

THE REPORTER

Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton

BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK

April 11-24, 2025
Volume LIV, Number 7

Happy Passover

2025/5785

From The Reporter



Opinion

Biden's Jewish Cabinet appointees: initial assessment

By Bill Simons

By temperament and action, former President Biden stands within the Catholic social justice tradition in opposition to bigotry and intolerance. Throughout his long life, Biden has had many Jewish friends and colleagues. His three children all married partners of Jewish descent – Beau (Hallie Berger Oliver), Hunter (Melissa Cohen), and Ashley (Howard Krein) – leading Biden to quip at his daughter's nuptials: "The dream of every Catholic father that she married a Jewish doctor." And to the 15 Cabinet positions, Biden appointed four Jews (Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Secretary of the Treasury Janet Yellen, Attorney General Merrick Garland and Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas), a mark exceeded only by Bill Clinton. Prior to Biden, Jews never simultaneously headed diplomacy, finance and justice.

Cabinet portfolios came late to Jews. In 1906, President Teddy Roosevelt made the first Cabinet appointment of a

Jew, Oscar Straus, as secretary of commerce and labor. Not until 1934, with the selection of Henry Morgenthau as secretary of the treasury by President Franklin Roosevelt, did a second Jew attain Cabinet rank. As of January 20, 28 Jews have served in the Cabinet, with Secretary of State Henry Kissinger probably the most impactful and controversial.

President Harry Truman once observed that it takes at least a generation to pass before perspective can supplant passion sufficiently to allow objective history. While deferring to Truman, an initial assessment of Blinken, Yellen, Garland and Mayorkas is in order, mindful that journalism constitutes but the first rough draft of history.

Blinken, like his three Jewish colleagues, served from the formation of the Biden administration to its end. State, like Treasury and the position of attorney general, possesses a venerable legacy, dating back to the first Washington administration. Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton

were, respectively, the first secretaries of state and of the treasury. Conspicuously polite and tireless, Blinken, the son of an ambassador and stepson of a Holocaust survivor, came to State after decades of diplomatic experience and collaboration with Biden. An internationalist, Blinken is an advocate of a robust U.S. foreign policy based on law and principle, buttressed by arms when necessary.

Tragically, the 2021 U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan turned chaotic and led to the re-ascent of the Taliban and a shaky start for Biden-Blinken statecraft. Through weaponry, military intelligence and advocacy, the Biden-Blinken foreign policy facilitated Israel's blunting of Hamas, Hezbollah, Houthi and Iranian threats. Although American pressure was largely ineffectual in delimiting civilian casualties in Gaza, a fragile Israel-Hamas truce, accompanied by prisoner exchanges, was achieved prior to the end of the Biden-Blinken tenure. During their time

See "Cabinet" on page 12

One Perspective from Israel

Curtain call – crisis of identity and tale of belonging

JEREMY M. STAIMAN

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

Stop me if you've heard this one before.

A new congregant approaches the rabbi and says, "I'd like to become a Kohen." The rabbi gazes up from his holy books and patiently explains, "I'm sorry, but you can't just become a Kohen."

Undeterred, he continues, "Rabbi, I can make it worth your while. That old jalopy you drive? It's seen better days. I'll buy you a brand new SUV. But I must become a Kohen!"

With his patience waning but his curiosity piquing, the gray-bearded leader resolutely tells the man, "Nothing you say or do will change my position. I simply can't make you a Kohen. But you must tell me: why in the world is this so important to you?"

The congregant, tears welling in his eyes, explains, "Well, my grandfather was a Kohen, and his father before him. My father was also a Kohen. So that's why I'm desperate to become a Kohen, too!"

Growing up in Binghamton in the '60s and '70s, our centers of Jewish life were Beth David Synagogue and Hillel Academy, our local day school. I would characterize Beth David as cozy, and that it was. But you wouldn't know it from looking at the building. The physical design is anything but inviting. Both the exterior and interior are composed of concrete and unfinished cinder blocks, hardly materials which project warmth. Though the building won an architectural award, many of us – even a half century later – are still scratching our

heads and wondering what the designer was thinking (or, perhaps, smoking).

What the structure lacked in physical charm, the *shul* more than compensated with its welcoming cadre of members and leadership. It was a hub of vibrant, caring Judaism. For most of my years, Rabbi Raphael Groner was its inimitable, charismatic, humble shepherd. Those days were the heyday of Beth David, and the Orthodox *shul* attracted membership from well beyond the traditionally-observant population. In fact, the rabbi of the Reform temple down the street would join our minyan on days when they did not have services. That, however, is a story – or several stories – for another time.

Today's story is about Norman.

See "Belonging" on page 10

In My Own Words

A few things among many

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Greenland and Canada

If you had told me last year the United States would threaten war to annex territory in Europe and start an economic battle with one of our greatest long-term allies, I would *not* have believed you. Now, I would be forced to admit that you were prophetic. Yes, our president cannot rule out violence as a way of forcing a democratic country to become part of the United States. Greenland, an autonomous territory of Denmark, has made it clear to that it has no desire to be part of our country. Can you blame its citizens? They have free healthcare, among other things, that no one in their right mind would give up.

As for Canada: I'm not sure how our neighbor and close friend became an enemy. Seriously, I don't recall any voters asking to start an economic war with Canada or annex it. And Canada as one state? Did our president ever look at the map? That would be one *big* state. (If you include the water within its borders, its territory is larger than that of the continental U.S.) Canada is divided into 10 provinces, so treating it as one state would be ridiculous. That is, if Canadians even wanted to join the U.S., which no one there has said they want. (See free healthcare above.) As for an

economic war, that is probably going to hurt us more than it's going to hurt them.

Kidnapped

Imagine if six masked men approached your daughter, wife, mother or granddaughter, refused to show any identification and whisked her away in a vehicle. If a mask man tried to do that to me, I would assume that I was being kidnapped and would fear for my life. The advice usually give to women in this position is to do *anything* to prevent being placed in a vehicle because you are then at risk for your life.

That's why people are so disturbed by the fact that masked men abducted Rumeysa Ozturk, a Tufts University graduate student. Yes, according to Snopes, which investigated videos taken of the event, this actually occurred. I could have sworn that law enforcement was supposed to identify themselves. But, hey, maybe I just watch too many law enforcement shows on TV, you know the ones, where they yell, "NCIS" or "New York City police" or "FBI" when entering an apartment or a building.

I don't care if Ozturk wrote an essay supporting Hamas (although there is no record of her doing so, at least as of the writing of the Snopes article). *Everyone* should get due process. That's the law of the land. If we want people to follow the law, then *everyone*, including police and immigrant enforcement officials, should be doing the same. Kidnapping people off the street is far too close to what happened in Argentina in the 1970s. (And if you don't know what I mean by that, you can educate yourself here, [https://](https://icmp.int/the-missing/where-are-the-missing/argentina/)

icmp.int/the-missing/where-are-the-missing/argentina/)

Hunger in the U.S.

Many of those who voted for President Donald Trump did so because they believed he would reduce food prices. Why did they believe that? Because he told them on numerous occasions he would make that happen. Not only has that not occurred, it looks like food prices will increase. Yes, I know Trump says his tariffs and other economic acts will result in price reductions in the future, but most economic analysts disagree with him. But even worse are this administration's cuts to programs that exist to feed the hungry.

According to a Reuters article, "Food banks across the country, already strained by rising demand, say they will have less food to distribute because of at least \$1 billion in federal funding cuts and pauses by the Trump administration, according to Reuters interviews with organizations in seven states." Farmers are also struggling because the government purchases some, and in some cases all, of their produce; this reduction means they are losing a good portion of their income.

One of the major themes of the current administration is the claim that American ideals are based on Judeo-Christian ethics. I could have sworn that both the Jewish Bible and the New Testament emphasize the importance of feeding the hungry. Unfortunately, it seems that feeding the hungry, caring for the sick and loving the stranger are no longer American values, even though the Bible – both parts – make it clear these are fundamental Judeo-Christian values.

About the cover

This year's Passover cover was created by Julie Weber, *The Reporter's* production associate.



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BINGHAMTON, NY

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

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.

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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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"The Reporter" (USPS 096-280) is published bi-monthly (second and fourth Friday) for \$40 per year by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, 500 Clubhouse Road, Vestal, NY 13850-3734. Periodicals Postage Paid at Vestal, NY and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Reporter*, 500 Clubhouse Road, Vestal, NY 13850-3734 or reach us by e-mail at TREPORTER@AOL.COM.

www.thereporter.org

CJS lecture on “Jews, Comics and Graphic Novels” on April 17

The College of Jewish Studies Spring 2025 Series will offer an in-person lecture by graphic novelist Solomon J. Brager discussing his new book, “Heavyweight: A Family Story of the Holocaust, Memory, and History,” on Thursday, April 17, at 6 pm. The lecture, which is also sponsored by the Binghamton Judaic Studies Department, will take place in Room 258 of the Fine Arts Building at BU. The lecture is free and open to the Binghamton University and College of Jewish Studies communities.



Solomon J. Brager
(Courtesy of Solomon J. Brager)

Brager’s debut graphic novel, “Heavyweight” (William Morrow, 2024), has been acclaimed by Publisher’s Weekly as a “brilliant and incisive work.” Kirkus called it “an intense, brilliantly conceived graphic memoir announcing the arrival of a new talent to watch.” Autostraddle, a comic fanzine, noted that it is “a boundary-breaking, accessible, and meticulously researched... book that could aid many peoples’ understandings of both the tragedies of the past and the savagery of our current moment.” Presenting a composite family memoir of Holocaust victimization and survival, Brager’s images “are woven together with historical reflections and glimpses into the artist’s present-day.”

In addition to his work on “Heavyweight” and other comics, Brager is a 2023-2025 Jerome Hill Artists Fellow, and a member of the Pinko magazine editorial collective. More information about Brager can be found here: <https://solomonbrager.com>

The College of Jewish Studies provides opportunities for

adult Jewish education for the Broome County community by offering fall and spring programs. Drawing on local resources and inviting scholars and experts from a range of universities and cultural and religious institutions, CJS sponsors a wide array of programs dealing with Jewish history, culture, religion and politics.

The College of Jewish Studies, founded in 1986, is an informal coalition between the Judaic Studies Department of Binghamton University and several area Jewish sponsoring institutions: the Jewish Community Center, the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, Beth David Synagogue, Temple Concord, and Temple Israel. Programming for CJS would not be possible without the additional financial support of a generous grant from The Community Foundation for South Central New York – David and Virginia Eisenberg Donor Advised Fund, the Jacob and Rose Olum Foundation, the B’nai B’rith Lectureship Fund, the Victor and Esther Rozen Foundation, an endowment fund from the former Temple Beth El of Endicott, a grant from the JoyVel Charitable Fund, and the generous donations of individual sponsors.

Anyone who is not already an individual sponsor of CJS is asked to consider making a donation so that the CJS can continue bringing programs to the community. For more information on how to become an individual sponsor or to make a donation, e-mail bingcjs@gmail.com. The College of Jewish Studies is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Federation to hold Yom Hashoah program on April 22

By Reporter staff

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton will hold a Yom Hashoah program on Tuesday, April 22, at 6:30 pm, at Temple Concord, 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton. The evening will open with a short commemorative service led by local rabbis. Then Dr. Eileen Angelini, Ph.D., a Holocaust scholar and educator, will offer a talk called “Simple Acts of Human Kindness.” During her presentation, Angelini will provide an overview of the position that France had during World War II and screen sections of the documentary “La France divisée/France Divided” that highlight simple acts of human kindness by non-Jews that resulted in some Jews surviving the Holocaust.

