

# THE REPORTER

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## Federation save the dates for spring events

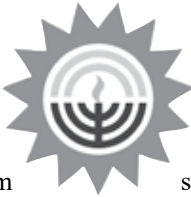
The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton recently announced dates for upcoming events this spring.

◆ Sunday, March 29: Chesed Challenge Kick-off Brunch featuring Rebekka Goldsmith leading an interactive musical

event for all ages

◆ International Jewish Film Fest of Greater Binghamton (titles of films to be announced):

1. Sunday, April 19
2. Tuesday, April 21 – Yom



Hashoah film

3. Sunday, April 26
4. Thursday, May 7

◆ Wednesday, June 17, Federation Annual meeting with an ice cream social

“Spring is just around the corner and we here at the Jewish Federation have been busy planning events,” said Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Jewish Federation. “Please mark your calendars. We look forward to seeing you soon.”

## U.S. professors visit Israel for bridge-building mission with Israeli universities

By Eliana Rudee

(JNS) – In a move to foster academic exchange between Israeli and American universities, 28 professors from universities and colleges across the United States recently traveled to Israel for Jewish National Fund USA’s Faculty Fellowship Program.

To date, the program has brought 300 full-time U.S.-based academics for the fully paid intensive program in Israel, seeking to link the scholars with Israeli professors from their respective disciplines with the goal of developing collaborations, research projects, co-authoring articles and establishing exchange programs between faculty and students.

Participants of diverse disciplines met Israelis from all walks of life and heard from a variety of speakers, where they were exposed to contemporary Israeli society, culture, historical sites, the people and the way of life in Israel. The academics met with professionals and experts involved in government, industry, education, media and other sectors to understand the many facets of Israel’s evolving national and international policies.

As JNF is considered the leading philanthropic organization for Israel that supports critical environmental and nation-building activities in the north and south, participants saw new communities in the Galilee and Negev, as well as projects of the “startup nation” that include successes in water innovation, and how the country addresses regional and global challenges.

“We showed them the authentic Israel and future in its periphery – diverse aspects of Israeli society so they could be exposed to Israel’s complexities and realize that Israel is not a headline,” said JNF Chairperson Vivian Grossman. “We wanted to show them that Israel is a young country going through its adolescent time – still growing, moving, making mistakes and figuring it out,” she explained to JNS.

In addition to the program’s central goal of fostering academic collaborations, Grossman voiced her hope that the participants “go back and share their personal stories, inspire people, speak to groups and share their experiences.”

*At right: Faculty Fellowship participants met with Lt. Col. (Res.) Tiran Attia, director of Jewish National Fund - USA affiliate Special in Uniform, on top of Mount Bental in northern Israel. (Photo by Vivian Grossman)*



The trip took place from December 26 to January 8, while college educators are typically on winter break.

While the BDS movement poses a challenge to Jewish and pro-Israel students alike at various academic institutions in North America, with faculty members in some cases leading the anti-Israel cause, the Faculty Fellowship Program acts as an antidote to such efforts.

Michael Dutch, professor of business management at Guilford College in North Carolina, was most struck by Israel’s “innovation, resilience, friendliness of the people and the sheer history of the nation.

“The world hasn’t given Israel any favors; they haven’t treated the Jewish population well, but Israel is a thriving country nevertheless. I don’t know how you could come to Israel and not be impressed,” he told JNS.

After visiting minority populations in Israel, Dutch reported that they “pointed out how things could be improved in Israel, but they are proud Israelis nevertheless, which was eye-opening to us.” He continued, saying, “We met Druze people who

served in the military, volunteering to be drafted. We visited Arab communities where they work with Israeli women for female empowerment – something we could do better at in the U.S.”

Dutch voiced his hope that he will return to Israel next year on a teaching assignment and bring students back to some of the research facilities he saw. “There are wonderful opportunities to interact academically; you need to come here and see it,” he said.

Beth Choate, professor of environmental science from Allegheny College in Pennsylvania, left the trip feeling “inspired on a professional level” by the “Israeli grit, industriousness and spirit of pride in Israel, which is rooted in a respect for the people who came before them.

“This is something that was lost in the U.S.,” she told JNS. “Israelis view failure as a step forward, while in the U.S., failure is a bad thing.”

Professor Ugochukwu Anieto, who teaches biological sciences at Texas A&M University, came away “impressed by the determination and hard-working people of See “Mission” on page 11



Faculty Fellowship participants visited the Western Wall in Jerusalem. (Photo by Vivian Grossman)

## Local and national *shalach manot* service offered through Chabad’s Women’s League

Women’s League for Chabad is currently accepting orders for its annual *shalach manot* service in which Binghamton residents can send packages of food and holiday greetings to local friends and acquaintances on Purim day, which will be celebrated this year on Tuesday, March 10.

“It’s Purim made easy,” says Ilene Pin-

sker, project chairwoman. “It’s a stress-free, very reasonably priced way to fulfill the mitzvah of *mishloach manot*, sending gifts of food on Purim, and a wonderful way to show your friendship and care. We do all the work for you and your friends get fabulous packages from you!”

For individuals who want to say Happy

Purim to their friends outside of the community, Women’s League offers Purim greeting cards that can be sent anywhere in the continental U.S. for a charge of \$4. All orders must be received no later than Tuesday, February 25. No phone orders can be accepted.

Anyone who would like to receive a

complete information packet and order form, or seeks additional details, should call the Chabad Center at 797-0015. The Women’s League is also in need of volunteers to assist in assembling the packages and in their delivery on Purim day. Anyone who wishes to help should call the Chabad office.

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## Opinion

# The West mourns the Jewish dead, but what about the living?

By Melanie Phillips

(JNS) – At Yad Vashem in Jerusalem on January 23, some 46 political leaders and royals, including Britain's Prince Charles, attended the fifth World Holocaust Forum to commemorate Holocaust Remembrance Day and the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz.

At this and doubtless other such memorial events, many eloquent, important and heartfelt observations are made about the evils of Nazism and Jew-hatred. In today's climate, however, there's something disquieting about such memorializing.

Given the eruption of physical and verbal attacks on Jews in Britain, America and Europe, it might be said that it's never been so important to remember the horrors of the Holocaust.

But the West is now teeming with Holocaust memorials and museums, while schools have been imparting Holocaust education since the 1980s. And yet never since the defeat of Nazism has there been such an epidemic of Jew-hatred in Western society.

Moreover, some of the countries that were represented at Yad Vashem support people who want to kill Jews. They fund the Palestinians, who pump out murderous anti-Jewish and anti-Israel incitement.

Some of these countries have also turned a blind eye for years to the Iranian regime's genocidal agenda toward Israel and the Jewish Diaspora, and have even been trying to continue to funnel billions of dollars into Iran in defiance of U.S. sanctions.

To put it bluntly, it might appear that while the West beats its collective breast over dead Jews, it is largely indifferent to the mortal threats currently posed to the living ones.

At the very least, it's clear that all this Holocaust memorializing and education hasn't put antisemitism back in its putrid box. Indeed, such Jew-hatred is propagated most perversely among liberals, who constantly flaunt their anti-racist and anti-Nazi credentials.

Without wishing to exaggerate one factor behind a complex phenomenon, this points at least in part to profound flaws in the way the West has talked to itself about the Holocaust.

In 2016, University College London's Centre for Holocaust Education concluded a three-year study of high-school students in England, where the Holocaust is the only compulsory subject on the national history curriculum. Although the vast majority of students said they wanted to learn about it to stop something similar happening again, there were disturbing gaps in their knowledge.

Many didn't understand who the Nazis were or that they had collaborators in other regimes, or had any idea how many Jews were even murdered. While the majority knew that Jews were the primary victims, they had little understanding of why they were persecuted. Worse, they themselves came up with anti-Jewish stereotypes, with a number of them referring to the Jews as a single group, being "rich" or "having power," and therefore being perceived as a threat.

Such disturbing findings are not merely due to inadequacies in the way the issue is taught, but result from more fundamental flaws. For the history of the Holocaust has been appropriated to service a number of different agendas.

In Poland, politicians and other authorities present the indigenous Poles as equal victims of the Holocaust, ignoring or denying the part played by some Poles in atrocities against the Jews before, during and after the Nazi period.

In Britain, researchers say the Holocaust is often taught in a self-congratulatory way that focuses on the country's role in defeating Nazism, while failing to mention that it also barred the Jews in Nazi Europe from taking refuge in Palestine – a policy running counter to Britain's legal obligations at the time.

Holocaust education has also been used to promote a dangerous moral and cultural relativism. It is credited with sensitizing children to harmful cultural stereotypes, intolerance and dehumanization. But its implicit message

is that anyone is capable of such evil.

As a result, the Holocaust tends to be bracketed with other mass slaughters. According to Mike Levy, a Holocaust educator in Cambridge, England, there is "an atmosphere of fatigue in the air when it comes to talking about the Holocaust," with students and teachers wanting to "learn more about other genocides" and thus contextualize it. He wrote: "Children need to be taught that there is not a competition about which genocide is worse."

As the eminent Holocaust scholar Professor Yehuda Bauer has said: "The Holocaust is too often turned into vague lessons of the danger of hatred or prejudice at the expense of really trying to understand the reasons and motivations for the genocide."

Consequently, the view developed that anyone can be a Nazi, and that there was nothing special about Jewish victimization. And from that point, it's been but a short step to the false and malevolent view – heard over and over again – that the Jews of Israel have ended up doing to the Palestinians what was done to them.

It's not just Israel that's falling foul of this false equivalence. Anyone who contradicts received liberal wisdom is likely to be called a fascist or Nazi. These have become casual terms of abuse – weapons of character assassination to silence people with dissenting views by labeling them falsely not just as wrong-headed, but as evil.

