

THE REPORTER

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Federation to launch Campaign 2021 on Oct. 18

By Reporter staff

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton announced that it will launch its annual fund-raising Campaign on Super Sunday, October 18. The theme for this year's Campaign is "Socially Distant, Spiritually Connected."

"Running a fund-raising campaign during a pandemic is not something I ever thought I would be challenged to do, but here we are, and I look forward to working hard to make the Campaign a success," said Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Federation. "Due to the pandemic, we are not holding any in-person programming and we need to limit the time volunteers gather to make phone calls. So, in order to keep our volunteers safe, we are asking people to pledge early."

Campaign Chairwoman Marilyn Bell added, "Our community needs us even



more now, but we also need to keep our volunteers safe. Please do a mitzvah and pledge early."

Pledges can be made three ways:

- ◆ Visit the Federation website at www.jfgeb.org and click on "make a pledge."
- ◆ E-mail Hubal at director@jfgeb.org with "pledge" in the subject line.
- ◆ Fill out the form in the ad on page 5 and mail it to the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850.

"I know that the past months have been difficult for most of us," Hubal continued. "Many of our local Jewish institutions are in great need and we need to keep

Answer the call!

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton announced that it is seeking to complete its Super Sunday phone calls in one day: on Sunday, October 18. "Please answer the phone when we call," said Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Federation.



"We want to keep our volunteers safe and limit their exposure. So we are hoping that everyone will answer their phone on Super Sunday if they receive a call and make their pledge."

Don't want a phone call on that day? Hubal suggests that people pledge early. "We have already been receiving pledges and have several easy ways for you to pledge early," Hubal

continued. "You can visit our website at www.jfgeb.org and click on 'make a pledge,' you can e-mail me at director@jfgeb.org with 'pledge' in the subject line, or fill out the form in the ad on page 5 and mail it to the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850."

our organizations strong. By working together, we can make this happen. I know this community and am so proud to be a member of it. I look forward to a

time when we can gather in person. Although we may be keeping our distance socially, we are all spiritually connected as Jewish people."

Chabad of Binghamton to offer JLI course "Secrets of the Bible"

Beginning on Monday, November 2, at 7 pm, Chabad of Binghamton will offer a six-session course from the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute titled "Secrets of the Bible: Iconic Stories, Mystical Meanings, and Their Lessons for Life." The cost for the course that will be held via Zoom is \$59 per participant, which includes the textbook.

Interested parties are asked to write to rslonim@Jewishbu.com as soon as possible to register and reserve a textbook; the complete mailing address should be included in the e-mail. Registered participants will be able to receive a link to play back the class at a different time if Monday at 7 pm does not work well for them.

"We are in the midst of a situation that has many of us feeling trapped – physi-

cally, emotionally and psychologically. Very little is as it used to be and we pine for 'normal.' Without getting too philosophical, I think these times call for us to move beyond all the 'normal' and grasp onto something transcendent that can nourish our minds, hearts and souls – and connect us to each other and to something higher," said Rivkah Slonim. "People tend to read biblical stories as they do primitive mythology. Our course invites participants to look deeper and discover the underlying themes and relevant life lessons that these stories were designed to convey. I think it will be very nourishing."

The course presents readings of the stories of Adam and Eve and the Tree of Knowledge; Noah and the great flood; the lifelong feud between Jacob and Esau; Jo-

seph's multicolored coat; the golden calf; and Korach's rebellion. For each of these stories, it seeks to answer the questions: What is the deeper meaning behind the story? How does it shape the Jewish worldview? And what wisdom does it hold for people today?

Throughout its six sessions, "Secrets of the Bible" will explore life themes, including human subjectivity and bias, the underpinnings of relationships, negotiating spiritual growth with practical impact, why inspiration is fleeting and how to make it last, understanding equality and privilege, and navigating parallel spiritual and material life paths.

"Secrets of the Bible" presents wonderful ancient biblical stories in fresh and modern ways that deal with universal human

dilemmas," explained Dr. Erica Brown, director of the Mayberg Center for Jewish Education and Leadership at George Washington University. "The wisdom it shares should not remain a secret."

"Secrets of the Bible" brings to an intelligent lay readership texts so formative to so many cultures worldwide that they cannot be ignored even by cultures looking on from without," commented Dr. Joel Rosenberg, a professor of biblical literature at Tufts University. "By embracing post-biblical Jewish tradition, the course recognizes an interpretative process that begins with the Bible itself (interpreting its own past) and goes on to awaken the interpretive impulse in later readers exploring the experience of their own era."

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Fall CJS series to focus on two new books in Jewish history

The fall College of Jewish Studies program will feature presentations from the authors of two new scholarly books in modern Jewish studies. The talks – presented via Zoom – are scheduled for Thursdays, October 29 and November 5, at 7:30 pm.

On October 29, Nancy Sinkoff, professor of Jewish studies and history, and the academic director of the Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life at Rutgers University, will discuss her new biography "From Left to Right: Lucy S. Dawidowicz, the New York Intellectuals, and the Politics of Jewish History" in a talk titled "From Left to Right: Lucy Dawidowicz and the Representation of the Holocaust." Lucy Dawidowicz has been called "a crucial, but neglected figure" in the history of American Jewish politics. The Polish-born Dawidowicz immigrated with her parents to New York City between the world wars. The author of "The War

Against the Jews," she would come to be considered one of the first and most influential interpreters of the Holocaust to American Jews during the 1960s and '70s. As Sinkoff shows, it was Dawidowicz's immersion in the Yiddish culture of her youth alongside

her Holocaust consciousness that fueled her shift from early communist beginnings to her emergence as one of the founders of the Jewish neoconservative movement. "Sinkoff, a scholar of both Eastern European and American Jewish history, is ideally situated to treat this geographically and thematically wide-ranging topic,"



Professor Magda Teter (Photo © Chuck Fishman 2019)



Professor Nancy Sinkoff (Photo © Nan Melville 2016)

said organizers of the program. "The product of a decade of archival research, her new book is the first comprehensive biography of this brilliant, pioneering and controversial woman."

On November 5, Professor Magda Teter of Rutgers University will discuss her book "Blood Libel: On The Trail of an Antisemitic Myth" about the history of the blood libel accusation. "Also the product of years of research in multiple languages, Teter's monograph is the most comprehensive examination yet produced of this immensely consequential and destructive fabrication," organizers

said. The myth emerged in the Middle Ages and, while other anti-Jewish tales, like those of well-poisoning or desecration of consecrated hosts, disappeared, the blood libel has persisted even to the present day. Teter's talk will explore the role print media and iconography played in the rooting of this "pernicious canard in the Christian European imagination." Teter is professor of history and the Shvidler chair of Judaic Studies at Fordham University. She is a fellow of the American Academy for Jewish Research and, in addition to her most recent book, the author of "Jews and Heretics in Catholic Poland" and "Sinners on Trial."

Both programs are open to the community. Prior registration is required. To register for one or both of these events, send an e-mail to jkarp@binghamton.edu with the subject heading "fall 2020 CJS." Registrants will be sent the Zoom link via See "CJS" on page 3

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Opinion

From the Desk of the Federation Executive Director

With gratitude

SHELLEY HUBAL

Socially distant, but spiritually connected: that is the theme of this year's Annual Campaign. In choosing a theme, we knew the landscape of COVID would have to be acknowledged. We have all heard these sound bites recently: "we are all in this together" and "this is an unprecedented time." All of this is true, but, as a person that works with details, I want to share with you what I have come to know in recent weeks.

I have been working with our local Jewish organizations as we begin the process of allocating funds and it has become clear the COVID crisis has had a dramatic affect on all of our local institutions. Our beloved Jewish Community Center has lost many of its sources of income this year: preschool and after-school enrollment has dropped greatly, and membership and programming revenue have hit rock-bottom. While the JCC summer camp met with success, it was not able to bring in the revenue for which it was budgeted.

Hillel Academy, our local Hebrew day school, has had to make costly adjustments to its day-to-day learning environment and is losing thousands of dollars it typically makes in fund-raising efforts. *The Reporter*, our local Jewish newspaper that keeps us all connected, has suffered financial losses from a large drop in ad sales revenue. Jewish Family Service has seen an enormous increase in requests for its support since the COVID crisis began. Lastly, as the world experiences economic crisis due to COVID related shut downs, the Jewish Federation of North America and its social service programs have become a critical lifeline for Jews in need around the globe.

The mission of the Jewish Federation is to create a caring, vibrant, enduring community. Your support is critical right now. The money we raise from the Federation Annual Campaign is a lifeline to all of our local Jewish organizations and our Jewish neighbors in need. I am

asking each of you, during this difficult time, to please search your heart. What does it mean to you to live in a Jewish community? Where would we be without each other and without the Jewish institutions that are a refuge for this community? We know there are some community members who will not be able to give this year. If you are able to contribute, please consider helping us to make up the shortfall.

