

THE REPORTER

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BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK

JCC and Federation to host community Hanukkah event on Nov. 30

By Reporter staff

The Jewish Community Center and the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton will host a community Hanukkah celebration on Tuesday, November 30, from 5:15-5:45 pm, in the JCC parking lot. (The snow date is Thursday, December 2.) There is no cost to attend the outdoor event; the

community is invited to attend. Representatives from community organizations are invited to participate. The event will include an outdoor torch lighting ceremony, a community Hanukkah video and kosher pre-packaged doughnuts.

"Even though our outdoor event is only half an hour, it will be packed with commu-

nity spirit, including our annual community Hanukkah video, which will include kids from all of the temples, Hillel and the JCC," said Sheryl Brumer, executive director of the JCC. "It's a little reminder that even during the darkest of times, a little light goes a long way, but we can't do it alone, so please come out and help us light the lights!"

"We're pleased to be partnering with the JCC to make this event happen," said Shelley Hubal, Federation executive director. "Coming together is a wonderful way to increase the holiday spirit and add light to the dark days of December. Last year's parking lot Hanukkah celebration was joyous. We look forward to seeing you there."

Global Day of Jewish Learning 2021 on Nov. 14

Temple Concord, Temple Israel and Beth David Synagogue will take part in the Global Day of Jewish Learning 2021 with the virtual program "The Bonds Between Us" on Sunday, November 14, from 10 am-noon. Jewish communities from six continents will hold educational events on that day. Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell, Rabbi Geoffrey Brown and Rabbi Zev

Silber will lead the program. To attend the local event via Zoom, visit <https://bit.ly/3n7SRhG>, meeting ID 955 9512 7469 and passcode 780820.

"Through learning opportunities such as this one, communities have the opportunity to explore the bonds between us, because we know that this enduring Jewish value is more important now than ever as we slowly

return to what were previously normal engagements with sacred community," said organizers of the event. "We will be looking at Jewish texts as sacred connection, exploring different ways to explore texts as the bonds which connect us. All are welcome to the program. Please come prepared to actively participate in your learning, including small groups, *chevruta* study."

Those interested in attending should contact one of the congregations for the PDF packet and links to livestream lectures, which should be available in early November. The text packet will be available for pickup at each congregation, as well.

The program is administered through Limmud North America.

TC-TI-BD to commemorate anniversary of Kristallnacht

Temple Concord, Temple Israel and Beth David Synagogue will participate in the international campaign marking the anniversary of Kristallnacht, the Night of Broken Glass, by leaving the lights on in the synagogues during the night of Tuesday-Wednesday, November 9-10. "Let There Be Light" is organized by March

of the Living, the yearly teen educational travel program to Poland and Israel for Yom Hashoah and Yom Ha'atzmaut. All members of the community are also invited to mark the commemoration by leaving their lights on all night.

On the night of November 9-10, 1938, the Nazis organized the murder of Jews and

the burning of 1,400 synagogues and Jewish institutions in Germany and Austria as part of the Kristallnacht pogrom. The event is considered one of the seminal moments that led to the Holocaust. Individuals, institutions and houses of worship across the world will be keeping their lights on during that night.

"We can shine forth light remembering

a time of darkness and stand in protest against the rise of antisemitic events and hate crimes in our own time," said organizers of the event. "It is important to add additional light this November in our community, to lift up courage, hope and standing for our values against antisemitism and hatred and racism of all kinds."

Giving Tuesday matching grant of \$500 for The Reporter

By Reporter staff

The Reporter announced that it has received its second \$500 matching grant for Giving Tuesday. The grant is again courtesy of the David and Virginia Eisenberg Fund. Donations will be accepted now through Giving Tuesday, November 30. Donations may be made several ways:

- ◆ Give online through The Reporter Group website, www.thereportergroup.org.
- ◆ Through Giving Tuesday e-mails that will be sent by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton. Anyone who does not receive Federation e-mails, but would like

to be on the list, should e-mail director@jfgb.org with "Federation e-mail list" in the subject line.

◆ Mail donations to The Reporter, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850 with "matching grant" in the check's subject line.

"We are thrilled to again receive this matching grant," said Rabbi Rachel Esserman, executive editor of The Reporter Group. "If you are thinking about making a donation to the paper, this is the perfect time to do it. Every penny counts in this economic climate. So many Jewish newspapers are either going under or turning

into online publications only. Although The Reporter is now biweekly, I am pleased we are still able to produce hard-copy newspapers for our readers. I know that I prefer to read offline. Plus, a hard copy is great for those of us who like to read the paper on Shabbat, but don't get on the computer that day."

Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Federation, was also pleased that The Reporter received the grant. "I think the paper is a valuable addition to our community," she said. "It not only lets me know what local organizations are doing, but helps keep

us connected. Thank you to the Eisenberg Fund for its gift. I know the generosity of our community will make this second Giving Tuesday mini-campaign a success."

Esserman noted that the paper received five writing awards this year. "We received two awards from the Syracuse Press Club and three from the American Jewish Press Club Simon Rockower Awards for Excellence in Jewish Journalism," she said. "That's pretty impressive for a paper with such a small staff. We try to be the one-stop shop for those interested in learning about Jewish events in our community."

Federation Campaign spotlight

Inside Campaign 2021: JFNA

By Reporter staff

In addition to the allocations it gives to local community organizations, the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton also allocates funds to the Jewish Federations of North America. JFNA represents 146 Federations and 300 other Jewish organizations located in smaller communities. Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Binghamton Federation, believes that it's important to donate to JFNA because of the vital work it performs.

"JFNA serves as resource for our questions," Hubal said. "We are part of what JFNA calls its 'Network Communities.'"

These are small Jewish communities across the U.S. We have network meetings several times a year and discuss issues that are specific to small Jewish communities."

Hubal also noted other ways that JFNA helps Jewish communities: "JFNA is there for Jewish communities in their time of need. It provides a central location for donations and that's important when communities are facing the aftereffects of hurricanes, floods or tornadoes. Our donation makes it possible for JFNA to provide for those in need during crisis. It also helps support Jewish cultural programs that connect Jews across the world."

The JFNA website notes that its mission "is to protect and enhance the well-being of Jews worldwide through meaningful contributions to community, Israel and civil society." Whenever a community is in crisis – whether from weather related disasters or antisemitic attacks – JFNA seeks to provide for people's material needs and offers trauma counseling. It also works to create connections to Jewish life, whether through trips to Israel or through support of Jewish arts and culture programs. Its reach is not limited to North America: its programs help Jews across the globe, including many at-risk populations. It partners with the

JDC (formerly the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee), World ORT, the Jewish Agency for Israel and the Israel Trauma Coalition to fulfill its mission.

"In addition to the help JFNA gives us in a variety of ways, it also serves the global Jewish community," said Hubal. "It reminds us that we are all really one community no matter where we live."

For more information about JFNA, visit www.jewishfederations.org or e-mail info@JewishFederations.org.

Additional information about JFNA programs will appear in the next issue of The Reporter.

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Veterans Day: Honoring American military of all faiths

By Bill Simons

As November 11, 2021 – Veterans Day – draws closer, I find myself returning to a time-worn book, published 77 years ago. The National Jewish Welfare Board produced “Fighting for America: A Record of the Participation of Jewish Men and Women in the Armed Forces” during 1944 while the European war against Hitler and fanaticism in the Pacific still raged. Nearly 406,000 U.S. military personnel died during World War II, and Jewish-American military casualties are estimated at 38,338.

