

# THE REPORTER

Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton

May 17-30, 2024  
Volume LIII, Number 10

BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK

*Event by invitation only*

## Federation to hold Security Tabletop event on May 21

**By Reporter staff**

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton will hold a Security Tabletop event on Tuesday, May 21. All local Jewish organizations have been invited to send leadership to represent their institution. "This event will be by invitation only," said Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Federation. "It is open to organizations affiliated with the Jewish Federation and their public safety partners. Due to space considerations, only one or two people will

be invited from each organization."

According to Pete Owen, protective security advisor, Central New York, Region 2 of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, this discussion-based, tabletop exercise will provide participants with an opportunity to talk about their intelligence and information sharing protocols, response plans, recovery operations and family reunification plans. It will also include a series of scenarios that



will give participants the opportunity to discuss how they would respond.

He noted that the exercise objectives include:

- ◆ The examination of pre-incident and incident intelligence and information sharing procedures between federal, state and local agencies and faith-based organizations.
- ◆ The examination of emergency response plans and procedures for use during a complex coordinated attack with a focus on

community coordination, incident response, incident logistics, operational coordination and public messaging protocols.

◆ The examination of immediate and intermediate response and recovery procedures following a complex coordinated attack.

"This event will help local Jewish organizations learn how to handle a crisis in better and more efficient and professional ways," said Hubal. "It is part of the Federation's continuing work to make our community a safer and more secure place."

## Reporter wins Syracuse Press Club Award

**By Reporter staff**

Bill Simons won second place in the Syracuse Press Club awards' Print/Digital News: Non-Daily or Special Interest: Sports Story for his three-part series "Yentl at the Bat." The articles look at three women's connection to baseball: filmmaker Aviva Kempner, biographer Jane Leavy and sports scholar Rebecca Alpert. (Simon's columns can be found at [www.thereportergroup.org/miscellaneous-features/jewish-baseball-players-yentl-at-the-bat-pt-i-jewish-women-baseball](http://www.thereportergroup.org/miscellaneous-features/jewish-baseball-players-yentl-at-the-bat-pt-i-jewish-women-baseball), [www.thereportergroup.org/features/jewish-baseball-players-yentl-at-the-bat-part-ii-jewish-wom-](http://www.thereportergroup.org/features/jewish-baseball-players-yentl-at-the-bat-part-ii-jewish-wom-)

[en-and-baseball-jane-leavy-442915](http://en-and-baseball-jane-leavy-442915) and [www.thereportergroup.org/miscellaneous-features/jewish-baseball-players-yentl-at-the-bat-part-iii-jewish-women-and-baseball](http://www.thereportergroup.org/miscellaneous-features/jewish-baseball-players-yentl-at-the-bat-part-iii-jewish-women-and-baseball).)

In his opening column, Simon noted that "Jewish women in baseball remain subject to neglect. Girls and women with baseball interests are typically relegated to softball and spectatorship, and, for Jewish females, ethnicity has added an additional barrier. Although occasional exhibits, conferences and publications have referenced



Bill Simons  
(Photo courtesy of Bill Simons)

Jewish women in baseball, more work is needed." His work was an attempt to rectify part of that problem.

Simon was pleased to have received the award. "I appreciate this award from the Syracuse Press Club," he said. "At a time when polarized, unsubstantiated social media poses as news, it means a great deal to be honored by the Syracuse Press Club given its high journalistic standards and encouragement to community and regional journalism. I take seriously the opportunity and responsibility of being a

columnist for *The Reporter*, which under its editor, Rabbi Rachel Esserman, is determined to provide substantive and reliable news alongside fair and insightful commentary."

"We're so pleased that Bill has won another award," said Rabbi Rachel Esserman, executive editor of The Reporter Group. "His columns are a wonderful addition to the paper. Sports fans have told me how much they enjoy his work and readers of his other columns note how his wide range of interests adds a different dimension to the paper. We look forward to publishing more of his articles."

## Federation sponsored a school tour of Auschwitz

**By Reporter staff**

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton sponsored a two-hour virtual tour of the Auschwitz concentration camp for the sophomore class at Susquehanna Valley High School on April 29. The tour was part of the Federation's security outreach, which seeks to educate the local community about Judaism, antisemitism and the Holocaust. The class also read "Night" by Elie Wiesel. The tour sought to enhance students' understanding of the Holocaust. Approximately 100 students were in attendance.

"I could not think of a more impactful way to teach a new generation of students

about the Holocaust," said Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Federation. "Using Google Earth images, detailed explanations and photographs, Dr. Jerzy Wocjik, a professional guide at Auschwitz, had the students engrossed. I hope this is just the start of offering quality Holocaust education in our schools."

Hubal added, "One of the take-aways from the needs assessment that Federation produced last summer was the need for more outreach to students. This virtual tour will help a new generation of Americans understand the scope of hate and terror that was endured during the Holocaust."

At right: Guide Dr. Jerzy Wocjik explained the images and photographs that showed what occurred at the Auschwitz concentration camp.



## Yom Hashoah commemorated



Around 60 people gathered outside Temple Israel for the first part of the Yom Hashoah remembrance event held on May 2. The event was co-sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, Hillel at Binghamton, Beth David Synagogue, Temple Concord and Temple Israel. See more photos on page 5. (Photo by Steven Gilbert)



Approximately 100 Susquehanna Valley High School students listened to Dr. Jerzy Wocjik discuss photos and images taken at the Auschwitz concentration camp.

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## Opinion

From the Desk of the Federation Executive Director

## With gratitude

SHELLEY HUBAL

It's like getting punched in the gut. Every time I tune into the news, my stomach drops. I'm sure I don't need to explain why current events are so painful, but I do want to share some of what I have been thinking about regarding the war in Israel and the unrest in the United States.

First and foremost, I believe that the loss of innocent lives to violence and brutality goes against Jewish values – that all life is valuable, all life should be cherished.