To our community members who have pledged early, I say "thank you." To those who have not yet made a pledge, please help reduce our volunteer hours by doing so at www.jfjb.org or by sending in the coupon on page 5.

I am so very grateful for the generosity and compassion of the Binghamton community. The COVID pandemic is sure to bring many challenges in the new year, but, though we may be socially distant, we are spiritually connected as Jewish people. May the new year bring you all good health and much joy.

Why the moral equivalency at the U.N.?

By Yoni Michanie

(JNS) – U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres addressed the General Assembly recently as part of the institution's 75th-year anniversary. In an eloquent and moving speech, he praised the power of diplomacy in regions throughout the world, even the Middle East. But in these short 15 minutes, the secretary-general also provided us with a clear overview of the United Nation's failure to address the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Guterres found the time to praise historic achievements by the international community while simultaneously and impressively omitting the recent Abraham Accords, signed on September 15 between Israel, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain. He was, however, able to dedicate a portion of his time to a call for a resumption of negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians – one

that would eventually lead to a two-state solution.

For years, the United Nations has advocated and celebrated "even-handed" approaches to negotiations between Israeli and Palestinian officials, creating three fundamental obstacles to a long-lasting and comprehensive peace agreement between both parties. The first one was the entertainment of delusional demands made by Palestinian officials that were, simply, disconnected from the geopolitical and historical realities of the conflict. Whether it was threatening Israel's Jewish character through the passing of Resolution 194 – by allowing the Palestinian leadership to claim a "perpetual refugee status" (leading to the institution's modern-day recognition of nearly five million Palestinian refugees) and seek a lawful "right of return," or by dismissing constant human-rights violations by Palestinian leaders in the last seven decades, the United

Nations has always presented a dishonest starting point for negotiations between both parties. It is a clear double-standard that no other sovereign state is subjected to.

The second obstacle created by the United Nation's "even-handed" approach to Israeli-Palestinian negotiations was the establishment of a moral equivalency between both parties. Palestinians, like any other people protected by the U.N.'s Charter, have a right to self-determination. Equally important, leaders of the Jewish state have continually acted on this principle. Several Israeli governments – whether right- or left-wing – have made significant concessions with the hopes of tearing down the traditional barrier that is Palestinian rejectionist attitudes toward peace with Israel. Yitzhak Rabin paid for it with his life after the signing of the 1993 Oslo Accords and both Ehud Barak (2000-01) See "U.N." on page 11

In My Own Words

Rediscovering music of the past

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Without her voice, I don't know if I would have made it through high school. That's not totally accurate: it was both her music and lyrics combined with that awesome voice that made it possible. But I do remember the very first time I heard her sing. I bought her album after looking at it for almost a year in Grand Way, a K-Mart like store that was located in the Endicott Plaza. There was a very short half-sung, half-talking opening, which was followed by the song "Tuning My Guitar" that blew me away. Who am I talking about? Melanie Safka, usually just known by the name Melanie. Although her biggest hit was "Brand New Key," that light pop tune is not one of my favorites. What I preferred were her ballads about loneliness and pain, the type of music that spoke to my teenage heart.

I've not only been thinking about Melanie's music, but, for the first time in more than 20 years, I've been listening to it. That wasn't possible when I first got my cochlear implant: most women's singing still didn't sound right. But lately I've been exploring music that I loved in the 1960s and '70s, and am again able to enjoy that raw, powerful voice that spoke to my young heart and which still thrills me.

This musical exploration has been fun and it's interesting to see what music still appeals. I have two Melanie CDs: a greatest hits album and the first album I bought because my favorite song is not on the greatest hits CD. But I've also listened to songs I haven't thought about in years and found that the music and lyrics still resonate.

The same is true for the CDs I've bought of Dr. Hook (a

band originally known as Dr. Hook and the Medicine Show). I wanted my favorite song by the band, "Last Morning," and the only CD I could find it on was a 2-CD set with its first three albums. Again, I heard music I'd forgotten about that I loved and found myself falling in love with it again. This time, though, I realized that there were other songs I liked and bought a CD of Dr. Hook's greatest hits. It was the group's ballads that were my favorites when I was young and I still like them. However, I was surprised to discover their upbeat songs are also a lot of fun – more than I remembered.

Not all my musical explorations have been successful. For example, I listened to a CD I already had of the Broadway musical "Rags." I knew there was a song on it that I loved when I used to listen to the album in the 1990s, but was unable to tell which song it was. Other singers can also be difficult: some of the music on the Mandy Patinkin albums I have sound wonderful. Others sound like music, but I can't make out the individual songs. That may also be because of his singing style, which tends to be the same no matter the song.

I do realize that music from my early listening years can be easier to hear, but I've had some trouble with The Monkees' greatest hits, although I didn't have problems listening to their music on Youtube. Maybe there were different recordings online or the lyrics were easier to follow when I was also reading their lips. But additional listening (and a lot of concentration) has made the songs on the CD sound better. It may sound funny to have to say that I have

to practice listening to music to hear it, but that's true.

My greatest find came about by accident. I was looking for specific albums online and the suggestions underneath them included a very inexpensive CD of a record I remembered from my childhood: Harry Belafonte singing live at Carnegie Hall. That two record set was my parents' and I had not heard it or thought about it for decades. It took some practice to really be able to hear some of the songs, but I'm glad I put the time in because the music is marvelous. The album was originally recorded in the 1950s, but it still sounds wonderful and fresh. I've probably listened to it more than any other CD since I started my explorations.

I'm taking a break from buying new CDs, at least for the moment. I have many I purchased in the 1990s, but most of those are still too difficult for me to hear specific songs. I know I bought them because I liked at least one song on them, but, like with "Rags," I can't tell which one it is. Still, I'm not letting myself get discouraged because there is so much music I can appreciate. Sometimes I hear part of a song – a musical phrase – and feel a joy like no other.

Before my implant, I used to daydream about what I would do if I were given the gift of hearing music for 24 hours. I debated whether I would want to revisit older music or listen to new music. It was a way of deflecting the pain over a part of my life that was missing. I have not recovered the ability I daydreamed about, but I have recovered something else beyond compare: music that speaks to my heart.

Jewish Federation
OF GREATER BINGHAMTON

Suzanne Holwitt, President
Shelley Hubal, Executive Director
607-724-2332 ~ www.jfjb.org

The Reporter Editorial Committee
Rachel Coker, chairwoman
Rebecca Goldstein Kahn, Ben Kasper,
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HOW TO REACH THE REPORTER
Mail – The Reporter, 500 Clubhouse Rd. Vestal, NY 13850
E-mail – TReporter@aol.com
Phone – 607-724-2360 or 800-779-7896
Extension#/Department – 1. Advertising 2. Business Office
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Executive Editor Rabbi Rachel Esserman
Layout Editor Diana Sochor
Advertising TBA
Bookkeeper Kathy Brown
Production Associate Christi Sturdevant

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



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TC to offer lecture about Jewish dynasties in China on Oct. 21

Temple Concord will hold a Zoom program with Jonathan Kaufman, a Northeastern University journalism professor and award-winning journalist, who will talk about his new book "The Last Kings of Shanghai: The Rival Dynasties that Helped Create Modern China" on Wednesday, October 21, at 7:30 pm. There is no cost to attend. Pre-registration is required and can be made at <https://templeetzchaim.shulcloud.com/form/kaufman>. The program is sponsored by Temple Concord and Temple Etz Chaim of Franklin, MA.

"Did you know that two Jewish families who were originally from Baghdad controlled much of the commerce

in Shanghai, China's leading commercial city, until the Communists took it over in 1949?" organizers of the event asked. "Did you know that those families created luxury hotels that set a world standard for excellence? And did you know that they were also instrumental in saving thousands of European Jews from the Holocaust? Learn about these families when Jonathan Kaufman discusses his new book, which Forbes called 'engrossing' and The Economist said was 'illuminating.'"

Jonathan Karp, a professor in the Judaic Studies Department at Binghamton University, called Kaufman "an excellent writer and journalist." Eve Berman was

interested in the program because her sister's in-laws' family escaped from Prague to Shanghai during the war; and Berman had the opportunity to visit the Jewish quarter in Shanghai and wants to know more about what occurred.

Rabbi Rachel Esserman recently reviewed the book in *The Reporter*. She noted that "this fascinating chapter of Jewish life is worth exploring for anyone interested in Jewish or Chinese history." (To read the complete review, visit www.thereportergroup.org/past-articles/feature-book-review/feature-book-review-stream/book-review-stream/off-the-shelf-jews-and-shanghai-by-rabbi-rachel-esserman.)

BD Sisterhood still active despite meeting cancellation

The Beth David Sisterhood announced that despite the decision by Beth David Sisterhood to cancel the October 14 paid-up membership luncheon, the members of Sisterhood continue their service to Beth David synagogue and the community.

