

THE REPORTER

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Two weeks remain the Chesed Challenge

By Reporter staff

There are two more weeks to give to the Jewish Federation's Chesed Challenge, a matching gift campaign that continues through Thursday, April 30. An anonymous donor has pledged to double any new gift, up to \$10,000, given to the Federation during that time.

"I hope community members are starting

to relax after the stress of celebrating the Passover holiday during this crisis. Many people have told me they are worrying about the future of our community," said Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Federation. "Our reaction to this crisis shows how strong we are as a community. I see every day that we are all in this together and the Chesed Challenge gives us a way to prove that."

Hubal noted that some in the community are facing difficult times. "This crisis has not been easy on our local organizations, nor on the individuals who make our community," she added. "People have been furloughed; others are suffering from enforced isolation at home. But we have soldiered on. Jewish Family Service is still helping those in need. Our syna-

gogues are still helping their congregants through phone, e-mail and computer. Our community makes me so proud and I know we will continue in strength."

Donations may be sent to the Jewish Federation, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850, with "Chesed Challenge" on the subject line. To donate online, visit www.jfgeb.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, but online gatherings are the new normal, and I'm excited to jump in and try this."



A scene from "Crescendo"

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.jfgeb.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 Eduard Sporeck (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 Sporeck 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."

Virtual Yom Hashoah commemoration on April 20

The Greater Binghamton Jewish community will hold a community Yom Hashoah v' Hagvurah commemoration program on Monday, April 20, at 7 pm. The program will be held virtually, rather than in person.

Local pulpit rabbis, a representative of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton and Brian Freedman, executive director of Hillel at Binghamton, will take part in

the commemoration, which will include a candle lighting ceremony.

"Even in the midst of this crisis, I think it's important for us to commemorate the Shoah," said Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton.

The event will be streamed on Facebook at facebook.com/binghamtonhillel. No passwords or registration are necessary.

UK's Labour party elects new leader

By JNS staff

(JNS) — The U.K. Labour Party recently elected Keir Starmer as its new leader, replacing Jeremy Corbyn, who has long been accused of letting antisemitism plague the party, in addition to himself holding hateful views against Jews and the state of Israel.

Starmer, 57, succeeds Corbyn, who announced after British elections in December that he would step down as party leader. In what was the Conservative Party's biggest victory since 1987, Labour suffered its worst defeat since 1935.

The former prosecutor won 56.2 percent

of the recent vote of more than 500,000 Labour members, defeating Corbyn ally Rebecca Long-Bailey (27.6 percent) and backbencher Lisa Nandy (16.2 percent) for the leadership spot.

In his acceptance speech, Starmer apologized to the Jewish community and pledged to eliminate the antisemitism in the party, calling it a "stain."

"Antisemitism has been a stain on our party. I have seen the grief that it's brought to so many Jewish communities," he said. "On behalf of the Labour Party, I am sorry."

See "Labour" on page 3

Spotlight

Jewish resources to occupy your family during social distancing – part 4

By Reporter staff

A variety of Jewish groups are offering online resources – educations 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 Hadassah-Brandeis Institute is providing myriad resources on Jewish women's and gender studies to the community. All of the resources found at <http://blogs.brandeis.edu/freshideasfromhbi/hot-topic-of-the-week/> are free. Click on the links provided to read the articles.

- ◆ The Jewish Agency for Israel is offering events and classes online. To find out more, visit www.jewishagency.org/coronavirus-activities-and-things-to-do/.

- ◆ J Street offers programs, including briefings, trainings, 101 courses on J Street's core issues and archives of past briefings, at <https://jstreet.org/j-stream/#.XooLwXJ7k4w>.

- ◆ "The Western Wall Tunnels 360 LIVE," sponsored by the Western Wall Heritage Foundation, can be found at <https://youtube.com/MccQtsHDWvY>. The video, which is an hour and a half long, combines film clips and illustrations alongside a "real" three-dimensional tour.

- ◆ To learn about Jewish films available online, visit www.youtube.com and search for "Jewish films online." The videos feature trailers and full films. Some are free, while there is a charge for others.
- ◆ The Charles and Lynn Schusterman Fam-

ily Foundation offers a variety of resources at www.schusterman.org/covid-19-recommended-resources.

- ◆ *The Jewish Journal* offers the David Suissa Podcast "Pandemic Times" every weekday. New and old episodes can be found at <https://jewishjournal.com/podcasts/the-david-suissa-podcast/>.

- ◆ Jewish Women, Amplified, <https://jwa.org/blog/>, is a blog found on the Jewish Women's Archive website. The blog features interviews, historical information and more.

- ◆ The Shalom Hartman Institute, <https://updates.hartman.org.il/>, is offering Hartman@Home, which features online offerings, including virtual lectures and classes. The Israeli Rabbanut Program of the Shalom Hartman Institute is running a virtual Beit

Midrash (in Hebrew). To find out more information, visit <https://rabbanutbogrimg.wixsite.com/website>.

- ◆ Jewish Book Week has videos and podcasts of past events. They can be found at <https://jewishbookweek.com/videos-and-podcasts/>.

- ◆ Masa Israel Journey, for young adults age 18-30, is offering virtual events on its website. Visit www.masaisrael.org, scroll down and click in the box that says, "Masa Online."

For more resources, see the last three issues of *The Reporter* or visit www.thereporter.org/Article.aspx?aID=5484, www.thereporter.org/Article.aspx?aID=5499 and www.thereporter.org/Article.aspx?aID=5502.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Switching gears

An Israeli missile-production line starts churning out much-needed ventilators for COVID-19 patients. Page 5

New museum

The Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience will open its doors this fall in New Orleans. Page 7

News in brief...

A Jewish philanthropist provides meals to Russian seniors; Israeli indicted as Iranian spy; and more. Page 8

Special Sections

Spring Home Improvement..... 4-5
Book Review..... 4
Legal Notices..... 7
Classifieds..... 8

Opinion

BDS co-founder: Israel should save us... and then die

By Jonathan S. Tobin

(JNS) – Advocates of Israel have always liked to joke that supporters of the BDS movement shouldn't be selective about their efforts to convince the world to boycott the Jewish state. In particular, lately they have said that they are waiting to see what those who seek to isolate and destroy Israel will do if its scientists come up with a vaccine for the coronavirus. The answer shouldn't provide any comfort for anyone, especially those who continue to believe that the Jewish state's scientific advances and other contributions to the world will eventually somehow convince its enemies to give up their century-long war on Zionism.

