

THE REPORTER

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Camp JCC will be held this summer

The Jewish Community Center announced that Camp JCC will be held this summer. The announcement followed Governor Andrew Cuomo's decision to allow New York state day camps to open after June 29. Because of the strict regulations that the camp will be abiding by, spaces are limited. There are presently a few spots open and anyone interested in signing their child up should call the JCC office at 724-2417.

"I have been working with Camp Director Nora Graven over the past three months and we have put together what we feel could be a very exciting, albeit socially distanced, camp program," said Sheryl Brumer, executive director of the JCC.

"We have spent the past three months creating a Camp JCC Mitigation Procedures and Protocols manual with input from the American Camping Association and the CDC, including staggering drop off times and creating a health screening check-in station that the kids will have to go through each morning before entering the facility," Brumer added.

JCC campers and staff will be broken up into tribes that will consist of approx-

imately 10 campers in the same age range with one to two counselors. Each tribe will function as a separate unit throughout the day with assigned rooms that will be their home base.

"We will be planning as much outdoor time as possible using the entirety of our eight acres of land to ensure that we can keep the proper distance between groups," Brumer continued. "Because we are fortunate enough to have access to so much space outdoors, we have been working on creative ways to continue some of our camp traditions like Ruach Circle and camp parties. The idea is to have our DJ and sound system located on the pool deck and assign each group to an area on the back hill that will be marked off with spray paint, enabling them to remain six feet apart. We will be



In 2019, Camp JCC staff and campers gathered for a Ruach Circle.

able to use the gym and auditorium for several groups at once by using barriers as well."

Brumer noted that "the tribes will have at least one special, 'out of the ordinary,' activity planned each week." Camp JCC will be hiring professionals to bring activities to the JCC, as well as planning more STEM, arts and crafts, distanced sports and "wacky" activities, including camp themes

that revolve around each group taking part in an all tribe challenge.

"Because our camp plays and talent show have become such an important part of the summer, we are working on an idea that would involve each group filming their part of the program, which we will put together into one video," Brumer said. "As soon as it turns dark outside, our camp families would be invited back to come and sit in their cars in our parking lot to watch the presentations like you would at a drive-in movie theater, popcorn included!"

"Although this summer will definitely be different from previous years, with the new programs we are bringing to the JCC in lieu of traveling, we are confident that the kids will be as excited about camp as we are," said Graven.

"To say that this is an unprecedented and confusing time in our lives is an understatement and we know how nervous parents are, but rest assured that we are doing everything humanly possible to make sure that the children have an amazing summer camp experience while keeping them and our community healthy and safe," Graven concluded.

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, and the Zoom link will be sent by e-mail.

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.

"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:

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

Beth David Synagogue hold Zoom lecture in memory of Shmuel Morell on June 18

Beth David Synagogue will host a lecture in memory of Samuel (Shmuel) Morell (1937-2020) given by his son, Eitan Morell. The Zoom lecture, which is limited to 100 people, will take place on Thursday, June 18, from 2-3 pm. 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 can contact Morell for the information at eitan.morell@gmail.com.

Eitan Morell grew up in Binghamton and settled in Israel in 1991. As a tour guide

and expert on many aspects of Jewish and Israeli history, he has lectured to groups in Israel, Europe, Canada and the United States. His illustrated Zoom talk will focus on Naomi Shemer's iconic 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



Samuel (Shmuel) Morell (Photo courtesy of Eitan Morell)

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."

Even though Beth David's monthly luncheon program is currently on hold because of COVID-19, the lecture is part of the series and the first one

ever offered remotely.

"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." In the Binghamton University community, he was a professor in the Judaic Studies Department from 1968 until he retired in 2007. His wife, Audrey, directed the Jewish See "Morell" on page 3

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Opinion

From the Desk of the Federation Executive Director

With gratitude

SHELLEY HUBAL

Disheartened, sad, angry and scared for the next generation: these are some of the feelings my neighbor and I discussed this morning. She was out walking her dog with tears in her eyes. "The world feels heavy right now," I said to her. She nodded her agreement. Recreation Park was destroyed by fire recently. A recent weekend saw mostly peaceful, but some violent, protests after the brutal death of George Floyd in Minneapolis. This comes just as we are starting to slowly come out of isolation from the COVID-19 pandemic.

I wish I had some sage advice to share. All I can say is,

"I feel it, too." My heart hurts. My head can't figure out how we – as a country and culture – are going to find our way to a better place. For me, this is a time to reach into faith – to meditate on the love I feel in my heart – to sit quietly with the love I have for this community and for my family – to practice peace. I know that God is loving. I know that we will see better days. The quieter I choose to be, the more this becomes clear.

The Federation, in conjunction with our local rabbis, is preparing a virtual community gathering, "Strengthening Ourselves, Strengthening Each Other," on Sunday,

June 14, at 7:30 pm. This was being planned with the pandemic in mind, but I suspect in light of the current climate of unrest that it may take on greater meaning. My vision is for this virtual gathering to be filled with a spirit that will unite and uplift us all. Please be sure to sign up for this virtual event by going to www.jfgeb.org and registering.

I am sending my love and regards to all of you in the Binghamton Jewish community and beyond. Let us all stay safe. Let us all have the courage to stand up for what is just and let us all work for peace.

Americans in Israel can preserve American liberty

By Yossi Raskas

(JNS)—The issue of illicit foreign interference in American elections has consumed much energy over the past four years. But this upcoming Election Day, a lesser-known and positive foreign influence will be felt – not from Russia, but rather from the state of Israel.

This year, nearly 400,000 American citizens – or roughly a quarter of a percent of those who voted in 2016 – will cast their ballots from thousands of miles away in their homes in Israel and help determine the fate of the presidency.

U.S. citizens who live abroad are eligible to register and vote via absentee ballots in federal elections under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, signed into law by President Reagan in 1986. The bill was amended several times, most recently by President Obama in 2009, to fully ensure the voting rights of Americans scattered around the world.

Traditionally, stateside citizens are much more likely to vote than those overseas. But Americans in Israel, unlike all other expat communities, retain a particularly vivid interest in voting. Even despite the voter fatigue induced by three Israeli elections in the past year, voter participation from Israel will likely remain high.

So why do Jews who left their homes in America and moved to Israel stay so politically connected with the United States?

First, America and Israel are indissolubly bound by their shared histories and traditions. The Bible influenced ancient Israel, which America is modeled after, and Zionism led millions of Jews back to Israel 2,000 years later. Today, many Americans in Israel still believe in the same precepts, celebrate the same holidays and honor the same heroes as their counterparts in the United States. Being a Zionist – and with it, cherishing freedom, justice and morality – only enhances one's appreciation for the ideals articulated by the Declaration of Independence.

