

THE REPORTER

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BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK

Federation to hold security training on June 6

By Reporter staff

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton will hold the security program "Countering Active Threat Training" on Tuesday, June 6, at 6 pm, at the Jewish Community Center, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal. There is no charge for the program. Mark Henderson, the director of community security for the Jewish Community Federation of Greater Rochester, will lead the session. The training is open to the entire community. To register for the event, visit the Federation website at www.jfgb.org or contact the office at 724-2332.

The Countering Active Threat Training is a comprehensive training program that

teaches how to counter an active threat event. It was developed for faith-based institutions and houses of worship. Its learning objectives include:

- ◆ Learning to know when there is an active threat.
- ◆ Understanding the difference between security and safety.
- ◆ Developing a better understanding of active threat incidents.
- ◆ Explaining appropriate modes of action to use during an active shooter incident, including "run, hide, fight."
- ◆ Understanding how to prepare for an active threat event.
- ◆ How to respond to law enforcement's

arrival.

- ◆ Recognizing the importance of additional trainings such as "Stop the Bleed."
- ◆ Being able to commit to action during an active threat event

Henderson has been coordinating security trainings with help from the Secure Community Network, the national Homeland Security initiative of the Jewish Federations of North America and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. "As we have seen recently in the news, active threats have occurred in several locations, including Jewish synagogues, Chabad Houses and community gatherings," Henderson said.

"Being prepared and having training on how best to counter an active threat may be the difference between surviving the incident or not. Rabbi Charlie Cytron-Walker of Congregation Beth Israel in Colleyville, TX, credited Secure Community Network Countering Active Threat Training as instrumental to his and fellow hostages surviving an 11-hour hostage situation. I encourage every community member to attend this training."

"Join us for this very important program," said Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Federation. "This training is part of the Federation's commitment to help keep our community safe."

Hillel Academy to hold journal event on June 8

Hillel Academy of Broome County will hold its 59th annual journal event on Thursday, June 8, from 6:30-9 pm, in the social hall at Temple Israel, 4737 Deerfield Pl., Vestal. Tickets are \$100 per person and include dinner

and drinks. Reservations are due by Friday, June 2. To purchase tickets, Venmo @HillelAcademyBC (subject: Tickets), use PayPal HillelAcademyBroomeCounty@gmail.com or send a check payable to Hillel Academy to

4737 Deerfield Pl., Vestal, NY 13850.

"Join us as we celebrate our honorees for their hard work and dedication to the Greater Binghamton area," said organizers of the event. "We are excited to honor and

personally thank Mark and Inessa Yonaty, Rochel Chein and Eileen Miller for their outstanding contributions to economic development, education and academic enrichment."

TI to honor Rabbi Geoffrey Brown's retirement

Temple Israel will honor and recognize Rabbi Geoffrey Brown for his service to Temple Israel and the community on the occasion of his retirement as the synagogue's spiritual leader on Sunday, June 11, at 12:30 pm. Two programs – a rededication of the Torah scrolls and a program honoring Brown – are scheduled to be followed by a dairy buffet brunch. The cost to attend the event and the luncheon is \$30 per person. Res-

ervations are required as seating is limited. Call Tammy Kunsman at the temple office at 723-7461 for additional information and to reserve a space to participate in the *sofer* event in the morning, the program and luncheon in the afternoon or both functions.

In December 2013, the Temple Israel building was destroyed due to a major snow storm. The building was completely rebuilt and reopened in 2016. Brown served the

congregation during the rebuilding period as a rabbinic intern and, in July 2017, assumed the post of full-time pulpit rabbi. "Rabbi Brown has contributed much as a leader, mentor and teacher during his tenure," said organizers of the event.

Organizers added, "Rabbi Brown has paid particular attention to the condition of our Torah scrolls and has organized the restoration of the synagogue's *Torot* to kosher condition

by his own mentor and scribe, Neil Yerman. In homage to Rabbi Brown's initiative, *Sofer* Yerman will be present at Temple Israel on Sunday morning, June 11. All are invited to participate in the rededication of the scrolls. You can fulfill the mitzvah of putting quill to parchment under the expert guidance of the scribe by making a donation to Temple Israel and participating in this important fund-raiser. Appointment times are from 9:30-11:50 am."

BD Luncheon Speaker series to feature Dr. Benjamin Kaplan on June 10

Beth David Synagogue will hold the last of its Luncheon Speaker series of the season on Saturday, June 10, with Dr. Benjamin Kaplan speaking on "From the *Parasha* to Participation: Finding Community in Binghamton." He will link that Saturday's Torah reading to his experiences living in Binghamton during the completion of his medical training. The luncheon will take place after Shabbat morning services, which begin at 9:30 am, and is open to the community. There is no charge for the luncheon.



Dr. Benjamin Kaplan (Photo by Greg Lewis)

The Torah portion, BeHa'alotcha (Numbers 8:1-12:16), recounts the time after the Jews have left Egypt and are wandering in the desert toward their promised land. They begin to complain to such a degree that Moses asks God why the burden of leadership has been placed on him. "This Torah portion," says Kaplan, "is one that I find particularly meaningful and applicable to feelings of displacement and isolation that we as Jews and human beings

may be experiencing in today's world. I plan to delve further into this *parasha* and its focus on literally taking action. How? By doing something my family and I discovered during our three years in Binghamton. We replaced longing for the familiar, for 'the way things used to be,'

with becoming involved in our different flavor of Jewish communal life here at Beth David. I have always been inspired by the teachings of two rabbis of blessed memory: Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik and Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks. I plan to incorporate their insights into how change and

difference have the potential of providing faith-affirming spiritual possibilities that come about by virtue of our having been displaced from the comfort of familiar surroundings and practices."

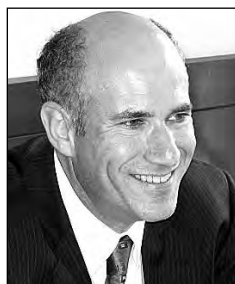
Kaplan grew up in New Jersey and See "Kaplan" on page 7

Karp wins Syracuse Press Club award for Reporter oped

By Reporter staff

Jonathan Karp, a professor in the History and Judaic Studies Departments at Binghamton University, won a Syracuse Press Club award for his opinion piece "A 'death gratuity' for shooting victims," which appeared in *The Reporter*. He was awarded second place in the All Print: Best Editorial category. (To read the editorial, visit www.thereporter.org/past-articles/opinion-articles/opinion-stream/a-death-gratuity-for-shooting-victims.)

"I'm very happy that Jon is being recognized for his wonderful oped," said Rabbi



Jonathan Karp (Photo by Etty Lassman)

Rachel Esserman, executive editor of *The Reporter*. "He wrote a few lines explaining his idea on Facebook and I thought it would make an excellent column for our pages. I'm pleased that the Syracuse Press Club agreed."

Karp noted, "The idea behind the editorial was both serious and satirical. If we accept the current Supreme Court's extremist interpretation of the Second Amendment as the

nearly absolute right of individuals to bear arms, including military-style weapons, then we need to treat mass shooting victims the way we treat American soldiers

killed in defense of the Constitution: by providing their families with monetary reparation – known as a 'death gratuity.' My point is to show the absurdity, but also the fundamental injustice, of the absolutist gun rights position, where the loved-ones of shooting victims, whose deaths make possible this so-called right to own AR-15s, are not compensated for their sacrifice. I wanted to stir readers up to think differently about the price for gun rights we are being unfairly asked to pay."

Karp also coordinates the College of Jewish Studies and is the undergraduate director of Judaic studies at the university. From 2010-13, he served as executive director of the American Jewish Historical Society.

