

# The Reporter

Published by the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania

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## The Federation Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting is always a time to take stock and to report to the community what we do at the Federation. With about 40 people, most of them in person, that was part of what we did.

Our President Eric Weinberg opened the meeting giving the community a report of the year and reaffirming our commitment to our Jewish community in Northeastern Pennsylvania, as well

as our fellow Jews in Israel and around the world. He highlighted how, through our partnership in the Jewish Federations of North America, we were able to respond through the year to natural and man-made disasters around the world. He also highlighted how we provided in the past year a record amount of dollars through our annual Campaign and grants to our local community partners:

partners in caring for the vulnerable, in Jewish education and in strengthening Jewish life.

Executive Director Daniel Chjfec reported on the incredible positive impact that Al Reich's legacy is having in our community, and on the upcoming report – in the fall – on our Jewish Population Study, as well as our participation in the Pilot Leadership program organized by JFNA for small (in size only) communities. He also expressed the pride of the Federation in our flagship program – the Teen Symposium on the Holocaust – and on the new Campaign we have launched to collect 6,000,000 pennies for Holocaust Education.

See "Meeting" on page 2



SAVE THE DATE

**MAJOR GIFTS DINNER**  
by invitation only  
**September 10, 2023**  
5:00 – 7:00 PM  
JCC Goodman Lounge  
601 Jefferson Avenue | Scranton

**PIZZA BIZA**

JEWISH FEDERATION OF NEPA WELCOMES DONORS OF \$1,200 OR MORE

**WHAT'S JEWISH ABOUT JEWISH GENEALOGY**

Featuring Jewish records researcher and leader in genealogy, Ellen Kowitt

**OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY**  
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7:30 PM  
601 Jefferson Avenue | Scranton  
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### CANDLE LIGHTING

August 4 .....	7:58 pm
August 11 .....	7:50 pm
August 18 .....	7:40 pm
August 25 .....	7:29 pm
September 1 .....	7:18 pm
September 8 .....	7:06 pm

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Reflections on the life and accomplishments of Rika Schaffer, JCC Early Learning Center director.

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#### JFHF news

The Jewish Fellowship of Hemlock Farms has a new rabbi, announces August events.

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#### Protecting the past

Israel plans investments to protect archeological sites in Judea and Samaria.

Story on page 7

# In honor and loving memory of Rika B. Schaffer, 1948-2023, JCC preschool teacher, Early Learning Center director and Jewish education consultant from 1988-2023

BY DAN CARDONICK, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER OF SCRANTON



Dan Cardonick

On July 1, a light was extinguished from our world. Our community, our JCC, lost a treasure.

Rika Schaffer had a love for teaching. Her passion was teaching young people. For 35 years, she taught and positively impacted generations of families at the JCC through preschool and early learning programs. Rika's education was ongoing. She never stopped. Once you were in her class or program, you were a student for life. Nothing was more thrilling for her than to be able to impart a Jewish education on young children that continued all the way through adulthood. It was that kind of dedication that touched so many lives. Rika never forgot a student. She was not just

a preschool teacher, she was a life-long advisor. She would share in your *simchas* and grieve with you during sadness. Rika gave help to others without being asked. She would be the first person to give you her shirt off her back.

At the JCC, Rika was a pioneer who inspired families. Teaching generations of children, she influenced every child's life that crossed her path. Often Rika was a key figure in the children's lives, and in their families, as well. As a preschool teacher, Rika taught and instilled positive Jewish values. Her class traditions were cherished and are remembered by parents and former students to this day. Weekly Shabbat celebrations, basketball with Coach Little, Family Fun Day, family trips to McDade Park, Purim parades, Sukkot treats with the Cader family and graduation ceremonies at Camp Daleville are just a few examples of Rika making day care and preschool more than just a babysitting service for children. Rika's passion for Jewish and Israeli experiential education was evident in everything she did. As a proud Israeli American, Rika brought Israel to her preschool classes innovatively, and ultimately served as a leader of several JCC trips to Israel for Jewish teens in the greater Scranton community.

Rika's leadership, stewardship and unending dedication and involvement as the Early Childhood Department director substantially grew and built the reputation of the JCC Early Childhood programs. Deploying values of *tikkun olam* (repairing the world), Rika went above and beyond to raise money, so that no family would be denied access to childcare or education due to an inability to pay. She worked with



Rika B. Schaffer

many staff and volunteers forming an annual committee that focused on fund-raising and improving the overall quality of the early learning experience at the JCC.

When Rika was ready to retire as department director and preschool teacher, her devotion to the JCC and the Jewish community of NEPA continued. She served as a Jewish education consultant for the JCC, enhancing Jewish and Israeli culture and education across all departments. Rika played key roles in coordinating JCC community events such as the Chanukah Street Fair, Yom Hashoah events, Tu B'Shevat events and many Israel celebrations. She also influenced Jewish learning at JCC Camp Daleville and always volunteered to be a hole watcher at the JCC's Annual Rosenstein Memorial Golf Tournament. She was part of the fabric of the JCC. It was truly her second home.

When my family and I moved here in 2010, Rika welcomed us like we were part of her family. And that is precisely what she was to wife, daughters and me. Having lost my mother shortly after we moved here, Rika was our girls' "substitute safta," becoming our girls' grandmother. There isn't a special moment of my daughters'

lives that doesn't include Rika. She attended every birthday party, concert, youth theater show and graduation. Jewish holidays were celebrated together: we lit the menorah on Hannukah and we shared a seder plate on Pesach. As a regular caregiver for the girls, Rika would pick them up from school and bring them to parks, pools, beaches, community events, go on hikes, walks, paint, hide and hunt for rocks, and they even had sleepovers at her house. Whenever there was a family trip, whether it be New York City for a Broadway show or to march in the pouring rain at the Celebrate Israel Parade, Rika was with us, and we did it as a family. No family celebration will ever be the same without her, and we will remember her at each one.

After her passing, messages began pouring in from all of the lives that Rika touched. More evidence of the impact Rika had on so many families. One particularly poignant message from one family is worth sharing: "Rika was a good friend of my mother's and was solely responsible for my kids learning Hebrew, what it meant to be Jewish and about Israel. She was my son's bar mitzvah teacher and read from Torah for the first time in her life at his bar mitzvah. She was truly a blessing and inspiration to us. My kids and many, many kids will never forget her. She truly made a difference in so many people's lives."

Rika's legacy exists not only in our Early Learning Center, but all around the JCC building. Some of it is seen and some of it is not. She had a love for plants and made sure that the ones at the JCC were well cared for. Every now and then she liked a good "*shvitz*," and would regularly

See "Rika" on page 4

**The Reporter**  
Published by the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania

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## Meeting . . . . . Continued from page 1

We also, of course, renovated our offices, and the full list of returning and new board members and officers can be found in the Annual Report.

