

THE REPORTER

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BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK

Community Purim Carnival at the JCC 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.

At right: Children lined up for a guessing game at last year's JCC Purim Carnival.



Rick Recht family concert on March 8 in Ithaca

Rick Recht, who has been called "the most celebrated Jewish artist of our time," will perform a children's concert on Sunday, March 8, at 3 pm, at the Community School of Music and Arts, Hamblin Hall, 3rd floor, 330 E. State St., Ithaca. The interactive concert will feature on-stage participation by local children. Admission at the door is \$5 for folks ages 12 and over. Children may attend at no cost.

Recht, who is the PJ Library national celebrity spokesman, will perform songs from his hit children's albums "Look at Me!" and "Free to Be the Jew in Me." He will also focus on the holiday of Purim, which will take place on Tuesday, March 10. The holiday celebrates freedom of religion, and children and adults dress up in costumes. Costumes are welcome at the concert.

PJ Library is a free Jewish family engagement program for children ages 6 months through 8 years that distributes Jewish children's literature and music to families in hundreds of communities across the U.S. and internationally. Information about subscribing to the program will be available at the concert.

"I believe PJ Library is one of the most extraordinary and effective Jewish family and community engagement opportunities of our time," said Recht. "I feel incred-



Rick Recht

ibly blessed that, for years, my family has experienced the profound impact of reading and listening to the inspirational and incredibly high-quality PJ Library children's books and music. On the road, many of the families we meet feel equally blessed to receive PJ Library, providing their families with such fantastic resources and experiences."

"We are excited to welcome a national entertainer to Ithaca to help us celebrate and share Jewish traditions with the community as a whole," says organizer Marjorie Hoffman.

Recht has been called the top-touring

Jewish artist today, performing more than 125 concerts each year across the country. "Recht's powerful performances have earned him a strong, loyal national fan base," said event organizers. "Recht has become an icon for Jewish youth, elevating the medium of Jewish music as a powerful and effective tool for developing Jewish pride and identity."

Recht is also the founder and executive director of Jewish Rock Radio, the first 24/7, Jewish rock Internet radio station found at www.jewishrockradio.com. He is the exec-

utive director of the Songleader Boot Camp (www.songleaderbootcamp.com), which holds Jewish leadership training programs and conferences for Jewish educators, clergy, and veteran and new songleaders.

The concert is sponsored by Ithaca Area United Jewish Community (www.iaujc.org), with participation by Congregation Tikken v'Or and Temple Beth-El.

For additional press resources, visit rickrecht.com/press. For more information about the program, call Hoffman at 257-9924.

Music from around the world at TBE Oneonta

A concert of music from around the world will be presented at Temple Beth El of Oneonta on Sunday, March 8, at 2 pm.

"With selections from South America, Africa and Eastern Europe, the event is intended as a celebration of our shared humanity," said organizers of the concert.

Performers will include clarinetist Robin Seletsky, flutist Ana Laura Gonzalez, pianist

Michael Bauer and the *a capella* vocal ensemble Eight is Eneuf. Additionally, TBE's newly installed rabbi, George Hirschfeld, will sing a selection of Ladino and Ashkenazic folk songs.

The family-friendly, community event is free of charge, with donations accepted. Temple Beth El is located at 83 Chestnut St., Oneonta. For more information, call 286-9085.

"A Questionable Night: Trivia, Food and Music"

The Reporter to hold trivia fund-raiser featuring Jeff Kahn on March 19

By Reporter staff

The Reporter will hold a trivia fund-raiser featuring Jeff Kahn on Thursday, March 19, from 6-8 pm, at the Jewish Community Center, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal. "A Questionable Night: Trivia, Food and Music" will include trivia, music and refreshments for sale. There will be a cash first prize of \$200 donated by Audio Classics. Additional prizes will be given out over the evening. The cost will be \$10/person in advance and \$12/person at the door. Tickets may be purchased at The Reporter office, located at the JCC. Online tickets will be available soon.

Kahn is known for his trivia nights at the former Cyber Café. He currently holds Trivia evenings at Galaxy Brewing on Tuesdays evenings. The evening will

feature four rounds of trivia. During the breaks, music will be performed by singer/songwriter Bess Greenberg.

"I have been writing and hosting trivia for most every week for over 16 years," Kahn said. "I am pretty good at it by now and I think this should be a fun evening. Even if it's not that fun, it's all for a good cause. Plus, the amazing Bess Greenberg is performing between each round of trivia, so you can't lose even if you do lose."

Previously of The Falconers and Milkweed, Greenberg debuted as a solo performer in the summer of 2016 and formed the full band KidBess and The Magic Ring in winter of 2017. Critics have



Jeff Kahn

commented on her "passionate performances, textured vocals and open hearted lyrics."

"I'm not biased, of course," said Rebecca Kahn, chairwoman of the event and a member of The Reporter's Editorial Committee, "but I'd just like to say how lucky I am to be married to the world's best trivia host! Seriously, though, Jeff is really

entertaining and I promise you'll have a fun night."

"This is The Reporter's first fund-raising event," said Rabbi Rachel Esserman, the paper's executive editor. "A trivia event seems a perfect match for us. Come and enjoy the camaraderie, and challenge yourself to see if you have

the answers. If you can't make the event, sponsorships are available and offer a great way to support your local Jewish newspaper."

The following sponsorships opportunities are available:

- ◆ Reader \$25
- ◆ Typesetter \$50
- ◆ Correspondent: \$75
- ◆ Reporter \$100
- ◆ Editor: \$125
- ◆ Publisher: \$150

Those interested in sponsoring the event can send a check to The Reporter, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal 13850, with "trivia sponsor" on the subject line or visit The Reporter office during business hours to pay by credit card. More information about the evening will appear in future issues of the paper.

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Opinion

Judaism in space: part 1

By Dora and Solomon Polachek

A dreidel in outer space? A *mezuzah*? And even a Torah scroll? If you dismiss such happenings as fake news, then read on. Such key items of Judaism did indeed make their way into space, thanks to MIT Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics Jeffrey Hoffman. We met Hoffman this December, when he was the astronomer in residence as part of our cruise ship's enrichment program.

As we made our way from Bali to Sydney, we discovered through his full-house public lectures that we had among us someone who was not only an astrophysicist, but an accomplished astronaut. With a Ph.D. from Harvard, as well as a post-doctoral fellowship in England, Hoffman was a research scientist at MIT when NASA put out a call for specialists who would accompany the two military pilots on each Space Shuttle flight. Out of a total of 8,000 applicants, 35 were chosen, and Hoffman was one of them.

