

THE REPORTER

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Panel discussion on Holocaust rescuers to be held in Ithaca on Feb. 2

The panel discussion “When it is Hard to be Human: Lessons from the Rescuers in the Holocaust” will be held at Ithaca College’s James J. Whalen Center for Music | Presser Rehearsal Room, on Sunday, February 2, at 3 pm. The event is free and open to the public, and will be followed by a reception and book signing.

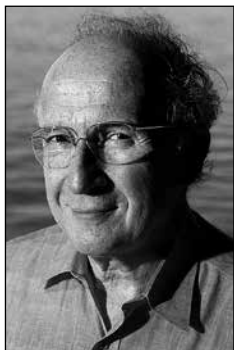
Authors Eva Fogelman and Roald Hoffmann will guide this panel discussion, moderated by author Dan Schwarz. They will explore why some bystanders and perpetrators in the midst of totalitarian genocide were compelled to risk their lives and resist. They will also look at the role conscience and moral courage play in confronting hate today. The panel will be followed by audience questions and answers.

Mykola and Maria Dyuk risked their lives to hide Hoffmann with his mother, Clara, and other relatives in the attic of a

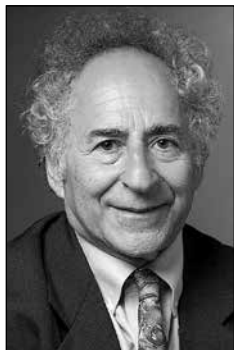
schoolhouse to save them from Nazi terror from January 1943 until June 1944 in the village of Uniow, Ukraine. The Germans killed Hoffmann’s father for his involvement in a plot to arm camp prisoners.

Hoffmann is the author of “Something That Belongs to You” (2015), an autobiographical drama. He is professor emeritus of Cornell and shared the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1981.

Fogelman studied at CUNY with Stanley Milgram, author of “Obedience



Roald Hoffmann



Dan Schwarz



Eva Fogelman

to Authority: An Experimental View” (1974), which showed how both his experiment and Nazi Germany successfully transformed large numbers of “ordinary” and arguably indifferent people into willing inflictors of harm. Fogelman asked Milgram a question. She wanted to know

why a small minority of people in his study disobeyed authority. This question, which he could not answer, began a 20-year study that led to her book “Conscience and Courage” (1994). Fogelman based her findings on more than 300 interviews with rescuers of Jews whose acts of courage either have been confirmed by those they helped or substantiated and honored by Yad Vashem. What distinguishes her approach is her attention to “rescue” as an evolving process. As a psychotherapist, Fogelman has worked with groups and individual children of Holocaust survivors. She is the founding director of the Jewish Foundation for Christian Rescuers (now the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous).

Schwarz, author of “Imagining the Holocaust” (1999), has looked at the various contexts of documentary, testimony, fiction See “Rescuers” on page 5

Jeff Kahn to discuss business at BD luncheon

Beth David’s Saturday, February 8, luncheon speaker will be Jeff Kahn, who will speak on “Building a Community: Jeff Kahn and the History of Cyber Café West.” Kahn was the owner of Cyber Café West for 22 years. 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.

“Cyber Café West was well-known as a music venue that also served food and had a

game room on the second floor,” said luncheon organizers. “According to social media, Cyber Café West hosted approximately 5,000 shows. When it closed its doors in June, posts on Facebook lamented what had become a special place for locals as well as for visitors. As one fan put it, ‘One of my all time favorite places!! Amazing vegetarian and vegan deliciousness, great live entertainment,



Jeff Kahn

super draft selection! Gonna miss you so bad!! Binghamton will NOT be the same without you, Cyber!?????”

What made Kahn want to buy the building where the Cyber Café was housed? What did Binghamton University’s Public Archaeology Facility discover about the building’s past when it did excavations under its parking lot in 2007? How did being Jewish influence

some of the problem-solving techniques Kahn used in previous business affairs, and how did this impact his vision of what Cyber would become? These are some of the questions that Kahn will address in his talk.

Kahn graduated from Binghamton University in 1984 with a degree in philosophy. He was the owner of Cyber Café West from 1997 until 2019. He is currently a technical writer for McIntosh Labs in Conklin. “Since graduating,” Kahn said, “I have done many See “Kahn” on page 7

Twenty-first annual “Evening of Jewish Stories, Poetry and Music” to be held in Ithaca on Feb. 8

Temple Beth-El of Ithaca will host the 21st annual “Evening of Jewish Storytelling, Poetry and Music” on Saturday, February 8, at 7:30 pm. The celebration will take place downstairs in the social hall of Temple Beth-El, located at the corner of Court and Tioga streets, in downtown Ithaca. A donation of \$4 per individual and \$8 per family is requested to cover costs. The event will end at about

9:30 pm and will have an intermission. Families with children are welcome.

“Join us for this magical celebration of life, community and the arts,” said organizers of the event. “We will be celebrating 21 years of original stories, traditional tales, folk and contemporary poetry, and dynamic live music from around the world.

“This event has become extremely pop-

ular over the years, drawing participants together for an intimate and cozy evening,” organizers continued. “It is a real reminder of times past. People who might otherwise never cross paths listen, laugh and perhaps shed a few tears together, and get to know each other. The idea is to get people away from their computer and television screens and share a moment of slower pleasures together. In addition, there are always complimentary, traditional homemade treats to be enjoyed, which people can enjoy while listening to the treasures of the night. This year’s celebration offers an exciting and diverse selection of storytellers, poets and musicians both young and old.”

For more information, contact the temple at 273-5775 or visit the website at www.tbethica.org.



Franny Alani and Rebecca Couillard performed at last year’s event.

Federation community gathering



Part of the crowd at the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton’s community gathering on January 16 in response to recent antisemitic attacks. See page 5 for more photos.

Federation to send out tax receipts this week

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton announced that tax receipts for any pledges over \$250 paid in 2019 will be mailed this week. If a donor under the \$250 threshold would like a receipt for their taxes, they should call the Federation office at 724-2332.

