

THE REPORTER

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Campaign 2023 Kick-off Brunch set for Sept. 18

By Reporter staff

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton will hold its Campaign 2023 Kick-off Brunch on Sunday, September 18, at 10:30 am, at the Jewish Community Center. There is no charge for the brunch due to a generous donation from the David and Virginia Eisenberg Fund. The theme for the 2023 Campaign is "We Create Community." Rivkah Slonim, associate director at the Rohr Chabad Center for Jewish Student Life at Binghamton University, will speak on "The Importance of Community and the Federation" during the brunch. Those attending will also have the opportunity to make their pledge to Campaign 2023. Registration for the event is requested and can be made on the Federation website, www.jfgeb.org, or by calling Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Federation, at 724-2332, so that enough food can be prepared.

We Create Community



Federation: "Pledge Early!"

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton is once again requesting that people make their pledges early. "We are hoping to get community members to pledge early again this year," said Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Federation. "That help cut back on the manpower we need to get through the Campaign. Also, when the community pledges early, the allocation process is much easier."

Hubal noted that "we have fewer volunteers to make solicitation calls, so it would be helpful if people made their pledge early by either using the form on page 5 and mailing it to the Federation, or visiting the Federation website, www.jfgeb.org, to make their pledge. People can also make their pledge at the brunch. Anyone interested in volunteering to make calls should contact me at the Federation office.

"We have a wonderful Jewish community," Hubal added. "Help us to keep it strong!"

Hubal encouraged people to pledge early and/or volunteer to help make calls. "We have fewer volunteers to make solicitation calls, so it would be helpful if people made their pledge early by either using the form on page 5 and mailing it to the Federation, or visiting the Federation website to make their pledge," Hubal noted. "People can also make their pledge at the brunch. Anyone interested in volunteering to make calls should contact me at the Federation office."

Marilyn Bell, the Campaign chairwoman, is pleased that the Federation will be holding a brunch this year. "I feel it's very important for us to gather and be together again as a community," Bell said. "I look forward to welcoming friends and newcomers. Come and see what makes our community a great place to live." See "Campaign" on page 5

Federation to hold "Stop the Bleed" program on Sept. 19

By Reporter staff

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, in conjunction with the Temple Israel Safety and Security Committee, will hold a "Stop the Bleed" program on Monday, September 19, at 7 pm, at Temple Israel. The program will be presented by United Health Services Trauma Services and will take about an hour. The first part will consist of a Power Point presentation

and the second will involve "hands on" training with the instructors. It is limited to 50 participants. Registration is required and can be made on the Federation website, www.jfgeb.org, or by calling Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Federation, at 724-2332. Registration must be made by Friday, September 9. Anyone who registers, but cannot attend, is asked to call Hubal to cancel their registration.

The "Stop the Bleed" program is designed to enable trained bystanders to take life saving action if needed until professional help can arrive following an accident, mass shooting or other acts of violence. Instructors focus on training people in all walks of life to become immediate responders.

Hubal noted that something became apparent during the recent Active Shooter

Training sponsored by the Federation. "The speaker noted that sometimes people are not able to escape a dangerous situation and may be injured," she said. "It takes time for the police to secure a scene and the medical personnel can't enter until that happens. If someone is injured, then those who are with them are the only ones who can offer medical care. This program will See "Stop" on page 4

Federation matching grant for security funding

By Reporter staff

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton announced it is eligible to receive matching funds from the Jewish Federations of North America's LiveSecure, a \$54 million security campaign and initiative to ensure the security and resiliency of Jewish communities. The funds received will be based on new and increased pledges to the annual Campaign, and will be used solely for security. "This will be a new program for Federation and another way we can make an impact on the community as a whole," said Shelley Hubal, executive director of the

Federation. To make a pledge, use the form on page 5 and mail it to the Federation, or visit the Federation website, www.jfgeb.org. With LiveSecure grant funding, local Federations will be able to provide the training, tools and resources needed to protect those inside local Jewish Community Centers, synagogues, schools, senior centers, summer camps and other centers of Jewish life. Nationally, JFNA will collaborate with

the Secure Community Network – which is the official liaison with the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Bureau of Investigation – to keep Jewish communities safe.

JFNA officials noted, "In this era of rising antisemitism, the goal of LiveSecure is to enable Jewish communities nationwide to advance the safety and security of their community members and institutions. We are

there to help communities secure the critical funds and resources necessary." Reported hate crimes are up overall, but the Jewish community faces the highest increase in religiously motivated hate crimes. The numbers have continued to increase since those recorded in a 2019 study:

- ◆ Sixty percent of religiously motivated crimes were directed at the Jewish community.
- ◆ There was a 14 percent increase in religiously motivated crimes against Jews from the year before.

See "Grant" on page 4

Spotlight

Interview with Richard C. Lewis, president elect of the New York Bar Association

By Ben Kasper

Editor's note: Richard C. Lewis is special counsel at Hinman, Howard and Kattell, and president elect of the New York State Bar Association. According to the bar association's website, the organization "seeks to elevate the standards of integrity in the legal profession while cultivating the science of jurisprudence." Lewis and Ben Kasper serve on the Editorial Committee of The Reporter.

