

THE REPORTER

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BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK

Film Fest to hold virtual showing of “Martha Liebermann: A Stolen Life”

By Reporter staff

The Binghamton Jewish Film Fest will hold a virtual showing of the film “Martha Liebermann: A Stolen Life.” Andrea Kastner, M.F.A., lecturer in the Department of Art and Design at Binghamton University, will moderate a Zoom discussion of the film. People will be able to register for links to the film and discussion on the Federation website at www.jfgeb.org/film-fest. Registration is due by Wednesday, November 6. The link will be sent out on Thursday, November 7; the film will be available for viewing from Thursday-Sunday, November 7-10. The discussion will be held on Sunday, November 10, at 7 pm. The film is in German with subtitles. The film fest is being



Thekla Carola Wied played the main character in “Martha Liebermann: A Stolen Life.” (Photo used courtesy of Menemsha Films)

co-sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton and the Ithaca Area United Jewish Community.

The film is based on the real life story of Martha Liebermann, the widow of the artist Max Liebermann. However, at age 85, she is faced with a dilemma: leave her beloved Germany or be deported to a concentration camp. Martha’s friends pressure her into an illegal sale to finance her escape with a resistance group. Gestapo Commissioner Teubner and his henchmen see this as an opportunity to set a trap for opponents of the regime since the art expert consulted works for them. Can Martha trust the art expert who helps, even though he has his own reasons to help the Nazis?

The film has won or been nominated for numerous awards, including the Best Narrative Feature Award at the Boca International Jewish Film Festival, Golden Nymph Awards for Best Film and Best Actress at the Monte-Carlo Television Festival, nominee at the Venice TV Award for Best TV Movie, nominee for the Hessian TV Award for Best Supporting Performance and nominee for the Venice TV Award Best TV Movie.

“I am looking forward to the start of this year’s Film Fest and we have an excellent film for the first entry,” said Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Federation. “It’s fascinating to see the real life story of an amazing woman come to life on the screen.”



Holocaust memorial service to be held on Oct. 6

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, October 6,

at 10 am. The service will be led by area rabbis. Deborah Herz-Walike will speak at the event. The monument was one of the first memorial stones in the United States to acknowledge the Holocaust.

“We are pleased to be able to hold this im-

portant 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

See “Service” on page 3

Chabad Piaker lecture to feature “Israel’s New Voice of Hope” discussing Oct. 7

Iris Haim, the woman who has been called “Israel’s New Voice of Hope,” will be the guest speaker at the annual Pauline and Philip Piaker Memorial Lecture, which will be held on Tuesday, October 29, at 7 pm, at the Chabad Center. Haim will speak on “In Light, Not Darkness.” A question-and-answer period and dessert buffet will follow her presentation. There is no charge for this event, but reservations are necessary and can be made at www.JewishBU.com/Piaker or by calling Chabad at 607-797-

0015. Additional funding for the evening is being supplied by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, the Eisenberg Foundation and the Jewish Family Service.

“On October 7, 2023, Iris Haim, a loving mother of three children who resided in the Western Negev region of Israel



Iris Haim with her son, Yotam (Photo courtesy of the family via Chabad)

found herself thrust into an unforeseen reality when her son Yotam, aged 28 and a resident of Kibbutz Kfar Aza, was kidnapped to Gaza and held captive,” said organizers of the event. “In the ensuing 70 days until the 15th of December, Iris made a conscious choice to hold onto unwavering

faith and hope, believing fervently that Yotam was alive, enduring and receiving care. Opting to perceive the good amidst adversity, her steadfast resolve played a pivotal role in Yotam’s survival and eventual escape from captivity. Tragically, Yotam and two other hostages who had courageously escaped their captives were misidentified by the IDF and shot dead. Even in the face of unimaginable hardship, Iris chose to cultivate faith and positivity.”

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Spotlight

Far-right terrorism and American antisemitism: Dialoguing with Hoffman and Ware

By Bill Simons

The growth and threat of far-right terrorism is tangible and threatening, particularly so for Jews since American antisemitism resides at its core. Despite antisemitism from the left metastasizing since October 7, it presently poses less of a clear and present danger to democracy than far-right terrorism. I recently reviewed “God, Guns, and Sedition: Far-Right Terrorism in America” (New York: Columbia University Press, 2024), an important and highly recommended new book with a disturbing message, for the Israel Journal of Foreign Affairs. Events since publication of the review provided impetus for interviewing authors Bruce Hoffman and Jacob Ware. On August 29, I dialogued with them over Zoom.

Hoffman is one of the pre-eminent authorities on far-right terrorism. Over the past four decades, his professional responsibilities have encompassed critical leadership positions in government, think tanks and academia. Moreover, he has authored several of the most influential works concerning far-right sedition. Recipient of a Ph.D. from the University of Oxford and an alumnus of the Israeli national field hockey team, Hoffman’s impressive credentials encompass congressional appointment to head the review of the FBI’s Post-9/11 Response to Terrorism and Radicalization; scholar-in-residence for counterterrorism at the Central Intelligence Agency; director of the Center for Security Studies and the Center for Jewish Civilization at George-

town University; and Rand Corporation vice president for external affairs. His influential study “Inside Terrorism,” soon to appear in a fourth edition, is essential reading. His work has elicited commendation and threats.

Of late, Ware has collaborated with Hoffman. At age 29, Ware already ranks as an ascending expert on counterintelligence. He holds consultative positions at the United States Military Academy’s Modern War Institute and the Council on Foreign Relations. He has taught courses on counterintelligence at Georgetown and DeSales universities. Ware’s policy briefs include “The Atomwaffen Division and Rising Far-Right Terrorism in the United States.” During our interview, Ware, like Hoffman, displayed command of his field,

candor and a disarming wit.

As Hoffman and Ware demonstrate, paranoid anti-Communist extremists of the McCarthy era adhered to a perverse patriotism in defense of the United States’ government; not so contemporary far-right conspiratorialists don many masks, amongst them Boogaloo, Proud Boys, Oath Keepers and QAnon. Emerging circa 1980, the modern far-right extremist movement, although far from unified in structure or tenets, views the federal government as corrupt and coercive, seeking to subjugate the people by depriving them of their guns and subjecting them to crushing taxation. Embracing a distorted form of Christian nationalism and toxic masculinity, today’s

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Beth David’s next luncheon will feature speaker Mark Yonaty; JLI’s fall course announced.

