The Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania is bringing internationally known comedian Avi Liberman to the Scranton JCC’s Koppelman Auditorium on Saturday evening, November 2, at 8 pm, as part of its annual UJA Campaign.

“Liberman’s quirky style has made him a favorite in comedy clubs from Los Angeles to New York,” said organizers of the event. Liberman has performed stand-up comedy on CBS’ “Late Late Show” with Craig Ferguson, on Comedy Central’s “Premium Blend” and “Make Me Laugh,” as well as NBC’s “Friday Night!” His acting credits include “Dave’s World” on CBS, “Boston Common” on NBC and “Andystown, USA” on Comedy Central. Since 2001, Liberman has arranged stand-up comedy tours in Israel to help boost morale while donating all of the proceeds to a charity.

The Comedy For Koby tour is a bi-annual event, benefiting the Koby Mandell Foundation. This year, a percentage of the proceeds from the UJA Campaign event will benefit the 32nd annual Teen Symposium on the Holocaust, which is an annual program that helps to educate middle and high school students from Northeastern Pennsylvania and New York about the Holocaust. It also provides an opportunity for participants to meet with survivors of the Holocaust and American GIs who liberated the Nazi concentration camps.

Israel welcomes 121 new immigrants from Ukraine

A plane full of 121 new immigrants from Ukraine arrived in Israel on July 29. See article on page 7. (Photo by Noam Moraskitz)

Federal appeals court rules in favor of Facebook in case on Hamas terror victims

BY JACKSON RICHMAN

(JNS) - A federal appeals court on July 31 sided against victims of attacks by Hamas who looked to hold Facebook accountable for allegedly enabling a social-media platform for the U.S.-designated terrorist group to promote its objectives. The 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the 1996 Communications Decency Act, which monitors Internet material, protected Facebook from liability.

“Merely arranging and displaying others’ content to users of Facebook through such algorithms – even if the content is not actively sought by those users – is not enough to hold Facebook responsible as the ‘developer’ or ‘creator’ of that content,” wrote Judge Christopher Droney of the three-judge appeals court panel.

However, Chief Judge Robert Katzmann dissented and wrote, “Over the past two decades the Internet has outgrown its innocence. It is fair to ask whether the rules that governed its infancy should still oversee its adulthood.”

The plaintiffs, who included Stuart and Lori Force, whose son 28-year-old Taylor Force was stabbed to death in Israel by a Palestinian in 2016, asked for $3 billion in damages from Facebook for allowing Hamas to promote, encourage and organize activities, despite the tech giant’s promise to aggressively target this content,” he continued. “Moreover, Facebook’s recommended friends feature connects known terrorists with other supporters across the globe. The victims and their families should be empowered to hold companies accountable for turning a blind eye to terrorist activities on their sites.”

Five-day Jewish Food Festival to be held at Nay Aug Park

The annual Jewish Food Festival in Scranton will be held on Sunday, August 18, through Thursday, August 22, at Nay Aug Park in Scranton. Organized by the Jewish Discovery Center, the free-admission event will feature ethnic food, a kids-zone, live DJ and daily specials.

Opening day on Sunday, August 18, will be from 11:30 am-7 pm. From Monday, August 19, through Thursday, August 22, the hours will be 11:30 am-2 pm for lunch and 4-7 pm for dinner.

The menu will feature an assortment of traditional items such as corned beef or pastrami on rye; authentic, hand-rolled stuffed cabbage; potato knishes; and more. Israeli and Middle-Eastern offerings will include falafel and grilled shawarma made fresh on site, and the “schnitzel” sandwich served on a semi-hard roll. The barbecue grill will offer 100 percent all-beef hot-dogs, Polish sausages, spicy Moroccan burgers and more, while the bakery tent will serve up chocolate babka, apple-strudel and funnel cakes to complement the celebration of ethnic kosher food. The festival at Nay Aug Park will feature daily specials, including glazed beef ribs, pulled beef brisket and gourmet burgers.

Now for this year, the menu will include low-carb gluten free options, such as green salads topped with falafel, hummus, tahini, shawarma or schnitzel. Also new will be a combo dish that will include multiple items to sample.

The festival will provide curbside service for online orders placed Monday-Thursday. “Simply make your selections online and your order will be ready within 30 minutes – brought to your car!” said festival organizers.

Nay Aug Park is Scranton’s largest park, provides residents and visitors with walking trails, picnic areas, kid-friendly rides, playgrounds, Olympic-sized swimming pools and a waterslide complex, among its attractions. The Everhart Museum is also located within the park. A pedestrian footbridge opened in 2007 to access parkland across the Roaring Brook.

For more information about the festival, to download an event map or to browse the menu, visit www.JewishFoodFest.com or call 570-587-3300.
Study finds Jewish teens flourish socially, emotionally and spiritually when connected to youth groups

BY DEBORAH FINEBLUM

(JNS) — There was a time when “Don’t trust anyone over 30” was the mantra for the young. But a new study of Jewish teens suggests that an interrupted — or, as can be believed, the situation is much different today, news that will no doubt come as a huge surprise.

Eighteen-year-oldYaël Berrol is intimately involved in Jewish life — be it in her Conservative synagogue in Oakland, CA, where she serves on the board and in the Hebrew school; during her 10 years at Camp Ramah in Ojai, CA; in Israel, where she rode with an ambulance crew; or at events at her B’nai B’rith Youth Organization youth group. “The best part of BBYO for me are the conventions, a real connection with Judaism and a weekend away with a bunch of Jews,” says Berrol, who’s one of a handful of Jewish students in her high school. “Being together is when I feel like my true self.”

More than 17,000 Jewish teens like Berrol participated in an online survey, conducted by the Jewish Education Project and Rosov Consulting. Most of the names came off lists from 14 youth groups representing Jews of all backgrounds, in countries including Bnei Akiva, National Council of Synagogue Youth, United Young Judea, CTeen, United Synagogue Youth and the Union of Reform Judaism Youth.

