

THE REPORTER

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Film Fest to hold virtual film event in September

By Reporter staff

The Jewish International Film Fest of Greater Binghamton will hold a virtual showing of the film “They Ain’t Ready for Me” directed and produced by Brad Rothschild. “They Ain’t Ready for Me” is a full-length documentary about Tamar Manasseh, an African American rabbinical student who is leading the fight against senseless killings on the south side of Chicago. It explores the challenges and motivations of the community leader as she works to prevent more people from being killed by gun violence. A discussion on the film with Rothschild will be led by Ben Kasper, professor emeritus of social science at SUNY Broome

and a member of the Temple Israel Executive Board.

People will be able to register on the Federation website, www.jfjb.org. The film will be streamed free for up to 100 computers. After Shabbat ends on Saturday, September 12, a link to the film will be sent to those who sign up in advance. The film



Poster of “They Ain’t Ready for Me”



Producer/director Brad Rothschild

will be available for viewing on personal devices for 48 hours. On Monday, September 14, at 7 pm, Kasper will facilitate the online video discussion of the film.

“As isolation due to COVID-19 continues, we wanted to do another film screening as a way to stay connected to community members,” said Shelley Hubal,

executive director of the Federation. “They Ain’t Ready for Me” is an inspirational film that shows the power of one person deciding to make a difference in this world. It is the perfect film to reflect on before the High Holy Days. “

“Tamar and the organization she founded, MASK, Mothers and Men Against Senseless Killings, are proving that violence can be prevented,” said organizers of the event. “With just her presence on the block – talking, joking and hanging out – she is making the forgotten members of the neighborhood believe that there are people who care whether they live or die. But she See “Film” on page 2

Temple Beth-El Ithaca announces new rabbi

Temple Beth-El of Ithaca announced that Rabbi Rachel Safman will be its new spiritual leader. This is not Safman’s first time in Ithaca: she was a graduate student at Cornell University and received her Ph.D. in development sociology in 2002. She also worshipped at the synagogue during that time.

After receiving her degree, Safman conducted field research in Thailand and Myanmar, wrote a dissertation on the im-

pact of the AIDS epidemic on rural Thai communities, was tapped as an expert on avian influenza (bird flu) by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and served on the faculty of the National University of Singapore, where her focus was on the response of families and communities to health crises.

During her years in Singapore, Safman served as the president of the city-state’s progressive Jewish community, the United

At right: Rabbi Rachel Safman with her daughter, Talya (Photo by Marjorie Hoffman)



Hebrew Congregation; was a participant in the ritual life of Singapore’s Baghdadi Orthodox community; and founded and led Gesher, a Jewish community forum that hosted guest speakers, including Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsieng Loong. Seeking to devote her energies to the Jewish community full-time, in 2008 she decided to study at the Conservative Movement’s Ziegler School of Rabbinic See “Rabbi” on page 4

JFS seeks donations for We Remember You project

Jewish Family Service is seeking donations for the We Remember You Project. The project, which is now in its 13th year, supports Jewish families locally who struggle to make ends meet.

Due to the pandemic and participant concerns with the risk of exposure to COVID-19, JFS has decided not to deliver food baskets for this year. In an effort to maintain safety while supporting Jewish community members in need, JFS is asking for monetary donations for the purchase of grocery gift cards along with a monetary gift. Tax deductible donations should be sent to JFS by Wednesday, September 9, with “We Remember You” written on the memo line. Checks should be mailed to Jewish Family Service, 500

Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850.

“The We Remember You Project is a wonderful way to give *zedakah* during this time of self-reflection and gratitude,” noted Rose Shea, JFS director. “The Binghamton community has always been compassionate and generous. This is just another way to show our neighbors they are not forgotten and the community really cares.”

Shea noted, “The We Remember You Project has been a success all these years and I know the recipients appreciate all that is done for them. Let’s make this another successful year. Projects like this are what Jewish Family Service and the Jewish Federation are all about.”

Contact Shea at director@jfjb.org for further information.

Hillel Academy receives grant for technology

Hillel Academy of Broome County announced that it has received a grant from the Eisenberg Fund, which will provide support for new technology for students and teachers. “We have been able to turn our classrooms into truly multimedia environments, while still emphasizing the intimate learning environment that makes Hillel Academy such a great school,” said a representative of Hillel. “This support will benefit our continuing efforts.”

Rabbi Moshe Shmaryahu, head of Judaic and Hebrew studies at Hillel, gave representatives of the foundation a tour of the school. “They were shocked to see a functioning Jewish school with a traditional

Jewish character,” the Hillel representative continued. “When schools were forced to move to various versions of online learning this spring, Hillel Academy was able to provide every student with a Chromebook (our youngest students received iPads), and our teachers offered a full day and full week on live (synchronous) learning using Google classroom. We were the only school in the area that maintained a full week of live instruction for our students.”

Registration for the upcoming school year for pre-kindergarten through fifth grade is still open. For more information, visit <http://hillelacademybroomecounty.org/> or contact the school at 304-4544.

Spotlight

The unstoppable Ukelele Steve

By Rabbi Rachel Esserman

Live, in-person musical performances have stopped during the pandemic. Some musicians have gotten creative in finding ways to perform and get their music to their fans. One of those musicians is Steven Gilbert, professor emeritus of psychology at SUNY Oneonta, also known as Ukelele Steve.

Gilbert began his performing career in 2014, but he always loved playing music. “Playing the ukulele while singing great old songs have always brought me joy – in a nerdy, embarrassed way,” he said in an e-mail interview. “But for most of my life, I did it furtively and sporadically, with

long periods of total neglect. When my uke would break, years might pass before I got another one. Sometime in the early 2000s, my children bought me a really fine baritone uke, and I found myself playing more and enjoying the challenge of learning more songs and improving my capacity on my instrument (more chords, more keys, a little picking, better strumming, etc.)”

Then came the fateful day when Sylvia Diamond, president of the Jewish Community Center’s Friendship Club, asked if he would do a program for the group. What came to mind? Why, he could play his ukulele and sing songs the seniors would



Screenshots of Steve Gilbert performing.

know. The reaction to his performance was greater than he expected. “They loved it,” he said. “I loved doing it. I started calling the recreation directors at local senior living centers, offering to sing for no supper. Within a year, I was regularly playing at three or four facilities. By the end of 2019, I was regularly playing at 12 facilities. My songbook – the songs I rehearse and perform – has increased to around 150, and my ‘gig book’ is a monster spreadsheet, on which I record every song I perform at every gig (so I can offer a reasonable variety at each).”

Then the pandemic began and the senior See “Steve” on page 7

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is more than just a concerned mother of two children – she’s also a rabbinical student. Her unique background and upbringing give her a perspective that few people can claim. Both authentically Jewish and authentically Black, she brings an understanding of both communities, even as she struggles for acceptance in the Jewish world.”

In his review of the film on the website Unseen Films, Nate Hood wrote, “Whether she’s cruising the streets blaring Lauryn Hill, saving a group of terrified 4-year-old boys from the cops, or visiting the graves of her enslaved

ancestors, Manasseh is a mesmerizing presence, a living embodiment of *tikkun olam* for Black America, both Jewish and otherwise.”

