Two hundred immigrants from Latin America, Europe, Russia celebrate their arrival in Israel

BY ELIANA RUDEE

(JNS) – Israeli leaders welcomed more than 200 new immigrants, or olim, from France, Brazil, Argentina, Venezuela and Russia on July 17 at a reception at Ben-Gurion International Airport.

Kicking off this year’s “season of aliya,” in which thousands of new immigrants from all over the world arrive in Israel during the summer months, the Jewish Agency for Israel, the Israeli Ministry of Aliyah and Integration, and the Keren Hayesod-United Israel Appeal held the welcoming ceremony for the olim.

Among those who departed Flight 100 from France were 80 Parisians who planned on settling in Jerusalem, Netanya and Tel Aviv. The youngest on the plane was just 2 months old, with the oldest, 79. Of the new immigrants from France, 35 children will join the Israeli education system this fall.

More than 200 new immigrants (olim) from France, Brazil, Argentina, Venezuela and Russia kicked off the “season of aliya,” in which thousands of new immigrants from all over the world arrive in Israel during the summer months, on July 17. (Photo by Eliana Rudee)

French brothers Gabriel, 16, and Neta- nel Zeitoun, 17, told JNS that they are making aliyah “for their future.” Neta- nel, who will be participating in a Masa program in Jerusalem before joining the Israeli Defense Forces, said “we both think that if making aliyah is going to give us a lot, we have to give back to the society that accepts us and gives us so much.”

Passengers on the plane also included Brazilian and Argentinean singles participating in the Jewish Agency’s aliya program for young adults. From the airport, the group departed to Jerusalem, where they will participate in intensive Hebrew-language study classes (called ulpan) for several months, and then begin employment and higher education programs in Israel.

Ary Korenvais, a 31-year-old computer engineer from Buenos Aires, said he is excited to “start a very nice, new life” in Israel. He will be enrolling in Ulpan Etzioni in Jerusalem to learn Hebrew. “I feel at home in Israel,” he told JNS. “I have family from both sides there. People are nice, and it’s a better place for high-tech and data science.”

Carolina Hidalgo, 28, from San Juan, Argentina, said she has “always felt more Israeli than Argentinian,” especially after living in Israel for four months with her family when she was 12. “I fell in love with the country,” she told JNS.

Hidalgo will also be enrolling in Ulpan Etzioni in Jerusalem and hopes to pursue a career in acting. “I’m looking forward to expanding my mind, learning and being more spiritual,” she said.

At the same time, another 80 new immigrants came in from Russia, mostly from Moscow, including a year-old baby and 25 schoolchildren. Most of these families plan to settle in Tel Aviv, Ashdod and Rishon Letzion.

Olga Pasechnik, who will move to Rishon Letzion from Moscow with her husband and three children, decided to immigrate to Israel after “learning about Jewish culture and discovering ourselves a strong Jewish identity,” she said.

“I’ve always wanted to get to Eretz Yis-rael [‘Land of Israel’]; it was my dream,” she told JNS. “Russia is Russia, but there is something special about Israel.”

Concurrently, seven new immigrants arrived from Venezuela as part of a continua- tion of the mass exodus of Jews fleeing a country that has seen violence, a failing economy, lack of food and protests against Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro. See “Arrival” on page 5.
A rabbinic call to end gun violence

BY RABBIS CECELIA BEYER AND DEBRA NEWMAN KAMIN

(JNS) – “Do not stand idly by the blood of your fellow human.” 

“An act of violence is an act of desecration.” (Abraham Joshua Heschel, Moral Grandeur and Spiritual Audacity, p. 85)

There are many forms of suffering in our world. Every day, people are ravaged by illness, endure natural disasters and experience tremendous loss. We cannot control these acts of God. But there is one kind of suffering that we can change – a suffering we inflict on one another.

Gun violence is not an act of nature; it is under our control. As we think on the third anniversary of the shooting in the Pulse Nightclub in Orlando, FL, and the fourth anniversary of the shooting at the Emanuel A.M.E. Church in Charleston, SC, that was marked last month, we must confront this crisis.

We are awash in the cries of those who suffer. Every day, children and adults in inner cities are the victims of gun violence.

School superintendents in Chicago and Oakland report to lose two dozen students to gun violence in their communities annually. Their Newtonian experience never ends.

In the days after the Sandy Hook tragedy, a lawyer for Aaron Lerner had the opportunity to stop in Newtown, CT. Among the memorials to the incredibly young people who were tragically buried among many Christmas trees, was a tiny little Hanukkah menorah that had been lit for Noah Pozner, a Jewish child whose loss paid for the horror. Rabbi Lerner said, “That little hanukkiyah reminded me that we as human beings can bring light to darkness to one another.”

And it is in this spirit that we, the members of the Rabbinical Assembly, say #NotOneMore. Today, in the wake of the mass shootings in Christchurch, NZ (18% of all Americans and even 74% of NRA members support background checks for all gun purchases). So why haven’t we passed such simple legislation?

The Rabbinical Assembly calls upon the public to rise up with one voice and take three simple actions during this legislative session:

1) Urge your senators to support the Background Check Expansion Act (S 42), which closes the loophole that allows individuals and unlicensed gun sellers to sell guns without first performing a background check.

2) Urge your representatives and representatives to support the Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) act (H.R. 326) or (S 192).

These bills allow family or law enforcement to petition in court for permission to remove weapons from people who are known to be a threat to others or themselves.

3) Urge your senators and representatives to support the first funding for research on gun violence in many years: Gun Violence Prevention Research Act (S 307) or Gun Violence Research Act of 2019 (H.R. 674) or National Gun Violence Research Act of 2019 (H.R. 1366). The first step in understanding from gun violence is establishing the facts. Allowing the Center for Disease Control and National Institutes of Health to do this will save lives.

