

THE REPORTER

Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton

March 10-23, 2023
Volume LII, Number 5

BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK

Federation plans Yom Hashoah program on April 17

By Reporter staff

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton will hold a hybrid Yom Hashoah program on Monday, April 17, at 7 pm. It will include recorded excerpts from the survivor testimony of the late Ruth Buschman and the participation of local rabbis. Buschman's children, Suzanne Buschman-Erez and Steve Buschman, will join the program on Zoom. Temple Concord will host those wishing to participate in person. To receive

a Zoom link for the program, visit the Federation website at www.jfgeb.org/.

"I'm honored that we will be featuring the testimony of Ruth Buschman, may her memory be for a blessing," said Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Federation. "Ruth was a cherished and loved member of the Binghamton community. I found her testimony very moving and meaningful. When I asked her children about using their mother's testimony, they were happy it is

going to be shared with people who knew her and cared about her."

During the interview, which can be found on the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Collection website, Buschman "discusses her childhood in Beclean, Transylvania, Romania, and her Orthodox Jewish upbringing; the occupation of her town by Hungarian troops in 1942; the confiscation of her family business; the family's deportation to Auschwitz in

1944; her impression when she arrived at the camp; her separation from her mother; her experiences in Auschwitz; her transfer to camp Nurnberg; her immigration to the United States in 1946; and her marriage and family life." The Bay Area Holocaust Oral History Project conducted the interview on November 20, 2002, and it was received by the museum's Archives Branch in September 2003. It is part of The Jeff and Toby Herr Oral History Archive special collection.

JFS expands We Remember You program

By Reporter staff

Jewish Family Service announced that it is expanding the We Remember You program in order to help members of the Jewish community all year-round. Fund-raising will now be done during the pre-Passover season, rather than the period before the High Holidays. Tax-deductible donations should be sent to JFS with "We Remember You" written on the memo line. Checks should be mailed to Jewish Family Service, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850.

"We decided to expand the program to

include all the Jewish holidays, but to do our major fund-raising during the spring season," said Rose Shea, director of JFS. "We will continue to help the 17 families who receive these funds in order to help them celebrate all Jewish holidays. Plus, I will continue to check in with them to see how they are doing throughout the year, just as I do now."

We Remember You originally focused on providing meals for Rosh Hashanah with community members and local grocery stores donating food that was passed out to

those in need. The program later included gift certificates to grocery stores for those who wanted to purchase their own meals. When the COVID pandemic began, the focus turned to raising funds, which were then provided to JFS recipients to purchase their own meals.

"What we realized," Shea said, "is that we don't just remember people on Rosh Hashanah. JFS raises and distributes funds throughout the year for all the holidays. We decided to combine this under one heading: we remember our community members all

year-round! However, the main fund-raiser will be before Passover."

Shea noted that the community has always been very generous, but she believes moving the fund-raising to the spring will benefit the community. "There are so many fund-raising campaigns and other expenses due in the fall that we decided it would be easier for people to donate in the spring," she added. "The amount of support this community provides to its members in need is amazing and I am proud to be part of this effort."

Reminder: Film fest discussion on March 12

By Reporter staff

The Binghamton Jewish Film Fest will hold its discussion of the Israeli comedy "Tel Aviv on Fire" virtually on Sunday, March 12, at 5:30 pm. The showing is sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton in conjunction with the Ithaca Area United Jewish Community. Dora E. Polachek, an associate professor of Romance languages and literatures, will lead the virtual discussion.

"Tel Aviv on Fire" tells the story of Salam, a 30-year-old Palestinian living

in Jerusalem, who works as an intern at a Palestinian soap opera, "Tel Aviv on Fire," which is produced in Ramallah. When Salam passes through an Israeli checkpoint everyday, he meets Assi, the commander of the checkpoint, whose wife is a fan of the show. Assi gives Salam ideas for the show, which help Salam get a promotion to screenwriter. But when Assi and the show's financial backers have different ideas about how the show should end, Salam must come up with an idea to save his career.

For more information, visit www.jfgeb.org/.

At right: Assi (Yaniv Biton) and Salam (Kais Nashif) in "Tel Aviv on Fire." (Photo courtesy of Cohen Media Group)



Hillel at Binghamton to hold suicide prevention program on March 13

Hillel at Binghamton will hold the program "Gila's Way: Mental Health and Suicide Awareness" on Monday, March 13, at 7 pm, in the Old Union Hall on the

Binghamton University Campus. Rabbi Shalom Hammer will be the speaker. The entire community is invited to attend. There is no cost and reservations are not needed.

On December 5, 2019, Hammer's 18-year-old daughter died by suicide. He will share her story. His presentation will also address mental health aware-

ness and the importance of removing stigmas associated with it, as well as some of the warning signs people should be aware of.

First UAE synagogue opening is "a historic event"

By Avi Kumar

(JNS) – On a 75-degree February day in Abu Dhabi, JNS had the chance to view the Abrahamic Family House site on Saadiyat Island on its opening day in the United Arab Emirates. Three houses of worship – Moses Ben Maimon Synagogue, His Holiness Francis Church (Roman Catholic) and Eminence Ahmed El-Tayeb Mosque – stand in equal proportion. At first glance, they seem identical, but closer inspection reveals that each has features iconic to the respective customs.

Elie Abadie, the senior rabbi of the Jewish Council of the Emirates, told JNS that it is very notable for an Arab country to build a Jewish house of worship. "In fact,

this is the first one built in the region in almost a century," he said. "By doing this, the government sends out a great message – one of tolerance and acceptance, as they allow the different Abrahamic faiths to come together here to worship. In fact, we worship the same God."

"It is a great gift from Sheikh Mohammed to the Jewish people," David Rosen, international director of interreligious affairs at the American Jewish Committee and former chief rabbi of Ireland, told JNS. "Myriads of people from around the world visiting the country will visit this complex simply because of its location and beauty."

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The Moses Ben Maimon Synagogue at the Abrahamic Family House site on Saadiyat Island, United Arab Emirates (Photo by Avi Kumar)

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Opinion

Rebuilding the Jewish-Black alliance

By Bill Simons

“Go down, Moses, / Way down in Egypt land, / Tell old Pharaoh, / Let my people go.”

Those words sung by Black slaves in the American South possess a double meaning. It recounts the Exodus narrative of Hebrew enslavement and eventual emancipation in Egypt. The spiritual also expresses the powerful assertion of Black slaves, brought in chains from Africa to America, for freedom. The Egyptian pharaoh and the American slave masters brutally subjugated both peoples. The Exodus, whether history or tradition, is central to Jewish consciousness.

Annually, Jews gather for the Passover seder and read from the haggadah the Exodus story of servitude and liberation. It is an obligation to do so and to view oneself as having personally participated in the events recounted in the haggadah. The Wicked Son separates himself from the Exodus by asking, “What is this service to you?” The haggadah counsels severe rebuke to the Wicked Son: “Since he excluded himself from the whole you should exclude him from the whole. Say to him, ‘Because of what God did for me’ – me and not you, if you had been there, you would not have been redeemed.”

Jewish consciousness of their own enslavement provided impetus for identification with the struggle of African Americans for freedom. Neither the Emancipation Proclamation nor the Thirteenth Amendment ended racial subordination. Sharecropping, poverty, intimidation, disenfranchisement, segregation and lynching followed slavery in the South. With Northern migration, Blacks experienced de facto segregation, labor exploitation, periodic race riots and unequal access to housing, medicine and education. Today, too many Blacks still encounter barriers to upward mobility, deprivation, racial separatism, limited access to basic services and discriminatory policing and incarceration practices.

Blacks and Jews have a long collaborative history in the campaign for equality. On the eve of the Civil War, Baltimore Rabbi David Einhorn, despite threats of mob violence, emphasized Black-Jewish solidarity: “The Jew, a descendant of the race that offers daily praises to God for deliverance out of the house of bondage in Egypt... [believes] all human beings are descended from the same

human parents, can never approve of slavery.” In 1909, Henry Moskowitz, a Romanian Jewish immigrant, was a founder of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the nation’s oldest and most influential Civil Rights organization.

During the Second Reconstruction (1955-65), the heyday of the modern Civil Rights movement, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. provided leadership, espousing nonviolent civil disobedience against oppression. Courageous Blacks faced beatings, high pressure water hoses, attack dogs, police, vigilante violence and death, as they protested, marched, conducted sit-ins, and organized against segregation and subjugation, ultimately touching the conscience of the nation. Extending from the 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott to passage of the Voting Act Rights of 1965, the Second Reconstruction, animated by the valor of Black Civil Rights activists and their allies, dismantled much of Southern apartheid. More than a third of the white volunteers in the Civil Rights movement were Jewish.

Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner, 20 and 24 years old respectively, were amongst the Jewish Civil Rights volunteers who came to Mississippi during the Freedom Summer of 1964 to promote Black voter registration and other Civil Rights initiatives. They did this despite white Southerners threatening, beating, bombing and murdering Civil Rights activists. Mississippi whites particularly resented outsiders coming to their state to support Black activism and monitored, spied upon and tracked the activities of Civil Rights workers. Goodman and Schwerner were teamed with James Chaney, a Black native of Mississippi. On June 21, 1964, in the environs of Philadelphia, MS, the trio were stopped and jailed, supposedly for speeding. After their release, police and Ku Klux Klan vigilantes followed their car and pulled it over again. The abductors took the three young men, two Jews and a Black, to an isolated area, castrated Chaney, shot them at close range and stuffed their bodies in an earthen dam. An extensive FBI investigation located the cadavers. National outrage contributed to passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, outlawing discrimination in employment practices and segregation in public accommodations.

Dr. King’s response to racism, antisemitism and other

forms of bigotry was inclusion. He planned three protest marches from Selma to Montgomery, AL, in 1965 to highlight the use of poll taxes and rigged literacy tests to suppress Black voting. Police batons and tear gas violently turned back the first march on the Edmund Pettus Bridge. The second march was abridged. For the third march, Dr. King called upon religious leaders of all faiths to join him for the four-day, 54-mile trudge from Selma to Montgomery in late March. In the tradition of the Hebrew prophets, Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, carrying a Torah scroll, was prominent in the front line of the march. By August 1965, federal voting rights legislation was enacted.

Over the past generation, the alliance between Blacks and Jews has frayed. Despite efforts at healing, conflict between Blacks and Chasidim in Crown Heights left scars. Although many American Jews are critical of the policies of the current Israeli government, Black criticism of the moral legitimacy of Israel has grown, fostered by the inability of Israelis and Palestinians to find mutual security and justice. The Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement opens another fault line. Of late, some prominent Black celebrities – amongst them Kyrie Irving, comedian David Chappelle and rapper/entrepreneur Ye (Kanye West) – have stood accused of antisemitic remarks.

Recently, however, there have been positive signs. From the former Confederacy, two liberal, pro-Civil Rights senators, one Black, Raphael Warnock, the other Jewish, Jon Ossoff, represent Georgia.

On January 13 of this year, Boston dedicated a massive bronze sculpture, “The Embrace,” on the Commons, evoking the Civil Rights partnership between Dr. King and his wife, Coretta Scott King. Joining in the dedication of the monument, Boston Jews, carrying a Torah, marched in procession from Central Reform Temple to the Commons. Rabbi Michael Shire stated, “We thought this would be a wonderful moment to rekindle the alliance between the African American Civil Rights community and the Jewish community.”

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.

In My Own Words

Days of hate and love

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Friday, February 24, was a particularly difficult day. A friend texted me that her grandson had had another seizure. Fortunately, he was fine after a short visit to the hospital, but his parents and grandparents are still shaken and upset. Shortly after, I learned that a friend from rabbinical school had passed away. We were scheduled to receive our honorary doctor of divinity degrees in May. He will receive another award, but some of the pleasure of the occasion will be gone. Normally I would have been craving Shabbat, a much needed time to regroup, and looking forward to services and Torah study. Instead, I felt fear: a Neo-Nazi group had called for that Shabbat to be a national Day of Hate.

