

THE REPORTER

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A wave of progressives shows Israel criticism isn't taboo anymore

ANALYSIS

By Charles Dunst

NEW YORK (JTA) – After Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez shocked the political world by defeating longtime New York Rep. Joseph Crowley in a Democratic primary in June, Democratic National Committee Chairman Tom Perez quickly aligned himself with the former political outsider, saying on a radio show that “she represents the future of our party.”

If so, that future appears to include the kind of sharp criticism of Israel once considered taboo in both major parties.

Ocasio-Cortez ran on a platform of Medicare for all, fully funded public schools and a universal jobs guarantee. But she has also been critical of Israel, calling its military’s killing of Palestinian protesters in May

a “massacre.” The Democratic Socialists of America, of which Ocasio-Cortez is a member, supports the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement against Israel. Ocasio-Cortez has remained silent on the issue.

In Minnesota, Democratic congressional candidate Ilhan Omar calls herself an “intersectional feminist” and Israel an apartheid regime. In Virginia’s 5th Congressional District, Democratic nominee Leslie Cockburn is the co-author, along with her husband, of “Dangerous Liaison: The Inside Story of the U.S.-Israeli Covert Relationship,” a scathing 1991 attack on the Jewish state.

“It seems to me that some criticism of



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez appeared on “Meet the Press” on July 1. (Photo by William B. Plowman/NBC/NBC NewsWire via Getty Images)



Ilhan Omar at the premiere of “Time For Ilhan,” a film about her congressional seat run, during the 2018 Tribeca Film Festival. (Photo by Astrid Stawiarz/Getty Images for Tribeca Film Festival)

Israel is part of a package among young progressives along with health care for all and jobs for all,” Democratic strategist

Brad Bannon told Newsweek.

That puts Democrats who are both liberal and pro-Israel in a bind. Whether the result of “intersectionality,” which links Israel’s treatment of the Palestinians to other left-wing causes, or a willingness to call out its right-wing government, progressive criticism of Israel may make for some hard choices come Election Day.

According to a Pew Research Center survey, the percentage of Democrats saying they sympathize more with Israel than the Palestinians has declined from 38 percent in 2001 to 27 percent in 2018 – the lowest level of support on record. Support for Israel further decreased among self-identified “liberal” Democrats from 48 percent in 2001 to 19 percent in 2018. In the same time period, their support for Palestinians rose from 18 percent to 35 percent.

Although the Pew survey received notable See “Criticism” on page 3

Temple Beth-El Arts Committee hosts summer Jewish Film Festival July 25 and August 22

The Arts Committee of Temple Beth-El of Ithaca invites the community to its annual Jewish film festival with a series of three films this summer. The festival will take place in the social hall of the temple, located at the corner of Court and Tioga streets in Ithaca. “Shalom Bollywood” was shown on June 13. Upcoming films are “The Sturgeon Queens” and “Bagels in the Blood” on Wednesday, July 25, and “The Band’s Visit” on Wednesday, August 22. Doors will open at 6:30 pm for free refreshments and socializing. The films will begin at 7 pm. Tickets are \$8 at the door (check or cash only). All films are appropriate for children ages 10 and above. Teens are encouraged to attend.



A scene from “Bagels in the Blood.”



Russ and Daughters’ storefront

“The Sturgeon Queens” (USA, 2014) and “Bagels in the Blood” (USA, 2016)

are two documentaries concerning food purveyors: Russ and Daughters Jewish

Gourmet Grocery Store in lower Manhattan and Montreal’s Fairmount Bagels. “Wait until you taste the refreshments!” said festival organizers.

“The Band’s Visit” (Israel, 2007, Arabic, English, Hebrew with subtitles) is now a Broadway musical. This is the original Israeli film about eight Egyptian musicians who comprise the Alexandria Ceremonial Police Orchestra and who arrive by mistake in a small town in Israel’s Negev Desert.

The film festival is brought to Ithaca through Menemsha Films, 7th Art Releasing and Sony Classic Pictures.

For further information, call 257-9924.

United Way donates books to Camp JCC children

At right: Rowdy from the Binghamton Rumble Ponies visited with Camp JCC kids and helped deliver United Way summer reading program books and bags to some of the children. (See page 7 for more photos from the first week of camp.)



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A JTA editor considers whether the term “non-Jew” should cease being used in certain cases.

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Opinion

From the Desk of the Federation Executive Director

Hello, this is Sima

SIMA AUERBACH

Just a heads up about deductions and the new tax world we now live in.

I used to use one checkbook for medical and donation gifts (although a check to Lourdes isn't exactly a gift). Today, that seems unnecessary. But at the age of 70½, I started to use the IRA funds I had put away because at 70½, you *must* start dispersing those IRA funds at a scheduled amount determined by someone else other than yourself. And if you disperse those funds to a non-profit, you do not pay taxes on that money. And so, that is what I do.

Below you will find the technical, accurate wording (provided by Neisen Luks) that you need to do this.

The effect of the new tax law makes the use of your IRA minimum required distribution much more appealing and attractive. Depending upon your individual tax situation, you may be able to use your MRD to pay your Federation pledges, as well as other charitable commitments, while taking that distribution as a tax deduction. The payments would have to come directly from the fiduciary, not from your own checking ac-

count. Contact your IRA fiduciary and ask them about the ability to do this. There should be no charge. Also, you should confer with your tax advisors regarding the benefits to doing this.

P.S. An Edy item: We went to see our grandson in the play "Rent" at camp. Edy came to see it; her parents brought her. She was transfixed – watching the play intently and listening to the music. She was stunned and amazed. It's wonderful to watch the wonder and joy in your granddaughter's eyes.

Is "non-Jew" an insult?

By Andrew Silow-Carroll

(JTA) – A few months ago I wrote a humor piece titled "Don't eat off the seder plate, and other tips for non-Jews attending their first seder." It drew a miffed response from a rabbi friend who often works with interfaith families and suggested "it's time to drop terms like 'non-Jew' and 'Gentile.'"

At the time I scoffed. Yes, it is a little weird that a people who represent less than 0.1 percent of the world's population define everybody else as "not us." It's like someone with lactose intolerance saying he doesn't eat "dairy ice cream." Which is technically true, although it tends to over-privilege Tofutti.

And yet non-Jew and Gentile have their uses, especially if you write about Jews for a living. Whether you are making demographic distinctions, writing about Jews in relation to their neighbors or talking about Jewish practices that cross over into wider culture, non-Jew comes in handy. Unless you want to pretend there are no distinctions between people who identify as Jews and people who identify as something else – and making such distinctions strikes me as about 85 percent of the entire Jewish enterprise, starting at Sinai – why would you retire two perfectly serviceable words? Who do you offend by keeping them?

