

THE REPORTER

Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton

March 20-26, 2020
Volume XLIX, Number 12

BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK

Chesed Challenge brunch cancelled

Chesed Challenge still to take place

By Reporter staff

Even though the brunch to launch the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton's Chesed Challenge is not taking place, the Chesed Challenge, a matching gift campaign that will take place from March 29-April 30, is still on. An anonymous donor has pledged to double any new gift, up to \$10,000 total, given to the Federation through the end of April.

"I'm so disappointed that the brunch with Rebekka Goldsmith will not be taking place," said Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Federation. "I was so looking forward to a morning of song and community, but the health of

community is far more important. We felt that we needed to cancel the brunch in order to follow the guidelines set out to keep us safe."

Hubal noted, though, that the Chesed Challenge will still take place. "I'm so grateful for our donor's generosity," Hubal added. "People can double the gift they give to the Federation, which will allow us to do even more for our wonderful community. If you haven't yet pledged to the 2020 Campaign, this is a great time to do it."

Donations may be sent to the Federation, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850. More information about how to donate online will be forthcoming.



Federation Alert

A joint statement from the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton and Jewish Family Service

Shalom *chaverim* (dear friends),
As we are living through this challenging time, with COVID-19 disrupting our way of life, we here at the Jewish Federation and Jewish Family Service want to let you all know that we care. It has never been more important to remember that we are part of a community and that *kol Yisrael aravim zeh ba zeh* (all Jews are responsible for each other).

Community events and weekly services are being cancelled, causing isolation. Financial and job security may be a stressor for some. Health concerns are dictating our daily activities. Although our office in the Jewish Community Center is closed to the community, we encourage you to call or e-mail us if you are in need or

know of someone who is. Your well-being and safety is our top priority. God willing, we will be together again soon.

Our mission is to support and sustain the Binghamton Jewish community. We thank all the caring donors who support the work we do. Please be smart, stay safe and follow the government's guidelines that are set out for us all.

L'shalom,
Shelley Hubal, Jewish Federation
Executive Director
Suzanne Holwitt, Jewish Federation
President
Rose Shea, Jewish Family Service
Director
Rita Bleier, Chairwoman, Jewish
Family Service Committee

Local organizations announce postponed and cancelled events

Federation cancels March 29 brunch

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton has cancelled the kick-off brunch for the Chesed Challenge that was to take place on March 29. The Chesed Challenge is still taking place. For more information, see the article on this page.

Broome County synagogues limit face-to-face gatherings

Beth David Synagogue, Temple Concord and Temple Israel announced that they are limiting face-to-face gatherings. That means there will be no services or programming held until further notice. Some meetings, services and classes will be available online or by phone. For specific information, contact the synagogues by phone or e-mail.

JCC cancels classes/meetings

The Jewish Community Center announced that for the immediate future all classes and meetings have been cancelled. The pool and the Fitness Center are also closed until further notice. For

childcare, call the JCC at 724-2417 for more information.

Reporter Trivia fund-raiser

The Reporter's trivia fund-raiser that was to have been held on March 19 has been postponed. See future issues of *The Reporter* for more information about a new date.

Dr. Elissa Sampson lecture at BU postponed

The lecture by Professor Elissa Sampson of Cornell University that was to be held at Binghamton University on March 26 has been postponed until the fall.

Book Club at Temple Concord

The March 31 meeting of the Book Club at Temple Concord has been canceled. A decision about the April 21 meeting will be made closer to the meeting. If the club meets on May 5, it will hold a Book Club "double header" since the March 31 historical novel, "The Room on Rue Amelie" by Kristin Harmel, and the May 5 historical novel, "The Wartime Sisters" by Lynda Cohen

Loigman, take place during World War II.

Frugal Fani program on March 22 cancelled

Temple Concord Sisterhood announced that the program featuring Frugal Fani has been cancelled. The Sisterhood is researching methods to bring Frugal Fani's message to the community at a later date.

IAUJC Campaign party cancelled

The Ithaca Area United Jewish Com-

munity's Annual Campaign kickoff party scheduled for March 29 has been cancelled. The IAUJC hopes to reschedule the event at a later date.

TI-TC adult ed. program postponed

The Temple Israel/Temple Concord Adult Education Group brunch and program that was to be held on April 5 has been postponed. See future issues of *The Reporter* for more information.

Chabad to offer shopping for elderly

The Barry Raff Maasim Tovim Foundation, which is administered through the Chabad Center, will facilitate a service for the older and immunologically compromised members of the local community. Binghamton University students who remain in the area have volunteered to do grocery shopping, pharmacy runs and other errands for these community members.

Those interested in using this service should contact Chabad at 797-0015.

Spotlight

Creating community through music: an interview of Rebekka Goldsmith

By Rabbi Rachel Esserman

Editor's note: Rebekka Goldsmith was to perform at brunch launching the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton's the Chesed Challenge. The brunch has now been cancelled, but we think readers will still find this interview of interest.

Rebekka Goldsmith is a resident and vocal arts consultant for the Rising Song Institute, where she coaches other residents. She also works the institute directors, Joey Weisenberg and Rabbi Yosef Goldman, to

think about the role of voice and leadership in institute programs. She is currently working on a multi-disciplinary performance piece called, "Seeding the Tree" that incorporates community, Jewish spirituality and music. The following is an e-mail interview Goldsmith did with Reporter Executive Editor Rabbi Rachel Esserman.

Question: How did you be-



Rebekka Goldsmith

come interested in the Rising Song institute?

Answer: I became interested in the Rising Song Institute through the annual New York Hadar Rising Song Intensive that happens in December. Every year a growing number of pluralistic Jews gather to sing for three-five days in a powerful and rich community music making event. I had been building community

through singing in the secular world for 15 years and, when I walked into my first Rising Song Intensive three years ago, I felt the power and possibility of doing this kind of work in Jewish community. This experience prompted me to begin partnering with local Jewish communities in Seattle (where I lived) to lead community singing events. I continued following the work of Joey Weisenberg, founder of The Rising Song Institute, and when he and Co-director See "Music" on page 7

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On the Jewish food scene

Thoughts on noodles and potatoes

By Rabbi Rachel Esserman

When I was a child, noodle kugel was the ultimate comfort food. In fact, I didn't realize there was any other kind of kugel until I was far into my adult years. Certainly no other kugel ever appeared on our dinner table. In fact, it's still difficult for me to think of a potato kugel as a real kugel; it seems to be a completely different dish that should have a completely different name. The kugel I loved was sweet, although I don't believe it had raisins, just noodles, cottage cheese and cinnamon. (There may have been other ingredients, but, since we haven't made it in decades due to dietary restrictions, I don't remember.) There was *definitely* not pineapple. Although I like pineapple, in my mind, it just doesn't belong in kugel.

