BY JNS STAFF
(JNS) – Israeli President Reuven Rivlin has nominated Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to form the next government. In his address, Rivlin said that Netanyahu, who has the backing of 55 Knesset members, six short of a majority, has a higher chance than Blue White leader Benny Gantz, who had prepared a list of 55 Knesset members endorsing the Israeli leader.

In his address, Rivlin said that Netanyahu, who has the backing of 55 Knesset members, six short of a majority, has a higher chance than Blue White leader Benny Gantz, who had prepared a list of 55 Knesset members endorsing the Israeli leader.

BY JNS STAFF
(JNS) – Israeli President Reuven Rivlin has nominated Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to form the next government. In his address, Rivlin said that Netanyahu, who has the backing of 55 Knesset members, six short of a majority, has a higher chance than Blue White leader Benny Gantz, who had prepared a list of 55 Knesset members endorsing the Israeli leader.

Rivlin, citing security, diplomatic and economic reasons, as well as a peace process initiated by the Trump administration, said Rivlin suggested the possibility of electoral reform, which would give more power to an acting prime minister who would need to recuse themselves such as in the case of an indictment. "I also suggested changing the law so that the role of deputy prime minister will have more power so that the deputy will have full power in the case that the prime minister is unable to fulfill his role," said Rivlin.

Nevertheless, Gantz rejected such a proposal. "Blue and White will not sit in a government whose leader is under indictment," he said in a statement. "This issue, along with other essential issues, are more important to us than any discussion on distributing ministerial portfolios or a rotation."

Netanyahu, who is Israel’s longest-serving prime minister, was also selected by Rivlin to form the previous government after the April election. However, Netanyahu’s efforts failed after Avigdor Liberman, who heads the Yisrael Beiteinu Party, refused to sit in a government with ultra-Orthodox parties, thwarting Israel into a second election this year.

Annual Pocono UJA Dinner held

More than 50 people attended the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania’s annual Pocono UJA Dinner at Temple Israel of the Poconos in Stroudsburg. Attendees said, “Steve Aronovitz and his team from Colfax Enterprises Catering didn’t disappoint with a delicious three-course buffet dinner.”

The program opened with welcoming remarks from Bernie Driller, a representative of Temple Israel and a member of the Board of Trustees of the Jewish Federation. Newly-elected Federation President Esther Adelman spoke about the role of the Federation as the parliament of the Jewish communities of Lackawanna, Monroe, Pike and Wayne counties, reviewed several upcoming Federation and UJA Campaign 2020 programs, and expressed her good wishes to everyone for a healthy and happy Jewish new year.

Dassy Ganz, assistant to Federation Executive Director Mark Silverberg, introduced the guest speaker, Rabbi Cary Friedman. Friedman, who is president of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, is a frequent speaker and lecturer, and is known for his enthusiasm and energy. Friedman, who has served as president of the Federation’s Board of Trustees, opened his presentation by saying, “We are committed to making the Federation as the par excellence of the Federation’s next Campaign event in Scranton. It’s an honor to be here and to encourage everyone to attend.”

Friedman said, “We have a tradition of working together, of working with volunteers, of working with the community, of working with other organizations. And we have a tradition of working with the community, of working with other organizations.”

Friedman said that Rivlin, citing security, diplomatic and economic reasons, as well as a peace process initiated by the Trump administration, said Rivlin suggested the possibility of electoral reform, which would give more power to an acting prime minister should the sitting one need to recuse themselves such as in the case of an indictment. "I also suggested changing the law so that the role of deputy prime minister will have more power so that the deputy will have full power in the case that the prime minister is unable to fulfill his role," said Rivlin.

Nevertheless, Gantz rejected such a proposal. “Blue and White will not sit in a government whose leader is under indictment,” he said in a statement. “This issue, along with other essential issues, are more important to us than any discussion on distributing ministerial portfolios or a rotation."

Netanyahu, who is Israel’s longest-serving prime minister, was also selected by Rivlin to form the previous government after the April election. However, Netanyahu’s efforts failed after Avigdor Liberman, who heads the Yisrael Beiteinu Party, refused to sit in a government with ultra-Orthodox parties, thwarting Israel into a second election this year.

BY JNS STAFF
(JNS) – Israeli President Reuven Rivlin has nominated Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to form the next government. In his address, Rivlin said that Netanyahu, who has the backing of 55 Knesset members, six short of a majority, has a higher chance than Blue White leader Benny Gantz, who had prepared a list of 55 Knesset members endorsing the Israeli leader.

In his address, Rivlin said that Netanyahu, who has the backing of 55 Knesset members, six short of a majority, has a higher chance than Blue White leader Benny Gantz, who had prepared a list of 55 Knesset members endorsing the Israeli leader.

Rivlin, citing security, diplomatic and economic reasons, as well as a peace process initiated by the Trump administration, said Rivlin suggested the possibility of electoral reform, which would give more power to an acting prime minister should the sitting one need to recuse themselves such as in the case of an indictment. "I also suggested changing the law so that the role of deputy prime minister will have more power so that the deputy will have full power in the case that the prime minister is unable to fulfill his role," said Rivlin.

Nevertheless, Gantz rejected such a proposal. “Blue and White will not sit in a government whose leader is under indictment,” he said in a statement. “This issue, along with other essential issues, are more important to us than any discussion on distributing ministerial portfolios or a rotation."

Netanyahu, who is Israel’s longest-serving prime minister, was also selected by Rivlin to form the previous government after the April election. However, Netanyahu’s efforts failed after Avigdor Liberman, who heads the Yisrael Beiteinu Party, refused to sit in a government with ultra-Orthodox parties, thwarting Israel into a second election this year.

Candle lighting

October 4 6:22 pm
October 8 6:15 pm
October 11 6:10 pm
October 18 6:07 pm
October 14 after 7:07 pm
October 20 5:56 pm
October 21 after 6:56 pm

PLUS

Opinion 2
Sukkot Recipes 4
D’var Torah 8
A creative call for individuals and organizations to combat antisemitism

BY ELIANA RUDEE – The international grassroots organization Combat-Simantismit in Israel has announced its upcoming “Venture Creative Contest,” which will give away more than $50,000 in prizes.

“Our idea is to motivate and provide opportunity for individuals and organizations that are interested in and passionate about combatting antisemitism,” El Kimmel, outreach coordinator for CAS, tells JNS.

“We hope that the submissions might bring a fresh look to the issue of antisemitism out of the academic and intellectual debate, and down to easily understandable messages to make clear what antisemitism is,” he adds.

The uptick in global antisemitism, just 75 years after the Holocaust, prompted the motivation for such a contest, says Kimmel.

“This irrational hatred of Jews and the world’s only Jewish state harms both innocent victims and perpetrators infected by bigotry,” explains the CAS website.

“The resurgence of antisemitism poses a challenge to all people of conscience: How can we come together as a community to act against it?”

This contest is crowd-sourcing new solutions to help end the world’s oldest hatred.

At the core of antisemitism, which manifests in violent attacks motivated by right-wing extremism, as well as the “ideological underpinnings penetrating from left to right,” the BDS movement and anti-Zionism, particularly on college campuses.

“Working to fight out antisemitic comments from U.S. congresswomen amplified around the country and the world,” he adds, “which crosses the line of incitement to violence, and needs to be called out.”

In response to multiforms of antisemitism and the challenges they present, explains Kimmel, “we chose a ‘venture creative contest’ to engage the new generation – those in creative spaces and utilizing new technologies – to define and combat antisemitism in a comprehensive manner.”

