

Community ...

Mazel Tov!

BAR/BAT MITZVAHS, GRADUATIONS, AWARDS, PROMOTIONS, ENGAGEMENTS, WEDDINGS, BIRTHS ... E-mail information to: info@thejewishledger.com. Announcements are free.

Mazel tov to Zoe Ebner, daughter of **Fritz & Jackie Ebner**, on her Bat Mitzvah, which will be celebrated on Saturday morning, April 2, at Temple Sinai, 363 Penfield Rd.

Mazel tov to Joey Yudelson, whose SAR Robotics Team won 2nd place in the Racing Competition at the International Robotraffic Competition at the Technion in Haifa, Israel. Twenty-five teams from around the world competed from Israel and from places as far as the Ukraine, Russia, and Mexico. SAR's team was the only team from the United States and the only non-technical high school in the competition. The SAR team also took 4th place in the Presentation competition for their idea of a 'smart' intersection, and 7th place in the Careful Driving competition.

Joey is the son of **Larry & Eve Yudelson** and the grandson of **Julian & B.J. z'l Yudelson**.



Congratulations to Larry Marx, executive director of The Children's Agenda, as the 2016 Hannah G. Solomon Award recipient. He has made social change his life's work and is committed to the youngest and most vulnerable members of society. He fights for policy changes that will raise children out of poverty, give them the education and support services they need and deserve, and set them on course to be productive adults.



Acclaim to Carol Maskiell and Mary Fazio, RN, who are both Jewish Senior Life employees that were honored at the 2016 Rochester Business Health Care Achievement Awards. These awards recognize excellence, promote innovation and honor the efforts of people and organizations who have a significant impact on the quality of health care in the Rochester-Finger Lakes region.

Temple B'rith Kodesh recently welcomed new members **Mark Donahue & Patricia 'Rickie' Gordon**; **Sandra & Joseph Kushner**; and **Carolina, Jonathan, Charlotte and Harry Marcus**.

Temple Sinai recently welcomed new members **Mikhail, Eleonora, Rebecca and Idan Fridman**. ✪

Israel and China Enter Talks Over Establishing Free-Trade Zone

BY RAPHAEL AHREN

China and Israel agreed to enter negotiations over the establishment of a free-trade zone, Chinese Vice Premier Liu Yandong announced Tuesday in Jerusalem.

Liu is currently visiting Israel to co-host the second meeting of the China-Israel Joint Committee on Innovation Cooperation.

"China is Israel's third-biggest trading partner and I believe there is great potential," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said, standing next to Liu at the event's launch in the Foreign Ministry. "China agreeing to start negotiations over a free-trade agreement is a significant statement and we're ready to start immediately."

Jerusalem and Beijing are working together on a wide range of fields, though especially in the area of innovation, the prime minister said, predicting that in less than a decade the Sino-Israeli cooperation will "astound the world."

Liu said her visit to Israel was mainly focused on the future. "The Chinese economy has entered a new stage. We're under pressure but we are still the engine of the global economy."

Over the next five years, Beijing aims to strengthen transportation infrastructure, telecommunications and nuclear technology," she explained. "Our hope that more Israeli entrepreneurs will undertake projects in China."

Earlier on Tuesday, Liu met with President Reuven Rivlin. "China is playing a great role and you have a lot of influence in the Middle East, and while we may from time to time not agree on everything, we are pleased to strengthen the relationship and the understanding between us," Rivlin said.

The Chinese vice premier responded by saying her government has always attached "great importance" to the bilateral relationship, "and we appreciate your contribution to the friendship between our nations."

During her visit to Israel she intends to sign agreements on education, culture, science and technology, healthcare, and a range of other fields. "Israel is an important country in the Middle East with its own distinct features and China takes Israel very seriously," she said.

In the framework of Tuesday's innovation conference, Israel and China were set to sign a 10-year multiple entry visa agreement this week, making the Jewish state only the third country to have such an arrangement with Beijing.

"So far, China has 10-year multiple entry visa agreements only with the US and with Canada, so the agreement to be signed this week is a tremendous achievement for Israeli diplomacy," said Hagai Shagrir, the director of the Foreign Ministry's Northeast Asia department.

The deal, to be signed by Deputy Foreign Minister Tzipi Hotovely and her Chinese counterpart, will allow Israeli businesspeople and tourists to enter China multiple times with the same visa, which will be valid for a decade. The same will apply for Chinese citizens visiting Israel, an arrangement which Jerusalem hopes will help increase tourism.

"This will dramatically change the travel habits of of both peoples," Shagrir said. Currently, about 30,000 Chinese citizens visit Israel each year, a number Israel hopes to raise to 100,000 within less than three years, Shagrir said. ✪

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