

# THE REPORTER

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## Federation plans Yom Hashoah program on April 17

By Reporter staff

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton will hold a hybrid Yom Hashoah program on Monday, April 17, at 7 pm. It will include recorded excerpts from the survivor testimony of the late Ruth Buschman and the participation of local rabbis. Buschman's children, Suzanne Buschman-Erez and Steve Buschman, will join the program on Zoom. Temple Concord will host those wishing to participate in person. To receive

a Zoom link for the program, visit the Federation website at [www.jfgeb.org/](http://www.jfgeb.org/).

"I'm honored that we will be featuring the testimony of Ruth Buschman, may her memory be for a blessing," said Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Federation. "Ruth was a cherished and loved member of the Binghamton community. I found her testimony very moving and meaningful. When I asked her children about using their mother's testimony, they were happy it is

going to be shared with people who knew her and cared about her."

During the interview, which can be found on the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Collection website, Buschman "discusses her childhood in Beclean, Transylvania, Romania, and her Orthodox Jewish upbringing; the occupation of her town by Hungarian troops in 1942; the confiscation of her family business; the family's deportation to Auschwitz in

1944; her impression when she arrived at the camp; her separation from her mother; her experiences in Auschwitz; her transfer to camp Nurnberg; her immigration to the United States in 1946; and her marriage and family life." The Bay Area Holocaust Oral History Project conducted the interview on November 20, 2002, and it was received by the museum's Archives Branch in September 2003. It is part of the Jeff and Toby Herr Oral History Archive special collection.

## Federation to hold Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration at Temple Israel on April 23

By Reporter staff

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton will hold a Yom Ha'atzmaut (Independence Day) celebration celebrating Israel's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Sunday, April 23, at 11:30 am, at Temple Israel, 4737 Deerfield Pl., Vestal. The event is open to all ages. Admission is free due to a grant from the Rozen Foundation. Reg-

istration is required and can be made at [www.jfgeb.org](http://www.jfgeb.org) or by calling the Federation office at 724-2332. Donations will be accepted.

The event will include a virtual live tour of Jerusalem's Old City, Israeli dancing led by the Roberson Interna-



tional Folk Dancers and a kosher "Happy birthday Israel" cake.

"We hope the community will come out and celebrate Israel at 75," said Shelley Hubal, Federation executive director. "The goal is to bring the Jewish community together, young

and old, for a joyous celebration. We also want to thank Temple Israel for hosting the event."

Hubal added, "Israel is going through some growing pains right now, but one thing most Jews can agree on is that it is always in our hearts. For this event, we will put politics aside and simply say 'cheers to 75 years!'"

## Intersisterhood event to be held on May 3

The 2023 Intersisterhood event will be held at Temple Concord on Wednesday, May 3, at 7 pm. The topic will be "Jewish Merchants in Binghamton's Heyday." The admission price of \$5 will give attendees an occasion to socialize, to partake in refreshments and to participate in a raffle for door prizes, as well as to have a chance to hear four local Binghamtonians – Marti Klionsky, Francine Stein, Howard Zendle and Ron Sall – recall what Binghamton was like in the 1950s and '60s.

Because of the subject matter, the event will also be open to men. Those planning to attend are asked to make their reservations by Wednesday, April 26, by contacting Beth David at 722-1793 or [bethdavid@stny.rr.com](mailto:bethdavid@stny.rr.com); Temple Israel at 723-7461 or [titammy@stny.twcbc.com](mailto:titammy@stny.twcbc.com); or Temple Concord at 723-7355 or [templeconcordaa@gmail.com](mailto:templeconcordaa@gmail.com). Those who wish to attend can also respond by using the QR code included with this article (see page 7), on the event

flyer that the synagogues will be including in their bulletins and announcements, or on the Federation website.

"Do you remember the great meeting place called The Hub?" organizers ask. "Or a high-end women's store that had local Binghamton girls serve as models for their clothing in their television commercials? Or the iconic, huge discount department store where they gave you free popcorn while you were hunting for fabulous bargains? The answers to these questions and more will be revealed to all who attend this year's annual."

"I was born in Rochester, and my family moved to Binghamton when I was 18 months old," recalls Klionsky. "I have vivid memories of the many Jewish merchant stores, and I look forward to sharing them at the Intersisterhood event. If I have the time, I will try to create a map of where all these stores were, including my favorite go-to place for the wonderful fabrics they

had for the clothes I made for myself and my family: Philadelphia Sales!"

In 1960, Francine Stein moved from Philadelphia to Binghamton, when her husband, Steve Stein, began a new job in a store called Philadelphia Sales, owned by his father and an uncle of Alan Jablon. "The store was open seven days a week; Steve loved working there, and eventually took over," Stein recalls. "I never worked there, but bought lots of stuff there for my three kids, each of whom worked in the store when they were teenagers. So I can tell you lots about the store that people affectionately called Philly Sales. Alan Jablon is a friend who also continues to live in Binghamton, and he is looking forward to attending the event, and will help me fill in anything I leave out!"

Zendle was born and raised in Binghamton and, until his retirement in 2009, worked at IBM Owego as an operational programmer for computers that navigate

airplanes. Like Klionsky and Stein, he continues to live in the area. "My father owned the Binghamton Kosher Market," Zendle told organizers. "When I was in high school in the '60s, I made a video of my Dad in the new location of the butcher shop, which had its grand opening on Conklin Avenue. I am delighted that the video will be shown at the Intersisterhood event – it's truly an historical document now, and I bet some audience members will recognize some of those who attended the shop's grand opening! I also remember very well the many Jewish merchants and the stores that flourished at the time."

Sall-Stearns Fine Men's Clothing and Tailoring dates back to 1929, and is currently owned by Sall, who will be part of the program through a video interview. "Ron will share the fascinating story of this family-owned fine men's haberdashery store," organizers said, "and will detail what See "Event" on page 7

## Beth David to honor Dr. Dora Polachek on May 7

The Beth David Synagogue Annual Dinner will be held on Sunday, May 7, at 3 pm. Dr. Dora Polachek will be honored with the Jack and Mary Ferber Memorial Award during the dinner. The cocktail hour will begin at 3 pm, followed by dinner at 4 pm. The cost is \$50 per person. Invitations have been sent out and reservations should be made by Friday, April 21, by contacting the synagogue at [bethdavid@stny.rr.com](mailto:bethdavid@stny.rr.com), or 722-1793. Anyone who has not received an invitation and wants to attend should also contact the synagogue. Sponsorships are also available: gold \$375 includes two dinners; silver \$275 includes two dinners; and bronze \$175 includes one dinner. A raffle will be held; the drawing will take place at the dinner.

In 2020, the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton recognized Polachek's contributions with its Spirit of Community Award. Polachek has served on the Editorial Committee of *The Reporter*, and continues to serve on the board of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton's College of Jewish Studies. She has introduced and facilitated discussions for the Binghamton Jewish Film Fest, which is sponsored by the Federation. A member of Beth David since she arrived in the area, Polachek founded and coordinates the monthly Shabbat Luncheon Speaker Series. She is also the synagogue's rep-



Dr. Dora Polachek

resentative on the annual Intersisterhood committee, when the three Binghamton synagogues' Sisterhoods develop and sponsor a joint program open to the community.

As a faculty member of Binghamton University's Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, she is the recipient of awards that include the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching and

the University Award for Excellence in International Education. A graduate of Barnard College, New York University and The University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, where she received her doctorate

in French literature, Polachek moved to Binghamton in 1982.

"Dora's talents and enthusiasm are visible in everything she undertakes, be it at Binghamton University or in the community," organizers said. "Her contributions to the community are manifold."

Shelley Hubal, Federation executive director, said, "Dora has a special gift in generating lively and engaged audience participation." Most recently, Polachek facilitated the March discussion of the Israeli film "Tel Aviv on Fire."

