

# THE REPORTER

Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton

January 3-9, 2020  
Volume XLIX, Number 1

BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK

## Talk on “Growing Up in Two Worlds: From Sao Paulo, Brazil, to Binghamton, NY” at BD on Jan. 11

Beth David’s January 11 Luncheon Speaker Series guest will be Roberta Borger, who was born and raised in Brazil before coming to the United States to pursue advanced degrees. Currently a Ph.D. candidate in English and creative writing at Binghamton University, she will speak about what it was like growing up in two worlds, as well as trace the history of the Jewish presence in Brazil, which goes back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century. As an active participant in Jewish life in Sao Paulo, she will share her experiences growing up in a country known for its mixture of cultures, traditions and influences. Her talk will deal with issues related to the effects of assimilation and the challenges of integrating into Brazilian society, as well as the situation concerning the perception of Jews now, given Brazil’s current right-wing government.

“In a country with more than 200 million inhabitants,” Borger says, “the Jewish community in Brazil can often be overlooked with only 100,000 members. Yet, its roots trace back hundreds of years, when early

settlers arrived after fleeing the Inquisition.” The great-granddaughter of a rabbi, and the granddaughter of a historian, Borger was raised in Sao Paulo, and up through eight grade, she attended the city’s Chaim Nachman Bialik Brazilian-Israeli School. She was a member of her synagogue’s Chazit Hanoar youth group, which met every Saturday for activities, lectures, discussions and events.

While pursuing her bachelor’s degree in screenwriting at Sao Paulo’s Anhembi Morumbi University, Borger received a Masa scholarship, enabling her to study for a semester at Tel Aviv University. After receiving her bachelor’s degree in 2007, she moved to the U.S. in 2008 and earned a second bachelor’s degree in creative writing at SUNY Purchase. In 2014, she earned her master of fine arts in creative writing from Chatham University in Pittsburgh, with a double major in fiction and children’s



Roberta Borger

writing, and a concentration in travel writing. She subsequently moved to Binghamton, where she is currently completing her Ph.D. in English and creative writing. Her poems and short stories have appeared in The Acentos Review, The Brooklyn Voice, Lux and other literary magazines.

“We are truly fortunate to have Roberta with us to share her wealth of knowledge and experiences,” organizers say. “Given the current situation in Brazil, her talk will be an ideal opportunity to learn more about how Jewish life has been affected by social and political forces. We are sure it will be a

lively and thought-provoking event!”

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

## TI/TC adult ed. program on Jan. 12 to discuss Mussar

The Adult Education Committee of Temple Israel and Temple Concord will host a program on Sunday, January 12, at 10 am, at Temple Israel. Rabbi Geoffrey Brown will provide an introduction to the Jewish spiritual path of Mussar. Mussar has been described as a study of Jewish ethics. There is a cost of \$5 per person for the breakfast.

Brown has been leading an ongoing Mussar class at Temple Israel for the past several months. Mussar study employs a variety of approaches to internalizing Jewish values. The course itself has been described as “an immersion process,” and



Rabbi Geoffrey Brown

includes readings and discussion questions, maintaining a journal, meeting with a partner for a study session and then meeting as a group to contemplate and reflect on the text.

Mussar, in the words of Mussar Institute founder Alan Morinis, “shows us how to realize our highest spiritual potential, including an everyday experience infused with happiness, trust and love.”

To make a reservation, contact Tammy Kunsman titammy@sntny.twcabc.com or 723-7461. Reservations would be appreciated by Wednesday, January 8, in order to have sufficient food.

## TC Sisterhood to hold book talk on Jan. 26

Rabbi Rachel Esserman will discuss three books at the annual Temple Concord Sisterhood book talk on Sunday, January 26, at 11 am, at Temple Concord, 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton. The snow date is Sunday, February 2. The program is open to the public. A brunch will be served at a cost of \$3 for Sisterhood members and \$5 for non-members. Reservations must be made by Wednesday, January 22, to Phyllis Kellenberger at pweinste@sntny.rr.com, 723-2193 or 727-8305.



Rabbi Rachel Esserman

The books to be reviewed are “The Heart of the Circle” by Israeli author Keren Landsman, “From a Sealed Room” by award-winning author Rachel Kadish, and “The Flight Portfolio” by Julie Orringer.

Esserman said, “I’m again looking forward to reading the books for what is one of my favorite events of the year. I deliberately choose books with different themes and plots in order to make the review more interesting. Two of the books—‘The Heart of

the Circle’ and ‘The Flight Portfolio’—were published in 2019. Rachel Kadish’s novel is older, but I’ve been meaning to read it for years since I loved her second and third novels. Lovers of urban fantasy will be happy to note that I’ve included one by an Israeli author, Keren Landsman, and, as a fan of Julie Orringer’s first novel, ‘The Invisible Bridge,’ I’m really looking forward to reading her second one.”

“The Heart of the Circle” is Israeli author Landsman’s first work to be translated into English. The premise of this fantasy novel is that “throughout human history, there have always been sorcerers, once idolized and now exploited for their powers. In Israel, the Sons of Simeon, a group of religious extremists, persecute sorcerers while the government turns a blind eye. After a march for equal rights ends in brutal murder, waiter Reed becomes the next target. While his friends seek his

See “Book” on page 2

## Hanukkah celebrations around the community



On December 18, Sylvia Diamond (not pictured) led a Hanukkah celebration at the Elderwood Village senior living community. Hillel Academy students, led by Rabbi Moshe Shmaryahu (not pictured), entertained the residents. (See more community photos on page 5.)



Teens prepared for the annual torch walk at the Jewish Community Center’s annual community Hanukkah party on December 19. (See more party photos on page 7.)

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**“Super wine” research**  
Israeli researchers are working to produce the first “super wine” with enhanced health benefits.  
..... Page 2

**ICC probe announced**  
The International Criminal Court plans to probe alleged Israeli war crimes in Gaza in 2014.  
..... Page 3

**News in brief...**  
Attack on a New York Hanukkah party; Netanyahu retains Likud leadership; naval drills in Gulf area.  
..... Page 8

**Special Sections**  
Legal Notices..... 4  
Book Review..... 4  
Dine Out..... 5  
Classifieds..... 8

# Israeli researchers are working to produce the world's first "super wine"

By JNS staff

(JNS) – Israeli researchers are attempting to produce the world's first "super wine" that magnifies the health benefits of fermented grapes without compromising on taste, Israel21C reported.

For three years, researchers at Tel-Hai College in northern Israel have been working to make wine healthier by trying to raise the naturally occurring levels of resveratrol, part of a group of compounds called polyphenols. They are found in the skin of red grapes and act like antioxidants, protecting the body against damage that can lead to higher risk of cancer and heart disease. Resveratrol is a stilbenoid, the family of molecules with the most beneficial properties among the components in red wine. The research is focused on increasing the level of stilbenes and resveratrol in the wine grapes.

"Wine contains antioxidants and other substances that help our bodies defend against various ailments, but at a

relatively low concentration," Meir Shlissel, a senior lecturer in food science at the Academic and Technology College of Tel Hai told Israel21C. "We take the grapes and expose them to stress. This is a form of organic stress, not genetic modification or anything like that.

"It's a bit like how parents pressure their kids into academic achievements," he continued. "The grapes naturally begin to produce substances that are healthy for us, only now these substances are at concentrations many times greater."

The next stage in the research involves preparing wine from grapes with high levels of resveratrol and stilbenoids, and testing its organoleptic properties.

*At right: A view of the Jezreel Valley winery in Israel. (Courtesy photo via JNS)*



## Book

Continued from page 1

future killers, Reed complicates everything by falling hopelessly in love. As the battle for survival grows ever more personal, can Reed protect himself and his friends as the Sons of Simeon close in around them?"

Kadish, the author of "From a Sealed Room," is best known for her award-winning novel "The Weight of Ink." The author "reflects on the ghosts of the past, the tensions of war, and the difficult bonds of family. When Maya enrolls at Hebrew University in Jerusalem shortly after the Gulf War, she hopes to leave New York and a fraught relationship with her mother behind her. In Israel, she gets to know her older cousin, Tami, a housewife whose home has a room sealed against the war's Scud missile attacks. Like Maya, Tami feels distanced from the people closest to her – her mother, husband and only son. But it will ultimately be Maya's visits with Shifra, an elderly recluse and Holocaust survivor who lives in the apartment below her, that give Maya the courage

to confront her problems and break free of the burdens of her past."

