

THE REPORTER

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*May your holiday shine bright
with happiness and peace!*



**HAPPY
CHANUKAH!**

Opinion

Macron's unsettling words: "Until our dead can sleep in peace"

By Ben Cohen

(JNS) – One of the criticisms leveled at the numerous Holocaust memorials dotted around Europe is their alleged tendency to, as an American Jewish leader memorably put it to me, “encourage Europeans to commemorate dead Jews, and ignore what’s happening to the living Jews.”

But even that goal appears beyond reach these days. French President Emmanuel Macron inadvertently said as much recently when he pledged, in the wake of the desecration of 107 graves in a Jewish cemetery in the eastern Alsace region, that France would fight antisemitism “until our dead can sleep in peace.”

There was, of course, little doubt as to Macron’s essential point: Antisemitism in his own country and in the rest of Europe is becoming so intolerable that even the dead are impacted. Still, his choice of words will have reminded many listeners that Europe’s history means its lands are full of dead Jews, most of them in unmarked graves. They may also have been unsettled by the sense of despair lurking within Macron’s comment: We can’t even protect dead Jews anymore, he seemed to be saying.

In fact, the desecration of Jewish cemeteries by far-right elements in France is hardly unknown. During the 1980s, nearly a dozen Jewish cemeteries were vandalized in different parts of the country. Famously, in May 1990, 200,000 people attended a protest demonstration after gravestones at the cemetery in Carpentras, a historic Jewish center in France, were daubed with swastikas by a group of violent neo-Nazis. Most gruesomely, the desecrators exhumed a body from one of the graves and left it on display with a Star of David rammed through the chest.

At the time of the Carpentras outrage, French political leaders and the Jewish community were united in pointing the finger of blame at the late Jean Marie Le Pen, who was then in his heyday as the leader of neo-fascist National

Front and enjoying a growing hold on the French public. “Mr. Le Pen, who has frequently insulted France’s 700,000 Jews and 3.4 million Arab immigrants, denied that his party was responsible for the desecration of the graves,” reported *The New York Times* on May 12, 1990. “I don’t feel guilty at all,” he said. “I condemn those who did this.”

The same report quoted the observation of the then chief rabbi of France, Joseph Sitruk, that a “civilization that does not respect the dead is headed toward destruction of the living.” And so it has come to pass in France since Sitruk spoke those words. Not just the desecration of Jewish cemeteries, but the torture and murder of ordinary, unassuming French Jews like Ilan Halimi, just 23, or Mireille Knoll, an 81-year-old Holocaust survivor; terrorist attacks against synagogues, schools and kosher supermarkets in which dozens have been killed or wounded; the steady drumbeat of antisemitic rhetoric, much of it camouflaged as “anti-Zionism,” from French Islamists and their sympathizers, along with a dizzying array of extreme left and far right factions.

Barely a year can pass, it seems, without some episode or incident in France that compels its ancient Jewish community to wonder whether they have a future there at all.

Indeed, while it would be impertinent to ask the polite and diplomatically savvy Jewish leaders of France whether they ever get fed up of hearing the same speech of reassurance from successive generations of politicians, one imagines that at least some of them must grit their teeth. It is not that Macron is insincere. It’s that the gravitas of his words – for example, “Jews are and make France; those who attack them, even in their graves, are not worthy of the idea we have of France” – bear little correspondence to the experience of French Jews, for whom antisemitic acts of one sort or another are a daily experience.

Even more grave is that among all the hand-wringing,

the forces that could make a difference – law-enforcement agencies, social workers, the judiciary – have signally failed to do so. Before this year is out, we will know for sure whether there will be a criminal trial for the murder, in April 2017, of Sarah Halimi – a 65-year-old Jewish woman who was beaten to death in her own home by a young intruder, Kobili Traore, who bellowed antisemitic abuse at his victim during the ordeal. At present, the indications from France are that Traore will escape the charge of first-degree murder aggravated by antisemitism because, on the night of Halimi’s murder, he smoked cannabis in a quantity that left him, according to prosecutors and psychiatrists, without any “discernment” (in effect, irresponsible by dint of temporary insanity.) Instead of answering for his crimes and going to prison, Traore, who appeared at a court hearing earlier in December where he apologized for the murder, may find himself in the more benevolent environment of a psychiatric hospital.

And French Jews will again ask the same questions of their civilization.

The way to break this pattern – in France and more broadly across Europe – is to toughen the legal sanctions for hate crimes against Jews and other minorities. As the president of a republican democracy, Macron cannot, of course, influence the final decision in the Sarah Halimi case. But if Halimi’s family and her memory are denied justice, it is within his power to implement the lessons of that outcome. He might even start, taking Traore’s own defense as a point of departure, with a legal reform that would enable the prosecution of racist and antisemitic offenders irrespective of whether or not they ingested cannabis before committing their crimes.

Ben Cohen is a New York City-based journalist and author who writes a weekly column on Jewish and international affairs for JNS.

In My Own Words

General stupidity

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

I recently read a novel in which a mother informed her children that they were not allowed to call anything or anyone stupid. I can certainly understand the need not to call someone stupid: people may be misinformed or have developmental disabilities, but that doesn’t mean they don’t have understanding. As a rabbi, I’ve noted that there are no stupid questions: the ones people worry are stupid can be some of the most interesting ones asked. As an executive editor, though, I have come to admit that there are some stupid questions, for example, asking on a Thursday afternoon if we can get an article into that week’s paper – something physically impossible because the paper has already been printed and is in the mail for arrival on Friday or Saturday, depending on the Postal Service. I admit this question usually occurs because people don’t think about how the paper actually gets to their mailboxes. I’m fine with explaining that the first time. I still won’t call someone stupid the second time, but usually have less patience when someone asks this the third or fourth time.

However, I have been reading more and more in the news lately that strikes me as behavior and actions that deserve to be called stupid. The particular definition I’m using is “having or showing a great lack of intelligence or common sense.” One case below shows a lack of understanding (in this example, an understanding of human biology and the limits of medicine); the second, how easy it is for stupidity to spread; the third, a lack of common sense (in this instance, not realizing that your behavior is going to get you in trouble); and the fourth displays flaws in political thinking.

Teaching legislators some basic science

In their fight against women’s medical rights, legisla-

tors in Ohio have introduced a bill that requires doctors to “reimplant an ectopic pregnancy” or face charges for “abortion murder.” The legislators’ lack of understanding is awe-inspiringly stupid.

1) The reason for ending an ectopic pregnancy is that it threatens a woman’s life. A fertilized egg in a normal pregnancy implants itself in a woman’s uterus. In an ectopic pregnancy, the fertilized egg settles in another part of a woman’s body, which means the pregnancy is not viable. According to www.mayoclinic.org, “An ectopic pregnancy can’t proceed normally. The fertilized egg can’t survive, and the growing tissue may cause life-threatening bleeding, if left untreated.”

2) Currently, there is *no* medical procedure available that allows doctors to reimplant an ectopic pregnancy. The legislators are asking a doctor to do something impossible. And, if that’s not clear enough, let me say it in another way: *This procedure does not exist.*

3) If the bill passes, any doctor performing surgery for an ectopic pregnancy – even if it is to save a woman’s life – would be charged with murder. That’s because it is impossible for them to take the embryo and reimplant it in the uterus because, as I said in #2, no such procedure exists. I’m not certain what would happen if a doctor refuses operate on an ectopic pregnancy and a woman dies because she didn’t have the surgery. Could the doctor be arrested for murder for refusing to save a woman’s life? Either way, the doctor would end up in jail.

As of now, in order to protect the fetus of an ectopic pregnancy, the legislators are risking a woman’s life, the result of which would be her death and, with it, the death of the unviable fetus. I think this qualifies as a Catch 22 –

“as a dilemma or difficult circumstance from which there is no escape because of mutually conflicting or dependent conditions.” Or we could just call the legislators’ action what it is: stupid.

Conspiracy theories

I was going to start this section with a completely and totally ridiculous conspiracy theory to highlight how conspiracy theories have gotten out of hand. However, considering the nature of current conspiracy theories, I was afraid that someone might actually take what I said seriously. The reason for my fear is that a national news service is giving credence to a conspiracy theory that strikes me as totally bizarre: QAnon.

If you don’t know what QAnon is, then you were like me before reading an article that Fox News interviewed someone about the conspiracy, but the effort was not to debunk it: instead, the coverage has been called neutral by some and positive by others. In fact, those who believe in the conspiracy posted their pleasure with Fox News on Twitter. It pains me to have to explain the conspiracy, but the basic idea is that “President Donald Trump is secretly working to take down a satanic child sex trafficking operation run in part by Hillary Clinton.” (That quote is from an article about the Fox News coverage that originally appeared on the Business Insider website.) I thought the Clinton-sex-traffic-operation conspiracy idea had long been accepted for what it is: *a complete and absolute fantasy.*

I know I’m supposed to be accepting of people whose ideas differ from mine, but there comes a time when facts trump belief. And Jews who might find this theory appealing or amusing should remember all the harm done – up to **See “Stupidity” on page 12**



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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.

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Reporter seeks e-mail addresses for e-mail blasts

By Reporter staff

The Reporter is about to launch its new website and will begin e-mail blasts with headlines, blurbs and website links for articles from the upcoming issue of the paper. Anyone interested in receiving these e-mail blasts should e-mail thebingreporter@gmail.com with the subject line "e-mail blast."

"Looking to check out the book review column or see what's appearing on our oped page?" said Rabbi Rachel Esserman, Reporter executive editor. "Now you can find out ahead of time. The e-mail blast will include links to selected local articles so you can be ahead of the curve."

Jenn DePersis, Reporter production coordinator and webmaster, noted, "The e-mail blasts will be a sneak peek of what to expect every week. Our newly designed site will feature an easy-to-navigate design, as well as frequent con-

tent updates. We'll have some online-only content coming after the new year. Besides our paper copy, we want www.thereporter.com to be your source for Jewish news and happenings. Our homepage will have up-to-the-minute 'World Jewish News' via a Jewish Telegraphic Agency news ticker. Our readers will find it easier to visit us online and share the articles they like with friends and family. We know this will not only benefit our organizations, but will give our community a 'worldly reach.'"

Esserman added, "We're looking forward to launching the new website and are very excited about the changes that are coming."

The e-mail blast will arrive a day or two before the paper arrives in people's mailboxes. It will also be easier to follow local events when people are away from home, or for readers to find a particular article they want to read or share.

TI Sisterhood Hanukkah party

Temple Israel Sisterhood hosted a Hanukkah party and white elephant gift exchange on December 10. Steve Gilbert played the ukulele and piano as the attendees munched on the snacks and desserts.



Above: Temple Israel Sisterhood members and guests socialized during the event.



Steve Gilbert played his ukulele at the Temple Israel Sisterhood Hanukkah party.



At right: Attendees listened to the musical selections.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Hanukkah

Area synagogues' Chanukah celebrations are announced; celebrating Hanukkah with winter coat and toy drives in Israel; recipes; and gift ideas.

Pages 9-11 and 14

Remembering "forgotten" refugees
A new initiative seeks to remember the Jewish refugees from Arab countries.