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JCC Friendship Club

The JCC Friendship Club announces its October 16 meeting will include a sing-along.

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World news

An Oct. 7 memorial is unveiled in Jerusalem; marking 80 years since Lodz Ghetto liquidated.

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Opinion

From the Desk of the Federation Executive Director

With gratitude

SHELLEY HUBAL

Years ago, my mom labeled me the “practical daughter.” This has become a family punch line. It is true, though: I would happily say the ingredients of my life are simplicity with a dash of risk aversion.

What are the superpowers of being “practical”? Having the skills to break down big undertakings and focus on the simple steps has always served me well. Accepting my shortcomings and those of others is another characteristic of practicality for which I am grateful. I have never been

a competitive person; it feels like a waste of time and energy. You get the picture. The truth is that I thrive on the micro-pleasures of life.

A recent discussion I attended on finding meaning in the High Holidays left me disappointed. It was too intellectual. My ears never perked up once with any straightforward instructions. Why can't the message be simple and practical? Is it enough to just open your heart, accept there will always be struggle, treat people with respect, seek

forgiveness with sincerity and work to do better next year?

In her poem “School Prayer,” poet Diane Ackerman beautifully describes practical guideposts for living in relationship with God. You may appreciate her words during the High Holidays and every day. They include, “I will honor all life – wherever and in whatever form it may dwell.”

With gratitude, I wish you all a good year, a sweet year and year of fulfilling, practical life lessons.

Statement on anti-Israelism and academic Jewish studies

By Jonathan Karp, Rachel Greenblatt, Daniel B. Schwartz, Nancy Sinkoff and Zachary Braiterman

As scholars of Jewish studies, we are alarmed at the increasing openness to extreme anti-Israel animus in our field and in the larger university community. We are particularly disturbed that students on our diverse campuses have been shamed and shunned by peers and faculty for defending Israel's existence and have, to a large degree, been left unsupported by faculty.

Israel is a major center of contemporary Jewish life. Home to seven million Jews, alongside two million Palestinian/Arab and other minority citizens, Israel cannot but be an object of critical concern to Jewish studies. While our commitment to academic freedom is ironclad, we believe that Jewish studies, as an academic field today, cannot be agnostic on the question of Israel's existence as a legitimate expression of Jewish national self-determination. Nor can we be indifferent to the question of Palestinian national

rights. We support the principles of both self-determination and mutual recognition.

The increasing power of anti-Israelism on college campuses fosters blanket discrimination against Jews and, in particular, Israeli students and colleagues. We reject as anti-intellectual and anti-democratic the calls to boycott Israeli universities, students and faculty, and to sever cooperative agreements in our universities. We reject the discriminatory imposition of anti-Israel litmus tests that exclude Jewish and Israeli faculty and staff from participating in campus life. We likewise condemn anti-normalization campaigns against Hillel and other Jewish organizations on campus and discrimination against students, staff and faculty who identify as Jewish and/or express support for Israel.

While our views on Israeli politics and specific policies differ, we are united in aspiring to an Israel that exists peacefully within just and secure borders and remains open and democratic, consistent with the principles enshrined in the country's 1948 Declaration on the Establishment of the State of Israel, guaranteeing full equality “to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex.”

As scholars, we are committed to free speech, comity and constructive debate and dialogue across ideological divides. Yet, we oppose efforts to collapse the categories of state, society and peoplehood that have led to a hostile anti-Israelism on our campuses today. For these reasons, we urge our colleagues in Jewish studies and in all fields to stand against the demonizing of Israel that has become so prevalent in the academy.

Jonathan Karp is an associate professor at Binghamton University. Rachel Greenblatt is a senior lecturer at Dartmouth College. Daniel B. Schwartz is a professor at George Washington University. Nancy Sinkoff is a professor at Rutgers University. Zachary Braiterman is a professor at Syracuse University.

One Perspective from Israel

They just don't get it

JEREMY M. STAIMAN

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

“You guys get it,” he says. “My friends, who don't have anyone in the Army, they don't get it! They want to talk about work. About their car troubles. They have no idea what we're going through, not seeing our son for a month, and hardly ever talking to him. We're usually very close with these friends, but right now, it's like we're on a different planet.”

I do get it. Although our sons are in very different roles, and we have actually been able to see our son a few times, and hear from him often, that could change at any second.

I get it. As with any life-changing event, it's much easier to share with someone who's walked in your shoes.

I have a relative who lost a baby to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome many years ago. He and his wife have counseled many others who experienced the same devastating loss. Because they get it.

Having a child in the Army is not a loss, but it means living at the same time with radiant pride that he or she is helping preserve our nation and our people; and at the same time living with the blackest clouds of “what if...”

Those friends talking about their engine trouble and their boss don't get it. But they're trying.

They're trying to keep a connection. And maybe by talking about the mundane they are hoping to help you momentarily escape back to the life you had a few weeks ago. The life without those dark clouds and sleepless nights.

If you're on the giving end of those conversations, maybe just ask your friend: “what can I do to be there for you?”

If you're on the receiving end, keep in mind that your friends are trying to connect with you, and even though they might be on another planet, their reaching out is a way of saying that they love you and want you to know that they care.

Because on some level, they do get it.

In My Own Words

Jewish election values

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Nonprofit organizations – including synagogues – and nonprofit newspapers are not allowed to endorse political candidates. However, as a Jewish newspaper, we can talk about Jewish values that should be taken into consideration by voters. Below are three that I hope my readers will think deeply about before casting their votes in November.

◆ Welcoming the stranger

I believe all countries, including the U.S., have a right to make decisions about the number of immigrants who enter their shores. But we Jews might want to step back and think about how U.S. immigrant policies of the past affected us.

United States quotas in the 1930s and '40s meant that many Jews who wanted to escape Nazi Germany perished in the Holocaust because of the very limited number who were allowed to enter our country. That includes those on the *MS St. Louis*, a ship that tried to bring refugees first to Cuba and then the United States, but was turned away with almost all its passengers sent back to their deaths in Europe.

