

THE REPORTER

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In response to recent antisemitic attacks

Federation to hold community gathering on Jan. 16

By Reporter staff

As a response to recent antisemitic attacks, the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton will host a community gathering on Thursday, January 16, at 7:30 pm, at the Jewish Community Center, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal. Area rabbis and community leaders will take part in the gathering. The event will feature songs and prayers with the purpose of

helping the Jewish community “come together to recognize our freedom and rejoice in the loving community spirit we have here in Binghamton. We want to stand together as proud Jewish people and show that love wins over hate,” said Shelley Hubal, executive director



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER BINGHAMTON

of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton.

Hubal added, “When there is a rise in antisemitism and other hate crimes, the result is that many Jews and other minorities begin to live in fear and isolation. I do not want this to happen to the Binghamton com-

munity. Our gathering will show that we are one people with a commitment to our faith during this difficult time. We want to acknowledge the religious freedom we have in this country and to pray for peace for all people.”

If there is a weather related cancellation, an announcement will be made on the Federation’s Facebook page, “Jewish Binghamton.”

JLI course on “Judaism’s Gifts to the World” to begin Jan. 27 and 29

“Judaism’s Gifts to the World,” a new six-session course by the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute, will be offered at the Chabad Center in Vestal. The classes will begin on Monday, January 27, at 7 pm, and Wednesday, January 29, at 9:30 am, and continue for six weeks. The course seeks to unearth the Jewish roots of “some of the most cherished values” of Western civilization, including how common ideas of “personal responsibility, the inherent sanctity of human life, institutionalized universal education, human equality, the dignity of a day of rest and devotion to family, and a sense of purpose” have their origins in ancient Judaism.

“At a moment in which we are witnessing a rise in antisemitism, it is important to explore what has been the true impact of Jews and Judaism on civilization,” said

Rivkah Slonim, the local JLI instructor in Vestal. “Understanding Judaism’s historical contribution gives us a deeper appreciation for its continuing relevance and a better understanding of how the moral and ethical institutions we take for granted came into being.”

“Judaism’s Gifts to the World” seeks to explore tensions between social and individual responsibility, the implications of monotheism, the sacredness of human life, the meaning of social equality, how Sabbath observance laid the groundwork for the modern weekend, and the underpinnings of morality.

“It is widely known that Judaism gifted monotheism to the world, but for many, that’s where the Jewish contribution ends,” explained Rabbi Mordechai Dinerman, the director of curriculum at JLI’s New York

headquarters, who is also the course’s editor. “Even this contribution is often viewed rather narrowly as a religions contribution, which is only meaningful to those interested in religion. But as this course demonstrates, the universal change effected by the Torah is much broader.”

Dr. Darrin M. McMahon, the Mary Brinsmead Wheelock professor of history at Dartmouth College, has praised “Judaism’s Gifts to the World” as “timely and important”: “There can be no doubt that the Jewish contribution to the civilizations of the West and the world is immense. At a time when noxious critics would doubt that contribution, or deny it altogether, the Jewish Learning Institute has offered a timely reminder of the many gifts the Jewish tradition has bestowed. ‘Judaism’s Gifts to the World’ is a gift of its own, providing a

scintillating course in the history of ideas and culture by leading experts from around the globe.”

As with all JLI programs, “Judaism’s Gifts to the World” is designed to appeal to people at all levels of knowledge, including those without any prior experience or background in Jewish learning. All JLI courses are open to the public and attendees need not be affiliated with a particular synagogue, temple or other house of worship. The course fee is \$79, which includes the textbook.

To register, e-mail rslonim@Jewishbu.com, call 797-0015 or visit www.myJLI.com.

JLI, the adult education branch of Chabad-Lubavitch, offers programs at more than 800 international locations. More than 400,000 students have attended JLI classes since JLI was founded in 1999.

Quingo Game Night fund-raiser at JCC on Jan. 25

By Paige Bartholomew

The Jewish Community Center will host its first-ever Quingo Game Night fund-raising event on Saturday, January 25, from 6:30-8:30 pm, at the JCC, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal. The cost is \$20 per person, with a maximum number of eight people per team. Light refreshments will be available for purchase. Reservations are requested and can be made via e-mail with Marley Vavra at marleyv@binghamtonjcc.org.

The entire community is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Quingo is run locally by radio personality Barbara Fox. The game combines elements of bingo, trivia and minute-to-win-it games. Each team will receive a bingo board, where members will record their answers to trivia questions – every answer the team gets right counts toward a possible bingo. Teams that have bingo by the end of the round will then compete

in a minute-to-win-it game to determine the winner.

The contributions from Quingo Game Night will go to the JCC’s Early Childhood Center. The ECC is a place that “provides a warm and caring environment where children explore, experiment, play, grow and learn to ask questions.” Programming is offered for infants through age 5, including full-day daycare and preschool, art and physical education classes, and universal

pre-kindergarten. “The proceeds will go toward items needed in the classrooms that create an overall better environment for the children,” said ECC Assistant Director Nichole McMillen. Funds raised will be used to buy manipulative toys for the classrooms’ stations and supplies for other enriching activities.

For more information about Quingo Game Night, ECC programming, or the JCC, contact the JCC office at 724-2417.

TC Sisterhood to hold book talk on Jan. 26

Rabbi Rachel Esserman will discuss three books at the annual Temple Concord Sisterhood book talk on Sunday, January 26, at 11 am, at Temple Concord, 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton. The snow date is Sunday, February 2. The program is open to the public. A brunch will be served at a cost of \$3 for Sisterhood members and \$5 for non-members. Reservations must be made by Wednesday, January 22, to Phyllis Kellenberger at pweinste@sntny.rr.com, 723-2193 or 727-8305.

The books to be reviewed are “The Heart of the Circle” by Israeli author Keren Landsman, “From a Sealed Room” by award-winning author Rachel Kadish, and “The Flight Portfolio” by Julie Orringer.

Esserman said, “I’m again looking for-

ward to reading the books for what is one of my favorite events of the year. I deliberately choose books with different themes and plots in order to make the review more interesting. Two of the books – ‘The Heart of the Circle’ and ‘The Flight Portfolio’ – were published in 2019. Rachel Kadish’s novel is older, but I’ve been meaning to read it for years since I loved her second and third novels. Lovers of urban fantasy will be happy to note that I’ve included one by an Israeli author, Keren Landsman, and, as a fan of Julie Orringer’s first novel, ‘The Invisible Bridge,’ I’m really looking forward to reading her second one.”



Rabbi Rachel Esserman

“The Heart of the Circle” is Israeli author Landsman’s first work to be translated into English. The premise of this fantasy novel is that “throughout human history, there have always been sorcerers, once idolized and now exploited for their powers. In Israel, the Sons of Simeon, a group of religious extremists, persecute sorcerers while the government turns a blind eye. After a march for equal rights ends in brutal murder, waiter Reed becomes the next target. While his friends seek his future killers, Reed complicates everything by falling hopelessly in love. As the battle for survival grows ever more personal, can

Reed protect himself and his friends as the Sons of Simeon close in around them?”

Kadish, the author of “From a Sealed Room,” is best known for her award-winning novel “The Weight of Ink.” The author “reflects on the ghosts of the past, the tensions of war, and the difficult bonds of family. When Maya enrolls at Hebrew University in Jerusalem shortly after the Gulf War, she hopes to leave New York and a fraught relationship with her mother behind her. In Israel, she gets to know her older cousin, Tami, a housewife whose home has a room sealed against the war’s Scud missile attacks. Like Maya, Tami feels distanced from the people closest to her – her mother, husband and only son. But it will

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Opinion

From the Desk of the Federation Executive Director

With gratitude

SHELLEY HUBAL

It has been a busy few months for everyone here at the Federation. We are doing lots of planning for the New Year, including work on the film fest, a new user-friendly website, a Lag B'Omer celebration and much more. We also continue to attend to the details of the annual Campaign. I give a heartfelt thank you to all who have supported the Federation in 2019 and continue to do so. I am grateful for the warmth and generosity of this community.

Thanksgiving brought my family a wonderful day of celebration with more than 20 family members in town. We enjoyed our time together talking, eating, playing cards and singing along as my son, Josh, played guitar. I

feel much gratitude for the loving family we have and I am especially appreciative for my mother-in law Susan's cooking skills and commitment to making the holiday special for us all.

In preparation for Hanukkah, I helped for the first time with the latke fry-in. This was a fun day spent in the Jewish Community Center kitchen cooking with the men of this community. We chopped and fried and laughed. A special thank you to Mark Walker for chairing this event, and to Sheryl Brumer for making the fry-in and the JCC community Hanukkah celebration very special. Seeing the JCC packed with happy families enjoying our Jewish heritage is an example of this community's warmth and a reminder

of the importance of the Federation's work supporting our local Jewish institutions.

One aspect of Hanukkah is that we bring forth light—the light of God, the spark that lives in each of us, our innate goodness. Where there is light, darkness cannot exist. As we look toward 2020 and what will surely be a year of continued divisiveness in this country, I intend to hold tight to the light and gratitude of this season. It is essential to focus on our innate goodness and not only share it, but strive to see it in others. Let us remember that we are each created in the image of God. We are each a unique and treasured gift to this world. I hope to see you in the New Year and wish you all a *shanah tovah*.

Memo to all Jews: It's time to kiss and make up

By Rebecca Harary

(JNS) – Left, right and sideways, Jews in America are facing a major dilemma: Whose side should we take?

Do we take the conservative point of view and accept our duly elected Republican president as the Jews' knight in shining armor? After all, President Donald Trump moved the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem, recognized the Golan Heights, pulled out of the Iran deal, pulled out of UNRWA, signed the Taylor Force Act, signed the executive order on antisemitism, and even has a Jewish daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren.

During a State of the Union speech, Trump very movingly said, "We must never ignore the vile poison of antisemitism, or those who spread its venomous creed. With one voice, we must confront this hatred anywhere and everywhere it occurs."

Given all that, why wouldn't every Jew want to vote Republican in 2020?

But hold on – every action has an equal and opposite reaction. Since the days of FDR, Jews have overwhelmingly voted Democrat. In fact, most of today's Jews can recall how their parents and grandparents voted with pride as Democrats, and now many are following in their ancestors' footsteps. Most Jews who arrived in America after World War II were poor immigrants, with no job training, education or place to live. They could not speak English and carried their own traditions and culture with them.

