

THE REPORTER

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Film Fest to hold second virtual film/event

By Reporter staff

The Jewish International Film Fest of Greater Binghamton will hold a virtual showing of the film "Heading Home: The Tale of Team Israel" directed by Seth Kramer, Daniel A. Miller and Jeremy Newberger. Newberger will lead the online discussion of the film. (See spotlight on this page.)

"After the success of our first virtual Film Fest, where we had more than 50 households and 26 people on the discussion, the Film Fest Committee has decided to hold a second virtual showing," said Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton. "I am so excited that we will have one of the directors of the film speaking to us!"

People will be able to register on the new Federation website, www.jfjb.org. The film will be streamed free for up to 100 computers. On June 6, 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 personal devices for 48 hours. On Monday, June 8, at 7 pm, Newberger will facilitate the online video discussion of the film.

"Heading Home" charts the underdog journey of Israel's national baseball team when it competed for the first time in the World Baseball Classic. After years of defeat, Team Israel finally ranked among the world's best in 2017, making it eligible to compete in the international tournament. The team's line-up included several Jewish American Major League players—Ike Davis, Josh Zeid

and ex-Braves catcher Ryan Lavarney—most of whom had a tenuous relationship to Judaism, let alone having never set foot in Israel. Their odyssey took them from Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, where they were greeted as heroes, to Seoul where they sought to debunk their has-been, wannabe reputations.

The film has been called "a stirring story of sports, patriotism and personal growth. With their Mensch on the Bench mascot by their side, the team laughs, cries and does much soul-searching, discovering the pride of representing Israel on the world stage." See "Film" on page 3



Members of Team Israel 2017 (Photo courtesy of Menemsha Films)

PBS to show film on antisemitism

The film "Viral: Antisemitism in Four Mutation" will premiere on PBS on Tuesday, May 26, at 9 pm. (Check local listings for exact information.) Commissioned and funded in part by PBS, the film was directed by Emmy Award winner Andrew Goldberg. "Viral" covers contemporary antisemitism by looking at the far-right in the U.S., the far-left in the U.K., Islamic radicalism in France and the government antisemitic propaganda campaign in Hungary. The filmmakers were one of the only productions allowed to film in the Tree of Life synagogue after the shootings.



Jewish star conspiracy theory poster

The multi-million-dollar effort took three years to make and features interviews with Bill Clinton, Tony Blair, Fareed Zakaria, George Will and Deborah Lipstadt, as well as victims of terror, experts and antisemites themselves. It is narrated in part by Julianna Margulies.

"By virtually every yardstick, antisemitism in the U.S. and Europe is rising and worsening in ways not seen since the 1930s," said those connected to the film. "It comes in the forms of vandalism, social media abuse, assault and murder. Like a virus, it mutates and evolves across cultures,

borders and ideologies, making it all but impossible to stop."

They continued, "The film examines how some on the American far right have incited such acts as the mass shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, PA. In Hungary, we see how the prime minister has launched a massive campaign against Jewish Holocaust survivor and billionaire George Soros that's reminiscent of Nazi propaganda. Moving to the far left in England, we see members of the traditionally anti-racist Labour party conflating Israel and Jews, causing tremendous pain for the Jewish community. And in France, the film illuminates the seemingly endless wave of violence against Jews by Islamists and radicals."

For more information about the film, visit www.viralthefilm.com.

JCC holding "Save our Center" campaign

The Jewish Community Center is holding a "Save our Center" campaign due to challenges caused by the coronavirus. In order to follow the guidelines required by New York state, the JCC has temporarily shut down all its programming, except for the Early Childhood Center and Kids Connection daycare programs, which are taking children on a limited basis.

Anyone who would like to take part in the campaign can donate by visiting www.binghamtonjcc.org/donate, call the JCC at 724-2417 between 9 am-4 pm weekdays or send a check made out to the JCC to 500

Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850. The JCC is also asking members who feel financially comfortable paying for their membership dues to continue to do so. Any dues paid during its closure will be considered a tax-deductible contribution to the JCC.

"As a nonprofit, we rely on program fees for the bulk of our revenue," said Sheryl Brumer, executive director of the JCC. "As a result, our revenue has declined significantly. Sadly, we have had to furlough over 85 percent of our staff to date (90 employees), keeping only a skeletal crew as we continue to provide daycare to families in

need and work toward securing the future of our Center. They were very understanding and remain dedicated to the JCC and our community. It was heartbreaking and heartwarming at the same time, and we are anxiously awaiting the time when we will be welcoming them back."

The JCC had been working on a financial plan with the goal of ensuring its sustainability for the future and to continue to pay the remaining staff for as long as possible. Anyone who paid for services or classes that did not take place, or were interrupted due to the closure, will have

those funds remain on their accounts as the programs are being rescheduled to resume at a later date.

"We are so grateful to everyone who has donated to date. We will continue to keep you updated as information becomes available," Brumer said.

"Thank you for your patience and understanding. If you find you are in need of any kind of assistance, please don't hesitate to e-mail us at jccoffice@binghamtonjcc.org and we will do our best to direct you toward people and resources who may be able to help," Brumer added.

Spotlight

Baseball and eligible Jewish bachelors: an interview with Jeremy Newberger

By Rabbi Rachel Esserman

The Jewish International Film Fest of Greater Binghamton has arranged a virtual showing of the film "Heading Home: The Tale of Team Israel." Director Jeremy Newberger will lead a discussion of the film on Monday, June 8, at 7 pm. For more information, see the article on this page.

It was clear to Jeremy Newberger, one of the directors of "Heading Home: The Tale of Team Israel," that the film would be popular at Jewish film festivals. "Team Israel represents the most eligible group of

young Jewish men ever assembled," he noted in an e-mail interview. "We were not worried that it wouldn't play well to Jewish audiences."

Newberger and his filmmaking partners, Seth Kramer and Daniel A. Miller, at Ironbound Films decided to make the film after being approached by an old friend. "An old Jewish sleepaway camp friend, Jonathan Mayo, is now a reporter for Major League Baseball," Newberger said. "He pitched us the idea of making a



Jeremy Newberger and Mensch on a Bench took in the sights in Tokyo during the making of the film.

film about taking Jewish baseball players on their first trip to Israel."

However, arranging financing for the film was not easy. "All the available players were barely known minor leaguers, so it was difficult to raise money for the film," he said. "As luck would have it, these same players helped Israel qualify for the World Baseball Classic in 2016 [which was held in 2017]. They catalyzed a worldwide fan base and also interest in a movie about the team."

See "Eligible" on page 3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Virtual talks and more

Chabad plans a discussion on Zoom; TC talk recording online; more online Jewish resources.

..... Pages 3 and 5

Shavuot

Virtual Shavuot events; a review of essays on the 10 Commandments; and reflections on holiday fare.

..... Pages 6 and 7

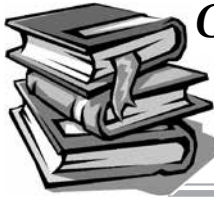
News in brief...