Orringer's "The Flight Portfolio" focuses on World War II and is based on a real person and events. The publisher notes, "In 1940, Varian Fry traveled to Marseille carrying \$3,000 and a list of imperiled artists and writers he hoped to help escape within a few weeks. Instead, he stayed more than a year, working to procure false documents, amass emergency funds and arrange journeys across Spain and Portugal, where the refugees would embark for safer ports. His many clients included Hannah Arendt, Max Ernst, Marcel Duchamp and Marc Chagall. The race against time to save them is a tale of forbidden love, high-stakes adventure and unimaginable courage."

Esserman is the executive editor and book reviewer for The Reporter Group. Her editorials and reviews have won awards from the American Jewish Press Association and the Syracuse Press Club. She won two Syracuse Press

Club awards in 2018: first place for a book review and third place for a column. She serves as the Jewish chaplain for Broome Developmental Disabilities Service Office. Her work has been published in "The Women's Torah Commentary" and "The Women's Haftarah Commentary" (both by Jewish Lights Publishing). She also has had a book of poetry, "I Stand By The River," published by Keshet Press of Temple Concord.

A Reconstructionist rabbi who says her first love is teaching, she sees her position at *The Reporter* as an opportunity to educate the public about Judaism. She is a freelance rabbi who deals with lifecycle events, hospital visits, chaplaincy and is rabbi-on-call when needed by local Reform and Conservative synagogues. Her education includes a bachelor of arts degree in sociology from the University of Pennsylvania, and rabbinic ordination and master of arts in Hebrew letters from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, Wyncote, PA.

## Opinion

### In My Own Words

## A new year

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

So long, 2019. Good riddance and don't let the door hit you on the way out. In case you hadn't already gathered, 2019 is not going down in history as one of my favorite years. I normally think of years using Jewish time; for example, Rosh Hashanah is the beginning of the New Year for me. However, problems from the summer got worse during the fall and continued into the beginning of winter, so I'm happy to draw a line after 2019 and say 2020 is a new start.

Thinking about this reminds me of how artificial most of our time markers are. Yes, a year is a real thing: it's the time it takes our planet to revolve around the sun. But there's no reason that the secular year has to start in January. We could easily decide that June or October was the beginning of the year. In Judaism, there are actually four new years listed in the Mishnah: each measures a different thing.

Sorry for the tangent: it's easier to pontificate about the history of the year than think about what occurred during 2019. Actually, looking back, I'm struck by the mixed feelings that have risen in me after almost every event. For every bad thing that occurred, I managed to find a number of things for which to be grateful. That gratitude, which is not part of my basic nature, is something I've cultivated to not only keep my stress level down, but to create positive emotions in my life.

I'm grateful that medical tests I had this summer turned out negative. Dealing with co-pays for two outpatient sur-

geries made me appreciate my health insurance. The \$450 cost per surgery was far less than the more than \$13,000 total cost would have been if I had to pay for both procedures. It also helps me understand why people wait until it is really clear they're ill before having tests performed. That includes those who have insurance, but can't afford the co-pay: do they buy groceries and pay their rent this month, or have the medical test? That's a horrible decision to have to make.

Family issues consumed my fall and continue to be on my mind. The problem is that none of the choices were things I really wanted to do. So, I was picking the least bad option. What I do appreciate is all the people who reached out to me when they learned of my dilemma – offering to talk to me about the similar choice they had to make or to just be a shoulder to cry on. To my surprise, people asked me how I was doing. (I was more concerned with the family member.) They also suggested something I had never considered: they told me to be kind to myself. That's different from taking care of myself. Taking care of myself can mean just the basics: get enough sleep, eat a good diet, exercise, etc. Being kind means not only doing something nice for myself, but not judging myself to harshly. I shared this with a cousin who is facing her own difficulties. When I told her of the people who've helped, she wrote, "They're keepers." She is definitely right about that. I am lucky to have such good friends and such a wonderful community.

Things have also been difficult here at the paper. Many of you might not be aware that we recently lost two clients. Advertising income is down as more businesses use social media for advertising purposes. Fewer people are reading hard copy newspapers. The idea that my staff and I might not have jobs is scary. The good news is that the Federation has been wonderful. We're in the midst of making difficult choices, but the awesome *Reporter* staff have been helping anyway they can and the new Federation executive director has shown how caring and concerned she is. The chairwoman of The Reporter Editorial Committee has also gone out of her way to help fill in the gaps of my expertise.

I am well aware that our lives don't follow the paths we expected. The Yiddish phrase – man plans and God laughs – would be perfect for my tombstone. I think I must be on Plan F or G by now; I've lost count of how many changes I've had to make in my life. I may soon have to be thinking of plan H or I. I hope retirement will be one of those someday, if only so I can catch up on my reading. What I realize, though, is that being negative will not make things better (as natural as negativity comes to me). Instead, I'm going to end by using a variation of a motto – today is going to be a good day – that comes from someone I work with in my chaplaincy job. So, today, and hopefully every day this year, I say, "This year is going to be a good year."



**Jewish Federation**  
OF GREATER BINGHAMTON

Suzanne Holwitt, President  
Shelley Hubal, Executive Director

607-724-2332 ~ www.jfgeb.org

#### The Reporter Editorial Committee

Rachel Coker, chairwoman  
Rebecca Goldstein Kahn, Ben Kasper,  
Toby Kohn, Richard Lewis,  
Robert Neuberger, Dora Polachek

#### HOW TO REACH THE REPORTER

Mail ~ The Reporter, 500 Clubhouse Rd. Vestal, NY 13850

E-mail ~ TReporter@aol.com • Fax ~ 607-724-2311

Phone ~ 607-724-2360 or 800-779-7896

Extension#/Department ~ 1. Advertising 2. Business Office

3. Art Department 4. Circulation 6. Editorial/News

**THE REPORTER**  
Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton  
BINGHAMTON, NY

#### OPINIONS

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

#### LETTERS

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

#### ADS

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

#### DEADLINE

Regular weekly deadline is noon, Wednesday, for the following week's newspaper.

Executive Editor Rabbi Rachel Esserman  
Layout Editor Diana Sochor  
Advertising Bonnie Rozen  
Production Coordinator Jenn DePersis  
Bookkeeper Kathy Brown

#### Proofreaders

Barbara Bank, Eleanor Durfee, Fran Ferentinos,  
Leah Ferentinos, Rebecca Goldstein Kahn,  
Merri Pell-Preus, Ilene Pinsker, Heidi Thirer



"The Reporter" (USPS 096-280) is published weekly for \$36 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.thereportergroup.org

# ICC announces "basis" for probe of Israel's actions in 2014 Gaza war

By JNS staff

(JNS) – The International Criminal Court's chief prosecutor announced on December 20 that a "basis" exists to probe into whether Israel committed crimes during the 2014 war with Gaza, known in Israel as "Operation Protective Edge," when Hamas launched rockets into the Jewish state and Israel responded defensively.

"I am satisfied that there is a reasonable basis to proceed with an investigation into the situation in Palestine," said Fatou Bensouda. "There is a reasonable basis to believe that war crimes were committed in the context of the 2014 hostilities in Gaza."

While Israel is not a member nor recognizes the jurisdiction of the court, the Palestinians do belong. The latter requested the investigation five years ago.

"Specifically, I have sought confirmation that the 'territory' over which the court may exercise its jurisdiction, and which I may subject to investigation, comprises the West Bank, including east Jerusalem and Gaza," said Bensouda.

Israeli leadership blasted back at the announcement. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said it "has turned the International Criminal Court into a political tool to delegitimize the state of Israel. The prosecutor has completely ignored the legal arguments we presented to her."

Israel's Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit said in a legal opinion, "By approaching the ICC, the Palestinians are seeking to breach the framework agreed to by the parties and to push the court to determine political issues that should be resolved by negotiations and not by criminal proceedings."

Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations Danny Danon said, "The prosecutor's decision in the International Criminal Court reflects the anti-Israeli tendency rooted in The Hague; the institution is becoming nothing more than another partisan political tool to wield against the Jewish state. ... This decision exposes the ICC's desire to follow political considerations, not legal ones; Israel has legal and historical rights in the land of Israel, which no court can change. This only serves to reward the Palestinian campaign to curry international favor instead of negotiating directly with Israel. It will not advance the cause of peace, but instead undermines the very institutions that are designed to promote international peace and security."