Between 1985 and 1996, in his capacity as a payload specialist, he participated in five Space Shuttle missions



Astrophysicist Jeffrey Hoffman in a Planetarium presentation aboard ship.

and performed four space walks, registering more than 25 hours outside the shuttle. He logged in a total of more than 1,211 hours and 21.5 million miles in space. Hoffman performed the first contingency, unplanned space walk on his first mission (STS 51 D) in April 1985, to activate a switch on a communications satellite. On his fourth mission (STS 61) in December 1993, Hoffman's spacewalks involved being part of the delicate operation that added instruments to correct the Hubble Space Telescope's spherical aberration flaw.

The dreidel in space

Impressive? Most certainly. But even more amazing is what we found out later in our conversations and Hanukkah dinners with him. Jeff Hoffman was the first American male Jewish astronaut in NASA's history. As he went into space, he made sure to take with him artifacts of his Jewish heritage. Because of volume capacity in the Shuttle, astronauts were allowed to bring a limited amount of NASA-approved personal items that could include religious objects, but all needed to fit into a small bag measuring approximately six inches cubed.

On every trip, Hoffman took along several Judaica items because of their personal significance for him. These included a *Kiddush* cup, the hand-embroidered *atarot* (neck collars) that were part of the bar mitzvah *tallitim* (prayer shawls) of each of his sons, later to be part of their marriage chuppahs. As it happened, Hanukkah coincided with his fourth mission in 1993. After completing his work repairing the Hubble telescope, Hoffman was relaxing in the shuttle and took out an Israeli-made silver dreidel. He intended to show his crew mates what this was, and enjoy seeing it spin in a gravity-free environment.

Unbeknownst to him, the TV camera was on, sending these pictures down to the ground. Surprised, he heard Mission Control say, "For Jeff: I bet all of America would like to know what you've got and what you're doing with it." Hoffman then proceeded to tell all of America what the dreidel was. In order to illustrate fully the holiday's



Jeffrey Hoffman celebrated Hanukkah on the high seas.

practices and significance, he pulled out the folding travel *hanukiah* (menorah) that he also had brought along. The NASA video of the first dreidel in space has had more than 2,000 YouTube views.

The velcro-taped *mezuzah* in space

On every space flight, Hoffman took along *mezuzot*. His last flight in 1996 (STS 75) was a two-shift operation, where one team of astronauts worked while the other slept. Before going to sleep, Hoffman would affix his velcro-taped *mezuzah* in his sleep station. Because astronauts had to share their station with another astronaut, he would remove the *mezuzah* in the morning when he got up, since he did not know which astronaut was sharing his cubby. A few days into the mission, he forgot to remove the *mezuzah*, and was later greeted by, "Hey, Jeff, that was a nice touch, putting a *mezuzah* up there!" Hoffman discovered that his cubby mate was Scott Horowitz, another Jewish astronaut. "We got a kick out of it," Hoffman reminisced. From that point on in the mission, the *mezuzah* stayed affixed.

Hoffman gave one of the *mezuzot* to the Jerusalem Science Museum, where it is affixed on the doorpost; another *mezuzah* is in New York City's Jewish Museum. The dreidel that Hoffman had spun in space, as well as other artifacts he had taken along, were on display in New York City from February 26, 2018, through June of that year as part of New York City YIVO's Center for Jewish History exhibit on "Jews in Space: Members of the Tribe in Orbit." Visitors had a chance to meet Jeffrey Hoffman there, when he was a guest speaker on May 7.

Part two will appear in a future issue of The Reporter.



Astronaut Jeffrey Hoffman answered questions after his enrichment lecture presentation.

In My Own Words

The state of *The Reporter*

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Some of you may be aware that The Reporter Group will no longer be publishing two of our sister newspapers. Beginning in March, we will only have two papers: our weekly Binghamton paper and our sister paper in Scranton, PA, both of which are called *The Reporter*. Finding advertising has been difficult for all newspapers, profit and non-profit. You can see that in the local secular paper, which publishes far fewer pages each day than it used to. Many cities larger than Binghamton only have print newspapers several times a week, rather than daily. This is a far cry from when, in some cities, readers could buy two or more papers each day.

Even before losing these two papers, *The Reporter's* Editorial Committee realized that we needed new ways to raise money if we want to have a weekly Binghamton paper. That's the reason behind the trivia fund-raiser benefitting the paper. (For information on that event, see the article

on page 1.) Readers may have noticed that there are more eight-page papers than ever before. When I began working here, almost every issue was at least 12 pages and many were 16 or 20. Our holiday issues were even larger and our special section issues (bar/bat mitzvahs and wedding) used to be 12 pages themselves. I don't mind the eight-page papers since we can usually manage to publish all the local news we're sent. Once in awhile photos of past events have to wait since upcoming events get first priority.

What has also changed is staffing. From a staff of seven full time and two part time employees in 2001, we now have one full time person (that's me) and four part time. (As I write this, I am the only person still in the office. That has its good points: no one interrupts me when I finally get to some writing.) This makes sense because, with fewer papers, there's less work. Unfortunately, with fewer people, the type of work we do changes. For example, I'm back to editing local material, in addition to my work as executive editor. Of course, we can't really complain. This is actually comparable to what I've read about other newspapers, with half the staff being laid off at one time. Newspapers are not considered a growing industry.

Yet, we do need to consider what newspapers offer us. I call *The Reporter* the one-stop spot for news of interest to the local Jewish community. Not only do we publish what local Jewish organizations send us, we actively look

for other events, talks, exhibits, etc. of Jewish interest. We do the search that you don't have time to do. (And, by the way, we always welcome suggestions, which can be sent to Treporter@aol.com with "article" in the subject line. Please, do note that we can't publicize an event that takes place on Shabbat or a holiday unless it's sponsored by a Jewish organization.)

The Reporter is working on a new website and hopes to increase its digital footprint. However, that doesn't solve all our problems. Although some feel that everything online should be free, if you want people to produce content, then they have to be paid. Otherwise they'll be looking for a different kind of work. This not only includes writers, but artists and musicians.

Right now, in our Jewish community, you still get your paper in the mail every week. That's not something to take for granted. I admit that I still prefer to read hard copies of newspapers and books; there's something about holding an actual object in my hand that speaks to me. I also read the material more closely. However, I realize that I will soon be in the minority – if I'm not already – that prefers hard copies. But even if we decide we want everything online, we still need to find ways to pay for that material – whether it's paying for being allowed to read it or paying for support of the site that produces it. Nothing – even the content on the Internet – is truly free.

Correction

In the February 21 issue of *The Reporter*, the condolence notice on page 3 should have read "The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to Ronald Greenblott on the death of his wife, Mildred Greenblott." *The Reporter* apologizes for the error.



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OPINIONS

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

LETTERS

The Reporter welcomes letters on subjects of interest to the Jewish community. All letters must be signed and include a phone number; names may be withheld upon request.

