

THE REPORTER

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Global Day of Jewish Learning to be held on Nov. 5

The Global Day of Jewish Learning will be held on Sunday, November 5, from 10 am-noon, at the Jewish Community Center, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal. The program's theme is "The Values We Hold Dear: A Roadmap for Inspired Jewish Living." A light breakfast will be offered and a suggested donation of \$5-20 per person is requested to cover the costs. Registration for the event is closed, but a

limited number of people will be accepted at the door. There will not be a Zoom option as previously announced. The event is co-sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, Jewish Community Center, Temple Israel, Temple Concord and Beth David Synagogue. Security will be provided.

The Global Day of Jewish Learning

was inspired by the late Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz and has been held annually since 2010 when he completed his translation and commentary on the Talmud. Materials for the program were provided by Limmud, which "supports a diverse, cohesive Jewish community rooted in the importance of celebrating and learning from differences." Those interested in further study

can visit www.Limmudna.org/globalday.

"During this difficult and challenging time throughout the world it is important to revisit Jewish values, which include the study of Torah and Talmud," said organizers of the event. "This allows us to have a Jewish connection to our values that we hold dearly. We hope that our community will feel this connection reducing anxiety during this unsettled time."



JCC to hold Murder Mystery Dinner Theater fund-raiser on Nov. 11

The Jewish Community Center will hold a Murder Mystery Dinner Theater fund-raiser on Saturday, November 11, from 7-10 pm, with doors opening at 6:30 pm at the JCC, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal. Tickets are \$50 per person and additional sponsorship levels are available. The event will feature musical entertainment by John Penird and Peaches Éclair. Dinner and dessert will be

prepared by Chef Victor Torres; there will be a cash bar. Reservations can be made by calling the JCC office at 607-724-2417. Anyone interested in sponsorships should also call the JCC Office or e-mail the office at jccoffice@binghamtonjcc.org.

"Join us for 'Diva Death Drop!'" said organizers of the event. "We're holding a one-of-a-kind Murder Mystery Dinner event

where everyone's a suspect. Presented by Half Light Theater, this immersive, interactive dinner event allows you to enjoy dinner and dessert as the mystery unfolds around you. Be alert for hushed conversations and hidden secrets as everyone's a suspect, even you! Our in-house detective will be on hand to help sift through clues and interrogate key witnesses, but only you

can decide what goes into evidence. Fun for both the seasoned armchair detective and the inexperienced rookie. You can solve the case and collect a reward."

Proceeds from the event will go toward helping families in need of scholarship assistance, as well as general program support for the JCC's daycare, afterschool care, camp, youth, aquatics and sports programming.

Jewish Film Fest to hold virtual showing of "Farewell, Mr. Haffmann"

By Reporter staff

The Binghamton Jewish Film Fest will hold a virtual showing of the film "Farewell, Mr. Haffmann." A virtual discussion of the film will be moderated by Dora Polachek, Ph.D., who is an associate professor of Romance languages and literature at Binghamton University. People can register for links to the film and discussion on the Federation website, www.jfjb.org/film-fest, by Thursday, November 30. Donations are appreciated. The suggested donation is \$10 per film or \$40 for the series. The film will be available for viewing from late November 30 until Sunday, December 3. The virtual discussion will be held on Sunday, December 3, at 6 pm. The Film Fest is sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton with the support of the Victor and Esther Rozen Foundation and the Ithaca Area United Jewish Community.



L-r: Joseph Haffmann (Daniel Auteuil) and François Mercier (Gilles Lellouche) in "Farewell, Mr. Haffmann" (Used with permission of Vendôme Films)

"Farewell, Mr. Haffmann" takes place during the Nazi invasion of Paris. Joseph Haffmann, a jeweler, arranges for his family to flee the city and offers one of his employees, François Mercier, the chance to

take over his store until the conflict ends. Under the German occupation, the two men are forced to strike a deal that will change their lives. The historical drama was directed by Fred Cavayé and is based on a play by Jean-Phillippe Daguerre.

Monica Reid of Far Out Magazine

wrote that "the script by [Jean-Phillippe] Daguerre is riveting for its portrayal of survival under an ever-present danger, its startling and ironic plot twists, its insights into the insidious effects of intolerance on even the best-intentioned, and most of all for See "Film" on page 2

Giving Tuesday matching grant for The Reporter

By Reporter staff

The Reporter announced that it has received a \$5,000 matching grant for Giving Tuesday courtesy of the David and Virginia Eisenberg Fund. Donations will be accepted now through November 30. Donations may be made several ways:

◆ Give online through The Reporter Group website, www.thereportergroup.org/about/donate.

◆ Through Giving Tuesday e-mails that will be sent by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton. Anyone who does not receive Federation e-mails, but would like to be on the list, should e-mail director@jfjb.org with "Federation e-mail list" in the subject line.

◆ Mail donations to The Reporter, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850 with "matching grant" in the check's subject line.

"We are thrilled to once again receive a matching grant from the David and Virginia Eisenberg Fund," said Rabbi Rachel Esserman, executive editor of The Reporter Group. "They have been so generous over the years, and we deeply appreciate all they have done and continue to do."

Esserman added, "If you are thinking about making a donation to the paper, this

is the perfect time to do it. Every penny counts in this economic climate. So many Jewish newspapers are either going under or turning into online publications only. Although The Reporter is now biweekly, I am pleased we are still able to produce hard-copy newspapers for our readers. I know that I prefer to read offline. Plus, a hard copy is great for those of us who like to read the paper on Shabbat, but don't get on the computer that day. We try to be the one-stop shop for those interested in learning about Jewish events in our community."

Esserman also noted, "Over the past three years, The Reporter has received six Syracuse Press Club awards and three American Jewish Press Association Simon Rockower awards. That is pretty impressive for a small community newspaper."

Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Federation, was also pleased that The Reporter received the grant. "I think the paper is a valuable addition to our community," she said. "It not only lets me know what local organizations are doing, but helps keep us connected. Thank you to the Eisenberg Fund for its gift. I know the generosity of our community will make this fourth Giving Tuesday mini-campaign a success."

Chabad to hold Mega Challah Bake on Nov. 8

The Rohr Chabad Center will host a Mega Challah Bake on Wednesday, November 8, at 7:30 pm, in the Mandela Room at Binghamton University. The fee is \$5 for community members with reservations made in advance. Participants will have an opportunity to taste eight flavors of challah and each participant will receive a gift to take home, as well as two challahs. Reservations can be made at jewishbu.com/challah. The event is co-sponsored by local community organizations, including Beth David Sisterhood, Chabad Women's League and Temple Israel.

"Join hundreds of communities across

the nation and around the world as Chabad – in co-sponsorship with local community organizations – hosts a Mega Challah Bake during which hundreds of students and community members will join in mixing, kneading and shaping challahs, one of which they will keep and one of which will be given away by participants to someone who would appreciate the gift," said organizers of the event.

"The Mega Challah Bakes, held in cities small and large, bring the community together in a fun and easy celebration of Jewish heritage," explained Goldie Ohana, See "Bake" on page 4

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Talks and more

Beth David Shabbat luncheon speakers announced: Whale of a Sale and Artisans Market at TC.Page 3

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Prepping for war

Israel's hospitals move patients into underground facilities and prepare for more patients.Page 11

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Opinion

Veterans Day 2023

By Bill Simons

The May 4, 1943, edition of *The Daily Item* (Lynn, MA), published the soldier profile accompanying this article. From that clipping, a young soldier, across the decades, looks at us with confidence. Reference to the private's induction neglects to note that he was not a draftee; he had enlisted. Nor is the motivation for his wartime enlistment – defeat of Nazi Germany – specified. Twice in the 50-word allotment, however, Shep Simons explicitly referenced his Jewish identity, noting his Young Men's Hebrew Association (YMHA) affiliation and tenure as president of Lynn Aleph Zadik Aleph (AZA), a non-collegiate fraternity of Jewish youth.

My father's amalgam of World War II military service and pride in Jewish identity was far from unique. Within a year after Pearl Harbor, every eligible member of his AZA chapter entered the armed services. Three members of Lynn AZA died in the service of their country. During World War II, approximately 550,000 American Jews entered military service, more than 38,000 of them counted amongst the casualties. More than 25,000 Jewish soldiers, sailors and airmen received medals and citations for their courage and deeds. During World War II, the National Jewish Welfare Board published "Fighting for America: A Record of the Participation of Jewish Men and Women in the Armed Forces." The book

Film Continued from page 1

its dark yet optimistic and painfully authentic examination of human nature. [Director Fred] Cavayé's adaptation and direction, and a well-chosen trio of actors in the central roles, do justice to the original material."

In *Filmink Magazine*, Mark Demetrius called "Farewell, Mr. Haffmann" a "first-rate drama with considerable cumulative intensity – and a quorum of irony – and it's unreservedly recommended." *La Nación* noted that after "taking off as a thriller with a few dramatic flourishes, the film settles into a constant and well-executed suspense that leans into the brilliant trio of performers."

"Join us for this a compelling film and what will certainly be a fascinating discussion of the reality of Jewish life in France during World War II," said Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton.

The Daily Item, Lynn, Massachusetts Tuesday, May 04, 1943, page 9



PRIVATE (FC) SHEPARD SIMONS, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph B. Simons of 53 Elm street, is at the Army Air Force Technical School at Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He was active in affairs at the Y.M.H.A. Community Center and was a past president of Lynn Chapter 471, A.Z.A., before his induction.

Newspaper clipping featuring Bill Simon's father, Shepard. (Reproduced courtesy of The Daily Item)

is dedicated to "young Americans of all faiths who are fighting side by side and making sacrifices in measures surpassing understanding, that America and the world might survive as the home of [the] free."