Registration for the program is not required, but encouraged and can be made at www.jfgeb.org or by contacting the Federation office at director@jfgeb.org or 607-724-2332. For more information about the program, contact the Federation. The event is co-sponsored by Beth David Synagogue, Temple Israel and Temple Concord.

“La France divisée/France Divided” explores the events of World War II in France via oral testimony of survivors, hidden children, Righteous Gentiles and members of the French Resistance. The interdisciplinary film was co-produced, written and directed with Barbara P. Barnett and was supported by a Title VI Grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

Angelini has spent years working and lecturing on the causes and events of the Holocaust, particularly as it relates to the World War II occupation of France. She has made presentations at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, and served as a faculty fellow for the Holocaust Museum Houston’s Warren Fellowship for Future Teachers. In the spring of 2024, Angelini received a Reading and Discussion Program Grant from Humanities New York to facilitate sessions at the Jewish Federation of Cen-

tral New York, Syracuse, on the topic “The Righteous Among the Nations: Understanding Rescue During the Holocaust.”

“Join us for what is certain to be a fascinating look at how simple acts of human kindness can save people’s lives,” said Shelley Hubal, Federation executive director. “I feel it’s important for the community to gather to recognize the significance of Yom Hashoah and I am grateful that the Federation can offer this type of moving and educational program.”

The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to the family of **Claire Goldstein**

The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to **Arthur Siegel** on the death of his father, **George Siegel**

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DEADLINES

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

ISSUE	DEADLINE
April 25-May 8	April 16
May 9-22	April 30
May 23-June 12	May 14
June 13-26	June 4

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

The family of Robert Neuberger wishes to thank everyone in the community for their love and support during this sad time.

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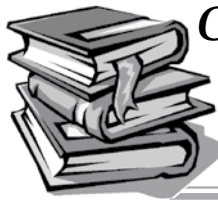
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Off the Shelf

Poetry for our times

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

When I skimmed through the press release from Ayin Press, I initially didn't plan to ask for review copies of any of its new seasonal works because the books on my to-review piles seem to multiply on their own when I am not looking. However, there was a link to a poem from one of the books, which I couldn't resist reading. And then rereading and thinking about it so much that I returned to the e-mail and asked for a copy of "Rimonim: Ritual Poetry of Jewish Liberation" by Aurora Levins Morales (Ayin Press in partnership with Palabrera Press). My first view of the book itself was a surprise. Most poetry books are small, but "Rimonim" is an impressive looking work: the book is 11 inches tall by 8 inches wide, and features artwork from eight artists.

For Morales, everything is political and that includes religion. The poem "Summons," which first caught my interest, is a call to action. Morales dreams of "ten thousand grandmothers / from the twelve hundred corners of the earth" who demand their descendants not wait for governments to solve the world's problems, noting, "There are no leaders who dare to say / that every life is precious, so it will have to be us." The author writes

that she is waiting for her readers to join her in making the world a better place.

Many of the author's works focus on re-envisioning Jewish prayer. The book opens with "Evening Prayer," in which Morales not only asks that she be allowed to "go into sleep as into the arms of a beloved," but that, while she rests, others for whom it is still daytime continue her work of "the mending of life." The readings on Sukkot and Passover offer different ways of viewing the holidays, in addition to featuring poems and essays that can be used during services and holiday rituals. Morales – whose heritage includes European Jews and ancestors from Puerto Rico (which she refers to as Boriken), Iberia and Africa – explores how these different influences affect her in the poem "Fence Posts." She notes that "I am both Indigenous and settler, colonizer and colonized," while also recognizing that all parts of her heritage have experienced oppression.

Other poems that spoke to me include:
 ♦ "Tea," in which she calls the drink "my mother's gift" and tells of how she finds comfort and happiness in the brewing of teas and herbs.

♦ "The Edge," which ponders at what point we will finally decide "that enough is enough." She sees that moment as the time when we will put aside our daily tasks and protest a long list of societal ills, including "When one child too many was gunned down for breathing."

♦ "Edo's Song," which not only gives the wife of the biblical Lot a name, but notes that her being turned to salt means that she "was love made mineral."

♦ "Racial Justice Invocation," which talks about Jewish history and celebrates Jewish diversity. It features the beautiful and inspiring words, "we Jews are a garment of a thousand threads, a coat of twenty million colors, for the heart of the Jewish world lives equally in every Jew, and no one is exotic, and every one of us is Jewish enough, and however we travel through the world is a Jewish path."

"Rimonim" asks its readers to ponder different ways of viewing Jewish tradition. One does not have to completely agree with Morales in order to appreciate the beauty of her writing. But where she excels is in challenging our complacencies. Her writing adds richness to the Jewish world and her poems/writing could easily find their place in religious services and rituals.



Off the Shelf

European novels

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

"Confidential"

First novels can be tricky for short story writers, especially if their tales feel more like vignettes than complete works. However, Mikolaj Grynberg's book "I'd Like to Say Sorry, But There's No One to Say Sorry to: Stories" was so good, I looked forward to his first novel "Confidential" (The New Press). (To read *The Reporter's* review of his first book, visit www.thereportergroup.org/features/off-the-shelf-ales-from-poland-and-israel-409333.) While his short novel (around 150 pages) is beautifully written and offers great insights

into family life, it does have a few problems.

"Confidential" focuses on three generations of a Polish Jewish family. The grandfather is a Holocaust survivor who met his wife while they were confined in a ghetto. She managed to escape with their son, whose experiences left him never feeling completely secure. He's married to a woman who spent the war in an orphanage, the result of which is that she has great difficulty managing her emotions. The behavior of their two sons also causes them concerns.

If you are confused by my use of pronouns rather than names, then you'll understand one of the difficulties I had with the novel: The author does not give his characters names, which leaves readers puzzling out which character is being written about at any given time. The short chapters move backward and forward in time, which also complicates matters. While I don't mind a novel that makes me work if it adds something to the story, that didn't seem to be the case here.

That made reading "Confidential" frustrating at times, since my first guess at the identity of a character was not always correct. Grynberg writes so well about the difficulties and joys of parent-child relationships in daily life (the regular ups and downs that occur as parents age and children grow up) that I wish I could have solely focused on that aspect of his work. The novel also contains insights into Jewish life in Poland after the war, where the surviving Jewish population has become invisible to the majority of those living in the country. There are some great pleasures in "Confidential," but I wish they had come with less struggle.

"The Safekeep"

If you read the book jacket of "The Safekeep" by Yael

Van Der Wouden (Avid Reader Press), you might wonder why it's being reviewed in a Jewish newspaper. In fact, when I saw the book featured in lists of new books with Jewish content, I wondered the same. However, it only took me a few chapters to realize something that is not revealed until more than 150 pages into the work: its connection to Judaism.

In 1961, Isabel has lived alone in the family home since her mother passed away. Her two brothers sometimes visit: Louis, who's been promised the house by the uncle who owns it, brings a new girlfriend with him each time. Hendrick, her younger brother, is gay and lives with his boyfriend, although both of his siblings refuse to acknowledge his sexuality. Isabel spends her days worrying that the young woman who comes to clean is stealing from her. She seems to have no friends and is, in general, a very unpleasant woman with whom to spend time. The only thing that has any meaning for her is the house and all it contains, objects she believes have always belonged to their family – that is, until she is reminded that the house was already furnished when the family arrived to take possession of it during World War II.

Life might have always remained the same for Isabel except that when Louis brings Eva, his latest girlfriend to visit, he requests that Eva remain with Isabel when he has to leave the country for work. Isabel hates Eva at first sight; she also dislikes having someone else in the house and worries that Eva will also steal from her. But, as their relationship slowly begins to change, Isabel learns more about herself and her sexuality than she expected. Then someone disrupts their relationship, which is when it becomes clear why Eva was so eager to visit their home.

While the final sections of "The Safekeep" confirmed my suspicions about the Jewish aspect of the plot, it was difficult to keep reading until that point. The majority of the novel takes place in Isabel's mind and it is an extremely exasperating place to be because she doesn't understand herself and the people around her. Even when I felt bad for her because her life was constrained and small, I found myself reading quickly since I was less interested in pages and pages of her emotional upheaval than I was in discovering how what little plot the novel contains would be resolved.

Tea and Talk

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

Upcoming date is:

♦ April 24

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



Wishing you and your family peace, health and happiness this Pesach

Merryl Wallach
Director



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Hillel Academy to hold community Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration on April 27

Hillel Academy of Broome County will hold a community Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration on Sunday, April 27, from noon-3 pm, at Temple Israel, 4737 Deerfield Place, Vestal. The celebration will include Israeli food for sale, bounce houses, music, face painting, carnival games and activity booths for all

ages. An admission fee of \$5 per person, or max \$20 per family, will be charged to help cover expenses. For more information or to RSVP, see the ad on page 8 or visit https://form.jotform.com/Hillel_Academy/BlueAndWhite.

"This year, Israel is celebrating its 77th

birthday," said organizers of the event. "'Party in Blue and White' with us. We will have something for everyone so come for the food or the games or the friends! We will start the event off with a community singing of 'Hatikvah,' the Israeli national anthem, and all children will be invited to lead the song."

Organizers added, "Thank you to PJ Library and Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, and the David and Virginia Eisenberg Fund for their generous support. We hope everyone will put on their favorite blue and white outfit and join the celebration!"

JLI course in May to feature "Colorful Profiles"

The Jewish Learning Institute will hold the course "Colorful Profiles" taught in Binghamton by Rivkah Slonim. "Colorful Profiles" seeks "to bring stories to life of intriguing and lesser-known Jewish figures who showed remarkable courage throughout history. Participants will learn how these individuals navigated issues that continue to resonate today."

The course will run for four consecutive Mondays beginning Monday, May 5, at 7 pm. It is open to adults of all ages and is geared toward every level of knowledge,

including those who have no background in Hebrew or Judaism. Participants need not be affiliated with a synagogue to attend.

Participants can attend in person or online. The course cost, which includes the text book, is \$79 or \$150 for a couple. That includes one book; an additional copy to a registered couple is available for \$20. Visit Jewishbu.com/JLIBING to register. For answers to questions, contact Ruth Shea at Chabad at rshea@Jewishbu.com or 607-797-0015.

The four-session course will delve into

12 personalities that include "high-profile hostages, savvy businesswomen, unlikely converts and more." The course hopes participants gains a "richer understanding of some of the historical challenges that people faced in living a Jewish life and how their stories resulted in enduring, impactful legacies."

"Our past imparts critical life lessons, but history may sometimes come across as dry and boring," says Slonim. "This course is anything but that. The stories under study in this course bring the past to life in gripping sagas, many of which seem too impossible to believe – yet they all occurred. I expect this course to be entertaining, deeply edifying, and profoundly inspirational.

"These stories are not defined by

tragedy and suffering, but by what it means to be a proud, resilient Jew" added Slonim. "It somehow seems very apropos for our times."

JLI, the adult education branch of Chabad-Lubavitch, offers courses in more than 800 locations in the U.S. and in numerous foreign countries, including Argentina, Australia, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Estonia, France, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands, Panama, Russia, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, Uruguay and Venezuela. More than 400,000 students have attended JLI classes since the organization was founded in 1998.

