

THE REPORTER

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BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK

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Community Guide 2026



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(Note: Unless otherwise specified, all area codes are 607.)

Seen around the community...



Hillel Academy students, staff and chaperones visited Schaefer’s Gardens for a Tu B’Shevat seder.



Neil Auerbach, Sima Auerbach, Suzanne Holwitt, Shelley Hubal, Susan Hubal and Gerry Hubal at the Beth David Hanukkah party. (Photo by Cathy Velenchik)



More than 35 people attended the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton’s pre-Campaign dessert reception on August 17. Tamir Goodman (standing) spoke about his dedication to Judaism and basketball, explaining the connection he sees between the two.

Disclaimer

All information contained in *The Reporter’s* Community Guide was provided by the individual synagogues and organizations. *The Reporter* accepts no responsibility for the information provided by contributors.

About the cover

This year’s Community Guide cover was created by Julie Weber, production associate of *The Reporter*.



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Hillel Academy

Mission Statement: Hillel Academy of Broome County is a pluralistic Jewish community day school educating students in a nurturing environment, from pre-kindergarten to sixth grade. Hillel Academy develops lifelong learners, critical thinkers and caring individuals who are passionate about Judaism, and will make lasting contributions to the Jewish community, American society and the world-at-large.

The value of a day school education extends far beyond learning history, customs and ceremonies, and prayers. Hillel Academy helps young students form strong Jewish identities.

As a true community school, Hillel Academy brings together children from all corners of Binghamton's Jewish community – Conservative, Orthodox, Reform and unaffiliated – in a warm, nurturing environment. Hillel Academy fosters a community spirit based on mutual acceptance, and recognizes, respects and values

diversity. Hillel Academy has served Binghamton for more than 50 years, providing the best in secular and Judaic education.

Hillel Academy's faculty teaches to each student's learning style. The school offers mixed classrooms and students thrive in a dynamic learning environment. As a small private school, Hillel Academy customizes each student's learning experiences, allowing for maximum growth and development. Hillel Academy trains its students to be lifetime learners, instead of test-takers. Hillel Academy offers foreign language instruction in Hebrew, art, music, science, social studies and Jewish learning, all beginning in pre-kindergarten.

For more information, contact the school at 607-304-4544 or e-mail frontoffice@hillelacademyofbc.org; Rabbi Moshe Shmaryahu, director of Judaic studies, at rabbishmaryahu@gmail.com; or Sarah MacDougal, director of secular education, at sthomass1320@hillelacademyofbc.org.



A Hillel Academy student used the lulav and etrog during Sukkot. (Names held on request)



Students at Hillel Academy of Broome County celebrated Rosh Hashanah with a meal. (Names held on request)



Students had the opportunity to place jade plants in planters at Schaefer's Gardens as part of their Tu B'Shevat celebration.



Hillel Academy students enjoyed activity stations run by Binghamton University JLIC students.



A Hillel Academy student used the lulav and etrog during Sukkot. (Names held on request)



The students at Hillel Academy learned about how bees made honey. (Names held on request)



Hillel Academy students participated in a Tu B'Shevat seder hosted at Schaefer's Gardens.



Students from Hillel Academy showed the Rosh Hashanah cards they made. (Names held on request)

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Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton

Run by a volunteer board and established locally in 1937, the mission of the Federation is to serve and further the welfare of the Jewish community. The Federation is an advocate for local Jewish organizations and is a convener of resources. It serves as a unifying umbrella for the Binghamton Jewish community.

Since its origination, the Jewish Federation has focused on a unified fund-raising Campaign, the proceeds of which provide grants to local Jewish organizations through an allocation process. The Federation also sponsors educational, cultural and faith-based activities throughout the year.

Through its Committee for Safety and Security, Federation works to address security concerns for the community.

Additional Federation grants to support Jewish infrastructure and culture come from the Federation endowment fund.

The Federation is a proud sponsor of the PJ Library program, which sends Jewish “Bedtime Stories and Songs for Families” free of charge to the homes of children in the community. PJ Library can be enjoyed by all families regardless of their affiliation or observance. It is a great

way for parents to connect their children with their Jewish roots.

Jewish Family Service, an agency of the Federation, provides essential human services and limited financial support to families and individuals facing challenges to their well-being.

The Jewish Federation publishes *The Reporter*, the nationally recognized monthly newspaper of the Jewish community. News of international, national and local importance is found in its pages, as well as announcements and information about upcoming and recent community events.

The Federation works to promote good relations with other ethnic and religious groups, and actively combats antisemitism and discrimination. It is also a source for Jewish culture in Broome County.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton extends its gratitude to all its contributing members and volunteers whose support helps to keep the Binghamton Jewish community engaged. For additional information, to contribute, or to volunteer for one of the Federation’s committees, visit www.jfgeb.org or call 607-724-2332.



L-r: Campaign Chairwoman Marilyn Bell; speaker Tamir Goodman; Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton; and Suzanne Holwitt, Federation president, at the pre-Campaign dessert reception on August 17, 2025.



The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton held a security meeting on June 25, 2025, for local Jewish organizations. Mark Henderson, regional security advisor, Rochester, for the Secure Community Network, led the discussion.



The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton held a 10/7 commemorative service and speaker on October 5 at Temple Israel. Dr. Yehezkel Caine, president of Herzog Medical Center in Jerusalem, was the speaker. The event was co-sponsored by Beth David Synagogue, Temple Concord and Temple Israel.



The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton held a memorial service at the Holocaust Memorial Monument in the Temple Israel Cemetery on September 28. The service was led by area rabbis. Around 40 people attended the service.



The PJ Library, sponsored locally by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, held a “Sheep and Shmears” event at the Miller family farm on May 31, with nearly 50 people attending. Above are some of the families who enjoyed the day.



The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton co-hosted a Hanukkah party at the Discovery Center on December 14, which 102 community members attended.

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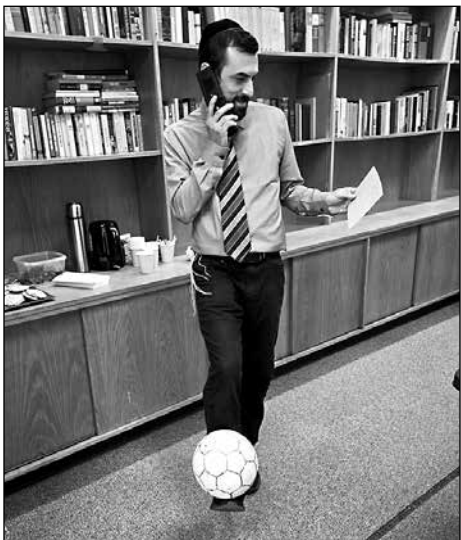
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Benny Kellman made calls to support the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton's Campaign on Super Sunday, September 7.



Maren Nasar solicited pledges for the Jewish Federation's Campaign on Super Sunday, September 7.

Jewish Family Service

Jewish Family Service delivers essential human services to individuals and families facing challenges to their well-being. By providing information, referrals and advocacy, JFS assists people in navigating the complex safety net systems in the Greater Binghamton area, all in the hope of easing hardships, sustaining healthy relationships and supporting people in times of need. Financial assistance is provided within specific guidelines as funding permits. It is through thoughtful listening and compassionate caring that JFS can help people move from instability to a more secure and positive place.

As a small agency, JFS is unable to provide all necessary services alone to help recipients maintain their highest quality of life however, JFS collaborates with the human service network in Binghamton to meet the needs of the community.

Through the generosity of the Bing-

hamton Jewish community, JFS collects and distributes money on Jewish holidays throughout the year. This program is called “We Remember You.” It serves fiscally vulnerable Jewish individuals in the community. JFS also provides support in the form of social and educational programming.

Periodic articles in *The Reporter* keep people informed about topics relevant to JFS activities and other issues in society. Volunteers are much appreciated, and assist the director in implementing and completing various programs and tasks. Monetary donations from community members allow JFS to help many people in the community. If you are interested in joining the JFS Board or assisting in any other way, contact JFS at 607-724-2332. Remember, JFS is there for you in times of need. Please feel free to contact the office with any questions or concerns.

Rita Bleier, Chairperson of JFS
Merryl Wallach, Director of JFS



Jewish Family Service and the Friendship Club held a seminar on trusts and estates on September 17. Seventeen people attended the seminar.

Binghamton Jewish Film Fest



Dr. Irle Goldman and Steve Lisman at the March 15 Film Fest showing of “Soul of a Nation.”

The Binghamton Jewish Film Fest, under the auspices of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, provides a diverse range of film events that add to the cultural life of the Greater Binghamton Jewish community.

The film festival began in 2012. A committee of four community members screen and chose the films each year. Each film is followed by a moderated discussion. Films are held both virtually and in-person, and cover a wide range of genres – comedy to drama to documentary to short film – and a wide range of topics. Screenings are open

to any member of the community. The Ithaca Jewish community participates in the festival’s virtual screenings.

The Jewish Federation looks forward to continuing this community cultural event with more films in 2026-27 season.



The Binghamton Jewish Film Fest held an in-person showing of the documentary “Soul of a Nation” on March 15 at the Jewish Community Center, which co-sponsored the event. Dr. Irle Goldman, who has been a clinical psychologist for more than 50 years, was the moderator.



Nearly 40 people attended the March 15 showing of the “Soul of a Nation” documentary and the discussion afterward.

Seen around the community...



Part of the crowd at the annual Pauline and Philip Piaker Memorial Lecture, delivered by Dr. Joel Finkelstein, on September 4. (Photo by Felicity Johnson)



Members and friends of Beth David Synagogue enjoyed a Hanukkah party on December 17. (Photo by Stacey Silber)



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Contact Information

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College of Jewish Studies

The College of Jewish Studies was founded in 1986 as a coalition of the Judaic Studies Department at Binghamton University and several local Jewish sponsoring institutions, including the Jewish Community Center, the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, Beth David Synagogue, Temple Concord and Temple Israel. Its mission is to provide opportunities for quality adult Jewish education in Broome County. The CJS Committee strives to bring scholars locally and from

across the U.S. for enlightening lectures; an effort is made to combine broad appeal with intellectual and stimulating content and challenge. The programs are open to the community.

Programming for the College of Jewish Studies is made possible through program admission fees, contributions from sponsoring institutions and additional financial support from a grant from The Community Foundation for South Central New York – David and Virginia Eisen-

berg Donor Advised Fund, the Jacob and Rose Olum Foundation, the B’nai B’rith Lectureship Fund, the Victor and Esther Rozen Foundation, an endowment fund from the former Temple Beth El of Endicott, a grant from the JoyVel Charitable Fund, and the generous donations of individual sponsors.

The College of Jewish Studies committee is comprised of representatives from the local Jewish community and faculty from Binghamton University.

The Reporter Group

The Reporter, a monthly newspaper published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, provides a voice for an inclusive Jewish community. *The Reporter* turns 55 this year and is still going strong, holding true to its roots as a community newspaper. Members of the community are encouraged to share their news, *simcha* or sad, via *The Reporter*.

The paper also publishes national and international news of Jewish interest, features and opinion pieces. *The Reporter*, an essential source of information and communication for the local Jewish community, has received recognition and professional awards for distinguished journalism.

The dedicated and exceptional staff of The Reporter Group not only produces *The Reporter*, the monthly paper for the local community, but also produces a monthly newspaper for the Scranton, PA, Jewish community. Both newspapers are tailored to meet each community’s needs. The news staff is assisted by a group of volunteer proofreaders.

The paper focuses on coverage of local events and activities of interest to the community, including synagogue, school, JCC and community events. Also featured are *Reporter* columnists Rabbi Rachel Esserman and Bill Simons, as well as other guest columnists writing on a variety of topics. In addition, the paper publishes blog posts

by Jeremy Staiman (with the permission of the *Times of Israel*). *The Reporter’s* website (www.thereporter.org) and Facebook page complement the print edition. Information is also featured in the Federation’s and *The Reporter’s* e-mail blasts.

The Reporter is provided free of charge to individuals and families who are members of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, and it is available to everyone else for a nominal subscription fee. Voluntary subscriptions from Federation members are appreciated. Anyone who has questions, comments or suggestions, or would like to submit an article to the paper, should contact the office at 607-724-2360 or treporter@aol.com.

Seen around the community...



Rabbi Rachel Esserman discussed three books at Temple Concord Sisterhood’s annual book review on February 8. (Photo by Rachel Coker)



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Co-host Elias Miller held a lamb for children to pet at the PJ Library’s “Sheep and Shmears” event on May 31.



Students from Hillel Academy gathered in a portable sukkah. (Names held on request)



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Standing, l-r: Jonathan Weissberg and Eileen Miller performed at Temple Israel’s “Sukkot with the Rabbis” event.



Temple Concord Hebrew School students made traditional round challahs for Rosh Hashanah on September 20 as part of their studies for the holiday.



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Beth David Sisterhood treated its paid-up members to a pasta dinner, which was followed by games of Bingo. Susan Hubal, Eileen Miller, Chaim Joy, Josh Witter, Gina Santiago and Eliyana Adler helped themselves to the pasta dinner, which was prepared by Stacey and Judy Silber. (Photo by Nancy Basmann)

Other Organizations

William H. Seigel Lodge of B’nai B’rith

The William H. Seigel Lodge of B’nai B’rith serves Bradford County (Pennsylvania) and southern Tioga County (New York). The Lodge is affiliated with the

Penn-York Jewish Community, and it draws members mostly from the Southern Tier of New York and the Northern Tier of Pennsylvania. As part of B’nai B’rith

International, the oldest and largest Jewish service organization in the world, the Lodge supports a variety of community activities.

Ithaca Area United Jewish Community

The Ithaca Area United Jewish Community functions as an umbrella organization for the Ithaca area and endeavors to welcome all Jewish members of the community. IAUJC raises funds to support a variety of Jewish organizations in Tompkins County: the Grinspoon Hillel at Cornell University, Hillel at Ithaca College, Temple Beth-El Religious School, Congregation Tikkun v’Or Jewish Learning Experience, Teen Programming, Young Jewish Adults in Ithaca, Roitman Chabad at Cornell University and Chabad of Ithaca College.

IAUJC also offers awards to children to promote Jewish summer camp attendance. In this 11th year of the camper scholarship program, made possible through the generosity of the late Robert and Marcia Ascher, grants are awarded to assist families in sending their children to Jewish summer camp and teen experiences. Awards are made by the camps, who then ask for community support. Awards are made on a first come first served basis. For summer 2026, IAUJC awarded \$16,250, enabling nine children to attend summer camp.

Globally, IAUJC allocates funding to programs that support Jewish communities in Israel and around the world. Since 2008, IAUJC has sent designated funds to support the Hesed Eliyahu Welcome Center for elderly Jews in Tbilisi, Georgia, run by the American Joint Distribution Committee. In Israel, in addition to general donations, IAUJC supports Youth Futures in Dimona, providing mentors and social service support for children and their families, fostering academic achievement and personal growth.