FDR's New Deal helped to put them back on their feet again, allowing them to become U.S. citizens, become educated, find a job and earn money, and grow their families while enjoying the freedom of religion they were so defiantly denied in their countries of birth.

Despite the fact that FDR was a true antisemite who ignored pleas to bomb the train tracks to Auschwitz and turned away 937 Jewish refugees on a boat named the *St. Louis* in 1939, the post-war Jews felt indebted to the New Deal and the boost it gave to their future as naturalized Americans. Today, a vocal part of American society may be making a hard leftward turn, leaving many Democrats in a bind. How could dedicated Democrat Jews abandon their parents' and grandparents' party?

As progressives, today's Jewish Democrats are asking history to repeat itself: They want to ensure that today's immigrants – whether legal or illegal – will enjoy all of the advantages and breaks their grandparents had when they came into this country. Is that so bad?

In any long-term relationship, two people with every reason to love and respect one another can still have major differences of opinion about issues that are important to them. In many cases, speaking candidly about why something is important is the first step in helping the other side to look for common ground.

And Jews have plenty of common ground. We all pray to one God, and all of us share a history of more

than 3,000 years of persecution just for being Jewish. We all love our families, and our culture and traditions. We all want security and the freedom to worship our God without having to worry that someone might kill us for doing so.

And as Jews, we also know that when a Jew-hating dictator, or a random, radical antisemite in our midst, wants to kill Jews, he or she does not stop to ask whether they voted for Trump or Hillary Clinton, whether they're conservatives or liberals, or whether or not they support the two-state solution.

The antisemite who killed 11 innocent Jews and wounded six in Pittsburgh's Tree of Life Synagogue in 2018 did not stop to ask what side of the political spectrum they were on. He just wanted to kill Jews. Period.

When the Nazis escorted their Jewish prisoners into the gas chambers of Europe, they, too, did not ask if they were supportive of the Third Reich. If they were Jewish, they were sent to die.

Hate is hate. In the extreme it does not admit of degrees, or care about ideology. By definition, hate is irrational, focused, and often arises out of cultural stereotypes, jealousy and ignorance. It does not care about immigration, reproductive rights, the economy, or foreign policy. It just cares about the label it arbitrarily assigns to the victim, regardless of any other factors.

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In My Own Words

Hate and antisemitism

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

It's the alt-right's fault. No, it's antisemitism from the left wing. Wait, the problem is that people with mental illness have not received appropriate treatment. No, the cause is that this religion is antisemitic or that ethnic group is or... or.... Then words begin to fail us. We so want to find an easy answer – one that explains all the recent antisemitic attacks. Only one thing ties all these attacks together and it has nothing to do with politics, religion or culture. What is the one common denominator? Hatred.

Yes, hatred underlies all the attacks, whether the attacker claims it's because we control the media, or are communists or capitalists, or because we refuse to assimilate or we assimilate too easily. I could fill pages with different conspiracy theories and still not list all of them. What we forget is that this hatred is not new. In one form or another, antisemitism has existed for centuries. Attacks on Jews for being Jewish is not something that started in the 20th or 21st centuries. Not only have Jews been used as scapegoats by leaders so the population of their country will have someone to blame for their troubles, we've been expelled from our homes because we no longer prove useful or because it's an easy way to take all our possessions. Or maybe

someone decided their land would be better off if it were religiously or ethnically pure. Or maybe the reason doesn't really matter. In fact, hatred doesn't need a real reason; when hatred lives that close to the surface, it doesn't take much to make it flare and burn.

Sometimes antisemitism is benign: we aren't invited to join country clubs or we are excluded from social gatherings because we just don't fit in. Sometimes people break us into groups: these are the acceptable Jews, these are the ones that feel too Jewish. This latter group just doesn't belong, they feel odd or don't know how to behave. People can make this sound reasonable, suggesting that everyone is better off under this system since they don't want to make us feel uncomfortable.

We tend to forget this because, in the United States, it became inappropriate to speak this way. We passed laws to prevent exclusion or prejudice. Religion or race was not a reason to preclude someone from attending a particular school or being hired by a particular company. That doesn't mean that people necessarily liked us more. It just means they had to tolerate us for legal reasons. But tolerance is not enough because tolerance is not the same

as acceptance. The feelings underneath that tolerance may not have changed. That means hatred still exists.

And in the 21st century, there are people who believe they can and should express the hate they feel for us and other minorities not only verbally, but in physical attacks. We are on the opposite side of political correctness. For all the problems with that movement, people had to look carefully at their speech and actions because they knew they could be penalized for them. That's no longer true, at least in speech: just look at Twitter and the comments posted on websites. The statements are harsh and the hatred is so palpable it practically throbs off the computer screen. And far too many feel that they can express that hatred through physical actions.

I don't know how to end this centuries-old hatred. There are many suggestions, but no one true answer. What we can do, though, is stand together: we can remind each other that we are stronger as a community – that all members of the Jewish community matter. Then we can work with other minorities – with other stigmatized people – and join our strengths together so love and justice can prevail. To do otherwise is to let hatred win.



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Talk on “Growing Up in Two Worlds: From Sao Paulo, Brazil, to Binghamton, NY” at BD on Jan. 11

Beth David’s January 11 Luncheon Speaker Series guest will be Roberta Borger, who was born and raised in Brazil before coming to the United States to pursue advanced degrees. Currently a Ph.D. candidate in English and creative writing at Binghamton University, she will speak about what it was like growing up in two worlds, as well as trace the history of the Jewish presence in Brazil, which goes back to the 16th century. As an active participant in Jewish life in Sao Paulo, she will share her experiences growing up in a country known for its mixture of cultures, traditions and influences. Her talk will deal with issues related to the effects of assimilation and the challenges of integrating into Brazilian society, as well as the situation concerning the perception of Jews now, given Brazil’s current right-wing government.

“In a country with more than 200 million inhabitants,” Borger says, “the Jewish community in Brazil can often be

overlooked with only 100,000 members. Yet, its roots trace back hundreds of years, when early settlers arrived after fleeing the Inquisition.” The great-granddaughter of a rabbi, and the granddaughter of a historian, Borger was raised in Sao Paulo, and up through eight grade, she attended the city’s Chaim Nachman Bialik Brazilian-Israeli School. She was a member of her synagogue’s Chazit Hanoar youth group, which met every Saturday for activities, lectures, discussions and events.

While pursuing her bachelor’s degree in screenwriting at Sao Paulo’s Anhembi Morumbi University, Borger received a Masa scholarship, enabling her to study for a semester at Tel Aviv University. After receiving her bachelor’s degree in 2007, she moved to the U.S. in 2008 and earned a second bachelor’s



Roberta Borger

degree in creative writing at SUNY Purchase. In 2014, she earned her master of fine arts in creative writing from Chatham University in Pittsburgh, with a double major in fiction and children’s writing, and a concentration in travel writing. She subsequently moved to Binghamton, where she is currently completing her Ph.D. in English and creative writing. Her poems and short stories have appeared in *The Accents Review*, *The Brooklyn Voice*, *Lux* and other literary magazines.

“We are truly fortunate to have Roberta with us to share her wealth of knowledge and experiences,” organizers say. “Given the current situation in Brazil, her talk will be an ideal opportunity to learn more about how Jewish life has been affected by social and political forces. We are sure it will be a lively and thought-provoking event!”

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

TI/TC adult ed. program on Jan. 12 to discuss Mussar

The Adult Education Committee of Temple Israel and Temple Concord will host a program on Sunday, January 12, at 10 am, at Temple Israel. Rabbi Geoffrey Brown will provide an introduction to the Jewish spiritual path of Mussar. Mussar has been described as a study of Jewish ethics. There is a cost of \$5 per person for the breakfast.

Brown has been leading an ongoing Mussar class at Temple Israel for the past several months. Mussar study employs a variety of approaches to internalizing Jewish values. The course itself has been described as “an immersion process,”



Rabbi Geoffrey Brown

and includes readings and discussion questions, maintaining a journal, meeting with a partner for a study session and then meeting as a group to contemplate and reflect on the text.

Mussar, in the words of Mussar Institute founder Alan Morinis, “shows us how to realize our highest spiritual potential, including an everyday experience infused with happiness, trust and love.”

To make a reservation, contact Tammy Kunsman titammy@stny.twcbc.com or 723-7461. Reservations would be appreciated by Wednesday, January 8, in order to have sufficient food.

The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to the families of Robert and Vicki Rudin

“Cook for a Cause” to benefit TC Religious School on Feb. 9

Chef Michelle McIlroy, a Temple Concord member and owner of Phantom Chef Catering, will lead a Mediterranean cooking class on Sunday, February 9, at 3 pm, at her culinary studio, 49 Washington Ave., Endicott. Participants will make a Mediterranean feast/mezze table featuring appetizers, entrees and desserts. More details about the foods appear in the Temple Concord bulletin, “Shelanu.”

This is a private class organized by Temple Concord

Sisterhood and open to any member of Temple Concord over age 13. As part of McIlroy’s “Cook for a Cause” fund-raiser, she will donate 20 percent of the pre-tax proceeds from the group to the Temple Concord Religious School.

Admission is \$50 per person, which includes tax and a tip for McIlroy’s staff. Space is limited. To reserve a spot, e-mail Rachel Coker at rachelmcoker@gmail.com no later than Friday, January 31.



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NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

U.S. admin. puts in place new policy reducing visa periods for Israelis

New changes to the U.S. administration’s visa policy targeting only Israelis reduces the period of time they can use visas for investment, work and study purposes in the United States, Ynet reported on Jan. 2. The relocation L1 visa document was reduced from 60 months to 48 months; the commerce type E1 visa was reduced from 60 to 52 months; and the student F1 visa was reduced from 60 months to 41 months. The biggest change was regarding the investors E2 visa document, which the U.S. government announced seven months ago that it would grant to Israeli citizens. Most world citizens who request an E2 visa can get a five-year permit, but the maximum period Israelis can get was reduced to only two years, Ynet reported.

