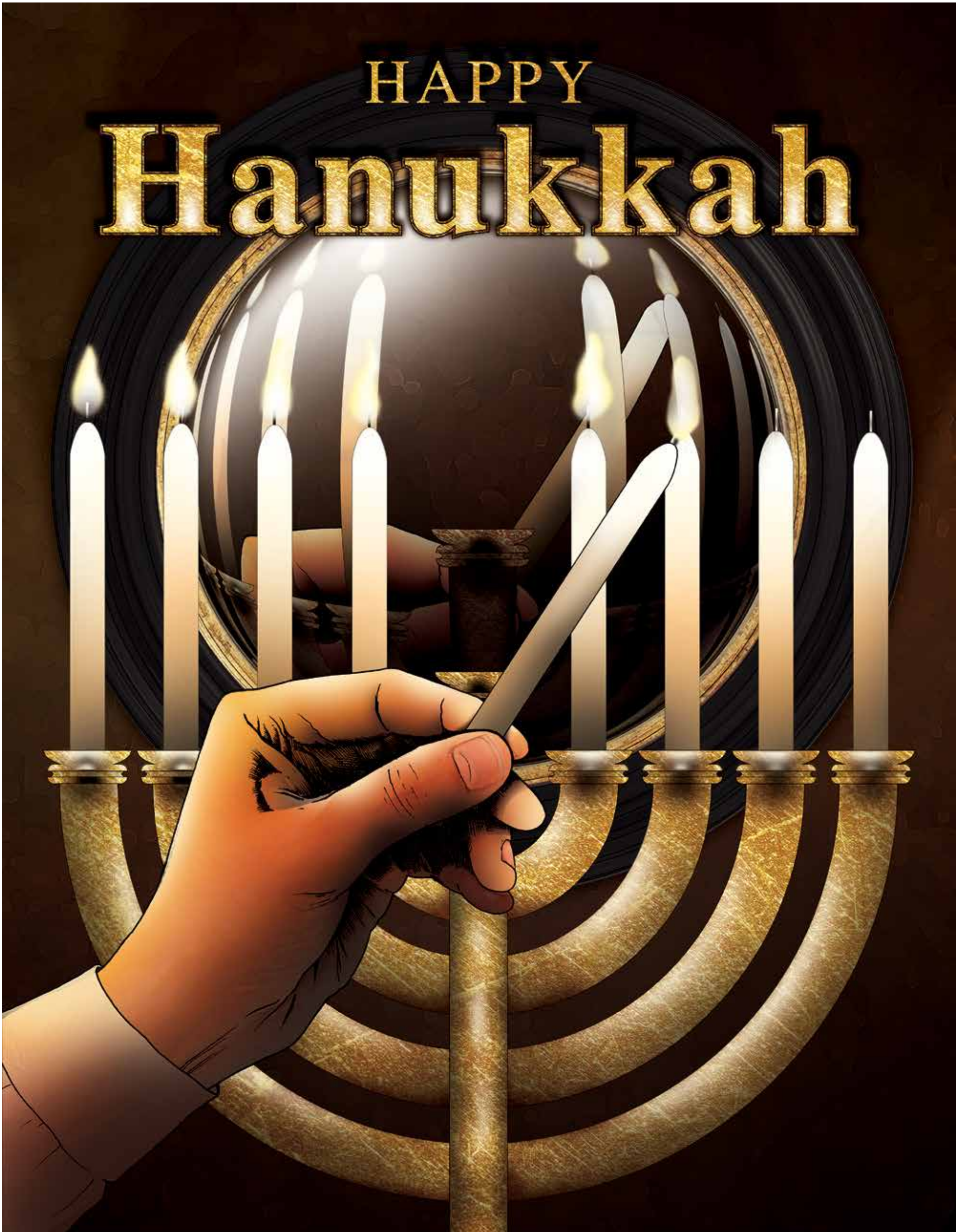


THE REPORTER

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Opinion

A man who exemplified what it meant to be a Jewish leader

By Jonathan S. Tobin

(JNS) – You didn't have to agree with everything Rabbi Jonathan Sacks said or wrote to understand the value of what he was trying to teach. The former chief rabbi of Great Britain, who died of cancer on November 7 at the age of 72, was a renowned communal leader, author, philosopher and educator who commanded near universal respect both in his own country where he was appointed to the House of Lords and around the world.

Although he was widely applauded throughout the Jewish world, he was also subjected to criticism. Liberal Jews decried his willingness to compromise with and to avoid confrontations with the growing ultra-Orthodox movement while that same community nevertheless didn't recognize his leadership and were left cold by his teaching, which was grounded not just in the lessons of Torah, but in the classical scholarship and thinking that he exemplified as someone who had earned a doctorate in philosophy. In an era when Jewish life is primarily defined by division and strife, his wisdom and strong moral voice was appreciated – as evidenced by the honors that were showered upon him – but often went unheeded.

Moreover, at a time when a growing number of Jews identify principally as having “no religion” while recognizing that they have some ethnic ties to their people, the fact that his teaching was primarily based in Torah and its relevance to our lives meant that many American Jews were unable to give his ideas the serious hearing they deserved.

And yet despite that, Sacks could command the kind of nearly universal respect that few others of his generation could summon.

Why was this? Was it the intrinsic value of his writings and speeches? Was it his grave, kindly demeanor and the way so many Americans and Israelis are inclined to treat anyone with a plummy Oxbridge English accent with respect?

Many Jewish scholars and rabbis have written moral and philosophical treatises, though unlike Sacks, most are widely unread. Others have been renowned scholars and speakers.

Still, his résumé doesn't explain why his death seems to have touched so many people.

His importance lies less in his titles than in both the content of his teaching and the conscious effort he made to be a leader and a moral guide to all Jewish people. Moreover, there was a real link between his centrist philosophy and his faith in Jewish unity that has been largely eclipsed by the forces tearing us apart.

The appeal of Sacks lay in a notion of Jewish leadership that was both fully engaged with modernity and rooted in

tradition. Such ideas were not original to him, but few have so successfully articulated them or embodied a desire to reach out to diverse groups on terms that so many could readily understand and identify with.

His work consciously engaged the contradictions in Jewish ideas and life. He acknowledged that the “tribalism” integral to Judaism and Jewish peoplehood appears to be the opposite of the universal values that Judaism also embodies. But he also explained that one flows from the other rather than being inherently at odds with each other. He did much the same with his efforts to reconcile belief in science with that of faith.

Those were not the only contradictions he explored. The rabbi sought to put the notion of morality back at the center of our lives and, in doing so, made it clear that faith and religion have to be part of it. He sought to promote a sense of collective responsibility and a quest for the common good as part of what he called a “cultural climate change” crisis. But he also saw clearly the dangers of too much collectivism that had produced a cancel culture inimical to free speech and to individual rights.

Like the faith tradition he represented and taught, the wisdom he imparted was both simple and profound. The message at the heart of so much of his teaching was a sense that no matter how divided Jews were, they were still part of the same family that had to engage with each other.

Much of what passes for Jewish leadership today is, in an Israeli or American context, mere partisanship and almost solely linked to the political agendas of one sort or another. Most other prominent rabbis – be they Orthodox or non-Orthodox – are also so entrenched in their particular ideas

about Judaism or how Jews should relate to the world around them that whether they acknowledge it or not, they spend more time building walls between Jews than anything else.

Although Sacks didn't back down from his particular brand of Jewish observance, everything he did seemed to be consonant with a belief that bringing people together in order to promote the values of Torah, morality and Jewish rights was the real business of any Jewish teacher. That ability to rise above his place on the religious/political spectrum in order to promote transcendent Jewish values is what truly made him special.

Perhaps, as some of his critics thought, his approach was a throwback to an era when outside threats forced more Jews to think collectively and to prioritize unity because the consequences of splitting apart were unthinkable. He courageously stood up against a resurgence of British antisemitism embodied by former British Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn. Yet the fact that at times this very acute observer of the modern world seemed a bit out of touch with the contemporary zeitgeist of division only made him more valuable to us.

He will be missed not just because of his great personal qualities and brilliance, but because he showed us exactly how a Jewish leader should act. His calm though reasoned advocacy of morality, Jewish values and Zionism was not as confrontational as some true believers in one vision or another would have liked. We need more teachers, rabbis and voices like Jonathan Sacks instead of less of them. May his memory be for a blessing.

Jonathan S. Tobin is editor-in-chief of JNS-Jewish New Syndicate. Follow him on Twitter at: @jonathans_Tobin.

A wake-up call for democracy

By Oded Revivi

(JNS) – Accusations of voter suppression in the lead-up to the U.S. elections and of voter fraud since then have led some Americans to express concern about the nature of their democracy.

Yet the instability that the United States is experiencing is not that unique; it's similar to what many European countries, Israel and Lebanon have been going through in the aftermath of their somewhat inconclusive elections.

Explanations for this “new normal” have included everything from economic woes to immigration from countries without democratic traditions, to COVID-19, to social media and to the natural ideological bubbles that many find hard to escape. Whatever the cause of the

above, if democracy wants to thrive, it must renew itself and adapt to the conditions of 2020.

About a decade ago, Belgium operated without an elected government for nearly 500 days, due to simmering ethnic tension. More recently, Brexit has toppled governments and led to multiple elections. Italy continues to suffer from political instability.

In 2017, France went through two rounds of elections, as neither President Emmanuel Macron nor challenger Marine Le Pen garnered 50 percent of the vote. In Spain, four elections were held within four years.

The Austrian government was led by a group of non-elected government experts for several months. And See “Call” on page 14

In My Own Words

Surviving the holidays

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

For my part-time chaplaincy job, I recently taped a 10-minute video about grieving and loss that was sent out to staff members. When I introduced myself, I found myself speaking about two different identities, saying that some people know me as a chaplain and others as the sister of my late brother, Larry. Although I had planned only to talk in general terms about the grieving process, I found myself giving personal examples.

What I said during the video was that even though Larry, who was born with Down Syndrome, was Jewish, he loved Santa Claus. He loved Santa so much that one year he requested Santa be the decoration on his birthday cake. Larry died in July 2010. In December of that year, I was driving down Hooper Road on my way into work when I saw a large, beautiful inflated Santa Claus and burst into tears. That was more than six months after Larry died and the grief still took me by surprise.

I think unexpected emotional moments are going to happen to many of us this year. I don't believe I'll have a problem with Thanksgiving. (Although this will appear after the holiday, I'm writing this the week of November 16.) That's not a holiday about which I feel particularly

sentimental. My family also never made a big deal about Hanukkah. I can still do my favorite part of the celebration – lighting candles – but I will miss celebrating at my synagogue and with friends. Christmas may be more difficult for me because I always think of Larry. This year, the normal distractions – the Christmas Eve Chinese dinner with friends and the lunch at another friend's house on Christmas Day – are not going to happen. So, I am emotionally preparing myself for the grief I may feel.

What I'll be grieving for is minor compared to many readers of this column. All of you have something to grieve for this season, whether it's wondering if older relatives will survive the pandemic so you all can celebrate together next year, or how you will mentally survive the dark days of winter without the normal social gatherings that brighten your days. The colder weather definitely plays a role in our feelings because there are fewer hours of daylight and it's harder to gather outside with family and friends.

One thing we all need to remember, though – and this was something that I emphasized during my talk – is that we all grieve differently. That means we will all deal with the holidays in different ways. There is no one

right way to feel about what's been happening and, if our families disagree with our plans – or lack of plans – then we must remember that their feelings are as real to them as ours are to us. Note that we can't help how we feel: that's something beyond our control. However, how we act on those feelings is a different matter. We should not expect people to follow our lead, nor should we be forced to follow theirs.

Another thing may help to keep this in perspective: Jewish history. We have undergone oppression from outside forces too many times to count over the centuries, but we are still here. We can survive not only the pandemic, but the lack of normality in our lives. Be kind to yourself. Be kind to each other. Count your blessings. And if you can't do any of the above, reach out for help: speak to clergy, a psychologist, a friend or anyone who can help. You *do not* have to do this alone. We may not be in the same physical space, but we can still connect in spirit. If you need help, reach out a hand. If someone reaches out to you, assist them in finding the help they need. May we all make it through this difficult time intact in body and in spirit.



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LETTERS

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

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Federation to hold drive-up Hanukkah event on Dec. 13

By Reporter staff

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton will hold a communitywide drive-up Hanukkah event in the Jewish Community Center parking lot, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, on Sunday, December 13, at 4:30 pm. The event will include a candle lighting of a 9-foot LED lit *chanukiah* and the traditional blessings. Rabbi Benny Kelman will perform Hanukkah music. Doughnuts and chocolate will be passed out directly to people in their vehicles. If there are weather-related questions about whether the event will take place, check the Federation website at www.jfgeb.org. A notice will also be sent out via a Federation e-mail blast. Anyone who wishes to be placed on the e-mail blast list should contact the Federation at director@jfgeb.org.



People are asked to arrive early since they will be directed where to park their cars. For everyone's safety, people will be asked to remain in their cars during

the event. Anyone leaving their vehicle must wear a mask. Organizers also noted that the JCC will be closed, so no bathrooms will be available. Partnering in the event are Beth David Synagogue, the Jewish Community Center, the Rohr Chabad Center, Temple Concord and Temple Israel.

"I am so excited that we've found a fun, safe way for the community to get together for Hanukkah," said Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Federation. "I'm looking forward to a wonderful event that will allow us to celebrate in person while still staying safe."

Chabad's menorah parade will follow the event. The procession will include dozens of vehicles featuring menorahs atop their roofs and will make its way throughout Vestal, culminating in downtown Binghamton. Anyone interested in taking part in the parade should RSVP at www.JewishBU.com/MenorahParade.

Operation Brotherhood to support Bandera's Family Holiday Dinner

Operation Brotherhood, which is sponsored by Jewish Family Service, will once again support the Bandera's Family Holiday Dinner. Volunteers are needed to deliver the meals on Friday, December 25. Joan Sprague, who is coordinating volunteers, noted that they are receiving more

requests for the holiday meal this year due to the financial strain associated with job loss, or reduction in employment hours due to the effects of COVID-19.

To volunteer to deliver meals, contact Sprague at Spraguejm@verizon.net or 341-2443.

TC to celebrate 70th anniversary on Dec. 13

Temple Concord will celebrate its 70th anniversary with a slide show, a toast and lights before joining the World Union for Progressive Judaism Hanukkah celebration "Many Candles, One World" on Sunday, December 13. Following the local Hanukkah Jewish Community Drive-In Event (see article on page 1) at 4:30 pm, Temple Concord will light the Hanukkah menorah in front of synagogue and the Kilmer Mansion at 5:30 pm. The in-person lighting will be broadcast on Zoom and Facebook. The anniversary

will take place at 7 pm on Zoom and the Temple Concord Facebook page.

