

THE REPORTER

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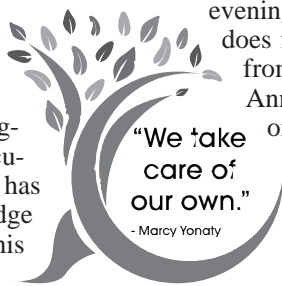
August 11-24, 2023
Volume LII, Number 16

Super Sunday calls on Oct. 15

Federation's Campaign for 2024 now underway: "Pledge early!"

By Reporter staff

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton has kicked off its Campaign for 2024 with an emphasis on pledging early. Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Federation, has urged people to make their pledge before Super Sunday, which this year will be a day reserved for fund-raising. "We are breaking with tradition," Hubal added, "by not holding a brunch for Super Sunday this year. We are going with the old model and trying to call all donors of the Federation during the first weeks of the Campaign. That means that Super Sunday, October 15, will be devoted to Campaign calls. We are hoping to get those calls made from 10 am-noon. We also plan to make calls on Monday, October 16 in the evening. Additional dates for calling will be Sunday, October 22, during the morning and Monday, October 23, in the



"We take care of our own."
- Marcy Yonaty

evening. To see all that the Federation does for the community with funds from the Campaign, check out our Annual Report, which can be found on our website, www.jfgb.org/annual-report.

Campaign letters will be sent to donors ahead of Super Sunday to encourage early pledging. People can also use the form on page 8 of this issue of *The Reporter* and send it to the Federation at 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850; call the Federation office at 607-724-2332; e-mail Hubal at director@jfgb.org; or visit www.jfgb.org/.

The theme for Campaign 2024 is "We take care of our own," based on a comment made by Marcy Yonaty. (See sidebar for more information about Yonaty's thoughts on the theme.) Hubal said, "To me, this theme is about compassion. It goes beyond See "Pledge" on page 7

Campaign 2024's slogan: "We take care of our own"

By Reporter staff

"Being a Jew means not turning your back on those in need," said Marcy Yonaty who has lived her life as "a proud Jewish woman." Her Jewish beliefs are what led to her statement, "We take care of our own," which is the theme of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton's Campaign for 2024.

Yonaty noted that "Jews are a proud, compassionate and humane people who not only take care of their own, but they are also there for anyone in dire need, often going beyond our borders to lend a hand." Yonaty added, "It's up to us to lift each other up. Whenever there is a crisis or a

cry for help, the Jewish people are there to help. This is what it means to be a Jew."

Yonaty is passionate about supporting the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton. She said, "It is incumbent upon us all to ensure the Jewish community in Binghamton has the resources to thrive for generations to come." To her, *tzedakah* is at the core of Judaism, it means more than giving money: it also refers to people giving of their time and effort to help each other. *Tzedakah* plays an important role in her life as a "proud Jew" and she is pleased that the Federation is using her words as its theme for Campaign 2024.

Piaker Memorial Lecture to feature Rabbi Asher Crispe on Sept. 10

The Chabad Center and the Piaker family will hold its annual Pauline and Philip M. Piaker Memorial Lecture on Sunday, September 10. The program will begin at 10 am with a bagel brunch buffet to be followed by a lecture on "The Jewish Origins of A.I. and a Future Vision of Technology in the Service of the Human" by Rabbi Asher Crispe. There is no charge for the brunch or lecture, but reservations must be made at www.Jewishbu.com/Piaker or by calling Chabad at 607-797-0015.



Rabbi Asher Crispe

Crispe is a technology futurist who consults for a number of companies and organizations, including BECO Management, Lifewrite, Campaign for Vermont, and Merciv Studio. His consulting focuses on advances in A.I., robotics, biotech, agtech,

neuroscience, organizational psychology, materials science and complex systems. He also does early-stage venture placements for family offices. Additionally, Crispe lectures widely in Jewish centers and academic institutions around the world on *chasidut* and kabbalistic philosophy, and their relationship to the arts and sciences. He completed a B.A. in comparative religion and English at the University of Vermont and studied for a Ph.D. in religious philosophy from New York University. He lives with his family in Danby, VT, where they run experiential Jewish retreats and programming.

"The exponential growth of information technologies has produced a heightened sense of promise and peril. What are the limits, if any, to computation, prediction,

mapping and modeling? Will A.I. spell the end of work? Numerous academic historians of A.I. have noted texts and practices within the tradition of kabbalah that partially anticipate the trajectory of innovation that has produced the likes of DALL-E and Chat GPT," said Crispe. "Might these same resources in antiquity inspire further development as well as impart guidance for navigating the pitfalls of technologies which we don't fully understand?"

"Personally, I am so excited to hear See "Piaker" on page 2



Philip and Pauline Piaker

LiveSecure update

Federation gets grant for High Holiday security

By Reporter staff

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton announced that it received a matching grant to help provide for local High Holiday security costs. "We are receiving an additional grant of \$750 from the LiveSecure program that the Federation is matching with \$750 of our money that we will give Beth David Synagogue, Chabad Center, Temple Concord and Temple Israel to help them with their security costs for the High Holidays," said Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Federation. "The holidays are a time when the sanctuaries of these organizations are filled and we want to make sure everyone is safe."

Hubal noted that this was just one part of what LiveSecure offers. "Security programs are already being held to help organizations

plan for the holidays," she added. "Six webinars are available and recordings and resources will be available after each session." Anyone interested in attending a webinar will find registration information at <https://securecommunitynetwork.fedwebpreview.org/high-holidays>.

According to Hubal, there are other advantages to being part of the LiveSecure program. "LiveSecure offers us the help of a professional grant writer for other local security projects," she said. "We've already benefitted from some of their trainings and we plan to offer more in the future, including 'The Power of Hello,' which will teach how organizations can be open and friendly, while still being security conscious."

LiveSecure also offers intelligence about See "Grant" on page 7

TI Honeygram fund-raiser

Temple Israel is holding its Honeygram fund-raiser. "Honeybees are busy preparing for the return of the Honeygram fund-raiser as a way to wish friends and family a sweet New Year 5784," said organizers of the fund-raiser. "The Honeygrams can be sent locally and out of town. Each Honeygram will include a 2.5 oz. jar of Glicks honey, a bag of King Sweets honey candy (both are certified kosher), an apple charm and a New Year greeting card."

There are two delivery options:
◆ Bumblebee – a gift box for \$25 that will be sent to a single recipient anywhere in the U.S., along with a custom greeting.
◆ The Honeybee – gifts that are for local

delivery only. The first box sent is \$18, additional boxes are \$8 each. The person's name will be included on a group gift card delivered with the box.

Orders with payment must be received by the Temple Israel office by Monday, August 21, and include the recipient's name and address. To place an order, call the temple office at 723-7461 or e-mail titammy@stny.twcbc.com.