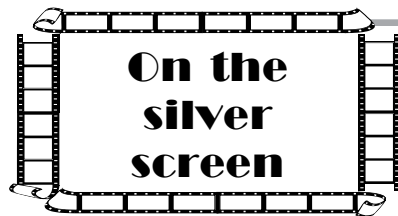
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Film as Jewish memoir: Spielberg's fables and Fabelmans

BILL SIMONS

Over the past half-century, Steven Spielberg arguably ranks as the most significant and influential American film director, as well as a protean producer. Spielberg has created more blockbusters than any other filmmaker, past or present. Embracing multiple genres, his movies have spanned escapist adventure, historical drama, farce, science fiction, love, race and ethnicity, terror and the musical. So many of Spielberg's productions – amongst them "Jaws," "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," "Raiders of the Lost Ark" and the Indiana Jones sequels, "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial," "The Color Purple," the Jurassic Park films, "Amistad," "Saving Private Ryan," "A.I. Artificial Intelligence" and "Lincoln" – achieved iconic status as they reflected and shaped the collective consciousness of America and the world. His first major film, "The Sugarland Express" (1974), established him as the 27-year-old wunderkind of American cinema. Now at 76, in the afterglow of "The

Fabelmans" (2022), Spielberg is the legendary paterfamilias of the industry.

Spielberg is not a Jewish filmmaker in the same way as Woody Allen. Not only is Allen Jewish, but a Jewish ambiance provides content and perspective for most of his films. The quintessential Allen film is set geographically and socially within the milieu of Jewish New York.

Conversely, most Spielberg films are devoid of overt Jewish themes or characters. Many of Spielberg's template protagonists are American suburbanites of no particular ethnicity, menaced by a shark, supernatural forces, aliens and dinosaurs. But these middle-class Americans find within themselves a surprising resilience and strength. As for the serial escapism of the Indiana Jones pulp fiction, despite the pursuit of the lost ark and battle with Nazis, Indiana Jones does not engage Mosaic law or antisemitism. And Spielberg's ambitious historical dramas generally lack a Jewish portal.

However, by parentage, bar mitzvah, ethnic identification and adult domesticity, Spielberg is a Jewish film director. More to the point, while his creation of Jewish cinema is limited, three of Spielberg's pre-eminent films – "Schindler's List" (1993), "Munich" (2005) and "The Fabelmans" (2022) – constitute a Jewish trilogy.

"Schindler's List" confronts the central tragedy of Jewish history, the Holocaust with graphic details about life, cruelty, suffering and death in a Nazi concentration camp. An epic film that dramatizes history, it highlights the courage and compassion of a surprising hero, Oskar Schindler, a philanderer and Gentile industrialist whose factory manufactured enamelware. Morally outraged by atrocities against Jews that he personally witnesses, Schindler came up with a plot to rescue Jews. By falsification of business records at risk to his own life and the payment of bribes to **See "Fables" on page 4**

Opinion

From the Desk of the Federation Executive Director

With gratitude

SHELLEY HUBAL

On a Sunday afternoon several weeks ago, approximately 20 members of our Jewish community gathered in the Temple Israel social hall for a training. Our panel of three trainers, all women, came from New Jersey, Colorado and Massachusetts. The Chevra Kadisha, which literally translates to "holy society," was the subject of the training.

To honor the deceased, the Chevra Kadisha performs two rituals: 1) *taharah*, purification, the process of cleansing and preparing a body for internment; and 2) *shmirah*, the ritual of watching over the body, which usually involves sitting near the body and reading psalms.

We learned that the rituals performed by the Chevra

Kadisha are considered "*chesed shel emet*," pure loving kindness, because the acts performed can never be repaid. They are done purely out of love. Above all else, respect and compassion for the dead and their loved ones are the intentions of the Chevra Kadisha. The panel also emphasized that the work of the Chevra Kadisha is not secret, but it is private.

Personally, I have always been driven by the need to be of service and have searched for sacred moments of quiet dignity and respect. Yes, I would be nervous if I were ever called upon to perform *taharah*, but the training was empowering and *taharah* is performed by a small team, so you are not alone.

Here in Binghamton, we have a Chevra Kadisha that has been performing these sacred rituals for decades. They are a compassionate and caring group and, in keeping with the tradition of Chevra Kadisha, my sense is they do not want or need recognition. However, they do need new volunteers. If you are interested in finding out more, give me a call at the Federation office at 724-2332.

Members of the Chevra Kadisha never "want" to be called upon, but, when the call comes, we can all be grateful they are there. I, for one, am honored to now be counted among a group of our community's most compassionate. Sending my love and respect to all the new and seasoned members of this "holy society."

In My Own Words

Here we go again

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Do you ever feel like a broken record, repeating something that no one seems to hear? The title of this column, "Here we go again," was written with a deep sigh of discouragement after reading the headline "Study: Asian Americans don't feel safe – Rising hate crimes, lack of a voice are cited" in a recent online issue of USA Today. My reaction was something along the lines of "haven't we dealt with this before?" and "why is this getting worse, not better?" I knew that I'd written about this issue before* – about the rising number of hate crimes against Asians since COVID started – but discrimination against Asians began long before that.

Why care about another minority group? I feel it's my religious duty to work against discrimination and not just because Jews have known discrimination and the feeling of not belonging in most countries in which we've lived. We are morally obligated to care for our neighbors and to promote a just world. As post-Holocaust Jews, we cannot stand by when others are threatened.

Why do people feel the need to blame specific groups for societal ills? It's easier to find a scapegoat than it is to do the hard work to solve a problem, especially when the solution demands a sacrifice. And when people search for someone to blame for their problems, it's easy to point a finger at someone who looks, dresses or acts differently from us. What's funny is that humans share more similarities than differences: that includes our physical appearances and our genetic markers. DNA shows we are really all

members of one extended family. But when people need to feel special, they look for minor differences and magnify them. Once you begin blaming someone for the ills of the world, it's difficult to know where to stop.

The article I read mentioned the group Stop AAPI Hate (Stop Asian American and Pacific Islanders Hate), which I had never heard of before. On its website, <https://stopaapihate.org/civil-rights-report>, it noted that Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have reported more than 11,000 acts of hate against them since March 2020 and the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, that does not seem to be getting better. The quotes from people who have been discriminated against are heartbreaking. How do people justify this behavior? They claim these innocent people are spreading COVID or that, because of their ancestry, they can't possibly be citizens of the U.S. and therefore can't stay in that hotel or keep that job or... you can fill in the blank.

And what is even sadder is that, according to the USA Today article, they are not the only group that doesn't feel safe or that they don't belong in the U.S. This is also true of Blacks and Latinos, although the percentages differ slightly. The article wasn't talking about people who just moved to this country: it was speaking of people whose families have lived in America for generations. We Jews are far luckier. Even when we feel uncomfortable in the U.S., it's not quite the same: most of us are often able to blend into the background, to not stand out, but many groups don't

have the ability. Whether or not you consider Jews white, it's much easier for many of us to act and look as if we are.

Perhaps the most discouraging thing is that I have no new answers. I applaud Stop AAPI Hate in its efforts to help people find legal means to solve their problems. There are other organizations that help Blacks and Latinos. We need to support those efforts. We can also speak up against discrimination, much as we wish others would do when the discrimination is aimed at us.

Will this change our country? I have no idea. At one time, I thought we were becoming more accepting of differences, but we seem to have taken several steps backward. That doesn't mean we should stop our efforts, though. The quote that keeps me going comes from the Mishnah: it is not ours to complete the task, but neither is it ours to cease from it. In the Torah, we are told to love our neighbor as ourselves and to not ill-treat the stranger because we were once strangers in a strange land. I don't care which quote speaks to you – or if none of them do – but, at the risk of sounding like a broken record, remember that if we are not there for others, no one is going to be there for us.

*To read my previous opeds on this topic, visit www.thereportergroup.org/streams/executive-editor/executive-editor-stream/in-my-own-words-blaming-the-wrong-people and www.thereportergroup.org/past-articles/opinion-articles/opinion-stream/in-my-own-words-hate-crimes-404035. The first was published in June 2020 and the second in March 2022.