General cultural and educational programs are also developed for the local Jewish community. The IAUJC’s 12th annual community Holocaust commemoration, coordinated by Sherrie Negrea, is supported by the Geldwert family in memory of Jeannette and Jacob Geldwert. The program was hosted at Temple Beth-El on April 14. Both Jewish and non-Jewish community members, including teachers and school children, attended, and one teacher rented a bus to bring students to the program.

This year, the Holocaust commemoration featured Jud Nuborn, who co-authored “Sophie Scholl and The White Rose,” an account of the history of the White Rose group, formed in part by German Christian students and some former Hitler Youth fanatics who became part of the German anti-Nazi resistance. These University of Munich students protested the Nazi regime by distributing anti-war leaflets throughout Germany. Sophie Scholl and her brother Hans were arrested after placing the leaflets in a university atrium, and, along with fellow student Christoph Probst, were executed by guillotine on February 22, 1943.

The PJ Library program continues to serve the Jewish youth of Tompkins County, one of IAUJC’s primary objectives. This program, adopted by IAUJC in 2008, is administered by Marjorie Hoffman and provides free monthly books to Jewish children from birth to age 9. Additionally, the PJ Our Way program is dedicated to children ages 9-12. This year, local families met for events celebrating Rosh Hashanah, Hanukkah and Passover. Currently, there are approximately 150 subscribers in the Ithaca area.

The IAUJC Holocaust Speakers Bureau, headed by Gale Halpern, continues to provide volunteer speakers who travel to local middle and high schools. From March-May, speakers who are first and second generation Holocaust survivors presented to hundreds of students in local public schools. Working with the bureau, the Ithaca College Park Scholars have recorded the stories of local Holocaust survivors and created a series of videos that can be shown in the classroom. The videos are available on the IAUJC website at <https://iaujc.org/holocaust-education/oral-histories-and-books-local-interest>.

The Hesed Emergency Fund, created in 2020 with generous contributions from donors, continues to assist a number of individuals and families. Support comes in the form of direct payments to creditors and gift cards to local grocery stores.

This is the fifth year of the Global Spotlight Initiative. The IAUJC board invites donors to nominate international non-profit organizations doing important humanitarian work assisting Jews globally, including in Israel. This year, awards were made to two organizations:

1. ADI Israel Foundation, <https://adi-il.org>, provides professional training for prosthetists and orthotists to improve the lives of amputees, both those injured in battle and civilians in need of artificial limbs and braces. Until this school was established this past autumn, Israel lacked a professional training program for prosthetists and orthotists, and now also provides continuing education for those already in practice.

2. Impact Israel, www.impact-israel.org, supports the programs and activities of Yemin Orde Youth Village in Israel and Village Way Educational Initiatives. The Village is a home, school and safe haven for at-risk immigrant youth from around the world.

The IAUJC Annual Community Dinner was held on June 28. This year’s honoree was Howard Erlich, IAUJC board member for more than 50 years, as well as dean emeritus of arts and sciences at Ithaca College, and emeritus professor of communications. Erlich served in many capacities, including board chair and in the last 20 years as allocations chair. Erlich’s wife Ann Erlich z”l, was well known for her leadership of the IAUJC fund-raising campaign for many years. The IAUJC is delighted that all three of their children and many of the grandchildren attended this celebration.

In view of rising antisemitism, IAUJC has established an Antisemitism Task Force headed by Sherrie Negrea. Members of the Antisemitism Task Force have attended city council meetings in order to point out and object to antisemitic and anti-Zionist hostile images in public spaces here in Ithaca. The initial target of the task force was a large mural that included “Free Gaza,” as part of a public art project that was proposed to focus on the Underground Railroad. Further, non-approved graffiti has been painted and has ranged from being political in nature to outright hostile to Jews and Israel. Examples ranged from a Palestinian flag painted on a retaining wall just steps away from Temple Beth-El in downtown Ithaca, and a mural that criticized Israel and included a large coffin in the center of the painting in the city’s

children’s skateboard park. In attendance at this city council meeting was Ithaca Mayor Robert Cantelmo and several supportive city council board members. The city council voted to maintain the city funded mural that now contains Free Gaza as part of its message of support for the Underground Railroad. However, as a result of our actions, Cantelmo has now taken on the task of removing all graffiti in Ithaca which is indeed illegal. In addition, the IAUJC Antisemitism Task Force is also establishing a database to keep track of all incidents in Ithaca. Further activity is under consideration.

IAUJC invites community members to become active volunteers and donors, and to provide feedback on its programs. For more information, contact info@iaujc.org or visit www.iaujc.org.

Board of Rabbis

The Broome County Board of Rabbis is an informal association comprised of the active pulpit rabbis in Broome County. The rabbis seek to have their respective synagogues and temples present a united front in dealing with communal problems and crises.

The rabbis participate in the annual communal Yom Hashoah u’Gevurah observance to commemorate the Holocaust. The rabbis also serve on the board of the College of Jewish Studies and give lectures under its sponsorship.



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Ithaca Beit Midrash

Ithaca Beit Midrash, a relatively new, vibrant alternative approach to Jewish education and engagement, describes itself as “out of the box and off the wall.” Through both in-person and Zoom offerings open to all regardless of where they live, Ithaca Beit Midrash is dedicated to fostering deep, meaningful and entertaining study of Jewish texts. People of all backgrounds and levels of knowledge can explore their heritage, engage in intellectual discourse, build a sense of community and experience personalized courses.

What is Ithaca Beit Midrash? “Beit Midrash,” which translates to “house of study,” is a traditional Jewish learning environment where individuals gather to study sacred texts such as the Torah, Talmud and other religious writings. This setting is characterized by its collaborative approach to learning, where discussions and debates about interpretations are encouraged, thereby deepening everyone’s understanding of and connection to the material and each other.

Do you need to live in or travel to Ithaca to participate? No, Ithaca Beit Midrash offers many programs suitable for teens and adults over Zoom. Ithaca Beit Midrash aims to create a dynamic and inclusive space that makes Jewish learning accessible and meaningful for everyone. Rabbi

Suzanne Brody, the founder of Ithaca Beit Midrash, is a respected educator and community leader whose passion for innovating new ways to share a love of learning about and doing Judaism has found outlets in creating dynamic programming for Jews of all ages. She has worked in both formal and informal educational settings, and has designed and taught numerous courses. Brody’s creativity informs the wide variety of courses available through Ithaca Beit Midrash.

Ithaca Beit Midrash offers a variety of programs and options for enrollment designed to meet the needs and interests of the community, from individual sessions to year-long enrollment, as well as plenty of options in-between. The majority of the adult education offerings are held over Zoom to accommodate busy schedules and make them accessible to a wider range of students. Even the opportunities offered in person are not limited to those living in Ithaca.

Whether you are a seasoned scholar or someone new to Jewish learning, there is a place for you at Ithaca Beit Midrash. For more information about programs, events and how to get involved, visit the Ithaca Beit Midrash website at www.ithacabeitmidrash.com or contact Ithaca Beit Midrash at Beit.Midrash@gmail.com.



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FEBRUARY

Date	Light Candles
5	5:05 pm
12	5:14 pm
19	5:23 pm
26	5:31 pm

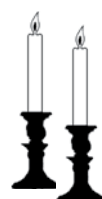


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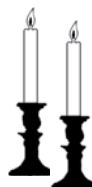
6	7:58 pm
13	7:49 pm
20	7:39 pm
27	7:27 pm

JULY

Date	Light Candles
2	8:25 pm
9	8:23 pm
16	8:19 pm
23	8:13 pm
30	8:07 pm

[illegible]

3	7:16 pm
10	7:04 pm
17	6:52 pm
24	6:39 pm



2027-28 • 5787

Rosh Hashanah	Saturday-Sunday, September 12-13	Saturday-Sunday, October 2-3
Yom Kippur	Monday, September 21	Monday, October 11
Sukkot	Saturday-Friday, Sept. 26-Oct. 2	Saturday-Friday, October 16-22
Shemini Atzeret	Saturday, October 3	Saturday, October 23
Simchat Torah	Sunday, October 4	Sunday, October 24
Chanukah	Saturday-Saturday, December 5-12	Saturday-Saturday, Dec. 25-Jan. 1
Tu B'Shevat	Saturday, January 23	Saturday, February 12
Purim	Tuesday, March 23	Sunday, March 12
Passover	Thursday-Thursday, April 22-29	Tuesday-Tuesday, April 11-18
Yom Hashoah	Tuesday, May 4	Monday, April 24
Yom Ha'atzmaut	Wednesday, May 12	Tuesday, May 2
Lag B'Omer	Tuesday, May 25	Sunday, May 14
Yom Yerushalayim	Friday, June 4	Wednesday, May 24
Shavuot	Friday-Saturday, June 11-12	Wednesday-Thursday, May 31-June 1
Shiva'a Asar B'Tammuz	Thursday, July 22	Tuesday, July 11
Tisha B'Av	Thursday, August 12	Tuesday, August 1

A large group of students and staff are posing for a group photo outdoors in front of a large brick building. Many students are holding up white signs that say "WELCOME". The group is diverse in age and appearance, and they are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The building in the background is a multi-story brick structure with many windows. There are trees and a grassy area in the foreground.

A crowd of students posed at the end of the Welcome Back Ch 'BBQ in the fall at Binghamton University. (Photo by Adam Horowitz)



Beth David Synagogue's Annual Dinner was held on May 3, honoring Mark Yonaty with the Jack and Mary Ferber Award. Approximately 60 people attended the event. L-r, seated: Marcy Yonaty, Sari-Ann Yonaty, Stephen Yonaty and daughter Talia Yonaty. Standing: Gavriel Yonaty, honoree Mark Yonaty and wife Inessa Yonaty. (Photo by Dora Polachek)



A partial crowd shot from Shabbat 2400 held at Binghamton University. (Photo by Shmuli Grossbaum)



For further information or assistance,
please contact Shelley Hubal at 607-724-2332
or director@jfgb.org



Broome County Synagogues

Beth David Synagogue

Beth David Synagogue is a member of the Orthodox Union and the only Orthodox congregation in the area. Beth David can trace its history to 1905 when the informal “minyan” was incorporated as the Hebrew Brothers Association. Outgrowing their facility in a house on Susquehanna Street, members purchased a building on Carroll Street in 1930 and changed their name to United Hebrew Brothers Congregation. The “little *shul*” became Beth David Synagogue in 1956, and the revitalized Orthodox congregation became more active and saw its membership grow sizably. Having outgrown its facility, Beth David Synagogue purchased the property on Riverside Drive in 1962 and formally relocated to its present location in 1964.

Beth David is known throughout the community for its activity and involvement in all community functions, events and organizations. Its members occupy leadership roles in communal organizations and its rabbi is involved in community planning and events. All services and activities at Beth David are always open to any member of the community, regardless of synagogue affiliation. Members seek to make everyone and anyone comfortable, and welcome all with open arms. Beth David’s services, traditionally chanted in Hebrew, are made easy to follow. Many parts of the service are sung



L-r: Toby Kohn, Maria Kutz, Bob Kutz and Rabbi David Serkin played dreidel at the Beth David Hanukkah party. (Photo by Cathy Velenchik)

to traditional tunes, which help make them accessible to the novice and experienced alike. The veteran participants can always be counted upon to guide the visitors through the service, helping one feel at ease as a participant.

Youth activities have always been integral part of Beth David. Members are proud of the award winning youth program, affiliated with NCSY, the National Council of Synagogue Youth. The synagogue is prepared to revive these programs when the number of potential participants increases to make them viable.

Social activities abound at Beth David. A weekly Shabbat *kiddush* after services reverts into a Shabbat luncheon once a month, free and open to the community. Sisterhood sponsors many *kiddushim* and luncheons for various holidays, and all can celebrate Purim and Shavuot together at the communal festive meals. The Sisterhood also sponsors many social activities throughout the year, both at the synagogue and at other locations. The Men’s Club invites all to its periodic Sunday breakfast. The Beth David sukkah is available for the community to use.

Judaism flourishes through the study of Torah. Beth David strives to offer a full array of educational opportunities. There are regular classes, special learning sessions, guest speakers and video presentations. Student scholars from Yeshiva University and other *yeshivot* enhance Torah study and celebrations during Simchat Torah and Shavuot. The active Sisterhood regularly hosts speakers who are experts in their fields. The *beit midrash*, study hall and library, located in the synagogue, are filled with English and Hebrew books, and are always open.

Judaism addresses every aspect of religious life and these can be observed at the *shul*. In addition to daily services both morning and night, which will be started again when enough men will be willing to participate, Beth David can be helpful to those who wish to observe Judaism in accordance with tradition. Anyone observing a *yahrzeit*

can comfortably come to say *Kaddish* for a loved one. The synagogue maintains the Binghamton *eruv* (Sabbath boundary) and *mikvah* (ritual bath).

Beth David is also a resource for life cycle events; feel free to call for assistance in arranging for a *kiddush* to celebrate See “Beth David” on page 13A



The Sisterhood of Beth David Synagogue held its opening meeting of the new season on September 10. Members and friends were instructed by Stacey Silber in an easy way to braid a round challah for the High Holidays. L-r: Eliyana Adler, Toby Kohn and Harold Kohn rolled their challah dough into strips. (Photo by Nancy Basmann)



L-r: Rabbi Zev Silber, Judy Silber and Suzanne Holwitt attended Beth David Synagogue’s Annual Dinner on May 3. (Photo by Dora Polachek)

Rohr Chabad Center of Binghamton

The Rohr Chabad Center in Broome County is an affiliate of the international Chabad-Lubavitch network, which maintains educational and social service institutions in approximately 4,600 locations. The Chabad Center is located at 420 Murray Hill Rd., Vestal; a satellite center serving the needs of BU students living downtown is located at 60 Henry St., in downtown Binghamton. While the primary focus of Chabad is its programs and services geared toward the thousands of Jewish students at Binghamton University, Chabad is open to all members of the Jewish community. There is no membership fee, nor is a prior background or experience in Jewish life necessary.

The people who avail themselves of Chabad’s numerous services and programs span the gamut of religious affiliation; the varied group includes those without formal affiliation at all. Chabad provides community members with many opportunities for enhancing their Jewish education and experience. To this end, it offers classes on a variety of topics, presented on multiple levels, free of charge.



