

THE REPORTER

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JCC annual Purim Carnival to be held on March 8

The Jewish Community Center will host its annual Purim Carnival on Sunday, March 8, from 1-3:30 pm. The cost is \$5 per child and \$1 per adult, with a \$20 maximum per family. The entire community is welcome and encouraged to attend. All proceeds will go to benefit youth programming at the JCC.

Everyone, young and old, is encouraged to come dressed as their favorite Purim character or in any costume of their choice. The JCC Kids Connection staff, who run

the event, create different themed costumes each year.

The carnival is geared toward children and will include games, inflatables, arts and crafts, and face painting. All games earn children points that can be traded in for prizes. Traditional Purim food, such as hamantashen, knishes and bagels, will be available for purchase during the event.

For more information about the Purim Carnival, JCC Youth Programming, or the JCC, contact the JCC office at 724-2417.



Part of the crowd at last year's JCC Purim Carnival.

TI/TC adult ed. program on Feb. 23

The Temple Israel/Temple Concord Adult Education Group will present a Sunday brunch program on Sunday, February 23, at 10 am, at Temple Israel, featuring Rabbi/Cantor Moshe Shmaryahu, who will speak on the history and traditions of Sephardic and Ashkenazic liturgical music. There is a cost of \$7 to cover the cost of the brunch. RSVPs can be made to Tammy Kunsman at the Temple Israel office at titammy@stny.twcbc.com or 723-7461.



Rabbi/Cantor Moshe Shmaryahu

store," said organizers of the event. "To those who haven't heard Rabbi Shmaryahu, this is a wonderful opportunity to do so! Please come—bring family and friends and enjoy a special experience that awaits!"

Shmaryahu has been teaching at Hillel Academy for many years, currently serving as the head of Jewish studies, and has a long association with Congregation Beth David. Shmaryahu studied with Dr. Mordechai Sobol, a composer, arranger, and conductor of Jewish music. He also has studied at the Cantorial School in Ramat Gan, and with the Cantor Baruch Toaba. Shmaryahu sings *chazzanut* in Israel with the Yuval Choir and the Israeli Philharmonic, and in synagogues across the United States and around the world.

Throughout his presentation, Shmaryahu will sing and illustrate the music he is presenting. "Those who have heard Rabbi Shmaryahu sing or *daven*, or discuss his passionate love for (and encyclopedic knowledge of) Jewish music, know what a treat is in

Chabad to hold Purim feast on March 10

The entire community is invited to attend the Chabad Purim Feast, which will be held on Purim day, March 10, beginning at 6 pm. A "last chance" megillah reading for those who could not hear the megillah read earlier will be held promptly at 5:20 pm. The program will be held at the Chabad Center, 420 Murray Hill Rd., Vestal.

"This is always a wonderful way for the extended Binghamton *mishpacha* to enjoy one of our most joyous holidays," said Rabbi Aaron Slonim. Over the years, our Purim Feast has been an occasion of great joy and unity as people of all ages come together to celebrate. Especially wonderful is the confluence of energies between the enthusiastic student body and our own wonderful local community."

Dinner will be catered from the New Jersey based Dougie's BBQ and Grill. The buffet includes vegetarian options.

The cost for the program is \$18 per person; \$14 for students with advance on line reservation and seniors (over 65); and \$9 for children under 12 (children aged 2 and under are free). Participants are asked to come in costume and will automatically be entered into a raffle; There will also be a parade of children in costume.

As this event tends to draw a big crowd, interested parties are asked to make a reservation in a timely fashion. Reservations will be accepted on a first come, first served basis and can be made by calling the Chabad Center office at 797-0015 or online at www.Jewishbu.com/PurimFeast.

Spotlight

Rabbi Laura Geller explores new life-cycle stage

By Rabbi Rachel Esserman

Rabbi Laura Geller will be the scholar-in-residence at Temple Beth-El of Ithaca from Friday-Sunday, February 28-March 1. For more information, see Temple Beth-El of Ithaca's congregational notes on page 10.

According to social science research, most people in the U.S. are living 31 years longer than their grandparents did. That means there is a period in mid-life – the time between raising families and frail old age – that offers newly retired boomers and future generations different options than were available in the past. In fact, Rabbi Laura Geller, rabbi emerita of Temple Emanuel of Beverly Hills, had noticed that her generation was responding to this post-retirement period differently than did her parents' generation and decided that it was worth exploring these differences.

"I'm 69 years old, a boomer," she said in an e-mail interview. "My life now is very different from my parents, who retired in their mid-60s, moved away from their home and spent their time primarily in recreation activities. I am retired, but I still live in my community, and I am almost as busy as I used to be when I worked full time, but now it is

with other projects and volunteer activities. So, I don't even know what to call me. Retired? Yes, but not if the word means no longer engaged in what matters to me."

Geller, who was twice named by Newsweek as one of the 50 Most Influential Rabbis in America and by PBS Next Avenue as one of the 50 2017 Influencers in Aging, believes it is important to not only name this stage of life, but to help people decide how best to use these years. "Someday my millennial children will be between midlife and frail old age," she noted. "We are not naming just a generation, but rather initiating a new stage in the life cycle. And the cohort is getting bigger every day. Every eight seconds, actually. Since January 2011, one person in the United States turned 65 every eight seconds. By 2030, more than 70 million Americans will be 65 or older, twice the number in 2000. In 2030, one in five Americans will be 65 or older. This has enormous implication for so much in our society, including our own Jewish community. But ironically, the Jewish



Rabbi Laura Geller

community doesn't seem to be paying attention."

She saw this lack of attention in her own congregation and began a "listening campaign" in order to understand people's concerns. Small groups met to discuss the changes they saw in their own lives. These talks led her to write "Getting Good at Getting Older" with her late husband, Richard Siegel, who was one of the co-editors of "The Jewish Catalogue." Geller noted that, just as "The Jewish Catalogue" spoke to those in the counterculture movements of the 1960 and '70s, this new work speaks to those facing the challenges of aging. "Now we are confronting and challenging assumptions about aging, by living longer, being more active than our parents and grandparents, and simply doing things differently," she said. "The question is: can we now change the way the world sees older people? How often have you heard 60 is the new 40. Seventy is the new 50. It's a way of pretending we are not growing older. No surprise: ageism, stereotyping and discrimination on

the basis of a person's age is the last socially sanctioned prejudice. And ageism isn't just out there. It is inside of us – internalized ageism, our own prejudices about growing older. Changing the way the world views older people begins with our changing the way we view ourselves and coming to believe that 70 is the new 70."

Among the things that Geller learned from the discussions in her congregation were:

◆ "People at this stage want to continue to live lives of purpose and to use their talents, expertise, wisdom and networks to make a difference in the world."

◆ "People at this stage have more time to ask existential and spiritual questions than they did when they were so busy building careers and raising families. They want to continue to learn and to grow. They are also interested in marking the important transitions in their life through ritual... For example, what is the prayer when you close up your parents' home? After the death of a partner, is there a ritual moment when you take off your ring? What might a ritual look like for taking on a new challenge? For See "Geller" on page 3

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Opinion

From the Desk of the Federation Executive Director

With gratitude

SHELLEY HUBAL

Have you heard of the Stolpersteine Project? Stolpersteine translates to stumbling stone. It is a project that was first conceived by artist Gunter Demnig in Cologne, Germany, in 1992. The goal of this project is to remember the victims of the Holocaust by installing small brass stones on the sidewalk near the victims last known, freely chosen address. Each hand-carved stone begins with the words "Here lived," followed by the name, date of birth and fate of the victim. There are more than 70,000 of these memorial stones in Europe, Russia and South America.

My family was recently contacted via Facebook by those involved in the Stolpersteine Project in my grandmother's home town of Villmar, Germany. As a school project, a

young woman did research on my grandmother's family and was seeking information and permission to lay stumbling stones on the walk outside my grandmother's childhood home. The community had raised the money needed to install the stones, one for each member of the family.

This project is not without controversy as some believe it is degrading to put names on the ground. Others feel these small tributes are uniquely personal. My view is positive. It is touching to know that a stranger on another continent took the time and effort to remember a family she never knew. I also want to believe that, as long as the stones are there, people walking by will stop, even for an instant, and remember the tragedy that once happened and

have a name to put with history.

My grandmother never spoke about her early life; it was too painful. We learned from this project that her former home was turned over to the Nazis and was used by the Hitler Youth and the Gestapo. I don't know if grandma ever knew this, but I am certain it would have been deeply painful if she had.

Most Jewish people feel a personal connection to the Holocaust. It is not every day that connection becomes tangible. I am grateful to know there are people in this world that care and I take comfort that my lovely grandmother will not be forgotten. If you want to learn more about the Stolpersteine Project, you can visit www.stolpersteine.eu/en/.

Nurturing emotional, social and mental health at Jewish summer camp

By Rabbi Avi Orlow and David Phillips

(JNS) – "Speech has power. Words do not fade. What starts out as a sound, ends in a deed." – Abraham Joshua Heschel

Many parents and educators are by now well aware that we find ourselves amid a mental-health crisis. What many have not stopped to consider, however, is just how much this is profoundly impacting our communities and camps.

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness:

- ◆ One in five youth aged 13-18 (21.4 percent) experiences a severe mental disorder at some point during life. For children ages 8-15, the estimate is 13 percent.
- ◆ A little more than 50 percent of children ages 8-15 received mental-health services in the prior year.
- ◆ Suicide is the third leading cause of death for people ages 10-24, and the second leading cause of death for people ages 15-24.
- ◆ One in five adults in the United States (18.5 percent) experience mental illness in a given year.