And this year we went a step further in recognizing some individuals that, even as they are not board members, made a significant contribution to our work. We acknowledged Cantor Vladimir and Mila Aronzon for their dedication as Campaign Chairs for the past two years. This is a very difficult job – the community Campaign has been once described as "one Jew, asking

another, to help a third." The Campaign is the backbone of our work, as our sages said, "*Ein kemach, ein Torah*" – or in a more contemporary American version: "No money, no show." The Campaign is important because it provides the resources with which we help our community's activities. Thank you, Cantor and Mila!

We also acknowledged Tish Cardonick as our Volunteer of the Year. When we faced a difficult situation in our administration at the beginning of 2023, Tish stepped in to help us in a difficult

transition, giving freely of her time and expertise to make sure that we continue our job through that time. Thank you, Tish!

This article would be incomplete without thanking the staff and volunteers that make our work possible. Board and committee members, as well as our professionals, are the engine that pulls the train. If you wish to volunteer, we'll find a way for you to do so.

To close, let us remember an old Irish toast: "May the worst of your years to come, be better than the best you left behind."

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## The hot summer of 2023

We tend to associate summer with a relaxed time when little really happens. This year, however, might go into the book as a rebuttal. First of all, the thermometer reached record highs showing that the planet continues to warm. Even as some argue about the reasons behind the record temperatures, the fact is undeniable. When the thinning of the ozone layer was first “diagnosed” in 1976, the world rapidly rallied and came up with solutions that, over time, are allowing the ozone layer to recover and continue its role as a shield against the hard radiation of space. Why is it that taking a similar approach to climate change seems to be so difficult?

The temperature did not only rise in the thermometer, but also in society. Attacks against Jews, as well as the dehumanization of Israel, were just one part of the wider trend of racism rearing its ugly head. But then again, as Jews, we are used to being the canary in the mine. Antisemitic attacks, verbal as well as physical, reached new heights, including an infamous commencement address at CUNY’s school of Law attacking not only Israel but the very foundations of democracy and civil discourse. It was followed by copy-cat addresses in other

universities across the country.

On the other side of the pond, the situation in Israel is still heating up. Israeli society, never homogeneous, is starting to crack along the fissures. Mizrahi against Ashkenazi, right against left, *haredi* against secular, Jew against Arab. In a recent speech, Israel’s President Yitzhak Herzog pointed out that historically speaking the state of Israel is already beating the odds. Ever since the destruction of Jerusalem by the

both Hassidism and Zionism, and is now led by a Jewish president, is under a heavy cloud and it is difficult to see sunny days ahead.

I’m sorry to say that at the Federation, there is little or nothing we can do about the record-high temperatures. We can, however – and we do – confront antisemitism in any way we can. We strive to explain the complex realities of Israeli society to a public that prefers to paint reality in simplistic terms and in black and white. We try to create community spaces where we can, as Jews, set aside our differences and continue to work for a stronger and even brighter Jewish future in Northeastern Pennsylvania. We join with hundreds of communities across North America to work collectively for the rescue of those who wish to leave Ukraine and the care of those who choose to stay behind.

And everything we do is with you and thanks to you. Your contributions to the Annual Campaign are what gives us strength – each Jew counts and each dollar helps. It is not about how much you give, but the fact that you stand together with the rest of us in trying to build a better world. *Todah rabbah!*



### FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DANIEL CHEJFEC, PH.D.

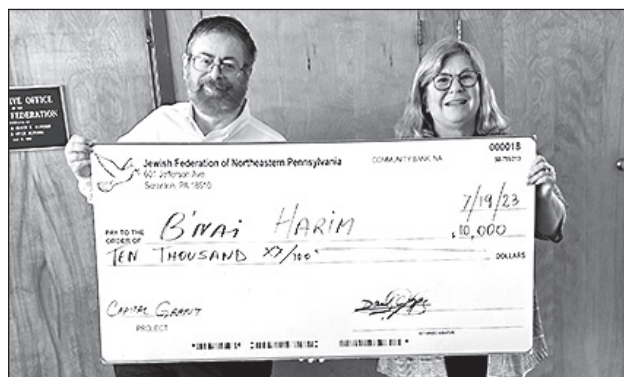
Babylonians, no fully independent Jewish polity in the land of Israel managed to last more than 70 years. And each and every time, the end came amid internal conflict. Paraphrasing Josephus Flavius, during the revolt against Rome, Jews spent more energies and time fighting each other than confronting the Romans. Can we learn from history?

For the people of Ukraine, including its Jewish community, the summer of 2023 has been one of war, destruction and displacement. The Russian offensive was the beginning, not the end, of their troubles. A land that figures so centrally in Jewish history as the land that gave birth to

## Grants Committee Report

Over the last month, the Grants Committee met to consider several requests for grants. The grants awarded this month, totaling \$32,500 were:

- ◆ Grant to Camp Israel, organized by Chabad of the Poconos, \$6,000.
  - ◆ Grant to the Jewish Food Festival, organized by Chabad of the Abingtons, \$5,000.
  - ◆ Capital Grant to Beth Shalom Academy to fix
- See “Grants” on page 5



### DEADLINES

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

DEADLINE	ISSUE
Monday, August 14.....	September
Friday, September 8.....	October
Monday, October 16.....	November
Friday, November 10.....	December

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# Jewish online resources

**BY REPORTER STAFF**

◆ Melton will offer the lecture “Israeli Judicial Reform” on Thursday, August 10, from 1-2 pm. The cost to attend is \$18. Avi Ben-Hur, an Israeli educator who specializes in land of Israel studies, will share a historical perspective and identify what factors contributed to the current situation. For more information or to register, visit <https://events.org/events/calendar-course?tid=792f3902-ff57-41a0-ae91-caee3b6907b1>.

◆ Uri L’Tzedek, Orthodox Social Justice, will hold the virtual program “Water Access: A Halakhic Argument” with Rabbi David Polsky on Wednesday, August 9, at noon. The lecture will analyze water issues from the perspective of the Talmud and other halachic sources. For more information or to register, visit [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_e1SnocDaSGu5\\_4W90IQiVQ#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_e1SnocDaSGu5_4W90IQiVQ#/registration).

◆ Melton will hold the virtual course “Soul Searching: Jewish Views on the Afterlife” on Mondays, August 7-28, from 1-2:30 pm. There is a sliding scale cost to attend. Rabbi Michele Faudem will

explore Jewish views on a variety of topics related to the afterlife. For more information or to register, visit <https://events.org/events/calendar-course?tid=69677a51-f961-49c9-b41a-e82d84910de8>.

◆ Roundtable by the 92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y will offer the virtual course “Reading the Bible with Noam Scheindlin” on Sundays, September 10, October 15, November 12 and December 3, from 2-5 pm. The cost to attend is \$480. The course offers “a secular approach to the sacred text, focusing on its sophisticated narrative style.” For more information or to register, visit <https://roundtable.org/class/course/reading-the-bible-with-noam-scheindlin>.