"Dora has contributed so much to making Beth David programs so successful, as well as to other programs," added Rabbi Zev Silber. "She is very deserving of this prestigious award of recognition."

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## Jewish Baseball Players

# Israel and Diaspora baseball: Team Israel meets the 2023 World Baseball Classic, part I

BILL SIMONS

Since the 1871 debut of the National Association, the first circuit considered a major league by baseball historians, there have been teams with one, two, very occasionally three and even rarely four Jewish players with names reflective of their ethnic heritage. From Lip Pike who led the majors in home runs four times in the 1870s to contemporary Alex Bregman, cleanup hitter on the World Series champion Houston Astros, baseball has had a Jewish presence. Still, MLB has a modest rollcall of Jewish players: Team Israel is different. For an American Jewish baseball fan, it brings a visceral identification with Team Israel to hear broadcasters announcing a series of distinctively landsman names, amongst them Zack Weiss, Jakob Goldfarb, Dean Kremer, Jacob Steinmetz, Spencer Horwitz, Michael Wielansky, Bubby Rossman, Noah Mendlinger, Jake Fishman and Shlomo Lipetz.

Competing in the 2023 World Baseball Classic, Team Israel players enjoyed recognition and support from Jewish fans and teammates. Many of the players previously experienced playing on teams, particularly those located in small minor league towns where they were the only Jew on the roster and hence different from everyone else. Conversely, the first time they entered the Team Israel clubhouse, they felt an instant connection, a figurative embrace, as though they were at a Jewish summer camp reunion. A shared sensibility pervaded the team, extending from humor to politics.

Most Team Israel players come from comfortable, secular, suburban American middle-class backgrounds. Several are the children of interfaith marriages, but, for most of them, there is a need to come to terms with their Jewish backgrounds. One of the players invented a whimsical “who is the most Jewish” quiz game, featuring queries about bar mitzvahs, knowledge of Hebrew, synagogue attendance, kosher food, trips to Israel, dual citizenship and other ethnic markers. Team Israel conversations are animated, often punctuated by laughter. They debated “the Koufax curse,” which supposedly brings bad things to a Jew who plays ball on Yom Kippur. Despite the rise of antisemitism and schedule conflict with spring training, they chose to don the Israeli colors, topped by caps emblazoned with the Star of David, in the WBC. Numbers report deep and sometimes unexpected feelings while standing at attention for the pre-game rendition of “Hatikvah,” several donning yarmulkes.

Aspiring to evolve into baseball’s equivalent of soccer’s World Cup, the first World Baseball Classic was held in 2006. Some dreamed of a truly global World Series. Subsequent renditions took place in 2009, 2013 and 2017. In the 2017 World Baseball Classic, Team Israel, initially ranked 41<sup>st</sup> in the field, shocked opponents and experts with upset victories over powerful teams from Cuba, South Korea, Chinese Taipei and the Netherlands. After former MLB pitcher Jason Marquis, a Staten Island native, displayed mound mastery, the defeated Cubans derided Team Israel as

a faux national team, comprised of American mercenaries.

For Jewish baseball enthusiasts, however, the 2017 WBC gifted them an epiphany equivalent to America’s Miracle on Ice triumph in the 1980 Winter Olympics. Team Israel has morphed into a baseball version of the Jamaica bobsled team. The momentum continued.

Israel was one of six nations to qualify for the baseball competition in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, ultimately postponed until 2021 due to Covid. Team Israel finished fifth in the Olympics and with a few breaks might have ranked higher.

And Israel was one of 20 nations selected for 2023 WBC competition. Team Israel boasted 14 players with major league experience, many recruited by general manager Peter Kurz, manager Ian Kinsler and San Francisco star Joc Pederson. A cadre of talented minor league prospects augmented the roster. Although rookie manager Kinsler, a former MLB All-Star second baseman, lacked previous experience at the helm, he was surrounded by great coaches, including his ex-Detroit Tigers manager Brad Ausmus, retired Red Sox great Kevin Youkilis, Nate Fish, who managed Team Israel with distinction in the fall 2021 European Championships, and veteran MLB manager Jerry Narron.

Team Israel possessed a special vibe. Nonetheless, the analytics told another story. A two-time All-Star, Pederson, the best position player on Team Israel, had his peak batting **See “Baseball” on page 8**

## Opinion

### In My Own Words

## Freedom of speech works both ways

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.” – First amendment to the United States Constitution

Freedom of speech is an interesting concept. It means that we have the right to speak out against political leaders and other members of society with whose ideas we disagree. That also means that they have the right to speak out against our political and social ideas. Yes, there are limits

to this, but, in its ideal form, everyone is free to share their opinions, including those on the far-left and those on the far-right. That doesn’t protect people from repercussions: we are free not to support that person or organization. That includes everything from not watching a television program to refusing to eat at a restaurant because we disapprove of the opinions of the actor or owner. But that doesn’t mean they shouldn’t be allowed to speak because otherwise someone might curtail our freedom of speech. For freedom of speech to work, it has to be for everyone.

This is why I was greatly disturbed to read about the

behavior that occurred during a recent speech at the Stanford Law School. Stuart Kyle Duncan, a federal appeals court judge appointed by Donald Trump, was heckled and rudely interrupted during his speech. According to one news story, “one protester called for his daughters to be raped.” To be clear, I don’t approve of Duncan’s ideas or his former clients. He represented Hobby Lobby when the craft store didn’t want to offer its employees health insurance that included contraceptive care. He also called the Supreme Court decision to allow same sex marriage an “abject failure.” I disagree with many of his court rulings. But that doesn’t mean he should be barred from speaking about them. It makes sense that a law school would want to introduce its students to a variety of ways that our laws can be applied or interpreted.

Stanford students also have rights: they could have refused to attend his speech and encouraged others to do the same. Just because someone has freedom of speech doesn’t mean that anyone has to listen to him. They could also have protested outside the building where he was speaking to let him and others know that they find his opinions unacceptable. In addition, they could support organizations that work against the ideas that Duncan supports.

Stopping him from speaking, however, did nothing to help the causes these students support. It just made people sympathize with Duncan and his ideas. News about what occurred has spread across newspapers and the Internet (which is how I found out about it) and turned what would have otherwise been an ignored event into a prize for those who support Duncan’s ideas. After all, they can say, look at the behavior of those who disagree with him: they are bullies who are destroying our society.

This is about more than just one speaker and speech. Those of us who know about the McCarthy era in the United States – when expressing a leftist opinion could cause the loss of employment, blacklisting and ostracism – don’t want to see the return of those days. Think it doesn’t matter because your opinions will be the ones in ascendance? The political pendulum swings both ways: freedom of speech has to work for everyone or it works for no one.

### Letters

## David Kamerman’s Pesach artwork

To the Editor:

I met David Kamerman immediately when I arrived in Binghamton in 2016. That’s when I first learned that he had cancer. He showed confidence and composure, and we had many conversations. I came to visit him several times at his home, and we also used to sing beautiful old Israeli songs. Later, I learned that he knew and loved to draw, so I asked him to draw for me and Hillel Academy a drawing of a family around the Pesach seder table. He was very happy about this opportunity.

That was in 2017. Within a few weeks he gave me the drawing, but said, “Excuse me, there are some things not finished. I just didn’t have enough strength to finish, so when I get stronger I will finish this painting.”

I was very happy and, of course, I waited for him to complete the painting. Unfortunately, he did not have time to finish this wonderful painting since he passed away on September 28, 2018.

I talked to Joy Yarkoni about the painting and said I thought it was worth telling its story. She agreed, and also offered to allow one of his children to finish the painting and then preserve the picture.



David Kamerman’s painting, which was finished by one of his children.

