

THE REPORTER

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Federation plans event for young families on July 15

By Reporter staff

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton will hold an event for young families on Thursday, July 15, at 5:30 pm, at Stair Park off Murray Hill Road in Vestal. Children and their parents are invited to attend. The event is for children of all

ages and will include activities and healthy snacks. The park also has a playground. Rabbi Benny Kellman will perform children's songs and Rabbi Rachel Esserman will tell a story.

"We were so pleased with the attendance at our Tot Shabbat in June that

we want to gather families again," said Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Federation. "Everyone had a great time and it was nice to see each other again after the pandemic."

Hubal added, "I think it's important to have families from all parts of the

Jewish community come together for children and parents to get to know each other better."

RSVPs are not required, but are appreciated in order to make certain there is enough food for everyone. To make a reservation, e-mail Hubal at director@jfgb.org.

Save the date

Federation to hold Super Sunday on August 29

By Reporter staff

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton will hold Super Sunday early this year on Sunday, August 29. The plans are for a brunch and a showing of the film "Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles" about the Broadway musical "Fiddler on the Roof."

Larry Kassan, who has directed productions of the musical, will facilitate the film discussion. A special guest, comedian Josh Wallenstein, will perform during the event.

"Do a mitzvah and pledge early," said Shelley Hubal, Federation executive director. "Help us plan for our future by letting us

know how much money we'll have available before the allocation process starts this fall."

Hubal noted that there was no Super Sunday event last year because of the pandemic. "We were so sorry not to be able to gather as a community, although our community spirit never faltered during that difficult

time," she noted. "Since the pandemic has eased, we are hoping that we will be able to gather as a community and break bread together. All protocols that are current at that time will be followed."

For more information about the event, see future issues of *The Reporter*.

Temple Concord to take part in NAACP Community Forum on July 8

Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell and members of Temple Concord are taking part in the Broome Tioga Chapter of the NAACP's virtual community forum "Looking in the Mirror: Reflections on Racism in our Community," which will take place on Thursday, July 8, from 5:30-7:30 pm. The purpose of the forum is to raise awareness of racism and bias, and its impact on individuals. The event came out of the incident in Sunrise earlier this year. (For information on that incident, visit [idation-during-driving-lesson/?fbclid=I-wAR3UX.\) Registration for the program on Zoom will be available from the Temple Concord office at 723-7355 or \[TempleConcordbinghamton@gmail.com\]\(mailto:TempleConcordbinghamton@gmail.com\), or through <https://bit.ly/BTNAACPRegister>.](http://www.binghamtonhomepage.com/news/town-of-dickinson-family-experiences-alleged-racial-harassment-and-intim-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Goldman-Wartell noted the connection between Holocaust education and prejudice reduction work: "In Holocaust education, we often talk about these roles of people in a situation: perpetrator, victim, bystander and rescuer. The language we use now has been modified. In the past, we spoke of rescuing as a way of saving people's lives in the Holocaust. In today's world, people

don't want to be rescued, rather they want allies, people to stand with them. The term which started to be used in this work more recently (the past 15 or more years) is the option to be an upstander. The upstander is a person who actively intervenes in some way in a situation. One aspect of the community forum will be to offer tools to help people to do or say something when they witness or are part of an aggression or a micro-aggression. This forum is about being an effective upstander."

She also noted that "the other piece of Holocaust education and its place in working to deal with other hate and prejudice and

racism is to understand that each person has the potential to be a perpetrator, victim, bystander or upstander. It is up to us to be intentional in the way we interact with others and stand up to acts of injustice."

"We hope that participants will commit themselves to be accountable: becoming an advocate and ally to those in need of support," said organizers of the event. "We are looking to engage others beyond this forum in ways to positively impact our community."

Goldman-Wartell and three other members of Temple Concord will be facilitators for the breakout groups.

Reporter wins three AJPA Rockower awards

By Reporter staff

The Reporter won three awards from the American Jewish Press Association's 40th Annual Simon Rockower Awards. Executive Editor Rabbi Rachel Esserman won two awards in the Excellence in Arts – Review/Criticism category: first place for "Hollywood and Jewish refugees" and honorable mention for "Jewish food studies." Columnist Bill Simons took first place in the Excellence in Writing About Sports category for "Ballfield or synagogue: Hank Greenberg's High Holiday dilemma."

"Three awards for the paper was a wonderful surprise," Esserman said. "I'm so pleased that Bill won for one of his terrific sports columns. And that's from someone who is not a sports fan. I may not read the sports section of the local paper, but I always enjoy Bill's work. His column is an excellent addition to our paper, whether he's writing about sports, Jewish movie stars or more personal columns like his moving Father's Day column."

Simons' column, which can be found at www.thereporter.org/archives/feature/ballfield-or-synagogue-hank-greenbergs-high-holiday-dilemma, talks about the reasons

behind Hank Greenberg's decision not to play on Rosh Hashanah in 1934, even though his team was in a pennant race. According to the Rockower judges, "Jewish sports fans know about Hank Greenberg, but this story gives the entire context and all the details that we never knew for a better appreciation of the all-time great Jewish slugger. Wonderful!"

Simons was pleased to receive an award he called the Jewish writers' version of the Academy Awards. He also offered his congratulations to Esserman on her work. "Kudos to our editor, Rabbi Rachel Esserman, on receiving the prestigious Simon Rockower First Place Award for Excellence in Arts – Review/Criticism," he said. "More than an individual victory, the honor underlines the importance of local journalism to the Jewish community. The award brings much deserved recognition to *The Reporter*. Thanks to Rabbi Esserman's editing, commentary and book reviews, *The Reporter* remains an essential anchor of our local Jewish community. Although her reviews, issue after issue, are consistently incisive, informative and interesting, Rabbi Esserman's winning entry, 'Hollywood and Jewish refugees,' merits this special accolade for its compel-

ling and balanced commentary on Donna Rifkind's 'The Sun and Her Stars: Salka Viertel and Hitler's Exiles in the Golden Age of Hollywood,' which illuminates the critical role of Jewish refugee women in the film industry."

Esserman's first place column "Hollywood and Jewish refugees" (www.thereporter.org/streams/executive-editor/executive-editor-stream/off-the-shelf-hollywood-and-jewish-refugees) is also listed as a finalist for a 2021 Syracuse Press Club Award, which will be announced in September. Rockower judges called it an "excellent review of Donna Rifkind's 'The Sun and Her Stars: Salka Viertel and Hitler's Exiles in the Golden Age of Hollywood' by Rabbi Rachel Esserman. Like the author, Esserman argues the book's important because women's accomplishments in Hollywood then were either lost or ignored even though women worked in every studio department. Rifkind not only tells Jewish refugee-actress-writer Salka Viertel's story but she dispels misconceptions about Viertel's reputation. Viertel opened her house to fellow refugee writers, actors and artists who'd escaped fascism in Europe – Heinrich and Thomas Mann, Bruno Frank and Christopher Ish-

erwood, among others. For all the book's new details, not all of them are of equal interest, Esserman notes, 'At times, the book's focus was uneven: the story of sun (Viertel) was eclipsed by that of her stars (those who visited her salon).'"