Page 7

Rescuers Without Borders
Israel's all volunteer Rescuers Without Borders has been saving lives for 20 years.

Page 8

Special Sections

Legal Notices	4
Book Review	4
Personal Greetings	10-11
Classifieds	16

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, January 3	Monday, December 23
Friday, January 10	Monday, December 30

Happy Chanukah from **Howard Hanna** Real Estate Services

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Cell: 607.760.3366
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Happy Chanukah from **Town of Vestal Councilwoman Patty Fitzgerald**

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Contact Patty at 770-6207 or pas003c.s06366.us@samsclub.com

NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

Israel to export natural gas to Egypt starting in January

Israel's National Infrastructure, Energy and Water Resources Minister Yuval Steinitz has signed the paperwork for Israel to begin exporting natural gas to Egypt from its Tamar and Leviathan fields in January, Israel business daily Globes reported on Dec. 16. "For the first time in its history, Israel is becoming an energy exporter. This is the most important economic cooperation between Israel and Egypt since the 1979 peace agreement between the countries," he said. "The natural-gas revolution is making us an energy power, and will provide not only enormous revenues for the state, but also a dramatic decrease in air pollution." Israel has approved the export of a maximum of 60 billion cubic meters (or BCM) of gas from Leviathan and 25 BCM from Tamar over 15 years, according to the report.

About the cover

This year's holiday cover was designed by Jenn DePersis, production coordinator of The Reporter.

Wishing the Community a Happy Chanukah!

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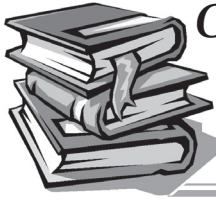
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Off the Shelf

Family joys and pains

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

The source of our greatest joys and our deepest sorrows can be one and the same: our families. Our love makes us far more vulnerable to slights, rejection and criticism when it comes from a family member. Acknowledgment and acceptance of our true selves – the good and the bad – is not always easy to give or receive. Three recent memoirs explore family connections and the love that flows between human hearts.

“The Color of Love”

Marra B. Gad is an incredible person: that was my reaction to reading her moving memoir “The Color of Love: A Story of a Mixed Race Girl” (Bolden Books). Gad is a mixed race, adopted daughter of white Jewish parents. Unlike many of these adoptions, Gad’s mother was Jewish. In fact, once Gad was born, the rabbi who saw her was so upset to learn that she was mixed race that he offered to find her parents another baby to adopt. Fortunately for

Gad, her parents fell in love with her at first sight. That didn’t mean that life was easy for them. Far too many extended family members rejected Gad for her color and far too many Jews refused to accept her as fully Jewish.

After adopting Gad, her parents had two biological children, but not everyone treated the three equally. These people were then no longer welcome in Gad’s parents’ home because they expected all their children to be loved and respected. One beloved relative, Great-Aunt Nettie, managed to hide her feelings until Gad’s sister’s wedding. Gad’s mother was very close to this aunt, who in some ways had been like a mother to her. But when Nettie makes a racist comment, Gad’s mother dismisses her from their lives, that is until 15 years later when they’re informed that Nettie is suffering from dementia and needs help.

At this point, Gad’s mother suffered from health problems of her own and Gad’s other siblings were in

no position to travel to help Nettie. Since Gad traveled to California from Chicago for work, she agrees to help, even though she knows that Nettie will not be happy to see her. What Gad does then is remarkable, especially in light of Nettie’s behavior toward her. The change in their relationship as Nettie continues to decline mentally makes for heartwarming reading.

The prose of “The Color of Love” is easy to read, but it’s heart-wrenching to see how people treated Gad. She’s rejected by Jews for being black and by blacks for being Jewish. Although she would love to have married, too many Jewish men see her as exotic – someone fun to date, but not someone they could bring home to their mother. Both her parents come across as wonderful, loving people, as does Gad herself. She chooses to help Nettie when no one could blame her for refusing to even see her. Gad picks kindness **See “Family” on page 6**

LEGAL NOTICE

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

- The name of the limited liability company (“LLC”) is 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 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 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.

Notice of Formation of Cacciatore’s Brand, LLC

Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 07/15/2015 and Certificate of Correction of

To place a legal notice, contact Bonnie Rozen at 724-2360, ext. 244 or bonnie@thereportergroup.org

Arts. of Org. filed on 08/05/2015. Office location: Broome Co. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, c/o Leasure, Gow, Munk & Rizzuto, 101 Jefferson Avenue, Endicott, NY 13760. 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 SHL Transportation, LLC.
- The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is November 21, 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 330, Whitney Point, NY 13862.
- 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 147 Industrial Drive LLC.
- The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is November 22, 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: 498 Conklin Avenue, Binghamton, NY 13903.
- The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

Notice of Formation of Oasis Stone Works LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/12/19. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o John Sacco, 100 Oakdale Rd., Johnson City, NY 13790. 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 Industry Building Blocks LLC.
- The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is December 3, 2019. The effective date of the Articles of Organization is January 1, 2020.
- The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the LLC is to be located is Broome County.
- 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: 28 Vestal Avenue, Binghamton, NY 13903.
- The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

Harvey A Sherman LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) 12/4/2019. Cty: Broome. SSNY desig. as agent upon whom process against may be served & shall mail process to Harvey Sherman, 59-50 261st St., Glen Oaks, NY 11004. General Purpose.

Public Notice of Canopy Growth USA, LLC’s Application for Authority to do Business in New York State Pursuant to Section 802 of the Limited Liability Company Law

Canopy Growth USA, LLC, a limited liability company formed in Delaware on October 11, 2018, has filed an application for authority to do business in New York State. Its application was filed with the New York Secretary of State on November 4, 2019. Canopy’s office in Delaware is located at 1209 Orange Street, Wilmington, DE 19801, and its authorized officer is Phil Shaer. Its principal office is at 35715 US Hwy 40, Ste D102, Evergreen, CO 80439. The New York office of Canopy Growth USA, LLC, will be located in Broome County, at 47-51 Pine Camp Drive, Kirkwood, NY 13904.

The Secretary of State has been designated as an agent upon whom process against Canopy may be served. Upon service, the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of that process to Canopy at 595 Pacific Ave., 4th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94133.

Canopy Growth USA, LLC, is a company formed for hemp cultivation and the manufacturing and distribution of hemp products.

Notice of Formation of V1IA 1 LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/10/2019. 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: Vulf Kovnat, 80 N. Hudson Street, Johnson City, New York 13790. Purpose: any lawful activities.

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Fall semester at Hillel Academy



Students and teachers participated in a mini Rosh Hashanah festive meal in anticipation of the holiday.



Rabbi Moshe Shmaryahu and students blew their shofarot as part of their model Rosh Hashanah celebration.



Above, l-r: Meyer Knapp, Mika Friedman, Aaron Sambursky and Shmulik Slonim lit candles and recited Kiddush for their model Rosh Hashanah meal.



At right and below: During Chol HaMoed Sukkot, Hillel Academy students visited the sukkahs of some of the local families, including Chabad's sukkah.




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Natan Sharansky is awarded 2020 Genesis Prize

By JNS staff

(JNS) – Natan Sharansky, the former Russian Prisoner of Zion who would later become head of Israel’s Jewish Agency, was named on December 10 as the winner of the 2020 Genesis Prize in recognition of his “extraordinary lifelong struggle for human rights, political freedom and his service to the Jewish people and the state of Israel.”

The Genesis Prize Foundation will confer the \$1 million prize to Sharansky at an award ceremony to be held on June 18 in Jerusalem. The prize, which was once dubbed the “Jewish Nobel” by Time magazine, was established in 2012 to honor “extraordinary individuals for their outstanding professional achievement, contribution to humanity and commitment to Jewish values.”

Sharansky said he would donate the award money to a worthy cause, in keeping with the tradition established by previous award winners, including philanthropist Robert Kraft, violinist Itzhak Perlman and New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg. In 2018, the actress Natalie Portman was awarded the honor, though she refused to attend the award ceremony so as not to be perceived as showing public support for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Isaac Herzog, current head of the Jewish Agency for Israel and the head of the prize selection committee, called Sharansky “a true Jewish hero and an outstanding human being,” adding that the Genesis Prize “rightfully compliments the Israel Prize, the state’s highest honor.”

Following the announcement, Sharansky expressed his gratitude to the Jewish state. “Having been raised as an assimilated Jew in the Soviet Union, I discovered my



L-r: Incoming Jewish Agency Chairman Isaac Herzog with outgoing Chairman Natan Sharansky at the Board of Governors conference of the Jewish Agency at the Orient Hotel in Jerusalem on June 24, 2018. (Photo by Hadas Parush/Flash90)

Jewish identity and belonging to the Jewish people thanks to Israel,” he said. “This connection to Israel gave me and other refuseniks the strength to fight for the rights of Jews, as well as other people whose essential freedoms had been denied.”

The Jewish people’s unity and connection to Israel are more important than ever, he added. “Today, when antisemitism is on the rise – both from the political left and from the right – the unity of the Jewish people and our connection to Israel is very important,” said Sha-

ransky. “We need to unite and combat the scourge of antisemitism and efforts to delegitimize Israel together, as one people.”

Sharansky’s nine-year imprisonment in Soviet labor camps led to international protests, particularly by Jewish communities in the United States and Israel. He was finally released in 1986 after international pressure – including U.S. diplomatic efforts and efforts led by his former wife, Avital Sharansky – and immediately emigrated to Israel.

Mailbox Shorts

Biblical illustrations

The Dr. Bernard Heller Museum at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York City will hold the exhibit “Avner Moriah: Five Books of Moses” through December 30. The exhibit features the work of Israeli artist Avner Moriah, who used watercolor, gouache drawings and Giclée prints to illustrate each chapter of the Hebrew Bible.

For more information, visit huc.edu/museums/ny or contact the museum at museumnyc@huc.edu or 212-824-2218.

Family.....

Continued from page 4

over selfishness and love over anger. This beautiful memoir will stay with readers long after the last page is turned.

“What We Will Become”

Sometimes when deciding how to deal with the future, it’s necessary to review your past – to understand your relationship with your parents before you can understand your relationship with your children. This is the case with Mimi Lemay whose memoir, “What We Will Become: A Mother, a Son, and a Journey of Transformation” (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt), offers two starting points: the first, what occurs when one of her young daughters declares she is a boy and, the second, when looking at her own troubled relationship with her mother.

Lemay was born to an American mother and a secular Israeli father. Their marriage breaks up when Lemay is young and her mother moves them back to the United States in order to live as ultra-Orthodox Jews. Lemay’s mother believes that her two children have a special purpose in this world that can only be accomplished through

a spiritual Jewish life. Yet, as she gets older, Lemay finds herself attracted to something different. That creates problems with her mother, especially when Lemay enters the secular world.

The contemporary narrative – that of Lemay, her non-Jewish husband and her child who wishes to change genders – is intertwined with the tale of Lemay’s growing up. What becomes clear is that Em (not the child’s original name, but one chosen for this book) truly believes she is a boy. This leads to rebellion and unhappiness when the child is dressed as a girl or asked to do girl things. When the child starts school, this also creates problems for her older sister, who feels that Em is not being treated well because she stands out and refuses to accept gender norms.

