

THE REPORTER

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Keeping the community strong: Chesed Challenge continues

By Reporter staff

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton's Chesed Challenge continues through Thursday, April 30. An anonymous donor has pledged to double any new gift,

up to \$10,000, given to the Federation during this time.

"Some people have already contributed to the challenge," said Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Federation. "I

know the current crisis has impacted many in our community financially, but I also know there are many who are looking for a way to help. These donations will keep our community strong."

Hubal noted that it seems appropriate for the challenge to be taking place during the Passover season. "Passover celebrates the redemption of the Israelites from Egypt," she said. "We are supposed to feel as if we also have personally been redeemed from Egypt. I've heard of a new Passover cus-

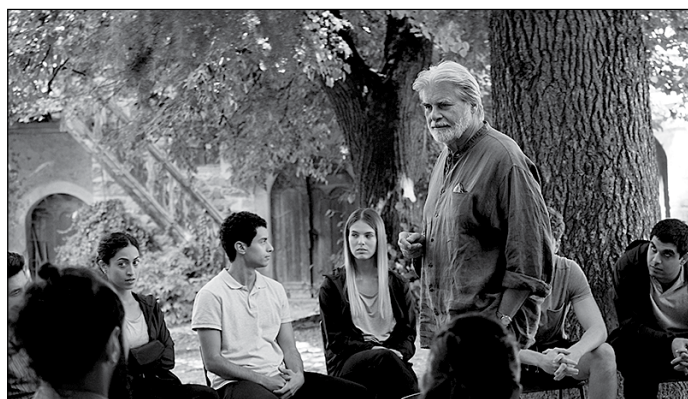
tom that seems appropriate for our current situation: people fill Elijah's Cup with wine from their own cups. That symbolizes that we can help each other during difficult times. Help us fill our community's wine cup. Help us so we can keep our community strong together."

Donations may be sent to the Federation, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850, with "Chesed Challenge" on the subject line. To donate online, visit www.jfgb.org and click on Chesed Challenge.

Film Fest to go virtual

By Reporter staff

The Jewish International Film Fest of Greater Binghamton is going virtual. "Rather than cancelling the Film Fest, we have decided to transform it," said Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, which sponsors the Fest. "This was not how we expected the Film Fest to happen,



A scene from "Crescendo"

but online gatherings are the new normal, and I'm excited to jump in and try this."

The Film Fest will show "Crescendo" (106 minutes, in German and English), which has been called "a remarkable theatrical movie and contribution to the worldwide efforts toward understanding, humanity and peace." People will be able to register on the new Federation website, www.jfgb.org. The film will be streamed free for up

to 100 computers. On Saturday, April 25, after Shabbat ends, a link to the film will be sent to those who sign up in advance. The film will be available for viewing on your personal devices for 48 hours. On Monday, April 27, a local professor will facilitate an online video meeting to discuss the film.

"Crescendo," directed by Dror Zahavi, tells the story of world-famous conductor See "Film" on page 3

JFS continues to work during the current crisis

Jewish Family Service is working to meet the needs of the Binghamton Jewish community during the current health and economic crisis.

"Under the skillful leadership of Director Rose Shea, JFS has increased its outreach to our community's most vulnerable," said Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton.

Shea reported, "Our mission is to limit the impact of COVID-19 during this unprecedented time. JFS has seen a rise in referrals for people that need support to make basic ends meet and, thanks to our generous donors, we are able to make sure nobody slips through the cracks."

Many in the community are also experiencing increased anxiety and isolation due to staying at home. To address this, JFS will hold a video conference call after Passover to support the Binghamton Jewish aging population. The video call will give an overview of resources that are available to the local community and, through guided discussion, will review how to cope with anxiety. Specific details about the video call will appear in future issues of *The Reporter*.

Anyone who knows of someone who could use a check-in call from Shea should contact her by calling 724-2332 and then using the option for Jewish Family Service.

Spotlight

Jewish resources to occupy your family during social distancing – part 3

By Reporter staff

A variety of Jewish groups are offering online resources – educational and recreational – for those who are not allowed out of the house. Below is a sampling of those. *The Reporter* will publish additional listings as they become available.

- ◆ The Jewish Federations of North America, www.jewishfederations.org, has opened a resource page, www.jewishtogether.org, that offers videos, resources to do with the difficulties of self-distancing and "virtual meetups." The organization is planning to hold "A Global Celebration of Israel's Independence Day" on Wednesday, April 29, at 2 pm. More information will be released closer to the date.

- ◆ Rabbi Bob Alper is offering to send "A Quick Laugh" a day via e-mail. For more information, visit <https://bobalper.com/>, e-mail quicklaugh@bobalper.com or call 802-362-5151.

- ◆ Camp Ramah is offering events and concerts through its Facebook page, www.facebook.com/NationalRamah/. Camp Ramah Ba-Bayit (Camp Ramah at Home), www.campraham.org/ramah-ba-bayit, offers additional resources.

- ◆ For college students, Hillel@Home, <https://welcome.hillel.org/hillelathome/>, offers writers, actors, singers, athletes, politicians and more covering a variety of topics from ethics to keeping in shape while self-distancing.

- ◆ Jewish Teen Learning Connection, <https://jtconnect.org/>, seeks to give teens the opportunity to continue their Jewish education, including ways to examine their religion, history and traditions through classroom study, volunteer projects and special events.

- ◆ The TogetherWeRemember Coalition, <https://togetherweremember.org/events>, will hold a variety of virtual events throughout April to commemorate Genocide Awareness Month.

- ◆ Pardes is offering resources for "uncertain times" www.pardes.org.il/strength-courage/. These include resources on the *parasha* of the week, *halachah*, prayer, parents/children and more.

- ◆ Torah Tots, www.torahtots.com/, offers information for children about Jewish holidays, the Torah portion of the week, Hebrew, music and more.
- ◆ The Jewish Museum of Florida. <http://jmf.fiu.edu/>, is offering some of its exhibits online. Visit the site for links to the virtual tours.

- ◆ My Jewish Learning, www.myjewishlearning.com, has a guide to online events. See "Resources" on page 3

Happy Passover

Next year in Jerusalem



Jerusalem's Old City as seen from the Mount of Olives on April 30, 2018. (Photo by Nati Shohat/Flash90)

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Opinion

From the Desk of the Federation Executive Director

With gratitude

SHELLEY HUBAL

The first *yahrzeit* for my father is next week. I miss him terribly. His sense of humor, intellect and creative spirit are what fill my memories the most. Although he was taken much too young, I do feel a sense of relief that he is not in a nursing home during the current pandemic. It would have been terribly painful to not visit and care for him during the most difficult time of his life. My heart goes out to the people in that very situation. There are no words of comfort anyone can offer. I am thinking too of the caring and dedicated staff we had the honor to meet during dad's illness. This pandemic has made a difficult and under-valued job unsafe and nearly impossible. I extend my best wishes and love to all the professionals caring for the sick and dying. I know that you are doing God's work.

May you all come through this crisis unharmed.

Work at the Jewish Federation continues. I had one community member question the reasoning of going forth with the Chesed Matching Challenge under the current economic hardships. To some, asking for money when the community and country are experiencing record unemployment and very uncertain times seems insensitive. I understand this reasoning, but I also know there are so many who are looking for a way to contribute. Looking for a way to say "no matter what, this crisis will not change my community and I am going to do what I can to make a difference." We believe in the people of the Binghamton Jewish community, we value our local Jewish institutions and we raise funds for them. That is what the Federation does. Our Jewish organizations and

our Jewish neighbors need us now more than ever, and I cannot let the pandemic change our mission. There are donors who have generously stepped up. There are others that have apologized and said, "I can't right now." I want you all to know that there is no judgement. Everyone counts and every dollar counts, no matter how big or small. Sometimes we give and sometimes we receive. This is the time to show we care, maybe by calling an old friend, sending a text, joining a virtual service or making a donation. During this challenging time, Binghamton is showing its true colors and I feel blessed to be part of this caring community.

I am wishing you all a happy and healthy Pesach. Stay safe. Reach out if you are in need or just to say hello. May we all be together again soon.

Thoughts on the COVID-19 crisis

By Rabbi Zev Silber

Editor's note: The Reporter asked local pulpit rabbis about the effect COVID-19 was having on their congregation and their thoughts on the crisis.

At Beth David, we are not offering online services for prayer services or for classes. I stay in touch with our congregants by e-mail, text and personal phone connections. Individual concerns and support are provided in this way.

Being confined to remain at home, I continue with daily prayers, Torah study and *Pesach* preparations. There are many online opportunities to grow in our Jewish knowledge in any area of life and any subject, and I advise people to take advantage of those when looking for positive ways to occupy themselves.

One of the ideas that I have heard expressed often,

and by diverse speakers and lecturers, is the importance of reducing stress within the family, as we find ourselves confined to our immediate families. There exists, because of the stay-at-home order, an opportunity to really get to know each other again, an opportunity to share ideas, thoughts, philosophy of life and Judaism, and to directly be involved in our children's education. These are things that we always seem to lack the time to do, and now we have this chance for personal growth.

A Jewish comparison to our current situation of social distancing can be found in the book of Leviticus. The Torah states that if someone is afflicted with "tzara'at," incorrectly translated as leprosy, she/he is sent away and placed in isolation, even isolated from immediate family. The rabbis explain that this skin condition was not of

natural causes, rather it was caused because the person engaged in "lashon hara," gossip, slander and general inappropriate speech about others. Being placed in isolation and removed from society and the company of others made one think about how to properly engage with the other. Even though the plague of "tzara'at" no longer exists, perhaps our self-isolation today can also serve the same goal: for us to consider how we interact with others, perhaps especially when we disagree with their opinions. Perhaps we will value our ability and desire for more personal interactions to a greater degree, and begin being more civil, more respectful and more accepting of ideas that differ from our own.

Rabbi Zev Silber is the spiritual leader of Beth David Synagogue.