Her "Jewish food studies" review, (www.thereporter.org/past-articles/feature-book-review/feature-book-review-stream/book-review-stream/off-the-shelf-jewish-food-studies-by-rabbi-rachel-esserman), received honorable mention. According to the Rockower judges, it is a "big-hearted review of two new Jewish food books, 'Feasting and Fasting: The History and Ethics of Jewish Food' and 'The Dairy Restaurant,' both about how to think about the intersection of food and religion but one takes an academic approach, the other: anecdotal."

Esserman said that while awards are wonderful, it's the interaction with the community that is the true reward. "When people tell me how much they enjoy one of my columns or praise something Bill wrote, then I know we're providing a true service to the community," she said. "The fact that we can offer people exclusive articles – ones they can read nowhere else – is something I'm proud of."

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Jews in Sports


Sam Nahem: Jewish intellectual, solider, pitcher – and communist

BILL SIMONS

The baseball canon includes several notable lefties. From the mound, Lefty Grove and Lefty Gomez earned Hall of Fame plaques. And the Jewish phenom Sandy Koufax might rank as the greatest of all southpaw pitchers. For only one major league pitcher does the designation “lefty” refer to political ideology rather than to throwing arm. That would be the Jewish hurler “Subway Sam” Nahem, who was ironically right-handed. Nahem joined the Communist Party, rendering him unique in major league history.

Baseball is a conservative game that harkens back to America’s rural mythology. The game and its players evoke traditionalism. Today, African Americans comprise little

more than 7 percent of those on MLB rosters compared to approximately 75 percent in the NBA. When Gabe Kapler, the muscular and brainy Jewish manager of the 2021 San Francisco Giants, played outfield for the Boston Red Sox, he found himself the only Democrat on the team; the other 24 players identified as Republicans. And Nahem, a Cold War Communist, stood far to the left of Kapler.

As a Jewish intellectual, social activist and major leaguer, Nahem shared similarities with Moe Berg, a catcher during the years between the world wars. Both Nahem and Berg earned post-graduate degrees, read omnivorously, practiced law, possessed linguistic gifts, contributed to the U.S. vic-

tory in World War II, battled injustice and reflected secular Judaism. While Berg appeared enigmatic, secretive and reclusive, Nahem exuded an open, extroverted sociability. Berg and Nahem would have formed baseball’s most cerebral pitcher-catcher battery.

Alas, Berg was a mediocre major leaguer and Nahem marginal. Over parts of MLB seasons (1938/Brooklyn Dodgers, 1941/St. Louis Cardinals, 1942/Philadelphia Phillies and 1948/Philadelphia Phillies), punctuated by minor league and semi-pro play as well as four years of military service, Nahem won but 10 games and lost eight for a respectable .556. See “Nahem” on page 3

Opinion

In My Own Words

Tribute to a friend

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

I don’t usually write about my rabbinical work in this column, but, although there are numerous political and social issues of importance I could discuss, it’s personal ones that are haunting me this week. On June 16, for the first time, I did the funeral of a personal friend: Jeff Kahn.

I’ve done funerals for family and for longtime family friends, but this one felt different. Maybe it’s because those others were older than me. Maybe it’s because his illness took him so quickly and I could see his far too fast decline. Maybe it’s because his wife, Rebecca, is one of my closest friends whose pain I cannot imagine.

What has been amazing is the way our community supported them during Jeff’s illness and has helped Rebecca since the funeral. Then there are the people who knew and loved Jeff from the 21 years he ran the Cyber Café West. Using the word “love” here is not an exaggeration. The line outside Temple Concord during calling hours went around the corner of the block. The posts on a Jeff Kahn tribute page on Facebook showed the number of lives he touched.

I did the final eulogy at his funeral. At the end, I suggested ways that people could honor his life. I think those suggestions may also speak to people who never knew him. I’ve never printed a eulogy in this column before, but I’m going to break that rule in this case. What follows are my remarks:

“I just want to conclude with a few personal words about my friend Jeff.

“Many people have a dream, but most are afraid to leave the security of their daily life and follow them. Jeff did. In my mind, that makes his life a huge success because success is measured not so much by the financial success of that dream (although the fact the café lasted as long as it did is impressive considering how quickly many restaurants and music venues close), but by the simple fact of following the dream.

“The Jeff Kahn tribute page on Facebook showed how many lives he’s touched. What came to my mind was a variation on a wonderful saying from ‘The Wizard of Oz’ with the word life replacing heart: the true measure of a life

is not how much you love, but how much you are loved by others. Jeff, your life measures among the highest.

“If you would like a way to honor Jeff’s memory, Rebecca and I had a few ideas. First, if you have a dream, follow it. Don’t worry about success or failure because what matters is the effort. You’ll always know you tried.

“Second, Jeff was passionate about politics. Those of us who read his weekly newsletter knew that he did not mince words about how he felt. Help keep that passion alive: truth will always matter, so carry his lantern of truth with you, whether you decide to do so in a blog, in letters to the editor or at rallies.

“Third, Jeff’s dream was to fill the Triple Cities with music. His stage gave local musicians an incredible opportunity. So, please, support local music whenever and wherever you can.

“Jeff was a powerful force and his passing leaves a huge gap in the many lives he touched. May his memory be for a blessing.”

Letters

The Binghamton Jewish summer camp experience

To the Editor:

After enjoying watching the College of Jewish Studies lectures on “The American Jewish Summer Camp Experience” which recently was held on Zoom, we thought it might be of interest to refresh the memories of Jewish participants who either themselves or their children participated in the only Jewish overnight summer camp in our area.

Camp Chen-A-Wanda, “The Friendly Camp for Boys and Girls on Beautiful Fiddle Lake,” was one of the first Jewish style camps in our area. CAW started as a day camp on the Chenango River near the Chenango Valley State Park in the late ‘30s. An early camper reported that the day camp was in a farmer’s pasture, requiring daily “poop patrol” before activities could begin. Two Binghamton School District teachers, Helen Isaacson and her brother, Harry Arlas, started the day camp.

Within a few years, they bought a piece of lakefront property in the Poconos and started a sleepover camp, still called Camp Chen-A-Wanda. There was one cabin for boys and one cabin for girls. The waterfront was also the shower facility. The primary activity in the beginning was blueberry picking.

Helen’s husband, Abe Isaacson, later joined the camp ownership and CAW started to grow – from one building when they bought the property to many buildings and extensive athletic facilities.

Helen said that they started the overnight camp to keep kids safe during the war, and campers had to bring their ration books to camp. During the war years, a number of

staff members, including Herb Kline, were called into service and had to take a hiatus from camp. However, immediately after the war, many former staff members who were continuing their college education returned as camp counselors, as did veterans who could find no other employment during their college summer vacation. After the move to Pennsylvania, most of the Jewish campers were locals.

Once Chen-A-Wanda became firmly established as a popular summer camp, many more campers came from the New York City and New Jersey metropolitan areas. The season lasted eight weeks. Campers and counselors often returned year after year, making lifelong friendships and volumes of memories.