Members were scheduled to coordinate the *kiddushes* held in the Beth David sukkah during Sukkot, Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah. "This year presented several problems, which needed to be solved so we could fulfill the mitzvah of eating in the sukkah while still keeping everyone as safe as possible," said Cathy Velenchik, co-president of Beth David Sisterhood. "Although this year's *kiddushes* are not as lavish as in years past, it is hoped that people will

understand and approve of the 'COVID safe' refreshments."

Velenchik added, "We also hope our members will agree with the decision that staying healthy is of greater importance than holding this year's paid-up membership meeting. The meeting would typically have included a meal to show our appreciation of our members' support. Last year's meeting was the first as a luncheon and was a particular success."

The paid-up membership meeting also traditionally featured a raffle that not only served as a fund-raiser, but also sent some members home with gift certificates and items donated by a variety of local stores. "We will all miss the opportunity to socialize and possibly even

win a \$25 gift certificate," Velenchik said.

"Remember, even though we may not be able to meet in person and enjoy each other's companionship, our commitment to raising funds to help sustain Beth David Synagogue has not changed," Velenchik continued. "We hope our friends and members will continue to show their support for Beth David Sisterhood by sending their dues to our treasurer Marlene Serkin if they have not already done so. Our thanks to those of you who have already sent their donations. We do not know when it will be deemed safe enough for us all to gather together again, but until that time, we wish everyone well, and pray for a speedy end to the pandemic."

TC Rosh Hashanah Afternoon Drive-Through



More than 40 cars joined in a Rosh Hashanah Afternoon Drive-Through program organized by Temple Concord. Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell greeted congregants in the parking lot of St. Michael's Orthodox Church of Binghamton, where the program was held.



Congregants had the opportunity to hear Sophie Coker blow the shofar. In addition, people were able to drop off donations for CHOW.



Barbara Krongold joined other volunteers in distributing treats, Havdalah candles, Jewish calendars, items for decorating the temple's sukkah and more.

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Like all JLI programs, the course is designed to appeal to people at all levels of knowledge, including those without any prior experience or background in Jewish learning. All JLI courses are open to the public, and attendees need not be affiliated with a particular synagogue, temple, or other house of worship.

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

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e-mail one day prior to the talk. Because tickets cannot be sold at the door, the organizers ask that attendees consider making a voluntary contribution to support the College of Jewish Studies. Checks should be made out to the "College of Jewish Studies" and sent to the JCC, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850.

The College of Jewish Studies was founded in 1986 as a coalition between the Judaic Studies Department at Binghamton University and several local Jewish sponsoring institutions, including the Jewish Community Center, the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, Beth David Synagogue, Temple Concord and Temple Israel. Its mission is to provide opportunities for quality adult Jewish education in Broome County. The CJS Committee strives to bring scholars from local and regional campuses for enlightening lectures; an effort is made to combine broad appeal with intellectual and stimulating content and challenge.



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Off the Shelf
Major life changes
 RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

The two memoirs seemed to have little in common at first glance. Yet, underlying the authors' very different lives is a similar theme: the need to adjust to a major life change. In "Becoming Eve: My Journey From Ultra-Orthodox Rabbi to Transgendered Woman" (Seal Press), Abby Chava Stein discusses not only why she left Orthodox Judaism, but decided to transition to her true gender. Jason B. Rosenthal, who was blindsided when his wife, Amy Krause Rosenthal, died of ovarian cancer, writes about the difficulty of adjusting to the loss of his soulmate in "My Wife Said You May Want to Marry Me" (Harper).

Stein had the more unusual life journey. Although she knew from the time she was 4 that she was a girl inside a boy's body, it quickly became clear she had to hide her feelings. Her wish to have a dollhouse and her preference for bright colors in a world where men and boys only wore black and white raised enough disapproval for her to know her desires were considered inappropriate. But that was not the only problem she faced: although born in 1992 in New York City, she lived in what she calls "an eighteenth-century Eastern European enclave in the heart of its capital, the Ultra-Orthodox Hasidic Jewish community in Williamsburg, Brooklyn." Adding to the pressure

were family expectations. Since family lore said they were descendants of the Baal Shem Tov, the founder of the Hasidic movement, Stein was expected to become a rabbi and continue the dynasty after finding an appropriate wife.

Stein's struggle with her gender led her to question Judaism and Jewish practice, something that is frowned on in her community. Even worse, she began to doubt God's existence. Stein notes, "Questioning is basic human nature, and for most Jews around the world, it is a strong Jewish value. Not in the Hasidic community. My questions were met with disdain and anger, and shock. Asking these questions was just not done." The questions about faith made sense in terms of her life, though: "If every authority in my life told me that I was a boy, and I knew I was a girl, how could I believe the rest of their claims? If they were wrong about my gender, they could be wrong about God, too."

Yet, Stein continued to study and follow the path her family outlined for her. That included becoming a rabbi and getting married. Her hope was that she would feel more content after marriage: she "thought that after I was married—and living with, sleeping with, and spending time with a 'real' girl—maybe all my feelings would magically go away. I hoped for that outcome with renewed intensity.

Off the Shelf
Feline Jewish wisdom
 RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

Is there a special connection between Jews and cats? I have plenty of Jewish friends who have dogs, but I don't recall any book written connecting Judaism and canines. That's not true of cats, though. There is the delightful graphic novel "The Rabbi's Cat" by Joann Sfar, which features a talking cat who wants to study mysticism and have a bar mitzvah. That suggests the connection may be between cats and mysticism, which would explain "Tales of the Holy Mystic: Jewish Wisdom by a Feline Mystic reverently collected by His Humble Assistant Rachel Adler" (Banot Press).

This odd, short work began as Facebook posts written by Adler, the David Ellenson Professor of Modern Jewish Thought at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, about her rescue cat, Dagesh. She notes that over the years she came to see him as a teacher and began referring to him as the Holy Mystic. Although writing tongue-in-cheek, she does see herself as having learned spiritual lessons—particularly mystical ones—from Dagesh. Adler, however, considers herself a theologian, rather than a mystic. This helps explain the troubles that arise between the scholar (Adler) and the mystic (her cat) when they disagree about theological and practical aspects of sharing an apartment.

Adler gives details of her time with the Holy Mystic, from his throwing up each year as a gift on her birthday to the sweet way he has of making amends with her after they've fought. (He settles himself on top of her with his nose in her face.) She interprets his cat-like behavior as being connected to his mystical experiences, including his chiding of demons she cannot see.

Following the 80-some pages of essays about the Holy Mystic are almost 60 pages of articles discussing Jewish holidays, religious texts and history. Adler suggests this section will be helpful for those who may not understand the religious references in her discussions of the Holy Mystic's behavior. While the section does offer a good general introduction, it made me wonder about the expected audience for the book: cat lovers or Jews?

Readers of "The Tales of the Holy Mystic" will need to have a very highly developed sense of whimsy. Fortunately, I do, although I have to admit the book is best enjoyed when read in short bursts, I'm not sure that those unfamiliar with Jewish practice will get the jokes, even if they read the second section of the book first. One thing is sure, though: Jewish cat lovers will definitely be comparing their cats' behaviors to that of the Holy Mystic. It's possible there are far more kabbalistic cats living among us than we might expect.

I guess it was my own version of 'praying the gay away,' although it was more like 'praying the girl away.'" Obviously, that didn't work. It was not until the circumcision of Stein's first child that she realized she could not continue. Using the Internet, Stein searched for "boy turn into girl" and expected to find nothing. To her great shock, she found the Hebrew Wikipedia page on transgender. (Stein notes that her English was almost nonexistent at the time so she could only read articles in Hebrew.) From there, she learned about organizations that helped Jews leaving the Hasidic community.

At first Stein rebelled against all Judaism, but then found her way back, although she now practices Judaism on her own terms. She still had some contact with her parents at first, but that ended when she informed her father that she was going to have surgery to become a woman. Yet, after going public on her blog about her life, Stein found herself inundated with love from those willing to accept all her feelings as natural. Unfortunately, she has also learned about what she calls the "uglier side of human nature"—messages of hate for Jews and for those who are transgendered. The final result, though, is positive: she notes that "I have seen more kindness than I ever expected in a lifetime, and I've learned more about the world, and identity, and faith, in these past few years than I could have imagined."

While Stein's work ends on a positive note, Rosenthal tries to focus on the positive throughout his memoir, even when writing about the most difficult times. That's because so much of his and Amy's life together was wonderful. He sees his book as "an exploration of what it means to love, to lose, and to emerge from that loss somehow ready to be resilient in surprising and unexpected ways. It is the story of love and loss but also of appreciating the joy, beauty, and vitality of life. A story of how you come to the end of one part of your life and find a way to turn the page to the next."