Our tradition provides ample support for such measures. The Talmud forbids selling weapons to idolaters or to sell weapons in a city of refuge (Avodah Zarah 15b, Makkot 10a).

These cities were populated by criminals and our sages rightly recognized the dangers of selling weapons to those who cannot be trusted with the responsibility of owning them.

As rabbis too often called to comfort mourners, we grieve with all the parents of slain children, the children of slain parents, the family members, the friends, neighbors and communities of those gunned down. They are all our children. Many of us knew the children of Expansion (El Paso) and, we pledge not to stand idly by their blood, crying to us from the earth. Upon the sidewalks that lead from house to house, in our sheltered city centers and in far too many homes and church pews, we stand together before impromptu shrines of candles, flowers, stuffed animals, toys, blankets and flowers. We are joined by grief for the fallen children, the murdered spouses, students and teachers, concert-goers, moviegoers and worshippers – innocents caught in the crosshairs of madness and hate, ordinary people in the wrong place at wrong times.

Guns in the hands of those who should not have them affect all of us as neighbors across our world. When mass shootings don’t make the headlines, the human cost of gun violence is hidden, but it is not out of mind. But nothing evades God’s notice. Jewish tradition affirms that God is the One Who remembers the forgotten. It is the task of rabbis and other faith leaders to testify on behalf of those whom God remembers, those whose lives have been needlessly lost.

This is a moment we can save lives.

Let us not squander the moment, but learn and act.

The ancient rabbis taught that if you save one life – just one life – it is as if you have saved the whole world. We have many lives we can save. Enough of doing nothing.

This is our moment to say #NotOneMore.

Rabbi Cecelia Beyer serves as the interim executive director of the Jewish Federation of the Greater Tetons in Jackson, WY, and Rabbi Debra Newman Kamin is president of the Rabbinical Assembly of the worldwide association of Conservative movement rabbis, and is rabbi at Am Yisrael Congregation in Northfield, IL.

Correction

In the June 27 issue of The Reporter, in the Jewish Home article on page 3, the Jewish Home was mistakenly referred to in the Jewish Home article on page 3, the Jewish Home was mistakenly referred to as JFS in the latter part of the article due to an editing error. The Reporter apologizes for the error and any confusion that may have been caused. The corrected article appears on page 5 of this issue.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Greetings from retired executive director of the Jewish Federation

Dear fellow Scrantonians,

It is almost 28 years since I retired as executive director of the Jewish Federation, but my interest in a Jewish community that meant so much to Katharine Kurtz and me has never changed. It still sends her warmest regards, and myself never ceased. Fortunately, we had four children in our marriage and wish that we would be more – for happy reasons. I appreciate that the community has changed dramatically and so many with whom we worked and enjoyed friendships are gone; greatly missed as they bring back many wonderful memories.

Nonetheless, we continue to read with great interest and pride the Federation Reporter, especially the one describing your ongoing remarkable Campaign achievements as well as the many aspects of the Holocaust Resource Center and Teen Symposium I was privileged to attend.

That great Reporter issue prompted me to write. Despite the changes, and people in Scranton – and in Florida telling us it’s not the same, we marvel at how the Yiddishkeit remains strong, exemplified by what the Federation and Jewish Community Center continue to do and strive for. We miss it so much.

We sincerely hope that your success continues as in our view Scranton remains a most wonderful Jewish community due to terrific new volunteers, as well as many we knew when they were young adults and newly married and now grandparents. To maintain such decades long loyalty to a community is inspiring and challenging for me, and I remain as a strong Jewish community means to them. Much gratitude is warranted for two outstanding leaders I hope remain for quite some time to guide the community in the years to come, Mark Silverberg and Dan Cardonick. Hats off as well to Dolores Gruber, office manager, for decades of loyalty to the Federation. Together may you all go from strength to even greater strength.

Seymour Bronstein

GENERATIONS

It’s where they socialize, connect and understand the world around them,” said one educational consultant supporting more than 200 Jewish day schools worldwide. She continued, “YouTube is a great place to learn or discover new things, using it as a search engine when they are curious about something, noted Rabbi Aaron Lerner, who maintained that as YouTube is so popular, curiosity about their Jewish roots. “Whatever the reason, when someone searches for Jewish content already existed. If we care about a diverse, committed and Jewish future, we have an obligation and the responsibility to let people know and care. For the first time in Jewish history, we have the ability to reach and teach every Jew.”

To propel the “Unpacked” launch, Jerusalem U is encouraging everyone to “take 10” in a campaign that offers to send those who sign up a free weekly video. The campaign says that by spending 10 minutes a week watching the series, users will get up to speed on modern Israeli history. The first video series includes “The History of Israel Explained,” with 55 episodes, each eight to 10 minutes long. More series are in the production pipeline for 2019 and 2020.

The idea of “Unpacked” is to let Rabbi Jerusalem U’s “strategic shift,” which integrates “Unpacked” with documentary films and a website for discussion. The project is part of the “Jewish World Library” series, which is an educational initiative that will provide “a window into the future of Judaism and the Jewish community.”
Congregation B’nai Harim announces that its annual golf outing is scheduled for Tuesday, August 20. Proceeds will be used for prizes, silent auction and raffles. Golf will be played at Pinecrest Country Club and dinner will be at Lake Naomi Club in Pocono Pines.

The day will start with registration, a continental breakfast, warm-up and a noon shotgun start. An awards dinner will follow with prizes, silent auction and raffles. Golf will be played at Pinecrest Country Club and dinner will be at Lake Naomi Club in Poconos.

The early bird rate for golf and dinner is $125. After Tuesday, August 13, the price will be $135. Dinner only is $55 per person.