In 2018, Edna Friedberg of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC, cited troubling examples of such "sloppy analogizing." Conservative media figures had likened students to the Hitler Youth for advocating tightened gun control, splicing images of these students onto historical film footage of Nazi rallies.

On the other side of the political spectrum, accusations of "Nazism" and "fascism" have abounded against federal authorities for their treatment of children separated from their parents at the U.S. border with Mexico.

See "West" on page 3

## In My Own Words

# Jewish Disability Month

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

When I first moved back to this area and was dealing with my most recent hearing loss, I went to VESID, a New York state agency, which helped me get my hearing aids and my first operator-connected telephone. My counselor suggested that I apply for disability benefits so I could have some income until I was able to work. When I mentioned this to friends, several of them gave me the names of lawyers I could use when I was denied disability since they suggested it was difficult to receive those benefits. To my surprise, I was accepted immediately. I think that was the first time I actually admitted to myself that I was disabled.

For me growing up, disability meant something different since my younger brother Larry had Down Syndrome. In those days (and up to until at least the beginning of this century), the New York state office that helped those folks was called the Office for Mental Retardation. At that time, the term retarded was not pejorative. It meant the people had delayed development of their intellectual abilities. This definition from Wikipedia shows how that usage has changed, at least in the noun form: "Retard, when used as a verb, is to refer to delay or hold back in terms of progress or development, or to be delayed. As a noun, it is considered a dated, offensive and pejorative term when used to refer to a person who has a mental disability." Larry would hear the word "retarded" and point to himself. He also did the same when someone said "Jewish." Neither had any real meaning for him, which, to me, shows that he had more wisdom than many of us. It's the feeling behind the word that matters, not the word itself.

February is Jewish Disability Month. During this time, synagogues, Jewish Community Centers, Federations and other Jewish organizations are encouraged to not only make accommodations for those with disabilities, but to offer full acceptance. I remember when people had no idea whether or not their bathrooms were fully accessible to those in wheelchairs. One person who attended the synagogue I belonged to in Philadelphia had almost given up on Judaism because the sanctuary could not accommodate her wheelchair and her interactions with the staff made her feel her needs were being dismissed. Fortunately, the first thing that congregation did when it purchased a building was to tear out the pews and replace them with moveable chairs. I've also seen people insist that they don't need to use a microphone when speaking in front of a group, some of whom can't hear them unless voices are amplified. Rabbinical schools now pat themselves on the back when they graduate students who are deaf. In the past, accommodations were not always made for those with hearing problems.

As for those with developmental disabilities like my brother Larry's, the Jewish community has not always been welcoming. I am grateful to a local youth group that used to hold programs at Beth David Synagogue for my brother and other Jews with developmental disabilities. However, in general, Judaism prizes education and learning, and tends to discount those who can't perform at a high intellectual level. This dismisses not only people like Larry, but those who have different modes of learning. It also discards those who, while they may not be able to study Talmud, can

write Jewish music that lifts our spirits or create artwork that inspires our spirituality. Writing, music making, dance and so many other arts should be also celebrated as ways to connect to the Divine.

When my hearing impairment first became a severe-to-profound loss (even with hearing aids), someone from my synagogue in Philly came to me with a warning. Her husband was hard-of-hearing and did little outside of his job. She didn't want me to isolate myself like her husband had. I took her warning to heart and continued to attend synagogue events – in Philly and then in Binghamton when I returned to this area – even though at times I felt lost and uncomfortable. I still avoid most lectures, especially those taking place in the evening after work, because my brain just can't work that hard at understanding speech when I'm tired. I also realize there are people who stay home because they find attending events too difficult or don't feel welcome. It can be hard to motivate oneself under those conditions.

My wish is that there could be accommodations for all. People with physical, developmental and any other type of disability have the same spiritual needs as the rest of us. Just because someone looks different, or thinks differently, or acts differently, or needs help, doesn't mean we shouldn't welcome them into our community. But it takes effort, and sometimes money, to make our Jewish community accessible. However, everyone is created *b'tselem Elohim* – in the image of God – so by welcoming those with disabilities into our community, we are also opening our doors to the Divine.



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### OPINIONS

The views expressed in editorials and opinion pieces are those of each author and not necessarily the views of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton.

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# “Simply Streisand” at Tri-Cities Opera on Feb. 29

The Tri-Cities Opera will present “Simply Streisand” on Saturday, February 29, at 7:30 pm, at the Forum Theater. The show stars Carla DelVillaggio, who is an alumna of Binghamton University’s master of music in opera program and the TCO Resident Artist Training Program. She is known internationally as an award-winning Streisand tribute artist and has sung to critical acclaim, being praised

as “the next best thing to seeing Streisand herself!” by the *New York Post*.

The single performance of “Simply Streisand” will include duets with TCO’s current resident artists, a silent auction starting at 6:30 pm and an intermission with refreshments. Orchestra tickets are priced at \$19, \$39 and \$59, and may be reserved online or by calling

the box office at 772-0400.

The Tri-Cities Opera was founded in 1949 by the late Peyton Hibbitt and Carmen Savoca. It has been honored by the National Board of Directors of Opera America, has received the President’s Medal from Binghamton University and has been awarded the New York State Council on the Arts Governor’s Award.

## News analysis

# Keeping Israel safe: The most significant defense developments of the decade

By Israel Hayom staff

(Israel Hayom via JNS) – Much has been said about the complex defense and security challenges Israel faces as a Jewish state in the Middle East. Being the sole democracy in one of the toughest neighborhoods on the planet means that Israel must employ various means to achieve and sustain its national security goals, as well as create and maintain deterrence vis-à-vis its enemies, both near and far.

The past decade has seen Israel deal with more than a few tactical and strategic developments, including the introduction of the cyber sphere as a major theater of battle alongside land, sea, air and space; the rise of subterranean warfare and the evolution of the Iranian threat, to name a few. Looking back at this period, there have been many incidents and occurrences that could easily make any nation’s list of “greatest defense hits.” Here is a countdown of some of the most significant events of the decade in the realm of Israeli national security.

### 5. Southern exposure: The Israel-Gaza wars

Over the past decade, Israel’s border with the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip has emerged as a tinderbox that threatens to ignite at any given moment. Numerous flare-ups between the Jewish state and the Islamist terrorist group have taken place over the past 10 years, each growing progressively worse in intensity.

Two of these flare-ups spiraled into full-fledged military conflicts: “Operation Pillar of Defense” in 2012 and “Operation Protective Edge” in 2014. Each saw the Israeli home front sustain massive rocket fire, while the Gaza Strip was left in ruins.

“Operation Pillar of Defense” was an eight-day military campaign launched on November 14, 2012, in the wake of the targeted assassination of Hamas military chief Ahmed Jabari via an Israeli airstrike.

Hamas retaliated by firing more than 100 rockets at Israel in the following 24 hours and staging two separate terrorist attacks against Israeli troops deployed in the Gaza sector, prompting the Israeli government to order a full-scale counter-terrorism operation in the coastal enclave.

According to Israel Defense Forces data, Gaza terrorists fired some 1,500 rockets at south and central Israel during the operation. Four Israeli civilians and two soldiers were



An Israel Air Force graduation ceremony at the Hatzerim Air Base in the Negev desert, which was held on June 27, 2019. (Photo by Mila Aviv/Flash90)

killed in Palestinian rocket attacks and some 250 Israelis, including 10 soldiers, were injured.

According to the United Nations Human Rights Council, 174 Palestinians, 107 of them civilians, were killed in the fighting and about 1,000 were injured.

Israel found itself in a similar situation only two years later. In June 2014, Hamas operatives abducted and murdered three Israeli teenagers. This gruesome attack prompted the IDF to launch “Operation Brother’s Keeper” across Judea and Samaria, in which dozens of Hamas operatives were arrested. Gaza’s rulers retaliated with massive rocket salvos on Israel, firing nearly 250 rockets on Israel in the span of three weeks and triggering the 50-day “Operation Protective Edge.”

The campaign included massive airstrikes as well as a ground incursion, which included several fierce battles. A total of 67 Israeli soldiers were killed, and Hamas was able to abduct the bodies of two soldiers, Golani Brigade Staff Sgt. Oron Shaul and Givati Brigade Lt. Hadar Goldin. It is still holding their remains. Another 469 soldiers were injured. Four Israeli civilians and one Thai national were killed by terrorist rocket fire, and hundreds of Israelis were wounded.

The fighting left 761 Palestinian terrorists and 936 civilians dead, and wrought havoc on the coastal enclave from which it has still not recovered.

Both operations ended with ceasefires brokered predominantly by Egypt, which is also involved in the current efforts to stave off another conflict between the Jewish state and Gaza’s rulers. Israel has made it clear it has no interest in such an escalation, but, as stated by top political and military officials, will not hesitate if it is deemed necessary to maintain national security and the safety of the Israeli public.

### 4. Stealth mode: The IAF receives F-35 fighter jets

In December 2017, the Israel Air Force became the first air force in the world outside the United States to have an operational F-35 squadron. The first F-35 fighter jet arrived in Israel a year earlier and was dubbed “Adir” – Hebrew for “Great.”

Lockheed Martin’s F-35 Lightning II is the most advanced fighter jet in the world. The fifth-generation fighter combines advanced stealth, integrated avionics and superior logistics support with the most powerful and comprehensive integrated sensor package of any fighter aircraft in history, thus allowing pilots to penetrate enemy airspace without being detected.

According to Lockheed Martin, production costs for the F-35 currently run between \$94 million and \$122 million per jet. Israel has inked a deal to procure 50 jets overall, for an estimated \$7.5 billion.

Israel put the F-35 to its first test in mid-May 2018, during clashes with Iran in Syria, giving new meaning to the phrase “the IDF’s long arm.”