That is an accurate description of Rosenthal's memoir. He tells the story of his loving marriage and his wonderful extended family. Amy, who was a writer, supports him during his attempts to find meaningful work as a lawyer. Their children grow up with few problems and the last one is finally in college. Then disaster strikes: Amy is diagnosed with ovarian cancer and, although she fights hard to get well, the cancer is too far gone to stop. Then, just before Amy died, an essay she wrote appeared in *The New York Times*' Modern Love column. Called "You May want to Marry My Husband," she writes of her hope that Rosenthal will find love and happiness after she's gone. Of course, this is far from easy. Rosenthal was devastated by his loss. It took him time to understand and overcome his grief, but, with the help of friends and family, he stays true to Amy's desire that he continue to live his life as meaningfully and joyously as possible.

"My Wife Said You May Want to Marry Me" is beautifully written. Rosenthal noted in his introduction that See "Changes" on page 8

Jewish resources to occupy your family during social distancing – part 22

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.

◆ The Hadassah-Brandeis Institute will hold the webinar "Jewish Women Medical Practitioners in Europe Before, During and After the Holocaust; Launch Event for NASHIM Issue 36" on Tuesday, October 13, from 12:30-2 pm. The issue is dedicated to the activity of Jewish women in the medical professions before, during and after the Holocaust. For more information or to register, visit www.brandeis.edu/hbi/publications/nashim-launch-event.html.

◆ *The New York Jewish Week* and the UJA New York will hold the webinar "On Storytelling, Memory and Love" with Israeli author A. B. Yehoshua and Stuart Schoffman on Tuesday, October 13, at 12:20 pm. The program will be moderated by *Jewish Week* Culture Editor Sandee Brawarsky. For more information or to register, visit www.ujafedny.org/event/view/yehoshua.

◆ The Jewish Book Council will host the webinar "Latin American Jewish Foods with Pati Jinich and Ilan Stavans" on Friday, October 16, from 12:30-1:30 pm. Spring 2020 Natan Notable Book winner Ilan Stavans ("The Seventh Heaven: Travels Through Jewish Latin America") and Mexican chef, cookbook author and food writer Pati Jinich will discuss Latin American Jewish culinary traditions. For more information or to register for the event, visit www.jewishbookcouncil.org/events/pastrami-tacos-and-other-latin-american-jewish-foods-with-pati-jinich-and-ilan-stavans.

◆ The Jewish Film Festival of Fairfield County will hold a virtual film festival from October 15-November 22. Six award-winning films will be shown. There will also be question-and-answer sessions with film directors, producers and expert speakers each Sunday at noon via Zoom. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.stamfordjcc.org/filmfestival.

◆ The podcast *Israel Story*, which is part of *Tablet*, kicked off its latest season with a seven-part miniseries about Israel and the coronavirus. The complete series is now

available at www.tabletmag.com/podcasts/israel-story/alone-together-part-i-mazal-tov in Hebrew or in English.

◆ Americans for Peace now will hold a Yitzhak Rabin 25-Year Memorial Event on Tuesday, October 20, at 8 pm. For more information or to register, visit <https://peacenow.org/entry.php?id=36298#.X3OOH-17k4x>.

◆ Tikvah Open University has opened registration for its fall online courses. There is a charge to attend. For more information or to register, visit <https://tikvahfund.org/open/>.

◆ The Center for Jewish History will hold the program "The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) to the Rescue in Shanghai: From 1941 to 1951 – Live on Zoom" on Thursday, October 22, at 7:30 pm. For more information or to register, visit <https://halpern.bpt.me/>.

◆ *The Forward* will hold its first virtual "Come As You Are Gala: Comedy and Cocktails in Challenging Times" on Monday, October 19, at 8:30 pm. There is no charge to attend, although donations are welcome. Guests include Jessica Kirson, Miri Ben-Ari, Mayim Bialik, Jodi Rudoren, Peter Yarrow, Y-Love, Kosha Dillz and more. For more information or to register, visit <https://give.forward.com/event/the-forwards-first-come-as-you-are-gala-comedy-and-cocktails-in-challenging-times/e293487>.

◆ The Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU and Global Jewish Studies Program will present the virtual series "Black Lives Matter in a Jewish Context." There will be three programs: on Monday, October 12, at 7 pm, "African Jewish Perceptions on Racial and Religious Discrimination" with Nathan P. Devir, University of Utah; on Monday, October 26, at noon, "From Red to Black: The Changing Colour of Ethiopian Jews in Israel" with Shalva Weil, Hebrew University of Jerusalem; and on Monday, November 9, at 7 pm, "Hybrid Hate: Conflations of Anti-Black Racism and Anti-Semitism from the Renaissance to the Third Reich" with Tudor Parfitt, Florida International University. There is no cost to attend.

◆ Adventures in Jewish Studies, the Association for Jewish Studies Podcast, seeks to foster greater understanding of Jewish Studies scholarship among the wider public. Podcast episodes explore a wide range of topics, from the contemporary to the ancient. For more information or to listen to podcasts, visit <https://associationforjewishstudies.org/publications-research/adventures-in-jewish-studies-podcast>.

◆ Registration for the Yiddish Book Center's Great Jewish Books Book Club 2021 year is now open. There is a cost. Those who sign up for the club will receive four English-language books over the course of the year. Selections may include novels, memoirs, short stories and poetry. For more information or to join the club, visit <https://register.yiddishbookcenter.org>.

◆ The JCC of North Shore is holding virtual Jewish Book Month events through November 29. To learn about specific events or to register for an event, visit <https://jccns.org/jewish-book-month/>.

◆ The Jewish Federation of the Greater Pomona and San Gabriel will hold its 2020 Jewish Book Festival online. Events run from November 1-December 15. For more information or to sign up for programs, visit <https://jewishgpv.org/jewish-book-festival>.

◆ The JCCNS Jewish Book Month Speaker Series 2020 will take place online from November 6-29. For more information or to register for programs, visit <https://www.jewishboston.com/series/jccns-jewish-book-month-speaker-series-2020/>.

◆ The Hadassah-Brandeis Institute will hold a virtual conversation with Marra B. Gad, author of "The Color of Love: A Story of a Mixed-Race Jewish Girl," on Wednesday, October 14, from 2-3 pm. For more information or to register, visit <https://blogs.brandeis.edu/freshideasfromhbi/hot-topic-of-the-week/>.

◆ The Hadassah-Brandeis Institute will hold the program "Intertwined Narratives of Sexuality, Gender, Body Image, and Jewish Identity," featuring a conversation with and readings from the authors of "Monologues from the Makom," on Monday, October 19, from 5-6 pm. For more information or to register for programs, visit <https://www.jewishboston.com/series/jccns-jewish-book-month-speaker-series-2020/>.

◆ The Bennett Center for Judaic Studies at Fairfield University will hold the virtual program "Speaking in a Political Voice: Jews and the Fight for Women's Suffrage" about Jewish women's involvement in the fight for women's suffrage in the United States on Wednesday, October 14, at 7:30 pm. For more information or to register, visit <https://jwa.org/events>.

See "Occupy" on page 8

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

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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
Reduce taxable income from IRA Required Minimum Distributions	Make a qualified charitable donation directly from your IRA (after age 70½)	Reducing taxable income



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This information is updated as of September 15, 2020. We acknowledge contributions from several anonymous donors and sincerely apologize if we have accidentally omitted anyone or made other errors.



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Jews on the Gridiron

Sid Luckman: Joe Kaplan's great Jewish quarterback

By Bill Simons

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic and the reality of chronic traumatic encephalopathy, football remains an American juggernaut. With the now venerable Tom Brady intent on burnishing his legacy, fans are once again debating who is the greatest quarterback of all-time. Back in the late 1980s, the television family drama "Our House" featured a vociferous argument over that very question between two cantankerous senior citizens, friends Gus Witherspoon and Joe Kaplan. Incessantly, like a broken record, Kaplan insisted, "Sid Luckman. Sid Luckman." Exasperated, Witherspoon retorted that the only reason for Kaplan's unrelenting stubbornness was that both his friend and Luckman were Jewish. Witherspoon was only partly correct. Jewish fans identify with Jewish athletes, but quarterback Sid Luckman was the real deal.

His gridiron heroics earned Luckman enshrinement in both the College and Pro Football Halls of Fame. Only National Football League pioneer Benny Friedman rivals Luckman for the top spot in Jewish quarterbacks. At Erasmus Hall in Flatbush, Brooklyn, Luckman led his high school football team to two New York City championships. Crossing the bridge into Manhattan, the phenomenon earned All-American honors as field general for the Columbia University Lions. Twelve legendary seasons in the NFL make Luckman the consensus choice as the greatest quarterback in Chicago Bears history.

Luckman's achievements came despite a tragedy that might well have broken most young men. During Luckman's freshman year at Columbia, his Russian immigrant father, Meyer, was found guilty, along with two co-defendants, of the gruesome strangulation murder of Sam Drukman.

