

THE REPORTER

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BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK

Federation to hold Countering Active Threat Training on No. 30

By Reporter staff

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton will hold a Countering Active Threat Training on Thursday, November 30, at 5:30 pm, at Temple Israel, 4737 Deerfield Pl., Vestal. Mark Henderson, the director of community security for the Jewish Community Federation of Greater Rochester, will lead the session. The training is open to the entire community and there is no cost to attend. To register for the event, contact the Federation at 607-724-2332 or director@jfgb.org, or visit www.jfgb.org.

The Countering Active Threat Training is

a comprehensive training program that teaches how to counter an active threat event. It was developed for faith-based institutions and houses of worship. Its learning objectives include:

- ◆ Learning to know when there is an active threat.
- ◆ Understanding the difference between security and safety.
- ◆ Developing a better understanding of active threat incidents.
- ◆ Explaining appropriate modes of action to use during an active shooter incident, including “run, hide, fight.”



- ◆ Understanding how to prepare for an active threat event.
- ◆ How to respond to law enforcement’s arrival.
- ◆ Recognizing the importance of additional trainings such as “Stop the Bleed.”
- ◆ Being able to commit to action during an active threat event
- ◆ Henderson has been coordinating security trainings with help from the Secure Community Network, the national Homeland Security initiative of the Jewish Federations of North America and the Conference

of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

◆ “Sadly, we are living in an era that requires all people in this country to be vigilant of their surroundings,” said Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Federation. “No matter how many security measures we have in place, if we wish to be a welcoming community, we risk having a terror attack. The important thing is to know what to do if, God forbid, that does happen. We hope and pray never to have to put what we learn into practice, but it is clear that the best thing we can do is be prepared.”

Federation to hold a “Discover Hanukkah” event on Dec. 10

By Reporter staff

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton will hold a PJ Library “Discover Hanukkah” event on Sunday, December 10, from 1-3 pm, at the Discovery Center, located next to the Ross Park Zoo, 60 Morgan Rd., Binghamton. The event is co-sponsored by the PJ Library, the

Jewish Community Center and the Discovery Center. There will be a candle lighting, singing, crafts, treats and more. The event will be free for Jewish families who pre-register by visiting www.jfgb.org/ or contacting the Federation at 607-724-2332 or director@



jfgb.org. The cost for those who do not pre-register will be free for Discovery Center members and, for non-members, \$10 per person with infants under 1 year old given free admission. Security will be provided. “The goal of this event is to share

the joy of Hannukah,” said Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton. “This event is for everyone! You don’t have to be affiliated with a synagogue or Jewish organization to attend. Come and celebrate the holiday of light and share the warmth of our wonderful Jewish community.”

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 should register for links to the film and discussion on the Federation website, www.jfgb.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



Joseph Haffmann (Daniel Auteuil) in “Farewell, Mr. Haffmann” (Used with permission of Vendôme Films)

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. “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 Daguerré.

Monica Reid of Far Out Magazine wrote that “the script by [Jean-Phillippe] Daguerré 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 its dark yet optimistic and painfully authentic, examination of human nature. See “Film” on page 3

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.thereporter.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. “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. See “Grant” on page 2

Visions to offer Giving Tuesday gift match

The Reporter announced that on Giving Tuesday, November 28, Visions will match all donations up to \$10,000 that are made using its online donation platform, Givio. Donations up to \$500 per person made to any IRS approved 501(c)(3) organization will be matched. The Reporter qualifies as one of those organizations. Givio donations can be made by Visions Federal Credit Union

members using the Visions FCU Mobile App or by logging in to digital banking. Information about Givio can be found at www.visionsfcu.org/givio.

“We are pleased to offer our readers yet another way to make a donation to *The Reporter* and double their donation,” said Rabbi Rachel Esserman, executive editor of The Reporter Group. “We’d

like to thank Visions for this special gift match offer.”

Shelley Hubal also thanks Visions for its offer and urged people to donate through Givio. “It’s a fast and easy way to make a donation, simply search for ‘Jewish Federation of Broome County’ in the Givio platform,” she said. “What a great way to do a mitzvah and support our local paper.”

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Jewish Baseball Players

Jewish baseball roundup 2023, part I

BILL SIMONS

For Jewish baseball fans and players, Israel framed the 2023 baseball season. Jewish baseball began on March 12 when Team Israel and Team Nicaragua met in the first round of the World Baseball Classic in LoanDepot Park, home of MLB's Miami Marlins, before a crowd of nearly 20,000. When Team Israel finally put runs on the scoreboard, staging an eighth inning rally and going on to win their debut game 3-1, ecstatic Jewish fans across America envisioned the impossible dream, a WBC title. Alas, Team Israel was trounced in its next three games and eliminated from WBC competition. However, the 2023 WBC was a significant and positive experience for Jewish ballplayers and fans, transcending the won-loss tally. And manager Ian Kinsler, a former four-time MLB All-Star second baseman, and longtime coach and promoter Nate Fish committed to growing Team Israel.

Often the only Jew on their professional teams, Team Israel players formed strong bonds with each other. Many of them are the American children of interfaith marriages, and they reported a heightening of Jewish identity and their connection to Israel. And for Jewish fans, pride in Team Israel countered conflicted feelings about the movement

Grant Continued from page 1

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."

Community Calendar

The Community Calendar can be found on the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton's website, www.jfgeb.org, by clicking on "calendar."

away from democracy in the Jewish homeland under the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Moreover, many of the Team Israel players resumed pro baseball careers with a keener sense of purpose. Most had good seasons in the major, minor and independent leagues during 2023. Outfielder Joc Pederson, the biggest name in the Team Israel lineup, returned to the San Francisco Giants, ratcheting up his career MLB home run total to 186. The starting and winning pitcher in Team Israel's WBC victory, Dean Kremer, the son of sabra parents, went on to win 13 games against only five losses for the Baltimore Orioles. Matt Mervis, Team Israel's 225-pound first baseman and a phenom in the minors, received his first, brief taste of MLB, hitting a few home runs for the Chicago Cubs.

Several other Team Israel stalwarts left their 2023 MLB mark. Toronto Blue Jays first baseman Spencer Horwitz debuted on June 18, singling on his first at bat. Colorado Rockies pitcher Jake Bird appeared in 70 games, all but three of those in relief. Slugging a decisive home run in Team Israel's game one WBC victory, backup catcher Garrett Stubbs returned to Philadelphia to provide a good glove behind the plate for the Phillies. Debuting on July 14, Oakland Athletics rookie Zack Gelof connected for 14 home runs in only 270 at bats while displaying finesse at the keystone; his younger brother Jake is a hot minor league prospect. Before a late season trade to the Cincinnati Reds, Harrison Bader provided the New York Yankees with stellar defense in centerfield.

Playing part-time, Atlanta Braves outfielder Kevin Pillar delivered solid defense and some timely hits. Injuries limited Pillar's more celebrated teammate, pitching ace Max Fried, to 77 innings. When he did take the mound, however, Fried was superb, winning eight games and losing only one, for a .889 winning percentage, a 2.55 ERA and 80 strikeouts in 77 innings.

This columnist designates Houston Astros third baseman Alex Bregman the 2023 Jewish MVP. Although not matching his 2019 peak (.296 batting average, 41 home runs, 112 RBIs), Bregman, an outstanding defensive third baseman, clutch hitter and team leader, drilled 25 home runs, scored 103 runs and notched 98 RBIs despite a .262 batting average. Although the Astros fell a win short of returning to the World Series, Bregman, with four home runs in the 2023 post-season, now has 19 playoff home runs, tied for number six amongst all-time post-season career home run leaders.

By mid-season, a record 18 Jewish players had appeared on MLB rosters. In addition to Bader, Bird, Bregman,

Fried, Gelof, Horwitz, Kremer, Mervis, Pederson, Pillar and Stubbs, first baseman Rowdy Tellez, outfielder Dalton Guthrie and pitchers Jake Bird, Richard Bleier, Eli Morgan, Ryan Sherriff, Jared Shuster and Zack Weiss added to the MLB minyan.

Playing for the Tri-City ValleyCats in the independent Frontier League, Jakob Goldfarb, another Team Israel alum, displayed an uncommon combination of speed and power, versatility and erudition. Comfortable at first base, catching and any outfield position, he hit 18 home runs and stole 26 bases in only 88 games while recording a .293 batting average. For good measure, Goldfarb expects to finish his legal studies in December.

General manager Sam Fuld, a former Team Israel and MLB outfielder, helped build a Philadelphia Phillies squad that went deep into the post-season.

The 2023 baseball season also inflicted major disappointments upon the Jewish contingent. Despite owner Steve Cohen's lavish spending, pushing the Mets payroll to a record \$353,046,854, The Amazin's, a juggernaut on paper, deconstructed, losing 87 games with merely 75 wins, a reminder that great teams are built not bought. Only two years after leading his Giants to an MLB best 107 victories and earning NL Manager of the Year honors, Gabe Kapler was fired as San Francisco tanked; his replacement is another Jewish player turned manager, Bob Melvin. Proving he is no Theo Epstein, Boston Red Sox Chief Baseball Officer Chaim Bloom endured an AL East last place finish, prompting his unceremonious ouster on the cusp of Rosh Hashanah. Another Jew, former pitcher Craig Breslow, succeeded Bloom as Red Sox chief baseball officer.

The best thing about baseball is its past and 2023 resonated with the game's Jewish legacy. When Jewish pitchers Fried and Kremer, who ended the season with a combined record of 21 victories and six losses, faced off on May 5, in a contest won by Kremer, it evoked memories of the epic September 25, 1966, duel between the two winningest Jewish hurlers in the annals of the game, Los Angeles Dodger Sandy Koufax and Chicago Cub Ken Holtzman, in which the latter chalked up the victory. The 2023 season also marked the 50th anniversary of New York Yankee Ron Blomberg, a .293 career hitter and self-proclaimed designated Hebrew, making history on April 5, 1973, by drawing a walk as baseball's first designated hitter.

