Jewish experience in communities around the world – will be examined in 150 different workshops.

"In much of the rest of the world, a *b'nai* mitzvah marks the entrance of young people into adulthood and the obligations of Jewish community life. But for AJT teens, this sense of responsibility and identity are already on the fast track," said Michal Frank, director for JDC's former Soviet Union operation. "They are the emerging



*Song sessions, dancing and art workshops were part of the three-day American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee's sixth annual Active Jewish Teens Conference in Kiev from November 7-10, as they were last year (pictured). (Photo by JDC)*

leaders of the post-Soviet Jewish space, engaging their friends, parents, grandparents and wider communities in peer-to-peer Jewish learning, volunteerism and the need for shared responsibility. Their enthusiasm is key to building not just the future of Jewish life in this part of the world, but globally as they build bridges to other Jews the world over."

The conference was to include song sessions, dancing and art workshops, and Shabbat and *Havdalah* ceremonies, as well as classes on *tikkun olam* ("repairing the world"), Jewish mutual responsibility, volunteerism best practices and contemporary interpretations of classic Jewish texts.

Participants were to hear from AJT teachers and "inspiring" speakers, including a Jewish para-Olympic champion from Ukraine, in addition to directors of youth clubs and well-known local educators, to deepen their Jewish knowledge. The conference also featured a project fair where teens presented their grassroots initiatives.

AJT, which partners with Genesis Philanthropy Group, BBYO and private philanthropists, connects some 3,200 Jewish teens through local chapters in 60 cities across the former Soviet Union.

## Life . . . . . Continued from page 6

It goes without saying that during a funeral, we eulogize our deceased loved one. We extol their virtues. We tell stories that may cause laughter and, ultimately, we tell stories that surely cause us to cry. We miss their presence and we give them their due respect, even as they lay before us, unable to show their gratitude for our kind words. Then we bury them. In Isaac Klein's seminal book, "A Guide to Jewish Religious Practice," he quotes from the Talmud that "just as the dead shall be called to account, so shall the eulogizers be called to account," meaning that just as one may not overpraise the deceased in a eulogy, one is required to eulogize a deserving person properly. The eulogy may also serve as an opportunity to dwell

on the meaning of life so that the listening public may find cause to reflect.

The Talmud additionally teaches us "the righteous are called living even after death." This, too, is one way to internalize this week's *parasha's* title, "The Life of Sarah." This may be why even the title emphasizes Sarah's life and not her death. And, since through every generation the life of Sarah continues, another way to understand the title of Chaye Sarah is that although we will all one day die, we, as a people, maintain the ethic to choose life so that we, and our children, may live.

May we all be blessed with the profound gift of life and may we all share our kindness in proper eulogies for those that pass before us.

## Messy . . . . . Continued from page 4

without a map – you couldn't get much more punk rock than that." While parts of the pilgrimage don't work out the way she expected, Donna contacts people from her past, including her college roommate and her high school boyfriend.

Unfortunately, most of what she does turns into a complicated mess. Floundering and unsure where to turn, and whether she can or wants to salvage her marriage and her former life, Donna learns that her daughter is in trouble and heads to the other side of the Atlantic Ocean in a rescue effort that makes her own troubles seem less important. The shock of what is occurring brings forth her Jewish identity: "I was Jewish mostly by heritage. Certainly, I'd had no religious upbringing. Yet I'd

still had drilled into me like a prayer, like Torah, the number *Six million*." Yet, even as she better understands the state of the world, she can't shake the problems of her own life.

"Donna Has Left the Building" is an odd novel, which veers from one extreme – being a very personal exploration of Donna's experiences – to one that speaks of social action as Donna comes to realize (or remember) that there is a greater world that needs her help. Readers may find their reactions to her dilemmas ranging from irritation to sympathy – or a combination of both. Gilman has succeeded in creating a complex, interesting character, although one might wish Donna was less melodramatic and more sensible.

# Jewish Community Center

## JCC Friendship Club

*Editor's note: Due to a printer's error, this article did not appear in last week's printed issue of The Reporter.*

The JCC Friendship Club met on November 6 and enjoyed a game day. Sue Herzog, program chairwoman, brought in a book of slogans. She read part of a slogan, and we filled in the ending. We began with, "Let your fingers do." The answer is, "the walking." It was an ad for AT&T, a telephone company. Another one was "A mind is a terrible thing to" – answer: "waste." We went around the room and were surprised at how many we remembered. Bruce Orden not only knew most of the answers, but sang the songs that went with them. Ada Brummer, who is 98 years old, knew most of the answers also.

We then went on to a sing-along. We picked a paper with a word or two out of a basket and had to sing a song with the word in it. We had fun with the words railroad, beautiful and home. There were more words

and songs. The time went so fast that the meeting came to an end before we knew it.

The meeting was called to order by Sylvia Diamond. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Ann Brilliant said the blessing over the cookies.

There will be no meeting on Wednesday, November 27, the day before Thanksgiving. We will return to the JCC on Wednesday, December 4, to hear Hersh Rozen talk about "How Nature Inspires Knitting." Come join us at the JCC at 1:30 pm.

