

THE JEWISH WORLD

July 4 – 18, 2024 • Vol. 59, No.20 • www.jewishworldnews.org

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Blinken: Israel has ‘lost sovereignty’ in the north

JNS

Israel has “effectively lost sovereignty” over the northern part of its country amid ongoing attacks from Lebanon, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Monday, July 1. “People don’t feel safe to go to their homes,” the secretary stated during a panel at the Brookings Institute, noting that “you have many Lebanese in southern Lebanon who have also been chased from their homes.”

Displacement Of Peoples

“Absent doing something about the insecurity, people won’t have the confidence to go back,” Blinken said of the conflict with Hezbollah.

Washington’s efforts are focused on getting “people back to their homes in Israel, in southern Lebanon, and have something that’s more enduring in terms of keeping things calm,” according to the diplomat.

Damages In Israel

Hezbollah has attacked Israel’s north nearly every day since joining the war in support of Hamas on Oct. 8, firing thousands of suicide drones, rockets and anti-tank missiles at Israeli border towns, killing more than 20 people and causing widespread damage. Tens of thousands of Israeli civilians remain



PHOTO COURTESY OF AYAL MARGOLIN/FLASH90.

A fire that was started by missiles launched from Lebanon near She’ar Yashuv in northern Israel, July 1, 2024.

internally displaced due to the ongoing violence.

According to data made public on Tuesday, July 2, more than 1,000 buildings in more than 130 towns have been damaged in the Hezbollah attacks. An initial investigation by authorities showed that Kibbutz Manara, near Kiryat Shmona in the Upper Galilee, has suffered the most severe damage. The head of the Upper Galilee Regional Council, Giora Zaltz, told Ynet that in

many communities, “it is not possible to assess the damages to the infrastructure, buildings and houses” due to the security threat.

Diplomacy?

In the Brookings Institute interview, Blinken said any political deal for the north “requires first and foremost, of course, stopping the [Hezbollah] firing across the border that’s endangering people.” However, he added, “it also

requires an agreement reached through diplomacy to try to deal with some of the elements that are causing this ongoing insecurity, including making sure that [terrorist] forces, for example, are pulled back so that they can’t endanger people every single day and that people have the confidence to proceed.”

Blinken noted that while for Hezbollah to attack Israel in support of Hamas is “wrong in and of itself,” realpolitik requires a ceasefire with the Gaza-based terrorist organization, which he said could “be critical to further enabling the diplomacy to try to create conditions in which the diplomacy can really resolve this problem” on the northern border.

Israel Considers Campaign

Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah has vowed to continue the attacks until a “complete and permanent ceasefire” is reached in Gaza. Last month, the IDF formally “authorized and validated” operational plans for a campaign aimed at pushing Hezbollah north of the Litani River, which was also the stated goal of 2006’s UNSC Resolution 1701.

Israel might launch the operation as early as this month, Germany’s **Bild** has reported, citing unnamed diplomatic sources. The report came against the background of Lufthansa suspending

Continued on page 12

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The Jewish World

Published approximately every two weeks for the capital region, upstate New York and western New England.

USPS 582-900. ISSN 0199-4441.

Vol. 59, No. 20 • July 4 – 18, 2024

28 Sivan – 12 Tammuz, 5784

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Subscriptions

Mail check or credit card info, or visit jewishworldnews.org/subscribe.

\$73 for one year, or \$6.75 per month.

Two years, \$135. Three years, \$197.

Four years, \$259. Chai —

18 years, \$955.

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No more T-U

The Times-Union newspaper, which had been collaborating with **The Jewish World** to provide our subscribers with the Sunday T-U, has ended that program. Alas!

Friends have suggested that without the T-U to occupy Sunday hours, readers could profitably spend time reviewing Jewish texts like **Pirkey Avot!**

Is Freedom A Jewish Virtue?

By JOSHUA RATNER

Are you on the freedom bandwagon? Celebrations of the concept of freedom permeate the cultural-political zeitgeist. Stephen Spielberg's 2013 movie "Lincoln," which tells the story of President Lincoln's efforts to pass a Constitutional amendment banning slavery, received 12 nominations for best picture. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, in which we celebrate the birth of the great civil rights hero who helped lead African Americans in their struggle for freedom from racial oppression, is a national holiday.

Have you seen the Piers Morgan-Alex Jones interview? In a clip that has gone viral, Jones, a radio talk show host and gun enthusiast, launches into a vitriolic tirade about guns, freedom, and potential revolution that makes one wonder how he qualified for a gun permit.

'Let my people go...'

What about the Exodus narrative? The story of God's deliverance of the Israelites from slavery to freedom formed the moral and linguistic basis for King's civil rights oratory and is intertwined with Western society's development of a natural right to liberty (which underlies both the 13th Amendment and gun owner's claims to liberty from government intrusion into gun ownership).

But we are reading the Exodus narrative incorrectly if we understand it as just a call for liberty. Despite what we teach our children through songs during Passover, God did not have Moses tell Pharaoh to "let my people go." God, through Moses, tells Pharaoh again and again to "let my people go so they may serve me." (Ex. 7:26; 8:16; 9:1; 9:13; 10:3) This is a huge distinction! The Israelites are not released from servitude into some libertarian paradise where they could do as they pleased. Instead, God rescues them from bondage to a mortal ruler so that they can become God's servants: the Hebrew verbal root *eved*, which connotes servitude, is used to describe the Israelites' new relationship with God.

Free to serve

We were freed so that we could serve God's command; we were liberated from physical and emotional slavery so that we could undertake new responsibility and obligation, devoting ourselves to becoming God's agents and stewards. This prioritization of obligation over freedom would later be codified into

normative Jewish law.

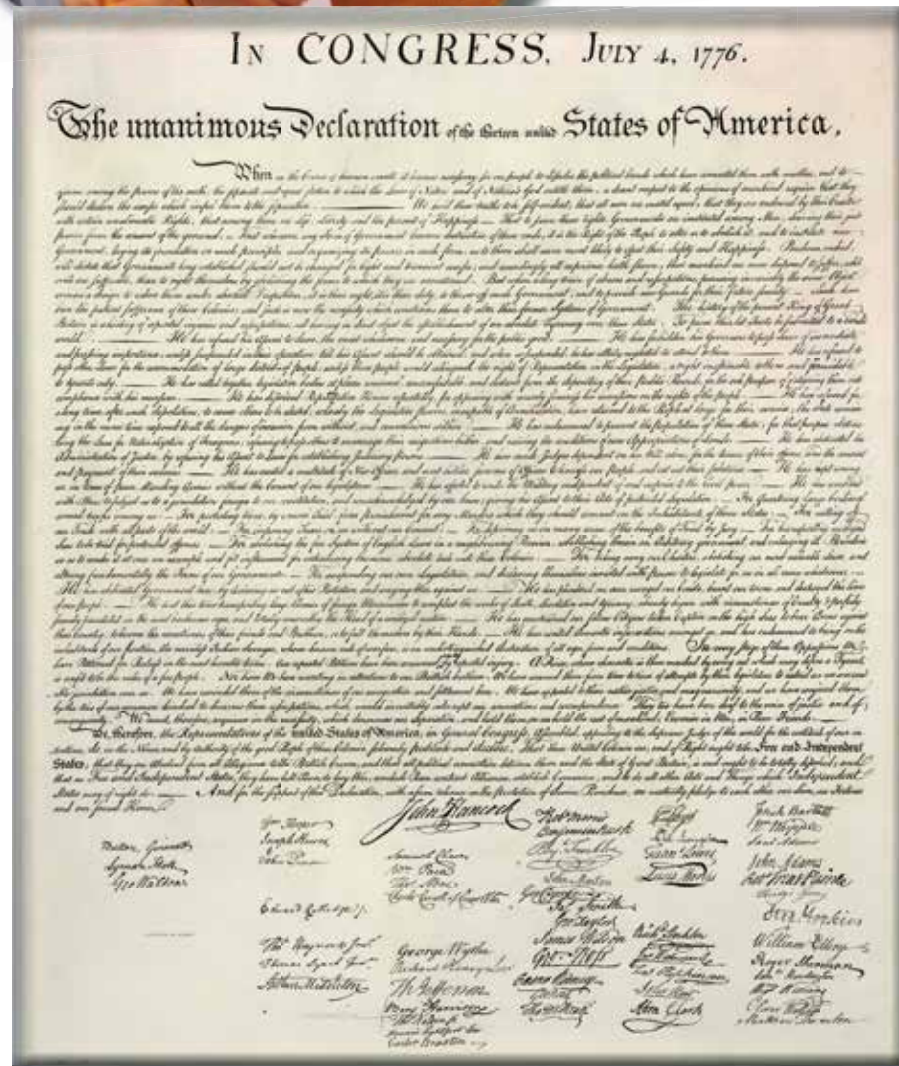
In the Babylonian Talmud, tractate Kiddushin (31a-b), the question is asked: "Who receives more credit, someone who does mitzvot out of a sense of obligation or someone who does mitzvot as a volunteer?"

Intuitively, many

heritage in which freedom and liberty are downplayed in favor of service and obligation? Or does this normative Jewish attitude towards freedom no longer speak to us? Is Rabbi Hanina obsolete?

The Jewish approach to freedom corrects liberal and libertarian

extremists who are poisoning our public discourse. Freedom from oppression and tyranny is a wonderful thing, and we are right to celebrate the Fourth of July as well as Martin Luther King Day. But the opposite of tyranny is not individual freedom to do whatever we want whenever we want.



would think that volunteering to perform mitzvot would be more desirable. But Rabbi Hanina holds: "gadol ha-mitzveh ve-oseh me-me she-aino metzuev ve-oseh— someone who is commanded to perform a mitzvah and does so is greater than someone who performs the commandment without being obligated to do so."

And today?

In 21st century America, are we comfortable with this? Do we embrace this

It is empowerment to live our lives with virtue.

No longer beholden to the whims of others, freedom grants us the opportunity to do the right and the good. The wisdom of our tradition is that political freedom is not an end but a means towards living a more purpose-driven, moral, and holy life.

<https://www.myjewishlearning.com/2013/01/14/is-freedom-a-jewish-virtue/> Jan. 2013

Free course on US founders, Jewish ideas

New York City's Tikvah Fund is offering an online free course, "Jewish Ideas and the American Founders," taught by Rabbi Meir Soloveichik.

In a series of eight lectures, Soloveichik explores the Jewish ideas that inspired America's founding generation and helped make the United States such an exceptional home for the Jews.