Jordan's king warns against Israel annexing land; Germany eases rules for FSU immigrants; more.

..... Page 8

Special Sections

Book Review..... 2, 7
Senior Living..... 4-5
Legal Notices..... 7
Classifieds..... 8



Off the Shelf

Prayer and nature

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

People find peace and comfort through different activities. Take, for example, two recent books, one of which looks at prayer and the other at gardening. Rabbi Dov Singer gives suggestions to help people have meaningful prayer experiences in "Prepare My Prayer: Recipes to Awaken the Soul" (Maggid Books). Israeli writer Meir Shalev has a more mundane mission: as an amateur gardener, he wants to share his love of gardening and nature in "My Wild Garden: Notes from a Writer's Eden" (Schocken).

Singer believes in the power of prayer – that it can help people change the world in which they live. He compares his work to a recipe book, noting that once someone has the correct ingredients and learns the proper techniques, they can cook. The same is true for prayer. In fact, Singer believes that prayer is a natural skill – that he is just helping people release what is already inside them. His suggestions, then, serve as reminders of the way they can reach out to God.

The book is divided into 11 sections, each of which offer a recipe for how to achieve meaningful prayer. These sections include short quotes from biblical, talmudic and other sources relating to the theme. They are followed by practical suggestions on how to create a time and space for exploring that part of the prayer experience. For example, when helping people "open their senses" before entering the synagogue to pray, Singer suggests several steps on how to make this happen: going outside and experiencing the world with eyes closed, followed by opening one's eyes and taking in the details of nature. Then people should open their hearts to all the sights, sounds, smells and tastes surrounding them. This openness and appreciation of the wonders of God's world helps create a better prayer experience.

Singer knows that it's not necessarily easy to pray so he offers a variety of ways to enter prayer, from keeping a journal to experimenting with primal sounds. The idea is to get past whatever blocks people have about prayer or, perhaps more accurately, that make them feel self-conscious about opening themselves to the Divine.

The theology of "Prepare My Prayer" is Orthodox, but Singer's suggestions can be used by Jews of all denominations. He acknowledges that prayer is an individual practice and that each person using his book will have to find their own path. Anyone looking to improve their prayer practice should find this book helpful.

While Singer's life clearly revolves around his religious practice, Shalev's connection to religion is more problematic. His work is not a scholarly treatise on Israeli plants, although readers learn a great deal about native Israeli plants. Instead, he offers personal musings about everything from his personal obsession with the seeds he harvests to his fascination with the animals and insects that share his garden. He frequently quotes from writers – Israelis and others – about plants and gardens. Shalev does talk about God, but in the context of Sukkot and the prayer for rain – even including the story of Honi the rainmaker (who, during a drought, told God he wasn't moving until the proper rains came), although his commentary is less religious and more cynical than more traditional retelling. Shalev also makes it clear that he is not fond of the current Israeli rabbinate, whom he believes lack the ability for creative solutions offered by those in past centuries.

However, his work is filled with biblical references and discussions of Hebrew. For example, he writes about fruit trees mentioned in Genesis: the fig tree, whose leaves he believes covered Adam and Eve after they realized they were naked, and the olive tree, which played a role in the Noah story. He refers to plants found in the vineyard as fruit trees, noting that they were used by Noah to make wine after the flood.

Shalev also writes of the emotions he believes his plants experience. On the one hand, he realizes this is a bit ridiculous. On the other, he can't help imagining how they might be feeling, for example, a lost seed being distressed that it will never grow and blossom. In addition, he acknowledges the different quirks gardeners have. The funniest example

comes when he compares Jewish ritual observance to the use of composters. Just as each ethnical and religious variation of Jew celebrates holidays differently, so do composters differ in their approach to composting. These range from those who only put vegetable products in the composter to the fanatics who want everything (including human waste) to be recycled. Shalev seems to find it amusing that gardeners feel as strongly about this issue as others feel about their religious practice.

"My Wild Garden" makes for light, pleasant reading. Even those who are not gardeners will find his comments interesting and amusing. Adding to the pleasure of the book are illustrations by Rafaella Shir that feature views of Shalev's garden, some of the plants he discusses and other Israeli natural habitats.

NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

Israeli military cancels ground forces drills amid oppressive heat wave

Due to a heat wave raging throughout the country, all Israel Defense Forces ground drills are being put on hold, the Israeli military announced on May 17. IDF Ground Forces Commander Maj. Gen. Yoel Strick canceled exercises until at least May 19, in accordance with directives issued to all IDF units regarding operations under the current extreme weather conditions. The directives were issued on May 14, but were heightened over the May 16 weekend as temperatures continued to rise. According to the directives, Israel Air Force and Paratroopers Brigade group activities scheduled to take place outdoors the week of May 17 are to be conducted in air-conditioned halls instead. The Israel Meteorological Service issued a warning on May 16 that the heat wave, which is seeing consistent temperatures of some 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit), is expected to last through the end of May.

Opinion

In My Own Words

Identity

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

I had difficulty at first remembering the new way to speak about my disability. Instead of saying, "I am hearing impaired," I learned I was supposed to say, "I have a hearing impairment." The idea was to change the way I defined myself – I am a person with a disability, rather than a disabled person. This new way of speaking was for anyone with physical and developmental problems. So, it was a surprise to read a disability activist state that she and other activists prefer "identity first" language.

In "Disfigured: On Fairy Tales, Disability, and Making Space" Amanda Leduc writes not only about how fairy tales favor those who fit society's ideas of perfection, but about her own life with cerebral palsy. She notes that she's not writing a scholarly work on the history of fairy tales, but rather a personal take on how those tales affect people with disabilities. For example, in fairy tales, disabilities and ugliness are usually signs of a villain; if they define a hero/heroine at the beginning of the story, then they are something to overcome – just as the ugly duckling became a beautiful swan. Leduc's book is challenging, informative and – when she tells her personal story – very moving.

What interested me in terms of this column was her different view on the way we should identify ourselves. She writes, "Identity first language ('disabled person') holds that the disabled identity is an important part of what makes someone a person in the first place, inexplicably bound up with how someone navigates the world. Person-first language, by contrast, argues that an individual must be seen as a person first and someone with a disability second

('person with a disability'). The general consensus among disability activists is the person-first language, while well meaning, separates disability from identity and thus continues to malign disability and perpetuate the idea that it is a negative thing."

Is a disability a negative thing? How we feel about that certainly makes a difference in the way we define ourselves. As I was writing this article, a copy of Hearing Health magazine came in the mail. The cover said it was "the pediatrics issue," and talked about those "growing up with – but not defined by – hearing conditions." I've heard that before from hard-of-hearing and Deaf community individuals: "We are missing nothing, we are just different." Or, to speak about another population, some people claim they are not disabled, they are differently abled. Well, they would be if the world fulfilled Leduc's visions: ramps everywhere for those who use wheelchairs. Movie and TV heroes would include those with a disability. Our differences would be celebrated. Instead of looking to overcome disabilities, the world would change so disabilities would just be another way for someone to live.

