

# THE REPORTER

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## Federation to hold virtual annual meeting on June 17

By Reporter staff

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton will hold a virtual annual meeting on Wednesday, June 17, at 7 pm. The community is invited to attend. The Federation had planned to hold an ice cream social during the event, so the Federation suggests that those attending may want to prepare an ice cream dish to eat at home during the meeting. To receive a Zoom link to the event, e-mail Federation Executive Director

Shelley Hubal at [director@jfgb.org](mailto:director@jfgb.org).

"This will be the first time I've led an annual meeting," said Hubal, "and this was not how I had originally planned for it to take place. There are some difficulties holding virtual meetings, but I feel doing it this way makes it more accessible to everyone."

Hubal noted, "This is a great opportunity for the community at large to see how the board functions. The Federation belongs to the community. We welcome your input

and hope you can join us."

### Board of Directors

The Board of Directors members for the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton are as follows:

◆ Executive Committee: Suzanne Holwitt, president; Howard Warner, immediate past president; Mark Walker, vice-president; Jeffrey Shapiro, treasurer; Lee Schechter, assistant treasurer; Eileen Miller, secretary; Marilyn Bell, Campaign chairwoman; and

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◆ Members until 2021: Neil Auerbach, Brendan Byrnes, Sondra Foreman, Charles Gilinsky and Richard Lewis.

◆ Members until 2022: Rose Shapiro, Rita Bleier, Steve Gilbert, Barbara Gilbert, Jeff Platsky, Arich A. Ullmann and Susan Walker.

◆ Members until 2023: Nancy Dorfman, Mark Epstein, Dennis Foreman, Al Berk and Cathy Velenchik.

## The Reporter to go biweekly

By Reporter staff

The Reporter will become a biweekly paper starting in July. The last weekly issue will be the July 3 paper; the next issue will be July 17. Deadline schedules will be e-mailed to all local organizations. Anyone who does not receive a schedule and wants one should e-mail [Treporter@aol.com](mailto:Treporter@aol.com) with "schedule" in the subject line. Deadlines for upcoming issues will appear in each issue of the paper.

Rabbi Rachel Esserman, executive ed-

itor of The Reporter, said that the change came about for financial reasons. "We lost two Federation community papers in the past eight months," she noted. "We did those papers to raise money to keep our local paper going. It also didn't help that advertising revenue has been decreasing for all our papers. It's more and more difficult to find new advertisers to replace those who choose to advertise elsewhere or go out of business."

Esserman noted that the decision was

not an easy one, but it was necessary. "We didn't want to get into such debt that we would have to completely close down," she added. "We will still strive to keep the community connected and informed."

Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, also said that the decision was a tough one to make. "The Reporter is important to the Jewish community and we want to keep it going," she noted. "Going biweekly seemed to be the best solution."

Esserman asked that anyone with concerns about how to handle the change in publicity should contact her by writing to [Treporter@aol.com](mailto:Treporter@aol.com) with "Reporter article" in the subject line. "We are always willing to help people decide the best way to publicize their event," she said. "I can give you tips on how to write your article and when it should appear. It's never too early to think about this, so please feel free to contact me the minute you have a date for your event."

## 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) 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.

## 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. 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

At right: Team Israel at the 2017 World Baseball Classic qualifier final in Brooklyn (Photo courtesy of Menemsha Films)



### 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 "Évocateur: 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."

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 Lavanway – 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 Mayer-son JCC Jewish and Israeli Film Festival in 2019, the Philadelphia Jewish Film Festival See "Film" on page 3

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## Opinion

## Will the movements survive the pandemic?

By Jonathan S. Tobin

(JNS) – It sounds like a good business plan. With American Jewish religious denominations facing agonizing budget decisions in the coming year as a result of the financial losses they are all suffering in the wake of coronavirus shutdowns, perhaps the most logical solution to their problems is for the liberal denominations to merge.

If more people are thinking the unthinkable these days, it's hardly surprising. At one time, the mighty institutions of non-Orthodox Judaism in the United States thought of themselves as unique and irreplaceable. No longer. In a moment in history when everything familiar about our lives has been tossed aside or turned inside out by the pandemic, speculation about possible mergers between Reform and Conservative Judaism, as well as the smaller Reconstructionist and Renewal movements, is no longer something too outlandish to even consider.

Indeed, with the Union of Reform Judaism – the central organ of the country's largest Jewish denomination – announcing that it was cutting 20 percent of its staff recently and with the other movements also facing hard times, talk of consolidation is hardly out of the question or even out of place.

That conversation was accelerated by the Conservative movement's decision to allow the streaming of services on the Internet as a response to the pandemic. That naturally led some to question whether, now that the Conservatives were relaxing more of their Shabbat practices to allow technology to keep congregations together, if there is any real difference between that centrist denomination and its more liberal counterpart.

The answer from many in the Conservative movement is that much separates them from Reform, let alone the more radical Reconstructionist and Renewal movements. Disagreements on intermarriage – the Conservative movement still refuses to allow their rabbis to officiate at ceremonies where both parties are not Jewish – remain an obstacle to any talk about mergers. Just as important are the cultural differences between congregations that produce very different practices and traditions.

These movements came into existence as a result of a need to create new institutions that served populations no longer satisfied with what they could get elsewhere.

In the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, dissatisfaction with Orthodoxy

and a desire for a more liberal approach to Judaism, as well as one more rooted in American culture, led to the formation of the Reform movement. In the 1880s, the sense that Reform had gone too far in throwing out Jewish religious law and tradition was behind the formation of Conservative Judaism, which tried to mix respect for *halachah* with modernity. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Reconstructionism arose from Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan's theories about Judaism as a civilization. It grew as a response to a need for what it called "post-*halachic*" Judaism. In the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, the need for a more spiritual approach that was consonant with the "New Age" zeitgeist of American culture led to the Renewal movement.

**While the faux optimism that mocks talk of the "ever-dying" American Jew should be dismissed, the notion that the seminaries, synagogues and other Jewish forums are no longer capable of producing a vibrant intellectual ferment is false. The question is whether that will be infused with the same strong sense of Jewish peoplehood that existed at the core of the formation of the major movements.**

With each new stream came diversity, as synagogues arose out of desires for particular approaches to services – with some using their own prayer books – or as a by-product of the way local institutions played a part in broader cultural and political developments.

Yet the forces pushing liberal movements together existed before the pandemic. As devastating as the toll of the coronavirus has been on institutions, the changing demography of American Jewish life is a far more important game-changer.

On a local level, this has already resulted in Reform and Conservative synagogues pooling their resources to create a single religious school in some areas. Population shifts have led to the closure or consolidation of synagogues in many urban and suburban areas within denominational lines. And, as has happened in the past, in places where there are not enough Jews left to support multiple synagogues, one will have to serve everyone, despite the strong differences among Jews that center on doctrine and practice.