Ben Kasper: What is your role and re-

sponsibility in your new position?

Richard Lewis: Firstly, my role as president elect is to work with the leadership in trying to achieve the goals of the organization, which are to elevate the ability of our membership to serve the legal needs of society and to provide access to justice for all. We want to eliminate the disparities that exist in our system. In addition, we want to support diversity and inclusion throughout our society, and to attempt to eliminate the divisive and vitriolic personality of our

society, and by example show that disagreements should be debated, but good faith of the proponents of different points of view should be presumed.

My responsibility is to represent our organization, which is the largest voluntary bar in the United States with a membership of around 70,000 members and it is without question the most influential Bar Association in the world. It is looked to to establish legal standards and high ethical standards for its membership.

Kasper: What would you like to achieve or accomplish as president elect?

Lewis: Our goals among others is to deal with the legal issues confronting veterans and the mental health issues that seem to be plaguing our society, as well as the issues of homelessness that exist throughout our country. The Bar Association is concerned with regulations that cause needless inefficiencies in the practice, which in turn cause escalating legal fees. The end result is that See "Lewis" on page 8

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Jewish Baseball Players

Sandy in bronze: Koufax immortalized

BILL SIMONS

In recent years, removal and defacement has targeted monuments to Americans once regarded as iconic heroes, including Thomas Jefferson and Teddy Roosevelt. The baseball pantheon is not immune. Notation of Major League Baseball's first commissioner, Kenesaw Mountain Landis, was stripped from Most Valuable Player awards. Amidst debunking and deconstruction, the recent erection of a massive statue in Los Angeles honoring Jewish baseball pitcher Sandy Koufax is notable.

Dedicated on June 18, the Sandy Koufax statue stands in Dodger Stadium's Centerfield Plaza. At 19.5 tons, the bronze monument, highlighting the lefty pitcher's muscularity, conveys an indelible image of resolve and mastery.

Depicting Koufax in windup – front leg thrust high in the air while pivoting off the backfoot – sculptor Branly Cadet melds mythic heroism and athletic realism. The baseball is clasped as confidently and surely as the rock placed in the sling by David as he faced Goliath. Cadet set out to capture Koufax's "focus," "integrity" and ferocious determination, and the sculptor succeeded.

The statue of Koufax at the centerfield entrance stands a short distance from that of Jackie Robinson. Unveiled in 2017, the Robinson monument was the first erected at Dodger Stadium. Fierce and graceful, Robinson in bronze is stealing home. Cadet, an African American artist, also sculpted the Robinson image. The Robinson quote engraved on his statue applies also to Koufax: "A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives."

Robinson (Brooklyn, 1947-1956) and Koufax (Brooklyn, 1955-1957; Los Angeles, 1958-1966) spent their entire major league careers with the Dodgers, and the Hall of Famers were teammates. The final two seasons of the veteran Robinson's major league career (1955-1956) coincided with the neophyte Koufax's two initial campaigns, and friendship evolved.

Koufax had great admiration for Robinson, an MVP and six-time All-Star, who, amidst slashing spikes and death threats, pioneered the racial integration of MLB. The statues underline the connection between the African American Robinson and the Jewish Koufax, not only as great ballplayers, but as individuals of character and courage who served as standard bearers

for American racial and ethnic diversity.

As Pete Rose and Barry Bonds remind us, an immensely talented, but morally hollow, ballplayer is not a hero. A true athletic hero possesses a greatness that transcends the playing field and inspires emulation in others. Koufax, like Robinson, was a hero and a great ballplayer, the pre-eminent pitcher of his generation and, at his absolute peak (1962-1966), in the GOAT (Greatest Of All Time) discussion.

Six seasons diminished by the Bonus Baby Rule that impeded minor league development, a blazing fastball initially prey to wildness and talented teammate pitchers ready to take the mound for a contending team, as well as physical disabilities that ended Koufax's career at age 30, circumscribed his impressive career statistics (165 wins-87 losses, 2.76 ERA). Matching Robinson, Koufax was an MVP and six-time All-Star. Moreover, he was the recipient of three Cy Young awards in an era when there was only a single designee for all MLB.

After Koufax's 1961 transitional year, moving from potential to performance (18 wins, 13 losses, a then National League record 269 strikeouts), he led the circuit in ERA the next five consecutive seasons with figures so stellar that they look like typos. A perfect game, a then record four no hitters, and 18 strikeouts in a game twice, a mark unsurpassed at the time, burnished the Koufax aura.

With a blinding fastball, dropping "12-to-6 curveball" – so described by the legendary sportscaster Vin Scully – and acquired pinpoint control, Koufax was absolutely dominant in his three peak seasons – 1963 (25 wins-5 losses, 1.88 ERA, 306 strikeouts, 11 shutouts), 1965 (26 wins-8 losses, 2.04 ERA, upping the MLB record with 382 strikeouts, 27 complete games), and 1966 (27 wins-9 losses, 1.73 ERA, 317 strikeouts, 27 complete games).