The jet’s superior capabilities have been a game-changer for the Israeli military as a whole. In 2017, then-IAF chief Maj. Gen. Amir Eshel stated that Israel gathered intelligence during a single F-35 flight that other reconnaissance and intelligence gathering systems would take weeks to collect.

The IDF noted that “the capabilities of the Adir Squadron ensure the IAF’s superiority in all its missions, namely the protection and safety of Israel’s skies.”

See “Safe” on page 11

## West . . . . . Continued from page 2

“Remember, other governments put kids in camps,” is a typical rallying cry from such quarters. A former head of the CIA, tweeting criticism of policies toward illegal migrants, even used a historical photo of the train tracks leading to Auschwitz.

Such morally bankrupt relativism is bound up with a failure to understand the uniqueness both of the Jewish people and the antisemitism that has dogged them since earliest times.

It’s clear that the educational focus should not have been on the Holocaust, but on the culture it set out to exterminate. The West should have taught itself about the Jewish people and their history. That would have been the correct way to contextualize the Holocaust.

Of course, it’s unarguable that all kinds of people are capable of doing terrible things to others. History gives us innumerable examples and there is no shortage of these today.

But the Nazi genocide of the Jews was unique because German Nazism was unique. Its main driver was not racism, as people call it today, nor hatred of “the other,” nor its dehumanizing view of certain groups in society – a view

the Nazis shared with much progressive Western opinion in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The core of German Nazism was instead its antisemitism – its paranoid and deranged view of the Jewish people as an evil conspiracy of positively supernatural proportions, which therefore had to be wiped off the face of the earth. This is not replicable or recognizable in any other form of prejudice, bigotry or hatred. It was, and is, reserved against the Jews alone.

Unless Jew-hatred is recognized for the unique phenomenon that it is – and unless the West’s children are taught the history of the Jewish people and its contribution to civilization – neither Holocaust memorials, museums nor education materials will teach them the true meaning of “never again.”

Melanie Phillips, a British journalist, broadcaster and author, writes a weekly column for JNS. Currently a columnist for The Times of London, her personal and political memoir, “Guardian Angel,” has been published by Bombardier, which also published her first novel, “The Legacy,” in 2018. Her work can be found at [www.melaniephillips.com](http://www.melaniephillips.com).

The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to the family of Bert Krassin

### Community Calendar

The Community Calendar can be found on the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton’s website, [www.jfgeb.org](http://www.jfgeb.org), by clicking on “calendar.” Updates or additions of events for the calendar can be made by contacting the Federation through its website (click on “calendar” and then “click here to request a change to the calendar”) or by calling 724-2332.

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### JFS Accepting Purim Donations

Jewish Family Service will once again be collecting funds to fulfill the Purim mitzvah of *matanot le'evyonim* (gifts for the poor). These donations will be distributed to more than 16 local Jewish families who are experiencing extreme financial difficulties. In order to assure a timely distribution of these gifts, please be sure your contribution reaches our offices by February 21, 2020.

Thank you for your support of your neighbors in need.

Please mail or bring your donation to Jewish Family Service, 500 Clubhouse Road, Vestal, NY 13850. Contact Rose Shea, JFS Director, at 724-2332, ext. 339, with any questions.



Off the Shelf

# Short stories pack powerful punch

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

I usually prefer novels to short stories. It's extremely difficult to create interesting characters and an absorbing plot in just a few pages. I often find myself feeling dissatisfied – wanting to know more or wishing the stories had a real beginning and ending. Fortunately, some writers not only manage to meet my expectations, but exceed them. That happened with two recent collections I've read: "We Love Anderson Cooper" by R.L. Maizes (Celadon) and "Fly Already" by Etgar Keret (Riverhead). Both contain stories that pack such a powerful punch that my review notes simply said, "Wow!"

"We Love Anderson Cooper" is a wonderful debut with stories that belie the fact that this is the author's first published book. A few themes run through several of these stories: many characters become attached to animals in order to cope with daily life or deal with grief. Others include a touch of magical realism, while remaining clearly in this world.

My favorite story is the title one, "We Love Anderson Cooper." Markus is preparing for his bar mitzvah, but hates his Torah portion, which condemns homosexuality. What his parents don't realize is that Markus is gay, even though he offers them several opportunities to

discuss his problems with the portion. They just don't hear the real query behind his questions. Markus plans to come out during his bar mitzvah ceremony, but the results are not quite what he expects.

What makes someone truly beautiful? That's the question under discussion in "Tattoo" when an unattractive artist learns to draw and ink tattoos. With his paintings no longer selling, Trey feels he's not pulling his weight helping with expenses. He discovers that his tattoos make people feel more beautiful in a magical way and cancer survivors seek his skill in order to appear less disfigured. Yet, when he takes his new belief in beauty too far, the results are shattering.

The Hanukkah/Christmas dilemma rises to new heights in "The Infidelity of Judah Maccabee," when Jewish Barry Waxman discovers that not only does Anette, the woman he lives with, want them to start celebrating Christmas, his cat Judah Maccabee (or Mac for short) begins to prefer Anette's company to that of his owner. The two-page story "L'Chaim" captures what occurs when a bride decides to cancel a wedding. "Yiddish Lessons," which tells the story of a boy and his beloved aunt, shows what happens when a love object is replaced by someone new.

The stories and characters in "We Love Anderson Cooper" got under my skin, whether the result of their lives was happy or sad. Maizes is a talent to watch and I look forward to more of her stories.

While Maizes is at the beginning of her career, Keret, an Israeli author, is well-known for his offbeat, unusual works, and his latest book is no exception. My favorite story, "Tabula Rasa," focuses on A., an orphan who will not receive a real name until he leaves the orphanage. Each orphan is supported by a donor to whom he will be released once he's passed a written exam. The decision over A.'s future is made by Goodman, who runs the orphanage, and whom A. hates for his constant reminders of how the orphans were deserted by their parents. When A. finally challenges Goodman, he learns the true story of his life.

"Car Concentrate" focuses on a compressed metal block that sits in the center of the narrator's living room. He's in a relationship with Janet, a single mom of two boys, and thinks the world of her children. Unfortunately, a mishap occurs, which then allows the narrator to revisit his relationship to his own father. Unexpected reactions occur in "Fly Already," when a man tries to protect his son from seeing a horrible sight, and "Yad Vashem," when a visit to the museum reveals personal pain. A delightful, untitled story is told through e-mails, which are located on pages between several stories. After the third exchange, I was so intrigued that I searched for and read the remaining e-mails. Their ending was unexpected and wonderful.

Fans of Keret will have already purchased a copy of this book. Those unfamiliar with Keret will find "Fly Already" an excellent introduction to the author's works.

## On the Jewish food scene Jewish soup

By Rabbi Rachel Esserman

Google the words "Jewish soup" and recipes for chicken soup pop up. That soup has also been called Jewish penicillin because some people claim it cures the common cold – or, at least, that it makes them feel better. That folk wisdom actually has some basis in fact: scientists have proven that the soup actually has healing qualities.

If you went by the first page of the Google search, you might think that the only Jewish soup is chicken soup. However, when I think of Jewish soups, that's not the one that comes to mind. The staple winter soup from my childhood was one my mother called sauerkraut soup.

Before you make a face about putting sauerkraut in soup, you should remember that sauerkraut is just a pickled form of cabbage, which is an ingredient in many different soups. The version my mother made had tomatoes, sauerkraut and flanken (which is beef, although I have no idea what its name is the non-Jewish cooking world). She also added sugar so it had a touch of sweetness. We never ate the soup the first day it was made. It sat at least one day so we could scrape the fat off the top. The flavor then improved each day, so it tasted better on the third day than the second, and better on the fourth better than the third, etc. (that is, if there was any left by then).

In later years, we stopped making soup from scratch for a variety of reasons. However, that didn't mean there was no soup to be had. The main staple of any meal – summer or winter – when my younger brother Larry visited each week was a simple version of tomato soup. I know my mom added canned mixed vegetables to a regular can of tomato soup. There were spices added, although I don't remember which ones. Knowing my mom, there would have been garlic powder and onion powder, but there was also a different flavor I've never able to duplicate. If I search my memory, I vaguely remember some butter being added

at some point, which makes sense since my mother loves butter. (Butter is so important to her that she refused to give people a recipe for a particular kind of cookie – sorry, can't remember which one – unless they promised to use butter, not margarine, when making it.)

Are all or any of these Jewish soups? The question becomes how we define Jewish: does there have to be some integral connection to Judaism, or does it just mean that the soup is made by someone Jewish? I don't recall much mention of soup in the Bible, except for the lentil stew/soup for which Esau sold his birthright to Jacob. Why did I write stew/soup? Because if you do an Internet search, you'll discover that some people consider it a stew (and offer a recipe, <https://toriavey.com/toris-kitchen/jacobs-lentil-stew-2/>) while others call it a soup (here you have your choice of recipes, [www.myjewishlearning.com/recipe/lentil-soup/](http://www.myjewishlearning.com/recipe/lentil-soup/) or [www.myjewishlearning.com/recipe/lentil-soup/](http://www.myjewishlearning.com/recipe/lentil-soup/)). That is not something I've seen discussed in commentaries on the Bible, but maybe someone will produce an anthology of Bible study based on the foods eaten in each *parasha*. (If that does happen, or if anyone knows of such an anthology, please let me know. I'd love to review that book.)

However, the debate of whether or not stew and/or chili are soups is probably best left to food historians and grocery stores. (If we were to go by one major local grocery store, then chili is soup because it's located in the same area of the food court.) Maybe in the warmer climate of the land of Israel, soup didn't play a major role in the cuisine of ancient times. In our far cooler surroundings, soup makes perfect sense, no matter what kind of soup you make.

*Does anyone have childhood memories of a particular soup? Share your thoughts by e-mailing them to [treporter@aol.com](mailto:treporter@aol.com) with "Jewish soup" in the subject line and we'll print some of them in a future issue.*

## LEGAL NOTICE

Madison 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.