Although there were no major protests or incidents, it was not unrealistic to worry. According to a Jewish Telegraphic Agency article published on February 22, Neo-Nazis held a rally outside the Broadway preview of “Parade,” the irony being that the musical tells the story of an antisemitic murder, the 1915 lynching of Leo Frank that took place in Georgia. (The article can be found at www.jta.org/2023/02/22/united-states/neo-nazis-rally-outside-broadway-preview-of-parade-about-an-antisemitic-murder.) Although New York City’s mayor and others condemned the rally, it’s scary to think how acceptable it’s become to publicly demonize all Jews.

Am I overreacting? Maybe, but I keep thinking about the interview of the writer Walter Mosley that appeared on the Forward website that same week. While most people identify Mosley as Black, he is also Jewish on his mother’s

side. Mosley noted the difficulties of being Black in the U.S. and how his mother never identified as white, but rather as a Jew. (In the past, Jews and those from countries surrounding the Mediterranean were often not considered white.) He said that, in the past, “there were certain kinds of exclusions of Jews, but most people just weren’t worried about that. They weren’t thinking about that. What they were thinking about was the danger of people of color.” He then added, “There’s a lot of anger about Jews” now, before noting the same is true for Chinese Americans. A Black man, who knows how dangerous the U.S. is for Blacks, acknowledges the same is now true for Jews and Asians. (To read the interview, visit <https://forward.com/culture/537025/walter-mosley-every-man-a-king-new-detective-novel-jewish-mother/>.)

I do realize that my view of the Neo-Nazi call for a Day of Hate was colored by pressures from other parts of my life. This year has been filled with far too many people I know dying. I am also still dealing with the aftermath of my mother’s death last fall, including preparations for her gravestone. A short bout of the flu and the fatigue I’ve been experiencing since have not helped. You might say that I was prepared for the worst.

Fortunately, my worst fears were not confirmed. In fact, some good things did occur that weekend. First, there were more people in the synagogue building than normal. It was wonderful to see faces I don’t get to see often, at least not in person. (Some of these folks still prefer

Zoom, especially on winter evenings.) I was reminded of the times before the pandemic when the building was always filled with people: either attending Torah study or gathering to talk and bond while their children attended religious school.

I’d posted on Facebook about my week just before getting off the computer for Shabbat and found many messages of consolation and love when I turned on the computer Saturday night. I’m not always happy with Facebook (it can be a real time waster), but that outpouring warmed my heart.

This doesn’t mean that life now goes back to normal now that the Day of Hate fizzled. There is no return to the old normal: I can’t help but look with suspicion when I see someone I don’t know arrive at the synagogue. But I try not to act on that because I don’t want someone else’s hate to turn me into a person who mistrusts others. That doesn’t stop me, though, from periodically reminding myself of the building’s exits and potential places to hide.

I wish I could end on a message of hope, saying that everything will be alright, but there are no guarantees. We talk about fighting hate with love, but so far that message has not changed those who hate Jews. There have always been (and probably always will be) people who hate us. What has changed is that it’s now OK to publicly proclaim that message. It’s now OK to call for Days of Hate. If this continues, someday someone will take the next step and people – innocent people – will die. And we will have to add yet another day of mourning to our calendar.



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BINGHAMTON, NY

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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

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

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

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Jewish Federations grant nearly \$5.5 million for Holocaust survivor care

By JNS staff

(JNS) – Nearly \$5.5 million has been allocated to Holocaust survivors and older adults dealing with trauma, courtesy of the Jewish Federations of North America’s Center on Holocaust Survivor Care and Institute on Aging and Trauma. The announcement came ahead of International Holocaust Remembrance Day on January 27.

“Caring for our survivors is not only a privilege but a duty, and is a core value and deep commitment of our Jewish Federations,” said Jewish Federations of North America board Chair Julie Platt. “It is thanks to the generosity of so many in our communities, together with our government partners, that we are able to provide our survivors with these critical services to help them live in comfort and dignity.”

The grants will assist dozens of agencies – Jewish and non-Jewish – that deliver social services to tens of thousands of Holocaust survivors along with older adults with a history of trauma, and the caregivers that help them. The grant amount totals \$5.4 million over two years.



The seven Holocaust survivors who attended the 2022 International March of the Living on April 28, 2022. (Photo by Yossi Zeliger)

Approximately one-third of the Holocaust survivors in the U.S. are estimated to be living in poverty, subject to increased risk of depression and social isolation, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Holocaust survivors are our teachers and our heroes,” said Shelley Rood Wernick, granddaughter of Holocaust survivors and managing director of the Center on Holocaust Survivor Care and Institute on Aging and Trauma. “Widespread trauma means we need a better approach to care, and with these grants, Jewish Federations are revolutionizing aging services.”

See “Grant” on page 8

Tea and Talk

Chabad of Binghamton, with co-sponsorship from the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, holds Tea and Talk programs, a monthly hour-long gathering for local Jewish seniors who are looking for “a meaningful conversation,” from 11 am-noon, in Chabad’s atrium lounge.

Upcoming dates are:

- ◆ March 16
- ◆ March 30
- ◆ April 20

To RSVP and for more information, visit www.JewishBU.com/Tea or call 797-0015.

UAE

Continued from page 1

The Abraham Family House opened to the public on March 1. No one associated with the site was immediately available for comment.

Ghanaian British architect David Adjaye designed the site, which was inaugurated and opened to worshippers on February 16. It had been slated to open in 2022 originally, but the opening was postponed. Each of the three buildings is a cube, measuring 30 meters (almost 100 feet) per side. Each has an element specific to the faith that worships within. For example, the synagogue façade is intended to evoke the ritual booths associated with Sukkot (sukkahs), as well as palm fronds, another item linked to the week-long Jewish holiday. The building includes a main sanctuary, two mikvahs and a residence where Ben de Toledo, the rabbi, and his wife will reside. The ark of the sanctuary faces Jerusalem.

In line with its tradition, the mosque faces Mecca, the synagogue is oriented toward Jerusalem and the church faces the East.

An oil-rich nation, the Emirates has a population of nearly 10 million, of which about 10 percent are citizens and overwhelmingly Arab Muslims. Non-citizen residents come from all over the world and practice a variety of faiths, but Jews largely did not come prior to the Abraham Accords. When American or European Jews did visit, they tended to keep a low profile. Israeli nationals were not permitted. Since the accords, nearly half a million Israelis have visited Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

About 2,000 Jews live in the Gulf nation, some 500 of whom may be “actively practicing” Jews, according to Abadie. Both of those numbers will likely increase, he suggested. Saadiyat Island is a five-minute drive from downtown Abu Dhabi and an hour from Dubai – the two places where most UAE Jews live. When JNS asked how

Jews, who live far away, will get to Shabbat services, Abadie quipped: “They’ll figure it out.”

Bahrain is the only nearby country with notable Jewish citizenry prior to the accords. The only verified historic Jewish presence in the UAE is a gravestone with Hebrew inscriptions that dates to the 1500s and is now part of the National Museum of Ras Al Khaimah. A small group of Yemenite Jews fleeing persecution was allowed to move to the UAE in 2020 and was granted citizenship.

The Jewish community has prayed and conducted High Holiday services in hotels or residences, such as in Abadie’s Dubai villa. Kosher food is becoming more available, including seven restaurants that have opened since the accords, according to Abadie.



An inscription from Numbers 24:5 (“How lovely are your tents, Jacob, your dwellings, Israel”) in the Moses Ben Maimon Synagogue at the Abraham Family House site on Saadiyat Island, United Arab Emirates. (Photo by Avi Kumar)



A mikvah in the Moses Ben Maimon Synagogue at the Abraham Family House site on Saadiyat Island, United Arab Emirates. (Photo by Avi Kumar)



Interior of the Moses Ben Maimon Synagogue at the Abraham Family House site on Saadiyat Island, United Arab Emirates. (Photo by Avi Kumar)

The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to Leslie Billig on the death of her husband,
Dr. Roger Billig

DEADLINES

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

ISSUE	DEADLINE
March 24-April 6	March 15
April 7-20	March 29
April 21-May 4	April 10 (early)
May 5-18	April 26

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Off the Shelf

A thoughtful detective

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

Some detective novels are filled with actions and dialogue. Descriptions are at a minimum and the focus of the detective's thoughts is on "whodunnit." Anyone looking for that type of mystery can skip the rest of this review because one of my notes on "One Mile and Two Days Before Sunset" by Shimon Adaf (Picador) is that the main character, Elish Ben Zaken, former rock music critic turned detective, spends way too much time thinking about things not connected with the mystery. Adaf's work is as much a philosophical treatise – on a variety of topics – as it is a mystery.

Readers may be put off by the early part of the novel. Although the prologue sets up later action, the opening chapter features Elish giving a complex and disjointed lecture about the connection between serial killers and poets that came across as absurd. Elish seems to realize his lecture is going nowhere, which came as a bit of a relief. He's helping out a former friend, a professor, whom he met when they were philosophy students. Elish, however, never finished his degree.

When approached by a police detective to take a case

on the quiet, Elish is resistant. He prefers to focus on cases that feature what he refers to as "small human sins." These do not include the suicide of a different philosophy professor whose brother is a prominent politician. When reviewing the file, he sees that the case might be tied to the recent murder of rock singer Dalia Shushan. Elish has a connection to her beyond having once been a critic. (Although there is a section showing Dalia and Elish together in the past, it was not clear – at least to this reader – exactly what occurred.) That connection is why Elish decides to look into the case: he comes to believe the person accused of being Dalia's killer is innocent – and that the two cases are definitely connected.

Unfortunately, the mystery takes a backseat to Elish's life, which is not nearly as interesting. Readers learn about his problematic relationship with his sister and mother, and his inability to form close connections. There is also a great deal of information about the rock music scene in Israel and how Elish feels it has deteriorated. His career as a critic stopped after he published a book about the musicians that caused him to be banned from music venues.

Although Elish never received his degree in philosophy, he seems to view the world from that angle and the novel is filled with his musings.

The novel also offers a view of Israel as a Jewish nation. It takes place during the Iraq War when Israelis worried they were about to be bombed due to U.S. actions. When giving an example of human behavior, it was fun to see Elish's friend offer a story from the Talmud. Although none of the main characters are particularly religious, Elish's mother is happy when he travels to be with her for the Friday night Shabbat meal.

At times, it feels as if the mystery gets lost in the shuffle, but readers who persevere will be treated to a very clever solution and a serious and interesting moral dilemma, which could generate a great deal of discussion. (It would spoil the plot to say more here.) That made it worth finishing the novel.

"One Mile and Two Days Before Sunset" is the first book in a trilogy. But after reading it, I felt the need to take a break. That doesn't mean that at some point I won't read the next two works, but this novel felt like a satisfying place to take a pause.



Off the Shelf

Stories of love and sacrifice

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

The desires of the human heart are difficult to define, whether their focus is religion, politics or love. Trying to fulfill these desires is not always easy, especially if someone or something must be sacrificed in order to make them a reality. Two recent novels portray these conflicts and choices: "My Mother's Secret: A Novel of the Jewish Autonomous Region" by Alina Adams (History Through Fiction), which focuses on life in the U.S.S.R., and "Love and War in the Jewish Quarter" by Dora Levy Mossanen (Post Hill Press), which takes place in Iran. Both novels look at life in the mid-20th century, although the Jewish culture of each location is very different.

Unlike many novels whose secrets are revealed in their concluding chapters, the one featured in "My Mother's Secret" comes to light during its prologue. The story then quickly moves back in time, from its opening in San Francisco in 1988 to the U.S.S.R. during the years before and during World War II. The Soviet Union of that time was a dangerous place in which to live: people who were in favor one day would be arrested and executed the next. Regina, whose story is the central focus of the novel, must flee Moscow if she wants to stay out of prison; she decides to move to Birobidzhan, the autonomous Jewish state founded by the Soviet Union. Unfortunately, the area she thought would be a utopia turns out to be anything but.

