

# THE REPORTER

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BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK

## Federation and Chabad plan “Farewell gathering to honor Michael Wright” event on Sept. 13

By Reporter staff

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton and the Rohr Chabad Center for Jewish Student Life will hold a “Farewell gathering to honor Michael Wright” event on Wednesday, September 13, at 7 pm. The event will take place at the Chabad Center, 420 Murray Hill Rd., Vestal, and will feature light refreshments and tributes to Wright. Registration is required by Thursday, September 7, and can be done on the Federation website, [www.jfgb.org/](http://www.jfgb.org/), or by calling the Federation office at 607-724-2332.

Shelley Hubal, executive director of the

Federation noted all that Wright has done for the community. “For decades Michael has worked tirelessly to improve the quality of Jewish life for the entire Binghamton community,” she said. “He has been president of Federation, Chabad and Beth David Synagogue, and has remained on their executive boards for years. He is a generous leader who has shaped this community. He will be missed.”

Hubal was especially appreciative of how



Michael Wright

easy it was to work with Wright. “What I have enjoyed most about working with Michael is his calm demeanor, his directness and the passion he has for bettering our local institutions,” she noted. “He has been a wonderful mentor. I hope the community will come out to wish him well as he and his wife, Susan, begin the next chapter in their lives.”

Rivky and Rabbi Aaron Slonim, directors of Chabad Center, also noted how important Wright has been to the

Binghamton community. “Michael Wright has been so pivotal to the smooth function and continued blossoming of the Jewish community of Broome County – even as we have experienced attrition – that it is quite impossible to think of Binghamton with Michael gone,” they said. “Which is why we have concluded that Michael is not actually leaving, even as he and Susan will be moving from Binghamton to Stamford, CT. Instead, we know that Michael will continue to do what he has always done: put others before himself and think in a critical and calm fashion about each issue as it is juxtaposed against the greater good of the whole.”

They also said how important Wright have been to the development of Chabad Center. “For Chabad, Michael, like the proverbial ‘good neighbor,’ has always been there going all the way back to 1985,” they added. “He has steered us through thick and thin and has most generously agreed to continue in his current position as president of our executive board. We wish Michael and Susan great blessing and every success on this move. We look forward to joining Michael and Susan’s many friends and admirers at the farewell reception.”

## Federation to hold PJ Library Rosh Hashanah event on Sept. 10

By Reporter staff

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton’s PJ Library program will hold a Rosh Hashanah family event on Sunday, September 10, at 1 pm. The event is being co-sponsored with Beth David Synagogue, the Jewish Community Center, Temple Concord and Temple Israel. The program will allow young families to

celebrate the holiday with their children and friends. It will be held at the JCC pavilion and playground. Reservations are required by Friday, September 8, and can be made by visiting [www.jfgb.org](http://www.jfgb.org) or contacting the Federation at 607-724-2332 or [director@jfgb.org](mailto:director@jfgb.org).

“Join us for a fun family event to celebrate Rosh Hashanah,” said Shelley Hubal,

executive director of the Federation. “We will have apples and honey to eat, along with other food connected to the New Year, and listen to the blast of the *shofar*. We will also learn about the holiday and have the opportunity to get to know each other. While the children play after the program, the adults can catch up with old friends or make new ones.”

## Holocaust memorial service to be held on Sept. 24

By Reporter staff

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton will hold a memorial service at the Holocaust Memorial Monument in the Temple Israel Cemetery on Conklin Avenue in Conklin on Sunday, September 24, at 10:30 am. The service will be led by area rabbis. The monument was one of the first memorial stones in the United States to acknowledge the Holocaust.

“We were pleased to be able to hold the ceremony in person last year and are grateful we can hold this important event again this year,” said Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Federation. “We not only remember those who lost their lives in the Holocaust, but honor those who developed, created and sustained this important community memorial.”

The monument was the project of the Get Together Club, which was a social and

philanthropic group formed in 1948 by 13 German-speaking Jewish women. The women were the wives of cattle dealers who had resettled in the Southern Tier after fleeing Nazism. The decision to raise a memorial stone occurred after a member’s husband wished he had a place to say *Kaddish* for his parents, who, since they had died in the Holocaust, had no grave he could visit. The club raised the necessary funds for the stone. The names of more than 250 individuals who died in the Holocaust and had no grave were placed in a copper box, which was buried at the



The Holocaust Memorial Monument in the Temple Israel Cemetery on Conklin Avenue in Conklin.

the stone says, “Victims of Racial Persecution who lost Their Lives in Europe During the Years 1933-1945. They Will Never Be Forgotten.”

The first ceremony took place on Sunday, November 9, 1952, and continued for 20 years. Then, after Professor Rhonda Levine spoke about the Get Together Club at the Federation’s Super Sunday in 2015, it was decided to resume the ceremony, holding it between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur each year.

“Join us for what is always a moving event,” said Hubal. “It’s important that we never forget the lives lost in the Holocaust.”

## Ithaca Beit Midrash opens

By Reporter staff

A new learning opportunity has opened in Ithaca: the Ithaca Beit Midrash is now holding classes. The school believes “Jewish learning is for everyone” and offers classes that reach “the heart, mind and soul.” It sees its mission as helping people “form meaningful connections to Judaism and each other through personalized learning experiences for children, teens, families and adults of all ages and backgrounds.”

The Ithaca Beit Midrash is run by Rabbi Suzanne Brody, who has rabbinic ordination from the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies. Brody, who graduated from Wellesley College, also has a Ph.D. in neuroscience. She is a member of the Rabbinical Assembly’s Committee on Jewish Laws and Standards.

“I started Ithaca Beit Midrash to enable people to engage in meaningful Jewish learning and experiences in an informal setting,” Brody said in an e-mail interview. “Ithaca Beit Midrash offers both programs and classes determined by the teachers and facilitators, and the opportunity for people to explore the issues about which

they are passionate or curious. There are a mixture of online and in-person classes and activities, and my hope is to be a source of connection not just for the Ithaca Jewish community, but for all of the surrounding areas and beyond.”

Classes offered are in English and, unless noted, don’t demand any prior knowledge of Judaism. Current classes include an online Talmud, a look at Hidden Heroines, a Shabbat poetry workshop and more. Brody will also help those interested design individual classes and offers lifecycle preparation. More specific information on individual classes and events can be found at [www.ithacabeitmidrash.com/current-classes-and-activities](http://www.ithacabeitmidrash.com/current-classes-and-activities).

Brody is also the author of five books of poetry and one novella, including “Dancing in the White Spaces,” “Etz Chayim She: Modern Poems Grown from Ancient Texts,” “Mermaid Tears,” “Lunch with Rav Dimi,” “Unearthed” and “Serah’s Secrets.”

