

THE REPORTER

Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton

August 26-September 8, 2022

Volume LI, Number 17

BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK

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.

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

We Create Community



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."

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."

See "Brunch" on page 7

Annual Piaker Memorial lecture to feature Rabbi Dr. Edward Reichman on Sept. 29

The Chabad Center and the Piaker family announced that the annual Pauline and Philip Piaker Memorial Lecture will be held on Thursday, September 29, at 7 pm. Rabbi Dr. Edward Reichman will be the guest speaker; he will present on "It's a Brave, New World; From Messenger RNA Vaccines to Mitochondrial DNA Genes; The Jewish Approach to the Latest Medical Advances." A book signing and dessert buffet will follow the presentation. There is no charge, but reservations must be made at www.Jewishbu.com/Piaker or by calling 797-0015.

Reichman is a professor of emergency medicine at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and holds the Rabbi Isaac and Bella Tendler Chair in Jewish Medical Ethics at Yeshiva University. He received his rabbinic ordination from the Rabbi Isaac

Elchanan Theological Seminary. In addition to his full-time clinical practice in emergency medicine at Montefiore Medical Center, Reichman lectures internationally on Jewish medical ethics and Jewish medical history. He has edited numerous books, penned many book chapters and journal articles, and recently wrote "The Anatomy of Jewish Law: A Fresh Dissection of the Relationship of Medicine, Medical History and Rabbinic Literature" (Koren Publishers/OU Press/YU Press, 2022) and "Pondering Pre-Modern(a) Pandemics in



Rabbi Dr. Edward Reichman (Photo supplied by Dr. Edward Reichman)



Philip and Pauline Piaker

Jewish History: Essays Inspired by and Written during the COVID-19 Pandemic by an Emergency Medicine Physician" (Shikey Press, 2022).

Reichman is the recipient of a Kornfeld Foundation Study Fellowship, was elected

to the Davidoff Society for excellence in medical teaching at Einstein and was awarded the Outstanding Mentor Award at Yeshiva University. He has served on the advisory boards of the New York Organ Donor Network, Center for Genetics and Public Policy, the Program for Jewish Genetic Health at Einstein, and the Rabbinical Council of America.

"Dr. Reichman is the perfect speaker to bring at this precise moment. Along with his wealth of knowledge and hands-on experience in the medical field, he brings a rare erudition coupled with enthusiasm to his presentations and an optimism that is downright infectious. I have been privileged to hear him present many times and I cannot wait to hear him again. I know that all who attend will agree with me!" commented Rivkah Slonim.

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 See "Grant" on page 8

Spotlight

A conversation with Professor C. Beth Burch, chairwoman of BU's Judaic Studies Department

By Rabbi Rachel Esserman

Professor C. Beth Burch, professor of English education and formerly the dean of Binghamton University's Graduate School of Education, recently became the new chairwoman of the university's Judaic Studies Department. The courses she teaches for that department focus on American Jewish literature, including "Survey of American Jewish Literature," "The Jewish

American Novel" and "American Jewish Women Writers."

In an e-mail interview, Burch noted that, as the new chairwoman, "my first work – and obligation – is to maintain the sterling academic reputation of the Department of Judaic studies established by my predecessors. Naturally, I also want to see Judaic studies grow, flower and attract more students. That Judaic studies constitutes a vital

campus presence, which is also important to the university and the community."

Her work focuses on literature, something she sees as "the wellspring of empathy, which is a particularly Jewish concept. Besides, literature fills in the outline of history." Burch quoted from a New Yorker interview of Lois Lowry (who is not Jewish), author of the young adult novel "Number the Stars," to explain her point: "Literature,

for all of us, is a way that we rehearse life," Lowry noted.

Burch sees this idea as important for all the students she teaches – Jewish and non-Jewish. "Literature enlarges our isolated individual experiences and opens our perspectives," she said. "Jewish literature teaches us how Jewish people, live, think and learn. I like to believe that reading See "Burch" on page 8

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

We Remember You
Jewish Family Service is again seeking donations for the We Remember You Project.
.....Page 3

Shoah memorial service
The Jewish Federation will hold a Holocaust memorial service on October 2.
.....Page 5

"Tea and Talk"
Chabad and the Federation are co-sponsoring a "Tea and Talk" program for seniors.
.....Page 5

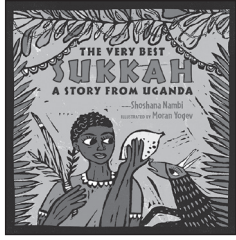
Special Sections
Book Review..... 4
Congregational Notes 6
Personal and Business Services ... 7
Classifieds 8

New in Books

Kalaniot Books to release two new children's books

Kalaniot Books announced that it will release two new children's picture books for fall 2023:

◆ "The Very Best Sukkah: A Story from Uganda" by Shoshana Nambi and illustrated by Moran Yogev (due out September 6). The work talks about the holiday of Sukkot and the Ugandan Abayudaya community's annual sukkah contest. The story focuses on Shoshi, whose favorite holiday is Sukkot. She and her brothers love to decorate their sukkah and hope to win. But when a storm destroys some of the sukkahs, they learn that everyone wins when



The cover of "The Very Best Sukkah" (Cover used with permission of the publisher)

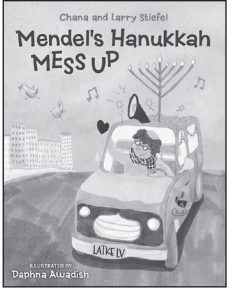
the community works together. The book contains notes about the Abayudaya culture and history, in addition to a glossary that defines unfamiliar vocabulary and elements of the story.

Nambi grew up in the Abayudaya Jewish community in the eastern part of Uganda. When she finishes her rabbinical training in 2024, she will be the first female rabbi in Uganda. This is her debut book. Yogev is an Israeli illustrator who uses woodcut images to complement the warmth of the Abayudaya community and the beauty of Uganda's landscape.

◆ "Mendel's Hanukkah Mess Up" by Chana and Larry Stiefel, and illustrated by Daphna Awadish due out October 25). The book tells the story of Mendel, who is always messing up. So, no one is more surprised than he when the

rabbi asks him to drive the Mitzvah Mobile through the streets of New York and invite everyone to the Hanukkah Bash. Mendel worries that he will mess up again. As he spreads the joy of the holiday to his neighbors, he learns that mistakes can happen and sometimes that's not so bad.

The Stiefels use humor to tell their story and show the joy Mendel feels at Hanukkah. Awadish's illustrations complement these themes. An explanation of the history of Hanukkah and a potato latke recipe are included.



The cover of "Mendel's Hanukkah Mess Up" (Cover used with permission of the publisher)

Opinion

From the Desk of the Federation Executive Director

With gratitude

SHELLEY HUBAL

Wikipedia includes in its description of upstate New York the following: "A cheeky joke among Manhattanites is that anything north of 14th Street is 'Upstate.'" I would also say that most people from New York City believe there are few Jews living upstate.