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On the Jewish food scene

Enjoying National Hot Tea Month

By Rabbi Rachel Esserman

When I was in college years ago, a friend and I decided to explore tea drinking. We took it fairly seriously, even going so far as to warm the teapot before putting the boiling water in and using a tea strainer ball so we could use loose tea leaves. Over the years, she moved away from tea to coffee (for the caffeine, rather than the taste), while I still drank tea, although my taste has changed over the years. I've tested everything from black teas to herbal teas to flavored teas – sometimes preferring one, while other years settling on a completely different kind.

At right: Wissotzky Tea's black tea with mint and peaches (Photo courtesy of Wissotzky Tea)



While I have no British blood, I find drinking a cup of tea helpful when I'm feeling stressed. Without the help of herbal tea, I'm not sure I would have made it through rabbinical school. I was on a very restricted diet at the time and my regular evening cup of tea was satisfying and relaxing. My current preference is for plain black tea, sometimes for comfort and sometimes for the caffeine boost. I even keep unsweetened iced tea on hand at work and home in case I feel a migraine coming: sometimes the caffeine kills the headache if I can drink it before the pain really takes hold. See "Tea" on page 7

Opinion

In My Own Words

Animal rights and wrongs

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

The Reporter recently received an e-mail about a lawsuit that was filed in San Francisco by the Fur Information Council of America. The organization wants to overturn that city's recent ban on the sale of new fur and fur-trimmed coats. The e-mail contained a statement that I found interesting: "San Francisco's ban also opens the door to greater infringement on consumer choice. The ban was driven by ideological animal liberation radicals who also want to ban wool, leather, cashmere, and other animal-based fibers or food products, such as meat, poultry, eggs, seafood and even pet companionship."

I don't know the merits of the law that was passed or the merits of the lawsuit. What interested me was the underlying idea: the relative places of humans and animals in the world. From a Jewish point of view, we are supposed to treat animals well. Two animals of unequal strength are not to be harnessed together because it's unfair to the weaker one. Animals working in the fields are not to be muzzled. Rather, they are allowed to eat of the produce they are helping to harvest. Animals are included in the list of those who should not work on Shabbat. Some interpret the opening stories of the book of Genesis to mean that humans were not allowed to eat

meat until after the flood; they claim this means God would prefer humans to be vegetarians.

The question in the United States is whether or not certain activities – eating meat, wearing leather and fur, and keeping pets – should be based on individual choice or if our behavior/choices should be legislated. Some states have already legislated animal protection statutes, and people can go to jail for abusing or harming certain animals. However, those laws don't speak to the issue of whether or not animals themselves have legal rights.

Whether or not animals using animals for food qualifies as abuse is one that is often debated by vegetarians and meat eaters, and both sides claim the right to do as they choose. So what happens if a law is passed that says animals can no longer be used for food? Will there be an underground market for meat? Would there be medical exceptions for those who need more protein? If we are allowed to use animals for food, then should the rest of the animal be used for other purposes since it is already dead? The answers are not simple.

Let's suppose for a moment that we legislate vegetarianism for all U.S. citizens and forbid the use of animals products (eggs, milk, wool, leather, etc.). What should be

done with all the domesticated animals owned by farmers? No one is going to keep cows, sheep or chickens if they have to feed them (that sum adds up), but can't use them to recoup some of those funds. I haven't even discussed horses: Will horse racing be allowed? Will people even be able to ride horses? This would be a logical extension of a ban on treating animals as anything other than equal to humans.

This, of course, leads us to having pets. You could say that pets are in some way enslaved. They have no choice about where they live or how they live. Their owners decide whether animals can go outside, what type of food they eat, how much they can exercise, etc. Is a leash an evil chain or protection? Should all pets be released into the wild and left to choose their own fate?

This may seem like I'm taking these ideas to absurd extremes, but the questions are interesting philosophically. They ask us to consider how animals and humans differ biologically and psychologically. What connects us and what separates us? These questions have been debated and will continue to be debated into the future, but that doesn't mean they aren't worth considering answers to as our society develops and changes its way of thinking.

Letters

Thoughts in response to "In My Own Words: Various Things"

To the Editor:

I read with some interest the opinion piece "In My Own Words" in the January 17-23 issue and would like to offer my thoughts on it.

The first item the author referenced, "Name Calling," was interesting and on point in that there is too much personal animus in our political arena reflected in personal attacks and name calling. Both sides of the political spectrum, and indeed people in general, should be admonished against this type of behavior. It is unbecoming and does not lend itself to getting on with the people's business.

The next item, "Impeachment," needs to be addressed. First, I found no references/evidence in my research of a confession by the president, as referred to by the author. There are many comments by pundits and political opponents that imply he confessed to something; and these are opinions not supported by evidence. In support of the author's opinion on this subject, she refers to being convinced by her representative's interpretation (and the author already has a biased opinion as stated in the piece). I suggest that taking any politician's interpretation of an issue as truth is not wise, and requires one's own deep unbiased research into the topics to come to a fair and reasonable opinion. Lastly, I would suggest that if the author is concerned about senators' minds already being made up she should also consider that representatives' minds were already made up. This is so obviously a political exercise

(as was the last impeachment) that one must believe that only politically based judgments will be exercised.

Lastly, and the item that truly spurred my need to pen this letter, "Iran." First, Soleimani was a military leader directing combat and terror actions against U.S. troops and facilities in various countries (Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Yemen). He was in an active combat zone meeting with other commanders. Therefore he was an appropriate target. I believe as a commander he indeed did have ongoing plans and actions targeting the U.S. and its allies. To not believe that is to not have an understanding of what a military leader/commander does. In regards to our relations with Iran; they have been in the state they are now since 1979 and the downfall of the shah, as well as the embassy hostage event. The fanatic theocracy has made it a prime directive to fund terror groups in order to kill Americans and Israelis. This has never changed, even with the "Iran Deal." I suggest the author catalog the terrorist events and loss of lives laid at the feet of the Quds and Soleimani since 1979 in various countries across the globe (Argentina, Lebanon, Kenya, Syria, Israel) to show that nothing has changed in the behavior of the Iranian government vis a vis how it conducts itself in the world.

