

# THE REPORTER

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## Federation to hold webinar “Strengthen Ourselves, Strengthen Each Other” on June 14

By Reporter staff

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton – in conjunction with Beth David Synagogue, Rohr Chabad Center, Temple Concord and Temple Israel – will hold a virtual community gathering called “Strengthening Ourselves,

Strengthening Each Other” on Sunday, June 14, at 7:30 pm. The virtual program will feature readings and music to offer comfort and connection. Area rabbis and community leaders will take part.

“People have contacted me saying how much they appreciated the virtual

Yom Hashoah event and the Community Gathering we held in January (which offered comfort after several antisemitic attacks nationwide) and asked if we were going to do another program,” said Shelley Hubal, Federation executive director. “People are looking to connect

with the community and I think this is a perfect way to come together to find comfort and strength in one another and still stay safe.”

Register for the event on the new Federation website, [www.jfgb.org](http://www.jfgb.org), and the Zoom link will be sent by e-mail.

## JCC to hold webinar on Rod Serling on June 11

The Jewish Community Center will hold a multi-media presentation webinar called “Pioneering Mind of Television: The Life and Times of Rod Serling” on Thursday, June 11, from 7-8 pm. The presenter for the program will be Lawrence Kassan, who is the director of special projects for the Binghamton City School District and founder of the Rod Serling Video Festival. The webinar will include a 15-minute question-and-answer period. Those interested in attending should send an e-mail to [sheryl@binghamtonjcc.org](mailto:sheryl@binghamtonjcc.org) to receive a password to join the program.

“Rod Serling, one of the early pioneers of broadcast television, was proud to call Binghamton his hometown,” said organizers of the event. “This presentation will highlight his childhood, including the time he spent at the JCC where his father, Sam

Serling, was president in 1937, his war years and the role he played in television’s ‘Golden Age.’ Also explored will be the corporate interference and censorship that led to one of the medium’s iconic television series, ‘The Twilight Zone.’”

Serling is best known for “The Twilight Zone,” but he wrote numerous other TV and movie scripts. Among his Emmy awards were best original teleplay writing for the TV drama “Patterns” in 1956; best teleplay writing for “Playhouse 90” in 1956, ‘57, ‘58 and ‘59; outstanding achievement in drama for “The Twilight Zone” in 1961; and outstanding writer in drama adaptation for “Bob Hope Presents the Chrysler Theater” in 1964. He



Lawrence Kassan

was honored by the Television Academy in 1985 and entered into its Hall of Fame. Serling also co-wrote the screenplay for the original movie version of “Planet of the Apes.”

Kassan founded the Rod Serling Video Festival in 1995, which encourages students in grades kindergarten-12 nationally to work more creatively in media arts. In October 2009, Kassan coordinated a four-day national celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Serling’s “The Twilight Zone.” He is also a lecturer at Ithaca College’s Park School of Communications, where Serling’s archives are located.

Before moving to Binghamton in 1987, Kassan was an instructor at Adelphi Univer-

sity and technical director for the Fine Arts Committee of the 1980 XIII Winter Olympic Games, which were held in Lake Placid, NY. His professional associations include residencies with Long Wharf Theatre and John Houseman’s “The Acting Company.” He has produced promotional and educational videos, and coordinated video location projects with PBS’ “American Masters” and Court TV’s “Your Turn,” as well as managing all performing arts at the Rod Serling School at Binghamton High School. Kassan served on the Opening Ceremony Committee for the New York Empire State Games 2000, 2004 and 2008 as production stage manager. Kassan has spoken about Serling’s legacy at The Paley Center (The Museum of Television and Radio) and been a featured guest on NPR for the nationally broadcast series “On The Media.”

## TI-TC virtual adult ed. on June 14 to feature “Select Jewish Shorts”

The Temple Israel/Temple Concord Adult Education Group will present the virtual program “Select Jewish Shorts” on Sunday, June 14, at 10:30 am. The program will be dramatic readings of select Jewish short stories. Members of Temple Concord and Temple Israel will receive the Zoom link in e-mails sent out by their synagogues. Anyone who does not receive those bulletins and wants to join the program can either contact Temple Israel at [titammy@stny.twcbc.com](mailto:titammy@stny.twcbc.com) or Temple Concord at

[TempleConcordbinghamton@gmail.com](mailto:TempleConcordbinghamton@gmail.com).

Ben Kasper, professor emeritus at SUNY Broome, who serves on the Executive Board of Temple Israel and is co-chairman of the Adult Education Committee, will read one of the short stories. Kasper’s selection is from a collection titled “Scribblers on the Roof: Contemporary American Jewish Fiction,” edited by Melvin Jules Bukiet and David G. Roskies.

Steve Gilbert, professor emeritus of psychology at SUNY Oneonta, who is past president of Temple Israel and is co-chair-

man of the Adult Education Committee, will read an original short story.

The feature offering of the morning will be a Jewish short story read by Andy Horowitz; his presentation, “The Doctor and the Rabbi,” will be taken from a volume of essays by Aimee Bender called “The Color Master.” Horowitz is a graduate of Binghamton University who also holds an M.B.A. from Syracuse University. He is the artistic director of Galumph Dance Company; he lectures on entrepreneurship and

offers choreographic workshops at schools and conservatories on a global stage.

Horowitz is the co-winner of the Edinburgh Festival’s Critics Choice Award, the Moers International Comedy Arts prize, and was the 2007 recipient of the Broome County Heart of the Arts award. He is an artist-in-residence of Binghamton University’s Department of Theatre. He played the leading role in a dramatic reading of the play “My Name is Asher Lev,” which was performed at Temple Israel in June 2018.

## 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 sidebar 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.jfgb.org](http://www.jfgb.org). The film will be streamed free for up to 100 computers.



Mensch on a Bench, the team’s mascot, with Cody Decker. (Photo courtesy of Menemsha Films)

On June 6, after Shabbat ends, a link to the film will be sent to those who sign up in advance. See “Film” on page 3

### Director Jeremy Newberger

Jeremy Newberger, who will facilitate a discussion of “Heading Home,” is the CEO of Ironbound Films, a documentary and media production company. He served as co-director and art director for “Heading Home.” He also produced and directed “The New Recruits” (PBS 2010) and “The Linguists” (PBS 2009). “The Linguists” was nominated for an Emmy in 2010 for Outstanding Science and Technology Documentary. The firm’s film “The Anthropologist” was called “utterly winning” by the *Los Angeles Times* and “stealthily insightful” by *The New York Times*. Its film “Évocauteur: The Morton Downey Jr.” was a *New York Times* Critics’ Pick and chosen in 2013 as best documentary by

NY1, a top-10 movie by *LA Weekly*, and a top-10 documentary by *USA Today* and the International Press Academy.

Newberger also produced and wrote an Internet comedy series called “The Fantastic Two” about fantasy football, which starred William “Refrigerator” Perry. On his Twitter page, @jeremynewberger, he calls himself a political satirist, in addition to being a Jewish filmmaker.