Last week, I traveled to Syracuse to attend a meeting with five other Jewish Federation directors from upstate New York, and I can say not only are there Jews "above 14th Street," but there are several upstate Jewish communities that are thriving. I was impressed by the creative programming, fund-raising efforts and commitment to Israel that each of these directors bring to their region. (See the article on page 5 for coverage of the meeting.)

For the last three years, I have made it my mission to create a Jewish Federation that is compassionate and unified, and which has a commitment Jewish programming.

I want Federation to be of service to the members of this community. We are no longer an organization that is solely out to fund-raise. That is an outdated stereotype, and I cringe when people think of Federation in that way. What I was delighted to learn at the meeting with my upstate counterparts is that they all share the same mission and vision. Sure, we all have to do fund-raising, but ultimately, each of these Federations are focused on making their Jewish communities stronger and more connected to Judaism.

Safety and security was discussed at length at the meeting. Rochester, Buffalo, Syracuse and Albany have already begun to participate in the Jewish Federation of North America's new LiveSecure program. This program includes a regional security coordinator and provides funding for equipment, training and assessments for all upstate New York, including Binghamton. In the coming

months, I anticipate lots of work will be done behind the scenes to improve security for our region and I am pleased to say that Federation will lead the way in these efforts for our community.

Antisemitism is no longer something that is just in our history; unfortunately, it is on the rise at an unprecedented rate. When you increase your gift to the annual Campaign this year, you will be contributing to a more secure Binghamton. LiveSecure will match these funds and the dollars will go directly to improving security. I was thrilled to find out we are eligible for LiveSecure and I am appealing to each of you to consider increasing your gift for the 2023 Campaign. Every dollar counts and will help us all live a more secure life.

L'shalom, wishing you all a safe and peaceful end to summer.

In My Own Words

Freedom to, freedom from

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." – United States Constitution

The above paragraph from the Constitution allows for complete freedom of religion. Or does it? It depends on which religion you practice. For example, the U.S. Supreme Court's decision of April 17, 1990, in *Employment Division, Department of Human Resources of Oregon v. Smith* said that laws prohibiting Native Americans from using peyote in their religious rituals did not violate their freedom of religion, even though they had been performing those rites before white settlers arrived in the U.S. Something similar happened to the Church of Latter-Day Saints (AKA Mormons) when the U.S. Congress sought to disincorporate the church unless it stopped its practice of polygamy. The American right to practice a religion is not unlimited, at least if your religion is not a mainstream version of Christianity.

What made me think about this is the recent *Kennedy v. Bremerton School District* decision that allowed a public school educator (in this case a coach) to lead a prayer on the 50-yard line after football games. Now, I'm a cheerleader for the benefits of prayer. In fact, I think it would be wonderful if parents prayed with their children every day. However, the place for that is in their home or the church/synagogue/mosque of their choice. That way, they can lead them in the prayers of their particular religious tradition

and model for them the importance of daily prayer. But I don't think children should have to listen to a teacher/coach praying in a tradition that is not their own. That coach could certainly pray in private, but when prayer becomes public (and there are few things less private than the 50-yard line after a football game) then we have to consider that not only do we Americans have the freedom to practice our own religion, but we should also have the freedom to *not* have to take part in anyone else's religious practice unless we freely choose to do so.

Before you say there is no coercion on the coach's part, you should remember that there exists an imbalance of power between teachers and students. There's a reason why teachers aren't allowed to have sexual relations with their students, even if the students say they are willing. That's because a teacher has power over a student in a way that is hard to define, but which limits relationships between teachers/students, doctors/patients, rabbis/people being counseled, etc. Students cannot help but wonder whether not participating would negatively effect their coach's opinion of them. After all, this coach feels it's very important to pray after a football game, which is a secular, not a religious, event. Some students, particularly those of different religious traditions, can't help but feel coerced. And those who say the coach is doing this in a private capacity and not requiring the students to participate has not attended public school in far too many years: the pressure from teachers and peers is hard to ignore. Remember, the coach is not going back to his office or car and praying privately: he's doing it publicly where it's easy to note who is and who is not taking part.

There were numerous memes on social media noting if this coach's name had been Mohamed and he had pulled out his prayer rug and started chanting in Arabic, many people's reactions would have been far different. I can believe that would be true because years ago I took part in a public service after 9/11 and was told not to use Hebrew in my remarks. I'm sure no one asked the ministers taking part not to mention Jesus. I complied by reciting *Al Malay Rachamim* (the traditional prayer that asks that the soul of the departed rest in God's protection) in its English translation. The prayer was still beautiful, but the haunting melody used in Hebrew chanting can't be captured in the spoken word. This event did make me note that many people still put limitations on religious practices that are not their own.

Jews need to watch this very carefully. The religious freedom we have in this country is based less on the freedom to practice our religion (as important as that is) than the freedom not to be forced to practice other religions. Unless you are willing to have your child recite prayers not only to Jesus, but Allah, Hashem, the Hindu gods Shiva, Krishna and Lakshmi, or the Wiccan deity personified as Mother Nature, then you have no right to say other children should have to listen to your religious practice. Actually, if we were to do that – open the worship to every type of religion – I would have fewer difficulties with allowing prayer in the public school system. But cynic that I am, I don't think that will happen. Religious freedom means not only freedom to practice your religion, but the freedom from being forced, even as a bystander, to listen to those of another tradition.



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER BINGHAMTON

Suzanne Holwitz, President
Shelley Hubal, Executive Director

607-724-2332 ~ www.jfgeb.org

The Reporter Editorial Committee

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

HOW TO REACH THE REPORTER

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

E-mail ~ TRReporter@aol.com

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

Extension#/Department ~ 1. Advertising 2. Business Office
3. Art Department 4. Circulation 6. Editorial/News

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

OPINIONS

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

LETTERS

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

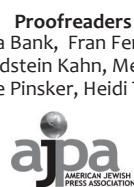
ADS

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

DEADLINE

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

Executive Editor Rabbi Rachel Esserman
Layout Editor Diana Sochor
Advertising Kathy Brown
Bookkeeper Kathy Brown
Production Associate Julie Weber



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

www.thereporter.org

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.jfgb.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 give people some basic skills to do that. That's why I see it as a continuation of the Active Shooter Training."

Hubal added, "Knowing how to do first aid in a traumatic situation could very well be the difference between life and death. *Pikuach nefesh* is the Jewish principle that tells us saving a life is of utmost importance. That is why we are doing this training."

"We are pleased to be offering this program and, while we hope there will never be an occasion to use the skills being taught, we want to be prepared," said Rita Bleier, who is a member of the Federation board and helped organize the program.



JFS seeks donations for We Remember You project

Jewish Family Service is again seeking donations for the We Remember You Project. The project, which is now in its 15th year, supports Jewish families locally who struggle to make ends meet.

