

THE REPORTER

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Federation to hold Shavuot drive-in on May 16

By Reporter staff

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton will hold a Shavuot drive-in

on Sunday, May 16, from noon-1 pm. The event will take place in the Temple Israel parking lot. Those attending are asked to

use the Clubhouse Road entrance to access the lot. The event will include free ice cream, music and a food drive. Anyone who wishes to help should contact Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Federation, at director@jfgb.org. The Federation is also hoping for teens to be among the volunteers. The event will take place before the actual holiday, which begins that evening at sunset.

Rabbis Geoffrey Brown and Barbara Goldman-Wartell will offer a prayer or a reading focusing on the spirit of Shavuot. A number of musicians will be performing. There will also be a food drive; those attending are asked to

bring nonperishable food items, which will be taken to the Temple Concord CHOW pantry. Since the traditional food items for Shavuot include dairy products, ice cream will be passed out free to attendees.

"This event will be a wonderful way for the community to gather after a long, tough pandemic winter," said Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Federation. "We're holding it outside so that we can still follow the pandemic protocols still in place. Shavuot is a joyous, spring event in our part of the country and I look forward to seeing the community come together to celebrate."

Federation receives PJ Library grant

By Reporter staff

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton has received a \$2,500 grant from the Donald Etra Futures Fund. The Etra Fund gives grants to small Jewish communities to help them perpetuate their PJ Library program. The money will fund the Federation's PJ Library program for the next year.

Currently, there are 65 children, ages birth through 8.5 years old, who receive free PJ Library books through the local Federation each month. The Jewish-themed stories offer children an age-appropriate way to learn about Judaism. Each work includes additional information about the holiday/story that is offered so parents can discuss the books with their children.

The Federation offers free books for those living in the Greater Binghamton

area. To sign up to receive books, visit <https://pjlibrary.org/communities/jewish-federation-binghamton-ny/100293>. Anyone whose grandchildren live in another area should visit <https://pjlibrary.org/enroll-in-a-community> and fill out the form so they can receive books from their local Federation.

"I'm thrilled that we received this grant," said Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Federation. "My goal for the coming year is to get more young families involved in the Binghamton Jewish community and the PJ Library is just one way to reach out to young Jewish families. Federation plans to host programming this summer geared toward young families. Information about those events will appear in future issues of *The Reporter*."

Federation Alert

Federation wants you

By Suzanne Holwitt

Do you want to be more involved with your Jewish community? Well, have we got a great opportunity for you: We need you, we need your ideas and your talents as working members of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton. Being on the board of the Federation will give you the opportunity to support others, to share your leadership skills, to make a difference in the community and to develop bonds with other Jewish leaders.

The JFGB has been at the center of Jewish life in our community for many decades. We are committed to strengthening our local Jewish organizations and supporting community members. Being involved as a member of the board of Federation has been very rewarding; I've developed friendships with members of our community that I hadn't known well, I've

enjoyed being involved in our programs and, as president, I've been able to further develop and share my leadership skills with others.

Through our annual Campaign, we support the Jewish Community Center, Hillel Academy of Broome County, Hillel at Binghamton, *The Reporter*, Jewish Family Service, the *mikvah* at Beth David and the PJ Library. We also offer grants to other Jewish organizations as requested. We appreciate your financial support, without which we wouldn't survive. However, we are now asking if you'll step up and get more involved by becoming a member of our board. Please let us know if you're interested by contacting our executive director, Shelley Hubal, at director@jfgb.org.

Suzanne Holwitt is the president of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton.

Save the date

Federation Tot Shabbat in the Park

By Reporter staff

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton will hold a Tot Shabbat in the Park on Friday, June 11, at 4 pm. The event will take place at Arnold Park in Vestal. It will be aimed at families with young children and will include music, food and stories.

For more information, see future issues of *The Reporter*.

Spotlight

Introducing children to different flavors of Judaism

By Rabbi Rachel Esserman

Lilian Rosenstreich and Mitchel Weiss are not exactly new to Northern Pennsylvania: the two came to the area first as weekenders for 15 years and, now that their children are grown, they are now living here as full-time residents. "We can't imagine being anywhere else!" Rosenstreich said in an e-mail interview. "We absolutely love the natural beauty and slower pace of this area."

But they are keeping busy with their Jewish publishing house, Kalanot Books, which publishes Jewish books for children. Kalanot's website notes that its "mission is to help parents expose their children to the rich mosaic of Jewish culture and history." Rosenstreich believes one way to do this is by offering books featuring different types of Jewish stories. "We feel it is important to give Jewish parents the opportunity and support to help them teach their children about their culture," she added. "Too often others dictate the definition of what being Jewish means. For each family, this may mean something different. Our goal is to

give voice to this variety."

Rosenstreich sees books as helping parents in two ways. "Books act as both a window and a mirror of the world for young readers," she said. "As a window, books can offer a peek at others' lives and outlooks, and as a mirror they can reflect and add depth to our own experiences. At Kalanot Books, our aim is to offer both."

Part of this is highlighting the variety of Jewish practice. "For the window, we look to the wider Jewish community for inspiration," she noted. "We are a people often living in countries where we are in the minority. Yet, somehow Jews find ways to interact with these cultures, at times incorporating local traditions. At the same time, Jews have the commitment to continue to practice and celebrate their own customs. So, while a Jew in India and a Jew in Italy may have a slightly different flavor to their Shabbat dinners, ultimately they both hold the same basic ideals. If they were to meet each other on the street, there would be an understanding between them."



Mitchel Weiss and Lilian Rosenstreich, owners of Kalanot Books.

Kalanot Books looks for just this variety and connection in the books the press publishes. Rosenstreich also noted, "Of course, kids also want to see themselves in the stories they read. To that end, in our books we try to include a variety of religious practice and ethnic diversity that is the reality of the Jewish community today. And of course, we all need a bit of silly fun as well. These days laughter can be the best medicine!"

Four books are already available for purchase: "The Littlest Candle: A Hanukkah Story" written by the father and son team of Rabbis Kerry and Jesse Olitzky with illustrations by Jen Kostman; "Soosie: The Horse that Saved Shabbat" by Tami Lehman-Wilzig with illustrations by Menahem Halberstadt; "Sarah's Solo" by Tracy Brown with illustrations by Paula Wegman; and "Not So Fast, Max: A Rosh Hashanah Visit with Grandma" by Annette Schottenfeld with illustrations by Jennifer Kirkham. Future book releases include "My Israel and Me" by Alice McGinty with illustrations by Rotem Terplow; "The Candy Man Mystery: by Rabbi Kerry Olitzky with illustrations by Christina Mattison Ebert; "The Rabbi and the Painter" by Shoshana Weiss with illustrations by Jennifer Kirkham; and "A Snake, a Flood, a Hidden Baby: Bible Stories for Children" by Meir Shalev with illustrations by Emanuele Luzzati and a translation by Ilana Kurshan. Rosenstreich noted that they have other books in the See "Children" on page 3

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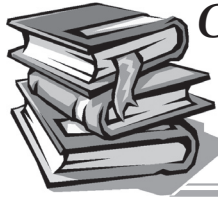
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Off the Shelf

Connections and relationships

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

Our actions can be easily influenced by family and friends. Sometimes we resist their attempts to change/sway us, while other times it's easier to follow their lead, even if we aren't thrilled with the course our life is taking. Two recent works of short stories – "The Man Who Loved His Wife" by Jennifer Anne Moses (Mayapple Press) and "Sarahland" by Sam Cohen (Grand Central Publishing) – feature characters struggling to find their place in the world with the help and/or hindrance of others.