Then I met Lindsey Silken, the editorial director at InterfaithFamily, a resource for people in interfaith relationships. Lindsey and I sat on a panel at a Jewish journalism

convention recently, and she passed around her inhouse style guide. It explained why they don't use terms like "half-Jew," "shikse," Gentile and, yes, non-Jew.

I get why half-Jew could be offensive in that it assumes the subject can't possibly identify as fully Jewish. (And here I am obligated to quote the famous Groucho Marx quip, when an antisemitic swimming club refused admission to his daughter: "She's only half Jewish," Groucho said. "How about if she only goes in up to her waist?") *Shikse*, that awful Yiddish term that derives from Hebrew for blemish or abomination, is obviously beyond the pale. And Gentile just feels so smug and fusty, like, I don't know, a 20th-century antisemitic swimming club.

But what's wrong with non-Jew? InterfaithFamily says it is about the feelings of partners involved with Jews.

"By constantly leading with the negative in reference to a Jewish person's partner, it can be perceived as derogatory," according to the guide. "It can make the people it is referring to feel excluded and on the outside of the Jewish community."

Instead of non-Jew, the guide suggests "partner who is not Jewish, partner from another faith, not Jewish, person from a different background, person who isn't Jewish." In other words, don't reduce someone to what they are not, as if their entire identity is defined by their inverse relationship with a Jew.

There are a few centuries of debate behind the words InterfaithFamily hopes to retire. At the core of the debate is the

traditional taboo on interfaith marriage. Traditionalists want to reinforce the notion that Jews should marry Jews in the interest of continuity. Isaac Herzog, the newly elected chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel, announced his membership in the traditionalist camp recently when he referred to interfaith marriage as an "actual plague," adding "there must be a campaign, a solution. We have to rack our brains to figure out how to solve this great challenge." Other traditionalists nodded, noting that support for Israel and engagement with Jewish life plunges outside of Jewish-Jewish marriages.

Interfaith activists want to make the community welcoming to mixed families. They also talk the language of continuity, saying that mixed families certainly will not raise their children as Jews if they don't feel comfortable in Jewish settings. And they talk the language of post-modernity, saying Jews can't stand at the shores of multiculturalism like King Canute, wishing away the inevitable waves of diversity that come with a free society.

For those of us who do write about Jews and their significant others, that means taking sides. Sort of. It's not our job to judge the debate between the traditionalists and the activists. But our language has nonetheless evolved along with the Jewish community. Non-Jews itself replaced Gentiles over the years. "Jewess" went the way of the corset; "goy" shows up only in a direct quote or if modified by See "Insult" on page 3

In My Own Words

Baking and text study

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

I cook, I don't bake. So, I'm not sure why I've become hooked on the Food Network's baking competitions. It's even stranger because, at first, I never watched any of the competitions. It took a while for "Chopped" to grow on me and I almost never see a complete show. (By the way, I still think the contestants and judges are *way* too serious. Winning is partly luck of the draw: getting ingredients you know how to work with and having judges that day who like your style of cooking. It is *not* a measure of your worth as a human being.)

The first baking competitions I watched were the "Spring Baking Championship" and the "Holiday Baking Championship," and my favorite part was (and still is) the judging. I love the fact that the judges – Nancy Fuller, Duff Goldman and Lorraine Pascale – sometimes completely disagree with each other and aren't afraid to be vocal about their differences of opinion. It's fun watching them analyze

what they like and don't like about cake from a variety of angles. For example, I don't think anything could be too sweet for Fuller, but the others have complained about a dish Fuller loved. I remember Goldman and Pascale arguing about the texture of a cake – was it too dry – with Goldman saying it was perfect, while Pascale felt it needed more moisture. What wows one can leave the other cold. In fact, when I first watched the show, I didn't pay much attention to the actual baking, although that has changed. But I still look forward to the judging most of all.

It's only during the past few months that I've gotten hooked on several other Food Network baking competitions. One reason is that they use the same time slot, which means I can still get to bed at a reasonable time. While I enjoyed "Best Baker in America" and really like one of the judges (I rooted for Jason Smith when he was on the "Holiday Baking Championship"), I didn't enjoy the show as much as the other two. The same is true for the current "Wedding Cake Championship." It took some thought to figure out why they didn't seem as much fun. Then I realized the difference: the judges in these shows don't interact or disagree with each other like Fuller, Goldman and Pascale do. The best part of the shows are the judges pleasantly, but thoroughly, arguing and debating. Then I realized one reason I might like that best.

Does it sound weird to say that I enjoy the show

because it reminds me of the way Jews study? No, I'm not comparing what's argued about, but the way Jewish study includes debate and analysis. It's what we do when we look at text, whether it's Torah or Talmud. We don't expect everyone to agree: just look at the number of Torah commentaries that have appeared over the ages with very different interpretations of the text. The Talmud is really a series of rabbis agreeing and disagreeing with each other. If we can do that and be open to each others' thoughts, it's wonderful. It also reminds me of the best class I took in rabbinical school, which was a Talmud class. The teacher was terrific and all the students were engaged in the material. I remember one student explaining her thoughts about the text. My answer was that I completely disagreed with her, but what she said was really beautiful. (By the way, I can't remember what the discussion was about, it was the give and take that made the class memorable.)

Baking competitions and Torah/Talmud study may seem as if they have nothing in common, but both include lively discussions. This works best if we can listen to someone's opinion and disagree in a respectful way. There is one major difference between the two, though: the judges, even when they disagree, have to decide on a winner so the show can end. Fortunately, there is no end to Jewish debate and learning. That's what I love about it most: there's always something new to learn.

Correction

In the page 4 "Off the Shelf" column titled "Comics books and the Holocaust" in the July 13 issue of *The Reporter*, Bernie Feldstein was credited as the artist drawing the comic "Master Race." The credit should have gone to Bernie Krigstein. *The Reporter* apologizes for the error.



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HOW TO REACH THE REPORTER

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

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

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

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Executive Editor Rabbi Rachel Esserman

Layout Editor Diana Sochor

Assistant Editor Ilene Pinsker

Advertising Bonnie Rozen

Production Coordinator Jenn DePersis

Bookkeeper Kathy Brown

Proofreaders

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



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Temple Israel picnic slated for August 12

On Sunday, August 12, from 2-5 pm, Temple Israel will once again hold its annual family picnic on the grounds of the synagogue. The event will include a 3 pm outdoor barbecue, with entertainment also beginning at 3 pm.

In addition to the picnic activities, two fund-raising raffles will be held that day: a 50/50 raffle and the chance

to win a decorative quilt.

Admission to the picnic is \$10 per person; children 13 years of age and younger will be admitted free of charge. The raffle tickets may be purchased at \$3 per single ticket or \$10 for a package of four.

Advance reservations are necessary and all RSVPs must

be made no later than Wednesday, August 1. To secure a reservation, picnic-goers are being asked to indicate the total number of people attending and provide the information by phone to Tammy Kunsman at the Temple Israel office, 723-7461, or via e-mail at titammy@stny.twcbc.com.