BD to honor Richard Lewis on May 4

Beth David Synagogue's Annual Dinner will take place on Sunday, May 4, with the Jack and Mary Ferber Award being given to attorney and community member Richard C. Lewis. The catered event will begin at 3 pm at the synagogue with a cocktail and hors d'oeuvres hour, followed by a catered sit-down dinner at 4 pm. The cost per person is \$65 and sponsorships are available. Invitations will be sent out in April, as well as raffle tickets for purchase for the cash prizes at the event. Those wanting further information can contact the synagogue at 607-722-1793



Richard Lewis (Photo courtesy of Hinman, Howard & Kattell, LLP)

or bethdavid@stny.rr.com.

"Together with his devoted wife, Lori A. Lewis, and their daughters, Emily and Anna Lewis, Dick Lewis has been a proud member of Binghamton's Jewish community for more than 50 years," said organizers of the event. "He has worked tirelessly to support local institutions, including Beth David Synagogue, Temple Israel, the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, the Jewish Community Center and, of course, Hillel Academy of Broome County, where Emily and Anna See "Lewis" on page 11

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TC/TI adult ed. program on the Yiddish Bund on April 27

The Adult Education Committee of Temple Concord and Temple Israel will hold a program, "The Yiddish Bund and Bundism: The Politics of Here-ness, Then and Now," and light brunch on Sunday, April 27, from 10 am-noon, at Temple Concord, 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton. Gina Glasman, lecturer in Judaic studies at Binghamton University, will be joined by some members of Binghamton University's "New Jewish Bund" in a panel discussion about Bundism, its history and current relevance.



Gina Glasman

differed on this key question: namely, to align Jewish politics with a "Diasporist" or "Zionist" orientation. At the time, these were competitive alternatives at the ballot box. Today, in a different time and place, a contemporary generation of students, both in America and beyond, has turned to Bundism as a way to channel their Jewish political identity. The program will feature examples of the phenomenon.

Glasman teaches Yiddish language, Yiddish culture and the history of Jewish New York, to name just some of the many courses she has

taught in the Judaic Studies Department at Binghamton University. With degrees from University of Cambridge, Jewish Theological Seminary and Columbia University, her interest in the study of Yiddish society and its urban culture has roots in her own biography as the grandchild of Yiddish speaking immigrants to London. As a recipient of BU's Provost's Award for Excellence in Teaching, Glasman's work often seeks to bind together forms of personal engagement with scholarly research and she encourages students to do the same - whether they are learning Yiddish language, or immersing themselves in the history of this distinctive diasporic minority.

The entire community is welcome to attend. There is a suggested donation of between \$5-20 per person. For more information and to RSVP, contact Temple Israel at 607 723-7461 or office@templeisraelvestal.org, or Temple Concord at 607-723-7355 by Wednesday, April 23, so enough refreshments can be prepared.

In Poland before World War II, a Jewish political party known as the Bund campaigned in local and national elections with a one-word slogan, "Here!" or "Do!" in Yiddish. The slogan was designed as a challenge to competing Jewish electoral parties that had an agenda of "there," or a Zionist-informed ticket. Often, both these opposing parties were rooted in similar socialist positions, but

Beth David Sisterhood to hold donor event May 14

Beth David Sisterhood will hold its donor event on Wednesday, May 14, at 7 pm, at the home of Nancy Basmann. A minimum donation of \$25 is requested from those who attend the fund-raising event. The meeting will be open to everyone: members, non-members and men. Since a variety of desserts and noshes will be served at the meeting, an RSVP by Friday, May 9, would be appreciated and can be made by contacting Beth David Synagogue at 607-722-1793 to leave a message, or e-mail bethdavid@stny.rr.com. For the address of the event, also contact the synagogue office.



Nancy Basmann (Photo courtesy of Nancy Basmann)

Basmann is a certified professional photographer and a master of photography under the auspices of Professional Photographers of America.

During the meeting, she will show how she photographs and creates images using examples of Jewish subjects.

Her photographs have appeared in art-books and hang in several local businesses. Currently, one of her images appears in an exhibit of the American Society of Photographers that is touring Texas galleries. Attendees will be able to look through her picture-book "The Village of Endicott, IBM and the Rust Belt" (2022), which sold out at the Roberson Museum.

"Please do not hesitate to attend the meeting even if you neglected to notify us in advance," said organizers of the event. "We always plan a little extra food just in case."

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

Whether you're moving across town or across the country, please let *The Reporter* know so you can quickly receive the paper at your new (or temporary) address!

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

PASSOVER GREETINGS

May you and your family have a joyous Pesach

Terri Bennett

HAPPY PASSOVER

ד'תשפ"ה

Next year may we all be free!

Bob Tomanek

May you and your family have a joyous Pesach

Steve Gilbert & family

Happy Passover

Shari Neuberger

May you and your family have a joyous Pesach

Rabbi Zev & Judy Silber

Happy Passover

Happy Passover from Steven, Gail, Michael, Emily and Milo Feuer of Otego, NY

Wishing you and your family peace, health and happiness this Pesach

Susan and Gerald Hubal

Wishing all of our friends a Happy Passover

Arieh Ullmann & Rhonda Levine

Happy Passover!

Rhona & Richard Esserman

חג כשר ושמח

BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY & KOSHER PASSOVER

Susan and Ben Kasper

Passover Blessings

Jean & Lew Hecht and family

Maria and Bob Kutz wish all their relatives and friends a Happy Passover

Passover Greetings

from Linda & Dennis Robi and Family

HAPPY PASSOVER

Ann C. Brilliant

Yiddish Folk Festival in Ithaca April 25-27

The Yiddish Folklife Festival of the Finger Lakes, an arts and cultural festival, will take place the weekend of April 25-27 at the Lifelong Community Center in downtown Ithaca and at other venues. Featuring live klezmer music, folk dancing, a community potluck, cooking and cultural workshops, a nature walk, an academic lecture, an open mic and other community events, the intergenerational, all-ages festival is open to the public, including those new to Yiddish music and culture. More information and tickets can be accessed through the festival's linktree at linktr.ee/yfffl.

In partnership with the Jewish Studies Program at Cornell University, Jessica Kirzane will offer a talk on her work recovering and translating Yiddish women's literature on Friday, April 25, at 4:30 pm. This will be followed by a dinnertime Community Potluck and Instrumental Klezmer Jam at Lifelong. Musicians of all levels and non-musicians are invited to partake in the community event.

On Saturday, April 26, at 10:30 am, there will be a Yiddish Nature Walk at Stewart Park led by Yiddish language professor Dovid Forman and ecologist Sorke Schneider. No previous Yiddish language knowledge is required. That afternoon, at 2 pm, the festival will continue at Lifelong with the Ashkenazi cooking workshop "Dough: Sweet and Savory," which will be led by community chef Aron Gutman

and Jewish food maven Sorke Schneider. Participants will make from scratch knishes and rugelakh, two traditional Eastern European Jewish foods.

At 4:30 pm, there will be a Yiddish Song Workshop, where participants will learn a variety of folk songs, art songs, protest songs and contemporary Yiddish songs, led by Abi Gezunt, a local Yiddish singing group that meets weekly in the home of Deborah Berman. No Yiddish or singing experience necessary. The night will end with a community Open Mic at 7 pm where poetry, songs, skits, comedy and other material will be welcome in any language.

On Sunday, April 27, at 11 am, there will be a Jewish Crafts Workshop where participants will learn the traditional art of Jewish paper cutting taught by artist and puppet-maker Edith McCrae at Lifelong. The final event will take place at 2 pm in the Library Place Community Room, where dance leader Avia Moore will teach a Yiddish Folk Dance Workshop backed by the Klezmer Ensemble of Cornell University. After the class, there will be a Klezmer Dance Party to close the festival. All abilities and ages are welcome and physical accommodations will be made for any who need it.

Federation launches "Hate Has No Home Here" campaign

By Reporter staff

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton has launched a "Hate Has No Home Here" campaign. Its website's page about the campaign, www.jfgeb.org/hate-has-no-home-here, offers a 17" by 11" inch poster and social media graphic of the slogan for free download. The poster is also available from the Federation for those interested in hanging one in a business, office, house of worship or school. The Federation will also promote those who partner with the campaign. For more information or to request a poster, contact the Federation at 607-724-2332.

"Antisemitism has been escalating across communities around the world," said Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Federation. "Historically, surges in antisemitism have served as a harbinger for broader waves of discrimination against marginalized communities of all kinds, often fueling a dangerous escalation of hate and violence in society. We all share the responsibility to

directly confront bigotry and hate of all forms. Now is the time for us to join together and declare that 'Hate Has No Home Here' in Binghamton and around the world."



Hubal noted there are other ways people can help:
◆ Amplify the message on websites, in e-blasts and on social media. The social media graphic is free for individuals, businesses and organizations to use.
◆ Be an ally: Speak out when hearing antisemitic slurs and tropes or derogatory comments toward any marginalized community. Silence sends the message that such remarks are acceptable and normalizes them.
◆ Advocate against antisemitism and all forms of hate.

The web page also includes additional resources to help fight hate. "Help us stop hate in all its forms," Hubal noted. "We would like to thank the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires for allowing us to use their material and expertise in creating this ad and webpage."

Save the date

Inter-Sisterhood event on May 28

This year's Inter-Sisterhood event will be held on Wednesday, May 28, at 7 pm, at Beth David Synagogue, 39 Riverside Dr., Binghamton. The event will feature two performances from Present Arts Productions.

The charge for the event will be \$7 per person and can be paid at the door. RSVPs are requested by Wednesday, May 21, to Temple Concord at 607-723-7355; Beth David at 607-722-1793; or Temple Israel at 607-723-7461.

For more information about the event, see future issues of *The Reporter*.

PASSOVER GREETINGS



We wish everyone a sweet & healthy Pesach.

Harold & Toby Kohn and Family

May you and your family have a joyous Pesach



Rabbi Barry and Jill Baron

Happy Passover!

כוס מרים

This year, may we all be free!

Happy Passover



Rebecca Kahn & Richard Birchard

May the dove of peace descend on Israel.

Happy Passover

Kathy Brown, Advertising Representative



HAPPY PASSOVER



Next year may we all be free!

Suzanne Holwitt and family

Have a Joyous Passover



DA DA YEI NU DA DA YEI NU DA DA YEI NU DA DA YEI NU


Rabbi Rachel Esserman

Wishing you and your family peace, health and happiness this Pesach



Susan & Chris High

May the nations & people everywhere understand that peace and cooperation is the answer.



Neil & Sima Auerbach

Wishing you and your family peace, health and happiness this Pesach



Shelley, Mark, Josh & Rae Hubal

Seen around the community



The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton held the security training “Navigating Conflict: The Power of De-Escalation,” which was led by Mark Henderson, regional security advisor, Rochester, for the Secure Community Network, on March 27. Twenty-five community members attended.



At Temple Concord Religious School, older students recently explored the world of artist Marc Chagall, discovering how his work connects to Jewish traditions and history. With the guidance of guest artist Andrea Kastner, students learned about Chagall’s life and artistic style, then had the chance to create their own Chagall-inspired works.



Temple Concord Religious School students prepared soup in a jar for CHOW on March 22. (Names held on request.)