Despite its broken spine, “Fighting for America” remains well served by the wartime paper on which it was printed. I turn its pages reverently, keeping in mind the volume’s dedication to “young Americans of all faiths who are fighting side by side and making sacrifices in measures surpassing understanding, that America and the world might survive as the home of [the] free.”

The book reached me through the good services of a dear friend, Dr. Bernie Ulozas, longtime training specialist and researcher for the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center. At a new housing development “model” home in metropolitan Las Vegas, Bernie spied a book apparently employed as a prop, meant to blend into the setting. “Immediately,” recalls Bernie, “I knew where this book belonged,

and it was not in that model house where its value could never be found nor appreciated. Deciding the book’s true value, I made a simple decision to liberate it.”

“Fighting for America” provides text commentary on the World War II Jewish-American presence in the Army, Army Air Force, Marines, Merchant Marines, Coast Guard, Navy, Chaplains Corps and Medical Corps. The volume also includes a long, long honor roll, listing the names, ranks and hometowns of Jewish American military personnel who died in service and/or received decoration in 1944.

At my request, landsman Ira Cooperman, a retired Air Force intelligence officer and liaison to the National Security Agency, Vietnam veteran and former *Los Angeles Times* reporter, provided a Jewish perspective on Veterans Day: “Most members of America’s Jewish community are unaware of the many sacrifices made by their fellow Jews in war. Since the Civil War, for example, more than two dozen Jewish men have been awarded the Medal of Honor, our nation’s highest military decoration for valor, many posthumously. Jewish leaders from Haym Solomon, a major financier of the American Revolution and a colleague of George Washington, to Admiral Jeremy Michael Boorda, who was chief of naval operations from 1994-1996, to General David Goldfein, chief of staff of United States Air

Force from 2016-2020, have proudly served our nation’s military. While many Jews volunteered in our country’s earlier wars, more than 500,000 Jewish men and women served in World War II.” And as “Fighting for America” notes, “More than 50 percent of America’s rabbis volunteered to serve in the [WWII military] chaplaincy.”

Prompted by Bernie’s book and Ira’s words, I think of Shep, a Jewish-American veteran of the old Army Air Force. Toward the end of his long life, Shep participated in a one-day Honor Flight for World War II veterans to Washington, DC. Honor Flights match each veteran with a volunteer guardian. I volunteered through Honor Flight New England and was matched with Shep.

At 3 am on Sunday, November 1, 2015, Shep and I started our day in Peabody, MA. By 5 am, we were at the point of rendezvous, State Police Headquarters, Troop F, at Boston’s Logan Airport, along with about 70 other veterans and their guardians.

Following orientation, Honor Flight New England headed to Logan’s Southwest Airline terminal. From this point forward, all veterans, even those like Shep who still walked unimpaired, needed to use wheelchairs pushed by their guardians to maximize time. Suddenly large lines formed. See “Veterans” on page 4

In My Own Words

My electronic scare

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Electronics make our lives wonderful – that is, when they work. Those of us who depend on them due to disabilities can start to take them for granted, at least until they don’t work. That happened to me the other month with my cochlear implant.

Since the pandemic started, one of the first things I do in the morning is get dressed. As soon as my clothes are on, I put on my CI and my hearing aid. It’s so automatic I don’t think about it. But that morning something different happened: I hooked the CI behind my ear and connected the magnet to the one inside my head. Nothing. That’s what I heard: *nothing!* It’s important to remember that without the implant, that ear is now completely deaf. If the CI doesn’t work, I would be completely dependent on my other ear, which has a profound loss, even with the hearing aid. (The next category after profound loss is deaf, meaning no hearing at all.)

I told myself not to panic. Maybe something was wrong with the processor and the CI came with a second one. I switched it and I could hear! Big sigh of relief. But a moment later, I couldn’t hear anything. Then I could and then there was no sound again. That’s when I realized that it wasn’t the processor, but the cable that connects it to the side of

my head that wasn’t working. That’s when I began to panic a bit, but I held myself together and called the company (using my captioned phone) that makes the implant. They told me there was another cable (but a different looking one) that should be among the things I was given with the implant. Fortunately, I found it.

Now, all I needed to do was order a new cable. The two pieces cost more than \$300, but the person said my insurance should cover it. That’s when things started to get Kafkaesque. My ear surgeon’s office closed this past summer: he retired unexpectedly due to ill health. But my general practitioner could help put the order in. Fine, except my GP is a nurse practitioner. The person said that it has to be someone who can prescribe medicine. I said she does everything for me, including prescribing medicine, but that still wasn’t good enough. I needed to have a relationship with a medical doctor since the insurance required the person to be an M.D.

So, I called my doctor’s office and explained the situation. Sounds easy, right? But they aren’t making *any* appointments for the M.D.s in the practice. Ah, but my NP can talk to the M.D. about my problem and he’ll sign the form since he’s her supervisor. I think I’m all set until

I call the company back and am told that I also need an audiologist to sign off on it. Ah, but when the ear surgeon’s office closed, the audiologist had to find a new job. Even though I was able to contact her, she no longer works at an office that does CIs so she can’t sign off on that.

Thus, I arranged a trip to Syracuse to meet with a new audiologist. I’d been planning on doing that in the spring because I’m going to need to get a new processor. (Yes, it’s like a computer and next September it will no longer be supported. In real-people talk, that means I won’t be able to get it fixed or buy new parts for it.) The new audiologist was really nice. He downloaded the programs on my CI so they would be there for when I come to see him next year about the next processor. He also arranged for the new cable to be sent to me and quickly answered an e-mail I sent, so I’m really pleased.

While I was there visiting him, I asked the receptionist about seeing a new ENT because my local doctor’s office had sent a referral and I hadn’t heard anything. (You can’t make your own appointments. They get the referral and then call you.) It turns out that, although this was a big medical complex, the doctor connected to it only does CI surgery through his private practice. And no, they don’t share referrals, so my local doctor had to send one directly to his private practice. Guess what? I got turned down! He isn’t accepting new patients. Sigh, I only saw my previous ear surgeon once a year, but it really pays to already be a patient of one in case anything goes wrong.

The big problem is that there are very few surgeons who perform CI surgery. I decided not to deal with this now because the winter months are coming, but next year I’ll try to connect to a doctor in Rochester, if one of the doctors there will accept me as a patient. Why does having to go to Rochester make me sigh? I can easily do the trip to Syracuse on my own. Traveling to Rochester takes twice the amount of time. Oh, well, I’ll deal with that in 2022.

Living with the CI makes my life easier, but it’s also been vital during the pandemic. Before I depended on lip reading even more than I did on the sounds that came through my hearing aids. But you can’t lipread when someone is wearing a mask; without the CI, I would have to ask people to write down what they were saying. I’ve amazed myself and other folks by sometimes understanding what a person wearing a mask says, which would have been impossible before. I’m sure, at some point, I’ll take the CI for granted again. But right now, I am so grateful every day that it works.

Letters

Hillel Academy thanks community

To the Editor:

Hillel Academy would like to thank everyone who supported its “Falafel and Chips” fund-raiser. Supporters such as yourselves are an investment in the education of our children and help shape the future of our Jewish community. We are all stronger together.

Thank you all so much.

Hillel will be holding its first ever fund-raiser for Hanukkah: “Hanukkah-Shabbat in a Bag.”

Hillel Academy staff

For more information about the “Hanukkah-Shabbat in a Bag” fund-raiser, see the article on page 3.

