

THE REPORTER

Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton

BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK

December 18-31, 2020
Volume XLIX, Number 39

Federation 2020: the year in review

By Reporter staff

When Shelley Hubal was looking forward to her first full year as Federation executive director at the beginning of 2020, she was filled with energy and hope for the



The Federation held a "Conversation with Michael Oren" on Zoom on December 7. Michael Oren, who once served as Israel's ambassador to the United States, spoke about his book of short stories "The Night Archer and Other Stories." Oren (shown in large screen) also answered questions from the audience.

upcoming year. "I was so excited about the things I wanted to accomplish," said Hubal. "I had so many great plans for events we were going to hold. Then the pandemic hit. Yet, we still managed to accomplish a great deal before and after the closures occurred."

In January, the Federation held a community gathering in response to antisemitic attacks that were occurring in the U.S. Area rabbis and community leaders led the gathering in song and prayer. Hubal noted the purpose of the event was "to recognize our freedom and rejoice in the loving community spirit we have here in Binghamton. We wanted to stand together as proud Jewish people and show that love wins over hate."

Although the Chesed Challenge brunch, which was to include a concert, was cancelled due to the pandemic, the Chesed Challenge, which ran from the end of March through April, still raised \$10,000 to meet a matching grant. The Federation's new website, www.jfgeb.org, went live in April. Even though

the in-person Film Fest was cancelled, the Fest showed three films online. It also held live virtual discussions about the films the Monday after each showing.

To help keep the community connected, the Federation took part in a virtual Yom Hashoah event on April 20 and held a gathering called "Strengthen Ourselves, Strengthen Each Other" on June 14. The event was a way for the community to come together and to offer comfort and connection to those who were feeling isolated.

The Federation launched its 2021 Campaign on October 18 with a Super Safe Super Sunday. The theme of the Campaign this year is "Socially Distant, Spiritually Connected." On November 30, the Federation held a virtual "Conversation with Michael Oren," a former Israeli ambassador to the U.S., who talked about his book of short stories "The Night Archer and Other Stories."

The Federation closed its year with an in-person Hanukkah drive-up event complete with the candle lighting of a nine-foot menorah; and gelt and doughnuts passed out to people in their cars. The event also included live Hanukkah music. "We thought it was a wonderful way to unite our community and bring some light to the end of a dark year," said Hubal. "Plus, it will be fun to look back in history and say we did a COVID safe event in our cars! Very 2020."



Rabbi Levi Slonim tested the menorah that was lit for the Federation's drive-up Hanukkah event on December 13.

Hubal noted that this was not the end of pandemic programming. "We are already looking ahead to 2021. The Film Fest Committee has met and we plan to do several more virtual films this winter and have tentatively planned an in-person film for late spring. So there is plenty to look forward to.

"Although the year did not go as originally planned, I'm pleased with all we were able to accomplish," Hubal said. "This community pulled together and showed its spirit. I'm looking forward to keeping us connected during the remainder of the pandemic and seeing everyone in person once the pandemic is over."



A screenshot of some of those attending the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton's "Conversation with Michael Oren" on Zoom on December 7. Dora Polachek (second box in the left hand column), associate professor of romance languages and literatures at Binghamton University, was the moderator. Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Federation who introduced the program, is shown in the second box on the top row.



More than 40 cars attended the Federation drive-up Hanukkah event that took place in the JCC parking lot. Shown are some of the attendees talking before the event began.

Gifts of all sizes invited to help rebuild TC's Kilmer Mansion terraces

Temple Concord has launched a matching gifts campaign to preserve and restore the Kilmer Mansion. Donations will help restore the collapsed terrace that faces Riverside Drive and the adjacent covered porch.

"The campaign is off to an amazing start. In just a few days, 50 generous donors gave upwards of \$7,700," said Lisa Blackwell, Temple Concord president.

"It's wonderful to see such an outpouring support. The mansion is a community treasure, and it will take a community effort to ensure its future."

"Kilmer Mansion is the most iconic building on Riverside Drive and people are always curious about it. To preserve it and make it available to the public would be good stewardship, as well as a way to

show hospitality toward the community at large," said Robin Hazen, Temple Concord trustee, noting this sentiment is shared by many members of Temple Concord and people across the Binghamton community. Prior to the pandemic, Temple Concord was offering regular tours and events to share the "historic gem" with the many people who have wanted to visit, and hopes to

resume these activities soon.

All gifts given in December will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$30,000. Donations can be made by check, payable to Temple Concord, 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905 (note Kilmer Mansion Fund). Gifts can also be made online at <https://rb.gy/nozqdw> or by texting GIVE to 607-228-8005.

The Reporter matches matching grant

By Reporter staff

The Reporter announced that it matched its \$500 matching grant, raising more than \$2,400. The grant is courtesy of the David and Virginia Eisenberg Fund.

"We are thrilled that we more than made the grant," said Rabbi Rachel Esserman, executive editor of The Reporter. "We owe a special thank you to the David and Virginia Eisenberg Fund that was gracious

enough to offer the grant."

Esserman noted that "with so many newspapers – Jewish and secular – going under or appearing only online, we are thrilled with the support we have received from the community. I'd like to thank Shelley Hubal for helping us arrange the grant. My production associate, Christi Sturdevant, created a beautiful ad on our website, which allowed people to give easily

online, and a wonderful 'Giving Tuesday' ad for the hard-copy paper that encouraged people to give."

Esserman gave additional thanks to three community members who agreed to appear in the Giving Tuesday ad. "My thanks to Rachel Coker, Rebecca Kahn and Merri Pell-Preus for their kind words about the paper," she added. "It's wonderful to know our hard work is appreciated."

Although the matching grant is over, Esserman noted that the paper is still accepting donations. "With the ongoing pandemic and the decrease in advertising it's causing, every penny is appreciated," she said. Donations can still be made online at The Reporter Group website, www.thereportergroup.org, or by mailing donations to The Reporter, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

COVID-19

Israeli researchers have created a non-invasive ventilator to treat multiple COVID patients at once. Page 4

Normalizing ties to Israel

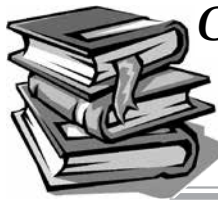
Bhutan and Morocco have agreed to normalize diplomatic ties with Israel. Page 7

News in brief...

Senators push for more nonprofit security funds; Senate won't block military sales to UAE; and more. Pages 7-8

Special Sections

Book Review 2
Safe Driving 4-5
Dine Out 7
Classifieds 8



Off the Shelf

The Bible through Jewish and Christian eyes

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

When someone who doesn't understand Hebrew asks me what is the most accurate translation of the Bible, I find it difficult to suggest just one work. If you are really interested in the meaning of the words, the best way to study is to compare two or three translations. Where the translations agree, it's fairly safe to assume that no one is arguing about the meaning of those verses. Seeing where they disagree – use different words or have a different sentence structure – means the text is more problematic and not everyone agrees on its meaning.

All translation is interpretation, something noted in two recent works: Leonard Greenspoon's "Jewish Bible Translations: Personalities, Passion, Politics, Progress" (The Jewish Publication Society) and "The Bible With and Without Jesus: How Jews and Christians Read the Same Stories Differently" by Amy-Jill Levine and Marc Zvi Brettler (HarperOne). Greenspoon, a professor at Creighton University, examines a wide variety of Jewish translations from ancient Greco-Roman times to the present day. While

Levine, a professor at Vanderbilt Divinity School, and Brettler, a professor at Duke University, agree that every translation is an interpretation, their focus is on how one's worldview and religious beliefs affect one's understanding of the text. In their work, they compare and contrast the different ways Jews and Christians see and interpret the Bible.