◆ Melton will offer the virtual lecture “Shalom Berlin! Germany’s Most Jewish City” on Wednesday, August 16, from 2-3:15 pm. The cost to attend is \$18. Dr. Rachel Seelig will explore literature, art and food to uncover Berlin’s Jewish heritage in contemporary times. For more information or to register, visit <https://events.org/events/calendar-course?tid=053be617-ef41-4978-bfdd-c63bad11bd2c>.

◆ Hadassah Magazine will hold the virtual talk “One Book, One

Hadassah: “Künstlers in Paradise” on Thursday, August 17, at 7 pm. Hadassah Magazine Executive Editor Lisa Hostein will interview best-selling author Cathleen Schine about her latest book, “Künstlers in Paradise.” For more information or to register, visit [www.hadassahmagazine.org/2023/06/15/one-book-one-hadassah-kunstlers-in-paradise/](http://www.hadassahmagazine.org/2023/06/15/one-book-one-hadassah-kunstlers-in-paradise/).

◆ Maven will hold several free virtual events in August: “Israel 201: Your Next-Level Guide to Life in the Holy Land” on Tuesday, August 8, from 3-3:45 pm (<https://maven.aju.edu/events-classes/program/israel-201-your-next-level-guide-to-life-in-the-holy-land>); “Saving Freud From Hitler’s Third Reich” on Tuesday, August 15, from 3-3:45 pm (<https://maven.aju.edu/events-classes/program/saving-freud-from-hitlers-third-reich>); “Torah Teachings for Jewish Grandparents of Interfaith Families” on Wednesday, August 23, from 3-3:45 pm (<https://maven.aju.edu/events-classes/program/torah-teachings-for-jewish-grandparents-of-interfaith-families>); and “Star Crossed: A True Romeo and Juliet Story in Hitler’s Paris”

on Thursday, August 24, from 3-3:45 pm (<https://maven.aju.edu/events-classes/program/star-crossed-a-true-romeo-and-juliet-story-in-hitlers-paris>).

◆ Melton will hold the virtual course “Abraham on Trial” on Thursdays, August 17-September 7, from 1-2:30 pm. There is a sliding scale cost to attend. Melton teacher Lynne Lieberman will speak about the impact the sacrifice of Isaac has had on western society throughout history to the present day. For more information or to register, visit <https://events.org/events/calendar-course?tid=b63e9820-b8fc-433b-a6d8-6bfdad8b4ada>.

◆ Roundtable by the 92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y will offer some virtual discussions of Jewish literary interest: “Adam Gopnik on the Marx Brothers” on Thursday, October 19, from 2:30-3:30 pm (<https://roundtable.org/class/live/adam-gopnik-on-the-marx-brothers>); and “A Literary Life of Activism and Advocacy: Esther Schor on Emma Lazarus” on Friday, November 17, from 2-3 pm (<https://roundtable.org/class/course/new-york-in-1874-esther-schor-on-emma-lazarus>).

See “Resources” on page 10

## Rika

keep me updated on the quality of our women’s whirlpool. She led Jewish culture programs for youth and educated older adults about the Jewish holidays. Wherever you see an Israeli flag or *aitz chaim*, a tree of life, you can be sure Rika had something to do with it.

From decorating for every Jewish holiday to leaving me snacks on my desk to make sure I ate, Rika took care of the JCC and the people in it body and *nefesh*, soul. Just ask any of the staff. When Rika could no longer come to the Center, she was still working and directing me. She ordered me to make sure Lag B’Omer and Shavuot decorations were put up, and that the preschool had activities to be implemented for these holidays. “Dan, make sure you go to my office and to the drawers on the right-hand side

and take out the stack of activity folders for Shavuot, and make sure they are distributed.”

I would like to quote something that I heard from a local rabbi, a dear friend of Rika’s and her husband Carl: “Rika’s exuberance toward Judaism shone forth before any holiday. Her enthusiasm and smile while she taught youngsters at her beloved JCC and how she beautifully decorated these hallways in the spirit of the holidays was palatable. Through her creativity and spirit, she ignited a yearning and connection within us to further embrace, appreciate and treasure our beautiful traditions!”

In the past few years, Rika became enamored with painting rocks, hiding them and searching for them. She became involved

with the Scranton Rocks group and was one of its biggest advocates. This group that performs a simple mitzvah focuses on spreading positive messages through art. Painting, hiding and searching for rocks became a hobby and enjoyment for so many of Rika’s friends, family and staff colleagues. If you haven’t partaken, I encourage you to do so by taking walks at Nay Aug Park. Eventually, you will stumble upon a rock garden where a tree was planted in Rika’s honor by a family for whom she was an inspiration. The JCC started our own rock garden in Rika’s memory right here at the JCC. Take a look out in front of our building and get inspired.

Her husband, Carl, was her world. She loved her daughter, her family and her friends ferociously and

with everything she had. Her sister Ettie’s devotion was remarkable and allowed Rika to leave this world with dignity. Ettie’s strength and love was palpable and unending. She is amazing.

Losing Rika deprives so many younger generations from learning from her *dugma isheet*, her personal example. With Rika gone, it is now all of our jobs to shine the light that Rika naturally brought into the world by remembering her and doing what she would do, especially around Israel and Jewish education. My family and I will do our part, the JCC will do its part, and I hope all of you will do your part. I don’t expect it will be easy. Rika was one of a kind.

To our dear Rika: *todah rabah*. We will all miss you. You will never be forgotten.

To get Federation updates via email, register on our website [www.jewishnepa.org](http://www.jewishnepa.org)



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# IFCJ marks 100 flights bringing Jewish Ukrainians to Israel

BY JNS STAFF

(JNS) – The International Fellowship of Christians and Jews has marked its 100<sup>th</sup> flight bringing Ukrainian Jewish refugees to Israel since Russia invaded the European nation in February 2022.

The IFCJ has brought 5,500 immigrants to Israel via Chisinau (formerly known as Kishinev), Moldova, ranging in age from 4 months old to 100 years old. While more than 1,000 of the immigrants are retirees, more than 400 are certified engineers, some 200 are economists and another 200 are teachers, along with four politicians.

“The arrival of these latest [32] immigrants [in mid-July] marks 500 days of a war to which there is no end in sight,” said Yael Eckstein, president of the IFCJ. “We are committed to return Jews home to Israel from any place in the world where they are in danger and will continue to do so whenever there is a need. The process of *aliyah* from Ukraine has changed drastically in the past year and with the help of our donors all around the world,

we will continue to respond to and support the changing needs on the ground at all times.”

When the war began, the IFCJ launched an emergency aid program for the Jewish community that included grants of nearly \$60 million to organizations that operate in the field, among them the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and Chabad, to ensure the distribution of food, medications, blankets, generators and more.