Notice of Formation of Incubate Media, LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/17/2020. 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: Roger L. Brooks, 120 Hawley Street, Suite 118, Binghamton, New York 13901. Purpose: any lawful activities.

### NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Articles of Organization of 775 Myrtle, LLC ("LLC") filed with the Secretary of State of New York ("SSNY") on January 15, 2020, effective on the date of filing. Office Location: Broome County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY may mail a copy of any process to the LLC at 116 Murray Street, Binghamton, NY 13905, which shall be the principal business location. The purpose for which the LLC is formed is to engage in any lawful act or activity for which limited liability companies may be organized under the NYS Limited Liability Company Law.

Babushka Eats LLC, Art. of Org. filed with SSNY on 11/14/19. Off. loc.: Broome Co. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served & shall mail: 274 Chenango St., Binghamton, NY 13901. Purp.: any lawful.

Cerroni Services LLC. Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 10/29/19. Office: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, PO Box 357, Endicott, NY 13761. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

### NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Articles of Organization of 266 Hud, LLC ("LLC") filed with the Secretary of State of New York ("SSNY") on February 4, 2020, effective on the date of filing. Office Location: Broome County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY may mail a copy of any process to the LLC at 116 Murray Street, Binghamton, NY 13905, which shall be the principal business location. The purpose for which the LLC is formed is to engage in any lawful act or activity for which limited liability companies may be organized under the NYS Limited Liability Company Law.

To place your legal notice, contact Bonnie Rozen at 724-2360, ext. 244 or [bonnie@thereportergroup.org](mailto:bonnie@thereportergroup.org)

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# “Rendering Witness” displays risks artists took while the Holocaust raged in Europe

By Shiryn Ghermezian

(JNS) – Artwork made by eyewitnesses who documented their experiences during and shortly after the Holocaust, often in secret and while risking their lives, are showcased in a new exhibition at the Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust in New York City.

The 21 works of art in the exhibit “Rendering Witness: Holocaust-Era Art as Testimony,” which opened on January 16, were created in Czechoslovakia, Germany, Hungary and Poland during the Holocaust, primarily in ghettos and slave labor camps, or immediately after World War II.

The items on display include a child’s drawings and a U.S. Army soldier’s paintings; some of the more introspective pieces are portraits of fellow prisoners and views from cramped bunks. Visitors will view images by a deported cartoonist looking out a barrack window at an SS flag and what the children’s barrack in the Terezin Ghetto looked like from a child’s perspective.

These artists documented the Holocaust as it happened around them, providing a personal perspective to World War II not often seen and, while some of the artists

survived, others perished in the Holocaust. Many of the drawings were created in secret – hidden under mattresses or in one’s prisoner uniform. The artists drew not only Jewish prisoners, but members of the SS, and risked facing harsh punishments, including death, if caught.

“Resistance during the Holocaust took many forms, each courageous in its own way: mental, physical, spiritual,” the museum’s president and CEO Jack Kliger told JNS. “The choice by many victims of the Nazis to document their experiences through art was a form of resistance, too, and it was one that left a critically important set of records for future generations.”

Fourteen of the pieces in the exhibition have never been on display before, and all items except one are curated from the museum’s collection of more than 380 drawings made during or right after the Holocaust.

“Our goal is to tell the story of the Holocaust through the words and objects of the Jews who lived through the Holocaust,” the exhibition’s curator, Michael Morris, told JNS. “I hope that this exhibition reinforces that goal, but this time, focused on the art, biographies of those who produced it, and

the contextual history of what they were living through.”

Kliger added that “since we opened our doors in 1997, the museum has been committed to telling the history of the Holocaust through the lens of the victims and survivors, rather than the perpetrators. ‘Rendering Witness’ is a wonderful reflection of that principle. As we look to the decade ahead, that commitment to our forebears will remain a constant, even as much else changes about the way we present the Holocaust to younger generations.”

Eleven of the artworks were made by Jewish prisoners interned in Terezin, some of whom were professional artists assigned to the ghetto’s Technical Department, which made plans and drawings of Terezin for official use, or the Workshop for Arts and Crafts and Utility Painting. Their positions gave them access to art supplies.

The exhibition also includes works by two well-known artists: Helga Weissova and Alfred Kantor. Kantor, a trained artist, was a survivor of the Terezin Ghetto and Auschwitz, in addition to Schwarzheide – a sub-camp of Sachsenhausen, north of Dresden, Germany. He memorized scenes that he witnessed during the day and then drew them in the barracks at night. He was also shown kindness by a Jewish physician assigned to the Auschwitz camp infirmary who allowed him to draw there and gave him a small watercolor set, putting them both at risk of severe punishment.

Kantor continued to draw at night while at Schwarzheide, but destroyed most of his drawings immediately after creating them, fearing punishment by the Nazis. Three of his works are displayed in “Rendering Witness” alongside an enlarged page from the sketchbook he filled during his time in the Deggendorf Displaced Persons Camp in 1945.



“Returned Deportee” by Alfred Lakos, a gift of Charles Barber in honor of Dr. Paul Barber, Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust, New York. (Photo courtesy of the Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial)

Weissova, now in her 90s and a practicing artist living in Prague, was 12 when she was sent to the Terezin Ghetto with her parents. She brought art supplies with her and, after she smuggled her first drawing, a snowman, to her father Otto, housed in a different barrack, he told her, “Draw what you see.” Weissova listened and produced approximately 100 drawings, two of which are on display in the current exhibit.

“In this particular moment, it is important we revisit the testimony of those like Helga, who experienced antisemitism’s darkest chapter,” said Elyse Buxbaum, the museum’s executive vice president for strategy and development, at the exhibit’s See “Witness” on page 9



At left: Drawing by Helga Weissova titled “Children’s Home.” (Photo courtesy of the Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial)

## Women in Business

A paid advertising section.

### Women in Business Advertising Directory

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

**MLB to stop advertisements for Roger Waters after backlash from Jewish groups**

Following backlash from Jewish groups, Major League Baseball said it will no longer run advertisements promoting anti-Israel activist and BDS supporter Roger Waters' upcoming North American tour. MLB.com had been among the organizations sponsoring ticket presales for Waters' "This Is Not a Drill" tour. MLB e-mailed baseball fans an advertisement featuring its logo, along with the logo of Waters' tour, and offered fans an opportunity to purchase presale

tickets. The promotion was part of an ad buy by AEG/Concerts West for multiple concert tours, according to The Associated Press. In a Jan. 29 letter sent to MLB Commissioner Robert Manfred, B'nai B'rith President Charles Kaufman and CEO Daniel Mariaschin expressed "deep dismay" at MLB.com's advertisement. "Waters is an avowed antisemite whose views on Jews and Israel far exceed the boundaries of civil discourse," they wrote, adding that they were "saddened and outraged that baseball ... would use its online resources to publicize an individual with an alarming history of antisemitic hatred. We call on MLB to cease providing Roger Waters a platform." B'nai B'rith said on Feb. 7 that MLB replied that it will no longer run the ads and that the league stated it had no antisemitic intent in running the ads.

# Women in Business

A paid advertising section.

**Dedicated Financial Solutions**

Specialty: Financial planning, investments, life and long term care planning  
 Location: 273 Riverside Dr.  
 Johnson City, NY 13790  
 Name: Faith L. Sigler, LUTCF, CLTC, Financial Advisor  
 Phone: 607-240 5670 or 607-765 4882  
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With the SECURE Act, QLAC, volatility in the stock market, the time is right to make sure you are still on the right track. Faith Sigler, Financial Advisor, and the team at Dedicated Financial Solutions are committed financial professionals who work to help organize and protect your financial future. They review the steps you already have taken and align your assets to protect against pitfalls and put you on track to achieve your goals.

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 E-mail: Emily@jablonstudios.com  
 Website: www.Jablonstudios.com  
 Hours: see online calendar at www.jablonstudios.com

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Specialty: Health and wellness educator  
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 Name: Janet Secor, Health Coach  
 Phone: 214-893-1743  
 Website: www.janetsecor.juiceplus.com  
 Hours: At your convenience

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 Website: www.kristysphoto.com  
 Hours: By appointment only

Kristys Imagination Photography is a locally owned business in the Binghamton region providing on-location photography services for any occasion, such as weddings, portraits or other special events. Sessions are done on location by appointment only, and provide you with quality photography services in the comfort of your own home or the location of your choice.

"I have always had a passion for photography and therefore decided to pursue it as a career," says owner Kristy Johnston. "I truly enjoy what I do as a photographer. I get to capture some of life's most important and precious moments."

Offering a variety of products and photography services, Kristys Imagination Photography is your professional on-location photographer.

For more information, call 607-221-1225 or e-mail kristyphotography@gmail.com. You can also see a portfolio and more information at www.kristysphoto.com.

**Lost Dog Café**

Specialty: Eclectic food and a friendly atmosphere  
 Location: 222 Water St., Suite 101  
 Binghamton, NY 13901  
 Names: Elizabeth Hughes and Marie McKenna, co-owners  
 Phone: 607-771-6063  
 Website: www.lostdogcafe.net  
 Facebook: Lost Dog Café Binghamton  
 Hours: Mon.-Sat. 11:30 am-10 pm, closed Sun.

Lost Dog Café debuted October 21, 1994, in a funky old garage on Main Street with a love of good food, good people and a strong sense of community as inspiration. In April 1997, the café moved to 222 Water St., downtown Binghamton. The café has become a favorite place for lunch, dinner or just hanging out, and features live music, poetry readings, art exhibits and charity events.

In June 2012, the Lost Dog opened a lounge and additional catering space accommodating 80 seated guests and 140 for cocktail parties. In March 2004, Lost Dog Café was inducted into the Small Business Development Center's Small Business Hall of Fame. The owners of Lost Dog Café were also awarded the Small Business Association's Excellence Award in April 2004 and Greater Binghamton Chamber Business Persons of Year Award in 2012.