JFS thanks community for donations

To the Community:

Thank you for your donations to the We Remember You program for Rosh Hashanah. The participants have greatly benefitted from your gifts, which allowed them to feel more at ease shopping for their holiday meal. They also appreciated receiving a monetary gift to purchase items they need.

One recipient shared how exciting it was to go to the grocery store to pick out their own kosher chicken, apples

and honey, and how gratifying it was to have the resources to shop. Another recipient shared how empowered they felt by being able to pay for personal items to celebrate the holiday with their family.

Your generosity makes a difference for the Jewish community, and I appreciate your enduring support.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy new year.

Rose Shea

Director, Jewish Family Service



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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.

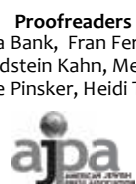
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www.thereportergroup.org

Film Fest Committee planning winter films

By Reporter staff

The Jewish International Film Fest of Greater Binghamton Committee announced the next Film Fest will take place in 2022. The names of the films and the dates

are currently being decided. Safety factors will determine whether the films will be shown virtually or in person.

"We've been working hard on this," said Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Jewish Federation of

Greater Binghamton, which sponsors the Film Fest. "While plans on which films to show when are being finalized, we didn't want people to think that the Film Fest won't be happening. We've chosen a variety of compelling films and look forward to sharing them with the community."

More information on the Film Fest can be found in future issues of *The Reporter*.

TI Sisterhood program on Nov. 9 to feature Lisa Greenwald

The Temple Israel Sisterhood will hold its opening program on Tuesday, November 9, at 7 pm, via Zoom. The guest speaker will be author Lisa Greenwald. The program is free for all members who have paid their dues for the 2021-22 year. The Sisterhood's theme this year is *l'dor v'dor* (generation to generation). Dues payments are \$25. To make reservations for the program, contact Tammy Kunsman at Temple Israel 723-7461) or titammy@stny.twcbc.com.

Greenwald is the author of the "Pink and Green" trilogy, the Friendship List series, the TBH books and five other novels for tweens and teens. Her books are part of the P.J. Library. Greenwald's undergraduate degree is from Binghamton



Lisa Greenwald
(Photo by Peter Dressel)

University and she is a graduate of The New School's M.F.A. program in writing for children. She lives in New York City with her husband, daughters and mini bernedoodle, Kibbitz. (For more information, visit her website, www.lisagreenwald.com.)

"With Lisa's facilitation, we will write and explore our most cherished recollections," said organizers of the event. "The fact that we have so many stories and memories to share is truly a blessing. Those who want to share their writing with the group will be invited to do so. Writing prompts will get our creative juices flowing and Lisa will provide tips to encourage all attendees to continue with their writing."

The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to the family of
Lois Gerber

REPORTER DEADLINES

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

ISSUE	DEADLINE
Nov. 19-Dec. 2 (Chanukah) ...	November 10
December 3-16.....	November 22*
December 17-30.....	December 8
Dec. 31, 2021-Jan. 13, 2022 ..	December 22

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

TC to host Hanukkah Film Festival

Temple Concord will partner with Menemsha Films and Chai Flicks to offer its congregation, along with the general Jewish community and friends, a different way to celebrate Hanukkah this year: a film festival. New films will be released for viewing each night of Hanukkah, which begins the night of November 28. The films will be available for viewing until December 12.

"This eight-night, 11-film package is normally \$48, but, if you enter the discount code of TCBING at checkout, your cost will be just \$36 and half of your payment will be donated to Temple Concord," said organizers of the event. "Enjoy the fun, invite others to join you to watch the films and talk with others about the films. Consider signing up for the festival for you and your family. Give the festival as a gift to family and friends."

To register, visit www.menemshafilms.com/hanukkahff2021 and enter discount code TCBING.

- ◆ Night one: Three films will be shown. "The Broken Candle" tells the story of Nira, a broken Hanukkah candle who becomes the *shamash* on the last night of Hanukkah. In "Unraveling," filmmaker Stacey Ravel Abarbanel delves into the memory, history and contemporary life in Columbus, NM, asking if Pancho Villa tried to kill her grandfather in the 1916 raid during the Mexican Revolution. "Xueta Island" explores the legacy of the Chuetas on Majorca, believed to be descendants of the island's Inquisition-era Jewish population.
- ◆ Night two: "Kiss Me Kosher" has been called "a subversive love story between clashing cultures and families when two generations of Israeli women fall for a German woman See "Film" on page 11

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Hillel Academy to hold "Hanukkah-Shabbat in a Bag" fund-raiser

Hillel Academy will hold its first ever "Hanukkah-Shabbat in a Bag" fund-raiser. The bag will include four *sufganiyot* (doughnuts), five latkes, one challah and apple sauce for dipping. All items will be kosher and prepared in the Temple Israel kitchen under the supervision of Rabbi Moshe Shmaryahu. The cost is \$25 per bag.

The deadline to order is Tuesday, November 30. The bags can be picked up at Hillel Academy, 4737 Deerfield Pl., Vestal, on Friday, December 3, from 11 am-2 pm. Orders may be made by e-mailing frontoffice@hillelacademyofbc.org or calling the main number at 723-7461.

At right: Rabbi Moshe Shmaryahu made falafels for Hillel Academy's last fund-raiser, which was held on October 29.



BD 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."

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton would like to thank the following people who made Campaign calls

- Marilyn Bell, Campaign Chair
- Sima Auerbach
- Bonnie Brown
- Rabbi Geoffrey Brown
- Brendan Byrnes
- Mark Epstein
- Brian Freedman
- Randy Friedman
- Gerry Hubal
- Rabbi Benny Kellman
- Neisen Luks
- Arieh Ullmann
- Mark Walker
- Susan Walker
- Michael Wright
- Marcelene Yonaty

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton would also like to thank the following people who wrote thank you notes

- Nancy Dorfman
- Maxine Kaplan
- Lee Schechter
- Rose Shapiro-Rouse
- Jeff Shapiro

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Off the Shelf

Two Israeli authors

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

There is a debate about whether reviewers should discuss an author's nationality when writing about their work. When reviewing novels and memoirs about Soviet Jewish immigrants to the U.S., it makes sense to compare and contrast their experiences, especially if they came to this country at different ages. I've reviewed three British Jewish authors' novels in one column, but the works were so different, it wasn't possible to talk about them in terms of the authors' nationality. I thought about this when deciding to review two new works of fiction by Israeli authors: "Jerusalem Beach: Stories" by Iddo Gefen (Astra House) and "More Than I Love My Life" by David Grossman (Alfred A. Knopf). Yes, they both contain material that is particularly relevant to Israeli life, including mandatory army service and the traveling that many Israelis do after the army. However, the works differ due to the age of the authors: while Gefen mostly writes about younger Israelis, Grossman's work focuses on an event that occurred decades earlier.

The stories in "Jerusalem Beach," which is Gefen's first publication, mixes reality and fantasy. Some stories are completely realistic. For example, his most complex work, "The Geriatric Platoon," looks at three generations of a family. The narrator's elderly grandfather has decided to re-enlist after the death of his wife. The story is told through the eyes of the grandson, Yuli, except for several e-mails from his mother, whom Yuli has refused to speak to since she left his father. What is left unspoken by the characters is as important as what they actually say. What's impressive is that Gefen's writing allows readers to fill in those blanks.

Another realistic story is the beautiful, but sad, "The Jerusalem Beach." An elderly man brings his wife on one last visit to Je-

rusalem before she enters a nursing home because her increasing dementia makes it impossible for her to remain at home. His attempt to meet his wife where she is mentally made for moving reading. "Flies and Porcupines" is a wonderful, but sad, look at the reality of life in Israel - particularly army service - that also offers a touch of fantasy. To say more would spoil the surprises, but this thought-provoking work is very impressive.

