

# THE REPORTER

Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton

April 20-26, 2018  
Volume XLVII, Number 16

BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK

## Federation to host PJ Library Sunday Funday at the JCC on April 22

By Reporter staff

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, with the help of Binghamton University students from the JFEW Binghamton Scholars Program, will hold a PJ Library Sunday Funday on Sunday, April 22, from 3-5 pm, at the Jewish Community Center, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal. The event will include the reading of PJ Library books, a crafts activity and a snack. "There will also be the chance to meet new friends and have lots of giggles," said organizers of

the event. RSVPs are requested so enough material will be available and may be made by calling 724-2332.

"Come join us for a fun afternoon," said Sima Auerbach, executive director of the Federation. "Our generous benefactor this year has enabled us to ensure that each child receives a free book monthly. The donation was made in memory of Buddy Koffman who loved poetry."

Auerbach added, "The PJ Library sends wonderful Jewish books to young children

and our Federation has been part of the program for years. I've wanted to do something to celebrate their work for a long time. It's wonderful to bring children and parents together to celebrate books and enjoy a craft program. I am so grateful to the JFEW scholars who are helping make this possible."

The PJ Library sends free Jewish children's books to children ages 6 months through 8 years. It offers books that teach Jewish values through literature. A program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, PJ Li-

brary is made possible through partnerships with philanthropists and local Jewish organizations. The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton is one of the communities that offers the program to its members.

The JFEW Binghamton Scholars Program is an educational learning program for Jewish female undergraduates at Binghamton University. The Sunday Funday is their service project for the semester and a way for them to engage with the local Jewish community.

## CJS spring program: "Speaking Through Art as a Jew" "Painting for Freedom" on May 3

The first lecture in the College of Jewish Studies spring 2018 program "Speaking Through Art as a Jew: Visual Expressions of Jewish Culture" will be on Thursday, May 3, at 7:30 pm, when art historian Diana L. Linden will speak on "Painting for Freedom and the Freedom to Paint: Ben Shahn's Murals and the M.S. St. Louis." Her illustrated talk will examine murals painted by American artist Ben Shahn (1898-1969) under the auspices of the New Deal art projects that challenged America's immigration policies. Linden specializes in American art of the 1930s, public art, feminist art, art and social movements and social realism. Her book, "Ben Shahn's New Deal Murals: Jewish Identity in the American Scene" was selected as a finalist in the Visual Arts



Diana L. Linden

category of the 2015 National Jewish Book Awards.

Linden received her undergraduate degree from SUNY Binghamton. During her first year at SUNY Binghamton while enrolled in the "Intro to Art History" class, Linden, as she puts it, had an "aha" moment and realized that she had decided on her major. Many courses later, working at the school's museum, holding internships at such institutions as the Metropolitan Museum of

Art and after graduate study, Linden says she still can feel that "aha" moment when looking at works of art. After college, Linden went on to receive her M.A. in art history at Williams College, where she was selected by the faculty as the top graduate student. She worked full-time at the Brooklyn Museum See "Painting" on page 5

## Visual Judaic artist Flora Rosefsky on May 10

The College of Jewish Studies will continue its theme of "Speaking Through Art as a Jew: Visual Expressions of Jewish Culture" on Thursday, May 10, at 7:30 pm, at the Jewish Community Center. The guest speaker will be Flora Rosefsky, a visual artist, who will speak on "Inspiration and Influences in a Personal Artistic Journey." It is a journey which began in Binghamton, her former home. "CJS is delighted to welcome Flora back for this program," said organizers.



Flora Rosefsky  
(Photo by Duane Stork)

Rosefsky's presentation will begin in Binghamton, where she told organizers "the spark of an artistic career started with a beginning quilting class at the JCC, while I was also creating highlights of a life in drawings called FLORAGES® in the early 1970s."

Now Rosefsky is a visual artist living in Atlanta, GA. Her artworks, comprised of drawings, illustrations and mixed media collages are often inspired by her Jewish heritage; through her art, she interweaves her secular world "with a unique spirituality." Almost 48 years later, she states that she "incorporates repurposed mixed materials on contemporary issues and themes to elicit a dialogue between the artist and those who view the work."

Rosefsky is a graduate of Syracuse University with a B.S. in education. It wasn't until she raised her four children in Binghamton that she decided to pursue a career as a visual artist. Taking advantage of courses at BU, she took classes with several art professors. Rosefsky See "Rosefsky" on page 6

## Author Edwin Black to speak at BU, SUNY Broome about IBM's role in the Holocaust

An ad hoc coalition of students from both Binghamton University and SUNY Broome have joined with local social justice activists and Binghamton alumni around the country to demand Binghamton University immediately remove Thomas Watson's name from the Thomas J. Watson School of Engineering. Watson micromanaged IBM's 12-year relationship with Nazi Germany from the first days of the Third Reich in 1933 right through the Holocaust and until the last hours of the Hitler regime in 1945, according to investigative historian Edwin Black, who authored the award-winning *New York Times* bestseller "IBM and the Holocaust."

To make their point, the group has arranged for Black to come to Binghamton and present the latest documentation in a lecture "How Thomas J. Watson and IBM Co-Planned and Organized the Holocaust"

to be held on Monday, April 23, at 5 pm, in Binghamton University's Lecture Hall 10. Black stated in advance, "IBM, under Watson's close management, organized and greatly accelerated all six phases of the Holocaust: identification, exclusion, asset confiscation, ghettoization, deportation and even extermination. With their advanced punch card technology, IBM conducted the census and identified Jews, religious or not, made the railroads run on time and pinpointed Jewish bank accounts. Every concentration camp had its own IBM customer site. The evidence will be robust and irrefutable."

*The Washington Post* has called Black's material "beyond dispute." Harvard International Review said the charges were "undeniable," and the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* concluded, "no question." Since "IBM and the Holocaust" was first published

in 2001 in the United States and now in 17 languages in 80 countries, and despite hundreds of articles, IBM has never denied any information in the book.

The push to remove Watson's name came in October 2017, after Binghamton University history student Michael Harel penned an editorial in the campus newspaper, *Pipe Dream*, titled "BU Should Rename the Watson School." Harel wrote, "We have named our engineering school after a man who represents polar-opposite values and who assisted the Nazis in the killings of millions of Jews, homosexuals, gypsies, paraplegics and other non-Aryans."

The widely circulated article was seen by BU alumni around the country, including Eyal Eisig, now an attorney in Ft. Lauderdale. Eisig had started a similar campaign 16 years ago, but says the university pushed back. Local activists James Little and SUNY

Broome film documentarian Nick Bongiorno have likewise for years been concerned about the magnitude of Watson's name in Binghamton, despite his Reich years record. The idea has been revived at a time when similar movements across the nation are removing monuments to the Confederacy.

Black's April 23 lecture on IBM will kick off a series of five human rights presentations in Binghamton. On Tuesday, April 24, at 5 pm, Black will discuss "American Eugenics - from Long Island to Auschwitz," based on the award-winning bestseller "War Against the Weak: Eugenics and America's Campaign to Create a Master Race," sponsored by BU's Department of Sociology, in BU's Lecture Hall 10. On Wednesday, April 25, at 6 pm, in BU's Lecture Hall 10, he will present his award-winning research into "Nazi Policy and Black Victims - from Africa to Berlin to See "Holocaust" on page 5

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**Jewish philanthropy**  
A recent study looks at the changing face of Jewish philanthropy in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.  
.....Pages 2 and 7

**Sisterhood Donors**  
"Threads of Tradition" at BD Sisterhood's donor; local history topic at TC's Donor.  
.....Page 3

**News in brief...**  
Syria will head U.N. chemical disarmament panel; Honduras to move Israeli embassy; and more.  
.....Page 12

**Special Sections**  
Legal Notices..... 4  
Book Review..... 4  
Spring Home Improvement..... 6-8  
Classifieds ..... 12

## Opinion

# “Engaging” millennials is all the rage, but is it the best use of Jewish philanthropy?

By Jack Wertheimer

(JTA) – Engaging young people in their 20s and 30s, the so-called millennial generation, is a high priority for Jewish philanthropists. Some funders have banded together to create new initiatives, including free trips to Israel, with the express purpose of drawing members of this generation into Jewish life. Others have gravitated to the so-called innovation sector, supporting millennials who dream up new programs to entice their peers into some form of Jewish participation.

But for all the energy and money expended on such programs, one question remains unanswered: Will these efforts move people from shallow engagement to actively live a Jewish life or deepen their knowledge?

What fuels these efforts are surveys showing that millennial Jews tend to be less affiliated with Jewish institutions, less observant of Jewish religious rituals and more distant from Israel than were previous generations of Jews at the same age. Much ink has been spilled to analyze why this might be so, with explanations focusing either on this gen-

eration’s unique historical experiences; the unprecedented disruption in the job market created by new technologies that force younger people to chart a new course and thereby extend their “odyssey years”; and the present cultural milieu, which places a high value on individualism, but disdains anything resembling “tribal” allegiances.

In response to these developments, a number of the largest foundations with Jewish interests are investing heavily in initiatives designed to kindle what in a previous time was described as the “*pintele Yid*,” the little flicker of Jewishness waiting to be lit. The most ambitious – and best-known – such effort is Birthright Israel, the 10-day free trip to Israel. Since its inception in 1999, it has sent more than 600,000 young people from around the globe at a cost nearing the billion-dollar mark. By virtue of its intensive and immersive programming, Birthright differs from most other programs aimed at millennials.

Funders have also invested significantly in Moishe House, a network of some 58 houses scattered throughout the United States offering programs geared to millennials.

Begun in 2006, Moishe House subsidizes rents for residents who organize everything from Shabbat dinners and Purim parties to social action activities and Jewish study circles. Most participants, notes an observer, “are ‘not Jewish in the rest of their lives’ in the traditional sense. They may not be celebrating holidays on their own; they may not be attending Shabbat services at a synagogue... Moishe House is the surrogate that provides these experiences for them.”

OneTable, still another creation of funders, works to entice younger Jews to attend Friday night Shabbat dinners hosted by peers. Having drawn positive reviews in such disparate publications as *Vogue*, *The New York Times* and *BuzzFeed News*, OneTable has been described as “a social dining app that helps people of all religious backgrounds celebrate inclusive Shabbat meals.” Since its founding, OneTable has subsidized more than 30,000 Friday night dinners.

Younger Jews are also taking the initiative by founding dozens of startups designed to appeal to their peers. Often with the help of funders, startups meet in unconventional See “Millennials” on page 9

## Israel at 70 – Israeli and Diaspora Jews are siblings living in very different homes

By Rabbi Avital Hochstein

Rabbi Donniel Hartman, who lives in Jerusalem yet works regularly in North America, likens Diaspora Jews to grown children who have left their parents’ nest and created their own space and home outside the homeland of the Jewish people.

The beloved grown adult children still feel at home when they visit their parents – that is, Israel. Yet they may not go freely into every room in the house or feel at ease, even though it is still their ancestral, family home.

Rabbi Shira Koch Epstein of the 14<sup>th</sup> Street Y in New York spins that metaphor in another direction. She understands the relationship between Jews who live in Israel and those who live elsewhere as one of siblings. She prefers a portrait conveying greater equality between the two groups.

Epstein says that Israeli Jews are like the children who have moved back into their parents’ home, while Jews elsewhere are like the children who have set up a new home. Jews around the world are free to create their own new spaces as they understand them, with no limitations stemming from parental baggage. Israeli Jews face a more

arduous task. Feeling free to innovate when one has moved back into the home of one’s parents is more challenging, she says.

I appreciate both metaphors of family dynamics. This is an important conversation. Yet I am uncomfortable. The shift from understanding the relations between Israeli Jews and world Jewry as one between parents and grown children, to appreciating them as the relations between siblings, is interesting, challenging and compelling. But the constraints that Rabbi Koch Epstein describes feel foreign to my experience as an Israeli.

While the sibling metaphor is a helpful way to understand the realities and challenges of Jews today, I would flip it: World Jewry, not Israelis, are the grown children living in their parents’ home, as indeed, Jews have been living outside Israel, with no sovereignty and as a minority, for more than 2,000 years.

Thus, Jews around the world are living in their parents’ environment and struggling, often with success, to break free from old traditions and ways, despite being in an all-too-familiar environment.

Israeli Jews, on the other hand, are the siblings who

have broken with old family ways and are meeting new situations at every turn. Being the majority and having Jewish sovereignty are new experiences for Jews, even after 70 years of having a state.

As we mark our 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a state, we have a lot of work ahead of us figuring out how, for example, we should treat minorities ethically and Jewishly. We must continue asking how an ethical Jewish army should function, how to collect taxes and spend government revenues, and many more issues.

Jews in Israel today face new challenges and novel circumstances. But we also have new tools to use because there exists a state with a Jewish majority and sovereignty. In their new home, they have the freedom to innovate, to experiment, and to meet those challenges and circumstances in their own way.