**Phantom Chef LLC**

Specialty: Off-premises catering, drop-off catering, small on-premises events, culinary classes  
 Location: 49 Washington Ave.  
 Endicott, NY 13760  
 Name: Michelle (Bank) McIlroy  
 Phone: 607-765-2408  
 E-mail: info@phantomchefcatering.com  
 Website: www.phantomchefcatering.com  
 Facebook: Phantom Chef LLC  
 Hours: Variable

Phantom Chef is owned and operated by Chef Michelle (Bank) McIlroy, who trained at the prestigious Culinary Institute of America. A native of South Africa, Chef Michelle has tasted her way around the world, sampling the foods and flavors of many cultures.

Phantom Chef, established in 2009, specializes in off-premise catering, drop-off catering and small on-premise events, as well as classes at a newly renovated culinary studio in Endicott. Chef Michelle focuses on personalized events and catering for Jewish occasions, as well as customizing menus for special diets, such as kosher, gluten-free and vegetarian.

"Whether you are planning an intimate dinner for two in your home, a corporate luncheon, or a special occasion for 200, we will tailor the menu to meet your culinary tastes and your budget," says Chef Michelle. "Fresh, local, farm-to-table, seasonal food is our specialty."



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**THE REPORTER**  
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## NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

**Madrid to open first Jewish museum following legal battle over building**

Madrid will open a Jewish museum in a building that had been illegally occupied by members of the anti-capitalist Occupy network, the city's mayor said on Feb. 6. "This is the only major capital in Western Europe without a museum, yet it has deep Jewish ties to countless Jews who continue to nurture the Sephardic culture since the expulsion of 1492 and their affection to Spain," Mayor Jose Luis Martínez-Almeida said while announcing the decision. The museum is set to open within two years in a building nicknamed "The Ungovernable." In November 2019, the mayor's municipality won a legal battle to evict the squatters from the building, who had been living there since 2017. The museum will be leased for free for 50 years and Fundacion Hispano-Judia, a Madrid nonprofit that promotes Jewish heritage, will be responsible for providing funding for the museum, according to JTA. The publication Libertad Digital reported that a Jewish museum may help advance Madrid's bid for UNESCO recognition of the central Cortes

area, which is where the museum will be located. A Jewish museum was scheduled to open in 2017 in Lisbon, Portugal but has been stalled due to opposition by residents and some local politicians.

**Netanyahu: Israel is mapping lands for annexation**

Israel has begun to map the Judea and Samaria lands that Israel will annex, said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at an election campaign rally in Ma'ale Adumim on Feb. 8. "We are already at the height of the process of mapping the area that, according to the Trump plan, will become part of the state of Israel. It won't take too long," he said. With Israeli election campaigns under way, the Likud, and Blue and White parties have repeatedly made statements in favor of annexing parts of Judea and Samaria, including the Jordan Valley, eliciting many reactions both for and against. Netanyahu's statements occur less than two weeks after U.S. President Donald Trump unveiled his Middle East peace plan, which gave American approval for annexation, paving the way for the next Israeli government to actualize its campaign promises.

# Women in Business

A paid advertising section.

**Southern Tier Women's Health Services, LLC**

Specialty: Well woman care and abortion  
Location: 149 Vestal Parkway W.  
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Names: Amy R. Cousins, M.D. and Peg Johnston  
Phone: 607-785-4171 or 1-800-676-9011  
Website: www.southerntierwomenshealth.com  
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9 am-5 pm, Sat. by appointment only

New York state has designated Southern Tier Women's Health Services, the former office of Dr. Amy Cousins, as a licensed clinic. "This culminates a two-year process of renovations, adoption of stringent standards and reporting requirements to qualify as a diagnostic and treatment center. Our philosophy of compassionate abortion and well woman care is unchanged," according to Executive Director Peg Johnston. The office opened in 1981 as Southern Tier Women's Services, operated as Dr. Amy Cousins' office starting in 1989 and became locally managed in 2009 by an employee-owned company led by Johnston. Both Johnston and Dr. Cousins will own the new entity. "We have created a more sustainable practice that will continue to offer services well into the future," states Johnston.

**Swags and Slipcovers**

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Hours: Mon.-Fri. by appointment

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Phone: 754-7221  
Hours: Mon. and Fri. 8 am-5 pm, Tues. and Thurs. 12:30-8 pm, Wed. 8 am-3 pm, Sat. 9 am-1 pm

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Name: Bonnie Rozen  
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E-mail: bonnie@thereportergroup.org  
Website: www.thereportergroup.org  
Hours: Mon.-Thurs., 10:30 am-5 pm, Fri. 10:30 am-4 pm

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(NAPSA) - Women have come along way when it comes to earning equal pay for equal work—or have they?

New research by the American Association of University Women Educational Foundation shows that a year out of college, women working full time already earn less than their male colleagues. Ten years after graduation, the pay gap widens. The Behind the Pay Gap report also shows that 10 years after graduation, college-educated men working full time have more authority in the workplace than do their female counterparts.

"The persistence of the pay gap suggests that educational achievement alone will not close the gap," said AAUW Director of Research Catherine Hill. "We need to make workplaces more family-friendly and reduce sex segregation in education and in the workplace."

For more information about the pay gap and other issues affecting women today, visit [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org).

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# New nature reserves to open in Judea and Samaria for first time since Oslo Accords

By JNS staff

(JNS) – Israel's Defense Minister Naftali Bennett approved on January 15 the creation of seven new nature reserves in Judea and Samaria.

This is the first time that new nature reserves have been declared in the disputed territories since Israel signed the Oslo Accords with the Palestinian Authority in 1993. Bennett's office said in a statement that the plan was put off for years because the government previously refused to authorize it.

The locations for the seven new nature reserves – all located in Area C, areas of Judea and Samaria fully controlled by Israel – are the Ariel Cave, Wadi Og, Wadi Malha, the Southern Jordan River, Bitronot Creek, Nahal Tirza and Rotem-Maskiot in the Arvot Hayarden area.

The Israel Nature and Parks Authority will oversee the opening of the new sites, as well as the expansion of

12 existing reserves. Bennett's office said the Palestinian Authority will be notified about the changes. It is unclear whether the nature reserves would be open to Palestinian residents as well.

"Today, we're giving a great boost to the land of Israel and continuing to develop Jewish settlement in Area C through actions, not words," said Bennett.

"There are nature sites with stunning landscapes in Judea and Samaria," he added. "We'll expand the existing ones and also develop new sites. I invite all Israelis to get up and roam through the land, come to Judea and Samaria, hike, discover and continue the Zionist enterprise."

*At right: View of Wadi Malha in the Jordan Valley on March 9, 2019. (Photo by Yossi Zamir/Flash90)*



## Women in Business

A paid advertising section.

### Tri-City Hearing

Specialty: Hearing healthcare  
Location: 200 Plaza Dr., Suite B  
Vestal, NY 13850  
Name: Amanda VanFossen  
Phone: 607-217-5399  
Fax: 607-237-0349  
E-mail: amandav@cortlandhearingaids.com  
Website: www.Tri-CityHearing.com  
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8am-4:30 pm

The staff at Tri-City Hearing understand how important the sense of hearing is to overall health and wellness. Amanda VanFossen is a NYS Licensed Hearing Instrument Specialist who provides specialized expertise in hearing assessments, as well as fitting and fine-tuning hearing instruments to a variety of hearing losses. Her passion for helping people hear better begins with exploring hearing solutions together and maintaining follow-up care to optimize hearing wellness.

It is Tri-City Hearing's mission to foster ongoing relationships with its patients throughout their journey to better hearing. As part of its Hearing Wellness Program and to encourage community members to take an active role in their hearing health, Tri-City Hearing provides free comprehensive annual hearing screenings. Getting a baseline hearing test is especially important for those age 55 and older.

### Warren Real Estate – Susan G. Stephens, Licensed Associate Real Estate Broker, ABR®, SRES®, GRI

Specialty: Residential real estate, new construction, relocation specialist, land  
Location: 3456 Vestal Parkway, East  
Vestal, NY 13850  
Name: Susan G. Stephens, Licensed Associate Real Estate Broker, ABR®,  
SRES®, GRI  
Office: 607-217-5673  
Cell: 607-725-8258  
Fax: 607-238-7344  
E-mail: SueStephens@Warrenhomes.com  
Website: www.suestephensrealtor.com  
Hours: By appointment

Whatever your real estate needs, Susan "Sue" Stephens can assist you. Sue, Licensed Associate Real Estate Broker, ABR®, SRES®, GRI, is a Relocation Specialist, Multi-Million Dollar Producer and Award Winning Agent with Warren Real Estate. She provides full-time real estate services for buyers and sellers at all price levels, and has the regional knowledge and proven track record necessary to successfully help you buy or sell a home or land.

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### White Rose Day Spa & Hair Design

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Location: 4535 Old Vestal Rd.  
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Name: Karen Latta  
Phone: 607-644-9123  
Fax: 607-754-0502  
E-mail: info@whiterosedayspa.com  
Website: www.whiterosedayspa.com  
Facebook: White Rose Day Spa  
Hours: Mon. 10 am-5 pm, Tues-Fri. 9 am-8 pm, Sat. 9 am-5 pm, Sun. by appointment only

The White Rose Day Spa and Hair Design debuted in 2002. "At that time, we were the premier facility to offer all services under one roof," says owner Karen Latta. "Eighteen years later, we are still going strong. In 2012, we purchased our own building and we were able to expand our services with additional chairs for manicures, pedicures and additional rooms for facials and massages. We also have a barber onsite. We now offer expansive facial treatments, lash extensions, spray tanning and a wide variety of massages."