For more information, visit the Congregation B’nai Harim website at www.bnaiharimpocconos.org or call 570-646-0100.

Spitz Foundation Support aids Temple Israel of Scranton Cemetery Improvement Project

A 2018 grant of $60,000 from the Robert H. Spitz Foundation has enabled Temple Israel of Scranton to move forward with a “significant improvement project” at its cemetery in Dunmore. The funds have been used to improve the entrances, security and grounds. Paving the driveways is planned for a future project.

Temple President Ann Monsky noted, “In our Jewish tradition some of the names we use for a cemetery are beit almin or bet olam (house of eternity), bet chayyim (house of [eternal] life), and bet shalom (house of peace). These names show our respect for our loved ones and the land in which they are buried. We consecrate the land on the establishment of a Jewish cemetery, and Jewish tradition considers the burial grounds sacred sites to remain undisturbed. Establishing a Jewish cemetery is one of the first priorities of a new Jewish community.”

See “Project” on page 8.

At right: Temple Israel received a Robert H. Spitz Foundation grant in 2018. L-r: Laura Ducceschi, president and CEO Scranton Area Community Foundation, administrator of Robert H. Spitz Foundation; Ann Monsky, president of Temple Israel; and Jack Nogi, Robert H. Spitz Foundation trustee.
BY JNS STAFF
(JNS) – The Science History Institute has acquired a collection of correspondence, books, photographs and scientific notes belonging to Jewish German chemist Georg Bredig, the Philadelphia museum announced recently.

The collection spans decades, from the late 19th century, just as the field of physical chemistry was emerging, to the 1930s and the horrors faced by the Jewish community as the Nazis rose to power. The archive has never been made public. The acquisition was made possible by the support of the Walder Foundation.

“Bringing this collection to the Science History Institute fulfills Georg Bredig’s wish that these documents be preserved so that future generations can study them,” said Georg Bredig, the Philadelphia museum’s director. “We know that this collection will provide history and science scholars alike a unique vantage point for uncovering some of the untold stories of this tumultuous period in world history.”

Bredig introduced the model reaction methodology to catalytic research, discovered and explored new catalytic phenomena, and discovered and investigated asymmetric catalysis. Moreover, he explored the relationships between catalytic activity and the physical state of metals. The earliest documents in the archive date from the late 19th century and provide a snapshot of the field of physical chemistry in its early years. There is also correspondence with the founding fathers of the field, including many early Nobel laureates in chemistry, such as Jacobus Henricus van’t Hoff, Svante Arrhenius, Fritz Haber and Wilhelm Ostwald.

The post-1933 collection items document a very different story. Bredig, along with his family and Jewish colleagues, struggled to survive under the increasingly oppressive Nazi regime. Some managed to flee to other countries, while others lost, given away or tossed! It should give one abroad, or to a good friend. Under no circumstances do I want it to be wasted!”

Bredig recognized the Nazis would likely destroy his personal library and wrote, “Yesterday I sent as a package to you three green volumes I-III of my opera omnia. The rest IV-VII in green volumes will follow in the next week or so... It is very dear to me that after my death the one and the other will end up in good hands (for an obituary and also for reference). In case you don’t want to keep it, give it to a university library, preferably one abroad, or to a good friend. Under no circumstances do I want it to be wasted/ lost, given away or tossed! It should give witness over my life’s work.”

The collection was smuggled out of Nazi Germany to the van’t Hoff laboratory in the Netherlands, where it remained for the duration of the war. In 1946, it was shipped to the Bredig family in the United States. Funding from the Laurie Landeau Foundation will provide for conservation and preservation of the archive. The Institute plans to make the archive available to researchers and to develop related public programming in the coming months.

JFSNEPA announces new Board of Directors for 2019-20

JFS held its 104th Annual Meeting on June 18 in the Linder Room of the Scranton JCC. Outgoing President Eric Weinberg gave the president’s address, Dr. Dan Ginsberg presented the Nominating Committee Report and Rabbi Daniel Swartz officially installed the officers and directors. JFS Executive Director Sheila Nudelman Abdo gave closing remarks. A year in review video was also shown, followed by a dessert reception.

“We thank everyone who attended the meeting and look forward to our 105th year presided over by incoming President Deidre Spelman,” organizers said. Officers nominated to serve a one-year term (ending June 30, 2020): Deidre Spelman – president; Elliot Schoenberg – first vice president; Dr. Dan Ginsberg – second vice president; Louis Nivert – treasurer; and Gayle Baar – secretary.


Director nominated to serve a consecutive three-year term (ending June 30, 2023): Sara Levy.

Directors nominated to serve one- and two-year terms (ending June 2020 and 2021): Eric Weinberg (one year term), Gary Beckhorn (two year term) and David Yehudah Fink (two year term). Directors whose terms are continuing (ending June 30, 2021): Michael Mardo, Dr. Nancy Willis, Leah Gans, Jamy Rosenstein and Dr. Margaret Sheldon.

Directors whose terms are continuing (ending June 30, 2020): Paulette Okun, Stacy Novitz and Larissa Schuss.

Thanks to those who are leaving the board: Rabbi Marjorie Berman, Christine Black, Karen Calm, James Connors and Donna Kostick.

Established in 1915, Jewish Family Service is a human service organization, which seeks to reflect the Jewish tradition of caring and compassion for all people in need. Through professional counseling, advocacy and education programs, its services seek to enhance and strengthen the quality of individual, family and community life. It is this agency mission that drives all services and activities of Jewish Family Service.

Contemporary author visited Congregation B’nai Harim

On the weekend of June 21-23, Congregation B’nai Harim hosted Trisha Arlin as its 2019 scholar-in-residence. As a liturgical poet, Arlin is the author of “Place Yourself: Words of Prayer and Intention.”

