

## Film Fest to hold virtual showing of "Here We Are"

By Reporter staff

The Binghamton Jewish Film Fest will hold a virtual showing of the film "Here We Are." Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, and Dr. Jennifer Gillis, professor of psychology at Binghamton University, who studies autism spectrum disorders, will moderate an online discussion. The event is free, but donations will be accepted.

People will be able to register for links to the film and discussion on the Federation website, [www.jfgeb.org](http://www.jfgeb.org). The film will be available for viewing from Wednesday-Sunday, April 6-10. The discussion will be held

on Sunday, April 10, at 7 pm.

The film tells the story of Aharon, who has dedicated his life to raising his son Uri, who is autistic. Now that Uri is a young adult, Aharon must consider what is the next step in his son's life. After deciding Uri should live in a specialized home, Aharon plans to take his son there. But on the way, Aharon decides to run away with Uri. The question becomes, is Uri not ready to be separated from his father, or is his father the one who can't let go?

"'Here We Are' is about a parent's love for his child," said Hubal. "It is a realistic and heartwarming portrayal of the joy and



Shai Avivi and Noam Imber in a scene from "Here We Are." (Photo courtesy of Menemsha Films)

challenges of raising a child with special needs. You will love this movie."

"Here We Are" won four Israeli Ophir Awards, including Best Director – Nir

Bergman, Best Actor – Shai Avivi, Best Supporting Actor – Noam Imber and Best Screenplay – Dana Idisis. It also won the Audience Awards at the New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival, Boston Israeli Film Festival, Atlanta Jewish Film Festival, Palm Beach Jewish Film Festival, Miami Jewish Film Festival, Pittsburgh Jewish Film Festival, San Diego Jewish Film Festival, Montreal Israeli Film Festival and Philadelphia Jewish film Festival. In a review in *The Guardian*, Leslie Felperin called the film "moving but unsentimental," and described it as a "a perfect example of how a cinematic story becomes paradoxically more universal by being very specific about people and places."



## TI to hold "Purim and the Jewish Response to Antisemitism" on March 13

Temple Israel will hold the presentation "Fighting for Their Lives: Purim and the Jewish Response to Antisemitism," featuring Dr. Wendy Love Anderson, on Sunday, March 13, at 10:30 am, on Zoom. To make a reservation and receive the Zoom link, contact Tammy Kunsman at the temple office at 723-7461 or [titammy@stny.twcbc.com](mailto:titammy@stny.twcbc.com).

Anderson will explore some of the ramifications of the escalation of antisemitism over the past few years. The program will look at the story of Esther as a case study in anti-Jewish rhetoric and political persuasion. It will borrow from ancient medieval and modern Jewish commentaries on Esther

to explore different models of responding to antisemitism in the present day. Among the questions Anderson will ask is, "How should Jews respond to antisemitism?" with possible answers including whether Jews should build more connections with non-Jews, anticipate divine deliverance or just eliminate their enemies as expeditiously as possible.

Anderson is a fourth year rabbinical student at the Academy of Jewish Religion and has received a Ph.D. in religious studies from the University of Chicago. She is presently assistant director of academic programs at the Center for the Humanities

at Washington University in Saint Louis.

"We feel this program is timely in light of what has been happening in the United States over the past few years," said organizers of the event. "The ADL reported a 12 percent increase in antisemitic incidents in 2019 over the previous year. In 2018, the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh was violated. Several months later, a gunman using an AR-17 weapon attacked the Chabad at Poway synagogue in California. Hostages were taken at the Congregation Beth Israel in Colleyville, TX."

Organizers added, "A recent survey by the Public Religious Research Institute

found that roughly 41 million Americans believe in the QAnon conspiracy. This is the belief that Satanist pedophiles who run a global child sex trafficking operation control the government and other major institutions. They also subscribe to the belief that authentic Americans are white Christians. Some supporters of QAnon are running for Congress in 2022. Two members of Congress recently attended the American First Political Action Conference organized by Nick Fuentes. Mr. Fuentes, during the conference, praised Adolf Hitler. Join us to learn more about possible Jewish responses to antisemitism."

### Spotlight

## Purim fun for the younger generation

By Rabbi Rachel Esserman

As the pandemic continues, many group Purim events have been cancelled or scaled back. That doesn't mean fun activities aren't available. My favorite is, of course, reading a picture book that includes touches adults will also enjoy. Then there are websites that feature activities for children and their fun-loving elders. If all else fails, making hamantaschen is always a great holiday activity since the results are edible.

"Meet the Hamantaschen"

"Meet the Hamantaschen: A Purim Mystery" (Viking) was my introduction to Alan Silberberg's work. How I missed "Meet the Latkes" and "Meet the Matzah" is beyond me, because his latest work is exactly the kind of funny, strange, food-related holiday tale I enjoy. It reminds me of the "Fractured Fairy Tales" segments that appeared in the original "The Rocky and Bullwinkle Show." Silberberg's work is basically a fractured holiday tale, which features a mystery, char-

acters who are food and a child-friendly version of the Purim story.

The three main characters are hamantaschen who insist they are detectives, rather than cookies. A mysterious character asks them to find the missing megillah (the scroll read on the holiday) so the

Purim play and party will be able to take place. Chaos ensues as the three hamantaschen... um, rather detectives, interview the characters (different types of food) who are taking part in the Purim play. But the hamantaschen... um, detectives, are confused because the information they've been given about Purim is wrong. However, both the story of Purim and the mystery are revealed in ways sure to delight readers.

In addition to lively text, the drawings are clever and serve the plot well. I hope Silberberg decides to create more holiday books featuring food as his main characters. The only problem is that, after reading the book, I was hungry for some hamantaschen!



The cover of "Meet the Hamantaschen: A Purim Mystery." (Photo courtesy of Viking)

General holiday information and games

The web has been a boon for parents searching for ways to amuse and/or teach their children about Jewish holidays. Some helpful sites include:

- ◆ Mainstages' "Purim Games You Can Play At Home" by Eva Casey at [www.mainstages.com/blog/purim-games-for-kids/](http://www.mainstages.com/blog/purim-games-for-kids/).
  - ◆ The P.J. Library's "Celebrating Purim With Kids" at <https://pjlibrary.org/beyond-books/pjblog/february-2017/kid-friendly-purim> and "18 Great Ideas for Purim" at <https://pjlibrary.org/beyond-books/pjblog/february-2012/dress-bake-shake-for-purim-18-unique-suggestions>.
  - ◆ JLiving's "12 Creative Purim Activities Your Kids Will Love" at [www.judaica.com/jliving/purim\\_fun\\_kids.html](http://www.judaica.com/jliving/purim_fun_kids.html).
  - ◆ JewishKids.org's "Purim Videos" ([www.chabad.org/kids/article\\_cdo/aid/343192/jewish/Purim-Videos.htm](http://www.chabad.org/kids/article_cdo/aid/343192/jewish/Purim-Videos.htm)), "Purim Songs" ([www.chabad.org/kids/article\\_cdo/aid/343193/jewish/Purim-Songs.htm](http://www.chabad.org/kids/article_cdo/aid/343193/jewish/Purim-Songs.htm)), "Purim Stories" ([www.chabad.org/kids/article\\_cdo/aid/32578/jewish/Purim-Stories.htm](http://www.chabad.org/kids/article_cdo/aid/32578/jewish/Purim-Stories.htm)) and "Purim Coloring Pages & Crafts" ([www.chabad.org/kids/article\\_cdo/aid/361573/jewish/Purim-Coloring-Pages-Crafts.htm](http://www.chabad.org/kids/article_cdo/aid/361573/jewish/Purim-Coloring-Pages-Crafts.htm)).
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Two pages from "Meet the Hamantaschen: A Purim Mystery." (Photo courtesy of Viking)

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## Opinion

From the Desk of the Federation Executive Director

## With gratitude

SHELLEY HUBAL

“Jewish people take care of their own.” An irate community member said this to me recently. The prompt for her comment was a television commercial sponsored by a Christian aid organization. The commercial contains images of unclean and destitute elderly people. While the viewer gets a glimpse of these pathetic individuals, there is an appeal for funds to care for Jewish people in the former Soviet Union. These advertisements are on display for an audience of thousands, perhaps millions, every day.

This irate community member has worked her whole life with Jewish organizations to create a better community for all of us. She has wholeheartedly lived up to the promise to “take care” of her own and for the world to see that Jewish people are not being cared for broke her heart. We discussed how the commercial stokes antisemitism,

portrays Jewish people as victims and plays into the trope of “dirty Jews.”

This conversation has been on my mind for the last few weeks. I wish we had more people in this community – and the world for that matter – who are so dedicated and passionate about taking care of “their own.” Energy like that is contagious; it lifts you up, pushes you to do more and truly creates change for the better.

With recent events in Ukraine, “taking care of our own” is even more meaningful. According to some estimates, there are at least 43,000 Jewish people living in Ukraine – with potentially more unidentified people with Jewish ancestry. The crisis in Ukraine is just one of many humanitarian crises taking place across the globe; there seems to be no end to the suffering. If you are feeling depressed or overwhelmed, you are not alone.

I am heartened by the response of Rae, my second child who is a senior in college, when I asked what they thought of the state of the world. They said, “Honestly, Mom, if I think about it, I get anxious and I don’t know what I can do to help, but what I have decided is that living my life to the best every day and being a good person is kind of the best act of rebellion.”

But I am lucky: as a leader in this Jewish community, I witness acts of generosity every day. Simple acts of *tzedakah* that say “I take care of my own” – whether it is the people that volunteer their time, make a donation or pay a visit to someone in need. I know that every act of kindness, big or small, makes you feel good and brings light to the darkness.

Sending you all my best wishes for peace and lovingkindness.

## The 1936 Summer and 2022 Winter Olympics: sport as *tsuris*

By Bill Simons

Yiddish has bequeathed us a word – *tsuris* – that pithily conveys sorrow, loss and pain. The Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games leaves a legacy of *tsuris*. Upon winning the silver medal in women’s figure skating, the superbly talented Alexandra Trusova expressed disappointment through an invective-laced tirade at finishing behind her Russian Olympic Committee teammate Anna Shcherbakova.

According to disputed translations, the tearful, 17-year-old Trusova shouted, “I hate this sport! I won’t go onto the ice again!” Trusova flashed her middle finger without clarifying whether the gesture was aimed at her coach, officials, humanity or herself. Another of her Russian teammates, Kamila Valieva, at 15 perhaps the best figure skater in the world, imploded to a fourth place finish after testing positive for doping at a previous event.

The exploitation and expectations endured by young, vulnerable girls underline the price of disappointing the powerful in Vladimir Putin’s Russia. Within a week of the Thursday, February 17, 2022, meltdown of Trusova

and Valieva, Russia, morphing rapidly from menacing bullying to military aggressor, invaded Ukraine, triggering perhaps the most dangerous international crisis since the end of World War II.

The Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games provided two totalitarian states with a platform. China, able to burnish its image and infrastructure through the Olympics, inflicts genocide upon Uyghur Muslims, crushes democracy in Hong Kong, appears poised to subjugate Taiwan, holds tennis player and rape victim Peng Shuai in captivity, and offers rhetorical support to Russian militarism. Basking in its 32 medals, second only to Norway, Russia – armed with false-flag pretext and enormous troop and weaponry resources – assaulted Ukraine, where President Volodymyr Zelensky, part of a substantial Ukrainian Jewish population, leads the resistance.