One reason for these restrictive policies was complaints about the Jewish population that had managed to come to our shores at the turn of the 20th century. These Jewish immigrants were considered a source of crime and disease. Jewish gangsters' crimes included murder, prostitution, bootlegging and more. Jewish immigrants were also considered un-American for supporting labor unions at a time when violence was used by those on both sides of the conflicts.

Before we offer blanket condemnation to those who seek to come to the U.S., we need to think back to our past because we were once them: strangers in a strange land, strangers looking for a home where we could live in relative safety. The commandment to welcome the stranger appears 36 times in the Torah. Which candidate will support this very Jewish value, even as they seek to make wise decisions about our borders?

◆ Healthcare

In the Talmud (Sanhedrin 17b:10), there is a list detailing

what a city must contain before a rabbi is allowed to live there. One requirement is that a doctor must be available.

Judaism has always been big on healthcare. We are allowed to break almost any commandment in order to save a life, known in Hebrew as *pikuach nefesh*. We are required to help those who are sick until they are on the brink of death. (That point is defined differently by different contemporary movements, but the principle is the same in all: we must try to save a life.)

Affordable healthcare saves lives. People without health insurance often have to choose between going to a doctor and paying their rent or putting food on the table. That means that diseases that might have been easily cured if caught early may result in death. Even if a person survives, they might be burdened the rest of their lives with paying for that very expensive healthcare. One of the leading causes of bankruptcy is medical bills.

As Jews, we should be leading the fight to make certain See “Values” on page 4



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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

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

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BD Luncheon on Nov. 9 to feature Mark Yonaty

Beth David Synagogue's November Luncheon will be held on Saturday, November 9. Mark Yonaty will speak on "Binghamton Transformed: Downtown Binghamton Ten Years Later and Going Strong!" The community is invited to attend. Morning services will begin at 9:30 am, with the luncheon and program following the conclusion of services. The luncheon is free and open to the public.



Mark Yonaty
(Photo courtesy of Greater Binghamton Chamber of Commerce)

At the November 2014 BD luncheon, Yonaty gave the talk "Shaping the Binghamton of the Future: An Insider's Perspective." Organizers said, "Since 10 years have passed, Yonaty has graciously agreed to bring us up to date about the numerous endeavors he has succeeded in bringing to fruition during that time span, and what lies ahead in his vision of downtown Binghamton. This will also be a special opportunity for everyone to share their reactions to the renovations they have seen in downtown Binghamton and what other projects they would look forward to seeing."

Born and raised in Binghamton, Yonaty graduated from Hillel Academy and studied at SUNY Broome and Binghamton University. "From an early age, Yonaty was eager to work, and his entrepreneurial mindset started when he

took part in the family business, which included his father's Hess Gas Station on State Street," organizers said. "Yonaty has become one of the chief developers in revitalizing downtown Binghamton and we couldn't be prouder!"

Yonaty is the owner of M.B. Development and has been involved in projects that include the creation of new restaurants, residences and spaces for community services. He said that he is particularly proud of the new eateries he has created that have brought more business to downtown Binghamton. Yonaty indicated that his passion for real estate, and real estate development, has resulted in the restoration and repurposing of buildings that are part of Binghamton's architectural history. This includes his most recent project, which is the opening of

the Station 45 Chophouse, located in the old Lackawanna Train Station, a space that also serves as a space for local businesses.

Among the many awards garnered by Yonaty is the 2020 Greater Binghamton Chamber of Commerce Entrepreneur of the Year Award. Yonaty said his wife, Inessa, is an instrumental part of his business, and they jointly own The Goldsmith jewelry store in Binghamton, as well

as Vintageness Consignment Boutique in Vestal. They were both honored in June 2023 with Hillel Academy's N. Theodore Sommer Community Service Award. Most recently, Yonaty was honored by the Preservation Association of the Southern Tier for his restoration of the Lackawanna Train Station.

"I love this part of upstate New York. We live in an area that's a hidden gem," Yonaty added. "There are lots of reasons to stay in our community and to make people aware of the beauty of moving here. I've always called Binghamton home, and am now proud to be raising my family here and to be See "Yonaty" on page 7

The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to the family of Ruth Levin

Chabad to hold JLI course "Nurturing Relationships" in November

Chabad of Binghamton will host a six-week course titled "Nurturing Relationships: Jewish Wisdom for Building Deeper, Richer Connection in all of your Relationships" beginning on Monday, November 11, at 7 pm. It will be offered in person at the Chabad Center and via Zoom to remote students or locals who prefer this option. The course will offer practical wisdom for improving all of one's interpersonal relationships. It is open to community members of all backgrounds who wish to explore Jewish teachings for enhanced relationships. To register for the course, visit Jewishbu.com/JLIbing or call Ruth Shea at Chabad at 607-797-0015. The course fee is \$79 or \$150 per couple, which includes the text book.

"Developed by the globally recognized Rohr Jewish Learning Institute, 'Nurturing Relationships' draws on 30 centuries of Jewish teaching to deliver effective, relevant tools for better connections today – from empathy, active listening and healthy disagreement to managing reactions around flawed behavior, being a good influence and achieving forgiveness," said organizers of the course. "In a distracted age, this course offers a roadmap back to genuine human connection."

"We see too many people with plenty of friends, family and connections still longing for more closeness," said Rivkah Slonim, course instructor. "This course gives participants effective tools they can apply to cultivate real depth and meaning in all their relationships."

The course's six sessions will combine text-based learning with discussions and real-world applications. "Each week, participants will examine one core relationship skill in depth and come away with a clear understanding of the topic, plus real tools they can use that same day," organizers added.

"One week, participants might see what it takes to forgive a loved one after feeling betrayed," says Slonim. "Another week, we will learn how to provide guidance or feedback without seeming arrogant – or how to apply active listening skills in every conversation."

"Everyone is welcome; you don't need any Jewish learning background to fully appreciate this course," Slonim says. "Whether you're looking to enhance your marriage, improve workplace interactions, or get closer

with friends, 'Nurturing Relationships' is a goldmine of wisdom that works."

The Rohr Jewish Learning Institute is the adult education arm of Chabad-Lubavitch. JLI's classes and programs are offered at more than 1,600 locations in more than 900 communities worldwide.