Regina firmly believes that Stalin's decisions are wise and consider only the good of Soviet citizens. Unfortunately, the propaganda she spouts has no basis in reality. As time passes, she realizes she must choose between the party line and helping people survive. That also means choosing between two men: Felix, who rules Birobidzhan, but has no idea how to help it survive; and Aaron, who not only understands farming, but cares for the people who work

with him. It's not revealing too much – since her choice is obvious – that she picks Aaron. Unfortunately, Aaron pays for her decision and is drafted into the Soviet army. Regina travels to be with him in what are the most interesting and challenging sections of the novel.

During and after the war, Regina and Aaron make choices that affect the rest of their lives. To say more about that would ruin the plot. However, their choices – and those made by men living in a German prisoner of war camp – highlight just how difficult it is to fulfill one's own desires and still help others in need. It also portrays the differences in temperament between Soviets and Americans. In the novel, the Soviets expect things to go wrong, while the Americans assume there will always be a happy ending.

Although "My Mother's Secret" starts out slow, it builds interest as Regina's character gains understanding of the true workings of the Soviet world. The difficulty of choosing between conflicting desires forms the true emotional core of the work. There are also several surprises as readers come to understand what truly occurred. The author includes a section detailing fact from fiction, although those unfamiliar with the U.S.S.R. might be surprised just how much truth underlies her work.

Although the Jews in "My Mother's Secret" were not allowed to practice their religion, the same is not true for those in "Love and War in the Jewish Quarter." However, that doesn't mean that being Jewish is easy. For example, the doorposts of Jewish houses have to be low enough to require people to bow their heads when leaving their homes. During certain times of the year, it is dangerous for Jews to leave the Jewish Quarter and life in general is precarious: the community's well-being depends on the whim of those leading the country. Their future is also complicated by

their fears of what would happen if the Germans invade Iran and Nazi laws are imposed.

The main focus of the story is Jewish dentist Soleiman Yaran, a widower, and his daughter, Neda. Everyone – well, everyone except Yaran – believes he needs to find a Jewish wife to help him raise Neda. He, on the other hand, believes he will never love again, and his Aunt Shamsi, who has moved into his house, is all the help he needs. However, problems arise: Neda develops an unusually strong sense of smell, but has lost the ability to cry. No doctor in their city has been able to help. Plus, Aunt Shamsi believes in folk wisdom that Yaran, a man of science, sees as nonsense.

Yaran's career seems to be going well: he's done work for the queen and is required to make many visits to the governor general's house. The governor general treats him as a doctor, rather than a dentist, and demands a great deal of attention. Life then takes an unexpected turn: Yaran falls in love with the governor general's wife, Velvet. But life is complicated: Velvet is still a virgin because her husband refuses to sleep with her, although he does treat her well. That's because someone else has his affection: the eunuch Tulip, whose history is incredibly sad.

The author juggles the stories of Yaran, Velvet, Nada, Tulip and other characters. They all must make choices that will not only affect their own lives, but the lives of those around them. Although learning about Iranian Jewish life during the time period was interesting, it is the decisions the characters make that are the most affecting parts of the novel. "Love and War in the Jewish Quarter" succeeds because it feels real: this is no fairy tale, but rather accepts that our desires may not always be fulfilled the way we wish. Yet, that doesn't mean we won't find a different kind of happiness, something readers of the novel will surely want to debate.

New museum to provide comprehensive look at Albanian Jewish life

By Avi Kumar

(JNS) – Vlore, the third-largest city in Albania, was the historic home of Albania's biggest Jewish community. The city now plans to build a Jewish museum to commemorate this history.

The Albanian Jewish Museum project is a joint venture of the Albanian-American Development Foundation and Albania's Ministry of Culture, which are working together with the small local Jewish community.

After a long search for an architect, they narrowed the list to five companies and ultimately chose Tel Aviv-based Kimmel Eshkolot to design the museum. Kimmel Eshkolot is well-known for building the Mount Herzl Memorial on Jerusalem's Mount of Olives and the Steinhardt Museum of Natural History at Tel Aviv University. Company co-founder Eitan Kimmel told JNS, "We hope to break ground sometime next year and are very excited."

The museum intends to provide a comprehensive look at Albanian Jewish life through the ages, as the Jewish presence in the Balkan nation has been documented since the second century. From Greek Romaniotes to Spanish Sephardim fleeing persecution in the 15th century to Hungarian Ashkenazim who came much later, the combination of a mountainous region and proximity to Italy and Greece created a distinct Jewish culture.

By the outbreak of World War II, an estimated 1,800

Jewish refugees fleeing Nazi persecution arrived in Albania due to its liberal visa policies. Some were hoping to continue on to North and South America, British Mandatory Palestine or other places of refuge. A few of them ended up making Albania their permanent home. An estimated 2,000 Jews were saved thanks to the efforts of local Albanian Muslims, and the country was one of the few European nations whose Jewish population had increased by the end of World War II.

Rabbi Yoel Kaplan, the local emissary for Chabad-Lubavitch, said, "Albanian Jews like to maintain their unique identity and customs after so many centuries. Albania was further isolated for 50 years under communism and, after the 1990s when communism ended, many Jews emigrated."

He continued, "Albanians have this concept called 'Besa' – it is an all-encompassing term for hospitality and protecting your neighbor or guest – that we invoke every time we get together here. It was also this Besa that saved Jewish lives during the Holocaust. We pushed for this museum to happen and I'm glad it's happening. The government has also been especially supportive towards the local Jewish community."

Albanian Jews, he noted, have warm historical ties with the Jewish community in Corfu, a Greek island that was once a major center for Jewish life with many *yeshivot*.

The Jewish population of Vlore totaled approximately 2,600 in the 1500s, when the city was a trade hub due to its coastline and proximity to Italy. Today, the figure has dwindled to 50-100 Albanian-born Jews, most of whom live in the country's capital and largest city, Tiranë. There are also around 200 foreign Jews in the Balkan nation.

The museum will be built as an addition on top of an existing building, as the architect is tasked with innovatively designing a modern "extension" of an old structure. "We will mix both the old and new," Kimmel said. "We have to double the size of the existing building to create this museum complex while respecting the existing monument."

Many buildings in the Vlore area once belonged to Jewish families, dating back to the 16th century, when many Jews were involved in the city's vibrant trade culture. Near the museum, there are remains of an old synagogue that burned down in the 1920s.

"There will be two stone-clad pavilions at the entrance that almost merge into each other. Ninety-eight percent will be composed of local Albanian stone and 2 percent Jerusalem stone," Kimmel said. There will also be a trilingual plaque in Albanian, English and Hebrew that reads, "Whoever saves one life, saves the world entire" – a paraphrase of a passage from the Talmud.

See "Museum" on page 8

Jewish online resources

By Reporter staff

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

◆ The Skirball Museum will host the exhibit “Frank Stella: Had Gadya” March 22-July 2, and will offer several virtual programs about the exhibit: “The Chaser and the Chased: Stella and the poetry of Had Gadya” on Thursday, April 13, at 4:30 pm; “Lunch and Learn” with Abby Schwartz on Tuesday, May 9, at noon; and “One goat: countless perspectives” on Wednesday, June 7, at 7 pm. For more details about each program or to register, visit <https://csm.huc.edu/exhibitions/#1556825522927-f31e0a61-d2ad>.

◆ The Jewish Book Council will hold the virtual “Paper Brigade’s Short Story Club: The Virgin Grandmother” with Kate Schmier on Thursday, March 23, from 12:30-1 pm. The event is free and open to the public, and participants are encouraged to join the conversation. To read the story before the event, visit www.jewishbookcouncil.org/pb-daily/the-virgin-grandmother. For more information or to register for the event, visit www.jewishbookcouncil.org/events/paper-brigades-short-story-club-the-virgin-grandmother-with-kate-schmier.

◆ The Yiddish Book Center will hold several virtual programs: “Have I Got a Story for You” with editor Ezra Glinter on Thursday, March 16, at 7 pm; “When Yiddish Was Young in Israel,” with Shachar Pinsker on Thursday, March 23, at 7 pm; “Undzer Biblyotek: Montreal’s Jewish Public Library at the Center of Yiddish Culture” with Sebastian Schulman, Rivka Augenfeld and Sonia Bloom on Thursday, April 20, at 7 pm; “Artist and Writer Ray Faust (1900-1993)” with Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett and Barry Faust on Thursday, April 27, at 7 pm; and “East European Jews between Renaissance and Futurelessness,” with Kenneth Moss on Thursday, May 4, at 7 pm. For more information about the program or to register, visit www.yiddishbookcenter.org/events-and-store/virtual-public-programs-calendar.

◆ Qesher will hold several virtual online tours and talks: “The Jews of Yemen and a Journey on the Magic Carpet” on Thursday, March 16, at 3 pm; “Jewish Languages Today: Endangered, Surviving, and Thriving” on Sunday, March 19, at 3 pm; “Polish Jews: Warsaw Ghetto remains and Jewish revival” on Thursday, March 23, at 3 pm; “To be a Jew in Estonia – in the past, present and future” on Sunday, March 26, at 3 pm. There is a cost to attend these events. A free lecture, “Get to know: The Genealogy Department at the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw,” will take place on Tuesday, March 21, at 3 pm. For more information or to register, visit www.qesher.com/upcoming-events/.

◆ Ritualwell will hold the virtual discussion “Poetic Midrash: A Conversation between Hila Ratzabi and Alden Solovy” on Monday, March 13, from 11 am-noon. Solovy will discuss his new book, “These Words: Poetic Midrash on the Language of Torah.” The session will be recorded and sent to participants, but live attendance is encouraged. For more information or to register, visit <https://ritualwell.org/event/poetic-midrash-a-conversation-between-hila-ratzabi-and-alDEN-solovy/>.

◆ Ritualwell will hold two classes beginning in April: “Recognizing the Good: Writing Jewish Prayers and Poems of Gratitude” on Mondays, April 17 and 24, and May 1, 8, 15 and 22, from noon-1:30 pm (<https://ritualwell.org/event/recognizing-the-good-writing-jewish-prayers-and-poems-of-gratitude/2023-04-17/>); and “From Brokenness to Healing: Making Meaning through Memoir” (<https://ritualwell.org/event/from-brokenness-to-healing-making-meaning-through-memoir/2023-04-18/>) on Tuesday, April 18 and 25 and May 2, 9, 16 and 23, from noon-1:30 pm. There is a \$250 fee for each course.

◆ Maven will hold two virtual events in late March: “To Be or Not to Be: The Jewish American Paradox” on Tuesday, March 28, from 3-5:45 pm (<https://maven.aju.edu/>

events-classes/program/to-be-or-not-to-be-the-jewish-american-paradox); and “The Secret History of Jews and Baseball” on Thursday, March 30, from 3-3:45 pm (<https://maven.aju.edu/events-classes/program/the-secret-history-of-jews-and-baseball>).

◆ The Museum at Eldridge Street will hold the virtual Curator Talk about its exhibit “Upon Thy Gates: The Winik Mezuzah Collection” on Wednesday, March 22, from 6-7 pm. The “seminar will not only touch upon examples from the collection, but dive into the 3,000 year old custom of marking a Jewish home by affixing a *mezuzah* to the doorpost.” For more information or to register for the event, visit www.eventbrite.com/e/virtual-curator-talk-for-upon-thy-gates-the-wlinik-mezuzah-collection-tickets-518995769317?aff=odeimcmailchimp&mc_cid=f1d4d3a9bd&mc_eid=b1c53698a8.

◆ The Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning will hold the four-part course “Character Development Through Mussar” on Tuesdays, April 4-25, from 1-2:30 pm. There is a sliding scale fee to attend. Rabbi Ben Kramer will focus on a variety of Mussar texts “to develop an understanding of this approach and learn how to effectively apply its principles to our own lives.” For more information, visit <https://events.org/events/calendarcourse?tid=b9d6ef91-a0f4-4e2e-8774-7d55c2259899>.