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BINGHAMTON, NY

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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

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TC Sisterhood to hold annual Sisterhood Shabbat service on May 19

Temple Concord Sisterhood will hold its annual Sisterhood Shabbat service on Friday, May 19, at 7:30 pm. The installation of the 2023-24 Sisterhood Board of Directors will be held during the service. The service will be led entirely by Sisterhood members. The community is invited to attend the service, which also will be held via Zoom. There will be an *oneg* in honor of the installed officers and sisters who participate in the service. Helene Philips and Sima Auerbach are the organizers of this service.

The newly elected Board of Directors will include Barbara Thomas as meeting coordinator and Sisterhood representative to the temple Board of Directors; Lani Dunthorn, past president; Nancy Dorfman, treasurer; Philips, financial secretary; Marty Eisenstadt, recording secretary; and Sandy Foreman, corresponding secretary. Also to be installed are directors Marsha Luks and Barbara Thomas,

2022-24, and Babs Putzel-Bischoff and Philips, 2023-25.

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

The incoming Intersisterhood Committee includes Luks, Cookie Schaeffer, Jodi Sampey and Roz Antoun. Jesse Parker will be in charge of the cradle roll, with Amanda Donahue in charge of High Holiday childcare if needed.

Phyllis Kellenberger, Deb Daniels and Antoun will work on adult education, programming and donor; Sylvia Diamond and Eisenstadt are in charge of Friday night *onegs*.

The new board also includes Hecht, Scholar-in-Residence *oneg*; Dunthorn and Herz, membership and retention co-chairwomen; Foreman and Eisenstadt, hospitality; Coker, Women's Seder; Foreman, Babs Putzel-Bischoff, Robin Haas and Antoun, nominating committee; and Hecht, Sisterhood funds and Uniongrams.

Philips noted there are several vacancies on the board and Sisterhood members who may be interested should feel free to inquire with the present nominating chairwoman, Babs Putzel-Bischoff, by calling the Temple Concord office at 723-2355.

Philips added, "Please come and support Temple Concord Sisterhood on May 19."

BD Sisterhood to hold meeting on June 14

Beth David Sisterhood will hold a meeting on Wednesday, June 14, at 7 pm, at Beth David Synagogue during which the slate for the 2023-24 year will be voted into office. The meeting will be open to members and friends, men and women, although only paid members will be eligible to vote. A speaker is also planned for the evening.

The incoming executive board for 2023-24 will consist of Cathy Velenchik, president; Marlene Serkin, fund-raising vice president; and Gina Santiago, programming vice president. Velenchik will continue in her previous position as service vice president until a replacement is

found. Susan Hubal will serve as secretary and Deborah Mindick Sliom will be treasurer.

New committee heads include Gina Santiago and Eileen Miller as Beth David's Intersisterhood representatives, and Stacey Silber as historian.

Anyone wishing to become more active in Sisterhood will be welcomed onto the committee of their choice. Sisterhood is seeking a publicity chairwoman.

A flyer designed by Rabbi David Serkin with further details about the meeting will be sent to all those on the Sisterhood e-mail list. Anyone wishing to be placed on

this list may contact the Beth David Synagogue office at bethdavid@stny.rr.com or 722-1793 to be placed on the list.

Hillel Academy celebrated Yom Ha'atzmaut



Hillel Academy celebrated Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel Independence Day. Students and teachers marched with flags inside and outside the building.



Rabbi Moshe Shmaryahu prepared Israeli food for the celebration.



Students at Hillel Academy worked on art projects as part of their Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration.



Art projects included the blue and white colors that are part of Israel's flag.

Tea and Talk

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

Upcoming date is:

◆ June 15

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

DEADLINES

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

ISSUE	DEADLINE
June 2-15	May 22 (early)
June 16-29	June 7
June 30-July 13	June 21
July 14-27	July 5

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

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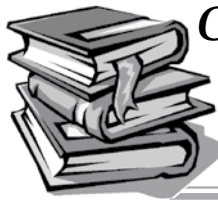
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Off the Shelf

Powerful prose poetry

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

A great deal of poetry is autobiographical. For some poets, it's necessary to know details of their life in order to understand their work. Other poets are able to transcend their lives and write poems that are both autobiographical and universal. One such poet is Irena Klepfisz, as can be seen in her new book, "Her Birth and Later Years: New and Collected Poems, 1971-2021" (Wesleyan University Press). The poems of hers that I first read in the early 1990s remain powerful and moving, while the works from other collections and her latest poetry confirms that she deserves wider recognition.

While her poetry does transcend her life, it is also very much rooted in real-life events, making it sometimes difficult to separate the two. The work's short biography describes Klepfisz as "a lesbian poet, essayist, political activist, Yiddishist, and a practicing secular Jew." She was born in 1941 in the Warsaw Ghetto to a father whose heroism was at the cost of his own

life. After spending part of World War II in a Polish orphanage, she was reclaimed by her mother, with the two spending the rest of the war in hiding. After the war, they lived in Sweden before moving to the United States in 1949. The war informs Klepfisz's work, as do the Jewish values of *tikkun olam* – creating a better world for everyone. That means she has worked against antisemitism, racism and homophobia, in addition to promoting peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

Poems about her father's death and how it affected her and her mother open the book. "The Widow and the Daughter" shows how his absence is felt years later, even after the war is over and they are safely in the U.S. Klepfisz notes how thoughts of the father she never really knew haunted her, writing that "the missing one / returned at night. / The missing one / was surely / the most / important / link." His presence came between the daughter and her mother: "he would

press himself between them – / hero and betrayer / legend and deserter – / so that when they sat down to eat / they could taste his ashes."

Her most impressive work is a series of poems called "Bashert," which changes the meaning of the term from one's predestined soulmate to one's predestined destiny. The first two in the series – "These words are dedicated to those who died" and "These words are dedicated to those who survived" – end with the word *bashert*, showing the role luck and chance play in our lives. The poems build in raw power and leave readers pondering the choices we make in our daily lives. The next four poems in the series look at the poet's life from "Poland, 1944: My mother walking down a road" to "Cherry Plain, 1981: I become a keeper of accounts." That latter phrase describes many of her poems, with this last in the series again reflecting on the idea of *bashert*.

Another series – "From the Monkey

House and Other Cages" – show Klepfisz's ability to understand the lives of others. The poems are prefaced by the words, "The voices are those of female monkeys born and raised in a zoo" and show what happens when animals are raised in captivity. Readers will be tempted to see these poems as a metaphor for what happened to the Jews in Europe, but they also serve as a powerful reflection on humanity's treatment of animals.

Her subject matter ranges from the political to personal; older readers will particularly enjoy her most recent poems, which focus on the reality of aging. Quoting bits and pieces from her work doesn't do justice to the density and complexity of these works. Klepfisz offers her life much like the facets of a gem: each angle offers something new and subtly different. Anyone familiar with her poetry will definitely want to read this new collection. Those who have not experienced her work will be surprised by its drama and power.

Nostalgia in the form of rich dairy on Shavuot

By Ethel G. Hofman

(JNS) – It was a typical one-hour flight from Edinburgh to Shetland last year; tea and biscuits (cookies) were served by a smiling tartan-clad stewardess. My heart flipped as the little Saab plane bumped over the landing strip. Ocean waves lapped up almost to the edges of the runway. As I clung to the rail of a rickety stairway to descend onto the tarmac, I inhaled the familiar salty air deep into my lungs. Although I've spent a lifetime in the United States, this is still home.

I landed, curious. How were these remote islands coping with the deadly pandemic? The population hovering at 23,000 did not escape COVID-19, though they fared much better than most in the beginning. With restrictions lifted at the end of April 2022, hundreds of locals mingled with American and overseas visitors for the Folk Festival, a weekend event showcasing the best international, British and Shetland music.

