

# THE REPORTER

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## 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 of the gift cards 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.”

The monetary donations will be used for the purchase of grocery gift cards along with a monetary gift. Tax deductible donations should be sent to JFS by Thursday, August 12, 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 *tzedakah* during this time of self-reflection and gratitude,” noted Rose Shea, JFS director. “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](mailto:familyservice@jfgb.org) for further information.

## Federation to hold Super Sunday on August 29

By Reporter staff

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton will hold Super Sunday on Sunday, August 29, at 10 am, at the Jewish Community Center, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal. It will feature a brunch, comedy by comedian Josh Wallenstein and a showing of the film “Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles” about the Broadway musical “Fiddler on the Roof.” Larry Kassan, who has directed productions of the musical, will facilitate the film discussion. The cost of the brunch and film is \$15 and reservations are requested by Sunday, August 22. To make reservations, visit the Federation website, [www.jfgb.org/](http://www.jfgb.org/), or contact the Federation at [director@jfgb.org](mailto:director@jfgb.org) or 724-2332.

“We are hoping to get community members to pledge early again this year,” said Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Federation. “We started the 2021 Campaign with almost 25 percent of the pledges already made. That helped to cut back on the manpower we needed to get through the Campaign. When the community pledges early the allocation process is much easier. We also want the snow birds to have an opportunity to gather before they leave for sunnier climates this fall.”

Wallenstein, son of Larry Wallenstein, will share a comedy routine. During the pandemic, he returned to this area from California where he had been performing stand-up comedy. Since last November, he has been working as a fifth-grade teaching assistant and was recently featured in a Newsweek article titled “5 TikTok Teachers Share Behind the Scenes of Virtual Teaching.” His comedy videos can be seen at [www.tiktok.com/@thatjoshuakid93](https://www.tiktok.com/@thatjoshuakid93). (For an interview of Wallenstein, see the article on this page.)

“Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles,” a documentary by Max Lewkowicz, tells the origin story of the Broadway musical “Fiddler on the Roof,” and its creative roots in early 1960s New York City. The film includes interviews with the show’s creators, which reveal how the success and worldwide impact of “Fiddler” and its subsequent film adaptation is most appropriately viewed through the lens of the social upheaval and change in mid-20<sup>th</sup> century America. The documentary also explores a variety of international productions of the show, detailing how individuals of many cultures see themselves in the residents of Anatevka. The film features scenes from productions from Canada, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands, as well as the last Broadway production revival with Danny Burstein and Jessica Hecht. Kassan, who is the coordinator of special events and theatre

at the Rod Serling School of Fine Arts at Binghamton City School District, will lead the discussion of the film.

The Federation would like to thank the Victor and Esther Rozen Foundation for supporting the Film Fest since the pandemic began, including the showing of “Miracle of Miracles.”

“After not being able to gather during the pandemic and share a meal, it will be wonderful for us to be together again,” said Hubal. “Campaign Chairwoman Marilyn Bell and I really want this event to be a joyful experience for all, filled with laughter – a celebration of our heritage and coming together after the pandemic. I look forward to seeing and talking to everyone.”



A scene from “Fiddler on The Roof” as performed at Chichester Festival Theatre, U.K. (Photo by the Chichester Festival Theatre, courtesy of Roadside Attractions and Samuel Goldwyn Films)

## Wallenstein combines a love of comedy and teaching

By Rabbi Rachel Esserman

Comedian and teacher Josh Wallenstein will perform on Super Sunday, August 29. For more information about the event, see the article on this page.

Josh Wallenstein is grateful to be giving back to a community that means a great deal to him by performing his stand-up comedy at the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton’s Super Sunday. “When Shelley Hubal asked me to perform for the Federation, I was over the moon,” Wallenstein said in an e-mail interview. “To be able to perform, to do the thing that makes me happiest, in a place where I’ve grown up, and that has had a heavy hand in making me who I am, will be very special.”

Wallenstein’s family are members of Temple Concord and he spent many years there, first as a student, then a teacher and finally as a cantor. “As a kid, I grew up attending Temple Concord for religious school and Hebrew school to prepare for my bar mitzvah,” he said. “After my bar mitzvah, I came back to Temple Concord and attended confirmation classes with Rabbi Barbara [Goldman-Wartell], along with some of my classmates. Soon after this, I started working one-on-one with other students, helping them prepare for their bar and bat mitzvahs. Finally, I started acting as a cantor



Josh Wallenstein

for Shabbat services and bar/bat mitzvahs, which I’ve been doing on and off for over 10 years now. What’s the saying? I’m like the kid who graduates high school, but still hangs around the football field (although I was never really hanging out at the football field, that’s for sure).”

The Jewish Community Center was another home away from home for Wallenstein. “I also worked at the summer camp and after-school program at the Jewish Community Center for many years, which definitely helped connect me to the local Jewish community,” he added. See “Comedy” on page 3

## Federation held family get-together

At right: Children and parents enjoyed snacks at the Jewish Federation of Binghamton’s family event on July 15, which was held at Stair Park in Vestal. (See page 3 for more photos.)