The reductions will reportedly be in effect immediately. Netanyahu extends term of Israel’s ambassador to the U.N. until May

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Dec. 31 extended the term of Israel’s Ambassador to the United Nations Danny Danon, just hours before his posting was set to expire. Danon, who was appointed in 2015 for a three-year term and whose posting has already been extended multiple times, will now stay in the position until May. The extension occurs in the context of Israel’s political stalemate, which has led the country to three rounds of elections in under 12 months. The next round of elections is set for March 2. Leading up to the announcement of the extension, Hebrew media reported that other potential candidates for the post include Likud Knesset member and Public Security Minister Gilad Erdan, who was offered the role by Netanyahu last August but turned it down.

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ultimately be Maya’s visits with Shifra, an elderly recluse and Holocaust survivor who lives in the apartment below her, that give Maya the courage to confront her problems and break free of the burdens of her past.”

Orringer’s “The Flight Portfolio” focuses on World War II and is based on a real person and events. The publisher notes, “In 1940, Varian Fry traveled to Marseille carrying \$3,000 and a list of imperiled artists and writers he hoped to help escape within a few weeks. Instead, he stayed more than a year, working to procure false documents, amass emergency funds and arrange journeys across Spain and Portugal, where the refugees would embark for safer ports. His many clients included Hannah Arendt, Max Ernst, Marcel Duchamp and Marc Chagall. The race against time to save them is a tale of forbidden love, high-stakes adventure and unimaginable courage.”

Esserman is the executive editor and book reviewer for The Reporter Group. Her editorials and reviews have won awards from the American Jewish Press Association

and the Syracuse Press Club. She won two Syracuse Press Club awards in 2018: first place for a book review and third place for a column. She serves as the Jewish chaplain for Broome Developmental Disabilities Service Office. Her work has been published in “The Women’s Torah Commentary” and “The Women’s Haftarah Commentary” (both by Jewish Lights Publishing). She also has had a book of poetry, “I Stand By The River,” published by Keshet Press of Temple Concord.

A Reconstructionist rabbi who says her first love is teaching, she sees her position at *The Reporter* as an opportunity to educate the public about Judaism. She is a freelance rabbi who deals with lifecycle events, hospital visits, chaplaincy and is rabbi-on-call when needed by local Reform and Conservative synagogues. Her education includes a bachelor of arts degree in sociology from the University of Pennsylvania, and rabbinic ordination and master of arts in Hebrew letters from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, Wyncote, PA.

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Off the Shelf

Finding well-being and happiness through Judaism

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

About a decade ago, a friend and I read “Stumbling on Happiness” by Daniel Gilbert, a book she described as portraying most humans as too stupid to understand what would make them happy. I saw the book in a more positive light since it helped me learn more about my own path to happiness. I soon read more on the topic, particularly works by Martin E. P. Seligman, a professor at the University of Pennsylvania, who is one of the founders of the Positive Psychology Movement. The university’s website describes the field as “the scientific study of the strengths that enable individuals and communities to thrive. The field is founded on the belief that people want to lead meaningful and fulfilling lives, to cultivate what is best within themselves, and to enhance their experiences of love, work, and play.” I read several of Seligman’s works and found them helpful in overcoming some of my natural pessimism.

So, when I heard about “Positive Judaism: For a Life of Well-Being and Happiness” by Rabbi Darren Levine (Behrman House), I immediately asked for a review copy. I was curious about the combination of Judaism and positive psychology since the other works I read didn’t focus on religion. Levine came to positive psychology after an automobile accident and a major life change. When reading one of Seligman’s books, he discovered what he wanted from life: “happiness, positivity, and fulfillment.” Months later, Levine had a sudden realization: “The virtues of authentic happiness had already been living in me but in a different language. They were in my Jewish heart and mind and had been growing there since childhood.”

Levine notes that by happiness he doesn’t mean the “fleeting or selfish pleasure” we often seek, but “a profound state of wholeness, a deep sense of well-being.” To achieve happiness, he believes we must concentrate on five different areas of our lives: relationships, health, community, money and work. The author bolsters his thoughts with

discussions of scientific theories on how best to achieve happiness. One important aspect discussed is the way people have different strengths and weaknesses with which to work. These strengths are clues to what paths people should follow to make their lives more meaningful. The idea is not that people need to change themselves, but use the strengths they already have in themselves to improve their lives. (The appendix contains surveys to help people discover their current level of well-being and to determine their signature strengths.)

The book then focuses on the Jewish virtues and well-being practices, which serve as the foundation for Positive Judaism. Levine sees seven principles that define the Jewish connection to positive psychology:

- ◆ “Every person is created in the divine image and deserves to live well.”
- ◆ People should be part of “caring, loving, and trusting relationships.”
- ◆ People need to connect to the larger Jewish community.
- ◆ People should find meaningful work.
- ◆ People should use their money to create well-being for themselves and others.
- ◆ People should find ways to increase “human flourishing, life satisfaction, and happiness as a pathway to Jewish continuity.”

The last two sections of the book focus on 10 Jewish happiness virtues and 10 Jewish well-being practices that may help people improve their lives or deal with times of pain and suffering. Each of the remaining chapters speaks to a specific area of life, including the five areas of well-being mentioned above and five times “when living hurts,” which focuses on divorce, illness, loneliness, job loss and financial difficulties. Levine uses specific virtues and well-being practices to show how Judaism can help readers facing these issues. The chapters include a mix of biblical stories

and real-life examples that portray a particular problem. They end with questions for reflection that offer ways to use analyze one’s own life based on what was read.

One example is how the gift of resilience (*ko’ach*) can be used to build strong relationships. Levine defines resilience as “the ability to remain active, energetic, focused, and flexible no matter the situation.” This ability helps one deal with the ups and downs that come with any relationship, and also encourages people to use methods that will increase their connections. Levine notes that research has shown that couple who have more positive interactions than negative ones are more likely to stay together. His chapter includes six activities to help people improve that ratio. His Jewish well-being practice for relationships is observing Shabbat. Not only can Shabbat give couples and families time to be together and experience positive emotions, the break allows people to recharge their strengths and use them to make greater connections.

“Positive Judaism” is easy to read. One need not have any previous experience with Judaism or the Positive Psychology Movement in order to understand his work. While Levine does include some information about the research done in the field, he just touches on the topic. Readers may have more specific questions about positive psychology, which was not a problem for me since I was already familiar with the movement. The author hopes that the Positive Psychology Movement will reach past the individual and the Jewish community to all faith communities. He sees his work as a first step to raising “the well-being and happiness of humanity in our time.” That’s a large goal; most readers may be satisfied with finding ways to improve their own lives through Jewish practice.

Readers interested in learning more about the Positive Psychology Movement can visit www.authentic happiness.sas.upenn.edu/ and <https://ppc.sas.upenn.edu/>.

Examining Jewish identity and Israel engagement on Birthright’s 20th anniversary

By Eliana Rudee

(JNS) – During January, Taglit Birthright will celebrate a major anniversary, representing two decades of the 10-day trips that have impacted the lives of more than 750,000 emerging Jewish adults worldwide. The program was founded by Jewish philanthropists Charles Bronfman and Michael Steinhardt, with support from private donors and the Israeli government, to spur involvement by North American youth who were becoming increasingly disassociated with their Jewish roots. It initially was geared for ages 18-26, though the target age has been extended. While young Jews around the world can participate, the large majority have been those from the United States and Canada.

Len Saxe, who in his role as professor of contemporary Jewish studies at Brandeis University has written extensively on the impact of Birthright, told JNS of “the enormous impact that the program has on the lives of people who participate.” By comparing those who have applied for and participated in Birthright, versus those who applied but did not participate, Saxe has traced the lives of various groups



Birthright participants hiked up Masada, Israeli flag in hand. (Photo courtesy of Birthright Israel)

of participants six, 12, 18, 24 and 36 months post-program to find that “Birthright is a pivotal movement that changed the trajectory of engagement with Jewish life.”

According to his “conservative estimates through complex modeling,” those who go on a Birthright trip are 50 percent more likely to marry another Jew and raise Jewish children. Additionally, Jewish identity, connection to a Jewish community and connection to Israel each increase significantly more for those who participated.

Upon returning to Portland State University from his Birthright trip in winter 2015, Cole Keister found that “BDS [had come] to campus” through a motion by the “very anti-Israel” student government that passed the movement to boycott Israel by 23-3. “The language they were using was off the normal BDS script,” he told JNS. “They were calling out Jewish people and weren’t even being anti-Israel, just straight up antisemitic.”

Birthright, he said, catapulted his journey to becoming president of the Israel group on his campus following the onslaught of anti-Israel and antisemitic sentiment there. “I See ‘Birthright’ on page 11

LEGAL NOTICE

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,



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

is a company formed for hemp cultivation and the manufacturing and distribution of hemp products.

Notice of Formation of V1A 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.

NOTICE OF FORMATION.

Life By Design Wellness, LLC (LLC). Articles of Organization filed with NY Dept. of State (SSNY) 6/10/13. Office located in Broome County. SSNY designated agent for service of process. SSNY to mail copy of process served against LLC to Nicole Raymondii, 690 Mariposa Ave., Apt. 203, Oakland, CA 94610. LLC purpose is any activity authorized by law.

Notice is hereby giving that an order entered by the County Court. Delaware County on December 3,

2019 Index No. 209-792. A copy of which may be examined at the Office of the County Clerk, located in Delaware County, 3 Court St. Delhi NY 13753, Grants me the right to assume the name of Kettly M. Zenon. My present name is Kettly M. Fischer. My address is 3110 Pine Hill Road, Unadilla NY. My place of birth is Haiti, on March 3, 1959.

Notice of formation of ASP SMOKE SHOP LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 02/12/2019. Office location: Broome County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process served to: The LLC at 2444 RHONDA DR., VESTAL NY 13850. Purpose: any lawful act.

Notice of Formation of Peranich Real Estate, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/12/19. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 39 Amsbry St., Binghamton, NY 13901. Purpose: any lawful activities.

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Norwich Jewish Center celebrated Hanukkah



The Norwich Jewish Center celebrated Hanukkah on December 29. The attendees socialized, ate latkes and played games. The afternoon ended with a menorah lighting.



After the meal, the Cherenyak family entertained with a blend of musical genres, including Hanukkah songs and classical selections. L-r: Yury Cherenyak on flute, Elizabeth and Katherine Cherenyak on violin and Sasha Cherenyak on cello.