This issue arose recently because the founder of the BDS movement has actually provided a response to the quips of those who have invited foes of Israel to extend their boycotts to the fruits of the advanced medical research and innovation produced by Israel.

In a video posted on Facebook by an anti-Israel group, BDS co-founder Omar Barghouti said this past weekend that if Israel finds a cure for cancer or for a virus, then "there is no problem to cooperate with it."

Barghouti, who fancies himself a humanitarian, went on to say that if Israel were to perform such services for humanity, "then saving lives is more important than anything else."

The chutzpah and the hypocrisy contained in this statement are hard to fathom. Those who seek to stigmatize all Israelis as persons that decent societies should shun and who advocate boycotts not only of all Israeli products, but of its culture and academics ought to at least be consistent. Where do those who think that the world should treat Israelis – and their technology and ideas – as beyond the pale get the gall to say that there would be "no problem" in using them to avoid a deadly disease?

What Barghouti is basically saying is that Israel should continue its incredible creativity, and go on transforming medicine and technology for the betterment of humankind, while also consenting to the elimination of the one Jewish state on the planet.

Leftist cheerleaders and apologists for BDS often point to Barghouti's efforts in creating the boycott movement

as a sign of progress in Palestinian political culture. They say that simple boycotts dedicated to destroying Israel by economic means and social pressures aimed at isolating the Jewish state and silencing its supporters is praiseworthy in comparison to Palestinian support for terrorism. They believe that it's much better for Palestinians to be working to end Israel's existence by these allegedly non-violent means rather than employing suicide bombings, terror tunnels and stabbings.

To the extent that we should take such arguments seriously, as opposed to dismissing them as risible sophistry, it's clear that Western intellectuals who advocate this point of view have nothing but contempt for Palestinian Arabs.

The issue for haters remains rooted in their conviction that the Jews have no right to a state, no matter where its borders are drawn. They don't care how brilliant Israeli science has proven to be; nor do they care about how many lives can be saved with the "startup nation's" technological innovations. As long as they believe the big lie that the only democracy in the Middle East is an "apartheid state," it won't matter which universal disease Israelis cure.

The notion that the only choices before them are mass murder or a movement that uses economic and political pressure in an attempt to pursue the same illegitimate cause for which Palestinian terrorists shed blood is an appalling lie.

No movement based on the antisemitic notion that the Jews are the only people on earth who have no rights to their homeland or to self-defense can claim to support non-violence, let alone the banner of advocacy for human rights.

The BDS movement is drenched in antisemitic rhetoric and imagery, and conducts itself on American college campuses and on the streets of Europe as a hate group. Wherever it raises its banners, acts of intimidation and often violence against Jews inevitably follow. The notion that its founder or any of those who support his ideas are really interested in humanitarian principles or saving lives is the real joke.

But there is an important lesson for Jews and supporters

of Israel that transcends any outrage about Barghouti's appalling hypocrisy.

There is a school of thought that has clung to the notion that if the world knew more about the brilliance of Israeli achievements in every field of human endeavor, including science and medicine, and literature and art, then it would finally understand just how misguided the efforts to destroy it truly are. Friends of Israel also much prefer to read good news about the Jewish state than to have to take dives into the arguments about the rights of Jews to their ancient homeland, and why its efforts of self-defense against terror are both justified and necessary.

The sad truth, however, is that if announcements of Israeli scientists producing a coronavirus cure and/or vaccine along with, were made tomorrow, it would change no minds in the BDS movement. Nor would there be any greater sympathy for Israel in international organizations that routinely devote much of their efforts to stigmatizing and libeling the Jewish state.

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they care about how many lives can be saved with the "startup nation's" technological innovations. As long as they believe the big lie that the only democracy in the Middle East is an "apartheid state," it won't matter which universal disease Israelis cure.

It's little surprise that Barghouti thinks cooperating with Israel to save Palestinian lives is "no problem." Despite the energy they put into trying to convince the world to believe their falsehoods about its conduct, they're not really interested in what Israel does; they only care that Israel exists, and erasing that fact is their only focus.

Supporters of Israel are right to point to all of Israel's magnificent achievements. Yet, they need to discard the naive idea that its good deeds will ever convince antisemites to cease their hatred or their vile efforts to destroy the Jewish homeland.

Jonathan S. Tobin is editor-in-chief of JNS—Jewish News Syndicate. Follow him on Twitter at @jonathans_tobin.

In My Own Words

Living in your hometown

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

You know you live in your hometown when someone you don't recognize says to you, "I babysat you when you were 3 years old." This occurred when I was attending an event the first weekend in March and, even though I didn't remember her, I knew she was right because she told me where I lived at the time.

When the event was over, I took a detour on my way home to look at the apartment building we'd lived in when I was young and then swung around a few blocks to visit what had been my grandparents' house. (That was not the house my mom grew up in, which is now a parking lot near Union Endicott High School.) I'm actually a third generation Endicott: my grandparents lived here; my mom, my younger brother and I were born here (my older brother was born in Brooklyn, which is where my father originally lived); and I attended the same high school as my mom.

Most of my life used to take place in Endicott, even after we moved to Endwell: I went to school there, then worked there, shopped there (and was crushed when Burts of Endicott went out of business because where was I going to find the things I always bought there?) and prayed in

Endicott's synagogue, Temple Beth El. Vestal and Binghamton? Man, they were so far away! "How could anyone travel that far every day," said the person who now works in Vestal and prays in Binghamton. But, especially in my very early years, going to Binghamton was a big deal. (By the way, I did get to Brooklyn and Manhattan, but those were vacations and different.) I've been known to echo my mother when someone mentions a place in Binghamton with which I'm not familiar: "But I'm an Endicott girl."