Organizers said, “She was not pious and did not make anyone feel like they should be praying three times a day. She is, however, full of joy, sarcasm and truth.” A meet-and-greet evening was held on June 21 at the home of Sally Grotta, where attendees were able to chat with Arlin and “to grasp how much humanity she exhibits and carries to her writings,” organizers said. On the morning of June 22, Arlin joined the congregation during and after services, and offered a poetry reading, as well.

The Sunday morning workshop on drafting personally meaningful poetry was acclaimed as helpful in times of grief and joy. These writings will be of use both spiritually and emotionally.

The entire weekend was uplifting and provided insight into ourselves,” organizers said.

For more information on Congregation B’nai Harim, visit its website at www.bnaiharimpoconos.org. The congregation is located at 5349 Pocono Crest Rd., Pocono Pines.

Archive smuggled from Nazi-era Germany acquired by Science History Institute

The Science History Institute in Philadelphia has acquired a collection of correspondence, books, photographs and scientific notes belonging to Jewish German chemist Georg Bredig. (Photo courtesy of the Science History Institute)
Jewish Home expands programming – Parkinson Disease Management

The Jewish Home and Elan Gardens have recently added a comprehensive Parkinson’s program to the host of services already offered. The program addresses the understanding and management of the disease through the offering of education and support groups, exercise and dance programming, as well as clinical and medical management.

Goals of the program include:
- Person-centered support systems to the resident and family along with outreach services to the community.
- An exercise program through various modalities to meet individual needs of the resident at various stages of the disease through utilization of the expertise of the therapy staff and experts in the community.
- Medical related services through utilization of trained nursing staff, program professionals and medical doctors, as needed to manage the care of the resident.
- An ongoing education program to all staff providing care to the resident and family.
- Additional services such as creative arts, clergy services and modified activities to ensure quality of life is maintained at the highest possible level for residents on an individual basis.

A portion of the community program is being funded by a grant from the Parkinson’s Foundation. This grant is specifically targeting the underserved populations in Luzerne County. Educational support groups will be offered in Spanish by Patty Weiner, an expert in her field.

The Jewish Home is also partnering with Linn McDonald, who is a qualified dance instructor for “Dance for Parkinson’s.” These classes were to start on Tuesday, July 9, at the Jewish Community Center in Kingston.

They will be provided free to the public through the Parkinson’s Foundation Grant.

The Jewish Home will also be starting an exercise program with instructor Debbie Grossman. The Jewish Home is also working with the Scranton Jewish Community Center to offer dedicated cycling and exercise programming, again specifically for the Parkinson individual.

Watch the Jewish Home social media platforms for more programs. Contact Nicole Lipinski, director of healthy aging, at alipinskis@jhep.org for more details.

Arrival .......... Continued from page 1

According to CAMERAS’s Daniel Kosky, “As a foreign language was often used by the former president [Hugo Chávez] to deflect from criticism of the country’s financial situation. This antisemitism convinced many Jews to flee the country, but the recent crisis has continued the trend.”

Kosky noted that “the current Jewish population of the South American country is now just 9,000, compared to 25,000 in 1999,” with the majority of Jews leaving for Israel or the United States, particularly Florida.

Deborah Silvera made aliya with her 14-year-old daughter from Caracas, citing economic and security conditions that “wouldn’t allow us to stay.” While she maintained that the Jewish community in Venezuela’s capital city is “great,” the doctors are a “big best” and “there are good people there,” she told JNS that “it’s hard to be there – food is expensive, you can’t grow a business there, it’s dirty and it’s dangerous to be out on the street past 7 pm or even while you’re on the phone.

“The president doesn’t like Jews; he is pro-Palestinian,” added Silvera.

Despite Venezuela’s dangerous streets and antisemitic leaders, said Silvera, “I don’t come to Israel because I have no other choice; I’m choosing to go. I love Israel, and finally, it’s our country.”

Silvera and her daughter will move to a Jewish Agency-subsidized absorption center in Ashdod, where it is her hope that “my daughter will flourish in Israel, where she can be like a child – developing, learning and eventually get married.”

Joining the ceremony to greet the new arrivals were an additional 200 people – young adults, ages 18-35, who recently arrived from 27 countries, and who are participating in programs for new immigrants sponsored by the Jewish Agency, and the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration.

Also welcoming those departing El Al airlines were Jewish Agency Chairman Isaac Herzog; Minister of Aliyah and Integration Maj. Gen. (Res.) Yoav Gallant; Chief Sephardic Rabbi of Israel Yitzhak Yosef; and Sam Grundwarg, world chairman of Keren Hayesod-UIA.

As the primary organization fostering aliya and absorption to Israel, the Jewish Agency has brought more than three million immigrants to the Jewish state. Herzog expressed his joy and excitement of the new immigrants who “will soon begin a new chapter of life in their historic home.”

In the coming months, Herzog noted, “the Jewish Home and Elan Gardens have recently added a comprehensive Parkinson’s program to the host of services already offered. The program addresses the understanding and management of the disease through the offering of education and support groups, exercise and dance programming, as well as clinical and medical management.

Goals of the program include:
- Person-centered support systems to the resident and family along with outreach services to the community.
- An exercise program through various modalities to meet individual needs of the resident at various stages of the disease through utilization of the expertise of the therapy staff and experts in the community.
- Medical related services through utilization of trained nursing staff, program professionals and medical doctors, as needed to manage the care of the resident.
- An ongoing education program to all staff providing care to the resident and family.
- Additional services such as creative arts, clergy services and modified activities to ensure quality of life is maintained at the highest possible level for residents on an individual basis.

A portion of the community program is being funded by a grant from the Parkinson’s Foundation. This grant is specifically targeting the underserved populations in Luzerne County. Educational support groups will be offered in Spanish by Patty Weiner, an expert in her field.