Amidst the crosses atop World War II graves at the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial in France, Stars of David mark the final resting place of Jewish soldiers. The Star of David in the photo that appears with this article denotes the grave of Private Abraham Goldstein, a native of Allentown, PA, who was mortally wounded at the Battle of Saint-Lô on July 17, 1944. At the time of his death, Goldstein, a haberdasher, was 37 years old and married.

The graves of several World War II Jewish soldiers who fell during the liberation of Europe were not properly designated, their remains buried under crosses. Inspired by Rabbi Jacob Schacter, Operation Benjamin locates the graves of Jewish soldiers whose religious preferences were not recognized at the time of internment. At each replacement stone ceremony, Schacter, inserting the name of the fallen Jewish soldier, declares, "[O]n behalf of the citizens of America, we thank you for your service, and... on behalf of the Jewish people, we

welcome you home."

Despite the service and sacrifice of Jewish soldiers, history and popular culture distort the role of Jews during World War II. Appropriately, the genocide that claimed six million Jews during the Shoah is the subject of numerous books and films. However, Jews were victors as well as victims during World War II. Relatively few of the many movies about American soldiers, even those featuring multiethnic units, acknowledge Jewish GIs. An exception is "Saving Private Ryan" (1998), directed by Jewish American filmmaker Steven Spielberg. In "Saving Private Ryan," Stanley "Fish" Mellish, portrayed by Adam Goldberg, is part of a combat group that successfully rescues an American soldier held prisoner. Taunting German adversaries with his Star of David necklace, Mellish ultimately dies in a knife fight.

From the American Revolution through the Gulf Wars, Jews have served in all of America's wars. Nonetheless, canards about Jewish cowardice persist. That makes setting the record straight about Jewish military service vital. By digitalizing and rendering accessible the records of the



The grave of Private Abraham Goldstein, a native of Allentown, PA, in the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial in France. (Photo courtesy of Neil Riddell)

thousands of Jews who served in America's bloodiest conflict, The Shapell Roster of Jewish Service in the American Civil War is one of the important ongoing initiatives integrating Jews into American military history. Among the many significant documents domiciled in The Shapell Roster are the files pertaining to Edward Salomon, a Jewish immigrant from Schleswig, who assumed command of a regiment at the Battle of Gettysburg and performed heroically even when two horses were shot dead from underneath him.

Contemporary Jews remain a notable American military presence. Identical twins Alexander and Yevgeny Vindman, the sons of a widowed Ukrainian immigrant father, respectively attained the ranks of lieutenant colonel and colonel. Wounded in combat, Alexander displayed a different type of courage in his testimony before the House of Representatives evidencing behavior by President Donald Trump that potentially compromised U.S. national security. Rachel Levine challenged barriers as an admiral, transgender M.D. and head of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps. Lieutenant Colonel Shawn Tabankin, commander of the legendary New York Army National Guard's "Fighting 69th" battalion, a historically Irish Catholic bastion, received two Bronze Star Medals and is the protector of the unit's iconic Kilmer crucifix, an ironic, yet proud, task for a Jewish officer.

The price of American liberty and security is not cheap. Veterans – men and women from the diverse religious, ethnic and racial mosaic that comprise America – have paid a steep price. This Veterans Day, thank all those who have served and continue to serve in the U.S. armed forces.

In My Own Words

The legislation won't make them or us go away

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

The Associated Press article talked about the legislation being passed in states across the country that bans centers/groups dedicated to "diversity, equity and inclusion" at colleges and universities. The underlying idea is to rid campuses of organizations that help the LGBTQ+ community, as if banning help for those in need or who are questioning their identity will make them disappear. I've written numerous times in support of the LGBTQ+ community based on my belief in *B'Tselem Elohim*, the idea that we are all created in the image of God. With the current political climate, the idea that people are anti-diversity, equity and inclusion scares me for another reason: this could easily turn into antisemitism.

Diversity, equity and inclusion: These are ideals that Jews have struggled and fought for for decades. There are still places in the U.S. where Jews are not accepted, and casual – and not so casual – antisemitism reigns. We were and are looking for full acceptance, something that

reminds me of a conversation I had in rabbinical school with a professor who explained the difference between Jews being tolerated and Jews being accepted. Tolerance allows us to exist, but tolerance doesn't mean we have all the rights and obligations that come with being a full member of a society. Acceptance doesn't mean that people have to understand Judaism or agree with our theology. They just have to accept us as citizens and allow us to practice our religion as we wish.

One of the universities in Texas is replacing their diversity center with a "Center for Student Advocacy and Community." That may sound good at first, until you consider that the LGBTQ+ students might need their own space. After all, during traumatic times, Jewish students have turned to campus Hillels and Chabad Houses. In fact, after the recent attack by Hamas, those spaces may have been the only truly safe ones on campus. A center-for-all-religions would not have offered the same comfort as a space where people truly understand how you are feeling. That

cuts across most types of support groups – for example, it was an enormous help for me to attend a meeting with others who had a hearing loss. A group featuring all types of disabilities would not have had the same impact. There is a place for that type of group, but it should not be the only one available.

You can't legislate away sexuality or gender: they will still exist even during times of oppression. If you don't believe that, then look at the Jewish community. We've survived centuries of oppression. For that reason, I feel obligated to help others who are oppressed. Don't understand why they feel the way they do? It doesn't matter. No one is asking you to change your sexual orientation or gender. What they are asking is the right to exist as full citizens whether people understand them or not. It's not that much different from people who don't understand Judaism. I don't care whether they believe our religion is valid. What they have to accept is our right to be equal citizens.



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of Greater Binghamton

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OPINIONS

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

LETTERS

The Reporter welcomes letters on subjects of interest to the Jewish community. All letters must be signed and include a phone number; names may be withheld upon request.

ADS

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

DEADLINE

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TC Sisterhood to hold Whale of a Sale

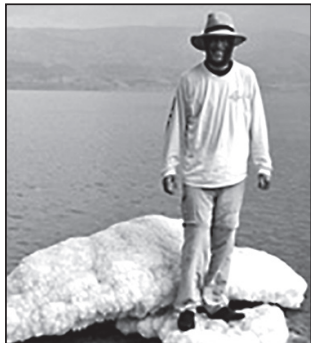
Temple Concord Sisterhood's 2023 Whale of a Sale will be held on Sundays, November 5 and 12, from 10 am-4 pm; Monday through Thursday, November 6-9, from noon-6 pm; and Friday, November 10, from noon-4 pm, in the social hall on the first floor of Temple Concord, 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton. The sale is not open on Saturday, November 11. Shoppers should use Riverside

Drive or the rear doors for entrance. There will be a bake sale in the lobby on Sunday, November 5, from 10 am until it is sold out. On Sunday, November 12, there will be a bag sale at \$12 per bag. "Whale of a Sale features new and upscale previously owned items," organizers said. "The merchandise is very reasonably priced and 'thrifting' creates a consum-

er cycle of goods that reduces waste. The sale is just in time for holiday decorating and giving plus winter clothing needs." Organizers noted, "Merchandise includes quality clothing for all ages, shoes, housewares, home furnishings, jewelry, books for children and adults, baby items, toys, games, sports equipment, small appliances and more!"

BD luncheon on Nov. 11 to feature Tim Lowenstein

The Beth David Luncheon Speaker Series on Saturday, November 11, will continue with Tim Lowenstein, who will speak on "What Can the Dead Sea Salt Tell Us?" Lowenstein has been called one of the world's leading experts on the salt deposits of the Dead Sea. People are encouraged to attend the morning service, which begins at 9:30 am. There is no charge for the luncheon.



Tim Lowenstein (Photo courtesy of Shay Rabineau and Tim Lowenstein)

at the salt deposits that have formed as the level of the Dead Sea has dropped more than 30 meters over the last 40 years. Beth David's Luncheon Speaker Series takes place the second Saturday of the month. Since the monthly series' continuation depends on the generosity of contributors, Beth David welcomes and appreciates donations to the Luncheon Fund in order to keep the program going. Donations as well as sponsorships can be made in honor of or in memory of someone, or to mark a special occasion. Those wishing an acknowledgment to be sent to the person being honored or to the family of someone being remembered can

indicate that along with the necessary information. Donations can be sent to Beth David Synagogue, 39 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905, Attention: Luncheon Fund.

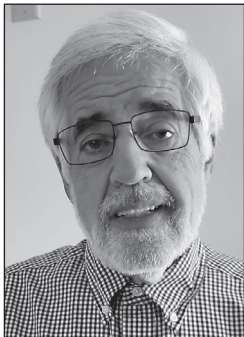
TC Sisterhood to hold Artisan Marketplace on Nov. 19

An Artisan Marketplace organized by the Temple Concord Sisterhood will be held on Sunday, November 19, from 10 am-4 pm, in the step-free social hall on the first floor of Temple Concord, 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton. The cost for admission is a food or a cash donation for CHOW. "The Artisan Marketplace is an upscale one-day event

that showcases the area's finest craftspeople, just in time for the holidays," said organizers of the event. "Featured will be jewelry makers, weavers, knitters, woodworkers, soaps and lotions, glass workers, fine artists and much more!" For more information, contact Chairwoman Deb Williams at harobed@stny.rr.com.

BD luncheon on Dec. 9 to feature Michael Weinstein

The Beth David Luncheon Speaker Series will continue with Michael Weinstein speaking about "The Art and Mystique of Judaic Collectibles" on December 9. Weinstein will discuss Judaic artifacts, both antique and modern, and talk about the history of these artifacts, dating back to biblical times. He will also share insights about collecting Judaica. Since the luncheon will take place on the first day of Chanukah, holiday-related collectibles will also be displayed. People are encouraged to attend the morning service, which begins at 9:30 am. There is no charge for the luncheon.