Memo

Continued from page 2

Let's kiss and make up. Let's unite and fight together as Jews and stop the rise in antisemitism. Let's look past our differences and accomplish this by living proud as free, American Jews who are willing to "fight

the fight" and stand united against anyone or anything that leads to Jew hatred or worse – to the horrible, wrongful, shameful, deceitful and eternally tragic murder of innocent Jews. Let's honor their collective

memory, come together and make sure it never happens again.

Rebecca Harary, M.S., is the president and founder of Combat Anti-Semitism Everywhere.

Moving any time soon?



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Business Profiles

AUDIO CLASSICS

Specialty: Audio-Home Theater-Video-Guitars
 Location: 3501 Vestal Rd.
 Vestal, NY 13850
 Phone: 607-766-3501 or 800-321-AUDIO (2834)
 Fax: 607-766-3501
 E-mail: steve@audioclassics.com
 Website: www.AUDIOCLASSICS.com
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/Vestal-NY/Audio-Classics-Ltd/231680698962?ref=nf
 Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8 am-5:30 pm, Sat. 11 am-4 pm

AUDIO CLASSICS, located at 3501 Vestal Rd., in Vestal, has grown to be one of the premiere providers of quality audio and home theater systems for a wide range of tastes, environments and budgets. Featuring products from McIntosh, Bowers & Wilkins, Marantz, Levinson, Klipsch, JBL, VPI, Magnepan, Denon and more. AUDIO CLASSICS is the dream come true for all music lovers. Now add custom design for your new home or commercial project, a vast array of quality pre-owned equipment and a liberal trade option. AUDIO CLASSICS offers more of the good for less than any other dealer. Want more? With pleasure! Visit its superb website at www.AUDIOCLASSICS.com.

Celebrations with DeRue

Specialty: Disc jockey entertainment services
 Location: 317 Marion St.
 Vestal, NY 13850
 Name: DeRue O'Loughlin
 Phone: 607-343-6269
 E-mail: DeRue@celebrationswithderue.com
 Website: www.celebrationswithderue.com
 Hours: By appointment

Celebrations with DeRue provides disc jockey entertainment services throughout upstate New York – including Tioga County and Broome County – and Pennsylvania.

"We are a very creative DJ and MC option for your music entertainment," says DeRue. "We work hard to provide services that will make your occasion memorable and beyond the expected. We help you organize and execute your big day vision. This also includes other optional enhancing services for event success. The DeRue Crew will take care of client's wants and needs! Bottom line, we listen, we work for and with you. Couples and clients will get a genuine and caring approach that delivers results. For your professional, fun and customer friendly music service needs, please give us a call. We invite you to join the Celebration Nation with over 20 years in wedding and corporate event successes!"

Disaster Clean-up

Specialty: Full-service fire and water damage restoration
 Name: Arthur Diamond
 Location: 1612 Watson Blvd.
 Endwell, NY 13760
 Phone: 607-748-0128
 Hours: 24/7, including holidays

Disaster Clean-Up is a full-service fire and water damage restoration company. The company covers all of Broome County and the Southern Tier, and has trained technicians on call 24/7, including holidays, to respond to emergencies. Disaster Clean-Up is proud to offer the most advanced technology and largest capacity for drying and dehumidification in all of the Southern Tier. Services range from mold removal to moisture testing to cleaning of buildings and their contents, and more.

From the smallest fire or water loss in your home to the largest commercial disasters, Disaster-Up can do it all.

Four steps to save on business vehicle insurance

(NAPSI) – Depending on the type of small business you own, what you pay to insure your vehicles could be as much as 40 percent of your total operating budget. The following steps from www.progressivecommercial.com can help you take control of this expense and save money.

1. Request a policy review. Take time to understand the coverages that are legally required by the state and your customers, then review your policy with your insurance company or independent agent to understand your coverages, limits and deductibles. A policy review

will also help you update information on your policy, which could save you money.

2. When you review your policy, take a look at your deductibles. A deductible is the amount you'll pay out of **See "Steps" on page 7**



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First Israeli cycling team in Tour de France will promote “Start-Up Nation”

By JNS staff

(JNS) – Israel Cycling Academy just announced a partnership with Start-Up Nation Central, a Tel Aviv-based nonprofit that connects international companies with Israeli innovation.

Under the name “Israel Start-Up Nation,” the team will compete on cycling’s biggest stage as a new entrant in the World Tour. As a result, it will become the first-ever Israeli team to compete in the Tour de France, the world’s third most-watched sporting event after the quadrennial summer Olympic Games and the soccer World Cup, showcasing Israeli innovation to billions of television viewers.

Participation in the Tour de France represents significant progress made by ICA in five years. The 2017 season was the team’s first in the second-tier Pro Continental ranks. In 2018, the team raced in its first Grand Tour – the historic Giro d’Italia, which started in Jerusalem. ICA raced again in the Giro d’Italia in 2019. This same season, the team stepped up its racing performance and recorded 29 wins.

“Israel Start-Up Nation” carries 30 riders from 16 nationalities. The team will include four Israeli riders: Itamar Einhorn, Omer Goldstein, Guy Niv and Guy Sagiv. In order to be challenged on the World Tour, it has also signed some of the sport’s most experienced riders, including Andre Greipel, Dan Martin and Dani Navarro.

The team is owned by Israeli-Canadian philanthropist Sylvan Adams and Israeli businessman Ron Baron. Taking a minority interest this year is Kevin Lam, a Canadian, via his company, Reinvent.com.

“The dream of competing in the Tour de France, almost unthinkable when we launched the team, is coming true: a professional team with world-class Israeli riders alongside the finest international talents, racing with pride in one of the world’s most prestigious sporting events,” said Adams. “Around 3.5 billion viewers in hundreds of countries will see the Israeli flag and hear the message that this is a country bringing unrivaled innovation to the world.

At right: The Israel Start-Up Nation (Israel Cycling Academy) Pro Tour team roster will compete in the 2020 World Tour. (Courtesy photo via JNS)



“By partnering with Start-Up Nation Central, we are showcasing the Israeli-tech ecosystem on a global stage, sending a clear message that this is a country with so much to offer,” he added. “I have no doubt that cutting-edge Israeli technology will give our team a competitive advantage as we race against the very best in world cycling.”

Professor Eugene Kandel, CEO of SNC, noted that with a population of about nine million people, Israel has the most start-ups and highest venture investment per capita in the world. “This is a potential force multiplier

that the Israel Cycling Academy can tap into,” he said.

ICA was founded in December 2014 in Jerusalem as Israel’s first professional cycling team with a vision to help young cyclists achieve the highest level of the sport. Riders also act as the nation’s “ambassadors,” demonstrating a vision of peace through athletics.

Riders will continue to serve as Peres Center for Peace and Innovation “Peace Ambassadors,” a title they were bestowed in 2018. The Center’s logo will appear on uniforms to help spread a message of coexistence.

SPORTS BRIEF

From JNS.org

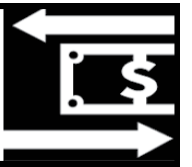
Shabbat-scheduled marathon may dash Israeli’s run in 2020 Olympics

A marathon runner in Israel may have to put her Olympic dreams on hold after a women’s marathon in the 2020 Tokyo Summer Games has been moved from Sunday to Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath and day of rest. A late switch in the Olympic schedule will prevent Bracha “Beatie” Deutsch, a Shabbat-observant mother of five, from competing in the marathon that was originally slated for Sunday, Aug. 2. “I felt like I was punched in the stomach this morning,” wrote Deutsch – nicknamed the “Marathon Mom” – on Facebook

after learning of the date change. She noted that running has been “very compatible” with her religious lifestyle, until now. “Suddenly, things got real very quickly,” she wrote. “Because I’ve been pretty public about my Olympic dream ... and I’ve invested a whole lot to get myself there ... and what if, what if after all that, I make it and I can’t even run?!” Deutsch, a resident of Har Nof, Jerusalem, originally from the United States (she made *aliyah* in 2009), remains hopeful that the race date will be changed, saying she will continue to train and push herself to qualify for the Olympics. She said, “I may not make it the Olympics. ... But one thing I do know is that I will continue to proudly represent what it means to be an Orthodox Jewish woman and professional runner for Israel.”



Business Profiles



Ernest H. Parsons Funeral Home

Specialty: Funeral
Location: 71 Main St.
Binghamton, NY 13905
Name: Joseph Fritsch
Phone: 607-724-1336
Fax: 607-724-1337
E-mail: parsonsfuneral@yahoo.com
Website: www.parsonsfuneral.com
Hours: 24/7/365

The Ernest H. Parsons Funeral Home, located at 71 Main St., Binghamton, has been a landmark since 1928 and is located in the J. Stewart Wells Mansion, built by renowned architect Isaac Perry, who completed construction in 1867.

Ernest H. Parsons owned and operated the funeral home from 1928 until his death in 1976. Charles Mills purchased the funeral home after Ernest’s death and continued the tradition until his retirement in 2012. The current owners – J. Fritsch, R. Fynboe, S. Pitkorchemny and K. Vakiener – strive to uphold the original motto of the founder: “Let Us Serve You with Understanding.” Parsons Funeral Home offers distinctive service with respectful attentiveness to the ceremonial rites and the utmost consideration of families’ desires to accord a last tribute of affection and esteem to their departed loved ones.

Garufi Law P.C.

Specialty: Legal services
Location: 68 Oak St.
Binghamton, NY 13905
Owner: Carman M. Garufi
Phone: 607-722-5000
Fax: 607-722-5626
Hours: Mon.-Fri., 8 am-5 pm

Garufi Law P.C. has been serving the Southern Tier for more than 27 years. Carman M. Garufi started the practice in March 1991 with an emphasis on Matrimonial/Family Law. Since 2007, he has been selected one of the Best Lawyers® in America for Family Law. Garufi has been honored as a New York Super Lawyer® for 10 years, and he has been named a Best Lawyers® Lawyer of the Year for Family Law in Binghamton for 2019. He is a past President of the Broome County Bar Association.

Sandra J. Garufy is of Counsel, with experience in Family Law and Criminal matters, assisting with Wills and Estates. Alena E. Van Tull joined the firm in August 2010 and handles Family Law/Matrimonial matters, Criminal matters, Elder Law and Landlord/Tenant matters.

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When faced with the death of a loved one, Hopler & Eschbach Funeral Home invites you to turn to its caring staff to help guide you through the funeral process. Deeply experienced and knowledgeable in the performance of Jewish burial customs, Kurt Eschbach and his staff are the most qualified professionals in the community to help plan and carry out your funeral or memorial services. They provide services at your synagogue, the funeral home or cemetery, and also provide cremation services and funeral pre-planning.