The Jewish Home is also partnering with Linn McDonald, who is a qualified dance instructor for “Dance for Parkinson’s.” These classes were to start on Tuesday, July 9, at the Jewish Community Center in Kingston.

They will be provided free to the public through the Parkinson’s Foundation Grant.

The Jewish Home will also be starting an exercise program with instructor Debbie Grossman. The Jewish Home is also working with the Scranton Jewish Community Center to offer dedicated cycling and exercise programming, again specifically for the Parkinson individual.

Watch the Jewish Home social media platforms for more programs. Contact Nicole Lipinski, director of healthy aging, at alipinskis@jhep.org for more details.

More than 200 new immigrants (olim) from France, Brazil, Argentina, Venezuela and Russia were welcomed to Israel on July 17. (Photo by Elisna Rudee)
The Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania would like to thank these community members who gave of themselves, whether financially and/or by volunteering, to continue our community’s tradition of tzedakah.

In these difficult times, especially when other victims of other tragedies also need our support, we continue to call upon the Jewish Federation, rescue and resettle those oppressed or in need in other lands, and otherwise help guarantee the continuity of our community here, in Israel and elsewhere. In this spirit, we have compiled this Honor Roll and doing something about it. To the fullest extent possible, we have tried to include all donors and volunteers in our Honor Roll – it is our hope that we have succeeded in recognizing those who advised us, prior to the Federation, that they wished to remain anonymous.

If, for any reason, your name has been omitted, please notify the Federation office at 570-961-2300, and allow us the privilege of publishing your name/s in a subsequent issue. On behalf of world Jewry – thanks!

For those community members who gave of themselves, whether financially and/or by volunteering, to continue the Jewish Federation’s tradition of tzedakah and doing something about it. To the fullest extent possible, we have tried to include all donors and volunteers in our Honor Roll – it is our hope that we have succeeded in recognizing those who advised us, prior to the Federation, that they wished to remain anonymous.

If, for any reason, your name has been omitted, please notify the Federation office at 570-961-2300, and allow us the privilege of publishing your name/s in a subsequent issue. On behalf of world Jewry – thanks!
Continued from page 3

The Women's World Cup has been the subject of much discussion and commentary lately. The prize money for the men's teams is $400 million (for 32 men's teams), while the women's pool is less than 10 percent of that. $5 million (for 24 women's teams). The generous bonuses the teams receive for participating in the World Cup for the men's teams is $400 million (for 32 men's teams), while the women's pool is less than 10 percent of that: $30 million (for 24 women's teams.)

President: Dr. Meredith Stempel
Contact number: 570-421-8781

THE REPORTER  ■ JULY 25, 2019

Continued from page 3

Project. . . . Continued from page 3 and the site is generally purchased and supported with communal funds.

“At Temple Israel, we understand this obligation, so it is with deep appreciation and gratitude that we thank the Spitz Foundation for their generous support and their recognition of the importance of maintaining our cemetery,” Monsky continued. “With the help of the Spitz Foundation funding, the congregation of Temple Israel is able to maintain the sanctity of our cemetery in Dunmore.”

Spitz Foundation funding, the congregation of Temple Israel Cemetery in Dunmore.

Tree trimming was done in preparation for improvements at the Temple Israel Cemetery in Dunmore.

Visit Anne Frank’s secret annex
A virtual reality tour allows visitors to travel back to World War 2 and walk through the rooms of the secret annex, where she and her family and four other Jews hid from Nazi persecution. The VR download is available in several formats. To learn more, visit http://annefrankhousevr.com/.

D’VAR TORAH
Five women who are named

BY RABBI MARJORIE BERMAN, SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR, RECONSTRUCTIONIST RABBINICAL COLLEGE

Pinchas, Numbers 25:10-30.1

With the headlines of Jeffrey Epstein’s horrific behavior fresh before us, we are reminded again of the challenges that women face in our world, and of the power structures that remain in place to keep that so. As the #metoo movement has shown us over and over again, there are many powerful men throughout the country and the world who feel that it is their right to treat women as property, and to use coercion, threats, money, influence and psychological or actual blackmail to keep them silent.

It has also been making news that the U.S. women’s soccer team, which just won the World Cup again, has filed a lawsuit citing widespread gender discrimination, affecting not only their paychecks but also where they play and how often, how they train, the medical treatment and coaching they receive, and even how they travel to play and how often, how they train, the medical treatment and coaching they receive, and even how they travel to play.

One example of the multi-million dollar bonuses the teams receive for participating in the World Cup for the men’s teams is $400 million (for 32 men’s teams), while the women’s pool is less than 10 percent of that: $30 million (for 24 women’s teams.)

In Israel, too, discrimination on the basis of gender is affecting not only their paychecks but also where they can play and how often, how they train, the medical treatment and coaching they receive, and even how they travel to play. (For example, the pool of multi-million dollar bonuses the teams receive for participating in the World Cup for the men’s teams is $400 million (for 32 men’s teams), while the women’s pool is less than 10 percent of that: $30 million (for 24 women’s teams.)

In Israel, too, discrimination on the basis of gender is affecting not only their paychecks but also where they can play and how often, how they train, the medical treatment and coaching they receive, and even how they travel to play.

In Israel, too, discrimination on the basis of gender is affecting not only their paychecks but also where they can play and how often, how they train, the medical treatment and coaching they receive, and even how they travel to play.