To contact the Ithaca Beit Midrash, e-mail [Ithaca.Beit.Midrash@gmail.com](mailto:Ithaca.Beit.Midrash@gmail.com), call 310-746-8717 or visit [www.ithacabeitmidrash.com/contact](http://www.ithacabeitmidrash.com/contact).

## Sponsor an issue of The Reporter

By Reporter staff

In an effort to continue to provide the community with a biweekly newspaper, *The Reporter* is offering sponsorship opportunities. “All newspapers are finding it difficult to obtain advertising,” said Rebecca Kahn, chairwoman of *The Reporter* Editorial Committee. “So, we are looking for new ways to provide funding for the paper. This would be a great way to honor someone’s memory or celebrate a *simcha*.”

Sponsorship will be offered on four

levels: Bronze \$200, Silver \$400, Gold \$600 and Platinum \$1,000. “All donations are welcome and much appreciated,” said Rabbi Rachel Esserman, executive editor of *The Reporter*. “But we are hoping that people will find this an excellent way to share a happy event with the community or acknowledge the passing of a loved one.”

To arrange for a sponsorship or for answers to questions, contact Esserman at [rachel@thereporter.org](mailto:rachel@thereporter.org).

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**“Jewish Origins of A.I.”**  
The annual Piaker Memorial lecture on Sept. 10 will look at “The Jewish Origins of A.I.”  
.....Page 3

**L’Dor V’Dor event**  
The Jewish Federation’s next L’Dor V’Dor Next Gen event will take place on Sept. 27.  
.....Page 3

**BU student on nat’l board**  
A Binghamton University student has been tapped for Hillel International’s Student Cabinet.  
.....Page 7

**Special Sections**  
Book Review..... 4  
Prepare for Rosh Hashanah..... 5  
Personal and Business Services ... 7  
Classifieds ..... 8

## Opinion

## The Tree of Life murders and trial, part I: portents

By Bill Simons

This summer, history unfolded on 700 Grant St., Pittsburgh, in United States District Court, Western District of Pennsylvania. On the fifth floor, courtroom 5B, Judge Robert J. Colville presided over USA vs. Robert Bowers. With jury selection and determination of guilt completed, closing arguments for phase three of the trial took place on Wednesday, July 12. The jury previously found the defendant guilty of the murder of 11 Jews in the Tree of Life Or L'Simcha Congregation building, located in the Squirrel Hill section of Pittsburgh, during Shabbat services on Saturday, October 27, 2018.

Robert Bowers' victims included worshippers from the three congregations that met in separate parts of the building: Tree of Life and New Light, both Conservative, and Dor Hadash, affiliated with Reconstructing Judaism. Bowers also wounded two others while they prayed, as well as four police first-responders. In addition to the murder charges, the 63 indictments against him cited civil rights violations and hate crimes. Bowers exercised his constitutional right not to take the witness stand, and his attorneys mounted no defense against the charges. Phase three was to determine Bowers' eligibility for the death penalty. If the jury had found Bowers ineligible for the death penalty, the trial would have ended with his sentencing to life imprisonment without parole. But determination of his eligibility for the death penalty meant that phase four would decide if he was to be executed or spend the rest of his life in prison. An assistant U.S. attorney and a defense attorney both delivered strong closing arguments on July 12.

Wearing a lanyard, issued by the office of the court clerk, that displayed media credentials with photo ID and the notation William Simons, Columnist, *The Reporter*, I sat three rows directly behind Bowers, a distance of no more than a few feet. Mainly, I saw only his head and back as Bowers sat motionless, looking down at the computer screen in front of him. It displayed documents presented in the proceedings. During a recess, Bowers stood and turned around, looking briefly in my direction. He appeared cocky and confident in contrast to the emotions etched in

the faces of others in the courtroom, several of whom were survivors of the carnage or relatives and friends of the Tree of Life dead. Encountering Bowers, I felt a chill when I looked at his expression. This past winter, I attended a murder trial without experiencing the unsettling emotion that I felt from Bowers' gaze.

The ethnic and racial history of Pittsburgh is distinctive yet reflective of America's multigroup past. As in other American cities, immigrant Jews came to Pittsburgh and worked hard, and their descendants ascended educationally and economically. Movement to the suburbs proceeded in later generations, but Pittsburgh's Squirrel Hill section remained the center of Jewish life for many Chasidic, modern Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, Reconstructing Judaism and secular adherents. Highlights of the city's Jewish journey encompassed the Reform movement's adoption of the 1885 Pittsburgh Platform, Pirates Hall of Fame owner Barney Dreyfus bringing six National League pennants to Pittsburgh, the retail innovations of downtown department stores Kaufmanns and Gimbels, University of Pittsburgh All-American running back Marshall Goldberg's 1930s football exploits, slugger Hank Greenberg's 1947 Pittsburgh Pirates baseball farewell, Dr. Jonas Salk's University of Pittsburgh development of the polio vaccine, notable contributions to religious and community philanthropies, medical examiner Cyril Wecht's forensic revelations, novelist Michael Chabon's critically acclaimed books, Carnegie Mellon University President Jared Cohon's academic leadership, Mayor Sophie Masloff's commitment to reform and *Post-Gazette* Editor David Shribman's journalistic courage. Nonetheless, portents presaged the Tree of Life tragedy.

Summer 1977: It was hot, humid and uncomfortable in my Squirrel Hill second-floor lodgings at 5620 Woodmont Street. I went outside onto the porch to sleep. Awakened by a repetitive metallic sound, I saw two young males across the street and a few houses to the left firing rifles at close range into the front of Mrs. Stein's house. I called the police; then, grabbing a hammer, I stood in the shadows on the sidewalk slightly in front of a car parked by my apartment. The two shooters then headed to that car and got into the

front seats. I was apparently unseen. They started to drive off. I stepped forward, raised the hammer at the car window and my arm came down. The impact of the projectile against the window sounded like an explosion and shards of glass flew from the windshield. The car raced off. The stock of the hammer still in my hand, my arm motion apparently gave flight to the head. Two police officers soon arrived, and I walked with them to Mrs. Stein's house where BB-gun pellets littered the front porch.

Far more serious and more explicitly antisemitic incidents punctuated Pittsburgh's history prior to the mass murders at the 2018 Tree of Life synagogue. Neal Rosenblum, a devout Orthodox Jew dressed in *haredi* style, was gunned down in Squirrel Hill on April 17, 1986. On April 28, 2000, in the Pittsburgh suburbs, Richard Baumhammers shot his neighbor Anita Gordon, to death and then spray-painted swastikas on her synagogue. However, nothing remotely on the scale of the Tree of Life shooting had ever happened in Greater Pittsburgh before. Like December 7, 1941, and September 11, 2001, October 27, 2018, marked indelible tragedy, the deadliest antisemitic attack in American history.