Judaism plays an active role in many of Moses' stories. "The Uncircumcised" features the aging Felder, who survived the Holocaust because his parents were radicals and hadn't circumcised him. They and his sister, Esther, died during the war. When his daughter gives him a dog as a pet, Felder believes it is the reincarnation of his sister. That finally gives him a chance to learn what happened to her and think about how lucky he's been in his own life. However, his daughter would now like him to make another change, one he resists.

A father who lives on a secular *kibbutz* in Israel talks about religion and duty in "The Holy Messiah." When his son becomes religious after his stint in the army, the family must learn to cope with this major change – one that goes against their active dislike of Orthodox practice. Mixed

feelings play a large role in "Next of Kin" where Annie, who has been sick with cancer for the past three years, wishes her 95-year-old mother would die. Annie is weary from her own illness and dealing with Ruth – who suffers from dementia and other health problems – is just too hard. Perhaps life would be easier if Annie got support from her husband, Paul, but, since retirement and her illness, he's retreated into his own world.

A mixed marriage plays a role in "The Man Who Loved His Wife" when Jewish Julia Glass marries Martin, a non-practicing Christian. Neither have expressed interest in any religion, Western or Eastern, until Julia becomes ill. Then one day, she unexpectedly tells Martin that Jesus appeared before her and she wants a Christian funeral, something that does not sit well with her parents. Yet, something similar happens to Martin that creates an odd, but interesting, end to the story.

Several stories focus on parents and children. "The Story of My Socks" shows the effect on a young child of matters beyond his clear understanding, in this case, his mother's illness and society's potential for antisemitism. The fact that his parents have very different reactions to his suffering does not help. Sol is faced with a different dilemma in "Sol's Visit," when his mother becomes ill

enough to need a nursing home. The home, though, is unhappy with her behavior. What Sol discovers is that, in her mind, she has returned to Europe, reliving events that occurred long before he was born. He also learns about his mother's capacity for love, something of which he was unaware. What Moses does in this story, and all the stories in her book, is create interesting characters who face difficult events with wit, pathos and deep feelings.

Although there is no central theme in "The Man Who Loved His Wife," the stories in "Sarahland" are connected by a literary device: all include characters named Sarah and most of those Sarahs are Jewish. Fortunately, this quirk – which could have been irritating – is easy to overlook. The best story, "The First Sarah," is a clever reworking of the biblical story of Sarah and Hagar, in addition to being a subversive look at the struggle between God and Mother Nature to rule the world. More disturbing, though, is "Sarahland," which takes place in a college dormitory. The main Sarah in question (the story features several) finds herself part of a clique, surrounded by people she's not sure she likes, while doing activities with the group that are not only unsatisfying, but painful. Some readers will find parts of this story upsetting.

See "Connections" on page 7

Opinion

From the Desk of the Federation Executive Director

With gratitude

SHELLEY HUBAL

Back in early February I received a call from a friend. An acquaintance of hers went into the hospital and would, most likely, not be returning home. She wanted to know if I would take in Rosie, her acquaintance's cat. I could not say no. Our other cat, Jojo, is about 11 years old and is happy enough to spend his days, as most elderly cats do, taking long naps and searching for a warm lap to occupy.

What we did not know is that Rosie is fearful of just about everything: noises, new people, another cat. All of these things sent Rosie straight under the bed to hide. Anyone who has ever trained a fearful animal will tell you, you need lots of patience to slowly earn their trust. So, after months of moving Rosie's food bowl downstairs

one step at a time and spending countless hours on the bedroom floor brushing her, a small breakthrough happened last week. Rosie came down the stairs and climbed on the couch. Looking back at where she started, spending days under the bed with little contact, it is a joy to see her begin to trust her new home and its occupants. I believe with a little more patience we will have a happy, fully integrated cat.

Originally, I thought I would comment on learning patience from Rosie, but reflecting on the last few months, what stands out most is not that I mustered a large sum of patience I never thought I had, but that I have simply taken great pleasure in becoming connected to Rosie. Each quiet moment we have spent together, every step we have

taken to building mutual trust has fed my soul. That may sound a bit melodramatic, but don't we all have something that makes us feel connected to our purpose? For some, it might be writing or playing an instrument or participating in sports. I can recall as a child feeling completely at home on my grandparents' farm. I would beg to spend time with the animals, be they cats, dogs, horses or cows. I seemed to understand them and they made me feel connected to something greater than myself.

I hope all of you are finding a way to stay connected to what feeds your soul during this challenging time. It does not have to be grand: any simple pleasure will do. For my part, I say thank you to Rosie for helping me to reconnect with one of my soul's purposes.

In My Own Words

Mixed feelings

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

I have mixed feeling about New York state's legalization of marijuana. Before I write about those feelings I should make a few things clear:

- 1) I have never used marijuana in any form.
- 2) I have many friends who have used it with no harmful effects.
- 3) I have long supported the medical use of marijuana since it's been helpful in controlling pain and nausea.
- 4) I've thought that harsh punishments for using/owning marijuana are unnecessary and harmful. They are about as helpful as Prohibition, which didn't decrease alcohol consumption as much as increase crime.

Since I seem to be generally supportive of marijuana use (although I still have no plans to ever try it), why do I say that I have mixed feelings? There are two main reasons. One is a worry about people driving while being high. This is really no different than drunk driving, but I'm not sure there are ways yet to truly determine if one is driving under the influence. It's bad enough that we have to worry about people using their phones and other electronic devices while behind the wheel, in addition to

driving while drunk or buzzed. Distracted driving, drunk driving and driving while high just make everyone's lives more dangerous.

My other concern is less of a problem as long as New York state continues to include marijuana in its smoking laws. As someone who ended up with paramedics at the Broome County Arena during a concert years ago because there was so much cigarette smoke in the non-smoking seating area, I get nervous around any type of smoke, whether coming from a cigarette, cigar, pipe, incense, scented candle or marijuana. I don't know if my reaction to all of them would be the same, but people who have seen me having trouble breathing are usually very protective afterward. If asked to describe the feeling, I would suggest you put a pillow over your face and push until you can't breathe. So, I am really hoping that people will obey the no smoking rules when it comes to marijuana.

However, that is not the reason I've never tried marijuana. In fact, in college, I had a very serious conversation with a friend who had just started using it. She actually suggested that I not use it: I was already have difficulty coping with

my tinnitus (AKA awful ear ringing/buzzing/static) and she thought that if I was high, I might find myself focusing on that, something that would make it sound worse. But my original decision not to use marijuana and other types of drugs was based on something else: my fear about something changing my brain chemistry. I don't know if that's because the anti-drug education from my childhood really worked or if it's connected to the fact that I don't even like taking prescription medicine unless it's really necessary. I also worry about having an addictive personality: I don't actually know if that's true because I try to avoid things to which I might become addicted.

In the end, I'm generally supportive of the legislation. I hope the money raised from a tax on marijuana will help the state coffers. But, even if it doesn't, the punishment for marijuana never fit the crime. Prisons are not the place for those who use marijuana, any more than they were for people who drank during Prohibition, or for people who smoke cigarettes – all of which have adverse effects if overused. Yes, we need to help those addicted to serious drugs, but offer a pass to one that generally does no harm.



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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.

