

## NEPA Federation celebrates Israel

BY IRENE STOLZENBERG,  
TEMPLE BNAI HARIM

On Sunday May 22,, after not being held for two years, 40,000 people including 24 NEPA residents gathered on Fifth Avenue in New York City in support of Israel at the Celebrate Israel parade.

The day was unusually warm with a clear blue and white sky acting as a backdrop for the many Israeli flags being waved. The theme for this year's parade was "Together Again."

Following behind a lively marching band and walking immediately in front of New York Mayor Eric Adam encouraged the NEPA contingent to walk at a brisk pace as they stepped to the lively music playing all around them, allowing the group to beat



their marching best from previous years by 15 minutes. People of all ages lined the street to cheer on the marchers and to indicate their support for Israel.

The diversity of Jewish groups walking, cheering, singing and

dancing varied from Jewish Day School children, to the ambassador to the U.N.'s entourage to synagogues, dance groups and Jewish service groups was a reminder of the diversity and simultaneous unity of the people of Israel.

The walkers representing the NEPA Jewish Federation were Daniel Chejfec, Federation executive director; Dassy Ganz, assistant director; Neil Weinberg; Al Tragis; Vladimir and Elizabeth Aronzon; See "Celebrates" on page 6

## Ruth Gelb and Lewis Sare named honorary chairpersons of Temple Israel's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

Between them, two members in their 90s can claim 169 years of membership at Temple Israel in Scranton. These two members, Ruth Gelb and Lewis Sare, have been named honorary co-chairs for the Temple's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, which will take place this fall. While neither was alive when Temple Israel was founded in 1921, they both recall a long active history at Temple Israel.

Ruth Kornfeld Gelb, the granddaughter of a cantor, began her life at Temple Israel when she enrolled in the Temple Israel Hebrew School. She

entered the school at age 11 after her parents moved to Scranton from Dunmore. When she was 20 years old, she met Harold Gelb at temple on Rosh Hashanah, and Rabbi Arthur T. Buck officiated at their wedding in the temple the next year. Ruth and Harold raised three sons Larry, Bruce, and Robert, who attended the Temple Hebrew School and celebrated their *b'nai mitzvah* at the temple.

Over the years, Ruth was an



Ruth Gelb

involved member at temple and in its Sisterhood, singing in the choir and being responsible for the *kiddush* refreshments after Shabbat and holiday services.

Ruth has always found the Temple a special place because of its special people. Some years after the death of her husband, Harold, she met and developed a special companionship with another temple member widower, Sam Rosen, that lasted until

his sudden death in 2014.

Lewis Sare began Hebrew School at temple when he was 8 years old and developed a lifelong attachment to temple. He was a member of the IYL (the temple's youth group) and celebrated his bar mitzvah at temple. Over the years, Lewis was a 25-year member of the choir and, in 1968-69, was the Explorer advisor to the temple's Boy Scout Troop 65 when 17 boys became Eagle Scouts.

After retiring from his business Superior Trophy at age 75, Lewis was See "Anniversary" on page 2

## Notes from the Ukrainian-Polish border

We finished day one in Poland and it was just incredible. We arrived at the center, housing around 4,000 people, and received a tour. It was like nothing I have ever seen. It felt impossible to have anything, but a visceral reaction and I immediately welled up: it was hard not to burst into tears. There were huge warehouse rooms lined with thousands

and thousands of cots, the cots all connected. There were couples, families with children, people all alone, many sitting with their dogs and cats on their cots. I even saw a pet rabbit. The ages spanned from infants to the elderly, some disabled, some well, some sick – all anxious and living with great uncertainty.

As we were walking through the

center, we were wearing masks. One of the ways to communicate non-verbally is with one's eyes, and so I chose to fight off the tears. As I learned firsthand working with COVID patients, I can smile and make a connection with my eyes, and so I did my best to do just that – at least, an empathetic smile.

The transit center is housed in

what would be a convention center in the U.S.A. There are several large rooms/areas with the cots that are now these people's homes. There are See "Notes 1" on page 2

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Congregation B'nai Harim will host a "Great Jewish Recording Artists" musical event on July 21.

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### CANDLE LIGHTING

|                 |         |
|-----------------|---------|
| July 1 .....    | 8:22 pm |
| July 8 .....    | 8:20 pm |
| July 15 .....   | 8:17 pm |
| July 22 .....   | 8:11 pm |
| July 29 .....   | 8:05 pm |
| August 5 .....  | 7:57 pm |
| August 12 ..... | 7:48 pm |

### PLUS

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# Notes 1. . . . .

sections that are smaller and more private for those that are disabled, for single moms with young children and for families with young children. There is a play area for toddlers, a larger play area with ping pong tables, fuse-ball, and arts and crafts, and an “Internet café” for teens. Some of the older children traveled around the center by scooter for fun.

There were all types of services to help the guests of the centers find placement around the world. The Canadian government has a huge presence and are welcoming many of the Ukrainians. The Ukrainians are also applying for visas throughout the EU and around the world. There are processes that they had to go through to stay in Poland, and many processes to go through to find more permanent placement. Some of these guests have been displaced for 30-45 days. Some have been in this transit center for days to weeks, and some for 40 days. It is difficult to imagine being uprooted from one’s life, being fraught with not knowing where you will go or how you will live, living in a communal space, *and* having to navigate through paperwork and protocols. Obviously, this has to be done, but it seems so overwhelming. People are exhausted from travel, full

of fear, distraught, displaced, anxious, sad, separated from loved ones, some terrified because their sons are in Ukraine fighting and many are sick.

It is difficult to describe the enormity of both this place and of the stories and circumstances of these beautiful people. Being here certainly humanizes the situation in a way that I am not sure I can articulate.

## DAYS TWO-FIVE

The medical clinic is housed within the center in its own closed off area. I spent much of my time working here. The clinic was very busy with a variety of issues: anxiety, depression, and exacerbations of chronic health conditions, such as diabetes and hypertension, made up a significant amount of the concerns. Many patients were without their regular medications, some for as long as a month. Of course, communal living breeds problems of its own as close quarters allow for rampant spread of easily transmissible conditions, and I saw tons of patients with upper respiratory infections with symptoms of cough, fever and sore throat. There was a gastrointestinal bug getting passed around and many, many children came to the clinic were vomiting and had diarrhea. Many people expressed their concern that everyone was sick and asked how they could they keep their children healthy. It was heartbreaking. Fleeing one’s home and being displaced is challenging enough without being sick. But life has a way of kicking you when you are down and these circumstances are ripe for that.