Rothschild is an award winning producer and writer with both a creative and a business background. He received a master’s in international affairs and a master’s in business administration, both from Columbia University. From 1995-97, he served as the speech writer and director of communications for the Mission of Israel to the United Nations. Rothschild produced the award-winning documentary

feature “Kinderblock 66: Return to Buchenwald,” which was screened at the Jerusalem Film Festival and at more than 20 festivals in the United States and around the world. He directed the documentary film “African Exodus,” about the plight of Israel’s African refugees, and the documentary film “Tree Man,” about the people who come to New York City to sell Christmas trees every holiday season. “Tree Man” won the Audience Award at the St. Lawrence International Film Festival. Rothschild is currently directing a documentary film about Raoul Wallenberg.

Opinion

Hillel Academy offers quality education

By Kerri Weinstein

With the school year just weeks away and local parents struggling with the decision about sending their children to school or keeping them home, Hillel Academy of Broome County is gearing up to offer in-person instruction five days per week to new and returning students. Providing a quality secular and Jewish education in a safe environment – while following CDC and state social distancing guidelines – has been the greatest concern to parents and teachers.

When the shutdown occurred this past March and in-person schooling closed, the teachers of Hillel Academy were quick to switch their daily curriculum to the online virtual classroom within 48 hours of closing. Every student received a Chromebook (the youngest receiving iPads) to log onto from home and interact with their classmates while receiving live virtual instruction from their teachers. No other school in the community was able to provide a curriculum online within the same time frame as our school.

As an alumna student of Hillel Academy and a parent of a current student, it has been disheartening to see how much smaller the school has become since I attended the school from 1986-94. Back then, it had more than 100 students and ran through eighth grade. I have so many fond memories of a bustling school in the basement below Temple Israel: the dedicated teachers and a truly amazing education set me up for future educational success.

Unfortunately, as Broome County’s Jewish population has become smaller over the past few decades, the area’s only Jewish day school has seen its numbers diminish greatly. To accommodate the decreasing numbers, classes were combined and fifth grade became the final grade before graduation from Hillel Academy.

My husband Jonathan, who is also Jewish, grew up in the suburbs of Philadelphia and never attended a Jewish day school or a Jewish summer camp like I did. Judaism was not a large part of his childhood, except for celebrating the holidays and having a bar mitzvah. When we moved back to Binghamton and had a daughter, Sloane, we were not planning on sending her to Hillel Academy. Instead, we were content with sending her to our local public elementary school. I received calls from Hillel’s board members

asking me to consider sending Sloane to the school, but I was adamant that it would be easier to send her to public school and continued to decline their offers. Admittedly, I was also concerned about affording tuition, even though I was told that there was scholarship assistance should we need it and it was important to the school that every Jewish child be offered a Jewish education.

So, we went ahead and enrolled Sloane in public school for kindergarten and kept her there through first grade. I was extremely underwhelmed with how she was learning and the very large class size of 25 students. There was little time for a teacher to provide extra assistance, which resulted in us having to hire an outside tutor to keep her on track according to Common Core guidelines. We feared that we had made the wrong decision in sending her to public school and also felt we were not providing her with enough opportunities to learn about Judaism. I kept comparing her education to the one I received when I attended Hillel. I knew that when I was at the same age she was currently, I was already reading and writing Hebrew, and knowledgeable about some Jewish culture and customs. It was clear that she would never get to this point if she stayed in public school.

As if my thoughts had been heard, I received a call from a board member, Joy Yarkoni, inviting me to bring Sloane to an open house and learn more about what Hillel Academy currently had to offer. She answered all the questions I had and encouraged us to attend. Sloane was already enrolled in public school for second grade and had even received her teacher assignment. However, we decided to attend and meet some other parents, students and teachers. I distinctly remember after meeting everyone, Jonathan saying to me, “I want her to have this education. We need to enroll her.”

Within two hours, Sloane was registered for Hillel Academy and we never looked back. Stepping into the school that day and making the decision to enroll her has been life-changing for all of us. I have watched as Sloane has flourished at Hillel Academy: she truly enjoys going to school. She loves learning about and celebrating the holidays, and she was able to learn Hebrew very quickly. She receives any extra help she needs, and truly enjoys her

classes and teachers. It has also brought more Judaism into our home life again.

Now that I am a board member and a grateful parent, I feel that it is more important than ever that we do everything possible to keep our school open. Given the recent pandemic and our ability to provide space according to guidelines for our students, we anticipate a full day of learning five days per week. Students and faculty will follow mandatory mask-wearing and social distancing guidelines. Our teachers and administration have been working very hard to make sure that we have ample indoor and outdoor space for our current students and any newcomers.

Hillel Academy is proud that, during such an uncertain and difficult time, we are growing and bringing new families on board. In the past, we have seen a steady decrease in student enrollment. This year, the tides have turned. We have been actively recruiting new families and have seen a lot of interest from prospective families. Currently, we expect to have about a 40 percent increase in enrollment and still be able to adhere to our safety guidelines.

Obviously, no one can predict what will happen in the fall and should COVID-19 cases spike again, Hillel Academy is prepared to go to virtual learning immediately. Teachers are able to offer Google virtual classrooms and keep our students socially and emotionally engaged. Our students and their well-being remain our highest priority, and we are proud to be able to offer them high-quality in person and virtual instruction no matter what the future brings.

Hillel Academy is still open to enrollment for the upcoming 2020-21 school year. We have been arranging in-person appointments for prospective families to meet some faculty and tour the school. Also, a socially-distanced event, “Popsicles and Tricycles,” will be held outdoors on Thursday, August 27, for current and prospective families to meet. Call 304-4544 or e-mail frontoffice@hillelacademyofbc.org for information or to set up an appointment. If any prospective parents would like to reach out to me personally, I can be reached by e-mail at kerrick@gmail.com.

Kerri Weinstein is an alumna of Hillel Academy and a parent of a current student.

In My Own Words

Red or Blue, all are American

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

When a natural disaster occurs in the United States and I receive a request for help, I don’t ask for specifics about whose lives are in danger. It doesn’t matter their age, skin color, ethnicity, religion or political viewpoints. Americans reach out and give each other a helping hand. If that fundamental idea from America’s civil religion weren’t enough reason to help, my Jewish practice gives me other reasons. Judaism teaches me that we are all created *b’tzelem Elohim*, in the image of God. Our sages preached that when you have saved one life, it is as if you have saved the entire world. Our mystics speak of the spark of God that rests within all of us, if we only choose to look.

That’s why I was horrified to learn that a national plan to combat the coronavirus may not have been implemented for political reasons. An article in Vanity Fair about the lack of a national plan says, “Most troubling of all, perhaps, was a sentiment the expert [who was interviewed for the

article] said a member of Kushner’s team expressed: that because the virus had hit blue states hardest, a national plan was unnecessary and would not make sense politically. ‘The political folks believed that because it was going to be relegated to Democratic states, that they could blame those governors, and that would be an effective political strategy,’ said the expert.” (See <https://www.vanityfair.com/news/2020/07/how-jared-kushners-secret-testing-plan-went-poof-into-thin-air>.)