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

#### Play ball

Bill Simons reflects on an exhibition game Israel’s baseball team played prior to the Olympics. Page 5

#### At the Olympics

Yad Vashem highlights Jewish athletes in an online exhibit; Israeli gets bronze in taekwondo; more. Page 7

#### News in brief...

Israeli environmental ministry delays UAE pipeline; NJ investigating Ben & Jerry’s; more. Page 8

#### Special Sections

Book Reviews ..... 4  
Personal and Business Services ..... 5  
Congregational Notes ..... 6  
Classifieds ..... 8

# Jewish online resources

By Reporter staff

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

◆ Ritualwell will hold the virtual class “Aligning Ourselves for the New Year” on Tuesdays, August 10, 17, 24 and 31, at 2 pm. The class will be taught by Daniel Raphael Silverstein, who is a rabbi, educator, meditation teacher and MC/poet. The class aims to help participants prepare for the end of the Jewish year and the beginning of a new one through spiritual teachings and reflective writing on the year that has been and the one to come. The cost to attend is \$144 for the four sessions; registration is open until Tuesday, August 3. For more information or to register, visit [www.tickettailor.com/events/ritualwell/528757](http://www.tickettailor.com/events/ritualwell/528757).

◆ Ritualwell will hold the virtual class “The Sacred Art of Dressing the Holiday Table” on Wednesdays from

August 11-September 1, at 7 pm, with Kohenet Naomi Azriel. The three sessions will focus on “The Holiday Table as Altar Place,” “The Sacred Flower and Mitzvot of Beautification” and “Styling for your Holiday Table.” The class is inspired by the Jewish value of *hiddur mitzvah*, beautifying a mitzvah. The cost to attend is \$136 for the three sessions; registration is open until Thursday, August 5. For more information or to register, visit [www.tickettailor.com/events/ritualwell/528777](http://www.tickettailor.com/events/ritualwell/528777).

◆ The American Jewish Historical Society will hold the virtual book talk “Once We Were Slaves: The Extraordinary Journey of a Multi-Racial Jewish Family” on Wednesday, August 4, at 7 pm. Author Laura Arnold Leibman discusses her new book with Gender and Jewish Studies Professor Samira K. Mehta. For more information or to register, visit [www.ajhs.org/programs](http://www.ajhs.org/programs).

◆ The Center for Jewish History will hold the virtual lecture “The Almost Legendary Morris Sisters: A True Story of

Family Fiction,” featuring author Julie Klam, on Wednesday, August 18, at 4 pm. For more information or to register, visit <https://programs.cjh.org/event/almost-legendary-2021-08-18>.

◆ Jewish Majorca hosts weekly virtual tours. The August tours feature “Synagogues Around the World.” Previous tours are available as recordings. There is a charge for the tours depending on whether purchasing one tour or multiple tours. For more information, visit <https://www.jewishmajorca.com/travel/>.

◆ Urban Adamah hosts a monthly “Virtual Singing Circle for the Soul with Anna Cone.” The next program will take place on Thursday, August 5, from 6-7 pm. There is a sliding scale of \$0 to \$36 per person. For more information, visit [www.myjewishlearning.com/the-hub/virtual-singing-circle-for-the-soul-with-anna-cone/2021-08-05/](http://www.myjewishlearning.com/the-hub/virtual-singing-circle-for-the-soul-with-anna-cone/2021-08-05/).

◆ Siegal Lifelong Learning will hold the virtual course “Jewish Lives: Rabbi Akiva: Sage of the Talmud” on See “Resources” on page 5

## Opinion

From the Desk of the Federation President

### Gratitude

SUZANNE HOLWITT

Gratitude comes in many forms. There is the gratitude we feel for the personal or family achievements/successes, the gratitude so many of us felt when we were vaccinated and the gratitude many felt when they were finally able to see family.

At this time, I want to express gratitude to the Federation board members who give of their time willingly and voluntarily to support our community. A very special thank you to our wonderful staff – Shelley Hubal,

executive director, and Jennifer Kakusian (Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton office); Rose Shea (Jewish Family Service); and Rabbi Rachel Esserman, Diana Sochor, Kathy Brown and Charlie Pritchett (*The Reporter*) – who keep us operating on a daily basis.

As we’re about to kick off the next Campaign, thank you to Marilyn Bell for all she does to manage all of the details involved. Of course, gratitude wouldn’t be complete without thanking you, the members

of our community, who so generously support our Campaign financially and who, year-round, support our programs by attending whether in person or, as in this past year, on Zoom. It’s been wonderful to see so many of you.

Visit our website or read *The Reporter* to learn about upcoming events so you can plan to attend, support our Jewish community and know how much you are appreciated. Thank you, again, for being you.

From the Desk of the Federation Executive Director

### With gratitude

SHELLEY HUBAL

I wouldn’t call my desire an obsession. Let’s use the term “dream.” For years, I have been wanting to go to Cherry Springs State Park. Have you heard of it? Located in Northwest Pennsylvania, about a two and a half hour drive from Binghamton, it is one of only a handful of places on the East Coast of the United States certified as a “Dark Sky” by the International Dark Sky Association. This park does not have great hiking trails or a beautiful body of water to explore. In fact, there is nothing there but a large flat clearing on top of a mountain and a berm separating it from the parking lot. The attraction is the night sky. If you

are lucky enough to be there on a clear night, you can see all the stars and planets in our Milky Way Galaxy.

If you grew up in a rural area, or perhaps spent your summers at a remote sleep-away camp, you have probably at one time seen a sky full of stars. Unfortunately, as our cities grow, the light from our homes, buildings, cars and street lamps light the night and block our view of the treasured starry skies. I am grateful there are parks and communities that are dedicated to preserving the dark skies.