I'm grateful for having grown up Jewish on this remote island. I learned the value of respect and caring within a Christian community – one where extended family included "Granny Hunter, Auntie Joanne, Uncle Johnny," and playmates who became close as cousins. My parents who assimilated socially made sure I was immersed in my Jewish heritage. Friday morning was abuzz with cooking and cleaning, newspapers spread on the scrubbed kitchen floor, tall brass candlesticks polished to light on Shabbat and always a chicken simmering in a pot ready for kneidlach (matzah balls) to be dropped in.

For my mother, cooking for Shavuot was easy. Even during the starkness of World War II, there were plenty of fresh local dairy ingredients – eggs, butter, cheeses, milk and cream – all delivered daily to our front

door. In fact, many of our weekday, dairy dishes, like baked rice puddings and fish pies, fit right in with Shavuot, the holiday that commemorates the giving of the Torah to the Jewish people on Mount Sinai more than 3,300 years ago.

Shavuot begins this year on the evening of Thursday, May 25, the fifth of Sivan. It's customary to serve dairy meals during the two-day festival (one day in Israel). Some scholars claim that spring harvest festivals usually feature dairy dishes because cheese was produced during this season. Others take the practice directly from scripture saying we eat dairy to symbolize the "land flowing with milk and honey."

During visits to longtime friends last year, besides laughter and memories, I brought back ideas and recipes, perfect to serve during Shavuot.

Make one or all, and enjoy!

Salmon and Haddock Pie (Dairy)

Serves 4

Cook's tip: Substitute any white fish for haddock (cod, for example).

1 Tbsp. vegetable oil
 ½ medium onion, thinly sliced
 1 rib celery, cut into ¼-inch slices
 6 oz. skinless salmon, cut into 1-inch chunks
 6-8 oz. haddock, cut into 1-inch chunks
 ½ tsp. each salt and fresh ground pepper
 1¼ cups milk
 1 Tbsp. butter or margarine, softened
 1 Tbsp. all-purpose flour
 1 cup green peas
 3 cups mashed potatoes
 Paprika to sprinkle (optional)

Heat the vegetable oil in a large pot over medium heat. Add the onion and celery. Cook 5 minutes or until beginning to soften.

Add the salmon, haddock, salt and pepper. Pour the milk over and stir gently.

Cover and bring to boil. Reduce heat to medium. Cook for 15 minutes, or until the fish begins to flake.

Meanwhile, combine the butter and flour, mixing to a smooth paste. Drop a teaspoon at a time into the simmering liquid, stirring constantly. The mixture will begin to thicken. Stir in the peas.

Cook, simmering, for 4 to 5 minutes. Transfer to an ovenproof casserole. Spoon mashed potatoes over. Heat in the microwave for 3 to 4 minutes until hot.

Sprinkle with paprika and serve.

Crofters Noodles (Dairy)

Serves 4-6

Cook's tips:

◆ Any pasta may be used instead of noodles. Kids like macaroni.

◆ Greens such as lettuce or spinach may be substituted for kale.

8 oz. noodles, cooked and drained according to package direction

1½ cups small-curd cottage cheese

1 Tbsp. olive oil

1 leek, trimmed and thinly sliced

1 cup finely shredded kale

Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste

Place the cooked noodles in a large microwave-safe serving dish. Stir in the cottage cheese and set aside.

In a medium skillet, heat olive oil over

See "Shavuot" on page 8

Fables Continued from page 2

Nazi officials, Schindler hired Polish Jewish workers, claiming that they were essential to production. Schindler saved approximately 1,200 Jews from the gas chambers and crematoriums, numbers of whom eventually settled in Israel. Yet, Spielberg's Schindler is anguished by awareness of those he was powerless to help.

While "Schindler's List" focused on the Jew as victim, "Munich" concerns the commitment of the modern state of Israel to exact a high price for the taking of Jewish life. In retaliation for the murder of 11 members of Team Israel at the 1972 Munich Summer Olympics by Palestinian operatives of Black September, the Israeli government covertly authorized the hunting down and execution of the murderers, several of whom were killed. Spielberg's "Munich" is graphic, violent, intense and realistic. It captures the moral ambiguity of collateral deaths, the conditions that drove the Palestinians to terrorism and the emotional toll on the Israeli avengers.

A fable is an instructive story with a lesson. Spielberg's most memorable films are fables, none more so than "The Fabelmans," the slightly fictionalized account of his Jewish American coming of age.

Sammy Fabelman and his three younger sisters grow up in a dysfunctional middle-class, postwar Jewish home. The mother Mitzi, creative and passionate, dreamed of pursuing virtuosity as a concert pianist, but she was socialized to marry, have children and find security as a housewife. The father Burt, an engineer who plays a key role in the development of personal computers, is benevolent, but emotionally absent to his family, and has relocated them from New Jersey to Arizona to Northern California, where they are the only Jewish family in their suburb and adolescent antisemites torment Sammy. Relatives, sensibility, Hanukkah, traditional foods, a few Yiddish phrases and perceptions of Gentiles mark the Jewishness of the secular Fabelmans. Ultimately, the Fabelman children are devastated when Mitzi leaves Burt for their

ubiquitous family friend, the warm and extroverted Bennie.

In 1952, his parents take young Sammy to his first movie, "The Greatest Show on Earth." The film mesmerizes the boy, particularly the train wreck scene, which he attempts to recreate with his model set. Filmmaking becomes an obsession with Sammy. He wins recognition for his ever more sophisticated movies in Boy Scouts and high school, even from an antisemitic golden boy. However, Burt cannot recognize his son's films as anything more than a hobby.

The visit of Great-Uncle Boris to sit *shiva* for his sister, Sammy's maternal grandmother, provides the defining scene in "The Fabelmans." The octogenarian Boris, a former lion tamer and character actor, is played with ferocious intensity by 86-year-old Judd Hirsch. Squeezing Sammy's face so hard he nearly pulls it off, Boris warns his great-nephew that his heart will be torn asunder if he allows his family to thwart his dream of making films. In mourning, Boris rips apart his undershirt and screams that Mitzi's depression comes from not living the life she wanted.

Sammy follows Uncle Boris' counsel. Hating college and suffering from panic anxiety, he drops out to take entry level jobs on television shows in Hollywood. He gets to spend a minute or so in the office of his hero, the profane and profound John Ford, whom Sammy regards as the greatest director who ever lived. Sammy knows his calling.

Spielberg is now in the late innings of his fabled directorial career. However, his mother and father lived to 97 and 103 respectively, and his passion for film remains undimmed. It may well be that Spielberg has more fables to share, Jewish and otherwise.

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



Celebrate your milestone with a Graduation Simcha

THE REPORTER

Show the community your loved one's accomplishment and the pride that it brings in our June 16 issue (June 8 deadline).

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RACHEL,

MAZEL TOV

ON YOUR GRADUATION FROM BU! GOOD LUCK IN GRAD SCHOOL!

LOVE, NANA

Mazel Tov, Sadie!

Congrats on your VMS Graduation!

Love,

Aunt Sheila & Uncle Dave

MAZEL TOV, DAVID

On Your Graduation from the ECC and UPK

Love, Mom & Dad

More than 90 people attend Intersisterhood program



Above and below: More than 90 people attended the Intersisterhood program on May 4. Speakers talked about "Jewish Merchants in Binghamton's Heyday."



Members of the local synagogue's Sisterhoods attended the program. L-r: Marsha Luks, Michelle Boyle, Dora Polachek, Barbara Zelter, Judy Simon, Phyllis Kellenberger and Cookie Schaeffer.



At right, seated: Linda and Steve Lisman. Standing (l-r): Shelley Drazen and Carol Herz.



L-r: Allan Jablon and Francine Stein reminisced about Philadelphia Sales, a store which members of their family owned.