It's odd that I didn't mind that the kugel contained the cottage cheese since I've never been a fan. I remember that, in college, my friends and I were trying to eat healthy and that meant having cottage cheese for breakfast. Some days, the one person who liked cottage cheese would mention how particular good it was. That always drew a blank stare from me. Raw cottage cheese was *never* good any day. Cooked cottage cheese is a different story. I love it in kugel and used to enjoy what was called a weight-watcher Danish: bread with a thin layer of jam, which was then covered with cottage cheese and topped with lots of cinnamon. I haven't had one of those in decades, but I remember liking them. Of course, the cinnamon helped: it's one of my favorite spices.

The reason noodle kugel struck me as a comfort food is most likely due to the noodles. There is something wonderful about noodles and pasta-like foods – whether they are served Italian or Asian style. Yes, I think of both of them as the same type of food, even though the sauces are very different. I grew up in Endicott/Endwell and Italian food was king. I have a friend who moved to Alabama after finishing nursing school and always stopped in this area on her way to visit

relatives in Canada so she could have what she still calls “real Italian food.” I also love noodles in Asian sauces, particularly when they feature a large number of vegetables.

By the way, it's not that I don't like potatoes. It's just I think there are better ways to eat potatoes than potato kugel, for example, mashed potatoes (another comfort food) or any type of fried potato. (Think french fries, hash browns, etc.) When my stomach is upset, I love a plain boiled potato, although now I throw a bag of potatoes in the microwave rather than cooking them on the stove. They come out soft and warm, and are great either plain or with butter. I've even come to like potato salad, something I *never* ate when I was a kid. Come to think of it, I never ate macaroni salad then either. I'm not sure why: maybe a problem with mayonnaise? However, tastes change: I now use a lot of mayo and mustard when making tuna salad, potato salad and macaroni salad. (That latter salad has to have mayo in it. If you use an oil and vinegar based dressing, it's pasta salad.) When I was a kid, the only time I used mustard was on New York City-style deli sandwiches. Otherwise, my condiment of choice – for hot dogs, hamburgers, french fries or sandwiches – was ketchup.

Going back to kugel for a moment (yes, I know the last couple of paragraphs have gone far off topic), books on the history of Jewish food note the great debates in Europe over whether a kugel should be savory or sweet. Pepper or sugar: that was the question asked. The choice made was usually based on the part of Europe in which the family lived. It's likely these discussions continued in our country when someone preferring savory kugel married someone who preferred sweet. Imagine the arguments they might have about which to serve for Shabbat or a holiday. While I'm usually pretty opinionated about food, I'll take a pass on making a decision between the two this time because I'll eat either type of kugel – noodle or potato – that is, if someone else makes it for me.

Israeli doctors offer online advice to COVID-19 patients

By JNS staff

(JNS)—Israeli doctors are giving webinars to quarantined COVID-19 patients in China and elsewhere in a project organized by Innonation, an Israeli innovation platform for international collaboration.

Innonation is working with 100 volunteering Israeli doctors to provide a series of interactive video broadcasts on various medical areas related to the coronavirus, including children; how to maintain proper hygiene and potential skin issues from wearing a mask for a long time; diet; psychology and dealing with anxieties; pregnancy; and signs of a serious illness that require immediate attention.

The webinars are limited to 100 people for the live feed, but are recorded and available for free viewing on demand. Patients can also ask questions during the live video broadcasts.

Innonation is providing a studio in Tel Aviv and the Chinese translators for the webinars. The videos are broadcast on the Chinese social-media network called Weibo and Zoom, a video-conferencing platform.

The doctors who volunteered for the video project are from some of Israel's “most prominent” hospitals, including the Sheba Medical Center, Tel Aviv, Rambam Health Care Campus, Wolfson Medical Center and Soroka Medical Center, reported Israel21C. Innonation has also started operating broadcast stations at all participating hospitals.

The online project aims to help people in China, Japan, South Korea, Italy, the United States, Israel and any other countries where people are quarantined. Innonation has also donated medical supplies, including masks and medical gowns, to China.



Workers wearing protective suits disinfected a bus in Tel Aviv as a preventive measure amid fears over the spread of coronavirus on March 9. (Photo by Tomer Neuberger/Flash90)

Opinion

In My Own Words

Stocking up

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Editor's note: This column was written before the school dismissals and quarantines in the area, and the report of one case of coronavirus (or COVID-19) in the county, but it is still relevant to current events.

When I lived on my own and suffered from colitis attacks, I kept my cupboards stocked with enough food so that, if I had an attack that lasted for several days, I wouldn't have to worry about going grocery shopping. That meant there was food on hand for me to eat the one time a day I might have some appetite.

When my mom or I were grocery shopping for two or more people the past 20 years, our cupboards were always fully stocked. It took some effort after my mom went into a nursing home to remember that I was now buying for only one person, but I finally managed to do so. That meant my cupboards and refrigerator have looked pretty bare lately, except for the frozen health food meals I keep in case I'm too tired, or don't feel well enough, to cook.

I've always had more than enough to eat, but only kept one replacement of staples in the cupboard. However, the past few weeks that's changed. Why? I've been stocking up on extra supplies – notice, please, I said stocking up, not hoarding – in case I need to be

quarantined due to exposure to the coronavirus.

I'm not in panic mode yet because, as I write this, there are no known cases of the virus in Broome County. I do expect that change, if only because of people traveling to areas around New York City that have had exposure. My first thought about being in quarantine was that people from my synagogue would buy me food, but what if that's where the exposure takes place? Even if I didn't contract the disease, I wouldn't want to risk exposing friends and coworkers, especially those I know who have respiratory ailments.

