

Federation plans Yom Hashoah program on April 22

By Reporter staff

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton will hold a Yom Hashoah program on Tuesday, April 22, at 6:30 pm, at Temple Concord, 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton. The evening will open with a short commemorative service led by local rabbis. Then Dr. Eileen Angelini, Ph.D., a Holocaust scholar and educator, will offer a talk called "Simple Acts of Human Kindness." During her presentation, Angelini will provide an overview of the position that France had during World War II and screen sections of the documentary "La France divisée/France Divided" that highlight simple acts of hu-

man kindness by non-Jews that resulted in some Jews surviving the Holocaust.

Registration for the program is encouraged, but not required, and can be made at www.jfgb.org or by contacting the Federation office at director@jfgb.org or 607-724-2332. For more information about the program, contact the Federation. The event is co-sponsored by Beth David Synagogue, Temple Israel and Temple Concord.

"La France divisée/France Divided" explores the events of World War II in France via oral testimony of survivors, hidden children, Righteous Gentiles and members of the French Resistance. The

interdisciplinary film was co-produced, written and directed with Barbara P. Barnett, and was supported by a Title VI Grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

Angelini has spent years working and lecturing on the causes and events of the Holocaust, particularly as it relates to the occupation of France during World War II. She has made presentations at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, and also served as a faculty fellow for the Holocaust Museum Houston's Warren Fellowship for Future Teachers. In the spring of 2024,

Angelini received a Reading and Discussion Program Grant from Humanities New York to facilitate sessions at the Jewish Federation of Central New York, Syracuse, on the topic "The Righteous Among the Nations: Understanding Rescue During the Holocaust."

"Join us for what is certain to be a fascinating look at how simple acts of human kindness can save people's lives," said Shelley Hubal, Federation executive director. "I feel it's important for the community to gather to recognize the significance of Yom Hashoah and I am grateful that the Federation can offer this type of moving and educational program."

Jewish Film Fest continues in March-April

In-person showing of "Kidnapped" on March 30

By Reporter staff

The Binghamton Jewish Film Fest will hold an in-person showing of the film "Kidnapped: The Abduction of Edgardo Mortara" on Sunday, March 30, at 2 pm, at the Jewish Community Center, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal. There is a suggested donation of \$5. The film is in Italian with subtitles. Dora Polachek, Ph.D., associate professor of romance languages and literatures at Binghamton University, will moderate a discussion See "March" on page 6



Scene from "Kidnapped." (Photo courtesy of Cohen Media Group)

Virtual showing in April of "Troll Storm"

By Reporter staff

The Binghamton Jewish Film Fest will hold a virtual showing of the documentary "Troll Storm." Richard (Dick) Lewis, an attorney at Hinman, Howard and Kattell, and immediate past president of the New York State Bar Association, will moderate a Zoom discussion. People can register for links to the film and discussion at www.jfgb.org/film-fest. The film will be available for viewing from Thursday-Sunday, April 3-6. The discussion will be held on Sunday, See "April" on page 12

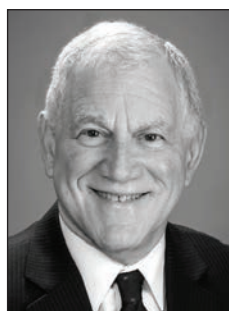


Whitefish resident Tanya Gersh walked with Steven Jacobs in a scene from "Troll Storm." (Photo courtesy Delphin Films)

Richard Lewis to be honored at BD dinner on May 4

Beth David Synagogue's Annual Dinner will take place on Sunday, May 4, with the Jack and Mary Ferber Award being given to attorney and community member Richard C. Lewis. The catered event will begin at 3 pm at the synagogue with a cocktail and hors d'oeuvres hour, followed by a catered sit-down dinner at 4 pm. The cost per person is \$65 and sponsorships are available. Invitations will be sent out in April, as well as raffle tickets for purchase for the cash prizes at the event. Those wanting further information can contact the synagogue at 607-722-1793 or bethdavid@stny.rr.com.

"Together with his devoted wife, Lori A. Lewis, and their daughters, Emily and Anna Lewis, Dick Lewis has been a proud member of Binghamton's Jewish community for more than 50 years," said organizers of the event. "He has worked tirelessly to support local institutions, including Beth David Synagogue, Temple Israel, the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, the Jewish Community Center and, of course,



Richard Lewis (Photo courtesy of Hinman, Howard & Kattell, LLP)

Hillel Academy of Broome County, where Emily and Anna completed kindergarten through eighth grade before going on to and graduating from Binghamton High School and colleges in upstate New York. He has also had many leadership roles in the general community."

Organizers added, "Everyone who knows Dick will tell you what a gem of a human being he is; his impact on the community is beyond measure."

Beth David President Saba Wiesner recounted her experience when she asked Lewis if he would be the synagogue's attorney if they needed legal advice. "Before I could finish my sentence," she recalled, "he said, 'Of course!'"

Over the decades that he has lived in Binghamton, Lewis' leadership skills have taken many forms. Beginning in 2002, he served for eight years as president of Hillel Academy of Broome County. He is also a past president of Temple Israel. At the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, See "Lewis" on page 4

Spotlight

Versatile Rosenberg publishes a new picture book

By Rabbi Rachel Esserman

Liz Rosenberg is a very versatile writer, so much so that it's impossible to predict the genre and age range of future works. Rosenberg has written everything from poetry and literary novels for adults to picture books for children and nonfiction biographies for tweens and teens. Her latest publication, "Giant Baby" (Marble Press), is a picture book with illustrations by Eva Byrne.

The inspiration for her latest work didn't take much thought on Rosenberg's part. "Giant Baby" was very much inspired by

my grandson Max, now 4 and a half years old, though the child in the story is more of a toddler – let's say between 14 months and age 3," she said in an e-mail interview. "I think all of my best picture books have been inspired by my own actual children – and now, by my actual grandson. So, I hope Max will keep on influencing my work."

However, when writing the book, she couldn't help but think back to when Max's father, Eli, was a toddler: "I remember as a young mom looking at our first-born, Eli, saying, 'He's getting so big! It looks

At right: A page from "Giant Baby" with text by Liz Rosenberg and illustrations by Eva Byrne (Used with the permission of Marble Press)



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Opinion

From the Desk of the Federation Executive Director

With gratitude

SHELLEY HUBAL

"I simply want to serve and to try to make this world a better place." This was just part of Delaware Representative Sarah McBride's dignified response that was posted on X after being misgendered on March 11 at a House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe by Texas Representative Keith Self. Representative McBride is the first openly trans person in the U.S. Congress. In case you missed the exchange, you can watch it on any online news platform or on social media.

Representative Self's act was intentionally cruel. It was also bigoted and is sure to further stoke the hate that will undoubtedly put the lives of trans people at risk at the hands of others and from suicide. According to The Trevor Project, whose mission is to end suicide among LGBTQ+ young people, "More than 1.8 million LGBTQ plus young

people (ages 13-24) seriously consider suicide each year in the U.S. – and at least one attempts suicide every 45 seconds." There are plenty more horrifying statistics that you can read for yourself at www.thetrevorproject.org.

Why is it so hard to be kind? Shouldn't we treat all people with respect and dignity? What difference does it make how someone chooses to live their life? Representative McBride is a smart, hard-working woman who was elected to represent the people of Delaware and is singularly focused on doing just that. We are facing a multitude of challenges in this country and around the world, so why not focus on solutions?

As the mother of a non-binary person, the anger and violence these legislators are stoking, for no reason, quite honestly keeps me up at night. Like all other parents around

the globe, I want my now adult child to live in peace without fearing for their life because of who they are. I also know they should have the same opportunities to work and contribute to society. Why would our government want to impede that? It is ignorant, hateful and violent.

To be completely honest, having a non-binary child has not always been easy. At times, the learning curve has been sharp, and the relationship strained. I have been humbled by what I thought I knew and what I have come to know now. However, a few things have always been clear: my job is to love and to be respectful. This means opening my eyes and my heart to the person and people in front of me and saying, "I see you. I support you. I support your choices, and I have your back no matter what." Shouldn't this also be the role of our elected officials?

Jews and the embattled American democracy

By Bill Simons

The pursuit of freedom and liberty is at the core of the Jewish American experience. The same is certainly true of other ethnic and racial groups. But history, tradition and status render Jews the "most visible non-Christian religion," notes historian Adam Jortner. This makes Jews central to the fight for religious freedom and non-sectarian citizenship.

In 1654, 23 Sephardic Jews, fleeing the Inquisition in Portuguese Brazil, arrived in New Netherland. They were the first Jews to settle in a colony destined to participate in the establishment of the United States. However, the pioneers of Jewish America soon found themselves locked in conflict with Peter Stuyvesant, director-general of Dutch possessions in the New World.

Stuyvesant pursued discriminatory policies against the Jews, amongst them inequitable taxes, unlawful imprisonment, exclusion from the home guard, occupational barriers and a prohibition against establishing a synagogue. With the aid of the aid of co-religionists in Holland who interceded with the Dutch West India Company, the Jews of New Netherland vitiated several of Stuyvesant's edicts

and outlasted his ousting by the English in 1664.

In varying degrees, most English colonies on the North American mainland practiced some form of legal restriction against Jews. Joyner's "A Promised Land" chronicles Jewish support for independence and links that support to the quest for religious freedom and citizenship. The Declaration of Independence of 1776 did not bring full legal rights to all American Jews, but a trajectory of ascending liberty beckoned. Yet, on December 17, 1862, Union major general and future President Ulysses Grant issued Order No. 11, expelling Jews from Tennessee, Mississippi and Kentucky, an edict subsequently revoked by President Abraham Lincoln. In the Shoah's shadow, the antisemitic Assistant Secretary of State Breckinridge Long rigged the visa system against Jews attempting to flee Nazi persecution.

Ultimately, Jews won their full legal rights, part of their participation in an inclusionary battle for all Americans. As Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. proclaimed, "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." Shaped by a still evolving democracy, America did indeed become the Promised Land for Jews

and others seeking liberty and opportunity.

Today, however, the American democracy is at a critical passage. Ultimately, our democracy is an experiment and, in 2025, the experiment is not going well. Ideological loyalty substitutes for patriotism. Volume and threat replace truth. Chainsaw cuts mock basic needs. Bullying passes for diplomacy. Every sector of the national infrastructure – defense, justice, treasury, trade, communication, health, energy, environment and education – faces the specter of enervation and politicization.