Some stories qualify as fantasy or science fiction, but also offer commentary on Israeli life. In "The Girl Who Lived Near the Sun," the narrator is taking time off to travel after his army service, but, rather than traveling across the Earth, he visits different planets in our solar system. A woman he chats up at a party invites him to stop by her own personal planet if he is ever in the area. Although he doesn't even know her name, he takes her up on her offer. Things do not go as expected, something that forces him to face what he's actually doing with his life. Hiding from the world after army service is a theme in several other stories, including "Three Hours from Berlin," which takes the idea of presenting an idealized version of your life on social media to an extreme.

Not all the stories in "Jerusalem Beach" are a complete success, but they do prove Gefen is a talent to watch. Even his less interesting tales offer readers something to think about. His biography notes that his first novel will also be published in the U.S. I look forward to reading it.

While Gefen is just beginning his career as a writer, Grossman has been publishing for decades. His novels have been translated into more than 40 languages and he has won numerous awards, including the Man Booker International Prize. "More Than I Love My Life" is narrated by 39-year-old Gili, whose life has been greatly affected by

the actions of her grandmother, Vera, and her mother, Nina. The family connections are complex: Gili's father, Rafael, fell in love with Nina when he was 15. This was just after his mother had passed away. Then Rafael's father, Tuvia, married Vera. Rafael pursued Nina even after she ran away from the *kibbutz* where they all lived. Although he found her and eventually convinced her to marry him, Nina left him and her daughter when Gili was 3-years-old.

Now the extended family has gathered for Vera's 90th birthday, an event even Nina attends. She has been alienated from her mother for decades, even before they moved from their native Croatia to Israel. The three women and Rafael decide to visit the island near Croatia where Vera was imprisoned and tortured for three years during the Soviet regime after World War II. That was just after Vera lost her beloved first husband and when Nina

was 6 years old. Since Rafael was once a filmmaker and Gili still works in film, they decide to film the trip, focusing on Vera's descriptions of what occurred during that time. Gili hopes learning more about Vera will also explain Nina's life and her often self-destructive behavior.

"More Than I Love My Life" is a complex and fascinating novel. It explores parent/child relationships and how they change or remain stagnate over the decades, with one character noting that people become mature "when they accept that their parents have a right to their own psychology." But the most chilling and important discussion focuses on a decision Vera made, one that challenges readers and makes them wonder what they would have done under similar circumstances. That decision reverberates through the generations, even as the women seek to make peace with each other and themselves.

Veterans. Continued from page 2

on both sides of the wheelchair convoy. Active-duty soldiers from Massachusetts' Fort Devens, joined by ordinary travelers, lined the right and left sides of the veterans' wheelchair route. Loud and sustained applause was accompanied by gentle pats on the back and respectful handshakes. A young soldier grasped Shep's forearm, looked him in the eye and said, "Thank you for my freedom."

In Washington, the veterans and their guardians visited a number of memorial sites. The vets viewed the sculpture of soldiers raising the U.S. flag on Mount Suribachi amidst the fierce fighting at Iwo Jima. Located between the Washington and Lincoln monuments, the National World War II Memorial includes 56 granite pillars, one for each state and territory as well as the District of Columbia. At the Korean War Veterans Memorial, 19 large statues, depicting a squad on patrol, stand as testament to the dangerous mission of soldiers in harm's way. In absolute quiet and reverential solemnity, the New England Honor Flight veterans witnessed the ritual changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Back at Thurgood Marshall Airport after a long day, the veterans sat near the boarding gate waiting for the flight back to Boston. Suddenly, swing music, the soundtrack of their youth, came through the overhead speakers, filling the area with its infectious

beat. An attractive woman approached a 90-year old, one of the younger and spryer veterans. She held out her hand and he took it, standing up to dance with her. At first, his movements were somewhat stiff, but he trumped the calendar as they jitterbugged to the Andrews Sisters' rendition of the "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy of Company B." They made quite a couple and every veteran kept time with them. Travelers scurrying in the corridor stopped in their tracks to join the lively gathering in this impromptu recreation of a World War II canteen.

About 11 pm, the Honor Flight landed in Boston. After the final roll call at the State Police Headquarters, the veterans were mustered out and headed home. Back in Peabody at around 12:30 am, Shep passed through his doorway, to which a *mezuzah* was affixed. My Dad was asleep within an hour.

Unlike World War II veterans who, appropriately, received a warm welcome home and generous benefits, too many veterans of America's more recent wars have been met with shameful indifference, neglect and even scorn. On November 11, thank veterans of all faiths for their service.

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.

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Chabad to hold Mega Challah Bake on Nov. 11

Chabad Center will hold a Mega Challah Bake, during which hundreds of students and community members will join in mixing, kneading and shaping challahs. The Mega Challah Baking event will be held on Thursday, November 11, at 7 pm, in the Mandela Room at Binghamton University. The fee is \$3. Each participant will receive a swag

bag. Reservations can be made at www.JewishBU.com/Challah. Local community sponsors include Beth David Sisterhood, Temple Concord Sisterhood, Temple Israel Sisterhood and the Women's League for Chabad.

"The Mega Challah Bake is a fun and easy celebration of Jewish heritage. In our case, we will be uniting our campus

and local communities through campus and local Jewish organizations co-sponsoring, and lots and lots of people coming out to enjoy this activity together," explained Goldie Ohana, coordinator. "It's time for us to rise and shine again after COVID and enjoy our spectacular community. Please do come masked and only if you are vaccinated, please."

Spotlight

Rosenberg writes "Scribbles, Sorrows, and Russet Leather Boots: The Life of Louisa May Alcott"

By Rabbi Rachel Esserman

Liz Rosenberg feels as if she's been friends with two of her favorite authors for more than 50 years. To further that relationship, she's published middle-grade biographies of both, first "House of Dreams: The Life of L. M. Montgomery" (best known for the "Anne of Green Gables" books) and then this year "Scribbles, Sorrows, and Russet Leather Boots: The Life of Louisa May Alcott." Both works have received praise, with her latest book being called "a grand tale for present fans and future ones, too" by Kirkus Reviews.

What she discovered when researching Alcott's life has made Rosenberg think even more highly of the author. "Louisa May Alcott has a grip on so many readers, and

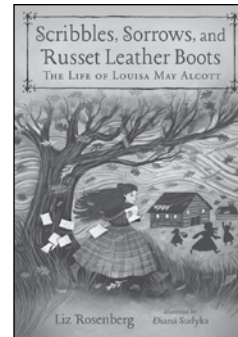
I think it's because she not only was ahead of her time, she's still ahead of ours!" Rosenberg said in an e-mail interview. "She truly believed in things like full equality among all the races, between rich and poor, men and women. Her convictions were, and are, so wild and so deep – and beyond that she's a wonderful writer."

It is Alcott's writing that underlies the love many readers feel for her books, particularly "Little Women," the first work Alcott wrote for younger readers. "She creates these unforgettable vivid scenes – Amy throwing Jo's book into the fire; carrying their own breakfast to the poor German family; the famous death scene," Rosenberg said. "That kind of genius stays with you, and grows with you. And that's the other thing – she wrote the kind of book for children that stays with you for a lifetime."