"Once again, we are asking for donations, rather than items for food baskets," said Rose Shea, director of JFS. "Recipients have mentioned how much they enjoy picking out their own food and, with the pandemic continuing, we want to make sure that everyone is kept safe."

Tax deductible donations should be sent to JFS by Wednesday, September 14, with "We Remember You" written on the memo line. Checks should be mailed to Jewish Family Service, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850.

"The We Remember You Project is a wonderful way to give *zedakah* during this time of self-reflection and gratitude," noted Shea. "The Binghamton community has been especially generous during the pandemic and JFS clients so appreciate it. This program is another way to show our neighbors they are not forgotten and the community really cares."

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

Contact Shea at familyservice@jfgb.org for further information.

The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to David Klotzkin on the death of his father,
Gerald Klotzkin

BD Sisterhood to meet Sept. 14

The Sisterhood of Beth David Synagogue will hold its opening meeting of the 2022-23 season on Wednesday, September 14, at 7 pm, at Beth David Synagogue. The program will be an exploration of the differences between Sephardic and Ashkenazi customs relating to the High Holidays. Program Chairwoman Susan Wright said, "I have always found the variety of holiday food traditions to be fascinating. Each family seems to have its very own way of assuring the coming year will be a good one." Anyone whose family has an unusual tradition they would like to share at the meeting should leave a message for Wright at the Beth David Synagogue office at 722-1793 or e-mail bethdavid@stny.rr.com.

Cathy Velenchik, co-president of the Beth David Sisterhood, said, "In addition to the September meeting, board members of Beth David Sisterhood have planned some really exciting programs for the coming year, including a Sukkot-themed meeting in October and a Zoom program from Israel by a scholar who specializes in the Dead Sea Scrolls."

Anyone who has additional ideas for programs should share them with a member of Sisterhood, or leave the information at the Beth David Synagogue office. "We are always planning ahead," members of Sisterhood said.

One need not be affiliated with the Beth David Sisterhood or the synagogue to participate in Sisterhood programs.

DEADLINES

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

ISSUE	DEADLINE
September 9-22	August 31
September 23-October 6	September 14
October 7-20	September 28
October 21-November 3	October 12

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

TC-TI to hold Selichot program and service on Sept. 17

Temple Concord and Temple Israel will hold a *Selichot* program and service on Saturday, September 17, at 8 pm, at Temple Concord, 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton. The program will take place in person and on Zoom.

"Prepare for the High Holidays with a *Selichot* evening

of film, discussion and services," said organizers of the event. "We will begin with showing the 'Northern Exposure' television show episode 'Shofar So Good' in which Dr. Joel Fleishman has an experience with the ghost of Yom Kippur, which allows him to examine his present, past and future behavior, and contemplate doing *teshuvah* by changing his ways. We will discuss the episode and its lessons for active repentance at this season."

The *Selichot* service will include *Havdalah*, sounding the *shofar* and High Holiday melodies.

Anyone interested in attending in person should RSVP to either the Temple Concord office at 723-7355 or the Temple Israel office at 723-7461. The Zoom link is <https://bit.ly/3ps52Yo>, meeting ID 869 6646 9818 and passcode 649068.

SAME SUE, SAME RESULTS...

SUZANNE "SUE" KRAUSE
NYS Lic. Associate R.E. Broker
(C) 607-760-3366 | SUEKRAUSE@WARRENHOMES.COM
THELAURAMELVILLETEAM.WARRENHOMES.COM
33 FRONT STREET • BINGHAMTON, NY 13905

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! E-mail reporter@aol.com with "Reporter Address change" in the subject line to let *The Reporter* know about your new address.

Help us all

LIVESECURE | Jewish Federation OF GREATER BINGHAMTON

When you increase your gift to the Federation Annual Campaign, the Jewish Federations of North America will provide critical **matching funds** to improve the safety and security of our community.

Give today and help Binghamton LiveSecure.

Call or e-mail Federation Executive Director Shelley Hubal for more information.
607-724-2332 director@jfgb.org

WE REMEMBER YOU 2022

A Project of Jewish Family Service

During the High Holidays 5783, JFS will be distributing monetary gifts to community members in need who always say,

"Thank you for remembering me."

Please help fund this program with monetary contributions by **Sept. 14** to: Jewish Family Service, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal NY 13850.

BASEBALL IS BACK AUGUST 30TH-SEPTEMBER 4TH

VIP MEET AND GREET PICNIC AVAILABLE [5:05 PM-6:35 PM]

Bucky Dent Appearance

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1ST, 2022
FIRST PITCH: 6:35 PM | GATES OPEN: 5:35 PM
PRESENTED BY: VISIONS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, EQUINOX BROADCASTING

MARVEL SUPER HERO NIGHT

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2ND, 2022
VIP PIZZA PARTY PACKAGES AVAILABLE [5:05 PM-6:35 PM] FIRST PITCH: 7:05 PM GATES OPEN: 5:35 PM
CAPTAIN MARVEL CHARACTER APPEARANCE
MILNER AUTO TEAM FIREWORKS SERIES

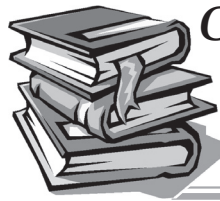
SUMMERWEEN FT. MURDER MYSTERY

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD, 2022
FIRST PITCH: 6:35 PM GATES OPEN: 5:35 PM
COSPER MTS HAT GIVEAWAY FIRST 1,000 FANS

KIDS EAT FREE AGES 3-12

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4TH, 2022
FIRST PITCH: 6:35 PM GATES OPEN: 5:35 PM
MILNER AUTO TEAM FIREWORKS SERIES

WWW.BINGRP.COM | 607.722.FUNN (3866)



Off the Shelf

Oz and Singer discuss writing and life

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

When considering major Jewish literary figures of the past 100 years, Isaac Bashevis Singer and Amos Oz certainly qualify, even though they represent two different traditions. Singer has been called a master of Yiddish literature (something with which the Nobel Prize Committee agreed) while Oz was definitely a major figure in Israeli literature (and, although he never did win the Nobel, has received numerous other awards). Their lives and works were controversial: many Yiddish writers felt other authors were more deserving of the Nobel, while Oz' opinions about Israeli politics were often said to be too radical. Readers wanting to learn their thoughts on writing and life will be interested in two recently published works: "What Makes an Apple? Six Conversations about Writing, Love, Guilt, and Other Pleasures" by Oz with Shira Hadad (translated into English by Jessica Cohen) and "Old Truths and New Clichés" by Singer (edited by David Stromberg). (Both works were published by Princeton University Press.)