Allied with the Jewish mobster Louis Lepke, Meyer provided management acumen to the family business, Luckman Brothers Trucking Company, and Meyer believed that Drukman, a gambling addict, embezzled money from the company. Drukman was Meyer's brother-in-law and Sid's uncle. In attendance at the trial in a jammed courtroom, Sid heard his grandfather point at Meyer and cry out, "He killed my son! That man killed my son!" from the witness stand. Sid was emotionally devastated and nearly dropped out of college. Believing his father innocent, Sid visited him at the Sing Sing Correctional Facility, where Meyer died in 1944. In neither private nor public venues did Luckman discuss the family tragedy. Without textual explanation, the dedication to the quarterback's autobiography reads, "To Dad Luckman, who played the hardest game of all."

During the height of the family travail, the support of Columbia University Lions Coach Lou Little motivat-

ed Luckman to remain in college. As a working-class, outer-borough Jewish student at an elite school without athletic scholarships, Luckman held a number of jobs to finance his education, including dishwasher, message courier and painter. Although Columbia fielded mediocre football during these years, Luckman, a single-wing passing tailback, punter/placekicker and defensive safety, played spectacularly, finishing third in the 1938 Heisman Trophy balloting and earning All-American honors. On October 8, 1938, with an 85-yard kickoff touchdown return, two TD passes and an extra-point kick through the goalposts, Luckman led Columbia to a dramatic 20-18 comeback win over the favored Army squad at West Point's Michie Stadium.

Luckman even made the cover of the October 24, 1938, issue of America's most popular magazine, Life, a spot often reserved for world leaders and movie stars. Life gave the right-armed passer celebrity treatment: "A 22-year old Jewish boy, who once played tin-can football on the streets and back lots of Brooklyn... became the most talked about football player in the U.S." Life juxtaposed a photograph of a well-dressed, clean-cut, studious, darkly-handsome Columbia "Football Hero" pouring over "Biology 153" books with a shot of Luckman "muddy and battered," yet still looking rugged and determined, at the end of a two-hour practice.

Following graduation from Columbia, Luckman, 6'0", 197 pounds, quarterbacked the NFL's Chicago Bears over 12 campaigns (1939-1950), throwing 137 TDs and gaining 14,686 yards passing during the regular season. He and owner-coach "Papa Bear" George Halas made Chicago pro football's dominant team, the "Monsters of the Midway." Luckman's Bears won five Western Division titles (1940, 1941, 1942, 1943 and 1946) and four NFL championships (1940, 1941, 1943 and 1946). Luckman topped the NFL three times, both in most touchdowns and most yards gained by passing in a season. Four times he led the league in most yards gained per game played.

Luckman's Bears figured in some of the NFL's most iconic passages. Chicago dominated an NFL Championship Game, as has no other team, deconstructing quarterback Sammy Baugh's Washington Redskins 73-0 in 1940. With Luckman at the helm, the 1942 Bears were invincible during the regular season, going a perfect 11-0 and outscoring opponents 376-84 before stumbling in a championship game loss.

Even allowing for the weakened quality of competition due to the number of star players in World War II military service, Luckman's 1943 season ranks as one of the greatest for a quarterback in NFL history. During the regular season, he led the Bears to another first-place finish in the Western Division, with eight wins against only one loss and a tie. Luckman's 28 touchdown passes established an NFL record that stood until Johnny Unitas connected for 32 touchdowns in 1959, by which time the NFL schedule had expanded to 12 games.

Despite the celebrated exploits of future quarterbacks, Luckman's 1943 marks for yards per attempt (10.9), yards per completion (19.9) and percentage of pass attempts thrown for touchdowns (13.9 percent) are still NFL single-season records. In 1943, Luckman also paced NFL quarterbacks in yards gained by passing, yards gained per game, quarterback rating and sundry other categories. On November 14, 1943, Luckman threw seven touchdown passes in a 56-7 blowout win against the New York Giants, setting a game record since equaled but never broken.

With Luckman connecting for five touchdown passes, including a third quarter 66-yard bomb, the Bears regained pride of place, defeating Baugh's Redskins in the NFL Championship Game on December 26, 1943, at Wrigley Field, thus avenging the upset of the previous year. The United Press proclaimed, "In the greatest exhibition of his... professional career, Sid Luckman ran from scrimmage, intercepted passes, and threw five touchdown aeriels to spark the Chicago Bears." His historic campaign garnered Luckman the NFL's 1943 Most Valuable Player Award.

Luckman's statistical accolades are impressive and numerous, but not particularly instructive. Luckman's era was that of the brutal "leatherheads": equipment was primitive and few rules discouraged mayhem. Luckman's football might have measured out at its present size, but it didn't grip like the modern pigskin. Moreover, the running game still dominated in Luckman's time; quarterbacks throw many more passes today. The modern quarterback plays more games per season, and World War II service in the Merchant Marines truncated Luckman's 1944 football season. Unlike the modern quarterback who generally throws from a well-protected pocket, Luckman ran with the ball. Playing nearly the full 60 minutes of game time, Luckman—in addition to quarterbacking—kicked, received and defended the defensive secondary.

Luckman's most important achievement is creating the template for the modern quarterback as the offensive motor. Before Luckman made the T-formation successful, the quarterback was a relatively peripheral figure in the single-wing system and the forward pass a limited weapon. Luckman, Halas and the Bears changed all of that.

In post-playing days, besides building a successful business career, Luckman tutored young quarterbacks. In addition to fund-raising for the Maccabiah Games, the Jewish Olympics, Luckman said of his Judaism, "I go the temple regularly, and I observe the High Holidays and I never go to bed at night without saying a little prayer."

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.

Occupy. . . . Continued from page 5

♦ The Lower East Side Jewish Conservancy will hold "Explore the Jewish history of Harlem: A virtual stroll through the neighborhood" on Wednesday, October 21, from 7-8:30 pm. For more information or to register, visit www.nycjewishtours.org/event-log/jewish-harlem-talk-on-zoom.

♦ The Lower East Side Jewish Conservancy will present "Radical Housewives: Jewish Women's Activism on the Lower East Side and Beyond – A Virtual Talk on Zoom" on Tuesday, October 27, from 7-8:15 pm. For more information or to register, visit www.nycjewishtours.org/event-log/radical-housewives-zoom-presentation.

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

Changes. . . Continued from page 4

his book was not going to be "a maudlin tale of death," although it is sadder than he suggests. He does acknowledge how lucky he is, but some readers might have difficulty mirroring his actions to overcome grief in their own lives. For example, his healing included trips and concerts with his friends, something not everyone can afford. He talks about how hard it is to be a single parent, yet his youngest was in college when his wife died so he never had to juggle childcare concerns with work ones. There is also no mention of medical debts due to Amy's time in the hospital nor complaints about the inability to afford aides so she could die at home. This is not really a complaint about the book, which is very well done and moving, but about deciding who might find it helpful.

"Becoming Eve" and "My Wife Said You May Want to Marry Me" are both life-affirming works. The authors' stories—their ability to deal with major life changes—offer insights for those facing their own challenges. The memoirs also show how love in all forms can help one through the darkest times and shine more light during the greatest joys.

Israel sends emergency supplies to malaria-stricken Chad

By Abigail Klein Leichman

(Israel21c via JNS)—When Israeli Flying Aid delivered several shipping containers full of donated medical equipment and food to refugees and orphans in Chad last October, IFA founder and CEO Gal Lusky said they would be back.

Despite the pandemic, a Hercules military transport aircraft recently took off from an Israeli military base in the south, filled to capacity with items donated by IFA and the American Jewish Committee—2,000 six-person tents, personal protection equipment for medical teams, backpack sprayers to eradicate malaria-carrying mosquitoes and more.

"The operation was completed tonight after 24 nerve-wracking hours," Lusky told ISRAEL21c on September 17. "It was amazing. The pilot was so emotional when they finally landed at 1 am."

With all the turmoil in the world, people aren't paying attention to what is happening in Chad, says Lusky. The African country has absorbed many refugees from neighboring countries who have been victimized by radical



From left: Israeli Flying Aid COO Maya Zuckerman; the pilots of the transport plane sent by Chad; IFA CEO Gal Lusky; and Itai Melchior from the Foreign Trade Administration of the Israeli Ministry of Economy and Industry. (Photo courtesy of Israeli Flying Aid)

Muslim *jihadis*, including Boko Haram. One of the biggest refugee camps, with 30,000 people, is near Lake Chad.

"Nobody is speaking about the floods at Lake Chad," Lusky tells ISRAEL21c. "They suffer from terrible malaria there. In that one refugee camp, there are 12,000 cases of malaria."

Chad Cabinet Chairman Abdul Kareem Déby came to the Israeli Prime Minister's Office a couple of weeks ago and described his country's situation to the National Security Council. "I received a call from that meeting," says Lusky. "Our prior mission in Chad last October was discussed, and we were asked to help. I said, 'You send the plane and I'll stock it.' The National Security Council made all the technical arrangements for the flight."