To forecast our current mental-health crisis is impossible. "It is shame wrapped in taboo inside of stigma," and to continue to borrow from Winston Churchill, "...but perhaps there is a key."

For children and staff with mental illness, summer camp represents a safe haven that is so important that they will do everything in their power not to compromise attendance. For some, attending represents an incentive to work hard

and do their best to improve their mental health. But let's be honest, camp is not stress-free; it is a living breathing community with all the drama, good and bad, that accompanies these settings. The elements that make camp such a powerful Jewish identity and socialization tool – from living and playing in close quarters to cliques and special events, late nights and lack of privacy – may delight, but can also distress and challenges one's mental health.

For those who come with a mental-illness diagnosis to those who find themselves experiencing a situational episode, it can be overwhelming and scary. For those on the periphery, such as bunkmates and young adult staff, interacting or supervising a person who hurts on the inside can be confusing and potentially alarming. Ensuring a safe environment by working with an individual's pre-existing conditions and those that manifest at camp is a complex service-delivery challenge.

Camp provides no magic shield that protects participants against pre-existing or newly manifested mental-health issues. Moreover, camps are ultimately responsible for providing quality, experienced mental-health services for these children and young adults just as they have done for decades when it comes to physical health needs. For example, anyone who attended camp is familiar with sick call, visits to the camp nurse for Band-Aids and coughs, etc. Such interactions are easily diagnosed and treated, with no stigma attached. How do we introduce the same paradigm and normalize the need for mental-health assistance at

camp for those who hurt on the inside?

Professionals engaged in camps, schools and youth groups anecdotally confirm the research that diagnosed mental-health issues are pervasive. At the same time, we also acknowledge that there are children and staff with no formal diagnosis who hide or feel ashamed by the feelings inside, but are clearly in pain, and those who come to camp newly symptomatic, newly diagnosed or on a sanctioned (or otherwise) "medication vacation." Worse yet, some parents do not share mental-health issues with the camp, as the perceived stigma is too overwhelming to contemplate, so the individual suffers in unnecessary silence.

There really is no choice, but to engage, as the notion that we would ignore a child or staff member in distress is simply unacceptable. The same care we provide a physical injury or illness must be available to those who hurt inside their heads. Taking action has become a necessity. Foundation for Jewish Camp is stepping forward with "Yedid Nefesh: Nurturing Mental Emotional and Social Health at Jewish Camp," made possible by a generous grant from the Marcus Foundation and based on an initiative developed by Immersive1st consulting.

The program was designed to engage two cohorts of 30 camps to introduce or increase the number of mental-health professionals on staff for the summer, promote positive mental health through new programming, and See "Summer" on page 9

In My Own Words

Scams and conspiracies

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

"This is the Social Security Administration. We're sorry to inform you that your Social Security number has been suspended..." Click to delete: that was my response to several messages left on my answering machine this week. I'm sure by the time this appears in the paper, I'll have deleted even more. A friend was trying to tell me about a scam and I managed to complete the sentence with him because he'd received the same message about his Social Security number. Not only do we both know that the Social Security Administration will never call us, neither of us has ever heard of someone's number being suspended.

That's not the only recent scam. My synagogue sent out a message recently noting that the rabbi and/or the synagogue office will never call/e-mail asking for money. They might give information about a current fund-raiser, but would never ask you to send cash or gift cards. That's one clue that something is a scam. Think about it for a minute. When you write a check or use a credit card, you have a

way to track your payment. Once you've sent a gift card or cash, that money is gone and you'll never see it again.

When I used to explain these scams to my mother – usually as part of a request to please, please, please don't answer the phone when you don't know who is calling – she'd ask why someone would do this. One easy answer is money. Another is the feeling of power that comes with having fooled someone. Those are the same reasons people create computer viruses and/or take a computer hostage for ransom.

Of course, trying to explain the reason behind this, or other, behavior doesn't always work. That's because humans are basically irrational. Take, for example, the latest anti-Jewish conspiracy theory. Did you know that some people actually believe that Jews are responsible for the coronavirus? I don't want explain their reasoning because it makes my head hurt. Other groups are cheering the fact that some Israelis are sick. What's sick, as in sickening, is reading a post on a new extremist website about those

three Israelis: "3 down, 5,999,997 to go!"

While human nature has not changed, what has changed is the instant access the Internet gives us to learn about these theories. What has also changed is that we can post material and create websites anonymously. The person saying horrible things about you online could, in the real world, be pretending to be your best friend. The person scamming you could be your friendly neighborhood store-keeper or a person halfway across the globe who doesn't know anything about you personally. These scams and conspiracies may not aimed be at you as an individual, but as one of any interchangeable individuals. They're looking for someone naive or unknowledgeable enough to fall for their pitch.

The worst part is that we are all vulnerable – even the smartest of us can make a mistake due to fatigue or fear or mishearing what's said to us. While on the one hand, technology has made life easier, on the other, it's also created a new set of problems.



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

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HOW TO REACH THE REPORTER

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

E-mail ~ TRreporter@aol.com

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

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Layout Editor Diana Sochor
Advertising Bonnie Rozen
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Barbara Bank, Eleanor Durfee, Fran Ferentinos,
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Shalach manot offered by Chabad's Women's League

Tuesday, February 25, is the final deadline for submitting orders through the Women's League for Chabad *shalach manot* service and all orders must be received by that time. The service allows members of the Broome County Jewish community to send food packages to individuals on Purim day, which is celebrated this year on Tuesday, March 10. The Women's League also offers Purim greeting cards that can be sent to friends and relatives beyond Broome County

in lieu of *shalach manot* packages anywhere in the United States.

"The mitzvah of *shalach manot* is very important and is fulfilled by sending a package with at least to different types of food to at least on friend on Purim day," explained Rivkah Slonim. "Often people want to send *mishloach manot* to many, many people or, at least, wish them a happy holiday and make sure they know they are thought of. These cards work perfectly for that purpose and they

support a great cause at the same time!"

Individuals who have not received a packet with details concerning all aspects of the *shalach manot* service can obtain one by calling the Chabad Center at 797-0015. Women's League is also seeking volunteers to help with the assembly of the packages and especially individuals who can help with the local delivery on Purim day. Contact the Chabad Center for more information.

"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 DeVillaggio, 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.

Israeli government approves immigration of 400 Falash Mura

By Dov Lipman

(JNS)—The Israeli government's recent approval of a plan to allow nearly 400 Ethiopian Jews from the Falash Mura sect to immigrate to Israel has touched off political controversy in the country.

Following the February 9 Cabinet approval, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the move, which aims to reunite the Falash Mura with family members already living in Israel, was "just an additional step" in the process of *aliyah* from Ethiopia. In 2015, Netanyahu's government passed a decision to bring all members of the Ethiopian Jewish community to Israel, but the plan has not been implemented largely due to budgetary issues.

"I am proud that as prime minister I brought thousands of Ethiopian brothers and sisters to Israel. We, of course, plan to continue doing so. This is just an additional step," said Netanyahu.

Former Likud MK Avraham Neguise, a member of the Ethiopian Israeli community, thanked Netanyahu following the announcement of the decision, and denied accusations the move was tied to the country's upcoming elections.

"I thank the prime minister and the minister of absorption who accepted my ongoing demand to continue the immigration from Ethiopia," Neguise told JNS. "This government decision is not connected to the election and has been on the table since my first day in the Knesset in 2015. The decision to allow the immigration of these 400 is not a new one; it is the number that was set in 2018, and a budget was already transferred for this in the last Knesset."

The Falash Mura's ancestors were forced to convert to Christianity during the 19th and 20th centuries, and many in the 8,000-strong community have close relatives who have already moved to Israel. However, while more than 80 percent of the Falash Mura in Ethiopia say they have first-degree relatives already living in Israel, since they are officially not Jewish, they are not eligible for automatic Israeli citizenship under the country's Law of Return and must receive special government permission to immigrate, and then undergo a conversion process once they arrive.

The recent decision met with opposition from Israeli Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit, who argued that it



Members of the Falash Mura community made their way to reunite with their families at Ben-Gurion International Airport, outside Tel Aviv, on February 4, 2019. (Photo by Tomer Neuberg/Flash90.)

could be perceived as an election ploy. Mandelblit also argued that there has not been sufficient preparation for the move, and that not enough data had been gathered regarding the applicants for immigration.

The Cabinet decision comes as the Likud Party leads efforts to increase its support among the country's Ethiopian community ahead of the country's March 2 elections. Pollsters estimate that as many as two seats may have shifted from Likud to the Blue and White Party in the September election due to anger and disappointment over what the community sees as government neglect of its needs. Last July, nationwide protests took place in Israel by Ethiopian Israelis upset over the shooting death of 18-year-old Solomon Teka by a police officer. The party even convinced former Blue and White Knesset member Desta Yevarkan, an Ethiopian Israeli, to defect to Likud.

Netanyahu's opponents were quick to pounce on the approval, with Blue and White leader Benny Gantz accusing the prime minister of "carrying out a cynical election campaign on the backs of Jews left behind in Ethiopia and their families here who he has neglected for a decade."

Blue and White MK Penina Tamano-Shata, the first female Ethiopian-Israeli Knesset member, told JNS that "Netanyahu holds the Ethiopian Jews waiting to move to Israel as hostages for elections. He plays with people's lives in his political games, instead of bringing all those who have a right to move to Israel immediately. He has been prime minister for 10 years, and what has he done?"