He adds that “the old ways of exposing and confronting antisemitism haven’t worked, and it’s needed to tackle it in today’s environment.”

For this reason, CAS hopes to encourage young people of all ages, backgrounds and nationalities to participate by submitting their work in four different categories.

At the heart of the contest is “branding” and the creation of websites for the best plan for a social venture to help stop antisemitism in a meaningful new way.

The Emma Lazarus art award, in partnership with Artists 4 Israel, the Committee for Openness in the Media, Reporting in America and the American Sephardi Federation, will be giving away $5,000 each for the best poem, graffiti, cartoon/comic and billboard, with an additional $500 for 10 runners-up.

The Natran Sharamsky activism award will give away $5,000 to the best essay or action plan, delivered by Sharamsky, which explains from the perspective of outside leaders to educate and improve ongoing legislation and actions against antisemitism challenge.

In co-sponsorship with JNS and the Tikvah Fund, an additional $2,500 will be given to the best essay or action plan, delivered by Sharamsky, which explains from the perspective of outside leaders to educate and improve ongoing legislation and actions against antisemitism challenge.

The final Abraham and Sarah “Israel in Me” award, co-sponsored by the Galila Foundation, AISH.com and Israel on Campus USA, will give away $5,000 for the best video or essay exploring Israel’s centrality to Jewish identity and human progress, and why combating its existence is moral and vital. An additional 10 runners-up will be awarded with $1,000 each.

In the past few years, we have spearheaded a number of precedent-setting initiatives that helped us throw off the hostile atmosphere and strengthen our status in the organization.

The submission deadline for entries is May 20. Entries must be received by May 20.

The “reporter” (JNS.org) is published bi-weekly by the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania, 601 Jefferson Ave., Scranton, PA 18516.

President: Esther Adelman
Executive Director: Mark Silverberg
Executive Editor: Rabbi Rachel Eichenman
Layman: Dana Scutari
Assistant Editor: Ellen Poon
Production Coordinator: Jenna DePeters
Advertising Representative: Bonnie Rosen
Bookkeeper: Kathy Brown

OPINIONS
The views expressed in editorials and opinion pieces are those of each author and not necessarily the views of the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

LETTERS
The Reporter welcomes letters on subjects of interest to the Jewish community. All letters must be signed and include a phone number. The editor may withhold the name upon request.

ADS: The Reporter does not necessarily endorse any advertised products and services. In addition, the paper is not responsible for the Kashrut of a business's product or establishment.

DEADLINE
Regular deadline is two weeks prior to the publication date.

NEWS IN BRIEF
Hyundai to test hydrogen-fueled trucks in Israel

The Hyundai Motor Company is planning to conduct a test program for hydrogen-fueled trucks this year, according to Israel’s business daily Calcalist. A delegation from Hyundai visited Israel in August to discuss the project and met with officials in the office of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, according to the report, which went on to state that Israeli car retailer Colmobil Ltd. and transportation and logistics company Taurus Holdings Ltd. are going to carry out the testing. Hydrogen-fueled vehicles convert hydrogen and oxygen into electricity. Hyundai hydrogen trucks started operating in Europe earlier this year and can drive as far as 400 kilometers before needing to refuel.

First synagogue in UAE to be built by 2022 in Abu Dhabi

The United Arab Emirates will begin constructing its first synagogue in the next several months. It is scheduled to be completed in 2022 as part of a multi-faith complex called the Abrahamic Family House in the capital of Abu Dhabi, reported Reuters. A small group of Jews who live in the capital reportedly met for worship in a private residence. The UAE currently does not have diplomatic relations with the state of Israel. In May, the New York University chaplain Rabbi Yehuda Sarna was the first chief rabbi of the Jewish community in the UAE.

Bulgaria opens first Jewish school in two decades

Bulgaria just opened its first Jewish school in 20 years. The Ronald S. Lauder Boarding School in Veliko Tarnovo, the country’s capital, started classes on Sept. 15, named for the president of the World Jewish Congress and a major philanthropist to Jewish causes. Currently, an estimated 6,000 Jews reside in Bulgaria. “What do we want from the school? We want the children to be proud of being Jewish,” said Lauder at the school’s inauguration. Previously, the school’s 88 student, all under the age of 12, learned at the Lauder-ORT No. 134 “Dimcho Debelenov” Jewish School, which is part of a public school system. The school incorporates some Jewish curriculum, including Hebrew-language classes. In 2010, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, with the Shalom Balamo Foundation, founded a Jewish kindergarten, which now includes dozens of children.

MATTER OF OPINION
How Israel achieved the impossible at the U.N.

BY DANNY DANON (JNS) – For years, we in Israel thought that the hostile reality at the United Nations was something unalterable. We became impervious to automatic condemnations and stopped getting upset when a Palestinian incitement was met with open arms.

To clear the air of the antisemitism that pervades the corridors of the organization, we launched a long but justified battle, possibly the most justified one ever waged in the United Nations.

Over the past few years, we have spear- headed a number of precedent-setting initiatives that helped us throw off the hostile atmosphere and strengthen our status in the organization.

It started on the day I was appointed chairman of the Justice Committee, an unprecedented occurrence that pre-dated the new wave of anti-Semitism. It was then that Israel can win, even in the United Nations. The new balance of power stood out especially when ambassadors from the countries hostile to Israel were forced, for the first time, to face a senior committee head who was also Israel’s ambassador to the U.N. to speak. In every fight, we assemble the moral majority, led by our friend the United States. Together, we have led proposals and incorporate some Jewish curriculum, including Hebrew-language classes. In 2010, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, with the Shalom Balamo Foundation, founded a Jewish kindergarten, which now includes dozens of children.

We also are proudly making Jewish culture and legacy part of the organization. For the first time, Yom Kippur was recognized as an official U.N. holiday, kosher food was made available in the cafeteria, and Jewish holidays are marked by official events. The General Assembly has also not allowed the rise of modern antisemitism to go ignored. The General Assembly was summoned for a special session to discuss the fight against antisemitism, an additional $2,500 will be given to the best video or essay explaining Israel’s centrality to Jewish identity and human progress, and why combating its existence is moral and vital. An additional 10 runners-up will be awarded with $1,000 each.
COMMUNITY NEWS

SHDS prepared for Rosh Hashanah

The Scranton Hebrew Day School prepared for the upcoming High Holidays. As Rosh Hashanah, which fell out this year on September 30 and October 1, approached, every class was involved in learning the significance of this period of time. The older grades explored the laws and customs of the High Holiday season, while the younger students learned about the basic customs that are integrated into Jewish life during the holidays. Honey dishes, candied apples, shanah tovah cards and more lined the classrooms in various stages of completion before students took them home in time for Rosh Hashanah.

Bais Yaakov of Scranton began new year

Bais Yaakov of Scranton began its new year with words of chizuk as to new beginnings and a fresh start during the month of Elul. School officials said, “Elul is a time for repentance and introspection and commitment during the month of Elul. School officials said, “Elul is a time for repentance and introspection and commitment during the month of Elul. Rabbi Dovid Rosenberg, the director of development and planned giving at SHDS, added, “We have recently welcomed five new families and we are seeing a steady influx of new families into Scranton who are excited with the education that their children receive at the Scranton Hebrew Day School.”