I later spoke with David’s wife, Maura, and she was happy and enthusiastic about the idea.

May it be for the perpetuation of the name of David Kamerman.

Rabbi Moshe Shmaryahu



Shelley Hubal, Executive Director

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#### OPINIONS

The views expressed in editorials and opinion pieces are those of each author and not necessarily the views of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton.

#### 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

The Reporter does not necessarily endorse any advertised products and services. In addition, the paper is not responsible for the kashruth of any advertiser’s product or establishment.

#### DEADLINE

Regular weekly deadline is noon, Wednesday, for the following week’s newspaper.

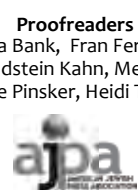
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www.thereporter.org

# BU Judaic Studies Dept. to hold two lectures in April

The Judaic Studies Department of Binghamton University will hold two lectures open to the community in April: Dr. Christopher Silver will speak on Thursday, April 20, in the Admissions Center, room 189; and Rabbi Dr. Lance Sussman will speak on Thursday, April 27, in the Fine Arts building, room 258. Both lectures will take place from 5-7 pm. For more information, contact Dr. Beth Burch at [bburch@binghamton.edu](mailto:bburch@binghamton.edu).

Silver will read from his new book, "Recording History: Jews, Muslims, and Music Across Twentieth Century North Africa." His book explores the music scene and recording industry across 20th century Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia. He offers insights into Jewish-Muslim relations through the rhythms that animated them. He also traces the path of hit-makers and their hit records, seeking to illuminate regional and transnational connections. In asking what North Africa once sounded like, Silver seeks to recover a world of the voices of impresarios, female stars, cantors turned composers, witnesses and survivors of war, and national and nationalist icons.

Silver is the Segal Family Assistant Professor in Jewish History and Culture at McGill University in Montréal. A 2017 graduate of UCLA, he teaches modern Jewish history and popular culture and music. He is also the founder and curator of the website Gharamophone.com, a digital archive of North African records from the first half of the 20th century.

Sussman will speak on "Jews in the New American Nation: Revolution, Religious Liberty, and Civic Culture." He is the former chairman of the Judaic Studies Department at Binghamton University and is currently the chairman of the Board of Governors and professor of Jewish history of Gratz College. Sussman has taught courses in Jewish history at several universities, including Princeton University, Hebrew Union College in New York City, Rutgers University, Temple University and Hunter College. His published writing includes "Isaac Lesser and the Making of American Judaism" and "Sharing Sacred Moments" (a collection of his sermons). He also served as an editor of "Reform Judaism in America: A

Biographical Dictionary and Sourcebook."

Sussman is a former rabbi of Binghamton's Temple Concord and the former Temple Beth El of Endicott. He is also rabbi emeritus of Congregation Keneseth Israel, Elkins Park, PA. To learn more about Sussman, visit [www.kenesethisrael.org/rabbi-lance-sussman/](http://www.kenesethisrael.org/rabbi-lance-sussman/).

The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to Debra Martinez on the death of her mother-in-law,  
**Gregorita Martinez**

## BD Sisterhood donor meeting to be held on April 26

Beth David Sisterhood will hold its annual donor meeting on Wednesday, April 26, at 7 pm, at the home of Rabbi Zev and Judy Silber. A donation of \$ 25 dollars or more is necessary to attend the fund-raising meeting. Rick Pescatore will speak about antique clock repair. To make reservations and receive the Silber's address, contact Beth David Synagogue at [Bethdavid@stny.rr.com](mailto:Bethdavid@stny.rr.com) or 722- 1793. Reservations are requested by Thursday, April 20, to make certain there is enough food, but people may attend without reservations.

Pescatore is a retired teacher from the Binghamton City School District who spent most of his 38 years in special education. He also taught Latin at the high school for 10 years and at Binghamton University for one year. He has traveled to Europe, Asia and Central America, and hosted students from Russia, France and Central America. Pescatore has also done antique clock repair for more than 30 years. Since retirement, this has been his primary interest. See "Donor" on page 8

## TI to hold Chevra Kadisha training on April 30

Temple Israel will hold a Chevra Kadisha training on Sunday, April 30, from 1:30-5 pm. The non-profit organization Kavod v'Nichum (which means honor and comfort in Hebrew) will do *taharah* and *shemirah* training. Registration is required and can be made by calling Temple Israel at 723-7461.

Under the leadership of Sarit Wishnevski, the group will teach and train attendees about *taharah*, the ritual physical and spiritual preparation of the deceased for burial. Training will include hands-on practice and participants will gain

understanding of both *taharah* and *shemirah* (guarding the deceased before burial).

Kavod V'Nahum was founded in 2000 and its mission is to providing end-of-life education, support and training in the Jewish tradition.

"If you are curious to learn more about the ritual of *taharah* and what it means to be part of a Chevra Kadisha - Sacred Community join us for this program," said organizers.

### In Business

## Jewish Life Television

Jewish Life Television announced that Spectrum has made JLTV more widely available to its Greater Binghamton customers through its Spectrum "Entertainment View" package. Spectrum customers in Greater Binghamton can watch JLTV on Spectrum Channel 469.

JLTV welcomes viewers of all faiths to enjoy its programming, both original and acquired, including "Fauda" (ranked the eighth best international series of the 2010s by *The New York Times*), "Prisoners of War" (ranked the #1 best international series of the 2010s by *The New York Times* and the inspiration for Showtime's "Homeland") and "Servant of the People" (starring Ukrainian president and 2022 Time Magazine's Person of the Year Volodymyr Zelensky).

## Tea and Talk

Chabad of Binghamton, with co-sponsorship from the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, holds Tea and Talk programs, a monthly 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 20
- ◆ May 4
- ◆ May 18
- ◆ June 1
- ◆ June 15

To RSVP and for more information, visit [www.JewishBU.com/Tea](http://www.JewishBU.com/Tea) or call 797-0015.



### Create a Jewish Legacy

Strengthen the Jewish community you care about for generations to come. Consider a gift to the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton in your estate. For further information or assistance, please contact Shelley Hubal at 724-2332 or [director@jfgb.org](mailto:director@jfgb.org)



Daniel Hege, Music Director  
2022-2023 Season

**Pops at the Forum** Saturday, March 25, 2023 at 3pm  
Forum Theatre

**Northern Lights** Saturday, April 29, 2023 at 7:30pm  
Forum Theatre

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Thursday, May 4, 2023 at 7:30pm  
Anderson Center for the Performing Arts

For more information on our concert season, visit [www.binghamtonphilharmonic.org/events](http://www.binghamtonphilharmonic.org/events) or scan the QR code.



## DEADLINES

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

ISSUE	DEADLINE
April 21-May 4	April 10 (early)
May 5-18	April 26
May 19-June 1	May 10
June 2-15	May 22 (early)

All deadlines for the year can be found at [www.thereporter.org/contact-us/faqs](http://www.thereporter.org/contact-us/faqs) under "Q: What Are the Deadlines for the Paper?"

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Off the Shelf

## Legal anecdotes in the Talmud

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

The traditional way to study Talmud is to follow the general flow of the work. Rarely do those studying the text stop to compare and analyze stories that occur in different tractates. However, Judith Hauptman, E. Billi Ivry Professor Emerita of Talmud and Rabbinic Culture at the Jewish Theological Seminary, became curious about the talmudic stories she noticed telling of rabbis who seemed to be circumventing the laws. In her fascinating “The Stories They Tell: Halakhic Anecdotes in the Babylonian Talmud” (Gorgias Press), Hauptman compares these anecdotes, which appear across the Talmud, and discovered a pattern: the stories are used to change the law under discussion.