Writing for the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Yehuda Kurtzer, president of the Shalom Hartman Institute, asserts, "We thrived in America not because we received special treatment, but because we benefitted from equal treatment. . . In contrast to most of Diasporic Jewish history, in which Jewish safety depended on the vicissitudes of the ruling class, American Jews leaned into the core principles of American democracy as vital instruments to keep us equal, protected, and safe among our fellow Americans. We even went so far as to integrate what we saw as American ideas See "Democracy" on page 11

In My Own Words

The purpose of government

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

"Government, at its core, is responsible for maintaining order, providing essential services, and ensuring the well-being of its citizens through various functions like law enforcement, infrastructure, and social programs." – Google AI

I'm careful when reading AI definitions to make certain that the information is correct, but, in this case, Google AI and I are basically in agreement: the purpose of government is to care for its citizens. That means we are willing to have some restrictions placed on our behavior in exchange for the government passing laws and taking actions that protect our well-being. In simple terms, that means we obey traffic laws, pay taxes and refrain from stealing or assaulting others, etc., in exchange for the government protecting us from those who would harm us or create situations that would be dangerous for our well-being, including, but not limited to, laws protecting our food supply.

I originally thought of this in early January after reading an article that spoke about the increase in the food recalls that had taken place last year: We expect the government to help keep our food supply safe. According to the USA Today Network article, people now have less trust in the government to keep our food safe than they did in prior

For Jeremy Staiman's "One Perspective from Israel" column, see page 4.

years. Underlying this is the expectation that government agencies will be informed about food related illnesses through hospitals and members of the medical profession, and have the resources to track the problem to its source so that food can be recalled and warnings spread to stop the illnesses and deaths caused by the problem. The Food and Drug Administration is responsible for making this happen.

However, it's not just food for which the Food and Drug Administration is responsible. According to www.fda.gov/about-fda, "more than 18,000 FDA employees work in all 50 states and internationally to ensure the safety and effectiveness of human and veterinary medicines, biologics, and medical devices. We also regulate the safety of food, cosmetics, devices that emit radiation, and tobacco products." Well, at least they used to: in February, the Trump administration ordered the agency to slash the number of those working for it.

Let me make that clear: in the midst of increasing problems with the safety of our food, the Trump administration has tried to cut back the number of people working to keep the citizens of the United States safe, healthy and alive. There has been some reversal of these firings, but that shouldn't deter us from noting that these people and those in other government agencies who work to protect our citizens have had their jobs cut in massive layoffs. This is *not* careful consideration about how to make the government more efficient: this is a clear lack of caring

about our social contract with the government.

Lack of staff means fewer people to track food-related illnesses. It means longer time frames for approving life-saving drugs. It means the end of some life saving actions. It means the safety of American citizens is less relevant to the current administration than cost-cutting measures that break our social contract.

However, it's already quite clear that the Trump administration is less interested in helping citizens of our country than following its own agenda. The Republican party has told its members not to hold town hall meetings because it knows that citizens are angry: these government cuts were not what people voted for. Most of the promises made by the current president during his campaign have not been realized. The economic repercussions of jobs lost, in addition the problems caused by tariffs, are yet to be determined, but few analysts offer positive outlooks.

Perhaps I worry more about this because I grew up reading books about the Great Depression given to me by my father, who lived through that time period. That depression was one of the reasons we have social programs, partly because so many men were unable to serve in the army in World War II due to the deprivations caused by the depression. Another depression is preventable and our representatives – those from both parties – need to stand up for what is best for our country and live up to the social contract that governs us.



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LETTERS

The Reporter welcomes letters on subjects of interest to the Jewish community. All letters must be signed and include a phone number; names may be withheld upon request.

ADS

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DEADLINE

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TC/TI adult ed. program on the Yiddish Bund on April 27

The Adult Education Committee of Temple Concord and Temple Israel will hold a program, "The Yiddish Bund and Bundism: The Politics of Here-ness, Then and Now," and light brunch on Sunday, April 27, from 10 am-noon, at Temple Concord, 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton. Gina Glasman, lecturer in Judaic studies at Binghamton University, will be joined by some members of Binghamton University's "New Jewish Bund" in a panel discussion about Bundism, its history and current relevance.



Gina Glasman

this key question: namely, to align Jewish politics with a "Diasporist" or "Zionist" orientation. At the time, these were competitive alternatives at the ballot box. Today, in a vastly different time and place, a contemporary generation of students, both in America and beyond, has turned to Bundism as a way to channel their Jewish political identity. The program will feature examples of the phenomenon.

Glasman teaches Yiddish language, Yiddish culture and the history of Jewish New York, to name just some of the many courses she has taught in the Judaic Studies Department at Binghamton University. With degrees from University of Cambridge, Jewish Theological Seminary and Columbia University, her interest in the study of Yiddish society and its urban culture has roots in her own biography as the grandchild of Yiddish speaking immigrants to London. As a recipient of BU's Provost's Award for Excellence in Teaching, Glasman's work often seeks to bind together forms of personal engagement with scholarly research and she encourages students to do the same - whether they are learning Yiddish language, or immersing themselves in the history of this distinctive diasporic minority.

The entire community is welcome to attend. There is a suggested donation of between \$5-20 per person. For more information and to RSVP, contact Temple Israel at 607-723-7461 or office@templeisraelvestal.org, or Temple Concord at 607-723-7355 by Wednesday, April 23, so enough refreshments can be prepared.

In Poland before World War II, a Jewish political party known as the Bund campaigned in local and national elections with a one-word slogan, "Here!" or "Do!" in Yiddish. The slogan was designed as a challenge to competing Jewish electoral parties that had an agenda of "there," or a Zionist-informed ticket. Often, both these opposing parties were rooted in similar socialist positions, but differed on

The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to the family of **Genevieve Ado-Mai**

The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to the family of **Hersh S. Rozen**

The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to the family of **Jeffrey B. Shapiro**

The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to **Marci Goodwin** on the death of her mother, **Fern Sternberg**

The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to the family of **Richard Werner**

TC-TI adult education brunch



The Adult Education Committee of Temple Concord and Temple Israel held a program and brunch on March 9. A group of actors led by Deb Williams presented four skits taken from the collection "Oy!" by Rich Orloff. (Photos by Steve Gilbert)



L-r: The actors who took part in the skits were Gary Hansen, Ted Major, Krista Guidici, Larry Guidici and Deb Williams."

REPORTER DEADLINES

The following are deadlines for all articles and photos for upcoming issues of the biweekly REPORTER.

ISSUE	DEADLINE
April 11-24.....	April 2
April 25-May 8.....	April 16
May 9-22.....	April 30
May 23-June 12.....	May 14

All deadlines for the year can be found at www.thereportergroup.org/contact-us/faqs under "Q: What Are the Deadlines for the Paper?"

Tea and Talk

Chabad of Binghamton, with co-sponsorship from the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, holds Tea and Talk programs, an hour-long gathering for local Jewish seniors who are looking for "a meaningful conversation," from 11 am-noon, in Chabad's atrium lounge.

Upcoming dates are:

- ◆ April 9
- ◆ April 24

To RSVP and for more information, visit www.JewishBU.com/Tea or call 797-0015.

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In Memoriam

Rob Neuberger

The Reporter mourns the passing of Rob Neuberger, longtime Editorial Committee member and former chairman. We are grateful for the help and support he gave us throughout the years.

May his memory be a blessing.

The Staff of
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One Perspective from Israel

Degrees of separation

JEREMY M. STAIMAN

This article originally appeared in the Times of Israel and is being reprinted with permission.

Way back in 2007, there was a memorable two-hour reality show called "Six Degrees of Martina McBride." Although I'm more of an Ishay Ribo kind of guy than a country music fan, I found both the premise and the journey fascinating.

Based on the principle that any two people on earth can be linked by passing through no more than "six degrees of separation," six human connections, the show took a small number of aspiring musicians from around the U.S.A., each tasked with finding a path to the country star.

Within six points of contact, the goal was to connect directly with McBride. The winner(s) won studio recording time with her and a shot at a major-label record deal.

Let's look at an example, using Carl, a guitarist who wants to make it big in the country scene:

- ◆ Carl picks up the phone, and speaks to Daisy, a friend who works at the travel agency.
 - ◆ Daisy gets in touch with Seth, who works in the travel department of the governor's office.
 - ◆ Seth contacts an old roommate, Darren, who now works in computers in Nashville.
 - ◆ Darren has friends who play in a trio in the local bars. The sax player is Lexi.
 - ◆ Lexi knows Mikey, one of the engineers in the music studio where McBride records.
 - ◆ Mikey puts Carl in touch with Martina McBride.
- Bingo! Carl has won the game.

I've often felt that, within the Jewish world, the number of degrees of separation is closer to one. Who doesn't know that guy who seems to know everyone? Mr. or Mrs. Know-Them-All. We're a sociable group, and our numbers,

at around 15 million Jews worldwide, make us a relatively small segment of the earth's population.

So if you were to contact Mr. or Mrs. Know-Them-All, chances are you could find just about anyone. Even if they didn't know them personally, chances are they'd know someone else who does.

This isn't a new idea. The Talmud said it thousands of years ago: The friend of your friend has a friend...

For all those who live outside Israel, the picture isn't all that different. Our interconnectedness means that our families and friends around the world are a quick WhatsApp or Zoom away. So instead of one degree of separation, for those abroad perhaps it's 1.5.

When the news from Israel pops up with those dreaded headlines, accompanied by photos of the young, smiling, innocent faces of those who fell in battle, our hearts sink and the knots in our stomachs return. We first glance at the names, searching for any that sound familiar, then quickly scan to see what city they're from. It is all too common to quickly find the one degree of separation between ourselves and the photos on the news. In our immediate neighborhood, where the demographics translate into a low rate of enlistment, there are still numerous bereaved families.

And so it happens. We line the streets, holding flags in solemn tribute along the procession route of families heading to bury their sons and fathers and brothers on Har Herzl. We attend funerals and *shivas*. We tune in from abroad, constantly checking the Israel news, and watching searing first-person testimonies. We keep hoping that this price is the last one we will have to pay. The last bloody sacrifice we will have to offer on the altar called October 7.

With one degree of separation comes the distinct chance that you might have to choose between funerals. And so it

happened recently. Two deaths. Two connections.

I didn't know either of the young men personally. But one of them had a mother-in-law from my hometown. Another was similarly connected, distanced by but one intermediate.

I attended the former's funeral. They didn't need me there. They didn't know I was there. They wouldn't recognize me if they passed me on the street, nor I them. But in this ongoing struggle to balance our sense of connectedness with *Am Yisrael* and the need to preserve our sanity, sometimes we have to remind ourselves that we showed up. We were there.

In times of war, we face a common conundrum. If we open the floodgates, and welcome every loss into our emotional storehouse, the grief will crush us. On the other hand, if we hide behind emotional callouses, and become indifferent to the names and faces which scroll before us, we risk becoming detached and numb. Each person has to find the balance which works for them, letting the pain ooze inside the fissures of our souls in manageable doses, while simultaneously being careful to protect their psyche.

Thousands of people gathered at Har Herzl for this funeral. I looked around at the throngs who had come to pay tribute.