If you're feeling a bit of a disconnection here, you're not the only one. In many ways, my hearing impairment defines my life. I shocked a friend recently by saying I need this editor job because, as a hearing impaired individual with back and feet problems, I can't be a receptionist in an office (I need a special phone to hear) or a greeter at Walmart (it's difficult standing for long periods of time). So many parts of my life – social and physical – are affected because I can't hear, but it doesn't define my whole

life. There are parts of me that have nothing to do with my hearing impairment. However, having that loss has changed how I view the world and, at times, how I feel about myself. In some ways, I am both "hearing impaired" and "an individual with a hearing impairment." Where I differ from many is that I know what I am missing. I would love to have normal hearing, but I've had to adjust to life as it is because I can't put my life on hold waiting for a miracle that may never happen. I can't comment on what someone in a wheelchair feels: Do they wish they could walk, or do they want the world to be ramped? If the latter, is it because they know they will never walk and have accepted that, or because they feel it's perfectly fine not to be able to walk?

Years ago, when I was dealing with other health problems, I read about a book written by a woman about living with chronic illness. She noted that she hated the one-legged man who ran a marathon because that gave people unrealistic expectations about what one-legged men could do. Leduc seems to feel the same way in her book: she wants writers to show that the traditional happily-ever-afters are not the only good ending. She wants stories where success comes *because* someone had a disability, not in spite of that disability. I appreciate Leduc's suggestions and hope that someday everyone will be accepted as they are. We're certainly moving more in that direction. I'm also glad that she feels successful because of her disability. However, if you gave me a choice – saying my hearing impairment and other ailments could be cured – I would opt for the easier not-disabled life.



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

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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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Chabad to hold virtual discussion on “Unorthodox” on May 24

The Rohr Chabad Center will host a virtual program “Unorthodox: a scandalously honest discussion on ‘the Orthodox,’ the people and their lifestyle” on Sunday, May 24, at 7 pm. The program will be a discussion between Rivkah Slonim, education director at the Rohr Chabad Center, and Dr. Rhonda Levine. It can be accessed at www.jewishbu.com/virtual. No prior registration is necessary.

Levine is professor of sociology, emerita, at Colgate University, where she taught for 35 years. She is the author of “When Race Meets Class: African Americans Coming of Age in a Small City (Routledge, 2019), “Class Struggle and the New Deal: Industrial Labor” and other scholarly works and articles.

Levine has served on numerous committees and has held elected office in a number of professional organizations, including the Council of the American Sociological

Association and the Board of Directors of the Society for the Study of Social Problems. She has also served on the Editorial Boards of Critical Sociology, Sociological Forum, Social Problems, Research in Political Sociology, and the book series “Sociological Perspectives in Social Life” (Westview Press). She is currently beginning a new research project on the various roles of *haredi* women.

“Recent hype and discussion of ultra-Chasidic groups has dominated print press, as well as social media conversation with the release of the mini-series ‘Unorthodox.’ The questions it may have raised are not new, but now they are coming fast and furious,” said Slonim. “I welcome the opportunity to answer these questions and address important issues. Rhonda will ask some leading questions, but we will have the chat feature open to any and all questions from participants.”

Recording of Sarah Hurwitz program online

Temple Concord noted that some people were unable to register for the recent virtual “Fireside Chat” with Sarah Hurwitz, former speech writer for the Obama administration and author of “Here All Along: Finding Meaning, Spirituality, and a Deeper Connection to Life – in Judaism (After Finally Choosing to Look There).”

Kol Ami, the synagogue that sponsored the webinar, said on its Facebook page, “Our sincerest apologies for

those who were closed out of the webinar. There was a miscommunication about the maximum number of participants. The conversation was amazing, please check out this recording!”

To view the recording, visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/872676536583238/> and scroll down to the “most recent activity.” That post gives a link to the recording. Click on that link and use the access password 9B+vb84%.

TC Sisterhood to hold virtual installation

The Temple Concord Sisterhood Installation will be held on Wednesday, June 3, at 7 pm, during the Sisterhood board meeting, which will take place on Zoom. Everyone on the 2020-21 board is encouraged to participate, organizers said. Anyone outside this board who wants to participate should notify Lani Dunthorn at 348-4099 or lani.dunthorn@yahoo.com. The Installation service is being created by Barbara Thomas and Helene Philips.

Board members to be installed include Lani Dunthorn, president; Helene Philips, past president; Sandy Gutman, treasurer; Janet Hayman, financial and corresponding secretaries; Marty Eisenstadt, recording secretary; Deb Williams, nominating committee chairwoman; Phyllis Kellenberger, ways and means vice president; and Deb Daniels, education vice president.

Marsha Luks, Babs Putzel-Bischoff and Barbara Thomas are directors for 2020-22; and Roz Antoun and Williams, directors for 2020-21.

Committee chairwomen include Kellenberger and Daniels, adult education/programming including donor; Thomas, cradle roll; Barbara Dickman (paperwork), Sylvia Diamond and Eisenstadt, Friday night *onegs*; Williams (chairwoman of artisan vendors) with Jesse Parker (chairwoman of bake sale), Holiday Artisan Marketplace; Nancy Dorfman, house; Intersisterhood, TBD; High Holiday child care, TBD; Eisenstadt and Sandy Foreman (co-chairwomen) with committee members Jan Dickler, Arlene Krassin, Jodi Sampey and Olwen Searles, hospitality.

Eligible . . . Continued from page 1

Other difficulties arose, including getting permission to attend the World Baseball Classic games. Newberger noted, “The hardest part of making [the film] was gaining access to events around the World Baseball Classic, which is run by the notoriously restrictive Major League Baseball.” Other parts were easier: “Making the players’ huge personalities shine on camera,” he noted was not a problem.

The Japanese reaction to the team mascot was unexpected. “Among the many funny things that happened while making ‘Heading Home’ was filming the team’s mascot, The Mensch on a Bench, in different locations around Tokyo,” Newberger said. “It turns out that the Japanese love oversized children’s toys, even when dressed as pious Jews from Eastern Europe in the 1800s.”

On his Twitter account, [@jeremynewberger](https://twitter.com/jeremynewberger), Newberger calls himself a political satirist, although he also sees satire as playing a role in other parts of his life. “My satire, that’s just an extension of the nonstop vaudeville routine between me and my two filmmaking partners, Seth Kramer and Daniel A. Miller,” he said. “We aspire to be the Zucker-Abrahams-Zucker of documentary. All our films make people laugh, if not by the content than at least by our Q&A shtick.”

Newberger noted that “Heading Home” is now available on all streaming platforms, DVD and Blu-ray. “If you know anyone who misses baseball and/or contact with other Jews, please have them visit the website, www.menemshafilms.com/heading-home,” he said.