“We were basically interested in the lives of Jewish teens and understanding the impact of their Judaism,” says Stacie Cherner, director of learning and evaluation at the Jim Joseph Foundation which, with the United Synagogue for Living Torah, and the Charles and the Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, funded the study. The funders were especially interested in teens’ social and emotional development, “how these programs impact them in these ways,” says Cherner. One happy surprise: how many teens actually took the time to complete the survey. The almost 18,000 respondents came in part from the youth groups that contributed and from a link pushed out through social media. “And we were all impressed with the honest, thoughtful answers we got,” replies Cherner.

Among the findings:

* Jewish teens like their parents; they enjoy spending time with them and often look to their parents for guidance and to demystify the world around them.
* Focusses surveyed, Jewish beliefs and practices are closely linked with their family relationships and loyalties.
* The respondents believe teens need help in coping with pressures like academic pressure, self-esteem issues and a fear of failure.
* Jewish teens see social media as a mixed blessing, saying it can both cause stress and help them deal with stress, as well as connect with friends and help change the world.
* Most of the teens (75 percent) identify as Jewish (and 16 percent claim to be culturally Jewish), but many of those who say they have “no religion” also hope to engage with Judaism at some point in the future.
* Many (45 percent) rank antisemitism as a problem for today’s teens, though few feel seriously threatened.
* Most of the teens (71 percent) report either a strong or very strong connection to Israel, with the majority of those who have not yet traveled hoping to do so one day.

Most crucially, the study found that teens active in a Jewish youth group (regardless of denomination) flourish socially, emotionally and spiritually as compared with those who are not. They also report feeling more connected to being Jewish, have higher self-esteem and better relationships with family, friends and other adults, and feel empowered to make positive change in their world.

“The parental issue was the big surprise,” says Rabbi MichaelShlismon, dean of the Graduate School of Education at Boston’s Hebrew College and a member of the study’s advisory board. And, he adds, “By working together, it makes it easier for the other few studies, it makes it ‘a pretty good case for religious education and youth groups specifically. It seems that, along with a strong family and the belief in a higher power you’re connected to – this makes for someone who’s healthier in every way. It’s almost that the most likely Jewish teen has a protective shell around them.”

Carl Shulman regularly sees these trends in action. “In our programming, we look at the family and the role they play in the civil rights and other social-justice causes Donald Shalman, the BBYO national adviser at Temple Etz Chaim, a Reform congregation in Franklin, MA. “And we make sure it’s tied to Jewish tradition – whether it’s Torah or Talmud that speaks to them.”

Shulman says youth-group advisers play a dual role. “From a leadership role, we’re a ‘cross between a teacher, a friend and a mentor,'” he says. “We’re a cross between a teacher, a friend and a mentor.'”

See “Study” on page 11

A MATTER OF OPINION

 Globally collaborative universities are driving the solutions of the future

BY MICHAEL WAXMAN-LENZ

(JNS) — In 1990, one of the most ambitious scientific endeavors the world has ever seen was launched. It took 13 years, 20 institutions and thousands of scientists to complete, but it was undoubtedly worth it. The Human Genome Project gave us a genetic blueprint of the average human being — and it was only made possible by harnessing the talent and trail-blazing research from universities around the world.

The project demonstrated the extraordinary potential of higher education’s contribution — a trend that has grown exponentially in recent years. As someone who has lived and worked in several countries, including Germany, Israel and the United States, I’ve seen first-hand the remarkable benefit of the exchange of ideas between people with diverse background.

The world’s most complex problems call for solutions drawing on ideas and efforts that often come from across cultures and continents. Universities are at the forefront of developing these solutions, which is why they have increasingly opened their doors to international students and visiting faculty, supported more joint research and established satellites abroad.

We see the distinct advantages of a globally collaborative institution in the success of the Technion—Israel Institute of Technology. In the last decade, the Technion has transitioned from being one of Israel’s leading universities into a global powerhouse in higher education, with a presence in Israel, China and New York, and a range of dynamic international partnerships.

The Technion’s international growth has propelled it to the top of the rankings for science and technology research institutions. It was ranked first worldwide in digital education in a survey by Times Higher Education, and ranked No. 14 in PitchBook’s 2017 list of the top 50 schools for the export of technology. The Jacobs Technion-Cornell Institute (or Jacobs Institute), a partnership between the Technion and Cornell University, serves as a bridge between Israel’s entrepreneurial spirit and Cornell’s academic excellence. As major corporations look toward the future, they are turning to the Technion as a partner. Through the new Center for Artificial Intelligence, Intel and the Technion are working together to advance research in AI and computational learning.

Recently, Alibaba recently acquired Israel-based Infinity Augmented Reality. InfinityAR’s computer vision and AI. The acquisition is allowing the brightest minds to come together from all corners of the world and from a link pushed out through social media. “And we were all impressed with the honest, thoughtful answers we got,” replies Cherner.

One of the most interesting findings was that teens active in a Jewish youth group (regardless of denomination) flourish socially, emotionally and spiritually as compared with those who are not. They also report feeling more connected to being Jewish, have higher self-esteem and better relationships with family, friends and other adults, and feel empowered to make positive change in their world.

Beyond partnerships on these campuses, Technion professors collaborate with colleagues from universities around the world as a part of the global ecosystem.

The Technion has been a key driver of this trend. In the past decade, it has worked with major corporations to export the Israeli people’s signature for daring to venture where no one ever thought possible. For instance, the Guangdong Technion Institute of Technology is part of Cornell Tech, bringing together two of the world’s leading universities to create jobs and touches lives in all corners of the globe.

The Technion has been a key driver of this trend. In the past decade, it has worked with major corporations to export the Israeli people’s signature for daring to venture where no one ever thought possible. For instance, the Guangdong Technion Institute of Technology is part of Cornell Tech, bringing together two of the world’s leading universities to create jobs and touches lives in all corners of the globe.