Second, both nations have common enemies which cause them to stand in solidarity. The threat of radical Islamic terrorism – sponsored, directed and led foremost by Iran – remains significant, widespread and apparent. If you ask any Israeli what they fear most, you will get the same answer: a nuclear-armed Iran.

Our unity stands not only as a symbol of hope for Western civilization, but also as a bulwark against a sea of barbarism.

Third, our proud legacies of liberty, which our enemies

seek to extinguish, only make us more cognizant of our common interests and the need to find suitable frameworks to forge a successful alliance. Having seen the deadly results of radicalism and hate, it's clear America and Israel can't afford to be out of step in terms of their foreign policies. America as a superpower has been the greatest force for good the world has ever known, and Israel is a force multiplier for America in the Middle East.

Israel needs an America committed to defending all that makes America great and helping keep the Jewish state safe. America needs an Israel that's a powerful and reliable ally, especially in the fight against radical Islamic terrorism.

One way to help advance the cause of liberty is by voting. As it turns out, Americans in Israel have a constructive role to play here. While lots of Americans moved to Israel from red or blue states, the number of voters from purple states is not insignificant and can tip the result, as we saw in the Bush-Gore election.

Moreover, Americans in Israel bear a unique responsibility, as a bridge between the two countries. We owe deep gratitude to the United States for the freedoms we received. See "Liberty" on page 7

In My Own Words

What defines our identity

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

I've written before in this column that I have no desire to have my DNA tested. That non-desire has been confirmed by the fascinating book "The Lost Family: How DNA Testing Is Upending Who We Are" by Libby Copeland (Abrams Press). Copeland's book contains a great deal of scientific material that will thrill genealogy nerds; it's also so well-written that people unfamiliar with DNA will be able to understand the basics. What interested me, though, were the stories Copeland tells – particularly about people who receive unexpected results, and the implications of those discoveries.

In the past year, I've reviewed two memoirs about what Copeland calls "non-parental events." That's rather bland language for something that elicits a far more emotional response: someone learns that one of their parents (most often their father) is not genetically related to them. Some learned that they were adopted and have no genetic connection to either parent. In the past, artificial insemination and adoptions were usually kept hidden because they had negative connotations. But DNA can uncover secrets even when birth parents aren't the ones being tested.

The story of Alice Collins Piebush is my favorite because it shows just how much DNA testing can challenge a person's identity. When Alice, whose parents are Irish, has her DNA tested, she discovers that she has a large percentage of Ashkenazic Jewish genes. I'm going to spoil the surprise here by saying that she is not the child of a non-parental event. All her siblings have the same Ashkenazic Jewish DNA. Since her father is no longer alive,

Alice can't test him, but after extensive research, more testing and some luck, Alice discovers that her very Irish father was switched at birth. Yet, her genetically-Jewish father had felt very connected to the Irish Catholic heritage in which he was raised.

This is one of the most interesting questions Copeland discusses: Is our identity based on our DNA or is the environment in which we are raised a factor? Some of those who had their DNA tested felt their newly discovered identity fit them far better. Others see the research results as interesting, but not one that has a major impact on their lives. Then there are those who learn horrible secrets: that their mother was raped by a relative or that their grandfather (who is also their father) committed incest with his daughter. For these people, the discoveries can turn their lives into a nightmare.

Copeland also talks about privacy issues. Even if you never take the DNA tests, your information can still become available if any of your relatives do. People discover their birth fathers by connecting with half-siblings or cousins. Some sperm donors fathered numerous children who are now connecting and sometimes holding gatherings to meet each other. There are also legal questions about whether researchers and/or police can use DNA gathered by private firms in order to solve crimes. In fact, there have been cold cases (including decades-old murders and rapes) that have been solved using DNA data banks. Once again, the DNA of the person who committed the crime doesn't have to be in the system: the discovery comes

due to the DNA of other relatives.

These tests raises problems the Jewish community may have to deal with in the near future. What should we do if someone declares that they are Jewish because their DNA shows Jewish ancestry? Does it matter if they have been raised in a different religion, or by parents who don't practice Judaism? Alice and her siblings were not looking to be accepted as Jewish by paternal descent, but others may make the claim. What if someone claims to be Jewish by matrilineal descent, even if that Jewish ancestor lived more than a 100 or 200 years ago, and no one in their family has practiced Judaism since? Does the person need to convert? What DNA evidence would be accepted? Or should DNA not be a considered a factor? Religious, and secular law, will need to catch up with DNA science, which has rapidly changed in a very short period of time.

In addition, Copeland's book made me consider my own status, even though I still have no desire to have my DNA tested. To me, the results would be irrelevant because it is the parents who raised me who made me the person I am today. The father who gave me the books that formed my worldview will always be my father. The mother who searched for answers for my health problems and supported me will always be my mother. And what if one of my relatives spits into a test tube or swabs their mouth and sends it to be tested, and a half sibling shows up at my door? Well, I don't know what I would do, but I still say I'd rather not know. However, as Copeland notes, with all the testing going on, I may not have a choice.



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

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TC to hold LGBTQ Pride Month program on June 18

Temple Concord will hold a LGBTQ Pride Month Event “#Where Pride Dwells: A Celebration of LGBTQ Jewish Life and Ritual,” presented by Rabbi Denise Eger via Zoom on Thursday, June 18, at 7 pm. Eger is a congregational rabbi and the editor of “Mishkan Ga’avah, Where Pride Dwells: A celebration of LGBTQ Jewish Life and Ritual,” recently published by CCAR Press. To find the Zoom invitation for this event, visit Temple Concord’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/templeconcord/.

Claudia Stallman, one of the organizers of the event, noted the importance of Pride Month. “Pride Month is a time to bring LGBTQ lives to the center of people’s attention,” she said. “It’s a chance to celebrate our community, including our allies, take stock of how far we’ve come, remember those we’ve lost in the struggle and rededicate ourselves to the work ahead. Individuals and families in our community are by no means universally accepted or safe in their neighborhoods or workplaces or country, for that matter. And it is obviously the case that those of us

with black or brown skin, and with fewer economic means, have far less control over our own health and safety. Our cohesion, inclusiveness and strength as a community of LGBTQ folks and their allies is as important as ever.”

Stallman mentioned that Eger’s book speaks directly to her life. “Rabbi Eger’s book, ‘Where Pride Dwells,’ was a very happy discovery for me,” she added. “Remarkably, it includes prayers and blessings for life cycle events that are unique to we members of the LGBTQ community. ‘A Prayer Before Introducing My Partner to My Family’ includes these words: ‘Something that should be joyous and exciting is accompanied by fear. May I find the confidence and strength to overcome the obstacles before me to speak my truth, and to love freely.’

