

THE REPORTER

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IAUJC to hold Zoom program “Building Bridges” on Oct. 31

Ithaca Area United Jewish Community will host a Zoom presentation, “Building Bridges and Making Peace – The Story of a Unique High School in Israel,” about the Givat Haviva International School in Israel on Sunday, October 31, at 1 pm. The event will include a discussion by Ithacan Noemi Kraut, who has been involved in the school since its inception; Nurit Gery, the director; and several current and graduated students. A question-and-answer session will be included. RSVP to marjorie@iaujc.org for the Zoom link.

“This amazing school is fostering peace by teaching young adults to live and learn together,” said organizers of the event. “Givat Haviva International School seeks



Students who are attending the Givat Haviva International School. (Names held on request and photos courtesy of IAUJC.)

to transform the Middle East and beyond by developing a powerful network of leaders who will work together to achieve a shared society and a sustainable, just future. The school is presently made up of 150 students from 24 countries around the world. There are approximately 25 percent Israeli Jews, 25 percent Israeli Arabs and 50 percent international students of all religions and ethnic groups. Among the many attendees are two South Sudanese students from different tribes and a student from Kosovo.”

The Ithaca Area United Jewish Community is an advocate for local Jewish organizations, as well as for the needs of Jews in Israel and other countries around the world.

Fall CJS Zoom lecture program: “Jesus the Jew in History and Memory”

The College of Jewish Studies Fall 2021 Zoom Lecture Series will be devoted to the topic of “Jesus the Jew in History and Memory.” The lectures will explore how the image of Jesus’s Jewishness was understood historically by Jews and Christians from antiquity through today. “Three pioneering scholars will offer insights into

different aspects of this complex and fraught phenomenon,” said organizers of the series.

The remaining lecture will be held on Thursday, October 28, at 7:30 pm. Registration for the lecture is available through the CJS Facebook page, the homepage of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton and the Judaic Studies homepage. A Zoom

link will be sent out a day ahead of each talk. Contact Jon Karp at jkarp@binghamton.edu with any questions or problem.

On October 28, Barbara U. Meyer, associate professor of religion at Tel Aviv University, will discuss “Jesus the Jew in Theology and Memory.” Meyer will ask what the Jewishness of Jesus can mean for Christian theologians today, who oppose the idea that Christianity is spiritually



Barbara U. Meyer
(Photo by Rebecca Hartman)

superior to or has “superseded” Judaism. “Jesus was an observant Jew, but Christianity developed as a religion that is not law-based. That means that even if Christians seek to model themselves on Jesus, they cannot emulate his own lifestyle. What opportunities does this otherness at the heart of Christianity provide?” she asked. Meyer will examine the implications of

See “CJS” on page 2

Save the date:

Global Day of Learning

Rabbis Barbara Goldman-Wartell, Geoffrey Brown and Zev Silber will teach in the local Global Day of Jewish Learning program on Sunday, November 14. The program will start at 10:30 am and this

year’s topic will be “The Bond Between Us.”

Details about whether the program will be in-person, on Zoom or a hybrid approach will be available in the next issue of *The Reporter*.

Hillel Academy to host “Falafel and Chips Day”

Hillel Academy will host “Falafel and Chips Day” on Friday, October 29, from 11 am-2 pm. Rabbi Moshe Shmaryahu will prepare pita wrapped falafel for sale. The food is kosher vegetarian. The cost per falafel is \$10. Reservations for the dish may be made by e-mailing frontoffice@hillelacademyofbc.org or calling the main

phone number, 723-7461. This is takeout only and the food can be picked up at HillelAcademy, 4737 Deerfield Pl., Vestal.

“We hope to see you there,” said organizers of the event.

For more information, contact Joy Yarkoni at the e-mail and phone number listed above.

Spotlight

Book Club to celebrate milestone

By Reporter staff

The Book Club at Temple Concord will hit a milestone in November: members will discuss the club’s 200th book. The club, which was founded by Marjorie Greenberg in 2004, read its first book, “The Outside World” by Tova Mirvis, in November of that year. Merri Pell-Preus took over as coordinator when Greenberg moved to Massachusetts.

The club originally only met 10 times a year, but some members wanted to discuss works that didn’t make the yearly list. “We had ‘extra meetings’ in July and August, initially going out to lunch,” Pell-Preus said. “Many people wanted to read ‘The Help,’ but there was one very, very minor Jewish character and it wasn’t a Jewish book. So, we read it one July and many people from the Jewish community attended, and we



A Book Club at Temple Concord meeting in 2013.

had a discussion about the book and afterward shared our memories about the black women who cleaned our mothers’ houses, especially in the New York City area, and how our mothers and the cleaning women

interacted. We followed a 10-month schedule for several years, eventually reading Holocaust and Nazi era books during those ‘optional’ summer months outside our official reading season.”

The change to year-round meetings became official when some club members became snowbirds and were only in the Binghamton area from spring to early autumn. Pell-Preus noted that the snowbirds were looking “to participate in Jewish programming [during the summer months]... Throughout the years, as people retired, they found their way to the club, retired teachers in particular – beginning with Judy Simon and Barbara Zelter. Now I can barely remember when Sandy Foreman, Suzanne Holwitt and Liz Smithmeyer weren’t part of the group. Phil Goodman is dedicated – and one of our few fans of Philip Roth – persuading us to read a few Roth novels and ‘Patrimony,’ a memoir about his father.”

Pell-Preus noted there were some growing pains. “For a long time, we tiptoed See “Club” on page 5

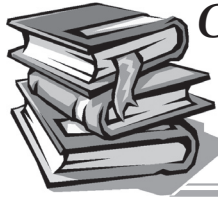
INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Hebrew classes online
Beth David Synagogue will offer an introductory Hebrew reading class via Zoom open to all.
..... Page 3

JAFI in Mexico City
The Jewish Agency for Israel has launched a new volunteer center in Mexico City.
..... Page 4

News in brief...
U.S. re-elected to U.N. Human Rights Council; BDS backers’ films on Netflix; and more.
..... Page 8

Special Sections
Book Reviews 2 and 4
Women in Business 4
Winter Home Improvement 7
Classifieds 8



Off the Shelf

Decades after the war

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

The reverberations from traumatic moments can echo through lives even decades after the events took place. Those feelings may remain dormant until something triggers their release and the reactions may surprise everyone. Two recent novels – “A Play for the End for the World” by

CJS Continued from page 1

Jesus’s Jewishness for both Christian and Jewish thought today. She is the author of “Jesus the Jew in Christian Memory: Theological and Philosophical Explorations” (Cambridge, 2020).

The College of Jewish Studies provides opportunities for adult Jewish education for the Broome County community by offering fall and spring programs. Drawing on local resources and inviting scholars and experts from a range of universities and cultural and religious institutions, CJS sponsors a wide array of programs dealing with Jewish history, culture, religion and politics.