Michael Weinstein (Photo courtesy of Michael Weinstein)

not anticipated how much we would become involved in the local Jewish community," Weinstein said. He taught music and Jewish history at Hillel Academy. From 1995-97, he served as principal and teacher at Temple Israel's religious school. "Some people may nostalgically remember," organizers say, "Malka's involvement with the Hillel Academy Journal and her stint as the school administrator in the 1990s." Weinstein grew up in New York City, and his formal education began with nine years in a yeshiva day school. During his college years at Cornell, he continued his Jewish studies and was hired to teach and help conduct services at Temple Brith Sholom in Cortland, an association that continues to this day.

Weinstein's childhood interest in history led to his full-time involvement in the world of antiques and collectibles. He will also talk about how this interest in historical artifacts led him to establish the Bundy Museum of History and Art, on Main Street in Binghamton (bundymuseum.org). "Michael has a wealth of knowledge that he has generously agreed to share with us to enrich our Hanukkah celebrations," said organizers of the event. "We also look forward to his increasing our appreciation of Judaica artifacts that we may have purchased, that may have been handed down to us, or that we may have seen in museums." Weinstein and his wife, Malka, moved to Vestal from Ithaca in 1987 so their two daughters could enroll in Hillel Academy of Broome County. "At the time, we had

Beth David's Luncheon Speaker Series takes place the second Saturday of the month. Since the monthly series' continuation depends on the generosity of contributors, Beth David welcomes and appreciates donations to the Luncheon Fund in order to keep the program going. Donations as well as sponsorships can be made in honor of, or in memory of, someone, or to mark a special occasion. Those wishing an acknowledgment to be sent to the person being honored, or to the family of someone being remembered, can indicate that along with the necessary information. Donations can be sent to Beth David Synagogue, 39 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905, Attention: Luncheon Fund.

The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to the family of **Barbara Balotin**
The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to **Dr. Brenda Schlaen** on the death of her father, **Dr. Horacio Hector Schlaen**

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

ISSUE	DEADLINE
November 17-30	November 8
Dec. 1-14	November 20 (early)
December 15-28	December 6
Dec. 29-Jan. 11, 2024	Dec. 20

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

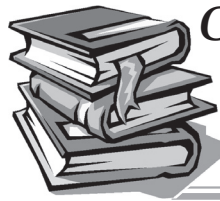
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Wang Jie: Five Faces of Joy
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Off the Shelf

Novellas and short stories

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

Sometimes an idea for a review doesn't work out the way I planned. For example, I decided to discuss "Inside Information" by Eshkol Nevo (Other Press) and "The House of Love and Prayer and other stories" by Tova Reich (Seven Stories Press) in one review because neither book is a novel. However, while that is true, the fictional works in each are very different lengths – three novellas in Nevo's book compared to eight short stories in Reich's – and focus on completely different types of people. For example, Nevo's characters are non-religious Israelis, while Reich writes mostly about observant Jews. That means the two books don't offer many points for comparison.

Nevo's three stories could be classified as mysteries since their narrators relate events that concern potential crimes. For example, in "Death Road," the narrator is writing his side of what occurred during and after his vacation in Bolivia. The plot twists and turns he records include not only how he met a couple there who were on their honeymoon, but what occurred after he attended the *shiva* for the husband who died in a bicycle accident that ended the honeymoon. At first nothing is what it seems and the emotional responses of all the characters are powerful. The narrator's tale is convincing, that is until I suddenly wondered just how reliable his version actually was.

The trustworthiness of the narrator could also be called into question in "Family History." Dr. Caro notes how he took a medical resident under his wing, who later misinterprets his feelings and actions. Is Caro innocent of nothing

more than fatherly feelings, or has the recent loss of his wife unmoored him more than he realized?

The disappearance of her husband changes a wife's life in "A Man Walks into an Orchard." This narrator discovers that nothing is sacred when the police become involved. Was his disappearance caused by terrorism? Did he leave his wife because he learned her secret? Or did she have a hand in what occurred? As in the previous stories, readers are left to decide exactly what happened.

The first two novellas in "Inside Information" were my favorites and left me pondering the truthfulness of their narrators. The third was less satisfying because I didn't find what might have occurred as convincing, but that may not bother other readers. Nevo writes well and the pages of his work turned quickly due to the great amount of suspense he creates.

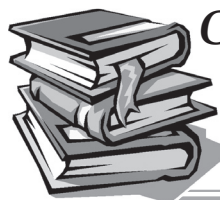
Unlike "Inside Information," "The House of Love and Prayer and other stories" focuses on those involved in Jewish practice. For example, in "The Plot," Lola Blitzer becomes a member of a *chevra kadisha* (whose members prepare the dead for burial) in order to befriend her upstairs neighbor. Lola has no living relatives, but does have a specific desire: she wants to be buried in a plot next to her mother, a plot that is only large enough for a child-sized coffin. Lola decides on a course of action to make that happen, but events take an unexpected turn. A Jewish day school is the focus of "The Lost Girl," which features a principal who expects the Jewish press to understand the difficulties of his being forced to spend his days with teenage girls, and

a girl so greatly affected by the hierarchy of students that she hides during an annual trip to a forest.

Rabbis with unusual congregations are featured in several stories. Rabbi Tikun-Olam gathers Chinese orphan girls in "Forbidden City," whom he wants to be adopted by infertile Americans Jews. In order to do this, he must work with those he refers to as "the Bosses," who complicate matters, as does his wife. In "The House of Love and Prayer," the spiritual practice of Rabbi Yidel Glatt is not a typical one: he barely eats in order to be close to God at all times. This affects his followers and his wife in different ways.

My favorite story, "Dead Zone," offers an absurd and funny solution to Israel's problems: in the year 2040, the United Nations declares Israel a huge cemetery and the only living people allowed to set foot in the country are those burying their dead. The narrator tells how this came about and his tale includes a ghost whose burial keeps being postponed since it's impossible to find a grave that doesn't already contain bones of the dead.

Readers of "The House of Love and Prayer and other stories" have to tolerate long sentences and even longer paragraphs. (The editor in me kept noting where these paragraphs could easily have been divided into sections.) The plots of most of Reich's tales are not to be taken seriously: her stories are satires, although many of the characters are so human that readers will be able to relate to them, even as they shake their heads at the characters' thoughts and actions.



Off the Shelf

Russian absurdity and Jewish dissents

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

When reading the opening pages of Paul Goldberg's first novel "The Yid," I groaned because it seemed clear it was going to be so depressing. Instead, it turned into a crazy, joyous, wonderful ride. I wasn't the only person to love the book: it was a finalist for the Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature and the National Jewish Book Award's Goldberg Prize for Debut Fiction. While Goldberg's second novel "The Chateau" didn't win any awards, it contained one of the greatest comic monsters I've ever had the pleasure to read about. To say that I had high expectations for his third novel "The Dissident" (Farrar, Straus and Giroux) would not be an exaggeration, although I reminded myself not to expect greatness each time. Fortunately, Goldberg succeeds once again, only this time, he delivers a great satire about refuseniks living in the Soviet Union during the mid-1970s. My only regret is that I'm not familiar with all of the details of Russian life and literature mentioned. If I enjoyed it as much as I did without that knowledge, anyone familiar with all the Russian nuances will have even more fun.

The novel opens just before Henry Kissinger, the United States secretary of state, is due to meet with Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev. Jewish Russian dissidents are hoping the visit will result in them being allowed to emigrate from the U.S.S.R. But Goldberg's initial focus is a love story, telling how Viktor, a Jewish refusenik, met Oksana, the love of his life. Their whirlwind romance was supposed to culminate with marriage, although one not sanctioned by the state because the ceremony will be a Jewish one. When Viktor's Jewish friend – who is supposed to be bringing someone who has the knowledge to make the marriage kosher, at least Jewish-wise – fails to appear, Viktor goes

in search of him and discovers a murder: in fact, the double murder of two men in the midst of having sexual relations. Even though Viktor believes he left no trace of himself in the murder room, he is picked up by the KGB and given a choice: discover the real murderer or be convicted of the crime himself. Oh, and he only has nine days to do this because the KGB wants to close the case before Kissinger arrives for his visit.

This being a Russian novel, there is no way the plot can be simple. All readers need to do is look at the cast of characters listed in the first pages of the book to realize there are going to be numerous complications. That list of characters proved handy because it was really difficult to keep track of all of the Russian names and the characters' occupations. (OK, I confess, I looked at it a lot when reading the first half of the novel. Those names are long!) The characters include a variety of refuseniks, other Russian dissidents, American newspaper reporters looking for scoops, a Russian Orthodox priest of Jewish descent and a variety of writers, KGB agents and the parents of the wedded couple. The most fun character is Norman Dymshitz, who is in Moscow to visit his newspaper reporter son, but whose amazing abilities reminded me of the wonderful hero of "The Yid."

What adds greatly to the fun is the humorous – well, really sarcastic – tone of the narrator. For example, when giving background information about the building where the newlyweds are spending their time, he described the history of the one-room apartment as having been "obtained through a series of complex exchanges that tracked a series of parental divorces. These divorces and their real estate sequelae can be enumerated in mind-numbing detail... but neither the teller nor the listener would become a better human being as a result of this transfer of data." One reporter hates interviewing refuseniks and suggests that "if you love America, if you love Israel, you want guys like [him] to stay in refusal here, as secret weapons. His kind will bore you to death. Keep them here, and they will obliterate Communism from within." There is also the old joke that Viktor remembers when dealing with the KGB:

"I can already tell this is going to be a bad day," says a Jew facing a firing squad." And these are the comments I can print in a family friendly paper. Oh, and if you are a big fan of Kissinger (I am not), then you won't be pleased by the commentary offered about him.