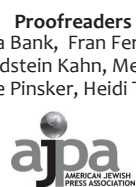
ADS

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DEADLINE

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

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www.thereporter.org

TC to take part in *Tikkun Leil Shavuot*

Temple Concord will observe Shavuot this year with 34 other Reform congregations through the Small Congregations *Tikkun Leil Shavuot*. Clergy from 35 congregations

will be offering programs every hour starting at 7 pm on Sunday, May 16, through noon on Monday, May 17.

"I am excited to offer so many options for our congregation and community for Shavuot," said Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell, spiritual leader of Temple Concord.

"One Shavuot tradition is to stay up all night studying and engaging with others. We are able to offer this opportunity for you to do this from your own home this year with others from across the country."

Goldman-Wartell will teach "Renewing our Personal and Collective Covenant with God" at 8 pm on Sunday. She will explore the idea of standing again at Sinai and renewing the Jewish covenant with writing from Abraham Joshua Heschel, Zalman Schachter-Shalomi and David Brooks.

She will also co-lead the Shavuot morning *Yizkor* service with Rabbi Erica Asch at 11 am on Monday. Other online study sessions include music, TV shows and a celebration of Torah for all ages

Anyone interested in participating should contact Temple Concord at templeconcordbinghamton@gmail.com or 723-7355 for a link to the programs.

Hillel Academy celebrated Israel Independence Day



Students from Hillel Academy of Broome County celebrated Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel Independence Day, on April 19. Students marched with Israeli flags.

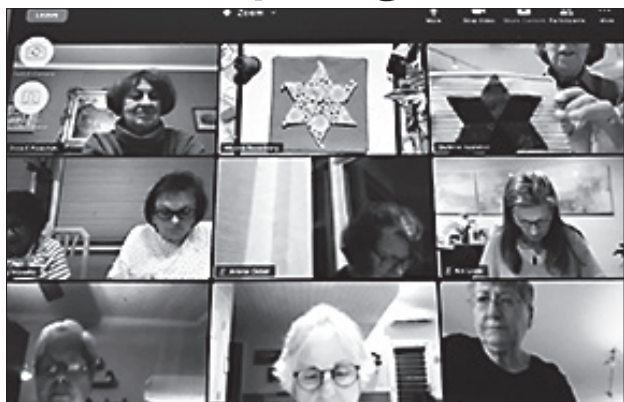


Part of Hillel Academy's Israel Independence Day celebration took place inside.



On Israel Independence Day, Hillel Academy students marched outside with Israeli flags.

Intersisterhood held program



More than 30 participants joined to create a Kiddush cup coaster during the 2021 Intersisterhood event. Maxine Rosenberg provided the step-by step instructions. Hosted by Temple Concord, Dora Polachek of Beth David Synagogue and Barbara Zelter of Temple Israel. Participants Zoomed in locally, as well as from the Bahamas, Florida and California. The event was called "a great success, and a fun and productive way to connect safely."



Holding up a sample of the Kiddush cup coaster made during the 2021 Intersisterhood event was Maxine Rosenberg. L-r: Jennifer Schutzer, Barbara Zelter and Rosenberg.

Children. . . .Continued from page 1 works, "but we're always looking for interesting stories that reflect our dynamic community."

The pandemic has made it more difficult to publicize the books. Their original plan was to visit synagogues and Jewish centers in person, but that hasn't happened. Rosenstreich hopes they'll be able to have in-person events soon. She is also looking forward to publishing even more books. "We'd like to continue to offer books that speak to the variety of Jewish practice and people within the community," she said. "We're also looking for ways to individualize and amplify the reading experience. When a child can more thoroughly immerse themselves in the culture, it naturally becomes internalized and a seamless part of their lives. With our books we currently offer games and activities that allow readers to extend their participation. We hope to expand on this with added crafts, games, and personalized books."

Anyone interested in submitting a manuscript can do so through the press' website, KalaniotBooks.com, or by e-mailing Submissions@KalaniotBooks.com. "We apologize in advance," Rosenstreich said. "Sometimes it can take us a month to respond because of the number of submissions we receive. Nudges are welcomed. Please note that our list is very small. This means that we often pass on many wonderful manuscripts because we simply don't have space in our program."

To learn more about the press and its books, visit KalaniotBooks.com.

OF NOTE

Klin

Celia Klin of Vestal has been named the dean of Harpur College at Binghamton University. Klin received a Ph.D. in cognitive psychology from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. After arriving at the university as an assistant professor of psychology in 1994, she then became a full professor and has served her department as co-director of undergraduate studies, associate chairwoman and chairwoman. In 2013, she began serving as an associate dean for academic affairs at Harpur College. She became a senior associate dean in 2017 before being named interim dean in 2020 and then dean in 2021.

Sochor

Girl Scouts of NYPENN Pathways Council has announced that Diana Sochor, layout editor of *The Reporter*, has been awarded its Volunteer of Excellence award, which recognizes outstanding service providing the Girl Scout Leadership Experience to girls or supporting building girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place. Sochor is also marking her 25th year with *The Reporter* this May.

DEADLINES

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

ISSUE	DEADLINE
May 21-June 3.....	May 10*
June 4-17	May 26
June 18-July 1	June 9
July 2-15.....	June 23

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

Hillel Academy seeks new administrative assistant

Hillel is looking for a new administrative assistant beginning full time in the Fall. We will train the individual in May & June. Candidates should email Joy Yarkoni at joyyarkoni@gmail.com

Job Description: Corresponding and interfacing with state and district offices, on behalf of the school. Knowledge of Covid PPP funding, private school grants, scholarships, and the ability to research & apply for relevant applications for private school funding, and endowments in a creative and professional timely manner. Ensuring that school is in compliance with state and federal regulations. Proper Bookkeeping and payroll-- including taxes, accounts receivable, accounts payable, etc.

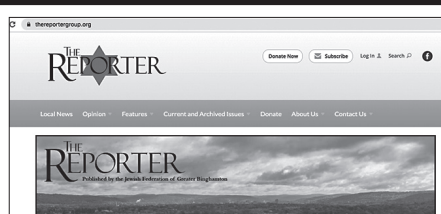
Preparing financial reports for the board and CPA. Maintaining files of current and prospective students -- contact information, academic files, and health records. Ordering office supplies for teachers. Opening and distributing mail. Supervising students during recess and at other times, as needed. Walking students over to the JCC for UPK and Kids Connection. Taking and distributing email and phone messages to teachers, parents, and students. Assisting Journal committee with all aspects of the Annual Journal Fundraiser. Drafting and sending correspondence about school events, schedule, and other matters to parents. Troubleshooting office equipment. Answering and directing phone calls.

Skills: Written and verbal communication. Bookkeeping (Quickbooks Desktop and/or Online). Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite and Google Suite, including Onedrive and Google Drive.

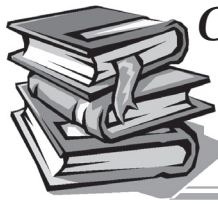
To advertise in our upcoming **Senior Living** special ad section, please contact Charlie Pritchett at 724-2360, ext. 244 or advertising@thereportergroup.org



Issue Date: May 21
Ad Deadline: May 13



Looking for this issue's "Jewish Resources to occupy your family during social distancing"? Visit www.thereportergroup.org, click on Features and then Miscellaneous Feature to find out what's happening online."



Off the Shelf

A taboo like no other

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

In rabbinical school, my research papers focused on different aspects of Jewish dietary laws. One year, I explored the biblical commandments concerning forbidden animals. There were many theories about why Judaism forbids the consumption of animals who do not have cloven hooves and chew their cud. Yet, there was something unsatisfying about them because they were theoretical ideas, usually based on theology or philosophy, rather than factual evidence. Max D. Price's dry, but fascinating, "Evolution of a Taboo: Pigs and People in the Ancient Near East" (Oxford University Press) explores a wider range of material to focus on one aspect of these laws: the taboo against eating pork products. To examine why this occurred, he offers theories that include evidence from zooarchaeology to explanations from sociology to show how the taboo may have developed.

