

THE REPORTER

Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton

BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK

May 9-22, 2025
Volume LIV, Number 9

JCC Annual Meeting to be held on June 5

The Jewish Community Center will host its Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 5, from 6:45-9 pm. All JCC members, friends and supporters are welcome to attend. The event is free to the community. Anyone planning on attending is asked to call the JCC office to make a reservation at 607-724-2417.

The evening will begin with a dessert buffet prepared by chef Victor Torres from 6:45-7:30 pm. From 7:30-8:30 pm, there will be a series of awards presentations honoring those individuals who went above and beyond in their service and dedication to the JCC this past year.

Two of the awards being presented

are going to longtime members of the community. Harry Cohen will receive the JCC Chai Award for 18 years of dedicated service to the Center and for the positive role he has played in the lives of thousands of children who grew up under his guidance. Rabbi Rachel Esserman will receive a special Presidents Tikken

Olam Award to thank her for the importance of the contribution she has made to the community through her 24 years as a member of *The Reporter* staff.

The event will conclude with the swearing in of a new JCC president, Justin Salkin, and the installation of the 2025-26 JCC Board of Directors.

Inter-Sisterhood event to be held on May 28

This year's Inter-Sisterhood event will be held on Wednesday, May 28, at 7 pm, at Beth David Synagogue, 39 Riverside Dr., Binghamton. The event will feature two performances from Present Arts Productions. The charge for the event will be \$7 per person and can be paid at the door. RSVPs are requested by Wednesday, May 21, to Temple Concord at 607-723-7355, Beth David at 607-722-1793, or Temple Israel at 607-723-7461.

Present Arts Productions will present two performances written and directed by Judith Present. The first will be a dramatic reading of "Four Ways to Hide," which

depicts four different characters and their particular experiences from the Holocaust. The second will feature the true story of Sophie Lyons, a Jewish pickpocket from many years ago who "lit the criminal world on fire with her wily con-woman ways."

"The performances will be interspersed with some lively, pre-recorded klezmer music," said organizers of the event. "Of course, there will be a wonderful assortment of refreshments and lots of schmoozing as well."



Bonnie DeForest as Sophie Lyons (Photo by Judith Present)

In addition to the evening's entertainment, attendees will have the chance to participate in a raffle that will include gift certificates to some local restaurants, two tickets to the Binghamton Black Bears Hockey team, gift certificates for Midway Lanes Bowling alley, two three-month memberships to the Binghamton Philharmonic Best Seat Club, Skate Estate free admission coupons, PS Restaurant gift certificates, Binghamton Rumble Ponies baseball

tickets, a gift certificate to Ristorante Dell'Arco in Endwell, a gift certificate to Frank's Italian Restaurant in Maine, two tickets to the KNOW Theater, an Art and Fable 500-piece puzzle and more. "A big thank you goes out to all these local businesses that have donated!" organizers added. "A very special thank you to Michael Wright and the Eisenberg Foundation for the generous grant to help fund this event."

Organizers of this year's Inter-Sisterhood event are Eileen Miller from Beth David Synagogue, Brooke Little from Temple Israel and Helene Philips from Temple Concord.

Information for Federation calendar due June 13

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton is collecting information for its 2025-26 calendar. Dates for meetings, events and communitywide celebrations are due by Friday, June 13, and should be e-mailed to Executive Director Shelley Hubal at director@jfgb.org. The Fed-

eration will collate the dates and make certain there are no conflicts.

"We are a small, but active, community," said Hubal. "It is important to make sure there are no conflicts, so we can all enjoy the wonderful things our community has to offer us. Also, I greatly

appreciate when people send me their changes and additions during the year, so we can keep the calendar as accurate as possible."

The calendar can be found on the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton's website at www.jfgb.org/

community-calendar. "The calendar is a quick and easy way to see what is happening in the community," Hubal added. "It includes everything from lectures to board meetings. You might be surprised to see just how active our local organizations are."

BD Luncheon on June 14 to feature talk about Jewish artists at Roberson

Beth David Synagogue's next Shabbat Luncheon will be held on Saturday, June 14, Shannon Lindridge, collection director at Roberson Museum, will speak about "Jewish Artists in the Roberson Museum Collection." The talk was originally scheduled for February, but was postponed. The community is invited to attend. Morning services will begin at 9:30 am, with the luncheon and program following the conclusion of services. The luncheon is free and open to the public.

Lindridge has been researching and will speak about Jewish artists in the museum's collection. Her focus will be on 20th century works by Jewish artists from the region, as well as from elsewhere. Handouts will be made available for all who attend.

Lindridge obtained her B.S. from SUNY Cortland with a dual major in art history and studio art with a concentration in textile, and a minor in chemistry. She has worked in a variety of departments at The Dowd Fine Arts Gallery, The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, The Herbert F. Johnson Museum and The History Center of Tompkins County before joining Roberson as their collections director in 2010.

When organizers of the Beth David Luncheon speaker series reached out to Roberson's Executive Director Michael

Grasso with their request for a presentation on Jewish artists, he indicated that this data point had not previously been recorded, but that it was a valuable one. "Given the research that Shannon is engaged in for this project," organizers say, "we hope that at a future date Roberson will consider having an exhibit focusing on these artists - that would be truly wonderful. With this lecture, we are excited to get the ball rolling in that direction!"

To date, Lindridge has found at least a dozen Jewish artists in the Roberson collection. Among them is William Zorach (1887-1966), whose "Three Graces" statue can be found in the museum's courtyard. Considered a leading figure in the art world, his works are part of collections that include the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City and the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, DC.

"We are sure," organizers said, "that Shannon's presentation will open our eyes to what is right here in our community in that gem of a museum that is Roberson!"

Beth David's luncheon speaker series takes place the second Saturday of the month after Shabbat morning services, and is open to the community. There is no charge for the luncheon. Since the



An exhibit at Roberson Museum (Photo courtesy of Roberson Museum)

monthly series' continuation depends on the generosity of contributors, Beth David welcomes and appreciates donations to the Luncheon Fund in order to keep the program going. Donations can be made in honor of, or in memory of, someone, or to mark a special occasion. Those wishing an

acknowledgment to be sent to the person being honored, or to the family of someone being remembered, can indicate that, along with the necessary information. Donations can be sent to Beth David Synagogue, 39 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905, Attention: Luncheon Fund.

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Opinion

From the Desk of the Federation Executive Director

With gratitude

SHELLEY HUBAL

Michael Bolton has brain cancer. I was scrolling on my phone and saw the news about the singer from the 1980s and '90s. His music was never to my liking; however, I am captivated by the strength and compassion he is demonstrating during this painful time in his life. He is sharing his experiences with this illness in hopes of helping others by reminding them they are "not alone."

His message is worth repeating. Are you scared about the state of our democracy? You are not alone. Worried about how you are going to pay your bills next month? You are not alone. Having trouble connecting with your loved ones in a deep and meaningful way? You are not alone.