Her plan when writing these works is to remain as objective as possible. "I tried my best to keep my own theories and opinions about the Alcott family standing in the wings – visible, I think, but not center stage," she said. "In writing biography, it's best I believe to let the characters' words and actions speak for themselves. The biographer is a detective. You put the facts together as best you can and present them as objectively as you can to the reader. You're not supposed to be judge and jury. But most of all, I think biography is



Liz Rosenberg
(photo by Lily Bosnick)



The cover of Liz Rosenberg's new biography (Photo courtesy of Candlewick Press)

the story-telling of another person's life. If you don't shape it into an interesting story, then the biography's not worth reading. And I love reading biography."

Rosenberg has some personal favorites among Alcott's works: "Little Women," "Jo's Boys" and three of her essays, "How I Went out to Service," "Transcendental Wild Oats" and "Hospital Sketches." Rosenberg noted that "Hospital Sketches" was the "first full reportage of Civil War hospital life ever to reach readers." The essays so impressed her that her next project will be a collection of some of Alcott's essays.

But what she enjoyed most about working on these biographies was that she was able to spend time with the authors she loves. "I've written about two of my all-time favorite children's book authors, and, of course, I've also loved them for more than 50 years now," Rosenberg noted. "That's a long friendship. It's a peekaboo friendship that you have with your favorite writers, musicians, athletes, what-have-you. So writing biography is a wonderful way of cheating – you get to open the door and become acquainted with the real person. With luck, you only love them more the better you get to know them. Louisa was definitely like that. The more I knew of her, the more admirable and funny and lovable and surprising she became."

NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

Israel, UAE sign agreement to partner on mission to moon in 2024

Israel and the United Arab Emirates signed an agreement on Oct. 20 to cooperate on space exploration – specifically, on the "Beresheet 2" mission to the moon scheduled to launch in 2024. "Beresheet 2" plans to become the first mission to execute a double landing on the moon, reported i24 News, and is Israel's second attempt to land on the moon after the first mission crashed on the moon's surface in April 2019. The upcoming mission will carry a satellite to determine the exact time for the new moon, as both Jews and Muslims use lunar-based calendars.

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This information is updated as of October 31, 2021. We acknowledge contributions from several anonymous donors and sincerely apologize if we have accidentally omitted anyone or made other errors.



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On the Jewish food scene Turkey and a Jewish Thanksgiving

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

I've never been a big fan of turkey. Yes, I've eaten it at Thanksgiving and on other occasions, but my preference is for dark meat, rather than white. White meat is generally too dry for me, so I need a sauce or condiments to swallow it easily. That's why turkey is one of the rare foods I eat mixed with other food. Normally, I eat each item on my plate separately (and have been teased for doing so). One exception is turkey: I usually eat it with mashed potatoes and gravy, or stuffing and gravy. (The latter sometimes give me heartburn, but I can deal with that once or twice a year.)

Most people take for granted that turkey is kosher. Wait, you ask, there's a question about that? Yes, there is, or at least, there was. The problem is that unlike mammals (who have to have cloven hooves and chew their cud), the Torah lists the birds that we are permitted to eat, rather than giving the

characteristics that make them kosher. Turkey is not listed in the Bible because it was originally found only in the Western Hemisphere. It, therefore, would have been unknown not only in biblical times, but when the rabbis in the Talmud were discussing *kashrut*. The ancient rabbis did try to discover the underlying rules that make birds kosher, but that wasn't always a help when rabbis were faced with new species.

Before you worry about what you're going to eat this Thanksgiving, note that the debate about turkey is long over and turkey is accepted as kosher by almost all Jews. (I did find one exception in my research, but that seems to be limited to the descendants of one specific rabbi's family.) However, there also is a debate about how Jews came to accept turkey as kosher. One school of thought suggests that Jews began eating turkey from the time they arrived in the Western Hemisphere

and, since they were already eating it, it became acceptable because it was now the tradition. Another school of thought believes that Jews began eating turkey once it became popular in Europe and that there was little debate about whether it was kosher. Both sides seem to agree that turkey was called Indian chicken and, since chicken was OK to eat, turkey was OK to eat.

Vegetarians who want to celebrate Thanksgiving without eating turkey can follow the path of the family that doesn't consider turkey kosher: they have a turkey made of chocolate on the table. Although that family's members do eat chicken for their meal, there are many other options that would suit just fine. There is really no requirement to eat turkey or any meat. The most important thing is remembering the true meaning of the holiday: being thankful and grateful for the food that appears on our table.

Prepare for Hanukkah

Make this year's Hanukkah the best ever with PJ Library

AGAWAM, MA - This year, Hanukkah, the holiday of lights, runs from the night of November 28 through Monday, December 6. PJ Library, a leader in providing ways for families to connect with Jewish life, offers a wealth of free resources for the holiday, including kid-friendly Hanukkah stories, printable recipes and activity ideas, and book lists, as well as two new story-based podcasts that can help kids learn more about the traditions behind the Festival of Lights.

PJ Library is a program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, which delivers more than 680,000 free Jewish storybooks to kids around the world each month (visit pjlibrary.org). Jewish families of all backgrounds, including interfaith households, and at all levels of Jewish knowledge and observance, may sign up every child in their home for a free subscription to receive a new, age-specific book each month. What could be a better Hanukkah gift than to receive an illustrated book arriving in the mailbox each month? PJ Library's team of experts and educators curate the book list to provide children's stories that celebrate Jewish values, traditions and culture to engage all Jewish families.

Beyond the books, PJ Library's experts have updated their Hanukkah Hub (<https://pjlibrary.org/hanukkah>), which offers child-friendly versions of the Hanukkah story along with myriad craft ideas, holiday recipes, and printables. For example, there are "10 Easy (and Kid-Approved) Hanukkah Recipes," "The Ultimate List of Books about Hanukkah" or "The Easy Hanukkah Guide: Recipes, Gifts and Activities For Each Night."

New for 2021 are the two new PJ Library Presents podcasts for kids (<https://pjlibrary.org/podcast>): "Afternoons with Mimi" and "Beyond the Bookcase." The November episodes

will be perfect Hanukkah listening (on your favorite podcast platform): Grandma Mimi prepares a plate of *sufganiyot* and tells her grandchild the story of Judah Maccabee. Then, on "Beyond the Bookcase," follow Miri and Micah as they are transported back to Masha! to help Jack Be Nimble find the courage to jump over a *hanukkiyah* full of candles. When they launched, the two new story-based audio series climbed to the top 10 of Apple's podcasts for kids.

Long called a valuable resource for interfaith families, PJ Library also offers guidance this year, including its list of "Hanukkah Books for Interfaith Families." They are co-presenting two webinars with 18Doors, an organization dedicated to empowering interfaith families and individuals to engage in Jewish life and make educated Jewish choices: What to Do in December: A Live Q&A for Grandparents Balancing Hanukkah & Christmas (<https://18doors.org/event/national-2021-11-what-to-do-in-december-a-live-qa-for-grandparents-balancing-hanukkah-and-christmas/>) and What to Do in December: A Live Q&A for Parents Balancing Hanukkah & Christmas (<https://18doors.org/event/national-2021-12-what-to-do-in-december-a-live-qa-for-parents-balancing-hanukkah-and-christmas/>).

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Deadline: November 11 (November 19 issue)

Once again this year, *The Reporter* is inviting its readers and local organizations to extend Chanukah greetings to the community by purchasing a Chanukah greeting ad, which will appear in our November 19 issue (Deadline: November 11). 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 & F), the larger one is \$38 (styles A, C & 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 607-725-4110; or e-mail advertising@thereporter.com. Checks can be made payable to The Reporter and sent to: The Reporter, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850.

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Style A - \$38
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Warm Chanukah wishes to you and your family!