It doesn’t spoil the memoir to reveal Lemay comes to understand that, just as she had to find her own way in the world, she must allow her child to do the same. Offering Jacob (as he decides to be known) the opportunity for a fresh start at a school where no one knows him, she sees her sullen, introverted child blossom into a happy, outgoing person. Learning the statistic of suicide for transgender children whose parents do not accept them, Lemay publishes a letter to her son (with his permission) online; the letter went viral and led her to write this memoir.

Not everyone will agree with the viewpoints offered in “What We Will Become,” but Lemay now feels her life does have a purpose, not just the one her mother expected. Leaving her Orthodox community allowed her to accept her child as a boy – to accept his own definition of himself. You don’t have to support that idea, though, in order to appreciate the love she feels for her children and the new understanding she has of her mother.

“The Survivors”

Adam P. Frankel planned to write a history of his mother’s family and their survival during and after the Holocaust. However, his interest expanded when he not only learned about the idea of inherited trauma, but the effect he feels that trauma has had on his own life. In his ambitious, but flawed, “The Survivors: A Story of War, Inheritance, and Healing” (Harper), Frankel explores three generations of his family in order to understand his relationship to his mother.

The opening section of the memoir is the most interesting. It relays how his grandparents survived the war and came to the United States. Although there are many similarities to other such stories, Frankel manages to make them feel fresh and absorbing. What he does note is that, over the years, this side of the family kept secrets, which affected the next generation in unexpected ways. Frankel then writes of his mother’s behavior and his belief that she inherited the trauma her parents experienced – a section that also includes information on the research currently being done on inherited trauma. Even for those who don’t accept this idea, Frankel’s mother definitely suffers from some type of mental disorder, although the family often refused to acknowledge it.

Her illness affects her marriage, but it’s only one of the causes of her divorce. Frankel writes lovingly of his father’s side of the family, particularly his grandfather whose example gives rise to Frankel’s desire for public service. (Frankel was a speech writer for Barack Obama’s first presidential campaign and worked for the president during his first term.) Frankel’s life changes when he begins to doubt whether he is his father’s biological son. After pushing his mother for the truth, he learns he is the result of an affair with a friend of his mother’s, someone he’s known his entire life. Frankel finds it difficult to cope with the knowledge and seeks to distance himself from his mother. The change in their relationship affects other family members, since Frankel refuses to speak of the true reason behind their estrangement.

The difficulty I had with “The Survivors” is that the memoir tries to be too many things. When it focuses on individual parts of Frankel’s life, the results are interesting, but those parts never felt as if they jelled into a whole. Still, its ending is very moving as Frankel comes to terms with the most difficult question raised by his new knowledge of his birth: whether or not his father’s family would have rejected him if they knew he was not connected to them by blood.

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New initiative seeks to remember the “forgotten” Mideast Jewish refugees

By Israel Kasnett

(JNS) – The nine young Iraqi Jewish men hanging in the center of Liberation Square in Baghdad in January 1969 after being accused by the Ba’athist regime of espionage were the subject of great interest that day, as hundreds of thousands of Iraqis came to view their corpses – not only causing a terrific traffic jam in Baghdad, but also sowing deep fear throughout the millennia-old Jewish community there. Seven months later, three more Jews were executed. This episode was part of the history of the estimated 900,000 Jews born in Iran and the Arab world who were forced to flee their ancient homes during the mid-20th century.

Few Jews remain in Arab countries and Iran; nevertheless, a new effort is underway to set a global day of commemoration to remember the Jewish communities throughout the Middle East, in addition to the graves that cannot be visited by family and for whom no one recites *Kaddish*, the Jewish prayer for mourning the dead.

“There is a common story among the Jews throughout the Middle East that has been forgotten, not mentioned and silent for the last half-century, and we feel – as people who came from there – that this is a story that is a vital part of Israel, the whole Middle East and of Jewish history,” David Dangoor, a businessman, philanthropist and vice president of the World Organization of Jews from Iraq, told JNS.

In 2014, Israeli Knesset member Shimon Ohayon first introduced a law to make November 30 the official day to recall the ordeals of Jews from Arab countries throughout the Middle East and North Africa. Today, based on this effort, a new initiative is being spearheaded by Dangoor with the goal to recruit synagogues around the world to say a special prayer on the Shabbat closest to that date.

He noted that there is now “an opportunity to raise awareness” on this topic “and to pay our respects to all those of our ancestors

who are buried there whose graves are in disrepair and which we cannot visit... It is intended to be recited around the world and to create a sense of community.”

On November 29, 1947, the U.N. General Assembly adopted Resolution 181 recommending a partition of British Mandate Palestine, and called for a Jewish state and an Arab state, which the Jews accepted and the Arabs rejected. Immediately after the vote, the Arab countries turned on their Jewish populations, confiscating their businesses and stripping them of their rights, much like the Nuremberg laws of 1935. Many Jews were persecuted and murdered, and thousands were forced to flee their homes. For this reason, the next day, November 30, was chosen as a day to remember. “There is that linkage,” said Dangoor. “It is a date around which a lot of commemoration can coalesce.”

The weekend of November 30, more than 50 synagogues in the United States and Canada, as well as in the United Kingdom, France and Israel, all recited a prayer composed by Rabbi Joseph Dweck, senior rabbi of the Spanish-Portuguese community in London, in commemoration of the people who were persecuted, exiled or killed for being Jewish. Last year, only 12 synagogues participated in the effort; the initiative is clearly gaining traction.

Part of the text reads: “We have seen with pained hearts the murder of our brothers and sisters and the burning of our synagogues and our Torah scrolls by the hands of our Arab neighbours amongst whom we have dwelt for generations... Lord full of mercy... give rest on the wings of the Divine Presence... to the souls of our brothers and sisters who died and who were murdered by the hands of cruel enemies in the Arab Lands. Our dwelling places became fiery furnaces and our friends turned to foes.”

Acknowledging that the commemoration’s true intent is still unclear, noted See “Refugees” on page 9



Jewish refugees at Ma'abarot transit camp, 1950. (Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons)

Happy Chanukah

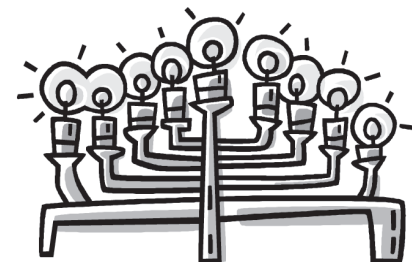
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Happy Chanukah

“We’re here to save lives,” stress those associated with Israel’s Rescuers Without Borders

By Josh Hasten

(JNS) – It was the year 2000, at the beginning of the Second Intifada, and Arab terror attacks were being carried out against Israelis on a nearly daily basis throughout the country, and particularly on the roads in Judea and Samaria. After one particular deadly attack, former Sephardic Chief Rabbi of Israel Rabbi Mordechai Eliyahu approached one of his aides, Arie Levy, who had been a volunteer medic

and ambulance driver with Magen David Adom for about six years, asking why no emergency response organization existed in Judea and Samaria in order to react in a timely manner to save lives.

Levy, now 53, who arrived in Israel as an immigrant from France with his family as a child, agreed with his protégé that something had to be done. Working side by side with MDA, Levy founded “Hatzalah Judea and Samaria,” an emergency first-response organization dedicated to saving lives in Judea, Samaria, the Old City of Jerusalem and other parts of the country that were especially under attack.

Now known by the name “Rescuers Without Borders,” the new organization, made up entirely of volunteer medics, began taking emergency calls and filling in gaps of MDA coverage.

The organization’s director of development, Natalie Sopinsky, tells JNS, “We are the Red Cross of the West Bank. We are volunteer medics and first responders who arrive at the scene of car



Search-and-rescue training for Rescuers Without Borders. (Photo courtesy of JNS)



Natalie Sopinsky (left) reviewed equipment distribution. (Photo courtesy of JNS)

accidents, terror attacks and more. When you call 101 [Israel’s version of 911], we come.”

Sopinsky, an immigrant from Delaware who lives with her husband and five children in the southern Hebron hills community of Sussya, says that during the years of the intifada, “those who were hurt in terror attacks couldn’t be saved because there were no medics. So we decided we would train people here, in our areas.”

She said the organization that today boasts 950 volunteer first-responders works hand-in-hand with MDA. “We overlap with MDA. We train with them. MDA gives a course for volunteer medics, which is expensive, and we subsidize the funding for our volunteers.”

She adds that, while Rescuers does not maintain a fleet of its own ambulances, when her donors give money, she can work with MDA and direct them, for example, as to which community in Judea and Samaria is in need of an ambulance to be stationed there.

The organization also distributes emergency equipment like burn kits, defibrillators and other medical necessities to the communities themselves for use in situations where every second counts. It also has volunteers trained in search and rescue, who collaborate with the Israel Defense Forces and other relevant authorities in times of natural disasters.

After only five years up and running, the organization decided that not only would its mission be to save lives in Israel, but around the world. December 2004 saw one of the deadliest natural disasters in the modern world when an earthquake and resulting

tsunami struck in the Indian Ocean killing more than 200,000 and wounding nearly 500,000 people in countries such as Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India and Thailand. Levy explains that when the disaster happened, within hours, a team of medics representing his organization hopped on a plane to Sri Lanka to help treat the wounded.

It was after they returned that Levy decided that operations needed to expand globally. Known internationally as *Sauveurs sans Frontières* (SSF)/Rescuers Without Borders, Levy has assisted in setting up 14 local branches and training licensed first responders in 14 different countries around the world, including Mali, Ethiopia, Haiti, Nepal and France, among others.

Levy says that in 2017, when Hurricane Irma – the strongest Atlantic Ocean hurricane ever recorded – made landfall on the Caribbean island of Saint Martin, destroying as much as 90 percent of the buildings there, his medics stationed in Guadeloupe were the first ones to arrive on the scene to treat the wounded, just four hours after medical personnel were allowed in.

Politics, however, plays a role in the work of Rescuers, locally and internationally. According to Sopinsky, as CNN was filming the group’s heroic efforts in Sri Lanka, they decided to turn off the cameras once they found out the group of medics consisted of Israeli “settlers.” That incident did play a role in the organization’s name change.

Still, Levy insists that politics doesn’t come into play for him, whether it’s saving lives around the world or on the ground in See “Rescuers” on page 15

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Chanukah Greetings

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Give it up for the (Israeli) kids: Hanukkah and winter drives

By Deborah Fineblum

(JNS)—The staff and volunteers at Yad Ezra V'Shulamit's children's center in Jerusalem began noticing that one little girl only came to the after-school program every other day. And when they asked her why, she told them. "It's because my sister and I only have one coat between us, so I get to wear it and come every other day, and she gets to wear it and come the other days." The charity's leadership then began noticing other children at the centers who were also under-protected from the elements, including a little boy in sandals and a girl in a lightweight jacket with a broken zipper. Soon, they launched their first annual Hanukkah coat drive.

That was eight years ago, and the project has taken on a life of its own—to the point that last year, some 4,600 coats were distributed to youngsters around Israel, specifically in Jerusalem, Tzfat and Bat Yam. "All of these towns get pretty cold in the winter," says Director Tefilla Buxbaum. "Coats are usually pretty expensive, and most of these families just don't have the money."