Although Greenspoon's book has a narrower range in that it's interested only in Jewish translations, he does note one large difference between the way that Jews and Christians view the biblical text. Even though not every Jew can read the Bible in its original Hebrew, the Hebrew text is considered extremely important, with both traditional and nontraditional contemporary Jewish movements reading from a Hebrew Torah scroll during religious services. He believes that unlike "contemporary Christians for whom the Bible is a Bible in translation, not the Bible in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek... no Jewish Bible translation is intended as a practical or implicit replacement of the original. Jewish Bibles point to the original rather than

attempt to replace it. In other words, they supplement but never supplant the original Hebrew."

Greenspoon discusses two major styles of translation – formal vs. functional – although the division is not complete since translators often use both styles in their work. Formal translations were once called literal translations – those that try to keep the same grammatical and sentence structure as the original Hebrew. Functional translations first look to understand what the text meant to its original readers and then use modern language to obtain that meaning even if their translation differs in syntax. Greenspoon notes that some translations add material that was not in the original text in order to explain the meaning of a verse, or change the format of the text from prose to poetry, or poetry to prose. He ponders whether these works should be called translations rather than reinterpretations, but offers a few examples from them so readers can see just how greatly they differ from other types of translations.

See "Bible" on page 7

Opinion

From the Desk of the Federation Executive Director

With gratitude

SHELLEY HUBAL

Good-bye 2020! This year, we saw the impeachment trial of Donald Trump, a worldwide pandemic that has killed hundreds of thousands of U.S. lives alone and sent our economy into a tailspin, a divisive U.S. presidential election like no other, and nationwide unrest as we struggle to define ourselves in a new era of equality and racism sparked by the murder of George Floyd. I don't know about you, but I am exhausted.

To juxtapose the chaos of 2020, allow me to take a moment and share what, from my perspective, are some of the brighter spots this year held and some of the things for which I am most grateful. It might sound trite, but modern video technology is top of my list of things that have been valuable in 2020. For many, Zoom fatigue is real, but we would not have functioned in this year of isolation – to hold meetings, gatherings, services and family get-togethers – without this technology.

Good health: If you are fortunate enough to have your

health, this is the time to give thanks. I pray that our community gets to the other side of the COVID crisis without any more major outbreaks. With all the darkness of this time, a bright spot for me is hearing the countless stories of Americans pitching in to help one another. Generosity of spirit is the antidote for isolation and despair. Despite all the divisiveness, I am so very grateful to live in this generous country that enjoys so many freedoms.

On the home-front, there is much for which to give thanks. Most notable is that the pandemic has forced the pace of my life to slow down. No longer rushing out of the house every morning to get to work, I enjoy chatting with my kids over breakfast and sharing a laugh or two during the day. Both of my progeny are in their early 20s and I treasure this time we share. I know someday they will leave the nest for good.

Lastly, the Federation seems to be weathering this year in good shape. We have a board that is committed to raising

funds and distributing them in a responsible fashion. *The Reporter*, Jewish Family Service and Federation staff have all worked hard during this difficult time and have not missed a beat when it came to transitioning to work from home. I am immensely grateful for all of their professionalism. The Campaign for 2021 is not as robust as we would have wanted, but in these uncertain times I am pleased with the progress we have made. Thank you to all that have pledged.

We have managed to hold several successful virtual events this year. Most recently, we hosted the former Israel ambassador to the U.S., Michael Oren, for a Zoom conversation about his new book, "The Night Archer and Other Stories." My thanks to Dora Polachek for her wonderful moderating skills and for all who attended to make it a success.

As we close this year with Chanukah, let us all remember that we can always transform the dark into light. I am sending you all my best wishes for a safe and happy year to come.

In My Own Words

Slogans and nuance

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Slogans can be great: a few words or a short phrase can give us the essence of a matter. Sometimes, though, they can be counterproductive, especially if you think about them in any depth. After all, what does "Coke: It's the real thing" mean? We think we know because the ads featuring it leave us feeling upbeat. That's great if everyone feels the same way. However, that's not true with all slogans. Sometimes people understand them in very different ways.

These thoughts came to me after reading the comments former President Barack Obama made about the words "Defund the Police." He called the phrase a slogan and suggested its use created a backlash that cost Democrats votes in the last election. The outcry from the left made it clear that to them the phrase was not a slogan, but rather represented the loss of human life, particularly people of color who were killed by police violence. I agree that to them the phrase relates directly to violence and the changes needed to end systemic racism. But what they also have to realize is that not everyone hears and understands the term that way because the actual words can mean more than one thing.

Do the words "defund the police" mean closing down

police forces across the country with nothing to replace them? While I don't believe that anyone is actually suggesting that, that is what some people hear because that is what the words say. Instead, supporters of defunding the police are talking about something different: that some of the funds should go for specialists who are better able to handle those suffering from mental illness or developmental disabilities, those whom police are not trained to handle. The money could be used to fund programs that would prevent drug abuse, domestic abuse and child abuse, which could prevent crime before it happens. But when only three words are used to explain those complex ideas, people misunderstand.

I agree with Obama that some Democratic losses were due to the fact that liberal and moderate Democrats were portrayed as dangerous radicals and as anti-police. That's what occurred in my congressional district. My congressman, whom I think is barely a moderate, got slandered as a radical and someone who wanted to defund the police. That also happened to many others. From what I've read, it was members of the working class that voted against those branded this way because this class wants a police

force to protect them. They are concerned about family and religion, and worried about having enough money to pay their bills. And they voted based on those concerns.

The irony is some of those concerns – particularly safety and economic security – are shared by those who are behind the campaign known as Defund the Police. They want people of color to be safe walking the streets, driving a car or sitting in their homes. They want to be able feed their families and keep them safe – no matter what shape or form they come in. We are all looking to live good secure lives, but somehow we've lost the ability to communicate that to each other. We've let words come between us because we no longer understand the nuances behind those words and reject them before we take the time to truly understand what they mean.

We need to be very careful with the words we use. We need to make certain that our message is clear and easy to understand. We must acknowledge the fears, hopes and dreams of those who look different from us while accepting the fact that we are all just humans struggling to survive. Only then will we be able to work together to make the U.S. the nation it could and should be.



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER BINGHAMTON

Suzanne Holwitt, President
Shelley Hubal, Executive Director

607-724-2332 ~ www.jfgeb.org

The Reporter Editorial Committee

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

HOW TO REACH THE REPORTER

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

E-mail ~ TRReporter@aol.com

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

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

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

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

OPINIONS

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

LETTERS

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

ADS

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

DEADLINE

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

Executive Editor Rabbi Rachel Esserman
Layout Editor Diana Sochor
Advertising 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

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

www.thereporter.org

Jewish resources to occupy your family during social distancing – part 27

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 National Museum of Jewish American History will hold a virtual version of its annual fun day on December 25. This year's event is called "Being ---- at Christmas." It will begin at 10 am with a live concert. Other activities will be available throughout the day. Link to those activities will be made available on that day at www.nmajh.org/December25/ or on the museum's Facebook page.

◆ Registration for Pardes Institute for Jewish Studies spring 2021 is open. Classes include "Halakha in an Egalitarian Age, Women and Kaddish, Tefilin, Megilla Reading, Hair Covering and more"; "A Shattered World: from WWI to the rise of the State of Israel"; "The Changing Face of Self and Society in the 21st Century"; "David and 1 Saul: Jealousy, Pursuit and the Challenge of Morality (II Samuel)"; Highlights of the weekly Daf Yomi: Massechet Pesachim"; "How does Halakha Work?"; and "Israeli Poetry as a Window to Israeli Society and History." For more information (including times and cost) or to register, visit <https://www.tfaforms.com/4842665>.