I recognized no one.

And I recognized everyone.

The faces may have been unfamiliar, but somehow I knew them all. We were all there together.

Some for the army.

Some for the family.

Some for themselves.

But all for *Am Yisrael*.

With absolutely no degrees of separation.

Film Review

"No Other Land" shows another side of Israel

ARIEH ULLMANN

After watching the makers of "No Other Land" win an Oscar for Best Documentary, I did not want to miss the opportunity to see the film in Ithaca. The documentary chronicles the demolition of Masafer Yatta by Israeli authorities. In their acceptance speeches at the Academy Awards, Palestinian co-director Basel Adra criticized the "ethnic cleansing of Palestinian people," while the Israeli co-director, Yuval Abraham, called for an end to Israel's "unequal" treatment of Palestinians.

The film is about power, those who have power – the Israelis – and those who don't – the Palestinians.

In 1980, the Israeli government designated Masafer Yatta an area for military training and ordered the Palestinian villagers to abandon their homes. The film mentions that government documents reveal that the military justification was a pretense; the true intent was to displace Palestinian villagers to make room for Israeli settlements. The film picks up in 2022 when, after a decades-long legal battle, the Israeli high court rules in favor of eviction and the destruction of the community starts.

Another theme of the film is the friendship between Basel and Yuval, which highlights the vast gap in everyday life between the two who basically are neighbors. Basel, the Palestinian, has given up studying law because he believes he will never be able to practice law. The only option to earn a living is to work as a manual laborer in

Israel. He points out to Israeli journalist Yuval, who hails from Beersheva, that he is prohibited from leaving the area, and even moving around the West Bank is difficult due to the many IDF checkpoints, whereas Yuval can come and go as he pleases.

The camera captures action by action, in a straightforward, unsentimental manner that heightens the effect. Anyone who has been following what is going on in the West Bank may have read about these demolitions. However, seeing the destruction in action is altogether different than reading about it.

The film is unusual on multiple levels. For one, its creation – the capture of the actions of Israel's army – has been threatened throughout filming, and the makers' equipment was constantly at risk. The film's imagery is heart rendering in its matter-of-fact directness, an impression reinforced by the fact that many scenes were captured by a hand-held frequently shaking camera. Many sequences are deeply disturbing: bulldozers flattening homes while the villagers frantically try to salvage their possessions; chickens navigating a destroyed coop; a toilet sticking out of a crumpled up bathroom; soldiers ripping a generator out of a villager's hands; a woman pleading with stone-faced officials to spare the home where her son, paralyzed by an Israeli bullet, is lying; settlers smashing windows of the villagers' homes while an IDF soldier watches the scene; and a settler shooting a villager in the stomach.

As expected, the film was criticized by Israel's government. The Israeli Minister of Culture and Sports declared: "The Oscar win for the film 'No Other Land' is a sad moment for the world of cinema. Instead of presenting the complexity of Israeli reality, the filmmakers chose to amplify narratives that distort Israel's image vis-à-vis international audiences." Not unexpected given the current political climate in the U.S. is that Steven Meiner, the mayor of Miami Beach, threatened to close down a cinema that intended to show the film and that the film has difficulties finding a U.S. distributor. Less expected to me was that the response from the Palestinian side was not unanimously positive. "No Other Land" serves a soft Zionist function – exposing certain injustices while still legitimizing Zionist presence as part of the narrative, rather than centering decolonization and Palestinian liberation on our own terms," was the reaction of Within Our Lifetime, a New York City-based group.

Also negative was the reaction from the Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel. PACBI did not criticize the film's content; its criticism is rooted in its anti-normalization stance. Anti-normalization refers to the refusal of some Palestinians to work with Israelis other than those who call for an "end to the occupation, end to apartheid, and the right of return for Palestinian refugees."

I left the movie theater in emotional turmoil. I was deeply disturbed by the arrogance and brutality of the

Israeli soldiers, full of admiration for the peaceful and heroic resistance of the villagers, but mostly ashamed as a Jew. How is it possible that three generations after the Holocaust Jews can act in this way? It is painful to face the reality that the descendants of the Hebrew slaves in biblical Egypt would become the pharaohs of today.

For those who want to take action and help Palestinian villagers keep their land, one place is the Center for Jewish Nonviolence (cjni.org) that "brings Jewish activists from around the world to Israel/Palestine to join in Palestinian-led nonviolent civil resistance." An alternative close by is to contact your New York state representative regarding Assembly Bill A6943A, which seeks to amend the not-for-profit corporation law and "establishes the 'Not on our dime! Ending New York funding of Israeli settler violence act' to prohibit not-for-profit corporations from engaging in unauthorized support of Israeli settlement activity."

Lewis.Continued from page 1

he has served as chairman of the Editorial Board of *The Reporter*, and was a member of the Federation's Executive Committee, in addition to its Endowment Committee.

"We marvel at Dick's boundless energy and passion, in all he does for the community," organizers said, "given the important and time-intensive role he plays in his legal career." A graduate of Ithaca College and University of Illinois Chicago/John Marshall Law School, Lewis is an attorney at Hinman, Howard and Kattell, focusing on litigation and all aspects of business law.

He is the immediate past president of the 80,000-member New York State Bar Association, elected to serve for the 2023-24 term. With the beginning of his 12-month term on June 1, 2023, Lewis spearheaded what has been called "groundbreaking initiatives." In that first month, he served as Executive Committee liaison on a task force he created on Combating Antisemitism and Anti-Asian Hate. The House of Delegates passed the approximately 50-page report in January 2024. As the featured guest at Beth David's September 2024 Luncheon Speaker Series, Lewis provided a copy of the report to everyone who attended. In addition, he worked with former Secretary of State Loretta Lynch and former Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson to put out a nationally recognized work on advancing diversity. Both have been adopted as policy by numerous bar associations, including the American Bar Association.

"Dick is so deserving of this honor," says Rabbi Zev Silber, spiritual leader of Beth David. "Whether we need him to make a minyan or use his legal expertise, he doesn't know how to say 'no.' The Federation and every agency I can think of have benefited from his skills and sincere love of our community. We encourage everyone to be part of a celebration that is sure to be as special as he is!"

The Reporter is offering sponsorships!

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There are four levels: Bronze \$200, Silver \$400, Gold \$600 and Platinum \$1,000.

To arrange for a sponsorship or for answers to questions, contact Rabbi Rachel Esserman at rachel@thereporter.org.

Purim celebrations around town



Students at Temple Concord Hebrew School embraced the Purim spirit by baking hamantashen, crafting masks, building noisy graggers, assembling mishloach manot baskets and preparing for their Purim play.



Attendees enjoyed a Purim seudah at Beth David Synagogue on Purim. (Photo by Cathy Velenchik)



At left and below: Temple Concord Religious School students celebrated Purim with songs, games, hamantashen and a Purim play performed by the older students. (Names held on request.)



Rabbi Zev Silber opened the megillah scroll as Gabbai Aaron Alweis looked on at Beth David Synagogue. (Photo by Cathy Velenchik)



Rabbi Cantor Moshe Shmaryahu read from the megillah on Purim afternoon at Beth David Synagogue. (Photo by Cathy Velenchik)



Showing off their Purim costumes at Beth David Synagogue were Josh Witter as Snow White, Gina Santiago as the Wicked Queen and Yaara Tzanani as Mickey Mouse. (Photo by Stacey Silber)



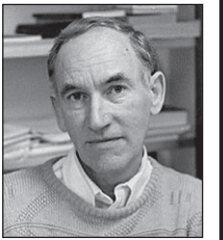
After hearing the megillah reading at night, attendees enjoyed some hamantashen at Beth David Synagogue before returning home. (Photo by Cathy Velenchik)



Temple Concord Religious School students celebrated Purim with songs, games, hamantashen and a Purim play performed by the older students. (Names held on request.)

RICHARD "DICK" WERNER

Richard "Dick" Werner, 90 years of age, passed away on March 19, 2025, at Good Shepard Fairview Home in Binghamton, NY. Dick was born February 5, 1935, to the late Dr. and Mrs. Irving Werner of Binghamton, NY.



Dick was a graduate of Irving Preparatory School, McMurray College (now Lincoln College), and the State University of New York at Oneonta, where he received degrees in teaching and psychology. Dick worked as school counselor at Dryden High School in Dryden, NY, for over 20 years. Upon retirement, he returned to his hometown of Binghamton. Dick was respected by his students and coworkers for his kindness and volunteer work, including establishing and advising many school clubs. He helped secure Dryden High School's Junior-Senior High Quiz Team's trip to Nationals, formed the stock market and coin clubs, and served as an advisor to the National Honor Society, AFS Student Exchange Program, Kiwanis Student of the Month Program, and the VFW Boys' and Girls' State program. Outside of work, Dick spent his life golfing (priding himself as a Junior Championship at the former Vestal Hills Country Club), skiing, biking, playing piano, and vacationing with family.

Dick is predeceased by his best friend and younger brother Dr. Murray Werner of Elmira, NY, and his parents Dr. and Mrs. Irving Werner of Binghamton, NY.

Dick is survived by his wife of 25 years, Lynne (Handzel), his brother, Dr. Donald Werner, his two children, Lisa Werner and Loren Svetvilas, Loren's wife Narisa and their two daughters Emma and Raimie, his sister-in-law Annie Werner, and his many nieces and nephews that he loved dearly. Dick spent time visiting with family members soon before his death and shared his memories of growing up in Chenango Forks and Binghamton.

Dick requested a private gathering of family after his passing, with his ashes spread across places that brought him joy. His grave will rest next to his parents at Riverside Jewish Cemetery in Conklin, NY.

Dick's family extends their sincere gratitude to the staff at Good Shepard who cared for Dick with love and dignity. Charitable contributions can be made in Dick's honor to the organization Dick held closest to his heart, the Dryden Youth Opportunity Fund (www.DYOF.org). Cremation services provided by Hopley & Eschbach Funeral Home, please sign his online guest book at www.HEFuneralHome.com.

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TI Artist in Residence weekend



The festivities included a reading of the megillah. Clockwise from the right: Rabbi Micah Friedman, Arieh Ullmann, Richard Schneierson and Rabbi Talia Laster.



L-r: Larry Hurwitz, Art Siegel and Arieh Ullmann dressed for the Purim celebration that was held during the Temple Israel Artist in Residence weekend.



L-r: Amy Shapiro played the violin and Zach Mayer played the saxophone during the Purim celebration.



At left: During the evening on March 15, Zach Meyer performed in a concert with local musicians.

March.....Continued from page 1

of the film. Registration for the film and discussion is suggested, but walk-ins are welcome; visit www.jfcb.org/film-fest to register. The film fest is co-sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton and the Ithaca Area United Jewish Community.