◆ The Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning will hold the class “Yiddish: Wanted Dead or Alive” on Monday, March 20, from 1-2 pm. The cost to attend is \$18. Dr. Rachel Seelig will explore the fate of Yiddish culture since World War II. For more information or to register, visit <https://events.org/events/calendarcourse?tid=448d68b3-c734-40fc-9480-8575fe4e1fe8>.

◆ The Museum of Jewish Heritage-A Living Memorial to the Holocaust will hold a hybrid “Gathering of Remembrance” on Sunday, April 16, at 2 pm. For more information or to register to watch the gathering virtually, visit <https://898a.blackbaudhosting.com/898a/MJH-Annual-Gathering-of-Remembrance-2023---LIVESTREAM?ga=2.50551145.1513720927.1676903567-2047842403.1667495158>.

◆ The Jewish Museum will hold a two-part virtual class “Art in Context: Sargent and the Sassoons” on Tuesday, March 21 and 28, from 2-3 pm. The class will take an in-depth look at the Sassoon family’s relationship with artist John Singer Sargent and his portraits of Jewish patrons. The cost to attend is \$30, or \$24 for Jewish Museum members. For more information or to register, visit https://thejewishmuseum.org/buy/box-office/63cab77c7d1df56871db6836?j=283658&sfmc_sub=66640485&l=684-HTML&u=8324968&mid=100003087&jb=9001.

◆ The Biblical Archaeology Society will hold the virtual lecture “A Wise Woman and a Bearded Man: Ten Seasons of Excavation at Tel Abel Beth Maacah” with Dr. Nava Panitz-Cohen, a professor of the Institute of Archaeology of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, on Sunday, June 4, from 3-4 pm. There is a cost of \$10 to attend. For more information or to register, visit www.biblicalarchaeology.org/travel-study/bas-scholars-series-with-nava-panitz-cohen/.

◆ The Hadassah-Brandeis Institute will hold several virtual programs, including “Registers of Belonging, Registers of Difference: Early Modern Jewish Midwives and their Records” on Tuesday, March 14, at 12:45 pm; “Sandra Seltzer Silberman HBI Conversations Series” featuring Paula Birnbaum, author of “Sculpting a Life: Chana Orloff between Paris and Tel Aviv” on Wednesday, March 15, from 7-8 pm; “Preaching the Promised Land: Mary Antin’s American Religions” on Tuesday, March 28, from 12-1 pm; “Studio Israel” with Zoya Cherkassky on Thursday, March 30, from noon-1 pm; “Gender Perspectives on the Jewish Diaspora Organization” on Monday, April 3, from noon-1 pm; “The Holocaust Research Study Group Presents: Passing On, Not Passing Over: Intergenerational Memory of Holocaust History” on Tuesday, April 18, from 11 am-2 pm; and “Populist Regimes and Plans to Con-

trol Women: The Israeli Experience” on Wednesday, April 19, from 7:30-9 pm. For more information or to register, visit www.brandeis.edu/hbi/events/index.html.

◆ The Museum of Jewish Heritage will hold “The History of Antisemitism: The Alhambra Decree” on Tuesday, March 28, from 6-7 pm. The Alhambra Decree, also known as the Edict of Expulsion, gave Jews four months to either leave Spain or convert to Catholicism. For more information or to register, visit <https://898a.blackbaudhosting.com/898a/tickets?tab=2&txobjid=39a00608-d30a-4ff7-b6e0-bc547b647d06&ga=2.8993397.1513720927.1676903567-2047842403.1667495158>.

◆ Uri L’Tzedek, Orthodox Social Justice, will hold the virtual program “Regulat-

ing Hasidic Education between Rabbi Ysoscher Katz (Pro-Regulation) and Rabbi Michael Broyde (Anti-Regulation)” on Thursday, March 30, at 7 pm. For more information or to register, visit https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_4iObGSTQSWW0Q-WnUFp-AA.

◆ Maven will hold the virtual program “Pursuing Racial Justice: A Modern Exodus” with Rabbi Lawson on Tuesday, April 11, from 3-3:45 pm. Lawson will discuss the themes in the Passover narrative and how they can be used to speak out against systemic racism and celebrate liberation from slavery. For more information or to register, visit <https://maven.aju.edu/events-classes/program/pursuing-racial-justice-a-modern-exodus-with-rabbi-lawson>.

See “Online” on page 8

Binghamton Philharmonic Orchestra
Daniel Hege, Music Director
2022-2023 Season

Wallenberg Festival Saturday, January 28, 2023 at 7:30pm	Pops at the Forum Saturday, March 25, 2023 at 3pm
8th Annual Mac & Cheese Fest Thursday, February 16, 2023 at 6-8pm	Northern Lights Saturday, April 29, 2023 at 7:30pm
May the Fourth Be With You Thursday, May 4, 2023 at 7:30pm	

For more information on our concert season, visit www.binghamtonphilharmonic.org/events or scan the QR code.

Annual Campaign 2023

TOGETHER WE CREATE COMMUNITY. MAKE YOUR PLEDGE/PAYMENT TODAY!

Support your Jewish Federation! Your gift is more important than ever.

To make your pledge/payment:

- 1) Visit the Federation website at <https://www.jfgeb.org/campaign-for-2023> to either pay your pledge or click on “Make Your 2023 Pledge Now!”
- 2) Pledges and payments (checks should be payable to “Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton”) can be mailed to the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850.
- 3) Fill out the form in this ad and mail it to the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850.

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Phone Number: _____

Amount Pledge: _____

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PREPARE FOR PASSOVER

Passover and an in-person "Festival of Freedom"

By Ethel G. Hofman

(JNS)—The first Passover seder takes place on Wednesday, April 5, at sundown, on the 14th day of Nissan. During the eight-day holiday, no leavened or fermented food or drink is eaten, a reminder of the rushed Exodus of the Israelites from Egyptian slavery. It is said to be the most widely celebrated Jewish holiday, mostly because it happens at home with family and friends, and not at synagogue. For observant Jews, no work is done on the first and second days of the holiday, as well as the last day, with those in the middle – Chol Hamoed – mainly kept for family activities and recalling the "Festival of Freedom." In Israel, the holiday is celebrated for seven days.

People of all ages and faiths gather around the seder tables these days – not just in homes but in community centers, restaurants and other large spaces. For many, this may be the first year since 2019 when young and old have gotten together in person.

Now, it wouldn't be a seder without traditional Ashkenazi dishes like matzah balls floating in chicken soup, braised brisket, sweet and savory kugels, tzimmes and salads, and desserts like coconut macaroons, flourless chocolate cake and a Hofman family favorite: chocolate mousse.

But for the second seder, consider a lighter meal. This may well be the start of a new tradition for worldly younger generations looking for fresh, healthy but still tasty and traditional holiday fare. In Southeast Florida, where you can dine outdoors year-round, I searched for such alternatives. At Dvash (Hebrew for "honey"), a Mediterranean restaurant in Boca Raton owned and run by a dynamic Israeli couple, Ilan and Lauren Cohen, I dined on dishes like Pumpkin Soup With Sweet Potato Nuggets and Roasted Turmeric Cauliflower. Prepared with no leavening or pulses, it's perfect for any Passover meal. Ilan, who began his career in Jerusalem, uses farm-fresh ingredients spiked with aromatic spices (available in general markets) to create mouth-watering dishes while eliminating the need for mundane seasonings like salt and pepper.

Inspired, I've adapted the recipe. Understandably, Ilan wouldn't share his, though he did tell me the spices

he used. Lauren's Citrus Salmon is citrus-infused by baking the fish on a bed of sliced oranges. Tasty caponata – diced vegetables livened with olives and capers, a sweet-and-sour version of ratatouille – is heaped onto matzah to replace a heavier kugel. For a tropical twist to Pavlova, a traditional Australian dessert, mounds of coffee-scented whipped cream are spooned into a meringue shell, and then topped with mango and star fruit (carambola – a sweet-and-sour fruit that has the shape of a five-pointed star). Any fruit may be used, such as strawberries, blueberries and raspberries. Halvah ice-cream is a contemporary Sephardic delicacy; if not for an Ashkenazi Passover, hold the recipe for a sensational hot-weather dessert. It's easy to whip up using a good store-bought ice-cream. Tahini, toasted ground sesame seeds, adds a delicious nutty flavor and crumbled frozen halvah an irresistible contrast and texture.

All items used should be labeled "kosher for Passover."
Pumpkin Soup With Sweet Potato Nuggets (pareve)

Serves 6-8

Cook's tips:

- ◆ Canned pumpkin (not pie mix) makes this quick and easy or cook 3 cups diced pumpkin in boiling salted water until soft. Drain well and blend in food processor.
- ◆ Soup and baked sweet potato may be prepared 1 to 2 days ahead of time and chilled.



Pumpkin Soup (Photo by Pixabay)

- 1 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1 small onion, diced (about 1/2 cup)
- 3 cups vegetarian broth
- 1 (15 oz.) can pumpkin
- 1/2 tsp. ground nutmeg
- 3/4 tsp. cinnamon
- 2 Tbsp. coarsely grated ginger root
- 1 1/2 Tbsp. honey or to taste
- 1/2 cup nondairy creamer
- Salt and fresh ground pepper to taste

1 large sweet potato, cooked peeled and cut in 1/2-inch dice
Chopped chives, parsley or slivered almonds to garnish (optional)

In a large pot, heat the olive oil over medium-high heat. Add the onion. Cook, stirring often, till nicely browned. Add the broth, pumpkin, nutmeg, cinnamon and ginger. Reduce heat to medium and bring to a simmer. Cook for 10 minutes.

Stir in honey and nondairy creamer. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Stir in the sweet potato and heat through. Serve hot with garnish (optional).

Lauren's Citrus Salmon (pareve)

Serves 6

Cook's tips:

- ◆ If you can't find kosher-for-Passover imitation soy sauce, substitute Dijon mustard instead.
- ◆ Rinse salmon in cold water and pat dry. Run fingers over the surface to remove any bones.
- ◆ If using an instant-read thermometer, the internal temperature should read 145°F.

2 large oranges, sliced about 1/4-inch thick
6 (4 to 6 oz. each) salmon steaks, skin on
1/3 cup honey, warmed
2 Tbsp. soy sauce
2 Tbsp. coarsely grated fresh ginger
1/2 tsp. bottled minced garlic
1/2 tsp. fresh ground pepper or to taste
Preheat oven to 400°F.
Spray a large baking dish with nonstick vegetable spray. Spread orange slices in a layer to cover the bottom of the dish. Place salmon steaks on top, skin-side down. Set aside.

In a small bowl, mix the honey, soy sauce, ginger, garlic, salt and pepper. Spoon half of the mixture over the salmon steaks.

Bake in preheated oven for 15 minutes. Remove from oven and spoon remaining mixture over top. Return to oven and bake for 8-10 minutes longer or until the fish flakes easily with a fork.

See "Passover" on page 8

PASSOVER 2023 Greetings

March 24 (Deadline: March 16) Personal Greetings and Health Care Greetings

Passover is traditionally a time for sharing with family, friends and strangers. While your seder table may not be large enough to fit all these people, you can share the warmth of this holiday with the entire local Jewish community by placing a Passover greeting in *The Reporter*. 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 C, D & E), the medium one is \$38 (style B), the next size is \$57 (style A) and the largest one (style F) is \$76. To ensure that your greeting is published, simply fill out the form below and choose a design that you would like to accompany your greeting, or contact Kathy Brown at 607-724-2360, ext. 244; or e-mail advertising@thereporter.com. Checks can be made payable to *The Reporter* and sent to: *The Reporter*, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850.

Wishing you and your family peace, health and happiness this Pesach



Your Name(s)

Style A • \$57
Actual Size: 3.22" x 2.958"



Next year may we all be free!