The program has also taken on other wintertime needs, including boots, a sweater and blanket of their own which, including the coat, are all covered by a \$100 donation. Add



Rebbitzin Liora Tedgi, founder of Ohr Meir and Bracha: The Terror Victims Support Center, in front of an array of toys to be given to Israeli children this Hanukkah. (Photo courtesy of JNS)

another \$70 and the child gets a room heater, too.

Yad Ezra has an impact on other aspects of struggling Israelis' lives as well. For more than three decades, it's

been helping fight poverty with a range of programs from 3,000 food baskets each week and 35,000 for the holidays, two children's centers caring for and feeding more than 500 children every day (a third is planned for Tzfat in the next year) and 25 youth clubs helping more than 5,000 teens at risk get back on track. Plus a range of tutoring services, breakfasts and school supplies for kids, and emergency relief in towns under attack – not to mention career counseling for the adults and help with paying for life-cycle events.

Other Israeli organizations that sponsor cold weather and Hanukkah programs for kids living under the poverty line include Yad Eliezer Israel, whose Winter Warmth Campaign distributes 6,000 winter coats (\$18 each), as well 3,000 for adults (\$27), 600 heaters (\$53) and 12,000 quilts (\$12.50). "The needs here are huge, so the solution has to be huge," says spokesman Yossi Kaufman. "Without coats, children end up arriving at school freezing cold and embarrassed."

Operating since 1980, Yad Eliezer also makes it its business to get food vouchers for local markets into the hands of families who need them and sponsors an early-childhood intervention program and a Big Brother Big Sister one, as well as job training and emergency assistance for winter heating costs. In addition, some 4,000 families are helped with monthly food boxes and more than 10,000 at holiday time; and help goes monthly to thousands of widows and orphans and, for the holidays, to soldiers who also lack basic necessities.

"Our two sons have always gotten coats as hand-me-downs," said one mom. "But not only were the coats they See "Kids" on page 15

Refugees. Continued from page 7

Dangoor, "we need to feel our way. Is it the expulsion? Is it the murders of so many Jews? Or is it the loss of heritage?"

In part, he said, "It is a political statement to say, 'We were here and we were expelled and we want the world at least not to forget that.' Some of it is a genuine desire to commemorate one's ancestors and the martyrs who were killed along the way."

In addition to the aspect of remembering those Jews whose stories have been forgotten, this effort simultaneously exposes the history of the Jews who lived in these lands long before the advent of Islam. When Nebuchadnezzar captured Jerusalem and destroyed the First Temple in 586 B.C.E., he exiled many Jews to Babylon, what is today known as Iraq. Thus, Jews called Baghdad their home for more than 2,500 years.

A good portion of Israelis link their backgrounds and traditions to the Middle East, North Africa and Arab countries. "This is also an opportunity for us to make the point that we are the indigenous people, and the story of sitting and weeping by the rivers of Babylon is not of some long extinct tribe. These are our own ancestors," affirmed Dangoor.

There was a time when the Iraqi Jewish community was the epicenter of Jewish life, and Jews were valued and respected and considered by their Muslim brethren as Arabs. In fact, Dangoor's own mother was crowned as the first-ever "Miss Iraq."

Dangoor commissioned the internationally acclaimed film "Remember Baghdad," which tells the story of Jews who fled Iraq. The Iraqi embassy sent a delegation to the screening and expressed their desire to re-establish relations with the Jews of Iraq and their descendants.

Israel is, of course, a major sticking point in any potential rapprochement between Iraq and its Jews. According to Dangoor, "a lot of the clerics – the Shi'ites and the ones who have allegiance to Iran – are much more zealous in not wanting to have any connection with Israel, whereas others now see Israel as a very positive potential force in

the Middle East, but they can't come out openly and say that. They do see the Jews as a bridge."

Surprisingly perhaps, "many Iraqis openly play recordings of Israeli singer Dudu Tassa," said Dangoor. "So, culturally, Israel is not viewed as 'bad,' but for some – mainly those linked to fundamentalists and to Iran – they stop at anything that smacks of recognition of Israel. So it is a nuanced situation."

According to Dangoor, Iraq finds the former Jewish community to be "a good vehicle to make this rapprochement without appearing to recognize Israel. They realize how important the Jews were in Iraq," he added. "Really, Iraq needs to change its stance and show that it absolutely, positively values and cherishes the Jewish part of its history."

Affirming the prominent Jewish presence there, a 1917 British intelligence document records that the Jews of Baghdad once comprised 40 percent of the population. Interestingly, the report insists on the validity of the numbers "in anticipation of racial claims which are sure to be made sooner or later."

Two years ago, a delegation of heads of Iraqi cultural organizations asked to meet with heads of the Jewish community of Iraq in London. They were impressed by how much success Iraqi Jews have had in the United Kingdom and asked why they can't replicate their success in Iraq.

"We said we would love to," recalled Dangoor. However, he also told them that the Iraqi government "must make it clear that the current equivocal position on the Jews sometimes seen as part and parcel of Iraqi heritage – and at other times no more than representatives of an enemy state – must change. That needs to be brought up to date and normalized."

Asked why the initiative is only now getting off the ground, Dangoor said, "It is a question mark as to why it hasn't occurred, but it is starting to occur, and it is going to occur in a gradual and cumulative way. It's a process of accretion. Every little bit will build a structure that is no doubt overdue."



A delivery truck filled with coats for children and adults arrived at Yad Eliezer as part of its Winter Warmth Campaign in December. (Photo courtesy of JNS)

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Donuts and latkes and fritters, oh my!

From *Kosher.com*

(BAYONNE, NJ) – The Jewish people have been celebrating Chanukah, or the Festival of Lights, for centuries. All around the world, families light the menorah, play dreidel and eat diet-busting fried foods to commemorate a great miracle that happened in 130 B.C.E.

Why fried foods? The story in brief: The brave Maccabees defeated their oppressors, who wanted them to worship only Greek gods. It was time to purify and rededicate the Temple. There they found only one small jar of oil, enough to keep the eternal light aflame for just one day, but, miraculously, that light continued to burn for eight days!

Oil symbolizes the victory of light over darkness. Thus, fried foods like donuts and latkes are traditional fare throughout the eight days of Chanukah. But that doesn't mean these goodies have to be ho-hum, say the food and lifestyle experts at *Kosher.com*.

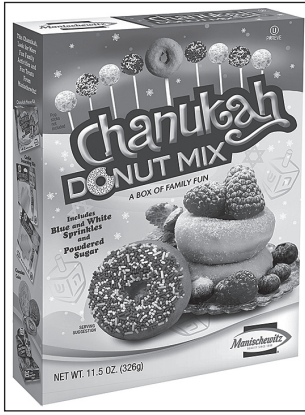
With a few basics on hand – like Manischewitz mixes, Bartenura Olive Oil and Tuscanini jams and sauces – and some recipes from *Kosher.com*, you can rock every Chanukah meal with a different treat. Read on for de-light-ful main dishes such as Pulled Brisket Taco Latkes from chef Esty Wolbe, and modern twists on traditional desserts such as Savory or Sweet Donuts (top them with crushed cookies, or goat cheese and balsamic glaze) from chef Naomi Nachman.

Serve them with a Chanukah-inspired Golden Wine Spritzer. The experts at Manischewitz suggest utilizing cooking hacks such as potato pancake mix and donut mix to get gourmet results while reducing your prep time in the kitchen.

Donuts with Sweet and Savory Toppings

By Naomi Nachman, *Kosher.com*

1 box Manischewitz Chanukah donut mix
1 cup milk (or water)
Deep fryer or large pot
Vegetable oil (enough for frying)
Large bowl and small bowl
Pour cooking oil into a deep fryer or large pot. Heat oil over media heat. Do *not* bring to a boil.
In large bowl, add donut mix. Stir in milk or water. Stir until uniform.



A Chanukah donut mix is used for the Donuts with Sweet and Savory Toppings. (Photo provided by *Kosher.com*)

Coat hands with oil or flour. Scooping 1 Tbsp. at a time, form batter into desired donut shapes.

Carefully place formed donuts, one at a time, into heated oil. Fry about 2 minutes on each side or until golden brown.

Drain and cool completely on cooling rack.

Sweet toppings: icing and sprinkles, crushed cookies, jam

Savory toppings: marinara sauce and cheese, goat cheese and balsamic glaze, pesto and sun-dried tomato

Pulled Brisket Taco Latkes

By Esty Wolbe

Part One: Latkes

1 box Manischewitz latke/pancake mix
2 eggs
2¼ cup cold water,
One package Manischewitz pancake/latke mix
1/8-inch hot vegetable oil

In a medium bowl beat two eggs until blended; Add 2 ¼ cup cold water and mix well. Stir in contents of pancake/latke package. Allow batter to thicken 3-4 minutes.

In large skillet, drop tablespoons of batter into 1/8-inch hot vegetable oil and brown both sides. Makes 45-60 latke pancakes.

Part 2: Pulled Brisket

3 lbs. marbled second cut brisket
1 18 oz. bottle Gefen BBQ Sauce
1 large onion, thinly sliced
5-6 garlic cloves, sliced
1 batch (about ¼ cup) coffee garlic rub: Mix together 1 Tbsp. ground coffee beans, 1 Tbsp. dark brown sugar, ½ Tbsp. smoked paprika, 1 tsp. regular paprika, 1 tsp. coarse salt, 1 tsp. onion flakes and 1 tsp. granulated garlic

Place the brisket in a crock pot, top with onions and garlic. (Alternatively, this may be prepared in the oven at 275°F for 4-6 hours, until it shreds easily when pulled.)

Pour barbecue sauce over the top. Add ¼ cup of water to the barbecue sauce bottle, swish and pour into crock pot. Sprinkle on the coffee garlic rub and cook on low 8 hours.

Remove brisket from sauce and pull apart with two forks until shredded. Add a few tablespoons of cooking liquid to shredded brisket.

Place a mound of pulled brisket onto the center of each latke, gently fold like you would a soft tortilla, and enjoy!

Chanukah Stained Glass Cookies

by *Kosher.com* staff

¼ tsp. Haddar Baking Powder
½ cup softened butter
½ cup crushed hard candy
1 large egg
1½ cups all-purpose flour
½ tsp. salt
¾ cup sugar
½ tsp. Gefen Vanilla Extract

Using a mixer, cream together butter and sugar until fluffy. Add egg and vanilla extract. In a separate bowl, stir together flour, baking powder and salt.

Gradually add dry ingredients to the butter, and cream the mixture. Wrap tightly with plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least an hour.

Preheat oven to 350°F. On a lightly-floured surface, roll out batter about ¼ inch thick.

Use cookie cutters to cut out shapes. Cut a small circle in the middle of each shape with a butter knife or smaller cookie cutter. Place shapes on a parchment-lined baking sheet and bake for five minutes.

Remove the baking sheet, and carefully spoon ½ teaspoon of crushed hard candy into the center of each cookie. Bake for four to five more minutes, or until the candy has melted completely.

Cool, first for 15 minutes on baking sheet, then move to cooling rack.

Tip: Short on time? Use premade dough instead.