The College of Jewish Studies, founded in 1986, is an informal coalition between the Judaic Studies Department of Binghamton University and several area Jewish sponsoring institutions: the Jewish Community Center, the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, Beth David Synagogue, Temple Concord, and Temple Israel. Programming for CJS would not be possible without the additional financial support of a generous grant from The Community Foundation for South Central New York – David and Virginia Eisenberg Donor Advised Fund, the Jacob and Rose Olum Foundation, the B’nai B’rith Lectureship Fund, the Victor and Esther Rozen Foundation, an endowment fund from the former Temple Beth El of Endicott, a grant from the JoyVel Charitable Fund, and the donations of individual sponsors.

“If you are not one already, please consider becoming an individual sponsor so that the CJS can continue bringing quality programs to the community,” said CJS organizers. “For more information on how to become an individual sponsor or to make a donation, please e-mail us at jkarp@binghamton.edu.” The College of Jewish Studies is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

For more information on the College of Jewish Studies and its programs, visit to www.bingcjs.org and www.facebook.com/bingcjs.

Jai Chakrabarti (Alfred A. Knopf) and “Defending Britta Stein” by Ronald H. Balson (St. Martin’s Press) – look at what occurs when those emotions are released. Although the works take place in two different time periods, they show how trauma may never be completely erased.

“A Play for the End of the World,” which takes place in the early 1970s, tells the stories of two very different people: Jaryk Smith, a child survivor of the Warsaw Ghetto; and Lucy Gardener, a young Southern woman who recently arrived in New York City. The unlikely couple find themselves in love and, for the first time, Jaryk imagines a real future for himself. However, when he learns Misha – his oldest friend, who was also in the ghetto – has died while visiting India, Jaryk feels guilty. Misha had wanted the two of them to travel together, but Jaryk didn’t want to leave Lucy. Now he feels obligated to journey to India and bring his friend’s ashes back to New York.

Misha’s decision to visit India was not arbitrary: While in the ghetto, the two orphans took part in a play, “The Post Office,” the production of which was organized by the head of the orphanage where they lived. The play, which was written by Bengali author Rabindranath Tagore, is about a dying child who imagines life outside his quarantine. That same play is now being produced in a small village in India by Hindu refugees from Bangladesh who are about to be removed from their homes. The Indian politics are complex, but Jaryk knows he has an important decision to make: should he remain in India and help those in the village? Can he leave them in their time of need much like he, Misha and other Jews in the ghetto were deserted by those who might have helped them? But what does that mean for his chance for happiness with Lucy? Does she not deserve to have someone care for her? Jaryk is left to choose between a happiness he sometimes feels he doesn’t deserve and the future of the families in the Indian village.

Readers see the events from Jaryk and Lucy’s points of views, which adds depth to the story. Both have legitimate claims for what the other should do with his/her life, which makes their choices incredibly poignant. The novel began slowly, but became interesting and intriguing because of the moral decisions Jaryk must make. The same becomes true for Lucy: she must not only decide what she wants for herself, but if she is willing to stay connected to someone

who may put the needs of others above their own. Although readers know that something is going to happen, the ending proved unexpected and moving. It also felt real because of the complexity of the characters’ responses to events. What at first seemed to be a typical post-Holocaust novel turned into something amazing.

While “A Play for the End of the World” takes place in the 1970s, “Defending Britta Stein” opens in 2018, although a good portion of the novel tells of events that occurred during World War II. The husband and wife team of Catherine Lockhart and Liam Taggart return to help yet another Jewish survivor, in this case Britta Stein. Britta, a native Dane, lived through the Nazis’ takeover of her country. Since she emigrated to the U.S., Britta has lived a quiet life. However, when she learns that Ole Henryks is to be honored by the Chicago Danish/American Association for his civic contributions and his heroic actions during the war, she recognizes him on TV as a Nazi collaborator and spray paints her accusations about Ole on the wall of his restaurant. After her arrest, Britta becomes Catherine’s client for not only charges of criminal defacement, but in a defamation suit brought by Ole. Britta stands by her identification of Ole as a collaborator, but proving what he did during the war will not be easy. Plus, Britta is ill and telling the story of what occurred is taking a toll on her health.

Readers of Balson’s previous novels will know how the novel ends, even if they are unsure of the specific details. That doesn’t mean it’s not suspenseful; in fact, readers may be tempted to peek ahead to see what happens. The way Britta tells her story does slow the action, but that story is the major focus of the work: she tells of how the majority of the Danes tried to save their Jewish neighbors. Although the resolution will satisfy readers, in retrospect it did seem a bit too easy and pat.

Perhaps Balson’s book felt less satisfying because Chakrabarti’s work is so rich and complex. There are no simple answers in “A Play for the End of the World”: it shows how survival can feel morally ambiguous to those who wonder why they escaped death when others were not as lucky. The lines are more firmly drawn in Balson’s work, which will appeal to those looking for clear-cut endings. However, it is Chakrabarti’s novel that will haunt readers’ thoughts long after they finish.

Opinion

In My Own Words

Continuing to live in a pandemic

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

“I don’t think we’re ever going back to normal. I think we’re all going to have to decide how much risk we’re willing to take.” That quote paraphrases what a friend said to me recently when we were talking about the continuing COVID pandemic. She has a point: we’ve never conquered the flu, but rather found a way to live with it with yearly flu shots and medication when needed. People still die of the flu so the talk about a combined yearly COVID/flu shot is not unreasonable.

However, for a few glorious months this summer, it seemed like the pandemic was under control. Yes, many cautious people (myself included) were still wearing masks when they went into stores, but even I felt safe enough to eat at a restaurant. I was not only able to visit my mom’s nursing home without having to take a COVID test, but could sit with her in her room (a much better situation than having to use the lobby or conference room for a limited amount of time). The fact that I was still required to wear a mask didn’t bother me at all.

Then Delta hit. I’m now nervous about eating in a restaurant. My mom’s floor in the nursing home was closed for three weeks when two residents and a staff person tested positive. The Federation cancelled its Super Sunday event and turned the proposed Lunch and

Learn into a straight lecture. (Fortunately the speaker was already going to speak via Zoom.) While the Holocaust memorial gathering still took place, it was outside and everyone was masked.

From a psychological viewpoint, the return of restrictions was hard for many people. When the pandemic started, we went into crisis mode and learned to adjust to those parameters. After being freed from them for a month or so, it was harder to deal with the renewed restrictions. I found myself feeling isolated, even though I was out of the house far more than I had been during the winter. It was realizing that life was closing down again, rather than opening up, that affected me and others.

So, I made some decisions: I’ve been going to services at the synagogue on Shabbat, but I did not attend High Holiday services, except for *Tashlich*, which took place outside. (I also wore a mask.) For less well attended services, like Sukkot, I was in the synagogue this year. Since I don’t use Zoom on Shabbat or holidays where we aren’t allowed to work, I had not been at services for more than a year. That doesn’t mean I didn’t pray. I pulled out my favorite prayer book, used whatever tune I wanted to sing and sometimes sang at the top of my lungs because no one could hear me.