Your Name(s)

Style C • \$20
Actual Size: 1.5278" x 1.975"

PASSOVER 2023 Greetings

March 24 (Deadline: March 16)
Personal Greetings and Health Care Greetings

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
Greeting Style _____
Message _____
How you would like it signed _____

We accept Visa Mastercard American Express Discover (if applicable)

Print Name on Card _____
Card Number _____
Expiration Date _____
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March 16 DEADLINE

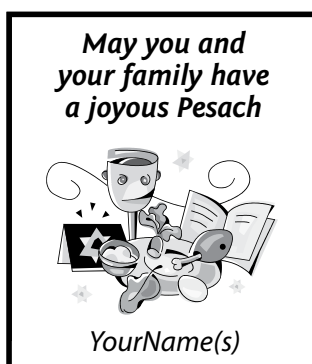
Checks can be made payable to *The Reporter*, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850.



Passover Blessings

Your Name(s)

Style B • \$38 Actual Size: 3.22" x 1.975"



May you and your family have a joyous Pesach

Your Name(s)

Style D • \$20
Actual Size: 1.5278" x 1.975"



May your Passover seder be joyous!

Your Name(s)

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



Your name(s)

Style F • \$76
Actual Size: 3.2222" x 3.95"



Hillel Academy to hold seder on April 5

Hillel Academy of Broome County will hold a community Passover seder on the first night of the holiday, Wednesday, April 5, led by Rabbi Moshe Shmaryahu in the Temple Israel Social Hall. Guests are asked to arrive by 6:45 pm so candles can be lit by 7:07 pm. The cost is \$45 per person; children under 13 can attend for \$15 per child. Reservations are required by

Wednesday, March 29, and can be made by calling 304-4544.

"It will be a traditional meal with everything according to Jewish tradition," said organizers of the event. "Please join us for the story of the Exodus and freedom."

For addition information, contact Joy Yarkoni at frontoffice@hillelacademyofbc.org.

Beth David Sisterhood to hold Passover Workshop

The Beth David Sisterhood will hold its annual Passover Community Workshop on Wednesday, March 15, at 7 pm, at the synagogue. The workshop is open to everyone in the Jewish community, men and women, whether or not they are affiliated with Beth David Sisterhood or Beth David Synagogue.

Rabbi Zev Silber, spiritual leader of Beth David, will answer questions concerning Passover. Although it is preferable if questions are submitted in advance in case they require research, he will do his best to provide answers to all queries. To send questions, e-mail him at rabbisilber@stny.rr.com.

He will also give suggestions as to how to make the seder and Passover a "more meaningful and positive experience," and

offer tips on preparing the kitchen for Passover and how to find elusive or new Passover products.

Attendees will be encouraged to share favorite Passover recipes, tips and shortcuts, which have made cleaning or cooking easier, and other useful information.

The evening will conclude with Silber discussing the *Ma Nishtana* (the Four Questions). He will discuss their origins and purpose, and give insights into why they are included in the seder and the haggadah.

"Please remember that we collect food for CHOW at every meeting, so start cleaning out your pantry early and bring your *chametzdik* donations to our meeting," organizers said.

Shmurah matzah available for purchase

Chabad Center to hold community seder

Passover seder

Chabad Center will hold a Passover seder open to the general community on the first night of the holiday, Wednesday, April 5. Festivities will begin with services at 7:30 pm followed by the seder; services and the seder will be held at the Chabad Center, 420 Murray Hill Rd., Vestal.

The seder will include all of the traditional observances, a full-course dinner, handmade *shmurah* matzah and mystical insights. The haggadah will be read with participation from all present in both Hebrew and English, and the many customs and traditions of the seder will be explained. "Our seder is open to anyone who wants to attend a traditional seder - no previous knowledge or level of observance is required," explained Rabbi Aaron Slonim, executive director of Chabad. "Be prepared to be welcomed - just as you are - as part of the family."

There is no charge for the seders, but donations to help defray the cost are appreciated and can be sent to Chabad before or after the holiday. "We will be serving a full course, traditional holiday dinner, but I do urge participants to have a bite to eat earlier in the evening to tide them over the ceremonial, opening portion of the seder, which precedes dinner," added Rivky Slonim.

For more information and reservations, e-mail aslonim@Jewishbu.com or call the Chabad office at 797-0015.

Shmurah matzah available

Hand-made *shmurah* matzah will be available for purchase through the Chabad Center for \$18 a pound, or three matzahs for \$10, as long as the supply lasts. Interested parties are urged to place their orders as soon as possible. To order *shmurah* matzah, call the Chabad Center at 797-0015.

The Passover Center

Find everything you need for a Zissen Pesach, all strictly Kosher for Passover.



<p>14⁹⁹ lb.</p> <p>Meal Mart 1st Cut Beef Brisket</p>	<p>2/\$8 with AdvantEdge Card</p> <p>SAVE \$2 WITH 2/\$6 eCoupons</p> <p>Final Price WHEN YOU BUY 2</p> <p>LIMIT ONE COUPON PER OFFER PER CUSTOMER</p>	<p>\$4 with AdvantEdge Card</p> <p>SAVE \$1 WITH \$3 eCoupons</p> <p>Final Price</p> <p>LIMIT ONE COUPON PER OFFER PER CUSTOMER</p>	
<p>369 lb.</p> <p>Empire Kosher Frozen Whole Turkey</p>	<p>64 oz.</p> <p>Kedem Grape Juice</p> <p>Select Varieties</p>	<p>10.5 oz.</p> <p>Manischewitz Egg Matzos</p>	
<p>2/\$6 with AdvantEdge Card</p> <p>Manischewitz or Streit's Matzo Meal</p> <p>14-16 oz. • Cake Meal, Matzo Farfel, Whole Wheat Matzo Farfel or Panko Style Matzo Meal 8 oz.</p>	<p>2/\$6 with AdvantEdge Card</p> <p>SAVE \$1 WITH 2/\$5 eCoupons</p> <p>Final Price WHEN YOU BUY 2</p> <p>LIMIT ONE COUPON PER OFFER PER CUSTOMER</p>	<p>999 with AdvantEdge Card</p> <p>SAVE \$4 WITH 599 eCoupons</p> <p>Final Price</p> <p>LIMIT ONE COUPON PER OFFER PER CUSTOMER</p>	
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We Remember You 2023

Jewish Family Service announced that it is expanding the We Remember You program in order to help members of the Jewish community all year-round. Fund-raising will now be done during the pre-Passover season, rather than the period before the High Holidays. These donations will be distributed to more than 17 local Jewish families who are experiencing extreme financial difficulties.

Thank you for your support of your neighbors in need. Please mail or bring your donation to Jewish Family Service, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850. Contact Rose Shea, JFS Director, at 724-2332, ext. 339, with any questions.

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Wearing *tefillin* may prevent damage from heart attacks

By JNS staff

(JNS) – Wearing *tefillin* may have life-saving cardiovascular benefits for both men and women, according to University of Cincinnati researchers.

Tefillin, or phylacteries, are small leather boxes containing biblical passages on parchment scrolls. There are two in a set, one for the head and one for the arm. Both are secured via leather straps.

“*Tefillin* is used for morning prayers for Jewish men over the age of 13 on an almost daily basis. It is placed on the non-dominant arm around the bicep and the forearm in a fairly tight manner,” said Jack Rubenstein, MD, of the Division of Cardiovascular Health at the University of Cincinnati’s College of Medicine.

However, he noted, it is never worn so tight that it occludes blood flow. “[*Tefillin* are] traditionally worn for about 30 minutes continuously during prayers which involve sitting and standing, resulting in occasional retightening of the strap around your arm,” he said.

This binding of the arm, and the accompanying discomfort users often report, may serve as a form of preconditioning, offering a substantial degree of protection against the damage that can be caused by a sudden loss of blood flow (acute ischemia) or after the blood supply is restored to a tissue or organ after an ischemic event (reperfusion), according to Rubenstein. Such injuries occur during heart attacks, when parts of the heart are deprived of oxygen and then damaged further when blood flow is reestablished.

For their study, researchers measured baseline information on 30 participants for 10 minutes in the morning, and then collected another round of data during and after 30 minutes of wearing the *tefillin*. The participants, all healthy individuals between the ages of 18 to 40, had their heart rate measured before, during and after the wearing of *tefillin*.

“What we found is that wearing *tefillin* in both male and females caused changes to the heart rate associated with lowering of the metabolism as measured via heart rate variability,” said Rubenstein, who explained that heart rate variability is the degree of variability between one heartbeat and the next.

“We can measure all kinds of different things from heart rate variability including probably the most important, which is parasympathetic tone. Does it relax you and does it cause your metabolism [to] come down?” he said.

The findings, he continued, were a potential “game changer” with regard to how cardiovascular disease prevention is approached. “We are showing a path through which anyone can precondition themselves to decrease the amount of damage that they suffer from a heart attack by wearing a very simple device,” he said. “Decreasing the amount of heart attack damage by even just two-fold is something that will change outcomes for millions of people.”

Passover Continued from page 6

Matzah Caponata (*pareve*)

Serves 6-8

Cook’s tips:

- ◆ Prepare caponata 2-3 days ahead for flavors to blend. Chill.
- ◆ A good catchall for past best veggies.
- ◆ Substitute dried cranberries for raisins.



Caponata (Photo by Karen and Brad Emerson via Wikimedia Commons)

- 1 rib celery, sliced ¼-inch thick
 - ½ medium onion, thinly sliced
 - ¼ cup extra-virgin olive oil
 - 1 medium eggplant, trimmed and chopped into rough ½-inch pieces
 - 2 red or yellow bell peppers, seeded and sliced
 - 2 small zucchini, coarsely cut in ½-inch pieces
 - 1 tomato, cut up coarsely
 - 1 cup tomato purée (set aside an extra ¼ cup)
 - ¼ cup vinegar
 - 8 to 10 pitted olives, halved
 - ¼ cup raisins
 - 2 Tbsp. chopped walnuts
 - 2 tsp. capers
 - Salt and fresh ground pepper to taste
 - 3 to 4 sheets of matzah, halved
- Heat oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the celery and onion. Cook until soft, about 5 minutes.

Stir in the eggplant, peppers, zucchini and tomato. Add 1 cup tomato purée and vinegar.

Cook 10 to 15 minutes longer, until vegetables are soft. Add the olives, raisins, walnuts and capers. If mixture is too dry, add remaining ¼ cup tomato purée. Season with salt and pepper.

Simmer 5 to 10 minutes longer, stirring often. Serve chilled, spooned over matzahs.

Arugula Salad With Simple Vinaigrette (*pareve*)

Serves 6-8

Cook’s tips:

- ◆ Whisk dressing in the bottom of a serving dish. Heap the arugula on top. Do not toss. Cover and chill. When needed, remove from fridge, toss with dressing and serve.
- ◆ Dressing ingredients may be doubled and refrigerated.
- ◆ Pour the dressing ingredients into a tightly lidded jar. Shake to combine. Ready to use at room temperature.



Arugula (Photo by Pixabay)

- 1 Tbsp. Dijon mustard
 - 2 Tbsp. vinegar
 - 3 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
 - 2 (5-oz.) containers of arugula, washed and spun dry
- In the bottom of a salad bowl, whisk together the mustard, vinegar and oil until well-blended. Top with arugula. Do not toss. Refrigerate. When ready to serve, toss to coat arugula so that each leaf is lightly coated with dressing.

Tropical Pavlova (*pareve*)

Serves 6-8

Cook’s tips:

- ◆ A mixture of berries may be substituted for tropical fruits.
- ◆ Prepare meringue shell 2 days ahead of time. Store in a tightly lidded container at room temperature. Do not refrigerate!
- ◆ Heavy cream should be cold from the fridge to whip well.
- ◆ Egg whites whip up best at room temperature.