“Kidnapped” is based on the real-life story of Edgardo Mortara, a young Jewish boy living in Bologna, Italy, who in 1858, after being secretly baptized, was forcibly taken from his family to be raised as a Christian. His parents’ struggle to free their son became part of a larger political battle that pitted the papacy against forces of democracy and Italian unification.

On “Fresh Air,” John Powers said, “What gives the movie its timely resonance is not merely its depiction of antisemitism but what it shows about the dangerous politics of religious belief. Although religion officially deals in timeless universal truths, ‘Kidnapped’ reminds us that these timeless universals are always bound up with historical questions of power. And where there’s power, there will be abuse.” *The Wall Street Journal* called the film “a sensitive and beautifully realized drama.” “Kidnapped” has received 19 awards and 16 nominations. They include awards for best film, best screenplay, best actor, best director, best actress and best supporting actor.

Book.....Continued from page 1

like he grew two sizes overnight.’ I had a vision of him pushing through his footie pajamas while we were sleeping... And, of course, I thought the same thing about Max when he was born. They grow up so quickly. That’s the heart-aching, beautiful truth, one that every parent learns. ‘Giant Baby’ just accelerates the process a little, in a zany, comical night-time adventure.”

Rosenberg did note that the picture book “ends with another truth: ‘He’ll always be our baby.’ I certainly feel that way about Max’s bearded dad. And about our 21-year-old daughter. In some large corner of our minds and hearts, our grown kids are forever our babies.”

The author doesn’t plan ahead when it comes to writing, noting that “I do hop around a lot, from genre to genre, and even within the children’s book arena, from baby books to YA non-fiction, to easy readers, and back to picture books. There’s always something new to write. I can’t dictate what that will be. In other words, I can’t sit down and think, ‘Hmmm, today I think I’ll write a book for teenagers,’ or ‘I’d like to write a book for my daughter.’ I just have to see what floats my way and try to capture it before it floats off somewhere else.”

Rosenberg feels she was lucky to have a “brilliant editor named Michael Green, for-



A page from “Giant Baby” with text by Liz Rosenberg and illustrations by Eva Byrne (Used with the permission of Marble Press)

mer president of Viking/Penguin Children’s Books,” for this book. He matched her with illustrator Eva Byrne. “I can’t imagine an artist more perfectly suited for this story than *The New York Times* best-selling Irish artist Eva Byrne,” she said. “We talked back and forth at a distance, with Michael doing all of the diplomatic mediation. Eva was responsive to a few of my suggestions,

and I adjusted a few things as well. One of the best parts of writing picture books is seeing the great surprises an artist brings to the work; their vision makes the book come alive in ways you never could predict. Eva’s sense of humor is hilarious – each time I read ‘Giant Baby’ I find something new to laugh over.”

Working with Green proved to be a real

pleasure for Rosenberg because 30 years ago, he was a student in the “Writing for Children” class she teaches at Binghamton University. “He was a C+ student – a very sweet and lovable one,” Rosenberg added. “I still remember hesitating for one half a second when he asked for a recommendation at Philomel, a small imprint at Viking/Penguin. Then I thought, you know, he was so eager and likeable and childlike in many ways, I thought he should be helping to make kid’s books rather than writing papers about them. He turned out to be one of the most important figures in children’s publishing in the last 50 years. Our publicity person at Marble Press, Christine Swedowski, is also a BU alum. And now her son is currently a student here. The whole experience feels *bershert*. I haven’t been this thrilled about a picture book in a while.”

As for her next project, Rosenberg doesn’t have firm plan in mind. “I am currently working on several different projects at once, which means I’m not yet seriously working on any,” she noted. “Poems, yes, because those come one at a time, willy-nilly. But I’m hoping to settle on one of these possible longer projects soon. I’ll be teaching ‘Writing for Children’ again this fall at BU, and that should inspire some new ideas.”

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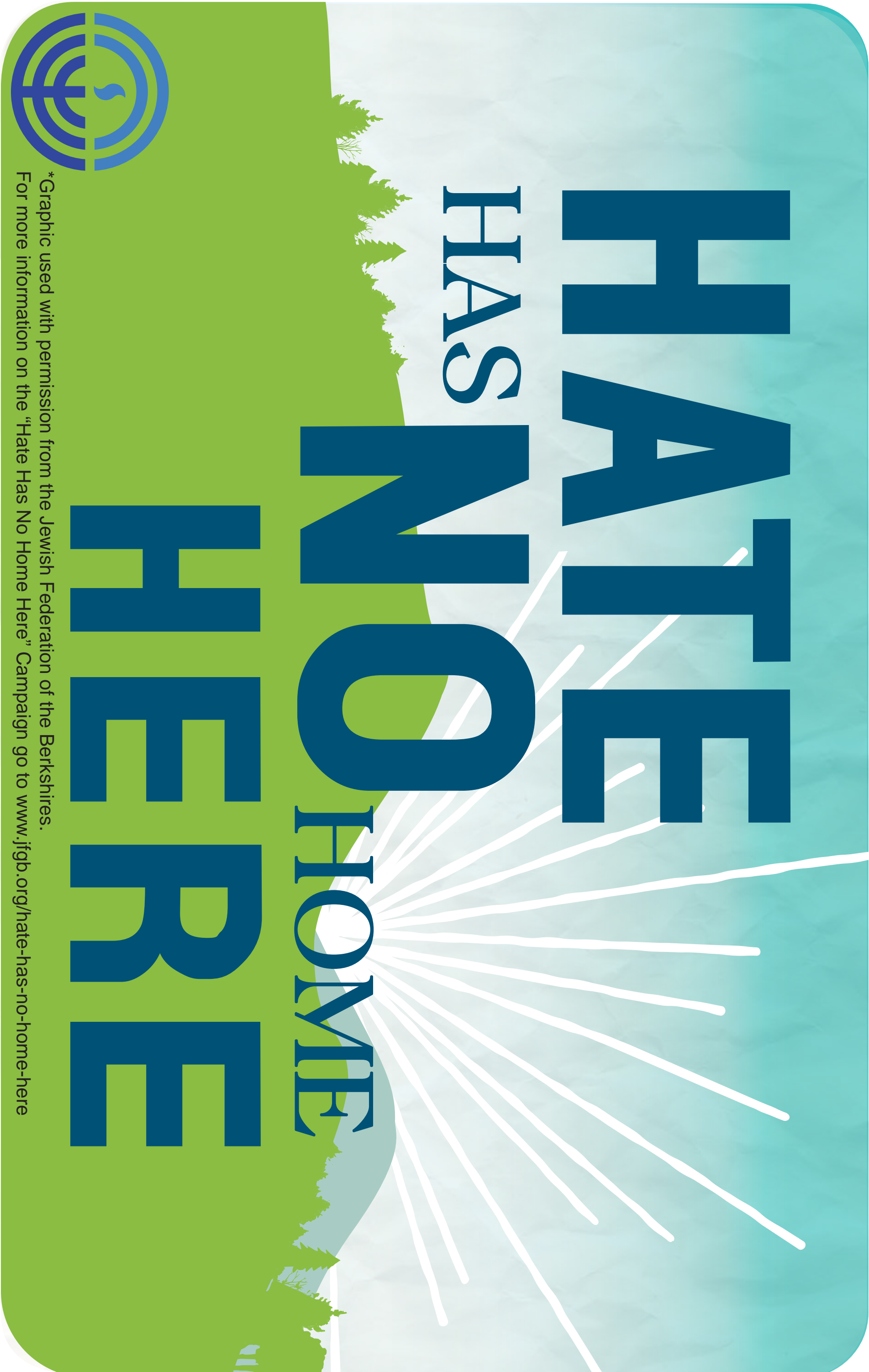
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Chabad to hold community seder, deliver Seders in a Box, make *shmurah* matzah available for purchase

Passover seder

Chabad Center will hold a Passover seder open to the general community on the first night of the holiday, Saturday, April 12. Festivities will begin with services at 8 pm followed by the seder; services and the seder will be held at the Chabad Center, 420 Murray Hill Rd., Vestal. Reservations for the seder at due by Thursday, April 10. For more information or to make seder reservations, write to aslonim@Jewishbu.com or call the Chabad office at 607-797-0015.

The seder will include all of the traditional observances, a full course dinner, handmade *shmurah* matzah and mystical insights. The haggadah will be read with participation from all present in both Hebrew and English, and the many customs and traditions of the seder will be explained.

"Our seder is open to anyone who wants to attend a traditional seder; no previous knowledge or level of observance is required," explained Rabbi Aaron Slonim, executive

director of Chabad. "Be prepared to be welcomed – just as you are – as part of the family."

There is no charge for the seders, but donations to help defray the cost would be appreciated and can be sent to Chabad before or after the holiday.

"We will be serving a full course, traditional holiday dinner, but I do urge participants to have a bite to eat earlier in the evening to tide them over the ceremonial, opening portion of the seder which precedes dinner," added Rivky Slonim.

Seder in a Box

For those who are unable to attend and would like to celebrate the holiday with all of the traditions, Chabad will make available a Seder in a Box. Interested parties are asked to e-mail aslonim@Jewishbu.com or call the Chabad office at 607-797-0015 to reserve a box, or a box for a friend or loved one, as soon as possible. The Seder in a Box contains matzah, grape juice, a complete holiday dinner (for one or two) and all of the ceremonial items

necessary for a seder; a haggadah will be included as well.

The subsidized cost of the "Seder in a Box" is \$54, which includes one dinner, and \$25 for each additional meal. Reservations for attending the "Seder in a Box" will be taken until Thursday, April 10.

Community members who wish to assist in this effort can help with delivery, can underwrite a box or two, and/or can help with the cooking of the food and packaging of the boxes should all the Slonims at 607-797-0015. Checks earmarked for this purpose may be sent to Chabad. For more information and seder reservations, write aslonim@Jewishbu.com or call the Chabad office at 607-797-0015.

Shmura matzah

Handmade *shmura* matzah will be available for purchase through the Chabad Center for \$20 a pound or three matzahs for \$12) as long as the supply lasts. Interested parties are urged to place their orders as soon as possible by calling the Chabad Center at 607-797-0015.



Off the Shelf

For Passover: a graphic novel and a picture book

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

"One Little Goat"

Dara Horn's first graphic novel for tweens may surprise fans who are familiar with her other works. "One Little Goat: A Passover Catastrophe" by Horn and illustrated by Theo Ellsworth (Norton Young Readers) is a surrealistic look at not only an endless Passover seder, but Jewish history. The narrator is the oldest child in the family and the book opens with a very funny illustration showing how the seder he attends seems never ending. However, this year, there is an additional problem: his youngest sibling runs off with the *afikomen* (the matzah that ends the seder meal) and throws it into a time warp. According to their tradition, they can't end the seder until the *afikomen* is recovered.