There are few words to adequately describe the brutality of Hamas' evil campaign of rape, torture and murder that began on October 7. I find it deeply disturbing that the world seems to have forgotten that Hamas continues to hold more than 130 innocent hostages captive.

If the goal of the protestors on college campuses was to end the war in Gaza, then I am afraid their mission has

failed. Instead, they took the attention off Gaza and onto the unrest itself. They have painted Hamas as innocent victims and given them no reason to participate in talks of a cease-fire. Furthermore, they have oversimplified a complex issue that goes back for millennia and imposed a false narrative of "oppressed and oppressor." The facts are that Hamas is a terrorist organization that uses civilians as human shields. They have diverted humanitarian resources away from Palestinian civilians for years, their aim is to annihilate Israel and they have repeatedly rejected opportunities for peace for decades. It is also a fact that antisemitism is rising at an alarming rate stoked by disinformation and the war.

Despite the evils of Hamas, like so many Jewish people with whom I have spoken in the last seven-plus months, I

am praying that Israel's government will have the courage to seek a peaceful resolution to the war. The loss of innocent civilians in Gaza is too painful to bear and I have come to believe that we can and must hold two truths: first, Israel has the right to defend itself against Hamas terrorists and, second, Israel must do everything possible to stop the bloodshed and get humanitarian aid to those in need. I understand this is a very difficult task, but the two are not necessarily mutually exclusive.

Nobody can say how and when this nightmare will end. Does it end with the release of hostages? Does it end with a cease-fire? Does it end with new leadership? We can only pray that it does end and soon because an end to the violence is the only way to recover from a punch in the gut.

One Perspective from Israel

## A tin of love and cookies

JEREMY STAIMAN

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

I don't remember if my parents were big coffee drinkers.

What I do remember is that my mother used many empty tin cans from her Folgers coffee to store cookies. Specifically, chocolate chip cookies.

More specifically, her Amazingly Delicious Chocolate Chip Cookies (henceforth, ADCCC).

Lays Potato Chips claims, "You can't eat just one," but they've got nothing on my mother's ADCCC. There was no greater gift than to receive a Folgers tin of those cookies. They were heaven on earth.

I had the privilege of spending three years post-high school in yeshiva here in Israel. One of those years overlapped with my younger brother Maish's gap year in Israel.

At some point during the year, my mother sent a pack-

age of love for the two of us – two tins of her ADCCC. It didn't take long for me to down the contents of my tin.

What happened next was all too predictable. The thin plastic lid could not muffle the voices emanating from inside the can.

"He won't notice if you eat just one!"

"Maybe he doesn't know that Mommy sent them, anyway."

See "Cookies" on page 8

In My Own Words

## Meandering thoughts about...

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Antisemitism and Jesus. Yes, I know some of you are shaking your heads, but a question about that connection was recently raised in Congress. (More on that in the next paragraph.) Antisemitism is a hot topic in the Jewish community, so much so that the larger community has chimed in on the debate. So many books on the subject are being published that there is no way I could read and review all of them. (Well, unless I could spend three work weeks focusing just on reading and writing about them. Yeah, that is so not going to happen.) The interesting thing, though,

is that there is no consensus on a definition of antisemitism. That includes recent congressional legislation on the topic. You know there is a problem when the far right and ACLU both disapprove of the legislation, although for very different reasons.

It's actually the disapproval on the far right that interests me. One member of Congress (she gets enough free publicity for her outrageous statements that I'm not going to name her) said the definition is in conflict with a fundamental theological principle of Christianity. She noted that

it might become illegal to say that Jews were responsible for the death of Jesus. Her statement included the fact that the Jews of that time handed Jesus over to the Romans to be killed. This has also been understood by many to mean that the Jews killed Jesus.

A former grade school Catholic friend thought that. I have no direct recall of our conversation because I blocked out the memory. I learned what happened one day after asking my mom if she remembered why I stopped playing with the kids down the street. My mom was surprised that I didn't remember because she said I was really upset. According to her, I came home spitting mad, saying, "[Person's name] said I killed Jesus. I did not kill Jesus!" I now find that exchange amusing because the idea is ridiculous, but as a young child, I took *everything* seriously. However, the basic idea is interesting from a variety of theological and political viewpoints.

I am not going to write about the theological implications because the political implications are more relevant to my discussion of antisemitism and Jesus. The member of Congress who voted against the legislation also opposes teaching about the more difficult and distressing eras of American history. She and others are worried that children will feel bad about the United States and need to be protected from learning the real history of our country. That's a euphemistic way of saying they don't want them to hear about the horrific way the United States treated Native Americans and African slaves.

They would also like Native Americans and the descendants of those who were slaves to forget about the past. They believe the past should remain in the past and that there were no lasting repercussions from that treatment, something that is patently false. This is similar to those who say we Jews should stop talking about the Holocaust: according to them, it occurred a long time ago, so we need

See "Thoughts" on page 7

Letters

## Akshar thanked for community support

To the Editor:

After the devastating attack on Israeli civilians on October 7, local leaders across America stood in support of our greatest ally and their people. We've seen our community join hand-in-hand and our elected leaders rally together.

One particular local elected official has gone above the call of duty to support our Jewish community and the hundreds of Jewish students who call Binghamton home.

In raising the Israeli flag at the Broome County Public Safety complex and Sheriff's Administration building, our Sheriff Fred Akshar sent a strong message that all forms of hate are not welcome in our community.

Sheriff Fred Akshar has been a true leader in supporting Israel and the local Jewish community.

The powerful, symbolic nature of seeing our American flag and the Israeli flag flying together demonstrates a unity and a commitment to seeing democracy and peace prevail in our world.

It shows solidarity for the lives lost that horrific day. It shows that Jewish students should feel comfortable going to class without being name-called, berated, threatened or worse.

As a leader charged with the safety and security of all of our community members, no matter their race, religion, creed, beliefs or other identifiers shamefully used to sow division, Sheriff Akshar is leading by example to ensure these promises are kept.

