



# ☆ BAT KOL NEWS ☆

מאי ססמגור? אמר רבי אבא: בת קול.

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## E.U. official defends unlicensed building for West Bank Palestinians

Source: JTA-2/6/2015



(JTA) – A spokesman for the European Union defended its funding for unlicensed construction in the West Bank of hundreds of buildings for Palestinians. Shadi Othman, a communications officer at the Office of the European Union Representative in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, spoke to the Daily Mail Thursday about the union's funding the construction of 400 homes for Palestinians in the West Bank's Area C, which under the Oslo Accords remains under Israeli control until a negotiated final agreement. "This is part of the work done to build the future Palestinian state which will live side by side with Israel," Othman said. "Palestinians have a right to live there, build schools there, have economic development." The daily newspaper interviewed Othman about footage collected by the Israeli not-for-profit Regavim, which shows structures bearing plaques with the E.U. logo. Regavim says the structures were erected in recent months without license from Israeli authorities. According to the Daily Mail, the construction in 17 locations, including in the Jerusalem environs, cost tens of millions in E.U. public funds. The European Union has long complained to Israel about the thousands of homes built for Jewish settlers in Area C, rejecting Israeli claims that they are built in settlements likely to become part of Israel in a final deal. Michael Theurer, a German member of the European Parliament and its Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, told the Daily Mail he was "taking these allegations seriously and will thoroughly investigate them."

## Israeli FM Liberman praises Jordan for retaliation against ISIS

Source: JTA-2/4/2015

JERUSALEM (JTA) – Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Liberman praised Jordan for its retaliation against the Islamic State for burning a Jordanian military pilot to death. Jordan on Wednesday morning executed two jihadist prisoners on death row. Sajida al-Rishawi, a failed suicide bomber, and Ziad al-Karbouly, a senior al-Qaida officer, were hanged at dawn. "King Abdullah should be praised for his prompt and forceful action this morning against this act of terror, executing a female terrorist whose release ISIS demanded, as well as an al-Qaida operative, to be followed by the execution of other terrorists incarcerated in Jordan," Liberman said in a statement issued Wednesday. Liberman said that the Israeli people empathize with the pain of the Jordanian people and support Jordan's "harsh and decisive" response to the murder of captive fighter pilot Moaz al-Kasasbeh.

Kasasbeh was captured on Dec. 24 after his F-16 fighter plane crashed over northern Syria while participating in the U.S.-led coalition campaign against the Islamic State. A video released Tuesday showed Kasasbeh in an orange prisoner jumpsuit doused in gasoline inside a cage before a black-masked terrorist lights a trail of gas on the ground that leads to the cage. The images of Kasasbeh being burned alive are shown on the video. The release of the video came three days after ISIS claimed that it beheaded Japanese journalist Kenji Goto after last week killing Japanese aid worker Haruna Yukawa. "The leaders of the world must follow King Abdullah's example in combating terrorism in general, and ISIS in particular, because terrorism cannot be defeated by words but only by forceful action," Liberman said. "We cannot conduct negotiations for the release of prisoners or enter into any deals with terrorists. They must be destroyed and eradicated, as King Abdullah has done."

## Yitro

Exodus 18:1-20:23

Moses' father-in-law, Jethro, hears of the great miracles which G-d performed for the people of Israel, and comes from Midian to the Israelite camp, bringing with him Moses' wife and two sons. Jethro advises Moses to appoint a hierarchy of magistrates and judges to assist him in the task of governing and administering justice to the people. The children of Israel camp opposite Mount Sinai, where they are told that G-d has chosen them to be His "kingdom of priests" and "holy nation." The people respond by proclaiming, "All that G-d has spoken, we shall do." On the sixth day of the third month (Sivan), seven weeks after the Exodus, the entire nation of Israel assembles at the foot of Mount Sinai. G-d descends on the mountain amidst thunder, lightning, billows of smoke and the blast of the shofar, and summons Moses to ascend. G-d proclaims the Ten Commandments, commanding the people of Israel to believe in G-d, not to worship idols or take G-d's name in vain, to keep the Shabbat, honor their parents, not to murder, not to commit adultery, not to steal, and not to bear false witness or covet another's property. The people cry out to Moses that the revelation is too intense for them to bear, begging him to receive the Torah from G-d and convey it to them.