This time, Lusky didn't go along, but she may do so on the next trip sometime in 2021. "We'll be there again with medical personnel to train them in respiratory care and ob-gyn surgeries," she says, explaining that girls as See "Chad" on page 12

Business Profiles

Ernest H. Parsons Funeral Home

Specialty: Funeral
Location: 71 Main St. Binghamton, NY 13905
Name: Joseph Fritsch
Phone: 607-724-1336
Fax: 607-724-1337
E-mail: parsonsfuneral@yahoo.com
Website: www.parsonsfuneral.com
Hours: 24/7/365

The Ernest H. Parsons Funeral Home, located at 71 Main St., Binghamton, has been a landmark since 1928 and is located in the J. Stewart Wells Mansion, built by renowned architect Isaac Perry, who completed construction in 1867.

Ernest H. Parsons owned and operated the funeral home from 1928 until his death in 1976. Charles Mills purchased the funeral home after Ernest's death and continued the tradition until his retirement in 2012. The current owners – J. Fritsch, R. Fynboe, S. Pitkorchemny and K. Vakiener – strive to uphold the original motto of the founder: "Let Us Serve You with Understanding." Parsons Funeral Home offers distinctive service with respectful attentiveness to the ceremonial rites and the utmost consideration of families' desires to accord a last tribute of affection and esteem to their departed loved ones.

Garufi Law P.C.

Specialty: Legal services
Location: 68 Oak St. Binghamton, NY 13905
Owner: Carman M. Garufi
Phone: 607-722-5000
Fax: 607-722-5626
Hours: Mon.-Fri., 8 am-5 pm

Garufi Law P.C. has served the Southern Tier almost 30 years. Carman Garufi founded the practice in March 1991 with Sandra J. Garufy (now retired). The firm built its reputation practicing Matrimonial/Family Law, being recognized by U.S. News-Best Lawyers® as "Best Law Firm" Binghamton for Family Law. Carman is recognized as a Best Lawyers® in America for Family Law and an Upstate NY Super Lawyer®. He is a past President of the Broome County Bar Association, receiving its 2019 Community Service Award.

Alena Van Tull has been with the firm for over 10 years. Debra Cohn joined them in March 2020, bringing 12 years' experience in Matrimonial/Family Law. Andrew Petroski joins the firm in October 2020, after receiving his Juris Doctorate from the University of Pittsburgh in May. Andy has taken the NYS bar exam and his admission is pending.



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Hopler & Eschbach Funeral Home

Specialty: Funeral services, burials and cremation
Location: 483 Chenango St. Binghamton, NY 13901
Name: Kurt M. Eschbach
Phone: 607-722-4023
E-mail: hoplereeschbachfh@aol.com
Website: www.hefuneralhome.com
Hours: 24-hour service, 365 days a year

When faced with the death of a loved one, Hopler & Eschbach Funeral Home invites you to turn to its caring staff to help guide you through the funeral process. Deeply experienced and knowledgeable in the performance of Jewish burial customs, Kurt Eschbach and his staff are the most qualified professionals in the community to help plan and carry out your funeral or memorial services. They provide services at your synagogue, the funeral home or cemetery, and also provide cremation services and funeral pre-planning.

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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!

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Simcha!

Mazel Tov to
David, Anne, Asher and Dylan
Turnbull
on their assignment to the
U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem.
From
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Weekly Parasha

Shemini Atzeret, Deuteronomy 14:22-16:17

Another day for rejoicing

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR, THE REPORTER GROUP

Torah portions read on holidays generally include information about the day being celebrated. This is not true for the portion we read on Shemini Atzeret. The list of the holidays found in this section of Deuteronomy includes Sukkot, noting that it is to be a time of joy, but there is no mention of Shemini Atzeret. Rather, it is in Leviticus 23:36 that God commands Moses to have the Israelites continue the holiday season by adding a day – one that is technically not part of Sukkot.

There is a question about the meaning of the words Shemini Atzeret. Shemini means eight, which makes sense because it is the eighth day of a celebration commanded by God. (Sukkot is seven days so an additional day is the eighth.) The word *atzeret* has been translated as solemn,

although the reason why is not explained. It might be that people are being warned to be solemn after the joyous days of Sukkot. Others see the root of the word as related to gathering or storing up, as in farmers storing crops for the winter. They suggest that the Israelites are being told to store joy for the long winter to come. In those days, there was no Hanukkah, so the next major holiday would not occur until Passover in the spring.

Why would there have been a need to store up joy? In fact, why is Sukkot a time of joy? In contemporary times, it can be difficult to remember how hard life was in ancient times. Before refrigerators, grocery stores, cars, planes and trucks, you could not take it for granted that you would have enough food to last the winter.

What you harvested was all you had before the next harvest, which was months away. So, a good harvest was something to celebrate. A poor harvest meant less food for everyone and made life dangerous for the most vulnerable members of your community – the young, the very old and the sick.

Maybe Shemini Atzeret is really a combination of both interpretations. We need to gather up enough joy to last us through the winter months. And we take a moment to pause – a solemn moment – to consider how lucky we are to have enough to eat, a warm home and a safe place to live. As the holiday season ends, we are asked to focus on our blessings – to gather the light of joy that will shine within us during the darker days to come.

Congregational Notes

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 October and November.

Friday, October 9: Atzeret Simchat Torah Shabbat service at 7 pm at <https://bit.ly/2Ev0Ovc>. Nefesh Mountain Simchat Torah Concert at 8 pm. To register for the concert, visit <https://bit.ly/3mtmLMg>.

Saturday, October 10: Torah study at 9:15 am at <https://binghamton.zoom.us/j/342411102>; Festival Shabbat service with Yizkor at 10:30 am at <https://bit.ly/339VbMq>; and “Havdalah with a Bonus” at 7 pm at <https://binghamton.zoom.us/j/526246866>.

Sunday, October 11: Sisterhood Paid-Up Program at 1 pm.
Friday, October 16: Shabbat services at 7 pm with Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell and Jason Flatt at <https://bit.ly/2Ev0Ovc>.

Saturday, October 17: Torah study at 9:15 am at <https://binghamton.zoom.us/j/342411102>. At 7 pm, Blessing of the Animals and Havdalah at <https://binghamton.zoom.us/j/526246866>.

Wednesday, October 21: At 7:30 pm, Jonathan Kaufman will speak about his book “The Last Kings of Shanghai : The Rival Jewish Dynasties that Helped Create Modern China.” Pre-registration is required at <https://templeetzchaim.shulecloud.com/form/kaufman>. For more information, see the article on page 3.

Friday, October 23: Shabbat services at 7 pm with Rabbi Goldman-Wartell and Jason Flatt at <https://bit.ly/2Ev0Ovc>.

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.

Rohr Chabad Center

Affiliation: Chabad-Lubavitch
Rabbi Aaron and Rivkah Slonim, Directors
E-mail: aslonim@binghamton.edu
slonim@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: rabbib@bethithaca.org and secretary@bethithaca.org
Website: www.tbethithaca.org
Presidents: David Weiner and Linda Aigen
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.

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

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.

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, October 9, light candles before 6:12 pm
Saturday, October 10, light candles after 7:11 pm
Sunday, October 11, yom tov ends 7:10 pm
Friday, October 16, light candles before 6:01 pm
Saturday, October 17, Shabbat ends 7 pm

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.twcbb.com
Website: www.templeisraelvestal.org
Service Schedule: Tuesday, 5:30 pm; Friday, 5:30 pm; Saturday, 9:30 am

On Fridays and Tuesdays at 5:30 pm, services will be led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown via Zoom.

On Saturday, October 10, Shacharit services will be held at 10:30 am via Zoom. The Torah portion is Deuteronomy 14:22-16:17 and the haftarah is I Kings 8:54-66. At 7 pm, there will be Havdalah services via Zoom. Both will be led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown.

On Sunday, October 11, at 12:30 pm, Rabbi Geoffrey Brown will lead Torah study services via Zoom.

The temple office will be closed Monday, October 12. Office hours for Tuesday-Wednesday, October 13-14, will be 2-4 pm.

On Saturday, October 17, Shacharit services will be held at 10:30 am via Zoom. The bar mitzvah of Michael Martinez will take place during the service. The Torah portion is Genesis 1:1-6:8 and the haftarah is Zechariah I Samuel 20:18-42. At 7 pm, there will be Havdalah services via Zoom. Both will be led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown.

On Sunday, October 18, at 12:30 pm, Rabbi Geoffrey Brown will lead Torah study services via Zoom.
A Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 20, at 7 pm on Zoom.