Your Name(s)

Style E - \$20
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HAPPY CHANUKAH!

YOUR NAME(S)

Happy Chanukah!



3⁵⁹ lb.
Empire Kasher
Whole
Frozen Turkey 



3⁹⁹ lb.
Empire Kasher
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8⁹⁹
with AdvantEdge Card
Meal Mart
Ground Beef
16 oz. or 
16 oz. Beef For Stew \$9.99



13⁹⁹ lb.
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6⁷⁹
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PICS
Cold Smoked
Atlantic Salmon
4 oz.
All Varieties 



3⁴⁹ lb.
Empire Kasher
Roasting Chicken
2 Lb. Frozen Boneless
Chicken Breasts
\$16.99 (with
AdvantEdge Card) 



13⁹⁹
with AdvantEdge Card
Meal Mart
Stuffed Cabbage
39 oz. or
33 oz. Meatballs in Marinara
Sauce \$12.99 



5/\$5
with AdvantEdge Card
Streit's
Egg Noodles
12 oz. • Select Varieties or
Bows 8 oz. 



2⁴⁹
with AdvantEdge Card
Breakstone's
Whipped Butter
8 oz. Tub
Salted 



2/\$4
with AdvantEdge Card
Osem
Toasted Couscous
8.8 oz. or
Manischewitz Broth 
All Varieties of Chicken,
Beef or Vegetable 17 oz.



2/\$5
with AdvantEdge Card
Gefen
Whole Chestnuts
5.2 oz.
Roasted & Peeled 



4/\$1
with AdvantEdge Card
Streit's
Chocolate Coins
.5 oz. Bag
Dark or Milk Chocolate 



2/\$4
with AdvantEdge Card
Farmers
Horseradish
8.5 oz.
White 



3⁹⁹
with AdvantEdge Card
Osem
Chicken
Consomme
14.1 oz. 



2/\$4
with AdvantEdge Card
Elite
Chocolate Bars
3.5 oz. • Milk Chocolate or
Bittersweet 



85¢
with AdvantEdge Card
Streit's
Chanukah Candles
44 Ct.



2/\$7
with AdvantEdge Card
Golden
Blintzes
6 Pack
13 oz.
Select Varieties 



2/\$4
with AdvantEdge Card
Lipton Kasher
Soup Secrets
Noodle Soup Mix
4.09 oz. 



5/\$3
with AdvantEdge Card
Kedem
Tea Biscuits
4.2 oz.
Select Varieties
Where Available 



Celebrating the Festival of Lights



2/\$6
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Golden
Pancakes
10.6 oz.
Select Varieties 



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PICS
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All Varieties 




4/\$5
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or Vegetable 




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U.S. #1 • 2 1/4" Minimum
All Varieties




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-1⁰⁰ Coupon Savings
2/\$6
with AdvantEdge Card & Coupon Below
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25.4 oz. • Select Varieties 

\$1 off 2
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Sparkling Juice
25.4 oz. • Select Varieties 



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Weekly Parasha

Toldot, Genesis 25:19-28:9

A bright future requires short-term sacrifice

RABBI ZEV SILBER, BETH DAVID SYNAGOGUE

Isaac is aging and he wants to bless his elder son, Esau, prior to his death. Rebecca wants the blessing to go to the younger son, Jacob, and she orders him to masquerade as Esau and take the blessing.

What is going on here? Why does Rebecca assume that Isaac will not bless Jacob, as well? Even if this were the case, how can Rebecca perpetrate such a fraud? Is this simply a case of favoritism? Isaac loves Esau and Rebecca loves Jacob? Or, is there something deeper going on here?

Let us turn back to the beginning of the *parasha*. After 20 years of marriage, Isaac and Rebecca want children and they pray to God. God answers Isaac's prayer and Rebecca becomes pregnant. It's a difficult pregnancy and Rebecca wonders why, after all these years of waiting, does she have to suffer so much? She seeks an answer from God who tells her that there are twins who will become two nations. One nation will be stronger than the other, and the elder will be subservient to the younger.

Does she tell Isaac about her problem and her prophecy? Nachmonides (1194-1270) suggests that she did not. He offers several possible reasons for her not sharing. She didn't ask his permission to seek God's advice, and she didn't want to tell him that she went without his consent. Alternatively, she thought that she didn't need to tell Isaac because he certainly knew – he was a great prophet!

Returning to the story of the blessing – when Isaac wants to See “Future” on page 11

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.twcbb.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, November 6, Shacharit services will be held at 9:30 am via Zoom and in-person (masks are required). The Torah portion is Genesis 25:19-28:29 and the haftarah is Malachi 1:1-2:7. At 7 pm, there will be Havdalah services via Zoom.

On Sunday, November 7, there will be Torah study. Contact the office for more information.

On Tuesday, November 9, at 7 pm, on Zoom, there will be the Sisterhood Paid-Up event, “Our Memories Are Blessings.”

On Wednesday, October 10, at 10 am, there will be a Ritual Committee meeting.

On Saturday, November 13, 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 Hosea 12:13-14:10. At 6 pm, there will be Havdalah services via Zoom.

On Sunday, November 14, at 10:30 am, on Zoom, there will be an adult education Global Day of Jewish Learning with Rabbis Geoffrey Brown, Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell and Zev Silber (see page 1 for more information).

Norwich Jewish Center

Orientation: Inclusive
Rabbi: David Regenspan
Address: 72 South Broad St., Norwich, NY 13815
Contact: Guilija 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 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.

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.

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.

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 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.

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 Rachel Chein, Education
E-mail: zchein@Jewishbu.com, rchein@Jewishbu.com
Rabbi Levi and Hadasa Slonim, Downtown and Development
Chabad Downtown Center: 60 Henry St., Binghamton
E-mail: lslonim@Jewishbu.com, hslonim@Jewishbu.com
Rabbi Yisroel and Goldie Ohana, Programming
E-mail: yohana@Jewishbu.com, gohana@Jewishbu.com
Regular service times: Daily 7:30 am, Friday evening 6 pm, Shabbat morning 9:30 am, Maariv and Havdalah one hour after candle-lighting time, Sundays 9:30 am.
To join the mailing list, for up-to-date information on adult education offerings or to arrange for a private tutorial, for details concerning the Judaica shop and resource center, or for assistance through the Piaker Free Loan Society or Raff Maasim Tovim Foundation, call Chabad's office at 797-0015.
Chabad will be holding pre-Shabbat virtual programs. For more information, visit www.JewishBU.com/S2020Partnership.

Temple Beth-El of 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, November 5, light candles before 5:34 pm
Saturday, November 6, Shabbat ends 6:33 pm
Friday, November 12, light candles before 4:27 pm
Saturday, November 13, Shabbat ends 5:26 pm
Friday, November 19, light candles before 4:21 pm
Saturday, November 20, Shabbat ends 5:21 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., 7:30 pm; Sat., 10:35 am, when religious school is in session.
Hebrew school: Hebrew school meets at 4:15 pm and 5:15 pm on Tues. and Thurs. during the school year unless otherwise noted.
Some services and programs are online only.

Friday, November 5; from 5-7:30 pm, First Friday at the Kilmer Mansion featuring the art of Bob Alan Bricks and 14 local artists from the Fine Arts Society of the Southern Tier; Planet Smith will play from 5:30-6:30 pm.

Friday, November 5: 7:30 pm, Shabbat services commemorating Kristallnacht 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, November 6: 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.

Sunday, November 7: 10 am-2 pm, Sisterhood Rummage Sale – buy one of anything and get one item free.