Sylvia Diamond, President

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**NEWS IN BRIEF**

From JNS.org

**EPA administrator visits Israel to discuss clean-up projects, more**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency administrator Andrew Wheeler was in Israel the week of Nov. 19 visiting with officials to further the agency's relationship with the Jewish state. On Nov. 18, he visited the Apollonia National Park with members of Israel's Ministry of Environmental Protection (or MoEP). The park overlooks the Nof Yam remediation site, home to multiple former military installations

that are now being remediated to clean up contamination and convert them into residential properties. EPA officials have been working with Israel's MoEP in providing the latest best practices and technologies to assist in reusing the Nof Yam site, according to the agency in a statement. Wheeler also met with U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman at the Jerusalem embassy for a briefing on the U.S. relationship with Israel, and with Israeli Minister of Environmental Protection Ze'ev Elkin. The two discussed furthering the EPA's Memorandum of Understanding with Israel's Ministry of Environmental Protection, as well as focused on current

collaborative projects and future bilateral activities. Friedman stressed the importance of highlighting the EPA's successes in improving the environment, in addition to Israel's efforts to tackle water-scarcity issues in the Middle East, and the efforts to export these technologies and practices globally.

**U.S. revokes waiver to allow research at Iran's Fordow nuclear site**

The United States has cancelled a sanctions waiver to allow research at Iran's Fordow nuclear facility, announced U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Nov. 18. "The United States will terminate the sanctions waiver related to the nuclear facility at Fordow effective Dec. 15, 2019," Pompeo told reporters at the State Department. "The right amount of uranium enrichment for the world's largest state sponsor of terror is zero. Iran originally constructed Fordow as a fortified underground bunker to conduct secret uranium enrichment work, and there is no legitimate reason for Iran to resume enrichment at this previously clandestine site. ...Iran should reverse its activity there immediately," he added. The move came as Iran announced and the International Atomic Energy Agency confirmed that the regime resumed uranium enrichment at Fordow, which is underground, in violation of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal. The U.S. withdrew from the accord in May 2018, reimposing sanctions lifted under it along with enacting new financial penalties against Iran. On Nov. 18, Pompeo accused Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei of exercising "nuclear brinkmanship to extort the international community. ...The United States rejects this approach completely, and call on all nations to do the same." Despite withdrawing from the 2015 agreement, the Trump administration has allowed civilian nuclear research at Iran's Arak and Bushehr facilities. It has repeatedly renewed the waivers, most recently in October. The remaining three waivers expire in February.

**Ukraine synagogue dating back to 18<sup>th</sup> century collapses due to fire**

The Great Synagogue in Illintsi, Ukraine, was burned irreparably on Nov. 14 by fire. The 18<sup>th</sup>-century structure, about 130 miles northeast of the country's capital of Kiev, collapsed due to the flames. It had been used since the end of the Holocaust as a furniture factory and carpentry workshop, according to the Jewish Heritage Europe website. JTA reported that before World War II, the majority of Illintsi's population was Jewish. In July 1941, the Germans entered the town and rounded the Jews into a ghetto. In April 1942, about 1,000 Jews from the town and nearby villages were killed in a mass execution, and 700 others were murdered at the end of May that year. At the end of 1942, the remaining Jews of Illintsi were deported to a labor camp, and the ghetto was destroyed, wrote JTA.

**Graduate union at U. of Toronto regrets kosher food is "pro-Israel" comment**

The University of Toronto graduate student union has apologized after an official said, in response to a Jewish student, that making kosher food accessible on campus would be "pro-Israel" and therefore problematic. "The External Commissioner did not intend to do harm in using this language, but recognizes that this is not an excuse for the harm that the wording of this response caused to the individual receiving it as well as to Jewish students at U of T," added the apology. The statement mentioned that no decision has been made whether to proceed with a motion to make kosher food available on campus. The graduate student union said it has reached out to Hillel and the student who received the response "to request a meeting to discuss how to remedy harm and how to mitigate future harm toward Jewish students on campus." U of T Hillel acknowledged the apology and appreciated that the motion will be considered, but said the statement "does not address the antisemitic nature of their original response. This is the core issue that must be discussed." The graduate student union voted in 2012 to support the anti-Israel BDS movement.

**"Hatikvah" played in UAE after Israeli wins Ju-jitsu World Championship**

Israel's national anthem "Hatikvah" was played in an Abu Dhabi sporting arena on Nov. 16 after Israeli athlete Alon Leviev, 17, was presented the gold medal at the Ju-jitsu World Championship in the juniors 55-kilogram-and-under weight category. The UAE changed its policy last year of banning athletes from Israel from using Israeli symbols, such as the Israel's national flag and anthem, at tournaments after public outrage and after the International Judo Federation stripped the UAE and Tunisia of its right to host two international tournaments for not guaranteeing that Israeli athletes would be treated the same as their competitors.

**Israel assisting Syrian Kurds via "a range of channels," says Israeli official**

Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister Tzipi Hotovely said on Nov. 6 that following the U.S. pullout from northern Syria in October, and the subsequent Turkish invasion on Oct. 9, Israel has been helping the Syrian Kurds in "a range of ways." "Israel has received many requests for assistance, mainly in the diplomatic and humanitarian realm," Hotovely told the Knesset on Nov. 6, according to Reuters. "We identify with the deep distress of the Kurds, and we are assisting them through a range of channels," she added. Hotovely provided no further details on the nature of the assistance.

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