With Reform and Conservative congregants almost universally not as observant as their religious leaders, coupled with the impulse to make services more inclusive to accommodate non-Jewish spouses and family members, the trend in which the non-Orthodox movements have come

to resemble each other more will only be accelerated by the impact of financial hardships.

And with "Jews of no religion" – as the seminal 2013 Pew Research Institute study of Jewish Americans termed them – being the fastest-growing slice of Jewish demography, declining rates of affiliation with synagogues, no matter what their brand might be, are also going to continue.

It is highly unlikely that there will be any formal merger of movements in spite of the financial pressures that might impel the idea to be considered. Too much divides them in terms of their traditions and culture.

While the faux optimism that mocks talk of the "ever-dying" American Jew should be dismissed, the notion that the seminaries, synagogues and other Jewish forums are no longer capable of producing a vibrant intellectual ferment is false. The question is whether that will be infused with the same strong sense of Jewish peoplehood that existed at the core of the formation of the major movements.

The contrast between a demographically growing Orthodox sector and a declining non-Orthodox world can't be denied. But the idea that Orthodoxy is rapidly replacing Reform and Conservative Judaism as the main Jewish address for American is still premature. Moreover, the triumphalism that emanates from the Orthodox world often gives short shrift to the way both Reform and Conservative Judaism helped create a powerful philanthropic community on which they are also dependent.

The pandemic has speeded up the winnowing of American Jewish life that was already in motion. There's no way to know for sure the shape or the direction of the institutions that will survive, albeit on a smaller scale. And there is good reason to worry about whether the surviving structures will be as focused on nurturing the essentials of Jewish peoplehood and connections with Israel as they should be. If only Orthodoxy remains comfortable with Zionism, that will undermine both Jewish unity and the ability of the community to preserve itself.

But those fears notwithstanding, no one should underestimate the ability of Jews to adapt and evolve, even if what follows may be as strange to us as the American Jewish world of today would be to those who came before us.

Jonathan S. Tobin is editor in chief of JNS-Jewish News Syndicate. Follow him on Twitter at: @jonathans\_tobin.

## In My Own Words

## Blaming the wrong people

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

What is wrong with our country? Two recent headlines – "Hate crimes and biases against Asians on rise" and "FBI warns of potential surge in hate crimes against Asian Americans amid coronavirus" – make me question the basic tenets of American society.

I take these headlines and events of which they speak personally since Jews have long been made scapegoats for no other reason than we are a minority. In the past, Jews have been blamed for the black plague and natural disasters. When the economy declines, it's been the Jewish capitalists or communists (I can never keep track of which is which) who are at fault. I've already written about how some people are blaming Jews for the coronavirus. We know this is nonsense, but there are plenty of people in our country who, unfortunately, still subscribe to these ideas.

Think of the sheer stupidity of the people mentioned in the articles, particularly those who are refusing to let an Asian doctor or nurse treat them. Take a moment to ponder this: someone is trying to save your life and you won't let them because their facial features or skin tone look a bit different than yours. These doctors and nurses are American citizens. They are our neighbors and friends. It says something terrible about our country that they are now living in fear.

Why this is happening is not that hard to discover. People are looking for someone or something to blame. There has to be a reason for the virus, they think, otherwise life has no meaning. Some people have suggested that God is punishing our society for [fill in the blank with your reason] and we have to change the laws to outlaw [fill in the blank here, too]. There are probably as many reasons suggested as there are religions.

Others look for more secular answers: someone must be responsible for this. Someone or some group must have done something that caused this to happen. Unfortunately, it's easy to blame someone who doesn't look like you or practice the same religion, especially when they are easy to pick out in a crowd. Right now that's Asian Americans. After all, the president of our country called COVID-19 the "China Virus" and pointed to China as the culprit, saying that the outbreak started in a Chinese laboratory. Yet, scientists still have no idea how the virus actually started and how it originally spread. And even if that were to be true, how does that make Chinese Americans responsible?

Even worse is that it's not just Chinese Americans who – as the article in the newspaper said – are "being shunned, verbally abused, name-called, coughed and spat

on, even physically assaulted," it's all Asian Americans. People who are behaving irrationally don't bother to make distinctions between different Asian American populations (file this under the heading of "they all look alike"). Prejudice treats all their communities as if they are responsible.

What a terrible time we live in, and I don't just mean COVID-19. Plagues, viruses and other contagious diseases have always spread throughout the world. Our global economy and the ease of air travel has made it easier and faster for diseases to hit new populations. We've been blessed that, since the influenza pandemic of 1918-20 and the polio outbreaks in the late 1940s, we have rarely experienced a pandemic. Science has made great strides in creating vaccines and keeping us safe. Unfortunately, while scientific knowledge has increased, human nature has not changed enough to rid us of prejudice. Instead of working together and helping each other, some people are looking for someone to blame. The government must punish anyone who assaults a fellow citizen. We need to embrace our Asian American neighbors and stand beside them before we have even more deaths to mourn.

\* This headline appeared in the Press and Sun-Bulletin.

\*\* This headline was found on the ABC News website.



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## OPINIONS

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

## LETTERS

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

## ADS

The Reporter does not necessarily endorse any advertised products and services. In addition, the paper is not responsible for the kashruth of any advertiser's product or establishment.

## DEADLINE

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www.thereporter.org

# 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 sherylb@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 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 50th anniversary of Serling's "The Twilight Zone." He is also a lecturer at Ithaca College's Park School of Communications,



Lawrence Kassan

where Serling's archives are located.

Before moving to Binghamton in 1987, Kassan was an instructor at Adelphi University 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 or Temple Concord at 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-chairman 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 . . . . . Continued from page 1

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.

## BD Dr. Samuel Morell memorial lecture on June 18

Beth David Synagogue will host a memorial lecture by Eitan Morell in memory his father, Dr. Samuel (Shmuel) Morell, who passed away last month. The Zoom lecture will be held on Thursday, June 18, from 2-3 pm, and will be limited to 100 people. Members of Beth David will receive the Zoom meeting information from Rabbi Zev Silber. All are welcome to attend; those not on the Beth David listserv should contact Morell for the information at eitan.morell@gmail.com.

Morell grew up in Binghamton and settled in Israel in 1991. As a tour guide and knowledgeable on many aspects of Jewish and Israeli history, Morell has lectured to groups in Israel, Europe, Canada and the United States. His illustrated Zoom talk will focus on Naomi Shemer's song "Jerusalem of Gold" ("Yerushalayim Shel Zahav"), which was written a few weeks before the June 1967 Six-Day War. "This beautiful song has entered the pantheon of great songs about Jerusalem," Morell said, "and is loved by Jews throughout the world. Through a visual walking tour of the Old City, I will show how Naomi Shemer's words relate to key concepts and issues regarding Jerusalem as seen in talmudic and other historical sources throughout the generations."