All of Bowers' murder victims were vulnerable by age and/or disability. Listed by age, they were Rose Mallinger, 97; Melvin Wax, 87; Sylvan Simon, 86; Bernice Simon, 84; Joyce Fienberg, 75; Daniel Stein, 71; Irving Younger, 69; Jerry Rabinowitz, 66; Richard Gottfried, 65; Cecil Rosenthal, 59; and David Rosenthal, 54.

In the late afternoon of Wednesday, July 12, and early morning of Thursday, July 13, the jury deliberated over whether the death penalty option should be considered. The jury reported affirmatively. On Monday, July 17, the concluding phase of the trial commenced, ultimately to decide between a jury recommendation of life imprisonment without parole or the death penalty.

*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.*

## In My Own Words

## Eleven months

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

There's a legend that the recitation of the Mourner's *Kaddish* began when Rabbi Akiva saw a man struggling under a great burden. When asked if he could help, the man told Akiva that he was dead and the work was his punishment. When Akiva asked what could be done to alleviate the punishment, the man told Akiva that if the sage taught the man's son a particular prayer and the son recited it every day, his suffering would end. This apocryphal story, of which there are several versions, is often quoted as the reason children say the Mourner's *Kaddish* for a parent for 11 months. Historians note there is no mention of the Mourner's *Kaddish* as a required religious observance in biblical or talmudic texts. In fact, it wasn't until the Middle Ages that it began to appear in prayerbooks. Some note that it was first said only in the Ashkenazic world and later spread to Sephardic communities.

Writing this history is my way of procrastinating, rather than addressing the real topic of this column: the fact that 11 months of saying *Kaddish* for my mother ended last week. She died the 29<sup>th</sup> of Elul. I can't tell you the English date because it's the Hebrew date that sticks in my mind. (I have friends who note the death dates of loved ones on their secular and Hebrew dates, but the secular ones never register with me. For me, the true anniversary – the *yahrzeit* – is the Hebrew date.)

This is not my first experience with mourning, but it may be the most difficult because my mother loomed so large in my life. I gave up trying to fix my health problems long before she did. She would have gone to the ends of the earth to discover a cure. She also had a wicked sense of

humor about it. When I was upset about a doctor suggesting that my problems were all in my head, she refrained from saying anything in the office because she thought I would cry. What she told me afterward is that she wanted to tell him, "I know she's crazy. But what's causing her headaches?"

In case you didn't know my mom and haven't guessed yet, she was *not* politically correct. When we were at a meeting at BOCES about Larry, my little brother who had Down Syndrome, people were talking about the different conditions their children had. Since I wasn't familiar with the terminology, I quietly asked her if we were with the right group. She whispered to me that the terms were all fancy names "for stupid." But she loved and adored Larry: he was the light of her life and that is not an exaggeration. That's because he loved his mommy and he let her know. That kind of pure love is not easy to find.

I did a short tombstone unveiling in July. I never do long services in cemeteries, but this was the shortest one ever. When I had difficulty reciting the first reading, a friend took over. Then I skipped to the two things I consider important and closed my notebook. That was the ceremony, except for what my mom would have considered the vital part: taking my friends out to dinner. My mom was generous and would have wanted that. I also had an alcoholic drink in her honor, something I knew she would have liked.

I hadn't been able to touch my mom's clothes until the beginning of August. It took a friend to get me started: she'd mentioned in a Facebook post that she was good at helping people clean out closets and was thinking about

turning it into a business once she retired from teaching. It was a long and exhausting day, during which we cleaned out the dresser drawers and made a large dent in the closet. My friend's car was completely filled with clothes for Temple Concord's rummage sale or Goodwill by the time we were done. Because she didn't know my mom well, it made the process easier, although I confess to some reminiscing and kept the Daffy Duck t-shirts we found. (My mom and I were both big fans and once ordered different versions of Daffy Duck t-shirts at the same time.) Hidden in the closet were several boxes of fabric – my mom was a sewer – that I couldn't bear to part with, at least, not yet. I thought the fabric filling the shelves in the dining room was all that was left. I was wrong. Someone once gave my mom a mug that said, "The one who dies with the most fabric wins." I think she may have had a leg up on in the competition.

I didn't have a specific conclusion in mind when I started this column because, as I've told far too many people before a funeral, there is no simple ending to the mourning process: the pain may never completely go away, but, as time goes by, it can get easier. That's why I suggest that they share memories because talking about the person (or in my case, writing about them) keeps them alive in your memory and makes them part of your life, even though they are no longer physically with you. Writing this column not only helps keep my mom alive, but reminds people of her quirks and lets those who never met her know how much she meant and means to me. May her memory be for a blessing.



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

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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.

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www.thereporter.org

# 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](http://www.Jewishbu.com/Piaker) or by calling Chabad at 607-797-0015.



Rabbi Asher Crispe



Philip and Pauline Piaker

"Our world is just about to change radically. The introduction of AI on a large scale is going to irrevocably alter medicine, academic pursuit, business and every other aspect of society in ways most of us can not yet even imagine. Our parents loved scholarship and culture, and were profoundly involved in and proud of their Judaism. They would have been so pleased to have a lecture addressing the topic of artificial intelligence and its convergence with Jewish lore and thought," said the Piaker siblings of this year's memorial lecture, which they sponsor annually in memory of their parents.

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?"

# Federation to hold a L'Dor V'Dor Next Gen event on Sept. 27

By Reporter staff

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton will hold a L'Dor V'Dor Next Gen event on Wednesday, September 27, at 6 pm, at the Beer Tree in Johnson City for trivia night. Snacks will be available. L'Dor v'Dor is aimed at those in their 20s and 30s. Reservations are required by Friday, September 22, and can be made by visiting [www.jfgb.org](http://www.jfgb.org) or contacting the Federation at

607-724-2332 or [director@jfgb.org](mailto:director@jfgb.org), or texting 607-222-9026.

"The Federation is excited to get a group of young Jewish adults together again," said Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Federation. "The previous events we've held have been a success. It showed us that there are lots of young Jewish people living in Binghamton and they are eager to make social connections."

# BD Sisterhood to hold challah making demonstration on Sept. 6

The Beth David Sisterhood will hold its first meeting of the 2023-24 season on Wednesday, September 6, at 7 pm, at Beth David Synagogue. The evening's program will be a demonstration of how to create unusual and artistically shaped challahs for the High Holidays.