OF NOTE

Sussman

Rabbi Lance J. Sussman, Ph.D., has published a new book, "Portrait of a Reform Rabbi: Continuity and Change" (Xlibris US). The book is a companion to his "Portrait of an American Rabbi: in His Own Words"; a final volume in his planned trilogy is currently a work in progress.

Sussman's new work includes his views and scholarship on Reform Judaism over the decades of his life and career. It also includes his understanding of theology and Torah, prayer, holidays and more.

Tea and Talk

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

Upcoming dates are:

- ◆ October 10
- ◆ October 31
- ◆ November 14
- ◆ December 5
- ◆ December 19

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

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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 foot of the monument. The inscription on 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.

"I want to thank our local clergy for supporting the memorial program," said Hubal. "I hope you will join us for what is always a moving event. It's important that we never forget the lives lost in the Holocaust."



JFS IS LOOKING FOR A DIRECTOR

This is a part-time (10-15 hours per week), flexible job that requires experience in the Human Service field and a desire to make a difference in the community.

For more information, call 607-724-2332 or e-mail Shelley at director@jfgb.org.

Holiday service schedules

October holiday service schedules can be found starting on page 6 of the September 6-19 issue and on *The Reporter's* website at www.thereporter.org/local-news/high-holiday-services-at-area-synagogues-2024. Contact information can be found in the congregational notes on page 6 of this issue.

DEADLINES

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

ISSUE	DEADLINE
October 18-31	October 9
November 1-14	October 21 (early)
November 15-28	November 6
November 29-December 12... ..	November 20

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

Binghamton Philharmonic

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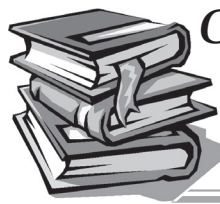
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Off the Shelf

Fantasy, Jewish-style

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

Fantasy novels offer their authors a number of world-building possibilities that shape and inform their plots and characters. This allows them to include a variety of supernatural elements in their works since they are not restricted to the physical rules of our universe.

In "The Sins on Their Bones," Samotin creates a world based on 19th century Russia, although she calls her country Novo-Svitsevo. While the words Jew or Judaism are never mentioned, it's clear that the religion of this world is based on Jewish tradition.

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everyone has healthcare available, if only for pikuach nefesh, the commandment to save a life. Which candidate will support this very Jewish value?

◆ Disavowing hatred, racism and antisemitism

Leviticus 19:18 commands us to love our neighbor as ourselves. That's not always easy to follow when you live in a multi-cultural society like the United States.

I'm willing to admit that we can't always adore everyone who lives in our country - especially those whose ideas we find abhorrent - but we are required not to hate them. Hatred leads to racism and antisemitism.

Remember, when one group is discriminated against, we Jews are often next on the list. Which candidate will condemn hatred in all its forms?

Samotin's world is LGBTQ friendly and includes same sex marriages and relationships, which are accepted as a matter of course.

"Night Owls" takes a different approach by infusing elements of Jewish folklore into our contemporary world - a world that contains the Internet, film festivals and other aspects of contemporary culture.

Samotin offers the point of view of three characters in "The Sins on Their Bones": Dimitri Alexeyev, Alexey Balakin and Vasily Sokolov. Dimitri, former tzar of Novo-Svitsevo, is the third son of the former tzar, someone considered so unimportant that he was sold in marriage to Alexey, a member of the aristocracy.

Alexey then took the throne and declared himself tzar, which led to a brutal war that decimated the country. Dimitri escaped with a few members of his court, which includes Vasily, who serves as his spymaster and now lover. The novel opens with Dimitri already in exile.

Samotin does a wonderful job creating believable characters; the fact that everyone is doing what they believe God would want makes their interactions more poignant; this includes their decisions to perform potentially evil actions in order to save their country, even if they will later be condemned by God.

Readers should note that "The Sins on Their Bones" contains a great deal of male-on-male sex and, at times,

features sexual violence and sexual abuse. Samotin offers a warning about this in "A Note to Readers" and suggests that some readers might find the work too disturbing to read. There were also a few times that the characters' language felt too contemporary for the time period.

While "The Sins on Their Bones" is an extremely serious fantasy, "Night Owls" manages to combine humor with its drama, even as it offers its own chilling moments. The novel also features the point of view of three characters: Clara Sender, Molly Sender and Boaz Harari.

Their lives change for two reasons: 1) Molly has a girlfriend, Anat, whom she's been keeping secret from Clara. To make matters worse, Molly has told Anat that she is an estrie and spoken about her previous life as a Yiddish actress. 2) The introduction of Boaz into their lives: Boaz is a high school graduate whom Clara hired to work at the theater because of his love and knowledge of films.

All three characters in "Night Owls" are delightful. The possibility of a romance between Clara and Boaz is well done and funny. The backstories of the sisters and several other characters are chilling and heart-breaking, leaving readers wondering how Vishny manages to change tone so quickly without detracting from the atmosphere or action.

TerrorismContinued from page 1

far-right espouses accelerationism and violent terrorism to eradicate the influence of the racial and ethnic minorities threatening them. The January 6, 2021, attack on Congress evidenced the seditious nature of a far-right terrorist movement fortified by heavily-armed militia groups.

In the zeitgeist of far-right extremists, the conspiratorial Jew, explain Hoffman and Ware, is at the center of the degradation and decay of America. Intelligent, cunning and rapacious, American Jews, linked to Israel by Zionist internationalism, employ the "the great replacement" strategy of enlisting inferior minions by encouraging Black fecundity, non-white immigration and promoting LGBTQ access to minimize white Christian America.

Although profiling potential terrorists poses problems, certain commonalities frequently surface. Hoffman and Ware point to "vulnerabilities, or susceptibilities" among far-right recruits, amongst them "loneliness, isolation, bullying, mental illness, violence in the home, romantic frustration, substance abuse." Racism, antisemitism, espousal of replacement theory, gun ownership, social media distortion and distrust of government loom large in their thinking.