ADS

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www.thereporter.org

Chabad Purim feast on March 10

Reservations are now being accepted for the annual Chabad Purim Feast, which will be held on Purim day, Tuesday, March 10, at 6 pm, at the Chabad Center in Vestal. Dinner will be preceded by a "last chance" *megillah* reading at 5:20 pm for those who did not hear the *megillah* read earlier.

The program will include dinner catered by Dougie's BBQ and Grill in Teaneck, NJ (vegetarian options and a kiddie menu are available), *l'chayim*, desserts, music and

dancing. The cost for the program is \$18 per person, \$14 for students with advance online reservation and seniors (over 65); and \$9 for children under 12. (Children aged 2 and under are free.) Participants are urged to come in costume and will automatically be entered into a raffle; a parade of children in costume will be enjoyed by all.

To make your reservation, call the Chabad Center office at 797-0015 or reserve on line at www.Jewishbu.com/PurimFeast.

BD Sisterhood Shushan Purim program

Beth David Sisterhood invites the community to a Shushan Purim program with Rivka Kellman, who will discuss "Shushan Purim, what's the real story?" The event will take place on Wednesday,

March 11, at 7 pm, at the synagogue, 39 Riverside Dr., Binghamton.

Purim treats will be served. Those attending are asked to bring a non-perishable food item for CHOW.

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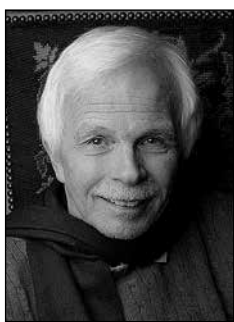


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Steven Englund to speak at March 14 Beth David luncheon

On Saturday, March 14, Beth David's Luncheon Speaker Series will feature Professor Steven Englund, who will speak on "Napoleon and the 'Jewish Question': A Study in Ambiguity." The lunch is free and open to the community.

Englund is the author of "Napoleon, A Political Life," which was published in the United States in 2004 and in France in 2005. It was the first English-language life of Napoleon to be translated into French. In 2005, the American Historical Association awarded the book the prize for The Best Book in French History. The French edition won Le Grand Prix de la Fondation Napoléon. Englund's work in the field of French history has led to his being named chevalier des arts et des lettres, one of the highest honors given by the French government.



Professor Steven Englund

Jews," Englund continued, "but on the other hand, later in the 19th century, the French antisemites claimed Napoleon had been a Jewish 'creature' because he preserved Jewish emancipation and organized the community. It is interesting to play with the concept of ambiguity, and not rush to judgment, one way or the other. Doing so is not always satisfying, but it may be closer to the truth."

"It is an exceptional privilege to have Professor Englund be our Beth David Luncheon Speaker this month," organizers say. "Those of us who heard him speak in the fall at the College of Jewish Studies know already what a talented presenter he is. His expertise on Napoleon is sure to be a source of new insights for everyone!"

While ruler of France in the early 1800s, Napoleon was responsible for continuing Jewish emancipation. In addition, he organized the first central Jewish consistory system in France and mandated that regional consistories be established, thus giving the Jewish population a governing body to represent them in affairs of state. "The case of Napoleon's Jewish policy has been much debated," says Englund. "In addition to continuing Jewish emancipation and establishing the consistory system, Napoleon, after all, forcefully removed Alsatian Jews from money lending, their 'ancient profession.' Was Napoleon good or bad for the Jews?"

"We know Napoleon, the man, had a low opinion of

Beth David's luncheon speaker series takes place the second Saturday of the month after Shabbat morning services. Since the monthly series' continuation depends on the generosity of contributors, Beth David welcomes and appreciates donations to the Luncheon Fund in order to keep the program going. Donations can be made in honor of or in memory of someone, or to mark a special occasion. Those wishing an acknowledgment to be sent to the person being honored or to the family of someone being remembered can indicate that, along with the necessary information. Donations can be sent to Beth David Synagogue, 39 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905, Attention: Luncheon Fund.

TC Sisterhood program to feature Frugal Fani on March 22

Temple Concord Sisterhood will hold a free program featuring Frugal Fani (aka Ani Loew) on Sunday, March 22, at 1 pm, at Temple Concord, 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton.

"Frugal Fani is one of the hottest YouTube stars of today," said organizers of the event. "Come hear about her YouTube career, including how she got started and why saving the world is important to her. According to Frugal Fani, 'It is about progress, not perfection.'"



Frugal Fani (aka Ani Loew)

Loew teaches law and government and education at Broome-Tioga BOCES New Visions Career Academy to college-bound high school seniors who want to challenge themselves during their senior year. She is also an active member of Temple Concord Sisterhood.

Reservations should be made to Phyllis Kellenberger at pweinste@stny.rr.com or 723-2193 or 727-8305 by Thursday, March 19.

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Off the Shelf

Life in the Catskills

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

Jewish life in the Catskill Mountains during the 20th century took a variety of forms. Some people lived in the villages all year-round, while others came only for the summer. Some visitors spent their vacations in fancy hotels that catered to their every whim, while others owned small vacation homes and cottages. The former visitors came as a family to escape the heat of the city for a few days or weeks. The latter stayed for the summer, with the women and children remaining in the country all week, while the men visited for the weekend and then returned to the city for the workweek. Two recent works of fiction offer views of these two different lifestyles: “The Hotel Neversink” by Adam O’Fallon Price (Tin House Books) focuses on the rise and fall of a family hotel, while Andrea Simon’s “Floating in the Neversink: A Novel in Stories” (Black Rose Writing) explores family relationships during vacations at the summer home of the narrator’s grandmother.

The 60-plus year history (from 1950-2012) of “The Hotel Neversink” is told from the points of view of almost 15 characters. These narratives range from first person to third person, and each offers a view of the hotel during different time periods. Four generations of Sikorskys made the hotel the center of their lives – from Asher Levem Sikorsky, who came from Europe after his family nearly starved, to his great-granddaughter Suzannah, who returns to the village to help her father close the hotel’s doors.

In addition to the family problems – sibling rivalries and parent-children disagreements – that plague the Sikorskys,

a central mystery informs the plot: one day, a child disappeared from the hotel without a trace. Searches turn up no body, but people believe the child died, and some assume the hotel is haunted. More children in nearby villages also disappear. Finally, one child is abducted, but manages to survive. No one, however, has a clue to who is the culprit, and the one person who has a theory is ignored. The novelist also explores the tribulations of Len Sikorsky, the grandson of the original owner, who feels obligated to restore the hotel to its former glory, even though everyone else knows that will never happen.