◆ Progressive Judaism held a series of webinars called "Conversations with Israel and Palestine." Recordings of them may be found at www.progressiveisrael.org/what-we-do/conversations-with-israel-palestine/.

◆ ALEPH will hold the webinar "World is Changing and We Are Changing, Too: An Intergenerational Conversation for This Moment with Kohenet Keshira haLev Fife and Rabbi Eva Sax-Bolder." To sign up for the Sunday, December 20, session, which will be held from 7-8:15 pm, visit <https://aleph.org/civcrm/event/register?reset=1&id=314>. To sign up for the Sunday, January 3, session, which will be held from 7-8:15 pm, visit <https://aleph.org/civcrm/event/register?reset=1&id=315>.

◆ ALEPH will hold "Light It Up: A Chanukah Concert with Mikey Pauker" on Sunday, December 13, from 7:30-8:30 pm. The program will be hosted by Rabbinic Pastor/Cantor Lisa Levine. For more information or to register, visit <https://aleph.org/civcrm/event/register?reset=1&id=320>.

◆ The ninth annual Adrienne Cooper Dreaming in Yiddish Memorial Concert and Award event will be streamed from the Museum of Jewish Heritage Safra Hall, and broadcast exclusively through Yiddish New York on Sunday, December 27, at 8 pm. For more information, visit www.yiddishnewyork.com. To purchase at ticket, visit www.eventbrite.com/e/yiddish-new-york-evening-events-sunday-tickets-127787211991.

OF NOTE

Grant



Dr. Matthew Grant

Dr. Matthew Grant – the son of Dr. Ron and Lesley Grant, formerly of Vestal – has been elected an IDSA fellow by the Infectious Diseases Society of America. Fellowship in the society is a recognition of and honor conferred upon those who have achieved professional excellence in the field of infectious diseases. It is the society's way of identifying leaders within its ranks and the distinction indicates that Grant has progressed beyond the hard work associated with earning a doctoral level degree. Grant is an assistant professor at the Yale School of Medicine, where he teaches and attends on the ID service with interests in travel and transplant medicine. He also serves on the COVID team. In addition, Grant was the recent recipient of the Outstanding Didactic Teacher Award, an honor voted on by students at Yale School of Medicine.



DEADLINES

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

ISSUE	DEADLINE
January 1-14, 2021	December 21*
January 15-28	January 6
January 29-February 11	January 20
February 12-25	February 3

All deadlines for the year can be found at www.thereportergroup.org/contact-us/faqs

◆ The 2021 YIVO-Bard Winter Program on Ashkenazi Civilization, "At the Turning Point," will be held online from January 5-22. The deadline for registration is Monday, December 28. It will explore moments of critical transformation throughout the 20th century and beyond, while consider key inflection points in the realms of politics and culture. Among the topics to be covered are Stalin's seizure of power and the growth of tyranny throughout the world; Yiddish children's literature; the work of Argentine writer, essayist and poet Jorge Luis Borges; Ashkenazi heritage at the Metropolitan Museum of Art; and the deliberate destruction of books across millennia. For more information or to register, visit <https://yivo.org/Winter-Program>.

◆ The Jewish Publication Society will offer its "New Author Webinar Series, Part II: 'Antisemitism and the Holocaust: New Dimensions'" free on Zoom. The sessions are Mordecai Paldiel: "Saving One's Own: Jewish Rescuers during the Holocaust," on Monday, January 11; Salo Aizenberg: "HateMail: Antisemitism in Picture Postcards" on Monday, January 18; Mark Glickman: "Stolen Words: The Nazi Plunder of Jewish Books" on Monday, January 25; and Raphael Medoff: "The Jews Should Keep Quiet – FDR, Rabbi Stephen Wise and the Holocaust" on Thursday, February 11. All sessions are 7:30-8:30 pm. To register, e-mail office@jps.org specifying which session one wants to attend and an invitation will be sent.

◆ The Siegal Lifelong Learning program at Case Western Reserve University will offer a variety of lectures during 2021. Upcoming courses include "Healing and Wholeness

in a World That Seems Broken" with Gila Silverman on Thursdays, January 7-28, from 2-3:30 pm; "The Revolution/ Evolution of Women Learning Torah in Trans-Denominational Judaism" with Moria Ran Ben Hai on Wednesdays, January 20-February 10, from 1:30-3 pm; "Grand Opera – A Jewish Fantasy: Meyerbeer and Halevy in Focus" with Larry Josefovitz on Wednesdays, February 3-24, from 1-3 pm; and "Law and the Holocaust in Film" with Cathy Lesser Mansfield on Tuesdays, February 9-March 2, from 11:30 am-1 pm. For more information or additional course listings, visit <https://case.edu/lifelonglearning/courses/whole>.

◆ ORT Florida Region will hold a virtual book and author event with Leslie Barry, author of the novel "Newark Men," which was inspired by the real life story of a Jewish boxer who was trained by the mafia and FBI to fight the rising American Nazi party. The event will take place on Thursday, January 14, at 3 pm. The cost is \$40 and a question-and-answer period is included. For more information or to register, visit <https://events.idonate.com/book-author-leslie-barry>.

◆ ALEPH will hold "Dreams, Oracles, Predictions, and a Party!" with Rabbi Geela Rayzel Raphael and friends on Thursday, December 31, beginning at 8 pm. The program fee is "pay what you can." The evening will be divided into sections: the first section is about dreams and prophecy; the second section will be devoted to predictions and oracles for Divine Guidance for the incoming year; and the third section will include *Havdalah* and a party. To register, visit <https://aleph.org/civcrm/event/register?reset=1&id=326>.

See "Resources" on page 8

The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to Sherry Cohen on the death of her husband,
G. Paul Cohen
The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to the family of
Shirley Gilinsky

Real Estate Services
SUZANNE L. KRAUSE
 Licensed Associate Real Estate Broker
 Cell: 607.760.3366
 Office: 607.772.1177
 Fax: 607.772.2435
suekrause@howardhanna.com
howardhanna.com

THE REPORTER GROUP
 is seeking a part-time Advertising Representative.
 Resumes should be e-mailed to: rachel@thereportergroup.org with "advertising representative" in the subject line.

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!
 For information on advertising, contact Kathy Brown 724-2360, ext. 244 or advertising@thereportergroup.org
 THE REPORTER

Annual Campaign 2021
KEEP OUR VOLUNTEERS SAFE. MAKE YOUR PLEDGE EARLY!
 Your gift is more important than ever. Do a Mitzvah! Please pledge early.
 You can make your pledge 3 ways:

- 1) Visit the Federation website at www.jfjb.org and click on "make a pledge."
- 2) E-mail Federation Executive Director Shelley Hubal at director@jfjb.org with "pledge" in the subject line.
- 3) Fill out the form in this ad and mail it to the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850

Mail this form to:
Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850

Name: _____
 Street Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____
 Zip Code: _____
 Phone number: _____
 Amount of pledge: _____

SOCIALLY DISTANT,
Spiritually Connected
 Jewish Federation OF GREATER BINGHAMTON
Annual Campaign 2021

Israeli ventilation system may give COVID-19 the “smart” treatment

By Israel Hayom staff

(Israel Hayom via JNS) – An Israeli startup’s groundbreaking innovation may provide a much-needed remedy to the shortage of ventilators and the overwhelming of staff in COVID-19 wards.