Karina Kovinina, 29, who immigrated with her husband, Alexander, and 7-year-old daughter Daria, said of the situation in Ukraine: “The attacks are very frightening, and everyone is worried all the time about their families and friends. Each time we hear a siren, we immediately make a round of calls to make sure everyone is OK. Three good friends of mine were killed in the battles. It is a loss that is hard to describe.”

Alexander was drafted at the beginning of the war and fought on the front lines until he was wounded.

“When my husband said he



*Aliyah and Integration Minister Ofir Sofer (center) and IFCJ President Yael Eckstein (right) welcomed Ukrainian olim at Ben-Gurion Airport on February 8, 2023. (Photo by Avishag Shaar-Yashuv/IFCJ)*

wanted to enlist, I did not sleep for nights. I cried without stopping. I left my phone on at night and was panicked every time I heard the phone ring,” explained Karina.

“My daughter is very afraid, and it is important for us to make her feel safe. We look forward to our new life in Israel and are excited that we found an apartment near the sea.”

## NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

### Israel, Vietnam sign free trade agreement

Economy Minister Nir Barkat and his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Hong Dien signed a free trade deal on July 25, Israel’s second with an East Asian country after the Republic of Korea in December 2022. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Vietnamese Deputy Premier Tran Luu Quang attended the ceremony in Jerusalem. The agreement is “expected to lead to the reduction of reciprocal customs duties on both imported and exported products, alongside an improvement and easing in trade in a range of additional areas,” according to an Israeli statement. It will also provide a “competitive advantage and ease activity for Israeli exporters in the developing and growing Vietnamese market, thereby strengthening Israeli exports and increasing growth in the economy.”

### Grants. . . . . Continued from page 3

the floor in common areas, \$11,500.  
 ♦ Capital Grant to B’nai Harim for the replacement of the HVAC system, \$10,000.

We are proud to support the needs of our community.

The Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania, through its Grants Committee, will provide financial support

with the annual proceeds of our Undesignated Endowment Fund to any and all Jewish organizations in the four-county area. This financial support is intended to support capital needs and special programs benefitting the whole Jewish community. No grants will be awarded to initiatives benefitting individuals.




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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

# A momentous evening and more at JFHF

BY JEAN SELTZER

Friday, June 23, was a momentous evening at the Jewish Fellowship. Shoshana Mitrani Knapp was installed as rabbi before a gathering of 125, including Daniel Chejfec, executive director of the Jewish Federation of NEPA; Church at Hemlock Farms Pastor Herbert Jacobsen; and Father John Ryan of St. John Neumann Catholic Church. The evening was magical as longtime, new and prospective members got acquainted and celebrated together.

The highlight of the evening was the installation of “Rav Shoshana” with inspiring music led by Cantor David Tilman; a small choir of congregants, Leslie Kirzner and Judy Pessah; and instrumentalists, Sandy Simon and Gal Gershovsky. President Jean Seltzer presented a *tallit* to Rav Shoshana, which featured a tree and sunset motif that exemplifies Rav Shoshana’s spiritual practice blending ritual with the spirituality of chant and nature. Members of the board held the *tallit* like a canopy over the rabbi as she was installed by her teacher, Rabbi Shefa Gold. Eighteen new members were then called to the *bima* for a blessing before the Ark.

The celebration continued with a delicious, festive dinner catered by Hills Homestead and Israeli dancing in the Social Hall. Many

thanks to Rachael Migler who did an outstanding job chairing the evening.

Good times at JFHF don’t end there. Join us on Sunday, August 6, at 10 am, for a light breakfast and presentation by the Jewish National Fund, Planting Seeds of inclusion in Israel. Cap off summer at our Cabaret on Sunday, August 27, 7-9 pm, featuring comedy, Sinatra and Rock’Roll.



## Biblical red heifer could bring million visitors to Samaria

BY JNS STAFF

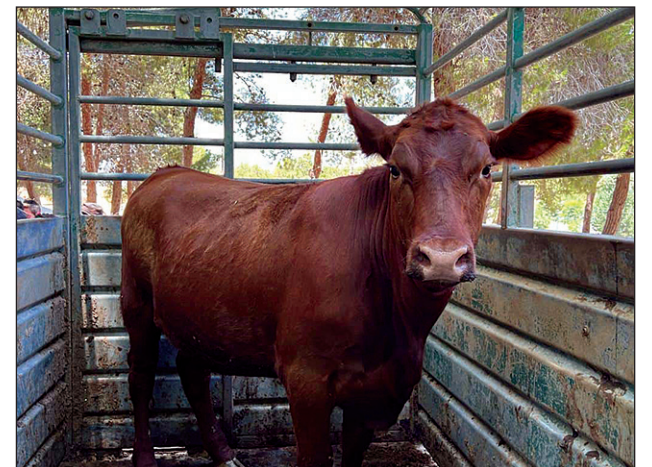
(JNS) – Hundreds of visitors flocked to Shiloh in Samaria’s Binyamin region on recently to welcome a biblically pure red heifer. The 22-month-old cow, which was brought to Israel

from the United States, found a new home at the Ancient Shiloh heritage site, where the biblical Tabernacle once stood.

In the coming month, two more heifers will be transported to the town, and a center will open there dedicated to researching the phenomenon. The heifers will be kept in a fenced-off area, and visitors will not be able to touch the animals.

The mysterious red heifer, or *parah adumah*, is first mentioned in the Book of Numbers, when God instructs Moses and Aaron to take “a perfectly red unblemished cow, upon which no yoke was laid.” The animal is subsequently slaughtered, and its ashes are used in a purification ritual.

The discovery of an entirely red such heifer is a rarity. Jewish sources state that only nine were slaughtered in the period from Moses to See “Heifer” on page 8



The red heifer in its new home at the Ancient Shiloh heritage site. (Photo courtesy Binyamin Regional Council)

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Daniel.Chejfec@jewishnepa.org or call 570-961-2300, ext. 1.)



# Israel to protect archaeological sites in Judea and Samaria

BY ETGAR LEFKOVITS

(JNS)—Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced July 17 that the government will safeguard and rehabilitate archaeological sites in the biblical heartland that have been vandalized by Palestinians. The infrastructure investment at the archaeological heritage sites follows decades of neglect, damage and disrepair due to lawlessness in an area marked by conflicting Israeli and Palestinian control.

“In every corner of Judea and Samaria, one need only to put spade to ground in order to uncover archaeological finds that attest to our deep roots in the land of Israel,” Netanyahu said at the start of the weekly cabinet meeting, which had been delayed by a day due to his weekend hospitalization. “These are our roots and this is our land...” This plan will encourage tourism, education and [the presentation of] information for these important sites that tell the story of our people in Judea and Samaria.”