"What Makes an Apple?" is a collection of taped conversations between Oz and Hadad. Their discussions are wide-ranging; they don't just focus on Oz' writings, but offer thought-provoking ideas about popular culture. The initial questions explore how Oz came to be a writer. His answer explains the title of the book: "Take an apple. What makes an apple? Water, earth, sun, an apple tree, and a bit of fertilizer. But it doesn't look like any of those things. It's made of them but it is not like them. That's how a story is: it certainly is made up of the sum of encounters and experiences and listening." His natural curiosity helped: his parents promised him the rare treat of an ice cream if he sat quietly while they talked to their friends in the cafes they visited. Oz began

to observe the other customers and, when writing, took bits and pieces of what he saw to create a completely different character.

Hadad asked Oz why he never wrote about war, even though he had fought in two: the Six-Day War and the Yom Kippur War. Oz interestingly noted that he believes it's impossible to capture that experience in print or on screen: "One of the reasons is that my sharpest memory from the battlefield is the smells. The smell never gets through... The terrible stench doesn't come through. And without the smell it just isn't right." The one exception was in his memoir "A Tale of Love and Darkness" that does speak about the siege of Jerusalem and the smell of unwashed civilian bodies gathered in a shelter that he experienced as a child.

Oz talked about the development of his work, noting that each book he writes really has three versions: "the one you are reading; the one I wrote, which has to be different from the one you're reading; the one I would have written if I'd had the strength. If I had wings. That book, the third one, is the best of the three. But in all the world there is no one other than me who grieves for it." He noted he's started more works than he's finished: he was willing to abandon books with which he felt unsatisfied, even one that he'd worked on for two years. Those manuscripts were all destroyed so that no one else would attempt to publish them or be able to read them.

The work includes a fascinating discussion on the nature of sexuality and the differences between men and women. Readers may find themselves wishing they could interject their own thoughts to learn how Oz would counter their opinions. Also included are his ideas about feminism and what he has learned over time about women. This section needs to be read as a whole

in order to truly understand his thoughts. Learning how his opinions changed and developed over time gives insight into how a generation of men interpreted the world.

One need not be a fan of Oz or familiar with his writings in order to enjoy "What Makes an Apple?" These intelligent conversations have much to offer in their own right.

While Oz and Hadad's work is a transcription of their conversations, "Old Truths and New Clichés" is a collection of Singer's writings, some of which have originally appeared in this form and others that are variations of published works or speeches. Stromberg notes that Singer was a prolific writer who frequently wrote nonfiction essays for the Yiddish press – in fact, he wrote so many for some issues of a newspaper that a number of them were published under a pseudonym. Many of these essays focus on his thoughts about writing, particularly what writers are and aren't meant to accomplish.

Singer noted that literary artists "cannot solve social problems or try to reform society. They are not teachers but tellers of tales. They have power, but it is a force without a vector. Terrible as these words may sound, writers are entertainers in the highest sense of the word." He railed against novelists who try to write like journalists and noted that the worst thing a writer can do is bore his readers. These essays, which were written in the 1960s-70s, speak to particular literary forms that were being developed at that time, although Singer's opinions are still of interest today. His ideas about writers also related to critics. While people might not think of Singer as a humorist, one of the best essays is a very funny one: "The Ten Commandments and Modern Critics." In it, he offers what different contemporary critics – including a communist, a psychol-

ogist, a cultural historian, an antisemite and more – would say if the 10 Commandments were published today.

Singer wrote about "The Spirit of Judaism," which is an interesting, although a bit controversial, essay about Jewish extremists who reject any attempt to modernize their religion. His articles about Yiddish – "Yiddish, the Language of Exile," "Yiddish Theater Lives" and "Yiddish and Jewishness" – not only show his love of the language, but what he believes it still has to offer. Singer's essays include stories of his life as a child and how he used ideas from Kabbalah he learned then in his writing, particularly its notions of sin and pleasure. He saw God as a creator, like a writer: "I quote to myself that passage from the Midrash which says that God created and destroyed many worlds before creating this one. Like my [writer] brother and myself, God threw his unsuccessful works into the waste basket. The flood, the destruction of Sodom, the wandering of the Jews in the desert, the wars of Joshua – these are all the episodes in a divine novel full of suspense and adventure. Yes, God was a creator, and that which he created had a passion to create."

Singer did mention his critics, those who viewed his work as "food for antisemites" because of its sometimes unpleasant portrayal of Jewish behavior. However, he noted that his writing came directly from his heritage: "I was myself steeped in all the neuroses which I described. There was a sort of divine hysteria in our family. All of us were possessed by dybbuks." These sections will make the most sense to readers of his novels. However, the majority of this work can be enjoyed by anyone interested in the dynamics of writing or how Jewish and Yiddish culture developed during Singer's lifetime.

Jews in Sports

The Maccabiah Games, 2022: The Jewish Olympics

BILL SIMONS

Muscular Judaism and Zionism provided impetus for the birth of the Maccabiah Games, a Jewish Olympics of sorts. The first two Maccabiah were held in 1932 and 1935 in the former and future Jewish homeland, then part of the British Mandate of Palestine. World War II brought a hiatus to Maccabiah. Then, in 1950, the modern state of Israel hosted the return of Maccabiah and did so again in 1953. Subsequently, the festival took place quadrennially until the COVID pandemic necessitated delaying the 2021 Maccabiah for a year. The Maccabiah is open to Jewish athletes throughout the world, as well as to all Israelis regardless of religion or ethnicity. Israel is the permanent home to Maccabiah, the largest Jewish athletic gathering on the planet. The state of Israel, Jewish organizations globally, private philanthropy and the athletes themselves fund Maccabiah.

From July 14-26, approximately 10,000 athletes, coaches, staff and family entourage, representing over 60 countries, participated in the 21st Maccabiah, competing in 42 sports. The U.S. team was second in size only to Israel's contingent. In addition to the premier open competitions, other events featured junior, senior and para-athletes. Although Teddy Stadium in Jerusalem was the epicenter, events were also held in Haifa, Netanya and other sites.

On July 14, the 21st Maccabiah Games provided the pivot for merging the substance and symbolism of the special U.S.-Israel relationship. In the morning, U.S. President Joe Biden and Israel Prime Minister Yair Lapid signed the historic Jerusalem U.S.-Israel Strategic Partnership Joint Declaration, affirming that, "The United States stresses that integral to this pledge is the commitment never to allow Iran to acquire a nuclear weapon, and that it is prepared to use all elements of its national power to ensure

that outcome." Despite Israeli dissent to U.S. advocacy of a two-state solution to the Palestinian conflict, American military aid to Israel will remain strong. President Isaac Herzog bestowed the Israeli Presidential Medal of Honor on Biden, which the American president graciously termed "one of the greatest honors of my career."

Then, in the evening, Biden attended a portion of the opening ceremonies of the Maccabiah at Teddy Stadium in Jerusalem. Flanked by Herzog and Lapid, a smiling Biden doffed his U.S.A. cap and waved it enthusiastically to the appreciative Maccabiah crowd. An affirmative thumbs up followed. Biden is the first American president to attend Maccabiah.