When I wasn’t working in the clinic, I was roaming throughout the transit center to check on the guests. While roaming, we were asked to take temperatures and blood

pressures, and to see people on their cots that felt too sick to make it to clinic. One afternoon in just one hour of roaming, Barry and I took seven people to the clinic. It was also while roaming that we had the opportunity to sit and listen to the stories of the residents, hold a hand, offer an ear, give a hug. While we provided necessary medical care, listening to people’s stories, validating their feelings, bearing witness to their experience, was often the most important and impactful work that we did. My very first time roaming, within the first five minutes, a man waved me over to check on his wife. As I took her vitals and listened to her heart and lungs, I couldn’t help but notice that she was wearing a Jewish star. I have been so struck by this war and the parallels to the Holocaust, that was a large driving factor for me wanting to come to help, and so I was incredibly moved to meet this Jewish woman fleeing a European city, and I started to cry.

Working in the clinic also afforded me the opportunity to hear people’s stories. Many of the interpreters/translators who were helping us were residents of the transit center and found it within them to help. It was amazing making those connections, working together and hearing their stories.

I will share a few stories from throughout the week just to give an idea.

One family we met, and to whom Barry became particularly close, was a family of four, the father is a professor. This is the second time that he has had to flee Ukraine, the last time was in 2014. His daughter was five the first time they fled and she spent her 13<sup>th</sup> birthday in the transit center. (Barry brought her a piece of

Continued from page 1  
cake and many of the nurses bought her small gifts). His son turned 8 while living in the transit center, and his wife 39. Today, the final visa on which they were waiting arrived, so they will leave in a few days for Canada. Today was day 44 of them living at the center.

One woman came to the clinic with her children that were sick, I believe they were between 8-14. She left Ukraine with them, but has been a wreck because her 18 year old son remained and is fighting in the war. She didn’t want to leave him! But she felt she had to get the younger two to safety. Their plan is to go to Denmark.

One man arrived the night before I met him. He had a stroke on March 20 and is now wheelchair bound. He is far from the bathroom. He doesn’t have a urinal and does not want to have to take care of private things in a public setting. We are trying to get him moved to a different area. He and his wife were so confused as to how things work and to what was available to them and learning how to maneuver in this situation as they are still adjusting to the challenges they face after the husband having a stroke.

A co-volunteer told me of a boy she met that was 17 years old. He fled Ukraine illegally as he is under age. He left because his family wanted him to go to war and fight for Ukraine. He wanted his safety and his freedom so he fled, alone, very little to his name, but with great determination to make a life for himself elsewhere. His courage, bravery and tenacity to fight for the life he wants are remarkable.

One day while roaming we saw a woman leaning against the wall that did not look well. We took her to the clinic and she was in a fib and appeared to be having a cardiac event. The doctor recommended that she go to the hospital to have further evaluation. She refused. She was leaving on a flight for Israel in the morning and she didn’t want anything to get in the way of her making it on the plane. I hope she made it safely.

On our fourth day, one of the interpreters and I tried to gather a group of people to get outside for some exercise. The rooms are like that of a warehouse and there are no windows. Many residents just sit on their cots and only leave to go to the dining hall for meals. It was amazing how difficult it was to recruit participants, but we did. We recruited seven people between the ages of 8 and 23, and Lydia. Lydia is 84 years old, a retired dermatologist, and had the biggest smile and more zest for exercise and life than anyone in the group. We went outside in the sunshine for some vitamin D, stretched, walked and ended by

See “Notes 2” on page 5

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# Anniversary. . . . .

able to take on more responsibilities at temple. He became chair of the cemetery committee that oversees the operation and maintenance of the four cemeteries owned by the temple. He also spearheaded the creation of a Temple Preservation Fund to accept donations to preserve the beautiful building, which is home to the congregation Temple Israel of Scranton.

Lewis says the morning *minyan* became his second home.

Temple Israel thanks them both for all the time and energy they have devoted to Temple Israel and looks forward to honoring them at the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.

Temple Israel is a member of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism and an egalitarian congregation. Temple Israel is currently conducting daily morning *minyan* services, Mondays and Thursday in

Continued from page 1  
person and via Zoom; Saturday morning in person and via Live Stream; and Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday via Zoom. On Friday evenings, the temple conducts an early evening service in person and via Live Stream to welcome Shabbat.

Temple Israel is also proud to provide education for the children of the congregation through the Reba and Art Douglass Religious School and has ongoing education opportunities for the adults of the congregation. It has an active Sisterhood, Men’s Club and Mitzvah Committee.

For more information about the many facets of Temple Israel and more details about the Temple 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, visit the temple website at [templeisraelscranton.org](http://templeisraelscranton.org), e-mail [office@templeisraelscranton.org](mailto:office@templeisraelscranton.org) or call the temple office at 570-342-0350.

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## From Scranton to Jerusalem and Kiev

Rabbi Hillel once uttered a famous aphorism, which is often either misquoted or quoted just partially. The full aphorism says “If I am not for myself, who will be? But if I am only for myself, what am I? And if not now, when?” I see this comment as in fact a blueprint for service.

Jewish history has taught us, if anything, that unless we respect ourselves as a people we cannot expect others to respect us. And the experiences from the 20th century, from the pogroms in Odessa to the liberation of Soviet Jewry, including the Holocaust and Israel’s Independence, told us that in order to have a healthy interaction with other people we need to take charge of our own course and role within humanity’s journey. Only by fully embracing our identity as Jews can we fully participate in humanity. Many people forgot this important lesson and are today lost in the mist of time.

On the other hand, what is the purpose of being ourselves and steering our own ship if we do not share who we are with others, teaching them our ways and learning from them? If we limit our concerns for those who are part of our own family and ignore the cries of others, can

we honestly say we are following the teachings of our ancestors? I’d say no. I believe that being a Jew is to look at the world as a place to be fixed; I believe that is an essential part of our partnership with the Almighty.

I also believe that our tradition is not a call for contemplation but a call for action. That call for action can be expressed in the fulfillment

whims into active protagonists of our own story and we also learned to proclaim that story to the world.

I started my personal journey as person and as a Jew in Argentina in a time and place that did not make it so easy to be a Jew. After coming to America, I embraced the Federation Movement’s Mission because I see it as the embodiment of Hillel’s aphorism. We serve Jews and non-Jews where we live, and we also take responsibility for our Jewish family wherever they may live. We step in to protect our rights as American Jews; we step in to defend our people’s right to self-determination in Israel; we help those in need and we assist those in peril – whether they live next door, in the Jewish homeland, or in the Ukraine. Our actions are rooted in our traditions, and we act wherever we can be of help. We are one with Jews around the world, and we feel the pain of our Jewish family as well as the pain of the stranger.

Many define the Federation role as fund-raising and that is part of it. But to fully understand the role, I believe we need to understand that fund-raising in this context means to gather the necessary resources to help people; to put into action the teachings of our ancestors. *Tzedakah* is not charity: it is justice, and our Annual Campaign is not just about money – it is about people. Just my opinion...



### FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DANIEL CHEJFEC, PH.D.

of *mitzvot* and also in acting in the world to make it a better place; to be actively engaged in history as an active journey. Our *mitzvot* are impoverished if we do not act. And acting on injustice or acting on wrongs demand from us to not delay. If a person is hungry, the time to feed him is now. If a life is in danger, the time to save that life is now. Tomorrow might be late.

We are fortunate to live in a time and place that allows us to express our Jewish identity freely and translate our tradition into action. We are part of the generations of Jews who, over the last couple of centuries, transformed ourselves from passive objects of other peoples’

## JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE NOTES

### Coping with feelings during a crisis

BY LORRIE LOUGHNEY, MPA, NCG, COORDINATOR OF OLDER ADULT SERVICES



Lorrie Loughney, MPA, NCG

In many ways, it is completely normal to have anxious feelings when a crisis occurs. Because there are so many variables over which we do not have control, it is important to focus on those things that we can control. Understanding the variables will begin to help us take control of our anxious feelings. For instance, taking recommended precautions, social distancing, staying home and ensuring you have adequate supplies will bring us a better sense of peace and order. Taking good care of ourselves with proper hydration, nutrition and sleep will provide for better safety and health overall. Finding ways to be socially connected, mentally stimulated, and physically

active during this time are ways to keep anxious feelings from taking over.

The following resources will hopefully get you started coping with boredom and anxious feelings.

- ◆ Breathing exercises will help you reset the blood flow to your brain and help you to be calm.

- ◆ Mindfulness exercises keep us from getting ahead of ourselves. Appreciate having a little time and a little solitude.

- ◆ Keep in touch with family and friends, check on neighbors.

- ◆ Keep a journal – imagine the story that you

can leave for future generations!

- ◆ Catch up on home projects, reading, crafts, puzzles, games and other hobbies.

See “Crisis” on page 5

### DEADLINES

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

| DEADLINE                    | ISSUE     |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Thursday, July 14.....      | August    |
| Thursday, August 18.....    | September |
| Thursday, September 15..... | October   |
| Thursday, October 20.....   | November  |

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# A lifetime in Scranton: Two couples look back

BY JOAN DAVIS

I lived 24 years in my hometown of Fairfield, CT, a suburban small-town community 50 miles north of New York City. I went off to college in Boston and never for a minute considered returning to my hometown to live after college, except for a short period of time when I was trying to figure out my next step.

But two Scranton couples, and I'm saying Scranton even though they have relocated to Clarks Summit, will never muse about what it would be like to move back home, because they have never left the area. This is and has been their only home, barring going away only for school or the service, and both have ties to the area that run strong and deep.

Gayle and Michael Greenstein met many years ago in Scranton, after Mike's mother told her son about a "cute little girl" that she had seen the day before while she was volunteering at the Jewish Community Center on Jefferson Avenue. The two met shortly after at a JCC singles event and, although Gayle shunned Mike's many requests for a date, she finally said yes, and he took her out to look at a car he was building, and then for pizza. They fondly recalled Sunday dinners with other couples at Fred's Café in Old Forge.

The only time that Gayle left Scranton was to attend Philadelphia School of Science and Arts where she studied to become a medical technologist. She liked her inde-



Joan Davis

pendence, living with four girls in an apartment, and working in a doctor's office, but her parents, afraid for their eldest daughter's safety, convinced her to return to their home in the 300 block of North Webster Avenue.

Mike left Scranton for the army reserves after graduating from Scranton Tech; Gayle graduated from Central High School. Gayle and Mike dated for about 1½ years, finally marrying when they were 21 and 24 on November 24, 1968.

Life was easy then: going to dances, hanging out at the JCC, double dating with other Jewish couples. Basketball games, teen activities, doing homework with friends at the JCC made the "J" a second home. Everyone spoke about it with reverence, calling the JCC the glue that held life together for young Jewish people.

After high school, Mike became an assistant JCC camp administrator, while Gayle finished high school and was a member of a Jewish sorority. Mike's father, Kenny, owned Imperial Tobacco on Lackawanna Avenue and Mike worked for Kaplan Radiator and in windows manufacturing for many years.

In his time in the Greater Scranton area, Mike has made a name for himself as a hardworking member of many boards and organizations. A member of Temple Hesed, he's been chairman of the Jewish Federation, and has served on the boards of Jewish Family Services, the Jewish Home, Temple Hesed and the

Ronald McDonald House. An old car aficionado, he raises money for charity with the Villa Capri Cruisers Club of Scranton. The most recent fund-raiser was a mix of old-time Scranton fun at Nay Aug Park, featuring baskets, raffles, Chinese Auction and numerous food stands.

Gayle has been the treasurer of the Jewish Home Auxiliary, served on the board of B'nai Brith and plays mahjong regularly. The couple has a time share in Florida, but seem content at home. "I'm just happy being here," Mike said. "I have lived a good life for many years and I'm lucky I can give back to the community."

When Annie Monsky goes to visit residents at Elan Gardens and they thank her for stopping by, she turns around and thanks them back. "These are the people who connect me with my grandparents and my parents. They are the only ones left to do that for me. Someday, I hope to do that for someone else."

With her husband Ed, who is an attorney and a former president of Elan Gardens, she shares a rich, multi-generational connection to the Scranton area.

Ed's parents raised a family, first in the 600 block of Monroe, then in the 500 block of Madison. Scrantonians give directions like that and without saying more, people know the precise location or they know somebody who lives in that location. Relationships from those formative years are maintained many years later.

The couple's education section of their resume reads like other Scrantonians: James Madison Elementary through eighth grade, then onto to Scranton Central High. Students moved easily between school, the JCC and their Hebrew schools. Ed describes it as the "Jewish Golden Age," when Jewish students made up 50 percent of the school population.

Annie's parents, Edie and Tom Lebowitz, raised a family in the 900 block of Quincy Avenue. Edie was an R.N. and a Camp JCC day camp nurse and community volunteer. Annie describes her mother as someone who never chose the route of stay-at-home mother, but donated her time to organizations such as the Red Cross, B'nai Brith and the Organization of Rehabilitation and Training (ORT), an Israeli organization. Her father Tom owned a furniture store. Many times people couldn't pay him when he would go to their house to collect payment, and he might leave money for them instead.

Both Annie and Ed left Scranton for their education, but ultimately

would return to Scranton. Ed went to Haverford for sociology, UPENN for a master's degree in sociology, and Washington University for a law degree.

Annie chose Emerson College in Boston to pursue a B.S. in communications and went to Bloomsburg University for a master's degree in communication disorders, later working for Head Start, Allied Services and in the Scranton school district. Now she is a graduate field experience supervisor in the Communication Disorders program at Marywood University.