“‘Yes! Exactly right! Finally!’ were my thoughts when I read this,” Stallman continued. “Rabbi Eger’s anthology also includes readings to be used in community observances such as Pride Shabbat, Transgender Day of Remembrance and others. This collection of thoughtful, beautifully-written

prose and poetry is a welcome resource. I want to thank Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell for calling my attention to this wonderful book and, as always, for her strong and longstanding allyship. She and I invite anyone and everyone with an interest to please join us for Rabbi Eger’s program.”

The publication of “Mishkan Ga’avah, Where Pride Dwells” commemorates the 50th anniversary of the first Pride March. The book has been called “both a spiritual resource and a celebratory affirmation of Jewish diversity.”

Rabbi Rick Jacobs, president of the Union for Reform Judaism, said, “Rabbi Denise Eger, along with this volume’s many contributors, has expanded our tradition and elevated the entire Jewish community with her extraordinary collection of prayers and blessings consecrating holy moments in the lives of our LGBTQ family. I welcome ‘Mishkan Ga’avah: Where Pride Dwells’ into the sacred Jewish canon, confident that every lover of an inclusive Jewish life will turn to this inspiring work again and again.”

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.

Seletsky offers online klezmer lessons

Oneonta musician and clarinetist Robin Seletsky has been teaching and performing klezmer music in Central New York and beyond for more than 25 years. When all of her concerts were cancelled as a result of COVID-19, she used the time to expand her online teaching to include group klezmer lessons that are live-streamed from her living room every Sunday at 1 pm. Called “Learn A Klezmer Tune A Week,” there are now musicians from across the U.S. and Canada, in addition to some from as far away as Prague and Munich, who participate. The cost of the lesson is \$5, which includes the sheet music.



Robin Seletsky

Seletsky provides sheet music that is specifically notated to include klezmer ornaments and goes through the tune as if teaching a lesson in person. While she can’t see or hear any of the participants (or they with each other), they can each see and hear her, play along in real time as she gives instruction, and communicate questions and comments through LiveChat.

Anyone interested in joining can learn more on Seletsky’s website, <https://robinseletsky.com/>. All instruments are welcome, and the

sheet music and lessons are structured to include all levels of ability.

Reporter editor wins Syracuse Press Club Award

By Reporter staff

Rabbi Rachel Esserman, executive editor of The Reporter Group, won third place in the Syracuse Press Club Awards for her editorial “Broken promises and lost lives.” (Visit www.thereporter.org/Article.aspx?aID=5348 to read the editorial.) The editorial talked about the slaughter of Kurdish soldiers and citizens after President Donald Trump ordered the withdrawal of U.S. troops from northern Syria. In the editorial, Esserman noted that she was not a supporter of the original wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, but wrote, “You don’t do that to your allies: you don’t walk away and leave them to die.”

“It’s always an honor to receive a Syracuse Press Club Award,” Esserman said. “There is a long tradition of Report-

er editors receiving these awards and I am glad to continue it. Writing is my favorite part of the job, but it often comes last, so I’m happy to see my work acknowledged by other professional newspaper writers.”

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 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 3rd or include a self-addressed stamped envelope and we will send them back.



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The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to the family of **Robert Austenfeld**

The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to **Richard Weiss** on the death of his wife, **Judy Weiss**

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Community Center’s preschool and was a board member of Beth David’s Sisterhood. Their three children (Avi, Sima and Eitan) attended Hillel and were active in NCSY.

“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 had it take place during one of our luncheons, Zoom offers us a chance to gather virtually as we listen to Eitan’s food for thought.”

Beth David luncheon organizers look forward to the time when the Saturday luncheon series can resume. In the meantime, contributions to the Luncheon Fund are appreciated. Donations can be made in honor of or in memory of someone, or to mark a special occasion. Those who wish to have an acknowledgment 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.



Off the Shelf

Music, dragons, alternate worlds and time travel

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

I have very eclectic tastes when it comes to reading. That's a fancy way of saying I like many different types of novels. If a book is good, it doesn't matter to which genre it belongs. In most genres, it's easy to find novels with Jewish content. That's not true for fantasy and science fiction. So, I do take great pleasure in finding novels that include Jewish characters or themes because there are so few of them. Of the four novels in this review, two are aimed at adults and two are appropriate for young-adult/middle grade readers. The latter two have more Jewish content than the former two, but I was glad for the excuse to read all of them.

"A Song for a New Day"

If I had to use one word to describe Sarah Pinsker's "A Song for a New Day" (Berkley), that word would be passionate. This wonderful novel is filled with passion about music and how live music creates an experience unlike any other. I'm not certain whether it's a blessing that the work's plot echoes today's world, but even those who don't think they want to read a post-pandemic novel should find themselves engaged and excited.

The majority of the novel takes place in the future: the U.S. has banned in-person concerts and other large gatherings after terrorist attacks and a pandemic swept the country. Most people attend work or school by virtual means, and rarely have to leave home. Technology is now so advanced that people can send avatars to virtual bars and virtual concerts that make them feel as if they are really there. A few large corporations control almost all commerce. Yet, not everyone is content with this life, particularly Luce Cannon and Rosemary Laws.

Luce is a musician who was just starting to make it big when the terrorist attacks began. She'd run away from her Orthodox parents and six siblings years before because there was no room in that world for a woman who is a musician and queer. What Luce loves is music: it fills her heart and soul in a way nothing else can. Rosemary, on the other hand, barely remembers the world before it changed. She lives her life as a customer sales person, which she does from her bedroom via virtual reality with no human contact needed. After Rosemary attends her first virtual concert, her life changes. She applies and is accepted for

a new job for a corporation that holds virtual concerts: she is to find musicians who are performing illegal concerts and hire them. However, when Rosemary and Luce finally meet, Rosemary learns the difference between virtual and real audiences.

"A Song for a New Day" recently won the 2020 Nebula Award for Best Novel and the award is well deserved. Perhaps some of my love for this book is due to the fact that after 20 years without being able to listen to music, the author's descriptions of listening to and/or playing music resonated. Pinsker's ability to create characters who felt real is also amazing. To understand just how much I enjoyed her book, after finishing it, I immediately ordered her book of short stories. Pinsker is a writer to watch, even if you normally don't like fantasy: the emotions in this book are real and raw – and wonderfully written.

"Anya and the Dragon"

A middle-grade fantasy novel about a Jewish girl that also features a dragon: I immediately knew I wanted to read Sofiya Pasternack's "Anya and the Dragon" (Versify/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt). Although it takes place in a magic-filled version of 10th century Eastern Europe, many things are the same as they were in real life history: the Jewish population is persecuted by the tsar and his minions.

Times are difficult for Anya's family: her father has been forced to serve in the tsar's army. The family may lose their home because they can't afford to pay the taxes due. The use of magic is forbidden, which means that Anya's mother and grandparents, all of whom have magic, may be in danger. However, Anya has a chance to help her family: if she works with one of the tsar's henchmen – the only ones who are legally allowed to use magic – to find a local dragon, then she can earn the funds to pay the taxes her family owes. Doing so is not quite as simple as she imagined, though, especially once she learns the truth about the dragon. Anya is faced with a difficult choice: to help people she loves or the dragon who has become her friend.

"Anya and the Dragon" was great fun to read. Anya is a delight and the other characters are colorfully drawn. One of my favorites was a mercurial house spirit, who, in addition to having a beard and wearing clothes, sports a *kippah* on his curly hair because he lives in a Jewish

household. This book is perfect for lovers of fantasy – be they young or just young of heart.

"The Lost Book of Adana Moreau"

"The Lost Book of Adana Moreau" by Michael Zapata (Hanover Square Press) is not really a fantasy novel. Instead, it's a novel about a science fiction novel, although readers do learn the story of that novel, too. The narrative revolves around two different plot lines. One tells of Adana Moreau, a Dominican immigrant to the U.S. who publishes a successful science fiction novel, but who then destroys its sequel just before she dies. The second focuses on Jewish Saul Drower and his grandfather, who has just passed away. When Saul tries to fulfill his grandfather's final request – mailing a manuscript to a professor living in Chile – the package is returned. Saul then begins his search for the professor, who is also Moreau's son.

The plot moves backward and forward in time as it tells the story of four different characters, until the survivors meet in post-Katrina New Orleans. The work contains a great deal of debate about alternative worlds and whether people exist in many different variations across those worlds. It also contains some heart-breaking stories of oppression, including Saul's grandfather's tale of what happened in Eastern Europe and stories of torture in contemporary South America.

Although I enjoyed parts of "The Lost Book of Adana Moreau," the book never came together as a whole for me. Perhaps that is because I read it after finishing Pinsker's novel, which was filled with characters who felt passionately about their lives. The characters in Zapata's book seemed aimless and, at times, devoid of emotion. The most affecting parts dealt with the horrific tales of oppression; unfortunately, the rest could not live up to those powerful and moving moments.

"River"

Imagine if you were a teenager and could go back in time to meet your mother, grandmother and other foremothers when they were that age. That's the premise of "River" by Shira Nayman (Guernica World Editions). When 14-year-old Emily and her younger brother, Billy, travel from Brooklyn to spend their summer vacation with their grandmother in Australia, both children are unhappy: They would rather be with their mother, who is undergoing treatments for cancer. When Emily is stricken with a very bad headache, she finds herself transported four times: first back in time to Australia when her mother was 14, then to the South Africa that existed when her grandmother was 14, before visiting her great-grandmother in Lithuania and then enduring a visit to Babylon during biblical times.

During these visits, Emily is given a unique view of each of her relatives – discovering how the hardships of life changed them and forged them into the people they became. The theme of finding a true – and safe – home underlies all the wandering her ancestors take, Emily also learns more about the Judaism her mother does not practice and experiences the oppression her relatives faced. She also must make difficult decisions: Emily knows what will happen to her relatives if they follow their current path. Can she risk telling them to change if she knows they will be in danger? Or must she let history take its course?

"River" is a well done, if not particularly exciting novel, although some sections dealing with Emily's family were very moving. The book gives readers food for thought: if we knew why our relatives – particularly the ones we don't like – became the way they are, would we feel more compassion or pity for them? Parents and their teens might find it interesting to read and discuss the lessons "River" offers.

Ethiopian immigrants land in Israel

By JNS staff

(JNS) – Israel's Ministry of Aliyah and Integration and the Jewish Agency for Israel just welcomed 119 Ethiopian immigrants who will begin their new life in Israel.

Upon their arrival on May 21, the new immigrants were



Jewish Agency Chairman Isaac Herzog (center) and Minister of Aliyah and Integration Pnina Tamano-Shata welcomed 119 Ethiopian immigrants to Israel on May 21. (Photo by Shlomi Amsalem)

greeted by Jewish Agency Chairman Isaac Herzog and newly minted Minister of Aliyah and Integration Pnina Tamano-Shata, who noted that the new *olim* "have been waiting a long time to fulfill the dream of aliyah. Now they've made it home, and I'm extremely moved."

She added that officials have been assisting them on all fronts as they start to build their life in Israel.

The date of their arrival coincides with both the annual Memorial Day for Ethiopian Jews who perished on their way to Israel and Yom Yerushalayim (Jerusalem Day), which marks the unification of Israel's capital, a city that holds a special place in the heart of Jewish Ethiopians.

"We will remember the thousands who dreamed of Jerusalem and perished along the way, and are working tirelessly to facilitate *aliyah* for members of the community who are still waiting to fulfill the dream of moving to Israel," said Herzog.

Another 111 new immigrants arrived that week from Ukraine and 41 from Russia.

The Ministry of Aliyah and Integration has prepared for See "Israel" on page 7

LEGAL NOTICE

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. Woldt 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@thereporter.org



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Book Club announces books for 2020-21

The Book Club announced its book list for the 2020-21 season. The months of December-February were left open and will be chosen during future months.

- ◆ Tuesday, July 7: "Fleishman is in Trouble: A Novel" by Taffy Brodesser-Akner
- ◆ Tuesday, August 4: "Mrs. Everything:

A Novel" by Jennifer Weiner

- ◆ Wednesday, September 2: "A Book of Separation" by Tova Mirvis (memoir)
- ◆ Wednesday, October 7: "The Third Daughter: A Novel" by Talia Carner
- ◆ Wednesday, November 4: "Becoming Eve: My Journey from Ultra Orthodox Rabbi to Transgender Woman" by Abby

Stein (memoir)

- ◆ Wednesday, December 2: TBA
- ◆ Tuesday, January 5: TBA
- ◆ Wednesday, February 3: TBA
- ◆ Wednesday, March 3: "The Book of V. A Novel" by Anna Solomon
- ◆ Wednesday April 7: "The World that We Knew: A Novel" by Alice Hoffman

- ◆ Wednesday, May 5: "The Accusation: Blood Libel in an American Town" by Edward Berenson (history/American antisemitism)
- ◆ Tuesday, June 1: "Raquela: A Woman of Israel" by Ruth Gruber (biography) and annual luncheon and book selection

Jewish resources to occupy your family during social distancing – part 12

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.