Churros

By Gideon Ben Ezra for *Kosher.com*

2/3 cup lowfat milk or milk substitute, such as Gefen Soy Milk or rice milk
6 Tbsp. canola oil
Pinch of salt
2 Tbsp. sugar
½ tsp. cinnamon
¼ tsp. ground cloves
¼ tsp. nutmeg
1 tsp. Gefen Vanilla Extract
1 cup all purpose flour
3 eggs
Canola oil for frying

Topping: ½ cup white sugar mixed with 1/3 tsp. cinnamon, set aside in a shallow bowl

Heat the milk, canola oil, salt, sugar and spices in a small pot on high heat and bring to a boil.

Add the flour and mix well using a wooden spoon. You are creating a roux. Keep stirring until the roux is uniform and a thick skin forms on the bottom of the pot. Turn off the flame and continue stirring the roux.

Add the eggs one at a time, stirring vigorously after each addition, until all the ingredients are well blended. You can use a hand mixer or continue to stir well with the wooden spoon.

Affix a wide (one-inch) star tip to a pastry bag and fill the bag with the hot dough. Set it aside in a mug with the tip folded over so that the dough doesn't escape from the bag. (If you don't have a pastry bag, this recipe will also work with a cookie press.)

Heat the oil in a frying pan or a deep fryer to a depth of three to four inches, until it reaches 350°F. If you don't have a candy thermometer, heat the oil until a drop of water sprinkled on top quickly bubbles up and disappears.

Place a pair of scissors in a cup of warm water.

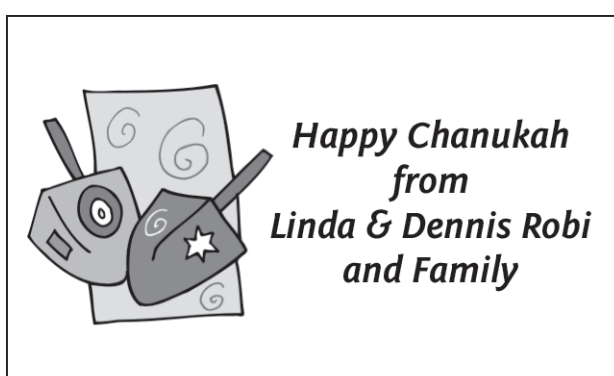
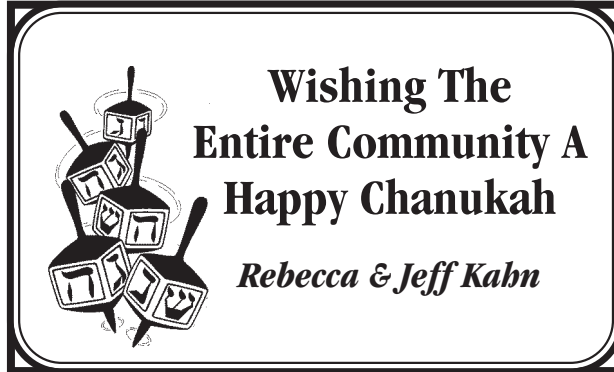
When the oil is hot, pipe a three- to four-inch long tube of dough into the oil, using scissors to cut the wet ends. (Longer churros may look more authentic, but smaller ones are easier to make.) The churros tend to stick together in the oil, so only fry a few at a time, depending on how large your pan is. When they float to the top, fry them for one to two minutes longer, or until they are golden brown.

Remove the churros with a slotted spoon and drain them. See "Latkes" on page 11



Churros (Photo provided by *Kosher.com*)

Chanukah Greetings



A "Top 10" of Hanukkah gifts for kids

By Deborah Fineblum

(JNS) – The eight days of Hanukkah (this year the first candle is lit on Sunday night, December 22, and the last one on Sunday, December 29) are the highlight of the year for nearly every Jewish child. But they can be daunting for the one tasked with procuring eight nights of gifts. And, on the last couple of nights, how many of us have resorted to wrapping up a single Matchbox car, a pair of socks or a box of crayons?

Indeed, we need a miracle to pull it off every year. Just like when things looked the darkest for the Jews of Judea, they were given a double miracle: the militarily impossible victory of a small band of Jewish priests who took on the powerful Greek army (elephants and all) and the miracle of one day's worth of oil lasting a full eight days in the freshly scrubbed holy Temple. This led to generations of Jews letting the world know the miracles performed for our ancestors by lighting our *hanukiyahs* (menorahs) in a place visible to all.

So, in addition to the latkes filling the house with happiness (and a fine layer of oil on walls, furnishings, humans and pets alike) and the dreidels ready to spin (don't forget a couple rolls of pennies to make the game more exciting), if you are searching this time of year for Hanukkah gifts guaranteed to delight, as well as transmit the ancient miracle of the holiday to your kids, grandkids or great-grandkids, these can get you started:

- ◆ A children's *tzedakah* box. A kid-themed box for giving is a happy way to jump-start the habit of sharing some of their *gelt* or, year-round, their allowance, gifts or earnings with those in need. Tradition has it to place the box near your Shabbat or Hanukkah menorah candlesticks so the young philanthropists-in-training can drop coins in just before lighting. Check your local Judaica store, synagogue gift shop or look online.

- ◆ "Mensch on a Bench." There are already 150,000 of these little guys who've been let loose on the world in just the last six years (the "Shark Tank" judges also loved him). They each come complete with a book about Hanukkah and are available at many retailers, big and small (the suggested retail price is \$29.99) or online.

- ◆ PJ Library membership. If your child or grandchild isn't enrolled in PJ Library yet, you just might want to sign them up. This free program sends out children's books and CDs that explore Jewish values, ideas and traditions. (Since 2005, a whopping five million books have been shipped to kids in 21 countries.) The brainchild of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, PJ also enjoys the support of many Jewish Federations and JCCs. Click here to sign up your child. Bonus: Grandparents might want to check out PJ Library's grandparent program.

- ◆ Make a Plate. Destined to become a family heirloom and perfect for a stack of latkes, this 10-inch melamine plate with your child's one-of-a-kind artwork will last for years. Visit makit.com and follow the instructions beginning with "Make a Gift Group Art Kit," then download the circle for the child's art in any media from paint to marker to crayon (except pastels). You'll then upload their art and wait the two weeks for your Make a Plate to be done. The cost: \$9. Note to the technically challenged: If you call 972-709-1579, a customer-service representative can talk you through the process.

- ◆ "Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins." Eric Kimmel's Caldecott-winning classic is an unforgettable battle between good and evil, made all the more powerful by Trina Schart Hyman's haunting illustrations. Since 1989, children have cheered on Hershel of Ostropol, who may appear like a simple Jew, but wait till you see how he outfoxes a series of big, scary goblins over the course of the eight nights of Hanukkah. The price varies by format and edition.

- ◆ Dreidel Pop 'n Spin Game. You'll recognize your old friends *nun* (nothing), *gimel* (take all), *shin* (give back one) and *hey* (take half) in this Rite Lite board game adaptation of classic dreidel. The game, which invites each player to push buttons to spin the dreidel inside a plastic dome, is designed to engage young and old alike, and typically retails for under \$20.

- ◆ Hanukkah Mad Libs. You know that nothing comes out


as expected in the mad world of Mad Libs, and no matter how much self-control one thinks one has, it's impossible to resist laughing at Roger Price and Leonard Stern's inspired lunacy around dreidels, menorahs and latkes, especially if you have some creative kids on hand to fill in the blanks. The 21-story compendium sells for around \$5 in stores or online.

- ◆ Spot It! Shalom. Here's one game that even pre-readers can enjoy all year long (though the package says age 7 to adult). Being the first to spot the pairs of Jewish symbols – from Torahs to menorahs, from bunches of grapes to dreidels – is the object of the game. It's so portable it can be played in the car on the way to the family Hanukkah gathering. You can find it in shops or online for under \$15.

- ◆ "The Power of Light: Eight Stories for Hanukkah." This is the 40th year that families have been able to get cozy before the lit candles and read aloud a story each night from Isaac Bashevis Singer's collection, beginning in his childhood home in prewar Poland. "The great storyteller at his gentlest and most nostalgic" is how *The New Yorker* described the book (\$10.95 paperback), which is enriched by the illustrations of Irene Lieblich.


- ◆ A trip to Israel. What better time to give the gift of Israel to your child in the form of a certificate for future travel? Suggested wording: "This entitles (*child's name*) to a family trip to Israel for your bar (or bat) mitzvah." And why not frame it with a map of Israel to hang on their wall as a happy reminder of what they can look forward to?

Chanukah Greetings



Shari & Rob Neuberger

CELEBRATE CHANUKAH



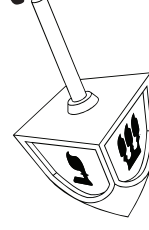
Suzanne Holwitt and Family

May you and your family be blessed during the holiday and throughout the year!



Sima & Neil Auerbach

Happy Chanukah



Arieh Ullmann and Rhonda Levine

Wishing the Community a Happy Chanukah




Merri & Tony Zander, Anna, Maya & Dora Linka Preus



May your Chanukah be filled with the miracles of the holiday

Bonnie, Rachel, Brittany & Arielle Rozen




Happy Chanukah!

Ann C. Brilliant

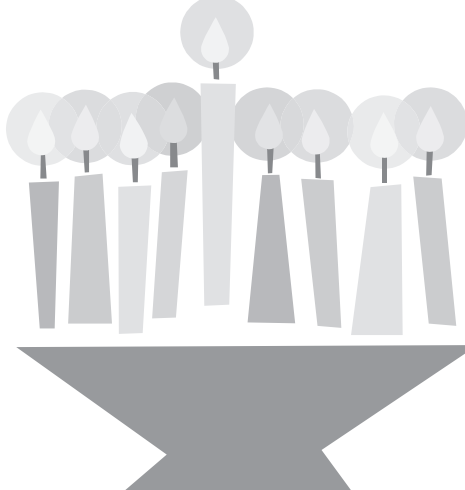
Wishing you a Happy Chanukah

light • peace • love



Debbie, Jeff, Amy, Josh, Mackenzie & Diggs Ribner

Warm Chanukah wishes to you and your family!



Shelley, Mark, Josh & Rae Hval

NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

UNESCO removes Belgium carnival with antisemitic float from heritage list

UNESCO withdrew on Dec. 13 an annual carnival in the Belgian city of Aalst from the organization's List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity over repeated charges of antisemitism. UNESCO's Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage said during a meeting in Bogotá, Columbia, that it would remove the Aalst carnival "over recurring repetition of racist and antisemitic representations." In March, the carnival included a float that featured caricatures of large-nosed religious Jews standing next to bags of money, with one carrying a rat on its shoulder. The float was widely condemned by major European Jewish groups, Belgium's Jewish community and the country's UNIA watchdog on racism. Ahead of UNESCO's decision, Mayor of Aalst Christoph D'Haese renounced his city's place on the heritage list in order to keep the carnival. He said city officials were tired of complaints that the event was antisemitic.

Latkes. . . . Continued from page 10

on paper towels. While the churros are still hot, roll each one in the sugar and cinnamon mixture. Serve immediately.