Carol Herz and Susan High (co-chairwomen) of the Judaica Shop; Putzel-Bischoff, publicity with others for electronic communications; TBD, entire Sisterhood Board with Dunthorn contact with temple, membership/retention; Putzel-Bischoff, Dorfman, Dunthorn, Kellenberger and Searles, nominating committee; TBD, religious school parties; Putzel-Bischoff (chairwoman) with Dickman, Gayle Klein and Luks, Rosh Hashanah *kiddush*; Pam Burgman and Hayman, rummage sales; Jean Hecht, scholar-in-residence *oneg*; Hecht, Sisterhood funds; Rachel Coker and Cathy Eckert, Sisterhood Shabbat; TBD, Sisterhood Retreat; TBD, Women’s Seder; and TBD, Whale of a Sale team.

Film Continued from page 1

“We have chosen to go with ‘Heading Home’ because nothing feels more like summer than baseball,” Hubal said. “Even if you are not a sports fan, you will like the ‘coming home’ aspect of this film: Jewish athletes finding their roots in Israel. The film is appropriate for younger folks so families can watch it together.”

“Heading Home” received the Audience Favorite Award at the Harrisburg Jewish Film Festival in 2019, Cincinnati’s Mayerson JCC Jewish and Israeli Film Festival in 2019, the Philadelphia Jewish Film Festival in 2018 and the Washington, DC, Jewish Film Festival 2018. It received the Best Documentary Award at the Cherry Hill Volvo Cars Jewish Film Festival at the Katz JCC in 2019, the Gold Coast International Film Festival in 2018, the Jewish Arts and Film Festival of Fairfield County in 2018 and the Boca Raton Jewish Film Festival in 2018.

OF NOTE Grant



Dr. Matthew Grant

As of July, Dr. Matthew Grant will be the new associate program director for the Yale Internal Medicine Residency Program. Grant, who is the son of Dr. Ron and Lesley Grant (formerly of Vestal), was a member of JCY at the Jewish Community Center. He graduated from Vestal High School in 1998, where he was valedictorian, and Cornell University in 2002, where he received his B.S. in biology with a concentration in neurobiology. He


received his M.D. from Upstate Medical University in Syracuse. He completed his residency at Thomas Jefferson Hospital in Philadelphia and his infectious diseases fellowship at Temple University Hospital. He is board certified in internal medicine and infectious diseases. Grant has been an assistant professor at Yale since 2012, where he is an attending physician on the infectious diseases service at Yale New Haven Hospital, and has special interests in travel/tropical and transplant medicine.

Grant has been part of the Yale Medical School COVID-19 Response Team and has been investigating experimental therapies, including hydroxychloroquine, Remdesivir and convalescent plasma. He serves on several medical education committees at Yale and is the recipient of multiple teaching awards. He lives in Branford, CT, with his wife, Dr. Joanna Radin, a medical historian at Yale, and their son Raphael.

The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to the family of **Richard (Dick) Frankel**

The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to **Gary Miller** on the death of his brother, **Dr. Melvin N. Miller**

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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

If Your Goal is to:	Then You Can:	Your Benefits May Include:
Make a quick and easy gift	Simply write a check now or use a credit card	An income tax deduction and immediate charitable impact
Avoid tax on capital gains	Contribute long-term appreciated stock or other securities	A charitable deduction plus no capital gains tax
Defer a gift until after your death	Put a bequest in your will (gifts of cash or a share or the residue of your estate)	Exemption from federal estate tax on donations
Receive guaranteed fixed income that is partially tax-free	Create a charitable gift annuity	Current and future savings on income taxes plus fixed stable payments
Avoid the two-fold taxation on IRA or other employee benefit plans	Name a charity as the beneficiary of the remainder of the retirement assets after your lifetime	Tax relief to your family on inherited assets
Make a large gift with little cost to you	Contribute a life insurance policy you no longer need or purchase a new one and designate a charity as the owner	Current and possible future income tax deductions
Reduce taxable income from IRA Required Minimum Distributions	Make a qualified charitable donation directly from your IRA (after age 70½)	Reducing taxable income



COVID-19 BRIEFS

From JNS.org

Poll: Israelis optimistic after peak of corona outbreak

A new poll published on May 19 measured the attitudes in Israel, the Palestinian Authority, Germany, the United States, the United Kingdom, Italy and Poland, finding that Israelis are the most optimistic after the coronavirus outbreak. It also found a growing faith in God as a result of the crisis. The poll found 71 percent of Israelis are optimistic for the future, as are 58 percent of Palestinians living in the P.A., 57 percent of Germans, 65 percent of Poles and 59 percent of Americans. To date, 277 Israelis have died as a result of COVID-19, far less than other countries polled. Carried out by Mitchell Barak at Keevoon Global Research and commissioned by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in Israel, the poll also found that the majority of Israelis (67 percent), British (67 percent), Palestinians (57 percent), Italians (58 percent) and Germans (55 percent) support their leaders' handling of the crisis. Asked if the global pandemic has led to more or less faith in God, the majority in each of the countries said it led to more faith with 34 percent of Israelis, 49 percent of Palestinians, 19 percent of Germans, 39 percent of Americans and 22 percent in Italy voicing more faith. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu earned high marks for how he handled the crisis, with all sectors of the population showing an approval rating of between 58 percent and 83 percent. The poll was based on a representative sample in each country. Participants were contacted using an app on their mobile devices, with a total of 3,592 respondents.

Researchers at Ben-Gurion U. develop one-minute coronavirus test

Researchers at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev have developed a one-minute coronavirus test they hope will be used to help authorities more quickly track and identify the spread of the virus at a significantly lower cost than current testing. According to the university, the test works by collecting particles from a simple breath test or throat/nose swabs, which are then placed on a chip with a dense array of metamaterial sensors. From there, the system analyzes the sample and provides a result within a minute via a cloud-connected system. In clinical trials in conjunction with Israel's Defense Ministry on more than 120 patients, the test had a 90 percent success rate compared to Polymerase Chain Reaction (or PCR) tests. The ongoing trials will seek to determine if the test can identify the specific stage of COVID-19 infection, as well as its presence. "Right from the beginning of the trials, we received statistically significant results in line with our simulations and PCR tests," says Professor Gabby Sarusi, deputy head for research at the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, and a faculty member of the Electro-Optical Engineering Unit at BGU. "We are continuing clinical trials and will compare samples from COVID-19 patients with samples from patients with other diseases to see if we can identify the different stages of the COVID-19 infection." The researchers hope the quick test and results can help authorities track the course of the virus, as well as triage and treat patients.

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Retirement readiness fixes for baby boomers

(NAPSI) - The Stanford Center on Longevity's 2018 "Sightlines Report" found that overall household asset balances - and retirement savings in particular - are lower for boomers than for the elderly Americans born before them. In addition, baby boomers are carrying more debt compared to older generations, with one in three holding a debt burden exceeding 50 percent of their total wealth.