If you had asked me when I was 18 if I would be living in Endicott/Endwell at this stage of my life, I would have said, "No!" In fact, both times I moved from this area – to college in the 1970s and rabbinical school in the '90s – I never planned to return. During college, I fell in love with Philadelphia and big city life. When I was in rabbinical school, I didn't think there would be any rabbinical work for me here. Both times I returned due to health problems: after college, my body just wasn't working right and, after rabbinical school, my hearing had almost completely disappeared.

However, each time I returned, I took solace in the phrase

"bloom where you are planted." Those words appeared on a poster given to me by a college friend; that poster hung on my bedroom door until I left for rabbinical school. They still inspire me even if I no longer see them everyday. We may not be able to change the problems life gives us, but we can adjust our attitude. I make no claim to have been happy to return home either time, but it was up to me as to whether I stayed permanently miserable or found things that could fill my life with joy.

The funny thing is that now I could never live in a large city. Although I love visiting friends in Philly, I now prefer the green hills of Broome County. I realize that part of this is that I have no choice: living in a city is not good for my health. But I can focus on the good things, including the wonderful community that embraced me when I returned to this area and made my rabbinate possible. I may not be a pulpit rabbi, which was my dream when I entered rabbinical school. However, I'm used to having the dreams of what my life would be like not come true and having to travel a different path. What matters are the joys offered by the path I have taken.



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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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On the Jewish food scene

Ode to herring

By Rabbi Rachel Esserman

My father did not like sandwiches. That amazed my mother, who decided they were married for better and worse, but not for lunch because what else do you eat at lunch, if not a sandwich? Fortunately, my dad was much easier to feed at dinner time: he was happy with a meal consisting of herring from a jar, a baked potato and a vegetable.

I inherited my dad's love of herring. When I was a kid, my favorite was herring in cream sauce. When I could no longer eat it because of the preservatives it contains, I experimented with other types of pickled herring and found I pretty much liked all of them. That includes herring in wine sauce or vinegar brine. I'll eat herring for a meal or as a snack. When I have a jar in the frig – even a large jar – it doesn't take me long to polish it off.

Herring has long been a staple on *kiddush* tables after Shabbat services, at least for Ashkenazic Jews. It is inexpensive (much cheaper than lox or whitefish), easy to prepare (just put the jar on the table or dump the contents in a dish) and tastes fine placed on a piece of challah. I know it was something that my grandfather ate in *shul* after service, sometimes with a shot of schnapps.

My family always ate herring straight from the jar, although I know some people use it to make a salad with potatoes, pickles and onions. (No thanks: I take mine straight!) I don't think I've ever had fresh herring, at least, not that I remember. I was surprised to find out that there are other ways to eat herring. In a recent food article, I wrote about my love of kugel. One reader informed me of a kind of kugel with which I was completely unfamiliar: herring

kugel. Yes, you read the correctly: herring kugel. One of his relatives used to make it, although he hasn't eaten it in years. I actually did find a recipe for herring kugel online: it contains herring, potato, butter, onions and coffee cream. The recipe didn't strike me as particularly appealing, although I'd be willing to try a piece if someone else made it.

When looking for information about herring online, I learned that it's now available in a wider variety of flavors, although I have yet to see these in a local grocery store. I'm not sure how I feel about such flavors as smokey zaatar, honey mustard sriracha or sweet black pepper herring. Well, if they were available, I'd probably give them a try just to see. Some unlikely combinations really do work. But eating the old fashioned type of herring is probably something I'll always do: those jars of herring remind me of my father and the meals we used to share.

Labour..... Continued from page 1

I will tear out this poison by its roots and judge success by the return of Jewish members and those who felt that they could no longer support us.”

Starmer's wife, Victoria Alexander, is Jewish and has extended family in Tel Aviv.

“My wife's family is Jewish. Her dad is Jewish; their family came over from Poland. The extended family live in Israel,” he told Britain's *Jewish News* in February.

Starmer has never been to Israel, but said that he's in regular contact with the extended family and has “various visits planned, basically to take our kids for the first time.”

He told the *Jewish News*, “I do support Zionism. I absolutely support the right of Israel to exist as a homeland. My only concern is that Zionism can mean slightly different things to different people, and... to some extent it has been weaponized. I wouldn't read too much into that. I said it loud and clear – and meant it – that I support Zionism without qualification.”

Starmer added, “If the definition of ‘Zionist’ is someone who believes in the state of Israel, in that sense I'm a Zionist.”

However, Starmer is “a member of Labour Friends of Palestine and the Middle East, a parliamentary group that promotes support for the Palestinians and campaigns for ‘peace and justice in the Middle East through the implementation of international law and respect for human rights,’” reported *The Times of Israel*. He has also come under criticism for inadequately combating antisemitism in the party under Corbyn.

Starmer was criticized in 2017 for inviting the Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association, which has praised Palestinian suicide-bombers who targeted Israeli civilians during the Second Intifada from 2000-05, to address the House of Commons.

Angela Rayner became Labour's new deputy during the vote. In 2015, Rayner published an article titled “Inside the Factory of Genocide,” where she referenced anti-Israel activist Norman Finkelstein's work “The Holocaust Industry,” where the author claims that American Jews exploit the Holocaust for financial and political gain. Rayner called the work “a seminal book.”

“For Ms. Rayner to refer to his book as ‘seminal,’ therefore, is to abuse the Holocaust to promote the perception of negative Jewish character traits; namely notions of dishonesty and greed,” said the U.K.-based Campaign Against Antisemitism in a dossier about her on its website. “This trope is now so widespread that, in a recent survey,



British Labour Party leader Keir Starmer (Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons)

a third of Europeans expressed the opinion that Jews exploit the Holocaust.”

In January 2018, Rayner reposted her article on Facebook on Holocaust Memorial Day. Rayner apologized the following November after that was discovered.

“I was reflecting on my visits to Auschwitz and speaking about the importance of remembering the Holocaust in order to continually challenge and confront antisemitism,” she said. “I regret the choice of quote I used to illustrate it, and now that I know more about the context I would not make that reference again.

“I apologize for what was a genuine misunderstanding, in what was always intended to be a message of solidarity with the Jewish community,” continued Rayner. “This underscores the importance of engagement with the Jewish community to improve understanding about this issue.”

Nonetheless, Jewish groups welcomed Starmer's election as Labour's new leader.