Hoffman and Ware put forward an ambitious, multifaceted agenda, dependent on the commitment of substantial resources over time by a future Congress willing to prioritize combating right-wing terrorism. The U.S., they emphasize, is the most "well armed country in the entire world... with 123 firearms for 100 citizens." Along with substantive gun

control and authorizing Department of Justice enforcement, the authors advocate depriving terrorist exhortation from First Amendment protections, as well as identifying and separating from service military and law enforcement personnel advocating domestic violence.

With the 2024 presidential election campaign in full swing, Hoffman and Ware counsel that its Tuesday, November 5, denouement poses potentially serious problems. They referenced the former president's April 2017 "very fine people on both sides" dog-whistle affirmation after white supremacists physically attacked peaceful protesters in Charlottesville, VA.

Conversely, Hoffman and Ware point out that if the Democratic candidate, Vice President Kamala Harris, prevails, Trump and far-right loyalists will likely deny the legitimacy of the outcome and seek a reprise of the January 6, 2021, assault on the Capitol. This time, the commander-in-chief would be a president committed to upholding constitutional processes during the interregnum between election and inauguration, and, unlike in 1860, those who would most likely migrate from ballot box to bullets are organizationally fragmented and geographically dispersed.

We live in a dangerous and polarized time. Tomorrow is uncertain and the far right anticipates its moment. Keep in mind that a few key counties in swing states will determine the outcome of an election with democracy on the ballot. With Scranton an easy drive from Binghamton, consider knocking on doors in the swing Pennsylvania county of Lackawanna.

Table with 3 columns: Description, Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months, No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date. Rows include Publication Title (THE REPORTER), Extent and Nature of Circulation (Total Number of Copies, Paid Circulation, Free or Nominal Rate Distribution, Total Distribution, Copies not Distributed, Total, Percent Paid), Electronic Copy Circulation, and Publication of Statement of Ownership.

Intersisterhood event featured talk and music



The Intersisterhood event, hosted this year by Temple Israel, took place on September 24. The evening featured a presentation by Dr. Allan Arkush on "Reconstructing the High Holidays."



Kaskeset, Binghamton University's Jewish a capella group, performed during the program.



At left, l-r, members of the Intersisterhood Committee: Gina Santiago, Barbara Zelter, Marsha Luks, Cookie Schaeffer and Eileen Miller.

TC religious school began new year

BD Sisterhood held book talk

At right: Susan Hubal led the discussion of the book "The Little Liar" by Mitch Albom.



At left: Cathy Velenchik, president of Beth David Sisterhood, conducted the meeting.



Below, clockwise from top: Merri Pell-Preus, Dora Polachek, Judy Simon, Ilana Segal, Saba Wiesner, Marcy Yonaty, Susan Hubal, Nancy Basmann and Judy Silber gathered around a table for the Beth David Sisterhood meeting. (Photos by Stacey Silber)

L-r: Merri Pell-Preus read the opening prayer while Dora Polachek looked on.



Temple Concord's religious school held its first Shabbat school on September 14. Shown are teachers and students.



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Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton



Weekly Parasha

Shabbat Shuvah, Haazinu, Deuteronomy 32:1-52

Coming back to our essential selves

RABBI AARON SLONIM, DIRECTOR, THE ROHR CHABAD CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDENT LIFE AT BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are referred to as the *Yomim Noraim*, the Days of Awe. The period of time bracketed by Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur is referred to as the *Aseret Yemai Teshuvah*, the 10 Days of Repentance. If we take these concepts seriously, this time of year is anxiety inducing; it's a lot of shock and awe and pressure on us Jews. Can we rise to the occasion?

Teshuvah, however, is a project with a good potential for success. Although repentance is the English term most often used in translation for *teshuvah*, it is not quite an authentic rendering. Repentance connotes change, transformation and redress. Change, as we all know, is difficult, time consuming and not necessarily lasting. *Teshuvah*, on the other hand, is etymologically rooted in the word return.

Teshuvah is about coming back to our essential selves, to what our souls find natural, to what is the default (even if not consciously) for a Jew. That makes it eminently doable, albeit still a daunting process.

In contemplating this process, there is another form of *teshuvah* that comes to mind.

A story is told concerning the great Rabbi Dovid of Tolne. One year, as his Chasidism stood around him waiting for him to light the Chanukah menorah, jostling for the best view so they could take in the passion and fervor of their saintly leader, the Tolne Rebbe paused just before the kindling. He scanned the room for long moments looking, it seemed, for someone in particular. At last, he motioned for a particularly tall fellow to come forward. In an undertone,

he asked the surprised Chasid: "You are very tall and your wife is very short. What do you do when you talk to her, when you want to tell her how much you love her?" The man was so baffled he had trouble assimilating the Rebbe's question, but, after the question was thrice repeated, he finally answered, "I bend down and speak into her ear."

With a radiant face, the Tolne Rebbe looked heavenward and exclaimed, "God, Almighty, for so long your children have been telling you how much we love you. Throughout the long, bitter exile, we have never forsaken You, never forgotten You, never stopped doing Your bidding. Is it not time that you bend down and speak words of love and redemption into our ears?" Only then did the Rebbe see "Selves" on page 8

Congregational Notes

Temple Israel

Orientation: Conservative
Rabbi: Micah Friedman
Address: 4737 Deerfield Pl., Vestal, NY 13850
Phone: 607-723-7461 and 607-231-3746
Office hours: Mon.-Thurs., 8:30 am-3:30 pm; Fri., 8 am-3 pm
E-mail: office@templeisraelvestal.org
Website: www.templeisraelvestal.org
Service schedule: Tues., 5:30 pm; Fri., 5:30 pm; Sat., 9:30 am

On Fridays and Tuesdays at 5:30 pm, services will be led by Rabbi Micah Friedman via Zoom and in-person.

On Saturday, October 5, Shacharit services will be held at 9:30 am via Zoom and in-person. The Torah portion is Deuteronomy 32:1-52 and the haftarah is Hosea 14:2-10. A Zoom Havdalah service will take place at 7:45 pm.

On Saturday, October 12, Shacharit services will be held at 9:45 am via Zoom and in-person. The Torah portion is Leviticus 16:1-34 and the haftarah is Jonah 1:1-4:11. A Zoom Havdalah service will take place at 7:15 pm.

The temple office will be closed on Monday, October 14, for Columbus Day and Thursday-Friday, October 17-18, for Sukkot.

A Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 15, at 7 pm.

A Ritual Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 16, at 10 am.

Penn-York Jewish Community

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

Congregation 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
Presidents: Martha Armstrong and Mitch Grossman, 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.

Norwich Jewish Center

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

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.

Synagogues limit face-to-face gatherings

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

Beth David Synagogue

Affiliation: Orthodox Union
Rabbi: Zev Silber
Address: 39 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905
Phone: 607-722-1793, Rabbi's Office: 607-722-7514
Fax: 607-722-7121
Office hours: Tues. 10 am-1 pm; Thurs. 9 am-1 pm
Beth David e-mail address: bethdavid@stny.rr.com
Rabbi's e-mail: rabbisilber@stny.rr.com
Website: www.bethdavid.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/bethdavidbinghamton
Classes: Rabbi Zev Silber will hold his weekly Talmud class every Tuesday evening after services.

Rohr Chabad Center

Affiliation: Chabad-Lubavitch
Rabbi Aaron and Rivkah Slonim, Directors
E-mail: aslonim@binghamton.edu
rslonim@chabadofbinghamton.com
Address: 420 Murray Hill Rd., Vestal, NY 13850
Phone: 607-797-0015, Fax: 607-797-0095
Website: www.Chabadofbinghamton.com
Rabbi Zalman and Rochel Chein, Education
E-mail: zchein@Jewishbu.com, rchein@Jewishbu.com
Rabbi Levi and Hadasa Slonim, Downtown and Development
Chabad Downtown Center: 60 Henry St., Binghamton
E-mail: lslonim@Jewishbu.com, hslonim@Jewishbu.com
Rabbi Yisroel and Goldie Ohana, Programming
E-mail: yohana@Jewishbu.com, gohana@Jewishbu.com
Regular service times: Daily 7:30 am, Friday evening 6 pm, Shabbat morning 9:30 am, Maariv and Havdalah one hour after candle-lighting time, Sundays 9:30 am.
To join the mailing list, for up-to-date information on adult education offerings or to arrange for a private tutorial, for details concerning the Judaica shop and resource center, or for assistance through the Piaker Free Loan Society or Raff Maasim Tovim Foundation, call Chabad's office at 797-0015.
Chabad will be holding pre-Shabbat virtual programs. For more information, visit www.JewishBU.com/S2020Partnership.

Temple Brith Sholom

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

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

Friday, October 4, light candles before 6:21 pm
Shabbat ends Saturday, October 5 7:19 pm
Friday, October 11, light candles before 6:09 pm
Shabbat ends Saturday, October 12 7:08 pm
Wednesday, October 16, light candles before 6:01 pm
Thursday, October 17, light candles after 6:59 pm
Friday, October 18, light candles before 5:58 pm
Shabbat ends Saturday, October 19 6:57 pm

Temple Concord

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

Some services and programs are online only.
Friday, October 4: At 7:30 pm, Shabbat service with Rabbi Leah Moser. 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/.

Saturday, October 5: At 9 am, Shabbat school; and at 9:15 am, Torah study in person and on Zoom at https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87897900994?pwd=bOMvwx-DuovoaBlnB4aVfHoTLsyamj.1, meeting ID 878 9790 0994 and passcode: 743506. To dial in call 646-931-3860.

Sunday, October 6: From 10 am-2 pm, Sisterhood Rummage Sale. Shoppers are asked to use the Oak Street entrance.

Tuesday, October 8: General (Board of Trustees) board meeting. Board meetings are open to members of Temple Concord. For the meeting link, contact the synagogue at 607-723-7355 or at templeconcordaa@gmail.com.

Friday, October 11: At 7:30 pm, Kol Nidre musical interlude and at 7:45 pm, Yom Kippur service. To join High Holidays services and events via Zoom, visit https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81187681631?pwd=YvKt-kXapFpRYuQWJ9jZVtJz7YKQuri.1, meeting ID 811 8768 1631 and passcode 854093. To dial in, call 646-931-3860. To join via Facebook, visit www.facebook.com/templeconcord/.

Saturday, October 12: At 9:30 am, Yom Kippur morning service; 10:30 am, religious school service; 1:15 pm, discussion with Rabbi Leah Moser; 3 pm, meditative music at the Kilmer Mansion; 4:30 pm, Yizkor memorial service; 5:15 pm Healing service; 6 pm, Neilah; and 6:45 pm, Havdalah. Break fast to follow in the Kilmer Mansion. To join online, see the information on October 11.

Tuesday, October 15: At 5 pm, religious school students will decorate the sukkah.

Wednesday October 16: At 7:30 pm, erev Sukkot service. To join online, see the information on October 11.

Thursday, October 17: No religious school; at 10:30 am, Sukkot service. To join online, see the information on October 11. Dairy potluck lunch to follow the service.

Temple Beth-El of Ithaca

Affiliation: United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism
Rabbi: Caleb Brommer
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: president@tbeithaca.org, secretary@tbeithaca.org
Website: www.tbeithaca.org
Presidents: Melanie Kalman and Alexis Siemon
Sisterhood President: Gail Zussman
Director of Education: Calle Schueler
Services: Friday 8 pm; Saturday 10 am, unless otherwise announced. Weekday morning minyan 7:30 am (9 am on Sundays and legal holidays).
Religious School/Education: September-May: Classes meet on Sunday, 9 am-12:30 pm and Wednesday afternoons, 3:45-5:45 pm. The teen No'ar program meets twice per month (every other Sunday from 5-7 pm) and is designed with the flexibility to accommodate busy student schedules.
Adult Ed.: Numerous weekly courses, several semester-long courses and a variety of mini-courses and lectures are offered throughout the year. Call the temple office for more details.
For upcoming services and events on Zoom, visit www.tinyurl.com/HappeningAtTBE.

Yonaty. . . .Continued from page 3

giving back to a community that has given so much to me!" Beth David's luncheon speaker series takes place the second Saturday of the month after Shabbat morning services, and is open to the community. There is no charge for the luncheon. Since the monthly series' continuation depends on the generosity of contributors, Beth David welcomes and appreciates donations to the Luncheon Fund in order to keep the program going. Donations can be made in honor of or in memory of someone, or to mark a special occasion. Those wishing an acknowledgment to be sent to the person being honored, or to the family of someone being remembered, can indicate that, along with the necessary information. Donations can be sent to Beth David Synagogue, 39 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905, Attention: Luncheon Fund.