In Israel, too, discrimination on the basis of gender is affecting not only their paychecks but also where they can play and how often, how they train, the medical treatment and coaching they receive, and even how they travel to play.
The interior of the brand-new Visitor Center in Caesarea. (Photo courtesy of the Visitors Center)

Renewal at an ancient site: Caesarea reaches out to the world

BY JUDY LASH BALINT

(JNS) – Jerusalem and Caesarea are 85 miles apart—one inland and one on the coast—but both cities bear the unmistakable imprint of Herod, the master builder of ancient times. In Jerusalem, Herod refurbished the Second Temple, and in Caesarea he conceived and planned a massive port city replete with a harbor, palace, temple, amphitheater and hippodrome.

Today, both cities receive masses of visitors from all over the world. Caesarea, however, has recently undergone an extensive preservation and restoration project in an effort to boost the number of tourists to rival the millions who visit Jerusalem every year.

Caesarea Development Corporation CEO Michael Karsenti says with the completion of the restorations and excavations, the National Park site should reach one million visitors per year within the next five years. “Our goal is to bring the whole world here and to show them the beautiful face of Israel,” he adds.

In a low-key ceremony in Caesarea on May 30, President Reuven Rivlin and Baroness Ariane de Rothschild inaugurated the renewal project that includes a state-of-the-art Visitor Center housed in the restored harbor vaults that formed the base for Herod’s temple, which was the main public building of ancient Caesarea. The vaults, which look out over the harbor, are adjacent to a monumental staircase still being restored that led those arriving from the harbor to the temple itself.

The Visitor Center combines artifacts representing the many cultures in Caesarea’s long history with innovative displays, as well as a 10-minute film telling the story of Herod and the building of Caesarea projected vertically onto one of the vault walls.

Karsenti explains that the renewal project took more than five years of “intensive, collaborative” work by archaeologists, engineers and preservation architects, and the cooperation of the Israel Antiquities Authority, the Israel Nature and Parks Authority and the Edmond de Rothschild Foundation, which provided 150 million NIS ($41.2 million) in funding.

Baroness Ariane de Rothschild represented the foundation at the opening, noting that “Caesarea is an inspiration for our call to co-create the future.” Alluding to the Muslims, Christians and Jews who had been sovereign in Caesarea during different periods in her history, she added: “We go beyond just acknowledging human diversity. We engage in building a society that is strengthened by its diversity, beliefs and traditions.”

Before cutting the ribbon together with the baroness, Rivlin told guests that “history is not about dry facts or statistics. It is about the lives people lived, the places they loved and their stories. The Caesarea Vaults restoration project ensures that the story of this place and of its connection to the Jewish people will be told for many, many years to come. And I believe that one day soon, Caesarea will take its rightful place as one of the world’s most impressive windows to the ancient past.”

As part of the restoration project, Israel Antiquities Authority archaeologists uncovered three “significant finds” from different eras near the vaults. The first was a mosaic.
The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg - ball player who became a World War II spy.

Rejoice with Itzhak Perlman and Cantor Yitzchak Meir Helfgot - commentary by musical greats including Itzhak Perlman, Zubin Mehta and Joshua Bell.

Orchestra of Exiles - underground cave is unearthed by accident when cave explorer, Chris Nicola stumbles upon remnants left behind by the cave dwellers.

No Place on Earth - Holocaust survivors to Palestine. Later, in 1948, Brigade veterans help organize and lead the fledgling Israel Defense Forces in their new country's War of Independence. Amidst the chaos of post-war Europe, and under the noses of the occupying Allied armies, the young Jewish soldiers mastermind one clan fighting unit in the war - goes into combat against the hated Nazis...and comes away victorious. It is after the war, though, that the real story of the Brigade begins. Itzhak Perlman and Cantor Yitzchak Meir Helfgot celebrate the extraordinary artistic world of Eastern European Jewish music thanks to the joined forces of legendary violinist Itzhak Perlman and renowned cantor Yitzchak Meir Helfgot. These two incomparable virtuosos unite for an evening of cantorial masterpieces and much more.

The Catcher Was a Spy - "This gripping, stranger-than-fiction espionage thriller brings to life the incredible true story of Moe Berg, the professional baseball player who became a World War II spy."

The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg - The Prime Ministers: The Pioneers and Soldiers and Peacemakers - A two-disc set based on the international best-seller by Ambassador Yehuda Avner.
Israelis debate Hamas money-laundering operation

Israeli security forces arrested three Palestinian Authority residents on July 16 as part of a crackdown against Hamas and a scheme to transfer funds through the Gaza Strip and Jordan Valley. According to the Israeli military, senior Hamas terrorists in Gaza were using a network of independent money changers, the network used a method of offsetting debts between several independent money changers without registration in official banking systems. As a result, the funds were then used to pay for a new organizational terrorist activity in Judea and Samaria and to pay the salaries of Hamas operatives there. "The methods used by Hamas to transfer funds are familiar to us and we are working to thwart them," the Israel Defense Forces said in a statement, vowing it would work to prevent civilian companies from cooperating with terrorist elements in Judea and Samaria and the Gaza Strip.