Beth David Sisterhood sponsored Rabbi Zev Silber’s annual pre-Passover workshop, which was open to the entire community. Silber spoke about how to overcome the difficulties caused by the first seder being on a Saturday night. Clockwise from left: Eileen Miller, Susan Hubal, Rabbi Zev Silber, Nancy Basmann and Phil Goodman at the workshop. (Photo by Cathy Velenchik)



The Binghamton Jewish Film Fest held an in-person showing of the film “Kidnapped: The Abduction of Edgardo Mortara” on March 30 at the Jewish Community Center. Dora Polachek, Ph.D., associate professor of romance languages and literatures at Binghamton University, moderated a discussion after the film. Forty people attended the event.



Temple Concord Religious School students displayed the works they made during the visit of guest artist Andrea Kastner (shown back row, far left).



L-r: Rabbi David Serkin, Eileen Miller and Susan Hubal listened as Rabbi Zev Silber presented his pre-Passover workshop, sponsored by Beth David Sisterhood. (Photo by Cathy Velenchik)




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from

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton



Shelley Hubal, *Executive Director*

Suzanne Holwitt, *President*

Jennifer Kakusian, *Administrative Assistant*

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On the Jewish food scene

Matzah: Just on Passover or all year-round

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

During Passover last year, a friend said she couldn't wait for the holiday to be over so she could stop eating matzah and get it out of her house. That struck me as odd, so I asked her, "You only have matzah in the house on Passover?" She said yes and thought it was odd that anyone would eat matzah at any time other than Passover. I'm not sure how many people agree with her, but I felt compelled to note that my family has always had matzah in the house all year round.

While we never made holiday dishes like matzah brei any other time than Passover, matzah (at least, whole wheat matzah) could be found in our cupboard all year long.

Since we rarely had dessert in the house (my mom didn't bake often and I've never been interested in baking), for dessert, my father would get a piece of matzah and eat it with butter and jam. I like to break off part of a sheet for a small snack when I need a carbohydrate and want something without salt or sugar. It is correct: I often eat my matzah plain.

I couldn't resist seeing whether eating matzah throughout the year was unusual or not, so I did what almost anyone interested in trivia does: I asked Google. Google's AI noted that some people do eat it matzah all year round and noted that "matzah is a versatile food that can be eaten in many

ways." That's true during Passover, but I take it straight the rest of the year.

The City Journal of New York City (www.city-journal.org/article/why-we-dont-eat-matzah-all-year-long) feels very differently: It noted that matzah is supposed to be the "bread of affliction" (Deuteronomy 16:3), so eating it is not supposed to be a pleasant experience. It also notes that "we Jews eat this unleavened bread during the ritual and throughout the ensuing week to remember ancestral slavery. Then we stop." Hmm, well, not everyone, but that is an interesting idea to consider.

I also found several forums that debated the issue. One quoted from the Four Questions, which says, "On all other nights we eat leavened or unleavened bread. Why on this night do we only eat unleavened bread?" That makes it sound as if people were eating matzah throughout the year, meaning it is not uncommon. Another noted a *halachic* issue: in order for us to appreciate the taste

of matzah at the seder, some suggest that we don't eat matzah the month before the seder. Others say two weeks before the seder, while even others say only the day of the seder. I once attended a women's seder that used matzah crackers because the women wanted to save the taste of the traditional matzah for the first night of Passover.

The bottom line is that, if you like matzah, you might keep a box in your cupboard all year long. I wrote this article the last week of February, just after I used the last of my box of whole wheat matzah. I was unhappy to discover that, while my local grocery store had four other types of matzah, it didn't have whole wheat. So, for the first time in decades, my house does not have any matzah in it. I can live without it (that means eating brown rice cakes or some other carbohydrate when I need one), but I'm hoping it won't be a permanent situation. I feel more secure when I have that box of matzah sitting in my cupboard.

World's oldest Jewish book on display at JTS

By JTS publicity staff

The Jewish Theological Seminary has announced a new exhibition that features the oldest Jewish book in the world – the Afghan Liturgical Quire (or ALQ). The exhibit, titled "Sacred Words: Revealing the Earliest Hebrew Book," will be on display until July 17.

"It is our honor to host this historic treasure at the JTS Library," said Dr. David Kraemer, Joseph J. and Dora Abbell JTS Librarian and Professor of Talmud and Rabbinics. "Bringing it to JTS, sharing its story with the public and highlighting its celebrated past is truly a gift. This one-of-a-kind manuscript has much to teach us about Jewish history and the many cultures it has touched throughout the past 1,300 years."

The ALQ is a medieval manuscript comprised of prayers, poems and pages of the oldest discovered Passover haggadah, which was mysteriously written upside down. The prayers and poetry in the book draw on texts from the Hebrew Bible. The manuscript was found in a cave in the Bamiyan Valley of Afghanistan along the Silk Roads and has been scientifically dated to circa 700. After its

discovery in the late 20th century, Christians, Jews and Muslims worked together to save it, understand it and make it accessible to the world.

Sharon Liberman Mintz, curator of Jewish art at JTS, noted that, "This manuscript marks a pivotal moment in the history of the Hebrew book – it is the earliest known example of ancient Jewish texts preserved in the form of a codex – a book as we know it today. The Afghan Liturgical Quire offers an extraordinary opportunity to discover a volume of Jewish prayers that predates any known siddur, revealing a rich liturgical tradition that extends back well over a millennium. I am delighted to present this remarkable treasure at JTS and invite the public to engage with this unique and historic artifact of Jewish heritage."

The "Sacred Words" exhibition was developed in partnership with the Museum of the Bible in Washington, DC, and in cooperation with the Afghan Jewish Foundation, the American Sephardi Federation, and Congregation Anshei Shalom of Jamaica Estates.

See "Book" on page 11

Belonging. Continued from page 2

Norman (not his real name) showed up in our cozy *shul* in Binghamton around the mid-1970s. Norman could have been the illustration in the dictionary next to the word "malodorous." It was that special blend of body odor catalyzed by alcohol, which can often be encountered on the streets of major cities. By today's more refined nomenclature, he could be referred to as homeless, though technically, he did have a small place of his own. Back then, he would probably have been referred to as a hobo or a bum.

He was Jewish, and clearly had some knowledge of religion. He started showing up to *shul* every Shabbat, for the first time in half a century. It turned out that he had been an actor, and as is all-too-common in that profession, the passing of time had not been kind to him. There were no more parts to play. Eventually, he found himself down on his luck, divorced and wandering.

Perhaps he was coming to *shul* to find an anchor in his directionless life. Perhaps connecting with the "*chevra*" in *shul* nurtured him with needed companionship. Or maybe it just gave him an escape from the cruel outside world, an opportunity to spend a couple of hours in a warm building with even warmer people.

While "homelessness" may be a fairly modern term, helping the indigent is certainly not a recent concept, and it courses strong through the veins of the Jew. I would like to think that the *shul* and its people were good to him. I wouldn't have been privy to any knowledge of assistance the *shul* provided, as I was a youngster at the time. But I trust he found solace and sustenance in his visits.

Not long after Norman came on the scene, at a Shabbat morning Torah reading, the quorum was short of a Levi.

"Is there a Levi in the house?" they asked. Norman's eyes lit up, and he spoke up excitedly: "I'm a Levi!"

And so the minyan was supplied with a resident Levi, who regularly attended the minyan. They no longer had to poll the crowd to find one. He may have smelled, and I'm certain there was no talk of membership dues, but he was part and

parcel of the *shul* now.

His hard life and the bottles of booze finally caught up with him, taking their toll on his body. Norman passed away after a couple of years. Family members appeared for his funeral, and sat with Rabbi Groner in advance, to review the details of the service and burial.

"His Hebrew name was Meir ben Yosef Halevi," the rabbi confirmed with them.

"What do you mean?" they asked incredulously. "We're not Levis!"

Someone from my regular *shul* and I found ourselves together in a different minyan recently for Shabbat *Mincha*. As the *gabbai* scanned the crowd to see who could get the first *aliyah* to the Torah, they called out "Kohen!?" Although I didn't actually verbalize it, I considered turning to my friend, and telling him that this was his big chance to claim he was a Kohen, and get the first *aliyah*.

Who would know? This reminded me of Norman, in perhaps the greatest starring role of his life. His final performance was the part of the Levi. The show ran for years. He was so believable that everyone in the audience was convinced that he actually was a Levi.

Whether he found God or companionship or merely a cushioned chair to rest his weary body, Norman's curtain call left an indelible impression.

To those of us who remember him, the smell may long have dissipated, but in our minds he will always be "Norman the Levi."

[Author's note: When I shared the first draft of this blog with my better half, she reminded me that my father, Shalom Staiman, of blessed memory, had already recounted this episode in one of his books. I checked, and, sure enough, he told the tale of Norman (although he bestowed upon him the pseudonym "Irving Schwarz"). In my opinion, my father's retelling far surpasses my own. But since the story will be new to most of you, and the perspective from which I wrote is different, I decided to publish it. I don't think he would have minded!]

Passover Greetings from these Health Care Professionals

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We Remember You 2025

JFS Accepting Passover Donations



Jewish Family Service will once again be collecting funds to help members of the community celebrate Passover. These donations will be distributed to more than 16 local Jewish families who are experiencing extreme financial difficulties. In order to assure a timely distribution of these gifts, please be sure your contribution reaches our offices by April 18, 2025.

Thank you for your support of your neighbors in need. Please mail or bring your donation to Jewish Family Service, 500 Clubhouse Road, Vestal, NY 13850. Contact Merryll Wallach, JFS Director, at 607-724-2332, ext. 339, with any questions.

Chabad to hold community seder, deliver Seders in a Box, make *shmurah* matzah available for purchase

Passover seder

Chabad Center will hold a Passover seder open to the general community on the first night of the holiday, Saturday, April 12. Festivities will begin with services at 8 pm followed by the seder; services and the seder will be held at the Chabad Center, 420 Murray Hill Rd., Vestal. Reservations for the seder at due by Thursday, April 10. For more information or to make seder reservations, write to aslonim@Jewishbu.com or call the Chabad office at 607-797-0015.

The seder will include all of the traditional observances, a full course dinner, handmade *shmurah* matzah and mystical insights. The haggadah will be read with participation from all present in both Hebrew and English, and the many customs and traditions of the seder will be explained.

“Our seder is open to anyone who wants to attend a traditional seder; no previous knowledge or level of observance is required,” explained Rabbi Aaron Slonim, executive

director of Chabad. “Be prepared to be welcomed – just as you are – as part of the family.”

There is no charge for the seders, but donations to help defray the cost would be appreciated and can be sent to Chabad before or after the holiday.

“We will be serving a full course, traditional holiday dinner, but I do urge participants to have a bite to eat earlier in the evening to tide them over the ceremonial, opening portion of the seder which precedes dinner,” added Rivky Slonim.

Seder in a Box

For those who are unable to attend and would like to celebrate the holiday with all of the traditions, Chabad will make available a Seder in a Box. Interested parties are asked to e-mail aslonim@Jewishbu.com or call the Chabad office at 607-797-0015 to reserve a box, or a box for a friend or loved one, as soon as possible. The Seder in a Box contains matzah, grape juice, a complete holiday dinner (for one or two) and all of the ceremonial items

necessary for a seder; a haggadah will be included as well.

The subsidized cost of the “Seder in a Box” is \$54, which includes one dinner, and \$25 for each additional meal. Reservations for attending the “Seder in a Box” will be taken until Thursday, April 10.

Community members who wish to assist in this effort can help with delivery, can underwrite a box or two, and/or can help with the cooking of the food and packaging of the boxes should all the Slonims at 607-797-0015. Checks earmarked for this purpose may be sent to Chabad. For more information and seder reservations, write aslonim@Jewishbu.com or call the Chabad office at 607-797-0015.