"Those of us who knew Shmuel," organizers said, "remember him as a pillar of knowledge, tradition and community service for the Jewish community of Broome County. He was a leader of Hillel Academy's Board of Education and an office-holding member of Beth David Synagogue." His three children (Avi, Sima and Eitan) attended Hillel and were members of NCSY. In the Binghamton Univer-

sity community, he was a professor in the Judaic Studies Department from 1968 until he retired in 2007.

"This month marks the anniversary of the Six-Day War," organizers said. "Beth David is honored to have Shmuel's son, Eitan, dedicate to his father's memory this talk about a song that has captured hearts throughout the world. Even though we would have loved to have this talk take place during one of our luncheons, Zoom offers us the opportunity to gather virtually as we listen to Eitan's food for thought."

Beth David luncheon organizers said they look forward to the time when the monthly luncheon series can resume. In the meantime, contributions to the Luncheon Fund are still being accepted. Donations can be made in honor of or in memory of someone, or to mark a special occasion. Those wishing an acknowledgment to be sent to the person being honored or to the family of someone being remembered can indicate that, along with the necessary information. Donations can be sent to Beth David Synagogue, 39 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905, Attention: Luncheon Fund.

*The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to Lynne Green on the death of her husband,*  
**Robert Green**

*The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to Lynda Preiser on the death of her husband,*  
**Dr. Gary Preiser**



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**Jewish Family Service Pandemic Response**

Wonder what JFS has been doing during the pandemic?

- It's given \$1,350 in relief funds for food.
- It's made 45 individual emotional support calls
- It's made 20 referrals to food pantries.
- It's made 12 referrals for NYSEG help.
- It's done 23 well checks.
- It's held one webinar on how to "How to Manage Isolation, Anxiety and Stress Around COVID-19"




**HAPPY FATHER'S DAY**

FROM  
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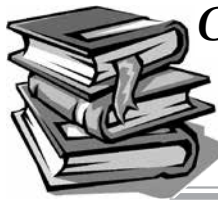
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Off the Shelf

# Wine, beer and other beverages

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

When you hear hoof beats, do you think of horses or zebras? Unless you live in Africa, the answer for most people is horses. Yet, according to Jordan D. Rosenblum, the ancient rabbis were more interested “in the anomalous rather than the mundane. In short, when they hear hoof beats, they think zebra not horses.” In his excellent “Rabbinic Drinking: What Beverages Teach Us About Rabbinic Literature” (University of California Press), Rosenblum uses rabbinical texts about drinking – wine, beer, water and breast milk – as a way of introducing common themes found in that literature.

Rosenblum is aware that many people are unfamiliar with ancient rabbinic culture and the internal logic of the written material that culture produced. For those with no background, he offers a chapter focusing on “The Literature and History of the Rabbinic Movement.” He compares looking at rabbinic texts without this knowledge to working as an umpire in baseball before learning the rules of the game. This is the first of his frequent analogies and comparisons, which not only help readers understand the material, but make the book great fun to read. Rosenblum also suggests that the rabbis rarely offered binary answers: rather than a simple yes or no, the answer often is “it depends.” In fact, “for the Rabbis, it is about the journey as much as it is about the destination, so they often detour from the direct path in order to take the scenic route.”

For readers unfamiliar with rabbinic interpretation, some of Rosenblum’s comments may be startling. For example, he notes the questions that arise when the text contains misspellings or grammatical errors. Since the ancient rabbis considered the Torah text to be of Divine origin, they did not consider these mistakes real mistakes, but rather something deliberately placed that needs to be interpreted. Rosenblum writes, “In order to deal with such instances, a practice developed known as *qere* and *ketiv*, which is well summarized by the two Aramaic words that

form its title, *qere* (“that which is read”) and *ketiv* (“that which is written”). This practice therefore results in the biblical text written (*ketiv*) on a Torah scroll remaining in its present form, while a separate tradition records how a given work is read (*qere*) when the Torah portion is read aloud.”

The rules surrounding wine were important because wine was used for specific ritual purposes in the Temple in Jerusalem, and is still used as part of home and synagogue rituals. Rosenblum noted that “the entire process – from the beginning of production to the transport, storage, and eventual consumption of wine – is heavily regulated. At every step of the way, these regulations serve to erect a social boundary, reminding all parties that there is a difference between Us and Them.” One big concern was drinking the wine of idolaters, particularly wine that may have been used as a libation to a pagan god or gods. Another rule focuses on the relationships between Jews and non-Jews: although the two groups were not completely forbidden to drink together, restrictions were placed on when they were allowed to share meals and beverages.

Rosenblum also writes about beer, which was the beverage of choice for Babylonian Jews. In fact, that beverage was such a part of daily life that there was a debate about whether it could be used in place of wine for saying the *Kiddush*. (The answer is no, but some opinions say it’s OK to use beer for *Havdalah*. Of course, other opinions say it can’t be used for either the *Kiddush* or *Havdalah*.) The discussion of beer led to another question: what should a Jew do when invited to the wedding of their non-Jewish neighbor? Rosenblum notes that even if Jews bring their own food and beverage, and have their own servants attend to them, the rabbis still felt people should not attend. That’s because sometimes the situation matters more than the food or beverage: “Even when the fear of actual idolatrous libation is removed, the social fear of

celebrating at an idolater’s wedding (referred to herein as a ‘drinking party’) [Hebrew *mishteh*] generates a social boundary. And this barrier is justified on the basis of a biblical passage, which is parsed to indicate that the one invited will end up consuming – and hence participating in – an idolatrous sacrifice.”

The discussions of breast milk are fascinating and complex, and offer insights into the rabbis’ thoughts about the relationship between men and women. Rosenblum notes “The Rabbis imagined breastfeeding as a wife’s duty to her husband. Remember the texts were written by men, for men, and about men. Therefore, it is not surprising that they envision breastfeeding in terms of their wives’ obligation to them, rather than in terms of a mother’s obligation to her own biological child. Modern conceptions of breastfeeding often depict it in terms of maternal attachment and benefit to the child... For the Rabbis, however, it is about the wife’s obligation to her husband, and the father’s obligation to his child.” Some discussions focus on whether or not a husband can force his ex-wife to breastfeed their child. Others tell stories of men who were magically able to breastfeed their children. One rabbinic idea seems particularly odd in contemporary times: the rabbis felt that breast milk was transformed menstrual blood. Since the rules of menstrual purity are biblical ones, the rabbis then had to decide if the laws of ritual purity applied to a woman who was breastfeeding.