Alisa Bodner, spokeswoman for the grassroots organization called the Struggle for Ethiopian Aliyah, told JNS that "if the government can approve 400 immigrants ahead of the election then they can approve the *aliyah* of 7,500 more." The group was planning to hold a rally on February 19 in Jerusalem to demand that Israel bring to Israel all Ethiopian Jews waiting to immigrate and not just the relatively small amount included in the government's recent decision.

Attorney Emanuel Hadane, son of the chief rabbi of Israel's Ethiopian community, told JNS that "we in the community don't get caught up in the politics. The timing doesn't matter. Let it be one day

before the election. What's important is that as many of See "Falash" on page 4

The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to **Richard Greenblott** on the death of his wife, **Mildred Greenblott**





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becoming a grandparent? Could ritual help us with some of the challenges of growing older, like when it is time to give up the keys to our cars and stop driving?"

◆ "People at this stage have concerns about themselves and people they love about health, finances, and end of life issues. While most of these congregants had Advance Health Care Directives, a surprisingly few had shared their wishes with their adult children. They didn't know how to have 'the conversation,' and yet that difficult conversation about end of life wishes might be the most important conversation they would ever have."

◆ "We learned that people in this stage are beginning to ask the question: 'with whom do I want to grow older, and where?' We learned that our 'social capital' constricts when we retire, when friends move away, when many of our children, if we have children, live in different places. Turns out that loneliness is not just a problem for the frail elderly. It is a growing public health problem for people of all ages, including millennials as well as boomers."

Geller notes that "like the original 'Jewish Catalog,' 'Getting Good at Getting Older' is practical, whimsical and helpful. It is not a book you read from the beginning, but rather a book you turn to when you have a particular issue to explore. It offers resources for what we need to get good at to get good at getting older."

The book discusses options for those looking to gain wisdom in their older years, for example, meditation, journaling and life-long learning. It also helps people create new rituals for this stage of life. There are suggestions on the ways relationships change as people age and how to deal with both aging parents and their children. It encourages readers to think about how to make room for new friends and find nurturing communities. Geller explores the ramifications of illness – whether that of a spouse or one's own – and how to deal with end of life decisions. She also notes the importance of giving back to the world by staying engaged. In addition, there is a discussion on what she calls "getting good at giving away." She suggested that people "leave a legacy, not a landfill" and explore "how our money, our stuff, our stories and our values shape the way we will be remembered. not just how to leave a legacy, but how to live one – stuff, money, values and our stories."

Geller sees "Getting Good at Getting Older" as "a tool kit for the many different challenges and opportunities we face at this stage of our lives. [The book is] a resource that can help you think about a particular issue. The book's bottom line is: now that more years have been added to our lives, how do we add more life to our years?"

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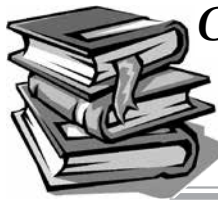


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Off the Shelf

Exploring the Torah with Mussar principles

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

There are many lenses through which to view the Torah. Over the years, a variety of commentaries have appeared focusing on specific viewpoints – from feminist to LGBTQ to men’s issues – in order to challenge our ideas about the biblical text. One recent work offers a different approach: “The Mussar Torah Commentary: A Spiritual Path to Living a Meaningful and Ethical Life” edited by Rabbi Barry H. Block (Central Conference of American Rabbis) uses Mussar principles to offer insights into better understanding the text and create more spiritual lives.

Block translates Mussar as “(Jewish) ethical discipline,” although it has also been defined as correction, ethics and instruction. The book opens with a listing of 33 different *middot* (the singular is *middah*), which Block defines in his glossary as “virtue, value, characteristic, attribute.” A few examples include *avanah* (humility), *emunah* (faith), *kaas* (anger), *kinah* (jealousy), *m’chilah* (forgiveness), *savlanut* (patience), *tzedek* (justice) and *z’rizut* (alacrity). All human beings contain these *middot*; the amount differs in each individual. The practice of Mussar is to help people recognize the *middot* that form their personality and learn ways to counter their negative aspects. However, the aim of the practice is not self-improvement; rather, Mussar seeks to bring holiness into the world. All the *middot* have positive and negative aspects to them, something discussed in the essays.

Falash. . . . Continued from page 3

our brothers and sisters as possible be brought to Israel.”

Neguise told JNS, “I won’t stop fighting until all Ethiopian Jews move to Israel. The suffering of the separated families must come to an end. If the government does not continue to bring them then the battle will intensify. *Aliyah* of Jews from all around the world is the foundation of the existence of the state of Israel, and not bringing any Jews to Israel is a stain for Zionism.”

During the recent Cabinet meeting, Netanyahu also announced the creation of a committee to investigate the police’s handling of accusations of mistreatment by members of the Ethiopian community. The attorney general took issue with this decision, as well, saying that could actually be a violation of election law, which prohibits offering benefits to influence the vote.

Netanyahu declared that he is “dedicated to the full integration of the community into Israeli society,” and that his government is “continuously working toward that goal and will continue to do so.”

The collection’s purpose is not to teach Mussar directly, but, as Block notes in his introduction, to “craft Torah commentary based on Mussar.” The authors were asked not to write directly about a *middah*, but to “craft Torah commentaries grounded firmly in the *parashah*, teaching Torah while teaching Mussar.” Each essay looks at a Torah portion through the lens of a particular *middah*. The authors also offer “questions to ask,” practice for the *middah* under discussion and other *middot* to consider for that portion.

At first, it felt as if the essays were focusing more on the *middah* rather than the biblical text, as if the author was imposing a particular Mussar trait on that portion. However, this may be because of the book’s unusual focus: the more I read, the easier it was to see what the writers were attempting to accomplish. Some essay spoke to me more than others due to the particular issue under discussion. Some of my favorites include:

◆ **Mishpatim** – Rabbi Dr. Shmuly Yanklowitz writes about the practical steps that one can take in order not to be overwhelmed by life’s trials and tribulations in “M’nuchat HaNefesh – Equanimity: Finding Peace in Responsibility” The author also suggests ways to recognize our limitations, while still finding spirituality in our daily lives.

◆ **Ki Tisa** – In “Kaas – the Value of Anger,” Rabbi Mari Chernow discusses ways to control and use our anger to make the world a better place. She notes that sometimes anger can inform us that “transformative change is necessary.” Anger has also led to the creation of important social movements such as Black Lives Matter and Me Too. She notes that there is a place for anger in the world, but that we must be careful to not under, or over, react.

◆ **Vayikra** – Rabbi David Jaffee looks at different ways of thinking about generosity in “N’divot – Generosity: Giving Away, Bringing Close.” He talks about the importance of giving, but notes that there are multiple levels of giving in enduring relationships, suggesting that “strong relationships cannot rely only on freewill desire to give and take... On the other hand, relationships must be more than obligations.”

◆ **Tazria** – In “Rachamim – Mercy: Seeing the Whole Person,” Rabbi Lisa J. Grushcow, D.Phil., looks at how, when someone becomes ill, we often see the illness, not the whole person. She notes that many people distance themselves from those who are ill, unable to see the humanity that still exists even in the most ill. Grushcow uses the role of the priest in the Torah portion to show

how the biblical text teaches the priest not to just see illness, but the whole person – to recognize a person’s place in the community.

◆ **B’chikotia**: Rabbi Marla Joy Subeck Spanjar, D.D., discusses ways to live a satisfactory life in spite of living an imperfect world in “Histapkut – Simplicity: Recognizing Our Blessings.” Her essay talks about the need for perspective and the importance of realizing the blessings we have in our lives, even if we have not achieved all our goals or attained all we wished in life.

Readers who are already familiar with Mussar’s principles will find “The Mussar Torah Commentary” an additional way to incorporate them into their lives. Those who want to learn more about Mussar will see how those principles can be used for Torah study. Anyone, like myself, who loves reading Torah commentaries with a different focus will find “The Mussar Torah Commentary” an excellent addition to their bookshelf.

Mailbox Shorts

Exhibit on “Relative Relations”

The Dr. Bernard Heller Museum at HUC -JIR/New York will hold the exhibit “Relative Relations” until June 30. The exhibit features 70 artists who explore human connections as shaped by genetics, proximity, interests and shared destiny. Inspiration for the works include the Hebrew Bible, contemporary family relationships, spousal relationships, the alliance of African-American and Jewish civil rights activists, food as the building block for relationships and the connection to cherished objects or pets, among other. Among the artists featured are Heddy Abramowitz, Will Barnet, Max Ferguson, Ellen Holtzblatt, Mark Podwal, Deidre Scherer, Morris Topchevsky, Ruth Weisberg and Estelle Yarinsky.

For more information, visit <http://huc.edu/research/museums/dr-bernard-heller-museum-in-new-york/current-exhibitions>, or contact the museum at museumnyc@huc.edu or 212-824-2218.

LEGAL NOTICE

Madysen 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 it 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.

Notice of Formation of 59 LESTER EMPIRE LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/15/2017. Office Location: Broome Co. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom service of process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Alan J. Anzaroot, 98 Main Street, Binghamton, New York 13905. Purpose: any lawful activities.

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

1. The name of the limited liability company (“LLC”) is Wheeland Consulting LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is February 11, 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: 654 Hance Road, Binghamton, NY 13903.
5. The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

Notice of Formation of 7 STUYVESANT LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York SSNY on 2-6-2020. Office located in Broome County. SSNY is designated for service of process. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process served against the LLC to PO Box 231 Vestal NY 13851. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of VIIA 2 LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 2/13/2020. 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: Vulf Kovnat, 16 Camden Street, Johnson City, New York. Purpose: any lawful activities.