In New York, the Jacobs Technion—Cornell Institute (or Jacobs Institute), part of Cornell Tech, brings together two of the world’s leading universities to build pioneering leaders and technologies for the digital age. The Jacobs Institute emphasizes a transdisciplinary view of science and encourages transnational research that ultimately serves the worldwide common good.

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**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**Toyota of Scranton bronze sponsor for UJA fund-raiser**

A right: In anticipation of this year’s Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania’s UJA fund-raising event, “An Evening with Avi Liberman” (See related article on page 1), members of the event committee accepted a check for a bronze sponsorship from Toyota of Scranton.

**Mae S. Gelb Kosher Food Pantry: community providing for community**

The Mae S. Gelb Kosher Food Pantry, established in January 2001 at Jewish Family Service of Northeastern Pennsylvania, was developed to assist families and/or individuals who are suffering financial setbacks, many due to physical, emotional or other limitations. This may also include the elderly who may be isolated and living on a limited income, unemployed adults in need of interim assistance and single parent families who may be financially struggling to make ends meet.

The Mae S. Gelb Kosher Food Pantry is stocked with food and other necessary household items, and is supported by donations from community members, synagogues and other Jewish organizations. Many community members prefer to support the pantry directly by dropping off food or other items. These items can come from your home or from the store, and can be dropped off any time of the year at Jewish Family Service at 615 Jefferson Ave., Scranton. All food items must have acceptable kosher symbols and must have current expiration dates.

JFS volunteers are also considered a vital part of the Mae S. Gelb Kosher Food Pantry. JFS volunteers assist with shopping, sorting and distributing food packages. The pantry is stocked and organized to provide those in need an “easy and accessible experience” when shopping at the pantry.

Some of the items that are always needed to stock the Mae S. Gelb Kosher Food Pantry are canned fish, canned fruits/vegetables, cereals, cleaning/household products, condiments/spices, dried fruits, fruit juices, instant potatoes, jam/jelly, paper products, pastas, peanut butter, powdered milk, rice, soaps/toiletries, soups, tea/coffee and tomato sauce/paste.

Donations are always appreciated and JFS thanks everyone who has helped to stock the Mae S. Gelb Kosher Food Pantry. If you would like to donate your time, items or provide financial support to the Mae S. Gelb Kosher Food Pantry, call JFS at 570-344-1186, visit www.jfsnepa.org or stop by the JFS office at 615 Jefferson Ave., Scranton.

L-r: Dassy Ganz and Sheila Nudelman Abdo showed some of the food donated to the Mae S. Gelb Kosher Food Pantry.
Building projects at entrance to Jerusalem mean real growth (and some growing pains)

BY ELIANA RUDEE

(JNS) – Just like “Rome wasn’t built in a day,” neither was Jerusalem, says Deputy Mayor of Jerusalem Fleur Hassan-Nahoum.

As a part of the city’s development endeavors, Jerusalem’s main entrance will undergo a “grand makeover” — a million-square-meter project including construction of a new entryway into the city, extension of the light rail and various new towers. Along with such growth, Jerusalem residents can expect associated growing pains since private vehicles will be blocked from entering Jerusalem from the city’s main entrance for three years, beginning in July 2019.

As a result of the road closures, traffic between the Chords Bridge and the International Convention Center will not be allowed for private vehicles, although public transportation will remain unchanged. An alternative route will be opened, passing through Herzl Boulevard and weaving around the government offices toward the city center.

Long term, according to Transportation Minister Israel Katz, the building of the new entryway into the city will decrease traffic at Jerusalem’s entrance by branching out from the Moza Bridge on Route 1, the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway. It will also make room for an extension to the city’s light rail.

Most of the Jerusalem municipality are supportive of the building efforts, which are part of a larger plan for the transformation of Jerusalem. The building project, which intends to “create a new source of income and quality job creation, coupled with the startup ecosystem that was built over the last six years, will create a cluster of business, academic and economic opportunities,” Hassan-Nahoum told JNS.

Both she and Ofer Berkovitch, a member of the city’s planning and construction committee, as well as head of Hitterut, the largest party in Jerusalem’s municipality, called the planned expansions a “game changer” for the city.

Previously taking part in the advancement of the project under Jerusalem’s former Mayor Nir Barkat and former Deputy Mayor Kobi Kahlon, Berkovitch called the project as a “very important” step in creating a “very strategic and important” project under Jerusalem’s for the future of the city, Berkovitch noted that the new material will make the city more inviting and attractive.

Hassan-Nahoum and Berkovitch agreed that one of Jerusalem’s major problems is lack of commercial office space, which helps the city to develop economically through rent, taxes and job creation. “I believe the location and features of the project will help us to bring new jobs to the city,” said Berkovitch. “More office space will mean more businesses, whether its lawyers, bankers or high-tech.”

Creating jobs will keep “young people, students and techies” in Jerusalem, stressed Hassan-Nahoum, noting that the city is working to “ensure that all the marginal populations are included in this economic prosperity.

“If structural change will also bring cultural change,” she added, voicing her hope that “if Haredim and Arabs are part of it, they would have cultural changes, too, integrating into the marketplace and interacting with each other.”

Berkovitch also maintained, “I see this project as a very strategic and important one to change the employment portfolio of the city, keep youngsters and include the ultra-Orthodox into the job market.”

But until then, many residents are worried that traffic will greatly worsen. Berkovitch acknowledged that it will “be a challenge,” and “citizens will be impacted by the construction and traffic problems through the next years.”

With other concurrent projects in the city that also create traffic, he expressed his concern that the roadwork will create an “impossible reality in the city,” posing that current Jerusalem Mayor Moshe Lion is “a serious job in managing the hard times ahead.”

He continued, “I didn’t hear a clear program [from him] of how to deal with changes and create alternatives to help the traffic.”

Berkovitch recommended that the mayor spend serious resources in mid-time solutions to decrease traffic, examine the timing of the different projects in the entrance of the city and ensure that the fast train from Tel Aviv, which will take just 23 minutes, works efficiently before main roads are closed.