Jewish Community Center

JCC Friendship Club

The JCC Friendship Club met on September 18. The meeting was called to order by Sylvia Diamond. After the Pledge of Allegiance and singing "Hatikvah," we all introduced ourselves. It was nice to see so many people join us. Sue Herzog gave the treasurer's report and then introduced Rabbi Leah Moser, who was the guest speaker and gave an account of her background.

Rabbi Moser spoke about repentance. She passed out a paper containing information about Moses Maimonides (Laws of Repentance 2:45). The paper listed "Ways of

practicing repentance." After her talk, a discussion followed. Many of those present asked questions and made comments about *teshuvah* (repentance). This relates to Yom Kippur when we ask for forgiveness.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 16, at the JCC, at 1:30 pm. The program is a sing-along with Howie Herzog playing the guitar. Everyone is welcome. Come join us!

Sylvia Diamond
President



Business Profiles



Disaster Clean-up

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Early Owego Antique Center

Specialty: Multiple dealer antique center
Location: 43-45 Lake St. PO Box 8 Owego, NY 13827
Owners: Jim and Cornelia Mead
Phone: 607-223-4723
E-mail: info@earlyowego.com
Website: www.earlyowego.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/EarlyOwego
Hours: Wed.-Mon. 10 am-5 pm, closed Tues.

Early Owego came about after the 2011 flood devastated the small village of Owego and its historic central business district. Featuring more than 90 dealers on 21,000 square feet of floor space, Early Owego has something for everyone - collectors, antiquarians and designers.

Unique is a "store within the store," offering the buying and selling of coins and gold and silver. Vintage clothing, garden items and "guy stuff" is also available. Most visitors find that an hour isn't long enough to explore all that is offered.

No visit to Owego would be complete without making time to visit the other remarkable shops nearby, or to enjoy a meal in one of a dozen restaurants.

Join your friends and plan a day in Owego, you'll be surprised at everything this fair village has to offer!

Ernest H. Parsons Funeral Home

Specialty: Funeral
Location: 71 Main St. Binghamton, NY 13905
Name: Joseph Fritsch
Phone: 607-724-1336
Fax: 607-724-1337
E-mail: parsonsfuneral@yahoo.com
Website: www.parsonsfuneral.com
Hours: 24/7/365

The Ernest H. Parsons Funeral Home, located at 71 Main St., Binghamton, has been a landmark since 1928 and is located in the J. Stewart Wells Mansion, built by renowned architect Isaac Perry, who completed construction in 1867.

Ernest H. Parsons owned and operated the funeral home from 1928 until his death in 1976. Charles Mills purchased the funeral home after Ernest's death and continued the tradition until his retirement in 2012. The current owners - J. Fritsch, R. Fynboe, S. Pitkorchemny and K. Vakiener - strive to uphold the original motto of the founder: "Let Us Serve You with Understanding." Parsons Funeral Home offers distinctive service with respectful attentiveness to the ceremonial rites and the utmost consideration of families' desires to accord a last tribute of affection and esteem to their departed loved ones.

Hopler & Eschbach Funeral Home

Specialty: Funeral services, burials and cremation
Location: 483 Chenango St. Binghamton, NY 13901
Name: Kurt M. Eschbach
Phone: 607-722-4023
E-mail: hoplereschbachfh@aol.com
Website: www.hefuneralhome.com
Hours: 24-hour service, 365 days a year

When faced with the death of a loved one, Hopler & Eschbach Funeral Home invites you to turn to its caring staff to help guide you through the funeral process. Deeply experienced and knowledgeable in the performance of Jewish burial customs, Kurt Eschbach and his staff are the most qualified professionals in the community to help plan and carry out your funeral or memorial services. They provide services at your synagogue, the funeral home or cemetery, and also provide cremation services and funeral pre-planning.

The funeral home and parking areas are newly renovated and spacious. Staff work diligently to provide the highest quality service at a cost that is 10-30% lower than other funeral homes. With their quality service, fair pricing and newly renovated facilities, Kurt and his staff believe you will make Hopler & Eschbach Funeral Home your new family tradition.



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THE REPORTER
Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton

Herzog unveils Oct. 7 war memorial in Jerusalem

by JNS staff

(JNS) – Israeli President Isaac Herzog and Jerusalem Mayor Moshe Lion recently unveiled the Swords of Iron memorial monument on Ruppin Street in the capital, located opposite the National Library. The monument is the first of its kind in the holy city to commemorate both the victims of Hamas’ October 7 massacre and IDF soldiers who fell in the ensuing war.

“These are difficult, painful, and bloody days, in which our enemies are doing everything they can to prevent Israeli citizens from living normal lives, to harm the citizens of Israel and the state of Israel,” said Herzog

at the start of the event.

“We have never sought war, and we do not want war, but let it be clear: We will not rest and we will not stop until all Israeli citizens return to their homes and are safe and secure. It is Israel’s right, and duty, to defend its citizens. Israel’s defensive and offensive capabilities are proving themselves, and we will continue until full security is achieved,” he added.

The ceremony was attended by senior government officials, Jerusalem City Council members, dozens of ambassadors and bereaved families.

“This monument highlights the magni-

tude of the loss Jerusalem has experienced, while also conveying hope for better days, days that we all pray for and long to see. This shared commemoration sends a message of hope and unity, which are so vital for all of us,” said Lion.

“Anyone who gazes upon this monument realizes the unbearable price that Jerusalem and the state of Israel have paid since October 7th – the profound pain entailed in this cost. This memorial honors the words, the tears, the stories, and the pain of the families,” he continued.

A chapter of Psalms was recited by Rabbi Shmuel Slotki, who lost both his sons, Noam

and Yishai, in the war against Hamas. The prayer for the return of the hostages was delivered by Jon Polin, father of Hersh Goldberg-Polin, who was one of six captives recently executed by Palestinian terrorists in Gaza.

The memorial is made of iron, with a diameter of 14 meters and a height of approximately 5.5 meters. The names of the fallen are engraved on the monument – the soldiers, security forces, rescue personnel and civilians from Jerusalem who have lost their lives since October 7.