The evening will culminate with the World Union for Progressive Judaism's celebration "Many Candles, One World," featuring Hanukkah music and traditions from around the world, and showcasing choirs, cantors and celebrity guests. The event will be broadcast at 8 pm partnership with Central Synagogue on its YouTube channel. To register, visit <https://wupj.org/ch>.

Temple Concord was founded 70 years ago and held its first Shabbat service in the Kilmer Mansion in December 1950. "We will be bringing the building and the memories to participants in our celebration," said organizers of the event. "The celebration will include a slide show of holiday celebrations through the years, lighting our Hanukkah lights in our homes and raising a glass to celebrate the moment, honor the past and present, and look toward the future together.

"This year, the Sunday of Hanukkah will be filled with many meaningful celebrations," organizers added. "Be sure to join us in celebrating Hanukkah and our anniversary."

TC Lunch 'n Learn programs

Temple Concord will hold three Lunch n'Learn programs with Congregation Shaarey Zedek and Rabbi Amy Bigman of East Lansing, MI. On Thursday, December 3, Dr. Amy Simon will speak on "Teaching the Holocaust and Antisemitism in 2020." On Thursday, December 10, Dr. Kenneth J. Levine will discuss on "How Samuel David Rocker and Die Yiddishe Velt Turned Jewish Immigrants into Jewish Americans." On Thursday, December 17, Dr. Margot B. Valles will lecture on "Jewish Werewolves and What We Can Learn from Them." All programs will take place from 11 am-noon. For Zoom links, contact the temple office at TempleConcordbinghamton@gmail.com or 723-7355.

See "Learn" on page 8

About the cover

This year's Hanukkah cover was illustrated by Art Edel, a freelance artist and graphic designer who lives and works in Savannah, GA.



Grandparents Debbie and Robert Lerner, great-grandfather Walt Selan, and parents Lisa and Michael Conts proudly announce the birth of their newborn son Alexander Jacob!

The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to Jeffrey Horowitz on the death of his mother, Myra M. Horowitz

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DEADLINES

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

ISSUE	DEADLINE
December 18	December 9
January 1-14, 2021	December 21*
January 15-28	January 6
January 29-February 11	January 20

All deadlines for the year can be found at www.thereporter.org/contact-us/faqs

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Off the Shelf

The spirit of Russia

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

Russian or Jewish, or a combination of both? That's the question often raised in works about Russian Jews, whether they live in the former Soviet Union, the United States or Israel. In two recent novels, the emphasis often falls on the Russian aspect of their identities, even after they've left Mother Russia. Their Russian ethnicity is an indispensable part of their psyche—many times more important than their Jewish heritage. In the "The Nesting Dolls" (Harper), Alina Adams writes about three generations of Russian women; the characters travel from Odessa to Siberia, and back to Odessa before moving to Brighton Beach. Rochelle Distelheim looks at a Russian family's adjustment to life in Israel when two of its three members mourn having had to leave their motherland in "Jerusalem As a Second Language" (Aubade Publishing).

"The Nesting Dolls" actually covers five generations of women in the same family, although the main focus is on three of them: Daria; her granddaughter Natasha; and Natasha's granddaughter Zoe. The U.S.S.R. under Stalin is not a safe place to live, especially if you are Jewish, as Daria discovers. The family—Daria, her husband, Edward, and their two daughters—are sent to Siberia for offenses against the regime. Life is hard and dangerous, especially for those who are unable to adjust to the austere

and difficult life. Daria is forced to make several difficult decisions in order to protect her family—ones that have a profound effect on the next generation.

In Odessa in the 1970s, Daria's granddaughter Natasha learns that the Soviet promise of equal opportunity based on ability is a lie, especially for Jews who are systematically discriminated against. Her close friend, Boris, finds a way to live with the unfairness of the system, while Natasha can't adjust to what she sees as a denial of all she's been taught. That leaves her vulnerable to a charismatic young man who tempts her to take dangerous action—action that would not only affect her life, but that of her parents and friends. Zoe, Natasha's granddaughter, has a different kind of problem. Although she was born in the United States, she doesn't feel truly American. Unfortunately, she is also uncomfortable with the Russian community of Brighton Beach where her parents live. Then she meets someone who might help her fit into both worlds, but is that really what her heart wants?

"The Nesting Dolls" is an accurate title for this novel, although each doll (generation) revealed offers a surprise: these women are as different as they are similar. Each section builds on what has occurred before, and Zoe's chapters—in which no

one faces a life-and-death decision—were a complete delight. The choices made in the other two sections, though, showed the depth of character of not only the women in this family, but the men who love them. Their combined decisions make this novel well worth reading.

While the family in "The Nesting Dolls" emigrated to the United States, in "Jerusalem As a Second Language," the Zalinikovs moved to Israel in 1998, partly due to discrimination against Jews and partly due to unsafe conditions in a Russia corrupted by black marketeers and mafioso. The three members of the family—Manya and Yuir, and their daughter, Galina—have very different reactions to their new country. The previously non-religious Yuir finds himself fascinated by talmudic study, which appeals to his mathematical mind. He wants to share his new love of religion and religious life with Manya, who finds it and Reb Turrowtaub, the man with whom her husband studies, of no interest. Manya misses Russian life and looks for ways to give her life meaning in a country that doesn't feel like home. Her biggest worry, though, is Galina. Even though Galina has been given a two-year deferment from the Israeli army, Manya makes it her mission to prevent her from ever being inducted. Galina also misses Russia; classes at the Hebrew University don't offer enough

distraction. Going to dance clubs, however, seems to offer some relief.

The Zalinikov family's life gets more complicated when Yuri's teacher tries to broaden the reach of his teachings by hosting a television show, the source of whose funding is questionable. Although Manya does not like Reb Turrowtaub, she discovers in his wife a kindred spirit. But religion is driving Manya and Yuir apart, rather than bringing them together, and Manya worries the man she married may be lost to her.

"Jerusalem As a Second Language" offers an interesting look at the way some Russian Jews feel more Russian than Jewish, making it difficult for them to adjust to life in another country. The author also explores how riches can tempt even the most religious, in addition to painting a portrait of Israeli life by those who have not yet adjusted to their new world.

"The Nesting Dolls" and "Jerusalem As a Second Language" are both excellent choices for book clubs because they offer a great many questions for discussion. The novels also show how, unlike some cultures and countries, Mother Russia's influence has passed through the generations and affects even those born far from her shores. Works about this Russian Jewish subculture—whether its members live in Russia, the U.S. or Israel—continue to fascinate.



Off the Shelf

Contemporary Israel in fiction

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

Before I request a review copy of a novel, I check to see if it contains Jewish content. At a minimum, there has to be at least one Jewish character. If religion plays a role in the book, that's even better. When looking at works by Israeli authors, though, the same rules don't always apply. Almost all Jewish Israeli authors have Jewish characters in their books—that is, if their works take place in Israel. However, as

you'll see in the review below, some focus on everyday existence while others feature Jewish heritage and history. All offer a world where Judaism is considered a normal part of daily life.

"The Last Interview"

The intensely personal "The Last Interview" by Eshkol Nevo (Other Press) does something surprising: in addition to allowing readers to see into the heart and soul

of the narrator, it also offers an interesting view of Israeli life. The novel's set-up is unusual; rather than straight narrative, the work consists of interview questions and answers. The person being interviewed (the narrator) seems on the verge of having a breakdown: he has writer's block; his daughter has opted to go to boarding school so she won't have to talk to him; he fears his wife is on the verge of leaving him; and his best friend is dying. He also suffers from low-grade depression, something not entirely unexpected from someone facing those problems.

The novel's unusual format continues in the way the narrator answers the questions: rather than direct answers, he goes off on long tangents and unexpected detours. The story circles around and around, and the plot has to be pieced together over the course of the novel's 460-plus pages. What makes uncovering the truth even more difficult is that, at times, the narrator is unable to tell

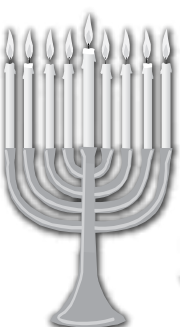
the difference between fact and fiction: different versions of stories emerge, leaving the reader to decide if what was finally revealed is the truth.

The result, though, is fascinating. The prose is filled with emotions that feel raw and real. Not only does the narrator discuss the problems of being a writer, but the difficulty of being an Israeli: the fears faced on a daily basis—from wars to terrorist attacks—and the difficulty of army training, of what must happen to turn someone into a soldier. "The Last Interview" is an impressive work that will intrigue those looking to see into the heart of an Israeli writer.

"The Tunnel"

The personal and political also meet in an interesting way in "The Tunnel" by A. B. Yehoshua (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt). The main focus of the novel is the exploration of dementia: when 70-something Zvi Luria learns there is a problem with his brain, his See "Fiction" on page 6

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BD Sisterhood to host virtual pre-Hanukkah party on Dec. 9

The Sisterhood of Beth David Synagogue will host a virtual pre-Hanukkah party on Wednesday, December 9, at 7 pm. The evening's entertainment is being coordinated with Rabbi Moshe Shmaryahu, who, with the help of students at Hillel Academy, will provide a pre-recorded program. The event will also include videos to help people get in the mood for Hanukkah, which begins the following night.

"It's been a long time since our Sisterhood has had an in-person meeting, so it was decided that it was time we made an attempt at a Zoom meeting," said organizers of the event. "Sisterhood has never tried anything like this before, but we anticipate that, at the very least, it will be a great opportunity for our members to see and talk to each other again. This Zoom meeting is being

made possible through the generosity of Rabbi Zev Silber, who luckily for us already has some experience with Zoom when he teaches his weekly Talmud and *parasha* classes."

Organizers added, "We wish we could meet in person and have a real party, but at least we can join together for a brief while to remember that we are a strong community and no one is really alone in

this day of modern conveniences. Please join us for our Hanukkah Zoom party. We want to celebrate with you."

An e-mail will be sent to Sisterhood members with the Zoom information a few days before the event. Anyone who does not regularly receive Sisterhood flyers or updates should contact the synagogue at bethdavid@stny.rr.com and have their name added to the mailing list.

Kilmer Mansion Restoration announces \$30,000 matching funds challenge

A group of generous Temple Concord members have come together to match every dollar donated to the Kilmer Mansion Restoration and Preservation Fund throughout the month of December, up to \$30,000.

"Every time I walk into the mansion, I'm struck again by how beautiful and special it is – the intricately carved woodwork, the colorful marble fireplaces, the delicate plasterwork," said Lisa Blackwell, Temple Concord president. "There are few places

like the mansion left in our community and it is truly irreplaceable."

The 122-year-old historic building became the first home of Temple Concord in 1950. Some of the features of the Kilmer Mansion are in danger of collapse. The terraces and covered porch have been closed for safety, so no events can be held in those spaces until they can be rebuilt.

"The Kilmer Mansion is a community treasure and we must restore it," Blackwell

said. "Together, we can make that happen. Now is an especially great time to donate because every dollar people give will be doubled, getting twice as much work done."

Donations can be made by check, payable to Temple Concord, 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905 (note Kilmer Mansion Fund on the check). Gifts can also be made online at <https://rb.gy/nozqdw>, or by texting GIVE to 607-228-8005.

Right: Temple Concord's Kilmer Mansion

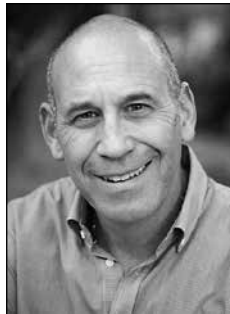


TC to offer one-man live performance on Dec. 12

Temple Concord will offer the virtual live performance from Jerusalem of Evan Kent's one man show "Jerusalem of Shards: Putting the Pieces Together" on Zoom on Saturday, December 12, at 4 pm. At the end of the performance, Kent will talk to the Zoom audience. This will be followed by *Havdalah* and a lighting of Hanukkah lights. Registration for the program is required. To register, visit <https://binghamton.zoom.us/j/92300Gub-y-F947jdc-vk9->. After registering, each person will receive a confirmation e-mail

including information about joining the meeting.

"Temple Concord is pleased to offer an exciting program for Hanukkah this year," said organizers of the event. "Evan will transport us from the streets of Jerusalem to the villages of Eastern Europe to the suburbs of Long Island in the 1960s – sharing stories of his grandparents' immigration to the United States at the beginning of the 20th century interwoven with his own tales of



Evan Kent

his *aliyah* just a few years ago."

They added, "'Shards' takes us on a poignant, often humorous, journey that spans continents, decades and generations. The theatrical adventure includes one actor, 21 characters, three puppets, four generations and eight songs adding up to one unforgettable theatrical adventure. Ultimately 'Shards' is the story of finding home, finding homeland, and along the way learning a bit more about yourself. The

talk with Evan will give us all a greater sense of connection.

Other North American Reform congregations joining with Temple Concord to be part of this program to the U.S. are Vassar Temple, Poughkeepsie, NY; Congregation Shaarey Zedek, East Lansing, MI; Temple Israel, Columbus, GA; Temple Beth Israel, York, PA; B'nai Abraham, Elyria, OH; and Temple Beth El, Windsor, Ontario, Canada.

For more information, or to watch the recordings about the show, visit <https://vimeo.com/226114959> or Kent's website at www.evankent.com.

Annual Campaign 2021

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Annual Campaign 2021

Temple Israel hatched an Enrichment Program

A group of parents from Temple Israel gathered to brainstorm ways to bring their children together safely while helping them continue to learn. The result was the Temple Israel Enrichment pod.

“It’s been a trying fall season for parents with school-aged children as they struggled with if or when schools will open,” said those working with the T.I.E. pod. “After a spring shut-down and summer plans laid to rest, parents were hopeful that, by fall, work and school schedules would be back to ‘normal.’ That didn’t happen. It still hasn’t happened. So Temple Israel parents hatched the T.I.E. pod.”