I did go away for a long weekend in October to visit a friend who lives outside of Philadelphia. It’s the first real vacation I’ve taken since the fall before the pandemic started. The rest stops were filled with people not wearing masks, and there were very few restaurants open at them for people to buy food. The weekend was quiet: we talked, walked and read. Usually we eat out at least one meal, but neither of us even suggested that. We didn’t want to go anywhere where there was a large group of people. It was nice to get away, though, and it had been more than two years since we’d seen each other.

But we will still have to make decisions as the fall and winter progresses. Some are harder than others – for example, if we worry that doing something will expose us to COVID. Other choices are taken out of our hands by medical needs or work requirements (that is, if we want to continue to receive a paycheck). But human beings are flexible and we can adjust to many different ways of living. I actually enjoyed the quieter pace and the reduced stress that accompanied the pandemic initially. (At least for me. I know it was much harder for others.) I do want to spend time with friends again and enjoy some of my former activities. Let’s hope and pray that medical science can make that possible.



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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.

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DEADLINE

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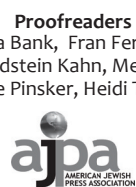
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www.thereporter.org

Beth David to offer online Hebrew class

Beth David Synagogue will offer an introductory Hebrew reading class open to the entire community. Judy Silber will teach the National Jewish Outreach Program course via Zoom beginning on Tuesdays, November 23, at 11 am. There is no charge for the course. For more

information, call or text Silber at 761-0944.

“Do you want to learn to read Hebrew or improve your reading skills?” said organizers of the class. “Do you want to keep up with your children or be able to follow the prayers? Then this is the class for you.”

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.

◆ ALEPH: Alliance for Jewish Renewal will hold the virtual class “Soul Lab: Accessing Inner Wisdom” led by Rabbi David Curiel on Thursdays, November 11 and 18, and December 2, 9 and 16, from 7:30-9 pm. It will feature a multi-modal exploration of the somatic nature of soul and wisdom. The sliding scale cost is \$120. To register, visit <https://aleph.org/civCRM/event/register/?reset=1&id=401>.

◆ The Hadassah-Brandeis Institute will hold several virtual events: Judy Batalion on her work “The Light of Days: The Untold Story of Women Resistance Fighters in Hitler’s Ghettos” on Wednesday, October 27, from 7-8 pm; “She Knows: Using the Brandeis Feminist Collection Archives to Explore the History of Israeli Feminism” on Monday, November 1, from 12:30-1:30 pm; “Geographies of Jewish Latina Literature: Between Scholarship, Poetry, and YA Fiction” on Thursday, November 4, from 7-8 pm; “Revolutionary Legacies: Jewish Feminist Political Thinking” on Monday, November 8, from 12:30-1:30 pm; and “Women’s Daf Yomi [Daily Talmud Cycle] Study: The Confluence of Three Religious Revolutions” on Monday, November 15, from 12:30-1:30 pm. For more information or to register, visit www.brandeis.edu/hbi/events/index.html.

◆ Ritualwell will hold the virtual course “Ingredients of Prayer: Writing Contemporary Liturgy” with Alden Solovy on Tuesdays, November 2, 9, 16 and 23, from noon-1:30 pm. The is a \$144 cost for the four sessions. For more information or to register, visit www.tickettailor.com/events/ritualwell/559433.

◆ The Marcus Jewish Center in Atlanta will hold the virtual program “Gary Shteyngart, ‘Our Country Friends: A Novel’” on Thursday, November 18, at 8 pm. The cost to attend is \$11. For more information or to register, visit www.atlantajewishconnector.com/events/gary-shteyngart-our-country-friends-a-novel/.

◆ The Forward will hold several virtual programs: Monday, November 8, Daniel Sokatch in conversation with Jodi Rudoren; Wednesday, November 10, “Ballad for Two Friends: How Leonard Cohen and Bob Dylan built a tower of song”; and Tuesday, November 16, “You Will Not Play Wagner.” For more information or to register, visit <https://forward.com/tag/events/>.

◆ The Yiddish Book Center will hold several webinars: “From Smoked Salmon to Pickles – Getting Jewish Food Delivered to Your Door” with Lisa Newman, host of “The Shmooze,” on Thursday, November 18, at 7 pm; “The Rich History of Jewish Papercuts” with Deborah Ugoretz on Thursday, December 2, at 7 pm; and “Yiddish and Social Justice” on Thursday, December 16, at 7 pm. For more information or to register, visit www.yiddishbookcenter.org/events-and-store/virtual-public-programs-calendar.

◆ HUC Connect On Demand offers taped versions of virtual lectures that have taken place during the pandemic at no cost. To view the lectures, visit <http://huc.edu/huc-connect-demand-judaism-history>.

◆ The Lower East Side Jewish Conservancy will hold the virtual “New York in the Progressive Era,” a new book talk with author Paul Kaplan, on Zoom on Wednesday, December 1, from 7-8:30 pm (www.nycjewishtours.org/event-log/progressive-era-book-talk).

◆ The 92Y will hold two virtual events: “Jews and Modern Art” with Charles Dellheim on Tuesday November 2, at 3 pm; and “An Introduction to Arab Jewish Literature” with Joyce Zonana on Thursday November 4, at 6:30 pm. There is a cost for the programs. For more information or to register, visit www.92y.org/events?100_Events=Jewish%20Interest.

◆ The Jewish Museum will hold three-part course “Art in Context: Creating, Collecting, Looting, and Recovery,” which will be offered on Tuesdays, November 9, 16 and 23, from 2-3 pm. There is a cost to attend. It will focus on current and past Jewish Museum exhibitions centered around the art produced or looted during World War II. For more information or to register, visit <https://thejewishmuseum.org/buy/box-office/614cd8255d8fd13115d42989>.

◆ The Dead Sea Museum, www.thedeadseamuseum.com, is holding a virtual exhibit displaying photographs of Spencer Tunick’s public installations at Israel’s Mineral Beach in 2011, the Ein Gedi and Ein Bokek Waterfalls and Metzuke Dragot.

◆ University Synagogue will hold “Trial – The Tower of Babel” on Sunday, November 14, from 3-4 pm. The event will be a debate over legal and ethical aspects about

the biblical story. The event will be online and in-person. There is a charge for the event. For more information or to register, visit <https://universitysynagogue.org/event/biblical-trial-11-14-2021/>.

◆ The Abraham Initiative will hold “Arabic as a Cultural Bridge – Introduction to Arabic with May Arow,” The Abraham Initiatives’ director of language programs, in partnership with Partners for Progressive Israel, Ameinu, Habonim Dror and Hashomer Hatzair. On October 26-28, from noon-1:15 pm, Arow will provide a taste of the spoken Arabic course she runs for Jewish Israelis. There is an \$18 charge for the classes. For more information, visit <https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ein09qdied9b567a&oseq=&c=&ch=>.

◆ The Forward will hold two events in November: Thursday, November 11, “Last Call for He’Brew Beer”; and Tuesday, November 16, “You Will Not Play Wagner.” For more details, visit <https://forward.com/tag/events/>.