Now, there are people denying this occurred, but, in today’s political climate, it’s not difficult to accept that politics are playing a role in life and death situations. After all, the federal government has threatened to cut funding to states that are reopening schools and businesses more slowly than the feds demand. Even our president once declared that the decision to wear a mask was a political statement against him. Fortunately, he has changed his

mind – at least, enough to don a mask on occasion.

The fact that someone might even suggest that it’s OK for people to die for political reasons – so that one party or another would win an election – is un-American and goes against Jewish (and Christian) principles. What’s even worse is that it’s *stupid!* As I write, it’s states that voted Republican that are now facing some of the biggest virus threats.

A national effort was needed early in this fight. A national effort now could still help. We shouldn’t wait until more people suffer from or die of this virus. And if we can do anything to stop its spread – wear masks, stay home – then we should do so. We should also help those who suffer from businesses closing or those who can’t work. That would be the American way – reaching out a helping hand to each other without asking foolish questions like, “how did you vote?”



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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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TC to hold hands-on art program on August 9

Temple Concord will offer a virtual hands-on art program on Thursday, August 20, at 7:30 pm, as preparation for the upcoming High Holidays. The program will feature Rae Antonoff Portnoy, M.A.J.E., an artist and educator based in Los Angeles. Participants will decide on their own intention for the month of Elul as part of a meditative focus on preparation for the 5781 New Year. They will make their way through Portnoy's seven-step process to creating micrography artwork—drawing skills and “good” handwriting are not required. Participants can work in Hebrew, English, or any language they prefer. To receive a link to the program, contact the Temple Concord office at TempleConcordbinghamton@gmail.com.

“Explore the calming and creative potential of the traditional Jewish art form of micrography (or micro-calligraphy!)” said organizers of the event. “Anyone who can hold a pen can create a beautiful meditative micrography ‘amulet’ alongside our artist in this workshop. All you’ll need are a pencil, eraser, colored pens/markers (ultra-fine or fine-tip work best), and a printout of the Micrography Workshop Materials packet that will be sent ahead of time.”

While studying Jewish education at Hebrew Union College, Portnoy discovered the meditative and expressive possibilities of micrography, an art form that dates back to the ninth century and was traditionally worked in black

ink. She began experimenting with colored inks and has now collected more than 500 different pigments to craft her micrography designs. Since 2013, Portnoy has microscribed more than 150 texts and designs in Hebrew and English, from *parashiyot* (Torah portions) to TV and film screenplays. In addition to directing the religious school at Beth Chayim Chadashim, a Reform LGBT synagogue in Los Angeles, Portnoy leads art workshops in Southern California and around the country.

Portnoy's art is available for purchase or commission via her website www.RaeAnDesigns.com.

TC Sisterhood accepts rummage donations

Temple Concord Sisterhood has begun accepting rummage donations on a limited basis. Donors must make an appointment with Pam Burgman by sending her an e-mail at paburgman@yahoo.com. At this time, she will accept donations on a limited basis – only three or four participants each week.

The drop-off day will be Thursdays at about noon. Those who cannot be at the temple at that time should discuss that with Burgman in their e-mail. A maximum of three boxes or bags will be accepted.

Items donated must be clean (clothing recently laun-

dered and household items washed). Any clothing that is out of style or has rips and stains will not be accepted. Neither will be worn out shoes. All appliances should be in working condition. Household items and toys should have all their parts. Only brand new stuffed animals with tags attached will be accepted. At this point in time, book donations will not be accepted.

Sisterhood also asked that items intended for Whale of a Sale not be brought at this time. Notice of those donations times will be given if and when Sisterhood plans to hold that sale.

Jewish resources to occupy your family during social distancing – part 18

By Reporter staff

A variety of Jewish groups are offering online resources – educational and recreational – for those who are not allowed out of the house. Below is a sampling of those. *The Reporter* will publish additional listings as they become available.

◆ Comic Com: San Diego presented a panel on “Art and the Holocaust.” It featured a sampling of artwork and propaganda done during World War II in the U.S. and Nazi Germany, and work done by a child survivor of the Holocaust after the war. Speakers included Holocaust survivors, graphic novelists and a Holocaust educator. A video of the panel discussion can be found at www.comic-con.org/ccathome/2020/video/eS3PAMq6f5o.

◆ Partners for Progressive Israel are holding an “Israel Symposium 2020: Beautiful Dream, Painful Reality.” The symposium will take place on Zoom over 12 two-hour sessions (session 1 from 11 am-1 pm and session 2 from 1:30-3:30 pm) on six Sundays: August 16, 23 and 30, September 13, October 18 and November 1. There will be a bonus day on November 8 for those who attend all sessions. For more information, visit www.progressiveisrael.org/what-we-do/israel-symposium/israel-symposium-2020/.

◆ Tablet Magazine is offering “Joan Knows Best,” live cooking with Joan Nathan. For more information, <https://live.tabletmag.com/joanknowsbest>.

◆ The Hartman Institute is offering recorded sessions of its summer institute free through Sukkot. For information about how to access the programs, visit <https://summer.hartman.org.il/home>.

◆ The Institute for Jewish Spirituality is offering “The Shofar Project,” a free four-week online program open to people of all backgrounds looking to prepare for this year's High Holidays. It takes place during the Hebrew month of Elul, the month preceding the Jewish High Holidays,

a traditional period for “intensive spiritual reflection, introspection and moral accounting” (August 20-September 18). Those who sign up will receive e-mails with the links to video teachings and a variety of live online events that explore each week's theme. For more information or to sign up, visit www.jewishspirituality.org/go-deeper/the-shofar-project/.

◆ Lilith magazine will hold a virtual “Launch Party” for its Summer 2020 issue to toast the writers and artists who appear in that issue and the readers who support this work. The evening will include an intergenerational discussion between three Lilith writers, Makeda Zabol-Hall, Imani Chapman and Esther Amini. The event will take place on Wednesday, August 19, from 8-9 pm. To See “Social” on page 5


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

DEADLINES

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

ISSUE	DEADLINE
August 28	August 19
September 11	September 2
September 25	September 16
October 9	September 30


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WE REMEMBER YOU 2020
A Project of Jewish Family Service

During the High Holidays 5781, JFS will be distributing grocery gift cards and funds to community members in need who always say, **“Thank you for remembering me.”**

Please help fund this program with monetary contributions by **Sept. 9** to: Jewish Family Service, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal NY 13850.

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Quick Reference Guide to Planned Giving

Use this planned giving quick reference guide to help determine the best strategy for achieving your philanthropic and financial goals.

For further information or assistance, please contact Shelley Hubal at 724-2332 or director@jfgb.org

If Your Goal is to:	Then You Can:	Your Benefits May Include:
Make a quick and easy gift	Simply write a check now or use a credit card	An income tax deduction and immediate charitable impact
Avoid tax on capital gains	Contribute long-term appreciated stock or other securities	A charitable deduction plus no capital gains tax
Defer a gift until after your death	Put a bequest in your will (gifts of cash or a share or the residue of your estate)	Exemption from federal estate tax on donations
Receive guaranteed fixed income that is partially tax-free	Create a charitable gift annuity	Current and future savings on income taxes plus fixed stable payments
Avoid the two-fold taxation on IRA or other employee benefit plans	Name a charity as the beneficiary of the remainder of the retirement assets after your lifetime	Tax relief to your family on inherited assets
Make a large gift with little cost to you	Contribute a life insurance policy you no longer need or purchase a new one and designate a charity as the owner	Current and possible future income tax deductions
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Off the Shelf

Children and parents

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

Tales of intergenerational conflict fuel novels and memoirs. The majority of these works focus on bad parenting and/or the inability to accept a child's differences. Both are true of two recent works: Ilana Masad's novel "All My Mother's Lovers" (Dutton) and David Adjmi's memoir "Lot Six" (Harper). Each author discusses these conflicts, although only one also offers the parent's point of view.