Assembled students joined Segev Kalfon, who was held hostage in Gaza for 738 days, in proclaiming Shema Yisroel together. (Photo by Shmuli Grossbaum)

Private tutorials are offered, as well. Chabad Center is an affiliate of the prestigious Rohr Jewish Learning Institute and offers three semesters of JLI university level Judaic classes annually. Chabad sponsors lectures and open forums

featuring noted speakers and authorities in diverse fields of interest. On occasion, Chabad brings quality Jewish entertainment, artists and personalities to the area. Chabad Center is also the sponsor of the annual Pauline and Philip Piaker Memorial Lecture. Additionally, Chabad maintains a well-stocked, easy-to-use library of Jewish books; the resource serves both the casual browser as well as the serious researcher.

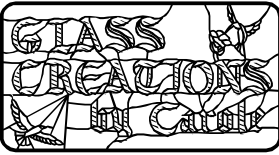
Chabad hosts communitywide holiday celebrations such as dinners in the sukkah; a Chanukah family dinner; a Purim feast that features ethnic food, live music and entertainment; and Passover seders. The Chabad Center staff provides counseling, referrals and pastoral advice, as



Dr. Joel Finkelstein (standing at right) delivered the annual Pauline and Philip Piaker Memorial Lecture on September 4. (Photo by Felicity Johnson)

well as guidance in religious matters and life cycle events. Chabad offers assistance by *kashering* kitchens, affixing kosher *mezuzot*, and providing the necessary instruction and physical resources necessary to enhance Jewish observance.

The Chabad Center administrated Barrett J. Raff Maa-sim Tovim Foundation volunteers visit residents in area See “Chabad” on page 12A



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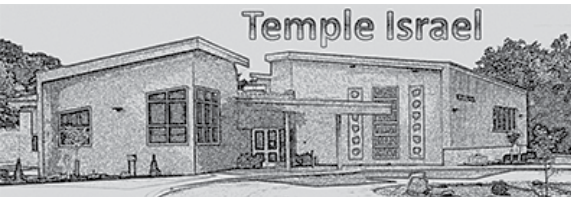
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The Abraham Piaker Free Loan Association

The Chabad Center maintains the Abraham Piaker Free Loan Association for the purpose of providing short-term, completely confidential, interest-free loans to aid worthy persons in the Jewish community who have a pressing need. For an application or for more information about the fund, call the Chabad Center office at 607-797-0015. Persons interested in making donations to this fund can mark them as such and mail them to the Chabad Center, 420 Murray Hill Rd., Vestal, NY 13850. Acknowledgment of gifts will be sent to the Piaker family.



Temple Israel, a modern, egalitarian Conservative synagogue, provides a complete range of religious, educational, spiritual and pastoral services to its members and the community.

Rabbi: Micah Friedman
Address: 4737 Deerfield Pl., Vestal, NY 13850
Phone: 607-723-7461
E-mail: office@templeisraelvestal.org
Website: www.templeisraelvestal.org



Merryl Wallach
Director
she/her

Phone: (607) 724-2332 ext. 339
Email: familyservice@jfgb.org

Temple Concord

Temple Concord, a Reform congregation affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism, represents a modern interpretation of Jewish tradition, seeking to meet individuals' needs in their search for personal Jewish meaning within the context of a warm, engaged community. The Temple community seeks to support one another in three key areas of Jewish life: worship (*avodah*), community (*am Yisrael*) and learning (Torah). Temple Concord offers a welcoming and inclusive Reform Jewish experience to a diverse congregation, creating connections and increasing engagement in the Greater Binghamton community.

Temple Concord places a high value on accessibility. Members and guests can participate in most programs, classes and worship services either in-person or online. Worship services, adult learning, Sisterhood, Book Club and meetings are occasionally held beyond the building, expanding members' connections and encouraging supporting one another.

Consult the temple directly to learn how to participate in its many offerings, whether in one or several physical locations. Temple Concord is located at 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905. The temple may be reached by phone at 607-723-7355, by e-mail at TempleConcordBinghamton@gmail.com, via its website at www.templeconcord.com, or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/templeconcord.

Worship

Friday evening Shabbat services are held weekly at 7:30 pm in the building and online via Zoom and Facebook Live. Periodic Shabbat pot-luck dinners are held earlier, at 6 pm. Saturday morning services are held at 10:30 am, after the Torah Study Group and Hebrew School. Jewish holidays are an important part of the year. High Holidays, festival and holiday services and programs are open to all. Services are designed for people to find the joy of Judaism within the context of community worship.

Temple Concord celebrates a number of special Shabbatot celebrated throughout the year, including a monthly musical service, a bi-monthly potluck Shabbat in which participants are invited to bring a vegetarian dish and participate in an abbreviated service, as well as other events such as Repro Shabbat (in honor of the Jewish value of reproductive freedom), Refugee Shabbat,

Scouting Shabbat, Pride Shabbat and others. The temple also offers a regular weekday evening prayer service on Wednesdays at 5:30 pm in the library chapel.

Community

Temple Concord is a community which constantly strives to be welcoming to all: Jews by birth and Jews by choice, LGBTQ+ Jews and Jews of Color, Jews of different abilities and needs, and everyone who needs a warm and friendly Jewish home infused with the values of liberal Judaism.

Temple Concord's community consists of many smaller communities. Temple Concord Sisterhood consists of dedicated, hardworking and enthusiastic women and people of allied genders who work to support the temple, its religious school, and the community. Sisterhood, a service and social organization, is affiliated with the national organization Women of Reform Judaism. Programs include holiday parties for religious school students, educational programs, Sisterhood Shabbat, and a Sisterhood retreat. The monthly rummage sale and resale boutique are major fund-raising events. The Sisterhood board welcomes all and oversees all its programs.

The Social Action Committee focuses on the Jewish value of *tikkun olam* – repairing the world. The committee sponsors programs of social and political interest, and engages in political awareness and advocacy efforts. Recently, these have included programs on human rights, immigration, LGBTQ+ issues, combating racism and other forms of hate, and local community involvement. The committee sponsors several mitzvah collection projects where a community agency is selected and a list of needed items is collected from the temple community. Members of the committee and other congregants help prepare and serve hot meals to the needy at the Trinity Canteen at Trinity Memorial Church in Binghamton. Temple Concord is one of the principal groups in Interfaith Broome County, which seeks to foster dialogue and understanding between people of all faith traditions in Greater Binghamton.

Temple Concord is the site of a weekly CHOW food pantry. The CHOW pantry operates through the Social Action Committee, with members volunteering to staff the pantry and help families in need select their groceries. A CHOW food drive is held during the High Holidays and a CHOW collection basket is available throughout the year to receive donations of non-perishable food.

Members of the Caring Community committee prepare and serve meals of consolation following the funeral of temple members. They also provide additional See "Concord" on page 19A



Temple Concord Hebrew School opened its 2025-26 school year on September 13.



Temple Concord celebrated Purim with a Purimspiel on March 1. (Photo by Moon Choi)



Deb Daniels introduced Rabbi Rachel Esserman at the Temple Concord Sisterhood's annual book review on February 8. (Photo by Rachel Coker)

Temple Israel

Temple Israel, located in Vestal, NY, is a modern, egalitarian, Conservative synagogue founded in 1886. Temple Israel provides a complete range of religious, educational, spiritual, pastoral and community-building services, and is dedicated to sustaining Judaism as a living heritage that is loyal to the past and engaged with the present.

The synagogue strives to create a community of mutual support, intellectual vitality and spiritual sustenance through the active participation of its members in prayer, learning and shared life. Weekly Shabbat services are held on Friday evening and Saturday morning, and a Tuesday 5:30 pm minyan is preceded by "Torah in Our Times," an engaging discussion led by Rabbi Micah Friedman that connects Jewish texts with contemporary issues.

On a regular basis, Temple Israel hosts communal Shabbat dinners, and members sponsor *kiddush* lunches in honor of *simchat* and other meaningful moments.

Traditional in practice yet attentive to the diverse needs of its community, Temple Israel seeks a religious experience that is spiritually satisfying, intellectually honest and aesthetically meaningful.

Temple Israel has evolved with the Southern Tier Jewish community, moving from a downtown home to a modern building in Vestal in 1969. In December 2013, a roof collapse left the building uninhabitable; the congregation continued its activities at the Jewish Community Center while a new synagogue was constructed, which was occupied in the summer of 2016 as a spiritual home for the 21st century. The congregation adapted ritual practice and technology during the pandemic and did not miss a single Shabbat service; all services are now live-streamed to include those unable to attend in person.

In 2023, Temple Israel welcomed Rabbi Micah Friedman as its spiritual leader. Friedman offers group and individual opportunities for congregants of all ages, and brings a sense of *simcha* (whole-hearted joy) to Shabbat and holiday worship.

Temple Israel recently celebrated its 140th anniversary as a local synagogue and welcomes all into a friendly, caring environment. As an egalitarian congregation, Temple Israel invites people of all genders to sit together, be counted in the minyan and lead from the *bima*.

The Hebrew *heder* (school) provides a positive, engaging Jewish educational experience for children through *b'nai mitzvah*. Students build relationships with peers and enthusiastic Binghamton University student-teachers, and receive personalized instruction in Hebrew, prayer, rituals and traditions, as well as Jewish values and community life. All study is geared to preparing them to become empowered Jewish adults through community experiences and foundational Jewish knowledge.

Temple Israel maintains an adult library and a children's library, with collections that include classic and modern Jewish literature.

Adult education and family programming feature classes, guest speakers and celebrations throughout the year; current information is available on the synagogue website (www.templeisraelvestal.org), Facebook page (www.facebook.com/TempleIsraelVestal) and "Bulletin" calendar.

The Mitzvah Corps provides a meal of consolation after funerals; there is no charge for this service, although donations are appreciated to help cover costs.

Community volunteers visit members who are ill, bereaved or living in residence homes and assist with a variety of needs; these efforts are a source of congregational See "Israel" on page 11A



Part of the crowd at Temple Israel's pre-Shavuot concert on May 21.



Attendees listened to Rabbi Talia Laster's talk at a March 22 brunch program at Temple Israel, sponsored by the Temple Israel/Temple Concord Joint Adult Education Group. (Photo by David Channin)



More than 40 people gathered at Temple Israel on October 12 to celebrate "Sukkot with the Rabbis." The afternoon was led by Rabbi Micah Friedman and Rabbi Talia Laster, who guided participants in reciting Sukkot blessings and helped each person say the blessings over the lulav and etrog.

Area Synagogues

Congregation Tikkun v'Or

Congregation Tikkun v'Or (Ithaca Reform Temple) is a vibrant congregation that strives for a warm, personal bond among its members, quality education for the children and a dynamic program for adults. Tikkun v'Or welcomes those from diverse backgrounds, interfaith families, those of any race and ethnicity, LGBTQ families and people who are newly discovering Jewish connections, as well as those with a wide range of Jewish experiences. The core values of Congregation Tikkun v'Or are best described by three words: spirit, community and justice.

Spirit

At heart, Tikkun v'Or's community embraces living with compassion (*rachamim*), love (*chesed*), awe (*yirah*), gratitude (*hakarat hatov*), joy (*simcha*) and generosity (*nedivut*) – Jewish spiritual values that nurture the congregation and each member as individuals.

Members treasure the richness and complexity of the community. The wide diversity of beliefs and relationships to God are a source of strength and learning. Congregation Tikkun v'Or is a safe place for members to share their faith and their doubt as they support one another in the search for meaning and purpose in their lives.

Tikkun v'Or's current spiritual leadership model embraces the talents within our congregation. Shabbat and holiday services are led by a core group of service

leaders and some lay leaders.

Community

A caring and loving community, Tikkun v'Or sanctifies and celebrates significant moments in its members' lives within the framework of Jewish ritual and values.

Members take to heart "my house is a house of prayer for all people" (Isaiah 56:7) and seek to include rather than exclude. Tikkun v'Or welcomes interfaith families, LGBTQ people and others who have been denied full acceptance in the broader community. Tikkun v'Or treasures the members of its congregation who are not Jewish and celebrates the interfaith character of the community.

The final word of the *Shema* – *echad*, all one – resonates as Tikkun v'Or's members join hands with other faith communities, community organizations and activist groups to fulfill shared values.

Justice

Inspired by the prophetic tradition and the historical experience of the Jewish people, Tikkun v'Or's members are dedicated to the pursuit of justice and peace, locally and globally. As Torah teaches that humankind was created in God's image, they honor the inherent godliness in each person. The community actively seeks to promote racial and economic justice for all, resist antisemitism and Islamophobia, encourage education and dialogue about

Israel and Palestine, support refugees in the community, feed the hungry and protect the environment. Members are dedicated to justice, equality, human rights and security for people all over the world, and specifically for all Israelis and Palestinians. Members are committed to an open and respectful dialogue about these issues and welcome those who feel excluded or silenced by other Jewish communities because of their opinions. Tikkun v'Or's congregation is enriched by the multiplicity of views of its members.

"Spirit, Community and Justice" are integrated into all aspects of the life of the congregation. May all be blessed to witness the day when "love and truth will meet, justice and peace will kiss" (Psalms 85:11).

Students in kindergarten-seventh grade/bmitzvah can join Jewish Learning Experiences, with classes on Sunday mornings, Wednesday afternoons, or Shabbat morning programs. There are classes and programs for adults. Members participate in holiday celebrations, community social action projects, Shabbat dish-to-pass dinners, Shabbat-in-the-community, Shabbat-in-the-Park, music and dance programs, guest speakers, discussion groups and special events. There are several active working groups of the Social Justice Committee.

The bmitzvah program is led by Michael Margolin. Other activities of the temple are planned by a full range of committees.

Shabbat services are held every Friday evening, usually at 7:30 pm. Most are offered both in-person and on Zoom.

The synagogue is located at 2550 Triphammer Rd., Ithaca. For more information about Congregation Tikkun v'Or, call 607-256-1471, visit www.tikkunvor.org, e-mail info@tikkunvor.org or write to P.O. Box 3981, Ithaca, NY 14852.

Seen around the community...



Hillel Academy students performed a Purim play.



Students celebrated Israel's Independence Day at Hillel at Binghamton's annual Yom Ha'atzmaut event.



L-r: Gerry Hubal, Chaim Joy, Susan Hubal (back to camera), Julie Piaker, Alan Piaker and Judy Silber made hamantaschen for the Beth David Purim seudah. (Photo by Cathy Velenchik)



The cast of the Purimspiel at Temple Concord on March 1. (Photo by Moon Choi)



Richard Stram and Arlene Kutz enjoyed the JCC Purim Carnival.



At the Chabad Purim seudah, friends enjoyed the holiday spirit and each other's company. (Photo by Adam Horowitz)

Norwich Jewish Center

The Norwich Jewish Center, located at 72 South Broad St., Norwich, NY, serves to meet the needs of the Jewish community in this rural area.



The Norwich Jewish Center

There is an answering machine at the Jewish Center, 607-334-

2691. Callers are asked to leave a message, including their phone number with area code. Information can also be requested by e-mailing fertigs@roadrunner.com.

The Norwich Jewish Center conducts various cultural and community events throughout the year. Call ahead for information.