“We were very pleased that he and all the other leadership contenders signed up to the Board of Deputies' Ten Pledges on antisemitism,” said the president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, Marie van der Zyl. “Now they must act to rid the party of the awful disease of anti-Jewish racism.”

“Keir Starmer's election and commitment to assertively take on antisemitism are rays of light in what has been for Jews a particularly dark period in British history,” said American Jewish Committee CEO David Harris. “We agree with our partner organization, the British Board of Deputies, that concrete action to assertively eliminate hatred of Jews inside the Labour Party must now follow Sir Starmer's pledge.”

Gideon Falter, the chief executive of Campaign Against Antisemitism, expressed optimism though noted that Starmer has to tackle the issue of antisemitism in Labour immediately. “As the new leader of the Labour Party, Sir Keir has no time to lose in making good on his pledge seek out antisemitism, and ‘tear out this poison by its roots’ and rebuild relations with the Jewish community,” he said.

“As a queen's counsel and former director of public prosecutions, [he] knows this is not a matter of politics but of justice, and justice requires an impartial process of inquiry with sanctions for offenders,” added Falter. “This must start with addressing our outstanding complaints against Jeremy Corbyn and disciplining him in order to send a message that anti-Jewish racism no longer has a home in the Labour Party.”

Moving any time soon?



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Off the Shelf

Novels about the Orthodox world

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

When I looked at the novels and books of short stories on my to-read pile, I was surprised to see three works written by Orthodox women. Each author successfully portrays the beauty of their community, even as they acknowledge its flaws. What's interesting is that, although the books have very different plots, all of them speak to the problems that can occur when arranging a marriage – either for yourself or your children.

“An Unorthodox Match”

At first, Leah Howard idolizes the religious community she recently joined. In Naomi Ragen's “An Orthodox Match” (St. Martin's Press), Leah, who comes from a secular background, finds meaning and purpose in her life as part of a tight-knit Orthodox community in Brooklyn. She doesn't yet know how her world will change after she meets the family of Yaakov Lehman. Yaakov is a Talmud scholar and well respected in the community, although his wife's death has left him grief-stricken. His household has fallen into disarray and his teenage daughter, Shaindele, is unable to cope with the housework and taking care of her two younger siblings. Yaakov is soon forced to acknowledge he may have either have to stop his Talmud study and find a job to replace the income his late wife brought into the house, or marry again.

Leah visits the Lehman home as part of her *chesed* (loving-kindness) volunteer work. Yaakov's two youngest children fall in love with her, although Shaindele resents her presence, even though it makes her life easier. However, for a long time Leah and Yaakov don't meet: he leaves the house before Leah arrives and returns after she is gone. When they do, though, they find themselves drawn to each other. This creates problems: Leah is a *baal teshuvah* (a returnee), which means that someone of Yaakov's family heritage shouldn't marry her because of the negative effect it would have on his children's choice of marriage partners. Shaindele is particularly disturbed by the possibility they might marry, as is Yaakov's mother-in-law. The characters find themselves considering the question, “Are *baal teshuvah* full members of the community or will they always be considered untrustworthy outsiders?”

Ragen does a wonderful job creating interesting and flawed characters who are surprised to learn that some members of their religious community are as prejudiced as anyone living in the secular world. However, it's also clear that Ragen loves Orthodox values – that she understands that if people truly embrace them, then the community offers love and acceptance, at least for those willing to live

within its restrictions. I found the ending of “An Orthodox Match” surprisingly moving in that I'd become more involved in the characters' stories than I expected. This is a perfect novel for book clubs since it could open interesting dialogues between members of all branches of Judaism.

“On Division”

What happens when spouses keep secrets, especially ones that could change the nature of their relationship? In Goldie Goldberg's “On Division” (Farrar, Straus and Giroux), Surie Eckstein learns she is pregnant with twins. Normally that would be considered a blessing in her Brooklyn Chasidic community. However, Surie is 57 and already a grandmother. Embarrassed and ashamed, she keeps the pregnancy a secret from her husband, Yidel, who doesn't understand why his loving wife is acting so distant. Her oldest daughter thinks her mother is getting fat and hints that Surie should eat less and watch her weight. There is no one she can confide to because Surie knows that there are no real secrets in her community.

To complicate matters, the midwife who delivered her other children tells Surie she has to visit the hospital for weekly checkups. Surie pretends to Yidel that she is visiting the sick so she won't have to reveal the true reason she is traveling to Manhattan. This is not completely a lie. The midwife recruits Surie to help with the other Chasidic women visiting the hospital. They feel more comfortable talking to someone who speaks Yiddish and understands their community. Surie is encouraged to become a nurse and is tempted to step outside her circumscribed world, although the books she must study are forbidden works because they contain diagrams of the human body. It's not that Surie is completely unhappy, but another secret – what really happened to her late son, Lipa – also creates feelings of pain and despair. If the truth were known, it would affect not only the marriage prospects of her unmarried sons, but those of the next generation.

“On Division” portrays imperfect people living in an imperfect world. Surie and her family are redeemed by the love they feel for each other, even as they realize they've made harmful decisions. The novel's ending will disturb some readers who will be distressed with Surie's actions. However, her decision shows how she has come to terms with all that has occurred – the good and the bad.

“#ShidduchCrisis”

How difficult is it to make a match in the Orthodox world? The excellent “#ShidduchCrisis: Short Stories” by Penina Shtaubert (Penina-Shtaubert.com) is filled with funny, sad and poignant stories, as its

characters search for their *bashert* (soul mate). She defines the *shidduch* crisis as “a commonly observed and discussed phenomenon in the Orthodox Jewish community whereby eligible single persons, especially women, have difficulty finding a suitable spouse, or *shidduch*.” People are introduced by matchmakers and friends, and are expected to date only for a short time before deciding whether or not to wed. Men and women create *shidduch* resumes, making looking for a spouse similar to searching for a job.

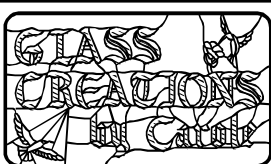
All the stories in Shtaubert's work are told in the first person, which creates an immediate intimacy with its characters. The technique works because, although the characters try to present themselves in the best light, it's easy to read between the lines and understand what's really happening – whether they're blaming someone else for a bad date or taking undeserved credit when a meeting went well.