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(NAPSA) – Growing small businesses can simplify collaboration by using productivity apps that bring chat, meetings, files and business apps together into one platform. To help, Microsoft’s chat-based workspace, Teams, is now available in a free version. Read more at aka.ms/freeteams.

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in f

Twenty-five thousand people march against hate and fear in New York

By Karen Schwartz

(JNS) – Thousands of marchers assembled in Manhattan on January 4, taking to the streets and flooding the Brooklyn Bridge for hours as they crossed into the borough



A group of Franciscan Brothers from Brooklyn marched at the “No Hate. No Fear.” rally in New York on January 5. (Photo by Karen Schwartz)

of Brooklyn amid chants of the theme of the assembly, “No Hate. No Fear.”

An estimated 25,000 people converged on Manhattan’s Foley Square and made their way to Brooklyn’s Cadman Plaza, where they heard from community leaders and organizations that urged Jewish pride and unity in the face of escalating antisemitism. Sponsors included the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, the Anti-Defamation League, the Board of Rabbis of New York, the American Jewish Committee and the UJA-Federation of New York.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) each spoke in Manhattan on streets packed with people holding signs and spontaneously breaking into song. “While we’re here today in the spirit of solidarity and love, government must do more than just offer thoughts and prayers – government must act,” said Cuomo, adding that he would be proposing a new law for the state of New York that categorizes hate crimes as domestic terrorism.

“Today, we do not simply walk over a bridge, we begin building better bridges between all denominations of Jews, and between Jews and non-Jews,” said Eric S.



An estimated 25,000 people converged on Manhattan’s Foley Square, crossed the Brooklyn Bridge and made their way to Cadman Plaza as part of a “No Hate. No Fear.” rally on January 5. (Photo by Rivka Segal)

Goldstein, CEO of UJA-Federation of New York. “Building bridges means putting aside our differences, religious and political, and calling out antisemitism and all forms of hate wherever we see it. The purpose of today’s

march is to loudly and publicly proclaim that an attack on a visibly Orthodox Jew is an attack on every Jew, an attack on every New Yorker and an attack on every person of good will.” See “March” on page 8



Business Profiles



Howard Hanna - Suzanne (Sue) Krause

Specialty: Residential real estate
 Location: 4747 Vestal Parkway East, Vestal, NY 13850
 Name: Suzanne (Sue) Krause, Licensed Associate Real Estate Broker
 Phones: 607-772-1177, 607-760-3366 (cell)
 E-mail: suekrause@howardhanna.com
 Website: suzannekrause.howardhanna.com

Sue Krause is a licensed associate real estate broker with Howard Hanna in Vestal, NY. After working in real estate in California and Massachusetts, Sue returned to real estate in the Greater Binghamton area in 2007, after spending many years as a successful healthcare consultant. She is a consistent multi-million dollar producer and President’s Council member, and would love to help you with any of your real estate needs!

The Reporter

Specialty: Advertising
 Location: 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850
 Name: Bonnie Rozen
 Phone: 607-724-2360, ext. 244
 Fax: 607-724-2311
 E-mail: bonnie@thereportergroup.org
 Website: www.thereportergroup.org
 Hours: Mon.-Thurs., 9:30 am-5 pm, Fri. 9:30 am-4 pm

With 52 years’ experience in sales, and celebrating 24 years at *The Reporter*, Bonnie truly enjoys working with people to get the word out about their businesses, and helping them to create the look they want for their print ads. “Satisfaction guaranteed” is her mantra.

“I feel a great sense of responsibility to my clients and to our community,” says Bonnie.

Bonnie is the current president and the past treasurer of Success Network, a business association in the Twin Tiers of New York since 1998.

Call her today to discuss options for advertising in *The Reporter* and in its sister paper, *The Reporter* in Scranton, PA.

Steps Continued from page 5

pocket in the event of a claim. If your business can afford to pay more out of pocket, you can raise your deductible amounts and save money on your premium.

3. Check out your payment plan. Insurance companies offer a lot of options. If your budget can allow paying in full, you could get a discount. If you can’t pay in full, a monthly payment plan can help you line up payments with cash flow.

4. Ask about available discounts. Some insurers offer several, including an experienced-business-owner discount and up to 20 percent off for drivers with CDLs.

Women’s OB/GYN Associates

Specialty: Women’s healthcare
 Location: 401 Main St., 1st Floor, Johnson City, NY 13790
 Names: Dr. Carol Miller; Karen Castoro, FNP; Melodye Onysko, ANP/CNM; and Heather Nannery, FNP
 Phone: 607-754-9870
 Fax: 607-785-9862
 Website: www.womensobgyn.info
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/WomensOBGYN/
 Hours: Mon.-Fri. by appointment

Women’s OB/GYN Associates serves patients with individual attention and caring excellence. The team of providers offers care in the following areas: routine gynecologic exams, obstetrical care, menopause, incontinence, osteoporosis, contraception, advanced body composition, the area’s only Optifast weight loss program, Young Living Essential Oils and more. Karen Castoro, FNP, shares her enthusiasm for healthy living and wellness to encourage those in her care. Melodye Onysko, ANP/CNM, shares her expertise in holistic health care and weight management support. Heather Nannery, FNP, is now accepting new patients seeking gynecological care. Dr. Carol Miller is committed to promoting women’s health through a healthy diet and lifestyle.

To learn more about these women’s healthcare providers, or to contact the office of Women’s OB/GYN Associates, visit my.womensobgyn.info and “like” their page on Facebook.

Welcome to our newest practitioner, Heather Nannery, FNP!

Heather serves women seeking care that includes annual well woman visits, IUD’s, and other gynecology concerns.

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Crop-disease detection in drones wins men's "Great Minds Hackathon"

By JNS staff

(JNS) – An innovative crop-disease detection solution designed for drones was announced as the winner of the fourth annual Jerusalem College of Technology (Machon Lev) "Great Minds Hackathon."

Efraim Hammer and his group partner, Gamliel Roos, both originally from France, won the hackathon by developing a system to detect diseased crops through aerial photos taken by a drone. The challenge was presented by FlyTech, founded by Jerusalem College of Technology graduates, which provides aerial services and implements



Students at work during the fourth annual Jerusalem College of Technology (Machon Lev) "Great Minds Hackathon" held in December. (Photo by Michael Erenburg)

aerial technologies using commercial UAVs and drones.

"If a crop is already dying, it's very likely that it contaminates the others around it, so the faster you can detect the dying crop, the better," said Hammer. "It's estimated that damage from diseased crops and trees amounts to around \$60 billion in losses annually, so if optimized, this has the potential for huge savings."

More than 100 male Orthodox and ultra-Orthodox Jerusalem College of Technology students from Israel and dozens of other countries took part in the hackathon, working around the clock for 48 hours the week of December 27 on challenges presented by the likes of Amazon Web Services, OrCam, Elbit Systems, Via, Intel and more. The hackathon is run by the LevTech Entrepreneurship Center of JCT, which also includes a pre-accelerator program to help students turn their ideas into products and startups. The winners were chosen by a panel of six judges from Israeli companies.

Working on a challenge from OrCam, JCT international student Yaakov Yeger and his team from Teaneck, NJ, developed a solution to enhance an already existing OrCam product for the visually impaired, which uses a camera attached to eyeglasses to identify objects and individuals. The new development enhances that ability so the glasses can identify people from a longer distance without seeing the person's face clearly.



Winners of the "Great Minds Hackathon" (l-r): JCT Vice President Stuart Hershkowitz; Efraim Hammer; Gamliel Roos; Professor Kenneth Hochberg, rector of JCT; and Eran Yomtovyan, director of LevTech Entrepreneurship Center. (Photo by Michael Erenburg)

"Our solution is another step toward leveling the playing field for the blind," said Yeger. "This is my first hackathon and it's been a cool experience. It's been great to be in this sort of hub with people working all over the place (on different challenges)."

Other solutions included a system to prevent drivers of automobiles from falling asleep, a system for remote physical therapy through a robotic arm, and a system to alert and prevent children drowning in swimming pools.

March

Continued from page 7

Groups from around New York, as well as from cities and states including New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Boston, Cleveland, Philadelphia and Washington, DC, were represented at the event, in addition to Montreal and Toronto in Canada, with more than 15 Jewish Federations bringing delegations.

Sharon Fried left at 6 am on a bus – one of several from the Washington, DC, area – bound for New York City. "The escalation of antisemitism, it's very disturbing, and if we don't speak up, it's going to keep happening," she said. "We have to speak up in numbers."

Her grandparents emigrated from Russia, and the story in her family was that her grandfather fled, hidden on a boat, so he wouldn't have to be in the tsar's army. "I don't want these things to happen again – that people have to run," she said. "You've got to speak up; you've got to participate."

Recent incidents include a December 28 attack during a Hanukkah candle-lighting at the home of Rabbi Chaim Rottenberg in Monsey, NY, that left five people seriously injured, and a kosher supermarket attack in Jersey City, NJ, that resulted in the deaths of three civilians (two of them Chasidic Jews) and a police detective. That's not to mention the spate of verbal and physical attacks against Orthodox Jews in Brooklyn – namely, those dressed in traditional Jewish garb.

Yaacob Azancot, a college student who lives in Brooklyn, NY, rode the subway with his family to the event and



A group from Cleveland at the "No Hate. No Fear." rally in New York on January 5. (Photo courtesy of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland.)

found himself getting harassed on the way. "On the way to the rally, we were getting off the train and someone pushed me with a lot of force," he said. "I think it's the *kippah* – being Jewish, being Orthodox. My brother was right next to me; he had his *tzitzit* out."

Rabbi Uriel Vigler, director of Chabad Israel Center of the Upper East Side in Manhattan, said he was glad to see Jews from all walks of life together at the event, but added that there was more work to be done. "We have to do something, we have to be prouder Jews, and that has to establish itself in practical *mitzvot*," he explained.

It's an unprecedented time in America, said Vigler, who was on his way to morning services last spring when he was accosted by a man shouting antisemitic remarks. "Even walking in the Upper East Side, I'm aware of my surroundings, where I'm going, what I'm doing; however, I hope and I pray that this situation will not last, and we will get out of this current predicament," he said.