Sheriff Akshar has made sure that his team is on high alert to provide the safest streets and prevent antisemitism year-round, but especially during our most holy days.

In meeting with local Jewish leadership, he understands the difficult nature of the task ahead. That's why we must continue to come together and be vocal in our condemnation of hate speech whenever it rears its ugly head. We know Sheriff Akshar will be right there with us.

Benji Federman and Joy Yarkoni



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**OPINIONS**

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

**LETTERS**

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

**ADS**

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

**DEADLINE**

Regular 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-weekly 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](http://www.thereporter.org)

# Valerie and Leonard Preston to be honored at BD dinner on May 19

Beth David Synagogue's Annual Dinner will take place on Sunday, May 19, with the Jack and Mary Ferber Award being given to honorees Valerie and Leonard Preston. This year's catered event will begin at 3 pm at the synagogue, with a cocktail and hors d'oeuvres hour, followed by a sit-down dinner. The cost per person is \$60, with sponsorships available. Invitations have been sent out, as well as raffle tickets for purchase for the cash prizes at the event. Those wanting further information can contact the synagogue at 607-722-1793 or bethdavid@stny.rr.com.



Valerie and Leon Preston

Judaism in Russia was dangerous. Valerie noted that "Josef Stalin, who was responsible for the deaths of countless Jews, ironically died on Purim in 1953." Valerie's mother, who was also an engineer, told Valerie how she had responded to a coworker who said he had been insulted by a man who said that he looked Jewish. "Don't worry," her Mom answered, "no Jew would want someone who looks like you!"

After years of waiting for permission from the Soviet government to leave Russia, the Prestons were finally able to emigrate in 1976. They moved to Omaha, NE, where they had distant relatives. There, they joined a synagogue and became part of the Jewish community. Their daughter, Anna, was born in Omaha, where both Leonard and Valerie worked as engineers. "Because women engineers were such a rarity at that time," Valerie recalled, "men from other parts of the building would walk by and stare at me, as if I was a strange animal in a zoo!"

The Prestons then moved to California, continuing their engineering careers, with Leonard as project manager at GTE and Valerie as a group leader for a consulting company. "How did we have the good fortune of having you finally settle in Vestal?" organizers asked the Prestons. Leonard jokingly recollected that on a business trip to the Northeast, "I found myself considerably lost in a place called Vestal, NY, and the rest is history! We love the slower-paced lifestyle and the community. Our children and grandchildren are nearby, and we have lived here ever since 1991!"

"Longtime members of Beth David Synagogue, the Prestons have earned the love and respect of all of us," said event organizers. "They are wonderful beyond words, and we are looking forward to celebrating them at this elegant shul event!"

The Prestons were born in the Soviet Union in Saint Petersburg, where they were trained and worked as engineers. Leonard was a company's chief engineer and Valerie was a senior communications engineer. From their early years, they were both made aware that they were Jewish and were encouraged to be proud of their heritage. Openly practicing

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"Len and Valerie have been devoted members of Beth David for longer than many of us can recall, organizers said, "and have always graciously albeit quietly pitched in at the shul whenever they could. It is our distinct pleasure to honor them with the 2024 Jack and Mary Ferber Memorial Award!"

## Information for Federation calendar due May 31

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton is collecting information for its 2024-25 calendar. Dates for meetings, events and communitywide celebrations are due by Friday, May 31, and should be e-mailed to Executive Director Shelley Hubal at director@jfgb.org. The Federation will collate the dates and make certain there are no conflicts.

important make sure there are no conflicts so we can all enjoy the wonderful things our community has to offer us."

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."

"Sima Auerbach, former Federation director, started coordinating the community calendar many years ago," said Hubal. "We are a small, but active, community. It is

## BD Sisterhood June meeting to discuss homeschooling

The final meeting of Beth David Sisterhood for the 2023-24 season will be held on Wednesday, June 19, at 7 pm, at Beth David Synagogue. The meeting will be open to both men and women, whether or not they are affiliated with Beth David Sisterhood or Beth David Synagogue. The evening's speaker will be Rivka Ayelet Kellman, who will relate her personal experiences homeschooling her daughter. She will discuss various approaches to homeschooling, some of which, such as "unschooling," have been called controversial, but effective.

and mitzvah cards, which are \$3 each, may be requested at any time.

Also, Stacey Silber continues to accept donations of new and used items of all types that she will attempt to sell in order to raise money for Sisterhood. Anyone with items to donate should contact Silber directly at 607-727-9738 or silbercreations@gmail.com, or notify the Beth David office.

Anyone on the Sisterhood's e-mail list should receive a flyer designed by Rabbi David Serkin as a reminder about the meeting. Anyone who wishes to be added to the list should send their e-mail address to the Beth David Synagogue office at bethdavid@stny.rr.com with the request.

Kellman is a Jewish educator of students of all ages and has been a homeschooling parent for five years. She has a background in curriculum design and psychology of education.

"Even though none of us are likely to be home schooling any of our children or grandchildren, it should be fascinating to learn about these approaches to education which were unheard of when most of us were school age," said organizers of the event.

Donations for CHOW will be accepted at the meeting,

The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to **Nancy Wulwick Basmann** on the death of her husband,  
**Robert Basmann**

The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to the family of  
**Edward Marshall Gartell**

The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to the family of  
**Michael Wiesner**

### REPORTER DEADLINES

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

ISSUE	DEADLINE
May 31-June 13.....	May 22
June 14-27.....	June 5
June 28-July 11.....	June 19
July 12-25.....	July 2 (early)

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

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THE REPORTER

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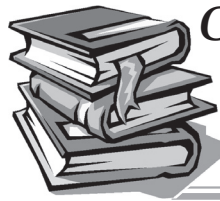
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Off the Shelf

# Herod: master builder or monster?

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

In one of the Christian stories of Jesus, Herod the Great (73-4 B.C.E.) is portrayed as a monster: he's said to have ordered the death of innocent children in order to kill a prophesied king of the Jews. In the biography "Herod the Great: Jewish King in a Roman World" (Jewish Lives Series/Yale University Press), Martin Goodman, emeritus professor of Jewish studies at the University of Oxford, casts great doubt on the tale, noting that not only don't the dates match up correctly, but the earliest Christian gospels make no mention of the story. What Goodman finds ironic is that a man so concerned with his posthumous reputation should be slandered after his death.