William C. Payes M.D.
CPT USA (ret.)

Editor's reply

Thank you for your letter. My column was a short

one and did not go into depth about the evidence that had been presented in the impeachment question. Even after the White House released the tape showing that the president asked for an investigation of Joe Biden's son (www.cnn.com/2019/09/25/politics/donald-trump-ukraine-transcript/index.html) and in a TV interview with the president explicitly saying he felt it was OK to use his powers of office to get information about opponents (www.realclearpolitics.com/video/2019/06/12/trump_i_would_accept_information_on_my_opponent_from_foreign_governments_its_called_oppo_research.html), I was still willing to give him the benefit of the doubt. I do not have all the material that was available to Congress and, when an anti-impeachment congressman changes his vote, that gets my attention. To me, that suggests that there is enough evidence for a full trial.

As for the targeted killing, I question the nature of targeted killings when we are not in a declared state of war with a country, which we are not with Iran. I am not sure whether or not the action was appropriate and would appreciate the government releasing that information so I would be able to make a more educated decision. What does scare me is the sudden escalation on both sides. Plus, if countries not at war with each other feel it is OK to target military or political leaders they don't like, then it could be open season on all leaders in all countries. That is problematic and dangerous.



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Suzanne Holwitt, President
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607-724-2332 ~ www.jfgeb.org

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HOW TO REACH THE REPORTER

Mail ~ The Reporter, 500 Clubhouse Rd. Vestal, NY 13850

E-mail ~ TReporter@aol.com • Fax ~ 607-724-2311

Phone ~ 607-724-2360 or 800-779-7896

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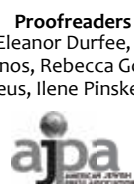
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Executive Editor Rabbi Rachel Esserman

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Advertising Bonnie Rozen

Bookkeeper Kathy Brown



Proofreaders
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Leah Ferentinos, Rebecca Goldstein Kahn,
Merri Pell-Preus, Ilene Pinsker, Heidi Thirer

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www.thereporter.org

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.

JLI course to start Jan. 27 and 29

Last-minute registration is now being accepted for "Judaism's Gifts to the World," a new six-session course by the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute, which seeks "to unearth the Jewish roots of some of the most cherished

values of Western civilization."

Course participants have a choice of joining the evening section, which meets on six consecutive Mondays at 7 pm beginning on January 27, or the morning section

for six consecutive Wednesdays at 9:30 am, beginning on January 29.

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.

BD Men's Club to host a breakfast buffet on Feb. 2

BethDavidMen's Club will host a breakfast buffet on Sunday, February 2, at 10:10 am, at the synagogue, 39 Riverside Dr., Binghamton. The cost to attend is \$10. To make a reservation or for answers to questions, call or text Charlie Manasse at 765-3304. Reservations should be made by Thursday, January 30, so there will be enough food. All are welcome to attend.

At the breakfast, Guy Rogers, TAVR program coordinator of the Division of Cardiology at Guthrie Health Care Systems, will give a presentation and answer questions on TAVR – trans aortic valve replacement – which is a new process to replace a narrowed aortic valve as an alternative to traditional open heart surgery.

TI to host Scout Shabbat on Feb. 7

For the third straight year, Temple Israel will host a Kabbalat Shabbat service for Scout Shabbat on Friday, February 7, at 5:30 pm. Scouts and non-Scouts are invited to the service, which will last about 45 minutes and will be followed by a light dinner. The event is open to the community.

"Every year, the National Jewish Committee on Scouting chooses a date in February, around the anniversary of when the Boy Scouts of America was founded," said organizers of the event. "It is a great opportunity for Jewish Scouts

to connect with each other and for non-Jewish Scouts to experience something new."

Reservations for the dinner should be made to Mike Martinez, scoutmaster of Troop 43 and a member of Temple Israel, at scoutmastermike43@gmail.com by Sunday, February 2.

"I hope to see you there!" Martinez said. "For those who are Scouts, attendance at this event can count toward a requirement for the American Cultures merit badge! If you are interested in earning the American Cultures merit badge, e-mail me."

"Cook for a Cause" for TC 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.

The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to the family of
Freida Brill

The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to Faith Zinner on the death of her husband,
Dr. Elmer Zinner



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Off the Shelf

Looking at Jewish Latin America

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

It was a dream of visiting his childhood home in Mexico that started Ilan Stavans on his journey through Latin America – a journey that included visits to the U.S. and Israel to learn more about Latino Jews. In his book “The Seventh Heaven: Travels Through Jewish Latin America” (University of Pittsburgh Press), Stavans decides to write about the lives and history of those Jews through a personal lens. The book is part travelogue, part dialogue with those he meets and part critical discussions of writers – some of whom are Jewish and many of whom are not – and of films he likes. Rather than a systematic look at Latin America, his book is more of a mosaic, filled with interesting bits and pieces, although the final picture never feels completely in focus.

Stavans is an interesting mix: born in Mexico in 1961 of Ashkenazic heritage, he emigrated to the United States during the 1980s. He notes that he loves “the combination of Jewish and Latino. There is enormous joy in that encounter. Over several centuries Latin American Jews have thrived in multiple spheres, from economic well-being to the scientific, artistic, and educational realms. But the formula for success contains within it the traps of ostracism. One doesn’t need to be a catastrophist to realize the region contains seeds of hatred and that Jewish life is fragile.” In fact, in one chapter, Stavans discusses Jewish conspiracy theories, many of which were unfamiliar to me. However, in other sections, he shows how and when Jews have become important parts of the countries in which they live.