*Rabbi Avital Hochstein is a research fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem and president of Hadar in Israel.*

*The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of JTA or its parent company, 70 Faces Media.*

### In My Own Words

## Protecting its citizens

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

I was pleased to read about Attorney General Eric Schneiderman’s recent action against two top waste management service providers in our area. The businesses admitted that they fixed bids and rigged prices. It is wonderful that our New York state government is protecting its citizens against avarice. The best part is that this desire is a very Jewish one. The laws of the Torah and the discussions of the ancient rabbis show how Judaism tries to protect us from unfair business practices.

Why do discussions about business practices appear in Jewish religious texts? Because in Judaism, there is no distinction between secular and holy. Everything that we do is part of our religion, including business. Texts about appropriate business behavior can be found in our religious writings – from the Bible to the Talmud to medieval legal codes to legal discussions being published today. In fact, what better way to show our dedication to religious practice than to make certain it’s reflected in our monetary dealings?

The current action by the attorney general reminded me of a specific Jewish law in its dealing with setting a fair price. Yes, Judaism is concerned about people receiving a fair price – both those selling an item and those buying it. In fact, the ancient rabbis spoke about price fixing – in their terms, making certain that someone did not undercut the price normally charged by those already living in an area. The rabbis also limited when someone new could open a new business. The idea was that no one should move a business into a new market where it might undercut other businesses. The rabbis were looking to making society work well for everyone and this did *not* mean laissez faire capitalism, where a business person can do whatever he/she wants without interference.

Business ethics also include how workers are to be treated. For example, agricultural workers were allowed to eat when they were harvesting a field. However, they

were not supposed to take advantage of this and the rabbis discussed various options about what a worker could and could not do. In those pre-check days, the Torah required that workers be paid at the end of the day so they could afford to buy food to feed their families. They were also guaranteed a day off each week – a full day off, which in contemporary terms would mean they didn’t have to check their work e-mail or answer phone calls from their employer.

There are many books that focus on Jewish business regulations for those interested in learning more about the topic. What really struck me in thinking about this is how those in positions of power – be they rabbis or the attorney general of New York – are supposed to watch the interests of all citizens, not just those with power or influence. The actions of our attorney general deserve our praise and should, at the same time, remind us of how we all should behave.



**Jewish Federation**  
OF GREATER BINGHAMTON

Dr. Howard Warner, President  
Sima Auerbach, Executive Director

607-724-2332 ~ www.jfgeb.org

#### The Reporter Editorial Board

Rachel Coker, chairwoman  
Rebecca Goldstein Kahn, Ben Kasper,  
Toby Kohn, Richard Lewis,  
Robert Neuberger, Dora Polachek

#### HOW TO REACH THE REPORTER

Mail ~ The Reporter, 500 Clubhouse Rd. Vestal, NY 13850

E-mail ~ TReporter@aol.com • Fax ~ 607-724-2311

Phone ~ 607-724-2360 or 800-779-7896

Extension#/Department ~ 1. Advertising 2. Business Office  
3. Art Department 4. Circulation 6. Editorial/News

**THE REPORTER**  
Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton  
BINGHAMTON, NY

#### 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.

Executive Editor Rabbi Rachel Esserman

Layout Editor Diana Sochor

Assistant Editor Ilene Pinsker

Advertising Bonnie Rozen

Production Coordinator Jenn DePersis

Bookkeeper Kathy Brown

#### Proofreaders

Barbara Bank, Eleanor Durfee, Fran Ferentinos,  
Leah Ferentinos, Rebecca Goldstein Kahn,  
Merri Pell-Preus, Heidi Thirer



“The Reporter” (USPS 096-280) is published weekly for \$36 per year by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, 500 Clubhouse Road, Vestal, NY 13850-3734. Periodicals Postage Paid at Vestal, NY and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Reporter, 500 Clubhouse Road, Vestal, NY 13850-3734 or reach us by e-mail at TREPORTER@AOL.COM.

www.thereporter.org

# Beth David annual dinner to honor Rabbi Zev Silber

By Arieh Ullmann

This year's Jack and Mary Ferber Memorial Award honoree at the Beth David Synagogue annual dinner is Rabbi Zev Silber, who has served as rabbi of Beth David since 2005. Silber will be recognized for his "tireless work as the leader and teacher at Beth David Synagogue and for his commitment to the Jewish community at large," according to organizers of the event. The event will be held on Sunday, May 6, at the synagogue, 39 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, starting at 3 pm, with cocktails followed by dinner at 3:30 pm. The cost is \$50 per person, with three sponsorship levels: gold (\$375) and silver (\$275), both of which include two dinners; and bronze (\$175), with one dinner included. Reservations are requested by Monday, April 23.

Silber grew up in Brooklyn, NY, and received his ordination from the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theologi-

cal Seminary, Yeshiva University in New York, where he was a student of Rabbi "The Rav" Yosef Dov ha-Levi Soloveychik. In the tradition of his teacher, Silber also pursued a secular education. He holds a bachelor's degree in mathematics and a master's degree in Talmud, both from Yeshiva University, and a master's degree in educational leadership from the University of Alabama, Birmingham. Silber has worked as an educator in many places, from the Deep South to the Northeast. He came to Binghamton in 1999 when he was hired as principal of Hillel Academy of Broome County, having held similar positions before in Indianapolis, IN, and Rochester, NY. He became the rabbi and spiritual leader of Beth David in 2005. Since then, he has served the congregation in many ways, ranging from delivering sermons on Shabbat and *yom tov*, to teaching weekday courses, to conducting life

cycle events, and supervising *kashrut*, the *mikvah* and the *eruv*. He has been a member on the board of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton and works closely with Jewish Family Service to help people in the community who are struggling.

"Together with his wife, Judy, they have opened their home to visitors and students who not only appreciate their hospitality, but also the rabbi's breadth and depth of Jewish knowledge that invariably enriches the conversations during meals," said organizers of the event. "Being honored at the annual dinner expresses the gratitude and admiration of the Beth David family for its rabbi and his caring leadership."

Invitations have gone out for the dinner. Those who did not receive one, and would like one sent, can call Beth David Synagogue at 722-1793.

## Rosefky to discuss JCC "Threads of Tradition" quilt at BD Sisterhood Donor on May 9

By Paula Rubin

The annual Beth David Sisterhood Donor will be held this year on Wednesday, May 9, at 7 pm, at the home of Marti Klionsky, 34 Avon Rd., Binghamton. "This is one of our biggest fund-raisers," noted Marlene Serkin, Sisterhood fund-raising VP. The minimum donor to attend is \$25 per person, which includes dessert. The event is open to all women in the community.

This year's event will welcome back former Binghamtonian Flora Rosefsky, who now resides in Atlanta, GA. Rosefsky is a visual artist who will reflect back on the creation and execution of the "Threads of Tradition"

quilt she designed while living in Binghamton. While she was program director at the Jewish Community Center, she designed 25 different panels, all with a Jewish theme that she and volunteers put together as a quilt for the community. Today, the quilt hangs in the library of the JCC. It was the first of many community quilts she has designed.

Rosefsky says she has been interested in visual arts since her first memories of "loving to draw and do art projects." Along with traditional mediums such as pens and brushes, her artistic talents have included the use of scissors, recycled drawings, painted papers,

and store bought or homemade papers and photos. Rosefsky admits her "work is often spiritually driven and artistically inspired by her Jewish heritage" through collage and mixed media work, stained-glass windows and Judaic-inspired art.

The program will highlight Rosefsky's earlier years in Binghamton as she looks back on her years as program director at the JCC. To RSVP, call Serkin at 729-3235 by Monday, May 7.



Flora Rosefsky  
(Photo by Duane Stork)

## TC Sisterhood Donor brunch on April 29

By Babs Putzel

Gerald Smith, Broome County historian, will be the guest speaker at the Temple Concord Sisterhood Donor brunch on Sunday, April 29, at 11 am, at Temple Concord, 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton.

He will discuss several stories about local residents who made an impact on important moments in American history. They will range from helping George Washington to the Civil War to a controversial presidential election. Smith said, "They stepped into history without knowing how their roles could forever change our country." His presentation, "Sweeping Across America: Stories of Broome County Citizens in American History," comes from his latest book of the same title.

To attend, one must be a Sisterhood member and a donor. It's never too late to do this. Send a check for \$30 dues to Temple Concord Sisterhood, 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905. Also send a donor check for \$25 to Sisterhood at the same address. For those who want to bring a guest, donor will be \$36. The money may be brought to the event. Brunch will be \$5 per person.

Reservations are required by Thursday, April 26, by calling the temple office at 723-7355. Deb Daniels is donor chairwoman, assisted by Sue High.

Smith, a native of Broome County, has his bachelor's and master's degrees in history from Binghamton University. He has served as Binghamton historian since

1984 and Broome County historian since 1988. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Broome County Historical Society, the New York State Historians Advisory Committee and other boards. He is past president of the Association of Public Historians of New York State and past chairman of WSKG.

Smith has written "Partners All: A History of Broome County, New York" and "The Valley of Opportunity: A Pictorial History of the Greater Binghamton Area." Smith and George Basler co-authored "On the Seamy Side of the Street: Colorful Characters from Broome County's History" and "That Happened Here: More Saints and Sinners from Broome County's History."

Smith writes the "Spanning Time" and "Southern Tier Throwback" columns for the *Press & Sun-Bulletin* newspaper. He has a monthly radio segment called "Binghamton Then" on the Bob Joseph radio show on WNBC.

Smith is head of the Broome County Local History and Genealogy Center in the Broome County Public Library, where he has been an employee since 1978. He retired from the full-time library position in 2009. Earlier this year, Smith (who likes to be called "Gerry") received the Herbert H. Lehman Prize for Distinguished Service in New York History from the New York Academy of History.

### OF NOTE

## Tuberman

Samantha Tuberman, a junior at Binghamton High School, won a gold medal for excellence and a Clinical Laboratory Technology Award at the Southern Tier Scholastic Science Fair, which was held at SUNY Broome in March. At the Central New York Science and Engineering Fair, which took place on the Onondaga Community College campus in March, Tuberman received a high honor medallion and was chosen to represent the Central New York Region at the New York State Science Congress in June.

Tuberman is the daughter of Brian and Lori Tuberman of Binghamton.

The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to Deb Taub on the death of her sister,  
**Donna Miller**

### CELEBRATE YOUR FAITH!



## JEWISH HERITAGE DAY WITH THE RUMBLE PONIES

SUNDAY, AUGUST 5<sup>TH</sup>

GAME TIME - 2:05 PM | GATES OPEN - 1:00 PM

JOIN US FOR A DAY OF CELEBRATION  
PURCHASE A RESERVED GRANDSTAND  
TICKET FOR \$7.00 TODAY!

(When You Show This Ad At The Starting Gate Box Office)



AVOID THE TICKET LINES BUY  
YOUR TICKETS TODAY  
607.722.FUNN | www.BINGRP.COM

**ERNEST H. PARSONS FUNERAL HOME**  
Faithfully Serving Broome County Since 1928

**PRE-ARRANGEMENTS AND PRE-FUNDING AVAILABLE**  
Joseph Fritsch  
Managing Director

71 Main St., Binghamton, NY 13905  
Phone 607-724-1336  
Fax 800-948-5844

parsonsfuneral@yahoo.com  
www.ParsonsFuneral.com

**HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE**

**Women's OB/GYN Associates is pleased to welcome Melodye Onysko, ANP, CNM**

Melodye's personal warmth and extensive knowledge helps patients interested in holistic approaches to women's health care.

She is now accepting new patients who are seeking:

- Traditional and Holistic Gynecology
- Early Pregnancy Care
- Birth Control Options including IUD's and Nexplanon
- Infertility Counseling and Testing
- Menopausal Support with Bio-Identical Hormone Therapy
- Weight Management

Melodye Onysko offers the area's only Optifast program including Advanced Body Composition and other Nutritional Supplements!

**607.754.9870**

Women's OB/GYN Associates  
401 Main Street, 1st Flr.  
Johnson City, NY 13790

my.womensobgyn.info

Dr. Carol Miller,  
Dr. Marianne Davis and  
Karen Castoro FNP



Off the Shelf

# Siblings and parents

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

I know many authors feel it's easier to write about unhappy families than about happy ones. However, the novels in this review include some of the most unpleasant siblings and parents I've come across in years. Although there were a few exceptions in each book, the majority of the characters were not people I'd ever want to meet. While I don't have to like the characters I'm reading about in order to appreciate a novel, my hope is that the author will satisfactorily explain their behavior. That occurred in fewer of these works than I would like. Still, the sheer range of bad behavior was impressive in its own way.

## "Hey Harry, Hey Matilda"

Rachel Hulin uses a very clever device in her first novel "Hey Harry, Hey Matilda" (Doubleday). The entire work is written as a series of e-mails between 30-something twin siblings Matilda and Harry Goodman. At first, it seems that Matilda – an artist living in New York City and working as a freelance wedding photographer – is far more neurotic than her brother. However, Harry, a writer hoping to become a tenured professor, soon proves as able as his sibling in making unfortunate choices. Their parents are little help: their Jewish mother is quietly having problems of her own and their non-Jewish father has never offered any type of practical help.