“Yehonatan Medical, in collaboration with Professor Ori Efrati, director of the Pediatric Pulmonary Unit at the Sheba Medical Center at Tel HaShomer, devised a state-of-the-art, first-of-its-kind ventilation system that can treat between three and five patients simultaneously. “That means more patients treated by fewer ICU staff,” the company said in a statement.

“Conventional ventilators, aside from being very costly, are limited in that they can only be used with one patient at a time,” explained Efrati. “Their capacity factor and programming functions were designed for single-patient use, and there is also the danger of cross-contamination.”

According to Efrati, “We were able to use the relatively simple and inexpensive BipaP non-invasive ventilation machine as the basis for the Advanced Ventilation Technology.” He added that “thanks to the high-power output and built-in disinfecting mechanism, the new system can safely treat three to five patients simultaneously.”

Efrati declared the new development a “tremendous breakthrough is nothing less than a game-changer.”

The startup said that additional features based on artificial intelligence technology include the ability to create a hierarchy and classification of alerts; the ability for automatic parameter correction according to set criteria and respiratory rehabilitation for the patient by adjusting to changes in the patient’s responsiveness.

Yehonatan Medical is the medical department of Mofet Etzion, a company that for more than two decades has developed various security and military innovations

for the Israel Defense Forces.

This article first appeared in Israel Hayom.



The coronavirus ward of the Kaplan Medical Center in Rehovot on December 11. (Photo by Yossi Aloni/Flash90)



It pays to prep your tires for winter roads

(NewsUSA) – Driving safely in the winter can be a challenge, even for the most experienced driver. In fact, an alarming three in five winter drivers (61 percent) have lost control of their car during winter weather, according to a new winter driving survey by Michelin.

It comes as no surprise, then, that three-quarters of respondents reported feeling nervous on winter roads (77 percent), with 64 percent of drivers saying they avoid winter driving altogether if the forecast predicts snow. But you don’t have to avoid getting in your car in the winter. With a little preparation – starting from the ground up (literally) – you can travel safely even when the weather is less than ideal.

“Tires are one of the least-discussed safety devices on your vehicle, so many consumers aren’t aware of just how much they contribute to keeping you safe on the road,” says Ron Margadonna, Michelin winter tire expert.

Michelin urges all drivers to use the proper tires for their seasonal climate. Most cars these days come outfitted with

all-season tires, but if you live in an area with severe winter conditions (heavy snow, ice or freezing temps), they may not be sufficient.

All-season tires are designed to perform well in a large range of conditions, but aren’t built to handle winter’s worst.

Alternatively, winter tires are designed to perform better in a wide range of wintry conditions, such as wet roads, snow, ice and freezing temps. They also improve your vehicle’s grip and performance in these conditions and shorten your braking distances for better safety.

For winter driving safety at all times, practice these tips:

1. Inspect your lights: Examine your headlights and brake lights to ensure that they’re fully functioning. This is especially important during winter fogs or heavy snow.

2. Make sure your wipers are in proper working condition: Buy washer fluid with antifreeze solution to protect visibility and ensure that windshield blades are in good working order.

3. Always have an Emergency Kit: Carry an emergency kit with gloves, blanket, flares, a shovel, flashlight, water, extra batteries and cell phone charger, as well as an emer- See “Tires” on page 5

DeMunn Funeral Home
 36 Conklin Avenue, Binghamton
 722-8800
 www.demunnfh.com

**DRIVE SOBER
 DRIVE SAFE**

Since 1931.....
Giving Dignity to Man

TIMOTHY SZCZESNY
 DONNAMARIE OLIVIERI
 Directors

DON'T LET ALCOHOL GET BEHIND THE WHEEL

When alcohol is the driver, nobody's safe! It doesn't take a large amount to do a lot of damage. Even one drink can cloud judgment and slow reflexes enough to hamper fast thinking and total control at the wheel. At holidays when many people celebrate "to the limit", steer clear of disaster. If you take a drink, don't take the driver's seat...and make it a safe and happy holiday weekend!

This Safety Message Sponsored By:

- Barber Memorial Home
- Binghamton Rumble Ponies
- Broome County Sheriff's Corrections Officers Local 2012
- Broome County DWI
- Chris Palmer, agent –State Farm Insurance
- Coleman & Daniels Funeral Home
- Gary Wilcox's Towing & Automotive
- Miller Auto Team
- Savitch Agency
- Temple Israel Riverside Cemetery Committee
- Tioga County Stop DWI

DON'T TALK OR TEXT WHEN DRIVING!

A MESSAGE FROM
THE REPORTER GROUP

DON'T DRINK & DRIVE
 A community service message from
Binghamton Police Benevolent Association

M Matthews Auto

 **Jews in Sports**

Benny Friedman, part II: The Jewish football superstar turned tragic hero

BILL SIMONS

As discussed in a previous issue of *The Reporter*, Benny Friedman emerged in the 1920s as football's first Jewish superstar. Collegiate sensation at Michigan and the NFL's first great passer, he subsequently accepted the position as head football coach at CCNY at the bequest of New York City booster-mayor Fiorello LaGuardia. At CCNY, Friedman did as well as he probably could have with a resource-scarce football team at an institution better suited for scholarship, left-wing politics and the then more Jewish-centric game of basketball. In his late 30s, Friedman left CCNY to enlist in the Navy. Rising to the rank of lieutenant commander, his three years of World War II service included duty aboard the aircraft carrier *Shangri-La* in the Pacific. Friedman, still only 40 at war's end, found inviting business and coaching opportunities beckoning. Achievement and celebrity had defined the first half of Friedman's life. Triumph and then tragedy would punctuate the second act.

The year 1948 was a momentous one in Jewish history. For the first time in nearly 1,900 years, a Jewish homeland took its place among the nations of the world. Another dream was also realized. Named after the groundbreaking Jewish Supreme Court justice, Brandeis University – America's first Jewish-sponsored, liberal arts university – opened its doors in Waltham, MA. Previously, American Jews had founded yeshivas and rabbinical schools, but never before a non-sectarian college that would welcome qualified faculty and students regardless of their religious backgrounds.

Abram Sachar, the founding president of Brandeis University, believed that a viable athletic program was essential to the new school. Sports, Sachar felt, would underline Brandeis' American identity, providing an antidote to the then popular image of an over intellectual, physically ineffectual Jewry. Just as Sachar recruited big names to give other departments instant credibility, he persuaded Friedman, then 44 and the recipient of other more lucrative options, to accept the position of Brandeis' founding athletic director in 1949. Negotiating reciprocity, Friedman cajoled a reluctant Sachar, concerned about the anti-intellectual emotions that the gridiron oft elicited, to acquiesce to a football program.

By 1950, Friedman had a freshman football team up

and running. In their first game, the newly minted Brandeis Judges defeated Harvard, America's oldest and most prestigious university, 3-0. Sachar, who attended Brandeis' debut game, claimed, at the time, that the victory had generated more public kudos than "a Pulitzer Prize for literature" would have.

By autumn 1951, Friedman produced a varsity football team that posted a 4-5 won-lost mark in its maiden season. In 1952, the Brandeis Judges improved to a 5-2-1 mark. The 1957 football team boasted a 6-1 record. Leading squads composed of scholar-athletes, Friedman did a remarkable job with the talent at hand. Many of Brandeis' gridiron opponents, such as Boston University and Northeastern, had much larger enrollments.

Brandeis football games attracted good crowds, generated a lot of positive publicity and encouraged Greater Boston Jewry to regard themselves as honorary alumni. Save for Sachar himself, Friedman was Brandeis' top fund-raiser. Donations allowed for the construction of quality athletic facilities. Still robust and virile, Coach Friedman led the football team in calisthenics. Confident of his own abilities and the direction of the program, Friedman dreamed that Brandeis would develop into a major athletic power.