Still, Berkovitch is sure that the projects will be worth it long-term. He explained that in the last decade, Jerusalem missed out on “a lot of changes happening in Israel’s cultural and high-tech revolution—and this project will help Israel catch up. “We still have a problem of lack of new, modern offices for big companies,” he said, voicing his hope that “this project will create the possibility to bring strong firms like Google and Facebook to Jerusalem from the center [of Israel].”

Berkovitch said housing options that support employment for young adults and singles, in addition to nightlife venues and cultural institutions, are also being built. Jerusalem’s major conference center is expanding, and walking and bike paths with public spaces and trees will enhance the area.

Likewise, posed Hassan-Nahoum, while closures are an inconvenience for residents, they are a necessary aspect “to keep growing and developing, ultimately for the benefit of the whole city.”

“To become economically agile and build infrastructure, we’ll have a better city and everyone will benefit. Birth is painful, but you get a baby at the end of it,” she said.

As Barkan, a resident of Jerusalem for 32 years and former marketer for the Jerusalem Development Authority, agreed. Working in the municipality back in 1991-92, she recalled, “When Kikar Safra was being built, we walked in mud and dirt every day to get to the office from the parking lot and buses. And look what we have now.”

Barkan recalled the growth of the last three decades, posing that growth has always required patience. “Think about how the city was 30 years ago with its small and run-down bus station,” she posed to JNS. “We needed a new building to handle the increase in demand for public transportation. Yes, its being built was a mess, but sometimes we have to tolerate mess in order to grow.”

“Look at the light rail,” she continued. “Jaffa Street was closed and a huge mess for years. Businesses closed. People avoided the downtown. We really suffered. And now we reap the benefits.”

Barkan, who founded Jerusalem Village, an organization with the goal of introducing those who make aliya to Israeli culture and peers, maintained that the most recent challenge in Jerusalem is a lack of jobs, which she believes leads recent graduates and young immigrants to leave the city for other areas. “This is a waste of great talent, as many of these olim [‘new immigrants’] come with one and sometimes two degrees, along with work experience, a strong base of open Judaism and a deep understanding of democracy,” she said.

“The new center being built at the entrance of the city will help us give people what they want — access to state-of-the-art working environments that are easily accessible. With this new center the high-speed train, we will have plenty of people from outside the city coming to work here,” said Barkan.

“The future is looking good!” she proclaimed. “We just have to walk in mud for a while.”

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Are you on the Jewish Federation’s email list?

We send updated announcements and special event details weekly to those who wish to receive them.

Send Dassy Ganz an email if you would like to join the list.

Dassy.ganz@jewishnepa.org

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A view of the entrance to Jerusalem taken on October 25, 2018. (Photo by Miriam Alster/Flash90)
In the House

The Trauma-Informed Modernization of Eldercare for Holocaust Survivors Act, or the “TIME for Holocaust Survivors Act,” would incorporate several provisions into the Older Americans Act to ensure that Holocaust survivors are not left behind, said Rosen. “Integrating trauma-informed practices into the Older Americans Act to ensure that Holocaust survivors have coordinated, trauma-informed care and services particularly tailored their needs.

“Holocaust survivors came to the United States seeking refuge from unimaginable horrors. They have lived their lives here and enriched our nation,” said Cardin.”With an average age of 85, we have an obligation to provide Holocaust survivors the community support and special services they need to live out their final days.”

“Those who sought shelter in our country after the unspeakable tragedy of the Holocaust deserve better assistance, not worse,” said Cramer. “This legislation is mer (R-ND) and Jacky Rosen (D-NV) introduced on July 18 by Sens. Ben Cardin (D-MD), Kevin Cramer (R-ND) and Jacky Rosen (D-NV). In addition to those three, the measure currently has seven other co-sponsors.

“Those who sought shelter in our country after the unspeakable tragedy of the Holocaust deserve better assistance, not worse,” said Cramer. “This legislation is a productive step toward helping survivors receive the quality care they need.”

“Never Again” means never forgetting those who survived the horrors of the Holocaust. This bipartisan bill will make important updates to the Older Americans Act to ensure that Holocaust survivors are not left behind,” said Rosen. “Integrating trauma-informed practices into these programs will improve care for seniors who have had traumatic experiences, the effects of which can resurface when they age.”

“We are proud to support this bipartisan bill introduced by Senators Cardin, Cramer and Rosen that will ensure that the 80,000 aging Holocaust survivors living in the United States today, all with unique traumas and health concerns, have access to the care and services they need,” said William Daroff, the Jewish Federations of North America’s senior vice president for public policy. “As a key priority for Jewish Federations and the hundreds of organizations from every state in the country that support this initiative, we urge every senator to co-sponsor the TIME for Holocaust Survivors Act, and work with Senate leadership to pass this bill soon.”

The JFNA and more than 500 national, state and local organizations have expressed their support for the TIME for Holocaust Survivors Act.

About 80,000 survivors of the Holocaust reside in the United States, with approximately 25 percent living at or below poverty level. Heart conditions, bone and feet issues, and dental problems are common for this demographic, as are depression, anxiety and sleep disorders. Many are isolated from their communities and enduring the challenges of aging alone, often without family to care for them. Holocaust survivors continue to live with the unique mental and physical scars of the trauma caused during World War II. Aging survivors have needs similar to those of other older Americans, but the sights, sounds and smells of institutionalized settings, such as confined spaces or restrictions on food, can induce panic, anxiety and re-traumatization as a result of their experiences.

“The survivors of the Holocaust are a living testament to the indomitability of the human spirit,” said Rep. Donna Shalala (D-FL), who co-led the bill. “We have a duty to ensure that those who lived through the horrors of the Holocaust are cared for in their old age. This bill will bring us closer to making sure that the specific needs of these survivors are fully met.”