For me, the desire was to see the heavens. To be in awe. To be reminded of the vastness of the universe and the

vastness of God’s creation. So, in mid-July, during the new phase of the moon, we made the trek to Cherry Springs. About an hour after dark, the show began. Slowly the sky became crowded with twinkling lights and the glow of the Milky Way. We spent a few quiet hours staring up at the sky. The glory of our universe, God’s universe, was everywhere. The stillness of the night gave my soul peace. The beauty of the glittering canopy was a reminder of God’s grace. What a blessing to be a witness to such majesty and to know that we are all connected to something larger and greater than what we see around us every day.

In My Own Words

### Ice cream, settlements and societal pressure

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

This column isn’t going to make anyone happy, including myself. My reactions have been all over the place, so writing this is supposed to help me define my thoughts, but I’m not sure it’s going to help.

The issue? The headline on the JTA breaking news e-mail said, “Breaking a 2-month silence, Ben & Jerry’s ice cream announces boycott of Israeli West Bank settlements.” (To read Ben and Jerry’s statement, visit <https://www.benjerry.com/about-us/media-center/palestine-statement>.) My first thought was that no one in the settlements is going to care. Then, after I clicked through the link and read the article, I became angry: Ben and Jerry’s has not been able to promote its ice cream on social media without the majority of comments being about its support for Israel, rather than its ice cream. I had to wonder, “Does everything have to be political?”

I don’t support the settlements because I don’t believe they are good for Israel. Right now, Israeli citizens of every

religion are allowed to vote. An Arab political party is part of the current coalition government. While not perfect, Israel is not an apartheid state because citizenship and rights are not based on religion or race. But if the territories are made part of larger Israel, then *all* those living there must be given the right to vote – including those who deny Israel’s right to exist – because to do otherwise would make Israel a state with two tiers of citizenship.

However, I also have to wonder, why all the focus on Israel? The latest estimate for deaths in the Syrian Civil War is placed at 400,000 people, yet those on social media don’t seem as concerned with businesses that deal with the Syrian government. China has been accused of placing 12 million Uyghurs, most of whom are Muslim, in detention camps – sterilizing, torturing and abusing them – but while the United States and other countries have complained, people on social media aren’t asking everyone to stop buying Chinese products.

It’s not that I think Israel is perfect. I have criticized its policies when I think they are wrong, just like I’ve criticized the U.S. or other countries when I don’t agree with their policies. But there seems to be another question behind the social media critique of Israel: the question of its right to exist. Let me be clear: Israel has as much right to exist as any other nation. And I can’t help but wonder why it’s only a Jewish nation whose right to exist is being denied. Legitimate criticism, that’s fine. Destruction of the Jewish homeland is not.

Did Ben and Jerry’s cave to societal pressure when it should have stood firm? I have no clear answer to that question. The company has a right to stand by what it believes is its social mission. But if it completely stops selling its ice cream in Israel, then I think its stand on human rights is meaningless because Israel and Israelis have the right to exist. And I also have to wonder, when did eating ice cream become so complicated? In the age of social media, it seems that nothing is simple.



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OF GREATER BINGHAMTON

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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

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

#### DEADLINE

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

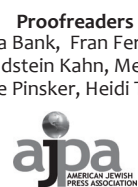
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[www.thereporter.org](http://www.thereporter.org)

# TI to hold Honeygram fund-raiser

Temple Israel is holding a Honeygram fund-raiser as a way to wish friends and family a sweet New Year 5782. The Honeygrams can be sent locally and out of town. Each Honeygram will include two 1 oz. jars of Bonne Maman honey (OU certified kosher), a wooden honey dipper and a New Year greeting card.

Organizers of the event said, "Bonne Maman honey

was chosen because the company may have helped save Jews during the Holocaust."

There are two delivery options:

- ◆ Bumblebee: A gift box is \$18 and will be sent to a single recipient anywhere in the U.S. along with a custom greeting.
- ◆ Honeybee: Group gifts that are for local delivery only.

The first box sent is \$18, additional boxes are \$6 each. The person's name will be included on a group card delivered with the gift box.

Orders with payment must be received by the Temple Israel office by Monday, August 15, and include the recipient's name and address. To place an order, call the temple office at 723-7461 or e-mail titammy@stny.twcbc.com.

## Federation held family get-together



At left, l-r: Federation Executive Director Shelley Hubal, Federation President Suzanne Holwitt and Rivka Kellman (back to camera) enjoyed the chance to talk.



Parents and children gathered for the Jewish Federation of Binghamton's family event on July 15, which was held at Stair Park in Vestal. More than 15 people attended.



Rabbi Benny Kellman showed off his juggling skills.

### Comedy. . . Continued from page 1

"Attending events and classes there over the years, you start to see familiar faces and you start to form a bond with people."

When Wallenstein moved to California a few years ago, he decided to focus on comedy. He noted that "my stand-up is very anecdotal. I tell a lot of stories about growing up in Binghamton, and what school was like for me. Going through high school with only a handful of other gay peers has lent itself very well to storytelling. Really, I just love telling stories. As a kid, every night at dinner I would just tell stories about my day while everyone was eating. And then when they were all done, that's when I would start eating. Eventually, to get me to talk less and eat more, my mom started setting a timer and once it went off, whether or not I was done eating, they would leave the table. Didn't stop me from telling stories."