Just as Robinson possesses special meaning for Black Americans, so, too, does Koufax for Jews. Although not particularly religious, Koufax, by abstaining from baseball on the High Holidays, embraced the role of Jewish standard bearer. On Yom Kippur, Koufax declined to pitch game one of the 1965 World Series against the Minnesota Twins, which the Dodgers lost. Although Rabbi Bernard Raskas and others erroneously reported seeing Koufax during Yom Kippur services, Koufax did not go to the synagogue, but

never corrected stories about his attendance.

St. Paul Pioneer Press sports columnist Dan Riley mocked Yom Kippur fasting and Koufax's absence from the ballpark: "The Twins love matzoh balls on Thursdays" – Yom Kippur 1965 fell on a Thursday. Despite allowing only one earned run and notching nine strikeouts, Koufax, the victim of costly fielding errors and insufficient offensive support, lost game two. However, Koufax' Yom Kippur observance morphed into legend when he came back to lead the Dodgers to World Series triumph.

In game five, Koufax shutout the Twins, surrendering just four hits and striking out 10. On only two days' rest, Koufax dominated the Twins in game seven on October 14, again shutting them out and adding another 10 strikeouts, this time allowing but three hits. A generation later, author Ze'ev Chafets claimed, "I was told by hundreds of Jewish men across the United States that their most important Jewish memory was of Sandy sitting out [game one of] the Series."

Koufax, like Robinson, was an exemplar of character and social justice. The collaborate 1966 salary holdout of Koufax and fellow Dodger pitching stalwart Don Drysdale provided impetus for player salary and contractual gains in the years ahead. During Koufax's final seasons, loss of circulation in a raw index finger and an arthritic elbow that ballooned grotesquely meant summoning pitching prowess while battling pain.

There is a unique mystique to Koufax. At the statue dedication ceremony, Clayton Kershaw, Koufax's only rival for Dodger GOAT pitcher, asserted that Sandy "was a great man who represented the Dodgers with humility, kindness, passion and class." Then, the 86-year-old, 6'2" Koufax, appearing impossibly trim and fit, spoke briefly with modesty and appreciation – and disappeared again. Rabbi Lee Bycel attested, "They say you shouldn't meet your heroes, but they didn't talk about Sandy Koufax."

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.

Opinion

In My Own Words

American history

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

When I was in college during the 1970s, a non-Jewish friend worked as an intern for a non-profit organization in Washington, DC. During one of my visits, we decided to do some sightseeing. Since it wasn't far from where she worked, we went to the offices of B'nai B'rith, which included a small museum about Jewish American history. I thought it was interesting, but my friend was visibly upset by the exhibits. "Why," she asked, "did they only talk about how American history affected Jews?" I tried to explain that this part of American history hadn't been mentioned in American history classes I took in public school, so I enjoyed learning about Jewish contributions to our country.

I want to make it clear that my friend was *not* making antisemitic comments. As a white Protestant, she had just always been part of the American majority: the history she learned in public school was the history of her culture and religion. Before seeing this exhibit, she'd never been forced to look at American history from any other point of view. The American history we were taught in public schools was one-sided: the schools never offered minority perspectives. That included never speaking about the large number of Jews who tried to emigrate to the U.S. before World War II and, after being denied permission to enter the U.S. even though the quotas from their countries were never reached, had died in the Holocaust. No one ever

taught her to look from their point of view; no one ever suggested that our country had not always acted in the most humane way possible.

I start with this because too many people are now expressing discomfort with being forced to view American history through the eyes of American minorities. There are schools that are refusing to allow their teachers to discuss slavery in the Old South or the treatment of Native Americans because it makes students uncomfortable. Before agreeing that students should not be made uncomfortable, please consider this: Do you think German public schools should teach about the Holocaust? Do you think that Holocaust education there and across the world is important in an attempt to understand what occurred and prevent it from happening again? Do you think the effects of the Holocaust have been passed down to the second and third generations of those who suffered and need to be addressed? If you answer yes to any of these questions, then you should understand the need to teach the truth about American history – that means teaching our complete history, warts and all.

To be clear: I am proud to be an American. However, what I am proud of is our country's aspirations and ideals. Our country is not perfect and has not always lived up to those aspirations. Our job as citizens is to help our nation

achieve the ideals on which it was founded. The horrors of slavery are part of our history and need to be addressed to help those who still suffer the generational aftereffects. Native American poverty rates are only one of the problems those communities face that can be traced to the way their ancestors were treated over the centuries. The struggle for equal rights and equal access for all Americans continues today.

The important thing that should be stressed when teaching school children about American history is that we realize some American actions did not live up to our ideals, but that we are trying to improve – something that is a continual process and which must be addressed in every generation. Creating equal opportunity for everyone is not easy, especially for those who live in poverty with little access to fresh air, affordable produce, appropriate school supplies and adequate medical care, just to name a few things far too many people live without.