White Rose Day Spa and Hair Design offers permanent cosmetics by Bonnie Drum and teeth whitening by Anthony Bronner. Dr. Tali Martin is now providing botox, needling and medical grade peels.

### 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.womensobgynassociates.com  
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 [www.womensobgynassociates.com](http://www.womensobgynassociates.com) and "like" their page on Facebook.

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# The Impact Forum: Los Angeles-based “silver bullet” network for the Jewish world

By Eliana Rudee

(JNS) – The Impact Forum has been called a “silver bullet” network with its pro-Israel network of Los-Angeles-based donors. Together, they leverage their combined philanthropic strength to support each other’s initiatives, collaborating and empowering a network of small- and mid-size nonprofit organizations – each punching substantially above their weight – to fight antisemitism, strengthen the state of Israel and advance the U.S.-Israel alliance.

Its innovative method lies in its multi-network collaboration between philanthropists and organizations to produce maximum impact for a shared cause of pro-Israel activism. Utilizing the “network effect,” it seeks to leverage local donors’ money by bringing together pro-Israel philanthropists who learn, support and empower ideologically aligned nonprofits that do work for the Jewish people.

Every six weeks, the philanthropists attend a luncheon or a dinner to introduce themselves to the other donors and hear from two members of the startup-like network of organizations that advance the forum’s mission. The presenting organizations are selected by a steering committee comprised of experienced and influential philanthropists in the community.

Since its establishment in 2017 by a group of Los Angeles philanthropists, the Impact Forum has raised more than \$3 million for the nearly 50 organizations that have presented at their events.

Adam Milstein, a member of the philanthropists’ group that established this platform, told JNS that though it is currently solely based in Los Angeles, the philanthropic multi-network collaboration model “should be adopted nationwide for those seeking to truly drive change.”

Doing so could have the potential to effectively stand up against the wave of antisemitism sweeping the United States and around the world, he said.



Adam Milstein, a member of the philanthropists’ group that helped to establish the Impact Forum, spoke to a gathering of philanthropists in Los Angeles. (Photo courtesy of the Merona Leadership Foundation)

Supported organizations have been called some of the most effective ones seeking to influence policy-makers, opinion leaders and the public to make a difference. These organizations fall into three categories: research and analysis organization, boots-on-the-ground organizations and media outlets. The organizations that fall under these three categories seek to build synergy and force multiplication between themselves that drive maximum impact. With the financial support of philanthropic network, the knowledge provided by the research organizations and the public awareness created by the media organizations, the boots-on-the-ground groups can focus on maximizing the impact of their unique capabilities.

The organizations are primarily based in the United States (with some in the United Kingdom and Canada), where antisemitism has been said to be rising at alarming rates and mobilization against it is urgently needed. Some

of the Impact Forum presenters include: StopAntisemitism.org, Zachor Legal Institute, Campaign against anti-Semitism UK, NGO Monitor and UN Watch.

Among its newest organizations is B’nai Brith Canada, which works to ensure Jewish unity and continuity in Canada, and support the state of Israel and global Jewry.

“It’s an incredible concept expressing a results-oriented approach that I find really innovative, where we can interact with individual philanthropists and engage with charitable groups that combat hate and antisemitism,” B’nai Brith Canada’s CEO Michael Mostyn told JNS. “We can support other groups accomplishing great things for our community, and talk about collaboration and ways to work together to combat hateful speech and action to make ourselves stronger.”

As fund-raising is a time consuming and difficult undertaking for smaller nonprofit organizations, the forum philanthropists enable them to focus on their goals. In addition to offering financial support to the organizations, the Impact Forum shares with them cutting-edge research and encourages collaboration, synergy and force multiplication.

In a recent example of such collaborative efforts, “The New Anti-Semites” report was authored by two Impact Forum nonprofits – StopAntisemitism.org and Zachor Legal Institute – and was based on the research and analysis provided by other network organizations. The report was then endorsed by many more Impact Forum organizations that are helping spread the critical findings of the report and promoting the call to action.

“The Impact Forum addresses the critical need for a strategic network that changes the mindset of the Jewish community from defense to offense,” said Milstein. “It employs out-of-the-box strategies that effectively bring together the resources, talents and connections of philanthropists.

“Together,” continued Milstein, “our philanthropic network is eliminating redundancies, encouraging synergies between like-minded organizations and optimizing tools to maximize impact.”

## Witness..... Continued from page 5

press preview. “In a world of rising hatred and antisemitism, the museum is called upon to be bolder in our mission of education, preservation and outreach than ever before.”

Also featured are drawings by U.S. Army soldier Marvin Hayle, a member of the 104<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division that arrived at Nordhausen concentration camp, a subcamp of the concentration camp Mittelbau-Dora, in 1945 to find very few prisoners and thousands of dead bodies. Shocked by the sight, Hayle drew what he saw.

Before deportations, some artists entrusted their artwork to loved ones. Ahead of her deportation to Auschwitz, Weissova turned over drawings to her uncle, who hid them behind a wall in the Terezin Ghetto. They were given back to her after the war.

Peter Loewenstein gave a portfolio of 70 drawings to his mother, but he, on the other hand, was never able to retrieve them. Loewenstein was deported from the Terezin Ghetto to Auschwitz in 1944, where he was murdered at the age of 25. His sister, the only surviving member of his family, recovered the artwork after the war. One of Loewenstein’s pieces, titled “Eight men in coats with stars,” is the enlarged image that opens the exhibit and was produced the same year as his deportation to Auschwitz.

For both Kliger and Morris, the image stands out among the artwork in the exhibition. It “conveys the weight of the Holocaust without showing anything overly graphic,” said Morris.

Kliger added that “Loewenstein created 70 drawings in ink and watercolor while he was imprisoned in Terezin... This drawing is one of his most striking. Without being graphic, it captures so much of the fear and sadness that characterized the Holocaust.”



“Eight men in coats with stars” by Peter Loewenstein, a gift of Herman and Gerda Korngold, Museum of Jewish Heritage–A Living Memorial to the Holocaust in New York City. (Photo courtesy of the Museum of Jewish Heritage–A Living Memorial)



“Lodz Ghetto Bridge, circa 1940-1943” by Vincent Brauner; a gift of Elizabeth, Gail and Sandy Peters in the Museum of Jewish Heritage–A Living Memorial collection. (Photo courtesy of the Museum of Jewish Heritage–A Living Memorial)

“Rendering Witness” follows last year’s “Auschwitz. Not long ago. Not far away.” That display, which runs through August, outlines the transformation of Auschwitz from a Polish town (Oswiecim) into the largest documented mass-murder site in human history. Kliger told JNS, “We must continually tell the history of the Holocaust in new and different ways, and these two exhibitions on display provide meaningful contrasts and connections.”

Morris said at the press preview, “While curating this exhibition, my mind was on the artists and the historical contexts through which they lived, but... this exhibition – like all exhibitions, educational initiatives and public programs at the Museum of Jewish Heritage–A Living Memorial to the Holocaust – stands against and educates about the dangers of antisemitism, racism, bigotry, of any kind and from any source. This is an important facet of our work.”

The opening of the exhibit follows the recent announcement by New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo about the museum’s expansion so that it will become a “learning destination for school children across the state” and help address the “disturbing number of antisemitic and other discriminatory attacks in New York.” Additionally, it was recently revealed that the Department of Education has teamed up with the museum to provide eighth- and 10<sup>th</sup>-grade students from Brooklyn neighborhoods of Williamsburg, Crown Heights and Borough Park free field trips to the cultural institution in an ongoing effort to combat antisemitism.

“Rendering Witness: Holocaust-Era Art as Testimony” is open through July 5 at the Museum of Jewish Heritage–A Living Memorial to the Holocaust, 36 Battery Place, New York City.

## Mailbox Shorts

### NYC tour of Jewish sites

Marking the 365<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the landing of the first Jewish pioneers in 1654, New York City licensed tour guide Oscar Israelowitz will lead a two-hour tour aboard the New York Water Taxi on Sunday, April 26. The tour will include such sites as the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, Museum of Jewish Heritage, World Trade Center, Lower East Side, Williamsburg, Brooklyn Bridge, Roosevelt Island with its new Technion campus, and more. Attendees will hear stories about the city’s synagogues, a 1922 antique carousel in Brooklyn Bridge Park with a Jewish connection, architect Louis Kahn and the design for the Four Freedoms Park, and more.

Reservations are required. The cost of the tour is \$45. For more information, call 718-336-1690 or e-mail [oscari477@aol.com](mailto:oscari477@aol.com).

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THE REPORTER  
Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton



Yitro, Exodus 18:1-20:33

# Highest uncommon denominator

RABBI DANIEL J. SWARTZ, TEMPLE HESED, SCRANTON

When people complain about anything from the food in a school cafeteria to generic pop music to formulaic television, they often say something like, “Well, I guess they were trying to appeal to the lowest common denominator.” This is a metaphorical use of what was originally a mathematical term, used to help add different fractions with different denominators. When a cafeteria or a network attempts to appeal to different groups of people, they sometimes try to appeal to the broadest, and usually least sophisticated, tastes of their potential audience – hence the lowest common denominator.

One of the highlights of this week’s Torah portion, Yitro, is the giving of 10 commandments. And yet, this highlight, particularly when it is called “The Ten Com-

mandments,” is often turned into another lowest common denominator. These phrases, some claim today, are the basic laws needed for our society, indeed, for any society, to function. If you just follow them, this lowest common denominator reasoning goes, everything will be just fine and dandy. That’s why such people feel that the posting of the so-called 10 commandments in every possible public place – in violation of the separation of church and state fundamental to the workings of American society – will solve all of our problems.

Not to denigrate the importance of these statements, but no, it doesn’t work that way. First of all, not all of these rules apply to everyone. For example, our sages (who, by the way, did come up with a list of “lowest common de-

nominator rules” called the Noachide laws) felt that aspects of Shabbat would be beneficial to nearly everyone – but only for Jews was Shabbat commanded.