Criticism.

Continued from page 1

criticism, the general trends it notes have been shown elsewhere.

Some credit Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) with normalizing such criticism of Israel. While the 2016 Democratic presidential candidate defined himself as "100 percent pro-Israel," he recently called on the U.S. to adopt a more balanced policy toward Israel and the Palestinians. In late March, Sanders' office posted three videos to social media criticizing Israel for what he deemed its excessive use of force in Gaza and the Trump administration for not intervening during the border clashes.

Last year, Perez appointed as his DNC deputy Rep. Keith Ellison of Minnesota, who, in addition to being dogged by ties to the antisemitic Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan, implied that U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East is "governed" by considerations of what is good or bad for Israel. (Ellison, who was the first Muslim elected to Congress, is running for attorney general in Minnesota and is not seeking re-election. Omar is seeking his seat.)

Left-wing activists have also drawn Democratic politicians into Israel controversies. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand of New York, a potential 2020 presidential candidate who has recently tacked left, penned a glowing Time magazine write-up of controversial progressive heroines and Women's March leaders Tamika Mallory and Linda Sarsour. Mallory, in a non-apology steeped in intersectional progressive terminology, has since defended her own relationship with Farrakhan following his recent antisemitic rants. Sarsour, who argued that Zionism and feminism are incompatible, is a supporter of BDS.

"There's a lot of evidence that defining liberalism through an intersectional lens has had the effect of casting Israel as an 'oppressor' and thus a nation worthy of condemnation even as its actual policies on issues associated with intersectionality are infinitely better than those of its neighbors," KC Johnson, a history professor at Brooklyn College, former Fulbright

Insult.

Continued from page 2

"Shabbos," which is a term of art and not a slur. We now use "haredi" instead of "ultra-Orthodox." And we long ago stopped assuming "rabbi" denoted a male, a "minyán" meant 10 men and "congressman" is the default for a lawmaker.

We've been sharing around the office a JTA dispatch from 1934 that is harrowing in its casual racism. (Residents of Harlem are referred to as "the dusky, happy-go-lucky denizens of Africa in Manhattan." Wow.) How will we be judged in 84 years? What words will mark us as hopelessly mired in the prejudices of our times?

So I am not scoffing anymore. I think we can reduce the use of non-Jew, especially to refer to individuals. It still remains a useful distinction if, for instance, we are reporting on a study comparing Jewish communities to the mainstream, on subjects like religious practice, genetic differences and voting patterns. But if it avoids insulting someone, why not refer to individuals as the "partner from another faith" or a "person from a different background"?

As for humor? A little flexibility is called for. I am reminded of the Jewish man who converts to Christianity and becomes a minister. Giving his first sermon, he stands before the congregation and says, "Fellow ..."

Oh, wait. Never mind. It's sort of offensive. And kind of hilarious.

Andrew Silow-Carroll is editor-in-chief of JTA.

instructor at Tel Aviv University and regular *Washington Post* contributor, told JTA in an e-mail interview.

The Republican Jewish Coalition is expected to make the rise of the Democratic left a target of its activism. It already has run ads in a Philadelphia-area congressional district where the Democratic candidate, Scott Wallace, faced heat after a charity he runs was shown to have given to anti-Israel groups. (He said he wasn't aware and is pro-Israel.) RJC spokesman Neil Strauss told ABC News that anti-Israel rhetoric has become mainstream in the Democratic Party. (JTA efforts to reach the Republican group for comment were unsuccessful.)

"They've jumped right now from some cautionary-type language to outright hostile language on Israel," Strauss told ABC. "These people are becoming the standard-bearers in the Democratic Party and it's unfortunate."

Halie Soifer, the executive director of the Jewish Democratic Council of America, said there is no contradiction between Zionism and Democratic politics, maintaining that the Democratic Party continues to best represent Jewish interests. "Given President Trump's alignment with neo-Nazis and in his politicization of Israel as a partisan issue - not to mention his radically right-wing domestic agenda - we are confident that the overwhelming majority of the Jewish electorate will continue to support Democrats in the upcoming election," Soifer told JTA. "JDCA is supporting Democratic candidates who share our policy platform and values, and we have, in some instances, spoken out against candidates who are not aligned with our views. JDCA is proudly serving as the voice of pro-Israel and socially progressive Democrats, and we will do everything in our power to ensure that the Jewish community's values are represented in the midterm elections.

"Every election, Republicans attempt to use Israel as a partisan wedge issue, and every year they fail to get a majority of the Jewish vote. This year will be no different. The more Jewish voters who go to the polls in November, the better the result will be for Democrats," said Soifer.

Although anti-Israel attitudes certainly exist within progressive circles, some liberal Jews believe they are on the margins. "I believe that support for Israel remains as strong among both Republicans and Democrats as ever," said Rabbi Jack Moline, the executive director of the Interfaith Alliance and the former head of the National Jewish Democratic Council. "With some few exceptions on both sides of the aisle, the notion of a national homeland for the Jewish people is accepted and secure. However, just as people who were formerly on the margins of both parties are now considered part of a big tent, ideas that were once marginal in Israel are being entertained by mainstream leaders.

"For a liberal Zionist like me, objecting to bad policy in Israel is an indication of deeper concern, not lesser support," he said. "Consider it a victory for the reactionary right that honest disagreement with the current administration has been successfully depicted as betrayal."

Daniel Shapiro, the former U.S. ambassador to Israel under President Barack Obama, said there is no contradiction between liberal values and Zionism, which he said "is the expression of the wholly legitimate right of the Jewish

people to sovereignty in their ancient homeland.

"If there are those in the Democratic Party or the progressive coalition who misunderstand that - there may be some, but we tend to exaggerate the phenomenon - it is incumbent on people like me to educate them about Israel's inherent legitimacy," he said.

The larger divide, Shapiro said, relates to the Palestinian issue, not Israel's existence. "An Israel that is seen as still seeking to keep a realistic two-state solution alive, where its security needs are met and it is recognized as a Jewish state - and even though Palestinian leaders have not yet met their obligations to make that outcome possible - will not have trouble retaining the broad, bipartisan support it has historically enjoyed," he said.

Rabbi Jill Jacobs, the executive director of T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights, said the Pew study was flawed, insofar as it suggested that support for either Israel or the Palestinians implies a lack of advocacy for the other. "The question of whether one is pro-Israel or pro-Palestinian is a false dichotomy. We need to stop asking questions, in polls and otherwise, that suggest that one must choose between the human rights of Israelis or Palestinians," Jacobs said. "The only defensible position is one that stands up for the human rights of both - and insists that these are not in conflict.