In "All My Mother's Lovers," Maggie Krause finds it hard to believe that her mother, Iris, just died in a car crash. Their never easy relationship became more difficult when Maggie came out as a lesbian, something her mother seemed unable to accept. Returning home, Maggie finds her father, Peter, in shock and almost unable to function, and her younger brother, Ariel, at a loss for what should be done. Since Iris was Jewish, the family decides to hold a week of *shiva* after the funeral. It's during that time that Maggie begins to learn her mother's secrets, including

the fact that she had been married once before. Finding some letters her mother requested be sent after her death to men Maggie has never heard of, she decides to leave the *shiva* and deliver the letters in person. What she discovers during her trip is that her parents' perfect love story might be very different than she thought. This forces Maggie to not only review her parents' marriage, but her own life and relationships.

When Maggie speaks to the people who are to receive the letters, the novel turns back in time so readers see events from Iris' point of view. This adds great depth of character and feeling to "All My Mother's Lovers." Also revealed is the story of Iris' parents and how their history affected her life. By the end of the novel, Maggie finally sees her parents as people, people who have also lived messy, complicated and loving lives.

While Masad writes in her dedication in "All My Mother's Lovers" that her mother is nothing like Iris, Adjmi makes it clear in "Lot Six" that his parents' dysfunctional lives greatly affected the trajectory of his own. His family is part of the extended Syrian Jewish American community, although the less successful part. Adjmi is far younger than his three siblings and grows up during the time that his parents' marriage is crumbling. Even though the family is not observant, he's forced to attend a religious school, where he feels out of place and becomes alienated from Judaism. The biggest problem he faces, though, is that by the time he is 9 years old, he knows he is attracted to boys. However, in his community, that option was scorned and denigrated. Adjmi does find some freedom when he realizes that his parents' way of viewing the world is not the only one. Unfortunately, by that point, he is so alienated from himself that he has no idea who he really is, and tries on and discards identities like they are fashionable clothes that can easily be tossed aside. What Adjmi does cling to is the theater: the one place able to transform his nightmares into dreams. He becomes a successful playwright, although the road to success is not easy.

While Adjmi does talk a bit about his parents' lives, he never truly explores why they came to be so hurtful and harmful. His lack of interest in doing so is understandable: the mess his parents left in their wake made his life difficult and stunted him emotionally, and that's without considering the fact that he is gay. Even his siblings acknowledged that, after they moved out, the atmosphere of the house was terrible for him, although there wasn't much they could do since their own lives were adversely affected by their parents' behavior and unreasonable demands. But the messes their lives became also separated them from Adjmi and left him feeling unable to relate to almost any member of his family. Although this might make "Lot Six" sound like unpleasant reading, it's not. Adjmi writes well and the prose moves at a brisk pace. Although at times readers might be excused for thinking "this guy is a mess," they will also be rooting for him to become a success.

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Women in Business

A paid advertising section.

Howard Hanna - Suzanne (Sue) Krause

Specialty: Residential real estate
 Location: 4747 Vestal Parkway East
 Vestal, NY 13850
 Name: Suzanne (Sue) Krause, Licensed Associate Real Estate Broker
 Phones: 607-772-1177
 607-760-3366 (cell)
 E-mail: suekrause@howardhanna.com
 Website: suzannekrause.howardhanna.com

Sue Krause is a licensed associate real estate broker with Howard Hanna in Vestal, NY. After working in real estate in California and Massachusetts, Sue returned to real estate in the Greater Binghamton area in 2007, after spending many years as a successful healthcare consultant. She is a consistent multi-million dollar producer and President's Council member, and would love to help you with any of your real estate needs!

Jablon Studios

Specialty: Unlocking your creativity! Reconnecting to your creative self!
 Location: 10 Alice St.
 Binghamton NY 13904
 Owner: Emily Jablon
 Phone: 607-748-2302
 Fax: 607-348-1460
 E-mail: Emily@jablonstudios.com
 Website: www.Jablonstudios.com
 Hours: see online calendar at www.jablonstudios.com

Jablon Studios offers fun, easy, creative, out-of-the-box studio projects for all ages and abilities. Mosaics, garden ornamentation, soap making, fusing glass classes, birthday parties, girls' night out parties – you name it, Jablon Studios can do it! Projects are also perfect for intergenerational family gatherings and also for people with disabilities. Be careful – it's addictive!

Kristys Imagination

Photography

Specialty: Weddings, portraits, special events, seniors, pets
 Name: Kristy Johnston
 Phone: 607-221-1225
 E-mail: kristyphotography@gmail.com
 Website: www.kristysphoto.com
 Hours: By appointment only

Kristys Imagination Photography is a locally owned business in the Binghamton region providing on-location photography services for any occasion, such as weddings, portraits or other special events. Sessions are done on location by appointment only, and provide you with quality photography services in the comfort of your own home or the location of your choice.

"I have always had a passion for photography and therefore decided to pursue it as a career," says owner Kristy Johnston. "I truly enjoy what I do as a photographer. I get to capture some of life's most important and precious moments."

Offering a variety of products and photography services, Kristys Imagination Photography is your professional on-location photographer.

For more information, call 607-221-1225 or e-mail kristyphotography@gmail.com. You can also see a portfolio and more information at www.kristysphoto.com.

Rabbi. Continued from page 1

Studies (American Jewish University) in Los Angeles. Following ordination, Safman served as the rabbi of Congregation Beth El in New London, CT, for seven years, during which she pioneered the use of streaming technologies to reach out to congregants unable to participate in worship and learning in person; expanded social and educational programming to reflect the diversity of the Jewish cultural experience; and introduced ritual and liturgical innovations that broadened the community's appeal to younger families. Safman was also co-convenor of the Greater New London Clergy Association and, in this capacity, helped launch the resettlement of six Middle Eastern refugee families in the eastern part of Connecticut.

Safman said she is a firm believer that Judaism can be both relevant and empowering in the modern world if it is rooted in continuing study of its tradition's texts, tenants and rites. Through her teaching, she seeks to equip community members to take ownership of their Jewish inheritance. She also noted that she is passionate about community-building. She says she will seek to grow TBE not just in numbers, but also in the extent to which the community's supportive embrace is felt by all individuals who gravitate to its (temporarily virtual) gates to learn, celebrate and pray. Her goal is to make Beth-El (literally, "house of God") a home for people of all racial and ethnic backgrounds: women and men, old and young, single and partnered, gay and straight, able-bodied and physically/emotionally/cognitively challenged, Jewish by birth or by choice, and those who are not (or not yet) Jewish.