With approximately 10,000 Americans turning 65 each day, the news that baby boomers are less ready to retire than those generations who have come before them is disconcerting by itself,

but it is especially worrisome in light of rising retirement expenses they will face. "Given that boomers will likely live longer and rack up higher lifetime medical costs than prior generations, the inevitable conclusion is that boomers will face some tough challenges during their retirement years," according to CBS MoneyWatch.

Financial planning experts offer a few possible retirement readiness fixes to help baby boomers:

1. Pay down debt - For those boomers in the pre-retirement or early-retirement stage, do what you can to reduce your debt load. Every penny not going to debt is a penny going toward funding your retirement lifestyle.
 2. Consider returning to the workforce - If you are physically able, think about options for working a little later in your life or perhaps returning to the workforce in a part-time job. A few years of additional income can make a huge difference down the line.
 3. Adjust your standard of living - Be prepared to make some modifications to your lifestyle in order to reduce your monthly expense budget. You may be surprised how much minor purchases, such as a daily gourmet coffee, can add up to on an annual basis.
 4. Be smart about your available resources - Can you afford to defer Social Security for a bit longer in order to maximize the cash benefit? Do you own a home that has equity you can put to work for you with a reverse mortgage? Are there other financial resources you can draw down, such as an old savings account or a life insurance policy you may have socked away?
- "Many seniors are surprised to learn that one potential asset for generating immediate cash is a life insurance policy," said **See "Boomers" on page 5**

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Directors

Jewish resources to occupy your family during social distancing – part 9

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 film “Haven Movie” is available to stream online. It is based on the real life story of Ruth Gruber, who helped escort 1,000 Jewish refugees to a “safe haven” camp in Oswego, NY, in 1943. There is no cost to watch the almost three-hour film, which can be found at <https://youtu.be/9qCdwgtjSnc>.

◆ *The Forward* now offers a new livestream series #QuarantineShabbat Cooking Show at 3 pm Fridays on its Facebook page, www.facebook.com/jewishdailyforward/. The show will feature National Editor Rob Eshman; recipes will be available on Thursdays at forward.com/food.

◆ The Pardes Center for Judaism and Conflict Resolution has created “Mahloket Matters: How to Disagree Constructively – The Beit Midrash Way” and is offering the classes online. There is a \$500 cost for the six-part program. For more information, visit https://elmad.pardes.org/register/mm_beit_midrash_way/.

◆ Two virtual tours of Israel are available. JLM2U, www.explore.itraveljerusalem.com/, offers virtual tours of Jeru-

salem. The Masada Virtual Tour, <http://masada360.com/>, gives a 360-degree tour of the area.

◆ Photographs from the exhibit “Indelible: The daughters of Holocaust survivors in the photography of Debbie Morag” and an interview with Israeli photographer Debbie Morag, who was born in the Bergen-Belsen Displaced Persons camp, can be found at www.youtube.com/watch?v=b_PrrHLp8U4.

◆ 18Doors, a group that supports interfaith couples and families exploring Jewish life, offers dairy recipes for Shavuot at https://18doors.org/shavuot_recipes/.

◆ The National Museum of American History is offering the new virtual exhibit “Locally Grown: Jersey’s Jewish Farms” at www.nmah.org/exhibitions/locally-grown/. Featured are artifacts and a variety of education activities, including puzzles and a coloring page.

◆ Chabad.org is offering live Zoom Torah classes. Find out more information at www.chabad.org/generic_cdo/aid/4734703/jewish/Chabadorg-Live-Zoom-Classes.htm.

◆ The Jewish Council for Public Affairs is the national hub of the community relations network, representing 125 local Jewish community relations councils and 17 national Jewish agencies. Recordings of its education and webinars on COVID-19 can be found at www.jewishpublicaffairs.org/covid-19-videos/. There are also

links to sign up for upcoming programs.

◆ Israel21c offers webinars on its Facebook page, www.facebook.com/ISRAEL21c/.

◆ The organization JewBelong offers its own take on a Shabbat Friday night service for those social distancing. It can be found at www.flipsnack.com/jewbelong/jewbelongshabbat2018/full-view.html.

◆ The Abayudaya Unity Concert held on May 11 can be viewed on the Cantors Assembly website at <https://www.cantors.org/Abayudaya/>.

◆ The Sephardic Brotherhood has launched the Sephardic Digital Academy, a new national partnership to connect and educate the Sephardic community institutions, synagogues, rabbis, educators and members across the United States. To learn about the classes available, visit www.sephardic-brotherhood.com/sephardicdigitalacademy.

For more resources, see the last eight issues of *The Reporter* or visit www.thereportergroup.org/Article.aspx?aID=5484, www.thereportergroup.org/Article.aspx?aID=5499, www.thereportergroup.org/Article.aspx?aID=5502, www.thereportergroup.org/Article.aspx?aID=5512, www.thereportergroup.org/Article.aspx?aID=5519, www.thereportergroup.org/Article.aspx?aID=5527, www.thereportergroup.org/Article.aspx?aID=5535 and www.thereportergroup.org/Article.aspx?aID=5541.

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Boomers. . .Continued from page 4

Darwin M. Bayston, CFA, president and chief executive officer of the Life Insurance Settlement Association. “A life insurance policy is considered your personal property and – as such – you have the right to sell that policy anytime you like.”

To learn more about life settlements and whether you could be eligible for a free review of your life insurance policy, visit www.LISA.org, call the LISA office at 888-902-6639, or talk to your financial or insurance advisor.

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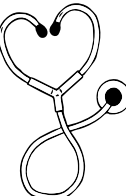
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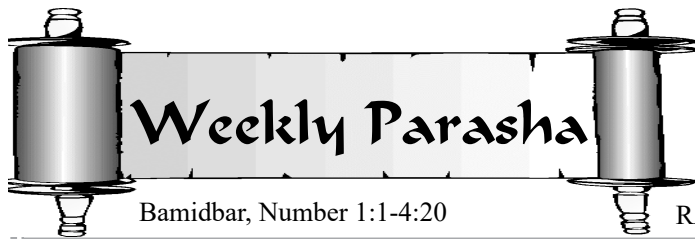
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Weekly Parasha

Bamidbar, Number 1:1-4:20

Everyone is very important

RABBI MOSHE SHMARYAHU, HEAD OF JUDAIC STUDIES, HILLEL ACADEMY OF BROOME COUNTY

This week's *parasha*, Bamidbar, begins the fourth book of the Torah (Chumash), with God commanding Moshe to take a census of the Jewish people. We may ask why God counts the Jewish people, because counting can be seen as devaluing the importance of the uniqueness of each individual. This uniqueness is an important principle in Judaism, so why take a census in the first place? Rashi answers this question by saying that God actually still places importance on each individual member of the Jewish people when counting them. This is revealed when God commands Moshe to count the people while lifting up their heads and saying their names while counting them (Bamidbar 1:2).