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THE REPORTER
Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton

WIZO celebrates 100 years of caring for the disadvantaged in Israel

By Eliana Rudee

(JNS) – The Women’s International Zionist Organization celebrated its centennial year recently in Israel. At the conference held from January 19-23, more than 1,000 women representing leaders of Jewish communities from 40 countries around the world attended and recognized WIZO’s contributions to Israeli society over the last century.

Conference participants hailed from the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Italy, India, Panama, Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, Monaco, South Africa, Australia and more.

Established in 1920 as a Zionist women’s movement, WIZO was created as a result of a lack of sufficient representation for women in Zionist centers, and for the purpose of helping women and children in the Jewish community in Mandatory Palestine. During the pre-state years, WIZO established the first and only women’s political party in Israel, as well as the first education and welfare services, day-care centers, Tipat Chalav (“A Drop of Milk”) baby clinics and youth villages.

Today, it represents the largest social organization in Israel, working to promote the status of women, educate children and youth, and improve the welfare of disadvantaged populations.

“When WIZO was established, public services in ‘Palestine’ were extremely limited, leaving many unmet social needs,” noted newly elected WIZO Chairperson

Anita Friedman on the occasion of the anniversary.

“Even today, in a country where developed and rich public services operate, many unmet needs still exist,” she told JNS. “In the face of changing reality and the ever-changing world, WIZO is constantly working to identify the next goals, the next public struggles and the projects that will save people on the one hand, and strengthen Israeli society as a whole on the other.”

According to Friedman, caring for weaker segments in society is a special sensitivity in Judaism and in Israel. “From the Jewish communities in the Diaspora to the independent state of Israel, the community supporting those in need and not letting anyone fall by the wayside is a value that is present in every sector, every tier of the population, in every community of Israel,” she said.

“WIZO is an important pillar of this way of thinking and acting, and in effect implements the talmudic saying of *kol Yisrael arevim zeh bazeh* (‘All of Israel are responsible for each other’) through social projects that offer a hand to help the most disadvantaged – abused women, at-risk children, youth whose school frameworks have given up on them, and teenage girls and young women who need help and guidance,” she added.

At the recent conference, workshops on leadership development were held and key issues discussed relating to the Jewish people and society in Israel. Topics included advancing the status of women in Israel

and Zionist institutions; dealing with rising antisemitism and public awareness of Israel; the economic and social challenges facing Israel; sexual harassment and gender inequality; reducing pay gaps and promoting populations at risk; and deepening connections between the younger generation in the Diaspora and the state of Israel.

The leaders visited WIZO projects, including schools and youth villages, shelters for battered women and violence treatment centers, day-care centers, “warm homes” for teenage girls and emergency centers for at-risk children. Among the initiatives that the organization is promoting for Israeli society in the framework of the centennial events is the distribution of study scholarships for youth at risk.

Friedman, a Colombia native, succeeds Rivka Lazovsky, who served for the past eight years in the role as chairperson, heading the organization and its 800 institutions and educational establishments in Israel. Friedman will also be responsible for liaising with all branches of local government agencies, as well as public and business entities operating with WIZO to strengthen society in Israel.

The centennial conference featured senior politicians, ambassadors, mayors, leaders of Zionist institutions and leading women from the economic, social and security arenas, as well as philanthropists and media personalities.



Esther Mor, president of the WIZO, addressed the organization’s conference celebrating its centennial in Tel Aviv. (Photo courtesy of WIZO via Facebook)

At the opening event in Jerusalem, graduates of WIZO institutions shared their life stories and expressed their gratitude for saving or changing their lives. They included one young woman who spent her childhood in an affiliated shelter for battered women together with her mother; and a counselor in the police-cadet training program of the Nir HaEmek Youth Village where she began the program as an at-risk student.

“For the last century, WIZO women have been initiating and leading a vast array of social projects—projects which have educated and/or treated hundreds of thousands of Israelis,” emphasized Friedman. “It is hard to imagine Israeli society today without its vital activities over the past century.”



The WIZO represents the largest social organization in Israel, working to promote the status of women, educate children and youth, and improve the welfare of disadvantaged populations. (Photo courtesy of WIZO via Facebook)



The leaders of WIZO visited WIZO projects, including schools and youth villages, shelters for battered women and violence treatment centers, day-care centers, “warm homes” for teenage girls and emergency centers for at-risk children. (Photo courtesy of WIZO via Facebook)

Quick Reference Guide to Planned Giving

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

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New president of Technion seeks “soft sciences” to meld with Israeli high-tech

By Carin M. Smilk

(JNS)—It seems that not a week goes by without hearing news of some technological breakthrough undertaken by Israelis. The biomedical developments alone – heart surgery using sound waves, the first country to perform an “artificial meniscus” implant, innovative ways of detecting cancer cells in the human body – have made international headlines, with more advances to come. Many of these can be credited to the nation’s academic institutions; while small in number, they remain big in productivity.

The Technion Israel Institute of Technology is one of them.

Quietly going about doing the research and development it does, the world-renowned university in Haifa has possessed marked breakthroughs since its beginnings in 1913 – a full 35 years before the establishment of modern-day Israel. Well, maybe not so quietly: Recently, it has been reported that the Technion will handle two experiments as part of a joint Israeli-Italian microgravity medical-experimentation project and space launch slated for the end of March. (See related article below.)

But leaving these impressive ventures aside, what it really comes down to is the innovation of its students and faculty, coupled with its administrative leadership, which for the past several months has been led by Uri Sivan of the school’s faculty of physics. Officially elected last February 7, he took the helm as president on October 1.

Sivan, 64, points out that Israel has gone through tremendous changes in the past three decades as the economy has transformed dramatically, and the technological impact has grown along with it. “The country today is booming,” he told JNS. “There has been a technological revolution that has led to Israel being called the ‘startup nation.’”

Developments in the biomedical industry, computer sciences, health and human services, mathematics, engineering, security and defense contribute to the making of “a world-class university that educates technological and societal leaders,” notes Sivan. And one’s that’s inclusive, he adds.

Being in Haifa and further from the politics that embroil Israel’s other major cities of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, students can more unobtrusively go about their business of academics and research. Being in Israel’s diverse north, Technion also draws a significant number of Arab students – about 20 percent – as part of its total enrollment of about

9,500 undergraduates and 4,500 graduate students. Add to that a minority empowerment program that includes boosts for Ethiopian, women and *haredi* students.

“We aim to be an island of pluralism and tolerance, to serve as a beacon for those values,” says Sivan. “We are creating a just and non-discriminatory environment where everybody feels good and brings their individual potential to the maximum so as to succeed. Our social role is very important to us.”

Sivan, a resident of Haifa and father of three, served as a pilot in the Israeli Air Force. He holds a bachelor of science degree in physics and mathematics; a master’s degree in physics; and a Ph.D. in physics, all with honors, from Tel Aviv University. He joined the Technion’s Physics Department in 1991. His research has covered a range of fields, including quantum mesoscopic physics, and the harnessing of molecular and cellular biology for the self-assembly of miniature electronic devices. His group at the university designs and builds ultra-high-resolution atomic force microscopes.

He and Dr. Ohad Zohar of the Russell Berrie Nanotechnology Institute at the Technion (of which Sivan is founding director, and headed between 2005 and 2010) engraved the entire Hebrew Bible onto a small silicon chip. On a gold-plated silicon chip the size of a grain of sugar, the “Nano Bible” was written as part of an educational program developed to increase young people’s interest in science and nanotechnology. Its text consists of more than 1.2 million letters carved with a focused beam of gallium ions and must be magnified 10,000 times to be readable, according to the American Technion Society.

In 2009, President Shimon Peres presented the Nano Bible to Pope Benedict XVI during his official visit to Israel. The three copies of the chip are at the Vatican Library; the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, DC; and the Israel Museum in Jerusalem.

Over the course of his career, he has been awarded the Mifal Hapais Landau Prize for the Sciences and Research, the Rothschild Foundation Bruno Prize, the Israel Academy of Sciences Bergmann Prize, the Technion’s Hershel Rich Innovation Award and the Taub Award for Excellence in Research. He also sits on a number of scientific advisory boards.

So how does he intend to apply his prodigious scholarly contributions to a new phase of work at the university – that of building other less concrete bridges to the world? He

notes three major directions for investment, both intellectually and fiscally.

The first, he explains, is continuing a process that started several years ago in relation to the network of multidisciplinary centers at Technion. “We are in the process of restructuring our research to build on human health, energy, environmental sustainability, education and advanced manufacturing. These subjects cannot be addressed in a single discipline.”

Practically, he adds, this means restructuring the campus as well, physically housing these areas of research and its researchers together. More foreign faculty would help as well in “this global world” and endeavor, says Sivan.

Second, he speaks to a different type of education in areas of math, science and engineering. “We aim at the highest bracket; our graduates lead the industry,” he says. “But we have to start a center embedding leadership skills in a more general arena, on nontraditional studies like entrepreneurship, ethics, environmental awareness – skills that are different from conventional engineering. We believe these are essential for the technological leaders of tomorrow.” He calls them “soft skills,” though integral in the making of contemporary researchers, scientists and engineers.

And lastly, he considers the ecosystem within the industry – what he describes as the loss of a monopoly over knowledge. “Just a few years ago, university professors were the sole source of information and authority. This is not the case now. People have easy access to information and there have been major developments in communication; basic research is now done in the outside industry and not as much in academia.”

And so, one of his goals is also one of his challenges. “The companies doing research today don’t necessarily represent the interest of societies, as universities do. They focus on commercialization. It’s the flip side of the startup nation: how to serve society versus financial gain.”