If you were a fan of Goldberg's other novels, I assume that you ordered a copy of this book the minute you knew it was being published. (And if you are and didn't, why are you wasting your time reading this? Order that book now!) OK, so I'm prejudiced: I love a great romp with serious undertones and "The Dissident" is one. I know that not every reader will love Goldberg's work, but this reader (yes, me!) is hoping that he is already working on his next novel.

Bake Continued from page 1

coordinator. "In our case, we will be uniting our campus and local communities through campus and local Jewish organizations co-sponsoring, and lots and lots of people coming out to enjoy this activity together."



Students enjoyed making challah during a previous Mega Challah Bake. (Names held on request)

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THE REPORTER
Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton

Beth David Sisterhood to hold paid-up membership dinner on Nov. 8

This year's paid-up membership meeting of the Sisterhood of Beth David Synagogue will be held on Wednesday, November 8, at 6 pm, in the Beth David social hall. This is an earlier meeting time. Those planning to attend are asked to RSVP by Sunday, November 5, to ensure adequate food is prepared. RSVPs should be sent to Stacey Silber at silbercreations@gmail.com or by phone or text to 607-727-9738.

"To show our appreciation for those who have paid their 2023-24 membership dues, which are \$25 for the year, paid members will be treated to a free pasta dinner," said

organizers of the event. "Guests, who will be charged \$8 for the meal, are encouraged to attend, whether they are potential members, friends or spouses."

The paid-up membership meeting will also offer an opportunity to purchase raffle tickets for \$2 each, or 3 for \$5. Prizes will include gift cards to local establishments and artwork and other items selected by Silber from the hand-crafted and donated items she sells as a fund-raiser for Sisterhood at Your Needful Things, 136 East Service Rd., Binghamton.

"Please come and enjoy some good food, conversations with friends old and new, and

possibly go home with a prize or two if you are lucky," organizers said. "Remember, the collection of dues is one of the primary ways that Beth David Sisterhood raises funds that pay for refreshments at meetings, helps provide programs of interest to our members and the community, and allows Sisterhood to make a generous donation to Beth David Synagogue each year.

"We also raise funds through the sending of mitzvah cards for \$3 each," organizers added. "Toby Kohn personalizes them, allowing you to send a mazel tov to someone who has a special occasion, extend

sympathy if there has been a loss, or just say thank you to someone for doing something special. Cards may be requested directly through Toby, by calling the Beth David Synagogue office at 607-722-1793 or by e-mailing bethdavidstny.rr.com. You may also contact the Beth David Synagogue office to request being put on the Sisterhood e-mail list if you do not already receive the beautiful flyers designed for us by Rabbi David Serkin.

"Please remember to bring a donation for CHOW, and join us for an evening of food and fun," organizers concluded.

TC to hold rescheduled Meditative Music program on Nov. 10

Temple Concord has rescheduled the Meditative Music program originally to have taken place on Yom Kippur. It will now be held on Friday, November 10, at 8:30 pm, in the Kilmer Mansion following the 7:30 pm Shabbat services and *oneg*. The concert will be in honor of Veterans Day and in memory of Brendan Byrnes,

husband of Hollie Levine. It is open to the entire community. It will also be available on Zoom, <https://bit.ly/3QoURBZ>, meeting ID 8957298 8914 and passcode 496798.

Musicians Margaret "Pej" Reitz (piano), Hakan Tayga (violin/cello) and Sarah Gerk (clarinet) will perform compositions by J.S. Bach, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Jean

Sibelius, Maurice Ravel, Frederic Chopin, Camille Saint-Saens and Johannes Brahms. Reitz is currently on the faculty of Binghamton University, Ithaca College School of Music and SUNY Broome Community

College. Tayga is principal cellist of the Binghamton Philharmonic and a founding member of the Parlor City Celli. Gerk is an assistant professor of musicology at Binghamton University.

BD Sisterhood prepared plants for winter

During the October 11 Beth David Sisterhood meeting, Stacey Silber (at right) instructed members about how to plant seeds and care for them inside during the winter so they could have fresh herbs for cooking.



Cathy Velenchik (left) planted seeds while Susan Hubal looked on.




Judy Silber added potting soil in preparation for planting herbal seeds.

Community Calendar



The Community Calendar can be found on the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton's website, www.jfgeb.org, by clicking on "calendar." Updates or additions of events for the calendar can be made by contacting the Federation through its website (click on "calendar" and then "click here to request a change to the calendar") or by calling 724-2332.



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Hillel Academy students studied geodes



At left and right: As part of their study of the story of creation in the book of Genesis, the children at Hillel Academy of Broome County also learned about the scientific and geological way in which the earth was made, focusing on rocks, soil, water and sky. As part of their study, the children received small geode rocks and were asked to break them and find out what is inside. Students said they were amazed to find crystals in the rocks. (Names withheld on request)



NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

El Al flight to Thailand avoids Oman airspace

An El Al flight from Tel Aviv to Bangkok avoided Oman airspace on Oct. 31, opting for a longer route as a general security precaution amid Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza. Israel's flagship carrier had announced the temporary suspension of flights over the Gulf Arab state a day earlier, emphasizing that it was not due to any specific threat. Israel has stepped up transportation security measures in the wake of Hamas' Oct. 7 massacre in the western Negev and the ensuing war.

Mother of freed Israeli hostage: Thank God and the IDF

A day after her daughter was rescued from Hamas captivity, the mother of Israel Defense Forces soldier Pvt. Ori Megidish on Oct. 31 gave a statement to the press outside the family's Kiryat Gat home. "Dear people of Israel, we thank you all for your prayers and support. Our Ori has returned home, and now the prayers are with the rest of the kidnapped and the missing, and our hearts are with all the families," said Margalit Megidish. "Thank you, creator of the world. There is nothing besides you. Thank you, Shin Bet [Israel Security Agency]. Thank you, IDF and security forces. Thank you all," she added. Megidish, who was freed by Israeli ground forces on Oct. 29, was kidnapped by Hamas on Oct. 7. Following a medical exam, she was reunited with her family. Megidish was among 243 people taken hostage by Hamas during the terror group's cross-border invasion, which left at least 1,400 people dead and thousands wounded. She was freed by IDF special forces and Israel Security Agency agents, according to Israel's Channel 13. Though other members of her unit were also taken hostage, Megidish is believed to have been held alone. After the news broke of her return, celebrations broke out in her hometown of Kiryat Gat in southern Israel.

Sussman spoke at TC



Rabbi Lance J. Sussman (left) spoke at Temple Concord on October 15 about the reshaping of Jewish life in the early 21st century. Merri Pell-Preus (right) introduced his talk.



Rabbi Lance J. Sussman read selections from his new book "Portrait of an American Rabbi: In His Own Words" to a crowd of more than 70 people.

Annual Campaign 2024

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

You can make your pledge 3 ways:

- 1) Visit the Federation website at www.jfgb.org and click on "make a pledge."
- 2) E-mail Federation Executive Director Shelley Hubal at director@jfgb.org with "pledge" in the subject line.
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More than 70 people attended Rabbi Lance J. Sussman talk October 15 on "In Our Time: American Jewish Life at the Beginning of the 21st Century."

Want to stay in the know?

Send your e-mail address to treporter@aol.com (with "e-mail blast" in the subject line) to stay up-to-date on the latest news between

The Reporter's biweekly issues!

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THE REPORTER



Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton

Federation kicks off Campaign 2024



L-r: Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, talked with Bonnie Brown and Suzanne Holwitt, Federation president, before making Campaign 2024 calls on October 15.



L-r: On October 15, Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, and Ani Loew reviewed the information needed to make the Campaign 2024 calls.



Sima Auerbach (left), former executive director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, volunteered to help make Campaign 2024 calls on October 15. Auerbach is shown with Suzanne Holwitt, Federation president.



Shelley Hubal (standing), executive director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, and Dr. Dora E. Polachek took a moment to talk before making Campaign phone calls on October 15.



Dennis Foreman prepared to make Campaign 2024 phone calls October 15.



Barbara Mullen (seated) and Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, discussed talking points for the Campaign phone calls on October 15.

Giving Tuesday

Support *The Reporter* now through November 30th. Every dollar donated now through Giving Tuesday will be matched up to \$5,000.

Donations may be made several ways:

- Give online through The Reporter Group website, www.thereportergroup.org/about/donate.
- Through Giving Tuesday e-mails that will be sent by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton. Anyone who does not receive Federation e-mails, but would like to be on the list, should e-mail director@jfgb.org with "Federation e-mail list" in the subject line.
- Mail donations to The Reporter, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850 with "matching grant" in the check's subject line.



Donate today and see your gift doubled!

Sanders attacked on Gaza stance after marking synagogue shooting anniversary

By JNS staff

(JNS) – On the fifth anniversary of the worst antisemitic attack in U.S. history, Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT), who is Jewish, posted on October 27 that “Today, we remember and mourn for the victims lost five years ago in the devastating massacre at the Tree of Life synagogue.

“We must remain committed to fighting all forms of bigotry, antisemitism, intolerance, racism and xenophobia,” Sanders added.

The post, which has been viewed 6.4 million times, has drawn more than 2,000 comments. Many used antisemitic language

to describe the progressive politician and asked why he didn’t mention innocent Gazans as well. Others insisted that he call for a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, as some of his former staffers did in a recent video.