Sliced starfruit (or carambola) with the seven, six and the usual five points. (Photo by K-MUS via Wikimedia Commons)

- 4 extra-large egg whites
 - 1¼ cups plus 1 Tbsp. sugar
 - ½ tsp. vanilla extract
 - 1 tsp. lemon juice
 - 2 tsp. potato starch, sifted
 - 1 pint of heavy cream
 - 1½ tsp. unsweetened cocoa, sifted
 - Sliced mango and star fruit
- Preheat the oven to 300°F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Draw a 9-inch circle on the paper.

In a large bowl, beat egg whites until slightly stiff. Gradually add 1¼ cups sugar, 2 to 3 tablespoons at a time, beating after each addition. At the last addition, beat until glossy and stiff peaks form.

Fold in the vanilla, lemon juice and potato starch. Spoon the mixture inside the circle on paper.

Spread so that there’s a slight depression in the center. Bake for 1 hour in preheated oven or until firm to the touch. Turn off the oven. Leave in the oven for 3 to 4 hours or overnight to cool completely.

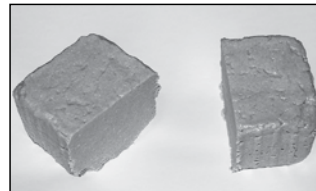
To serve: Transfer the pavlova shell to a serving platter. In a large bowl, whip the cream until stiff peaks form. Do not overbeat. Fold in 1 tablespoon sugar and the cocoa. Spoon mixture into depression (some will spill over). Arrange mango and star fruit on top. Serve at once.

Sephardic Halvah Ice-Cream (Dairy)

Serves 4

Cook’s tip: Sprinkle chopped glazed walnuts on top.

- 4 scoops of vanilla ice-cream, slightly softened
- 1½ Tbsp. tahini
- ½ cup halvah, crumbled, divided
- 2 Tbsp. honey, warmed (optional)



Halvah (Photo by A. Savin via Wikimedia Commons)

In a large bowl, combine the ice-cream with tahini. Mix until smooth. Stir in ¼ cup crumbled halvah. Place in the freezer until ready to serve.

Place a scoop of ice-cream into each of 4 dishes. Drizzle with honey (optional). Sprinkle remaining halvah over top. Serve at once.

Ethel G. Hofman is a syndicated American Jewish food and travel columnist, author and culinary consultant.

Museum Continued from page 4

“We will present a unique story of Albanians and Jews,” AADF said in a statement provided to JNS. “While the Holocaust chapter is of the utmost importance and perhaps the most exceptional part of this history, the Albanian Jewish Museum will place this chapter within the entire history of Albanian Jews – understood as that of Jews in the historic territory of Albania as well as the Diaspora.”

AAADF also cited the fact that there are three other museums in the vicinity as another reason for having chosen the site.

Sokol Pirra, who was born in Vlore, but now lives in Tiranë, said, “My ancestors thrived here for generations. But now, we struggle to keep Jewish life going, as many Jews have migrated to Israel or other places. This museum is a great addition to honor our long presence in Albania. Vlore has beautiful seaside scenery. And the Jewish museum will be a great addition to both the cityscape and the Albanian Jewish community.”

Grant Continued from page 3

This year’s grant recipients include the Jewish Federations of Broward County, Greater Atlanta, Metropolitan Detroit, Greater Los Angeles and Greater Metro West NJ, along with the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, the Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago, UJA-Federation of New York and the Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies.

Jewish Federations launched its Holocaust Survivor Care initiative in 2015. Since its inception, Jewish Federations has provided for approximately 35,000 Holocaust survivors, 16,000 professional caregivers, 6,000 family caregivers and 5,000 older adults with a history of trauma. The funds come from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Community Living, and from philanthropists. Last year, the U.S. federal government budgeted a record \$8.5 million for its Holocaust Survivor Assistance Program.

Online Continued from page 5

- ◆ Melton will hold the four-part virtual course “The Burden and Blessing of Exile” with Lynne Lieberman on Mondays, April 3-24, from 1-2:30 pm. There is a cost for the course. It will explore four different exiles and how the experiences have shaped the Jewish people. It will also explain Jewish influences on the societies in which they lived. For more information or to register, visit <https://events.org/events/calendarcourse?tid=87bee43f-a3de-4889-ac2e-aecf3433dd04>.

- ◆ The Jewish Grandparents Network will hold the virtual “How to Bring Passover to Life for Grandchildren” on Tuesday, March 28, at 7 pm. Theater arts educator Jonathan Shmidt Chapman will present a range of activities that use creativity, drama and play to activate Passover with children ages 3-8. To register for the event, visit https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/y7alhDp-GL-3uQOwi1ssZLQ.

- ◆ The Center for Jewish History will hold the virtual program “Interpreting Your Jewish DNA Test Results” on Wednesday, March 29, at 1 pm. For more information or to register, visit <https://programs.cjh.org/event/jewish-dna-results-2023-03-29>.

For additional resources, see previous issues of The Reporter on its website, www.thereporter.org/streams/miscellaneous-features/miscellaneous-features/tag/80309?



Create a Jewish Legacy
Strengthen the Jewish community you care about for generations to come. Consider a gift to the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton in your estate. For further information or assistance, please contact Shelley Hubal at 724-2332 or director@jfgb.org



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Wedding & Party Guide

Weddings



Sidney Rae VanTuyl and Jacob Charles Loew
April 30, 2022



Dr. Jeffrey Shevach and Dr. Danielle Barcak
May 21, 2022
(Photo by Shelby Grace)



Debbie Matties and Russ Hanser
July 8, 2022
(Photo by Danny Bostwick)



Victoria Alt and Kevin Toolan
August 13, 2022
(Photo by Gabriela Bucero Photography)



Hannah Romer and Nicholas Martelli
August 28, 2022



Katy McCarthy and Brian Oleson
September 4, 2022



Natalie Weiss and Jonathan Pachter
September 4, 2022
(Photo by Moonrae Photography)



Eileen Krigstein and Richard Carberry
September 17, 2022
(Abby Cutler Photography)



Rachel Roberts and Paul Duncan
September 17, 2022
(Photo by Erik Korver)



Debra Orringer and William Chionis
February 2, 2023
(Photo by Raffaella Matta Photography)

Mazel Tou to our Married Couples!

Engagements



Nicole Artus and Kyle Bakker
(Photo by Alex Artus)



Jenna Dorfman-Tandlich and Maxwell Goldbas
(Photo by Aviva Media Company)



Robin Hall and Adam Philips
(Photo by Jacqueline Connor)



Melissa Mayer and Michael Walker



Daniella Sutnick and Mitchell Rozen
(Photo by Josh Hoppenstein)



Emily Wolff and Matt Bachman
(Photo by Cayla Spatz of CJS productions)

Mazel Tou to our Engaged Couples!

Books to help you prepare for your Jewish wedding

By Reporter staff

Planning a Jewish wedding can be a stressful time for couples. The following books can help make the process easier.

“The Jewish Way of Love and Marriage”

Orthodox and traditional Jews will want to read Maurice Lamm’s “The Jewish Way of Love and Marriage.” While not a wedding planner, this book answers questions about marriage from a *halachic* (legalistic) point-of-view. It also explains each step in the traditional marriage ceremony.

“The Jewish Wedding Now”

Liberal Jews will want to turn to “The Jewish Wedding Now,” previously titled “The New Jewish Wedding,” by Anita Diamant. In her updated book, Diamant discusses the legalistic

aspects of marriage from a liberal perspective. Her step-by-step approach to planning the wedding ceremony offers options not found in more traditional ceremonies. She also includes information about same-sex ceremonies and about how to include non-Jewish family members in the ceremony.

“The Creative Jewish Wedding Book”

In “The Creative Jewish Wedding Book,” Gabrielle Kaplan-Meyer offers suggestions on how a couple can use their wedding preparations to explore their relationship to Judaism. Her book is for those looking to individualize their ceremony and includes information about everything from Jewish music to how to design your own ritual objects for the ceremony.

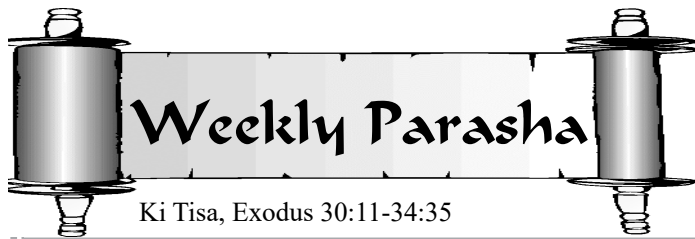
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Weekly Parasha

Ki Tisa, Exodus 30:11-34:35

The weekly Torah portion of Ki Tisa opens with the biblical commandment of *machatzit hashekel*. The commandment includes a national census of the Israelites – by collection of half-shekel coins from each individual counted – to create a fund toward building the *Mishkan* (tabernacle) in the desert. As the Torah describes: “When you take up the head [count] of the Children of Israel, in counting them, they are to give, each-man, a ransom for his life, for God, when they count them, that there be no plague on them, when they count them. This [is what] they are to give, everyone who goes through the counting: half a shekel... The rich are not to pay-more and the poor are not to pay-less than half a shekel... and assign it to the service

“We need you!”

RABBI BEN MENORA, CO-DIRECTOR OF THE JEWISH LEARNING INITIATIVE ON CAMPUS (OU-JLIC) AT BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

of the Tent of Meeting.” (Exodus 30:11-16)

The Hebrew verb the Torah uses for “count” is “*tisa*.” Early commentaries debate the exact meaning of the verb *tisa*, which can mean to take, receive or carry, all fitting with the commandment to collect and count coins as a form of counting heads. However, a passage in the Talmud goes with another meaning of the word: “lift” or “raise,” incorporating these verses into the following *midrash*: “Moshe said before God: Master of the Universe, with what will Israel’s ray be raised? He [God] said: with “*ki tisa*” (Bava Batra 10b).

In other words, the commandment to collect coins from the Israelites described in these opening verses of Ki Tisa

is being read by the *midrash* as a response to Moshe’s question “How can I uplift the Jewish people?” Rashi, the classic talmudic commentary, further explains the response Moshe receives to his question: “If you want to uplift them, have them give *tzedakah* (charity).”

At first glance, this *midrash* seems to take the verses out of context, shifting the focus of the verses. The straightforward reading of this Torah portion would describe a national census, and the coin collection as a means to that end, having an added benefit of supporting the *Mishkan* building fund. Whereas the *midrashic* read describes the collection of *tzedakah* as a means toward uplifting the See “Need” on page 11

Congregational Notes

Beth David Synagogue

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

Temple 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, March 11, Shacharit services will be held at 9:30 am via Zoom and in-person (masks are required). The Torah portion is Exodus 30:11-34:35 and the haftarah is I Ezekiel 36:16-38. At 7:30 pm, there will be Havdalah services via Zoom.

On Wednesday, March 15, Torah study will be held from 4-5 pm on Zoom.

On Saturday, March 18, at 9:30 am, Shacharit services will be held via Zoom and in-person (masks are required). The Torah portion is Exodus 35:1-40:38 and the haftarah is Ezekiel 45:16-46:18. At 8:30 pm, there will be Havdalah services via Zoom.

On Tuesday, March 21, there will a Board of Trustees meeting on Zoom at 7 pm.

On Wednesday, March 22, Torah study will be held from 4-5 pm on Zoom.

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, secretary@tbeithaca.org
Website: www.tbeithaca.org
Presidents: David Weiner and Linda Aigen
Sisterhood President: Gail Zussman
Director of Education: Rabbi Suzanne Brody
Services: Fri. 8 pm; Sat. 10 am, unless otherwise announced.
Weekday morning minyan 7:30 am (9 am on Sun. and legal holidays).
Religious School/Education: September-May: Classes meet on Sunday, 9 am-12:30 pm and Wednesday, 3:45-5:45 pm. The Midrashah (eighth grade and high school) classes will meet at times designated by their respective teachers.
Adult Ed.: Numerous weekly courses, several semester-long courses and a variety of mini-courses and lectures are offered throughout the year. Call the temple office for more details.