For 10 weeks from September through November, eight children spanning upper elementary and middle school (grades three-eight) met once a week for three hours

outside with all COVID-19 safety protocols in place. The T.I.E. pod was open to both members and non-members of Temple Israel. The purpose of the T.I.E. pod was to provide public school parents an option for their children to learn in a hands-on, in person, socially distant and masked inquiry-based enrichment program. The program was not meant to supplant the regular school curriculum, but rather provide an opportunity for an enrichment program that recognizes the importance of allowing children to explore the humanities and the arts in the era of COVID-19. Skills fostered by the program included applying process skills used in fields of inquiry; recognizing problems and approaches to problem solving; understanding and appreciating individual differences; and becoming a self-directed learner through



Mika Friedman worked on a project.

exploration of ideas and materials

T.I.E. pod had two instructors: Gil Choi and Morgan Milovich. Choi is a Binghamton University B.A. graduate with a focus in acting and directing. He has performed locally with various community theater troupes and has toured worldwide with Binghamton-based dance trio Galumph. Choi attended Hillel Academy as a child. In his class, the students

read from a wide variety of materials, including William Shakespeare, Ray Bradbury, female and male writers, Latinx authors and Russian writers. The children wrote their own short stories every week and were taught how to construct literature with multidimensional characters. The students separately, but collaboratively, constructed two large clay scenes. Lastly, they designed a card game based on their work, which was sent to a graphic designer so that hard copies of their game were printed out and they could each keep a copy.

See “Enrichment” on page 10

TI Sisterhood held art event

On November 22, the Temple Israel Sisterhood welcomed Flora Rosefsky live on Zoom from Atlanta to teach members how to create a collage that celebrates something or someone of importance to the artist. “Family Legacy Portraits” honor or remember loved ones, special events or anything of significance to the artist.

By using the traditional Polish method of paper cutting called Wycinanki, or drawing with scissors, Sisterhood members from Vermont to Florida to California joined the Zoom program to learn how to design personal legacies. Rosefsky shared many of her collages with the 32 women who participated in the program.

“We were given time to work on our designs, choose our

art papers and practice various methods of cutting,” said organizers of the event. “We were able to ask questions and appreciated Flora’s expert guidance assisting us in organizing our thoughts and ideas, and transferring them to the design. Many members shared their collages and the stories behind them. Some of these will be featured as special photographs in the next edition of the Temple Israel bulletin. This opening event was a beautiful and meaningful way to begin our Sisterhood year.”

The Sisterhood thanked event Co-chairwomen Beverly Rozen and Maxine Rosenberg, and their committee: Kathy Hurwitz, Barbara Zelter, Marcia Hofstein, Arlene Osber and Barbara Gilbert.

Fiction

Continued from page 4

life changes. While the retired engineer’s case is not in the worst stages yet, he’s already begun to forget first names and addresses. His wife, Dina, a pediatrician on the verge of retirement, is worried that he won’t fight the disease and suggests he follow his doctor’s orders to stay active. In an unusual turn of events, he finds unpaid employment, helping Asael Maimoni, an engineer at the Israel Road Authority, decide where a road should be placed in the desert.

The political aspects of the novel, which are underplayed, concern a hill located in the path of the road. On that hill live three Jordanian Arabs who came to Israel for medical reasons and who now could legally be expelled back to Jordan if they are discovered. Zvi realizes that several people – including Maimoni – are working to prevent that from happening. In order to protect the hill, they engage Zvi to help persuade the Road Authority to put a tunnel through the hill, rather than destroy it. After all, Zvi is known for the tunnels he designed before his retirement.

The two parts of the story are interwoven like a rug with a complex pattern. Much focus is placed on Zvi’s illness and his new behavioral patterns. Readers may wonder how much of his behavior is based on his dementia and how much is rebellion against accepting the restrictions placed on him by his wife. While the story is absorbing, there is little plot; the emphasis is on Zvi’s introspection about dementia, making this a novel that may not appeal to all readers. Plus,

its ending may leave one puzzled, wondering if Yehoshua uses symbolism that might be clearer to his Israeli readers.

“The Memory Monster”

A letter to the chairman of the board of Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center located in Israel, turns into an autobiography of the writer in Yishai Sarid’s short and unusual novel “The Memory Monster” (Restless Books). The Memory Monster is the Holocaust and the narrator’s determination to understand what occurred during that time overturns and warps his life.

The unnamed narrator had not originally planned to study the Holocaust, but a confluence of events leads him to consider it the best course in order to support his wife and child. While waiting for his research to be published, his main employment is as a tour guide in Poland, something that keeps him away from his family for long periods of time. His mental state is not helped by the fact that he believes he wouldn’t have been able to resist the Nazis – that he would have caved in to their demands as a way to stay alive. He begins to alienate the Israeli students and teachers who take his tours, particularly when he suggests that anyone with a little power ends up behaving like a Nazi.

It didn’t come as a surprise that something finally pushes him over the edge because readers know from the beginning of the work that he is trying to explain an unnamed event that occurred. Why that event was the final straw is not completely clear, but that’s something for readers to debate. In fact, a great deal of “The Memory Monster” is open for debate, which would make this an excellent, if not very difficult, book to discuss at a book club. However, readers should be prepared to be troubled by the lessons its narrator teaches.

“Three”

D. A. Mishani is best known for his detective series featuring police inspector Avraham Avraham. His latest work, “Three” (Europe Editions), is a departure in that it’s a stand alone novel. Its first section, when readers learn about Orna’s adjustment to life after divorce, reads as a psychological work exploring the life of a lonely woman trying to help her son adjust to being abandoned by his father. The insights offered are so well done that its ending came as a complete surprise.

The second section continues in this psychological vein by offering a portrait of Emilia, an immigrant caregiver whose patient has died. She now not only has to find a new place to work, but somewhere to live since she shared an apartment with her patient and his wife. Her adjustment to a new home and her employment are carefully explored and, at first, her story seems to have no connection to Orna’s. Yet, one detail emerges that finally ties together the lives of the women.

To say anything about the plot of the third section would give away too much of the story. It is, however, where Mishani shows his greatest skill by creating not only page-turning suspense, but an impressive surprise, making this work perfect for those who love thrillers. The only complaint readers may have is that the psychology of one of the characters is never explored and left instead to the readers’ imaginations. While the author does not specifically highlight Israeli life, readers can learn about Israeli culture through the everyday details that are offered, including the use of caregivers from foreign countries who serve as aides to the old and infirm. However, sociological considerations take second place to suspense.

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 **Jews in Sports**

Benny Friedman: Football's first Jewish superstar, part I

BILL SIMONS

American football, “like the country in which it was created, was a rough, ... [hybrid] thing that jumped up out of the mud,” observed sportswriter Sally Jenkins. By the 1920s’ Golden Age of Sports, however, college football ranked as the dominant athletic spectacle on campuses. Nonetheless, professional football, in the form of the nascent National Football League, struggled for legitimacy throughout the decade. Enshrined in both the College Football Hall of Fame and the Pro Football Hall of Fame, Benny Friedman, the game’s first Jewish superstar, contributed significantly to the outsized ballyhoo of the collegiate gridiron and to the branding of the NFL.

The son of Russian Jewish immigrants, Friedman, born in 1905, grew up in Cleveland. Young Benny resented the time that Hebrew school took from play, as well as a teaching style that taught language without providing an understanding of the text. Benny, however, found other facets of Judaism more appealing. He had fond memories of lighting the Shabbat candles, challah baking and his mother putting pennies – the Hebrew lucky 18 – in the *pushke*, the small box for charitable donations, to keep him safe on the football field.

Although his mother initially opposed Benny playing football, due to the threat of injury, his enthusiasm eventually won her over, particularly when Benny’s evident skills brought Mrs. Friedman an attention that set her apart from her friends. During his senior year, Benny led the Glenville High School football team to the Cleveland city championship. The University of Michigan recruited Benny to play at Ann Arbor.

Although Friedman arrived at Michigan without an athletic scholarship, necessitating part-time jobs, he was initially elated with the opportunity to play football for the Wolverines. By 1923, powerhouse Michigan teams under the legendary Coach Fielding “Hurry Up” Yost had won six national championships. Playing for the freshman team in 1923, Friedman demonstrated that he was ready for the varsity. In 1924, however, Yost, by then Michigan athletic

director, yielded the coaching reins to George Little. The abrasive Little lashed out at Friedman, the only Jew on the squad at the time, with vicious antisemitic tirades and bizarre accusations. Despite Friedman’s brilliant play, Little made his sophomore star feel insecure about his spot in the starting lineup. Fortunately for Friedman, Little, after one season as head coach, departed Ann Arbor and Yost returned as head coach.

With the return of Coach Yost, Michigan football and Benny Friedman would soar in 1925 and 1926. During both seasons, Yost’s Wolverines, paced by 60-minute man Friedman, won Big Ten Conference championships with identical 7-1-0 records. Friedman’s remarkable broken-field running, precision passing, kicking and exceptional play in the defensive secondary brought him consensus All-American honors both years. Save for Red Grange, Friedman, despite his modest 5’10”, 178-pound stature, was arguably the best and most publicized college football player of the 1920s. None of Friedman’s passes were intercepted for a touchdown. Friedman and his primary receiver, Bennie Oosterbaan, made a dazzling Benny-to-Bennie combination. In 1925, Benny ran for a 57-yard touchdown in the opening game, returned a punt over 60 yards for a touchdown the next week, threw five touchdowns against Indiana complimented by a 55-yard touchdown run and nine points kicking, and so the season – and the next – went. Friedman’s 1925 Wolverines outscored the opposition by an incredible 227-3. In 1926, Friedman’s senior year, Michigan and its star were again dominant. In perhaps Benny’s greatest game, against Navy, Friedman accounted for all of the Wolverines’ scoring.

American Jewry took notice of their first football standard bearer. When Michigan named Benny team captain, nearly 80,000 Jews wired their congratulations. And *The Jewish Daily Forward* sent a reporter to Ann Arbor to interview Friedman.

Although the NFL in its early days lacked the prestige, fan base or stability of the college game, Friedman

was not ready to hang up his cleats. He made his 1927 pro football debut in his hometown with the Cleveland Bulldogs, who built their team around Friedman, and the rookie broke the league record for touchdown passes. He followed the franchise when it moved to Detroit in 1928 and changed its name to the Wolverines, and Friedman led the NFL in both passing and rushing touchdowns, the only player to achieve that distinction in the league’s history.

Coming off a 4-7 record, the football Giants, fighting for survival at the gate, lost money. Giants owner Tim Mara purchased the Wolverines in order to bring Friedman to New York, counting on the handsome, charismatic star to fill seats in a city that was then home to over 1.8 million Jews. At the Polo Grounds, Friedman’s uncle, pointing to some young dark-haired fans, said to Benny, “There’s your *mishpocheh* (tribe).”

Remaining a triple scoring threat as runner, passer and kicker, as well as a defensive stalwart, Friedman again paced the NFL in touchdown passes in 1929 and 1930, leading the Giants to 13 wins both seasons and making the All-Pro team for the fourth consecutive season. Friedman’s 20 touchdown passes in 1929 set a record that endured until 1942 and was as impressive as Babe Ruth’s 60 home runs. Keep in mind that the football was then shaped like a watermelon. Prior to Friedman, passing in the NFL was rare, primarily employed as a desperation play and discouraged by the rules, which then stipulated that an incomplete pass required turning the ball over to the other team. Tailbacks still dominated the offense. The T-formation quarterback lay a decade in the future until finessed by another Jewish passer, Sid Luckman.

Friedman was the NFL’s first great passer and he changed the way the game was played. Spending his last *three* campaigns with the Brooklyn Dodgers, he retired from active play in 1934. For a number of years, Friedman remained the NFL career leader in touchdown passes and passing yards.

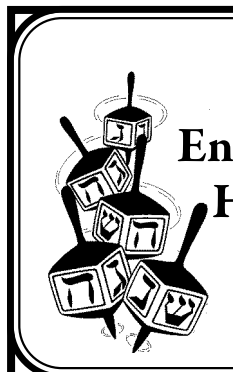
As a player, Benny experienced remarkable success. Part II of the Friedman story will examine the triumph and tragedy of his coaching career.

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.

Chanukah Greetings



Wishing the community a Happy Chanukah!
Rabbi Rachel Esserman



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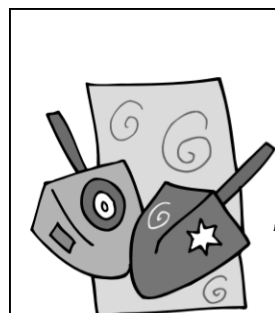



Happy Chanukah!
Francine Stein & Family

איחולים לבניימ לחג האורים
Our Best Wishes for a Bright Festival of Lights
Susan & Ben Kasper

Happy Chanukah!
Ann C. Brilliant



Happy Chanukah from Linda & Dennis Robi and Family

Learn. Continued from page 3

“The December series has some surprising, thematic overlap,” said organizers of the event. “Each of these three presentations will deal with the meaning of Jewish identity in a complex world. In addition, all three speakers are professors involved with Jewish Studies at Michigan State University. Amy Simon will speak about her experiences teaching the Holocaust and antisemitism to students at MSU. Ken Levine will speak about a Midwestern Yiddish newspaper, *The Jewish World*, and how it helped Jewish immigrants socialize to the U.S. in the early 20th century. Margot Valles will talk about what we can learn from Jewish werewolves.”

Simon is the William and Audrey Farber Family Endowed Chair of Holocaust Studies and European Jewish History, participating in the Department of History, James Madison College, and Jewish Studies. Her research examines victim representations of perpetrators in Yiddish diaries written in the Warsaw, Lodz, and Vilna ghettos during World War II. She completed her Ph.D. at Indiana University in 2015 and was the recipient of a Saul Kagan Claims Conference Fellowship as well as the Leon Milman Memorial Fellowship at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC.

Levine earned his J.D. at Case Western Reserve University and his Ph.D. at Michigan State University. He is a faculty member in the College of Communication Arts and Sciences at Michigan State University. His research agenda concentrates on leadership, organizational communication and small group communication within organizations. His organizational communication research centers on anticipatory socialization, specifically looking at the messages sent by and received from the various sources of socialization and the impact of these messages on work, work life and career aspirations. He is currently researching the impact of STEM-related media on career choices for elementary school-aged children. His research into leadership looks at the perceptions of what makes a person a leader and what makes a leader effective.

Valles is an assistant professor in the Departments of Religious Studies and English at Michigan State University. She teaches classes on medieval literature, Jewish literature and other topics that have to do with her research interests in the relationships between religion, language, literature and cultural exchange. She is also the director of Congregational Lifelong Learning at Congregation Shaarey Zedek.

Levine elected as BC Family Court judge

Hollie S. Levine, a lifelong resident of Broome County and of the local Jewish community, has been elected to serve as the next Broome County Family Court judge. Her term of office will begin on Friday, January 1, and will run for 10 years.

Levine is the daughter of Sharon Samuels Levine Whitbeck and the late Carl Levine. Her paternal grandparents, the late Rubine and Nettie Levine, were founding members of the former Temple Beth El. Her maternal grandparents, the late Ethel and Harry Samuels, were members of Temple Israel.