Rabbi Dr. Meir Y. Soloveichik is director of the Zahava and Moshe Straus Center for Torah and Western Thought at Yeshiva University and the rabbi of New York City's Congregation Shearith Israel, the oldest Jewish congregation in the United States.

Soloveichik has served as associate rabbi at Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun in Manhattan. He has lectured throughout the United States, in Europe, and in Israel to Jewish and non-Jewish audiences on topics relating to Jewish theology, bioethics, wartime ethics, and Jewish-Christian relations. His essays have appeared in the Wall Street Journal, Mosaic, Commentary, First Things, the Jewish Review of Books, Tradition, and the Torah U-Madda Journal. In August 2012, he gave the invocation at the opening session of the Republican National Convention in Tampa, Florida. He is the son of Rabbi Eliyahu Soloveichik, grandson of the late Rabbi Ahron Soloveichik, and the great nephew of the late Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveichik.

Episodes

1: The Yiddish Letter and the Declaration: The Incredible Story of Jonas Phillips, the First Truly American Jew

2: America's Passover: Franklin, Jefferson, and the Seal of the United States

3: From the Talmud to Thomas Paine: Political Hebraism and the American Revolution

4: The Founding Father and the Huppah

5: Washington, Seixas, and Giving Thanks

6: Continue to Water them with the Dew of Heaven

7: Adams, Jefferson, and the Jews

8: The Home We Build Together

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What is the meaning of the destruction of the Dagestan, Russia synagogues by terrorists?

By ISRAEL TSVAYGENBAUM

My name is Israel Tsvaygenbaum, an artist of the fine art, resident of Albany since 1994. I was born in the city Derbent, the Republic of Dagestan, Russia. It is located on the Caspian Sea. It is the southernmost city in Russia, and it is the second-most important city of Dagestan. In Derbent and the entire Dagestan live a Muslim majority. Most Jews in Derbent are Sephardic Jews. They are also known as the Mountain Jews or Caucasus Jews. The Jewish community of Derbent is the oldest in the North Caucasus and dates to the 7th century. Most Derbent Jews immigrated from the mountain and steppe villages of the northern Caucasus. Total population of Derbent Jews is between 1,000 and 1,345.

I Knew This Synagogue

The tragic events that occurred on Sunday, June 23, in the cities of Derbent and Makhachkala, in the Republic of Dagestan, Russia, where the Islamic terrorists burned synagogues and Christian churches and killed a priest in Derbent, shook me to my core. Terrorists mercilessly killed

innocent people. 16 police officers and five civilians, along with at least five perpetrators were killed.

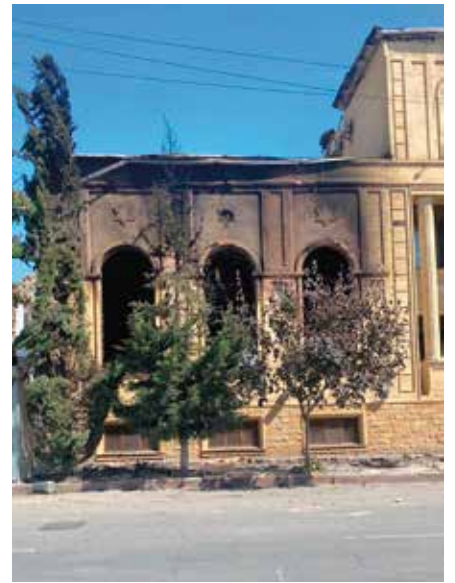
Derbent used to have many synagogues, but during the Soviet Union's leadership there was only one left. The Derbent Synagogue was consecrated in 1914. In 2009 the synagogue was dismantled and reconstructed using old stones and new materials. The synagogue's reopening was on March 22, 2010. The building of the new synagogue was multifunctional. There was the Jewish Community Center, the religious school, the daycare, and the Jewish Museum.

Unfortunately, I have not seen the rebuilt one. Many who saw the new Derbent synagogue have told me that it had a gorgeous interior and had featured beautiful old Torah scrolls. They were from a rare collection. Torahs destroyed.

I remember well the older synagogue, where my father regularly prayed on Shabbat and all Jewish holidays, and my older brother and I had bar mitzvah. As a young boy, I used to sometimes bring on Friday chickens to a shochet, to be slaughtered, to make them kosher. This is so imprinted in my memory that I even dedicated my



A burnt shul in Dagestan, Russia after terrorists set it afire.



Exterior of Derbent synagogue destroyed by Islamic terrorists.

painting "The Shochet with Rooster" to this in 1997.

In my memoir, "My Secret Memory," there are stories of my youth, where I described the Derbent synagogue, my memory about the shochet, and how my father in the separate room of the synagogue read Yizkor — The Memorial Prayer— with the Ashkenazi Jews, because the Mountain Jews on Yom Kippur don't have the custom to read it. There I also describe kapparot, a customary atonement ritual practice on the eve of Yom Kippur and the day-to-day life of Derbent's Jews.

During my youth in Derbent, Jews did not have major problems with the Muslim population. Jews lived next door to them, studied and worked together and served in the same units in the army. I personally had no problems with them. I had Azerbaijani friends.

Russia Should Monitor

The main problems appeared when the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, and the Muslim people became Islamized. Lately, some young people began to sympathize with ISIS, Hamas and Hezbollah. This gave rise to extremism and anti-Semitism.

The current war between Israel and Hamas has exacerbated the situation. Plus, war between Russia and Ukraine has weakened Russia's human resources and the state in this situation does not have full capability to monitor internal problems with the growing number of Islamic extremists. It gave more grounds for terrorists to bring unrest in the Republic of Dagestan, with incitement to hatred of Jews and Christians.

Usually, the main problems have as focus— Jews. It is very rare when Christians get attacked.

Makhachkala is the capital and the biggest city of the Republic of Dagestan, Russia. It's 2.5 hours away from Derbent. The terrorism in both places happened at the same time.

I still have relatives and friends who live in Derbent who went through the stress during and after this horrific tragedy.

The resilient Jews of Derbent, despite the fear that the terrorists wanted to sow, have already decided to rebuild their synagogue again and continue to pray and enjoy life.

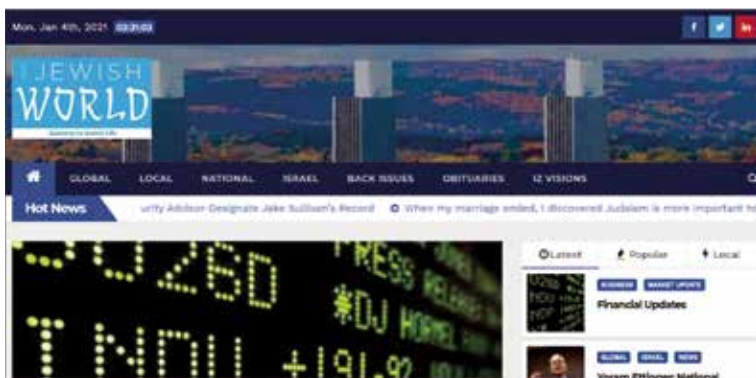
Lessons For Here

Events in Derbent and Makhachkala may remind us Jews in the United States that lately we have been seeing arrogant, rabid anti-Semites sympathizing with Hamas. They unceremoniously call for the extermination of the Jews. Jews in the United States feel like they are on a powder keg, that at any moment their lives could be in danger. The growth of anti-Semitism in our country is increasing. Unfortunately, Jews in the USA do not feel that our government is doing enough to stop anti-Semitic marches on the streets, in colleges, etc.

The tragedy of Derbent and Makhachkala is not guaranteed may be repeated here in our country— the U.S. — unless our country takes tough measures to punish anti-Semitism. Let's hope that our country will take care of its people and will not allow people who openly call for violence against Jews to go unpunished.

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Cycling for Israel at the Tour de France: Team also represents Jewish state

By AMELIE BOTBOL,
CHARLES BYBELEZER

JNS

Israel-Premier Tech has kicked off its fifth appearance in the Tour de France, cycling's most prestigious race, with riders tackling a hilly 206-kilometer (128-mile) opening stage taking them through the heart of Florence and on to Rimini. The team was founded by Ron Baron in 2014 and is co-owned by Sylvan Adams. Its squad for the Tour features riders Pascal Ackermann (Germany), Guillaume Boivin (Canada), Jakob Fuglsang (Denmark), Derek Gee (Canada), Hugo Houle (Canada), Kristis Neilands (Latvia), Jake Stewart (Britain) and Stevie Williams (Britain).

Two survivors of The Hamas Oct. 7 massacre are with the Israeli team. Adams invited to Florence Avida Bachar, from Kibbutz Be'eri, who lost his son, wife and one of his legs in the Hamas assault, and Sharon Shevo, also from Kibbutz Be'eri, who was wounded in the attack while riding his bicycle. Twenty-two teams are taking part in the 21-stage race (2,174 miles), which ends in Nice on July 21 (for the first time, it will not end in Paris, due to preparations for the upcoming Summer Olympics in the French capital).

Hamas Barbarism Backdrop

Other Israelis came on their own initiative and will follow the riders in caravans throughout the Tour.

Brigitte David, whose daughter-in-law lost her parents, Meni and Ayelet Godard, on Oct. 7, came to support the team. "We have been coming to the Tour for 15 years. We bring our bicy-



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMELIE BOTBOL.

From left: Oct. 7 survivors Sharon Shevo and Avida Bachar and Israel Premier Tech co-owner Sylvan Adams prepare to board a flight to Italy for the Tour de France, at Ben-Gurion Airport, June 26, 2024.

cles and we drive the stages. We see the Israeli team and we are proud and happy," David told JNS.

"This year, it was difficult to leave the country with everything that was happening. Some of our family members lived in Kibbutz Be'eri and were deeply affected by the attack. It's very hard for us," she said. Meni Godard's body is still being held by Hamas in Gaza.

"Here To Win"

IPT sporting director Dror Pekatch told JNS the pressure usually peaks as the race kicks off. "We are all ambassadors [of Israel] but in the end we are here to win," he said. The team has thus far had its best-ever season with 16 stage victories across all competi-

tions. IPT won two Tour stages in 2022 and last year scored a spectacular win by Michael Woods in stage 9 at the Puy-de-Dôme.

"The team was tactically built based on the profile of the riders. We have climbers like Derek Gee, who proved in the preparation race, the Dauphiné in

France, that he can be up there," Pekatch explained. (Gee came in third overall in the mountainous eight-stage, 737.9-mile 2024 Critérium du Dauphiné that ended on June 9.)