“As victims of the very worst of humanity, Holocaust survivors deserve devoted care and support to address the horrific trauma they experienced,” said Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-NY), who also co-led the bill. “Many of these survivors call the state of New York home and depend on the full embrace of our communities for comfort in their elder years. This bipartisan legislation will ensure we are able to care for the specific needs of the many Holocaust survivors living across the United States.”

A companion bill was introduced in the Senate on July 18 by Sens. Ben Cardin (D-MD), Kevin Cramer (R-ND) and Jacky Rosen (D-NV). In addition to those three, the measure currently has seven other co-sponsors.
An exhibit featured Jewish jewelry from the Islamic world. (Photo courtesy of the Museum for Islamic Art)
Israel ranks among U.N.’s top 10 most innovative nations

BY ARIEL KAHANA

(JNS) – For the first time, Israel has been ranked in the top 10 on the U.N. World Intellectual Property Organization’s Global Innovation Index. Israel’s precise place in the 2019 top 10 list has yet to be disclosed. The final results were slated to be unveiled on July 24 at an event the WIPO hosted in New Delhi.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu responded to the news via Facebook, where he wrote: “For the first time, the U.N. is ranking us among the top 10 leading nations on its Global Innovation Index. We’ve made Israel into a rising global power.”

Israel has been climbing the U.N. index for the past few years. In 2016, it was ranked 21st in innovation. In 2017, it jumped to 17th and in 2018, Israel made it to 11th place.

This year’s WIPO event was to focus on innovation in the health-care field. Israeli Ambassador to India Ron Malka and Esti Sheli, head of the Health Ministry’s Department of Digital Health, were to represent Israel.

The Global Innovation Index uses 80 indicators to rank the state of innovation in 129 countries. The indicators examine, among other things, countries’ creative and supportive environment for innovation in terms of education, investment in infrastructure, investment in research, the level of business sophistication and the political climate. The GII has become a tool used by decision-makers and business people in creating ties between the public and private sectors. The index was developed by the WIPO, Cornell University and INSEAD, considered one of the world’s leading business schools.

This article first appeared in Israel Hayom.

Israel welcomes 121 new immigrants from Ukraine

BY JNS STAFF

(JNS) – Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu welcomed 121 new immigrants (or olim) from Ukraine on July 29 at a reception held at the foot of their plane.

The olim, who arrived on a flight organized by the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews, were “filled with excitement” at the welcoming ceremony that was prepared for them, which also included the participation and attendance of Absorption Minister Yoav Gallant and Fellowship President Yael Eckstein.

Netanyahu, who took time to shake hands and speak with the new arrivals, said, “I am especially pleased to see the children who moved to Israel today. These children have a wonderful future here in Israel. Here is your home, and here is your place. I invite you to share with me any details about your absorption process, and if you have any problems, I am here at your service.”

As always, your comments, opinions & suggestions are always welcome.

The Reporter

Published by the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania

AUGUST 8, 2019 ■ THE REPORTER

Friends of The Reporter make big news!

The Federation is asking members of its communities to support its “Friends of The Reporter” Campaign which seeks to raise $5,000 to assist in funding the newspaper.

The newspaper is delivered twice of month (except for December and July which are single issue months) to each and every identifiable Jewish home in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

The Reporter is the primary intercommunal newspaper of the Jewish communities of Lackawanna, Monroe, Pike and Wayne counties. Supplementing synagogue newsletters, bulletins and e-mails, The Reporter is issued to hundreds of Jewish households throughout our region. Over the past several years, the publishing cost of the newspaper has increased dramatically although the newspaper continues to be provided at no charge to members of our Jewish communities in northeastern Pennsylvania.

The Federation has assumed the financial responsibility of funding the newspaper at a cost of $23,990 per year and asks only that its readers assist it in raising $5,000 as part of its “Friends of The Reporter” Campaign to offset a small share of these expenses.

Your gift to fund our regional Jewish newspaper matters a great deal to our readers and we would be very grateful for your financial support.

As always, your comments, opinions & suggestions are always welcome.

With best wishes,
Mark Silverberg, Executive Director
Jewish Federation of NE Pennsylvania
601 Jefferson Avenue
Scranton, PA 18510

I will support continuation of our expanded Federation Reporter by contributing:

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Check out the Federation’s new, updated website at www.jewishnepa.org or find it on Facebook
in the face of Numbers 20:28, where God explicitly tells Moses that he will be denied entry for striking the rock. What do we do with these different versions?

Let’s begin with a reminder: Moses is human and subject to many human frailties, including manslaughter. Now, he has had years of being brilliant, loving, daring, just, compassionate... and at others, he was angry, insulted, overwhelmed, despondent. Do we reject Moses because of his flaws? Of course not! But we continue to hold him — especially as a leader — to the same expectations that we know God holds for us. It would be wrong of us to do any less.

Actions have consequences — for each of us. No matter our situation, no matter our history, we must strive to live our lives to the standards set so often before us: to love each other; to care for the widow, the orphan and the stranger; to the same expectations that we know God holds for us. It would be wrong of us to do any less.

What can we learn from this?

Moses, our greatest leader, who partnered with God to deliver us from slavery, was far from perfect. At times he was brilliant, loving, daring, just, compassionate... and at others, he was angry, insulted, overwhelmed, despondent. Do we reject Moses because of his flaws? Of course not! But we continue to hold him — especially as a leader — to the same expectations that we know God holds for us. It would be wrong of us to do any less.
that exist inside online games include opportunities to
stopped playing certain games altogether as a result of
harassed avoid certain games due to a game’s reputation
they play out of concern for harassment. In addition,
about choosing their online partners out of concern for
moderation of in-game voice chat.