The two plot lines – that of a family hotel and the abduction of children – come together at the end of the novel in a surprising way. The author manages to show the Sikorskys’ love of their home, even as it decays, and makes Len’s attempts to save the hotel convincing. Unfortunately, learning what happened in the past can change thoughts of the future, as the characters find out – some to their joy and others to their dismay.

While “The Hotel Neversink” features many narrative voices, “Floating in the Neversink” has one narrator: Amanda Gerber, who speaks about her life in the late 1950s and early ‘60s. When 9-years-old, she worries that someone will steal her best friend, Francine, when her family leaves Brooklyn for the country during the summer. At the same time, she’s very excited to see her cousin, Laura, whose family also stays with their grandmother. Family life is not easy: Amanda’s father is rude

and obnoxious, and her teenage sister can be mean. The two families sharing the house don’t always get along; rifts appear between her parents and her aunt and uncle. There is also sexual abuse that goes unspoken since Amanda fears either no one will believe her or they’ll think it’s her fault.

Amanda is a sweet, appealing character. Her devotion to her friends shines out, even when they no longer return her affection. It’s sad to see how her father treats the women in the family, as if they have no brains or sense. Amanda longs for his interest, but he never sees his daughter as a person. Readers discover more about him by reading between the lines, especially when Amanda and Laura uncover a family secret.

“Floating in the Neversink” is definitely a novel in stories since the stories don’t flow into each other as naturally as chapters in the novel do, and some material is repeated. But that doesn’t affect the pleasure of reading them.

Of additional interest is the fact that both books featured the name Neversink in their titles, a river whose name was unfamiliar to me. According to Wikipedia, “the Neversink River is a 55-mile-long tributary of the Delaware River in southeastern New York in the United States. The name of the river comes from the corruption of an Algonquian language phrase meaning ‘mad river.’” These novels offer a portrait of a Jewish past that has disappeared. Together these two works recapture part of that past – its innocence and its betrayals.

National Library of Israel fully restores 15th-century prayer book, puts online

By JNS staff

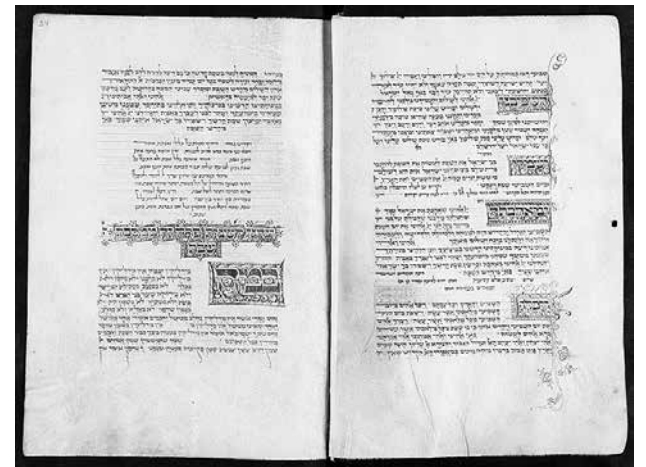
(JNS) – Restoration of the National Library of Israel’s Moskowitz Mahzor has been completed, with the manuscript online for the first time. It was created on parchment in the 15th century by Joel ben Simeon, considered by many to be the most important Jewish artist of the Middle Ages.

Ben Simeon was a scribe and illuminator active in Germany and Northern Italy. The manuscript is considered exceptional due to the illustrations and illuminations found throughout, including images of rabbits, bears, fish, squirrels and birds, as well as imaginary creatures such as a unicorn, and a diverse range of mythological, religious and astrological symbols.

It includes prayers according to the Jewish Roman rite for the entire year, including weekdays, the Sabbath, holidays, Torah readings, the Passover haggadah, Pirkei Avot (“Ethics of the Fathers”) with a commentary by Maimonides, See “Book” on page 7



The Moskowitz Mahzor before restoration. (Photo by The National Library of Israel)



The Moskowitz Mahzor after restoration. (Photo by The National Library of Israel)

LEGAL NOTICE

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.

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

1. The name of the limited liability company (“LLC”) is JJ’S GRILL AND

CATERING @ EN-JOIE, LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is February 13, 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: 1120 A Farm to Market Road, Endwell, NY 13760.
5. The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY: The name of the limited liability company is: Front Street Residences LLC (the “Company”). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was February 14, 2020. 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 Front Street Residences LLC, 237 W. Lincoln Avenue, Mount Vernon, NY 10550. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

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

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

1. The name of the limited liability company (“LLC”) is Wesley’s Corner Store, LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is February 18, 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: 345 Conklin Ave, Binghamton, NY 13903.
5. The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY: The name of the limited liability company is: STAN Property Holdings, LLC (the “Company”). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was February 7, 2020. 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 Steve W. Pancoast, 154 Clifton Blvd., Vestal, NY 13850. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

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A new kind of ambassador: The rise of Israel's Shalva Band and Netta Barzilai

By Eliana Rudee

(JNS) – As the Shalva Band and 2018 Eurovision Song Contest winner Netta Barzilai redefine what it means to be beautiful and successful, perhaps they are, at the same time, redefining what it means to be a “traditional” Israeli ambassador.

Barzilai's Eurovision-winning song “Toy” aimed to empower women, victims of sexual harassment and those who may not adhere to traditional beauty standards. Told in the early stages of her career that she wasn't “sexy or beautiful” like traditional superstars, Barzilai has delivered a powerful confirmation of the importance of staying true to oneself. “I believe in empowering individualism,” she told JNS.

“I speak as honestly as I can and as freely as I can about how I see the world,” said Barzilai. “It can be funny, silly even, and unexpected. It can be sad and emotional, about matters of the-heart, and it can be in empowering anthems about body image or girl power.”

Although she said that she does not see herself as an ambassador, but as “a musician that's very proud of who I am,” she added that she is “in love with my people and my nation” and the values Israel stands for. “I think we're the warmest and kindest people,” she said. “Also, we have very strong family values, mutual respect and desire to lift each other up. We all call each other *achi* and *achoti*, ‘brother’ and ‘sister.’”

Israel, she said, was a country of survivors, with a unique character. “We're a country of survivors because we're constantly fighting for our lives and country. Because of that, our character is unique; we're resourceful and focus on what matters: family, relationships and our strength. We laugh and sing to keep healthy, and take no bull****. We're happy at every opportunity we can be. And we value human life more than anyone can imagine. These are the values I live by.”

Many Israelis hailed her Eurovision win as a “national vindication and diplomatic triumph,” according to *The New York Times*.

At this year's Eurovision, which took place in Tel Aviv, the Shalva Band delivered “a moving and inspiring performance” in the semi-finals. The band's message to never stop dreaming won the hearts of viewers around the world. (The band dropped out of the song contest because of compulsory



Prince William, duke of Cambridge, walked with Eurovision Song Contest 2018 winner Netta Barzilai on Rothschild Boulevard in Tel Aviv on June 27, 2018. (photo by Marc Israel Sellem/POOL)

rehearsals on Shabbat for the Saturday-night finals.)