For a donation of \$5 per challah, attendees will be given the opportunity to shape their own challahs. Since a finite number of challahs will be available, people are asked to RSVP by Thursday, August 31. Reservations should be made to Stacey Silber by calling or texting 607-727-9738. The meeting will be open to the community, but priority to participate will



A lulav and etrog shaped challah made by Stacey Silber. (Photo by Stacey Silber)

be given to paid up members of the Beth David Sisterhood.

At the meeting, Silber will demonstrate how to braid the round challah typically used during the holidays, and will explain how to make a variety of other unusual and artistic shapes. "Especially appropriate for Rosh Hashanah is a challah that can accommodate a bowl of honey in the middle," said organizers of the event. "The really adventurous might be inspired by a lulav and etrog challah pairing. Recipes and instructions will be provided."

The meeting will start promptly to allow the challah dough to rise properly and be

See "Challah" on page 7

The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to the family of **Stephen Bittman**

The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to the family of **Dr. George F. Gitlitz**

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

ISSUE	DEADLINE
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Sept. 22-Oct. 5	September 13
October 6-19	September 27
Oct. 20-Nov. 2	October 11

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**THE REPORTER**

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BY FREDERICK KNOTT, ADAPTED BY JEFFREY HATCHER

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Off the Shelf

# Exploring the stories of biblical women

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

There has been an explosion of *midrash* – stories that explain or amplify the tales found in the Bible – particularly ones that focus on the voices of biblical women. As Rabbi Marla J. Feldman notes in “Biblical Women Speak: Hearing Their Voices Through New and Ancient Midrash” (The Jewish Publication Society), there are two primary types of *midrash*: one explores the legalistic aspects of Judaism, while the other focuses on the narrative part of the text and seeks to explain the actions of the characters. A great deal of contemporary *midrash* looks at the biblical women whose names and thoughts were generally ignored in the text. Feldman not only offers

her own *midrash* on 10 biblical stories, but also explores traditional rabbinic versions.

Feldman notes that “the rabbis take note of some female characters in order to convey a specific lesson about a value or law, but there is little depth to their portrayal in rabbinic literature. As a generalization, rabbinic commentaries posed transactional questions. They wanted to know how to understand a particular word or text, what actually took place in a particular narrative from the perspective of the primary characters of the Israelite saga, and what lessons were to be learned for their own days and age. In contrast, when this volume asks what transpired from individual women’s point of

view, that perspective is a relational one.” That means Feldman looks at the emotions experienced by the characters and how they affected their relationships with those around them. She also is interested in the stories of non-Israelite women featured in the biblical stories, sometimes offering a radically different story than those featured in traditional rabbinic *midrash*.

Each chapter is divided into four sections, the first featuring the biblical verses about the woman and story under discussion. Feldman then offers a modern *midrash*, most of which reads like a short story. In the next section, the author analyses traditional *midrash*, showing the variety of different opinions offered about the character’s behavior. In the conclusion, Feldman compares her ideas to those found in the traditional *midrash*. Among the women she discusses are Keturah (who was married to Abraham), Leah and Rachel, Bilhah, a variety of women connected to the story of the Israelites in Egypt (including Potiphar’s wife, the midwives and Pharaoh’s daughter), Miriam and Noah, one of Zeloiphehad’s daughters.

One of the most interesting chapters discusses Shelomith Bat Dibri, known as the blasphemer’s mother in Leviticus 24:10-14. After an unnamed man “pronounced the Name in blasphemy” during a fight with an Israelite, he was sentenced to death. That man was Shelomith’s son by an Egyptian. Feldman’s *midrash* talks about how Shelomith came to be pregnant and the way the Israelite community negatively viewed her son’s Egyptian heritage. It also notes how Shelomith felt about the execution of her son. Feldman discusses the fact that rabbinic *midrash* was more interested in how Shelomith’s son’s “presumed rejection of ritual practice illustrated a rabbinic disagreement as to whether the half-Israelite, half-Egyptian

man was bound by the laws given at Sinai. If he was considered Egyptian, his rejection of the commandments given by the Israelites’ God was not surprising. Still, the prohibition against blasphemy was one of the universal Noahide laws that would still have applied to him regardless of his religious status.” While the rabbis debated the different punishment given depending on his status, readers may wonder whether patrilineal or matrilineal descent was the norm of the time.

Other chapters focus on women’s relationships. For example, in her *midrash*, Feldman notes the way Rachel and Leah were both “devoted sisters and bitter rivals.” Katurah complains that Abraham generally ignored her children, even though she gave him six sons. Those sons were shunted aside, even after Abraham’s death: the biblical text notes that only Isaac and Ishmael took part in his burial. Even though she admits she lied about Joseph, Potiphar’s wife gets sympathetic treatment as result of her lonely, loveless life. Feldman does the same in all her *midrash*: the women’s behavior is explained in an understandable and compassionate way, even when that behavior is not positive.

“Biblical Women Speak” is well done, although readers may not always agree with Feldman’s contemporary interpretations. Feldman does note that her book does not include discussions of other contemporary feminist *midrash*, but that is beyond the general scope of her work. Readers looking to better understand *midrash* will particularly enjoy the sections on classic commentary, while those interested in new ways of understanding the text will find the contemporary *midrash* of interest. “Biblical Women Speak” would also make an excellent text for Torah discussion groups.

## BD Sisterhood held planning meeting



Members of Beth David Sisterhood met in August to plan programs for the coming 2023-24 season. From top right (counterclockwise): Susan Wright, Marcy Yonaty, Susan Hubal, Stacey Silber, Judy Silber, Marlene Serkin, Cathy Velenchik and Saba Wiesner. Kerry Wright (not shown) also attended. (Photo by Kerry Wright)

## 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.jfjb.org](http://www.jfjb.org) and click on “make a pledge.”
- 2) E-mail Federation Executive Director Shelley Hubal at [director@jfjb.org](mailto:director@jfjb.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.

Mail this form to:

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State/ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Pledge: \_\_\_\_\_



## On the Jewish food scene Kosher pork

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

That headline got your attention, didn’t it? Well, the teaser in the e-mail, “Kosher certified pork-flavored potato chips to be discontinued,” certainly got mine. The Orthodox Union revoked its certification after receiving complaints about a product that featured a cartoon pig as part of its design. I was reminded of something I read years ago about a kosher bacon-flavored cracker. I loved the article because when someone complained it tasted too close to real bacon, the certifying rabbi said that he didn’t know if that was true because he’d never tasted bacon.

Anyone else remember beefry? I’m not sure if that’s how it was spelled because a search of the web gave no results for beefry and I don’t know anyone besides my late mother who might remember the product. It was a kosher beef bacon-like food that I haven’t thought about in decades. That doesn’t mean that there are no similar products: if you google kosher beef bacon, a ton of sites selling kosher beef bacon pop up.