Shmurah matzah

Handmade *shmurah* matzah will be available for purchase through the Chabad Center for \$20 a pound or three matzahs for \$12) as long as the supply lasts. Interested parties are urged to place their orders as soon as possible by calling the Chabad Center at 607-797-0015.

Before Passover and amid bird flu, food distributors grapple with getting eggs

By Faygie Holt

(JNS) – Egg prices remain high in much of the United States following an avian flu outbreak that led to the loss of many egg-laying chickens, and has caused an ensuing egg shortage a month before the holidays of Passover and Easter in April, when eggs take center stage.

Limited supplies are a result of what is commonly called the “bird flu” are related to the loss of many egg-laying chickens. According to CBS News, more than 148 million birds have been ordered euthanized since the current strain of bird flu was first detected in 2022. Currently, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that more than 650 counties nationwide are reporting outbreaks.

In June 2024, the average cost of a dozen eggs was \$2.72, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. January’s price tag reached, on average, \$4.95 nationwide a carton. In many places, like Florida, California and Hawaii, the price exceeds \$10 and goes as high as \$15.

Lewis Continued from page 5

completed kindergarten through eighth grade before going on to and graduating from Binghamton High School and colleges in upstate New York. He has also had many leadership roles in the general community.”

Organizers added, “Everyone who knows Dick will tell you what a gem of a human being he is; his impact on the community is beyond measure.” Beth David President Saba Wiesner recounted her experience when she asked Lewis if he would be the synagogue’s attorney if they needed legal advice. “Before I could finish my sentence,” she recalled, “he said, ‘Of course!’”

Over the decades that he has lived in Binghamton, Lewis’s leadership skills have taken many forms. Beginning in 2002, he served for eight years as president of Hillel Academy of Broome County. He is also a past president of Temple Israel. At the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, he has served as chairman of the Editorial Board of *The Reporter*, and was a member of the Federation’s Executive Committee, in addition to its Endowment Committee.

“We marvel at Dick’s boundless energy and passion, in all he does for the community,” organizers said, “given the important and time-intensive role he plays in his legal career.” A graduate of Ithaca College and University of Illinois Chicago/John Marshall Law School, Lewis is an attorney at Hinman, Howard and Kattell, focusing on litigation and all aspects of business law.

He is the immediate past president of the 80,000-member New York State Bar Association, elected to serve for the 2023-24 term. With the beginning of his 12-month term on June 1, 2023, Lewis spearheaded what has been called “groundbreaking initiatives.” In that first month, he served as Executive Committee liaison on a task force he created on Combating Antisemitism and Anti-Asian Hate. The House of Delegates passed the approximately 50-page report in January 2024. As the featured guest at Beth David’s September 2024 Luncheon Speaker Series, Lewis provided a copy of the report to everyone who attended. In addition, he worked with former Secretary of State Loretta Lynch and former Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson to put out a nationally recognized work on advancing diversity. Both have been adopted as policy by numerous bar associations, including the American Bar Association.

“Dick is so deserving of this honor,” says Rabbi Zev Silber, spiritual leader of Beth David. “Whether we need him to make a minyan or use his legal expertise, he doesn’t know how to say ‘no.’ The Federation and every agency I can think of have benefited from his skills and sincere love of our community. We encourage everyone to be part of a celebration that is sure to be as special as he is!”

The uptick is also impacting businesses and charitable organizations, including food suppliers, turning a protein staple into a luxury item. “For the last 20 years, since we opened Masbia, eggs were the poor person’s protein,” said Alexander Rappaport, executive director of Masbia, a soup kitchen network that provides meals and food to people in Borough Park and Flatbush in Brooklyn, NY, and in parts of Queens, NY.

Now, though, they may have to “pivot” to provide another type of protein to their recipients. “The rising cost of eggs is yet another blow to families who have been quietly struggling with financial stress for years,” said Rachel Krich, executive director of Project Ezra, which helps Jewish families in economic distress in Northern New Jersey.

She added that with “the drastic spike in egg prices, suddenly everyone is paying attention. For many Jewish families who are already stretched thin, this feels like the final straw.”

While there isn’t much individual consumers can do, those in the culinary industry are incorporating substitutions such as olive oil, applesauce and liquid eggs in a carton, which need to be refrigerated.

The situation is likely to impact Jewish consumers even more during Passover, which starts on the evening

of April 11, since many recipes call for large quantities of the protein over the eight-day holiday.

“Eggs have become a Passover staple, especially for those who only eat what is cooked from scratch at home during Passover,” Rapaport told JNS, adding that Masbia doesn’t use or distribute eggs by the dozen, “we do eggs by the case.” That said, he acknowledged that “this year will be very challenging.”

Book Continued from page 10

The exhibit is open to the public during library hours, Monday-Thursday from 9 am-6 pm.

The Jewish Theological Seminary is an institution of Jewish higher education, which seeks to train thoughtful, innovative leaders – rabbis, cantors, educators, lay leaders and scholars – who strengthen Jewish communities with a vision of Judaism that is grounded in the Jewish past and thoroughly engaged with contemporary society. JTS also provides lifelong learning and professional development to its alumni, adult learners and Jewish communities throughout North America. Through its library, JTS preserves and makes accessible to students and scholars throughout the world one of the largest collections of Judaica in the Western Hemisphere.

Passover Greetings from these Healthcare Professionals



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The Philips Family



Happy Passover

Jeff, Debbie, Joshua, Amy, Mac and Diggs Ribner

Happy Passover!

For savoring after the seder

By Paula Shoyer

(JNS) – The main course is a tasty, room-temperature side dish that you should make in advance so that when you are ready to grill, most of your meal is already prepared. I broil the eggplant slices in the oven, but you can also cook them on the grill before you cook the steak.

Roasted Eggplant with Bell-Pepper Vinaigrette (pareve)

Serves 6-8
 Prep time: 10 minutes
 Cook time: 17 minutes
 Advance prep: May be made 2 days in advance; finished dish needs to marinate for 2 hours.

Equipment: Cutting board, knives, measuring spoons, pastry brush, grill or baking pan, medium frying pan, tongs and silicone spatula



Cutting peppers: To cut bell peppers into small dice (cubes), first cut the peppers in half, from the stem end to the bottom, and remove the seeds and white pith. Cut in half again lengthwise. Slice each part the long way into 1/4-inch-thick slices. Gather the slices together and cut them across into small cubes. Repeat with the other pepper quarters.

2 medium eggplants, not peeled, cut into 3/4-inch-thick slices
 5 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
 Ground cumin and turmeric for dusting eggplant
 1/2 red pepper, seeded and cut into 1/4-inch cubes
 1/2 yellow pepper, seeded and cut into 1/4-inch cubes
 1/2 medium red onion, finely chopped
 2 Tbsp. sugar
 3 Tbsp. white or apple cider vinegar
 Salt and black pepper

To prepare the eggplant: Preheat the broiler.

Pour 1 tablespoon of the oil on a grill pan or other baking pan and rub to coat. Add the eggplant slices in one layer and brush with another tablespoon of oil. Sprinkle a little cumin and turmeric on top.

Broil for 5 to 7 minutes, or until browned. Turn over the eggplant slices; sprinkle with some more cumin and turmeric; and add some black pepper. Broil for another 4 to 5 minutes.

Let cool for 3 minutes and then transfer to a serving platter.

To prepare the peppers and onions:

Heat 3 tablespoons of the oil in a medium frying pan over medium-high heat. Add the diced red and yellow peppers, and the onions, and cook for 3 minutes. Add the sugar, vinegar, salt and pepper to taste, and cook for 1 minute.

To assemble the dish:

Scatter the pepper and onion mixture over the eggplant slices, making sure to place some on top of all the slices,

as well as under them. Let the dish marinate for 2 hours or overnight. Serve at room temperature.

Chocolate Quinoa Cake (pareve, gluten-free)

Serves 12

I had heard the myth of chocolate cakes made with cooked quinoa and didn't quite believe that they would actually be tasty. This cake is surprisingly moist and delicious – great for Passover and all year round.

Prep time: 20 minutes

Cook time: 15 minutes to cook quinoa, 50 minutes to bake cake

Advance prep: May be made 3 days in advance or frozen
 Equipment: Measuring cups and spoons, small saucepan with lid, 12-cup Bundt pan, food processor, medium microwave-safe bowl or double boiler, silicone spatula, wooden kebab skewer, wire cooling rack, large microwave-safe bowl and whisk

3/4 cup quinoa
 1 1/2 cups water
 Cooking spray
 2 Tbsp. potato starch
 1/3 cup orange juice (from 1 orange)
 4 large eggs
 2 tsp. pure vanilla extract (or other vanilla, if for Passover)
 3/4 cup coconut oil
 1 1/2 cups sugar
 1 cup dark unsweetened cocoa
 2 tsp. baking powder
 1/2 tsp. salt
 2 oz. bittersweet chocolate



Chocolate Quinoa Cake (Photo by Bill Milne/Reprinted with permission from "The Healthy Jewish Kitchen" (Sterling 2015))

Fresh raspberries, for garnish (optional)
 Glaze (optional)
 5 oz. (140g) bittersweet chocolate
 1 Tbsp. sunflower or safflower oil
 1 tsp. pure vanilla extract (or other vanilla, if for Passover)

Place the quinoa and water into a small saucepan and bring it to a boil over medium heat. Reduce the heat to low, cover the saucepan, and cook the quinoa for 15 minutes, or until all the liquid has been absorbed. Set the pan aside. The quinoa may be made 1 day in advance.

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Use cooking spray to grease a 12-cup Bundt pan. Sprinkle the potato starch over the greased pan and then shake the pan to remove any excess starch.

Place the quinoa in the bowl of a food processor. Add the orange juice, eggs, vanilla, oil, sugar, cocoa, baking powder and salt. Process until the mixture is very smooth.

Melt the chocolate over a double boiler, or place in a medium microwave-safe bowl, and put in a microwave for 45 seconds, stirring and then heating the chocolate for another 30 seconds, until it is melted. Add the chocolate to the quinoa batter and process until well mixed. Pour the batter into the prepared Bundt pan and bake it for 50 minutes, or until a skewer inserted into the cake comes out clean.

Let the cake cool for 10 minutes and then remove it gently from the pan. Let it cool on a wire cooling rack.

To make the glaze:

Melt the chocolate in a large microwave-safe bowl in the microwave (see above) or over a double boiler. Add the oil and vanilla and whisk well. Let the glaze sit for 5 minutes and then whisk it again. Use a silicone spatula to spread the glaze all over the cake.

Paula Shoyer is the author of "The Healthy Jewish Kitchen," "The Holiday Kosher Baker," "The Kosher Baker," "The New Passover Menu" and "The Instant Pot Kosher Cookbook."

Cabinet. Continued from page 2

in office, U.S. military aid, though at times delayed and restrictive, enabled Ukraine to survive the Russian invasion that began on February 24, 2022. Moreover, Blinken played a pivotal role in the release of U.S. hostages Brittney Griner and Evan Gershkovich from Putin's gulag, albeit those prisoner exchanges came at a high cost. In addition, U.S. efforts under Biden and Blinken facilitated the ratcheting up of cooperation amongst the legacy democracies of Western Europe and strengthened NATO.