Jethro advises Moses

## Yitro Haftorah

Isaiah 6:1-13.

This week's haftorah discusses Isaiah's vision of the Heavenly Chariot (the merkavah), a revelation that was experienced by all the Israelites when G-d spoke the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai—an event recounted in this week's Torah reading. Isaiah perceives G-d sitting on a throne surrounded by angels. Isaiah vividly describes the angels and their behavior (in anthropomorphic terms). During the course of this vision, Isaiah volunteers to be G-d's emissary to transmit His message to the Israelites. He is immediately given a depressing prophecy regarding the exile the nation will suffer as punishment for their many sins—and the Land of Israel will be left empty and desolate, though there will be left a "trunk" of the Jewish people that eventually will regrow.

**Abrupt demise of major Jewish social service organization stuns community**



NEW YORK (JTA) – It was one of the largest Jewish nonprofit agencies in the country. And until December, when FEGS unexpectedly announced that it had lost \$19.4 million in the last fiscal year, it was considered by many to be a model social service agency. Then came last Friday’s announcement that FEGS was closing, leaving many in New York’s social service sector and Jewish community reeling. The 2,000-employee agency, which provided health and disability services, home care and job training, was founded in 1934 to “assist young Jewish men and women to identify, prepare for and find suitable jobs.” Over the years FEGS (an acronym for Federation Employment and Guidance Service) evolved to serve a primarily non-Jewish clientele, with an estimated 20,000 Jews among its 135,000 clients. It also became one of the nation’s largest social service agencies of any kind, according to Crain’s New York Business, with an annual operating budget of about \$250 million. The news about FEGS comes as another major Jewish agency and federation beneficiary serving poor New Yorkers is in danger of going out of business: The Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty has been on shaky ground since longtime CEO William Rapfogel was arrested in 2013 for embezzlement. While FEGS will wind down its operations over the coming months, the Met Council’s fate is less certain. David Frankel, the CEO who replaced Rapfogel after his arrest, announced after just one year on the job that he was leaving. Two weeks ago, the New York Daily News cited unnamed sources in a report saying that the agency planned to “effectively dismantle and try to hand off their contracts piecemeal to other groups.” Rapfogel, meanwhile, is serving a 3 1/2-year sentence for helping fleece more than \$9 million from the charity in a kickbacks scheme.

**Head of NYLAG resigns**

Source: JTA-2/6/2015



NEW YORK (JTA) – The head of a Jewish legal aid charity for low-income New Yorkers has stepped down amid a federal investigation into his alleged “accounting irregularities.” Yisroel Schulman, 51, has resigned as president and attorney-in-charge of NYLAG, the New York Law Journal reported Friday. Sources told the Law Journal that the case involves Schulman’s “handling of finances” but that “NYLAG’s financial stability was not at risk.” Schulman will be replaced by Beth Goldman, 52, who was appointed as New York City’s commissioner of finance in 2013 by Mayor Bill de Blasio. Goldman will start her new position at NYLAG on Feb. 17.

**Convicted Qaeda terrorist claims Saudi royals involved in 9/11 attacks**

Source: NY POST-2/4/2015



Convicted al Qaeda terrorist -Zacarias Moussaoui claims that Saudi royals were intimately involved in planning the Sept. 11 attacks against the United States, and he attended a meeting at the Saudi Embassy where he discussed a terror attack on Air Force One. Moussaoui, who is serving a life sentence in a maximum-security prison, gave the detailed account of alleged Saudi involvement in testimony in a lawsuit brought against the oil-rich nation by relatives of 9/11 victims, according to newly released court documents. The terror thug wrote a letter to the judge presiding over the case, asking to testify against the Saudi kingdom, and was finally interviewed in prison last October -after a negotiation. He said he discussed a plan with the Saudis to use a Stinger missile to assassinate the president aboard Air Force One. “I know that they had Stinger,” he said. “And he – we talk about the feasibility of – of shooting Air Force One.” Moussaoui admitted acting as a courier for Osama bin Laden and said he personally met with Saudi royals to discuss funding for jihad. “Sheikh Osama wanted to keep a record who give money,” he said in the testimony. “Who is to be listened to or who contributed to the jihad.” Moussaoui describes meeting in Saudi Arabia with King Salman and other royals to discuss plans for waging jihad prior to the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