Prior to Ironbound Films, he was executive producer at the FeedRoom, a producer at MSNBC for Lisa Napoli, the channel’s Internet Technology reporter, producer of the “Imus on MSNBC” television show, and Conan O’Brien’s intern at “Late Night With Conan O’Brien.”

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

### COVID-19

More online Jewish resources; *aliyah* increases in the midst of the pandemic.

Pages 3-4

### “Never Again”

Jewish and pro-Israel groups applaud passage of the Never Again Education Act.

Page 5

### Follow the money

A new report traces how European money makes its way to Palestinian terrorists.

Page 7

### Special Sections

Legal Notices..... 4  
Book Review..... 4  
Dine Out..... 5  
Classifieds..... 8

# Report: P.A. eradicating Tel Aroma fortress in Samaria

By JNS staff

(JNS) – The Palestinian Authority, taking advantage of the absence of Civil Administration inspectors during the coronavirus shutdown, is consolidating its takeover of Tel Aroma, a Hasmonean fortress in Samaria, according to Israeli NGO Regavim.

The NGO, which according to its website aims to “ensure responsible, legal, accountable and environmentally friendly use of Israel’s national lands and the return of the rule of law to all areas and aspects of the land and its preservation,” reported that on May 10 a fleet of heavy engineering tools from the P.A. and the Beta Village Council arrived at Tel Aroma and paved a road leading toward the remains of the fortress.

Situated on a commanding ridge controlling the passage between the Jordan Valley and the heart of Samaria, the Tel Aroma Fortress is the northernmost of eight fortresses established by the Hasmonean Kingdom to protect Israel’s eastern border.

In recent months, the P.A. has been making concerted efforts and investing “considerable resources” to take over the site, installing generators and perimeter lighting, erecting tents alongside a huge flagpost platform, and manning them around the clock. Senior P.A. and Beta Municipality officials recently held a ceremony at which the fortress was declared a “Palestinian Heritage Site,” a claim that purportedly affords them the “right” to carry out the work, that according to Regavim has caused the

destruction of the fortress wall and reservoirs.

This is the culmination of a year-long process of ongoing destruction, according to members of “Preserving the Eternal,” a non-profit project of the Regavim Movement that works in cooperation with the Shomron Regional Council’s Infrastructure Department to preserve historic and archaeological sites in Judea and Samaria.

Samaria Regional Council head Yossi Dagan assessed the destruction of the site, saying: “Enforcement authorities must give this matter the attention it deserves; they have a responsibility to live up to, this is their job and we expect them to do it. This systematic destruction of Jewish heritage sites throughout Judea and Samaria cannot continue. We demand that they put an immediate stop to the ongoing destruction of Tel Aroma; we call upon the relevant authorities to take action without delay.”

Eitan Melet, field coordinator for the Preserving the



The ancient Tel Aroma fortress in Samaria is the northernmost of eight fortresses established by the Hasmonean Kingdom to protect Israel’s eastern border. (Photo by Regavim)

Eternal Project, who documented the recent roadwork and destruction at the site, called on Israeli Defense Minister Naftali Bennett to intervene immediately: “Minister of Defense Bennett, you have left a significant imprint on the Ministry of Defense in a short period of time. Now is the time to establish the legacy of your tenure – a legacy that will prove that the state of Israel protects its eternal birthright in the land of Israel.”

## Opinion

### A baby boom is coming – how can couples prepare?

By Karen Arnovitz Grinzaid

(JNS) – The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly transformed the daily lives of people around the world. We live in a new normal, and the long-term effects of this challenging time remain to be seen.

As people spend their days trying to find the positive, some are trying new hobbies or organizing their homes. By now, they have established a daily rhythm around being indoors with their quarantine partners.

But even for the well-adjusted, we are all dreaming of what the future may hold after this crisis passes. For some, that includes starting a family. In fact, with the extra time some people have during the shelter-at-home directives, reports have predicted a baby boom in the next nine to 12 months.

Beyond the obvious, there are some essential steps a couple can take when starting to plan a family, including securing vital information that can help them take the journey safely together. Genetic screening before having a baby is one of those essential steps. This testing provides couples with knowledge, and knowledge is power.

JScreen is a national online genetic-screening pro-

gram based at Emory University School of Medicine’s Department of Human Genetics. The program tests for more than 200 different genetic diseases and provides follow-up genetic counseling to discuss test results, helping couples navigate the journey toward a healthy family. Thankfully, genetic testing through JScreen is conducted from the safety of one’s home. With its simple spit test, it provides a safe and confidential way to get tested. In the age of social distancing, this is now more important than ever.

JScreen is there for couples who are trying to conceive and even for those who are already pregnant. At a time when many OBGYNs are limiting office visits, JScreen’s online service is invaluable, sending copies of test results to individuals and their doctors.

Medical professionals agree that everyone with Jewish background should be offered genetic testing before having children. Previously, many people thought that such testing for family planning was solely for Ashkenazi Jews. Today, it’s increasingly clear that Jews of all backgrounds are at risk for having children with genetic diseases and should be screened. This includes individuals with Sephardi and

Mizrachi ancestry (such as Persians, Syrians and Bukharians), as well as interfaith couples.

JScreen’s test is primarily for diseases inherited in a recessive pattern, meaning that a child can only have the condition if both parents carry the non-working gene for that condition. With recessively inherited diseases, each child of two carrier parents has a 25 percent chance of inheriting two copies of the non-working gene and having the condition. Typically, people who are carriers of recessive conditions do not have symptoms because they have only one copy of the non-working gene. The only way to know if you are a carrier is to get tested. JScreen also screens for several X-linked conditions that can be passed from a carrier female to a child who may have symptoms.

Starting down this road can be scary, but knowledge truly is power. While planning to start a family is an exciting and life-changing decision, each couple has to chart their own path toward a healthy family. The information provided by this easy, at-home, spit test can truly provide results that help people plan for the health of their future children.

Karen Arnovitz Grinzaid, M.S., CGC, CCRC, is executive director of JScreen.

### In My Own Words

## A walk on the not-so-wild side

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

The phrase “and now for something completely different” came to mind when I was thinking about what to write this week. There are plenty of ridiculous things happening in politics, and numerous social and political ramifications to the pandemic to analyze, but I just don’t feel like discussing any of that this week. Instead, something else prompted me to write, something unusual for me: the calm, contented feeling I felt during my mid-day walk.

Since I’ve been working from home, I’ve made certain to take a lunch break and, when the weather is decent, to go outside for a walk. This is actually not much different from when I work in *The Reporter* office, but it’s far easier to skip that break at home. So, with the better weather this week, I’ve tried to eat a quick lunch and then head outdoors.

First, there was the sunshine: just enough sun to enjoy its rays, but also enough of a breeze so it wasn’t too hot.