Pittsburgh Jewish community reflects on past year, discusses future plans

BY JNS STAFF

(JNS) – Members of Pittsburgh’s Jewish community convened a press conference on September 20 to talk about the October 27 synagogue massacre almost a year ago and their plans moving forward.

At the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, a panel of leaders from the three congregations housed in the Tree of Life*Or L’Simcha Synagogue building discussed how their members have been coping in the past year, discusses future plans.

Details were also revealed regarding the “Remembrance. Repair. Together” program (pittsburghoct27.org), complete with planned volunteer opportunities and Torah study.

The Jewish Family and Community Services said therapists would be on site during High Holiday services for congregants affiliated with Tree of Life*Or L’Simcha, Dor Hadash and New Light, with additional clinicians being provided to other congregations upon request. The Center for Victims also planned to continue to offer support through the High Holidays, and at all public and private commemoration events.

Kindergarten students displayed their artwork for Rosh Hashanah. (Names withheld on request.)

“This period of time is a special time in Jewish life and therefore in Jewish education,” commented a parent (name withheld) who is new to Scranton; “I see in the SHDS a place that is happy and gives a well-rounded education. These programs really add to the wonderful Jewish experience that our children are receiving.”

Rabbi Dovid Rosenberg, the director of development at SHDS, added, “We have recently welcomed five new families and we are seeing a steady influx of new families into Scranton who are excited with the education that their children receive at the Scranton Hebrew Day School.”

Stephen Cohen, co-president of the New Light synagogue, said his congregation is “committed to moving back to the Tree of Life building,” but he expects that process to “take many years.” He also called for a discussion with state and city officials on how to memorialize the deadly shooting.

Details were also revealed regarding the “Remembrance. Repair. Together” program (pittsburghoct27.org), complete with planned volunteer opportunities and Torah study.

The Jewish Family and Community Services said therapists would be on site during High Holiday services for congregants affiliated with Tree of Life*Or L’Simcha, Dor Hadash and New Light, with additional clinicians being provided to other congregations upon request. The Center for Victims also planned to continue to offer support through the High Holidays, and at all public and private commemoration events.

BAIS YAAKOV COMMEMORATED SEPT. 11

On September 11, Bais Yaakov presented a video titled “Profiles in Heroism,” which depicted scenes from the destruction of the Twin Towers in New York City on September 11, 2001, as well as first-hand accounts from people there at the time or those who lost loved ones. The video was narrated by Rabbi Nosson Sherman.

BY JNS STAFF

(JNS) – Rabbi Jeffrey Myers from Tree of Life said, “I live into our beings, to move forward. I refuse to let the day, and I will for the rest of my life. Each of us finds with October 27 every minute of every hour of every

Bais Yaakov of Scranton began its new year with words of chizuk as to new beginnings and a fresh start during the month of Elul. School officials said, “Elul is a time for repentance and introspection and commitment during the month of Elul. School officials said, “Elul is a time for repentance and introspection and commitment during the month of Elul. Rabbi Dovid Rosenberg, the director of development and planned giving at SHDS, added, “We have recently welcomed five new families and we are seeing a steady influx of new families into Scranton who are excited with the education that their children receive at the Scranton Hebrew Day School.”

Pittsburgh Jewish community reflects on past year, discusses future plans

BY JNS STAFF

(JNS) – Members of Pittsburgh’s Jewish community convened a press conference on September 20 to talk about the October 27 synagogue massacre almost a year ago and their plans moving forward.

At the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, a panel of leaders from the three congregations housed in the Tree of Life*Or L’Simcha Synagogue building discussed how their members have been coping in the past year, discusses future plans.

Details were also revealed regarding the “Remembrance. Repair. Together” program (pittsburghoct27.org), complete with planned volunteer opportunities and Torah study.

The Jewish Family and Community Services said therapists would be on site during High Holiday services for congregants affiliated with Tree of Life*Or L’Simcha, Dor Hadash and New Light, with additional clinicians being provided to other congregations upon request. The Center for Victims also planned to continue to offer support through the High Holidays, and at all public and private commemoration events.

Bais Yaakov of Scranton began new year

Bais Yaakov of Scranton began its new year with words of chizuk as to new beginnings and a fresh start during the month of Elul. School officials said, “Elul is a time for repentance and introspection and commitment during the month of Elul. Rabbi Dovid Rosenberg, the director of development and planned giving at SHDS, added, “We have recently welcomed five new families and we are seeing a steady influx of new families into Scranton who are excited with the education that their children receive at the Scranton Hebrew Day School.”

Pittsburgh Jewish community reflects on past year, discusses future plans

BY JNS STAFF

(JNS) – Members of Pittsburgh’s Jewish community convened a press conference on September 20 to talk about the October 27 synagogue massacre almost a year ago and their plans moving forward.

At the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, a panel of leaders from the three congregations housed in the Tree of Life*Or L’Simcha Synagogue building discussed how their members have been coping in the past year, discusses future plans.

Details were also revealed regarding the “Remembrance. Repair. Together” program (pittsburghoct27.org), complete with planned volunteer opportunities and Torah study.

The Jewish Family and Community Services said therapists would be on site during High Holiday services for congregants affiliated with Tree of Life*Or L’Simcha, Dor Hadash and New Light, with additional clinicians being provided to other congregations upon request. The Center for Victims also planned to continue to offer support through the High Holidays, and at all public and private commemoration events.

Bais Yaakov of Scranton began new year

Bais Yaakov of Scranton began its new year with words of chizuk as to new beginnings and a fresh start during the month of Elul. School officials said, “Elul is a time for repentance and introspection and commitment during the month of Elul. Rabbi Dovid Rosenberg, the director of development and planned giving at SHDS, added, “We have recently welcomed five new families and we are seeing a steady influx of new families into Scranton who are excited with the education that their children receive at the Scranton Hebrew Day School.”

Pittsburgh Jewish community reflects on past year, discusses future plans

BY JNS STAFF

(JNS) – Members of Pittsburgh’s Jewish community convened a press conference on September 20 to talk about the October 27 synagogue massacre almost a year ago and their plans moving forward.

At the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, a panel of leaders from the three congregations housed in the Tree of Life*Or L’Simcha Synagogue building discussed how their members have been coping in the past year, discusses future plans.

Details were also revealed regarding the “Remembrance. Repair. Together” program (pittsburghoct27.org), complete with planned volunteer opportunities and Torah study.

The Jewish Family and Community Services said therapists would be on site during High Holiday services for congregants affiliated with Tree of Life*Or L’Simcha, Dor Hadash and New Light, with additional clinicians being provided to other congregations upon request. The Center for Victims also planned to continue to offer support through the High Holidays, and at all public and private commemoration events.

Bais Yaakov of Scranton began new year

Bais Yaakov of Scranton began its new year with words of chizuk as to new beginnings and a fresh start during the month of Elul. School officials said, “Elul is a time for repentance and introspection and commitment during the month of Elul. Rabbi Dovid Rosenberg, the director of development and planned giving at SHDS, added, “We have recently welcomed five new families and we are seeing a steady influx of new families into Scranton who are excited with the education that their children receive at the Scranton Hebrew Day School.”

Pittsburgh Jewish community reflects on past year, discusses future plans

BY JNS STAFF

(JNS) – Members of Pittsburgh’s Jewish community convened a press conference on September 20 to talk about the October 27 synagogue massacre almost a year ago and their plans moving forward.

At the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, a panel of leaders from the three congregations housed in the Tree of Life*Or L’Simcha Synagogue building discussed how their members have been coping in the past year, discusses future plans.