But more fundamentally, the “lowest common denominator” view of our Torah portion misses something very important – the context, and thus the purpose, of these statements. And “statements” is the proper term. In the Torah, they are referred to as “*aseret ha-d’varim*” – literally, “the 10 words,” though a better translation would be “the 10 utterances.” There are words in our Torah for commandments, rules and laws – but that is not what they are called. And that is not a merely semantic difference, for the first and most important utterance is not a law at See “Uncommon” on page 11

## Congregational Notes

### Temple Israel

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

On Saturday, February 15, Shabbat services will be led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown. The Torah portion will be Exodus 18:1-20:22. The haftarah will be Isaiah 6:1-7:6 and 9:5-6. The kiddush will be sponsored by Steven and Barbara Gilbert in honor of Steven’s birthday.

There will be no Hebrew school on Sunday, February 16.

The temple office will be closed on Monday, February 17, for Presidents Day.

A Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 18, at 7 pm.

A Temple Israel/Temple Concord Adult Education program will be held at Temple Israel on Sunday, February 23, from 10 am-noon. Rabbi Moshe Shmaryahu will perform Sephardic music.

### 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.

### 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  
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Shabbat, Feb. 15 ..... 9 am  
..... Mincha after kiddush  
Weekday Services:  
Mornings:  
Sun., Feb. 16 ..... 8:30 am  
Mon.-Fri., Feb. 17-21 ..... 7 am  
Evenings:  
Sun., Feb. 16 ..... 5:20 pm  
Mon.-Thurs., Feb. 17-20 ..... 7 pm  
Classes: Rabbi Zev Silber will hold his weekly Talmud class every Tuesday evening after services.

### 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.

From Friday-Sunday, February 28-March 1, Rabbi Laura Geller will be the scholar-in-residence. She is rabbi emerita of Temple Emanuel of Beverly Hills, CA, and co-author of “Getting Good at Getting Older” (Behrman House, 2019). On February 28 at 6:15 pm, she will discuss “Getting Good at Getting Older (No Matter How Old You Are!)” during services. A dinner will follow services (reservations through the temple office are required), as well as a talk on “Living (Not Just Leaving) Your Legacy: Your Stuff, Your Resources, Your Stories, Your Values.” On February 29, Shabbat services will begin at 10 am and Geller will give the d’var Torah on “Bringing Your Gifts.” Lunch following services (reservations required) will include a talk on “You Get By with a Little Help from Your Friends.” On March 1, at 9 am minyan, she will discuss “Woman Rabbis Transformed American Judaism!” There will be a book signing following services.

Friday, February 14, light candles before ..... 5:16 pm  
Saturday, February 15, Shabbat ends ..... 6:18 pm  
Friday, February 21, light candles before ..... 5:25 pm  
Saturday, February 22, Shabbat ends ..... 6:27 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, February 14, Visual Tefillah Shabbat evening services will be held at 8 pm led by Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell.

On Saturday, February 15, there will be Torah study at 9:15 am. There will be no religious school or family service.

On Friday, February 21, Visual Tefillah Shabbat evening services will be held at 8 pm led by Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell.

On Saturday, February 22, religious school will meet at 9 am; Torah study will be held at 9:15 am; and Shabbat family service will be held at 10:35 am.

On Sunday, February 23, a Temple Israel/Temple Concord adult education program will be held at Temple Israel, from 10 am-noon. Rabbi Moshe Shmaryahu will perform Sephardic music.

### 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 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 equalitarian congregation serving the greater Cortland community. Congregants span the gamut of observance and services are largely dependent on the service leader. The Friday night siddur is “Likrat Shabbat,” while the Saturday morning siddur is “Gates of Prayer.” The community extends a warm welcome to the Jewish student population of SUNY Cortland, as well as the residents of local adult residences.

**Safe. . . . . Continued from page 3**

**3. A friend indeed: U.S., Israel sign \$38 billion military aid package**

In September 2016, Washington and Jerusalem inked a Memorandum of Understanding giving Israel \$38 billion in U.S. military assistance over the next decade – the largest such aid package in U.S. history.



Two Israeli F-35 Adir jets fly in formation. (Photo courtesy U.S. Air Force/1st Lt. Erik D. Anthony)

The U.S.-Israel Security Assistance Authorization Act sought to allow Israel – the United States’ chief strategic partner in the Middle East – to upgrade most of its fighter aircraft, among other things by acquiring F-35 fighters, improve its ground forces’ mobility and strengthen its missile defense systems, all with the aim of maintaining Israel’s qualitative edge in one of the most volatile regions in the world.

“Prime Minister [Benjamin] Netanyahu and I are confident that the new MOU will make a significant contribution to Israel’s security in what remains a dangerous neighborhood,” then-U.S. President Barack Obama said.

American military aid is the cornerstone of Israeli defense policy. Not just because of the actual funding, which represents a significant portion of the IDF’s budget – in 2019, Israel’s defense budgets came to NIS 55.2 billion (\$15.8 billion) or 11.5 percent of the overall NIS 497.6 billion (\$142.8 billion) state budget – but mainly because of the close-knit relationship with the world’s foremost superpower, which allows Israel to lean on its capabilities.

**2. Out in the open: The Iran-Israel proxy conflict**

It will come as little surprise to anyone that Israel and Iran consider themselves archenemies, but what has been – according to foreign media reports – a low-intensity conflict waged out of the public eye for years has recently emerged as overt hostilities lurking just beyond Israel’s northern borders.

The Islamic Republic has repeatedly stated that it seeks to “wipe Israel off the map” and has often used its chief proxy in the Middle East, the Lebanon-based Hezbollah, to launch attacks against Israel from the north, all while sponsoring the Gaza-based Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad, as well.

In 2011, Iran began intensifying its presence in the region under the pretense of assisting its ally, Syrian President Bashar Assad, fight the insurgency that erupted in Syria at the height of the “Arab Spring.”

The brutal Syrian civil war, which only began to wane in 2019, proved the perfect pretext for Iran to send troops and advanced weapons to Syria in a growing effort to entrench itself militarily mere miles from Israel’s northern border.

Israel, for its part, has spared no effort to disrupt the force build-up of the Iranian-Shi’ite axis throughout the Middle East, which poses a strategic threat to Israel: In a rare admission, a senior Israeli defense official said in 2018 that the IDF has carried out more than 200 strikes against Iranian targets in Syria.

According to foreign media reports, Israel has also conducted cyber warfare against Iran and has publicly advocated for international military action against Iran.

Israeli defense officials have warned that as Tehran grows more brazen in its anti-Western rhetoric and actions, it is highly likely that it will try to provoke another war between Hezbollah and Israel.

As Hezbollah’s patron, Tehran has contributed greatly to the Shi’ite terrorist group’s arsenal. Israeli military intelligence pegs Hezbollah’s stockpile at some 150,000 rockets, that threaten the entire country.

**1. Game changer: Iron Dome becomes operational**

One of the most important developments in Israel’s air defense capabilities came on the scene in 2011, when the now-world-renowned Iron Dome defense system became operational, proving to be a game-changer in terms of home-front defense.

Developed by Rafael Advanced Defense Systems and Israel Aerospace Industries, Iron Dome, declared operational on March 27, 2011, is designed to intercept and destroy short-range rockets and artillery shells fired from distances of between 4-70 km (2.5-43 miles) and according to IDF data it has a 90 percent interception success rate.

Iron Dome’s performance is so impressive that, in addition to its land-based deployment, the military plans to deploy it at sea in the future, to protect Israel’s offshore gas platforms in conjunction with Israel’s Barak 8 missile system.

Iron Dome has proved essential in protecting the Israeli home front from the ever-increasing terrorist rocket fire emanating from the Gaza Strip: During 2012’s “Operation



The Iron Dome battery in Ashkelon. (Photo by Israel Defense Forces)

Pillar of Defense,” Iron Dome intercepted 428 projectiles, and during 2014’s “Operation Protective Edge” it downed 735. Since then, and through the various flare-ups noted between Israel and Hamas, the system has intercepted thousands of rockets.

The military credits “breakthrough technology” for the fact Iron Dome confronts multiple threats simultaneously, in all weather conditions. These features have made it highly attractive to other nations facing various airborne threats.

So far, Iron Dome has been acquired by the militaries of Azerbaijan, India and Romania. According to the defense establishment, the defense ministries of several NATO member states have also expressed interest in acquiring the system.

Iron Dome batteries are currently deployed nationwide, providing the first line of aerial defense for the home front. Its steady success rate has had a strategic impact on how the military conducts its operations, while also providing a much-needed sense of security for the Israeli public, earning it the top spot on this list of most notable defense moments of the decade.

*This article first appeared in Israel Hayom.*

**Mailbox Shorts**

**Programs on Yiddish and modern culture**

The Yiddish Book Center has launched the “Decade of Discovery” to mark its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Beginning in 2020, and continuing for each of the next 10 years, the Center will select an annual theme around which special events, courses, conferences, exhibits, performances and other programs will be organized. The programming, often in partnership with other organizations across the country, seeks to create and foster new relationships with individuals and institutions to expand and strengthen engagement with Yiddish and modern Jewish culture. Through this initiative, the Center will collaborate in new ways, test ideas and discover new perspectives.

Decade of Discovery launches in 2020 with the theme “Yiddish in America: Cultural Encounters.” Events around this theme will be presented across the country at such venues as New York City’s Leonard Nimoy Thalia Theatre at Symphony Space, the American Writers Museum in Chicago and the Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles, as well as at venues in Washington, DC, Miami, San Francisco, Boston and Toronto. The full schedule of events, which will be updated as additions are announced throughout the year, is viewable on the Center’s website at [yiddishbookcenter.org/Decade-of-Discovery](http://yiddishbookcenter.org/Decade-of-Discovery).

