

THE REPORTER

Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton

June 26-July 2, 2020
Volume XLIX, Number 26

BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK

New Reporter website goes live

By Reporter staff

The newly updated *Reporter* website, www.thereportergroup.org, has gone live. Among its features are article streams, hashtags and a safe donation option.

"The website has been a long time coming," said Rabbi Rachel Esserman, executive editor of *The Reporter*. "I want to thank Jenn DePersis, our former production manager; Christi Sturdevant, our production associate; and Shelley Hubal, the executive director of the Federation, for all their help in making this possible. A few members of *The Reporter* Editorial Committee – Rebecca Kahn and Rachel

Coker – also offered help and suggestions."

New articles will go live on Friday mornings. The home page offers "teasers" to the top two local articles and a link to other local news. It also offers links to various article streams, including opinion (where Esserman and Hubal's columns can be found), book reviews and general features. For those who



Screenshot of the new Reporter website.

prefer to see a web version of the hard copy of the paper, those can be found by clicking on "Current and Archived Issues."

The site also has a "Community Directory," which offers addresses and contact information for local synagogues and community organizations. There is also a link to the "Community Calendar" on the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton's website. Donations can also be made through the site by clicking on the "Donation" option at the top of the home page.

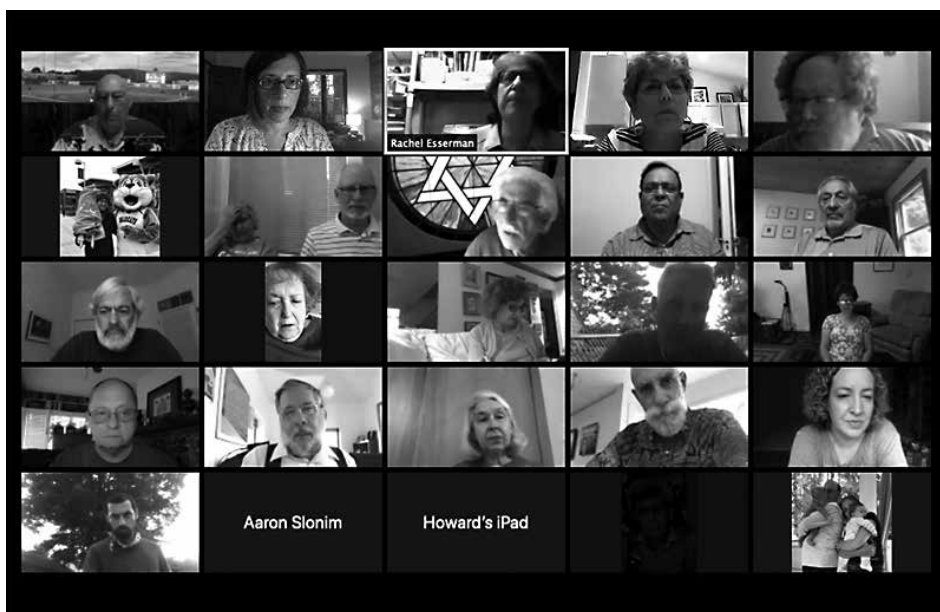
"Check out our new site," said Esserman. "This new, user-friendly site offers quick, easy access to information."

Federation held virtual annual meeting

By Reporter staff

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton held its annual meeting via Zoom on June 17. More than 30 people attended. The nominations for the Executive Committee and the board were approved. There were reports on the 2020 Campaign, a look at events that have taken place during the last month and a review of the past year. A copy of the annual report can be found on the Federation website at www.jfgb.org/who-we-are/annual-report-june-2019-may-2020. Although the Federation was unable to hold its planned ice cream social, several of those attending created their own ice cream desserts at home.

"This was not how I expected my first annual meeting to go," said Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Federation. "This has been a difficult few months for many of us, but I am proud of what our community has accomplished and look forward to us



A screen shot of some of the people attending the virtual Federation Annual meeting on June 17.

doing even more. I'm also praying that by next year's meeting, we will be able to gather in person."

Board of Directors

The members of the Board of Directors 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 Michael Wright, Endowment chairman.

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

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

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

Federation virtual gathering offered "comfort and strength"

By Reporter staff

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton's virtual gathering "Strengthening Ourselves, Strengthening Each Other," which was held on June 15, was attended by 45 households. The event included readings, words of Torah and music by community

leaders, local rabbis and musicians.

"The Binghamton Jewish community once again proved that it has a big heart," said Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Federation. "This event was truly meaningful. Everyone was welcomed."

Hubal noted this type of program speaks

to one of the Federation's most important missions, which is also one of her favorites. "One of my favorite things to do as executive director of the Federation is to create opportunities for our Jewish community to gather and take refuge under the umbrella of our faith," she added. "This program did that."

After the completion of the program, some people noted that they had not realized how much they needed to gather as a community, even if only by virtual means. Others spoke of the healing nature of the event. In addition, people mentioned that gathering with others gave them comfort and strength.

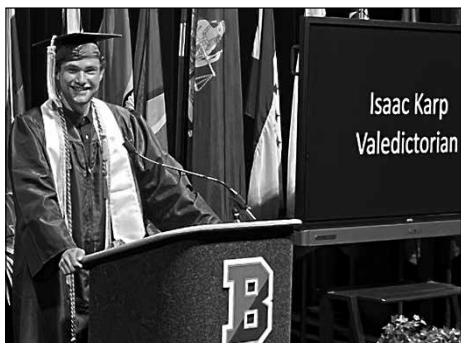
Spotlight

Isaac Karp chosen as BHS valedictorian

By Rabbi Rachel Esserman

People might not expect Isaac Karp, the 2020 Binghamton High School valedictorian, to be modest, but the son of Jonathan Karp (associate professor and undergraduate director of Judaic studies at Binghamton University) and Gina Glasman (a lecturer in the same department), doesn't believe class rankings are a true measure of a person's worth or intelligence.

"Of course, I am honored to have seen my efforts throughout my four years at Binghamton High School pay off, but I have never been fond of the idea of class rankings



Isaac Karp gave his virtual valedictorian speech.

and the culture of ultra-competitiveness it builds," he said in an e-mail interview. "What really matters is the relationships I built with my teachers and the community within Binghamton High School."

In fact, he never thought about class rankings when he started at the school. "I certainly did not think I would be the valedictorian when I first came to the school, and I didn't even learn of my chances until the end of my sophomore year," he noted. "I think that the achievement should be awarded to more than one student. There are many high achieving students who

had success in specific subjects, but not every single one. It's important to be well rounded, and it does give me a feeling of self-confidence, but it is not an accurate representation of intelligence or character."

Well-rounded certainly does describe the number of activities in which Karp's taken part. "I founded my high school's newspaper in 11th grade and basically made it my priority," he said. "I have been fascinated by journalism ever since reading 'Moneyball' by Michael Lewis. I was the student government president, which gave

See "Karp" on page 3

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An ADL report shows anti-Israel activities contribute to Jewish students feeling "threatened." Page 6

To the moon....

An Israeli team hopes NASA will choose its Trident craft to look for life on Neptune's moon Triton. Page 9

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Opinion

Dear Jews: The summer of 2020 is not about us

By David Suissa

(*Jewish Journal* via JNS) – An extraordinary moment has arisen in America that taps into a deep history of racism that predates the birth of our country. But instead of allowing blacks their moment, I'm seeing an outpouring of hysterics from some in the Jewish community about "antisemitism rearing its ugly head again!"

A small fraction of the countless businesses that have been damaged and looted across the nation have a Jewish connection. I get it. Even one is too many. After 2,000 years of persecution, we're always on edge. Any sign that "they're coming after us" is cause for alarm.

But let me ask you: When was the last time you saw a video of a cop killing a Jew because he was Jewish?

Nothing about the plight of Jews in America can compare to the racism against blacks. While we have our own global history of horrible suffering and persecution, the difference between the suffering Jews and blacks have experienced in this country is not merely in degree, but in kind.

Why can't you get canceled for antisemitism?

By Jonathan S. Tobin

(JNS) In the weeks since the brutal and unjustified killing of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer, America has been undergoing what *The New York Times* approvingly called a "reckoning" that marks a fundamental shift in attitudes about race.

But the onset of this surge of public soul-searching and consciousness-raising about race has brought with it a trend that is deeply troubling. The heightened sensitivity about racism has led not merely to an epidemic of insincere virtue signaling about racism. It's also brought about a flood of accusations against alleged offenders that have more to do with politics, and out-of-control illiberal and intolerant social-media mobs, than making the country a better place. The widespread "canceling" of people who are deemed racists is becoming a serious problem.

The question is, if it's so easy to cancel someone for not going along with the prevailing orthodoxy about what constitutes racism, why does engaging in antisemitism not bring about the same moral opprobrium from the media and the cultural forces taking down people for dissenting from the Black Lives Matter catechism?

Examples abound of instances in which people's careers and lives are being ruined because of their refusal to bend

For 244 years, from 1619 to 1863, it was perfectly legal to own a black slave in America. President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 did not end racial discrimination, which remained legal long after the abolition of slavery. Even the Civil Rights Act of 1964 did not end racial discrimination; it merely provided the legal tools to fight it.

When you see a white cop dig his knee into a black man's neck for close to nine minutes, while the man pleads for his life, you get a reminder that the racist poison that started in 1619 is still lingering in our midst. Yes, we've come so far in the past 50 years, but we have so far to go.

That's why fighting racism is the cause of the moment. It's tapping into a well of pain that is 400 years old. It has triggered an emotional hurricane where millions are saying, "Enough is enough." Is this really the best time for Jews to say, "Hey, what about us?"

Don't get me wrong. I'm disgusted by Israel haters who

exploit the protests to bash Israel. But are we surprised? This is what they always do.

I know that Black Lives Matter officially supports the BDS movement against Israel, which is a vile and discriminatory movement. But here's the new reality: In the protests against racism, "black lives matter" is as much a slogan and rallying cry as an organization.

And yes, I'm disgusted by anti-Jewish graffiti on a synagogue wall or anywhere else. This is the mark of Jew-hatred. It is eternal and irrational. It will always be with us.

There are myriad, effective ways we can combat the evil of antisemitism without taking away from the cause of the moment. The cause of fighting racism is dominating the national consciousness right now and many Jews have joined the fight.

Both of those fights are good for the Jews.

David Suissa is editor-in-chief and publisher of Tribe Media Corp and Jewish Journal. He can be reached at davids@jewishjournal.com.

the knee – literally or metaphorically – to a Black Lives Matter movement that is determined to condemn anyone who dissents from their ideology or even question it.

One involves Gordon Klein, a professor at UCLA's School of Management who was placed on leave and had his classes taken away from him after refusing to grant African-American students exemptions from taking final exams because of their collective state of mind after the death of Floyd. The university took that action after angry students accused him of racism and because he had paraphrased Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous statement about judging people by the content of their character, rather than the color of their skin. Klein, who had taught at the school for 39 years, was doxxed by the students (they made public his e-mail and home addresses) and is now under police protection because of death threats.

He isn't alone.

Tiffany Riley, a Vermont school principal, was placed on administrative leave for a Facebook post that said that while she agreed that black lives matter, she didn't support coercive measures to advance that cause or the demonization of police.

Harald Uhlig, an economics professor at the University of Chicago, was fired from a consulting job at the Federal Reserve

for saying that Black Lives Matter had "torpedoed itself" by aligning the movement with calls for defunding the police. A mob of outraged economists and journalists led by *The New York Times*' Paul Krugman wanted Uhlig's head on a spike for this offense. Though Uhlig had issued a groveling apology for his heresy, the Fed acceded to their demand, saying there was no room at the institution for "racism," even though the economist's statement could not credibly be described as such a thing.

There are many other examples of similar incidents of people being canceled over dubious accusations of racism. But what is also interesting about what's going on is that far more egregious examples of antisemitic hate aren't producing the same results.

One prominent example was that of popular comedian and television star Chelsea Handler, who approvingly posted a video of National of Islam hater Louis Farrakhan on her Instagram page recently.

Handler said a Farrakhan statement on racism from an old clip from "The Phil Donahue Show" was "powerful." Farrakhan is a purveyor of antisemitic conspiracy theories and vituperation against Jews. But according to Handler, his comments about the evils of racism directed at blacks deserved to "stand alone."

See "Canceled" on page 6

In My Own Words

Remembering Larry

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

July 2020 marks the 10th *yahrzeit* (anniversary of death) of my little brother Larry. He was six-and-a-half years younger than me and a very important part of my life from the time he was born until the day he died.

Larry was born with a hole in his heart and developmental disabilities, in his case Down Syndrome. My parents took Larry to a heart doctor in Syracuse soon after he was born. The doctor gave them some medicine and told them to make an appointment for six months, but noted they wouldn't be keeping it. That was one wrong diagnosis: Larry lived to his 40s.

For the first four years of his life, he remained at home and was my favorite playmate. I remember my mom, Larry and I all crawling on our hands and knees to the back bathroom to give him a bath. When he was able to walk, I used to tie a towel around his neck and pretend he was a king with a cape. Then my parents made the most difficult decision of their lives: they put Larry in a state school in Rome, NY. I heard different stories from each of them about who made the decision and why, but one thing was clear: doing so broke my mother's heart.

For about a decade, my parents and I drove to Rome every other week to see Larry. We ate breakfast at the same restaurant each time and then went to Grand Way with

him to buy him a present. (He was fond of sponges then.) On the way home, my parents and I stopped at the same diner for a meal. I remember that time fondly, although my mother claims that even the thought of Rome makes her feel sick. When I was in college, Broome Developmental Center opened and Larry moved closer to home. His final move was to a newly built group home less than a mile from our house. Sometimes when the staff took individuals out for a ride in the van, they would swing by so we could go out and say hi.

In many ways, Larry was the center of our lives. Saturdays belonged to Larry and he came home every week once he moved back to Broome County. He was a sweet, loving individual who judged people by their hearts, not their looks or their financial achievements. He would hug me and say, "I love my Ahil, love my Ahil!" (He was the *only* one who got away using any name for me but my given one. That's because he couldn't pronounce the "r" and "ch" properly.) My mother was upset that he wanted to marry me, not her. His answer to that question of "why not me" was, "You daddy." He loved King Kong movies, birthdays, bath brushes (which he carried like Linus carried a blanket in Peanuts), vacuum cleaners and Santa Claus. (Yes, he knew he was Jewish, but Santa brought presents.)

He also loved birthdays because he got birthday presents on *everyone's* birthday. At the end of each celebration, he had one important thing to say, "Who's next?"

I still meet people who knew and remember Larry, and I cherish every warm memory and sweet words they have to say. It was hard after he died to remember to celebrate birthdays and holidays because he was the one who pushed us to have fun. He was the one who hugged you when you were feeling down – and he knew when you were without you saying anything. If you didn't feel well, he would cover you with a blanket (sometimes jokingly covering your head and laughing) and put a warm wash cloth on your head.

I've heard of a Jewish tradition that says when those with physical or mental disabilities get to heaven, those disabilities disappear. It's a lovely thought, but, to me, Larry was perfect exactly as he was. He enjoyed his life in a way that could be a lesson to all of us: he didn't fuss over things he didn't have. Instead, he relished the ones he did. He loved with a whole heart that encompassed more people than I can count. We were grateful for all the extra years he was with us and cherish – and still talk about – the things he said and did. May his memory be for a blessing.



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3. Art Department 4. Circulation 6. Editorial/News

THE
REPORTER

Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton

BINGHAMTON, NY

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

Regular weekly deadline is noon, Wednesday, for the following week's newspaper.

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"The Reporter" (USPS 096-280) is published weekly for \$36 per year by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, 500 Clubhouse Road, Vestal, NY 13850-3734. Periodicals Postage Paid at Vestal, NY and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to **The Reporter**, 500 Clubhouse Road, Vestal, NY 13850-3734 or reach us by e-mail at TREPORTER@AOL.COM.

www.thereporter.org

Jewish resources to occupy your family during social distancing – part 14

By Reporter staff

A variety of Jewish groups are offering online resources – educational and recreational – for those who are not allowed out of the house. Below is a sampling of those. *The Reporter* will publish additional listings as they become available.

◆ The America-Israel Friendship League will offer the webinar “From ‘Start Up’ to ‘Grown Up’: Accessing the Israeli Market in a Post-COVID World” on Wednesday, July 1, at noon. The webinar will explore how Israel’s economy is likely to look after COVID recovery. It will seek to answer such questions as, will Israel continue to be at the forefront of innovation? Will it attract foreign investments at similar levels? Will it provide similar returns? The webinar will feature insights from various investor perspectives. For information about how to sign up for this and other upcoming events, visit <https://aifl.org/events>.

◆ Be’Chol Lashon is offering writings from Black Jews on its “Black Lives Matter” page. To read the articles, visit <https://globaljews.org/>. That page connects to a variety of blog articles about the topic.

◆ The Friends of the IDF filmed the webinar it did with Dr. Ruth Westheimer called “Dynamic Dialogue with Survivor, Haganah Sniper, and Trailblazer, the World-Renowned Dr. Ruth K. Westheimer.” Westheimer offers a look at her time in the Haganah. The event was moderated by Emmy Award-winning filmmaker, investigative reporter and news anchor Jerry Levine. It can be found at www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zy71cN2fpCk&feature=emb_title.

◆ Be’Chol Lashon is offering free access to its “Passport to Peoplehood” educational resources, which explore the history and traditions of Jewish communities around the world and celebrate the fact that Jews are a multicultural people. The resources are appropriate for use with children. For more information, visit <https://globaljews.org/learn/2p/families/>.

◆ NCSY will hold “Bike NCSY 2020” on Sunday, August 9. There will be multiple pre-arranged regional routes, a

variety of courses for riders and a \$10 registration fee for teens. For more information or to register, visit <https://bike.ncsy.org/>.

◆ Jewish Action, the quarterly magazine of the Orthodox Union, is a new publication that seeks to convey Orthodox Jewish values and concerns in a way that will enlighten, educate and inspire its readers. To receive issues by e-mail and curated Jewish Action content, visit <https://jewishaction.com/>.

◆ The Moscow State Yiddish Theater collection at the Blavatnik Archive Foundation is now fully cataloged and accessible online at www.blavatnikarchive.org/collection/2. The collection consists of 581 items, including 147 photographs and 434 documents in Russian, Yiddish, Ukrainian, Hebrew, German and French. Formerly, it was the family archive of Iustina Minkova (1895-1979) and Solomon Zil’berblat (1897-1977), Yiddish actors and members of the GOSET (Gosudarstvennyi evreiskii teatr, the Russian acronym of the Moscow State Yiddish Theater) troupe. Although the collection contains documents from the 1900s through the 1970s, most are from GOSET’s “golden years,” the 1920s-30s. The collection includes the theater’s internal memos and letters, draft playbills, scripts, annotated by actors, administrative correspondence, minutes of the local actors’ union meetings, posters, bills and more.

◆ Mayim Bialik will host “FunOrthodox: Star-Studded Evening of Comedy/Music.” The event will take place on Sunday, June 28, at 8 pm, and be available online after the live show. FunOrthodox (funorthodox.com) will include performances by Emmy Award-winning comedians Bruce Vilanch and Judy Gold, Leah Gottfried (and the cast of the web series “Soon by You”), Cory Kahaney (“Last Comic Standing”), and more. FunOrthodox will include 14 acts. The show runs approximately 70 minutes. The trailer can be viewed at <https://tinyurl.com/FunOrthodoxTease>. The event will launch via Facebook LIVE on Eshel’s Facebook page. All proceeds from the event will benefit the 501(c)(3) nonprofit Eshel Inc., which works to make

a difference in the lives of LGBTQ+ Jews, their families and their communities. For more information, visit www.funorthodox.com.

◆ National Museum of Jewish American History will offer the live program “Songs of Our People, Songs of Our Neighbors: Deborah Sacks Mintz” on Wednesday, June 24, at 6 pm, via Facebook Live and the NMAJH website. It will feature Deborah Sacks Mintz’s new album, “The Narrow and The Expanse.” She will sit down virtually with NMAJH public programs manager and musician Dan Samuels to talk about her upbringing, musical influences, favorite collaborators and what drives her efforts to heal the world with music. There will be premieres of never-before-seen recordings of Mintz and other musicians created during the making of the album. There is no cost for the program, although donations will be accepted. The program will be available on the NMAJH Facebook page and at NMAJH.org via a pop-up message on the homepage.

◆ YIVO will sponsor “Continuing Evolution: Yiddish Folksong in Classical Music,” a digital musical performance preview, on Tuesday, June 30, at 4 pm. It will feature new works by composers Martin Bresnick, Marti Epstein, Aaron Kernis, Judith Shatin and Alex Weiser. The concert will be shown at www.youtube.com/user/yivoinstitute and www.facebook.com/YIVOInstitute.

See “Resources” on page 8

The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to Howard Fisher on the death of his wife,
Caren Fisher
The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to Joe Newmark on the death of his mother,
Mildred Newmark

Karp Continued from page 1

me the opportunity to sit on the Board of Education as the student representative and also organize major school projects like the pep rally. I also became the vice president of the National Honor Society and the editing manager of the yearbook. I played varsity tennis and soccer, too. It’s hard to think of another large high school that could have given me so many opportunities to learn, have fun and grow.”

Karp attended Hillel Academy of Broome County for grade school and credits it with nurturing his natural abilities. “Hillel Academy shaped me into the kind of student I am today,” he said. “The culture and the tradition of a Jewish day school taught me how to communicate, think critically and converse with people who will not hesitate to interrupt you if they think you are wrong.”

His experience in his final year of Hillel was a very different one from middle school and high school: he was the only student in his Hillel class that year. “My fifth grade class included me, myself and I, and yet I never felt alone,” he noted. “Everyone looked out for each other and the teachers instilled a diligence in me that has never left. Hillel and Binghamton High School are hardly similar, but I tried to bring what I learned growing up into the secular atmosphere of BHS. Did it work? Probably not. But as [Coreen] Sines, my English teacher at Hillel, used to say, if at first you don’t succeed, try try again.”

He also appreciated his teachers at Binghamton High School. “I loved my time at Binghamton High School,” he added. “My teachers, for the most part, gave me an unbelievable education while also helping me to tone down my perfectionism and learn how to make and recover from mistakes. My relaxation came with my extracurricular activities such as the newspaper and student government. I wish people could have experienced Binghamton High School like I did; I truly believe there is no other place I would rather have gotten my education from.”

Karp manages to keep busy even in what little free time he has. “Most of my time was spent working on either schoolwork or my extracurricular activities, but I had the opportunity to volunteer for a local food pantry,” he said. “I also had the opportunity to write articles for THE REPORTER, which taught me a great deal about journalism. I really love to work out, so the rest of my free time

was mostly spent running and listening to podcasts about politics and sports.”

His plans for the future include attending Tufts University starting this fall. “I would like to double major in history and another subject – maybe international relations or political science,” he said, “I’m still thinking about the many possibilities.”


He also wants to continue his journalistic endeavors. “I would also love to find newspaper internship opportunities in Boston and write for the college newspaper,” Karp said. “My interests range from the politics of social media to the economics of sports. I want to follow in the footsteps of Michael Lewis. Eventually, I want to create an organization that promotes civic engagement with young people within schools so that their voices and perspectives can help bring about social change.”

He also sees his generation as having the opportunity to change the state of race relations in the U.S. “It is the role of my generation to take the next step toward progress,” he added. “The revolution in the streets has to be accompanied by a revolution in the mind and that begins with education. I encourage [upcoming students to consider] that the focus of school should be about establishing relationships and seeking knowledge in search of a common horizon. Trust me, grades really are not fulfilling, and I honestly wish I had spent less time on schoolwork and more on pursuing the possibilities of change.”

DEADLINES
The following are deadlines for all articles and photos for upcoming REPORTER issues.

ISSUE	DEADLINE
July 17	July 8
July 31	July 22
August 14	August 5
August 28	August 19

THE PROFESSIONAL GOLFER’S ASSOCIATION
of America



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Community Calendar

The Community Calendar can be found on the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton’s website, www.jfgeb.org, by clicking on “calendar.” Updates or additions of events for the calendar can be made by contacting the Federation through its website (click on “calendar” and then “click here to request a change to the calendar”) or by calling 724-2332.

Coming to our July 17 issue...

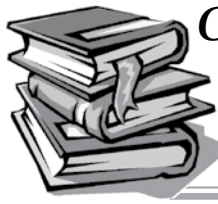
The 2020 Annual Community Guide

the largest issue of the year, with special business, dine-out, health care sections & more!

Issue date: July 17 • Ad deadline: July 9



Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton



Off the Shelf

Different styles of love

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

Sometimes when looking at a book featuring a love story, I end up debating to which genre it belongs. Would it be placed on the romance shelves of a bookstore or with works of literary fiction? The reason for my debate is that I like to judge a work by what the author is attempting to accomplish. I have nothing against either genre, but there is a difference between the two. For example, the romance genre tends to focus more on the plot, while serious fiction concentrates on the complex psychological and intellectual aspects of the relationship. However, the line between the genres is thin. Readers might question into which category Jane Austen would be placed if she were writing today. It's pretty clear, though, that the two novels featured in this review – "Never Anyone But You" by Rupert Thomson (Other Press) and "Find Me" by André Aciman (Farrar, Straus and Giroux) – would most likely not appeal to readers of the romance or rom-con genres, even though the underlying theme of both is love and its aftermath.

The more ambitious of novel is "Never Anyone But You." This work is based on the story of two real life women: half-Jewish Lucie Schwob and Suzanne Malherbe, who reinvented themselves as Claude Cahun and Marcel Moore. The two women met in 1909 when they were 14 and 17, and found themselves immediately attracted to each other. Their parents encouraged their friendship, although they were unaware of the sexual aspect of it. Their ability to hide their feelings became easier when Lucie's divorced father married Suzanne's widowed mother, allowing the two of them to claim to be sisters. That meant they could

live together without raising suspicion about the true nature of their relationship.

As Claude and Marcel, the two moved to Paris to pursue artistic careers. Claude was a writer and photographer, while Marcel tried her hand as an illustrator and photographer. Neither was very successful, although they managed to take part in the artistic excitement of post-World War I Paris, including knowing those involved in the Surrealist movement. However, the women's personal lives were sometimes rocky: Claude flirted with men and suicide. Her instability threatened their relationship, but, at least in the novel, Marcel's only desire is to be with Claude.

The two left Paris to live on Jersey, an island in the English Channel, which was invaded by the Germans during World War II. That's when the most unusual aspect of their lives occurs: these two seemingly innocuous women begin a campaign against the Nazis in order to denigrate and undermine their conquerors. Looking back, this accomplishment outshone any of their other artistic endeavors. This complex, absorbing novel portrays the joy and sorrows of a deep, enduring love.

While "Never Anyone But You" focuses on one romantic relationship, "Find Me" looks at three different ones. Although it contains some of the same characters found in Aciman's "Call Me By Your Name," the book does not feel like a sequel. The first book focused on Oliver and Elio's love affair. This work opens years later and the first section concerns a whirlwind love affair that begins when Samuel, Elio's father, travels to visit him in Rome.

On the train Samuel meets Miranda, a photographer, and his life radically changes. The next section begins several years later when Elio is in Paris and has an affair of his own with an older man, Michel. This is followed by an unpleasant look at Oliver's life as a professor in the United States before... well, saying more would spoil what little surprise the plot contains.

Aciman's characters spend a great deal of time discussing their thoughts about love, but unfortunately, their actions were not as convincing. Samuel and Miranda's romance struck me as particularly unbelievable. Elio's affair had more depth, perhaps because he was more pessimistic about its outcome. The most interesting part of the plot occurred in that section when Elio and Michel tried to learn the truth about the mysterious relationship Michel's father had with someone Jewish during World War II. Unfortunately, the result of that plot line leaves readers up in the air. Oliver's portion of the book portrayed him as a dissatisfied person whose main desire in life is to manipulate other people's feelings. The large leaps between characters and time periods made the work feel choppy since each part didn't seem to build on the other. Instead, readers are left to fill in too many blanks, something that left me disappointed and unhappy.

However, both "Never Anyone But You" and "Find Me" do offer interesting meditations about what it means to love someone. Readers may not agree with what the characters in each determine love means, but their different connections do show some of the many forms love can take.

Play Ball! Jews in the outfield (and the infield, too)

Baseball's all-time Jewish all-star team

By Bill Simons

When Esquire magazine named all-time baseball all-star teams for various ethnic groups, sarcasm preceded its Jewish selections: "There haven't been many Jewish ballplayers, let alone Jewish ballplayers of quality, and this creates problems; anyone who is left off the team is likely to feel slighted." This is a canard, rooted in the false stereotype that Jewish physical deficiencies render us under-represented amongst soldiers, astronauts and athletes. Thus, putting together an all-time Jewish baseball all-star team is not without significance.

Although some individuals are shifted away from their primary defensive position in order to make room for another strong addition, all players are assigned a position at which they have significant game experience. Definite answers to the question of who is a Jew are perhaps best left to rabbis, scholars and the state of Israel. For the purpose of this baseball team, eligibility criteria consist of affirmation of Jewish identity as well as either possessing at least one Jewish parent and/or converting to Judaism.

Shortstop Lou Boudreau and iconic batter Rod Carew, both Hall of Famers, are not included. Nor is hitting tyro Paul Goldschmidt. Raised by his Catholic father after his parents' divorce, Boudreau did not affiliate with his

mother's Judaism, and Carew, while comfortable with the raising of his daughters in the Jewish faith of his first wife and attending services with his family, neither converted nor asserted Jewishness. Goldschmidt, descended on his paternal side from Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany, espouses Christianity.

Anytime two Jews talk politics or sports, multiple opinions surface. With recognition that others have their own informed views, here's my attempt at an all-time Jewish baseball all-star team.

◆ Pitcher: Sandy Koufax was arguably, at his peak, baseball's greatest pitcher. With a blazing fastball, a wicked curve and pinpoint control, the Dodger Hall of Famer notched 97 wins, against only 27 losses, from 1963-1966. Despite an arm injury that required pitching through severe pain and ultimately necessitating retirement from the game at age 30, Koufax threw four no-hitters, including a perfect game; established a then season strikeout record of 382; led Major League Baseball in wins with season totals of 25, 26, and 27; and won a Most Valuable Player and three Cy Young awards. During the 1965 World Series, after refusing to pitch the opening game because it fell on Yom Kippur, Koufax, came back to shutout the Minnesota Twins in games five and seven.

◆ Catcher: Harry Danning, good with the bat and the mitt, was a New York Giants catcher for 10 seasons in a career abbreviated by World War II service. Nicknamed "Harry the Horse," after a Damon Runyon character, Danning, 6'1" and ruggedly built, was a gate attraction, bringing fellow Jews to the Polo Grounds to root for one of their own. Defensively, he led National League catchers in putouts four times and twice in assists, double plays and runners caught stealing. With peak season batting averages of .330, .306, .313 and .300, Danning was four times named to the NL All-Star team.

◆ First base: Kevin Youkilis, affectionately nicknamed "Youk," played primarily for the Red Sox and is one of the

most popular players in Boston history. A defensive standout at both first and third base, Youkilis, a 220-pound American League All-Star, also possessed a potent bat. Finishing third in the 2008 AL MVP vote, he had outstanding stats: .312 batting average, 43 doubles, 29 home runs and 115 RBIs. When his alma mater, the University of Cincinnati, offered to attach his name to its baseball field, Youkilis declined because of the park's association with Marge Schott, the former Cincinnati Reds owner, a vociferous antisemite.

◆ Second base: Ian Kinsler, an All-Star second baseman for the Texas Rangers and Detroit Tigers, is one of only 13 players in MLB history to reach 30-plus home runs and 30-plus stolen bases in the same season more than once. Six times, Kinsler scored 100 or more runs, and over a 14-year career recorded 1,243 runs scored. With sure hands and a quick arm, his defensive play earned Gold Glove awards. In March 2020, Kinsler, the son of a Catholic mother and Jewish father, was granted joint Israeli-U.S. citizenship and plans to represent Team Israel in the 2021 Olympics.

◆ Third Base: Al Rosen is a consensus choice as both the pre-eminent third baseman in Jewish and Cleveland Indians history. In 1950, the first of Rosen's five consecutive 100-plus RBI seasons, he set the then rookie record for home runs with 37. His unanimous AL MVP season in 1953 is generally considered the best ever by a third baseman. A strong fielder, Rosen just missed the Triple Crown in 1953; his 43 home runs and 145 RBIs topped the circuit and his .336 batting average fell just .0011 short of the lead. The muscular Rosen physically confronted antisemites and took pride in publicly being identified as a Jew.

◆ Shortstop: Alex Bregman made good on his bar mitzvah speech boast to become a major leaguer. After only four seasons, Bregman has established himself as one of the top players in Astros history with pivotal contributions to the team's 2017 and 2019 pennants. He finished second in the AL MVP vote in 2019 with a .296 batting average, 41 See "Team" on page 5

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Six-year-old on stroll discovers rare Canaanite artifact

By JNS staff

(JNS) – An Israeli 6-year-old on a hike with his family before the coronavirus lockdown in March is credited with discovering a very rare artifact attributed to the Canaanites 3,500 years ago.

Imri Elya was walking with his family at the archaeological site Tel Gama of Kibbutz Re'emim near the Gaza border when he found a square clay impression of a man who appeared to be held captive by another man, according to an Israeli Antiquities Authority press release on May 25.

As per Israeli law, Imri's parents – suspecting that the item was an ancient artifact – turned it in to the Israel Antiquities Authority and the National Treasures Department.



At left: The tablet discovered in March 2020 that shows a Canaanite captor controlling a Canaanite captive. (Photo by Israel Antiquities Authority)

The organizations photographed and documented the find, and determined that the 1.1-inch-square clay impression was probably a badge or medal of honor made to commemorate a Canaanite battle victory some time in the Late Bronze Age between the 12th and 15th centuries B.C.E. According to archaeologists, the item comes from a period in which the Egyptians ruled a Canaan divided into city-states governed by local kings that periodically had internal wars and power conflicts.

In investigating it, researchers compared it to similar artifacts, the most similar of which was discovered in Northern Sinai 100 years ago during a British excavation, according to a report by *The Times of Israel*.

See "Rare" on page 6

On the Jewish food scene Neither meat nor milk, sort of

By Rabbi Rachel Esserman

"What's this par-va thing," said the voice on the other end of the phone. That question came from the mother of a non-Jewish friend. She'd just learned she was allergic to milk and her doctor told her to look for the kosher symbol with the word *pareve* next to it. Although this was long before I was a rabbi, I still knew enough to explain that, if a product was *pareve*, that guaranteed it contained no dairy or dairy byproducts.

If she had asked me the question today, I might have gone on into more detail since the idea of *pareve* is an interesting one (although I might have given my usual promise to stop talking when I saw her eyes glaze over). The basic idea is that a *pareve* food contains no meat or dairy products. That means fruit, vegetables, grains and nuts are *pareve*. They can be eaten with meat meals and dairy ones. However, while grains themselves are *pareve*, that doesn't mean that everything made for them is. As any person who has been on a medically restricted diet soon learns, it's *all* the ingredients that count, not just the type of food. So, breads can be *pareve* or breads can contain milk. In fact, any cooked or prepared food may contain some ingredients you would least expect. (If you don't believe me, just watch a few episodes of the Food Network's "Diners, Drive-ins and Dives." I can't tell you how many times I've said, "They put that in there? I can't eat that!")

There was one *pareve* food I left out of my list above and that's because it's the one most difficult to explain: fish is *pareve*. Yes, technically, fish is neither meat nor milk,

and can be eaten with both meat and milk meals (although some folks feel so uncomfortable about that they serve fish as a separate course on its own dishes). That means the divide between meat and milk is not one between living animals and plants. In fact, in biblical times, fowl (chicken, geese, etc.) were considered *pareve*. The division seems to be between animals whose mothers feed their newborn babies milk, and those who do not. Chickens and other fowl lay eggs and have no milk to give. For a variety of reasons (which I won't go into here because your eyes would glaze over), fowl came to be considered meat, but fish still did not receive that designation.

If I had to guess why I became so interested in Jewish food studies (most of my research papers in rabbinical school had something to do with food), it's probably because of the many medical diets I've been on. Those who've shared meals with me recently would probably be surprised about how picky an eater I was as a kid. My mom once quipped that I was the

only person she knew who could look at a restaurant menu and find nothing to eat. If the food wasn't made exactly the way I ate it at home, then I wasn't interested. When I was a kid, I even wished we could just get our food as a pill. Ah, the phrase "the foolishness of the young" comes to mind when I think about that. But all my health problems taught me one thing: no food – no matter how much I liked it – was worth getting sick over. Unfortunately, it's not always easy to pinpoint what causes problems – just ask all the people who try to figure out if a food triggers their migraines.

Food – and eating – can affect us psychologically, not just physically. However, that's a topic for another day. I'm just glad that the little kid who showed little to no interest in food now enjoys the wide variety. I'm try to remind myself when I'm not thrilled with a meal that I should be grateful that I have food – even lousy food – to eat. So, whether you prefer meat, dairy or that "par-va thing," enjoy your meal. As the Israelis say, "*Beteavon*" (bon appetite)!"

Team Continued from page 4

home runs and 112 RBIs. Typically, a fixture at third base, he has a .973 fielding average in 129 games at shortstop. Despite his prominence in relief activities following Hurricane Harvey, Bergman's reputation has suffered due to the Astros' sign stealing scandal.

◆ Left Field: Hank Greenberg won the AL MVP awards at both first base (1935) and left field (1940). His .605 career slugging percentage ranks sixth amongst all batters. Despite missing four seasons to World War II military service, Greenberg won four home run titles and four RBI titles while leading the Detroit Tigers to four pennants. Until the steroid surge of 1998, Greenberg, along with Jimmie Foxx, held the season record for home runs by a right-handed batter with 58, and his 184 RBIs (1937) is one short of the AL season record. The 6'4" Hall of Famer, confronting religious bigotry and choosing synagogue over ballfield on Yom Kippur 1934, was an iconic standard bearer for fellow Jews amidst resurgent antisemitism.

◆ Center Field: Shawn Green, an All-Star with both the Blue Jays and the Dodgers, could hit, hit with power, run, field and throw. In 1999, for example, Green's line read: .309 batting average, 42 home runs, 123 RBIs, 20 stolen bases, and a Gold Glove award. While primarily a right fielder, he had a career fielding average of .994 in center. Green's 49 home runs in 2001 remains the Dodger season record. His four home runs, double and single in six at bats on May 23, 2002, is perhaps the most dominant single-game display of hitting in baseball history. In 2013, Green played and coached for Team Israel.

◆ Right Field: Ryan Braun, with 344 round trippers and counting, is the Jewish and Milwaukee Brewers career home run leader. Although normally stationed in left field, Braun has a .992 fielding percentage in 262 games in right field. The 2011 NL MVP and six-time all-star, his 2012 stats included: .319 batting average, 41 home runs, 112 RBIs and 30 stolen bases. Since his 2013 suspension for using performance-enhancing drugs, Braun has ratcheted up his involvement in youth and community service. The son of a Catholic mother and a Jewish-Israeli father, Braun expresses pride in his Jewish heritage

Play ball!
Bill Simons is a professor of history at SUNY Oneonta, whose course offerings include sport and ethnic history. He is also the co-director of The Cooperstown Symposium on Baseball and American Culture, and served as a speaker for the New York Council on the Humanities.

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ADL: Anti-Israel activities on campus contribute to Jewish students feeling “threatened”

By JNS staff

(JNS) While most anti-Israel activism on college and university campuses come in the form of political expression, a significant segment of the activism reported in 2019 contributed to an atmosphere in which Jewish students felt under attack – and from which antisemitism sometimes emerged, according to an Anti-Defamation League report released on May 27.

The report comes as some campuses plan to reopen in the fall after moving all classes online due to the coronavirus global pandemic.

“We anticipate a significant uptick in anti-Israel activity once students are able to return,” said ADL national president and CEO Jonathan Greenblatt. “Some of the more radical expressions of anti-Israel sentiment that we witnessed last year morphed into outright antisemitism. Many of these manifestations left Jewish students feeling besieged and threatened.”

“At a time when antisemitism in the U.S. has spiked to historic levels and against the backdrop of COVID-19, which has revived old anti-Jewish conspiracies, college presidents and university administrators should take steps to prevent this prejudice from violating norms on campus and diminishing the educational experience of these students.”

According to the new report titled “Anti-Semitism and the Radical Anti-Israel Movement on U.S. Campuses in 2019,” anti-Israel rhetoric and activities on campuses often emerged from the campaigns calling for boycotting the Jewish state and the implementation of annual Israeli Apartheid Week programs. Additionally, the report documented several events where pro-Israel or Jewish students felt threatened.

In September, anti-Israel and pro-BDS activist Alison Weir, who has a long history of employing antisemitic tropes and associating with antisemites including white supremacists, delivered a lecture at Clovis Community College in California.

At an October student government meeting at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, Jewish students were met with signs reading “Free Palestine F*** Zionists” as they argued against a resolution declaring that anti-Zionism is not antisemitism. The resolution ultimately passed.

One Jewish student reported that the negative impact of this incident was compounded when the student government president followed up the vote with a mass e-mail expressing personal support for the resolution. “Campus antisemitism has a significant impact on the morale of Jewish students and campus communities,” said Greenblatt. “It has contributed to the sense of siege felt by many Jewish college students. This is unacceptable and must change.”

Moreover, the report highlighted that anti-Israel groups on campuses receive much of their funding from student government resources, which generally are supported by

student activity fees. They are also supported by outside donors, including foundations, some of whom have expressed their own anti-Israel positions.

Most notable is the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, which provides “significant” funding to the anti-Israel group Jewish Voice for Peace. RBF also donates to the U.S. Campaign for Palestinian Rights and Grassroots Jerusalem, both of which have engaged in anti-Zionist rhetoric that has veered into extremism or antisemitism.

Another funder is the Westchester Peace Action Committee (or WESPAC), which provides “significant funding “to Students for Justice in Palestine. WESPAC’s own website includes antisemitic content. SJP is also funded by American Muslims for Palestine, some of whose members have a history of making antisemitic remarks.

“At a time when so many prominent philanthropists and mainstream foundations are working actively to mitigate hate and the rise of division in society, it is disappointing that there are a select few who knowingly choose to contribute to organizations that stoke divisive propaganda campaigns that fail to advance understanding or promote peace,” said Greenblatt.

The ADL report calls on campus administrators and faculty to take a series of steps to address anti-Israel incidents and antisemitism on campus, including more accurate charting of trends in the ways bias manifests on campus; establishing a reporting mechanism to assist administrators and campus leaders in preventing incidents that rise to the level of criminal or civilly liable behavior; and programming to create a more equitable and inclusive campus.

“It is crucial that administrations and other campus leaders not equivocate, but strongly condemn hate and extremism,” states the report. “In recent incidents, this has proven to be very effective.”

Rare Continued from page 5

“The scene depicted on the tablet is taken from descriptions of victory parades; hence the tablet should be identified as a story depicting the ruler’s power over his enemies. This opens a visual window to understanding the struggle for dominance in the south of the country during the Canaanite period,” the Israel Antiquities Authority said in a statement.

According to archaeologists, Tel Gama may be the site of the Canaanite city of Yurza, mentioned in ancient Egyptian letters and annals as the southernmost edge of Canaan.

As a reward for finding the item, Imri was presented with a certificate of good citizenship and was photographed with the small tablet.

Canceled Continued from page 2

When a commenter asked her if she would single out for praise some out-of-context statement of Adolf Hitler, she argued that Farrakhan’s hate was different because “he is just responsible for his own promotion of antisemitic beliefs. They are very different.”

In other words, antisemitism is just another opinion an otherwise laudable person might hold, not evidence of murderous hate.

In the current moral panic about racism, one might have expected a surge of anger directed toward Handler by her colleagues in the entertainment industry, in addition to announcements that indicated that both individuals and companies wouldn’t work with her in the future. That didn’t happen. Instead, several celebrities even more famous, such as Jennifer Anniston, Jennifer Garner and Michelle Pfeiffer, voiced support for Handler.

Handler’s ability to survive this incident with her career intact shows that myths about Hollywood being controlled by the Jews are nonsense. It’s also likely that most Jews in the entertainment industry are either so cowed by the Black

Lives Matter movement that they wouldn’t dare to act against her or actually agree that antisemitism shouldn’t disqualify Farrakhan from being considered a respected voice. But the pass for antisemitism doesn’t just exist in the arts.

In early 2019, newly elected Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN) made a splash by engaging in antisemitic incitement against Jews and Israel with accusations about AIPAC buying congressional support for Israel with “the Benjamins,” coupled with charges that supporters of the Jewish state were guilty of dual loyalty.

While many on both sides of the aisle condemned her remarks, when push came to shove, congressional Democrats refused to censor her. While at the same time Republicans were punishing Rep. Steve King (R-IA) for remarks that seemed an endorsement of white nationalism, Omar was rewarded with a seat on the Foreign Affairs Committee, where she could pursue her vendetta against Israel and support for the antisemitic BDS movement.

More than that, she got a pass from the same cultural forces that are canceling dissenters from the BLM man-

tra by being treated as an honored celebrity. Nor has that changed, since during the past two weeks she has made the rounds of the Sunday morning talk shows, where hosts like CNN’s Jake Tapper fawn on her.

The practice of shaming, shunning and silencing those with unpopular or even offensive views is antithetical to democracy and the free exchange of ideas. That is especially true when it involves actions or statements that are not actually racist.

At the same time, it says something truly ominous about our society and culture that questioning the BLM movement – even while avowing that, of course, black lives matter – can destroy a career, while endorsing antisemites and even engaging in Jew-hatred is not considered a big deal. We already know that the consequences of giving antisemites a pass can lead to horror. Apparently, those who pose as the supposedly enlightened guardians of our culture have either forgotten that or no longer care about it.

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

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Pro-Israel political groups see success in campaigning ahead of November elections

By Jackson Richman

(JNS) – As restrictions related to the coronavirus are being incrementally lifted nationwide, Jewish and pro-Israel political groups ahead of the November presidential elections have continued to conduct their business online since March, when closures first started.

While groups such as the Jewish Democratic Council of America, Democratic Majority for Israel and the Republican Jewish Coalition have been hosting virtual events, like any other organization, the relatively new reality is causing them to shift strategy in terms of organizing and campaigning.

Even before the pandemic, JDCA has “always been focused on digital advertising and organizing,” and has been “only increasing these efforts with the support of our donors to organize across the country to elect Joe Biden as the next president, usher in a Democratic-led Senate and maintain Democratic control of the House,” JDCA Executive Director Halie Soifer told JNS.

JDCA has hosted an online event with surrogates of the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, former U.S. Vice President Joe Biden, in addition to webinars with other Democrats, including U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA.) and Sens. Jacky Rosen (D-NV), Cory Booker (D-NJ) and Ben Cardin (D-MD).

JDCA has endorsed Biden, in addition to 50 or so candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. The organization also “hosted the largest national virtual phone bank for Jewish voters this election cycle, and has also launched chapters in swing states, including Wisconsin and Ohio, and is launching others before the end of June,” said Soifer.

JDCA has released several ads in support of Biden, contrasting him and his record with U.S. President Donald Trump, and focusing on “the increased danger under Trump posed by the rise of white nationalism and antisemitism,” said Soifer.

DMFI has held informational virtual events, including with Biden foreign-policy adviser and former U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Tony Blinken, and former Biden chief of staff and White House Ebola head Ron Klain. The organization has also pushed for Democrats to adopt a softer tone on Israel, possibly applying sovereignty to parts of the West Bank, including playing an “active role” in watering-down a letter by Democratic senators warning Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Benny Gantz about annexation.

This effort by DMFI included sending a memo to all the Democratic Senate offices and having meetings with some of them. “In a non-COVID world, you could go out and meet with people in person,” said Mellman. “Here, you do it on the phone and email, and so on. So it’s different, but the work goes on.”

He added that “we switched from phone calls to Zoom,” the video-conferencing application many people and businesses have been using amid the pandemic. “We were doing phone calls before to bring people together from around the country who may not be able to be in the same place at the same time,” he said. “So instead of doing those calls, we switched to virtual events, but that have video with them like Zoom.” Mellman said conducting events in this manner has allowed for a more interactive experience.

DMFI’s political action committee, DMFI PAC, has been involved in a number of Democratic primary races. For example, it did a six-figure buy against former CIA agent Valerie Plame, who in 2017 shared an antisemitic article and ended up losing on June 2 to attorney Teresa Leger Fernandez in the Democratic primary in New Mexico’s 3rd Congressional District.

Along with supporting Biden, endorsed by DMFI in March, DMFI PAC has been focused solely on primary



A sign for a U.S. polling station. (Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons)

races, some of which were pushed off due to the global pandemic.

Races included the June 23 race between Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY), chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and progressive Jamaal Bowman in New York’s 16th Congressional District. Bowman, who has been endorsed by Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY), and the group Justice Democrats have been critical of Israel, such as calling for conditioning U.S. assistance

to there; Engel is known as a “steadfast supporter” of the Jewish state.

On the other side of the aisle, the Republican Jewish Coalition has been campaigning to re-elect Trump and other Republicans, in addition to new GOP candidates to Congress. The organization’s National Victory Team “has been conducting extensive Jewish outreach after seamlessly transitioning to virtual grassroots efforts,” RJC spokesperson Neil Strauss told JNS.

RJC has so far “executed 11 successful National Days of Action, with hundreds of RJC volunteers participating across the country, supporting President Trump and the GOP,” he said.

Conducting business digitally has been beneficial, maintained Strauss, who cited his organization’s “increased ability to reach more voters at home” through “phone calls, text messages, e-mail, digital, social media, etc.

“We’ve seen a dramatic spike in the percentage of voters we’re able to directly connect with, compared to pre-COVID circumstances, which makes these modes of grassroots outreach even more valuable. Since March 1, we have spoken to 106,968 persuadable Jewish voters in specific battleground states using our cutting-edge technology, our large investment in data modeling to discover Jewish voters – data no one else has – and the best volunteers in politics.” See “Elections” on page 11



Six-point vehicle check: a gift that keeps on giving

(NAPSI) – A six-point vehicle check is a gift that will keep on giving, both in better vehicle performance and fewer unexpected repairs, says the Car Care Council.

“Inspecting six key systems ahead of time can save you the headaches and cost of an emergency breakdown later,” said Rich White, executive director of the Car Care Council. “Regular vehicle maintenance is always more convenient when you’re doing it on your own schedule. By taking a few easy preventive maintenance steps now, you can have more confidence when driving in severe winter weather.”

The Car Care Council recommends this vehicle check:

1. Battery – Keep the battery connections clean, tight and corrosion-free. Cold weather is hard on batteries, so it’s wise to check the battery and charging system for optimum performance. Because batteries don’t always give warning signs before they fail, it is advisable to replace batteries that are more than 3 years old.

2. Antifreeze – Antifreeze (coolant) should be flushed and refilled at least every two years in most vehicles. Don’t add 100 percent antifreeze, however, as full-strength antifreeze actually has a lower freeze point than when mixed with water.

3. Brakes – Have the brake system checked. Brakes are

critical to vehicle safety and particularly important when driving on icy or snow-covered roads.

4. Tires – Check the tire tread depth and tire pressure. If snow and ice are a problem where you’ll be driving, consider tires designed to grip slick roads. Check tire pressure weekly, as tires lose pressure when temperatures drop.

5. Oil – Be diligent about changing the oil at recommended intervals and check the fuel, air and transmission filters at the

same time. Consider changing to low-viscosity oil in winter, as it will flow more easily between moving parts when cold. In subzero driving temperatures, drop oil weight from 10W-30 to 5W-30, as thickened oil can make it hard to start the car.

6. Wiper Blades – Cold weather can affect the life of windshield wipers, making the rubber hard and brittle and increasing the potential for cracks. Wiper blades that are torn, See “Check” on page 9

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A community service message from
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Press & Sun Bulletin
READERS' CHOICE
Awards

Resources.....Continued from page 3

◆ National Museum of Jewish American History will offer the live program “Conversation and Concert with Rabbi Yosef Goldman” on Wednesday, July 1, at 6 pm. It will explore the music of Goldman’s new album, “Open My Heart.” Goldman will sit down virtually with NMAJH public programs manager and musician Dan Samuels to talk about his upbringing, musical influences, favorite collaborators and what drives his efforts to heal the world with music. There will be a premiere of never-before-seen recordings of Goldman and other musicians created during the making of the album. There is no cost for the program, although donations will be accepted. The program will be available on the NMAJH Facebook page and at NMAJH.org via a pop-up message on the homepage.

◆ Jewish Book Week will hold the webinar “Rebecca Abrams in conversation with Yoel Finkelman: Jewish Treasures” on Wednesday, July 8, at 2 pm. Rebecca Abrams, award-winning author of “The Jewish Journey,” will present “Jewish Treasures: an exploration of

the Bodleian Library’s world-class Jewish manuscripts collection.” Dating back to the Bodleian’s beginning, the collections represent four centuries of collecting and a thousand years of Jewish history. In conversation with Yoel Finkelman, curator of the Judaica Collection at the National Library of Israel, Abrams will discuss many highlights of the collection, which includes a fragment of Maimonides’ autograph draft of the Mishneh Torah with his handwritten edits; one of the oldest surviving Jewish seals (or “starr”) in England; manuscripts from the Cairo Genizah documenting the cultural and religious life of Egypt’s medieval Jewish community; illuminated Hebrew Bibles collected by Benjamin Kennicott; and the earliest dated fragment of the Talmud. To register for the event, visit <https://mailchi.mp/jewishbookweek/jewish-treasures>.

◆ Those who missed the AJC’s “A Conversation with Dr. Anwar Gargash, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, United Arab Emirates” can view it at <https://www.ajc.org/news/a-conversation-with-dr-anwar-gargash-minister-of-state-for-foreign-affairs-united-arab>. In it, Dr. Anwar Gargash, minister of state for foreign affairs of the United Arab Emirates, details his nation’s efforts to promote regional stability and interfaith cooperation. Other sessions of AJC’s Virtual Global Forum 2020 can be found at www.ajc.org/globalforumnews2020.

◆ The Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU will hold an “Author Talk with Marcia Jo Zerivitz: ‘Jews of Florida: Centuries of Stories’” on Sunday, July 12, at 2 pm, via Zoom. In celebration of the museum’s 25th anniversary, Marcia Jo Zerivitz will use a PowerPoint presentation to highlight some stories that represent the themes of her newest book, “Jews of Florida: Centuries of Stories.” The images will reflect the contributions of Floridian Jews and make connections to Florida history and current global issues. To register for the event, visit <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/jmoffiu/event/816319/>.

◆ Elmad offers a four-part class called “Tales of Hasidic Tales with Rabbi Levi Cooper” at <https://elmad.pardes.org/tales-of-hasidic-tales-with-rabbi-levi-cooper/>. Cooper currently teaches *chasidut*, Maimonides and *midrash* at Pardes. He has also taught Bible, Talmud and the philosophy of *halachah*. He previously served as the director of the Fellows program and the director of the Kollel, as well as heading the Pardes Educational Seminar to Turkey.

◆ The Center for Jewish History will hold “Virtual Visit: Meet Emma Lazarus” on Sunday, June 28, at 11 am. In the live, interactive program, children will have the opportunity to engage with Emma Lazarus, a poetess, about her life and the issues of her time. Lazarus will encourage families to identify a cause that they care about and discover their own creative voice. The program is recommended for children

ages 7-12, but all families are welcome to watch. The is no cost for the program, but registration is required. The register, visit <https://programs.cjh.org/event/meet-emma-lazarus-2020-06-28>.

◆ Adamah at Home is a three-week virtual program to build food skills, ecological connection and Jewish community that will be held from July 6-26. It is open to all aged 18 and older who can commit to 12-15 hours a week. The program will support students in getting their hands dirty – growing food on balconies or in backyards, preparing and preserving food in the kitchen, and exploring their local food system. The program is being offered on a sliding scale. Applications are due Wednesday, July 1, or until 25 spots are filled. For more information, visit <https://hazon.org/adamah/adamah-at-home>.

◆ The Jewish National Fund is offering virtual tours of Israel. The tours include regular tourist sites, off-the-beaten-path sites, Jewish National Fund projects and places. Included are the Old City of Jerusalem, Ayalon Institute, Rosh Ha’Nikra, Akko, JNF’s Sderot Indoor Recreation Center, Be’er Sheva, Timna Park and more. The \$50 registration fee (\$36 for JNF future tours) per Zoom spot includes a week of live touring in Israel for one hour a day Monday-Friday. After a break, there will be one-hour social dinner/cocktail hour. Friday will feature a one-hour pre-Shabbat experience. For more information, visit www.jnf.org/travel-pages/jnf-virtual-tours-to-israel or contact Rebecca Cohen at rcohen2@jnf.org or 212-879-9305, ext. 256.

◆ Yeshiva University, the Rabbinical Council of America and the Orthodox Union will hold a “*Siyum* and *Shloshim* in Memory of Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm” on Sunday, June 28, at 9 pm. There will be a short feature film, “Rabbi Lamm in His Own Words: The Role of Torah in the Modern World,” followed by a *siyum*. The event will be live streamed at bit.ly/RabbiLammSiyum.

◆ The Ayin Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies releases its second educational film bringing Torah and science together. “Quantum Torah with Alexander Poltorak II” is a short documentary about Torah and science that seeks to uncover parallels between Jewish tradition and quantum physics. The second episode in this series focuses on wave-particle duality as a metaphor for principles of KLAL (general) and PRAT (particular) – cornerstones of biblical hermeneutics, quantum-mechanical superposition. The film can be seen at <https://youtu.be/nIoX7H8vQCA> or on the YouTube Quantum Torah channel at www.youtube.com/c/QuantumTorah.

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

NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

Iran announces successful Indian Ocean missile test

Iran announced on June 18 that it had completed a successful test of domestically made missiles in a military exercise in the Indian Ocean. The exercise, named “Ramadan Martyrs,” was held to test new short- and long-range cruise missiles, Iran’s Tasnim News Agency reported. The missiles hit their targets at a distance of 280 kilometers (174 miles), according to the report. The report comes on the heels of a statement on June 16 by U.S. Special Representative for Iran Brian Hook that Washington is seeking to extend the arms embargo on Tehran indefinitely. The arms embargo, set to expire in October, was established in the framework of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the nuclear deal reached between Iran and world powers in 2015. Also on June 16, the chief of staff of Iran’s armed forces, Maj. Gen. Mohammad Hossein Baqeri, was quoted by a member of the Iranian Parliament as having said in a closed-door meeting that the United States tried to bribe and then threatened the crews of five oil tankers transporting fuel to Venezuela, Iran’s Fars News Agency reported. According to a report by a news agency affiliated with Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, Tehran’s naval forces were preparing to attack American commercial vessels in the Gulf in May, in the event that U.S. forces intercepted Iranian oil tankers heading to Venezuela.



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Build a road map to help seniors stop or reduce driving

(NAPSI) – Parents don’t hesitate to talk to their teenagers about driving safely, but no one is talking to seniors.

Many older people rely on driving for the independence and freedom to go where they want, when they want. The idea of giving up driving often sparks feelings of anger, anxiety and loneliness. Though many drivers can continue to drive safely as they get older, physical and cognitive changes may put older adults in jeopardy on the road.



Developing an objective process to assess a loved one’s driving abilities, communicate concerns, and plan ways to transition driving practices can help take the emotion out of the situation.

To help families start the dialogue, occupational therapist and senior driving expert Elin Schold Davis offers five suggestions.

1. Do all you can to keep a safe driver safer. For example, explore the CarFit program, an educational program created by the American Society on Aging and developed with the

American Automobile Association, AARP and the American Occupational Therapy Association, available at www.car-fit.org. CarFit is designed to help older drivers find out how well their personal vehicles suit them and highlight actions they can take to improve.

See “Driving” on page 9

Have A Safe Summer - Don't Drink & Drive

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**DRINKING
AND
DRIVING
IS A DEADLY COMBO**

Israel team aims to reach Neptune's moon with Trident project

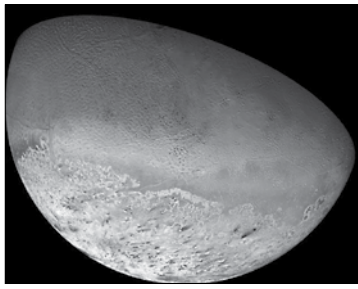
By Brian Blum

(Israel21c via JNS) – Is there life on Triton, the largest moon circling the planet Neptune? An Israeli project aims to find out. One of its key measurement tools will be a super-accurate clock that loses less than one second every 10 million years.

But first, the Israeli project – dubbed “Trident” after the Roman sea god Neptune’s three-pronged spear – must be chosen by NASA to head to space.

Trident, sponsored by the Weizmann Institute of Science

At right: A global mosaic of Neptune's moon Triton, taken in 1989 by Voyager 2 during its flyby of the Neptune system. (Photo courtesy of NASA/JPL/USG)



and the Israel Space Agency, is one of four projects chosen out of 22 proposals. Each project will now receive \$3 million. However, only two will make the final cut for launch in 2026. The craft is expected to reach Neptune in 2038.

Some 4.5 billion kilometers (2.8 billion miles) from Earth, Triton is a promising candidate for finding life in the solar system: Scientists suspect that it has a liquid water ocean under its icy surface.

Triton orbits in the opposite direction to all the other moons See “Neptune” on page 12



Driving Continued from page 8

2. Get the facts. Any decisions about driving cessation should be based on data. Seniors deserve to have more than just opinions influencing whether or not they can continue to drive. Get the facts with evaluations from medical professionals, such as a physical or vision exam. Encourage your loved one to take a driving self-assessment.

3. Listen and communicate. Listen to your loved one's concerns to help understand and develop a plan with which he or she feels comfortable.

4. Create a plan with plenty of alternatives. When you get to the root of an aging adult's concerns, it's easier to create a plan that meets his or her needs. For example, if isolation is a concern, look into public transportation or consider friends or family members who are willing to drive.

5. Explore new technologies. Assistive technologies, such as emergency response systems, smart headlights and blind spot warning systems, can help keep older drivers safer on the road.

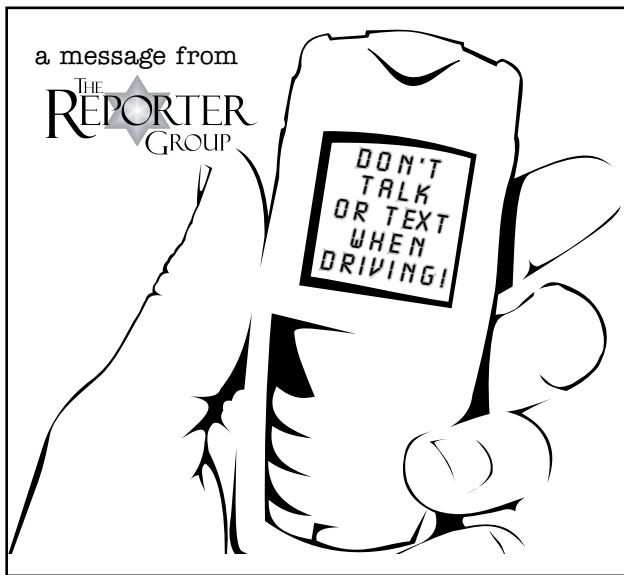
A survey by Home Instead Inc. found that 95 percent of surveyed seniors have not talked to their loved ones about driving. To see “Let's Talk about Driving” resources, including the free “Safe Driving Planner,” which helps seniors assess their driving habits, visit www.LetsTalkAboutDriving.com.

Check Continued from page 7

cracked or don't properly clean your windshield should be replaced. Some manufacturers offer special winter blades that have a rubber boot covering the arm assembly to keep snow and ice out. When changing the blades, have the windshield wiper system nozzles cleaned and adjusted if necessary, and check the fluid level in the windshield washer reservoir.

During the cold months, keep your vehicle's gas tank at least half full as that decreases the chance of moisture forming in the gas lines and possibly freezing. And if you're due for a tune-up, consider having it done soon. Winter magnifies existing problems such as pings, hard starts, sluggish performance or rough idling.

The Car Care Council is the source of information for the “Be Car Care Aware” consumer education campaign promoting the benefits of regular vehicle care, maintenance and repair to consumers. For more information or for a free “Car Care Guide,” visit www.carcare.org.



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To advertise in the next *Safe Driving* issue, please contact **Bonnie Rozen** at 724-2360, ext. 244 or bonnie@thereportergroup.org

Issue date: June 26
Ad deadline: June 18

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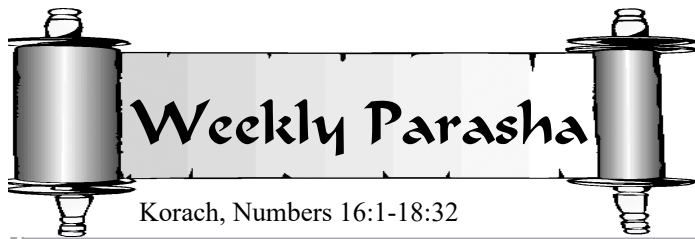
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- Tioga County Stop DWI



Weekly Parasha

Korach, Numbers 16:1-18:32

A hierarchical society

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR THE REPORTER GROUP

The idea of a hierarchical society based on inherited family status seems to go against the grain of American society. Family fortunes and influence wax and wane over time; the major players in each decade can belong to different ethnic and religious groups. However, in biblical times, certain types of status were clearly decreed by God. For example, in the opening sections of Korach, this week's *parasha*, God rejects the rebellions of Korach, Dathan and Abiram, showing that the priesthood belongs only to Aaron's family. The portion also makes clear that the tribe of Levi is to play an important role in the religious offerings, the sacrifices, which were demanded by God.

Once a priestly class is selected, a problem arises: How is society to support them? After all, if the priests are spending their days doing God's work, they can't

be farmers and shepherds. The answer can be found in Numbers 18:25-28, when God tells Moses to say to the Levites, "You will speak to the Levites and say to them, 'When you take a tithe [tax] from the children of Israel that I [God] have given to you, you will set apart of it a gift for the Lord... and you will give that gift that was also set apart to the Lord to Aaron the priest.'" While the Levites receive a percentage of produce raised by others for their own use, they also have to tithe what they receive. That portion is said to be an inheritance for God, although it's the priests who receive the actual goods.