The Jewish 2023 MLB season ended as it began with Israel – a benchmark that will get a close and hard look in part II of the Jewish baseball roundup 2023.

Opinion

In My Own Words

Petitions, statements and no answers

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

I looked at the list of people who had signed the petition: many of them were rabbis I greatly admire and whose thoughts I cherish. However, something in me said, "No, I can't sign a petition calling for a ceasefire in the war against Hamas until the hostages are returned." Other rabbis, whom I also admire, wrote a beautiful statement supporting Israel, while noting they mourn the loss of Palestinian lives. That one spoke more to my feelings, but I was also unable to sign it. I didn't realize why until someone noted what was missing: a call for the Israeli government to do something different after this war, something that would end the seemingly never-ending cycle of violence.

Never-ending cycles of violence: that describes the continuing relationship between the Israelis and the Palestinians. Something needs to change, but so many worthy and educated voices have no real answer. What

keeps popping into my mind, though, is the differences between the way Germany was treated after World War I and World War II. The Allies punished Germany with the Treaty of Versailles after the first war and the result was World War II. You can argue whether the second war was a direct result of the treaty, but its winners learned enough to realize something different needed to be done to prevent future wars. The Allies helped rebuild Germany, Italy and Japan after World War II. Those actions succeeded in strengthening political and economic ties between the Allies and their former enemies. Something similar needs to be done with Gaza and the West Bank once this war is over.

But Hamas needs to be stopped first. Its leaders don't care about human life, Israeli or Palestinian. Hamas did not attack Israeli military installations, but civilians, many of whom were working to help those in Gaza. It places its

military installations among the civilian population so that it's almost impossible for Israel to avoid civilian casualties. In fact, Hamas *wants* civilian casualties because that creates an international outcry against Israel. I'm not sure why there is no international outcry against Hamas – asking them to surrender or immediately release the captives – but I've come to accept that as a given.

But if Israel doesn't do something different after this war, the cycle of bloodshed will continue. I don't have the answers, but surely there are people out there who do, who can change the shape of the Middle East, do something similar to that which was done with Europe and Japan after World War II. We have to do something different unless Israelis and Palestinians want to watch their children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren die in a never-ending cycle of terrorist attacks and military retaliations.



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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

Regular deadline is noon, Wednesday, for the following week's newspaper (see deadline dates on page 3). All articles should be e-mailed to TReporter@aol.com.

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www.thereporter.org

TI/TC to hold adult ed. program “Bridging Old and New Worlds” on Dec. 10

The Adult Education Committee of Temple Israel and Temple Concord will hold the program “Bridging Old and New Worlds: How Contemporary Jews Draw upon the Eastern-European Hasidic Movement to Enliven Our Jewish Practice” featuring Rabbi Micah Friedman on Sunday, December 10, from 10 am-noon. Everyone is welcome to attend. There is a suggested donation between \$5-20 per person. Refreshments, including Hanukkah food, will be offered.



Rabbi Micah Friedman

titammy@stny.twcbc.com or 607-723-7461 or 607-231-3746. Walk-ins on the day are also welcome. There will be a Zoom option available; contact the synagogue offices for the link.

“After a joyous, uplifting gathering on November 5 as part of the Global Day of Jewish Learning, the Adult Education Committee is looking ahead to more enriching opportunities to come together,” said organizers of the event. “Rabbi Micah Friedman will offer an innovative, multimedia presentation.”

In July, Friedman moved to Vestal to serve as the rabbi and spiritual leader of Temple Israel. Raised near Tampa, FL, Friedman was ordained by the

faculty of Hebrew College in Boston, where he received a fellowship in contemporary Jewish mysticism. He studied with scholars in a variety of rabbinic disciplines, including Talmud, *midrash*, *halachah* and Chasidism. He also edited a biography of a Chasidic rabbi titled “Defender of the Faithful.” Friedman has taught people of all ages in a wide range of Jewish communal contexts, including most recently here in the Binghamton area.

“During this difficult and challenging time throughout the world, it is important and empowering to recommit ourselves to Jewish community and Jewish practice,” organizers added. “Coming together to learn allows us to assert our faith in our ability to overcome this challenging moment in our people’s history. Please, join us for a joyous, thought-provoking and community-building morning.”

BD Dec. 9 luncheon to feature Michael Weinstein

Beth David Synagogue’s Luncheon Speaker Series will continue with Michael Weinstein speaking on Saturday, December 9. Weinstein’s talk, “The Art and Mystique of Judaic Collectibles,” will focus on the history of Judaic artifacts that date back to biblical times, and will include information about modern Judaica. Hanukkah-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)

as a desire to enroll their two daughters in Hillel Academy grew to an incredible involvement in enriching our local community. Some of us remember how Michael’s father, Jack Weinstein, of blessed memory, revitalized the Yiddish program at Binghamton University. As the saying goes, the apple doesn’t fall far from the tree!”

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 taught music and Jewish history at Hillel Academy and, from 1995-97, and served as principal and

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.”

Organizers added, “Michael and Malka Weinstein’s contributions to our community started almost immediately when they moved to Binghamton from Ithaca in 1987. What began

teacher at Temple Israel’s Religious School.

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.

REPORTER DEADLINES

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

ISSUE	DEADLINE
Dec. 1-14.....	November 20 (early)
December 15-28.....	December 6
Dec. 29-Jan. 11, 2024.....	Dec. 20
January 12-25.....	January 3

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

Beth David Sisterhood and Men’s Club to hold Hanukkah party

The Sisterhood and Men’s Club of Beth David Synagogue will hold a Hanukkah party at the synagogue on Wednesday, December 13, at 6 pm. A donation of \$5 per person is being made possible by the generosity of the Eisenberg Foundation; the donation will cover the major expenses, including security for the event. The party is open to the whole community. Reservations should be made by Sunday, December 10, by calling or texting Stacey Silber at 607-727-9738, or e-mailing her at silbercreations@gmail.com.

Anyone on the Sisterhood’s e-mail list will receive a flyer about the event designed by Rabbi David Serkin. Anyone

who would like to be added to the e-mail list should send their e-mail address to the Beth David Synagogue office at bethdavid@stny.rr.com.

“Back by popular demand will be Jonathan Pachter, whose ‘Celebration of the Festival of Lights’ program last year was a major hit,” said organizers of the event. “He will once again entertain us at the piano with music and songs ranging from classic oldies to contemporary originals.”

Organizers noted, “A party, of course, means food and there should be plenty of it. Thanks to Charlie Manasse and Stacey Silber, we should be serving not only the expected potato latkes with appropriate condiments, but the rarely seen locally sufganiyot. There will of course be dreidels to play with (bring your own if you like) and other games to play if you are not engaged in conversation with your friends.

“Please let us know if you plan to attend, so we can be certain to have enough food for everyone,” organizers added. “Being a Jewish event, there probably will be enough food for you, even if you show up and forgot to RSVP, but reservation are a big help.”

Organized noted, “As always, donations for CHOW will be accepted, and someone will be available to accept payment for your Sisterhood dues or for any mitzvah cards you may have requested. We hope you will join with the members and friends of Beth David synagogue to celebrate Hanukkah with food, music and games.”

Lt. governor visits Federation



Lieutenant Governor Antonio Delgado (center) made a 45-minute visit to the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton’s office on November 2. He met with Shelley Hubal, Federation executive director (left), and Community Relations Chair Randy Friedman (right). They discussed the rise in antisemitism and how it is playing out on campus and in the local community. They also discussed ways the New York state government can make security funding more accessible for small religious organizations.

Film Continued from page 1

[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.

Binghamton Philharmonic

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Off the Shelf

Two mysteries and a thriller

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

“The Last Songbird”

Some mysteries grab you from their opening lines. One example is “The Last Songbird” by Daniel Weizmann (Melville House), a gritty, alcohol- and drug-soaked noir that manages to be completely engaging. Its main character, 37-year-old Addy Zantz, is shocked to learn that 73-year-old folk singer legend Annie Linden has disappeared. Addy is a failed songwriter who now makes his living driving a Lyft, which is how he first met Linden. She was so fond of him that she asked him to go off book, meaning she would contact him directly for rides. Since Addy’s life is a mess – he’s mourning an unsuccessful love affair and the sting of being the family failure – Linden seemed his last hope to make it as a songwriter. When he learns she was murdered, he can’t focus on anything else. That means when the police arrest someone Addy doesn’t believe could have possibly committed the deed, he decides to investigate himself. Although his detective skills are sorely lacking, Addy has a lot of chutzpah: even threats don’t stop him as he blunders around looking for clues. That means his decision to look into Linden’s past – her very unpleasant past – may be the last thing he ever does.

Addy is an interesting character, one readers will root for, even when they find his actions unstable and his behavior obnoxious. But he is tenacious: after discovering Annie may not be the person he so admired, he still can’t stop trying to discover who murdered her. The novel’s secondary characters are also well done: a reader favorite will be Ephraim “Double Fry” Frieberger, who wears a yarmulke, quotes from the Talmud and makes a living as a paparazzi-style photographer, but who won’t sell photos that might embarrass the subject because that’s against Jewish law.

One question remained when the novel was finished: will this be the first book in a series? That was answered when Melville House’s spring catalogue arrived in my

e-mail: the next book in the series, “Cinnamon Girl,” is due out in May and is on my must-ask-for-a-review-copy list.

“The Great Gimmelmans”

Want to feel grateful for your family? Read the crime thriller “The Great Gimmelmans” by Lee Matthew Goldberg (Level Best Books). The story is told through the eyes of Aaron Gimmelman, who was 12-years-old when the Gimmelman’s family finances were devastated after the Crash of 1987. Barry, the money-obsessed patriarch, didn’t save a dime during the good times and is now fueled by anger and cocaine. His wife, Judith, is so enthralled by her husband – especially their sex life – that she can’t see clearly. Aaron’s older sister Steph is an air-head who pines for her Christian boyfriend and the youngest sister, Jenny, has some severe psychological issues. With almost all of their possessions repossessed, the family takes their RV on the road, heading from New Jersey to Florida to stay with Judith’s mother, who is extremely Orthodox and thinks Barry is destroying his family’s life.