Penn-York Jewish Community

The purpose of this congregation is to promote Jewish identity through cultural, educational, social and religious activities in the Southern Tier of New York and the Northern Tier of Pennsylvania, including Waverly, NY, Sayre, Athens and Towanda, PA, and surrounding communities.

The Penn-York Jewish Community is a supporting member of the Community Foundation for the Twin Tiers, and supports and participates in the activities and events held at Congregation Kol Ami in Elmira, NY. For more information, contact pennYorkjc@gmail.com.

Israel..... Continued from page 10A pride as expressions of *gimilut chasidim*, acts of loving kindness.

Temple Israel provides a traditional Jewish cemetery for members in the town of Conklin. The *chevra kadisha* (Jewish burial society) is available to prepare deceased members for burial according to Jewish law and custom.

Temple Israel hosts the Deerfield Place Community Garden, operated by VINES (Volunteers Improving Neighborhood Environments). Raised beds are available for an annual rental fee, reflecting the congregation's commitment to the broader local community.

Temple Israel welcomes volunteers for all of the above committees and initiatives. For more information and updated calendars, visit templeisraelvestal.org.

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Temple Beth-El of Ithaca

402 N. Tioga St., Ithaca, NY 14850, 607-273-5775
Temple Beth-El is a welcoming, progressive, egalitarian synagogue that strives to preserve and enhance its members' Jewish heritage. The synagogue provides a wide range of religious, educational, social and cultural activities to encourage exploration of and involvement in Judaism, and it supports participation in the social action initiatives and interdenominational life of the broader community.

The synagogue is an active center of Jewish life for downtown Ithaca and the surrounding area, and is affiliated with United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. Temple Beth-El welcomes Jews from all backgrounds, persons of all cultures, races, ethnicities, genders and sexual orientations, as well as individuals of other faiths interested in exploring Jewish traditions. All are welcome to attend services and programs. Visit the website, www.tbethaca.org, for updated times of services and events.

Temple Beth-El provides support and education for all ages and for all life cycle events, and newcomers are always welcome. Programs include Rabbi Felix Aber Religious School (grades K-12); robust family, youth and teen events; abundant adult education opportunities; and tons of schmoozing.

Worship Services and Celebrations

TBE services are held in person, with the option of one-way Zoom participation.

◆ *Kabbalat Shabbat* and *Ma'ariv* (evening) services take place every Friday evening, with times listed on the website homepage and calendar.

◆ Shabbat morning services begin at 9:30 am. Morning and evening services for children and youth, including Tot Shabbat, occur on a regular basis.

◆ The daily minyan meets in person and on Zoom at 7:30 am (9 am on Sundays and federal holidays) and at 5:30 pm, with some services via Zoom only.

◆ Festival services on evenings and mornings generally follow the Shabbat schedule, with special programs available for families and children on Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Simchat Torah, Hanukkah, Purim and Shavuot.

◆ High Holy Days at Temple Beth-El include traditional worship, with extended services, and special services with



A view of the windows in Temple Beth-El's sanctuary.

Chabad. . . . Continued from page 9A

nursing homes, as well as shut-ins, on a weekly basis with programming and special food gift packages distributed before every holiday. Individuals interested in joining this group, or having a friend or relative visited, should call the Chabad office.

Chabad Center publishes the Hakesher magazine, as well as the Jewish Art Calendar, both of which it sends free of charge to community members.

In sum, Chabad Center is many things to many people, but for all it is a warm, open and welcoming environment where Jewish education, enrichment and joy is the priority. For more information, to join the mailing list or to set up an appointment to visit with the Chabad staff, call the office at 607-797-0015, or e-mail aslonim@binghamton.edu. Don't forget to visit Chabad's websites at www.chabad-offbinghamton.com or www.JewishBU.com.



Prof. Dennis Foreman shared some thoughts at the Chabad Purim seudah. (Photo by Adam Horowitz)

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educational enrichment for children, youth and adults. Temple Beth-El has announced that services to welcome 5787 in September 2026 will be led by Rabbi Caleb Brommer and guest Rabbi Ilana Sandberg. Services for preschoolers and youth and their families will be led by Director of Education and Engagement Calle Schueler and Ilana Sandberg.

Youth Community

Temple Beth-El provides young people with a balanced program of religious, social and educational activities. The program is offered in conjunction with the Tzafon Region of United Synagogue Youth (ninth through 12th grade) and Kadima (sixth through eighth grade).

Religious School

The program of the Rabbi Felix Aber Religious School of Temple Beth-El begins with preschool and extends through high school, and is open to members and others (except where noted).

Preschoolers and their adults meet once each month for a taste of religious school, including stories, songs, crafts and more to introduce Shabbat and holidays.

Kindergartners and first-graders attend classes on Sundays to learn about the holidays, Torah stories, Jewish values and a taste of the Hebrew language.

Second through seventh grades attend twice a week on Sunday mornings and Wednesday afternoons for a comprehensive program that includes Hebrew reading, prayer, Torah study, Jewish ethics and values, the Jewish calendar and life cycle, history and Israel. To prepare for greater participation in the life of the community and to enhance their study of liturgy, each class participates in leading a Shabbat service at least once each year.

B'nai mitzvah training begins in sixth grade and continues through seventh grade and beyond, with classroom instruction, as well as private weekly lessons. Preparation includes family meetings for all members of the family to participate in the learning that precedes the celebration. *B'nai mitzvah* opportunities are offered only to member families.

Ithaca's post-*b'nai mitzvah* Midrasha program meets weekly on Tuesdays in the early evening. Designed to accommodate busy student schedules, each session includes dinner and a chance to socialize with friends. Midrasha is a place where post-*b'nai mitzvah* students, grades eight-12, can discuss relevant current events and topics with Jewish peers in a safe, nurturing space.

Adult Education

Regular classes for adults currently include "Chanting the Tanach" and "Prayerbook Hebrew." Additional lectures and mini-courses occur throughout the year. Guest lecturers and visiting scholars often enhance these offerings. Many classes are available via Zoom.

Arts

TBE has an active Arts Committee that provides exhibits and programs throughout the year, focusing on the arts and entertainment. Programs include craft fairs; film festivals; an annual evening of Jewish stories, poetry and music; and presentations by artists on their work.



Temple Beth-El of Ithaca's playground for children in the Rabbi Felix Aber Religious School.

Sisterhood of Temple Beth-El

The Sisterhood of Temple Beth-El offers a community where women connect, learn, support and share experiences with each other bound by their common interest in Jewish life. Sisterhood enhances Jewish life at Temple Beth-El by supporting the Rabbi Felix Aber Religious School; sponsoring social, cultural and educational programs for its members and the community; and encouraging Jewish observance. The Sisterhood is affiliated with the Women's League for Conservative Judaism, which provides members with a voice in national and global arenas.

Community Activities

Temple Beth-El members participate in a variety of Jewish initiatives that seek to widen and deepen engagement with Judaism. The Ithaca Area United Jewish Community supports many projects at the local and international level, including PJ Library, and sponsors an annual Holocaust Memorial event for Yom Hashoah at Temple Beth-El. IAUGC is a network organization of the Jewish Federations of North America.

The congregation contributes to numerous local, national and international charities and organizations doing justice work. There are a number of social justice opportunities through the synagogue, as well. In the wider Ithaca community, Temple Beth-El belongs to and supports Area Congregations Together, an organization of local congregations. Temple Beth-El members assist with ACT's Ithaca Kitchen Cupboard food pantry by collecting and distributing food, as well as by participating in the administration of the Cupboard. In addition, the congregation partners with Catholic Charities to provide financial and pastoral assistance to community members throughout Tompkins and Tioga counties.

Temple Beth-El's Social Action Committee and individual members are involved in a wide range of other activities both locally and beyond.

Temple Beth El of Oneonta

Temple Beth El of Oneonta warmly welcomes interfaith couples and partners to join its community. Temple Beth El of Oneonta is an egalitarian congregation affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. Located approximately halfway between Binghamton and Albany, its membership of approximately 60 families is drawn from surrounding counties.

Cantor-led Friday evening services are held once a month September-May with Torah study held Saturday mornings when the cantor is in residence. Supplemental lay-led services, Torah study and discussion groups are held throughout each month. Religious school meets Sunday mornings during the school year. The Men's Club holds Sunday breakfasts on the third Sunday of each month and the Sisterhood meets on a Sunday as scheduled.

The synagogue has its own cemetery located in Oneonta. Plots are available for purchase.

Visit the Temple Beth El website, www.templebetheloneonta.org, for more information on current activities and



Temple Beth El of Oneonta

on how to become a member of Temple Beth El.

Temple Beth El is located at 83 Chestnut St., Oneonta, NY 13820. The phone number is 607-432-5522; leave a message for a return call. For more information, e-mail tboneonta@gmail.com.

Temple Brith Sholom

Temple Brith Sholom acts as the center for Jewish religious and cultural activities in Cortland, NY, and in the surrounding Cortland County community. A diverse group comprised of about 30 individuals and family members, Temple Brith Sholom frequently shares programs with the active SUNY Cortland Hillel, and participates in interfaith community events. High Holiday services, Shabbat services and other events are offered in person and/or virtually. Plans are currently under way to meet the religious and cultural needs of the congregation, as well as to host several concerts and other cultural on line or live events.

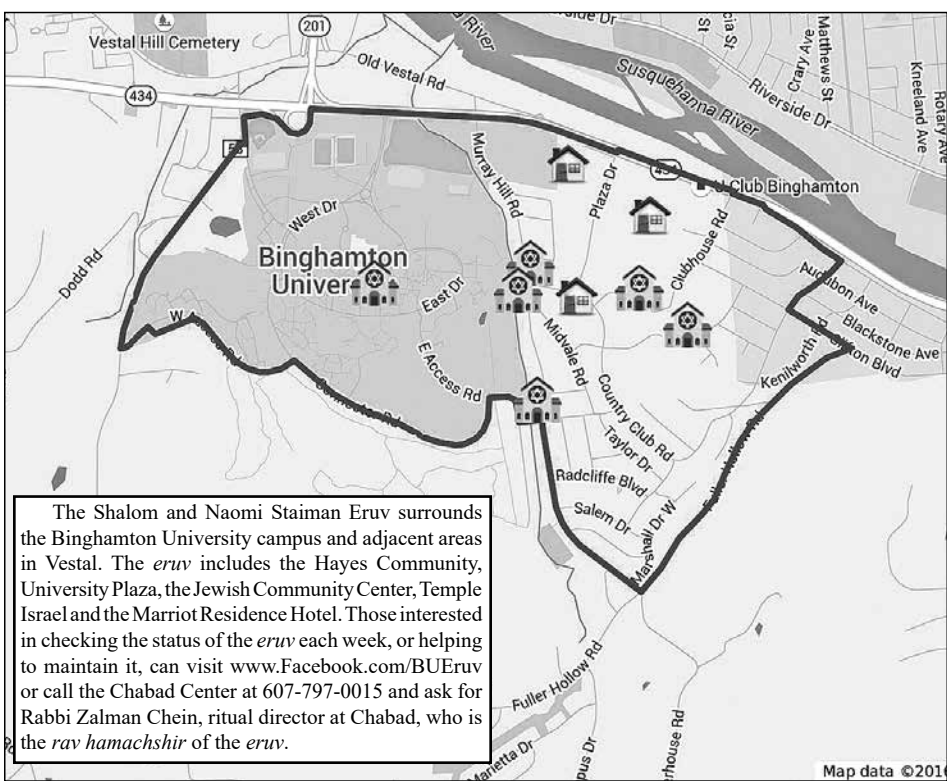
The community maintains a Jewish cemetery on the

grounds of the Cortland Rural Cemetery. The congregation provides many opportunities for personal growth through service to the community, whether serving on the Board of Trustees, serving on committees, leading services, or planning a special program. Members welcome new friends at any service or program. Temple Brith Sholom is located at 117 Madison St., Cortland, NY 13045. Its mailing address is PO Box 572, Cortland, NY 13045. For further information about services, other events, or the cemetery, call 607-756-7181. Also, see the temple's website (templebrithsholomcortland.org) and Facebook page for more information about services and events.

Binghamton West Side *Eruv* and other points of interest



The Shalom and Naomi Staiman *Eruv* in Vestal



Beth David.Continued from page 9A

a happy occasion; a *brit* and/or *pidyon haben* upon the birth of a son; a *simchat bat* upon the birth of a daughter; a wedding ceremony; or, when needed, a funeral.

Beth David Synagogue is the main ad-

dress when seeking a Jewish religious and social experience. Those with questions may call Beth David's office at 607-722-1793. Regular office hours are Tuesdays, 10 am-1 pm; and Thursdays, 9 am-1 pm.



L-r: Gina Santiago, Rabbi David Serkin, Chaim Joy, Judy Silber, Rabbi Zev Silber, Phillip Goodman, Arline Kutz and Carolyn Kutz at the Beth David Sisterhood's Pre-Passover workshop and lecture. (Photo by Cathy Velenchik)

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Jewish Community Center

Mission Statement and Purpose

The JCC's mission is to provide Jewish and secular programming and services in a safe and welcoming environment. The JCC also strives to cultivate and promote community relations and strengthen Jewish heritage, culture and identity in the Greater Binghamton community.

Seeking to embrace the true spirit of community, the JCC of Binghamton is dedicated to the enrichment of family life and fosters the spiritual, emotional and physical development of its members and friends through all of life's stages and circumstances. The JCC represents the model of acceptance, understanding and diversity. As such, people look to the JCC as a center that epitomizes how shared values can support a vibrant and evolving community. The JCC welcomes social inclusiveness, catering to a wide variety of ages, lifestyles, ethnicities and socio-economic backgrounds.

History

Founded August 15, 1927, the JCC provides programs and services to the community in its ever-expanding, modern facilities in Vestal. For almost 100 years, the JCC has offered programs in five major service areas to individuals and families with infants to senior adults: (1) Early Childhood Education, with services including infant care, toddler program, preschool program, and UPK program; (2) Youth and Teen programs/services; (3) Arts and Culture program; (4) Health and Wellness program and services – including fitness, athletics and aquatics; and (5) Summer Day Camp.

Dr. I.J. Rosefsky Early Childhood Education Center

The JCC offers a premier, full-day early childhood program for children ages 6 weeks to 5 years, operating year-round from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm, Monday through Friday.

The Dr. I.J. Rosefsky Early Childhood Education Center at the Jewish Community Center offers a warm, child-centered environment designed to help children grow into confident, responsible and successful learners. Emphasizing the journey of learning rather than predetermined outcomes, the school fosters creativity and exploration in every activity.

Guided by developmentally appropriate practices and the principles of the Creative Curriculum, the program is thoughtfully structured to support each child's unique growth and development. The Center is dedicated to creating a safe, supportive and enriching environment where every child can thrive and reach their fullest potential.