Organizers added the fund-raiser has a dual purpose: "While this helps support our synagogue, even more importantly, it is the perfect way to wish friends and family a New Year filled with joy and happiness!"

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Baseball connections

Bill Simons reflects on Jewish connections to baseball after attending minor league games.
.....Page 2

Shul news

Temple Israel is hosting a pre-High Holidays class; BD Sisterhood makes plans for the new year.
.....Page 3

JCC Friendship Club

The next JCC Friendship Club meeting is set for August 16 with speaker Jack Lindley.
.....Page 7

Special Sections

Book Reviews..... 4
Dine Out..... 4
Women in Business..... 5
Classifieds 7



Jewish Baseball Players

Goldfarb, Cohen and Rotenberg: Father's Day at the ballpark

BILL SIMONS

The names Goldfarb, Cohen and Rotenberg more readily conjure up a yeshiva or a Jewish riff on the poetic, double-play refrain "Tinker to Evers to Chance" than an actual ballpark. However, on Father's Day, Sunday, June 18, Jakob Goldfarb, Adam Cohen and Arnold Rotenberg played central roles in the doubleheader at "The Joe," Joseph Bruno Stadium in Troy, NY. Named after a benevolent, yet sometimes ethically challenged, former New York Senate majority leader, "The Joe," located on the Hudson Valley Community College campus, has abundant parking, inviting 325' foul poles, stretching to 400' in deep center. With a crowd capacity of about 4,500, there isn't a bad seat in the house.

For those of us of a certain age, baseball, despite the defection of many of the young, is still America. Chicago Cubs slugger Ernie Banks once said, "Let's play two," and that's exactly what the hometown Tri-City ValleyCats and visiting Florence, KY, Y'all did on this picture-perfect June day. These teams, part of the independent Frontier League, play good ball, approaching that of Double-A in the minors. The Father's Day crowd was friendly and family oriented. My friends and I, whose fathers have passed, brought dads along in our memory bank. Our gang drove an hour and some change from Oneonta to take in a new ballpark, and The Joe did not disappoint.

Sports-minded Jews tend to keep track of their extended baseball family trees. As Tyler Kepner, former national baseball writer for the late, lamented *New York Times* sports page, wisely observed, there are many ways to connect to baseball. On Father's Day at The Joe, catcher Jakob Goldfarb, broadcaster Adam Cohen and alpha fan

Piaker. . . . Continued from page 1

from someone who is both a scholar and immersed in this technology in practicum," noted Rivkah Slonim. "You can't read or listen to anything today without bumping into a discussion or, at the very least, a reference to artificial intelligence. But, as a lay person, I want to know, what exactly does the term A.I. include? And is the accelerated development and usage of this technology, a cause for cheer or wariness?"

Arnold Rotenberg reflected diverse Jewish connections to America's past and perhaps future national pastime.

I wore my official Team Israel baseball cap, emblazoned with the six-pointed Star of David in front and the Israeli flag on the side, to The Joe. Upon entering the outdoor concourse at the ballpark, it was immediately evident that I was in friendly territory. I encountered a man with a yarmulke who had an animated group gathered around him, including a fan with the name Goldberg printed in large letters on the back of his baseball shirt. I introduced myself to the gentleman capped with the *kippah*. His name was Josh Cooper-Ginsburg. Before game two of the doubleheader, Cooper-Ginsburg and some of his landsmen were escorted onto the field where he sang "The Star-Spangled Banner" in a robust voice.

Cooper-Ginsburg was part of a sizeable group from Congregation Gates of Heaven, a Reform Jewish temple in nearby Schenectady where he serves as director of administration and operations. The temple outing to the ball game was organized by Arnold Rotenberg, the director of congregational Jewish living at Gates of Heaven. A superfan who still expresses enormous pride in Sandy Koufax sitting out Yom Kippur during the 1965 World Series and then pitching shutouts in games five and seven, Rotenberg thought a trip to the ballpark would make for a good Father's Day family outing. Evidenced by his enthusiastic temple contingent of nearly 50, he was right.

The ValleyCats rewarded the home crowd with a Father's Day's doubleheader sweep of the Y'all. Compensating for two errors, Jakob Goldfarb caught a couple of good games, threw a baserunner out, scored a run and drilled a base hit. His Jewish father and Christian mother shared both traditions with him. Identifying as a Jew, Goldfarb chose to be bar mitzvahed. He played for Team Israel in the World Baseball Classic, asserting that playing for Team Israel meant representing a people.

Five days after Father's Day, Goldfarb enjoyed pregame birthday cake at a local diner with his visiting parents and sister. For an encore, that evening he launched two homers, driving in five runs, in the ValleyCats' June 23 victory over the visiting Ottawa Titans. Adding to his birthday laurels, the 6'2", 220-pound native of Scottsdale, AZ, made a

spectacular running catch in the outfield that scotched a bases-loaded Titans' rally.

Goldfarb, who earned his undergraduate degree at the University of Oregon while majoring in philosophy, will complete his law school studies at the University of Washington this fall. Professors have allowed him to attend certain classes virtually, and the ValleyCats have granted him a private room on the road to facilitate studies. This coming December will be a big month; marriage will follow graduation. Goldfarb met his fiancée in law school. They plan to have children in five years. Come February, Goldfarb will take the bar exam. At 27, he is old for a baseball prospect. However, Goldfarb is resilient and determined as evidenced by comebacks from injuries. Moreover, he possesses both power and speed, and the versatile Goldfarb can play any outfield position and first base, as well as catch. He will take his baseball dream as far as he can.

As he does for all home games, Cohen, the ValleyCats' media relations coordinator and broadcaster, anchored coverage of the Father's Day doubleheader and Goldfarb's two home run birthday game. Cohen grew up a Yankees fan in the very Jewish Midge Maisel section of the Upper West Side of Manhattan, largely shielded from antisemitism. Raised in Reform Judaism with a rabbi for a stepmother, he currently defines his Judaism as cultural rather than theological. Despite having just turned 23, Cohen, a graduate of Allegheny College with a degree in communications, has an impressive background, including stints with the Israel Association of Baseball, Erie SeaWolves, Duluth Huskies and *Meadville Tribune*. Confident of sportscasting ascent in the years to come, Cohen's gametime commentary radiates a mix of informed detail, anecdote, wit, contagious enthusiasm and telling observations. Adam conjures up a preliminary sketch of the young Mel Allen.

Later in the season, the ValleyCats hosted a Jewish Heritage night. For Jewish players, personnel and fans from Troy to Tel Aviv, the baseball diamond has six points.

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.