After studying hundreds of these stories, Hauptman discovered that, although there are some differences between individual tales, they generally promote a lenient way to practice the law under discussion. The author suggests that the material shows “that each halakhic anecdote innovates, that it does not merely show that a later rabbi piously upheld the rule of an earlier rabbi.... but teaches something new. I further argue that the new point is, in most cases, a lenient modification of an earlier state rule.” Underlying

her thesis is the idea that the Babylonian Talmud “endorses, even promotes, halakhic change.”

Many of these legal anecdotes are a dialogue between two rabbis: a junior scholar questioning a senior scholar when he sees the senior scholar perform an action that seems prohibited by the ruling under discussion. How does the senior scholar answer this question about his behavior? According to Hauptman, “the senior scholar defends his action, usually claiming that his specific circumstances do not fall under the purview of the stated rule. He has thus not violated it. His actions suggest that in circumstances like his own, the rule does not apply. It still does apply in all other circumstances, however.”

In order to prove her point, Hauptman offers examples of these stories in the original Hebrew/Aramaic with English translation before carefully unpacking the story to show what is really occurring. Many of these stories portray rabbis as special cases, which allow them to behave differently from Jews who are not rabbis. For example, one law under discussion is the requirement to go barefoot on Yom Kippur. The anecdotes featured tell of several rabbis who

wore different kinds of shoes (not the traditional sandals worn at the time) by claiming they were weak or fastidious. They claim their case is an exemption to the rule, while at the same time, trying to show that because their footwear is different, they are not actually breaking the law.

Another case concerns whether, when traveling, men should be allowed to take a wife for a day in the town they are visiting. This marriage is limited to the length of his visit: before leaving, the man would give the woman a divorce. At first, the discussion calls this inappropriate behavior. The text then continues by showing several rabbis who took short-term wives during their travels. The ruling is then amended to say that it applies to everyone, except rabbis. Although there is a discussion of why this ruling doesn't apply to rabbis, the suggestion seems an afterthought since the behavior has already been occurring.

Something similar occurs when discussing where a person is required to recite the *Kiddush* (the blessing over the wine that sanctifies the Sabbath day). The ruling originally states even if someone recited the *Kiddush* during services in the synagogue, they had to do it again at the place they were going to eat their Sabbath meal. Hauptman notes that the three stories she cites each modify the ruling. The first shows that if a person recited *Kiddush* in a different room in their home, they had to recite it again in the room where they were going to eat their Sabbath meal. The second notes that if a person recited *Kiddush* and then ate a small amount of food, that satisfies the requirement to say the blessing where they ate. The third story takes this a bit further: it says that even if someone knows they are going to eat a complete meal somewhere else, having a small amount of food after they say *Kiddush* means they do not have to recite it again. Hauptman notes that “each of these anecdotes develops further the stated requirement to recite *Kiddush* where one dines, the first stringently and the next two leniently.” While the initial ruling was not again discussed, the stories changed and modified the law to give people more leeway to not have to recite *Kiddush* a second time.

Hauptman does a wonderful job carefully explaining and analyzing these talmudic anecdotes. Readers who have some familiarity with the Talmud will find her work easier to follow, but her commentary on the text is generally clear enough so those with little background can follow her explanations. “The Stories They Tell” would be an excellent resource for study groups interested in a different perspective on the Talmud or in a classroom setting.



Off the Shelf

## Rebuilding lives after the war

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

Let the past remain in the past: that's the constant refrain for some who survived World War II. It's not only true for those in concentration camps as two recent novels – “The Incandescent Threads: A Novel in the Form of a Mosaic” by Richard Zimler (Parthian) and “A Castle in Brooklyn” by Shirley Russak Wachtel (Little A) – show. Characters in each successfully hid during the war, but refuse to discuss much of what happened to them.

The Oxford Language dictionary defines a mosaic as “a picture or pattern produced by arranging together small colored pieces of hard material, such as stone, tile, or glass.” At first, it was difficult to see how “The Incandescent Threads” was a mosaic. However, after reading several of its six sections, it became clear that readers would only learn about its main characters – Benjamin Zarco and his cousin Shelley, both of whom survived the war – through the eyes of their children, spouses and friends. Benni and Shelley's actions and characters are revealed indirectly by those who love them. Together, these glimpses create a mosaic portrait of the two men as each section slowly portrays different aspects of their lives.

The two cousins are very different. Benni, who was a child when the war started, spent most of his time in the countryside with an older non-Jewish woman. This results in his having a practical and mystical side, which shows in his belief that there are incandescent threads that link people across time and place. Underlying his worldview is guilt for a sacrifice that saved his life. While Benni can't escape the ghosts of his past, Shelley looks to embrace life. The full details of his escape from Europe are never revealed, but readers will make their own connections. The underlying force in Shelley's life is sexual desire: he's bisexual and is unable to resist temptation, something that creates problems when he finally marries.

Although the novel never offers Benni's or Shelley's thoughts, they are the core of the work. How the cousins found each other after the war is one of the major plot lines. Another shows how their connection is the central foundation of their lives, one that seems greater than those to their spouses and children. The mosaic form of “The Incandescent Threads” works because readers

must understand these two men through their actions and words, something that resembles the real world where it's impossible to completely know the inner workings of another human being.

Although “A Castle in Brooklyn” focuses on relationships between friends and family much like “The Incandescent Threads,” it also contains another element, one which almost serves as an additional character: the house the characters build in Brooklyn. For Jacob Stein, that house – or castle as he thinks of it – represents security, family and love. After meeting Zalman Mendelson while they are hiding in Europe, the two bonded after escaping a deadly situation together. Once they arrive in the U.S. after the war, their lives take different turns: Zalman moves to Minnesota to work on a farm, while Jacob lives in New York City where he finds love and challenging work. When a

See “Lives” on page 7



## On the Jewish food scene Made with matzah

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

My first reaction was, “I can wait until the holiday is over.” The food in question is one of my favorite desserts: tiramisu, which is usually made with soft, melt-in-your-mouth lady fingers. The blurb in The Nosh e-mail asked me to click through to “The Easiest Matzah Tiramisu Recipe.” As I said, my first reaction was “forget it.” I can't see eating something mediocre, when I can just wait a few days for the real thing. (However, for anyone interested in trying it, you can find the recipe at [www.myjewishlearning.com/the-nosh/the-easiest-matzah-tiramisu-recipe](http://www.myjewishlearning.com/the-nosh/the-easiest-matzah-tiramisu-recipe). Please note I'll be happy to taste test it for you if you do. Yes, I know I'm contradicting myself, but any food I didn't have to make/cook is fine with me.)

The issue of the paper with this column should arrive during the first few days of Passover. At first, holiday meals

are easy because who doesn't relish all the holiday favorites. Any excuse to have matzah ball soup is a good excuse. Anyone who adores gefilte fish may be lucky enough to eat the home-made or store-made version. For people who live for charoset (that's me!), this is a great time of year. But soon all those leftovers from the seder meal are gone and we're left with the question, “What do I eat now?”

One trend is to make not-normally-kosher-for-Passover food with matzah. One recent favorite is matzah pizza. Yes, it's been done so often that it isn't called pizza made from matzah, but matzah pizza as if it's a real food. As much as I miss pizza during Passover (even if I hadn't eaten it in months), I'm not a big fan of matzah pizza, although I know my mom used to make it. I prefer to wait until Chag Hapizza (that's the holiday of pizza) that starts after sunset the last day of the holiday to have the real thing. There is another alternative, though, if you can find kosher-for-Passover gluten-free cauliflower crusts since cauliflower itself is kosher for Passover. (For those who want to try matzah pizza, you can find recipes at <https://whatjewwannaeat.com/margarita-matzah-pizza/> and [www.skinnytaste.com/skinny-passover-matzo-pizza/](http://www.skinnytaste.com/skinny-passover-matzo-pizza/).)