So, I now have extra boxes of pasta and crackers in the cupboard. Instead of having one extra jar of peanut butter for when I use up the current one (I always try to be one ahead on things), I have three. (Well, the one in use is more than halfway finished so that's only really two and a half ahead.) I've also bought canned fruit, something I haven't done since I used to have the colitis attacks. There are more vegetables in the freezer than the cupboard, but that's not a problem. I'm not worried about having the greatest diet, but about having enough to eat until a quarantine would be lifted.

I am taking this seriously, though. My reading has long made me aware that far more people died of the influenza

epidemic that occurred after World War I than in the war itself. According to different reports, 11-20 million people died in the war. The influenza epidemic killed an estimated 50 million. We've been lucky that no major disease with such a large death toll has occurred in the last 100 years. We also take for granted that scientists will quickly find a cure or create a vaccine for any illness before it does as much damage. But scientific cures are a matter of determination and luck, so there are no guarantees.

No guarantees: it's difficult for many of us to admit we don't have complete control over our lives. If we do everything right and take care of ourselves, then we'll live to a ripe old age. But, as anyone who has lived long enough knows, life does not always go as planned, something acknowledged in the Yiddish saying, “Man plans and God laughs.” All we can do is hope for the best – and wash our hands. We can keep ourselves as healthy as possible, and offer prayers that our scientists, medical personnel and those in charge of governmental agencies do their best to protect us.

Panic does not help. Planning can. It also doesn't hurt to tell the people you care about just how much you love them, in case the worst does occur.



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

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“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 TRREPORTER@AOL.COM.

www.thereporter.org

Chabad to hold community seder; *shmura* matzah available for purchase

As of March 16, Chabad Center was still planning on holding its seder. For more information closer to the event, contact the Chabad office at 797-0015.

Chabad Center will hold a Passover seder open to the general community on the first night of the holiday, Wednesday, April 8. Festivities will begin with services at 7:15 pm followed by the seder. Services and the seder will be held at the Chabad Center, 420 Murray Hill Rd., Vestal.

The seder will include all of the traditional observances, a full-course dinner, handmade *shmura* 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 seder, 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.

For more information and reservations, e-mail aslonim@Jewishbu.com or call the Chabad office at 797-0015.

Shmura matzah

Handmade *shmura* matzah will be available for purchase through the Chabad House for \$17 a pound (three matzahs can be purchased for \$10) as long as the supply lasts, interested parties are urged to place their orders as soon as possible. To order *shmura* matzah, call the Chabad Center at 797-0015.

TC Sisterhood to hold elections on April 1

Temple Concord Sisterhood elections will be held in April. Sisterhood members are still deciding whether the election will take place on Zoom or by e-mail. Notifications will be sent to all Sisterhood members about the decision.

The slate of officers for 2020-21 includes Dunthorn, president; Helene Philips, past president; Sandy Gutman, treasurer; Janet Hayman, financial secretary and corresponding secretary; Marty Eisenstadt, recording secretary; Deb Williams, nominating committee chairwoman; Phyllis Kellenberger, ways and means vice president; and Deb Daniels, education vice president.

Directors include Marsha Luks, Barbara Thomas and Babs Putzel-Bischoff (2020-22), and Roz Antoun and Deb Williams (2020-21). Co-treasurer is still to be determined.

Committee chairwomen and members include Putzel-Bischoff, publicity; Putzel-Bischoff, Rosh Hashanah Kiddush with Gayle Klein, Barb Dickman and Luks; Whale of a Sale Team – to be announced; Pam Burgman and Hayman, rummage sale; Carol Herz and Susan

High, Judaica Shop; Holiday Artisan Marketplace, Williams (vendors) and Jesse Parker (bake sale); Sisterhood Shabbat, Rachel Coker and Cathy Eckert; Inter-sisterhood, to be announced; Cradle Roll, Thomas; High Holiday Child Care, to be announced; Religious School Parties, to be announced; and Daniels and Kellenberger, Adult Education/Programming including Donor.

Additional positions include Friday Night *onegs*, Dickman (paperwork), Sylvia Diamond and Eisenstadt; Scholar-in-Residence *oneg*, Jean Hecht; Membership/Retention, entire Sisterhood board is responsible with Dunthorn as contact with temple regarding names and contact information of new temple members; House, Nancy Dorfman; Hospitality committee chairwomen, Sandy Foreman and Eisenstadt with members Jan Dickler, Arlene Krassin, Jodi Sampey and Olwen Searles; Women's Seder in 2021, to be filled next year; Retreat, to be announced; Nominating Committee members, Putzel-Bischoff, Dunthorn, Kellenberger and Searles; and Sisterhood Funds, Hecht.

Purim celebrated in local nursing facilities

By Sylvia Diamond

Purim parties were held recently at four nursing facilities: Castle Gardens, Vestal Park, Hill Top and Elderwood. Funds donated by Jewish Family Service helped pay for entertainment.

The party at Castle Gardens were held on March 2. Although there were only two Jewish residents, there were more than 10 guests present. Sylvia Diamond gave out groggers and told the story of Queen Esther with the help of Bruce Orden. Music sheets were passed out and people sang Purim songs. Deb Foreman played the piano. Refreshments were passed out thanks to Paula Francisca, the activities director.

On March 3, a Purim party was held at Vestal Park in Vestal Center. Rabbi Geoffrey Brown told the story of Purim and showed the residents a megillah (the scroll containing the book of Esther). He brought groggers so everyone made noise when Haman's name was mentioned. Purim songs were also sung. Hamantashen were passed out thanks to Stacey Futterman, the activities director for the assisted living area. Those in the nursing home wing were not able to attend

because they were quarantined due to the flu. *Shalach manot* was given to a Jewish resident in quarantine.

On March 4, a Purim party was held at Hill Top. Orden and Ann Brilliant, members of the JCC Friendship Club, joined Diamond at the facility. Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell came dressed in a costume. She also showed a megillah as she told the story of Purim. About 40 residents were present and *shalach manot* was given to the one Jewish resident present. As hamantashen were passed out, Diamond played a tape of Purim music by Debbie Friedman. Fay Clark, the activities director, and her staff helped with the refreshments.