However, Jewish sources were not always kind to Herod either, something Goodman explores in great detail. Some even question whether Herod was Jewish since his father was an Idumaeon, as those who lived in an area south of Judea were called. They did not consider Idumaeans fully Jewish because the group retained its own identity as a community separate from Judea during Herod's lifetime. To make matters worse, his father and mother (who was a Nabataean Arab) were commoners who had no connection to the royal families that had ruled over Judea.

Goodman's work focuses on several aspects of Herod's life: his gaining of the kingship, his political maneuvering, his problematic relationship with his sons, his political and social connections to Rome and his relationship to Judaism. It is the latter subject that will interest most readers of this review. Although writers have questioned whether Herod thought of himself as Roman or Jewish, Goodman notes that he may have had a dual identity, something that would not have been problematic during

that time period: "Neither Herod nor anyone else in the Roman world considered being both Jewish and Roman a problem. Multiple identities were common – provincials thought of themselves as Roman even while continuing to identify as Greeks or Gauls. There was no reason for Herod to consider the idiosyncracies of [Judean] customs a bar to dual identity, particularly when the emperor had shown such favor to the Jews' central shrine in Jerusalem."

However, Goodman notes that Herod did feel a great connection to Rome. Rome made him king, even though he had no royal blood, and Herod greatly admired its culture. The cities and buildings he built resembled those of Rome. When it came to rebuilding the Temple in Jerusalem, though, Herod tried to maintain its Jewish character, except for the golden eagle that was placed above the Temple gate. This eagle offended many Jews because they saw it as a symbol of Rome and the Roman emperor, which did not belong anywhere near their place of worship. In fact, just before Herod's death, Jews who rebelled against his reign tore the eagle from its place.

The fact that Herod was not related to the former Hasmonean rulers, who were also members of the priestly class, was actually something positive for his reign. That meant he did not have to take sides on the religious debates of the time. Goodman notes that "Herod could stay above the religious fray. He did not need to be drawn in when religious pressure groups like the Pharisees, Sadducees, and Essenes clamored for their own interpretation of the Torah be followed at the national shrine." However, the author notes that Herod did suppress religious opposition to his reign, creating what would today be called a police state: people were not allowed to gather and spies watched their

every move. While Goodman notes this is an exaggeration, he believes the underlying idea is correct: discontent was suppressed, often with the death of the offender.

The descriptions of Herod's marital life – he married several times – read like the worst kind of soap opera, with intrigues and opposing sides. The king's displeasure with his relatives was the cause of many deaths, making some quip that it was better to be Herod's pig (which he would not eat because of Jewish dietary laws) than his son (many of whom he punished). However, this soap opera also reads as a tragedy worthy of a Shakespeare play, as Herod often punished the wrong person and was too often influenced by lies and half-truths. Goodman tries to sort out exactly what occurred, but some answers are beyond the author's reach.

Those interested in Roman history will also find a great deal of detail about the machinations and stratagems of those competing to rule Rome, since what happened there affected the rest of the empire, including Herod's kingdom. Local rulers were forced to show their loyalty to the ever-changing politics of their conquerors, since many served at the behest of Rome. This often meant deciding which of the many aspiring to rule would succeed and providing armies as needed.

"Herod the Great" is well done and would be of interest to those looking to learn more about this historic period in Judea, although it may not appeal to the general reader. Keeping track of the many names and relationships was difficult at times; a family tree would have been helpful since several relatives of Herod had the same name. The work ended with a chronology highlighting what was happening in Judea, Rome and the East that was extremely useful.



## Jewish Baseball Players

# The winningest Jewish pitcher of all-time: Kenny Holtzman

BILL SIMONS

Do you want a trivia question that will stump all but the most erudite baseball scholars?

Ask who is the winningest Jewish pitcher of all time. It is Sandy Koufax, of course. Except it isn't. Koufax is the GOAT obviously, but Kenny Holtzman is the winningest

Jewish pitcher. Holtzman had 174 career wins to Koufax' 165.

At the five-season peak (1962-66) of Koufax' injury-abbreviated career, he might have been the game's pre-eminent pitcher, Jewish or Gentile. With a longer career, however, Holtzman won more games. Moreover, although

Max Fried and Dean Kremer are still works in progress, Holtzman clearly ranks as the best Jewish pitcher whose name isn't Koufax.

Against 174 victories, Holtzman lost 150 games for a .537 winning percentage over 15 seasons and 2,867 innings pitched. Playing for four teams – the Chicago Cubs (1965-71, 1978-79), Oakland Athletics (1972-75), Baltimore Orioles (1976) and New York Yankees (1976-78) – he won 17 or more games six times, peaking with 21 in 1973. Tall and lanky, the 6'2" lefty weighed only 175 pounds during his playing days. A hummer fastball, a big roundhouse curve, good control and placement, and meticulous preparation enabled Holtzman to register 31 shutouts, two no hitters, 127 complete games and a 3.49 career earned run average during the regular season.

A money pitcher, Holtzman was excellent in the post-season. With four wins against only one loss, he had an .800 winning percentage in World Series completion. And Holtzman had a notable 2.55 World Series earned run average. With the A's winning three consecutive World Series titles (1972-74), the Oakland years were the highlight of Holtzman's major league career and sartorial style. Attired in the A's snazzy, two-toned, green and yellow uniform, Holtzman, like most of his Oakland teammates, grew a raffish mustache.