In My Own Words

Working from home

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Although newspapers are considered a vital industry, *Reporter* staff have been working from home as much as possible. That makes work more difficult since all communication is done on the computer, but we decided to do this because we want to follow government guidelines as best we can. We're also worried about each other's health. I'm especially concerned about my staff member who has asthma, although she's quick to remind me that I'm over 60, part of the age group for whom the virus is considered more dangerous. In the meantime, we believe it provides an important service to the community.

Thinking about the virus forces me to face some hard truths: I could die. The people I love – friends and relatives – could die. Yet, as a cousin who has been living with cancer for almost two decades has reminded me, we are all dying. It's just the virus gives us one specific thing to fear. However, I'm not letting myself dwell on this or let it paralyze me because what counts *now* is making certain that we live and enjoy each day to the best of our ability.

For me, it helps to be working and the paper has kept me and my staff busy. *The Reporter* feels more vital to the community than ever before. That's not just because of the lists of postponed and canceled activities (which are not fun to print), but for the messages of hope from Federation Executive Director Shelley Hubal, notices of local Jewish activities and meetings that are being held online, and the articles listing Jewish options for education and recreation while self distancing. Jewish

life continues even if we aren't able to gather in the same room.

I find myself working longer hours because it's become harder to separate my work and home life, but I'm not complaining. I'm grateful to have a job, especially since my part-time chaplaincy work has been put on hold until this is over. And, working from home means that I don't have to set my alarm as early since the commute to my home office takes far less time than my commute to *The Reporter* office.

What am I doing with my free time? No one will be surprised to hear that I'm reading because that's a vital activity, virus or no virus. I try to get outside for a walk everyday if I can. If not, then I walk around the inside of the house. My TV has been on a bit more than normal: I've been keeping up with the two shows I regularly watch – the current baking competition on Monday nights on the Food Network and "The Rookie" – but have seen a few episodes of other shows I like, but don't usually watch because I don't have enough time.

My big pleasure, though, has been listening to more music in the evening or on weekends. It helps when I'm walking inside the house because the beat keeps me moving. (Yes, I'm listening to rock again. That used to be too difficult, but the sound is getting better.) If I know the song already, then I can catch some of the words. Sometimes, a word or two jumps out even if I don't remember it. (My brain has forgotten a lot of music I listened to in the 1990s so those CDs feel new.)

Things that aren't as easy? I haven't been able to see my mother, who is in a nursing home, for weeks. Fortunately, I arranged for her to have a phone and am able to talk to her almost everyday. That's not true for many folks and it must be so difficult for them not to be in contact with their loved ones. My mom doesn't really understand what's going on, which is good in that she's not worried about me and my brother and sister-in-law, but hard when she asks when she's going to see me or requests that I bring her a candy bar. I try to explain a bit about the virus, but she usually doesn't remember what I said the next time I talk to her. The staff at the home have been wonderful: sometimes my mom forgets to turn off the phone or put it in the charger. When I can't reach her, I just call the nurses' desk and they go into her room and take care of the problem. There is no way to thank them enough for this small, kind deed.

Will our daily lives ever return to normal? The quarantines and self distancing will stop someday. Will things ever feel normal again? For some, this period of time will disappear as if it never happened; others may be scarred for life. Will we all be here at the end? That's the scary question no one can answer, but we should remember one thing: as a community, we will stand together to help those in need – financially or emotionally. It also doesn't hurt to remember to say to the folks you care about what I say to my mom just before we hang up the phone: "I love you."



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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.

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Online Judaism: A parents' guide on engaging Jewishly in the time of corona

By Deborah Fineblum

(JNS) – It wasn't so long ago when life was so over-the-top busy that you longed for some quiet, unstructured time with your children. The coronavirus pandemic has granted that wish. And then some.

With no end in sight of QT (Quality Time), many schools have come to a parent's rescue with online classes through a range of technologies many of us had never heard of two weeks ago.

Ironically, those screens that were once the bane of a parent's existence—the computers, laptops, cell phones and tablets guilty of commandeering their children's minds and bodies – are the lifeblood for keeping the kids learning, productive and feeling some sense of structure and normalcy in these unpredictable times.

But with many synagogues locked up, religious schools and day schools in abeyance, with JCCs shuttered and Shabbat meals now intimate (nuclear) family affairs, how can parents keep the Jewish flame alive?

For Andrea Kasper, head of school at Solomon Schechter Day School of Greater Hartford in West Hartford, CT, seeing how her parents and students have rallied has made her "the proudest I've been in my five years at Schechter." And the school's Jewish curriculum has been a big part of this – from the preschoolers to the eighth-graders – classes delivered now through Google Classroom, Zoom and Seesaw.

"For the 2-year-olds, it really makes a difference that they can hear the songs and see their friends and teachers," she says. "And for the big kids, it means keeping up their learning and socializing, too, starting the day with doing morning prayers together."

Jason Kay is one Schechter parent whose kids are settling quickly into their new routine, including long-distance learning, prayers, phys ed and more. "The older kids are engaged in coursework or hanging out with their friends on their Chromebooks between classes, they're not fighting, and by 7:30, our 4-year-old is ready to see what his teacher's posted for the day," says Kay, who has children in sixth and fourth grades, as well as in preschool. Weekdays of late start with online morning prayers and songs, "and it helps that they can hear all the kids singing and saying *tefillot* (prayers) together."

Ethan Simon, an 11th-grader at the Jack M. Barrack Hebrew Academy in Bryn Mawr, PA, participates in a virtual minyan every morning at 9 am before the beginning of class. "Of course, it doesn't really count as a minyan, but we're acting like it's one," he says. "It helps us remember that just because you're away from school doesn't mean



Ellie Kay, a sixth-grader at the Solomon Schechter Day School in West Hartford, CT, was doing her learning and prayers online these days. (Photo courtesy of Solomon Schechter Day School)

you're away from Judaism. And it's not so hard for us to get used to this because our generation is used to electronics."

After-school religious schools are also jumping on the bandwagon. Over at Temple Israel in Sharon, MA, principal Rabbi Mordechai Rackover says his teachers have picked up where they left off courtesy of Zoom. "We're talking with the students, and they're talking with each other and seeing each other; this way, we can make sure we all stay in each other's lives," says the rabbi, who says one recent class had 20 students show up remotely, almost perfect attendance. "It also makes us an address that families can go to whenever they could use some support."

Across the ocean in Israel the same technologies are allowing students to stay engaged. At the

Tanakh Yeshiva School in Zikron Yaakov, founding principal Rabbi Shimon Rapport says the online capacity to keep his 180 high school boys focused on their schoolwork is a huge gift.

"We get them up for 9 am classes because teenagers would happily sleep till 11," says Rapport. "We know they need the structure."

The online curriculum includes Tanach, Jewish studies and secular classes, including English, all conducted through Google Classroom, Zoom and Google Meet. The kids also have a good hour's worth of homework each day with opportunities for feedback on the chat function. "Everyone – students and teachers alike – has learned," he adds. "It's amazing that, if this had happened five years ago, we would not have this ability to keep the education going like we can today."

At a time when the world's synagogues are either closed for the duration or where only 10 people can enter (just enough to make a minyan), or where people are praying outdoors with plenty of space between them, attendance is dramatically curtailed.

At Congregation Beth Shalom in Wilmington, DE, Rabbi Michael Beals has been live streaming his daily and Shabbat services from an empty sanctuary, one designed to seat 250 with the siddur available to worshippers on PDF. "We got 24 for Sunday-morning minyan, more than usual," says Beals. "People who never *daven* in the morning are *davening* with me."

And since he is saying *Kaddish* for both his father and mother-in-law, though it's by no means a bona fide minyan, on weekdays Beals glances at his cell phone to see if more than 10 people have checked in. "I make sure I greet every one of them by name," he says. "It's good for them, and See "Guide" on page 8

Resources.....Continued from page 1

Visit the site and click on that box "Daily Guide to Zoom Events, Livestreams and Other Online Resources." It's also possible to sign up for a daily e-mail update.

For more resources, see the last two issues of *The Reporter* or visit www.thereporter.org/Article.aspx?aID=5484 and www.thereporter.org/Article.aspx?aID=5499.

Film.....Continued from page 1

Eduard Sporck (Peter Simonischek), who accepts a job to create an Israeli-Palestinian youth orchestra. He finds himself dealing with what seem to be unsolvable problems. The young musicians on both sides are unable to form a team due to the continuing conflict between Israelis and Palestinians. The question becomes whether Sporck can help both sides overcome their distrust and hatred, and

perform together in a concert due to take place in three weeks. The film is loosely inspired by the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, conducted by Daniel Barenboim.

"Join us for a film the committee unanimously agreed was a must-see," Hubal said. "I'm looking forward to hearing people's comments on the film. If this is successful, we may screen other films the same way."

Cancellations and postponements

◆ The Temple Concord Sisterhood has postponed its April 26 donor event until the fall.

◆ The Book Club at Temple Concord has cancelled its April 21 meeting. Club organizer Merri Pell-Preus is asking members to let her know if they are interested in holding Zoom meetings until the club can meet again in person.

Moving any time soon? Or just leaving town for a few months?



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 and quickly receive the paper at your new (or temporary) address!

E-mail reporter@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.

The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to Rabbi Zalman Chein on the death of his father,

Rabbi Mordechai Chein

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

Earl Gordon

The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to Jared Shapiro on the death of his father,

Robert Edward Shapiro

Early deadline for The Reporter

The Reporter will have an early deadline for the following upcoming issue. No exceptions will be made.
Issue Deadline
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Off the Shelf

A biography of the haggadah

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

More Jews observe Passover than any other Jewish holiday, although those celebrations vary greatly – from strictly Orthodox to totally secular. What they all have in common, though, is some variation of the haggadah, which provides a blueprint for what will occur during the evening. However, what exactly is the haggadah and why are there so many different versions? Those questions are discussed in the wonderful “The Passover Haggadah: A Biography” by Vanessa Ochs (Princeton University Press). Ochs notes that her book is not an encyclopedic look at the haggadah: “It is personal, partial, and eclectic, and it reflects my being an anthropologist who investigates Jewish ritual innovation in the contemporary era. That means when I turn backward. I do so unabashedly from a twenty-first-century perspective.”