I am most proud of my country when I see it trying to help its citizens. I don't have to approve of all its actions to still love the United States. Learning about those inhumane actions spurs me to want to do more to create an ideal civilization. I know we will never get there, but, as Jews, we should remember while it's not our responsibility to complete the task, neither should we cease from trying to attain it.



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

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Hillel at Binghamton wins award

Hillel at Binghamton has been selected as the recipient of the Joseph Meyerhoff Award for Jewish Educational Vision, one of Hillel International's Campus Awards. The award recognizes a Hillel that "successfully develops and implements creative and innovative strategies in Jewish education."

Every year, Hillel International recognizes the work happening on more than 550 campuses across the world. Additionally, Hillel International recognizes a few Hillels for their accomplishments through the Campus Awards. These awards are given to Hillels that have "gone above and beyond during the year, and have excelled in their campus engagement."

The winning student-led initiative, Bing Omer, was introduced at the height of the COVID pandemic as a way for the local Hillel community members to count the *omer* together via WhatsApp. At the end of the digital journey, students were welcomed to a Shavuot Hop – a socially distanced celebration that featured round-robin style learning. The program was organized by two Hillel student leaders, Danielle Kinches '22 and Hannah Kaplun '23.

In its award application, Hillel noted, "During the 2020-2021 academic year, Hillel at Binghamton made the incredibly difficult decision to remain partially virtual and partially socially distant for all events and programming... Together as a community, we engaged in a conversation about how do we learn Jewishly, the methodologies of engagement and what does it mean to engage deeply in Jewish learning? The conversation led to a Jewish learning, year-long initiative, that would transcend Jewish learning beyond a typical classroom style experience."

This led to the development of Bing Omer. Hillel's application further noted: "Between Passover and Shavuot, our students counted the *omer* using a WhatsApp group called 'Bing Omer.' This student-led initiative was profound

in its impact. Hundreds of students joined the group, and every day a different student, community member or staff member would deliver a three-five minute *d'var* on their thoughts and musings about the *omer*. Forty-nine different people had the opportunity to engage in a learning and the Jewish ritual of counting the *omer*, and 100s of students were able to passively engage in this meaningful experience by listening to their community count the *omer* and counting along... The 'Bing Omer' was a way of bringing the community together in a really unique way, using WhatsApp as a platform, recording a personal *d'var* and sending it as a voice message to the group, and allowing any Jewish community member to join and listen, which proved to be a unique and far-reaching Jewish learning experience."

Hillel at Binghamton was unable to hold its traditional festive Shavuot meal after the counting of the *omer* concluded and looked for a safe way to celebrate the holiday. This led to the Shavuot Hop, which was led by students from Chabad, Hillel and the Jewish Learning Initiative on Campus. Hillel staff noted, "During the 'Shavuot Hop' students went from Hillel, to JLIC, to Chabad, and 'house hopped' with educators. They learned about how Dr. Seuss' tales share a uniquely Jewish perspective on environmentalism, life lessons from Pirke Avot and how we can bring their lessons into our lives, how the Torah tells us that disability awareness and advocacy is an innately Jewish mission, and much more. The Shavuot Hop was conducted in small learning groups, socially distanced and outside at our educators' homes." The sessions were made to be accessible to those with all levels of Jewish knowledge.

What was considered the most successful part of the program was how it became a community building event. Since the students were allowed to take the lead, they took ownership of the projects, as Hillel's award application stated in its conclusion: "In the end, students felt extremely

proud of their accomplishments, they received positive feedback from the community, and the numbers alone show their success: hundreds of students [took part] in the Bing Omer group and over 150 students [participated in] the Shavuot Hop."

The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to Alycia Harris on the deaths of her brother and sister-in-law,
Alfred Latessa and Paula Spencer Latessa

REPORTER DEADLINES

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

ISSUE	DEADLINE
August 26-September 8.....	August 17
September 9-22	August 31
September 23-October 6	September 14
October 7-20	September 28

All deadlines for the year can be found at www.thereportergroup.org/contact-us/faqs under "Q: What Are the Deadlines for the Paper?"

Congregation Tikkun v'Or to hold "Shabbat in the Park" on Aug. 18

Congregation Tikkun v'Or (Ithaca Reform Temple) will hold its annual summertime "Shabbat in the Park" on Friday, August 19, at 5:30 pm, at the Large Pavilion in Stewart Park, Gibbs Dr., Ithaca. Playtime for children will start at 5:30 pm, followed by a short service led by Rabbi Shifrah Tobacman and dinner, with music provided

by the synagogue's TvO musicians. Everyone is invited to attend. Contact info@tikkunvor.org with any questions.

"Greet old friends, meet new friends, learn more about the community," said organizers of the event. "Due to COVID, we will not be sharing food, so please bring your own dinner, drinks, plates, and cutlery."