Rabbi Isaiah Rothstein, rabbi-in-residence for the non-profit organization Hazon, brought his guitar to the march and led the crowd in Cadman Plaza in "Hatikvah." The crowd, which kept growing as people came off of the bridge throughout the event to join the crowd, also heard from singer Matisyahu and the Jewish *a capella* group The Maccabeats.

"We're not only showing up and showing the solidarity and visibility and power of numbers, but we're actually spiritually influencing each other; the energy of being next to each other, singing a song while marching the streets of Manhattan," said Rothstein. "Seeing people speak, seeing a child or elderly person walking the street... it's sacred, and the power of interfaith, where it's not just Jews standing up for Jews, but people standing up for the dignity of all."

Gregg Levine, who came with his husband as part of a contingent of some 100-people strong from Cleveland, canceled plans for Saturday night to instead take the midnight bus to New York. "This is one of those important opportunities to build bridges and fight hate," said Levine, who was proud that the Cleveland group also included a number of teens. "I think it's important that we use this really dark time to shed some light, that we can all come together as a community – not only as a community of Jews, but as a community of other people who've also been discriminated against and say, 'We won't tolerate this; we've got to stand together and fight this hatred.'"

The event drew a diverse group of supporters. Rokeya Akhter marched with the Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom, a network of Muslim and Jewish women. Co-leader of the Queens chapter, she said she came out to reinforce the message of unity. "It's a most important thing to stand next to my Jewish sisters and brothers," she said. "Love is stronger than hate."

Brother Joseph Bach attended the event as part of a group of Franciscan Brothers of Brooklyn to stand in solidarity with the Jewish community, he said, noting, "I think we're all in this together, all human beings; we have to stand together and focus on what brings us together, which is being human."

It was also a learning moment, said Mindy Brittner, who came to the event with her husband, Jackson Nurmi, and their daughter, Willa. The family rode down to the event with a group from Manhattan's Town and Village Synagogue on East 14th Street. "I've marched for everyone else in the past two years, and now it's time to be there for my people," she said. "It's all interrelated."

In addition to coming to support the cause, Brittner said it was important to her to bring her daughter, all of 2 years old, with them, saying, "I want her to know it's important to show up."



Members of the Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom, a network of Muslim and Jewish women, at the "No Hate. No Fear." rally in New York on January 5. (Photo by Karen Schwartz)

Following the march, New Yorkers of all backgrounds gathered in Brooklyn's Cadman Plaza where a number of community leaders and heads of faith-based organizations, including Cardinal Timothy Dolan, spoke about the recent attacks, the rise of antisemitism and the need for people of all faiths to fight injustice.

Additional speakers and performers during the program included Eric Goldstein, Michael Miller, Devorah Halberstam, Jonathan Greenblatt, Gil Monroe, David Harris, Mehnaz Afridi, Janice Shorestein, Frankie Miranda, Joe Potasnik, Bishop Anthony DiMarzio, Blake Flayton, Eric Ward, Chaskel Bennet, Rabbi Avraham Gopin, Shulem, MaNishtana, Lawrence Aker, Rev. Que English, Eli Cohen, Amy Bressman, Bari Weiss and Isaiah Rothstein, as well as a video message from Rabbi David Niederman.



Jackson Nurmi, Mindy Brittner and their daughter, Willa, 2, at the "No Hate. No Fear." rally in New York on January 5. (Photo by Karen Schwartz)

Get the word out!

Does your organization have an event coming up you want the community to attend? Then get the word out through **The Reporter!** If you're new to PR and aren't sure how to publicize your event, *The Reporter* editors are ready, willing and happy to help you:

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News analysis

Iran crossed red line with Trump administration; US, Israel, region brace for response

By Yaakov Lappin

(JNS)—The American airstrike assassination of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' Quds Force commander, Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani, in Baghdad early on January 3 follows a major miscalculation on the part of Tehran in the decision to up the ante against the United States.

While the extent of Iran's response is not yet clear, military planners in the region, including in Israel, will need to prepare for the most severe scenarios. Even though Iran may seek to launch a calculated retaliation, which would exact a price without going to war, no one can be sure of where events will go next.

Indications of Iran's intent to escalate in the region were already apparent in late November, when U.S. Gen. Kenneth F. McKenzie, the head of the military's Central Command responsible for the Middle East, warned that Iran was planning a major attack on the scale of its cruise missile and drone assault on Saudi oil fields in September.

Hours before the American airstrike on Soleimani's vehicle in Baghdad, American Defense Secretary Mark Esper repeated the warning that Iran was planning further strikes on the United States and its regional interests, and said that America would take preventive action to defend the lives of its forces and civilians.

The intensification had been gradually brewing, with an American contractor killed in a rocket attack that was launched by the Iranian-backed Kataib Hezbollah militia on a military base in northern Iraq on December 27. America's reply was called crushing: An airstrike on the militia's bases in Iraq and Syria on December 30, resulting in dozens of casualties, including Iranian officers. That was a warning Iran failed to heed.

The Iranians sent militia-supporting mobs to attack the U.S. embassy in Baghdad on December 31, representing an Iranian attempt to keep up the pressure on America while maintaining plausible deniability. Soleimani was involved in all of those incidents, and his arrival in Iraq on December 3 was an indication of his intent to continue to activate his influence to the detriment of American forces.

He had spent years building a multinational terrorist army and destabilizing the region. In fact, he was the right-hand



Palestinians walked next to posters of Qassem Soleimani, who was killed in a U.S. drone strike in Iraq on January 3, near a mourning tent in Gaza City on January 4. (Photo by Hassan Jedi/Flash90)

man of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, reporting directly to him and tasked with implementing Khamenei's radical vision of Iranian hegemony in the region.

Soleimani built proxy forces that are deployed in Iraq (home to some 100,000 armed Shi'ite militia members), in Syria and in Lebanon (home to the most heavily armed non-state terror army in the world).

Soleimani provided "significant" assistance to Gaza's terror factions, enabling them to fire rockets on Tel Aviv, as well as to forces in Yemen, which fire missiles at Saudi cities. He fed Iran's proxies with advanced weapons, training and cash, and drew up their doctrines and missions.

He also ordered a long series of armed attacks on U.S. interests and bases, as well as against the civilians, armies and strategic targets of Arab countries in the Persian Gulf.

Soleimani was working to surround Israel with missile bases and terror groups, and was ideologically committed to Israel's destruction. He was hard at work building a war machine in Syria, after helping Syrian President Bashar Assad win the civil war – a war that prevailed as a result of mass killings and countless war crimes against Sunnis

in order to rescue the pro-Iranian Damascus regime.

Soleimani's goal was to spread Iran's radical Shi'ite agenda throughout the region, neutralize American influence and intimidate states that stood in his way. He repressed Shi'ites in Iraq, who were fed up with their Iranian-influenced corrupt government. Under Soleimani's directive, militias in Iraq turned into death squads, gunning down hundreds of protesters on Iraqi streets – meaning that many Iraqis will not be upset to see his departure from the scene.

In their choice to step up attacks on the world's top superpower, Soleimani and the Iranian regime made a number of critical errors in recent weeks. Attacking Americans in Iraq was one; Khamenei's taunt of U.S. President Donald Trump on Twitter, saying that he was powerless to act in Iraq was another; and the mob attack on the U.S. embassy in Baghdad was a third mistake, which touched on a "highly sensitive" American nerve. The U.S. establishment has painful memories from the embassy siege in Tehran during the 1979 Islamic Revolution and the 2012 attacks on U.S. government facilities in Benghazi, Libya.

The Iranians displayed a major miscalculation in failing to understand how the U.S. would view these incidents, and when Soleimani arrived in Baghdad – apparently to plan more attacks – the miscalculation only grew.

"The highly vigorous American response points to the fact that from the U.S.'s standpoint, the Iranians crossed a red line, and it seems the Americans had intelligence that the Iranians were going to cross further red lines," Maj. Gen. (res.) Yaakov Amidror, former national security adviser to Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu, told JNS.

"The American response is a warning to the Iranians, but also it is designed to prevent the operation that the Iranians were planning," added Amidror, a senior fellow at the Jerusalem Institute for Strategic Studies. "Since we do not know how the Iranians will respond, the assessments are not important. We must assume that the Iranians will respond, and we have to be ready for this response."

That readiness should include intelligence-gathering activity with a focus on identifying Iranian preparations to strike. The Iranian response might well include attacks on Israel. "We have to be ultra-cautious," emphasized Amidror, "because no one knows how the Iranians will respond."

Israel unveils laser system designed to intercept incendiary balloons, drones

By JNS staff

(Israel Hayom via JNS)—The Israel Police on December 26 unveiled a laser-defense system designed to intercept airborne incendiary threats of the kind launched from the Gaza Strip in recent years. According to Israel's Channel 12 News, while the system is operational, no deployment date has been announced.

Dubbed "Light Blade," the system is said to resemble Israel's Iron Dome air-defense system in its technology. It will tackle incendiary balloons and kites launched by terrorist groups in the Gaza Strip, which have started countless fires in Israel's southern communities over the past two summers, as well as drones. Light Blade is said to be the first defense system of its kind in the world.

The terrorist arson campaign launched in late April 2018 has decimated nearly 10,000 acres of forest and farmlands on the Israeli side of the border. Incendiary kites and balloons have caused millions of dollars in damage to the



Israel's "Light Blade" laser-defense system. (Photo by Israel Police)

area over the past seven months alone, and environmental experts say it will take at least 15 years to rehabilitate the region's vegetation and wildlife.

Light Blade was developed by three civilian engineers working with Ben-Gurion University researchers and the technology branches of the Israel Police and Israel Defense Forces. The project, led by Border Police Commissioner Maj. Gen. Yaakov Shabtai, was a year in the making.

According to available details, the laser is capable of engaging targets at a range of 2 kilometers (1.2 miles), day or night. Once the system locks on to its target, it fires a laser beam at it. If the target is a balloon or a kite, the beam incinerates it almost instantly. The Light Blade takes slightly longer to bring down drones.

Shabtai said that Light Blade "provides a near conclusive response to everything relating to balloons and kites, and delivers a safe and effective solution to the drone threat."

This article first appeared in Israel Hayom.

NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

Ukraine leaves U.N. committee on Palestinians

Ukraine has quit the U.N. Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. The decision was greenlighted by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. Founded in 1975, the 25-country committee seeks "to enable Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable rights, including the right to self-determination ... the right to national independence and sovereignty, and the right to return to their homes and property from which they have been displaced." However, it has historically supported anti-Israel resolutions. The Israeli Foreign Ministry lauded the move to leave the "anachronistic anti-Israeli" committee. "We urge other committee members to follow suit. What are you still doing there???" tweeted the ministry. The American Jewish Committee also approved of the decision. "Ukraine has recognized the true nature of this U.N. body and acted laudably by withdrawing its membership," said AJC CEO David Harris. "The CEIRPP uses precious U.N. resources to promote an agenda that does nothing to advance Israeli-Palestinian

peace or improve the living conditions of Palestinians. Quite the contrary. Its very existence only serves to perpetuate the conflict and convince the Palestinians to avoid the negotiating table with Israel, the only venue to resolve the conflict."

New U.S. special Mideast envoy in Israel to discuss peace effort

Avi Berkowitz, U.S. President Donald Trump's new special representative for international negotiations, met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Jan. 6 to discuss the rollout of the Trump administration's peace plan. Also attending the meeting was U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman. This is Berkowitz's first visit to Israel since he assumed the position in November, succeeding Jason Greenblatt. There is speculation that the Trump administration might roll out its long-anticipated plan before Israel's March 2 elections. Though the meeting has not yet been announced, Berkowitz is also expected to meet with Blue and White Party leader Benny Gantz before returning to Washington. The meeting between Berkowitz and Netanyahu follows senior Trump adviser Jared Kushner's meeting with both Netanyahu and Gantz in October.

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Weekly Parasha

Vayechi, Genesis 47:28-50:26

Holding onto your roots

RABBI DANIEL FELLMAN, TEMPLE CONCORD, SYRACUSE

We American Jews are hardly the first Jews to live in a welcoming society. German Jews, Spanish Jews and even Greek Jews knew the challenges, both beneficial and disadvantageous, of living within another culture. Our American experience stands out for the heights we have achieved – more institutions of higher Jewish learning; more achievements in science, literature and politics; more opportunity and more acceptance than at any other time in history.

We Jews have not always been so lucky. Too often in our history, host cultures have been cruel and unwelcoming. This Shabbat, as we read Vayechi, the final *parasha* of Genesis, we encounter our people's first experiences with assimilation.

Joseph had been sold into slavery and, through good fortune, re-emerged as the "number two" to Pharaoh in

Egypt. After reconnecting with his brothers, and sending for the entire extended family, Joseph and all of Jacob's family become welcome guests in Egypt.

Jacob, already ripe of age, calls his favorite son and demands of him a promise. When Jacob dies, he wants to be buried in the cave of Machpelah with his parents and grandparents. No matter how good things are in Egypt, Jacob still remembers his roots, his traditions and his people. And he wants to return to those roots, to be returned to the family plot.

In making this request, Jacob's motives might be manifold. On the one hand, he may well have just preferred to be interred with his ancestors. Another option – Jacob wanted to make sure that his sons and their families had one more tutorial in their own tradition in the hopes that it would help them hold on to that legacy even with the

pressures of assimilation in Egypt.

Joseph follows his father's wishes and accompanies Jacob's remains, along with his family, back to the land of Israel for the burial at Machpelah. And in time, when Joseph himself faced his end, he, too, made the same request of his sons.

Jacob wrestled his whole life – with God, with his family and with his future. The consummate parent, Jacob never stopped trying to parent, trying to guide his offspring. And Joseph not only learned the lesson, he passed it on to his children.

Parenting never ends, and every parent recognizes the desire to help their children navigate an often confusing world. Jacob and Joseph offer an intriguing model. Do what you need to do to survive, ingratiate yourself as much as you can, but never ever forget your roots!

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, Jan. 11..... 9 am
Mincha after kiddush
 Weekday Services:
 Mornings:
 Sun., Jan. 12..... 8:30 am
 Mon.-Fri., Jan. 13-17 7 am
 Evenings:
 Sun., Jan. 12..... 4:30 pm
 Mon., Jan. 6 7 pm
 Tues., Jan 7 4:40 pm
 Wed.-Thurs., Jan 13-16 7 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.

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.

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, January 10, at 8 pm, Shabbat evening services will be led by Anne Bussard.
 On Saturday, January 11, religious school will meet at 9 am, Torah study* will be held at 9:15 am; and Shabbat morning services will be held at 10:35 am.
 *Rabbi Rachel Esserman will lead a program on Saturday mornings in January from 9:15-10:30 am on "From Torah to Talmud." Learn how the ancient rabbis turned verses from the Torah into the laws found in the Mishnah and Talmud. No Hebrew or previous experience with Mishnah or Talmud is necessary. Each class will stand on its own. Topics will include the laws of lost objects, the definition of work on Shabbat, dietary laws and more.

Temple Beth-El of Ithaca

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

On Monday, January 13, at 7 pm, in the social hall, a Sisterhood program will feature Rebecca Lesses speaking on "Contemporary Anti-Semitism."

There will be a celebration of the anniversary of Women's League for Conservative Judaism on Friday-Saturday, January 17-18. Services on January 17 will begin at 8 pm, followed by an oneg Shabbat. Services on January 18 will begin at 10 am, followed by a kiddush luncheon. Temple Beth-El women will lead services.

An adult ed. class, "The Song of Songs: Ancient Israelite Love Poetry and An Allegory of the Love between God and Israel," will be held on Thursdays, January 23 and 30, February 6 and 13, at 7 pm. Those planning to attend should register by e-mailing rb23@cornell.edu or calling the temple office.

Norwich Jewish Center

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

Friday, January 10, light candles before..... 4:32 pm
 Saturday, January 11, Shabbat ends 5:34 pm
 Friday, January 17, light candles before..... 4:40 pm
 Saturday, January 18, Shabbat ends 5:42 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

There will be family services and a dinner on Friday, January 10, at 5:30 pm. The cost TBA.

On Saturday, January 11, at 10 am, Shabbat services will be led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown. The Torah portion will be Genesis 47:88-50:26. The haftarah will be I Kings 2:1-12. The kiddush will be sponsored by Arthur Siegel.

A TI/TC Adult Education Brunch will be held on Sunday, January 12, from 10 am-noon. Rabbi Geoffrey Brown will discuss Mussar. The cost is \$5 per person. (For more information, see the article on page 3.)

On Friday, January 17, office hours will be 2-4 pm.

There will be no Sunday Hebrew school on Sunday, January 19.

The temple office will be closed on Monday, January 20, for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

There will be a Board of Trustees meeting on Tuesday, January 21, at 7 pm.

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 Tikun v'Or

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

Temple 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 egalitarian 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.

Jewish Community Center

Third annual drag brunch at Binghamton JCC to benefit local LGBTQ+ youth

By Paige Bartholomew

The Jewish Community Center of Binghamton will hold its third Annual Drag Me to Brunch event, “Bubbe’s Boozey Brunch,” on Sunday, January 12. Doors will open at 11 am, with a catered brunch starting at 11:30 am and the show starting at noon. Limited tickets are on sale at the JCC main office for \$20 each, and all who attend must purchase a ticket prior to the event. ID will be required for entry. The \$20 entrance fee includes brunch and admission to the performance; purchases at the bar are extra. Event-themed t-shirts will be on sale at the door for an additional \$20.

The show will feature several local drag performers,

including queen of the house, Peaches Éclair, and other performers DeDe Kupps, Dusty Boxx, Peaches Monroe Sedgwick, Paris LuRux, Sydney Gorgeous, and India Bombay. The show will be hosted by Katrina. Sponsors include David Scott Salon, RentBing, Mark and Susan Walker, Sima and Neil Auerbach, and Jablon Studios. The JCC will be accepting sponsors leading up to the event – individual and business sponsors will receive tickets and recognition with their sponsorships.



Katrina, host of the event

A portion of the proceeds from the event will go to benefit Binghamton’s Identity Youth Center. Identity Youth Center is an organization dedicated to giving a safe space to local LGBTQ+ youth, providing educational resources and a sense of community to teens and young adults.

For more information about Bubbe’s Boozey Brunch, JCC’s adult programming, or the JCC, contact the JCC office at 724-2417.

The JCC is a not-for-profit organization and partner agency of the United Way of Broome County and the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, that serves the community at large regardless of age, race, religion, or sexual orientation. Financial assistance is offered to all who qualify as long as funds are available.

NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

Hillel International names Adam Lehman as new president and CEO

Hillel International announced Adam Lehman as its new president and CEO on Jan. 7. Lehman, who has held the interim CEO position since July 2019, previously served as the organization’s chief operating officer for four years. In his new role, Lehman will build on Hillel’s success in fostering Jewish life on 550 campuses across 18 countries, with a focus on increased innovation in student engagement, further investments in talent and garnering the resources that can fuel Hillel’s growth and success. “Adam’s leadership, values and his background as an entrepreneur have been crucial to our commitment to incorporating innovation and data into our work to expand our impact over the last five years,” said Hillel International Board of Directors Chair Skip Vichness in a statement. “As we approach our 100th year, we look forward to seeing the new steps that Adam and his team will take to develop a

strong future for Hillel and for Jewish life on campus.” “Hillel has a unique and crucial role to play in cultivating dynamic, pluralistic and empowered Jewish communities, led by students who will author the Jewish future,” said Lehman. “In 2020 and beyond, we will work to engage and inspire even more Jewish students on campus through our uniquely pluralistic and inclusive philosophy and approach. We’ll also further strengthen Hillel’s role as the platform through which Jewish communities on campus live out our Jewish values, pursuing social justice, volunteerism and relationship building initiatives that serve the broader campus community and world.” He added that “at the same time, we’ll be equipping our professionals to address rapidly changing dynamics on campus, including by working with college administrators and other partners to combat anti-Semitism and ensure a safe campus climate in which Jewish students can feel comfortable expressing and deepening their Jewish identities.” Lehman succeeds Eric Fingerhut, who stepped down in June to become CEO of the Jewish Federations of North America.

JCC Friendship Club

This year, there were Hanukkah parties planned at three nursing facilities in the area. The times and dates were set by Sylvia Diamond and the activities directors at each place.