Where Price's work differs from many in the field is that he doesn't offer just one theory. Rather, he explores different possibilities and notes there is not yet enough evidence to decide if any one particular theory is correct.

Anyone interested in the development of human culture will enjoy Price's thoughts about how animal domestication might have occurred. Did human settlements bring animals closer to benefit from the planted crops during the transition from hunter-gatherers to farmers? Was that the first step in domestication, or did humans gather semi-wild animals and then slowly turn them into livestock? Price posits that both might have occurred depending on the area. He does note that pigs are different from most other domesticated animals: "Swine were unique. They were excluded from most forms of mobile pastoralism, and they produce no

'secondary products' such as milk or wool. On the other hand, pigs' abundant dietary flexibility and their capacity to adapt well to urban environments made them ideal forms of livestock in the Near East's first cities in the 4th and 3rd millennia B.C." People might not have been able to herd pigs or drink pig milk, but pigs were easy to feed because they ate garbage found in and around human settlements.

Price also shows how pigs were an important source of protein since they reproduce much faster than most domesticated animals. Since pigs eat almost anything, they were easier to feed than herd/farm animals, making them the main source of meat for the lower classes. In some areas, this meant that the upper classes ate different animals, but that was not true for all because pigs also served a different role in some societies: "[Pigs] played unique religious roles. People sacrificed piglets to honor fertility deities and their dialectic opposites, the gods of the underworld. Pigs served as substitutes for humans: the gods accepted pork in place of human flesh."

The information about domestication, the pig's place in Middle Eastern society and the study of pig bones found in archeological digs help inform why a pig taboo came into being. Price notes that all societies have taboos, which are usually related to food, sex and speech. However, many taboos are taken for granted: for example, Americans assume that dog meat will not appear on restaurant menus, although they may not consider why that particular meat is considered off limits. Many taboos – like the one against eating dogs – are customs, rather than a law found in religious texts, which makes the Jewish taboo against pork different.

Price's reasoning as to how the Jewish taboo about pork came into being is compelling and intriguing. At the time, the Israelites may have begun to see themselves as a cohesive group, many areas in the Middle East had already decreased their consumption of pork. Pork was not taboo then, but pork production was not suited to their way of life. Price sees pork avoidance increasing as the Israelites refused to dine with groups who still ate pork. The inherited tradition of not eating pork may then have turned into a taboo. The difference between a general avoidance of pork and pork as a taboo is that previously one could consume pork without being stigmatized. Once pork became taboo, it was completely forbidden and eating it placed one outside the group. The religious decree – written down in the Bible – that came later would have been part of a "larger political-religious project designed to unite the Israelite people and resuscitate the lost glory of an imagined past," which included the conquest of the land and the pastoral glories of their ancestors.

Using food consumption (or in this case, lack of consumption) to form social boundaries and create social identity is not uncommon. However, it should be noted that there were many other ways to form this boundary listed in the Bible, in addition to food restrictions: avoiding pork was only one commandment among many, which included circumcision, specific manners of dress and religious practice such as the celebration of a Sabbath. In fact, pork is not singled out in the biblical text: there are other animals that are also forbidden. Price noted that pork consumption began to feel far more transgressive than other food taboos during the Greco-Roman period. Pork was a major source of meat for the Greeks and the Romans, and was also used as sacrifices to their gods. The idea of avoiding pork seemed strange and unnatural to them. Requiring Israelites to eat pork or use pigs for part of ritual sacrifices created a great cultural clash. Not eating pork began to symbolize more than just one commandment: it was elevated to greater importance and became the most prominent Jewish taboo for many generations of Jews.

This summary does not do justice to "Evolution of a Taboo." The sheer range of material Price offers is amazing. In addition to what is discussed above, he also includes an analysis of the Muslim taboo against pork and offers anthropological and archeological material about the ancient Middle East that is beyond the scope of this review. Price's prose is easy to read and most non-scholars will not have difficulty understanding his ideas. Although he looks at a larger time period and more material than some Jewish readers may be interested in, others will agree with me and appreciate the incredible research his book offers and its interesting and provocative ideas.

NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

Israel data shows Pfizer vaccine 97 percent effective against British variant

Israeli medical data has shown that the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine is 97 percent effective against the British variant of the coronavirus, the founder of BioNTech said on April 28. Dr. Ugur Sahin, the co-founder of BioNTech, who helped develop the vaccine, told Israel's Kan News public broadcaster that the company is currently examining the vaccine's efficiency against the Indian variant.



Business Profiles



Disaster Clean-up

Specialty: Full-service fire and water damage restoration

Name: Arthur Diamond
Location: 1612 Watson Blvd.
Endwell, NY 13760
Phone: 607-748-0128
Hours: 24/7, including holidays

Disaster Clean-Up is a full-service fire and water damage restoration company. The company covers all of Broome County and the Southern Tier, and has trained technicians on call 24/7, including holidays, to respond to emergencies. Disaster Clean-Up is proud to offer the most advanced technology and largest capacity for drying and dehumidification in all of the Southern Tier. Services range from mold removal to moisture testing to cleaning of buildings and their contents, and more.

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Ernest H. Parsons Funeral Home

Home

Specialty: Funeral
Location: 71 Main St.
Binghamton, NY 13905

Name: Joseph Fritsch
Phone: 607-724-1336
Fax: 607-724-1337
E-mail: parsonsfuneral@yahoo.com
Website: www.parsonsfuneral.com
Hours: 24/7/365

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

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

Hopler & Eschbach Funeral Home

Specialty: Funeral services, burials and cremation
Location: 483 Chenango St.
Binghamton, NY 13901

Name: Kurt M. Eschbach
Phone: 607-722-4023
E-mail: hoplereschbachfh@aol.com
Website: www.hefuneralhome.com
Hours: 24-hour service, 365 days a year

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

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THE REPORTER
Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton



On the Jewish food scene Never ending recipes

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

It's dangerous to look up food related items on the web. I wanted to write something for Shavuot that didn't talk about the same old dairy foods again. (Of course, if someone wants to make me blintzes or cheesecake for the holiday, I would graciously accept their gift.) Our main news source has not been getting us holiday articles in a timely manner and no public relations person has approached me with a sample of a new food for Shavuot, so I decided to search the Internet for inspiration. One listing tempted me to click through for a closer look.

What did <https://jamiiegeller.com> offer that was different from other listings? Themed Shavuot meals! Yes, it has menus for a Mexican Shavuot meal and an Indian Shavuot one. What an interesting idea, or, at least, an idea I never before considered. For Mexican, think cheese quesadillas or chips, salsa, vegetarian refried beans with cheese melted over the top. (There are some good non-dairy cheese products that could also be used in these recipes.) I'm not as big a fan of Indian food, but the cuisine's lentil and bean meals with dairy-based sauces would work. Cookbook author Jamie Geller also has an elegant menu for the holiday for those who want something fancier.

I'm not going to make those foods this year (or at least, not the full menus), but it left me thinking about next year when I hope we'll be able to gather for the holiday. My synagogue holds potlucks after Shavuot morning services. What if we had a themed meal? Yes, one year could be Mexican and the next year Indian. I can easily see a Greek meal. (I love Greek salads with feta cheese and dairy versions of spanakopita would be great – although we might have to find a frozen one because I'm not sure anyone would want to make that from scratch.) Oh, and what about an Italian one with pasta and gooey cheeses? Different types of salads with cheese would also be wonderful. Once you

start thinking, there are so many possibilities.