TI held caregiver support group

Temple Israel held a six-session support group during June and July for its members who are caregivers of a loved one, whether their loved one is at home or in an assisted living facility. Under the auspices of Temple Israel's Caring Community Committee, Caring for Caregivers sessions were strictly focused on the caregivers physical, mental, behavior, emotional health and well-being. The goal was to provide a confidential forum for sharing, listening and supporting each other. The sessions were co-facilitated by

Rita Bleier, a licensed clinical social worker, and Dr. Elissa Brown, a veteran K-12 educator and professor.

Several members shared that they found the safe space helpful, nurturing and supportive. Recommendations were made to continue the forum through a monthly check-in or to provide additional sessions over time. One member shared that "we are so focused on taking care of our loved one that it was nice to focus on my well-being for a change and to see that I'm not the only one on this journey."

TC Sisterhood wins award

Temple Concord received Chai Honor from the Women of Reform Judaism for 2021-2022 for the sale of Uniongrams, which Temple Concord calls Mazel Tovs. This is the highest award for the size of Temple Concord's donation. Jean Hecht, Sisterhood's Uniongram chairwoman, has chaired the program for many years. Sisterhood's method of raising funds was created by the late Muriel Major.

The certificate received represents "outstanding achievement in promoting Sisterhood, spirituality and social justice while strengthening the Reform Movement through financial support of the YES (Youth, Education and Special Projects) Fund," the certificate says.

Donations come from Sisterhood members, Temple Concord members and other people.

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Sussman to be awarded Gratz medal at fall American Antisemitism Forum

MELROSE PARK, PA – On Thursday, September 29, Gratz College will present the Gratz Medal to Rabbi Lance J. Sussman, Ph.D., in recognition of his leadership and service. President Zev Eleff and the college leadership will honor Sussman as part of the Forum on Antisemitism in America program at Gratz College this fall.

Sussman is rabbi emeritus at Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel, Elkins Park, PA, and was formerly the rabbi

of Temple Concord, Binghamton, and the former Temple Beth-El, Endicott. He was also an associate professor at Binghamton University, where he led the Judaic Studies Department.

“Rabbi Sussman represents the very best of Gratz College,” says Eleff. “He is a leader and gifted educator who has leveraged his erudition to support our community as a public scholar and as a generous ambassador of the Jewish people to the international

community. The Gratz Medal, meant for commitment to community, leadership and learning, bears an emblem designed in 1900, but was, I believe, always intended to be attached to Rabbi Sussman’s legacy.”

Rabbi Sussman is the seventh recipient of the Gratz Medal.

Paul Finkelman, Gratz chancellor and distinguished professor of history, agreed with Eleff. “Lance Sussman is a major scholar of American Jewish history. His biography of Isaac Leeser, which came out a quarter of a century ago, is now a classic in the field. ‘New Essays in American Jewish History’ (2010), which he co-edited with Pamela Nadell and Jonathan Sarna, has helped set the direction for future scholarship in this field. His work on Jews in the Civil War is path breaking. Thus, as a scholar, teacher and leader of Gratz College, it is our honor to award this medal to Rabbi Dr. Sussman.”

The September 29 forum will be convened by Gratz’s Center for Holocaust Stud-

ies and Human Rights, home to the world’s largest graduate-level program in Holocaust and genocide studies. The forum will feature a panel discussion led by Sussman; Prof. Charles R. Gallagher, S.J., of Boston College; and Dr. Samantha Vinokor-Meinrath, senior director of Knowledge, Ideas and Learning at the Jewish Education Project. Gallagher is a former student of Sussman, and Vinokor-Meinrath is a recent Gratz alumna (Ed.D. 2021).

Moderated by Eleff, the three scholars will examine the history and contemporary challenges of American antisemitism. Sussman will share findings from his research on antisemitism during the U.S. Civil War; Gallagher will present his work on Nazi extremist groups in the United States during the 1940s; and Vinokor-Meinrath will discuss her research on the threat and impact of present-day antisemitism on Generation Z. Both Gallagher and Vinokor-Meinrath have **See “Sussman” on page 8**

On the Jewish food scene Thinking about bagels

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

My older brother, who lives in northern New Jersey, visited recently and brought me “monster bagels from outer space,” as my mother used to call them. (Anything big in my family was referred to as a monster “something” from outer space. No, I have no idea when or why this started. It’s one of the least quirky quirks of the many my family has.) The bagels put local bagels to shame and not just because of their size: they are substantial and chewy. You know you’ve eaten something when you’ve finished one of those bagels.

However, I do have a friend who doesn’t like them. She actually prefers the ones that local stores make. Perhaps that’s because she grew up Jewish in Pennsylvania and real New York City bagels were not available in her youth. I, on the other hand, experienced New York City bagels when we visited relatives. After leaving my aunt’s family in Queens, we would stop at a local bagel store so we could bring some back to Endwell. While the other patrons asked for one or two bagels, my parents ordered a dozen each of several different kinds.

Believe it or not, not everyone agrees on which city has the best bagel. There is a big rivalry between New York City and Montreal. Yes, some folks actually believe that Montreal’s bagels are better than those of New York. OK, that statement is unfair and biased: since I’ve never tasted bagels

made in Montreal, I’m not qualified to comment on them. It’s just hard to believe that they could be better than the ones made in New York.