MDA. As part of this project, and in light of the coop-
eration agreement signed between the prime minister of
Israel and the president of Chile during his last visit to
Israel, a workshop was organized by SAMU R.M, which
invited service managers throughout Chile to learn about
MDA’s organization of emergency medical services and
the way MDA is structured.
The activity ended with a workshop initiated and
hosted by the governor of the capital district in her of-
fices in downtown Santiago; it dealt with the experience
 gained by MDA in organizing and providing medical
coverage for large-scale public events, especially those
with dignitaries.
The meeting was held in anticipation of two major con-
ferences to be held in Chile at the end of the year: APEC
(International Conference of Heads of Major Economies
in Asia Pacific) and COP25 (U.N. climate conference).
“arrest with the ambulance service in
Santiago is very important for the residents,” said Bin,
“and we are grateful for the opportunity to help them
save lives.”

Magen David Adom assists in developing first-responder
system in Santiago, Chile

BY JNS STAFF
(JNS) – The Providencia municipality in the Chilean
capital has started a pilot project to train municipal
security personnel as first responders in medical emer-
gencies, in cooperation with the Emergency Medical
Services SAMU R.M.
The partnership is part of a series of activities initiated
by the Israeli embassy in Santiago, led by the ambassador
and his deputy in an effort to support emergency medical
services in the Chilean capital.
“Magen David Adom EMTs and paramedics are
saving lives every day throughout the country,” said the
organization’s director-general, Eli Bin. “It is gratifying
to see how, with the experience accumulated by the
MDA teams in Israel, we can contribute to saving lives
around the world.”
Senior MDA officials flew to Chile the week of July
19 and signed a cooperation agreement between the
SAMU R.M (The Capital Region EMS services) and
MDA. As part of this project, and in light of the coop-

ering ecosystem from overflowing and causing additional
problems. The MDA presented the case for online
multiplayer games being social platforms, and the need
for hate, harassment and discrimination to be addressed.

CEO Jonathan Greenblatt. “We see online multiplayer
games as social platforms, and we need to fight hate on
these platforms with the same seriousness as traditional
forms of entertainment. Nearly two-thirds of U.S. adults
have experienced severe forms of harassment while
playing games online, which includes sexual harassment,
stalking, physical threats or sustained harassment.

This most recent survey comes on the heels of an
ADL survey released earlier this year that looked at the
experience of users on social-media platforms, and found
that more than one-third of Americans experienced severe
online hate and harassment, including sexual harassment,
stalking, physical threats or sustained harassment.

A Perpetual Annual Campaign Endowment (PACE) is a permanent fund that endows
your Jewish community Annual Campaign gift as a lasting legacy. A PACE fund will
continue to make an annual gift in perpetuity on your behalf.

To determine the amount you need to endow your entire campaign gift, multiply your current
annual gift by 20.

You can fund your PACE by adding the JEWISH FEDERATION OF NORTHEASTERN
PENNSYLVANIA to your will, or by making the Federation a beneficiary of your IRA. All
contributions to establish a PACE are tax deductible.

Let your name be remembered as a blessing.

Endowments can be created through a variety of vehicles, some of which do not necessitate
funding during your lifetime yet still provide your estate with considerable tax benefits.
They also enable you to perpetuate your commitment to the Annual Campaign in a way that
best achieves your own personal financial and estate planning goals.

Examples Of Ways To Fund Your Pace Gift Are:
• outright contribution of cash, appreciated securities or other long-term
• capital gain property such as real estate
• transferable remainder trust
• gift of life insurance
• charitable lead trust
• gift of IRA or pension plan assets
• grant from your foundation
• reserved life estate in your residence
• bequest

Using appreciated property, such as securities or real estate, affords you the opportunity
to eliminate the income tax on the long-term capital gain, will in some instances generate a full income
tax charitable deduction and will remove those assets from your estate for estate tax purposes.

For more information contact Mark Silverberg at
Mark Silverberg@jewishnepa.org or call 570-961-2300, ext. 1.
Feature Films

Fanny’s Journey - In 1943, 13-year old Fanny and her younger sisters were sent from their home in France to an Italian foster home for Jewish children. When Nazism came to Italy, their caretakers organized the departure of the children to Switzerland. Based on a true story.

Hidden in Silence - During the Nazi occupation of Poland, Catholic teenage Stefania Podgorska chooses the role of a savior and sneaks 13 Jewish into her attic.

Loving Leah: A Hallmark Hall of Fame Classic - A handsome Washington, D.C. doctor and a young New York woman fall in love at an unusual time...

Music Box - In this intense, courtroom thriller, Chicago attorney Ann Talbot agrees to defend her Hungarian immigrant father Mike Laszlo against accusations of heinous war crimes committed 50 years earlier.

Norman - Norman Oppenheimer (Richard Gere) lives a lonely life in the margins of New York City power and money, and strives to be everyone’s friend. His incessant networking leads him nowhere until he unites hundreds of a young but charismatic politician, Micha Eshel at a low point in his life. Three years later, the politician becomes the Prime Minister of Israel. Norman uses Eshel’s name to leverage his biggest deal ever: a series of quid pro quo transactions linking the Prime Minister to Norman’s nephew, a rabbi, a mogul, his assistant and a treasury official from the Ivory Coast. Norman’s plans soon go awry, creating the potential for an international catastrophe he must struggle to prevent. Norman: The Moderate Rise and Tragic Fall of a New York Fixer is a comedic and compassionate drama of a man whose downfall is rooted in a human frailty all too easy to forgive—a need to matter.

Remember - Remember is the suspense-filled story of Zev, an Auschwitz survivor who discovers that the Nazi guard who murdered his family some seventy years ago is living in America under an assumed name.

The Impossible Spy - Based on real events, Munich reveals the intense story of the secret Israeli squad assigned to track down and assassinate the 121 Palestinians members of Machal- “volunteers from abroad”- this ragtag band of brothers not only turned the tide of the war; they also embarked on personal journeys of discovery and renewed Jewish pride.

Above and Beyond - In 1948, just three years after the liberation of death camps, a group of Jewish-American pilots answered a call for help. As members of Machal- “volunteers from abroad”- this ragtag band of brothers not only turned the tide of the war; they also embarked on personal journeys of discovery and renewed Jewish pride.