Tuesday, November 9: 6:30 pm, Executive Board meeting; 7:30 pm, General Board meeting, followed by Kristallnacht commemoration (see article on page 1).

Thursday, November 11: No Hebrew school.
Friday, November 12: 7:30 pm, Shabbat services honoring veterans with Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell. 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, November 13: 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.

Sunday, November 14: 10 am, Global Day of Jewish Learning on Zoom, with Rabbis Barbara Goldman-Wartell, Geoffrey Brown, Zev Silber. To view on Zoom, visit <https://bit.ly/3n7SRhG>, meeting ID 955 9512 7469 and passcode 780820 (see more information on page 1).

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.

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.

Future. Continued from page 10

bles Esau, she realizes that Isaac is not aware of the prophecy for how can he bless Esau over Jacob when God himself has said that the younger will be the dominant one. Can she tell him now – 60 years later – of this prophecy that she has concealed from him all these years? Perhaps she was too embarrassed. Or, perhaps she reasoned that if God told her the prophecy and didn't reveal it to Isaac, He has His reasons, and she may not share her knowledge with her husband.

But, Rebecca says to herself, I cannot let Isaac bless Esau. If the blessing is one of personal destiny and Esau will be blessed with leadership and prosperity, this goes against God's wishes. If the blessing is one of prayer that Esau merits being the one to fulfill the Abrahamic promise, this would be even worse. What is she to do? There must be a reason that God revealed His plan to her: she must act and not just leave the future to chance.

Rebecca chooses to act against everything that Abraham and Isaac have taught her, against her own deeply held beliefs and values, and insists that her son do the same, no matter how immoral or unethical it seems. The future of the Jewish people is in her hands and rides on her ability to act successfully. If Esau leads the chosen people, it will be catastrophic. Jacob must act against his very nature and deceive his father, as his older brother has done all these years, in order to merit the blessings of Abraham and the blessing of leadership.

Rebecca must choose to act and she has the advantage of knowing God's desire. Act she must, even though there are great personal risks and dangers. If the plan fails and her beloved husband, Isaac, discovers the fraud, he may be

angry with her forever. And what will he do to Jacob? Her reputation as a righteous woman, following the path of Abraham to act justly and kindly, may be destroyed, and others will accuse her of being a disciple of her brother Laban, the deceiver, rather than the disciple of Abraham. There is so much at stake, but she chooses to act in the way that God, apparently, wants her to. And the consequences were even greater than even she realized. It is doubtful if she ever saw her beloved son, Jacob, again for the rest of her life.

When we are faced with dilemmas, especially ones with moral and ethical consequences, what do we do? In ancient times, Jews went to the prophet or to the high priest to seek advice. Having a direct line to God is certainly helpful in resolving our queries and concerns.

But we have no prophets! Chasidic Jews will ask the Rebbe, for they believe that he possesses divine inspiration, which we don't have. Others will approach their teacher or a rabbi, for their knowledge of Torah may offer a level of human insight, which we lack. Others will seek advice of parents – isn't it wonderful if and when our children realize that we do know something – family members or others whom they respect because of their life experiences and their objectivity. I will not suggest which is the best model.

One of the most important components of any consultation is to be able to look at the issue at hand in a broad, rather than narrow, manner. We must ask, and decide, based on looking at the greater picture and not just what is good at the moment. That is essential for any good decision.

A community must do the same. Faced with a shrinking and aging Jewish community, diminished assets because of a reduction in the number of its members, or due to a global pandemic and the subsequent economic slowdown, uncertainty regarding the timing and strength of recovery, the prudent, short-term reaction would be to reduce our charitable giving in order to preserve our own personal fiscal position. Many of us have eliminated much discretionary spending, delayed travel and vacations, and cut back on non-essential expenditures. Our personal and communal contributions to local agencies, we may reason, must also be curtailed or eliminated.

Looking at the broader picture, however, should lead us to an opposite conclusion. During these difficult times, our schools and synagogues, temples and community centers face even greater needs, and are threatened by the possibility that they will no longer be able to function and survive. The demise of even one of our excellent and essential institutions will be disastrous for the long-range viability and vibrancy of our community.

Considering the long-term implications, now is the time to increase, rather than decrease, our levels of support. If we wish to survive as a community, the visionary will risk the short-term advantages in order to assure that our community remains intact and attractive to future generations.

It is my hope and prayer that each of us, and our community leadership, is able to see the bright future, rather than dwell on the difficult present. Our reward for this forward thinking will be far-reaching and ever lasting.

Film. Continued from page 3

and a Palestinian man.”

◆ Night three: Two films are featured. “The Tattooed Torah” tells the story of how a Torah from Czechoslovakia came to America. The film is narrated by Ed Asner and illustrated by Martin Lemelman, who spoke at Temple Concord twice about his graphic novels. “Mish Mish” explores the Egyptian animated *Menemsha Films and Chai Films* of the Frenkel brothers. Mish-Mish Effendi was called the Mickey Mouse of the entire region, and the film gives a glimpse into an Arab-Jewish golden age from the past.



Poster for the Hanukkah Film Festival (Photo courtesy of Menemsha Films and Chai Films)

◆ Night four: “Latter Day Jew” tells the story of H. Alan Scott: a gay, former Mormon, a Jew by choice, a cancer survivor, writer-comedian and his spiritual path preparing for his bar mitzvah at age 35.

◆ Night five: “Leona” tells the story of a young Jewish woman from Mexico City torn between her family and her forbidden love. The film shows the interpersonal conflicts she faces as she struggles to find her independent right path.

◆ Night six: “The Crossing” follows 10-year-old Gerda and her brother, Otto, who follow their parents' path in the Norwegian resistance during World War II. After their parents are arrested, they find two Jewish children hiding in their basement. They decide to help the children cross the border to neutral Sweden to be reunited with their parents.

◆ Night seven: “A Starry Sky Above The Roman Ghetto” focuses on a group of young people who go on a trek to unravel the mystery behind an old photograph they find. Their journey helps them understand the history of Rome's Jewish ghetto during World War II.

◆ Night eight: “Here We Are” is about a father, Aharon, and his autistic son, Uri. After raising Uri, some think it's time for him to live in a specialized home. On the way to the home, father and son run away together.

“Add a new dimension to your celebration of Hanukkah this year with the Hanukkah Film Festival, and support our congregation at the same time,” organizers said. “We hope these Hanukkah films wets everyone's appetite for the Jewish International Film Fest of Greater Binghamton Committee upcoming season.”

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Financial Planning

Being 55-plus has its advantages

(NAPSI) – The 55-plus crowd is more active than ever, continuing to stay in the workforce longer, growing in numbers – to the tune of 73 million and counting – and exerting an even greater economic impact. In fact, those 55 and older are responsible for over half of U.S. consumer spending, according to AARP, contributing to the huge upsurge in online spending during the pandemic.

If you are one of these lucky ones – as in 55 or older – you may not realize that you are actually the envy of many. People in this age group can save thousands of dollars a year on everyday goods and services, so make sure you know about all of the discounts available to you.

Here are four “55 and over” discounts to be on the lookout for that you might not know about, according to T-Mobile:

1. Auto insurance: Insurance companies sometimes offer discounts for good drivers over a certain age.
2. Travel: It's almost time to travel again, so be sure to check for age-related discounts with major airlines, hotel chains and rental car companies.
3. Restaurants: Over 55? Ask about special days, nights or menu items at your favorite fast-food or fancy restaurant – even if it's takeout.
4. Wireless plans: Make sure that you are on a discounted 55-plus plan. Given that 55-plus consumers are spending 30 percent more time on mobile devices than they did a year ago, having an affordable wireless plan that provides unlimited text, talk and data with additional perks is one way to save money each month.