Families are encouraged to discover the nurturing, inspiring atmosphere that makes the Early Childhood Center a standout choice for early education in the community.

To register for any of the ECC programs, e-mail admissions@binghamtonjcc.org or call 607-724-2417.

Infant, Toddler and Preschool Program

Utilizing the nationally acclaimed Creative Curriculum, the program emphasizes hands-on learning, social-emotion-



The JCC will celebrate its 100th anniversary on August 15, 2027, and is currently running its centennial campaign, with a goal of \$800,000. For more information, contact the JCC at 607-724-2417, or visit www.binghamtonjcc.org/anniversary. Above, l-r: JCC President Bud Parish and JCC Executive Director Maurice Finklestein surveyed the site for the new JCC building in the late 1960s.

al growth and age-appropriate exploration across infant, toddler and preschool classrooms.

What distinguishes the program is its access to exceptional enrichment: children 18 months and older receive weekly swimming in the JCC's heated indoor pool and physical education classes. Daily activities include art, music, science, story time, dramatic play and outdoor exploration.

Children benefit from access to a dedicated art room, a full gymnasium, three age-specific playgrounds and scenic nature trails. Morning and afternoon snacks are provided, along with fresh kosher lunches prepared onsite by the ECC's own cook.

Jewish culture is celebrated through weekly Shabbat observances and holiday-themed activities that include stories, crafts, songs and food.

With its outstanding curriculum, caring environment, and unique facilities, the ECC provides an enriching early childhood experience unlike any other in the region.

Universal Pre-Kindergarten

The JCC is a Universal Pre-Kindergarten full-day provider for the Vestal and Binghamton school districts, and accepts limited self-pay spots out of district. The school prioritizes school readiness by blending academic instruction with social-emotional development. Early literacy and numeracy are introduced through structured lessons, group discussions and play-based learning centers.

All UPK students benefit from weekly swimming in the JCC's heated indoor pool and physical education classes, enhancing gross motor skills and overall physical wellness. Daily programming includes art, music, science, story time, dramatic play and outdoor exploration – providing a well-rounded foundation for lifelong learning.

Through cooperative play, self-regulation strategies and leadership opportunities, students build confidence, independence and the skills needed to thrive in kindergarten and beyond.

Contact the ECC at 607-724-2417 or by e-mail (admissions@binghamtonjcc.org) regarding enrollment.

Youth and Teen Programs/Services

The Youth Department provides a variety of classes and vacation programs for children in preschool through sixth grade. A variety of different classes are offered seasonally for youth of all ages and include art, sports, music, dance and special interests. Classes offer instruction in a creative, friendly atmosphere. Special interests expressed by participants often generate new programming ideas.

Kids Connection

The Jewish Community Center's licensed school-age childcare program, Kids Connection, is open to area elementary school-aged children in grades kindergarten-seventh and offers a diversified program with professional staff. Kids Connection is scheduled from 3:15-6 pm Monday-Friday, and 7:30 am-6 pm when Vestal schools are closed due to a snow day, vacation day, half-day or holiday. At Kids

Connection, children can play, do homework, have a snack, relax or participate in the weekly themed program. A day may also include swimming, games in the gym, youth sports and fitness, time on the school-aged playground and activities in science, music, cooking and art. A CIT, or Counselor-in-Training, program is available for students in grades six-eight.

Arts and Culture

The JCC sponsors many cultural, educational and social activities and programs throughout the year, which have included exhibits, lectures, trips, dances, classes, the Jewish Book Fair and Jewish cultural festivals. There is Jewish holiday programming for the entire family for Chanukah and Purim, as well as a drag show experience for the community. JCC classes range from youth through adult and can include art, nature, dance, theatre and more.

Friendship Club

The Jewish Community Center Friendship Club meets the third Wednesday of the month at the JCC for a variety of activities and programs. After refreshments at 1:30 pm, in addition to musical, educational, cultural and holiday programs, there is plenty of time to socialize, work on crafts, play cards or just talk. Meetings may also include a birthday celebration for all seniors whose birthdays fall during that month. The senior group also plans trips and outings during the year.

Health and Wellness program/services

The Binghamton JCC offers a full spectrum of programs to support mind, body and wellness, featuring year-round classes and activities across its facilities – including a Fitness Center, gymnasium, indoor pool, Pilates reformer studio, fitness loft, outdoor complex and 18-plus health clubs equipped with lounge areas, steam rooms and saunas. Certified personal trainers and yoga and Pilates reformer instructors – most with exercise science degrees – guide members through personalized workouts and specialized sessions in areas like tai-chi, Pilates and yoga.

The JCC offers group fitness and specialty classes, personal and small group training, and daily fitness center use, except on the Sabbath. The welcoming fitness center boasts ellipticals, treadmills, exercise bikes, selectorized equipment, squat racks and a variety of functional equipment, including fixed barbells, balls, bands, ropes and free weights. Certified personal trainers are available to help reach goals safely and effectively. The JCC offers Silver Sneakers classes and accepts many senior insurance plans for membership.

Athletics offerings span from age 2 through adult leagues. Pickleball continues to surge in popularity, with opportunities ranging from beginner instruction to competitive match play. Adults can also join popular basketball leagues, including both 21+ and 30+ leagues.

Youth athletics are a cornerstone of the JCC's programming. The JCC Hoopsters program offers engaging clinics, leagues and private basketball coaching for skill development and confidence-building. For younger children ages 2-5, classes like Lil Hoopsters, Lil Tumblers, Soccer Shots and more introduce fundamental movement and teamwork in a fun, supportive environment.

With a newly renovated gymnasium, expert coaching and a focus on inclusivity and growth, the JCC's sports offerings promote active lifestyles, healthy habits and a strong sense of community.

Contact the JCC today and mention this article for a complimentary trial pass.

Aquatics

The Binghamton JCC Aquatics Department offers American Red Cross swim lessons for all ages, including parent/child, preschool, youth, advanced youth and adult levels, with a focus on stroke development and water safety. A Masters Swim Program is available for adults, led by a certified USA Swimming instructor.

Water aerobics classes remain popular, promoting low-impact wellness for all fitness levels. The department also provides Red Cross certification courses in Lifeguarding, CPR, First Aid and AED, as well as Wilderness CPR.

The indoor pool is maintained at a comfortable 85 degrees. See "JCC" on page 15A



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At left: Community members enjoyed schmoozing and holiday treats at the JCC's community Purim Carnival on March 1.

JCC.....Continued from page 14A

and features ease-in steps and a chair lift for accessibility. Private swim lessons and personal aquatic training are available, led by certified instructors specializing in everything from learn-to-swim and adult lessons to adapted swim, ISR and more.

JCC Summer Camp

For more than 40 years, Camp JCC has earned a reputation for providing a quality day camp experience for the young people of the Southern Tier. Open to the entire community, Camp JCC is a place where children from ages 5-16 years come to develop new friendships and take on new experiences and challenges. Camps at the JCC also include week-long co-ed sports camps and specialty camps.

Camp JCC continues to offer new programs designed specifically to address the changing needs of campers and

their families. The counselor orientation and training ensure the highest quality of camper supervision. Camp structure guarantees that children of all ages will be provided with the opportunity to thrive and grow. The program emphasizes outdoor fun, physical growth and learning cooperation, and encourages children to explore new aspects of the world around them.

Camp JCC is based at the Jewish Community Center complex (indoor and outdoor) at 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal. The location provides children with a safe, clean and flexible environment where they can enjoy all that summer has to offer, rain or shine.

Camp JCC is the perfect place for young children to learn to swim, study nature, sing, dance, play sports, polish their sports skills, learn arts and crafts, explore folklore, and experience day trips, overnights and much more. All camp information and fees can be found online at www.binghamtonjcc.org.

JCC Guest Pass Policy

JCC members in good standing may receive complimentary passes to the JCC for out-of-town house guests for a period of up to two weeks. After three visits per year, local guests can choose to become a JCC member by visiting or calling the JCC office at 607-724-2417.

Seasonal Program Guide

JCC Program Guides are distributed and posted online in the spring, fall and winter. The Center offers educational, fitness, family-oriented and community-based programs



Swim lessons, water exercise, arthritis water exercise and community open swim times are held in the JCC's full-sized heated pool.



Community members enjoyed a variety of games and activities at the JCC's community Purim Carnival.

and services for all ages, from toddlers to senior citizens. Day and evening classes, lectures and special programs are scheduled throughout the year. Those interested need not be members to enroll in the many JCC courses listed in the guide. The Program Guide can be found and downloaded from the JCC's website, www.binghamtonjcc.org, at any time. To receive a paper copy, call the JCC office at 607-724-2417.

The JCC is a member agency of the United Way of Broome County, the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, The JCC Association of North America and NYCON, whose support underwrites priority services for those who cannot afford to pay the full cost of fees and charges.

Life Cycles

From the Jewish News of Greater Phoenix, with additions by Marc S. Goldberg.

Birth

When a child is born, parents choose a name, which is inscribed on the birth certificate. A Hebrew name also is chosen but is not given officially until the *brit milah* or *simchat bat*.

In Jewish families of European origin (Ashkenazic), a child usually is named after a deceased relative. In families of Mediterranean origin (Sephardic), a child usually is named after a living relative the parents wish to honor.

Brit Milah

Circumcision, or *brit milah*, is performed to symbolize the covenant between God and Israel. A healthy baby boy is circumcised on the eighth day of life. The ceremony includes giving the child his Hebrew name. Traditionally, circumcision is done by a *mohel* (a person ritually trained to perform circumcisions).

Beth David Synagogue suggests that people call the rabbi to arrange the *brit milah*, including arranging for a *mohel* to perform the circumcision.

Congregation Tikkun v'Or can arrange for a *brit milah* or alternative Jewish ceremonies (with or without circumcision) to welcome children into the Jewish community.

Ceremonies can be arranged for Temple Beth-El of Ithaca members and newcomers. A certified *mohel* is engaged for circumcision.

Temple Concord works in coordination with local physicians for *brit milah* ceremonies.

With the guidance of Rabbi Micah Friedman, Temple Israel coordinates traditional and personalized rituals to welcome newborn children into the covenant of the Jewish people and God. When a *brit milah* is required, a medically certified *mohel* will be recommended, and ceremonies may be held in the synagogue or at home.

Simchat Bat

The birth of a baby girl traditionally is marked in the synagogue, when her father or parents are called to the Torah on the Sabbath to give the newborn girl her Hebrew name. There are also baby-naming ceremonies available to be used at home or in a synagogue.

Beth David Synagogue can arrange a *simchat bat* ceremony in the synagogue or in the home.

Congregation Tikkun v'Or can arrange for *simchat bat* or alternative Jewish ceremonies to welcome children into the Jewish community.

Temple Beth-El of Ithaca can arrange a *simchat bat* service for members and newcomers.

Cantor Josh Stein of Temple Beth El of Oneonta coordinates the *simchat bat* ceremony for the congregation.

Temple Concord encourages *simchat bat*/welcoming ceremonies to be held at the temple welcoming newborn children into the congregation.

With the guidance of Rabbi Micah Friedman, Temple Israel coordinates traditional and personalized rituals to welcome newborn children into the covenant of the Jewish people and God.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah

From *simchat bat*, before you know it, it is time to plan for the bat mitzvah (for a girl) or bar mitzvah (for a boy). From the time a Jewish child enters religious school, he can be said to be preparing for this master recital. Boys and

in many cases today girls reach this milestone at age 13. In Orthodox and some other synagogues, a girl becomes bat mitzvah at age 12. While the core of a bar mitzvah is to be called up to the Torah for an *aliyah* (which entails learning only two relatively short blessings), traditionally the bar mitzvah chants the *haftarah*. He may also read the Torah portion, lead part of the service and give a short speech on the Torah portion, demonstrating his ability to be counted as a member of the congregation. In most Reform and Conservative synagogues, the bat mitzvah ceremony is identical to that of the bar mitzvah. In Orthodox synagogues the ceremony varies.

"Today, I am a man," the old cliché bar mitzvah speech begins and, in a religious sense, it is accurate. A bar mitzvah marks a religious coming of age. A bar or bat mitzvah is now religiously responsible for their actions and can participate in most religious functions as an adult.

And then, after this serious demonstration, there is the party. It can range from an elegant luncheon for the congregation immediately following the service, to a full-blast catered affair on Saturday night. Aside from the ritual blessings associated with any meal, there are no rituals required here, just fun – and a sense of relief on the part of the bar/bat mitzvah.

At Beth David Synagogue, the traditional bar mitzvah ceremony can be held on Shabbat or another day that the Torah is read. The bat mitzvah is expected to give an in-depth talk to the congregation demonstrating serious learning of some aspect of Judaism. The bat mitzvah may also lead some religious ceremonies such as *Havdalah*. Each ceremony is individually planned with the participation of the parents and rabbi.

Congregation Tikkun v'Or offers education and bmitzvah preparation as part of the religious school Jewish Learning Experiences program. Adult bmitzvah programs are offered when requested.

Temple Beth-El of Ithaca provides *b'nai* mitzvah training to students and their families. *B'nai* mitzvah celebrations are limited to synagogue members.

Temple Beth El of Oneonta has a bar and bat mitzvah program, which the cantor conducts.

Temple Concord has a bar/bat mitzvah guide available for parents. In addition to leading worship services and reading from the Torah, *b'nai* mitzvah students are expected to do a mitzvah project.

Rabbi Micah Friedman tutors all of Temple Israel's bar/bat mitzvah students. The temple also has a guide that covers the history of the ceremony, the honors given out in the synagogue, making party arrangements, etc.

To make bar/bat mitzvah arrangements, call any of the synagogues to get particulars on what they require.

Confirmation

For Reform and some Conservative Jews, the confirmation year, 10th or 11th grade, represents a special time of celebration and commitment. Typically, the year includes study and meetings with the rabbi, culminating in a special service, often held during Shavuot since that holiday commemorates the receiving of the Torah by the Jewish people.

The Temple Concord confirmation class is for ninth- and 10th-graders. A confirmation worship service is usually held on Shavuot.

Mikvah

Mikvah is a ritual bath of water used for spiritual purification. For many Jews, married life involves laws of *taharat hamishpachah* (family purity), after menstruation. The *mikvah* is also used today by some brides and grooms before their wedding, for purification before the High Holy Days and to renew or establish a deep commitment to Judaism. Converts to Judaism traditionally go to the *mikvah* as part of the birth of a new Jewish soul. New cooking utensils and dishes are taken to the *mikvah* before they are used in a Jewish home.

A *mikvah* is located at Beth David Synagogue in Binghamton. It is modern, beautiful, filtered and heated. Persons wishing to use it must schedule their visit in advance by calling the *shul* office at 607-722-1793. Women should call 607-761-0944.