As if the time warp wasn't strange enough, a talking goat arrives at the door, introducing himself as the scapegoat (the goat people blame for everything that goes wrong), who is also part of the poem ("Chad Gadya") sung at the end of the seder. This nameless goat takes the narrator on

a trip through time to recover the *afikomen*. During their travels, the narrator learns about his father's life in the U.S.S.R. (when it was illegal to practice Judaism) and his

At right: A page from "One Little Goat" (Text by Dara Horn and illustrations by Theo Ellsworth. Used with permission from Norton Young Readers/W. W. Norton and Company)



great-grandmother's time in the Warsaw Ghetto. He and the goat visit other Jews throughout the centuries, including ancient rabbis who are less than thrilled when the goat makes an appearance.

"One Little Goat" offers lessons in a round-about fantastical way. The narrator learns about being patient with his younger siblings, in addition to facts about Jewish history. But the work also illustrates that the past never completely disappears, something that is also noted during a traditional seder: those attending are supposed to feel as if they, too, had been slaves in Egypt and redeemed. This unusual work demands attention to detail in order to make sense of its spiraling story, but those willing to leaf through its pages will discover unexpected delights.

"Matzah Day"

The short, funny picture book "Matzah Day" by Charlotte Offsay with illustrations by Jason Kirschner (Holiday See "Novel" on page 9

PASSOVER Greetings

April 11 (Deadline: April 3) Personal Greetings and Health Care Greetings

Passover is traditionally a time for sharing with family, friends and strangers. While your seder table may not be large enough to fit all these people, you can share the warmth of this holiday with the entire local Jewish community by placing a Passover greeting in *The Reporter*. You may choose from the designs, messages and sizes shown here - more are available. You may also choose your own message, as long as it fits into the space of the greeting you select. (Custom designs available upon request.) The price of the small greeting is \$21 (styles C, D & E), the medium one is \$40 (style B), the next size is \$59 (style A) and the largest one (style F) is \$78. To ensure that your greeting is published, simply fill out the form below and choose a design that you would like to accompany your greeting, or contact Kathy Brown at 607-724-2360, ext. 244; or e-mail advertising@thereportergroup.org. Checks can be made payable to *The Reporter* and sent to: *The Reporter*, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850.

Wishing you and your family peace, health and happiness this Pesach



Your Name(s)

Style A • \$59

Actual Size: 3.22" x 2.958"



Next year may we all be free!

Your Name(s)

Style C • \$21

Actual Size: 1.5278" x 1.975"

PASSOVER Greetings

April 11 (Deadline: April 3)

Personal Greetings and Health Care Greetings

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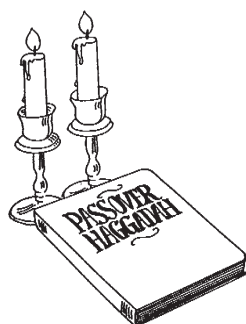
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Card Number _____

Expiration Date _____

Address, City, State, Zip _____



Passover Blessings

Your Name(s)

Style B • \$40 Actual Size: 3.22" x 1.975"

May you and your family have a joyous Pesach



Your Name(s)

Style D • \$21

Actual Size: 1.5278" x 1.975"

May your Passover seder be joyous!

Your Name(s)



Style E • \$21

Actual Size: 1.5278" x 1.975"



Your name(s)

Style F • \$78

Actual Size: 3.2222" x 3.95"

April 3 DEADLINE

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



PJ Library offers online Passover Hub

PJ Library offers a Passover Hub at pjlibrary.org/passover to help families find what they need to plan their Passover seders. There is a free downloadable Passover Guide, a family-oriented primer that lays out how to prepare for the seders and the foods needed, as well as offering activities for all eight days. The guide covers three main sections: How to get ready, what is needed to get through the seder and what comes next after the festive meals have come to a close.

Also available for digital download from the Hub is the PJ Library Family Haggadah – a family-friendly version of the seder guidebook. It follows the arc of a traditional haggadah and features all of the major songs, prayers and moments, but also incorporates helpful framing and stories for children so they can get the most out of this experiential meal. It also has new question prompts. Over the past seven years, PJ Library has sent more than 800,000 haggadahs to more than 200,000 families and enabled downloads on its site for thousands more.

The Passover Hub also features download-

able activities to keep children entertained during the seder, book lists, a step-by-step video playlist to help children learn (or brush up on) the Four Questions and recipes. Recipes include Charoset Breakfast Balls, Chicken Skewers with Avocado Dip or Cholent, a Jewish dish made in the slow cooker.

In March, 8-year-old PJ Library subscribers were to receive a brand new book just in time for the holiday, "Passover: Next Year in the White House: Barack Obama's First Presidential Seder" by Richard Michelson and illustrated by E.B. Lewis. This non-fiction children's book, from Penguin Random House Crown Books for Young Readers in partnership with PJ Library, tells the true story of how a small Passover seder dinner on the campaign trail inspired then-Senator Barack Obama to declare "Next Year in the White House," and then host the first-ever seder in the most famous house in America. Check out the backmatter that includes a letter from the staffers who made the seder possible, photos from the first seder in the White House and more. The book is also available for purchase.

Online holiday resources

By Reporter staff

A variety of Jewish groups are offering educational and recreational online resources. Below is a sampling of those.

◆ Ritualwell will hold the virtual event "Why is This Year's Seder Different?" on Thursday, April 3, from 12 pm. The cost to attend is \$18. Rabbi Mira Wasserman and Gabrielle Kaplan-Mayer will use text study, an interactive discussion and reflective writing to discuss on how the Passover seder can offer a sense of order amidst chaos. For more information or to register, visit <https://ritualwell.org/event/why-is-this-years-seder-different/>.

◆ The Nosh will hold the virtual cooking class "3 Delicious Dishes to Get You Through Passover" on Thursday, April 3,

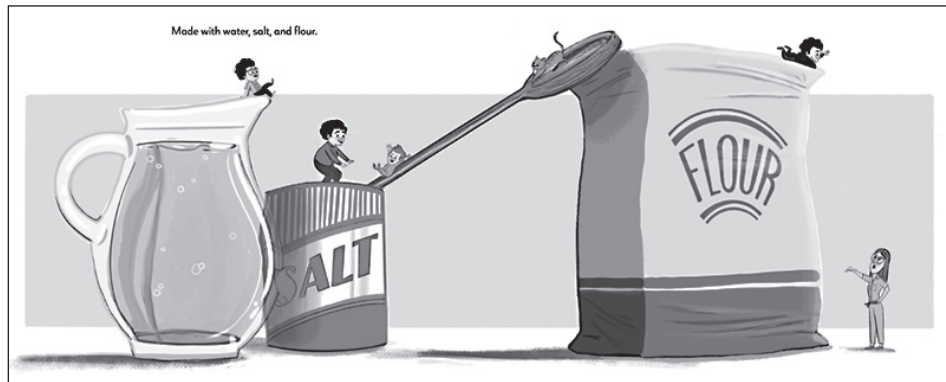
from 7-8 pm. The cost to attend is \$15. Attendees will learn to make how to matzah mac and cheese, broccoli kugel and eggplant "shawarma." A recording of the event will be available. For more information or to register, visit www.eventbrite.com/e/3-delicious-dishes-to-get-you-through-passover-tickets-1284703485709.

◆ The American Jewish University will hold the virtual talk "Tikkun Ha'am: Passover, Crisis, and Reclaiming Jewish Identity" on Wednesday, April 9, at 3 pm. Rabbi Jeffrey Salkin will "explore how Passover themes of liberation and resilience guide us in repairing our people amidst modern challenges." For more information or to register, visit <https://open.aju.edu/event/tikkun-haam-passover-crisis-and-reclaiming-jewish-identity/>.

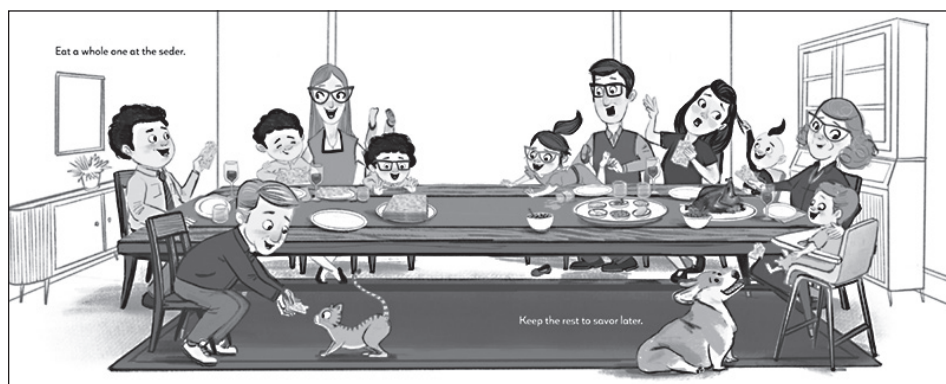
Novel.....Continued from page 8

House) is the perfect way to introduce young children to matzah. The family featured loves matzah, no matter its shape or size. The book offers suggestions of different ways to eat the flat bread, including sweet matzah, matzah pizza or matzah with sour cream, lox and onion, although the baby's favorite is matzah brei. There is a warning to matzah lovers about not eating matzah in bed, noting that "crumbs will sneak into your covers."

Offsay's prose is clear and easy to understand, but it was Kirschner's illustrations that made me smile. For example, when explaining how matzah is made, he enlarges the ingredients and shrinks the humans. The drawing of the seder dinner delightfully shows the organized chaos that occurs during many family gatherings. The work ends with explanations of matzah and Passover, in addition to three matzah related recipes.



A page from "Matzah Day" (Text © 2025 by Charlotte Offsay. Illustrations © 2024 by Jason Kirschner. Used with permission from Peachtree Publishing Inc. All rights reserved.)



A page from "Matzah Day" (Text © 2025 by Charlotte Offsay. Illustrations © 2024 by Jason Kirschner. Used with permission from Peachtree Publishing Inc. All rights reserved.)