He also finds humor a way to deal with serious issues and help people move through grief. "I love talking about my family," he said. "Specifically, I talk a lot about my mom and her death. And about grief. At first I felt guilty telling jokes about the most devastating event of my life, about something that continues to permeate my life. But the realization that I can joke about something, and at the same time be devastated by it, is a liberating feeling. Someone somewhere is struggling to grieve, so if they can laugh at something I say and feel better even momentarily, it's all worth it. And at the end of the day, they're all jokes. Just meant for people to laugh."

When Wallenstein returned to the Binghamton area during the COVID pandemic, he discovered a new love: teaching. He posted videos of his virtual teaching online and was featured in an article in Newsweek magazine, "5 TikTok Teachers Share Behind the Scenes of Virtual Teaching." (The videos can be seen at [www.tiktok.com/@thatjoshuakid93](http://www.tiktok.com/@thatjoshuakid93).) He sees a connection between his work as a comedian and as a teacher. "I feel like teaching is like performing stand-up for kids (with a little bit of an educational element to it, of course)," he noted. "Every day, it's like I have a little audience. And they're the best audience, because they're the most honest – they will not laugh if something is not funny. But I do feel like humor in the classroom has helped me connect with students. I love to joke around with students and tease them a little bit. (It goes both ways, so they know I can take it as much as I dish it out.) But when I tease them about something, it lets them know that I see them, that I know something about them. And everyone loves to feel seen and heard. Especially in the district I work in, a lot of students aren't getting positive attention at home. So any day I can provide a space for them at school where they feel seen, it's a good day."

He thinks comedy plays a positive role in the classroom. "I think it also helps [the students] to take themselves less seriously," he said. "Of course, I want them to learn as much as possible, but first and foremost, I want them to enjoy school. If they don't enjoy school, they're not going to do their best. But if they're in a fun environment, that will hopefully motivate them to learn and to continue learning."

Although teaching was originally supposed to be a job to keep him occupied during the pandemic, Wallenstein plans to continue teaching. However, that doesn't mean he's given up his dream of being a comedian. "I'm currently taking classes to complete my teaching certification!" he noted. "So teaching is definitely in my future, but I feel like it's just as much a dream of mine to keep doing stand-up. I love working with kids, and I love performing. So if I can find a way to do both, that would be ideal. A couple of my favorite comedians were teaching when they started their standup careers, and some of their funniest stuff involves anecdotes from the classroom. I would love to find a way to incorporate teaching into my stand-up and stand-up into my teaching."

At right: The children enjoyed climbing on the playground equipment at the park while their parents talked.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

#### Facebook blocks Hamas-affiliated news agency based in Gaza Strip

Facebook blocked the Hamas-affiliated Shehab News Agency, based in the Gaza Strip, on July 13 for violating its terms of service. "Despite recent outreach to its administrators regarding our policies, we have had to disable the Shehab News Agency Facebook page for repeatedly violating our community standards," a Facebook spokesperson said, according to i24 News. Shehab began in 2007. Its Facebook page was created in 2011 and had an estimated 7.5 million followers. "We have previously explained to the Shehab news team that to keep our community safe and prevent harm, we do not allow praise or support for groups, leaders or individuals who have engaged in violence," added the spokesperson. Hamas criticized the social-media platform for the move. "We condemn this decision, and consider it an unjust decision and an attack on media freedoms and freedom of expression," said Rafat Morra, head of Hamas' Media Division, according to the report.



**REPORTER DEADLINES**

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

ISSUE	DEADLINE
August 13-26.....	August 4
Aug. 27-Sept. 9 (Rosh Hashanah)..	Aug. 18
September 10-23 .....	August 30*
September 24-October 7 .....	September 13*

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

See what's brewing in the

**THE REPORTER**

Upcoming Dine Out Issues:

- August 13** (deadline August 5)
- September 10** (deadline September 1)
- October 8** (deadline September 30)
- November 5** (deadline October 28)
- December 3** (deadline November 23)
- January 14** (deadline January 6)

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Off the Shelf

# Sewers and sanitariums

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

Even when I promise myself I'll take a break from World War II novels, there are always some that grab my interest. For example, I've enjoyed Pam Jenoff's work and, when I saw that her latest novel "The Woman with the Blue Star" (Park Row Books) was getting good notices, I couldn't resist asking for a review copy. I don't remember where I heard of Sylvia True's "Where Madness Lies" (Top Hat Books). It was the subject matter that drew me to it, although I'm normally not a fan of books that focus on mental illness. Both works feature Jewish characters who are affected by the rise of the Nazis: one takes place before Hitler's takeover, while the other focuses on life after World War II has begun.

"The Woman with the Blue Star" offers two narrations: Sadie Gault tells of how she, her parents and another Jewish family escape from the Krakow ghetto through the sewer. Unfortunately, they find themselves unable to leave because

German troops are watching all the exits. Is it possible to live in a sewer? It's not easy; however, they have no choice but to stay hidden – that is, until circumstances make it even more dangerous to remain. Ella Stepanek, the second narrator, has lived alone with her stepmother since the death of her father. She's lonely because her friends no longer trust her since her stepmother has befriended the Germans who are ruling the city. Ella longs for her boyfriend, who has just returned from the war, but who also no longer desires her company. When Ella accidentally spies Sadie through an opening in the sewer, the lives of both young women change.