Joining Safman in Ithaca are her Israeli husband, Daniel Robinson, a travel writer who covers Western Europe, Israel and Southeast Asia for Lonely Planet and other publishers; their children Yair (9), Sasson (4) and Talya (7 months); and her mother, Edie Safman.

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On the Jewish food scene Sauces, salad dressings and condiments

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

At the risk of seeming opinionated, I have an important declaration to make: food exists for the sauces, dressings and condiments we put on them. Now, I know some of you won't agree, but you're wrong. Take salad: I love salads with all kinds of veggies – from lettuce to carrots to roasted Brussels sprouts – but the real star of the dish is the salad dressing. I don't get the dressing on the side and dip the veggies in it. Mopping up the leftover dressing on the plate with a slice of good bread is half the fun.

Now think of noodles – whether Italian or Asian. It's the sauces that make the dishes. And something similar is true for hot dogs and burgers (whether meat or meatless): they need ketchup and mustard, if not a load of other things. It's only the rare very, very good french fry that does not need ketchup.

Since this is a Jewish food column, you might be wondering where I'm going with this. Well, my extensive research (OK, a few Google searches) reveals that there aren't any specific Jewish sauces, salad dressings and condiments. Before you start sending me e-mails, yes, Israel claims a variety of different sauces as its own, but the truth of that is debatable. Other Middle Eastern cultures say that they had them first and Israel adapted its cuisine from them.

SocialContinued from page 3

reserve a spot, visit <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdwLDBuXYCXf8o9kcyG9mJDzzeHFVU0F0hDiS4eXR-UBsdMfQ/viewform>.

◆ On July 14, the Hebrew College-Interfaith Youth Core PsalmSeason project, with co-sponsors Jewish Women's Archive and Lilith Magazine, presented the online event "Poetry in Times of Peril: Four Women's Voices." A video of the event can be found at www.youtube.com/watch?v=yPxdKv-IHjY.

◆ Ofek Learning offers Hebrew classes for a variety of levels and ages. There is a cost for the classes. For more information, visit <https://ofekhub.org/hebrew>.

◆ The concert "Music for These Times: Liturgical Songs of Peace and Comfort" performed by members of the American Conference of Cantors can be found at <https://vimeo.com/443918095>.

◆ Alel will hold the virtual event "Cooking with Lisa Roukin" on Tuesday, August 25, at 1:30 pm. The charge for the event supports Alel, Israel's network of residential and rehabilitative care for individuals with severe complex disabilities and an international advocate for disability inclusion, equity and access. For more information or register, visit <https://aleh.org/campaign/cooking-with-lisa-roukin>.

◆ The Center for Jewish History will hold the virtual program "Midwives, Musicians, Soldiers, Rabbis: Whose Stories Will Become Jewish History?" on Thursday, September 10, at 4 pm. It will feature Elisheva Carlebach, Deborah Dash Moore, Dara Horn and Itamar Borochoy in a discussion about "Confronting Modernity, 1750-1880, Vol. 6" of The Posen Library of Jewish Culture and Civilization, edited by Carlebach. For more information or to register, visit <https://posen.bpt.me/>. The program is "pay what you wish."

◆ A video of the Center for Jewish History's program "From the Inquisition to The Mishiguene Restaurant: The Latin American Jewish Food Story" can be found at www.youtube.com/watch?v=HpxfTh8i3MM&t=20s. It offers a culinary tour of Jewish Latin America with food and culture writer and cookbook author Jayne Cohen.

◆ Temple Emanu-El Streicker Center will hold "Blue Skies over New York: An Irving Berlin Benefit Concert" on Monday, August 31, from 6:30-8 pm. Irving Berlin's great-grandchildren will perform from this catalogue of songs. The evening will help support Make the Road New York, a progressive immigrant-led organization, which seeks to build awareness around issues facing immigrant communities today. For more information or to purchase a ticket, visit <https://temple-emanu-el-streicker-center-classes.ticketleap.com/all-in-the-irving-berlin-family/dates/Aug-31-2020> at 0630PM.

◆ Rabbi Jill Zimmerman is offering a free e-book "Renew: 12 Ways to Awaken Your Weary Soul" to help people prepare for the High Holidays. To download the book, visit <https://ravjill.com/> and click on "Free E-book Download: Renew" at the top of the page.

◆ Aleph continues its "Virtual Concert Series | Renewing Our Collective Soul: A Virtual Program For Our Times" with "Sing a New Song Psalms Showcase" featuring Cantor Linda Hirschhorn, Rabbi David Shneyer and friends on Sunday, August 16, at 7:30 pm and "Rosh Chodesh Elul | Evening of Kirtan Chant" featuring the Kirtan Rabbi and friends on Thursday, August 20, at 7:30 pm. Both concerts are "pay-what-you-can."

◆ My Jewish Learning will offer "Exploring the Hebrew Calendar," the first class of monthly series, on Thursday, August 8, at 2 pm. To sign up for this and other classes, visit <https://www.myjewishlearning.com/daily-guide-to-our-zoom-events-livestreams-and-other-online-resources/>.

For additional resources, see previous issues of *The Reporter* on its website, www.thereporter.org.

(By the way, if you want to see a real food fight, check out the arguments about the origin of hummus and falafel.)

Look up sauces on Jewish websites and you'll find that most are not specific to Jews. For example, the

Jewish Virtual Library offers recipes for three sauces under its Jewish sauce label: Avgolemono Sauce, Harissa Sauce and Tabil Spice Mixture. (The recipes can be **See "Sauces" on page 8**)



Phantom Chef LLC

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Location: 49 Washington Ave. Endicott, NY 13760
Name: Michelle (Bank) McIlroy
Phone: 607-765-2408
E-mail: info@phantomchefcatering.com
Website: www.phantomchefcatering.com
Facebook: Phantom Chef LLC
Hours: Variable

Phantom Chef is owned and operated by Chef Michelle (Bank) McIlroy, who trained at the prestigious Culinary Institute of America. A native of South Africa, Chef Michelle has tasted her way around the world, sampling the foods and flavors of many cultures.

Phantom Chef, established in 2009, specializes in off-premise catering, drop-off catering and small on-premise events, as well as classes at a newly renovated culinary studio in Endicott. Chef Michelle focuses on personalized events and catering for Jewish occasions, as well as customizing menus for special diets, such as kosher, gluten-free and vegetarian.

"Whether you are planning an intimate dinner for two in your home, a corporate luncheon, or a special occasion for 200, we will tailor the menu to meet your culinary tastes and your budget," says Chef Michelle. "Fresh, local, farm-to-table, seasonal food is our specialty."

Southern Tier Women's Health Services, LLC

Specialty: Well woman care and abortion
Location: 149 Vestal Parkway W. Vestal, NY 13850
Names: Amy R. Cousins, M.D. and Peg Johnston
Phone: 607-785-4171 or 1-800-676-9011
Website: www.southerntierwomenshealth.com
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9 am-5 pm, Sat. by appointment only

New York state has designated Southern Tier Women's Health Services, the former office of Dr. Amy Cousins, as a licensed clinic. "This culminates a two-year process of renovations, adoption of stringent standards and reporting requirements to qualify as a diagnostic and treatment center. Our philosophy of compassionate abortion and well woman care is unchanged," according to Executive Director Peg Johnston. The office opened in 1981 as Southern Tier Women's Services, operated as Dr. Amy Cousins' office starting in 1989 and became locally managed in 2009 by an employee-owned company led by Johnston. Both Johnston and Dr. Cousins will own the new entity. "We have created a more sustainable practice that will continue to offer services well into the future," states Johnston.