The first party was held at Hilltop on December 9 and was attended by about 30 residents. Rabbi Geoffrey Brown from Temple Israel told the story of Hanukkah and taught the residents Hanukkah songs. Deb Foreman played background music on the piano while latkes with applesauce and other refreshments were served. Sylvia passed out dreidels and taught what the letters on them meant. They played a game with the dreidels. Calendars for the residents were left at the front desk after the party.

A party was held at Elderwood on December 18. This facility is across the street from the Jewish Community Center and next door to Hillel Academy. The children from the school came and told the story of Hanukkah in song. They sang many holiday favorites under the direction of Rabbi Moshe Shmaryahu. The children ranged in age from 5-11 years. While singing, they passed the microphone around and several students sang songs. Reporters from channels 5 and 34 took videos of the singing and interviewed Sylvia Diamond and some residents. Bruce Orden and Ann Brilliant from the JCC Friendship Club also attended. Bruce helped get the tape player to work when Sylvia could not get it to play. We listened to Hanukkah music while passing out refreshments. The students taught the residents how to make paper dreidels. Calendars were passed out and several were left at the front desk.

On the first day of Hanukkah, December 23, a party was held at Castle Gardens. Because of so many activities going on, this party was attended by 12 residents. Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell told the story of Hanukkah and some of the customs and beliefs of the holiday. Song sheets were passed out and we sang songs accompanied by Deb Foreman on the piano. Sylvia passed out dreidels and told the story behind them. Bruce brought Deb and Moira Shirvan to the party. Sylvia’s granddaughter, Dena Hayes, was visiting and also attended. Latkes and applesauce were served with cookies and a drink.

We are all looking forward to next year’s Hanukkah parties.

Sylvia Diamond

Birthright Continued from page 4

have created dozens of events and collaborations with other student groups, [such as] the Filipino student union, African student association and more,” he said. “I have learned to be a leader. I went on Birthright, and now here I am.”

According to Saxe, Keister’s story is not an outlier. Most participants, he said, come with positive views on Israel, and even those who are critical of the policies of the Israeli government typically express a strong connection to the Jewish state. “Participants start out with a fairly high connection and association. And this is what is remarkable about Birthright – it is deeply enhanced by the experience. Those who were connected to Israel become very connected,” he noted. “There are a relatively few number of people who come feeling completely disconnected from Israel, and that number after they come back is very, very small.”

Jewish identity and involvement are also “enormously impacted,” affirmed Saxe. “Birthright alumni are over-represented in terms of incidence in the population as professional staff in Jewish Federations and careers in the Jewish world, including those who did not go to Jewish day school or had much involvement in the Jewish community early on.”

The participants who witness the biggest transformations, according to the researcher, are those who had poorly formed Jewish backgrounds in early life, with little to no exposure to formal and informal Jewish education.

In winter 2018, Tennessee native Natalie Dubin concluded her Mayanot Birthright Israel trip with a better understanding of what it means to be a Jew, as well as a stronger desire to become more involved with the Jewish community back home. With barely any Jewish education growing up, in 2019, Dubin reported still feeling “connected” and “changed,” with her trip inspiring her to explore her background further and even wear a Jewish star to



Natalie (right) and Katherine (center) Dubin posed along the waterfront in Israel with an unnamed Birthright friend. (Photo by Natalie Dubin)

express her pride in her identity.

After returning to Asheville, NC, where she works as a speech therapist, Dubin recalled talking to everyone at work about the experience and how “it was much more than I could have ever expected.

“I raved to my friends about how I fell in love with the people in Israel and how amazing I found the Jewish religion to be,” she told JNS. “Friends would ask if I claim to be Jewish or not, and I tell them I’m not a religious person, but I am Jewish,” she declared.

That represented a marked difference, she added, compared to a year-and-a-half prior to the trip when she wouldn’t “advertise” her religion.

The Israeli soldiers who participate, too, are “in many ways as profoundly affected as the Diaspora participants,” reported Saxe. “It is interesting how similar they describe the experience. They say, ‘I came into the program as an Israeli in the army, protecting my country, and I came out feeling not just as an Israeli but a Jew, part of something greater than myself and my community.’

“It is clear that Birthright is transformative,” he summarized.

Working with psychologists and experts in education to create programming that is emotionally, physically and intellectually engaging, Birthright is continuously navigating how to achieve its objectives with a diverse and ever-changing population of emerging Jewish adults who represent a range of geographies, backgrounds and education.

Two decades after its founding, the program’s central challenge “in a world of pathological individualism,” summed up Saxe, is to continue to hone in on how to make the best use of the 10 days to “provide a Jewish identity experience that reinforces the notion that we are connected to one another and part of something greater than ourselves.”



Cole Keister with unnamed Birthright friends. (Photo courtesy of JNS)

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NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

Court upholds anti-BDS law in state of Arizona

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld Arizona's anti-BDS law on Jan. 6, vacating the preliminary injunction against the 2016 measure, which underwent changes in early 2019, making the plaintiff's suit moot. The original law was blocked by a federal court in September 2018, citing a possible violation of the First Amendment. The modified version, enacted the following April, applied to state contractors with more than 10 employees and those that receive a contract that is at least \$100,000. The plaintiff was attorney Mikkel Jordahl, who boycotts the Jewish state due to "Israel's occupation of

the Palestinian territories," according to the ACLU, which opposed both versions of the Arizona law. "We are pleased to have played a leading role in helping the Jordahl case meet its end. States like Arizona have created laws that carefully regulate commercial activity and not the conduct of private speech," said IAC for Action Executive Director Joseph Sabag in a statement. "Anti-BDS laws are narrowly tailored, anti-discrimination laws, similar to many other anti-discrimination laws that protect, among other categories of people, women, racial minorities and LGBTQ individuals. ...There is a direct connection between the BDS movement and antisemitic crime and discrimination. Sadly, the BDS movement has no greater asset today than the sophisticated legal support it receives from the ACLU," he continued. "Their cynical cultivation of the

Jordahl case was a prime example of that fact. Thankfully, with the release of so much evidence and documentation of BDS' antisemitic nature, it's becoming more difficult for the ACLU to exploit deficiencies in judicial and legislative understanding of the matter."

Jewish director Sam Mendes wins two Golden Globes for "1917"

Jewish director Sam Mendes won big at the 77th annual Golden Globes on Jan. 5 in Los Angeles, taking home two honors for his World War I epic "1917." After Mendes won the award for Best Director – beating out Bong Joon-ho, Todd Phillips, Martin Scorsese and Quentin Tarantino – his film went on to beat "Joker," "Marriage Story," "The Two Popes" and "The Irishman" for the award for Best Motion Picture-Drama. "I'd like to dedicate this to my grandfather, Alfred Hubert Mendes, who inspired this film," Mendes, who has Jewish and Trinidadian roots, said onstage after the best drama win. "He signed up for the First World War. He was age 17. I hope he's looking down on us, and I fervently hope it never ever happens again." The film "1917" follows two young British soldiers during World War I who are "given an impossible mission: deliver a message deep in enemy territory that will stop 1,600 men, and one of the soldiers' brothers, from walking straight into a deadly trap," according to IMDb. The film is playing in only a handful of theaters now, but was to open nationally on Jan. 10. Mendes previously won a Golden Globe for Best Director in 2000 for "American Beauty."

Netanyahu: Israel was not involved in elimination of Qassem Soleimani

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told Security Cabinet ministers on Jan. 6 that the Jewish state was not involved in the killing of Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani on Jan. 3, and that the Jewish state must not be dragged into the increasing conflict, reported Axios, citing two ministers who attended the meeting. "The killing of Soleimani is a U.S. event, not an Israeli event, and we should stay out of it," said Netanyahu, according to the ministers. The report mentioned that the Israeli leader has instructed Cabinet ministers not to address the media about the issue in order to avoid making it appear that Israel was part of the operation. Instead, the ministers can only say to the press about the killing is that the United States has the right to defend itself, according to the report. The Mossad's director and head of military intelligence "told ministers during the meeting that for now, the probability of an Iranian retaliatory attack against Israel is low, and that 'Israel stayed in a distance from the incident,'" reported Axios. "The intelligence chiefs told the Cabinet that Iran will start developing its retaliation on [Jan. 7], when the period of national mourning for Soleimani's death is over."

Netflix docuseries on killing of Argentinian prosecutor Alberto Nisman

A new documentary series that began streaming recently on Netflix details the suspicious death of Alberto Nisman, a Jewish prosecutor in Argentina who was investigating the deadly 1994 attack on the Mutual Israelite Association of Argentina, or AMIA, Jewish center in Buenos Aires before he died. "Nisman: The Prosecutor, the President and the Spy" examines his mysterious killing and features interviews with former Foreign Minister Hector Marcos Timerman and current Argentinean President Alberto Fernández, among others. Nisman was found dead with a single shot to the head on Jan. 18, 2015. That was just hours before he was to present evidence to a congressional panel supporting his claim that then-Argentinean President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner and other government officials participated in efforts to cover up Iran and Hezbollah's involvement in the terror attack in exchange for commercial benefits for Argentina, a violation of the country's penal code and the independence of the judiciary. "There was an alliance with terrorists – negotiation with a state that bought the terrorists and the terrorists themselves," Nisman said in an interview that appears in the Netflix series. Kirchner was indicted in 2017 in connection to the alleged cover-up, though she denies committing any crime.

Israel, Greece and Cyprus sign agreement for EastMed gas pipeline

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis and Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades met on Dec. 30 in Athens in a seventh trilateral at which an agreement was signed for the \$7 billion, 1,180-mile EastMed gas pipeline that will run from Israel through Cyprus and Greece to Europe. Signing the deal were Israeli Energy Minister Yuval Steinitz; Greek Environment and Energy Minister Konstantinos Hatzidakis; and Cypriot Energy, Commerce, Industry and Tourism Minister Georgios Lakkotrypis. Under the agreement, Israel and Cyprus will jointly export natural gas from their offshore wells through Greece and Italy to the rest of Europe. Though Italy did not attend the summit, it is expected to sign the agreement in the near future. "This is a historic day for Israel because Israel is rapidly becoming an energy superpower – a country that exports energy," said Netanyahu at the ceremony. "Just days ago, we opened the Leviathan gas field, and it is producing enormous yields. ...This is also a historic day because the cooperation between Greece, Cyprus and Israel is growing stronger," he added. "This is a true alliance in the Eastern Mediterranean that is economic and political, and it adds to the security and stability of the region."

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