One way to do that, he says, is to build ties with the industry on both local and global scale. “We need to reach a new understanding with those companies,” stresses Sivan. “They need to understand that their long-term interest is in preserving academic interest and protecting curiosity-driven research. We need to streamline the technology transfer from the university to tech and startup companies.”

Money and academia, he states (cue audible sigh). “It is challenging. We’re going to work on that.”

Israel, Italy eye joint scientific space venture

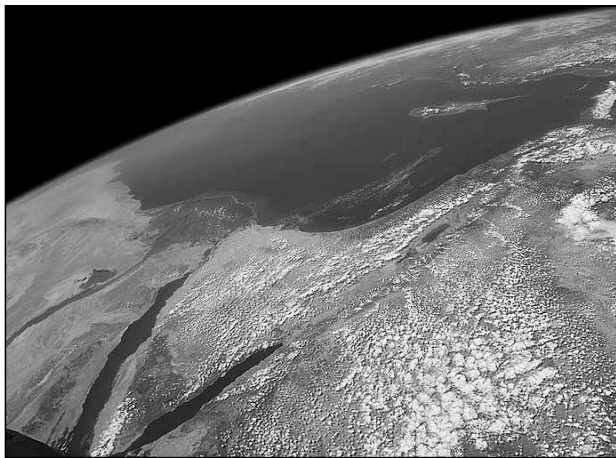
By Israel Hayom staff

This article first appeared in Israel Hayom.

(JNS) – A space launch will take place at the end of March this year as part of a joint Israeli-Italian microgravity medical-experimentation project. The cooperation between the two countries in space mirrors the strengthening ties between Jerusalem and Rome down on earth. Less than two months ahead of the launch, Italian Space Agency Director Giorgio Saccoccia visited Israel in January as the guest of the 15th International Ilan Ramon Conference, which is part of the Israel Space Week organized by Israel’s Science and Technology Ministry.

The Israeli company SpacePharma and scientists from both countries are taking part in the project. SpacePharma is seen as a leader in microgravity experimentation, and has developed a miniature lab that can be launched on a nanosatellite.

Two of the experiments to be conducted as part of the project will be handled by the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, another will be overseen by the Chaim Sheba Medical Center at Tel Hashomer, and yet another



The Middle East from 250 miles above in this April 14, 2016 photo from the International Space Station. Countries seen, left to right, along the Mediterranean coast include Egypt, Gaza, Saudi Arabia, Israel, Lebanon, Syria and Turkey. (Photo courtesy of NASA via Wikimedia Commons)

by Jerusalem’s Hebrew University.

One of the experiments is based on the research of Professor Giuseppe Falini of the University of Bologna and Professor Boaz Pokroy from the Technion into the behavior in space of antibacterial materials and their influence on bacteria in zero-gravity conditions.

“This experiment is not only a great example of the close relationship between the two countries, it could also have significant business potential,” Saccoccia told *Israel Hayom*. “Italy and Israel have been walking hand in hand for years now, and this trend is only getting stronger. Italy is very interested in space economy and technology, and sees space as a new arena for business opportunities.”

Q: What is the singularity that Israel brings to space research?

A: First, it’s all true what is said about you: You are a “startup nation,” and around the world your reputation precedes you. You incorporate technology education and a positive attitude to entrepreneurship, and especially space, at a young age, in schools, and there’s no doubt that you are reaping what you have sown later on.

As to the question of what business opportunities will be available in space in the future, especially concerning the cooperation between Israel and Italy, the sky is the limit, literally.

As of today, the world space industry is valued at \$50 billion and is growing at a rate of 7 percent per year. The potential for growth could even reach half a trillion dollars – 10 times what it is today. We’re talking about mutual research and development – technologies developed for See “Space” on page 12

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THE REPORTER
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Using natural materials, ancient crafts to create breakthrough designs at the Dead Sea

By Edén Zurek

(JNS) – The Dead Sea is a haven of relaxation for the many thousands of visitors who flock to the lowest place on Earth. Visitors love to take advantage of the natural spa treatments and float on the sea’s tranquil shades of water to recharge their batteries and heal.

One group of visitors, however, recently made their way down to the Dead Sea for a lot more than relaxation. Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, Jerusalem’s Department of Industrial Design, held a three-day off-site seminar to spark creativity and opportunity in the minds of their students, inspiring them to produce innovative new designs.



Students in the Department of Industrial Design at Bezalel Academy in Jerusalem participated in a Bedouin-style weaving course as part of the annual Dead Sea Seminar earlier in February. (Photo courtesy of Bezalel Academy in Jerusalem)

The Dead Sea Seminar has taken place every December since 2004 and was the brainchild of Professor Ami Drach, then-chairman of the Department of Industrial Design. After his sudden death seven years ago, the department decided to honor their beloved mentor and keep his tradition alive by dedicating future seminars in his memory.

The seminar introduces different approaches to craft, including ancient, manual and computerized. Methods and techniques are presented by the department’s lecturers alongside guest designers from abroad in a variety of workshops, such as blacksmithing, sand-casting, Bedouin-style weaving, plastic rotation, wood-engraving and 3D printing with mud and coffee.

Though the seminar is officially run by the Department of Industrial Design, it’s evident that the students are involved in every step of the process. They take part in all arrangements, workshops, kitchen duties and even financial expenses. The seminar isn’t created for them; rather, it is created by them. For example, last year, the students decided that they no longer wanted to use plastic cutlery as the ecological aspect is a focal part of the seminar. Therefore, this year, each person brought their own set of cutlery, plates and cups.

When the students are not spending their time working and creating, they are most likely to be found setting up their own tents, doing yoga and bonding around the bonfire. One of the main values highlighted throughout the seminar is teamwork.

“Each person comes from a different background and has their own unique set of skills to share,” said student Erez Eitan. “We all work together, combining ideas to create new and wonderful things.”



Students in the Department of Industrial Design at Bezalel Academy in Jerusalem utilized a hand-built wooden bicycle to scrape and shape natural materials at the annual Dead Sea Seminar earlier in February. (Photo courtesy of Bezalel Academy in Jerusalem)

During the seminar, students are encouraged to open their minds and think outside the box. “We are here to experiment and find new solutions,” said Rabea Gebler, an exchange student from Germany.

“This workshop is an opportunity to remember the simplicity and beauty of nature, and the world of art. This place allows us to put our worries aside and stop our daily routines, take a deep breath, and let our wild ideas run free,” said student Sharon Delevi.

This year, for the first time, international guest lecturers See “Crafts” on page 11

HEALTH & WELLNESS

The importance of early screening for autism

(NAPSI) – Autism affects an estimated one in every 59 children. Though early intervention can make a lifetime of difference, far too many children are not diagnosed early enough.

Autism, or autism spectrum disorder, refers to a broad range of conditions characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviors, speech and nonverbal communication. There is not just one kind of autism, but rather many subtypes – and each person with autism can have unique strengths and challenges. A combination of genetic and environmental factors can influence the development of autism.

Though ASD can be reliably diagnosed as early as age 2, the average age of diagnosis in the United States is between 4 and 5. Furthermore, the reported prevalence among white children is 7 percent higher than for African American children and 22 percent higher than for Hispanic children – suggesting missed or delayed diagnoses in those groups.

For young children on the spectrum, early intervention is crucial; it can translate to a lifetime of impact by supporting healthy development, improving communication, decreasing challenging behaviors and leading to positive outcomes later in life. Here are some suggestions for what you can do:

1. Learn the Signs: Parents can learn to recognize the early signs of autism. Not all children with autism show all signs of autism. That’s why all children should be screened for autism. A diagnosis is the first step toward supporting your children to help them fulfill their potential. Here are some possible signs of autism:

- ◆ No big smiles or eye contact at 6 months
- ◆ No babbling, back and forth gestures such as pointing, and little response to their name at 12 months
- ◆ Very few words at 16 months
- ◆ No two-word phrases at 24 months
- ◆ Restricted interests

- ◆ Repetitive behaviors
- ◆ Unusual and intense reactions to sounds, smells, tastes, textures, lights or colors
- ◆ Loss of speech or social interaction at any age.

2. Take Action: If your child displays any of these signs, ask your pediatrician or family doctor for an evaluation right away. While every child develops differently, early screening improves outcomes. Studies show, for example, that early intensive behavioral intervention improves learning, communication and social skills in young children with autism spectrum disorders.

The nonprofit Autism Speaks is dedicated to empowering parents to help children with autism live their best possible lives, while working to increase understanding and acceptance for the 70 million people worldwide with autism.

“We hope to give families the tools they need to identify early signs, feel empowered to get their children screened and seek support if they need it,” said Autism Speaks President and CEO Angela Geiger. “Autism Speaks is committed to closing the diagnosis gap so all children receive support as early as needed.”

If you think your child may be on the autism spectrum, or if a child you know is on the autism spectrum, you can get personalized support and answers to questions about autism from the organization’s Autism Response Team in English at 888-AUTISM2 and en Español at(888-772-9050, or by e-mail at familyservices@autismspeaks.org. At ScreenforAutism.org

and DeteccionDeAutismo.org, families can access resources to learn the signs of autism, use an autism screening tool, and find nearby service providers and supports for before, during and after an autism diagnosis.

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Israeli water technology inaugurated in Gaza to offer clean drinking source

By JNS staff

(JNS) – A machine that produces safe, clean drinking water out of air—manufactured by the Israel-based company Watergen—was inaugurated on February 12 in the neighborhood of Abasan al-Kabira in the Gaza Strip as part of a pilot project.