While on the road, Aaron robs a convenience store since the family has no cash to buy food. That gives Barry an idea: the whole family will work together to rob banks until they have enough money to live comfortably for the rest of their lives. Since the author notes early in the first chapter that the family ends up on the FBI’s most wanted list, the suspense comes from seeing how the action will play out. That said, the end of the novel – when Aaron comes to terms with his life years later – proved unexpectedly moving.

“The Great Gimmelmans” is both a successful thriller and a literary work about a family’s dissolution. How this all plays out will keep readers interested until the novel’s last page.

“The Rabbi Who Prayed for the City”

Rabbi Vivian Green is back in “The Rabbi Who Prayed for the City: A Rabbi Vivian Mystery” by Rachel Sharona Lewis (LadiesLadies Press). The senior rabbi at Beth

Abraham in Providence, RI, where Vivian works, is in his last year before retirement and Vivian has agreed to become the next senior rabbi. She’s unsure about how she feels about the future: she has made progress in her social action agenda, but struggles to balance her ideas with those of the congregation, particularly about whether to invest money in local community action or in Israel.

However, local problems come to the fore when a huge hurricane threatens the city. Karla, Vivian’s partner, works for the city and is part of the task force working to keep Providence safe, whether offering the population ways to leave the area or finding buildings where people can shelter during the storm. To complicate matters, one of Karla’s friends faces a different dilemma: Freddie, who works designing robots, is distressed when his company partners with an Israeli firm making robots to serve in the army. Even worse, the Israeli robot disappears from the lab and the company is looking for someone to blame.

“The Rabbi Who Prayed for the City” offers chapters featuring several different points of view, although it’s easy to tell which characters have the author’s stamp of approval. (Rabbi Vivian is the title character after all.) The novel feels less like a mystery than a literary work, which is not a complaint. It’s fun to watch Rabbi Vivian turn a legal discussion in the Talmud into a call for social action and it’s clear that she feels a spiritual sense of duty toward her synagogue and the greater community. The underlying theme of climate change and the potential uses of robots add to the social justice aspects of the novel. Fans of the “The Rabbi Who Prayed with Fire” will want to read this one, but it also stands on its own for those unfamiliar with the first work. (To read *The Reporter’s* review of the first Rabbi Vivian mystery, “The Rabbi Who Prayed with Fire,” visit www.thereporter.org/book-reviews/a-synagogue-and-a-frozen-yogurt-shop-by-rabbi-rachel-esserman.)



Off the Shelf

Changes in religious thought and practice

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

Is the flow of history inevitable? At various points in time, the development of Judaism could have taken several radically different paths. It can be difficult to grasp these changes because what were once extremely different approaches to religious practice and thought are now part of normative Judaism. This also means that contemporary ideas may alter Judaism in unknowable ways in the future. The essays in “Re-forming Judaism: Moments of Disruption in Jewish Thought” edited by Rabbi Stanley M. Davids and Leah Hoffman, Ph.D., (CCAR Press) focuses on the ideas and individuals who caused these disruptions and offers ways to think about the future of Judaism.

Readers might not consider the laws given to Moses at Mount Sinai as a time of disruption, but in “The Disruptive Prophets: Linking Acting and Intention,” Kristine Henriksen Garroway, Ph.D., sees “Moses and the Covenant at Sinai” as the first of two major disruptions. She believes the laws given at Sinai were revolutionary because they “brought together a ragtag group of people and bound them together politically and theologically.” The religion of Moses and the Israelites was *not* the same religion that Abraham practiced: Abraham and his family were never required to practice the long list of religious laws given to the Israelites after they left Egypt. Garroway also sees the time of the prophets as one of disruption because the

prophets declared that God was *not* interested in animal sacrifices. Rather, God demanded righteous behavior. According to Garroway, “It was not enough to follow the letter of the law; they need to also be ethical people. They must not knowingly one day cheat the poor or give bribes to a judge and the next day offer a guilt sacrifice. For the prophets – speaking in the name of the Divine – such actions were duplicitous and not acceptable.”

Rabbi Joshua D. Garroway, Ph.D., ponders a little considered aspect of Judaism in his essay “Christianity: A Pauline Revolution,” discussing how Paul “transform[ed] an apocalyptic Jewish movement into the religion of Christianity.” The author shows how Paul and his followers came to believe that the ritual laws of the Torah were no longer needed. Their religion was based on the idea that all one needed to do was believe in the saving power of God. However, the most interesting part of the essay is the discussion of the various paths Christianity could have taken: the author sees Paul’s path as “a middle path in terms of the relationship to the Jewish tradition from which it emerged.” A different path would have made Christianity a variation of Judaism, for example, “just another Torah-observant community with a peculiar admiration for one great Jew [Jesus] of the past.” The third path – based on leaders who subscribed to very different ideas – would have been “so removed from Judaism – with a different God and different scripture – that it never would have come to be understood as possessing any relationship to Judaism as all.”

While the Zohar and other mystical traditions are now considered part of mainstream Judaism, Rabbi Lawrence A. Englander, D.H.L., shows how these writings and practices were considered controversial when first introduced in the 13th century. When explaining the historical events that took place in what is now Spain, he notes how the increasing persecution by the Catholic Church, the Christian king and the emerging Christian middle class created a crisis for the Jewish population. The Zohar allowed these Jews a way to find new meaning in the Torah at a time when many were feeling that God had deserted them: Englander writes that “the God described in the Zohar yearns for a closer relationship with humans. In turn, the mystics’ quest for God allows for greater human initiative in addressing the concerns of their society.” This led to an emphasis on taking care of the poor and the needy as being part of what God demands. Englander notes that “in a world in which the only constant is change, the Zohar teaches that Torah conveys a meaning that is timeless.”

While all the essays were interesting, several others stood out:

◆ Jacob L. Wright, Ph.D., explains how, after the destruction of the first Temple, Judeans became Jews – members of a religion, rather than citizens of the kingdom of Judah

– in “586 B.C.E.: Defeat and the Emergence of Jewish Peoplehood.”

◆ In “Persecution, Martyrdom, and Divine Justice: How the Afterlife Came to Be,” Rabbi Candice Levy, Ph.D., discusses how religious persecution during Roman times led the ancient rabbis to develop the idea of an afterlife in order to prove there was Divine justice in this world.

◆ In “Breaking the Chain: The Radical Thought of Rabbi Samuel Holdheim,” Michael A. Meyers, Ph.D., shows how Rabbi Samuel Holdheim broke with the past by offering innovative ideas about marriage and divorce, some of which are still relevant today.

◆ Jewish summer camps and Debbie Friedman’s impact on Jewish music is the subject of “Reform Jewry Sings a New Song: Disruptions and Innovations” by Cantor Evan Kent, D.M.A.

◆ Rabbi Elyse Goldstein focuses on “The Gender Revolution: Disruptions of Jewish Feminism” when discussing religious practices across the different Jewish movements.

“Re-forming Judaism” does an excellent job challenging its readers to see how ideas and individuals changed the practice and development of Judaism over the centuries. The work would be perfect for discussion groups and for those interested in the evolution of Jewish practice and theology.

NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

New York state takes action to fight antisemitism

In response to the Biden administration’s new national strategy to counter antisemitism, the U.S. state with the highest Jewish population outside of Israel presented a wave of plans utilizing multiple entities, including the creation of an Anti-Hate in Education Center, hate-crime seminars for law enforcement and an Office of Mental Health campaign. New York Gov. Kathy Hochul announced the series of initiatives recently at the Center for Jewish History in Manhattan. Others involved in the state’s plan include the Division of Human Rights, which aims to improve collecting information on incidents of hate and bias; and the Office of Victim Services to expand help for victims of antisemitic crimes. “No one should have to fear for their safety while going to their place of work, going to school, or just walking the streets,” Hochul said. “It has always been my top priority to keep the people of New York safe, and we will continue taking action to fight antisemitism and use every tool at our disposal to eliminate hate and bias from our communities.”

The Reporter is offering sponsorships!

Celebrate your simcha with the community or honor your loved one.

There are four levels: Bronze \$200, Silver \$400, Gold \$600 and Platinum \$1,000.

To arrange for a sponsorship or for answers to questions, contact Rabbi Rachel Esserman at rachel@thereporter.org.

TC Sisterhood plans 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.

TI Sisterhood to hold paid-up membership Hanukkah brunch on Dec. 3

The Temple Israel Sisterhood will hold its yearly paid-up membership event—a Hanukkah brunch and gift exchange—on Sunday, December 3, at 11 am, in its social hall. The event is in appreciation of those who have paid membership dues of \$25.

Non-members and guests are invited at a cost of \$10. RSVPs should be made by Wednesday, November 29, by contacting the temple office at titammy@stny.twcbc.com or 607-723-7461.

"Everyone will be treated to a delicious catered brunch

and enjoy a gift exchange," said organizers of the event.

"Each person attending should bring a wrapped gift, not to exceed \$10 in cost. Non-members and guests can also bring a gift if they want to be included in the exchange."

TC Sisterhood to hold White Elephant Gift Exchange on Dec. 17

The Temple Concord Sisterhood will hold a White Elephant Gift Exchange on Sunday, December 17, from noon-2 pm, at Temple Concord, 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton. Attendees should bring their own lunches. The program is free and open to all Temple Concord Sisterhood members.

There will be a \$5 fee for non-members. Reservations should be made by contacting Phyllis Kellenberger at pweinste@stny.rr.com or 607-727-8305 by Wednesday, December 13.