As overnight camps became more sophisticated, the activities included all sports, go-carts, overnight trips, computers, arts and crafts, roller hockey, fitness, circus, performing arts, a pool in addition to the lake, sailing, motorboat rides, waterskiing, canoeing and boating, and a new recreation hall was constructed.

The camp directors did not promote Chen-A-Wanda as a Jewish camp, but initially most of the campers and counselors were Jewish. Anyone was welcome to attend, and the staff later was a mixture of everything, including some international counselors. The camp was not religious in the style of other strictly observant camps. That mostly meant not serving pork or shellfish, and not mixing milk and meat. The camp held Friday evening services, conducted by the older campers on a rotating basis. Following the

service, there was a social. We suffered through our own pandemic year when polio was rampant, particularly in New York City, and many parents decided it was safer for their children to be at camp. During the first two weeks the camp did not allow any visitors. On our visitors’ day, parents were restricted to specific roped out areas where they could observe their children at activities. No touching was allowed, which was difficult on both the campers and their parents, but proved to be a safe approach.

Each winter, two camp reunions were held, one in Binghamton for the local families and one in New York City for out of town families.

In 1979, the owners of the camp sold it to a younger couple who had been searching for such an overnight summer camp to operate. CAW remains in operation today at the same location in Pennsylvania, with various updates and improvements sought by today’s parents. In the year 2000, many of the prior campers during the years 1945 through 1979 when it was operated by the Isaacson and Arlas families gathered together in Binghamton to reminisce about the wonderful times they had shared. As part of their reunion, the group visited the camp to observe its many new facilities and longed for their younger days when they were campers and counselors.

We have enjoyed reminiscing with you about our “Good Old Days” at CAW.

Ellen (Isaacson) Goldman, noscaasi@comcast.net
Marcia (Isaacson) Alpert, mxalpert@comcast.net
Herbert Kline, quakerlaker4850@yahoo.com



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER BINGHAMTON

Suzanne Holwitt, President
Shelley Hubal, Executive Director

607-724-2332 ~ www.jfgeb.org

The Reporter Editorial Committee

Rachel Coker, chairwoman
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HOW TO REACH THE REPORTER

Mail ~ The Reporter, 500 Clubhouse Rd. Vestal, NY 13850

E-mail ~ TReporter@aol.com

Phone ~ 607-724-2360 or 800-779-7896

Extension#/Department ~ 1. Advertising 2. Business Office

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OPINIONS

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

LETTERS

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

ADS

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DEADLINE

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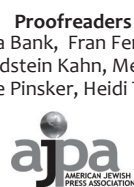
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Proofreaders
Barbara Bank, Fran Ferentinos,
Rebecca Goldstein Kahn, Merri Pell-Preus,
Ilene Pinsker, Heidi Thirer

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U.S. and Germany to collaborate on Holocaust education efforts

By JNS staff

(JNS) – The United States and Germany launched a dialogue on Holocaust issues on June 24 in the face of rising antisemitism and Holocaust denial, signing a letter of intent during a ceremony.

According to a State Department news release, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken met with German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas in Berlin at the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe in Berlin to launch the dialogue and underscore the shared commitment to combating Holocaust denial and distortion through finding innovative ways to enhance Holocaust education.

“Today, as in the past, Holocaust denial and other forms of antisemitism often go hand-in-hand with homophobia, xenophobia, racism, other hatred. It’s also a rallying cry for those who seek to tear down our democracies, which we’ve seen in both our countries is often a precursor to violence,” Blinken said at the ceremony. “That’s why we have to find innovative ways to bring the history of the Holocaust to life not only to understand the past but also to guide our present and to shape our future.”

According to the release, the dialogue will include formal senior-level consultations planned for late 2021 that will include representatives from the United States Holocaust Museum and the Memorial in Washington, DC.

“Our shared commitment to a regular dialogue underscores our desire to contribute to a world in which knowledge of the Holocaust is abundant, fact-based and serves as a foundation for tackling today’s challenges, including those that lead to the normalization of hatred that can result in demonization or persecution of those perceived as ‘the other,’” said the release. “Jointly with Germany, we will produce strategies and tools that governments can deploy to improve education and training on the Holocaust, counter Holocaust denial and distortion, combat anti-Semitism and ensure that policymakers have a strong understanding of these issues and of their responsibility to act.”

The State Department cited the need for such collaboration 76 years after the end of the Holocaust, when the numbers of survivors are dwindling, and to address what it sees as a fading knowledge of the Holocaust timed with the uptick in individuals, organizations and even governments engaging in Holocaust denial and distortion.

“It is more important today than at any time since the end of World War II to ensure there is an accurate understanding of the Holocaust, the forces that brought it about and its tragic consequences,” aid the release. “Complacency and lack of preparedness allowed the rise of fascism, antisemitism and racism that led to the Holocaust.”

Nahem..... Continued from page 2

winning percentage. With an inflated 4.69 career earned run average, he pitched only 224 innings, a number approximate to the total a starting-rotation pitcher accumulates in a single season. Appearing in 90 games over his four MLB seasons, Nahem started only 12 of those. He replaced the starter in 78 contests during an era when a reliever seemed more “mop-up” pitcher than valued specialist.

Despite less than pinpoint control and a fastball sans great movement, Nahem displayed a good slider and smart spot-pitching. He proved generally effective throwing side-arm to right-handed batters, but lefties frequently tagged his overhand pitches for hits. Displaying his trademark amalgam of wit and erudition, Nahem assessed his pitching: “I am in the egregiously anonymous position of pitching batting practice to the batting practice pitchers.”

Nonetheless, Nahem did have stellar moments on the ballfield. He starred as a good hitting pitcher and football fullback at Brooklyn College. In the minors, Nahem had an All-Star 1937 season with Clinton of the Illinois-Iowa-Indiana League, notching 15 wins against only five losses. His diamond heroics with the strong semi-pro Brooklyn Bushwicks also attracted attention.

As a major league spot starter and reliever with the 1941 St. Louis Cardinals, Nahem generated attention, going 5-2 with a 2.98 ERA over 82 innings. In his first start with the Cards on April 23, 1941, Nahem pitched a 3-hit, 9-inning complete game, allowing only 1 walk and defeating the Pittsburgh Pirates 3-1. The Pirates’ one run, unearned, resulted from two eighth inning fielding errors by the Cards.

Despite a lean muscularity at 6’1”, 190 pounds, the bald, bespectacled, asthmatic, dark and bookish Nahem did not look, talk, or act like a typical major leaguer, not even a Jewish one. Unlike his Jewish MLB contemporaries, such as Hank Greenberg, Harry Danning and Sid Gordon, who came from Eastern European Ashkenazi backgrounds, Nahem’s immigrant parents, Sephardic Jews from Syria, spoke Arabic. And communism set Nahem apart.