Penn-York Jewish Community

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

Temple Brith Sholom

Affiliation: Unaffiliated
Address: P.O. Box 572, 117 Madison St., Cortland, NY 13045
Phone: 607-756-7181
President: Carol Levine, 315-696-5744
Cemetery Committee, 315-696-5744
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Temple-Brith-Sholom-114006981962930/>
Service leaders: Lay leadership
Shabbat services: Either Friday evening at 7:30 pm or Saturday at 10 am from Rosh Hashanah to Shavuot. Holiday services are also held. Check the Facebook page or weekly e-mail for upcoming services. Contact the president to get on the e-mail list.
Religious School: Students are educated on an individual basis. Temple Brith Sholom is a small equalitarian congregation serving the greater Cortland community. Congregants span the gamut of observance and services are largely dependent on the service leader. The Friday night siddur is “Likrat Shabbat,” while the Saturday morning siddur is “Gates of Prayer.” The community extends a warm welcome to the Jewish student population of SUNY Cortland, as well as the residents of local adult residences.

Congregation Tikun 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.tikunvor.org
E-mail: info@tikunvor.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.

In settlement with U.S. Education Dept., NYU to revise its discrimination policy

By JNS staff

(JNS)—New York University has reached a settlement with the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Civil Rights following a complaint filed on behalf of a student that cited multiple antisemitic incidents on campus, the first agreement since U.S. President Donald Trump signed an executive order last December that designated antisemitism as a form of discrimination under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

Jewish Insider first reported recently on the settlement, which NYU agreed to on September 15. Terrence Nolan, NYU’s senior vice president, general counsel and secretary, signed the agreement, as did Timothy Blanchard, director of the Education Department’s New York office.

The agreement – highlighted in a September 25 letter from Blanchard to attorneys Joel Siegal and Neal Sher, who filed the complaint on behalf of current alumnus Adela Cojab – required the university, by September 30, to revise its “Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy” to “include a statement that the university prohibits discrimination on the bases of shared ancestry and ethnic characteristics, including anti-Semitism” in accordance with the executive order, which requires U.S. government agencies to consider the widely-accepted International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism.

The “Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy” has yet to be updated to include antisemitism as a form of discrimination.

It also requires the university to “take appropriate action to address and ameliorate discrimination and harassment based on shared ancestry and ethnic characteristics, including antisemitism that involves student clubs; issue a statement by the president of the university that the university does not tolerate acts of discrimination or harassment on the basis of shared ancestry and ethnic characteristics, including antisemitism.”

The university pledged to take disciplinary action against students who violated the policy.

Additionally, the resolution mandates that NYU, by October 31, “will continue its practice to meet with stu-

U.N. Continued from page 2

and Ehud Olmert (2008) had to tragically witness the intransigence of Palestinian leaders as they walked away from generous peace offers.

The institution’s decision to implement a moral equivalence during peace talks between the Middle East’s only liberal democracy and a brutal Palestinian dictatorship eroded any trust that Israel could bestow on United Nations to serve as a “fair” broker to peace – even more so as the world body remained relatively silent on matters concerning abuses of universal human rights by Palestinian leaders. For 15 years, the Palestinians in the West Bank have been subjected to a dictatorship spearheaded by Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas. Palestinian Christians have faced religious discrimination while members of the Palestinian LGBTQ community have been continually persecuted. Palestinian leaders have continually invested foreign aid, intended to develop social-welfare projects and assist the Palestinian economy, to fund the notorious pay-for-slay policy – providing perpetual salaries to Palestinian terrorists and their families.

The third obstacle presented by the United Nation’s “even-handed” approach was an established framework – based on a complete misunderstanding of the dominant geopolitics of the Middle East – that Israel could only solve the conflict with Palestinians through direct negotiations with the P.A. This was a view widely held by senior members of the Obama administration, most notably former U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, who made the following remarks at the 2016 Brookings Institution’s Annual Saban Forum: “I’ve heard several prominent politicians in Israel sometimes saying, well, the Arab world is in a different place now, we just have to reach out to them, and we can work some things with the Arab world, and we’ll deal with the Palestinians. No, no, no and no.”

Essentially, Israel’s path to peace with the Palestinians had to run through Ramallah, not Riyadh.

Trump’s ability to officialize the UAE’s and Bahrain’s decision to normalize ties with Israel, as well as Morocco and Saudi Arabia’s willingness to open their skies to the Jewish state, and public signs of hope by Sudan, Kuwait and Oman to recognize Israel’s right to exist, would prove the fallacy of this framework. Arab countries alone have the power to address Palestinian rejectionist attitudes toward peace. The brutality, corruption and stubbornness of the P.A. must be isolated, not victimized.

The failures of the United Nations will continue to harm Israelis and Palestinians alike. The Palestinian people deserve a leadership that will prioritize peace over terrorism, health over weapons, and the promise of a dignifying future over one filled with conflict and violence.

Yoni Michanie is a Ph.D. student at Northeastern University. He is a Middle East Analyst, Israel advocate and former IDF paratrooper. He can be reached on Twitter, @YoniMichanie.

dent club leaders” in which the university “will express its commitment to take all necessary actions, including pursuant to its student discipline process where appropriate, to address and ameliorate discrimination and harassment based on shared ancestry or ethnic characteristics, including antisemitism.”

The settlement is the result of an investigation the

Education Department opened into NYU in November in the aftermath of antisemitic incidents, such as two members of anti-Israel groups at NYU who were arrested for actions at an Israeli Independence Day party in April 2018 that included setting an Israeli flag on fire and also physically assaulted a celebrant who was singing Israel’s See “NYU” on page 12



Parents get help coaching teen drivers from NFL star

(NewsUSA) – As a parent, there is no shortage of things to worry about when it comes to your kids. If you have teenagers, that anxiety can rise even more, especially when they start to drive. Car crashes remain the top killer of teenagers in the United States, according to data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

To bring awareness of teen driver safety among teens and parents, tire manufacturer Michelin has teamed up with football legend – and father of a teen driver – Emmitt Smith in an educational campaign, “Coaching Your Teen Driver.”

“As parents, we play a critical role in coaching our teens to be safe drivers,” Smith says in a statement announcing the campaign in conjunction with National Teen Driver Safety Week. “Keeping a cool head on the road starts with a strategy and a plan – that’s where Michelin’s resources for coaching your teen driver can help.”

The campaign features a downloadable handbook that includes practical road safety advice for coaches and trainees, as well as a series of “offensive” and “defensive” driving plays to master with your teen driver. ♦ Offense: The handbook’s offensive driving plays are designed to build new drivers’ confidence on the road. Offensive plays include adjusting mirrors for maximum visibility, as well as changing lanes, passing other cars and merging smoothly onto highways safely and with confidence.

♦ Defense: Defensive driving maneuvers are essential for safety on the road. The handbook reinforces key defensive driving plays, such as how to manage tailgaters, drive safely near large trucks, keep a safe following distance and respond to changes in road conditions due to weather or other factors.

The handbook also emphasizes critical tips for coaches – such as knowing when to call a “time out” and pull over when stress levels rise, and the importance of conducting a “post-game analysis” with your teen

after the driving lesson to review what went well and where they can still improve.

In addition, a section on basic vehicle and tire maintenance includes information that teens should know to stay safe on the road, but that often are not taught in drivers’ education classes.

“Sharing even simple tips with teens, like how to maintain tires, could result in a few extra feet of stopping distance that could mean the difference between life and death,” Scott Clark, chief operating officer for Michelin North America, says in the statement.

Find more driving and tire safety information for teens – and download the full Coach’s Handbook – at www.MichelinMan.com/SharingSafety.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

Ex-Nazi hunter calls on Barr to block Erekat from entering U.S. for Harvard post

American attorney and ex-Nazi hunter Neal Sher has called on U.S. Attorney General Bill Barr to deny Palestine Liberation Organization Secretary-General Saeb Erekat entry into the United States to mentor students at Harvard University. In a Sept. 16 letter to Barr, Sher cited “an overwhelming amount of publicly available evidence” that Erekat has incited terrorism and set up a fund to reward the surviving families of Palestinian suicide bombers. “At a time when all nations are working to combat the scourge of terrorism, this ‘pay to slay’ policy does nothing but incentivize and encourage terror,” wrote Sher, former head of the federal Nazi-hunting Office of Special Investigations, to Barr. The Future of Diplomacy Project at Harvard Kennedy School’s Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs recently announced that Erekat will serve as one of four Fisher Family Fellows for the 2020-21 academic year. Sher said that Erekat is scheduled to arrive for in-person classes in the spring semester. All Harvard classes are currently online due to the coronavirus pandemic. Jewish and pro-Israel groups slammed the Belfer Center move. In a 2014 interview with Al Jazeera, Erekat stated: “I will never recognize Israel as a Jewish state.”

Gaza terrorists fire rocket into Israel; IDF hits Hamas outpost

The Israeli military on Oct. 5 conducted an airstrike against a Hamas outpost in the southern Gaza Strip in response to a rocket fired into Israeli territory earlier in the day, the military said in a statement. “We will protect Israeli civilians from terror,” the Israel Defense Forces posted on its official Twitter feed. No Israeli casualties or damage were reported. This was the first rocket fire from Gaza since Sept. 15, when terrorist forces in the Strip launched 15 rockets into Israel in response to the signing at the White House of the Abraham Accords peace agreements between Israel, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain.