For upcoming services and events on Zoom, visit www.tinyurl.com/HappeningAtTBE.

Norwich Jewish Center

Orientation: Inclusive
Rabbi: David Regenspan
Address: 72 South Broad St., Norwich, NY 13815
Phone: 334-2691
E-mail: fertigj@roadrunner.com
Contact: Guilia Greenberg, 373-5087
Purpose: To maintain a Jewish identity and meet the needs of the Jewish community in the area.
Adult Ed.: Shabbat study sessions are held on designated Saturday mornings at 10 am. Call ahead, text or e-mail to confirm dates.



Synagogues limit face-to-face gatherings

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

Rohr Chabad Center

Affiliation: Chabad-Lubavitch
Rabbi Aaron and Rivkah Slonim, Directors
E-mail: aslonim@binghamton.edu
rslonim@chabadofbinghamton.com
Address: 420 Murray Hill Rd., Vestal, NY 13850
Phone: 797-0015, Fax: 797-0095
Website: www.Chabadofbinghamton.com
Rabbi Zalman and Rochel Chein, Education
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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.

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
Rabbi: Shifrah Tobacman, rabbishifrah@tikkunvor.org
Presidents: Sue Merkel and Laurie Willick, presidents_22@tikkunvor.org
Education Director/Administrative Coordinator: Naomi Wilensky
Bnai Mitzvah Coordinator: Michael Margolin
Services: All services currently on Zoom. E-mail info@tikkunvor.org for the times and links. Contemplative morning services every Tuesday from 8:30-9:30 am. Saturday mornings, Gan Shabbat and other special services at least once a month. Call for the weekly schedule.
Jewish Learning Experiences (JLE) for second through seventh grade classes meet on Sunday mornings. Sixth and seventh grades also meet on Wednesday afternoons. Family programs for kindergarten and first grade held monthly.
Adult Education: Offered regularly throughout the year. Check the website for details.

Temple Beth El of Oneonta

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

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.

Friday, March 10, light candles before..... 5:46 pm
Shabbat ends Saturday, March 11 6:47 pm
Friday, March 17, light candles before..... 6:54 pm
Shabbat ends Saturday, March 18 7:55 pm
Friday, March 24, light candles before..... 7:02 pm
Shabbat ends Saturday, March 25 8:03 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, March 10: At 7:30 pm, Shabbat service with Suzanne Holwitt, Rabbi Rachel Esserman and Robin Hazen. Masks are optional for those attending in person. Join via Zoom at <https://bit.ly/3hRmW2Y>, meeting ID 869 9699 8146 and passcode 826330, or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/templeconcord/.

Saturday, March 11: At 9 am, Shabbat school; 9:15 am, Torah study led by Rabbi Esserman and Suzanne Holwitt (join via Zoom at <http://bit.ly/3XDnVRE>, meeting ID 825 1226 2831 and passcode 743892); 10:35 am, Shabbat family service; and 7 pm, “Havdalah with a Bonus” (join via Zoom at <https://bit.ly/3e8mZsy>, meeting ID 833 9654 6578 and passcode: 333740 or via Facebook at www.facebook.com/templeconcord/).

Tuesday, March 14: At 8 pm, General Board Meeting, which is open to all members. For the meeting link, contact the office at 723-7355 or at templeconcordaa@gmail.com.

Friday, March 17: At 7:30 pm, Shabbat service with Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell. Masks are optional for those attending in person. Join via Zoom at <https://bit.ly/3hRmW2Y>, meeting ID 869 9699 8146 and passcode 826330, or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/templeconcord/.

Saturday, March 18: At 9 am, Shabbat school; 9:15 am, Torah study (join via Zoom at <http://bit.ly/3XDnVRE>, meeting ID 825 1226 2831 and passcode 743892); and 10:35 am, Shabbat School leads family service, followed by a potluck lunch.

Thursday, March 23: From 7-8:30 pm, in person and on Zoom, “Passover Seder Prep” with Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell to help those leading a seder for the first time or who want to refresh their seder skills. The program will teach about how to lead a seder and making it meaningful. RSVPs are requested so enough material will be available. Anyone who would like the program to be offered early in the day should contact the temple office. To join on Zoom, visit <http://bit.ly/3SpriQo>, meeting ID 834 6822 5969 and passcode 952695.

Temple Brith Sholom

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

Services and programs are held by Zoom on the first and second Fridays of the month.

Jerusalem's Pool of Siloam to be excavated, opened to the public

By Etgar Lefkovits

(JNS) – An ancient Jerusalem pool that was used by millions of Jewish pilgrims during the time of the Second Temple two millennia ago as a ritual bath before ascending the Temple Mount, and revered by Christians as the site where Jesus cured a blind man, will be fully excavated and then opened to the public, the Israel Antiquities Authority announced recently.

The Pool of Siloam, located in the southern portion of the City of David, the ancient epicenter of Jerusalem, and just outside the Old City walls is expected to become one of the most important historic and tourist sites in the city.

The pool has been a focal point for archaeologists and scholars for the last 150 years. The excavations are set to begin early in 2023 and will continue for at least several months, while the site is expected to open to the public in about a year.

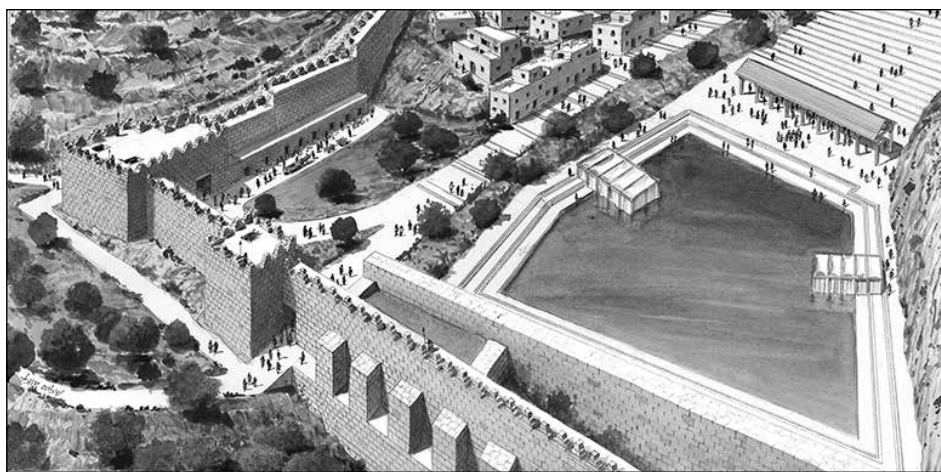
The City of David, a top tourist attraction in the capital, is adjacent to the eastern Jerusalem neighborhood of Silwan.

The Pool of Siloam was uncovered at the end of the 19th century, when British and American archaeologists led by Frederick Jones Bliss and Archibald Campbell Dickie exposed some of the steps of the Pool, followed by some work in the 1960s by the British archaeologist Kathleen Kenyon.

The site's scope was more fully uncovered only in 2004, when the city Gihon water company was carrying out infrastructure work and a tractor accidentally laid bare more of the location, leading to a partial excavation at the time, said Dr. Amit Re'em, the Jerusalem district archaeologist for the Israel Antiquities Authority.

The well-preserved pool covered with ashlar carved stone was a monumental site, and the consensus in the archaeological community was that this was indeed the Siloam Pool, he said.

Moreover, the recently uncovered adjacent stone path, dubbed "the Pilgrimage Road," which Jewish pilgrims used to ascend the Temple Mount during the Second Temple Period after purifying themselves in water and donning



A rendering of the Pool of Siloam in the Second Temple Period. (Drawing by Shalom Kveller/City of David Archives)

white robes, leads from the Pool to the Mount, the Israeli archaeologist said.

This pool was in use during the time of Jesus, he noted. According to the Gospel of John, it was at the Siloam Pool that Jesus healed the blind man. "There is no doubt that this is one of the most important historic sites in Jerusalem, and as such, it should be fully exposed," Re'em said.

It remains to be seen what lies underneath the pool, and whether an earlier stage of the pool dating back to the First Temple will be found as well, the archaeologist said.

The Pool of Siloam was constructed as part of Jerusalem's water system during the reign of King Hezekiah (715-687/6 B.C.E.), as described in 2 Kings 20:20. It served as the reservoir for the waters of the Gihon Spring, which were diverted through an underground water tunnel, and was one of the most important areas in Jerusalem in the

First Temple period, the Antiquities Authority said. Due to its location and importance, the Pool of Siloam was renovated and expanded some 2,000 years ago, at the end of the Second Temple period.

The planned excavation of the five-dunam site (about 1.25 acres) is getting underway after a 14-year legal battle culminated in June when Israel's Supreme Court found no reason to challenge the validity of the Ateret Cohanim organization's purchase of 99-year leases, renewable for an additional 99 years, from the Greek Orthodox Church, the largest landowner in Jerusalem.

One of Ateret Cohanim's goals is to purchase land in the history-rich area for public viewing, said Doron Spielman, vice president of the City of David Foundation. Previously, the area, which was off limits to everybody,

lay barren for decades and was littered with garbage, he said.

"It is not every day that we find an icon in Jerusalem," Spielman said. "This is not just a huge find, it is a mega-find."

Jerusalem Mayor Moshe Lion said in a statement, "The Pool of Siloam in the City of David National Park in Jerusalem is a site of historic, national and international significance. After many years of anticipation, we will soon merit being able to uncover this important site and make it accessible to the millions of visitors visiting Jerusalem each year."

One million visitors visited the City Of David in 2019, before the outbreak of the coronavirus, and a record three million are expected next year with the launch of a cable car, said Oriya Dasberg, head of physical development at the City of David Foundation. "The same way that this pool drew pilgrims thousands of years ago – on the path of our ancestors – it will now attract millions of tourists," she said.

Israeli-led study finds oldest evidence yet of cooked food

By JNS staff

(JNS) – Fish remains discovered at Israel's Geshen Benot Yaakov archaeological site appear to show that humans were

cooking their food hundreds of thousands of years ago.

Until now, the earliest evidence of cooking is claimed to date back about 170,000 years. However, these findings, published in Nature Ecology and Evolution, indicate that the practice is much older, dating back as far as 780,000 years.

Researchers from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Tel Aviv University and Bar-Ilan University collaborated with the Steinhardt Museum of Natural History, Oranim Academic College, the Israel Oceanographic and Limnological Research institution, the Natural History Museum in London and the Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz on the research that produced this new theory.

Dr. Irit Zohar, a researcher at TAU's Steinhardt Museum of Natural History and Dr. Marion Prevost at HU's Institute of Archaeology, stated: "This study demonstrates the huge importance of fish in the life of prehistoric humans, for their diet and economic stability. Further, by studying the fish remains found at Geshen Benot Yaakov we were able to reconstruct, for the first time, the fish population of the ancient Hula Lake and to show that the lake held fish species that became extinct over time."



Researchers at the Geshen Benot Yaakov archaeological site. (Photo by Hebrew University)

Need.....Continued from page 10

Jewish people. Is this a census or a *tzedakah* fund, and how does it relate to uplifting the Jewish people?

A PJ Library book our kids brought home from school a couple of years ago told the story of five young siblings whose backyard game of make-believe was put on hold when they couldn't agree who was the bravest, who could beat the big scary dragon. Turning to their mother for adjudication, she decided to present them with a challenge: whoever can collect the strongest branch can certainly beat the dragon and discover a priceless secret along the way. After each kid found a solid branch, the mother brought out the dragon (spoiler alert: it was an older sibling in disguise). One by one, the children handed over their respective branches for the test, and one by one were disappointed to see the dragon easily snap each of their branches. Seeing their disappointment, the mother gave them all a second chance, suggesting they may see better results by working together. Sure enough, just as they were all about to hand over their second round choices of branches for the test, the youngest sibling stopped them all, pulling a ribbon out of her hair, collected and tied the branches together, only then handing them over as one bundle to the dragon, who struggle and eventually gave up after failing to snap them, as hard as he tried. The siblings discovered the way to their greatest source of strength: the power of unity.