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<p>3⁹⁹ lb.</p> <p>Empire Kosher Frozen Turkey ^{UP}</p>	<p>9⁹⁹ with AdvantEdge Card</p> <p>SAVE \$4 WITH 5⁹⁹ Advant Coupons</p> <p>Final Price WHEN YOU BUY 1</p> <p>LIMIT ONE COUPON PER OFFER PER CUSTOMER</p>	<p>Streit's or Yehuda Passover Matzos</p> <p>5 Lb. ^{UP}</p>
<p>7⁴⁹ with AdvantEdge Card</p> <p>Manischewitz Matzos 4 Lb. ^{UP}</p> <p>NEW!</p>	<p>2/\$5 with AdvantEdge Card</p> <p>SAVE \$1 WITH 2/\$4 Advant Coupons</p> <p>Final Price WHEN YOU BUY 2</p> <p>LIMIT ONE COUPON PER OFFER PER CUSTOMER</p>	<p>Yehuda Cake Meal, Matzo Meal or Farfel</p> <p>8-16 oz. ^{UP}</p>
<p>5⁴⁹ with AdvantEdge Card</p> <p>Yehuda Gefilte Fish</p> <p>24 oz. • Original or Sweet ^{UP}</p>	<p>2/\$7 with AdvantEdge Card</p> <p>SAVE \$1 WITH 2/\$6 Advant Coupons</p> <p>Final Price WHEN YOU BUY 2</p> <p>LIMIT ONE COUPON PER OFFER PER CUSTOMER</p>	<p>Kedem Sparkling Juice</p> <p>25.4 oz. • Select Varieties ^{UP}</p>
<p>9⁹⁹ with AdvantEdge Card</p> <p>Meal Mart Kosher Frozen Ground Beef</p> <p>16 oz. ^{UP}</p>	<p>2/\$6 with AdvantEdge Card</p> <p>Manischewitz Whole Wheat or Egg Matzos</p> <p>10-10.5 oz. ^{UP}</p>	<p>2/\$6 with AdvantEdge Card</p> <p>Manischewitz Cake Meal</p> <p>16 oz. Canister ^{UP}</p>
<p>4⁹⁹ with AdvantEdge Card</p> <p>Joyva Jell Rings</p> <p>9 oz. • Select Varieties ^{UP}</p>	<p>4⁹⁹ with AdvantEdge Card</p> <p>Yehuda Chocolate Covered Matzos</p> <p>5.8-7.05 oz. ^{UP}</p>	<p>5⁴⁹ with AdvantEdge Card</p> <p>Heinz Passover Ketchup</p> <p>24.7 oz. ^{UP}</p>
<p>2/\$6 with AdvantEdge Card</p> <p>Granny's Old Fashioned Marshmallows</p> <p>10 oz. • White or Mini ^{UP}</p>	<p>2/\$7 with AdvantEdge Card</p> <p>Savion Fruit Slices</p> <p>6 oz. ^{UP}</p>	<p>10⁴⁹ with AdvantEdge Card</p> <p>Ungar's Gefilte Fish</p> <p>20 oz. Select Varieties ^{UP}</p>
<p>Streit's A Family-owned Business Celebrating 100 Years!</p> <p>Baked Fresh 100 YEARS in New York</p> <p>100th ANNIVERSARY</p>		
<p>2/\$3 with AdvantEdge Card</p> <p>Matzo Ball & Soup Mix</p> <p>4.5 oz. • Select Varieties ^{UP}</p>	<p>3⁹⁹ with AdvantEdge Card</p> <p>Fruit Slice Candy</p> <p>8 oz. ^{UP}</p>	<p>3⁹⁹ with AdvantEdge Card</p> <p>Potato Starch</p> <p>12 oz. ^{UP}</p>
<p>2/\$5 with AdvantEdge Card</p> <p>Macaroons</p> <p>10 oz. • Select Varieties ^{UP}</p>	<p>2/\$5 with AdvantEdge Card</p> <p>Passover Matzos</p> <p>1 Lb. ^{UP}</p>	<p>3⁹⁹ with AdvantEdge Card</p> <p>Egg or Whole Wheat Matzos</p> <p>11-12 oz. ^{UP}</p>
<p>Plus, we have all of your fresh produce needs for your Seder!</p> <p>Offers effective Sunday, March 9 thru Saturday, April 26, 2025 in all Market 32, Price Chopper and Market Bistro stores located in CT, MA, NH, NY, PA & VT. Not all items are available in all stores.</p>		

Visit us on the web at www.thereportergroup.org



Weekly Parasha

Pekudai and Shabbat Hachodesh,
Exodus 38-21-40:38, 12:120

The house of Israel

RABBI ZEV SILBER, BETH DAVID SYNAGOGUE

In our tradition, there are many ways to study and interpret the Chumash. For many centuries the study of Torah seemed to center around *derash*, *midrash* and *kabbalistic* explanations. In our modern age, analysis by *peshat* has increased. Utilizing tools of literary interpretation of literature, new ideas and thoughts have been revealed by Torah scholars. One of the tools that has developed is that of looking at the text by units and identifying key words or phrases, and trying to create meaning and lessons from those key words. Often, key words are identified because of the number of times that word or forms of that word is found in the unit, especially if it appears seven times or a multiple of that.

In the special *maftir* that we read today, *parashat Hachodesh*, we find such a word: *bayit*. However, even though the word means “house,” it must be reinterpreted sometimes, seem superfluous at others and redundant on occasion.

The Torah seems to be stressing the importance of the home and keeping this ceremony within the home. The Torah seems to say that the way for us to merit freedom and independence is by confining ourselves within our own environment and separating ourselves from the general Egyptian society.

But it is not enough to just separate ourselves, we must create an environment that has the conditions and attributes

of a home. The unity of the family, all sitting around one table, inclusive even of the fourth son who is on the edge of rebelliousness, is a necessary ingredient. *Bayit* not only implies borders, but also inclusiveness.

We find this theme in our *parasha*, as well. The very last verse has a unique construction when reference the Jewish people: Beit Yisrael. Usually in the Torah, the Jewish people are referred to as B'nai Yisrael. Why the use of Beit Yisrael here?

I suggest that this special appellation is used only when unity is required and exhibited. The Israelites have **See “House” on page 11**

Congregational Notes

Synagogues limit face-to-face gatherings

For specific information regarding services (including online services), meetings and classes at any of the area synagogues, contact them by phone or e-mail.

Temple Israel

Orientation: Conservative
Rabbi: Micah Friedman
Address: 4737 Deerfield Pl., Vestal, NY 13850
Phone: 607-723-7461 and 607-231-3746
Office hours: Mon.-Thurs., 8:30 am-3:30 pm; Fri., 8 am-3 pm
E-mail: office@templeisraelvestal.org
Website: www.templeisraelvestal.org
Service schedule: Tues., 5:30 pm; Fri., 5:30 pm; Sat., 9:30 am

On Fridays and Tuesdays at 5:30 pm, services will be led by Rabbi Micah Friedman via Zoom and in-person.

On Saturday, March 29, Shacharit services will be held at 9:30 am via Zoom and in-person. The Torah portion is Exodus 38:21-40:38 and the haftarah is Ezekiel 45:16-46:18. A Zoom Havdalah service will take place at 8:15 pm.

On Tuesday, April 1, there will be an Executive Board meeting at 7 pm.

On Saturday, April 5, Shacharit services will be held at 9:45 am via Zoom and in-person. The Torah portion is Leviticus 1:1-5:26 and the haftarah is Isaiah 43:21-44:23. A Zoom Havdalah service will take place at 8:30 pm.

Temple Brith Sholom

Affiliation: Unaffiliated
Address: P.O. Box 572, 117 Madison St., Cortland, NY 13045
Phone: 607-756-7181
President: Leo Searfoss
Cemetery Committee: 315-696-5744
Website: templebrithsholomcortland.org
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Temple-Brith-Sholom-114006981962930/
Service leaders: Lay leadership

Shabbat services: Services are usually on the third Friday of the month and led by a variety of leaders. Check the Facebook page or weekly e-mail for upcoming services. Contact the president to get on the e-mail list.
Religious School: Students are educated on an individual basis.

Temple Brith Sholom is a small equalitarian congregation serving the greater Cortland community. Congregants span the gamut of observance and services are largely dependent on the service leader. The Friday night siddur is “Likrat Shabbat.” The community extends a warm welcome to the Jewish student population of SUNY Cortland, as well as the residents of local adult residences. The Board of Trustees meets on the second Tuesday of the month.

Services and programs are held by Zoom usually on the third Friday of the month.

Temple Beth-El of Ithaca

Affiliation: United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism
Rabbi: Caleb Brommer
Rabbi Emeritus: Scott L. Glass
Address: 402 North Tioga St. (the corner of Court and Tioga streets), Ithaca, NY 14850-4292
Phone: 273-5775
E-mail: president@tbeithaca.org, secretary@tbeithaca.org
Website: www.tbeithaca.org

Presidents: Melanie Kalman and Alexis Siemon
Sisterhood President: Gail Zussman
Director of Education: Calle Schueler
Services: Friday 8 pm; Saturday 10 am, unless otherwise announced. Weekday morning minyan 7:30 am (9 am on Sundays and legal holidays).
Religious School/Education: September-May: Classes meet on Sunday, 9 am-12:30 pm and Wednesday afternoons, 3:45-5:45 pm. The teen No'ar program meets twice per month (every other Sunday from 5-7 pm) and is designed with the flexibility to accommodate busy student schedules.

Adult Ed.: Numerous weekly courses, several semester-long courses and a variety of mini-courses and lectures are offered throughout the year. Call the temple office for more details.

For upcoming services and events on Zoom, visit www.tinyurl.com/HappeningAtTBE.

Beth David Synagogue

Affiliation: Orthodox Union
Rabbi: Zev Silber
Address: 39 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905
Phone: 607-722-1793, Rabbi's Office: 607-722-7514
Fax: 607-722-7121
Office hours: Tues. 10 am-1 pm; Thurs. 9 am-1 pm
Beth David e-mail address: bethdavid@stny.rr.com
Rabbi's e-mail: rabbisilber@stny.rr.com
Website: www.bethdavid.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/bethdavidbinghamton
Classes: Rabbi Zev Silber will hold his weekly Talmud class every Tuesday evening after services.

Rohr Chabad Center

Affiliation: Chabad-Lubavitch
Rabbi Aaron and Rivkah Slonim, Directors
E-mail: aslonim@binghamton.edu
rslonim@chabadofbinghamton.com
Address: 420 Murray Hill Rd., Vestal, NY 13850
Phone: 607-797-0015, Fax: 607-797-0095
Website: www.Chabadofbinghamton.com
Rabbi Zalman and Rochel Chein, Education
E-mail: zchein@Jewishbu.com, rchein@Jewishbu.com
Rabbi Levi and Hadasa Slonim, Downtown and Development
Chabad Downtown Center: 60 Henry St., Binghamton
E-mail: lslonim@Jewishbu.com, hslonim@Jewishbu.com
Rabbi Yisroel and Goldie Ohana, Programming
E-mail: yohana@Jewishbu.com, gohana@Jewishbu.com
Regular service times: Daily 7:30 am, Friday evening 6 pm, Shabbat morning 9:30 am, Maariv and Havdalah one hour after candle-lighting time, Sundays 9:30 am.

To join the mailing list, for up-to-date information on adult education offerings or to arrange for a private tutorial, for details concerning the Judaica shop and resource center, or for assistance through the Piaker Free Loan Society or Raff Maasim Tovim Foundation, call Chabad's office at 797-0015.

Chabad will be holding pre-Shabbat virtual programs. For more information, visit www.JewishBU.com/S2020Partnership.