“Rabbinic Drinking” contains far more interesting material than it’s possible to discuss in a short review. Rosenblum offers entertaining examples and writes so clearly that even those who have no knowledge of rabbinic literature should be able to understand the material. Perhaps the most important lesson his work offers about the world of the ancient rabbis is that in their literature, “they portray the world the Rabbis wished to live in, not necessarily the one in which they actually lived.”

## Rare Bar Kochba-era coin discovered at foot of Temple Mount

By JNS staff

(JNS) – In honor of Lag B’Omer, a Jewish holiday commemorating the life of anti-Roman Torah sage Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai, the Israel Antiquities Authority on May 11 revealed the discovery of a rare bronze coin from the period of the Bar Kochba revolt (circa 132 C.E.).

The coin was uncovered during excavations in the William Davidson Archaeological Park between the Temple Mount and the City of David in Jerusalem. The excavations are conducted by the IAA and funded by the Ir David Foundation/City of David, which operates the site.

The IAA says that it is the only coin from the period found in the ancient part of the Holy City that bears the name “Jerusalem.”

According to IAA archaeologists, “It is possible that a Roman soldier from the Tenth Legion found the coin during one of the battles across the country and

brought it to their camp in Jerusalem as a souvenir.”

The obverse of the coin is decorated with a cluster of grapes and the inscription “Year Two of the Freedom of Israel.” Its reverse side features a palm tree and the inscription “Jerusalem.” IAA coin-department head Donald Tzvi Ariel, who has examined more than 22,000 coins discovered in excavations in the Old City in Jerusalem, said that only four of these date to the period of the Bar Kochba revolt.

The Bar Kochba Revolt lasted three-and-a-half years. During that time, more than 1,000 Jewish towns and 50 fortresses were destroyed,



A recently discovered coin from the Bar Kochba era (around 132 C.E.) inscribed with the word “Jerusalem.” (Photo by Israel Antiquities Authority)

and hundreds of thousands of Jews were killed.

Rabbi Akiva, the mentor of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai, was one of many rabbinical leaders who supported Bar Kochba, and believed that he would be a messiah for the Jewish people. After news of his criticism of the Roman occupation reached Roman leadership, Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai was forced to flee with his son, Rabbi Eleazar, and live in a cave for 13 years. He died on the 33<sup>rd</sup> day (the acronym of the Hebrew letters *lamed* and *gimel*) of the 49-day counting of the *omer*, between the second night of Passover and the day before Shavuot.

## LEGAL NOTICE

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. Woit 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.

To place your legal notice, contact Bonnie Rozen at [bonnie@thereportergruop.org](mailto:bonnie@thereportergruop.org)



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# Jewish resources to occupy your family during social distancing – part 11

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.

- ◆ Israel21c offers a variety of videos about a wide variety of subjects focusing on Israel. These include *tikkun olam* projects, food, sports, nightspots and more. The videos can be found at [www.israel21c.org/21see/](http://www.israel21c.org/21see/).

- ◆ The Central Conference of American Rabbis and the Human Rights Campaign are sponsoring “Pride Inside: Where Pride Dwells: An Interfaith Discussion and Celebration of LGBTQ Spirituality with LGBTQ Leaders” on Thursday, June 11, at 8 pm. The event will be an open dialogue about queer spirituality, with Jewish, Muslim and Christian faith leaders and LGBTQ activists about inclusion, compassion, challenges, sacredness, rituals and the lived spiritual experience of the LGBTQ and non-binary communities. Rabbi Denise Eger, editor of the new book “Mishkan Ga'avah: Where Pride Dwells A Celebration of LGBTQ Jewish Life and Ritual,” will also share readings and insights from her book. To register, visit [https://ccar.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_ZdTQa2iQSXKI7NUk\\_gFgIQ](https://ccar.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ZdTQa2iQSXKI7NUk_gFgIQ).

## NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

### Health Ministry: Israel to keep borders closed until July

Israel will keep its borders closed to non-citizens until at least July 1, according to Israeli Health Ministry Deputy Director-General Itamar Grotto. “We are still in the stage of preparing to reopen Ben-Gurion airport. We didn’t plan to reopen at the beginning of June, and we have more preparations with ‘green countries’ and opening is not on the agenda for June,” Grotto was quoted as saying by the Israeli business daily *Globes* on May 31. The “green countries,” which would be the first from which travel to Israel will be allowed once suitable agreements are reached, are those with low coronavirus rates, including Cyprus, Greece, Austria, Denmark, Australia and New Zealand. Grotto said that there will continue to be flights for returning Israelis, but that returnees must still enter quarantine for two weeks. Citizens from “red countries” with high infection rates will continue to be banned, according to the report.

### Temple Mount reopens to worshippers for first time in two months

Jews arrived in droves to ascend to the Temple Mount in Jerusalem on the morning of May 31, the first time that the sacred site was reopened to Jewish visitation since being closed due to COVID-19 concerns more than two months ago. Among the hundreds of Jews who went up to the holiest site in the Jewish religion on May 31 were Knesset members Uri Ariel, and former Knesset members Yehuda Glick and Shuli Muallem-Refaeli. The Jewish visitors arrived after hundreds of Muslim worshippers had already congregated outside the Al-Aqsa mosque, which was also closed due to coronavirus-infection concerns. Al-Aqsa and the adjacent Dome of the Rock will continue to be closed to visitors, except for groups that can pray outside in cordoned-off sections of up to 50 people each.

- ◆ Hadassah and Hadassah Magazine have launched the initiative One Book, One Hadassah with the program “Live With Jennifer Weiner and ‘Big Summer.’” Best-selling author Jennifer Weiner will be in conversation with Hadassah Magazine’s Lisa Hostein on Wednesday, June 10, at 7:30 pm. Weiner’s just-released novel has been described as a story of female friendship that “mixes a splash of romance, a dash of humor, and a pinch of mystery to create a deliciously bloody poolside cocktail.” For information about how to register for the program, e-mail [support@hadassah.org](mailto:support@hadassah.org).

- ◆ On May 26, a Zoom webinar organized by the Jerusalem-based Shavei Israel organization brought Nigeria’s Igbo Jews together for the first time since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Members of the community participated in the webinar, which showed how Shavei Israel seeks to provide the Igbo communities with training programs for young community leaders, seminars on Jewish belief and practice, religious items and other guidance and support. To view the webinar, visit [www.youtube.com/watch?v=C-USRYXgBHg&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C-USRYXgBHg&feature=youtu.be).

- ◆ Evolve: Groundbreaking Jewish Conversations offers “Resources for Living at the Time of COVID-19.” The materials and programs are generated and collected by Reconstructing Judaism, the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association and Ritual Well. For more information or to read the conversations, visit <http://evolve.reconstructingjudaism.org/covid19resources>.