Despite the aspirations of Benny Friedman, others feared that the continued growth of athletics would weaken the academic atmosphere at Brandeis. Critics voiced misgivings about Friedman's fund-raising activities. On the small Brandeis campus, special attention to athletes created resentment amongst many faculty and students. Support for football was curtailed. Athletic scholarships were limited, then abolished, although commitments to students already at the college were honored. As a result, in 1959, the football team, which had gone 6-1 only two years before, suffered through a miserable 0-7-1 season. For the proud and talented, Friedman, autumn 1959 inflicted considerable pain.

Friedman, however, remained vocal in his support for the football program, arguing that "a new generation of Jewish youngsters... want to come to a school that will give off an image to the general public that this is an American school." When I asked Sachar about Friedman's tone throughout the debate, he replied, "Benny Friedman had a temper."

The 1959 season marked the end of Brandeis football. On May 16, 1960, the following announcement was made: "Brandeis University today announced the unanimous decision of its Board of Trustees in discontinuing varsity football."

Although Friedman didn't resign as Brandeis athletic director until 1963 and continued to coach the golf team, he felt betrayed. After his resignation, Friedman, formerly a ubiquitous presence at Brandeis, never again set foot on campus. Subsequently, he conducted a general summer camp, called Kohut, in Maine and then operated successful quarterback camps in New Jersey, Wisconsin, Nebraska and California.

Nonetheless, a certain bitterness colored Friedman's latter life. He and his wife, Shirley, were childless, and Friedman sometimes felt his past achievements were unappreciated. After the NFL excluded Friedman and other pioneer players from pension benefits, he denounced the league for "brashness and arrogance beyond belief." Perhaps in retaliation for those words, Friedman's Pro Football Hall of Fame induction was detoured until after his death. And Brandeis' abolition of football continued to fester with Friedman.

In 1974, circulatory and other maladies necessitated amputation of the 74-year-old Friedman's left leg. The once great athlete confided, "I have an abhorrence of being a sloppy physical specimen." Overwhelmed by depression, Friedman, aged 76, died, according to *The New York Times*, from "a self-inflicted gunshot wound" on November 24, 1982.

The historian Richard Hofstadter wrote that "the life of a man does not end as a series of propositions that can simply be assessed and found true or false, but as a set of lingering resonances that for our own sake we must be attuned to hear." It is well to remember the pride that fellow Jews took in Benny Friedman's collegiate and professional football heroics, as well as his pivotal role in establishing Brandeis as the first non-sectarian university founded by the Jewish-American community.

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.



Tires Continued from page 4
gency contact list with important phone numbers.

4. Check your battery: Battery capacity is decreased significantly by cold weather. Before the winter months, have your mechanic check it to ensure that it's at peak performance. It's also a good idea to carry jumper cables in your car, should you ever need someone to give you a boost.

For more tips and information, visit www.michelinman.com.

LEARN TO DRIVE NOW!



**5 Hour Courses
3 Times a Week at
Our Central Location**

- Private Driving Lessons
- Point Insurance • Reduction Classes

**284 Main St., Johnson City, NY
or Owego, NY**

Call 797-7776
Gift Certificates Available

www.baxtersdriving.com

All Mechanical & Collision Repair

Nu-Look Collision
The Results Are In Our Name

24/7 Towing - 1036 Upper Front St.
607-722-0484



Press & Sun-Bulletin
READERS' CHOICE
Awards

**DRIVE SOBER
OR
GET PULLED OVER**

 **VESTAL
POLICE**

BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

**HOPLER & ESCHBACH
FUNERAL HOME**
"A new family tradition"

 *Personal Service
Professionalism
Experience You Can Trust* 

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

Kurt M. Eschbach, Funeral Director
483 Chenango Street Binghamton
607-722-4023
www.HEfuneralhome.com

Please let a non-drinker drive
so everyone gets home alive!

Drive Safely!

The Southern Tier's Most
Talented & Trusted Family Owned Memorialist


 **BINGHAMTON
JOHNSON CITY**
MONUMENT COMPANY

Studio & Display

103 Burbank Ave., Johnson City
Conveniently Located Between Riverside Dr. & Floral Ave.

 **607-797-2922** 
www.BinghamtonMemorials.com

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



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

Joseph Fritsch
Managing Director

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

parsonsfuneral@yahoo.com
www.ParsonsFuneral.com

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

Visit us on the web at www.thereportergroup.org



Miketz, Genesis 41:1-44:17

Facial recognition

RABBI SUZANNE BRODY, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH PROGRAMMING,
TEMPLE BETH-EL, ITHACA

One of the most important skills for forming and maintaining relationships with another person rests on our ability to distinguish one person from another. Being able to tell who someone is allows us to retrieve memories of previous encounters and to use those as a guide for current and future interactions. To do this, we frequently rely on facial recognition as a means to identify someone. Multiple brain regions (including the amygdala, fusiform face area, the occipital face area, a region of the ventromedial temporal cortex and the superior temporal sulcus) work together so

we can identify and store patterns for thousands of individual faces. Human face perception comes as a result of identifying specific features (e.g. eyes, nose and mouth) and perceiving the specific spatial arrangement of those features. Our amazing brains allow us to correctly identify not just close friends and family, but neighbors, co-workers and even casual acquaintances. We are able to recognize people even when they have had haircuts, get new glasses or are wearing masks. It is even possible to recognize someone after not seeing them for a number of years.

Our ability to recognize others, however, is not foolproof. When Joseph's brothers come before him asking for food from the storehouses in Egypt more than a decade after they threw him into the pit and sold him into slavery, Joseph recognized them. It is possible that, as multiple commentators explain, at first he recognized them collectively as being his brothers, without being able to recognize who each brother was. Then after either hearing them talk with one another and use each others' names, or simply after a brief See "Facial" on page 8

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 7:30 pm beginning in December.

Friday, December 18: 7:30 pm, Shabbat services with Rabbi Goldman-Wartell and Jason Flatt at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81957095574?pwd=SGRTU2lrZFMzMlZmZk1dncyTlFuUT09>, meeting ID: 819 5709 5574 and passcode: 097653.

Saturday, December 19: 9 am, Shabbat school; 9:15 am, Torah study at <https://binghamton.zoom.us/j/342411102>; and 7 pm, "Havdalah with a Bonus" at <https://binghamton.zoom.us/j/526246866>.

Sunday, December 20: 7 pm, Sisterhood Tea and Schmooze.

Friday, December 25: 7:30 pm, Shabbat services with Rabbi Goldman-Wartell and Jason Flatt at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81957095574?pwd=SGRTU2lrZFMzMlZmZk1dncyTlFuUT09>, meeting ID: 819 5709 5574 and passcode: 097653.

Saturday, December 26: 9 am, Shabbat School; 9:15 am, Torah study at <https://binghamton.zoom.us/j/342411102>; and 7 pm, "Havdalah with a Bonus" at <https://binghamton.zoom.us/j/526246866>.

Friday, January 1: 7:30 pm, Shabbat services with Rabbi Goldman-Wartell and Jason Flatt at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81957095574?pwd=SGRTU2lrZFMzMlZmZk1dncyTlFuUT09>, Meeting ID: 819 5709 5574 and passcode: 097653.

Saturday, January 2: 9 am, Shabbat school; 9:15 am, Torah study at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88298087579?pwd=eTVkMDRVVlplwTmZvMkdYTMlOK0w1Zz09>; and 7 pm, "Havdalah with a Bonus" at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89741791260?pwd=MzZlZmZk1dncyTlFuUT09>.

(Note new links for Torah study and Havdalah starting January 2.)