The potlucks feel important because many single people (whether never married, divorced or widowed) come to services. It makes the day feel more festive if, instead of each of us returning to our homes for a solitary meal, we stay and eat together. I haven't minded being on my own during much of the pandemic. (My natural introverted nature has had a chance to shine.) But I have missed shared meals. There is a reason we feast on holidays and invite people to eat with us, or gather at our synagogues for a

meal. Breaking bread brings us closer. We feel connected to people with whom we share food in a way we don't feel with others.

This year it's unlikely any of our organizations will be holding a shared meal, but I think we can still appreciate Shavuot from a food point of view, and I don't just mean eating dairy. Whether you celebrate the holiday with blintzes, cheesecake, ice cream or a fancy Geller-style dish, remember that our food customs connect us, even when we are physically apart.

NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

Orthodox synagogue appoints Israel's first sole female spiritual leader

Rabbanit Shira Marili Mirvis made history the week of May 3 by becoming the first woman in Israel to serve as an Orthodox synagogue's sole spiritual leader. The Shirat Tamar Synagogue in Efrat has appointed Mirvis as its spiritual leader and authority on Jewish law. While in the past Orthodox women have been appointed as spiritual leaders in Orthodox synagogues, they have always served alongside a male rabbi, according to *The Jerusalem Post*. The synagogue's board of management called Mirvis' appointment "a clear recognition of her remarkable accomplishments as a teacher and communal leader. ... We are confident that she will continue to serve as a true role model." Mirvis will be graduating in June from a five-year course at the Susi Bradfield Women's Institute of Halakhic Leadership (WIHL) at Ohr Torah Stone's Midreshet Lindenbaum. Graduates of the school are certified as "spiritual leaders" and *morot hora'ah*, which translates in English

to women who are authorized to provide guidance in issues pertaining to Jewish law. The Efrat resident teaches a weekly Talmud blog and is an adjudicator of matters related to Jewish law for people around the world, reported *The Jerusalem Post*.

Israeli medical cannabis inhaler receives approval to sell in Canada

The Israeli pharma-tech company Syqe Medical has received approval from Canadian health officials to sell its metered-dose medical cannabis inhaler in Canada, the company announced on April 28. The Syqe Inhaler – the first pharmaceutical-grade medical-cannabis delivery device – releases a controlled amount of cannabinoids through each inhalation, ensuring that medical marijuana patients receive the proper dose. The technology used in the portable, handheld device went through 10 years of research and development, including testing in a number of research trials, said Michael Milloy, general manager of Syqe Medical in Canada. The inhaler will be available to patients in Canada with medical authorization through Syqe Medical Canada, in partnership with a Canadian licensed producer.



Business Profiles



Howard Hanna - Suzanne (Sue) Krause

Specialty: Residential real estate
Location: 4747 Vestal Parkway East, Vestal, NY 13850
Name: Suzanne (Sue) Krause, Licensed Associate Real Estate Broker
Phones: 607-772-1177, 607-760-3366 (cell)
E-mail: suekrause@howardhanna.com
Website: suzannekrause.howardhanna.com

Sue Krause is a licensed associate real estate broker with Howard Hanna in Vestal, NY. After working in real estate in California and Massachusetts, Sue returned to real estate in the Greater Binghamton area in 2007, after spending many years as a successful healthcare consultant. She is a consistent multi-million dollar producer and President's Council member, and would love to help you with any of your real estate needs!

Triple Cities Family Dental, P.C.

Specialty: Family and cosmetic dentistry
Location: 18 Leroy St., Binghamton, NY
Names: David Salomons, D.D.S.; Adam J. Underwood, Ph.D., D.D.S.; Dr. Michael D. Carman
Phone: 607-723-8377
Website: www.triplecitiesfamilydental.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/tcfdpc/
Hours: Mon., Tues., Thurs. 7 am-6 pm; Fri. 7 am-2:30 pm

For decades, the staff at Triple Cities Family Dental, P.C. has been building lasting relationships with families in Greater Binghamton. The dentists are highly skilled and equipped to address the comprehensive dental care needs of patients of any age. Joined by a caring and helpful staff, patients enjoy a comfortable, stress-free and rewarding experience.

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 - ◆ Willing to work in emergency appointments. Very little wait time.
 - ◆ Excellent constructive criticism on teeth cleaning.
 - ◆ My dentist was very caring and explained everything before starting. His staff are very patient and friendly, plenty of smiles all around.
 - ◆ Wonderful staff! Early appointments!
 - ◆ Highly recommend!
 - ◆ Dr. Salomons is the best dentist I have had since I was a kid.
 - ◆ They made my daughter feel at ease, they were so kind and took care of her.

Warren Real Estate - Susan G. Stephens, Licensed Associate Real Estate Broker, ABR®, SRES®, GRI, PSA

Specialty: Residential real estate, new construction, relocation specialist, land
Location: 3456 Vestal Parkway, East, Vestal, NY 13850
Name: Susan G. Stephens, Licensed Associate Real Estate Broker, ABR®, SRES®, GRI, PSA
Office: 607-217-5673
Cell: 607-725-8258
Fax: 607-238-7344
E-mail: SueStephens@Warrenhomes.com
Website: www.suestephensrealtor.com
Hours: By appointment

Whatever your real estate needs, Susan "Sue" Stephens can assist you. Sue, Licensed Associate Real Estate Broker, ABR®, SRES®, GRI, PSA, is a Relocation Specialist, Multi-Million Dollar Producer and Award Winning Agent with Warren Real Estate. She provides full-time real estate services for buyers and sellers at all price levels, and has the regional knowledge and proven track record necessary to successfully help you buy or sell a home or land.

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Weekly Parasha

Behar-Behukotai, Leviticus 25:1-27:34

Preparing for the upcoming *shemita* year

RABBI BARBARA GOLDMAN-WARTELL, TEMPLE CONCORD

The first part of the double Torah portion for Shabbat Behar-Behukotai, Behar, deals with the sabbatical year known as *shemita*. The *shemita* year falls every seven years. We will be entering a *shemita* year on Rosh Hashanah this year. The seventh year traditionally is the time for a sabbath for the land, a year of letting it rest and a year for forgiving debts between people. The *shemita* here deals with the land; in Deuteronomy, the forgiving of debts is included as well.

We learned last year that, when people in many places around the world were confined to their homes, and

production and travel decreased, animals and birds were freer to roam. Pollution went down and we let the environment have a chance to take a break from some of our human-made pollution and interference with the natural cycles. Many spoke of experiencing the changes and the lessons we could learn.

Earth Day fell in April around the time this column was being written. We are reminded in the Torah that we don't own the land or have control of the environment, plants and animals for our own benefit and enjoyment. We have an

obligation to care for the earth, for the vegetation and for the other living things in our world. We are stewards of the land, not the owners of the earth. This may run counter to laws in countries about purchasing and owning real estate, but ultimately we are temporary dwellers in this world, part of a long chain of people to live in these spaces.

Hazon and Limmud offered a one-day learning day on *shemita* at the beginning of May to help us explore how we can prepare for and make the most of the upcoming See "*Shemita*" on page 7

Congregational Notes

Beth David Synagogue

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

Rohr Chabad Center

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

Chabad will be holding pre-Shabbat virtual programs. For more information, visit www.JewishBU.com/S2020Partnership.