On March 5, a Purim party was held at Elderwood, an assisted living facility. Diamond told the story of Purim, with the help of Orden, and everyone made noise with the groggers that were given out. Kris Zdukiac, the activities director, passed out the refreshments. *Shalach manot* were given to the three Jewish residents.

The bags of *shalach manot* were prepared by the members of the JCC Friendship Club. The bags were delivered by Diamond, Orden and Rabbi Rachel Esserman.

Chabad seder in a box

In light of the precautions being taken in the face of the coronavirus, Chabad of Binghamton announced that it will deliver a "seder in a box" to any older or immunologically compromised individual who fears attending a seder with a group of friends or family. Passover begins this year on the evening of Wednesday, April 8.

Interested parties are asked to e-mail aslonim@Jewishbu.com or call the Chabad office at 797-0015 to reserve a box for themselves, a family member or a friend. The box will include matzah, grape juice, dinner 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 \$36. 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.

To offer assistance, contact the Chabad office. Checks earmarked for this purpose may be sent to Chabad Center, 420 Murray Hill Rd., Vestal, NY 13850.

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THE REPORTER
Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton

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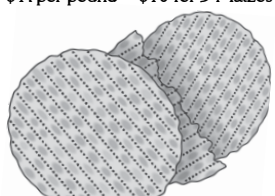
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PASSOVER 2020 Greetings

April 3 (Deadline: 3/26) **April 10** (Deadline: 4/2) Health Care Greetings issue

Passover is traditionally a time for sharing with family, friends and strangers. While your seder table may not be large enough to fit all these people, you can share the warmth of this holiday with the entire local Jewish community by placing a Passover greeting in *The Reporter*. You may choose from the designs, messages and sizes shown here - more are available. You may also choose your own message, as long as it fits into the space of the greeting you select. (Custom designs available upon request.) The price of the small greeting is \$20 (styles C & D), the medium one is \$38 (styles A & B), and the next sizes are not shown. The next actual size is 3.22" x 2.958" and is \$57. The largest size is 3.22" x 3.95" and is \$76. To ensure that your greeting is published, simply fill out the form below and choose a design that you would like to accompany your greeting, or contact Bonnie Rozen at 724-2360, ext. 244 or bonnie@thereportergroup.org. Checks can be made payable to *The Reporter* and sent to: *The Reporter*, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850.

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Your Name(s)

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Off the Shelf

Jewish food studies

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

Wikipedia defines the discipline of food studies as “the critical examination of food and its contexts within science, art, history, society and other fields. It is distinctive from other food-related areas of study such as nutrition, agriculture, gastronomy and culinary arts in that it tends to look beyond the mere consumption, production, and aesthetic appreciation of food, and tries to illuminate food as it relates to a vast number of academic fields.” Jewish food studies give an additional dimension to the discipline by showing how dietary restrictions and the customs that arrive from their practice have changed Jewish religious practice. Some works—for example, “Feasting and Fasting: The History and Ethics of Jewish Food” edited by Aaron S. Gross, Jody Myers and Jordan D. Rosenblum (New York University Press)—are formal and academic, while others, such as “The Dairy Restaurant” by Ben Katchor (Nextbook/Schocken), are more personal and idiosyncratic. Both works show the many connections that exist between food, history and Judaism.

“Feasting and Fasting” is a fascinating look at food from a variety of different angles. In the introduction, Gross notes that “on the one hand, the book is about Jewish traditions, and food functions as the focal point in examining different forms of Judaism, different ‘Judaisms’.... On the other hand, this book is also a study of what we might call the *religious dimensions of food*, and the case of Judaism serves as an exemplum in the wide-ranging scholarly discussion of how we might best think about the intersection of food and religion.” The first section, “History,” offers historical analysis of Jewish dietary laws from biblical to contemporary times. The second section, “Food and Culture,” features case studies of particular types of Jewish food and how they reflect different aspects of Jewish culture. The third section, “Ethics,” looks at moral and ethical questions about food in contemporary times, for example, the treatment of farm animals, whether or not one should be a vegetarian, and the question of rabbinic supervision of *kashrut* (Jewish dietary laws).

The essays offering an overview of *kashrut* through the ages contain provocative ideas that inspire different ways of looking at the dietary restrictions. For example, Elaine Adler Goodfriend explores what foods were actually eaten during biblical times. She discusses possible reasons for the biblical laws, while noting that, for example, there were

no economical or ecological reasons for the Israelites not eating pork. Among her most interesting points is the fact that the Torah contains no restrictions on plant life; any type of edible plant can be consumed. David C. Kraemer describes how the ancient rabbis strengthened food taboos and limited sharing meals with non-Jews after the Second Temple was destroyed. For example, the rules surrounding the mixing of meat and milk greatly expanded during this time period. Bread and wine became privileged foods that now had their own blessing. Kraemer notes that the rabbis believed that their dietary habits were of importance to God and considered food “a crucial instrument in worshipping God and celebrating life.... Eating itself came to be understood as potentially fused with holiness.” The rules of *kashrut* were seen by the rabbis as a way of preserving Jewish continuity.

These stringencies continued during the medieval period (11th-16th centuries), according to Jonathan Brumberg-Kraus. In fact, the rules became stricter when dealing with the production of wine (making certain no one but Jews would be involved in its preparation) and with the separation of meat and milk (including the first use of different pots and utensils for each). The author also notes the difference diets found in Ashkenazic and Sephardic food cultures. The former “relied on root vegetables, legumes, and fermented foods (like herring) better suited to the shorter growing season and long winters.” Sephardic Jews ate what is now called a Mediterranean diet: “primarily grains, wine, olive oil, vegetables and nuts, and small amounts of meat and fish.” Looking at more modern times, Jodie Myers writes of the changes that occurred as the use of plates and silverware increased: people were no longer eating with their hands or eating from a common bowl. This now meant that homes had to have separate dishes and silverware for meat and dairy. During the latter part of this period, the arbitrators of *kashrut* changed from women making decisions for their own households to certification by organizations run by men.