Details were also revealed regarding the “Remembrance. Repair. Together” program (pittsburghoct27.org), complete with planned volunteer opportunities and Torah study.

The Jewish Family and Community Services said therapists would be on site during High Holiday services for congregants affiliated with Tree of Life*Or L’Simcha, Dor Hadash and New Light, with additional clinicians being provided to other congregations upon request. The Center for Victims also planned to continue to offer support through the High Holidays, and at all public and private commemoration events.
Golden Vegetable Vichysoise (Dairy)
2 yellow bell peppers, seeded and diced
2 yellow onions, sliced
4 cups vegetable broth
2 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
1 cup chopped parsley
½ cup or more snipped mint
Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste

Spoon into bowls. Serve chilled or at room temperature.
Tip: Serve with sour cream and chopped chives.

Tomato Bread Salad (Pareve)
½ cup corn kernels
1 medium yellow tomato, cut in ½-inch chunks
1 medium zucchini, cut in ½-inch chunks
1/4 cucumber, seeded and cut in ½-inch chucks
1/2 red onion, thinly sliced
1/2 cup or more snipped mint
1 1/2 cups parsley, torn in 1-inch pieces
1/2 cup bottled vinaigrette dressing
Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste

Place all ingredients except dressing, salt and pepper in a large bowl.
Toss to mix. Pour dressing over. Toss again.
Season with salt and pepper to taste.
Tip: A ripe red tomato has a deep color and gives just a tiny bit when squeezed gently. Keep in a cool, dark place (not the fridge) and use within two to three days.

Israeli Salad “My Way.” (Photo by Ethel G. Hofman)
1 cup fresh basil leaves, lightly packed and shredded
1 cup fresh dill, lightly packed and shredded
1/2 green onion, thinly sliced
3 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
2 Tbsp. fresh lemon juice
Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
Place all ingredients in a bowl. Toss to mix and season to taste.
Serve chilled.
Tip: Squeeze juice from 5 or 6 lemons.
Pareve
Pour into six sections on an ice-cube tray and freeze. Remove a cube as needed. Heat in a small glass dish in the microwave to thaw; about 18 seconds.

Caramelized Parnips and Carrots (Pareve)
Parsnips and carrots with their high sugar content caramelize easily.
5 parsnips (about 1 1/2 pounds), peeled and sliced about ¾-inch thick
12 baby carrots, cut in half lengthwise
1/2 cup or more chopped shallots
2 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
2 Tbsp. honey, warmed
Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper
Preheat oven to 425°F.
Spray a rimmed baking sheet with nonstick cooking spray. Place parsnips and carrots prepared baking sheet. Pour the olive oil and honey over. Sprinkle with thyme, salt and pepper.
Toss vegetables to coat. Spread in one layer.
Drizzle 2 tablespoons water over top.
Bake in preheated oven for 20 minutes.
Remove from oven, turn with a spatula and bake 15-20 minutes longer, or until tender and golden.
Tip: Buy peeled baby carrots. Line a baking sheet with aluminum foil for easy clean-up.

Spicy Mashed Pumpkin (Pareve)
2 pounds diced pumpkin or squash
1 cup corn kernels
1 tsp. minced garlic
2 tsp. powdered cumin
2 tsp. za’atar (spice)*
2 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
Freshly ground pepper
Pumpkin seeds to garnish (optional)

To cook pumpkin from scratch: Cut in half, remove seeds and place cut side down in microwave safe dish.
Let stand for 10 minutes or until soft. Test with a spatula to check when tender.
Tip: Or buy 2 packages frozen mashed squash. Microwave according to package directions. Then proceed as above.

To cook pumpkin from scratch: Cut in half, remove seeds and place cut side down in microwave safe dish.
Let stand for 10 minutes or until soft. Test with a spatula to check when tender.
Tip: Or buy 2 packages frozen mashed squash. Microwave according to package directions. Then proceed as above.

To cook pumpkin from scratch: Cut in half, remove seeds and place cut side down in microwave safe dish.
Let stand for 10 minutes or until soft. Test with a spatula to check when tender.
Tip: Or buy 2 packages frozen mashed squash. Microwave according to package directions. Then proceed as above.

To cook pumpkin from scratch: Cut in half, remove seeds and place cut side down in microwave safe dish.
Let stand for 10 minutes or until soft. Test with a spatula to check when tender.
Tip: Or buy 2 packages frozen mashed squash. Microwave according to package directions. Then proceed as above.

To cook pumpkin from scratch: Cut in half, remove seeds and place cut side down in microwave safe dish.
Let stand for 10 minutes or until soft. Test with a spatula to check when tender.
Tip: Or buy 2 packages frozen mashed squash. Microwave according to package directions. Then proceed as above.

To cook pumpkin from scratch: Cut in half, remove seeds and place cut side down in microwave safe dish.
Let stand for 10 minutes or until soft. Test with a spatula to check when tender.
Tip: Or buy 2 packages frozen mashed squash. Microwave according to package directions. Then proceed as above.
Unlikely absorption centers: olfim find soft landing in Israel through nonprofit work

BY DEBORAH FINEBLUM

(JNS) – For most, moving to Israel is the dream of a lifetime. For Rachel Fishbein, 20, arriving from Woodmere, NY, she sought out just such an experience. Having worked with children with special needs as a teenager, Fishbein, who was part of finding a similar opportunity in Israel, preferably one that would help ease her absorption. After learning about ALEH, Israel’s network of care for children with severe complex disabilities, she said she couldn’t wait to get started. “As soon as I walked in, I felt right at home. It was like I was instantly part of a community,” Fishbein said. Fishbein has been volunteering in the early intervention division at ALEH’s residential and rehabilitation center in Jerusalem for more than a year. “Working with young children is ideal because the children are more forgiving of my mistakes. I’m learning so much about myself and solidifying my Hebrew every day.”

Dr. Louisa Susman, director of the early intervention division, says that the children have “benefited tremendously” from the contributions of volunteers like Fishbein, though it’s unclear who actually gains more from the experience. “Volunteering is an easy way to get to know the country and provides new immigrants with a slow adaptive process in a warm, familial setting,” said Susman, a native of Englewood, NJ. “The language barrier is also not as harsh because we work with very young children. Even if they ever need any kind of help or advice, we are always readily available to talk to them and guide them.”

When Ayael Mor, 24, moved to Israel from Cheshire, CT, in September 2018, she was informed that she was too old to enlist in the Israel Defense Forces. Still, the Birthright Community of Cheshire decided that he needed to become a part of that circle. Now, more than two years later, Schryer says that volunteering at ALEH was not only the most important element of his gap-year, but the most influential experience of his life.

“I saw the pure joy on the faces of the volunteers and the children, I knew that I had to get involved. And when I found out about the deeper meaning behind the event, I was certain that I had found my new Israeli family,” said Schryer, who volunteered while attending a yeshiva program in Jerusalem. “With an opportunity on making aliya, I took the opportunity not just to get involved, but to throw myself right into the heart of the operation, always offering to take on as much responsibility as they would allow.”

“I’ve learned so much during a really short time.”

The value goes both ways, says Gordon, who has contributed so much to our sourcing research on these companies. She’s been able to pick volunteers’ brains and, in a steep learning curve for a college kid, got quickly up to speed, saving the rest of the team endless hours of research and compiling.”

In addition to new skills, like fellow volunteers over the years, Gordon has also picked up the confidence needed to present her findings and analyses at the team’s weekly meetings. (Of the 54, only 44 interned at Israeli businesses; the other 10 were involved in an accelerator for startup entrepreneurs.)