The Monskys got together serendipitously, thanks to Ed's mother, who one day gave him a list of Jewish single women to ask out. Ed, bookish and somewhat reserved, glanced down the list and spotted the name, Ann Lebowitz, someone he thought he knew as his best friend's neighbor. But when a different Ann Lebowitz opened the door for Ed, he said: "You're not Ann Lebowitz!" That Ann Lebowitz said, "Well, do you still want to go out?" Ed's understated comment was, "Well, I bought the Philharmonic tickets anyways. We might as well use them." The mixed-up identity was no mistake as the couple will be celebrating their 36<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this October. They raised two sons: Jeremy, now 34, and Scott, now 32, and have four grandchildren.

The JCC provided a community of friends and social life throughout the whole week. A school day was bookended with breakfast at the kitchen table, school, followed by a 3:30 pm sacred venture to Dorfman's candy store, before walking to Temple Israel three to four days a week for Hebrew classes.

Sundays featured a beloved father-child bowling league, arts and crafts, basketball, swimming and traveling theater productions. Boys were members of Scout Troop 65 and went to Goose Pond Scout Camp while everyone went to the JCC Day camp at Chapman Lake. Organizations such as the Jewish Center Youth (JCY), B'nai Brith Youth Organization (BBYO) and American Synagogue Youth (USY), and Jewish sororities and fraternities hosted dances, trips and movie nights.

The next generation of native Jewish Scrantonians will be harder to find, as young people move away to seek bigger adventures in the cities and don't return. But growing up in Scranton was an idyllic time based on family, faith and friends, in a cherished community that made you feel you mattered, no matter what block you lived in.

## Be the Change You Want to Be



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# Congregation B'nai Harim to hold “Great Jewish Recording Artists” on July 21

Congregation B'nai Harim invites you to listen (and join in) live with Tom Moore about “Great Jewish Recording Artists from Sophie Tucker to Josh Groban” on Thursday, July 21, at 4-6

pm. Pre-registration and masks are required for admittance. To register, e-mail spinner@yahoo.com. For answers to question call 732-735-0983. Coffee and cookies will be served. The community is

welcome to attend.

The program will be held at Congregation B'nai Harim, 5349 Pocono Crest Rd., Pocono Pines, PA. Musicologist Tom Moore will play the tunes and tell the

stories and background of Sophie Tucker, Al Jolson, Eddie Fisher, Bob Dylan, Leonard Cohen, Bette Midler, Billy Joel, Phoebe Snow and Josh Groban. You are invited to sing along.

## Solar sunshade fabric lights up the night in Tel Aviv

BY ABIGAIL KLEIN LEICHMAN

Israel 21c – Tel Aviv is bathed in sunshine practically year-round, so why not use that abundant free source of energy for more than just rooftop water heaters?

LumiWeave, a unique sheeting material invented by Israeli product designer Anai Green, does just that.

Combining energy harvesting and lighting without connecting to electricity, the lightweight and flexible LumiWeave was the winning project in the 2020 international Women4Climate Tech Challenge sponsored by C40 Cities, of which the Tel Aviv-Yafo municipality is a member.

Now, the municipality is testing LumiWeave as a way to provide zero-emissions daytime shade and nighttime lighting at Atidim Business Park.

The pilot project, organized in

collaboration with the CityZone Innovation Laboratory operated by Atidim Park and Tel Aviv University, is overseen by Green and LumiWeave cofounder Tal Parnes, a serial high-tech entrepreneur.

Due to its simple features, LumiWeave saves at least half of the installation costs of standard lighting infrastructure and 100 percent of the electricity costs. LumiWeave even allows the customer to control the time and intensity of lighting and meets all safety standards.

The main components of LumiWeave are a flexible organic photovoltaic sheet adhered to a UV-resistant fabric. This fabric is imprinted with conductive copper-based ink that acts as a circuit board. Intertwined with this fabric are polymer strips with LEDs.

Green designed the sheeting to withstand any weather condition;

it carries a three-year warranty. And LumiWeave continues providing lighting even after three days without sun – which does happen occasionally during Tel Aviv winters.

LumiWeave is developing additional products with the sheeting material, including the SmartSol line of sidewalk café umbrellas that offer additional cool features such as cellphone charging and automatic shadow position adjustment.

“I believe that LumiWeave will turn out to be a groundbreaking project,” said Mayor Ron Huldai.

Huldai added that the municipality also is “promoting urban plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including a massive tree-planting program; expansion of green spaces; removal of polluting vehicles; and ongoing educational efforts in schools and in the public sphere.”

Source: Israel 21c.

### Crisis . . . . . Continued from page 3

- ◆ Use the good dishes!
- ◆ Take a break from the news.
- ◆ Binge watch!
- ◆ Get some fresh air and exercise.
- ◆ Stay connected through social media.

There are a plethora of websites that offer information and lessons online. Exercise, cooking and crafts, virtual tours of museums, landmarks and more. There is an almost endless array of music videos,

video podcasts, how-to videos, and other educational things available on YouTube and TED talks have lectures and keynote speakers on just about any topic that makes you curious.

Don't forget to talk about your concerns with others. Talking to others will help you realize you're not alone in this and it's a healthy way to process for both you and a friend.

### Notes 2 . . . . . Continued from page 2

dancing together to Shakira's “Hips Don't Lie.” Lydia shook those hips like no other. She is a beautiful soul with so much hope and spirit. She is waiting to go to Canada to be with her daughter.

It has been an unbelievable week, full of emotion, beautiful connections, and incredible team work. It has been an honor to serve with all of the amazing people with whom I did, people with hearts of gold and a desire to serve and help others. I feel it on honor that the people of Ukraine trusted me during such uncertain times to care for them, and feel it a privilege that they shared

their stories. I hope to find the time and a possibility to return.

I hope that all has been well with you and yours.

*Much love,  
Dori*

*Dori is the daughter of local community member Don Bernstein. She was born in our community and she works as an RN in Boulder Hospital (Colorado). She is part of an organization working in distressed areas all over the world. She and her husband, Barry, went to Poland in April of this year to work with the Ukrainian refugees.*



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# Four international artists connect their work to the beauty and complexity that is Jerusalem

BY JUDY LASH BALINT

(JNS) – Put together four renowned artists from different genres and different corners of the world, match them with four dynamic Jerusalem arts institutions, bring those visiting artists together with the city’s arts community, add public events in a series of Jerusalem’s most interesting venues and you’ll have the recipe for the highly successful recently concluded 2022 Jerusalem International Fellows program.

This year’s fellows, Sophia Borges, a visual artist from Brazil; Vibha Galhotra, a conceptual artist from India; Claudia Lavista, a Mexican choreographer and dance company director; and Anna Lublina, an American interdisciplinary performance artist living in Germany recently spent 10 weeks in Jerusalem both absorbing and contributing to the local arts scene.