The novel opens with what has become a common literary device in World War II novels: a section taking place decades after the war that contains no names, so readers are left to guess who the characters are. That doesn't mean Jenoff's work was any less affecting, especially since the

ending did turn out to be a surprise. While the beginning of the novel was interesting, it wasn't until about two-thirds of the way through that it became truly exciting and moving. Ella and Sadie are intriguing characters because they don't act like traditional heroines: each has to force herself to leave her comfort zone and be brave. Readers and book clubs that enjoy learning about different World War II experiences – in this case, one the author says was inspired by a true story – may want to add this to their list.

While Sadie's dilemma is based on her being Jewish, the Jewish characters in "Where Madness Lies" must also deal with mental illness. The author, who notes this is a fictional account based on her family, focuses on two generations: Sabine in contemporary times who, unable to cope with life, has submitted to voluntary admission to a mental health facility. When her grandmother, Inga, discovers what's happening, she travels from Switzerland to Boston to be with her granddaughter.

In other sections, readers learn about Inga's early life in Germany before the war and the mental illness that affects her sister, Rigmor. Inga and her mother, Frieda, are at odds about the best treatment for Rigmor. Frieda wants to keep her daughter safe at home and take care of her herself. Inga, who has studied psychological theories of the time, recruits a psychiatrist, Arnold, to befriend Rigmor. When Rigmor continues to decline, Inga and Arnold arrange for Rigmor to be placed in a sanitarium, which is more like a hotel than a hospital. But the world changes when the Nazis take over the government and demand that all individuals with mental illness be sterilized. The question becomes, how can the family save itself and protect Rigmor?

"Where Madness Lies" was a compelling novel: I read its 330 pages during one day on a weekend. In addition to the numerous plot questions raised, the author offers insight into familial relationships. What was particularly fascinating was seeing the very different ways Inga and Sabine viewed their interactions. I did manage to guess some of the family's secrets, which was very satisfying since readers are given few clues. Book clubs interested in discussing ethical dilemmas should find much to discuss since the novel offers a different view of the suffering that Hitler's policies caused, in addition to providing a moving and gripping tale of how treatment for mental illness has changed.



Off the Shelf

# Summer novels

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

Summer can be a wonderful time – filled with vacations, fun and romance. People travel to the beach or fancy resorts to escape their everyday lives. Yet, not everyone has enjoyable feelings about summer, as shown in two recent novels. A mostly light-hearted look at the closing of a family resort is the theme of Elyssa Friedland's "Last Summer at the Golden Hotel" (Berkley), while Jennifer Weiner's "That Summer" (Atria Books) takes a far more serious look at how one summer changed a life forever.

Friedland, who is the author of "The Floating Feldmans" (see *The Reporter's* review at [www.thereporter.org/past-articles/feature-book-review/feature-book-review-stream/book-review-stream/off-the-shelf-a-wedding-and-vacation-by-rabbi-rachel-esserman](http://www.thereporter.org/past-articles/feature-book-review/feature-book-review-stream/book-review-stream/off-the-shelf-a-wedding-and-vacation-by-rabbi-rachel-esserman)), now writes about two dysfunctional families: the Goldmans and the Weingolds. The two patriarchs of the families – Benny and Amos – were best friends for more than 60 years and co-owners of a resort, the Golden Hotel, in the Catskills. But Benny

has passed away before the novel begins and the hotel has been losing money for years. The buildings and grounds are deteriorating and fewer people are staying every summer. When a developer offers a great deal of money to buy the land, three generations of the two families gather to decide whether they should take the offer.

The narrative rotates between different members of the families, so readers learn about life at the hotel through a variety of eyes. Although a major part of the plot focuses on the potential sale of the hotel, the author also tells of the characters' lives outside of the hotel, which affect their feelings about what the families should do. The second generation also thinks back on their summers at the hotel and being treated as royalty by the staff. Romance – or rather unrequited romance – played a role during their teen years: Aimee Goldman was attracted to Brian Weingold, who was not interested in her, while his brother, Peter, pined after Aimee.

See "Novels" on page 8

## ROSH HASHANAH 5782

**Deadline: August 19** (August 27 issue)

Once again this year, *The Reporter* is inviting its readers and local organizations to extend New Year's greetings to the community by purchasing a New Year's greeting ad, which will appear in our August 27 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 B, E and F), the medium one is \$38 (style A, C and D) and the largest one (style G) is \$74.

To ensure that your greeting is published or for more information on additional styles, sizes & designs, please contact Charlie Pritchett at 724-2360, ext. 244; cell 725-4110; or e-mail [advertising@thereporter.org](mailto:advertising@thereporter.org). Checks can be made payable to *The Reporter* and sent to: *The Reporter*, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850.

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

*A dollop of honey and a dollop of sweetness for the upcoming year!*

Your Name(s)

**ROSH HASHANAH Greetings**

**Deadline: August 19** (August 27 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.

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

Happy Rosh Hashanah!

Your Name(s)

**ROSH HASHANAH Greetings**

**Deadline: August 19** (August 27 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.

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

May this New Year be the start of only the sweetest things!