The “GEN-M” it is an atmospheric water generator (or AWG) that weighs 780 kilograms and can make as much as 800 liters of water per day. The GEN-M will be connected to solar panels, providing the AWG with a source of power.

Gaza’s main source of water is its coastal aquifer; however, its water supply has been rapidly depleting over the last several decades due to overextraction. The reduced water levels have resulted in saline water seeping in, further polluting the water in the aquifer. More than 90 percent of water from the aquifer is unfit for consumption; as a result, Gazans have been forced to turn to the more expensive option of purchasing desalinated water from local desalination plants.

Watergen’s management said, “Responding in accordance with our belief that every human being, regardless of race, gender or religion, has a fundamental right to clean drinking water, we are helping some of Israel’s next-door neighbors gain access to freshwater – a resource lacking in Gaza. We hope that our provision of an AWG will help solve the water crisis and serve



Community members tasted water from the GEN-M machine in the Gazan neighborhood of Abasan al-Kabira on February 12. (Photo by Damour for Community Development)

as a step forward toward mutual collaboration in the Middle East.”

The pilot project is a result of cooperative efforts between Watergen, Israel’s Arava Institute for Environmental Studies, the Palestinian NGO Damour for Community Development and the Abasan al-Kabira

municipality. The Kennedy Leigh Foundation is funding the pilot as part of the Arava Institute’s Track II Environmental Forum. The Coordination and Liaison Administration (or CLA) to the Gaza Strip had overseen the transportation of the GEN-M into Gaza through the Kerem Shalom Crossing.

The head of the CLA, Maj. Gen. Iyyad Sarchan approved the shipment of the GEN-M as part of a policy that seeks to prevent any further deterioration to the humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip associated with the enclave’s lack of fresh water.

Watergen’s patented, heat-exchange GENius technology contained in the GEN-M creates water by cooling collected air at its dew point. Subsequently, the water goes through physical, chemical and biological treatment, followed by a mineralization process to maintain its cleanliness, tastiness and healthy quality. Each GEN-M unit contains an internal water treatment system and needs no infrastructure except a source of electricity in order to operate.

David Lehrer, director of the Arava Institute, said, “The introduction of Watergen into Gaza is not only a proof of concept for a cutting-edge technology, but proof that Palestinians and Israelis can do more than launch attacks at each other. We can instead work together to improve lives, solve humanitarian problems, build trust and restore hope.”

HEALTH & WELLNESS

As the cost of long-term care increases, it pays to know your options

(NAPSI) – According to AARP, there are 10,000 people turning 65 every day – a figure that is expected to be consistent until 2030. As these Americans continue to prepare for and enjoy their retirement years, more and more are factoring the cost of aging into their financial plans. For good reason: The Administration for Community Living, a part of the Department of Health and Human Services, estimates about seven in 10 people turning 65 will need some type of long-term care services either at home, in their community, or in a facility.

Long-term care can be costly and it is an expense many people have not planned for. “Long-term care expenses are generally not covered by health insurance and coverage provided by public programs is limited, so an unexpected

need for care can create a large financial burden and put other savings and assets at risk,” said Aaron Ball, senior vice president, of New York Life Insurance Company. “Fortunately, Americans have several options to ensure they have more control over how and where they age.”

There is no one-size-fits-all solution when it comes to planning for a long-term care event, so it’s important to know what options are available to determine what will meet your unique needs.

1. “Pay your own way”: Often referred to as self-funding or self-insuring, this option relies on using existing money or assets to fund long-term care needs out-of-pocket.

2. Medicaid: Although Medicaid does cover long-term care services, it’s an assistance program for people with limited incomes and minimal assets. It’s important to determine whether you qualify before depending on this option.

3. Private insurance: There are several types of private insurance products designed to help cover the costs associated with a long-term care need:

◆ Standalone or traditional long-term care insurance offers the most comprehensive long-term care benefits, covering a wide range of services including care at home, in the community, or in a facility.

◆ Linked benefit products (also known as hybrid or combo products) allow people to combine two or more coverages in one policy – most commonly life insurance with long-term care coverage. As you are paying for both coverages, you generally receive fewer long-term care benefits for your premium dollar when compared to a standalone policy.

◆ Riders, such as chronic care riders on life policies, offer the most basic coverage, allowing a portion of the policy’s death benefit to be accessible should you become chronically ill.

“It’s important to evaluate your financial picture as well as your desires for how and where you might receive care if and when a long-term care event occurs,” explains Ball. “For many people, even a small standalone long-term care policy can provide access to important benefits that can help manage a long-term care event and avoid spending down assets that would otherwise be used to help fund retirement.”

Whether you decide to pay for long-term care out of pocket, rely on Medicaid, or purchase private insurance, it’s important to make your plan sooner than later. Insurability for private options is based on your health and medical history and is usually subject to underwriting. Locking your insurability in at a younger age and lower rate is likely to give you the most bang for your buck.



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The offices of the former Binghamton Gastroenterology Associates, PC, practice will stay the same and remain on the campus of UHS Binghamton General Hospital at 10-42 Mitchell Ave. in Binghamton. For more information or to schedule an appointment please call us at **772-0639**.

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Amanke Oranu, MD	Zoryana Kravets, FNP
Atif Saleem, MD	Martha Langhorne, MSN, RN, FNP, AOCN
Gregory Scagnelli, MD	
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Summer.Continued from page 2

most importantly, help parents, campers and staff understand that mental health carries no stigma. While we believed that this seed program would address a profound need in the field, we were not prepared to get 92 (yes, 92!) camps apply.

And here lies the key. It is clear from the responses, the narrative content and subsequent conversations spurred by the application process that the simple act of putting the application out there that the grant has already had an impact. Addressing mental-health issues is now being spoken about more openly and more directly, and professionals now have an entree to speak with their boards about this topic. Placing mental-health professionals in camps will make dealing with and talking about issues a regular part of life, and, by osmosis, help destigmatize these issues at home, school or anywhere else where shining darkness on a difficult topic produces light.

Our children, young adult staff and parents depend on us to provide a safe and healthy environment. Parents should applaud any camp that adds this layer of service; in fact, we encourage you to ask

current or prospective camps exactly how they handle these issues. Parents have a role in normalizing the expectation of quality mental-health services at camp, in school and everywhere else. This grant will help ensure summer camps have the resources to deal with issues that present on an all-too-frequent basis and give staff members critical support when challenged by all the physical and emotional effort that is needed to care for other people's children.

Over the course of time, this approach will almost certainly save lives, and we know that this step forward is opening a necessary door of examination and discussion for the wider field of summer camp, as well as the rest of the Jewish communal world that serves in any way our youth, teens and young adults.

Rabbi Avi Orlow is the vice president of innovation and education at the Foundation for Jewish Camp. David Phillips is principal of Immersive1st, a consulting practice specializing in fund-raising, strategic planning and visioning, governance, program creation and implementation, and acute organizational analysis.

NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

Palestinian PM: Trump's peace plan "will be buried soon"

Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh on Feb. 16 criticized U.S. President Donald Trump's peace plan, saying it would be "buried very soon." Speaking at the Munich Security Conference, Shtayyeh said that the newly revealed Mideast peace plan was "no more than a memo of understanding between [Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu and Trump," according to an AP report. The Palestinian prime minister said the proposal would leave a future Palestinian state fragmented and with "no sovereignty." In addition, it would allow Israel to annex large parts of the West Bank, he said. Shtayyeh called on countries to reject Trump's plan, but left open the possibility of a return to peace talks, saying Palestinians "are open to serious negotiations," according to the report. Shtayyeh also said that the Palestinians would attempt to increase pressure on Israel by using international organizations, citing the recent release by the U.N. Human Rights Council of a blacklist of 112 companies connected to Israeli settlements in the West Bank.

Israeli child finds explosive device from Gaza in her backyard

An Israeli child on Feb. 16 found an explosive device attached to a balloon in the yard of her home in Moshav Shuva in southern Israel, according to the Israeli military. The device is believed to have been launched from the Gaza Strip some three miles to the west – one of hundreds of such devices launched from the Hamas-controlled territory since 2018. They are often designed colorfully or attached to toys, specifically to attract the attention of children. Hundreds of incendiary devices were launched into Israel in the dry summer months of 2019, causing dozens of fires that laid waste to thousands of acres of land, including national parks and agricultural lands. Recent weeks have seen an uptick in "terror balloon" attacks, although Israeli media reported that Hamas had agreed to halt rocket and incendiary balloon attacks as part of a cease-fire deal.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Did you know?

◆ (NAPSA) – Kidney disease affects an estimated 30 million adults in the United States. Talk with your family about risk factors, testing and treatment. Learn more, or access the Family Reunion Health Guide, at the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases website, www.niddk.nih.gov.

◆ (NAPS) – One in five Americans suffers from bunions. Foot and ankle surgeons have made several advancements to surgical techniques and fixation methods that allow patients to return to activities sooner than with the traditional method. Learn more from the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons at www.FootHealthFacts.org.

◆ (NAPS) – New cholesterol guidelines from the American Heart Association emphasize a personalized approach to preventing and treating high cholesterol and cardiovascular disease. Visit www.heart.org/cholesterol for information.



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Mishpatim, Exodus 21:1-24:18

Mishpatim: from six to eternity

RABBI BARUCH BINYAMIN HAKOHEN MELMAN, TEMPLE ISRAEL OF THE POCONOS

This week's *parasha*, Mishpatim, follows on the heels of the Decalogue and immediately we read about the *eved Ivri* (Hebrew slave/servant). The plain meaning, of course, is that it refers to the Hebrew slave who refuses manumission (freedom) in the seventh year. Why does it follow the *Aseret Hadibrot*, the Ten Commandments? A seemingly pedestrian legal ruling appears in the Torah immediately after the most awesome, literally earth-shaking event in human history!