Inside the core of the structure, the verse is engraved: “Therefore Zion will weep bitterly, and Jerusalem will give forth its voice. My heart, my heart grieves for their fallen; my bowels, my bowels grieve for their fallen” (from the “*Nachem*” prayer).

In the inner section, a mini auditorium with lighting was created for families to privately reflect with their loved ones.



The Swords of Iron memorial monument was inaugurated on Ruppin Street in Jerusalem, opposite the National Library. (Photo by Arnon Bossani)

March of the Living marks 80 years since liquidation of Lodz Ghetto

By JNS staff

(JNS) – The International March of the Living held a joint March of Remembrance and March of the Living recently to mark 80 years since the liquidation of Lodz Ghetto, the second largest ghetto in Nazi-occupied Europe after Warsaw. The event gathered 500 participants, including Polish officials and ambassadors from 12 countries, to honor the memory of those who suffered and perished during one of the darkest chapters of history.

The central ceremony was held at the historic Radegast train station, where the last transport from the ghetto departed 80 years ago, on August 29, 1944. This transport marked the final phase of the ghetto’s liquidation, during which thousands of Jews were deported to extermination camps, including Auschwitz and Chelmno.

“We gather to remember those who suffered in the Lodz Ghetto and to share some lesser-known stories of resilience, courage and strength. Our aim at the March of the Living is to educate the young generation to

learn from the tragic past of the Holocaust, in order to build a better future. We must ensure that what happened during the Holocaust is never forgotten,” said Michel Gourary, director of the European March of the Living.

Participants of the march walked the historic route that once bore witness to the suffering of the ghetto’s inhabitants. At the Radegast station, wreaths were laid and prayers offered in memory of the victims. The ceremony was followed by a march to the Monument to the Martyrdom of Children, the Monument to Poles Saving Jews in the Survivors’ Park and the Roma Forge, ending at the Monument to the Decalogue in Lodz.

A number of aging Holocaust survivors attended, including 98-year-old Leon Weintraub, who survived the ghetto, four concentration camps and a death march, and Marian Turski, who insisted on joining the ceremony and marching together with those assembled.

Ghetto Lodz, established in February 1940, was one of the most significant sites of Jewish suffering and resistance during the Holocaust. At its peak, it housed over 160,000 Jews, who were forced into labor under brutal conditions. Despite the deprivation, the community maintained cultural and educational activities, a testament to their determination to preserve their humanity.

By the time the ghetto was liquidated in 1944, more than 200,000 Jews had passed

through it, the vast majority of whom were sent to their deaths. The destruction of Polish Jewry was nearly complete by the end of the war, with over 90 percent of Poland’s pre-war Jewish population of 3.3 million perishing in the Holocaust.

The march took place as part of March of the Living’s regular memorial events throughout Europe on the local and national Holocaust memorial days where Jews lived and perished. The organization’s flagship program is a seven-day educational journey in Poland which culminates in a symbolic march on the Jewish Holocaust Remembrance Day between Auschwitz and Birkenau.

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Organizers added, “Haim’s talk is a riveting testament to resilience and the power to make positive choices even in the face of devastation. Haim’s singular strength and positive energy, have turned her into an international icon. Dubbed, Israel’s ‘New Voice of Hope,’ Iris has been featured regularly on news outlets and has been crisscrossing the globe with her powerful message.”

“Haim is in great demand and it is an honor that she is carving out time to come to our local community just as soon as she can leave Israel after the many events to mark October 7 in which she will be deeply involved. This is a difficult and challenging time for us all, and Iris’s message of hope and positivity in the face of great adversity is a clear and uplifting clarion call to follow her example in our own lives,” remarked Rivky Slonim. “We are, as always, grateful to the Piaker family that annually honors their parents by bringing quality presenters to our community and grateful, as well, to Shelly Hubal, Federation director, who has joined with us to bring Iris Haim to the community to mark October 7.”

“The essence of Iris’ lecture centers on Yotam’s story of overcoming personal challenges from a young age, as well as the choices she made, especially during Yotam’s final 70 days on earth, as well as the course she has charted for herself since his death,” said organizers. “Her remarks will be accompanied by poignant photos

and videos of Yotam’s life.”

Organizers added, “In her pre-October 7 life, Haim, a nurse with a sub-specialty in palliative care, was deeply involved in supporting families during the end of life processes of their loved ones, with a particular emphasis on dementia.”

“My father, Philip M. Piaker, started this series in memory of my mother, Pauline, who passed away in 1995,” explained Alan Piaker who along with his sister, Susan Kasper, and brother, Matthew, sponsor the event each year. “We have continued this event after the death of our father in 2003. The world has changed since the horrific massacre on October 7, 2023. Iris will share her perspective on the events that have unfolded after that black day. Please join us for what will be a sad but compelling and uplifting talk. It is important for all of us to come together and find as much positive and unifying energy as we can muster. I think Iris is the kind of speaker who can help us do just that.”

“It is an honor to partner with Chabad for what will be a meaningful event,” said Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton. “Since October 7, the global Jewish community has been grieving and nobody has suffered more than the families of the hostages and the fallen soldiers. Iris’ message of hope will bring healing to our community. I hope everyone will participate.”

Looking for this issue’s “Jewish Resources”? Visit www.thereporter.org/jewish-online-resources to find out what’s happening online.”

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proceed to light the Chanukah menorah. This Shabbat is Shabbat *Shuvah*, the Shabbat between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Shabbat, like the word *teshuvah*, is rooted in the word return. Kabbalistic teachings understand Shabbat as a time of return and homecoming for each soul. On the cosmic level, Shabbat is a time of return and reunion of the masculine and feminine aspects of the God head that are estranged from each other during the week. And finally,

the seventh millennium is seen as the ultimate Shabbat, a time of full return of God, commonly referred to as the Messianic era.

On this Shabbat *Shuvah*, let us pray, as did the Tolne Rebbe, for the ultimate and permanent *teshuvah*, the “return” of God. May we soon experience a time when Godliness is manifest, and peace and healing pervades – a time when we can clearly hear God tell us how much He loves us and feel His loving embrace.

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