Residents evacuated as fires raged across Israel amid extreme heatwave

Israel has combated with strong winds sparked fires throughout Israel on July 17, with hundreds being evacuated from threatened areas and 15 homes being damaged by the flames. Firefighters were able to get most of the fires under control toward the evening. Evacuations took place in several locations, including the towns of Adarot, Neve Michael and Roglit near Jerusalem, Or Yehuda near Tel Aviv, near the Technion Institute of Technology in Haifa and in Shavei Shomron in Samaria. In Or Yehuda, five houses caught fire in the Ramat Pinkas neighborhood, and firefighters had to rescue an elderly woman from her house. In Jericho, a 70-year-old Russian immigration providing care for people with disabilities evacuated its residents to the Shalva Center in Jerusalem, an emergency center run by the Labor and Social Services Ministry, which is now preparing to absorb the evacuees long-term. Outside the Malha shopping mall in Jerusalem, a fire broke out on the roof. Firefighters were able to contain the blaze, but not before 10 cars were "severely" damaged. Additional fires broke out in the Jerusalem forest, the town of Tomer in the Jordan Valley, the Adam facility in Modi'in, Maccabi Haifa, Mitzpe Ramon, Barta, Ar'a, Bethlehem and 15 others. The Israel Red Cross has responded as high as 122 degrees Fahrenheit before easing around 5 pm on July 17, which enabled Fire and Rescue Services – which had cancelled all vacations and called up all firefighters – to overcome most of the blazes. Winds were strong throughout parts of the day, leading fires to spread quickly and forcing firefighters to use planes and helicopters to stay grounded. Ironically, the port city of Eilat experienced an unusual light rainfall. Magen David Adom emergency medical services reported that as of 20:00, 427 patients were treated for smoke inhalation, exhaustion and fever, with seven patients being treated for mild smoke inhalation.

Netanyahu becomes Israel's longest-serving PM on July 20

When the clock struck midnight on July 20, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu made history as the state of Israel's longest-serving premier, surpassing the previous record-holder, David Ben-Gurion, who led from May 14, 1948, until January 26, 1956, and again from March 31, 2009, until the present, Netanyahu will have served 4,876 days – as Israel's leader on July 20. Ben-Gurion, who led from May 14, 1948, until January 26, 1956, and again from Nov. 3, 1955, until June 26, 1963, led for 13-and-a-half years – a total of 4,875 days. Netanyahu ranks 16th among longest-reigning leaders in OECD nations since the end of World War II, according to the Israel Democracy Institute, and holds the record for the longest-serving leader in the world. As of July 20, Israel's third-longest-leading prime minister is Yitzhak Shamir, followed by Yitzhak Rabin and Menachem Begin. Ehud Barak, who is currently trying to break back into Israeli politics with his new Israel Democratic Party, holds the record for Israel's shortest term, at just one year, eight months and two days. Report: Netanyahu expresses reservations about possible West Bank-Gaza passage

Israel's longest-serving prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, has expressed reservations about using a possible West Bank-Gaza passage “can only be a part of a comprehensive deal if it is acceptable to Israel and all security issues can be thoroughly addressed.”

Survey: 93% of tourists to Israel in 2018 had a “good to excellent” time

A reported 93 percent of tourists who visited Israel in 2018 rated their experience as “good to excellent,” according to the annual Israel Tourism Ministry Inbound Tourism Survey, released on July 14. Among the 15,000 tourists surveyed, 53.2 percent said their views on Israel improved during their visit, with just 1.5 percent saying their view changed for the worse. Another 41 percent said their opinion of Israel stayed the same. The age group 25-44 was the largest at 35.8 percent of visitors, followed by ages 55 and over and 24 and under. The visitors were predominantly Christian (54.9 percent), followed by Jews (27.5 percent). Among the Christian tourists, the largest denomination was Catholic. Jerusalem was the most visited city in the country, with 77.5 percent of visitors arriving in the capital, followed by Tel Aviv at second place with 67.4 percent, followed by the Dead Sea region at 56.8 percent. The most popular activities among tourists were visiting sites – the Western Wall (71.6 percent) the Church of the Holy Sepulchre (52.2 percent) and the Via Dolorosa (47.4 percent). The Old City of Jaffa also made the list at 50.1 percent. Tel Aviv Port was ranked the best-maintained site in Israel by 31.3 percent of tourists, followed by the Dead Sea and the Negev. Tel Aviv-Yafo was rated best for entertainment, tourism, night life and shopping, followed by Jerusalem. The average tourist spent $1,421 during their visit in 2017, that number dipped slightly in 2018 to $1,402. Nonetheless, the overall boost of tourism to Israel’s economy last year was NIS 21 billion ($5.93 billion) not including airfare. “The year 2018 was a record year for incoming tourism to Israel, with more than 4 million tourists,” said Tourism Minister Yariv Levin. “The constant increase in incoming tourism is a result of the ministry’s new marketing strategy, and we see a continuation of this upward momentum in 2019.”

Hamas distances itself from official’s call to slaughter Jews worldwide

After a senior Hamas official gave an “impious” speech on July 12 calling forPalestinians to slaughter Jews around the world, the terrorist organization issued a statement distancing itself from the statements, saying they “don’t represent the movement’s official positions and that it is wrong to confuse them with Israel and ‘not the Jews or their religion.’” "All of you seven million Palestinians abroad, enough of the warming up,” Fathi Hamad told rioters at the Gaza-Israel border on July 12, in a speech broadcast on Hamas-run Al-Aqsa TV. “You have Jews everywhere and we must attack every Jew on the globe by way of slaughter and killing.” The remarks, which were broadcast on the West Bank radio station, were widely condemned. "We want knives to come out. Five shekels. How much does the neck of a Jew cost? Five shekels or less? ...We will die while exploding and cutting the necks and legs of the Jews," he enthused. "We will obliterate them and tear them to pieces, Allah willing!" The remarks, which were broadcast on the West Bank radio station, were widely condemned. "We want knives to come out. Five shekels. How much does the neck of a Jew cost? Five shekels or less? ...We will die while exploding and cutting the necks and legs of the Jews," he enthused. "We will obliterate them and tear them to pieces, Allah willing!"