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

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 egalitarian congregation serving the greater Cortland community. Congregants span the gamut of observance and services are largely dependent on the service leader. The Friday night siddur is "Likrat Shabbat," while the Saturday morning siddur is "Gates of Prayer." The community extends a warm welcome to the Jewish student population of SUNY Cortland, as well as the residents of local adult residences.

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 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.

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

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.

Penn-York Jewish Community

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

Kol Haverim

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

Friday, December 18, light candles before..... 4:15 pm
Saturday, December 19, Shabbat ends 5:16 pm
Friday, December 25, light candles before..... 4:19 pm
Saturday, December 26, Shabbat ends 5:20 pm
Friday, January 1, light candles before..... 4:24 pm
Saturday, January 2, Shabbat ends 5:26 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.twcbc.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, December 18, Shacharit services will be held at 10:30 am via Zoom. The Torah portion is Genesis 41:1-44:17 and the haftarah is I Kings 3:15-4:1. At 5:30 pm, there will be Havdalah services via Zoom. Both will be led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown.

On Sunday, December 19, at 12:30 pm, Rabbi Geoffrey Brown will lead Torah study services via Zoom.

The temple office will be closed Thursday-Friday, December 24-25.

On Saturday, December 25, Shacharit services will be held at 10:30 am via Zoom. The Torah portion is Genesis 44:18-47:27 and the haftarah is Ezekiel 37:15-28. At 5:30 pm, there will be Havdalah services via Zoom. Both will be led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown.

On Sunday, December 26, at 12:30 pm, Rabbi Geoffrey Brown will lead Torah study services via Zoom.

The temple office hours for December 28-31 will be Monday, Wednesday and Thursdays 2-4 pm and Tuesday 8:30 am-3:30 pm. The office will be closed on Friday, January 1.

Temple Beth-El of Ithaca

Affiliation: United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism
Rabbi: Rachel Safman
Rabbi Emeritus: Scott L. Glass
Address: 402 North Tioga St. (the corner of Court and Tioga streets), Ithaca, NY 14850-4292
Phone: 273-5775
E-mail: rabbi@tbeithaca.org and secretary@tbeithaca.org
Website: www.tbeithaca.org
Presidents: David Weiner and Linda Aigen
Sisterhood President: Julie Paige
Director of Education: Rabbi Suzanne Brody
Administrative Assistant: Jane Griffith
Services: Fri. 8 pm; Sat. 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.

Rohr Chabad Center

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

Bhutan, Morocco to form diplomatic ties with Israel

By JNS staff

(JNS) – Israel and the Kingdom of Bhutan established full diplomatic relations on December 12, the latest of a series of normalization deals to be signed by the Jewish state.

“The circle of those who recognize Israel is growing. I would like to thank Israel’s ambassador to India for his work and the Kingdom of Bhutan for its decision to establish diplomatic relations with Israel,” tweeted Israeli Foreign Minister Gabi Ashkenazi.

“This is a milestone in Israel’s deepening ties with Asia,” he said, adding that students from Bhutan are receiving agricultural training in Israel.

Ashkenazi said the agreement came after secret contacts with Bhutan in recent years

in a process led by the foreign ministry.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu welcomed the announcement, calling it “additional fruit of the peace agreements” concluded by Israel in September with the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, according to a statement from his office. “We are in contact with additional countries that want to join and establish relations with us,” he added.

The signing ceremony took place on December 12 in New Delhi, India, at the Israeli embassy, with the Israeli and Bhutanese ambassadors to India. A joint press release posted on the Bhutanese Foreign Ministry’s website said: “The establishment of diplomatic relations would not only build upon the existing close ties but open the path to greater cooperation and

further strengthen relations between the two countries and peoples.”

Just a few days earlier, U.S. President Donald Trump announced that Morocco had agreed to normalize relations with Israel, following in the footsteps of the UAE and Bahrain. “Another HISTORIC breakthrough today! Our two GREAT friends Israel and the Kingdom of Morocco have agreed to full diplomatic relations – a massive breakthrough for peace in the Middle East!” tweeted Trump on December 10.

The agreement is part of a deal in which the United States will recognize the disputed territory of Western Sahara as part of Morocco, becoming the only Western country to do so. The deal also includes agreeing to allow overflights and also direct flights to and from Israel for all Israelis.

White House senior adviser Jared Kushner told Reuters, “They are going to reopen their liaison offices in Rabat and Tel Aviv immediately with the intention to open embassies. And they are going to promote economic cooperation between Israeli and Moroccan companies.”

The development makes Morocco the



Israeli Ambassador to India Ron Malka and his Bhutanese counterpart Vetsop Namgyel at a ceremony establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries at Malka’s residence in New Delhi, India, on December 12. (Photo by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bhutan)

fourth Arab country this year to recognize the Jewish state after the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Sudan. These nations follow in the wake of Egypt and Jordan, which made peace with Israel in 1979 and 1994, respectively.

Bible Continued from page 2

Among the different translations Greenspoon writes about are the Septuagint (a translation into Greek around 275 B.C.E. that some believe was the first biblical translation), the *Targums* (Aramaic translations, of which there are several) and translations in such languages as Arabic, Yiddish, German, Spanish, French, Italian and English. The author places these works into the context of their times, showing how and where a translation took place affects the result. He also offers material on the authors (if they are known), specifically looking at how their religious views may have affected their translations. For example, although the Bible text attributes human aspects to God (who walks in a garden, has human body parts or experiences emotion), the *Targums* (written in the rabbinic period, from 70-600 C.E.) deleted these anthropomorphic images of God. According to Greenspan, the idea was “to avoid even the possibility that God really had a human type of body or human emotions. [The translators] also avoided the suggestion that other beings could be categorized, however mistakenly, a ‘god.’” When looking at Jewish English translations, he discusses the effect of the King James translation. Greenspoon notes that, even though none of the translators of the King James Bible were Jewish, those Protestant Christian scholars were well versed in Hebrew and sometimes gave a Jewish slant to the text because of their familiarity with rabbinic interpretations of the Bible.

My favorite parts of “Jewish Bible Translation” were the comparisons Greenspoon offers of different translations of the text. These sections made his other discussions come alive by showing how altering the word order, leaving out a word or two, or adding a sentence greatly changes the meaning of the text. It also shows how differences in Jewish theology affect the way that one interprets the text, something those attending Torah study at their synagogue will understand. Anyone who wants to better understand the translation they use will definitely want to read Greenspoon’s work.

While Greenspoon focused specifically on translation, Levine and Brettler show there is more to finding meaning in the Bible than the specific translations one used. For example, how a verse is understood differs greatly whether one views it through a Jewish or Christian lens. The authors are not looking to convince either side that their interpretation is correct, but rather to open a dialogue that will allow everyone to have a better understanding of the text. Their book looks at 10 passages and themes from what they call “Israel’s scriptures” and seeks to answer three questions about them: “What did the text mean in its original context in ancient Israel? How did the New Testament authors interpret the text? And how do post-biblical Jews from the time of Jesus (e.g. the Dead Sea Scrolls, the first-century historian Josephus, and the first-century philosopher Philo) through rabbinic and medieval Jewish tradition and later Christian traditions understand those same texts?”

Among the texts being reviewed are those that relate to the creation of the world; Adam and Eve in the garden; the priesthood of ancient Israel; animal sacrifice; Isaiah’s

suffering servant; the Book of Jonah; and the psalms. The authors believe the main difference between the Jewish and Christian traditions is that they approach the text in very different ways. For example, a “central feature of Jewish interpretation is that it has no single point or goal,” meaning they are not trying to prove something specific, which allows them to disagree about the meaning of the text. The authors note that this Jewish “approach contrasts with Christian interpretation, which sees Jesus as the main theme of the Old Testament, even though he is never explicitly mentioned there.” They also mention that for Jews all parts of the text have meaning and even simple statements should be mined for deeper meaning. There is also no expectation that everyone will agree on the results, which allows for multiple interpretations.