I wish I knew the right words to share during this difficult

time. One thing I know is that each and every one of us has a spark inside that can never be extinguished. This spark will heal you if you give it time and treat it with tenderness. It is knowing that God is always with you.

With gratitude for all the difficult lessons of life, and for the strength and wisdom of a seasoned crooner, I am sending prayers that you are all feeling less alone.

One Perspective from Israel

It wasn't his fault....: Part 2

JEREMY M. STAIMAN

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

Scooby welcomed three newborn humans into his growing family. In fact "Scooby" was the first word uttered by their eldest child!

He always treated the little ones gently, even when they pulled his ear, yanked on his tail, or treated him like their personal jungle gym. The only time he barked was when he was left outside on the porch, where he experienced FOMO (fear of missing out), because he wanted to be included in the goings-on inside.

Scooby was a great companion, with a bit of a mischievous side: he liked to run away from time to time. A lot of hours were spent over the years searching for him, at least until the advent of Apple AirTags, which helped the family locate him when he disappeared.

From time to time, families go away, and pets are not always welcome. Sometimes, my wife, Chana, and I would take him. Other times, there is a kindly family in Ramat Beit Shemesh that welcomed Scooby whenever they needed.

The Hirschhorn kids, Yehuda, Ezra, Shevy, Ashi and Nechama, really, really wanted a dog. Let's just say that their parents, Tevi and Shoshana, were not as excited about the idea. But the opportunity to have a dog around for a weekend, and then being able to give him back... that was much more appealing! The kids could enjoy Scooby, and there was no long-term commitment.

The Dog Days of War

On that black day of October 7th, 2023, Arky was called to duty. Like countless thousands of others, he ran home from the Simchat Torah services, traded his Yom Tov clothing for his green IDF uniform, and bid a quick, emotional farewell to his wife and small children (I'm not sure if Scooby got a hug, as well).

No one knew what lay ahead. Would he be gone for days, weeks, months?

Gayil, to her great credit, jumped into her new role. She had been Imma for a long time now. Now she had to be Abba, too. And cooker and cleaner and chauffeur and babysitter and... and... and! She was a rock, laser-focused on keeping her kids happy and safe. It took every ounce of strength to manage each day with a smile, but it was her sacred calling. Nothing else mattered.

And what of Scooby? On the one hand, he was a member of the family, too. On the other, the responsibility of walking him several times a day, taking him to the vet when needed, all while caring for her kids.... It was not simple.

A lot of people step up during war time, in a multitude of ways, big and small. And sometimes, the small things turn out to be game-changers.

Enter the Hirschhorns. Shoshana called: "Would you like us to take Scooby until Arky comes back from the war?" Such a simple, beautiful gesture, that would make a huge difference in the life of an army family determinedly

working to hold things together.

The Hirschhorn kids were thrilled. They finally had their dog, albeit temporarily. He was loved and cared for.

Arky came home a couple months later, but remained on call. He was later called back. Scooby remained in Ramat Beit Shemesh. Arky and Gayil's kids sometimes visited him when they were in the neighborhood. The situation was working.

Around six or seven months into the war, when it was evident that there was no apparent end date to the fighting, they asked the Hirschhorns if they would like to keep Scooby.

I don't know if Yehuda, Ezra, Shevy, Ashi and Nechama got a vote, but Tevi and Shoshana needed a little time to think about it. Not long later, they came back with a "yes" and Scooby is now a beloved member of their family, too. They tell us that he gives them as much love as they give him, and that he's an incredible emotional support, intuiting whenever someone needs companionship. He's also a bit of a celebrity around their community, as they are always out walking him, and he has quite a following among the local children.

Usually, war stories involving dogs are about their military service and sacrifice. This one is more about the thoughtfulness of friends, and the momentous difference it can make in a family's life.

That's truly a heroic tail!

In My Own Words

Mass shootings in 2025

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

They almost don't register anymore. In fact, while the press usually mentions their occurrence, many times, there is no follow-up story unless the mass shooting features some titillating detail of interest in addition to the violence. I remember the days when every mass shooting was not only reported, but the press offered continued news coverage and politicians and others noted their outrage over the shootings. Now politicians barely notice or comment on them, and most of us just shrug our shoulders and go on with our daily lives – that is unless we know someone who was injured or died.

I thought about this after reading a newspaper article

that noted, as of April 17, the Gun Violence Archive had counted the 81st mass shooting in the United States in 2025. According to the Mass Shooting Tracker, by April 28, there have been 105 mass shootings in the United States in 2025 while 6,637 mass shootings having occurred since January 1, 2013. The Mass Shooting Tracker defines a mass shooting "as a single outburst of violence in which four or more people are shot." (The site does note that it includes shootings even if no one dies. The FBI, on the other hand, "defines an 'active shooter' as one or more individuals actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a populated area." I'm not sure if they include those shootings where no one dies.)

What has happened that we now are immune to these brutal actions? I remember when any mass shooting was shocking. Talk of gun control and mental health education would fill the airwaves and newspapers. Now, no one seems to bother. It's assumed that no gun control will ever pass Congress. With mental health education and services being cut by the current administration, I expect we'll see even more shootings. We've come to expect this to happen and most of us see no hope of ever stopping to stop it. We just

go on with our day and pray our family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, etc. won't be caught up in the violence.

When I was a child and obsessing about some problem, my father, who had been in the Marines in World War II, used to remind me of my blessings by saying, "No one is shooting at you." While I realize in some parts of our country that has never been true, it was the truth for most of the American middle and upper class whose neighborhoods were considered safe. Our schools were safe. Our religious institutions were generally safe (except for the attacks on churches and synagogues during the Civil Rights Movement). Now they are not: doors are locked and police are requested when large events are held.

I have no answer for how to solve this problem, but we have many bright, intelligent people who could and should be working on it. Or are they, too, so used to American violence that all they can do is shrug and say it's not their problem? But it is. It is their problem. It is your problem. It is our problem and it is my problem. Maybe it's time we let our elected representatives know that it is also their problem and, if they don't do something about it, they might soon be looking for new employment.

Moving any time soon?

Whether you're moving across town or across the country, please let *The Reporter* know so you can stay up to date on community news! E-mail treporter@aol.com with "Reporter Address change" in the subject line, or call 607-724-2360, ext. 254, to let *The Reporter* know about your new address.



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of Greater Binghamton

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Extension#/Department ~ 1. Advertising 2. Business Office

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 deadline is noon, Wednesday, for the following week's newspaper (see deadline dates on page 3). All articles should be e-mailed to TRReporter@aol.com.

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"The Reporter" (USPS 096-280) is published bi-monthly (second and fourth Friday) for \$40 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 TRREPORTER@AOL.COM.

www.thereporter.org

JEWETICA cultural festival to be held on June 8

JEWETICA, the fourth annual cultural festival presented by the Jewish Community Federation of the Mohawk Valley, will be held on Sunday, June 8, from noon-6 pm, at the Jewish Community Center in Utica. The event will feature crafts, games, kosher food and music. Street parking near the festival is limited. Cars may be parked at Temple Emanu-El, 2710 Genesee St.; a free shuttle will be available.