Several Western nations engaged in an ineffectual diplomatic boycott of the Beijing games, but still sent their athletes, including a number of Jewish competitors. Why did the United States, Israel and other democracies participate

in a Winter Olympics that primarily benefited autocracies?

Disturbing parallels between the 2022 Beijing Winter and 1936 Berlin Summer Olympics emerge. In Beijing, hospitality and expressions of good will encouraged the naïve to believe that the game fostered cooperation between peoples and nations. In a mocking Orwellian tableau, Dingigeer Yilamujiang, a cross-country skier, was assigned as a torchbearer by the Chinese officials who subject her fellow Uyghur to obliteration through indoctrination, forced labor and sterilization. Likewise, in 1936, Hitler temporarily cleansed Berlin of graphic antisemitic placards. In response to charges of virulent bigotry, Germany pointed to Helene Mayer. The daughter of a Jewish father, Mayer returned from four years of self-imposed American exile to her German homeland, winning a silver medal in fencing for the Nazis at the 1936 Olympics. She gave the Nazi salute from the victor’s podium. In all probability, Mayer, like Yilamujiang, performed public obeisance to an oppressive Olympic host due to threats against her family.

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## In My Own Words

## The world in which we live

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

My original plan was to write a column called “Entering the Third Year” about the continuing pandemic. Yes, I know numbers are down, but we’re not finished with this nightmare yet – a nightmare that has killed more than 947,000 Americans as of this writing. I was going to write about how I plan to continue wearing a mask to protect the immune-suppressed individuals I meet with during my chaplaincy work. And, if I’m honest, to also protect myself.

But when I look at the news, I see so many awful and horrifying things that I feel the need to comment on some of them. I usually wait to write until my thoughts are more settled, but I’m not certain when that will be because these issues have been ricocheting through my brain as my focus shifts from one to another and then back again.

I admit not knowing all the political and economic background of what is occurring in Ukraine. Guess what? I don’t care! Yes, I know politicians have to deal with those aspects of the conflict, but I’m a rabbi and only one thing matters to me: people are dying. There is simply no excuse for the blood being shed, which means there is no excuse for the Russian invasion, and, again, *no excuse* for anyone – Ukrainian or Russian – dying.

Sometimes, it seems as if the world has turned upside

down and I’m living in an alternate reality. Are there really Americans cheering for the Russian invasion? Seriously, there are people who think it’s a good thing, that Putin is some kind of genius and that we should support a dictatorship over a democracy. And yes, many of these people are Republicans, the same ones who so feared a Russian takeover of Europe since the end of World War II. There are some Republicans who don’t condone this activity: Sen. Mitt Romney has said of that support, “It just makes me ill.” He didn’t completely condemn those who are going against the best interests of the U.S. and European democracies, but at least he was willing to publicly protest this anti-democratic, anti-American movement.

The Republican Jewish Coalition also showed some backbone recently by condemning two Republican representatives – Marjorie Taylor Greene and Paul Gosar – for speaking at a white nationalist event called the America First Political Action Conference. Before you say this isn’t important, please remember that white nationalists aren’t exactly fond of Jews. If you think we’re safe if they take over our country, then you’d best think again. As Jews, we should remember that when the rights of one minority are threatened, then the rights of all minorities are in danger.

In the midst of all this, there are frequent e-mails in my inbox and opeds in newspapers about climate change. Surely there is some way to protect us against climate change and have a healthy economy, even if it does look different from the one we have now? Why aren’t we willing to work together to find a path with which we all can live? Looking at the projections of what’s going to occur have also sparked another reaction: Sometimes I think, “Thank God, I won’t be alive then.” That reaction horrifies me because I know too many people I love who will still be alive, so the thought of the Earth’s future scares me.

I realize I’m rambling, but once I start looking at the state of our world, my mind slips from one problem or crisis to another and, unfortunately, there seems to be an unlimited number of them. What is the answer to all these problems? Prayer, social action, political pressure, boycotts – all of these and more? I wish I had one encompassing answer, but I don’t think there is one answer that would solve all our problems. What I do is a) remind myself that despair doesn’t help and b) to think of this piece of wisdom from the ancient rabbis: It’s not ours to complete the task, but neither is it ours to cease from it. Find your cause and work for *tikkun olam* – make at least one corner of the world a better place.



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**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.

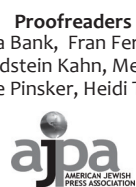
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# Jewish online resources

By Reporter staff

A variety of Jewish groups are offering educational and recreational online resources. Below is a sampling of those. *The Reporter* will publish additional listings as they become available.

◆ Nosh and Alma offer a free recipe book called “Jewish Food From Around the World.” To read or download the booklet, visit [www.heyalma.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/AlmaNosh-Foods-Around-the-World-ebook\\_final.pdf](http://www.heyalma.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/AlmaNosh-Foods-Around-the-World-ebook_final.pdf).

◆ The Braid, which offers “inspiring Jewish stories,” will hold a performance of “Star-Spangled Sabra,” “stories of Israelis in America as they define themselves,” live in California and on Zoom through March 23. Tickets are \$40. To learn more about The Braid, visit <https://the-braid.org/about/>. To purchase tickets for Zoom performances, visit [https://jewishwomenstheatre.secure.force.com/ticket/PatronTicket\\_PublicTicketApp#/events/a0S5G00000KK-sHVUA1](https://jewishwomenstheatre.secure.force.com/ticket/PatronTicket_PublicTicketApp#/events/a0S5G00000KK-sHVUA1).

◆ The Temple Emanu-El Streicker Center will hold the following virtual programs: “Gal Beckerman in Conversation with Michelle Goldberg on Tuesday, March 29, at 6:30 pm ([https://streicker-spring-2022.ticketleap.com/beckerman/dates/Mar-29-2022\\_at\\_0630PM](https://streicker-spring-2022.ticketleap.com/beckerman/dates/Mar-29-2022_at_0630PM)); “Matti Friedman in Conversation with Abigail Pogrebin” on Monday, April 4, from 6-7:30 pm ([https://streicker-spring-2022.ticketleap.com/friedman-pogrebin/dates/Apr-04-2022\\_at\\_0600PM](https://streicker-spring-2022.ticketleap.com/friedman-pogrebin/dates/Apr-04-2022_at_0600PM)); “Judy Collins Sings Hallelujah... to Leonard Cohen” on Monday, April 4, at 8 pm ([https://streicker-spring-2022.ticketleap.com/cohen/dates/Apr-04-2022\\_at\\_0800PM](https://streicker-spring-2022.ticketleap.com/cohen/dates/Apr-04-2022_at_0800PM)); “The Medici Archive Project: Night One: A Day in the Life of a Jewish Merchant” on Tuesday, April 5, from 6:30-8 pm ([https://streicker-spring-2022.ticketleap.com/medici-one/dates/Apr-05-2022\\_at\\_0630PM](https://streicker-spring-2022.ticketleap.com/medici-one/dates/Apr-05-2022_at_0630PM)); “The Medici Archive Project: Night Two: Jews on Trial” on Wednesday, April 6, from 6:30-8 pm ([https://streicker-spring-2022.ticketleap.com/medici-two/dates/Apr-06-2022\\_at\\_0630PM](https://streicker-spring-2022.ticketleap.com/medici-two/dates/Apr-06-2022_at_0630PM)); and “The Medici Archive Project: Night Three: The Jewish Caravaggio” on Thursday, April 7, from 6:30-8 pm ([https://streicker-spring-2022.ticketleap.com/medici-three/dates/Apr-07-2022\\_at\\_0630PM](https://streicker-spring-2022.ticketleap.com/medici-three/dates/Apr-07-2022_at_0630PM)).

◆ Maven will hold two “Tour Global Jewish Life” webinars: Yona Abeddour will offer a look at Morocco on Tuesday, March 15, from 2-3 pm (<https://maven.aju.edu/events-classes/program/tour-global-jewish-life-morocco>); and Dr. Jael Silliman will discuss Kolkata (formerly Calcutta) on Tuesday, April 12, from 10-11 pm (<https://maven.aju.edu/events-classes/program/tour-global-jewish-life-kolkata>). The cost for each tour is \$21.

◆ The Orthodox Union Guide to Passover 2022/5782 is now available for order at a cost of \$5.50 (which includes shipping). For more information or to order a guide, visit [www.ou.org/passover/guide/](http://www.ou.org/passover/guide/).

◆ Mazon, a Jewish Response for Hunger, is holding a virtual “2022 Insider Briefing Series.” The remaining two sessions are “Revitalization from Destruction: The Movement to Protect Traditional Food Systems” on Wednesday, April 6, at 1 pm; and “Correcting a Legacy of Inequity: Addressing Food Insecurity in Puerto Rico” on Thursday, May 12, at 3 pm. For more information and to register, visit <https://give.mazon.org/event/mazons-2022-insider-briefing-series/e392806>.

◆ Judaism Your Way will hold a Passover cooking class on Sunday, March 3, from 5-6:30 pm. The class is open to adults and children from the age of 4, who will learn to make 18-minute matzah and Sephardic charoset. For more information or to register, visit [www.judaismyourway.org/passover-cooking-class/](http://www.judaismyourway.org/passover-cooking-class/).

◆ The Jewish Theological Seminary will hold “Hate on Trial: The Charlottesville Case: The Bernard G. Segal Memorial Lecture in Law and Ethics” on Wednesday, March 30, at 7:30 pm, in-person at JTS and via Livestream. Roberta Kaplan, Risa Goluboff and Alan Levine, who participated in the trial, will discuss the court case.

For more information or to register, visit [www.jtsa.edu/event/hate-on-trial/](http://www.jtsa.edu/event/hate-on-trial/).

◆ The Hadassah-Brandeis Institute will hold several virtual events: “The Yiddish ‘New Girl’ and the Power of Getting Lost” on Monday, April 4, from 12:30-1:30 pm; “Studio Israel with Tamar Nissim” on Thursday, April 7, from noon-1 pm; “Women’s Voices and the Holocaust: How Stories are Told” on Thursday, April 28, from 11 am-1:30 pm; and “Portuguese Jewish Women between Two Courts: Germany’s Imperial Supreme Court and the Portuguese Inquisition” on Monday, May 2, from 12:30-1:30 pm. For more information or to register, visit [www.brandeis.edu/hbi/events/index.html](http://www.brandeis.edu/hbi/events/index.html).

◆ The Lower East Side Jewish Conservancy will hold two virtual talks: “Washington Heights (Again)” on Tuesday, March 29, from 7-8:45 pm ([www.nycjewishtours.org/event-log/washington-heights-zoom](http://www.nycjewishtours.org/event-log/washington-heights-zoom)); and “Pièce de Résistance: French Resistance during WWII” on Wednesday, April 6, from 7-8:45 pm ([www.nycjewishtours.org/event-log/piece-de-resistance](http://www.nycjewishtours.org/event-log/piece-de-resistance)).

◆ The Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History will hold the virtual program “A Celebration of Persian Jewish Music in honor of Purim” on Tuesday, March 15, at 8 pm. Dr. Galeet Dardashti will discuss Judeo-Persian musical traditions through both recorded and live music examples. For more information or to register, visit <https://nmajh.org/events/persian-jewish-music-purim-22/>.

◆ The Blue Dove Foundation offers free mental health resources for Purim. To access the resources, visit [https://thebluedovefoundation.org/resource\\_category/purim/?mc\\_cid=dc356f7cd8&mc\\_eid=31b946dce2](https://thebluedovefoundation.org/resource_category/purim/?mc_cid=dc356f7cd8&mc_eid=31b946dce2).