Vegetarians have long eaten non-meat, meat-tasting products, such as fake baloney,

turkey, pork, sausage, hot dogs, bacon, etc. that are made out of soy, beans, mushrooms or wheat protein. Some people become vegetarian for health reasons and others out of ethical concerns (they prefer not to kill animals for food). A third group offers a combination of these reasons and others. The question then becomes, “If you don’t want to eat animals, do you want to eat foods that taste like animals, even if they aren’t made out of animals?” I know folks who won’t if something tastes too much like the real thing. Others don’t care and happily eat something that reminds them of their past. (By the way, no judgments on any of these choices. As someone who had to put up with unhelpful comments when I went on health-related diets, I have no problem with someone doing their own thing.)

Organizations that offer certifications may be faced with another dilemma when a new type of meat appears that is still meat, but doesn’t come from a live animal. I don’t know the specific science of this, but if there are no pigs involved, would the meat be kosher? Or would those certifying these products claim the principle of *marat-ayin* (when something is technically not a violation, but could appear to be one) to say the meat is not kosher? (One example of ways to avoid this principle occurred when non-dairy creamers first became available: people would bring them out in their original containers – even at very fancy dinners – so no one would accidentally assume it was OK to mix meat and milk. Now that non-dairy creamers are well known, most no longer feel the need to do that.)

I have no idea what will happen after scientists develop these new types of food and how certifying agencies will approach them. What I can guarantee is those of us who find food culture and customs fascinating will be eager to read about those decisions and the reasoning behind them.

Looking for this issue’s “Jewish Resources”? Visit [www.thereporter.org/streams/miscellaneous-features/miscellaneous-features/tag/80309](http://www.thereporter.org/streams/miscellaneous-features/miscellaneous-features/tag/80309) to find out what’s happening online.”

### Community Calendar

The Community Calendar can be found on the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton’s website, [www.jfjb.org](http://www.jfjb.org), by clicking on “calendar.” Updates or additions of events for the calendar can be made by contacting the Federation through its website or by calling 607-724-2332.



Jewish Federation  
of Greater Binghamton

# PREPARE FOR ROSH HASHANAH

## High Holiday services at area synagogues

All information was provided by the synagogues listed below. Other area synagogues are still in the process of planning their services to ensure the safety of their congregants – as those plans may change, those interested in attending services are asked to contact synagogues for their most up-to-date service schedule. See the Congregational Notes on page 6 for contact information for all of the area synagogues.

### Beth David Synagogue

**Saturday, September 9, Selichot**  
Selichot service – 10 pm

**Friday, September 15, erev Rosh Hashanah**  
Candle lighting – 6:55 pm  
Mincha – 6:55 pm

**Saturday, September 16, Rosh Hashanah I**  
Shacharit – 8:15 am  
Shofar – 10:45 am  
Mincha – 6:40 pm  
Candle lighting – after 7:54 pm

**Sunday, September 17, Rosh Hashanah II**  
Shacharit – 8:15 am  
Shofar – 10:45 am  
Tashlich at Confluence Park – 5:45 pm  
Mincha – 6:55 pm  
Yom Tov ends – 7:52 pm

**Monday, September 18, Tzom Gedaliah – Fast of Gedalya**  
Fast begins – 5:22 am  
Fast ends – 7:50 pm

**Friday, September 22, erev Shabbat Shuvah**  
Candle lighting – 6:43 pm

**Saturday, September 23, Shabbat Shuvah**  
Shacharit – 9:30 am

Shabbat Shuvah lecture during Kiddush  
Shabbat ends – 7:41 pm

**Sunday, September 24, erev Yom Kippur**  
Service at Holocaust Memorial Monument – 10:30 am  
Cemetery visitations following – approx. 11 am-noon  
Candle lighting – before 6:39 pm  
Fast begins – 6:39 pm  
Kol Nidre – 6:40 pm

**Monday, September 25, Yom Kippur**  
Shacharit – 9 am  
Yizkor – 12:15 pm  
Mincha – 4:50 pm  
Shofar, fast ends – 7:39 pm

**Friday, September 29, erev Sukkot**  
Candle lighting – 6:31 pm

**Saturday, September 30, Sukkot I**  
Shacharit – 9 am  
Candle lighting – after 7:29 pm

**Sunday, October 1, Sukkot II**  
Shacharit – 9 am  
Yom Tov ends – 7:27 pm

**Friday, October 6, Hoshana Rabba**  
Shacharit – 7 am  
Candle lighting – 6:19 pm

**Shabbat, October 7, Shemini Atzeret**  
Shacharit – 9 am  
Yizkor – 10:45 am  
Mincha – 6:05 pm  
Candle lighting – after 7:17 pm  
Ma'ariv and Hakafot – 7:15 pm