The proposal approved on July 17 seeks to prioritize rehabilitation



Israelis visited Sebastia, the former capital of the Kingdom of Israel, in Samaria. (Photo by Hillel Maeir/Flash90)

and protection at four to seven major sites in the biblical heartland of special interest to tourists, although they have not been listed. The 120 million shekel (\$33 million) program will include enforcement and protection of many sites with the use of cameras and drones, as well as the development of infrastructure.

Earlier this year, the Israeli Cabinet approved an additional 32

million shekels, or nearly \$9 million, budget for the restoration and development of Sebastia/Shomron, a major archaeological site that served as the capital of the Kingdom of Israel nearly three millennia ago.

The new plan is part of the Likud’s coalition agreement signed with the Otzma Yehudit Party of National Security Minister Ita-

mar Ben-Gvir, who championed the idea. The coalition agreement promised 150 million shekels (\$41 million) to this end.

“Our history does not stop at the Green Line,” said Heritage Minister Amihai Eliyahu (Otzma Yehudit), referring to the 1949 Armistice Line. “This major investment of the government of Israel in the preservation, safeguarding and development of heritage sites in Judea and Samaria is great news for [the] settlement [movement] and Zionism.”

Twenty million shekels (\$5.5 million) will be allocated for upkeep and upgrading the Hasmonean winter palace complex of Hasmonean and Herodian buildings from the Second Temple period. Located on the outskirts of Jericho, the site is under full Israeli control, but the only existing access route goes through an area under Palestinian Authority control, requiring visitors to get a military escort. The initiative is to see experts design an alternative access route.

## Study: Kingdom of Judah expanded earlier than thought

BY JNS STAFF

(JNS) – According to a study by researchers at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the Kingdom of Judah expanded earlier than was previously believed by archaeologists, confirming biblical accounts. The article, by Institute of Archaeology professor Yosef Garfinkel, appeared recently in the peer-reviewed institute publication Jerusalem Journal of Archaeology.

In the study, Garfinkel examines five sites in particular – Khirbet Qeiyafa, Beth Shemesh, Tell en-Nasbeh, Khirbet ed-Dawwara and Lachish.

Garfinkel’s findings support the claim that the kingdom began expanding into the Shephelah region southwest of Jerusalem, a transi-

tional area of rolling hills between the coastal plain to the west and the Judean Mountains to the east, as early as the 10<sup>th</sup> century B.C.E. That contradicts previous beliefs that the expansion occurred in the late 9<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> century B.C.E., 200 to 300 years after the reign of King David.

Garfinkel explained, “The evidence was known before, it is not a matter of new discoveries. What was needed was someone to come along and observe the complete picture that these findings portray. I am glad that I was able to fulfill that role.”

The excavations that formed the basis of these conclusions were conducted by Saar Ganor from the Israel Antiquities Authority and See “Judah” on page 8

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[Dassy.ganz@jewishnepa.org](mailto:Dassy.ganz@jewishnepa.org)



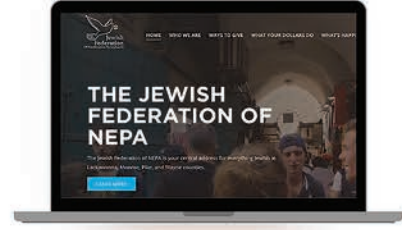
The Jewish Federation of NEPA is excited to offer local, community organizations the opportunity to post events to our Community Calendar. Published events will be included in our weekly Ma Nishma NEPA email.



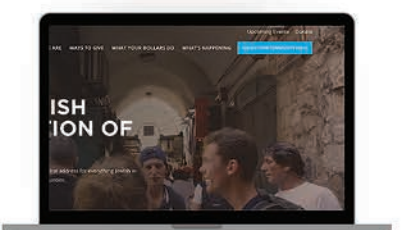
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# Discovered: Ruins of Munich synagogue destroyed by the Nazis

BY JNS STAFF

(JNS)—Construction workers have uncovered stones in the Isar River from a Jewish temple obliterated in Germany just before World War II. In June of 1938, Munich’s main synagogue was demolished following an order from Adolf Hitler. The rubble was then stored until 1956, when it, along with the remains of other destroyed buildings, was dumped into the river, where it has rested ever since.

Bernhard Purin, head of the Jewish Museum Munich, described seeing the remains of the

synagogue as “one of the most moving moments in 30 years of working in Jewish museums.” He noted that the discovery of the Ten Commandments was especially powerful.

“These stones are part of Munich’s Jewish history,” said Charlotte Knobloch, 90, a leader in Munich’s Jewish community who had worshipped in the synagogue in her youth. “I really didn’t expect fragments to survive, let alone that we would see them,” she added.

A Karstadt department store now stands in the synagogue’s original location.

## Judah . . . . . Continued from page 7

Professor Michael Hazel from Southern Adventist University in Tennessee.

Radiometric dating confirms that Khirbet Qeiyafa and Beth Shemesh date from the first quarter of the 10<sup>th</sup> century B.C.E., which is when it is believed that David ruled from the Judean capital of Jerusalem as the third king of the United Kingdom of Israel.

In the Bible, the southern Shephelah expansion occurred during the time of David’s grandson and Solomon’s son and successor Rehoboam, who according to biblical accounts was the first monarch of the Kingdom of Judah after the split of the United Kingdom of Israel.

All of the cities studied were fortified with a casemate city wall, located on the kingdom’s border and on a main road leading into the kingdom, indicating that the Kingdom of Judah was strong at the time, with the ability to build well-fortified cities at its borders protecting the main roads leading into the capital, Jerusalem.

“The discovery of a barrier wall in this area effectively defines the boundaries of the urban core of the Kingdom of David, putting an end to



A close-up of one of the casements in the city wall of Khirbet Qeiyafa. (Photo by Yossi Garfinkel)

the longstanding historical debate surrounding the existence of the kingdom and its borders,” said Garfinkel. “This finding provides tangible evidence on the ground, dated to the relevant period, supporting the biblical accounts of King Rehoboam’s expansion and fortification as described in the Book of Chronicles. It is a rare instance where we can present empirical historical and archaeological evidence aligning with biblical narratives from the 10<sup>th</sup> century B.C.”

## Heifer . . . . . Continued from page 6

the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 C.E. According to the 12<sup>th</sup>-century sage Maimonides, the Messiah will offer the 10<sup>th</sup> red heifer.

In keeping with biblical law, the heifer put on display in Shiloh is completely red, and has never borne a yoke.

“This is an exciting and exceptional event for the entire Jewish people,” said Ancient Shiloh CEO Coby Mamo. “We are already in touch with researchers and promoters around the world who are waiting to come here with large groups. We have returned to the site of the Tabernacle in Shiloh and are bringing back the Jewish past

for the future of our people.”

Binyamin Regional Council head Israel Ganz called the cow’s arrival a “historic moment.”

“The Ancient Shiloh site is continuing to grow and develop, and the Red Heifer Center will attract more visitors, up to one million a year, from Israel and around the world,” he added, calling it “good news for the Jewish world, for scientists and researchers, and for everyone.”