Those desperate for Italian food can now find kosher for Passover noodles, but some folks still replace the noodles with matzah. If you want something that tastes like the real thing, though, you can make eggplant parmesan and replace the bread crumbs with matzah meal. My mom and I used to do that, and it was great when I needed to take five days worth of meals into the office. We made a big pan and I would just cut a square and use the office microwave to heat it. We never had a formal recipe: it was basically layers of eggplant, sauce, veggies and cheese. One year, I made it without breading the eggplant and it was still fine.

I think I'm probably going to take the easiest route this Passover because I'm usually too tired at the end of the day to do much cooking. That means meals featuring matzah and a nut butter (almond if you don't eat beans, lentils and rice, or peanut if you do) and a salad. There's always gefilte fish (sigh, from a jar) and potatoes. Even though the holiday hadn't started while I was writing this column, thinking about it made me ready for it to be over.

### Quick Reference Guide to Planned Giving

Use this planned giving quick reference guide to help determine the best strategy for achieving your philanthropic and financial goals.

For further information or assistance, please contact Shelley Hubal at 724-2332 or [director@jfgb.org](mailto:director@jfgb.org)

#### If Your Goal is to:

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Avoid the two-fold taxation on IRA or other employee benefit plans

Make a large gift with little cost to you

Reduce taxable income from IRA Required Minimum Distributions

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Contribute long-term appreciated stock or other securities

Put a bequest in your will (gifts of cash or a share or the residue of your estate)

Create a charitable gift annuity

Name a charity as the beneficiary of the remainder of the retirement assets after your lifetime

Contribute a life insurance policy you no longer need or purchase a new one and designate a charity as the owner

Make a qualified charitable donation directly from your IRA (after age 70½)

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Current and possible future income tax deductions

Reducing taxable income

# JLI to offer “Jewpernatural” course in May

The Chabad Center will offer the four-week Rohr Jewish Learning Institute course “Jewpernatural: Signs, Spirits and Superstitions in Jewish Belief,” which explores the Jewish perspective on dreams, astrology, spirits and other mysteries. The course will begin on Monday, May 1, at 7 pm, and will be offered in person at the Chabad Center, as well as virtually. The cost for the course, which will meet on four consecutive Mondays, is \$79 per person or \$159 for a couple. A second class section, which would meet virtually beginning at 8:45 pm on the same Monday nights, may be offered if there is enough demand. To register, e-mail rshea@

chabadofbinghamton.com or visit MyJLI.com. People are asked to register early in order to make certain course books are available for all participants.

“Paranormal beliefs are rising fast,” said organizers of the course. “In 2016, 46 percent of Americans reported believing in ghosts, according to Chapman University. That figure has risen to 57 percent; since the pandemic, one in five Americans say they’ve personally met a ghost. And it’s not just ghosts. Topics like astrology, dream interpretation and psychic abilities are rapidly becoming mainstream.”

“The Jewish tradition has probed these

issues for three millennia,” said Rivkah Slonim, course instructor. “These are legitimate questions that deserve meaningful and satisfying answers.”

Slonim added that the new course will address the “anxiety driven interest” in the paranormal. “We won’t get bogged down in the spooky details,” Slonim said, “and we can’t claim to provide absolute certainty. But we will discuss how we can find comfort and refocus our energy on what matters most.”

The trend toward the paranormal encompasses a broad spectrum of beliefs, including jinxes, demons, spirits, communicating with the deceased and astrology. “Jewpernatural”

will address everything from the role of angels and the efficacy of the “evil eye” to whether the stars have much to say about your future.

“We’re tackling a wide array of ideas,” said Slonim, “but after reviewing the materials, I’m confident we’ll be able to offer a thoughtful, satisfying, and relevant perspective rooted in authentic Jewish thought.”

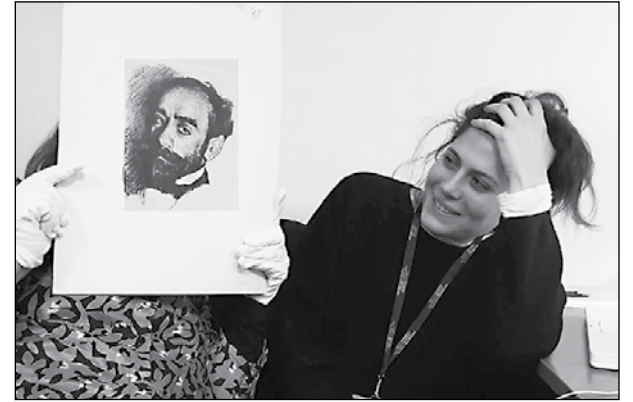
JLI offers programs in 11 languages at more than 1,600 international locations in 41 U.S. states and 28 countries on five continents. More than 400,000 students have attended JLI classes since it was founded in 1998.

# TBE’s Arts Committee to hold virtual lecture on April 27

The Arts Committee of Temple Beth-El in Ithaca will hold the virtual lecture “The Photographic Collection of the First Jewish Museum in Berlin: An Artistic Research Between Berlin, Warsaw, Tel Aviv and New York” on Thursday, April 27, at 7 pm. Yael Wishnicki-Levi, a Polish-American-Israeli artist and researcher who is currently living in Ithaca, will offer fragments from her thesis project “From An Archive To An Artwork: A Contemporary Analysis of the Photographic Collection of the First Jewish Museum In Berlin” and the contents of

the Jewish digital archive. She will also share her plans for the next stage of her research. A question-and answer period will follow. To register for the program, visit <https://tinyurl.com/mrx2853r>.

Wishnicki-Levi lived in Poland for eight years, researching and creating art focused on her family history. While in Poland, she discovered a photographic repository of the first Jewish Museum in Berlin, which is now housed in the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw. This has become the subject of her M.A. thesis at the department of Artes Liberales at the University of Warsaw, Poland.



At right: Yael Wishnicki-Levi is shown at the Jewish Historical Institute archive. She is looking at a reproduction of a portrait by Leon Bakst, depicting the Russian painter Isaac Levitan, a distant relative of the artist.

# TC Sisterhood to hold elections April 19

Temple Concord Sisterhood will hold elections for 2023-24 on Wednesday, April 19, in person at Temple Concord, 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton. All Sisterhood members are invited to participate. The event will start with a “bring your own dinner and schmooze” period at 5:30 pm. The elections will be held at 7 pm, followed by a game of “Left Right Center.” There is no charge for the game, except to bring three quarters. Anyone wishing to attend should RSVP by Monday, April 17, to Phyllis Kellenberger at [pweinste@stny.rr.com](mailto:pweinste@stny.rr.com) or 727-8305.

To be elected are Barbara Thomas, meeting coordinator and Sisterhood representative to temple; Lani Dunthorn, past president; Nancy Dorfman, treasurer; Helene Philips, financial secretary; Marty Eisenstadt, recording secretary; Sandy Foreman, corresponding secretary; Marsha

Luks and Thomas, directors for 2022-24; Babs Putzel-Bischoff and Philips, directors for 2023-25. There is no nominating committee chairwoman.

Also Babs Putzel-Bischoff, publicity chairwoman and Rosh Hashanah Kiddush chairwoman; Barbara Dickman, Luks and Tracy Putzel-Bischoff, Rosh Hashanah Kiddush committee; Ani Loew and Lynn Ross, Whale of a Sale co-chairwomen with Deb Williams as consultant; Pam Burgman and Williams, rummage sale co-chairwomen; Susan High and Robin Hazen, Judaica Shop co-chairwomen with Carol Herz as consultant; Williams, Artisan Marketplace chairwomen with Philips as helper; and Rachel Coker for 2024 Sisterhood Seder.