Jewish groups to Congress: Increase security funding for religious institutions

Three Jewish organizations joined almost a dozen faith groups calling on Congress to increase security funding for religious institutions. The Orthodox Union, the Jewish Federations of North America and Agudath Israel of America joined eight other faith organizations to call on Congress to “dramatically increase” funding for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program (or NSGP) so that synagogues, churches, mosques and other houses of worship, as well as religious schools and other at-risk nonprofit entities, can bolster building security against the threat of attacks. In its letter to congressional leaders, the interfaith coalition called for quadrupling the annual allocation for the NSGP to \$360 million for fiscal year 2021 so that more institutions can be covered under the program. The groups claimed that the program’s \$90 million allocation for the past year left the majority of applicants empty-handed. The NSGP provides grants of up to \$100,000 each to nonprofits at risk of terrorist attacks so they may improve building security by acquiring and installing items ranging from fences, lighting and video surveillance to metal detectors and blast-resistant doors, locks and windows. Funding may also be used to train staff and pay for contracted security personnel. Such monies have become critical for the Jewish community in the aftermath of the October 2018 mass shooting at the Tree of Life*Or L’Simcha Synagogue in Pittsburgh, where 11 Jewish worshippers were killed; six months later, the April 27, 2019, shooting at Chabad of Poway in Southern California, where one woman was killed and three others injured; in addition to a string of antisemitic attacks last year in New York and New Jersey.

Holocaust survivor, diplomat and presidential adviser Richard Schifter dies at 97

Holocaust survivor, former U.S. diplomat and presidential adviser Richard Schifter died on Oct. 4 at the age of 97. Schifter was born in Vienna on July 31, 1923, and fled alone to America at the age of 15 after the Nazi takeover of Austria. Unable to obtain visas, the rest of his family was killed by the Nazis. He joined the U.S. army in 1943, fought the Nazis, served in the occupation forces after the war, and after his discharge in 1948 attended Yale Law School, graduating in 1951. During his legal career, he represented Native American tribes in disputes with the U.S. government. From 1981-82, Schifter was U.S. representative to the UNESCO Committee on Conventions and Recommendations, as well as alternate U.S. representative to the U.N. Human Rights Commission. From 1983-85, he served as U.S. representative to the U.N. Human Rights Commission, and from 1984-85 as deputy U.S. representative to the U.N. Security Council. Between 1985

and 1992, Schifter was assistant secretary of state for human rights and humanitarian affairs. Under President Bill Clinton, he served as special assistant to the president on the staff of the White House National Security Council and as a special adviser to the Secretary of State. Among his various honors, Schifter received the U.S. Secretary of State’s Distinguished Service Award, Austria’s Golden Honor Insignia with Star and the Order of Commander of Romania’s Star. “Ambassador Richard Schifter was a symbol of perseverance and strength who achieved much in his lifetime and worked endlessly on improving Israel’s position in the U.N.,” tweeted Israeli Foreign Ministry Director General Alon Ushpiz on Oct. 4. Schifter is survived by four of his five children. He was predeceased by his daughter, Barbara, in 2013, and his wife, Lilo, in 2019.

Jewish scientist awarded Nobel Prize for medicine

A Jewish scientist was one of three professors jointly awarded the 2020 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine on Oct. 5. Harvey J. Alter, along with Michael Houghton and Charles M. Rice, received the prestigious prize for the discovery of the hepatitis C virus. “For the first time in history, the disease can now be cured, raising hopes of eradicating hepatitis C virus from the world population,” said the committee in a statement, which announced the prize at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm. Alter, 85, is an intramural researcher at the U.S. National Institutes of Health. Houghton, who is in his 70s, is a virologist at the University of Alberta in Canada. Rice, 68, is a virology professor at Rockefeller University in New York. The three made seminal discoveries that led to the identification of a novel virus. Prior to their work, the discovery of hepatitis A and hepatitis B had been critical steps forward, though the majority of blood-borne hepatitis cases remained unexplained. The discovery of the hepatitis C virus revealed the cause of the remaining cases of chronic hepatitis, as well as made possible blood tests and new medicines that have saved millions of lives. Alter demonstrated that an unknown virus was a common cause of chronic hepatitis, while Houghton used an untested strategy to isolate the genome of the new virus that was named hepatitis C. Rice provided the final evidence showing that the hepatitis C virus alone could cause hepatitis. Liver inflammation – or hepatitis, a combination of the Greek words for liver and inflammation – is mainly caused by viral infections, although alcohol abuse, environmental toxins and autoimmune disease are also significant causes. Hepatitis A is transmitted by contaminated water or food, and generally has little long-term impact on the patient. Hepatitis B is transmitted through blood and bodily fluids, and represents a more serious threat as it can lead to a chronic condition with the development of cirrhosis or liver cancer.

Bipartisan bill introduced to ensure Israel’s military edge

Rep. Brad Schneider (D-IL) introduced bipartisan legislation to ensure Israel’s qualitative military edge (or QME) amid the Trump administration seeking to offer F-35 jets to the United Arab Emirates. The sale of the fighter jets comes in the aftermath of Abu Dhabi normalizing ties with the Jewish state. Introduced on Oct. 1, the bill stresses the requirement for congressional consultation on arms sales to the Middle East that could impact Israel’s QME. It would also require the president to consult with the Israeli government to ensure that concerns are settled and to submit a determination to Congress on the QME impact of a given sale within 60 days of its formal notification. Although it is already U.S. law that Israel retain a QME in the Middle East, Congress – and not Israel – decides whether arms sales to the region meet QME standards.

Israeli COVID-19 carrier indicted for attending rave

Israel’s Southern District Attorney’s Office submitted an indictment on Oct. 5 to the Beersheva Magistrate’s Court against a confirmed coronavirus patient who violated his quarantine to attend a rave – an organized dance party at an outdoor festival, warehouse or other private property or public space – the Hebrew news site 0404 reported on Oct. 5. The indictment – the first of its kind in Israel – stated that the 24-year-old defendant “intentionally committed an act that is liable to spread a disease with a mortal risk,” according to the report. The indictment further stated that the defendant knew he was infected with COVID-19 and was aware that he was endangering the health of the more than 20 other people at the party, which took place at Moshav Hodaya, near the southern Israeli coastal city of Ashkelon.

Boston Jewish Advocate ends weekly print publication

The Jewish Advocate announced the week of Sept. 25 it has ended publication of its print edition after 118 years. The Sept. 25 print edition will be the final print version, according to an announcement on its front page. The outlet cited declining advertising revenues and the COVID-19 pandemic as causes for the end of the print edition. “Please know that we have done everything in our power to continue for as long as possible, and it is with tears in our eyes that we concluded that our decision to suspend publication is a sad but necessary response to this crisis,” stated the announcement. The weekly newspaper was founded in 1902 by journalist and modern political Zionism leader Theodor Herzl. Plans are in the works to launch a digital edition that will continue to focus on the Jewish community, particularly in the Boston area, and the state of Israel. The publication did note that it has reached an agreement with the news database NewsBank to include archives of The Jewish Advocate in its library, thereby making it “accessible to the general public.” The outlet expects the archives to be available by next year.

Chad.Continued from page 9

young as 10 are often raped or forced into marriage. “We have already shipped 40 tons of high nutritional-value food and one container of medical equipment, and we’ll distribute that to orphanages and places that suffer malnutrition. And we’ll support the hospital there dealing with malaria cases.”

Lusky concludes, “It was a great honor to carry out a second mission, and especially the extraordinary cooperation with the National Security Council and Prime Minister’s Office and the chairman of the Chadi Cabinet.”

This article first appeared in ISRAEL21c.

NYU.Continued from page 11

national anthem, “Hatikvah.”

In December 2018, a student tweeted that he wanted “all Zionists to die,” which led to the closure of NYU’s Hillel for nearly 48 hours. NYU informed OCR of complaints of additional antisemitic incidents from the 2017-18 and 2019-20 academic years.

“We are pleased that the U.S. Department of Education has decided to end its review without finding any wrongdoing by NYU. NYU has long been understood as a place that is welcoming to and supportive of members of the Jewish community,” NYU spokesperson John Beckman told Jewish Insider. “For that reason, the university has

gladly agreed to several steps that would bolster our longstanding commitment to opposing and responding to antisemitism.”

Alyza Lewin, president of the Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law, said in a statement that the agreement confirms the importance of the Executive Order. “This is an extraordinary development, a victory for all Jews and a defeat of antisemitism that will undoubtedly improve the climate on NYU’s campus,” she said. “Other universities that are serious about combating antisemitism should follow suit and similarly incorporate the IHRA working definition into their university policies.”

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