Participants should bring an item from home that they no longer want to exchange. The gift should be wrapped

so it will be a surprise when exchanged. Deb Daniels, Phyllis Kellenberger and Roz Antoun, Temple Concord Sisterhood programming chairwomen, said, "We did this a few years ago and everyone had such a good time that we decided to do it again."

Global Day of Jewish Learning held



At right: About 30 people attended the Global Day of Jewish Learning, which was held at the Jewish Community Center. The event was co-sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, Jewish Community Center, Temple Israel, Temple Concord and Beth David Synagogue.

At left: Rabbi Micah Friedman, spiritual leader of Temple Israel, spoke about the theme "The Values We Hold Dear: A Roadmap for Inspired Jewish Living."



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!

First person: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times"

Why this rabbi led a group of students, alumni and parents on an 18-hour trip to Israel in the middle of a war

By Rabbi Levi Slonim

"Rabbi, how was the trip?" No matter how many times I have been asked this question since I returned from our 18-hour trip to Israel, I continue to struggle with how to respond.

I struggle because I can't quite find the right words to properly respond to this question.

"Powerful," "amazing" and "inspiring": those are all true.

But it was also devastating and painful to see the realities on the ground.

"Challenging," "scary" and "hurtful" are also real emotions felt by all.

But that didn't take away the moments of incredible pride, support and positivity we felt along the way.

When thinking of how best to describe our trip - in fact, more broadly speaking: this unique time we find ourselves in, unprecedented in modern history - I could not think of a better term than "it was the best of times, it was the worst of times."

Nothing we could have imagined could prepare us for what we saw and experienced.

As one of the participants who met up with us once we were on the ground - a Binghamton University parent currently living in Israel - reflected, "While I've

been sitting and watching the news from my apartment just kilometers away, it was only when meeting with grieving families and seeing the eyes of the children in the shelters that I could begin to grasp what happened."

We have all been to funerals. But to complete the minyan for the end-of-shiva graveside ceremony not for one, but two parents who left their family orphaned at the same time, is not by any means typical.

In Ashkelon, they have 30 seconds to take cover when the sirens signal an incoming rocket sound. Those not fortunate enough to live in a home with a safe room: what are they to do in the middle of the night? The city has opened "public shelters" for these families to move into.

For close to a month and counting these families have been living in these dingy basement shelters so they can survive.

One area of devastation getting less attention is the plight of families of people "unaccounted for." We visited with a family that had just started sitting shiva three days prior (two and a half weeks following October 7) because it was only then that the bodies of their father and brother had been identified!

So many families like this one are living in a particular limbo hell that is unfathomable. The human heart is not conditioned to respond to such suffering and pain (and we only saw the tip of the iceberg - not having been to the actual sites of the attacks). See "Trip" on page 8



Our group posed for a photo upon arrival at Ben Gurion airport.



Our group paid a shiva visit to a family whose father and son had been murdered in the Hamas terrorist attack on October 7. (Photos by Chabad of Binghamton)



Our group posed for a picture with soldiers in the IDF at one of the bases we visited.



We distributed different types of supportive items to soldiers in the IDF. The items were purchased and packed in Binghamton and our group brought them to Israel.

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" Wishing you a Happy Chanukah light • peace • love May the lights of Chanukah shine in your hearts forever Your name(s) [Illustrations of menorah, Star of David, and candles]

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. HAPPY CHANUKAH! YOUR NAME(S) [Illustration of Star of David]

Chabad inaugurated new Torah scroll

The Rohr Chabad Center for Jewish Student Life at Binghamton University inaugurated a new Torah scroll with a parade and a celebration on October 29. During the parade, the Torah was carried from the Binghamton University Union building to the Chabad Center on Murray Hill Road. The Torah was carried under a traditional canopy in a procession that included live music and dancing. The Torah was dedicated

Rabbi Yakkov Ohana in memory his late parents, Avraham and Leah Ohana. Ohana is the parent of Rabbi Sruly Ohana, director of engagement at the Chabad Center/Chabad of Binghamton.

“At a time when we are experiencing so much darkness, terror and horror, we must come together to unite with strength, and celebrate who are as a people and a nation,” said Rabbi Sruly Ohana.



The new Torah was carried under a traditional canopy, in a procession that included live music and dancing, from Binghamton University to the Rohr Chabad Center for Jewish Student Life at Binghamton University.



Binghamton University President Harvey Stenger spoke during the event.



A crown was placed on the Torah by Rabbi Yakkov Ohana, who dedicated the town in memory of his late parents. Holding the Torah was Rabbi Levi Slonim, director of development and co-director of Chabad Downtown.



The new Torah was carried under a traditional canopy in a procession that included live music and dancing, from Binghamton University to the Rohr Chabad Center for Jewish Student Life at Binghamton University.

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Happy Chanukah!

<p>3⁹⁹ lb. Empire Kosher Whole Frozen Turkey Empire Frozen Turkey Breast \$5.99 Lb.</p>	<p>4²⁹ lb. Empire Kosher Fresh Turkey</p>
<p>8⁹⁹ with AdvantEdge Card Meal Mart Ground Beef 16 oz. Meal Mart Beef For Stew 16 oz. \$9.99</p>	<p>14⁹⁹ lb. Meal Mart 1st Cut Beef Brisket Kosher</p>
<p>5⁹⁹ with AdvantEdge Card PICS Cold Smoked Atlantic Salmon 4 oz. All Varieties</p>	<p>2/\$7 with AdvantEdge Card Kedem or Martinelli's Sparkling Juice 25.4 oz. Select Varieties</p>
<p>14⁹⁹ with AdvantEdge Card Meal Mart Stuffed Cabbage 39 oz. Meal Mart Meat Balls in Marinara Sauce 33 oz. \$13.99</p>	<p>5⁹⁹ with AdvantEdge Card Osem Chicken Consomme 14.1 oz.</p>
<p>4/\$5 with AdvantEdge Card Streit's Egg Noodles 12 oz. • Select Varieties or Bows 8 oz.</p>	<p>4⁹⁹ Golden Cheese Blintzes 6 Pack 13 oz. • Select Varieties</p>
<p>3⁴⁹ with AdvantEdge Card Breakstone's Whipped Butter 8 oz. Tub • Salted</p>	<p>2/\$4 with AdvantEdge Card Farmers Horseradish 8.5 oz. • White</p>
<p>5/\$2 with AdvantEdge Card Manischewitz Chanukah Coins .53 oz. Bag • Dark or Milk Chocolate</p>	<p>89¢ with AdvantEdge Card Streit's Chanukah Candles 44 Ct.</p>
<p>16⁹⁹ with AdvantEdge Card Empire Kosher Boneless Chicken Breast 2 Lbs.</p>	<p>10⁴⁹ with AdvantEdge Card Meal Mart Chicken Wings 24 oz.</p>
<p>2/\$5 with AdvantEdge Card Osem Toasted Couscous 8.8 oz.</p>	<p>2/\$7 with AdvantEdge Card Gefen Whole Roasted Chestnuts 5.2 oz. • Peeled</p>
<p>3⁹⁹ with AdvantEdge Card Osem Mini Mandel 14.1 oz. • The Original Mini "Mandel"</p>	<p>4/\$3 with AdvantEdge Card Kedem Tea Biscuits 4.2 oz. • Select Varieties</p>
<p>2/\$5 with AdvantEdge Card Manischewitz Broth 17 oz. • All Varieties</p>	<p>2/\$5 with AdvantEdge Card Lipton Kosher Recipe Secrets Soup & Dip Mix 1.9-4.87 oz. • Select Varieties</p>

Celebrating the Festival of Lights

<p>2/\$3 with AdvantEdge Card Streit's Potato Pancake Mix 6 oz. Select Varieties</p>	<p>2²⁹ with AdvantEdge Card PICS Apple Sauce 23-24 oz. Jar All Varieties</p>
<p>3⁹⁹ with AdvantEdge Card Golden Vegetable Pancakes 10.6 oz. Select Varieties</p>	<p>3 Lb. Bag 6⁴⁹ with AdvantEdge Card Market 32 Honeycrisp Apples U.S. #1 2 1/2" Minimum</p>



Offers effective Sunday, November 5 thru Saturday, December 16, 2023 in all Price Chopper, Market 32 and Market Bistro stores located in CT, MA, NH, NY, PA & VT. Not all items are available in all stores.

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 Yiddish Book Center will offer the virtual course “Confessions of a Yiddish Writer: The Life and Work of Chava Rosenfarb” on Wednesdays, January 10-31, from 7-8:30 pm. The cost to attend is \$75 for Yiddish Book Center members and \$100 for non-members. Seb Schulman, translator Goldie Morgentaler and other guests will “delve into Rosenfarb’s short stories, essays, and novel excerpts, while considering questions of translation, literary portrayal of genocide and atrocity, and the challenges of being a woman Yiddish writer.” For more information or to register, visit www.yiddishbookcenter.org/educational-programs/online-culture-courses/confessions-yiddish-writer-life-and-work-chava.

◆ The Roundtable at the 92nd St. Y will hold the December Global Jewish Book Club Fall 2023 program looking at “The Merchant of Venice” with Ilan Stavans on Wednesday, December 6, from 12:30-2 pm. The cost to attend is \$45. For more information or to register, visit <https://roundtable.org/live-courses/literature/global-jewish-book-club-fall-2023-the-merchant-of-venice>.

◆ The American Jewish University will hold the virtual discussion “Gangsters vs. Nazis: How Jewish Mobsters Battled Nazis in WWII America” on Thursday, December 21, from 3-4 pm. Author Michael Benson will be in conversation with AJU’s Samuel Rosenbaum to discuss the untold saga of Jewish mobsters combating the rise of Nazism in 1930s and 1940s America. For more information or to register, visit <https://open.aju.edu/event/gangsters-vs-nazis-how-jewish-mobsters-battled-nazis-in-wwii-america/>.