When you think about it, it makes sense that if society (or God) requires people to perform certain tasks for the good of society (in this case, the sacrifices that keep God happy), then the rest of the population should support them.

The biblical tax is a reasonable one, unlike that demanded by many kings; people gave one-tenth of what they raised. If there was a bad harvest, then everyone – including the Levites and priests – would suffer. Of course, according to the biblical text – which claims that if people behave correctly, they will have a good harvest – a bad harvest would mean that God was unhappy with Israel.

While the idea of a hierarchical society may not resonate with us, the idea of supporting those who work for the good of others still does. We have institutions – our synagogues, the Federation, Jewish Family Service, etc. – that could not help others without public support. Rather than giving part of our earnings to the priestly class, we can give that tithe to help those in need – if only to show our gratitude for all we do receive.

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 27, the Torah portion is Numbers 16:1-18:32 and the haftarah is 1 Samuel 11:14-12:22. At 9:30 pm, Rabbi Geoffrey Brown will lead Havdalah services via Zoom.

On Sunday, June 28, 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.

The temple office will be closed on Fridays, June 26 and July 3.

The bat mitzvah of Laura Weinstein scheduled for June 27 will be rescheduled to a future date.

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

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 Rabbi Aaron and Rivkah Slonim, Directors
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 Phone: 797-0015, Fax: 797-0095
 Website: www.Chabadofbinghamton.com
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 Rabbi Yisroel and Goldie Ohana, Programming
 E-mail: yohana@Jewishbu.com, gohana@Jewishbu.com
 Regular service times: Daily 7:30 am, Friday evening 6 pm, Shabbat morning 9:30 am, Maariv and Havdalah one hour after candle-lighting time, Sundays 9:30 am.
 To join the mailing list, for up-to-date information on adult education offerings or to arrange for a private tutorial, for details concerning the Judaica shop and resource center, or for assistance through the Piaker Free Loan Society or Raff Maasim Tovim Foundation, call Chabad's office at 797-0015.

Chabad will be holding pre-Shabbat virtual programs. For more information, visit www.JewishBU.com/S2020Partnership.

Synagogues limit face-to-face gatherings

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

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

Congregation Tikkun v'Or

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

Temple Beth-El of Ithaca

Affiliation: United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism
 Rabbi: Miriam T. Spitzer
 Rabbi Emeritus: Scott L. Glass
 Address: 402 North Tioga St. (the corner of Court and Tioga streets), Ithaca, NY 14850-4292
 Phone: 273-5775
 E-mail: rabbi@tbeithaca.org and secretary@tbeithaca.org
 Website: www.tbeithaca.org
 President: Randy Ehrenberg
 Sisterhood President: Julie Paige
 Director of Education: Rabbi Suzanne Brody
 Administrative Assistant: Jane Griffith
 Services: Friday 8 pm; Saturday 10 am, unless otherwise announced. Weekday morning minyan 7:30 am (9 am on Sundays and legal holidays).
 Religious School/Education: September-May: Classes meet on Sunday, 9 am-12:30 pm and Wednesday afternoons, 3:45-5:45 pm. The Midrashah (eighth grade and high school) classes will meet at times designated by their respective teachers.
 Adult Ed.: Numerous weekly courses, several semester-long courses and a variety of mini-courses and lectures are offered throughout the year. Call the temple office for more details.

Kol Haverim

Affiliation: Society for Humanistic Judaism
 Address: P.O. Box 4972, Ithaca, NY 14852-4972
 Phone: 607-277-3345
 E-mail: info@kolhaverim.net
 Website: www.kolhaverim.net
 Chairwoman: Abby Cohn
 Kol Haverim: The Finger Lakes Community for Humanistic Judaism, is an Ithaca-based organization that brings people together to explore and celebrate Jewish identity, history, culture and ethics within a secular, humanistic framework. KH is part of an international movement for Secular Humanistic Judaism and is affiliated with the Society for Humanistic Judaism, a national association with over 30 member communities and congregations around the country. Established in the spring of 1999, it offers celebrations of Jewish holidays, monthly Shabbat pot-lucks, adult education, a twice-monthly Cultural School for children, and a bar and bat mitzvah program.
 KH welcomes all individuals and families, including those from mixed religious backgrounds, who wish to strengthen the Jewish experience in their lives and provide their children with a Jewish identity and experience.

Friday, June 26, light candles before..... 8:25 pm
 Saturday, June 27, Shabbat ends 9:26 pm
 Friday, July 3, light candles before 8:24 pm
 Saturday, July 4, 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 26: Shabbat services, which will celebrate Pride Month and use additional materials, 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 27: 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 27: "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/.

Friday, July 3: Shabbat services celebrating the United States at 7 pm. The service will include patriotic songs and readings for the July 4th weekend. To attend, visit <https://binghamton.zoom.us/j/97613250758>, or call 1-929-205-6099 and enter meet ID # 976 1325 0758 and password 610020, or visit www.facebook.com/templeconcord/.

Saturday, July 4: 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. There will be no "Havdalah with a Bonus" program on July 4.

Penn-York Jewish Community

President-Treasurer-Secretary: Harvey Chernosky, 570-265-3869
 B'nai B'rith: William H. Seigel Lodge
 Purpose: To promote Jewish identity through religious, cultural, educational and social activities in the Southern Tier of New York and the Northern Tier of Pennsylvania, including Waverly, NY; Sayre, Athens and Towanda, PA, and surrounding communities.

Norwich Jewish Center

Orientation: Inclusive
 Rabbi: David Regenspan
 Address: 72 South Broad St., Norwich, NY 13815
 Contact: Guilia Greenberg, 336-1523
 Purpose: To maintain a Jewish identity and meet the needs of the Jewish community in the area.
 Adult Ed.: Saturday morning study is held at 10 am. Call for more information and to confirm.

Temple Brith Sholom

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

IDF hosts virtual conference with militaries worldwide to discuss pandemic insights

By Yaakov Lappin

(JNS) – The Israel Defense recently held a video conference – the first of its kind – with militaries around the world to discuss insights on technological trends and operational issues during the coronavirus pandemic. Lt. Col. O, from the J6 (teleprocessing) and Cyber Defense Directorate, which organized the conference, told JNS that about 60 participants from 19 countries in 45 locations took part.

“The organization principle was, first of all, to be in touch at a time when there are no delegations and no outbound travel since March,” explained the officer. “This contact is very important for us.”

The aim of the conference is to create a community of knowledge for information-sharing in the pandemic era, he added, allowing participants to also see, hear and speak to one another, while sharing valuable lessons.

Countries that took part included the United States, Britain, Thailand, Cyprus, Greece and several others. The video conference featured lectures by IDF representatives who outlined ways in which the Israeli military’s J6 and Cyber Defense Directorate adapted itself, as a technological unit, to the coronavirus restrictions.

“We explained how the unit accesses data on platforms, how it changed its modus

operandi in working from home and what tools were needed for this. How we manage a routine of remote learning and the ways we had to think out of the box to provide unique solutions,” stated Lt. Col. O.

The IDF participants shared insights on remote personnel management, the development of specialized applications to suit the social-distancing regulations, such as the one developed for the families of fallen soldiers in the absence of Remembrance Day events this year, and the unit’s support for national efforts.

Presentations also included ways that the directorate supported the IDF Home Front Command technologically, in addition to the creation of a database support tool for the medical system.

The conference saw generals, colonels and lieutenant colonels from around the world participate, with other militaries presenting their own ways of coping with the times. The conference discussed cyber-defense efforts in recent months as well.

“It was a highly fruitful dialogue,” said Lt. Col. O. “It underlined how small the world ultimately is. When modern militaries in Europe, Asia, the East and the West are all dealing with the same challenges, it becomes clear that we are part of a global village.”

Officers from the IDF’s software unit, Shachar, and the broader Unit for Telecommunications and Information Technology (known by its Hebrew acronym, Lotem) provided examples during the conference of digital-transformation processes and how to handle digital command in the cyber era.

They discussed how commanders must deal with sudden equipment requirements, how colonels remotely manage their subordinates, and ways in which career officers functioned when their partners lost their jobs and their children were out of school and at home. Making information accessible was a common theme throughout the IDF presentations.

The international participants took note of the Israelis’ agility and speed of adaptivity, which occurred despite the firm

observance of information security protocols. Due to the singular security demands and location of the Jewish state, the IDF simply did not have the option of closing bases and telling personnel not to show up for a month, noted the officer. As a result, it created “capsule” solutions for smaller teams in one space, alongside new secure remote working channels.

“We won’t harm our own operational tempo because the challenges have not changed. We still need to maintain a high alert,” Lt. Col. O said. “Our challenges in cyber defense and the broader military-regional challenges have not changed. We have to monitor enemy networks continuously. ... This won’t be the last event of its kind. The dialogue was very important. We all share defense challenges and the need to protect information. We are all obligated to change.”

He added that “the idea of doing these things remotely is very comfortable. It is easy to organize. We are probably not far from the time that another military will take up the initiative and host the next conference.”

Meanwhile, just as that conference took place, the IDF also held a study forum on the fight against the pandemic, in which officers presented interim conclusions and preparations for a potential second wave. The conference was led by Chief of the General Staff Lt. Gen. Aviv Kochavi and saw the participation of the General Staff Forum and other senior commanders.

As part of the conference, case studies from units whose activity changed due to the virus were presented. The commander of the elite Sayeret Matkal special force, Col. J, presented ways in which the unit operated to assist the testing system.

The head of the Research and Develop-



A certificate was presented for IDF efforts in maintaining functionality, as well as for projects designed to support the civilian economy and provide medical assistance. (Photo courtesy of IDF Spokesperson’s Unit)

ment Department in the Intelligence Directorate, Col. N, discussed the activities of the National Information and Knowledge Center that was set up to deal with the pandemic.

Following the study forum, as ceremony units were awarded with certificates for their efforts in maintaining functionality, as well as for projects designed to support the civilian economy and provide medical assistance.

“You were called to the mission during the outbreak of the pandemic, and you reported for duty,” said Kochavi. “Various efforts were made across the country – combat soldiers in the streets of Bnei Brak and Jerusalem distributed food; troops assisted in public outreach efforts; commanders assisted the local municipalities, hotels and hospitals; and the technological units toiled day and night to develop methods and advanced measures to support the effort.

“The IDF does not rest,” he said. “We learn, review and draw the relevant conclusions to improve our readiness for the future, as part of the preparations for a second wave, with the hope that it will not come.”



The IDF participants shared insights on remote personnel management, the development of specialized applications to suit the social-distancing regulations. (Photo courtesy of IDF Spokesperson’s Unit)

NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

Report: Investment in Israeli fintech companies up in 2019

Investment in Israeli financial technology companies rose by 107 percent in 2019, reaching a record \$1.8 billion, according to a report released on June 17 by NGO Start-Up Nation Central. Israel is ranked fifth in the world in fintech investments after China, the United States, Britain and India, and accounts for 5.1 percent of global investment in the field, according to Reuters.