Legal settlement with a ship company after his importer/exporter father’s drowning kept the family solvent. But the suffering of others during the Great Depression, exposure to radicalism at Brooklyn College and the Communist Party’s 1935 adoption of Popular Front collaboration with liberals and labor unions against fascism led Nahem to the political left. Subsequently, the Soviet Union and the United States forged a wartime alliance against Hitler. In addition, the Communist Party supported Black civil rights,

and Nahem believed bigotry toward Blacks and Jews was intertwined. Thus, from his coming of age until his revulsion at the Soviet Union’s brutal suppression of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution, Nahem identified as a communist. FBI surveillance of Nahem produced a thick file.

The Communist Party’s *Daily Worker* newspaper waged a strong campaign for the integration of baseball, a matter of importance to Nahem. Indeed, Nahem integrated baseball – or at least a portion of it – before Brooklyn Dodgers President Branch Rickey brought Jackie Robinson to Ebbets Field. In 1945, U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Sam Nahem found himself the player-manager of the Overseas Invasion Service Expedition All-Stars baseball team in the European Theater of Operations. When not taking his turn on the mound, Nahem played first base and hit well. Bucking the brass, Nahem fought successfully to have two Negro League stars, Leon Day and Willard Brown, on his team. Playing a powerful squad drawn from General George S. Patton’s Third Army, Nahem managed and pitched the racially integrated OISE All-Stars to an upset victory in the ETO World Series.

Soured on communism, but not progressive causes, Nahem, his artist wife Elsie and their young children left New York for a new life in California in the mid-1950s. During his long stint at a Chevron factory, Nahem emerged as an assertive leader of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union. Hanging out at the University of California, Berkeley, he enlisted in the mid-1960s Free Speech Movement. Alongside his family, Nahem marched and demonstrated against the Vietnam War and racism. The old lefty continued to battle for social justice until his death at age 88 in 2004.

A Jewish pitcher and a Communist – the story of Sam Nahem resonates like that of a character culled from a Philip Roth novel.

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.


NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

Israel sends IDF rescue team to Florida disaster site

Israel has sent an elite IDF engineering team to Florida to help in recovery efforts following the collapse of a 12-story condo in Surfside, FL, on the morning of June 24. The delegation will assist in rescue efforts by mapping out the disaster site, identifying victims and survivors and supporting local rescue forces, the military said in a statement. The delegation is being led by Col. (res.) Golan Vach, commander of the National Rescue Unit in the IDF Home Front Command, and includes Foreign Ministry representative Guy Giladi, Israel’s former Deputy Consul General in Miami. The death count rose to five on June 26 as another body was pulled from the rubble. There are approximately 150 people missing following the collapse of the Champlain Towers South. What led to the disaster is still unknown. A 2018 engineering report found “major structural damage” to a concrete slab supporting the building’s ground-floor pool deck, the AP reported on June 27. The report warned that “failure to replace the waterproofing in the near future will cause the extent of the concrete deterioration to expand exponentially.” Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett spoke with Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis on the evening of June 26, conveying condolences on behalf of the Israeli public.

The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to the family of
Maria Moulton-Barrett, M.D.



DEADLINES

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

ISSUE	DEADLINE
July 16-29.....	July 7
July 30-August 12	July 21
August 13-26.....	August 4
Aug. 27-Sept. 9 (Rosh Hashanah)..	Aug. 18

All deadlines for the year can be found at www.thereporter.org/contact-us/faqs under “Q: What Are the Deadlines for the Paper?”



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Preparing financial reports for the board and CPA. Maintaining files of current and prospective students -- contact information, academic files, and health records. Ordering office supplies for teachers. Opening and distributing mail. Supervising students during recess and at other times, as needed. Walking students over to the JCC for UPK and Kids Connection. Taking and distributing email and phone messages to teachers, parents, and students. Assisting Journal committee with all aspects of the Annual Journal Fundraiser. Drafting and sending correspondence about school events, schedule, and other matters to parents. Troubleshooting office equipment. Answering and directing phone calls.

Skills: Written and verbal communication. Bookkeeping (Quickbooks Desktop and/or Online). Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite and Google Suite, including Onedrive and Google Drive.

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Off the Shelf

Injustice and Ethel Rosenberg

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

During my childhood, I was taught that Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were innocent of spying. For those unfamiliar with the case, the Jewish couple was convicted and executed for passing U.S. atomic secrets to the U.S.S.R. Both proclaimed their innocence and my father believed them. Then in the 1980s, a book was published (I can't recall the title) by someone who was going to positively prove the Rosenbergs were innocent. Unfortunately for the author, what he discovered was that, while Ethel had never been a spy, Julius had passed secrets to the Soviets. The U.S. charged Ethel in an attempt to make Julius confess his crime, something he never did. Because of his silence and Ethel's refusal to condemn her husband, they both died in the electric chair on June 19, 1953, two years before I was born.

I mention my personal history because it explains my interest in Anne Sebba's wonderful biography "Ethel Rosenberg: An American Tragedy" (St. Martin's Press). What makes this work so remarkable is that Sebba not only

allows readers to clearly understand Ethel's decisions, but paints vivid pictures of two different periods of American history that explain what happened to the Rosenbergs. To know why Julius was attracted to the communist cause, readers need to understand how many on the Lower East Side of New York City believed the Soviet Union was creating a workers' utopia. To understand what occurred during their trial, it's necessary to explain the Cold War hysteria that swept through the U.S. during the Korean War, when anyone with communistic/socialist leanings was considered a potential enemy to our country.

Sebba discusses Ethel's early life, particularly her difficult relationship with her mother. Although Ethel wanted to be a performer, she needed a job to support herself. It was through that employment that she became involved with union activities and socialistic causes. After Ethel married Julius, who was two years younger than her, her main focus, though, was on being a wife and mother. That

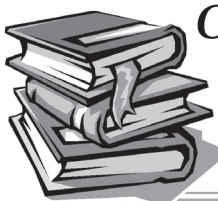
was typical of the times: women were expected to put aside any personal ambition in order to be a support to their husbands and children. Taking care of her two young children was not always easy for Ethel: she suffered from back pain and headaches for years. But she worked hard to be a good mother and a good wife. Her own desires were sublimated into family life.

During World War II, when the Soviet Union was an ally of the U.S., Julius passed on information given to him by Ethel's brother, David Greenglass. Julius never accepted money for this: he did it because he believed in the communist cause. At that time, Stalin and the Soviet Union were greatly admired by many in the U.S.: this country was still suffering from the effects of the Great Depression and capitalism favored the rich, not the poor. People were unaware of the failures of the Soviet Union's policies because its propaganda machine was so successful.

The recent release of David's original grand jury testimony shows that, while he mentioned that Julius was giving information to the Soviets, he said his sister had not taken part. However, when he realized his wife, Ruth, might also be arrested, David testified that Ethel had played an important role. In return, Ruth was never arrested or charged. Ethel's being two years older than Julius allowed her to be painted as the impetus for the spying: she was called an older woman who manipulated her husband.