For a pitcher, Holtzman was a good hitter. I had the privilege of chatting with Ed Mickelson, now 97, who holds the distinction of knocking in the last run in St. Louis Browns' history and coaching Holtzman at University City High School in suburban St. Louis. I complimented Coach Mickelson for making Kenny a good pitcher. The venerable baseball coach retorted, "I didn't make him a pitcher. His father Henry did that. But I made Kenny a hitter." Holtzman had a .333 World Series batting average. His 1974 home run in game four was the last World Series round-tripper by a pitcher for the next 34 years.

Holtzman was successful in both leagues. His play for Chicago of the National League earned him election to the Cubs Hall of Fame. As part of the stellar Oakland pitching rotation, he was integral to the Athletics' American League dominance during the early 1970s. Holtzman was selected for the 1972 and 1973 All-Star games.

Holtzman accomplishments transcended the game. As the Cubs' player rep, he was an early activist in the Major League Baseball Players Association and contributed to Marvin Miller's successful campaign to obtain better terms and condition for players. Even though it meant limiting pitching to weekends and home games, Holtzman earned a B.A. in business administration and French from the University of Illinois; The Sporting News carried a photo of Holtzman, looking very collegiate in a pullover sweater, autographing the notebook of a fellow student. Enlisting in the armed forces, National Guard service limited him to 12 starts, sometimes on weekend passes, in 1967; still, he won nine games without a defeat. Possessed of an active intellect, he read serious literature and enjoyed challenging crossword puzzles. Most important, Holtzman was the **See "Holtzman" on page 8**



## Celebrate your milestone with a Graduation Simcha

Do you know someone who will be graduating this year? Why not surprise them with a congratulatory Simcha ad in *The Reporter*? The Graduation Simcha issue date is June 14, with ad copy due June 6.

For information on other sizes or to place your simcha, please contact me, *The Reporter's* Advertising Representative Kathy Brown, at 607-724-2360, ext. 244, or [advertising@thereporter.org](mailto:advertising@thereporter.org), or mail this form to The Reporter, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850.

*With all my heart, I thank you in advance.*  
Kathy

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# Federation and Hillel at Binghamton sponsored Yom Hashoah event



Around 60 people gathered outside Temple Israel for the first part of the Yom Hashoah remembrance event held on May 2. The event was co-sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, Hillel at Binghamton, Beth David Synagogue, Temple Concord and Temple Israel. (Photo by Shelley Hubal)



Around 60 people gathered in Temple Israel's sanctuary to listen to testimony from survivor Samuel (Shmuel) Rind. (Photo by Steven Gilbert)

## Roitman Chabad Center at Cornell expanding

The Roitman Chabad Center at Cornell University is undergoing an expansion with a new 10,000 square foot building. Construction is currently underway and is due to be finished in December 2024.

"This is a once in a lifetime oppor-

tunity to build the future of Jewish life at Cornell by participating in this capital campaign," said a Chabad Cornell representative. "Please consider a dedication or pledging a major gift at ChabadCornell.com/build."



Construction is underway for the Roitman Chabad Center at Cornell University's new building.



Survivor Samuel (Shmuel) Rind spoke about his experiences during the Holocaust and his life once the war was over. (Photo by Shelley Hubal)

## Annual Campaign 2024

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- 2) E-mail Federation Executive Director Shelley Hubal at [director@jfgb.org](mailto:director@jfgb.org) with "pledge" in the subject line.
- 3) Fill out the form in this ad and mail it to the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850.

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Vestal, NY 13850

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Emor, Leviticus 21:1-24:23

# Bringing holiness into our lives

RABBI MOSHE SHMARYAHU, HEAD OF JUDAIC STUDIES, HILLEL ACADEMY OF BROOME COUNTY

The question arises: What can be learned from the closeness and ordinations of the *parashat* Kedoshim and Emor? The sage's answer that since God warned Israel to sanctify themselves in everything, he also warned the priests to sanctify themselves. As it is written in Kedoshim, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." The purpose of that verse is to teach us to bring holiness into our lives. We were created to be creators, and the term holy means to take what we want and experience, and recreate it in a way that connects us with the light of creation. When we love the other, despite the things he has done or said, we are sanctified and can achieve any goal we desire. Because we understand that in this love, we connect to the Creator and share in the act of creation.

*Parashat* Emor is always recited during the counting of the *omer*, which is a time of purification. For those engaged in spiritual work, this period is not easy: it offers

even more opportunities for them to work on themselves. The *parasha* mostly deals with the priests, but since the Temple was destroyed, each of us serves as a priest in his own home. Our home is the temple and our table is like an altar. If we treat everything in our lives in a way of holiness, such as the people dear to us, our environment, the management of our home, our food, etc., then in fact we take responsibility for our lives, bringing holiness into them and connecting with the Creator.

The Zohar on *parashat* Emor teaches us that a "damaged" priest (for example, if he lost a finger in a car accident) cannot serve in the priesthood. And the Zohar asks why he is damaged, after all, there was an accident? The Hebrew word for accident comes from the root Hebrew *en'na*, meaning God caused the incident to happen. The Torah says that if two friends are working in the forest chopping wood and God caused one to kill his friend with the ax

he had in his hand, then it is an accidental murder and the killer must flee to a city of refuge. The Zohar teaches us that there are no coincidences and, even if it happened by accident, there is still a warning call here for that person to wake up and realize that something in his life is not working as it should.

The cities of refuge were cities where the Levites lived and studied, and the goal was that the murderer would accidentally come to the city of refuge and there he would study until he understood what was wrong with his way of life that brought him there and why it happened to him. It teaches us that nothing happens by chance. The Zohar adds that every organ in the body has a corresponding organ in the soul and, if a certain organ in a person's soul is damaged, this will be physically expressed in the corresponding organ in the body. The same injury points to a person's lack of faith. See "Lives" on page 7

## 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 18, Shacharit services will be held at 9:30 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.