Temple Brith Sholom

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

Congregation 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: Denice Cassaro and Nomi Talmi
Rabbi: Shifrah Tobacman
Education Director/Admin. Coordinator: Naomi Wilensky
Bnai Mitzvah Coordinator: Michael Margolin
Services: Fridays at 7:30 pm unless otherwise notes. Contemplative morning services every Tuesday. Saturday mornings, Gan Shabbat, and other special services at least once a month. Call for the weekly schedule.
Jewish Learning Experiences (JLE) for kindergarten through seventh grade meets on Sunday mornings. Sixth and Seventh grade also meets on Wednesday afternoons.
Adult Education: Available throughout the year. Check the website or call the office for details.

Norwich Jewish Center

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

Synagogues limit face-to-face gatherings

For specific information regarding services (including online services), meetings and classes at any of the area synagogues, contact them by phone or e-mail.

Temple Concord

Affiliation: Union for Reform Judaism
Rabbi: Barbara Goldman-Wartell
Address: 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905
Office hours: Tues.-Fri., 10 am-2 pm
Phone: 723-7355
Fax: 723-0785
Office e-mail: TempleConcordbinghamton@gmail.com
Website: www.templeconcord.com
Regular service times: Friday, 8 pm; Saturday, 10:35 am, when religious school is in session.
Hebrew school: Hebrew school meets at 4:15 pm and 5:15 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the school year unless otherwise noted.

All services and programs are online only.

Friday, May 7: 7:30 pm, Shabbat services with Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell and Jason Flatt, with Jay Ratterree assisting on Zoom at https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81957095574?pwd=SGRTU21rZFMzMzZmZk1dncyTl-FuUT09, meeting ID 819 5709 5574 and passcode 097653.

Saturday, May 8: 9:15 am, Torah study at https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88298087579?pwd=eTVkMDRVVlpwTmZvMkdYTm1OK0w1Zz09, meeting ID 882 9808 7579, passcode 676707; and 7 pm, "Havdalah with a Bonus" at https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89741791260?pwd=MzZl-Q0trQWhycGFZdzloczExUkhXdz09, meeting ID 897 4179 1260 passcode 408279.

Tuesday, May 11: 6:30 pm, executive board meeting; 7:30 pm, general board meeting.

Wednesday, May 12: 10:30 am, The Morning Book Club Discussion: "Raquela, A Woman of Israel" by Ruth Gruber. To receive the Zoom link, contact Merri Pell-Preus at 222-2875 or merrypell.preus@gmail.com.

Friday, May 14: 7:30 pm, Shabbat services with Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell on Zoom at https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81957095574?pwd=SGRTU21rZFMzMzZmZk1dncyTl-FuUT09, meeting ID 819 5709 5574 and passcode 097653.

Saturday, May 15: 9:15 am, Torah study at https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88298087579?pwd=eTVkMDRVVlpwTmZvMkdYTm1OK0w1Zz09, meeting ID 882 9808 7579, passcode 676707; 10 am, Religious School Shabbat service via Zoom at https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88298087579?pwd=eTVkMDRVVlpwTmZvMkdYTm1OK0w1Zz09, meeting ID: 882 9808 7579 and passcode: 676707; and 7 pm, "Havdalah with a Bonus" at https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89741791260?pwd=MzZl-Q0trQWhycGFZdzloczExUkhXdz09, meeting ID 897 4179 1260 and passcode 408279.

Sunday, May 16: noon-1 pm, Pre-Shavuot Drive-In to benefit Temple Concord's Food Pantry. (For more information, see the article on page 1.)

Sunday, May 16, at 7 pm, through Monday, May 17, at 11 am: Tikkun Leil Shavuot Program. (For more information, see the article on page 3.)

Temple Beth El of Oneonta

Affiliation: United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism
Rabbi-Cantor: George Hirschfeld
Address: 83 Chestnut St., Oneonta, NY 13820
Mailing address: P.O. Box 383, Oneonta, NY 13820
Phone: 607-432-5522
Website: www.templebetheloneonta.org
E-mail: TBEOneonta@gmail.com
Regular service times: visit the temple website for days of services and times
Religious School/Education: Religious School, for grades kindergarten through bar/bat mitzvah, meets Sunday mornings. For the schedule of services, classes and events, see the website.

Friday, May 7, light candles before 7:51 pm
Saturday, May 8, Shabbat ends 8:53 pm
Friday, May 14, light candles before 7:58 pm
Saturday, May 15, Shabbat ends 9 pm
Sunday, May 16, light candles 8:01 pm
Monday, May 17, light candles after 9:02 pm
Tuesday, May 18, yom tov ends 9:03 pm
Friday, May 21, light candles before 7:51 pm
Saturday, May 22, Shabbat ends 8:53 pm

Temple Israel

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

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

On Saturday, May 8, Shacharit services will be held at 10 am via Zoom. The Torah portion is Leviticus 25:1-27:34 and the haftarah is Amos 9:7-15. At 9 pm, there will be Havdalah services via Zoom. Both will be led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown.

On Sunday, May 9, there will be Torah study at 10:30 am on Zoom led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown.

On Saturday, May 15, Shacharit services will be held at 10 am via Zoom. The Torah portion is Jeremiah 16:19-17:14 and the haftarah is Hosea 2:1-22. At 9:15 pm, there will be Havdalah services via Zoom. Both will be led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown.

There will be a Ritual Committee meeting on Wednesday, May 12, at 10 am.

On Sunday, May 16, there will be Torah study at 10:30 am on Zoom led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown.

The office will be closed on Monday-Tuesday, May 17 and 18 for Shavuot.

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 Ithaca

Affiliation: United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism
Rabbi: Rachel Safman
Rabbi Emeritus: Scott L. Glass
Address: 402 North Tioga St. (the corner of Court and Tioga streets), Ithaca, NY 14850-4292
Phone: 273-5775
E-mail: rabbi@tbeithaca.org and secretary@tbeithaca.org
Website: www.tbeithaca.org
Presidents: David Weiner and Linda Aigen
Sisterhood President: Julie Paige
Director of Education: Rabbi Suzanne Brody
Administrative Assistant: Jane Griffith
Services: Fri. 8 pm; Sat. 10 am, unless otherwise announced.
Weekday morning minyan 7:30 am (9 am on Sun. and legal holidays).
Religious School/Education: September-May: Classes meet on Sunday, 9 am-12:30 pm and Wednesday afternoons, 3:45-5:45 pm. The Midrashah (eighth grade and high school) classes will meet at times designated by their respective teachers.
Adult Ed.: Numerous weekly courses, several semester-long courses and a variety of mini-courses and lectures are offered throughout the year. Call the temple office for more details.
For upcoming services and events on Zoom, visit www.tinyurl.com/HappeningAtTBE.

Kol Haverim

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

Jews in Sports

Dolph Schayes, part II: Jewry's pre-eminent NBA star

BILL SIMONS

In June 1948, Dolph Schayes graduated from New York University with a degree in aeronautical engineering. Although professional basketball still lacked prestige, Schayes' love of the game led him to sign with the Syracuse Nationals of the National Basketball League for \$7,500. He reasoned that he would give the pro game a try and that after a few seasons, he would still be young enough to begin a full-time career off the court.