Temple Beth El of Oneonta

Affiliation: United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism
Cantor: David Green
Address: 83 Chestnut St., Oneonta, NY 13820
Mailing address: P.O. Box 383, Oneonta, NY 13820
Phone: 607-432-5522
E-mail: TBEOneonta@gmail.com
Regular service times: Contact the temple for days of services and times.
Religious School/Education: Religious School, for grades kindergarten through bar/bat mitzvah, meets Sunday mornings. For the schedule of services, classes and events, contact the temple.

Congregation Tikkun v'Or

Affiliation: Union for Reform Judaism
Address: PO Box 3981, Ithaca, NY 14852; 2550 Triphammer Rd. (corner of Triphammer and Burdick Hill), Lansing, NY
Phone: 607-256-1471
Website: www.tikkunvor.org, E-mail: info@tikkunvor.org
Presidents: Martha Armstrong and Mitch Grossman, presidents_22@tikkunvor.org
Education Director/Admin. Coordinator: Naomi Wilensky
Bnai Mitzvah Coordinator: Michael Margolin
Services: All services currently on Zoom. E-mail info@tikkunvor.org for the times and links. Contemplative morning services every Tuesday from 8:30-9:30 am. Saturday mornings, Gan Shabbat and other special services at least once a month. Call for the weekly schedule.
Jewish Learning Experiences (JLE) for second through seventh grade classes meet on Sunday mornings. Sixth and seventh grades also meet on Wednesday afternoons. Family programs for kindergarten and first grade held monthly.
Adult Education: Offered regularly throughout the year. Check the website for details.

Friday, March 28, light candles before..... 7:07 pm
Shabbat ends Saturday, March 29 8:08 pm
Friday, April 4, light candles before..... 7:14 pm
Shabbat ends Saturday, April 5 8:16 pm
Friday, April 11, light candles before 7:22 pm
Saturday, April 12, light candles after 8:23 pm
Sunday, April 13, light candles after 8:25 pm
Yom tov ends Monday, April 14 8:26 pm

Temple Concord

Affiliation: Union for Reform Judaism
Rabbi: Leah Moser
Address: 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905
Office hours: Tues.-Fri., 10 am-2 pm
Phone: 607-723-7355
Fax: 607-723-0785
Office e-mail: TempleConcordbinghamton@gmail.com
Website: www.templeconcord.com
Regular service times: Fri., 7:30 pm; Sat., 10:35 am, when religious school is in session.
Hebrew school: Hebrew school meets at 4:15 pm and 5:15 pm on Tues. and Thurs. during the school year unless otherwise noted.
Shabbat services: Zoom link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86996998146?pwd=RIVMTHFQYIVVNGFHdmJLVUcvQ3JNQOT09>, meeting ID 869 9699 8146 and passcode 826330; dial-in number 646-931-3860; and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/templeconcord.
Torah study: Zoom link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8789790994?pwd=bOMvwxDuovoaBlnB4aVfHoTLYsyamj.1>, meeting ID: 878 9790 0994 and passcode: 743506; and dial-in number 646-931-3860.
Wednesday night adult education: Zoom link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87020925321?wd=pBWcRpK45u4cOyhEbx0LGvxCcOCKxA.1>, meeting ID 870 2092 5321 and passcode 778310.

Some services and programs are online only.
Tuesdays-Thursdays at 5:30 pm, evening prayers In person only.

Friday, March 28: At 7:30 pm, Shabbat service in person, on Zoom or on Facebook.

Saturday, March 29: At 9 am, Shabbat school; and at 9:15 am, Torah study in person and on Zoom.

Sunday, March 30: At 10 am, Brotherhood Brunch “Jewish-Christian Conflict.” Binghamton University Judaic Studies Professor Jonathan Karp will discuss his course, “The History of the Conflict between Christians and Jews.” All are welcome to attend. The cost is \$10 per person for the brunch. For more information, contact Lew Hecht at LCHECHT@aol.com.

Tuesday, April 1: At 10:30 am, Tuesday Morning Book Club: “The Boy with the Star Tattoo: A Novel” by Talia Carner. For more information, contact Merri Pell-Preus at 607-222-2875 or merripell.preus@gmail.com. The Zoom link is <https://bit.ly/3CXVd9b>, meeting ID 881 6469 4206 and passcode: 653272.

Wednesday, April 2: At 6 pm, “Adult Education: Jewish Mysticism” in person and on Zoom.

Friday, April 4: At 6 pm, potluck dinner with a short service. Those attending are asked to bring a vegetarian/dairy dish to share; contact the temple office at 607-723-7355, or www.templeconcord.com to sign up. RSVPs should be made by Tuesday, April 1.

Saturday, April 5: At 9 am, Shabbat school; and at 9:15 am, Torah study in person and on Zoom. Wednesday, March 26: At 6 pm, “Adult Education: Jewish Mysticism” in person and on Zoom.

Sunday, April 6: From 10 am-2 pm, rummage sale in the synagogue basement. Shoppers should use the Oak Street entrance.

Wednesday, April 9: At 6 pm, “Adult Education: Jewish Mysticism” in person and on Zoom.

Norwich Jewish Center

Orientation: Inclusive
Address: 72 South Broad St., Norwich, NY 13815
Phone: 334-2691
E-mail: fertigj@roadrunner.com
Contact: Guilia Greenberg, 373-5087
Purpose: To maintain a Jewish identity and meet the needs of the Jewish community in the area.
Adult Ed.: Call ahead, text or e-mail to confirm dates.

Penn-York Jewish Community

President-Treasurer-Secretary: Harvey Chernosky, 570-265-3869
B'nai B'rith: William H. Seigel Lodge
Purpose: To promote Jewish identity through religious, cultural, educational and social 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.

Jewish online resources

By Reporter staff

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

◆ The American Jewish University will hold the virtual talk “The Anatomy of Exile: Love, Identity, and Belonging” on Wednesday, April 2, at 3 pm. Zeeva Bukai and AJU’s Rabbi Gail Labovitz will talk about Bukai’s debut novel, “The Anatomy of Exile.” For more information or to register, visit <https://open.aju.edu/event/the-anatomy-of-exile-love-identity-and-belonging/>.

◆ Uri L’Tzedek will hold the virtual class “Shamayim-Jewish Ethics: The Basics” with Rabbi Geoffrey Claussen on Thursday, April 3, at 2:30 pm. He will talk about his new book about Jewish ethics. To register for the event, visit https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3gepU-jVGRDyEujYdFOGh0w#/registration.

◆ The Institute for Jewish Spirituality will hold the virtual course “The Seven Weeks Towards Healing and Wholeness: An Omer Journey through the Sefirot” on Wednesdays, April 16-May 28, with an orientation session on Wednesday, April 9, from 8-9 pm. There is a sliding scale cost to attend from \$199-399. The course will offer a “seven-week journey of Jewish mindfulness practice to help us cultivate these sacred qualities within ourselves, to promote healing and soften and loosen the constrictions of our lives.” For more information or to register, visit www.jewishspirituality.org/get-started/seven-weeks-towards-healing-and-wholeness-an-omer-journey-through-the-sefirot/.

◆ The Jewish Theological Seminary will hold the virtual class “Fundamentals of Biblical Hebrew: Reading and Pronunciation” on Thursdays, May 29-July 24, from 10-11:15 am. The cost to attend is \$415. For more information or to register, visit www.jtsa.edu/event/fundamentals-biblical-hebrew-summer-2025/.

◆ The Hadassah-Brandeis Institute will hold a virtual program in the Sandra Seltzer Silberman HBI Conversations Series featuring Noa Shashar, author of “The Marital Knot, Agunot in the Ashkenazi Realm, 1648-1850,” on Wednesday, May 14, at 12:30 pm. For more information or to register, visit www.brandeis.edu/hbi/events/index.html.

◆ The American Jewish University will hold the virtual talk “Trump, Ukraine, and Israel: What’s the Real Lesson?” on Monday, April 7, at 3 pm. Jonathan Tobin will discuss

Trump’s pressure on Zelenskyy and what it means for U.S.-Israel relations. For more information or to register, visit <https://open.aju.edu/event/trump-ukraine-and-israel-whats-the-real-lesson>.

◆ The Institute for Jewish Spirituality will hold a virtual program featuring IJS President and CEO Rabbi Josh Feigelson in conversation with Rabbi Shira Stutman about her book “The Jewish Way to a Good Life: Find Happiness, Build Community, and Embrace Lovingkindness” on Tuesday, April 29, at 8 pm. For more information or to register, visit <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/ifjs/event/iisc/>.

◆ Roundtable will hold the virtual course “Jewish Émigrés in Film Noir: Wilder, Lang, Preminger, and More” on Wednesdays, April 9-30, from 4-5 pm. The cost to attend is \$176. The course will look at how film noir was shaped by the influx of Jewish émigré artists fleeing Nazi Germany and finding refuge in Hollywood. For more information or to register, visit <https://roundtable.org/live-courses/arts/jewish-emigres-in-film-noir-wilder-lang-preminger-and-more>.

◆ The Jewish Telegraphic Agency will hold a virtual program “Team Israel Baseball Documentary Screening and Q&A with Shawn Green.” In addition to a week of online streaming access to the documentary “Israel Swings For Gold,” the cost of \$18 will also allow viewers to attend a question-and-answer with Green on Thursday, April 10, at 7 pm. A recording will be available for those unable to attend on April 10. For more information or to register, visit www.eventbrite.com/e/team-israel-baseball-documentary-screening-and-qa-with-shawn-green-tickets-1272759260209.

◆ Roundtable will hold the virtual course “The Everyday Life of Jews in the Ancient World” on Thursday, May 8-22, from noon-1 pm. The cost to attend is \$132. Historian Karen B. Stern will “explore the evidence and artifacts of ancient Jewish history from public graffiti to the art and architecture of synagogues, learning about how the life of Jews in the ancient world existed at the intersection of empires of Mesopotamia, Persia, Greece, and Rome.” For more information or to register, visit <https://roundtable.org/live-courses/history/the-everyday-life-of-jews-in-the-ancient-world>.

For additional resources, see previous issues of *The Reporter* on its website, www.thereportergroup.org/jewish-online-resources.

Jewish Community Center

JCC Friendship Club

The JCC Friendship Club did not meet at the Jewish Community Center in March. Instead, we had a Purim party on March 12 at Brookdale Castle Gardens. Rabbi Micah Friedman from Temple Israel told the story of Purim and some of the customs. The person who was supposed to provide music was sick, so we passed out music sheets and had a community sing. We sang several songs, including “Wicked Man.” When the name of Haman was mentioned, everyone made noise with the groggers that were passed out. Refreshments were served and everyone had a good time.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 16, at the JCC, at 1:30 pm. Come join us to talk about Passover. Did you attend a seder? Tell us about it.