Sabbo discusses how, although the government and the prosecutors knew that Ethel was innocent, they felt pressing charges against her would make Julius speak. They also hoped that Ethel would name others who were involved in the socialist movement. But Ethel refused to confess to a crime she had not committed, nor would she betray her friends: her idea of justice and truth would simply not allow her to do so. While not a saint by any means, Ethel comes across as an admirable woman who refused to bend her principles, even when it meant losing her life.

Sabbo also discusses the split in the Jewish community about the Rosenberg trial, how the world reacted to the trial, others who were arrested for spying and what happened to the Rosenbergs' two children. "Ethel Rosenberg" is perfect for book groups because there is a great deal to discuss, including whether offering deals to those accused of crimes if they implicate others really leads to justice. Ethel's brother, David, spent 10 years in jail and his wife, who had participated in his spying, was never even charged with a crime. Instead, his sister was put to death because he wanted to spare his wife prison time. The questions Sabbo raise linger long after reading the last page of her moving work.



Off the Shelf

Reviewing the past

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

"The past is a foreign country: they do things differently there." – L. P. Hartley

L. P. Hartley's statement came to mind after reading Cynthia Ozick's short novel "Antiquities" (Alfred A. Knopf) and Edmund De Waal's musings in "Letters to Camondo" (Farrar, Straus and Giroux). Both authors review a past very different from contemporary times. Each work also seeks to understand and make peace with events that were out of the characters/author's control.

Lloyd Wilkinson Petrie, the narrator of Ozick's novel, is writing his memoirs about his time at the Temple Academy for Boys. The boarding school, which Petrie attended as a child, closed 34 years before the opening date of his memoir, April 1949. The school building currently serves as a home for the last seven surviving trustees, of whom Petrie is one. All are retired and most have little to fill their days. Although Petrie is only supposed to record a few memories of his schooldays, he reviews a good portion of his life, including some fateful events that took place at the school.

Part of the memoir tells of Petrie's current life at the school, and the childish behavior of his fellow trustees. But his main focus is one school friendship, one that made him an outcast. To fully understand why, Petrie explains that even when Jews were allowed to be students, they were

never fully accepted. The narrator's casual antisemitism shows when he talks about these students, or makes it clear that while, as an adult, he has eaten lunch with a former Jewish student from his class, their families could never meet and socialize.

But it was one special Jewish student, one who stood out because he didn't try to fit in with the Jews or the Christians, whom Petrie befriended: Ben-Zion Elefantin. Elefantin is far better read in English literature than Petrie, but his history is hard to ascertain. Petrie becomes attached to this unusual student, but finds it difficult to understand someone whose ideas and behavior are so different from his own.

"Antiquities" is extremely well-done, although the underlying tone of the work is melancholy. Petrie's memoir forces him to look more closely at his life and review his successes and failures. But his introspection does not allow him to see beyond his class: this allows readers to create their own fuller portrait of the man. Petrie and "Antiquities" offer a view of a long gone world that still resonates today.

While "Antiquities" is pure fiction, "Letters to Camondo" is a hybrid work of imagination and history. De Waal writes letters to the late Count Moise de Camondo, who lived close to de Waal's ancestors in Paris. The author's tone is casual
See "Past" on page 8



FAMILY LIVING



Summer safety: steps you should take to help stay out of harm's way

The American Red Cross wants everyone to have a safe summer and offers tips and resources for the entire family.

Water Safety

Before going in, on or around the water, every family member should become "water smart." This starts with learning to be safe, making good choices and learning to swim to at least achieve the skills of water competency. Everyone should be able to enter the water, get a breath, stay afloat, change position, swim a distance and then get out of the water safely. A variety of water safety courses and resources are available to help. To help keep your family safe, the Red Cross offers these tips:

1. Prevent unsupervised access to water. Fence pools and spas with adequate barriers and keep a constant eye for any water dangers such as portable splash pools/slides, buckets and bathtubs.
2. Adults should actively supervise children and stay within arm's reach of young children and new swimmers. Kids should follow the rules. Designate a "water watcher" to keep a close eye and constant attention on children and weaker swimmers in and around the water until the next water watcher takes over.
3. Always wear a properly fitted U.S. Coast Guard-ap-

proved life jacket when on a boat and if in a situation beyond someone's skill level.

4. Swim as a pair near a lifeguard's chair – everyone, including experienced swimmers, should swim with a buddy even in areas supervised by lifeguards. Always maintain constant attention and actively supervise children even when lifeguards are present.

5. Download the Red Cross Swim app for safety tips, kid-friendly videos and activities, and take the free Water Safety for Parents and Caregivers online course.

See "Safety" on page 5

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Reduce taxable income from IRA Required Minimum Distributions

Then You Can:

Simply write a check now or use a credit card

Contribute long-term appreciated stock or other securities

Put a bequest in your will (gifts of cash or a share or the residue of your estate)

Create a charitable gift annuity

Name a charity as the beneficiary of the remainder of the retirement assets after your lifetime

Contribute a life insurance policy you no longer need or purchase a new one and designate a charity as the owner

Make a qualified charitable donation directly from your IRA (after age 70½)

Your Benefits May Include:

An income tax deduction and immediate charitable impact

A charitable deduction plus no capital gains tax

Exemption from federal estate tax on donations

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Tax relief to your family on inherited assets

Current and possible future income tax deductions

Reducing taxable income



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FAMILY LIVING

Babies bounce into community families



Olivia Maya Bank



Hannah Storm



Bennett Claude Eggleston



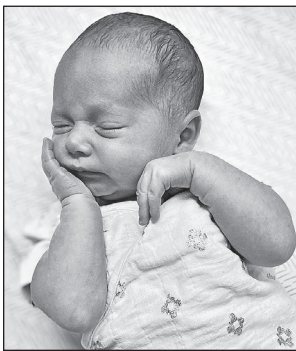
Maya Jade Wolff



Max Isaac Preus



Charlotte Elle Wyman



Michael Jay Spencer



Information was supplied by area synagogues:

Noam Adamit

Parents: Ayal and Rachel Adamit
Grandparents: Sarah Lynne and Ami Adamit

Chai Nissan Alweis

Parents: Malka and Mikey Alweis
Grandparents: Aaron and Miriam Alweis

Tehilla Ellisheva Alweis

Parents: Rivka and Dan Alweis
Grandparents: Aaron and Miriam Alweis

Olivia Maya Bank

Born: September 15, 2020
Parents: David Bank and Amy Alaniz
Grandparents: Barbara and Les Bank, and Ginny Alaniz and Joe Alaniz

Mordechai Chein

Parents: Zalman and Rochel Chein

Alexander Jacob Conts

Parents: Lisa and Michael Conts
Grandparents: Debby and Robert Lerner
Great-grandparent: Walter Selan

Bennett Claude Eggleston

Born: April 16, 2021
Parents: Jeremy and Rebecca Eggleston
Grandparents: Jeffrey and Ruth Shapiro, and Gary and Cindy Eggleston
Great-grandparents: Beverly Shapiro and Arlene Demarco

Tamar Fox

Parents: Tikvah and Eliyahu Fox
Grandparents: Elaine and Shai Mandel
Great-grandparents: Charney and Pinchus Oppenheim