Comprised of eight musicians, the Shalva Band was formed at the Shalva organization in Israel, which supports and empowers individuals with disabilities and their families.

Dina Smeta, one of the band's lead singers, who is blind, told JNS of her pride in becoming an inspiration for children with disabilities. “The message I want to transmit is it doesn't matter who or what you are; we are all born with certain abilities, and it doesn't quite matter if you have a disability. We need to believe in ourselves,” she said.

Smeta recalled meeting a blind 8-year-old girl at a klezmer festival in Tzfat two months ago that told her that she wanted to be just like her when she grew up.

Shalva Band director Shai Ben-Shushan also spoke with pride of leading a change in the way disabled people are perceived in society and of bringing people together. “A mother got in touch with us and said that her son has Down syndrome, and after his classmates saw the Eurovision performance, he's become the most popular kid in his grade,” he told JNS. “Shalva is changing the way people are perceived; we get many comments like these from around the world and throughout Europe.

“The main message is that anyone can, with enough belief and willpower, do whatever they wish,” he continued. “One of the members of the Shalva Band has Down syndrome and

it took him two years to ‘own’ a certain beat, but he persevered and I met with him every day until he got it. Now he keeps the beat and is a terrific drummer. So the message is not to give up, and to believe in [yourself]. With hard work and faith, you can [achieve anything] you want,” he said.

Having the chutzpah to be oneself unapologetically is empowering, said Ben-Shushan.

Six months ago, said Ben-Shushan, the Shalva Band visited a Broadway show, and someone in the audience recognized them. “He told us that he was an Israeli expat who had married a non-Jewish woman and whose relationship to Israel had practically vanished, but that when he saw [one of our performances] it reminded him of home. So after years of not practicing Judaism, he taught his children what the *kiddush* was. We were overwhelmed when we heard that,” said Ben-Shushan.

During a recent trip to Israel, American pop singer Demi Lovato visited the Shalva center in Jerusalem and played with the band for two hours. According to Ben-Shushan, she had hoped to continue to work with them after her trip, but was prevented from doing so by the BDS movement. “She came and saw a show, and loved Shalva, raving about them,” Ben-Shushan told JNS. “But BDS tore her into pieces, and now we are unable to do something with her.”

Even so, he maintained that music has the power to bring people together as “the language of the entire world, no matter where you come from.”

Barzilai and the Shalva Band have also been performing in the U.S. Impacting the Jewish Diaspora, Ben-Shushan said, is important to the band, so “every two or three months, we reach [out to] a Jewish community, which empowers the bond,” he said.

Barzilai, too, expressed her hope to build bridges between the United States and Israel through her music. “The stronger we can build the bridge and our nation's allies around the world, the stronger we all are together. Together, Israel and America can bring light upon the world with our innovation and desire for progress. When you light someone else's candle, the world becomes a much brighter place,” she said. “The beauty of both our countries is that we share the same empowering ideals of prosperity, progress and freedom. I believe with music we can build bridges, cross borders and bring light into the world, together.”

The tribute below was paid for by a private donor.

Tribute to Earl D. Butler, Esq.

After World War II, the term “Righteous Gentiles” honored those who risked their lives to save Jews from the horrors of the Holocaust. But anti-Semitism did not end with the Nazis' defeat in 1945. Thankfully, the courageous spirit embodied in those Righteous Gentiles did not end either.

Earl D. Butler Esq. of Vestal, who died last year, was a lion-hearted stalwart who defended many innocents, including Dr. Richard Stram and family when unjust charges were levied against them. A small David facing a powerful Goliath, Earl took on the Strams' seemingly unwinnable case – and won. For his courage in defending them, Earl also won the Strams' eternal gratitude and deep respect.

Laid-back lover of nature

Born in Ellenville, NY, on June 10, 1936, Earl excelled at his studies, but his favorite classroom was the great outdoors. Because of his father's job in the military police during World War II, the Butlers lived in a prisoner of war camp when Earl was 5. Later youthful years weren't much easier for Earl. For a time he lived with an aunt, sharing meager wartime meals grown from her garden. His father, Harold, who became a prison warden, lacked the tender heart Earl found in his beloved mother, Charlotte.

Earl obeyed his parents' wishes to get higher education, which led him to study ornithology. But with his mother's death Earl dropped out of college and joined the Army. Sizzling under the Southern sun in basic training and freezing in a tank on German soil, Earl realized he was meant to accomplish more in life. He graduated from Albany Law School in 1963 and sailed through the bar exam.

Over the years he served as an assistant Broome County district attorney, head of the County Legislature's Public Health Committee Narcotics Guidance Council, member of the Organized Crime Task Force in Albany, attorney for the Town of Vestal and for the Binghamton Patrolmen Benevolent Association, and in a number of other positions. He opened his own firm, expanding to include partners and eventually two of his sons in the firm's current premises at 231 Main Street in Vestal, the Earl D. Butler Building.

Earl accepted cases many attorneys would not. Preparation was the key to winning difficult cases, he always said, and he startled opposing council and witnesses frequently with the depth of research he had done into unfamiliar subjects.

John Grisham novels often portray a small-town attorney in an ill-fitting jacket being stared down by the legion of 50 polished “suits” on the opposite side of the room – and on many occasions, that described situations Earl faced. But no matter the numbers or resources of his legal opponents, nobody could top Earl when it came to preparation and strategy. When he sued a Japanese corporation on behalf of an injured motorcyclist, Earl had hundreds of documents translated into English. Once it was clear to the corporation's legal team that Earl wouldn't back down, they offered a large settlement.

His five kids could probably have taken the bar exam as teenagers and passed, thanks to the detailed “shop talk” they heard daily over dinner. Now sons Matt and David, with the help of sister Kat, continue their father's diligent fight for those in need of quality legal services. Daughter Elizabeth greets clients at Southern Tier Hearing Services on the same premises, and son Curtis works in finance in New York City.

Love of his life

Earl had spotted a cute girl in a sailor suit across a college classroom, and in 1960 he and Anne Whalen married. A nurse, she worked at Ideal Hospital while he built his career. Their rapidly growing family soon outgrew their small home, so they purchased a 12-acre wooded property in Vestal on which they built a Georgian-style home Earl designed himself. Reveling in his love of nature, Earl turned two acres into vernal magnificence replete with hundreds of lilies, walls of rhododendrons and winding paths lined with perennials. Three of the Butler children's weddings took place in those sumptuous surroundings.