Each twin makes some bad mistakes, although it would spoil the fun to reveal them and/or their attempts to rectify their situations. In fact, each rescue attempt seems to lead to yet another problem. The e-mails, which could be gloomy, instead are amusing because Matilda often relates her problems by turning them into very short stories or

screenplays for Harry to read. Fortunately, both twins have a sense of humor, or, at least, a sense of humor about the problems their sibling is facing. What makes the novel work is that it's very clear Harry and Matilda really love – and like – each other, even when they drive each other slightly crazy. Although the ending felt rather abrupt, the rest of the novel is funny, sad and satisfying all at the same time.

## "Tell Me How This Ends Well"

Two very different plots compete for attention in David Samuel Levinson's "Tell Me How This Ends Well" (Hogarth), which takes place in Los Angeles in 2022. The first tells the story of the Levinson family: adult siblings Mo, Edith and Jacob gather to celebrate Passover with their parents, Julian and Roz, for what they believe will be their very ill mother's last holiday. Yet, it's not their mother's illness that's the siblings' main concern, but their resentment at the horrible way their father has treated them since they were children. Julian is truly a monster, which makes the siblings' decision to murder him understandable.

The second plot line concerns the greatly increased amount of antisemitism in the United States, which manifests itself in car bombings, antisemitic graffiti, property damage, and the targeting of individual Jews for beatings and murder. The Los Angeles in which Mo lives has clearly become more dangerous, but, since the reason for that antisemitism is slowly revealed during the first part of the novel, it would spoil the surprise to say more.

This second plot line remains in the background and about 99 percent of the siblings' story could be told without it. There were times, though, that I wanted more information about the subplot, which could have been the center of a book in its own right. Fortunately, the family drama was absorbing enough to keep my interest as the siblings argue over the appropriate course of action and behave badly toward each other. However, I wish Levinson had managed to expand on the secondary plot or written a separate novel focusing on it alone.

## "What to Do About the Solomons"

Family life is just as complex in Israel as it is in the United States. In "What to Do About the Solomons" by Bethany Ball (Atlantic Monthly Press), sibling rivalry abounds. The siblings' actions are partly due to the behavior of the family patriarch, Yakov Solomon. Although seemingly dedicated to the *kibbutz* on which he was born pre-independence, Yakov made a fortune in construction and uses that money to control his family.

These siblings seem to revel in the misfortunes of their brothers and sisters. Dror, in particular, takes pleasure in tattling to his parents about the actions of the others. These include Keren's husband, Guy, whom Yakov seems to like

better than his own children. There is Yakov's oldest son, Ziv, who is gay and lives in Singapore. Sister Shira's selfishness and bad decisions made her particularly unpleasant to read about. Yakov's wife, Vivienne, also doesn't seem fond of her husband; it doesn't help that her children treat her as if she barely exists. The one successful family member, Mark, lives in the U.S., but soon faces problems of his own. With so many people to keep straight – including additional family and friends – I frequently found myself looking at the list of characters printed after the dedication page.

The novel moves back and forward in time to explore different aspects of the characters' lives. Some of what is learned helps explain and/or excuse a person's behavior, although that's not always successful. Most of the Solomons struck me as unpleasant and my impression of them didn't improve over time. It's difficult to finish a novel after facing the fact you really don't care what happens to any of the characters.

## "Swell"

Another group of fairly unpleasant people are featured in Jill Eisenstadt's "Swell" (A Lee Boudreaux Book/Little, Brown and Company). In this case, my problem is less about whether I like the characters than deciding if the novel is a drama or a comedy. This may sound strange for a work that focuses on events after 9/11 and other disasters, but some scenes struck me as funny, even though they contained serious elements.

The novel focuses on the Glassman family, which has recently moved from an apartment in Manhattan to a beach house in Rockaway, Queens. Unfortunately for Sue Glassman, the move came with several conditions. One is that her widower father-in-law, Sy, must now live with her, her husband, Dan, and their two daughters. Also, as part of the deal, Sue must convert to Judaism – something she doesn't seem particularly interested in doing.

The new house comes with additional problems: neighbor Tim, a former firefighter, seems overly interested in the Glassmans' doings. He's also attracted the interest of the Glassmans' teenage daughter. The former owner of the house, 90-something year old Rose, returns, claiming that the house was stolen from her. There's also the unfortunate fact that their new home is known as the Murder House, due to the shooting of Rose's son several years before.

The mixture of these plot elements made it difficult to determine what the author was trying to accomplish. I also found myself far less interested in the characters' foibles than I would have liked. While some parts were successful (particularly the growing relationship between Rose and Dan), the individual elements didn't work together and made me feel something was missing.



## Mailbox Shorts

### Online exhibit on "The Art of Jewish Song"

Milken Archives of Jewish Music announced a new virtual exhibit "The Art of Jewish Song: Yiddish and Hebrew." The first installment – "Jewishness, Longing, and Lullabies" – is now available by visiting [www.milkenarchive.org/articles/virtual-exhibits](http://www.milkenarchive.org/articles/virtual-exhibits) and clicking on the exhibit. The exhibit is an attempt to look more broadly at interdependence of music and words by exploring the milieu in which the songs and the poems were composed.

# LEGAL NOTICE

## NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY UNDER THE NEW YORK LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY LAW

BEALBE, LLC

Articles of Organization were filed with the NY State Dept. of State, Division of Corporations and State Records on February 23, 2018. Office and principal business location: 812 Oak Hill Road, City of Binghamton, Broome County, New York. Secy. of State designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: 812 Oak Hill Road, Binghamton, NY 13901, principal business address of the LLC, Purpose: any lawful activity.

## NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY UNDER NEW YORK LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY LAW

1. The name of the limited liability company ("LLC") is IMMORTAL BEAUTY LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is March 13, 2018.
3. The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the LLC is located is Broome.
4. The Secretary of State of the State of New York is hereby designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or her is: 1504 Pine Street, Endicott, NY 13760.

5. The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

Notice of Formation of K-4 Vestal, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 03/06/18. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 300 Plaza Dr., Vestal, NY 13850. Purpose: any lawful activities.

## NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY:

The name of the limited liability company is: RobJess Properties, LLC (the "Company"). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was March 19, 2018. The county in which the principal place of business of the Company shall be located is Broome County. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the Company upon whom process against it may be served. The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the Company, to Hinman, Howard & Kattell, LLP, Attn: Ryan M. Mead, 80 Exchange Street, Suite 700, Binghamton, NY 13901. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

## NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY:

The name of the limited liability company is: THE ELEPHANT'S DEN, LLC (the "Company"). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was November 14, 2017. The county in which the principal place of business of the Company shall be located is Broome County.

The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the Company upon whom process against it may be served. The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the Company, to the Company, 658 Riverside Drive, Johnson City, NY 13790. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

## NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY UNDER NEW YORK LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY LAW

1. The name of the limited liability company ("LLC") is Franco Buy and Sell, LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is March 21, 2018.
3. The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the LLC is located is Broome.
4. The Secretary of State of the State of New York is hereby designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or

her is: 49 Concord Road, Shirley, NY 11967.

5. The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

## NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY UNDER NEW YORK LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY LAW

1. The name of the limited liability company ("LLC") is Dress Your Fancy LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is March 28, 2018.
3. The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the LLC is located is Broome.
4. The Secretary of State of the State of New York is hereby designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or her is: 1308 Vestal Parkway E, Space A, Vestal, NY 13850.
5. The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

Notice of Formation of Upstate Holdings 1, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 03/26/18. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 978 Vestal Ave., Binghamton, NY 13903. Purpose:

any lawful activities.

Notice of Formation of a Limited Liability Company (LLC): Name: Remington Consulting Solutions, LLC, Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 3/23/18. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated LLC agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: LLC, Attn: John G. Dowd, PO Box 1905, Binghamton, NY 13902. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose. Date of dissolution: None.

## Notice of Formation of Tony Tools, LLC

Arts. Of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 03/27/2018. Office location: Broome Co. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, P.O. Box 339, Binghamton, NY 13902. Purpose: any lawful activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY: The name of the limited liability company is: 81 State Hospitality Group, LLC (the "Company"). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was April 4, 2018. The county in which the principal place of business of the Company shall be located is Broome County. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the Company upon whom process against it may be served. The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the Company, to Hinman, Howard & Kattell, LLP, Attn: Ryan M. Mead, 80 Exchange Street, Suite 700, Binghamton, NY 13901. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

## ATTENTION ATTORNEYS

### THE REPORTER

fulfills the requirement of "newspapers of general circulation".

Very reasonable rates and a broad circulation makes The Reporter a great choice for legal advertising!

### PARTNERSHIP NOTICES

### SURROGATE'S CITATIONS

### CHANGES OF NAME

### BANKRUPTCY NOTICES

### TRUSTEE SALES AUCTION SALES

### FOUNDATION SALES

### MORTGAGES FORECLOSURES

Place Your Legal Advertising in

### THE REPORTER

To place your ad, contact Bonnie Rozen at 724-2360, ext. 244 or [bonnie@thereportergr.org](mailto:bonnie@thereportergr.org)

[www.thereportergr.org](http://www.thereportergr.org)

To place a legal notice, contact Bonnie Rozen at 724-2360, ext. 244 or [bonnie@thereportergr.org](mailto:bonnie@thereportergr.org)

# “Fashion Week Comes to Inter-sisterhood” on May 2

By Paula Rubin

“Fashion Week Comes to Inter-sisterhood” is the theme of this year’s Inter-sisterhood meeting, which will be hosted by Beth David Sisterhood on Wednesday, May 2, at 7 pm, at Beth David Synagogue, 39 Riverside Dr., Binghamton. There is a \$5 per person admission fee, payable at the door,



Inessa Raytenberg

which includes refreshments. All women in the community are invited.

Members of the three participating Sisterhoods will model fashions from Vintageness, a locally owned marketplace for pre-owned fashion and new designer clothing. Vintageness is owned and managed by Inessa Raytenberg, a native Bingham-

tonian who received her bachelor’s degree from Binghamton University.

“She brings extensive experience in high-end retail and has a passion for value, be it pre-owned garments or brand new season must haves,” said organizers of the event.

“Fashion, food and fun are all on the agenda for this year’s Inter-sisterhood meeting.”

To RSVP, call Beth David Synagogue at 722-1793, Temple Concord at 723-7355 or Temple Israel at 723-7461 by Thursday, April 26.

## Community members attended Yom Hashoah ceremony at BU



L-r: Jeff Strosberg; Paulina Weinreich, the leader of the 3G group at Hillel at Binghamton; Alan Gutman; Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell; and Sima Auerbach, executive director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, attended the Yom Hashoah ceremony at Binghamton University on April 11.

## Chabad’s Shabbat 1800 dinner held at BU



The largest student Shabbat Dinner held on any college campus took place on March 23 at Binghamton University. Sponsored by the Rohr Chabad Center for Jewish Student Life at Binghamton University, the 24<sup>th</sup> annual Shabbat 1800 gathered approximately 1800 students, who were joined by a sprinkling of faculty, parents and alumni. (Photo by Chabad of Binghamton/R. Traison)

## Painting . . . . . Continued from page 1

in its education department while pursuing her Ph.D. in American art history at the City University of New York, The Graduate Center. Her dissertation was on American Jewish artists’ New Deal murals, which became the subject of her book “Ben Shahn’s New Deal Murals: Jewish Identity in the American Scene.” She was also the visual essayist for the scholarly team that produced “City of Promises: A History of the Jews of New York,” edited by Deborah Dash Moore, which was selected as the Jewish Book of the Year in 2012. She is a co-editor of “The Social and the Real: Political Art of the Western Hemisphere in the 1930s,” which is the first hemispheric look at social realism throughout the 1930s. Linden has taught at Pitzer College, University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, University of Southern California and Pomona College.

CJS programs are open to the entire community. All programs will begin at 7:30 pm at the Jewish Community Center. General admission is \$8 per program, or \$20 for all three programs; senior admission is \$5 per program or \$12 for all three programs. BU students are welcome to attend at no charge. Individual sponsorship is available and donations are always welcomed. Individual sponsorship of \$100 includes admission to both fall and spring programs. For more information on how to become an individual sponsor or to

make a donation, e-mail [bingcjs@gmail.com](mailto:bingcjs@gmail.com). CJS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

CJS provides opportunities for adult Jewish education for the Broome County community by offering fall and spring programs. Drawing on local resources, and inviting scholars and experts from a range of universities and cultural and religious institutions, CJS sponsors an array of programs dealing with Jewish history, culture, religion and politics.

CJS, founded in 1986, is an informal coalition between the Judaic Studies Department of Binghamton University and several area Jewish sponsoring institutions: the Jewish Community Center, the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, Beth David Synagogue, Temple Concord and Temple Israel. Programming for CJS would not be possible without the support of a grant from The Community Foundation for South Central New York – David and Virginia Eisenberg Donor Advised Fund, and additional financial support from the Jacob and Rose Olum Foundation, the B’nai B’rith Lectureship Fund, the Victor and Esther Rozen Foundation, an endowment fund from the former Temple Beth El of Endicott, a grant from the JoyVel Charitable Fund and the donations of individual sponsors.