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E-mail: emily@trbinghamton.com
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9 am-6 pm, Sat. 9 am-3 pm, Sun. 9 am-3 pm (closed on Sundays November-May)

Remember driving your child home from a friend's birthday party that reminded you more of a carnival rather than a birthday party? He had a smile from ear to ear the whole way home, a smile that you couldn't forget.

Turning an ordinary birthday party into a memory that will last a lifetime is what Emily from Taylor Rental of Binghamton has been doing for more than 20 years. "When people think of Taylor Rental, they immediately think about tools, tables, tents and chairs. Many customers are surprised to hear we also carry costumes, concession equipment, games and inflatable bounces," says Emily. From balloon décor to a frozen drink machine, Taylor Rental of Binghamton's party inventory is large and varied.

Visit Emily to start renting your way to your next memory, or call the party professionals at 773-1462.

The Cat Doctor

Specialty: A full service veterinary hospital providing medical, surgical, dental and behavioral care for cats of all ages.
Location: 423 East Main St. Endicott, NY 13760
Owner: Darcy Sobel, D. V. M.
Phone: 754-7221
Hours: Mon. and Fri. 8 am-5 pm, Tues. and Thurs. 12:30-8 pm, Wed. 8 am-3 pm, Sat. 9 am-1 pm

The Cat Doctor is celebrating 26 years of caring for cats and their people. Dr. Susan M. Szczotka and Dr. Darcy Sobel and staff at The Cat Doctor recognize that cats are important family members and treat each individual with special attention to their age, temperament and health conditions. Preventive medicine is practiced by providing complete physical examinations, behavioral counseling, dental care, diet management and appropriate vaccinations. The hospital has advanced radiology capabilities, providing instant, superior quality, digital x-rays as well as digital dental x-rays for the detection of early tooth disease below the gumline. The hospital now offers abdominal ultrasound for early detection of organ problems. When illness does occur, thorough and caring medical and surgical treatment is tailored to each patient.

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Weekly Parasha

Re'eh, Deuteronomy 11:26-16:17

Two types of good

RIVKAH SLONIM, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, ROHR CHABAD CENTER OF BINGHAMTON

Good and evil. Positive and negative. Blessing and curse. Everything in life seems to belong in – or fall somewhere on the continuum bracketed by – one of these two categories.

In the opening verse of this week's *parasha*, one of the most famous in all the Torah, God references this paradigm with the dramatic words: See, I have placed before you today the blessing and the curse.

In the subsequent verses, it becomes clear that these

words are an exhortation to man to choose good, to hearken unto God's instruction and to choose "life." Axiomatic to Jewish theology is the notion of man's autonomy and the necessity for freedom of choice. It is imperative to the fulfillment of the Divine plan, that man choose God of his/her own volition. Only man's ability to freely embrace or spurn God makes each human action meaningful and creates the possibility for man to partner with God in

shaping the world's destiny. To choose virtue, there must be the possibility for iniquity.

Additionally, more subtle, nuanced lessons are extracted from this verse by the commentators.

Rabbi Yonatan ben Uziel, one of the greatest talmudic sages (it was said of him that when he studied Torah, birds flying above his head would die by irradiation due to the See "Good" on page 7

Congregational Notes

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-3:30 pm; Fri., 8 am-3 pm
E-mail: titammy@stny.twcbc.com
Website: www.templeisraelvestal.org
Service Schedule: Tues., 5:30 pm; Fri., 5:30 pm; Sat., 9:30 am
On Fridays and Tuesdays at 5:30 pm, services will be led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown via Zoom.

On Saturday, August 15, Shacharit services will be held at 10:30 am via Zoom. The Torah portion is Deuteronomy 11:26-16:17 and the haftarah is Isaiah 54:11-55:5. At 9 pm, there will be Havdalah services via Zoom. Both will be led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown.

On Sunday, August 16, at 12:30 pm, Rabbi Geoffrey Brown will lead Torah study services via Zoom.

On Saturday, August 22, Shacharit services will be held at 10:30 am via Zoom. The Torah portion is Deuteronomy 16:18-21:9 and the haftarah is Isaiah 51:12-52:12. At 8:30 pm, there will be Havdalah services via Zoom. Both will be led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown.

On Sunday, August 23, at 12:30 pm, Rabbi Geoffrey Brown will lead Torah study services via Zoom.

The temple office will be closed on Friday, August 14. The Temple Annual Congregational meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 1, at 7 pm via Zoom.

The Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 15, at 7 pm via Zoom.

Temple Israel is collecting for CHOW during regular business hours. The bin is between the two sets of glass doors at the entrance. Buzz to enter to access the bin.

Penn-York Jewish Community

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

Temple 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.

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.

Chabad will be holding pre-Shabbat virtual programs. For more information, visit www.JewishBU.com/S2020Partnership.

Synagogues limit face-to-face gatherings

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

Temple Beth-El of Ithaca

Affiliation: United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism
Rabbi: Rachel Safman
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: Frid. 8 pm; Sat. 10 am, unless otherwise announced. Weekday morning minyan 7:30 am (9 am on Sun. 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.

For upcoming services and events on Zoom, visit www.tinyurl.com/HappeningAtTBE.

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

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.

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.

Friday, August 14, light candles before..... 7:46 pm
Saturday, August 15, Shabbat ends 8:45 pm
Friday, August 21, light candles before..... 7:36 pm
Saturday, August 22, Shabbat ends 8:35 pm
Friday, August 28, light candles before..... 7:25 pm
Saturday, August 29, Shabbat ends 8:24 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.

All services and programs are online only. Friday night Shabbat services will start at 7 pm for August. There will be new Zoom information for August.

Friday, August 14: Shabbat services with Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell and Jason Flatt at 7 pm. The service will celebrate 100 years of women's right to vote. To attend, visit <https://bit.ly/3fqUG3q> and enter meeting ID: 927 0369 1881, or visit www.facebook.com/templeconcord/.

Saturday, August 15: Torah study at 9:15 am at <https://binghamton.zoom.us/j/342411102>, or by calling 1-929-205-6099 and entering meeting ID # 342 411 102.

Saturday, August 15: "Havdalah with a Bonus" at 7 pm at <https://binghamton.zoom.us/j/526246866>, or by calling 929-205-6099 and entering meeting ID # 526 246 866, or at www.facebook.com/templeconcord/.

On Thursday, August 20, there will be a "Rosh Chodesh Elul Jewish Art Program for Adults and Teens" at 7:30 pm. For more information, see the article on page 3.

Friday, August 21: Shabbat services led by Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell at 7 pm. Contact the temple office for Zoom information. Services can also be viewed at www.facebook.com/templeconcord/.

Friday, August 21: Shabbat services with Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell and Jason Flatt at 7 pm. To attend, visit <https://bit.ly/3fqUG3q> and enter meeting ID: 927 0369 1881, or visit www.facebook.com/templeconcord/.