In the garden as in his legal practice, no challenge stopped Earl. He figured out what he needed to do to achieve his objective – and then he did it, even digging out two ponds by hand when he was 60.

Early in their marriage, Anne had given Earl a starter kit of oil paints. What do I do with these, Earl had asked – then proceeded to accurately copy, stroke by stroke, Rembrandt's *The Polish Rider*. That painting was the first of many now hanging on the walls of family, friends and businesses. Visitors to the Roberson Museum have also delighted in seeing his work.

In painting – as with sewing clothes for Anne, making furniture, gardening and practicing law – Earl never stopped learning. He marveled at the techniques of professional artists, then came home and replicated them. Wherever he and Anne traveled, his camera was close at hand, and paintings were often the result. Of equal expertise in the kitchen, he treated family and friends often to his culinary skills. After he retired in 2006, he could seldom be found without dogs Sally and Poospie and at least one book nearby – or, after he discovered technology he could really appreciate, his Kindle.

Earl and Anne had celebrated more than 50 years of true marital bliss, as well as the joy of 10 grandchildren, by the time Anne died in 2016. Thereafter, he would pause in front of her painting as he made his way up the stairs alone to bed, kissing her image and bidding her a good night.

On June 5, 2019 Earl suffered a fatal heart attack. His obituary echoes his sense of humor, saying the 82-year-old “did not pass on, pass over or pass away – he died.” But in doing so Earl Butler left a singular legacy of courageously defending the defenseless, of maximizing his God-given talents, and of launching a new generation of quality human beings into the world.



Weekly Parasha

Terumah, Exodus 25:1-27:19

Gifts to God

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR, THE REPORTER GROUP

There are at least two ways to look at any statement: one can assume the best and believe a person means well, or take a cynical point of view and assume the worst. The opening statement in this week's *parasha*, Terumah, lends itself to both points of view. God says to Moses, "Tell the Israelite people to bring Me gifts, you shall accept them from every person whose heart so moves him." These gifts are to be used to build the Tabernacle so God can dwell in the midst of the Israelite camp.

Rabbis love to comment on the part that says, "Whose heart so moves him." The Israelites are so moved, so willing to give gifts to the One who rescued them from Egypt, that they bring more gifts than Moses needs to build the Tabernacle. A more cynical person might suggest that when someone who has

life-and-death power over you asks you to bring a gift, you bring a gift. The heart might be willing, but only because it's also saying, "If I do this, then maybe God will take care of me and not hurt my family." After all, this is the same God who punished the Egyptians when displeased with their behavior.

Perhaps the Israelites also wondered if God was keeping a list of who brought what and measuring each gift against others received. Would the size of your gift affect your future? The text never addresses this issue, but I can't imagine that it wasn't in the minds of at least some Israelites. And was every gift really given with a completely willing heart? Some people may have given for the same reasons people give today: social or familial pressure, class status, etc. However, a closer look at the relationship between God

and the Israelites can give us some insight into the matter, at least for the majority of the Israelites.

Up to this point in the story of the Exodus, the focus has been on what God has done for the Israelites: freeing them from Egypt, providing manna to eat, giving them laws, etc. In simpler terms, God's been doing all the work. As any psychiatrist will tell you, a one-sided relationship isn't good for all involved. The Israelites said they would obey God's laws, but now it was time to put their money where their mouths were. They need to show they are active participants in their relationship to God. It's less that God needed a place to live than the Israelites needed to give something in return for all they had received.

See "Gifts" on page 7

Congregational Notes

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 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 a Shabbat family service will be held at 10:35 am led by Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell. Hamantashen baking will take place from 9-11 am.

On Friday, March 6, Shabbat evening services will be held at 8 pm.

On Saturday, March 7, religious school will meet at 9 am; Torah study will be held at 9:15 am; Tot Shabbat will meet from 9:30-10:30 am; and a Shabbat family service will be held at 10:35 am.

Rohr Chabad Center

Affiliation: Chabad-Lubavitch
 Rabbi Aaron and Rivkah Slonim, Directors
 E-mail: aslonim@binghamton.edu, rslonim@chabadofbinghamton.com
 Address: 420 Murray Hill Rd., Vestal, NY 13850
 Phone: 797-0015, Fax: 797-0095
 Website: www.Chabadofbinghamton.com
 Rabbi Zalman and Rochel Chein, Education
 E-mail: zchein@Jewishbu.com, rchein@Jewishbu.com
 Rabbi Levi and Hadasa Slonim, Downtown and Development
 Chabad Downtown Center: 60 Henry St., Binghamton
 E-mail: lslonim@Jewishbu.com, hslonim@Jewishbu.com
 Rabbi Yisroel and Goldie Ohana, Programming
 E-mail: yohana@Jewishbu.com, gohana@Jewishbu.com
 Regular service times: Daily 7:30 am, Friday evening 6 pm, Shabbat morning 9:30 am, Maariv and Havdalah one hour after candle-lighting time, Sundays 9:30 am.
 To join the mailing list, for up-to-date information on adult education offerings or to arrange for a private tutorial, for details concerning the Judaica shop and resource center, or for assistance through the Piaker Free Loan Society or Raff Maasim Tovim Foundation, call Chabad's office at 797-0015.

Penn-York Jewish Community

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

Kol Haverim

Affiliation: Society for Humanistic Judaism
 Address: P.O. Box 4972, Ithaca, NY 14852-4972
 Phone: 607-277-3345
 E-mail: info@kolhaverim.net
 Website: www.kolhaverim.net
 Chairwoman: Abby Cohn
 Kol Haverim: The Finger Lakes Community for Humanistic Judaism, is an Ithaca-based organization that brings people together to explore and celebrate Jewish identity, history, culture and ethics within a secular, humanistic framework. KH is part of an international movement for Secular Humanistic Judaism and is affiliated with the Society for Humanistic Judaism, a national association with over 30 member communities and congregations around the country. Established in the spring of 1999, it offers celebrations of Jewish holidays, monthly Shabbat pot-lucks, adult education, a twice-monthly Cultural School for children, and a bar and bat mitzvah program.
 KH welcomes all individuals and families, including those from mixed religious backgrounds, who wish to strengthen the Jewish experience in their lives and provide their children with a Jewish identity and experience.

Beth David Synagogue

Affiliation: Orthodox Union
 Rabbi: Zev Silber
 Address: 39 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905
 Phone: 722-1793
 Rabbi's Office: 722-7514
 Fax: 722-7121
 Office hours: Mon. closed; Tues. 10 am-1 pm; Wed. closed; Thurs. 9 am-1 pm; Fri. 10 am-1 pm
 Beth David e-mail address: bethdavid@stny.rr.com
 Rabbi's e-mail: rabbisilber@stny.rr.com
 Website: www.bethdavid.org
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/bethdavidbinghamton
 Shabbat Services:
 Shabbat, Feb. 29 9 am
 Mincha after kiddush
 Weekday Services:
 Mornings:
 Sun., March 1 8:30 am
 Mon.-Fri., March 2-6 7 am
 Evenings:
 Sun., March 1 5:40 pm
 Mon.-Thurs., March 2-5 7 pm
 Classes: Rabbi Zev Silber will hold his weekly Talmud class every Tuesday evening after services.

Temple Beth El of Oneonta

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

Temple Beth-El of Ithaca

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

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

Friday, February 28, light candles before 5:33 pm
 Saturday, February 29, Shabbat ends 6:35 pm
 Friday, March 6, light candles before 5:42 pm
 Saturday, March 7, Shabbat ends 6:44 pm

Temple Israel

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

On Saturday, February 29, Shabbat services will be led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown. The Torah portion will be Exodus 25:1-27:19. The haftarah will be I Kings 5:26-6:13. The kiddush will be sponsored by Mark Hubal and Harriet Horowitz.

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.

Norwich Jewish Center

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

Congregation Tikkun v'Or

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

Temple Brith Sholom

Affiliation: Unaffiliated
 Address: P.O. Box 572, 117 Madison St., Cortland, NY 13045
 Phone: 607-756-7181
 President: Bruce Fein, 607-423-3346
 Service leaders: Lay leadership
 Shabbat services: Either Friday evening at 7:30 pm or Saturday at 10 am from Rosh Hashanah to Shavuot. Holiday services are also held. Check the weekly e-mail for upcoming services. Contact the president to get on the e-mail list.
 Religious School: Students are educated on an individual basis.
 Temple Brith Sholom is a small 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

Jewish legal group joins fight against anti-Israel protests outside MI shul

The Lawfare Project announced on Feb. 24 that it has been retained as co-counsel in a lawsuit against both the city of Ann Arbor, MI, and a group of anti-Israel protesters who demonstrate weekly outside a local synagogue. “The City of Ann Arbor has completely abdicated its responsibility to protect the Jewish community from targeted, racist harassment at the hands of these protesters,” said Brooke Goldstein, executive director of the Lawfare Project. “There are few greater civil-rights violations than impeding the free exercise of worship and assembly, and we are here to demand the city hold the protesters accountable under existing federal, state and local laws.” The plaintiffs in the lawsuit are Beth Israel Congregation member Marvin Gerber and Ann Arbor resident Miriam Brysk, a Holocaust survivor. Ann Arbor Mayor Christopher Taylor, protester Henry Herskovitz and his two organizations – Jewish Witnesses for Peace, and Palestinian Friends and Deir Yassin Remembered – are listed as defendants. Every Saturday for the last 16 years, a group of protesters has harassed congregants outside of Beth Israel

Congregation and placed in front of the synagogue signs that say “Jewish Power Corrupts,” “Zionism is Racism” and “RESIST Jewish Power,” among other statements. The protesters are in violation of the city’s existing ordinances; however, Ann Arbor has done nothing to limit the protests and refuses to place “even modest restrictions” on them. This has gone on for more than a decade-and-a-half, according to Michigan attorney Marc Susselman, co-counsel in the lawsuit. Ziporah Reich, director of litigation at the Lawfare Project and co-counsel in the lawsuit, said the suit is aimed at preventing the protesters, “aided and abetted by the city,” from violating the First Amendment rights congregants have to exercise their religion without harassment. The lawsuit is seeking unspecified retribution for emotional distress, JNS previously reported.

A dozen-plus JCCs in NY, NJ evacuated due to bomb threats

A Jewish Community Center in Albany, NY, and another in West Orange, NJ, were among as many as 19 JCCs that

reported bomb threats on Feb. 23. New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo visited the Sidney Albert Albany Jewish Community Center the afternoon of Feb. 23, where some 100 people had been inside the building when the building was evacuated. “These types of situations are so ugly and unfortunate,” the governor said. “What’s worse is we are seeing more and more of them. We’ve had 42 incidents of antisemitism in this state in just the past couple of months, so it’s not getting better. It’s only getting worse.” Those incidents included several attacks on Jews in New York City and a machete attack inside of the home of rabbi in Monsey, NY, that injured five people. According to New York Director of Emergency Services Michael Kopy, law-enforcement officials in New York were notified around 11:30 am of a bomb threat that was received via e-mail. The threats to all the JCCs affected went to people with JCC e-mail address, he said. Among the other JCCs receiving the e-mail threat on Feb. 23 was the JCC MetroWest in West Orange, NJ, about 20 miles outside of New York City.

Book Continued from page 4

various blessings and legal rulings related to *halachah*, Jewish law. It is also exceptionally full of *piyyutim* (Jewish liturgical poetry), *selichot* (Jewish penitential prayers) and rare formulas of other prayers.

The months-long restoration work on the 376-page volume was extremely complicated, primarily because poor attempts over the centuries to fix its binding had made it difficult to open without causing damage. A number of Latin texts found inside the binding attest to some attempts to strengthen the cover. Many of the manuscript’s illustrations had also faded.

The Moskowitz Mahzor was donated to the National Library of Israel in 1970 by Henry and Rose Moskowitz of New York in memory of Henry’s parents, first wife, daughter and other relatives murdered in the Holocaust.

According to Yoel Finkelman, head of collections and the Haim and Hanna Salomon Judaica collection curator at the National Library of Israel, “For a long time, we unfortunately could not offer physical access to one of the most important and beautiful manuscripts in our collection due to its fragile condition. Now, as a result of the wonderful work done by the team in our Conservation and Restoration Laboratory, the manuscript has been restored and digitized, opening access to the world for the first time.”

The complete, restored Moskowitz Mahzor is now available online at [www.nli.org.il/en/manuscripts/NNL_ALEPH000044866/NLI?volumeItem=3#\\$FL91794047](http://www.nli.org.il/en/manuscripts/NNL_ALEPH000044866/NLI?volumeItem=3#$FL91794047).

Gifts Continued from page 6

This is one reason why it was important for the Tabernacle to be beautiful. Its beauty was a concrete way for the Israelites to show their appreciation to God. If you give a gift to someone you love, you want it to be special. The same applies to expressing religious sentiments. If you build a synagogue, do you want it to be beautiful, or not? When you buy a ritual object such as a *Kiddush* cup or candle sticks or a prayer shawl, do you look just for usability or do you also want something beautiful? Judaism even has a term for this – *chidur* mitzvah – beautifying a commandment. We add to the joy of what we do by making each action and object a thing of beauty.