If you think I’m exaggerating about the rivalry, I’m not. It’s even made national headlines. For example, an article about it has appeared in *The New York Times*. Authors about the rivalry have come down on different sides about which bagel is the best. It’s obvious this is an emotional issue for these writers. After all, bagels are not just food: they represent history and culture, at least to Jews.

When I was in rabbinical school, we had a discussion in one class about what would happen if the whole world suddenly decided to become Jewish. One person was unhappy with that occurring because he feared beer and pizza would then become traditional Jewish food, rather than bagels and lox. (I don’t like beer, but the idea of pizza as a Jewish food didn’t bother me.) A few years later, after I spent 10 months in Israel, I would have had an interesting reply to his thought: One of my Jewish Israeli roommates refused to even taste one of the bagels I’d bought because she thought it was weird. Hmm, does that mean the next debate will be about which of these two is the quintessential Jewish food: a bagel or a falafel? I’m willing to be one of the taste-testers for that event! Just let me know when you organize it.

Campaign.Continued from page 1

Slonim, who will discuss the importance of community, is an internationally known teacher, lecturer and activist. Her lectures address the intersection of traditional Jewish observance and contemporary life. She is the editor of “Total Immersion: A Mikvah Anthology” (Jason Aronson 1996, Urim 2006) and, with Liz Rosenberg, the editor of “Bread and Fire; Jewish Women find God in the Everyday” (Urim 2008). She also serves on the Editorial Board of the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute and is co-author of one

of JLI’s most popular courses, “Fascinating Facts.”

Hubal added, “Even with the pandemic, we’ve run a large number of successful programs that brought together old and young members, which created new interactions within our community. Organizing community events and helping our local organizations to create community is what we plan to accomplish this year. Join us at the September 18 event for a delicious brunch and a chance to schmooze with old friends and make new ones.”



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Weekly Parasha

Vaetchanan, Deuteronomy 3:23-7:11

Heaven and earth

RIVKAH SLONIM, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, CHABAD CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDENT LIFE AT BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

This week's *parasha* contains a number of extraordinary verses that have earned a special place in our tradition by virtue of their inclusion in our liturgy, not the least of which is the first paragraph of the Judaism's most famous prayer, the *Shema*.

One verse (4:35) in this *parasha*, recited each Shabbat and holiday before we take the Torah scroll from the ark, reads as follows: "You have been shown that you might know that God, He is the God; there is no other than He." A scant four verses later, the Torah states, "You shall know today, and shall restore to your perception that God is the God in heaven above and on earth below; there is no other." The first is a statement of fact concerning what the Jews experienced at Sinai. The second is God's mandate to the Jews. While both verses have similar content, there is one important difference: In the second, unlike the first, we find reference to heaven and earth.

The first verse speaks of God as He manifested Himself

to the Jews. From God's perspective, there is no distinction between heaven and earth – they are both equally close and equally far from Him – thus no mention of them as separate entities. In the second verse, however, which speaks of man's service, there is need to mention heaven and earth. From the perspective of man, there is differentiation between the spiritual and the physical, the Godly and the material realm. And yet the command is for a Jew to apprehend and perceive God on a level that transcends the apparent dichotomy; to arrive at a place where there is just The One. How does the Jew do this?

The words "heaven" and "earth" allude to man's service in this direction. When a Jew awakens in the morning, the first words he is supposed to utter are the words of *Modeh Ani*, in which he gives thanks to God for returning his soul from the heaven above into his body. This makes him reflect upon the journey of his soul from the celestial heights to its earthly abode; it makes him ruminate upon

heaven as a point of departure – and return. After the morning blessings, prayer continues with a series of psalms that focus on the creation of this earth below, its beauty and grandeur. Prayer also includes many requests for the granting of earthly needs and the fulfillment of physical, tangible blessings. These two components of prayer bring the Jew to recognize God and be in awe of his Creator.

But awe of God is not meant to fuel divorce and divestment of the physical world. It is precisely in the pursuit of his daily concerns that the Jew can truly live and feel and know God's oneness. It is in this earth below that His greatness is perceived. For when a Jew conducts himself in every facet of his daily business and existence in conformity with God's law, heaven and earth converge; all that is between them and all that fills them become seamless parts of one whole. Living with God's word, doing His *mitzvot*, brings heaven to earth, sanctifying, uplifting and ultimately revealing the unity inherent in this world's apparent plurality.

Congregational Notes

Temple Israel

Orientation: Conservative
Rabbi: Geoffrey Brown
Address: 4737 Deerfield Pl., Vestal, NY 13850
Phone: 723-7461 and 231-3746
Office hours: Mon.-Thurs., 8:30 am-3:30 pm; Fri., 8 am-3 pm
E-mail: titammy@stny.twcbc.com
Website: www.templeisraelvestal.org
Service schedule: Tues., 5:30 pm; Fri., 5:30 pm; Sat., 9:30 am

On Fridays and Tuesdays at 5:30 pm, services will be led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown via Zoom and in-person (masks are required).