- ◆ The organization RespectAbility offers resources on how to ensuring virtual events are accessible to everyone. A tool kit on how to do this is available at [www.respectability.org/accessible-virtual-events/](http://www.respectability.org/accessible-virtual-events/).

- ◆ Lab/Shul calls itself “an artist-driven, God-optional, experimental community for sacred Jewish gatherings.” It is offering virtual programs during the pandemic. For more information, visit <https://labshul.org/>.

- ◆ The Center for Jewish History will hold a webinar titled “The Lost Family with Libby Copeland – Live” on Zoom Wednesday, June 24, at 4 pm. In her new book, “The Lost Family: How DNA Testing Is Upending Who We Are,” award-winning journalist Libby Copeland investigates the rapidly evolving phenomenon of home DNA testing, uncovering the story of Alice Collins Plebuch, whose supposed Irish ancestry is overturned by a DNA test that indicates Ashkenazi Jewish heritage. The author will explore how this technology illuminates how people think about family, heritage and themselves. She will also discuss the implications of home DNA testing for Jewish genealogy, as well as the “unique challenges” of genetic genealogy for Ashkenazim. The program is free, although donations are welcome. To register for the program, visit <https://lostfamily.bpt.me/>.

For additional resources, see previous issues of *The Reporter* on its website, [www.thereporter.org](http://www.thereporter.org).



## Gifts for dads and grads

(StatePoint) – Here are two tips from the experts at Dollar General to Dad on Father’s Day or applaud the accomplishments of a new graduate.

- ◆ Tech Gifts – If you’re looking for something practical to give Dad or your recent graduate, think about a tech gift. A new pair of headphones, a tablet or portable speakers will be appreciated in today’s on-the-go world.

- ◆ Throw a Summer Party – Consider gifting Dad new grilling

accessories so he can show off his skills, or throwing an outdoor party for your new graduate. Summer is the best time for friends, family and neighbors to get together to celebrate.

Gift Cards – If you’re shopping for a picky Dad or graduate, or looking for an easy or last-minute gift, gift cards are a convenient way to give something that will be appreciated and used. Consider gift cards for technology, restaurants and other retailers.

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## We Want the Community to Kvell with You!

If your baby was born between July 2019 and July 2020, submit your baby’s picture to us for our FAMILY LIVING ISSUE on July 3. Pictures must be in our hands by Tuesday, June 23. You are welcome to put your photo into an envelope and stop by or mail to our office at the JCC (500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal), slide it under our door if we’re not open, or e-mail to [TReporter@aol.com](mailto:TReporter@aol.com) as a JPEG or TIFF. Please include baby’s name, sex, date of birth, parents’ names, and living grandparents’ names and great-grandparents’ names.



Photos may be picked up at *The Reporter* after July 3<sup>rd</sup> or include a self-addressed stamped envelope and we will send them back.

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## Weekly Parasha

Naso, Numbers 4:21-7:89

## The well-being of our community

RABBI BARBARA GOLDMAN-WARTELL, TEMPLE CONCORD

One aspect of this week's Torah portion, Naso, is the Nazirite vow that a person can take upon themselves for a limited time as an act of piety. In the Torah, both men and women could take on this added commitment and level of piety. The Nazirites vowed not to drink wine or other intoxicants, nor to eat anything from grapes; to not cut their hair, but let it grow untrimmed; and not to come into contact with a dead person. When I reread about their not cutting their hair, but rather leaving it untrimmed, I thought of so many of us who have gone without our usual haircuts during this period. While they took on these obligations in the service of God, today we have taken on some obligations for the sake of the well-being of the community and for our own well-being, as well.

When New York state put strict standards of physical

distancing in place, we learned how to abide by those standards. Over the course of time, we've found ways to live our Jewish lives in small groups or individually, many of us coming together through the telephone or Internet to support one another when coming together in person was not an option. We became more focused on hand washing, and other matters of hygiene and cleanliness, to limit the spread of the virus and other germs, as well. We learned how to be in public without touching our faces or one another, then how to procure and wear face masks to limit the spread of COVID-19. For those of us who did not go into public places, we figured out how to get groceries, toiletries and medications without going into stores. Our lives were drastically changed.

Now as we move into different phases of the recovery,

each of us will need to decide what limitations we continue to put on our actions and what precautions we will take. Our choices, unlike the person who chose to take on Nazirite vows, will be for the health and safety of our community and ourselves.

The Rabbinical Assembly's document "Jewish Values Regarding Physical Reopening of Our Institutions, April 2020," states some of the Jewish values we need to consider in our actions and choices for ourselves and our congregations and community. Safeguarding life – *pikuach nefesh* – supercedes most other *mitzvot*. We must take care about *sakanat nefashot* – endangering life – in consideration. We are living in a *she'at hadechak* – an extraordinary moment – one which calls for making adjustments, See "Community" 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.

On Sunday, June 14, 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 3.

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 enter 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  
Website: www.Chabadofbinghamton.com  
Rabbi Zalman and Rochel Chein, Education  
E-mail: zchein@Jewishbu.com, rchein@Jewishbu.com  
Rabbi Levi and Hadasa Slonim, DOWNTOWN and Development  
Chabad Downtown Center: 60 Henry St., Binghamton  
E-mail: lslonim@Jewishbu.com, hslonim@Jewishbu.com  
Rabbi Yisroel and Goldie Ohana, Programming  
E-mail: yohana@Jewishbu.com, gohana@Jewishbu.com  
Regular service times: Daily 7:30 am, Friday evening 6 pm, Shabbat morning 9:30 am, Maariv and Havdalah one hour after candle-lighting time, Sundays 9:30 am.  
To join the mailing list, for up-to-date information on adult education offerings or to arrange for a private tutorial, for details concerning the Judaica shop and resource center, or for assistance through the Piaker Free Loan Society or Raff Maasim Tovim Foundation, call Chabad's office at 797-0015.  
Chabad will be holding pre-Shabbat virtual programs.  
For more information, visit www.JewishBU.com/S2020Partnership.



### Synagogues limit face-to-face gatherings

Area synagogues have announced that they are limiting face-to-face gatherings. That means there will be no services or programming held until further notice. Some meetings, services and classes will be available online or by phone.

For specific information regarding services (including online services), meetings and classes at any of the area synagogues, contact them by phone or e-mail.

### 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, June 5, light candles before..... 8:18 pm  
Saturday, June 6, Shabbat ends ..... 9:19 pm  
Friday, June 12, light candles before..... 8:22 pm  
Saturday, June 13, Shabbat ends ..... 9:23 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, June 5: Shabbat services at 7 pm at https://binghamton.zoom.us/j/97613250758, by calling 1-929-205-6099 and entering meeting ID # 976 1325 0758 and password 610020, or at www.facebook.com/templeconcord/.