When building the *Mishkan*, while there were many donations brought in voluntarily, there was also a requirement to include everyone in the process. The unity factor, everyone buying into the project, this is a goal which could not be achieved with the donations they received from the wealthy and the generous.

However, beyond the minimum threshold donation, there is a second criteria: this campaign had one set membership fee equal for everyone.

The Torah writes: "The rich are not to pay more and the poor are not to pay less than half a shekel." By commanding a standardized donation sum of half a shekel a head, the Torah is not only creating an impressive nationwide crowdfunding campaign. The Torah prohibits participation of matchers. (Sorry, during this campaign, your donation will *not* be worth times two!) If we understand the reason, it makes a lot of sense. Not only is everyone welcome, they are expected to participate and be part of the building as members of the whole community. When it comes to a census, and cultivating the sense of belonging and membership of every member, no individual can claim a bigger role. We love and appreciate our platinum/gold/silver/[insert title] donors! But at the core, every single member has an equal share in membership.

While surely there were wealthy Israelites who could cover the building costs, who could collect and bring "bigger branches," it becomes evident that this campaign is not just about maximizing financial capital: it's about maximizing human capital! The power of the Jewish people is in our unity and, when every single individual contributes their part, we are joined together as a whole, as one people. If each individual were only to send in their own donation in accordance with their own individual capacity, that could lead to bigger givers claiming better seats and to those less fortunate being cast aside as non contributors, or free-trial members.

When Moshe asks God, "how can I lift their heads high," the answer is now clear: have them all give *tzedakah*. It empowers every single individual to be a full-membership contributing member of the tribe, leading to ideal census results – these are our membership numbers – and they are all equal. This, in turn, can lift the whole nation to newer heights with this added layer of unity.



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NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

Israel's Supreme Court rules in favor of "Utah Zoom weddings"

Israel's Supreme Court on March 7 rejected the state's appeal against registering civil marriages performed online through the U.S. state of Utah. The ruling directs the Population and Immigration Authority within the Interior Ministry to register these marriages, which are generally conducted via Zoom or Skype as an alternative to a religious ceremony conducted through the Chief Rabbinate of Israel. These "Utah marriages" became popular after a 2020 rule change in the U.S. state made marriages conducted via videoconferencing software legal as long as at least one participant or the officiant was physically present in the state. The COVID-19 pandemic made these marriages even more popular when Israelis could not travel abroad for civil marriages. Traditionally, many Israelis traveled to Cyprus for civil ceremonies. And the United Arab Emirates capital Abu Dhabi recently registered the first marriage of an Israeli couple. Around 600 Israeli couples have gotten married in Utah Zoom weddings in the past three years. They include members of the LGBT community, interfaith couples and others not recognized by the Chief Rabbinate. The state's appeal followed a petition by the NGO Hiddush-For Religious Freedom and Equality along with eight couples who married online through Utah. "We welcome the ruling of the Supreme Court, which opens another channel of marriage for the citizens and residents of Israel. The state of Israel is the only Western democracy in the world that denies its citizens the freedom of marriage due to the demand of the religious parties," Rabbi Uri Regev, CEO of Hiddush, said.

Some 6,000 IDF reservists pledge to continue their service

Some 6,000 IDF reservists have signed a petition saying that they will continue to serve, countering the trend of reservists threatening to not show up for duty if the government's proposed judicial reforms are seen through. "We, current reservists representing all parts of the nation, in all ranks and roles, and from the entire political spectrum, continue and will continue to serve as reserve soldiers in the IDF, despite the current fighting in civil society, out of a sense of mission and recognition of the importance of the army in defending the homeland," the petition states. Oded Harush, a tank commander in the reserves, told Channel 12 that he and a friend started the petition in response to a growing number of reservists saying they will abdicate their responsibilities to the nation over the political dispute. "The statement is very simple: Leave the army out of the conversation. It's a matter of the basic security of every citizen in this country, it cannot operate according to an agenda. Without the army, we cannot live, and security is the basis of everything. ... Otherwise, no one will be left here," said Harush. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has also spoken out against reserve soldiers refusing to serve because they don't agree with the government's efforts to restructure the judicial branch. On March 6, Netanyahu described it as an existential threat. "Refusal to serve threatens the foundation of our existence, and it must have no place in our ranks," Netanyahu said after attending a Purim megillah reading at a Border Police base in the Jewish community of Beit Horon.

Biden appoints Jewish legal expert to Library of Congress committee

U.S. President Joe Biden said on March 3 that among those he intends to appoint to key roles is a senior university administrator who is a Jewish expert on constitutional and civil-rights law. Biden announced Risa Goluboff, dean of the University of Virginia School of Law and a law and history professor, as a member of the Permanent Committee for the Oliver Wendell Holmes Devise. Goluboff is the first female dean of the law school. Congress established the committee, which consists of the librarian of Congress and four members named by the president, in 1955 to oversee the portion of Holmes' estate the Supreme Court associate justice left to the nation. The committee documents and disseminates Supreme Court history. "The committee's principal purpose is to continue to publish the multi-volume

work documenting the history of the court," according to a White House release. In July 2019, Goluboff addressed what should be done in the face of evil in reference to the August 2017 "Unite the Right" rally in Charlottesville, VA, home to the university. "I personally have asked that question in a number of different capacities," she said in 2019. "As a Jew, as a mother, a constitutional-law scholar, a civil-rights historian, the dean of a law school, a university leader and a resident of the city of Charlottesville. ... You mourn the loss of life, you mourn the very real injuries, and you mourn the loss of a kind of innocence," she said, as quoted in *The Chautauquan Daily*. "It was a closing up of the distance between our sense of ourselves as secure in a modern America as Jews, and the vulnerabilities Jews have faced here, at other times, and everywhere across the world." Goluboff also spoke on the panel "Hate on Trial: The Charlottesville Case" on March 30, 2022, at the Jewish Theological Seminary. On Dec. 1, 2020, Goluboff was part of a discussion on "Leadership Across Difference," which the University of Virginia's Jewish-studies program hosted and which addressed, in part, "How do Jewish tradition and historical experience speak to contemporary questions of justice and equality, pluralism and civil discourse?"

Shin Bet busts Hamas terror ring run out of Turkey

The Israel Security Agency (Shin Bet) said on March 6 that it busted a Hamas terrorist ring in Turkey planning attacks against the Jewish state. Four Palestinian students from the other side of Israel's Green Line were arrested. Ahmed Mahmoud Abu Salah, 24, was detained and questioned after returning from studying abroad. His interrogation led to the arrests of three others, according to the agency: Iyas Mahmoud Abu Salah, 20, Salah Mahmoud Abu Salah, 23, and Hassin Fauz Aqra, 25. Ahmed Mahmoud Abu Salah allegedly met with senior Hamas officials in Turkey, and was recruited for "military" training in Turkey and Syria. He was reportedly told to find others to form a cell in Judea and Samaria to carry out terror attacks. The Shin Bet said that the instruction included "weapons training and studying the manufacturing of explosives, in order to advance terror attacks against the state of Israel." A son of a senior Hamas official in Turkey maintained regular contact with the four students.

Jerusalem's Hadassah medical center named global leader in several fields

Newsweek has named Jerusalem's Hadassah Medical Center a world leader in oncology, and for the fifth straight year one of the globe's top hospitals in both cardiology and smart technology. The rankings appeared in the World's Best Hospitals 2023, the fifth annual assessment of 300 hospitals in 28 countries produced by Newsweek, in partnership with the global data firm Statista. Hadassah was placed alongside world-renowned U.S. medical centers such as the Mayo Clinic, the Cleveland Clinic, New York City's Mount Sinai Hospital and The Johns Hopkins Hospital. "Hadassah has gained a global reputation thanks to its groundbreaking research and advanced medical care," said Hadassah director Dr. Yoram Weiss. "I am delighted to see that, for the fifth year in a row, we have been recognized for the uncompromising quality of our teams in the fields of oncology and cardiology and as a 'smart' hospital using the most advanced technologies." The Newsweek-Statista results are based on more than 20,000 recommendations from thousands of medical experts and verified by a global committee of medical specialists.

Israeli medics train Berlin hospital for potential Russian missile attack

(JNS, first published by *Israel Hayom*) – An Israeli medical delegation visited Germany recently to train the staff of a major Berlin hospital in how to continue operating in wartime, and in particular during missile attacks. The German government had reached out to the Sheba Tel-HaShomer Medical Center requesting such training as fears of the Ukraine war overflowing into other parts of Europe continue to grow. Simulations included a possible strike from Kaliningrad, a Russian semi-exclave bordering on the Baltic states. Analysts estimate that ballistic missiles housed in the port city, located between Lithuania and Poland, could reach Germany in as little as five and a half minutes. Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin has a staff of 23,000 and can accommodate thousands of patients. One of its campuses is located near the Bundestag and is therefore feared to be at risk in case of a strike on the parliament. Dr. Yoel Har-Even, Sheba's director of the International Division and Resource Development and leader of the delegation, said that the hospital infrastructure was unprepared for such a conflict as Germany "has not faced a security threat for 80 years now. ... The local government is very worried about the possibility of the Ukraine war getting out of control and about the certain ability that the Russians have to attack" them.

Biden nominates his Jewish economic adviser as Council of Economic Advisers chair

Among the nominations U.S. President Joe Biden sent to the Senate on March 2 was that Jared Bernstein, currently a member of the Council of Economic Advisers, chair the council. That body is part of the executive branch. Bernstein served as chief economic adviser for Biden from 2009 to 2011 when Biden was vice president. A Virginian, Bernstein holds a doctorate in social welfare from Columbia University, according to his blog, in which he wrote once about being Jewish. "I very rarely stray from my political econo-lane here," he wrote, about the white-supremacist "Unite the Right" rally in Charlottesville, VA. "I'm also Jewish. So the evil that took place there over the weekend is personal and I cannot in good conscience not respond." In November 2020, Bernstein tweeted that he was "verklemt" when Biden appointed him to be a council member. No word from him yet on Twitter whether he will plotz following the nomination to be chair.

Birthright seeks alumni to serve as "ambassadors"

The Birthright Israel Foundation is searching for passionate trip veterans to speak about their experiences as official Alum Ambassadors. The ambassadors will address peers and leaders in the Jewish and Israel nonprofit community at various events. They will also have input on future programming. The opportunity is open to alumni from Birthright, Onward Israel and Excel trips. Three Birthright alumni co-chair the program: Eden Cohen, senior adviser to Israel's envoy to combat antisemitism; Jordyn Tilchen, pro-Israel activist and social-media personality; and Arel Moodie, a bestselling author and Disney+ host. Tilchen said her Birthright experience "ignited a true love for Israel that will never burn out," according to a release. Ambassadors receive a \$1,500 stipend. They must be able to travel as needed and participate in a minimum of three speaking engagements during the year. The foundation said it will cover their travel expenses.

Jewish Olympian skates to bobblehead fandom

The National Bobblehead Hall of Fame and Museum in Milwaukee has brought its Jewish inventory up to an even dozen. The latest bobblehead doll produced by the museum recognizes Jewish figure skater Jason Brown, who competed for the U.S. team in China in last year's winter games and who was part of a bronze-medaling U.S. team in 2014 in Sochi. Brown's bobblehead, which runs \$30 unsigned and \$60 signed, depicts the 27-year-old with his right skate planted firmly on the ice and his left nearly straight up in the air, supported by one hand, in a pose typical of the sport. Phil Sklar, founder and CEO of the for-profit museum, told JNS that Brown is one of 12 figurines created that celebrate Jewish individuals. (Other bobblehead makers have released their own Jewish figurines.)

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