A native of Brooklyn and descended from a Polish Jewish family, many of whose members perished during the Holocaust, Yellen, a brilliant economist and scholar activist, has rotated between academic and government service. Unique in successively holding the three highest federal finance positions – chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, chairman of the Federal Reserve and secretary of the Treasury, she was the first woman to hold the latter two portfolios. A Keynesian, the secretary herself provided the best case for the achievements of Biden-Yellen economic stewardship.

Upon receiving the William F. Butler Award for economic leadership on January 15, Yellen presented a summary of her tenure as secretary of the Treasury. While acknowledging long-term trends that challenge the middle-class standard of living, Yellen emphasized the following: the rebound from the pandemic, jump starting supply chains, ratcheting up production of critical items, tempering inflation and enactment of an American Rescue Plan that

increased demand and provided safety nets. The 2024 elections, however, evidenced that many Americans judged Biden-Yellen economics by prices at the supermarket and the tenuousness of home ownership.

A Conservative Jew by upbringing and the grandson of immigrants who escaped antisemitic pogroms, Garland established a brilliant record at Harvard Law before receiving accolades as a corporate attorney, federal prosecutor and chief judge for the DC circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals. In 2016, partisan delay prevented confirmation of President Barack Obama's nomination of Garland as an associate justice of the Supreme Court.

A centrist and a resolute defender of the rule of law, Attorney General Garland won convictions against the terrorists who sought to overthrow the results of the 2020 presidential election, suspended federal executions, protected civil liberties and civil rights, and survived politically motivated Republican attempts to find him guilty of contempt of Congress. Upholding the independence of the Justice Department, Garland appointed special prosecutors in cases involving then former President Donald Trump and President's Biden's son Hunter.

A Jew of Sephardic and Ashkenazi heritage, Mayorkas' parents came to the U.S. as refugees from Communist Cuba. After receiving his J.D. degree from Loyola Law School, his professional ascent included stints as U.S. attorney for the Central District of California, director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, and deputy secretary of Homeland Security. During Mayorkas' tenure as secretary of Homeland Security, no major terrorist attacks occurred on American soil. However, Mayorkas lacked the statutory and material resources to deter illegal immigration at the border, prompting an abortive partisan attempt to remove him from office.

The apparent trajectory of President Trump's administration – unbuckling support for Israel from restraints, ending military aid to Ukraine, possibly unleashing a tariff war that might spiral inflation upward, weaponization of the Justice Department, pardoning insurrectionists and mass deportation of illegal immigrants – may eclipse the benchmarks of Blinken, Yellen, Garland and Mayorkas. However, the heat of the moment will pass. Time and deliberation often leaven history's judgments. Ultimately, historians will link assessment of Biden and his Cabinet. As a practitioner of the craft myself, I believe that history will gift Biden, Blinken, Yellen, Garland and Mayorkas with good grades.

Happy Passover!

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Passover Blessings

From the Jewish Community Center staff

Companion House, Senate bills aim to curb Jew-hatred on campus

By JNS staff

(JNS)—Colleges allowing events promoting Jew-hatred on their campuses would face the loss of federal funding under legislation recently reintroduced in both houses of Congress. The Stop Antisemitism on College Campuses Act, introduced by Sen. Tim Scott (R-SC) and Rep. Mike Lawler (R-NY), says schools receiving federal funding cannot “authorize, facilitate, provide funding for or otherwise support” such events.

erwise support” such events.

“The intention of taxpayer dollars for universities is to educate students, not promote and foster hate,” Scott stated. “Let’s make one thing clear: federal funding is a privilege and not a right. Rooting out hate wherever it rears its ugly head will always be in fashion.”

The bill, which uses the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance’s working definition of antisem-

itism, was first introduced in the 118th Congress and follows the Trump administration’s decision to cut off \$400 million in federal funding to Columbia University, which saw anti-Israel protests after the Hamas-led terrorist attacks on October 7, 2023. Jewish students reported being spat on and facing antisemitic rhetoric, according to the Anti-Defamation League.

See “Campus” on page 15

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.

◆ Hadassah Magazine will hold the virtual program “Chutzpah Girls” on Thursday, April 24, at 7 pm. Hadassah Magazine Executive Editor Lisa Hostein will moderate a panel discussion with actor and neuroscientist Mayim Bialik, who is profiled, along with Hadassah founder Henrietta Szold, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and dozens more women, in the new book “Chutzpah Girls: 100 Tales of Daring Jewish Women,” whose co-authors, Julie Esther Silverstein and Tami Schlossberg Pruwer, will also be featured. For more information or to register, visit www.hadassahmagazine.org/2025/03/09/hadassah-magazine-presents-chutzpah-girls-with-mayim-bialik/.

◆ The Lower East Side Jewish Conservancy will hold the virtual lecture “Musical Poetry of Three 19th c. Jewish Women: Emma Lazarus, Grace Aguilar, and Penina Moïse” on Sunday, April 27, from noon-2 pm. The cost to attend is \$10. The lecture will look at the three women’s “musical projects to gain a better understanding of 19th century American and English Sephardic culture.” For more information or to register, visit www.nycjewishtours.org/join-a-tour/27april25.

◆ Roundtable will hold the virtual three-part course “Three Jewish American Writers of the 1930s on the Big Apple” on Tuesdays, April 22-May 6, from 11 am-noon. The cost to attend is \$132. Anna Katsnelson will explore three works of Jewish literature, centered on New York City, from the 1930s. The authors being looked at are Charles Reznikoff, Daniel Fuchs and Clifford Odets. For more information or to register, visit <https://roundtable.org/live-courses/literature/three-jewish-american-writers-of-the-1930s-on-the-big-apple>.

◆ The Institute for Jewish Spirituality will hold a virtual program featuring Rabbi Shira Stutman speaking about her new work, “The Jewish Way to a Good Life: Find Happiness, Build Community, and Embrace Lovingkindness,” on Tuesday, April 29, at 8 pm. For more information or to register, visit <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/ifjs/event/iisc>.

◆ The Jewish Grandparents Network will hold the virtual program “When Grandparents Get Canceled (And What to Do About It)” on Wednesday, May 14, from 7-8 pm. Licensed marriage and family therapist associate Rachel Haack will offer ways “to address the pain and take small steps toward reconciliation.” For more information or to register, visit <https://jewishgrandparentsnetwork.org/event/when-grandparents-get-canceled-and-what-to-do-about-it/>.

◆ The Lower East Side Jewish Conservancy will hold the virtual “Tour of the Historic Lazama Synagogue in the Mellah (Jewish Quarter) of Marrakech” on Sunday, May 4, from noon- 2 pm. The cost to attend is \$10. It will offer a tour of the Lazama Synagogue, which was founded in 1492 by Sephardic Jews fleeing King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella’s Edict of Expulsion, and offer information about the community. For more information or to register, visit www.nycjewishtours.org/join-a-tour/4may25.

◆ The American Jewish University will hold the virtual course “FDR, America, and the Holocaust” on Mondays, April 28-May 19, at 3 pm. The cost to attend is \$145. The course will “examine FDR’s response to the Holocaust,

the debate over bombing Auschwitz, and America’s role in rescuing European Jewry.” For more information or to register, visit <https://open.aju.edu/event/fdr-america-and-the-holocaust>.

◆ The Qesher Book Club will hold a virtual discussion of “Sacred Places Tell Tales: Jewish Life and Heritage in Modern Cairo” with author Yoram Meital on Tuesday, May 6, at 3 pm. The book tells “the previously untold history of Egyptian Jewry and the ways in which Cairo’s synagogues historically functioned as active institutions in the social lives of these Jews.” For more information or to register, visit www.qesher.com/sacred-places/.

◆ The American Jewish University will hold the virtual talk “Etymology of Modern Hebrew: Hebrew Roots and History” on Thursday, May 1, at 2 pm. The talk will explore Hebrew’s deep Semitic roots and uncover how its ancient origins shaped the language spoken today. For more information or to register, visit <https://open.aju.edu/event/etymology-of-modern-hebrew-hebrew-roots-and-history>.

◆ The YIVO Institute for Jewish Research will hold the virtual program “The YIVO Sound Archive and the Klezmer Revival” on Thursday, April 24, at 1 pm. “YIVO sound archivist Eléonore Biezunski will tell the story of the Max and Frieda Weinstein Archive of YIVO Sound Recordings in relation to the revitalization of klezmer music since the mid-1970s.” For more information or to register, visit www.yivo.org/Sound-Archive.

◆ The Center for Jewish History will hold the virtual program “Anne’s Ancestors” on Tuesday, April 29, at 2 pm. The program will offer a study of Anne Frank’s “ancestors” who lived throughout Germany in prior centuries. For more information or to register, visit <https://programs.cjh.org/event/annes-ancestors-2025-04-29>.

◆ The Shalom Center and ALEPH will hold the three-part virtual course “Renewing Judaism.” “Renewing Judaism: Past” will be held on Sunday, April 27, from 2-3:30 pm; “Renewing Judaism: Present” will be held on Sunday, May 4, from 2-3:30 pm; and “Renewing Judaism: Future” will be held on Wednesday, May 28, from 7-8:30 pm. There is a sliding scale cost to attend. For more information or to register, visit <https://theshalomcenter.org/renewing-judaism>.

◆ ALEPH will hold the virtual course “Approaching the Holy Mountain: Spiritual Preparations for Shavuot” led by Reb Simcha Raphael on Wednesdays, May 7, 14 and 21, at 8 pm. The cost to attend is \$54. For more information or to register, visit <https://aleph.org/civircrm/event/register/?reset=1&id=588>.

◆ The American Jewish University will hold the virtual program “In Their Parents’ Words: Children of Survivors Share Their Stories” on Thursday, April 24, at 3 pm. AJU and the Shoah Legacy Writers offer the stories of Holocaust survivors as told through their children’s voices. For more information or to register, visit <https://open.aju.edu/event/in-their-parents-words-children-of-survivors-share-their-stories>.

◆ Melton will hold several virtual lectures. There is a sliding scale cost to attend: “Sketches and Stories: Voices from the Holocaust,” on Tuesday, April 22, from 5-6 pm (<https://events.org/events/calendarcourse?tid=c69dd613-5954-4473-9768-8fa5778a0ca1>); “What We Choose to Remember: Holocaust Memory as Civic Education,” on Thursday, April 24, from 7-8 pm (<https://events.org/events/calendarcourse?tid=68f083c7-9f4a-4b76-be85-fd122fa58048>); and

“Facing West: One Family’s Journey from India to Israel (1945-1955),” on Monday, April 28, from 1-2 pm (<https://events.org/events/calendarcourse?tid=5b0ae0bf-e819-480c-9f97-ce897f63743d>).

◆ Wisdom Without Wall will present several virtual programs: Donniel Hartman on “Who Are the Jews – And Who Can We Become? Reflections on a Post-October 7th World” on Sunday, April 27, from 2-3:30 pm (<https://wisdomwithoutwalls.org/donniel-hartman/>); “Can Jewish law help you solve today’s ethical quandaries and inspire your spirit?” on Wednesday, May 7, from 7-8:30 pm (<https://wisdomwithoutwalls.org/pamela-barmash/>); and Ariel Mayse on “Rethinking Jewish Ritual and Practice: A Hasidic Perspective,” on Wednesday, May 21, from 7-8:30 pm (<https://wisdomwithoutwalls.org/ariel-mayse/>).