Your Name(s)

**ROSH HASHANAH Greetings**

**Deadline: August 19** (August 27 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.

**Style D - \$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)

**ROSH HASHANAH Greetings**

**Deadline: August 19** (August 27 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.

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

Have a sweet, happy & healthy New Year!

Your Name(s)

**ROSH HASHANAH Greetings**

**Deadline: August 19** (August 27 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.

**Style F - \$20**  
Actual Size: 1.5278" x 1.975"

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

Your Name(s)

**ROSH HASHANAH Greetings**

**Deadline: August 19** (August 27 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.

**Style G - \$74** • Actual Size: 3.22" x 3.95"

Happy Rosh Hashanah!

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

Your Name(s)







Ekev, Deuteronomy 7:12-11:25

# Our spiritual inheritance

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

We are currently reading the fifth book of the Torah, Devorim-Deuteronomy, which contains the talks that Moses gave to the Jewish people during the last few weeks of his life. Moses recounted the nation's journey from Egypt and the many miracles that occurred to them during their 40 years in the desert; he also taught them additional laws and gave them guidance for the future.

In this week's *parasha*, Ekev, we find a powerful and intriguing verse: "And now, O Israel, what does the Lord,

your God, ask of you? Only to fear the Lord, your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, and to worship the Lord, your God, with all your heart and with all your soul." (Deuteronomy 10:12)

The sages of the Talmud question: What is the meaning of the words "only to fear the Lord, your God"? Is fear of heaven so easily achievable? And the Talmud responds, indeed, "for Moses, it was a small matter."

At first glance, the Talmud seems to be telling us that

Moses was speaking from his perspective. As a righteous man, a spiritual giant, fear of God was easily achievable for him. However, Moses was addressing the nation in a farewell address, giving them parting instructions for themselves and for future generations. The mandate of fearing God was given to each and every one of us. Is it attainable, though, by the average person?

Rabbi Shneur Zalman of Liadi, founder of Chabad See "Spiritual" on page 8

## 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

### 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 Sun., 9 am-12:30 pm and Wed. 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](http://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.

### 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: 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 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.twcba.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, July 31, Shacharit services will be held at 9:30 am via Zoom. The Torah portion is Deuteronomy 7:12-11:25 and the haftarah is Isaiah 49:14-51:3. At 9:15 pm, there will be Havdalah services via Zoom.

On Sunday, August 1, Torah study will take place at 10:30 am.

On Saturday, August 7, Shacharit services will be held at 9:30 am via Zoom. The Torah portion is Deuteronomy 11:26-16:17 and the haftarah is Isaiah 54:11-55:5. The bar mitzvah of Jacob Friedman will take place. At 9:15 pm, there will be Havdalah services via Zoom.

On Sunday, August 8, Torah study will take place at 10:30 am.

The temple office will be closed Friday-Tuesday, August 6-10.

### 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](http://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.

Friday, July 30, light candles before ..... 8:06 pm  
Saturday, July 31, Shabbat ends ..... 9:05 pm  
Friday, August 6, light candles before ..... 7:58 pm  
Saturday, August 7, Shabbat ends ..... 8:57 pm  
Friday, August 13, light candles before ..... 7:48 pm  
Saturday, August 14, Shabbat ends ..... 8:47 pm

### Temple Concord

Affiliation: Union for Reform Judaism  
Rabbi: Barbara Goldman-Wartell  
Address: 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905  
Office hours: Tues.-Fri., 10 am-2 pm  
Phone: 723-7355, Fax: 723-0785  
Office e-mail: TempleConcordbinghamton@gmail.com  
Website: www.templeconcord.com  
Regular service times: 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.

Some services and programs are online only.

Friday, July 30: 7:30 pm, Shabbat services with Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell. Reservations are no longer needed for Friday night services. All are welcome to come in person, but a mask is required. To view on Zoom, visit <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82733826834?pwd=bLR-DaDV6dHR1MjVaY0JoRmMzVU05QT09>, meeting ID 827 3382 6834 and passcode 880491.

Saturday, July 31: 9:15 am, Torah study with Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88298087579?pwd=eTVkMDRvVlpwTmZvMkdYTm1OK0w1Zz09>, meeting ID 882 9808 7579 and passcode 676707. At 5 pm, Kilmer Mansion Concert with the Joel Huizinga Band, which will feature folk and Americana music on the lawn. In case of rain, the concert will move to the mansion. The Water Street Brewing Company will be here with a cash bar; admission is \$5, with profits going to the Kilmer Mansion Restoration and Preservation Fund. At 7 pm, "Havdalah with a Bonus" at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89741791260?pwd=MzZlN0trQWhycGFZdzloczExUkhXdz09>, meeting ID 8974179 1260 and passcode 408279.

Sunday, August 1: 9 pm, RAC-NY meeting with Senator Charles Shumer.

Wednesday, August 4: 10:30 am, Temple Concord Morning Book Club will discuss "Evening" by Nessa Rapoport. Contact Merri Pell-Preus at 222-2875 or [merrypell.preus@gmail.com](mailto:merrypell.preus@gmail.com) for additional information.

Wednesday, August 4: 6:30 pm, Sisterhood Schmooze and at 7 pm, Sisterhood board meeting.

Friday, August 6: 5-7 pm, the Kilmer Mansion celebrates First Friday with artist Ann Pellegrino. At 7:30 pm, Shabbat services with Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell. Reservations are no longer needed for Friday night services. All are welcome to come in person, but a mask is required. The Zoom link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82733826834?pwd=bLR-DaDV6dHR1MjVaY0JoRmMzVU05QT09>, meeting ID 827 3382 6834 and passcode 880491.