The reason for lifting up their heads, explains Malbim, is to give them the confidence that each of them can contribute meaningfully to society as a whole through their unique gifts and talents. From this we learn, however, that realizing one's individual potential should lead only to contributing to others beyond oneself.

Like our ancestors in the wilderness when they were counted, we, too, must remember that every one of us counts, and has gifts and talents to offer the Jewish community, the Jewish people and the world as a whole. May we take this lesson into the upcoming holiday of Shavuot, when we celebrate the giving of the Torah, as we did, according

to Rashi, as one man with one heart, *keesh echad belev echad*: a united Jewish people. Once we do that, we can also serve as a light unto ourselves, our nations and as role models for the rest of the world.

Further reflection: The Torah forbids physically counting the Jews because of the danger of a plague. To avoid the plague, each person will donate a half shekel. It is said, "And charity saves from death." It is recommended that we give charity all the time, and especially during these difficult days. We can give charity of money, charity of good deeds, charity of mutual aid and charity of love: "And you shall love your friend as you love yourself."

Congregational Notes

Temple Israel

Orientation: Conservative
 Rabbi: Geoffrey Brown
 Address: 4737 Deerfield Pl., Vestal, NY 13850
 Phone: 723-7461 and 231-3746
 Office hours: Mon.-Thurs., 8:30 am-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. The Torah portion for May 23 is Numbers 1:1-4:20 and the haftarah is I Samuel 20:18-42.

On Saturday, May 23, Havdalah services will be held 9:15 pm and led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown via Zoom.

On Sunday, May 24, Torah study will be held at noon and led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown via Zoom.

The temple office will be closed Friday, May 22; Monday, May 25; and Friday, May 29.

On Sunday, June 24, Temple Israel/Temple Concord will hold an adult ed. program on Zoom at 10 am. It will feature readings of select Jewish stories by Steve Gilbert, Bev Kasper and Andy Horowitz.

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 access the bin.

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.

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.

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.

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 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.

Friday, May 22, light candles before..... 8:07 pm
 Saturday, May 23, Shabbat ends 9:08 pm
 Thursday, May 28, light candles before 8:12 pm
 Friday, May 29, light candles before..... 8:13 pm
 Saturday, May 30, Shabbat/yom tov ends 9:14 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 May.

Friday, May 22: Shabbat services at 7 pm at <https://binghamton.zoom.us/j/350204323>, by calling 1-929-205-6099 and entering meeting ID # 350 204 323, or by visiting www.facebook.com/templeconcord.

Saturday, May 22: No Torah study. Shabbat morning services at 10:30 am celebrating Charlotte Coker becoming a bat mitzvah at <https://binghamton.zoom.us/j/91657233743>, or by calling 929 205 6099 and entering meeting ID 916 5723 3743 and Password 020099.

Saturday, May 22: "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/.

Thursday, May 28: Erev Shavuot Home Celebration at 6:30 pm: Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell will light Yizkor and festival candles, make the festival Kiddush and more on Zoom at <https://binghamton.zoom.us/j/99641963901>, or by calling 1-929-205-6099 and entering meeting ID #99641963901. People can continue their evening with URJ Shavuot program options at <https://urj.org/calendar/reform-movement-tikkun-leil-shavuot>. (For more information, see the article on page X.) Register for sessions from 8 pm to midnight. There are other options of archived materials at <https://reformjudaism.org/tikkun-leil-shavuot-videos-and-study-guides>.

Friday, May 29: Shavuot Yizkor morning service 10:30 am at <https://binghamton.zoom.us/j/96602902796>, or by calling 1-929-205-6099 and entering meeting ID #966-029-02796.

Friday, May 29: Shabbat services at 7 pm at <https://binghamton.zoom.us/j/350204323>, by calling 1-929-205-6099 and entering meeting ID # 350 204 323, or by visiting www.facebook.com/templeconcord.

Saturday, May 30: 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, May 30: "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/.

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.

Temple Brith Shalom

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 Shalom 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.

TE-URJ to hold Shavuot virtual events

Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell will hold an *erev* Shavuot ritual on Thursday, May 28, beginning at 6:30 pm, on Zoom, with the lighting of *Yizkor* and festival candles, the festival *Kiddush* and *Motzei*. People are then invited to continue their Shavuot evening with explorations and learning with the Union for Reform Judaism by registering for different programs, which begin hourly at 8 pm and stop at midnight. To receive a link to the Temple Concord Shavuot program, e-mail Templeconcordbinghamton@gmail.com to receive a link. To register for other sessions (see below), visit <https://urj.org/calendar/reform-movement-tikkun-leil-shavuot>.

◆ HUC-JIR professors will hold a Shavuot conversation from 8-9 pm on individual responsibility and obligation in modern Jewish thought, featuring Rabbi Rachel Adler, Ph.D. (Rabbi David Ellenson Professor of Jewish Religious Thought and professor of modern Jewish thought) and Rabbi Joseph Skloot, Ph.D. (Rabbi Aaron D. Panken Assistant Professor of Modern Jewish Intellectual History).
◆ “Preparing to Ascend: Poetry on the Themes of Shavuot” from 9-10 pm will feature Rabbi Hara Person, CCAR chief executive, and poets Jessica Greenbaum and Judy Katz reading and discussing poems that share themes with Shavuot.

◆ “Ahavat Olam: Love, Torah and Great Music” from 10-11 pm will feature Cantor David Berger of KAM Isaiah Israel Congregation in Chicago, IL (scholar-in-residence for the American Conference of Cantors) looking at classical rabbinic sources, contemporary reflections and sample pieces of music that bring the song “Ahavat Olam” to life.
◆ “A Discussion on Personal Jewish Stories” from 11 pm-midnight will feature Rabbi Leora Kaye (URJ director of program) and Rabbi Esther Lederman (URJ director of congregational innovation) in a conversation on personal Jewish stories. Other members of the Reform Movement will also have the opportunity to speak about their Jewish journeys.



Off the Shelf

Exploring the Ten Commandments

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

The ethics and rules featured in the Ten Commandments form the basis for much of Western legal culture, so much so that there are debates in the United States about whether they should be printed on public property, such as court houses and legislative buildings. Yet, at a time when the historical accuracy of religion is under dispute, there is a need to look closely at the 10 statements (as they are actually called in Hebrew) and explore their meaning through the lens of contemporary times. That’s the purpose behind “Inscribed: Encounters with the Ten Commandments” edited by Rabbi Oren J. Hayon (Central Conference of American Rabbis). The essays challenge readers to look anew at this part of the Bible.

The commandments, which are printed in Hebrew and translated into English, are considered from a Jewish perspective, meaning “I the Eternal am your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, the house of bondage” is listed as the first commandment. Hayon notes that his contributors represent “a wide variety of backgrounds. These authors reflect a broad range of religious beliefs and professional specializations: in chaplaincy, law, technology, journalism, social activism, and the armed services. They live across the United States and serve many different sorts of communities and constituents.” What they all have in common is the desire to make the commandments relevant to today’s world.