Levine was bat mitzvahed at Temple Israel and as a child was often at the Jewish Community Center. She and her husband, Brendan Byrnes, are members of Temple Concord. Byrnes is a Federation board member. Levine has served on the Board of Directors of Temple Concord

and as Sisterhood president.

She is a graduate of SUNY-Albany and SUNY-Buffalo Law School. She returned to Broome County after law school. Levine said that the choice to live in Broome County enabled her to stay close to her parents and remain in a community in which her roots were deep.

Levine has practiced law in Broome County for 35 years. She began her career at the Broome County Public Defender's Office. She then worked at the Attorney General's Office, where she was in charge of the Public Advocacy Bureau. She worked for Broome County establishing a program for the management of the Assigned Counsel Program. Levine also worked at Legal Aid and in private practice. She was a court



Hollie S. Levine
(Photo by Kate Murray, Studio 271)

attorney for Broome County Family Court Judge Herbert Ray. She has worked for Mental Hygiene Legal Service for the past 20 years representing individuals with mental illness or developmental disabilities.

Levine said that her entire career has been dedicated to trying to make people's lives better. She credits her desire to have a career in public service to the Jewish values she absorbed as a child. She considers the values of *tikkun olam*, repairing the world, and the values of pursuing justice central to how she lives her life and the work she has done. Levine sees these values as hallmarks of her career and said they will continue to guide her in her new role as a Family Court judge.

Jewish resources to occupy your family during social distancing – part 26

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 Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust will hold the virtual program “‘Cilka’s Journey’ – Book Talk with Heather Morris and Lois Lowry” on Thursday, December 17, at 7 pm. Based on a true story of love and resilience, “Cilka’s Journey” presents the tale of a 16-year-old girl in Auschwitz who ends up in a Siberian prison camp as a result of the choices she makes to survive. A suggested donation of \$10 is requested. For more information or to register, visit <https://mjhny.org/current-events/>.

◆ The Israel Philharmonic will hold a free, virtual “Pre-Hanukkah Global Celebration” on Sunday, December 6, from 2-3 pm. For more information or to register, visit www.afipo.org/event/israel-philharmonic-pre-hanukkah-global-celebration/.

◆ Atlanta Israel Coalition and Herut North America sponsored the program “Celebrate Sigd – An Ethiopian Jewish Holiday.” A video of the event can be found on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=422554315577104> and on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/bzs7z3Ck9w8>.

◆ Atlanta Israel Coalition’s co-sponsor, Herut North America, is an international movement for Zionist pride and education and is dedicated to the ideals of pre-World War II Zionist leader Ze’ev Jabotinsky. More about Herut can be found at <https://herutna.org/>

◆ The interfaith website 18Doors is offering several virtual events in December: “Supporting Interfaith Families during the December Holidays” on Monday, December 7, at 1 pm; “Unlocking the December Holidays – For Couples with Young Kids/Thinking About Kids” on Wednesday, December 9, at 8 pm; and “Hanukkah at Home: Chocolate Coin Making for Kids” on Tuesday, December 15, at 3:30 pm. For more information or to register, visit <https://18doors.org/events/>.

◆ YIVO Institute for Jewish Research will hold the virtual program “Ashkenazi Jews and Chinese Food” on Tuesday, December 22, at 1 pm. The program will trace the history of the Jewish affinity for Chinese food from the turn-of-the-century Lower East Side to today’s take-out lo mein with Andrew Coe, author of “Chop Suey: A Cultural History of Chinese Food in the United States.” For more information or to register, visit www.yivo.org/Chinese-Food.

◆ The Center for Jewish History will hold several virtual programs in December, including “A Virtual Tour of the Bukharian Jewish Heritage Museum” on Tuesday, December 8, at noon; “Jewish Autonomy in a Slave Society: Suriname in the Atlantic World, 1651-1825” on Wednesday, December 9, at noon; “Loss and Legacy: The Half-Century Quest to Reclaim a Birthright Stolen by the Nazis” on Thursday, December 10, at 5:30 pm; and “Writing Between Tongues: An Exploration of Hebrew and Arabic Calligraphy” on Thursday, December 17, at noon. For more information or to register, visit <https://programs.cjh.org/>.

◆ Lessons from BINA: Building Insights to Navigate Antisemitism and Hate are available for teachers of grades kindergarten-12 at <https://everfi.com/courses/k-12/binah/>.

◆ Kung Pao Kosher Comedy will hold virtual comedy shows from December 24-26. The shows are labeled “Kung Pao Kosher Comedy™ – Jewish comedy on Christmas in a Chinese Restaurant in San Francisco, CA,” but are virtual this year. There is a cost to attend. For more information, visit www.koshercomedy.com/.

◆ The National Museum of American Jewish History will hold the virtual event “Only in America: Houdini and Copperfield” on Saturday, December 12, at 8 pm. The museum will induct Harry Houdini and David Copperfield into its Ed Snider Only in America Gallery®/Hall of Fame. For more information or to register, visit www.nmajh.org/houdini-and-copperfield/.

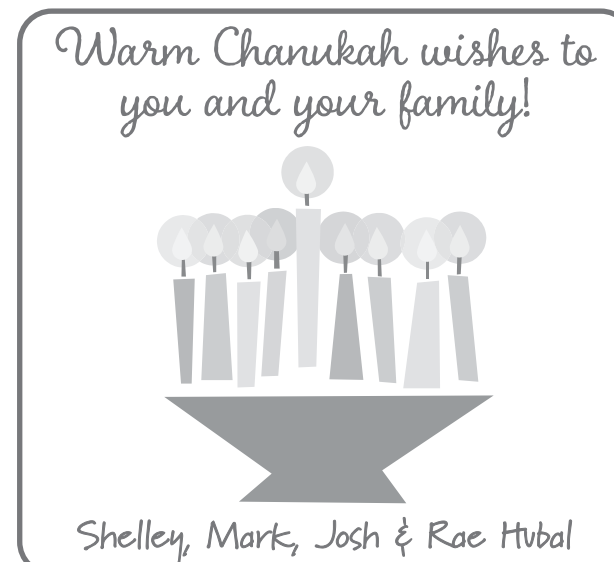
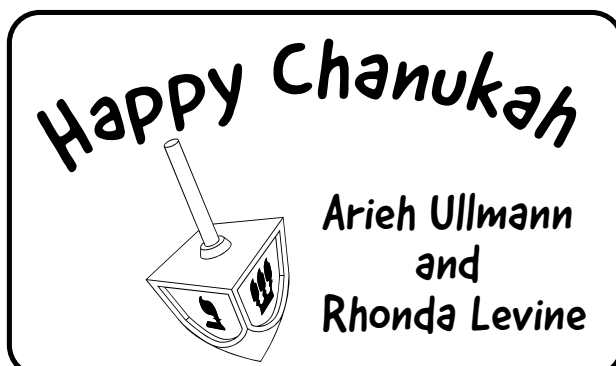
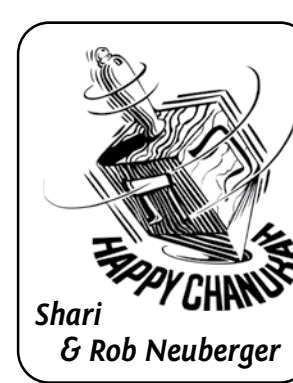
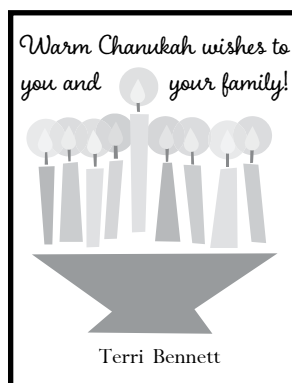
◆ The Museum of the Jewish People is offering a new initiative called Foodish. The initiative’s mission is to promote a sense of belonging and reinforce Jewish identity through engagement with Jewish food. It will include user generated family stories, descriptions of communities and heritage, and recipes. To learn more and sign up for its newsletter, visit <https://foodish.network/en/>.

◆ The Museum at Eldridge Street will hold several virtual events: “Time-Travel Storytime | The Story of Emma Lazarus: Liberty’s Voice” on Sunday, December 6, from 3-4 pm; and “Rioters on the Bimah: Women and the Ko-

sher Meat Boycott” on Monday, December 7, from 6-7 pm, in addition to several ongoing virtual classes, such as “Introduction to Jewish Mysticism” and “From Freedom to Slavery and Back Again: The Biblical Book of Exodus.” For more information or to register, visit <https://www.eldridgestreet.org/events/>.

◆ The Jewish Theological Seminary will hold several online events: “Living a Life of Meaning: Trauma and Testimony in an Oversharing Society” on Monday, December 7, from 1-2:30 pm; “Between the Lines: Communings See “Resources” on page 12

Chanukah Greetings



Enrichment Continued from page 6

Milovich is a longtime art teacher, having graduated from Buffalo State College in 2005 with degrees in art education, ceramic design and a master's in creativity. Milovich has taught for the last 16 years in a wide range of grade levels from kindergarten to college level classes. Additionally, she teaches private lessons in art, including ceramics, drawing, jewelry design and wood-working out of her home studios for individuals and small groups. Her group of T.I.E. students worked on a variety of lessons using Mother Nature as inspiration for their artwork. Students completed texture studies using colored pencil, oil pastels, marker, watercolor and handmade pottery pieces. Students also completed self-portraits in the style of Amedeo Modigliani using oil pastels. They also explored weaving and knotting

techniques, and completed tessellated drawings.

A parent commented that their child looked forward to the T.I.E. pod every week to be with other children – interacting and socializing while learning something new and creative. The parent was also happy to get their child away from screens. Another shared, “Thank you! It has been one of the highlights of the first trimester.” Further comments included, “I wished it had been more than just once a week. They needed this!”

Parents have expressed interest in having another learning pod experience in the spring with a different focus. Anyone interested in more information or having their child attend a spring and/or summer T.I.E. pod should contact Elissa Brown at elissabrown21@gmail.com.



L-r: Jasmin Rosales, Zoe Friedman, Matan Bock and Ariella Kweller stood in front of windows decorated with student artwork.

HAPPY CHANUKAH

“On this Festival of Lights, we pray for light and peace for mankind.”



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and give you Peace!



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Artwork done by the elementary group.



L-r: Oliver Lahoda, Mika Friedman and Gil Choi. Not pictured from this group are Zev Rosales and Joshua Kweller.



L-r: Jasmin Rosales, Morgan Milovich, Matan Bock and Zoe Friedman.

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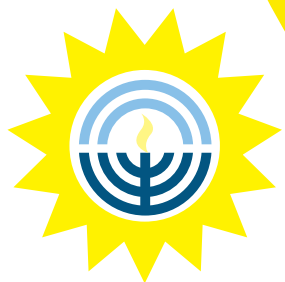
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Israel's military inclusion program inspires new U.S. Corps of Honor

By Abigail Klein Leichman

(Israel21c via JNS) – Marsh Neeley is a 5-year-old boy with Down Syndrome. His father, Chris, is starting an American version of Israel's military inclusion program, Special in Uniform, so that young adults with intellectual and physical disabilities can serve their country.

"I want Marsh to know that when he's old enough he can wear the American flag on his shoulder, just like his older sister and brother," says Neeley.

The South Carolina resident is a U.S. Army and Navy veteran, a major in the U.S. Army National Guard, a special-education administrator and chair of the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities.

Neeley and his wife, Janie, came across Special in Uniform in March 2018 when researching inclusion programs around the world. "One place people with disabilities haven't been included is the military," says Neeley. "When I saw what the Israel Defense Forces did to include them among their ranks, I realized this innovative approach could be a model for the United States."

Neeley contacted Special in Uniform's director, IDF Major (ret.) Tiran Attia, through Facebook. Attia put Neeley in touch with Yossi Kahana, who oversees the Jewish National Fund-USA's task force on disabilities. JNF-USA supports Special in Uniform and three other disability affiliates in Israel: LOTEM, Red Mountain Therapeutic Riding Center and ALEH-Negev.

Less than a year later, Neeley accompanied the task force to Israel. He visited some of the 28 bases where about 450 Special in Uniform soldiers are stationed. "I was blown away," says Neeley. "I talked to the commanders about how the integration has helped relieve some of the garrison responsibilities like logistics, food services, medical services, transportation and administrative jobs so you can move soldiers without disabilities to the front line. I saw how the IDF trains young people with autism to read satellite imagery and see things you and I can't see."

Neeley forged a friendship with Attia and left Israel determined to launch a sister program back home, to be called the Corps of Honor. "That was the name of a unit George Washington created for people with disabilities during the Revolutionary War. The Corps of Honor was last active in the

Civil War," he explains. "We're launching it again in the United States based on the model of Special in Uniform in Israel."

The Corps of Honor will begin at the South Carolina Army National Guard.

While Special in Uniform soldiers serve for a limited time like other Israeli soldiers, the National Guard is a part-time auxiliary supporting anything from traffic control to emergency evacuation. Therefore, Corps of Honor participants can serve indefinitely, while leveraging their new skills in the civilian workforce. "No one wants to give internships [to people with disabilities], nor do they want to hire them without internship experience," notes Kahana, the father of a child with autism. "This could be the solution: An internship where they really can feel they are contributing to society and that will make it easier for them to get a real job. So we will help Corps of Honor in any way we can."

JNF-USA National Vice President Alan Wolk also is helping Neeley plan the Corps of Honor. "It's not a JNF project, but we're providing guidance and co-branding," says Wolk, chairman of the Special in Uniform taskforce and a board member of JNF-USA's Task Force on Disabilities.

He notes that another version of the Israeli program was started in Virginia among first responders. "It doesn't matter if it's police or national guard or first responders. It only matters that you enable these young people to be included and for the community to see these people can do more than bag groceries at Kroger," says Wolk. "It's a thumbnail of a much bigger issue about inclusion."

Special in Uniform began in one army unit in 2014, founded by Attia, IDF Maj. Gen. (res.) Gabi Ophir and IDF Lt. Col. Ariel Almog. A year later, JNF-USA got involved. "I saw the program at an Eilat naval base in 2015 and fell in love with it," says Wolk.

"The program focuses on the unique talents of each individual to find a job within the IDF that is perfect for that person's abilities and provides support, therapy and counseling throughout the participant's time in the program," he says.

Wolk used his expertise in running large businesses to help Attia formulate a long-term plan for funding, growth and risk mitigation.