For more information on CJS and its programs, go to [www.bingcjs.org](http://www.bingcjs.org) and [www.facebook.com/bingcjs](http://www.facebook.com/bingcjs).

At right: Alan Gutman spoke at the Yom Hashoah ceremony at BU.



## Holocaust . . . . . Continued from page 1

North Carolina.” His final two presentations will be on Thursday, April 26, when he will appear at SUNY Broome for an event titled “Journalism in the Age of Misinformation,” at noon, in Titchener Auditorium 102, and then at 6 pm, in Binghamton University’s Science Library 212, to present “Israel and International Law – The Historical Underpinnings.”

All of Black’s lectures are planned as global events with participation by individuals across the country. Eisig will make opening remarks remotely from his office in Ft. Lauderdale. Other questioners will be included by video conferencing.

Black can be reached at [www.edwinblack.com](http://www.edwinblack.com).

## Community Calendar

The Community Calendar can be found on the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton’s website, [www.jfgeb.org](http://www.jfgeb.org), by clicking on “calendar.”

“Have you forgotten the date of your organization’s event? Can’t remember when the CJS lecture is? Do you want to hear what’s happening at the next Federation board meeting? Are you planning an event and want to make sure there are no conflicts? Then go to [www.jfgeb.org](http://www.jfgeb.org) and hit ‘calendar,’” said Sima Auerbach, executive director of the Federation. “This is your Community Calendar! All the events this amazing community holds are listed – and if you do not see what you were looking for, call us at 724-2332.”


Updates or additions of events for the calendar can be made by contacting the Federation through its website (click on “calendar” and then “click here to request a change to the calendar”) or by calling 724-2332.

To our readers...  
 I want to remind you to let our advertisers know that you saw their ad here in THE REPORTER! It is so important to remember when you go to get your hair done or buy something at their store or use their services that you say **I SAW YOUR AD IN THE REPORTER!** They want to know.

Thank you,  
 Bonnie Rozen  
 Advertising Executive



Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton



present

# SUNDAY FUNDAY

## IS YOUR NAME HERE?

If not, come introduce yourself and introduce your child to a wonderful program!

Sunday, April 22 from 3-5pm  
 at The JCC, 500 Clubhouse Road,  
 Vestal, New York 13850  
**books • crafts • snacks**  
 for the entire family!

This event is free -- reservations are requested - please call 724-2332 to save your spot!

*First person*

# Israel's hottest night out is a chance to sing old songs with 12,000 of your closest friends

By Alan D. Abbey

TELAVIV (JTA)—I'm not sure where she got this, but our daughter believes American Jews imagine that Israelis work in the *refet* (cowshed) all day and then gather for a *kumsitz*, sitting around the campfire at night to sing Naomi Shemer songs. After our experience at the recent Koolulam gathering in Tel Aviv, I'm inclined to say her perception is closer to reality than stereotype.

Koolulam is a year-old social phenomenon that has gathered thousands of Israelis to sing everything from songs by Sia and Imagine Dragons to Naomi Shemer, perhaps Israel's greatest songwriter. According to its Facebook page, "The project enables its participants to enjoy the feeling of togetherness through a deep communal experience — our sounds and voices coming together to create a social choir, full of hope and optimism."

It's the *kumsitz* updated for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, with

Israeli tech, glitz, media savvy and the positive vibes we need.

On April 9, Israeli President Reuven Rivlin joined Koolulam at a mass singing of Shemer's "Al Kol Eleh" to honor Israel's upcoming 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A cute video he made convinced my wife to get us tickets for the event at Tel Aviv's basketball arena, a shed where shouts from Maccabi Tel Aviv basketball fans and the wail of electric guitars from overseas rockers are more common than a mass rendition of a classic Hebrew folk song.

We arrived at the sold-out arena alongside 12,000 Jewish Israelis — young and old, religious and secular, Ashkenazi and Sephardi. Previous Koolulam events in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv have focused on cancer patients and their doctors, Holocaust survivors and women, and even drew a smattering of *haredi* Orthodox. On February 14, Muslim, Christian and Jewish Israelis were invited to Haifa to sing Matisyahu's hit

"One Day" in Hebrew, English and Arabic; 3,000 people showed up.

We had chosen to stand on the arena's floor, which gave us a ringside view. A boom camera swooped overhead. Singer Shlomi Shabat stood alongside us as he awaited his solo, and the Jerusalem Street Orchestra was meters away.

We sensed the nervousness of co-founder Michal Shahaf Shneiderman, who runs an Israeli ad agency, as she warmed up the crowd for Koolulam's biggest event. We felt the floor rumble as the charismatic conductor and musical arranger Ben Yefet, curls and dreadlocks flying, bounded across the stage in the run-throughs and implored us to start and stop on his command and to e-nun-ci-ate the lyrics.

Unlike smaller events, where Koolulam moved participants around and created three-part harmonies, the stadium was divided into two groups. It felt

See "Sing" on page 11

## Rosefsky.....Continued from page 1

sky exhibited her work in several juried competitions and invitational shows in upstate New York. After moving to Atlanta in 1995, her work started to reach larger audiences.

Her paper cutouts have appeared in many print publications, while some of her quilt designs were licensed by Hallmark. In Atlanta, Rosefsky's designs have been transferred to synagogue stained glass windows, Torah covers, community narrative quilts and other Judaic textiles pieces.

In 2015, Rosefsky was one of five artists invited to exhibit at the Bascom Contemporary Art Center in Highlands, NC with the show "Contemporary Collage: Found Images, Mutable Meanings." Rosefsky is a member of the Atlanta Collage Society, and is a signature member of National Collage Society, where her collage work is part of the Kent State University's permanent collection. She is a board director of the American Guild of Judaic Art, and belongs to the Pomegranate Guild of Judaic Needlework in Atlanta.

College of Jewish Studies programs are open to the entire community; general admission is \$8 per program, or \$20 for all three programs; senior admission is \$5 per program or \$12 for all three programs. BU students are welcome to attend at no charge. An individual sponsorship, \$100, is available and includes admission to all fall and spring programs. Donations are always welcomed. For more information on how to become an individual sponsor or to make a donation, e-mail [bingcjs@gmail.com](mailto:bingcjs@gmail.com). The College of Jewish Studies is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

The College of Jewish Studies provides opportunities for adult Jewish education for the Broome County community by offering fall and spring programs. Drawing on local resources, and inviting scholars and experts from a range of universities and cultural and religious institutions, CJS sponsors an array of programs dealing with Jewish history, culture, religion and politics.

The College of Jewish Studies, founded in 1986, is an informal coalition between the Judaic Studies Department of Binghamton University and several area Jewish sponsoring institutions: the Jewish Community Center, the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, Beth David Synagogue, Temple Concord and Temple Israel. Programming for CJS would not be possible without the support of a grant from the Community Foundation for South Central New York — David and Virginia Eisenberg Donor Advised Fund, and additional financial support from the Jacob and Rose Olum Foundation, the B'nai B'rith Lectureship Fund, the Victor and Esther Rozen Foundation, an endowment fund from the former Temple Beth El of Endicott, a grant from the JoyVel Charitable Fund, and the donations of individual sponsors.

For more information on the College of Jewish Studies and its programs, go to [www.bingcjs.org](http://www.bingcjs.org) and [www.facebook.com/bingcjs](http://www.facebook.com/bingcjs).

## Spring Home Improvement



**Susan G. Stephens**  
 NYS Lic. Associate Real Estate Broker  
 ABR®, SRES®, GRI®



3456 Vestal Parkway East,  
 Vestal, New York 13850

SueStephens@WarrenHomes.com  
 C: 607-725-8258  
 O: 607-422-3108 F: 607-238-7334

### Stop pests this spring with these simple steps

(NewsUSA) — Spring is here, and that means not only getting a jump on your cleaning, but also having a reason to check all areas of your house and garage for signs of pests that might have made themselves at home over the winter.

Take a tour through your house and try these simple steps suggested by Kari Warberg Block, a pest prevention expert and founder of EarthKind and Stay Away natural pest-prevention products, for a few pest-proofing techniques for each room of your house.

◆ Outside: The best defense is a good offense when it

comes to protecting the outside of your home from pests. Inspect the exterior of your house and patch any cracks or other openings that may have developed over the winter.


◆ Living room: Keep ants from becoming unwanted guests in your living room by vacuuming the entry/living room areas thoroughly to get rid of any crumbs, and clean up any sweet, sugary spills which are the number one culprit for attracting ants in this area. Also, try a non-toxic ant repellent made from essential oils and plant fibers, so they are eco-friendly and have no known risks associated with use in the home.

◆ Kitchen: Use natural ingredients to keep your kitchen clean and repel rodents and other pests. Be sure to clean under refrigerators, stoves and sinks because these are the areas where rodents frequently make their nests. Dog food is the number one attractant to hungry rodents — 21 million American homes are invaded by rodents each winter (according to the National Pest Management Association). After pest-proofing your kitchen, proceed to the pantry, where moths might try to make themselves at home. Prevent problems by storing food in airtight glass, metal, or plastic containers; cleaning and checking packages for signs of holes; and placing a non-toxic repellent nearby.

◆ Bedrooms and Closets: Moths also can consider closets a place to call home, but repellents can keep them at bay. In the bedroom, consider using a non-toxic spider repellent offers a similar strategy. After vacuuming to remove any existing webs, use a repellent to prevent additional infestations.

◆ Garage and Basement: These areas can harbor a variety

See "Pests" on page 8



**JACK'S**  
 GENERAL CLINTON

- Custom Furniture Restoration
- Repair/Veneer/Cane
- Designer Fabrics
- Free Estimates & Delivery

**STRIP REFINISH UPHOLSTER**

723-1596  
 Jack & Mimi Carmen

132 CLINTON STREET, BINGHAMTON • TWO DOORS FROM OLUM'S



**PICKETT PAINTING**  
 Specializing in Aluminum Restoration

• Interior  
 • Exterior  
 • Free Estimates

ROB PICKETT  
 786-9544



**BELKNAP**  
 BUILDING CENTER

Est. 1956

- KITCHEN DESIGN STUDIO
- EXOTIC WOODS & HARDWOODS
- WINDOWS & DOORS
- CUSTOM MILL WORK

(607) 729-1583  
 WWW.BELKNAPLUMBER.COM


**Megan Clark**  
 Owner



*Estate Solutions*

"Our family helping your family"

Phone: 607-738-2574  
 Email: [megan@estatesolutionsny.com](mailto:megan@estatesolutionsny.com)  
[www.estatesolutionsny.com](http://www.estatesolutionsny.com)



**Tioga Gardens**  
 Inc.

Landscaping  
 Interiorscaping  
 Nursery &  
 Garden Center

**Tim Ripic**  
 Landscape Manager/  
 General Manager

2217 State Rte. 17C  
 Owego, NY 13827  
[www.tiogagardens.com](http://www.tiogagardens.com)

(607)687-5522  
[tim@tiogagardens.com](mailto:tim@tiogagardens.com)

# The new face of Jewish philanthropy is innovative, younger and more female

By Deborah Fineblum

(JNS) – Giving has been part of New Yorker Sarah Rueven’s life since she can remember. In fact, Rueven recalls her grandparents and her parents teaching by both word and example what a powerful force that philanthropy can be in making the world a better place.

But, rather than bringing them into the family foundation, her parents encouraged their three children to start their own. “They wanted us to think for ourselves and invest in causes we feel passionate about,” says Rueven who, at 30, chairs the board of Slingshot, a group focused on innovative giving for young Jews. “And, though we still support many of the big organizations, like other younger donors, my husband and I also tend to take a little more risk, giving to smaller and newer organizations that we believe can make real change.”

Indeed, if the average donor to Jewish causes looked in the mirror a generation ago, he or she would have seen someone very different from the image staring back at them now. If a new report is to be believed, then today’s reflection looks a bit wealthier and more committed to promoting Jewish engagement than before. And it’s also beginning to appear a bit younger, as well as somewhat more female.

These are among the trends unearthed by “Giving Jewish: How Big Funders Have Transformed American Jewish Philanthropy,” recently released by the Avi Chai Foundation. The goal of the study was considered an ambitious one: putting its arms around the changing topography of Jewish giving, a nearly \$6 billion-a-year enterprise.

What lead researcher Dr. Jack Wertheimer and his team

discovered is that the 21<sup>st</sup>-century Jewish world tends to rely more on fewer donors and those with deeper pockets than in the past. They also found that this individual is more likely to strike out on his or her own, following a passion that often focuses on increasing Jewish engagement versus throwing their lot in with the community-chest concept represented by Federations and other mega-charitable organizations.

“Donors want to know that their gifts have genuine impact,” says Wertheimer, professor of American Jewish history at the Jewish Theological Seminary, who is considered a maven in the field of Jewish philanthropy. “Big givers do not blindly assume their gifts are succeeding. With the prominence now of professionally staffed foundations, they are measuring and monitoring their gifts very closely.”

A case in point: The Nathan Cummings Foundation was professionalized in 1985 after the death of its founder food mogul (think Sara Lee) Nathan Cummings. Today, the foundation’s giving (about \$23 million minus investment expenses and overhead) leans more toward the arenas of social justice and environmental issues than in his grandfather’s day, says James Cummings of Los Angeles, who is 70. “He left it open so our family is free to interpret his legacy in ways that are meaningful to us. Is it Jewish? If caring for the world and peaceful coexistence are Jewish causes, I would say 100 percent of our giving is Jewish.”

Among the results of the study was the emergence of women, millennials and, to a lesser extent, the Orthodox,



Slingshot Board Chairwoman Sarah Rueven (Photo courtesy of Slingshot)

who are all gaining seats at the Jewish philanthropic table.

Reflecting their increased leadership in the larger culture, women have stepped into more decision-making roles in Jewish philanthropy, the study showed. Indeed, 51 percent of foundations are now headed by women. “Some are inheriting the job from parents or husbands; others are taking it on themselves,” says Wertheimer. “Either way, they’re having a greater voice in how the funds are directed than ever before.”

Millennials like Rueven are also bringing their younger sensibilities to the giving process. The Slingshot Fund she chairs is a peer giving network that produces an annual “Resource Guide to Jewish Innovation,” showcasing innovative Jewish programs and organizations.

“Many of the young Jews I work with are inheriting wealth from their families. Others run their own businesses,” says Slingshot Executive Director Stefanie Rhodes. “They don’t want to wait till the baton is passed. They are looking for ways to have an impact today.”

And many Orthodox donors who have traditionally given to synagogues, yeshivas, day schools and elder care are also emerging as major givers, according to the study. “Not in such numbers as women or millennials, but we see them coming forward in areas like *haredi* employment, even though they still tend to keep their giving more local,” says Andres Spokoiny, president of the Jewish Funders Network. “And their giving is See “Philanthropy” on page 8

## Spring Home Improvement

### Four reasons to keep up with home maintenance

(StatePoint) – After a busy work week, it can be hard to get motivated to complete chores and tasks around the house. And knowing what tasks to do and when to do them may not come intuitively for everyone. But neglecting home maintenance is a mistake, say experts.

“Regular home maintenance can benefit your family’s health, safety and pocketbook,” says Elizabeth Dodson, co-founder of HomeZada, a digital hub to store information about your home. “Consider creating a home maintenance schedule to stay organized and motivated.”

With this in mind, here are several examples of how to maintain your home and why it’s important:

#### Avoiding Replacements

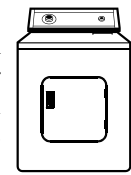
- ◆ Mineral deposit build-up in your refrigerator’s ice maker

can eventually cause a leak that could damage the refrigerator and its contents. Annually clean water lines to prevent the need for a major appliance replacement.

- ◆ Lubricate your garage door for smooth operation and to delay the need for parts replacement.

#### Improving Safety

- ◆ Lint build-up in dryer ducts is flammable and a common cause of house fires. An annual cleaning eliminates this dangerous situation. You should also regularly clean your dryer’s lint filter after every couple of loads. Likewise, you can prevent fires with checks on electrical and gas equipment and fireplaces.



- ◆ Maintain the air quality of your home by replacing or cleaning the filters on your home’s heating system quarterly, or as needed.
- ◆ A regular schedule of battery replacement in your home’s smoke and carbon monoxide detectors could be life-saving.

#### Reducing Utility Bills

- ◆ Periodically ensuring that your home is properly sealed and insulated can lower utility bills. Use weatherstripping to close gaps around windows and doors.
- ◆ On an annual basis, inspect heating and cooling equipment to ensure it’s running optimally.
- ◆ Ensure your fireplace damper closes and opens properly. When your fireplace is not in use, keep the damper

See “Home” on page 8

To advertise, contact Bonnie at 724-2360, ext. 244 or [bonnie@thereportergroup.org](mailto:bonnie@thereportergroup.org)  
**YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!**  
 THE REPORTER  
 Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton

[www.AUDIOCLASSICS.com](http://www.AUDIOCLASSICS.com)  
 AUDIO • HOME THEATER • STEREO  
 Phone/Fax 607-766-3501  
 BUY • SELL • TRADE • REPAIR • CONSIGN  
 3501 Vestal Road Vestal, NY 13850 Hours: Mon-Fri 8-5:30 • Sat 11-4

**Howard Hanna**  
 Real Estate Services  
**SUZANNE L. KRAUSE**  
 Licensed Real Estate Broker  
 Cell: 607.760.3366  
 Office: 607.772.1177  
 Fax: 607.772.2435  
[suekrause@howardhanna.com](mailto:suekrause@howardhanna.com)  
[howardhanna.com](http://howardhanna.com)

**ENDWELL RUG & floor**  
 “THE BEST FLOOR SHOW IN TOWN”  
 Our promise to you...  
**COMPLETE CUSTOMER SATISFACTION!**  
 FREE ESTIMATES • FREE MEASURING

- Hardwood • Laminate • Luxury Vinyl Tile
- Area Rugs • Sheet Vinyl • Carpeting

A wide array of styles, designs and possibilities - contact us now to see how we can help you decide what floor will best fit your needs. You can shop with confidence knowing that we are recognized in the industry for excellent product selection and knowledge and outstanding customer service.

8 Carbon St., Oneonta, NY 13820  
 Phone: (607) 432-1105  
 Fax: (607) 433-1821  
 Mon - Wed 8 AM-6 PM  
 Thurs 8 AM-8 PM • Friday 8 AM-6 PM  
 Sat 9 AM-5 PM • Sun 10 AM-3 PM

We're proud to be family owned and operated since 1939!

**ENDWELL RUG & floor**  
 “THE BEST FLOOR SHOW IN TOWN”

3646 George F Hwy., Endwell, NY 13760  
 Phone: (607) 748-7366  
 Toll-Free: (800) 526-3466  
 Mon.-Fri. 8 AM-8 PM  
 Sat. 8 AM-5 PM Sun. 11 AM-4 PM

**Looking for a cure for the common kitchen?**  
 For about 50% of the cost to replace your kitchen cabinets, our skilled craftsmen will reface your cabinets and install custom-made doors that will make your kitchen look like new!

- We offer free, professional in-home consultations and estimates.
- A large selection of premium solid wood cabinet doors and drawers.
- Professional installation from a national company you can trust.

**AFTER** **BEFORE**

**Rx FURNITURE MEDIC®**  
 607.748.8657  
[www.furnituremedic.com](http://www.furnituremedic.com)

# Deciphering the past

## Trove of coins minted by Jewish revolt discovered in Jerusalem

By JNS staff

(JNS) – The Israeli Nature and Parks Authority announced that a team of archeologists unearthed a trove of rare bronze coins dating from the last years of the Roman-Jewish War (66-73 C.E.) in a cave near the south wall of the Temple Mount on March 26.

The discovery was part of the Ophel excavation operated by Israeli archeologist Dr. Eilat Mazar of the Institute of Archaeology of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and included dozens of bronze coins as well as numerous fragments of pottery vessels from the four-year rebellion of the Jews of Israel against Roman rule known as the Great Revolt.

Mazar’s team believes the coins were left by hidden Jewish residents of Second Temple Jerusalem who sought refuge from the Roman siege in a cave that measures 7 by 14 meters.

The coins were dated to the period just prior to the destruction of the Second Temple, years 66-70 C.E., with most of them dating to the revolt’s final year, or Year Four. Whereas coins in the earlier part of the



Some of the bronze coins found near the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. (Photo by Eilat Mazar, Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

revolt were decorated with Jewish symbols and bore the paleo-Hebrew words “For the Freedom of Zion,” the coins minted in Year Four, as the revolt began to break down, were etched with “For the Redemption of Zion.”

“A discovery like this, ancient coins bearing the words ‘freedom’ and ‘redemption’ found right before the Jewish Festival of Freedom, Passover, begins is incredibly moving,” said Mazar in a statement.

According to Mazar, the cave was “virtually untouched” since the Second Temple period – considered a very unusual occurrence in archaeology – and also contains a Hasmonean Period layer beneath.

In February, the Ophel excavation garnered international attention for uncovering a 2,700 year old seal which may have belonged to the biblical prophet Isaiah.

Approximately 50 years ago, after the 1967 Six-Day War, Mazar’s grandfather, Professor Benjamin Mazar, discovered another hoard of Year Four coins at excavations near Robinson’s Arch adjacent to the Western Wall.

## Philanthropy

Continued from page 7

far more likely to be Jewish than secular.”

But this snapshot of Jewish philanthropy also raises some disturbing questions, argues historian Jonathan Sarna, author of numerous books on American Jews, and the Joseph H. and Belle R. Braun Professor of American Jewish History at Brandeis University. “To me, the most important piece is that Jewish philanthropy is less and less a communal enterprise,” he says. “Not that long ago, Federations counted not only the money raised, but also the number of donors, and ‘Super Sunday’ was like Election Day. Everybody got called, promoting a sense of community purpose.”

Though he understands that Federations’ limited resources are better spent cultivating the \$20,000 gift than the \$20 one, Sarna says that “by focusing on those with substantial means, we’ve lost something, leaving many Jews feeling disenfranchised.”

It is equally true, however, that mega-donors acting alone have the freedom to innovate that larger organizations don’t, adds Sarna. “The Jewish world is stronger for programs like Birthright, Moishe House and PJ Library – all of which, as they grew, were able to attract greater communal support.

“It’s hard for Federations, which need to support

institutions that aren’t as sexy as innovative programs,” he says. “But if they don’t support Jewish education, and the Jewish poor and elderly, who will?” And some of these “engagement” programs, he notes, are light on Jewish content and heavy on socializing. There is also concern that younger Jews may lack their parents’ and grandparents’ attachment to Israel – an important line item for Federations.

“It’s true that increasingly dollars are coming from a small pool of donors at the same time Federations are absolutely devoted to bringing the community together,” says Rabbi Marc Baker, 42, who has been tapped to replace Barry Shrage, 70, as the new president of Boston’s Federation, Combined Jewish Philanthropies. (Shrage has led the organization for 31 years.) “We need to continue to work hard to hear the voices of the various parts of the community, while at the same time find even more creative ways to bring in their voices, their time, talents and their money to both engage and empower.”

In fact, says Yossi Prager, Avi Chai’s North American executive director, “we need to remember that a third of all Jewish charitable giving still comes through the Federation system, which I believe will continue to

strengthen Jewish life in the U.S. and elsewhere. For supporting the bread-and-butter of Jewish community – the schools and the synagogues, eldercare and Israel – local donors are heroes of Jewish life.”

And the study also points to a healthy and hopeful trend, adds Spokoiny. “Many of these innovative and independent programs, like PJ Library and Moishe House, are actually now sophisticated and creative partnerships with local funders,” he says “The Federations and other big organizations are able to get onboard once the model is proven, and these partnerships allow the programs a much bigger impact.”

Prager sees the big picture. “As Jack reports, there’s been a huge emphasis on the innovation by the largest givers and on engagement, which is important because more and more Jews are growing up with less and less Jewish learning. But,” he adds, “we need to make sure these programs have ongoing robust Jewish content, rather than episodic social interaction.”

The study is destined for success, he believes, “if it starts funders and leaders talking about how philanthropy can play even more strategic, impactful and supportive roles in creating Jewish life, and furthering Jewish engagement and education.”

# Spring Home Improvement

## Home

Continued from page 7

closed to maximize your climate controlled environment.

### Improving Value

A house in worn condition can lose 10 percent of its previous appraised value, whereas proactive maintenance can increase the appraised value each year by one percent, according to the National Association of Realtors.

And you don’t have to invest a ton to improve your home’s value. Plenty of projects offer great returns on investment. This becomes especially important if your home is on the market. From replacing elements of your home’s exterior to updating your kitchen, your realtor can offer suggestions for updates that can help you sell.

## Did you know?

(NAPSA) – The Red Cross Emergency App has home fire safety tips and the Monster Guard App has safety games for children. Learn more about preventing home fires, volunteering and donating at redcross.org/homefires.

## Pests

Continued from page 6

of pests. To keep them out, avoid storing items in cardboard boxes, which can attract rodents (they use cardboard to build their nests), as well as cockroaches (they like to feast on the glue). Also, repair any leaky pipes to prevent the development of mold and moisture.

**TL INTERIORS, LLC**  
 TLINTERIORSLLC@STNY.RR.COM  
 WWW.TLINTERIORS.COM

- Complete Residential & Commercial Interior Design
- Custom designs for kitchens - baths - additions - etc...
- Custom Window Treatments - shadings - installation

From small rooms, to entire buildings - I will help you create your dream home or office!