So, where exactly does the “so much more” enter into it? The program was designed to create bonds that are as personal as they are professional. For starters, the mentors take “deep interest” in their students. For Gordon, for instance, was a guest at Menages wedding this summer. What’s more, each American is paired with an Israeli peer, and they all share living space in Tel Aviv hostel, spending evenings and weekends together at lectures, parties and tours.

“The ability to establish connections and build a network has helped tremendously with the immersion process,” she said. “I have become very friendly with the Israeli girls my own age who are national service volunteers at ALEH. They see me as just another Israeli, which I find refreshing and encouraging.”

Mor is also inspired by the individual care provided to the residents, all of whom have severe complex disabilities, noting that the “tenderness and professionalism” displayed by staff members will stay with her as she pursues her dream of becoming a family therapist. “I admire the staff so much. They are so patient and completely selfless. I am always in awe,” she said. “They don’t do this work for fame or riches; they come to work every day because they really care about every single individual. They truly see the potential of every child and give them all a strong, loving, to show the world what they have to offer.”

Chaim Schryer, 20, a native of Manchester, England, first encountered ALEH while touring Jerusalem in search of the right gap-year program a few months before he high school graduation. Enamored in traffic at the entrance to the city, he noticed that the sea of cars was surprisingly quiet, waiting patiently for a Jewish procession to cross the Jerusalem Bridge. When his cab finally inched closer, Schryer saw that hundreds of people danced out in bright green T-shirts where dancing and singing together with children with disabilities, all sporting the “most incredible smiles” he had ever seen.

“I have become very friendly with the Israeli girls my own age who are national service volunteers at ALEH. They see me as just another Israeli, which I find refreshing and encouraging.”

When Ayael Mor, 24, moved to Israel from Cheshire, CT, in September 2018, she was informed that she was too old to enlist in the Israel Defense Forces. Still, the Birthright Community of Cheshire decided that he needed to become a part of that circle. Now, more than two years later, Schryer says that volunteering at ALEH was not only the most important element of his gap-year, but the most influential experience of his life.

“I saw the pure joy on the faces of the volunteers and the children, I knew that I had to get involved. And when I found out about the deeper meaning behind the event, I was certain that I had found my new Israeli family,” said Schryer, who volunteered while attending a yeshiva program in Jerusalem. “With an opportunity on making aliya, I took the opportunity not just to get involved, but to throw myself right into the heart of the operation, always offering to take on as much responsibility as they would allow.”

“Over the course of two years, he visited every week to play with the children and assist them during their special-education classes and activities. And he also attended every in-house Shabbat and made sure that there was always someone on hand to make Havdalah for the residents on Saturday nights, often opting to take on the responsibility himself. When he decided to make Israel his permanent home halfway through his second year in yeshiva, ALEH stepped in to make the process as smooth as possible, helping him fill out forms, setting him up with housing and enlisting in the Israeli Shabbat and providing him with opportunities to learn Hebrew at a high level.

“To me, ALEH represents the very best of Israel. It welcomes all children regardless of their ethnic backgrounds, and the staff and volunteer leave their differences and political views at the door to work together to help the children grow and develop,” said Schryer. “Everyone is welcome here. Everyone is loved. This is the way of real Israel, and I feel so fortunate to have kick-started my new life here.”
The power of a dream: Israel’s new solar plant lights the way to a bright future

BY DEBORAH FINEBLUM
(JNS) – Driving along the long stretch of Highway 6, deep in Israel’s Negev Desert, you could easily think you are seeing a mirage: thousands of giant mirrors all facing the sun. But what you are witnessing is Israeli ingenuity—the future of Israeli energy and the fulfillment of many dreams. These half-a-million concave mirrors catch the heat of the sun—something the Negev has in abundance—to power the new 121-megawatt Ashalim Solar Thermal Power Station. Just four months into operation, the 4,000-acre solar-energy plant, with a price tag of roughly NIS 4 billion (more than $1.13 billion), is the largest renewable-energy project in Israel and among the largest in the world. The joint venture of the Shikun and Binui Group, Noy Fund and Spanish engineering provider TSK already serves the energy needs of some 70,000 Israeli households.

With nearly 1 percent of Israel’s energy expected to be generated here, the plant represents a step toward realizing Israel’s goal of a future powered by renewable energy. It is composed of some 16,000 parabolic troughs and about 500,000 concave mirrors that convert solar energy into steam used to generate electricity. However, one of the most singular features of the plant is its ability to produce power at night, when the sun isn’t shining. The power station uses a thermal-energy storage system, based on molten salt, which allows the plant to operate for approximately an extra 4.5 hours daily at full power after sunset.

“It was exactly six years ago, in September of 2013, that I stood on this hill and had a vision,” said Didi Paz, CEO of Negev Energy, which, as a subsidiary of Shikun and Binui, runs the plant. “I thought of [former Israeli prime minister] David Ben-Gurion, Israel’s founding father, and his dreams for the Negev, and how he would be extremely proud.”

Also on hand to welcome a cadre of international journalists for a tour of the new facility was Israel’s Energy Minister Yuval Steinitz. “We know that public health is as important an issue as providing energy for Israel’s homes and industries,” he told the group. The country is already making the shift from such polluting energy sources as coal and diesel, he noted, with coal already down from 65 percent to less than 30 percent, and with planned closures of the nation’s coal-burning turbines.

Steinitz said the ministry “used every possible means to increase the scope of renewable-energy production, and by doing so, expects to meet the government goal of 10 percent by the end of 2020.” He added that “alongside natural gas, renewable energy is of paramount importance in reducing air pollution, and by doing so, expects to meet the government goal of 10 percent by the end of 2020.”

A close-up of one of the parabolic mirrors used at the Ashalim Solar Thermal Power Station. (Photo courtesy of the Ashalim Solar Thermal Power Station)
Israeli baseball team qualifies for 2020 Tokyo Olympics

BY JNS STAFF

(JNS) – For the first time, Israel’s national baseball team will vie for gold at the Olympic Games, having qualified in a match against South Africa on September 22.

Former Major Leaguer Danny Valencia hit a three-run home run in the eighth inning of a qualifying match in Parma, Italy, sealing the team’s place at the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo with an 11-1 win.

Only six national teams will play in Tokyo, with Israel being the first to qualify. This will be the first time Israel has participated in a team sport at the Olympic Games since 1974. Baseball is not played at every summer Olympics, but remains an optional additional sport that can be proposed by the host country’s Olympic committee.

The team advanced to the Europe/Africa Olympic qualifier after finishing fourth in the European Championship on September 13. The majority of the Israeli national team members are Jewish Americans or Israelis who live in the United States, including former professionals. Israeli baseball began to enjoy a small following in 1986, when a group of expat baseball enthusiasts established the Israel Association of Baseball, a nonprofit organization to promote and develop baseball in Israel.

Israeli rhythmic gymnast qualifies for 2020 Olympics

BY JNS STAFF

(JNS) – Israeli rhythmic gymnast Linoy Ashram qualified for the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo after being awarded a bronze medal in the all-around world championships on September 20 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

It was her sixth medal of the competition. The 20-year-old Tel Aviv resident also earned three silver medals with hoop, clubs and ribbon, and a bronze medal with a ball. She was additionally part of the Israeli group that won silver in a team competition, behind Russia.