See "Honor" on page 17



Special in Uniform soldiers with program director IDF Maj. Tiran Attia (right). (Photo courtesy of JNF-USA)

Resources. Continued from page 9

of the Spirit." which is part of "Between the Lines: Author Conversations from the Library of JTS," an online discussion with Dr. Mel Scult about Mordecai M. Kaplan, on Monday, December 7, at 7:30 pm; "Mitzvot and the Path to Human Flourishing" on Monday, December 14, from 1-2:30 pm, about medieval decisor and philosopher Moses Maimonides; and "The Book Smugglers of the Vilna Ghetto: Choosing a Life on Meaning Under the Specter of Death" on Monday, December 21, from 1-2:30 pm. For more information or to register, visit <http://www.jtsa.edu/events-calendar>.

◆ Ritual Well will hold a seven-part virtual "Soulcation: A Global Jewish Tour from the Comfort of Your Home" programs. The cost is \$36 per session; register for all seven and get one free. All sessions will be recorded and available for those who can't see them live. The sessions include "Hiding in Plain Sight: The Story of the Hidden Jews of Southern Italy" with Rabbi Barbara Aiello on Tuesday, December 8, from noon-1:15 pm; "Wonderful Copenhagen: Hygge, Hospitality, and Safeguarding the Other" with Rabbi Rebecca Lillian on Wednesday, December 9, from 1-2:15 pm; "Shining Our Inner Light on Hanukkah" with Rabbi Hannah Nathans in The Netherlands on Thursday, December 10, from 1-2:15 pm; "Reading a Winter Psalm in Jerusalem" with Rabbi Gail Diamond on Monday, December 14, from 1-2:15 pm; "The Secret Jews of Majorca Island" with Dani Rotstein on Tuesday, December 15, from 1-2:15 pm; "Sights, Sounds and Symbols of our Beloved Shoa: A Cultural Glimpse into Sephardi Jewish Curaçao" with Rabbi Georgette Kennebrae on Wednesday, December 16, from noon-1:15 pm; and "Light Out of Darkness: A Journey of Transformation and Hope for the Close of Hanukkah" with Rabbi Michael Zimmerman in Germany on Thursday, December 17, from 1-2:15 pm. For more information or to register, visit <https://ritualwell.org/immersion/soulcation-global-jewish-tour-comfort-your-home>.

◆ The Jewish Community Center of Syr-

acuse will hold the virtual program "Disguised as Clark Kent: Jews, Comics and the Creation of the Superhero" featuring author, historian and comics industry veteran Danny Fingeroth on Sunday, December 6, at 3 pm. For more information or to register, visit <https://jewishweek.timesofisrael.com/event/disguised-as-clark-kent-jews-comics-and-the-creation-of-the-superhero/>.

◆ The Katz Center at the University of Pennsylvania will present a webinar with Dr. Todd Gitlin, co-author of the 2013 book "The Chosen Peoples: America, Israel, and the Ordeals of Divine Election," discussing his admitted failure to redeem the claim of chosenness as a concept that might be parlayed into a humane and universalistic vision on Wednesday, December 9, from 5-6 pm. For more information or to register, visit <https://jewishweek.timesofisrael.com/event/the-pathos-of-chosenness-who-are-the-jews-if-not-exceptional/>.

◆ The Town and Village Synagogue will celebrate the third night of Hanukkah with a community lighting and community sing on Saturday, December 12, at 7:30 pm. The concert will feature Yiddish vocalist Anthony Mordechai Tzvi Russell, Town and Village's Cantor Shayna Postman and the synagogues choir and Junior Singers. Registration is required. The cost is \$28 for early bird tickets (by Friday, December 11); \$36 general admission; \$10 students; and free for those under 18. For more information or to register, visit <https://jewishweek.timesofisrael.com/event/chanukah-concert/>.

◆ The Congress for Jewish Culture will present an online production of Sh. Ansky's "Der Dibek" (The Dybbuk, or, Between Two Worlds), on Monday, December 14, at 7 pm. The play will be performed in Yiddish with English subtitles and English narration. Visit <https://jewishweek.timesofisrael.com/event/sh-anskys-der-dibek/> for a link to the Facebook page that will feature a link to the play.

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

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Happy Chanukah

The miracle of Hanukkah will go on

By Ethel G. Hofman

(JNS) – Jewish individuals and families around the world will light the first Hanukkah candle after sundown on December 10, marking the beginning of the eight-day “Festival of Lights” and the start of the celebration of a resounding story of freedom. In the mid-second century B.C.E., the Greeks prohibited Jewish practices, even circumcision. The last straw was when the Holy Temple was converted into a pagan shrine, prompting Judah Maccabee and his four brothers to lead a rebellion defeating the Syrian-Greek armies. The Temple was cleansed on the 25th day of the month of Kislev, and rededicated by Judah and his followers, who built a new altar. A makeshift menorah was lit by a cruse of oil that was enough for one day but lasted for eight until more was to be had. The tradition of cooking with oil symbolic of that miracle.

This Hanukkah is like no other in living memory. In the midst of a deadly pandemic, family and friends are isolated. In-person hugs and kisses, laughter and handshakes, dreidel games and gifts of gelt are all missing. But COVID-19 can't stop us from celebrating. We'll order online from the comfort of home. Likely items will include comfy pajamas, warm socks, soft blankets, sweatpants, board games and snack foods. We'll share dinners on Zoom and FaceTime to connect with family, albeit virtually, exchanging recipes for the best latkes and doughnuts.

During World War II, when Britain was battered and bombed by Nazi Germany, people were able to be together, to sympathize with hugs and shoulders to lean on. Forced to seek safety in air-raid shelters, seated shoulder to shoulder with gas masks slung over their shoulders, adults and children were comforted by a social intimacy. They sang songs to keep up their spirits, entertained kids with stories, gossiped to add a degree of normalcy, and shared snacks and drinks until the all-clear siren sounded. With mandatory night blackouts when there wasn't a glimmer of light to be seen, friends walked along the dark streets to neighbors for a cuppa (a good strong cup of tea) and a hand of whist (a card game).

Just about everything was rationed, including butter, sugar, meat and tea. Each person got one pound of sugar per person per month – and that included candy. Margarine was substituted for butter. But Brits learned to cook overcoming severe shortages. Lentils substituted for meat in shepherd's pie; sponge cakes were prepared without eggs; vinegar, plus water, replaced yeast; and oil was in short supply. Though we cannot be together this year, our supermarkets are well-stocked with an abundance of ingredients to help us celebrate Hanukkah.

With time on our hands and a bit of thought, we can establish new traditions. Set an example to be followed. Show kindness to neighbors, shop for the elderly who are living alone, make phone calls to shut-ins or, as I'll be doing, bake and cook for a local food bank.

Hanukkah dishes fried in oil are traditional. But young kids and a pot of hot oil can be a recipe for burns and tears. And children do want to help, so let them join in with the proper precautions. In the recipe for Pumpkin *sufganiyot*, I've included baking instructions with plenty “hands-on” preparation. Sticky Toffee Pudding, a British classic soaked in toffee sauce, is baked in muffin tins for solo or “bubble” groups. Sinfully rich, it's a magic bullet guaranteed to soothe body and soul.

To a sweet and safe Hanukkah season!

Pumpkin Sufganiyot (Dairy)

Makes 6-8. Traditionally, Israeli *sufganiyot*, served crisp and hot, have no filling. Pre-coronavirus, when traveling to Israel on El Al Airlines, baskets of *sufganiyot* were offered at ticket counters. Not so this year.

Cook's tips:

◆ No deep-fry thermometer? Drop a 1-inch piece of bread into the oil. If it takes 60 seconds to brown, the oil is between 325-350°F or stick end of a wooden spoon into oil. When bubbles form and start to float up, the oil is ready for frying.

◆ Fry in small batches. Do not crowd.

◆ For the cinnamon-sugar: 2 teaspoons cinnamon to 2 tablespoons sugar. It stores well in a tightly covered container at room temperature.

1¾ cups all-purpose flour

4 tsp. baking powder

2 Tbsp. sugar

¾ tsp. pumpkin-pie spice

1 egg, lightly beaten

1¼ cups vanilla yogurt

2 Tbsp. canned pumpkin

Vegetable or canola oil for frying

Powdered or cinnamon-sugar to sprinkle

In a medium bowl, stir the flour, baking powder, sugar and pumpkin-pie spice.

Make a well in the center. Add the egg, yogurt and pumpkin. Mix well.

Cover and set aside for 15 to 20 minutes. Roll into 1½-inch balls.

In a large heavy saucepan or deep fryer, heat 2 inches oil to 345°F on a deep-fry thermometer. Gently slide in dough balls without crowding. Lower the heat.

Cook until crisp and nicely browned, 2-3 minutes.

During World War II, when Britain was battered and bombed by Nazi Germany, people were able to be together, to sympathize with hugs and shoulders to lean on. Not so during COVID, but we create that feeling virtually, as we also light the candles from afar.

Turn often with a slotted spoon. Drain on paper towels. Toss in powdered or cinnamon-sugar.

Serve hot.

Safer Baking Method:

With floured hands, roll the dough into 2-inch balls. Brush with oil, then roll in cinnamon-sugar.

Place on a greased baking tray.

Bake in a preheated 375°F oven for 15-18 minutes.

When done, *sufganiyot* will sound hollow when tapped on the bottom.

My Best Brisket (Meat)

Serves 6.

Cook's tips:

◆ Three secrets for perfect brisket: marinate first; braise slowly in well-seasoned liquid, and let rest overnight in the gravy before reheating and serving.

◆ Use a disposable oven-roasting bag – a kitchen item that Bubbe never had.

◆ Flat beer is fine.

¾ cup beer

1/3 cup chili sauce

1 medium onion, thickly sliced

10-12 prepared baby carrots

10-12 button mushrooms, halved

2 bay leaves

1 tsp. bottled minced garlic

3½-4-pound brisket, trimmed of excess fat

Salt and pepper to sprinkle

Prepare a large size oven-roasting bag according to package directions.

Pour the beer, chili sauce, onion, carrots, mushrooms, bay leaves and garlic into the bag and mix.

Sprinkle the brisket with salt and pepper. Add to the bag spooning the beer mixture over top.

Tie bag and place in a roasting pan large enough to hold the brisket without it flopping over the sides. Refrigerate for 4 hours or overnight.

Preheat oven to 325°F.

Bake for 2½ hours or until a fork easily pierces the thickest part of the meat.

Cool slightly, then slice and arrange in a baking dish along with the vegetables and gravy. Remove the bay leaves. Cover with foil and refrigerate overnight.

Shortly before serving, skim off any fat. Cover tightly with heavy foil.

Heat through in a preheated 375°F oven, about 20 minutes. Or reheat in a pot over medium heat, covered.

Potato Latkes From Normandy (*pareve*)

Serves 2. I first tasted these *latkes* in Normandy, where butter was used instead of oil. Either way, these two-ingredient *latkes* cook into a crunchy, thin pancake. They are addictively delicious.

Cook's tips:

◆ Recipe may be doubled. Use two skillets for faster cooking.

◆ Serve with “No Cook” Apple-Raspberry Sauce.

1 large baking potato

2 Tbsp. olive or vegetable oil

Salt and pepper

Scrub the potato. No need to peel. Shred on the large holes of a box grater or better still, grate in the food processor using the grating blade.

In a 7-inch skillet, melt 1 tablespoon oil over medium heat.

Spoon half of the potatoes into the hot oil. With a spatula, press evenly over the bottom of the skillet. Season lightly with salt and pepper.

Raise heat to high and cook for 1 minute. Reduce heat to medium and cook until crisp on the bottom, 2-3 minutes longer.

See “Miracle” on page 16

Chanukah Greetings

Happy Chanukah



Brenda Schlaen, Randy Friedman
Ellie, Mika and Zohar



May the candles
on our menorahs
light the way
to world peace.




Charles & Paula Rubin and Family

Happy
Chanukah




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From our family
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Happy Chanukah
May the lights of Chanukah burn
brightly in your lives.



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community
a Happy
Chanukah

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Bicyclists pedal thousands of miles across America to aid sick kids in Israel

By Simone Masha

(JNS)—For 20 years, the “Wheels of Love” charity bike ride has created a community of riders from all over the world whose end goal is to raise funds for ALYN Hospital in Jerusalem, Israel’s only pediatric rehabilitation hospital. Last year, the bike ride raised nearly \$3 million. This year, the coronavirus pandemic made it impossible for riders from the United States to travel to Israel for the five-day cycling event, and the American Friends of ALYN Hospital had to adapt the concept to meet the needs of the new reality.

And so #MyALYNRide was created to create personal challenges that can be completed from home and in their communities while continuing to fund-raise to benefit the hospital with participants committed to riding hundreds of miles. So far, as much as \$1.3 million has been raised with more than 300 riders have taken to their bikes in October. ALYN depends on these funds to help cover the financial gap between the money it receives from referring agencies and the actual costs of its best-in-class and innovative interdisciplinary care of children.

“COVID-19 has impacted everyone, and yet our ALYN community has remained engaged and committed,” assures Maayan Aviv, executive director of American Friends of ALYN Hospital in New York City. “The purposeful support of our donors and volunteers has been both unexpected as well as validating. Fund-raising is challenging every year – and this year even more so – and yet they have embraced the cause with passion. We are filled with gratitude for their endeavors.”

Brad Sokol, board chair of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, and his wife, Lauren, are longtime supporters. When Israel became out of the question, they set up their own #MyALYNRide and will have completed 250 miles by the end of October. Says the couple: “We are committed to the children, so how can we take a year off?”

Dan Blumenthal from Chicago, who cycled 700 miles in October, feels that it’s more challenging to raise the funds this year for two primary reasons. “First, some of the donors are feeling the financial effects of the pandemic, so it is harder for them to donate; and second, with COVID, there is an overwhelming fund-raising need for many worthy organizations, which creates a greater scarcity of available charitable funds for ALYN.”

The hospital is considered a world leader in the field of rehabilitation of children with a wide range of physical dis-



“The Grumpy Roadsters” after having completed Day 1 of their #MyALYNRide in October. (Photo by Friends of ALYN Hospital)

abilities. They are treated as in-patients, as out-patients and at the many day clinics available to address both congenital and acquired problems. Its multicultural staff treats children from all sectors of society and religious backgrounds in Israel, as well as from the Palestinian Authority, Jordan, the United States, Europe, Argentina and Russia.

Sarah Liss from Five Towns, NY, rode with a group of friends in memory of Kevin Leifer, a longtime supporter of ALYN. The team rode a “Metric Century” on the North Shore of Long Island, which is a popular term used when describing a 100-kilometer bike ride. “I have seen first-hand what ALYN does for the children from the five years that I rode into the hospital at the end of a challenging ride. The hospital is amazing, the staff is very dedicated and the children are an inspiration,” she says.