The 260-page book contains 29 stories and it's difficult to single out particular stories since they were all very well done. Some of my favorites, though, include the following:

- ◆ “My Parents Knew His Parents,” which is narrated by a young woman whose marriage is arranged for her parents' benefit, rather than her own.
- ◆ The non-Orthodox narrator of “False Name, True Love” falls for a woman he meets on Facebook, the one place she can be her true self.
- ◆ Another story, “Ridiculous,” features a narrator who has difficulty accepting that the woman he loves may not share the same values.
- ◆ The narrator in “Mr. Perfect” discovers the reason the perfect young man she meets is not married. What occurs will surprise some readers and distress others.
- ◆ What do you do when you are engaged to be married and then discover your fiancé has an unpleasant past? That's the dilemma the narrator of “Anonymous Post” faces. Should she risk never marrying or hope for the best and become a bride?
- ◆ “Slim Chance” shows the dangers of weight consciousness in a world where thin women have the best marriage opportunities.
- ◆ After too many boring dates, the narrator of “Black Magic” finds love in an unexpected place.

Shtaubert does an amazing job capturing her characters' idiosyncrasies. Even though all the stories focus on dating and marriage, their circumstances vary widely so they never become boring or repetitive. Whether or not readers are familiar with the *shidduch* crisis, they will find much to enjoy in this work.

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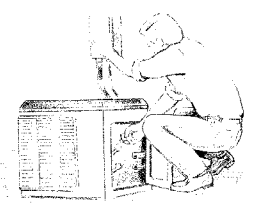
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Did you know?

(NAPSA) – The average household spends \$2,000 a year on utility bills, with nearly half going to cooling and heating the home. The U.S. EPA's Energy Star Program offers resources to help you save energy, save money and protect the climate at www.energystar.gov/cooling.



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Israeli missile-production line starts churning out much-needed ventilators

By Yaakov Lappin

(JNS) – In ordinary times, Israel Aerospace Industries Systems Missiles Space group churns out advanced missiles, including interceptors used by the Arrow 2 and Arrow 3 defense systems. During these extraordinary times, the group has added a new production line – one that produces hospital ventilators.

As Israel, like many countries, grapples with a shortage of ventilators in the face of a potential tidal wave of vulnerable coronavirus patients, IAI teamed up with Ra'anana-based Inovytec, which specializes in the production of emergency medical systems, to get the new production line going quickly.

The new cooperation program, which is being conducted together with the Defense Ministry's Directorate of Production and Procurement, and the Ministry of Health, will soon see hundreds of ventilators being produced, giving Israel a domestic mass production capability.

The new line was set up in a matter of days, and has already produced and tested dozens of machines.

"The issue of ventilators is a significant bottleneck," an IAI source told JNS. "We have been in contact with the health and defense establishments to see how we can call up our capabilities to assist."

IAI is working with government-owned companies and start-ups on multiple task forces aimed at finding new solutions to the pandemic. After being put in touch with Inovytec via the Defense Ministry, the cooperation quickly resulted in the production line of the company's Ventway Sparrow ventilators.

"This is a proven machine in use in Israeli hospitals and abroad," the source said. But Inovytec's small size meant it could not rapidly shift to mass production. As a result, IAI entered the picture with its factory, engineers, technicians and infrastructure, who normally work on building missiles and satellites. Both types of production require great precision and technical checks, the source explained.

The Defense Ministry described the Ventway Sparrow as "a state-of-the-art, turbine-powered, lightweight, easy-to-use ventilator that enables effective invasive and non-invasive mechanical ventilation for both adults and children. The ventilator has been tested for compliance with the most stringent medical standards, and is currently used in hospitals and emergency medical centers in Israel and around the world."

IAI is also able to procure the materials needed for production and has the logistical prowess to get hundreds of ventilation systems rolling off the production line by the middle of April. "The infrastructure, equipment, elec-



Israel Aerospace Industries' new ventilator production line. (Photo courtesy of Israel Aerospace Industries)

tronics and precision that are needed to make missiles fit the production of ventilators," said the source.

Avi Dadon, head of the DOPP, stated, "Once we were assigned the task of acquiring and producing a maximum number of ventilators in a short period of time, we saw the immediate mobilization of the local industry. A high-tech medical company, working with the excellent defense industry and the Ministry of Defense, has been able to deliver an advanced production line that already issues dozens of advanced respirators within just a few days. We are at the beginning of the road, and in the coming weeks, we will accelerate production rates even further."

The Defense Ministry noted that "all the parties involved are facing challenges in the international chain of supply and dealing with record demand and difficulty in purchasing components. As a result, all of the relevant bodies in the state of Israel have joined forces in order to achieve what is needed for the production of these crucial ventilators."

The new production line is one of several efforts under way by the Defense Ministry's Directorate of Production and Procurement.

The DOPP is also overseeing the purchase of medical equipment and protective gear, including ventilators and masks, abroad. Under the DOPP's plan, drawn up together with the Health Ministry, this will include 2,500 ventilation machines – 1,000 assembled in Israel and another 1,500 bought abroad and flown in. Those target numbers appear to have grown substantially in recent days, in line with potential worst-case scenarios.

In a report aired by the Israeli investigative program "Uvda" on Channel 22 recently, a Mossad official in charge of a joint operations room at Tel Hashomer Hospital,

involving health and defense officials, shed light on the overseas operation aimed at getting hold of the machines.

The program also featured comments by Mossad Director Yossi Cohen, who stated, "My central objective is procurement and readiness for the most severe scenarios."

A man identified only as H, the head of Mossad's Technological Branch discussed how his organization joined forces with the Health Ministry and brought its operational expertise to the "unprecedented" overseas purchasing operation. The Mossad has been instructed to bring to Israel more than 130 million items in the next two months that are needed to fight the coronavirus, including protective gear, test kits, medicines, and most of all, ventilators – the subject of fierce international competition around the world.

"The world is selling them in between the cracks. We must find those cracks," said H. "We activate our special ties to win in this competition."