Ashram has collected a total of 12 medals from participation in world championships. All other Israeli rhythmic gymnasts in history, combined, have won only three.

Fellow Israeli competitor Nicol Zelikman, 18, also qualified for the 2020 Olympics after finishing in 11th place in the all-around competition. This is the first time since 2008 that Israel will have two representatives at the Olympics in the rhythmic gymnastics division.

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

Check out the Federation’s new, updated website at www.jewishnepa.org or find it on Facebook
D’VAR TORAH

Stiff necks and the survival of Judaism

BY RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR, THE REPORTER

Vayelech, Deuteronomy 31:1-30

Nothing like your father figure telling you that he knows you’re going to go astray after he dies. The father figures in this case are Moses. Perhaps it’s just his anger – anger that he’s not allowed to enter the Promised Land – that makes him blame the Israelites. However, his statement – telling the people that the book he’s written will be a witness against them – sounds pretty bitter. Even worse, he expects them to sin: “For I know your rebelliousness and your stiff neck. While I’ve been alive, you have rebelled against God. How much more so after my death?” (Deuteronomy 31:27)

Yes, the Israelites were rebellious during the Exodus from Egypt. That’s what scared them so much about giving up their lands. God and Moses told them what to do – amidst slavery and the plague and miracles that must have scared the wits out of them. They wanted to cling to what was known. They’re likely to receive a thousand comments and/or complaints. However, Moses might be surprised to learn that the very trait for which he criticized the Israelites is the one that kept Judaism alive through the centuries.

Leaders in the contemporary Jewish community might agree with this. The idea of being stiff-necked may have been problematic during the biblical period, but, since the diaspora, it’s actually helped Judaism survive. We’ve clung to our religion, even when we were punished for it. We refused to accept the majority religion of the countries in which we lived, even though it would have made life easier. Although some Jews did convert or assimilate, enough remained for the Jewish community to continue.

These stiff-necked Jews insisted on being true to Judaism. Leaders in the contemporary Jewish community might agree with this. The idea of being stiff-necked may have been problematic during the biblical period, but, since the diaspora, it’s actually helped Judaism survive. We’ve clung to our religion, even when we were punished for it. We refused to accept the majority religion of the countries in which we lived, even though it would have made life easier. Although some Jews did convert or assimilate, enough remained for the Jewish community to continue.

These stiff-necked Jews insisted on being true to Judaism. Leaders in the contemporary Jewish community might agree with this. The idea of being stiff-necked may have been problematic during the biblical period, but, since the diaspora, it’s actually helped Judaism survive. We’ve clung to our religion, even when we were punished for it. We refused to accept the majority religion of the countries in which we lived, even though it would have made life easier. Although some Jews did convert or assimilate, enough remained for the Jewish community to continue.

These stiff-necked Jews insisted on being true to Judaism. Leaders in the contemporary Jewish community might agree with this. The idea of being stiff-necked may have been problematic during the biblical period, but, since the diaspora, it’s actually helped Judaism survive. We’ve clung to our religion, even when we were punished for it. We refused to accept the majority religion of the countries in which we lived, even though it would have made life easier. Although some Jews did convert or assimilate, enough remained for the Jewish community to continue.
BY JNS STAFF

(JNS) – A team led by two Hebrew University of Jerusalem researchers unveiled on September 19 the first reconstructed anatomical profile of a group of archaic humans called Denisovans.

Professor Liran Carmel and Dr. David Gokhman said their team produced reconstructions of these ancient relatives over a three-year period based on patterns of their ancient DNA methylation, or chemical changes that affect a gene’s activity, but not its underlying DNA sequence.

Denisovans lived in Siberia and Eastern Asia before going extinct approximately 50,000 years ago. Since researchers made their first discovery in 2008, the entire collection of Denisovan remains includes three teeth, a pinky bone and a lower jaw.

The team proved their model to be about 85 percent accurate by using the same methodology to create anatomical models of Neanderthals – another group of archaic humans who went extinct in Europe about 40,000 years ago – and chimpanzees.

Commenting on the accuracy of the Denisovans’ profile, Carmel said, “One of the most exciting moments happened a few weeks after we sent our paper to peer review. Scientists had discovered a Denisovan jawbone. We quickly compared this bone to our predictions and found that it matched perfectly. Without even planning it, we received independent confirmation of our ability to reconstruct whole anatomical profiles using DNA that we extracted from a single fingertip.”

Many mysteries about Denisovans remain and Carmel acknowledged that “there is still a long way to go to answer these questions.” But, she said, “our study sheds light on how Denisovans adapted to their environment, highlighting traits that are unique to modern humans and which separate us from these other, now extinct, human groups.”

BY JNS STAFF

(JNS) – The British Library, the largest national library in the world by number of items catalogued, has made available its collection of 250 of the most rare and ancient religious texts online, many available to the public for the first time.

According to the September 24 press release, the online collection, titled “Discovering Sacred Texts,” is accessible online for free from around the world at www.bl.uk/projects/discovering-sacred-texts. It includes access to an “incredible range” of texts, videos and curated articles, including one of the only copies of the Talmud that escaped public burnings suffered by most of the other Jewish law books during the Middle Ages.

Also in the collection are the first complete printed text of the Mishnah; the Gaster Bible, one of the earliest surviving Hebrew biblical codices, created in Egypt around the 10th century C.E.; the Johann Gutenberg Bible, probably the most famous Bible in the world and the earliest full-scale work printed in Europe using moveable type; the earliest surviving copy of the complete New Testament, Codex Sinaiticus, which dates from the fourth century; and the Ma’al Koran, one of the very earliest Korans in the world, dating back to the eighth century.

The project was supported by Dangoor Education and Allchurches Trust, among other donors, with the goal of providing access to the “richness and diversity of the texts from the world’s great faiths.” According to the press release, the online catalogue was designed for religious education students, teachers and lifelong learners to learn about Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Sikhism, Jainism, the Baha’i faith and Zoroastrianism.

“I am delighted to be involved in such an important and innovative project, which will bring to the public for the first time some of the world’s oldest and most sacred texts,” said David Dangoor, head of the Dangoor Education fund. “These texts form the bedrock of our human civilization and when compared and contrasted by their viewers will demonstrate that our sacred texts all speak a similar language of humanity, compassion and the norms of a fair and equitable society. They all have much to teach us and it is extremely welcome that they are now more accessible.”
Director Idit Rubin. “Their connection to the Jewish homeland is so strong that when they get home, they’ll be ambassadors able to tell everyone they meet about the Israel they know—that the Israel they see in the news isn’t necessarily what Israel really is.”

Excel was born a decade ago when longtime Birthright funder Michael Steinhardt and Lynn Schusterman approached the Birthright team with an idea: We’re already bringing thousands of young Jews each year to Israel for 10-day experiences, but what about future Jewish business leaders, their reasoning went. As tomorrow’s leaders, they have so much to offer Israel, and it’s a connection that needs to be built upon—something that could take 10 weeks, not 10 days. Soon, Paul E. Singer of the Singer Foundation joined the group and, today, Rubin reports, Excel also receives support from the EY, the largest accounting firm in Israel, in a position to connect the fellows with top mentors from across Israel’s business world. “It felt it was time for me to give back and, since time is the scarcest of all resources, I wanted to use mine strengthening the bonds between Israeli and American businesses well into the future. So I told Michael (Steinhardt) I’m in it for at least 20 years; it’s going to take that long to see results.”