Arriving at the tail end of an extraordinarily cold and rainy Jerusalem winter, the four women, who had never been in Israel before, took up residency in the Musrara neighborhood on the seam of the eastern and western parts of the city. Their stay in the city encompassed Ramadan, Passover and Easter, as well as the most recent flare-up of terror attacks that killed and wounded Israelis in Beersheva, Tel Aviv, Hadera and Elad. There was also frequent Arab violence at Damascus Gate a few hundred yards away from their temporary home, but the artists took it all in stride and continued their creative work, and efforts to engage a cross-section of Israelis at encounters in a variety of venues in Jerusalem.

In a farewell blog post, Lavista wrote: “I’m

going back home full of new visions and ideas, and a better understanding of the Israel/Palestine culture. But mainly, I’m leaving with new friends, with a new community of wonderful

people that I can call now colleagues. So, this is now a place for me to come back and have joy... that’s priceless.”

See “Artists” on page 7

## Celebrates. . . . . Continued from page 1

Gary and Devon Rosman; Asher, Mindy, Ella, Sara and Adi Grossman, Rivka Menachem, Bracha and Uri Levi; Chana Menarchuk; Marge Harnett; Irene Stolzenberg; Phyllis Miller; Roberta Pineiro’ Lea Dunner; Ronni Terr; and Frieda Entner.

The parade usually takes place the first Sunday in June, but was moved up this year to accommodate the holiday of Shavuot.

Mark your calendar now for June 4, 2023, and plan to join next year in this wonderful parade and celebration of the state of Israel.



Mexican choreographer Claudia Lavista at the launch of the Jerusalem International Fellows program (Photo by Judy Lash Balint)



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Lavista lives in Mexico City and says, “It feels similar to Jerusalem – a place with many different cultures and a lot of tension. I’m interested in exploring these tensions. Longtime relationships are very important to me. That’s what I want to bring back – those relationships are what I hope to bring back.”

The fellows survived an exhaustive selection process to be accepted into the program, and the task of determining which local arts groups would be the best hosts took several years of meetings and multiple visits by the American organizers. “The hosts represent a wide range of sizes, locations, foci, disciplines and facilities – a microcosm of what East and West Jerusalem offer to the world,” said Elise Bernhardt, the founder and director of the Jerusalem International Fellows program.

Borges partnered with the Idbaa School of the Arts in the eastern Jerusalem neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah; Galhotra was hosted by Muslala, a community of artists and art space in Musrara; Lublina found herself working with the Bloomfield Science Museum; and Lavista was hosted by the c.a.t.a.m.o.n. dance company in western Jerusalem.

The idea for the Jerusalem residency grew out of a desire to expand on a successful, but limited, program called the American Academy in Jerusalem that Bernhardt initiated in 2010 when she was CEO of the New York-based Foundation for Jewish Culture. That three-week residency program brought American artists to one western Jerusalem venue, Mishkenot Sha’ananim, and Bernhardt was determined to widen the horizons of the program.

“I’ve never been in a place that’s so beautiful, so complex, so interesting,” Bernhardt told the crowd at the public launch of the program in March before she introduced the 2022 fellows. She emphasized that the goal of the program is to engage the visiting artists with as many facets of “Jerusalem’s cultural eco-system,” as possible.

During the 10 weeks of the program, the fellows delved into many sections of Jerusalem and the surrounding area accompanied by a variety of Arab, Druze, Bedouin and Jewish guides. In the final public Work in Progress session held at the Bloomfield Science Museum, Lavista recounted how the people she met during the residency were the most significant part of her experience. “The important thing is not the work but the relationships,” she emphasized and thanked all who hosted her for Shabbat dinners.

Lavista, 52, is a renowned dancer and choreographer, and the artistic director of the Professional School of Dance of Mazat-

lan. During a master class for 30 students at the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance that happened to take place on Holocaust Memorial Day Lavista said she felt that Mexico and Israel “are not so different as cultures. We’re both warm, emotional, and we have ancient roots.”

Lavista shared her artistic philosophy with the attentive students. “As dancers, we are creators,” she said. “Dance is a living creature that changes all the time. Dance is a place of freedom and connection. I wanted to come and see who you are so I can bring that back to my students.”

For Elad Schechter, founder of the c.a.t.a.m.o.n. Dance Group that hosted Lavista, the residency was “such a powerful experience to work with such a remarkable artist.” Schechter told JNS that while his group has worked with many international dancers, the opportunity to expose his audience and dancers to Lavista was “a gift.”

Of particular significance, Schechter added, was the fact that Lavista came with no preconceived notions and little knowledge of Jerusalem. “At the end, we found her external point



The 2022 Jerusalem International Fellows and their hosts from Jerusalem-based arts organizations (Photo by Judy Lash Balint)

of view so rich for us on both the cultural and artistic level.”

Schechter told JNS that thanks to the connection with Lavista, his group has been invited to appear at four festivals in Mexico in 2023. In turn, Lavita plans to take up an invitation from the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance to teach next spring. In September, the c.a.t.a.m.o.n. company will premiere the video she worked on during her residency.

The Jerusalem International Fellow program is supported by the Jerusalem Foundation, the Leichtag Foundation, the Russell Berrie Foundation and many private donors.



L-r: Claudia Lavista; Alexander Dahm, Mexican film director; Julia Mezhetskaya, Jerusalem dancer; Elad Schechter, c.a.t.a.m.o.n. Dance Group director (Photo by Judy Lash Balint)

## Quick Reference Guide to Planned Giving

Use this planned giving quick reference guide to help determine the best strategy for achieving your philanthropic and financial goals.

For more information or to discuss these planned giving options, please contact Daniel Chejfec, Executive Director, Jewish Federation of NEPA, 570-961-2300 (x1) or [daniel.chejfec@jewishnepa.org](mailto:daniel.chejfec@jewishnepa.org).

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➡ Check out the Federation’s new, updated website at [www.jewishnepa.org](http://www.jewishnepa.org) or find it on Facebook

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## Jewish online resources

### BY REPORTER STAFF

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

◆ Siegal Lifelong Learning will hold virtual programs this summer: “Israeli Graffiti Art: Secrets from Behind the Scenes” on Sunday, July 31, from 1-2:30 pm (<https://case.edu/lifelonglearning/lectures/israeli-graffiti-art-secrets-behind-scenes-remote>); and “Jews and Whiteness” on Wednesday, August 10, from 7-8:30 pm (<https://case.edu/lifelonglearning/lectures/jews-and-whiteness-remote>).

◆ The YIVO Institute for Jewish Research will hold a book talk about “Fear and Other Stories by Chana Blankshetyn, Translated by Anita Norich” on Wednesday, July 6, at 6 pm. Norich will discuss the book with professor of Yiddish and comparative literature Chana Kronfeld. For more information or to register, visit [www.yivo.org/Blankshetyn](http://www.yivo.org/Blankshetyn).

◆ The podcast “Holocaust Histories” features real-life stories of those who were in the Holocaust. According to the website, “Each episode features a boxer with a different nationality and unique experience. Some will live, some will die. They will all fight to survive.” For more information or to listen to the podcasts, visit [www.holocausthistories.com/](http://www.holocausthistories.com/).