Opinion

In My Own Words

Whitewashing American history

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

How ironic to be reading a book about a country that passed a law making it illegal to mention that its population helped exterminate Jews at the conclusion of World War II and then read a newspaper article showing something similar happening in our country. However, rather than prohibiting discussion of the past treatment of its Jewish population, Florida's attempt at whitewashing is done to forget and/or excuse America's treatment of its Black population during slavery and the centuries after that servitude was banned.

Before you say this is old history that should be forgotten because it makes people uncomfortable, remember that Jews not only dedicate a day to memorialize those lost in the Holocaust, but hold a day of mourning for the destruction of the two Temples in Jerusalem, events that took place thousands of years ago. We are also told each Passover that it's a religious obligation to feel as if we, too, had been slaves in Egypt. That's why the new education rules in Florida are so distressing: they go against the Jewish way of viewing and understanding history.

According to an article in the *USA Today* newspaper, "Florida's state Board of Education has approved new, separate standards for how African American history must be taught to millions of students." The article also notes that "opponents say the curriculum leaves out Florida's role in slavery, the oppression of African Americans, places some

blame on Black communities and uses outdated language. A group of 11 organizations, including the NAACP and the Florida Education Association, criticized the state for omitting or rewriting 'key historical facts about the Black experience.'"

The treatment of America's Black population is a blot on U.S. history. Yes, it is distressing to read about, but that doesn't change the fact that this history must be noted and taught in our classrooms. This is no different from the need Jews feel to educate their children about the pogroms that took place across Europe, the Russian czars' attempts to rid Russia of Jews, the Nazi effort to exterminate the Jews of Europe and Stalin's anti-Jewish policies. Does a discussion of these make some people uncomfortable? Yes, it does, but most Jews don't care because it's impossible to move forward if we don't understand the past.

The treatment of slaves in the United States and other countries in the Western Hemisphere was horrific. Please don't talk about slaves who loved their masters or try to tell me how well those slaves were treated, that is unless you'd be willing to be whipped or beaten if someone thinks you haven't done their bidding quickly enough, or have your parents, spouse or children taken from you and sold to another master. The leaders of our country once declared "all men are created equal," even if they didn't

always live up to that motto. It's up to us to enshrine that motto across our land.

We now know it's immoral to enslave someone, although, unfortunately, forms of slavery still exist across the world. And the results of slavery in the U.S. still affect the Black population today, just as the children and grandchildren of Holocaust survivors have been physically affected by what occurred to their ancestors.

Why do I feel so strongly about this? Because I love the ideals that the United States stands for and it pains me that our country has not always lived up to them. I so want everyone in our country to benefit from the blessings this country has given my family. To admit that our nation has never been perfect is to just confirm reality: no country is perfect. What matters is that we strive to improve our country and the *only* way to do that is to accept our past: slavery, the lynching of Black Americans, the massacres of Black citizens and the refusal to accept them as equal.

Shame on Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, who believes Americans are so weak that we can't face our own history. Shame on Florida's Board of Education for whitewashing that state's history. Shame on anyone in Florida who isn't protesting this. And shame on us if we don't say loudly and clearly that this is *not* acceptable.



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BINGHAMTON, NY

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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

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DEADLINE

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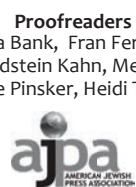
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TI holding class on preparing for the High Holidays

Rabbi Micah Friedman, the new rabbi of Temple Israel, is hosting a learning series throughout the month of August focused on preparing for the High Holidays. The course, titled "Fundamentals and Flairs of Jewish Prayer," highlights the core components of Jewish prayer since antiquity and invite interactive discussion with the hope of deepening people's experience in services on Rosh Hashanah and

Yom Kippur, as well as throughout the year.

The course is free and open to anyone in the community, though donations are welcome. It began on August 2 and is hosted at Temple Israel and over Zoom on Wednesdays, through August 30, from 6:30-8 pm. For more information, contact Temple Israel at 607-723-7461 or e-mail Friedman at rabbimicahfriedman@gmail.com.

"The core components of Jewish prayer should be seen as spiritual technologies that have their roots in the practices of our ancient ancestors and have been sharpened and honed over the course of many generations," Friedman remarked. "Both those of us who have been going to synagogue for years and those who are newcomers can discover anew the wisdom of Jewish tradition when we look more closely at the *siddur* (regular prayer book) and the *mahzor* (holiday prayer book)."

BD Sisterhood met to plan for 2023-24

Members and friends of Beth David Sisterhood recently met to discuss plans for the 2023-24 season. It was decided that the first meeting in the fall would be held on Wednesday, September 6, at 7 pm. This is a deviation from the usual second Wednesday of the month meeting date. Sisterhood President Cathy Velenchik said, "We felt it was unfair to our members to schedule a meeting only two days before Rosh Hashanah, when most women are busy planning family gatherings and putting the finishing touches on their holiday menus."

In addition to reviewing the meeting schedule for the coming year and discussing possible program ideas, sugges-

tions were made about how Beth David Sisterhood might better serve the synagogue and the local Jewish community. One example is the recently revived Bikur Cholem Committee whose mission is to call or visit sick members of the Beth David family and, when possible, extend aid to them. Dora Polachek is in charge of the committee.

Beth David Sisterhood also reaches out to new Jewish families in the area who might be interested in affiliating with a traditional synagogue. "When we are notified that such a family has moved to the area, we will prepare and deliver to them a welcome bag containing information about Beth David Synagogue, its Sisterhood and the local Jewish community," said Sisterhood members. "A challah and grape juice for Shabbat are also included. We encourage anyone who knows of such families to notify us in a timely manner."

Sisterhood will continue to raise funds through the sale of mitzvah cards, which cost \$3 and are considered appropriate for any occasion, whether it is a mazel tov for something, a note of encouragement during a difficult time, or a message of sympathy. Requests can be made by contacting Toby Kohn through the Beth David Synagogue office at bethdavid@stny.rr.com.

Beth David Sisterhood's newest fund-raising project is courtesy of Stacey Silber, owner of Silber Creations, which is located inside Your Needful Things, a multi-vendor indoor market located at 136 East Service Rd., Binghamton. Silber also sells selected items online. Her inventory includes household goods, clothing, shoes and accessories, collectibles, hand-crafted items and more. She accepts donations, as well as consignments, and will donate to Sisterhood the proceeds from the sale of items that have been donated to her by Sisterhood members and friends. "What a great way to clear out some of those things which you really don't need any more!" said Sisterhood members. Silber can be contacted at 607-727-9738 or by visiting www.silbercreations.com.

Sisterhood welcomes ideas about fund-raisers, speakers, topics for programs or any other appropriate Sisterhood project. Contact Velenchik through the Beth David Synagogue office at bethdavid@stny.rr.com to offer suggestions. "Many opportunities are available if you wish to become more active in Beth David Sisterhood," members said.

For more information about the September 6 meeting, which will be open to all, see the next issue of *The Reporter*.