"There are eight flat stages that Pascal Ackermann can fight for as a sprinter; he can also go on hard climbs," Pekatch added.

Canadian rider Boivin said, "We've been waiting for this day for quite a few months and it's finally starting. It's time to get on our bikes and try to win some stages," he told JNS.

From the equipment they use to their level of hydration and calorie intake, every element of the riders' routine leading up to and during the Tour is meticulously planned by a team of 40 professionals accompanying them throughout the event.

"The bikes are top of the range, super light and super fast, they're all set for each rider down to the millimeter," IPT mechanic Andreas Back Watt told JNS.

What It Takes

"They are calibrated to fit each rider's specific measurements, the bikes

Continued on page 6



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMELIE BOTBOL.

Sharon Shevo, left, and Avida Bachar at the entrance to the Tour de France fan zone in Piazza Santa Croce, June 27, 2024.



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Cycling for Israel at the Tour de France ...

Continued from Page 5

are made of carbon fiber in Taiwan. The frame costs about €5,000 [\$5,360]. We have three spare bikes per rider. We hope they use the same bike from start to finish, unless there is a crash," he said.

While crashes make headlines and could put riders out of the race in a second with a fracture, IPT's Dr. Joost De Maeseneer said that he takes equally serious sore throats and respiratory tract infections, which could become problematic if left untreated.

"Our goal is to keep riders in the race, and to do so we must stay close to them," De Maeseneer told JNS.

"You have to visit the riders, go to their room after dinner and check that everything is okay. If there is something, we need to know so we don't lose time. While a stomach issue can be minor, we have to jump on it immediately," he said.

To maintain their strength during the grueling three weeks, the riders eat at their own restaurant-on-wheels, in which chef Olga Belenko prepares them healthy and nourishing dishes. "I prepare three meals, it's non-stop work from the morning until midnight," Belenko, who collaborates closely with the team's three nutritionists, told JNS. "We build the meals based on stages and how many calories they use in a given day that need to be replaced," she

added, while preparing a white mushroom turkey stew for lunch.

"The riders basically have two breakfasts, the first part being red fruits, juice, cereal and coffee. The second often includes rice, crepes, pancakes, porridge," said Belenko.

Each day during the race, the riders can consume about three-to-four times the caloric intake of an average adult male.

"In bigger stages, it can be upwards of 7,000 calories a day. A lot of it comes from carbohydrates, which are the main source of energy for the brain and muscles," IPT nutritionist Vanessa Zoras told JNS.

"We monitor them closely, run medical tests and control calories through the year as well to make sure that when the time comes they are just ready," she said.

Emergency?

The controlled environment is essential, as something invariably pops up. Just days ago, rider Williams had a toothache, giving the entire team a scare. "This was quite minor," recounted Pekatch. "We found a window and fixed an appointment with the dentist, we coordinated it with the help of the local Jewish community.

"Setbacks will come, it may be in the form of a crash, sick riders or a flat tire during the race. As you see, it's a



PHOTO COURTESY OF ISRAEL-PREMIER TECH.

Israel-Premier Tech's team for the 2024 Tour de France.

huge production. Everybody is a link in the chain. Luckily enough, we have the best possible team," he said.

Part of Cycling Community

While most of the focus will be on the race, events will be held to commemorate the victims of Hamas's terrorist onslaught and to hear from the survivors.

"Be'eri is a village of cyclists in the 'Gaza Envelope.' We used to go to do races. There's a lot of riders. And they were part of the cycling community," Ron Baron, an investment manager who founded the IPT team in 2014, told JNS. "Many of them got killed, kidnapped, injured. Am Yisrael is a big family. We help each other," he added.

The Israeli team prior to the event honored professional cyclist and two-time Tour de France winner Gino Bartali's contribution to saving Italian Jews under Nazi occupation recently. In 2013, Yad Vashem recognized Bartali (1914-2000) as a Righteous Among the Nations for risking his life to save Jews during the Holocaust.

Survivors Share Efforts

"Biking is part of my life. Although I practice mountain bike, there's no doubt that the Tour de France is an amazing athletic experience. They offered me [the chance] to come and I was glad to accept," Bachar said. Nearly nine months after losing his wife and son, he is struggling to cope.

"I'm trying to hold on. I work on my leg, I'm hoping to be independent again. Whether I want it or not, I'm part of this story and it's my story, it's my situation now," he said.

Every year, Bachar goes on bike trips abroad with about a dozen of his friends, including Shevo. Before Oct. 7, they had visited Montenegro together, and in September they plan to ride in Austria.

"For me, the Tour de France is a dream. I was there with my son eight years ago, it was amazing," said Shevo, who was out training for the Epic Israel

competition on the morning of Oct.

7 when he was ambushed by Hamas terrorists and wounded in the arm. "We took a trip for his bar mitzvah. We saw the finish in the Alps," he told JNS.

"Biking has been my hobby for 20 years. After October 7, I underwent surgery, I was in the hospital for one month and in rehabilitation for eight months. I'm doing better, I still have limitations in my hand but I can still ride, even with one hand," he said.

Shevo was rescued by the Israel Defense Forces outside of Be'eri close to the site of the Supernova music festival. His son Shaked, an IDF officer, battled the terrorists for hours to protect the rest of the family. For five hours after he was brought to the hospital by the army, Shevo did not know whether his family had survived.

"Obtuse Moral Inversion"

During a meeting this spring, Adams told JNS that efforts to disrupt the Tour de France over the Israeli team's participation would be an "obtuse moral inversion" by haters of the Jewish state.

A BDS statement has called to "block the roads to genocide." It singled out Adams for his attempt to "sanitize" Israel's military actions in the war, triggered by the Oct. 7 Hamas massacre, through sport.

"These haters have it precisely backward: On Oct. 7, it was Hamas that began a genocidal campaign of murder, torture, rape, butchering, burning and desecration on an unimaginable scale and with heartless cruelty," Adams told JNS.

"In response, we fight to defend the homeland, morally, with one arm tied behind our backs, as we go to great lengths, including additional losses of our brave young soldiers, in order to minimize civilian casualties," he said.

Over the last decade, Adams has served as an unofficial ambassador for Israel around the globe, transcending the media narrative of a country engulfed in conflict.

Jewish journalism counts — Israel is at war.

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Another meaning for ‘through a glass darkly’

By MARILYN SHAPIRO

In ancient times, Jewish brides may have brought into marriage a nedunya, or dowry, “those assets of the wife which she of her own free will entrusts to her husband’s responsibility.” This could take the form of money, slaves, or cattle. As Larry and I look forward to our 50th anniversary this fall, I reflect back on the “dowry” I brought into our marriage, a collection of Warner Brothers Looney Tunes glasses.

Larry and I announced our engagement to our families on Oct. 6, 1973. Fresh out of graduate school, Larry was working at his parents’ store, Shapiro’s of Schuylerville, making an astounding \$78 a week. Meanwhile, I was in my second year of teaching high school English in a suburb of Albany, with a starting salary of \$5,200

We obviously were not coming into this marriage as “well off.” But we had a plan for starting our new household. Who needed a wedding registry, where we could list china and silverware that we could never use? I just needed to stock up on free glassware from the nearby hamburger joint.

Pepsi Promotion

My apartment in Rensselaer, was a short distance up Route 9 from a Carrols. The burger chain, which was founded in 1960 in Syracuse, by Herbert N. Slotnik, was viewed as “incredibly popular as it was an alternative to McDonalds,” with over 150 outlets, mostly in upstate New York and Pennsylvania.

During our engagement, Carrols was running a promotion sponsored by the Pepsi Corporation. For the price of a large soda product, each customer received a Looney Tunes glass with Warner Brothers’ characters painted on the outside. Daffy Duck! Bugs Bunny! Elmer Fudd! And, over the course of several months, 15 more glasses were released. My quest was to get all 18 options, which was a great deal of Diet Pepsi.

Each week, whatever day the newest one was up for sale, I would stop by, order a Diet Pepsi, slurp it up, and then bring the prize home. To be honest, I can’t even remember if I purchased their signature Club Burger! Six glasses in, I wasn’t even bothering to drink the soda. I dumped it out, washed out the glass when I got home, and tucked it away in a cupboard.

After our September 1974 wedding, we moved into our tiny apartment in Guilderland. Thanks to a bridal shower and gifts, we had a kitchen stocked with a Corelle dinnerware set for eight, Oneida silverware, Farberware pots, and several pieces of the classical Corningware with the blue flowers. And, thanks to Carrols, we had over two dozen Looney Tunes glasses, many with duplicates.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARILYN SHAPIRO

Four glasses left from Marilyn Shapiro’s dowry.

Entertainment Value

We did receive a lovely set of glassware from Tiffany’s, with an S engraved on each one. They went onto the top shelf of our apartment’s galley kitchen. Why would we use those when The Roadrunner and Wile E. Coyote could fight it out at our tiny kitchen table? Beep! Beep!

Bugs and the Gang came with us to our first home and, two years later, to our second. By the time he was five, Adam was old enough to graduate from sippy cups to Sylvester. Julie progressed to Petunia Pig three years later. Of course, a few met their untimely death on our kitchen floor, but we managed to hold on to many of them. About 15 years ago, I found some replacements at a secondhand store. Again, more were lost to breakage, but we still had five remaining when we made the move to Florida in 2015.

By then, the painted characters had faded, and the glasses were cloudy. The former owners of our Kissimmee home had left a set of glasses in the cupboard, and we opted to use those for every day use.

What’s Up Folks?

Our Looney Tunes treasures only came out on occasions, and we only lost one over eight years, until the college football playoff in January 2023.

We had met our friends Joel and JoAnn Knudson, from a tiny town in North Dakota, many years earlier at a Jamaican resort. That began a close friendship that we maintained through a few more trips to Jamaica, a visit they made to Albany just before Hurricane Sandy, and time together in Florida. We were thrilled when they purchased a home in our 55+ community.

Soon after their move, the Knudsons, lifelong fans of North Dakota State University’s football team, were looking forward to the Jan. 5, 2023, championship match between their

beloved Bisons and their arch rivals, South Dakota State University. As their television set hadn’t arrived yet, we invited them over to watch the game on our big screen.

At the end of the first quarter, the two teams were tied 7-7. By halftime, however, NDSU was behind 14-7. Time for refreshments! We replenished the chips and dip. I offered Joel a cold beer in one of our favorite Looney Tunes glasses, Bugs Bunny.