Temple Beth-El of Ithaca has a beautiful kosher *mikvah*, available for *Taharat hamishpachah*, conversion and other ritual uses. Those interested in using the *mikvah* may contact the temple office at 607-273-5775 for details.

The Temple Concord rabbi is able to make arrangements for those who wish to use the *mikvah*.

Temple Israel has access to the *mikvah* at Beth David Synagogue in Binghamton.

Conversion

Conversion to Judaism is a path that requires both See "Life" on page 18A

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Binghamton University Hillel at Binghamton

Building Jewish Community on Campus and Beyond

With approximately 4,000 Jewish students enrolled at Binghamton University, the campus is home to one of the largest Jewish student populations in the country. At the center of that community is Hillel at Binghamton, an organization that serves as a hub for Jewish life, learning, leadership and connection.

Since its founding in 2001, Hillel at Binghamton has grown into one of the university's most active student organizations. Through more than 200 programs each year, Hillel provides opportunities for students to celebrate Jewish traditions, explore their identities, build friendships, develop leadership skills and engage with the broader community.

A Home for Jewish Life

For many students, Hillel serves as a home



Student leaders gathered for a leadership dinner and community-building discussion.

away from home throughout their college experience. Each Friday evening, students gather for Shabbat services and a free kosher dinner, creating a weekly opportunity to pause, connect, and celebrate together.

Jewish holidays are observed throughout the year with a variety of programs and tra-



Students participated in Hillel's annual Aroma event celebrating Israeli culture and community.

ditions. Students participate in High Holiday services, celebrate Sukkot in the campus sukkah, enjoy festive Purim events, and gather for Passover programming that helps them maintain meaningful connections to Jewish traditions while away from home.

Whether students arrive at Binghamton with extensive Jewish backgrounds or are seeking Jewish community for the first time, Hillel strives to create an environment where everyone feels welcome.

Developing the Next Generation of Leaders

Leadership development is a central part of Hillel's mission. Students have opportunities to serve on executive boards, lead campus initiatives, organize programs, and advocate for issues important to the Jewish community.

Many students begin their involvement through FreshFest, Hillel's pre-orientation experience, or through First-Year Students of Hillel (FYSH), which helps new students

build friendships and become connected to campus life. Overtime, many go on to assume leadership roles that help shape the future of Jewish life at Binghamton University.

Through these experiences, students gain valuable skills in communication, event planning, community building, and teamwork that continue to benefit them long after graduation.

Jewish Learning for Every Student

Hillel offers a wide range of educational opportunities designed to meet students wherever they are on their Jewish journeys.

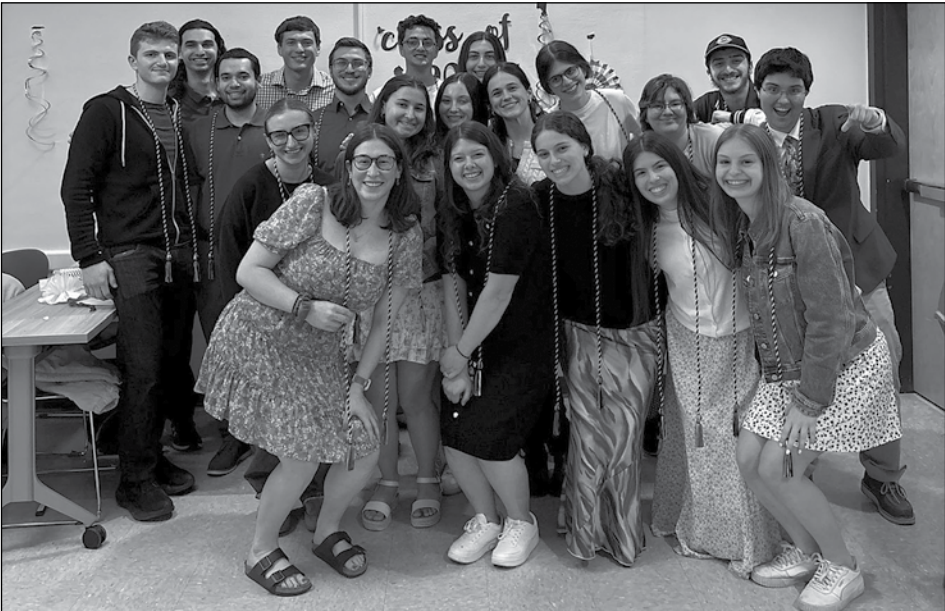
Programs such as the Jewish Learning Fellowship invite students to explore questions of identity, purpose, relationships and values through a Jewish lens. Students can also participate in one-on-one learning opportunities, group discussions and educational programs that encourage thoughtful exploration of Jewish traditions and contemporary issues.

Jewish learning at Hillel is designed to be accessible, engaging and relevant, welcoming students from all backgrounds and levels of experience.

Connecting Students with Israel

Israel engagement remains an important part of Hillel's programming. Students have opportunities to connect with Israel through cultural events, educational programs, leadership experiences and travel opportunities such as Birthright Israel.

Throughout the year, students participate in conversations about Israeli society, culture, history and current events while engaging with a variety of perspectives. Programs See "Hillel" on page 19A



Graduating seniors received Hillel graduation cords during the annual end-of-year gala.

Center for Israel Studies

Founded in 2016, the Center for Israel Studies at Binghamton University offers academic courses featuring a Binghamton University minor in Israel studies, research opportunities, and programming for students and faculty. Three core faculty and a range of affiliated faculty who carry out rigorous and interdisciplinary scholarship on various aspects of Israel and Palestine, offer courses in modern Israeli history, Hebrew and Israeli literature and culture, and society in Israel. Recognizing the value of complex questions, the Center's activities emphasize critical thinking and perspectives on topics including Zionism, Israel, and Palestine, in an independent and non-partisan scholarly

space, which does not engage in advocacy.

The Center also directly supports undergraduate research, including paid summer internships and other research opportunities, through grants and fellowships generously funded by donors. Lectures and workshops open to university and local community members enrich the Center's academic offerings. Community members are invited to participate in courses and Center for Israeli Studies activities on campus and online through live-streaming of all events.

For more information about courses and programming, contact the director, Professor Lior Libman, via e-mail at llibman@binghamton.edu.

MEOR Upstate

MEOR Upstate serves the students of Binghamton University, Cornell University and other area colleges. MEOR seeks to create a vibrant Jewish future led by a new generation who are literate in Jewish wisdom, culture and heritage; instilled with a personal identity that inspires commitment to Jewish values; and empowered and engaged in the Jewish community and support of Israel.

MEOR Upstate provides educational, religious and social programming to Jews of all backgrounds at Binghamton and Cornell universities, as well as other Southern Tier and Central New York colleges. Among MEOR's offerings are seminars, fellowships, study abroad programs, talks and other events that are open to the greater community.

MEOR's Rabbi Chaim Harkavy, his wife Adina and their nine children welcome BU students to their home with homemade meals and religious services in celebration of Shabbat and holidays, and treat guests like family. Throughout the academic year MEOR celebrates Shabbat from Friday sunset through Saturday night at the Maimonides House, located at 401 Murray Hill Rd., Vestal – right next to

Binghamton University. Depending on how the Jewish calendar coincides with the BU academic calendar, the following holidays may be celebrated at the Maimonides House: Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Simchat Torah, Chanukah, Purim, Passover, Lag B'Omer and Shavuot.

MEOR Upstate offers an array of travel opportunities to current students and alumni. Most trips are either to Israel, including Birthright trips, or regional/national. It also facilitates opportunities for students to explore Judaism in the outdoors.

MEOR Upstate also offers students the opportunity to study and grow at Jewish institutions in America and in Israel. Additionally, MEOR Upstate offers internships in an array of fields, both in America and Israel, in partnership a number of programs.

MEOR Upstate is a branch of the MEOR Heritage Foundation, which aims to bring the highest quality of Jewish programming to Jewish students at America's colleges and universities. For more information about the national MEOR Heritage Foundation, visit meor.org. For more information on MEOR Upstate, visit www.meorupstate.org or e-mail meorupstate@gmail.com.

Judaic Studies Department

The Department of Judaic Studies at Binghamton University allows students to major or minor in Judaic studies, or to pursue minors in Israel studies, Hebrew studies, religious studies, and Yiddish studies. The department is also starting a path to non-profit leadership, enabling Judaic studies majors to learn career skills through paid internships and mentor matches, and pursue 4+1 master's programs in business or public administration. Alongside the department, the Center for Israel Studies is an international leader in the field, offering innovative courses, research symposia and campus events. In addition, the department serves the broader Binghamton community through its collaboration with the College of Jewish Studies, a project of the Jewish

Community Center.

The department offers a wide range of courses in virtually every dimension of Judaic and Israel studies, as well as language instruction in Hebrew and Yiddish. The department lists current courses on its web page: www.binghamton.edu/judaic-studies/undergraduate/courses.html.

Students are encouraged to work as interns in local institutions through departmental community internships. Community members are welcome to audit courses in Judaic studies and Israel studies.

For more information about courses, programming and auditing courses, contact the chair, Dr. Shay Rabineau (rabineau@binghamton.edu), or the department administrator, Kim Schull (kschull1@binghamton.edu).

Binghamton University Zionist Organization

The BU Zionist Organization (BUZO) is a pro-Israel, SA chartered, independently run student organization at Binghamton University, dedicated to advocating for Israel and advancing the foundational principles of Zionism. Its mission revolves around cultivating an understanding of Israel's history and the core tenets of Zionism, with a particular emphasis on Jewish self-determination in their ancestral homeland.

In response to the concerning surge of antisemitic incidents across campuses and cities in the Western world since October 7, BUZO has proactively engaged in efforts to counter these sentiments and shed light on the challenges facing Israel within and beyond the university. Its initiatives include a diverse array of activities, such as hosting guest speakers and educators, advocacy campaigns, visual displays on campus, educational seminars, cultural events, distribution of educational materials at the university and more. Notably, since October 7, BUZO has expanded its outreach efforts and speaker events to include survivors of the Nova Festival and individuals with personal experiences during historical events in the Middle East.

Through collaborative efforts with vari-

ous student and non-student organizations, BUZO unites with other pro-Israel groups on campus to orchestrate cultural fairs, community rallies and joint endeavors to counter antisemitic rhetoric, notably through the "Say No! To BDS" Coalition. Its commitment extends to organizing counter-protests in the peak of antisemitism, hosting educational seminars, uniting to support pro-Israel groups from other universities, and conducting advocacy campaigns aimed at fostering an understanding of Israel's history, the complexities of the Middle East and the Zionist narrative.

BUZO's exciting cultural events, educational seminars, advocacy training, community engagement, and constant educational and cultural promotion creates opportunities for education, conversation and understanding. By consistently promoting dialogue, advocacy and pride, BUZO strives to serve as a pivotal platform for fostering education surrounding Israel and the intricate dynamics of the Middle East.

For more information and a schedule of upcoming events, e-mail buzo@binghamtonsa.org and follow BUZO on Instagram @buzo1948.

Cornell University

Steven K. and Winifred A. Grinspoon Hillel Center for Jewish Community at Cornell

The Steven K. and Winifred A. Grinspoon Hillel Center for Jewish Community at Cornell is the gateway for Cornell University's 2,500 Jewish students to get involved in a wide variety of cultural, social, educational, political and religious activities on campus. As one of the largest and most dynamic Jewish campus communities in North America, Cornell Hillel provides positive and meaningful Jewish experiences that are relevant to the lives of Jewish undergraduate and graduate students. This is done through a broad coalition of 30 different Jewish student groups, planning more than 1,000 programs a year, that are constantly developing as the needs of the students grow and change. Whether it's Israeli politics and advocacy, advocacy and service for local refugees, Latin-Israeli dancing, a cappella singing, traditional learning, or religious services, there is truly something for everyone.

Cornell Hillel is dedicated to training and nurturing its students to become future leaders and members of the American Jewish community, empowering them to find the balance between being distinctively Jewish and universally human. Over the past several years, Cornell Hillel has seen a tremendous growth in the number of students

taking an active part in Jewish life, both on campus and at national and international locations for leadership training and service work.

Cornell Hillel is a member of CURW (Cornell United

Religious Work) and the Hillel offices are located in G-34 Anabel Taylor Hall. For news and activities of Jewish life on campus, visit Cornell Hillel's website at cornellhillel.org or call 607-255-4227.

At right: Breaking ground on Harkavy Hall, Cornell's new Hillel student center. L-r: Rabbi Ari Weiss, CEO of Grinspoon Hillel; Dr. Steven Grinspoon; Winifred "Winnie" Grinspoon; Harriet Harkavy; Adam Lehman, president and CEO of Hillel International; and Cornell President Michael I. Kotlikoff. (Photo by Sreang Hok)



The Center for Jewish Living at Cornell

The Center for Jewish Living serves Cornell University's vibrant and diverse Jewish student community. Since 1959, CJL has been the epicenter of Jewish life and belonging at Cornell, offering daily religious services, providing kosher food at adjoining 104 West Dining Hall, and organizing social and Jewish scholarly programming such as guest lectures, panel discussions and cultural events. Most importantly, CJL is a place for students, offering a residence experience that provides a warm, welcoming and supportive Jewish experience. CJL covers one square acre on the south edge of the campus. CJL offers Cornell Jewish students a residential living environment, kosher dining, Shabbat and holiday celebrations, religious programs, social events and a community for safe expression.

Cornell is home to a large and diverse Jewish community, and CJL is committed to connecting students from all backgrounds. CJL religious and social programming events aim to imbue each student with a sense of belonging and community, while reinforcing their connection to their Jewish roots.

The residential house is the epicenter of the CJL community, serving as a home away from home for members. It is here where students learn, study and connect in an inviting atmosphere. Thirty male and female students live



The Center for Jewish Living residence and adjoining kosher dining hall on Cornell University's west campus.

in the CJL residence each semester.

Adjacent to CJL is 104 West! Kosher Dining Hall with seating for 250. Cornell Dining manages the kosher dining hall, a part of the student dining plan. Jewish artwork adorns the facility, which provides two kosher meals daily during the academic year and traditional Friday night and holiday meals. Menus are prepared under the supervision of STAR-K (meat and *pareve*) and STAR-D (dairy) kosher certifications, ensuring compliance with Jewish dietary laws. The resident *mashgiach* plays a crucial role in this process, overseeing the preparation and serving of kosher meals.

The chapel is appointed with stained glass windows

with verses from *Kohelet*. Three prayer services, including morning, afternoon and evening prayers, are held daily. Students participate in these religious services and faith education each week, which include Torah study sessions, discussions on Jewish ethics and opportunities for spiritual reflection. CJL has a rabbi-in-residence in partnership with the OU Heshe and Harriet Seif Jewish Learning Initiative on Campus (or JLIC), a program of the Orthodox Union.