◆ Chabad.org will hold the online course “Life After Death: Jewish Insights on Death and the Afterlife” on Tuesdays, November 2, 9, 16 and 23, at 7 pm. Classes will also be available later on demand. There is a requested donation of \$40 to attend. For more information or to register, visit www.chabad.org/multimedia/course_cdo/aid/5268919/jewish/Life-After-Death.htm/sc/email_5273262

◆ The Center for Jewish History will hold “Are There New Ways of Reading the Bible in the 21st Century?” featuring Alison Joseph and Deborah Dash Moore on Thursday, November 4, at 4 pm. The program will focus on “The Posen Library of Jewish Culture and Civilization, Volume 1: Ancient Israel, from Its Beginnings through 332 BCE,” edited by Jeffrey H. Tigay and Adele Berlin. For more information or to register, visit <https://programs.cjh.org/tickets/new-in-the-bible-2021-11-04>.

◆ ANU – Museum of the Jewish People is holding an international competition that targets worldwide Jewish teens. Teen are invited to submit a photograph with an accompanying text that captures the theme of “my connection to the Jewish people.” A committee in Israel, directed by Zion Ozeri, will select the works. Submissions are due by Sunday, February 20, and must be uploaded via the ANU website. The winners will be announced in March and the Jewish Lens Exhibit will open that month. For more information, visit www.anumuseum.org.il/education/jewish-lens/.

◆ Aleph, the Alliance for Jewish Renewal, will hold several virtual classes in November, including “Holy Moments: How to Chant Essential Prayers for Sacred Transitions” (Chazzan Abbe Lyons); “Ma’ariv Minyan” (Rabbi Geela Rayzel Raphael and friends); Meet the Author Discussion Series “Threading My Prayer Rug” with Sabeeha Rehman (Rabbi Debra Smith); “Silence is Praise: Metivta-Style Morning Meditation Service” (Rabbi Anne Brenner); “Soul Lab: Accessing Inner Wisdom” (Rabbi David Curiel); “Ta’amei HaMikra: The Music of the Hebrew Bible” (Chazzan Diana Brewer); “The Way of the Wire” (Yeal Fischman); and “Yad b’Yad Abrahamic Faiths Dialogue Series” (Rabbi Debra Smith, Sister Eleanor Francis and Dr. Shabiha Sheikh). For more information or to register, visit <https://aleph.org/virtual-programs/>. There is a sliding charge for most programs.

◆ Lower East Side Jewish Conservancy will hold the virtual talk “Yeshiva Days: Learning on the Lower East Side: A new book talk on Zoom with author Jonathan Boyarin” on Monday, October 25, from 7-8:15 pm. The book is about the a sabbatical year Boyarin spent learning at the Lower East Side’s Mesivtha Tifereth Jerusalem. For more information or to register, visit www.nycjewishtours.org/event-log/yeshiva-days-book-talk. (To read *The Reporter’s* interview of Boyarin, visit www.thereporter.com/archives/feature/at-home-in-the-university-and-the-yeshiva-by-rabbi-rachel-esserman.)

For additional resources, see previous issues of *The Reporter* on its website, www.thereporter.com.

The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to Susan Herzog on the death of

her mother,
Ada Brummer

The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to Marcy Yonaty on the death of her brother,

Mitchell “Skip” Slutzker

DEADLINES

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

ISSUE	DEADLINE
November 5-18	October 27
Nov. 19-Dec. 2 (Chanukah) ...	November 10
December 3-16	November 22*
December 17-30	December 8

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

From skiing to bowling, indoor playgrounds and roller rinks to museums, the theater and more...

WINTER FUN IS COMING!

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For information on advertising, contact Charlie Pritchett at 724-2360, ext. 244, cell 725-4110 or advertising@thereporter.com

ISSUE DATE	AD DEADLINE
NOVEMBER 5	OCTOBER 28
NOVEMBER 19	NOVEMBER 11
DECEMBER 3	NOVEMBER 23*
DECEMBER 17	DECEMBER 9
DECEMBER 31	DECEMBER 23

Falafel & Chips Day at Hillel Academy!!



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Off the Shelf

Three reprints and one new novel

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

A short Yiddish novel reappears

No one seems sure why Sholem Aleichem's short novel "Moshkeleh the Thief: A Rediscovered Novel" (The Jewish Publication Society), which was serialized in 1903 and first released in book form in 1913, was never translated into English. That mistake has been rectified in a translation by Curt Leviant. The title character is part of an underclass of Jews many would like to pretend never existed. The story is definitely episodic in nature, but that doesn't distract from the fun.

When tavern owner Chaim Chosid's daughter, Tsireleh, runs away to a monastery because she's fallen in love with a non-Jew, the family is devastated. Although they regret having to do so, they contact Moshkeleh, whom everyone one knows is a thief, to steal their daughter from the monastery and return her to them. He agrees to do so, but, of course, things don't go exactly the way Chaim expects. As with many Yiddish stories, much of the plot is revealed indirectly and the ending leaves readers to fill in some details about what actually occurred. However, the story is a delightful and welcome addition to Aleichem's works in English.

A novella is republished

What do you do when the ending of a story is improbable, but wonderful? That is a decision readers will have to make about "Address Unknown" by Katherine Kressman Taylor (Ecco). The novella originally appeared in 1938 and in some ways is prophetic about what was happening to the Jews in Germany. But the tale itself is simple: the work consists of letters written over the course of two years

(1932-34) between two friends, Max Eisenstein and Martin Schulse. The two were business partners in San Francisco, although Max (who is Jewish) remained in the U.S. while the non-Jewish Martin returned to Germany.

To write much about the plot would ruin the surprises, but one thing comes as no surprise: watching Martin be seduced by the Nazi cause. Oh, he thinks Hitler is a buffoon, but that the man also has some good ideas. Then a specific event permanently changes the relationship between the two men. This brilliant short work is really wish fulfillment, but few readers will be able to resist its ending.

A short novel ahead of its time

Mental illness has often been misunderstood, even in 2003 when "A Mouthful of Air" by Amy Koppelman (Two Dollar Radio) was originally published. Julie Davis has returned to her husband and baby son after attempting to take her own life. She clearly suffers from depression, for which she is on medication, but she also worries that she will never be a good enough mother to her son. Her feelings are not helped by her continuing issues with body image (she is a diet fanatic and can never be thin enough) and the fact her divorced parents had no understanding of her needs when growing up. Julie's illness now means that she needs help caring for her son and someone else to do the housekeeping, which only makes her feel more incompetent. When a new issue arises that will upset the delicate nature of the household, the question becomes whether Julie will be able to cope with the change.

"A Mouthful of Air" was very well done, but difficult to read due to the nature of the material. It's not clear how

much of Julie's illness is physical (although that aspect of it is real: therapy alone will not solve her problems) and how much is compounded by societal expectations. Readers may feel that Julie's life is a train wreck waiting to happen, one that Julie and her family are unable to stop. This short work offers a great deal for readers to ponder and discuss.