Shai Goldman

Parents: Avigayil and Michael Goldman
Grandparents: Andra and Craig Goldman

Samuel Julius Hayman

Parents: Elise Morris Hayman and Benjamin Hayman
Grandparents: Janet and Mark Hayman

Payton Isabel Lake

Parents: Samantha and Kyle Lake
Grandparents: Marci and David Goodwin
Great-grandparent: Fern Sternberg

Max Isaac Preus

Born: December 7, 2020
Parents: Alexander Preus and Anna Binstock
Grandparents: Tony Preus and Merri Pell-Preus, Stuart Binstock and Debbie Berlyn

Julia Maya Rendsburg

Parents: Rachel and David Rendsburg
Grandparents: Susan Rendsburg Grosberg
Great-grandparent: Claire Ladenheim

Lavi Benjamin Serkin

Parents: Yonit and Yosef Serkin
Grandparents: Paul Serkin, and Judy and Robert Golub
Great-grandparent: Marlene Serkin

Tzemach Shemtov

Parents: Chaya Mushkah and Mendel Shemtov
Grandparents: Aaron and Rivky Slonim

Michael Jay Spencer

Born: May 17, 2021
Parents: Jeffrey Spenser and Allison Azersky
Grandparents: Michael and Madeline Azersky, and Susan Spencer

Hannah Storm

Born: April 12, 2021
Parents: Liz and Chad Storm
Grandparents: Dorie and Damian Osisek, and Mark and Jeanne Storm

Great-grandfather: Ralph Storm

Sara Dubra Turkel

Parents: Estie and Yosef Turkel
Grandparents: Leslie and Michael Tuchman
Great-grandparents: Harold and Meryl Sasnowitz

Maya Jade Wolff

Born: March 22, 2021
Parent: Aaron and Carly Wolff
Grandparent: Michael and Wendy Wolff, and Neil and Sheri Cooper

Great-Grandparents: Owen and Marcia Wolff, Shayne Cooper and Alvin Franklin

Charlotte Elle Wyman

Born: December 25, 2020
Parents: Brandon and Laura Wyman
Grandparents: Laurence and Edyce Wyman
Grandparents: Stanley and Susan Gottlieb

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Safety.Continued from page 4

Grilling Safety

Grilling food is so popular that more than three-quarters of U.S. adults have used a grill - yet, grilling sparks more than 10,000 home fires on average each year. To avoid this, the Red Cross offers these grilling safety tips:

1. Always supervise a barbecue grill when in use. Don't add charcoal starter fluid when coals have already been ignited.
2. Never grill indoors - not in the house, camper, tent or any enclosed area.
3. Make sure everyone, including pets, stays away from the grill.
4. Keep the grill out in the open, away from the house, deck, tree branches or anything that could catch fire.
5. Use the long-handled tools especially made for cooking on the grill to help keep the chef safe.

More safety tips

- ◆ The Red Cross has several resources to help people learn how to treat bee stings, burns and heat emergencies including online and in-person training courses, a free First Aid app and a First Aid Skill for Amazon Alexa-enabled devices.
- ◆ Part of a safe community is a strong blood supply for hospital patients. Give blood, platelets or plasma this summer to help ensure patients get the medical treatments they need. Download the Red Cross Blood Donor app, visit redcross-blood.org or call 800-RED-CROSS for more information or to schedule your donation.
- ◆ Remember to review the latest COVID-19 pandemic guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention with your family before you head out.

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, visit redcross.org or cruzrojaamericana.org, or on Twitter at @RedCross.

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Jewish online resources

By Reporter staff

A variety of Jewish groups are offering educational and recreational online resources. Below is a sampling of those. *The Reporter* will publish additional listings as they become available.

◆ The Shalom Hartman Institute will hold a “Virtual Summer Symposium” from Monday, July 5-Thursday, July 15, to explore what the Jewish future could look like. It will include public lectures and study seminars. For more information or to register, visit <https://summer.hartman.org.il/>.

◆ Siegal Lifelong Learning of Case Western Reserve University will hold the virtual course “Jewish Anthropology: Community, Culture and Rituals” on Thursdays, July 8-August 12, from noon-1 pm. People can register for individual lectures or for the full series. The cost per lecture is \$5 for members and \$10 for nonmembers. To learn more or to register, visit <https://case.edu/lifelong-learning/lectures/jewish-anthropology>.

◆ Menucha Classroom Solutions is offering a Summer Reading Program. The program is free and prizes will be awarded. Children can pick the books they want to read and can read them at their own pace. For more information, visit <https://menuchaclassrooms.com/pages/summer-reading-program>.

◆ Siegal Lifelong Learning of Case Western Reserve University will hold the virtual course “Jewish Lives: Martin Buber: A Life of Faith and Dissent” on Wednesdays, July 7-28, from 1:30-3 pm. The course will be taught by Rabbi Bill Plevan of Gratz College. For more information or to register, visit <https://case.edu/lifelonglearning/courses/courses-subject/jewish-studies/jewish-lives-martin-buber-life-faith-and-dissent>.

◆ The Jewish National Fund will hold the virtual “The Imagination Series: A Cultural Journey into the Western Galilee” on Tuesday, July 20, at 9 pm. The virtual tour will include meetings with local artists and small business owners, and the sights and sounds of the region. For more information or to register, visit www.jnf.org/events-landing-pages/a-cultural-journey-into-the-western-galilee

◆ The Jewish Theological Seminary will hold the virtual event “‘The Catastrophist’: A Theatre Talkback” on Wednesday, July 14, at 8 pm. The event will include a conversation with the team behind the virtual drama “The Catastrophist,” which tells the story of real-life virus hunter Nathan Wolfe – who just happens to be the playwright’s husband – and a meditation on scientific discovery, Judaism, family, life and loss. For more information or to register, visit www.jtsa.edu/the-catastrophist-a-theatre-talkback. The page also includes information on how to purchase a ticket to see the play before the discussion.

◆ The Jewish Theological Seminary continues its virtual “A Wandering People: Jewish Journeys, Real and Imagined” series in July and August. All lectures are on Mondays from 2-3:30 pm: “Flight, Return, and Emigration: The Wanderings of a Yiddish Writer During and After the Holocaust” on July 12; “Finding Hajar: A Scholar’s Quest to Uncover the History of Her Jewish Community Through the Journey of Its Books” on July 19; “The Global Journey of

a Jewish Stage Play: The Spectacular Story of Sh. Anski’s ‘The Dybbuk’ and How it Transformed American Jewish Theatre” on July 26; “The Early Modern Travel Pass: Controlling the Plague and Jewish Mobility in 16th Century Tuscany” on August 2; “Work-Life Balance in Ancient Times: Why the Rabbis Left Their Homes to Study Torah” on August 9; the topic of the August 16 lecture TBA; and “Traveling to Babylon – For Good” on August 23. To register for all the lectures, visit <https://inspired.jtsa.edu/event/a-wandering-people-jewish-journeys-real-and-imagined-registration/e338553>.