“Get that @#? \$ jack rabbit out of here!” Joel yelled.

How was I supposed to know that the SDSU’s mascot was a jackrabbit??

I quickly transferred the Yuengling into a less threatening Elmer Fudd. According to Joel, however, the damage was done. The Bisons faced a blistering 45 to 21 defeat by the despised Jackrabbits. The Knudsons went home disappointed; both Bugs and Elmer went into my dishwasher to see another day.

Time For Tiffany


Two days later, I was reading the newspaper on my kitchen counter. As I turned the page, my hand brushed against my glass of iced tea. Seconds later, our beloved Bugs Bunny met his demise on my tile floor. Larry and I refer to it as “The Knudson Curse.”

Recently, with our Looney Tunes supply down to four glasses and the former owners “gift” set of glasses etched with cloudiness that no amount of Cascade or vinegar would remove, I pulled down the Tiffany glasses we got for our wedding. “What are we saving them for?” I asked Larry. After 50 years, the beautiful setoff glasses are being used for everything from an orange juice to an Old Fashioned.

In retrospect, using that now collector’s set of Looney Tunes was not such

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FRIDAY, JULY 5

Beth Emeth Erev Shabbat Service – 100 Academy Rd., Albany, or via live-stream, www.BethEmethAlbany.org. Info. – 518-436-9761, ClergyAdmin@CBEAlbany.org.

CGOH Jammies and Jeans–5:45 p.m. Temple Gates Of Heaven, outdoors at 852 Ashmore Ave., Schenectady. Family-friendly Shabbat service followed by Shabbat dairy dinner. Everyone invited to come as they are. \$12 per family. Res., Info. Arnie Rotenberg–518-374-8173.

SATURDAY, JULY 6

Beth Emeth Torah Study – 9:30-10:30 a.m., 100 Academy Rd., Albany. Discussion of the Torah portion **Korach** in-person and via Zoom. Reg.– www.BethEmethAlbany.org. Zoom link: <https://Us02Web.Zoom.us/j/89304372729>. Password: CBE. Info. – 518-436-9761, ClergyAdmin@CBEAlbany.org.

SUNDAY, JULY 7

S.J.C.F.: Fly Free With The Spirit Of The Lubavitch Rebbe and Melodies Of Freedom–5:30 p.m. Saratoga Chabad, 130 Circular St., Saratoga Springs. Music, meal, reflections. \$10. Res.–518-526-0773.

Chabad of Columbia County Torah Dedication–1 – 3 p.m. Hudson Hall at the Historic Hudson Opera House, 327 Warren St., Hudson. A scribe will complete the Torah and attendees will have an opportunity to donate or inscribe a letter or portion at \$18 a letter. Rabbi Kremer will head a procession with singing, dancing, live music, and food. Info.– <https://www.jewishcolumbiacounty.com/Torah>.

MONDAY, JULY 8

Berkshire Jewish Film Festival– 4, 8 p.m. Lenox Memorial and Middle High School, 197 East St., Lenox. 4 p.m. **“Vishniac,”** at 8 p.m. **“Seven Blessings.”** \$15 at door. 14 films will be shown on six consecutive Mondays, ending 8/12.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 10

Cold Crematorium By József Debreczeni–Discussion–3:30-5 p.m. Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Rd., Pittsfield, Mass. First published in Hungarian in 1950 but not translated. Alex Bruner, the author’s nephew and a child of Holocaust survivors, will discuss. Info., Res.–<http://knessetisrael.org/RSVP>.

Beth Emeth Lunch & Learn – 12-1:15 p.m., 100 Academy Rd., Albany. Jewish current events with Rabbi Shara Siegfeld. Participants bring lunch. Reg. –www.BethEmethAlbany.org. Info. – 518-436-9761, ClergyAdmin@CBEAlbany.org.

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THURSDAY, JULY 11

Beth Emeth Mah Jongg Tournament, BBQ Lunch – 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Play begins 9:30 a.m. 100 Academy Rd., Albany. Tournament with timed games and cash prizes or relaxed play. \$33 per person for all-inclusive entry fee or \$18 per person for relaxed play; both include lunch. Reg.– www.BethEmethAlbany.org. Info. – 518-436-9761, Andrea@CBEAlbany.org.

THURSDAY, JULY 11-14

Yidstock: The Festival of New Yiddish Music–Yiddish Book Center, 1021 West St., Amherst. Celebration of klezmer and new Yiddish music. The Klezmatics kick off the festival, 7:30 p.m. Concerts, talks and workshops. General admission \$60. Prices vary with concerts. Live-streaming passes available. Info.– <https://www.yiddishbookcenter.org/yidstock>, 413-256-4900.

FRIDAY, JULY 12

JTS In The Berkshires: “Nine Months Later: New Frameworks For Confronting Contemporary Antisemitism” –11 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. Shakespeare & Company, Elayne P. Bernstein Theater, 70 Kemble St., Lenox, Mass. Dr. Shuly Rubin Schwartz, chancellor and Irving Lehman Research Professor of American Jewish History, Jewish Theological Seminary, to discuss. \$15. Info.–Alisa Braun, 212-678-8819 or sabraun@jtsa.edu. (See 8/9, 8/23)

Yidstock: The Festival of New Yiddish Music–Yiddish Book Center, 1021 West St., Amherst. Celebration of klezmer and new Yiddish music. **Judy Bressler and Hankus Netsky**, 2-3 p.m., **Levyosn** Concert, 5-6 p.m. Concerts, talks and workshops. Prices vary. Live-streaming passes available. Info.– <https://www.yiddishbookcenter.org/yidstock>, 413-256-4900.

Beth Emeth Erev Shabbat Service –100 Academy Rd., Albany, or via live-stream at www.BethEmethAlbany.org. Info. – 518-436-9761, ClergyAdmin@CBEAlbany.org.

SATURDAY, JULY 13

Yidstock: The Festival of New Yiddish Music–Yiddish Book Center, 1021 West St., Amherst. Celebration of klezmer and new Yiddish music. **So-called’s Gephilte** concert, 8-9:30 p.m. Concerts, talks and workshops. Prices vary. Live-streaming passes available. Info.– <https://www.yiddishbookcenter.org/yidstock>, 413-256-4900.

Beth Emeth BBQ, Havdalah, “The Marvelous Wonderettes” – 5:30-10 p.m. 100 Academy Rd., Albany. Dinner and havdalah, then Park Playhouse for 7:30 p.m. show; carpooling from Beth Emeth available. Tickets for barbecue, \$15; show tickets, \$30 for brotherhood/sisterhood members, \$33 for non-members. Reg. by 7/6 – www.BethEmethAlbany.org. Info. – Jay Hurewitz, JayHurewitz@gmail.com.

JayHurewitz@gmail.com.

Beth Emeth Torah Study – 9:30-10:30 a.m., 100 Academy Rd., Albany. Discussion of the Torah portion **Chukat**, in-person and via Zoom. Reg. –www.BethEmethAlbany.org. Zoom link: <https://Us02Web.Zoom.us/j/89304372729>. Password: CBE. Info. – 518-436-9761, ClergyAdmin@CBEAlbany.org

SUNDAY, JULY 14

Yidstock: The Festival of New Yiddish Music–Yiddish Book Center, 1021 West St., Amherst. Celebration of klezmer and new Yiddish music. **Daniel Kahn & Jake Shulman-Ment with Richie Barshay** concert, noon. **Basya Schechter and Avi Fox-Rosen** (present **Itsik Manger’s Khumesh Lider**) 3 p.m. **Eleanor Reissa and the Klezmer Brass Allstars**, 7:30 p.m. Concerts, talks and workshops. Prices vary. Live-streaming passes available. Info.– <https://www.yiddishbookcenter.org/yidstock>, 413-256-4900.

Israel-Palestine 2nd in Film Series: “The Settlers”–2 p.m. Beth Israel Synagogue, 53 Lois St., North Adams, Mass. Free. Dialogue. (See 8/11)

MONDAY, JULY 15

Berkshire Jewish Film Festival– 4, 8 p.m. Lenox Memorial and Middle High School, 197 East St., Lenox. 4 p.m. **“Caretaker,” “Children Of Peace,”** at 8 p.m. **“Supernova: The Music Festival Massacre.”** \$15 at door. 14 films will be shown on six consecutive Mondays, ending 8/12.

TUESDAY, JULY 16

S.J.C.F. Klezmer And Kosher Fest–5:30 p.m. Clifton Common Blvd., Clifton Park. Dinner, games, klezmer, other music. Info., Res.– www.cliftonparkchabad.com, 518-495-0772.

Hadassah: Working Toward A Peaceful Future–1-3 p.m. Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Rd., Pittsfield, Mass. Hadassah leaders to discuss advocacy, anti-Semitism and Israel. \$18. Info., Res. required by 7/11–Rosalind Kopfstern, 203-733-5154 or rosalindkopfstern@gmail.com

Beth Emeth Brotherhood Trivia Night – 6-8:30 p.m. Swifty’s, 367 Delaware Ave., Delmar. Reg. – www.BethEmethAlbany.org. Info. – 518-436-9761, Andrea@CBEAlbany.org or Jay Hurewitz, JayHurewitz@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17

S.J.C.F.: “Las Dos Mariette”–7 p.m. Shaara Tfille Synagogue, 84 Weibel Ave., Saratoga Springs. Spanish documentary with subtitles about a woman coming to terms with her past, specifically her escape from Nazi occupied France. \$5. Res. by 7/12, 518-584-2370.

Beth Emeth Cornhole Tournament and Outdoor Fun – 5:30-7:30 p.m. 100 Academy Rd., Albany. Students and families, all ages. An

evening of lawn games, with prizes. Reg. – www.BethEmethAlbany.org. Info – 518-436-9761, Andrea@CBEAlbany.org.

THURSDAY, JULY 18

S.J.C.F. Panel Discussion: Albert Tapper’s “Broadway Musicals: A Jewish Legacy”– 7 p.m. Zoom. 2013 documentary examines the role of Jewish composers and lyricists in the creation of the modern American musical. Info., Reg.–<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sl/abb1vGy/Broadway-Musicals>, 518 584-8730.

Lessons from the Olive Tree for Jewish Unity and the Social Security System–10:45 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Rd., Pittsfield, Mass. Dr. Jon Greenberg, botanist, to discuss all Jewish olive information. Lunch to follow. Lunch reservations are required at 413-442-2200 before 9 a.m. on the day of the program. \$3 for adults over age 60, \$7 for others. Info.–413-442-4360, dlitwin@jewishberkshires.org.