A Yiddish World Remembered - a PBS presentation and winner of the 2002 NY-NATAS Emmy Award. It is the story of Jewish life in Eastern Europe brought to life anew by some of the last remaining eyewitnesses. Narrated by Elliot Gould and accompanied by never-before-seen archival films, photographs and music, the documentary takes a realistic and enlightening look at this all-but-vanished way of life.

Body and Soul: The State of the Jewish Nation - A powerful documentary sets the record straight eloquently and comprehensively. It not only shows the unique connection between the Jewish People and the Land of Israel, but also succeeds in debunking propaganda, myths and misinformation that have become accepted as truth by many people.

GI Jews - Jewish Americans in World War II, a PBS presentation, tells the story of the 550,000 Jewish men and women who served in World War II as active participants in the fight against Hitler.

In Our Own Hands - The Hidden Story of the Jewish Brigade in WWII - In the final weeks of World War II, His Majesty’s Jewish Brigade - the only all-Jewish 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. Amidst the chaos of post-war Europe, and under the noses of the occupying Allied armies, the young Jewish soldiers mastermind one clan destine operation after the next: forming secret vigilante squads to assassinate Nazi officers in hiding...engineering the rescue and illegal movement of Holocaust survivors to Palestine. Later, in 1948, Brigade veterans help organize and lead the fledgling Israeli Defense Forces in their new country’s War of Independence. From the trenches of Northern Italy to the refugee camps of war-torn Europe, In Our Own Hands unravels the thrilling tale of young Jewish soldiers who carried the weight of a people on their shoulders.

Intouchables - A film by Alfonso Cuarón looks beyond the sublime musician, to see the polio survivor whose parents emigrated from Poland to Israel ultimately bringing the prodigy violinist to New York’s Juilliard. As charming and entrancing as the famous violinist himself, this documentary is a portrait of musical virtuosity encircled in warmth, humor and above all, love.

Israel: The Royal Tour - A delightful tour headed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and travel correspondent Peter Greenberg.

Nicky’s Family - The amazing story of Sir Nicholas Winton who, created, on his own, a Kinder-transport in Czechoslovakia saving 669 children from the Nazi inferno.

No Place on Earth - The harrowing story of Esther Stermer and her family and friends who escaped extermination by the Nazis by hiding in an underground cave is unearthed by accident when cave explorer, Chris Nicola stumbles upon remnants left behind by the cave dwellers.

Orchestra of Exiles - The thrilling story of how one man helped save Europe’s premiere Jewish musicians from obliteration by the Nazis. In the early 1930’s Hitler began firing Jewish musicians across Europe. Overcoming extraordinary obstacles, violinist Bronislaw Huberman moved these great musicians to Palestine and formed the orchestra that would become the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra. With courage, resourcefulness and an entourage of allies including Arturo Toscanini and Albert Einstein, Huberman saved nearly 1,000 Jews and guaranteed the survival of Europe’s musical heritage. Featuring commentary by musical greats including Itzhak Perlman, Zubin Mehta and Joshua Bell.

Rejoice with Itzhak Perlman and Cantor Yitzchak Meir Helfgot celebrates 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.
Study

From page 2

Continued from page 2

Israel reportedly fought to get Turkey dropped from F-35 fighter-jet program

Israel made a concerted effort to convince the United States to drop Turkey from the F-35 stealth fighter program out of concern for its qualitative military edge in the region. Channel 12 news reported on July 31, Israel “attacked” a US military source to try to shore up an announcement the previous day that the US was redirecting the F-35 program. US officials said on August 2 that Turkey would be dropped from the F-35 program. Officials made clear that the US would be flexible with Israeli autonomy in exchange for cooperation on the Israeli-Saudi normalization talks.

Background:

Israel was reportedly alarmed by Turkey’s acquisition of Russian-made air defense systems including the S-400, a system that Israel claims renders its F-35s obsolete. The US initially delayed the delivery of the F-35s to Israel in protest of Turkey’s purchase. In a July 31 announcement, the US military said it was redirecting the F-35 program, not because of Turkey’s purchase of S-400, but because of its purchase of an American-made Patriot missile system.

US officials said on August 2 that Turkey would be dropped from the F-35 program. Officials made clear that the US would be flexible with Israeli autonomy in exchange for cooperation on the Israeli-Saudi normalization talks. Israel was reportedly concerned that Turkey’s purchase of the S-400 would make its F-35s obsolete.

Friedman: U.S. peace plan will support ‘Palestinian autonomy’

U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman said on July 30 that the Trump administration supports “Palestinian autonomy,” but does not use the phrase “two-state solution,” as it works to develop a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

“We believe in Palestinian autonomy,” Friedman told CNN’s Christiane Amanpour.

“We believe in Palestinian self-governance. We believe that the autonomy should be enhanced until we reach the point where it interferes with Israeli security,” Friedman said.

As-yet-unveiled American peace plan is based on the two-state concept, Friedman responded.

“We haven’t used that phrase, but it’s not because we are trying to drive toward a one-state solution. … The issue we have is agreeing in advance to a state concept,” Friedman said.

Friedman said that the way the Palestinians see the world, the US will be able to make a difference in the autonomy that the Palestinians and the Israelis want.

“This is the way we’ve been talking about a lot since the results came out; it’s pushed us to look at ways to enhance that quality, too,” Friedman said.

Friedman said that the study gives us a benchmark so that we can fix any issues as we go.

“The study sends a clear message that Jewish engagement doesn’t have to end at the end of high school,” Friedman said.

Friedman also minimized comments he made in The New York Times in June about the legitimacy of Israeli annexation in parts of Judea and Samaria, saying that the Israeli government has not raised the issue with the administration, which seeks to preserve the “two-state” concept.

“We believe in Palestinian self-governance," Friedman told CNN’s Christiane Amanpour. "We believe in Palestinian autonomy," Friedman said.