Saturday, August 7: 9:15 am, Torah study with Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell on 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" with Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89741791260?pwd=MzZlN0trQWhycGFZdzloczExUkhXdz09>, meeting ID 8974179 1260 and passcode 408279.

Tuesday, August 10: 6:30 pm, Executive board meeting; and 7:30 pm, general board meeting.

### Penn-York Jewish Community

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

### Temple Beth El of Oneonta

Affiliation: United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism  
Rabbi-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.



**NEWS IN BRIEF**

From JNS.org

**Israel supports Cyprus amid Turkey's "provocative" moves**

Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett met with Cypriot Foreign Minister Nikos Christodoulides in Jerusalem on July 26 following the leader's meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid on July 25. Lapid expressed concern for "unilateral Turkish actions and statements regarding the status of Varosha." He also made it clear that Israel stands with Cyprus on the issue. Turkey announced on July 20 that it wants to develop Varosha, the southern quarter of the Cypriot city of Famagusta. A once-popular vacation spot for the rich and famous, it became a flashpoint during the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974, forcing residents to flee. It has remained abandoned ever since. Turkish President Recep Erdogan visited the island on July 20 to mark the 47<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Turkey's invasion. He pushed for international recognition of the Turkish part of the island. The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, which declared independence in 1983, controls the northeastern portion of Cyprus. The U.N. Security Council has condemned the plan by Turkey to reopen the resort. It upheld that "no actions should be carried out in relation to Varosha, that are not in accordance with its resolutions" and called for an "immediate reversal" of the actions by Turkey.

**Israeli court sentences woman who entered Syria to eight months in prison**

The Nazareth Magistrates Court sentenced a young woman who crossed into Syria illegally and was returned to Israel earlier this year to eight months in prison on July 26. In February, Syrian authorities took the 25-year-old resident of Modi'in Illit, who had reportedly been suffering from mental-health issues, to a detention center in Damascus and questioned her for 16 days after she snuck across the border from Israel. She was then taken to Moscow. She was released after Israel reportedly agreed to pay \$1 million for Russian coronavirus vaccine doses to be delivered to Syria. The woman's public defense lawyers said in a statement on July 21 that the court had "accepted our arguments that the woman's unique circumstances had to be taken into consideration, and sentenced her to a moderate and proportionate sentence. We hope that she can place the incident behind her and that upon her release, she will be able to open a new chapter." In May, Israel's Kan news reported that the woman had escaped a mental-health center operated by the Welfare Ministry, where she had been staying. She was subsequently found in a Bedouin community in the Negev region of southern Israel.

**Israeli airlines launch first direct flights to Morocco**

Two Israeli airlines, El Al and Israir, launched the first regular direct flights from Israel to Morocco on July 25. Israir Flight 61 took off first at 8:15 am, followed by El Al flight 553, which departed at 11:35 am. The Israel-Morocco line "will help promote tourism, trade and fruitful economic and political cooperation between the two countries," said

Israeli Tourism Minister Yoel Razvozov, who participated in a ceremony at the airport shortly before the El Al flight. Also participating in the ceremony were El Al CEO Avigal Sorek, El Al Chairman Amikam Ben-Zvi and Ambassador of Morocco to Israel Ibrahim Bayod. Israel and Morocco signed a normalization agreement in December as part of the Abraham Accords. Part of the agreement included allowing regular flights between the two countries, with Israelis being allowed to visit Morocco as tourists. El Al is expected to operate up to five flights a week to the Moroccan cities of Marrakech and Casablanca on Boeing 737s, with economy and business class options. Israir will operate two flights a week. Israeli airline Arkia and Morocco's Royal Air Maroc are also planning to start flights in August. Israel has a Jewish population (between 700,000-800,000) with Moroccan roots.

**Israel's environmental ministry delays UAE pipeline deal**

Israel's Environmental Protection Ministry froze an oil pipeline proposal with the United Arab Emirates on July 25, pending further review. Israeli Environmental Protection Minister Tamar Zandberg said she would push for a government debate regarding the necessity of the project, according to *Globes*. She expressed doubt regarding the pipeline's potential contribution to Israel's economy, though said it would "dramatically endanger the most northern coral reef in the world and all tourism in Eilat," according to the report. The proposal involves transporting crude oil via a pipeline, or "land bridge," connecting the ports of Eilat and Ashkelon, giving the UAE an alternative route to transport oil to the West. The project was one of the fruits of the Abraham Accords and was negotiated between the Europe Asia Pipeline Co. and UAE-based MED-RED Land Bridge Ltd. The companies signed a Memorandum of Understanding in October 2020. When first announced the project was reported by Reuters as "one of the most significant partnerships to emerge" since the Abraham Accords were signed, potentially worth \$700-\$800 million over several years. However, Israel's Environmental Protection Ministry was not involved in the negotiations, Kan, Israel's public broadcaster, revealed in May, noting a ministry report warning about the deteriorating condition of the pipeline. In 2014, a breach in the pipeline led to an oil spill in Israel's Evrona Nature Reserve. UAE officials have warned a cancellation of the pipeline would negatively impact its relations with Israel.