Book Talk: The Art of Diplomacy with Ambassador Stuart Eizenstat–7:30-8:45 p.m. Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Rd., Pittsfield, Mass. Eizenstat to discuss new book, **The Art of Diplomacy: How American Negotiators Reached Historic Agreements that Changed the World**. Free. Info.– Info.–413-442-4360.

FRIDAY, JULY 19

Beth Emeth Erev Shabbat Service – 100 Academy Rd., Albany, or via live-stream at www.BethEmethAlbany.org. Info – 518-436-9761, ClergyAdmin@CBEAlbany.org.

SATURDAY, JULY 20

Beth Emeth Torah Study – 9:30-10:30 a.m. 100 Academy Rd., Albany. Discussion of the Torah portion **Balak**, in-person and via Zoom. Reg. www.BethEmethAlbany.org. Zoom link: <https://Us02Web.Zoom.us/j/89304372729>. Password: CBE. Info. – 518-436-9761, ClergyAdmin@CBEAlbany.org.

SUNDAY, JULY 21

S.J.C.F. Klezmer And Foods That Begin With K – 7 p.m. Saratoga Chabad, 130 Circular St., Saratoga Springs. Music, foods. \$5. Info.–518-526-0773.

Colonie Chabad Grand Opening Of New Center– 4 p.m. 401 Loudon Rd., Loudonville. Fund-raiser, music, presentations, dedications, food. Res. by 7/12, Info.–ColonieCJC.com/opening, 518-368-7886

MONDAY, JULY 22

Berkshire Jewish Film Festival– 4, 8 p.m. Lenox Memorial and Middle High School, 197 East St., Lenox. 4 p.m. **“The Anne Frank Gift Shop,”** at 8 p.m. **“Without Precedent: The Supreme Life of Rosalie Abella.”** \$15 at door. 14 films will be shown on six consecutive Mondays, ending 8/12.

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Korah Numbers 16:1-18:32

By Rabbi SHLOMO RISKIN

And Korah took...
(Numbers 16:1)

EFRAT, Israel – Is controversy a positive or a negative phenomenon? Since the ideal of peace is so fundamental to the Jewish ideal—to such an extent that we even greet and bid farewell to each other with the Hebrew word *shalom*, peace—I would expect that controversy would be universally condemned by our classical sources. But apparently there is a way to argue and a way not to argue. The Mishnah in **Avot (Ethics of the Fathers 5:20)** distinguishes between two types of controversy: “A controversy which is for the sake of heaven, like that of Hillel and Shammai, will ultimately continue to exist; a controversy which is not for the sake of heaven, like that of Korah and his cohorts, will not continue to exist.”

Seeks Greater Understanding

In addition to the problematic issue of the positive description of a “controversy for the sake of heaven,” it is difficult to understand why the Mishnah refers to one type of controversy as that of Hillel and Shammai, the two antagonists, and the other as that of Korah and his cohorts, rather than Korah and Moses, which we would have expected.

Korah Attempts To Nullify

I believe that the answer to our questions lies in the two legitimate definitions of the Hebrew word for controversy, *maḥloket*: Does it mean to divide (*lehalek*) or to distinguish (*la’asot hiluk*), to make a separation or a distinction? The former suggests an unbridgeable chasm, a great divide which separates out, nullifies the view of the other, whereas the latter suggests an analysis of each side in order to give a greater understanding of each view and perhaps even in order to eventually arrive at a synthesis or a dialectic, a resolution of both positions!

With this understanding, the initial comment of Rashi on the opening words of this Torah portion, *And Korah took*, becomes indubitably clear. *He took himself to the other side to become separated out from the midst of the congregation*. Since Korah made a great divide between himself and Moses, the

Korah opposition was not ‘controversy for the sake of heaven’



First Chief Rabbi of British Mandatory Palestine Abraham Isaac Kook in 1924. He weighed in on Jews having differing opinions saying, “A multiplicity of peace means that all sides and all views must be considered; then it will be clarified how each one of them has its place, each one in accordance with its value, its place, and its specific issue....”

Mishnah in **Avot** defines his controversy as that of Korah and his cohorts; he was interested in nullifying rather than in attempting to understand the side of Moses. On the other hand, when the Talmud describes the disputes between Hillel and Shammai, it decides that:

Words Of God?

These and those [both schools] are the words of the living God. If so, then why is the law decided in accord with the school of Hillel? Because they are pleasant and accepting, always teaching their view together with the view of the school of Shammai and even citing the position of Shammai before citing their own position. (Eruvin 13b)

According to this view, “these and those [conflicting opinions] are the words of the living God,” the Almighty initially and purposefully left many issues of the oral tradition open-ended to allow for different opinions, each of which may well be correct when viewed from the perspective of the Divine. Indeed the Mishnah in **Eduyot** teaches that the reason our oral tradition records the minority as well as the majority opinion is because a later Sanhedrin (Jewish supreme court) can overrule the decision

of an earlier Sanhedrin, even though it is not greater than the earlier one in wisdom or in number, as long as there is a minority view recorded on which the later Sanhedrin may rely for its reversal of the earlier decision; and most halachic decisions rely on a minority decision in cases of stress and emergency (Mishnah **Eduyot 1:5**, Maimonides and Ra’avad *ad loc.*). In the world of halacha, minority dissenting views are never nullified; these opinions are also part of the religio-legal landscape, and can become the normative law of the majority at another period in time, or for a different and difficult individual situation within the same period.

Importance Of Dissent

The Talmud likewise powerfully and poignantly confirms the importance of dissenting views to challenge and help clarify the alternate opinion. R. Yoḥanan and Resh Lakish were brothers-in-law and study partners who debated their conflicting opinions on almost every branch of Talmudic law. When Resh Lakish died, R. Yoḥanan was left distraught and bereft. R. Elazar b. Pedat, a great scholar, tried to comfort R. Yoḥanan by substituting for Resh Lakish as his learning companion.

Value of Alternative Opinions

Every opinion that R. Yoḥanan would offer, R. Elazar would confirm with a Tannaitic source. R. Yoḥanan lashed out, “Are you like the son of Lakish? Not at all! Previously, whenever I would give an opinion, the son of Lakish would ask 24 questions and I would answer him with 24 responses; in such a fashion, the legal discussion became enlarged and enhanced. But you only provide me with supporting proofs. Don’t I know that my opinions have merit?” R. Yoḥanan walked aimlessly, tore his garments and wept

without cease. He cried out, “Where are you, son of Lakish, where are you, son of Lakish,” until he lost his mind. The other sages requested divine mercy, and R. Yoḥanan died. (Bava Metzia 84a)

This fundamental respect for the challenge of alternative opinions—so basic to the Talmudic mind—is rooted in another Mishnah (**Sanhedrin 37a**), which sees the greatness of God in the differences among individuals and the pluralism of ideas. “Unlike an individual who mints coins from one model and every coin is exactly alike, the Holy One blessed be He, has fashioned every human being in the likeness of Adam, and yet no human being is exactly like his fellow!... And just as the appearances of human beings are not alike, so are the ideas of human beings not alike.” It is precisely in everyone’s uniqueness that we see the greatness of the creator.

This great truth was one of the teachings of Rabbi Avraham Yitzḥak HaKohen Kook, who claimed that multiplicity of ideas is actually the key to understanding God’s truth:

“Scholars increase peace in the world.” A multiplicity of peace means that all sides and all views must be considered; then it will be clarified how each one of them has its place, each one in accordance with its value, its place, and its specific issue.... Only through a collection of all parts and all details, all of those ideals which appear to be different, and all disparate professional opinions, only by means of these will the light of truth and righteousness be revealed, and the wisdom of the Lord, and His love, and the light of true Torah. Ein Ayah, end of Berakhot

Shabbat Shalom.

Rabbi Shlomo Riskin is chancellor emeritus of Ohr Torah Stone and chief rabbi of Efrat, Israel.

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A legacy of strength: 30 years since the death of Rebbe Menachem M. Schneerson

By Rabbi MORDECHAI RUBIN

Chabad of Colonie, and Siena College

On July 9, Tammuz 3, we mark the 30th anniversary of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson's passing. The rebbe's visionary leadership and profound love for every Jew propelled the Chabad outreach movement to unprecedented heights, a global force for good.

The rebbe's timeless teachings continue to inspire millions, and his innovative approach to Jewish outreach, known as "Ufaratzta" (bursting outward), has seen Chabad centers established in over 100 countries, serving as beacons of Jewish life, learning, and community. His profound scholarship and spiritual guidance have shaped modern Jewish thought and practice. The rebbe's emphasis on the inherent goodness of humanity and the potential for redemption has encouraged countless individuals to connect with their heritage and contribute positively to society.

On his yahrzeit, we connect to rebbe's intellectual contributions and his unwavering belief in the power of kindness. His mitzvah campaigns, which encouraged the observance of foundational Jewish practices, have touched the lives of many and fostered a sense of unity and purpose.

As we prepare for the 30th yahrzeit, we look to the Torah's wisdom for meaning. What significance does the Torah teach us about "30 Years"?

Strength: Beyond Muscle

In *Ethics of our Fathers* (*Pirkei Avos*, Chapter 5:22), we learn that "30 years is the age of strength." But what is true strength? Muscles or perhaps military might?



The late Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson

The true meaning of strength is taught in *Pirkei Avos* 4:1. "Who is strong? One who overpowers his inclinations. As is stated (*Proverbs* 16:32), "Better one who is slow to anger than one with might, one who rules his spirit than the captor of a city."

Simply put: True strength is the strength of character.

At first glance, this may seem underwhelming. Is that all being strong is — being a good person?

The rebbe taught us that strength is not just physical prowess; it is a spiritual virtue. It is our ability to overcome obstacles, persevere, and remain steadfast in our commitment to G-d and His ways. Strength is not about being impervious to challenges but about facing them head-on with courage and faith.

The rebbe's teachings emphasize that true strength lies in the power of the soul, in the ability to love, give, and care for others. As King Solomon, the wisest of

men, stated: "The righteous are as strong as a lion" (*Proverbs* 28:1), explaining that the righteous are not strong because they are immune to challenges but because they face their challenges with courage, compassion, and wisdom.