The pandemic has shaken health-care systems worldwide. At ALYN, none are more susceptible to the infectious disease than children with respiratory complications. As the data began to mount, it became clear that should one of the patients contract COVID-19, it could be life-threatening.

In a matter of days, the hospital built a new wing to house the three departments of high-risk patients, including the Respiratory Rehabilitation Department with restricted entrance only. It was a major medical and logistical endeavor requiring hours of planning, purchasing of materials, laying out infrastructures, relocating offices, installing advanced monitoring systems, creating two negative-pressure isolation rooms and more.

Children with severe brain injuries or devastating

neurological diseases, as well as those recovering from complex orthopedic procedures or any number of other severe medical conditions, need to receive the rehabilitation that is vital to their recovery. As the second lockdown in Israel started this fall, hundreds of the hospital’s patients received their rehabilitation treatments remotely in ALYN’s various multidisciplinary Outpatient Clinics.

“ALYN is and always will be on the front of innovation in supporting their patients,” says Bryan Gartenberg of New York City. “The hospital sets the gold standard for practices and revolutionary thought in supporting children in dire need of new technology and therapies. Much of what is developed in the hospital is adopted around the world.”

In October, he joined with another 18 members of “The Grumpy Roadsters” in a 100-mile ride in the Berkshires. His team hoped to exceed the \$300,000 contribution they made last year.

“The funds raised allow us to give the children the treatments and therapies they require, rather than limit the care to the basic needs that are covered by the Israeli national health-care system,” explains Dr. Mauri Beer, director of the ALYN Hospital. “These children are in a race to overcome injuries and challenges. With every day that passes, their chances diminish. These children don’t have the luxury of postponing their treatments until after the COVID crisis. Their young brains will change irrevocably. Their limbs will stiffen. Their future will be bleaker. How can we leave them behind?”

Call Continued from page 2

in the Middle East, many consider Lebanon a democracy, despite the challenges it suffers from instability, largely due to the overwhelming influence of Hezbollah.

These issues are also apparent in Israel, where after three rounds of elections, a multi-party, “unity” government has been formed. But it, too, is struggling to make decisions, just like the Israeli public. The public sees the government becoming crippled and the country paralyzed.

In retrospect, it is possible to point to a number of events and ideas that have led to this culture of indecision. First, the economic crisis of 2008 left scars on the United States and Europe that are still visible today. Fear of a similar catastrophe largely undermined the economic dream of the European Union. At the end of the day, people are less concerned about global trends than they are about the financial stability of their own country, city and family.

The second point is related to the demographic issue. The wars that broke out in the Middle East, the rise of ISIS and the killing that erupted in the Middle East and Africa led to a rise in human migration that has not been seen since World War II. This has had many consequences. The arrival of foreigners directly impacts separatism and senses of nationalism. Yet there is also an instinct to be compassionate and help the vulnerable, while on the other hand there remains a concern that foreigners will take jobs and damage one’s society.

The third point to consider is the mainstream media, social media and the need for instant gratification. For years people were accustomed to media outlets that merely reported the news. They did not present half-baked stories that were presented in tweet form before the details were properly vetted to enable a story to go live ahead of the closure of a news cycle. There was barely a need for “fact-checkers.”

Today, social media can be more influential than traditional media, as the boundaries between them have been broken. Those who surf and scroll no longer know what is true and what has been falsified.

The public is exposed to a confusing array of real news and fake news, real data and fake data. Not surprisingly, the pseudo-anonymity of social media discourse has become extreme. It has crushed one’s ability to be attentive to the other side – to the claims and the needs of those with whom one disagrees.

Social-media networks have become a place of strife and collision, where there are no police to separate the hawks. The social-media titans ended up intervening in the closing days of the U.S. election, which only heightened the polarization. This is evident in the frantic hours bleeding into days during which Americans have been and are still waiting for the final results.

The challenge of balancing democracy with 21st-century instant media is something the United States and much of the Western world continues to struggle with. How can we improve the conversation? How can we encourage differing groups to work together? How can we foster collaboration and respect dissension?

If we do not wake up now, our liberal democratic ideals may disappear before our eyes, despite the fact that we face worldwide challenges – such as global warming and the coronavirus pandemic – and geopolitical ones involving Iran, China and North Korea.

If the condition of elections and governments throughout the world has taught us anything, it is that we must change the way we talk about them.

Now is the time to make our discourse great again.
Oded Revivi is the mayor of Efrat and the former chief foreign envoy for the Israeli communities in Judea and Samaria.

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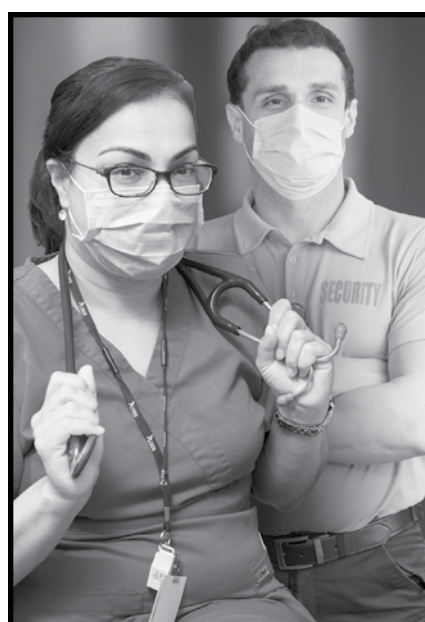
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Breakthrough in research could influence treatment of leukemia spreading to brain

By JNS staff

(JNS) – An international research group from Israel and Scotland has reported in Nature Cancer a breakthrough that may influence the treatment of metastatic leukemia spreading to the brain. The researchers include hematological-oncological experts from Schneider Children’s Medical Center and Tel Aviv University, as well as scientists from the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology and the University of Glasgow.

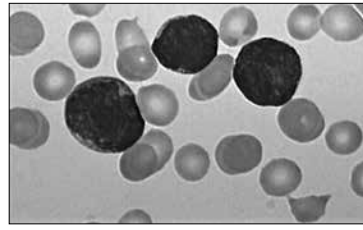
Their research focuses on acute lymphoblastic leukemia (or ALL), the most common type of cancer among children. Although recovery rates for this disease are relatively high, the treatment is harsh and accompanied by numerous side effects that can persist years after the patient is cured. Since one of the main risks of ALL is that the cancer will metastasize to the brain, children diagnosed with this disease receive a prophylactic treatment that protects the brain from metastasized cells.

Currently, this treatment consists of injecting chemotherapy drugs into the spinal fluid and sometimes also radiation to the skull, which carries the risk of side effects for damaged brain function since these chemotherapy drugs

also harm healthy brain cells.

For this reason, a worldwide effort is underway to develop more selective treatments that will only affect the leukemia cells and not the brain cells. Research reveals for the first time that the solution lies in fatty acids, an essential resource for cells, including leukemia cells. Leukemia cells obtain sufficient fatty acids in the bone marrow and blood, but when they travel to the brain in a metastatic process, they reach an area that is very poor in such acids.

According to the recently published research, in order to continue to thrive and flourish in the brain, the ALL cells develop an ability to produce fatty acids on their own. Based on these findings, the researchers infer that treating the patient with drugs that block the production of fatty acids will prevent the leukemia cells from producing these acids, and thereby “starve” them and stop them from flourishing in the brain. The use of such drugs in mice has stopped the spread



Acute lymphoblastic leukemia (or ALL), peripheral blood of a child, Pappenheim stain, magnification x 100. (Photo by Christaras A via Wikimedia Commons)

of metastatic leukemia to their brains.

The drugs used in the current research are still being developed and therefore not yet approved for use in humans. However, the research findings provide hope for a more precise treatment that will most likely be less toxic for preventing the spread of leukemia to the brain.

The work was carried out by three young female scientists: Dr. Angela Maria Savino from Professor Shai Izraeli’s lab in the Department of Hematology-Oncology at the Schneider Children’s Medical Center, part of the Clalit Group, and the

Department of Human Molecular Genetics and Biochemistry at Tel Aviv University’s Sackler Faculty of Medicine; Sara Isabel Fernandes (a Ph.D. student) from the lab of Professor Eyal Gottlieb from the Rappaport Institute and Rappaport Faculty of Medicine at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology; and Dr. Orianna Olivares from the lab of Professor Christina Halsey at the Wolfson Wohl See “Brain” on page 17

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Netanyahu, Abu Dhabi crown prince nominated for Nobel Peace Prize

By JNS staff

(JNS) – Former First Minister of Northern Ireland Lord David Trimble has nominated Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan for the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize, according to a statement from Netanyahu’s office.

Trimble won the prize himself in 1998 for his efforts to find a solution to the conflict in Northern Ireland. As a Nobel laureate, his nomination of Netanyahu and Prince bin Zayed will lead the Norwegian Nobel Committee to discuss the issue.

The announcement comes less than a month after a ministerial delegation from the United Arab Emirates landed in Israel for the first-ever official visit from the Gulf state following the September 15 signing of the U.S.-brokered Abraham Accords with the UAE and Bahrain at the White House.

In a November 20 letter to the Nobel Committee, Trimble explained that he was nominating Netanyahu and bin Zayed “in recognition of their historic achievements in advancing peace in the Middle East.”

Noting that U.S. President Donald Trump “has already been nominated for the prize for his contributions to this

cause,” he said that therefore the Israeli and UAE leaders deserve the same recognition.

He went on to state: “Despite decades of intensive efforts, until now peace between Israel and Arab nations has proved elusive. Four major wars have been fought between Israel and Arab states, and Israel has been subjected to countless terrorist attacks, leading on four further occasions to major conflicts between Israel and Palestinian Arabs. In the 72 years since the foundation of the modern state of Israel in 1948, until recently only two Arab countries made peace with Israel: Egypt in 1979 and Jordan in 1994. In the last few weeks, three more countries, the United Arab Emirates, the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Republic of the Sudan, have all agreed to normalize relations with Israel: the first such peace deals in 26 years.

“These far-reaching achievements are the result of the courageous leadership, diplomatic energies and relentless pursuit of peace by Prime Minister Netanyahu and Crown Prince bin Zayed. There is every likelihood that the work of these two leaders, which continues, will encourage further Middle Eastern states to join them in normalising

relations, leading to much needed prosperity and peace for peoples across the region.”

In conclusion, Trimble wrote that despite resistance from the Palestinian leadership, the “changing paradigm” in the region resulting from the Abraham Accords stood the best chance of encouraging the Palestinians to reach a lasting accommodation with the state of Israel.

“I know from my own experience how dangerous, damaging and corrosive are decades of violent ill-will between close neighbours and I wish for nothing more than to see peace between Israelis and Palestinians. I believe this comes within closer reach as a direct result of Prime Minister Netanyahu’s and Crown Prince bin Zayed’s leadership.

“Award of the Peace Prize will not only recognise the achievements of these men, but will also serve to encourage a widening and deepening peace in the Middle East. I strongly urge governments everywhere and international bodies such as the United Nations and European Union to play their own roles by supporting and advancing the foundations laid by Prime Minister Netanyahu, Crown Prince bin Zayed and the others involved in the Abraham Accords,” he wrote.

Miracle.....Continued from page 13

Flip over and cook until underside is browned and crisp, about 2 minutes.

Drain on paper towels and keep warm. Repeat with remaining ingredients.

Creamed Mushrooms on Toast (Dairy)

Serves 4.
Cook’s tips:
◆ Use any preferred bread: Kaiser rolls, challah, hamburger buns.
◆ Sprinkle generously with chopped fresh parsley before serving.

3 Tbsp. olive oil
1 box (16 ounces) sliced white mushrooms, rinsed and patted dry

1 medium onion, chopped
1½ cups sour cream
4 small ciabatta rolls, split and toasted
In a large, deep skillet, heat olive oil over medium heat. Add the mushrooms and onion.

Raise heat to high, stirring until mushrooms are beginning to brown.

If mushrooms have released liquids, reduce to medium heat and cook for 5 minutes, or until almost no liquids remain.

Remove from heat. Stir in sour cream. Spoon over toasted rolls.

Serve hot.

“No Cook” Apple-Raspberry Sauce (Pareve)

Serves 4-6. A palate refresher.
Cook’s tips:

◆ Substitutions: 1 tablespoon grated ginger root for cinnamon.

◆ Use blueberries for raspberries, if preferred.

◆ Use 1 tablespoon of warm honey for sugar, if preferred.
2 lbs. McIntosh apples, cored, unpeeled
2 Tbsp. fresh lemon juice
1-2 Tbsp. sugar or to taste
½ tsp. cinnamon
1 cup fresh raspberries, rinsed
Cut apples into chunks.

Place in the food processor with lemon juice, 1 tablespoon sugar and cinnamon. Pulse until the mixture is reduced to small chunks. Transfer to a bowl.

If needed, add sugar to taste. Stir in the raspberries. Serve chilled.

Sticky Toffee Pudding (Dairy)

Serves 6. A British classic and allegedly the favorite dessert of Kate Middleton, the duchess of Cambridge.

Cook’s tips:

◆ Pudding may be made ahead. Wrap in foil and warm in preheated 350°F oven for 10 minutes.

◆ Garnish with a dab of whipped cream.

3 ounces pitted dates
½ cup water
2 Tbsp. butter, room temperature
⅓ cup dark brown sugar, firmly packed
1 tsp. orange extract (optional)

1 Tbsp. molasses
1 Tbsp. light or dark corn syrup
½ cup plus 1 Tbsp. all-purpose flour
½ tsp. baking powder
¼ tsp. baking soda

Preheat oven to 350°F. Spray 6 muffin tins with nonstick baking spray. Set aside.

Place the dates and water in a small saucepan. Bring to boil over medium heat. Reduce to low. Simmer for 3

minutes. Set aside.

In a medium bowl, cream the butter, sugar, orange extract, molasses and corn syrup, whisking till smooth. Add the flour and baking powder, beating well to combine.

Purée the date mixture in a blender or food processor. Add to the batter, along with the baking soda.

Mix well. Pour into prepared muffin tins. Bake in a preheated oven for 18-20 minutes, or until the centers are firm. They are ready when you gently press tops with your finger and it springs back or a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.

Place on serving dishes. Prick tops with a fork. Pour hot toffee sauce over.

Serve warm.

Toffee Sauce (Dairy)

Makes about 1¼ cups
Cook’s tip: You may want to double this rich recipe. Any leftovers may be refrigerated and warmed before drizzling over top vanilla ice-cream or toasted pound cake.