“The replies to this should be a reminder that Jews are not even allowed to mourn their dead without being attacked,” wrote Josh Kaplan, head of digital at London’s *Jewish Chronicle*.

“If you’re raging against Bernie for simply recognizing the anniversary of the Tree of Life synagogue massacre, then it isn’t Palestinian lives you care about and the government of Israel you oppose; you’re

just a hate-filled antisemite,” wrote Ashton Pittman, news editor of the nonprofit *Mississippi Free Press*.

Pittman added that he said that as “someone who unequivocally condemns genocide against Palestinians.” Sanders hasn’t used the term “genocide” to describe the Palestinian condition, but he does frequently refer to Palestinians as “occupied.”

In a 2019 *Jewish Currents* article about antisemitism, Sanders wrote of Palestinians being “crushed underneath a military occupation now over a half-century old, creating a daily reality of pain, humiliation and resentment.”

On October 25, Sanders spoke on the Senate floor about “the horrific situation in Israel and Gaza.” He said that “Hamas terrorists waged a barbarous attack against Israel, killing over 1,400 innocent men, women and children” on October 7.

“Young people at a music festival were machine-gunned down in cold blood, babies and older people were brutally murdered, and over 200 Israelis and Americans are being held as hostages,” he said. “Some people describe the October 7 attack on Israel as the equivalent to the 9/11 terrorist attack against the United States. That is wrong. See “Sanders” on page 11

Jewish online resources

By Reporter staff

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

◆ The Jewish Theological Seminary will offer two virtual programs in its *Between the Lines* series: Meryl Ain will discuss about her new award-winning novel, “Shadows We Carry,” on Tuesday, November 21, from 1-2 pm (www.jtsa.edu/event/between-the-lines-shadows-we-carry/); and Israeli author Agur Schiff about his novel “Professor Schiff’s Guilt” on Tuesday, December 12, from 1-2 pm (www.jtsa.edu/event/book-talk-professor-schiffs-guilt/).

◆ The Yiddish Book Center will hold the hybrid book talk and performance, “Sholem Asch: Underworld Trilogy,” with Caraid O’Brien on Wednesday, November 29 at 7 pm. The event includes a discussion of the book “Sholem Asch: Underworld Trilogy” and performances of scenes from the

book. For more information or to register, visit www.yiddishbookcenter.org/events/sholem-asch-underworld-trilogy-caraid-obrien.

◆ The Yiddish Book Center will offer the virtual lecture “Yiddish Theater as a Cultural Lifeline during the Holocaust” with Professor Debra Caplan on Thursday, December 7, at 7 pm. Caplan will “explores how Yiddish theater offered a cultural lifeline and psychological escape hatch for Jews during the Holocaust, as well as how plays and performances helped survivors to find community and rebuild their lives in the DP camps.” For more information or to register, visit <https://www.yiddishbookcenter.org/events/yiddish-theater-cultural-lifeline-during>.

◆ The Bender JCC will hold the eight-session lecture series “Biblical Archaeology Forum.” The cost of the online series is \$48. Lectures include “Discovery of a Temple Near Jerusalem Challenges Traditional Views of Religion in Ancient Israel” on Sunday, November 12, at 3 pm; “Wisdom and

Folly in Early Jewish Wisdom Literature on Wednesday, January 10, at 8 pm; “Imperial Terror and Personal Trauma in the Second Temple Period” on Wednesday, February 7, at 8 pm; “Reconstructing Mysteries of the Sanctuary of the Great Gods at Samothrace” on Sunday, March 10, at 3 pm; “Excavating Theater History at Pompeii’s House of the Four Styles” on Thursday, April 18, at 8 pm; “After 1177 BCE: The Survival of Civilizations” on Sunday, May 19, at 7:30 pm; and “Piracy and the Late Bronze Age Collapse” on Wednesday, June 19, at 8 pm. For more information about individual programs, visit www.benderjccgw.org/arts-culture-jewish-life/biblical-archaeology-forum/. To subscribe to the series, e-mail BAF.JCCGW@gmail.com.

◆ The Braid will hold the virtual event “Faith Salie: an exclusive conversation” on Sunday, November 19, at 2 pm. Faith Salie is a regular panelist on “Wait, Wait Don’t Tell Me,” a regular contributor to CBS “Sunday Morning” and five-time Emmy-winning journalist. For more information or to register, visit https://thebraid.my.salesforce-sites.com/ticket/PatronTicket_PublicTicketApp#/.

◆ The American Jewish University will hold the virtual program “A Yiddish Love Affair: The State of Yiddish Today” on Tuesday, November 14, from 3-4 pm. Giovanna Truong will offer look into Yiddish identity, language, culture and the state of Yiddish today. Truong is a Vietnamese-Italian-American, German-speaking, Gentile physicist from suburban Wisconsin who became “a brenendike Yiddishist – a passionate Yiddish scholar.” For more information or to register, visit <https://open.aju.edu/event/a-yiddish-love-affair-the-state-of-yiddish-today/>.

◆ The Center for Jewish History will hold the virtual panel discussion “Family History Today: Wimpels – Textiles as Windows into the Lives of our Ancestors” on Tuesday, November 14, at 3 pm. Bonni-Dara Michaels, the Yeshiva University Museum’s Collections curator, will speak about the history of wimpels in the museum collection and the styles and meanings of their text and decorations. Karen S. Franklin, director of family research at the Leo Baeck Institute, will elaborate on how genealogy researchers can analyze and research wimpels they inherited or those in museum collections to learn more about their family histories. For more information or to register, visit <https://programs.cjh.org/event/family-history-today-2023-11-14>.

◆ Hadassah Magazine Executive Editor Lisa Hostein hosts a panel conversation with Jewish writers Allegra Goodman, Dani Shapiro and Ruth Knafo Setton on Thursday, November 16, at 7 pm. The panelists will discuss different ways to define Jewish literature. For more information or to register, visit www.hadassahmagazine.org/2023/09/20/what-makes-a-book-jewish/.

◆ ALEPH: Alliance for Jewish Renewal will hold a virtual “International Transgender Day of Remembrance” hosted by Rabbi Geela Rayzel Raphael and Rabbi Jane Rachel Litman on Tuesday, November 21, at 8 pm. The program will commemorate the International Transgender Day of Remembrance, which has been observed

annually since its inception in 1999, remembering those who have been murdered because of transphobia. To register for the event, visit <https://aleph.org/civircrm/event/register/?reset=1&id=534>.

◆ The American Jewish University will hold “The Money Kings: Jewish Immigrants to Financial Dynasties” on Thursday, December 7, from 3-4 pm. Author Daniel Schulman and UC Riverside’s Michael Alexander explore the captivating narrative of German-Jewish immigrants who transformed modern finance and the stock market in America. For more information or to register, visit <https://open.aju.edu/event/the-money-kings-jewish-immigrants-to-financial-dynasties/>.

◆ The Temple Emanu-El Streicker Center will hold the virtual book discussion of “Women on the Move” by Naomi Ragen on Tuesday, November 7, at 11:30 am. Ragen will discuss “Lithuania’s refusal to acknowledge its Holocaust-era sins, her iconoclastic place in the Orthodox community and the role writing plays in her expression of Judaism.” For more information or to register, visit <https://streicker.nyc/events/ragen-2>.

◆ The Temple Emanu-El Streicker Center will hold the hybrid event “The Future of Israel: Should We Be Optimistic or Pessimistic?” with Dan Senor in conversation with Ambassador Thomas R. Nides on Wednesday, November 8, at 6:30 pm. Dan will offer a preview of his new book “The Genius of Israel.” For more information or to register, visit <https://streicker.nyc/events/senor>.

◆ The Jewish Grandparents Network will hold the virtual program “At a Distance: Practical and Meaningful Ways to Build Relationships with Your Grandchildren Who Live Far Away” on Tuesday, December 5, from 7-8 pm. Kerry Byrne, Ph.D., the founder of The Long Distance Grandparent, will share “practical, yet meaningful, ways to move towards more intentional, consistent and engaging moments with your grandchildren.” For more information or to register, visit https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/hL-kNdrzIJK1hYxv_hgCg.

◆ The Milken Archive is offering an eight-part e-mail newsletter “A Journey Through American Jewish Music.” The educational series highlights Jewish compositions at all ends of American history, from the Colonial era to the 20th century. For more information or to register for the e-mails, visit www.milkenarchive.org/news/news-items/view/milken-archive-newsletter-journeys/.

◆ The Center for Jewish History will hold the hybrid “JewCE, New York: The Jewish Comics Experience” from November 11-12. The event will promote diverse Jewish narratives in comics and graphic novels. Zoom links are available. For \$18, a person receives access to a full day of events and exclusive digital content. For \$180, access is given for a full day of events and exclusive digital content for an institution, youth group or congregation. For more information or to register for Zoom links, visit <https://jewce.org/>.

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

CHANUKAH Greetings

Deadline: November 21 (December 1 issue)


Once again this year, *The Reporter* is inviting its readers and medical professionals to place personal Chanukah greetings to the community. These Chanukah greeting ads will appear in our December 1 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 E and F), the medium one is \$40 (style A and D) and the largest one (not shown, style G) is \$78.

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

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

May the lights of Chanukah shine in your hearts forever



Your name(s)

Wishing you a Happy Chanukah
light • peace • love



Your Name(s)

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

CHANUKAH Greetings

Deadline: November 21 (December 1 issue)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

E-mail _____

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) _____

Checks can be made payable to
The Reporter, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, New York 13850.

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


Warm Chanukah wishes to you and your family!