"Clearly, Bensouda cannot tell the difference between

war crimes and Palestinian propaganda," said B'nai B'rith in a statement. "It is the Palestinians who have for decades subjected Israel to the high crimes of unrelenting, indiscriminate terrorism – thus necessitating Israeli defensive efforts – and an open campaign of national extermination. By contrast, despite singularly difficult circumstances, Israel, the Middle East's only actual democracy, has carried out its pursuit of security with a degree of restraint and care rarely if ever seen in the history of military conflict."

"While we are moving forward in new areas of hope and peace with our Arab neighbors, the ICC in The Hague has taken a step backwards," Netanyahu said at the December 22 Cabinet meeting in Jerusalem. "On [December 20], it finally became a weapon in the political war against the state of Israel."

Bensouda's decision was "absurd on three counts," said Netanyahu. "The first absurdity is that the prosecutor's decision completely contradicts the founding principle of the court itself." The ICC, he explained, had been established after World War II "to deal with problems that states would raise regarding war crimes, such as genocide or large-scale deportations ... for states that did not have true judicial systems in law." But the Palestinians, he said, have no state, and furthermore the ICC has no jurisdiction over Israel. "They took a Palestinian claim – who do not have a state – and accused the only democracy in the Middle East, which operates in accordance with the highest legal standards of the western democracies, which the court has no jurisdiction over. This is the first absurdity."

The second absurdity, said the Israeli prime minister, "is that the prosecutor's decision contradicts historical truth. It opposes the right of the Jews to settle in the Jews' homeland. To turn the fact that Jews are living in their land into a war crime is an absurdity of epic proportions."

The third absurdity, he said, "is that the prosecutor's decision contradicts contemporary truth. ... Who are they accusing here? Iran? Turkey? Syria? No, Israel. ... This is terrible hypocrisy."

Israel would fight the decision, he said, adding, "From the depth of our hearts, we thank U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo that he and President [Donald] Trump's administration are struggling against these distortions, this injustice and this mendacity on a daily basis."

See "ICC" on page 8

# BD Sisterhood to meet on Jan. 8

Beth David Sisterhood will meet on Wednesday, January 8, at 1 pm, in the main lobby of the Broome County Public Library, 185 Court St., Binghamton, for a guided tour of the Binghamton Historical Society.

"Binghamton Jewish history is the topic of the January 8 meeting," note organizers of the event. "Join us there, learn and share your knowledge. Some Sisterhood members' memories go back to the '40s, and we'll address contemporary issues, as well."

The winter storm date for the event is Tuesday, February 5, at 1 pm.

## THE REPORTER GROUP

is seeking a part-time Graphic Artist.

- Flexible hours,  
10 hours minimum per week.
- ◆ Newspaper ad make-up
  - ◆ Photo scanning
  - ◆ InDesign, Illustrator, Photoshop
  - ◆ Web experience preferred

Please e-mail resume and cover letter to:

rachel@thereportergroup.org with "graphic artist" in the subject line.



**It just makes cents to advertise here in *The Reporter!***

To advertise, contact Bonnie Rozen at 724-2360, ext. 244 or bonnie@thereportergroup.org.



Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton

**ERNEST H. PARSONS FUNERAL HOME**  
*Faithfully Serving Broome County Since 1928*



**PRE-ARRANGEMENTS AND PRE-FUNDING AVAILABLE**

**Joseph Fritsch**  
Managing Director

71 Main St., Binghamton, NY 13905  
Phone 607-724-1336  
Fax 800-948-5844

parsonsfuneral@yahoo.com  
www.ParsonsFuneral.com

**HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE**

**Women TIES Greater Binghamton Luncheon**

*"Social Media, Is It Really Changing the Way We Do Business?"*

Sponsored by the NYWBC



Featuring: Jeannine Papelino, Creative Director & Information Management Specialist, IntreXDesign & Associates

**Thursday, January 9 • 11:30am - 2:00pm**

Traditions at the Glen  
4101 Watson Blvd, Johnson City, NY 13790

RSVP to [www.womenties.com](http://www.womenties.com) or 315-708-4288 by January 7.

*This is a women only event.*

**The Kosher Store** 

Save on your Kosher needs in our Binghamton store.

 <p><b>2/\$5</b></p> <p>with AdvantEdge Card Limit 1 of this bonus point offer per transaction.</p> <p><b>Dr. Praeger's Veggie Burgers</b> 10 oz. • All Varieties or Breakfast Bowls 7-8 oz. • Where Available</p>	 <p><b>4/\$5</b></p> <p>with AdvantEdge Card</p> <p><b>Lieber's Rice Cakes</b> 2.9-3.1 oz. • All Varieties</p>
 <p><b>5/\$5</b></p> <p>with AdvantEdge Card</p> <p><b>G Washington's Seasoning And Broth</b> 1-1.1 oz. • Golden or Brown</p>	 <p><b>4/\$5</b></p> <p>with AdvantEdge Card</p> <p><b>Wacky Mac Mac &amp; Cheese</b> 5.5 oz. • Located in Our Kosher Grocery Department</p>
 <p><b>4.99</b></p> <p>with AdvantEdge Card</p> <p><b>Aufschnitt Beef Jerky</b> 2 oz. • All Varieties</p>	 <p><b>2/\$5</b></p> <p>with AdvantEdge Card</p> <p><b>Bigelow Tea 18-20 Ct.</b> or Beetology Beef Juice 8.45 oz. • Assorted Varieties</p>
 <p><b>2.99 lb.</b></p> <p>with AdvantEdge Card</p> <p><b>Empire Kosher Fresh Chicken Wings</b> or Empire Kosher Fresh Chicken Breasts \$7.29 Lb.</p>	 <p><b>2/\$9</b></p> <p>with AdvantEdge Card</p> <p><b>Empire Kosher Ground Turkey</b> 16 oz. or Empire Kosher Chicken Sausage 12 oz. 2/\$10</p>
 <p><b>8.99 lb.</b></p> <p>with AdvantEdge Card</p> <p><b>Meal Mart Beef For Stew</b> 16 oz. or Meal Mart Bone-In Rib Steak \$16.49 Lb.</p>	 <p><b>13.99</b></p> <p>with AdvantEdge Card</p> <p><b>Meal Mart Stuffed Cabbage</b> 39 oz. or Meal Mart Meat Balls in Marinara Sauce 33 oz. \$11.99</p>
 <p><b>2/\$5</b></p> <p>with AdvantEdge Card</p> <p><b>Gold's Cocktail Sauce</b> 9 oz.</p>	 <p><b>5.99</b></p> <p>with AdvantEdge Card</p> <p><b>PICS Smoked Salmon</b> 4 oz.</p>

Prices effective Sunday, January 5 thru Saturday, February 1, 2020 in our Binghamton store only.



## Off the Shelf

## Jews and war – before, during and after – part 2

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

The effects of World War II didn't end when the shooting stopped and peace treaties were signed. The heroism of some was recognized, the sins of others were punished and an even larger group sought to pretend that nothing untoward had occurred. While only one of the three novels in this review takes place during the war, the lives of all the characters are affected by events from that time, even those who were very young. The theme that runs through these works is the ethical challenges those years offered, challenges that determined the course of the characters' lives.

**"The Ventriloquists"**

A group of criminals plan to hijack a government project and produce something subversive instead. That describes the plot of E. R. Ramzipoor's clever "The Ventriloquists" (Park Row Books). However, there are some major differences between my opening statement and Ramzipoor's novel: instead of government, read Nazis, and in place of criminals, think members of the Resistance. The project? The Nazis want a motley group of Resistance members to turn Brussels' most popular newspaper into propaganda against the Allies, who are close to invading the country. If they refuse, they will be executed. Knowing that the Nazis will most likely kill them anyway once the project is complete, they decide to produce their own paper: one that pokes fun at the Nazis. They want to perform one last important deed – raising the morale of their fellow citizens – before their deaths. While this may sound like

a ridiculous premise, the novel's plot is based on actual events – events so outlandish, it's hard to believe they actually occurred.

The Resistance group includes a writer/journalist, Marc Aubrion; a prostitute/smuggler, Lada Tarcovich; a professor, Martin Victor; a printer, Theo Mullier; and Gamin, a 12-year-old orphan girl masquerading as a boy. Once recruited by August Wolff, a ranking Nazi official who is charged with getting the Nazi paper written and printed, the Resistance group has 20 days in which to gather funds and material in order to produce their alternative paper. They are joined by David Spiegelman, a Jewish homosexual, who has been forging letters and other material for the Nazis since being taken into custody after his family was murdered. Spiegelman is looking for redemption, even though he knows if he resists the Nazis, they won't hesitate to kill him. The chapters count down the days as the group searches for help in their endeavor and faces the reality of their impending deaths.