**Sunday, October 8, Simchat Torah**  
Shacharit – 9 am  
Hakafot – 9:45 am  
Yom Tov ends – 7:15 pm

See "Services" on page 8

# Wishing You A Sweet New Year

 <p><b>4<sup>49</sup></b> with AdvantEdge Card <b>Kedem Concord Grape Juice</b> 64 oz. Select Varieties</p>	 <p><b>14<sup>99</sup></b> lb. <b>Meal Mart 1st Cut Brisket</b> Kosher</p>
 <p><b>6<sup>99</sup></b> with AdvantEdge Card <b>PICS Cold Smoked Atlantic Salmon</b> 4 oz. •Regular or Pepper &amp; Garlic</p>	 <p><b>5<sup>99</sup></b> <b>Round Egg Challah Bread</b> 22 oz. or Round Raisin Challah Bread 22 oz. \$6.99</p>
 <p><b>2<sup>99</sup></b> with AdvantEdge Card <b>Market 32 5 Lb. Russet Potatoes</b> U.S. #1</p>	 <p><b>16<sup>99</sup></b> with AdvantEdge Card <b>Empire Kosher Boneless Chicken Cutlets</b> 2 Lb. •Frozen</p>
 <p><b>3<sup>99</sup></b> with AdvantEdge Card <b>PICS Honey Bear</b> 12 oz.</p>	 <p><b>8<sup>99</sup></b> with AdvantEdge Card <b>Meal Mart Ground Beef</b> 16 oz. •Frozen</p>
 <p><b>2/\$3</b> with AdvantEdge Card <b>Streit's Egg Noodles</b> 12 oz. •Select Varieties or Bows 8 oz.</p>	 <p><b>4<sup>49</sup></b> with AdvantEdge Card <b>Golden Blintzes 6 Pack</b> 13 oz. •Select Varieties</p>
 <p><b>2/\$3</b> with AdvantEdge Card <b>Streit's Matzo Ball or Soup Mix</b> 4.5 oz.</p>	 <p><b>2/\$5</b> with AdvantEdge Card <b>Lipton Kosher Recipe Secrets Onion Dip or Soup Mix</b> 1.9 oz. or Lipton Soup Secrets Matzo Ball &amp; Soup Mix •4.3-4.5 oz. •Select Varieties</p>
 <p><b>2/\$6</b> with AdvantEdge Card <b>Manischewitz Broth</b> 17 oz. •All Varieties</p>	 <p><b>3<sup>49</sup></b> with AdvantEdge Card <b>Breakstone's Whipped Butter</b> 8 oz.</p>
 <p><b>4<sup>49</sup></b> <b>Gefen Cake</b> 15.89 oz. •Honey, Marble or Apple</p>	 <p><b>2<sup>99</sup></b> with AdvantEdge Card <b>Osem Toasted Couscous</b> 8.8 oz.</p>
<p><b>Golden Pancakes</b> 10.6 oz. •Select Varieties <b>3<sup>99</sup></b></p> <p><b>Farmers Horseradish</b> 8.5 oz. •White <b>2/\$4</b></p> <p><b>Osem Chicken Style Consomme</b> 14.1 oz. <b>5<sup>99</sup></b></p> <p><b>Wolff's Kasha</b> 13 oz. •Select Varieties <b>3<sup>49</sup></b></p> <p><b>Vita Herring In Sour Cream</b> 12 oz. or In Wine Sauce <b>5<sup>99</sup></b></p> <p><b>Yehuda Gefilte Fish</b> 24 oz. •Select Varieties <b>6<sup>49</sup></b></p>	<p><b>Osem Mini Croutons</b> 8.8 oz. •The Original Mini "Mandel" <b>4<sup>49</sup></b></p> <p><b>Streit's Apple &amp; Honey Fruit Slices</b> 6 oz. <b>3<sup>49</sup></b></p> <p><b>Kedem Tea Biscuits</b> 4.2 oz. •Select Varieties <b>4/\$3</b></p> <p><b>Bosco Chocolate Syrup</b> 22 oz. <b>3<sup>49</sup></b></p> <p><b>Menora Shabbos Candles</b> 72 Ct. <b>6<sup>49</sup></b></p> <p><b>Menora Memorial Candle</b> <b>4/\$3</b></p>

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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@thereportergroup.org](mailto:advertising@thereportergroup.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)

Name(s)

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

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Greeting Style \_\_\_\_\_ Message \_\_\_\_\_  
How you would like it signed \_\_\_\_\_

We accept  Visa  Mastercard  American Express  Discover

Print Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_  
Card Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Address, City, State, Zip (Registered billing address of card) \_\_\_\_\_

Style J - \$21  
Actual Size: 1.52" x 1.975"

May this New Year be a time of peace & joy for you and all those you love.

Your Name(s)

Style F - \$21  
Actual Size: 1.52" x 1.975"

Have a sweet, happy & healthy New Year!

Your Name(s)

Checks can be made payable to *The Reporter*, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850.

**Deadline: Aug. 31**

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

**Price Chopper** **MARKET 32**

BY PRICE CHOPPER

Offers effective Sunday, August 20 thru Saturday, September 30, 2023 in all Price Chopper, Market 32 and Market Bistro stores located in CT, MA, NH, NY, PA & VT. Not all items are available in all stores.

Visit us on the web at [www.thereportergroup.org](http://www.thereportergroup.org)



## Weekly Parasha

Ki Tetze, Deuteronomy 21:10-25:19

# Are we required to be compassionate?

RABBI ZEV SILBER, BETH DAVID SYNAGOGUE

There are so many *mitzvot* in this week's Torah reading! It contains more than 70 commandments – 12 percent of the 613 *mitzvot* of the Torah in just one reading. Included are the laws of marriage and divorce, the levirate marriage (*yibum*) and those whom we are forbidden to marry; they are all in this week's portion, yet spread out throughout the reading.

There are laws regarding war, exemptions from the draft, the condition of military camp, how to deal with enemies like Amalek and how to relate to captives of war. Also included are civil and criminal laws of varied nature such as inheritance rights, pre-marital relations, rape, charging and paying interest on loans, damages in cases of assault, the validity of oral contracts and promises, kidnapping, the punishments imposed by the courts and the accuracy of weights and measurements, among others.

There is another category of laws that deserves special

mention that are included in this week's reading: those dealing with being compassionate, caring, helpful and mindful of potential dangers. Among them, we can find the requirement to care for and return lost objects, to help animals carry their heavy burden, the quick burial requirements for those executed by the legal system, giving freedom to a runaway slave and compassion for the orphan, widow, stranger and poor.

Among these laws we find the very strange and unusual law of "*kan tzipor*." When we see a bird's nest, we are not permitted to take the chick or eggs while the mother bird is hovering over it. We must show compassion for the bird, which, as Maimonides writes in his "Guide For the Perplexed," have emotions and feelings for its young just as humans do. We are obligated to treat all creatures with caring and compassion.

Yet, the same Rambam, in his laws of prayer, writes

– based on the Talmud – that if a cantor prays to God, "Please have compassion upon us just as you have for the mother bird," we must silence him and remove him from his position of cantor. What is wrong with such a prayer? The mitzvah is to be compassionate, so why not pray for God's compassion?

The Rambam knew this question would arise and answers it in the very same paragraph: our observance of the law of the bird's nest is not because we want to be compassionate, rather because God so commanded. He reasons that if the purpose of the mitzvah were to be compassionate, then God should have prohibited our taking the chick or egg completely. Won't the mother bird miss her chick when she returns to the empty nest?

I believe that what the Rambam is really answering is as follows: God is compassionate and, in a perfect world, He See "**Required**" 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: 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 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.

### 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: fertigtj@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.

### 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.

### 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 25: At 7:30 pm, Shabbat services led by Allen Alt and Robin Hazen. Masks are optional for those attending in person. Join via Zoom at https://bit.ly/3hRm-W2Y, meeting ID 869 9699 8146 and passcode 826330, or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/templeconcord/.

Friday, September 1: At 7:30 pm, Shabbat services will be held. 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, September 3: From 10 am-2 pm, Sisterhood rummage sale in the temple basement. Shoppers are asked to use the Oak Street entrance. Masks are optional.

Tuesday, September 5: At 10:30 am, the Tuesday Morning Book Club will discuss "Shanda" by Letty Cottin Pogrebin. Attendance is in person or on Zoom. For more information, contact Merri Pell-Preus at 607-222-2875 or merrypell.preus@gmail.com. Join via Zoom at https://bit.ly/3CXVd9b, meeting ID 881 6469 4206 and passcode 653272.

Wednesday, September 6: At 7 pm, Sisterhood board meeting in person at the temple. Contact Carol Herz at 607-222-7144 for answers to questions.