"That means working toward two states, and opposing the occupation and the growth of settlements that entrench it. This is the position of the Israeli left who should be the natural partners for the Democratic Party - in contrast to the Republican Party, which has allied itself with Likud, the Jewish Home party and the rest of the pro-settlement, pro-occupation hard right."

Yet others see the Democrats' continued embrace of progressive figures and Israel critics like Ocasio-Cortez, Omar, Ellison, Sarsour and Mallory as further divorcing their party - America's liberal party - from Israel, leaving liberal Zionists - a majority among American Jews - in political turmoil.

"Democratic base voters are more hostile to Israel than at any point in decades, which will produce a less supportive House Democratic caucus next year," Johnson told JTA. "As the 2020 presidential primaries take shape, it's easy to imagine more ideologically flexible contenders (such as Kirsten Gillibrand or Kamala Harris [the California senator]) sharply criticizing Israel to boost their standing with progressive activists."

"Liberal Zionists," Johnson warns, "will need to more effectively communicate how Israel's policies on women's issues, LGBT rights and civil rights are consistent with a Democratic Party increasingly oriented around identity politics."

A Wider Bridge, a pro-Israel LGBT group, insists that it is doing just that: making the progressive case for Israel. "Israel has long received broad support from both Democrats and Republicans. I believe that is still true today," said Ronit Bezalel, the group's communications director. "Much of our work at A Wider Bridge is to make the case for Israel among progressive allies. We do not believe that support of Israel excludes the concerns raised on behalf of the Palestinian people."

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Off the Shelf

Echoes of the past – part one

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

The past often returns to haunt us. That's particularly true of families whose members have lived through traumatic times. Even those who were not directly affected can't escape this trauma because their perceptions are colored by the fears and doubts of their relatives. The novels in this review feature characters whose lives were touched by World War II and show how echoes of the past continued to reverberate long after the war ended.

"Memento Park"

How many ways are there to understand a work of art? In Mark Sarvas' "Memento Park" (Farrar, Straus and Giroux), Matt Santos ponders that question during a nightlong vigil staring at the painting that funded his grandfather's and father's successful escape from the Nazis. During that time, Matt reviews all that occurred since he first learned about the painting and how it changed the course of his life.

Matt works as a character actor, the actor whose face people remember, but whose name they never learn. He manages to make an impression, but knows better than to outshine the lead. His careful life, which includes an engagement to a beautiful model, is upset when he receives a phone call about the painting. When doing research on the work, Matt becomes fascinated by the life of the artist, who committed suicide when the Nazis invaded his country. What does puzzle Matt, though, is his father Gabi's lack of interest in claiming the work. Matt and Gabi have long had a tumultuous relationship, but he notes that his father never before turned down an opportunity to make money. The painting, which is worth millions, should have been something he immediately grabbed. The only thing Gabi will tell his son, though, is to leave the painting alone; no other explanation is given.

After deciding to pursue the claim, Matt comes into contact with a woman who offers him a glimpse of the Judaism his family ignored. Rachel, a lawyer who spe-

cializes in Holocaust restitution, is an observant Jew and the most lyrical sections of the novel focus on Matt's growing appreciation of the religion he never knew. Yet, Matt feels like an ignorant outsider whenever he tries to claim his Jewish heritage. As Rachel leads him through the restoration process, a trip to Hungary reveals information about Matt's father that Gabi kept hidden and shows Matt a world he never knew existed.

"Memento Park" is a wonderful exploration of what occurs when someone who lives on the surface of life begins to look deeper into himself and those surrounding him. Although far from perfect, the fact that Matt is open and, finally, honest with himself makes him an appealing character, even with all his faults. The novel contains several clever plot twists, along with an intriguing look at what it means to understand the complexity of those whose presence we often take for granted.

"My Mother's Son"

The underlying lesson of "My Mother's Son" by David Hirshberg (Fig Tree Press) is offered in the novel's first sentence: "When you're a kid, they don't always tell you the truth." As Joel, the novel's narrator who is also a talk radio host, notes, adults have their reasons for lying: "They tell others they don't want to hurt you or they think you won't understand. But in reality, it's just easier if they tell you what makes *them* feel good, or what gets them out of a jam." Retiring after doing a radio show for 47 years, Joel now wants to write about his years growing up during the 1950s, including his relationship with his brother, the politics of Boston, the worries about polio and, of course, baseball. However, something else haunts the family: the experiences of his Uncle Jake, who escaped Germany after Kristallnacht, and the reason behind his Aunt Rose's melancholy Novembers. Joel and his older brother, Steven, are typical boys:

they're more interested in sports and making money to attend Boston Braves baseball games, than they are in understanding the adult world. They are very proud of Papa, their grandfather, who runs a furniture store and seems to have a hand in a wide variety of activities, including local politics. Their world is rocked when they learn the Braves management may be moving the team to a different city. Joel and Steven connect with a sportswriter, who starts a campaign to keep the team in town. During this time, their Uncle Jake develops polio and the boys hope to learn more about how he arrived in the U.S. However, contradictory stories leave them puzzled about exactly what happened. It's only as Joel matures that he uncovers some deeply hidden family secrets concerning his uncle and aunt.

While "My Mother's Son" is a beautiful and moving story about family, it also offers an absorbing look at the backroom politics of the time, how people maneuvered behind the scenes – sometimes using unpleasant methods – to get the results they wanted. The identity of an unnamed candidate will be obvious to those who lived during that time and will resonate with readers. The love and caring the members of Joel's extended family show for each other shines throughout Joel's tale. However, it's the author's ability to capture Joel's youthful innocence and his growing ability to understand the world that makes this coming-of-age story stand out.

"The Lost Family"

Everyone lives in a different family. That is certainly true for the three members of the Rashkin family as Jenna Blum shows in her novel "The Lost Family" (Harper). Over several decades, Peter, his wife June and their daughter Elsbeth discover that what happened to Peter during World War II set an indelible mark on their lives.

See "Past" on page 5

LEGAL NOTICE

Butler Show Stable, LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) 5/15/2018. Cty: Broome. SSNY desig. as agent upon whom process against may be served & shall mail process to 2276 Mill Rd., Binghamton, NY 13903. General Purpose.

Stewart Park Homes LLC

Articles of Organization of this Limited Liability Company (LLC) were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on June 5, 2018. The LLC maintains its office in Broome County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process served to Stewart Park Homes LLC, 26 Fourth Street, Midland Park, New Jersey 07432. Purpose: for any lawful activity for which limited liability companies may be formed under the law.

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

1. The name of the limited liability company ("LLC") is CARPE IV, LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is June 4, 2018.
3. The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the LLC is located is Broome.
4. The Secretary of State of the State of New York is hereby designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or her is: 70 Woodland Ave, Binghamton, NY 13903.
5. The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

Notice of Formation of REK Properties, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 05/24/18. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 13 Kalliste Hill Rd., Great Barrington, MA 01230. Purpose: any lawful activities.