For part of the walk, I wore a light jacket; the rest of the time, it hung over my shoulders. I deliberately made myself stop thinking about work, work problems and anything else (just quieted that inner voice that keeps chattering) and felt the sun on my face. I breathed deeply, letting the air fill my lungs. I wanted to just be in the moment – me, the sun, the blooming and blossoming trees and, to paraphrase the Bible, know this was good.

Earlier this week, I posted a note on Facebook about something I enjoy every walk in the warm weather: listening to the chirping, squawking and trilling sounds of the birds. This is still a delight for me because I went for decades (and I do mean decades) without being able to hear those sounds. They were gone long before the rest of my hearing deteriorated. Even when a bird call sounds irritating, it’s still a marvel because I can hear it. Someday this might be an old hat, unimportant, been-there-heard-that kind of

thing, but I really hope not. I don’t ever want to take this for granted.

To add to the fun of my latest walk were the birds I saw: two cardinals. Now, I am not a birder. I can’t tell you the names of most birds, but I love looking at them. For some reason, seeing a cardinal always feels like a treat. Maybe it’s the flash of red, or maybe it’s because they are not as common as the other birds that appear locally. I see robins whenever I sit on my porch or on most of my walks, but cardinals don’t appear as often.

If I can manage to just look at my surroundings and keep my brain from chattering, my walks leave me in a wonderful mood. No matter what else is happening, the trees, birds and sky are still there. The beauty of creation can be healing if I focus on it, rather than the daily stress of life. Judaism asks us to count our blessings and this wonderful, beautiful area I live in counts as one of my mine.



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#### OPINIONS

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

#### LETTERS

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

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# TC Sisterhood to hold virtual installation on June 3

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](mailto: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.

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.

## Jewish resources to occupy your family during social distancing – part 10

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 annual Celebrate Israel Parade will be a virtual event this year. This year's theme is "Todah (thank you)" and it will thank healthcare, first responder and other frontline workers in New York, across the United States, in Israel and around the world. It will also offer thanks to longtime sponsors, marching groups and spectators. The event will take place on Sunday, June 7, at 1 pm and 7 pm. For more information, visit <https://celebrateisraelny.org>.

- ◆ The Israeli Video Network offers a variety of informative and entertaining videos on YouTube. To view the videos, either visit [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search for Israel Video Network, or use the link [www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=israel+video+network+youtube+](http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=israel+video+network+youtube+).

- ◆ The Jewish Telegraphic Agency has opened a page on its website called "Bond of Life," [www.jta.org/category/bonds-of-life](http://www.jta.org/category/bonds-of-life). The site is documenting and celebrating the Jewish lives lost to the coronavirus. Included are doctors, educators, spiritual leaders, innovators, musicians and more.

- ◆ The Genesis Prize Foundation has several short videos on YouTube about "Jews in Hollywood," "Jews in Music" and "Jews in Sport." To see the videos, visit [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com), search for "Genesis Prize Foundation" and then scroll down to find the specific video.

- ◆ The Contemporary Jewish Museum in San Francisco is holding the exhibit "Levi Strauss: A History of American Style," which showcases the life of Levi Strauss, the inventor of the blue jean and its place in the history of American style. The exhibit can be viewed virtually at [https://thecjm.org/learn\\_resources/522](https://thecjm.org/learn_resources/522).

- ◆ "Advocacy Anywhere, Powered by AJC" is a new platform that offers curated content, including exclusive video and phone briefings featuring leading figures, audio segments on the issues of the day, AJC analysis, and ways to take action from computers, tablets, or smartphones.

- ◆ The Jewish National Fund offers a variety of webinars

### Film . . . . . Continued from page 1

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 Lavarnway – 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."

"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.

at [www.jnf.org/menu-3/videos/ondemand](http://www.jnf.org/menu-3/videos/ondemand). People can sign up for upcoming events or view past programs.

- ◆ OfekHub at [www.israeliamerican.org/ofek](http://www.israeliamerican.org/ofek) offers a variety of classes for a fee. The classes range from Hebrew to Israel activism.

- ◆ Project Zug, <https://www.projectzug.org/courses/list>, offers a variety of classes, including prayer, philosophy, history and more.

- ◆ The eighth annual Israel Film Center Festival in New York City will be held virtually this year. Films will be available between June 7-14. There is a cost to watch the films. For more information, visit <https://israelfilmcenterstream.org/festival/>.

- ◆ The Blue Dove Mental Health Foundation offers Jewish mental health resources at <https://thebluedovefoundation.org/jewishresources/>.

- ◆ The National Museum of American History is offering a virtual look at its new exhibit "100 Years of Suffrage" at <https://www.nmah.org/exhibitions/suffrage-100/>.

- ◆ KosherWine.com offers virtual experiences with Israeli winemakers, critics and other professionals to learn about tasting notes, the process of wine making and tours of Israeli wineries [www.kosherwine.com/experiences](http://www.kosherwine.com/experiences) for a full schedule, to register, receive notices of events and catch up on past episodes.

- ◆ Tikvah is holding a multi-part "town hall series" on the future of college assessed, analyzed and debated from a Jewish perspective. Among the educators and experts speaking will be Jonathan Haidt, Alyza Lewin and Ruth Wisse. The series is open to college-bound and college-enrolled students, to parents and grandparents concerned about the education of the rising generation, and to everyone who cares about how to strengthen Jewish liberal education in America in the years ahead. For more information, visit <https://tikvahfund.org/jews-and-college>.

- ◆ The AJC will hold a Virtual Global Forum, which will take place from June 14-18. The five-day online event will feature an opening plenary and conversations with world leaders. Topics to be discussed include the rise of antisemitism and other forms of hate in the era of the coronavirus, the 2020 U.S. presidential election, Israel's quest for peace and security, and the future of the transatlantic relationship. For more information, visit [www.ajc.org/virtualglobalforum2020](http://www.ajc.org/virtualglobalforum2020).

- ◆ The Virtual June Celebration by the Temple Emanu-El Streicker Center will be held from June 2-26 and feature actors and playwrights, musicians and chefs. To find out the schedule, register for programs and watch previous webinars, visit [www.emanuelnyc.org/streickercenter/june-celebration/](http://www.emanuelnyc.org/streickercenter/june-celebration/).

- ◆ The Jewish Telegraphic Agency has started a weekly quiz


### NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

#### Erdogan: "We will not allow Palestinian lands to be offered to anyone"

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said in a video message posted on social media on May 25 that "we will not allow Palestinian lands to be offered to anyone." In the video, which was addressed to American Muslims in honor of the Eid al-Fitr holiday marking the end of Ramadan, Erdogan said that the Temple Mount in Jerusalem was a "red line" for all Muslims. Israel is widely expected to start implementing sovereignty in parts of Judea and Samaria starting in July.