The red heifer arrived as part of the council’s Binyamin Temple Conference, which started on with a Temple-era dinner. The conference continued with lectures at Tel Shiloh, the center of Jewish life before the construction of the First Temple in Jerusalem. Among other topics, speakers discussed the offering of the Passover sacrifice in modern times, the traditional grape varieties of the region, and urban and logistic planning “in the vision of future Jerusalem.”

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# University of Haifa researchers win National Geographic grant to track sharks

BY JNS STAFF

(JNS) – University of Haifa researchers have been awarded a \$100,000 National Geographic Wayfinder Grant to track the movement of sharks in the eastern Mediterranean Sea, to try to understand why the species thrives along the basin despite the impact of climate change on the region. The study, which is being led by National Geographic Explorer Dr. Aviad Scheinin of the University of Haifa's Morris Kahn Marine Research Station and head of its Marine Apex Predator Laboratory, and Dr. Leigh Livne, a postdoctoral researcher at his lab, builds on established collaborations across the eastern Mediterranean Sea to combine research with education for long-term conservation outcomes.

The Wayfinder grant is crucial to pinpointing the movement and reproduction of sharks and why they return to specific hotspots year after year. Using a range of minimally invasive satellite tags (including a "Birth Alert Tag" to find parturition grounds of sharks), a network of fixed acoustic receivers, a suite of biological analyses, and the collection of environmental metadata, researchers hope to find where sharks are migrating and residing year-round in the eastern Mediterranean Sea.

The announcement of the National Geographic Society grant came in advance of the Discovery Channel's popular annual "Shark Week," which this year took place from July 23-30.

"Through National Geographic's influential



Dr. Aviad Scheinin, Dr. Leigh Livne and Turkish team members deployed a bottom longline at 60 meters' depth in Boncuk Bay, Turkey. (Photo by Akdeniz Koruma/Mediterranean Conservation Society)

platform, we can scale up our story to reach the hearts and minds of scientists, children, and decision-makers alike," Scheinin said. "This is a story about endangered species at the brink and our ability to discover the secrets about where they are most likely to survive under changing climatic conditions. It can also highlight humanity's ability to protect and sustain these populations for future generations."

Scheinin has tagged 103 sharks and he is leading the Mediterranean's first "Shark Tagging School" to deploy various state-of-the-art tags to monitor shark distribution. Most sharks have been tagged with acoustic transmitter tags, and his team has deployed a network of 10-15 passive acoustic receivers in areas of known

aggregations along the Israeli coastal shelf.

Since sharks know no political borders, the researchers' network of partners is seeking to provide science-based evidence to policymakers with the goal of enacting national-level protections for their shark aggregations similar to those that exist in Israel.

Israel is the only country where two shark species aggregate around the warm water effluent from coastal power stations (providing ideal access for study) that protects all elasmobranch species (sharks and rays) within its maritime borders. This is significant because the eastern Mediterranean Sea basin serves as a model for other marine regions as the effects of climate change become ever more apparent, giving researchers an opportunity to understand species' requirements, as habitats in the eastern Mediterranean Sea are in a "post-warming" state.

Livne is coordinating another aspect of the study. Her aspect of the research will focus on conservation physiology of sharks in the eastern Mediterranean, using a range of hormone and blood biochemical markers, as well as ultrasonography, to determine the fecundity and maternal condition of the sharks. (Conservation physiology studies the physiological responses of organisms to environmental changes as a result of human alterations that might cause or contribute to the decline of their population.)

A part of the Israeli shark tagging team since 2019, Livne will assist Scheinin with implementing the catch-and-release training and sampling on board, as well as analyzing the data for meaningful conclusions that will benefit both species' conservation. "I think the danger aspect of sharks is a bit sensational," Livne said. "In the '70s and '80s, when the movie 'Jaws' came out, the idea of sharks as predators dominated the conversation. Now, the public is learning more about what scientists have been saying for decade, and that is that sharks are very important to our ecosystem. They're a stabilizing force and are critical to maintaining ecological balance in marine life."

## Ancient ostrich eggs found in Israel shed light on early humans

BY JNS STAFF

(JNS) – The Israel Antiquities Authority recently uncovered a number of ostrich eggs dating back thousands of years during an excavation near an ancient fire pit in the Negev desert.



"We found a campsite, *Fragments of ostrich eggs discovered near an ancient campsite in Israel's Negev Desert.* (Photo by Emil Aladjem/Israel Antiquities Authority)

we found burnt stones, flint and stone tools as well as pottery sherds, but the truly special find is this collection of ostrich eggs," said IAA excavation director Lauren Davis.

"Although the nomads did not build permanent structures at this site, the finds allow us to feel their presence in the desert. These campsites were quickly covered over by the dunes and were re-exposed with the sand movement over hundreds and thousands of years. This fact explains the exceptional preservation of the eggs, allowing us a glimpse into the lives of the nomads who roamed the desert in ancient times," she added.

Ostriches were common in the region from early prehistoric periods until they became extinct in the wild during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Their eggs have been found in archaeological sites from

several periods, reflecting their importance as a raw material.

"We find ostrich eggs in archaeological sites in funerary contexts, and as luxury items and water canteens. Naturally, they were used as a source of food: one ostrich egg has the nutritional value of about 25 normal chicken eggs!" said IAA researcher Dr. Amir Gorzalczy.

"There is sometimes even evidence of decorating and incising on ostrich eggs, showing their use as decorative items. It is interesting that whilst ostrich eggs are not uncommon in excavations, the bones of the large bird are not found. This may indicate that in the ancient world, people avoided tackling the ostrich and were content with collecting their eggs," he added.

For her part, Davis noted that the proximity of the group of eggs to the fire pit indicated that they were collected and thus likely used as food. "After the excavation we will reconstruct the eggs, just like a puzzle. The whole egg may tell us the species, and exactly what they were used for. As far as I'm concerned, every eggshell is worth its weight in gold! I am really looking forward to the research in the labs. The best is yet ahead!" said Davis.



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# A match made in Masa

BY ETGAR LEFKOVITS

(JNS)—It started with two chairs. It was the first lecture of the Jewish educational program for the group of 20-and 30-something professionals from the former Soviet Union, getting them acquainted with Israel.

In the room in Bat Yam, south of Tel Aviv, Kirill Levin, 24, from Saint Petersburg, eyed Oleksandra (Sasha) Manuilovych, 26, from Kyiv, and made his strategic move: he brought her two yellow and blue chairs – the colors of the flag of Ukraine.

The two had both arrived in Israel on life-changing, roundabout journeys – one fleeing Russia and the other war-torn Ukraine – only to find themselves facing each other in the same classroom on the Masa Israel Journey program.

“When I traveled here I thought I wouldn’t speak with Russians or have any contact with them – unless maybe I will have to talk to them – and then on the first lecture he came and brought me the two chairs,” Manuilovych recalled.