Also Luks, Cookie Schaeffer, Jodi Sampey and Roz Antoun, Intersisterhood; Jesse Parker, cradle roll; Amanda Donahue, High Holiday child care if needed; Phyllis Kellenberger, Deb Daniels and Antoun, adult education, programming and donor; Sylvia Diamond, Eisenstadt and Dickman, Friday Night *onegs*; Jean Hecht, Scholar-in-Residence *oneg*; Dunthorn and Herz, membership and retention co-chairwomen; Foreman and Eisenstadt, hospitality; Coker, seder in 2024; Foreman, Babs Putzel-Bischoff, Robin Haas and Antoun, nominating committee; and Hecht, Sisterhood funds and Uniongrams.

## Essential security tips

### Plan ahead

You should find out the appropriate person to report something suspicious to before it happens. Ask your synagogue or community organization to learn the best way to inform someone or other ways the organization would prefer you to act. You should also familiarize yourself with staff and others who frequent the building during the time you are normally there. All knowledge helps.



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- 2) Pledges and payments (checks should be payable to “Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton”) can be mailed to the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850.
- 3) Fill out the form in this ad and mail it to the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850.

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Looking for this issue’s “Jewish Resources”? Visit [www.thereportergroup.org/streams/miscellaneous-features/miscellaneous-features/tag/80309](http://www.thereportergroup.org/streams/miscellaneous-features/miscellaneous-features/tag/80309) to find out what’s happening online.”

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## Weekly Parasha

Shemini, Leviticus, 9:1-11:47

# New beginning with a setback

RABBI BARBARA GOLDMAN-WARTELL, TEMPLE CONCORD

*This parasha is for Shabbat, April 14-15.*

The Israelites had already experienced God and entered into the covenant with God as a people at Sinai. Our Torah tradition needed to find a method to reassure the Israelites and us that God's presence would be with us no matter where they found themselves. That is the genius of *parashat* Shemini: with a consecrated priesthood, the people can bring offerings to the *Mishkan* for various kinds of sacrifices and know God is with them.

On the eighth day after this, the priests are commanded to begin their work as high priests, and Aaron officiates his first sacrifice for the Israelite community with his sons, Nadav and Avihu, watching. Leviticus 9:23-23 recounts,

"When Moses and Aaron came out from the Tent of Meeting, they blessed the people, and the presence of YHVH, of God, appeared to all the people. Fire came forth from before YHVH and consumed the burnt offering and the fat parts on the altar. And all the people saw and fell on their faces." The first official sacrifice goes well: all the people of the community witnessed, shouted and fell on their faces in bewilderment and awe.

In "Leviticus: A Book of Ritual and Ethics," Jacob Milgrom writes that the importance of this theophany "cannot be exaggerated." It renders the experience of revelation ongoing, independent of a particular place and as an "assurance of the permanent presence of the Deity in Israel's midst."

What happens next is the shocker of the portion. Just moments later, Nadav and Avihu take a turn – they each take their fire pan, put incense in it and light it on fire – but something goes woefully wrong. The text says that God sees it as "alien" or "strange" fire and consumes the boys instead of the sacrifice. What went wrong? We don't know for sure, but this has troubled our ancestors for generations.

Many commentators have come up with different reasons for this happening. Some suggest they intended to serve God, that they added love upon love, but misunderstood the process and erred in some way. Others suggest they were trying to usurp Moses and Aaron's place. Still others See "New" on page 7

## Congregational Notes

### Beth David Synagogue

Affiliation: Orthodox Union  
Rabbi: Zev Silber  
Address: 39 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905  
Phone: 722-1793, Rabbi's Office: 722-7514, Fax: 722-7121  
Office hours: Mon. closed; Tues. 10 am-1 pm; Wed. closed; Thurs. 9 am-1 pm; Fri. 10 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

### Temple Israel

Orientation: Conservative  
Rabbi: Geoffrey Brown  
Address: 4737 Deerfield Pl., Vestal, NY 13850  
Phone: 723-7461 and 231-3746  
Office hours: Mon.-Thurs., 8:30 am-3:30 pm; Fri., 8 am-3 pm  
E-mail: titammy@stny.twcbc.com  
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 Geoffrey Brown via Zoom and in-person (masks are required).

On Saturday, April 8, Shacharit services will be held at 9:30 am via Zoom and in-person (masks are required). The Torah portion is Leviticus 1:1-5:26 and the haftarah is Isaiah 43:21-44:23. At 9 pm, there will be Havdalah services via Zoom.

There will be no Hebrew school on Sunday, April 9. On Wednesday, April 12, there will be no Torah study. Passover services will be held on Thursday, April 13, at 9:30 am, with Yizkor.

The office will be closed for Passover, Wednesday-Thursday, April 12-13.

On Saturday, April 15, at 9:30 am, Shacharit services will be held via Zoom and in-person (masks are required). The Torah portion is Leviticus 6:1-8:36 and the haftarah is Malachi 3:4-24. At 9 pm, there will be Havdalah services via Zoom.

On Wednesday, April 19, a Ritual Committee meeting will take place at 10 am, and Torah study will be held from 4-5 pm on Zoom.

### Temple Beth-El of Ithaca

Affiliation: United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism  
Rabbi: Rachel Safman  
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: rabbi-safman@tbeithaca.org, secretary@tbeithaca.org  
Website: www.tbeithaca.org

Presidents: David Weiner and Linda Aigen  
Sisterhood President: Gail Zussman  
Director of Education: Rabbi Suzanne Brody  
Services: Fri. 8 pm; Sat. 10 am, unless otherwise announced. Weekday morning minyan 7:30 am (9 am on Sun. and legal holidays).

Religious School/Education: September-May: Classes meet on Sunday, 9 am-12:30 pm and Wednesday, 3:45-5:45 pm. The Midrashah (eighth grade and high school) classes will meet at times designated by their respective teachers. 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](http://www.tinyurl.com/HappeningAtTBE).

### Temple Beth El of Oneonta

Affiliation: United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism  
Rabbi: Amelia F. Wolf  
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.

### 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.

### 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: 797-0015, Fax: 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](http://www.JewishBU.com/S2020Partnership).

### Temple Brith Sholom

Affiliation: Unaffiliated  
Address: P.O. Box 572, 117 Madison St., Cortland, NY 13045  
Phone: 607-756-7181  
President: Carol Levine, 315-696-5744  
Cemetery Committee: 315-696-5744  
Website: templebrithsholomcortland.org  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Temple-Brith-Sholom-114006981962930/>  
Service leaders: Lay leadership  
Shabbat services: Either Friday evening at 7:30 pm or Saturday at 10 am from Rosh Hashanah to Shavuot. Holiday services are also held. 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," while the Saturday morning siddur is "Gates of Prayer." The community extends a warm welcome to the Jewish student population of SUNY Cortland, as well as the residents of local adult residences.

Services and programs are held by Zoom on the first and second Fridays of the month.

### Norwich Jewish Center

Orientation: Inclusive  
Rabbi: David Regenspan  
Address: 72 South Broad St., Norwich, NY 13815  
Phone: 334-2691  
E-mail: fertigj@roadrunner.com  
Contact: Guilina Greenberg, 373-5087  
Purpose: To maintain a Jewish identity and meet the needs of the Jewish community in the area.  
Adult Ed.: Shabbat study sessions are held on designated Saturday mornings at 10 am. Call ahead, text or e-mail to confirm dates.

Friday, April 7, light candles before..... 7:17 pm  
Shabbat ends Saturday, April 8 ..... 8:19 pm  
Tuesday, April 11, light candles before ..... 7:22 pm  
Wednesday, April 12, light candles after ..... 8:23 pm  
Thursday, April 13, yom tov ends ..... 8:25 pm  
Friday, April 14, light candles before ..... 7:25 pm  
Shabbat ends Saturday, April 15 ..... 8:27 pm  
Friday, April 21, light candles before ..... 7:33 pm  
Shabbat ends Saturday, April 22 ..... 8:35 pm

### Temple Concord

Affiliation: Union for Reform Judaism  
Rabbi: Barbara Goldman-Wartell  
Address: 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905  
Office hours: Tues.-Fri., 10 am-2 pm  
Phone: 723-7355, Fax: 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.