On Saturday, August 13, Shacharit services will be held at 9:30 am via Zoom and in-person (masks are required). The Torah portion is Deuteronomy 3:23-7:11 and the haftarah is Isaiah 40:1-26. At 9 pm, there will be Havdalah services via Zoom.

On Wednesday, August 17, there will be Torah study from 4-5 pm on Zoom.

On Saturday, August 20, at 9:30 am, Shacharit services will be held via Zoom and in-person (masks are required). The Torah portion is Deuteronomy 7:12-11:25 and the haftarah is Isaiah 49:14-51:3. The bat mitzvah of Jasmin Rosales will be held. At 8:45 pm, there will be Havdalah services via Zoom.

On Wednesday, August 24, there will be Torah study from 4-5 pm on Zoom.

Penn-York Jewish Community

President-Treasurer-Secretary: Harvey Chernosky, 570-265-3869

B'nai B'rith: William H. Seigel Lodge

Purpose: To promote Jewish identity through religious, cultural, educational and social activities in the Southern Tier of New York and the Northern Tier of Pennsylvania, including Waverly, NY; Sayre, Athens and Towanda, PA, and surrounding communities.

Temple 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.

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.

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.

Norwich Jewish Center

Orientation: Inclusive

Rabbi: David Regenspan

Address: 72 South Broad St., Norwich, NY 13815

Phone: 334-2691

E-mail: fertigj@roadrunner.com

Contact: Guilia Greenberg, 373-5087

Purpose: To maintain a Jewish identity and meet the needs of the Jewish community in the area.

Adult Ed.: Shabbat study sessions are held on designated Saturday mornings at 10 am. Call ahead, text or e-mail to confirm dates.

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, August 12, light candles before..... 7:50 pm

Saturday, August 13, light candles after..... 8:49 pm

Friday, August 19, light candles before..... 7:40 pm

Saturday, August 20, light candles after..... 8:39 pm

Friday, August 26, light candles before..... 7:29 pm

Saturday, August 27, light candles after..... 8:28 pm

Beth David Synagogue

Affiliation: Orthodox Union

Rabbi: Zev Silber

Address: 39 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905

Phone: 722-1793, Rabbi's Office: 722-7514, Fax: 722-7121

Office hours: Mon. closed; Tues. 10 am-1 pm; Wed. closed;

Thurs. 9 am-1 pm; Fri. 10 am-1 pm

Beth David e-mail address: bethdavid@stny.rr.com

Rabbi's e-mail: rabbisilber@stny.rr.com

Website: www.bethdavid.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/bethdavidbinghamton

Temple 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, August 12: at 7:30 pm, Shabbat service with Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell. To attend in person, proof of COVID-19 vaccination is no longer required. Masks are optional, but recommended. Join via Zoom at <https://bit.ly/3hRmW2Y>, meeting ID 869 9699 8146 and passcode 826330; or on the Temple Concord Facebook page.

Saturday, August 13: Torah study at the new summer hours 9:45-11 am with Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell in the temple library, or on Zoom at <https://bit.ly/3CVxM14>, meeting ID 882 9808 7579 and passcode 676707; and "Havdalah with a Bonus" at 7 pm on Zoom at <https://bit.ly/3zd0atv>, meeting ID 897 4179 1260 and passcode 408279.

Friday, August 19: at 7:30 pm, Shabbat services with Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell. Proof of COVID-19 vaccination is no longer required. Masks are optional but recommended. Join via Zoom at <https://bit.ly/3hRmW2Y>, meeting ID 869 9699 8146 and passcode 826330; or on the Temple Concord Facebook page.

Saturday, August 20: Torah study from 9:45-11 am. Join via Zoom at <https://bit.ly/3CVxM14>, meeting ID 882 9808 7579 and passcode 676707.

Congregation Tikkun v'Or

Affiliation: Union for Reform Judaism

Address: PO Box 3981, Ithaca, NY 14852; 2550 Triphammer

Rd. (corner of Triphammer and

Burdick Hill), Lansing, NY

Phone: 607-256-1471

Website: www.tikkunvor.org

E-mail: info@tikkunvor.org

Presidents: 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.

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monthly.

Adult Education: Offered regularly throughout the year.

Check the website for details.

Women in Business

A paid advertising section.

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 Phone: 754-7221
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 Website: www.Tri-CityHearing.com
 Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 8am-4:30 pm

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Israel's future foresters are mostly women

By Maayan Hoffman

(JNS) - Planting trees is a national pastime in Israel. The country prides itself as being one of the only nations in the world to enter the 21st century with more trees than it had 100 years prior, according to the Israeli Foreign Ministry.

Even before the state was founded, Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael-Jewish National Fund (KKL-JNF) had planted 4.5 million trees, the ministry said. Today, more than 200 million trees in forests and woodlands cover some 300,000 acres of Israeli land. Planting trees is also "a way of saying we are here," a scientist told Yale University researcher Fred Pearce in 2019.