Saturday, August 22: Torah study at 9:15 am at <https://binghamton.zoom.us/j/342411102>, or by calling 1-929-205-6099 and entering meeting ID # 342 411 102.

Saturday, August 22: "Havdalah with a Bonus" at 7 pm at <https://binghamton.zoom.us/j/526246866>, or by calling 929-205-6099 and entering meeting ID # 526 246 866, or at www.facebook.com/templeconcord/.

Wednesday, August 26: "Chai Mitzvah" will take place at 3:30 pm.

Friday, August 28: Shabbat services with Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell and Jason Flatt at 7 pm. To attend, visit <https://bit.ly/3fqUG3q> and enter meeting ID: 927 0369 1881, or visit www.facebook.com/templeconcord/.

Saturday, August 29: Torah study at 9:15 am at <https://binghamton.zoom.us/j/342411102>, or by calling 1-929-205-6099 and entering meeting ID # 342 411 102.

Saturday, August 29: "Havdalah with a Bonus" at 7 pm at <https://binghamton.zoom.us/j/526246866>, or by calling 929-205-6099 and entering meeting ID # 526 246 866, or at www.facebook.com/templeconcord/.

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 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.

Exploring Literature

Bigotry in marble and text: responding to antisemitism

BILL SIMONS

As Americans and Jews, we confront polarizing discord concerning representations of the past in the form of statuary, film and literature.

S. Patton – played Kermit Garrison, an intense émigré sculptor plying his craft in a Lower Manhattan studio.

dictator on an oppressed people, Garrison’s former comrade beseeches him not to complete the statue. Garrison roars back that art transcends politics and that the monument truthfully depicts the figure on the day he emancipated a captive city.

is implacable. The preceding is germane to considering a response to antisemitism in art and literature.

Antisemitism has a long history in the art and literature of Western civilization as four examples from the classic canon attest. “The Canterbury Tales,” picaresque medieval fiction by Geoffrey Chaucer, is presented as a series of masterfully told tales by Christian pilgrims traveling to an See “Bigotry” on page 8

Steve.

living centers closed their doors to visitors. That brought an abrupt end to his performances. Gilbert missed performing, though, and then one winter day inspiration struck.

The response was so great that he continues to perform. Gilbert posts his work on his personal Facebook page and sends links to a Google Drive account to several e-mail lists he’s cultivated.

some of them may be inclined to respond with abuse – this is social media! – and that downside risk is greater than I wish to accept. Instead, I send the links to my videos to several e-mail distribution lists:

Gilbert looks for songs to perform on YouTube, which he calls “the eighth wonder of the world.” He uses several criteria to pick the songs: 1) He has to love them, 2) he has to be able to perform them

the songs. “I do lots of 1950s hits,” he added. “Classics from the 1920s, ‘30s and ‘40s. Folks songs. Protest songs. Gospel songs. Elvis. Beatles. Songs people keep asking me to sing.

The songs are recorded in Gilbert’s basement and he tries to do them in one take. He’s not always successful and will do a little editing to get rid of mistakes.

Continued from page 1

the right frame of mind, and I stop, discard the recording and return an hour later to try again.” When finished, he does his editing and then uploads the video to Google Drive.

Gilbert said he is having a grand time performing. “Gertrude Stein reportedly said, ‘I hate writing but I love having written,’” he said. “That’s not true for me. I love every part of this enterprise.

Good.

spectacular energy that he emitted) wrote his commentary on the Torah in Aramaic. In his comment on this verse he renders the word curse as *chilufa*, exchange or transmutation.

In essence, Rabbi Yonatan in his precise, cryptic style is addressing one of the most existential questions of all time and giving voice to what countless *midrashim* and other commentaries teach on this subject.

Indeed, teaches Rabbi Yonatan, evil does not descend from heaven. While good and evil are understood by many to be polar opposites and inherently disconnected from each other, Judaism teaches differently.

Divine beneficent flow in a manner so concealed and distorted? To this question we ultimately have no answer. For reasons that we can never understand – and must never make peace with – there are things humanity has to accomplish with our freedom of choice that are spurred on only by the darkness we confront in our lives.

In his fascinating book “Hebrew: the Source of Languages,” Rabbi Matisyahu Glazerson teaches that the biblical word for tent, *ohel*, is etymologically linked with the concept of celestial light.

May we ever merit seeing, and experiencing in our lives, only the obvious and revealed goodness.



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NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz dies at age 83

Rabbi Adin Even-Israel Steinsaltz, considered one of Judaism's exceptional modern-day commentators, died in Jerusalem after suffering from acute pneumonia. He was 83 years old. Steinsaltz was born in Jerusalem on July 11, 1937. His scholarship was noted at an early age. He studied mathematics, chemistry and physics from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and after graduating began his career as an educator and a school principal in Jerusalem. It was also the beginning of his writing a great many varied Jewish books. In 1965, in conjunction with the government of Israel, he founded the Israel Institute for Talmudic Publications, later the Steinsaltz Center, which became his life's work – helping to make Judaism and the heritage of Israel accessible by translating and explaining the Babylonian Talmud to the world. Steinsaltz is considered one of the most important contemporary Jewish religious commentators and thinkers. His writings and philosophical works have been translated into dozens of languages to the benefit of millions of people all over the world. He authored as many as 60 books on various topics, including guides to and commentaries on the Talmud, the Torah, Jewish mysticism, Chasidism, Jewish philosophy and more. He later took on the name Even-Israel (“Stone of Israel”). One of the rabbi's most renowned and significant projects was the “Steinsaltz-Talmud,” a translation from the original Aramaic, alongside an annotated explanation to all 2,711 pages of the Babylonian Talmud. Four years ago, the rabbi finished his commentary on the Torah (the Pentateuch), as well as on the writings of the Prophets Jeremiah, Isaiah and Ezekiel, and on the book of Psalms. He went on to complete the full commentary of the Old Testament, in both English and Hebrew, while his commentary on the six books of the Mishnah are due to be published in the coming months. Steinsaltz is survived by his wife, Sarah; their three children; and many grandchildren.

Egypt opens Gaza border for first time since virus outbreak

Egypt opened its border crossing with Gaza on Aug. 11 for the first time since March, when it was closed in order to curb the spread of the coronavirus. Gaza residents with foreign passports and patients seeking treatment abroad were allowed to pass through the Rafah crossing during its three-day opening, the Hamas Interior Ministry said, and Palestinians stranded in Egypt and other countries would be allowed to return to Gaza, AP reported. According to the report, some 500 people were planning to leave Gaza with the opening of the border. There are 81 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Gaza, the report noted, and Hamas set up quarantine centers for people returning. Meanwhile, Israel announced that it would keep its own border crossing with Gaza, Kerem Shalom, closed for passage, but that fuel, food and humanitarian goods would continue to be delivered as usual.

UAE reunites Yemenite Jewish family

The United Arab Emirates facilitated the reunion of a Jewish Yemenite family that had been separated for 15 years. According to a report by the state-run Emirates News Agency on Aug. 8, the UAE helped by arranging travel to the UAE for the members of the family in Yemen and for those living in London. “It was nothing short of a miracle and the realization of an impossible dream. We thank the UAE for their great support in arranging the reunion. This is an example of the UAE's humanitarian approach, as well as of its noble values of tolerance and coexistence,” the family stated, according to the report, adding that it is a model for the world to emulate. “I feel as if I were reborn today,” the father of the family said, after being reunited with his children and meeting his grandchildren. “I am also overjoyed to be in the UAE, the land of tolerance, coexistence and goodness.”