Notice of Formation of MAJB Partners, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 06/04/18. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 16 Canal St., Port Crane, NY 13833. Purpose: any lawful activities.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY:

The name of the limited liability company is: VCP Enterprises, LLC (the "Company"). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was June 6, 2018. The county in which the principal place of business of the Company shall be located is Broome County. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the Company upon whom process against it may be served. The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the Company, to Hinman, Howard & Kattell, LLP, Attn: Christopher L. Roma, 80 Exchange Street, Suite 700, Binghamton, NY 13901. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY:

The name of the limited liability company is: C.J. 3, LLC (the "Company"). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was June 6, 2018. The county in which the principal place of business of the Company shall be located is Broome County. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the Company upon whom process against it may be served. The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the Company, to Hinman, Howard & Kattell, LLP, Attn: Christopher L. Roma, 80 Exchange Street, Suite 700, Binghamton, NY 13901. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY:

The name of the limited liability company is: Shea Holdings, LLC (the "Company"). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was June 12, 2018. The county in which the principal place of business of the Company shall be located is Broome County. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the Company upon whom process

against it may be served. The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the Company, to Hinman, Howard & Kattell, LLP, Attn: Thomas Hickey, 80 Exchange Street, Suite 700, Binghamton, NY 13901. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

TJ Diversified, LLC - NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY ("LLC")

Articles of Organization of TJ Diversified, LLC filed with the NYS Secretary of State (NYSS) on 5/31/2018. Office of LLC is in Broome County. NYSS designated as agent for service of process against it. NYSS shall mail process to 447 Plaza Drive #50, Vestal, New York 13850. Business purpose: any lawful activity

Notice of Formation of Go Victual, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 03/19/18. Location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent for service of process on LLC. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: Joy Yarkoni, 109 Red Fox Run, Vestal, NY 13850. Purpose: any lawful activities.

Notice of Formation of Superior Sentiment Care and Services, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 06/08/18. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 24 Leekville Rd., Glen Aubrey, NY 13777. Purpose: any lawful activities.

Notice of Formation of a Limited Liability Company (LLC): Name: NOI SOFTWARE, LLC, Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 6/15/18. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated LLC agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: LLC, Attn: John G. Dowd, PO Box 1905, Binghamton, NY 13902. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose. Date of dissolution: None.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY:

The name of the limited liability company is: West Side Enterprises, LLC (the "Company"). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State

was June 14, 2018. The county in which the principal place of business of the Company shall be located is Broome County. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the Company upon whom process against it may be served. The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the Company, to Hinman, Howard & Kattell, LLP, Attn: Christopher L. Roma, Esq., 80 Exchange Street, Suite 700, Binghamton, NY 13901. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

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

1. The name of the limited liability company ("LLC") is Outstanding Services 1, LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is June 26, 2018.
3. The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the LLC is located is Broome.
4. The Secretary of State of the State of New York is hereby designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or her is: PO Box 1171, Binghamton, NY 13902.
5. The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

Notice of Formation of Stop That Game Truck, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 06/19/18. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 19 North Morningside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905. Purpose: any lawful activities.

Notice of Formation of Comfort Holding Group, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 06/22/18. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 501 Plaza Dr., Vestal, NY 13850. Purpose: any lawful activities.

Notice of Formation of Chestnut Trail, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 06/28/18. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 746 Pazzelli Rd., Windsor, NY 13865. Purpose: any lawful activities.

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

1. The name of the limited liability company ("LLC") is Nicolette Interiors, LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is July 10, 2018.
3. The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the LLC is located is Broome.
4. The Secretary of State of the State of New York is hereby designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or her is: 13 Sharon Drive, Conklin, NY 13748.
5. The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

Notice of Formation of Howe Auction, LLC

Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 07/10/2018. Office location: Broome Co. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 1729 Vestal Parkway W, Vestal, NY 13850. Purpose: any lawful activities.

DC Reclaimed LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) 6/28/2018. Cty: Broome. SSNY desig. as agent upon whom process against may be served & shall mail process to 1097 Castle Creek Rd., Castle Creek, NY 13744. General Purpose.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

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Egypt to Hamas: halt flaming kites against Israel

Egypt issued a warning to Hamas to put a halt to launching of flaming kites and balloons into Israel from Gaza, according to a report in Ynet. The ultimatum followed Israel's announcement on July 16 that it would close the Kerem Shalom crossing to gas and fuel supplies after Hamas launched a rocket into Israel earlier that afternoon. Also on July 16, Egypt announced that it would temporarily close the Rafah crossing in the wake of a technical malfunction. According to the Ynet report, Hamas told Egypt that it could not entirely eliminate the kites and balloons, though allegedly told Egypt that it was working to reduce the number of incendiary balloons. Multiple fires broke out on July 16 along the Israeli border with Gaza, but the IDF reported that the numbers were less than previously recorded.

Gaza Palestinians send bird into Israel to set fires

First it was kites and balloons. Now Gaza Palestinians are using birds to set fires in southern Israel. On the afternoon of July 16, Israel Nature and Parks Authority personnel found a kestrel, a member of the falcon family and a common bird in Israel, hanging from a burned tree wearing a harness attached to a wire wrapped around flammable material. The bird was discovered after workers put out a fire that had broken out in Habesor National Park. It was the first time that an animal has been used to ignite fires, according to a statement from the Israel Nature and Parks Authority. The authority said it was considering the possibility of filing a complaint – under the appropriate international treaties – over the use of an animal for terrorism. At least eight large fires burned in southern Israel near the border with Gaza on July 16. The evening of July 16, Israel announced it would again close the Kerem Shalom crossing, the only crossing for commercial goods and the main crossing for humanitarian aid between Israel and Gaza, after a rocket was fired into southern Israel earlier in the day despite a cease-fire declared by Hamas late July 14. The closure, which cuts off fuel and gas supplies to the

coastal strip, will remain in effect until July 22, the Defense Ministry announced. Food and medicines will continue to be allowed to pass through the crossing to Gaza, but each shipment will require individual approval. "The vindictive steps by Israel reflect the magnitude of the injustice and the crimes that are committed in the Gaza Strip," Hamas, the terror organization that runs the Gaza Strip, said in a statement. "There will be severe consequences and Israel will have to take responsibility. It will never succeed in influencing the national position to continue the struggle and resistance until we achieve our rights and lift the siege."

Knesset passes law banning Breaking the Silence from schools

A law banning groups grounded in the criticism of Israel Defense Forces' soldiers and the operations of the IDF passed on July 17 in the Knesset. Education Minister Naftali Bennett and Shuli Mualem-Refaeli, the Jewish Home Party co-authors of the bill, said the law would also apply to institutions that attempt to delegitimize Israel abroad. The bill passed its second and third reading by a vote of 43-24. It was specifically aimed at Breaking the Silence, an organization that questions

the actions and morality of the IDF, particularly in Judea and Samaria. The organization has come under criticism not just for attacking the actions of Israeli soldiers, but the Jewish state itself around the world, and for publicizing stories of the abuse of Palestinians that were later proven to be false.

Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade unit head, son killed in "mysterious explosion"

A mysterious explosion has killed the head of an Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade missile unit, according to reports by the Hamas-run Gaza health ministry. The blast rocked central Gaza on the morning of July 15, killing Ahmad Husan, head of the Ayman Jawda branch of the Brigade, and his 13-year-old son, Louay. Some Palestinian media reports suggest that the blast was a "work accident," although that claim has not been verified. The deaths came just a day after some 200 rockets and mortar shells were fired at Israeli civilian centers along the Gaza border by Hamas and allied terror groups in the most serious attacks since the 2014 Gaza war. Israel responded by firing aerial attacks against dozens of terror targets in Gaza, including a Hamas urban-warfare training facility situated above a massive underground terror and smuggling tunnel.

Past. Continued from page 4

In the 1960s, Peter believes the war is behind him: his restaurant in New York City is a success and work sustains him. His only family in the U.S. – cousins Sol and Ruth – try introducing him to eligible Jewish women, but he has no interest in a long-term relationship. That changes after he meets a stunning model, the non-Jewish June Bouquet, who came to New York from a small town in the Midwest. What attracts Peter to June is that they're both trying to escape their past. When June learns from Ruth about Peter's history in the war – how his wife and twin daughters were killed by the Nazis – it creates problems because Peter refuses to discuss his former life. Although Peter loves June, he is unable to commit until a crisis forces his hand.

prefers her father and throws temper tantrums when her mother tries to discipline her. The last section, which takes place in the 1980s, is told from Elsbeth's point of view as she learns how the legacy of both her parents has affected her view of the world.

The second section of the novel focuses on June and her discontent as a housewife in the 1970s. June misses working and has difficulty controlling their daughter, who

Although all three sections were interesting, my preference was for the first, which was told from Peter's point of view. I missed hearing his voice during the next sections; I wanted to know what he thought about June and Elsbeth's behavior. Fortunately, his voice returns at the end of the novel and brings the work to a satisfying close. Blum's greatest success is in creating three well-rounded characters whose inability to see each other clearly causes the sorrows that inform all their lives.

Part two of this review will appear in a future issue of The Reporter.



Schoolhouse Creamery

Location: 17 Fox Farm Rd. Windsor, NY 13865
 Owners: Lena Colpitts and Susan Colpitts
 Phone: 607-499-2015
 Facebook: Schoolhouse Creamery
 Hours: Sun.-Sat. (all week) noon-9 pm
 Most Popular Flavors: Sea Salted Caramel Cookies and Cream, Brown Butter Bourbon Truffle, Dark Chocolate Raspberry Truffle, Cookie Doughlicious, Green Mint Chip and Peanut Butter Cup

In an old, one room schoolhouse, the Schoolhouse Creamery offers traditional soft serve flavors, along with a variety of blended flavors, too. The Schoolhouse Creamery carries 32 different flavors of Hershey hard ice cream, including both yogurt and reduced fat with no sugar added.

"We can make milkshakes with any of our flavors and sundaes with toppings of your choice," say owners Lena Colpitts and Susan Colpitts. "In addition, we make a variety of ice cream sandwiches, along with ice cream cakes and even frozen cupcakes, too."

Suzy Q's

Location: 1110 Chenango St. Hillcrest, NY 13901
 Phone: 607-723-3206
 Hours: Mon.-Sun. 12-9:30 pm
 Most Popular Flavors: Moosetracks, Cappuccino Crunch

Suzy Q's ice cream shop offers 64 flavors of Hershey's ice cream along with three soft-serve ice creams: chocolate, vanilla and twist. Both sugar and waffle cones are available. Suzy Q's also offers Flurries, milk shakes, malts and soft drinks.

Milk shakes can be made using any of the Hershey's ice creams. The Flurries can be made with Oreos, Heath bars, peanut butter cups, M&Ms, Reese's Pieces, Nestlé Crunch bars, gummies and more. Other toppings include regular and fat-free/sugar-free hot fudge sauce, caramel, chocolate syrup, peanut butter, butterscotch, walnuts, pecans, marshmallow, pineapples, strawberries, blueberries and raspberries. Sprinkles come in rainbow, chocolate, pink, red, white, blue and more.

Suzy Q's offers chocolate or vanilla ice cream cakes, and can make special order ice cream cakes from any of the 64 ice cream flavors. For special cakes, call Suzy Q's at 723-3206.

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Weekly Parasha

Devarim, Deuteronomy 1:1-3:22

Ruminations on the Three Weeks and beyond

RABBI AARON SLONIM, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CHABAD OF BINGHAMTON

Saturday, July 21, marks Tisha B'Av – the saddest day on the Jewish calendar as it marks the destruction of both Holy Temples and the end of a period of time known as the Three Weeks. The Three Weeks began with the 17th day of the Hebrew month of Tammuz (this year marked on July 1), which, like Tisha B'Av, is observed as a fast day in commemoration of five calamities that occurred on that day. On the 17th day of Tammuz, the first set of tablets of law were broken by Moses; the offering of the daily sacrifices was interrupted even before the First Temple was destroyed; the walls of Jerusalem were breached before the destruction of the Second Temple; Apostomos the wicked burned a Torah scroll; and he erected an idol in the Temple.

This period is referred to by our sages as *bein hametzarim*, “between the straits,” and is distinguished by several customs associated with mourning: Marriages are not held during this time, and we refrain from music and dancing or from

pleasure trips, as well as from hair-cutting and wearing new clothes. As its name implies, this is a difficult period; aside from the mourning aspect it is considered an unfavorable time for the Jewish people. Paradoxically, despite its tragic associations, this period is characterized by strong, positive spiritual influences. Jewish mysticism teaches that everything that transpires in the material world is a reflection of the corresponding spiritual forces that operate in the higher realms. Moreover, the way any entity functions on the physical plane results from specific relationships between spiritual forces, which are the source of all corporeal existence. For example, the sun is associated with the name of God that expresses the Divine attribute of mercy and revelation. The shining of the sun, especially during the Three Weeks when it is at its most powerful, thus indicates the prevalence of intense Godly mercy.

The tragic nature of the Three Weeks and its status as a time in which God's mercy is manifest, are not mutually

exclusive. The inner motivating force of the Three Weeks is God's love. However, genuine love can at times require conduct which appears harsh. When a parent chastises his/her child, it is unpleasant for both but the parent is no less motivated by deep concern and love for the child as when he/she presents the child with a reward. The positive and overtly recognizable aspect of this love will be revealed in the Era of Redemption, when Maimonides teaches: “all the commemorative fasts will be annulled and will be transformed into holidays and days of rejoicing.” But we can, if we make an effort, enjoy a foreshadow of that era already. The great sage Rabbi Akiva taught us much about the important exercise of “being within but staying above”; seeing the future as it transcends the present.