More Chanukah recipes, including gluten-free recipes, can be found on Kosher.com, including:

- ◆ www.kosher.com/recipe/gluten-free-sufganiyot-4350
- ◆ www.kosher.com/recipe/savory-potato-latke-cookies-4322
- ◆ www.kosher.com/recipe/hanukkah-recipe-oven-fried-zucchini-sticks-6179
- ◆ www.kosher.com/recipe/crispy-and-oozy-fried-mozzarella-recipe-4248
- ◆ www.kosher.com/recipe/matzo-ball-stuffed-onion-rings-6948
- ◆ www.kosher.com/shows/video/400/two-ingredient-fried-brownies

Kosher.com is afree, searchable online community for kosher food, lifestyle and conversation featuring recipes, videos, articles and more by hundreds of chefs, food writers, wine experts and other professionals.

A bee-keeping rabbi explains what the buzz is all about

By Carin M. Smilk

(JNS) – Human instinct may be to swat, run away or do a frantic little dance to avoid contact with bees, but like most small living creatures, they have more to fear from us than we them. In fact, they have much to lose; it's true that when a worker bee – the ones people see flying outside hives and near flowers foraging for nectar and pollen – stings, it seals its fate and dies. It's also true that there has been a marked decline in the honey-bee population in the United States and on a global level.

According to data from the Bee Informed Partnership, a nonprofit associated with the University of Maryland, from April 1, 2018, to April 1, 2019, the managed bee population decreased by 40.7 percent. The overall loss rate is around the average of what researchers and beekeepers have seen since 2006.

This, of course, is nothing new to Rabbi Avraham Laber, who with his wife, Nechama Dina, co-directs Chabad-Lubavitch of Southern Rensselaer County and Jewish Girls Unite in New York, about 20 minutes east of Albany. In fact, when asked about the decline of bees, the rabbi doesn't hesitate in naming the main cause: pesticides and the negative effects of chemical-intensive agriculture (parasites, pathogens and climate change have also been named as contributing factors).

The rabbi knows this because he keeps bees and has since 2004. The Labers recently moved to a two-acre piece of property, where three large boxed hives sit on a patch of lawn. In August, they acquired 12 more acres, complete with a pond, from the sale of land by their neighbor; the expanded Jewish Leadership Campus is being used for summer and winter programs for girls, Jewish holiday



Rabbi Avraham Laber took off one of the frames to show the inside of the hive. (Photo by Carin M. Smilk)

retreats and outdoor Torah-nature classes. The rabbi also teaches schoolchildren about the significance of bees and their relationship to Judaism.

Honeybees are stellar flyers, moving at speeds of about 25 kilometers per hour and beating their wings about 200 times per second. The rabbi refers to the corner of the plot as a "landing strip for bees," with their ability to fly nearly two miles from the hives. They have been described as more efficient than planes because they can fly on a drop of honey and carry loads equal to their weight.

Laber encourages other rabbis to become backyard beekeepers. He says it's an educational way to connect children and adults to wildlife and the outdoors, as well as a gateway to teach how aspects of nature are expressed in the Torah and Jewish life. He shares some of his knowledge about the complex colonies of bees.

Q: Can you explain the structure of the hives themselves?

A: The modern beehive is a box made out of wood or hard Styrofoam. It has 10 frames upon which the honey bees will build wax cells, called honeycomb. The design was developed by Lorenzo Lorraine Langstroth in the 1850s. There are many advantages to this design, but the greatest is that it permits the beekeeper to easily remove each frame for inspection and harvesting.

Q: What are those flying bees looking for?

A: The foraging honey bees fly out and bring back the three vital necessities for survival: nectar, pollen and water. The pollen is packed into small "briefcases" under their wings to feed the larvae: the developing bees.

Q: What is the life span of a flying bee?

A: The life span of worker bees, which are female, is best measured in miles. Their lifetime is about 500 miles of flying. After that, their wings get worn out, and they will soon die.



Rabbi Avraham Laber, co-director of Chabad-Lubavitch of Southern Rensselaer County in New York, explained that when the bees bring back nectar, it's deposited into cells in the hives. (Photo by Carin M. Smilk)

Q: Why is the queen bee so important?

A: Every beehive has only one queen. The queen mates in a brief session and that's usually enough to supply her for life. The queen is the only bee that lays eggs. (She takes her job very seriously, laying between up to 1,000 eggs for most of the year.) The queen has a longer body devoid of stripes that the others have. The only time a queen leaves the hive is when she mates early in her life, and if the colony decides to swarm. Worker bees constantly care for the queen, by offering her food and cleaning her.

Until the 1600s, most people assumed that there must be a king at the center of the beehive. Now, everyone knows that the queen is the center, and most of the bees

See "Buzz" on page 13

Stupidity..... Continued from page 2

and including mass murder – from those who accepted, and still accept, conspiracy theories about Judaism and the Jewish people.

Teenage stupidity

It's common knowledge that teenagers – particularly, but not limited to, male teenagers – tend to do stupid things when they are part of a group. I'm not sure what the three teenage boys in London were thinking when they threatened two women on a bus because the women refused to engage in a sex act. The incident started after the teens discovered (I'm not sure how) that the women were partners. What began as verbal threats and sexual gestures by the teens turned more physical and escalated into the women being attacked and beaten.

The article I read didn't say whether or not the teens had been drinking or using drugs. To admit they were under the influence might get them into more trouble. I just can't imagine what they were thinking when this started: oh, it's

good fun to bother two women minding their own business. Or, let's see how much trouble we can get ourselves into?

Although this instance is based on the women's sexuality, similar incidents have happened all too often because of someone's race or religion. The recent beatings of Orthodox Jews, who are easily identified by their clothing or head covering, should give us pause before we excuse the teens' behavior or blame the victims. I also have to wonder about the other riders on the bus. Perhaps the teens' behavior was so threatening they were afraid to interfere. Or, perhaps, they just didn't care.

Judging judges

The Trump administration will no longer use the American Bar Association's ratings for lawyers when evaluating judges for the federal bench. What's ironic is that the ABA gave Judge Neil M. Gorsuch, President Donald Trump's controversial nominee to the Supreme Court, its highest rating. I do know that judges chosen for other judgeships received more mixed ratings and commentators have complained these appointees are not deserving of their positions.

It's not the decision about the ABA itself that bothers me since there are studies that claim it supports judges with more liberal positions, although the group itself declares that politics play no role in its decisions. That makes sense in light of the fact that President George W. Bush's Supreme Court nominees also received the ABA's highest ratings. What does bother me is that no rating system has been mentioned to replace that of the ABA. This could easily lead to people being made judges because they gave large campaign contributions or are friends of a candidate, or because of their political views.

There has to be some type of investigation into a potential judge's work and background. Our legal system is far too important to leave it to the whims of the executive branch. To do so would just be stupid. And those who support their party's choice of judges for political reasons should remember that the opposing party will have the same opportunity when it is in power.

Happy Chanukah!

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A Committee of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton

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NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

Forbes names Tel Aviv second-best city in world to visit in 2020

(Israel Hayom via JNS) – Between its sandy beaches and vast array of culinary delights, Tel Avivians already know that they live in one of the best cities in the world. Now, however, it's official: Forbes recently named Israel's White City the second-hottest world destination. Tel Aviv, which follows Los Angeles in the Forbes list of top cities

to visit in the coming year, is described as "ancient history" meets "modern living ... along Israel's Mediterranean coast." The magazine gave a shout-out to Jaffa's Setai hotel, a luxury hotel that started out as an Ottoman-era police station, for those really looking for the old-meets-new experience that the city embodies. The article also cited Tel Aviv's UNESCO-recognized Bauhaus architecture as a reason to visit. Israeli Foreign Ministry Director General Yuval Rotem welcomed Forbes' praise of the city, saying: "We invite everyone to visit this incredible city and our

beautiful country this coming year!" This is isn't the first time Forbes has encouraged readers to visit Tel Aviv. Just last May, it ran an article listing the top five reasons to visit the city. Other destinations to grace the list were Macau, Nashville and Okinawa.

Intel buys Israeli AI chip developer

On Dec. 16, *Globes* reported that Intel had announced its purchase of Israeli artificial-intelligence chip developer Habana Labs for \$2 billion. Navin Shenoy, executive vice president and general manager of Intel's Data Platforms Group, said, "This acquisition advances our AI strategy, which is to provide customers with solutions to fit every performance need – from the intelligent edge to the data center." Habana will maintain its current management team and remain an independent business entity based in Israel.

Israel and Montenegro sign first major defense contract

Israeli defense firm Elbit Systems announced on Dec. 16 that following the signing of a historic contract between the defense ministries of Israel and Montenegro, the company had won a \$35 million contract to supply Remote Controlled Weapon Stations for integration into the U.S.-manufactured Joint Light Tactical Vehicles operated by the country's armed forces. Elbit will fully integrate the RCWS on board the JLTV during a three-year period and provide logistical support for seven years, the company said in a statement. The RCWS is mounted externally on top of armored vehicles and offers accurate, remote firing while the vehicle is in motion, thus providing protection to the crew. "We are very proud to introduce our RCWS to Montenegro's Armed Forces. This award further expands our NATO customer base," said Yehuda (Udi) Vered, general manager of Elbit Systems Land division.

Post-shooting at NJ kosher market, NYPD forms unit to combat extremism

Following the Dec. 10 shooting at the JC Kosher Supermarket in Jersey City, the New York Police Department has established a unit to deal with extremism. In an announcement on Dec. 11, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio said the Racially and Ethnically Motivated Extremism (or REME) unit will be "focused on any trends, and any signs of racially and ethnically motivated extremism" and "will directly take on the hate groups that are trying to spread in this country and pose a threat to so many communities." John Miller, the deputy commissioner of intelligence and counterterrorism for the NYPD, said REME has been underway for several weeks and will consist of around 25 NYPD "detectives, intelligence bureau analysts and partners from outside agencies, focusing on rooting out hate speech networks before acts materialize," reported SILive.com.

Buzz

Continued from page 12

are females. In the Torah, the Hebrew word for a bee is *devorah*, a female gender word. Fall is a sad season for male bees because as nectar stops flowing, almost all the unproductive males are thrown out of the hive, and they will soon perish.

Q: Can the queen bee sting?

A: The queen has a non-barbed stinger it can use freely, unlike regular bees which will die after losing their barbed stinger. Nevertheless, a queen can be easily handled and, even if not treated well, she will not sting a person. She reserves it for royalty only, in the event of fighting another queen bee over control of a hive.

All of the work in the hive is performed by worker bees, not the queen. The queen doesn't produce any honey; she is the spirit and soul of the hive. All of the thousands of honey bees follow her lead. If the queen is calm, they will be calm. If and when the residents decide to swarm away, they will follow the queen. If the honey bees realize that the queen is missing, they will lose their enthusiasm and slack off in performing their important jobs. Our sages taught: Just as God gives the bees a leader to follow, so, too, does God provide his people righteous leaders and prophets to lead them.

Q: How can you prevent a sting near a hive? Do bees know or sense that you are there?

A: When sensing danger, worker bees emit an alarm pheromone aroma similar to ripe bananas. Whenever they sting, this pheromone is released, which attracts other bees and induces them to sting as well. This is one of the advantages to beekeepers using smoke when opening a hive; even if one bee does sting, the smoke can block the alarm pheromone.