"The Ventriloquists" is exceedingly well done. Not only is the plot absorbing and suspenseful, the characters are interesting and well developed. Ramzipoor manages to capture their depth: the reasons why they were involved in the Resistance and the delusions that allowed them to proceed in what seemed like an impossible task. The novel left me feeling exhilarated by its audacity, which captures the courage, recklessness and boldness of those who, in real life, pulled off this amazing stunt.

**"Cilka's Journey"**

For some, the horrors of World War II didn't end when the war concluded. That was true for Cilka Klein, the main character in "Cilka's Journey" by Heather Morris (St. Martin's Press). While readers of the author's first novel, "The Tattooist of Auschwitz," will know part of Cilka's story, it's not necessary to have read that work in order to appreciate Morris' second novel. (To read *The Reporter's* review of "The Tattooist of Auschwitz," visit [www.thereporter.com/group/Article.aspx?aID=5153](http://www.thereporter.com/group/Article.aspx?aID=5153).) However, many readers of that work were left wondering what happened to Cilka after the war.

Once liberated from Auschwitz-Birkenau by Soviet forces, 19-year-old Cilka is accused of collaborating with the Nazis and sentenced to 15 years in a Siberian prison camp. Flashbacks show her supposed crime: she was forced by an SS officer to be his mistress. Although she feels guilty because this gave her some special privileges, she had no choice in the matter: it was rape or death. Life in Siberia is slightly better than the concentration camp, although women are still raped by inmate trustees, the food is not nutritious, the cold is unbearable most of the year and the work is backbreaking. But Cilka, to her own dismay, manages to find an easier job: being trained as a nurse by

a female doctor who takes her under her wing. Cilka tries to help the others who live in her cabin by bringing back food and other necessities. However, when one woman learns of Cilka's past, Cilka fears her friends will desert her if they also learn what she did to survive in Auschwitz.

Although Cilka is based on a real person, Morris notes that she never had a chance to meet her and wrote the story based on what she learned from those who had similar experiences. While the author captures the brutality of life in the prison camps, at times, Cilka comes across as far too saintly to be real. That's a minor quibble, though, about a book that reveals the brutality of the Soviet Union under Joseph Stalin and portrays the complicated ethical questions people faced during World War II.

**"The German House"**

By 1963, most Germans wanted to forget about World War II. Twenty-four-year-old Eva Bruhns is certainly more concerned about whether or not her wealthy boyfriend, Jurgen, will propose, and if her father's back will recover enough for him to open their family restaurant for lunch again, rather than just for dinner. In fact, Eva is hoping that she'll soon be leaving her job as a translator to become a housewife. However, life takes a different turn for Eva in "The German House" by Annette Hess (HarperVia) when she finds herself being asked to translate the testimony of Polish survivors of Auschwitz.

Eva finds herself fascinated and repelled by the German defendants, who seem so normal it's difficult to imagine they are guilty of the brutality of which they are accused. The men claim not to be responsible for what occurred in the camp. Yet, as Eva translates stories of the suffering that was meted out during those years, she begins to doubt the defendants' innocence. This is Eva's first introduction to the Holocaust, of which everyone she knows is determined not to speak. Even worse, she has memories of her childhood that make her question her parents' role during the war. Jurgen would prefer she have nothing to do with the trial, something that also makes her doubt their relationship. Eva must determine whether it's her moral and ethical duty to expose the evil that occurred, or if she should hide her eyes like those around her.

"The German House" is an unusual Holocaust novel because, although readers do hear the testimony of those who were in the camp, it focuses on the reaction of a woman too young to have taken part in the Nazi movement. Instead, Eva looks at the war from a distance as she decides if what occurred during those years will affect her relationships with her family and boyfriend. To my surprise, the ending of the novel left me feeling shaken and upset. To reveal what caused that would spoil the plot, but its conclusion left me still searching for answers to the questions it raises.

## Mailbox Shorts

**Rachel Feinstein exhibit**

The Jewish Museum in New York City will hold the exhibit "Rachel Feinstein: Maiden, Mother, Crone" until March 22. The exhibit is the first survey of the New York-based artist in the U.S. and brings together three decades of Feinstein's work in sculpture, installation, painting, drawing and video. It also features a newly commissioned wall-relief, a panoramic wallpaper and the artist's sculptural maquettes. From Feinstein's earliest to her most recent works, female figures and protagonists are a dominant feature, with the artist seeking to probe how notions of "the feminine" manifest in the popular imagination. For more information, visit <https://thejewishmuseum.org/exhibitions> or contact the museum at [info@thejm.org](mailto:info@thejm.org) or 212-423-3200.

# LEGAL NOTICE

**Notice of Formation of Cacciatore's Brand, LLC**

Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 07/15/2015 and Certificate of Correction of Arts. of Org. filed on 08/05/2015. Office location: Broome Co. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, c/o Leisure, Gow, Munk & Rizzuto, 101 Jefferson Avenue, Endicott, NY 13760. Purpose: any lawful activities.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY UNDER NEW YORK LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY LAW**

1. The name of the limited liability company ("LLC") is SHL Transportation, LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is November 21, 2019.
3. The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the LLC is located is Broome.
4. The Secretary of State of the State of New York is hereby designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or her is: PO Box 330, Whitney Point, NY 13862.
5. The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY****UNDER NEW YORK LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY LAW**

1. The name of the limited liability company ("LLC") is 147 Industrial Drive LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is November 22, 2019.
3. The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the LLC is located is Broome.
4. The Secretary of State of the State of New York is hereby designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or her is: 498 Conklin Avenue, Binghamton, NY 13903.
5. The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

Notice of Formation of Oasis Stone Works LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/12/19. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o John Sacco, 100 Oakdale Rd., Johnson City, NY 13790. Purpose: any lawful activities.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY UNDER NEW YORK LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY LAW**

1. The name of the limited liability company ("LLC") is Industry

**Building Blocks LLC.**

2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is December 3, 2019. The effective date of the Articles of Organization is January 1, 2020.
3. The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the LLC is to be located is Broome County.
4. The Secretary of State of the State of New York is hereby designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or her is: 28 Vestal Avenue, Binghamton, NY 13903.
5. The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

Harvey A Sherman LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) 12/4/2019. Cty: Broome. SSNY design. as agent upon whom process against may be served & shall mail process to Harvey Sherman, 59-50 261st St., Glen Oaks, NY 11004. General Purpose.

**Public Notice of Canopy Growth USA, LLC's Application for Authority to do Business in**

To place your legal notice, contact Bonnie Rozen at 724-2360, ext. 244 or [bonnie@thereporter.com](mailto:bonnie@thereporter.com)

**New York State Pursuant to Section 802 of the Limited Liability Company Law**

Canopy Growth USA, LLC, a limited liability company formed in Delaware on October 11, 2018, has filed an application for authority to do business in New York State. Its application was filed with the New York Secretary of State on November 4, 2019. Canopy's office in Delaware is located at 1209 Orange Street, Wilmington, DE 19801, and its authorized officer is Phil Shaer. Its principal office is at 35715 US Hwy 40, Ste D102, Evergreen, CO 80439. The New York office of Canopy Growth USA, LLC, will be located in Broome County, at 47-51 Pine Camp Drive, Kirkwood, NY 13904.

The Secretary of State has been designated as an agent upon whom process against Canopy may be served. Upon service, the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of that process to Canopy at 595 Pacific Ave., 4th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94133.

Canopy Growth USA, LLC, is a company formed for hemp cultivation and the manufacturing and distribution of hemp products.

Notice of Formation of VITA 1 LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/10/2019. Office Location: Broome Co. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom service of process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Vulf Kovnat, 80 N. Hudson Street, Johnson City, New York 13790. Purpose: any lawful activities.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION.**

Life By Design Wellness, LLC (LLC). Articles of Organization filed with NY Dept. of State (SSNY) 6/10/13. Office located in Broome County. SSNY designated agent for service of process. SSNY to mail copy of process served against LLC to Nicole Raymondi, 690 Mariposa Ave., Apt. 203, Oakland, CA 94610. LLC purpose is any activity authorized by law.