**TERRY LUDWIG**  
 607.761.0601

**Early Owego ANTIQUE CENTER**  
 43-45 Lake St. P.O. Box 8 Owego, NY 607-223-4723  
 Take Exit 64 Off NYS 17/I-86 cross the bridge, take second right

**Quality Antiques and True Collectibles**

**Over 90+ Vendors in a clean, modern building**

Open 10:00 am - 6:00 pm daily  
 Friday 'til 8:00 pm  
 Closed Tuesdays

Find us on Facebook and visit [www.EarlyOwegoAntiqueCenter.com](http://www.EarlyOwegoAntiqueCenter.com)

**GLASS CREATIONS**  
 Owner & Artisan  
 Carole Perkosky  
 607-754-2728  
 Cap4glass@gmail.com  
 www.cap4glass.com

**CUSTOM DESIGNS TO MATCH YOUR DECOR**  
 CLASSES - SUPPLIES - GIFTS  
 MOSAICS  
 LAMPS - REPAIRS - TEACHING

**HOURS**  
 Wed & Fri: Noon-6pm  
 Tue & Thurs: Noon-7pm  
 Sat: 9am-2pm  
 Call for Summer Hours

**305 FRONT STREET, VESTAL, NEW YORK 13850**

**Greater Binghamton's Preferred Electrical Contractor**

**BLANDING ELECTRIC, INC.**

**FREE ESTIMATES GUARANTEED WORK 24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE**

**Spring Home Improvement \$75 OFF**  
 Electrical Panel Change-out OR Service Upgrade (200 Amp)  
 \$50 OFF 100 Amp or 150 Amp Change-out or upgrade  
 Valid for residential service only. Cannot be combined with other offers. Not valid on prior sales or services. Offer expires 5/30/18

Complete Home Rewires Service & Meter Upgrades  
 Panel Change-outs  
 GFCI / AFCI Plugs  
 Appliance circuits / outlets  
 AC & Heating Circuits  
 Outdoor landscape lighting  
 Pool & Spa Wiring  
 Insurance Claims  
**High-Tech Installations**  
 Smart Home  
 Structured Cabling  
 Computer Networking  
 Data & Phone Cabling

429 Commerce Road Vestal, New York 13850  
 blanding-electric.com

**729-3545**

**WE'RE THE BEST, AND THAT'S NO GARBAGE.**

**Bert Adams DISPOSAL**  
 607-648-4863  
 www.bertadamsdisposal.net

Residential Recycling Appliances & Appliances  
 Call for Summer Hours

**Bert Adams DISPOSAL**  
 648-4863

# How Washington, DC, got a bunch of new kosher restaurants

By Ben Sales

(JTA) – For years, the nation’s capital had only one full-fledged kosher restaurant. But as of this month, that changed. The clergy at Ohev Shalom-The National Synagogue, a Washington, DC, Modern Orthodox congregation, have given kosher certification to three vegan restaurants in the District (along with two others in the suburbs). Leading the effort is *Maharat* Ruth Friedman, a member of the synagogue clergy, along with synagogue Rabbi Shmuel Herzfeld.

“We have never seen such a positive response to anything we’ve done in our life,” said Herzfeld. “People are clamoring for more opportunities and ways to eat kosher. Basically, the job of the religious leaders of synagogues is to help our congregants keep Jewish law, so we felt this is something we could do for the community.”

For more than a decade, DC had only one kosher restaurant. *Eli’s*, a meat deli that opened in 2003, shut its doors a decade later. The same owner opened *Char Bar*, also with a meat-centric menu, at the beginning of the following year.

Along the way, there have been other kosher ventures. *Sixth and Rye*, a food truck launched by the historic Sixth and I synagogue, ran for several months in 2011. Another kosher food truck, *Brooklyn Sandwich Co.*, opened in 2016 and still parks around town. *Nosh*, a kosher deli option at George Washington University, closed in 2012. *Soupergirl*, serving – you guessed it – soup, salad and sides, but not entrees, has two locations in the city. DC’s suburbs also boast a selection of kosher restaurants.

But now, the number of kosher restaurants in the District where you can sit down and order a full meal has tripled. *Evolve* and *Vegaritos* are within a couple miles of Ohev Shalom in northern DC, and *Khepra’s Raw Food Juice Bar* is close to the National Mall. Two more are over the border in Maryland: *Sweet and Natural*, and *Everlasting Life*.

“The most significant reason [to become kosher] was because of the number of people requiring or asking whether we were kosher,” said Baruch Ben-Yehudah, who owns *Evolve* and *Everlasting Life*, and affiliates as a Hebrew Israelite. “As a vegan and as a restaurant

with a reputation for serving healthy food and doing what we can to elevate the eating experience, this is consistent with what we set out to do.”

This is Friedman’s first time heading a kosher certification operation. Beyond the expanded kosher options, she appreciates the new offerings as a longtime vegetarian. “I think it’s a really interesting process,” said Friedman, who was ordained at *Yeshivat Maharat*, the first institution to ordain Orthodox women as clergy. “I’ve been a vegetarian for 23 years and it’s very important to me personally that we’re making food that is healthy and that doesn’t mistreat animals more available to me.”

Vegan restaurants are a natural fit for kosher certification because they don’t serve – and therefore don’t mix – meat and dairy products. They also do not serve non-kosher dishes like pork and shellfish, or meat and chicken that wasn’t slaughtered under kosher supervision. And because some vegans take their dietary restrictions as seriously as kosher-keeping Jews, the restaurants are already used to being sticklers for the rules.

But Herzfeld said there are still plenty of ways for a vegan restaurant to not be kosher. *Evolve* had to change its wine menu to only serve kosher-certified wines. Some vegan restaurants also use unkosher varieties of wine or vinegar while cooking. Jewish law also prohibits some foods cooked by a non-Jew – a restriction restaurants can circumvent, for example, by having a Jewish person light the pilot light on a stove. And kosher laws demand a closer inspection for bugs in produce than many typical restaurants are used to.

“Just because it’s vegan doesn’t mean there aren’t issues involved in it,” Herzfeld said. “We looked at other restaurants and some were difficult to deal with.”

The kosher supervisor at *Char Bar*, who asked to remain anonymous as he is not the restaurant’s manager, told JTA he’s not worried about the increased competition. He said the vegan restaurants largely serve a different market. “This is a *fleishig* place,” he said, using the Yiddish word for “meat.” “Vegan is vegan. *Fleishig* is *fleishig*. People who want vegan can have vegan. I seriously doubt it would affect *Char Bar* at all.”

Friedman’s role, however, has led one industry

expert to reject the kosher certifications. Rabbi Yosef Wikler, publisher of the monthly *Kashrus Magazine*, which covers kosher food and cooking practices, objects to Friedman, a woman, being in charge of kosher certification. Unless she steps down, Wikler plans to remove Herzfeld and Friedman’s local rabbinic organization, the Beltway Vaad, from his annual list of kosher-certifying agencies. Both clergy are members of the Beltway Vaad, but their certification of the vegan restaurants is not occurring under the Vaad’s auspices. (*Char Bar* is certified by a different authority, the Vaad Harabanim of Greater Washington.)

“*Akashrus* agency has to abide by traditional Orthodox procedures,” Wikler told JTA, using the Hebrew noun form of the word “kosher.” “[In] the Orthodox world, until today, the only people who certify traditional kosher certification are men rabbis ordained as rabbis, and no one else. Being in charge of a kosher organization, you have to make Jewish legal decisions which only a rabbi is entitled to make.”

But Rabbi Moshe Elefant, COO of the kosher certification department at the Orthodox Union, the largest kosher certifier in the country, said there’s no problem with a woman running a kosher certification operation. “The one that takes care of the *kashrut* in the kitchen is my wife as well,” he said. Elefant added that he questioned the sustainability of using volunteer, unpaid kosher supervisors – which Friedman and Herzfeld are doing – but stressed that he was not commenting on the kosher certification itself.

Friedman and her colleagues have already had to contend with challenges to their qualifications: The Orthodox Union and Rabbinical Council of America, two large umbrella Orthodox groups, both issued bans on Orthodox women clergy in recent years. But she doesn’t focus on the criticism.

And she and Herzfeld both emphasized that they are doing this as a service to their congregants and local community. If someone doesn’t want to eat at the restaurants, they said, they don’t have to. “These are not the types of things that bother me,” Friedman said. “Ultimately, folks are going to choose whether they want to rely on it.”

## Millenials.....

spaces, such as clubs, bars, performing art spaces, lofts and bookstores. They may offer a Friday night social gathering, a musical program or lecture series. Meeting in offbeat venues is part of the allure.

Events designed for millennials usually are free or require only a modest admission fee. Participants attend episodically and are treated to programming that is light on Jewish content and heavy on socializing. The rationale, no doubt, is that first you have to attract young people who tend to be suspicious of events that seem “too Jewish” or too similar to what an older generation might prefer. As a result, these funder-supported efforts must find a way to move participants from Jewish lite to something more content-rich, let alone demanding, without turning people off – a fine line not easy to walk.

One wonders, though, whether these episodic and mainly social gatherings will lead to lifelong engagement unless participants grow as Jews, deepen their Jewish knowledge, connect with the richness and complexity of Jewish civilization, and grapple in a meaningful way with their Jewish identity. Episodic connection is unlikely to educate individuals about how to live as Jews, and certainly is not a recipe for building commitment to Jewish community.

The heavy investment in millennial engagement, furthermore, usually comes with no comparable funder commitment to improving Jewish education for children. Which raises the question: Why not educate Jewish youth properly when they are young? That way they won’t need engagement programs to remediate for the shallow education most have encountered in their Jewish schooling and informal Jewish education.

To be sure, local funders are supporting Jewish education, as are a few national foundations, but for the most part the big dollars are going for millennial engagement. It’s not as if the field of Jewish education presents no large systemic challenges requiring ambitious funding and creativity.

The most obvious needs are in the arena of supplementary schooling. Funders have shied away from investing in the so-called Hebrew school, the vehicle educating the largest proportion of Jewish children, on the grounds that the field is diffuse, housed in synagogues of various denominations and lacking in national operators. All the

Continued from page 2

more reason, then, for national funders with the ambition to make a big impact to invest in this educational arena.

Several other large challenges persist: One is the affordability crisis in Jewish day schools, which could benefit from new thinking. Another concerns the still too-low proportion of Jewish children experiencing Jewish overnight camp and teen programs that could do even more to infuse their offerings with serious Jewish content. By finding solutions to these challenges, national funders can make a large difference in the education of Jewish children.

Within a generation, today’s school-age children will become the new cohort of 20- and 30-somethings. Wouldn’t it be wise to invest in their Jewish education now so as to reduce the need to “re-engage” them when they enter their post-college years?

*Jack Wertheimer is professor of American Jewish history at the Jewish Theological Seminary. His report, “Giving Jewish: How Big Funders Have Transformed American Jewish Philanthropy,” was prepared under the auspices of the Avi Chai Foundation.*

*The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of JTA or its parent company, 70 Faces Media.*

**Advertisers!** It’s almost time for our **Moms and Grads special ad section!**

Issue Date: **April 23**  
Ad Deadline: **April 15**

For information, contact **Charlie Pritchett** at 724-2360, ext. 244 or [advertising@thereportergroup.org](mailto:advertising@thereportergroup.org)



**THE REPORTER**  
Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton

## How To Kill A Business In 10 Easy Steps

1. Don’t advertise. Just pretend everybody knows what you have to offer.
2. Don’t advertise. Tell yourself you just don’t have the time to spend thinking about promoting your business.
3. Don’t advertise. Just assume everybody knows what you sell.
4. Don’t advertise. Convince yourself that you’ve been in business so long customers will automatically come to you.
5. Don’t advertise. Forget there are new potential customers who would do business with you if they were urged to do so.
6. Don’t advertise. Forget that you have competition trying to attract your customers away from you.
7. Don’t advertise. Tell yourself it costs too much to advertise and that you don’t get enough out of it.
8. Don’t advertise. Overlook the fact that advertising is an investment in selling – not an expense.
9. Don’t advertise. Be sure not to provide an adequate advertising budget for business.
10. Don’t advertise. Forget that you have to keep reminding your established customers that you appreciate their business.

Reprinted with permission from the National Jewish Post & Opinion.

To advertise, please contact **Bonnie Rozen** at 724-2360, ext. 244 or [bonnie@thereportergroup.org](mailto:bonnie@thereportergroup.org).  
[www.thereportergroup.org](http://www.thereportergroup.org)



Tazria-Metzora, Leviticus 12:1-15:33

## Sticks and stones – are we really immune to unkind words?

RABBI MARJORIE BERMAN, SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR OF THE RECONSTRUCTIONIST RABBINICAL COLLEGE

In the portions of Tazria and Metzora, which continue a discussion of the laws of ritual purity and impurity, there is a special focus on *tzara'at*. *Tzara'at* appears to be some kind of plague or skin condition in which white or pink patches appear on a person's skin. Surprisingly, *tzara'at* can afflict garments and homes, as well, taking on a dark pink or dark green appearance. While it is unclear exactly what this affliction is, the rabbis interpret it as a spiritual malady, and it is often understood to be the result of *lashon harah*. *Lashon harah*, which literally translates as "the evil tongue," implies gossip, slander, or any unkind or untrue speech (in some religious circles, even compliments or bragging on someone else's behalf is considered *lashon harah*).