The author gave himself four years to travel, although he notes that his approach was far from systematic. That is reflected in his writing, which jumps from topic to topic without warning. The author discusses Jewish history and immigration in the different areas he visits, which leads him to thinking about a particular novel of an author he likes and how that reflects on his idea of humanity and Judaism. Some of the most interesting sections show the contradictory impulses found in some of these countries. For example, in the 1930s, the leader of the Dominican Republic, Rafael Leonidas Trujillo Molina, slaughtered Haitians who lived under his rule. (Stavans notes the numbers murdered is debated and range from 500 to 12,000.) However, Trujillo was one of the few leaders in the Americas who welcomed Jewish immigrants during that time – Jews that no one else wanted. Stavans notes that Trujillo was willing to let 100,000 Jews immigrate, but only 800 German and Austrian Jewish citizens actually did. These families received land, animals and loans to help them get started in their new lives.

Stavans also travels to Israel to see how Latin Americans fair in that country. There seems to be no real Latin American community there, unlike some other immigrant communities that seek to maintain their ethnic heritage. Politics play a large role in the discussion with Israeli citizens from Latin America and readers may find themselves disagreeing with Stavans’ idea that “to a large degree,

the Israelis are responsible for the rise of anti-Semitism in the last 50 years, at least since the Six-Day War.” He quickly follows this by noting that “I support the existence of a Jewish state, where I have lived and which is a magnet to me.”

The question of identity rises frequently in his work. This is most apparent in his final chapter, which was written after the last presidential election. Stavans notes “the fragility of life in the United States... the anti-immigrant, anti-black and anti-Jewish rhetoric of the Trump camp.” This leads Stavans to apply for Polish passports for himself and his two children because his grandparents fled to Mexico from that country. He can’t help but note the irony of what he is doing: “My grandparents would probably be turning over in their graves if they knew of my efforts. As a result of poverty and anti-Semitism they had left – or better, ‘were aborted from’ – Poland, Ukraine, and Belarus. They never looked back: Mexico became their new home.” Now, Stavans is looking toward Polish citizenship as a safety measure, one that would allow his children to move to and work in Europe, if necessary.

“The Seventh Heaven” is an interesting mix that never seems to jell. Each section in itself was interesting, but the whole lacks cohesion. In addition, much of the writing felt dry and methodical, which makes the work best read in short sections. However, this is a welcome addition since the history of Jews in South America deserves far more attention than it is normally given.

NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

Jewish astronomer first woman to have U.S. observatory named after her

The National Science Foundation recently announced that the first national U.S. observatory to be named after a female astronomer will honor Jewish scientist Vera Rubin. The Large Synoptic Survey Telescope in Cerro Pachón, Chile, will be renamed the NSF Vera C. Rubin Observatory. Science operations at the facility will begin in 2020. Rubin, who died in 2016 at the age of 88, is most well-known for discovering evidence of dark matter. The observatory renaming recognizes her role in better understanding dark matter and the study of dark energy will be one of the facility’s main research topics, along with taking an inventory of the solar system, exploring the transient optical sky and mapping the Milky Way. Paul Dabbar, Department of Energy undersecretary for science, said Rubin’s life achievements as a scientist “remain a model for all those seeking to satisfy humanity’s unceasing curiosity about our universe.” “We are deeply honored to have the observatory named after Vera Rubin,” said Steve Kahn, director of the Rubin Observatory. “Through her discovery of dark matter, Vera made one of the most important contributions to science in the past century – not only for astronomy, but also for fundamental physics. When construction is completed, the Rubin Observatory will build on her pioneering work to dramatically improve our understanding of the universe on many different scales.” Rubin received numerous honors during her life, such as the National Medal of

Science, and was a vocal advocate for women’s rights in the sciences. She is also recognized for paving the way for other women in astronomy after she faced gender bias at the start of her career.

Construction begins for Israel’s pavilion at Expo 2020 world fair in Dubai

Construction is underway for Israel’s pavilion at the Expo 2020 world fair in Dubai, the Foreign Ministry revealed on Jan. 20. The foreign ministry said it is leading coordination of the construction process in cooperation with local Dubai authorities. Israel confirmed in December that it will take part in the Dubai expo, where 190 countries will showcase their cultures, collaborations and innovations from Oct. 20, 2020 to April 20, 2021. “Israel’s participation in the exhibition reflects the rise in Israel’s status – not only internationally, but also among the key state actors in our region,” Israel’s Foreign Minister Yisrael Katz said in a statement. “[The] participation gives Israel an extraordinary opportunity to showcase its capabilities and achievements in the field of technology alongside vibrant Israeli culture.” Israel has no diplomatic ties with the United Arab Emirates, though relations have warmed over the years, with Israel’s national anthem being played at the Ju-jitsu World Championship in Abu Dhabi in November when an Israeli athlete won a gold medal. That same month, *Yediot Achronot* reported that the UAE will allow Israelis to freely visit Expo 2020 and may allow them to continue to visit the country even after its completion.

LEGAL NOTICE

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

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

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

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

Notice of Formation of VITA 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 Raymondi, 690 Mariposa Ave., Apt. 203, Oakland, CA 94610. LLC purpose is any activity authorized by law.

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 Ambsry St., Binghamton, NY 13901. Purpose: any lawful activities.

Madyson Management, LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY

(SSNY) 10/23/2019. Cty: Broome. SSNY desig. as agent upon whom process against may be served & shall mail process to P.O. Box 58, Endicott, NY 13761. General Purpose.

Notice of Formation of Professional Limited Liability Company (PLLC) Name: Michele L. Summers, Nurse Practitioner in Family Health, PLLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on October 16, 2019. Office Location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of PLLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: 5 Emerson Road, Castle Creek, N Y 13744. Purpose: to engage in any and all business for which PLLCs may be formed under the New York LLC law.