But the deepest understanding of the Hebrew slave (*eved Ivri*) is that he really is each and every one of us who chooses to remain with his ultimate Master, Hashem, and more poignantly, that Hashem reciprocates by choosing to remain with us. It is a metaphor. We are each one of us an

eved (servant) of Hashem, and Hashem, therefore, will never abandon us as we collectively vow never to abandon Him.

Sinai was the pledging of eternal love. Now we see that love being tested! Upon insisting he remain with his Master, the *eved* (servant/slave) makes a declaration saying, "*Ahavti et adoni ve'et ishti ve'et banai lo etzei chofshi.*" (Ex. 21:5) This is usually translated as "I love my master and my wife and my children – I will not go out free." But it is not "I love" in the present. It reads *ahavti* – "I loved" – *past tense!* "In the *past*, I loved ..." This is not to say that he doesn't love them in the present. Of course he does. But reading the tense correctly is paramount to its proper understanding.

What's important to understand is that the Torah recog-

nizes that the intensity of romantic love necessarily fades over time. The heady impact of standing at Sinai fades over time. The certainty of keeping the Torah that was so clear at the smoking mountain becomes less clear down the long road of time's tested journeys. Hashem is saying, "You can go free if you really want to. You can be free of your obligations to me, and vice versa." But the *eved* says, "No." "And although the intensity of the romantic love may have faded, I still want to stay with you forever." He says, "My wife and children (my Torah and *mitzvot*) are connected to me so deeply. How could I dare live apart from them?"

See "Eternity" 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 22, Shabbat services will be led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown. The Torah portion will be Exodus 21:1-24:18. The haftarah will be II Kings 12:1-17. The kiddush will be sponsored by Randy Friedman and Debbie Schepis.

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. (See article on page 1.)

There will be an Executive Board meeting on Tuesday, March 3, at 7 pm.

On Sunday, March 8, beginning at 10 am, the Hebrew school will be helping with, and attending, the JCC Purim Party.

There will be no Hebrew school on Sunday, March 15. A Ritual Committee meeting will be held on Monday, March 16, at 7:30 pm.

A Board of Trustees meeting will be held Tuesday, March 17, at 7 pm.

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.

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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
Shabbat Services:
Shabbat, Feb. 22 9 am
..... Mincha after kiddush
Weekday Services:
Mornings:
Sun., Feb. 23 8:30 am
Mon., Feb. 24 7 am
Tues.-Wed. Feb. 25-26 6:50 am
Thurs.-Fri., Feb. 27-28 7 am
Evenings:
Sun., Feb. 23 5:30 pm
Mon.-Thurs., Feb. 24-27 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. (See article on page 1.) 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 21, light candles before 5:25 pm
Saturday, February 22, Shabbat ends 6:27 pm
Friday, February 28, light candles before 5:33 pm
Saturday, February 29, Shabbat ends 6:35 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 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 led by Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell.

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. (See article on page 1.)

On Wednesday, February 26, the first session of the Chai Mitzvah Program will be held at 2:30 pm.

On Friday, February 28, Visual Tefillah Shabbat evening services will be held at 8 pm led by Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell.

On Saturday, February 29, 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 led by Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell.

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.

NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

Worried about coronavirus, Israel bars foreigners from high-risk countries

Foreigners who recently traveled to countries in Asia where the coronavirus has spread will be barred from entering Israel, Interior Minister Aryeh Deri announced on Feb. 17. Deri said that guidelines by Israel's Ministry of Health and general concerns about the possibility of an outbreak in Israel was behind the move, according to a report by i24 New. The new restriction will come into force in the coming days and be for foreigners who have traveled within the last two weeks to Thailand, Macau, Hong Kong and Singapore. Israel has already banned foreigners who recently visited China from entering the country. Until now, no cases of coronavirus – officially now named severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2, or SARS-CoV-2 – have been reported in Israel, the report said. Separately, Japanese authorities decided to allow uninfected Israelis quarantined on the cruise ship *Diamond Princess* due to the illness to return to Israel, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement. According to Japanese officials, there are a total of 542 confirmed cases of the infection on the cruise ship. A new study by the Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention showed that the elderly and sick are at the most at risk for infection, the BBC reported on Feb. 18. Medical staff are also at high risk, but more than 80 percent of the cases have been mild, the data found.

Crafts Continued from page 7

participated in the seminar, working hand-in-hand with the students. This new initiative was called mutually beneficial for both students and guests, who were exposed to new ideas and varied methodologies

Having never visited the Dead Sea before, award-winning French product designer Marlene Huissoud – one of the international guests invited to the seminar to help students push boundaries – said she found the opportunity to combine the beautiful natural surroundings with art extremely valuable. “This location allows you to disconnect from all the limitations that are holding you back,” described Huissoud. “It is fantastic for the students to learn about all of these primitive techniques, which challenge their current ways of thinking and creating. We encourage them to search for alternatives, and since we live in such a materialistic age, we wanted to take the students back to the roots of crafting, start from zero and rethink everything they know in order to create a better and more sustainable future.”

Huissoud was invited to the seminar by artist Omer Polak, product designer and graduate of Bezalel Academy. Polak, who lives in Berlin, agrees with Huissoud's approach.



Erez Eitan, a student in the Department of Industrial Design at Bezalel Academy in Jerusalem, used wood, mud and other natural materials to create new designs at the annual Dead Sea Seminar, February 2020. (Photo courtesy of Bezalel Academy in Jerusalem)

University of Illinois student president vetoes BDS bill

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign student president has vetoed a BDS resolution that was passed on Feb. 13 by the student government. The bill will now likely be heard again by the student government, where it will need a two-thirds majority to override the president's veto. The resolution called on the university to divest from “companies that profit from human-rights violations in Palestine and other communities globally,” as well as from firms that provide weaponry and technology to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, according to a copy of the resolution obtained by JNS ahead of the vote, which included endorsements from half of the student government's leadership committee. The final vote was 20 in favor, nine against and seven abstentions. Shortly after its passage, the BDS resolution was also swiftly rejected by the university's administration, saying that such resolutions do not “represent the university administration.” “ISG resolutions are non-binding, and the university has no plans to act on this one,” the university said in a statement. “We are committed to dialogue and to supporting students as they navigate challenging conversations about diversity and inclusion, and we will continue to plan programming designed to build understanding of different perspectives on complex and divisive issues.”

“The seminar is amazing in its concept that it is low-tech and takes place in the lowest place in the world, allowing for the return of ancient crafts,” said Polak. “In a world full of machines and high-tech, we sometimes forget the basics of using our hands and nature to create. Things that are developed during these few days can serve the students throughout their entire careers.”

Ido Ferber, a Bezalel Academy graduate who organized this year's seminar, explained that “the industrial revolution almost completely obliterated the craft workers, thereby creating a gap in which the artisans disappeared. The purpose of this seminar is to bring it back to life, and make it relevant to this day and age.”

According to Sefi Hefetz, head of the Department of Industrial Design, “The seminar is somewhat of a ‘sandbox’ – a metaphor for a place where ideas are formed through working hands and raw materials.”

The Dead Sea can be compared to a desert island in many ways, disconnected from the ordinary rhythm of life. Ironically, this disconnection from the rest of the world can create a “deep connection” between participants. “There have been some great breakthroughs at this seminar, but the main value that this experience encourages is community – a human bonding between the students and everyone else,” said product designer Dov Ganchrow, one of Drach's close friends and a senior lecturer at Bezalel Academy. “I come back every year, and the faces are usually very familiar. With most of us bringing spouses and children along, it's become a wonderful reunion and family experience.”



Children learned to use different tools and crafts from students in the Department of Industrial Design at Bezalel Academy in Jerusalem as part of the annual Dead Sea Seminar. (Photo by Avgar Idan)

Eternity Continued from page 10

The *midrash* relates that Hashem was Israel's spouse under the Sinai chuppah as the mountain was held over their heads. But while it could have crushed them were they not to accept the Torah, conversely, it was to then become the biggest chuppah (wedding canopy) the world had ever seen!

So Hashem, even as you are my master, you are also my partner, my spouse. I will be loyal to you and to your Torah even after a thousand generations have passed. Even if my/our love for you may have faded over time, know that I pledge to you my eternal fidelity for the sake of all the good we have given each other over the years. We have been together for six good years. I won't succumb to a seventh year itch! I would never leave you. I would rather bore my ear and be yours forever for all time.

And so the Master takes his *eved's ozen*, his ear, and bores a hole in it, marking it with a *retzuah*, a strip. Where else do we see the word *retzuah*? With *tefillin*! When we don our *tefillin's retzuot*/straps, we are to remember this

eternal fidelity. No matter how onerous and burdensome it seems to get up early to phylacterate, we are to be reminded of our love for our true Master when we don the straps. Straps can be used for beating a servant, God forbid, or they can be used instead for connecting, or tying, ourselves so deeply to our Heavenly Master.

Our *tefillin* straps are for connecting and tying ourselves to Hashem. Because we refused to leave Hashem, Hashem now refuses to leave us. And why the ear? Because it says *ozno*, which really means “I will give him my sustenance” – my *mazon*. “You stay with me, remain loyal, and you will never lack for a life of purpose or meaning.” Indeed, as wind the straps around our finger we thrice declare “*erastich li*.” Three times we declare “I betroth Thee to me.”