### 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.

Friday, August 25, light candles before..... 7:31 pm  
 Shabbat ends Saturday, August 26 ..... 8:30 pm  
 Friday, September 1, light candles before ..... 7:19 pm  
 Shabbat ends Saturday, September 2 ..... 8:18 pm  
 Friday, September 8, light candles before ..... 7:07 pm  
 Shabbat ends Saturday, September 9 ..... 8:06 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 16, 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 21:10-25:19 and the haftarah is Isaiah 54:1-10. At 9 pm, there will be Havdalah services via Zoom.

Rabbi Micah Friedman's learning series focused on preparing for the High Holidays will continue on Wednesday, August 30, from 6:30-8 pm in person and on Zoom.

On Saturday, September 2, 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 26:1-29:8 and the haftarah is Isaiah 60:1-22. The b'nai mitzvah of Thea and Shai Yarkoni will take place. At 8:45 pm, there will be Havdalah services via Zoom.

The temple office will be closed on Monday, September 4, for Labor Day.

### 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.

### Congregation Tikun v'Or

Affiliation: Union for Reform Judaism  
 Address: PO Box 3981, Ithaca, NY 14852; 2550 Triphammer Rd. (corner of Triphammer and Burdick Hill), Lansing, NY  
 Phone: 607-256-1471  
 Website: www.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.

# Hillel International selects Binghamton's Sarina Shields for 2023-24 Student Cabinet

WASHINGTON – Hillel International, the world's largest Jewish campus organization, announced the 21 members of the 2023-2024 Hillel International Student Cabinet, including Sarina Shields, a senior at Binghamton University. The selected student leaders will advise Hillel International's professional staff and board leadership, and create and implement strategies to engage Jewish college students around the world.

"On campus, Sarina Shields is a dedicated and passionate individual who serves as the vice president of finance at Hillel at Binghamton," said Hillel at Binghamton staff. "With a genuine commitment to her community, Sarina is deeply invested in creating meaningful change within the Jewish community. Her diligent efforts and unwavering dedication are evident in her active involvement within the Binghamton community, where she works tirelessly to

foster connections and contribute to the growth of both the Orthodox and general Jewish communities. With a strong belief in the power of unity and shared values, Sarina is excited to extend her impact further as she embarks on her journey as a member of the Hillel International Student Cabinet, eager to collaborate and make a lasting difference within the broader Jewish community."

"Being the first-ever student from Binghamton University, I am truly honored and excited to be joining the Hillel International Student Cabinet," Shields said. "This opportunity holds immense significance for me as it allows me to amplify my impact within the Jewish community on a larger scale. I hope to leverage this platform to foster greater unity among students, bridge connections between diverse Jewish communities, and champion initiatives that bring positive change. Being part of the Student Cabinet

is not just a role; it's a chance to contribute to a collective vision of empowerment, growth, and meaningful dialogue that will shape the future of the Jewish community."

"Hillel International's Student Cabinet gives students a direct voice in the leadership of our organization," shared Adam Lehman, president and CEO of Hillel International. "The incoming Student Cabinet includes students from a variety of universities and elevates diverse Jewish student perspectives. I am proud to partner with inspiring student leaders, including Sarina Shields, to move forward our shared vision for the future of Hillel and look forward to continuing that collaboration with these inspiring young leaders in the year ahead."

## Challah . . . Continued from page 3

baked during the meeting. The demonstration will precede the actual Sisterhood business meeting. Participants may choose to stay after the meeting until their challah has been baked, or may choose to take it home to be baked later.

In addition to this challah demonstration, Silber is raising funds for Sisterhood through the sale of items that have been donated to her by Sisterhood members and friends. She is selling them online and at Silber Creations, which is located inside Your Needful Things, a multi-vendor indoor market located at 136 East Service Rd., Binghamton. "Donating items to Stacey is a great opportunity to clear out some of those things which you really don't need any more and help Sisterhood," organizers said. "Stacey can be contacted at 607-727-9738 or by visiting [www.silbercreations.com](http://www.silbercreations.com). She has already made her first donation to Sisterhood!"

Membership dues for 2023-24, which are \$25, will be payable at the door, as will any money owed for mitzvah cards that have been sent. "Remember mitzvah cards are only \$3 each and can be requested for any occasion and at any time of the year by contacting Toby Kohn through the Beth David Office at [bethdavid@stny.rr.com](mailto:bethdavid@stny.rr.com)," organizers added.

Sisterhood will also collect non-perishable food items which will be donated to CHOW. "We look forward to seeing all of our members and friends on September 6 so we can wish them an early *l'shanah tovah tikatavu*."

## TI held High Holiday preparation class



Rabbi Micah Friedman hosted a learning series, "Fundamentals and Flairs of Jewish Prayer," throughout the month of August focused on preparing for the High Holidays. Shown are those attending one of the sessions.



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# Services.....Continued from page 5

## Congregation Tikkun v'Or

All are welcome to join with Tikkun v'Or for the High Holidays; tickets and membership are not required. However, for space and security purposes, TVO requires registration for all in-person holiday services. Contact HighHolidays@tikkunvor.org for information on registration and for Zoom links.

High Holiday services will be hybrid – in-person at Tikkun v'Or (2550 N Triphammer Rd., Ithaca), with simultaneous remote attendance via Zoom, unless otherwise noted.

Services will be led by Rabbi Shifrah Tobacman and the High Holiday leadership team, with musical spiritual leadership by Marne O'Shae, Lauren Korfine, Miranda Phillips, Richard Rosenfield and Azameira (the TVO musical leaders).

More information about all of these services, as well as services for Sukkot, Simchat Torah and weekly Shabbat services, can be found on TVO's website, www.tikkunvor.org, or call 607-256-1471.

### Saturday, September 9, Selichot

"A Time for Compassion: the 'Getting-ready Ritual' of Selichot" – a gathering with Rabbi Shifrah Tobacman,

## Required.....Continued from page 6

would command us to act with pure compassion. Yet, God realizes that in this imperfect world, we sometimes need to do things to assure our own needs and/or existence, even if they contradict with pure compassion. We have a need to eat, so we may need to take the egg, the chick, slaughter an animal or uproot a plant. So, God, in His infinite wisdom, gives us a mitzvah that serves to limit and retrain us in our actions. We recognize that we are not being compassionate. Rather, we keep this mitzvah because God so commanded.

Perhaps this idea can be brought into focus when we look at another mitzvah in the *parasha* and examine the entire paragraph. We have the mitzvah of *ma'akeh* – putting a railing on the roof to prevent someone from accidentally falling off and getting injured or worse. This is a very logical mitzvah and it teaches us our responsibility to protect others and ourselves from potential injury. Yet, in the same paragraph, the Torah continues and repeats the *mitzvah kilayim* – not to plant diverse kinds of seeds together. This mitzvah is the paradigm of what we often call "*chok*" – a mitzvah without logical reason.