Ochs begins by discussing the nature of the haggadah. Unlike other Jewish texts – for example, the Torah or the book of Esther – there is no requirement that it be read out loud. In fact, when the Torah offers instructions for the holiday, it mostly focuses on the Temple sacrifice, the eating of unleavened bread and the need to tell the story. There is no mention of the various steps listed in current *haggadot* (the plural of haggadah) and that includes the four glasses of wine. The seder developed during the rabbinic period as a result of the destruction of the Second Temple. Ochs notes that “rabbinic sages forged new practices, maintaining continuity with the past through encounters with text, seen as a source of ongoing revelation.... The symbolic service of study and ritualized dining that developed was set at a new altar. Not the synagogue or study house, but the home table.” She also explains the changes that occurred over the years, as additional selections were added to reflect changes in the community.

One chapter explores medieval illuminated *haggadot*, particularly the Birds’ Head Haggadah, the Sarajevo Haggadah and the Washington Haggadah. These personalized *haggadot*, which were hand written and hand illustrated, were expensive to produce. Usually only the person leading the seder would have a copy. That changed with the invention of the printing press. The first printed *haggadot*

were small and printed on inexpensive paper. During the 15th century, *haggadot* became larger, which meant there was now room for rabbinic commentary. *Haggadot* also began to be translated into many different languages. That gave those who didn’t read Hebrew a chance to understand the text.

Ochs looks at the wide variety of modern *haggadot* – from those used to advertise products (for example, the Maxwell House haggadah) to ones published by the different branches of Judaism in the United States. She also discusses the changes that occurred in these *haggadot* over time. (While she does discuss the two Reform *haggadot*, she only writes about the first Reconstructionist one. I admit to a prejudice here: my favorite haggadah is “A Night of Questions,” the second Reconstructionist haggadah, which was edited by Rabbi Joy Levitt and Rabbi Michael Strassfeld.) Other chapters discuss Holocaust *haggadot*, particularly those produced shortly after World War II, and Israeli *haggadot*, with a focus on those used during the early years of the state.

What interests Ochs is the idea that a text for a religious ceremony could be open to so many interpretations. From her anthropological viewpoint, she suggests three reasons. One is that the haggadah and the seder have never successfully replaced the experience of the pilgrimage to Jerusalem and the Temple sacrifice. That leaves people dissatisfied and looking for ways to improve the experience. Another is that, in order to understand the text, one needs to be knowledgeable enough to grasp all the biblical and talmudic references. This still leaves others at the table to grapple with material they may not understand. The last reason is theological: “The Haggadah poses an overwhelming theological challenge without providing satisfying resources to address it. The Haggadah invites a celebration of a rare joyous moment in the Jewish narrative, when God liberates the Hebrew slaves who cried out. But even in a celebratory state of mind, one struggles to understand why God appears to no longer hear the suffering of the Jewish people or to provide salvation.”

Yet, Ochs sees the haggadah as a vibrant document and believes that its flaws are what keep it relevant. It has been re-imagined by each generation and, in contemporary times, often changed to express the hopes and desires of a particular family or organization. Ochs’ work is a love letter to the haggadah: it encourages readers to look at the text with new eyes and discover ways to make it meaningful. Her small, short book would make a perfect gift, but readers may also find themselves ordering an extra copy for their own library.



Mailbox Shorts

Online course on avant-garde literature

YIVO will hold an eight-week, free online course, “Fantastic Journeys,” taught by Executive Director Jonathan Brent starting April 20. Conducted online via Zoom over eight weeks (Mondays/Wednesdays, 1:30-3 pm), the course will investigate the historical transitions and transformations of the late 19th and early 20th centuries in Eastern Europe and Russia through the avant-garde literature of those lands that may be called the literature of the “fantastic.” Not realism, nor fantasy, nor science fiction, the genre of the fantastic that sprang to life throughout this part of the world in Poland, Russia, Czechoslovakia, Ukraine and elsewhere brought about a radical questioning of experience, “values,” the nature of human consciousness, tradition, language and norms of logic. Of special interest to this class will be the Jewish dimension of this literature and the signal role that Jewish thinkers and writers played in its development. The course will cover works by Kafka, Ansky, Capek, Schulz and more.

To learn more and register for the course, visit <https://yivo.org/Fantastic-Journeys>.

Online course on Jewish food

On Friday, May 1, YIVO will launch the fourth class in the Shine Online Educational Series, “A Seat at the Table: A Journey into Jewish Food.” In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, “A Seat at the Table,” along with all of YIVO’s Shine Online courses, will be free of charge.

The course will explore such questions as “What defines Ashkenazi Jewish food? Should matzah balls be fluffy or dense? Gefilte fish, sweet or peppery? Borscht, hot or cold, creamy or not.” The course will also feature cooking demonstrations of Jewish recipes by chefs like Joan Nathan, Liz Alpern and Jeffrey Yoskowitz (The Gefilteria), Adeena Sussman, and Leah Koenig; site visits with Niki Russ Federman and Josh Russ Tupper (Russ and Daughters) and Jake Dell (Katz’s Deli); scholars and authors such as Michael Twitty, Alice Feiring, Mitchell Davis (James Beard Foundation), Darra Goldstein, Lior Lev Sercarz (La Boite), Ilan Stavans, and Michael Wex; and hundreds of never-before-seen archival objects from the YIVO Archives. Discover how the essence of Jewish food has remained constant even as the recipes have evolved and changed with the migration of Jews around the world.

Registration for the course can found at yivo.org/food.

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THE REPORTER

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Anna Warfield Art, LLC, Art. of Org. filed with SSNY on 1/6/20. Off. loc.: Broome Co. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served & shall mail: 151 Chapin St., Binghamton, NY 13905. Purp.: any lawful purp.

Zalvis Properties LLC, Art. of Org. filed with SSNY on 1/22/20. Off. loc.: Broome Co. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served & shall mail: 424 Clayton Ave., Vestal, NY 13850. Purp.: any lawful purp.

Tugs and Hugs, LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) 1/29/2020. Cty: Broome. SSNY desig. as agent upon whom process against may be served & shall mail process to Vikki Wiener, 20 Sylvan Ave., Asheville, NC 28801. General Purpose.

Notice of Formation of TZ Development LLC

Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 03/02/2020. 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, 168 Susquehanna Street, Binghamton, New York 13901. Purpose: any lawful activities.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY: The name of the limited liability company is: 220 Stage Road, LLC (the “Company”). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the

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Company with the Secretary of State was March 9, 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 Hinman, Howard & Kattell, LLP, Attn: Christina J. Graziadei, 80 Exchange Street, Ste. 700, Binghamton, NY 13901. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

Notice of Formation of THE HAIR KITCHEN, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 02/25/20. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 15 Penna Rd., Johnson City, NY 13790. 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 Trinity Valley Dairy LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is March 12, 2020.
3. The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the LLC is located is Cortland.
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: 2859 Route 13,

Cortland, NY 13045. 5. The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF VitalUS Real Estate LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 02/20/2020. Location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent for service of process on LLC. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: VitalUS Real Estate LLC at 23 Oakdale Rd., Johnson City, NY, 13790. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

182 WIN, LLC NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (“LLC”)

Articles of Organization of 182 Win, LLC filed with the NYS Secretary of State (NYSS) on 3/9/20. Office of LLC is in Broome County. The Secretary of State designated as agent for service of process against it. NYSS shall mail process to 182 Baldwin Street, Johnson City, NY 13790. Business purpose: any lawful activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY: The name of the limited liability company is: Tammy S. Lippman LCSW, PLLC (the “Company”). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was February 25, 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 Hinman, Howard & Kattell, LLP, Attn:

Ryan M. Mead, 80 Exchange Street, Suite 700, Binghamton, NY 13901. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY: The name of the limited liability company is: Channel Investors, LLC (the “Company”). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was March 11, 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 Hinman, Howard & Kattell, LLP, Attn: Jon J. Sarra, Esq., 80 Exchange Street, Binghamton, NY 13901. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY: The name of the limited liability company is: People Grow Together, LLC (the “Company”). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was February 20, 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 Attn: Daniel Mastey, 256 State Line Road, Windsor, NY 13865. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY: The name of the limited liability company is: The Self Stories, LLC (the “Company”). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was March 17, 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 Hinman, Howard & Kattell, LLP, Attn: Richard C. Lewis, 80 Exchange Street, Ste. 700, Binghamton, NY 13901. 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 33 South Washington St LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is March 19, 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: 21 Timberbluff Court, Binghamton, NY 13903.
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Pandemic prompts prayer at home, online through America, according to latest Pew study

By Faygie Holt

(JNS)—On a recent Wednesday morning, East Coast time, thousands of Orthodox Jews stopped what they were doing to recite a series of psalms all at the same time. They prayed from their homes in Jerusalem, New York, Scottsdale and Los Angeles. The goal, said organizers, was to storm the heavens with pleas for the end of the COVID-19 outbreak.

“While we are prevented these days from joining together in space, we can at least endeavor to come together in time, as an expression of our unity of collective soul,” said Rabbi Avi Shafran, director of public affairs for Agudath Israel of America, one of the groups that participated in the simultaneous prayer service.

Coming together in prayer in a time of crisis is nothing new for the Jewish people. What is different now is that the “coming together” is being done while people are physically apart.

On April 5, for instance, Masorti and the Conservative Judaism movement were scheduled to host the online “Global Gathering for Healing.” The 30-minute virtual program was to include leading

A man prayed at the almost empty Western Wall, Judaism’s holiest prayer site in the Old City of Jerusalem, on March 27. (Photo by Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)



clergy and community leaders from the United States, the United Kingdom, South America and Israel.

“Judaism encourages two kinds of prayers,” explained Rabbi Jacob Blumenthal, chief executive of the Rabbinical Assembly, the rabbinic arm of the Conservative movement, “prayer in the community with a minyan that requires a set liturgy and written prayer, and personal prayer, whether that’s a simple ‘barush Hashem’ [thank God] or a more personal plea.