◆ Jewish Future Pledge and JFNA will hold “Creating an Ethical Will with Dr. Erica Brown” on Sundays, March 20 and 27, from 1-2 pm. Brown will take participants on “a step-by-step journey into creating an ethical will.” To register, visit <https://zoom.us/join/joinMeeting/register/tJ0ocOqpq-jgtHtUkP0ZjdeeXTFhYXKOn5XKM>.

◆ Maven will hold two virtual book talks: Danica Davidson will talk about “I Will Protect You,” a memoir she wrote with Eva Mozes Kor and her identical twin sister, Miriam, who survived Dr. Joseph Mengele’s medical experiments during World War II, on Tuesday, April 5, from 3-3:45 pm (<https://maven.aju.edu/events-classes/program/book-launch-i-will-protect-you>); and “‘The Puzzler’: A.J. Jacobs in Conversation with Rabbi Sherre Hirsch” talking about his book on puzzle and “how puzzles – with their emphasis on curiosity, questioning and innovative thinking – are a very Jewish art form” on Tuesday, May 10, from 3-3:45 pm (<https://maven.aju.edu/events-classes/program/the-puzzler-aj-jacobs-in-conversation-with-rabbi-sherre-hirsch>).

◆ The Jewish Theological Seminary will hold two virtual programs: “Hate on Trial: The Charlottesville Case” on Wednesday, March 30, at 7:30 pm ([www.jtsa.edu/event/hate-on-trial/](http://www.jtsa.edu/event/hate-on-trial/)); and “The Future of Catholic-Jewish Relations” on Thursday, March 31, at 1 pm ([www.jtsa.edu/event/catholic-jewish-relations/](http://www.jtsa.edu/event/catholic-jewish-relations/)).

◆ The Center for Jewish History will hold the virtual program “Family History Today: Learn Just Enough Russian for Genealogy” on Wednesday, March 30, at 7 pm. Those attending will be taught the Russian (or Cyrillic) alphabet, both printed and handwritten, with the hope of being able to string letters together to form words and names. For more information or to register, visit <https://programs.cjh.org/event/family-history-today-2022-03-30>.

◆ The Yiddish Book Center will hold a virtual book discussion about “How Yiddish Changed America and How America Changed Yiddish” with co-editors Ilan Stavans and Josh Lambert on Thursday, April 21, at 7 pm. For more information or to register, visit [https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN\\_ZpvkEzOtSfWmIe4GYdoYOA](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_ZpvkEzOtSfWmIe4GYdoYOA).

For additional resources, see previous issues of *The Reporter* on its website, [www.thereportergroup.org/streams/miscellaneous-features/miscellaneous-features/tag/80309?](http://www.thereportergroup.org/streams/miscellaneous-features/miscellaneous-features/tag/80309?)

The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to Rachel Coker on the death of her mother,

**Jan Dickler**

The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to Herbert Kline on the death of his wife,

**Patricia Pearis Kline**



## DEADLINES

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

ISSUE	DEADLINE
March 25-April 7	March 16
April 8-21	March 30
April 22-May 5	April 13
May 6-19	April 27

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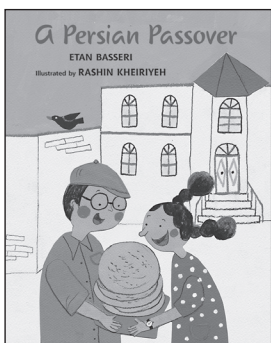


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## New in Books Kalaniot Books to release two new children’s books

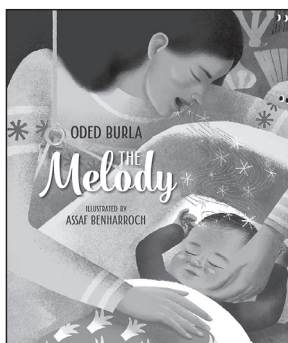
Kalaniot Books announced that it has released two new children’s picture books:

◆ “A Persian Passover” written by Etan Basseri with illustrations by Rashin Kheiriyeh. Two siblings, Ezra and Roza, who live in Persia, are helping their family prepare for Passover. Their task is to bring the family’s flour to the synagogue where it will be baked into matzah that is kosher for Passover. But when Ezra falls on the way home, the matzah is ruined and the two children must decide how to save the holiday.



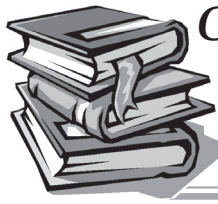
“A Persian Passover”

◆ “The Melody” written by Oded Burla with illustrations by Assaf Benharroch and a translation by Ilana Kurshan. Although the tale seems to be a simple story about a melody looking for a singer, the author is really reflecting on an ancient Jewish folktale. In that tale, God offers the Torah to all the nations of the world, but only the Jewish people accept. In this tale, the melody is offered to different creatures, but only one decides to sing the song.



“The Melody” (Covers used courtesy of Kalaniot Books)

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Off the Shelf

## The jazz age, mobsters and a notorious Jewish madam

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

What makes a biography greater than the story of one individual? When it narrates the history of an age, offering readers a better understanding of the times in which the person lived. That describes Debby Applegate's excellent "Madam: The Biography of Polly Adler, Icon of the Jazz Age" (Doubleday), which features a panoramic look at life during the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Its almost 470 pages (not including notes, bibliography and index) offer a fascinating portrayal of the difficult choices some immigrants to the U.S. made in order to survive and, in some cases, thrive.

Polly Adler is best known as the owner of numerous brothels in Manhattan whose customers included the elite in politics, show business, the arts (including male and female members of the Algonquin Table), high society and gangsters of all ethnicities. The brothels not only delivered sex for pay, but served as an after-hours salon where people – men and women – came to drink, talk and party. Those who met the 13-year-old Adler when she arrived alone in the United States might have been surprised at the course her life took. It's not as if she aspired to the life of a madam when she was young. But after she began working long and stultifying hours in a factory, she realized that all she had to look forward to was marriage, an apartment crowded with children and a life of poverty. The young woman wanted something more, as did many young women of the time.

That a factory foreman raped her when she was a teenager – leaving her pregnant and needing an abortion – helped solidify Adler's desire to escape the dreariness of her life. After she stayed out overnight partying, she was thrown out of the apartment where she was living with relatives. Alone and jobless in Manhattan, Adler was befriended by an actress and dazzled by the life her new friend was living. Adler learned that many women looking to make it in show business discretely supported themselves by accepting money from male friends: after all, they reasoned, what was the difference between sleeping with a man because he took you out to dinner and showed you a good time, or because he gave you some money in exchange for your time.

Applegate shows how the world was changing – the way women were demanding to be treated as equals, including in the sexual arena. Where Adler differed from others was her leadership qualities, which allowed her to manage other

women, rather than acting as a prostitute herself. And Adler was not the only Jewish woman to work as a madam. Applegate notes that "it was an article of faith held by both urban reformers and the underworld that Jewish women made the best madams. This belief was backed by statistics. In the first decades of the twentieth century, when Jews were approximately 20 percent of New York's population, they owned an estimated 50 percent of the city's brothels." The author sees a sociological reason behind this: "The shtetl tradition of the *balaboosta* – the cheerful, efficient wife who ran both the home and the family business while her husband studied the Torah – developed in many Jewish women the rare combination of practical financial sense and homey hospitality to run a successful home." One way Adler did differ from some in the business was that while she drank, she never did drugs. She'd seen the way that drugs ruined lives and tried to keep the women who worked for her clean.

What helped keep her business going was a seemingly endless supply of women (including those in show business) willing to supplement their income by serving as escorts or prostitutes until something else came along. It didn't hurt that the prostitution business was changing: with help from friends, Adler had apartments throughout the city where men and women could meet or spend the evening together. Her women never roamed the streets. Most arrangements were made through Adler, who manned the phone in her main apartment, which also served as a salon and speakeasy, in addition to being her home. Adler became an expert at juggling different needs, screening her customers and picking the right woman for each customer. At one point, she had more than 600 women working for her.

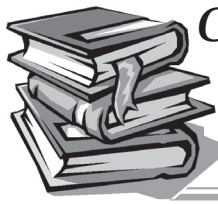
This might make it seem as if Adler's life was never-ending party, filled with booze, laughter and humorous banter. But Applegate writes about the more difficult aspects: the police raids, the inability to tell family members how you really made a living and the real risk of being beaten and robbed with no legal way to report it. The best Adler could hope for was the gangsters who were her friends spread the word not to touch her. Many police officials and district attorneys received kickbacks or hush money from gangsters and madams to ignore their activities. And during part of this era, the corruption rose to the highest levels,

including the mayor of New York. Applegate offers a quote from American impresario Billy Rose to show just how dangerous this life really was. Rose tells of an incident that occurred one night at a club in which he had an interest: "When a harmless lush made a wisecrack that left [gangster] Waxey [Gordon] unamused, the portly former pickpocket jumped up and drove his knee into the drunk's stomach, then proceeded to give him 'the boots'... This consists of driving the heel into the man's face and head and kicking him in other tender parts of his anatomy. I watched Waxey kick this man's face until there was practically no face left. Then I went into the kitchen and bawled like a baby." Rose notes, "[The] next day I unloaded my interest in the club."

After World War II, changes occurred that made it difficult for Adler to remain in business. Many of the gangsters who supported the world in which she lived had died (some even of natural causes) and the FBI was working to shut down her operation. Adler moved from New York City to California, went back to school and wrote her memoirs, which, with the help of a ghost writer, were published. The story of her life was even made into a movie. Adler managed to live well because she'd been smart: she saved during the high times, meaning she had cash, stocks and real estate for support during her retirement.

Applegate notes that Adler cast herself as a "modern Horatio Alger heroine." However, not everyone agreed with this. Adler's admirers called "her brothel... an intoxicating playground for madcap Broadway modernists and cutting-edge capitalists in hot pursuit of new pleasures. It was a space where the imagination was allowed free play, unfettered by outside eyes and conventional rules." Her foes believed "she exerted a sinister outside influence with powerful men whose after-dark decision making affected millions of Americans," and not always for the betterment of the nation.

Readers may find themselves agreeing with both her admirers and detractors. It's possible to admire her resolve while, at the same time, condemning her actions. That's the beauty of Applegate's work: she shows the world in which Adler lived in all its glory, while not neglecting its sordid side. This allows readers to make their own decisions about this complex, fascinating woman and the glorious and dangerous world in which she lived.



Off the Shelf

## Not your typical rom-coms

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

I don't read many romance novels; the only ones I prefer usually include a large dose of humor. However, these rarely result in my thinking about the characters after I turn the final page. And, of course, the endings are easy to predict. Well, while that's true for one novel in this review, it's not for the other. However, I'm not going to reveal whether that applies to "Weather Girl" by Rachel Lynn Solomon (A Jove Book) or "Bad Luck Bridesmaid" by Alison Rose Greenberg (St. Martin's Griffin) because that would spoil the fun.

There is a new sub-genre of romance novels – one where a main character suffers from a medical condition. That was true for the excellent "The Matzah Ball" by Jean Meltzer. (To see *The Reporter's* review, visit [www.thereporter.org/past-articles/feature-book-review/feature-book-review-stream/book-review-stream/off-the-shelf-looking-for-romance?entry=395006](http://www.thereporter.org/past-articles/feature-book-review/feature-book-review-stream/book-review-stream/off-the-shelf-looking-for-romance?entry=395006).) The character in Meltzer's book had chronic fatigue syndrome. Ari Abrams, the narrator of "Weather Girl," has inherited a tendency toward depression from her mother, with whom she has a complicated relationship. However, that does not prevent Ari from working as a weatherwoman, something she has dreamed of since she was a child. In fact, she feels lucky to be working with Torrance Hale, whose TV appearances made Ari choose the profession in the first place.