◆ Roundtable will hold the three-part virtual class “History of the Jewish Ghetto: Venice, Warsaw, New York” on Wednesdays, June 4-18, from 3-4 pm. The cost to attend is \$132. The course will “explore the establishment of the first Jewish ghettos, their paradoxical roles as spaces of both confinement and community, and their transformation during the era of emancipation and assimilation.” For more information or to register, visit <https://roundtable.org/live-courses/history/ghetto-the-history-of-a-word>.

◆ The American Jewish University will hold the virtual course “Lost Books of the Bible: Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha” on Tuesdays, April 29-June 24, at 3 pm. The cost to attend is \$320. The class will explore forgotten works – “mystical visions, dramatic origin stories, and cosmic battles between good and evil” – that were written during the Second Temple period and not included in the Bible. For more information or to register, visit <https://open.aju.edu/event/lost-books-of-the-bible-apocrypha-and-pseudepigrapha>.

For additional resources, see previous issues of The Reporter on its website, www.thereporter.org/jewish-online-resources.

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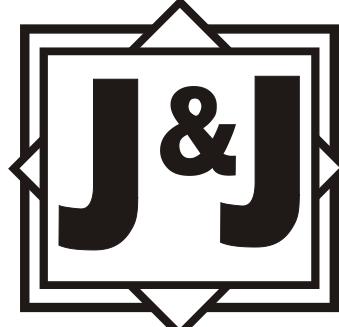
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Weekly Parasha

Passover, Exodus 12:21-51

To be free, we must free others

RABBI JARED ANSTANDIG, JLIC DIRECTOR AT BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

We know of Passover as the holiday commemorating our freedom from servitude in Egypt. And we also know that the ones from whom we were liberated were Pharaoh and the Egyptians. However, a close read of the text of the Torah suggests that there may be more to the story.

When God instructs Moses and Aaron to speak to Pharaoh regarding the liberation of the Israelites, the Torah describes it as follows (my translation): "And God spoke to Moses and to Aaron and commanded them to the Israelites and to Pharaoh, king of Egypt, to release the Israelites from the land of Egypt" (Exodus 6:13).

The inclusion of the Israelites here is strange. One would have expected the command to be directed solely at Pharaoh – after all, he was the one who was enslaving them! Why, then, does the Torah also mention that Moses and Aaron are to speak to the Israelites?

In its analysis of this verse, the Talmud Yerushalmi Rosh Hashanah 3:5 (second century, Israel) explains that,

indeed, both Pharaoh and the Israelites needed to hear this instruction. The Talmud states, (my translation): "Regarding what did God command the people [in this passage]? Regarding the freeing of Israelite slaves." For some reason, God requires both Pharaoh and the Israelites to hear about the demand to free the slaves.

At first glance, this interpretation seems perplexing. The Israelites were the victims of Egyptian enslavement; why would they need to hear about the command to release slaves? On the basis of this passage, Rabbi Meir Simcha of Dvinsk (19th century, Lithuania), in his commentary Meshech Chochma (Exodus 6:13), suggests a startling idea. Even within Egypt, he explains, there were Israelites who had risen to positions of prominence and power, and had acquired Israelite slaves. These individuals, having been granted a degree of status in Egypt, purchased fellow Israelites as slaves from Pharaoh. God's command, therefore, was directed not only at Pharaoh and the Egyptians, but

also at Israelite slave owners themselves.

This idea challenges a simplistic understanding of the Exodus. It suggests that the oppression of the Israelites was not entirely external; rather, there were some Israelites who had perpetrated slavery. For redemption to be complete, it was not enough to liberate the Israelites from Pharaoh. The Israelites had to free their own slaves, too. The Israelites could not deserve freedom so long as they were subjugating others.

At the seder, we will speak at length of the subjugation of our people – about the pain, suffering and horrors our ancestors endured in Egypt. And we will celebrate our redemption and the countless miracles that occurred during the Exodus, and of the myriad of reasons to praise God and His kindness.

At the same time, though, we cannot forget the lesson of Rabbi Meir Simcha. True freedom means taking responsibility. See "Free" on page 15

Congregational Notes

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

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

On Saturday, April 12, Shacharit services will be held at 9:30 am via Zoom and in-person. The Torah portion is Leviticus 6:1-8:and the haftarah is Malachi 3:4-24. A Zoom Havdalah service will take place at 8:30 pm.

On Sunday, April 13, at 10:30 am, first day of Passover services at 10:30 am.

On Tuesday, April 15, at 5:30 pm, minyan with musical hallel; and at 7 pm, Board of Trustees meeting.

On Wednesday, April 16, at 10 am, there will be a Ritual Committee meeting.

On Saturday, April 19, Shacharit services will be held at 9:45 am via Zoom and in-person. The Torah portion is Exodus 13:17-15:26, 1:1-5:26 and the haftarah is Samuels 22:1-51. A Zoom Havdalah service will take place at 8:45 pm.

Norwich Jewish Center

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

Penn-York Jewish Community

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

Temple Beth-El of Ithaca

Affiliation: United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism
 Rabbi: Caleb Brommer
 Rabbi Emeritus: Scott L. Glass
 Address: 402 North Tioga St. (the corner of Court and Tioga streets), Ithaca, NY 14850-4292
 Phone: 273-5775
 E-mail: president@tbeithaca.org, secretary@tbeithaca.org
 Website: www.tbeithaca.org
 Presidents: Melanie Kalman and Alexis Siemon
 Sisterhood President: Gail Zussman
 Director of Education: Calle Schueler
 Services: Friday 8 pm; Saturday 10 am, unless otherwise announced. Weekday morning minyan 7:30 am (9 am on Sundays and legal holidays).
 Religious School/Education: September-May: Classes meet on Sunday, 9 am-12:30 pm and Wednesday afternoons, 3:45-5:45 pm. The teen No'ar program meets twice per month (every other Sunday from 5-7 pm) and is designed with the flexibility to accommodate busy student schedules.
 Adult Ed.: Numerous weekly courses, several semester-long courses and a variety of mini-courses and lectures are offered throughout the year. Call the temple office for more details.
 For upcoming services and events on Zoom, visit www.tinyurl.com/HappeningAtTBE.

Synagogues limit face-to-face gatherings

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

Beth David Synagogue

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

Rohr Chabad Center

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

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
 Presidents: Martha Armstrong and Mitch Grossman, presidents_22@tikkunvor.org
 Education Director/Admin. Coordinator: Naomi Wilensky
 Bnai Mitzvah Coordinator: Michael Margolin
 Services: All services currently on Zoom. E-mail info@tikkunvor.org for the times and links. Contemplative morning services every Tuesday from 8:30-9:30 am. Saturday mornings, Gan Shabbat and other special services at least once a month. Call for the weekly schedule.
 Jewish Learning Experiences (JLE) for second through seventh grade classes meet on Sunday mornings. Sixth and seventh grades also meet on Wednesday afternoons. Family programs for kindergarten and first grade held monthly.
 Adult Education: Offered regularly throughout the year. Check the website for details.

Friday, April 11, light candles before 7:22 pm
 Saturday, April 12, light candles after 8:23 pm
 Sunday, April 13, light candles after 8:25 pm
 Yom tov ends Monday, April 14 8:26 pm
 Friday, April 18, light candles before 7:30 pm
 Saturday, April 19, light candles after 8:31 pm
 Sunday, April 20, yom tov ends 8:33 pm
 Friday, April 25, light candles before 7:38 pm
 Shabbat ends Saturday, April 26 8:39 pm

Temple Concord

Affiliation: Union for Reform Judaism (this header block updates the current one.)
 Rabbi: Leah Moser
 Address: 9 Riverside Dr, Binghamton NY 13905
 Office hours: Tues-Fri, 10 am-2 pm
 Phone: (607) 723-7355
 Office e-mail: TempleConcordBinghamton@gmail.com
 Website: www.TempleConcord.com
 Please contact Temple Concord for Zoom links.
 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.
 Fridays, April 11 and 18: At 7:30 pm, Friday Shabbat Services are in person, on Zoom and on Facebook.

Saturdays, April 12 and 19: At 9:15 am, Torah study is in person and on Zoom.

Tuesday-Thursday April 15-17 and April 22-24: At 5:30 pm, evening prayers in person only.

Wednesdays, April 16 and 23: At 6 pm, "Jewish Mysticism" class in person and on Zoom.

Other events:
 On Sunday, April 13, at 5:30 pm, Community Seder in the social hall. The dinner will be provided by Chef David A. Stroka for a cost of \$30/person.

On Tuesday, April 15: At 7 pm, Social Action Committee meeting. For details, contact the temple office or committee Co-chairwomen Phyllis Weinstein and Debra Saltzman for details.

On Tuesday, April 22: At 6:30 pm, Community Yom Hashoah Commemoration at the synagogue. (For more information, see the article on page 3.)

Temple Beth El of Oneonta

Affiliation: United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism
 Cantor: David Green
 Address: 83 Chestnut St., Oneonta, NY 13820
 Mailing address: P.O. Box 383, Oneonta, NY 13820
 Phone: 607-432-5522
 E-mail: TBEOneonta@gmail.com
 Regular service times: Contact the temple for days of services and times.
 Religious School/Education: Religious School, for grades kindergarten through bar/bat mitzvah, meets Sunday mornings.
 For the schedule of services, classes and events, contact the temple.

Temple Brith Sholom

Affiliation: Unaffiliated
 Address: P.O. Box 572, 117 Madison St., Cortland, NY 13045
 Phone: 607-756-7181
 President: Leo Searfoss
 Cemetery Committee: 315-696-5744
 Website: templebrithsholomcortland.org
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Temple-Brith-Sholom-114006981962930/>
 Service leaders: Lay leadership
 Shabbat services: Services are usually on the third Friday of the month and led by a variety of leaders. 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." The community extends a warm welcome to the Jewish student population of SUNY Cortland, as well as the residents of local adult residences. The Board of Trustees meets on the second Tuesday of the month.
 Services and programs are held by Zoom usually on the third Friday of the month.

Hate crimes against Jews, Muslims rose in 2024 as overall rates fell, study says

By JNS staff

(JNS) – While hate crime rates in 42 U.S. cities declined by almost 3 percent overall in 2024, crimes against Jews rose 12 percent and those against Muslims rose 18 percent, according to preliminary data from a new multi-city survey by an emeritus researcher from California State University, San Bernardino (<https://phys.org/news/2025-04-urban-crime-declined-slightly-anti.html>).

Brian Levin, professor emeritus of criminal justice

at the public school and founder of its Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism, stated that crimes against Jews and Muslims “rose for a fourth consecutive year and were accelerated by the Gaza War.” While anti-Muslim hate crimes rose at a higher rate than incidents of Jew-hatred, hate crimes against Jews accounted for the largest percentage of hate crimes overall at 25 percent. The study also stated that other ethnicity-related hate crimes fell in 2024, but most

were within the margin of error.

Incidents of antisemitism on college campuses increased by 3,000 percent in 2024, according to a report from StopAntisemitism (www.jns.org/flunked-out-3000-spike-in-campus-antisemitism-post-oct-7). In 2023, anti-Jewish hate crimes in the United States increased by 63 percent, according to data released by the FBI (www.jns.org/antisemitic-hate-crimes-in-us-surged-to-all-time-high-last-year-fbi).

“Incontrovertible proof”: UK report details Hamas atrocities on Oct. 7

By JNS staff

(JNS) – A landmark 318-page report from the United Kingdom (<https://www.7octparliamentarycommission.co.uk/>), published on March 19, provides a detailed account of the Hamas-led October 7, 2023, invasion of southern Israel, aiming to establish an irrefutable historical record amid growing denial of the atrocities.