L-r: Marti Klionsky and Dora Polachek spoke at the meeting. Klionsky discussed some of the stores she visited when she first moved to this area.



A poster highlighting "Jewish Merchants in Binghamton's Heyday."



Howard Zandle spoke about his father's butcher shop, the Binghamton Kosher Market.

TC Religious School holds final service of the year



The children attending the Temple Concord Religious School helped lead the last service of the school year on May 6. Shown are students with their parents and teachers.

Essential security tips

Attend security trainings

If your organization holds a security training, attend. If that's not possible, see if you can get the information from those running the training a different way. The training will help you be prepared if something does happen. You may only have seconds to make a decision and this will help you make the best one quickly.



Annual Campaign 2023

TOGETHER WE CREATE COMMUNITY. MAKE YOUR PLEDGE/PAYMENT TODAY!

Support your Jewish Federation! Your gift is more important than ever.

To make your pledge/payment:

- 1) Visit the Federation website at <https://www.jfjb.org/campaign-for-2023> to either pay your pledge or click on "Make Your 2023 Pledge Now!"
- 2) Pledges and payments (checks should be payable to "Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton") can be mailed to the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850.
- 3) Fill out the form in this ad and mail it to the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850.

Mail this form to:

Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton,
500 Clubhouse Rd.,
Vestal, NY 13850

Name: _____
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We Create Community





Weekly Parasha

Bamidar, Numbers 1:1-4:20

Recognizing each individual's worth

RABBI SUZANNE BRODY, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH PROGRAMMING,
TEMPLE BETH-EL, ITHACA

Whenever I go to an event without my husband, or he goes to an event without me, sometimes even before asking about the contents of the program, we find ourselves asking one another, "How many people were there? Anyone I know?"

Both the Israelites and God also wanted to know how many people were there with them in the desert. First, Moses is tasked with counting all of the males ages 20 to 60 from every tribe except for the tribe of Levi. Last one think that the Levites were completely left out of the census, we learn that they were also counted, but using different criteria, counting all of the males who were a month old or older.

The difference between these two counts is explained

by the fact that the people were being counted for different reasons. Ramban, the 13th century Spanish commentator, explains based on a text from the Mishnah (Mishnah Avot 5:21) that a possible reason for only counting men aged 20 and up is that below age 20, one is not strong enough for battle. However, the role of the Levites was not to be soldiers, but to serve in ritual roles. Therefore, the census of the Levites was conducted by counting all of the males from one month old and up. In other words, a male Levite was counted from the time that he reached the point of being considered a viable child. (A full month was regarded as the utmost time a non-viable infant can live.) As Rabbi Judah the son of Rabbi Shalom pointed out, it's normal to count Levites this way because, once a child is viable,

it comes to be counted under the term "keeper of the holy charge." Rabbi Nechemia and Rabbi Pinchas explain that, even though a one month old child isn't able to keep watch, since he will keep watch in the future, we treat it as if he has already kept watch and include him in the count.

Even if it is indeed the case that all viable Levite males will eventually take on priestly duties, and that ideally soldiers should be between the ages of 20-60, Rabbi Isaac Arama (1420-1494) asks why all the seemingly dull details of the census are necessary. Did God not know the number of Israelites encamped in the desert in any case? Why count each person one family and tribe at a time? Rabbi Arama answers his own question by arguing that taking account **See "Worth" on page 7**

Congregational Notes

Beth David Synagogue

Affiliation: Orthodox Union
Rabbi: Zev Silber
Address: 39 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905
Phone: 722-1793, Rabbi's Office: 722-7514, Fax: 722-7121
Office hours: Mon. closed; Tues. 10 am-1 pm; Wed. closed; Thurs. 9 am-1 pm; Fri. 10 am-1 pm
Beth David e-mail address: bethdavid@stny.rr.com
Rabbi's e-mail: rabbisilber@stny.rr.com
Website: www.bethdavid.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/bethdavidbinghamton

Temple Israel

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

On Fridays and Tuesdays at 5:30 pm, services will be led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown via Zoom and in-person (masks are required for unvaccinated participants).

On Saturday, May 20, Shacharit services will be held at 9:30 am via Zoom and in-person (masks are required for unvaccinated participants). Howard Warner will be celebrating his bar mitzvah anniversary. The Torah portion is Numbers 1:1-4:20 and the haftarah is I Samuel 20:18-42. At 9:45 pm, there will be Havdalah services via Zoom.

On Wednesday, May 24, Torah study will be held from 4-5 pm on Zoom.

On Saturday, May 27, at 9:30 am, Shacharit services will be held via Zoom and in-person (masks are required for unvaccinated participants). The Torah portion is Deuteronomy 14:22-16:17 and the haftarah is Habakkuk 3:1-19. At 9:45 pm, there will be Havdalah services via Zoom.

The temple office will be closed Friday, May 26, and Monday, May 29.

On Wednesday, May 31, Torah study will be held from 4-5 pm on Zoom.

On Saturday, June 3, at 9:30 am, the service will include the bat mitzvah of Aviva Kaminsky.

Temple Beth-El of Ithaca

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

E-mail: rabbi-safman@tbeithaca.org, secretary@tbeithaca.org
Website: www.tbeithaca.org

Presidents: David Weiner and Linda Aigen

Sisterhood President: Gail Zussman

Director of Education: Rabbi Suzanne Brody

Services: Fri. 8 pm; Sat. 10 am, unless otherwise announced. Weekday morning minyan 7:30 am (9 am on Sun. and legal holidays).

Religious School/Education: September-May: Classes meet on Sunday, 9 am-12:30 pm and Wednesday, 3:45-5:45 pm. The Midrashah (eighth grade and high school) classes will meet at times designated by their respective teachers. Adult Ed.: Numerous weekly courses, several semester-long courses and a variety of mini-courses and lectures are offered throughout the year. Call the temple office for more details.

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

Temple Beth El of Oneonta

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

Address: 83 Chestnut St., Oneonta, NY 13820

Mailing address: P.O. Box 383, Oneonta, NY 13820

Phone: 607-432-5522

E-mail: TBEOneonta@gmail.com

Regular service times: Contact the temple for days of services and times.

Religious School/Education: Religious School, for grades kindergarten through bar/bat mitzvah, meets Sunday mornings. For the schedule of services, classes and events, contact the temple.

Synagogues limit face-to-face gatherings

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

Rohr Chabad Center

Affiliation: Chabad-Lubavitch
Rabbi Aaron and Rivkah Slonim, Directors
E-mail: aslonim@binghamton.edu
rslonim@chabadofbinghamton.com

Address: 420 Murray Hill Rd., Vestal, NY 13850

Phone: 797-0015, Fax: 797-0095

Website: www.Chabadofbinghamton.com

Rabbi Zalman and Rochel Chein, Education

E-mail: zchein@Jewishbu.com, rchein@Jewishbu.com

Rabbi Levi and Hadasa Slonim, Downtown and Development

Chabad Downtown Center: 60 Henry St., Binghamton

E-mail: lslonim@Jewishbu.com, hslonim@Jewishbu.com

Rabbi Yisroel and Goldie Ohana, Programming

E-mail: yohana@Jewishbu.com, gohana@Jewishbu.com

Regular service times: Daily 7:30 am, Friday evening 6 pm,

Shabbat morning 9:30 am, Maariv and Havdalah one hour

after candle-lighting time, Sundays 9:30 am.

To join the mailing list, for up-to-date information on adult

education offerings or to arrange for a private tutorial, for

details concerning the Judaica shop and resource center, or

for assistance through the Piaker Free Loan Society or Raff

Maasim Tovim Foundation, call Chabad's office at 797-0015.