In addition to his public support, Biden met privately with the U.S. Maccabiah team. Calling himself "an incredible supporter of Israel," Biden told the American athletes, "What you've done is you've demonstrated to the world that you can do anything, and I'm so damn proud." Reflecting the sentiments of his U.S. teammates, water polo participant Wasley Kaling responded to Biden's warm support with "goosebumps." By his presence, Biden elevated Maccabiah to a major international enterprise.

Notable athletes and coaches have participated in Maccabiah, including track and field's Lillian Copeland; basketball's Larry Brown, Ernie and Dan Grunfeld, David Blatt and Bruce Pearl; and swimmers Mark Spitz and Lenny Krayzelburg. Tal Brody made his first trip to Israel as a 1965 Maccabiah athlete, one of four players on the gold medal American basketball team drafted by the NBA. Experiencing a strong connection to Jewish history and culture, Brody made *aliyah*. In 1977, basketball legend Dolph Schayes coached an American squad led by his son, Dan, who went on to play 18 See "Games" on page 8

ROSH HASHANAH 5783 Greetings

Deadline: September 15 (September 23 issue)

Once again this year, *The Reporter* is inviting its readers and medical professionals to place personal New Year's greetings to the community. These New Year's greeting ads will appear in our September 23 issue.

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 F and J), the medium one is \$38 (style H and I) and the largest one (not shown) is \$74.

To ensure that your greeting is published or for more information on additional styles, sizes & designs, please contact Kathy Brown at 724-2360, ext. 244; or e-mail advertising@thereporter.com. Checks can be made payable to *The Reporter* and sent to: *The Reporter*, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850.

Style H - \$38
Actual Size: 3.22" x 1.975"

May you be inscribed in the Book of Life for good health, peace and prosperity.

Your Name(s)

Style I - \$38
Actual Size: 3.22" x 1.975"

Name(s)

Style J - \$20
Actual Size: 1.52" x 1.975"

May this New Year be a time of peace & joy for you and all those you love.

Your Name(s)

Style F - \$20
Actual Size: 1.52" x 1.975"

Have a sweet, happy & healthy New Year!

Your Name(s)

ROSH HASHANAH Greetings

Deadline: September 15 (September 23 issue)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Greeting Style _____ Message _____

How you would like it signed _____

We accept Visa Mastercard American Express Discover

Print Name on Card _____

Card Number _____

Expiration Date _____

Address, City, State, Zip (Registered billing address of card) _____

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

THE REPORTER
Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton

Deadline: Sept. 15

Holocaust memorial service to be held on Oct. 2

By Reporter staff

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton will hold a memorial service at the Holocaust Memorial Monument in the Temple Israel Cemetery on Conklin Avenue in Conklin on Sunday, October 2, at 10:30 am. The service will be led by area rabbis. The monument was one of the first memorial stones in the United States to acknowledge the Holocaust.

“We were pleased to be able to hold the ceremony in person last year and are grateful we can hold this important event again this year,” said Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Federation. “We not only remember those who lost their lives in the Holocaust, but honor those who developed, created and sustained this important community memorial.”

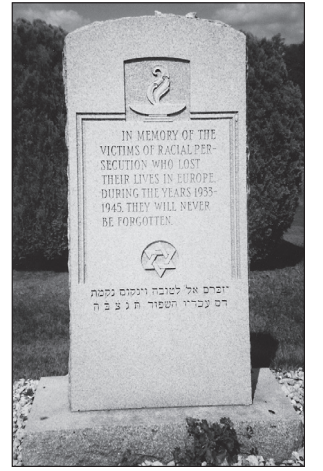
The monument was the project of the Get

Together Club, which was a social and philanthropic group formed in 1948 by 13 German-speaking Jewish women. The women were the wives of cattle dealers who had resettled in the Southern Tier after fleeing Nazism. The decision to raise a memorial stone occurred after a member’s husband wished he had a place to say *Kaddish* for his parents, who, since they had died in the Holocaust, had no grave he could visit. The club raised the necessary funds for the stone. The names of more than 250 individuals who died in the Holocaust and had no grave were placed in a copper box, which was buried at the foot of the monument. The inscription on the stone says, “Victims of Racial Persecution who lost Their Lives in Europe During the Years 1933-1945. They Will Never Be Forgotten.”

See “Service” on page 7



Around 30 people attended the event in 2021. Shown is part of the crowd.



The Holocaust Memorial Monument in the Temple Israel Cemetery on Conklin Avenue in Conklin.

Hubal attended meeting of upstate Federation execs

Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Jewish Federation of Great Binghamton, attended a meeting of upstate New York Federation executives on August 16 in Syracuse. The meeting was sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Central New York. The purpose of the meeting was to share knowledge and brainstorm on ways to help each Federation attain its goals.

Among the topics under discussion were “What was your biggest success this year, and how did you accomplish it?”; “Engagement: How do we reach and engage people (particularly young people) Jewishly in an age of declining religiosity? What do they want? What do we want from them?”; “Campaign: What technologies work? How do we deal with the recalcitrant donor? How do we deal with donors who have substantially more capacity to give?”; “Balancing divergent interest groups – How do we deal with the fringes and the loud voices?”;

“Israel – What’s the story? How do we tell it? When do we march? When do we speak out?”; “Being a part of the collective – How does our system work and how do we work within it?”; and “Security – How do we ensure that we indeed are ‘living secure’ in the future?”

There was also a presentation by Al

Kinel and Michael David from the New York Israel Chamber of Commerce. They shared their vision for promoting and improving business relations between upstate New York and Israel.

Hubal said, “It was a pleasure to listen to and learn from other Federation executives. I left feeling inspired and sup-

ported. Ultimately, the meeting affirmed to me that we have a vibrant and caring community here in Binghamton, albeit on a much smaller scale than Buffalo or Rochester.”

For more on Hubal’s thoughts on the meeting, see the Federation executive director’s column on page 2.

Chabad, Federation to hold “Tea and Talk” seniors program on Sept. 13

Chabad of Binghamton, with co-sponsorship from the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, will introduce a new program, “Tea and Talk,” which is a monthly hour-long gathering for local Jewish seniors who are looking for “a meaningful conversation.” Light refreshments will be

served. The discussion group will take place in Chabad’s atrium lounge from 11 am-noon on Tuesday, September 13; Thursday, October 20; and Thursday, November 17.

“Federation has wanted to find a new way to serve the seniors in our community for a long time. We are so pleased that Chabad

approached us with this idea. I look forward to getting to know our community members better over a cup of tea and good conversation,” says Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Jewish Federation.

“If you are a Jewish senior living in See “Tea” on page 7

Annual Campaign 2023

TOGETHER WE CREATE COMMUNITY. MAKE YOUR PLEDGE EARLY!

We hope we can count on your generosity again in the year to come.