“Personally, I found passages from *Tachanun*, from the daily prayer, are very powerful,” he continued. “The psalms that are a part of that, ‘Out of depth, I call you,’ ... those are very powerful words and remind us, especially when we recite the psalms, that we are not the first generation that faces adversity ... and that many psalms express hope and confidence in the future.”

Rabbi Hara Person, chief executive of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, which represents rabbis within the Reform movement, said, “I think prayer brings people comfort especially in times of crisis and times of worry. People look to something to provide some of comfort, some sense that everything will be OK, that things will get better. I think that’s what prayer does traditionally.

“If you look at psalms, that’s a lot of what that is,” she continued. “People are turning to that. They are looking for that.”

Across the United States, people are turning to religion, according to a Pew Research Study on the impact of the coronavirus on the habits of Americans. The study, released on March 30, found that 55 percent of all

U.S. adults say they have prayed for an end to the spread of virus. More than one-third of Jews surveyed, 35 percent, have done so. The largest group who reported doing so are evangelical Christians at 82 percent. The survey also found that of those who regularly attend worship services – four in 10 – have replaced in-person attendance with virtual attendance.

Jewish groups of all denominations have also shifted to online platforms to reach out to their communities. The Women’s League for Conservative Judaism, for instance, hosts a daily recitation of psalms and *Kaddish* via Zoom each day, while the Orthodox Union holds a daily recitation of psalms via conference call.

“Participating in public prayer forums most certainly benefits the participants,” said the Agudah’s Shafran. “Firstly, because it inspires them to know that they are praying together – if at a distance – with others. And secondly, because the Talmud says that one who prays for another’s welfare becomes the beneficiary of [God’s] help himself.”

While many find solace in traditional, established prayers, others are also finding comfort through guided reflections or meditations. “Many of our rabbis are offering daily minyans or chanting services, where you focus on a specific pasuk [‘passage’] or phrase, and repeat it over and over to focus on the meaning of the text,” said Rabbi Deborah Waxman, president of Reconstructing Judaism, the central organization of the Reconstructionist movement. “It’s a very accessible way for people who don’t know the liturgy, rather than going through an entire services, to go deep with just a little bit.”

However you pray, Blumenthal of the Rabbinical Assembly, has some advice: “Just do it. We all need it.”

JFNA launches national effort for nonprofits in crisis

By JNS staff

(JNS) – Following the enactment of the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, the largest emergency aid package in U.S. history, the Jewish Federations of North America has announced a national program to help Jewish nonprofits access financial support made possible through the legislation.

While large companies, such as airlines, are set to receive \$500 billion in loans and other investments, small businesses and nonprofits, including those that receive Medicaid funding, would receive \$349 billion in forgivable loans from the Small Business Administration. This would include \$10 billion through the SBA’s Economic Injury Disaster Loans; nonprofits and small businesses with no more than 500 employees would be eligible.

JFNA is also helping small businesses and nonprofits access the SBA’s Paycheck Protection Program, which provides loans intended to help small businesses keep workers employed amid the pandemic and economic downturn.

“The Paycheck Protection Program is an unprecedented resource in helping to ensure that Jewish Federations, community centers, synagogues, Jewish day schools, Jewish Family Service agencies and others are able to continue their critical work to help vulnerable populations and safeguard Jewish life across America,” said Eric Fingerhut, JFNA president and CEO, in a statement. “We are grateful for this opportunity and strongly urge all Jewish organizations to apply.”

On March 29, more than 17,000 people joined information webinars on the loans. JFNA hosted another webinar on March 30 for Jewish organizations interested in learning more about eligibility and application requirements. Participants were advised on how to calculate potential loan amounts and how to best prepare to apply for a loan.

JFNA has also set up a national resource bank of professionals and volunteers who can assist nonprofits with the process. Interested organizations can contact the JFNA SBA loan hotline at 212-284-6625 or e-mail questions to SBAloans@JewishFederations.org.



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Extension of high-speed rail to Old City Jerusalem expected to alleviate traffic, boost tourism

By Josh Hasten

(JNS) – In what is being dubbed as a historical development, Israel's Transportation Ministry announced recently that it is moving forward with plans to extend the new Tel Aviv-Jerusalem high-speed rail line in order to connect Ben-Gurion International Airport directly to the Western Wall in Jerusalem.

The new route for the railway extension was approved by the National Planning and Construction Commission. It will feature a 1.8-mile underground tunnel with two new stations, including one adjacent to the Khan Theatre Complex in downtown Jerusalem and the other inside the Old City.

Transportation Minister Bezael Smotrich hailed the announcement, saying the new line would help ease Israel's transportation crisis. In fact, recent studies show that Israel suffers the worst traffic congestion out of all Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development nations.

At the same time, the minister said that new line "allows us to advance a Zionist and Jewish ideology."

Tourists arriving in Israel will be able to hop on a train straight to the Western Wall as their first destination while visiting the country.

In response to the new rail line, Deputy Mayor of Jerusalem Fleur Hassan-Nahoum told JNS, "We are thrilled that the Transport Ministry has decided to build the train line from Tel Aviv directly to the center of our capital city and the beating heart of our people. This is the modern expression of King David's vision of Jerusalem and the Old City as the place where people ascend to from Israel and indeed across the world."

Rabbi Steve Burg, CEO of Aish HaTorah, with headquarters based in the Old City of Jerusalem, told JNS that "the extension of the high-speed rail to the Old City of Jerusalem is a major achievement for Israel. Jews from around the world will be able to land at Ben-Gurion and in a short amount of time be at the Western Wall to be spiritually uplifted. It's the perfect blend of modern technology and ancient spirituality."

But not everyone is praising the approval. Jordan officials



A view of heavy traffic in Jerusalem on a main route to the city exit and entrance on November 25. (Photo by Hadas Parush/Flash90)



Transportation Minister Bezael Smotrich on the first ride of the new high-speed train between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv on December 18. (Photo by Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)



The interior of the Yitzhak Navon high-speed train station in Jerusalem on December 18. (Photo by Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)

called the move a "flagrant violation of international law." Its foreign ministry spokesman, Daifallah al-Fayez, insisted that the international community "assume its responsibilities to resist the illegitimate and illegal Israeli steps."

Jerusalem resident Yomi Groner, a licensed tour guide with Israel's Ministry of Tourism for the past 11 years, hailed the project, telling JNS that "Israel has a massive problem, especially in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem vis-à-vis public transportation. With the planned development of a business center at the entrance to Jerusalem, you are going to have major problems getting from one part of the city to the other. But if you can ride a train across the city, it will be more beneficial to the majority of people."

He added that "unless you are going to tell people not to drive cars inside the city of Jerusalem, this is the only solution which is realistic and effective."

Groner said colleagues in the tourism and travel industry, including bus drivers and mini-bus drivers, as well as tourists themselves have been complaining about the situation for years. He noted that some of the problems include not only the traffic itself, but a lack of parking available near tourist sites around the Old City.

He did acknowledge that while under construction the train project will most likely be a headache for Jerusalem residents, but, in the end, it is a must to alleviate the congestion. At the same time, he mentioned, it "might improve hotel prices in Jerusalem."

Groner said, "If people know they can stay outside of Jerusalem and hop onto a train and get to the Old City, maybe it will start pushing hotels in Jerusalem to bring down their prices."

Smotrich concluded his comments on the announced approval, saying, "The Temple Mount and the last standing remnant of the Holy Temple, the Western Wall, represent our [the Jewish] right to exist here. Millions of visitors come on pilgrimages and are forced to hike to the Western Wall due to a lack of proper transportation. The Jewish state cannot allow such a reality and today we have taken an important step toward a solution."

"A rail line to the Western Wall is a huge development for Israeli citizens and millions of tourists who enter the gates of Jerusalem," he continued. "This is an exciting moment for the state of Israel and for future generations. This is a true expression of Zionism."

NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

Romania's Jews given rabbinical permission for Shabbat burials

The Jewish community of Bucharest, Romania, received a rabbinical exception to bury those who have died as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) on Shabbat to help bypass Romanian government orders on March 27 that such victims must be buried on the day of their death or cremated to stop further spread of the disease. Both cremation and burials on Shabbat are not allowed under religious Jewish law. Rabbi Yaakov Rojahn from the ZAKA Israeli emergency-response group found a source for an exception, supported by an incident that happened many years ago in Jerusalem that would allow a non-Jew to bury a Jewish person's body on Shabbat, reported The Yeshiva World. He then turned to Rabbi Avigdor Nebenzahl, the former chief rabbi of the Old City of Jerusalem and president of the Rabbinical Council of ZAKA, who ruled on March 27 that the Bucharest Jewish community is permitted to have a Christian bury a Jewish coronavirus victim who dies on Shabbat in order to prevent the body from being cremated. "We're receiving dozens of appeals from Jewish communities around the world to prevent the cremation of bodies in the wake of government directives," said ZAKA head Yehudah Meshi-Zahav. "We will make every effort to preserve *kavod hameis* ['the honor of the dead'] like we constantly battle to do. We *daven* every day and hope that the pandemic ends, and we can assist in happy events only."

Quick Reference Guide to Planned Giving

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

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

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Jewish Federation
OF GREATER BINGHAMTON

Welcome online faces to Passover "bruncheon"

By Ethel G. Hofman

(JNS)—This year, I'm not going overboard. I'm not even using my late mother's dinner service for 20; instead, it's plastic ware. Everything has changed in the era of corona, Passover included.

Yet we must celebrate (Passover began at sundown on April 8 and ends the evening of April 16), even if you are the lone attendee. I realize people don't seem up to it: Shopping for ingredients will be difficult, and faces normally present around our holiday tables won't be there. But it is a festival of freedom, after all, and we need to declare that: Jewish freedom in the time of a real plague.

It's estimated that more than 80 percent of Jews worldwide attend a Passover seder. If that's so, this year, that number may shoot even higher with everyone stationary at home. We will read our haggadahs and savor traditional dishes, like Bubbe's brisket and chicken soup. Freedom must be cherished, family must be cherished, food must be cherished.

In fact, the entire eight-day celebration revolves around eating specific foods and the prohibition of leavened foods. All ingredients used during this time must be labeled kosher-for-Passover. Supermarkets typically have an enormous variety, but this year, getting what we need might be tough. Still, we can always improvise.

After the seders, why not "host" a virtual Sunday "bruncheon?" E-mail invitations and send the menu to family and friends ahead of time. Halve the recipes, if need be. Then, on Sunday morning, April 12, set up your mobile or other devices, and enjoy some virtual guests at the table.

For the dishes below, look through your existing supplies. Any white wine will do for the Prosecco; it doesn't need to be sparkling. No need for salmon; use whatever fish you have in the freezer or can purchase. Forget kumquats; try a clementine or orange, then spike the drink with a splash of orange juice. Make an uncomplicated dessert. In a pinch, a fruit salad will do; topped with a dollop of the chocolate sauce, it can be sensational.

If anything, we need to maintain our resilience, spirituality and, above all, sense of humor. After all, we Jews have been doing that for thousands of years. *Chag Pesach sameach!*

Passover "Bruncheon" menu: Boca Bellinis, Honey-Glazed Salmon with Kumquat Salsa, Jicama Mango Salad, Herb-Roasted Fingerling Potatoes, Fresh Pineapple Kugel and Orange Sponge Pudding with Blackberries.

Blood-Orange Segments (or Other Fruit) with Simply Sinful Chocolate Sauce Boca Bellinis (pareve)

Serves 8
 Cook's tips:
 Squeeze lime juice the day before.
 Turn glasses upside down, dip edges first in egg white, then in sugar.

Use disposable champagne glasses.
 1 egg white, lightly beaten
 Sugar to dredge
 3 Tbsp. fresh lime juice
 1 bottle Prosecco, chilled
 Using egg white and sugar, prepare glasses as above. Chill until ready to serve. Pour about 2 teaspoons lime juice in each glass. Top with Prosecco. Serve immediately.

Honey-Glazed Salmon (pareve)

Serves 8
 Cook's tips:
 Buy salmon fillets, with skin attached. Salmon will be more moist and flavorful than skinless. Line baking pan with aluminum foil.
 Remove from oven before a white curd appears between flakes to risk overcooking.

¼ cup honey, warmed
 3 Tbsp. lemon juice
 8 salmon fillets, 6 ounces each, boneless
 2-3 Tbsp. olive oil
 Fresh ground pepper
 Preheat oven to 400°F.

In a cup, whisk together the honey and lemon juice. Set aside. Arrange salmon, skin side down, about ½ inch apart, in a baking pan or rimmed cookie sheet. Brush with olive oil, then with the honey mixture. Sprinkle with pepper. Bake 25 minutes or until flakes are opaque when separated with a fork. May be served at room temperature.

Kumquat (or Orange) Salsa (pareve)

Makes about 2 cups
 Kumquats are miniature citrus fruits resembling small oval oranges. No need to remove seeds. They're soft, chewy and edible.

Cook's tips:
 Chopped ginger is available frozen in markets.
 2 cups kumquats, halved
 1 Tbsp. sugar
 1 Tbsp. vinegar
 2 Tbsp. orange juice
 ¼ cup cilantro, finely snipped
 1 Tbsp. chopped ginger root
 2 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
 ½ tsp. salt or to taste
 Pinch cayenne pepper (optional)
 Place kumquats (or oranges), sugar, vinegar and orange

juice in a microwave safe bowl. Cover lightly with wax paper. Microwave for 2 minutes on High or until kumquats are slightly softened. Transfer to food processor. Process until coarsely chopped. In a bowl, mix together the kumquats and remaining ingredients. Serve chilled or at room temperature.

Jicama and Mango Salad (pareve)

Serves 8
 Jicama is a large, bulbous, thin-skinned root vegetable. Eaten raw, it adds a sweet, crunchiness to salads.

Cook's tips:
 Substitute dried cranberries for raisins; they add some color.
 Substitute a very small pinch of cayenne pepper for serrano pepper.
 Cut mango into ½-inch to ¾-inch cubes.

4 cups peeled, diced jicama
 3 cups peeled, diced mango
 1 cup golden raisins
 ¼ cup fresh lime juice

¼ cup orange juice
 3 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
 ½ serrano pepper, seeded
 Gently toss the jicama, mango and raisins in a large bowl. Set aside. In the blender, whirl the juices, oil and pepper until pepper is thoroughly blended. Pour over the jicama mixture and toss. Serve chilled.


Herb-Roasted Fingerling Potatoes (pareve)

Serves 8
 Cook's tips:

Use dried rosemary and thyme instead of fresh, 1 teaspoon dried to 1 tablespoon fresh.
 Lemon juice drizzled over cooked potatoes intensifies herb flavors.
 If using fresh rosemary leaves, discard woody stems. May need to use two baking sheets.
 Use latex gloves to toss potatoes.
 Potatoes are ready when a pointed knife slips out easily.
 2 -3 pounds fingerling potatoes, washed
 See "Bruncheon" on page 11

Passover Greetings from these Healthcare Professionals

Wishing the community a
 Happy Passover



Charles and Paula
 Rubin & family



Our Family Wishes
 Your Family a
 Joyous Passover


Jack & Darlene Weber
 Matt & Michael
 Marisa & Doug



Happy
 Passover

Jonathan, Ilka & Juliana Kloss

HAPPY
 PASSOVER



The Wolff Family
 Michael & Wendy
 Aaron & Carly
 Emily & Melissa



Wishing the
 community a
 Happy
 Passover

The Philips Family



We wish you and all
 of your family a year
 of blessings

Steven & Sandra Malkin
 and family

Hag Kasher Ve Sameach



Brenda Schlaen, Randy Friedman
 Ellie, Mika and Zohar

From our families to yours,
 Happy Passover!



Ronald Sacks & Ilene Pinsker

Happy
 Yasher Koach
 May you go from strength to strength



Chag Sameach

Richard & Barbara Simon ❁ Jethro ❁
 Jon, Jessica, Henry, Levi & Jack Simon - Clarence, NY
 Elizabeth, Paul, Julia & Alex Feldman - Swarthmore, PA
 Sarah, John, Matthew & Lauren Hunter - Lyons, CO
 Our granddaughter Julia became a Bat Mitzvah!

Guide.....Continued from page 3

it's strengthens me because all of this is so evolutionary right now."

Though his leadership offered to let him broadcast services from his home – their cantor conducted *Havdalah* recently from her place via Zoom – “for services, there’s something more powerful doing it from the synagogue; there’s a real sense of *kedusha*, of holiness here,” says the rabbi.

Even so, he’s planning on moving his live-streaming apparatus into the chapel: “It’s just a lot more intimate in there.”

For many teens, youth group is where they turn for Jewish contact in the years between bar/bat mitzvah and college. “A lot of people think of it as a second home, as a chosen family,” says Arielle Shofman, president of the youth group at Temple of Aaron, a Conservative congregation in St. Paul, MN. Thanks to Zoom, members will be able to take part in the youth group’s upcoming Passover program. “We need to stay connected to each other,” she says. “Youth group is where we talk about Judaism and everything else in our lives.”

Most college-aged students have by now been sent home from university mid-semester or from Israel programs that were supposed to last the year, and still others who were looking forward to being in Israel on Birthright and other trips this spring are disappointed. And while college students may be getting their coursework online, many are missing the Jewish piece. To fill this gap, Hillel International has launched an online platform to meet college students’ educational, spiritual and social needs during this difficult time. On Hillel@Home students will find such online experiences as video meet-ups, courses and opportunities to interact with such superstars as Lord Rabbi Jonathan Sacks and NBA legend Amar’e Stoudemire, who now lives in Israel. The platform also enables individual university Hillels to customize content for their students.

With such an unprecedented avalanche of online resources keeping the Jewish world engaged and close, Chabad Rabbi Mendel Sharfstein co-director with his wife, Dini, of the Center for Jewish Life in St. Johns, a town near Jacksonville, FL, says that, even without them, this time of enforced isolation is a potent reminder that the Jewish home is the central address of Judaism.



Rabbi Michael Beals led daily services alone in the sanctuary of Congregation Beth Shalom in Wilmington, DE. (Photo courtesy of Congregation Beth Shalom)

“The *shul* is important, to pray with a minyan, but the purpose of a *shul* is what happens when you leave the *shul* and go home,” he says. “It’s the effect it has on your marriage and your relationship with your kids; that’s where Jewish life really happens.”

Indeed, he adds, learning Torah, educating your kids Jewishly, keeping Shabbat, eating kosher food (and soon, celebrating the Passover holiday), “the purpose of it all is to bring the Divine into your life and your work, but especially your home.”

At her home in Hadera, Israel, Isabelle Dalia Fitoussi is with her four kids, ages 10 to 20 pretty much 24/7, along with her husband when he’s not at work. And it’s going surprisingly well, she says. “We do *tefillah* together as a family each morning and watch Torah classes for kids (mostly in French), with math and history and more classes,” she says. In addition, there is daily outdoor play and *ulpan* (Hebrew classes) for the kids and the parents alike.

And, thousands of miles away, in West Hartford, CT, Jason Kay says even though there are currently no Shabbat guests and no synagogue, “we’re still making Shabbat meals a special time to do the blessings, and sit and talk about our week.” They also joined an online *Havdalah* with JTConnect (Jewish Teen Learning Connection), a Jewish learning program, which the Connection followed with a family trivia game.

Says mom Orah Moshe in Pardes Hanna, Israel, she and her husband and their two kids are having long conversations they would otherwise not have had the time for. “They miss their friends (they’re teenagers), but being home we’ve had discussions about both the science and religious issues behind this illness, and the fact that uncertainty is a part of life. We’re able to take a breath from our frantic lives,” she adds. “I made my kids French toast today for the first time in a long time.”

“Now that we finally have the time, we can spend it with our husband or wife and our children; we can learn the Torah we never had time for and dip into all the online Torah learning, even if we’ve never done it before,” says Sharfstein in Florida. “In times of so much darkness in

the world, it’s in our homes where we can create light by elevating our relationships with the people we love and with God.”

Jewish Community Centers are offering online programs, even exercise classes. See what your local JCC is doing at <https://jcca.org/virtual-jccs-online-engagement/>.

Chabad is offering videos, activities and learning opportunities for youngsters on <https://chabad.org/kids>, as well as the Online Hebrew Academy, geared to help Hebrew and day schools teaching a wide variety of Jewish children, especially now.

Other online resources for Jewish families include www.jewishinteractive.org/, www.torahtots.com/, <https://jewish.momsandcrafters.com/> and the Facebook page “Corona Jewish Home Education Tips & Resources.”

NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

Hezbollah shifts its focus from battling Israel to battling coronavirus

Hezbollah says it is turning its attention from fighting Israel and the civil war in Syria to deal with the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak in Lebanon. The Iranian-backed Hezbollah paramedics and volunteers have been spraying disinfectants on shops and buildings in its stronghold of the southern suburbs of Beirut, according to an AP report published on April 1. The organization has deployed some 24,500 members and volunteers in its campaign to aid the Health Ministry, which has a Hezbollah-appointed minister, in battling the spread of the virus, said Hashem Safieddine, a senior Hezbollah official. “We are soldiers at the service of the Health Ministry,” Bilal Assaf, an official with Hezbollah’s Civil Defense, told the AP. So far, there have been 12 deaths and as many as 480 infected. Critics of Hezbollah blame the group for not stopping flights sooner from virus-stricken Iran, which is reportedly the source of the first case in Lebanon when a woman returned from Iran on Feb. 20. Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah has been giving frequent speeches on TV about the virus. “We should feel that we are in a battle, and we should fight this battle,” he said in a recent speech, according to the report.

Passover Greetings from these Health Care Professionals

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YOUR CARE. YOUR WAY.

White supremacist disrupts webinar for Jewish teens featuring deputy antisemitism envoy

By Jackson Richman

(JNS) – A recent webinar on the video conferencing platform Zoom about antisemitism, featuring U.S. Deputy Special Envoy for Monitoring and Combating Anti-Semitism Ellie Cohanim, was disrupted by a white supremacist and hacker – an example of what the Anti-Defamation League has called “Zoombombing.”

The Greater Boston chapter of NCSY, a Jewish youth group, hosted the hour-long webinar on March 24 with Cohanim, who told the group of 20 to 30 high school students about her role; about the rights college students have when it comes to dealing with Jew-hatred; and how the United States is working to battle antisemitism at home and abroad.

That included through the executive order that U.S. President Donald Trump signed in December to combat antisemitism in education, especially on college campuses.

As the webinar concluded, Andrew Alan Escher Auernheimer – also known as “weev,” who has a history of expressing antisemitic and other bigoted views – appeared in the video conference and pulled down his shirt collar to show a swastika tattoo on his chest.

The incident lasted for about a minute, participants on the call told JNS.

One of the teenage participants snapped a screenshot of Auernheimer on the video chat, while another sent the picture to Bryan Leib, former national director of Americans Against Antisemitism, who helped facilitate the Zoom discussion.

The participants didn’t hear Auernheimer saying anything, nor did any of the participants speak since their microphones were muted by default on via gallery view. Neither Leib nor Cohanim saw Auernheimer’s face, they said. Auernheimer’s microphone was muted, Leib told JNS.

Two teenage participants filed a report with the Newton



White supremacist and hacker Andrew Alan Escher Auernheimer disrupted a Zoom webinar hosted by the Greater Boston NCSY on March 24. (Photo courtesy of JNS)

Police Department in Massachusetts, which declined to comment, citing that the investigation is ongoing.

The webinar was advertised on the NCSY chapter’s website and on Facebook and Twitter. Participants who were on the video conference that spoke with JNS believed that Auernheimer knew of the event because it was publicized on social media.

Cohanim told JNS that she has been in contact with the FBI, which did not respond to a request for comment.

“This administration has made clear that we are not going to tolerate any forms of antisemitism. As [U.S.] President [Donald] Trump has stated, ‘The vile, hate-filled poison of antisemitism must be condemned and confronted everywhere and anywhere it appears,’” she said. “We are currently working with law enforcement to do exactly that.”

Rabbi Yudi Riesel, NCSY Boston area director, reported the incident to Zoom.

“We take the security of Zoom meetings seriously, and

we are deeply upset to hear about the incidents involving this type of attack,” a Zoom spokesperson told JNS. “For those hosting large, public group meetings, we strongly encourage hosts to review their settings and confirm that only the host can share their screen. For those hosting private meetings, password protections are on by default, and we recommend that users keep those protections on to prevent uninvited users from joining.”

NCSY’s international director, Rabbi Micah Greenland, told JNS that “it is most disappointing that even during this time of great worldwide peril, when people should be joining together in solidarity, there are individuals with such hatred in their hearts that they are harassing Jewish groups meeting via Zoom.”

Despite the incident at the end of the webinar, it was “a very good, strong conversation,” said Cohanim. “And I was really proud of these young women and men who were on the call.


“It’s very clear to me that when a white supremacist like this jumps on a webinar and flashes a hate symbol, such as the swastika, he’s trying to intimidate the group, he’s trying to intimidate young Jews,” she said. “Our response to that is that we simply will not be intimidated.”

According to the ADL, “While some of these reported ‘Zoombombing’ incidents can be attributed to Internet trolls without particularly malicious intentions, there is concern that extremists could exploit the increasing reliance on video-conferencing technology to target certain groups or advance their hateful messages.”

The organization added that while “there has been limited online chatter among extremists about the specific strategy of abusing video-conferencing technology, Auernheimer’s recent actions in Massachusetts demonstrate the potential for extremists to exploit these systems.”

See “Webinar” on page 11








Passover Greetings from these Health Care Professionals

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Weekly Parasha

Passover, Chol HaMoed, Exodus 33:12-34:26

Homebound

RABBI LEVI Y. SLONIM, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT AND CHABAD DOWNTOWN, ROHR CHABAD CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDENT LIFE AT BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

Why is this *Pesach* different from all *Pesachs* throughout the years?

Well, virtually *all* Jews throughout the world will all be homebound.

While Passover is for many a home-centric holiday on a “regular year,” celebrated with many extended family members and friends, this year we are *really* quite *literally* homebound in the most actual sense of the word. And our guest lists (if they exist at all) will be profoundly slashed.

I believe there is actually a profound lesson in what is undoubtedly a challenge for all of us.

This separateness takes us back to the very first way this

holiday sacrifice was observed on the original Passover.

One of the major differences between the way Jews offered the pascal lamb offering in Egypt on that very first *Pesach* night, and the way they offered the sacrifice in all subsequent years, is that the Passover offering in Egypt was performed in private homes, whereas future Passover offerings were all brought to the holy Temple. As the verse states in reference to the very first Passover offering: “a lamb for each household.” (Exodus 12:3)

What is the significance of it needing to be specifically in the home? And why the difference between the original Passover and the subsequent years?

Before answering this question, we need to answer a more broad question: in Judaism, which is more important, the synagogue or the home?

Let me answer that question by posing another question: which is more important, a boiler room or a home? The answer is obvious. A building without a boiler room is cold, but a boiler room without a home is useless. The entire *purpose* of the boiler room is only expressed in its effect outside of itself in the home it serves.

Perhaps the original Passover offering took place at home to send us a message about the ultimate purpose. See “Homebound” on page 11

Congregational Notes

Beth David Synagogue

Affiliation: Orthodox Union
Rabbi: Zev Silber
Address: 39 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905
Phone: 722-1793
Rabbi's Office: 722-7514
Fax: 722-7121
Office hours: Mon. closed; Tues. 10 am-1 pm; Wed. closed; Thurs. 9 am-1 pm; Fri. 10 am-1 pm
Beth David e-mail address: bethdavid@stny.rr.com
Rabbi's e-mail: rabbisilber@stny.rr.com
Website: www.bethdavid.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/bethdavidbinghamton

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.

Chabad will be holding pre-Shabbat virtual programs. For more information, visit www.JewishBU.com/S2020Partnership.

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.

All services and programs are online only. Friday night Shabbat Services will start at 7 pm for the month of April.

Friday, April 10: Shabbat services at 7 pm (<https://binghamton.zoom.us/j/350204323> or call 1-929-205-6099 and enter meeting ID # 350 204 323, or use the Temple Concord Facebook page—the one with the picture of the mansion in the corner).

Saturday, April 11: Torah study at 9:15 am (<https://binghamton.zoom.us/j/342411102> or call 1-929-205-6099 and enter meeting ID # 342 411 102).

Saturday, April 11: Havdalah with a bonus at 7 pm (<https://binghamton.zoom.us/j/526246866> or call in 1-929-205-6099 and enter meeting ID 526 246 866, or use the Temple Concord Facebook page).

Wednesday, April 15: Yizkor Passover service at 10:30 am (<https://binghamton.zoom.us/j/690288746> or call 1-929-205-6099 and enter meeting ID # 690 288 746).

Friday, April 17: Shabbat services at 7 pm (<https://binghamton.zoom.us/j/350204323> or call 1-929-205-6099 and enter meeting ID #350 204 323, or use the Temple Concord Facebook page).

Saturday, April 18: Torah study 9:15 am (<https://binghamton.zoom.us/j/342411102> or call 1-929-205-6099 and enter meeting ID # 342 411 102).

Saturday, April 18: Havdalah with a bonus at 7 pm (<https://binghamton.zoom.us/j/526246866> or call in 1-929-205-6099 and enter meeting ID 526 246 866, or use the Temple Concord Facebook page).

Synagogues limit face-to-face gatherings

Area synagogues have announced that they are limiting face-to-face gatherings. That means there will be no services or programming held until further notice. Some meetings, services and classes will be available online or by phone. For specific information regarding services (including online services), meetings and classes at any of the area synagogues, contact them by phone or e-mail.

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.

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.

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.

Friday, April 10, light candles before 7:21 pm
Saturday, April 11, Shabbat ends 8:23 pm
Tuesday, April 14, light candles before 7:26 pm
Wednesday, April 15, light candles after 8:27 pm
Thursday, April 16, yomt ov ends 8:29 pm
Friday, April 17, light candles before 7:29 pm
Saturday, April 18, Shabbat ends 8:31 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 Fridays and Tuesdays at 5:30 pm, services will be led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown via Zoom.

On Saturday, April 11, the Torah portion is Exodus 33:12-34:26 and the haftarah is Ezekiel 37:1-14.

Temple Israel is collecting for CHOW during regular business hours. The bin is between the two sets of glass doors at the entrance. Buzz to come in the first set of doors to access the bin.

The temple office will be closed Wednesday-Thursday, April 15-16.

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.

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 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 Brith Sholom

Affiliation: Unaffiliated
Address: P.O. Box 572, 117 Madison St., Cortland, NY 13045
Phone: 607-756-7181
President: Bruce Fein, 607-423-3346
Service leaders: Lay leadership
Shabbat services: Either Friday evening at 7:30 pm or Saturday at 10 am from Rosh Hashanah to Shavuot. Holiday services are also held. Check the weekly e-mail for upcoming services. Contact the president to get on the e-mail list.
Religious School: Students are educated on an individual basis. Temple Brith Sholom is a small egalitarian congregation serving the greater Cortland community. Congregants span the gamut of observance and services are largely dependent on the service leader. The Friday night siddur is “Likrat Shabbat,” while the Saturday morning siddur is “Gates of Prayer.” The community extends a warm welcome to the Jewish student population of SUNY Cortland, as well as the residents of local adult residences.

Israeli defense companies are turning radars into coronavirus symptom detectors

By Yaakov Lappin

(JNS) Two major Israeli defense companies have developed cutting-edge coronavirus symptom detectors that will allow doctors to remotely pick up on suspicious symptoms of COVID-19. The sensors were created by adapting radar and camera technology that come from the defense and homeland security world.

The program, initiated by the Defense Ministry's Directorate of Defense Research and Development, has seen Israel Aerospace Industries and Elbit Systems rapidly take radars and electro-optic (camera) sensors and convert them into highly sensitive sensors that will enable medical teams to screen patients from another room, thereby greatly enhancing their safety.

In recent days, the Defense Ministry announced that its National Emergency Team, together with IAI and Elbit, have developed the prototypes to measure the vital signs of patients, including pulse, respiratory rate and temperature, and pick out patterns that indicate a likely coronavirus infection.

"I don't know of any adaption of defense technology or homeland security radars for this purpose until now," said Yossi Cohen, vice president and chief technological officer at Elbit Systems' C4i and Cyber Division. "Until now, the civilian world didn't have this need."

Now, however, and likely in the near future, there will be a need for remote sensing that protects medical personnel from the risk of infection. "This development came as a result of a capability that we want to give doctors at the entrance to Emergency Rooms to distinguish [between] patients that have a respiratory and have a chance of [contracting] coronavirus from patients suffering from other patients," said Cohen.

Currently, medical teams have to examine patients directly through close contact and at longer intervals, putting them in danger of infection. The remote-sensing solutions give doctors



The Defense Ministry announced that its National Emergency Team, together with IAI and Elbit, have developed the prototypes to measure the vital signs of patients, including pulse, respiratory rate and temperature, and pick out patterns that indicate a likely coronavirus infection. (Photo courtesy of Elbit Systems)

the ability to check patients from more than two meters away or even from another room by viewing the results on a screen.

Once they receive the signs, said Cohen, the doctors can decide whether more comprehensive checks are needed, and if so, to move the patient to a more sterile area with the appropriate protective gear to continue the care. "This is a very important requirement," he said.

Working with the Defense Ministry's DDR&D and the Rabin Medical Center in Petach Tikvah, Elbit will deliver its first prototype to that hospital before examining ways to expand its program, including installing machines at drive-through test facilities and at the entrances to military bases.

The system is based on radar technology that "allows us to identify, in a very precise manner, small changes," said Cohen.

This ability was modified to allow the radar to detect minute body movements created by the pulse and breath, and measure patterns. The system can even scan for the ratio of inhalations and exhalations, allowing for conclusions to be drawn about the likelihood of a respiratory disease like coronavirus to be involved. The second component of the machine, an advanced thermal camera, can take a highly precise temperature reading and employs advanced algorithms to achieve that precision, said Cohen.

Two successful trials of the prototype have been completed. Elbit is now looking at ways to use artificial intelligence to allow doctors to generate automatic insights based on the readings. "We can let the networks produce insights," said Cohen. The system will be installed at the Beilinson Hospital in the Rabin Medical Center as of Monday, and doctors will be able to run it without any outside help, as they build up experience in using the sensor.

Meanwhile, IAI has also developed its own prototype using a radar originally designed to protect perimeters and detect people walking or crawling, or vehicles moving. "We took the smallest of our radars and place the ability to measure pulse and breath rates on it," said Israel Lupa, executive vice president and chief technological officer of Elta, a division of IAI.

The radar uses a very low frequency, meaning that it is safe to use in close proximity to people, he stressed. "A radar of this type was built to detect slow, small movements," said Lupa. "The system can already detect minor movements. We adapted this to tracking body movements caused by the breath and pulse."

Within seconds, the system, which also includes an advanced thermal camera for detecting fever, can deliver an alert (though not a final diagnosis) to medical teams of an indication of a possible COVID-19 patient.

The initiative was launched by the Defense Ministry's National Emergency Team, which is led by DDR&D Director, Brig. Gen. (Res.) Dr. Dani Gold, who was instrumental in the past for setting up Israel's Iron Dome air-defense system.

"The combination of the technological capabilities of the defense industries and the extraordinary capabilities of the officers in the DDR&D enables us to adapt systems developed for security purposes to fulfill medical needs in light of the coronavirus," said Col. A. of the DDR&D.

Dr. Yossi Shaya, of the Beilinson Hospital, stated that "the DDR&D turned to us with the idea of monitoring patients using radar. These are systems that we don't normally work with, but they asked us what our needs are in the hope that these systems may be adapted to fulfill them. They asked what vital signs should be monitored among corona patients at the point of diagnosis and during treatment – and aimed to do so without the involvement of medical staff."

"The idea is that our medical teams are at the forefront of this fight and should be protected," he continued, "and the way to do so is to reduce direct contact with corona patients. Thanks to the creative thinking of the DDR&D – of using technology that is normally used against enemies – I hope we will be able to win in the fight against the COVID-19 virus."

Homebound Continued from page 10

and intent of the offering and, in fact, overall service of God for all time: The synagogue, the Holy Temple, is the ultimate boiler room where we go to "warm up," and it gives fuel and energy to our homes and Jewish life at large. But the ultimate purpose and goal is to warm our homes and transform our homes and the world at large into a place God can call home. The goal in Jewish observance is not what we do in synagogue, but what we take from the synagogue and implement in our homes.

This year as we are homebound in the most literal

sense, let us take some time to focus on how we can strengthen our homes and assure that we are not getting stuck in the boiler room, but making sure the heating pipes are working and the duct work is doing its job bringing warmth to the entire home. With every mitzvah we do at home, and every Jewish experience we have with our families in our home, we are making our homes and the world at large a more wholesome and beautiful place.

Based on the teachings of the Lubavitcher Rebbe.

Bruncheon Continued from page 7

- 3-4 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 Tbsp. finely snipped fresh rosemary
- 2 Tbsp. finely snipped thyme
- Kosher salt and fresh ground pepper
- Preheat oven to 400°F.

Thinly coat baking sheet with olive oil. Cut potatoes in 1-inch to 1 1/2-inch chunks and place on baking sheet. Drizzle with olive oil, rosemary, thyme and a sprinkling of salt and pepper. Toss to thoroughly coat. Spread potatoes in one layer. Cover with aluminum foil.

Roast for 20 minutes in preheated oven. Remove foil, toss potatoes and continue roasting for 15 to 30 minutes longer, or until potatoes are tender. Serve hot or warm.

Note: Make an hour or so ahead of time. Transfer to ovenproof serving dish, cover with aluminum foil. Warm in a 350-degree oven for 10 to 15 minutes.

Fresh Pineapple Kugel (dairy)

- Serves 8-10
- Delicious, hot, cold or at room temperature.
- Cook's tips:

Coarsely chop fresh pineapple chunks in food processor. To prevent stickiness in kosher-for-Passover cooked noodles, run cold water through them and drain thoroughly.

- 2/3 cup, plus 2 Tbsp. sugar
- 1 Tbsp. cinnamon, divided
- 5 eggs, lightly beaten
- 1/4 cup peanut oil, plus oil for coating dish
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 2 cups fresh pineapple, coarsely chopped
- 1 (16 oz.) jar chunky applesauce
- 8 oz. noodles, cooked according to package directions
- Preheat oven to 375°F.
- Coat a 9x12 inch baking dish with peanut oil.

In a cup, mix 2 tablespoons sugar and 2 teaspoons cinnamon. Set aside. In a large bowl, whisk the eggs. Add 1/4 cup peanut oil, sour cream, pineapple, applesauce, 2/3 cup sugar and 1 teaspoon cinnamon. Stir in noodles and mix well. Transfer to prepared baking dish. Sprinkle with cinnamon-sugar mixture. Bake in preheated oven 45 to 50 minutes, or until firm in center when touched lightly with fingers. Cut into squares while warm. May be frozen.

Orange Sponge Pudding with Fresh Blackberries (dairy)

- Serves 6
- Recipe may be doubled for this rich dessert.
- 3 eggs, divided
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/2 cup honey, warmed
- 2 Tbsp. butter, melted
- 1/4 cup matzah cake meal
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 3 Tbsp. frozen thawed orange juice concentrate
- 1 cup fresh blackberries to garnish
- Preheat oven to 350°F.