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

Temple Brith Sholom

Affiliation: Unaffiliated

Address: P.O. Box 572, 117 Madison St., Cortland, NY 13045

Phone: 607-756-7181

President: Carol Levine, 315-696-5744

Cemetery Committee: 315-696-5744

Website: templebrithsholomcortland.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Temple-Brith-Sholom-114006981962930/>

Service leaders: Lay leadership

Shabbat services: Either Friday evening at 7:30 pm or Saturday

at 10 am from Rosh Hashanah to Shavuot. Holiday services

are also held. Check the Facebook page or weekly e-mail

for upcoming services. Contact the president to get on the

e-mail list.

Religious School: Students are educated on an individual basis.

Temple Brith Sholom is a small equalitarian congregation

servicing the greater Cortland community. Congregants span the

gamut of observance and services are largely dependent on the

service leader. The Friday night siddur is "Likrat Shabbat,"

while the Saturday morning siddur is "Gates of Prayer." The

community extends a warm welcome to the Jewish student

population of SUNY Cortland, as well as the residents of

local adult residences.

Services and programs are held by Zoom on the first and

second Fridays of the month.

Norwich Jewish Center

Orientation: Inclusive

Rabbi: David Regenspan

Address: 72 South Broad St., Norwich, NY 13815

Phone: 334-2691

E-mail: fertigg@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.



Friday, May 19, light candles before..... 8:03 pm

Shabbat ends Saturday, May 20 9:05 pm

Thursday, May 25, light candles before 8:09 pm

Friday, May 26, light candles before..... 8:10 pm

Shabbat ends Saturday, May 27 9:11 pm

Friday, June 2, light candles before..... 8:11 pm

Shabbat ends Saturday, June 3 9:17 pm

Temple Concord

Affiliation: Union for Reform Judaism
Rabbi: Barbara Goldman-Wartell

Address: 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905

Office hours: Tues.-Fri., 10 am-2 pm

Phone: 723-7355

Fax: 723-0785

Office e-mail: TempleConcordbinghamton@gmail.com

Website: www.templeconcord.com

Regular service times: Fri., 7:30 pm; Sat., 10:35 am, when

religious school is in session.

Hebrew school: Hebrew school meets at 4:15 pm and

5:15 pm on Tues. and Thurs. during the school year unless

otherwise noted.

Some services and programs are online only.

Friday, May 19: At 7:30 pm, Shabbat service with

Sisterhood Installation. Masks are optional for those

attending in person. Join via Zoom at <https://bit.ly/3hRmW2Y>,

meeting ID 869 9699 8146 and passcode 826330,

or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/templeconcord/.

Saturday, May 20: At 9:15 am, Torah study (join via

Zoom at <http://bit.ly/3XDnVRE>, meeting ID 825 1226

2831 and passcode 743892).

Sunday, May 21: From noon-3 pm, "PAST Presents:

Discover Our Sacred Sites." Temple Concord will be

part of the Preservation Association of the Southern

Tier's "Sacred Sites" tours. To see the list of sites in the

Southern Tier, visit www.pastny.org.

Wednesday, May 24: At noon, "Counting the Omer

- An Exploration of the Jewish People's Transformation

Studying Our Sacred Texts," session 7, "The Book of

Ruth." To sign up for the final session, visit at www.tinyurl.com/OmerStudy.

Thursday, May 25: At 7:30 pm, erev Shavuot Ice

Cream Social.

Friday, May 26: The temple office is closed. At 7:30

pm, Shabbat service led by Rabbi Rachel Esserman and

Robin Hazen. Masks are optional for those attending

in person. Join via Zoom at <https://bit.ly/3hRmW2Y>,

meeting ID 869 9699 8146 and passcode 826330, or on

Facebook at www.facebook.com/templeconcord/.

Saturday, May 27: Shavuot Yizkor service: location

to be determined.

Tuesday, May 30: At 7 pm, Annual Congregational

Meeting in person and on Zoom. Members have been

sent invitations.

Penn-York Jewish Community

President-Treasurer-Secretary: Harvey Chernosky, 570-

265-3869

B'nai B'rith: William H. Seigel Lodge

Purpose: To promote Jewish identity through religious,

cultural, educational and social activities in the Southern

Tier of New York and the Northern Tier of Pennsylvania,

including Waverly, NY; Sayre, Athens and Towanda, PA,

and surrounding communities.

Congregation 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

Rabbi: Shifrah Tobacman, rabbishifrah@tikkunvor.org

Presidents: Sue Merkel and Laurie Willick, presidents_22@tikkunvor.org

Education Director/Administrative Coordinator: Naomi

Wilensky

Bnai Mitzvah Coordinator: Michael Margolin

Services: All services currently on Zoom. E-mail info@tikkunvor.org

for the times and links. Contemplative

morning services every Tuesday from 8:30-9:30 am.

Saturday mornings, Gan Shabbat and other special services

at least once a month. Call for the weekly schedule.

Jewish Learning Experiences (JLE) for second through

seventh grade classes meet on Sunday mornings. Sixth and

seventh grades also meet on Wednesday afternoons. Family

programs for kindergarten and first grade held monthly.

Adult Education: Offered regularly throughout the year.

Check the website for details.

BD Sisterhood held donor event



L-r: Deborah Mindick Sliom and Miriam Alweis conversed before the donor meeting began.



Susan Hubal, Beth David Sisterhood's secretary, read the minutes from the previous meeting.



Rick Pescatore, one of the last local clock repairmen in the area, spoke about clocks and clock repair at the Beth David Sisterhood donor meeting on April 26.



At left: l-r: David Sliom, Deborah Mindick Sliom, Judy Silber, Dora Polachek and Miriam Alweis conversed around the refreshment table after the April 26 meeting.



L-r: Harold Kohn, Toby Kohn and Chaim Joy listened attentively to the speaker.

Kaplan Continued from page 1

attended the Rabbi Pesach Raymon Yeshiva. He spent a year studying in Israel, attended Yeshiva University and obtained his bachelor of science degree *summa cum laude* from Touro College, with a major in human biology. "A bad ankle injury," he said, "sparked my interest in the field I chose to pursue and, in 2020, I graduated from The New York College of Podiatric Medicine. After graduation, my family and I came to Binghamton for my post-graduate work at Our Lady of Lourdes Memorial Hospital. In June, I am scheduled to complete my residency in surgical podiatry."

Kaplan and his wife Bat-Chen have known each other since elementary school. While Kaplan has been working as a resident, his wife continued the professional studies she had begun at Rutgers University, and completed her advanced nursing degree at Binghamton University. They, along with their 3-year-old daughter, Zoey, and 7-month-old son, Yedidya, are members of Beth David Synagogue. "Being in Binghamton and being a part of Beth David have been truly inspirational experiences," Kaplan says. "My involvement in the *shul* has made me realize how important Judaism is for me and my family. I am still moved whenever I recall how warmly we were embraced from the first moment we arrived. In a large community, it's easy to get lost in the crowd. Here, every person counts and becomes a valued part of the congregation. It has made me appreciate how each of us has a role to play and needs to get involved in order to sustain and bolster our collective and individual Judaism. The personal rewards are incredibly powerful. As an example, our daughter Zoey's first introduction to *shul* and Judaism took place here. I am sure that the love and level of comfort she constantly experiences as a 'regular' at Beth David will stay with her forever."

"We look forward to having community members join us," organizers say, "for what promises to be an inspiring talk coupled with a delicious luncheon enjoyed together, as we wish Ben and his family much success in the next chapter of their lives!"

Since the 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, as well as sponsorships, 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.

Jewish online resources

By Reporter staff

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

◆ The Tikvah Fund is offering a 13-episode podcast "Building the Impossible Dream: The History of Zionism" with Shalem College's Dr. Daniel Polisar. He looks at the modern history of Zionism from "Napoleon's flirtations with Zionism to Herzl's tireless Zionist advocacy to Menachem Begin's peacemaking." For more information, visit <https://zionism.tikvahfund.org/>.