Only it hasn’t. Now nearly halfway there, “I never expected we’d flourish the way we have,” says Tietz. “It’s turned out to be a great blend of professional and personal development—the brightest students and the top big corporations work and get my fingertips into the Israeli startup world. That, plus being able to spend a summer living so closely with Israelis, gives me a deep, more personal experience of Israel, the dreams and aspirations of the kids here, a new connection to these people and this place.”

That connection is why Birthright Israel’s Vice President of Global Marketing Noa Bauer calls Excel “a long-term investment.”

“We recognized many years ago that when we look into the future, these young students are going to play important roles in their home countries. The fact that they return home as part of a long-distance community, with Israelis they have so much in common with and with supportive mentors, is key to a strong future,” says Bauer.

“If you see something that impacts you and it’s something you feel passionate about, you pursue it and you work for it,” says Andrew Carlins, a Duke University student in 2019 who visited Israel with the Birthright program. “I think that was the main point of Excel for me. Mostly, it was amazing getting to know Israelis and how they live, and becoming friends without in any way judging each other.”

Adam Pukier, also an EY fellow, was inspired to apply after his cousin had raved about his Excel experience in 2017. “He had the time of his life,” says Pukier. “But when I heard how selective it is, I never expected to be accepted.”

“I realized now I only want to work with companies that build Israel.”

“Now I can tell everyone what it’s really like in Israel. It’s nothing I could have ever learned from a book or in class.”

And who knows what these young Jews will decide to do with their future?

“Still, he says, “It was satisfying and I learned a lot, but that was not the main point of Excel for me. Mostly, it was amazing getting to know Israelis and how they live, and becoming friends without in any way judging each other.”

The idea intrigued Yoram Tietz, who as managing partner of EY, the largest accounting firm in Israel, is in a position to connect the fellows with top mentors from across Israel’s business world. “It felt it was time for me to give back and, since time is the scarcest of all resources, I wanted to use mine strengthening the bonds between Israeli and American businesses well into the future. So I told Michael (Steinhardt) I’m in it for at least 20 years; it’s going to take that long to see results.”

Only it hasn’t. Now nearly halfway there, “I never expected we’d flourish the way we have,” says Tietz. “It’s turned out to be a great blend of professional and personal development—the brightest students and the top companies. The result is powerful connections that last.”

One unexpected bonus: Tietz was pleasantly surprised when two summers ago, his son, Jonathan, told him that he’d signed onto Excel as an Israeli participant. His experience was so positive that he’s just joined the Excel board.

In many ways, the heart of the program is the bond forged between the Americans and Israeli peers, such as young Tietz, who often show their new American friends places in Israel most tourists never see. “My peer is like an Israeli version of me,” says Andrew Carlins, a Duke University junior who spent the summer helping EY develop a searchable data base of hundreds of Israeli startups. “All the work I did, it was only at the end that the value of it came together for me.”

Still, he says, “It was satisfying and I learned a lot, but that was not the main point of Excel for me. Mostly, it was amazing getting to know Israelis and how they live, and becoming friends without in any way judging each other.”

Adam Pukier, also an EY fellow, was inspired to apply after his cousin had raved about his Excel experience in 2017. “He had the time of his life,” says Pukier. “But when I heard how selective it is, I never expected to be accepted.”

“I’m already active in Israel advocacy at school,” says Gordon. “But now that I have friends here, I’m part of Israel in a new way.”

Adds Carlins: “Now I can tell everyone what it’s really like in Israel. It’s nothing I could have ever learned from a book or in class.”
A homeless man pleaded guilty on Sept. 24 to accidentally setting fire to a historic synagogue in Duluth, MN, on Sept. 9 that destroyed the building. Matthew James Amiot, 36, confessed that he tried to stay warm when he lit a small fire that spread out of control and affected the 118-year-old Adas Israel Congregation. “I lit a little fire to keep warm and it got a little out of control,” he told Judge Steven sông, adding that he unsuccessfully attempted to put out the blaze, which caused a firefighter to be hospitalized. Accelerants were not detected at the scene, and authorities have said there is “no reason to believe that this is a bias or hate crime.” Amiot was scheduled to be released from custody with supervision on Sept. 25. Sentencing is slated for Oct. 25. He faces up to three years behind bars and/or a $5,000 fine on the felony charge of starting a negligent fire resulting in more than $2,500 in damage, in addition to a misdemeanor charge of starting a negligent fire resulting in bodily harm or damage to personal property. There was relief in some circles that the fire was not arson, and that the synagogue itself was not targeted as part of an intentional crime.

P.A. thwarts Islamic Jihad effort to build rockets in Judea and Samaria

The Palestinian rappers, Shadi Al-Bourini and Qassem Al-Najjar, have sung in support of military action against Tel Aviv and the destruction of Israel. In 2014, they released the song “Strike a Blow at Tel Aviv” that reads: “The fire in Tel Aviv, burning all over the city of Tel Aviv, razing it to the ground and ‘crushing’ Jews.” Israel’s ambassador to Germany, Jeremy Issacharoff, along with U.S. ambassador in Berlin, Richard Grennell, have called for them to be charged. Remko Lucasse, acting director of the American Jewish Committee office in Berlin, said he is “appalled” that artists who glorify terrorism against Israel and deny Israel’s right to exist would be “offered a stage in the heart of Berlin. ...It is unacceptable that from this historical place, the murder of Jews is called for and the worst antisemitic images are spread,” he said. “The permission for such a hate event cannot be reconciled with the raison d’etre and the commitment to the security of Israel. Likewise, the appearance of the antisem for the Internet sends a fatal signal to Berlin Jews and Jewish organizations.”

Gandhi letter wishing Jews “era of peace” ahead of Rosh Hashanah found at National Library of Israel

An 80-year-old handwritten letter Mahatma Gandhi wrote to a local Indian Jewish official ahead of the Jewish New Year and at the start of World War II was published online Sept. 24 for the first time ever. In the letter, written on Sept. 1, 1939 – the same day World War II broke out in Europe – Gandhi wrote to Abraham Shohet, the head of the Bombay Zionist Association, “You have my good wishes for your new year. How I wish the new year may mean an era of peace for your afflicted people.” The National Library of Israel recently discovered the letter during a massive review of its archival documents. “The letter is significant because, while addressed to a prominent Indian Jewish leader, it is really a personal note from Mahatma Gandhi to the Jewish people of the eye on the Holocaust, written on the very day the Nazis invaded Poland,” said Zack Rothbart, a library researcher who published the letter. “It’s from one of the 20th century’s most prominent figures, who is not generally discussed in a Jewish or Israeli context.” Shohet hoped to make Gandhi more actively supportive of the Jewish cause according to the community’s Society Press. Gandhi was大专不 speaking out enough against the persecution of European Jews during World War II. He advocated only for non-violent resistance to the Nazis and sent a letter to Adolf Hitler in which he addressed the German dictator as “a friend,” and said he disagreed with those who called him a “monkey.” Shortly before he was assassinated in 1948, Gandhi called the Holocaust “the greatest crime of our time.”