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*The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to the family of*  
**Miriam Sandra Markovits**

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*The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to the family of*  
**Samuel "Shmuel" Morell**

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*The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to Jack Singer on the death of his wife,*  
**Lisa Singer**

*Many thanks to*  
*The Jewish Community*  
*for their warm words of*  
*condolence, support and*  
*donations in memory of the*  
*recent passing of my wife,*  
*Pamela Lauker.*

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Off the Shelf

# Growing older in dysfunctional families

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

Are there actually any functional families or is every family dysfunctional in its own way? Two recent novels raise that question, although their plots are very different. Howard Jacobson explores the joys and pains of old age in "Live a Little" (Hogarth), while Jami Attenberg analyzes how one man's behavior affected the lives of his wife and children in "All This Could Be Yours" (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt).

For me, the greatest pleasures of Jacobson's novel come from the two wonderful characters he creates. The Jewish character is Shimi Carmeli, who is a bit of a noodle. It's not totally his own fault, since, after his mother died, his father, who doesn't want to live with reminders of his wife, deserts Shimi and his younger brother, Ephraim. Ephraim, who is the more adventurous, soon follows in his father's footsteps, leaving Shimi to find his own way. Shimi, who never recovered from one weird experience that readers will have to discover for themselves, never marries or has children. Shimi's character struck me as a bit strange: he notes that he suffers "not [from] faintheartedness, exactly. But a nameless dissatisfaction, a sort of disillusionment that formed before he's even had time to be illusioned." Now, in his old age, he lives above a Chinese restaurant and reads fortunes for its customers. The older women who visit the restaurant enjoy his company, although he tries to keep his distance. He is aware that their interest is not for him personally, but rather because he is one of the "last eligible bachelors – by which they mean the last man able to do up his own buttons, walk without the aid of a walking frame, and speak without spitting."

However, the character I adored is 90-something Beryl Dusinbery, even though she is not someone I would want to

know in real life. Although Beryl's memory is failing her, that doesn't make a dent in her large, almost overbearing, personality. She is a bit obnoxious, very temperamental and extraordinarily opinionated – all of which make her excellent company. Well, her sons from different fathers might disagree and the two women who care for her find her difficult, but learning the story of her life is great fun. She's willing to admit her faults as a mother: "Mothers leave an oil slick of blame and guilt behind them. Even this mother. Yes, she had much to answer for – the absence in them of anything approaching the ridiculous, for one; the absence in their lives of anything approaching a father, for another; the lack of an affectionate interest in each other's welfare; maybe even their steely drive originated in her." Fortunately for readers, this knowledge doesn't make her any better behaved.

To describe how these two characters meet would spoil the plot, not that the novel contains much plot. It's the characterizations that drive the action. The sorrows and aches of old age are also revealed, although they don't dominate the work. Jacobson has written an odd, almost sweet, story about family that left me smiling.

Although I'm happy my elderly relatives do not resemble Shimi or Beryl, I am overjoyed that no one I know is like Victor, the pivotal character in Attenberg's novel, because Victor is a horrible person. When he suffers a heart attack, his wife, Barbra, requests that their two children, Alex and Gary, visit him in the hospital. Alex arrives quickly, hoping that she will finally get her mother to reveal the secrets of her father's life. Gary, on the other hand, continues his stay in California, finding himself unable to get on a plane, even though he and his family live in the same city as his

parents. To make matters worse, Twyla, Gary's wife, seems on the verge of a nervous breakdown. Although Barbra does not want to tell Alex about her father's shadowy life, including his brushes with the law, she finds herself going over in her own mind how she and Victor met, and why she married him.

Attenberg's novel was difficult to read because Barbra and Victor's relationship was clearly an abusive one. Even more disturbing is that Barbra seemed to know what would occur and went into the relationship willingly. When, before she marries, Barbra and a friend discuss what is happening, the author notes, "although in principle both women believed in love, neither of them believed in romance. It was all a performance for them, what women had to do for men, what men had to do for women – it was a matter of assessing each other's value." The friend even describes one of her body parts as "a capitalist tool."

As the story unfolds, readers learn about how Alex and Gary's lives were shaped by their relation with their parents. Gary's personality is particularly interesting in that he models himself as the anti-Victor. Alex's way of coping is more complex because, in many ways, she was daddy's little girl. The harm inflicted on them by both parents becomes clear as the novel progresses.

While tempted to stop reading after the first 100 pages because the characters were so unpleasant, I'm glad that I didn't since the ending of the novel offers some fascinating surprises. This tale of a toxic family will not appeal to everyone. However, "All This Could Be Yours" might make you feel very grateful for your imperfect, but no-way-as-awful-as-Victor-and-Barbra, relatives.

## Aliyah increases in midst of coronavirus pandemic

By JNS staff

(JNS) – The International Christian Embassy Jerusalem is currently supporting the Jewish Agency for Israel and Keren Hayesod with bringing an unexpected wave



New immigrants to Israel arrived on May 19 from Moscow as coronavirus cases have increased in Russia and flattened in Israel. (Photo by Svetlana Soroka)

in *aliyah* amid the coronavirus pandemic. It has already sponsored flights for 601 Jewish immigrants since February and planned to bring another 160 Jews the week of May 22 to Israel.

The newest arrivals include a group of 41 Jews from the former Soviet Union who flew in from Moscow on May 19, with an additional 119 Jews scheduled to land at Ben-Gurion International Airport on ICEJ-sponsored flights by the end of that week.

It raises the total to 761 Jewish immigrants the ICEJ has brought on flights to Israel since coronavirus travel bans were first imposed worldwide in February. For many of these recent arrivals, the ICEJ is also covering part of the added costs of their post-flight quarantine, which is the responsibility of the Jewish Agency.

As global travel has ground to a halt over recent months, many in Israel were expecting a pause in immigration due to the COVID-19 threat. The nation, however, is currently experiencing a surprising uptick in *aliyah aliyah*, as Jews worldwide are moving up plans to immigrate to a place they



A young immigrant to Israel arrived on May 19 from Moscow as coronavirus cases have increased in Russia and flattened in Israel. (Photo by Svetlana Soroka)

view as safer and better-positioned for economic recovery.

"Despite all the bad news we hear about the corona crisis, one of the positive stories is the surprising number of Jews See "Aliyah" on page 5

## 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.

644 Gage Road, LLC NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY ("LLC")

Articles of Organization of 644 Gage Road, LLC filed with the

NYS Secretary of State (NYSS) on 4/17/2020. 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 1963 Bradley Creek Rd, Endicott, NY 13760. Business purpose: any lawful activity.

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.

Notice of Formation of BRAVE2BU, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 04/16/20. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 4132 Gregory Rd., Binghamton, NY 13903. Purpose: any lawful activities.

Notice of Formation of EPL Rentals, LLC

Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 04/27/2020. 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, P.O. Box 783, Johnson

City, NY 13790. Purpose: any lawful activities.

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.