It’s difficult to summarize Levine and Brettler’s excellent analysis of the biblical text because their book is more than 400 pages long. Some parts do stand out. For example, the authors note Christians see Adam and Eve’s eating of the fruit in the Garden of Eden as original sin, which means “that all humanity inherits, literally, the sin of Adam.” Because of this, Christ needed to enter the world in order to redeem humanity. Jewish commentators see Adam and Eve’s action as no different from any other human sin; for them, the text does not mean that there is a permanent breach between humans and God. The connection between Jews and God is based on the giving of the Torah, rather than what occurred in the Garden of Eden.

When writing about Jewish law, Levine and Brettler note the stereotype that says the Jewish Bible focuses on law, while the Christian one talks about love. Yet, they show that Jesus’ take on Jewish law could be stricter than the Jewish Bible: Jesus went “from forbidding murder to forbidding anger; from forbidding adultery to forbidding lust; from forbidding false or violated oaths to forbidding oath-taking; from permission to divorce to forbidding it; from not abusing the enemy to loving the enemy.”

The different Jewish and Christian interpretations of the Book of Jonah were also well done. For example, while many Jews take little notice of the number of days Jonah spent in the belly of a large fish, for Christians, the three days represent the number of days between Jesus’ death and resurrection. The latter also believe that Jonah’s preaching to non-Jews is a sign that God’s rule would not always be restricted to Jews and that the covenant would someday belong to Christians.

Levine and Brettler note that the purpose of their book was to encourage dialogue. They believe “we are stronger when we wrestle, and when we read together,” and encourage Jews to see the connections between their own scriptures and Christian ones. They also encourage Christians to study how Jewish tradition understands the texts that are important to Christianity. “The Bible With and Without Jesus” is easy to read and would be perfect for Jewish-Christian dialogue groups to read. Its interpretations of biblical verses will also appeal to anyone interested in understanding the Bible.

NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

Group of U.S. senators push for quadrupling nonprofit security funding

A group of U.S. senators is pushing for a fourfold increase in security funding for Jewish and other nonprofit institutions. Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Rob Portman (R-OH), Gary Peters (D-MI), Jacky Rosen (D-NV) and James Lankford (R-OK) sent a letter the week of Dec. 10 to the leaders of the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee and its Subcommittee on Homeland Security, calling for up to \$360 million in funding for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program for the 2021 fiscal year, which would quadruple funding for the program in 2020. The Senate has proposed \$90 million in funding for the NSGP, the same amount that was allocated for the 2020 fiscal year, while the U.S. House of Representatives has proposed an increase to \$360 million. “At a time of heightened threat to nonprofit faith- and community-based organizations, a bolstered NSGP will continue to provide our nonprofit partners with critical resources and tools they need to protect lives and property,” stated the letter. The NSGP, which is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, 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. These funds 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; and in the aftermath of a string of antisemitic attacks last year in New York and New Jersey.

Dine Out

Catering
Extra Parking in Rear
WiFi

EAT BASHA'S

Fresh & Healthy

Lunch Combo \$9.27

11:00am - 3:00pm

Your Choice of 1 Sandwich
(Beef/Chicken Shawarma or Falafel)
1 Side (Salad, French Fries or Rice)
and any drink out of the fridge

Delivery through
BingBites

Call 15 minutes in advance and your order will be ready to pick up.
Will deliver

Follow us on for up to date information

3748 Vestal Parkway East, Vestal, NY
607-217-5288 WWW.BASHASGRILL.COM

Hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 11am - 9pm • Closed Sunday and Monday

Please support these

THE REPORTER

Dine Out advertisers!

Order take out or purchase gift certificates to support them during the pandemic.

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

CALL AHEAD

1274 Front Street
Binghamton • 722-7628

3908 Vestal Parkway East
Vestal • 729-2679

NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

U.S. Senate rejects effort to block F-35, drone sales to UAE

The U.S. Senate rejected a push on Dec. 9 to block a \$23 billion sale of F-35 fighter jets and MQ9 Reaper armed drones to the United Arab Emirates. Procedural votes to advance two resolutions, one targeting the F-35 sales and the other on the drones, failed on a 47-49 and 46-50 votes, respectively. Sens. Bob Menendez (D-NJ), Chris Murphy (D-CT) and Rand Paul (R-KY) led the effort to halt the sale, which is a result of the UAE normalizing ties with Israel as part of the Abraham Accords signed on Sept. 15. The votes came ahead of a 30-day period that ended on Dec. 11 for Congress to block the sale. By law, U.S. arms sales to foreign countries can proceed unless Congress blocks it within 30 days of formally being notified of the proposed sale. The White House had threatened to veto the resolutions if they reached U.S. President Donald Trump's desk. Although Israel had initially expressed objections about the sale over concerns it could undermine its Qualitative Military Edge in the Middle East, it recently gave its approval for the sale after receiving assurances from the United States that it wouldn't undermine its military edge. U.S. law requires Israel to have the military edge in the Middle East.

Senior Palestinian official Hanan Ashrawi resigns

Senior Palestine Liberation Organization official Hanan Ashrawi announced her resignation on Dec. 9, saying that Palestinian politics needed a "renewal." Ashrawi said she had informed Palestinian Authority leader Mahmoud Abbas in November of her decision to leave at the end of the year. When the decision leaked, however, she announced her immediate resignation, according to AP. "The Palestinian political system needs renewal and reinvigoration with the inclusion of youth, women, and additional qualified professionals," she said in a statement. "It is incumbent upon us all to assume our individual responsibilities and to carry out our duties with honesty and integrity, including by facilitating this needed change." Abbas' office said it accepted her resignation, according to the report. Ashrawi was a critic of Israel in the international media and was involved in peace talks with the Jewish state. She has also been critical of the Palestinian leadership.

Facial Continued from page 6

interaction with them himself, he was even able to recognize them each individually. In contrast, Joseph's brothers do not recognize him. Rashi (1040-1105) says that the reason the brothers don't recognize Joseph is that when he left them he had no beard, whereas now he had grown a beard. Rashi's grandson, Rashbam (1085-c. 1158), goes further and points out that not only has Joseph now grown a beard, but he also is wearing royal garments and speaking Egyptian. As Radak (1160-1235) later explains, "It is possible that they would have recognized him in spite of his having grown a beard if they had not seen the man confronting them dressed in the uniform of the highest ranking nobles of the land.

They could not imagine that this man could be Joseph even if there had been points of resemblance. The idea that someone who had been sold into slavery had risen to such power was too mind-boggling for them." Changes in our own internal perceptions of who we are manifest themselves in such a way as to make it harder for those who knew us before to recognize us. We may move our bodies differently, hold our heads higher or lower, and our eyes may grow brighter or duller. Because the brothers were still recognizable as their own selves, in order to know whether they had changed, Joseph had to test them. How will you both internalize and externalize the experiences of your life?

Lithuanian ambassador presents Netanyahu with coin, stamps honoring Vilna Gaon

Lithuanian Ambassador to Israel Lina Antanaviciene presented Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu with a new Lithuanian coin on Dec. 8 bearing the name of the Vilna Gaon, Rabbi Elijah ben Solomon Zalman. The ambassador also presented Netanyahu with a Lithuanian stamp issued by the Lithuanian postal authority within the framework of the "Year of the Vilna Gaon." Netanyahu asked Ambassador Antanaviciene to convey his gratitude to outgoing Lithuanian Prime Minister Saulius Skvernelis and the chairman of the board of the Bank of Lithuania, as well as his greetings to incoming Prime Minister Ingrida Simonyte. Antanaviciene said she was honored to give the coin to the prime minister of Israel on behalf of the Lithuanian government, adding that the Vilna Gaon was important to both peoples.