“It’s funny in our first meeting I brought her the two chairs because I liked her,” Levin said.

“He was very loud,” Manuilovych recalled.



Young Russian-speaking professionals took a break in Tel Aviv during their educational program. (Photo courtesy of Masa Israel Journey)

“It’s true,” Levin said. She put on her headphones to try to create a barrier between them. “I didn’t like him at all,” she said.

Like most of the young professionals in the program, neither had been involved in Jewish life or had any connection to Israel. “I knew I had Jewish roots because of my last name but I never thought about visiting Israel,” Levin said. “I lived my life in Russia as a usual kid with sports and hobbies.”

Manuilovych recounted, “I knew about my Jewish roots from childhood, but I never knew about Judaism.”

Judaism and Israel were far from their thoughts; the Jewish holidays were not on their calendars. Starting at the age of 4, and for the next 14 years, Levin was active in Taekwondo, becoming a two-time champion of Russia, European champion and vice world champion, all in the juniors. He stopped competing at 18 due to a back injury and a lack of state funding for the sport. “I never thought about my belonging to the Jewish people and was far from Judaism,” Levin said.

Then a friend who had been to

Israel with Taglit Birthright told him about the program that provides free trips to Israel for young Diaspora Jews. Levin was ready to check it out, but the COVID-19 pandemic delayed his plans. He was determined to go at the first opportunity.

Manuilovych and a friend from Ukraine come to Israel on Taglit Birthright just before the pandemic broke out. “During those 10 days I fell in love with Israel completely,” she said.

The outbreak of the war in Ukraine in February 2022 set the cards in motion. Levin almost immediately left Russia for Turkey, from where he finally made it to Israel with the Taglit Birthright program. He went back home to surprise his mom for her birthday only to leave the country at once, without seeing her, as mobilization was announced. He exited Russia the cheapest way possible, via Uzbekistan, finding work in a transport company as a logistician during the FIFA World Cup in Qatar before coming to Israel with Masa this year.

Meanwhile, Manuilovych, who had planned to return to Israel with See “Masa” on page 11

## Resources . . . . . Continued from page 4

- ◆ Melton will hold the virtual lecture “Sacred Numbers” on Wednesday, August 23, from 8-9 pm. The class will focus on Gematria, the study of how Hebrew letters correspond to numbers, and the meaning it adds to the text. For more information or to register, visit <https://events.org/events/calendar-course?tid=155bdba7-fc47-4ece-a6c9-158a2caf21bd>.
- ◆ Uri L’Tzedek, Orthodox Social Justice, will hold the virtual talk “Zealotry: Too Much of a Good Thing?” with Rabbi Zach Truboff on Wednesday, September 6, at 2 pm. “This class will draw upon rabbinic texts, modern Jewish thought, and psychoanalysis to help us better understand zealotry’s profound dangers and why, nevertheless, it remains a necessary part of religious life.” For more information or to register, visit [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_p5nLpopfQeytayIk-Pi5Wzw#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_p5nLpopfQeytayIk-Pi5Wzw#/registration).
- ◆ The Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies is accepting registration for its online winter 2024 program “In the Image of God: Exploring What Makes Us Uniquely Human,” which will take place Sunday-Tuesday, January 14-16. There is a sliding scale cost for the program. The program will look at biblical, rabbinic and modern Jewish texts. For more information or to register, visit [www.pardes.org.il/pardes-learning-seminar/](http://www.pardes.org.il/pardes-learning-seminar/).
- ◆ Melton will hold the virtual course “Mean What You Pray: A Guide to High Holiday Prayers” on Tuesdays, August 29-September 12, from 8-9:30 pm. There is a sliding scale cost to attend. Rabbi Amy Wallk will examine some of the most important High Holiday prayers. For more information or to register, visit <https://events.org/events/calendarcourse?tid=9f9534d5-0820-4776-aea-2a9cce084bb6>.
- ◆ Maven will hold the virtual “Tour Global Jewish Life: Amsterdam”

## ROSH HASHANAH 5784 Greetings

**Deadline: August 17 (September issue)**  
 Once again this year, *The Reporter* is inviting its readers and local organizations to extend New Year’s greetings to the community by purchasing a New Year’s greeting ad, which will appear in our September issue.

You may choose from the designs, messages and sizes shown here - more are available. You may also choose your own message, as long as it fits into the space of the greeting you select. (Custom designs available upon request.) The price of the small greeting is \$20 (styles F and J), the medium one is \$38 (style H and I) and the largest one (not shown) is \$74.

To ensure that your greeting is published or for more information on additional styles, sizes & designs, contact Kathy Brown 1-800-779-7896, ext. 244; or e-mail [advertising@thereporter.org](mailto:advertising@thereporter.org). Checks can be made payable to *The Reporter* and sent to: *The Reporter*, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850.

**Style H - \$38**  
Actual Size: 3.22" x 1.975"

*May you be inscribed in the Book of Life for good health, peace and prosperity.*

Your Name(s)

**Style I - \$38**  
Actual Size: 3.22" x 1.975"

Shema Yisroel

Name(s)

**Style J - \$20**  
Actual Size: 1.52" x 1.975"

May this New Year be a time of peace & joy for you and all those you love.

Your Name(s)

**Style F - \$20**  
Actual Size: 1.52" x 1.975"

Have a sweet, happy & healthy New Year!

Your Name(s)

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**ROSH HASHANAH Greetings**  
**Deadline: August 17 (September issue)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Greeting Style \_\_\_\_\_ Message \_\_\_\_\_  
 How you would like it signed \_\_\_\_\_

We accept  Visa  Mastercard  American Express  Discover

Print Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_  
 Card Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address, City, State, Zip (Registered billing address of card) \_\_\_\_\_

Checks can be made payable to **The Reporter**, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

**Rabat “in the process” of establishing embassy in Israel**

Morocco is elevating its Tel Aviv mission to embassy status after Jerusalem recognized the North African country’s sovereignty in Western Sahara. A senior Moroccan government official told the Spanish EFE news agency that Rabat is “in the process” of establishing an official embassy in Israel following recognition of the disputed region, i24NEWS reported. Israel recognized Moroccan sovereignty over Western Sahara, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared in a letter to the nation’s King Mohammed VI on July

17. Jerusalem’s updated position will be “reflected in all relevant acts and documents of the Israeli government,” King Mohammed said. Netanyahu informed Morocco that his government is mulling the opening of a consulate in the Western Sahara capital of Dakhla as part of the move, according to Morocco. Media reports also indicated that the monarch will invite Netanyahu for an official visit and Moroccan ministers will start visiting Israel after the recognition. Israel’s recognition of Morocco’s sovereignty comes nearly three years after the countries partially renewed diplomatic relations as part of the U.S.-brokered Abraham Accords. Rabat agreed to join the normalization pact in return for the Trump administration recognizing Moroccan rule over the territory.