The section “Food and Culture” focuses on individual foods and includes a look at garlic as a Jewish food by Jordan D. Rosenblum; an exploration of how Christians and Muslims viewed Jewish food by David M. Freidenreich; and an excellent explanation by Zev Eleff of how peanut oil, which was once kosher for use on Passover, came to be considered *chametz* (not kosher for Passover). David Weiss writes one of the most interesting essays in the “Ethics”

section in which he describes the animals that are kosher as those that depend on God for their food (meaning they eat grass and other grains) as opposed to those who eat meat.

This summary doesn’t do justice to the sheer amount of information included in “Feasting and Fasting.” All the essays were all well written and absorbing. Anyone interested in food studies or Jewish history will want to read this book.

While “Feasting and Fasting” features many writers, “The Dairy Restaurant” is the work of one author. Actually, the word author doesn’t capture what Katchor does since his black-and-white drawings are found on almost every page in the book and serve to complement his prose. His work is part musing on religion; part history of dairy food from the Garden of Eden to contemporary times; a look at vegetarian movements in Europe and the U.S.; a listing of every dairy restaurant open in New York City during the 20th century; and part sly commentary about the Jewish world. Readers would also do well not to stake their religious practice based on what Katchor writes. (He says that camel’s milk is kosher, but it’s not. Only milk from kosher animals is kosher and camels are not kosher.) However, Katchor is not looking to write a guide to *kashrut*, but rather... actually, sometimes it’s hard to tell exactly what he wants to accomplish.

Although large sections of the book do not directly deal with Jews or Jewish dietary practices, Katchor’s musings about Jews and food are the best parts of the book. For example, he notes, “Through restaurant culture, the regional, linguistic, political, culinary, religious, and class distinctions among Jews of New York City in these years [the 1800s] were brought to relief. There existed as many types of Jewish restaurants as there were types of Jews. English-language reports highlighted the obvious divisions between kosher and non-kosher, affluent and poor restaurants, but among Jews themselves public eating choices were propelled by a smell in the air, a momentary assimilationist impulse, or a pang of homesickness.” Katchor is also quite funny when writing about why Jews might choose a particular food: “The range of reactions to the food of one’s childhood – at home and at local restaurants – is wide. To some that food is part of a lost paradise that they strive to return to for the rest of their life. To others, it represents a family bondage See “Food” on page 7

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Articles of Organization of 266 Hud, LLC (“LLC”) filed with the Secretary of State of New York (“SSNY”) on February 4, 2020, effective on the date of filing. Office Location: Broome County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY may mail a copy of any process to the LLC at 116 Murray Street, Binghamton, NY 13905, which shall be the principal business location. The purpose for which the LLC is formed is to engage in any lawful act or activity for which limited liability companies may be organized under the NYS Limited Liability Company Law.

Notice of Formation of 59 LESTER EMPIRE LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/15/2017. 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: Alan J. Anzaroot, 98 Main Street, Binghamton, New York 13905. 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 Wheeland Consulting LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is February 11, 2020.
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: 654 Hance Road, Binghamton, NY 13903.

5. The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

Notice of Formation of 7 STUYVESANT LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York SSNY on 2-6-2020. Office located in Broome County. SSNY is designated for service of process. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process served against the LLC to PO Box 231 Vestal NY 13851. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of VIIA 2 LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 2/13/2020. 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, 16 Camden Street, Johnson City, New York. 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 JJ’S GRILL AND CATERING @ EN-JOIE, LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is February 13, 2020.
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: 1120 A Farm to Market Road, Endwell, NY 13760.
5. The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose

allowed by law.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY: The name of the limited liability company is: Front Street Residences LLC (the “Company”). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was February 14, 2020. The county in which the principal place of business of the Company shall be located is Broome County. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the Company upon whom process against it may be served. The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the Company, to Front Street Residences LLC, 237 W. Lincoln Avenue, Mount Vernon, NY 10550. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

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

1. The name of the limited liability company (“LLC”) is Wesley’s Corner Store, LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is February 18, 2020.
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: 345 Conklin Ave, Binghamton, NY 13903.
5. The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY: The name of the limited liability company is: STAN Property Holdings, LLC (the “Company”). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the

Company with the Secretary of State was February 7, 2020. The county in which the principal place of business of the Company shall be located is Broome County. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the Company upon whom process against it may be served. The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the Company, to Steve W. Pancoast, 154 Clifton Blvd., Vestal, NY 13850. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

Anna Warfield Art, LLC, Art. of Org. filed with SSNY on 1/6/20. Off. loc.: Broome Co. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served & shall mail: 151 Chapin St., Binghamton, NY 13905. Purp.: any lawful purp.

Zalvis Properties LLC, Art. of Org. filed with SSNY on 1/22/20. Off. loc.: Broome Co. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served & shall mail: 424 Clayton Ave., Vestal, NY 13850. Purp.: any lawful purp.

Tugs and Hugs, LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) 1/29/2020. Cty: Broome. SSNY desig. as agent upon whom process against may be served & shall mail process to Vikki Wiener, 20 Sylvan Ave., Asheville, NC 28801. General Purpose.

Notice of Formation of TZ Development LLC

Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 03/02/2020. 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, 168 Susquehanna Street, Binghamton, New York 13901. Purpose: any lawful activities.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY:

The name of the limited liability company is: 220 Stage Road, LLC (the “Company”). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was March 9, 2020. The county in which the principal place of business of the Company shall be located is Broome County. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the Company upon whom process against it may be served. The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the Company, to Hinman, Howard & Kattell, LLP, Attn: Christina J. Graziadei, 80 Exchange Street, Ste. 700, Binghamton, NY 13901. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

Notice of Formation of THE HAIR KITCHEN, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 02/25/20. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 15 Penna 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 Trinity Valley Dairy LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is March 12, 2020.
3. The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the LLC is located is Cortland.
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: 2859 Route 13, Cortland, NY 13045.
5. The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

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Jewish organizations, schools, communities institute action, even close due to coronavirus

By Faygie Holt and JNS Staff

(JNS)—As Jews around the world were celebrating Purim, the specter of life under a global epidemic in the form of the coronavirus was becoming clearer and more concerning.