Most people who know Ari would never suspect she suffers from depression: When she talks to co-workers and friends, she always looks on the bright side and glues a smile on her face no matter how she is really feeling. That changes a bit when, during the station's holiday party, Torrance has a huge public fight with her ex-husband, Seth, who is the station's news director. Ari realizes that her dream job is turning into a nightmare. She and sportswriter Russell Barringer meet at the bar after the party and start plotting: they believe that Torrance and her husband still love each other and they scheme to reunite them. But their plotting has unexpected results: Ari and Russell start to have feelings for each other. Unfortunately, life is complicated: Ari is coming off a broken engagement and Russell ... well, you'll have to read the novel to learn about his life.

Solomon does a wonderful job balancing humor and serious content, in addition to having enough plot twists to keep readers' interest. There are explicit sex scenes, but they work well and make sense in terms of the plot, in addition to being fun to read. But it's Ari's character that makes the book work, especially when she reveals the reality of what living with depression means: "That's the thing about depression. You can know it's there, know it's part of you, but you can go ages without seeing it. It lives with you, an invisible roommate, up until the time you start sinking, and

then it sprawls itself across your couch and kicks its feet up on your coffee table and uses up all the hot water. Never pays its half of the rent, either." These insights will have readers rooting for Ari to find her way at work and in love.

While Ari has a defined illness, Zoey Marks, the narrator of "Bad Luck Bridesmaid," has a different lament. She's three for three at weddings. Not just being a bridesmaid at weddings for three of her friends: the bad luck comes from the fact that none of the three friends actually made it down the aisle. Even though each marriage didn't take place for a different reason, Zoey begins to feel she's the common denominator and that no marriage that she is involved with – including one of her own – would work. That creates problems with her perfect boyfriend, Rylan Harper III. The two are deeply in love and he's ready for them to commit to each other forever. So, why does Zoey say no to his proposal? Is the problem her unwillingness to commit to "ever after" with anyone or her fear of jinxing her own life? Zoey notes that "I am capable of experiencing love. But I was wholly stifled by the concept of an everlasting kind. I was stifled by love's ultimate goal." Although heartbroken after Rylan breaks off their relationship, she still can't agree to marry.

That might change, though. When her best friend Hannah Green decides to marry after a whirlwind romance, she asks Zoey to be her only bridesmaid. Zoey can't turn her down and decides that if Hannah goes through with the wedding, the jinx will be broken. However, there are several problems: the wedding is a destination wedding and Rylan, who is Hannah's cousin, will also be there. Plus, not only does Hannah's mother want Zoey to convince Hannah not to marry, the groom's brother, whose wife cheated on him, thinks the marriage is a bad idea and wants to prevent it from happening. Zoey is caught between her desire for the wedding to take place and her worries about whether her friend should marry.

What makes "Bad Luck Bridesmaid" stand out is the realistic characters. The friendship between Hannah and Zoey is beautifully described: these two women love and support each other. The pain they feel when life doesn't go the way they thought it would is clearly expressed in their discussions. Readers should note this novel also contains explicit sex, actually some really hot, explicit sex. But that's used to shine a light on the character's emotional lives and helps make this novel not your typical romance.



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# SCIENTIFIC BREAKTHROUGHS

## Hyperbaric oxygen therapy relieves PTSD symptoms in new Israeli study

By JNS staff

(JNS)—Israeli researchers have managed to relieve post-traumatic stress disorder (or PTSD) symptoms of 35 IDF combat veterans using hyperbaric oxygen therapy (or HBOT).

The scientists and doctors from Tel Aviv University and Shamir Medical Center said all of the vets who were treated showed significant improvement in all classes of symptoms following a controlled clinical trial. The results were published in the scientific journal PlosOne.

Nearly 4 percent of people worldwide and 30 percent of all combat soldiers develop PTSD, according to the World Health Organization.

A release by Tel Aviv University explained that “hyperbaric medicine involves treatments in a pressurized chamber where atmospheric pressure is higher than sea-level pressure and the air is rich with oxygen.” For medical indications, HBOT must be given in a certified chamber and overseen by a qualified physician.

The soldiers in the study had all previously been resistant to psychiatric medications and psychotherapy, according to Dr. Keren Doenyas-Barak. Participants were divided into two groups: One group received 60 HBOT treatments and the other served as a control.

“Both functional and structural improvement was observed in the non-healing brain wounds that characterize PTSD,” said Doenyas-Barak. “We believe that in most



Hyperbaric oxygen chamber (illustrative). (Photo by Wikimedia Commons)

patients, improvements will be preserved for years after the completion of the treatment.”

PTSD is caused by a biological wound in brain tissues, said Professor Shai Efrati. With the new HBOT protocols, we can activate mechanisms that repair the wounded brain tissue,” he explained. “The treatment induces reactivation and the proliferation of stem cells, as well as generation of new blood vessels and increased brain activity, ultimately restoring the functionality of the wounded tissues. Our study paves the way to a better understanding of the connection between mind and body.”

It also gives hope to PTSD sufferers. “For the first time in years the study’s participants, most of whom had suffered from severe PTSD, were able to leave the horrors behind and look forward to a better future,” said Doenyas-Barak.

## Israeli scientists engineer 3D human spinal-cord tissues to treat paralysis patients

By Maayan Hoffman

(JNS)—Israeli scientists have engineered 3D human spinal-cord tissues and implanted them in mouse models with chronic paralysis, successfully restoring their ability to walk. Now, the researchers are preparing for the next stage of the study: clinical trials in humans, which they say could begin in as little as two-and-a-half years.

Millions of people around the world are paralyzed due to spinal injury and lack effective treatment. According to the Miami Project to Cure Paralysis, approximately 17,810 new spinal-cord injuries occur each year in the U.S. alone.

The research, published recently in the peer-reviewed Advanced Science journal, was conducted by professor Tal Dvir of Tel Aviv University’s Sagol Center for Regenerative Biotechnology. A team of Ph.D. and postdoctoral students supported the efforts.

Specifically, the researchers engineered

functional human spinal cord tissues from human materials (like collagens and sugars) and cells via a process that mimics the development of the spinal cord in human embryos.

“Our technology is based on taking a small biopsy of belly fat tissue from the patient,” explained Dvir. “This tissue, like all tissues in our body, consists of cells together with an extracellular matrix. After separating the cells from the extracellular matrix, we used genetic engineering to reprogram the cells, reverting them to a state that resembles embryonic stem cells – namely cells capable of becoming any type of cell in the body. From the extracellular matrix, we produced a personalized hydrogel that would evoke no immune response or rejection after implantation. We then encapsulated the stem cells in the hydrogel and in a process that mimics the embryonic development of the spinal

cord we turned the cells into 3D implants of neuronal networks containing motor neurons.”

The spinal cords were implanted into two types of models: one group had only recently been paralyzed while the other had been paralyzed for the equivalent of a year in human terms. All of the recently paralyzed mice were able to walk again, while 80 percent of the mice with chronic paralysis regained that ability.

“This is the first instance in the world in which implanted engineered human tissues have generated recovery in an animal model for long-term chronic paralysis, which is the most relevant model for paralysis treatments in humans,” said Dvir.

The research is also unique because instead of injecting cells that may or may not integrate with the spinal cord, the Tel Aviv team is transplanting already functional spinal cords into the models, Dvir told JNS.

Moreover, using materials that come from the patient means that the transplants are personalized and hence less likely to lead to rejection.

Dvir said that he expects a Phase I human trial to take off within the next two-and-a-half years. Five people would be enrolled in the trial.

A company Dvir established in 2019 is already working on making the spinal cord implant treatments according to U.S. Food and Drug Association good manufacturing standards so that they will be commercially available when the science has been verified.

“The company’s preclinical program has already been discussed with the FDA,” said Dvir. “Since we are proposing an advanced technology in regenerative medicine, and since at present there is no alternative for paralyzed patients, we have good reason to expect relatively rapid approval of our technology.”

## Chickpea seeds on International Space Station for use in mini-greenhouse

By JNS staff

(JNS) – Israeli chickpea seeds were among the supplies and equipment sent to the International Space Station in February for a series of experiments aimed at controlling the growth of crops via technology.

Contained for optimal growth in a small device called a “miniature greenhouse,” they were delivered on February 19 as part of Northrop Grumman’s 17<sup>th</sup> commercial resupply services mission to the ISS, aboard its Cygnus spacecraft. The special greenhouses are considered well-suited for travel to the moon, which will be the next step of the mission.

The seeds are part of a project called “Space Hummus,” which will test hydroponic techniques for plant growth in zero gravity. A superfood with high nutrition, chickpeas grow quickly and easily, making them ideal for space cultivation.

NASA says it’s looking at ways to provide astronauts with nutrients in a long-lasting, easily absorbed form, such

as through freshly grown fruits and vegetables; the challenge is how to do that in a closed environment without sunlight or Earth’s gravity.

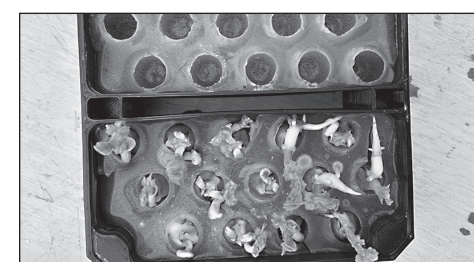
Scientists will conduct experiments on the ISS using special LEDs to see how well plant growth can be controlled, remotely observing and controlling root growth through video and still images. The goal is to maximize productivity and allow efficient management of resources on future space colonies on the moon and Mars. The team believes that perfecting techniques for control – part of a field called synthetic biology – could be essential to growing crops in a space station or on the moon and other planets.

“We can’t let the plants ‘grow wild’ in future colonies because they will quickly run out of resources,” says SpaceIL co-founder Yonatan Winetraub, a Ph.D. candidate in biophysics at Stanford University and visionary behind the experiment. “Our hope is to use our technology to control the rate of

chickpea growth in space with zero gravity and limited resources.”

The experiments – led by Winetraub; scientists and engineers from Israel and Stanford University; VC fund Moon2Mars Ventures; and the Desert Mars Analog Ramon Station (D-Mars) – will receive assistance from Yeruham Science Center high-school students and be performed in part by Israeli astronaut Eytan Stibbe (RAKIA mission, 2022).

See “Seeds” on page 11



Plants bud in a miniature greenhouse experiment aimed at controlling the growth of crops via technology. (Photo by Aviv Labs)

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Thank you for your support of your neighbors in need. Please mail or bring your donation to Jewish Family Service, 500 Clubhouse Road, Vestal, NY 13850. Contact Rose Shea, JFS Director, at 724-2332, ext. 339, with any questions.

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# Traditional Purim dishes tell the story of Diaspora life

By Sarah Ogince

(JNS) – Megillat Esther, or the Scroll of Esther, read on the upcoming holiday of Purim, describes the Jewish people’s escape from annihilation in Persia in the fifth century B.C.E. But really, it’s a quintessential story of Jewish life in the Diaspora, where – absent splitting seas and falling manna – Jews must rely on their wits and influence to preserve themselves and their way of life.