◆ Literary Modiin’s December 2023 Author Event will feature Linda Kass (“Bessie”), Daniel Victor (“The Evil Inclination”) and Tara Ison (“At the Hour Between dog and Wolf”) on Sunday, December 3, at 1pm. For more information or to register, visit www.juliezuckerman.com/event-info/literary-modiin-december-2023-author-event.

◆ The Mordecai Kaplan Center for Jewish Peoplehood will hold the virtual discussion “The Hanukkah Gift to the Jewish People and World that Keeps on Giving” with Drs. Elias Sacks and Deborah Waxman on the significance of Kaplan’s work “Judaism as a Civilization” as it approaches the 90th anniversary of its publication in 1934. The event will take place on Sunday, December 10, at 3 pm. For more information or to register, visit <https://kaplancenter.org/3181-2/>.

◆ The Roundtable at the 92nd St. Y will hold the virtual four-part course “Reading Jewish Identity into Science Fiction” on Wednesdays, January 24-February 14, from 6:30-7:30 pm. The cost to attend is \$176. The course will explore the connection between Jewishness and science fiction in 20th-century literature and film. For more information or to register, visit <https://roundtable.org/live-courses/literature/reading-jewish-identity-into-science-fiction>.

◆ Hebrew Union College/Jewish Institute of Religion will hold the virtual program “Illuminating Ecclesiastes” on Tuesday, November 28, at 7:30 pm. Artist Debra Band will speak about her visual interpretation of the text. Dr. Adriane Leveen will discuss how the text is still relevant today. For more information or to register, visit <https://huc.edu/public-programs-events/huc-connect-upcoming-events/webinar/>.

◆ The Mordecai Kaplan Center for Jewish Peoplehood will hold the virtual discussion “The Great Kaplanian Report Card: Valley Beth Shalom of California as a Kaplanian Playground” with Rabbis Amy Bernstein, Ed Feinstein and Jeffrey Schein on the successes and challenges of implementing the Judaism as a civilization program. The program will take place on Sunday, January 7, at 3 pm. For

more information or to register, visit <https://kaplancenter.org/the-great-kaplanian-report-card/>.

◆ The Noshers will hold “Indian Sweets for Hanukkah with Joanna Nissim” on Sunday, December 3, from 7:30-9 pm. The cost to attend is \$25. Joanna Nissim, a cooking instructor specializing in Indian cuisine, will teach how to make gulab jamun, deep fried dough balls flavored with sweet syrup, and zalebi, sweet, fried flour snacks shaped like pretzels or circles. For more information or to register, visit www.eventbrite.com/e/indian-sweets-for-hanukkah-with-joanna-nissim-tickets-751803493487?aff=oddtcreator.

◆ Literary Modiin’s January 2024 Author Event will feature Janice Weizman (“Our Little Histories”), Ruth Marks Eglash (“Parallel Lines”) and Jennifer Lang (“Places We Left Behind”) on Sunday, January 28, at 1 pm. For more information or to register, visit www.juliezuckerman.com/event-info/literary-modiin-january-2024-author-event-2.

◆ Aleph, Alliance for Jewish Renewal, will hold the virtual “A Jewish Renewal New Year’s Eve, hosted by Rabbi Geela Rayzel Raphael and friends, on Sunday, December 31, at 8 pm. There is a variable cost to attend. To register, visit <https://aleph.org/civicrm/event/register/?reset=1&id=529>.

◆ Hebrew Union College/Jewish Institute of Religion will hold the hybrid event “Backwards and Forwards: Facing Antisemitism through Looking Back” on Tuesday, December 12, at 12:30 pm. The panel discussion “will address the historical influence of antisemitic writings and propaganda on populations who went on to perpetrate or ignore heinous crimes against Jews.” For more information or to register, visit <https://huc.edu/libraries/library-events/>.

◆ The Noshers will hold the virtual class “Hanukkah Doughnut Masterclass with Pastry Chef Fany Gerson” on

Wednesday, December 6, from 7:30-9 pm. James Beard Award-nominated chef Fany Gerson, owner of Fan Fan Doughnuts, will teach how to make “the ultimate fried Hanukkah treat.” The cost to attend is \$25. For more information or to register, visit www.eventbrite.com/e/hanukkah-doughnut-masterclass-with-pastry-chef-fany-gerson-tickets-749363334907.

◆ The Hadassah-Brandeis Institute will hold the hybrid lecture “At Home in the World: American Jewish Women Abroad, 1860-1920” on Monday, November 27, at noon. Dr. Melissa R. Klapper, professor of history and director of Women’s and Gender Studies at Rowan University, will explore the topic of her upcoming book. For more information or to register, visit www.brandeis.edu/hbi/events/index.html.

◆ The Lower East Side Jewish Conservancy will hold the virtual program “Explore the Jewish Communities of Brooklyn” on Tuesday, November 28, from 7-8:30 pm. The cost to attend is \$10. Dr. David E. Kaufman will talk about Jewish Brooklyn in the 19th and 20th centuries. For more information or to register, visit www.nycjewishtours.org/event-log/jewish-brooklyn-zoom.

◆ The Hadassah-Brandeis Institute will hold a virtual program of the Sandra Seltzer Silberman HBI Conversations Series featuring Lea Taragin-Zeller, author of “The State of Desire: Religion and Reproductive Politics in the Promised Land” on Tuesday, November 28, at 11 am. For more information or to register, visit www.brandeis.edu/hbi/events/index.html.

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

Trip. Continued from page 6

Then there were the high moments. Moments of deep emotion and elevation of spirit that cannot be “staged” or predicted. Some of the most powerful moments I have experienced in my life.

Take IDF Captain Ofir Dahari, for example. The courage and dedication that man has to his people – *Am Yisrael* – is indescribable. Nothing could have prepared us for the 10 minutes we spent with him in his room at Assuta Hospital in Ashdod.

Battling with Hamas terrorists who had taken over the police station in Sderot for two hours was not enough. When he heard the terrorists were attempting to infiltrate the nearby Kibbutz Nir Am, he and his men headed there. For hours, they fought off 37 terrorists, who ultimately failed to infiltrate the village. It was there that Dahari was hit by a sniper three times; two men in his unit were killed in the firefight.

Had it not been for his bravery and self-sacrifice, these terrorists would have entered the *kibbutz* and massacred, and taken hostage, hundreds of civilian men, women and children living there.

While we thought we were paying a visit to “cheer him up,” it was being in his presence that brought us all to a whole different state of mind: To see the look of appreciation in the eyes of the soldiers at the army base just miles from Gaza as they were crowding around the tables with all the items we brought them. To see the pride, confidence and perseverance they projected as we danced and sang together. To see the twinkle in the eyes of the children (and the tears in the eyes of their moms) as we gave them sweets and age-appropriate toys to keep them busy and play with.

As one Israeli we met with put it: “I feel that your group came here for 18 hours with an electric shock and did CPR on a lot of people you met and talked to.”

It was 2,380 years ago when the grandfather of Hamas – Haman – approached King Ahasuerus with his evil plan to annihilate every Jewish man, woman and child. He said, “*Yeshno am echad mefuzar umeforad bein haamim bechol medinot malchutecha.*” (“There is a certain [one] people scattered and separate among the peoples throughout all the provinces of your kingdom.”)

At a Purim *farbrengen* in 1987, the Rebbe (Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson) explained how in that very same sentence where Haman presented his evil plan, he



We danced with children in Ashkelon whose families had been misplaced due to a direct rocket hit to their home.

hinted at our greatest weapon and secret to survival: we may be “scattered and separate throughout the provinces” but we are “*am echad*” – *one people*. In fact, the Rebbe spent his entire life hammering home this message of our one-ness, of our unity – our interconnectedness, the way in which we affect each other, deeply.

I cannot think of a time in my life when I have felt and seen that more than throughout the past month; this trip being an intense, incredible expression and embodiment of this tent.

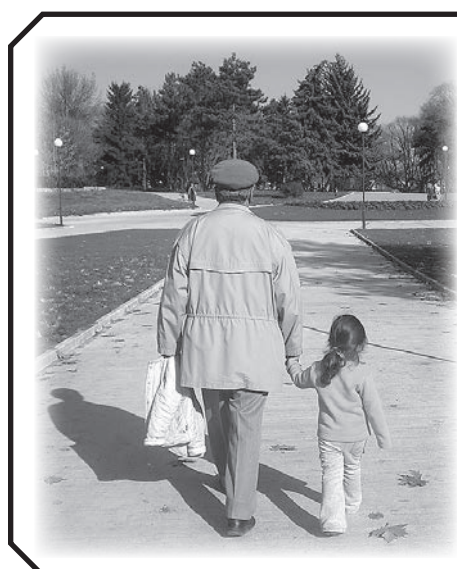
As one of the participants expressed himself: “Just sitting back and watching all of this in America wasn’t enough... it’s something I needed to do. I didn’t know any of these people we met, but we’re ‘one body’ in all of this.”

The mission was comprised of members of all ages: students in their first year of college, alumni in various places in life, parents – including a parent of a student who graduated 12 years ago, who is today a grandparent. We all came from different backgrounds and places in life. Members of the mission were chosen by raffle from hundreds of students, alumni, parents and local community members who participated in the raffle. The group indeed represented the members of the raffle and hundreds more who partnered in the financial costs of the trip and vital support of all kinds that were distributed to soldiers and civilians throughout the trip.

While our connection to Chabad of Binghamton was the external factor that connected us, throughout the trip we quickly understood that there was something much deeper that connected us: We knew we could do more. And if we could do more, we had to do more.

So, why did we lead a trip to Israel in a time of war, at a time when people are looking to leave? For the same reason that when a person’s arm is hurting, they rely on their other arm to do what they must and provide them with support. Because that’s who we are: One people; one body.

Moving any time soon?
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 Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton

Israeli startups step in to fill wartime gaps

By Amelie Botbol

(JNS) – Imagine being unable to hear sirens warning of an incoming rocket. Enter CODA, which sprang to action in the wake of Hamas’ October 7 massacre to provide Israel’s deaf community with the means to stay safe. In cooperation with the Tel Aviv Municipality, CODA has imported and delivered to 300 deaf individuals customized smart watches that vibrate whenever a siren goes off.