A person who suffers from *tzara'at* has to leave the camp until they are healed, and the affected area of a garment or home must be removed and taken outside the camp, as well. If the *tzara'at* returns, the garment or house must be destroyed. What about *tzara'at* makes it so dangerous to society? If we accept the rabbinic interpretation that it is the result of untrue speech, could that be so dangerous? What happened to the nursery rhyme "sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt me"?

For the rabbis, this was patently incorrect. *Lashon harah* was a topic of central importance to them and whole books were written on the subject. They understood *lashon harah* to be a sin and they likened it to adultery and even murder.

Moreover, in the Talmud, it says that *lashon harah* is even worse than murder, because it simultaneously destroys three people, the one who relates the gossip, the one who listens to it and the one it concerns.

In the rabbinic understanding, speech is what separates us from the animals and makes us like God, the One who created the world with words. In Genesis 2:7 it says: "God blew into Adam's nostrils the breath of life and Adam became a living being...." Interestingly, though, in the Aramaic targum – a very early translation and interpretation of Torah – this passage is translated "God blew into Adam's nostrils the spirit of speaking and Adam became a See "Words" on page 11

## Congregational Notes

### 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: 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  
Shabbat Services:  
Friday, April 20 ..... 7:15 pm  
Shabbat, April 21 ..... 9 am  
..... Mincha after the kiddush  
..... Maariv 7:20 pm  
Weekday Services:  
Mornings:  
Sun., April 22 ..... 8:30 am  
Mon.-Fri., April 23-27 ..... 7 am  
Evenings:  
Sun., April 22 ..... 7:40 pm  
Mon.-Thurs., April 23-26 ..... 7:40 pm  
Fri., April 27 ..... 7:15 pm  
Classes: Rabbi Zev Silber will hold his weekly Talmud class every Tuesday evening after services.

On Wednesday, May 2, at 7 pm, Beth David will host the Inter-sisterhood meeting, "Fashion Week Comes to Inter-sisterhood." (See page 5 for more information.)

### Rohr Chabad Center

Affiliation: Chabad-Lubavitch  
Rabbi: Aaron Slonim, E-mail: aslonim@binghamton.edu  
Address: 420 Murray Hill Rd., Vestal, NY 13850  
Phone: 797-0015, Fax: 797-0095  
Website: www.Chabadofbinghamton.com  
Chabad on the West Side  
Rabbi: Zalman Chein, E-mail: zchein@JewishBU.com  
Address: 27 Bennet Ave., Binghamton, NY 13905  
Phone: 722-3252  
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.  
Linking Hearts for youngsters with special needs: This program connects Jewish special-needs children and teenagers, ages 5-14, who have mental, physical and/or functional disabilities, with student volunteers who will visit participating youngsters weekly in their homes.  
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.

### Temple Beth El of Oneonta

Affiliation: United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism  
Rabbi: Molly Karp  
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  
Website: www.templebetheloneonta.org  
Regular service times: visit the temple website for days of services and times  
Religious School/Education: Religious school, for grades kindergarten through bar/bat mitzvah, meets Sunday mornings. Rabbi Karp conducts services and holds classes in Torah, beginning Hebrew and Maimonides.  
For schedules of services, classes and events, see the website.

### 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, E-mail: info@tikunvor.org  
Website: www.tikunvor.org  
Presidents: Miranda Phillips and Shawn Murphy  
Rabbi: Brian Walt  
Religious School Director/Admin. Coordinator: Naomi Wilensky  
Services: Fridays at 7:30 pm unless otherwise noted. Family services and Tot Shabbat once a month at 6:30 pm. Call for weekly schedules.  
Religious School: Preschool through seventh-grade classes meet on Sunday mornings. Sixth-grade Hebrew and seventh-grade b'nai mitzvah classes meet on Wednesday afternoons. Adult Ed: Mini courses throughout the year. Adult Hebrew offered regularly. Call the office for details.

### 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: Friday, 8 pm; Saturday, 10:35 am, when religious school is in session.  
Hebrew school: Hebrew school meets at 5:15 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the school year unless otherwise noted.

On Friday, April 20, at 8 pm, there will be a Shabbat evening service celebrating Israel's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday led by Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell and Jason Flatt.

On Saturday, April 21, religious school will meet at 9 am, Torah study at 9:15 am and Tot Shabbat at 9:30 am. At 10:35 am, the Shabbat family service will celebrate Israel's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday and all April birthdays, and will be led by Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell and Jason Flatt.

On Sunday, April 22, at 2-4 pm, the Children of Abraham Interfaith conversation "Working with Constructive Conflict" will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 183 Riverside Dr., Binghamton.

On Tuesday, April 24, at 5:15 pm, there will be religious school.

On Thursday, April 26, at 5:15 pm, there will be religious school; at 7 pm, Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell will lead the Mahloket Matters Program.

On Friday, April 27, at 8 pm, there will be a Shabbat evening service led by Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell and Jason Flatt.

On Saturday, April 28, religious school will meet at 9 am, Torah study at 9:15 am and, at 10:35 am, the Shabbat family service will be led by Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell and Jason Flatt.

On Sunday, April 29, at 11 am, there will be a Sisterhood Donor brunch. (See page 3 for more information.)

### 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.

### Norwich Jewish Center

Orientation: Inclusive  
Rabbi: Dena Bodian  
Address: 72 South Broad St., Norwich, NY 13815  
Contact: Guilina Greenberg, 373-5087  
Purpose: To maintain a Jewish identity and meet the needs of the Jewish community in the area.  
Adult Ed.: Saturday morning study is held at 10 am. Call for more information and to confirm.

### Temple Brith Sholom

Affiliation: Unaffiliated  
Address: P.O. Box 572, 117 Madison St., Cortland, NY 13045  
Phone: 607-756-7181  
President: Louis Wilson, louiswilson1995@yahoo.com  
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 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.

Friday, April 13, light candles ..... 7:24 pm  
Shabbat ends Saturday, April 14 ..... 8:26 pm  
Friday, April 20, light candles ..... 7:32 pm  
Shabbat ends Saturday, April 21 ..... 8:34 pm

### 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-4 pm; Fri. 8 am-3 pm.  
E-mail: titammy@stny.twcbc.com  
Website: www.templeisraelvestal.org  
Service Schedule: Tuesday, 6 pm, Friday, 5:30 pm; Saturday, 9:30 am.

On Saturday, April 21, at 9:30 am, services will be led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown. The Torah portion will be Leviticus 12:1-15:33. The haftarah will be II Kings 7:3-20. The kiddush sponsor will be Michael Wolff.

On Tuesday, April 17, at 7 pm, there will be a Board of Trustees meeting.

On Wednesday, April 18, at 7 pm, there will be a Sisterhood open programming meeting.

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

On Wednesday, May 2, at 7 pm, there will be an Inter-sisterhood program at Beth David. (See page 5 for more information.)

On Saturday, May 5, at 9:30 am, there will be the bat mitzvah of Moira Shirvan.

### Temple Beth-El of Ithaca

Affiliation: United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism  
Rabbi: 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@tbeithaca.org and secretary@tbeithaca.org  
Website: www.tbeithaca.org  
President: Jerry Davis  
Sisterhood President: Julie Paige  
Director of Education: Rabbi Suzanne Brody  
Administrative Assistant: Jane Griffith  
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 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.

From Friday-Saturday, April 20-21, Rabbi Naomi Levy will be the scholar-in-residence.

From Friday-Saturday, April 27-April 28, the bat mitzvah of Hannah Shvets, daughter of Isabella Khavash and Gennady Shvets, will be celebrated.

On Sunday, May 6, at 3 pm, Temple Beth-El Sisterhood invites those interested to "Explore Winemaking in Italy" with certified sommelier Dr. Laura Winter Falk and taste kosher wines paired with food. The cost to attend is \$15 per person (must be 21 or older). RSVP by Monday, April 23, to Samantha Lesser at slesser@frontiernet.net.

### Kol Haverim

Affiliation: Society for Humanistic Judaism  
Address: P.O. Box 4972, Ithaca, NY 14852-4972  
Phone: 607-277-3345  
E-mail: info@kolhaverim.net  
Website: www.kolhaverim.net  
Chairwoman: Abby Cohn  
Kol Haverim: The Finger Lakes Community for Humanistic Judaism, is an Ithaca-based organization that brings people together to explore and celebrate Jewish identity, history, culture and ethics within a secular, humanistic framework. KH is part of an international movement for Secular Humanistic Judaism and is affiliated with the Society for Humanistic Judaism, a national association with over 30 member communities and congregations around the country. Established in the spring of 1999, it offers celebrations of Jewish holidays, monthly Shabbat pot-lucks, adult education, a twice-monthly Cultural School for children, and a bar and bat mitzvah program. KH welcomes all individuals and families, including those from mixed religious backgrounds, who wish to strengthen the Jewish experience in their lives and provide their children with a Jewish identity and experience.

**Sing . . . . . Continued from page 6**

like a camp color war as Yefet implored the Blues to outsing the Greens. I sighed with relief when we were told to sing the melody, not the harmonies.

Shemer, one of Israel's first-generation song-writers and performers, released "Al Kol Eleh" on a 1981 album, a copy of which I somehow have. I heard her sing it in Albany, NY, at a sad and haunted performance one day after Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated in 1995. The title is translated as "About All These," or "Over All These Things." According to one historian, it was written to comfort Shemer's sister, who had lost her husband.

The song's bittersweet lyrics implore us to accept the bee's honey and its stinger. It asks the "good Lord" to save the houses we live in "from the sudden warlike thunder," in a Theodore Bikel translation. Evacuees from Yamit, the town bulldozed in 1982 when Israel returned the Sinai to Egypt, adopted it as their anthem because of the line "Do not uproot what has been planted."

With the passage of time, the song's politics have muted. The lyrics can feel overly sentimental, but they gave me goosebumps as I sang them surrounded by 12,000 others, including Rivlin and Tel Aviv Mayor Ron Huldai.

Yefet drilled the Blue and Green teams through repetitions of the refrains and choruses, singing each part in his lovely, trained voice. Once we

were primed, the Jerusalem Street Orchestra took the stage, as did Shabat, a popular singer primarily known for Mizrahi pop.

The lights dimmed, Yefet cued the orchestra, Shabat sang the opening line and 12,000 hesitant voices joined in. We gained confidence through the middle, stopped near where Yefet wanted and waved our smartphone flashlights. We finished raggedly, but my heart swelled and my eyes teared.

The crowd erupted in applause, but Yefet didn't let us pat ourselves on the backs. He coached us through the untidy moments, and we sang it again. And again. I thought our third take would be our last. It wasn't. Our fourth take was better. Our media-savvy group figured they would edit the best parts from each take into the finished product. I was satisfied. Yefet wasn't. We did a fifth take.

Throughout, emcees implored us not to take selfies or post on social media. They urged us to be in the moment and focus on singing, not the meta-level activity of recording ourselves. They gave us a moment between takes to feed our egos and the media beast, and friends told me afterward their Facebook and Twitter feeds were overrun with clips, snapshots and comments.

When we entered the arena, I remarked that this was a slick event: The production crew wore earpieces; Yefet wore a "Madonna" (Israeli slang for a cordless mic); TV-pretty emcees read patter from cue cards. Video and still photographers captured the scripted action from multiple angles. If the earlier videos are any sign, our video will boast high production values.

But as my wife said, the emotion, passion and joy created by this 21<sup>st</sup> century *kumsitz* was authentic, honest and deeply felt. Unlike the singing of a rock star's words back to them, our voices didn't feed a massive ego. Rather, it felt like a modern-day prayer, passionately chanted, enhanced by its *nusach* (spiritual melody) and spiritually heightened in a group setting.

As we left, spent and hoarse, my cousin said such events are not only meaningful, they are essential. Koolulam isn't the first to teach mass singing. Canada's Choir!Choir! recorded a mass singalong of Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah" in 2016. But Koolulam's success—from zero to tens of thousands of singers within a year—taps into Israelis' need to nourish and cherish the hope we have for our chaotic, stress-filled country.

Koolulam's slogan is "Singing is Believing." I challenge even the hardest-edged cynics to remain dry-eyed while watching Holocaust survivors, Arabs and Jews, cancer patients and their doctors, and the multifaceted Israeli public raising their voices in unison.

*Alan D. Abbey is media director of the Shalom Hartman Institute. He lives in Jerusalem.*

**Words . . . . . Continued from page 10**

living being. . . ." In this translation, it is the ability to speak that makes us alive. Given this understanding, if we use our words to hurt others rather than to create and heal, to destroy rather than repair creation, then we are engaging in the ultimate perversion of this gift.

In the words of Rabbi A. Z. Friedman, "A person may think 'Of what importance are my words? A word has no substance, neither can it be seen or touched. . . .' It is true that words have no substance and cannot be seen, but, like the wind, they can cause entire worlds to crash." In today's political climate, we can see exactly what the devastating effects of "unkind speech" are on a society. By slandering a particular group of people, fear is aroused in many and prejudice gains a foothold. When prejudice gains traction, violence can follow. We have seen a rise in antisemitism, in anti-immigrant sentiment, in racist speech and action, and in Islamophobia, to name a few. In witnessing bullying speech in the highest levels of government, many feel permission to engage in such bullying behavior themselves, including children. When children bully others, sometimes those who are bullied develop such a sense of shame and isolation that they turn on their peers, as we have seen too often in the mass shootings at schools and elsewhere. When false and provocative ads infiltrate our social media sites, they foment dissension and anger. When dependable and well-researched journalism is disparaged as "fake news," it undermines the trust of society and weakens the "fourth estate," the guardian of democracy.

Indeed, when *lashon harah* is not quarantined and held in check, it spreads like *tzara'at*. Like a mysterious plague that eats away at garments, it can erode the very fabric of our society. In the book of Proverbs, it says: "Death and life are in the hands of the tongue." Contrary to the nursery rhyme, then, the rabbis argue that misuse of speech is more destructive than almost anything. As humans, bestowed with the holy "spirit of speaking," we create worlds through the use of our tongue, our words. Each time we open our mouths, we have a choice. Do we want to create families, institutions and governments that are based on fear and mistrust, or ones that are generous, trusting and open? Can we choose to speak to others, even those we don't agree with or understand—especially those we don't agree with or understand—with honor and respect? The choice is in our hands, or rather, on our tongues.

**NEWS IN BRIEF**

*From JTA*

**Kites carrying firebombs flown from Gaza set Israeli fields ablaze**

Palestinians in Gaza flew a kite over the border carrying a fire bomb, which started a fire where it touched down. The Molotov cocktail-laden kite bearing the colors of the Palestinian flag that landed near a southern Israeli *kibbutz* on April 15 is not the first effort by Gazan Palestinians to start fires on agricultural land with the fire bombs, *Haaretz* reported. At least three actually have started fires; one reportedly fell in Gazan territory. The Eshkol Regional Council on April 15 released a statement asking residents near the Gaza-border area to be vigilant. "In the last 24 hours, there have been several cases of kites flying with Molotov cocktails from the strip to our territory," it read. "In all cases, the bottles fell close to the border and caused fires, without casualties. . . . The public is asked to be alert and to report on any unusual incident of fires in the area."

**Jewish Community Center**

**JCC Friendship Club**

The JCC Friendship Club met on April 11. The next day, April 12, was Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day. Sue Herzog read about the holiday from a paper given to us by Rabbi Rachel Esserman. The paper also described how the holiday is celebrated in Israel. Some Orthodox rabbis do not recognize this holiday. Jews in North America observe it in the synagogues.

Some recited appropriate songs and readings. Binghamton University had a program in the evening with speakers to tell their stories. John Lauko, who joined us for the first time, asked, "Why did the Nazis single out the Jews?" Bruce Orden pointed out that other groups, such as gypsies and mentally and physically handicapped people, were rounded up and killed also. A long discussion of antisemitism, yesterday and today, followed.

The meeting was called to order by Sylvia Diamond. After the Pledge of Allegiance, we all said the blessing over the refreshments, led by Rabbi Moshe Shmaryahu. He sang a song for Yom Hashoah, "Eli, Eli." Sylvia discussed the financial status of the treasury. The checking account was charged a fee because there was not enough funds in it, so the account was closed. Some members offered to write a check from their check book, if a check is needed, and be paid back in cash.

Sue agreed to be program chairwoman. She and her mother, Ada Brummer, brainstormed and came up with ideas of many programs we would enjoy. Come and join us on Wednesdays at 1:30 pm at the JCC.

*Sylvia Diamond  
President*

**HOPLER & ESCHBACH FUNERAL HOME**

*"A new family tradition"*

*Personal Service  
Professionalism  
Experience You Can Trust*

**COMPARE OUR PRICES**  
*We charge far less than other area funeral homes*

*Kurt M. Eschbach, Funeral Director  
483 Chenango Street Binghamton  
607-722-4023  
www.HEfuneralhome.com*



# JOIN THE SUMMER FUN!

Advertise in our special insert!



One ad will be displayed in all 3 papers, reaching over 12,000 readers.

 THE REPORTER Binghamton, NY Issue • May 25 Deadline • May 9	 JewishObserver of Central New York Syracuse, NY Issue • May 24 Deadline • May 9	 The Reporter Published by the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania Scranton, PA Issue • May 17 Deadline • May 9
--	--	--

**To advertise or for more information, contact Bonnie Rozen at 724-2360, ext. 244 or [bonnie@thereportergrgroup.org](mailto:bonnie@thereportergrgroup.org)**

➔ Visit us on the web at [www.thereportergrgroup.org](http://www.thereportergrgroup.org)

**NEWS IN BRIEF**

From JNS.org

**Ethiopian Israel Bible Quiz contestant given permanent residency**

A representative from Ethiopia in the annual Israel Independence Day Bible Quiz was granted residency status and given an Israeli ID card after a public backlash to news that he had been forced to deposit money with immigration and border control officials as a guarantee that he would leave the country following the contest. Sintayehu Shaparou, a member of the Falash Mura – or Beta [House of] Israel community who were forced to convert to Christianity in Ethiopia – is in Israel to participate in the competition, but was required by the Interior Ministry to give money to officials that he would reclaim only upon departure from Israel. Shaparou's father and siblings immigrated to Israel 17 years ago, while Shaparou and his mother awaited approval with some siblings in Ethiopia, though the approval never came. Interior Minister Aryeh Deri invited Shaparou to the Interior Ministry central office in Jerusalem, where he presented the 18-year-old with his new Israeli residency papers, saying that he "felt deeply about his situation," and the ministry "decided to give him residence status in Israel and a temporary identity card." Deri said Shaparou's mother and two other siblings are also to be provided with similar documentation.

**Iron Dome missile defense voted top Israeli invention**

The Iron Dome missile-defense system has been voted the winner of Israel's Ministry of Economy and Industry contest ranking of the greatest Israeli inventions of all time, in honor of Israel's 70<sup>th</sup> Independence Day. In the first stage of the competition, 70 Israel inventions were listed and then whittled down to the top nine by 52,000 participants. In the second stage, some 63,000 online participants had to choose the single greatest Israeli invention. In first place among the top nine came the Iron Dome missile-defense system; followed by the Waze international navigation system; the drip-irrigation targeted watering system; Disk On Key data storage; the surgical-assistance robot Watergen, which extracts water for use from the air; durable Shoresh sandals; Check Point IT security software and hardware; and the military spy satellite Ofek. "There is no dispute that the inventions chosen by the public as leading inventions are excellent examples of Israeli ingenuity, innovation and creativity that provide solutions to significant challenges, inspire the world and bring a lot of national pride for Israel," said Economy and Industry Minister Eli Cohen.

**IDF destroys Hamas terror tunnel reaching into Israel**

The Israel Defense Forces identified and destroyed a "long and high-quality" Hamas terror tunnel running from Gaza to approximately 65 feet inside Israeli territory in the Sha'ar HaNegev Regional Council area in Israel, according to a report by the IDF on April 15. The IDF indicated that the tunnel, which allegedly connects to a larger underground network, was filled with concrete. The large tunnel marks the eighth discovered

and destroyed in just a few months. Israel's Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman tweeted that the tunnel was "the longest and deepest exposed thus far," and chided Hamas for spending millions of dollars on building the terror tunnel from "money that would have been better served mitigating the plight of residents, but has now sunk into the sand." The IDF stated that the tunnel did not contain weaponry, but was equipped for carrying out an imminent terror attack.

**Syria to head U.N. panel on chemical disarmament**

(Israel Hayom via JNS) – Despite allegations that it carried out yet another deadly chemical-weapons attack on April 7, Syria will next month chair the United Nations disarmament forum that produced the treaty banning chemical weapons. Syria will assume the presidency of the 65-nation Conference on Disarmament, based in Geneva, on May 28 and hold it for more than four weeks, until June 24. Hillel Neuer, president of the Geneva-based nongovernmental organization U.N. Watch, called out European countries for not speaking out against the United Nations on this matter. "If U.K., France, Germany & others stay silent as Syria assumes presidency of U.N.'s Conference on Disarmament – the body which produced the treaty against chemical weapons – this will make a mockery of everything they said this week," Neuer tweeted. "Having the Syrian regime of Bashar Assad preside over global chemical and nuclear-weapons disarmament will be like putting a serial rapist in charge of a women's shelter," said Neuer. The NGO announced it intends to hold protests outside the U.N. hall. U.S. State Department Spokeswoman Heather Nauert also condemned the U.N.'s decision, calling it an "outrage." "That would be an outrage if Syria were to take control of that," she said. "We have seen these types of things happen at the United Nations before, where suspicious countries, countries that run against everything that an individual committee should stand for, will then head up that committee." Under U.N. rules, the Syrian ambassador to the forum, Hussam Edin Aala, will "represent the body in its relations with states, the General Assembly and other organs of the United Nations, and with other international organizations."

**Honduran lawmakers vote to move embassy to Jerusalem**

Lawmakers in Honduras voted on April 12 to relocate the country's embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. "Israel congratulates the National Congress of Honduras for passing with an overwhelming majority a resolution in favor of opening an Embassy in Jerusalem," Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Emmanuel Nahshon said on Twitter. Honduran lawmakers approved the measure 59-33, which now must be approved by the executive branch. "A notice has been sent to the secretary of state in the Foreign Ministry who handles [Honduran] ties to the Israeli people, according to which Honduras should consider moving its embassy in Israel to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv," said National Congress First Secretary Jose Tomas Zambrano Molina. Earlier that week, Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat announced that Guatemala will open its new embassy in Jerusalem just two days after the United States in mid-May.

*Eye-Catching*  
**Classifieds**

**SUSAN JABLON**  
Party Gifts  
Luxury All-Natural Soap  
12 Alice St.      susan@susanjablon.com  
Binghamton, NY 13904      607.349.0553

**SUE E. RAPP, LCSW-R**  
Counseling for  
teens & adults  
All major insurances accepted  
300 Main Street      srapp@stny.rr.com  
Vestal, NY 13850      607-743-4536

**ALBRITE ELECTRIC**  
KSA, Inc.  
When you want it done right call Albrite!  
(607) 748-2105  
**ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR**  
607-748-2150  
Residential & Commercial  
• Troubleshooting • Panel Upgrades •  
• Outlets • Switches • Generators •  
• Indoor/Outdoor Lighting • Electric Heat •  
• And ALL Your Electrical Needs! •  
Fax: (888) 831-7958  
Email: ksa@albriteelectric.com  
www.albriteelectric.com  
Licensed & Insured

For more information on advertising, contact Bonnie Rozen at 724-2360, ext. 244 or bonnie@thereportergroup.org.  
**THE REPORTER**  
Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton

**YOUR HEATING & PLUMBING SPECIALISTS**  
**BAKER'S PLUMBING & HEATING**  
We Also Do Natural Gas Conversions & All Plumbing Work  
Free Estimates • Fully Insured • Residential & Commercial  
We Install, Service & Repair...  
Furnaces • Air Conditioners  
Water Heaters • Gas Fireplaces  
SERVING BROOME & TIOGA COUNTIES  
pbaker927@yahoo.com      754-6376  
Emergency Service 24 Hours

**HANDYMAN 4 SENIORS, INC.**  
All your home maintenance and repairs, along with in-home care services. These care services include but are not limited to:  
• Bath Assistance  
• Meal Prep  
• Cleaning  
• Shopping, etc.  
John Jacoby M.C.  
Valerie Jacoby C.N.A.  
(Licensed & Insured)  
888-540-0320  
www.handyman4seniors.com

Cleaning Services:  
• Green Cleaning  
• Real Estate Cleaning  
• Passover Cleaning  
• Domestic Cleaning  
• Office Cleaning  
• Commercial Cleaning  
• Construction Cleaning  
• Window Cleaning  
house cleaning & special projects  
\$25 per hour  
**Dust Bunniez**  
Cleaning Service  
www.dustbunniez.com  
(607) 644-8886  
Bonded & Insured

**GARY RILEY**  
I'll drive you or  
I'll deliver your vehicle near or far,  
pets welcome!  
REFERENCES AVAILABLE  
607-760-0530  
GRILES45@GMAIL.COM

**SUCCESS NETWORK**  
Success Network is a small business association whose members are exclusive in their category and are organized to assist each other in providing and receiving business leads.  
Enjoy a free lunch on us when you become a member!  
For more information or if you are interested in membership, please contact Bonnie Rozen at (607)724-2360, ext. 244.  
Businesses helping businesses grow!  
www.successnetworkbc.com

**COOK'S TREE SERVICE**  
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL  
Fully Insured  
Free Estimates  
Our 48<sup>th</sup> Year  
NEW YORK CHAPTER  
**ISA** CERTIFIED ARBORIST  
Professionals In All Phases Of:  
• Tree Care • Tree Stump Removal  
• Trimming Trees Shrubs & Tall Hedges  
• Tree Insect & Disease Identification & Treatment  
WWW.COOKSTREESERVICE.NET  
607-748-2347  
4 Pumphouse Rd Vestal, N.Y.