There will be a Board of Trustees meeting on Tuesday, May 21, at 7 pm.

On Saturday, May 25, Shacharit services will be held at 9:30 am via Zoom and in-person. The Torah portion is Leviticus 25:1-26:2 and the haftarah is Jeremiah 32:6-27. A Zoom Havdalah service will take place at 9:30 pm.

The office will be closed on Monday, May 27, for Memorial Day.

A Sisterhood Shabbat will be held on Friday, May 31, at 5:30 pm.

### 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 Brith Sholom

Affiliation: Unaffiliated  
Address: P.O. Box 572, 117 Madison St., Cortland, NY 13045  
Phone: 607-756-7181  
President: Nick Martelli  
Cemetery Committee: 315-696-5744  
Website: templebrithsholomcortland.org  
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Temple-Brith-Sholom-114006981962930/  
Service leaders: Lay leadership  
Shabbat services: Either Friday evening at 7:30 pm or Saturday at 10 am from Rosh Hashanah to Shavuot. Holiday services are also held. Check the Facebook page or weekly e-mail for upcoming services. Contact the president to get on the e-mail list.  
Religious School: Students are educated on an individual basis. Temple Brith Sholom is a small equalitarian congregation serving the greater Cortland community. Congregants span the gamut of observance and services are largely dependent on the service leader. The Friday night siddur is "Likrat Shabbat," while the Saturday morning siddur is "Gates of Prayer." The community extends a warm welcome to the Jewish student population of SUNY Cortland, as well as the residents of local adult residences.

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

### 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.

### Temple Beth-El of Ithaca

Affiliation: United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism  
Rabbi: TBA  
Rabbi Emeritus: Scott L. Glass  
Address: 402 North Tioga St. (the corner of Court and Tioga streets), Ithaca, NY 14850-4292  
Phone: 607-273-5775  
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: TBA  
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.

Friday, May 17, light candles before..... 8:02 pm  
Shabbat ends Saturday, May 18 ..... 9:03 pm  
Friday, May 24, light candles before..... 8:08 pm  
Shabbat ends Saturday, May 25 ..... 9:10 pm  
Friday, May 31, light candles before..... 8:14 pm  
Shabbat ends Saturday, June 1 ..... 9:15 pm

### Temple Concord

Affiliation: Union for Reform Judaism  
Rabbi: TBA  
Address: 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905  
Office hours: Tues.-Fri., 10 am-2 pm  
Phone: 607-723-7355  
Fax: 607-723-0785  
Office e-mail: TempleConcordbinghamton@gmail.com  
Website: www.templeconcord.com  
Regular service times: Fri., 7:30 pm; Sat., 10:35 am, when religious school is in session.  
Hebrew school: Hebrew school meets at 4:15 pm and 5:15 pm on Tues. and Thurs. during the school year unless otherwise noted.

Some services and programs are online only.  
Friday, May 17: At 7:30 pm, Shabbat service with Eve Berman and Robin Hazen. Join via Zoom at https://bit.ly/3hRmW2Y, meeting ID 869 9699 8146 and passcode 826330, or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/templeconcord/.

Saturday, May 18: At 9:15 am, Torah study in person and on Zoom (http://bit.ly/3XDnvRE, meeting ID 825 1226 2831 and passcode 743892).

Tuesday, May 21: At 8 pm, General (Board of Trustees) Board Meeting, which is open to temple members. Contact the office at 607-723-7355 or templeconcordaa@gmail.com for the link.

Friday, May 24: At 6 pm, there will be a potluck dinner, which will be in-person only. It will include candle lighting, the blessing over the wine, the healing prayer, the Mourner's Kaddish and the blessing over the challah. A sign-up list for what people are bringing can be found at www.signupgenius.com/go/4090949ABA-92CA0F94-48689324-shabbat.

Saturday, May 25: At 9:15 am, Torah study in person and on Zoom (http://bit.ly/3XDnvRE, meeting ID 825 1226 2831 and passcode 743892).

Tuesday, May 28: At 7 pm, Temple Concord's Annual Meeting in person and on Zoom. Members have been sent an invitation to the meeting.

### Norwich Jewish Center

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

### Congregation Tikun v'Or

Affiliation: Union for Reform Judaism  
Address: PO Box 3981, Ithaca, NY 14852; 2550 Triphammer Rd. (corner of Triphammer and Burdick Hill), Lansing, NY  
Phone: 607-256-1471  
Website: www.tikunvor.org, E-mail: info@tikunvor.org  
Rabbi: Shifrah Tobacman, rabbishifrah@tikunvor.org  
Presidents: Sue Merkel and Laurie Willick, presidents\_22@tikunvor.org  
Education Director/Administrative Coordinator: Naomi Wilensky  
Bnai Mitzvah Coordinator: Michael Margolin  
Services: All services currently on Zoom. E-mail info@tikunvor.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.

# TC Religious School



Temple Concord Religious School students ended the year with outdoor activities on May 4.

## Tea and Talk

Chabad of Binghamton, with co-sponsorship from the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, holds Tea and Talk programs, a bi-weekly hour-long gathering for local Jewish seniors who are looking for "a meaningful conversation," from 11 am-noon, in Chabad's atrium on the second floor. The program is open to all and free of charge.

Upcoming dates are:

- ◆ May 23
- ◆ June 6
- ◆ June 20

To RSVP or for more information, visit [www.JewishBU.com/Tea](http://www.JewishBU.com/Tea) or call 607-797-0015.

## TC Sisterhood held donor event



The Temple Concord Sisterhood held its donor event on May 5. Shown are some of those who attended.



The program at the donor event featured actors from Southern Tier Actors Read, who presented four dramatic readings of Jewish-themed skits under the direction of Deborah Williams.

## Lives. . . . . Continued from page 6

and lack of connection to the light of the Creator. This is even more true in regard to a priest, who needs to be found more whole and having faith than anyone else.