He spoke of thousands of leads that the intelligence agency is pursuing. The operation should result in a million-and-a-half N95 masks – vital for medical teams – 700,000 surgical masks and a large number of ventilators.

At the same time, officials in Israel are stressing the need to develop rapid self-sufficiency in this field. "The state of Israel must develop independent capabilities in everything related to dealing with the COVID-19 virus pandemic," Defense Minister Naftali Bennett stated recently. "We cannot remain dependent on procurement from other countries. We must develop independent, advanced capabilities."

Brig. Gen. (res.) Dr. Dani Gold, director of the Directorate for Defense Research and Development in the Defense Ministry, said, "Turning a missile-production line into a ventilator assembly plant is a very complex task, made possible by the collaboration between the Ministry of Defense and the defense industry. We are continuing in the race around the clock to translate the extraordinary tech capabilities of the defense establishment to the fight against corona."

Udi Kantor, Inovytec CEO, added that "the collaboration with IAI and with the Ministry of Defense is amazing at this time, and it allows us to multiply our production capabilities and supply ventilators in the shortest possible time frame. We are operating in a challenging time, and in a global 'war' to acquire the necessary components and fulfill our mission."

The Defense Ministry also announced a new agreement with the Sion Medical company in Israel, whose factory is in Sderot, for the purchase of 35 million masks and hundreds of thousands of uniforms for medical staff. See "Line" on page 8

Spring Home Improvement

Did you know?

(NAPSA) – Fire experts agree you have as little as two minutes to escape a burning home before it's too late. That's why the Red Cross encourages you to practice your home fire escape plan twice a year. Visit redcross.org/homefires for a free plan.

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Shemini, Leviticus 9:1-11:47

Limitations, gratitude and holiness

RABBI MARJORIE BERMAN, SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR, RECONSTRUCTIONIST RABBINICAL COLLEGE

In *parashat* Shemini, this week's Torah portion, the Israelites are instructed regarding which species are permissible and which are forbidden for consumption. Land animals may be eaten only if they have split hooves and also chew their cud, and fish must have fins and scales. Birds of prey and certain others are forbidden, and the four admissible kosher insects – all of which are types of locusts – are listed.

For more than 2,000 years, commentators have sought to understand the reasoning behind which animals we are allowed to eat and those we are not. Some cite health and hygiene as the driving force; others argue that it was a means of separating us from the "pagan nations." Modern anthropologists have suggested that the biblical laws were concerned with categorization, and that the permitted animals reflected those species that were understood to

be the most "complete" examples of their classification.

Upon close examination, however, none of these answers fully explain the laws of *kashrut*. The famous 12th century physician and scholar Maimonides adds another explanation. He posits that the laws of *kashrut*, in addition to other benefits, also develop our spiritual and moral selves by inculcating habits and traits of self-restraint. In a much older source, a collection of *halachic midrashim* (early rabbinic commentary) on the book of Leviticus known as Sifral, Rabbi Elazar ben Azaryah has a similar view. He says: "One should not say I do not desire... to eat the flesh of a pig. I do desire it, but what can I do? My God has forbidden it."

In both of these last two explanations, there is a sense that when we have a limitation placed on us, it increases our experience of holiness. By having many things which

are forbidden to us, the act of eating becomes one which focuses our attention and our intention. Clearly, this is true in other areas of Judaism as well – among many examples, Shabbat comes most clearly to mind. By not spending money or using tools, by leaving the world alone for a day, we move into a different kind of time, a holy time. Because of the limitations placed upon us, we do not seek to have an impact on the world, but rather to let it impact us.

We are currently living in a time of stark limitations. Because of a tiny molecule known as a virus that is making its way into every community on the planet, we are trying to avert the severest decree by maintaining social distance, by staying in our homes, by not attending gatherings or celebrations, or even school and work unless it is absolutely necessary. Clearly, these limitations pose hardships. And **See "Holiness" on page 7**

Congregational Notes

Beth David Synagogue

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

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-3:30 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 Sunday, April 19, at noon: Torah study led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown via Zoom. The Torah portion is Leviticus 9:1-11:47 and the haftarah is 2 Samuel 6:1-7:17.

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.

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.tikunvor.org
E-mail: info@tikunvor.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.

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.

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 17, light candles before 7:29 pm
Saturday, April 18, Shabbat ends 8:31 pm
Friday, April 24, light candles before 7:37 pm
Saturday, April 25, Shabbat ends 8:39 pm

Temple Concord

Affiliation: Union for Reform Judaism
Rabbi: Barbara Goldman-Wartell
Address: 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905
Office hours: Tues.-Fri., 10 am-2 pm
Phone: 723-7355
Fax: 723-0785
Office e-mail: TempleConcordbinghamton@gmail.com
Website: www.templeconcord.com
Regular service times: Friday, 8 pm; Saturday, 10:35 am, when religious school is in session.
Hebrew school: Hebrew school meets at 4:15 pm and 5:15 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the school year unless otherwise noted.

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

Friday, April 17: Shabbat services at 7 pm at <https://binghamton.zoom.us/j/350204323>, by calling 1-929-205-6099 and entering the meeting ID # 350 204 323, or by visiting www.facebook.com/templeconcord/.

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

Saturday, April 18: Havdalah with a bonus at 7 pm at <https://binghamton.zoom.us/j/526246866>, by calling 1-929-205-6099 and entering meeting ID 526 246 866, or by visiting www.facebook.com/templeconcord/.

Monday, April 20: Yom Hashoah v'Hagvurah Commemoration at 7 pm at <https://binghamton.zoom.us/j/568376898> or calling 1-929-205-6099 and entering meeting ID # 568-376-898.

Friday, April 24: Shabbat services at 7 pm at <https://binghamton.zoom.us/j/350204323>, by calling 1-929-205-6099 and entering the meeting ID #350 204 323, or visiting www.facebook.com/templeconcord/.

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.

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

“Shalom, Y’All!” Museum of Southern Jewish Experience to open in New Orleans

By JNS staff

(JNS) – Officials with the Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience announced that the new museum will open in fall 2020 in New Orleans.

Exhibits will explore the many ways Jews in the American South influenced and were influenced by the distinct cultural heritage of their communities, covering 13 states and more than 300 years of history, including Colonial, Civil War, World War II and the civil-rights movement.