In his revolutionary teachings, the rebbe emphasized the importance of faith in overcoming adversity. He taught that the power of faith is not to negate the darkness but to illuminate and ultimately eliminate the darkness. Countless stories throughout Jewish history demonstrate that when a Jew proudly maintains his faith, even in the harsh conditions of a Soviet labor camp, Nazi concentration camp, or even on a college campus, they will inspire others and demonstrate true strength — their soul strength of character.

The Rebbe's Strength

The rebbe emphasized that true strength lies in one's ability to face and overcome life's challenges confidently. He believed that G-d does not present us with any challenge that is beyond our capacity to meet. According to the rebbe, the greater the challenge, the greater our inner strength. This belief echoes the Talmudic teaching: "G-d does not make impossible demands on His creations."

The rebbe spoke of an inner, divine strength that empowers us. He taught that every difficulty comes with hidden fortitude, enabling us to reach deeper and find the courage to move forward.

Strength is not merely physical might but includes the courage to act morally, the resilience to endure trials, and the spiritual vigor to fulfill one's divine purpose. It's about finding strength in times of weakness and relying on God's

strength to overcome life's challenges.

May the rebbe's strength continue to inspire us, and may we be inspired to embrace the strength within us all. Let's tap into the spiritual strength that the rebbe embodied and build a future that truly reflects his vision and leadership.

This milestone in the rebbe's legacy is not merely a remembrance but a celebration of the enduring strength of his vision and leadership.

The rebbe's koach, or strength, was evident in his unwavering commitment to Jewish education, outreach, and the welfare of all humanity. His ability to inspire individuals to tap into their own strengths and potentials has left a lasting impact that continues to resonate and grow, much like the strength one reaches at thirty.

As we reflect on the rebbe's teachings and the vibrant movement he nurtured, we are inspired to harness our own strengths in service of the greater good, perpetuating the rebbe's mission to bring the world to a time of peace and redemption, the era of Moshiach.

"Chazak Chazak v'Nischazek" — Be Strong! Be a Strong Jew, a Strong People — Am Yisroel Chai!

May the rebbe continue to inspire us, and may it be a blessing for all humanity.

Possible Yahrzeit Resolutions:

Study the rebbe's teachings.

Perform a mitzvah (act of goodness) in the rebbe's honor (Check out mitzvot to choose: www.onemitzvah.org)

Most importantly, be strong, exercise and build up your muscles of "strength of character." As we say as we appropriately conclude at the climax of each of the five books of the Torah "Chazak Chazak v'Nischazek"

Another meaning for ...

Continued from Page 7

a great idea. According to Tamara Rubin's *Lead Safe Mama* webpage, tests run on the paint on a sample Looney Tunes glass revealed that it contained 71,800 parts per million of lead, 800 times more than the 90 ppm considered unsafe for use! "Please do NOT let

children in your life use them," Rubin wrote in her 2/19/2019 article "I personally would not use something like this in my home for any purpose!"

Yikes! For 50 years, I had been exposing my family and friends to high contents of lead, cadadium, and arsenic. To quote Sylvester, "Thufferin' Thucco-tash!"

Collectors Of Vintage

What happened to Carrols? By the mid 1970s, Slotnick saw the writing on the wall as competition by sheer numbers from McDonalds and Burger King dwarfed his company. "He figured if you can't beat 'em, join 'em," Alan Morrell wrote in a 10/25/2021 article for the *Democrat & Chronicle*. Slotnick cut a deal with Burger King in which all his restaurants would be converted into the home of the "Big Whopper."

But the Looney Tunes "vintage" glassware continue to thrive on internet, where collectors can pay anywhere from \$16.99 for Porky Pig on Amazon to \$300 for a complete set of 18 on Ebay.

I say, I say, maybe my Foghorn Leghorn still has some life in him yet!

Sources:

- Morell, Alan. "Rochester loved the Looney Tunes glasses and Club

Burger. Whatever happened to Carrols?" *Democrat and Chronicle*. October 25, 2022.

- Pacheco, George. "Top 10 Most Iconic Looney Tunes Catchphrases." *Watchmojo*. [Date unknown]
- Rubin, Tamara. "1973 Warner Brothers Pepsi Collector Series Daffy Duck Drinking Glass: 71,800 ppm Lead (90 ppm is unsafe for kids.)" *Lead Safe Mama*. February 19, 2019.

Marilyn Shapiro, formerly of Clifton Park, is now a resident of Kissimmee, Fla. Keep Calm and Bake Challah: How I Survived the Pandemic, Politics, Pratfalls, and Other of Life's Problems is the newest addition to her line-up of books. It joins Tikkun Olam, There Goes My Heart and Fradel's Story, a compilation of stories by her mother that she edited. Shapiro's blog is theregoesmyheart.me.

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200 women join local JNF-USA's Women for Israel reception



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOAN HEFFLER.

Olga Meshoe, featured speaker of Washington and the CEO of Defend Embrace Invest (in) Support Israel (DEISI), left, and Lauren Iselin, Capital Region Women for Israel chairwoman and board president.

Approximately, 200 philanthropic “wonder women” recently united in solidarity with the people of Israel at the Jewish National Fund-USA’s “Female Voices For Our Homeland” event at the Capital Repertory Theater in Albany, according to President and Women for Israel Chairwoman Lauren Iselin.

South African Zionist Olga Meshoe Washington, the CEO of Defend Embrace Invest (in) Support Israel (DEISI), was the keynote speaker.

The organization’s second annual Women for Israel reception in the Capital Region local co-chairwomen were Jody Ference, Judy Kahn, Lisa Packer, and Debbie Ratner.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOAN HEFFLER.

Some of the attendees included back row from left: Chanie Simon, Judy Kahn, Jody Ference, Linda Mandel, Lianne Pinchuk, Diane Burman, and Jewish National Fund-USA Executive Director Sara Hefez. Front row from left: Jessica Richer, Debbie Ratner, Lauren Iselin, JNF-USA Capital Region Women for Israel chairwoman and board president; Lisa Finkle and Lisa Packer.

The “Female Voices for Our Homeland” program also highlighted Jewish National Fund-USA’s ongoing work to support the land and people of Israel, including its Livnot B’Yachad—Build Together initiative, which is providing the infrastructure and quality of life needed to allow residents to feel safe coming home.

Information about upcoming events in the Capital Region, may be obtained by contacting Sara Hefez, executive director, New England and the NY Capital Region, at shefez@jnf.org or by calling 617-423-0999, ext. 811.



Barbara Weinstein, Laura Weisblatt, Susan Ungerman, Paula Mosher, Lee Brice and Andrea Leighton.

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 Maybe you'll get more than you ever could have imagined ...
 Who knows where life will take you ...*

*What we do know is you
 Will always get more at the ...*

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Maimonides School lists awards at annual dinner



Sid and “Morah Devorah” Debbie Stark, at right, were honored with the Eitz-Chaim (Tree of Life) Award, and it was presented to them by two of their four daughters, Maimonides alumni Chavie Stark and Deena Kuperman, left.



Leyee Rubin and Rabbi Yossi Rubin were presented by Rabbi Mendel Rubin, right, with The Maimonides Award. The award this year was a large charity box featuring Jerusalem Stone.



A community farewell and recognition was presented to Yehoshua and Morah Sarah Maddali who are leaving for St. Louis, Missouri after more than a decade in Albany.

The annual Maimonides Hebrew Day School Scholarship Dinner was held on June 5, this year on the 28th of Iyar, which is Yom Yerushalayim-Jerusalem Day. It was held at the Shabbos House on Fuller Rd., Albany. One hundred and sixty attendees joined to note the efforts of the honorees.

An 84-page tribute-journal/yearbook was printed for the occasion. Susannah Levin was the emcee.



Morah Rochel Rubin, right, presented The Bezalel Award to Morah Rivi Bahir, which was a photo book of the artwork, murals and Israel and Jewish holiday projects that she creates with the Maimonides students.

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— Rachel Fishman Feddersen, Publisher and CEO, The Forward

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Blinken: Israel has ‘lost sovereignty’ ...

Continued from Page 2

night flights to Beirut.

The deputy director of Germany’s Federal Intelligence Service, Ole Diehl, recently met with Naim Qassem, Hezbollah’s deputy secretary-general, Lebanese media recently reported. Diehl was said to have warned that a mistake by either party could result in all-out war. Qassem “refused to discuss anything before [Israel] stops the war on Gaza” and urged Berlin to put pressure on Jerusalem, according to the report.

During meetings in Washington Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant stressed that while Jerusalem prefers a diplomatic solution, it will take whatever action is required to restore security to the north. “We do not want war, but we are preparing for every scenario,” Gallant stated following the meet-

ings. Jerusalem has emphasized that any deal “will not be an agreement on paper” but must include “the physical removal of Hezbollah from the border, and we will have to enforce it.”

An Iranian general recently told relatives of Hamas terrorists killed in Gaza that the Islamic Republic was prepared to launch another attack on Israel, similar to its unprecedented missile and drone.

“We await an opportunity for ‘True Promise II’ ... in which I do not know how many missiles will be fired,” said Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps aerospace forces commander Brig.-Gen. Amir Ali Hajizadeh. Hajizadeh’s remarks came only days after the Islamic Republic threatened Israel with a “war of obliteration” if the country launched a broad military action against Hezbollah in Lebanon.

Standing Up to Hate: ‘This is a time to speak’

Father Jim Kane led a service including prayers and psalms for peace and the cessation of hatred, Friday, June 21, at the Cathedral of Immaculate Conception on Madison Avenue in Albany, next to the State museum. Ceremonies at the outside “Portal” sculpture were followed by lunch inside the cathedral. Christians and Jews attended under the auspices of the Roman Catholic Diocese’s Commission for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs. Bishop Edward Scharfenberger was out of town.

By Father JIM KANE

During these increasingly turbulent times, standing together is more important than ever. And, when we can stand together against hate we are, as my friends in the Jewish community say, doing a mitzvah.

The Diocese of Albany has been at the forefront of developing and strengthening the Jewish-Catholic dialog. The first reconciliation service in the world between Jews and Catholics was held at Albany’s Cathedral of the

bard formally apologized on behalf of the church for centuries of antisemitism.

Portal is an embrace

To create a more concrete manifestation of this event, a sculpture created by Schenectady artist Robert Blood called “Portal” was erected in 1989 outside of the Cathedral and, at its dedication, Bishop Hubbard and Rabbi Martin Silverman joined hands to walk through the arch as a gesture of friendship and symbolize the path we were taking to fight hate and antisemitism together.