The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to Debra Martinez on the death

of her mother,
Carol Marcal

The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to Fern Sternberg on the death of her son and Marci Goodwin on the death of

her brother,
Barry Sternberg

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.

◆ My Jewish Learning is holding a virtual "Mi Sheberach Moment" on Mondays at 12:15 pm. It calls the program "a space for anyone looking to dive into Jewish wisdom and pray for healing for yourself, your loved one, your community or our world." For more information or to register, visit <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf-y7h2Ninrgz0uyRdp-yLtHYWRqQAWg6bSCrf2GbW7RYa74g/viewform>.

◆ Roundtable will hold the virtual event "Feasting in the Roman Jewish Kitchen with Leah Koenig" on Thursday, September 14, from 6:30-8 pm. Leah Koenig, author of "Portico: Cooking and Feasting in Rome's Jewish Kitchen" will talk about Rome's Jewish community and cuisine. She will also demonstrate two recipes. For more information or to register, visit <https://roundtable.org/class/live/food-drink/feasting-in-the-roman-jewish-kitchen-with-leah-koenig>.

◆ The website 18Doors will hold the virtual course "Our Year of Firsts" on Wednesdays, September 6 and 20; October 4 and 18; and November 1 and 15, from 7:30 pm-9 pm. The cost to attend is \$180 and financial assistance is available. It offers participants the opportunity "to explore the deeper meaning behind Jewish holidays, create new traditions together and meet other interfaith couples." For more information or to register, visit <https://18doors.org/event/national-2023-09-our-year-of-firsts/>.

◆ UJA Federation New York will hold the virtual event "Moving Heaven and Earth: A Conversation With James McBride" on Monday, August 14, at 6 pm. McBride will talk about his new novel, "The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store," which "is set in a small working-class Pennsylvania town in the 1930s, where a Jewish woman runs a grocery store that extends credit and friendship to all." For more information or to register, visit www.ujafedny.org/event/view/moving-heaven-and-earth.

◆ Distinctions, www.distinctionsjournal.org/, is the online quarterly journal of JIMENA that publishes articles by Sephardi and Mizrahi scholars, researchers, artists and activists. Its first issue focuses on antisemitism.

◆ The Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning will hold the virtual program "Purity of Arms: The IDF's Code See "Resources" on page 8

REPORTER DEADLINES

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

ISSUE	DEADLINE
August 25-September 7.....	August 16
September 8-21	August 30
Sept. 22-Oct. 5	September 13
October 6-19	September 27

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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Off the Shelf

Jewish summer camps

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

A major worry of the post-World War II Jewish community was whether affluence would dilute people's Jewish observance. After all, Jews were moving to suburbs, rather than living in close quarters in Jewish sections of large cities, and finding more acceptance in secular/Christian society. Would their children continue to find meaning in their religion or would they assimilate into the general American culture? One potential answer to this fear was Jewish summer camps where children could live 24/7 in a Jewish environment and experience the beauty of their religion/culture. However, in "The Jews of Summer: Summer Camp and Jewish Culture in Postwar America" (Stanford University Press), Sandra Fox shows that Jewish summer camps began decades earlier than many people realize and originally served a wider variety of purposes. Fox, a visiting professor and the director of the American Jewish Archive at New York University, seeks to expand readers' thoughts about Jewish camps by analyzing the different types of camps that have been available over the decades.

Fox notes that while there have been other books about Jewish camps, her work takes the subject in a different direction: "First and foremost, this book focuses less on what makes these camps unique than on how the diverse movements employed the camping idea in strikingly similar ways... this book focuses more on how camps' diverse leaders came to agree that nationalism, language, and various forms of Jewish practice should be harnessed to transform Jewish children." These postwar camps built on those that were founded in the 1920s, although their programming would be transformed in the 1940s and '50s. While there were many types of camps, Fox discusses four types because they focused on Jewish education:

these camps were affiliated with Zionist organizations, Yiddish culture institutions or the Conservative or Reform movements. While each had a different agenda, they were all trying to mold their campers into a particular image.

Camps were divided by what specific aspect of Judaism they emphasized. For example, there were camps focusing on Yiddish culture, which included teaching Yiddish. Originally, most of their campers spoke Yiddish at home, although that changed over time and there was a split among campers as to whether they wanted to spend their summer studying Yiddish. Zionist camps focused not only on learning Hebrew, but on skills that would allow campers to survive life as a pioneer in Israel. Cooperative exercises and skill training played an important role in this. The camps affiliated with the religious movements wanted their campers to experience a complete Jewish life, although what that looked like differed in each camp. The education offered by most camps had an additional purpose: to keep their campers from intermarrying. This was especially true of those camps that were co-ed from their beginning.

One of the most interesting chapters of "The Jews of Summer" deals with the struggle between what camp administrators/counselors wanted to accomplish and how campers wanted to spend their summers. This was particularly true during the 1960s and '70s when the youth culture of the time influenced campers. Campers' demands led to more freedom of choice. However, even when they were offered a great deal of freedom, that freedom still had limits. That's because the camps sought to instill particular ideas and skills in their campers in spite of their rebellion: the hope was that the campers would see

themselves as partners in that process, rather than being directed from above. Fox writes, "As much as campers felt free as they roamed the grounds, procured alcohol, directed for a day, and hiked alone in the woods, they were subject to the rules and oversight of counselors, unit heads, directors, and rabbis who watched from a distance. Most camp leaders encouraged challenging and questioning ideas presented during the educational programs, but they ultimately discouraged campers from embracing ideas outside the ideological boundaries of their movements."

Another area where campers and leaders disagreed was on the educational components of camp, including language instruction. This was particularly true in Yiddish camps when campers now came from homes where no Yiddish was spoken; these campers saw no reason to study Yiddish since the language was not relevant to their lives. In the camps that focused on religion, too much questioning, especially of the basic tenets of Judaism, could result in campers not being invited back the next summer. The balance between camps' educational components and some campers'

desire for recreations, rather spending their summer in what seemed a summer school, served as another factor.

The conclusion concentrates on the difficulties camps face in contemporary times, for example, campers questioning Zionism or using the #MeToo movement to reconsider the emphasis on pairing and sexual activity in camp culture. The camps, though, have also expanded their ideas of Judaism—for example, offering information about Sephardic and Mizrahic culture, in addition to the predominant Ashkenazic one—and are allowing students to question more aspects of Jewish life.

"The Jews of Summer" offers supporters of Jewish camps much to consider. The large amount of detail about particular camp activities will be of less interest to those focusing on the greater questions, for example, whether Jewish camps are succeeding in their missions and whether those missions are relevant in contemporary times. Those with fond memories of camp may enjoy revisiting the details of summers' past. However, the work's greatest success is its portrait of an important aspect of Jewish American life.