- ◆ In honor of Pride Month, the 92nd Street Y will present a limited online release of the June 2016 performance of "The Absolute Brightness of Leonard Pelkey" through all of June at www.92y.org/archives/absolute-brightness-leonard-pelkey. It was written and performed by James Lecesne, directed by Tony Speciale (with original music by Tony Award-winning composer Duncan Sheik ("Spring Awakening")). Lecesne portrays every character in a small Jersey shore town as they unravel the story of Leonard Pelkey, a tenaciously optimistic and flamboyant 14-year-old boy who goes missing. *The New York Times* said the play "leaves you beaming with joy."

- ◆ The blog of the Museum at Eldridge Street, www.eldridgestreet.org/blog/, offers new stories posted once a week that explore the past, present and future of the Lower East Side, and look behind the scenes at the museum.

- ◆ The Museum at Eldridge Street will

offer the free program "Dig Your Roots @ Home" on Thursday, June 25, from 3-4 pm. The Zoom program will be guided by a genealogist from the Center for Jewish History's Ackman and Ziff Family Genealogy Institute, who will show how to discover information about the lives of people's ancestors and the places where they lived. This interactive workshop will include tips and resources for getting started with family history research – and provide a forum for answering some specific research questions. Although there is no cost, registration is required and can be made at www.eldridgestreet.org/event/dig-your-roots-home/.

- ◆ The Shalom Hartman Institute is offering "All Together Now: Jewish Ideas for this Moment" Running" from June 29-July 23. The programs are free and open to all. There will be tracks for rabbis, college students, teens and Muslim leaders, alongside a range of offerings for lay people. People will be able to learn from almost 100 Hartman scholars over the four weeks for what the Institute calls "inspiring learning tailor-made for this unique moment." For more information and to register, visit <https://updates.hartman.org.il/summer-hartman-at-home>.

- ◆ Partners in Torah, www.partnersintorah.org,

offers people the opportunity to learn about any Jewish topic with a mentor of their choice. There is no charge for the lessons. The lessons are one-on-one and conducted by phone. There are also opportunities for those who want to teach. For more information, visit the website, e-mail.support@partnersintorah.org or call 1-800-STUDY-42.

- ◆ The Orthodox goup Yachad will hold a virtual "Battle of the Singers: Benny Friedman vs. Mordechai Shapiro" on Tuesday, June 16, at 7 pm. The "Battle of the Singers" will be an interactive musical program that is aimed at all ages. The MC of the evening will be Meir Kay. The proceeds will benefit Yachad's efforts in helping individuals with disabilities and their families combat isolation during COVID-19. For more information or to purchase a ticket, visit

www.yachad.org/concert.

- ◆ The Jewish National Fund will hold a Virtual Book Club Summer Reading Series. The discussions will be moderated by IsraelCast's host, Steven Shalowitz, and the featured author. On June 24, at 8 pm, the featured book will be "The 100 Most Jewish Foods: A Highly Debatable List" by Alana Newhouse. On July 22, at 8 pm, the book will be "Jewish Comedy: A Serious History" by Jeremy Dauber. On August 19, at 8 pm, the book will be "The Ten Commandments of Character: Essential Advice for Living an Honorable, Ethical, Honest Life" by Rabbi Joseph Telushkin. To register for the events, visit www.jnf.org/menu-3/videos/ondemand.

For additional resources, see previous issues of *The Reporter* on its website, www.thereporter.org.

On the Jewish food scene

At least two types of meat

By Rabbi Rachel Esserman

What do I think about when I'm trying to fall asleep at night? Far too many times it's something to do with *The Reporter*. At least one recent night, it was something interesting. I'm not sure why the fact that goose was the more important source of protein for rural Jews in Europe popped into my mind. It was only in the U.S., where it was easier to keep chickens, that chicken replaced goose. Before you ask, that information came from one of the numerous books about Jewish food I've read although I can't remember which one. The fact stuck in my mind because I always wanted to try goose – not because it was a Jewish food, but rather from reading Charles Dickens' novels that featured goose as part of festive meals.

These thoughts didn't help me fall asleep. Instead they made me think of holiday meals past (sorry, couldn't resist the Dickens way of saying that). Some readers may be too young to remember that before all the emphasis on healthy eating started, holiday meals were anything but healthy. No meal was complete without at least two types of meat and some featured three or four meat dishes.

The reason I know we had chicken and brust is that my aunt cooked them in the same pan, which meant they tasted basically the same. Before people tell me I should be writing brisket, brisket is not actually correct. To make certain I was spelling brust correctly, I looked it up online and, according to thekosherbachelor.blogspot.com, "Brust is Yiddish for breast. Deckle is a thick, fatty part [of the] meat from the ribs, or in this case, the breast. Typically you'll find it as chuck deckle, or, in a kosher butcher shop it may actually be called brust deckle. Because of its fattiness it's usually a cheaper cut of meat than the brisket, about \$7.99 a pound." I had absolutely no knowledge of those details until I decided

to check the spelling. I figured the term was a mispronunciation, or that I'd heard it incorrectly, and so was looking for the real term.

Back to the meals at my relative's house: in addition to brust and chicken, my mother would make chicken fricassee. When checking the spelling for that word (I don't think I've ever written or typed the word fricassee before), I discovered something very different about my mother's version as compared to the recipes online. Not only didn't my mom's version have a cream sauce (my grandparents and aunt's house were kosher), but it included meatballs. Yes, even that one dish managed to have two different kinds of meat. I haven't had my mother's chicken fricassee in at least four decades, but I believe it had a tomato based sauce. That was usually my favorite High Holiday dish, so much so that I can't tell you anything about the rest of the meal.

Well, I do remember one thing: my parents made me drink a lot of milk at home with every meal, but, since these holiday meals took place in kosher homes, there was always soda on the table. If given the choice, I might have just had soda as my entire meal since it was such a treat. In fact, when I went to college, I had to laugh at friends who thought drinking alcohol was exciting. To me, the forbidden drink was soda, although I did limit myself.

But excess – whether in food or drink – is part of a holiday celebration. Saving the best for Shabbat or a holiday is a well-known theme in Jewish stories. So, since meat was expensive and scarce in the Old World, it's not surprising that our ancestors decided to celebrate holidays in the New World with as many types of meat as possible. I am not suggesting that we return to that custom, but rather to make certain we celebrate our holidays in as great a style as possible.



Medication safety tips for camp

(NAPS) – Becky Nagle, a pharmacist and senior director of clinical practice and education at Medco, offers the following general tips to parents whose children may be required to take medications while attending camp.

- ◆ Make sure you know who is in charge of your child's medications and who is legally allowed to administer them, whether it is nurse, doctor, counselor or camp coordinator.
- ◆ If warranted, purchase a medical alert bracelet or identification for your child.