◆ Secret Chord Concerts is a free on-demand video series featuring 15-25 minute performances from celebrated Jewish musicians representing a broad range of styles, heritages and histories. The concerts are recorded live in front of audiences in Philadelphia and Los Angeles. Season One episodes will air the first Wednesday of every month until October. Concerts will air live via Facebook on the pages of the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History, the Lowell Milken Center for Music of American Jewish Experience and the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music. The series will be available on-demand after the event on the above Facebook pages, the Weitzman’s website (<https://theweitzman.org/>) and on the Lowell Milken Center’s YouTube page ([www.youtube.com/c/UCLAMAJE/featured](http://www.youtube.com/c/UCLAMAJE/featured)). Scheduled concerts include July 6, Mostly Kosher; August 3, Neta Elkayam; September 7, Anthony Mordechai Tzvi Russell with the Baymele ensemble; and October 6 (a Thursday release date), Andy Statman.

◆ Maven will hold several virtual events: a tour of Krakow’s Galicia Jewish Museum’s exhibition “Traces of Memory: A Contemporary Look at the Jewish Past in Poland” on Wednesday, July 20, from 1-2 pm, with a fee of \$21 to attend (<https://maven.aju.edu/events-classes/program/tour-krakows-galicia-jewish-museum>); and “Tour Global Jewish Life: Kolkata” on Tuesday, August 9, from 10-11 pm, with a fee of \$21 to attend (<https://maven.aju.edu/events-classes/program/tour-global-jewish-life-kolkata>).

◆ The Women’s Institute of the Orthodox Union will hold the Alit Virtual Summer Beit Midrash Tuesdays and Thursdays, July 26 and 28, and August 2 and 4. Classes feature topics such as *halachah*, Tanach, Jewish history and *tikkun hamiddot*. The cost is \$18 for one course, \$36 for two courses and \$45 for three or more courses. For information about specific courses or to register, visit [www.ou.org/women/alit2022/](http://www.ou.org/women/alit2022/).

◆ The Museum at Eldridge Street will hold the virtual class “Make Yourself at Home! Home, Exile and Return in the Hebrew Bible” on Tuesdays, July 12, 19 and 26, and August 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, from 11 am-noon. The cost is \$11 per class. The class will look at the Bible through the themes of home, exile and return. The texts will be provided; the course does not require previous Bible study or the ability to read Hebrew. For more information or to register, visit [www.eldridgestreet.org/event/make-yourself-at-home-home-exile-and-return-in-the-hebrew-bible/?mc\\_cid=9d688d3883&mc\\_eid=b-1c53698a8#tickets](http://www.eldridgestreet.org/event/make-yourself-at-home-home-exile-and-return-in-the-hebrew-bible/?mc_cid=9d688d3883&mc_eid=b-1c53698a8#tickets).

◆ The Mussar Institute will hold the virtual class “Five Steps to a Better You: the Mussar Path” on Tuesdays, July 12-August 9, from 4-5:30 pm. The suggested donation is \$36, but no one will be turned away for inability to pay. The class will help people explore their spiritual and Jewish needs, and show the relevance of Mussar to address those needs. Teaching the class will be Alan Morinis, Helaine Sheias, Eric Gurvis and Avi Fertig. For more information or to register, visit <https://mussarinstitute.org/five-steps/>.

◆ Qesher will hold several virtual events: “Jews of Burma: The Tribe That Vanished” on Sunday, July 10, at 1:30 pm ([www.qesher.com/jews-of-burma/](http://www.qesher.com/jews-of-burma/)); “Colonial Roots and Vibrant Present: The Jewish Heritage of Brazil” on Sunday, July 17, at 1:30 pm ([www.qesher.com/jewish-heritage-of-brazil/](http://www.qesher.com/jewish-heritage-of-brazil/)); “Jewish Mexico: a Visual Journey” on Thursday, July 21, at 1:30 pm ([www.qesher.com/jewish-mexico-a-visual-journey/](http://www.qesher.com/jewish-mexico-a-visual-journey/)); “Jewish Tunisia: at a crossroads of civilizations” on Sunday, July 24, at 1:30 pm ([www.qesher.com/jewish-tunisia/](http://www.qesher.com/jewish-tunisia/)); and “A Tale of Three Kingdoms: The Jews of Andalusia, Morocco and Gibraltar” on Thursday, August 4, at 1:30 pm ([www.qesher.com/a-tale-of-three-kingdoms/](http://www.qesher.com/a-tale-of-three-kingdoms/)).

◆ Maven will hold several virtual book talks this summer: “Judaism as a Path for Connection: Love, Loss and Meaning” with Zibby Owens on “Bookends: A Memoir of Love, Loss, and Literature” on Tuesday, July 19, from 8-8:45 pm (<https://maven.aju.edu/events-classes/program/judaism-as-a-path-for-connection-love-loss-and-meaning>); “Searching for her Mother’s Lost Childhood” with Julie Metz on “Eva and Eve” on Tuesday, July 12, from 3-3:45 pm (<https://maven.aju.edu/events-classes/program/searching-for-her-mothers-lost-childhood-author-julie-metz-shares-her-new-book--eva-and-eve>); and “Who Will Find the Stolen Nazi Painting First?” with Lisa Barr on “Woman on Fire” on Wednesday, August 3, from 3-3:45 pm (<https://maven.aju.edu/events-classes/program/woman-on-fire-by-lisa-barr-who-will-find-the-stolen-nazi-painting-first-->).

◆ Aleph, Alliance for Jewish Renewal, will hold “An Evening of Soulful Spirit: ALEPH Virtual Cabaret” on Sunday, July 17, from 7-9 pm. For more information or to register, visit <https://aleph.org/civcrm/event/register/?reset=1&id=464>.

◆ The YIVO Institute for Jewish Research will hold its virtual 2022 Yiddish Civilization Lecture Series. Lectures will be in either English or Yiddish. All lectures will take place from 2-3 pm. There is no cost to attend. Lectures include “Kyiv and Kharkiv – Two Centers of Yiddish Culture, 1917-1941,” on Tuesday, July 5, from

See “Resources” on page 10

# Israel's burgeoning relationship with Egypt suggests brighter future for both countries

BY ISRAEL KASNETT

(JNS) – Israel and Egypt have agreed on a new plan to advance ties and now appear to be engaged in the process of migrating from a cold peace to lukewarm. Serious discussions are currently underway between Israel, Egypt and the European Commission over how to export Eastern Mediterranean gas to Europe. At the same time, Israel and Egypt are also working to improve economic ties, with plans to increase bilateral annual trade to \$700 million within three years. In addition, efforts are being made to expand the Nitzana Border Crossing where commercial trade between the two countries is handled.