Israel Hayom (Israel Hayom) – Israel’s Security Cabinet on July 30 unanomously approved Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s plan to grant 700 building permits to Palestinians in Area C of Judea and Samaria, together with 6,000 permits for construction in Area C. Transportation Minister Binyamin Smotrich (National Union) and Education Minister Rafi Peretz (Jewish Home) supported the plan. Smotrich and Education Minister Rafi Peretz (Jewish Home) supported the plan.

Environmental Protection Minister Ze’ev Elkin, meanwhile, demanded that the plan include a stipulation that Israel would plan the construction and not the Palestinian Authority. Smotrich and Peretz supported the plan.

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**Israelis discover an MRI technique to predict brain diseases faster**

Researchers at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem discovered a way to transform a magnetic resonance imaging (or MRI) machine into a device that can record changes in the brain using a model. The model can already be applied to all MRI scanners.

### Briefs

**Switzerland suspends funding to UNRWA**

Switzerland announced on July 30 that it has suspended funding to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, the U.N. agency geared to assist Palestinians, amid an internal investigation of sexual misconduct, discrimination and ethics violations. Switzerland has contributed $22.5 million annually to UNRWA and had already done so for this year, the Swiss foreign ministry told AFP, adding that it is “suspending any additional contributions” to the agency. The AFP obtained a copy of an internal ethics report sent to the U.N. secretary-general in December that alleges UNRWA Commissioner-General Pierre Krahenbühl and other top officials were engaged in “sexual misconduct, nepotism, retaliation, discrimination and other abuses of authority, for personal gain, to suppress legitimate activism.” The document also said that Krahenbühl used UNRWA funds to register his lover at a newly created role created by the Swiss government in 2015. According to the report, Krahenbühl is accused of having a lover appointed to a newly created role of senior advisor to the commissioner-general after an “extreme fast-track” process in 2015, which also entitled her to travel with him around the world with top accommodations. The UNRWA said in a statement that it had cooperated fully with the investigation, but will not discuss details due to the ongoing investigation. According to reports, two senior officials charged in the investigation have already resigned. UNRWA provides various kinds of aid and assistance to Palestinian refugees and generations of their descendants, in Lebanon, Jordan and Syria, as well as Judea and Samaria. It employs approximately 30,000 Palestinians, making it one of the largest employers of Palestinians in the world. The internal report came to light during a funding crisis caused by a U.S. decision to end its support for the agency.

**IDF discovers pipe bomb at Joseph’s Tomb**

A terror attack near Joseph’s Tomb in Shechem/Nablus was averted overnight on July 29 by the Israel Defense Forces, which neutralized a pipe bomb device prior to the arrival of 1,200 Jewish worshipers who came to offer prayers at the grave of the biblical Joseph. The event, which was secured by IDF, Border Police and Israel Police forces, came under attack by Arab rioters as Israeli civilians arrived at the location. In addition to affixing the explosive device inside the tomb compound, the rioters attacked IDF forces with stones and burning tires. Soldiers used riot-control methods to stop the attacks, and worshippers were able to continue praying. The Palestinian Quds news agency reported 13 Palestinian Authority residents wounded in their lower bodies by light fire and rubber bullets. Five were transferred to P.A. hospitals, and another eight were treated at the scene. Israeli forces also conducted security missions across Judea and Samaria, arresting 15 wanted terror suspects. Shechem/Nablus is located in Area A, an area designated by the Oslo Accords as under total P.A. control. However, the Israeli army conducts security operations in the area, and civilians can register for monthly authorized and guarded visits to Joseph’s Tomb. The pilgrimages are frequently met with rock-throwing, Molotov cocktails and even gunfire attacks on Israeli troops.

**International researchers discover a way to transform an MRI machine into a device that can record changes in the brain. The model can already be applied to all MRI scanners.**

The researchers were able to transform a regular MRI machine into a device that can record changes in the brain using a model. The model can already be applied to all MRI scanners. The model was created by a team of researchers at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. They used a mathematical model to simulate the changes that occur in the brain over time. The model was able to predict changes in the brain that occur due to aging, disease, and other factors.

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**Jewish man donning kippah insulted, spat on in Germany**

A 25-year-old Jewish man was insulted and spat on in front of the Potsdam Central Station by two Syrian nationals, reported German daily Berliner Zeitung on July 30. The student, who told German press agency DPA that he wears a kippah on a daily basis, said, “When I get off the train at the main station, I noticed shadows behind me.” The next moment, he said, two men started spitting on him, shouting antisemitic slurs and making threatening gestures. He then alerted police. The two men were swiftly identified as Syrian nationals, said a spokesman for the Brandenburg police. Earlier this year, a leading German antisemitism watchdog group reported that anti-Jewish violence in Berlin jumped more than 150 percent last year. The report, by the Berlin-based Research and Information Center for anti-Semitism, said that 1,083 antisemitic incidents were reported in the city in 2018, surging from 400 the year before. One half of the incidents recorded the year before were what the report categorized as identifiably “Jewish/Israeli” organizations, individuals or activists in Berlin. The report noted a “sharp rise” in physical assaults targeting Jews in the city, from 18 attacks reported in 2017 to 48 in 2018. Threats made against the Berlin Jewish community nearly doubled in the last year, with 46 incidents reported in 2018, compared with 26 in 2017.

**Report: Jews most targeted for hate crimes in Canada**

For the third consecutive year, Jews are the most targeted minority group when it comes to hate crimes in Canada, despite a 4 percent decrease from the year before. There were 360 recorded antisemitic incidents, according to Statistics Canada, which released its report on July 22. According to B’nai Brith Canada, 2,041 antisemitic incidents in Canada were reported in 2018. Canadian police responded to 1,798 hate crimes in 2018, and 2,073 the previous year. “We are encouraged to see an overall decline in hate crimes, but this data confirms the persistence of Jew hatred, which is seeing an alarming global rise,” said Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs CEO Shimon Koffler Fogel.