Saturday June 6: Torah study at 9:15 am at https://binghamton.zoom.us/j/342411102, or by calling at 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, by calling 1-929-205-6099 and entering meeting ID # 526 246 866, or at www.facebook.com/templeconcord/.

Friday, June 12: Shabbat services at 7 pm at https://binghamton.zoom.us/j/97613250758, or by calling 1-929-205-6099 and entering meeting ID # 976 1325 0758 and password 610020, or at www.facebook.com/templeconcord/.

Saturday June 13: 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 13: "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 at 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 equalitarian congregation serving the greater Cortland community. Congregants span the gamut of observance and services are largely dependent on the service leader. The Friday night siddur is "Likrat Shabbat," while the Saturday morning siddur is "Gates of Prayer." The community extends a warm welcome to the Jewish student population of SUNY Cortland, as well as the residents of local adult residences.

**NEWS IN BRIEF**

From JNS.org

**ICC gives Palestinians until June 10 to clarify status of Oslo Accords**

The International Criminal Court in The Hague is requesting clarification from the Palestinian Authority regarding its recent announcement that all agreements with Israel and the United States had been annulled. In a May 26 "Order requesting additional information," a copy of which is available on the ICC website, the court's pre-trial chamber asked the P.A. to clarify whether its announcement pertained to the Oslo Accords. The request came on the heels of a speech that P.A. leader Mahmoud Abbas delivered in Ramallah on May 19, in which he stated: "The Palestine Liberation Organization and the state of Palestine are absolved, as of today, of all the agreements and understandings with the American and Israeli governments and of all the obligations based on these understandings and agreements, including the security ones." Abbas made this declaration in response to Israel's stated intention to proceed with the part of the Trump administration's "Peace to Prosperity" plan that allows for the Jewish state to extend sovereignty in some of Judea and Samaria. The pre-trial chamber is seeking to determine Abbas's intention in relation to the 1993 Oslo Accords – the PLO treaty with Israel that established the P.A. – in an attempt to assess the status of the war-crimes case against Israel that its chief prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, threatened earlier that month to pursue. According to the ICC document, the P.A. has until June 10 to respond. In the event that it meets this request, Bensouda is "ordered" and Israel is "invited" to respond no later than June 24. The P.A. in 2015 declared its acceptance of the jurisdiction of the ICC over alleged crimes committed by Israel. Israel does not recognize ICC jurisdiction over the "so-called 'situation in Palestine.'"

**Report: Israel plans to reject Chinese bids to set up its 5G network**

Israel is likely to reject Chinese bids for the building of 5G networks in the country, due to U.S. pressure and because of security concerns, Israel's Channel 12 reported on May 26. This comes as U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman pressured Israeli Communications Minister Yoaz Hendel, and chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee Zvi Hauser, in a meeting on May 26 to block Chinese efforts to gain a foothold in Israel's 5G cellular network. The government has to decide whether to allow the Chinese to construct Israel's 5G network, and in another deal, whether or not to allow China's CK Hutchison to take over Israel's Partner Communications Company, according to a report by *Haaretz*. Hutchison is waiting for the decision by Israel's regulator. Friedman's message to the Israelis came on the same day that the government announced that Israeli company IDE Technologies beat the Chinese firm for 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 U.S. has been pressuring Israel to decrease Chinese investment in the country.

**Netanyahu discusses free-trade measures with Georgia**

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke with his Georgian counterpart, Giorgi Gakharia, with the two leaders discussing advancing a free-trade agreement in late May. According to the Prime Minister's Office, the leaders "discussed the deepening of bilateral relations including advancing a free-trade agreement and considering the resumption of safe flights between the two countries." In 2018, the two countries announced the launch of a feasibility study directed toward such an agreement. The leaders also discussed the opening of cultural center in Jerusalem.

**Yair Lapid officially appointed leader of Israel's opposition**

YeshAtid-Telem Party chairman and Knesset member Yair Lapid officially became the leader of the Israeli opposition on May 27. Knesset Speaker Yariv Levin made the formal announcement about Lapid's new role at the opening of the morning's parliamentary plenary session. The 35th Israeli government was sworn in on May 17, after more than 500 days of political instability and three consecutive national elections. A fourth round was averted when Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his key rival, Blue and White Party leader Benny Gantz, signed a national-unity coalition agreement on April 20. A month earlier, Lapid and Moshe Ya'alon split from Blue and White in protest over moves by Gantz that indicated his intention to join Netanyahu in a coalition. As leader of the largest party not in the government, Lapid will receive regular briefings from Netanyahu and security officials, and meet with visiting heads of state.

**El Al extends suspension of passenger flights to June 20**

El Al, Israel's national airline, announced on May 20 that it is extending its suspension on commercial flights until June 20 as a result of ongoing coronavirus outbreaks, though would continue with cargo and special passenger flights. "In light of the low demand for passenger flights, the company has decided to extend the temporary cessation of flights," it said in a regulatory filing, according to a Reuters report.

**With synagogue doors still shut, IAC hosts virtual *Kabbalat Shabbat*, Israeli-style**

By Faygie Holt

(JNS) – While some states are relaxing their stay-at-home orders due to the coronavirus pandemic, many Jewish institutions remain closed with in-person Shabbat on hold. To fill the gap and reach out to both Israelis living in America and the greater Jewish community, the Israeli-American Council has been hosting an online *Kabbalat Shabbat* service each Friday afternoon.

Launched by IAC's Shishi Israeli division, which combines Jewish traditions and Israeli culture, the *Kabbalat Shabbat* program includes Israeli personalities, songs, the lighting of candles and the recitation of *Kiddush*. It also incorporates both Hebrew and English.

"With the coronavirus, this has really been defining the week for me because the whole rest of the week got lost," says longtime Pennsylvania resident and Israeli native Devorah Selber. "Every Friday, when we have *Kabbalat Shabbat* services, I'll get dressed up, set the table and join in the Zoom program. It's something I love and it's a great feeling to see the whole community get together."

A different community from across the United States takes the lead each week in organizing and running the program, which starts on Fridays at 5:30 pm Eastern Standard Time.

Guest stars from the Israeli media also participate. Some offer words of inspiration; others lead the singing and prayers. Among Israeli performers that have participated are musician and singer David Broza; news anchor Sivan Rahav-Meir; and Israeli pop singer Ivri Lider.



Children watched the weekly online *Kabbalat Shabbat* program sponsored by the Israeli-American Council in May. (Photo courtesy of Israeli-American Council)

"Now more than ever, a sense of togetherness and belonging is critical," said Shoham Nicolet, IAC co-founder and CEO. "In a virtual world that has no physical boundaries, we can now celebrate together with hundreds of families, as a national community, and to have leading Israeli artists and leaders join us. This is the nature of innovation, and we are grateful that we can connect and inspire so many families in these challenging times."