Some services and programs are online only. Friday-Saturday, April 7-15, the Hebrew and Shabbat school will be closed for Passover/spring break.

Friday, April 7: At 7:30 pm, Shabbat Passover service with Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell. Masks are optional for those attending in person. Join via Zoom at <https://bit.ly/3hRmW2Y>, meeting ID 869 9699 8146 and passcode 826330, or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/templeconcord/](http://www.facebook.com/templeconcord/).

Saturday, April 8: At 9:15 am, Torah study with Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell (join via Zoom at <http://bit.ly/3XDnvRE>, meeting ID 825 1226 2831 and passcode 743892); and 7 pm, "Havdalah with a Bonus" on Zoom at <https://bit.ly/3e8mZsy>, meeting ID 833 9654 6578 and passcode 333740. Join via Facebook at [www.facebook.com/templeconcord/](http://www.facebook.com/templeconcord/).

Tuesday, April 11: At 7:30 pm, Passover concluding evening service with Yizkor in person and on Zoom at <http://bit.ly/3zcFFyF>, meeting ID 898 4015 3607 and passcode 105578.

Wednesday, April 12: The office will be closed. At 10:30 am, Passover concluding service with Yizkor and potluck lunch in person. To join via Zoom, visit <http://bit.ly/40s60EG>, meeting code 838 3140 1237 and passcode 892461. At noon, in the library after service, the program "Counting the Omer – An Exploration of the Jewish People's Transformation: Studying Our Sacred Texts While Counting Our Days: An In-Depth Exploration of Nevi'im and K'tuvim During the Time of the Omer," session one "The Book of Proverbs," will be held. It will continue for another six weeks. To attend one session or to sign up for the series, visit at [www.tinyurl.com/OmerStudy](http://www.tinyurl.com/OmerStudy). The sessions will run on Wednesdays through May 24. See "Concord" on page 7

### 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.

### Congregation Tikun 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  
Rabbi: Shifrah Tobacman, rabbishifrah@tikkunvor.org  
Presidents: Sue Merkel and Laurie Willick, presidents\_22@tikkunvor.org  
Education Director/Administrative 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.

# Israeli researchers uncover earliest silver used as currency in Levant

By JNS staff

(JNS) – Israeli archaeologists announced recently the discovery of the earliest evidence of silver used as currency in the Levant, an area including present-day Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and most of Turkey.

It is believed the silver relics, known hacksilber, a German term indicating they were cut to specific weights, originated in ancient Anatolia.

The silver hoards were unearthed during excavations in Israel’s Shiloh, Megiddo and Gezer, as well as Tel el-‘Ajjul in the Gaza Strip, and date back more than 3,600 years – to the Middle Bronze Age – or about 500 years before prior estimates, according to researchers from the University of Haifa and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

To identify their source, an isotopic test was performed and the results compared to the composition of ores of known origin, as well as to other silver objects. That the pieces of silver were unpolished – suggesting that they were not used as jewelry or ornamental objects – and generally found together wrapped in cloth and kept in pottery, indicates they were used as a form of payment.

The discovery shows that cities across the Middle East engaged in more extensive trade than previously thought, paying for large purchases such as for land with silver. One shekel is believed to have been equal to approximately 16 grams of silver.

The findings were published in the Journal of Archaeological Science.



Silver pieces dating back 3,600 years are the earliest evidence of currency being used in trade in the Levant. (Photo by Lena Cooperschmidt/Israel Antiquities Authority)

**New. . . . .**Continued from page 6 suggested they were drunk or that they offered the strange fire to other gods. There are so many possibilities.

How we judge the characters of Nadav and Abihu will influence how we grapple with what happened. We don’t know what was said between them, how they were instructed. Maybe they didn’t understand all the instructions well enough to get it all right the first time. If they and their brothers and father were all instructed together, maybe they weren’t able to integrate all the information in the same way as their father and other brothers to offer the fire correctly. There seemed to be only one right way to do things at that time. Maybe Nadav and Abihu thought they were doing it the same way as their father, but they offered it differently.

This all happened *shemini*, on the eighth day. Eight is the number for new beginnings, for a new start. After Shabbat, after the seven days of the week including Shabbat, the day of rest and contemplation, the eighth day is the day of beginning again, of going that next step. A baby boy enters the covenant on the eighth day with *brit milah*, ritual circumcision. Rabbi Avi Weiss points out that the eighth day of Hanukkah is the day the new oil arrives, “marking the dawn of the Temple being revitalized.” Samson Raphael Hirsch suggests that eight is a number indicating that “the condition of the previous period is entirely closed, and with the eight, a new beginning is made.”

Rabbi Ari Hart, a modern Orthodox rabbi, whom I have met on several occasions, suggests a way for us to understand the eighth in a way that brought the idea home to me and I hope will do that for you as well.

He points out that eight is the “higher octave.” The musical cycle contains seven notes, popularly sung to *do-re-mi-fa-so-la-ti*. There is, however, an eighth note: another do. The eighth is the same as the first, except it is sung one octave higher. The eighth day is that new chapter, that new level of beginning, at a higher point than where we were before. A new beginning is exciting; it can be exhilarating, if everything goes well.

So much planning went into the beginning of this portion when Aaron and his sons started offering the sacrifices for the people. Then something went wrong and two of Aaron’s sons die in the priestly service. Imagine the shock and grief of Aaron, his family and the Israelites who witnessed it happening. What was Aaron’s response? He was silent. Sometimes silence is all that we can say or do. Aaron and his other two sons are not permitted to mourn at that time. They had to continue carrying on their official duties as priests. Only later do they get the time mourn and grieve for their loss.

There are times when we need to keep going, even if we feel like we can’t take another step or face another challenge. There are times we are silent, giving time for thought, for feelings, but not for words and talking. There are times we can express our feelings, grieve for our losses and feel our pain. Then, for the sake of the community, for our collective whole, we continue to plan, to come together to make a minyan to support one another, to celebrate milestones and support our community, moving into our next eighth day of a new beginning.

This parasha was adapted from sermons given by Goldman-Wartell in 2021 and 2022 on this Torah portion.

## Lives. . . . .Continued from page 4

accident changes the course of Zalman’s life, the two come together in New York to build the castle of Jacob’s dreams.

There’s another person, though, who is important to both men: Jacob’s wife Esther. Her marriage to Jacob is a happy one, although he refuses to discuss his past with her so she does feel there is a part of him hidden from her. Esther also finds a good friend in Zalman, who helps her when Jacob can’t. Then a tragedy occurs that changes the course of all three lives.

The story is told through the eyes of all these characters, which adds depth and perspective. The writing is beautiful and makes their desires – particularly to create a safe haven – feel real. Unfortunately, two chapters toward the end of the work, which focus on different characters, didn’t work as well, because they detracted from the main focus of the book. Plus, one connection seemed too much of a coincidence to be fully believable. However, the last chapter brought together the various streams of “A Castle in Brooklyn,” creating a very satisfying and heart-warming ending.

“The Incandescent Threads” and “A Castle in Brooklyn” portray how men who survived the war created new lives far from the countries of their birth. But having gone through similar experiences in Europe didn’t mean that the trajectory of their lives would be the same. Reading these works together showed how each individual had to find his own path and come to terms with, or ignore, the hurts and pain of the past.

## Concord. . . . .Continued from page 6

Friday, April 14: At 7:30 pm, Shabbat service with Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell. Masks are optional for those attending in person. Join via Zoom at <https://bit.ly/3hRm-W2Y>, meeting ID 869 9699 8146 and passcode 826330, or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/templeconcord/](http://www.facebook.com/templeconcord/).