Ro’s Famous Empanadas, LLC, Art. of Org. filed with SSNY on 10/18/19. Off. loc.: Broome Co. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served & shall mail: 98 Pennsylvania Ave., Binghamton, NY 13903. Purp.: any lawful purp.

Xpress Convenience, LLC, Art. of Org. filed with SSNY on 11/20/19. Off. loc.: Broome Co. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served & shall mail: 41 W. State St., Binghamton, NY 13901. Purp.: any lawful purp.

Halladay Landscaping LLC, Art. of Org. filed with SSNY on 7/11/19. Off.

loc.: Broome Co. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served & shall mail: 1218 Ballyhack Rd., Chenango Forks, NY 13746. Purp.: any lawful purp.

HIP NY Developments LLC, Auth. filed SSNY 12/17/19. Off. loc: Broome Co. LLC org. in DE 12/20/18. SSNY desig. as agent upon whom proc. may be served & shall mail: 595 Pacific Ave., 4th Fl., San Francisco, CA 94133. DE off. addr.: 1209 Orange St., Wilmington, DE 19801. Cert. of Form. on file: SSDE, Townsend Bldg., Dover, DE 19901. Purp: any lawful purp.

Notice of Formation of Kelly Pi, LLC

Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/30/19. Office location: Broome Co. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 126 Robinson Street, Binghamton, NY 13904. Purpose: any lawful activities.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY:

The name of the limited liability company is: Northside Property Developers, LLC (the “Company”). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was September 23, 2019. The county in which the principal place of business of the Company shall be located is

Broome County. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the Company upon whom process against it may be served. The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the Company, to Michael Romeo, 521 Oak Hill Avenue, Endicott, NY 13760. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

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

1. The name of the limited liability company (“LLC”) is Reach PPL, LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is January 9, 2020.
3. The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the LLC is located is Broome.
4. The Secretary of State of the State of New York is hereby designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or her is: 2520 Vestal Parkway East PMB #227, Vestal, NY 13850.
5. The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

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

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Beth David Sisterhood held meeting



Members and friends of the Sisterhood of Beth David Synagogue attended a lecture at the Broome County Historical Society introducing them to the history of the society and the resources and collections it contains.



At left: Roger Luther, the Broome County historian who spoke with members of the Beth David Sisterhood.



At right: One item in the Broome County History Society's collection viewed was the safe from the Endicott Johnson Shoe Factory. It was used for more than 100 years.

Federation community gathering



As a response to recent antisemitic attacks, the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton held a community gathering on January 16 at the Jewish Community Center. At least 80 people were in attendance.



Rabbi Aaron Slonim was one of the area rabbis and community leaders who spoke at the event.



L-r: Federation President Suzanne Holwitt and Federation Executive Director Shelley Hubal posed after the Federation-sponsored gathering.

Rescuers.Continued from page 1

and art that contribute to an understanding of what is real and true about the Holocaust, and its impact on history, politics and mental health today. Schwarz is professor emeritus of English at Cornell.

The event is sponsored by Area Congregations Together, Cornell Jewish Studies, Hillel at Ithaca College, Ithaca Area United Jewish Community, Ithaca College Jewish Studies, Ithaca Descendants of Holocaust Survivors, Roitman

Chabad Center at Cornell, Southern Tier Interfaith Coalition and Temple Beth-El of Ithaca.

Free parking is available near the Whalen Center for Music. See map.ithaca.edu for more information. There is a drop-off at the circle in front of Whalen. Individuals with disabilities requiring accommodations should contact ekibelsbeck@ithaca.edu. Requests should be made as soon as possible to ensure they can be met.

Quick Reference Guide to Planned Giving

Use this planned giving quick reference guide to help determine the best strategy for achieving your philanthropic and financial goals.

For further information or assistance, please contact Shelley Hubal at 724-2332 or director@jfgb.org

If Your Goal is to:

Make a quick and easy gift

Avoid tax on capital gains

Defer a gift until after your death

Receive guaranteed fixed income that is partially tax-free

Avoid the two-fold taxation on IRA or other employee benefit plans

Make a large gift with little cost to you

Reduce taxable income from IRA Required Minimum Distributions

Then You Can:

Simply write a check now or use a credit card

Contribute long-term appreciated stock or other securities

Put a bequest in your will (gifts of cash or a share or the residue of your estate)

Create a charitable gift annuity

Name a charity as the beneficiary of the remainder of the retirement assets after your lifetime

Contribute a life insurance policy you no longer need or purchase a new one and designate a charity as the owner

Make a qualified charitable donation directly from your IRA (after age 70½)

Your Benefits May Include:

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A charitable deduction plus no capital gains tax

Exemption from federal estate tax on donations

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Weekly Parasha

Vaera, Exodus 6:2-9:35

Overcoming our spiritual and psychological "Pharaoh"

RABBI BENNY RAPOPORT, DIRECTOR, JEWISH DISCOVERY CENTER

In the first Torah *parasha* in the book of Exodus, we read about Pharaoh's decree against the baby boys and how, when Moses was born, his mother Yocheved had to hide him in the Nile River.

This week's *parasha*, Vaera, opens exactly one year before the Exodus, with God commanding Moses at the burning bush to confront Pharaoh and demand that he liberate the Jewish people.

And so, after 210 years of back-breaking labor, after decades of harsh and bitter enslavement, Moses and Aaron enter Pharaoh's palace and demand that he free the children of Israel. If not, they warn, God will afflict the Egyptians with terrible suffering, with 10 terrible plagues.

We know the story: Pharaoh hardens his heart, refusing to listen to Moses, and the 10 plagues are administered.

Pharaoh and his people are subject to the most bizarre and frightening plagues the world has ever seen.

Any child who has gone to Hebrew school will tell you what the 10 plagues were. In the first plague, the Nile River turned to blood. In the second plague, multitudes of frogs swarmed anywhere and everywhere; in their homes, in their beds, even into their ovens, tormenting the ancient Egyptian people.