Once, relates the Talmud, Rabbi Akiva was walking along the road in Jerusalem with Rabbis Gamliel, Elazar See “Weeks” on page 8

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
 Shabbat Services:
 Friday, July 20..... 7:15 pm
 Shabbat, July 21..... 9 am
 Mincha after the kiddush
 Maariv/Eichah 9:35 pm
 Sun., July 22..... 6:15 pm, special programming
 Weekday Services:
 Mornings:
 Sun., July 22..... 8:30 am
 Mon.-Fri., July 23-27..... 7 am
 Evenings:
 Sun., July 22..... 8 pm
 Mon.-Thurs., July 23-26..... 8:15 pm
 Fri., July 27..... 7:15 pm
 Classes: Rabbi Zev Silber will hold his weekly Talmud class every Tuesday evening after services.

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.

Kol Haverim

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

Temple Brith Sholom

Affiliation: Unaffiliated
 Address: P.O. Box 572, 117 Madison St., Cortland, NY 13045
 Phone: 607-756-7181
 President: Louis Wilson, louiswilson1995@yahoo.com
 Service leaders: Lay leadership
 Shabbat services: Either Friday evening at 7:30 pm or Saturday at 10 am from Rosh Hashanah to Shavuot. Holiday services are also held. Check the weekly e-mail for upcoming services. Contact the president to get on the e-mail list.
 Religious School: Students are educated on an individual basis. Temple Brith Sholom is a small equalitarian congregation serving the greater Cortland community. Congregants span the gamut of observance and services are largely dependent on the service leader. The Friday night siddur is “Likrat Shabbat,” while the Saturday morning siddur is “Gates of Prayer.” The community extends a warm welcome to the Jewish student population of SUNY Cortland, as well as the residents of local adult residences.

Temple Concord

Affiliation: Union for Reform Judaism
 Rabbi: Barbara Goldman-Wartell
 Address: 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905
 Office hours: Tues.-Fri., 10 am-2 pm
 Phone: 723-7355
 Fax: 723-0785
 Office e-mail: TempleConcordbinghamton@gmail.com
 Website: www.templeconcord.com
 Regular service times: Friday, 8 pm; Saturday, 10:35 am, when religious school is in session.
 Hebrew school: Hebrew school meets at 5:15 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the school year unless otherwise noted.
 On Friday, July 20, at 8 pm, there will be Shabbat evening services in the library led by Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell.
 On Saturday, July 21, at 9:15 am, there will be Torah study.
 On Friday, July 27, at 8 pm, there will be Shabbat evening services in the library led by Allan Krongold.
 On Saturday, July 28, at 9:15 am, there will be Torah study.

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

Temple Beth-El of Ithaca

Affiliation: United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism
 Rabbi: Scott L. Glass
 Address: 402 North Tioga St. (the corner of Court and Tioga streets), Ithaca, NY 14850-4292
 Phone: 273-5775
 E-mail: rabbi@tbeithaca.org and secretary@tbeithaca.org
 Website: www.tbeithaca.org
 President: Jerry Davis
 Sisterhood President: Julie Paige
 Director of Education: Rabbi Suzanne Brody
 Administrative Assistant: Jane Griffith
 Services: Friday 8 pm; Saturday 10 am, unless otherwise announced. Weekday morning minyan 7:30 am (9 am on Sundays and legal holidays).
 Religious School/Education: September-May: Classes meet on Sunday, 9 am-12:30 pm and Wednesday afternoons, 3:45-5:45 pm. The Midrashah (eighth-grade and high school) classes will meet at times designated by their respective teachers.
 Adult Ed.: Numerous weekly courses, several semester-long courses and a variety of mini-courses and lectures are offered throughout the year. Call the temple office for more details.

On Saturday, July 21, the eve of Tisha B'Av service will be held at 9:30 pm.

On Sunday, July 22, at 9 am, the Tisha B'Av service will be held.

The Arts Committee of Temple Beth-El's Jewish film festival with a series continues with “The Sturgeon Queens” and “Bagels in the Blood” on Wednesday, July 25, in the social hall of the temple. Doors will open at 6:30 pm for free refreshments and socializing. The film will begin at 7 pm. Tickets will cost \$8 at the door (check or cash only). The film is appropriate for children ages 10 and above. Teens are encouraged to attend. (See article on page 1.)

Friday, July 20, light candles..... 8:16 pm
 Shabbat ends Saturday, July 21..... 9:15 pm
 Friday, July 27, light candles..... 8:09 pm
 Shabbat ends Saturday, July 28..... 9:09 pm

Temple Israel

Orientation: Conservative
 Rabbi: Geoffrey Brown
 Address: 4737 Deerfield Pl., Vestal, NY 13850
 Phone: 723-7461 and 231-3746
 Office hours: Mon.-Thurs. 8:30 am-4 pm; Fri. 8 am-3 pm
 E-mail: titammy@stny.twcbc.com
 Website: www.templeisraelvestal.org
 Service Schedule: Tuesday, 5:30 pm; Friday, 5:30 pm; Saturday, 9:30 am
 On Saturday, July 21, at 9:30 am, services will be led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown. The Torah portion will be Deuteronomy 1:1-3:22. The haftarah will be Isaiah 1:1-27. Steven and Barbara Gilbert will sponsor the kiddush in honor of Barbara's birthday.
 On Friday, July 27, at 6:30 pm, there will be Shabbat on the Road at Brookdale Senior Living (across from the JCC).

On Sunday, August 12, at 3 pm, there will be the Temple Israel picnic. (See article on page 3.)

Those who wish to recite the Mourner's Kaddish during a weekday service can contact Howard Schwartz at schwertz@stny.rr.com or call the temple office one-and-a-half weeks or more before the date to ensure time to make up a minyan. Temple Israel holds weekday minyan services on Tuesdays at 6 pm and Fridays at 5:30 pm. For those who prefer a different day to coincide with a yahrzeit date, contact the temple to make arrangements.

Norwich Jewish Center

Orientation: Inclusive
 Rabbi: Dena Bodian
 Address: 72 South Broad St., Norwich, NY 13815
 Contact: Guilia Greenberg, 336-1523
 Purpose: To maintain a Jewish identity and meet the needs of the Jewish community in the area.
 Adult Ed.: Saturday morning study is held at 10 am. Call for more information and to confirm.