JFSNEPA announces new board of directors for 2019/2020

JFS held its 104th Annual Meeting on June 18, 2019 in the Linder Room of the Sorbonne JCC, and presented a proposal for the 2019-2020 slate of officers and directors. JFS’s Executive Director Sheila Nudelman Abdio gave closing remarks and a year in review video was shown following a dessert reception. President Deirdre Spelman kicked off the meeting by welcoming the new board members to our organization. “This amazing group of people do not represent the movement’s official positions and that it is wrong to confuse them with Israel and ‘not the Jews or their religion.’” "All of you seven million Palestinians abroad, enough of the warming up,” Fathi Hamad told rioters at the Gaza-Israel border on July 12, in a speech broadcast on Hamas-run Al-Aqsa TV. “You have Jews everywhere and we must attack every Jew on the globe by way of slaughter and killing.” The remarks, which were broadcast on the West Bank radio station, were widely condemned. "We want knives to come out. Five shekels. How much does the neck of a Jew cost? Five shekels or less? ...We will die while exploding and cutting the necks and legs of the Jews," he enthused. "We will obliterate them and tear them to pieces, Allah willing!" The remarks, which were broadcast on the West Bank radio station, were widely condemned. "We want knives to come out. Five shekels. How much does the neck of a Jew cost? Five shekels or less? ...We will die while exploding and cutting the necks and legs of the Jews," he enthused. "We will obliterate them and tear them to pieces, Allah willing!

New Directors Nominated to Serve Three Year Term (Ending June 2022)

- Nancy Johnson, Leah Laury, Sharon Levy, Natalie Gelb

Directors Nominated to Serve a Three Year Term (Ending June 2022)

- Sara Levy

Directors Nominated to Serve One and Two Year Terms (Ending June 2020 & 2021)

- Eric Weilberg (One Year Term)
- Gary Backhorn (Two Year Term)
- David Yehudah Fink (Two Year Term)

Directors Whose Terms are Continuing (Ending June 2020 & 2021)

- Michael Mardo, Dr. Nancy Willis, Leah Gans
- Rabbi Marjorie Berman, Christine Black, Karen Cahn, Yariv Levin.

Thanks to Those Who are Leaving The Board

- Rabbi Mordechai, Dr. Dan Ginsberg - 2nd Vice President
- Rabbi Sara Levy - President
- Rabbi Marjorie Berman, Christine Black, Karen Cahn, Yariv Levin.

Established in 1915, Jewish Family Service is a human service organization, which reflects the Jewish tradition of caring and compassion for all people in need. Through professional counseling, advocacy and educational programming, our services seek to enhance and strengthen the quality of individual, family and community life. It is this agency mission that drives all services and activities of Jewish Family Service.
The U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee adopted two resolutions on July 17, one condemning the anti-Israel BDS movement and another endorsing a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The resolutions were introduced by Reps. Joe Wilson (R-SC) and Ted Deutch (D-FL). The BDS resolution, which currently has 273 co-sponsors: 141 Republicans and 132 Democrats. The measures now go to the House floor and were expected to be voted on the week of July 22.

The bill was inspired by Claire Sarnowski, 14, of suburban Lake Oswego, who had a personal connection to the Holocaust. The bill was introduced by state Rep. Julie Smith (D-OR) and signed into law by Gov. Kate Brown on July 15. The bill unanimously passed in the state legislature, into law. “Today more than ever, we need the learning opportunities to be taught about the Holocaust and other genocides after Gov. Kate Brown signed on July 15 a bill, which unanimously passed in the state legislature, into law.” At the same time, it states, “Whereas the United States has long sought a just and stable future for Palestinians, and an end to the occupation, including opposing settlement activity and security and economic ties between the two countries. It was introduced by Reps. Joe Wilson (R-SC) and Ted Deutch (D-FL). It currently has 273 co-sponsors: 141 Republicans and 132 Democrats. The measures now go to the House floor and were expected to be voted on the week of July 22.

Oregon public schools will be required to teach students about the Holocaust and other genocides after Gov. Kate Brown signed on July 15 a bill, which unanimously passed in the state legislature, into law. “Today more than ever, we need the learning opportunities to be taught about the Holocaust and other genocides after Gov. Kate Brown signed on July 15 a bill, which unanimously passed in the state legislature, into law.” At the same time, it states, “Whereas the United States has long sought a just and stable future for Palestinians, and an end to the occupation, including opposing settlement activity and security and economic ties between the two countries. It was introduced by Reps. Joe Wilson (R-SC) and Ted Deutch (D-FL). It currently has 273 co-sponsors: 141 Republicans and 132 Democrats. The measures now go to the House floor and were expected to be voted on the week of July 22.

The bill was introduced by state Rep. Julie Smith (D-OR) and signed into law by Gov. Kate Brown on July 15. The bill unanimously passed in the state legislature, into law. “Today more than ever, we need the learning opportunities to be taught about the Holocaust and other genocides after Gov. Kate Brown signed on July 15 a bill, which unanimously passed in the state legislature, into law.” At the same time, it states, “Whereas the United States has long sought a just and stable future for Palestinians, and an end to the occupation, including opposing settlement activity and security and economic ties between the two countries. It was introduced by Reps. Joe Wilson (R-SC) and Ted Deutch (D-FL). It currently has 273 co-sponsors: 141 Republicans and 132 Democrats. The measures now go to the House floor and were expected to be voted on the week of July 22.

The bill was introduced by state Rep. Julie Smith (D-OR) and signed into law by Gov. Kate Brown on July 15. The bill unanimously passed in the state legislature, into law. “Today more than ever, we need the learning opportunities to be taught about the Holocaust and other genocides after Gov. Kate Brown signed on July 15 a bill, which unanimously passed in the state legislature, into law.” At the same time, it states, “Whereas the United States has long sought a just and stable future for Palestinians, and an end to the occupation, including opposing settlement activity and security and economic ties between the two countries. It was introduced by Reps. Joe Wilson (R-SC) and Ted Deutch (D-FL). It currently has 273 co-sponsors: 141 Republicans and 132 Democrats. The measures now go to the House floor and were expected to be voted on the week of July 22.