Purim, celebrated this year on March 17, does have one thing in common with every other Jewish holiday, however: It revolves around food. Edible gifts, called *mishloach manot*, are delivered to friends and family, and the day ends with a feast in commemoration of the wine-tastings Queen Esther hosted for King Ahasuerus and his wicked adviser, Haman.

Still, Purim cuisine is not known for its diversity. For most people, it begins and ends with hamantashen – the triangular, fruit-filled cookies that represent Haman’s hat, or maybe his pocket (more on that later). In fact, Jews all over the world cook an incredible variety of dishes to celebrate the story of Persian redemption, and these foods tell their own story of Jewish acculturation and continuity.

First and foremost, it’s a story of faith, says Joan Nathan, journalist and author of 11 cookbooks, most recently “King Solomon’s Table”: “Jewish food is the dietary laws, no question about that. Even if you don’t observe them, I think they’re always in the back of your mind.” But equally, Nathan says, Jewish cooking in the Diaspora is about adaptation. “Going elsewhere, going throughout the world and making these dishes kosher. It’s a quality of Jewish food. Unlike French or Italian cuisine, it’s not limited to a place.”

In Russia and Poland, for example, Jews celebrate Purim with *koyletsch* – a large, sweet loaf topped with white frosting and sprinkles. It shares a name, and a striking resemblance, to a panettone-like Russian

bread served at Easter, but its shape – braided like challah – makes it Jewish. *koyletsch* is said to represent the rope used to hang Haman after his downfall.

Giving food a symbolic meaning was a common way of incorporating local cuisine into Jewish culture. “Stuffed foods are really common on Purim to represent the surprises of the story,” says Jonathan Katz, an amateur chef who explores the diversity of Jewish cooking on his blog, *Flavors of Diaspora*. “One old Eastern European tradition is to serve pierogi, and there are Sephardi traditions to make bourekas on Purim – both have equivalents in surrounding communities.”

In some cases, symbolic meaning was attributed to foods that were already a staple of the Jewish diet. Seasoned chickpeas, another Purim dish, are served because Queen Esther is said to have maintained the kosher laws in the palace of King Ahasuerus by subsisting on legumes. Garbanzos were so closely identified with Jews in Spain that during the Spanish Inquisition, anyone caught cooking them was subject to arrest. But Ashkenazim, who call them *arbes* or *nahit* in Hebrew, eat chickpeas primarily on Purim and a few other select occasions, such as during the *Shalom Zachor*, the first Friday night after baby boys are born.

If the story of Purim food has a protagonist, however, it’s the dessert table. Pastries of every kind abound, and that’s not only because it’s a fun, kid-friendly holiday, Nathan says: “Purim was a time to get rid of your last flour before you’d replenish it after Passover.”

The necessity to rid the house of all leaven led Jewish cooks into an orgy of invention and vengeance: Almost every traditional Purim dessert claims to be some part of Haman’s body, so that – after drowning out the sound of his name during the reading of the megillah – Jews can take it one step further at the feast.

In Sephardic communities, fried dough shaped variously as Haman’s ears, shoes

and fingers is dipped into syrup and topped with sesame seeds and powdered sugar. *Hojuelas* – rose-shaped, fried confections – are enjoyed by Sephardim around the world. European Jews have their own take on eating the enemy. Refusing to settle for a mere ear or finger, German bakers serve gingerbread and lemon (Ha)man-shaped cookies.

But the hamantash, in its many variations, remains the most beloved Ashkenazi Purim dessert. The triangular cookies emerged in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century, a variation on a medieval German treat called *mohntasche*, or poppyseed pocket. It was a phonetic similarity that led to the pastry’s rebirth as the bribe-filled pocket of Ahasuerus’ wicked adviser. The hat was a later interpretation, reflecting the fashions of 17<sup>th</sup>-century Europe (Persians didn’t wear tricornered hats).

Aficionados debate over the dough (yeast is more authentic), and the proper filling continues to be a source of heated controversy among young and old. Nathan prefers a butter crust with orange or poppyseed filling. “My grandchildren like chocolate,” she says, “but it doesn’t do anything for me.”

Hamantashen may never lose their place of honor at the Purim table, yet the diversity of Purim cuisine is a reminder that Jewish life in the Diaspora has its moments of triumph and sweetness. “Jewish cultures and Jewishness are a kaleidoscopic world, and I think we lose something when we insist on only one tradition,” says Katz. “We’re supposed to be joyful on Purim, and what’s better than a range of delicious food to bring joy?”

## Chickpeas (“nahit”) for Purim (pareve)

From Joan Nathan’s “Jewish Holiday Cookbook”

- 1 (20-oz.) can of chickpeas
- Salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- Place chickpeas with liquid from the can in a saucepan. Simmer for a few minutes until heated through.
- Drain the water. Sprinkle with salt and freshly ground pepper to taste.
- Serve in a dish with toothpicks, or eat the chickpeas as you would sunflower seeds or peanuts.

Makes 2 cups.

## Hojuelas (pareve)

From “Sephardi: Cooking the History. Recipes of the Jews of Spain and the Diaspora From the 13<sup>th</sup> century to today” by Hélène Jawhara Piñer (Cherry Orchards, 2021).

- For the hojuelas:
- 2 cups flour
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 3 beaten eggs



Hojuelas (Photo by Hélène Jawhara Piñer)

- ½ cup sugar
- 2 tsp. water
- ½ tsp. salt
- 7 tsp. neutral oil
- Neutral oil for frying

### For the syrup:

- ½ cup water
- ¼ cup orange blossom water
- ½ cup sugar

### To decorate:

- ½ cup icing sugar
- ¼ cup sesame seeds

Put the flour, the baking powder, the beaten eggs, the sugar, the water, the salt and the oil in a bowl and mix with a spoon. Finish mixing with your hands. The dough should be smooth, without lumps.

Wrap the dough in plastic film and cool for 15 minutes.

Sprinkle flour on your working surface and roll out the dough. It must be thin and not sticky.

Cut strips 1 generous inch wide and about 15 inches long.

Heat the oil over medium heat.

Take a strip in your hand. Gently stick the teeth of a fork into one end of the strip and put the fork in the oil to cook this portion of the strip while keeping the rest out of the pan. Small bubbles will form on the dough. Every two seconds, gently turn the fork to roll up a little more of the strip and fry that bit. Continue like this until the entire strip of dough has been wrapped around the fork and fried.

Set aside and continue in the same way for all hojuelas.

### Prepare the syrup:

Pour the water, orange blossom and sugar into a pan. Mix everything over low heat for 5 minutes. The mixture should remain very liquid and transparent.

Soak the hojuelas in the sugar syrup – being careful not to break them – and put them onto a serving dish.

Put the sesame seeds and the icing sugar on two separate plates, and dip one side of each hojuela into one or the other alternately. Makes 10 pieces.

## Purim . . . . . Continued from page 1

### Purim recipes

It was a surprise to see how many links popped up after googling “hamantaschen recipe for children.” For simple recipes:

- ◆ The PJ Library features “Super Easy Hamantaschen Recipes to Make With Kids” at <https://pjlibrary.org/beyond-books/pjblog/february-2017/super-easy-hamantaschen-recipes-to-make-with-kids>.
- ◆ JewishKids.org offers “Purim Hamantashen” at [www.chabad.org/kids/article\\_cdo/aid/361591/jewish/Hamantashen.htm](http://www.chabad.org/kids/article_cdo/aid/361591/jewish/Hamantashen.htm). In addition, look at the menu on the right side of the screen and check out the recipes for “Purim Cake,” “Purim Corn

Flakes” and “Purim Popcorn.”

◆ Jamie Geller offers a recipe for “Candyland Hamantaschen” at <https://jamiiegeller.com/recipes/candyland-hamantaschen/>. Jelly beans, chocolate and hard candy were among her family’s favorite flavors.

◆ Two videos on Youtube.com offer help to parents who’ve never made hamantaschen before. “Easy Child Friendly Hamantaschen | Cooking with Kids” can be found at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=nDW0\\_BQpfis](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nDW0_BQpfis). The PJ Library video “Making a Giant Hamantashen with Kids!!!” is located at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=ubanXryaCOU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ubanXryaCOU).

## Annual Campaign 2022

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE!

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**To make your pledge/payment:**

- 1) Visit the Federation website at [www.jfgeb.org/campaign-2022](http://www.jfgeb.org/campaign-2022) and click on either “Make 2022 Pledge Now!” or “Pay 2022 Pledge Now!”
- 2) Pledges and payments (checks should be made payable to “Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton”) can be mailed to The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, 500 Clubhouse Road, Vestal, NY 13850
- 3) Fill out the form in this ad and mail it to the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, 500 Clubhouse Road, Vestal, NY 13850.

**Mail this form to:**

**Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton,  
500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

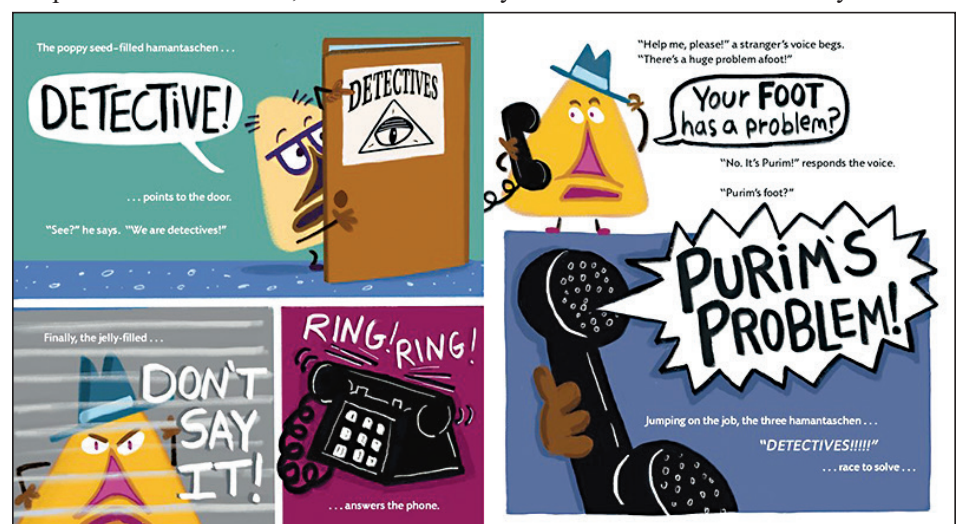
City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of pledge: \_\_\_\_\_



Two pages from “Meet the Hamantaschen: A Purim Mystery.” (Photo courtesy of Viking)

# Wedding & Party Guide

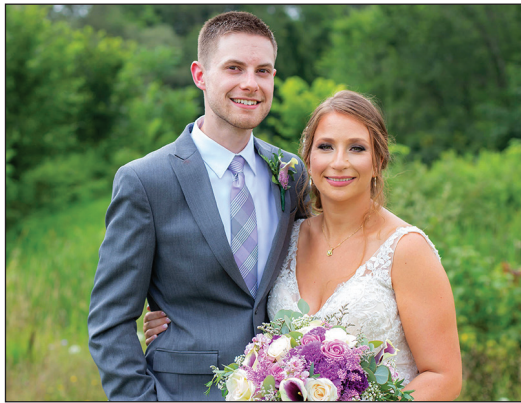
## Weddings



*Inessa Raytenburg and Mark Yonaty*  
May 9, 2021  
(Photo by EIN Photography and Design)



*Jessica Roth and Howard Brown*  
June 11, 2021  
(Photo by Adam Kaufman)