Notice is hereby giving that an order entered by the County Court, Delaware County on December 3, 2019 Index No. 209-792. A copy of which may be examined at the Office of the County Clerk, located in Delaware County, 3 Court St. Delhi NY 13753, Grants me the right to assume the name of Kettly M. Zenon. My present name is Kettly M. Fischer. My address is 3110 Pine Hill Road, Unadilla NY. My place of birth is Haiti, on March 3, 1959.

Notice of formation of ASP SMOKE SHOP LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 02/12/2019. Office location: Broome County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process served to: The LLC at 2444 RHONDA DR., VESTAL NY 13850. Purpose: any lawful act.

Notice of Formation of Peranich Real Estate, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/12/19. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 39 Amsbry St., Binghamton, NY 13901. Purpose: any lawful activities.

**ATTENTION ATTORNEYS**

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

fulfills the requirement of "newspapers of general circulation".

Very reasonable rates and a broad circulation makes *The Reporter* a great choice for your legal advertising!

**PARTNERSHIP NOTICES**

**SURROGATE'S CITATIONS**

**CHANGES OF NAME**

**BANKRUPTCY NOTICES**

**TRUSTEE SALES**

**AUCTION SALES**

**FOUNDATION SALES**

**MORTGAGES**

**FORECLOSURES**

To place your ad or for information, contact Bonnie Rozen at 724-2360, ext. 244 or [bonnie@thereporter.com](mailto:bonnie@thereporter.com).



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

# Hanukkah celebrations around the community

## BU Toy Drive raises more than \$30,000

The Light Up a Life: Toy Drive '19 raised \$30,892.10. The money was raised by the students of Chabad in conjunction with the SDT sorority and the SAE fraternity. The money was used to purchase toys for children battling cancer and was to be distributed through the agency of Chai Lifeline.

Monies were raised through various fund-raisers and social media initiatives that reached out to alumni, parents, friends, students on campus and the local Binghamton community. At the Toy Drive culmination event on December 5, Nachman Maimon, director of programming at Chai Lifeline, spoke and was called the highlight of the event.



Above: Members of the SDT sorority are shown with the collection of toys for Chabad's Light Up a Life: Toy Drive. (Photo by R. Coschignano)



L-r: Those who spearheaded the Light Up a Life Toy Drive - Amanda Heisler, Danielle Garnchrow and Danielle Kinches - accepted an award given to the students of Chabad by Nachman Maimon. (Photo by R. Coschignano)



Members of SAE fraternity are shown with the collection of toys for Chabad's Light Up a Life: Toy Drive. (Photo by R. Coschignano)



Rabbi Geoffrey Brown explained the meaning and symbols of Hanukkah, and sang some holiday songs, when he visited residents of the Vestal Park Rehabilitation and Nursing Facility on December 17. (The names of the residents are held on request.)



On December 18, Hillel Academy students performed a number of Hanukkah songs for the residents of the Elderwood Village senior living community.



On December 18, Sylvia Diamond (not pictured) led a Hanukkah celebration at the Elderwood Village senior living community. Hillel Academy students, led by Rabbi Moshe Shmaryahu (at right), told the story of Hanukkah, performed a number of Hanukkah songs and made paper dreidels with the residents.

## Dine Out

*Celebrating our 48th Year in Business!*

**The Silo Restaurant**  
Our gift to you...  
**One Surf & Turf for \$25.95**  
Includes a 10 oz. hand-cut New York Strip Steak and your choice of 4 oz. Lobster Tail or 6 oz. broiled sea scallops or 1/2-lb. of snow crab legs!  
**Sunday thru Thursday, from now 'til February 13 - don't miss it!**  
Open Tuesday-Sunday • Sunday (Brunch) 10 am - 3 pm, (Dinner) 1-8pm  
Take Rt. 12 North to Greene, right at light, 6 mi. east on Rt. 206 (approx. 30 min.)  
Make your reservations now! 656-4377 All major credit cards accepted  
[www.thesilorestaurant.com](http://www.thesilorestaurant.com)

*You can count on us having real, "home made" and fresh foods daily!*

**Good Eats Deli & Buffet**  
in the Home Depot Riverside Plaza  
788 Main St., Johnson City, NY 13790  
**607-677-0433**  
Call in your order so it's ready when you get here!  
OPEN  
Mon - Sat. 6AM - 6PM • Sundays 6AM - 4PM

To advertise, contact Bonnie at 724-2360, ext. 244 or [bonnie@thereportergroup.org](mailto:bonnie@thereportergroup.org)  
**YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!**

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

Catering  
Extra Parking in Rear  
WIFI

**Basha's**  
LEBANESE GRILL

**EAT BASHA'S**  
*Fresh & Healthy*  
**Lunch Combo \$8.54**  
11:00am - 3:00pm  
Your Choice of 1 Sandwich (Beef/Chicken Shawarma or Falafel)  
1 Side (Salad, French Fries or Rice)  
and any drink out of the fridge  
Call 15 minutes in advance and your order will be ready to pick up  
3748 Vestal Parkway East, Vestal, NY  
**607-217-5288**  
[WWW.BASHASGRILL.COM](http://WWW.BASHASGRILL.COM)  
Hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 11am - 9pm • Closed Sunday and Monday

**ORTESE**  
Restaurant  
Italian-American Cuisine

Try Our Famous Steaks, Prime Rib, Thick Pork Chops, Seafood, Italian Specialties, Including Homemade Pasta Dishes & Desserts.

**Complete Menu for Take-Out & Pizza 723-6477**

For Dinner Reservations Call 723-6440  
Hours: Mon. 11:30 am -10 pm • Tues. Closed  
Wed.-Thurs. 11:30 am -10 pm • Fri.- Sat. 11:30 am -11 pm  
Sun. 12 - 9 pm  
117 Robinson St. on Binghamton's East Side  
All Major Credit Cards  
[www.corteserestaurant.com](http://www.corteserestaurant.com)

**Spiedie & Ribbit**

Spiedie meat by the pound for your own grill. Chicken or pork, fresh Italian bread, fresh salads and more.

**CALL AHEAD**  
1274 Front Street  
Binghamton • 722-7628  
3908 Vestal Parkway East  
Vestal • 729-2679

**See what's brewing!**  
Our Dine-Out section is featured in these issues:  
January 1 (deadline December 31)  
February 12 (deadline February 4)  
April 9 (deadline April 1)  
Contact Kathy Brown at 724-2360, ext. 244 or [advertising@thereportergroup.org](mailto:advertising@thereportergroup.org)

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

**Happy New Year!**

**NEW Café Winter Hours:**  
Monday - Thursday:  
lunch 11<sup>30</sup>a-5p • dinner 5-9p  
Friday & Saturday:  
lunch 11<sup>30</sup>a-5p • dinner 5-10p

**LOST DOG**  
Café  
222 Water St • Downtown Binghamton  
607.771.6063 • [lostdog.cafe](http://lostdog.cafe)

**Moving any time soon?**  
E-mail [treporter@aol.com](mailto: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.



Vayigash, Genesis 44:18-47:27

# Do not be afraid

RABBI AARON SLONIM, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CHABAD OF BINGHAMTON

In this week's *parasha*, after 22 years of painful separation from his son, Joseph, Jacob learns that Joseph, who was alleged to have been dead, was indeed alive. Rashi, the foremost biblical expositor, taught that for the entire time that the two were separated, Jacob suffered a unique form of bereavement. Not only did he lose a son, but he failed to experience the normal comfort brought on by the passage of time. That solace, Rashi asserts, is granted by God only in the case of death, whereas Joseph was still alive.

This terribly painful era comes to an abrupt end when Jacob's sons tell him: "Joseph is alive, and he is ruler of all the land of Egypt." (45: 26) The Torah records: "Yaakov's heart stood still, for he could not believe them." After the brothers imparted a coded message from Joseph to

their father, Jacob was convinced that Joseph was alive and resolved to go see him before his death. Jacob was, however, filled with trepidation at the thought of leaving the Holy Land of Canaan and began the perilous trip to Egypt in a state of distress.

On the way, God appeared to Jacob in a night vision, and in response to his deep anxiety told Jacob: "I am the Almighty, God of your father. Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for there I will make you into a great nation. I will surely go down with you to Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again." (45:3-4) While this vision included God's promise to Jacob that he would be laid to rest eternally in the Holy Land, as opposed to in Egypt, there is much more in this powerful and poignant promise.