◆ The Hey Alma website will host the hybrid Shavuot Comedy Show "Get Cheesy, Bitch: A Shavuot Comedy Show" on Wednesday, May 24, at 9:30 pm. The show will be hosted by Hey Alma's Evelyn Frick and feature stand-up comedy by Alison Leiby ("Oh God, a Show About Abortion"), Josh Gondelman ("Last Week Tonight"), Max Gross (The Onion) and Freddie Shanel (Reductress). For more information or to register, visit www.heyalma.com/join-hey-alma-for-a-shavuot-comedy-show/.

◆ The Lower East Side Jewish Conservancy will hold the virtual program "Mazel: Yiddish classics reimaged by an unlikely trio!" on Tuesday, May 23, from 7-8:30 pm. There is a sliding scale price for tickets. The program will feature Cantor Daniel Kramer, pianist John Di Martino and The Manhattan Transfer's Janis Siegel. For more information or to register, visit www.nycjewishstours.org/event-log/yiddish-music-mazel.

◆ The Jewish Federation's Delaware County Kehillah will hold the hybrid program "Building a New Home in Our Minds: Embracing the Entire Family Through Gender Transition" on Sunday, June 4, at 5 pm. It will be led by Kohenet Dr. Harriette E. Wimms, a clinical psychologist and contract trainer for Keshet, an organization that works for LGBTQIA+ equality in Jewish life. The program is "an interactive workshop that will give participants a roadmap to support gender diverse and transgender youth." For more information or to register, visit https://jewishphilly.zoom.us/join/register/tJAsde-qrj0pE-92WajdTYVQ57VWiv4hk_yDA.

◆ The Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion will hold the lecture "Religion and Reproductive Rights: Judaism's Voice in the Public Square" on Tuesday, May 30, at 2 pm. Nancy Northup, Ph.D., president and CEO of the Center for Reproductive Rights, will be in conversation with Andrew Rehfeld, Ph.D., president of HUC-JIR. For more information or to register, visit <https://huc.edu/event/huc-connect-and-the-roger-e-joseph-prize/>.

◆ Keeping It Sacred will offer "Torah for Our Times: Ancient Texts & Modern Perspectives" with Rabbi Emma Gottlieb. The class will begin on Thursday, June 1, at 12:30 pm, and continue on Thursday through August. For more information or to register, visit www.keepingitsacred.com/event-details/torah-for-our-times-ancient-texts-modern-perspectives.

◆ The Biblical Archaeology Society will hold its hybrid Summer Seminar 2023 on "The Beginnings of Ancient Israel" from July 16-22. Ralph Hawkins of Averett University and Jillian Ross of Liberty University explore the Books of Joshua and Judges and examine recent archaeological and textual See "Resources" on page 8

Jewish Community Center

JCC Friendship Club

Calling all senior citizens: The JCC Friendship Club is alive and well! If you are interested in a cohesive group of over 55s, join us on Wednesday, June 14, at 1:30 pm, for our first meeting. We want to know what your interests are so we can tailor our club just for you. We're planning to have programs, games, snacks, trips, conversation and music by Deb Foreman. No need to make a reservation. We look forward to seeing you on June 14.

Sylvia Diamond
President
772-0726

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of each person one by one serves to teach that each one has individual worth, and is not just a member of the collective. "They were all equal in stature," Arama writes, "and yet the stature of each one was different," which is why each individual is to be enumerated separately.

Recognizing the value that each individual contributes to a collective enterprise is indeed laudatory, extremely important and adds spiritual and moral meaning to the census. However, acknowledging and praising the contributions of some runs the dangerous risk of marginalizing and minimizing the essential contributions of both other occupations and of the individuals themselves. The most glaringly obvious group that is omitted from the census of potential soldiers is the women. While this is, unfortunately, far from unusual, we do also have many stories of women who have played decisive roles as combatants in a battle. In addition to those on the front lines of a battle, every army also needs those who cook, tend the wounded, make or procure clothing and serve in other such crucial roles. To add insult to injury, since all males in the appropriate age range were counted, the census was sure to have included some individuals who suffered from medical conditions that made it impossible for them to perform the roles for which they were being counted.

There are times when a census is appropriate, meaningful and helpful to the community at large. However, in counting some, others are bound to be overlooked and feel marginalized in one way or another. Truly recognizing each individual's worth, as Rabbi Arama believed the census was intended to do, requires that we must become aware of those who may have been excluded and must also celebrate their contributions to our community.

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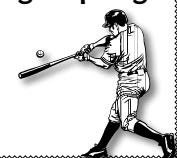
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evidence in order to provide new perspectives on ancient Israel.

◆ Keeping It Sacred will offer “Duties of the Heart” on Monday, June 12, at noon, and continue weekly throughout the summer every Monday. People can attend as many or as few classes as they like. The class will discuss Rabbi Bachya Ibn Pakuda’s work “Duties of the Heart,” an 11th century text whose translation can be found free on Sefaria.org. For more information or to register, visit www.keepingitsacred.com/event-details/duties-of-the-heart.

◆ The UJA Federation New York will hold the virtual program “A Conversation With New York Times Correspondent Isabel Kershner” on Tuesday, May 23, at 6 pm. Isabel Kershner will talk about her new book, “The Land of Hope and Fear: Israel’s Battle for Its Inner Soul,” with award-winning journalist Sandee Brawarsky. For more information or to register, visit www.ujafedny.org/event/view/conversation-with-isabel-kershner.

◆ MyJewishLearning.com will hold the virtual program “Imagery in Persian Jewish Poetry” on Wednesday, May 24, at 1 pm. Alan Niku will discuss the celebration of Shavuot, known to some Persian Jews as Moed E Gol, the Festival of the Roses, and talk about Persian Jewish poetry that incorporates rose imagery. For more information or to register, visit www.myjewishlearning.com/the-hub/a-rose-among-nations-floral-imagery-in-persian-jewish-poetry/.

◆ Maven will hold the virtual program “Netflix’s Jewish Matchmaking Series” with Aleeza Ben Shalom on Tuesday, May 30, from 3-3:45 pm. Alyssa Silva will be in conversation with Ben Shalom to look at the experiences and traditions of Jewish singles from across the U.S. and Israel. For more information or to register, visit <https://maven.aju.edu/events-classes/program/netflixs-jewish-matchmaking-series-with-aleeza-ben-shalom>.

◆ MAZON will hold a virtual tour of its online Hunger Museum on Thursday, May 25, at 2 pm. The Hunger Museum, hungermuseum.org, tells the fascinating story of the last 100-plus years of hunger and anti-hunger public policy in the United States. To register for the event, visit <https://mazon-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0tf-2tqzIt-GdCqrD2wDZ5qG7gJEkoGsPKP#/registration>.

◆ Melton will hold the virtual class “The Bard & the Bible: Comparing Shakespeare to the Torah” on Thursday, June 8, from 2-3 pm. The cost to attend is \$18. The class will compare the Torah and William Shakespeare’s writing styles, and look at the tools needed for analyzing rhetoric, before applying that framework to the Bard and the Bible. For more information or to register, visit <https://events.org/events/calendarcourse?tid=a5a106ab-21f4-4dea-955a-6bd1fcb1ed55>.

◆ Ritualwell will hold the virtual class “Tongues Shaped Like Harps: Experimenting with Poetry and Visual Art” on Tuesdays, June 6-27, from noon-1:30 pm. The cost to attend is \$180. The class will study a variety of artist and writers, and offer ways to “deepen our writing through simple exercises in drawing, watercolor painting, and collage.” For more information or to register, visit <https://ritualwell.org/event/tongues-shaped-like-harps-experimenting-with-poetry-and-visual-art/2023-06-06/>.

◆ The Yiddish Book Center will hold several virtual events: the radio drama “On the Road to Zion” on Sunday, May 21, from 7-9 pm (<https://support.yiddishbookcenter.org/site/Ticketing?view=Tickets&id=9143>); the talk “There and Back Again: Jacob Glatstein’s Voyage Home, with Ezra Gliner” on Thursday, June 1, from 7-8 pm (<https://support.yiddishbookcenter.org/site/Ticketing?view=Tickets&id=9144>); and the talk “Women in Exile: What Yenta Mash Can Tell Us” with Ellen Cassedy on Thursday, June 15, from 7-8 pm (<https://support.yiddishbookcenter.org/site/Ticketing?view=Tickets&id=9145>).

◆ Qesher will hold the virtual talks “Travel to Spain: Sephardic Jewish Heritage Tour” on Thursday, June 8, at 3 pm. The talk will explore the Jewish history of Spain and present information about the upcoming “Sephardic Jewish Heritage Tour to Spain” on October 18-26, 2023 (with an optional extension to Barcelona). For more information or to register, visit www.qesher.com/sephardic-jewish-heritage-of-spain/.

◆ Maven will hold several programs in June and July. The cost for each program is \$21. They include “Tour Global Jewish Life: Egypt” on Thursday, June 8, from 3-4 pm (<https://maven.aju.edu/events-classes/program/tour-global-jewish-life-egypt>); “Jewish Languages Today: Endangered, Surviving, and Thriving” on Thursday, June 29, from 3-4 pm (<https://maven.aju.edu/events-classes/program/jewish-languages-today-endangered-surviving-and-thriving->); “Tour Jewish Museums: The Sassoon Saga Exhibition” on Thursday, July 6, from 3-4 pm (<https://maven.aju.edu/events-classes/program/tour-jewish-museums-the-sassoon-saga-exhibition>); and “Tour Global Jewish Life: Argentina” on Tuesday, July 18, from 3-4 pm (<https://maven.aju.edu/events-classes/program/tour-global-jewish-life-argentina>).

◆ May is Mental Health Awareness Month and the Blue Dove Foundation has new digital resources that can be found at <https://thebluedovefoundation.org/mental-health-awareness-month/>. It also has resources for Shavuot, which can be found at https://thebluedovefoundation.org/resource_category/shavuot/.

◆ GenAleph – an initiative of the Department of Community Projects and Partnerships, a department of the Orthodox Union – has launched a podcast called “Child Safety.” It offers experts in several fields to help people ensure the safety of their children. For more information or to listen to the podcasts, visit <https://genaleph.org/category/child-safety/>.

◆ The Jewish Grandparents Network will hold “The Joys and Oys of Multifaith Families: How Grandparents Can Find the Blessings and Navigate the Challenges” on Tuesday, June 6, at 7-8 pm. Dr. Ruth Nemzoff will offer a view of the ways multiple faiths can enrich family life and how to address the challenges. For more information or to register, visit <https://jewishgrandparentsnetwork.org/event/the-joys-and-oys-of-multifaith-families-how-grandparents-can-find-the-blessings-and-navigate-the-challenges/>.

◆ Maven will hold “Embracing Our Jewish LGBTQ+ Community” for Pride Month on Wednesday, June 7, from 3-3:45 pm. Founder and CEO of JQ International Asher Gellis will discuss his personal journey and inform listeners of “the steps and actions necessary to be inclusive and embracing as allies and fellow community members.” For more information, visit <https://maven.aju.edu/events-classes/program/pride-month-celebrating-our-jewish-lgbtq-community>.

◆ Maven will commemorate the seventh anniversary of Elie Wiesel’s death with the program “Elie Wiesel: Confronting the Silence” on Thursday, June 15, from 3-3:45 pm. Joseph Berger and Michael Berenbaum will explore Wiesel’s life from his childhood in Europe through his years as a spokesman for Holocaust survivors. For more information

or to register, visit <https://maven.aju.edu/events-classes/program/elie-wiesel-confronting-the-silence>.

◆ Melton will hold the virtual talk “Meir Shalev z”l: Magical Storytelling at Its Best” on Monday, June 5, from 1-2 pm. Israeli literature expert Aviva Laskov will explore of the works of this master storyteller. For more information or to register, visit <https://marketplace.jewishtgether.org/event/654>.

For additional resources, see previous issues of The Reporter on its website, www.thereporter.org/streams/miscellaneous-features/miscellaneous-features/tag/80309?

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medium heat. Add the leek and kale. Cook and stir until softened, about 5 minutes. Add to the noodles, stirring lightly.

Season with salt and pepper to taste.

Cover and microwave for 3 or 4 minutes to heat through. Spoon into bowls and serve.

Creamed Mushrooms on Toasted Challah (Dairy)

Serves 4

Cook’s tip: No challah? Toasted Kaiser rolls or thickly sliced bread work just as well.

2 Tbsp. butter or margarine

1 small onion, thinly sliced

1½ cups thinly sliced white mushrooms

1½ cups sour cream

Freshly ground pepper to taste

4 slices of toasted challah about ½-inch thick

In a medium skillet, melt butter over medium heat.

Add the onions and cook until softened. Stir in the mushrooms. Reduce heat. Cover and simmer 5 minutes longer. Remove from heat. Stir in the sour cream.

Season to taste with pepper.

Spoon onto toasted challah and serve at once.

Cucumber and Radish Salad With Lemon Zest (Dairy)

Serves 4-6

Cook’s tip: For a creamy texture and a few more calories, use ½ cup low-fat sour cream and ½ cup plain yogurt.

1 cup plain yogurt

1 Tbsp. lemon zest

1 Tbsp. rice vinegar

½ tsp. freshly ground pepper

2 cucumbers, unpeeled, thinly sliced

1 bunch of red radishes, trimmed and thinly sliced

½ cup golden raisins

In a medium bowl, combine the yogurt, lemon zest, vinegar and pepper.

Add the remaining ingredients and toss to mix.

Serve chilled.

Boiled Fruit Loaf (Dairy)

Makes 8-10 slices

Cook’s tips:

◆ Use a mixture of any dried fruits such as raisins, currants, dried cranberries and a handful of shredded coconut; whatever you have on hand.

◆ To make self-rising flour, add 2 teaspoons of baking powder to 1 cup of all-purpose flour.

◆ Don’t be afraid of substituting favorite spices – pumpkin spice, Chinese Five Spice – but go easy on ground cloves.

2 cups dried fruits

½ cup sugar

1½ cups milk

2 Tbsp. butter

1 tsp. baking soda

1 egg, lightly beaten

1¾ cups self-rising flour

1 tsp. cinnamon

½ tsp. ground nutmeg

Preheat oven to 350°F. Spray a loaf pan, 9x5x3 inches, with nonstick vegetable spray.

In a medium saucepan, combine the dried fruits, sugar, milk, butter and baking soda. Bring to a boil over medium heat, stirring often.

Lower to simmer and cook for 5 minutes or until dark and beginning to be syrupy. Remove from heat. Set aside to cool completely.

After the mixture has cooled, whisk in the egg and spices, then add the flour gradually, ½ cup at a time. Transfer to prepared loaf pan. Bake in preheated oven 45-50 minutes or until a skewer comes out clean when inserted.

Cool, slice and enjoy. Freezes well.

Ma’s Stovetop Rice Pudding (Dairy)

Serves 4-6

Cook’s tips:

◆ Best made in a double boiler but may use a heavy-bottomed saucepan, stirring often.

◆ May use low-fat milk.

◆ Add ¼ teaspoon orange or vanilla extract.

½ cup rice

4 cups milk

¼ cup sugar

2 tsp. unsalted butter

½ cup dark raisins

Place all ingredients in a double boiler. Stir to mix.

Cover and cook over the lowest heat for 1½ hours, or until thick and creamy. Stir often.

Check the water in the lower pot of the double boiler, adding more water as needed.

Serve warm or at room temperature.

Ethel G. Hofman is a syndicated American Jewish food and travel columnist, author and culinary consultant.

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