¼ cup butter, softened
½ cup whipping cream
¼ cup brown sugar, firmly packed

1 Tbsp. molasses
2 Tbsp.s corn syrup
1 tsp. orange extract (optional)

Place all the ingredients in a small saucepan. Stir to mix. Bring to boil over medium heat. Reduce heat to simmer. Cook for 3 minutes to thicken slightly.

Pour over hot muffin puddings. Serve as above.

Ethel G. Hofman is a widely syndicated American Jewish food and travel columnist, author and culinary consultant.

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Avoid the two-fold taxation on IRA or other employee benefit plans	Name a charity as the beneficiary of the remainder of the retirement assets after your lifetime	Tax relief to your family on inherited assets
Make a large gift with little cost to you	Contribute a life insurance policy you no longer need or purchase a new one and designate a charity as the owner	Current and possible future income tax deductions
Reduce taxable income from IRA Required Minimum Distributions	Make a qualified charitable donation directly from your IRA (after age 70½)	Reducing taxable income



Israel's Deni Avdija gets picked to shoot for Washington Wizards

By Howard Blas

(JNS) – Israeli basketball fans had to stay up very late or rise very early to witness the Washington Wizards taking 19-year-old Deni Avdija No. 9 overall in the NBA Draft 2020.

Just after NBA Commissioner Adam Silver called his name at 9:02 pm Eastern Time from ESPN's studios in Bristol, CT, ESPN commentators highlighted the Maccabi Tel Aviv standout's basketball IQ and his versatility, calling him "the steal of the draft."

They noted his "tremendous versatility in the open court" and said he was "a fiery competitor."

"It means a lot to me," said Avdija when asked what it means to be the highest-drafted Israeli in history. "Israel is a small country and to represent Israel is amazing. I am super excited to get my game to the next level and to see what happens."

The 6-foot-9, 220-pounder becomes the third Israeli to play in the NBA after Omri Casspi and Gal Mekel. "Omri has been in touch with me. We talked a lot about his route here, what I can do as a rookie, travel and more."

The emotional Avdija thanked his friends and family for

Honor Continued from page 12

Today, JNF-USA contributes about \$1.5 million a year, 60 percent of the Special in Uniform budget; the rest comes from the Israeli government and corporate and private donors.

The newest Special in Uniform unit has volunteers from Israel's Druze sector serving in the logistics department of a Galilee military base. The first to join this unit was Tarc Tuba, 24, a Druze man with Down syndrome.

"About 1,000 Israelis with intellectual and physical disabilities have been through Special in Uniform as real soldiers getting a salary and benefits. It's revolutionary," says Wolk. "These kids watch their siblings go off to the IDF at age 18 and they feel excluded. Special in Uniform turns that around to a message of inclusion and they are filled with pride to serve in uniform."

Neeley is eager to see the same look of pride on the faces of Corps of Honor participants and their parents. He hopes the South Carolina unit of Corps of Honor, a 501c nonprofit organization, will begin in early 2021. "My goal was to have it up and running in the summer, and then COVID hit and pushed out the timeline. Many people with disabilities have medical conditions that make them vulnerable to COVID, so we can't start until it's safe to do so."

Once recruitment begins, Neeley says, "I think we'll be overwhelmed with the response because people with disabilities want to serve their country. And I can't think of a more special way for them to be involved in our society."

This article was first published by Israel21c.



Tarc Tuba, a Druze Special in Uniform soldier, got a hug from his mother after his induction. (Photo courtesy of JNF-USA)

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their support. "I truly love them. I love the support and will make you proud. I will work 100 percent!"

ESPN commentators playfully noted that Avdija, who addressed the media in fluent English, "gets by in two-and-a-half languages." They noted that he learned English by "watching TV and playing 'Call of Duty,'" the video game. "He is quite fluent in basketball, thanks to his Dad."

His Muslim father, Zufer Avdija, was born in Yugoslavia and played for Yugoslavia's national basketball team. The dual Serbian-Israeli citizen and sports coach also played for several Israeli professional basketball teams. "He played a big part in my journey," said his son. "It was great to have another competitive sportsperson in the house. He taught me how to act on the court, small tricks, how to be a professional and how to have a good work ethic."

His Jewish mother, Sharon Artzi, was a competitive track-and-field athlete. Avdija grew up in Beit Zera, a *kibbutz* in northern Israel, and currently lives in Herzliya. Soon, he'll move to Washington, DC.

"My American agent is from DC, and he has said great things!" reported Avdija during the post-draft Zoom media conference, attended by more than 150 journalists from around the world. "Washington, DC, is the capital – I heard it is a great place."

Not only are the Wizards "a great organization," he will play with such famed players as point guard John Wall.

Avdija doesn't expect to have a difficult time making the transition from playing in Israel to playing in the NBA. "I am easy to adjust. I think it won't be hard to adjust to the NBA style. I will be asking questions to get better every day and have the best environment around me to help me make sure I fit in and get better in the NBA."

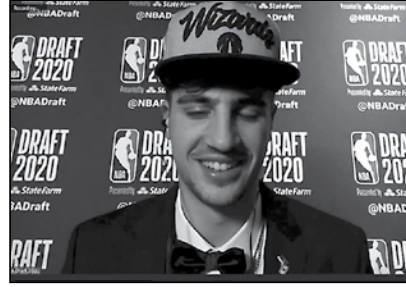
He will likely play small forward for the Wizards. Avdija averaged 12.9 points per game, 6.3 rebounds and 2.7 assists on 52.6 percent shooting from the field and 35.3 percent from 3-point range in the Israeli league last season for Maccabi Tel Aviv. His stats were slightly less impressive in the more competitive Euroleague.

Yam Madar, a 6'3" point guard and fellow Israeli, is likely to be taken later in the NBA draft. Madar, who played for Hapoel Tel Aviv, is a skilled playmaker and strong shooter. Israelis haven't been this pumped about the NBA since

Brain Continued from page 15

Cancer Research Centre at the University of Glasgow. Part of the research was also carried out in the lab of Professor Michael Kharas at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York.

The discovery is also relevant for several other types of cancer in children and adults since most mortalities are not caused by the primary tumor, but by the spread of metastasized cells to distant organs. This research, which demonstrates that cancer cells adapt to the organs to which they spread, paves the way for biological treatments that block these adaptation mechanisms, thereby stopping the cancer cells from metastasizing.



Israel's Deni Avdija spoke to the press shortly after being drafted by the Washington Wizards. (Photo courtesy of JNS)

fellow Maccabi Tel Aviv player Casspi was drafted No. 23 by the Sacramento Kings in the 2009 draft. He played for several teams during his 10-year NBA career.

Aliza Haas, who lives in Jerusalem, is the mother of two boys who grew up playing in the Hapoel Youth League. "People here are so excited and proud that there are two outstanding Israeli players in the 2020 NBA draft. Sports has always been a place where people can bring hope and show that anything is possible if a person works hard enough and believes in themselves. I can't wait

to see Avdija or Madar wearing an NBA team jersey!"

David Wiseman, originally from Australia and who now lives in Israel, maintains the Facebook Group "Follow Team Israel." While he didn't stay up to watch the draft, he and his group have been following Avdija for a long time. "Follow Team Israel' has been sharing his exploits for a while and can't wait for the rest of the world to get to know him. As much as a champion he is on the court, he is off it as well. Given his obvious talent from a very young age, people have been waiting for this day for a long time. We are excited to see Deni show his stuff on the highest stage and also to see where he will end up."

Yariv Amiram, 26, grew up playing at Maccabi Tel Aviv youth club and has been playing basketball professionally for the past nine years. He currently plays for Hapoel Hevel Modi'in. Amiram feels that Avdija's basketball IQ is high and thinks he will "automatically become someone who will represent Israel."

He adds, "I'm sure he will do it great!" Amiram said he is delighted that Avdija will help "make kids believe more that they can make it so high and go far. And in the future, it will open more doors for everyone."

The sports news brought a dose of optimism to the two countries amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. And when travel finally resumes, Israelis will no doubt be off to Washington, DC, to see their young up-and-coming superstar in action.

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Weekly Parasha

Vayishlach, Genesis 32:4-36:43

Wrestling with our fears

RABBI BARBARA GOLDMAN-WARTELL, TEMPLE CONCORD

In this week's Torah portion, we continue following Jacob's life as he is maturing into the patriarch in whose name we pray. Jacob has struggles throughout his life, even in Rebecca's womb. It has been 20 years since he left home, fleeing for his life from the threats of his brother Esau whose birthright and blessing he took through various means. He struggled with Laban in Aram and now prepares to meet Esau once again. He is rightfully scared, uncertain how this meeting will work out, and knows Esau has good reason

to harm him because of their shared past. He fears for his life and the well-being of his wives and children, as well.

So, after sending off his family and possessions into the Promised Land ahead of him, he settles down next to the Jabbok River. The text tells us he wrestled with a man, possibly a messenger from God or something in himself throughout the night. Perhaps he was struggling not to run away, to reconcile his past before facing his brother in the morning. Jacob was filled with fear until that night. Jacob

is still there in the morning, the wrestling having continued all night without a winner or loser. The only way Jacob was willing to stop wrestling and let the man go was if the man would give him a blessing. The messenger from God gives him a new name, Yisrael, saying, "You have struggled with God and with human beings, and you have prevailed."

This wrestling match marks a significant transformation in our patriarch. The late Rabbi Jonathan Sacks suggests **See "Fears" on page 19**

Congregational Notes

Synagogues limit face-to-face gatherings

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

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.

Thursdays, December 10 and 17: Lunch 'n Learn programs from East Lansing, MI, Congregation Shaarey Zedek and Rabbi Amy Bigman, 11 am-noon. Topics are December 10 – "How Samuel David Rocker and Die Yiddishe Velt Turned Jewish Immigrants into Jewish Americans," and December 17 – "Jewish Werewolves and What We Can Learn From Them." For more information, see the article on page 3 or contact the temple office.

From December 10-18: In-person Hanukkah lightings each night at 5:30 pm in front of Temple Concord and the Kilmer Mansion, which can be seen at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88695154124?pwd=amx3dUVLbWlZnkVtMGdqVG1KbWprZz09>. The congregation can also light Hanukkah menorahs together on Zoom each evening at 7 pm at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85191285118?pwd=NDZNER3cTYveDFITElpS0EzRjRtdz09>.

Friday, December 11: at 7:30 pm, candle lighting and Shabbat services with Cantor Ellen Dreskin.

Saturday, December 12: at 9 am, religious school; from 9:30 am-12:30 pm, "Chevruta on Hanukkah: Communities collaborating in study," choose a study session with different CCAR rabbis. At 9:30 am, Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell will teach materials for Human Rights Shabbat. Contact Temple Concord for more information. People will be able to share edible menorah, song and dancing (geared to the young at heart of all ages) at 11 am at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81262659983?pwd=N0h4aWhKcFZLZlZpMFY3QlQwM280Zz09>. At 4 pm, "Shards Putting the Pieces Together" performance by Evan Kent on Zoom followed by Zoom Havdalah and candle lighting at 5:30 pm. Registration for the program is required. To register, visit <https://binghamton.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYoduitQd8jH92j3OQGuby-F947jdc-vk9->.

Sunday, December 13: at 7 pm, Temple Concord 70th Anniversary Program including a slideshow and toast, with candle lighting on Zoom; and at 8 pm, World Union for Progressive Judaism Hanukkah Celebration. Contact Temple Concord for online link. To register for the 8 pm event, visit <https://wupj.org/chanukah/registration>.

Friday, December 18: at 7 pm, Shabbat services with Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell and Jason Flatt.

Saturday, December 19: at 9 am, religious school; 9:15 am, Torah study at <https://binghamton.zoom.us/j/342411102>; and 7 pm, "Havdalah with a Bonus" at <https://binghamton.zoom.us/j/526246866>.

Congregation Tikun v'Or

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 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: Rachel Safman
 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
 Presidents: David Weiner and Linda Aigen
 Sisterhood President: Julie Paige
 Director of Education: Rabbi Suzanne Brody
 Administrative Assistant: Jane Griffith
 Services: Fri. 8 pm; Sat. 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.

For upcoming services and events on Zoom, visit www.tinyurl.com/HappeningAtTBE.

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.

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

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.

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, December 4, light candles before..... 4:14 pm
 Saturday, December 5, Shabbat ends 5:14 pm
 Friday, December 11, light candles before..... 4:14 pm
 Saturday, December 12, Shabbat ends 5:14 pm
 Friday, December 18, light candles before..... 4:15 pm
 Saturday, December 19, Shabbat ends 5:16 pm

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
 Services: 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, December 5, Shacharit services will be held at 10:30 am via Zoom. The Torah portion is Genesis 32:4-36:43 and the haftarah is Obadiah 1:1-21. At 5:45 pm, there will be Havdalah services via Zoom. Both will be led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown.

On Sunday, December 6, at 12:30 pm, Rabbi Geoffrey Brown will lead Torah study services via Zoom.

On Saturday, December 12, Shacharit services will be held at 10:30 am via Zoom. The Torah portion is Genesis 37:1-40:23 and the haftarah is Zechariah 2:14-4:7. At 5:45 pm, there will be Havdalah services via Zoom. Both will be led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown.

On Sunday, December 13, at 12:30 pm, Rabbi Geoffrey Brown will lead Torah study services via Zoom.

There will be a Board of Trustees meeting on Tuesday, December 15, at 7 pm.

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: Carol Levine, 315-696-5744
 Cemetery Committee, 315-696-5744
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Temple-Brith-Sholom-114006981962930/>
 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 Facebook page or weekly e-mail for upcoming services. Contact the president to get on the e-mail list.
 Religious School: Students are educated on an individual basis. Temple Brith Sholom is a small equalitarian congregation serving the greater Cortland community. Congregants span the gamut of observance and services are largely dependent on the service leader. The Friday night siddur is "Likrat Shabbat," while the Saturday morning siddur is "Gates of Prayer." The community extends a warm welcome to the Jewish student population of SUNY Cortland, as well as the residents of local adult residences.