Indeed, Jacob had heard from his father Isaac, who had heard from his father Abraham, that the children of Israel were destined to be strangers in a strange land, after which they would emerge as a nation and return to their homeland. However, he did not have knowledge of exactly when this was to take place or to which land his children were to be exiled. Thus, while overwhelmed with a desire to see Joseph, he was filled with worry that he might be taking his family in the wrong direction. After God's assurance, however, it was clear to Jacob that the entire saga of Joseph's descent into Egypt and his subsequent ascendancy to viceroy of that country was for the express purpose of "pulling" Jacob and his household down to Egypt. See "Afraid" on page 7

## Congregational Notes

### Beth David Synagogue

Affiliation: Orthodox Union  
 Rabbi: Zev Silber  
 Address: 39 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905  
 Phone: 722-1793  
 Rabbi's Office: 722-7514  
 Fax: 722-7121  
 Office hours: Mon. closed; Tues. 10 am-1 pm; Wed. closed; Thurs. 9 am-1 pm; Fri. 10 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  
 Shabbat Services:  
 Shabbat, Jan. 3..... 9 am  
 ..... Mincha after kiddush  
 Weekday Services:  
 Mornings:  
 Sun., Jan. 5..... 8:30 am  
 Mon.-Fri., Jan. 6-10 ..... 7 am  
 Evenings:  
 Sun., Jan. 5..... 4:30 pm  
 Mon., Jan. 6..... 7 pm  
 Tues., Jan 7 ..... 4:20 pm  
 Wed.-Thurs., Jan 8-9 ..... 7 pm  
 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: 797-0015, Fax: 797-0095  
 Website: www.Chabadofbinghamton.com  
 Rabbi Zalman and Rochel Chein, Education  
 E-mail: zchein@Jewishbu.com, rchein@Jewishbu.com  
 Rabbi Levi and Hadasa Slonim, Downtown and Development  
 Chabad Downtown Center: 60 Henry St., Binghamton  
 E-mail: lslonim@Jewishbu.com, hslonim@Jewishbu.com  
 Rabbi Yisroel and Goldie Ohana, Programming  
 E-mail: yohana@Jewishbu.com, gohana@Jewishbu.com  
 Regular service times: Daily 7:30 am, Friday evening 6 pm, Shabbat morning 9:30 am, Maariv and Havdalah one hour after candle-lighting time, Sundays 9:30 am.  
 To join the mailing list, for up-to-date information on adult education offerings or to arrange for a private tutorial, for details concerning the Judaica shop and resource center, or for assistance through the Piaker Free Loan Society or Raff Maasim Tovim Foundation, call Chabad's office at 797-0015.

### 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.

### Kol Haverim

Affiliation: Society for Humanistic Judaism  
 Address: P.O. Box 4972, Ithaca, NY 14852-4972  
 Phone: 607-277-3345  
 E-mail: info@kolhaverim.net  
 Website: www.kolhaverim.net  
 Chairwoman: Abby Cohn  
 Kol Haverim: The Finger Lakes Community for Humanistic Judaism, is an Ithaca-based organization that brings people together to explore and celebrate Jewish identity, history, culture and ethics within a secular, humanistic framework. KH is part of an international movement for Secular Humanistic Judaism and is affiliated with the Society for Humanistic Judaism, a national association with over 30 member communities and congregations around the country. Established in the spring of 1999, it offers celebrations of Jewish holidays, monthly Shabbat pot-lucks, adult education, a twice-monthly Cultural School for children, and a bar and bat mitzvah program.  
 KH welcomes all individuals and families, including those from mixed religious backgrounds, who wish to strengthen the Jewish experience in their lives and provide their children with a Jewish identity and experience.

### Temple Israel

Orientation: Conservative  
 Rabbi: Geoffrey Brown  
 Address: 4737 Deerfield Pl., Vestal, NY 13850  
 Phone: 723-7461 and 231-3746  
 Office hours: Mon.-Thurs., 8:30 am-4 pm; Fri., 8 am-3 pm  
 E-mail: titammy@stny.twcbc.com  
 Website: www.templeisraelvestal.org  
 Service Schedule: Tues., 5:30 pm; Fri., 5:30 pm; Sat., 9:30 am  
 On Saturday, January 4, at 10 am, Shabbat services will be led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown. The Torah portion will be Genesis 44:18-47:27. The haftarah will be Ezekiel 37:15-28. The kiddush will be sponsored by Debbie Schepis and Lynne Green.

There will be an Executive Board meeting on Tuesday, January 7, at 7 pm.

There will be family services and a dinner on Friday, January 10, at 5:30 pm. The cost TBA.

A TI/TC Adult Education Brunch will be held on Sunday, January 12, from 10 am-noon. Rabbi Geoffrey Brown will discuss Mussar. The cost is \$5 per person. (For more information, see the article on page 1.)

On Friday, January 17, office hours will be 2-4 pm.

There will be no Sunday Hebrew school on Sunday, January 19.

### Temple Beth-El of Ithaca

Affiliation: United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism  
 Rabbi: Miriam T. Spitzer  
 Rabbi Emeritus: Scott L. Glass  
 Address: 402 North Tioga St. (the corner of Court and Tioga streets), Ithaca, NY 14850-4292  
 Phone: 273-5775  
 E-mail: rabbi@tbeithaca.org and secretary@tbeithaca.org  
 Website: www.tbeithaca.org  
 President: Randy Ehrenberg  
 Sisterhood President: Julie Paige  
 Director of Education: Rabbi Suzanne Brody  
 Administrative Assistant: Jane Griffith  
 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 Midrashah (eighth grade and high school) classes will meet at times designated by their respective teachers.  
 Adult Ed.: Numerous weekly courses, several semester-long courses and a variety of mini-courses and lectures are offered throughout the year. Call the temple office for more details.

On Saturday, January 4, at 7 pm, in the social hall, Havdalah will be led by Cantor Richard Rosenfield, followed by a Hoedown Fun Dance led by Richard Rosenfield, to celebrate the new calendar year. There will be refreshments and dance instruction. All are welcome to attend.

On Monday, January 13, at 7 pm, in the social hall, a Sisterhood program will feature Rebecca Lesses speaking on "Contemporary Anti-Semitism."

There will be a celebration of the anniversary of Women's League for Conservative Judaism on Friday-Saturday, January 17-18. Services on January 17 will begin at 8 pm, followed by an oneg Shabbat. Services on January 18 will begin at 10 am, followed by a kiddush luncheon. Temple Beth-El women will lead services.

### Temple Beth El of Oneonta

Affiliation: United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism  
 Rabbi-Cantor: George Hirschfeld  
 Address: 83 Chestnut St., Oneonta, NY 13820  
 Mailing address: P.O. Box 383, Oneonta, NY 13820  
 Phone: 607-432-5522  
 Website: www.templebetheloneonta.org  
 E-mail: TBEOneonta@gmail.com  
 Regular service times: visit the temple website 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, see the website.

Friday, January 3, light candles before..... 4:26 pm  
 Saturday, January 4, Shabbat ends ..... 5:27 pm  
 Friday, January 10, light candles before..... 4:32 pm  
 Saturday, January 11, Shabbat ends ..... 5:34 pm

### Temple Concord

Affiliation: Union for Reform Judaism  
 Rabbi: Barbara Goldman-Wartell  
 Address: 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905  
 Office hours: Tues.-Fri., 10 am-2 pm  
 Phone: 723-7355, Fax: 723-0785  
 Office e-mail: TempleConcordbinghamton@gmail.com  
 Website: www.templeconcord.com  
 Regular service times: Friday, 8 pm; Saturday, 10:35 am, when religious school is in session.  
 Hebrew school: Hebrew school meets at 4:15 pm and 5:15 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the school year unless otherwise noted.

On Friday, January 3, at 8 pm, Shabbat evening services will be led by Shari and Rob Neuberger.

On Saturday, January 4, religious school will meet at 9 am, Torah study\* will be held at 9:15 am; and Shabbat morning services will be held at 10:35 am.

On Sunday, January 5, Temple Concord Sisterhood Rummage Sale will be held from 10 am-2 pm.

On Friday, January 10, at 8 pm, Shabbat evening services will be led by Anne Bussard.

On Saturday, January 11, religious school will meet at 9 am, Torah study\* will be held at 9:15 am; and Shabbat morning services will be held at 10:35 am.