Notice of Formation of KBGC, LLC

Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 04/22/2020. 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, 106 Washington Avenue, #1, Endicott, New York 13760. Purpose: any lawful activities.

Notice of Formation of ONE SMART FELLER LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 04/29/20. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o Registered Agent Solutions, Inc., 99 Washington Ave., Ste. 1008, Albany, NY 12260. Purpose: any lawful activities.

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. Woidt 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.

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

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

1. The name of the limited liability company ("LLC") is Liv's Bean, LLC.  
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is May 22, 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: 2063 Colchester Drive, Binghamton, NY 13903.  
5. The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

Notice of Formation of Building Washington LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 5/16/2017. Office Location: Broome Co. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom service of process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Corporate Filings of New York, 90 State Street, Suite 700, Office 40, Albany, NY 12207. Purpose: any lawful activities.

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# Jewish and pro-Israel groups applaud passage of Never Again Education Act

By Jackson Richman

(JNS) – Jewish and pro-Israel groups applauded the U.S. Senate passage on May 13 of the Never Again Education Act, which seeks to expand Holocaust education in the United States. The legislation, which passed the U.S. House of Representatives in January and now goes to U.S. President Donald Trump for his expected signature into law, would expand the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum’s education programming to teachers nationwide, requiring the museum to develop and disseminate resources to improve awareness and understanding of the Holocaust and its lessons.

The Senate version was slightly different from the U.S. House of Representatives one, which the Senate ultimately passed, in that the former had the U.S. Department of Education, not the USHMM, oversee the expansion of Holocaust education in the United States.

Under the passed bill, \$2 million would be allocated annually for this year and each of the next four years to the Holocaust Education Assistance Program Fund, administered by the USHMM’s governing body, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council. Private donations for the fund would be permitted.

“Particularly in light of the recent use of Nazi imagery by right-wing protesters praised by President Trump, we are pleased to see that the Never Again Education Act passed the Senate unanimously this week after it was held by at least one Republican senator,” Jewish Democratic Council of America Executive Director Halie Soifer told JNS, referring to Holocaust imagery and slogans being featured at demonstrations over state and local restrictions to the coronavirus pandemic, and Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT) placing a hold recently on the bill after it was discharged from the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

“It’s very rare for a substantive bill to move like this without going through committee,” a Hill aide told Jewish Insider. “[Lee] and his staff wanted to review the text.”

Ultimately, no changes were made to the bill, the Hill aide told the outlet.

“It has become painfully clear that more must be done to educate Americans about the horrors of the Holocaust and the threat posed to the Jewish community through the use of Nazi hate symbols,” said Soifer.

The Republican Jewish Coalition applauded the bipartisan nature of the passed legislation. “The men and women of the United States Senate deserve credit for setting aside their differences to clear the way for swift and unanimous passage of this much-needed legislation,” said RJC Executive Director Matt Brooks in a statement.

“As survivors pass on, there has never been a more important time for Holocaust education,” tweeted the American Jewish Committee, applauding a few of those who led the effort to get it passed in Congress – Sens. Jacky Rosen (D-NV), Kevin Cramer (R-ND) and Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY).



Survivors at the Dachau concentration camp cheered their liberation by U.S. soldiers. (Photo courtesy of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and of the National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, MD)

In the Senate, Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) introduced the bill along with Rosen and Cramer, while Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-NY) introduced it with Maloney in the House.

“Senator Rosen has been building consensus on the urgency of quality Holocaust education within her caucus and across the aisle since introducing the Never Again Education Act in the Senate,” said Hadassah’s national president, Rhoda Smolow, and its CEO and executive director, Janice Weinman, in a statement. “Today, her hard work paid off.”

In a statement, Christians United for Israel founder and Chairman John Hagee said, “If there exists a silver bullet to defeat the spread of bigotry and hatred, it is education. Through this legislation, teachers around the country will have federal support in their efforts to stamp out antisem-

itism by teaching about its abhorrent consequences.”

Combat Anti-Semitism movement Director Sacha Roytman-Dratwa said in a statement, “By approving this act, members of the United States Senate have transformed the phrase ‘Never Again’ into real and purposeful action. We know that the only way to fight the darkness of antisemitism, hatred and discrimination is to teach the light of tolerance and respect. The Never Again Education Act breathes new life into this struggle at a time when we need it the most.

“We applaud the members of the Senate, from both sides of the aisle, who put their political differences aside in order to approve this important legislation,” he continued. “In doing so, they have sent the critical message that antisemitism is not a partisan issue and that people of all religions, faiths and backgrounds must unite around the goal of ending the hatred and bigotry which plagues our society.”

In a statement, the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations lauded that the measure “will spread awareness of the Shoah to the next generation by creating and funding the Holocaust Education Assistance Program with \$10 million over five years. These funds would go toward ensuring that educators have the resources they need to teach these critically important lessons.”

“Antisemitism is an insidious force in our country, as well as globally, and our elected officials have a responsibility to ensure that future generations understand the horrors of the Holocaust to prevent it from ever happening again,” said World Jewish Congress President Ronald S. Lauder in a statement. “I commend Reps. Maloney and Stefanik, and Sens. Rosen, Cramer, Blumenthal and Rubio for working on both sides of the aisle to give our country’s educators the resources they need to teach their students about the darkest era of history. This legislation is a tremendous step forward toward prioritizing and standardizing Holocaust.”

## Aliyah. . . . Continued from page 4

looking for a way to come to Israel as soon as they can,” said ICEJ President Dr. Jürgen Bühler. “We are privileged to play a key part in this unique wave of *aliyah*, when a pandemic brought the world to a standstill, but it could not stop the Jews from coming home to Israel.”

Many of these recent arrivals are coming from regions of the former Soviet Union, where local economies are struggling and the virus is just peaking. On May 19, a flight arrived from the former Soviet Union with 41 Jewish immigrants sponsored by the ICEJ. One Jewish couple on board sped up their move to be with their daughter, an Israeli mother of two who has been diagnosed with advanced brain cancer and will undergo emergency surgery in coming days.

At the request of the Jewish Agency, the ICEJ is currently raising funds from its global constituency to cover the flight costs for another 150 Jews from the former Soviet Union it hopes to bring to Israel by early June.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

#### Small fire at Maine Jewish Museum leads to damage

A small fire was quickly extinguished in the sanctuary of the Maine Jewish Museum on May 21, though this resulted in significant water damage, a Portland fire official told *The Portland Press Herald*. “There’s a lot of water damage,” said Deputy Fire Chief John Hendricks. “Quite a bit of water was put into the building.” The historic worship area, called the Etz Chaim Synagogue, is on the second floor of the three-story building. Hendricks said the fire was situated mostly in the cabinets behind the altar. He noted that the Portland Fire Department is probing the cause.