“This will be the only museum in the country to focus exclusively on the history and culture of Jews across the South,” said museum Chairman Jay Tanenbaum.

Multimedia exhibits will illustrate how Jewish immigrants and succeeding generations adapted to life in the South, forming bonds of deep friendship and community with their non-Jewish neighbors. The museum will also address issues of race and antisemitism, and the ways Southern Jews navigated such challenges at different times.

“Southern Jews have more often been a part of their communities, rather than apart from them,” says Kenneth Hoffman, executive director of the museum. “This contrasts with America’s urban immigration centers where Jews formed more insular enclaves. The contributions they made and the acceptance they received attest to something unique in the Southern heart.”

New Orleans was chosen as the home of museum based on the city’s tourism economy, long Jewish history and the historical connection to the broader southern region. MSJE will be located in the city’s “Museum District,” in proximity to the National World War II Museum, the Ogden Museum of Southern Art and the Contemporary Art Center on the historic St. Charles Avenue streetcar line, and the walking path between the museums and the Oretta Castle Haley redevelopment.

The museum’s collection of 7,000-plus artifacts was transferred from the original Museum of the Southern Jewish



A Krewe du Jieux Bagel. (Photo by the Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience)

Experience established in 1986 at Jacobs Camp, in Utica, MS, and shuttered in 2012.

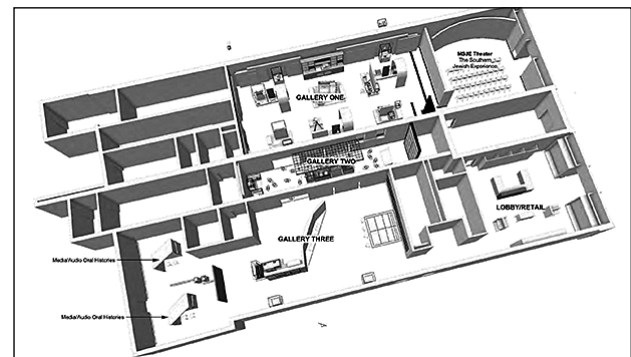
MSJE is working with Gallagher and Associates, an internationally recognized museum planning and design firm, responsible for award-winning experiences at scores of international projects, including the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia, the National College Football Hall of Fame in Atlanta and, in New Orleans, the Sazerac House and the National World War II Museum.

The museum is expected to appeal to a wide array of visitors. “You don’t have to be Jewish and you don’t have to be Southern to relate,” said Hoffman. “Our hope is that visitors come away with an expanded understanding of what it means to be a Jew, what it means to be a Southerner and, ultimately, what it means to be an American.”

Museum officials are encouraging members of the public to consider donating relevant artifacts to the collection. Curators are especially interested in items from early Jewish

history (1800s), items related to the stories of women and people of color, and any item with a “strong connection” to a personal story of Southern Jewish life.

Learn about the artifact donation process at www.msje.org/our-collection.



Artist’s rendering of the Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience in New Orleans, to open on the fall of 2020. (Photo by the Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience)

Holiness. Continued from page 6

they are felt most acutely by those with the least means. No one can argue that the coronavirus will have devastating consequences worldwide, and we have yet to begin to see the extent of them.

But if we pay attention, there is something else to be seen as well. When we have limitations placed on us, we begin to see more clearly what makes our lives holy. When we must maintain a distance of six feet, we yearn to be closer. When we cannot touch others, we yearn to be held. When we cannot gather to support each other in mourning or join each other in celebration, we begin to remember the irreplaceable value of community.

As a rabbi, I’ve noticed something interesting, and so have my colleagues. As we have moved our services and classes online, our attendance has doubled, tripled or more. Many people have more time on their hands, it’s true, and people are also anxious and afraid. But overwhelmingly, people have said, “I just want to be with my community.” Before the pandemic, in the increasingly fast pace of the modern world, we were sacrificing the very things that made our lives meaningful. We were sacrificing the things that make them holy.

In the 21st century, if one has even a modest means, there are very few limits placed on us. We can have what we want, whenever we want it. At the touch of a button, we can stream the entertainment we desire, or order goods from the other side of the world. If we live in the U.S., we have about 40,000 products to choose from for dinner,

just at our neighborhood grocery store. We can travel to most places in the world. It is incredibly easy to forget our obligations to family and to community, or simply to be unable to fulfill them as we try to keep pace.

In this time of severe limitation, it pays to notice what the gifts of those limits placed upon us might be. With fewer choices of food, are you appreciating it more? With fewer choices of activities, are you reconnecting with nature, and noticing the slow unfolding of the spring? Are you finding more time to check in on those you love, and to tell them what they mean to you? Are you finding that you are grateful for your communities, or wishing that you were better connected? Are you finding time to just sit, or meditate, or pray, or read, or do yoga or go for a run? Are there ways in which you are finding that less is more?

As we are learning the lessons of self-restraint to try to keep ourselves and our communities as healthy as possible, as we are experiencing the constraints of the current moment, we might pause and ask ourselves, “In what way does my life feel more holy in this moment?” And then, we might move to ask the much bigger question. When we have made it, *b’ezrat Hashem* (with the help of the Infinite) to the other side of this, will we be willing to choose limitations that “inculcate habits and traits of self-restraint?” Our spiritual, physical and mental health, as well as the health of our communities and, most importantly, the health of our planet will depend on it. Can we choose the path of holiness?