\*Rabbi Rachel Esserman will lead a program on Saturday mornings in January from 9:15-10:30 am on "From Torah to Talmud." Learn how the ancient rabbis turned verses from the Torah into the laws found in the Mishnah and Talmud. No Hebrew or previous experience with Mishnah or Talmud is necessary. Each class will stand on its own. Topics will include the laws of lost objects, the definition of work on Shabbat, dietary laws and more.

### Norwich Jewish Center

Orientation: Inclusive  
 Rabbi: David Regenspan  
 Address: 72 South Broad St., Norwich, NY 13815  
 Contact: Guilia Greenberg, 336-1523  
 Purpose: To maintain a Jewish identity and meet the needs of the Jewish community in the area.  
 Adult Ed.: Saturday morning study is held at 10 am. Call for more information and to confirm.

### 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: Lauren Korfine and Shira Reisman  
 Rabbi: Brian Walt  
 Religious School Director/Admin. Coordinator: Naomi Wilensky  
 Services: Fridays at 7:30 pm unless otherwise noted. Intergenerational Shabbat, music services, and other special services. Call for the weekly schedule.  
 Religious School: Preschool through seventh-grade classes meet on Sunday mornings.  
 Sixth-grade Hebrew and seventh-grade b'nai mitzvah classes meet on Wednesday afternoons.  
 Adult Ed: Mini courses throughout the year. Adult Hebrew offered regularly. Call the office for details.

### Temple Brith Sholom

Affiliation: Unaffiliated  
 Address: P.O. Box 572, 117 Madison St., Cortland, NY 13045  
 Phone: 607-756-7181  
 President: Bruce Fein, 607-423-3346  
 Service leaders: Lay leadership  
 Shabbat services: Either Friday evening at 7:30 pm or Saturday at 10 am from Rosh Hashanah to Shavuot. Holiday services are also held. Check the weekly e-mail for upcoming services. Contact the president to get on the e-mail list.  
 Religious School: Students are educated on an individual basis. Temple Brith Sholom is a small equalitarian congregation serving the greater Cortland community. Congregants span the gamut of observance and services are largely dependent on the service leader. The Friday night siddur is "Likrat Shabbat," while the Saturday morning siddur is "Gates of Prayer." The community extends a warm welcome to the Jewish student population of SUNY Cortland, as well as the residents of local adult residences.

# JCC hosted community Hanukkah party



Teens did readings as part of the JCC's annual community Hanukkah party on December 19.



Hillel Academy students entertained during the JCC's annual community Hanukkah party.



Children from the JCC's Early Childhood Center performed a few Hanukkah songs at the community Hanukkah party.



Community members volunteered to serve dinner at the JCC Hanukkah party.



There were a variety of holiday activities for children at the JCC's annual community Hanukkah party.



Rabbi Levi and Hadassah Slonim and their children were among the many who attended the Hanukkah celebration at the JCC.

## Afraid..... Continued from page 6

And, yet, despite God's promise of eventual deliverance from Egypt, Jacob still takes very specific steps to ensure the spiritual safety of his household. Toward the end of this *parasha*, we are told that Jacob sent his son, Judah, ahead of him. Rashi explains that Jacob sent Judah to prepare a house of study from which would emanate Torah teachings.

We are now in a better position to understand a famous inference found in the very first verse of the next *parasha* in which the Torah tells us that Jacob lived in Egypt for 17 years. Seventeen is a significant number, our sages taught, because its gematria, numerical value, is equal to the Hebrew word *tov*, good, implying that this era of Jacob's life was especially good. We know Jacob did not want to descend to Egypt at all, so how could his years there be characterized as good?

But Jacob had a vision and a promise from God, and so it was that he perceived why and how living in Egypt could be good. In sending Judah to prepare the infrastructure for self-contained Jewish life, and in his final words to his children, it is clear that Jacob did not keep this vision to himself. He spared no effort in teaching his children that Egypt was a necessary, but temporary, stepping stone toward "going up and going home." Jacob wanted his children and grandchildren and their children never to forget that their forefather had come to Egypt upon the command and explicit promise of God. He wanted his descendants to understand that their descent was for the purpose of ascent; that they were inherently and radically different

than the members of the broader Egyptian society. Only with this perspective could Jacob and his descendants live in Egypt. It was not a place for them to settle down and get comfortable. On the contrary, their experience there would be – of necessity – one of strangeness, difficulty and even pain. But he knew and saw the good in it. For it was there that they were meant to grow in ways which they never could, had they remained in the Holy Land.

For much of our long and tumultuous history, the Jews as a people have been separated from our land. The Jewish experience has, by and large, been an Egypt experience; exile in various forms and permutations. But always there is the promise of God to Jacob: do not be afraid. There is a great destiny, God promises, and it is precisely in your journeys – as strangers in a strange land – that you will achieve true splendor. Those words include assurance that wherever the children of Jacob find themselves, God is with us, and that, at the appointed time, He will bring us up. We must, however, never lose sight of the paradoxical nature of our journey. Even as Jacob lives in Egypt, he lives for Israel in both its physical and spiritual dimensions, and so it is with his children of all time. We must do our share to nourish and bolster the infrastructure set up by Judah, lest we or our children forget where we came from and where we are going. We are certainly in this world and have much to accomplish here, but we are not of this world. As Jews, our destiny is to illuminate and transform, defy and, ultimately, transcend.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

#### Federal lawsuit filed against anti-Israel protesters at Michigan synagogue

A member of Beth Israel Congregation in Ann Arbor, MI, is suing anti-Israel protesters and city leaders over weekly demonstrations outside the synagogue. The 85-page complaint was filed in the U.S. District Court for Eastern Michigan. "The First Amendment right of free speech does not entitle a speaker to use that right repeatedly to bludgeon, for weeks and years at a time, in the same location," stated the lawsuit. "The First Amendment ... is subject to appropriate limitations on its continued and repeated usage." The lawsuit, filed on behalf of Beth Israel Congregation member Marvin Gerber, claims that the demonstrations violate Ann Arbor ordinances and calls for restrictions on what it deems "harassing conduct." It also sought unspecified retribution for emotional distress. "The conduct of the protesters is having an adverse emotional effect on Jewish children and young adults who, approaching the synagogue, see the signs/placards insulting their religion and denouncing their loyalty to Israel," stated the lawsuit. Ann Arbor Mayor Christopher Taylor, protester Henry Herskovitz and his two organizations – Jewish Witnesses for Peace, and Palestinian Friends and Deir Yassin Remembered – are listed as defendants.

#### Welcome to our newest practitioner, Heather Nannery, FNP!

Heather serves women seeking care that includes annual well woman visits, IUD's, and other gynecology concerns.

Request an appointment with Heather Nannery, FNP, or one of our other providers, by calling our office at 607.754.9870 or by visiting our website at [www.womensobgynassociates.com](http://www.womensobgynassociates.com)



#### Women's OB/GYN Associates

• Carol Miller MD • Karen Castoro FNP • Heather Nannery, FNP • Melodye Onysko ANP •

401 Main Street, 1st Fl. • Johnson City, NY 13790 607.754.9870 • [www.womensobgynassociates.com](http://www.womensobgynassociates.com)

### HOPLER & ESCHBACH FUNERAL HOME

"A new family tradition"

Personal Service Professionalism Experience You Can Trust

COMPARE OUR PRICES We charge far less than other area funeral homes

Kurt M. Eschbach, Funeral Director 483 Chenango Street Binghamton

607-722-4023

[www.HEfuneralhome.com](http://www.HEfuneralhome.com)

The Jewish Community Center Presents

## QUINGO game night

Saturday, Jan. 25 - 6:30-8:30pm

\$20/per person • max 8 per team

Win prizes • Raffles • 50/50



hot dogs - beer - wine - refreshments for sale

To register, email Marley at [marleyv@binghamtonjcc.org](mailto:marleyv@binghamtonjcc.org)

500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850 • (607)724-2417 [www.binghamtonjcc.org](http://www.binghamtonjcc.org)

**NEWS IN BRIEF**

From JNS.org

**Five injured in mass-stabbing attack at New York Hanukkah party**

A black male carrying a long machete allegedly entered a home and prayer hall known as Rabbi Rottenberg's Shul in Monsey, NY, on night of Dec. 28, slashing and injuring five of the dozens of celebrants at a Hanukkah candle-lighting party. According to eyewitnesses, the man's face was covered by a scarf as with a machete he slashed and stabbed at ultra-Orthodox attendees at the intimate gathering, who threw chairs and tables at him and whisked children away to safety. After the attacker fled the home, he attempted to break into a neighboring synagogue, but found the doors

locked after worshippers barred themselves inside. Four of the five victims have reportedly already been identified, and at least two are reported to be in critical condition. Three of the victims are reportedly members of the family of the rabbi in whose home the attack occurred: Chaim, Meir and Shlomo Rottenburg, and the fourth is Rabbi Yosef Neiman. New York police announced that they had apprehended the stabbing suspect, after his getaway car's license plate number was reported by eyewitnesses. "I am horrified by the stabbing of multiple people at a synagogue in Rockland County," New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said in a statement. "We have zero tolerance for antisemitism in New York, and we will hold the attacker accountable to the fullest extent of the law." "We will not allow this to

become the new normal. We'll use every tool we have to stop these attacks once and for all," said New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio. "The NYPD has deployed a visible and growing presence around Jewish houses of worship on the streets in communities like Williamsburg, Crown Heights and Borough Park," he tweeted. At least five additional antisemitic attacks have been reported across New York City and Brooklyn since the beginning of Hanukkah, including a brutal assault on a 65-year-old man, an attack on two Jewish children, harassment against a Jewish man by a gang, a violent assault against a man by a gang and an attack on a Jewish male by a lone attacker.