Those interested in philosophy and theology will enjoy in “God’s Identity: Perspectives from Jewish Philosophy” by Rabbi Kari Hifmaister Tuling, which offers various philosophers’ thoughts about the nature of God. More to my taste was “Revelation as Conversation” by Rabbi Joshua Feigleson, Ph.D, which includes the intriguing idea of God as a listener, meaning that rather than speaking to humans, God now listens to what we say. Those interested in history will appreciate the comparison of the 10 Commandments to a suzerain treaty in “Israel’s History of Enslavement as a Prerequisite for Revelation,” by Elsie R. Stern, Ph.D. Stern’s article suggests that “even for Jews who do not understand themselves to be in a covenantal relationship with God, our identity as freed slaves evokes a sense of obligation. This reminder that we were slaves in Egypt served as a goad and rallying call for Jewish social justice work for contemporary Jews.”

My favorite section looked at the fifth commandment: “Honor your father and mother, that you may long endure on the land that the Eternal your God is assigning to you.” Both Rabbi Laura Geller’s “Honoring Your Father

and Mother” and Rabbi Richard F. Address’ “Navigating the New Stage of Caregiver” were excellent and should be read by those caring for elderly parents. However, it See “Ten” on page 8

On the Jewish food scene It’s all about dairy

By Rabbi Rachel Esserman

The specific foods we eat on holidays sometimes feel as if they were biblically ordained, rather than just being traditions or customs from the different places Jews have lived. When I led holiday parties at Broome Developmental Center, people used to look forward to the different special foods we had for each holiday. Even though there is no mention of these foods in the Torah (except for a few on Passover), many people look for symbolic meanings to give their meal a more spiritual feeling.

This is particularly true for Shavuot. The first few years I worked at the paper, I collected reasons given for why we eat dairy on Shavuot. (Please note, not all Jews eat dairy on the holiday, but that’s a topic for another article.) These ranged from the fact that the land of Israel is described as a land of milk and honey (but the verse doesn’t say we need to eat them at any particular time) to milk being a symbol of purity (white being considered pure) to the fact that, after the laws were given on Sinai, there was not enough time to *kasher* all the utensils and pans before the holiday so the only food available was dairy. A humorous suggestion said that, after all the fuss getting things ready for Passover, the women rebelled and said, “Only a dairy meal for this holiday!” (Yes, obviously that’s not what happened, but it’s a fun idea.)

I’ve learned that when numerous reasons are given for a custom, it usually means that the real reason is unknown or is something simple and mundane. That seems true for Shavuot: Spring was the season in Israel when dairy was plentiful, so how better to celebrate than to use what was available in abundance? The genius of Judaism is to take

something that doesn’t have a religious connection and make it sacred by giving it religious meaning. So dairy – a food used to make a feast – became a religious symbol of the land of Israel.

While dairy products are still eaten on Shavuot in the Ashkenazic world, over the past 40 years or so, changes have occurred. When I was a child, we always had homemade blintzes. That food symbolized the holiday, although I’m sure we had them at other times during the year. Unfortunately, homemade blintzes are time consuming and, at some point, we simply stopped making them. The frozen ones don’t taste anywhere near so good so people began to use other foods. For example, cheesecake has appeared on many tables because it’s easier to make and, for non-cooks, wonderful versions are available in the grocery store or bakery. Since not everyone likes cheesecake, ice cream (and ice cream socials) have become popular. When I added Shavuot to Broome Developmental Center holiday schedule, our treat was ice cream. Some years, the kitchen gave us ice cream cups to pass out. Other years, we had a large tub of ice cream to scoop out in bowls. The individuals then chose between chocolate or strawberry sauce for a topping; canned whipped cream was also available.

Even though eating dairy foods is not a God-given commandment, it’s a great way to celebrate a spring/summer holiday. One advantage of living in contemporary times is that, for those allergic to dairy or who are lactose intolerant, there are plenty of wonderful fake-dairy products that mimic the real thing. And personally speaking, I think any excuse to eat ice cream, cheesecake or blintzes is a good one.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY: The name of the limited liability company is: Beston Home Inspection Services, LLC (the “Company”). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was April 8, 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: Robert W. Carey, 80 Exchange Street, Suite 700, Binghamton, NY 13901. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

607 Construction LLC NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (“LLC”)

Articles of Organization of 607 Construction LLC filed with the NYS Secretary of State (NYSS) on 4/8/2020. 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 434 Cloverdale Road, Chenango Forks, NY 13746. Business purpose: any lawful activity.

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Notice of Formation of Mushock Development LLC

Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 07/17/2006. 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, 1137 Simon Road, Endicott, New York 13760. Purpose: any lawful activities.

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Notice of Formation of EPL Rentals, LLC

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Notice of Formation of Canticoke Farms, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 04/20/20. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 7952 State Rte. 79, Whitney Point, NY 13862. Purpose: any lawful activities.

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THE ANNUAL RETURN OF THE LEE AND YUM FOUNDATION for the calendar year ended 12/31/19 is available at its principal office, located at 2612 Pinebluff Dr., Vestal, New York 13850 for inspection during regular business hours by any citizen who requests it within 180 days hereof. Principal Managers of the Foundation are Bai O. Lee and Jung H. Yum. Dated: May 5, 2020

LPK Textiles International LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) 4/29/2020. Cty: Broome. SSNY desig. as agent upon whom process against may be served & shall mail process to Glenn Purcell, 37 W. 39th St., Ste. 1101, NY, NY 10018. General Purpose.

Notice of Formation of J.L. Woitd Engineering, PLLC. Articles of Organization filed with NYS Dept. of State (SSNY) on 5/11/2020. Office location: Broome County. SSNY has been designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process to: 22 Cumberland Way, Scarborough, ME 04074. Purpose: Any Lawful 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 Confluence Plaza LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is May 18, 2020.
3. The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the LLC is located is Broome.
4. The Secretary of State of the State of New York is hereby designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or her is: 171 Matthews Street, Binghamton, NY 13905.
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NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

Report: Porsche to incorporate Israeli AI tech in future vehicles

High-end German carmaker Porsche is going to incorporate technology from Haifa-based startup Tactile Mobility in its future vehicles, the companies announced on May 18 at the eighth annual EcoMotion Conference. "Tactile Mobility is a software and data company that grants smart autonomous vehicles the ability to feel the road," explained Tactile Mobility CEO Amit Nisenbaum, according to CTech. "We are very proud to announce that we will embed our software in Porsche vehicles in order to make them smarter, more enjoyable to drive and safer to drive." Tactile Mobility's technology can analyze data from a car's sensors and use artificial intelligence to improve the vehicle's performance. The real-time data provides actionable information such as road quality and tire traction. Porsche does not plan to use the technology to create a self-driving car, but rather to serve as an aid to drivers. Manuel Höll, general manager of Chassis SW-Development Porsche, said Porsche insists that the best way to drive its cars is with a real person at the wheel, but at the same time, the company is not ignoring technological advances.