Off the Shelf

Finding freedom

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

"For her, freedom is being able to live and work in peace." – Narrator speaking about Pearl Kahn in "Hotel Cuba"

Safety, enough food to eat and a decent place to live: that was the dream of many Jewish immigrants in the 1920s. These basic fundamentals of life were no longer guaranteed in Europe after the terror and chaos of World War I and the Russian Revolution. It was worse for the Jews in Eastern Europe, whose lives were even more precarious than before. That's the reason Pearl Kahn and her youngest sibling, Frieda, plan to join their sister, Basha, in New York City. In "Hotel Cuba" by Aaron Hamburger (Harper Perennial), the two sisters are unable to receive an American visa so they travel to Cuba with the hope that it will be easier to enter the U.S. from there. Unfortunately, the immigration rules in the U.S. have tightened and the two sisters are stranded in Cuba.

Fortunately, the sisters receive help when they arrive. While the situation isn't perfect, they find jobs sewing and decorating hats that also offer them a place to live. However, their reactions to life in Cuba are very different. Pearl, who has been saddled with household duties since she was 9, feels more a mother to Frieda than a sister, although she wonders if she pampers and coddles her sister more than is good for her. Pearl also does the majority of the millinery work and has difficulty adjusting to the heat and Cuban cuisine. Frieda, on the other hand, enjoys life in Cuba, although she,

too, still wants to immigrate to the U.S. and searches for a way to do so, even if the method is illegal. The Americans both sisters see are in Cuba to drink and have a good time since the U.S. is in the midst of Prohibition. That also means some of these visitors are willing, for a price, to smuggle alcohol and immigrants to the U.S., that is. However, deciding who to trust is difficult because there are smugglers willing to take desperate people's money and then dump them into the ocean once they are away from the shore.

The events in "Hotel Cuba" are seen through Pearl's eyes and she is an intriguing character because she is imperfect and prickly. Her inability to quickly adjust to a new world makes sense in light of her personality. Yet, she is also brave, dedicated and hard-working, something that will help throughout her life. However, she has also never mentally recovered from an injury done to her before she left their home that has left her questioning her faith. Although she still keeps kosher, the sisters are expected to work on Shabbat. That doesn't greatly bother Pearl because she no longer believes God cares about her life: for her, "God is like breathing, the ocean, the sky. A law of the universe. You think the ocean cares about your opinion when you try to cross it?"

While Frieda is popular with men, Pearl, who is in her late 20s, is old enough to be considered a spinster. She wonders if she See "Freedom" on page 7

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ROSH HASHANAH 5784 Greetings

Deadline: August 31 (September 8 issue)

Once again this year, *The Reporter* is inviting its readers to place personal New Year's greetings to the community. These New Year's greeting ads will appear in our September 8 issue.

You may choose from the designs, messages and sizes shown here - more are available. You may also choose your own message, as long as it fits into the space of the greeting you select. (Custom designs available upon request.) The price of the small greeting is \$21 (styles F and J), the medium one is \$40 (style H and I) and the largest one (not shown) is \$78.

To ensure that your greeting is published or for more information on additional styles, sizes & designs, please contact Kathy Brown at 724-2360, ext. 244; or e-mail advertising@thereporter.org. Checks can be made payable to *The Reporter* and sent to: *The Reporter*, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850.

Style H - \$40
Actual Size: 3.22" x 1.975"

May you be inscribed in the Book of Life for good health, peace and prosperity.

Your Name(s)

Style I - \$40
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May this New Year be a time of peace & joy for you and all those you love.

Your Name(s)

Style J - \$21
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Have a sweet, happy & healthy New Year!

Your Name(s)

Style F - \$21
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Have a sweet, happy & healthy New Year!

Your Name(s)

ROSH HASHANAH Greetings
Deadline: August 31 (September 8 issue)

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On the Jewish food scene

The Jewish national dish

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

Question: What is the Jewish national dish? Before you rush to answer, please note that this question comes from reading "National Dish: Around the World in Search of Food, History, and the Meaning of Home" by Anya von Bremzen. The author, who came to the U.S. from the former U.S.S.R. as a teenager, wrote a book, "Mastering the Art of Soviet Cooking: A Memoir of Food and Longing," which I wrote a review of years ago. I didn't ask for a review copy of this work (no Jewish content), but thought it sounded interesting because I'm fascinated by the history and anthropology of food. The book taught me one thing: I'm definitely *not* a foodie. At a certain point, I finally accepted I had no idea what all the foodie terms meant and concentrated on the more fun parts, rather than searching for definitions online.

However, back to my question: What is the Jewish national dish? Note that I'm not asking what the Israeli national dish is. (That, oy, would get us into the debate about whether Israeli food is just Middle

Eastern cuisine borrowed from other nations and I'm so not going there in this column.) That thought does lead me to the answer, or at least my answer: there is no Jewish national dish.

OK, before I get a thousand e-mails talking about the wonderful Jewish dish your mother and grandmother and great-grandmother made, please remember that those recipes were borrowed from the cuisine of whatever culture they lived in. If you compare traditional Sephardic and Ashkenazic recipes, you would see there is little to no overlap. And think of the debates about food within the Ashkenazic world: savory kugel or sweet? Cold beet borscht or the warm meat version? Last Hanukkah, I was asked if I was Team Applesauce or Team Sour Cream. (I didn't even know there were teams. By the way, I spent most of my life eating latkes without any topping, although in the past few years, I've put a touch of sour cream on a few.)

Now that doesn't mean that there are no foods I consider

Jewish, but I do consider those foods regional dishes adopted and modified by Jews. Of course, some of them have become part of mainstream American culture. For example, consider the bagel that some regard as the quintessential Jewish food: when my non-Jewish friends regularly buy bagels, they aren't thinking of its Jewish origin, that is if they've even heard of it. When I was a kid, you couldn't buy fresh bagels at the local grocery store, but now they have a variety of types to choose from. I also remember that when I was in Israel in the 1990s and brought bagels back from Jerusalem to Beersheva, one of my Israeli roommates looked at them with disdain and absolutely refused to even taste one. Obviously, it was a foreign food and definitely not Jewish.

Why, then, even bother to raise the question? It's fun to think about, talk about, write about and eat food, even if you can't agree on which culture the dish came from. And this exercise in food culture has made me hungry, so I'm going to sign off now and get something to eat.

Women in Business

A paid advertising section.

Kristys Imagination Photography

Specialty: Weddings, portraits, special events, seniors, pets
 Name: Kristy Johnston
 Phone: 607-221-1225
 E-mail: kristyphotography@gmail.com
 Website: www.kristysphoto.com
 Hours: By appointment only

Kristys Imagination Photography is a locally owned business in the Binghamton region providing on-location photography services for any occasion, such as weddings, portraits or other special events. Sessions are done on location by appointment only, and provide you with quality photography services in the comfort of your own home or the location of your choice.