And so it continued, one after another, each plague demoralizing and humiliating their captors until Pharaoh and his people finally allow the Jews to leave – nay, they begged the Jews to leave Egypt.

Every year we read about these events in the Torah; at every Passover seder, we retell the story of the Exodus – repeating once again the tale of the Jewish suffering and

the great plagues and miracles that God performed for our ancestors.

One might ask, "Why? If the Exodus took place over 3,300 years ago and happened to an ancient people living in a distant land, why would this in any way be relevant to us?"

What's more, the Torah commands us to remember the Exodus from Egypt not just once a year, but every single day of our lives! In fact, the Talmud says in every generation man must see himself as if he personally had gone out of Egypt. Do you know anyone who is living in Egypt, suffering under the whip of the cruel taskmasters?

Chabad Chasidic philosophy, based on the teaching of the Kabbalah, explains that being enslaved in Egypt does See "Spiritual" on page 7

Congregational Notes

Beth David Synagogue

Affiliation: Orthodox Union
 Rabbi: Zev Silber
 Address: 39 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905
 Phone: 722-1793
 Rabbi's Office: 722-7514
 Fax: 722-7121
 Office hours: Mon. closed; Tues. 10 am-1 pm; Wed. closed; Thurs. 9 am-1 pm; Fri. 10 am-1 pm
 Beth David e-mail address: bethdavid@sny.rr.com
 Rabbi's e-mail: rabbisilber@sny.rr.com
 Website: www.bethdavid.org
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/bethdavidbinghamton
 Shabbat Services:
 Shabbat, Jan. 25.....9 am
 Mincha after kiddush
 Weekday Services:
 Mornings:
 Sun., Jan. 26.....8:30 am
 Mon., Jan. 27.....6:50 am
 Tues.-Fri., Jan. 28-317 am
 Evenings:
 Sun., Jan. 26.....4:55 pm
 Mon.-Thurs., Jan 27-30 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 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@sny.twcba.com
 Website: www.templeisraelvestal.org
 Service Schedule: Tuesday, 5:30 pm; Friday, 5:30 pm; Saturday, 9:30 am
 On Saturday, January 25, at 9:30 am, Shabbat services will be led by the Ritual Committee. The Torah portion will be Exodus 6:2-9:35. The haftarah will be Ezekiel 28:25-29:21. The kiddush will be sponsored by Bonnie Brown and Blake McCabe.
 The Executive Board will meet on Tuesday, February 4, at 7 pm.
 Scout Shabbat will be held on Friday, February 7, at 5:30 pm, with Kabbalat Shabbat services followed by a light dinner. Everyone is invited: attendees don't have to be a Scout or Jewish. RSVPs for the dinner should be sent to Mike Martinez, scoutmaster of Troop 43 and member of Temple Israel, at scoutmastermike43@gmail.com by Sunday, February 2.

Temple Beth El of Oneonta

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

Temple 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.

An adult ed. class, "The Song of Songs: Ancient Israelite Love Poetry and An Allegory of the Love between God and Israel," will continue to be held on Thursdays, January 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.

On Wednesday, January 29, at 7 pm, in the social hall, Beth Lyon, clinical professor of law and founder of Cornell's Farmworker's Legal Assistance Clinic, will speak at a Sisterhood program on "The Impact of Immigration Policy Changes: A View from the Other Border."

On Sunday, February 2, at 7 pm, "Dimona Twist," a film by Michal Aviad, will be shown, followed by a discussion. The film is 70 minutes long.

Friday, January 24, light candles before..... 4:49 pm
 Saturday, January 25, Shabbat ends 5:51 pm
 Friday, January 31, light candles before..... 4:58 pm
 Saturday, February 1, Shabbat ends 6 pm

Temple Concord

Affiliation: Union for Reform Judaism
 Rabbi: Barbara Goldman-Wartell
 Address: 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905
 Office hours: Tues.-Fri., 10 am-2 pm
 Phone: 723-7355
 Fax: 723-0785
 Office e-mail: TempleConcordbinghamton@gmail.com
 Website: www.templeconcord.com
 Regular service times: Friday, 8 pm; Saturday, 10:35 am, when religious school is in session.
 Hebrew school: Hebrew school meets at 4:15 pm and 5:15 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the school year unless otherwise noted.
 On Friday, January 24, at 8 pm, Shabbat evening services will be led by Suzanne Holwitt.
 On Saturday, January 25, 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.
 On Friday, January 31, at 8 pm, Shabbat evening services will be led by Carol Bernstein and Elsie Doetsch.
 On Saturday, February 1, 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.

Norwich Jewish Center

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

Congregation Tikkun v'Or

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

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

“Women in the Torah” open talk at JCC on Feb. 10

By Paige Bartholomew

The Jewish Community Center, located at 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, will hold an open talk on “Women

in the Torah” on Monday, February 10, from 4-5 pm. Rabbi Rachel Esserman will lead the presentation. The event is free; a donation of \$10 per attendee is

suggested. Donations of any amount will be collected at the door. The entire community is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Esserman will discuss the diverse stories of the many women of the Torah. The lecture will examine the Torah through the lens of female empowerment. Emphasis will be placed on the varied roles women played throughout Judaic history and the struggles many women had to go through, but ultimately triumphed over.

For more information about “Women in the Torah,” the JCC’s Adult Programming, or the JCC, contact the JCC office at 724-2417.

Tea Continued from page 2

What I hadn’t known was that January was National Hot Tea Month. I discovered that when I received a press release about Wissotzky Tea. I was familiar with that Israeli kosher brand of tea from the 10 months I spent in Israel during rabbinical school. In fact, I bought a fancy box of its teas as a present for a friend. What I wasn’t aware of is the company history and its existence through five generations of the Wissotzky family. According to the press release, “the family-owned company has been around since 1849, when Klonimus Wolf Wissotzky, a Lithuanian Jew, set out to find the most perfect tea on Earth. Wissotzky would eventually own tea plantations in Ceylon and India, and he controlled more than a third of the Russian tea market. He even served as the exclusive purveyor of tea to the Russian emperor.” Wow, I’d enjoyed the same tea as an emperor!