“After the October 7 attacks, I decided to move in with my parents to make sure they were aware of the sirens and sought safety consistently,” CODA co-founder Shani Bibi, whose parents are deaf, told JNS. “After a week, it became impractical. I had to leave everything behind – my job, my family and my own responsibilities – to take care of them.

I needed a long-term solution.”

Bibi is currently working with additional Israeli municipalities to expand her effort to other cities, including Holon, Givat Shmuel and Kiryat Ekron. “When you need to sacrifice your nights to make sure your parents are safe, you understand the importance of finding a permanent solution suitable for each member of the deaf community, especially those who live alone,” said Bibi.

Hamas’ murderous October 7 assault killed 1,200 Israelis, wounded thousands more and shook the country to its core. It also deprived hundreds of thousands of Israelis of the most basic services and comforts of modern life, including education.

Origametria is a start-up that created an innovative ed-

tech platform to teach children math and geometry using Origami. In partnership with the Israeli Education Ministry, the company is currently providing open access to its platform to schools, teachers and even parents. “It’s more than a learning tool,” Origametria founder Miri Golan told JNS. “When people fold [paper], their emotions unfold.”

Golan explained that as schools operate remotely during the war against Hamas, they must find new and compelling ways to teach children, many of whom have been traumatized. “When you and I hear a siren, we understand that there are defense systems to intercept the threat, which probably isn’t close to us. For children, the threat is immediate and the level of fear they experience is overwhelming,” said Golan.

Since October 7, she has visited displaced families from the southern Israeli communities of Sderot, Netivot and Ofakim who sought innovative solutions to resume their children’s education. “I taught them how to use Origametria, which is also available in Arabic. Israeli Arabs are also suffering in this crisis like any other Israeli. Education is a right for all,” added Golan.

The agricultural sector, which already lacked 20,000 workers before the war, has also been severely impacted, with laborers close to the border with Gaza unable work to because of the danger. Many foreign workers also fled the country after the outbreak of the conflict.

Israeli tech company SunDo developed an application that connects farmers to urban and rural communities. “We created a filter that displays a security level for each geographical area,” Batel Asulin, founder of SunDo, told JNS. “We also created a geographic selection filter to allow people to volunteer close to home when possible and choose their preferred age group. We’ve recorded over 70,000 signups to our platform and 5,000 in the past week.”

Asulin says matching the needs and expectations of both farmers and volunteers isn’t an easy task. “Some farmers don’t work on Shabbat, some do but can’t always offer kosher food or aren’t really interested in working with kids,” she explained. “Like during the COVID pandemic, a lot of Israelis are seeking ways to change their scenery while being productive.”

Some restaurants and bars remained closed in the days after Hamas’ attacks, due to their employees being called for military reserve duty, being evacuated or just not showing up for work.

See “Gaps” on page 11

Innovation in conservation: 3D printing used to heal mountain goat

By Sveta Listratov

(JNS) – Israeli veterinarians were recently able to set the leg of a mountain goat kid using a printed harness, speeding its successful return to the wild.

Workers at the Ein Gedi Nature Reserve first encountered the young animal, which was limping, earlier this year. Wildlife experts and veterinarians decided to delay capture until it was weaned. Eventually, a joint operation led by Dr. Tomer Nisimian, chief veterinarian at Israel’s Nature and Parks Authority brought the injured kid in for treatment at the Safari Wildlife Hospital.

Nisimian noted the complexity of caring for mountain goat kids and the challenges faced during treatment. “Taking care of baby goats is more complicated than expected,” he said. For example, he explained, once touched by a human hand, it is possible that the mother will no longer approach it. Therefore, care must be taken to keep contact to a minimum. “Beyond that, it was important to make sure that the bone is not contaminated” before setting it and closing the wound, he said.

The medical team discovered an open fracture in the goat’s right foreleg, requiring an innovative solution. Collaborating with Synergy3d Med, a 3D surgery specialist company, they designed a removable 3D-printed harness that could secure the leg while also remaining removable



A young mountain goat being treated at Israel’s Safari Wildlife Hospital on September 28. (Photo by the Safari Wildlife Hospital)

for necessary adjustments and wound care. This solution proved effective, closing the wound, stabilizing the leg and allowing for minimal lameness during healing.

Following its recovery, the kid, named Bioné – a combination of Bionet and Beyoncé – was successfully reintroduced to its herd.

Annual Campaign 2024

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Weekly Parasha

Toldot, Genesis 25:19-28:9

Isaac's passivity

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR, THE REPORTER

Isaac is usually considered the most passive of the patriarchs. His father, Abraham, not only arranges a marriage for him, but Isaac knows nothing about the matter until his bride arrives at his tent. Twice he is explicitly forbidden to leave the land of Canaan. The first time is during the marriage arrangements when Abraham tells his servant that Isaac must never return to the land of his ancestors. The second is during a famine when God speaks to Isaac and tells him not to go down to the land of Egypt. When Isaac and his herdsmen are driven from the wells they've dug, Isaac doesn't tell them to fight. He simply moves and digs another well. This happens more than five times before the men from Gerar realize that Isaac has been blessed by God and make a treaty with him.

Perhaps the best known example of Isaac's passivity is when Rebecca and Jacob trick him into giving the blessing of the first born to Jacob. Isaac doesn't rant

and rave; he doesn't throw Jacob out of his house or divorce his wife. He simply gives a different blessing to Esau and then ignores the situation. Even when it comes to Jacob's marriage, Isaac doesn't interfere until Rebecca suggests that Jacob should return to the land of her father for a visit.

However, in one very important instance, Isaac is not passive. In the opening of *parashat* Toldot, we are told that Rebecca was unable to bear children. Isaac "implored God for his wife because she was barren." (Genesis 25:21) It may not seem important that Isaac prayed to God for children. In a previous *parasha* we are told that Isaac loved Rebecca and it seems obvious to us that a man would pray for something that would make his wife happy. After all, in biblical times it was very important for a woman to have children.

Unfortunately, this was not the case with both of the

other patriarchs. Abraham complains to God that he doesn't have children, but he never prays, asking for a child for Sarah. In fact, he is quite happy when his maidservant gives birth to Ishmael and doesn't ask that Sarah ever conceive. Unlike his grandson, Jacob, he at least doesn't denigrate Sarah's feelings. Jacob, on the other hand, is cruel to Rachel when she asks for children. Rachel is so distressed that she tells Jacob, "Give me children or I shall die." Instead of feeling sorry for her, the text tells us that he became angry and said, "Am I God who has withheld from you the fruit of the womb?"

It was only the passive Isaac who felt the distress of his wife and cared about her feelings. The text teaches that if we care for someone, sometimes the best thing we can do is be passive and listen to what they say. Only then, when they have told us what they want (and not what we think they want), should we act.

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.twcbc.com
 Website: www.templeisraelvestal.org

Service schedule: Tues., 5:30 pm; Fri., 5:30 pm; Sat., 9:30 am
 On Fridays and Tuesdays at 5:30 pm, services will be led by Rabbi Micah Friedman via Zoom and in-person (masks are required for unvaccinated participants).

On Saturday, November 18, 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 25:19-28:9 and the haftarah is Malachi 1:1-2:7. A Zoom Havdalah service will take place at 5:30 pm.

A Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 21, at 7 pm.

The temple office will be closed Wednesday-Friday, November 22-24.

On Saturday, November 25, 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 28:10-32:3 and the haftarah is Hosea 12:13-14:10. A Zoom Havdalah service will take place at 5:30 pm.

Penn-York Jewish Community

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

Norwich Jewish Center

Orientation: Inclusive
 Rabbi: David Regenspan
 Address: 72 South Broad St., Norwich, NY 13815
 Phone: 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 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.

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, 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.

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.

Friday, November 17, light candles before 4:22 pm
 Shabbat ends Saturday, November 18..... 5:22 pm
 Friday, November 24, light candles before 4:17 pm
 Shabbat ends Saturday, November 25..... 5:17 pm
 Friday, December 1, light candles before..... 4:14 pm
 Shabbat ends Saturday, December 2 5:15 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 17: At 7:30 pm, Shabbat services with Carol Bernstein 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/.

Saturday, November 18: 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 19: From 10 am-4 pm, Artisan Marketplace sponsored by the Temple Concord Sisterhood. For more information, see the article on page 5.

November 21-25: Religious School is on recess.

Friday, November 24: At 7:30 pm, Shabbat service led by Rabbi Rachel Esserman 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/.

Saturday, November 25: No Religious School, Torah study or Shabbat family service.

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 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.

NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

U.S. leaders “need to see this for themselves,” says Chris Christie

In Israel over the Nov. 12 weekend, Chris Christie, who became the first 2024 Republican presidential candidate to visit the Jewish state since Oct. 7, spent time at Kfar Aza, one of the kibbutzim in southern Israel targeted and attacked by Hamas terrorists. The former governor of New Jersey met with Israeli President Isaac Herzog and visited the kibbutz with Knesset Speaker Amir Ohana. “I came here to see with my own eyes what took place on Oct. 7, and there are few words that can capture the brutality of it – dozens of men, women and children murdered in their homes by Hamas,” he wrote. “It’s one thing to talk about these atrocities from the comfort of thousands of miles away. It’s another to see them first-hand,” Christie added. “To listen to people on the ground and to see the destruction and despair. ... I want the people of Israel to know that there are hundreds of millions of Americans who stand with them, who understand the atrocities that were committed and why in the future we need to stand absolutely shoulder to shoulder with Israel,” he said. The presidential hopeful said that he could still “smell the death” in the homes he visited a month after Oct. 7. That “is something that I think the American people need to know,” he wrote. “Leaders in our country need to see this for themselves.”