Saturday, April 15: At 9:15 am, Torah study (join via Zoom at <http://bit.ly/3XDnVRE>, meeting ID 825 1226 2831 and passcode 743892).

Monday, April 17: Lighting yellow candles at home.  
Tuesday, April 18: At 8 pm, general board meeting. Board meetings are open to members of Temple Concord. For the meeting link, contact the synagogue at 723-7355 or [templeconcordaa@gmail.com](mailto:templeconcordaa@gmail.com).

Wednesday, April 19: At noon, “Counting the Omer – An Exploration of the Jewish People’s Transformation” session two, “The Book of Ezra and Nechemiah.” To attend one session or to sign up for the series, visit at [www.tinyurl.com/OmerStudy](http://www.tinyurl.com/OmerStudy).

Wednesday, April 19: At 5:30 pm, Temple Concord Sisterhood dinner, schmooze, elections and “Left Right Center.” Members can bring their own dinner and schmooze before the meeting. At 7 pm, Sisterhood will hold its elections, followed by “Left Right Center.” Those who want to play are asked to bring three quarters with them. To RSVP, contact Phyllis Kellenberger at [pweinste@stny.rr.com](mailto:pweinste@stny.rr.com) or 727-8305.

# Jewish Community Center

## JCC welcomes new personal trainer

The Jewish Community Center announced that it has a new personal trainer, Kim Hope. Hope is a NASM certified personal trainer and also is a certified restoration practitioner through the Wellness Way and a certified functional nutritionist through the Functional Nutrition Alliance.



Kim Hope

She is the owner of Hope4YourFitness, a company she founded in 2020 through which she seeks to motivate clients on lifestyle practices to help body functions based on a health plan designed for the client.

Hope’s fees are \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members per half-hour session. Payment is due prior to each training session. An initial assessment is also required before all new clients begin. A packet of training session may be purchased through the JCC office. To arrange an appointment, call the JCC at 724-2417.

## Event . . . . .Continued from page 1

the store was like through the years and how it continues to be an important part of Binghamton’s retail scene.”



The QR code

Coordinating the evening’s program are representatives from each of the three temples sponsoring the event: Dora Polachek and Eileen Miller from Beth David; Marsha Luks and Anne (Cookie) Schaeffer from Temple Concord; and Barbara Zelter from Temple Israel. “Last year’s Intersisterhood event,” say organizers, “was the first time since the beginning of Covid where we were able to gather in person. and the turnout was tremendous. A good time was had by all, as Robert Rogers and David Sperber entertained us with their Jewish-inflected parodies of memorable Broadway show tunes from the past.”

Organizers added, “The event covered all bases – conviviality, delicious refreshments, as well as door prizes for the lucky raffle ticket winners. This year’s Intersisterhood promises to be equally enjoyable, as we focus on Jewish merchants in the Binghamton area in what we consider Binghamton’s heyday in the ‘50s and ‘60s.

“This is a unique program,” organizers said, “and we promise that it will be highly interactive, with audience members encouraged to add their recollections of the Jewish-owned stores they frequented, or have fond memories of. We look forward to having long-time residents, as well as newer members of the community, join us in what promises to be a memorable event!”



A large crowd attended the 2022 Sisterhood event.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

Romania arrests American neo-Nazi leader, charged with conspiracy to commit riots

Heavily armed Romanian police brought neo-Nazi leader Robert Rundo's flight from justice to an abrupt halt in Bucharest on March 29. The police acted on a U.S. extradition request. Rundo, 33, is charged with conspiracy to commit riots for his role in trying to provoke violence at political rallies in California and other states from December 2016 to October 2018.

ADL to open satellite office in Brooklyn to counter uptick in antisemitism

The Anti-Defamation League announced plans to open a satellite office in Brooklyn, NY, which its CEO and National Director Jonathan Greenblatt calls one of the "epicenters for antisemitism in this country." Of more than 395 antisemitic incidents that the ADL documented in New York City last year, 147 occurred in Brooklyn, home to a number of large Orthodox Jewish communities easily identifiable by their dress.

Israel's AG: Netanyahu not in contempt of court

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was not in contempt of court when he allegedly violated a conflict of interest arrangement, Attorney General Gali Baharav-Miara said on April 3. Baharav-Miara said that while she believes the prime minister violated the law, the conditions for holding him in contempt of court had not been met.

Donor . . . . . Continued from page 3

He said that, while he is very good at this work, he is not a master. He also noted that there are very few repairmen in the Binghamton area. He believes he may be the last person in the general area who specializes in clock repair.

repair with us at the meeting, and will be available for consultation about the advisability of repairing your heirloom grandfather clock, mantel clock or more modern but prized electric clock," said organizers of the event.

UAV from Syria downed by IDF likely of Iranian origin

The object the Israel Defense Forces brought down on April 2 after it crossed into Israeli airspace from Syria was an unmanned aerial vehicle most probably of Iranian origin, the military revealed on April 3. Debris from the drone was collected and is being examined, according to the IDF, which initially declined to describe the nature of the aircraft.

Netanyahu to keep Gallant as defense minister

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has reversed course and will for the time being keep Defense Minister Yoav Gallant in his post. A statement from the Prime Minister's Office cited ongoing security tensions as the reason. Netanyahu announced Gallant's dismissal on March 26, but did not send him the required letter giving 48 hours' notice prior to his termination taking effect.

Israel, Vietnam conclude free-trade talks

Vietnam and Israel will sign a free trade agreement later this year after the two countries completed 12 rounds of negotiations over seven years, the Southeast Asian nation announced on April 3. Bilateral trade rose 18 percent year over year in 2022 to \$2.2 billion. Vietnam's largest exports to Israel include smartphones, footwear and seafood, while it imports primarily electronics and fertilizer.

Contest honoring Israel's 75th to send singer to Tel Aviv to perform with Nicole Raviv

A new song competition comes with a free trip to Israel for the winner, who will perform with Nicole Raviv and others at the Tel Aviv Museum of Art. Competitors will submit renditions of "The Whole Entire World Is a Very Narrow Bridge" in their native language. Raviv released a new music video of the song in Hebrew, Arabic and English with singer Yair Levi.

Baseball . . . . . Continued from page 2

average in 2022, a modest .274. In contrast, José Altuve has a career batting average over .300, three batting championships and an MVP award while his Team Venezuela teammate Miguel Cabrera, a two-time MVP, has slugged over 500 career home runs. Team USA captain Mike Trout has won three MVP awards.

On paper, Team Israel entered the WBC as a decided underdog, David versus Goliath. But Israel manager Kinsler radiated a preternatural confidence and resolve shared by his players: "It's not necessarily the best team that wins the game, it's the team that plays the best that day. So, we have just as good a shot as anybody."

Truth be told, Team Israel was a Jewish American team. No one on the final roster was an Israel-born sabra. Although 10 had acquired dual citizenship, WBC rules, un-

like those of the Olympics, do not require that players obtain citizenship in the country they represent on the ballfield, only that they meet eligibility requirements for that country's citizenship.

The proposals of the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to enervate the Israeli Supreme Court and abridge other democratic protections have brought the relationship between American Jews and Israel to its lowest ebb since the nation's 1948 rebirth. The Jews of the Diaspora on Team Israel provide a reminder of the frayed, but still potent, ties between American and Israeli Jews.

Finally, heightened anticipation met reality when teams Israel and Nicaragua met on Sunday, March 12.

To be continued. Bill Simons is a professor emeritus at SUNY Oneonta where he continues to teach courses in American history. He is also the co-director of The Cooperstown Symposium on Baseball and American Culture, and served as a speaker for the New York Council on the Humanities.

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