In a letter to supporters on March 9, the pro-Israel educational organization StandWithUs announced that a person who attended a reception during the annual AIPAC Policy Conference in Washington, DC, from March 1-3 had tested positive for the virus. The news came as the number of AIPAC attendees having the coronavirus has now risen to five.

“At this time, we are not aware of any other cases involving people who might have attended that evening’s event,” said the letter from StandWithUs executives Roz Rothstein and Jerry Rothstein. “Last week, we asked our staff that attended AIPAC Policy Conference to self-quarantine.”

As this article was written, nationwide, more than 1,000 people have tested positive for the coronavirus, while the worldwide total has surpassed 120,000. More than 4,200 people have died as a result of complications from the virus, many of them in China, where it first originated.

According to New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, as of

March 11, 108 people in the Westchester town of New Rochelle have coronavirus out of a total of 173 people statewide. Because of the “cluster” or high incidence of virus in the town, he authorized a “containment area” that, as of March 12, effectively shut down schools, businesses and gatherings in a one-mile radius in the hopes of stemming the growth of the disease. The containment zone was centered around Young Israel synagogue in New Rochelle, where hundreds of people from the congregation have already been under voluntary quarantine.

“We’re also going to use the National Guard in the containment area to deliver food to homes, to help with the cleaning of public spaces,” stated Cuomo. “There is a debate about how long the virus can live on hard surfaces, and you have differing opinions now. Some opinions are the virus can live on a hard surface, such as stainless steel or plastic, for two days or more. If that’s the case, that



Young Israel of New Rochelle, NY, which is at the center of a coronavirus containment zone. (Photo courtesy of Young Israel)

would be a significant issue as to why it is transmitting the way it does. So cleaning those surfaces is very important with the right material and the National Guard will be helpful on that.”

At a briefing on March 11, he also said the state will produce up to 100,000 gallons of hand sanitizer per week, distributing it to the most impacted and high-risk communities, in addition to state agencies.

Elsewhere, an employee at the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland, OH – the educational arm of the local Jewish Federation – has tested positive for the virus. That employee attended the AIPAC conference.

In response to the news, the Mandel Jewish Community Center, also in Cleveland, announced that “as a precautionary measure and in concert with our Beachwood community partners, the Mandel Jewish Community Center is suspending public events effective today and until Monday, March 16....”

See “Action” on page 8



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Vayakel-Pekudai, Exodus 35:1-40:38

Working for a common purpose

RABBI PEG KERSHENBAUM, CONGREGATION B'NAI HARIM, POCONO PINES

It is amazing what people can accomplish when they are working for a common purpose that holds the promise of lasting importance.

Vayakel-Pekudai, our doubled Torah portion, presents detailed descriptions of the actual crafting of the Tabernacle and all its furnishings, the outfits for the priests and every element of the new cult imaginable. All of these things are imbued with holiness.

But, wait. Two questions arise. Where did all the materials come from – especially the gold that had been given up for the building of the Golden Calf, just one *parasha* ago? And, how can all these gifts, brought by human beings, become holy?

The portion picks up where the story of the plans for building was interrupted by that Golden Calf incident, as if now that the Israelites had been turned back to God and had suffered the consequences for apostasy, things could go along as before. It's likely that the remaining Israelites were somewhat more inspired to do what they could to make sure their sincerity was not in doubt. But there is no feeling that their contributions were sin offerings! Over and over, the text stresses that contributions of materials and skills were to be made with a willing heart by anyone so moved. These were voluntary, "free-will" offerings. People brought whatever they found in their possession that fit some category of the many materials on Moses' list. Even if they didn't have gold, they might have wood. And even if wood wasn't easily procured, perhaps some oil or spices lay among their possessions. Some wool from the flock? Some tanned skins? Surely all who were willing to search within their tents could find something. (It's quite surprising what people will take with them into exile. Go visit a Jewish Museum to see what Jews took as they fled, escaped or just moved from different homes!)

So, these unsullied gifts were all brought with a great outpouring of enthusiasm and excitement. Clearly, when

there had been a clamor for donations toward the Golden Calf, people had not been united. Some (traditionally, the women) had held back. But for the building of the *Mishkan*, everyone wanted to take part. And, if they didn't have materials, they were endowed with skill, either before they volunteered it or, marvelously, in the very act of getting involved.

Betzalel, Oholiab and the skilled craftsmen and women were able to see in all that material the makings of the Tabernacle fit for the *Shekhinah*, the indwelling Presence of God. They organized the work and it was carried out. When Moses made an accounting of all the materials used and all the work involved, the people's participation was validated and their pride in their accomplishment was made real before their eyes.

How did their personal items become sacred objects? *Kadosh*, sacred, means "set apart." When we, as a full Jewish community, can set ourselves apart from our differences, our disagreements and our derogatory speech toward one another and work together on a task of spiritual significance, the entire enterprise becomes holy. That is not miraculous; that is the natural outcome of pluralistic cooperation on a mutually beneficial project. May we find many such projects and continue to be *am kadosh*, a holy people.

Community Calendar

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

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

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
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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.

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.

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.

Synagogues limit face-to-face gatherings

Beth David Synagogue, Temple Concord and Temple Israel announced that they are limiting face-to-face gatherings. That means there will be no services or programming held until further notice. Some meetings, services and classes will be available online or by phone.

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

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: Tuesday, 5:30 pm; Friday, 5:30 pm; Saturday, 9:30 am

The temple office will be closed Wednesday-Friday, April 8-10, and Wednesday-Thursday, April 15-16.

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.

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.

Friday, March 20, light candles before..... 6:58 pm
Saturday, March 21, Shabbat ends 8 pm
Friday, March 27, light candles before..... 7:06 pm
Saturday, March 28, Shabbat ends 8:07 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.

Friday, March 20: Tell A Story Shabbat – Hias National Refuge Shabbat observed during virtual Shabbat services at 8 pm. Visit Temple Concord's Facebook page to join "Shabbat Service Live." It will be in the video section, as well.

Saturday, March 21: Virtual Torah study from 9:15-10:30 am; visit <https://binghamton.zoom.us/j/342411102> or call 1-929-205-6099 on a phone, then put in the meeting ID number, 342 411 102#.

Penn-York Jewish Community

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

Congregation 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 egalitarian 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.