Nearly 40 years have passed since Bishop Hubbard took that unprecedented step and, in the face of the current unprecedented rise in antisemitism, I led “Stand Up to the Hatred of Jews” June 21 at that sculpture on Madison Avenue.

I had the honor of starting the ceremony and said, in part, “We are standing at this Portal, which was dedicated March 19, 1989—it represents a Jew and Christian in embrace. The sculpture commemorates the great event that we had here in this Cathedral — *From Fear to Friendship* — on March 23, 1986, that spearheaded our modern

Jewish-Roman Catholic dialogue, co-founded by Bunny Kahn and Joan Dunham, through the Commission for Ecumenical & Interreligious Affairs on this day, 40 years ago.”

End antisemitism!

The gathering started with Father Longobucco offering a prayer for an end to antisemitism: “Almighty and Merciful God, we turn to you as always in the most precarious and dangerous of times. We turn to you brothers and sisters adoring and worshiping our God. And we ask for your help to repel the evil of hatred that divides people; especially we ask for your intercession that the sin of antisemitism can be eradicated and hearts of compassion and goodwill reign among our people and around the world.”

The highlight of the ceremony was Father Mickiewicz and Rabbi Weitzman walking together through the Portal, recreating that famous event nearly 40 years ago, singing “We Shall Overcome.” They were followed by the rest of the group. Rabbi Spitzer, president of the board of rabbis, offered a prayer referencing the reconciliation of Isaac and Ishmael as they buried their father. To end the ceremony, the three-fold Blessing of Aaron was read in English and Hebrew by Kathleen Kerrigan Duff and Bonnie Cramer.

Taking part in the ceremony were Rabbi Beverly Magidson, Rabbi Greg Weitzman of Congregation Beth Emeth in Albany, Rabbi Rafi Spitzer of Congregation Agudat Achim in Niskayuna, and other Jewish leaders of the Jewish-Roman Catholic Dialogue Committee. Catholic leaders included Father Robert Longobucco, Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia, Father Mickiewicz, and Father Thomas Morrette, co-chair of the Jewish-Roman Catholic Dialogue. Members of the interfaith community were also present.

In history, there are certain inflection points which can shape a society or culture as we move forward. The Book of Ecclesiastes teaches that there is a time to be silent and a time to speak; this is a time to speak.

I remain proud to speak up against hate and to walk arm-in-arm with my Jewish brothers and sisters.

Father Jim Kane of the Albany Roman Catholic Diocese is a longstanding voice in the Capital Region for ecumenical and interfaith dialogue and respect for all religions. Segments of this piece came from an article in *The Evangelist* weekly newspaper, the official publication of the Diocese of Albany.



PHOTO BY CINDY SCHULTZ

Father David Mickiewicz (r.) and Rabbi Greg Weitzman lead the group through the “Portal.” Fr. Kane is behind them at left, with green folder, holding hand of Rabbi Dan Ornstein.


Obituaries
BERNICE BLUM

98, of Albany, and Florida, June 22, 2024; widow of George Fader and Seymour Bloom; survived by sons Larry Fader of Western Mass., Robert Fader of Jericho, N.Y. and Sanford (Sandy) Fader of Albany; and stepdaughters Rosalie Blum and Denise Sepos.

DENNIS FRIEDLAND

81, June 11, 2024; survived by son Peter (Erin) Friedland of NYC; and daughters Margaret (Richard) Boyden of NYC and Caroline Friedland of Cambridge; and grandchildren Noah, Adele, Augustus, Henrietta, and Georgina.

SETH JURMAN

51, of Latham, June 14, 2024; survived by wife, Keira Nieves-Jurman; daughter Naomi Jurman; son Bruce Jurman; and sister Beth Jurman.

EDITH MESSER

90, of Slingerlands, June 24, 2024; widow of Gilbert Messer; survived by daughter Nancy (Ethan Bloch) Messer; stepdaughter Susan (William Corr) Steinmetz; sister Harriet (the late David) Paintner; grandchildren, Allison (Scott Schneider) Corr, Leah (Jeremy Rogoff) Corr, Gil Messer and Ada Messer; and great-grandchildren, Eli Rogoff, Isabel Rogoff and Eleanor Schneider.

GARY S. SLUTZKY

72, of Hunter, June 25, 2024; survived by wife Barbara Biegel; sister Carol (Peter) Slutzky-Tenerowicz; brother Paul (Amy) Slutzky, daughters Michelle (Jimmy) Byrne; Meghan (Gary) Ginsburg and Shana (Morgan) Pellitteri; sons Jamie (Meg) Grant and Jake Slutzky; grandchildren: James Kevin Wiltse, Paige Byrne, Brooke Byrne, James Grant, Molly Grant, Eitan Ginsburg, Amirah Ginsburg, Ari Pellitteri, and Jonah Pellitteri.

The Jewish World publishes obituaries containing age, date of death, spouse and immediate family survivors at no cost. For other options, contact Jim@JewishWorldnews.org

Our Special Connection

Rabbi Leible Morrison and his wife Elisheva of Beth Tephilah in Troy, create a weekly family bulletin that has as a focus the Torah portion of the week and each week includes a "special connection" section highlighting an individual who has died during the week featuring that portion. Shown here is Shelach, which was read in the synagogue on June 29.

Our Special Connection of the week

ANNA BINDELL Z'L

Anna Bindel z'l passed away in the 6th portion of the parasha **Shelach**. In this portion the Jewish people are commanded to give a portion of their dough for making bread to a kohen, a person from a particular tribe that took care of the offerings of the tabernacle (the Temple in the desert). Bread is the staff of life, and this dough was given to the kohen so that he could make his bread. This was a holy ritual.

Dough is a pretty miraculous substance. Water mixes with the powdery texture of flour and combines it to make a new substance called dough. From separate particles to a unity that gives life. To understand how this concept can be a lesson for us to lead our lives, let us look at the life of Anna Bindel z'l.

Anna Bindel grew up in Albany the 1920s. Her parents were immigrants from Poland that came to this country in the late 1800s. Anna's parents were proud Jews that came from a legacy of helping others. Her grandmother would say that instead of buying one big chicken, buy two small chickens so that you can give one away to a poor family. Anna would repeat this story and held to those ideals all throughout her life. Her parents believed in education and

sent all their children to colleges. Anna became a nurse at the Jewish nursing college in Brooklyn, N.Y. After she was married she took on responsibilities in helping to run her local Hadassah chapter and the sisterhood at her synagogue. She also taught health classes at Albany High School. In every aspect that she could, she was always helping others. She would knit blankets for the sick and teach sewing to children at the Maimonides Hebrew Day School in Albany. The common theme in all the goodness that she accomplished was to bond all the people that she helped to an ideal of kindness. All these people felt that they were a part of something more than just their particular situation. People got together to do something good for a bigger picture whether it be a rummage sale or being a part of a class to learn a skill or to gain self-respect. All this dedication, like the water, bonded all these separate lives into a dough of goodness. Just as Torah and mitzvahs bond everything together into a common theme of goodness, we can also follow Anna's example and connect the people of our community into a nice dough that will make a beautiful challah.

"Our Special Connections" is a project that takes the life experiences of loved ones that have passed and uses them as a commentary on each using a portion of the Torah. The "Special Connection" is that your loved one's "commentary" provides an insight for people learning Torah and provides an everlasting legacy and elevation for the soul of that special person in your life!

We are trying to make a website that has these memories. Please share some memories with us of your loved ones. Please call Leible at 518-894-3490.

Community invited to preview documentary 'Las Dos Mariette' at Shaara Tfile on July 17

SARATOGA SPRINGS—Congregation Shaara Tfile and The Jewish Community Center of Saratoga Springs will host a sneak preview of the documentary "*Las Dos Mariette*" at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, July 17, at Shaara Tfile Synagogue, 84 Weibel Ave., Saratoga Springs. It is part of the 2024 Saratoga Jewish Cultural Festival. The presentation will also feature a Zoom Q and A with the film's director Poli Martinez Kaplun from Buenos Aires, Argentina following the showing.

"*Las Dos Mariette*" is a documentary, a biography. How long can a person keep a secret? For more than seven de-



POLI MARTINEZ KAPLUN, director, will speak via Zoom to those attending the July 17 screening of "Las Dos Mariette."

acades, Mariette Diamant—who escaped with her parents from Nazi-occupied France during WWII—would hide the Jewish origins of her family for fear of retaliation. But at 90, Mariette decides to shed light on her past that still haunts her and reveal her true identity.

According to organizers, the story shows how the secrets we keep can impact different generations. "*Las Dos Mariette*" is directed by Poli Martinez Kaplun whose previous documentaries include "*Lea and Mira*" (2016) and "*The House on Wannsee Street*" (2019).

There is a \$5 admission charge.

Advance reservations are required and may be obtained by calling the congregation at 518-584-2370, or e-mailing barbaraopitz47@gmail.com by Friday, July 12.



Mariette Diamant at a diner from the documentary "Las Dos Mariette." The film will be shown at Shaara Tfile Synagogue, 84 Weibel Ave., Saratoga Springs on July 17.

Chabad of Columbia County welcomes its first Torah and ark with dedication on July 9

HUDSON—Chabad of Columbia County will host a dedication ceremony for its new Torah scroll on Sunday, July 7. According to organizers, the streets of Hudson will be filled with song and dance, as members of the Jewish community parade a new community Torah scroll through the town in a celebratory ceremony. The ceremony will be at the Hudson Hall at the Historic Hudson Opera House, 327 Warren St, Hudson.

"Welcoming a new Torah scroll is a special milestone for our community," said Rabbi Mendel Kremer, who directs Chabad of Columbia County, "In these fraught times for the Jewish people, it's an important show of pride, unity and Jewish solidarity."

The Torah dedication ceremony will feature an expert scribe who will complete the Torah scroll live in front of the community, and attendees will have the opportunity to donate or inscribe a letter or portion in the Torah, beginning at \$18 a letter. From there, the scroll will be marched in a grand procession with singing, dancing, live music, gourmet food to its new home in the ark of Chabad of

Columbia County.

The dedication ceremony highlights the success and growth of the recently established Chabad Jewish Center. Since establishing the Center in September of 2023., Rabbi Kremer and his wife Rochie, with whom he co-directs the Chabad, the center has held a variety of events such as Shabbat Services, Jewish holiday programming. Monthly Torah learning classes, children's clubs and adult education are also part of the Center's programming.