Elections. Continued from page 7

Despite the millions of jobs lost and businesses shuttered due to COVID-19, the RJC’s political action committee, RJC PAC, has experienced “very strong” fund-raising, following “a slight downturn” during the first few weeks that social-distancing guidelines were put into effect across the country earlier this year, according to Strauss. “Fund-raising for the RJC has similarly been quite successful,” he said. “What we are seeing from our members is that they are especially energized for this election.”

Strauss emphasized that “President Trump has been the most pro-Israel president in history. He has stood shoulder to shoulder with the Jewish community to combat antisemitism, and he has delivered an economic climate that will prove ready to bounce back from COVID-19 and resume being the strongest economy in our lifetime. When faced with the reality of needing to re-elect President Trump, holding the Senate, and winning back the House versus the alternative of Democrat leadership, our membership has responded in a big way. Through this support, we have been able to maintain our commitment to putting forth our largest ever effort this election season.”

He said that Americans “will see our ads on TVs and devices, get our mailings, and hear from our staff and volunteers this year because our supporters have made that investment in us.”

Also important to note is that those without access to devise or high-tech apps won’t be shut out of the technological political campaign season, the aforementioned organizations told JNS.

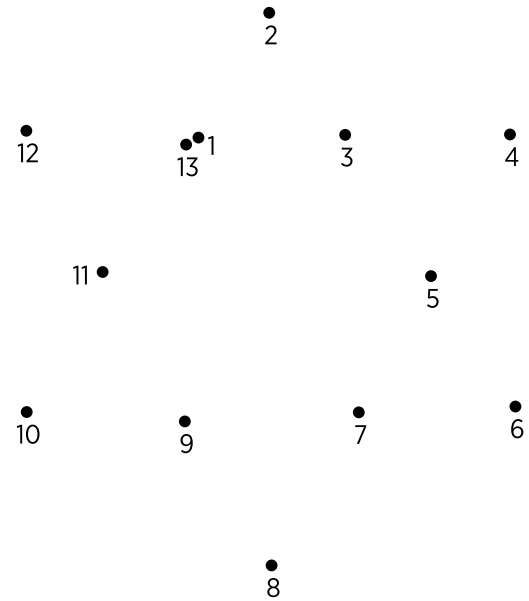
“No matter where a voter may fall on the tech-savvy spectrum, almost all voters know how to use and operate a basic phone system,” said Strauss. “RJC is currently in the process of organizing special tele-town hall events featuring high-profile VIPs that even the least tech-savvy voters will be able to participate in.”

Additionally, continued Strauss, “streamlined programming, along with other grassroots outreach such as direct mail, will enable RJC to connect and appeal to all Jewish voters.”

Soifer said her organization has been “providing training for all our volunteers to phone bank and text bank, and JDCA volunteers are already busy making calls to voters. The biggest change in light of the pandemic is that we will not be canvassing for the foreseeable future, and we’re advocating for expanded vote by mail.”

For DMFI’s Zoom events, participants can also choose to call in by phone instead of using the video feature. Still, Mellman acknowledged that “if you don’t have a phone or a computer, it’s a lot harder for you to plug in, there’s no question about it.”

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NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

Construction of new Holocaust memorial underway in Vienna

Construction has begun on a Holocaust memorial in Vienna for the 65,000 Austrian Jews killed by the Nazis during World War II. Called "The Memorial to the Jewish Children, Women and Men of Austria who were Murdered in the Shoah," the structure will be made of large slabs and include the names of the 64,000 known Jewish victims and the 1,000 whose names have been lost. According to the memorial's website, "Descendants of those who were murdered should, without being disturbed, be able to search for the names of their relatives, to touch the letters with their hand, to say a prayer, to light a memorial candle. For all Austrians, the memorial should offer a quiet place, in which they can remember the fate of their Jewish fellow citizens and honor their lives, today and in future generations." The "Association for Building a Wall of Names Memorial," which spearheaded the project, says that the location of the memorial—Ostarrichi Park—was selected for its easy access to visitors and its quiet environment, "as befits a place of reverence." The cost of the memorial is estimated at 5.3 million euros (about \$6 million). It is being funded in part by the Austrian government, local authorities and through donations from the Austrian business community. It is slated for completion by next spring.

Report: Israel turns to fish to prevent Iranian hacking

Following a reported Iranian hack of Israel's water infrastructure in April, the country's National Cyber Directorate took responsibility for overseeing and protecting the water supply system—using, among other things, fish. In addition to high-tech detection systems, Israel also employs fish at the Eshkol water purification site in Beersheva to monitor the water and to detect any changes, according to Channel 12. The fish, in aquariums filled with drinking water, are monitored by camera around the clock for early warning signs of harmful contaminants. "The little ones react faster to changes in the water, and the bigger fish react to build-up effects in the water quality over time," said water quality engineer Ortal Shlafman, according to the report. "The control room watches them all the time—are they swimming faster or slower?" she added. In the April incident, Iran allegedly attempted to remotely add dangerous levels of chlorine to Israel's drinking water in what could have caused widespread panic, injury or even death had the attack been successful.

Israel and Iran are reportedly engaged in a cyber war, with Iran constantly attempting to hack Israeli systems and Israel allegedly sending Iran messages to back off. One such message was reportedly sent by Israel in May, when the computers that regulate shipping traffic at Iran's bustling Shahid Rajaei Port all crashed simultaneously, bringing activity at the port to an abrupt halt for several days. Iranian officials later acknowledged that an unknown attacker had briefly knocked the port's computers offline.

Tel Aviv mayor says city to recognize, grant benefits to same-sex couples

Tel Aviv Mayor Ron Huldai announced on June 21 that the city was instituting a new policy allowing same-sex and non-traditional couples to register for tax, child care and other benefits. "In honor of Pride Week, we have decided to challenge the government and allow couples to declare their union," Huldai said in a statement posted to Facebook. The policy would also allow heterosexual couples that do not wish to marry through the Chief Rabbinate to register as a couple without leaving the country as is the current practice. The state legally recognizes civil marriages performed abroad, but they are not recognized according to Jewish law and the Chief Rabbinate. Gay marriage is not allowed in Israel, as the Chief Rabbinate has jurisdiction over marriages in the country and does not recognize same-sex unions.

Tel Aviv University cybersecurity course ranked top in the world

Tel Aviv University's free online cybersecurity course has been ranked the top online cybersecurity course in the world by Class Central, a website which compares reviews of online university training platforms around the world. The "Unlocking Information Security" course, which covers topics such as cryptography, security of identification systems, attacks and defenses on the internet, as well as viruses and other malware, is already in use by students in 150 countries. It was launched by professor Avishai Wool and Dan Gittik in cooperation with the Israeli company Check Point Software Technologies, and reached the top ranking in just six months. It also came in first in cryptography and sixth among all 1,750 online computer courses, according to Tel Aviv University, even outstripping courses by top universities such as Princeton and Stanford. "Students around the world are looking for the most current and relevant courses," said Yuval Shraibman, director of TAU Online, the Center for Educational Innovation at Tel Aviv University. "To our

great joy, Israel is considered a leading power in the field of cybersecurity, and this new course, therefore, attracts many young people who want to train in information security."

ADL joins other civil-rights groups in calling for July boycott of Facebook

The Anti-Defamation League, along with several civil-rights groups, is calling for corporations to boycott Facebook in July over its unwillingness to ban hate speech on the social-media company's platform. The groups, including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Sleeping Giants, Color of Change, Free Press and Common Sense, launched a full-page ad in *The Los Angeles Times* on June 17 saying Facebook has not done enough to combat hate and disinformation. "We have long seen how Facebook has allowed some of the worst elements of society into our homes and our lives. When this hate spreads online it causes tremendous harm and also becomes permissible offline," ADL national director and CEO Jonathan Greenblatt said in a statement. Noting that Facebook had "repeatedly failed" to act, Greenblatt said that "we hope this campaign finally shows Facebook how much their users and their advertisers want them to make serious changes for the better." Last November, actor and comedian Sasha Baron Cohen, upon receiving the Anti-Defamation League's International Fellowship Award, ripped into Facebook and other social-media giants for allowing hate speech to flourish on their platforms. "I believe it's time for a fundamental rethinking of social media and how it spreads hate, conspiracies and lies," Cohen said at the ADL conference. Last October, the ADL accepted a \$2.5 million donation from Facebook's COO Sheryl Sandberg in the aftermath of the antisemitic attack on a synagogue in Halle, Germany. Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg has faced continued criticism for not doing more to police its platform for false or misleading statements, including from U.S. President Donald Trump. Instead, the social media company has launched a "massive" drive to boost voter registration across its platforms as part of a "Voting Information Center" to help educate voters on how to register, find polling places or vote by mail. On June 18, Facebook removed Trump campaign ads targeting Antifa that featured an upside-down red triangle that apparently resembled a Nazi symbol. Facebook removed the ads after the ADL said it closely resembled badges the Nazis used to identify political prisoners in concentration camps, reported *The Washington Post*.

CA police investigate toppled Holocaust memorial fountain

A Holocaust memorial fountain in Santa Rosa, CA, was vandalized the week of June 19. The fountain at Santa Rosa Memorial Park was "toppled onto the ground in pieces," reported *The Santa Rosa Press Democrat*. The memorial was built in 2016 by Daniel Judd in honor of his parents, Emil and Lillian Judd. His mother, Lillian, was a Holocaust survivor who died at age 92 from complications related to a stroke that year. Behind the fountain, which can be used as a hand-washing station, is a mosaic and list of 12 Jews who perished in the Holocaust. Police are investigating the vandalism as a potential hate crime.

Neptune. . . Continued from page 9

of Neptune, leading some researchers to suggest that the moon may have originated outside our solar system and been trapped long ago by Neptune's gravitational field. Its surface is just a few million years old and exhibits what appears to be intense geological activity. That is known from pictures shot by Voyager 2, the last vessel to visit Neptune and its moons, some 30 years ago. The pictures revealed geysers spewing liquid nitrogen in the area around the moon's south pole.

Voyager only came within 40,000 kilometers (25,000 miles) of Triton. The new mission aims to maneuver as close as 500 kilometers (310 miles).

The Trident mission also plans to analyze the atmosphere of Triton using the clock to be built by the Jerusalem-based firm Accubeat with funding from Israel's Ministry of Science and Technology. The clock will be used to calculate the properties of Triton's atmosphere, based on the Doppler displacement of radio waves beamed back to Earth from the spacecraft. The Israeli-made clock will assist in measuring minute oscillations in these waves.

Accubeat is already building a similar clock for the European Space Agency's JUICE mission to the moons of Jupiter, set for 2022.

The Trident craft, if selected, will also carry a magnetometer, for seeking out the underground ocean; two kinds of spectrometers, one infrared to examine the surface and the other plasma for determining the makeup of the atmosphere; and two kinds of cameras to photograph previously unexplored regions of Neptune.

The Trident mission is part of NASA's Discovery program, which aims to send out cheaper and shorter-term missions than NASA's traditional launches. The project is led on the Israeli side by Professor Yohai Kaspi and Eli Galant of the Weizmann Institute's Earth and Planetary Science Department. Their research is supported by the de Botton Center for Marine Science; the André Deloro Institute for Space and Optics Research; and the Schwartz/Reisman Institute for Theoretical Physics.

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