According to the report, chaired by Lord Andrew Roberts and compiled by the UK-Israel All-Party Parliamentary Group, 7,000 Hamas terrorists launched coordinated assaults across 55 locations, killing nearly 1,200 people, 73 percent of whom were civilians. The youngest victim, 14-hour-old Naama Abu Rashed, a Bedouin Israeli, was shot in her mother’s womb, while the oldest, 92-year-old Holocaust survivor Moshe Ridler, was murdered in his safe room with a



Destruction at Kibbutz Nir Oz on October 7, 2023. (Photo by Oren Cohen)

rocket-propelled grenade.

Among the 1,182 people killed, 18 were British citizens; those murdered or kidnapped came from 44 different countries. Most were Jewish Israelis, but Israeli Arabs and Bedouins were also targeted without mercy.

The report confirms widespread sexual violence, including rape, gang rape and sexualized torture, backed by survivor testimonies and open-source evidence.

The largest group of victims was young adults aged 18-30, primarily due to the attack on the Nova music festival, where 375 people were killed.

Victims were killed by gunfire, fire, asphyxiation and explosions. The report also details widespread desecration of corpses, including mutilation, beheadings and the boobytrapping of bodies. In some instances, bodies were taken back to Gaza.

“There have already been attempts to deny these atrocities,” said Roberts, calling the report “incontrovertible proof to ensure the truth is preserved.”

The report has been praised as a “vital resource” to counter misinformation and uphold historical accountability. British historian Simon Sebag Montefiore described it as an “important and essential record, chronicle, and investigation of one of the most atrocious crimes of terrorist barbarity in modern history.”

Google to buy Israeli startup Wiz

By JNS staff

(JNS) – Google parent company Alphabet on March 18 confirmed its \$32 billion acquisition of Israeli cloud security firm Wiz, making it the tech giant’s largest deal to date. The move aims to strengthen Google Cloud’s security offerings amid growing competition from AWS and Microsoft.

Founded in 2020, Wiz has rapidly expanded, generating \$500 million in annual recurring revenue and serving nearly half of the top 100 U.S. companies. Despite joining Google Cloud, Wiz’s security products will remain available on other platforms, including AWS and Azure.

The deal is subject to regulatory approval, and experts anticipate potential antitrust scrutiny before finalization later this year. Talks on a \$23 billion deal reportedly fell apart in July 2024. Google has shown interest in the Israeli market, in 2013 purchasing Waze for \$1.1 billion, creating the Jewish state’s first domestic unicorn (a startup reaching

\$1 billion in valuation without being listed on the stock market). If completed, the deal would surpass Google’s previous biggest acquisition – the \$12.5 billion purchase of Motorola Mobility in 2012.

While Wiz is headquartered in New York City, with nearly a thousand employees scattered across North America and Europe, most of its engineering team is based in Tel Aviv, where the 41-year-old Israeli co-founder and CEO Assaf Rappaport was born.

Campus. . . Continued from page 13

The Trump administration announced on March 31 plans to audit \$9 billion worth of grants to Harvard University over Jew-hatred. It has also reportedly paused \$210 million in funding to Princeton University pending an investigation into campus Jew-hatred.

Five other Republican senators, 10 House Republicans and Rep. Tom Suozzi (D-NY) signed on as original co-sponsors.

“Any American educational institution authorizing, facilitating or otherwise supporting pro-terrorism activities should lose every cent of federal funding and subsidization,” Sen. Katie Britt (R-AL) stated. “We must continue to send a resounding message that antisemitism has no place in America.”

Free. Continued from page 14

for the freedom of others. In Egypt, the Israelites were charged with liberating their own slaves, the most marginalized members of society. As individuals, as family units and as a community, we, too, can ask ourselves: what are we doing for our most marginalized? Are we expecting or celebrating our own liberation, while turning a blind eye to the plight of others? According to Rabbi Meir Simcha, we can never know true freedom while others suffer around us.

And, perhaps even more directly: What are we doing for the 59 hostages who remain in Gaza as of this writing? If our ancestors could never be free while their brethren remained slaves, can we truly be free while our brethren remain in captivity?

May this Passover be a season of complete freedom and liberation. May we enjoy not only our own freedom, but may we work for, and witness, the freedom of our entire nation and the entire world.

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Wishing the community a happy Passover.

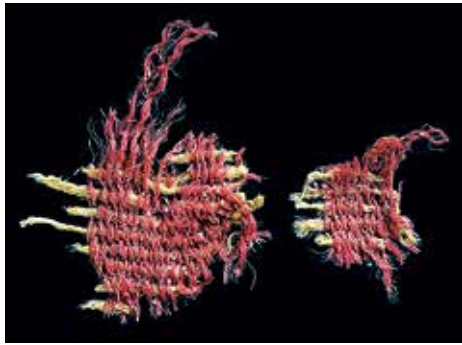
Rabbi Micah R. Friedman
Executive Board & Trustees,
and the entire congregation of Temple Israel

A 3,800-year-old scarlet textile found in Judean Desert

By JNS staff

(JNS) – One of the ancient world’s most precious dyes, used in the fabrics of the biblical Tabernacle and the priestly garments, has been identified from a textile uncovered in a cave in the Judean Desert, the Israel Antiquities Authority announced. The 3,800-year-old textile, which is less than 2 cm. (0.8 inches) in size, was discovered in the “Cave of Skulls” in 2016 during excavations conducted to save heritage finds in the Judean Desert caves from theft, the state-run archaeological body said.

A laboratory analysis on the color of the tiny textile – which was dated to the Middle Bronze Age (1767-1954 B.C.E.) – showed that it was produced from the oak scale insects that the researchers identify with the biblical scarlet worm. The color “scarlet worm” is mentioned 25 times in the Bible, often alongside blue and purple, which were considered the most precious and prestigious colors in the ancient world.



A fragment of the 3,800-year-old textile, dyed with the *Kermes vermilio*. (Photo by Dafna Gazit/IAA)

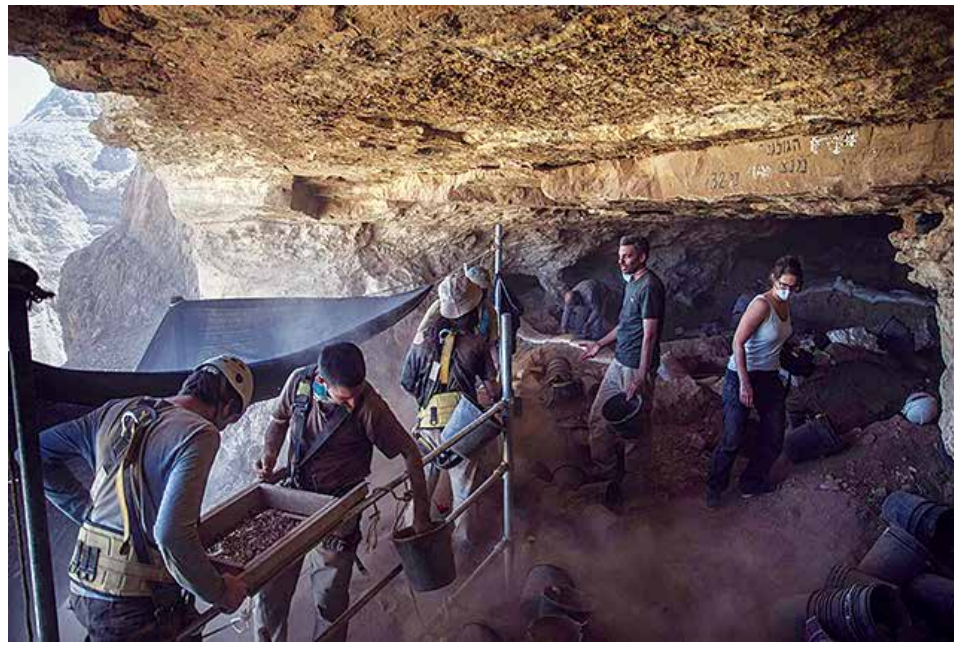
“In the Bible, the dye extracted from oak scale insects is referred to as ‘scarlet worm,’” said Professor Zohar Amar of Bar-Ilan University in Ramat Gan.

“In ancient times, the dye was produced from the female scale insect, which lives on the kermes oak tree (*Quercus coccifera*),” explained Dr. Naama Sukenik, curator of the Organic Material Collection at the Israel Antiquities Authority. “Collecting these kermes was done in a very short window of time – one month out of the year, in the summer, after the female laid her eggs but before they hatched – when the amount of dye was greatest.

“The short period in which the kermes could be collected, the difficulty in finding them due to their small size (between 3 and 8 mm), and their camouflage colors, that make it difficult to locate them, as well as the small amount of dye that can be produced from them – and on the other hand, the beautiful red hue that can be produced from them for dyeing textiles, made their use highly prestigious,” Sukenik said.

Despite the wealth of written historical evidence about the widespread use in the ancient world of dyeing with scale insects, until today, very few textiles dyed with kermes insects that predate the Roman period have been found, the IAA said. The red textile found in the Judean Desert cave is the earliest evidence of woolen textile dyed with kermes.

“Although it is difficult to know how this textile arrived in this desert cave, it is significant evidence of ancient knowledge



The Cave of Skulls, where the rare textile was discovered. (Photo by Yoli Schwartz/IAA)

in dyeing wool fibers using scale insects to achieve the red color as early as the Middle Bronze Age – about 3,800 years ago,” said Dr. Uri Davidovich, an excavation director on behalf of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Sukenik added, “The important find bridges the gap between written sources and the archaeological discoveries, providing evidence that the ancient textile dyeing industry was, already at this stage, sufficiently established for dyeing using animals.”

The research, a joint collaboration among the Israel Antiquities Authority and Bar-Ilan

and Hebrew universities, was published recently in the *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports*.

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Mystery persists over function of ancient Golan megalith

By JNS staff

(JNS) – A stone site on the Golan Heights made up of more than 42,000 basalt rocks that dates back 5,000 years was likely not used as an astronomical observatory as previously thought, according to a study published on December 29. The Rujm el-Hiri site, also known as Gilgal Refa’im (Wheel of Ghosts), is located on the strategic plateau about 10 miles east

of the Sea of Galilee.

The study by Tel Aviv University and Ben-Gurion University of the Negev found that geodynamic movement over 150 million years caused significant shifts in the ground, challenging the theory that the structure was used as an astronomical observatory, as the original alignment of the walls and entrances do not correspond to celestial observations. The study was

based on calculations of the sky map and aligning the directions of the solstices, equinoxes and other celestial bodies as they appeared five millennia ago along with the entrances to the site. The findings show that the orientations of the entrances and walls were entirely different at that time.

The establishment of the site, and other nearby ancient settlements, is dated by archaeologists to the Early Bronze Age II period (3000–2700 B.C.E.). Israeli archeologists have theorized that the site was not a defensive position or a residential quarter, but was possibly a ritual center, although there is no consensus regarding its function.

The study’s findings, which include the first comprehensive mapping of the archaeological landscape using satellite technology, have been published in the journal *Remote Sensing*.

The 75-mile Golan Trail marked hiking route, which

stretches the length of the Heights, passes Gilgal Refa’im.



At left: The Gilgal Refa’im megalithic monument in the Golan Heights. (Photo by Assaf C. via Wikimedia Commons)



Gilgal Refa’im and its location in the Golan Heights. (Photo by Tel Aviv University)

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The Staff and Editorial Board of

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