Thus, the 20-year-old Schayes, who had never traveled further from his native New York City than the Catskills, joined the Syracuse Nationals. After each of his first two seasons in the pros, Schayes returned to his Jewish neighborhood in the Bronx to live with his parents. In 1949, Syracuse joined the new National Basketball Association. Schayes remained with Syracuse until 1963 when the team, along with Dolph, moved to Philadelphia, changing its name to the 76ers. After Philadelphia's 1963-64 season, he retired as an active player.

In college, Dolph had played center; Syracuse moved him to forward. At 6'8," he was perhaps the first big pro to play with the agility of a small man and certainly the first modern forward. Of his own play, Dolph said, "I looked at myself as a driving, slashing-type player."

In Schayes' early years as a pro, teams traveled by bus and train; few players made over \$10,000 a year; and meal money was five dollars per day. Of the amenities received as a starter in the NBA's first all-star game, played in Boston on March 2, 1951, Dolph recalls, "We were booked into one of the worst hotels in the history of the world." Since NBA games were not yet nationally televised, star players were usually recognized only by fans in cities with franchises.

Initially, Schayes was only one of many Jewish basketball players in the pros. In contrast to the vituperative antisemitism baseball's Hank Greenberg encountered during the Great Depression, Dolph, a pro during the more tolerant postwar era and not the first great Jewish player in his sport,

experienced little intolerance. During his era, Schayes asserted that the NBA generally played in venues before "sophisticated liberal-type people."

Despite good quality of play, early NBA games endured stalling that slowed their pace. On August 10, 1954, Nationals President Danny Biasone, who served on the NBA Rules Committee, gathered other owners in the gymnasium at Syracuse's Blodgett Elementary School to try "out for the first time a 24-second shot clock, which would limit how long a team could freeze the ball before it took a shot." Schayes participated in that experimental scrimmage, recalling that initial awkwardness with the clock yielded to up-tempo play.

By the time Schayes left the playing ranks, the NBA, its style of play energized by the 24-second shot clock, was profitable; franchises were stable; teams traveled by jet; continental expansion and network television made star players national celebrities; Jewish players were a rarity; and Black athletes had emerged as the game's dominant group. After Schayes retired, the reserve clause died, allowing even mediocre players to become multimillionaires. In Dolph's best years as an NBA superstar, his salary ranged from \$17,000 to \$21,000. Moreover, when the NBA pension plan was created, it did not, for many years, include athletes who played during Schayes' era.

In relative terms, Syracuse was a small, slow-paced metropolitan area. Certainly, Schayes would have received more recognition in a larger media-oriented city. The movement of players was much less than today and Syracuse ownership tried to keep the nucleus of the team together throughout the year. In 1951, after Schayes married Naomi Gross, a strong and attractive Jewish woman, he, like most of his teammates, established full-time residence in the Syracuse area.

Together, Dolph and Naomi raised four children: Debra, a math teacher; Carrie, a chiropractor; David, a social worker; and Dan, a basketball player. During the off-season, Schayes worked as an engineer for General

Electric and became a partner in a summer camp for children, Camp Walden. Later, he entered the construction field, building and managing some apartment houses.

Dolph played for only three coaches in Syracuse: Al Cervi, Paul Seymour and Alex Hannum. Cervi transformed the mild mannered Schayes into a "don't give up," scratch and claw, aggressive player. But it was Hannum who noted, "Dolph was always one of the first on the court for practice, but most often, he was the last off...this self-discipline in practice is what has made Dolph so great."

A broken right wrist in 1952, necessitating a hand cast, only enhanced Schayes' game, forcing him to shoot proficiently from the left. Season after season, he ranked among the NBA's leaders in scoring and

rebounds. In addition to his prowess as a shooter and rebounder, Dolph, an excellent all-around player, possessed outstanding passing and defensive skills. When Schayes hung his sneakers up, he ranked among the greatest professionals who had ever played the game. Named an NBA All-Star (first or second team) 12 times, he led Syracuse to 15 NBA playoffs, including a championship in 1954-55. Schayes was the Nats' leading scorer for 12 consecutive seasons (1949/1950-1960/1961), averaging more than 20 points a game during each of the last six of those campaigns.

At one time, Schayes held numerous NBA records, among them most career points (19,249), most career rebounds (11,256), most field goals made (6,135), See "Schayes" on page 8

Connections Continued from page 2

One thing many of the Sarahs have in common is that they have no direction in their lives, which creates problems when they try to form relationships. For example, in "Exorcism, or Eating My Twin," Sarah thinks she has found the perfect match, believing Tegan both her twin and someone with whom she wants to live. However, Sarah's inability to understand boundaries leaves her lost and confused. Relationship difficulties also happen to Manny in "Gemstones." Unfortunately, her desire to please her new friend gets in the way of her more permanent relationship. The story's Sarah connection becomes clear when she and a new friend enter a booth called "The Sarah Machine," which offers a surprising game.

A different method of storytelling is explored in "Gossip." Rather than learning

what occurred to a couple who dated for a few weeks and then broke up through their own eyes, readers discover what happened by listening to friends and acquaintances gossip about them. One of those gossiping is, of course, another Sarah. Two stories offer fantasy twists. In "Becoming Trees," two women decide to change their lives by literally becoming trees: they take supplements to turn themselves green, grow roots and be planted in their own backyard. "The Purple Epoch" views a world void of humans, with the writer noting that all the Sarahs in the world are now dead. While the story might sound depressing at first, its wonderful, warm ending changes that. That's also true of Cohen's book: by its end, people will feel for all the Sarahs whose lives are on display.

Shemita Continued from page 6

shemita year. We can think of shemita as the original sabbatical year. We are anticipating coming out of the isolation of the pandemic, or being able to have in person gatherings, worship services and celebrations. This is a great opportunity for us to consider how we can do things differently, learn from our experiences and the potential of the shemita year. How do we seek to transform ourselves and our world in the coming year and the next cycle until the next shemita year in 2028?

Behukotai reminds us that the choices we make can be for good or for bad. There

are consequences to our actions. Shemita is our time to reimagine society, renew Jewish life, release the land, forgive debt and rethink farming. (For more information, check out the resources at https://hazon.org/commit-to-change/educational-materials/shmita-resources/). We can be thoughtful and intentional in our study and actions to help move our communities forward in constructive ways. This is the time to consider climate change, technology, the economy, restorative justice and Israel and more as we reconnect to the seven year cycle and glean lessons to help our world.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

International Federation imposes four-year judo ban on Iran over discrimination

The International Judo Federation suspended Iran on April 29 for attempting to prevent its athletes compete against opponents from Israel, reported the Associated Press. The IJF imposed a four-year ban that prevents Iranian judokas from competing at its events, including world championships, and officials cannot take any part in the world governing body. Iranian judokas going to the upcoming Tokyo Olympics are exempt from the ban because the team is sent by the national Olympic body, not the national judo federation. The ban has been backdated to start in 2019 and will run to September 2023. It can be lifted if the Iranian judo federation respects the IJF's rules on discrimination and allows its athletes to compete with Israelis. The ruling comes after the Court of Arbitration for Sport overturned Iran's suspension from international judo events in March and ordered a disciplinary review. The IJF said on April 29 that it "continues to defend the fundamental human values and rights of all its members, with a special emphasis on the rights of athletes, and reiterates its commitment to fight against any form of discrimination in the sport of judo." Iran's actions against Israeli competitors made headlines when former Iranian judoka Saeid Mollaei left his team in 2019, saying he was forced to lose matches to avoid facing Israeli athletes. CAS judges previously said the case "clearly reveals an institutionalized scheme" to prevent athletes from facing Israelis. Iranian officials can again challenge the IJF verdict at the CAS.