Since this holy work is not easy, we must make sure that the society that surrounds

us helps introduce holiness into our lives. Only in this way, we can succeed in fulfilling the role of a priest, each in his own life and in his own private temple – in his own home whose purpose is to teach us to bring holiness into our lives.

## Thoughts. . . . . Continued from page 2

to move on and forget about it. However, Jewish theology commands us to remember the past – the good *and* the bad – whether done to us or others.

But to return to the objection that the new definition of antisemitism will mean that people won't be able to say that the Jews were either directly or indirectly responsible for the death of Jesus. One could say, "Hey, that was centuries ago, so get over it and move on. After all, you want everyone else

to do the same." If you are going to demand that history be whitewashed and you not be blamed for what your ancestors did, then the same principle should apply to everyone.

That would be wonderful, wouldn't it? But somehow there never seems to be objections to blaming Jews for all the world's ills. The 21<sup>st</sup> century is proving to be no different from previous ones. And, cynic that I have become, I'm not sure I ever expect that to change.

# SENIOR LIVING

### Did you know?

(NAPSA) – Age-related physical and mental changes can affect your ability to drive safely. If you're alert to these changes and manage them carefully, you may be able to continue driving safely for some time, say the experts at the American Geriatrics Society. Visit [www.healthinaging.org/driving-safety](http://www.healthinaging.org/driving-safety) for more information.

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# At Yeshiva U., “accelerated transfer” for students who feel threatened

By JNS staff

(JNS)—Yeshiva University has reopened its admissions cycle for undergraduate applicants who feel threatened on other American campuses, including for its honors program. Those applicants have until May 31 to apply. The admissions cycle “has seen students choosing YU over other elite institutions. This trend is expected to continue among transfers,” Yeshiva stated. It added that it is creating new faculty positions to accommodate that growth and is “in active discussions with professors who seek to be part of an institution whose core values align with their own.” “We have all watched with great shock and sadness the

public protests laced with antisemitism on college campuses throughout the United States, including in our neighboring campuses of Columbia and NYU,” stated Rabbi Ari Berman, president of YU. “Ultimately, these are issues that need to be addressed by these respective universities. It is not good for America or for the Jewish people for any campus to be unsafe for Jewish students or students of any minority or vulnerable population. We extend our hand to be of any assistance in supporting efforts by these universities to protect their students from threats to their safety.

“We cannot ignore the profound distress we have been witnessing. No Jewish student should have to face the

threats and intimidation that has sadly been taking place,” he added. “While our enrollments are already full for the coming year, we at the flagship Jewish university will not turn our backs on these students.”

Yeshiva is also accepting transfers for students who want to study in Israel in YU’s program with Tel Aviv University and with Bar-Ilan University.

JNS sought comment from Yeshiva about how much interest the university has seen in its pitch to transfer students.

Earlier this year, a Massachusetts Institute of Technology professor cited Jew-hatred in his decision to leave his “dream job” to come to Yeshiva.

# Cornell president to resign after campus protests

By JNS staff

(JNS)—Martha E. Pollack, the president of Cornell University in Ithaca, has announced her plans to retire on June 30.

“It is only after extensive reflection that I have determined that this is the right decision,” she wrote in a letter published on May 9. “Indeed, I began deliberating about this last fall and made the decision over the December break; but three times, as I was ready to act on it, I had to pause because of events on our and/or on other campuses.”

Pollack wrote that “there is so much more to Cornell than the current turmoil taking place at universities across the country right now, and I hope we do not lose sight of that.”

The letter named three areas Pollack said she sought to enhance at the university during her tenure: increasing academic distinction, fulfilling civic responsibility and enhancing “our educational verve.” She wrote, “We have been vigilant in working to ensure the safety and well-being of all members of our community from all backgrounds, work I’ve been dedicated to long before the events of the past year.”

In a recent “Campus Antisemitism Report Card” the Anti-Defamation League assigned Cornell a “D,” noting “incidents of antisemitism and other forms of discrimination and harassment prompted the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights to open a Title VI

investigation against Cornell.”

On a Sunday in October, Hillel at Cornell advised Jewish students to avoid 104 West, the campus kosher dining hall, “out of an abundance of caution” following online threats that included: “If I see a pig male Jew, I will stab you and slit your throat,” “Eliminate Jewish living from Cornell campus” and “Gonna shoot up 104 West.”

In March, the group Alums for Campus Fairness released a brochure urging Jewish students not to attend the academic institution, writing that it “refuses to enforce the student code of conduct, fostering a hostile climate that endangers Jewish students.”

# Cookies

“Well now that you’ve eaten some of them, you can’t give him a half-empty can, right?”

Maish never saw his cookies.

He forgave me long ago, or so he says. But I never forgave myself. Or so I say. I’m not sure, if faced with the same test 42 years later, I would do any better.

They were that good. And I guess I was – and perhaps still am – that bad.

\*\*\*

Like many parents, I dream that my kids’ accomplishments will outshine my own. I pray that they become the best versions of themselves, helping others, living their dreams. In many ways, they are already doing so, and I am filled with pride as I watch them grow and figure things out far better than I could have done.

This week saw a giant step in that department, as both of our boys are now serving down south in the war effort, stationed just a short distance from one another. They are now brothers and brothers-in-arms. That my boys have leaped at the opportunity to help defend our people in its time of need brings tears to my eyes. That their wives have picked up the ball of caring for their families on their own, and run with that ball confidently and fearlessly, is beyond words.

My father was a World War II veteran, and he derived

boundless *nachat*, pride, from seeing his grandchildren wearing the uniform of the IDF. My generation was fortunate not to have been called to war, but this next generation is privileged to serve. To show us what they are really made of. And we, along with our entire country, couldn’t be prouder of every single one of them.

We hope to visit our sons soon near the Gaza border. Maybe we will make them chocolate chip cookies, regardless of whether they rise to the level of my mother’s ADCCC. Coffee tins are a relic of the past, and used Nespresso pods are hardly capable of storing cookies. A *sakit*, a plastic bag, will have to suffice.