**NJ investigates Ben & Jerry's for possibly violating state law**

New Jersey joined the growing list of U.S. states that announced it is examining ice-cream maker Ben & Jerry's and its parent company, Unilever, to see if they violated state law against boycotts of Israel. "The Division of Investment is aware of the situation and is working to determine whether any actions must be taken to ensure continued compliance with the state's anti-BDS law," Jennifer Sciortino, director of communications for the state Treasury, said in an -email on July 23, according to *USA Today*. Press Secretary Alyana Alfaro Post said in a separate statement on July 22 that New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy "was disappointed in the decision by Ben and Jerry's," and that "the governor believes we must continue working toward the shared goal of peace and mutual respect." The law, passed by New Jersey and 34 other states, prohibits state agencies from investing in pension and annuity funds of companies or individuals that support any boycott of Israel and its settlements in the West Bank.

**Bennett speaks with UAE crown prince on bilateral ties**

Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett spoke with Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates, on July 23 in the first official call between the two leaders. According to a readout from the Prime Minister's Office, he conveyed his greetings on the occasion of Eid al-Adha, a Muslim holiday, and also thanked him for the opening of the UAE embassy in Israel and for hosting Foreign Minister Yair Lapid on an official visit in his country. Both leaders agreed to be in contact and to meet in the future.

**Spiritual. . . . . Continued from page 6**

Chasidism, gives a novel answer to this question in his seminal work, the book of Tanya. He explains that Moses' role as the leader of the Jewish nation entailed much more than a unique individual who communicated with God, performed miracles, took the people out of Egypt and led them in the desert for 40 years. Moses had a special soul connection with each Jew, which strengthened their own spiritual connection to God. This soul connection runs so deep that we each have a piece of Moses' soul within us. This, writes Rabbi Shneur Zalman, is

what the Talmud means when it states that, "for Moses, it was a small matter." Since we have a bond with the soul of Moses, we, too, can achieve fear of God. Knowledge is power. Knowing that we have this special spiritual inheritance charges us with additional power to continue growing as human beings and as Jews, to achieve our mission here on earth. We can transform our corner of the world into a home for God and, together, we can make the world into a good and Godly place, and bring about the final redemption, may it be soon.

**Novels. . . . . Continued from page 4**

Now, Brian, who is running the hotel, wonders about the turn his life has taken since his escape from a marriage gone wrong: the hotel job was supposed to be only a temporary fix. Aimee discovers her seemingly perfect life is based on a lie after she learns the truth about her husband's medical practice. Peter, a workaholic, claims to be so busy that he's unable to spare a moment from his busy law practice and sends his two children to represent him. The members of the third generation – Aimee's three children and Peter's offspring – have their own ideas about what should be done with the hotel. Of course, many of the characters have secrets, which are slowly revealed over the course of the novel. "Last Summer at the Golden Hotel" is a nostalgic, pleasant look at family relationships and the heyday of Jewish Catskill hotels. At first, the many characters' relationships were difficult to follow, but the novel includes two family trees for easy reference. One part of the ending didn't feel completely convincing, although it was fun to read and may make readers chuckle. Anyone looking for an amiable summer read will find it here. While "Last Summer at the Golden Hotel" does have its serious moments, the novel generally qualifies as light fiction. That's not true for "That Summer," whose plot focuses on a "Me Too" moment. In an undated prologue, 15-year-old Diana is spending a summer as a mother's helper at the Jersey shore. She enjoys the work and makes friends with other mother's helpers and a young man from a prep school whose fellow students are taking a last vacation together before they head for college. The next section of the novel is dated 2019 and focuses on Daisy Shoemaker. Daisy isn't certain why she's feeling dissatisfied with what some would call a perfect life: a beautiful home; a husband, Hal, who loves and supports her; a small cooking business; and a teenage daughter, Beatrice. Yet, something

isn't right. The current conflict between Hal and Beatrice doesn't help. Beatrice is being expelled from Hal's alma mater, a boarding school that Daisy's two brothers also attended. Daisy has also been lonely since her best and really only close friend died recently, and she has no one to confide in. That's why she's open to a friendship with Diana, whose e-mail accidentally arrives in her inbox because their addresses are almost the same. The two meet, but the result of that meeting will eventually change the lives of both women. It's difficult to write more about the plot of "That Summer" without giving away too much. The novel moves back in time to tell stories of Daisy's and Diana's lives, although readers at first have to guess how they are connected. Although there are some humorous parts (reading Beatrice's thoughts when Daisy tries to talk to her about sex were laugh-out-loud funny), the underlying concept of the novel is very serious. What stands out are the ethical questions it raises: is there a moral statute of limitations on confronting someone for the wrong they've done; what considerations should be taken to protect the innocents whose lives will be changed; and how guilty are those who stood by, rather than stopping an action. In a wonderful turn of narration at the end of the novel, Weiner lets readers see events through the eyes of the perpetrator of the "Me Too" moment: this doesn't excuse the person's action, but rather shows how some people make assumptions about others that are unwarranted. "That Summer" is a well-done novel, perfect for book clubs or discussion groups, although some participants might be disturbed if it reminds them of events from their own lives. The work ends on a positive note, which felt unrealistic. However, that is a small flaw and one that will make many readers happy. This is not a beach book in the sense of a mindless read, but rather one showing how one event in what should have been a happy summer affected a person negatively for decades.

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