“You had your chance to leave me, but you did not. Because Israel did not abandon me in the sixth year when he could have, even as the door was left open, so I will be there for Israel for all eternity – and beyond.”

Jewish Community Center

JCC Friendship Club

The JCC Friendship Club met on February 12 and heard Rabbi Rachel Esserman talk about “Women in the Torah.” She not only told about the women, but the customs of that time. She started by telling us about Shifra and Puah. They were midwives in Egypt when Pharaoh ordered that all male babies born to Jewish mothers were to be killed at birth. They knew that if they disobeyed that they would be killed. We know that they did not kill Moses, who was unnamed until Pharaoh's daughter saw the baby floating in the river in a basket and brought him up as her own.

The next woman she talked about was Tamar, whose husband died. It was the custom in those days that, if a married man died without having a child, the widow would marry his brother. She married her deceased husband's brother and he also died without having a child. Her father-in-law, Judah, thought that she was cursed and was hesitant to have her marry his younger son. He asked her to wait till he was older. She needed to get married for support and protection. She devised a plan and disguised herself as a prostitute. She stood in the road where Judah would pass and he hired her for her services. When he paid her she asked for his staff and signet. Word got back to Judah that she was pregnant and he became irate. In those days, it was permissible for a man to have many wives, but it was not permitted for a woman to have sex with any man except her husband. When Tamar appeared before him she held up the staff and signet, and said that the man who owns these items is the father of the baby. A discussion followed about him being not only the father, but also the grandfather of the child. Rabbi Esserman also talked about other brave women and the laws of inheritance.

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

On Wednesday, February 26, we plan to eat lunch at the Johnson City Senior Center. Come join us on Wednesday, March 4, at 2:30 pm, for a Purim party at Hill Top Nursing Home.

Sylvia Diamond
President

Moving any time soon?



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

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

NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

UAE moves to start first Arab nuclear power plant

The United Arab Emirates announced on Feb. 17 that it has issued an operating license for the first of four reactors at its Barakah nuclear power plant, which was supposed to start operations in 2017, but has been delayed due to what officials say are safety and regulatory issues, the AFP reported. Hamad al-Kaabi, the UAE representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency, said, "The full operation of Barakah plant in the near future will contribute to the UAE's efforts for development and sustainability," adding that the operator would "undertake a period of commissioning to prepare for commercial operation." The UAE has large energy reserves but is looking for alternative sources of energy for its population of 10 million. When all four reactors are functioning, they are expected to provide around 25 percent of the country's energy needs. The three other reactors are near ready to go online. Following the announcement, Abu Dhabi's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan tweeted: "Today marks a new chapter in our journey for the development of peaceful nuclear energy with the issuing of the operating license for the first Barakah plant." Saudi Arabia seeks up to 16 nuclear reactors, the report noted, adding that the UAE reactors are being built by a consortium led by the Korea Electric Power Corporation for \$24.4 billion.

Report: Palestinian workers prefer to work for Israeli employers

(PMW via JNS) – The United Nations "blacklist" of businesses operating in Israeli settlements was lauded by the Palestinian leadership following its publication earlier in February, but a recent report indicates that Palestinians actually prefer to work for Israelis rather than Palestinians. Titled "Why Palestinians prefer to work for Israeli employers," the report, by Israel-based media watchdog group Palestinian Media Watch, affirms that whenever Palestinian workers have the opportunity to work for Israeli employers, they are

quick to leave their jobs with Palestinian employers. The report cites an article in the official Palestinian Authority daily *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida* that praises the Israeli-employment sector. According to senior PMW analyst Nan Jacques Zilberdik, who co-authored the report with PMW Director Itamar Marcus, there are a number of reasons Palestinians prefer Israeli employers. "First, the salary from Israeli employers is more than double that of the Palestinian sector, but that is not all. Palestinians working for Israelis are protected by the same laws as Israeli workers, including health benefits, sick leave, vacation time and other workers' rights, whereas these protections are not granted by Palestinian employers. Also there is no gender or religious discrimination in the Israeli sector." Speaking on the official P.A. TV show "Workers Affairs," Israeli-Arab labor lawyer Khaled Dukhi of the Israeli NGO Workers' Hotline said Israeli labor law is "very good" because it does not differentiate between men and women, Israelis and Palestinians, Muslims and Jews. However, he explained, "Palestinian workers who work for Israelis still suffer because Palestinian middlemen 'steal' 50 percent, 60 percent and even 70 percent of their salaries, especially those of women." The higher Israeli salaries have been consistent for years, according to surveys published by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, Labor Force Survey for the second quarter of 2018 showed that the average daily wage for wage employees in the West Bank was NIS 107.9 (\$31.5) compared with NIS 62.6 (\$18.3) in Gaza Strip. The average daily wage for the wage employees in Israel and the Israeli settlements reached NIS 247.9 (\$72.3) in the second quarter of 2018, compared with NIS 242.5 (\$70.8) in the first quarter of 2018.

Pro-Israel groups move to counter EU ruling about labeling Israeli products

A team of more than 400 lawyers from the Lawfare Project, a nonprofit human and civil-rights litigation and advocacy group, have partnered with nearly 1,000 legislators working for the Israel Allies Foundation to fight the a pro-BDS ruling by the European Court of Justice that requires E.U. countries to identify products made in Israeli

settlements on their labels. In November, the European Union's top court ruled that Israeli goods produced over the pre-1967 line – meaning products from eastern Jerusalem, Golan Heights and West Bank settlements – must be marked as settlement products in all 28 E.U. member states. Israel opposes the labeling and holds that it supports the BDS movement, providing a tool to boycott the Jewish state. Israel Allies Foundation President Josh Reinstein said, "During these times of significant hostility toward Israel stemming from the European Union, it is essential that we unite our allies in the parliaments across Europe, encouraging them to work as a powerful bloc against the labeling of Jewish goods. Our new partnership with the Lawfare Project will allow us to effect real policy change against the antisemitic ruling of the European Court of Justice." "The European court's decision was discriminatory on its face. It singled out Jews and opened a Pandora's box of unintended consequences for global trade," said the Lawfare Project's Executive Director Brooke Goldstein. "Allies of Israel and the Jewish people must stand together now more than ever. Jews will not sit quietly while our rights and dignity are stripped from us." Israel Allies Caucuses in the European Union and the United Kingdom have already spoken out against the labeling laws, and the Netherlands passed a resolution against them, according to *The Jerusalem Post*.

U.S. Senate passes resolution to limit Trump on military action regarding Iran

The U.S. Senate passed a resolution on Feb. 13 to curb U.S. President Donald Trump's ability to enact future U.S. military action against Iran without congressional approval. The tally of the War Powers Resolution was 55-45. Sens. Rand Paul (R-KY), Mike Lee (R-UT), Lisa Murkowski (R-AL), Todd Young (R-IN), Lamar Alexander (R-TN), Jerry Moran (R-KS), Susan Collins (R-ME) and Bill Cassidy (R-LA) were the Republicans who voted in favor of the measure, which was introduced by Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA) after the U.S. elimination on Jan. 3 of Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani. An amendment introduced by Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) commending Trump, in addition to both the U.S. military and intelligence community, for Soleimani's demise passed 64-34. Ten Democrats joined all 53 Republicans in voting for it. The resolution now goes to the Democratic-majority U.S. House of Representatives, where it is expected to pass. Trump has threatened to veto it. A similar resolution passed the House in January, but Senate Republicans indicated they would only be interested in going ahead with Kaine's version.

After efforts to normalize Israel ties, Sudan to settle with USS Cole victims

Sudan's transitional government announced on Feb. 13 that it has reached a settlement with families of the victims of the 2000 attack on the *USS Cole* in Yemen in order to have the country removed from the U.S. terrorism list, the AP reported. The attack killed 17 sailors and wounded more than three-dozen other people. Sudan was accused of providing support to Al-Qaeda, which claimed responsibility for the attack. This comes after other moves by Khartoum to end its international pariah status, including a meeting between its interim leader, Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, in Uganda with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to help establish more normalized relations. Earlier in February, Sudan also tentatively agreed to allow flights heading to Israel to cross its airspace. And earlier the week of Feb. 13, Sudan's leadership said it would hand over longtime autocrat Omar al-Bashir to the International Criminal Court to face war-crime charges for fighting in the western Darfur, the report said. The settlement with *USS Cole* victims is among the last issues remaining to be resolved for Sudan to be removed from the U.S. list of terrorism supporters. Sudan's information minister and interim government spokesman, Faisal Saleh, told the Associated Press that Justice Minister Nasr-Eddin Abdul-Bari had traveled the week of Feb. 7 to Washington to sign the deal. The country has been reported as desperate for an infusion of international funds.

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SpaceContinued from page 6

space that undergo adaptations for daily use. And years later, space travel will become cheaper and people will want to fly to space. But the type of travel will be different and will require adaptations.

Q: Do you want to see more Israeli businessmen in Italy?

A: Certainly. Even now, when Italians hear the word "Israel," they think of business opportunities, and we want this to happen in the other direction as well. We're cooperating today with academic institutions in Israel, and private Italian companies are cooperating with [defense technology firm] Rafael and other Israeli companies. The economy is a fantastic way to strengthen diplomatic ties.

The Italian space agency has undergone something of a revolution in recent years. Its budget has doubled and now stands at 1.6 billion euros (\$1.75 billion), half of it directed to the European Space Agency.

Israel Space Agency Director Avi Blasberger told *Israel Hayom* that "until today, all the experiments in microgravity conditions have been conducted in the international space station and supervised by astronauts. This current Israeli-Italian cooperation will allow any scientist to conduct their experiments, with better access and independence."