◆ The Jewish-American Hall of Fame Virtual Museum website, <http://amuseum.org/>, has expanded. More than 60 pages have been added, featuring large photos of the Jewish-American Hall of Fame medals and texts. Visitors can read two books by Mel Wacks – “Medals of the Jewish-American Hall of Fame 1969-2019” and “The Handbook of Biblical Numismatics, 45th Anniversary Edition” – as well as “Antisemitic Bigotry on Historic Medals” by Dr. Benjamin Weiss.

◆ Chabad.org will hold the virtual course “The Making of a Marriage: The Torah’s View on Dating and the Jewish Wedding.” The four-part course will begin on Tuesday, July 13, at 7 pm. For more information or to register, visit www.chabad.org/multimedia/course_aid/5155341/jewish/The-Making-of-a-Marriage.htm.

◆ Kveller offers “15 Easy Jewish Recipes the Whole Family Will Love” as an e-book. To receive a free download, visit www.kveller.com/15-easy-jewish-recipes-the-whole-family-will-love/.

◆ The Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust will hold the virtual event “The History of American Jewish Summer Camps” on Thursday, July 8, at 5 pm. The program will explore the history of Jewish summer camps with Dr. Gary Zola and Dr. Jenna Weissman Joselit. For more information or to register, visit <https://mjhnyc.org/events/the-history-of-american-jewish-summer-camps/>.

◆ National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene will hold “A Yiddish Renaissance,” a virtual concert in honor of Zalmen Mlotek, NYTF artistic director, on the occasion of his 70th birthday and a celebration of a 50-year career in the Yiddish theater. The concert will be available on demand from Monday, July 26, at 2 pm-Friday, July 30, at 2 pm. For more information or to register, visit <https://nytf.org/renaissance/>.

◆ The National Havurah’s Summer Institute will take place virtually from Sunday, July 25-Sunday, August 8. Classes will be offered throughout the two weeks, with both morning and evening options. Daily workshops will be available, as well as all kinds of other programming, including daily *davening*, communitywide learning, singing and other options. There is a cost to attend. For more information or to register, visit <https://havurah.org/summer-institute-2021/>.

◆ The JTS annual artists exhibit is being held virtually this year. For information and a link to the exhibit, visit www.jtsa.edu/jts-artists-exhibit-work.

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

State Dept. denies change to U.S. policy on Golan

By JNS staff (JNS) – The U.S.

State Department has denied that the Biden administration is planning to change its policy regarding the Golan Heights following recognition of Israel’s sovereignty of the area under the Trump administration.

“U.S. policy regarding the Golan has not changed, and reports to the contrary are false,” State Department’s Near Eastern Affairs Department wrote in a tweet on June 25.

On June 24, *The Washington Free Beacon* reported that the Biden administration was “walking back” its recognition. The story referred to comments made by U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken in February where he said “as a practical matter, the Golan is very important to Israel’s security,” though he stopped short of fully endorsing Israeli sovereignty over the region, saying America could revisit the status of the region in the future.

“Legal questions are something else. And over time, if the situation were to change in Syria, that’s something we’d look at. But we are nowhere near as that,” Blinken said at the time.

The report also quoted an unnamed State Department official who largely reiterated Blinken’s position from February.

Former U.S. officials and Republican congressmen, including former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, expressed concern that the United States could rescind its recognition. Israel gained control of the Golan Heights during the 1967 Six-Day War and extended sovereignty over the region in 1981. In 2019, the United States became



The view on Mount Bentel overlooking the border with Syria in the Golan Heights. (Photo by Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)

the first country to recognize that. Israeli officials have said there has been no discussion with the Biden administration over the status of Golan. “The issue of the Golan Heights hasn’t come up in talks with the Americans. It’s obvious that the Golan Heights will remain under Israeli sovereignty forever,” a high-ranking Israeli diplomatic official told *Israel Hayom*.

Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid said rumors that the Biden administration was planning to change its policies are part of an effort to undermine U.S.-Israel relations and the new government. “The Golan Heights is a strategic asset and an integral part of the sovereign state of Israel. The United States recognized our sovereignty over the Golan Heights and its strategic importance to Israel’s security,” he said.

He added that “anyone spreading rumors about the rescinding of this recognition harms [our] security, harms the [U.S.] declaration of sovereignty and is willing (not for the first time) to cause real damage to the state of Israel and its relations with the United States – all for the sake of harming the new government.”

Lapid was scheduled to hold his first in-person meeting with Blinken on June 27 in Rome.

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- 3) Fill out the form in this ad and mail it to the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850

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NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

Erdan resigns as Israel's U.S. ambassador, retains role as U.N. envoy

Israel's envoy to the United Nations announced on June 27 that he would be resigning from his simultaneous post as ambassador to the United States, pending the appointment of a replacement. "It was a true honor to represent Israel to our closest ally," Erdan said on social media. "During my tenure, I worked to establish ties with the Biden admin, as well as to strengthen the bipartisan support [for Israel]. Those ties were proven during the Gaza operation ["Guardian of the Walls"], when the U.S. halted anti-Israel initiatives in the U.N. Security Council and approved additional funding for the Iron Dome," he tweeted. "I believe it is up to the current [Israeli] government to appoint an ambassador [who] will represent it politically with the [U.S.] administration. However, I will continue to defend Israel at the U.N. and fight for justice in the international arena." Erdan, who has previously served as regional cooperation minister and public security minister, was appointed to his post as Israel's ambassador to the United Nations in July 2020, replacing Danny Danon, who had served in the role since 2015. His additional appointment as the country's envoy to Washington went into effect in January 2021, replacing Ron Dermer, who had served in the role since 2013. The only other Israeli figure to have filled both ambassadorial roles at once was the late diplomat Abba Eban, who served as a dual envoy from 1950-59. Erdan hails from former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud Party, which - following the formation of the new governing coalition - now leads the opposition in the Knesset.

Belgian gov't to remove army protection from Jewish sites

The head of the European Jewish Association said on June 23 that the Belgian government's decision to remove army protection at Jewish institutions makes "zero sense" and leaves Jews "wide open with a target on our backs." The military has provided security to Jewish sites in Belgium since the deadly shooting at the Jewish Museum of Brussels in May 2014, which resulted in the death of four people. The government announced that starting on Sept. 1, it will remove army protection from Jewish buildings and institutions. EJA Chairman Rabbi Menachem Margolin said it was "alarming" to find out about the decision, and that it was being taken without consultation with Jewish communities and without an alternative being proposed. He explained that in Belgium, the security threat is currently "medium," according to the calculations provided by the government's own Coordination Unit for Threat Analysis, but for Jewish communities, as well as the American and Israeli embassies, the threat remains "serious and probable. ... Unlike the U.S. and Israeli embassies, Jewish communities do not have access to any state security apparatus," said Margolin. "Antisemitism is increasing in Europe, not decreasing. Belgium, sadly, is not immune to this. The pandemic, the recent [Israeli] Gaza operation and its fallout are worrying Jews enough as it is, without this even added to the equation. Worse, it sends a signal to other European countries to do likewise. I am urging the Belgian government to reconsider this decision or at the very least offer a solution in its stead." Margolin wrote to Belgium's minister of the interior, Annelies Verlinden, requesting an urgent meeting and asking for the move to be reconsidered. In response to the government's decision, Michael Freilich from the Belgian Chamber of Representatives is proposing legislation that would offer a \$3 million fund to Jewish communities to help with their security.