An rendering of the Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience in New Orleans, to open on the fall of 2020. (Photo by the Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience)

LEGAL NOTICE

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 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.
5. The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

Jewish philanthropist provides meals to Russia's quarantined seniors

More than 3,000 free meals are being handed out three times a day to senior citizens over the age of 65 who are quarantined at home because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Secluded and isolated under mandatory home quarantine, members of this populace need more help since they don't have close relatives who can support them at this time. The food distribution, which began the week of April 3, is being overseen and made daily by catering services based in Koltsovo (Yekaterinburg), Kurumoch (Samara), Strigino (Nizhny Novgorod) and Platov (Rostov-on-Don) airports. The effort is made possible by the Airports of Regions holding company (or AR), of which the Renova Group, owned by Jewish businessman and philanthropist Viktor Vekselberg, is a major shareholder. The campaign is set to last at least until the end of April. Despite the economic downturn that is hitting the aviation industry and airports in particular, AR is trying to do its part to help in the public's efforts to cope with the pandemic. AR is cooperating with associations of volunteers, as well as with social-service agencies that are able to identify specific recipients and assume responsibility for delivering the nutritious food packages, as well as addressing their need for any medicines. Renova is also going to provide many regions in the Russian Federation with more than 50,000 reagent kits to conduct COVID-19

Line Continued from page 5

Some 11 million surgical masks will be available in April. The company will also produce 5.5 million N95 masks, and hundreds of thousands of overalls and protective gear. "A unique machine was brought to Israel with the assistance of the Defense Ministry, in order to enable Sion to open the production line for advanced masks. The machine is the only one of its kind in Israel," the Ministry said in a statement.

tests designed by the Russian company, Evotech Mirai Genomics. In an attempt by authorities in Russia to contain the coronavirus and protect seniors, citizens above the age of 65 in most regions have been obligated to remain in quarantine from the end of March until May at their respective places of residence or in facilities like residential buildings and summer homes. Vekselberg, chairman of the board of directors of Renova Group, points out that in the situation, where the coronavirus pandemic turns out to be the most serious challenge that the humankind has faced in the 21st century, all must join forces to save human lives – governments, businesses and public institutions.

Israeli indicted for allegedly spying for Iran with goal to attack Jewish state

A 50-year-old Israeli man was indicted for allegedly being recruited by Iran to spy and carry out attacks on Israeli targets, the Shin Bet security service announced on April 7. The man was found with encrypted communication device, according to Ynet. The first charge against him is that he was in contact on Facebook with a Lebanese man named Khaled Yamani in 2018 and 2019. Yamani supposedly gave the Israeli the encryption device and trained him how to use it to contact his Iranian handlers, but the spy was unable to operate the device. The Israeli man became scared that he would be discovered, and allegedly discarded the device and burned a paper that had the email information of his Iranian handler. The second charge, according to the report, is that the Israeli traveled to Hungary in February this year and held meetings with Yamani with two men who identified themselves as Iranian intelligence agents. The man was to look for other potential spies and pass on information about security matters and how to create polarization in Israeli society. The Iranians transferred 5,000 Euros to the Israeli, Ynet reported.

Israel seeks negotiations with Hamas for release of four citizens held in Gaza

Israel is calling for negotiations over the return of four Israelis being held in the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip after

Hamas leaders said they could be willing to make a deal. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said in a statement on April 7 that the national security team "stands ready to take constructive action with the goal of returning the fallen and the missing, and of ending the affair, and are calling for an immediate dialogue via mediators," according to a Reuters report. The week of April 3, Israel said that any aid to Gaza for battling the coronavirus (or COVID-19) would be based on progress in recovering two soldiers who went missing during the 2014 war and two civilians who separately got captured there. Yahya Sinwar, Hamas chief in Gaza, has rejected linking coronavirus aid to talks, but said he saw "a possible initiative to revive this issue" if Israel frees Palestinian prisoners. "A prisoner swap will exact a big price" from Israel, he told Hamas' Al-Aqsa TV, according to the report. He added that if Israel would begin by releasing prisoners that were sick, old and female, "we may offer something partial in return."

Yeshivas distribute medical equipment, turn gym into field hospital for patients

Two yeshivas in New York state have found "unique approaches" to helping medical professionals combat the coronavirus (or COVID-19) pandemic. Yeshiva Sh'or Yoshuv in Nassau County assembled what is being described as a "field hospital" for coronavirus patients inside its gym and other areas in the school, and is working with Northwell Health, New York's largest hospital system, to make it operational, said health and local officials. A Northwell spokesperson said the hospital is negotiating with the yeshiva about opening the location for moderately ill, "low-acuity" COVID-19 patients, and that state and local approvals are still needed before the facility can begin running, reported Newsday. Meanwhile, Beit Midrash of Great Neck, located in Long Island, has turned into a makeshift distribution center so that thousands of masks and hand sanitizer dispensers can be delivered, for free, to New York City hospitals, Jewish Insider reported. "My feeling was that if we're not going to help the people who are helping us, that's just very callous," said Rabbi Eitan Rubin, head of the yeshiva. Rubin and his business associate, Stephen Odzer, found investors to help buy the masks and hand sanitizer. Odzer, who distributes janitorial supplies and other products, also gave an initial charitable donation of \$100,000 worth of supplies. Rubin has already delivered 35,000 N95 respirator masks and 4,000 hand-sanitizer dispensers to hospitals in New York. Another order of 50,000 masks and 8,000 dispensers was expected to arrive in New York the week of April 8, he said. He added that he has also obtained two ventilators while raising money for his cause. On March 30, he set up a GoFundMe page that has already raised nearly \$400,000.

Amazon apologizes for Hitler book disguised as dog-training manual

Amazon on April 1 apologized to a British customer who called on the online retail giant to "immediately" remove from sale a book disguised as a puppy-training manual that in fact contains a full reprint of a 1930s Nazi propaganda book eulogizing Adolf Hitler's achievements, ideology and work. "We apologize to the customer for this issue, which was caused by a one-off printing issue with a supplier. Our supplier has confirmed that steps have been taken to ensure it doesn't happen again," Amazon said in a statement. Lorraine Phipps purchased on Amazon "Puppy Training" by Jenna Jimenez on March 2 and was shocked to find instead, printed inside the book, "Adolf Hitler, 1931-1935: Pictures From the Life of the Führer," originally published in 1936 with a foreword by leading Nazi party figure Hermann Göring. It contains 203 photographs and has accompanying text authored by some of the highest-ranking Third Reich officials, including propaganda chiefs Joseph Goebbels and Otto Dietrich. "When my husband and I went to read it, despite the cover being as expected, it was actually a reprinting of a 1936 pro-Nazi propaganda book," she said. Phipps said she asked Amazon to remove the "awful and misleading item from their listings" three times. As of April 1, only the book's audio version is available on Amazon. Phipps also left a review on Amazon that includes a video showing the full Nazi propaganda book printed inside the dog manual.

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