Bennett: Iran beginning to withdraw from Syria

Israel's outgoing defense minister, Naftali Bennett, said on May 18 that Iran is starting to remove its forces from Syria and urged his successor Benny Gantz to keep the pressure on Tehran. "Iran is significantly reducing the scope of its forces in Syria and even evacuating a number of bases," said Bennett, according to Reuters. "Though Iran has begun the withdrawal process from Syria, we need to complete the work. It's in reach," he added. Israel has reportedly carried out numerous airstrikes against Iranian interests in Syria targeting military units and arms transfers. Iran has not publicly acknowledged any withdrawal from Syria, and the week of May 18 Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said that the Americans will be pushed out of Iraq and Syria, according to the transcript

of a speech posted on his website. A senior aide to Iran's foreign minister said on Saturday that the country would continue working closely with the Syrian President Bashar Assad and Russia to fight against terrorism and find a political solution to the Syrian crisis, according to the report.

Germany eases immigration regulations for Jews coming from FSU

Germany's government has announced that it has eased immigration rules for Jews arriving from the former Soviet Union. The new regulations will primarily impact Jews that are more than 60 years old and handicapped, in addition to disabled adults of any age. Those Jews will no longer need to partake in a projection of how they would adapt to German society, or an "Integrationsprognose." Additionally, rules regarding family reunification for Jewish spouses and parents will be eased. Since 1990, more than 200,000 Jews have immigrated to Germany from the former Soviet Union. "Germany has long been a popular destination for Jewish immigrants from the former Soviet Union, counting more than 200,000 Jewish immigrants since 1990. Although immigration to Germany has been made easier since that time, leaving some of the former Soviet nations remains challenging. Over recent decades, an increasing number of families have been separated due to strict immigration rules," reported the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. "With the new rules for Jewish immigrants, the federal government has come to a socially responsible decision, fulfilling its historical responsibility," said Josef Schuster, president of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, in a statement on May 13. "For that, the Jewish community is very thankful."

Spanish regional gov't hires pro-BDS group "to teach against hatred"

The regional government in Valencia, Spain, has hired a group that supports the BDS movement, which is widely regarded as antisemitic and anti-Israel, to train teachers on how to combat bigotry. The organization, BDS Pais Valencia, is scheduled to start the 20-day online training on June 8, according to ACOM – a pro-Israel group in

Spain – in a statement on May 13. On Twitter, ACOM compared the online initiative to having "a Nazi lecturing against racism or a member of the Ku Klux Klan speaking on racial persecution." The virtual seminar was advertised on Spain's Education Ministry on April 27 under the title "Solidarity and human rights. Learning to teach against hatred and racism (Judeophobia, Islamophobia and Palestine-Israel)." In 2015, the singer Matisyahu, who is Jewish but not Israeli, was initially disinvited from the Rototom Sunsplash festival in Benicassim, Spain, following what organizers of the music event admitted was pressure from BDS Pais Valencia. Matisyahu ended up performing with no issues. Numerous courts in Spain, including in Valencia, have deemed BDS as racist or discriminatory.

Jordan's Abdullah warns of "massive conflict" if Israel annexes territory

Jordan's King Abdullah warned of "massive conflict" between his country and Israel if the Jewish state proceeds with annexing territory this summer in Judea and Samaria. In an interview with the German newspaper *Der Spiegel* in mid-May, the Jordanian monarch reiterated that a two-state solution was the "only way forward" as a resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian dispute. "What would happen if the Palestinian National Authority collapsed? There would be more chaos and extremism in the region. If Israel really annexed the West Bank in July, it would lead to a massive conflict with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan," said Abdullah. He also suggested that his country could pull out of its peace agreement with Israel. Jordan and Egypt are the only Arab nations that formally recognize the Jewish state. "I don't want to make threats and create an atmosphere of loggerheads, but we are considering all options. We agree with many countries in Europe and the international community that the law of strength should not apply in the Middle East," said the king. The comments by the Jordanian leader come as several European nations are pushing for punitive action against Israel if the country forges ahead with annexation. E.U. foreign-policy leaders were set to discuss the issue at a virtual meeting on May 15. U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo made a quick visit to Israel on May 13 to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and Blue and White leader Benny Gantz. Pompeo urged progress on U.S. President Donald Trump's Middle East peace plan. Under the plan's proposal, Israel could push ahead with annexation some 30 percent of territory in Judea and Samaria, which includes Israeli settlements and the Jordan Valley, as part of efforts to resume talks with the Palestinians. In a recent interview, U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman said that Washington would not oppose Israeli annexation after July 1.

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Ten Continued from page 7
was Rabbi Annie Belford's "Number Five" that made the most impact. Her personal look at the end of her mother's life was so meaningful and moving that it left me in tears. Although all of the essays were well done, the following also stood out:
◆ Rabbi Reuven Firestone, Ph.D., offers a historical view at idolatry, discussing the belief that different divinities controlled specific parts of the natural world, in "Prohibition of Idolatry."
◆ An exploration of "meaningful leisure" and the way Shabbat requires us to honor the dignity of all people can be found in "Permitted and Forbidden Labor: Legal and Ethical Dimensions" by Rabbi Dr. Shmuly Yanklowitz.
◆ Tiffany Shlain gives an example of how to unplug during Shabbat in "Technology Shabbats: Unplugging in a Hyper-Connected World."
◆ In "You Shall Not Murder," Rabbi Harold L. Robinson offers the fascinating idea that the trauma soldiers feel after a battle is a "perfectly healthy – albeit very difficult – struggle for an individual to integrate the dissonance within oneself generated by the traumatic experience" of having to kill, even if done to save one's own life.
◆ Rabbi Rachel Kahn-Troster challenges readers to look at the ethics of ownership in "You Shall Not Steal – Ethics of Consumption." She focuses on how our purchasing power can have a negative impact on the lives of those who produce what we buy.
◆ When discussing the meaning of not being a false witness, Rabbi Michael Marmor, Ph.D., ponders whether we can ever know the truth or if we only know the story we tell ourselves in "Don't Be That Person," while Batya Ungar-Sargon, Ph.D., asks us to question our impressions of the truth and to make certain we explore both sides of an issue in "Fake News' and Its Challenges to Judaism."
◆ The essays dealing with coveting look at how guarding against our *yeter harah* (evil impulse) can prevent us from sinning in "Torah's Thought Crime?" by Rabbi Barry H. Block, while Alan Morinis, Ph.D. offers practical suggestions on how not to covet in "Conquering and Transforming the Impulse to Want What Is Not Yours."
The essays in "Inscribed" would be perfect for discussion groups and adult education classes. Readers who have not engaged in serious consideration of these commandments will learn just how relevant they are to contemporary lives. Those looking for additional ways to view the commandments or to challenge their current interpretations will also find this work has much to offer.