"I have always had a passion for photography and therefore decided to pursue it as a career," says owner Kristy Johnston. "I truly enjoy what I do as a photographer. I get to capture some of life's most important and precious moments."

Offering a variety of products and photography services, Kristys Imagination Photography is your professional on-location photographer.

For more information, call 607-221-1225 or e-mail kristyphotography@gmail.com. You can also see a portfolio and more information at www.kristysphoto.com.

The Cat Doctor

Specialty: A full service veterinary hospital providing medical, surgical, dental and behavioral care for cats of all ages.
 Location: 825 Vestal Parkway West Vestal, NY 13850
 Owner: Darcy Sobel, D. V. M.
 Phone: 754-7221
 Hours: Mon. and Fri. 8 am-5 pm, Tues. and Thurs. 12:30-8 pm, Wed. 8 am-3 pm, Sat. 9 am-1 pm

The Cat Doctor is celebrating 29 years of caring for cats and their people. Dr. Darcy Sobel and Dr. Kaitlin Pace and staff at The Cat Doctor recognize that cats are important family members and treat each individual with special attention to their age, temperament and health conditions. Preventive medicine is practiced by providing complete physical examinations, behavioral counseling, dental care, diet management and appropriate vaccinations. The hospital has advanced radiology capabilities, providing instant, superior quality, digital x-rays as well as digital dental x-rays for the detection of early tooth disease below the gumline. The hospital now offers abdominal ultrasound for early detection of organ problems. When illness does occur, thorough and caring medical and surgical treatment is tailored to each patient.

The Reporter

Specialty: Advertising
 Location: 500 Clubhouse Rd. Vestal, NY 13850
 Name: Kathy Brown
 Phone: 607-724-2360, ext. 244
 E-mail: advertising@thereportergroup.org
 Website: www.thereportergroup.org
 Facebook: The Reporter Group
 Hours: Mon. 9 am-4 pm, Wed. 9 am-3 pm, Thurs. 9 am-4 pm

Advertising was a new field for Kathy when she started two years ago, but she's discovered the pleasure of working with the clients, giving them ideas on how to promote their business using print ads. Her motto is "the client comes first" and, to prove that, she researches each client to see what they have done in the past and tries to figure out if there is a way to improve their ad-image. She also works with them to discover the ad sections that will best highlight their business.

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

Women's OB/GYN Associates

Specialty: Women's healthcare
 Location: 401 Main St., 1st Floor Johnson City, NY 13790
 Names: Dr. Carol Miller; Kelly Wilmarth, FNP-C; and Tamara Burger, CNM
 Phone: 607-754-9870
 Fax: 607-785-9862
 Website: www.womensobgynassociates.com
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/WomensOBGYN/
 Hours: Mon.-Fri. by appointment

Women's OB/GYN Associates serves patients with individual attention and caring excellence. The team of providers offers care in the following areas: routine gynecologic exams, obstetrical care, menopause, contraception, and more. Dr. Carol Miller is committed to promoting women's health through a healthy diet and lifestyle. Kelly Wilmarth, FNP-C, and Tamara Burger, CNM, offer individualized comprehensive medically monitored weight management and healthy lifestyle support utilizing lab evaluation (including hormones), medication, comprehensive diet education and active program guidance. Request an appointment with one of the providers by calling 607-754-9870 or by visiting the Women's OB/GYN Associates website at www.womensobgynassociates.com.

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Re'eh, Deuteronomy 11: 26-16:17

Fences around the text

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR, THE REPORTER GROUP

An important Jewish rabbinic principle is referred to as “a fence around the Torah.” In order to protect a biblical commandment, the ancient rabbis added additional requirements/restrictions to prevent someone from accidentally transgressing a *mitzvah* (commandment). One of my favorite examples is the concept of *muktzah*, which forbids Jews from handling items on Shabbat that might make them perform forbidden work. Since it’s forbidden to write on Shabbat (or, at least, write two letters, according to rabbinic law), the rabbis declared that people should not even pick up a pen, just in case they absentmindedly started doodling and broke the commandment.

It’s therefore interesting to read a statement in this week’s *parasha* that seems to contradict rabbinic law. Deuteronomy 8:1 says, “All these things that I command you, you will guard and do; you will not add to it or take

away from it.” The idea of *muktzah* seems contrary to this biblical principle. The rabbis, however, claim that their fences around the Torah are not adding to the biblical text, but protecting it. In other cases, though, it’s not quite so clear this is what they are doing.

I’ve taught classes called “From Torah to Talmud” that show how verses from the Bible have been interpreted, changed or bent in order to make a law easier to observe. The easiest example is the law of lost objects (found in Deuteronomy 22:1-3), which posits the exact opposite of the idea of “finders keepers, losers weepers.” In the biblical text, all lost objects must be restored to their owners. The rabbinic interpretation of these three verses is found in Bava Metziyah, a tractate of the Talmud. The rabbis interpreted the biblical verses so that certain types of lost property could be considered ownerless, and

added a variety of time limits and monetary expenditure expectations that are far too complex to explain in a short *parasha*. The general idea – although it is never specifically stated – is that the law as strictly written in the Torah is impossible to observe.

These are not the only changes that have been made. Concepts like *muktzah* add to the text, while the laws of lost objects take away from the general principle. However, rather than finding this disturbing, I admire the rabbis for their attempts to, on the one hand, make life livable and, on the other, try to observe the laws as carefully as possible. Of course, they never acknowledge what they are doing, since that would undermine the system they were creating: one that says rabbinic interpretation is the correct – and the only way – to understand the Torah text.

Congregational Notes

Synagogues limit face-to-face gatherings

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

Beth David Synagogue

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

Temple Beth-El of Ithaca

Affiliation: United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism
 Rabbi: TBA
 Rabbi Emeritus: Scott L. Glass
 Address: 402 North Tioga St. (the corner of Court and Tioga streets), Ithaca, NY 14850-4292
 Phone: 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: TBA
 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
 Cantor: David Green
 Address: 83 Chestnut St., Oneonta, NY 13820
 Mailing address: P.O. Box 383, Oneonta, NY 13820
 Phone: 607-432-5522
 E-mail: TBEOneonta@gmail.com
 Regular service times: Contact the temple for days of services and times.
 Religious School/Education: Religious School, for grades kindergarten through bar/bat mitzvah, meets Sunday mornings.
 For the schedule of services, classes and events, contact the temple.

Penn-York Jewish Community

President-Treasurer-Secretary: Harvey Chernosky, 570-265-3869
 B'nai B'rith: William H. Seigel Lodge
 Purpose: To promote Jewish identity through religious, cultural, educational and social activities in the Southern Tier of New York and the Northern Tier of Pennsylvania, including Waverly, NY; Sayre, Athens and Towanda, PA, and surrounding communities.