Penn State passes resolution to adopt IHRA definition

The student government at Penn State University in State College, PA, voted unanimously on April 28 to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance working definition of antisemitism, reported the school's online publication Onward State. The University Park Undergraduate Association met virtually the night of April 28 for its third and final meeting for the spring semester. Resolution 02-16, concerning antisemitism, was the final legislation of the evening to be discussed. "Penn State is not immune to the disease of antisemitism," the resolution stated, according to *The Jerusalem Post*. "In 2019, the *Daily Collegian* released an article 'History of Hatred: An in-depth look at anti-Semitism at Penn State,' which documented the history of antisemitic events at Penn State, including 17 between the years 2001 and 2018." The resolution also cited the October 2018 deadly shooting at the Tree of Life*Or L'Simcha Synagogue in Pittsburgh, about three hours from State College. The vote took place after an April 8 resolution by the student government to fight antisemitism on campus.

U.S. sending team to Mideast to calm fears over Iran deal

A team of U.S. envoys is being dispatched to calm the fears of regional allies because of efforts by the Biden administration to revive the Iran nuclear deal. Their plans may include visiting Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Jordan, according to unnamed sources quoted by Bloomberg in a report published on April 28. The team is reportedly made of officials from the U.S. State Department, National Security Council and Defense Department and will be led by NSC Middle East policy coordinator Brett McGurk and State Department counselor Derek Chollet, sources said. Another issue to be discussed on the Mideast trip is the decision by the Biden administration to go ahead with the sale of F-35 fighter jets to the UAE as part of a larger \$23 billion arms deal. One official was quoted in the report as saying that the United States has lingering concerns about UAE technology security assurances that need to be dealt with before the sale goes through, being specifically concerned that China could get its hands on the technology.

Report: Antisemitic acts in Canada increase for fifth year,

Antisemitic incidents in Canada rose for the fifth consecutive year in 2020, marking an 18.3 percent jump in the number of offenses in 2019, according to B'nai Brith Canada's Annual Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents. A record 2,610 acts were recorded in 2020 for an average of seven acts per day and 50 incidents per week. "Each represents an individual affront to the fraternity, humanity and decency expected of all Canadians," wrote Ran Ukashi, special adviser to the League of Human Rights, an agency of B'nai Brith Canada in an introduction

Schayes Continued from page 7

most free throws made (6,979) and most minutes played (29,800). A collision, breaking his jaw on December 27, 1961, ended Schayes' tally of 764 consecutive games played, then a record streak, begun on February 7, 1952. A Basketball Hall of Fame inductee (1972) and officially designated (1997) one of the NBA's 50 greatest all-time players, Dolph averaged 18.2 points per game over a 16-season career. Former Knicks coach Vince Boryla contended, "Schayes could lick you more ways than

any ballplayer I've ever seen." *Part III will conclude the Schayes series by discussing Dolph's relationship with Judaism, including coaching Maccabiah basketball, as well as his role in son Dan's NBA career. Bill Simons is a professor of history at SUNY Oneonta, whose course offerings include sport and ethnic history. He is also the co-director of The Cooperstown Symposium on Baseball and American Culture, and served as a speaker for the New York Council on the Humanities.*

to the report. "Jews remain the most-targeted religious community for hatred in Canada." According to the report, there were 2,483 incidents of harassment, 118 cases of vandalism and nine acts of violence. They were not limited to a particular geographic location, though the majority occurred in Ontario and Quebec, which have large Jewish populations. Several regions did report a decrease in the number of antisemitic incidents from 2019. However, that was not enough to offset the 226 percent rise in incidents in Atlantic Canada, including Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island, going from 61 acts in 2019 to 199 in 2020. All of the incidents were classified as either harassment or vandalism. According to the audit, it was the first time since recording began in 1982 that "such a high number of incidents were recorded out of Atlantic Canada," adding that it is a "trend that will be monitored in the future in search of casual factors." As in the United States, antisemitic conspiracy theories tied to the global coronavirus pandemic made a significant impact in the rise of Jew-hatred. The report noted that one in 10 incidents in Canada were related to either the "peddling of antisemitic conspiracy theories, vandalism or violence associated with the pandemic." The report also noted some encouraging moves, with a number of municipalities adopting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's working definition of antisemitism, as well as the federal government appointing its first-ever special envoy on preserving Holocaust remembrance and combating antisemitism.

EU Parliament passes resolution censuring UNRWA for teaching hate in schools

The European Union Parliament passed a resolution on April 28 that targeted the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (or UNRWA) for teaching "hate speech and violence" in its schools. The resolution demanded that hateful material be "removed immediately" from UNRWA-run schools and insisted that E.U. funding "must be made conditional" on the educational content complying with UNESCO standards of peace, tolerance, coexistence and non-violence. The resolution is part of the E.U.'s annual budgetary procedure, which scrutinizes how European taxpayer funds have been spent through its projects. UNRWA's teaching materials came under fire in two reports published in January and February 2021 by IMPACT-se. The watchdog group found that educational writings created, printed and distributed by the U.N. agency included content that rejected peace while glorifying terrorism and incitement to violence. UNRWA tried to defend the existence of what it called "inappropriate material," saying that it was "mistakenly" distributed to students at the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic. UNRWA and the Palestinian Authority in the European Parliament engaged in "intense lobbying" to stop the resolution that was passed on April 28, with P.A. Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh even appearing in front of the parliament's Committee of Foreign Affairs to defend the curriculum taught in UNRWA schools.

JDC responds to surge of coronavirus cases in India

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, in coordination with the Indian Jewish community and its local partner SEWA Cooperative Federation, is responding to the surge of coronavirus cases in India by deploying ventilators to hospitals in Mumbai and Ahmedabad. Manufactured in Israel, the ventilators are in high demand by the country's increasingly overburdened medical services. JDC has been working in India since 1950 and has been responding to pandemic-related needs there for the last year. It is raising additional funds to provide oxygen, filtered masks and other medical supplies through SEWA, and telemedicine support for ICU doctors and nurses to consult with their peers in the United States and Israel. JDC relief activities are coordinated with the U.S. Department of State, USAID, the Israeli government and the United Nations, as well as local and international partners.

IsraAID to send supplies to India in midst of COVID crisis

In response to the coronavirus outbreak in India, now at the epicenter of the pandemic, IsraAID will provide needed medical equipment and supplies including oxygen concentrators, to health-care facilities and organizations in India. According to the World Health Organization's weekly epidemiological update on COVID-19, India reported some 2.7 million new cases as of April 27 and more than 15,000 deaths in the previous week alone. (Since the pandemic began, there have been 17 million cases and nearly 200,000 deaths.) According to a news release, IsraAID will also explore technological solutions to meet gaps in COVID-19 response and care, including data management, logistical support and vaccinations. It will also respond to the growing mental-health crisis left in the pandemic's wake by offering self-care programs for frontline health workers to build community resilience and "help the helpers."

Google, Tel Aviv U. launch joint program, "AI for Social Good"

Google and Tel Aviv University recently launched a program for promoting artificial intelligence-related multidisciplinary research for the benefit of society. The program aims to support research and collaborations in data science and artificial intelligence that can advance humanity by addressing social issues on a global agenda. It started within the framework of TAD-TAU Center for Artificial Intelligence and Data Science, established in February and headed by Professor Meir Feder of the Iby and Aladar Fleischman Faculty of Engineering. The three-year program was announced at a recent ceremony at the university, naming 10 winners out of 27 proposals submitted in response to the joint call. Seven of the winning projects are supported by Google. The grant winners,

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