CJL houses an extensive library and artwork collection, and offers a wide range of classes and events on timely and relevant Jewish topics and issues. These include courses on Jewish history, culture and religious texts, as well as discussions and lectures on contemporary issues.

Support is crucial in ensuring CJL continues to provide a safe and welcoming space for all Jewish students at Cornell. It helps in expanding social and scholarly programming, supporting religious services, holiday celebrations and kosher dining throughout campus. In the past year, programming has expanded to meet the expressed needs of students.

For more information, contact the Center for Jewish Living at 607-272-5810 or e-mail vpcomm@cornellcjl.com.

To support the CJL Endowment, send a gift to Cornell University, Acct# 0001399, PO Box 37334 Boone, IA 50037-0334.

Jewish Studies Program at Cornell

The Cornell University Jewish Studies Program was founded in 1973 on the conviction that understanding the impact and richness of Jewish culture requires training in the languages, literature and history of the Jewish people, as these developed across the globe and over thousands of years. Jewish Studies course offerings cover Jewish civilization from its ancient Near Eastern origins through its contemporary history. It is an interdisciplinary program, the interests of which are diverse and cross-cultural. The program brings together faculty from an array of departments, including Anthropology; Classics; English; German Studies; History; Linguistics; Near Eastern Studies; and Romance Studies.

The Jewish Studies Program provides instruction in a range of subjects and fields, including biblical and modern Hebrew and Yiddish; the Hebrew Bible; medieval and modern Hebrew literature and film; ancient, late antique, medieval and modern Jewish history; American Jewish culture; Holocaust studies; Israel studies; Jewish ethnogra-

phy; and Yiddish culture. Undergraduate students can earn a major or a minor in Jewish Studies. The Jewish Studies Program also supports graduate and undergraduate student research and travel.

Events and lectures throughout the academic year, sponsored by the Jewish Studies Program, serve to explore the depth and breadth of Jewish experience, and also allow in partnerships with a broad range of other programs and departments.

The Jewish Studies Program's public programs are aimed at the general community, as well as a more specialized academic audience. Interested area residents are invited to contact the Jewish Studies Program, to follow it on Facebook at www.facebook.com/JWSTCornell and to join its e-mail list to receive updates about upcoming events and developments in the program. For more information on the Cornell University Jewish Studies Program or to join our network of alumni and Cornell parent supporters, e-mail jewishstudies@cornell.edu.

Roitman Chabad Center at Cornell

The Roitman Chabad Center at Cornell University offers a warm and welcoming Jewish environment to all Jewish people in the Greater Ithaca area. Chabad caters to students, community members and visitors. The center, located at 102 Willard Way, Ithaca, provides open and lively Shabbat meals on both Friday night and Saturday for lunch, as well as a traditional service on Friday night and Saturday morning. All Jewish holidays are celebrated at Chabad and open to the public.

There are classes on a variety of topics offered by Chabad, including Jewish mysticism, the weekly Torah portion, Jewish law and much more. The staff at Chabad are also available for one-on-one learning sessions on any topic. Chabad is now offering classes via Zoom (online video conferencing);

sign up online at www.chabadcornell.com/zoom.

In addition to events and classes, Chabad provides for all practical Jewish needs – *mezuzahs*, *kashering* a home, birth of a child, bar and bat mitzvah preparation, marriage, *mikvah* use and assistance upon the passing of a relative, among others.

Chabad at Cornell now operates out of its new 10,000 square foot Morris Escoll Jewish Center. Community members who wish to join for Shabbat or holidays can check the website, www.chabadcornell.com, for times and RSVP using this link: chabadcornell.com/genericsvp.

For questions about services or programs that aren't listed online, e-mail the director, Rabbi Eli Silberstein, at es79@cornell.edu.

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Area Universities

Hillel at Ithaca College

Hillel’s mission is to enrich the lives of Jewish students so that they may enrich the Jewish people and the world. Hillel at Ithaca College, part of the Foundation for Jewish Campus Life, provides the infrastructure for incoming and current students on campus to develop leadership skills, and become social entrepreneurs and change agents who can help build a meaningful, socially aware student life at Ithaca College.

With more than 100 student programs and initiatives

on campus, free and open to all members of the Ithaca College community, Hillel prides itself as a partner with the college in building a diverse and inclusive community on campus. Hillel offers a spectrum of initiatives, ranging from holiday celebrations and religious observance, to social, cultural, fund-raising and educational opportunities in various fields of interest to Jewish students and to the general student population.

Hillel co-sponsors programs with various college

departments and student organizations. Hillel is committed to offering leadership and professional development to students on campus. Through volunteer board positions, paid internships and other leadership opportunities, Hillel supports a cohort of socially aware student leaders who are shaping the Ithaca College community and building partnerships with key stakeholders among students, faculty, staff and the larger Ithaca college community.

Chabad of Oneonta

Chabad of Oneonta is a “home away from home” for Jewish students at SUNY Oneonta and Hartwick College. Rabbi Meir and Fraidy Rubashkin, Chabad of Oneonta’s staff, strive to create meaningful relationships with a broad spectrum of students. Chabad is always open and welcome to any student of any affiliation, background or level of observance.

Through its diverse programming, Chabad offers ev-

erything from weekly Shabbat dinners to engaging Jewish educational opportunities. Chabad strives to reach every Jewish student and to inspire a positive connection to Judaism and Israel through a non-judgmental, friendly environment.

Each Friday night, Chabad celebrates students’ birthdays of that week and presents each student who is marking their birthday with a home-baked cake (students are sent a birthday card that week to let them know there

is a cake waiting for them).

Chabad also offers the Chicken Soup Express, when notified, for students who are feeling under the weather or who just need a small “pick me up.” Chabad will deliver home-made chicken soup and cheer right to a student’s room.

Chabad of Oneonta is located at 71 Chestnut St., Oneonta. Visit www.chabadoneonta.com or call 845-204-7436 for further information.

SUNY Cortland Hillel

SUNY Cortland Hillel is a vibrant club that has grown substantially over the past few years due to its strong, diverse peer leadership. The club meets every other Friday, usually at 5:30 pm, in the Voice Office in the Corey Union Building. Each week, there is a new activity or topic of discussion, such as paint night, bingo, celebrations, game nights, holiday parties, Holocaust memorials, a student-led Passover seder and more.

There is a Chabad House adjacent to campus, where students are welcomed for Friday night Shabbat dinners, holiday celebrations, traditional kosher food and activities. Hillel also participates in inter-club events and charitable fund-raising activities.

Hillel maintains a membership in the local synagogue, Temple Brith Sholom, where students are afforded an opportunity to participate in, as well as conduct, a cre-

ative service for the High Holidays and for the Sabbath of Parents Weekend.

The club welcomes students from all backgrounds who would like to have fun, socialize, engage in civic activities, and identify with and learn about Judaism. For more information on Jewish life on campus, contact student President Emma Lisnow at emma.lisnow@cortland.edu, or faculty advisor Nance Wilson at nance.wilson@cortland.edu or 607-753-4375.

Life.....

personal commitment and an extended period of study. Most rabbis are available to counsel and/or teach potential converts. All of the synagogues in town refer someone interested in conversion to Judaism to their rabbi for a private course of study.

The rabbi of Beth David Synagogue asks that anyone interested in conversion contact him to discuss each case individually.

Congregation Tikkun v’Or offers a conversion program for adults when requested.

Temple Beth-El of Ithaca provides for Conservative conversion. Study and preparation for conversion are provided by Rabbi Caleb Brommer and the community.

Those interested in conversion to Judaism should consult with Cantor Josh Stein of Temple Beth El of Oneonta to discuss this and other milestones.

Temple Concord welcomes those who would like to pursue the possibility of becoming a Jew-by-Choice. In addition to taking an online “Introduction to Judaism” course, prospective converts meet regularly with the rabbi and are encouraged to engage in services, programs and educational activities offered by the temple.

Rabbi Micah Friedman of Temple Israel designs individualized learning processes for those interested in becoming Jewish or reaffirming their Jewish identity and status. Contact the rabbi or office to set up an initial conversation about conversion.

Illness

Kosher meals are available upon request at all of the local hospitals. With some advance notice they can also often be arranged to meet dietary restrictions. Each of the hospitals in Broome County has an electric candelabrum, donated by Beth David Sisterhood, to be used in place of candles for Shabbat and holidays. Many of the synagogues arrange visits to the sick or otherwise remember them.

Beth David Synagogue has a Sisterhood committee that regularly visits people in the hospital. The rabbi visits patients in the hospital upon request.

Congregation Tikkun v’Or’s Caring Committee can make arrangements for meals, transportation, child care, home visits and any other requests for the ill or their families.

Temple Beth-El of Ithaca offers pastoral care for those who are ill or in need of spiritual support.

Temple Concord includes prayers for those who are ill in all worship services and maintains a *Misheberach* list to help members be aware of those in or connected with the community who are suffering from health problems. The Caring Community arranges for visitors at home during long-term illnesses.

Temple Israel’s Caring Community regards supporting people in times of illness and need as a sacred responsibility. Members are encouraged to be in touch with the office or rabbi if support would be helpful.

Death

The Jewish traditions related to death and mourning are intended to recognize death as a part of life. The traditions of preparing the body, sitting *shiva* (a seven-day period of mourning immediately following a funeral), saying *Kaddish*

(prayer for the dead) and observing the *yahrzeit* (anniversary of a death) guide Jews through a difficult period. These familiar customs and rituals provide for mourning, grief and re-emphasizing the true nature of life.

The body of the deceased is treated with respect, ritually washed, wrapped in a plain white shroud and placed in a plain pine coffin before burial. During *shiva*, the departed is remembered with tears and reverence.

Mourning is restricted to a maximum period of one year. The *Kaddish* prayer is said by the mourners for the first 11 months, on the anniversary of the death and at *Yizkor* services in the synagogue. A *yahrzeit* candle is lit for the seven days of mourning as well as on the anniversary of the death and on the evenings before we say the *Yizkor* service.

The synagogues in the area have arrangements with cemeteries.

Three, Beth David Synagogue, Temple Beth-El of Ithaca and Temple Israel, have burial societies, *chevra kadisha*, which prepare the body for burial according to Jewish law. The *chevra kadisha* of Beth David may be reached by calling Charles Manasse at 607-765-3304 or the rabbi. The *chevra kadisha* of Temple Israel may be reached by calling Howard Warner at 607-772-6163. Arrangements with the *chevra kadishas* of Beth David and Temple Israel can also be made through funeral homes that specialize in Jewish funerals. Temple Beth-El of Ithaca provides a *chevra kadisha* that assists all members of the Jewish community, regardless of membership or affiliation; contact the temple office at 607-273-5775.

Cantor Josh Stein of Temple Beth El of Oneonta conducts Jewish funerals for the community.

To make cemetery arrangements through Beth David Synagogue for its cemetery in Conklin, call Charles Manasse at 607-765-3304.

Funerals of Temple Concord members and their families are usually held in the temple sanctuary. The rabbi works with the family of the deceased to provide a meaningful service which respects the needs of the family.

Temple Israel supports mourners in preparation for a death and throughout the mourning process. Funerals are conducted in accordance with Jewish tradition and the preferences of the family, and Rabbi Micah Friedman will officiate in the synagogue, cemetery or at a local funeral home.

To make arrangements for burial in Temple Israel’s cemetery in Conklin, call Temple Israel at 607-723-7461 or Ron Sall at 607-722-7780.

West Lawn Cemetery Association, incorporated in 1906, owns and operates the West Lawn Cemetery, a not-for-profit Jewish cemetery on Burbank Avenue in Johnson City. It is not affiliated with any area congregation. Plots are available to any member of the local Jewish community. All interments have to be with the assistance of an area congregational rabbi and the deceased must be Jewish. For more information, call the Temple Concord office at 607-723-7355.

Temple Beth-El of Ithaca owns and maintains gravesite locations at Lake View Cemetery for use by members of Temple Beth-El and their families.

Temple Beth El of Oneonta owns and operates a Jewish

.....Continued from page 15A

cemetery. Call Steven Feuer, chairman of the cemetery committee, at 607-432-0108 for information.

For information on Temple Brith Sholom’s cemetery, contact Carol Levine at 315-696-5744.

There is a Jewish cemetery in Waverly, NY, located on Elm Street. For more information, contact Maynard Miran at 607-857-7991.

A number of synagogues have committees that try to help their member families, in mourning, with food and other services.

Beth David Sisterhood has a committee to prepare the meal for the family after the funeral.

Congregation Tikkun v’Or’s Bereavement Support Committee helps congregants with issues surrounding death and dying, including offering information on Jewish ritual and local resources. Committee members are available to assist families when a loved is dying or has just died, and are also a resource for those who want to discuss or learn more about Jewish practices for death and mourning. The committee can be reached at BereavementSupport@tikunvor.org.

Temple Concord has a Caring Community Committee that attends to the needs of the family and prepares the meal of consolation. For more information, call the Temple Concord office at 607-723-7355.

The Temple Israel Mitzvah Committee prepares a meal of consolation after the funeral and can be contacted through Suzanne Siegel at 607-785-5087.

Around the community...



The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton sponsored a 3GNY Holocaust presentation by Leah Goldberg at Susquehanna Valley High School on March 10. There were approximately 100 sophomores gathered to hear her tell her grandmother’s story of surviving the Holocaust.

Kashruth Guide

(Note: Unless otherwise specified, all area codes are 607.)

Local Kosher Establishments

Kosher Kitchen of Binghamton University

In the C-4 building
Kashrut supervision: OU – Rabbi Benjamin Kellman
Follows university calendar:
Mon.-Thurs.: breakfast (bagels only) 8-10 am; lunch 11 am-1:30 pm; dinner 5-8 pm
Fri.: breakfast (bagels only) 8-10 am; lunch 11 am-1:30 pm
Sat.: Closed
Sun.: brunch 11 am-1:30 pm; dinner 5-8 pm
Phone: 777-3193

Concord.....Continued from page 10A

support to members at times of illness, accident or other needs.

Education

In keeping with Jewish tradition and the principles of Reform Judaism, Temple Concord has a comprehensive religious school program, starting with younger children and progressing to confirmation. Religious school for children in kindergarten through seventh grade meets on Saturdays from 9:15-10:30 am and students and their families are strongly encouraged to attend Shabbat morning services immediately after. Hebrew classes meet on Thursday afternoons. Children in eighth, ninth and 10th grades, the post-bar/bat mitzvah program, meet once or twice a month, culminating in a Confirmation ceremony. The curriculum covers Jewish religious concepts and practices; Torah; Hebrew; Jewish values, morals and ethics; Jewish history from biblical to

104West! Kosher Dining Hall at Cornell University

104 West Ave., Ithaca
Satellite dining hall, It's Kosher!, in Northstar Dining Room at Appel Commons
Kashrut supervision provided by the Star-K under full-time *mashgiach*.
Follows university calendar.
All you can eat for a set fee.
Phone: 272-6907 (or 272-5810 Young Israel of Cornell)
Kosher meals are also available at various other dining halls on the Cornell campus. Cornell Dairy products – pasteurized and chocolate milks, ice cream and yogurt – are now certified kosher by the OU and are sold on campus in the dining halls and at the Dairy Bar in Stocking Hall.