Wissotzky Tea’s Ginger and Turmeric Spiced Chai (Photo courtesy of Wissotzky Tea)

exciting was trying the seven different types that arrived. Some of the staff took bags home so they could make the tea with ingredients that we don’t keep in the office.

National Hot Tea Month may be almost over, but it’s not too late to enjoy a hot cup of tea. In fact, if you’re like me, it’s always a good time to have a cup of tea.

Chai Tea

Recipe courtesy of Kosher.com via Wissotzky Tea

- 7 cups water
- 3 Darjeeling tea bags or 3 Wissotzky black tea bags
- 4 thin slices fresh ginger
- 1 (3-inch) cinnamon stick
- 1 vanilla bean, cut in 1-inch pieces

- 2 bay leaves
- 1 cup milk

6 Tbsp. Gefen Honey or granulated sugar

Bring the water to a boil in a medium saucepan. Add the tea, ginger, cinnamon, vanilla and bay leaves, and simmer for 4 minutes. Add the milk and simmer until the milk begins to froth (about one additional minute). Stir in the honey. Remove from the heat, cover, and let stand for three minutes. Strain. (If the tea leaves are left in for too long, it becomes bitter.)

Note: Serve warm, or for chilled chai, place in the refrigerator until chilled.

The reason for the press release is that Wissotzky Tea is releasing several new collections of tea: one featuring Nana, “a slightly sweet and exotic mint” native to the Mediterranean area, and a new artisan-spiced collection for fans of chai blends, including Salted Caramel Chai, Ginger and Turmeric Spiced Chai, and Pumpkin Spiced Chai.

The Reporter and Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton offices are filled with tea drinkers, so I was thrilled to ask for samples of the new teas. It was really exciting to open the boxes and see what teas we received. Even more

Spiritual Continued from page 6

not only mean being forced to remain in a particular geographic location. The Hebrew word for Egypt, “Mitzrayim,” is etymologically related to the word “meitzarim,” which means boundaries or limitations.

There is an “Egypt” that enslaves us on a level that’s beyond the physical: on a spiritual, emotional or even on a psychological plane. We can be slaves to our inhibitions, to our fears, to our habits and to our prejudices. We all have a “Pharaoh” lurking inside of us, preventing us from expressing our genuine inner selves, from reaching our true spiritual potential.

The Torah tells us that we can experience an Exodus from this “spiritual Egypt” – we must break free from our enslavement to selfishness, laziness and indifference.

The 10 plagues represent 10 unique tools that are a formula for spiritual liberation that can empower us to break free.

If we look at the first and second plagues, where the Nile River turned to blood and swarms of frogs inundated Egypt, we can learn the first – and most important step – in overcoming our spiritual and psychological “Pharaoh.”

Water is naturally cool; in fact, if the environment is cold enough, it will even turn to ice. Frogs are ectotherms, meaning they are naturally cold-blooded creatures, and usually live in and around water, a cool environment.

Usually, when a major basketball or football game is on TV, or a new show, stage performance or a movie star is in town, people get really excited and enthused, eager to attend – eager to get in all the action.

However, while engaged in performing the mitzvot,

the commandments, or when a Jewish holiday is around the corner, oftentimes our natural inclination is not to be excited – quite the opposite – there is a lack of enthusiasm. It becomes a chore, something that must get done, not something that we truly enjoy.

The first step in experiencing true freedom is to break the “coldness” – the apathy and indifference to spiritual matters – and to transform it into “blood” to introduce life, warmth and passion into our observance, and into our pursuit of Jewish knowledge and Torah study.

We must learn from the frogs, who went totally against their natural instinct and jumped headlong into the hot burning ovens, just to fulfill God’s command.

Kahn Continued from page 1

things that had little to do with philosophy, except that I thought about what I was doing. My talk will focus on the business of community.”

Since the monthly series’ continuation depends on the generosity of contributors, 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.

JCC Friendship Club

The JCC Friendship Club met on January 15 and saw a video of 75 years of the Binghamton Jewish Federation and other happenings at the Jewish Community Center. We borrowed the video from the Federation archives. It showed the vacant land in 1968 and the JCC building as it is today.

It started by showing Rabbi Julian L. Greifer, who was the director of the JCC in the 1930s. He hired Isadore Friedland to start a school. There were many photographs of programs and trips taken over the years. We recognized some of the people in the pictures. We also remembered the secret mission to Russia to the Refusniks in 1987.

We were surprised to see a picture of Sylvia Diamond at a party in a nursing facility with the children from Hillel Academy. As the pictures of the presidents of the Jewish Federation over the years were shown, we called out the names of the people we recognized. Let me thank Bruce Orden for showing the video.

The meeting was called to order by Sylvia. The blessing over the cookies was said by Ann Brilliant after the Pledge of Allegiance. Rabbi Benny Kelman was playing the piano before the meeting was started. His young son Gershon was present.

We plan to eat out at a local senior center. A lot depends on the weather. Today was a warm sunny day, but colder days with snow is predicted. Come join us at 1:30 pm at the JCC.