Cousins separated as a result of World War II reunite 75 years later

Two cousins who were separated 75 years ago by World War II reunited in Israel on Sept. 21. Morris Sana, 87, and his cousin Simon Mairowitz, 85, grew up believing that the other died in a concentration camp in Europe during World War II, according to People magazine. The cousins were close friends before the Nazis invaded Romna. As the war progressed, Sana joined the Jewish Brigade and was captured by the German army. He was released from a Nazi prison in Danzig and was taken to a POW camp. Mairowitz, who was captured by the Soviet army in 1942, was released in 1945. In 1951, Sana and Mairowitz discovered that they were brothers and that they had lived in the same village. They wrote to each other every month and continued to exchange letters. “Good to see you too after all these years,” while holding Sana’s face in his hands emotional reunion shows the two men hug and shed tears together. Mairowitz said, “Seventy-five years you waited. ...I know it’s a long time,” while holding Sana’s face in his hands. “Good to see you too after all these years,” said Sana.

Germany’s president has said there is “no reason to believe that this is a bias or hate crime.” Amiot was charged with a misdemeanor charge of starting a negligent fire resulting in bodily harm or damage to personal property. There was relief in some circles that the fire was not arson, and that the synagogue itself was not targeted as part of an intentional crime.

Jewish and Arab astronauts take off for International Space Station

Jewish and Arab astronauts launched from Baikonur in Kazakhstan on Sept. 25, from a Soyuz rocket, to embark on a six-month mission with the International Space Station. The two astronauts, from the Jewish-American-Israeli Jew, took off for space along with Russia’s Oleg Skripochka and the United Arab Emirates’ Hazzaa al-Mansoori. Mansoori, the first Emirati astronaut, is scheduled to return to Earth on Oct. 3 with NASA’s Nick Hague and Russian cosmonaut Alexey Ovchinin. Meir and Skripochka are staying on the ISS until the spring of 2020. While not the first Muslim, Mansoori will be the first Arab on the space station.

U.S. sanctions Chinese firms, individuals over oil and Iran

The United States sanctioned five individuals and six companies on Sept. 25 for violating U.S. sanctions on Iran. The entities designated for transporting oil from Iran were Cosco Shipping Tanker Co., Cosco Shipping Tanker Seaman, Ship Management Co., China Concord Petroleum Co., Kulanin Holding Company Ltd., Kulanin Shipping Management Co., Ltd., and PG Oil Limited. Their charterers, being Chinese firms, were Cosco Shipping, Sinopac Shipping, and Huirong Shipping. The United States sanctioned five individuals and six companies on Sept. 25 for violating U.S. sanctions on Iran. The entities designated for transporting oil from Iran were Cosco Shipping Tanker Co., Cosco Shipping Tanker Seaman, Ship Management Co., China Concord Petroleum Co., Kulanin Holding Company Ltd., Kulanin Shipping Management Co., Ltd., and PG Oil Limited. Their charterers, being Chinese firms, were Cosco Shipping, Sinopac Shipping, and Huirong Shipping. The United States sanctioned five individuals and six companies on Sept. 25 for violating U.S. sanctions on Iran. The entities designated for transporting oil from Iran were Cosco Shipping Tanker Co., Cosco Shipping Tanker Seaman, Ship Management Co., China Concord Petroleum Co., Kulanin Holding Company Ltd., Kulanin Shipping Management Co., Ltd., and PG Oil Limited. Their charterers, being Chinese firms, were Cosco Shipping, Sinopac Shipping, and Huirong Shipping.

U.A.E. astronaut to join first all-female flight squadron

The United Arab Emirates astronaut Hazzaa al-Mansoori will become the first Arab male astronaut in space when he joins a 40-person crew in the International Space Station in November. Mansoori, the first Emirati astronaut, is scheduled to return to Earth on Oct. 3 with NASA’s Nick Hague and Russian cosmonaut Alexey Ovchinin. Meir and Skripochka are staying on the ISS until the spring of 2020. While not the first Muslim, Mansoori will be the first Arab on the space station.

Cousins separated as a result of World War II reunite 75 years later

Two cousins who were separated 75 years ago by World War II reunited in Israel on Sept. 21. Morris Sana, 87, and his cousin Simon Mairowitz, 85, grew up believing that the other died in a concentration camp in Europe during World War II, according to People magazine. The cousins were close friends before the Nazis invaded Romna. As the war progressed, Sana joined the Jewish Brigade and was captured by the German army. He was released from a Nazi prison in Danzig and was taken to a POW camp. Mairowitz, who was captured by the Soviet army in 1942, was released in 1945. In 1951, Sana and Mairowitz discovered that they were brothers and that they had lived in the same village. They wrote to each other every month and continued to exchange letters. “Good to see you too after all these years,” while holding Sana’s face in his hands emotional reunion shows the two men hug and shed tears together. Mairowitz said, “Seventy-five years you waited. ...I know it’s a long time,” while holding Sana’s face in his hands.

Gandhi letter wishing Jews “era of peace” ahead of Rosh Hashanah found at National Library of Israel

An 80-year-old handwritten letter Mahatma Gandhi wrote to a local Indian Jewish official ahead of the Jewish New Year and at the start of World War II was published online Sept. 24 for the first time ever. In the letter, written on Sept. 1, 1939 – the same day World War II broke out in Europe – Gandhi wrote to Abraham Shohet, the head of the Bombay Zionist Association, “You have my good wishes for your new year. How I wish the new year may mean an era of peace for your afflicted people.” The National Library of Israel recently discovered the letter during a massive review of its archival documents. “The letter is significant because, while addressed to a prominent Indian Jewish leader, it is really a personal note from Mahatma Gandhi to the Jewish people of the eye on the Holocaust, written on the very day the Nazis invaded Poland,” said Zack Rothbart, a library researcher who published the letter. “It’s from one of the 20th century’s most prominent figures, who is not generally discussed in a Jewish or Israeli context.” Shohet hoped to make Gandhi more actively supportive of the Jewish cause according to the community’s Society Press. Gandhi was大专不 speaking out enough against the persecution of European Jews during World War II. He advocated only for non-violent resistance to the Nazis and sent a letter to Adolf Hitler in which he addressed the German dictator as “a friend,” and said he disagreed with those who called him a “monkey.” Shortly before he was assassinated in 1948, Gandhi called the Holocaust “the greatest crime of our time.”
Yes, we can!

Help us ease the cost of Jewish living so children and teens can connect with their Jewishness at school and summer camp. Send young adults on Birthright trips that transform their relationship to Israel. And reach around the world, to places where the Holocaust and Communism almost wiped out Jewish life, and nurture a core of inspiring young people who are reinventing Judaism.

That's why there's UJA and the Federation.
And that's why we need you.

The mission of the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania is to rescue the imperiled, care for the vulnerable, support Israel and world Jewry, and revitalize and perpetuate Jewish life in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Name: ___________________________________________________________________________________
Address: _______________________________________________________________________________
City: __________________________________ State: __________________ ZIP: __________________
Home phone: ___________ Work phone: ___________________________ Cell phone: __________________
E-mail address: _________________________________________________________________________

____ I'm enclosing a gift of $___________ _______ I'll pledge $______________ *

*____ One-time *_____ Quarterly installments (1/4 of total) * ____ Monthly installments (1/12 of total)

2020 UJA Campaign
Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania
601 Jefferson Avenue, Scranton, PA 18510
Telephone: 570-961-2300 (ext. 3)

Payment options
____ Please bill me at the above address.
____ Enclosed is my check payable to "UJA/Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania".
____ On-line banking (designate your payments through your bank auto-draft account to "UJA/Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania").
____ My company ( _________________________ ) has a matching gift program.
   I’ll obtain the form and forward it.

_________________________________________ ________________
Authorized signature Date

ERIC & ANGELA WEINBERG, CO-CHAIRS OF OUR 2020 UJA CAMPAIGN
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.