Your Name(s)

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

HAPPY CHANUKAH!



YOUR NAME(S)

Antisemitic threats at Cornell shutter kosher dining hall as Jews hide in their rooms

By Jacob Kornbluh

This story originally appeared in the Forward (forward.com). To get the Forward's free email newsletters delivered to your inbox, go to forward.com/newsletter-signup.

(Forward) – Responding to reports that Jewish students at Cornell were afraid to leave their rooms, the university president on October 29 strongly condemned hate-filled messages posted to campus discussion forums and promised the people who wrote them would be punished.

“Threats of violence are absolutely intolerable,” Cornell’s president, Martha E. Pollack, said in a statement posted on X, formerly known as Twitter. “Our immediate focus is on keeping the community safe.”

“We will not tolerate antisemitism at Cornell,” she added. “This incident highlights the need to combat the forces that are dividing us and driving us toward hate.”

The statement came hours after a number of messages calling for physical violence against Jews on campus were published on social media. One former Cornell student, Annie Vail, said the kosher dining hall on campus was “on lockdown” and Jewish students hiding in their dorms.

The messages were copied from internal campus forums. One said: “If you see a Jewish ‘person’ on campus, follow them home and slit their throats. rats need to be eliminated from cornell.” Another read, “the genocidal fascist zionist regime will be destroyed. rape and kill all the jew women, before they birth more jewish hitlers. jews are excrement on the face of the earth. no jew civilian is innocent of genocide.”

Another user posted on the afternoon of October 20, “gonna shoot up 104 west,” referring to the kosher dining hall on campus. “If i see another synagogue another rally

for the zionist globalist genocidal apartheid dictatorial entity known as ‘israel’, i will bring an assault rifle to campus and shoot all you pig jews,” one user posted. “Jews are human animals and deserve a pigs death.”

As a result, Cornell’s Hillel advised students and staff to “avoid the building out of an abundance of caution.”

Rabbi Ari Weiss, executive director of Cornell Hillel, said the messages “shook a lot of students to their core” as they are still grieving the loss of life of some of the people they knew. He said the 2,500 Jewish undergrads and 500 graduate students are now “fearful for their safety.”

The hateful messages come as Jewish and Muslim students are reporting heightened levels of harassment at colleges and universities nationwide in the wake of the October 7 Hamas terror attack on Israel and the retaliatory Israeli strikes on Gaza in the three weeks since.

At Stanford University, a teaching assistant was suspended for calling Jews in his class colonizers, at Columbia, a 19-year-old was arrested for beating an Israeli graduate student with a stick, and at Cooper Union college last week, several Jewish students said they feared for their life as pro-Palestine protesters banged on the windows of a locked library where they were sheltering.

At Tulane University in New Orleans, a clash between pro-Israel and pro-Palestinian activists resulted in several injuries.

Pro-Palestinian protests calling for a cease fire also intensified over the October 28 weekend as the humanitarian crisis in Gaza deepened and Israel sent troops in on the ground in what the prime minister called the war’s “second phase.”

The Gaza health ministry said on October



Cornell Center for Jewish Living residence and adjoining kosher dining hall, 104 West. (File photo courtesy of Cornell Center for Jewish Living)

29 that more than 8,000 Palestinians have been killed since October 7, when Hamas slaughtered some 1,400 Israelis and kidnapped 229 others.

A White House official said the morning of October 30 that the Biden administration was “taking multiple actions” to address what they called “the alarming rise” of antisemitic incidents at schools and col-

leges since October 7. The Department of Homeland Security and Department of Justice are working with campus, local and state law enforcement agencies, the official said, speaking on the condition of anonymity according to White House protocols.

Editor’s note: On October 31, federal prosecutors filed charges against Patrick Dai, a 21-year-old student, for the threats.

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Bodies ID’d three weeks after mass murder

By Yaakov Lappin

(JNS)—Some 250,000 Israelis have been displaced by the war so far, and the Israel Defense Forces are working with local councils to care for devastated communities of traumatized people from the south, including children who have been orphaned and dispersed throughout 29 regional councils, according to a senior Israeli military official. (An October 17 report had said 500,000 Israelis were displaced; see page 9 of the last issue of The Reporter for article.)

The official said that it took more than two weeks to identify some of the southern victims of the October 7 mass murder attack launched by Hamas death squads, including a mother burned to death in Kfar Aza after her home was burned down and her husband killed.

“Kfar Aza was a living place; no one locked the doors there, and bicycles were all over. Three days ago in Kfar Aza, we were examining a house that was totally burned. The husband was declared dead, and his wife was declared missing. We searched the house several times; nothing

was found. Three days ago, we brought a group of archeologists. In the reinforced room, there was a pile of ashes next to a wooden cabin; no one paid attention to it. But upon further inspection, a jaw was found among the ashes. It was her. The wife was then declared dead, more than two weeks after the attack,” the official recalled.

The level of evil unleashed on Israeli civilians is “beyond anything we imagined,” the official said. “Sha’ar HaNegev Regional Council’s civilians are now divided into 29 regional councils around Israel. There is a need to take care of orphans who lost both parents. These people have been evacuated around the country.”

Founded in 1992, the Israel Defense Forces Home Front Command was established as a lesson of the 1991 Gulf War based on the realization that wars are changing and that missile attacks targeting the Israeli civilian population indiscriminately would become the new threat.

Should Hezbollah enter the war in a full-scale manner, it could fire some 1,000 See “Bodies” on page 11

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Weekly Parasha

Vayera, Genesis 18:1-22:24

A transcendent and irrevocable bond

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

This *parasha* contains the Bible's most dramatic test of faith: God's command to Abraham that he bind Isaac and bring him as an offering.

The saga begins with the enigmatic words, "And it was after these things..." Predictably, the biblical commentators address the nature of "these things," offering variant possibilities. Rashi teaches that the word *devarim*, which is classically rendered as events, can also mean words and gives us two possible conversations that preceded – even precipitated – the binding of Isaac.

The second of these is the following dialogue between Isaac and Ishmael: "Ishmael boasted that he was circumcised at the age of 13 (as opposed to Isaac's circumcision

at eight days) and offered no resistance. Isaac responded to him: 'Do you think you intimidate me with one limb? If God would tell me, 'Sacrifice yourself to Me,' I would not refuse.' Rashi concludes: Immediately after this conversation, God tested Abraham and Isaac with the command concerning the binding.

At first blush, it appears that Ishmael has a strong argument. After all, at the age of 13 he could have certainly resisted the painful procedure. Instead, he chose to be subservient to the will of his father and his father's God. He exercised his free will; he submitted to the circumcision of his own accord. Isaac, on the other hand, being an infant of eight days, took no part in the decision concerning his

circumcision. The circumcision was performed on him, but not by him. He was a passive rather than active player.

As we learned in last week's *parasha*, however, the Torah specifically commands that circumcision take place at eight days: "At the age of eight days every male among you must be circumcised, for all generation." (Genesis 17:12)

Chasidic philosophy views this as being emblematic of the distinct and essential identity of a Jew and of the Jew-God relationship. A Jew, this commandment teaches, is bound to God not by virtue of his or her intellect, not by virtue of his choice and not of her own volition. A Jew is bound to God with a transcendent and irrevocable bond. See "Bond" on page 11

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: titammy@stny.twcabc.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, November 4, Shacharit services will be held at 9:30 am via Zoom and in-person (masks are required for unvaccinated participants). The Torah portion is Genesis 18:1-22:24 and the haftarah is II Kings 4:1-37. A Zoom Havdalah service will take place at 6:45 pm.

On Tuesday, November 7, at 7 pm, there will be an Executive Board meeting.

On Saturday, November 11, at 9:30 am, Shacharit services will be held via Zoom and in-person (masks are required for unvaccinated participants). The Torah portion is Genesis 23:1-25:18 and the haftarah is I Kings 1:1-31. A Zoom Havdalah service will take place at 5:45 pm.

On Wednesday, November 15, at 10 am, there will be a Ritual Committee meeting.

Norwich Jewish Center

Orientation: Inclusive
Rabbi: David Regenspan
Address: 72 South Broad St., Norwich, NY 13815
Phone: 607-334-2691
E-mail: fertigj@roadrunner.com
Contact: Guilia Greenberg, 373-5087
Purpose: To maintain a Jewish identity and meet the needs of the Jewish community in the area.
Adult Ed.: Shabbat study sessions are held on designated Saturday mornings at 10 am. Call ahead, text or e-mail to confirm dates.

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.

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.

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.

Congregation Tikkun v'Or

Affiliation: Union for Reform Judaism
Address: PO Box 3981, Ithaca, NY 14852; 2550 Triphammer Rd. (corner of Triphammer and Burdick Hill), Lansing, NY
Phone: 607-256-1471
Website: www.tikkunvor.org, E-mail: info@tikkunvor.org
Rabbi: Shifrah Tobacman, rabbishifrah@tikkunvor.org
Presidents: Sue Merkel and Laurie Willick, presidents_22@tikkunvor.org
Education Director/Administrative Coordinator: Naomi Wilensky
Bnai Mitzvah Coordinator: Michael Margolin
Services: All services currently on Zoom. E-mail info@tikkunvor.org for the times and links. Contemplative morning services every Tuesday from 8:30-9:30 am. Saturday mornings, Gan Shabbat and other special services at least once a month. Call for the weekly schedule.
Jewish Learning Experiences (JLE) for second through seventh grade classes meet on Sunday mornings. Sixth and seventh grades also meet on Wednesday afternoons. Family programs for kindergarten and first grade held monthly.
Adult Education: Offered regularly throughout the year. Check the website for details.