Norwich Jewish Center

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

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 Concord

Affiliation: Union for Reform Judaism
 Rabbi: TBA
 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, August 11: At 7:30 pm, Shabbat services 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, August 12: At 7 pm, “Havdalah with a Bonus” with Rabbi Rachel Esserman. Join via Zoom at <https://bit.ly/3e8mZsy>, meeting ID: 833 9654 6578 and passcode 333740. To join on Facebook, visit <https://www.facebook.com/templeconcord>.

Thursday, August 17: At 7 pm, “Wine and History – From Bars to Boutiques” with historian Gerry Smith discussing Binghamton’s history through Clinton Street. The cost is \$10. To register, visit <https://kilmermansion.org/experience/upcoming-events/>. Walk-in will be accepted.

Friday, August 18: At 7:30 pm, Shabbat services led by Suzanne Holwitt, Robin Hazen and Lew Hecht. 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/.

Sunday, August 20: At noon, “Mimosas at the Mansion” will explore the three floors of the Kilmer Mansion. The cost to attend is \$15, which includes the mimosas; there is a \$5 cost for additional drinks. Attendees must be 21 year of age or older. Only the first floor is accessible. For more information or to register, visit <https://kilmermansion.org/experience/upcoming-events/> for more information.

Friday, August 11, light candles before 7:52 pm
 Shabbat ends Saturday, August 12 8:51 pm
 Friday, August 18, light candles before 7:42 pm
 Shabbat ends Saturday, August 19 8:41 pm
 Friday, August 25, light candles before 7:31 pm
 Shabbat ends Saturday, August 26 8:30 pm

Temple Israel

Orientation: Conservative
 Rabbi: Micah Friedman
 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 Micah Friedman via Zoom and in-person (masks are required for unvaccinated participants).

On Saturday, August 12, Shacharit services will be held at 9:30 am via Zoom and in-person (masks are required for unvaccinated participants). The Torah portion is Deuteronomy 11:26-16:17 and the haftarah is Isaiah 54:11-55:5. At 9:15 pm, there will be Havdalah services via Zoom.

On Saturday, August 19, 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 16:18-21:29 and the haftarah is Isaiah 51:12-52:12. At 9 pm, there will be Havdalah services via Zoom.

On Wednesday, August 16, at 10 am, the Ritual Committee will meet.

Temple office hours for Monday-Tuesday, August 21-22, will be from 2-4 pm.

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 serving the greater Cortland community. Congregants span the gamut of observance and services are largely dependent on the service leader. The Friday night siddur is “Likrat Shabbat,” while the Saturday morning siddur is “Gates of Prayer.” The community extends a warm welcome to the Jewish student population of SUNY Cortland, as well as the residents of local adult residences.

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

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/Admin. Coordinator: Naomi Wilensky
 Bnai Mitzvah Coordinator: Michael Margolin
 Services: All services currently on Zoom. E-mail info@tikkunvor.org for the times and links. Contemplative morning services every Tuesday from 8:30-9:30 am. Saturday mornings, Gan Shabbat and other special services at least once a month. Call for the weekly schedule.
 Jewish Learning Experiences (JLE) for second through seventh grade classes meet on Sunday mornings. Sixth and seventh grades also meet on Wednesday afternoons. Family programs for kindergarten and first grade held monthly.
 Adult Education: Offered regularly throughout the year. Check the website for details.

Jewish Community Center

FUN IN THE SUN AT CAMP JCC



Campers enjoyed an Extreme Foam Party on July 20 at Camp JCC.



Campers took to the stage at Camp JCC to perform "Fiddler on the Roof Jr." on July 28.



Camp JCC kids showed off their face (and arm) paint art.



Campers took to the stage at Camp JCC to perform "Fiddler on the Roof Jr." on July 28.

JCC Friendship Club

The Jewish Community Center Friendship Club met on July 19. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm by Sylvia Diamond. Sylvia introduced Bernice and Dan Zelman, who are new to this area. Sue Herzog read a joke by Alan King and then gave the treasurer's report. There was a discussion about whether to pay \$3 at each meeting or pay dues for the year. It was decided to pay \$36 for the year.

While waiting for our speaker to come, Sue gave out cards with questions printed on them. The first question was read by Marcia Hofstein. The question was, "Who do you admire?" She told qualities in people she admires. The rest of the group also said what they admired. Another question was, "Did you ever have a nickname?" There were more questions about baby names, friendships and more. The speaker never came, but we all had a good time anyway.

The next meeting is Wednesday, August 16, at 1:30 pm, at the JCC. The speaker will be Jack Lindley, a father of eight and a talented pun enthusiast. If you are over 55 and would enjoy a cohesive group of seniors, please join us!

Sylvia Diamond
President



Kids at Camp JCC enjoyed an art elective.



A few Camp JCC staff members went a little bananas one afternoon.

Freedom... Continued from page 4

will ever marry or if she will live a life without love and family. But she also learns that it's impossible to predict the future: "This is how life is, giving up some things to get others. You make these decisions one at a time, find the best way to push forward, and move on to the next thing." Yet, she also knows that refusing to make a decision has the same result: life will just move forward in a different way.

In his acknowledgments, Hamburger notes that his novel is based on the real life story of his grandparents. He captures the essence of what Pearl desires – a safe place to make a life – and does so with beautiful prose. The last page of the novel serves as reminder that memories – even ones that fade – affect us for the rest of our lives. "Hotel Cuba" is a welcome addition to novels about those emigrating from Eastern Europe to the Americas.

Grant... Continued from page 1

potential threats. "They have people monitoring the web so we can learn about threats before there is problem," she said. "Plus, if something does occur in our area, LiveSecure will provide professional staff to help us deal with security and the police."

Donations for the LiveSecure program are still being accepted. To make a pledge for the program, visit www.jfgb.org/campaign-for-2023 or contact Hubal at 607-724-2332 or director@jfgb.org.

Pledge... Continued from page 1

giving; it is about sustaining a community and extending traditions of care that generations have tended."

Campaign Chairwoman Marilyn Bell emphasized the need for volunteers to help the Campaign run smoothly. "Volunteers are the most important part of the equation," she said. "We need them to help make calls and write thank-you notes. As our community has shrunk, so have the number of our volunteers, and that has meant for the last few years the burden of making calls has landed on just a few people. It's very simple: we need help to sustain our community."

Hubal noted that people can RSVP to let her know they want to help. Drop-ins are also welcome. "Come in when you can and help us out as much as you can," Hubal said. "All efforts are appreciated. And to show our appreciation, there will be a nosh so people won't go hungry."

Hubal added that everyone who does not pledge early will receive a phone call during the Campaign. "Pledging early is a mitzvah! It saves precious volunteer efforts. We've made early pledging as easy as possible," she said.