Sylvia Diamond,
President

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If interested, stop by **The Reporter** office in the JCC or call Diana at 724-2360, ext. 254.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

Report: Iranian parliament member puts \$3M bounty on Trump's head

An Iranian lawmaker has announced a \$3 million reward for the assassination of U.S. President Donald Trump, Reuters reported on Jan. 21. Addressing the Iranian parliament, Iranian parliament member Ahmad Hamzeh said, "On behalf of the people of Kerman province, we will pay a \$3 million reward in cash to whoever kills Trump," according to the report. It was unclear if the reward was officially supported by the regime. The lawmaker also called for the production of long-range missiles capable of delivering "unconventional warheads," calling it Iran's "natural right." "If we had nuclear weapons today, we would be protected from threats. ... We should put the production of long-range missiles capable of carrying unconventional warheads on our agenda. This is our natural right," he said. On Jan. 20, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said Tehran would not take any more steps to reduce its commitments to the 2015 nuclear deal, but that if the Europeans continued their "improper behavior" with respect to Iran, it would withdraw from the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

New Quds Force chief vows to avenge Soleimani in "a heroic way"

(MEMRI via JNS) – Newly appointed Quds Force com-

mander Brig. Gen. Esmail Ghaani said on Jan. 20 that his predecessor in the role, Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani, had been killed by the United States "in the most despicable way," and vowed that Iran would strike his enemy in "a heroic way." Ghaani's remarks came during his inauguration as the new commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' Quds Force, in a ceremony attended by Soleimani's family and officials from Iran's armed forces. Excerpts from his speech were broadcast on Iran's Channel 1. In refusing to face Soleimani in the battlefield, said Ghaani, Americans had not behaved like "real men," adding that Iran's efforts to strike back at Soleimani's enemy would be aided by the efforts of "all free men around the world who wish to avenge his blood." Soleimani was killed on Jan. 3 at the Baghdad Airport in a U.S. airstrike.

Suspect, 21, pleads guilty to threatening NC synagogue

William Warden, son of state Court of Appeals judge Lucy Inman, pleaded guilty on Jan. 15 to misdemeanor charges related to potential harm of a North Carolina synagogue in 2018. He was charged with ethnic intimidation for ringing a doorbell and threatening damage through the camera at Congregation Sha'arei Shalom in Cary on Nov. 3, 2018. Warden, who has been diagnosed with bipolar disorder and schizophrenia, remains in 24-hour mental-health treatment in Florida and was absent from last week's hearing. As part of his plea, he will remain in treatment another 12 months

to finish two years of treatment – longer than the maximum 45-day jail sentence that could be allotted. The 21-year-old issued an apology, which his attorney, Roger Smith Jr., read in which the suspect said he felt alone and was "turning to the Internet, especially its more toxic corners, for validation." In a statement, Warden's family said, "As deeply concerned parents, we apologize profusely to the Jewish community and to all who have been impacted. And we are treating this situation with utmost seriousness." Mental illness isn't an excuse, District Court Judge William Lawton told the courtroom on Jan. 15. Many in attendance concurred with that feeling, reported *The News & Observer*. Sha'arei Shalom Rabbi Seth Klayman wished Warden well and said the congregation is willing to let the matter go. "Our prayer is his destructive ideology will be converted to a constructive life of acts of loving kindness," he told *The News & Observer*. "We stand ready and eager to forgive him. He can count us among those cheering for him to turn his life around."

Italy adopts universal definition of antisemitism

The Italian government adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism on Jan. 17. Italy also appointed Milena Santerini as the country's national coordinator of the fight against antisemitism. The IHRA definition says: "Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities." The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations applauded the moves. "Italy joins a growing list of other countries in Europe and elsewhere which have committed to combating Jew-hatred by adopting this important standard," said the organization in a statement on Jan. 20. "It is encouraging to see this increasingly urgent issue being met with appropriate action by so many nations, and we hope to see more governments act in the days ahead."

P.A. daily calls for murder to stop Holocaust memorial event

(PMW via JNS) – As more than 40 world leaders prepared to gather in Jerusalem the week of Jan. 20 to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz at a special event at the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial and museum, an official Palestinian Authority daily published an op-ed over the weekend calling for murder to cancel the international gathering. In a piece published on Jan. 18 in the P.A.-controlled *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, regular columnist Yahya Rabah criticized the international community for recognizing that the "Jews' Holocaust is terrible," while accepting as "insignificant, beautiful [and] spectacular" what he called the "ongoing Palestinian holocaust by Israel," reported media watchdog group Palestinian Media Watch. Rabah warned that "it can be assumed that they [the Palestinians] will resist the ceremony being held in Jerusalem itself, as Jerusalem is theirs," adding "one shot will disrupt the ceremony, and one dead body will cancel the ceremony."

IDF starts work on anti-tunnel defense system along northern border

The Israeli military began construction on a massive underground defense system along the northern border with Lebanon on Jan. 19, in an effort to defend against cross-border tunnels. "The deployment of the infrastructure is another component of the extensive defense effort that is regularly conducted in the Galilee region," the Israel Defense Forces said in a statement. Approximately a year ago, the Israeli military discovered and destroyed six large tunnels crossing from Lebanon into Israel that were believed to have been constructed by Hezbollah, the Lebanese Shi'ite terrorist group. The new project will utilize state-of-the-art technology to identify the acoustic and seismic signatures of tunnels being excavated, according to IDF Spokesman Lt. Col. Jonathan Conricus. The IDF representative said the work would all take place on Israel's side of the border, and that the United Nations has been notified. Israel has recently taken additional precautions along the northern border, after Hezbollah, which is believed to possess an arsenal of some 130,000 missiles, fired anti-tank missiles into Israel in September. Israel responded with artillery fire, and no casualties were reported on either side.

Pentagon: 11 US troops were injured in Iranian attacks on Iraqi bases

While there were no U.S. deaths as a result of the Iranian missile attacks on two Iraqi bases housing U.S. soldiers on Jan. 8, 11 U.S. service members have now been reported as sustaining injuries, according to the Pentagon. *The New York Times* reported on Jan. 13 that U.S. troops were treated for concussions following the attack. Confirming the report, the U.S. Defense Department said they were taken by Medevac to Germany for treatment. "As previously stated, while no U.S. service members were killed in the Jan. 8 Iranian attack on Ain Al-Asad air base, several were treated for concussion symptoms from the blast and are still being assessed," said a Defense Department spokesperson on Jan. 16. The Iranian attacks on Jan. 8 were retaliation for the U.S. killing of Iranian Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani, commander of the Quds Force of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, six days beforehand.

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