Rohr Chabad Center

Affiliation: Chabad-Lubavitch
 Rabbi Aaron and Rivkah Slonim, Directors
 E-mail: aslonim@binghamton.edu
 rslonim@chabadofbinghamton.com
 Address: 420 Murray Hill Rd., Vestal, NY 13850
 Phone: 797-0015, Fax: 797-0095
 Website: www.Chabadofbinghamton.com
 Rabbi Zalman and Rochel Chein, Education
 E-mail: zchein@Jewishbu.com, rchein@Jewishbu.com
 Rabbi Levi and Hadasa Slonim, Downtown and Development Chabad Downtown Center: 60 Henry St., Binghamton
 E-mail: lslonim@Jewishbu.com, hslonim@Jewishbu.com
 Rabbi Yisroel and Goldie Ohana, Programming
 E-mail: yohana@Jewishbu.com, gohana@Jewishbu.com
 Regular service times: Daily 7:30 am, Friday evening 6 pm, Shabbat morning 9:30 am, Maariv and Havdalah one hour after candle-lighting time, Sundays 9:30 am.
 To join the mailing list, for up-to-date information on adult education offerings or to arrange for a private tutorial, for details concerning the Judaica shop and resource center, or for assistance through the Piaker Free Loan Society or Raff Maasim Tovim Foundation, call Chabad's office at 797-0015.
 Chabad will be holding pre-Shabbat virtual programs.
 For more information, visit www.JewishBU.com/S2020Partnership.

NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

Bahraini delegation arrives in Israel to sign bilateral tourism agreement

Israeli Tourism Minister Orit Farkash-Hacohen on Dec. 1 welcomed to Israel the first Gulf Air flight from Bahrain, along with a high-level delegation of tourism industry representatives and businessmen from the Gulf state, led by Bahraini Economy and Tourism Minister Zayed bin Rashid Al Zayani. "I am honored to welcome H.E. Minister Al Zayani, who arrived with the head of the Tourism Authority and members of the business sector to promote mutual tourism between the countries," said Farkash-Hacohen following the reception. "The opening of direct flights, and the travel of people between the countries, is an essential step toward building peace between our nations. I look forward to hosting the minister and his delegation, showing them a taste of Israel's scenes and heritage, and introducing them to Israel's private tourism sector," she said. On Dec. 2, ministers Farkash-Hacohen and Al Zayani were to sign a Memorandum of Understanding in the field of tourism, which includes the establishment of a bilateral forum to promote mutual tourism, with representatives from both governments and the public sector of each country.

Slovenia labels Hezbollah in its entirety as terrorist group

Slovenia's government announced on Nov. 30 that it "adopted a decision on treating the Hezbollah Group as a criminal and terrorist organization posing a threat to peace and security." The government noted that "Hezbollah's activities are intertwined with organized crime and the conduct of terrorist or paramilitary activities on a global scale. Hezbollah has already been named a terrorist or-

ganization by a number of countries and organizations." Slovenia becomes the sixth European Union member after the Netherlands, Germany, Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia to recognize the Iranian-sponsored Hezbollah as a terrorist organization. Others who have taken similar action include Argentina, Canada, Colombia, Honduras, Israel, Kosovo, Paraguay, Serbia, United Kingdom and the United States, as well as the Arab League and Gulf Cooperation Council.

Saudis officially OK Israeli airliners to fly over airspace to UAE, Bahrain

Saudi Arabia announced on Nov. 30 that Israeli airliners can use its airspace en route to the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain. Until now, Israeli airliners did not have permanent approval for direct flights to traverse Saudi airspace. Reportedly, the change was made following a visit to Saudi Arabia by White House senior officials Jared Kushner and Avi Berkowitz. Israir Airlines was scheduled to conduct the first such flight to Dubai on Dec. 1. Nov. 30's announcement is the result of the U.S.-brokered normalization agreement between Israel and the United Arab Emirates.

Israeli advocate for disability rights to serve on expert U.N. committee

Following an international diplomatic campaign, Odelia Fitoussi was elected on Nov. 30 to represent Israel on the U.N. Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (or CRPD). Fitoussi, 43, who was born with muscular dystrophy (SMA2), will become the first Israeli elected to serve on this committee, which is among the most sought-after U.N. expert committees. The CRPD is the leading U.N. body responsible for formulating a global policy for the 182 signatory states to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In the election held on Nov. 30 at U.N.

headquarters in New York City, representatives from 27 countries competed for nine slots on the committee. Israel won in the first round, receiving support from 109 countries.

Abu Dhabi company to bring Israeli drinking-water tech to Gulf

A strategic partnership agreement between the Israeli Watergen company and Emirati Al-Dahra was signed on Nov. 25 in Abu Dhabi. The agreement establishes a partnership between the companies to bring Watergen's revolutionary water solutions to the United Arab Emirates and other countries in the region. The partnership will target many sectors, including but not limited to agriculture, offices and apartment buildings, hotels, industry, maritime, etc. The agreement between Al-Dahra, headed by vice chairman and co-founder HE Khadim Al Darei, and Watergen, led by president and CEO Dr. Michael Mirilashvili, comes on the heels of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed in Israel in October when a high-ranking delegation of Al-Dahra executives visited Israel. Watergen is an innovative Israeli company that has developed a cutting-edge patented technology to generate clean drinking water from the air using cost-effective energy consumption. High temperatures and humidity of the region's air are ideal conditions for Watergen's devices, which can produce up to 5,000 liters of clean drinking water per day.

Wiesenthal Center warns about Parler opening "the door wide" to antisemitism

Parler, a social-media website founded in 2018 that prides itself on allowing virtually unfiltered viewpoint, has allowed antisemitism and other forms of bigotry to flourish on its site, according to a report released on Nov. 19 by the Simon Wiesenthal Center. The report details how Parler has taken no action against antisemitic and overt racist postings, including one depicting former U.S. President Barack Obama with a noose. "We submitted these materials for Parler's review and have spoken with senior officials of the company who emphasized that Parler makes room for all speech," said Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean and director of global social action at the Simon Wiesenthal Center, in a statement. "We emphasized that the last thing our nation needs is for Parler to become home to a subculture of hatred and violence that besets other social-media platforms. We are grappling not only with the [corona]virus but the virus of antisemitism that saw 60 percent of religion-based hate crimes last year targeting American Jews." He added that "this opens the door wide for white supremacy, neo-Nazism and conspiracy theories that range from Holocaust denial to charge that COVID-19 is a hoax."

Fears.....

that Jacob had wanted to be Esau his whole life. He wrote, "That night, about to meet Esau again after an absence of 22 years, Jacob wrestles with himself; finally, he throws off the image of Esau, the person he wants to be, which he has carried with him all these years. From now on, he is content to be himself. And it is only when we stop wanting to be someone else that we can be at peace with ourselves and with the world." ("Lessons in Leadership: A Weekly Reading of the Jewish Bible," OU Press, 2015, page 36)

We live in a world with a lot of conflict, in a country with deep divisions; fear has gripped many. We can learn lessons from Jacob who lived amidst many conflicts himself: his own with Esau, and with Laban, the conflicts between Rachel and Leah, and between his children, Joseph and his brothers. Rabbi Sacks suggests that the Torah is teaching us that "as long as there is conflict within us, there will be a conflict around us. We need to resolve the tensions in ourselves before we can do so for others. We have to be at peace with ourselves before we can be at peace with the world." (Sacks, page 38)

We are challenged in pandemic times, spending much time by ourselves, distanced from others, on how to find meaning in our lives, to make the most of our days. We don't know what the future will bring, when we will be able to gather with others in person in community. We can be overcome with fear. Jacob can serve as a model for us. We may need to do some internal wrestling, finding ways to come to terms with our inner struggles, to let the fear be transformed.

The Hebrew word for fear, *yirah*, is also the word for awe. Jacob wrestled with his fears for much of his life culminating in the wrestling match in this portion. He gained a new perspective on life, taking responsibility for his actions, moving beyond his fears which limited him to a sense of awe and appreciation of God and others in his world. We are challenged similarly to wrestle with our fears, to take responsibility for our actions and take steps to right our wrongs. In so doing, we can better experience awe and gratitude. Jacob set up a monument at the place where they wrestled that night and named it Beth El, House of

.....Continued from page 18

God. He acknowledged his experience and transformation being with God and marked it for others to see, as well.

In their wrestling, the man wrenched Jacob's hip-socket, so Jacob walked away with a limp, which we are told he had for the rest of his life. I was thinking about Jacob's limp and how it was only when he had this limp that he became Israel. We have learned much from our life experiences and are continuing to learn from our current circumstances. We can strive to live our lives more wisely, embracing not only the wisdom we have gained, but also the limps, scars and other challenges that could distract us in such a way as to have them carry us forward. We can empathize with others, their struggles and their pain, when we have embraced and come to terms with our own. Jacob's life is not over, we have several more weeks of Torah portions dealing with his family and their struggles, but he has progressed from who he was as a child.

Jacob and Esau's reconciliation is dramatic and highly emotional. There are still conflicting emotions in their relationship, uncertainty if they can trust one another. As they go their separate ways from this encounter, the past is not forgotten, but put into perspective for them. They will coexist, side by side, but with some space between them. The past will not paralyze them; their lives and those of their families will go on. As we move forward in our lives, hopefully we can learn from Jacob and Esau to take care of ourselves and our families and to strive for reconciliation with past conflicts. As we work through these matters, the load may be heavy and we may have some scars from our bruises. But those scars are part of who we are, as Jacob's limp was part of him. May we be more the children of Israel - *b'nai Yisrael* - than the children of Jacob as we embrace our lives, our families, our current situation, our imperfections and our gifts.

Happy Chanukah from Gary Freed




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Digging the past

Israeli youths help uncover evidence of first human migration from Africa

By JNS staff

(JNS)—The Israel Antiquities Authority announced on August 4 that it had uncovered evidence of an advanced flint-working technique at a tool “factory” in the Negev Desert, supporting the hypothesis that the Negev was on the early modern human route out of Africa.

According to the IAA, evidence of a flint-knapping technique known as “Nubian Levallois,” which is exclusively associated with biologically modern humans, was found at the site. Researchers trace the path of this technique in order to understand the migration routes modern humans took from Africa to the rest of the world some 100,000 years ago.

“This is the first evidence of a ‘Nubian’ flint industry in an archeological excavation in Israel,” said excavation directors Talia Abulafia and Maya Oron of the IAA. “The knapped flint artifacts remained right in the original place where the humans sat and created the tools. This manufacturing is identified with modern human populations who lived in East Africa 100,000 to 150,000 years ago and migrated from there around the world.”

The discovery was made during an archeological excavation underwritten by the Israel Electric Company to facilitate the construction of a solar-energy field. Another aim of the project was to help local youths find work amid the

economic downturn due to the coronavirus pandemic.

According to IAA Northern Negev District Archaeologist Svetlana Talis, “Dimona is one of the most severely affected towns in the second wave of the coronavirus outbreak and was even on the verge of lockdown. After wondering what to do about summer holidays, local youths from Dimona came to the excavation to work and help their families, and to uncover a site of particular importance. All of this is part of a project promoted and directed by the Israel Antiquities Authority in recent years, which seeks to bring our youth closer to their own cultural heritage.”



Ancient stone tools uncovered at a flint-knapping site near the city of Dimona in Israel's Negev Desert. (Photo by Israel Antiquities Authority)

Seal bearing portrait of Apollo unearthed in soil around Kotel

By JNS staff

(JNS)—A 2,000-year-old gem seal (intaglio) bearing the portrait of the Greek god Apollo has recently been unearthed in soil removed from the foundation of Jerusalem's Western Wall during the Tzurim Valley National Park sifting project, the City of David announced in a statement.

According to researchers, this is only the third such gem seal ever found in Jerusalem from the Second Temple period. The gem is cut from dark brown jasper, considered a precious stone in antiquity, and has remnants of yellow-light, brown, and white layers. Oval-shaped, it is also extremely small, being half an inch in length, two-fifths of an inch wide and only about one-ninth of an inch thick.

Because the gem is an intaglio (that is, a gem with a design carved into its upward-facing side), its main function was the stamping of a seal on soft material, usually beeswax, for use as a personal signature. The gem features an engraving of Apollo's head in profile to the left.

According to archaeologist Eli Shukron,

professor Shua Amorai-Stark and senior archaeologist Malka HersHKovitz, although Apollo is an Olympian deity of the Greek and Roman cultures, it is “highly probable” that the owner of this ring was a Jew.

In the opinion of Shukron, who conducted the excavation in which the gem was found, “It is rare to find seal remains bearing the image of the god Apollo at sites identified with the Jewish population. To this day, two such gems (seals) have been found in Masada, another in Jerusalem inside an ossuary (burial box) in a Jewish tomb on Mount Scopus, and the current gem that was discovered in close proximity to the Temple Mount.”

He added, “When we found the gem, we asked ourselves what is Apollo doing in Jerusalem? And why would a Jew wear a ring with the portrait of a foreign god? The answer to this, in our opinion, lies in the fact that the owner of the ring did so not as a ritual act that expresses religious belief, but as a means of making use of the impact that Apollo's figure represents: light,



This 2,000-year-old gem seal bearing the image of Apollo was found in earth excavated from the foundations of the Western Wall in the Old City of Jerusalem. (Photo by Eliyahu Yanai-City of David)

versus darkness was prominently present in Jewish worldview in those days.

“The fact that the craftsman of this gem left the yellow-golden and light brown layers on the god's hair probably indicates a desire to emphasize the aspect of light in the god's persona, as well as in the aura that surrounded his head,” Amorai-Stark continued. “The choice of a dark stone with yellow coloring of hair suggests that the creator or owner of this intaglio sought to emphasize the dichotomous aspect of light and darkness and/or their connectedness.”

The Archaeological Sifting Project at Tzurim Valley National Park, sponsored by the City of David and the Nature and National Parks Authority, is a large-scale archeological project that offers the public an opportunity to experience and appreciate archeological activity without the need for advanced training or specialized knowledge. The project is supervised by archaeologists and allows participants to become “archaeologists for a day” as they process material unearthed in City of David excavations.

Discoveries made by the project thus far include an imprint of King Hezekiah, coins from various periods, arrowheads and jewelry.

NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

Iranian pundit calls for attack on Haifa after assassination of top nuclear scientist

If Israel was behind the assassination on Nov. 27 of top Iranian nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, Tehran should launch an attack on Haifa, asserts an op-ed in the Nov. 29 regime-controlled Kayan newspaper, whose editor-in-chief was appointed by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. According to an AP report, the article, penned by Iranian analyst Sadollah Zarei, calls for an attack on Israeli facilities – one that is stronger than the missile strike against U.S. forces in Iraq following the assassination in January of Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' Quds Force commander Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani – and that “causes heavy human casualties.” Zarei argues that this “will definitely lead to deterrence because the United States and the Israeli regime and its agents are by no means ready to take part in a war and a military confrontation.” Fakhrizadeh was shot and killed on Nov. 27 in Damavand, east of Tehran, after a truck bomb exploded next to his vehicle. Iranian officials are blaming Israel for the attack with parliamentarians chanting “Death to America! Death to Israel!” and working on a bill to stop inspections of nuclear facilities by the International Atomic Energy Agency, according to the report.

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Chanukah Greetings

from

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