**Funeral for Ellen Brody, killed in Metro-North crash, to be held at Chabad**

Source: JTA-2/5/2015

NEW YORK (JTA) – The funeral for Ellen Brody, the Jewish mother of three killed in Tuesday’s deadly Metro-North train crash, will take place at 10 a.m. Friday at Chabad of the Rivertowns in Dobbs Ferry, N.Y. The funeral time and place were announced by her husband, Alan Brody. The accident was the deadliest in Metro-North history. Brody, 49, and five rail passengers were killed when the train plowed into Brody’s Mercedes SUV at a railroad crossing in Valhalla. It’s not clear why Brody’s vehicle had stopped on the tracks. Brody, who lived in Scarsdale, was on her way back from her job at an Israeli-run jewelry store in Chappaqua. The co-director of the Chabad center, Rabbi Benjy Silverman, remembered Brody as mindful, considerate and warm. “They were very Jewishly proud, with strong connections to Israel,” Silverman said of the family. “It was an important part of her life and her family’s life.”

**Influence of the Lamedvavniks**

From: JEWISH STORIES by L. Grunfeld

Prologue:

36 Lamedvavniks figured in kabbalistic folk legend of the 16th-17th centuries and in hasidic lore from the end of the 18th century. At times of great peril, a lamedvovnik makes a dramatic appearance. Using hidden powers to effect the fate of the world, after which the Lamedvovnik returns mysteriously to obscurity.

**CHAPTER #4- Maybe a Dream**

Even in Bereishis, there is a sequence to the created days. HaShem didn’t rest after the second day! So what was this pendant trying to symbolize? Was there something that was not created -an “intentionally left blank” mystical space that would later be filled in by HaShem. Or was this the end of a previous creation to which negation followed? But there were other points that needed to be revealed on the encrusted pendant before he could grasp its significance. He pondered over the range of possible interpretations for hours. Frustrated by his lack of insight, he gazed at his apartment wall where a phrase in his framed Sheviti caught his attention:

“I have placed HaShem always before me.” Poring over the handwritten Sheviti parchment for hours before a slumberous daze started to numb his intellect, he decided to say the evening Shema and fell asleep.

Early Monday morning was traumatic. Yakov Arieh awoke from the middle of a lucid dream wherein the letters of his Sheviti were no longer on the parchment but had been put into a kind of levitated motion. In the center a Lamnatze'ach menorah, surrounded by p'sukim, Holy Names and letter combinations, some in the shape of a circle. He opened his eyes but instead of darkness there were rows of luminous yellow Hebrew letters swirling intertwined in front of him. He blinked and rubbed his eyes several times but the ribbon of letters were still in motion. Usually his dreamscapes would fade back into his subconscious when he awoke. But this time they were not going away. Was he experiencing some kind of eidetic imagery -wherein you see the very things that you think of, as though they were real? Sometime later the luminous visage started to fade and the dominating darkness of his room created a welcome sense of relief. Although he no longer saw the letters, he became afraid. Did he overstep the bounds of mystical studies, the punishment for which was madness?



(To be continued)

**AMIT needs your help! צדקה**



Founded in 1925, AMIT educates and cares for Israel’s youth, including the most vulnerable children in Israel. The AMIT schools promote religious tolerance, service to the state and the recognition that every child is blessed with unique talents and abilities.

Contact: Rabbi Avi Kasten



**BAT KOL NEWS**

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**NEXT WEEK’S SERVICES\***

Candle lighting	5:10 PM
FRIDAY Minha / Maariv	5:15 PM
SATURDAY morning	9:30 AM
SATURDAY Minha / Maariv	5:15 PM
Shabbat ends	6:16 PM
SUNDAY	8:10 AM
FAST OF ESTHER	MARCH 4
PURIM	MARCH 5

\*Subject to change per Rabbi’s announcements.