Rohr Chabad Center

Affiliation: Chabad-Lubavitch
 Rabbi: Aaron Slonim, E-mail: aslonim@binghamton.edu
 Address: 420 Murray Hill Rd., Vestal, NY 13850
 Phone: 797-0015, Fax: 797-0095
 Website: www.Chabadofbinghamton.com
 Chabad on the West Side
 Rabbi: Zalman Chein, E-mail: zchein@JewishBU.com
 Address: 27 Bennet Ave., Binghamton, NY 13905
 Phone: 722-3252
 Regular service times: Daily 7:30 am, Friday evening 6 pm, Shabbat morning 9:30 am, Maariv and Havdalah one hour after candle-lighting time, Sundays 9:30 am.
 Linking Hearts for youngsters with special needs: This program connects Jewish special-needs children and teenagers, ages 5-14, who have mental, physical and/or functional disabilities, with student volunteers who will visit participating youngsters weekly in their homes.
 To join the mailing list, for up-to-date information on adult education offerings or to arrange for a private tutorial, for details concerning the Judaica shop and resource center, or for assistance through the Piaker Free Loan Society or Raff Maasim Tovim Foundation, call Chabad's office at 797-0015.

Temple Beth El of Oneonta

Affiliation: United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism
 Rabbi: Molly Karp
 Address: 83 Chestnut St., Oneonta, NY 13820
 Mailing address: P.O. Box 383, Oneonta, NY 13820
 Phone: 607-432-5522, E-mail: TBEOneonta@gmail.com
 Website: www.templebetheloneonta.org
 Regular service times: visit the temple website for days of services and times
 Religious School/Education: Religious school, for grades kindergarten through bar/bat mitzvah, meets Sunday mornings. Rabbi Karp conducts services and holds classes in Torah, beginning Hebrew and Maimonides.
 For schedules of services, classes and events, see the website.

Jewish Community Center

FUN IN THE SUN AT CAMP JCC



Osem campers received Camp JCC Mitzvah Awards at the all-camp party on July 6.



United Way donated books and bags from its summer reading program to some of the Camp JCC kids, who were also able to meet Rowdy from the Binghamton Rumble Ponies.



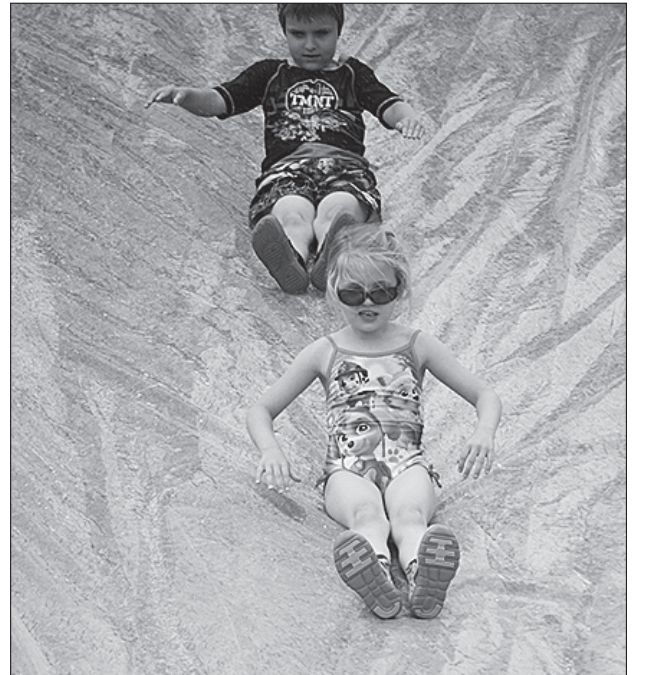
Sabra I campers participated in the "Drama" elective at Camp JCC.



L-r: Ryan Williams and Andrew Bonsick were all smiles at Camp JCC's first Ruach Circle on July 2.



Rowdy from the Binghamton Rumble Ponies visited with Camp JCC kids during the first week of camp.



Matthew Rosato (in back) and Kaida Reynolds took a turn on the water slide at the all-camp party on July 6.

JCC Friendship Club

The JCC Friendship Club met on July 11. We celebrated the birthday of Sylvia Diamond. Sue Herzog brought a cake and put birthday candles on it. Sylvia blew out the candles and everyone sang "Happy Birthday." Then Sue gave out cards to play Bingo. We had fun calling back numbers when we won a game. Sue continued calling until everyone won a game. Ann Brilliant and Ada Brummer were lucky and won twice. We all picked prizes from the

table that had little gifts such as paper pads, a night light, a first aid kit and more.

The meeting was called to order by Sylvia. Ann said the blessing over a cupcake after the Pledge of Allegiance. Renee Fromer brought in several cupcakes for a snack at the meeting.

On Wednesday, July 25, the club members will meet at the Jewish Community Center at 1:30 pm. Come join us

and talk about your summer plans. On Wednesday, August 1, come join us to celebrate Ann's birthday.

*Sylvia Diamond
President*

At right: Members of the Friendship Club played Bingo at their July 11 meeting.



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Weeks. Continued from page 6

Ben Azariah and Yehoshu when they heard the tumultuous sound of a Roman multitude coming from a great distance. They began to weep while Akiva laughed. They asked him: "Why do you laugh?" He answered: "And why do you weep?" Said they: "These people who bow to idols and burn incense to them, dwell in safety and quiet, and as for us – the house which is our God's footstool is burned in fire. Shall we not weep?" Said he to them: "For this I laugh – for if this is the lot of those who violate His will, how much more joyous will the future be, of those who do His will?"

Another time they went up to Jerusalem. On reaching Mt. Tzofim (Scopus), they tore their clothes. When they reached the Temple Mount they saw a fox emerging from the place of the Holy of Holies. They began to weep, but Rabbi Akiva laughed. They asked him: "Why do you laugh?" He

answered: "Now that I see the fulfillment of the prophets concerning the destruction I am sure that the prophecies concerning the redemption will come to fruition." Rabbi Akiva was not negating the bitter state of exile, but he taught us to look beneath and beyond the present reality.

The most important way in which we can emphasize the positive dimension of the Three Weeks is by undertaking a study of the laws governing the construction of the Holy Temple, focusing on its building rather than on its destruction.

When God revealed the structural details of the third holy Temple to be built with the coming of the Messiah to the prophet Ezekial, He told him, "Tell the people of Israel of the House... and measure its design."

Ezekial, as our sages relate, replied: "Master of the Universe! Why are you telling me to tell Israel the form of

the House?... They are now in the land of our enemies. Is there anything they can do? Let them be until they return from exile. Then I will go and inform them."

God answered: "The study of the Torah's description of the Temple is deemed equal to its construction. Go, tell them to study the form of the Temple. And, as a reward for their study... I will consider it as they had actually built the Temple!"

With this kind of study – which is not for the Three Weeks alone, but can and should be done at any time – every Jewish man and woman can fulfill the biblical injunction to build the sanctuary. As well, the study brings us closer to the fulfillment of the prayer, "Rebuild Your House as in former times and establish Your sanctuary on its site; let us behold its construction, and cause us to rejoice in its completion." May this take place speedily in our day.

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