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## Weekly Parasha

Shavuot, Numbers 28:26-31

# The precious *ger* (proselyte)

RABBI BARUCH BINYAMIN HAKOHENMELMAN, TEMPLE ISRAEL OF THE POCONOS

The *ger*, the convert to Judaism, follows in the footsteps of Avraham *avinu*, the patriarch Abraham, and of Sarah *imenu*, the matriarch Sarah, who were themselves *gerim*. They chose a new path for themselves, following the deepest yearning of their heart for the ultimate truth that there is one God who demands righteousness and ethical behavior. The *ger* is precious to us as a people, and yet the *ger* may feel a sense of loneliness, as he/she chose this path for themselves.

Our tradition teaches that all the souls of Israel, past, present and future, stood as one at Mount Sinai, together

with the souls of all future *gerim*, those who would accept the Torah, the Covenant between God and Israel. The *ger* is so holy. Being holy means being set aside and special in the best sense. The *ger* is holy and pure as the Sabbath is holy and pure. Less sensitive and less refined Jewish souls may view this apartness as a possible negative, and so the Torah adjures us 36 times not to oppress the *ger* in any way. It would be like oppressing Avraham and Sarah, their parents.

The *ger*, the convert, is fundamentally alone. Unmoored from the past, yet not feeling fully hinged to the present,

he eternally seeks validation that he has, in fact, arrived. The aloneness is her burden, and yet it is her fundamental strength. Recreating Abraham's singular journey, who himself was a *ger*, he finds solace in the sojourn, that the voyage is, in a certain sense, his ultimate calling.

The oft cited expression, *ki gerim hayitem b'ereztz Mitzrayim*, "because you were strangers in the land of Egypt," employs the plural form for stranger (*gerim*) when referring to Israel, yet, when the Torah refers to the actual *ger* among Israel, it prefers the use of the singular. Maybe it is **See "Ger" on page 7**

## 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 30 is Deuteronomy 14:22-16:17 and the haftarah is Habakkuk 3:1-19.

On Saturday, May 30, Havdalah services will be held at 9:15 pm and led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown via Zoom.

On Sunday, May 31, Torah study will be held at noon and led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown via Zoom.

The temple office will be closed on Friday, May 29.

On Sunday, June 24, a Temple Israel/Temple Concord Adult Ed. program will be held on Zoom at 10 am. It will feature dramatic readings of select Jewish stories by Steve Gilbert, Ben Kasper and Andy Horowitz. For more information, see the article on page 1.

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.

### 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 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.

### 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  
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 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.

### Congregation Tikkun v'Or

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

### Temple 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 29, light candles before..... 8:13 pm  
 Saturday, May 30, Shabbat/yom tov ends..... 9:14 pm  
 Friday, June 5, light candles before..... 8:18 pm  
 Saturday, June 6, Shabbat ends..... 9:19 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 and June.

Friday, May 29: Shavuot Yizkor morning service at 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 view at [www.facebook.com/templeconcord](http://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 view at [www.facebook.com/templeconcord/](http://www.facebook.com/templeconcord/).

Friday, June 5: Shabbat services at 7 pm at <https://binghamton.zoom.us/j/97613250758> (new for June, use the password 610020) or by calling 929-205-6099 and entering meeting ID # 976 1325 0758, or view at [www.facebook.com/templeconcord](http://www.facebook.com/templeconcord).

Saturday June 6: 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, June 6: "Havdalah with a Bonus" at 7 pm at <https://binghamton.zoom.us/j/526246866> or by calling 1-929-205-6099 and entering meeting ID # 526 246 866, or view at [www.facebook.com/templeconcord/](http://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.

### 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 Sholom

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

# New report traces how European money makes its way to terrorists

By Ariel Kahana

(Israel Hayom via JNS) – Money donated by European governments and private individuals is making its way into the coffers of terrorist organizations, according to a new report by Israel’s Strategic Affairs Ministry. The ministry issued the report after the European Union announced it would be funding Palestinian “civil society organizations” even if they include members who support terrorism.

According to the report’s findings, Palestinian activists have established a way of securing European monetary donations that allow them to carry out terrorist activity in addition to civil society work. “The links to civil society entities in the West allows them a way of securing financial assistance that they could not receive any other way,” the report states.

In the past two years, Israel’s Shin Bet security agency has exposed a number of incidents in which Hamas took control of money belonging to aid organizations active in the Gaza Strip, and in some cases used them for military purposes against Israel. One notable example was a case of European donations that went to fund terrorists involved in the murder of Rina Schnerb in the summer of 2019. Samar Arbid, head of the cell that killed Schnerb, 17, and wounded her brother in an attack at a spring near the town of Dolev in Samaria, played a key role in an organization named Addameer, a “prisoner support and human rights organization” according to its website.

Other members of the same cell earned a living from European government donations to “civil society groups.” On May 14, Israel reprimanded Emmanuel Joffre, the

head of an E.U. delegation to Israel, for the announcement that such funding would continue.

Rina Schnerb’s father, Eitan, is now joining the calls to block E.U. funding from reaching terrorists. In a public appeal to the Europeans, Schnerb wrote, “I was amazed to discover that Arbid was a member of the ‘human rights group’ Addameer. How can it be that people who sanctify death are active in human rights groups? How can it be that for years, they have been receiving millions of euros in aid from European nations? I have no doubt that European countries do not support terrorism and the murder of innocent people. However, they certainly understand that the links between Palestinian civil groups and terrorist organizations is a reality that must be condemned. I urge you: Do not turn a blind eye. Do not allow yourselves to be duped. Do not lend a hand, a platform, or funding to these organizations.”

Israeli Strategic Affairs Minister Gilad Erdan, who Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced on May 18 will be Israel’s ambassador to the United States and United Nations, said, “The E.U. has given in to the Palestinian steamroller of pressure. Millions of euros that went to Addameer show the real threat posed by the E.U. decision. This is a dangerous precedent.”

*This article first appeared in Israel Hayom.*

## Ger. . . . . Continued from page 6

because each holy *ger* comes alone in his quest, following the deep yearning of his soul. In a sense she revels in that aloneness as the precursor of her search, for the search only begins with the confrontation with her essential aloneness. It is that very sense of aloneness which in the end gives comfort. As God is essentially alone, and yet yearns to be rejoined by the righteous of Israel and the world, so, too, does the *ger* share with God in that existential aloneness.

Quite interestingly, in Deuteronomy 29:9,10, every group mentioned takes a plural ending – save the proselyte. But in *parashat* Yitro, which we read on Shavuot, in the very verses uttered at the Sabbath day *Kiddush* (Ex. 20:8-10), every referenced group takes the singular ending – along with the proselyte! Moreover, in Nitzavim, the proselyte is positioned in the center of the camp of Israel (*vegercha asher b’kerev machanecha*), “and your proselyte who is in the midst of your camp,” whereas, in Yitro, the *ger* is figuratively positioned at the edge of the camp, literally at the gates seeking admission: (*gereha asher b’shaarecha*) “your proselyte who is at your gates.”