But the forestry of 1948 and 2022 are different, explained veteran KKL-JNF forester Chanoch Zoref, the chief forester in the Jerusalem hills. He told JNS that what used to be known as forestry is now called "ecosystem-based management" - approaching forestry with an eye for the entire ecosystem, including humans.

At the same time, Israel's foresters are aging out. "We expect that in the next five or six years, more than 50 percent of the country's professional foresters will retire," said Zoref. "We have to find other people to replace the current generation."

So KKL-JNF took a proactive step toward ensuring a green Israel. "Forester of the Future" is a new program that is training 30 young adults in ecosystem management and then putting them in the field as members of the KKL-JNF team. The first round of students is expected to graduate shortly. The plan is to run a second session, ensuring around 60 new foresters enter the field this year. Of the program's 30 current students, more than half (17) are women.

"Forestry is a profession that was usually staffed by men as foresters have to spend most days in the field," said Zoref. However, he added that during the recruitment process and thus far in their training, he has found women to be equally if not better equipped for the new area of ecosystem management, where the focus is more on topics related to scientific developments in the field of forestry, grazing and

preparing for climate change.

There is also a focus on modern technology. For example, following the fires in the Jerusalem mountains last summer, KKL-JNF took "significant steps" to develop and maintain technologies to prevent fires. The organization has aircraft that produce thermal images of fields in order to detect wildfires before they occur.

It is also using advanced technological tools for assessing the severity of the damage caused by a fire to the vegetation and to locate the undamaged areas in order to continue the existing biodiversity, the organization's spokesperson explained.

Those participating in the program are also learning how to leverage these tools. The students underwent an intensive five-week in-classroom course and are now engaged in nine months of hands-on training in the field. Upon completion, they are expected to join the Israeli staff in various roles.

Veronica Moreno Llorente is one of the students. She worked in forestry in Spain and Scotland before moving to Israel with her boyfriend. When she found out about the KKL-JNF program, she applied and was accepted.

See "Women" on page 8

Women's OB/GYN Associates

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 Location: 401 Main St., 1st Floor Johnson City, NY 13790
 Names: Dr. Carol Miller; Kelly Wilmarth, FNP-C; and Tamara Burger, CNM
 Phone: 607-754-9870
 Fax: 607-785-9862
 Website: www.womensobgynassociates.com
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/WomensOBGYN/
 Hours: Mon.-Fri. by appointment

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NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

Attack on Israel criticized in Saudi Arabia, UAE

Following the military conflict between the Palestinian Islamic Jihad and Israel from Aug. 5-7, criticism was leveled in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates against the terror organization entrenched in the Gaza Strip...

IDF: Islamic Jihad fired 1,100 rockets during three-day conflict with Israel

During the three-day conflict between Israel and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, the Gaza-based terrorist group launched 1,100 rockets at Israel - 200 of which came down inside Gaza...

Sussman

authored recent monographs on these subjects. "It is truly an honor to receive the Gratz Medal as part of this important forum," says Sussman.

Sussman is a member of the Gratz faculty and the immediate past chairman of the Board of Governors. Under Sussman's leadership during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Gratz's enrollment grew by 40 percent...

"Rabbi Sussman is an exceptional leader, possessed with a keen understanding of the Jewish community and the arena of higher education," says Gratz Board Chairwoman Kathy Elias.

began on Aug. 5 and ended with a cease-fire on the night of Aug. 7. IDF Spokesperson Brig. Gen. Ran Kochav told Kan News on Aug. 8 that "More Palestinian [civilians] were killed by failed PIJ rocket fire than by IDF strikes."

Women

While Israel plants a lot of trees, she said the country is not yet considered a leader in forestry - commercial or management. But she has been surprised by the KKL-JNF program and the "huge power and potential of forestry in Israel."

Maya Millet enrolled in the program after working in the Israel National Parks system and teaching science and geography for several years. A mother of three with a bachelor's degree in those fields from Ben-Gurion University, she was looking for a change.

Lewis

more and more people are priced out of the justice system, and there is a diminishment in access to justice, which is major concern of the bar. Keep in mind that there is no insurance, Medicare or Medicaid to cover most of these legal costs.

Kasper: Do you bring Jewish teachings and values to any of these legal disputes?

Lewis: Religious and cultural teachings and values, like anyone's cultural influences, always enter into my thought processes and are the lens through which we view the world. That having been said, we definitely need to approach legal issues in an objective fashion.

Kasper: The New York State Bar Association has promoted civic education in the past. How effective has that been, and should that program be evaluated?

Lewis: The New York State Bar Association does have multiple outstanding programs to foster and promote civic education, including our youth education committee. We would like to increase our involvement in teaching civic education.

Kasper: In a recent Gallup poll, 25 percent of respondents said they had a great or quite a lot of confidence in the U.S. Supreme Court. Do you have an opinion regarding the appropriate role of the Supreme Court?

Lewis: The Supreme Court is essential to our democracy and its role is defined in the U.S. Constitution, as is the role of the executive and legislative branches. The Court changes over time, and there is never a time when a significant number of people may disagree with a decision.

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