A new work looks back at a life

By the time he's 12 years old, Sheldon Horowitz has faced more sorrow than many people do in a lifetime. While still recovering from the tragic death of his mother a year before, he is in an automobile accident that kills his father. And that's only the first chapter of Derek B. Miller's "How to Find Your Way in the Dark" (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt). Sheldon is sure that his father's car crash was deliberate and his search for answers informs a great deal of the plot. However, his relationship with his best friend Lenny, whom he leaves behind in Massachusetts when he moves to live with his uncle in Connecticut, and his connection to his cousins, Abe and Mirabelle, helps set him on an unexpected course.

The novel takes place at the end of the 1930s and follows Sheldon's life for two years. He is greatly influenced by his cousin Abe, who is obsessed with the news from Germany. The cousins' discussions about how Jews are thought about and treated in America (which are interesting) don't deflect from the action that includes arson, a hurricane, petty larceny, mafia hit men and Catskill comedians. What does stand out is Sheldon's belief in the possibilities America offers and that includes those for its Jewish citizens. The novel's conclusion, which takes place in 1947, ties the work together and offers a glimpse of Sheldon's future. One quibble is that Sheldon is far cleverer and diabolical than one might think possible for someone his age. However, while that may make some of the action unbelievable, it also makes the novel extremely satisfying.



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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!

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THE REPORTER
Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton

JAFI opens service-learning center in Mexico City

By JNS staff

(JNS) – In response to needs arising from the coronavirus pandemic, the Jewish Agency for Israel has launched a new volunteer center for the Project TEN service-learning program in Chimalhuacán, Mexico City, in collaboration with the Jewish nonprofit CADENA and support from Keren Hayesod.

The new center will draw volunteers from Israel and around the Jewish world for three-month-long *tikkun olam* projects to help empower children and teens in Mexico City through educational and community activities. In Israel and developing regions worldwide, Project TEN enables volunteers to participate in an integrated curriculum focusing on Jewish values and community, as well as to engage in a global dialogue on Jewish identity with their peers.

The opening ceremony/ribbon-cutting for the new center was held at the Shimon Peres Park in the municipality of Chimalhuacán and attended by Israel's Ambassador to See "JAFI" on page 5



Celebrating the opening ceremony and ribbon-cutting for the new Project TEN center in Mexico City in August 2021. (Photo by Andrea Hamra)

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THE REPORTER
Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton



Jewish Baseball Players

King of Jewish baseball, part II: diamond domains

BILL SIMONS

Part I of this series introduced the person and personae of Nate Fish, the self-proclaimed “King of Jewish Baseball.” Baseball diamonds have led Fish, a man of many parts, to adventures in places obscure and celebrated in North and South America, Asia, Europe and Africa. Israel has figured prominently in the itinerary. Fish tales are legion and dramatic.

From Israel, time stamps survive in Fish’s memory of swimming on Mediterranean beaches, living in one of the Jewish homeland’s few truly multicultural neighborhoods and jumping over guardrails to seek roadside cover during episodes of hostile fire. Improbably and fruitlessly, he scoured Uganda for baseball prospects. Remembering the Dominican Republic, Fish relates his most memorable moment on a ballfield: “There was a little pop-up hit into shallow left-center field... it was too far away to catch... [but I] actually caught the ball... The Dominican National Team came out of their dugout and gave a standing ovation, an honor for a shortstop in a country of shortstops.”

Enscorced in the Manhattan basement of the Apple Bank, Fish taught the game’s essentials to the real-life son of cinema’s most iconic baseball couple, pitcher “Nuke” Laloosh (Tim Robbins) and Bull Durham high priestess Annie Savoy (Susan Sarandon). Attired in checkered yellow-and-black kilts during a Savannah, GA, stint, he guided the colorful Bananas, part professional baseball team, part circus. Bananas’ helmsman Tyler Gillum offered a telling portrait of Fish: “I consider Fish to be the most interesting man on the planet... He really just beats to his own drum... This is a guy who’s coached around the world and seen different kinds of baseball... if something is normal, he’s probably gonna do the exact opposite.” Moreover, Fish had arguably emerged as the most significant conduit between U.S. and Israel baseball. By summer 2021, however, it appeared that Fish’s time as a nomadic Renaissance man might have run its course.

In 2021, Fish, at 41, looked ready to embrace a more rooted, less peripatetic existence, one conducive to family life in the bucolic hills of upstate New York. Initially prompted by a friend’s invitation to manage the Alpine resort, Fish and his fiancée, Shawna Watterson, remained after the COVID pandemic felled Catskill tourism. They purchased a house in the rustic hamlet of Arkville, population 836, located 139 miles by car from the frenetic pace of New York City. An entrepreneur, with her own company, Shawna has a background in sales and an interest in the hospitality industry. As in former days, the Catskills may again ascend as a storied tourist destination. A community of creative people dots the environs of Arkville. Moreover, Fish had found a nearby outlet for his baseball passion,

Club

around controversial books about the state of Israel. When [a Holocaust survivor] was part of the group we avoided books about the Holocaust,” she added. “Nowadays, no subject is off the table. No judgy comments on religious observance, *haredi*, Chasidism. We avoided the Israeli-Palestinian conflict for many years, but we have evolved. After reading ‘The Lemon Tree,’ I realized that we can have an honest conversation despite different points of view. As more Israeli fiction is available in translation, we try to read a contemporary Israeli novel every year.”

One of the group’s best discussions came after reading “Crossing California,” a book all the members disliked. “[That was] back when we naively relied on good reviews by respected critics,” Pell-Preus said. “I proposed one of the few rules we have insisted on ever since. The person suggesting a book had to have read it cover to cover. We agreed that reviewers – but not always professional critics – were often authors, acquainted, for all we knew, with authors whose books they reviewed. That said, we still had a meaningful discussion of the book.”

Smithmeyer noted that she thought one of the best discussions they ever had was about the novel “Leaving Lucy Pear” by Anna Solomon. “Much of the novel, set in the 1920s, is about the inner lives of the characters as well as the dilemmas they find in their lives,” she said. “They struggle to balance their wishes for themselves and their obligations to their families, compounded by the effects of their community, their time and the repercussions of the decisions of their pasts. [Among the questions discussed were], What is a mother? What is a sham marriage? What are the complexities of ‘good works?’”

The club has offered Smithmeyer the chance to read books she might not have discovered on her own. “When we select our books for the coming year, I find I’ve read a few and have several others on my list,” she said. “I hadn’t heard of ‘Waking Lions: A Novel’ by Ayelet Gundur-Goshen, but fortunately, it was nominated. The neurosurgeon protagonist’s mistake brings him into contact with Eritrean refugees in Israel. Lies and promises, guilt and secrets! I was so glad I got to read this book and discuss it with others!”

During the pandemic, the club met on Zoom and is now continuing in a hybrid model. This means that members

the Mountain Athletic Club. The MACs, with a home base in nearby Fleischmanns, play a good game against other vintage baseball teams. In August 2021, Nate and Shawna married.

Nate is a poet, amongst other things, and he celebrates Shawna’s beauty, spirit and allure in “Poems for My Wife,” a volume of verse published by the Brick of Gold company. “Cream” expresses feelings sublime and commonplace: “And you will stop talking / When you realize I am not listening / Because I am thinking of how much I love you.”