Also announced as part of the initiative is the Center’s “Coming to America: Reading Groups for Public Libraries,” a program designed to engage teens and adults in thinking about immigrants’ experiences encountering America. Using Yiddish literature in translation as a portal, the program will explore questions of identity, assimilation, language and generational change. The program presents American identity as an ongoing conversation and will compare works written in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century to works by contemporary immigrant writers. Public libraries from all over the country were invited to apply to the program. For more information, libraries should contact the Center.

**Truman Torah on exhibit**

The Truman Torah, one of the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum’s artifacts, will be exhibited at the National Museum of American Jewish History from through June 27. Israel’s first president, Dr. Chaim Weizmann, presented the Torah to Truman at the White House on May 25, 1948, 11 days after the state of Israel was founded. Truman, in what has been called one of his most controversial decisions, granted swift de facto U.S. recognition to the newly formed state 11 minutes after Israel came into existence.

For more information, visit [www.nmajh.org](http://www.nmajh.org) or contact the museum at 215-9223-3811.

**Uncommon. . . . . Continued from page 10**

all. (Note: as another example of the “uncommon” nature of this text, Jews and Christians number the commandments differently.)

It reads, “I the Eternal am your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, the house of bondage.” That isn’t a rule, at least as we commonly understand rules. Rather, it is the setting not only for the rules that follow, but for our ongoing covenantal relationship with God. This covenant should be understood as the Highest Uncommon Denominator, for our covenant with God has no minimum requirements. It calls on us, at each and every moment, to strive with all our mind, heart and soul to do and be better.

No matter how extensive a checklist of good deeds or commandments we might come up with, being in a covenantal relationship with God means that it is not enough to check off the boxes in rote fashion, even if we could

somehow check every single one. There should be nothing rote about our behavior – to truly be in a relationship with God means to strive to be constantly in a state of “radical amazement” at the world, as Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel put it. We look at each day with a sense not only of awe, but of “Wow!” – and then respond to this “wow” by doing our best to make the world even better. There are always more commandments to fulfill, more good deeds to do, more passion that we can bring to bear on life and the repair of the world.

That is what this week’s portion is about – not a list of rules, but a mode of behavior. When we can enter that mode, feeling God’s presence in our heart, seeing the richness and wonder of the world, and seeking to increase justice and peace in all our interactions with the people and creatures with which we share this world, then we will be heeding Sinai’s true call.

**Mission. . . . . Continued from page 1**

Israel trying to change the world. Israelis can squeeze water from stone; they have made the desert bloom,” he told JNS.

He also said, “I intend to come to Israel as much as I can. I want to make it every year.”

In his work back on campus, added Aniето, “I’ve appointed myself a representative for the state of Israel, and my goal is to encourage students to seek research options in Israel.”



Faculty Fellowship participants met with Professor Daniel A. Chamovitz, president of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. (Photo by Vivian Grossman)

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**NEWS IN BRIEF**

From JNS.org

**Palestinians reportedly pull vote on U.N. resolution condemning peace plan**

The Palestinians appear to have withdrawn their request for a vote on a U.N. resolution condemning the Trump Mideast peace plan, according to AFP, which cited on Feb. 10 unnamed diplomats who said there's a lack of support for the measure. Palestinian Authority leader Mahmoud Abbas still planned to address the U.N. Security Council on Feb. 11 about his rejection of the Mideast peace plan that was released on Jan. 28. The diplomats told AFP that the Trump administration had "heavily pressured" those who are for it ahead of a scheduled vote on Feb. 11. Senior Palestinian official Saeb Erekat denied the report and said that the draft resolution, introduced the week of Feb. 7 by Indonesia and Tunisia, is still being discussed and will be voted on once there's "a formula that represents our positions." The latest draft is "much less aggressive" in tone than the initial version, according to AFP, which obtained a copy, which no longer mentions the United States by name and uses less confrontational language than the original. The initial draft of the resolution said that the Trump peace plan "breaches international law and the internationally-endorsed terms of reference for the achievement of a just, comprehensive and lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict." In the updated version, according to the AFP, the draft states that the plan "departs from the internationally-endorsed terms of reference and parameters for the achievement of a just, comprehensive and lasting solution to this conflict, as enshrined in the relevant United Nations resolutions." The revised draft also adds a condemnation of "all acts of violence against civilians, including acts of terror, as well as all acts of provocation, incitement and destruction," and

dropped the call for an international conference on the Middle East "at the earliest possible date," instead referring to a similar call made in a 2008 U.N. resolution. The draft still condemns Israeli settlements in eastern Jerusalem and Judea and Samaria, and restates the importance of preserving the pre-1967 armistice lines.

**Belgium invites "terror supporters" to U.N. Security Council**

Israel is furious at Belgium for continuing to act against Israel at the United Nations Security Council, including inviting a "one-sided, radical" pro-Palestinian activist to address council members. Belgium, which currently holds the rotating presidency for the UNSC, has invited Brad Parker, a senior official for a nonprofit called Defense for Children International - Palestine, to speak at the council's session. DCI-P accuses Israel of committing war crimes, supports the BDS movement and has ties to the U.S.-designated terrorist organization Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. "Belgium has positioned itself as one of the Security Council member states most hostile toward Israel," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lior Haiat told *The Times of Israel*. "Inviting a one-sided radical activist such as Mr. Parker to brief the Security Council is yet another negative record." Israel's Ambassador to Belgium Emmanuel Nahshon called out Belgium on Twitter for inviting "terror supporters" to the Security Council, and said, "This is extremely disappointing and we will express our outrage in the strongest possible terms." Additionally, Israeli Ambassador to the U.N. Danny Danon wrote a letter to U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres saying DCI-P is "an arm of the PFLP in order to enact diplomatic terror against Israel... A place that promotes peace and security in the world has no room for people like Parker."

**Senior Iranian official: If U.S. attacks Iran, we'll raze Tel Aviv to the ground**

(MEMRI via JNS) - Iran will "raze Tel Aviv to the ground" if attacked by the United States, said Iran's Expediency Council Secretary Mohsen Rezaee on Feb. 8. Tehran has been looking for a pretext to attack Tel Aviv because Israel had played a role in the "martyrdom" of Quds Force commander Gen. Qassem Soleimani, added the former Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) commander-in-chief. Rezaee's remarks were made during an interview aired by Lebanon's Mayadeen TV. The former IRGC commander said that Tehran has precise information on American activity in the region, including on all U.S. bases and aircraft carriers. Iran, he added, even monitors U.S. soldiers when they go to hotels in Kuwait or Bahrain, and knows such things as the food sources of U.S. troops in the region. Iran had targeted the Ayn al-Assad military base in Iraq, which hosts U.S. forces, because it knew that it was very important to the Americans, said Rezaee. He went on to state that the U.S. presence in the region is volatile and the goal of the Trump peace plan was to give it a stable foothold in the region, to do away with the Palestinian cause, take over Gaza and disarm Hamas. Predicting a "significant weakening" of the U.S. over the next decade, he added that once Saudi Arabia and the Gulf countries realize that America is no longer as strong as it was, there will be a revolution in Saudi Arabia, followed by revolutions in other Gulf countries. The global collapse of the United States, he said, will begin in "West Asia."

**ADL: Extremists using coronavirus outbreak to stoke hatred against Jews**

Neo-Nazi and white supremacists are using fears of the deadly coronavirus to stoke hatred against Jews and spread conspiracy theories on social-media platforms, according to a new report released by the Anti-Defamation League. "Following a well-worn pattern of capitalizing on major news stories to advance their bigotry and antisemitism, extremists have latched onto fears surrounding the coronavirus story to promote conspiracy theories and even 'boogaloo,'" referring to the extremists' code word for violence, the ADL report said. According to the ADL, "extremist-friendly" platforms such as Telegram, 4chan and Gab have been filled with messages posted by racists. "Extremists hope the virus kills Jews, but they are also using its emergence to advance their antisemitic theories that Jews are responsible for creating the virus, spreading it to increase their control over a decimated population, or they are profiting off it," the ADL said. Additionally, more widely used and mainstream social-media platforms like Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and Reddit have also seen concerning messages being spread by extremists. The report said that on these platforms, "posters are calling coverage of the coronavirus a hoax and a distraction designed to frighten the public, while others are arguing that the virus's impact is far worse than authorities want people to think." As of Feb. 7, the World Health Organization reported 31,211 confirmed cases globally, with the vast majority in China and at least 637 deaths. "The relatively small [number of] cases outside China gives us a window of opportunity to prevent this outbreak from becoming broader global crisis," said WHO's director general, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, during a press conference on Feb. 7. "Our greatest concern is about the potential for spreading countries with weaker health system and lack the capacity to detect or diagnose the virus."

**Kushner: it's up to Palestinians to make peace**

U.S. President Donald Trump's senior adviser and son-in-law Jared Kushner blamed Palestinian Authority leader Mahmoud Abbas on Feb. 6 for the increase in tensions and violence in the West Bank in response to the release of the Mideast peace plan on Jan. 28. He said that those who want a state "don't call for days of rage and encourage their people to pursue violence if they're not getting what they want," and that Abbas "was surprised with how good the plan was for the Palestinian people, but he locked himself into a position." Kushner warned that the plan, which he played a role in creating, "might be the last chance" for the Palestinians to have a state. After briefing the U.N. Security Council at a private lunch at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, Kushner told a small group of reporters that the window for a Palestinian state is close to being shut, considering the rate of expansion of Israeli neighborhoods, which may prevent the formation of a state for the Palestinians. Abbas was scheduled to address the U.N. Security Council on Feb. 11, followed by a planned news conference with former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, who objected to the proposal, which was accepted by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Kushner labeled Olmert's participation "almost pathetic."

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