British Jewish security group: Antisemitic incidents up 512 percent

New figures show that the rise in bigoted attacks against Jews in the United Kingdom continues to grow. The Community Security Trust, a Jewish organization, said that antisemitic incidents in the month after Oct. 7 increased 512 percent, going from 183 during the same time last year to 1,124 now. This includes 55 assaults and 112 threats, in addition to verbal abuse, graffiti, vandalism, property desecration and hatred said through mail or online. In October, CST reported an increase of 581 percent from Oct. 7 to Oct. 16, documenting 320 incidents, compared with 47 during the same period in 2022. The group noted that the last spike in hate acts tied to Israel-Palestinian fighting, starting on May 8, 2021, and lasting through the 11-day conflict and beyond, increased to 691 from the standard 100 per month before eventually subsiding. London’s police have also seen a huge spike in the nation’s capital, reporting 1,353 incidents in the city from Oct. 1 to Oct. 18, compared to 218 at the same time last year. “There is no sign that the volume of anti-Jewish hatred is subsiding,” the charity warned.

Columbia University suspends SJP, JVP chapters

Columbia University released a statement on Nov. 10 announcing consequences for student chapters of two organizations leading organizing protests across the country

Gaps Continued from page 9

Leonardo Marcovitz, founder of MoreFoods, which created a meat alternative protein made of pumpkin and sunflower seeds, donated 500 kilos of his product to restaurants in the aftermath of October 7. This was part of a general volunteer effort to feed terror victims and soldiers on the frontlines, including companies like Aroma, Cafe Xoho, Haachim, J-17 and Stollero. “As an Israeli, when terror hits your people, you help those in need. Our motivation was to help feed as many people as possible,” Marcovitz told JNS.

Eyal Shahar, product and sales manager at MoreFoods, explained to JNS that “some soldiers are vegan or vegetarian. They need nutritious meals to sustain heavy fighting. Our product contains 27 percent protein. It’s a wonderful alternative for them at this time.”

All four of these startups are alumni of MassChallenge’s 2023 Early Stage Accelerator Program.

Molly Livingstone, ecosystem manager at Mass Challenge, told JNS that both CODA and Origametria were also selected to participate in an all-expenses paid investor roadshow in Boston and New York that was postponed due to the war.



Shani Bibi showed two deaf Israelis how to use a smart watch to learn about rocket alerts. (Photo by Shlomi Yosef)

in support of the Hamas terrorist organization that rules the Gaza Strip. Gerald Rosberg, senior executive vice president of the university and chair of its Special Committee on Campus Safety, said the college would suspend Students for Justice in Palestine and Jewish Voice for Peace through the end of the semester – meaning, for the next month. “This decision was made after the two groups repeatedly violated university policies related to holding campus events, culminating in an unauthorized event [Nov. 9] afternoon that proceeded despite warnings, and included threatening rhetoric and intimidation,” he stated. The suspension will prevent the student groups from holding campus events or receiving funds from the university. Reinstatement for next semester will require “a commitment to compliance with university policies and engaging in consultations at a group leadership level with university officials.”

Despite war, Ethiopian Israelis celebrate Sigd holiday

In the shadow of Israel’s war against Hamas and in accordance with Israel Defense Forces Home Front Command directives, hundreds of Ethiopians gathered in Jerusalem on Nov. 13 to celebrate Sigd. The holiday, which originated in Ethiopia’s Jewish community hundreds of years ago, celebrates their yearning to return to Israel and affirm their connection to Jerusalem. Sigd takes place 50 days after Yom Kippur, and is recognized by the Knesset as a national holiday. Sigd comes from the Aramaic word *sged*, which means to prostrate oneself, as in prayer. Earlier this year, the Israeli government approved a plan to extend and update its plan to integrate citizens of Ethiopian descent. In approving the proposal, submitted by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the government aims to continue accelerating the integration of the immigrant community, numbering around 160,000, or almost two percent of the country’s population. A total budget of some \$66 million will be allocated for 2023-24 to various government ministries and the Government Urban Renewal Authority to implement the plan, which is based on the insights and achievements of the 2017-23 government plan for the integration of Israelis of Ethiopian descent. The goals include continuing to integrate Ethiopian Israelis into military service, closing the income gap and increasing trust between the community and the government, among other aims. Netanyahu announced in May the creation of a ministerial-level committee to address the needs of the country’s Ethiopian community.

Saudis help block anti-Israel measures at Arab summit

Saudi Arabia on Nov. 11 helped to block a bid by Arab and Muslim countries to militarily and economically isolate Israel, according to Israeli media reports. Most of the states present at an Arab League and Organization of Islamic Cooperation emergency summit in Riyadh focusing on the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza sought to impose five measures against the Jewish state, Channel 12 reported. The demands were to prevent the transfer of U.S. military equipment to Israel from American bases in the Middle East region; suspend all diplomatic and economic contacts with Israel; cut back oil sales to the United States over Washington’s support for Israel; stop Israeli air traffic over the skies of the Gulf and send a joint delegation to the United States, Europe and Russia to push for a ceasefire. The resolution to adopt these measures was blocked by Israel’s Abraham accords partner states the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan and Morocco. They were joined by Egypt and Jordan, two countries with long-standing peace agreements with Israel. Saudi Arabia, Mauritania and Djibouti also opposed the measures. Israeli-Saudi ties were thawing before Oct. 7, when Hamas attacked Gaza-area communities, killing 1,200 Israelis and taking more than 200 people to Gaza as hostages. The war has apparently slowed, but not derailed, efforts to normalize relations between Jerusalem and Riyadh. Israel and the northwest African country of Mauritania had diplomatic relations from 1999-2009 but they were frozen during the Gaza war of 2009. Djibouti, located on the African Horn, never had diplomatic relations with the Jewish state. An Iranian demand that the Israel

Defense Forces be designated as a terror organization was also rejected.

Poll: Nearly 70% of voters reject calls for ceasefire “surrender to Hamas”

New research from Rasmussen Reports reveals broad American support for the Jewish state’s war to crush the Hamas terror organization that rules the Gaza Strip, though cracks have formed among younger adults. The pollster surveyed 995 likely voters from Oct. 31 through Nov. 2, asking for responses to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s statement: “Calls for a ceasefire are calls for Israel to surrender to Hamas, to surrender to terrorism, to surrender to barbarism. That will not happen.” The results showed 68 percent agreement, 21 percent disagreement and 10% unsure. Among supporters, 49 percent agreed “strongly,” while 10 percent of those in disagreement did so “strongly.” Those numbers tracked with a question about the broader history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and which side the respondent embraced. Those sympathizing with Israel totaled 59 percent, compared to 18 percent for the Palestinians and 23 percent undecided. Tracking with other polling data, Rasmussen found that voters under 40 were nearly three times as likely to sympathize with Palestinians as older groups.

NY Times: “Outrageous” it knew about 10/7 Hamas attacks beforehand

A report questioning why six photojournalists reporting for the Reuters and the Associated Press wire services appeared at the ready to document the Hamas terror attacks on Oct. 7 has received a response from another publication that pays for one of the freelancers’ work. *The New York Times* released a statement on Nov. 9, saying that claims the newspaper “had advance knowledge of the Hamas attacks or accompanied Hamas terrorists during the attacks is untrue and outrageous.” The *Times* further said that HonestReporting, the media watchdog that performed the research and analysis, had acted recklessly, “putting our journalists on the ground in Israel and Gaza at risk.” The paper further said that “HonestReporting has made vague allegations about several freelance photojournalists working in Gaza, including Yousef Masoud,” noting that the contributor “was not working for the *Times* on the day of the attack.” HonestReporting disputes this characterization of its work. In an update (<https://honestreporting.com/photographers-without-borders-ap-reuters-pictures-of-hamas-atrocities-raise-ethical-questions/>) of its original report, the group wrote: “The *Times* denied it had prior knowledge of the Hamas attacks, an accusation HonestReporting did not make.”

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NEWS IN BRIEF FROM ISRAEL

From JNS.org

Gantz: This isn't the time to replace Netanyahu

Benny Gantz, currently serving as part of Israel's War Cabinet, has said in private conversations that the idea of replacing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in the middle of the war is "nothing less than hallucinatory." The former IDF chief of staff and head of the opposition National Unity Party said that there will come a time to have such conversations and investigate who bears responsibility for the security failure on Oct. 7, Kan Reshet Bet radio reported on Nov. 13. Netanyahu has ignored demands that he take responsibility for the disaster, most recently, skirting a question from CNN's Dana Bash on Nov. 12 as to whether he would do so, only indicating that such questions need to be asked, but at a future date. "Right now, I think what we have to do is unite the country for one purpose: to achieve victory," he said. Netanyahu has repeatedly said questions of responsibility are "going to be resolved after the war." The prime minister himself received blowback after attempting to pin the blame on the security establishment in an October tweet, saying he'd never received a warning of an impending attack. He deleted the tweet and apologized. Since the war began, Netanyahu has set the war's goals as the military and political destruction of Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad, attempting to rescue Israeli hostages, shoring up international support and resisting calls for a ceasefire. He has said Israel will maintain security control over Gaza after defeating Hamas.

IDF kills 21 terrorists who fired RPGs from Gaza hospital

Israeli forces killed 21 terrorists after a squad embedded with civilians and fired rocket-propelled grenades and an anti-tank missile at them from the entrance to Al-Quds Hospital in Gaza City, the IDF said on Nov. 13. Soldiers identified the terror squad among the civilians carrying two RPG launchers and fired at them. During the exchange of fire, civilians left the hospital building and other terrorists who came out of buildings in the area joined the attempted attack. The terrorists then went back to hiding in the hospital. Forces from the 188th Armored Brigade combat team responded with live fire and shelling toward the source of the shooting, killing 21 terrorists. No casualties to Israeli forces were reported. "This incident is another example of the continuous exploitation by Hamas of sensitive sites, including hospitals, to shoot at IDF forces," the army said.