Music.....Continued from page 1

Rabbi Yosef Goldman created a nine-month residency, I was very excited to apply. We are seven months into this inaugural year and it has been a rich, growth-filled experience, one in which I am honored to participate.

Question: How can music help people connect to spirituality and Judaism?

Answer: Music has a way of bypassing the intellect and moving right into a place of feelings and experience. When we sing together, we have the potential to be transported out of the mundane and into a much more essential nature of being alive. Linear time gives way to poetic time and we find ourselves in the experience of something bigger than ourselves. This is a place of *ruach*, spirit and connection. As Jews, we have a rich tapestry of cultural and religious practices that involve music. David composed his psalms with a lyre, Miriam gave thanks for liberation in Egypt through song, the angels sing praise as part of the daily *Amidah* prayer and our prophets employed musicians as a critical tool for prophesying. Music has always been a spiritual tool. When we sing together in community, we tap

into all of our musical traditions and create a pathway to our own spiritual capacity. In this way, music is a powerful conduit between the physical and spiritual self.

Question: How do you see music playing a role in creating community?

Answer: As Americans, Jews live in a society that values individualism, a trait that we have integrated through assimilation. But to be a Jew is to value the collective. I see music as a great bridge between the two. In community singing, no single voice matters, yet we need everyone's individual voice to be a collective. For me, community singing is not about how to make something beautiful, though beauty is often a byproduct of the experience. To me, the power comes from each of us deciding to be part of the whole. When we sing in community as Jews, we are collectively saying, "I am here." We immediately become connected to the others in the room, to our ancestors and, if we are lucky, to the creative life force that lives within and all around us.

Question: What are some of the most exciting things that have happened in your activities with Rising Song? Why do you think this is important?

Answer: The Rising Song Residency has been a treasure chest of exciting and meaningful experiences. I am one of seven residents who have made a commitment to study the art of building Jewish spiritual community through singing. As part of this process we host a public Friday evening and Saturday morning Rising Song minyan. Our services are filled with music and other creative and spiritual experiential practices that we are learning about in the residency. Our inspiration comes from fellow resident experience and skill, visiting teaching artists and rabbis, Torah study and practical music skill development. We are in constant conversation (literally and in our practices) about the ways that tradition and the present moment inform one another. To me, this is one of the most fundamental questions of Judaism. We study as a pluralist community using creative practices to get at deeper understanding and expression of what it means to be Jewish, spiritual and creative. It's enormously meaningful to be in relationship with others who are not only asking these questions, but practicing aspects of the answers in the world.

Question: What is the style of music you prefer personally and how does it relate to the work you do for Rising Song?

Answer: I am an improviser at heart. I have studied for many years with master improviser Rhiannon and have made improvisational singing a core part of my teaching. At its core, improvisation is about singing the present moment. As a practice, we grow our ability to listen, to be comfortable in the unknowing, to be silent and to trust inspiration. When I am leading groups, I have to be able to understand what is happening in a room. I am always looking for ways to facilitate and then get out of the way of meaningful group experience. I have learned to trust the capacity of a group and to employ tools that create the potential for rich and interconnected musical experiences. These skills are essential to the communal and spiritual goals of The Rising Song Institute.

For more information about Goldsmith, visit www.rebekkagoldsmith.com.

Food.....Continued from page 4

and provincialism, the escape from which they mark as a day of liberation. To others, that food represents a period of economic and social failure to which they never want to return." Also fun to read about were the performers (Jewish and non-Jewish) that frequented some of the Jewish dairy restaurants during their heyday.

"The Dairy Restaurant" contains an almost overwhelming amount of material, partly because its prose is descriptive, rather than analytic. It's as if Katchor wants to include everything he ever learned about dairy food and dairy restaurants without filtering which particular aspects were the most important. Katchor even acknowledges this problem at the end of his work: he notes that he kept learning and forgetting what he had previously learned as he did his less than methodical research until finally his publisher demanded he turn in a manuscript. However, that doesn't mean his book isn't interesting, but it does require patience. What does not require patience, though, are Katchor's wonderful illustrations that help bring his writing to life.

Jewish Community Center

JCC Friendship Club

The JCC Friendship Club met on March 11 and played games. We played UNO, which is a card game. It took a long time to finish. Then we played a few games of Scrabble, which is played with Scrabble cubes that look like dice, but they have letters on them. There were several ties so we are probably close to the same level of ability.

The meeting was called to order by Sylvia Diamond. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Ann Brilliant said the blessing over the refreshments. We discussed delivering *shalach manot* to the Jewish residents in nursing facilities and shut-ins they were all delivered by Purim. We enjoyed going to the Purim party at Elderwood in March 4.

Meetings have been postponed until further notice. Call the JCC office at 724-2417 to see if we are meeting.

Sylvia Diamond
President



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(NAPS) – Your car is always there for you. An oil change, tune-up and basic service can be a great way to return the favor, advises the nonprofit Car Care Council. For a free "Car Care Guide" and more information, visit www.carcare.org.



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NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

Israel authorizes mass surveillance to stem the spread of COVID-19

In a controversial move meant to help stem the spread of the COVID-19 virus, Israel's government approved a motion early on March 17 to allow authorities to use sophisticated surveillance technology to track the movements of Israelis diagnosed with the disease. According to the new protocol, Israel's Shin Bet security agency will now utilize this technology to track down all those to have come within a few meters of known COVID-19 patients and send reports directly to their phones, notifying them of their exposure and obligating them to either self-quarantine or get tested for the disease. The technology can track all locations visited by an infected individual in the weeks before they were diagnosed and can also be used to determine whether people are complying with mandatory quarantine orders. The new regulations allow the collection of data from the phones of patients and those who have come in contact with them – with the exception of the content of their conversations – without a warrant. According to the Shin Bet, the data will be deleted 60 days after the national state of emergency declared on the evening of March 16 is lifted, in order to enable “an internal investigation of the efforts performed by the Health Ministry.” In a rare public statement, Shin Bet Director Nadav Argaman sought to reassure those concerned about implications of the new measure. “As the head of the Shin Bet security service, I want to make it clear that the sensitivities around this matter are entirely clear to me,” said Argaman. “Therefore, I have only allowed a very small group of agency officials to be a part of this matter, and the information will not be saved to the Shin Bet’s databases.” He added that the data would be given “directly to the director general of the Health Ministry or the head of the ministry’s

public-health services, to be used only for the purpose of providing instructions to save lives.” He added that the Shin Bet would not take part in enforcing quarantines.