While Selber, 65, is active in her Jewish community in Wynnewood, PA, a suburb of Philadelphia, she realizes that others don't have the same experience. And so, the *Kabbalat Shabbat* program appeals to American Israelis, regardless of affiliation.

"I'm part of a synagogue, but for a lot of families, it's not part of their life in Israel," she said, noting that when they come to America to live, they often have trouble finding Jewish connections. "The IAC programming we do here helps them stay together and keep their connection to their Jewishness in a very light way. ...It's a great feeling to see the whole community together on Friday nights," says Selber. "It is just beautiful and something I love."



Israeli musician David Broza performed as part of the weekly online *Kabbalat Shabbat* program sponsored by the Israeli-American Council

**Community..... Continued from page 6**

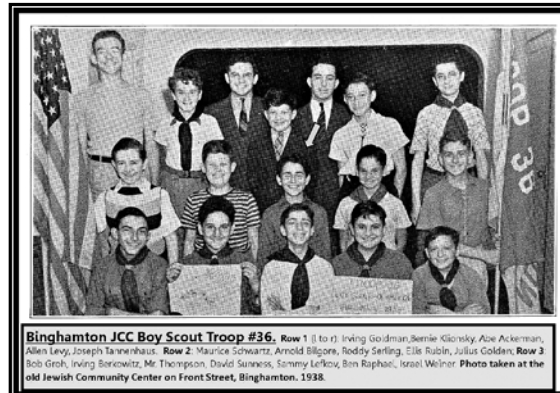
continuing flexibility and changing our expectations and operations. We are all responsible for one another – *kol Yisrael arevim ze baze*h is a well known principle for us. We are responsible for one another. We have an obligation to look out for the mental and physical health and safety of one another. This is a time of much uncertainty, grief and anxiety, so we need to act with *chesed* – profound love and kindness – toward members of our families, communities and the world at large.

The choices we make in our behavior as individuals and as communities are tied to our hopes and prayers. This brings us to the most famous part of *parashat Naso*, the Priestly Benediction in Numbers 6:22-27. Traditionally, the priests offered these blessings over the people, but, over time, parents now recite these words over their children at the Shabbat dinner table, and the blessing is often part of many life cycle events, including weddings and B'NAI mitzah. The prayer is sometimes part of our worship services. We are asking God to bless us, to watch over us, to keep us safe and to grant us wholeness and peace. These are prayers and blessings we wish for everyone.

Living in this time of anxiety and fear with COVID-19, unsure how to protect the health and safety of ourselves

and others, we come back to the blessings on this portion and beyond in our wishes for others and actions we choose to take in our lives and communities.

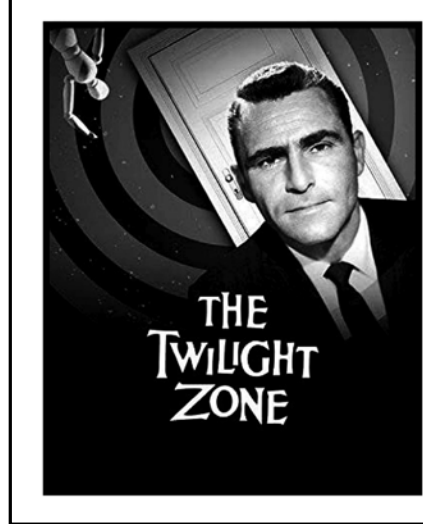
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Binghamton JCC Boy Scout Troop #36. Row 1 (l to r): Irving Goodman, Benjam Giorosky, Aze Akeerman, Allen Engel, Joseph Tanenhaus. Row 2: Maurice Schwartz, Arnold Bilgore, Roddy Serling, Elie Ruble, Julius Golden. Row 3: Bob Grah, Irving Berkowitz, Mr. Thompson, David Sunness, Sammy Lefkowitz, Ben Raphael, Israel Weiner. Photo taken at the old Jewish Community Center on Front Street, Binghamton, 1938.

JCC Confirmation Class 1939

Mrs. I. Friedland  
 Roddy Serling  
 Julius Golden  
 Alan Levy  
 Suzanne Fischer  
 Florence Bronsky  
 Ruth Tanenhaus  
 Edythe Arlasky  
 Edythe Berkowitz  
 Gloria Weisman  
 Rabbi D. Sherman



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**PIONEERING MIND OF TELEVISION: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF ROD SERLING**  
 Presenter: Lawrence Kassin, Director of Special Projects for the Binghamton City School District  
 Rod Serling, one of the early pioneers of broadcast television, was proud to call Binghamton his hometown. 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*.  
**Thursday June 11th from 7- 8pm**  
 (including 15 minute Q & A)  
 If you are interested send an email to [sherylb@binghamtonjcc.org](mailto:sherylb@binghamtonjcc.org) and we will send you the password to join

Co sponsored by: LAWRENCE KASSAN, BOSD, JCC, Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton

## NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

**France, Germany, Britain criticize U.S. decision to end Iran sanctions waivers**

France, Germany and Britain on May 30 criticized the U.S. decision to end sanctions waivers for work on Iranian nuclear sites. "We deeply regret the U.S. decision to end the three waivers," the three European countries said in a joint statement, according to Reuters. "These projects, endorsed by U.N. Security Council Resolution 2231, serve the non-proliferation interests of all and provide the international community with assurances of the exclusively peaceful and safe nature of Iranian nuclear activities," said the statement. The Trump administration announced that week that it would end waivers that have allowed Russian, Chinese and European companies to continuously operate at Iranian nuclear facilities, ending the last vestiges of sanctions relief under the 2015 Iran nuclear deal. "The Iranian regime has continued its nuclear brinkmanship by expanding proliferation-sensitive activities," U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in a statement on May 27. Pompeo accused Iran of "nuclear extortion," and said that sanctions "will lead to increased pressure on Iran and further isolate the regime from the international community."

**Rabbis to return to the German military for the first time since the 1930s**

The German army is allowing rabbis into its chaplaincy this year to provide support for around 300 Jewish soldiers serving the country in missions abroad. The move marks the first return of rabbis to the German military since they were kicked out under the Nazis in the 1930s, according to a report in *The New York Times* on May 30. Around 12,000 Jewish soldiers died fighting for Germany during World War I. An agreement reached last year between the government and the country's Central Council of Jews was unanimously approved on May 28, allowing for up to 10 rabbis to serve. "With this, Jewish life is demonstratively returning to the Bundeswehr" in such a way that serves as "a visible contribution against the antisemitism that is growing daily in our society at large," said Germany's defense minister, Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer. The country's Conference of Orthodox Rabbis praised the move, according to the report, as "an important signal, especially in times as these when there is again fertile ground for antisemitism, hate from the far right and conspiracy theorists." Statistics published in May showed that antisemitism in Germany reached its highest level last year since the country started recording the data, with 90 percent attributed to the far right, said the report.