According to Eran Lerman, vice president of the Jerusalem Institute for Strategy and Security, Israel is indeed heading towards better relations with Egypt. Lerman pointed to Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi's gesture when he went out of his way to personally greet Israeli Energy Minister Karine Elharrar at a conference in Cairo in February.

Two other solid reasons that Israel seems to be on the path to a warmer peace with Egypt, according to Lerman, is that Israel is working to export gas via Egypt in the midst of the Ukraine energy crunch, and Israel continues to assist Egypt in fighting ISIS.

In addition to these signals, for the first time in 40 years and as a further sign of warming

relations between the countries, the Jewish-Arab Firqat Alnoor orchestra traveled in early May to Egypt to perform on Israel's Independence Day.

It is clear though that the trajectory of warming relations between Israel and Egypt is occurring mostly in the economic realm. Egypt's economy has been affected by repercussions of the Russia-Ukraine war, poverty stands at about 30 percent, and according to the Heritage Foundation, the country remains dependent on aid from Saudi Arabia and international financial institutions.

While Egypt was the first Arab country to sign a peace deal with the Jewish state back in 1979, it was little more than a cold peace. But the Abraham Accords signed in 2020 with the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan and Morocco, coupled with talks taking place today between Israel and Saudi Arabia, have awakened Egypt's leaders to the possibility that they are being left behind in a dynamic and progressing Middle East.

Ofir Winter, a research fellow at the Institute for National Security Studies at Tel Aviv University, told JNS "the Israeli government plan to advance economic relations with Egypt, which was approved on May 29, could become an important milestone." Winter explained that there has been momentum over the last two years in a variety of areas.

The plan is reflected, among other develop-

ments, in the current negotiations on an agreement with the European Union to export Israeli gas to Europe via Egypt; recent discussions on the expansion of the Qualifying Industrial Zone; the opening of direct flights between Tel Aviv and Sharm el-Sheikh in April; and reciprocal visits by ministers and delegations of businessmen from both countries.

Winter said he believes that the rationale behind the plan "is to diversify relations between the countries by integrating relevant government ministries, which did not play a significant role in the past (economy and transportation, for example)."

"There is also a new focus on bilateral relations and on the potential of complementary benefits for both economies," he explained. "Egypt could export to Israel raw materials for industry and construction, vegetables and food products, while Israel could export to Egypt needed technologies in the fields of water security, irrigation, desert agriculture, renewable energies and more."

According to Winter, "evolving international and regional circumstances" as well as Egypt's "prioritization of economic considerations" have led to the economic rapprochement between both countries. "The trust between political and security levels also helps to identify new possible areas of cooperation," he added.

See "Egypt" on page 11

## The Reporter

Published by the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania



### 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,  
Daniel Chejfec, Executive Director  
Jewish Federation of NE Pennsylvania  
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# Herod's royal bathtubs were made in Israel

BY JOHN JEFFAY

(Israel21c via JNS) – King Herod the Great had his bathtubs made of alabaster quarried in Israel rather than Egypt, as has always been assumed, according to a research team at Bar-Ilan University. The ruthless first-century ruler brought Roman cultural norms – including bathing and architectural innovation – to Judea during his reign.

Two of his lavish, royal bathtubs were discovered over 40 years ago at the Kypros fortress and the palace of Herodium, south of Jerusalem. Experts always believed they must have been made of alabaster imported from Egypt, as the only alabaster available locally was softer and of a poorer quality – gypsum-alabaster rather than calcite-alabaster. But a source of calcite-alabaster has been discovered near modern-day Beit Shemesh, at the Te'omim cave, on the western slopes of the Jerusalem hills.

The Bar-Ilan team used four analytic methods to compare the Israeli alabaster with samples from Egypt. And their unequivocal conclusion, published in the Nature journal Scientific Reports, is that Herod the Great's alabaster bathtubs were quarried in Israel. "All four analytical methods applied in the study provided consistent results, clearly distinguishing the Israeli from the Egyptian calcite-alabaster for

the first time," said Bar-Ilan chemistry professor Amnon Albeck.

The team was surprised to find that locally produced alabaster was available, and that it met Herod's exacting standards. He was known as the greatest builder in the Holy Land – the driving force behind palaces, fortresses, amphitheaters, the city of Caesarea and the Second Temple in Jerusalem.

"The fact that both bathtubs were unequivocally quarried in Israel and not in Egypt, as we would have expected due to the high quality of the stone, was a particular surprise," said BIU archeologist professor Aren Maeir. "It means that Herod the Great used local produce, and that the calcite-alabaster industry in Judea in the second half of the first century [B.C.E.] was sufficiently developed and of high enough quality to serve the luxurious standards of Herod, one of the finest builders among the kings of that period."

Alabaster from Egypt was widely used to make vessels, carvings and ornaments at the time. If Herod's bathtubs were made of locally-sourced alabaster, it's possible other artifacts assumed to be Egyptian were actually made of alabaster from Israel, researchers believe.

The team compared Egyptian and Israeli mineral samples, applying techniques never before



Herod's royal calcite-alabaster bathtub, found in Kypros fortress. (Photo by Professor Amos Frumkin/Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

used in such circumstances. Traditional archaeological methods and petrographic analysis, the main method used to determine the source of Israeli calcite-alabaster, were not sufficiently rigorous, they said.

The absence of ancient calcite-alabaster quarries in the Southern Levant had always led to the assumption that all calcite-alabaster vessels found in the Levant originated from Egypt, while poorer quality vessels, made of gypsum-alabaster were local products.

Herod became known as "Great" for his ruthless leadership and his Massacre of Innocent – a deliberate attempt to kill the infant Jesus, according to Christian tradition.

*This article was first published by Israel21c.*

# Ancient Jerusalem wine found to be seasoned with vanilla

BY DIANA BLETTER

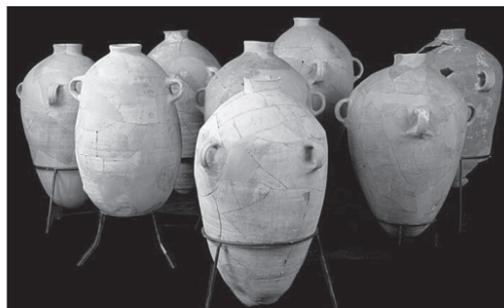
(Israel21c via JNS) – Researchers from the Israel Antiquities Authority and Tel Aviv University were surprised to discover remnants of vanilla in 2,600-year-old wine jars unearthed in the City of David National Park in Jerusalem.

The researchers were investigating two buildings destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 B.C.E. when they unearthed the eight jars. They date back to the reign of the biblical King Zedekiah, who ruled the kingdom of Judah when the Babylonians destroyed Jerusalem and exiled the Jews.