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Off the Shelf

Do movies matter?

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

Are motion pictures merely entertainment, or are they worthy of serious, academic study? It's clear that Helene Meyers believes that movies have made an important contribution to American culture: she explores the way Jewish films have influenced Jews and Gentiles in "Movie-Made Jews: An American Tradition" (Rutgers University Press). Two movie-making brothers, Herman and Joe Mankiewicz, however, might greatly disagree with her about the importance of films, although they would be less likely to speak about the portrayal of Jews in movies since few of the ones they made featured Jewish characters. Their lives and films are discussed in "Competing with Idiots: Herman and Joe Mankiewicz, a dual portrait" (Alfred A. Knopf).

Meyers notes that "most critics agree that movies matter because representation matters. Put another way, what we watch helps us to form our images of ourselves, others and the world. But that doesn't mean that what we watch inevitably determines who we are or how we see the world or what kind of Jew we become." She suggests that life can be influenced by art; her writing includes not only viewers and critics' reactions, but those of actors, writers and directors who participated in making the films.

Rather than writing about the films in chronological order, Meyers focuses on themes, for example, "Looking at Antisemitism and Jews," "Looking at the Shoah from a Distance," "Focusing on Assimilation and Its Discontents," "Assertively Jewish Onscreen," "Queering the Jewish Gaze," "Cinematic Alliances" and "Epilogue: Cinematic Continuity and Change through a Feminist Lens." The films range from the 1947 "Gentleman's Agreement" to the 2018 "RBG." She includes well-known films such as "The Way We Were," "Crossing Delancey" and "Crimes and Misdemeanors," but

also looks at a variety of independent films and documentaries. ("Annie Hall," which won five Academy awards, including best picture in 1978, is not discussed, which came as a surprise.)

Meyers offers a discussion about what makes a film Jewish: is a Jewish character enough, or do there have to be Jewish themes? Do Jewish rituals need to be shown? Are films about assimilated Jews really Jewish films? Some filmmakers see their films as universal, even if the characters are Jewish, while others aim to portray the Jewish community, even if they feel anyone can enjoy the film. One filmmaker, whose film was said to have little Jewish content, disagreed, asking if his characters had to wear *kippot* before his movie would be called a Jewish one. On the other hand, some films that have offered more traditional looks at Jewish life and characters have been criticized for dealing in stereotypes.

The most interesting parts of "Movie-Made Jews" focus on behind-the-scenes discussions. For example, Jewish groups have argued about whether showing antisemitism in movies would cause more antisemitism. Those making these films struggled with producers and film studios that wanted either less specific Jewish content or to make the characters seem less Jewish. The most intriguing discussion noted that while a Jewish film might appeal to all audiences, it may also offer something extra to Jews who could decipher actions, scenery and sayings that only a Jewish audience can know.

Readers should note that "Movie-Made Jews" is a work of criticism. The author gives away the ending of the films in order to discuss them in full detail. She also offers her personal thoughts about the films, something with which not everyone will agree. Those with a serious interest in film will definitely want to add this book to their shelves. Other readers may also find themselves intrigued to learn more about their favorite films, or enjoy reading about films with which they are not familiar.

While "Movie-Made Jews" is an academic work, "Competing with Idiots" is a personal biography. The author is the

grandson of Herman Mankiewicz (who died before he was born) and the grandnephew of Joe. Davis did not know his great-uncle well growing up and lived with the legend of Herman's greatness, while Joe's work was downplayed as less important. Yet, the filmography of each brother is impressive. Herman is best known for the screenplays he wrote: "The Wizard of Oz," "Dinner at Eight," "The Pride of the Yankees," "Citizen Kane" (he is listed as co-writer, though some say he wrote the complete script) and more than 80 other films. Joe, 11 years younger than his brother, wrote and directed "Letters to Three Wives" and "All About Eve," in addition to writing and directing a wide variety of films, including "Sleuth" in 1972, which was his last film.

Although the joint biography does talk about the brothers' films, the main focus of the work is their personal lives, especially their relationship to their father, Franz, and their families. Neither brother had a good relationship with Franz, an immigrant who expected them to do something different with their lives. Although it seems Franz was proud of them, his interest in the movies was so little that he would leave the theater after reading his sons' names on the screen. Unfortunately, for Herman, he shared some of his father's feelings about movies: He thought they didn't matter and always expected to leave Hollywood and become a playwright (which he considered a more acceptable profession). Since he was unable to do that, he never felt satisfied

with his accomplishments. Herman's many demons – including alcohol and gambling – and his inability to handle money meant that he was always borrowing cash from his family and not paying it back.

Joe, on the other hand, seemed to have enjoyed movie making and worked his way from writer to director so he would have more control over his films. He was known for his ability to work with actresses to get the best performance possible out of them (although he was also known to have affairs with some of them). His personal life was far more difficult than Herman's: he had several wives to Herman's one, and one of them died by suicide. Herman's children also had a far closer relationship to their father than did most of Joe's.

Readers hoping for an in-depth critical discussion of the Mankiewicz brothers' films won't find it here, although they will learn details of what occurred behind the scenes. While Davis claims that he started this work to learn more about the brothers, particularly his uncle, his prejudice shows: although he notes his grandmother's stories do seem to whitewash Herman's behavior, for example, downplaying the family's financial problems and Herman's arrest for drunk driving, he also seems to excuse that behavior. His portrayal of Joe is more complete, showing him warts and all. However, the biography serves as both an informative portrait of early Hollywood and the assimilation of second generation Jewish immigrants into American life.

NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

NY to divest from Unilever over Ben & Jerry's Israel boycott

New York state has announced that it is pulling \$111 million in investments from Unilever, the parent company of Ben & Jerry's, over the ice cream makers decision to boycott Israeli settlements earlier this year. The decision was announced by State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli, who manages the \$263 million state Common Retirement Fund. DiNapoli said that Ben & Jerry's decision to stop selling ice cream in Israeli settlements violated his office's policy against the boycott, divestment and sanction movement against Israel. "After a thorough review, the New York State Common Retirement Fund will divest its equity holdings in Unilever PLC. Our review of the activities of the company, and its subsidiary Ben & Jerry's, found they engaged in BDS activities under our pension fund's policy," DiNapoli said in a statement, the *New York Post* reported. New York's pension fund, the nation's third-largest, invest more than \$800 million in retirement funds in Israel.

Israel to work with U.S., U.N. on regulation of social networks

Israel's Minister of Communications Yoaz Hendel met with executives from major online companies and legislators in New York and Washington to discuss support for the regulation of social networks, GLOBES reported. His meetings the week of Oct. 22 with senior managers of Facebook, Google, Cisco, Netflix and other companies were held as part of Hendel's preparations to launch a committee in Israel that will focus on the same issue. During his meeting with U.S. Senator Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM), chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Communications, Media and Broadband, Hendel discussed the need for cooperation between regulators to effectively regulate social networks. He also met with Israel's ambassador to the United Nations Gilad Erdan and U.N. General Secretary António Guterres. The Israeli minister agreed that Israel will work with a U.N. committee that will examine the need for regulation of social networks, as well as incitement and fake news. Minister of Justice Gideon Sa'ar recently announced a new committee on law and technology that will also cover incitement on social networks. Hendel's committee, which will report to Sa'ar's committee, will focus on transparency and the responsibility of the social networks, such as creating customer service centers.

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