Israel using vaccines rejected by Palestinian Authority

Israeli Health Ministry Director General Hezi Levi said on June 21 that Israel was using the COVID-19 vaccines that the Palestinian Authority had rejected. The vaccines Israel had planned to send to the P.A. are being used "right now, today, to vaccinate adults and their children," Levi told Channel 12. "We didn't transfer a single vaccine that had expired," said Levi, dismissing the P.A.'s assertion that some one million vaccines in question were too close to their expiration date to be safe. Asked why, then, the P.A. didn't want the vaccines, Levi said, "I leave that to them to explain ... but all the vaccines came from the SLE [health-care logistics center] warehouses under strict supervision with the

correct temperature, and everything we provide the P.A. is within the use-by date." After Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett's office announced on June 18 that an agreement had been reached to transfer between one and 1.4 million doses of the Pfizer vaccine to the Palestinians, P.A. Prime Minister Mohammed Shtayyeh said that the P.A. would not accept them. P.A. government spokesman Ibrahim Milhim said at a June 18 news conference, "After the technical staff of the [P.A.] Ministry of Health examined the first dose of the vaccine, it became clear that the doses did not meet the specifications detailed in the agreement," Maariv reported. P.A. officials say that some 30 percent of eligible Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza have received at least one dose, according to Reuters. This figure includes more than 100,000 Palestinian workers, vaccinated under the auspices of the Jewish state, who come into regular contact with Israelis.

Biden nominates Thomas Nides as ambassador to Israel

U.S. President Joe Biden on June 15 officially announced the nomination of Thomas Nides to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Israel. Nides, 60, has held roles in the private and public sectors. From 2010-13, he served as the State Department's deputy secretary of state for management and resources. As part of the Obama administration, Nides played a key role in the administration's approval of an extension on loan guarantees worth billions of dollars for Israel. He also led the push against Congress's efforts to defund the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the U.N. for Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees. Before that, Nides worked in the financial sector. He was chief administrative officer, chief operating officer and secretary of the board at Morgan Stanley; president and chief operating officer at Burson-Marsteller in New York; and chief administrative officer at Credit Suisse First Boston in Washington, DC. Nides has also served as a chief of staff to U.S. Trade Representative Micky Kantor, as well as a senior advisor to former House Speaker Tom Foley and former House Minority Whip Tony Coelho. Nides was born in 1961 to Jewish parents in Duluth, MN. His father, Arnold Nides, was the founder of the finance company Nides Finance, and served as president of the Duluth Jewish Federation and Temple Israel. Currently, Nides serves on the board of Partnership for Public Service, the International Rescue Committee, the Atlantic Council and the Urban Alliance Foundation. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the former board chairman of the Woodrow Wilson Center by appointment of former President Barack Obama. He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota and is a recipient of the Secretary of State's Distinguished Service Award. The nomination will now go to the Senate for confirmation.

Poll: Majority of Palestinians support Hamas, not P.A.

Palestinian attitudes have undergone a "paradigm shift" in favor of Hamas, according to a new study. The survey, conducted by the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research, found that 53 percent of Palestinians now agree with the statement "Hamas is most deserving of representing and leading the Palestinian people," versus only 14 percent who say the same of Fatah, led by Palestinian Authority leader Mahmoud Abbas. The poll was conducted in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip between June 9-12. The sample size was 1,200 adults interviewed face-to-face in 120 random locations. The margin of error was given as 3 percent. The study also found the "overwhelming majority of Palestinians" (77 percent) believe that Hamas won the recent conflict with Israel. Eighteen percent said neither side won, and 2 percent said both won. Only 1 percent believed Israel had emerged the victor. Seventy-two percent of respondents believed Hamas' claim that it had launched its May 10 attack on Israel to defend Jerusalem and the Al-Aqsa mosque. Nine percent said it was a protest against the cancellation by Abbas of the Palestinian parliamentary elections. Sixty-five percent thought Hamas achieved its goal, described by the poll as ending Israeli restrictions on Muslim access to Al-Aqsa and stopping the expulsion of Arab families from the Jerusalem neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah. The vast majority, 94 percent, said they were proud of the Gaza Strip's performance during the May conflict, with 39 percent explaining they were proud because Gaza had delivered a strike in defense of Jerusalem and exposed the weakness of the Israeli army. Another 39 percent said they were proud because Gaza had returned the Palestinian cause to the "forefront of Arab and international politics." Thirteen percent said they were proud because Gaza had suffered with "patience and dignity in defense of Jerusalem." The poll also found a spike in support for a return to armed conflict, rising sharply to 60 percent. Support for a return to negotiations and confidence that diplomacy was the most effective means to achieve Palestinian goals dropped.

Agent. Continued from page 6

effect transformation. And even if we were to attempt taking action, there is always the nagging thought: what will my singular action really accomplish? Can my action really make a difference?

that if you feel strongly about something, don't turn to the leaders; take action, be the agent of change you want to see! And never underestimate the power of one.

Based on the teachings of the Lubavitcher Rebbe of righteous memory.

Past. Continued from page 4

as if he is speaking to a friend, discussing favorite topics - particularly Camondo's collection of paintings, art objects and furniture. The house that Camondo lived in is in a section of Paris that came to be known as the nouveau riche Jewish section - something that was not meant as a compliment. The house was left to France after Camondo's death: it was dedicated to the memory of his son, who died in World War I.

family and friends, although de Waal clearly and succinctly lists what occurred once the Nazis conquered France. His matter-of-fact tone almost belies the horror, although the blunt, unemotional tone is very effective in showing how the family could not escape its fate. The author also speaks of his own family, those who were Jewish, and how he has reacted as the older generation has passed away.

De Waal, who is not Jewish, notes the prejudice that the Jewish Camondo faced, even though he notes that Camondo considered himself as much, if not more, French than he is Jewish. The author quotes those who did not feel the same, who believed the Jews are upstarts and social climbers with no taste. De Waal visited the Camondo museum and looked in its archives, marveling at the records the family kept and tracing the marriages of children and friends. The author asks questions that no one can answer, although his catalogue of events offers enough detail for readers to fill in some blanks.

"Letters to Camondo" brims with nostalgia and of betrayal: nostalgia for a lost world filled with beauty and the betrayal of those who believed in the French idea of equality, but who were excluded due to their religion. It is beautifully written, although readers should be aware that it contains architectural terms with which they may not be familiar. There are French phrases and sentences that are not translated, although Internet translation sites made those easier to understand. The work also contains photos of people, objects and houses, which are not labeled on the page, but rather in a list of illustrations found at the end of the book. This odd, unusual work will leave readers pondering not only the questions de Waal posited, but many of their own.

Camondo died before World War II and was spared learning what happened to his

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