The lessons of the Tabernacle are relevant for today. Even though we don’t have to bring formal offerings for the Tabernacle, Judaism still needs gifts of the heart – without them, synagogues and other Jewish organizations would be unable to exist. I’m not just talking about money – although that can be important; I’m also talking about our time, our energy and our enthusiasm. They are what make Judaism work. In ancient times, the tabernacle allowed God to dwell in the Israelite camp. Today, it is our offerings, the work of our hands, that allows the Divine to dwell in our midst.



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NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

Netanyahu: Plan to build 3,500 housing units in E-1 is moving forward

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced on Feb. 25 his intent to push ahead with a plan to build 3,500 homes for settlers in the E-1 area of Judea and Samaria that would effectively connect Ma'ale Adumim to Jerusalem. "I have given instructions to immediately publish for deposit the plan to build 3,500 housing units in E-1," said Netanyahu, using an administrative term for the first phase of the planning process, according to Reuters. The move comes less than a week before Israel's March 2 general elections. "This had been delayed for six-and-a-half years," said Netanyahu, referring to the freezing of the project following international criticism claiming that the new housing would cut off Palestinians from Jerusalem and harm a prospective Palestinian state. Pundits say Netanyahu seeks to gain support from right-wing supporters and settlers for the upcoming election.

UNSC issues unanimous statement of support for two-state solution

The U.N. Security Council issued a unanimous statement on Feb. 24 reiterating its support for a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The statement, which was approved by all 15 UNSC members, including the United States, made no mention of U.S. President Donald Trump's "Peace to Prosperity" plan, according to the AP. It called for a "negotiated two-state solution, recalling previous relevant U.N. resolutions, and in accordance with international law, where two democratic states, Israel and Palestine, live side by side in peace within secure and recognized borders." The statement added "that all parties should refrain from undermining the viability of the two-state solution in order to maintain the prospects for a just, comprehensive and lasting peace," according to the report. The U.S. peace proposal, which Israel has accepted and the Palestinian Authority has rejected, calls for Israel sovereignty over large parts of Judea and Samaria, and for the conditional

creation of a Palestinian state in four years' time. Also on Feb. 24, the U.N. special coordinator for the Middle East, Nikolay Mladenov, criticized Israel for demolitions and seizures of Palestinian structures, approvals for new housing in settlements and the threat of Israeli annexation of parts of the West Bank, the AP reported.

In a first, Israeli cycling team competes UAE race

For the first time ever, Israel's national cycling team is competing in the 2020 UAE Tour, which began on Feb. 23. The race in the United Arab Emirates – the only one that takes place in the region as part of the World Tour – is the Middle East's largest professional cycling event. The "Israel Start-Up Nation" cycling team is one of 19 professional teams competing this year. While the UAE does not have formal diplomatic relations with Israel, ties between the nations have significantly warmed in recent years. "For us being in an Arab country ... with the word 'Israel' emblazoned on the front and back of the jersey in big letters ... for us, this is a really important race on the calendar," Sylvan Adams, a co-owner of the team, told *The Jerusalem Post*. "We are creating normalization of Israel, and there is a diplomatic element to our participation," he said. "We are building these bridges on a people-to-people basis from the ground up." As a World Tour competitor, the Israeli team automatically qualified to participate in the 2020 UAE Tour, which begins in Abu Dhabi and consists of a 148-kilometer course across all seven United Arab Emirates. The team has also been given increased security throughout their participation in the week-long tour.

After repeated requests, Monaco to open archives on its role in Holocaust

Monaco has agreed to grant the Simon Wiesenthal Center access to its state archives to learn more about the country's role in the Holocaust, *The Jewish Chronicle* reported on Feb. 24. In 1997, the center asked several countries for access to official records on the deportation of Jews to death camps during World War II. Monaco was among the countries

that did not respond to the request. The Wiesenthal Center asked again in January, and Serge Telle, state minister of the Principality of Monaco, has now granted permission to bring a historian into the archive in Monte Carlo on March 2. The visit will be overseen by a representative of Monaco's Prince Albert II and will potentially be the first of at least six similar inquiries. Home to around 300 Jews prior to World War II, the microstate was first taken over by the Italian army under Benito Mussolini in 1942. After Mussolini's fall, the German Army occupied Monaco and began the deportation of the Jewish population. In 2015, Prince Albert apologized for Monaco's deportation of Jews during the Holocaust. A memorial now stands in the Monaco Cemetery.

Pence to address audience at annual AIPAC conference

U.S. Vice President Mike Pence is scheduled to address the annual AIPAC Policy Conference, announced the pro-Israel lobby on Feb. 24. Pence has spoken at the conference since U.S. President Donald Trump has been in office. Trump, who has not addressed the conference since he was a candidate in 2016 after a speech that was rebuked by AIPAC, is not currently scheduled to attend this year's conference, despite coming during an election year. The Feb. 24 development came a day after Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT), the leading Democratic candidate for president, announced that he will skip the annual conference, as he did when he was running for president in 2016. AIPAC immediately criticized Sanders for the decision. The move follows that of fellow Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), who said earlier this month that she will not attend. AIPAC has declined to comment on the matter. In addition to Pence, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY), Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and other members of Congress are scheduled to speak at the conference, announced AIPAC on Twitter.

Israel ends Palestinian ag. import ban, as P.A. removes Israeli calf ban

Israeli Defense Minister Naftali Bennett announced that Israel has lifted an agricultural import ban on the Palestinian Authority after a P.A. ban on calf imports from Israel ended on Feb. 20, *The Jerusalem Post* reported. Maj. Gen. Kamil Abu Rokon, head of the Coordinator of Government Affairs in the Territories, and Brig. Gen. Ghassan Alian, head of Civil Administration, reached a deal in which the P.A. would remove the ban on calf imports from Israeli livestock breeders, and Israel would eliminate the ban limiting agricultural trade that was implemented by Bennett in response. The agreement went into effect on Feb. 23. The P.A. confirmed that it has reached "understandings through international mediation" with Israel to end the "trade war" between the two sides. The ban on importing calves from Israel began in September 2019 by P.A. Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh as part of his plan to achieve "gradual economic disengagement" from Israel. Both Israeli and Palestinian farmers were angered by the move, complaining that it caused them to suffer major financial losses.

Iceland Jewish community celebrates its first permanent Torah scroll

The Jewish community in Reykjavik, Iceland, celebrated the completion and inauguration of the island's first permanent Torah scroll on Feb. 23. Celebrants danced down the streets of the nation's capital, and guests came from Europe and Israel for the Torah dedication ceremony. On Feb. 20, U.S. Ambassador to Iceland Jeffrey Ross Gunter, who is Jewish, hosted at the embassy a reception to celebrate and honor the historic occasion. The Torah scroll was donated by Adina Krausz from Zurich, Switzerland, who chose to surprise her husband for his 50th birthday by giving a Torah to a community that did not have one.

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