Maybe this reflects perspective. As in quantum physics, perspective itself affects reality, even affecting the affective, i.e., the realm of feelings. When one is standing on the edge, just another point along the circumference, then all whom you know is standing right next to you – immediately to your right, and immediately to your left. But when one is standing in the center, everyone else seems plural in the

sense that one now takes in the greater whole from the central vantage point. The periphery, once veiled owing to one’s having had been a part of that very periphery, now becomes enlarged in its seeming fullness by virtue of one’s new perspective.

How true that the *ger* amongst us once stood alone at the gates, beckoning for admission. And how true that those very *gerim* are now the vibrant center of our Jewish lives, whose vibrant enthusiasm is so infectious. As Israel is the central truth seeker and shaker in world history, so too is the *ger* the energy center and truth seeking core within Israel.

Before Sinai, having just left Egyptian bondage, in its precovenantal state, Israel was still yet seemingly just another nation, standing at the gates of world history, but readying to stand center-stage on Shavuot. Israel, qua Israel, emerging from its own *ger* status as history’s *ur-stranger*, had yet to receive the covenant through which to be then thrust to centerpoint. And in walking through those gates, the *ger* herself takes center stage, for nothing can stop her momentum.

Israel, through her taking on the Covenant, symbolized by the Sabbath, and reaffirmed in the *Kiddush*, likewise becomes the new center – history’s hub, even as that very hub urges a transcendence of history. The existential loneliness of Israel is now the existential loneliness of the *ger*. The two remain as one, as one with the One God of Israel, the One God of the *ger*.

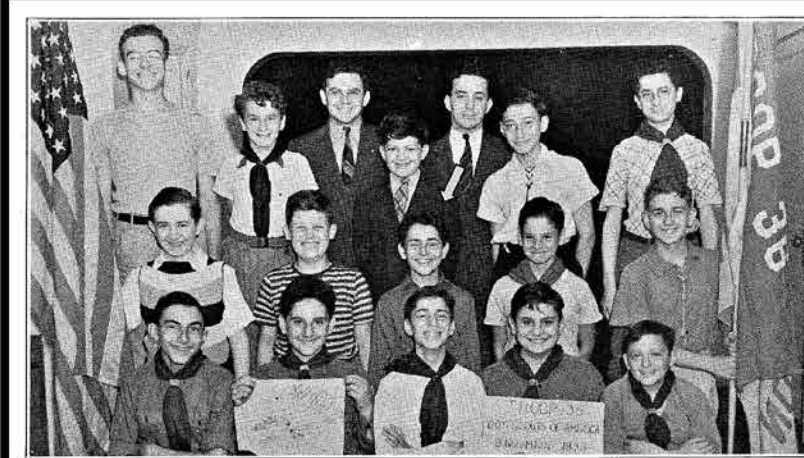
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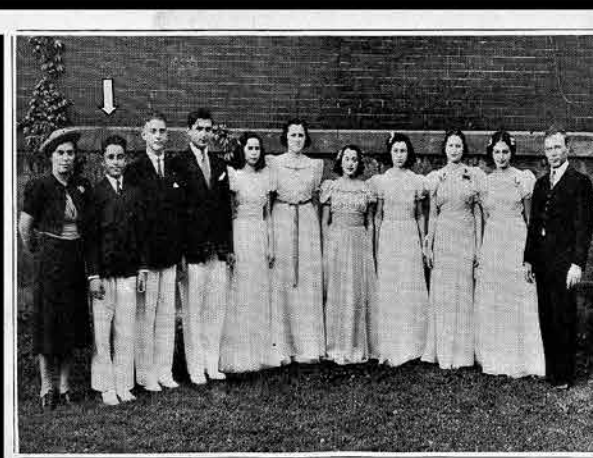
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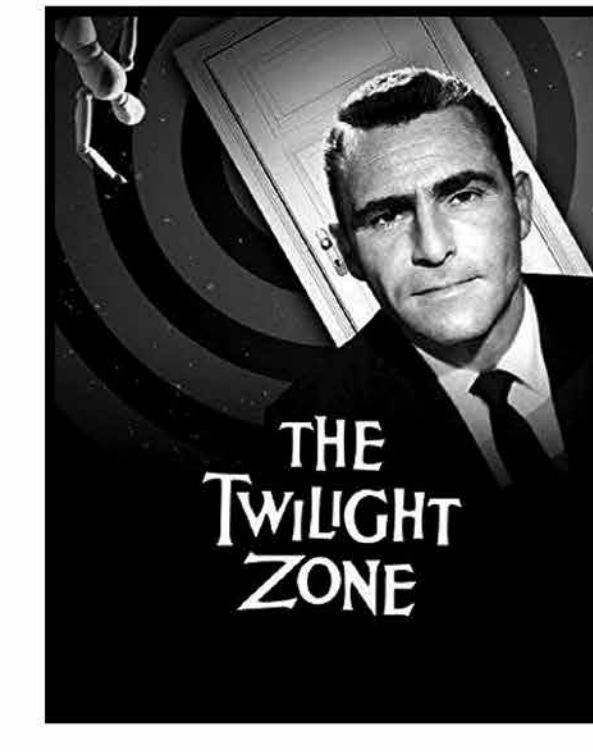


**Binghamton JCC Boy Scout Troop #36.** Row 1 (l to r): Irving Goldman, Bernie Kloonsky, Abe Ackerman, Allen Levy, Joseph Tannenhaus. Row 2: Maurice Schwartz, Arnold Bilgore, Roddy Serling, Ellis Rubin, Julius Golden; Row 3: Bob Groh, Irving Berkowitz, Mr. Thompson, David Sunness, Sammy LeKov, Ben Raphael, Israel Weiner. Photo taken at the old Jewish Community Center on Front Street, Binghamton. 1938.

**JCC**  
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**Class**  
**1939**



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Roddy Serling  
Julius Golden  
Alan Levy  
Suzanne Fischer  
Florence Bronsky  
Ruth Tanenhaus  
Edythe Arlasky  
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**Thursday June 11th from 7- 8pm**  
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## NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

**Israeli economy shrinks by more than 7 percent amid COVID-19 crisis**

Israel's economy contracted by around 7.1 percent in the first quarter, the country's Central Bureau of Statistics announced on May 25. This was the first quarterly contraction of the country's gross domestic product (or GDP) since 2012, according to Reuters. The contraction is mainly being attributed to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, which affected trade, investment, and consumer and government spending. Private spending dropped 20.3 percent and investment in fixed assets fell by 17.3 percent, while exports fell by 5.9 percent from January to March, according to the report. GDP contracted by 4.6 percent without including tax income on exports. The fourth-quarter GDP growth rate in 2019 was at 4.6 percent as the economy grew 3.5 percent overall last year. Israel's Finance Ministry warned in late March that the shutdown of Israel's economy due to the coronavirus pandemic would come at a cost of up to NIS 130 billion (\$36 billion), which is 10 percent of the nation's GDP.