Using chemical tests, the researchers identified remnants of vanilla molecules preserved in the tiny spaces on the side of the pottery vessels. In a recent study published in PLOS ONE, the scientists write that vanilla was not known to be available in the Middle East before Columbus sailed to the Americas in 1492.

Tel Aviv University doctoral student Ayala Amir, who conducted the research in the laboratories at the Weizmann Institute and Bar-Ilan University, said that the "vanilla markers were an unusual find."

Scientists believe that the vanilla, considered a luxury, might have come from India via an international trade route that crossed the Negev during the seventh century B.C.E. On the handles of some of the jars was a seal impression in the shape of a rosette, indicating that the jar and its contents were part of the royal administration of the kingdom of Judah. The number of jars indicates the economic importance of wine, noted the scientists.



A collection of wine jars after the restoration process. (Photo by Dafna Gazit/Israel Antiquities Authority)

Ortal Chalaf and Joe Uziel, directors of the excavation on behalf of the Israel Antiquities Authority, said that the jars will help reveal what people ate and drank prior to Jerusalem's destruction by Babylonia.

Said the scientists: "The jars opened a window for us."

## Resources . . . . . Continued from page 8

2-3 pm, in Yiddish (yivo.org/YCLS2022-Estraikh); "Women on the Immigrant Yiddish Stage: Paths to Stardom" on Thursday, July 7, in English (yivo.org/YCLS2022-Warnke); "The Theater of Aaron Zeitlin (with an emphasis on the play 'Jacob Jacobson')" on Tuesday, July 12, in Yiddish (yivo.org/YCLS2022-Niborski); "Tea Arciszewska's Miryeml (1958) and Yiddish Plays by Women" on Thursday, July 14, in English (yivo.org/YCLS2022-Gollance); "Libes briv (18th C.): Isaac Wetzlar's Call for Reform of Jewish Society and Education" on Tuesday, July 19, in Yiddish (yivo.org/YCLS2022-Apt-

root); and "Sutzkever's Environmental Poetics" on Thursday, July 21, in English (yivo.org/YCLS2022-Cammy).

◆ The Museum of Jewish Heritage will hold the "Curator Talk" "The Holocaust: What Hate Can Do" on Thursday, July 7, from noon-1 pm, in person and on Zoom. The talk will focus on the museum's newest exhibition "The Holocaust: What Hate Can Do." It offers a look at Holocaust history told through personal stories, objects, photographs and film. For more information or to register, visit <https://898a.blackbaudhosting.com/898a/tickets?tab=2&txobjid=31ecaa06-228c-4f13-ab82-a6ba0e9e999e&>.

◆ The Braid will host the virtual program "Meet Tovah Feldshuh" on Sunday, July 10, at 2 pm. Feldshuh will talk about her personal and professional life with award-winning screenwriter and playwright Arlene Sarner. For more information or to register, visit [https://jewishwomenstheatre.secure.force.com/ticket/PatronTicket\\_PublicTicketApp#/events/a0S5G00000Qmy0hUAB](https://jewishwomenstheatre.secure.force.com/ticket/PatronTicket_PublicTicketApp#/events/a0S5G00000Qmy0hUAB).

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# NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

## El Al Airlines to end flights from Toronto to Tel Aviv

El Al will be suspending flights to and from Toronto in late October, according to a report in *The Canadian Jewish News*. The move will effectively end service by the Israeli airline from Canada to Tel Aviv as El Al stopped flying

## Egypt. . . . Continued from page 9

A major aspect of the ability of Arab nations to seek closer ties with Israel depends largely on public sentiment, though not always. In Egypt's case, Winter pointed out that according to opinion polls, the Egyptian public is not very supportive of normalization with Israel. "At the same time," he noted, "there is no significant protest against it."

According to Winter, although much is changing on the ground between Israel and Egypt, the full potential of economic relations between the two countries "is far from being exhausted." He suggested that this potential would require "greater freedom for private initiatives, the removal of bureaucratic barriers and the facilitation of movement between both countries."

Naturally, tourism between the two countries would be among the most obvious first elements to change. While many Israelis visit Sinai and some visit other areas in Egypt, there is potential for a vastly greater number of tourists visiting Cairo or the Valley of the Kings for example. And of course, with Egypt's population of more than 100 million, the potential for Egyptian tourism to Israel is huge.

For this to happen, Egypt's leaders will need to demonstrate the benefits of moving closer to Israel and begin changing public discourse about the Jewish state. Winter said Egypt must allow for greater "visibility" of its support for expanded ties with Israel in order to "give more legitimacy to new Egyptian businessmen to explore opportunities with their Israeli counterparts and enhance the appreciation for the fruits of peace within the Egyptian public opinion."

to Montreal years ago, according to the news report. A change.org petition urging El Al to reconsider has already garnered more than 3,300 signatures. The *CJN* article noted that before the coronavirus pandemic, 100,000 Canadians traveled to Israel. According to Gal Hana, the Israeli consul of tourism for Canada, the goal was to increase that by 10 percent next year. However, that figure will be "compromised" by El Al's decision, he told *CJN*. Canada is an important market for Israeli tourism, wrote *CJN*, noting that Canadians tend to visit more often, stay longer and spend more money than other tourists. If El Al goes ahead with its plans, Canadians who want to travel to Israel will have to use Air Canada or fly out of the United States.

## IsraAID to supply essential medical, relief items in wake of Afghanistan earthquake

IsraAID is launching a humanitarian response to the earthquake that struck eastern Afghanistan on June 22 and killed at least 1,000 people, injured more than 1,600 and damaged thousands of homes. Those numbers are expected to rise as search-and-rescue operations continue. It will work with local partners to assess the needs of the affected population and

distribute essential medical and relief supplies. The nongovernmental aid organization plans to provide essential items such as bandages, sterile syringes, gauze, suture kits, tourniquets, pain killers, antibiotics and basic medication. With large numbers of wounded and the health system already strained, there are growing concerns that a lack of basic shelter and sanitation could lead to a secondary health crisis. The magnitude 6.1 earthquake severely impacted Paktika and Khost provinces, and was felt in the capital city of Kabul. People in Pakistan and India reportedly also felt the shaking. In the most severely affected area – the Gayan District in Paktika Province – some 70 percent of the housing has been affected with up to 1,800 homes reportedly damaged or destroyed. "At IsraAID, we are committed to responding to humanitarian crises worldwide, wherever they occur, and building lasting relationships with affected communities," said IsraAID CEO Yotam Polizer. "Through the evacuation of vulnerable Afghan nationals last year and our ongoing work in Albania with Afghan refugees, we have gotten to know amazing Afghan people and communities. In the face of this devastating earthquake, we reaffirm our long-term commitment to helping them rebuild their lives."

# P A C E

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For more information contact Daniel Chejfec at [Daniel.Chejfec@jewishnepa.org](mailto:Daniel.Chejfec@jewishnepa.org) or call 570-961-2300, ext. 1.)

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