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.



Friday, November 3, light candles before 5:37 pm
Shabbat ends Saturday, November 4..... 6:36 pm
Friday, November 10, light candles before 4:29 pm
Shabbat ends Saturday, November 11 5:28 pm
Friday, November 17, light candles before 4:22 pm
Shabbat ends Saturday, November 18..... 5:22 pm

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: 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, November 3: At 7:30 pm, Shabbat services. Join via Zoom at https://bit.ly/3hRmW2Y, meeting ID 869 9699 8146 and passcode 826330, or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/templeconcord/.

Saturday, November 4: Saturday, October 14: At 9 am, Religious School; at 9:15 am, Torah study in person and Zoom (http://bit.ly/3XDnVRE, meeting ID 825 1226 2831 and passcode 743892); and at 10:35 am, a Shabbat family service.

Sunday-Friday, November 5-10: Whale of a Sale. Sunday hours are 10 am-4 pm. Monday-Thursday hours are 10 am-6 pm. Friday hours are 10 am-4 pm.

Friday, November 10: At 7:30 pm, Shabbat service led by Suzanne Holwitt and Robin Hazen. Join via Zoom at https://bit.ly/3hRmW2Y, meeting ID 869 9699 8146 and passcode 826330, or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/templeconcord. At 8:30 pm, Meditative Music in the Kilmer Mansion. (For more information, see the article on page 5.) Join via Zoom at https://bit.ly/3QoURBZ, meeting ID: 895 7298 8914 and passcode 496798.

Saturday, November 11: At 9 am, Religious School; at 9:15 am, Torah study in person and Zoom (http://bit.ly/3XDnVRE, meeting ID 825 1226 2831 and passcode 743892); and at 10:35 am, a Shabbat family service.

Sunday, November 12: From noon-4 pm, Whale of a Sale's final day.

Tuesday, November 14: At 8 pm, general board meeting.

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.

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: 607-273-5775
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: TBA
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.

Israeli hospitals go underground amid Gaza war

By Zvi Sheleg

With a ground war in Gaza and escalation of rocket fire imminent, Israeli hospitals are going underground. The Galilee Medical Center in the northern city of Nahariya has moved its 700 beds below ground and has a series of tunnels for ambulances to safely deliver patients. The hospital is located just 10 kilometers (6.2 miles) from the Lebanese border.

“As of Saturday, we began preparations to move all the inpatients of the medical center to protected hospitalization and treatment spaces,” said the hospital’s deputy director, Dr. Zvi Sheleg.

“The critical sites themselves, the ER, the shock [trauma] rooms, the operating rooms are all protected every day so that it’s the same space. All the underground hospital sites are connected by tunnels through which the wounded, teams and more can be transported,” he said.

He added that 30 percent of the beds have been placed

on standby and are being made ready to receive patients.

Since October 7, terror groups in Lebanon have been firing anti-tank rockets at Israeli military positions and communities near the border, including Nahariya. “So far, we have received over 200 wounded from the battles near the Lebanese border, some of them soldiers, some of them civilians,” Sheleg noted.

When possible, patients will be transferred to hospitals in central Israel “so we can maintain our level of alertness,” he stressed.

“Our preparedness should be such that we can respond to a significant flare-up on the northern border and treat patients here in the protected and underground spaces under a prolonged missile attack,” Sheleg explained.

The Iran-backed Hezbollah terror group is believed to have 100,000-150,000 missiles.

Following the Second Lebanon War of 2006, Haifa’s See “War” on page 12

Jewish Community Center

JCC Friendship Club

The Jewish Community Center Friendship Club met on October 18. The meeting was called to order by Sylvia Diamond. We said the “Pledge of Allegiance” and sang “Hatikvah.” Jan Van Zyl read a joke and Sue Herzog gave the treasurer’s report. She introduced the speaker, Dr. Jay Levine. He is a local chiropractor and explained some of the conditions that can be treated by chiropractors.

He said that, when the body is out of alignment, it can result in pain and dysfunction. With adjustments, the body can return to normal function and have no pain. Some of the conditions that he treats are sinus problems and pain in the neck, back, shoulders, knees, legs and feet. He said he starts by taking a history and possibly an X-ray. He does not prescribe medicine, but will do an adjustment and recommend exercise and nutritional supplements. He answered questions and made suggestions. We all had some complaints that might be helped by an adjustment. Some of us talked about arthritis, headaches and pain in a hand joint.

We will hear a talk by Ronald Hirst from Broome Transit Authority on Wednesday, November 15, at 1:30 pm, at the JCC.

Sylvia Diamond
President

Bodies Continued from page 9

projectiles at central Israel a day, and more than 10,000 a day at the north for a period of time, according to some assessments.

“We already face a very significant fire on our civilians like we’ve never seen before. But on the other hand, I think we are now protecting the populated areas of Israel in a good way. The threat is significant,” said the source.

He cautioned against being deceived by the semi-routine on display in places like Tel Aviv, warning that the Iron Dome air-defense system is not hermetic and that the threat of terrorism in central Israel has not vanished either.

The IDF has been working for a lengthy period of time to secure factories and sites with hazardous materials. The Home Front Command has also been working with Bedouin communities in the south to improve early warning and protection for them against rocket threats.

At present, Israel is divided into almost 2,000 alert polygons. This precision prevents unnecessary evacuation to safe rooms – enabling more of the country to take part in keeping the economy going and caring for their basic needs.

“We had significant numbers of direct hits that we never had before on buildings in Israel during this war,” said the source. “These are unguided projectiles fired at cities, towns and villages. Hamas does not care where they hit.”

The Home Front Command has permanent liaison units in every local authority, training local council representatives during wartime and activating them during wars. It also divided the country into four guideline levels – red, signifying a restricted activity; orange, meaning limited activity; yellow for partial activity; and green, for full activity.

Nevertheless, many parents are fearful of sending their children to school in areas where schools are allowed to open.

So far, the average number of rockets fired per day at Israeli civilians during “Operation Swords of Iron” war is more than 500 – the highest of any past conflict. In the southern part of Ashkelon, rocket alerts go off every three hours.

The head of the Home Front Command’s Dan District, Col. Hai Rekah, said a national center of 300 hotels for those displaced by war is in action, including 100 hotels in central Israel.

“Many there are in mourning for their loved ones. Now what we are doing is placing many soldiers in the hotels to support these communities,” he said.



Residents of Kiryat Shmona being evacuated due to the threat from Lebanon on October 22. (Photo by David Cohen/Flash90)

Meanwhile, the Command’s Family Casualty Center notifies people about the fate of their loved ones.

The Home Front Command opened a national center to facilitate this, together with police and local authority representatives, and has so far notified more than 800 families. “Identifying the casualties was very hard. We have more than 100 families [left] to notify after finishing the identification process,” said Rekah.

He recalled being told by one family that their son was kidnapped, not killed, and told to leave and then having to come back with a photograph to establish that he had indeed been killed. “I just showed the picture to the sister. She saw only the hand, the bracelet and knew this was the brother. Only after that, they believed he had been killed,” he said.

He added grimly that “many families were killed totally, and the problem was of who to notify.”

As for the war in full force, ultimately, he said: “We are ready. The IDF is strong. Israel is strong. In the end, we are going to beat Hamas. Despite the fact that we are in complicated days, in the end we are going to win.”

Bond Continued from page 10

Indeed, an infant can make no decision and it is exactly at that time that the physical mark of the covenant between him and his Creator is affected.

When a person makes a choice, they can always renege on that decision; it is, after all, based on their thought process, which can undergo change at any time. And indeed, throughout a Jew’s life, he or she continually makes choices about the parameters of their relationship with God: Will they recognize that relationship? Will they embrace it? Will it manifest in their everyday life in practical ways? But the essential bond between God and the Jew remains beyond the realm of man’s choice. God chooses him, as it were, and that choice is irreversible and eternal.

Every mitzvah is essentially a bond between Jew and God; the word mitzvah is etymologically rooted in the Aramaic term *tzavta*, connection. Of all *mitzvot*, circumcision specifically, is termed a *brit*, a covenant. It most clearly highlights the nature of the Jew-God relationship, rooted as it is, in the transcendent plane, beyond the ken of man’s intelligence and intellect.

This, then, is the essence of Isaac’s response to Ishmael: True, you underwent circumcision at an advanced age. True, it was your choice and for that you deserve credit. But my circumcision is of a different nature entirely: it connotes a soul bond that is rooted in the infinite and eternal. If God were to ask me for my life, I would give it. Indeed, now that I am 37 years old, I can understand and embrace all that my circumcision at the age of eight days connotes: my life is essentially God’s. It is all on God’s terms.

Immediately, God called unto Abraham to offer his child, to make manifest for all time and for all ages the essential nature – the depth and scope – of the Jew-God relationship.

Sanders. Continued from page 8

“Israel is a small country, with under 10 million people. On a per capita basis, the 1,400 Israelis killed by Hamas would be the equivalent of over 40,000 Americans killed, if Israel had the same size population as we do,” he said. “On 9/11, as everybody recalls, we lost 3,000 people.”

Israel has “the absolute right” to defend itself, he said, but added that that doesn’t mean it can violate international law and “wage indiscriminate warfare against innocent men, women and children in Gaza.”

“The people of Israel have gone through a horrific and traumatic shock. It is understandable that they are furious and want to strike back forcefully,” Sanders added. “Revenge, however, is not a useful policy. Killing innocent Palestinian women and children in Gaza will not bring back to life the innocent Israeli women and children who have been killed. It will only make a terrible situation even worse and more intractable.”