Terrace Dining Hall at Ithaca College

IC Kosher Korner has a station in Terrace Dining Hall, which is open when the college is in session (closed mid-May through late August).
Kosher grab-n-go meals are available in Campus Center Dining Hall.
Kosher supervision by Star-K.
Hours:
Sun. brunch 10 am-2 pm
Sun.-Thurs. dinner 5-7 pm
Phone: 274-3905

Kosher Meat

There is no local kosher butcher.
Binghamton Price Chopper
Foundry Plaza, 10 Glenwood Ave., Binghamton
Phone: 770-7151

This store carries packaged products, and frozen meats and chicken.

Lipman's Kosher Market

1482 Monroe Ave., Rochester, NY 14618
Phone: 585-271-7886
Glatt kosher meat deliveries are usually once a month to Temple Beth-El of Ithaca. Call Lipman's for more information, visit www.lipmanskoshermarket.com/upstate-ny-delivery-schedule or visit its Facebook page, www.facebook.com/lipmanskoshermarket. Kosher supervision by Rochester Kehillah Kosher.
Wegmans
650 Harry L. Dr., Johnson City
Carries a small selection of fresh kosher meat and poultry, and some *glatt* kosher deli.

Wegmans

Elmira Rd., Ithaca
Carries a small selection of fresh kosher meat and poultry.

Weis Markets

50 Pennsylvania Ave., Binghamton

Phone: 762-5410
Carries a small selection of fresh and frozen kosher poultry.

Weis Markets

100 Rano Blvd., Vestal
Phone: 763-8712
Carries a small selection of fresh and frozen kosher poultry.

Supermarket Products

There are kosher product sections in most of the local supermarkets. Look for them in the following:

BJ's Wholesale Club

40 Graham Rd. West, Ithaca
Phone: 241-4762
Kosher bakery (under Kof-K supervision) and carries kosher products.
756 State Highway 28, Oneonta
Phone: 431-1111
Kosher bakery and carries kosher products.

Green Star Cooperative

Ithaca
Oasis (a health food store)
DeWitt Mall, Ithaca
Price Chopper
Foundry Plaza, Binghamton
Endicott
Oneonta

Tops Supermarket

East Hill Plaza, Ithaca
Elmira Rd., Ithaca
Pyramid Mall area, Ithaca
W. Main St., Owego

Trader Joe's

744 S. Meadow St., Ithaca

Wegmans

Harry L. Dr., Johnson City
Elmira Rd., Ithaca

Weis Markets

Various locations

Hillel.....Continued from page 16A

highlight Israel's diversity, innovation and contributions in fields ranging from technology and medicine, to arts and culture.

Building on the success of recent community celebrations, Hillel will continue to offer a robust range of Israel-focused programs throughout the coming academic year. These initiatives highlight Israeli culture, food, music, innovation, and educational experiences, providing meaningful opportunities for both students and community members to engage with Israel in diverse and enriching ways.

Strengthening Community Connections

While Hillel's primary mission is serving Jewish students, the organization increasingly serves as a bridge between Binghamton University's Jewish population and the broader Jewish community.

Community members regularly participate in holiday celebrations, educational programs and special events. Students, in turn, benefit from relationships with local families, alumni, synagogues and Jewish organizations throughout the region.

This growing connection was especially visible during Hillel's recent Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration, which welcomed students and local Jewish families to celebrate Israel's Independence Day together. Events like these create opportunities for meaningful intergenerational relationships and strengthen Jewish life throughout Greater Binghamton.

Service and Community Impact

The Jewish value of *tikkun olam*, repairing the world, plays an important role in student life at Hillel. Students participate in volunteer projects, service initiatives, hunger relief efforts and interfaith programs that encourage engagement with both the campus and the wider community.

Hillel's student-led Challah for Hunger chapter supports hunger relief efforts through bi-weekly challah sales, while interfaith programming fosters understanding and collaboration among students of diverse backgrounds.

Through these experiences, students learn the importance of civic engagement, service and leadership.

Looking Toward the Future

As Hillel continues to grow, the organization is investing in new opportunities

present time; and comparative religion. Family membership in the congregation is not required for a child to participate in these programs for the first year, but is required thereafter.

Adults have many opportunities to study together. The weekly Torah study group takes place on Saturdays at 9:15 am and is open to all. The rabbi of Temple Concord also offers a series of adult learning classes on a regular rotation of different topics held on Wednesdays at 6 pm, after evening prayers.

Life Cycle

The rabbi of Temple Concord is available to officiate at the life cycle events of temple members, free of charge. For non-members, people are invited to reach out to the rabbi to make arrangements. More information can be found in under "Life Cycles" section of this Community Guide on page 15.

to strengthen Jewish life on campus and throughout the community.

One significant development is the addition of a full-time campus rabbi, a position that will expand opportunities for Jewish learning, spiritual growth, pastoral support and community engagement. The new role reflects Hillel's ongoing commitment to meeting the evolving needs of students while creating additional opportunities for partnership with the broader Jewish community.

With growing student participation, expanded Israel programming, strengthened community partnerships, and new investments in Jewish learning and leadership, Hillel at Binghamton continues to build on its role as a center for Jewish life in the Southern Tier.

Whether through a Shabbat dinner, a leadership program, a cultural event, a service project, or a community celebration, Hillel remains committed to fostering connection, belonging and meaningful Jewish experiences for students and community members alike.

For more information about Hillel at Binghamton, visit hillelatbinghamton.org or contact the organization at 607-777-3424 or info@hillelatbinghamton.org.



Students and community members gathered for Hillel's annual Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration.

Seen around the community...

At right: Temple Concord Religious School students learned about Sukkot and decorated the sukkah.



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Directory of Organizations

(Note: Unless otherwise specified, all area codes are 607.)

Beth David Synagogue – 722-1793

Rabbi: Zev Silber
President: Saba Wiesner
Sisterhood President: Cathy Velenchik
PR Contact: Kathie Shelly
Office Hours: Tues., 10 am-1 pm; Thurs. 9 am-1 pm
E-mail: bethdavid@stny.rr.com
Rabbi’s e-mail: rabbisilber@stny.rr.com
Website: www.bethdavid.org

BinghamtonUniversityZionistOrganization

E-mail: buzo@binghamtonsa.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/buzo1948/info
Instagram: @buzo1948

Center for Israel Studies, Binghamton University – 777-3030

Director: Professor Lior Libman
Administrative Assistant: Jaileen Pache
E-mail: llibman@binghamton.edu
Website: https://www.binghamton.edu/centers/israel-studies

Chabad of Oneonta – 845-204-7436

Contacts: Rabbi Meir and Fraidy Rubashkin
Website: www.chabadofoneonta.com
Facebook: Chabad of Oneonta - Rohr Jewish Student Center

Congregation Tikkun v’Or – 256-1471

Presidents: Judy Saul and Eric Maroney
Education Director: Jennie Lavine jennie.lavine@tikkunvor.org
Administrative Coordinator: Kenny Berkowitz kenny.berkowitz@tikkunvor.org
Bmitzvah Coordinator: Michael Margolin
Website: www.tikkunvor.org

Cornell University Jewish Studies Program – 255-6275

Director: Deborah Starr
E-mail: jewishstudies@cornell.edu
Website: jewishstudies.cornell.edu
Facebook: www.facebook.com/JWSTCornell

Hillel Academy – 304-4544

Director of Secular Education: Sarah MacDougal – sthomas1320@hillelacademyofbc.org
Director of Judaic Studies-Hebrew: Rabbi Moshe Shmaryahu – rabbishmaryahu@gmail.com
President: Maren Nasar
Enrollment, Community Outreach, Grants and Fund-raising – frontoffice@hillelacademyofbc.org
Office hours: 8:30 am-3:30 pm
E-mail: frontoffice@hillelacademyofbc.org
Website: www.hillelacademyofbroomecounty.org
Facebook: Hillel Academy of Broome County
Instagram: @hillel_academy_bc

Hillel at Binghamton – 777-3424

Executive Director: Chelsea Rego
Campus Rabbi (Rav): Alex Hamilton
Office Manager: Mia Jones
Springboard Ezra Jewish Education Specialist: Noah Lenkin
Jewish Agency Israel Fellow: Amit Bachrach
OU-JLIC Directors: Rav Jared and Sarit Anstandig
E-mail: hillel@binghamton.edu
Website: www.hillelatbinghamton.org

Hillel at Ithaca College: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life – 274-3323

Executive Director: Calle Schueler
Jewish chaplain: Cantor Abbe Lyons
E-mail: hillel@ithaca.edu
Website: ithaca.edu/hillel
Facebook: fb.com/ichillel

Ithaca Area United Jewish Community – 257-5181

Contacts: Marcia Zax and Marjorie Hoffman
E-mail: info@iaujc.org
Website: www.iaujc.org
Facebook: Ithaca Area United Jewish Community

Ithaca Beit Midrash

Contact: Rabbi Suzanne Brody
E-mail: ithaca.beit.midrash@gmail.com
Website: www.ithacabeitmidrash.com

Jewish Community Center – 724-2417

President: Justin Salkin
Vice President: Rachel Priest
Chief Executive Officer: Sheryl Brumer
Chief Operating Officer: Raychel Reilly
Chief Financial Officer: Deborah Beylo
Membership and Facilities Director: Kathy Kiekel
Administrative Manager: Laura Hotaling
Receptionist: Alexia Dawson
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Marketing Manager: Katelynn Hrywnak
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Early Childhood Director: Kymberly James
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Business Manager: Deanna Lillie
Curriculum Manager: Shaina Toppin
After School Program Manager: Dina Shvetsov
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Kitchen Assistant: Michele Eisenberg
Sr. Facilities Technician: Scott Nowalk
Health and Wellness Director: Kristina Reilly
Aquatics Coordinator and Coach: Lani Kosick Ames
Fitness Coordinator and Personal Trainer: Caty Flagg
Red Cross Certification Instructor: Kevin McGuigan
Youth Basketball Coordinator: Loic Sebuharara
Basketball Coach: Sama Barwari
Basketball Coach: Rah Jordan
Basketball and Tumbling Coach: Zach Reif
Adult League Coordinator: Matt Lusby
Office Hours: Mon. 9 am-8 pm, Tues. 9 am-5 pm, Wed. 9 am-5 pm, Thurs. 9 am-8 pm, Fri. 9 am-5 pm
Early Childhood Center Hours: Mon.-Fri. 7:30 am -5:30 pm
Website: www.binghamtonjcc.org
Facebook: facebook.com/JCCBinghamton
Instagram: @thebinghamtonjcc

Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton – 724-2332

President: Suzanne Holwitt
Executive Director: Shelley Hubal
Jewish Family Services Director: Merryl Wallach
Office Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 9 am-4 pm
Website: www.jfgb.org

Judaic Studies Department, Binghamton University – 777-3030

Chair: Dr. Shay C. Rabineau, rabineau@binghamton.edu
Department Administrator: Kim Schull, kschull1@binghamton.edu
Administrative Assistant: Jaileen Pache
Website: www.binghamton.edu/judaic-studies
Facebook: Binghamton University Department of Judaic Studies

MEOR Upstate – 607-743-5579

Executive Director: Rabbi Chaim Harkavy
Director of Women’s Programming: Adina Harkavy
E-mail: meorupstate@gmail.com
Website: www.meorupstate.org
Facebook: MEOR Binghamton and MEOR Cornell

Norwich Jewish Center – 334-2691

Contact: Susan Fertig, 334-6756, fertigs@roadrunner.com

Penn-York Jewish Community

E-mail: pennyorkjc@gmail.com

Rohr Chabad Center of Binghamton – 797-0015

Executive Director: Rabbi Aaron Slonim
President of the Board: Michael Wright
Associate Director: Rivkah Slonim
Education and Ritual Directors: Rabbi Zalman Chein, Rochel Chein
Chabad- Downtown and Development Directors: Rabbi Levi Slonim, Hadasa Slonim
Programming and Engagement Directors: Rabbi Yisroel Ohana, Goldie Ohana
Office hours: May be reached at any time
E-mail: info@chabadofbinghamton.com
Websites: www.chabadofbinghamton.com and www.JewishBU.com

Roitman Chabad Center at Cornell – 319-0874

Website: www.chabadcornell.com

SUNY Cortland Hillel

Student President: Emma Lisnow emma.lisnow@cortland.edu
Faculty Advisor: Nance S. Wilson, nance.wilson@cortland.edu, 753-4375

Steven K. and Winifred A. Grinspoon Hillel Center for Jewish Community at Cornell – 255-9712

Executive Director: Rabbi Ari Weiss, adw224@cornell.edu
Chief Development Officer: Susanna Cohen, skc79@cornell.edu
E-mail: cuhillel@gmail.com
Website: www.cornellhillel.org

Temple Beth-El, Ithaca – 273-5775

President: Nommi Nadich
Rabbi: Caleb Brommer
Director of Education and Engagement: Calle Schueler
Sisterhood President: Susan Lustick
E-mails: secretary@tbeithaca.org, rabbi@tbeithaca.org, calle-schueler@tbeithaca.org, president@tbeithaca.org
Website: www.tbeithaca.org

Temple Beth El, Oneonta – 432-5522

Cantor: Josh Stein
President: Ohad Shem-Tov
Religious School Director: Rachael Kornhauser
E-mail: TBEOneonta@gmail.com
Website: www.templebetheloneonta.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/search/top?q=temple%20beth%20el%20oneonta

Temple Brith Sholom, Cortland – 756-7181

Cemetery Committee: 315-696-5744
Website: templebrithsholomcortland.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/Temple-Brith-Sholom-114006981962930/

Temple Concord – 723-7355

Rabbi: Leiah Moser
Religious School Principal: Orly Shoer
Office Hours: Tues.-Fri. 10 am-2 pm
E-mails: TempleConcordBinghamton@gmail.com, templeconcordaa@gmail.com
Website: www.templeconcord.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/templeconcord

Temple Israel – 723-7461

Rabbi: Micah Friedman
Acting President: Arthur Siegel
Office Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 8:30 am-3:30 pm, Fri. 8 am-3 pm
E-mail: office@templeisraelvestal.org
Website: www.templeisraelvestal.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/TempleIsraelVestal

The Center for Jewish Living at Cornell – 272-5810

Dining hall: 272-6907
E-mail: vpcomm@cornellcjl.com
Website: http://cornellcjl.com

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