Fish’s domestic idyll and MAC baseball play were soon interrupted by a clarion call from Israel. During the morning of August 17, 2021, I was one of those who received a heads-up e-mail from Nate: “I will be managing Team Israel going forward. Announcement should be made today or tomorrow.” Soon after, Team Israel was eliminated from Olympic competition, Eric Holtz resigned as head coach (manager). During his four years as head coach, Holtz and Fish were longtime friends and roommates while playing in the 2007 Israel Baseball League; subsequently, Nate coached third base for Team Israel under Eric. Holtz’ Team Israel qualified for the 2021 Olympics, the first time since 1976 that an Israel team appeared in the Olympics, a notable achievement given that Israel ranked a lowly 41st at the 2017 World Baseball Classic.

During its 2021 Olympic run, Team Israel had roused much excitement amongst Jewish baseball fans, more so in the U.S. than in Israel. Another couple of runs would have reversed Team Israel’s wrenching 7-6 elimination game loss to the Dominican Republic in Yokohama. Dashed expectations brought disappointment to Team Israel partisans. Two weeks after Israel’s elimination from Olympic baseball competition, Holtz was out and Fish was the new head coach.

Experience and expertise made Fish an excellent choice as Holtz’s successor. Fish had played, coached and managed on ballfields across the world, and his Israel-specific background went deep. He starred in the Israel Baseball League, coached and played for Team Israel in the World Baseball Classic, and coached the team in Olympic competition. Along the way, Fish acquired joint Israel-U.S. citizenship and lived in the Jewish homeland for three years (2013-16), serving as national director of the Israel Association of Baseball. Incrementally, he developed indigenous Israel baseball talent.

Fish had little time to bask in his appointment to manage Team Israel. Within a few short weeks of taking the reins, he would lead Team Israel in the September 2021 European Championship tournament. Initially, Team Israel appeared

Continued from page 1

who have moved out of town or who are snowbirds can participate year-round. Goodman missed the in-person meetings if only for the refreshments. “Prior to COVID, there was always coffee and tea and a nice nosh at the meetings,” he said. “And a huge feast of delicious homemade foods at the annual meeting when we voted on the reading list for the following year.”

The Book Club reading list for the rest of the year includes: November 3, “The Other Einstein” by Marie Benedict; December 1, “The Paris Library” by Janet Skeslien Charles; January 5 a Book Club doubleheader: “Eli’s Promise” by Ronald H. Balson and “The Nazis Next Door: How America Became a Safe Haven for Hitler’s Men” by Eric Lichtblau; February 2, to be announced; March 2, “The Book of Lost Names” by Kristin Harmel; April 6, “Hannah’s War” by Jan Eliasberg; May 4, “Exile Music” by Jennifer Steil (the author will join the club via Zoom); and June 1, “A Place at the Table” by Saadia Faruqi and Laura Shovan, followed by the annual book selection meeting. Meetings begin at 10:30 am.

For more information about the club, contact Pell-Preus at 222-2875 or merrypell.preus@gmail.com.

depleted. Of the 24 players who competed on the Olympic squad, 20 were Americans, and many returned to the U.S. after elimination from the Japanese games, including MLB All-Star Ian Kinsler, slugger Danny Valencia, and catcher Ryan Lavanway. Defying the odds, Team Israel, under Fish, won the Silver Medal in the European Championship tournament. Team Israel did this with a core of Sabras. Displaying strategic, instructional, and motivational gifts, Fish directed tributes to his largely young, inexperienced, short-staffed players: “So proud of the boys. I don’t think people realize how improbable this was.”

Balancing life in Arkville and Israel will pose challenges. Leading Team Israel necessitates commitment of time and focus. But don’t bet against the King of Jewish Baseball either in Israel or on the Arkville home front.

Bill Simons is a professor emeritus at SUNY Oneonta where he continues to teach courses in American history. He is also the co-director of The Cooperstown Symposium on Baseball and American Culture, and served as a speaker for the New York Council on the Humanities.

NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

India, Israel to start free-trade talks in hopes of agreement

Israel and India plan on starting free-trade talks in November in an effort to reach an agreement by 2022, both countries said on Oct. 18. India is moving to sign trade deals with other countries, as well, in an effort to boost exports, including Australia, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and Canada, reported Reuters. The countries’ foreign ministers met in Jerusalem, where they agreed to mutual recognition of vaccination certificates and increased cooperation in water and agriculture. According to India’s Ministry of Commerce and Industry, total trade between the two countries was \$4.67 billion by the end of the last fiscal year, which ended in March.

JAFI Continued from page 4

Mexico Zvi Tal; the head of the Jewish Agency in Mexico, Ari Messer; the local mayor; and senior leaders of the Jewish community in Mexico.

Previously, Project TEN operated in Mexico in the province of Oaxaca, but the center was shut down during the pandemic. The move to open a new volunteer center was led by Daniel Liberant, a leader of the Jewish community in Mexico, with the goal of assisting the local population during this challenging period. The Jewish Agency’s Project TEN currently operates in eight countries: Israel, Mexico, Uganda, Ghana, South Africa, Greece, Cambodia and Ethiopia.

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Vayera, Genesis 18:1-22:24

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Every year, I am brought up short by Sarah's laughter and the mixture of emotions I sense in it. This incredulous, nervous, afraid-to-be-too-hopeful laughter would seem to be Sarah's own private reaction to overhearing the news that she and Abraham would have a baby that year despite their old age. She is laughing (inside of herself) while standing in the tent, seemingly apart from both her husband and their company. But, in much the same way that big smiles are not hidden by a face mask, this is not a laughter that can be contained. Nor should it be. Laughter, with its many varied underlying emotions and causes, is best when shared.

There are so many different ways in which we can elicit laughter from each other. When they had finished dining on the food that Sarah had rushed to prepare for them, before

they delivered the news, the three mysterious strangers asked where Sarah was. One might think that they asked after Sarah's whereabouts because they wanted to be sure that she heard their news.

Rabbi Jose ben Chanina, however, saw the situation differently. He noticed that the angels asked about Sarah's location at the end of the meal, before saying the Grace After Meals. Their reason for wanting to know where Sarah was, he believed, was "for the purpose of sending her a cup of benediction," the cup of wine over which it was customary to say *Birkat Hamazon* on holidays and other special occasions. (Ein Yaakov, Glick Edition, Bava Metzvia 7:27) In this way, the angels sought to both signal the high regard in which Sarah was held as well as to mark this meal as a special occasion.

Both the Torah itself and, many centuries later, Rabbi Jose ben Chanina remain silent on what happened next. However, based on a different story in the Talmud, I believe that the offer was made and whether she accepted or not, Sarah knew that she was valued.