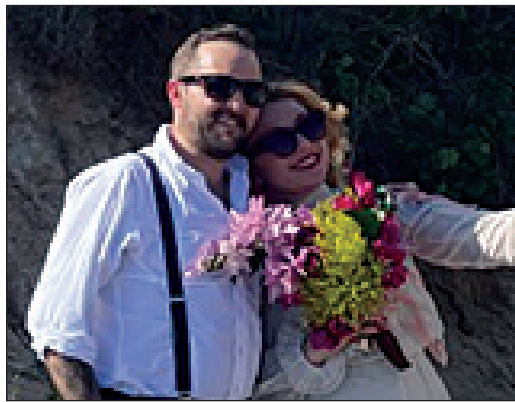
*Rose Shapiro and Eric Rouse*  
August 8, 2021  
(Photo by Kristy's Imagination Photography)



*Rachel Tandlich and Zach Gordon*  
August 8, 2021  
(Photo courtesy of Rachel Tandlich)



*Amy Shapiro and Robert Bieri*  
October 15, 2021  
(Photo by Michaela Schneider)



*Lee James and Sam Searles*  
January 5, 2022  
(Photo courtesy of the Searles family)

*Mazel Tov to our Married Couples!*

## Engagements



*Katy McCarthy and Brian Oleson*  
(Photo by Mei Lin Barral Photography)



*Tamara Weinstein and Blake Bennett*  
(Photo by Tamara Weinstein)

*Mazel Tov to our Engaged Couples!*

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## Your Wedding Checklist

### 6-12 MONTHS BEFORE WEDDING

- Determine budget
- Visit rabbi (ceremony variations)
- Set day, time and location of ceremony, rehearsal and reception
- Select a caterer
- Choose wedding photographer and/or videographer
- Draw up guest list
- Obtain floral/rental/music estimates
- Invite attendants
- Discuss honeymoon and new home
- Select gown and headpiece
- Select music for ceremony and reception
- Register with bridal gift registry

### 4 MONTHS BEFORE WEDDING

- Order invitations and personal stationery
- Plan reception
- Plan ceremony and reception music
- Choose florist
- Mothers choose gowns
- Men choose attire
- Make honeymoon reservations
- Begin trousseau shopping
- Arrange motel accommodations for out-of-town guests

### 3 MONTHS BEFORE WEDDING

- Make an appointment with gynecologist to discuss birth control, etc.

### 2 MONTHS BEFORE WEDDING

- Order wedding cake
- Select attendants' gifts
- Plan to keep gift record
- Acknowledge gifts as they arrive
- Finish invitations - mail them 6 weeks before wedding
- Plan rehearsal dinner

- Check on marriage license
- Get rings engraved
- Plan luncheon for bridesmaids
- Select gift for groom
- Go over wedding ceremony details
- Gown fitting
- Bridal portrait sitting
- Arrange for limousine service
- Make hairdresser appointment

### 1 MONTH BEFORE WEDDING

- Make up reception seating charts
- Check wedding party apparel
- Final gown fitting
- Get blood tests for marriage license

### 2 WEEKS BEFORE WEDDING

- Make final check on bridal-party clothes and catering
- Arrange name changes/get marriage license
- Arrange transportation from reception to airport or wherever you are leaving from for the honeymoon

### 1 WEEK BEFORE WEDDING

- Wrap attendants' gifts
- Give final count to caterer
- Confirm music arrangements and check selections
- Arrange to move belongings to new home
- Check that your hairstyle complements your headpiece
- Final instructions to photographer and videographer
- Final instructions to ushers for special seating
- Give clergy fee to best man in sealed envelope (he will deliver it)
- Begin packing for honeymoon

### 1 DAY BEFORE WEDDING

- Give ushers guest list
- Do something relaxing and pamper yourself!

## Host your gathering at



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# Ukrainian refugees burst into applause upon arrival in Israel

By Josh Hasten

(JNS) IASI, ROMANIA – Daria Garn was exhausted. After five grueling days traveling from war-torn Kyiv, Ukraine, through Moldova with her two young sons, she had finally arrived at the Romania International Airport in Iasi, where she was waiting to board a flight to Israel. As tears welled, Garn, 29, told JNS she was forced to leave her husband behind as he had been unable to secure the proper paperwork to join her. Following Russia's deadly invasion of Ukraine on February 24, most Ukrainian adult males have been forbidden to leave the country.

Rubbing bloodshot eyes, Garn said that after 10 days of suffering through the bombings, she had decided that it was time to leave. "I'm so tired; I don't eat, I don't sleep – it's like I don't feel anything. I'm numb," she said.

Garn and her children were joined at the airport by more than 100 other Jewish refugees who had secured seats on flights to Israel thanks to the United Hatzalah organization.

The March 7 counted as Hatzalah's third rescue mission in the past several days, as staff organized fully subsidized flights from Romania and Moldova.

Dovie Maisel, vice president of operations for United Hatzalah, told JNS the mission was actually three-fold. In addition to saving Ukrainian Jews and stranded Israelis by getting them on a flight from Romania to Israel, 20 or so Hatzalah volunteers – including doctors, medics, EMTs, psychotrauma crisis experts and even medical clowns – traveled from Israel to Romania on their way to Hatzalah's emergency operation center in Kishinev, Moldova. There, they will offer treatment and their expertise to those in need.

The new volunteers will join more than 55 others currently stationed at the center, which also serves as the



Refugees from Ukraine touch down at Ben-Gurion International Airport in the early hours of March 8. (Photo by Josh Hasten)

rally point for those Jews and Israeli citizens seeking safety in Israel. Maisel said that as many as 500 people are on a waiting list to come to Israel – and the list is growing.

The third aspect of the operation, he explained, was that "the belly of the plane is full of a few tons of equipment, including medical supplies, food, toys for children, baby formula, diapers, warm clothing and other humanitarian aid."

The medical equipment, he said, was being sent to the emergency operations center in Kishinev, and "from there, it will be distributed to several spots on the borders, where our staff will also be carrying out their work to assist those fleeing the Ukraine."

Back at the airport in Iasi, 40-year-old Yevhen Mukhin, a resident of Ashkelon, Israel, was sitting near the departure gate with his mother and grandmother, both of whom had escaped from Kyiv. He told JNS that when the war broke out, he had tried to figure out a way to get his family out of Ukraine. Mukhin's father, he said, had succeeded in getting the two women out through Moldova by car, and eventually to the airport. Mukhin met his mother and grandmother in Iasi to escort them on the last leg of their trip, as his father had needed to travel to Poland, he said. His grandmother – the only member of the family without Israeli citizenship – had decided to settle in Israel permanently upon her arrival, he said.

Alexandra Potapova, 28, an Israeli citizen born in Ukraine and currently living in Rishon LeZion, was visiting her mother in Kyiv when the war broke out. She told JNS that a Russian rocket had landed very close to her mother's house, which is located in a residential neighborhood. Russian President Vladimir Putin has claimed "he was only targeting military sites. But that's a lie. He is clearly aiming for civilian areas," she said.

Potapova, who at one time worked for the Jewish Agency for Israel, began frantically making calls to find a way out of the country for her mother (who isn't an Israeli citizen) and herself. After many dead ends, she discovered the Hatzalah emergency operation center in Kishinev, and the pair made a 24-hour journey to reach the center, where they were booked for the flight. She said the trip took so long because of all of the chaos at the border, which caused a lengthy delay getting into Moldova.

Potapova said her mother has no intention of going back to Ukraine and plans on making *aliyah*. She added that she is a proud, fifth-generation Jew from Kyiv and that 20 members of her family were murdered at Babi Yar during the Holocaust, along with more than 33,000 other Jews.

"We don't understand why this war is happening," she said. "Why is Putin bombing Kyiv? Doesn't the president have enough to worry about with so much poverty in Russia?" she asked. "He should leave Golda Meir's birthplace

alone," she said emphatically, referring to the late Israeli prime minister.

There was complete silence inside the plane as the flight to Israel lifted off from Romania at 3 am; the refugees were getting some much-needed rest. The plane entered Israeli airspace just as the sun was rising; upon touchdown, the refugees let out thunderous applause.

Some plan to ride out the war with their families in Israel. Others plan to stay for good.

For United Hatzalah, it's back to preparing for the next rescue missions in the days ahead.

But why is this Israeli-based emergency first-response organization at the forefront of a rescue effort thousands of miles away? Raphael Poch, the international media spokesman for United Hatzalah, in addition to being a volunteer EMT and a member of the psychotrauma and crisis response unit, explained: "Any time there is a need anywhere in the world where our services can be used to help out humanity – whether it's a disaster like the building collapse in Surfside [Florida], hurricanes in Houston, or the earthquakes in Nepal or Haiti, we send international missions to go and help. We saw that there was a crisis, so we went. That's what we do."

## Olympics...Continued from page 2

By 1936, Adolf Hitler, German chancellor and fuhrer, had made his goals explicit. His 1925 biographical rant and polemic "Mein Kampf," defiance of the Treaty of Versailles and the 1935 Nuremberg Laws outlined an agenda of German rearmament, bombastic nationalism, territorial conquest and vituperative antisemitism. Buttressed by lies and propaganda, Hitler posed as a reasonable statesman while hosting the 1936 Garmisch-Partenkirchen Winter and Berlin Summer Olympics. In the grip of isolationism and appeasement, the Western democracies succumbed to Hitler's masquerade of benevolence and participated in the Nazi Olympics.

The history of the Berlin Olympics is distorted by mythology. The fable claims that democratic American athletes triumphed over their totalitarian counterparts in 1936. And that the four gold-medal victories of the great U.S. track and field star Jesse Owens, an African American, shredded Nazi racism and humiliated Hitler. The preceding derives from largely baseless shibboleths.

Owens received more applause than any athlete from the German masses, who chanted "Yes-sa Ove-ens! Yes-sa Ove-ens!" Owens always cherished warm memories of the Berlin Olympics: "When I passed the chancellor (Hitler) he rose, waved his hand at me, and I waved back at him. I think the writers showed bad taste in criticizing (Hitler) the man of the hour in Germany."

Despite Owens' personal victories, Germany won the 1936 Olympics. According to the tabulations of the American Olympic Committee, Germany accumulated 6283/4 points to 4511/3 for the U.S. This encouraged totalitarians and their followers to view themselves as invincible against degenerate liberal democracies. World War II followed.

For the Jewish-American sprinters Sam Stoller and Marty Glickman, the Berlin Olympics brought betrayal. On the morning of Saturday, August 9, 1936, the day of their scheduled heats and final, Stoller and Glickman were informed that Ralph Metcalfe and Jesse Owens, both Black Americans, would replace them on the four-man, 400-meter relay team. Although the U.S. was favored to win the event with Stoller and Glickman competing, Dean Crowell, the American coach for the event, claimed Germany might produce a surprise super-runner. In reality, it was impossible to hide an athlete in Olympic competition. Moreover, Stoller and Glickman were at least as fast as Frank Wycoff and Foy Draper, both of whom remained on the team. An embarrassed Owens, pointing to the three medals he had already won, pleaded with no avail to let Stoller and Glickman have their chance at glory. The recast American team won a gold medal with a record time of 39.8 seconds. The German team that Crowell claimed to fear placed third, finishing in 41.2 seconds. Had Glickman and Stoller competed and run their usual times, the American team would have still finished first, although without the world record made possible by Owens. Glickman believed that Crowell did not want to affront the Nazi hosts with Jewish medalists.