Honey bees are not inclined to attack and are careful not to put their lives in danger; in the same vein, they're not afraid to attack an intruder, whether a small mouse or a large black bear. After all, if they had no sting, other insects and animals would rob them of their honey – and all of their hard work.

Q: Why do some bees swarm, and what is the Jewish responsibility for them as an owner?

A: Honey bees have an instinct that causes them to swarm when their hive is too full, and Jewish law deals with the moral issue of keeping a wild swarm.

These basic laws are: (1) If someone testifies that the honey bees came from a certain individual's hive, the finder is obligated to return them to the owner. While children are normally not fit to be legal witnesses, in this case, children may serve as witnesses to restore the bees to the beekeeper; (2) Upon finding a swarm that belongs to someone, the owner can only keep it if there are witnesses that the owner verbally expressed himself giving up on finding his bee colony; and (3) The beekeeper has the right to trespass into other people's property to save his bees. However, he is responsible for any damage he causes. According to Rabbi Yishmael, son of Rabbi Yochanan, he even has the right to cut down a branch the bees are clustered on in order to retrieve them (on condition of compensating the tree owner).

Q: How do bees make honey and why?

A: When the bees bring back nectar, it is deposited into cells. The bees let the nectar sit, and they fan their wings to



Tasks to maintain the hive are performed by the worker bees. (Photo by Carin M. Smilk)

evaporate the water content. Then they seal the cells with wax. They need honey in the winter, when no flower nectar is available and it's too cold to leave the hive.

Q: How do they maintain their habitat, and how do they survive in the off-season?

A: Bees must control the temperature inside the hive. They cannot survive below 45 degrees; they must keep a consistent temperature of 95 for the queen to lay eggs in January while it may be below zero outside. They form a ball and rotate to produce their own heat. During the summer, they have to make sure their space doesn't get too hot. Extreme heat will cause the honeycomb of wax to melt. To cool the hive, they bring drops of water and deposit them in cells. Then they stand on two sides and will vigorously flap their wings to evaporate the water and cool the hive. They realize the importance of ventilation and providing fresh air.

Q: Those square frames that the beekeeper holds, what's on them?

A: The final product – the capped honey! The thin wax layer sealing the honey cells must be cut off. The honey is harvested from frames that contain only honey cells without brood. A single honeybee will fly about 500 miles in her lifetime to gather nectar and pollen. Despite her hard work, only 1/12 of a teaspoon of honey is produced from her efforts. Multiplied by 20,000 foragers, however, they may produce up to 100 pounds of honey each season.

Q: What lessons do bees teach, especially in relation to Judaism?

A: Honey bees cannot survive on their own; they thrive with their communities. A colony contains about 50,000 honeybees, and there are so many different jobs. They have so much to do in their short lifespans. They know what they are capable of doing and set out to do it, united by a common goal. As a result, they don't fight each other, but live in great harmony.

Bees gather nectar for themselves, but God created them in a manner by which small pollen particles stick to their fuzzy bodies and rub off on the next flowers they visit. Honeybees know nothing about their role in benefitting flowers, trees and humans by pollinating. Individuals, on the other hand, were endowed with the wisdom to realize how they can accomplish goals in ways that benefit so many others. If bees can do it so well without planning, then people can do it even better.

Happy Chanukah!
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Weekly Parasha

Vayeshev, Genesis 37:1-40:23

The psychological meaning of *te'amim* (cantillation marks) in the Torah

RABBI MOSHE SHMARYAHU, JUDAIC STUDIES, HILLEL ACADEMY OF BROOME COUNTY

Biblical *te'amim* (cantillation marks) are special signs applied above or below the Hebrew words, and are in fact the ancient punctuation marks of Hebrew. They have many uses. There are instances where the cantillation mark adds additional information besides the tuning, punctuation and melody.

The *shalsholet* is a cantillation mark found in the Torah. It is one of the rarest used, occurring just four times in the entire Torah: in Genesis 19:16, Genesis 24:12, Genesis 39:8 (this week's *parasha*) and Leviticus 8:23. The four words accented with the *shalsholet* mark all occur at the beginning of the verse.

The symbolism of the *shalsholet* gives expression to a dramatic, high-tension situation, mainly a crisis, conflict or struggle between opposing forces of equal strength that are within a person's character and require a decision. For example, the reason that *shalsholet* is sung at great length may be to point to prolonged action, such as deliberation,

mental difficulty in making a particular decision and, perhaps, even an identity in crisis.

In our *parasha*, Joseph found himself in a difficult position to overcome the advances of Potiphar's wife, which occurred every day for a whole year when he came to do his job. He was young at the time, in his 20s and full of power. Joseph's deliberation was difficult and he had to "recruit" his father Jacob's face, to put off the temptation of a woman whose pressure became greater and greater. In the end, he overcame this temptation, but not before he paid a heavy personal price.

For overcoming this temptation, Joseph won the title of righteous, *ha'tza'dik*. When the situation was at its peak, and his soul was agitated and still did not know what to decide, the *shalsholet* came to explain his situation.

The *shalsholet* is found in the story of Joseph, who is in charge of the house of Potiphar, ministering Pharaoh. Potiphar's wife tried to seduce him and he was trying to resist with great valor. But the word "*wymaen*" (and he refused),

is cantillated with the *shalsholet*. Some commentators saw it as a hint of the great effort it took Joseph to refuse. He not only gave up the temptation, but also the whole prestige he began to establish to himself in Egypt, and it all happened when he was physically cut off from his family.

Other uses of *shalsholet* in the Torah are:

◆ In Genesis 19:16, it is used on the word "*vayitmah'mah*" (and he lingered), when Lot is lingering in Sodom, which is marked for destruction, in order to show Lot's uncertainty.

◆ In Genesis 24:12, it is used on the word "*vayomar*" (and he said), when Abraham's servant is trying to find a woman to marry Abraham's son, Isaac, to indicate the hesitation the servant shows.

◆ In Leviticus 8:23, the *shalsholet* is used on the word "*vayishchat*" (and he slaughtered) because Moses was slaughtering an animal in preparation for the anointment of his brother and nephews as priests, a position he coveted for himself. He is, therefore, sad he was not given this honor.

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, Dec. 219 am
Mincha after kiddush
 Weekday Services:
 Mornings:
 Sun., Dec. 228:30 am
 Mon.-Fri., Dec. 23-277 am
 Evenings:
 Sun., Dec. 224:20 pm
 Mon.-Thurs., Dec. 23-267 pm
 Classes: Rabbi Zev Silber will hold his weekly Talmud class every Tuesday evening after services.

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.

Penn-York Jewish Community

President-Treasurer-Secretary: Harvey Chernosky, 570-265-3869
 B'nai B'rith: William H. Seigel Lodge
 Purpose: To promote Jewish identity through religious, cultural, educational and social activities in the Southern Tier of New York and the Northern Tier of Pennsylvania, including Waverly, NY; Sayre, Athens and Towanda, PA, and surrounding communities.

Temple 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, December 20, at 8 pm, there will Shabbat services led by Rabbi Goldman-Wartell with the URJ Biennial report and birthday blessings.

On Saturday, December 21, at 9:15 am, there will be Torah study. There will be no religious school or morning service. Hanukkah House Museum will be open from noon-4 pm.

On Sunday, December 22, Hanukkah House Museum will be open from noon-4 pm.

On Tuesday, December 24, Hanukkah House Museum will be open from noon-4 pm. There will be no Hebrew school.

There will be no Hebrew school on Thursday, December 26.

On Friday, December 27, the Hanukkah celebration potluck dinner will begin at 6 pm. RSVP for the dinner by Tuesday, December 24, by calling or e-mailing the temple office.

Norwich Jewish Center

Orientation: Inclusive
 Rabbi: David Regenspan
 Address: 72 South Broad St., Norwich, NY 13815
 Contact: Guilla 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 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.

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.

Friday, December 20, light candles before 4:16 pm
 Saturday, December 21, Shabbat ends 5:17 pm
 Friday, December 27, light candles before 4:20 pm
 Saturday, December 28, Shabbat ends 5:21 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, December 21, at 10 am, there will be Shabbat services led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown. This will be a learners service and will include a baby naming. The Torah portion will be Genesis 37:1-40:23. The haftarah will be Amos 2:6-3:8. A kiddush will be sponsored by Sylvia Horowitz and Lois Levitt.

There will be no Hebrew school on Sunday, December 22.

The temple office will be closed Monday-Wednesday, December 23-25.

There will be a brunch from 10 am-1 pm at the synagogue on Wednesday, December 25.

The temple office will be closed Tuesday-Wednesday, December 31-January 1.

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.

The annual Hanukkah Latke Party will be held on Sunday, December 29, at 6 pm, in the social hall. Those attending are asked to bring a menorah and candles for the group lighting event. The cost is \$8 and RSVPs are required by noon on Friday, December 22. To reserve a spot, register at the temple website.

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.

Rescuers Continued from page 8

Judea and Samaria. He tells JNS: "If I can treat someone in Mali, why can't I treat someone in Judea and Samaria? We save Jewish lives, Arab lives. Politics doesn't interest me; we're here to save lives."

Yehudit Tayar, an organization spokesperson and emergency first-responder living in the Binyamin (southern Samaria) community of Beit Horon, tells JNS that the bottom line is "we believe that life is important." The former IDF combat soldier details how over the years she has treated countless numbers of Jews and Arabs who live in her region in a variety of emergencies.

For her, the establishment of the organization in 2000 was a game-changer. "Before 2000, it could take hours for a medic to arrive and sometimes there was no ambulance available. But now, having the Rescuers' state-of-the-art equipment with us 24/7 is so important. Time [getting to the scene of incident quickly] equals life. That is the bottom line."

Sopinsky says that due to the current reality, the organization helps people injured in rock and firebomb attacks on the roads in Judea and Samaria on a near daily basis. Rescuers is also involved in helping those in need in other parts of the country. In the south, the group has helped renovate bomb shelters near the Gaza border and started an animal-therapy program using horses for kids with post-traumatic stress disorder in the often bombarded community of Nachal Oz.

A pilot program is also being tested involving the use of a brand-new ballistic blanket called the "Armadillo," which can protect rescuers and their patients under rocket fire from flying shrapnel. (The device was designed by anti-terror security expert Marc Provisor.)

The organization also looks to enhance the lives of residents in Judea and Samaria in other areas by funding



A brand-new ballistic blanket called the "Armadillo" can protect rescuers and their patients under rocket fire from flying shrapnel. (Photo courtesy of JNS)

sports fields, synagogues and the renovation of social halls, along with other security projects. But perhaps the biggest project right now, according to Sopinsky, is the construction of a training simulation center in Givat Ze'ev, near Jerusalem, where emergency situations from car accidents, drownings, the delivering of babies or other scenarios can be re-enacted. This will give first-responders the opportunity to practice various medical exercises, as the simulations will be as close to the real thing as possible.

Next year, the group will celebrate 20 years of saving lives. Sopinsky says what people should take from that milestone is that thanks to Rescuers Without Borders, "you can live here or visit here safely and with confidence. This might still be the Wild West, but thanks to our volunteers, you are not alone."