Yalta, the daughter of the exilarch and the wife of Rabbi Nachman, had a very different experience. Ulla, a guest in her house, refused to give Yalta the cup of benediction even when asked to do so. Meanwhile, Yalta heard that Ulla had refused to send her the cup and she got up in a passion and went to the wine store and broke 400 jars of wine. When Ulla tried to appease Yalta by offering a substitute, she insulted him, saying, "Gossip comes from See **"Laughter" on page 8**

Congregational Notes

Temple Israel

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

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

On Saturday, October 23, Shacharit services will be held at 9:30 am via Zoom and in-person (masks are required). The Torah portion is Genesis 18:1-22:24 and the haftarah is II Kings 4:1-37. At 7 pm, there will be Havdalah services via Zoom.

On Sunday, October 24, Torah study will be held at 10:30 am on Zoom only.

The temple office will be closed on Monday, October 11.
On Saturday, October 30, at 9:30 am, Shacharit services will be held at 10 am via Zoom and in-person (masks are required). The Torah portion is Genesis 23:1-25:18 and the haftarah is I Kings 1:1-31. At 6:45 pm, there will be Havdalah services via Zoom.

On Sunday, October 31, Torah study will be held at 10:30 am on Zoom only.

On Tuesday, November 2, at 7 pm, there will be an Executive Board meeting.

Norwich Jewish Center

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

Congregation 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 Tobacmar
Education Director/Admin. Coordinator: Naomi Wilensky
Bnai Mitzvah Coordinator: Michael Margolin
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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.

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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.
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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
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Rabbi's e-mail: rabbisilber@stny.rr.com
Website: www.bethdavid.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/bethdavidbinghamton

Temple Beth El of Oneonta

Affiliation: United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism
Rabbi: TBA
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.

Temple Brith Sholom

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Phone: 607-756-7181
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Cemetery Committee, 315-696-5744
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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.

Temple Beth-El of Ithaca

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

Friday, October 22, light candles before 5:53 pm
Saturday, October 23, Shabbat ends 6:52 pm
Friday, October 29, light candles before 5:43 pm
Saturday, October 30, Shabbat ends 6:42 pm
Friday, November 5, light candles before 5:34 pm
Saturday, November 6, Shabbat ends 6:33 pm

Temple Concord

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

Some services and programs are online only.
Friday, October 22: Shabbat services with Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell. All are welcome to come in person, but a mask is required. To view on Zoom, visit <https://bit.ly/37UQSpK>, meeting ID 829 9450 3102 and passcode 708450.

Saturday, October 23: 9 am, Shabbat school; 9:15 am, Torah study in the temple library and on Zoom (to view on Zoom, visit <https://bit.ly/3CVxM14>, meeting ID 882 9808 7579 and passcode 676707); 10:35 am, Shabbat family service in the sanctuary; and at 7 pm, "Havdalah with a Bonus" at <https://bit.ly/3zd0atv>, meeting ID 897 4179 1260 and passcode 408279.

Friday, October 29: Shabbat services and Shabbat oneg honoring Polly Grenis on the eve of her first yahrzeit. Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell and Joshua Wallenstein will lead the service. Michael Grenis invites the congregation to join in person or online. The oneg Shabbat will include refreshments. All are welcome to come in person and no reservations are needed, but a mask is required. To view on Zoom, visit <https://bit.ly/37UQSpK>, meeting ID 829 9450 3102 and passcode 708450.

Saturday, October 30: 9 am, Shabbat school; 9:15 am, Torah study in the temple library and on Zoom (to view on Zoom, visit <https://bit.ly/3CVxM14>, meeting ID 882 9808 7579 and passcode 676707); 10:35 am, Shabbat family service (in person only); and 7 pm, "Havdalah with a Bonus" at <https://bit.ly/3zd0atv>, meeting ID 897 4179 1260 and passcode 408279.

On Wednesday, November 4, at 10:30 am, Temple Concord Morning Book Club will meet.

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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.

Scuba diver finds Crusader sword off Israel coast

By Nicky Blackburn

(Israel21C via JNS) – If there’s proof that you can’t go anywhere in Israel without stumbling on some kind of ancient artifact, it has to be the news this morning that a scuba diver has discovered an ancient Crusader sword on the sea bed off the Carmel coast in the north of the country.

Atlit resident Shlomi Katzin was diving off the coast at the beach in Carmel on October 16 when he spotted ancient artifacts lying on the sea bed, uncovered apparently by shifting sands. Katzin saw ancient stone anchors, anchors made of metal pottery fragments and a sword with a meter-long (3.3-foot) blade and a hilt measuring 30 centimeters (11.8 inches). He took the sword ashore, fearing that the find might be stolen or buried once more by the sands, and reported it to the Israel Antiquities Authority.

“The sword, which has been preserved in perfect condition, is a beautiful and rare find and evidently belonged to a Crusader knight,” said Nir Distelfeld, inspector for the IAA’s Robbery Prevention Unit. “It was found encrusted with marine organisms, but is apparently made of iron. It is exciting to encounter such a personal object, taking you 900 years back in time to a different era, with knights, armor and swords,” he said.

The sword was discovered in a natural anchorage that has been in use as a temporary natural shelter for ships from the Late Bronze Age, 4,000 years ago, according to Kobi Sharvit, director of the IAA’s Marine Archaeology Unit. “The recent discovery of the sword suggests that the natural cove was also used in the Crusader period, some 900 years ago,” said Sharvit.

Archeologists have been monitoring this particular spot on the Carmel coast since an earlier discovery in June this year. Finds are elusive, however, as they appear



Nir Distelfeld, inspector for the Israel Antiquities Authority, with the Crusader sword on October 18. (Photo by Anastasia Shapiro/Israel Antiquities Authority)

and disappear with the shifting sands. “The Carmel coast contains many natural coves that provided shelter for ancient ships in a storm, and larger coves around which entire settlements and ancient port cities developed, such as Dor and Atlit,” explained Sharvit. “These conditions have attracted merchant ships down the ages, leaving behind rich archaeological finds.”

The sword has been handed over to the National Treasures Department, and Katzin was awarded a certificate of appreciation for good citizenship. Once the sword has been cleaned and researched in the Israel Antiquities Authority’s laboratories, it will be displayed to the public.

“The discovery of ancient finds by swimmers and leisure divers is a growing phenomenon in recent years, with the

increasing popularity of such sports,” says Sharvit. “Underwater surveying is dynamic. Even the smallest storm moves the sand and reveals areas on the sea bed, meanwhile burying others. It is therefore vitally important to report any such finds, which we always try to document on site, in order to retrieve as much archaeological data as possible.”

This article first appeared in Israel21c.

NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

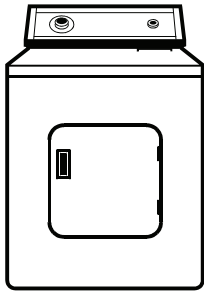
Israel to showcase space tech at International Astronautical Congress

Israel Aerospace Industries will lead the Israeli Space Exhibit at the 72nd International Astronautical Congress to be held in Dubai from Oct. 25-29. In a statement on Oct. 18, IAI said that as the only Israeli pavilion to present, it will exhibit “a range of cutting-edge space solutions,” including two types of spy satellites; a new mini-communications satellite concept; and “Beersheet,” Israel’s lunar lander. “The field of space is a global growth engine that crosses technological, educational, business and political borders,” said the company. “IAI is leading Israel’s space industry from development and manufacturing to launching satellites and launchers, to ground stations for satellite control and operation, among other complementary services.” The event, it continued, provides IAI with “the opportunity to build new relationships with local companies in the United Arab Emirates and in Gulf countries, and to develop new ventures with partners in the local defense industry, government agencies and academic institutions.”