Democracies should not participate in Olympic games hosted by totalitarians. Jews, Uyghurs, Ukrainians and adolescent girls are amongst those who have paid the price of weaponizing sports. The games should go on and strive to fulfill the aspiration of Pierre de Coubertin, the founder of the modern Olympics, to promote peace, respect and excellence. Olympic reforms merit consideration, including excluding those under 18 from competition and establishing a permanent, neutral site for the games.

Bill Simons is a professor emeritus at SUNY Oneonta where he continues to teach courses in American 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.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

### Hebrew University offers emergency aid to Ukrainian students, professors

In a show of solidarity with the Ukrainian people, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Hebrew University Student Union hoisted the Ukrainian flag on its campus on Mount Scopus. The university and its students seek to send a message of support and encouragement to Ukraine, now in the throes of the second week of invasion by the Russian military. University President Professor Asher Cohen said "Hoisting the Ukrainian flag on campus is an important statement. It says we at the Hebrew University are deeply troubled by the crisis unfolding in Ukraine, and send a message of support and strength to the people of Ukraine. Our heart is with the Ukrainian people." At the outbreak of the war, Dean Guy Harpaz reached out to students of Ukrainian origin who have been personally or whose families have been directly affected by the war in Ukraine to offer immediate financial, emotional and academic support. Additionally, the university is offering temporary posts to Ukrainian academics and graduate students, and has also invited professors to continue their research at Hebrew University for a period of up to four months. Suitable candidates will receive monthly stipends of up to \$2,800, as well as free room and board at on-campus residences. A similar offer has been made to Ukrainian graduate students currently pursuing master's degrees and doctoral degrees at Ukrainian institutes of higher learning. These students will be able to continue their studies and research at Hebrew University for up to four months and will receive a monthly stipend of \$2,000, plus free board in the dormitories. The school is also inviting Ukrainian citizens currently pursuing a bachelor's degree to attend its Rothberg International School free of charge and to partake in English-language courses. This offer includes a living stipend and free board, based on available space.

## 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](mailto:director@jfgb.org)

### If Your Goal is to:

Make a quick and easy gift

Avoid tax on capital gains

Defer a gift until after your death

Receive guaranteed fixed income that is partially tax-free

Avoid the two-fold taxation on IRA or other employee benefit plans

Make a large gift with little cost to you

Reduce taxable income from IRA Required Minimum Distributions

### Then You Can:

Simply write a check now or use a credit card

Contribute long-term appreciated stock or other securities

Put a bequest in your will (gifts of cash or a share or the residue of your estate)

Create a charitable gift annuity

Name a charity as the beneficiary of the remainder of the retirement assets after your lifetime

Contribute a life insurance policy you no longer need or purchase a new one and designate a charity as the owner

Make a qualified charitable donation directly from your IRA (after age 70½)

### Your Benefits May Include:

An income tax deduction and immediate charitable impact

A charitable deduction plus no capital gains tax

Exemption from federal estate tax on donations

Current and future savings on income taxes plus fixed stable payments

Tax relief to your family on inherited assets

Current and possible future income tax deductions

Reducing taxable income

# JDC launches campaign to assist Ukrainian Jewry

By JNS staff

(JNS) – In response to the invasion of Ukraine on February 24, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee has launched an emergency campaign to respond to spiking humanitarian needs among the nearly 40,000 poor Jews it supports in 1,000 locations around the country. JDC is already providing extra essentials like food and medicine to its clients and has activated its emergency hotlines, volunteer corps and network of Hesed social service centers to address emerging needs as events unfold. The organization said it was also preparing to handle mass displacement, and deploy psychosocial support and increased aid to the most vulnerable.

“While we pray for a peaceful resolution to this conflict, we are working around the clock to ensure tens of thousands of Ukraine’s neediest Jews have the critical care and support they need to survive these terrible events. We do not know what the days ahead will bring, but JDC will remain a lifeline to these Jews and to Jewish communities,” said

JDC CEO Ariel Zwang on February 25. “By leveraging our expertise from past crises in the region, the pandemic and our presence on the ground, we will stand shoulder to shoulder with these Jews as part of our commitment to the timeless value that all Jews are responsible for one another.”

In the months leading up to the current crisis, JDC was already addressing dire economic need among Ukraine’s poorest Jews in the face of rising food, medicine and utility prices. The organization has provided extra essentials to them. The organization was also preparing its teams to ensure continued aid during a variety of crisis scenarios, including food package delivery, online support and care, mapping clients to be able to reach them in an emergency, and coordinating with local Jewish organizations.

JDC has been operating in Ukraine, and throughout the former Soviet Union, for three decades, providing humanitarian assistance and Jewish community-building programs. Today, those efforts include tens of thousands of beneficiaries

and participants who rely on and engage with 18 Hesed social service centers, six flagship JCCs, thousands of volunteers and teens engaged in service and Jewish cultural programs, and leadership programs in Ukraine. The organization’s work with Ukrainian Jews dates back nearly to the group’s founding 100-plus years ago. JDC has since provided aid to Jews impacted by war, famine and other challenges.

JDC’s work in Ukraine, and throughout the former Soviet Union, is supported by its partners, including Jewish Federations across North America in partnership with JFNA and UIA Canada; the Claims Conference; the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews; Maurice and Vivienne Wohl Charitable Foundation; World Jewish Relief (UK); and Genesis Philanthropy Group; as well as JDC’s Board of Directors and thousands of individual donors and foundations.

Donations to these efforts can be made at <https://jdc.org/Ukraine>.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

### Bennett speaks with Putin, Zelensky as U.S. announces ban on Russian-oil imports

Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett spoke with Russian President Vladimir Putin for the second time in recent days. According to the Kremlin, Putin discussed with the Israeli leader Moscow’s assessment of the third round of talks between Russian and Ukrainian officials that took place on March 7. Those talks ended without any significant breakthrough as efforts to establish a humanitarian corridor from Ukrainian cities under attack by Russian forces have faltered. Bennett made a quick visit to Moscow on March 5 to meet with Putin in person as part of an effort to mediate the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. Unlike most other Western countries, Israel has maintained open lines of communication with Putin while also supporting Ukraine during the Russian military onslaught. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky also said that he spoke with Bennett on March 8 and thanked him for his diplomatic efforts. In a tweet, Zelensky said the two “discussed ways to end the war and violence.” The United States has praised Israel’s efforts to try to bring an end to the conflict. On March 7, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken told his Israeli counterpart Yair Lapid that he “appreciated” the efforts, but that Russia has so far chosen not to pursue the path of diplomacy. The latest efforts by Israel to mediate the conflict came as U.S. President Joe Biden announced that America would ban all Russian-oil imports, a striking move against Moscow in retaliation for its invasion of Ukraine that will also likely bring extra costs to U.S. residents at the gas pump. “We will not be part of subsidizing Putin’s war,” declared Biden, calling the new action a “powerful blow” against Russia’s ability to fund the ongoing offensive. The president said that Americans will see rising prices, but made it a point to say that “defending freedom is going to cost.”

### Russia reportedly “trying to recruit Syrian fighters” for war

Russia is attempting to recruit Syrian fighters for its war against Ukraine, an American defense official quoted by multiple American media outlets said on March 7. The official said a report by *The Wall Street Journal* the previous day on the recruitment effort was accurate, referring to a story about Moscow seeking out Syrian fighters with urban-warfare experience who could aid Russian invasion efforts of Ukrainian cities, like its capital of Kyiv. According to NPR, “the American defense official described the story as accurate, though the U.S. does not have estimates on the number or quality of the fighters Russia may have signed up.” Russia has not commented on the reports. “It’s not clear how long it might take such a group of Syrian fighters to reach Ukraine, how they would integrate with the Russian military or how effective they might be,” said NPR. It noted, however, that the report on Russia’s recruiting effort “is the latest sign that Russia’s invasion of Ukraine is not going as planned.” Russian ground maneuvers outside of Kyiv and other cities have stalled in recent days, it noted, unlike more rapid movement into southern Ukrainian cities. The American official said Russia deployed “nearly 100 percent” of its military forces in February to Ukraine’s borders.

### JFNA allocates first \$8 million to help Jews in Ukraine

The Jewish Federations of North America announced on March 3 that they have raised and will allocate their first \$8 million of their \$20 million goal to secure the Jewish community of Ukraine. According to a news release, the funds were allocated to the Jewish Agency for Israel, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, World ORT, United Hatzalah and Hillel International. The funds will go to sustain displaced Jews who are not in camps or shelters with basic needs such as food, medicine, appliances, and clothing, as well as increasing cash assistance to elderly and vulnerable families.

# PASSOVER

## 2022 Greetings

**April 8 (Deadline: March 31) Personal Greetings and Health Care Greetings**

Passover is traditionally a time for sharing with family, friends and strangers. While your seder table may not be large enough to fit all these people, you can share the warmth of this holiday with the entire local Jewish community by placing a Passover greeting in *The Reporter*. You may choose from the designs, messages and sizes shown here - more are available. You may also choose your own message, as long as it fits into the space of the greeting you select. (Custom designs available upon request.) The price of the small greeting is \$20 (styles C, D & E), the medium one is \$38 (style B), the next size is \$57 (style A) and the largest one (style F) is \$76. To ensure that your greeting is published, simply fill out the form below and choose a design that you would like to accompany your greeting, or contact Charlie Pritchett 1-800-779-7896, ext. 244; cell 607-725-4110; or e-mail [advertising@thereporter.org](mailto:advertising@thereporter.org). Checks can be made payable to *The Reporter* and sent to: *The Reporter*, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850.

### PASSOVER 2022 Greetings

**April 8 (Deadline: March 31)**  
Personal Greetings and Health Care Greetings

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Greeting Style \_\_\_\_\_  
Message \_\_\_\_\_  
How you would like it signed \_\_\_\_\_


We accept  Visa  Mastercard  American Express  Discover (if applicable)

Print Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_  
Card Number \_\_\_\_\_  
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Address, City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**March 31 DEADLINE**


Checks can be made payable to *The Reporter*, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850.

*Wishing you and your family peace, health and happiness this Pesach*



Your Name(s)

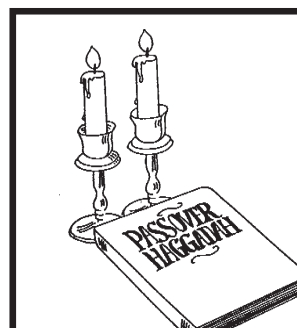
**Style A • \$57**  
Actual Size: 3.22" x 2.958"



*Next year may we all be free!*

Your Name(s)

**Style C • \$20**  
Actual Size: 1.5278" x 1.975"




*Passover Blessings*

Your Name(s)

**Style B • \$38** Actual Size: 3.22" x 1.975"

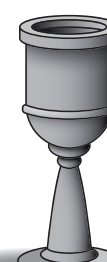
*May you and your family have a joyous Pesach*



Your Name(s)

**Style D • \$20**  
Actual Size: 1.5278" x 1.975"

*May your Passover seder be joyous!*



Your Name(s)

**Style E • \$20**  
Actual Size: 1.5278" x 1.975"

*HAPPY PASSOVER*

Your name(s)

**Style F • \$76**  
Actual Size: 3.2222" x 3.95"



## Weekly Parasha

Vayikra, Leviticus 1:1-5:26; Deut. 25:17-19

# The source of blessings in our life

RABBI ZALMAN CHEIN, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND RITUAL, CHABAD OF BINGHAMTON

This Shabbat, we will be reading from two Torah scrolls. The first is the weekly Torah portion, Vayikra, the first portion in the book of Leviticus. We will then read *parashat* Zachor from the second Torah. *Parashat* Zachor describes the first attack on the Jewish people by the Amalekites, the war that ensued and God's command to always remember, and not to forget, what Amalek has done.