You can make your pledge 3 ways:

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

Mail this form to:

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

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____

State/ Zip Code: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone Number: _____

Amount Pledge: _____

We Create Community





Weekly Parasha

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

Choosing the right path

RABBI MOSHE SHMARYAHU, HEAD OF JEWISH STUDIES, HILLEL ACADEMY OF BROOME COUNTY

"That you shall place those blessing upon Mount Gerizim, and those cursing upon Mount Ebal." – Deuteronomy 11:29

Two mountains are near Shechem (Nablus), one on either side of the city. Mount Gerizim is south of Nablus and is 870 meters high; Mount Ebal is north of the city and is 940 meters high. Mount Gerizim is fertile and green, while Mount Ebal is arid. Mount Gerizim is called the Mount of Blessing because the children of Israel were commanded to perform a blessing ceremony on it and obey the commandments of God. (Deuteronomy 11:29, 27-12) Mount Ebal is called the Mount of Curse. (Deuteronomy 11:29, 20)

In the Book of Deuteronomy, chapter 27, verses 1-8, Moses' instruction to the elders of Israel to build an altar on Mount Ebal is described, including those for the altar's construction. Verses 1-4 say, "Then shall Joshua build an altar unto the Lord God of Israel in Mount Ebal." *Parashat Re'eh* mentions for the first time the ceremony that the

children of Israel are supposed to perform when they enter the land of Israel: "And it will be, when the Lord, your God, will bring you to the land to which you come, to possess it, that you shall place those blessing upon Mount Gerizim, and those cursing upon Mount Ebal." In these verses, we lack the details of this ceremony, but they are described toward the end of the Book of Deuteronomy in Chapter 27.

Mount Gerizim is a lush green mountain that symbolizes the blessing that will come to the people of Israel if they keep the commandments of God, as opposed to Mount Ebal, a desolate and arid mountain that symbolizes the curse that will come (God forbid) if Israel transgresses the words of God. Between these two mountains will stand the tribe of Levi, who will recite the blessings and curses, and then "all the people answered and said, Amen."

This ceremony seems to resemble in many details the event that took place at Mount Sinai: both take place on high mountains around them, and their purpose is to confirm

the acceptance of the yoke of *mitzvot* by the children of Israel; even many of the curses given to Mount Ebal are equivalent to Mount Sinai's Ten Commandments.

But these similarities only reinforce the question: If the children of Israel had already received the yoke of observance at Mount Sinai, what is the purpose of this additional ceremony at the time of entry into the land of Israel? As much as these rituals are similar to each other, there also seem to be important differences between them, and these differences seem to reflect the different purposes for which they are to be used. Of course, the most noticeable difference is the fact that on Mount Sinai, there is only one mountain, compared to the ritual of Mount Gerizim and Mount Ebal, where there are two mountains.

This very difference indicates the main factor that exists at Mount Gerizim and Mount Ebal that is missing at Mount Sinai: free choice. The sharp topographic contrast See "Path" on page 8

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 27, Shacharit services will be held at 9:30 am via Zoom and in-person (masks are required). The Torah portion is Deuteronomy 11:26-16:17 and the haftarah is Isaiah 66:1-24. At 8:30 pm, there will be Havdalah services via Zoom.

On Wednesday, August 31, there will be Torah study from 4-5 pm on Zoom.

On Saturday, September 3, at 9:30 am, Shacharit services will be held via Zoom and in-person (masks are required). The Torah portion is Deuteronomy 16:18-21:9 and the haftarah is Isaiah 51:12-52:12. At 8:30 pm, there will be Havdalah services via Zoom.

There will be an Executive Board meeting on Tuesday, September 6, at 7 pm.

On Wednesday, September 7, 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.

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 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.

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 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 26, light candles before..... 7:29 pm
Saturday, August 27, light candles after..... 8:28 pm
Friday, September 9, light candles before..... 7:06 pm
Saturday, September 10, light candles after..... 8:04 pm
Friday, September 16, light candles before..... 6:53 pm
Saturday, September 17, light candles after..... 7:52 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 26: 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 27: 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, September 2: 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, September 3: Torah study from 9:45-11 am. Join via Zoom at <https://bit.ly/3CVxM14>, meeting ID 882 9808 7579 and passcode 676707.

Sunday, September 4: 10 am-2 pm, Sisterhood Rummage Sale, shoppers are asked to use the Oak Street entrance. Masks are optional.

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.

Friends of Kilmer Mansion formed

The Friends of Kilmer Mansion is a new nonprofit organization dedicated to raising funds to help with building repairs for the Kilmer Mansion. The Temple Concord Board of Trustees has leased the much of the building to the new organization. The Friends board is made up of Temple Concord members along with individuals from the larger community. Board members include Barry Berkowitz, Lisa Blackwell, Deborah Epstein, Jeff Strosberg, Cameron Chardoul, John Darrow and Natalie Tomcho.

"Friends of Kilmer Mansion will continue the work of raising the funds needed to restore and preserve the mansion," according to the organization's press release. "The importance of this work cannot be overstated. One of the most critical problems facing the mansion is that the walls and decks of its porches and terraces continue to crumble.

Brunch. . . . Continued from page 1

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."

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.jfgb.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!"

If the walls collapse, the damage will be catastrophic, and the cost to rebuild will be astronomical. Such devastating damage to the mansion would be a tragedy for our congregation and our larger community. This is a reality that we must face and act quickly to prevent."

It added, "Our organization can fund-raise in a manner that Temple Concord, as a religious organization, cannot. In doing so, we can build even stronger ties to the greater community, harnessing the investment of a larger number of caring, generous people beyond our congregation. Friends will also work to develop the mansion as a venue for visual and performing arts, music, and other special events, both public and private. We have already seen an increase in the number of event rentals. We expect even more growth in the years ahead. The money raised through these rentals will support not only the care of the building itself, but the many needs of the congregation."

Temple Concord will still be able to use the Kilmer Mansion: it will continue to house the synagogue's religious school. The building will not be rented out or host events during major Jewish holidays. The synagogue's dietary customs will also continue to be observed.

"We can be proud that we are serving both our congregation and the entire community by protecting this excep-

Tea. Continued from page 5

Broome County who enjoys spending time with others like you, discussing contemporary Jewish topics and a little nosh, this program is for you," said organizers of the event. "Bring your thoughts and opinions!"

To RSVP, visit www.JewishBU.com/Tea or call 797-0015.

Service. Continued from page 5

The first ceremony took place on Sunday, November 9, 1952, and continued for 20 years. Then, after Professor Rhonda Levine spoke about the Get Together Club at the Federation's Super Sunday in 2015, it was decided to resume the ceremony, holding it between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur each year.

"Join us for what is always a moving event," said Hubal. "It's important that we never forget the lives lost in the Holocaust."

tional historic treasure, while also securing the funds that are critical to the ongoing existence of our congregation," said member of the Friends board.

Anyone who would like more information or has any questions should contact Blackwell at 607-725-6172 or LRMBlackwell@gmail.com.