“The smell of food and sounds of music will fill the air with local crafters selling their wares, kids playing games, popular Jewish chefs sharing their secrets and the Jewish community of the Mohawk Valley celebrating its heritage,” said organizers of the event.

Featured at the event will be Micah Siva, chef and author of “Nosh: Plant-Forward Recipes Celebrating Modern

Jewish Cuisine,” who will share her favorite recipes. A variety of other kosher food will be offered.

There will be musical performances by Boichik, a Syracuse Jewish rock band featuring Cantor Kari Eglash of Temple Concord, that performs contemporary and familiar Jewish and Israeli rock music; Joe Eglash, director of the largest publisher of Jewish music in the world, Transcontinental Music; local drumming veteran John Martin; contemporary accordion music; singer/songwriter Live Noah; local trio Chap-O’s playing traditional jazz from Jewish composers, and Cantor Kal Socolof.

“Come to schmooze, nosh, buy a tchotchke and enjoy!” said organizers.

TC Sisterhood Sabbath and installation on May 16

The Temple Concord Sisterhood Sabbath and the installation of the Sisterhood board for 2025-2026 will be held at Friday, May 16, at 7:30 pm, at Temple Concord, 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton.

Services will be conducted by Sisterhood members; Carol Herz will be the installing officer. The 2025-2026 Sisterhood board and all members of Sisterhood are encouraged to attend.

Officers to be installed are Barbara Thomas, president; Lani Dunthorn, past president; Nancy Dorfman, treasurer; Robin Haas, financial secretary; Marty Eisenstadt, recording secretary; Sandy Foreman, corresponding secretary; Marsha Luks, Babs Putzel-Bischoff, Linda Lisman and Bernice Zelman, directors 2024-26; Helene Philips and Deb Williams, directors 2025-27; and a Nominating Committee chairwoman TBA.

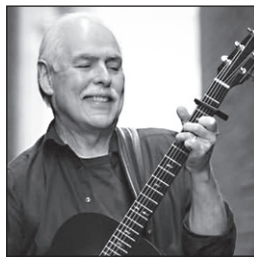
Additional Sisterhood positions include Putzel-Bischoff,

publicity chairwoman; Putzel-Bischoff, Rosh Hashanah Kiddush chairwoman; Tracy Putzel-Bischoff, Barbara Dickman, Luks and Gayle Klein, Rosh Hashanah Kiddush Committee; Ani Loew, Whale of a Sale chairwoman; Pam Burgman and another rummage sale co-chairwoman TBA; Herz, Robin Hazen and Susan High, Judaica Shop co-chairwomen; Williams, Artisan Marketplace chairwoman; Philips, Artisan Marketplace Committee; Stephanie Tarlowe, Sisterhood Sabbath chairwoman; and Philips, Intersisterhood.

Committee members include Jesse Parker, cradle roll; Deb Daniels, Phyllis Kellenberger and Roz Antoun, adult ed./programming, donor, and women’s seder; Sylvia Diamond and Eisenstadt, Friday night *onegs*; Jean Hecht, scholar-in-residence *oneg* chairwoman; Herz, Dunthorn and Julie Byers, membership co-chairwomen; Foreman and Eisenstadt, Hospitality Committee; Foreman, Haas and Byers, nominating committee; and Hecht, Sisterhood funds.

TC Sisterhood donor program on May 18 to feature Greg Neff

The Temple Concord Sisterhood will hold this year’s donor program on Sunday, May 18, at 3 pm, in the Kilmer Mansion, 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton. Greg Neff, a singer/songwriter/guitarist who specializes in music of the 1960s and ‘70s, will provide the entertainment. A variety of hors d’oeuvres and beverages will be served. Reservations should be made by contacting Roz Antoun at 607-644-0107 or rantoun77@stny.rr.com by Thursday, May 15. Sisterhood members who paid their donor



Greg Neff (Photo by RedMar Photography)

donation when they paid their 2024-25 dues are welcome to attend. The donor fee is \$25, or \$36 if one wants to bring a guest. Sisterhood members who are not sure if they paid their dues, or made a donor donation, should contact Helene Philips at hgphilips@stny.rr.com. “It is not too late to pay your dues or make a donor donation,” said organizers of the event.

Sisterhood programming chairwomen who organized the event are Antoun, Deb Daniels and Phyllis Kellenberger.

Beth David Sisterhood to hold donor event May 14

Beth David Sisterhood will hold its donor event on Wednesday, May 14, at 7 pm, at the home of Nancy Basmann. A minimum donation of \$25 is requested from those who attend the fund-raising event. The meeting will be open to everyone: members, non-members and men. Since a variety of desserts and noshes will be served at the meeting, an RSVP by Friday, May 9, would be appreciated and can be made by contacting Beth David Synagogue at 607-722-1793 to leave a message, or e-mail bethdavid@stny.rr.com. For the address of the event, also contact the synagogue office.



Nancy Basmann (Photo courtesy of Nancy Basmann)

images using examples of Jewish subjects.

Her photographs have appear in art books and hang in several local businesses. Currently, one of her images appears in an exhibit of the American Society of Photographers that is touring Texas galleries. Attendees will be able to look through her picture book “The Village of Endicott, IBM and the Rust Belt” (2022), which sold out at the Roberson Museum.

“Please do not hesitate to attend the meeting even if you neglected to notify us in advance,” said organizers of the event. “We always plan a little extra food just in case.”

Tea and Talk

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

Upcoming dates are:

- ◆ May 22 - musical performance
- ◆ June 5
- ◆ June 19

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



Jewish Center and Federation of the Twin Tiers

Job Opening for Administrator

The Jewish Center and Federation of the Twin Tiers (JCF) in Elmira, NY is searching for a part time Administrator for our organization.

More Information can be found at: <https://www.jewishelmira.org/>

This position comprises duties relating to the management of the JCF and its budget, as well as personnel and program responsibilities in coordination with community volunteers.

Application Submissions: Attach Cover letter and Resume as “.pdf” attachments to: employment.jcf@gmail.com

The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to the family of **Stephen L. Cohen**

The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to **Maxine Rosenberg** on the death of her husband, **Louis Henry Rosenberg**

REPORT DEADLINES

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

ISSUE	DEADLINE
May 23-June 12	May 14
June 13-26	June 4
June 27-July 10	June 18
July 11-24	July 2

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

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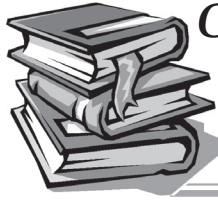
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Off the Shelf

Family, religion, country and love

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

Some novels offer a simple plot, at least, at first glance. For example, readers might be excused for thinking that “The Anatomy of Exile” by Zeeva Bukai (Delphinium Books) is only a story of forbidden love between a Jewish Israeli and a Muslim Palestinian. However, this brilliant work offers insights into the meaning of family, religion and national identity. Its many conflicted characters are looking to create meaningful lives, but their choices are often governed by emotions and forces that are out of their control.

One reason it’s possible to underestimate the power of this novel is because it is told from the point of view of one character: Tamar, a sabra (native born Israeli) from an Ashkenazic background. That is not true of her husband Salim, who was smuggled out of Syria with his sister, Hadas, in 1944. Since Salim and Hadas arrived before their parents, they were deliberately placed in a *kibbutz* where no one spoke Arabic in order to force them to learn Hebrew. Salim resents the Ashkenazic worldview of many Israelis and seems as comfortable with the Arab culture in which he grew up as he is with Israeli society.

The timing of the novel is important: its beginning and ending are bookmarked by very different wars. It opens just after the Six-Day War when the country is celebrating what seems to be a miracle: “After two thousand years of exile, Jerusalem was theirs again. They were humbled, awed, and triumphant. A month later, their bellies were still full of that triumph. They sang and danced in the Kings of Israel Square. Through it all, [Tamar had] been aware of Hadas’s unease, the ambivalence of her joy coupled with her sorrow for a peace that would never be and, later, sympathy for those who had believed their leaders and thought this war would see them back in the villages they’d lost in 1948 as if nothing had occurred, the last nineteen years erased.” Hadas’ unease has an additional cause: unknown

to her family, including her husband and brother, she is having an affair with a Palestinian poet, one that results in a murder/suicide.

Salim, who has no knowledge of his sister’s affair, reacts badly to his sister’s death and decides to move the family to the United States. Tamar is against the move: she wants their three children to be surrounded by the same culture that shaped her. Salim believes that, once in the U.S., he will become rich and promises they will return to Israel in five years. Their relationship is complex: Anytime Tamar questions one of Salim’s choices, she is accused of being disloyal. His word rules and his decisions are sometimes supported by violence, although he always apologizes afterward. Underlying their problems are the differences in cultures in which they grew up, especially when Salim feels he’s treated as lesser than those whose parents and grandparents came to Israel from Europe.

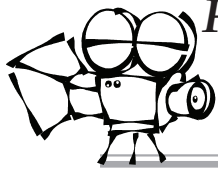
At first, no one in the family is happy after their move to Brooklyn. Salim has to work two jobs to pay for a small apartment. Their children, Ruby, Ari and Rachel, have difficulty adjusting to American culture. Ruby, who is a teenager, only begins to blossom when she meets Faisal, the son of a Palestinian family that moves into their apartment building. It’s clear the two teens are enamored with each other. Even though the families aren’t close, Salim is happy to have someone with whom to speak Arabic and tells Tamar not to worry about what he sees as a teen crush. But Tamar, who knows far more about Hadas’ life and murder than Salim, worries that history will repeat itself. Yet, interfering in the lives of these lovers has implications far beyond anything she expects.

There are many reasons that the relationship between Rudy and Faisal preys on Tamar’s mind, including worry about how Israeli society would treat the couple if they

ever returned home. But it is her knowledge about Hadas’ relationship with her lover that creates the greatest dread: “[Tamar] felt the same helplessness as after Hadas’s death. Only then she had no clear vision of the path they were on. Now she did and what she saw frightened her. Ruby had no idea of the danger she was in, of how love could turn into despair, of how fragile identity was. Her mother, after meeting Salim, had said, *cross a border and you’re lost*. Now all of these years later, Tamar reluctantly agreed with her. From the moment she met Salim, elements of her identity, her culture had been subsumed by his. She worried it would be the same for Ruby if she were with Faisal.”

It’s difficult to discuss the novel without giving away parts of the plot that readers should discover for themselves. However, it doesn’t ruin too much to note that latter part of the novel takes place in Israel and continues the story of Ruby and Faisal. Those sections are the most heartrending sections of the work. There is a simple line said by Faisal that may alter the way readers will think about not only him, but what Tamar is trying to accomplish. However, Faisal also helps Tamar come to terms with her and her daughter’s life in ways she didn’t expect. In fact, the beauty of this work is that every character is far more complex than they appear at first.

Underlying the decisions the characters make are the divide between their personal and social/political identities. What do you owe your country, especially a country like Israel, which is surrounded by enemies who want to destroy it? But what do you owe individuals, those who are not working against you, but who are seeking basic rights and equality in the country in which they also live? Should you leave your cultural heritage behind in order to make a relationship work? How much honesty do you See “Love” on page 7



Film Review

“The Brutalist”: Holocaust memory and subversion of the American dream

BILL SIMONS

As evidenced by the critical and popular success of the film “The Brutalist,” the horrors of the Shoah did not end with the closing of concentration camps. Reliant on neither flashbacks nor recapitulation, “The Brutalist,” nominated in seven categories, won three Oscars at the 2025 Academy Awards: Best Actor (Adrian Brody), Best Original Score (Daniel Blumberg) and Best Cinematography (Lol Crawley). “The Brutalist” unflinchingly conveys a terror that survivors could never forget, and that some future generation may obscure at humanity’s peril.

László Tóth – the Hungarian-born, architect survivor of Buchenwald and the film’s émigré protagonist – is inhabited by actor Adrien Brody, who wears an authentic, tortured visage. In the New York City and Philadelphia of the late 1940s, impersonal, commercial sex and the twin addictions of drugs and alcohol imperfectly ameliorate misery inflicted by Tóth’s memories of past suffering.

Generations of immigrants have passed by the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor. A symbol of expectation and compassion, the bronze plaque on the pedestal of the statue features Emma Lazarus’ poem “The New Colossus”: “I lift my lamp beside the golden door!” Looking up skyward, László first views a subverted upside-down Statue of Liberty, portent of ambiguities within the American Dream.

Initially, László finds refuge in the U.S. with his congenial cousin Attila, who established a furniture business in Philadelphia and informs László that his wife Erzsébet and niece Zsófia are alive and in transit. Attila and his

wife Audrey provide László with work in their store and a serviceable apartment attached to the business. However, after it is revealed to László, an observer of Jewish rituals, that Attila is an assimilationist and convert to Audrey’s Catholicism, serious disagreement between the cousins erupts. Moreover, László, who previously gained recognition for his architectural attainments in pre-war Budapest, experiences a rising contempt for Attila’s sloth and mediocrity.

After mounting anxiety over their mutual survival, László and his wife Erzsébet are reunited in Pennsylvania, fueling both ecstasy and unbearable consciousness of their intentional placement in separate concentration camps. In addition, Erzsébet, suffering from osteoporosis, is sensitive about her appearance and initially wheelchair bound. A journalist and convert to Judaism who yearns to bear a child in the faith of her husband, Erzsébet is tormented by the fragility of identity. To ease his wife’s pain, László ritualistically administers an illicit drug to her. As Erzsébet, Felicity Jones channels an anguish and resolve well matched to Brody’s László.

In the U.S., László and Erzsébet are also reunited with their niece Zsófia, remarkably rendered by Raffey Cassidy

in a performance of nuance and gradual revelation. Despite a painful comprehension of the world around her, Zsófia employs muteness as a shield against the omnipresence of the Holocaust and her mother’s murder. Years later, Zsófia resumes speaking, marries and decides to make *aliyah* to Israel.

Harrison Lee Van Buren – played by Guy Pearce, Oscar nominated as actor in a supporting role – is magnificently maleficent as the antagonist of “The Brutalist,” creating a memorable screen villain. Muscularly built, handsome, an exemplar of Horatio Alger success, a civic-minded philanthropic industrialist, loving to his motherless adult son and daughter, and a patron to cultural creatives, he is capable of cruelty and deceit. Van Buren both personifies and debases the American dream.

Authentic in his devotion to his dying mother, Van Buren confides that he crushed his grandparents, revenge against their contempt for his out of wedlock birth. Moreover, Van Buren’s patronage of the arts nestles sharp edges.

To honor his mother’s memory, Van Buren commissions László to construct a magnificent cultural center in See “Dream” on page 8



On the Jewish food scene

Post-Passover and pre-Shavuot

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

“Now that we are done with Passover, it’s time to think about Shavuot.” I’m not sure the head of the room was thrilled with that statement. As part of my chaplaincy work, we’ve been making Jewish food for her individuals and members of the staff. Last year, we (OK, the other staff) made a matzah brei that was very different than any I have ever had. (It was more like eggs and matzah, rather than a matzah pancake, but it still was good.) Last year and this year, I made the traditional Ashkenazic charoset (apple, walnuts, lots of cinnamon and grape juice, rather than wine). Rather than matzah brei, we made chicken soup with matzah balls, which was a big hit. The main course was grilled cheese sandwiches, but, hey, we did this before Passover, so that was fine. (It’s been a really long time since I had a grilled cheese sandwich and it was *so* good.)

After I mentioned Shavuot, I did let the staff person know that we have a bit of time before we needed to worry about that. After all, Shavuot arrives 50 days after the second day of Passover. (Those who count the *omer* will know how I immediately knew that number.) Last year, we made blintzes. That was after I’d mourned the fact that it’s rare to find homemade blintzes. (If you want to read my whining about that... I mean, my thoughts about that, you can find them at www.thereporter.org/features/on-the-jewish-food-scene-mourning-the-blintz.) The staff

thought of a blintz as a dessert, although, in my family, they were always the main course.

To make the meal complete (and as a way of ensuring we had something good to eat if the blintzes bombed), I brought not-homemade cheesecakes. (There is a really good version in the freezer section of the grocery store, so no need to create one of my own.) Fortunately, the blintzes were a success, but no one complained about having cheesecake for dessert.

The cheesecakes also proved a success at the other program where I do chaplaincy work. We had not planned a Shavuot program or food, but I thought, “Why not let them celebrate, too?” I brought two cheesecakes and, after placing them in the kitchen, made an announcement over the loudspeaker: “This is Rabbi Rachel. I am celebrating a holiday you never heard of, but we eat dairy on it and there are cheesecakes in the kitchen for all who want some.” That celebration was also a success.

What will I/we do to celebrate Shavuot this year? I have time, but, at a minimum, am considering bringing cheesecakes, even if we have no other ritual foods. I might even look to see if there are other interesting recipes on the web, but, over the years, I’ve been happy with what I consider the big three foods of the celebration: blintzes, cheesecakes and, of course, ice cream!

The Reporter is offering sponsorships!

Celebrate your simcha with the community or honor your loved one.

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

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

Federation held Yom Hashoah event



Above and below: More than 50 people attended the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton's Yom Hashoah program on April 22.



L-r: Suzanne Holwitt, president of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton; Dr. Eileen Angelini, Ph.D., a Holocaust scholar and educator who spoke at the event; and Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Federation, posed before the Federation's Yom Hashoah program, which took place on April 22.



Dr. Eileen Angelini, Ph.D., spoke about "Simple Acts of Human Kindness" that occurred during the Nazi occupation of France during World War II. She also screened sections of the documentary "La France divisée/France Divided" that highlighted these acts of kindness by non-Jews that resulted in some Jews surviving the Holocaust.

JCC Friendship Club

The JCC Friendship Club met on April 16. It was during Passover and we intended to talk about the holiday, but we discussed a lot more.

After reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and singing "Hatikvah," we decided to go out for lunch in May.

We thanked Rabbi Leiah Moser for coming and told her how much we enjoyed the seder at Temple Concord. We remembered how our families made seders when we were young children. We, then, read an article in *The Reporter*, which mentioned the Bund. Rabbi Moser explained that it was a political party in Europe many years ago. We learned that many Orthodox groups

are pro-Israel, but there are some that are not. They are waiting for the Messiah to come and the Temple in Jerusalem to be rebuilt. We talked a little about the start of the Reconstructionist movement by Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan. We also were informed that the Reform movement started in Germany and spread to America.

Join us on the third Wednesday of each month at the Jewish Community Center at 1:30 pm, except for this May. For further information, call Sylvia Diamond at 607-772-0726. We will meet at 1 pm at the Lost Dog Café on Wednesday, May 21.

Sylvia Diamond
President

Hillel Academy hosted Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration

Hillel Academy of Broome County held a community Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration on April 27. The celebration included Israeli food.



There were craft activities for children during Hillel Academy's community Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration.



Attendees chatted and children had a chance to use a bounce house during the Hillel Academy's community Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration.

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- 2) E-mail Federation Executive Director Shelley Hubal at director@jfjb.org with "pledge" in the subject line.
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Weekly Parasha

Acharai Mot-Kedoshim, Leviticus 16:1-20:27

What does it mean to be holy?

RABBI AARON SLONIM, DIRECTOR, THE ROHR CHABAD CENTER FOR JEWISH LIFE

We all want to be good, do what's right, pursue justice and generally leave this world a better place than we found it. If this were not enough, the Torah demands that we be holy. *Parashat Kedoshim* begins with God's message to the Jewish nation: "You shall be holy, for I, God, your God, am holy." (Leviticus 19:2). A daunting charge indeed. How does man respond? Where do we begin? What does it really mean to be holy?

The Torah does not leave us to second guess God's intention. In a veritable digest of commandments crisscrossing every area of life, there is instruction on how to achieve sanctity. This *parasha* includes every "type" of mitzvah: *bein adam l'makom*, those that effect our relationship with God; *bein adam l'chavairo*, those that impact our human relationships; *mishpatim*, torts and other logical rules for a civil society; *aidot*, those rituals that pay specific testimony to important tenets of Jewish belief and/or pivotal

junctions in our national history; and finally, *chukim*, the transcendent, wholly incomprehensible tenets. Included in the *parasha* are the "heavy weights," a number of injunctions featured in the Ten Commandments, as well as what appear to be unremarkable, simple details. Featured prominently are commandments that seek to protect the weaker, more vulnerable segments of society, as well as a comprehensive list of prohibited sexual relationships designed to protect us from our baser selves.

By way of example: this *parasha* includes laws concerning sacrifices and the commandment to keep Shabbat, as well as prohibitions against theft and deceit. An example of a *mishpat* is the prohibition against withholding a day laborer's wages; an example of an *aid* is the commandment to keep the Sabbath holy. One of the best known *chukim* appears here as well: *shatnez*, the prohibition against wearing a garment made of wool and linen. The *parasha* includes the

prohibition against idol worship, but it also concerns itself with rising in the presence of the elderly. We are taught of an elaborate social welfare system in which landowners had to designate a portion of their fields available to the needy for gleaning. And we have the prohibition against incest in its many permutations.

We can, after reading this portion, no longer claim ignorance about what it means to lead a sanctified life. We cannot but be impressed by the all pervasiveness of a code that demands sanctity in our personal lives, our relationships, our business dealing and our interaction with the environment and animals.

The overarching message of this Torah portion is that there is no need to divorce and divest ourselves of the material world to find sanctity – no need to climb mountains and seclude ourselves to find holiness. On the contrary, Torah See "Holy" on page 8

Congregational Notes

Temple Israel

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

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

On Saturday, May 10, Shacharit services will be held at 9:30 am via Zoom and in-person. The Torah portion is Leviticus 16:1-20:27 and the haftarah is Amos 9:7-15. A Zoom Havdalah service will take place at 9:15 pm.

On Wednesday, May 14, at 4:30 pm, the last day of Hebrew school until September.

On Friday, May 16, at 5:30 pm, a Lag B'Omer Cook-out Shabbat will be held.

On Saturday, May 17, Shacharit services will be held at 9:45 am via Zoom and in-person. The Torah portion is Leviticus 21:1-24:23 and the haftarah is Ezekiel 44:15-31. A Zoom Havdalah service will take place at 9:15 pm.

On Tuesday, May 20, at 7 pm, there will be a Board of Trustees meeting.

Temple Beth El of Oneonta

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

For the schedule of services, classes and events, contact the temple.

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.

Temple Beth-El of Ithaca

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

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

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

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

Synagogues limit face-to-face gatherings

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

Beth David Synagogue

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

Rohr Chabad Center

Affiliation: Chabad-Lubavitch
Rabbi Aaron and Rivkah Slonim, Directors
E-mail: aslonim@binghamton.edu
rslonim@chabadofbinghamton.com
Address: 420 Murray Hill Rd., Vestal, NY 13850
Phone: 607-797-0015, Fax: 607-797-0095
Website: www.Chabadofbinghamton.com
Rabbi Zalman and Rochel Chein, Education
E-mail: zchein@Jewishbu.com, rchein@Jewishbu.com
Rabbi Levi and Hadasa Slonim, Downtown and Development
Chabad Downtown Center: 60 Henry St., Binghamton
E-mail: lslonim@Jewishbu.com, hslonim@Jewishbu.com
Rabbi Yisroel and Goldie Ohana, Programming
E-mail: yohana@Jewishbu.com, gohana@Jewishbu.com
Regular service times: Daily 7:30 am, Friday evening 6 pm, Shabbat morning 9:30 am, Maariv and Havdalah one hour after candle-lighting time, Sundays 9:30 am.
To join the mailing list, for up-to-date information on adult education offerings or to arrange for a private tutorial, for details concerning the Judaica shop and resource center, or for assistance through the Piaker Free Loan Society or Raff Maasim Tovim Foundation, call Chabad's office at 797-0015.

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

Congregation Tikkun v'Or

Affiliation: Union for Reform Judaism
Address: PO Box 3981, Ithaca, NY 14852; 2550 Triphammer Rd. (corner of Triphammer and Burdick Hill), Lansing, NY
Phone: 607-256-1471
Website: www.tikkunvor.org, E-mail: info@tikkunvor.org
Presidents: Martha Armstrong and Mitch Grossman, Education_22@tikkunvor.org
Education Director/Admin. Coordinator: Naomi Wilensky
Bnai Mitzvah Coordinator: Michael Margolin
Services: All services currently on Zoom. E-mail info@tikkunvor.org for the times and links. Contemplative morning services every Tuesday from 8:30-9:30 am. Saturday mornings, Gan Shabbat and other special services at least once a month. Call for the weekly schedule.
Jewish Learning Experiences (JLE) for second through seventh grade classes meet on Sunday mornings. Sixth and seventh grades also meet on Wednesday afternoons. Family programs for kindergarten and first grade held monthly.
Adult Education: Offered regularly throughout the year. Check the website for details.

Friday, May 9, light candles before..... 7:53 pm
Shabbat ends Saturday, May 10 8:55 pm
Friday, May 16, light candles before..... 8 pm
Shabbat ends Saturday, May 17 9:02 pm
Friday, May 23, light candles before..... 8:07 pm
Shabbat ends Saturday, May 24 9:09 pm

Temple Concord

Affiliation: Union for Reform Judaism (this header block updates the current one.)
Rabbi: Leah Moser
Address: 9 Riverside Dr, Binghamton NY 13905
Office hours: Tues.-Fri., 10 am-2 pm
Phone: 607-723-7355
Office e-mail: TempleConcordBinghamton@gmail.com
Website: www.TempleConcord.com
Please contact Temple Concord for Zoom links.

Some services and programs are online only.
Fridays, May 9 and 16: At 7:30 pm, Friday Shabbat services are in person, on Zoom and Facebook.com.

Saturdays, May 10 and 17: At 9:15 am, Torah study is in person and on Zoom, and at 10:30 am, Shabbat service, in person only.

Tuesday-Thursday, May 13-15 and May 20-22: At 5:30 pm, evening prayers in person only.

Wednesdays, May 14 and 21: At 6 pm, "Jewish Mysticism" class in person and on Zoom.

Other events:
Saturday, May 10: At 6 pm, Community Board Game Night for all ages. Bring a favorite game to play or try out something new. Dinner will be provided. RSVP to the temple office to ensure enough food will be ordered.

Friday, May 16: At 7:30 pm Sisterhood Shabbat service and Installation of the 2025-26 board. Carol Herz will be the installing Sisterhood officer. The Shabbat service is coordinated by Stephanie Tarlowe.

Sunday, May 18: From 11 am-2 pm, Sacred Sites Open House as part of the Preservation Association of the Southern Tier and the NY Landmarks Conservancy. There is no cost to tour the building.

Sunday, May 18: At 3 pm, Temple Concord Sisterhood's Donor Program in the Kilmer Mansion. For more information, see the article on page 3.

Tuesday, May 20: At 7 pm, Social Action Committee meeting. For details, contact the temple office.

Norwich Jewish Center

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

Temple Brith Sholom

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

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

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

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

Love.....Continued from page 4

owe your family and friends? What happens if you are asked to keep secrets that if revealed might destroy other relationships? These are only a few of the many questions the novel leaves readers to ponder.

“The Anatomy of Exile” is the best novel I’ve read this

year and deserves a wide audience. Bukai has written a work whose meaning deepens the more readers ponder its characters’ behavior. I was tempted to break my rule of not giving away endings because the need to share my thoughts about what occurs is difficult to contain. Anyone

who loves literary novels should immediately read this work. Those interested in the complexities of Israel life will find eye-opening, challenging material here. This work is so powerful that it’s hard to believe it is Bukai’s first novel. I look forward to future works.

Business Profiles

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Ernest H. Parsons Funeral Home

Specialty: Funeral
 Location: 71 Main St.
 Binghamton, NY 13905
 Name: Joseph Fritsch
 Phone: 607-724-1336
 Fax: 607-724-1337
 E-mail: parsonsfuneral@yahoo.com
 Website: www.parsonsfuneral.com
 Hours: 24/7/365

The Ernest H. Parsons Funeral Home, located at 71 Main St., Binghamton, has been a landmark since 1928 and is located in the J. Stewart Wells Mansion, built by renowned architect Isaac Perry, who completed construction in 1867.

Ernest H. Parsons owned and operated the funeral home from 1928 until his death in 1976. Charles Mills purchased the funeral home after Ernest’s death and continued the tradition until his retirement in 2012. The current owners – J. Fritsch, R. Fynboe, S. Pitkorchemny and K. Vakiener – strive to uphold the original motto of the founder: “Let Us Serve You with Understanding.” Parsons Funeral Home offers distinctive service with respectful attentiveness to the ceremonial rites and the utmost consideration of families’ desires to accord a last tribute of affection and esteem to their departed loved ones.

Hopler & Eschbach Funeral Home

Specialty: Funeral services, burials and cremation
 Location: 483 Chenango St.
 Binghamton, NY 13901
 Name: Kurt M. Eschbach
 Phone: 607-722-4023
 E-mail: hoplereschbachfh@aol.com
 Website: www.hefuneralhome.com
 Hours: 24-hour service, 365 days a year

When faced with the death of a loved one, Hopler & Eschbach Funeral Home invites you to turn to its caring staff to help guide you through the funeral process. Deeply experienced and knowledgeable in the performance of Jewish burial customs, Kurt Eschbach and his staff are the most qualified professionals in the community to help plan and carry out your funeral or memorial services. They provide services at your synagogue, the funeral home or cemetery, and also provide cremation services and funeral pre-planning.

The funeral home and parking areas are newly renovated and spacious. Staff work diligently to provide the highest quality service at a cost that is 10-30% lower than other funeral homes. With their quality service, fair pricing and newly renovated facilities, Kurt and his staff believe you will make Hopler & Eschbach Funeral Home your new family tradition.

The Reporter

Specialty: Advertising
 Location: 500 Clubhouse Rd.
 Vestal, NY 13850
 Name: Kathy Brown
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 E-mail: advertising@thereportergroup.org
 Website: www.thereportergroup.org
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Advertising was a new field for Kathy when she started four years ago, but she’s discovered the pleasure of working with the clients, giving them ideas on how to promote their business using print ads. Her motto is “the client comes first” and, to prove that, she researches each client to see what they have done in the past and tries to figure out if there is a way to improve their ad-image. She also works with them to discover the ad sections that will best highlight their business.

Kathy has lived here for 40 years, moving from Long Island to meet and marry her husband. She loves the outdoors, even in the winter. She is ready to help you advertise your business in *The Reporter*, in Binghamton and Scranton, the best way she can. Call or e-mail her to discuss options.

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 Website: www.triplecitiesfamilydental.com
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Ancient stone capital with menorah to go on display

By JNS Staff

(JNS)—A rare 1,500 year-old stone capital decorated with a menorah, that was discovered just outside of Jerusalem, is going display, the Israel Antiquities Authority announced recently. The limestone capital, which is decorated with an eight-branched menorah, was unearthed five years ago during the construction of a new bridge at the entrance to Jerusalem in the bedroom community of Motza, the state-run archaeological body said. Israeli researchers believe the capital stood atop a pillar in a Roman-period building or street.

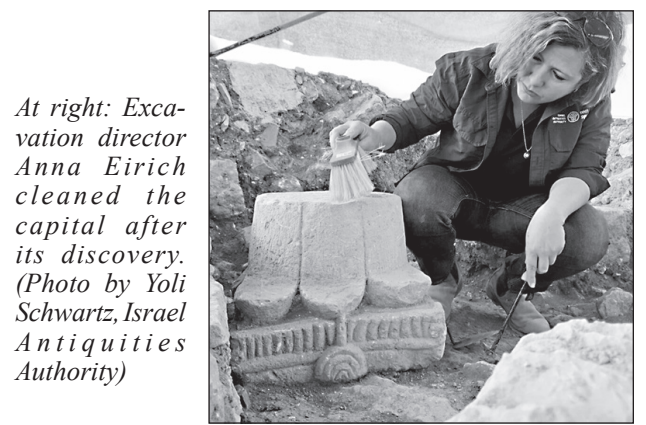
“The stone capital from the Jerusalem hills, decorated with the eight-branched menorah design, is unique, and a rare kind of discovery,” said Yuval Baruch, deputy director of archaeology at the IAA. He noted that a few decades after the Second Temple’s destruction, the menorah became the

distinct symbol of the Jewish people, both in the Diaspora and in the land of Israel. However, historical texts supported by archaeological research indicate that the Jewish settlement in Judea – and especially in the Jerusalem hills – suffered greatly as a result of the failed Bar Kokhba revolt in the second century C.E., to the point of being considered eliminated.

“Based on this reality, it is reasonable to surmise that this capital [stone] was brought from a destroyed site elsewhere merely to serve as useful building material here,” said Baruch.

The one-of-a-kind stone will be displayed at the Jay and Jeanie Schottenstein National Campus for the Archaeology of Israel.

“There is no more appropriate time to reveal this find to the public than in these very days of celebrating our identity as a nation,” said IAA Director Eli Escusido.



At right: Excavation director Anna Eirich cleaned the capital after its discovery. (Photo by Yoli Schwartz, Israel Antiquities Authority)

“My dad screamed he lost his arm,” states 12-year-old in “The Children of Oct. 7”

By Izzy Salant

(JNS)—Hundreds of people gathered in the Sherry Lansing Theater on the Paramount Studios lot in Los Angeles as actress and social-media influencer Montana Tucker, who has fiercely advocated for Israel in the wake of the Hamas-led terrorist attacks in southern Israel on October 7, 2023, addressed the crowd. Tucker, who is Jewish, wore an all-black outfit bedazzled with glittering Jewish stars. “Out of everything I’ve ever done, this is the most important,” she said.

Tucker is the host of a new documentary film titled “The Children of October 7,” which chronicles the mental states of a handful of children who survived the assault that led to the deaths of 1,200 people and the kidnapping of 251 others in the Gaza Strip, 50 of whom remain, both living and dead. It was the deadliest day in the modern-day state of Israel; the atrocities were likened to those of the Holocaust.

This advanced screening of the film, which runs 35 minutes long, was attended by many Jewish and pro-Israel celebrities, including actress Emmanuelle Chriqui, comedian Jeff Ross and musician John Ondrasik, known as “Five for Fighting.” The film began streaming on Paramount+ the following day, a feat that one of the film’s producers, Eytan Schwartz, told JNS was a “miracle.”

“We were aware that in the current climate, getting Israeli-related content on a major streamer would be a challenge,” Schwartz told JNS. “This is truly a dream come true. Through Paramount+, we will expose many millions of viewers to October 7, and equally important, preserve these stories for future generations.”

Holy Continued from page 6

is about synergy, about unlocking the holiness inherent in every facet of creation, in every aspect of our physical lives, in each one of our relationships. The world entire awaits elevation: it is poised in readiness for the sanctity that only we can confer upon it by acting on God’s call and challenge to humankind: Don’t just be: Be holy!



Actress and social-media influencer Montana Tucker addressed the audience before the screening of “The Children of October 7” on April 21. (Photo by Izzy Salant)

Tucker told JNS that she was “grateful to Paramount+” for “believing in this story.”

“These are the raw, unfiltered testimonies of innocent children who survived unimaginable terror,” she told JNS. “If people can truly see what these kids went through, maybe – just maybe – it can help change the world.”

On a panel after the film concluded, hosted by author and former professional football player Emmanuel Acho, Schwartz said it was important that the children themselves were telling the stories. “It was clear we had to record these stories while they were still children for the world,” he said, likening his reasoning to archiving stories of the Holocaust.

“I felt we should let them share their stories without putting words in their mouth without judgment,” added Asaf Becker, the film’s director.

Yael Idan, who was 11 when she was interviewed for the film, described watching her sister being killed in front of her and her father, Tsachi Idan, who was taken hostage. Tsachi’s body was returned to Israel as part of the cease-fire-for-hostage deal in February.

Idan was present for the film’s premiere. “I want peo-

ple to be aware of what really happened and give people a chance to hear the kids’ stories,” she said through tears on the panel, adding that this screening was extra special because it was premiering on her father’s birthday. “I’m still struggling,” she added.

“What makes it so hard to watch is that we hoped that Yael’s father would return alive,” said Becker. “Originally, we ended the film with a tiny bit of hope, but now we have a sad ending.”

The film also interviewed 12-year-old Eitan Yahalomi, son of Ohad Yahalomi. Both were taken captive by Hamas. While Eitan was released after 52 days in captivity, his father’s body was returned with Tsachi’s.

In the case of Rotam Mattias, neither of his parents survived the day. “They opened the door, shot fully automatic everywhere. They threw a grenade,” he said in the film. “It blew up. My dad screamed that he lost his arm. I didn’t see my dad fall over. But I knew my mom... I knew she was dead immediately.” Mattias revealed that his mother had died shielding him. She died protecting her son.

The first thing Acho did at the end of the screening was tell the audience they had permission to cry. And while the sentiment in the room was indeed somber, many said they felt pride in the ability to talk about such devastating events and to be witnesses to the truth.

“We’ve dedicated our lives to telling these stories,” Schwartz said to the crowd.

Musician Justin Jesso, a longtime friend of Tucker’s who had seen the film three times before the premiere, told JNS that he was “immensely proud” of her for “championing these stories.”

“No one should have to suffer the way these children have,” he told JNS. “I hope, in bearing witness to these heartbreaking true stories, it can bring us closer to peace.”

Ross, the comedian, told JNS that he was “fascinated” by Tucker’s courage and made a point to attend the premiere because he “backs up his people” – meaning, the Jewish community. “Jews are tough, people forget that,” he told JNS. “We’re resilient. We know how to bounce back and take care of each other.”

Dream Continued from page 4

Doylestown, PA, on the outskirts of metropolitan Philadelphia. The center, built from quality materials, will host and promote theater, literature, visual arts, research, gymnastics and other cultural achievements. Above the structure, two large towers will create the symbol of a Christian cross, which will replicate above the edifice’s marble altarpiece when natural light enters the foundational chapel. To Van Buren, the naturally lighted cross represents the aesthetic of his mother’s establishment Protestantism and that of American civilization.

At a deeper level, Harrison Lee Van Buren and his privileged son Harry Lee Van Buren regard the Doylestown cultural center as less a sacred bequest and more a bauble drawing attention to their wealth and status. Despite words to the contrary, neither of the Van Burens like nor respect László. His architectural talent makes László a valuable asset, but certainly not a social equal. As they walk an outside vista overlooking the uncompleted cultural center, Harry turns back to pointedly fix an eye on László, reminding him that he is “tolerated.” By context, “The Brutalist” implies that the most Jews can hope for in America is to be “tolerated.”

In the quarries of Carrara, Italy, assessing marble for

the chapel altarpiece, Harrison Lee Van Buren brutally completes the lesson that son Harry has started with László. Angrily approaching László who is lying on the ground in an inebriated stupor, Harrison bellows that if the architect’s people – who are, of course, Jews – want respect, they should act worthy of it. Harrison then proceeds to rape László, not out of lust or homosexual desire, but to impose dominance and absolute control.

Disrupting an elegant and intimate Van Buren dinner, Erzsébet, imbued with righteous anger, confronts the family with Harrison’s rape crime. Responding with compelling enigma, director Brady Corbet leaves open whether a disgraced Harrison found escape in flight or committed suicide.

The appearance of the twin towers at the Doylestown community center evolves into a warning against oppression. In 1980, Zsófia, before a large and appreciative audience, delivers a tribute epilogue. The gathering, set in Venice, includes her still living Uncle László, whose now numerous architectural achievements have earned near universal respect. The film concludes with Zsófia’s final words: “No matter what others try to sell you, it is the destination, not the journey.”

Despite the truths it conveys, “The Brutalist,” borrowing from accounts of multiple Jewish émigré architects, is not strictly autobiographical. Nor is it primarily concerned about the deconstruction of Art Deco aesthetics by the brutalist emphasis on utilizing premier materials and making the consistency between form and function apparent. Like the 1949 film “The Fountainhead,” “The Brutalist” aligns with the vision of the artist over the pretensions of the patron.

Epic in scope with 3.5-hour playtime, “The Brutalist” is now available through on-line video platforms. Although some viewers will find the presentation intense and disturbing, significance, content, and quality render “The Brutalist” a masterpiece.

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