Israel to invest \$51.8m in fortifying hospitals

The Israeli Health Ministry is immediately allocating an additional 200 million shekels (\$51.8 million) for the fortification of hospitals against rocket and missile attacks. The additional funds come on top of 75 million shekels (\$19.5 million) transferred since Hamas launched its multi-pronged attack on Israel on Oct. 7. The Nov. 13 announcement follows negotiations between Health Minister Uriel Busso and Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich. "In this time of escalated warfare, we must provide maximum security to patients, staff and hospital visitors. I thank the finance minister for understanding how critical this is and for applying himself to this national undertaking," Busso was quoted as saying. Fewer than half of the operating rooms in Israeli hospitals are "protected spaces" — that is, built to withstand blasts and shrapnel from conventional weapons, Kan News reported. In addition, only 30-40 percent of hospital beds in general hospitals in Israel are in protected spaces. In many hospitals, surgeons are forced to leave patients in the middle of an operation when a siren sounds warning of incoming missiles if the operating room is not protected. Among them are major institutions including Sheba Medical Center at Tel Hashomer in Ramat Gan, Beilinson Hospital in Petach Tikvah and Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem. Palestinian terrorists in the Gaza Strip have fired more than 9,500 rockets at Israeli territory since Oct. 7, the Foreign Ministry said the week of Nov. 10. Terrorists' rockets have repeatedly hit Barzilai Medical Center in Ashkelon during the current war, with hits reported at the hospital's children's and maternity wings.

"Significant" drop in rocket attacks since IDF entered Gaza

Israel has seen a decrease in red alert sirens warning of incoming rockets, drones and terrorist infiltrations in recent weeks, IDF Home Front Command data shows. In the week of Nov. 5-11, there were 420 alerts in regions across the country. From Oct. 29-Nov. 4, there were 582. From Oct. 22-28, there were 802 alerts. From Oct. 15-21, there were 818. From Oct. 8-14, there were 1,749 alerts. In the first hours of the murderous Oct. 7 assault on the northwestern Negev, Hamas terrorists in Gaza fired more than 3,000 rockets at Israeli territory. More than 9,500 missiles, rockets and drones have been fired at Israel since the start of the war from Gaza and other fronts, i.e. Lebanon and Yemen, according to the IDF. Around 2,000 of the missiles, rockets and drones heading towards population centers and civilian areas were intercepted by Israel's aerial defense array, with the others striking open areas on land and at sea. Around 12 percent of the rockets fell short, striking in Gaza and endangering civilians there. "With the entry of forces on the ground, there has been a significant drop-off in the number of launches," the military said.

Hamas planned "second phase" for Oct. 7 massacre

A planned second phase of Hamas's brutal Oct. 7 assault on southern Israel involved joining forces with terrorists in Judea and Samaria, *The Washington Post* reported on Nov. 12, citing

Western and Middle Eastern security officials briefed on evidence obtained by Israel. Some of the Hamas terrorists that participated in the attack carried enough food, ammunition and equipment for several days, the officials said, and had instructions to continue deeper into the Jewish state once the initial massacre succeeded, potentially with the goal of attacking larger population centers. One group of terrorists carried maps and other surveillance information suggesting their plan was to continue on to the border with southern Judea, two senior Middle East intelligence officials and one former U.S. official familiar with the evidence told the *Post*. "They planned a second phase, including in major Israeli cities and military bases," said one senior Israeli intelligence official who spoke on the condition of anonymity. According to the report, day laborers from Gaza who were permitted to enter Israel carried out reconnaissance in preparation for the terrorist onslaught. Before Oct. 7, Israel provided work permits for some 17,000 Palestinians from Gaza. Some of the Hamas terrorists carried high-resolution maps, estimated to have been produced by drones flying as low as 150 feet, according to the *Post*. Hamas' plans for the Oct. 7 attacks also included detailed instructions on "which [terror] commander should rape which [Israeli] soldiers in different places," Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant told the *Post* on Nov. 12. The report confirmed some of the worst atrocities committed by Hamas on Oct. 7, including one instance where terrorists in Kibbutz Be'eri "cut open the belly of a pregnant woman and dragged her fetus onto the ground."

EU condemns Hamas use of hospitals and human shields

Josep Borrell, the European Union's high representative for foreign affairs and security policy, on Nov. 12 condemned the Hamas terror group's use of "hospitals and civilians as human shields." Borrell also called for "immediate pauses in hostilities and the establishment of humanitarian corridors" for Gaza's civilian population. "The E.U. is gravely concerned about the deepening humanitarian crisis in Gaza," the statement said. It went on to urge "increased capacity at border crossings" and a "dedicated maritime route" for Gaza aid. The statement also reiterated Israel's right to self-defense, called on Hamas to immediately and unconditionally release the hostages it seized on Oct. 7 and demanded that the International Committee of the Red Cross be granted access to them. "Hospitals must also be supplied immediately with the most urgent medical supplies and patients that require urgent medical care need to be evacuated safely," said the statement. "In this context, we urge Israel to exercise maximum restraint to ensure the protection of civilians. ... The E.U. and its member states will continue to work closely with international partners, the U.N. and other agencies as well as countries in the region to provide a sustained flow of assistance and facilitate access to food, water, medical care, fuel and shelter." In a similar statement on Nov. 6, Borrell told E.U. diplomats in Brussels that a humanitarian pause "counterbalanced" by Red Cross access to hostages "as a first step to their release" should be worked toward. In October, Borrell was criticized for appearing to call for a ceasefire while disregarding the agreed-upon wording of an E.U. statement that took greater account of Israel's position.

Hamas nixed Israeli fuel delivery to Shifa Hospital in Gaza

Hamas prevented the Israeli military from providing 300 liters of fuel for urgent medical purposes at Shifa Hospital in Gaza City, the Israel Defense Forces revealed on Nov. 12. "Early [Sunday] morning, IDF troops arrived at the entrance of the hospital and placed 300 liters of fuel for urgent medical purposes," the army said. "Later, the IDF received evidence that Hamas officials prevented the hospital from receiving the fuel." The statement was accompanied by a recording of a conversation between a senior Israeli official and a Gazan official at Shifa Hospital to coordinate the delivery. The statement also included video footage of soldiers delivering the fuel containers. IDF Spokesperson Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari said the night of Nov. 11 that the military would assist with the evacuation of infants from Shifa Hospital. "There is no siege, I repeat no siege, on Shifa Hospital. The east side of the hospital is open for the safe passage of Gazans who wish to leave the hospital," said Hagari. "We're speaking directly and regularly with the hospital staff. The staff of Shifa Hospital has requested that we will help the babies in the pediatric department to get to a safer hospital. We will provide the assistance needed," he continued. The IDF announced on Nov. 12 that in addition to Shifa, the military was enabling safe passage by foot and ambulance from Rantisi and Nasser hospitals. Israel's military also published an audio recording of a phone call between a senior officer in Israel's Coordination and Liaison Administration with the Shifa Hospital manager on Nov. 11, instructing him on how to safely exit the hospital. There was fierce combat in Gaza City on the morning of Nov. 12 as the IDF closed in on Shifa, the largest medical center in the Strip and where the IDF says the main headquarters of the Hamas terrorist organization is located. The IDF in recent weeks has provided evidence that Hamas uses Shifa and other Gaza hospitals for its operational activities, which are conducted in a massive tunnel system underneath the complexes. The patients at these hospitals are used as human shields and to hide Hamas' activities, according to the IDF. Israel also has provided evidence that Hamas has stockpiles of fuel and other supplies that it keeps for itself, refusing to share them with hospitals or the Gaza population in general.

Israel, Finland sign deal for David's Sling defense system

Israel signed a nearly \$340 million agreement on Nov. 12 to sell its David's Sling missile defense system to Finland. David's Sling was developed by Haifa-based Rafael Advanced Defensive Systems and U.S. defense giant Raytheon Technologies. It supplements the missile defense provided by the Iron Dome, Arrow 2 and Arrow 3 systems. The system is one of the world's most advanced for intercepting threats including ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, aircraft and drones. It became operational in April 2017, and can intercept "large-caliber rockets, short-range ballistic missiles and other developing threats," according to the Israeli Air Force. Its projectiles, known as stunners, are two-stage missiles that use multiple sensors. They are launched in a near-vertical orientation from a stationary location. They have a range of 250 kilometers (155 miles). The system's interceptor missiles carry no warhead and are designed to strike targets directly, defeating them with kinetic force. Each firing unit can carry up to 12 missiles. In 2018, Israel fired interceptors from David's Sling at ballistic missiles launched from Syria, but the intercepts were aborted after the IDF determined the rockets were not a threat. The deal was first announced in April, one day after the Nordic nation became the 31st member state of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Israel began developing David's Sling in 2006 and signed an agreement with the United States in 2008 to co-develop it. From 2006 to 2020, the United States contributed more than \$2.4 billion in aid for its development.

Israel revises Oct. 7 death toll to 1,200

Israeli authorities on Nov. 10 revised the death toll from Hamas' Oct. 7 massacre from 1,400 to approximately 1,200 fatalities. The updated figure was made public after the identification of most of the bodies has been completed, Israel's Kan News public broadcaster said. Hamas murdered at least 843 civilians and some 350 Israel Defense Forces soldiers, per Kan News. Jerusalem did not provide a reason for the revised figures. However, officials believe that most of the bodies yet to be identified belong to Hamas terrorists, the broadcaster reported. Thousands of Palestinian terrorists launched a multi-pronged attack from the Gaza Strip on Oct. 7 that included the firing of thousands of rockets and the infiltration of the Jewish state by land, sea and air. The terrorists butchered men, women, children, the elderly, the disabled and even babies. Some of the victims were decapitated while others were raped or burned alive. According to the most recent Health Ministry update, 342 people remain hospitalized in Israel, of whom 51 are in serious condition. Hamas also took as many as 240 people captive to the Gaza Strip.



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