**Netanyahu gains landslide victory in Likud primary race**

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu scored a landslide victory on Dec. 27 in the Likud leadership race against his rival Gideon Sa'ar. The prime minister won 72.5 percent of the vote, compared to 27.5 percent for Sa'ar, according to the Likud spokesperson. He will now continue to lead Likud into the March 2 general election, Israel's third general elections within a year. The prime minister garnered 80 percent of the vote in Jerusalem and according to initial results, he also had a strong lead in Haifa, Acre, Ramle, Rishon Letzion and Ashdod, *The Times of Israel* reported. Netanyahu declared victory soon after midnight leading into Dec. 27 as votes were being counted while Sa'ar conceded defeat at 1 am, saying that while "we don't have the final figures, the result is clear." Sa'ar said he would congratulate Netanyahu on his victory, and vowed to support Netanyahu and Likud ahead of the general elections. Likud said voter turnout was close to 49 percent, compared to 55 percent in the 2014 leadership race, which is the last time Netanyahu faced an opponent. He won primaries in 2012 and 2014 by wide margins, and ran unopposed in 2016.

**China, Russia, Iran to hold joint naval drills in the Gulf region**

China, Iran and Russia were to hold joint naval drills in the Indian Ocean and Sea of Oman starting on Dec. 27 and ending on Dec. 30, China's defense ministry said on Dec. 26, Reuters reported. China's XINING guided missile destroyer was to participate in the drills, which are meant to deepen cooperation between the three countries' navies, ministry spokesman Wu Qian said, adding that it was a "normal military exchange" in line with international law. The Sea of Oman is a critical waterway as it connects to the Strait of Hormuz, through which about a fifth of the world's oil passes, the report noted. This comes as tensions between Iran and the United States and Israel have risen throughout the year, especially since U.S. President Donald Trump pulled the United States out of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal with world powers and increased sanctions on the country. The United States has planned to lead a naval mission in the Gulf since alleged Iranian attacks on vessels earlier this year. In September, the United States and Saudi Arabia blamed an attack on Saudi oil facilities on Tehran, but Iran denied the allegations.

**ICC.....Continued from page 3**

The ICC has already incurred the wrath of the Trump administration, which has previously threatened it with sanctions and visa denials if it initiates inquiries into American or Israeli actions. In April, Bensouda's visa was revoked by the United States after she began probing into American troops' actions in Afghanistan. On December 20, Pompeo condemned the ICC announcement, saying it "unfairly targets" Israel.

A Hamas spokesman in Gaza celebrated the decision, saying on December 21 that the terrorist organization "welcomes the decision to open an investigation into the war crimes committed by the occupation against the Palestinian people. ...The importance of this decision lies in the start of the procedures and sanctions against the occupation."

*Eye-Catching*  
**Classifieds**

**Need someone to drive you close to home?**

I can drive you to:

- Restaurants
- Doctor Appointments
- Shopping
- Casinos
- Airports Closer to Home
- ?

**Bob Howe • 607-427-2534**  
References provided



**SUCCESS NETWORK** ...an association of businesses helping each other grow.

Success Network is a small business association whose members are exclusive in their category and are organized to assist each other in providing and receiving business leads.

**Enjoy a free lunch on us when you become a member!**

For more information or if you are interested in membership, please contact Bonnie Rozen at (607)724-2360, ext. 244.

*Businesses helping businesses grow!*

[www.successnetworkbc.com](http://www.successnetworkbc.com)

**YOUR HEATING & PLUMBING SPECIALISTS**

**BAKER'S PLUMBING & HEATING**

*We Also Do Natural Gas Conversions & All Plumbing Work*  
Free Estimates • Fully Insured • Residential & Commercial

*We Install, Service & Repair...*  
Furnaces • Air Conditioners  
Water Heaters • Gas Fireplaces

**SERVING BROOME & TIoga COUNTIES**

**754-6376**  
pbaker927@yahoo.com



**Susquehanna Landscaping**

**(607)226-1970**

- Fruit Tree Pruning
- Hedge & Shrub Trimming and Removal
- Tree Trimming



**Susquehanna Landscaping**  
(607) 226 - 1970

**YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!**

For information on advertising, contact Kathy Brown at 724-2360, ext. 244 or [advertising@thereportergroup.org](mailto:advertising@thereportergroup.org)

**GARY RILEY**

*I'll drive you or I'll deliver your vehicle near or far, pets welcome!*

REFERENCES AVAILABLE  
**607-760-0530**  
**GRILES45@GMAIL.COM**

**COOK'S TREE SERVICE**

**RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL**

**ISA** CERTIFIED ARBORIST  
NEW YORK CHAPTER

Professionals In All Phases Of:

- Tree Care • Tree Stump Removal
- Trimming Trees Shrubs & Tall Hedges
- Tree Insect & Disease Identification & Treatment

**WWW.COOKSTREESERVICE.NET**  
**607-748-2347**  
4 Pumphouse Rd Vestal, N.Y.



**5 Star Pet Sitters**

**Heather DiRienzo**  
**Pet Care Specialist - Fully Insured**

Pet Psychology Certified • +1-607-323-1406  
Pet Nutrition Certified • [heather@5starpetsitters.com](mailto:heather@5starpetsitters.com)  
Pet Sitter Certified • [www.5starpetsitters.com](http://www.5starpetsitters.com)



**Cleaning Services:**

- Real Estate Cleaning
- Passover Cleaning
- Domestic Cleaning
- Office Cleaning
- Commercial Cleaning
- Window Cleaning
- Post-Construction Clean-Up

Gift certificates available!

**Dust Bunnyz** cleaning, LLC


[www.dustbunnyz.com](http://www.dustbunnyz.com)  
**(607) 644-8886**  
NYS Certified Minority & Women Owned Bonded & Insured



**We won't make you jump through hoops to advertise.**

It's easier than that. Just contact Bonnie Rozen at 724-2360, ext. 244 or e-mail [bonnie@thereportergroup.org](mailto:bonnie@thereportergroup.org).

**THE REPORTER**  
Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton  
[www.thereportergroup.org](http://www.thereportergroup.org)



**Protect Your Family**

Ensure that your family has fully provided for its final expenses, Notwithstanding possible legal complications. Private, confidential, no obligation, in-home review. Outstanding programs for children/grandchildren.

**Jan van Zyl**  
[e:Ya-ir@earthlink.net](mailto:e:Ya-ir@earthlink.net)  
c: 804.381.8934

**HANDYMAN 4 SENIORS, INC.**

All your home maintenance and repairs, along with in-home care services.

- Shopping
- Errands
- Organizing
- Senior Sitting
- Access Ramps
- Grab Bars
- Safety Conversions
- Laundry
- Doctor Visits
- Bed changes
- Meal prep

**John Jacoby**  
**Valerie Jacoby**  
(Licensed & Insured)  
**888-540-0320**  
[www.handyman4seniors.com](http://www.handyman4seniors.com)



**A new website is coming!**

Send us your e-mail address to stay up-to-date on the latest news and weekly features! Please send it to [thebingreporter@gmail.com](mailto:thebingreporter@gmail.com) with "e-mail blast" in the subject line.

*We promise not to share it with anyone and won't send you junk, just good stuff!*

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