If we only get to see one of the boys, we will entrust him with a second bag of cookies for the other. I have every confidence that, whichever son gets them, he will surpass his father yet again. Like a devoted soldier, he

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will faithfully fulfill his mission and hand them over to his brother in arms.

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PS: I have reached out to my siblings, and it seems – rather abashedly – that my mother’s recipe was actually the recipe printed on the back of the Nestle bag for its Toll House cookies! I don’t know if it was the love she baked them with... or if she doctored the recipe at all... or maybe it was just a great recipe.

*Jeremy Staiman and his wife Chana made aliyah from Baltimore, MD, in 2010 to Ramat Beit Shemesh. A graphic designer by trade, Jeremy is a music lover and produces music on a regular basis – one album every 40 years. He likes to spend time with his kids and grandkids slightly more often than that. His late father, Shalom Staiman, wrote the Shin Sin column for The Reporter.*

# Holtzman

proud father of three daughters and four grandchildren. His eldest daughter Robyn remembers him warmly: “He always looked for ways that he could help people.”

From *bris* to burial, Kenny ranks high amongst ballplayers in Jewish observance and affirmation. Still waiting for his growth spurt, Kenny stood on a stool at his bar mitzvah to do his reading. Marrying within the Jewish faith, Holtzman walked down the aisle with Michelle Collons, a clinical psychologist, on February 7, 1971, at Temple Ezras Israel in Chicago. The family kept kosher at home, and he did his best to do so on the road. After the murder of Israeli athlete at the 1972 Munich Olympics, Holtzman donned a black armband over his uniform sleeve to honor their memory. Given the length of his career and commitment to observance, Holtzman may hold the record for MLB games missed in order to attend High Holiday services. According to reporter Nate Bloom, in 1973, Holtzman was “surprised when a limousine appeared in front of his Baltimore hotel on Yom Kippur morning. The driver told Holtzman that he was to take the pitcher to the synagogue.” The limo was courtesy of Jerry Hoffberger, then owner of the rival Baltimore Orioles, who sat with Ken during the service. Ken was a strong supporter of the Jewish War Veterans of America. An exemplar of muscular Judaism, he served as physical education director at the St. Louis Jewish Community Center and coached teams representing the Jewish Community Center in the Maccabi games. In 2007, he joined the on-site effort to expand Israeli participation in baseball. After a graveside service, Ken Holtzman was buried at Chesed Shel Emeth Cemetery in metropolitan St. Louis.

Holtzman recounted, “I encountered my share of antisemitic insults during my career from fans, players and other persons associated with the game.” Iconically, the worst of it came from two of his managers, the Cubs’ “Leo the Lip” Durocher and New York Yankees skipper Billy Martin. During a game, Durocher loudly fired a series of anti-Jewish epithets at Holtzman, espousing the twisted belief that the tactic would anger and thus motivate the pitcher. The volatile and combative Martin harbored an irrational dislike of Holtzman, limiting his time on the mound, thus undermining Holtzman’s confidence and performance. This led sportswriter Jim Murray to headline a column with “Who killed Kenny?” Martin’s abuse contributed to Holtzman’s precipitous decline by age 31 and exit from the game at 33, possibly costing the pitcher up to 75 career victories.

I met Ken Holtzman twice, at a Cooperstown Hall of Fame conference on Jews in baseball in 2004, where we were both presenters, and then three years later in Israel. He

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was upbeat at the Cooperstown conference, not so in Israel. By that time, Holtzman’s marriage and association with the St. Louis “J” had ended, and he was doing some substitute math teaching. Ken welcomed the opportunity to make his first trip to Israel in 2007 and help baseball establish foundations in Israel as manager of the Petach Tikva Pioneers in the new and short-lived Israel Baseball League. Armed with media credentials, I wrote about the new league. Due to a poorly designed player draft, the league was imbalanced, and Petach languished in last place, frustrating Holtzman. He was outraged when unsafe caging allowed a practice line drive to hit one of his players on the side of the head, causing serious injury. In an interview with Walla, an online Israeli news site, Holtzman was highly critical of the IBL. Within two weeks of the Walla interview, Holtzman departed Israel prior to the end of the IBL season.

Heart and respiratory conditions led to hospitalization during the last three weeks of Holtzman’s life. Kenneth Dale Holtzman, age 78, died on April 15, 2024. Hopefully, before Kenny recited his final *Shema*, he recalled the pride he brought to fellow Jews in September 1966.

The first and greatest match-up of Jewish pitchers took place on Sunday, September 25, 1966, the day after Yom Kippur, at Chicago’s Wrigley Field. Kenny, then 20 and in his second season with the Chicago Cubs, faced off against his hero, the legendary Sandy Koufax, at 30 a decade older than Holtzman and in his final season with the Los Angeles Dodgers. Although only a paltry 530 Cubbies had turned out for Holtzman’s previous home start, 21,659 fans came to watch him duel the great Koufax. Holtzman’s parents and siblings drove through the night for the game, even bringing Kenny’s 7-year-old sister Janice. As expected, Koufax was Koufax – intimidating fastball, “twelve-to-six” curveball, pinpoint control. Sandy allowed only four hits and one earned run (another run, unearned, came as the result of an error). But Kenny, fresh off a Yom Kippur fast, was better, yielding only two hits and one run while striking out eight. Prior to a couple of ninth inning singles, he had a no hitter going. Holtzman led the hapless Cubs, destined for the NL basement, to a 2-1 victory over Koufax’ pennant-bound Dodgers. Directing a kudo to his young landsman, Koufax said, “I was satisfied with my performance, but Ken was too good for us today.” It appeared that the torch had been passed. Fans and media hailed Holtzman as “the next Sandy Koufax.”

Holtzman was not the new Koufax, but he left a notable legacy. Ken Holtzman is the winningest Jewish pitcher of all-time.

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