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Resources.....Continued from page 18

of Ethics” with Joel Chasnoff on Wednesday, September 6, from 1-2 pm. The cost to attend is \$18. The text-based session will “analyze the IDF’s Purity of Arms code and look at the rabbinic and biblical source material that informed how and why the code was created.” For more information or to register, visit <https://events.org/events/calendarcourse?tid=50fe1dc-7fda-4771-a4d2-76e07f783287>.

◆ Hadassah Magazine will hold the virtual program “Behind the Scenes with Adeena Sussman” with Libby Barnea, Hadassah Magazine’s deputy editor and food editor, and Adeena Sussman, the magazine’s food writer, for a conversation about Sussman’s latest cookbook, “Shabbat: Recipes and Rituals from My Table to Yours.” It will take place on Thursday, September 21, at 7 pm. For more information or to register, visit <https://events.blackthorn.io/en/8c4sgS87/g/tws32mT8YD/behind-the-scenes-with-adeena-sussman-4a3d8csx7o/overview>.

◆ RitualWell will hold the virtual class “Change Through Acceptance: the Hasidic Notion of Teshuvah” on Tuesdays, September 5, 12 and 19, from noon-1:15 pm. The cost to attend is \$36. Rabbi Michael Strassfeld will explore the the Chasidic notion of change through the study of texts and discussion. No

Chasidic background is required. For more information or to register, visit <https://ritualwell.org/event/change-through-acceptance-the-hasidic-notion-of-teshuvah-2/2023-09-05>.

◆ Pardes is offering the *maggid* of Melbourne’s podcast series, “Exploring Sacred Spaces.” Rabbi Dr. Levi Cooper, the *maggid* of Melbourne, will explore Jewish ideas and their relevance in contemporary Jewish lives. For more information, visit www.pardes.org.il/the-maggid-of-melbourne-torah-insights-from-rabbi-dr-levi-cooper/.

◆ Sapir will hold a virtual interview of Bret Stephens his article “Three Falsehoods About Antisemitism – and One Truth” on Monday, August 21, at noon. To read the article, visit <https://sapijournal.org/antisemitism/2023/08/three-falsehoods-about-antisemitism-and-one-truth/>. For more information or to sign up for the event, visit <https://sapijournal.org/events/>.

◆ The Union for Reform Judaism will hold the virtual program “Creating Safe Spaces of Belonging in Our Homes” on Tuesday, August 22, from 1-2 pm. Dr. Traci Baxley, founder of Social Justice Parenting, discuss “how intentional efforts to create affirming spaces can impact children’s understanding of agency, advocacy and action. She will also “offer actionable ways to create safe spaces in your home that will guide your children to become ‘space-makers’ in the world.” For more information or to register, visit <https://try.urj.org/safe-spaces-aug2023/>.

◆ Jewish Women’s Archive will hold virtual book talks this fall. All talks are on Thursdays at 8 pm: September 7, Susan Rubin Suleiman, “Daughter of History: Traces of an Immigrant Girlhood”; September 21, Elizabeth Graver, “Kantika”; October 5, Mattie Kahn, “Young and Restless: The Girls Who Sparked America’s Revolutions”; and October 19, Marjorie Ingall, “Sorry, Sorry, Sorry: The Case for Good Apologies.” For more information or to register, visit <https://jwa.org/events>.

◆ Jewish Women’s Archive will hold the virtual “Online History Course: Jewish Women in the Medieval World” on Thursdays, November 2-30 (except for November 23), at noon. The lectures include November 2, Sarah Ifft Decker, “Capable Wives and Working Widows: Jewish Women’s Lives in the Medieval World”; November 9, Elisheva Baumgarten, “Men’s Instructions, Women’s Deeds: Gender and Religious Practice in Medieval Ashkenaz”; November 16, Sara Gardner, “Women’s Domestic Culture in Iberia”; and November 30, Renée Levine Melammed, “Women’s Voices as Reflected in the Cairo Genizah.” For more information or to register, visit <https://jwa.org/events>.

◆ The American Jewish University will hold the virtual program “Mahloket: The Jewish Art of Constructive Dis-

agreement in Text and Today” on Tuesday, August 29, from 3-4 pm. Rabbi Daniel Roth and AJU’s Alyssa Silva will show how the traditional *beit midrash*, or study hall, engaged in *mahloket*, or conflicting opinions, found within Jewish texts. For more information or to register, visit <https://live-maven-aju.pantheonsite.io/event/mahloket-the-jewish-art-of-finding-common-ground/>.

◆ The American Jewish Historical Society and the Center for Jewish History will hold the hybrid program “Fighting Fascism: A Symposium on Jewish Responses From the Interwar Period to the Present Day” on Sunday, October 15, from 10 am-5 pm. For more information or to register, visit <https://ajhs.org/exhibitions-programs/program-events/ajhs-symposiums/>.

◆ The Jewish Theological Seminary will off a new cycle of Context, which will meet on Tuesday evenings at 7 pm starting in September 2023. The fall semester concentrates on “The Bible and Ancient Israel” with Dr. Alan Cooper, Elaine Ravich Professor of Jewish Studies. The spring semester will focus on “The World of Rabbinic Judaism” with Rabbi Mira Wasserman, Ph.D. The cost is \$995 for the year. For more information on the classes offered each semester and to register, visit www.jtsa.edu/context-immersive-jewish-learning/.

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



WE REMEMBER YOU 2023 A Project of Jewish Family Service

During the High Holidays 5784, JFS will be distributing monetary gifts to community members in need who always say,

“Thank you for remembering me.”

Please help fund this program with monetary contributions by **Sept. 1** to: Jewish Family Service, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal NY 13850.

NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

Israel sending firefighters to help battle Cyprus blazes

Israel on Aug. 7 sent a firefighting team to help combat massive wildfires raging in Cyprus. The Israeli rapid response team, which includes two firefighting aircraft and crew, was authorized for immediate departure by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the personal behest of Cypriot President Nikos Christodoulides, according to a statement from the Israeli Prime Minister’s Office. The aircraft will assist a multinational team in extinguishing the fires in the Limassol district made worse by a heat wave and winds. The mission, dubbed “Wings of Fire,” includes two Air-Tractor firefighting aircraft, four pilots, a trained ground crew, wildfire experts and equipment, including approximately six tons of Israel Fire and Rescue Service flame retardants.

Annual Campaign 2024

WE TAKE CARE OF OUR OWN. MAKE YOUR PLEDGE EARLY!

We hope we can count on your generosity again in the year to come.

You can make your pledge 3 ways:

- 1) Visit the Federation website at www.jfgb.org and click on “make a pledge.”
- 2) E-mail Federation Executive Director Shelley Hubal at director@jfgb.org with “pledge” in the subject line.
- 3) Fill out the form in this ad and mail it to the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850

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