- ◆ Submit all necessary paperwork regarding your child's health care, including physical forms, consent forms, administration orders and a list of all of your child's medications, as well as contact numbers for you, your child's pediatrician and your pharmacist.

- ◆ Make a list of all prescription and over-the-counter medications your child takes. Keep a copy for yourself, give one to your child and make sure the medical staff and counselors at the camp have copies as well.

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BeHa'alotcha, Numbers 8:1-12:16

On elevation and humility

by RABBI PEG KERSHENBAUM, CONGREGATION B'NAI HARIM, POCONO PINES

Our Torah portion begins with the commandment to raise up the menorah in the Tabernacle so as to have the lamps shine in front of the stand, lighting up the sacred space where the Levites could perform some of their responsibilities. Those very Levites are consecrated and described in such a way as to equate them with elevation offerings. All the Israelites place their hands on the *Leviim* as if they were so many bulls to be sacrificed and the Levites then place their hands on actual animals and offer them up. The ceremony, using mutuality to confer and convey holiness, exalts both the people and their ritual designees. The Levites receive their charge; the people receive a command to celebrate

their second *Pesach* and all seems to be at a spiritual apex.

However, it is not human nature to stay at such rarefied heights and the action quickly descends from the heavenly realm of trust, peace and harmony to the mundane plane of griping, sniping and jealousy. The first to gripe are some Israelites who cannot celebrate *Pesach* along with everyone else because of ritual impurities. They are accommodated with the promise of a second chance to offer their Paschal lambs and eat matzah and maror in the second month. Then there is widespread kvetching about the limited diet of manna. The whining of the people and their vocal nostalgia about "the good ole' days" under the whip of

the Egyptians, where at least they got some vegetables, finally push both God and Moses to the limit. God fumes and Moses complains about the burdensome task he's been set. He loses confidence in himself and in God.

God understands Moses' state of mind and suggests a solution. Having Moses choose 70 trusted elders, God infuses them with a bit of Moses' abundant spirit and even sends some to the other two, more modest elders who remained in camp. The people stop carping long enough to tattle on Eldad and Medad, who have been inspired to prophesy by the new spirit in them. Moses, much calmer See "Humility" 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 Saturday, June 13, the Torah portion is Numbers 8:1-12:16 and the haftarah is Zechariah 2:14-4:7.

On Saturday, June 13, at 9:15 pm, Rabbi Geoffrey Brown will lead Havdalah services 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.

On Sunday, June 14, at noon, Rabbi Geoffrey Brown will lead Torah study services via Zoom.

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.

Temple office hours for the week of June 22 will be Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 2-4 pm. The office will be closed that Tuesday and Friday.

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 Tikun v'Or

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

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 12, light candles before..... 8:22 pm
Saturday, June 13, Shabbat ends 9:23 pm
Friday, June 19, light candles before..... 8:24 pm
Saturday, June 20, Shabbat ends 9:25 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 June.

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 #97613250758 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/.

Thursday, June 18: An LGBTQ Pride Month Program "Where Pride Dwells: A Celebration of LGBTQ Jewish Life and Ritual" at 7 pm presented by Rabbi Denise Eger at <https://binghamton.zoom.us/j/93536133630>, password: 600213; or by calling 1-929-205-6099 and entering meeting ID #935 3613 3630, then the password.

Friday, June 19: Shabbat services at 7 pm at <https://binghamton.zoom.us/j/97613250758> or by calling 929-205-6099 and entering meeting ID # 976 1325 0758 and password 610020, or at www.facebook.com/templeconcord/.

Saturday June 20: Torah study at 9:15 am at <https://binghamton.zoom.us/j/342411102>, or by calling 1-929-205-6099 and enter meeting ID # 342 411 102.

Saturday June 20: "Havdalah with a Bonus" at 7 pm at <https://binghamton.zoom.us/j/526246866>, or by calling 929-205-6099 and entering meeting ID # 526 246 866, or at www.facebook.com/templeconcord/.

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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.

In the race for a coronavirus vaccine, first doesn't mean best

By Abigail Klein Leichman

(Israel21c via JNS)—About 120 research groups from various countries are racing to develop vaccines for the SARS-CoV-2 virus

ANALYSIS

(COVID-19). Several formulations have already advanced to human safety trials. Although the frontrunners in this race are American, British, Chinese, Japanese and German, Israel also has a few contenders.

However, vaccine development, like drug development, is a long and complicated process. And it doesn't always succeed, explains industry expert Ron Ellis, editor-in-chief of "Human Vaccines & Immunotherapeutics" and a vaccine development consultant.

"In 1984, the U.S. secretary of Health and Human Services announced that an AIDS vaccine was right around the corner, yet 35 years later we're not remotely close to an AIDS vaccine," said Ellis.

An Israeli resident since 2008, Ellis was the project leader for six successful vaccines – including Gardasil for human papilloma virus, VARIVAX for varicella (chickenpox) and RotaTeq for rotavirus – that cumulatively generate about \$5 billion in sales annually. He admits he's also "presided over many failures" in his long career. That's the nature of this business.

"We don't know yet that it's possible to make a coronavirus vaccine," acknowledged Ellis. "It requires perfection. There are at least eight types of vaccines being developed. We'll only know when the first one succeeds in preventing infection."

The road from discovery to market for the rotavirus

Israel. Continued from page 4

a wave of *aliyah aliyah* – resulting from the coronavirus global pandemic. Given the continued monitoring of the virus, those who arrived have immediately gone into quarantine and will adhere to Ministry of Health regulations. They flew to Israel on a specially chartered aircraft, also because of COVID-19 restrictions.

This is the second cohort of Ethiopian immigrants who arrived amid the pandemic, with 72 arriving in March and settling in absorption centers in the country's north and south.

Their arrival was made possible by support from the Jewish Federations of North America, Keren Hayesod and other friends of Israel from around the world.

Liberty. Continued from page 2

at home, unprecedented in our long Diaspora journey, and for combating antisemitism around the world. And now, having miraculously returned to the Promised Land, we are obliged to play a continuing role in the successful development of the United States.

That's why iVoteIsrael, the non-partisan organization I direct, is doing everything it can to engage Americans in Israel and help them request their ballots for the U.S. election in November.

The exercise of voting was created not just as a small opportunity for the American people to engage with the government. It reflects the Founding Fathers' fundamental beliefs that participation in democracy is imperative for maintaining liberty.

On this Election Day, let's capitalize on this priceless gift of voting and show our gratitude for all that America has done to protect and advance the cause of liberty, not just in America but for freedom around the world.