On social media, Sanders noted on October 30 that Washington “provides \$3.8 billion a year to Israel.” The White House and Congress “must make it clear: Israel has the right to defend itself and destroy Hamas terrorism, but it does not have the right to use U.S. dollars to kill thousands of innocent men, women and children in Gaza.”

Sanders wrote on October 28 that the “humanitarian situation in Gaza is dire, and getting worse by the minute,” and wrote twice in the prior three days about the need for a “humanitarian pause” in the fighting.

**Moving any time soon?
Or just leaving town for a few months?**

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E-mail treporter@aol.com with “Reporter Address change” in the subject line, or call 607-724-2360, ext. 254, to let *The Reporter* know about your new address.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

China deletes Israel from online maps

China has removed Israel from leading online digital maps following the outbreak of the war against Hamas. *The Wall Street Journal* reported on Oct. 31 that Internet users in China are expressing bewilderment that Israel's name no longer appears on major online digital maps from Baidu and Alibaba. Baidu's Chinese-language online maps demarcate the internationally recognized borders of Israel, as well as the Palestinian territories, plus key cities, but don't clearly identify the country by name. The report states that Israel's name has also disappeared from online maps produced by Alibaba's Amap, where even small nations like Luxembourg are marked. Neither company responded to questions. The news comes just days after an earlier report in *The New York Times* over a surge of antisemitic expressions on Chinese social media following the war with Hamas. The week of Oct. 27, China and Russia vetoed a U.S.-sponsored resolution at the U.N. Security Council that condemned Hamas and called for "humanitarian pauses" in the fighting between Israel and the Palestinian terrorist group in Gaza. The U.S. resolution denounced the "heinous terrorist attacks by Hamas and other terrorist groups" on Oct. 7, as well as the "taking and killing of hostages, murder, torture, rape, [and] sexual violence," and demanded the "immediate and unconditional release of all remaining hostages." Hamas terrorists murdered at least 1,400 Israelis, wounded more than 5,000 and took 240 captives back to Gaza during its assault on western Negev communities.

Herzog on Islamists: Europe will be next

Israel is at the forefront of a global clash of civilizations, Israeli President Isaac Herzog said on Oct. 31. "Hamas, Al Qaeda and Islamic State are all together in wishing to ban us all from the face of the earth," he told a group of European Jewish leaders. "It starts with Israel, it starts with the Jews. It will never end there. Europe will be next. And that is why we are fighting a battle on behalf of the entire world." Herzog expressed serious concern about the significant rise in antisemitism in Europe and around the world in recent weeks. "This is a message that must be heard loud and clear," he said. "When [anti-Israel protesters] say 'from the river to the sea,' they mean without any Jews. ... When they demonstrate on campuses against Israel – they mean without Jews. When they criticize Israel fighting to defend its people, and fighting against the most brutal attack that humanity has seen in last generation – they mean no Jews," he added. "This is a fight not only against Israel. It is a fight against antisemites all over the world, and we are here to strengthen our brothers and sisters of Jewish communities all over the world, to show solidarity with them, because we are all in this together," he said.

ADL: Antisemitic incidents boom 388 percent in U.S. since Hamas attack

The Anti-Defamation League has released a new report documenting a sizable increase this month in crimes and protests targeting Jews. "Preliminary data from ADL Center on Extremism indicates that reported incidents of harassment, vandalism and assault increased by 388 per-

cent over the same period last year," the organization said before laying out the numbers. From Oct. 7-23, 2022, the ADL found 64 incidents with four related to Israel. This year during the same period, the figures ballooned to 312 incidents with 190 related directly to the current conflict between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip. A map of the incidents shows clusters in various states and regions. In California, the San Francisco Bay Area and Los Angeles featured high levels of anti-Israel rallies, some with support for terrorism. Numerous protests also took place around Detroit, near the state's 12th District represented by Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-MI). High levels of anti-Israel protests – some with overt advocacy for Hamas and outright hatred toward Jews – also took place in New England, New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland, which was marked by anti-Jewish and anti-Israel vandalism and harassment. Indiana and Ohio saw six and eight protests, respectively. The ADL also identified a total of five acts of antisemitic assaults in California, Texas, Michigan, New York and New Jersey. Jonathan Greenblatt, the ADL's CEO and national director, said that "when conflict erupts in Israel, antisemitic incidents soon follow in the U.S. and globally ... we are witnessing a disturbing rise in antisemitic activity here while the war rages overseas."

New York Times defends rehiring freelance writer who praised Hitler

Palestinian filmmaker Soliman Hijji has posted on social media of being "in a state of harmony, as Hitler was during the Holocaust" and wrote, "How great you are, Hitler," according to the media watchdog HonestReporting. Hijji freelanced for *The New York Times* from 2018 until 2021. Per the Times website, his last piece prior to the Oct. 7 Hamas attacks on Israel was on July 14, 2021. Since Oct. 12, he has had nine bylines – four of them videos – in the Times. His most recent piece, which bears his sole byline, is titled: "At a hospital in southern Gaza, a backup generator becomes a critical lifeline." "We reviewed problematic social-media posts by Mr. Hijji when they first came to light in 2022 and took a variety of actions to ensure he understood our concerns and could adhere to our standards if he wished to do freelance work for us in the future," according to a Times spokesperson. The spokesperson added that Hijji "has maintained high journalistic standards. He has delivered important and impartial work at great personal risk in Gaza during this conflict." "For most normal businesses or organizations, an employee expressing support for Adolf Hitler is a clear red line with no second chance. Not, however, for *The New York Times*," wrote Simon Plosker of HonestReporting.

More than 2,000 ultra-Orthodox Jews volunteer for IDF

More than 2,000 ultra-Orthodox Israelis have asked to be enlisted in the IDF, in an unprecedented mobilization in the haredim sector. The volunteer recruitment follows Hamas' murder of more than 1,400 Israelis and wounding of thousands of others on Oct. 7, the bloodiest one-day attack on the Jewish people since the Holocaust. About 150 haredim arrived at the IDF recruitment office at Tel Hashomer in Ramat Gan on Oct. 23 as the military begins to draft them as volunteers. Most of the volunteers, who ranged in age from their mid-20s to late 30s, are members of the

Lithuanian (Litvak) stream of ultra-Orthodoxy. Ultra-Orthodox male yeshiva students are generally exempt from military service as part of a widely-criticized decades-old arrangement. The accord had been slated to be reviewed and renewed this autumn in the Knesset.

In the first years of the state, Israel offered exemptions from military service to 500 ultra-Orthodox Jewish scholars, a number that has mushroomed to tens of thousands over the decades. The ultra-Orthodox believe that studying Torah is the best protection for the state, a view that has drawn resentment from the rest of the public as the numbers who avoided military service swelled.

Israel OKs budget to collect Shoah survivors' visual testimonies

Israel's Cabinet on Sept. 27 approved Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Diaspora Affairs and Social Equality Minister Amichai Chikli's proposal to budget 7 million shekels (\$1.8 million) to collect visual testimony of Holocaust survivors. The ministers also approved their proposal to broaden the parameters of the initiative and place special emphasis on making the testimony accessible to the general public in various languages and allowing the material to be used for educational purposes and in the fight against antisemitism. Last year, the government approved a plan to collect visual testimony from Holocaust survivors in Israel and overseas. On Sept. 27, the Cabinet set the initiative's budget. "Against phenomena of Holocaust denial and displays of antisemitism around the world, we have passed a decision today that will assist in preserving the memory of the Holocaust," said Netanyahu. "We are expanding the important initiative of collecting firsthand testimony from Holocaust survivors, those who heroically succeeded in surviving the horrors of the Nazis, who tried to destroy our people in Europe. They did not succeed, and those who survived the Holocaust continued the marvelous heritage of the Jewish people and established families in the Land of Israel and around the world," the prime minister continued. "We are committed to looking after the rights and the well-being of Holocaust survivors. We will pass their memories on to coming generations and we will always take care to ensure our future," Netanyahu said.

Man who intimidated witnesses, jurors in Tree of Life trial pleads guilty

Hardy Carroll Lloyd, 45, of West Virginia pleaded guilty on Sept. 19 of obstruction of the due administration of justice. The self-proclaimed "reverend" of his own white supremacist group admitted in court that he made online threats to jurors and witnesses in the trial of Robert Bowers, 50, the convicted murderer of 11 Jewish worshippers at the Tree of Life*Or L'Simcha Synagogue in Pittsburgh on Oct. 27, 2018. Bowers is currently imprisoned in the U.S. Penitentiary in Terre Haute, IN, after a jury agreed unanimously in August to his receiving the death penalty. As part of his plea agreement, Lloyd had to acknowledge that he chose his victims based on actual or perceived Jewish religion and to accept a prison sentence of six years and six months. "It is absolutely reprehensible that the defendant threatened witnesses and jurors in the Tree of Life case, a tragedy that claimed innocent lives and emotionally scarred many in the Jewish community," FBI director Christopher Wray stated in a U.S. Department of Justice release. "The FBI will not tolerate the intimidation of citizens participating in our criminal justice system, and we will work with our partners to hold legally accountable anyone who threatens or carries out acts of violence against them."

War Continued from page 11

Rambam Hospital designed a three-level, 1,500-vehicle underground parking lot that can be converted into a 2,000-bed hospital within 72 hours. Rambam staff has already completed the conversion at the request of Israel's Home Front Command. During the coronavirus pandemic, one floor was used as a COVID ward. The floor can function independently with electricity, water and oxygen supply.



Workers at the Western Gallilee Medical Center in Nahariya prepare a protected underground area to receive patients, on October 24. (Photo by Yoav Dudkevitch/TPS)

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