**Masa**

Masa, stayed in Kyiv with her physician mother. As the war dragged on into its second year and became less intense in Kyiv, she decided to go to Israel on the Masa program with her friend from Taglit, leaving her three dogs in the care of her mom.

Hearing Levin’s story, Manuilovych was affected by the fact that he had tried to escape the war as soon as it started and did not wait for the mobilization to begin. She was moved when he recounted how he traveled to see his mother, but could not stay because of the mobilization.

“Then I began to think maybe this guy is not pretentious and maybe there is something there,” she recounted.

The classmates quickly became close friends. Now inseparable, they will finish their Masa program in the fall and are planning their future

together, with Israel as their home base.

Do you see your future here together, the couple was asked as they held hands throughout their sit-down interview. “Yeah,” he said. Of course,” she responded.

Since its founding in 2004, Masa has provided long-term educational programs to about 200,000 young people from more than 60 countries, aimed at immersing Diaspora Jews into Israeli society. This year a record-breaking 2,500 Russian-speaking participants are in the program, up from 1,800 last year, a group spokesman said. The participants from the former Soviet Union make up about 20 percent of this year’s attendees and have a whopping post-program *aliyah* rate of 90 percent.

“We have about six months to connect them with the state of Israel,” said Reuven Greenberg, director

of Russian-speaking programs at Masa. “Once you make *aliyah* you have less time to deal with identity because you are dealing with survival.”

An add-on to the general months-long program dubbed “Masa ID,” and newly expanded for all FSU participants with the cooperation of the Harry Oscar Triguboff Institute, serves as a supplement for the newly arrived Russian-speaking Jewish participants who are less connected to Israel and to their Jewish identity.

“Even before the war in Ukraine, the vast majority of [Russian speaking] Masa programs graduates eventually made *aliyah*,” said Shalom Norman, CEO of the Triguboff Institute. “Our goal is to equip them with tools that are helpful in the absorption process and to acquaint them in a solid way with their Jewish roots and the multi-dimensional Jewish peoplehood.”

# GIFTING STOCK FORM

## Giftting stock to a charitable 501(c)(3) organization is a great way to make a donation.

By gifting stock in which you have a large capital gain, you not only receive the benefit of making a sizable donation, but you also save the capital gains tax.

Example:

Gift: \$2,000

(Stock: ABC @ \$20 per share - Gift: 100 shares)

If you were to sell “Stock ABC” that you originally purchased at \$10.00 a share, you would have a \$1,000 capital gain and you would be required to pay at least \$150.00 in federal taxes, etc.

But by gifting the stock, you save the entire \$150.00 and you’ve found a way to help the Federation accomplish its mission:

“... .. to rescue the imperiled, care for the vulnerable, support Israel and world Jewry and perpetuate Jewish life in Northeastern Pennsylvania.”

Your gift will not only assist our local and regional organizations and agencies, but you will have the satisfaction of helping those in need.



The Jewish  
Federation  
OF NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

You will be able to look back and say: “I’m just doing what my People have always done for each other.”

For further information on gifting stocks in payment of your pledge to our Annual UJA Campaign, please contact the Federation at 570-961-2300 (ext. 3) for details.

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

## NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

### Israel bolsters integration efforts for Ethiopians

The Israeli government on July 17 approved a plan to extend and update its plan to integrate citizens of Ethiopian descent. In approving the proposal, submitted by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the government aims to continue accelerating the integration of the immigrant community, numbering around 160,000, or almost two percent of the country’s population. A total budget of some \$66 million will be allocated for 2023-2024 to various government ministries and the Government Urban Renewal Authority to implement the plan, which is based on the insights and achievements of the 2017-23 government plan for the integration of Israelis of Ethiopian descent. The goals include continuing to integrate Ethiopian Israelis into military service, closing the income gap and increasing trust between the community and the government, among other aims. Netanyahu announced in May the creation of a ministerial-level committee to address the needs of the country’s Ethiopian community. The government’s efforts come amid continuing Ethiopian immigration to Israel, including 130 in June, adding to the 5,000 new immigrants from the African country over the last two and half years.

### In 2023, 78 groups, states, organizations adopt IHRA antisemitism definition

A new report from the Combat Antisemitism Movement reveals the extent to which the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance’s working definition of antisemitism continues its growing adoption across the globe. This year has seen two countries – Latvia and Croatia – embrace the definition, as well as 33 government bodies, seven education organizations, one private company and 35 other groups. A number of public organizations in Poland – 28 – have adopted the IHRA language. Among schools now on board are the University of Melbourne in Australia, the University of Split in Croatia, Boston University’s student government and the Catholic University of Santa María la Antigua in Panama. Now the number of countries that have adopted the IHRA definition has reached 41. With Arkansas and North Dakota joining, the

count of U.S. states is at 32. In addition, bodies in Italy, Canada, Latin America and Argentina have accepted the definition, as have cities such as Dallas; Cincinnati; Boca Raton, FL; and South Bend, IN.

### Israel building high-tech campus in Jerusalem

The EasTech high-tech campus was inaugurated on Saleh al-Din Street in eastern Jerusalem on July 17, part of the Israeli government’s effort to create jobs for Arab programmers and technology professionals. Meir Porush, the minister of Jerusalem affairs and Jewish heritage, and Jerusalem Mayor Moshe Lion inaugurated the complex, budgeted for a total investment of 10 million shekels (\$2.75 million). The plans include the establishment of the high-tech campus within which 200,000 square meters (about 2 million square feet) of offices and work spaces will be built with a total investment of about 200 million shekels (\$55 million). Both Israeli and international hi-tech companies will be based in the complex and will employ programmers from the east of the city. The place is offered to companies free of charge in order to encourage and develop the high-tech sector in the eastern part of the city and enable quality employment for young academics who have difficulty finding work in technology companies elsewhere. Among the companies that have already started operating there are Ness, Natural Intelligence, Techlinic and Quantum Vision. Twenty local programmers have already started working in the complex as employees of these companies.

### Survey: Philanthropic teens feel more passion for Judaism

Young people who take part in charity programs feel more connections to Judaism. That’s according to a new survey from Honeycomb, a Jewish youth philanthropy resource. “By creating space to blend these passions with Jewish learning and values, these philanthropy programs open up a new world to teens and develop them as leaders,” Danielle Segal, executive director of Honeycomb, stated. “They experience ways that Judaism adds meaning to their lives and want to engage in even deeper ways with the community.” The survey drew upon data from 3,500 teens associated with Honeycomb in the United States, Australia and Israel.

# 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 monthly 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.

We would be grateful if you would care enough to take the time to make a donation for our efforts in bringing *The Reporter* to your door.

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

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

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

..... \$36 .....\$54 ..... \$100 ..... other amt. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) (as you wish to appear on our list of “Friends”)

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