"This ceremony is symbolic of our community," Rabbi Kremer commented. "Every individual is celebrated; every person makes a difference. Together, we are building the future of this community and invigorating that sense of Jewish pride and Jewish life here in Columbia County." Rabbi and Rochie Kremer may be reached by calling 518-441-9528. Chabad of Columbia County's mailing address is 1160 Fairview Ave., Suite 133.

Chabad of Columbia County is part of the Chabad movement, inspired by the late Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson. The 30th anniversary of his death will be noted on July 9.

Iz Visions A Look at Parshat Korach



“Top Story; Korach and his mutineers consumed by the earth; plus, your Wilderness Weather-Coming Up Now on Torah News Network!”

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Yidstock, a festival of Yiddish music returns

AMHERST, Mass.—Yidstock: The Festival of New Yiddish Music is back at the Yiddish Book Center from Thursday, July 11 through Sunday, July 14. Now in its 12th year, Yidstock is a celebration of klezmer and new Yiddish music, featuring luminaries and rising stars in the genre. In addition to seven concerts, the four-day festival

includes four workshops, nine talks, and one special film screening, all in celebration of Yiddish music, language, and culture.

This year’s lineup is curated by Yidstock artistic director Seth Rogovoy.

Check out our website <https://jewishworldnews.org/> for more information about this festival.

Refresh with a Raspberry Ginger Spritzer

- 24 oz. PICS Raspberry Ginger Ale
- ½ cup fresh or frozen raspberries
- 1 Tsp grated fresh ginger root
- Juice of 1 lime
- Ice cubes
- Fresh mint leaves for garnish

In a large pitcher, muddle the raspberries and ginger.

Add the 24 oz. of PICS Raspberry Ginger Ale

Slice the lime in half, and squeeze the juice into the pitcher

Place ice into 4 (8 oz.) glasses and fill with spritzer.

Cut ½ lime into quarters and run the quarters on the rim for a little extra zing!

Garnish with lime and a spring of mint.



Recipe provided by Price Chopper/Market 32. The kosher store has moved to the new Market 32 location at the former ShopRite, 1730 Central Ave. *The Jewish World* has a commercial relationship with Price Chopper.

Calendar of Events



Continued from Page 8

FRIDAY, JULY 26

Yiddish Futures—10:45 a.m.- 12:45 p.m. Hevreh of Southern Berkshire 270 State Rd., Great Barrington, Mass. Scholars and translators of Yiddish Jordan Finkin, Ph.D. (HUC-JIR) and Madeline (Mindl) Cohen, Ph.D. (Yiddish Book Center) will discuss: What challenges and responsibilities does the Yiddish translator have in America today? How are audiences for Yiddish translations created and what do they expect? How do translations reshape our understanding of the nature of Yiddish literature and culture? Info., Res.—413-528-6378, <http://www.hevreh.org>.

SUNDAY, JULY 28

Art Day At The S.J.C.C.—10 a.m.-3 p.m. 2565 Balltown Rd., Schenectady. Vendors, food, music, activities. Free. Info.—518-377-8803.

S.J.C.F.: Tradition, Tradition: Jewish Storytelling—7 p.m. Beth Shalom Synagogue, 688 Clifton Park Center Rd., Clifton Park. Jewish stories and music featured. \$10. Info.—518-584-8730, or sjca.sjcf@gmail.com

MONDAY, JULY 29

Berkshire Jewish Film Festival—4, 8 p.m. Lenox Memorial and Middle High School, 197 East St., Lenox. 4 p.m., “Unbroken” at 8 p.m. “Catskills” \$15 at door. 14 films will be shown on six consecutive Mondays, ending 8/12.

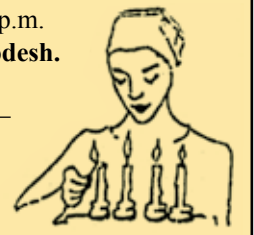
TUESDAY, JULY 30

Naomi Ragen Zoom Program—6:45 p.m. Sponsored by Anshe Emeth Synagogue, 240 Joslen Blvd., Hudson. Author of the **Enemy Beside Me** to be featured. Free. Info.—518-828-6848.

Friday, July 5, 29, Sivan. Shabbat candle lighting at 8:18 p.m.
Saturday, July 6, 30, Sivan. Sedrah: Korach. Rosh Chodesh. Shabbat ends at 9:28 p.m.

Friday, July 12, 6, Tammuz. Shabbat candle lighting at 8:15 p.m.

Saturday, July 13, 7, Tammuz. Sedrah: Chukat. Shabbat ends at 9:23 p.m.



CANDLELIGHTING TIMES

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‘Vishniac’ will kick off the Berkshire Jewish Film Festival on July 8

PITTSFIELD—The Berkshire Jewish Film Festival, one of the longest-running film festivals in the U.S., has announced its 38th season. Fourteen films will be shown on six consecutive Mondays, beginning July 8 and ending on August 12. Films will be shown at the Duffin Theater, Lenox Memorial Middle and High School, 197 East St., Lenox, Mass.

The festival opens July 8 at 4 p.m. with “*Vishniac*,” a film which takes viewers on a journey from cosmopolitan pre-war Berlin to the shtetls of Eastern Europe to the Princeton offices of Albert Einstein. At 8 p.m., “*Seven Blessings*” tells of the Jewish tradition that honors a new bride and groom with seven days of festive meals. The comedy focuses on a family’s secrets and the lies at the heart of what is usually a happy and celebratory week.

At 4 p.m. on July 15, there will be two films: “*The Caretaker*” (short) is based on a true story. This suspenseful 18-minute film celebrates the bravery of an otherwise ordinary caretaker in a Hamburg museum in the ’30s who rescues art that is designated “degenerate” and slated for confiscation by the Nazis. “*Children of Peace*” documents the Israeli experiment of Neve-Shalom or Oasis of Peace — Wahat al Salam in Arabic— and its relevance now. “*Supernova: The Music Festival Massacre*” will be shown at 8 p.m. This 52-minute film documents in harrowing, minute-by-minute detail the

cold-blooded and methodical Hamas massacre of young revelers at the Israeli Supernova music festival on October 7. Made by veteran Israeli documentarian Duki Dror, this may be disturbing to watch but compelling in its demand that history not look away. “I think it is the hardest film I ever made,” Dror has said. Jeffrey Robbins, former U.S. delegate to the UN Human Rights Commission, will speak after the film.

The afternoon of July 22 at 4 p.m. will also feature two films. “*The Anne Frank Gift Shop*” asks how the gift shop at this iconic house museum in Amsterdam can be reimagined in a way that will appeal more to Gen Z? How do you update the “brand” for Anne Frank? Answering these questions is the charge of the motley crew in the design firm who are at the center of this dark comedy. “*Without Precedent: The Supreme Life of Rosalie Abella*” tells the story of a Holocaust survivor’s daughter who becomes Canada’s first female Jewish Supreme Court judge, reshaping the legal world with landmark decisions on inclusivity, diversity, and equity. At 8 p.m., in “*Kidnapped*,” Edgardo Mortara, is a six-year-old Jewish boy in mid-19th century Italy, who is abducted and forcibly converted to Christianity by virtue of papal decree after it comes to the attention of authorities that his housekeeper has secretly baptized him.

“*Unbroken*” will be the July 29, 4 p.m. feature. Against all odds, the seven



A scene from the first film of the season’s Berkshire Jewish Film Festival. “*Vishniac*,” a documentary named after the photographer, which takes viewers on a journey from cosmopolitan pre-war Berlin to the shtetls of Eastern Europe to the Princeton offices of Albert Einstein. It is set for 4 p.m.

Weber siblings who are the subject of “*Unbroken*” manage to stay together through the Holocaust thanks to acts of courage, resilience and a series of miracles. After their mother is deported from Berlin to Auschwitz for being Jewish and part of the resistance, the children are slated to follow days later on a different transport. Instead, their father arranges to baptize and then hide them on the farm of a Christian couple outside the city, where they fend for themselves for two years before ending up in a displaced person’s camp. At 8 p.m. “*Catskills*” provides a loving and nostalgic tribute to the family-run Jewish resort and bungalow culture that became known as the Borsht Belt, the inspiration for iconic films like “*Dirty Dancing*.”

Aug. 5 at 4 p.m. brings “*Shadow of the Day*,” a dramatic story of love and redemption set in a turbulent Italy amid the anti-Semitic racial laws promulgated by Mussolini’s fascist government. This is considered, by many, as a beautifully acted and cinematic tour de force by director Giuseppe Piccioni. At 8 p.m., “*How Saba Kept Singing*” tells the story of David Wisnia, who had never told his family the whole story of how he survived Auschwitz for two-and-a-half years, while his parents and younger brother were murdered. As he travels with his grandson Avi back to Poland to mark the 75th anniversary of the camp’s liberation, Wisnia, a cantor, recounts how his operatic singing entertained the Nazi guards and saved his life. Hillary Clinton and her daughter, Chelsea, were the executive producers of this testament to love and resilience.

There will be two afternoon films on Aug. 12 at 4 p.m. First is “*Jack & Sam*,” the story of Jack Waksal and Sam Ron, who met in

1943 as teenagers when they were sent to a Polish labor camp. Day after day they shoveled coal into boilers to power a factory making munitions for the Nazi war effort. Sam escaped in 1944, surviving in a forest, while Jack was liberated by U.S. troops the following year. Unbeknownst to them, they both landed in Ohio after the war, and they did not see each other until a chance encounter at a Florida Holocaust program 80 years after their last meeting. “*Less than Kosher*” looks at contemporary Jewish life at its most irreverent—hence its “less-than-kosher” title. Thirty-year-old Viv was once a rising singing star but now finds herself back in her Jewish mother’s house, with her career hitting one sour note after another. Her life takes an unexpected turn when she reluctantly accepts a position as a cantor at her family’s synagogue, where she escaped in the middle of her own bat mitzvah many years before and never looked back. There is no film at 8 p.m.

Information may be found at <https://berkshirejewishfilmfestival.org>. Ticket prices for all films are \$15 and may only be purchased at the theater on the day of the film. Season passes are available for \$136 and will be sold through July 15. Additional donations may be made at www.knessetisrael.org/filmfestival or sent to Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Rd., Pittsfield, Mass. 01201. All proceeds are directed to support children at the Knesset Israel Hebrew School.



A screen shot of “*Seven Blessings*,” a comedy, notes a Jewish tradition that honors a new bride and groom with seven days of festive meals. It will be the first evening film of the Berkshire Jewish Film Festival.

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