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NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

German, Israeli Air Force commanders perform joint historic flyover in Israeli skies

The commanders of the Israeli and German air forces performed a joint flyover in Israeli skies on Oct. 17 in a display of international solidarity. The flyover occurred as part of the IAF Blue Flag military aviation exercise currently being held in Israel. The joint formation was led by Israeli Air Force Commander Maj. Gen. Amikam Norkin and German Air Force Commander Lt. Gen. Ingo Gerhartz. The flyover passed over the Israeli Knesset building in Jerusalem. "The winds of history are strongly felt throughout Israel's capital," said Norkin via a radio broadcast from his jet during the flyover. The Israeli and German commanders also visited the Yad Vashem Holocaust Remembrance Center in Jerusalem, where they toured the "Flashes of Memory" photo exhibition and participated in a memorial ceremony at the Hall of Remembrance. During the ceremony, the commanders lit the eternal flame and laid a memorial wreath in honor of victims of the Holocaust. "This visit is not the usual visit," noted Norkin. "Last year, we did a flyover over Dachau Camp and declared, side by side: 'Never again.'"

Report: 89 percent of Netflix "Palestinian Stories" directed by BDS backers

Nearly 90 percent of the Palestinian films in a collection launched recently by Netflix are directed by BDS supporters, Israeli NGO Im Tirtzu reported on Oct. 18. The collection, titled "Palestinian Stories," is made of up 32 films, most of which had been uploaded to the streaming service by Oct. 18. Of the 28 movies by and about Palestinians that are so far available on the Israeli version of Netflix, 25 (89 percent) are directed by BDS supporters, Im Tirtzu research revealed. According to the NGO's findings, 12 of the directors in question also signed an open "Letter Against Apartheid" in May, during "Operation Guardian of the Walls," Israel's 11-day conflict with terrorist groups in the Gaza Strip. "Palestinians are being attacked and killed with impunity by Israeli soldiers and armed Israeli civilians who have been roaming the streets of Jerusalem, Lydda, Haifa, Jaffa and other cities, chanting, 'Death to Arabs,'" the letter began, going on to accuse Israel of committed "lynchings" against and the "ethnic cleansing" of "unprotected Palestinians." "To frame this as a war between two equal sides is false and misleading," the letter said. "Israel is the colonizing power. Palestine is colonized. This is not a conflict: This is apartheid." "It is disgraceful

Laughter Continued from page 6

peddlers and vermin from rags." (Talmud Brachot 51b)

Yalta's deliberate exclusion led to both physical and psychological harm. In contrast, by asking where Sarah was, whether to offer her the cup of benediction or to ensure that she would be able to hear the news they were about to deliver, the angels' actions led to laughter and sense of having been seen and heard (even if she did have

to wait into her old age for it to happen).

Each of us encounters many moments when we have the option to either act like Ulla or like the angels, to look around and see who is missing, or to judge people only on what we see on the surface. We have the power to evoke either rage or laughter in those around us. I pray that we all choose to be each other's angels over and over again, increasing the many types of laughter in the world.

that Netflix is featuring propaganda films directed by BDS supporters whose sole goal is to slander and delegitimize the only democracy in the Middle East," said Im Tirtzu CEO Matan Peleg. "If Netflix wants to tell the Palestinian story, it should start by contacting the thousands of bereaved Israeli families who are victims of Palestinian terrorism."

New York police arrest woman who set fire outside yeshiva

The New York Police Department announced the arrest of a 39-year-old African-American woman who started a fire on Oct. 14 outside a Jewish school in Brooklyn, NY. Police say that Sharee Jones of Brooklyn is the woman seen on video pouring gasoline outside of the Yeshiva of Flatbush and then setting it ablaze. The fire was put out quickly, and there was no damage to the school itself. She is being charged with reckless endangerment/hate crimes and attempted arson.

Australia to formally adopt IHRA definition of antisemitism

Australia will adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism, Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced at an international forum on Oct. 13. Morrison said in a pre-recorded address at the International Forum on Holocaust Remembrance and Combating Anti-Semitism in Sweden that Australia will embrace the definition "as a people and as a nation." He stated that "antisemitism has no place in Australia. It has no place anywhere in the world." He added that the Holocaust "serves as a perpetual and brutal reminder of exclusion, of racism, of systematic political hatred and evil itself." Following Morrison's announcement, Australia's Minister for Education and Youth Alan Tudge wrote on Twitter: "This won't stop all antisemitism, but it will make a difference & help people call it out, including on campuses." Australia is the 30th country to announce its formal endorsement or adoption of the IHRA definition. The IHRA is an intergovernmental body comprised of 34 member countries, including Australia.

Qatar restarts cash payments to Palestinians in Gaza

Palestinians in the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip began receiving payments on Oct. 14 after Israel agreed to a new distribution system that includes the involvement of the United Nations. Qatari envoy Mohammed al-Emadi said that payments of \$100 would be made to "95,000 needy families," reported AFP. The new mechanism Qatar is using to make the payments came after pressure from Israel following the 11-day conflict in May, prompted when Hamas and other terror factions started launching rocket barrages towards civilian populations in Israel. Israeli officials claimed that funds were going toward Hamas, rather than the poor. So now, Jerusalem must approve individuals receiving financial aid, who will withdraw money using U.N.-issued credit cards. Separately, Qatar's Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani said on Oct. 13 that the country has no plans to normalize relations with Israel, and that the Abraham Accords agreements between Israel and Arab countries run contrary to Doha's foreign policy.

U.S. re-elected to U.N. Human Rights Council

The United States was elected to the U.N. Human Rights Council on Oct. 14, reversing a move by the Trump administration, which withdrew from the international body in 2018 over its anti-Israel prejudice. The United States won a three-year term for one of the council's 18 open seats, starting in January, in a vote by the 193-member General Assembly. The Biden administration signaled that it would return to the UNHRC last February when it announced that it would rejoin as an observer. "Since the earliest days of this administration, [U.S.] President [Joe] Biden has made clear that our foreign policy would be grounded in America's most cherished democratic values: defending freedom, championing opportunity, upholding human rights and fundamental freedoms, respecting the rule of law and treating everyone with dignity," said U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken. He noted the council's bias, saying it "suffers from serious flaws, including disproportionate attention on Israel and the membership of several states with egregious human-rights records." Nevertheless, he said the U.S. intends to push back against "attempts to subvert the ideals upon which the Human Rights Council was founded, including that each person is endowed with human rights and that states are obliged to protect those rights." Several countries with poor human-rights records are slated to join the council, including Qatar, Cameroon, Somalia, Eritrea and Kazakhstan.

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