We are commanded in the very same paragraph to observe a very logical mitzvah and also a mitzvah without any logical reason in order to teach us that our observance must be based on a commitment to listen to and follow God and His Torah, not on our limited human ability to develop moral and ethical behaviors. Both the *chok* and the logical mitzvah are followed because of our commitment to God.

Therefore, someone who asks for compassion based on the presumption that the purpose of the mitzvah of the bird's nest is an example of God's compassion is revealing a tainted understanding of the purpose of *mitzvot*. Yes, God is compassionate. Yes, we are commanded to act in a way that shows some elements of compassion. Perhaps, as the Ramban says, God is attempting to teach us to act compassionately. But the reason that we follow the mitzvah is because we are so commanded by our creator. Now, we have the right to beg for His compassion.

As we approach Rosh Hashanah, let us continue to faithfully follow God's commands and pray that He will bless us with all our desires.

focused on compassionate reflection and preparing spiritually for the High Holidays – 7:30-9 pm

### Friday, September 15, erev Rosh Hashanah

Services led by Rabbi Shifrah Tobacman – 6:30 pm

### Saturday, September 16, Rosh Hashanah I

Morning service led by Rabbi Lenore Bohm and Rabbi Shifrah Tobacman – 9 am-noon

### Sunday, September 17, Rosh Hashanah II

Youth service by and for students and their families – 10-11:45 am

Community Bring-Your-Own Picnic – noon-1 pm

Tashlich – 12:30-1:30 pm

### Sunday, September 24, erev Yom Kippur

Kol Nidre led by Rabbi Shifrah Tobacman – 6:30 pm

### Monday, September 25, Yom Kippur

Morning service led by Michael Margolin and Rabbi Shifrah Tobacman – 9 am-noon

Yoga with Beth Cohen – 12:15-1 pm

Youth Program – for students and their families – 1:15-2:15 pm

Meditation with Ira Kamp (on Zoom only) – 1:30-2 pm

"The Isaiah Challenge": Casey Verderosa, executive director of Ithaca Welcomes

Refugees – 2:30-4 pm

Avodah service – 4:15-5:15 pm

Yizkor – 5:30-6:15 pm

Neilah/Havdalah/shofar – 6:15-7:15 pm

Community break the fast 7:15 pm

## Temple Beth El, Oneonta

Check Temple Beth El's website, www.templebetheloneonta.org, for information about non-member tickets, to reserve a place for the break-the-fast and for updates to the schedule.

### Friday, September 15, erev Rosh Hashanah

Shabbat evening service, candle lighting – 7 pm

### Saturday, September 16, Rosh Hashanah I

Services – 9:30 am

### Sunday, September 17, Rosh Hashanah II

Tashlich – 1 pm

### Sunday, September 24, erev Yom Kippur

Candle lighting – 6:50 pm

Kol Nidre – 7 pm

### Monday, September 25 – Yom Kippur

Services – 9:30 am

Yizkor, Torah study, "Forgiveness" workshop

Neilah – 6:15 pm

Final shofar blast – 7:30 pm

Break-the-fast follows

## Temple Brith Sholom

### Friday, September 15, erev Rosh Hashanah

Evening service – 7 pm

### Saturday September 16, Rosh Hashanah I

Morning service – 10 am

Tashlich at the creek – 6:30 pm

Evening service with Havdalah, followed by music and dance – 7 pm

### Sunday, September 17, Rosh Hashanah II

Special shofar service for children (and adults), Torah study, honors and discussion – 10 am

### Sunday September 24, erev Yom Kippur

Kol Nidre – 6:45 pm

### Monday September 25, Yom Kippur

Morning services – 10 am

Yizkor, Musaf – 11:30 am

Jonah – 5:30 pm

Neilah – 6 pm

Break the fast – 7:15 pm

## Temple Concord

Service times are tentative; contact Temple Concord at 607-723-7355 or visit www.templeconcord.com to confirm service times.

### Friday, September 15, erev Rosh Hashanah

Services – 8 pm

### Saturday, September 16, Rosh Hashanah

Services – 9:30 am

Followed by Super Kiddush and then Tashlich

### Sunday, September 24, erev Yom Kippur

Musical prelude – 7:30 pm

Kol Nidre service – 7:50 pm

### Monday, September 25, Yom Kippur

Morning service – 9:30 am

Youth services and programming – 10:30 am

Panel discussion (tentative) – 1:15 pm

Meditative music (in mansion) – 3 pm

Yizkor memorial service – 4:15 pm

Healing service (tentative) – 5 pm

Neilah concluding service – 6 pm

Havdalah – 6:45 pm

Congregational break fast in the mansion following Havdalah

## Temple Israel

All Temple Israel holiday services will be in-person and live-streamed online via Zoom.

### Saturday, September 9

TI/TC Selichot at TC – 8 pm

### Friday, September 15, erev Rosh Hashanah

Services – 7 pm

### Saturday, September 16, Rosh Hashanah I

Services – 8:45 am

Families with children services – 10:30 am

Mincha – 5 pm

### Sunday, September 17, Rosh Hashanah II

Services – 8:45 am

Families with children services – 10:30 am

Tashlich (behind Newman House) – 4:30 pm

### Friday, September 22, erev Shabbat Shuvah

Services – 5:30 pm

### Saturday, September 23, Shabbat Shuvah

Services – 9:30 am

### Sunday, September 24

Holocaust Memorial at TI Cemetery – 10:30 am

Visiting TI Cemetery – 11:15 am

### Sunday, September 24, erev Yom Kippur

Kol Nidre service – 7 pm

### Monday, September 25, Yom Kippur

Services – 8:45 am

Study session (sanctuary only) – 4:30 pm

Mincha – 5:30 pm

Neilah (ark open) – 6:30 pm

Ma'ariv – 7:15 pm

Havdalah, shofar, break the fast – 7:28 pm

### Wednesday, September 27

Building the Temple Israel sukkah (weather dependent) – 10 am

### Friday, September 29, erev Sukkot

Erev Shabbat and Sukkot services – 5:30 pm

### Saturday, September 30, Sukkot I

Services – 9:30 am

### Sunday, October 1, Sukkot II

Services (children oriented, all ages welcome) – 9:30 am

### Friday, October 6

Erev Shabbat and Yom Tov services – 5:30 pm

### Saturday, October 7, Shemini Atzeret

Shabbat and Shemini Atzeret services with Yizkor – 9:30 am

### Sunday, October 8, Simchat Torah

Services – 9:30 am

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