Sauces. Continued from page 5

found at www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jewish-foods-sauces.) However, Avgolemono is a Greek sauce, and Harissa and Tabil Spice are Tunisian. An article on the Orthodox Union website about sauces (www.ou.org/life/food/recipes/sauces/) talks about five different types of sauces, but notes they are really French sauces. Another so-called Jewish sauce, Tahini, has been used in a variety of cultures, so I doubt we can claim that either.

Italian Jews might try to claim tomato sauce (also known in many Italian families as gravy) belongs to them. That history is actually complicated. Some historians believe that many Italian staples are actually based on food brought to Italy by Sephardic Jews after they were exiled from Spain. As someone who adores good tomato sauce

(and most Italian food), I don't mind us taking credit for that, but I'm sure most non-Jewish Italians would disagree.

Jews over the centuries were very good at adapting and adopting the foods of the culture in which they lived to fit Jewish dietary restriction. There would be no mixing of meat and milk, and pork (the basis of many recipes) could not be used. The same is true of shellfish. Jews from many different cultures moved to Israel and brought their food and spices with them. While those foods may seem exotic to us, they are everyday meals in the those parts of the world. What is good, though, is that many of those dishes are now making their way to the U.S. And thinking about this is making me hungry so you'll excuse me while I make my own Jewish food (AKA whatever I choose to eat for dinner tonight).

Bigotry. Continued from page 7

English religious shrine. One of the stories, “The Prioress's Tale,” belongs to the blood libel tradition, relating the tale of a boy martyr, cruelly murdered by a venal Jew, who deposits the corpse in a muck hill.

William Shakespeare's unmatched gift of language and telling insight into human character – displayed in tragedies, histories and comedies – mark him as England's pre-eminent dramatist. However, he shared the then prevailing belief in ghosts and witches, as well as the cupidity of Jews. Shakespeare's 1590s play “The Merchant of Venice” features an avaricious Jewish moneylender, Shylock, who literally demands a pound of flesh.

The popular 19th-century British novelist Charles Dickens created compelling characters and plots. Illuminating the evils of poverty and class exploitation in moving prose, Dickens displayed and encouraged empathy for the victims of economic and social exploitation. Yet, in “Oliver Twist,” Dickens fashions the Jewish Fagin as a depraved despoiler of young boys, luring them into a life of crime by an apprenticeship as pickpockets.

F. Scott Fitzgerald's “The Great Gatsby” is the signature novel of America's 1920s Jazz Age. Fitzgerald presents Meyer Wolfsheim, a gangster whose Jewishness includes such ethnic physical stereotypes as an “expressive nose,” as the villain of “The Great Gatsby.” Loosely modeled on real-life Jewish gangster Arnold Rothstein, Wolfsheim shatters “the faith of 50 million people” by fixing the 1919 World Series and corrupts the novel's tragic hero, Jay Gatsby.

How best to respond to offensive culture and history? Roman emperors employed *damnatio memoriae* – forced erasure of public memory – toward past leaders whose policies, stature and/or legacy potentially challenged their power. *Damnatio memoriae* included the defacement of memorials to predecessor emperors. In practice, *damnatio memoriae* didn't work particularly well in the ancient world, and the obliteration of the past would appear an impossible task in our age of social media. The 19th century witnessed formal efforts to bowdlerize – eliminate or rewrite – passages from written works deemed offensive. As George Orwell's dystopian novel “1984” illustrates, however, the manipulation of historical fact, perception and opinion is potentially the framework for a totalitarian society.

America received a whiff of such machinations during the first half of the 1950s when McCarthyism, anti-Communist vigilance hyped to a paranoid level, stifled civil liberties, drove books from library shelves and purged writers, artists and professors from careers. Both *damnatio memoriae* and bowdlerizing are futile. Likewise, apathetic appeasement grants bigotry fertile ground for hate-fueled bias to morph into violence. Clearly, our generation must not let demagogues reminiscent of Tom Watson, instigator of vigilantes who lynched the Jewish Leo Frank in 1915 Georgia, or bigoted fanatics who find inspiration in Adolf Hitler go unchallenged. Rather than ignore bias or demand the obliteration of its toxic artifacts from our historical and cultural record – both flawed stratagems – there are other options.

For several decades in the later part of the 20th century, Harvey Michaels taught history at both Swampscott High School

and at Temple Emanu-El in the adjacent town of Marblehead, MA. In Swampscott, he also served as history department chairman while simultaneously holding the position of religious school principal at the Reform synagogue. Michaels' students were the children of World War II veterans, and the zenith of the Cold War punctuated his teaching career. His courses addressed both Nazism and Communism, still volatile subject matter. Michaels did not teach Nazism or Communism; he taught about them. He provided his students with resources and tools to understand the context that allowed for the emergence of now discredited ideologies and regimes. His students confronted the words of Karl Marx's “The Communist Manifesto” and Hitler's “Mein Kampf,” and were encouraged by a master teacher to subject them to deep reading, analysis and debate. They learned indelible lessons about the Holocaust – and critical thinking – in his classrooms both in high school and at the temple. Despite the passage of time, many of his students still remember those sessions.

Michaels also illuminated domestic political, legislative and judicial processes, as well as the role of international diplomacy and collective security. Much more important than memorizing the Gettysburg Address, he observed, was to engage it. Michaels recognized historical and contemporary situations that necessitated armed self-defense in accordance with domestic and international law. However, he invested education with great priority in combatting injustice, including racism and antisemitism. In 1989, after vandals defaced Temple Emanu-El and the North Shore Jewish Community Center, also in Marblehead, with swastikas, Michaels met with one of the young perpetrators five times in counseling sessions.

If Michaels were still alive, perhaps he would suggest that an alternative to toppling public statues might be revisionist historical addendum through new text accompanying these bronze and marble structures – text that would offer contextualization and oppositional views, with connections to live interactive links to allow for expanded debate. He might also point out the options of relocating certain memorials from public squares to museums, as well as the opportunity to create new art reflecting divergent perspectives. It is doubtful, however, that Michaels would have found either inaction or striking a statue the best antidotes to injustice at home or abroad.

Rod Serling, the great screenwriter, Binghamton native and Jewish-American combat veteran of World War II, addressed the issue of the physical artifacts of the Holocaust: “All the Dachaus must remain standing. The Dachaus, the Belsens, the Buchenwalds, the Auschwitzes – all of them. They must remain standing because they are a monument to a moment in time when some men decided to turn the Earth into a graveyard. Into it, they shoveled all of their reason, their logic, their knowledge, but worst of all, their conscience. And the moment we forget this, the moment we cease to be haunted by its remembrance, then we become the gravediggers.”

Bill Simons is a professor of history at SUNY Oneonta, whose course offerings include sport and ethnic history. He is also the co-director of The Cooperstown Symposium on Baseball and American Culture, and served as a speaker for the New York Council on the Humanities.

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