Yossi Raskas is the director of iVoteIsrael, a non-partisan organization devoted to helping Americans residing in Israel with registering for the U.S. presidential election.

vaccine was about 15 years; for the varicella vaccine, 25 years. "You can slice years off of clinical development—if you don't worry about fully proving safety and efficacy," said Ellis. "If you do it by the book, it takes many years."

In the clinical phase alone, assuring that a vaccine doesn't cause adverse effects in more than 1 in 10,000 people ordinarily requires safety trials on more than 30,000 participants. (In fact, in the United States, AstraZeneca and the federal Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority plan to test an investigational vaccine on 30,000 volunteers this summer.)

"There have been vaccines that caused a 1 in 10,000 risk of a serious side effect and were taken off the market because that's too high," said Ellis, citing the 1976 swine flu vaccine as one example. "For a worldwide pandemic, the acceptable risk tolerance may be set lower. It's a very hard moral dilemma between what's good for the public now and what's safe in the long run."

Hebrew University virologist Professor Amos Panet believes at least one COVID-19 vaccine could be on the market within 12 to 18 months. That's because so many labs are working toward a solution with "immense" governmental and foundation investment, and because regulatory agencies are willing to fast-track approval processes.

However, the first COVID-19 vaccines "might not be the best, and might work in 50 percent of those vaccinated," said Panet. They would likely be given to people at risk: healthcare workers, older people and those with underlying diseases.

"Usually, if a vaccine doesn't reach 95 percent efficacy in the population it is not approved. For corona there will be a lower threshold. And then better vaccines will come to market perhaps two years later," he said.

One reason vaccine development usually takes so long, he said, is that vaccines are for healthy adults and children, as opposed to drugs for illnesses where benefits may outweigh risks. "The level of safety has to be 100 percent, not 99," he says. "With a vaccine you take no risks."

Humility. Continued from page 6

now, reassures his zealous supporters that his only wish is that all of us were infused with such spirit. Imagine if all 600,000-plus people were so spiritually buoyed. Why, we'd positively float to the Promised Land!

But again, rather than focusing on the elevated state, the text takes us down even further, as Miriam and Aaron gossip and find fault with Moses for having married a Cushite woman. It is truly proof of Moses' famed humility that he doesn't answer back. Despite what we might think, Aaron and Miriam don't air their jealousy discreetly behind Moses' back! We know that Moses was with them holding his tongue because when God calls them to come out of the tent, all three emerge!

Passing over the question of why Aaron is not punished commensurately with Miriam, let us consider the lesson Moses teaches us at this time. He has, as we saw, willingly shared his Divine blessing with trusted leaders. He doesn't debate or denounce his siblings, but rather pleads for the very sister who disparaged his wife! He seems to know that the barbs were not aimed out of distaste, but out of jealousy over his close relationship with God. He learns from them that people's envy comes from a place of misunderstanding. For Moses wouldn't begrudge his brother or sister a share of *ruach Elohim* except that he knows the utter frustration that comes from trying to live with his head in the clouds, as it were.

On our better days, we experience exaltation, but,

Some vaccines are risky because they have an added adjuvant—a compound that stimulates the immune system, but can stimulate it too much and cause damage. "With corona, we don't know yet if we need the adjuvant or not. If not, I expect the development process will be much faster," says Panet, whose lab is studying why some coronavirus patients suffer a severe immune reaction in their lungs, and which drugs could block it.

He also observes that although sub-strains of COVID-19 have evolved in different countries, the virus changes slowly enough that probably "we can develop a vaccine against it that lasts" in contrast to the yearly flu vaccine.

In the end, how fast a vaccine gets to market largely depends on how regulators handle issues of efficacy and safety. "Proving vaccines work means preventing infection," said Ellis. "Usually you wait for the next outbreak and do a field study of the vaccine versus a placebo. You immunize thousands of people and hopefully show that you have fewer cases in the vaccine group than in the control group. But we don't know when the next corona season will be, so some people say it doesn't make sense to wait."

An alternative method is a challenge study, where the vaccine or placebo is administered to large groups of healthy young people followed by administration of the live virus to see if infection is prevented.

Ellis said clinicians and regulators would need to decide on an ethical way to perform a coronavirus challenge study, as has been done in the past for influenza.

Once a vaccine is proven effective, the story isn't over. "It's one thing to have a credible vaccine and another to prepare millions of doses," said Panet.

Big pharma such as J&J are already preparing for mass production of a corona vaccine. Smaller labs and companies will probably license their vaccines to big pharma companies with the necessary scaleup and production capability.

Panet added that the Israeli government is considering building a large vaccine production facility that could be ready within half a year to manufacture vaccines developed domestically.

This article was first published by Israel21c.

because we are humans, we live mostly on the ground. May we find a way to be refreshed by divine spirit, to be moved by generosity of this spirit to share our burdens with others and to forgive those who, out of longing for more intimacy with the divine, try literally to humble us. Living with our feet on the ground, may we be blessed to walk our Promised Land.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

P.A. threatens to declare state along '67 borders if Israel annexes territory

Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh said on June 9 that if Israel annexes parts of Judea and Samaria, the Palestinians would declare a state based on the pre-1967 lines and launch an international recognition campaign. The campaign, he said, would include recognition of eastern Jerusalem as the state's capital, reported Ynet. Shtayyeh called annexation an "existential threat" for the Palestinians. Former senior U.S. officials told JNS earlier in June that it was unlikely that P.A. leader Mahmoud Abbas would follow through on threats to cut ties with Israel, stop security cooperation and void past agreements if Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu continues with his plan to apply Israeli law to the Jordan Valley and parts of Judea and Samaria. According to Harold Rhode, a longtime former adviser on Islamic affairs within the U.S. Defense Department's Office of Net Assessment, Abbas's threat to cut off security cooperation and end agreements with Israel is empty since it is in Abbas' and other senior Palestinian officials' interest to continue the cooperation.

ICC moving ahead with investigation against Israel

The International Criminal Court has announced it will move ahead with its investigation against Israel even though Palestinian Authority leader Mahmoud Abbas declared the annulment of all agreements with Israel and the United States. In May, in response to a statement by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that he intended to apply Israeli law to the Jordan Valley and part of Judea and Samaria, Abbas announced that the Palestine Liberation Organization "and the state of Palestine" were absolved of all "agreements and understandings with the American and Israeli governments." The ICC's Pre-Trial Chamber requested clarification from the P.A. on Abbas' statement in order to determine whether the ICC could continue its investigation into alleged Israel war crimes. P.A. Foreign Minister Riyad al-Malki issued a statement in response, in which he declared that "if Israel proceeds with annexation, a material breach of the agreements between the two sides, then it will have annulled any remnants of the Oslo Accords and all other agreements concluded between them." The P.A. clarified that it considers the legal aspect of the Oslo Accords to still be in effect and therefore deems the ICC investigation still relevant and applicable. The Oslo Accords, a series of bilateral agreements between Israel and the PLO signed between 1993-95,

allowed for the establishment of a P.A. that would self-govern for an interim period until permanent arrangements would be established. In response to the Palestinian clarification, the ICC's chief prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, told the Pre-Trial Chamber that the investigation against Israel could proceed regardless of the status of the Oslo Accords. Israel has until June 24 to reply to the ICC on the matter if it decides to do so.