Israeli-Palestinian team cooperating to fight virus in Arab-controlled areas

Israeli and Palestinian Authority medical teams have been working to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Arab-controlled areas of Judea and Samaria, according to a report by the Unit for the Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories (or COGAT), as reports from the P.A. on March 15 expressed fear over the ramifications of a large-scale infection in the region. According to COGAT, Israel has been providing support to the P.A. in the form of test kits and professional assistance, such as joint training sessions on issues pertaining to the virus itself, as well as protection of medical personnel and the testing of patients. “Bacteria and viruses do not stop at the border, and the spread of the dangerous virus in [the Palestinian Authority] can also jeopardize the health of the residents of Israel,” Dalia Basa, health coordinator for COGAT, said in a statement. As of mid-March 15, the number of infected P.A. residents was 38, almost all of whom lived in the Bethlehem area. A closure of entrances and exits of Bethlehem was subsequently ordered by Israel’s Defense Ministry. The P.A. Health Ministry expressed concern that the virus, which had infected 255 Israelis as of the night of March 16, would cause a major outbreak in areas run by the P.A. “We won’t be able to deal with the crisis alone,” a senior P.A. health official told *The Jerusalem Post* on March 15. “We will need assistance from Israel and other international parties. We are already coordinating on a daily basis with Israel to prevent the spread of the virus.” In an effort to limit chances of infection, P.A. officials

shuttered Bethlehem tourist sites on March 6 when it was discovered that tourists had infected workers at a city hotel. Since then, the P.A. has taken steps to restrict movement among residents, limiting visitors of hospital patients to first-degree relatives, and cracking down on shop and restaurant owners who have ignored orders to shut down their businesses in an effort to stave off spread of the virus.

British lawmakers demand changes in Palestinian, UNRWA textbooks

Members of the British Parliament on March 10 said they want answers as to why textbooks used to “radicalize” children in schools run by the Palestinian Authority and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency remain unchanged. Member of Parliament Jonathan Gullis led a Westminster Hall debate with help from more than 20 members, where he exhibited a reading comprehension textbook for 10-year-olds that glorifies Palestinian terrorist Dalal al-Mughrabi, who killed 38 Israelis, including 13 children on a bus in 1978. The United Kingdom provided £65.5 million (nearly \$81 million) in aid to UNRWA and the Palestinians in 2019-20. Gullis also cited findings of the research institute IMPACT-se, which examined 202 textbooks from the current curriculum and found “a systematic insertion of violence, martyrdom and *jihad* across all grades and subjects where the possibility of peace with Israel is rejected,” according to the MP. MP Stephen Crabb said, “Concerns have been constantly raised by members across parties in this house about the use of inciteful language in textbooks, which whether directly or indirectly, U.K. aid has helped to finance. One of the questions we need an answer to this afternoon is why there has been so little progress.”

Netanyahu’s corruption trial postponed

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s court date has been delayed to May 24, announced the Jerusalem District Court on March 15, following new directives put in place on the night of March 14 to combat the spread of COVID-19. The announcement follows Israeli Justice Minister Amir Ohana’s March 15 declaration of a 24-hour “state of emergency” in Israel’s courts “as part of the national effort to prevent the spread of the coronavirus,” thereby freezing non-urgent hearings. Ohana’s declaration was given four hours after Netanyahu, whose trial on corruption charges had been set for March 17, announced on March 14 a raft of new, stricter regulations aimed at stemming the coronavirus outbreak, including the closing of all schools and banning public gatherings exceeding 10 people. A Justice Ministry spokesman said in a statement that the decision to postpone the trial had been made “as part of the national effort to prevent the spread of the coronavirus ... in accordance with the recommendations of Health Ministry staff, and in coordination with the courts administration and the attorney general.” In response to the ruling, the Israeli NGO Movement for Quality Government announced that it would file a petition with the High Court demanding that the state of emergency be canceled. The group claimed that Ohana, who was appointed by Netanyahu, “is a temporary minister in a transitional government, who hasn’t received the public’s backing and whose appointment was never approved by the Knesset.” The postponement, claimed the group, “trampled” the Israeli legal system.

Action. . . . Continued from page 5

To be clear, no one who has tested positive for coronavirus has been in our facility. We have not been contacted by the CDC and remain at a low risk. We continue to make every effort to protect our staff, members and guests.”

Beachwood has a significant Jewish population, as high as 89 percent, according to the Jewish Federation of Cleveland’s 2011 population study, many of them Orthodox.

In New Jersey, students and faculty at the Frisch School, a Modern Orthodox high school in Paramus, will be observing “social distancing” after a student there tested positive for the coronavirus. Though not as severe as a quarantine, it means that people need to maintain a six-foot distance from others, stay at home as much as possible, avoid gatherings and limit public activity. The school had been closed since March 5 and had originally been expected to reopen on March 11.

Also remaining closed are Yeshiva University in New York City, Salanter Akiba Riverdale in Riverdale, NY, and Westchester Day School in Mamaroneck, NY. Additionally, Yavneh Academy, a preschool through eighth-grade school, is closed through March 13, while Harkham Hillel Hebrew Academy in Beverly Hills, CA, is closed after a parent tested positive.

The Republican Jewish Coalition conference in Las Vegas, which was to include an address by U.S. President Donald Trump, has been cancelled.

At the same time, fears over possible exposure to the virus at the recent Conservative Political Action Conference conference in Maryland from February 26-29 were addressed. In a statement, the Young Jewish Conservatives said that a CPAC attendee who was diagnosed with coronavirus attended the group’s Shabbat program.

“Immediately upon learning of the diagnosis and working in conjunction with CPAC organizers, we notified all Shabbat attendees and advised them to seek medical guidance based on the assumption that they may have had direct contact with this individual,” the group told Townhall. “Most of our attendees have been advised by health authorities that absent any symptoms they do not need to self-quarantine, although a minority have chosen voluntarily to do so.”

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