Spray 6 custard cups with nonstick vegetable spray. Place cups in a 9-inch square baking dish. Set aside. Separate the egg yolks and egg whites, and place in separate bowls. Whisk the egg whites until they peak softly. Set aside. In a medium bowl, whisk the egg yolks and milk. Add the honey, butter, cake meal, salt and orange-juice concentrate. Mix well to blend. Gently fold in the egg whites, leaving some lumps.

Divide equally between the prepared custard cups. Carefully pour hot water into the baking dish to come about halfway up the sides of the cups. Bake in preheated oven 35 minutes, or until top is golden-brown and a toothpick inserted in center comes out clean.

To serve: Place on a dessert plate with blackberries on the side. Serve at room temperature.

Easy Sinful Chocolate Sauce (dairy)

- Makes about 2 cups
- Cook's tips:
- May make a week ahead and refrigerate. Bring to room temperature before serving
- Chop chocolate in food processor.
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1 Tbsp. butter
- 8 ounces semisweet chocolate, chopped
- 1/8 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp. orange extract

In a saucepan over low heat, melt the cream and butter, stirring often. Raise heat to medium, and add the chocolate and cinnamon. Stir until melted and smooth. Stir in the orange extract. Remove from heat.

Serve warm.

Webinar . . . Continued from page 9

On March 31, Yeshiva University's Zoom classes were interrupted by antisemites. "Last night, I was Zoombombed during my pre-Pesach talk with our student body as pictures of Nazis and other offensive material appeared throughout the scheduled time," university President Ari Berman told JNS. "The experience highlighted to me how one's true character is revealed during times of crisis."

"Haters will hate, and a time of anxiety and pressure will bring that out even more. We respond, however, with love," he continued. "Our goal is not simply to mute the hate, but is to add more goodness and kindness in this world."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

Pakistan rearrests four men acquitted in Daniel Pearl murder case

The four men acquitted in the 2002 kidnapping and murder of *Wall Street Journal* reporter Daniel Pearl in Pakistan have been rearrested and will remain in custody pending prosecutors appealing the ruling in the country's Supreme Court, announced Pakistan's interior ministry on April 3. Three were handed life sentences, and a fourth, Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh, was awaiting execution. The Karachi court had earlier that week reduced Sheikh's sentence to seven years for kidnapping following the hearing of an appeal in March. Following worldwide outrage to the overturning of the convictions, the four have been rearrested and will remain behind bars "for a period of three months pending filing of the appeal," said the interior ministry. The statement emphasized the government's "commitment to follow due process under the laws of the country to bring terrorists to task." A Twitter post on April 4 by the U.S. State Department Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs, signed with the initials of Acting Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asia Alice Wells, read: "We welcome #Pakistan's April 3 statement and the Sindh government's decision to continue to detain those responsible for Daniel Pearl's kidnapping and murder and to mount a strong appeal. The perpetrators of this horrific act of terrorism will not escape justice."

U.S. Supreme Court won't hear appeal of Jewish inmate on Texas death row

The U.S. Supreme Court announced on April 6 that it will not hear the appeal of a Jewish death-row inmate who was scheduled to die on Oct. 10, 2019, for being part of "The Texas Seven" that escaped from prison two decades ago and killed a police officer after they held up a sporting-goods store, following allegations that he was sentenced by a judge who made anti-Semitic remarks and has a history of bigotry. In a four-page opinion, Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor stated that while the allegations surrounding Randy Halprin's case are "deeply disturbing," the "state-court proceedings are

underway to address – and, if appropriate, to remedy – Halprin's assertion that insidious racial and religious bias infected his trial. ...I trust that the Texas courts considering Halprin's case are more than capable of guarding this fundamental guarantee," she wrote. Sotomayor noted that the Supreme Court's decision to not review Halprin's case does not mean that the high court won't review it at a later date. "We will continue to seek a new, fair trial for Mr. Halprin," said his attorney, Tivon Schardl, in a statement sent to reporters on April 6. The judge, Vickers Cunningham, has been accused of privately referring to Halprin, now 41, as he sentenced him to death in 2003 for being part of the murder of Irving, TX, police officer Aubrey Hawkins at an Oshman's Sporting Goods store on Christmas Eve 2000, with an antisemitic slur and as "that f***in' Jew." At the time of the escape, Halprin was serving a 30-year sentence for injuring a child. He said he did not fire his gun at Hawkins, who was shot 11 times. Cunningham allegedly also said that Jews "needed to be shut down because they controlled all the money," according to Halprin's attorneys. Members from the Jewish community and other faith groups have pressed for a new trial for Halprin. Four of "The Texas Seven" have already been executed. A fifth shot himself to death before police could apprehend him.

U.S. designates white-supremacist group as terrorist organization

For the first time ever, the United States has designated a white-supremacist group as a terrorist organization. The U.S. State Department on April 6 designated the Russian Imperial Movement (or RIM) as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist (or SDGT) group, making it illegal for any American to engage in any transactions with the group and freezes any assets the group has in the U.S. marketplace. The penalties can also include travel bans and apply to non-Americans. RIM's leaders – Stanislav Anatolyevich Vorobyev, Denis Valliullovich Gariev and Nikolay Nikolayevich Trushchalov – were also listed as SDGTs. "These designations are unprecedented," said Nathan Sales, the State Department's coordinator for counterterrorism, in announcing the designations. "This is the first time the

United States has ever designated white-supremacist terrorists, illustrating how seriously this administration takes the threat. We are taking actions no previous administration has taken to counter this threat." Most of the persons and entities on U.S. terrorism blacklists are affiliated with radical Islam or separatist movements. RIM, which is relatively small, is accused of providing "paramilitary training to neo-Nazis and white supremacists in Russia and elsewhere from two camps it runs in St. Petersburg, according to U.S. officials," reported the Associated Press, adding that in 2016 the group allegedly "trained two Swedes who later carried out a series of terrorist attacks in the Swedish city of Gothenburg, including bombing a café and attempting to bomb a campsite housing refugees." The office of Rep. Max Rose (D-NY), the chair of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Intelligence and Counterterrorism, applauded the April 6 move. Rose introduced a bipartisan resolution in March that recognizes the global threat transnational white-supremacist extremism presents to America and urges the U.S. Department of State to designate qualifying violent foreign white-supremacist groups as Foreign Terrorist Organizations, or FTOs.

BDS co-founder: "If Israel finds a cure for coronavirus, no problem to use it"

Omar Barghouti, co-founder of the BDS movement, said in a video on April 5 on Facebook that if Israel discovers a cure for coronavirus (COVID-19), then cooperation with the Jewish state is acceptable. "If Israel finds a cure for cancer or for a virus, then there is no problem to cooperate with it," said Barghouti. The BDS leader also said that if Israel were to find a cure for cancer, for example, then there would be no problem to work with Israel to save millions of lives. "But I believe that we are not yet in the stage that we need Israel in an urgent way, and it isn't like anyone else can save us but Israel. If that was indeed the case, then saving lives is more important than anything else," he said. "Under the excuse of fighting the coronavirus, we must not have a 'honeymoon' with Israel," he continued, adding that it is acceptable to get medical equipment from the Jewish state since cooperation in this way "is not considered as normalization." However, Barghouti criticized the Palestinian Authority saying, "Why they [the P.A.] don't stop the security cooperation with Israel?" While experts say that there has been a "significant and positive shift" in cooperation between Israel and the Palestinians due to COVID-19, much uncertainty remains regarding what will happen if the situation in the P.A. and Gaza deteriorates.

Southern Israel shaken by 4.3 magnitude earthquake

A 4.3-magnitude earthquake hit Israel's south on April 5, according to the Geophysical Institute of Israel. According to the institute, the earthquake epicenter was around 62 miles south of Eilat in an area known as the Great Rift Valley – the edge of a tectonic plate in Israel that runs parallel to the Jordan River. Various residents of Eilat, as quoted by Ynet, were shaken awake by the tremor, which hit just after 5 am. "Storms, coronavirus and now earthquake, what else? The 10 plagues? God save us," said Eilat resident Galit Adler Malka, according to the report. Though recent earthquakes in Israel have not been strong, Dr. Ron Avni of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev warned that they show that the Great Rift Valley is active and could cause great damage in Israel in the foreseeable future, according to Ynet.

Islamic Waqf carries out Temple Mount digs, despite coronavirus lockdown

The Jerusalem Islamic Waqf on March 31 uploaded pictures to its official Facebook page showing Waqf employees carrying out unauthorized digs on the Temple Mount. "Despite the closure of the Al-Aqsa Mosque/Haram esh-Sharif [the Temple Mount] due to coronavirus, the staff, workers and guards of the Al-Aqsa Mosque are continuing their hard work," wrote the Jordanian-backed Waqf, which administers the Temple Mount. The Arab Desk of the Zionist watchdog Im Tirtzu, which first reported the unauthorized dig, accused the Waqf of taking advantage of the nationwide lockdown due to the coronavirus pandemic to carry out illegal work at the site aimed at "destroying Jewish artifacts and history." Due to the highly sensitive nature of the Temple Mount, all digs must be approved by both the Waqf and the Israel Antiquities Authority. Despite this, the Waqf has a long history of conducting illegal digs, most notably in 1999 when it disposed of more than 9,000 tons of dirt mixed with invaluable archaeological artifacts, that are now being salvaged by the Temple Mount Sifting Project. Students for the Temple Mount, a student-based organization promoting religious equality and freedom on the Temple Mount, also blasted the digs. "The fact that the Waqf had the gall to publicly publish pictures of this illegal digging just emphasizes Israel's lack of sovereignty on the Temple Mount," said the organization. Tom Nisani, head of Im Tirtzu's Arab Desk, said: "What is even more disturbing are the things that the Waqf doesn't make public. The time has come for Israel to once and for all assert its sovereignty over the Temple Mount. It's absurd that the Temple Mount – Judaism's holiest site – is the only place in the Western world where Jews can't pray." Nisani added: "The longer the Temple Mount stays closed, the greater the chances are that the Waqf will destroy more Jewish history."

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