Palestinian TV show features song explicitly calling for murder of Israelis

A song inciting Palestinians to carry out terrorist attacks against Israelis was aired in recent weeks on official Palestinian Authority TV, according to a Palestinian Media Watch report published on Dec. 8. "The Tune of the Homeland" is a Palestinian TV quiz show about Palestinian nationalist songs. Each question is introduced by a narrator informing viewers that the songs "express our national identity . . . and fascinate us with values." Some of the songs that have been featured on the show – and have been broadcast repeatedly – explicitly promote violence and terror. For example, "I'm Coming Towards You, My Enemy" calls for murder and promises Israelis – "my enemy" – that they will be attacked with rifles, cleavers and knives. The song, which was aired multiple times in recent weeks, contains the following lyrics: "I'm coming towards you, my enemy, from every house, neighborhood, and street / I'm coming with my rifle and my faith I'm coming towards you, my enemy / Our war is a war of the streets / I'm coming towards you, my enemy, from every house, neighborhood, and street / We're coming down from every house with cleavers and knives."

Resources Continued from page 5

- ◆ The Jewish Theological Seminary will hold several virtual events: "The Book Smugglers of the Vilna Ghetto: Choosing a Life on Meaning Under the Specter of Death" on Monday, December 21, from 1-2:30 pm – for more information or to register, visit www.jtsa.edu/the-book-smugglers-of-the-vilna-ghetto-choosing-a-life-on-meaning-under-the-specter-of-death; an author conversation "Between the Lines: The Third Daughter" with Talia Carner on Tuesday, January 12, at 7:30 pm, with Carner discussing her novel about the legal Jewish sex-trafficking union that operated with impunity for 70 years, from the late 1880s until World War II – for more information or to register, visit www.jtsa.edu/the-third-daughter; "Judaism for the World: A Neo-Hasidic Perspective" with Rabbi Arthur Green on Monday, January 11, from 7:30- 8:45 pm – for more information or to register, visit www.jtsa.edu/judaism-for-the-world-a-neo-hasidic-perspective; and "Poetry, Music, and Conversation with Grzegorz Kwiatkowski" on Tuesday, January 19, at 1 pm – for more information or to register, visit www.jtsa.edu/poetry-and-music-grzegorz-kwiatkowski.
 - ◆ A video of the concert "Hidden Voices – Ladino Songs from over 100 years ago," which was part of the Jerusalem Oud Festival and performed on November 22 at the Confederation House in Jerusalem, can be found at www.youtube.com/watch?v=J3MX-K6nYxml&feature=emb_logo. The event featured Hadass Pal-Yarden, one of Israel's leading vocalists in the Judeo-Spanish tradition, along with an ensemble featuring some of Jerusalem's top musicians in the genre.
 - ◆ Hebrew Union College will hold the rescheduled "Thinking Jewish in a Changing America" on Tuesday, December 22, at 1 pm. Rabbi David Ellenson and Rabbi Michael Marmor will chart some of the major trends spanning generations, denominations and ideologies, and share insights that resonate with the current unfolding crisis in America. To register, visit <http://huc.edu/registration-huc-connect-online-learning>.
 - ◆ Project Witness will present a webinar on "Greek Jewry during the Holocaust" on Saturday, December 23, at 7:30 pm. To register, visit https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Zcco1RdIS8iYhqXRdp0M9g.
 - ◆ City Winery will hold its eighth annual "Christmas Eve for the Jews" virtually. It will feature Joel Chasnoff, Mark Normand, Ophira Eisenberg and Jessica Kirson. Tickets are \$20. The event will take place on Thursday, December 24, at 8 pm. For more information or to buy a ticket, visit <https://citywinery.com/newyork/7th-annual-christmas-eve-for-the-jews-feat-joel-chasnoff-mark-normand-more-12-24-20.html>.
 - ◆ The University of Pennsylvania's Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies and the Center for Jewish Ethics, an initiative of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, will hold a free online lecture series called "Jews, Race, and Religion." The 11 sessions may be taken separately and are all held on Thursdays at 1:30 pm. The series uses the prism of Jewish experience to examine intersections of race and religion, drawing lessons from the history of antisemitism, examining the role of Jews in the racialized culture of the United States and exploring the role of race in Jewish identity. Scholars in Jewish studies, critical race studies and religious studies will share insights and research that in the hope of deepening the conversation about race, racism and anti-racism in contemporary society, both American and Jewish. For information about specific lectures or to register, visit <https://katz.sas.upenn.edu/resources/blog/jews-race-and-religion>.
 - ◆ Case Western Reserve University's Siegal Lifelong Learning will host two remote learning series. The first is an Israeli Speaker Series with Israeli authors, journalists, and television and film writers, including Yehonatan Indursky, Ron Leshem, Emuna Elon and more. The first lecture will be a conversation with Eyal Rob, "From Hava Nagila to Sticker Song – Game Changing Songs in Israel's Society" on Tuesday, January 5, at 11 am. To see the complete list or to register, visit <https://case.edu/lifelonglearning/lectures/israeli-speaker-series>. The second is called "Time for 24." Attendees will study themes and structure in each of the 24 books of the Hebrew Bible (Tanach) with scholars, writers, educators and public intellectuals from across the country and around the world. People may sign up for individual weeks or the full program. Classes will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays, February 16 through May 13 (no class during Passover), from 12:30-1:30 pm. For more information or to register, visit <https://case.edu/lifelonglearning/lectures/time-24>.
 - ◆ The YIVO Institute for Jewish Research will hold the free webinar "Modern Russia and The Putin System" on Monday, January 4, at 1 pm. Russian politician and economist Grigory Yavlinsky will address the history of how and why Russia came to be as it is now, the current Russian political system and how it works, and the future of autocracy in Russia. For more information or to register, visit www.yivo.org/WP2021-Keynote.
 - ◆ The National Museum of American Jewish History will hold "Flory Jagoda's 97th Birthday Celebration" on Monday, December 21, at 1 pm. The 45-minute concert will include Ladino songs and stories from La Nona (Ladino for "The Grandmother" and one of Jagoda's official titles), who will be accompanied on stage by one of her apprentices, Susan Gaeta, as well as Howard Bass. A limited number of Zoom spots are available and registration can be made at <https://www.nmajh.org/flory-jagoda-97th-birthday-show/>. The concert will also be available on the museum's Facebook page.
- For additional resources, see previous issues of *The Reporter* on its website, www.thereporter.org.

Eye-Catching
Classifieds

HANDYMAN 4 SENIORS, INC.

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

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

John Jacoby
Valerie Jacoby
(Licensed & Insured)
888-540-0320
www.handyman4seniors.com



GARY RILEY

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

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

YOUR HEATING & PLUMBING SPECIALISTS

BAKER'S PLUMBING & HEATING

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

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

SERVING BROOME & TIOGA COUNTIES

754-6376

pbaker927@yahoo.com

**YOUR AD
COULD BE
HERE!**

*For information
on advertising,
contact
advertising@
thereporter.org*

THE REPORTER
Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton

COOK'S TREE SERVICE
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL



Fully Insured
Free Estimates

Our 52nd Year

NEW YORK CHAPTER
ISA
CERTIFIED ARBORIST

Professionals In All Phases Of:

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

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