Kids Continued from page 9

got keeping them warm throughout the chilly Jerusalem winter, they were also the first new coats Yoni and Menachem have ever had."

Ohr Meir and Bracha: The Terror Victims Support Center has a special focus: Helping individuals and families who have experienced terror, as founder Rebbetzin Liora Tedgi did after a bomb went off in her Jerusalem neighborhood in 2002. Pledging then to spend the rest of her life helping other victims, since that day she has been spearheading a weekly food distribution of fresh fruits and vegetables, challah, rice and dry goods for 400 families a week and 600 just before the holidays; those packages also include chicken and eggs.

This will also be the 16th year that Ohr Meir and Bracha hosts a Hanukkah party for 400 children, all from families who have been victims of terror (many of the parents are disabled and can't work) or are living well below the poverty line. Featuring refreshments, music, a clown doing magic tricks and gifts (including dolls and remote-control cars), the party attracts youngsters and parents from across the Jerusalem area.

"That was the most exciting thing for my children," said one mother. "They loved the clown, and now they each have a new toy that's just theirs."

The party was such a success from the start that out of it was born Ohr Meir and Bracha's Kids Corner afterschool program, which gives 60 youngsters, many of them orphaned by terror, a hot meal and help with their homework. And 400 got backpacks filled with school supplies. "Last year, we were surprised to receive 50 scarves a woman in America knit for the kids and one of our food-packing volunteers made beautiful *tefillin* and *tallis* bags for a boy in need," says spokeswoman Esther Shamel. Looking forward: renovating and furnishing a larger space with room for more kids to attend after school, as well as a dental clinic, summer camp and job-training center.

Among Israel's most traumatized children are those living in the vicinity of Sderot near the Gaza border, which has made their homes, schools and community targets of Hamas rockets, often several a week, keeping everyone on high alert.

"PTSD runs rampant here," says Rabbi Asher Pizam, whose father Rabbi Moshe Zeev Pizam, was sent by the late Lubavitcher Rebbe to establish Chabad of Sderot 34 years ago. "My own kids cry when they hear the sirens."

On every Hanukkah since, the Chabad Center has hosted nightly activities for the local families, including a children's Hanukkah party. (A highlight this year: a new basketball court paid for when an American bar mitzvah boy asked his guests to fund it in lieu of gifts.) They also distribute 3,000 small menorahs, 500 food vouchers and 10,000 *sufganiyot* (traditional jelly-filled doughnuts) and, when the security permits, they light the Hanukkah candles with the soldiers on base.

One reminder of where they are: kindling the candles in a one-of-a-kind oversized *hanukiyah* (Hanukkah menorah) that the younger Pizam made of rockets that have fallen on the area.

As impressive as their numbers are, every one of the organizations mentioned are "keenly aware" of the children they don't yet reach. "We could easily double the number

of kids we help," says Yad Ezra's Buxbaum, "starting with their own brothers and sisters, who would love to have warm outerwear and blankets this winter."

Still, for those they do affect, it may be the parents who convey best the impact of these programs on each child touched by these programs. "My daughter was embarrassed to be wearing a coat that didn't zip," said the mother of the little girl whose jacket had the broken zipper. "So it isn't just the warmth she feels now, but the self-esteem that goes with it."

Or as one dad whose family had just returned from the Yad Eliezer coat distribution put it: "We thought, 'Is it worth it to go there? Likely they'll be used *shmattes*.' But my wife came home and said it was like a store, and the coats themselves were beautiful - of the best quality. She said everything was done with such dignity."



Ohr Meir and Bracha: The Terror Victims Support Center hosted an annual Hanukkah party for hundreds of families, complete with a clown and toy giveaways, in December. (Photo courtesy of JNS)

Jewish Community Center

JCC Friendship Club

The JCC Friendship Club met on December 11 and saw the beginning of the film "Paper Clips." It is the story of students at Whitwell Middle School in Tennessee who were studying about prejudice. They focused on the Holocaust. While researching the topic, they found out that six million Jews were killed during that period. They did not know how much six million was, so they decided to collect six million paper clips. Their community was not diverse. They reported there were no Jewish or Catholic people and only four black kids. Among the six million who perished, 1.5 million were children. The middle school children contacted other schools in the area to send them paper clips. A reporter got wind of the project and wrote an article in *The Washington Post*. Then newscasters on TV talked about it. The students started getting paper clips from all over the U.S. They didn't get enough. Then the clips started coming from other countries, such as Germany, Spain, New Zealand, Israel and more. The students got help counting them from parents, friends and employees at the school. There were many boxes and buckets full of clips. Holocaust survivors asked if they could come and talk to the students. We stopped the film after the elderly survivors talked at the school of their experiences. Many of the students cried when they heard their stories. They came up and hugged the speakers. We will continue the film at our next meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Sylvia Diamond. Ann Brilliant said the blessing after the Pledge of Allegiance. Bruce Orden showed the video and included subtitles so anyone who had difficulty hearing could read what was being said. Those who left for Florida are missing this freezing cold weather, but at least the sun was shining today.

On December 18, the club was scheduled to attend a Hanukkah party at Elderwood, an assisted living facility across the street from the JCC. The JCC will be closed on Wednesdays, December 25 and January 1. We will meet again on Wednesday, January 8. Come join us at the JCC at 1:30 pm.

Sylvia Diamond
President

Moving any time soon?



Whether you're moving across town or across the country, please let *The Reporter* know so you can stay up to date on community news! E-mail treporter@aol.com with "Reporter Address change" in the subject line, or call 607-724-2360, ext. 254, to let *The Reporter* know about your new address.

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marleyv@binghamtonjcc.org

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NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

Erdogan threatens to close key U.S. bases over threat of sanctions

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said on Dec. 15 that he might decide to close the Incirlik Air Base, which hosts U.S. nuclear warheads, in retaliation for U.S. sanctions threats and a U.S. Senate resolution recognizing the mass killings of Armenians by the Ottoman Empire a century ago as a genocide, Reuters reported. "If it is necessary for us to take such a step, of course, we have the authority. ... If this is necessary, together with our delegations, we will close down Incirlik, if necessary," he said on Turkey's A Haber TV. Erdogan also threatened to close the Kurecik

radar base, according to the report. "If they are threatening us with the implementation of these sanctions, of course we will be retaliating," he said. U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said in October that U.S. President Donald Trump had authorized U.S. officials to draft "very significant" new sanctions targeting Turkey following its invasion of northeast Syria, Reuters reported at the time. Erdogan also raised the possibility that Turkey could pass resolutions recognizing the killing of the Native American Indians as a genocide.

U.S. Senate passes resolution recognizing 1915 Armenian Genocide

The U.S. Senate unanimously passed a resolution on Dec. 12 recognizing the Armenian Genocide. The 1915 Turkish

massacre took the lives of 1.5 million Armenians. The resolution had previously been blocked by Republican senators, reportedly at the request of the Trump administration to maintain good relations with Turkey. Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) was one who objected, saying senators shouldn't "sugarcoat history or try to rewrite it." He added that he was against the resolution "not because of the past, but because of the future." The House passed its own resolution in October.

Pro-BDS activists in Madrid assault joint delegation of Arabs, Jews

Members of the BDS movement attempted to attack a joint delegation of Arab and Jewish residents of the West Bank recently in Madrid. The delegation was in Spain on Dec. 10 to meet members of Spanish parliament and discuss reversing the European Union decision to label products from Israeli settlements, reported Ynet. The group included Yossi Dagan, the head of the Samaria Regional Council; Sheikh Taissir Dayut Tamimi from Ramallah, who served as the Palestinian Authority's chief Islamic judge; self-declared "proud Arab, Muslim, Zionist Israeli" Sarah Zoabi; and Arab-Israeli Likud member Dima Tayeh. The delegation participated in a panel discussion at the Intercontinental Hotel in Madrid, where they explained why marking settlement products negatively affected Arabs and Jews. Shortly after the panel started, BDS members began waving PLO flags, hurled insults at the group, and tried to physically attack both Arab and Jewish members of the delegation. Security personnel were forced to tackle the rioters. "We are not afraid of you," Dagan yelled at the protesters. "You don't love Arabs; you just hate Jews. This is your true face, you should all be ashamed." Security removed the rioters from the hotel, though they waited for the delegation outside and upon the group's exit, continued to insult them and, according to Israel's Channel 12, again attempted to assault some of the members. The protesters reportedly called the Arab delegates traitors to their nation. Madrid's special forces helped the delegation leave the venue, and the group was issued a police security escort for the rest of their stay in Spain, according to i24News.

Boris Johnson's government will pass anti-BDS law, says British official

Boris Johnson's new Conservative government aims to pass a law making it illegal for public bodies to take part in the anti-Israel BDS movement, a senior British official said on Dec. 15. Speaking at the International Institute for Strategic Dialogue conference in Jerusalem, U.K. Special Envoy for post-Holocaust matters Eric Pickles said "BDS is antisemitic and should be treated as such." BDS, he added, constituted an attack not only on Jews, but also on British identity itself. "Antisemitism is an attack on the British way of life and British identity. Without our Jewish citizens we would be a lesser nation," he said. Pickles said Johnson's government would make BDS illegal for governmental and public bodies, a move that would prevent them from working with anyone who supports the effort to isolate and financially punish Israel. Pickles, who is also president of the Association of the Conservative Friends of Israel, said that the resounding defeat of Jeremy Corbyn's Labor Party on Dec. 12 was actually a national referendum on antisemitism.

Report: Turkish navy ships force Israeli research vessel to leave Cypriot waters

Turkish navy ships intercepted an Israeli research vessel in Cypriot waters in mid-November and forced it away, Israel's Channel 13 reported on Dec. 14, quoting senior officials. The Israeli ship, named *Bat Galim*, belongs to the Israel Oceanographic and Limnological Research Center and was carrying out research in partnership with the Cypriot government, according to the report. Researchers from Ben-Gurion University were on board, together with a Cypriot geologist. The Turkish vessels contacted the *Bat Galim* and demanded information on its activities, even though the vessel was in an area of the Mediterranean where the Turks have no jurisdiction, before ordering it to leave the area immediately, Israeli officials told Channel 13. Turkey recently signed a maritime border agreement with Libya that has increased tensions between Ankara and Washington as well as with Greece, Cyprus and Israel. The agreement between Libya and Turkey demarcates waters that Greece and Cyprus claim as their own. According to the report, a senior Israeli official told Channel 13 that the Turkish move was a challenge to Greece, Cyprus, Egypt and Israel, which is seeking to build a pipeline through Cypriot and Greek waters and reach Italy. "The Turks are trying to show that they are boss, and this is very worrying," the official told the network.

U.N. unable to confirm that Iranian weapons were used in Saudi oil attack

The United Nations has been "unable to independently corroborate" that drones and missiles used in the attack of Saudi Aramco facilities in September "are of Iranian origin," Secretary-General António Guterres told the U.N. Security Council on Dec. 10. The United States, European nations and Saudi Arabia have all blamed the Sept. 14 attack on the Islamic Republic. "At this time, it is unable to independently corroborate that the cruise missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles used in these attacks are of Iranian origin," he wrote in the report, according to Reuters. The report also noted that Yemen's Houthis weren't behind the attack, despite claiming responsibility.

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