**Israel's IDE Technology wins desalination plant tender**

The Israeli company IDE Technologies on May 26 won the tender to build what is expected to be the world's largest seawater desalination plant – worth \$1.5 billion – at Nahal Sorek, near the Palmachim air base, south of Tel Aviv. The Israeli firm beat a bid by Hong Kong-based multinational conglomerate CK Hutchison Holdings to construct and operate the plant, Ynet reported. Ahead of U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's whirlwind trip to Israel on May 13, State Department spokesperson Morgan Ortugas addressed the "Sorek B" tender, telling Axios, "As the secretary has repeatedly stated, the United States strives for trade and investment on fair and reciprocal terms, with reliable partners, for long-term mutual benefit. China's business dealings, by contrast, are often opaque, transactional and geared to benefit the Chinese Commu-

nist Party. We speak often to our friends in Israel about these risks and stand ready to help." The issue of growing trade relations between Israel and companies directly or indirectly tied to Beijing is of concern to the United States. According to a recent report by Bloomberg, Washington has been scrutinizing Israeli academic ties with China, including technology research and development, as part of the Trump administration's efforts to persuade Israel to reduce those ties. The "Sorek B" plant is expected to produce 200 billion liters of desalinated water annually, or a quarter of Israel's overall water consumption. According to the contract, IDE Technologies will operate it for 25 years. The current seawater desalination plant at Sorek – one of five in the country – is run by IDE Technologies and became operational in 2013.

**Palestinians begin easing coronavirus restrictions**

Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh announced on May 25 that mosques, churches and businesses would reopen on May 26 in the P.A.-controlled areas of Judea and Samaria. Shtayyeh said it was time to "cautiously return life to normal" as the coronavirus infection rate has decreased, reported Reuters. The P.A. locked down the territories in March after the first case of the virus was detected in Bethlehem. Shtayyeh also said that P.A. ministries and offices would reopen on May 27 and checkpoints that restrict intercity travel would be removed. The Palestinian Health Ministry has confirmed 423 cases of the virus and two deaths, according to the report, which added that the crisis led to a 50 percent drop in commercial revenues in the West Bank and a 17.6 percent unemployment rate. The Palestinian Health Ministry announced the first coronavirus-related death in the Gaza Strip on May 23.

**Palestinians riot over P.A. Eid al-Fitr mosque closures**

Hundreds of Palestinian Authority residents gathered outside P.A. headquarters in Hebron on the night of May 23 to demand the opening of mosques for the Eid al-Fitr

holiday, which lasted through May 24. "The people want to observe the holiday prayer," protesters can be heard chanting in a video posted on Twitter by Kan News Palestinian affairs correspondent Nurit Yohanan. The demonstration came in response to P.A. COVID-19 restrictions, among them the barring of entry to houses of worship during Eid al-Fitr, which marks the end of the month of Ramadan. In the video, rioters can be seen burning tires and throwing rocks in the streets of Tubas, near Nablus, and what sound like gunshots can be heard in the background. The P.A. eased closures in many cities on May 23 to enable residents to prepare for the holiday, but reimposed a full lockdown for the festival itself, due to concerns of mass gatherings leading to a spike in new coronavirus infections.

**Court rules Netanyahu exempt from appearance at next hearing**

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will not have to attend the next session of his trial on July 19, the Jerusalem District Court ruled on May 24. The ruling was handed down by Jerusalem District Court judge Rivka Friedman-Feldman, the head of the three-judge panel overseeing Netanyahu's trial, at the conclusion of the 50-minute arraignment hearing, during which Netanyahu pleaded innocent to the charges of fraud, bribery and breach of trust. Dates for subsequent hearings have yet to be determined, according to media reports. Moments before entering the courtroom Netanyahu made a speech protesting his innocence and accusing law enforcement and the state prosecution of joining forces with the left-wing media to topple not only him in particular, but the country's right-wing camp in general. "For more than a decade, the left has failed to accomplish this at the ballot box," he said. "So in the last few years, they found a new trick." During the arraignment hearing, demonstrations on behalf of and against Netanyahu were held outside the courthouse.

**Justice Dept. files suit against NJ township for "religious discrimination"**

The U.S. Department of Justice announced on May 20 that it has filed a lawsuit against Jackson Township in Ocean County, NJ, accusing its planning board with "religious discrimination" and "antisemitic conduct" towards Orthodox Jewish residents. The complaint, filed in the District of New Jersey, alleges that the township passed ordinances in a manner that discriminated against the Orthodox Jewish community, violating the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (or RLUIPA) and the Fair Housing Act (or FHA). RLUIPA is a federal law that protects religious institutions from unduly burdensome or discriminatory land-use regulations. Both ordinances expressly prohibit dormitories throughout Jackson, making it impossible for religious boarding schools such as Orthodox Jewish yeshivot to operate there, according to the DOJ. Although Jackson passed these ordinances to prevent dormitories anywhere in Jackson, the planning board has since approved, without requiring a variance, the plans for two nonreligious projects with dormitory-type housing. The complaint further alleges that the township and planning board enacted the ordinances against a backdrop of extreme animus by some Jackson residents and township decision-makers toward the Orthodox Jewish community and a movement by residents to keep Orthodox Jewish individuals from settling there. The township and planning board's actions toward the Orthodox Jewish community violate RLUIPA's non-discrimination and equal-terms provisions, as well as the FHA, according to the complaint. "Using zoning laws to target Orthodox Jewish individuals for intentional discrimination and exclude them from a community is illegal and utterly incompatible with this nation's values," said Eric Dreiband, U.S. assistant attorney general for the civil-rights division. "Let me be clear. The Department of Justice will use the full force of its authority to stop such antisemitic conduct and prevent its recurrence."

**Cruz calls for DOJ probe into de Blasio closing unapproved opening of yeshiva**

Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) on May 19 called for the U.S. Justice Department to investigate New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio over the New York Police Department shutting down an Orthodox Jewish school that opened despite the city's social-distancing orders due to the coronavirus pandemic. "The next time NYC's mayor sends out a gleeful tweet about sending cops after Jews, the DOJ should investigate to make sure he's not violating constitutionally guaranteed religious liberties," tweeted Cruz. "Actually, they should have done it after the last one." On May 18, De Blasio tweeted, "Earlier today the NYPD shut down a Yeshiva conducting classes with as many as 70 children. I can't stress how dangerous this is for our young people. We're issuing a Cease and Desist Order and will make sure we keep our communities and our kids safe." In a letter sent in April, Cruz called for the DOJ "to closely monitor New York City" for cases of "constitutional violations" concerning religious discrimination against Jews. It came in response to de Blasio tweeting about hundreds gathered in the Williamsburg neighborhood of Brooklyn for a rabbi's funeral: "My message to the Jewish community, and all communities, is this simple: the time for warnings has passed." De Blasio apologized for the tweet.

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