**Austrian parliament resolution calls for banning Hezbollah in EU**

Representatives from Austria's ruling party presented a parliament resolution on May 29 calling on the European Union to designate Hezbollah as a terrorist organization. "Hezbollah wants to destroy Israel and propagates antisemitism and spreads radical Islamic ideology," said Reinhold Lopatka and Michaela Steinacker of the conservative Austrian People's Party, according to *The Jerusalem Post*. The resolution called on Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz's administration to urge the European Union to fully designate Hezbollah as a terrorist group; most European countries only do so with regard to the organization's military wing and not its political branch. Israeli Foreign Minister Gabi Ashkenazi called the resolution "a significant decision against Hezbollah," adding, "I hope that the Austrian government adopts the parliamentary decision and joins the United Kingdom, Germany and the Netherlands who recognized Hezbollah in its entirety as a terror organization," according to Israel National News.

**Museum of Jewish Montreal told to vacate premises by end of June**

The Museum of Jewish Montreal announced on May 25 that it has been informed that it must leave its space by the end of June. The building's landlord told the museum that he sold their property to a new landlord, who ordered that the museum vacate its premises by June 30, according to the museum, which is currently closed due to the coronavirus pandemic. "So much of our museum has been built around transformative in-person educational and cultural experiences," said the museum's executive director, Zev Moses, and president, Sara Tauben, in an open letter to the museum community. "We have moved quickly to bring as many of these activities as possible online, launching a series of digital cultural and social events (to which nearly 1000 people have already attended in the past six weeks). "We will soon be introducing online tours and educational experiences for school groups and visitors from around the world," they continued. "Thanks to a variety of grants, our student fellowships, microgrants and community engagement work that helps our community connect to Jewish life will continue online as well." Moses and Tauben said that while the museum's upcoming closure "may come as a shock to you (as it did to us)," the museum is "ready to deal with this unexpected development" and has "already looked at several alternative spaces that can host the more than 25,000 annual visitors we normally receive for our

cultural gatherings, tours, exhibitions and food events." For the moment, they said, "we have chosen to focus our activities online until the time is right to reopen a physical space. This will allow us to stay nimble and conserve resources while we continue to deliver on our mission."

**BDS co-founder says goal of movement is end of Israel**

While Israel's supporters claim that the BDS movement is aimed at the Jewish state and is a form of new antisemitism, its supporters in Western countries say it's merely a tool to change Israeli policies. However, in a newly recorded interview on May 21 with the *Gazan Voice Podcast*, co-founder of the BDS movement Omar Barghouti explains that should the movement's goals be achieved, Israel would cease to exist. "If the refugees return to their homes [in Israel] as the BDS movement calls for, if we bring an end to Israel's apartheid regime and if we end the occupation on lands occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem, what will be left of the Zionist regime? That's the question. Meaning, what will the two states be based on?" he said. During the 20-minute interview in Arabic to the *Gazan* audience, Barghouti appears to have let slip the real objective of the movement he founded. "International law and the right of return? There won't be any Zionist state like the one we speak about [in present-day Israel]. There will be two states: One democratic for all its citizens here [Palestine] and one democratic for all its citizens there [Israel]. The Palestinian minority will become a Palestinian majority of what is today called Israel." Organizations that promote BDS include the Jewish Voice for Peace, US Campaign for Palestinian Rights and Students for Justice in Palestine. The movement, directed from Ramallah in the West Bank, campaigns to mobilize support in Western countries against Israel under the false premise that it seeks only "to change Israeli government policy."

**Prayer restricted at Cave of the Patriarchs**

(*Israel Hayom* via JNS)—The Palestinian Authority accused Israel on May 26 of infringing on freedom of worship following restrictive measures imposed on services at the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron. Israel has imposed restrictions on the religious services of all faiths, as part of the limitations placed on public gatherings due to COVID-19. The P.A.'s Wafa news agency claimed that the "Israeli occupation forces" prevented Palestinians from attending morning prayers at the Ibrahim Mosque, the Arabic name for the Cave of the Patriarchs. According to the report, the Israel Defense Forces has set up checkpoints, tightened its inspections along the roads leading to the site and prevented groups of more than 50 people from entering the mosque or gathering outside the compound. According to Israel National News, Hefzi Abu Sneineh, director of endowments for Hebron, condemned "the Israeli measures that strive to keep Muslim worshippers away from the site by closing the electronic gates and blocking residents' paths at military checkpoints." He called the measures "an attack on the holy places of Islam" in contravention of international treaties on freedom of worship.

**AIPAC cancels 2021 policy conference due to concerns about coronavirus**

The annual AIPAC Policy Conference in Washington, DC, has been canceled for 2021 due to issues concerning the coronavirus, announced the pro-Israel lobby's president, Betsy Berns Korn, in a mass e-mail on May 31. "On behalf of the AIPAC Board of Directors, I'm writing to let you know that given the continued uncertainties created by the COVID-19 pandemic, and without a predictable avenue to safely bring together thousands of pro-Israel Americans, we have been forced to cancel the 2021 AIPAC Policy Conference," she wrote. "While we will sorely miss seeing our AIPAC family in Washington and connecting in person as a pro-Israel community, what truly binds us together is our shared commitment to ensuring the safety and security of America and Israel," continued Korn. "AIPAC will continue to find new and creative ways over the coming year for us to connect online and in person to advance the U.S.-Israel relationship." Next year's conference was scheduled for March 7-9, 2021, at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. At least six attendees, and most likely more, who attended the AIPAC Policy Conference in March tested positive for the virus.

**Joint List head: Uprising "a matter of time" over sovereignty plans**

Israel's Joint Arab List head Ayman Odeh said on May 21 that if Israel goes forward with its plan to apply its law to parts of Judea and Samaria, a violent uprising would only be "a matter of time." "Every person who wants peace and believes in the rights of all peoples – both Palestinians and Jews – says that every nation has the right to self-determination," Odeh told Ynet in an interview. "The Jews exercised this right in 1948, but there is a nation fighting for its independence. The Palestinians deserve a place under the sun. But the Israeli government acts to not only deepen the occupation, but also the hatred. It keeps the prospect of peace away from us," said Odeh. Asked what would happen if Israel applied its law to parts of Judea and Samaria, and the Jordan Valley, he responded: "There have been warnings for several years about taking further steps [in this direction], the question is when will it finally reach its tipping point. It's a matter of time." Violence, said Odeh, was "a natural response to any occupation. What can you do? These are the laws of nature."

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