Sylvia Diamond
President

House. . . . Continued from page 10

just completed the construction of the *Mishkan*, and these same instructions apply to the future Holy Temple, the *Beit Hamikdash*. Now is the time for the presence of God, the *Shechina*, to come and dwell within the tabernacle and within the Jewish people. Perhaps the Torah is stressing that this is only possible when there is a *Beit Yisrael*, unity among the wider family and nation, and separation from the rest of the world around us. Only in those conditions can God dwell among us.

Such a presence of God can only be permanent if there is also a *bayit*. That is why the tabernacle was called a *Mishkan*, since it wasn’t permanent, while the Temple is called a *bayit*.

How do we create such conditions? There is another unique idea expressed in the entire story of the instructions and the construction of the *Mishkan*. In these last five *parashot* of the Book of Exodus, the mitzvah of Shabbat is frequently mentioned. Adding Shabbat into our home, into our *bayit*, creates the conditions necessary for the entrance of God.

Our homes must be ones in which there is peace and unity. They must also serve to protect us from outside influences; their walls separate us from the environment around us. However, we believe that we need not be totally separated from the rest of society. We have much to learn from them, and we have even more to give to them. We are part of this world and in order to fulfill our mission we must interact with all people and with all cultures.

Yet, our home must also serve to protect us from negative influences, from ideas that are immoral and objectionable. This is accomplished by infusing our homes and our nation not only with love and unity, but also with holiness. This holiness is the Shabbat. That one day each week, a small amount of time, that we devote to Torah study, to our family and to cessation of other activities. This serves to reinforce and recharge our spiritual batteries, so that the holiness of the God can enter and permeate our lives and our actions.

This is the challenge that we must meet. When we, as a nation and people, meet this challenge, then not only will we earn the beauty of having our *bayit*, our own home, but the entire world will have a *bayit*. As the prophet said about the *Beit Hamikdash*: “*Key beitee beit tefillah yikarei l’chol haamim*,” God says, that my home will be a house of prayer for all nations.

Democracy Continued from page 2

and ideals into our Jewishness.” In the age of Donald Trump and Elon Musk, American Jews are neglecting that obligation to advocate for universal justice, a responsibility we have long championed as politicians, teachers, writers, soldiers and labor leaders.

The most fundamental attribute of a representative democracy is suffrage, the right of qualified citizens to vote for federal, state and local officials in fair elections. Through falsehood, intimidation and an attempted coup, however, there was a conspiracy to invalidate the results of the 2020 presidential election. The losing candidate, then the incumbent president, denied the outcome, brought pressure on Georgia officials to find him more votes and encouraged the mob that stormed the Congress on January 6, 2021, granting many of them pardons after regaining office. In February 2025, Donald Trump, once again the incumbent president, declared on his Truth Social platform “Long Live the King!” Disregarding the 22nd Amendment’s clear prohibition, Trump loyalists have raised the threat of a third term.

Ours is a constitutional democracy with checks and balances providing for separation of powers. The original document and subsequent amendments protect individual rights against the potential tyranny of the majority, aspiring absolutists and government itself. Individuals have the right to articulate unpopular views.

The Founders made clear in the preamble to the Constitution that the new government was to “promote the general Welfare.” Yet, the current administration energizes its base by demonizing those who espouse competing political views. Libel suits against opposition newspapers, angry demands for the firing of critical media commentators and the White House limiting reporter access to presidential events threaten freedom of the press. As the military service and sacrifice of our diverse groups evidence, no one religious tradition defines American nationalism. In 1933, German democracy was destroyed from within.

A democracy conquered by falsehood then finds rationalization for aggression abroad. Brave Ukraine has endured insult, manipulation and threat; Canada is called the 51st state; and NATO, supported by every American president, Republican and Democratic alike, since its inception encounters potential desertion. Such attempts to mobilize selfish aggrandizement mock a proud American history built on the overthrow of an imperial power to establish an independent republic; eradication of slavery in a reborn union; the call to “make the world safe for democracy; the liberation of Europe from Nazi subjugation; the rebuilding of the Old World through the Marshall Plan; the heroic Cold

War struggle against Soviet tyranny; and the still evolving campaign for universal Civil Rights, social justice and freedom from want.

The Nazis ascended and consolidated power based on lies. America’s fragile democratic experiment, still the best hope of humankind, necessitates trust in foundational institutions and in our fellow citizens, obligating us to give a decent hearing to competing viewpoints. Informed debate and compromise to forward the common good are far better guardians of the people than coercion and compulsion.

“Democracy protected Jews in America, if imperfectly, and Jews made it a hallmark of our Americanness to be advocates for democracy in return,” Kurter reminds us. “And as we did this, we recognized that we were not merely fighting for ourselves. So too today, the fight by American Jews for American democracy is not merely for us Jews, but for all of us Americans.”



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Hebrew U, Sapir College sign MOU with Clemson to tackle agricultural issues

By JNS staff

(JNS) – In a bid to tackle pressing agricultural, nutritional, and environmental challenges, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Clemson University in South Carolina and Sapir College in Israel. The partnership focuses on joint research initiatives relevant to both Israel – particularly the Western Negev region – and South Carolina. It includes efforts to secure funding through collaborative grant proposals, as well as the development of an international strategic framework to enhance research and teaching capabilities. An additional goal is to assist developing countries facing similar agricultural challenges by sharing expertise

and best practices.

“This collaboration signifies a pivotal advancement in agricultural research and education,” said Prof. Saul Burdman, dean of the Hebrew University Robert H. Smith Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Environment. “By combining Israeli expertise with Clemson University’s innovative approaches, we are poised to make significant strides in promoting global food security and sustainability.”

The collaboration supports the expansion and advancement of Sapir College’s agricultural technology programs, further strengthening its role in regional development. Student exchange programs will also be established, providing oppor-

tunities for cross-cultural learning and academic enrichment.

The signing ceremony, held at Clemson University on March 11, was attended by former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley, an alumna of the school.

The partnership is the result of a visit by Haley to Sderot in May 2024. There, she met Amit Kochavi, senior adviser to Sderot Mayor Alon Davidi, who was seeking to revitalize agricultural communities near Sderot and Sapir College after the October 7, 2023, Hamas massacre devastated the area.

“This partnership unites two countries, two cultures, and three universities,” said Haley, a Clemson Board of Trustees mem-

ber and former South Carolina governor. “Today, we celebrate two agriculture giants, two leaders in innovative farming coming together. Through this partnership, we are sowing seeds that will sprout and bear fruit for generations to come.”

Global agriculture expert and director of the Clemson Global Research Initiative, Dr. Jagger Harvey, is leading Clemson’s involvement. “Hebrew University scientists are world-class in agricultural research, and Sapir College supports agriculture in the Western Negev region,” Harvey said. “This partnership will further strengthen Clemson’s ability to address key agricultural and food insecurity challenges in Israel, South Carolina, and globally.”

Arrowheads from Yemen: Evidence of ancient trade caravans found in Negev

By JNS staff

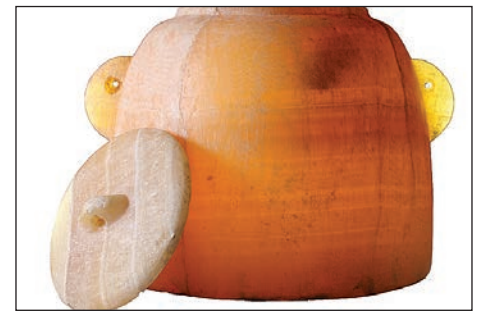
(JNS) – Researchers have discovered a 2,500-year-old tomb compound with dozens of burial sites in a previously unknown site in the Negev highlands, the Israel Antiquities Authority announced on February 5. The discovery near Tlalim Junction suggests that trade caravans from Arabia, and even from as far away as Yemen, passed through the Land of Israel, according to the IAA.

“The unique concentration of flint artifacts uncovered in the site are unparalleled in Israel and the only source that we know of is Yemen and Oman,” said Jacob Vardi of the IAA. “We found traces of red ochre on some of the artifacts – a substance that was used in ancient cultures to symbolize blood and for other decorative purposes. The

Egyptian-style scarabs with additional cultural influences found at a tomb complex in Israel’s Negev Desert are evidence of encounters between different peoples, researchers say. (Photo by Emil Aladjem/Israel Antiquities Authority.)



presence of ochre on these arrowheads may indicate their religious or cultic significance as having special value.”



An alabaster vessel found at the site, after conservation efforts at Israel Antiquities Authority labs. (Photo by Emil Aladjem/Israel Antiquities Authority)

The dozens of gravesites raise two possibilities: that the place was used over generations for burial by trade caravans passing by, or that the tombs were built for a mass burial of individuals from a single caravan that came under attack.

“The discovery is unique and points to wide-reaching cultural interchange between southern and northern Arabia, Phoenicia, Egypt and southern Europe,” said excavation director Martin David Pasternak and senior researcher Tali Erickson-Gini.

“A rich variety of artifacts were revealed in the two tombs that we uncovered, which are dated to between the 7th and 5th centuries B.C.E.: copper and silver jewelry, alabaster artifacts for preparing incense, hundreds of

beads made from different kinds of colorful stones, rare kinds of shells, an amulet in the shape of the Egyptian god Bes, alabaster vessels that were used to transport incense resins from southern Arabia, and more and more,” continued the researchers.

“The great variety of finds are evidence that this previously unknown site was a place of burial for trade caravans during that period and burial and cultic practices took place here,” they added.

The discovery will be presented to the public for the first time in a new lecture series, titled “Archaeological Mysteries,” conducted by experts from the IAA in the Jay and Jeanie Schottenstein National Campus for the Archaeology of Israel.

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April.....Continued from page 1

April 6, at 7 pm. The deadline to register for the film will be Wednesday, April 2. The film fest is co-sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton and the Ithaca Area United Jewish Community.

“Troll Storm” chronicles the journey of a woman who transformed from a victim of cyber-hate into an advocate for justice and free speech. The documentary “captures the spirit of resilience, the power of community and the pursuit of justice in the face of adversity.” It tells the story of the antisemitic attacks that began against Whitefish, MT, resident Tanya Gersh after the 2016 election of Donald Trump. As the far-right extremism harassment continued and intensified, Gersh felt overwhelmed

and threatened. In an attempt to regain her life, she filed a lawsuit against the perpetrators. The documentary tells of her fight.

“Troll Storm” won the NYWIFT Award for Excellence in Documentary for Directing at the 25th Woodstock Film Festival. The Missoulain said, “‘Troll Storm’ dives deep into this harrowing story and puts the rise of antisemitism in the U.S. into historical context.”

“This film tells the story of one woman who fought back against hate,” said Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Federation. “It is both alarming and inspirational. I hope everyone will join us as we explore this important documentary.”

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