Why would one forget this deed, necessitating a special

commandment telling us not to forget? And if it is possible to forget, is there something one can do to avoid it?

Perhaps we can glean some insight from Vayikra, which is not only the name of the portion we read first, but is also its first word. In its Hebrew form, the Torah (Pentateuch, Prophets and Scriptures) is primarily written in one font size and style. However, we find dispersed throughout the Torah a larger font set and a smaller font set.

Let us look at the letter *alef*. The first word in the book of Chronicles is Adam and it is written with a large *alef*. The first word in Leviticus is Vayikra with a small *alef*: "And He [God] called to Moses. The large *alef* is associated with Adam's character trait and the smaller one with Moses' character trait.

I will focus on the small *alef* and its symbolization, See "Life" on page 11

## Congregational Notes

### Temple Israel

Orientation: Conservative  
Rabbi: Geoffrey Brown  
Address: 4737 Deerfield Pl., Vestal, NY 13850  
Phone: 723-7461 and 231-3746  
Office hours: Mon.-Thurs., 8:30 am-3:30 pm; Fri., 8 am-3 pm  
E-mail: titammy@stny.twbc.com  
Website: www.templeisraelvestal.org

Service schedule: Tues., 5:30 pm; Fri., 5:30 pm; Sat., 9:30 am  
On Fridays and Tuesdays at 5:30 pm, services will be led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown via Zoom and in-person (masks are required).

On Saturday, March 12, Shacharit services will be held at 9:30 am via Zoom and in-person (masks are required). The Torah portion is Leviticus 1:1-5:26 and the haftarah is I Samuel 15:2-4. At 6:45 pm, there will be Havdalah services via Zoom.

On Sunday, March 13, a Temple Israel Adult Education program will be held at 10:30 am.

On Tuesday, March 15, there will be a Board of Trustees meeting at 7 pm on Zoom.

On Wednesday, March 16, there will be Torah study from 4-5 pm on Zoom.

On Wednesday, March 16, there will be a Hebrew School and Temple Community Purim Party beginning at 5:30 pm.

On Saturday, March 19, at 9:30 am, Shacharit services will be held at 9:30 am via Zoom and in-person (masks are required). The Torah portion is Leviticus 6:1-8:36 and the haftarah is Jeremiah 7:21-3, 9:22-3. At 8 pm, there will be Havdalah services via Zoom.

### Penn-York Jewish Community

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

### Kol Haverim

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

### Temple 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  
Website: templebrithsholomcortland.org  
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.

Services and programs are held by Zoom on the first and second Fridays of the month.

### 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.

### Beth David Synagogue

Affiliation: Orthodox Union  
Rabbi: Zev Silber  
Address: 39 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905  
Phone: 722-1793, Rabbi's Office: 722-7514, Fax: 722-7121  
Office hours: Mon. closed; Tues. 10 am-1 pm; Wed. closed; Thurs. 9 am-1 pm; Fri. 10 am-1 pm  
Beth David e-mail address: bethdavid@stny.rr.com  
Rabbi's e-mail: rabbisilber@stny.rr.com  
Website: www.bethdavid.org  
Facebook: www.facebook.com/bethdavidbinghamton

### Rohr Chabad Center

Affiliation: Chabad-Lubavitch  
Rabbi Aaron and Rivkah Slonim, Directors  
E-mail: aslonim@binghamton.edu  
rslonim@chabadofbinghamton.com  
Address: 420 Murray Hill Rd., Vestal, NY 13850  
Phone: 797-0015, Fax: 797-0095  
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.

### Temple Beth El of Oneonta

Affiliation: United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism  
Rabbi: Amelia F. Wolf  
Address: 83 Chestnut St., Oneonta, NY 13820  
Mailing address: P.O. Box 383, Oneonta, NY 13820  
Phone: 607-432-5522  
E-mail: TBEOneonta@gmail.com  
Regular service times: Contact the temple 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, contact the temple.  
Friday night services will be held on April 1; May 6 and Saturday morning, May 7; and June 3.

### 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-safman@tbeithaca.org and secretary@tbeithaca.org  
Website: www.tbeithaca.org  
Presidents: David Weiner and Linda Aigen  
Sisterhood President: Gail Zussman  
Director of Education: Rabbi Suzanne Brody  
Services: Fri. 8 pm; Sat. 10 am, unless otherwise announced.  
Weekday morning minyan 7:30 am (9 am on Sun. and legal holidays).  
Religious School/Education: September-May: Classes meet on Sunday, 9 am-12:30 pm and Wednesday, 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.

Friday, March 11, light candles before ..... 5:48 pm  
Saturday, March 12, Shabbat ends ..... 6:49 pm  
Friday, March 18, light candles before ..... 6:56 pm  
Saturday, March 19, Shabbat ends ..... 7:57 pm  
Friday, March 25, light candles before ..... 7:03 pm  
Saturday, March 26, Shabbat ends ..... 8:05 pm

### Temple Concord

Affiliation: Union for Reform Judaism  
Rabbi: Barbara Goldman-Wartell  
Address: 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905  
Office hours: Tues.-Fri., 10 am-2 pm  
Phone: 723-7355  
Fax: 723-0785  
Office e-mail: TempleConcordbinghamton@gmail.com  
Website: www.templeconcord.com  
Regular service times: Fri., 7:30 pm; Sat., 10:35 am, when religious school is in session.  
Hebrew school: Hebrew school meets at 4:15 pm and 5:15 pm on Tues. and Thurs. during the school year unless otherwise noted.

Some services and programs are online only.  
Friday, March 11: at 7:30 pm, Shabbat service led by Rabbi Goldman-Wartell. To attend in person, all must show proof of COVID-19 vaccinations. Masks are not required, but are recommended. Join via Zoom at https://bit.ly/37UQSpK, meeting ID 829 9450 3102 and passcode 708450, or on the Temple Concord Facebook page.

Saturday, March 12: Shabbat school at 9 am; Torah study at 9:15 am on Zoom at https://bit.ly/3CVxM14, meeting ID 882 9808 7579 and passcode 676707; Shabbat family service at 10:30 am; and "Havdalah with a Bonus" at 7 pm on Zoom at https://bit.ly/3zd0atv, meeting ID 897 4179 1260 and passcode 408279.

Wednesday, March 16: at 7 pm, Purim celebration. There will be Purim songs, blessings and a "Mad Lib Megillah" to celebrate the holiday. Costumes are welcome and hamantashen will be served for those attending in person. The celebration will take place in the sanctuary, on Zoom (https://bit.ly/3Hf8En5, meeting ID 856 1488 6307 and passcode 382117) or on the Temple Concord Facebook page.

Friday, March 18: at 7:30 pm, Shabbat services celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of bat mitzvah. Women will be sharing an aliyah and reflecting on their bat mitzvah experiences. All women who have celebrated becoming a bat mitzvah at any age are invited to take part and to share their reflections on the experience. Proof of vaccination is required to attend. Masks are not required, but are recommended. Via Zoom at https://bit.ly/37UQSpK, meeting ID 829 9450 3102 and passcode 708450, or on the Temple Concord Facebook page.

Saturday, March 19: Shabbat school at 9 am; Torah study at 9:15 am on Zoom at https://bit.ly/3CVxM14, meeting ID 882 9808 7579 and passcode 676707; and Shabbat family service at 10:30 am; and "Havdalah with a Bonus" at 7 pm on Zoom at https://bit.ly/3zd0atv, meeting ID 897 4179 1260 and passcode 408279.  
See "Concord" on page 11

### Norwich Jewish Center

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

### Congregation 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: Nomi Talmi and Shawn Murphy  
Rabbi: Shifrah Tobacman, rabbishifrah@tikkunvor.org  
Education Director/Administrative Coordinator: Naomi Wilensky  
Bnai Mitzvah Coordinator: Michael Margolin  
Services: All services currently on Zoom. E-mail info@tikkunvor.org for the times and links. Contemplative morning services every Tuesday from 8:30-9:30 am. Saturday mornings, Gan Shabbat and other special services at least once a month. Call for the weekly schedule.  
Jewish Learning Experiences (JLE) for second through seventh grade classes meet on Sunday mornings. Sixth and seventh grades also meet on Wednesday afternoons. Family programs for kindergarten and first grade held monthly.  
Adult Education: Offered regularly throughout the year. Check the website for details.

NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

European Council adopts measures to tackle racism, antisemitism

The European Council recently announced measures it will adopt to combat racism and antisemitism, which include urging social-media companies to remove racist and antisemitic hate speech and adopting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's working definition of antisemitism.

University of Toronto withholds funds to student union over support for BDS

The University of Toronto intends to withhold funding from the Graduate Student Union over its policy requiring students to fund the BDS campaign against Israel.

Palestinian National Council renounces all agreements with Israel, including Oslo

Palestinian National Council Deputy Chairman Ali Faisal said there is a binding Palestinian decision to "renounce ... all agreements with Israel."

Seeds . . . . .Continued from page 5

The "Space Hummus" experiment is supported by Strauss Group Ltd., an Israeli F&B company; and Haifa Group, which specializes in advanced technological solutions for precision agriculture.

in space. This is something that has actually never been done before," said Winetraub. "The challenge is not just how to grow as many chickpeas as possible, but how to control the way they are grown so that we maximize our limited resources.

Concord . . . . .Continued from page 10

Saturday, March 19: at 5 pm, there will be a Spring Equi-Rocks Concert in the social hall. The cost to attend is \$10.

Those attending must be 18 to enter and 21 to purchase brews (provided by Water Street Brewing Company). Proceeds from the concert will benefit the Kilmer Mansion restoration project.

Life . . . . .Continued from page 10

the attribute of humility. The small alef is hinting at Moses's attribute of humility, as we read in (Numbers 12:3), "Now this man Moses was exceedingly humble, more so than any person on the face of the earth."

low self-esteem or feeling down about one's achievements. Rather, it is the recognition that all of a person's unique talents and accomplishments are a gift from God; had another person received these same "gifts," perhaps they would have done better.

What does it mean to be humble? Should someone that is truly great and talented not be proud of it? Should Moses be humble? Was he not the leader of the people, the one who took them out of Egypt and communicated with God, etc.?

Attributing one's success to oneself, instead of to God, makes it easier for one to forget. Perhaps the two portions are teaching us to add a bit more contemplation regarding the source of blessings in our life and, in turn, empowering us to do more good.

of view, the Palestinians "have entered a path of resistance in all its forms," indicating that this includes violence as well. "The decision of the [Palestinian] National Council was a recommendation to the [Palestinian Liberation Organization] Central Council to renounce all the commitments of the Oslo Accords and stop the security coordination [with Israel]," stated Faisal.

Israel's Mobileye quietly files for U.S. IPO

Intel announced on March 7 that its Mobileye unit has confidentially filed for an initial public offering in the United States, which could value it at more than \$50 billion, reported Reuters.

Saudi crown prince: Israel could become "a potential ally" if Palestinian issue resolved

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman said Israel could become "a potential ally" if the conflict with the Palestinians is resolved, Saudi state news agency (or SPA) reported on March 3.

Moving any time soon? Whether you're moving across town or across the country, please let The Reporter know so you can stay up to date on community news!

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4.2 oz

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\$1**



**U**  
**Kedem  
100% Apple Juice**  
64 oz

**3<sup>99</sup>**



**U**  
**Kedem  
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