Federal judge denies Madoff compassionate release from prison

A federal judge has denied Bernie Madoff's request for compassionate release from prison in which the disgraced financier claimed to be terminally ill and likely to die in the next 18 months. Madoff, 82, has served 10 years of a 150-year sentence for running a Ponzi scheme worth almost \$65 billion – the largest in history and one that inflicted heavy financial loss upon Jewish investors. Following his request in February to be released early, 520 of his victims wrote to the court with 96 percent of them objecting to such a move. "When I sentenced Mr. Madoff in 2009, it was fully my intent that he live out the rest of his life in prison," said U.S. Circuit Judge Denny Chin in his ruling. "Nothing has happened in the 11 years since to change my thinking." Madoff sought an early release similar to Bernard Ebbers, who was convicted in 2005 of fraud and conspiracy as a result of WorldCom's fall and served more than 13 years of a 25-year sentence. He died on Feb. 2 at the age of 78. Madoff's lawyer, Brandon Sample, expressed disappointment with the ruling, saying Chin acknowledged the state of Madoff's health and expressed hope that Trump would commute his client's sentence.

Norway pushes Israel not to extend sovereignty to parts of Judea, Samaria

Norway is urging Israel not to go ahead with plans to extend sovereignty to the Jordan Valley and parts of Judea and Samaria. "Any unilateral step would be detrimental to the (peace) process, and annexation would be in direct violation and contravention of international law," Foreign Minister Ine Eriksen Soeride told Reuters after a meeting on June 2 of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee (or AHLC), which Norway heads. The AHLC is a body comprised of several international organizations and countries that works to coordinate international aid to the Palestinians and Palestinian Authority. Soeride also said that he spoke with Israeli Foreign Minister Gabi Ashkenazi on June 2 to push Israel not to take such action. Sources told *Israel Hayom* in May that the European Union's Foreign Affairs Commission is reportedly debating punitive measures against

Israel should it push forward with its plans to annex parts of Judea and Samaria and the Jordan Valley in accordance with the Trump administration's Middle East peace plan.

Israel plans 80 billion shekel investment to increase solar-energy use

Israel Energy Ministry Yuval Steinitz announced an 80 billion shekel (\$22.8 billion) plan to increase solar power use during the next 10 years. The goal is to have solar-power production grow 30 percent by 2030, Steinitz said according to a Reuters report on June 1. The plan is estimated to cut air pollution by 93 percent compared to 2015. "This is a move that will change the face of the state of Israel, and it will be carried out by the private sector. There is a great deal of room for growth, innovation and enterprise," said Steinitz, reported *Globes*. The new target, said Steinitz, is to outpace rising demand and have solar-power production grow to 30 percent by 2030, or about 16,000 megawatts. That is roughly the same as total energy production today. He said that most of the funds would go to upgrading the national grid and energy storage. More than 80 percent of the country's electricity would be provided for by solar power according to the plan, noted the report.

Following COVID-19 spike, 10K Israelis quarantined, 43 schools closed

A sharp rise in the number of coronavirus patients in Israel, particularly among students and teachers, is causing health and education officials to consider shutting down the school system for the rest of the academic year. Schools resumed operations in mid-May as part of the gradual re-opening of the economy after seven weeks of countrywide lockdowns and due to the flattening of the COVID-19 curve. Three people died of the disease overnight June 2, bringing the country's death toll to 290. It was the largest spike in fatalities in the past month. This is in addition to the 19 new cases from educational institutions that were confirmed on June 3, raising the total number of recent cases in the country's classrooms to 244 and leading to the closure of an additional six schools. So far, 43 schools have been shut down temporarily, and some 10,000 Israelis are in quarantine. Attributing the spike to the public being lax about following social-distancing guidelines, outgoing Health Ministry Director-General Moshe Bar Siman Tov said, "We knew there would be a period of trial and error. If the data shows that we need to close schools down again, we will do so."

Israel successfully tests state-of-the-art LORA missile system

Israel Aerospace Industries announced on June 2 that it had completed a successful test of its new, state-of-the-art ballistic missile system, which has a 400-kilometer (249-mile) range. According to IAI, the test was conducted in the open sea and included the launch of two LORA (Long-Range Artillery Weapon System) missiles, both of which hit their intended targets with the "utmost precision." "The complex trial, performed under COVID-19 limitations, demonstrated the advanced capabilities of both IAI and LORA, our strategic missile system," said IAI Executive Vice President Boaz Levy, who also heads the company's Systems, Missiles and Space Group. "The trial was executed according to a fully functional design, which tested the system's maneuvering, strike and precision, as well as technological developments and enhancements introduced by our engineers." LORA is a sea-to-ground and ground-to-ground system that provides ballistic assault capabilities for multiple ranges with a high level of precision.

Palestinians refuse \$190 million in taxes collected by Israel

The Palestinian Authority on June 3 refused to accept tax revenues for the month of May collected on its behalf by Israel, as part of what it says is its end of cooperation with the Jewish state over Jerusalem's plan to extend Israeli law to parts of Judea and Samaria. Under the Oslo agreements, Israel collects taxes on behalf of the P.A. that make up over half the P.A. government. The Palestinian government will have difficulty functioning without the \$190 million in monthly tax revenue.

Report triggers EU turmoil over funding to terror-linked NGOs

(*Israel Hayom* via JNS) – The European Union on June 2 ordered its representatives in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem to investigate whether E.U. funds are reaching organizations affiliated with Palestinian terrorist groups. The move follows a report by NGO Monitor, a watchdog group that promotes greater transparency among foreign-funded nongovernmental organizations operating in Israel. The watchdog recently exposed an E.U. letter to an umbrella organization of 142 leading Palestinian NGOs assuring them that, even if a Palestinian NGO applying for E.U. grants is an affiliate of E.U.-designated terrorist groups or employs individuals from these groups, the E.U. will still provide the organization with funds and legitimacy. After the information became public, E.U. Commissioner for Neighborhood and Enlargement Oliver Varhelyi stated that the European Union "will have to conduct an in-depth review, and if there is any concern we will act immediately. ... This [funding terrorism] will not be tolerated. And if it happens it will have to be rectified."

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