Looking for this issue's "Jewish Resources"? Visit www.thereporter.org/streams/miscellaneous-features/miscellaneous-features/tag/80309? to find out what's happening online."

Jewish Community Center

JCC Friendship Club

The JCC Friendship Club met on August 17. The meeting was called to order by Sylvia Diamond. We recited the Pledge of Allegiance and sang "Hatikvah." Moira Shirvan said the blessing over the cookies brought in by Bruce Orden and Sylvia. Moira read a poem, taken from the computer, about memory. It starts out by saying, "My rememberer is broke, My forgetter is getting better."

Moira told us about a prophetess, Chuldah, who lived in 3303 on the Jewish calendar or 457 B.C.E. She told us there were 49 prophets and seven prophetesses. She continued to tell more about Chuldah and her cousin, Jeremiah. Maimonides (Rambam) gave a description of what a prophet or prophetess is. It was very interesting. Moira told other details about that era and answered our few questions.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 14, at 1:30 pm. If you would like to join us on Thursday, September 1, we will be eating lunch at a local restaurant. If you want to join us, call Sylvia Diamond at 607-772-0726, or any other active member of the JCC Friendship Club.

Sylvia Diamond
President



HOPLER & ESCHBACH FUNERAL HOME
"A new family tradition"

Personal Service
Professionalism
Experience You Can Trust

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

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

Your ad should be here in

THE REPORTER
Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton

Your ad won't get lost in the shuffle in The Reporter's pages!
For more information, contact
Kathy Brown at
724-2360, ext. 244,
or
advertising@thereporter.org

Greater Binghamton's Preferred Electrical Contractor

B BLANDING ELECTRIC, INC.

729-3545

Service Upgrades
Panel Change-outs
Heating Circuits
Indoor & Outdoor Lighting
Appliance Circuits & Outlets
Generator Installation
Data & Phone Cabling
Audio * Video * Security

FREE ESTIMATES
GUARANTEED WORK
EMERGENCY SERVICE

FREE ESTIMATES
GUARANTEED WORK
24 HOUR
EMERGENCY SERVICE

WINTER IS COMING!
Generator Installation
Roof De-Icer * Heat Circuits
Heat Tape * Outdoor Outlets

10% OFF
with this ad. Cannot be combined with other offers.
Valid for Residential Service only.
Expires 1/31/23

429 Commerce Road
Vestal, New York 13850
blanding-electric.com

Celebrate the Simcha

If you can celebrate it, we can make an ad for you!

Engagements • Weddings
Births • Birthdays
Graduations • Moves
Promotions • Retirements
Anniversaries & much more!

To place a simcha, please contact
Kathy Brown at
724-2360, ext. 244
or advertising@thereporter.org

THE REPORTER
Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton

Women's OB/GYN Associates
(607) 754-9870
www.womensobgynassociates.com

Carol Miller, MD
Kelly Wilmarth, FNP-C
Tamara Burger, CNM

401 Main Street, 1st Floor, Johnson City, New York 13790

Kelly Wilmarth FNP-C and Tamara Burger CNM are now accepting new patients seeking care that includes annual well woman visits, IUD's, and other gynecology concerns.

Kelly and Tamara offer individualized comprehensive medically monitored weight management and healthy lifestyle support utilizing lab evaluation (including hormones), medication, comprehensive diet education, and active program guidance.

Request an appointment with one of our providers by calling 607.754.9870 or by visiting our website at www.womensobgynassociates.com.

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

PRE-ARRANGEMENTS AND PRE-FUNDING AVAILABLE

Joseph Fritsch
Managing Director

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

parsonsfuneral@yahoo.com
www.ParsonsFuneral.com

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

Games Continued from page 4

seasons in the NBA, to a gold medal; Dan subsequently returned to Israel as a Maccabiah coach. Olympic Gold Medalist Kerri Strug (1997) and MLB All-Star (and the new manager of the Israel national baseball team) Ian Kinsler (2022) carried torches at Maccabiah opening ceremonies. Most Maccabiah competitors, however, are not of Olympic caliber and do not purport to be. For many Maccabiah athletes, victory is in participation.

As in the past, Israel dominated individual and team competition, with the U.S. and Argentina a distant second and third respectively. Jewish athletes from across the globe, however, merited kudos for their dedication and performance. Nearly every athlete had a compelling backstory. For example, 36-year-old, 214-pound, Greco-Roman wrestler Moshe Klyman, an activist in his Teaneck, NJ, Orthodox *shul* and the father of three, overcame a shattered spine to participate in intercollegiate and international competition, always with the Star of David on his jersey.

Pageantry, pyrotechnics, song and dance, inspiring rhetoric, lighted torches and the march of proud, national delegations marked the opening of Maccabiah. Similar festivities closed the games. Even a 10-minute power failure that darkened the stadium could not dampen the fervor of spectators.

The Maccabiah is not without its critics. The games have had limited success in encouraging *aliyah*. The collapsed footbridge over the polluted Yarkon River during the 1997 Maccabiah opening ceremonies, claiming the lives of four Australian athletes and injuring 69, is not forgotten. The emphasis on music and other entertainments strikes some as more appropriate to a pop festival

or a Birthright trip. Precarious finances, the idiosyncratic point system, ellipses in record keeping, transportation snafus, food imbroglios, limited media coverage and unevenness of athletic performance are perennial problems. Countries with small Jewish populations have difficulty fielding a complete or competitive national team. Writing in *Haaretz* on the cusp of the 2022 Maccabiah, Ido Rakovsky summoned bleak words: "Today, it is doubtful whether Israel really needs the Maccabiah."

Rakovsky is wrong. Fostering links between Israel and the Diaspora, connecting Diaspora Jews with one another and heightening the Jewish consciousness of participants, the 2022 Maccabiah – the largest yet – combated antisemitic tropes about Jewish physical deficiencies and nurtured future leaders. Unlike the Olympics, a showcase for national competition, Maccabiah strengthens solidarity between competitors. At a juncture when Israel is riven by inconclusive, incessant national elections, Maccabiah is a unifying force, celebrating collective achievement. While the government of Israel treads cautiously concerning the savage Russian invasion of Ukraine, Jewish athletes from that brave and battered nation participated in Maccabiah, and philanthropic relief for Ukraine was encouraged at the Maccabiah. Transcending athletics, Maccabiah also provides a pivot for sports diplomacy. Ask Joe Biden.

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.

Grant Continued from page 1

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.

- ◆ There was a 56 percent increase in assaults against Jews in the last two years. "This is an important initiative," Hubal added. "The attacks that have taken place against Jewish communities and other minority groups across the United States have left many of us fearful. One way to combat this is for all our organizations to be able to implement the latest security measures. By increasing your pledge or making a pledge for the first time, you can play an important role in keeping you safe."

NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

Federal judge denies Ben & Jerry's bid to stop sales in Judea and Samaria

The attempt by ice-cream maker Ben & Jerry's to stop sales of its products in Judea and Samaria was rejected on Aug. 22 by a federal judge, reported Reuters. Ben & Jerry's brought the lawsuit on July 5 against its parent company Unilever after the latter announced it would sell the rights to produce its dessert products in Israel to American Quality Products Ltd., owned by Israeli businessman Avi Zinger. American Quality Products has produced and delivered Ben & Jerry's products in Israel for decades. In the lawsuit, the Ben & Jerry's board argued that the transfer breached a deal between them and Unilever because it circumvented the ice-cream company's decision to end sales in what it considers "occupied Palestinian territory." Ben & Jerry's claimed that to sell its products in Judea and Samaria is inconsistent with its values.

Burch Continued from page 1

Jewish literature de-mystifies and makes real Jews and Jewish life and explodes stereotypes about Jews."

This is especially important for the non-Jews taking her classes. "Often my courses provide the first and only contact with Jews and Judaism that students have ever known," she said. "Through literature, we go inside Eastern European shtetls, cosmopolitan cities, dangerous sea voyages, yeshivas, sweatshops, libraries, summer camps, ghettos, courtrooms, forced marches, movie sets, shops, factories and homes of yesterday and perhaps tomorrow. Transported in time and space by reading, we live through characters' words, images and thoughts. And as we read, we internalize scraps of our reading. A thousand times we've heard Jews described as the people of the book – and while the phrase most certainly refers to Torah, it also applies to all other Jewish books and to the transmission of Jewish culture and thought."

Burch has a wide variety of interests – from Phillip Roth to the Holocaust – but all of the works she teaches have something in common: They all feature "good stories, first. Nimble writing and subtle command of the language. A text that is a puzzle to be plumbed," she added.

She noted, "My doctoral work was in American literature with a special field in Jewish American literature and a dissertation on Jewish American women writers, all under the guidance of Leslie Field,

(OBM), prominent Malamud scholar; and William Stafford, Americanist, at Purdue University. Mid-career (2003), my husband Paul-William [Burch] and I participated in the first-ever seminar on Holocaust literature offered by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Twenty scholars chosen from across the country and led by Geoffrey Hartman of Yale read and discussed Holocaust literature and scholarship for two weeks at the USHMM in Washington, DC. Before that signal event, Holocaust studies had focused almost solely on history. But literature speaks what history can't feel – and that's why it's important."

To help create good literature, Burch has taught grammar and writing at Binghamton University, the University of Alabama and Purdue University, where she earned her Ph.D. For her work at BU, she has received the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. For her, what matters is "good stories and fine writing!"

Burch noted that the community can audit classes at BU. "Many Judaic studies faculty welcome community members to audit our courses, and if you are interested in being part of a course informally, please let me know (bburch@binghamton.edu)," she said. "Some courses may be full, but we'll do our best to accommodate you. Also, let me know if you'd like to be included on our mailing list to receive our department newsletter and information about Judaic studies community events."

Path Continued from page 6

between Mount Gerizim and Mount Ebal signifies that the children of Israel have the power to choose between two opposing options: keeping God's commandments, which will lead to blessing, or breaking the commandments, which will lead to cursing. This theme of free choice is repeated over and over in the Book of Deuteronomy, with an emphasis that the two options are accessible to them in the same footage, just as the two mountains are at their feet: "Behold, I have set before you today life and good, and death and evil... This day, I call upon heaven and earth as witnesses [that I have warned] you: I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. You shall choose life, so that you and your offspring will live." (Deuteronomy chapter 30:15-19)

In contrast, in describing the status of Mount Sinai, Moses emphasizes that it was an absolutely stunning experience: "And it was, when you heard the voice from the midst of the darkness, and the mountain was burning with fire, that you approached me, all the heads of your tribes and your elders... And you said, Behold, the Lord, our God, has shown us His glory and His greatness, and we heard His voice from the midst of the fire; we saw this day that God speaks with man, yet [man] remains alive." (Deuteronomy 5 19-20) Such was the experience at Mount Sinai that it left the children of Israel no place to decide whether to obey or not: the revelation of God forced them to accept the yoke of the commandments without even thinking.

It is well understood from the sage's article (Talmud B, Tract Shabbat 81.B) that at the time of the giving of the Torah: "God forced the mountain on them like a tub and said to them: If you accept the Torah it is better or not here in this place will be your burial." The one mountain symbolizes the fact that the children of Israel actually had only one option and that is to receive the

Ten Commandments and the Torah.

This makes it possible to understand further differences between the status of Mount Sinai and the status of Mount Gerizim and Mount Ebal. At Mount Sinai, the Ten Commandments are worded in imperative language; in contrast, at Mount Gerizim and Mount Ebal, the commandments are given in the language of curses: "Cursed is the man who..." This formula conveys that it is incumbent upon the children of Israel themselves to consider the consequences of their actions and choose accordingly.

Another important difference is the position of the children of Israel in the two ceremonies. At Mount Sinai, the children of Israel are at the bottom of the mountain, and God is revealed to them from above. On the other hand, at Mount Gerizim and Mount Ebal, the children of Israel are the ones standing on the mountains, and the tribe of Levi – who are actually God's representatives – are standing in the valley below. This location creates a completely different experience from that of Mount Sinai. While the children of Israel stand on the mountains facing each other, the eyes of each and every one is drawn to the multitude of people standing around them, to their brethren who enter into an alliance with God and will be responsible with them for maintaining its conditions.

This reflects the wider difference between the way of life of the children of Israel in the wilderness, and the way of their new life in the land of Israel. Upon entering the promised land, the children of Israel will no longer live in direct contact with the place of God's presence, so the concern that prevails throughout the Book of Deuteronomy is that they will forget God and break His commandments. Mount Gerizim and Mount Ebal are designed so as to convey to them the burden of responsibility to choose the right path.



GARY RILEY

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

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

YOUR HEATING & PLUMBING SPECIALISTS

BAKER'S PLUMBING & HEATING

We Also Do Natural Gas Conversions & All Plumbing Work

Free Estimates • Fully Insured • Residential & Commercial

We Install, Service & Repair...

Furnaces • Air Conditioners
Water Heaters • Gas Fireplaces

SERVING BROOME & TIOGA COUNTIES

754-6376

pbaker927@yahoo.com

The Care You Need - in the Home You Love

Affordable, Professional Home Care You Deserve

Let At Home Help provide you or your loved ones independence and dignity by providing non-medical care services in the familiar surroundings of home, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



Some of our many services:
Companionship • Alzheimer's & Dementia Care • Medication Reminders • Grocery Shopping • Laundry • Hospice Support • Overnight Care • Meal Preparation • House Cleaning
Plus other services tailored to your needs

607-238-1123 • Locally owned and operated • Free consultation
AtHomeHelpofBinghamton.com

NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT...
YOUR AD SHOULD BE HERE!

For information, please contact Charlie Pritchett at 724-2360, ext. 244; cell 725-4110; or advertising@thereportergroup.org

Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton