

# “Marty Supreme”: Hitler’s worst nightmare

BILL SIMONS

A drama laced with sardonic wit, “Marty Supreme,” paced by fast cuts and rapid dialogue, relates the compelling story of a young Jewish con man, Marty Mauser, whose perverse charm, talent, exploitation of others and extraordinary confidence ultimately allow fulfillment of his quest to dominate the top of the table tennis world. His ping pong journey ricochets from seedy Manhattan dives to comic foil for Harlem Globetrotters’ intermission to world class competition superintended by pretentious elitists in Japan and England. Nominated for several Academy Awards, “Marty Supreme” is now available for home streaming. [Note: This article was written prior to the announcement of Academy Award recipients.]

“Marty Supreme” is a very Jewish movie, made so by theme, setting and people. Director Josh Safdie, himself a product of Jewish New York, creates his establishing shots from the drab, oppressive streets, shops, game rooms and lodgings that defined the Lower East Side vintage 1952, a place inhabited by working-class Jews. Absent from the exodus to the outer boroughs and Long Island, they remain in cramped tenements with common bathrooms. Shorn of privacy, apartment life accentuates loud gossip as its soundtrack. Safdie captures the juxtaposition between deprivation and ambition.

The Jewish actress Gwyneth Paltrow plays a Gentile, more specifically a faded movie star diminished by the years who joins Marty for mutually manipulative sex. Many of the other core characters are Jewish, as are the performers, such as Odessa A’zion, who portray them. A’zion conveys longing and crafty toughness as the married girlfriend Marty impregnates in a shoe store stockroom. As Marty’s kvetching mother, the indomitable Fran Drescher, who formerly rendered “The Nanny” unmistakably Jewish and, in real life, led militant strikes of actors and scriptwriters, is outstanding. Another veteran Jewish comedic actress, Sandra Bernhard, cast as a neighbor, ratchets up the noisy, claustrophobic bedlam of tenement life. And Marty, embodied by Timothée Chalamet, the film’s star, is the son of a Jewish mother.

Prior to “Marty Supreme,” Chalamet exhibited the uncanny ability to inhabit the wandering soul of another young Jew in “A Complete Unknown,” the Bob Dylan biopic. Only 30, Chalamet elicits comparison to supernova

James Dean and the young Marlon Brando by dint of preternatural talent and achievement. Chalamet’s performances in “Dune,” “Bones and All” and “Willy Wonka” also earned pride of place. A method actor, Chalamet follows a demanding regimen of total immersion in roles. Akin to Robert DeNiro’s ring training for “Raging Bull,” Chalamet insisted on singing Dylan in “A Complete Unknown” and taking up ping pong for “Marty Supreme.” Tireless and relentless, the peripatetic actor did innumerable interviews in countless cities to promote “Marty Supreme.”

“Marty Supreme” draws inspiration from the life and times of Jewish American table tennis champion Marty Reisman. Although the film is not and doesn’t claim to be biographical, the fictive Marty Mauser and the historical Marty Reisman – both lean, quick, bespectacled ping pong phenoms, hustlers and showmen – shared 1930 births and New York childhoods. The winner of more than 20 major tournaments, including U.S., British and world championships, Reisman had the edge on charm and Mauser on ruthlessness. Available on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yQVvG30fvf4>), a 1949 Pathé film shows a 19-year-old Reisman winning the British Open with speed and flashy behind-the-back returns. In 1997, Reisman, then 67, won his final major tournament, the eldest competitor to ever do so.

A superstar in a niche sport, Reisman never acquired riches or celebrity. Ping pong, however, is ubiquitous in Jewish American experience, made so by green-netted tables, paddles and small, hollow white balls found in settlement houses, YM-YWHAs, JCCs, summer camps and, subsequently, suburban basements. It does not pose the injury peril, feared by many Jewish parents, posed by contact sports. In addition to cerebral qualities akin to chess, table tennis builds quick-firing muscles while providing a moderate workout. As sportswriter Rustin Dodd observes, “Even at the intermediate levels, the sport is blindingly fast, requiring high-level processing, complex technique and the kind of spin recognition associated with a major-league baseball player trying to distinguish between a 100 mph fastball and a 90 mph slider.” “Marty Supreme” may take table tennis to a new level. It would be a good ameliorative for a generation addicted to video games and social media.

In the movie’s defining line, Marty calls himself “Hitler’s

worst nightmare.” It has resonance in and beyond the film because it encapsulates Mauser’s self-image and the public rise of American Jews in the decades immediately following World War II. For a time, the horrors of the Holocaust and the emergence of the modern state of Israel significantly discredited the most blatant displays of antisemitism in America. So, too, did the wartime service of approximately 450,000 Jewish American soldiers and sailors.

Brash, assured, talented and openly displaying their ethnic sensibility, a generation of American Jews, amongst them Philip Roth, Bella Abzug, Sid Caesar, Leonard Bernstein, Kirk Douglas and Barbra Streisand, seized center stage. Not only did the Jews survive, but as Marty’s denigration of Hitler implies, they could aggressively compete without hiding who they were. Marty and his bold cohorts were not the meek, passive victims that the deluded and defeated Hitler envisioned.

A practitioner of bad taste and chutzpah, Marty delights in shocking uptight British journalists with the boast that he will do what Auschwitz could not, fully destroy a ping pong rival, then unapologetically retort that his Jewishness entitles him to hurl death camp barbs. Conversely, he displays pride that his frenemy Bela fed fellow concentration camp prisoners by smuggling honey back in on his chest when forced by Nazis to defuse bombs hidden in the forest.

Clearly not the product of a yeshiva education, Marty never overtly draws upon Torah or Talmud, but his assault on the privileged and powerful who want to keep Jews “ghettoized” is unremitting. After a wealthy benefactor forces him to submit to a public bare buttock whipping, Marty brings down retribution by bedding the man’s wife. In several scenes, a *mezuzah* hangs above Marty’s t-shirt. Egyptian taskmasters get their payback when he loosens a stone from a pyramid built by Hebrew forebearers as a gift for his mother.

Marty is neither hero, role model nor mensch. A heel, he is a self-absorbed user of people. In fact, it rings false when the movie ends with Marty making an implausible return to his abandoned girlfriend and their newborn son. Landsman to “What Makes Sammy Run?” and “The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz,” “Marty Supreme” brilliantly presents a riveting cautionary *midrash* concerning an inexorable and damaging diaspora journey of Jewish ascent.

## Opinion

### Gambling on death

By Rabbi Rachel Esserman

The Talmud is pretty clear that Jews are forbidden to gamble. The Mishnah notes that gamblers are forbidden to be witnesses in court cases because they are considered unreliable. Later Jewish texts note that one reason for prohibiting gambling is because the winnings are con-

sidered theft. Why? Because people rarely give up their money willingly. They’re planning to win; surrendering that money is thought to be done under duress. I am not sure what the ancient rabbis would have thought of people betting that someone would die. That, unfortunately, is a contemporary problem.

I thought about this after I saw the headline “Kalshi customers who bet on the death of Iran’s Ayatollah won’t get any of the \$54 million wagered, company says” ([www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/kalshi-bets-iran-ayatollah-ali-khamenei-death-b2932018.html](http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/kalshi-bets-iran-ayatollah-ali-khamenei-death-b2932018.html)). My immediate reaction was, “Good for them. Betting on someone’s death is abhorrent.” Unfortunately, that was not the only reason for the company’s refusal. Instead, it’s that “the predictions market says [its] promotion was ‘grammatically ambiguous’ and misunderstood by customers, reiterating that it ‘does not offer markets that settle on death.’”

If you’re wondering what Kalshi is, that’s understandable. The company calls itself an “exchange and prediction market where you can trade on the outcome of real-world events.” I had never heard of it until after the bombing of Iran started, when news reports talked of how those placing bets on the site seemed to have advance knowledge of U.S. actions. Several also noted that President Donald Trump’s son, Donald Trump Jr., is a strategic advisor at Kalshi. I have no idea if information was leaked; right now, that is all innuendo, rather than fact. My concern

is more about someone betting on death.

According to Kalshi, the company was not offering bets on the death of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, but rather whether he would be ousted from office. I am not a fan of Khamenei (that is an understatement), but betting on his death or the overthrow of his or any other government just seems wrong from a Jewish point of view. This has nothing to do with my thoughts on the military action (or war, depending on your point of view) that is occurring in Iran. There are far more knowledgeable pundits to comment on that. My concern is different. Has our society reached such a point where it’s acceptable to bet on events that greatly affect the future of our country or which can cause great harm to people’s lives? This is more than sports betting (although the site includes that). This is betting about the next country facing military action, the confirmation of government officials, whether or not Congress will pass certain laws, layoffs at technology companies and more. The potential for insider trading or leakage of classified information is potentially damaging to all of us.

No one should be betting on whether someone will die, no matter what you think of them. The ancient rabbis thought gamblers were unreliable. How much more so would they consider those looking to gain money if winning is the result of someone dying?

Rabbi Rachel Esserman is the former executive editor of The Reporter. Currently, she serves as book reviewer/columnist for the paper.

## Corrections

In the February issue of *The Reporter*, Dr. Loren and Marlene Wolsh should have been listed in the 2025 Donor Honor Roll under the Justice (Tzadak) honor category. The Jewish Federation apologizes for the error.

In the March issue of *The Reporter*, the seventh entry in Bill Simons’ “America’s 25 most impactful Jews” article should have read, “7. Ernest Gruening, Harvard M.D., crusading journalist, Puerto Rico administrator, and territorial governor of Alaska and its senior senator, he was one of two senators to vote against the resolution justifying U.S. escalation of the Vietnam War.”

## About the cover

This year’s Passover cover was created by Julie Weber, *The Reporter*’s production associate.



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LETTERS

The Reporter welcomes letters on subjects of interest to the Jewish community. All letters must be signed and include a phone number; names may be withheld upon request.

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# Chabad to hold community seder

Chabad Center announces that it will hold a Passover seder open to the general community on the first night of the holiday, Wednesday, April 1. Festivities will begin with services at 7:10 pm, followed by the seder; services and the seder will be held at the Chabad Center, 420 Murray Hill Rd., Vestal. Reservations for attending the seder will be taken until Monday, March 30. For more information and reservations, e-mail [aslonim@Jewishbu.com](mailto:aslonim@Jewishbu.com) or call the Chabad office at 607-797-0015.

The seder will include all of the traditional observances, a full course dinner, handmade *shmura* matzah and mystical insights. The haggadah will be read with participation

“We Don’t Say Goodbye”

# Yom Hashoah Holocaust memorial program at JCC on April 16

By Diana Sochor

The community is invited to attend a Yom Hashoah Holocaust memorial program at the Jewish Community Center on Thursday, April 16, at 7 pm. The program will begin with a memorial candle lighting, followed by the film “We Don’t Say Goodbye”: Southern Tier People Remember the Holocaust,” and then a lecture and discussion led by Rabbi Lance J. Sussman, Ph.D. It is co-sponsored by the JCC, the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton and the College of Jewish Studies, a coalition that includes the Binghamton University Judaic Studies Department, Temple Concord, Temple Israel and Beth David Synagogue, along with the JCC and Federation. The program is free, but those planning to attend are asked to RSVP to the JCC by calling 607-724-2417 or e-mailing [LauraH@binghamtonjcc.org](mailto:LauraH@binghamtonjcc.org).

Organizers of the event are also planning to create a photo gallery of community members’ relatives who were lost in the Holocaust to display at the program. Those interested in sharing their family photos should e-mail them, preferably in a JPG format, to [director@jfgb.org](mailto:director@jfgb.org) by Wednesday, April 1.

See “Holocaust” on page 15

# TC Brotherhood talk on April 12

The Brotherhood of Temple Concord announces that Sharon Sherman will be its speaker for the luncheon on Sunday April 12, at 12 pm. She will speak about how to research Jewish genealogy. The brunch will cost \$10 per person. Reservations are a must. Call Temple Concord at 607-723-7355 to make a reservation by Wednesday, April 8.

# JFS Campaign raises \$4,000

Jewish Family Service’s Matching Gift Campaign, which ended on February 28, raised \$4,000 total thanks to an anonymous donor who offered to match up to \$2,000 in funds received. The funds will be used to support members of the community at large (both Jewish and non-Jewish) in need of financial aid.

See “JFS” on page 4

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 seder, but donations to help defray the cost would be appreciated and can be sent to Chabad before or after the holiday.

“We will be serving a full course, traditional holiday Seer “Seder” on page 6

### Sharing their stories

In an e-mail interview, Reporter staff asked Rabbi Lance J. Sussman about his connections to local Holocaust survivors and the importance of sharing their stories of survival.

Q: After you moved to the Binghamton area, what happened that made you aware that the local community had been touched by the Holocaust?



Rabbi Lance J. Sussman (Photo by Chana Sussman)

A: Shortly after my arrival I met a number of survivors. I was curious as to how many more there were in the community and so I began to look into it. I was amazed by the number of survivors and witnesses in the Binghamton area.

Q: Why did you think it was important to share what you learned in your own writing and in works you published through Keshet Press?

A: I had two concerns. First, was simply to record their stories for posterity. Second, I thought there was an opportunity to teach children throughout the Tri-City area about the Holocaust through the experience of their neighbors. I didn’t want the Holocaust to be some ancient event to them, but something that is a very real part of the society they were living in.

Q: What do you hope community members will learn from this film and your lecture following its viewing?

A: I was very grateful that the local PBS station under the leadership of Bill Jaker decided to transform my book into a television documentary. Television is a very powerful medium, and the story can be repeated there infinitely.

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TC Sisterhood elections on April 8; BD Sisterhood Donor Dessert on May 13.

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The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to Lana Rouff on the death of her husband,  
**Dr. Lawrence Rouff**

## DEADLINES

The following are deadlines for all articles and photos for upcoming printed issues of the monthly REPORTER.

ISSUE	DEADLINE
May .....	April 6*
June .....	May 6
July.....	June 10
August.....	July 8

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

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Off the Shelf

# When like takes different directions

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

A friend and I frequently disagree when it comes to judging the books we've read. There are authors I love whom she finds herself unable to read. Last year, one of her favorite novels made my "wish I hadn't bothered to read this" list. We still enjoy talking about books because, even when we disagree, it's interesting to discuss our impressions. I've come to realize one reason for our differences: we've had an almost indescribable emotional response to the books that mean the most to us, a response that is as individualistic as falling in love.

I thought about this because I know that not everyone will agree with my thoughts about two recent books: "The World Between" (Delphinium Books), the second novel by Israeli author Ze'eva Bukai\*, and "Remember to Eat and Other Stories" (SparkPress), a book of short stories by Meryl Ain\*\*. While I found Ain's book enjoyable and engaging (and perfect for book clubs interested in women's issues), my immediate response to Bukai's was that it's breathtakingly brilliant. Yet, I wonder if more readers will appreciate Ain's book due to its writing style. However, it was Bukai's short novel that swept me away with a hurricane of emotions.

In fewer than 180 small pages (the book measures 5 inches by 7 inches), Bukai manages to paint a verbal portrait of the unnamed main character's life. Written as a series of letters to her estranged husband, who is living in New York City, the narrator tries to understand what has happened to her during a trip to Israel, particularly why she finds herself in the sanitarium in Jaffe run by the Sisters of Saint Joseph. Readers are given hints about her early life, particularly about her starring roles in the Yiddish theater in plays that were written by her husband. However, their life was poisoned by the death of their 9-month-old son. The roles her husband then wrote for her began to feature women who destroyed their children, a theme echoed by the therapist at the sanitarium.

However, the most intriguing character is Rothman, whom the narrator has known since childhood. It is he who visits her in the sanitarium and who reminds her of her life before and during World War II. Together, they survived a prison-type camp in Siberia and moved to Israel after the war, which is where she met her husband. What they went through is something readers need to discover for themselves, but it's clear that the narrator is scarred by her time working with young children in the camp, children it was impossible for her to save. The reason she is confined to the sanitarium is connected to that trauma.

Parts of "The World Between" are heartrending. For example, readers might question whether patients in the sanitarium would be happier if they were allowed to maintain the delusion that their loved ones were still alive. Yet, the effect that would have on those who came into their lives after the war is also difficult to bear.

Exactly what happens to the narrator after the last sentence of "The World Between" is open to debate. However, that final chapter left me stunned and unable to connect

to the world around me. That is one of the highest compliments I can give a book. Yet, I am aware that this very literary novel will not appeal to everyone. I can only hope that readers will be willing to risk reading this moving, fascinating work.

While Bukai's work has a first-person narrator, Ain's stories feature first-person and third-person narration. The time period of the stories range from before World War II to contemporary times. However, the 22 stories do not appear in chronological order, something that works because of the different themes about family and community life featured, and the changes that occurred in the opportunities offered to women during those times. While the stories focus on Alice, who enrolled in the U.S. Army during World War II, although she was never sent overseas, and her daughter Marjorie, a baby boomer whose life was mostly defined by family, readers also learn about Alice's mother, Sadie, and Marjorie's daughter, Deborah. The stories show the changes that occurred between generations, not only because of the different opportunities offered the women, but the individual choices they made.

There are overlapping details in many of the stories, but they don't feel repetitive because each story focuses on different aspects of the women's lives. Some of my favorite stories include:

- ◆ "Fighting Hitler: Alice's War," which tells why she joined the Army after college and her experience stateside during the war.
- ◆ "After the War," during which Alice decides what she should do with her life once the kids are grown. She debates this with her friend Connie, another mother, who was a nurse during World War II and who nursed those who had been in concentration camps.

◆ "Alice Gets A Job" shows how, during the 1960s, women worked behind the scenes to make things happen, but that the men got all the credit for their successes.

◆ "The Cantor Sings: Marjorie and the Amazing Voice," which is a humorous story about what happens when a synagogue hires a cantor whose voice becomes more important than the community itself.

◆ "Cherished Daughter," in which Marjorie learns that a close relationship with her daughter is not guaranteed. The problem begins during Deborah's childhood, when she thinks the dolls her mother collected for her are creepy.

◆ "Unexpected Blessing," a beautiful story about the unexpected turns life can take. In this case, Bobbi, a friend of Marjorie's, is distressed when her son joins an ultra-Orthodox sect. However, Bobbi soon learns how seriously they take the mitzvah of saving a life.

◆ "Never Again," which is a story about antisemitism that takes place over several decades. One of those events could have been taken from my own life, making this story particularly meaningful.

Ain's prose is easy to read and her stories memorable. Book clubs, especially those with women of different ages, will find much to discuss.

\*The Reporter's review of Bukai's first novel "The Anatomy of Exile" can be found at [www.thereporter.org/book-reviews/off-the-shelf-family-religion-country-and-love](http://www.thereporter.org/book-reviews/off-the-shelf-family-religion-country-and-love).

\*\*The Reporter's reviews of Ain's two post-Holocaust themed novels can be found at [www.thereporter.org/book-reviews/off-the-shelf-two-sides-of-world-war-ii-part-1-by-rabbi-rachel-esserman](http://www.thereporter.org/book-reviews/off-the-shelf-two-sides-of-world-war-ii-part-1-by-rabbi-rachel-esserman) and [www.thereporter.org/book-reviews/celebrating-jewish-literature-the-past-and-the-present](http://www.thereporter.org/book-reviews/celebrating-jewish-literature-the-past-and-the-present).



## On the Jewish food scene

# Wines for Passover

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

Once upon a time, the only wine to appear on the majority of American seder tables was very sweet Manischewitz concord grape. Some folks continue to drink Manischewitz because, to them, that wine signifies Passover. (The same is true for those of us who are willing to try other types of charosets, but whose preference is for the one that we ate during our childhood.) Others, with more discerning palates, look for other wines to grace their holiday tables. However, there have not always been a great number of choices for those looking for a kosher for Passover wine.

That has begun to change: more wine companies are creating kosher for Passover wines they hope will appeal to those seeking more sophisticated choices. That includes sending samples to food columnists, which is how my wine tasting dinner came about: I received two bottles of kosher wine to taste test and invited three friends to sample the wines with me because we all have different tastes in wine. One prefers dry wines (and refers to the ones I like as "sickening sweet"). The second and third will drink both sweet and dry depending on the occasion. After years of learning to drink the more "sophisticated" dry wines (at

least, that's what folks I knew called them), I reverted to sweet ones after one taste of Moscato several years back.

The wines I received were Baron Herzog's California Cabernet Sauvignon (red) and Vera Wang's Party Prosecco (white). We were surprised that all four of us – even those who prefer white wine – liked the Cabernet Sauvignon best, considering it good enough for a Passover seder. The Prosecco was not as sweet as expected and a bubbly wine seemed an odd choice for a seder, but we decided it would work for a Passover brunch, especially if mixed with fruit juice to make mimosas.

Of course, our decisions are purely subjective because none of us are wine experts. A different friend and I once sampled a wine during an event at our synagogue. My reaction: This is so dry, it's almost bitter. Her reaction: This is way too sweet. The advantage now, though, is that people have more choices of kosher for Passover wines to use at their seders. I suggest readers hold their own taste testing events. It's a great way to get together with friends.

## JFS . . . . . Continued from page 3

"I know I've said this before, but I'm completely amazed at the generosity of our community," said Merryl Wallach, JFS director. "To have an anonymous donor who will match funds up to \$2,000 is such a gift. I'm honored to be working with a community that is generous beyond belief. All of the money raised will go directly to the most vulnerable people in the community. Thank you with my whole heart."

JFS appreciates donations throughout the year to help support those in need. To donate, bring or send a check to JFS, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850, or visit [www.jfjb.org/local-global-community/jewish-family-service](http://www.jfjb.org/local-global-community/jewish-family-service).

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

**Merryl Wallach**  
Director

*May you have a joyous Pesach, with hopes of freedom for all.*

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# Community Spotlight

## Alex Kaminsky

The Reporter's "Community Spotlight" feature seeks to highlight community members and find out more about them. If you want to be among the participants, e-mail [treporter@aol.com](mailto:treporter@aol.com).

1. What is your hometown?  
Larchmont NY

2. What is your earliest Jewish memory?  
My earliest Jewish memory is Chanukah at my grandparents' house in Mt. Vernon. The whole family would gather, cousins everywhere, coats piled up, the kitchen filled with the smell of fresh latkes frying. Old family menorahs lined the table, mismatched and a little worn, and when we lit the candles the room would suddenly feel quiet and special.

Then it was back to chaos, playing dreidel, fiercely guarding tiny piles of chocolate gelt and feeling like I'd hit the jackpot whenever I won. It was warm, loud, sweet and felt completely like home.

3. What is your favorite Jewish food or dessert?

Too many to count, but at the top of the list is a perfectly toasted everything bagel with a generous scallion schmear and lox piled high from Zabars. And I can always go for a bowl of my wife's chicken soup with matzah balls.

4. What is your favorite Jewish holiday?  
If you had asked me years ago, I would have said Chanukah without hesitation. But over the past decade, Passover has become my favorite holiday.

There's something incredibly meaningful about gathering for two large seders each year, with extended family coming together around the table. The preparation, the storytelling, the traditions, it all creates a sense of continuity and connection across generations. I love watching everyone participate, from my youngest asking the Four Questions to the adults relaxing with four cups of great Israeli wine.

5. What has been the biggest influence on your Jewish identity?

The biggest influence on my Jewish identity was moving to Israel for four years during medical school and living in Tel Aviv. Until then, Judaism had largely felt centered around holidays and family traditions. In Israel, it became something woven into daily life. The rhythm of the week shifted with Shabbat, you could feel the country exhale on Friday afternoons. Jewish holidays weren't something you scheduled around work or school; they shaped the entire public calendar.

Living in Tel Aviv also showed me the diversity within Jewish identity, secular, religious, traditional, native-born Israelis, immigrants from all over the world, all expressing Judaism in different, sometimes contradictory, ways. It forced me to think more intentionally about what parts of Jewish life were cultural, spiritual, historical or personal for me.

Just as powerful was experiencing medicine there. The value placed on preserving human life, the deep, almost sacred commitment to saving a life, felt profoundly Jewish to me. In the hospitals, I saw Arab and Jewish physicians, nurses and staff caring for patients side by side, treating people based on need, not identity. In those moments, the concept of human dignity wasn't theoretical; it was lived.

Being there during such a formative period of training and adulthood made Judaism feel less inherited and more chosen. It deepened my connection not only to ritual and peoplehood, but to the moral responsibility embedded in our tradition, the belief that every life matters and that preserving it is among the highest callings.

6. What is your greatest achievement? or What are you most proud of?

My greatest achievement is raising three children with a strong, proud Jewish identity who are active in our community. I'm especially proud of the leadership roles they've taken on and the meaningful friendships they've built. Seeing them embrace their heritage with confidence and commitment is more fulfilling than any professional accomplishment.

What makes it even more meaningful is that we live in a smaller Jewish community, during a time when antisemitism feels more visible and present. Despite that, they don't shrink or hide who they are. They wear their Judaism openly and proudly. Watching them stand tall in their identity, not out of defiance, but out of genuine pride and connection, is something that fills me with deep gratitude and hope.

7. Do you have any children and/or pets?  
Three children, Aviva, Jonah and Eitan, and a bernedoodle, Babka.

8. What are your hobbies?  
I enjoy staying active and hands-on. I play ice hockey and tennis whenever I can, I love the competition, the camaraderie and the way both sports completely clear my head.

At home, I enjoy making maple syrup, which is a surprisingly rewarding mix of patience and process and occasionally questioning whether collecting and processing sap in freezing weather was really a good idea. I also love cooking, especially when it brings family and friends together around the table. And whenever possible, I enjoy traveling, exploring new places, cultures and experiences with my family.

9. What do you like most about living in Binghamton?

What I like most about living in Binghamton is that we found exactly what we were searching for. We moved here intentionally, looking for a strong Jewish day school for our children, and we were amazed to discover Hillel Academy of Broome County.

From the start, we were struck not only by its academic excellence, but by the warmth of the environment. It wasn't just a school, it felt like a community. The teachers truly know and care about the students, and there's a sense that each child is seen, supported and encouraged to grow both intellectually and personally. Watching our children thrive there, academically, socially and Jewishly, has made Binghamton feel like the right place for our family. The close-knit nature of the community creates real connection, and that sense of belonging has been the most meaningful part of living here.

Serving as president of Hillel Academy has deepened that connection even further. Supporting the school's growth and long-term sustainability has become a personal priority for me. Investing in its future isn't just about today's students, it's about ensuring that generations to come have access to the same strong, nurturing Jewish education that has meant so much to our family.

## Mark Yonaty to receive Ferber Award

# Beth David's Annual Dinner on May 3

Beth David Synagogue's Annual Dinner will take place on Sunday, May 3, with the Jack and Mary Ferber Award being given to honoree Mark Yonaty for his service and dedication to Beth David and the community. This year's catered event will begin at 3 pm at the synagogue, with a cocktail and hors d'oeuvres hour followed by a catered sit-down dinner at 4 pm. The cost per person is \$65, with sponsorship opportunities available. Invitations will be sent out in April, as well as raffle tickets for purchase for the cash prizes at the event. Those wanting further information can contact the synagogue at 607-722-1793 or by e-mail at [bethdavid@stny.rr.com](mailto:bethdavid@stny.rr.com).



Mark Yonaty  
(Photo courtesy of Greater Binghamton Chamber of Commerce)

for him began at an early age, when he rolled up his sleeves to be part of the family business at his father's State Street Hess gas station.

His devotion to Beth David has taken many forms over the years. "Taking time out of his busy work schedule," organizers say, "Mark has made time to be the guest speaker at Beth David's Luncheon Speaker series. His first presentation, in 2014, was entitled 'Shaping the Binghamton of the Future: an Insider's Perspective.'" When he returned

again in 2024, he impressed his Beth David audience with all that he has succeeded in accomplishing, and what his future projects comprise. Mark has continuously and steadfastly been one of the key developers in making downtown Binghamton a vibrant go-to place!"

As the owner of M.B. Development, Yonaty has been in the forefront of creating new restaurants, housing and areas for See "Dinner" on page 10




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Happy Passover

# Annual Campaign 2026

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- 1) Visit the Federation website at [www.jfgeb.org](http://www.jfgeb.org) and click on "make a pledge."
- 2) E-mail Federation Executive Director Shelley Hubal at [director@jfgeb.org](mailto:director@jfgeb.org) with "pledge" in the subject line.
- 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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**500 Clubhouse Rd.,**  
**Vestal, NY 13850**

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**Jewish Federation**  
of Greater Binghamton

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# TI to mark 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of rebuilt synagogue

Temple Israel will celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of its rebuilt synagogue with a dedication program and community barbecue on Sunday, July 26.

The program will honor the generations whose dedication to Torah, worship and community laid the foundation for the synagogue, while recognizing current members

who continue to carry the legacy forward. Following the dedication and procession, guests are invited to enjoy a barbecue lunch. An archive display highlighting 140 years of Temple Israel's history will also be featured, along with raffle baskets and a 50/50 raffle.

Temple Israel's current building opened in July 2016,

after the congregation's former synagogue was lost to a roof collapse caused by heavy snow and ice in December 2013.

The celebration is open to the community. There is no charge for the barbecue lunch, but reservations are required by Friday, July 10, by contacting the temple office at 607-723-7461 or office@templeisraelvestal.org.

# JCC centennial campaign continues

The Jewish Community Center's centennial campaign is ongoing this year, with a goal of \$800,000. The JCC will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary on August 15, 2027.

"The first six months were quite successful as our community recognizes how important the JCC is to us all," said Sue and Mark Walker, co-chairmen of the campaign. "Every dollar is being generously matched by funds from the Eisenberg Foundation. Please reach out to the JCC today with your pledge. *L'dor v' dor*, let's keep our JCC here for the next 100 years. In these uncertain times, our JCC remains a safe and welcoming place for us all. Thank you."

Donations may be made immediately or pledged over the campaign period through Sunday, October 31, 2027. The David Eisenberg Donor Advised Fund will match all contributions up to \$400,000. There are donor recognition opportunities available. To donate, checks may be sent to the Jewish Community Center, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850. For more information, contact the JCC at 607-724-2417.

At right, r-l: Eugene Kaminsky, Leland Jones, Alec Rosefsky, Louis Pais, Sanford Parish, Mayor John Burns and unknown at the site of the JCC building.



L-r: Alec Rosefsky, leadership gifts chairman; JCC President Bud Parish and Mike Melamed, general campaign chairman, started the JCC Building Fund Drive "with a bang."

## Seder.....

Continued from page 3

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.

### Seder in a Box

For those who are unable to attend and would like to celebrate the holiday with all of the traditions, Chabad will make available a Seder in a Box. Interested parties are asked to email aslonim@Jewishbu.com or call the Chabad office at 607-797-0015 to reserve their box (or a box for a friend or loved one) as soon as possible. The Seder in a Box will contain matzah, grape juice, a complete holiday dinner (for one or two) and all of the ceremonial items necessary for a seder; a haggadah will be included, as well.

The subsidized cost of the Seder in a Box is \$54, which includes one dinner, and \$25 for each additional

meal. Reservations for a Seder in a Box will be taken until Monday, March 30.

Community members who wish to assist in this effort can help with delivery, can underwrite a box or two, and/or can help with the cooking of the food and packaging of the boxes. To offer assistance, call the Slonims at 607-797-0015. Checks earmarked for this purpose may be sent to Chabad Center, 420 Murray Hill Rd., Vestal, NY 13850.

For more information and reservations, e-mail aslonim@Jewishbu.com or call the Chabad office at 607-797-0015.

### Shmura matzah

Handmade *shmura* matzah will be available for purchase through the Chabad Center for \$20 a pound (three matzahs can be purchased for \$12) as long as the supply lasts. Interested parties are urged to place their orders as soon as possible by calling the Chabad office at 607-797-0015.

# PASSOVER GREETINGS

May you and your family have a joyous Pesach

Terri Bennett

Bob Tomanek

May you and your family have a joyous Pesach

Rabbi Zev & Judy Silber

Wishing you and your family a joyous Passover

Diana Sochor

May you and your family have a joyous Pesach

Steve Gilbert & family

Happy Passover

Happy Passover!

Rhona & Richard Esserman

We wish everyone a sweet & healthy Pesach.

Harold & Toby Kohn and Family

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

Susan and Gerald Hubal

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

Jean & Lew Hecht and family

חנ כשר ושמח  
BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY & KOSHER PASSOVER

Susan and Ben Kasper

Happy Passover from Steven, Gail, Michael, Emily, Milo, Ari & Eli Feuer of Otego, NY

Maria and Bob Kutz wish all their relatives and friends a Happy Passover

Passover Greetings from Linda & Dennis Robi and Family

HAPPY PASSOVER  
Ann C. Brillant

# TC Sisterhood announces slate of officers

The Temple Concord Sisterhood slate of officers has been announced. Elections will be on Wednesday, April 8, at 7 pm, at the temple. All Sisterhood members are eligible to attend and vote. Installation will be at the Sisterhood Shabbat on Friday, May 15, at 7:30 pm.

As of March 4, the Sisterhood officers and Board of Directors for 2026-27 include:

President - to be determined; past president - Barbara Thomas; treasurer - Nancy Dorfman; financial secretary - Carol Herz; recording secretary - Shari Neuberger; corresponding secretary - Sandy Foreman; Nominating

Committee chair - to be determined; Directors 2025-27 - Helene Philips and Deb Williams; and Directors 2026-28 - Marsha Luks, Babs Putzel-Bischoff, Linda Lisman and Marty Eisenstadt.

Other positions include: publicity organizer - Babs Putzel-Bischoff; Rosh Hashanah *Kiddush* chairs - Babs Putzel-Bischoff, Barbara Dickman, Tracy Putzel-Bischoff, Luks and Gayle Klein; Whale of a Sale chair - Ani Loew; rummage sale chairs - Alycia Harris (September through December), Sarah Marcus (January through June) and Pam Burgman; Judaica Shop chair - Herz

with Robin Hazen and Williams; Sisterhood Sabbath coordinators - Ross Mateo and Carol Bernstein; Inter-sisterhood - Philips; cradle roll - Jesse Parker; adult programming - Deb Daniels, Roz Antoun and Phyllis Weinstein Kellenberger; Friday night *onegs* - Barbara Dickman; paperwork - Deb Daniels and Marty Eisenstadt; scholar-in-residence *oneg* - Jean Hecht; membership - Alycia Harris; Hospitality Committee - Foreman, Sima Auerbach and Eisenstadt; Nominating Committee - Julie Beyer, Babs Putzel-Bischoff and Antoun; and Sisterhood Funds - Jean Hecht.

# Dan Miller to speak at BD Sisterhood meeting

Members and friends of Beth David Sisterhood are invited to attend the annual Donor Dessert meeting on Wednesday, May 13. The Donor Dessert meeting is a fund-raiser for Beth David Sisterhood, so a minimum donation of \$25 is requested from all who attend. The meeting will be open to everyone, members and non-members, both men and women.

An RSVP by Friday, May 8, is requested so a sufficient amount of desserts and noshes will be available. Contact Beth David Synagogue at 607-722-1793 to leave a message, or send an



Dan Miller (Photo by Eileen Miller)

e-mail to [bethdavid@stny.rr.com](mailto:bethdavid@stny.rr.com).

"Please do not hesitate to attend the meeting even if you neglected to notify us in advance. We always plan a little extra food just in case!" said organizers of the event. "Our speaker Dan Miller is back by popular demand after his fascinating demonstration last year of saxophones and their history. This year, he will speak about Elise Hall, the woman who really kick-started the saxophone as a classical solo instrument at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, at a time when playing wind instruments was not considered

a female pursuit. In addition to discussing Elise Hall, he will play some of the pieces that she commissioned, most importantly the 'Rhapsody for Saxophone and Orchestra' by Claude Debussy."

Miller is on the faculties of Binghamton University and SUNY Broome as the instructor of saxophone. He is also on the faculty of Syracuse University as an instructor of music education.

Those on Sisterhood's e-mail list should receive a flyer designed by Rabbi David Serkin about the meeting. Those wishing to be added to the list should send their e-mail address to the Beth David Synagogue office at [bethdavid@stny.rr.com](mailto:bethdavid@stny.rr.com).

# BD luncheon talk on May 9: "A Muse for the Masses: Aaron Copland and the American Sound"

On Saturday, May 9, award-winning music historian and educator Dr. Julia Grella O'Connell will be the guest speaker at Beth David's monthly luncheon speaker series. Director of education and community education at the Binghamton Philharmonic Orchestra since 2023, Grella O'Connell's talk is titled "A Muse for the Masses: Aaron Copland and the American Sound."



Dr. Julia Grella O'Connell (Photo courtesy of Julia Grella O'Connell)


Those of us who have had the pleasure of hearing Julia's pre-concert chats at the Philharmonic know what a gifted speaker she is, and how much we always learn from her presentations. Her talk at Beth David on May 9 is sure to be a hit!" Full information about the Philharmonic's 2026-27 line-up can be found on its website, <https://binghamtonphilharmonic.org/m-t-bank-2026-2027-symphonic-series>.

"When viewed against the background of mainstream America," Grella O'Connell notes. "Aaron Copland, the son of Lithuanian immigrants, was the quintessential 'other': he was

Jewish, left-leaning, gay and steeped in the popular culture of the urban streets in which he was born and raised. And yet he is largely responsible for the creation of the American sound in classical music – the simple folk-like melodies and slow-moving harmonic rhythms that immediately evoke the prairies and wide-open spaces of the American frontier. I look forward to exploring with the Beth David community Copland's life, thought and music!"

Grella O'Connell received a doctor of musical arts degree from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York in 2009. She has taught at Hunter College, The City College of New York and SUNY Broome, and See "Copland" on page 10

# PASSOVER GREETINGS



**Wishing all of our friends a Happy Passover**

**Arieh Ullmann & Rhonda Levine**

May you and your family have a joyous Pesach



Rabbi Barry and Jill Baron

כוס מרים

This year, may we all be free!

**Happy Passover**

Rebecca Kahn & Richard Birchard



May the dove of peace descend on Israel.

Happy Passover

Kathy Brown, Advertising Representative




**HAPPY PASSOVER**

**שמחה**

Next year may we all be free!


Suzanne Holwitt and family

Have a Joyous Passover



DA DA YEI NU DA DA YEI NU DA DA YEI NU DA DA YEI NU

Rabbi Rachel Esserman



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



Susan & Chris High

May the nations & people everywhere understand that peace and cooperation is the answer.



Neil & Sima Auerbach

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



Shelley, Mark, Josh & Rae Hubal

# Purim celebrated around the community



Beth David Sisterhood members and friends baked hamantaschen for the Beth David Purim seudah. L-r: Gerry Hubal, Chaim Joy, Susan Hubal (back to camera), Julie Piaker, Alan Piaker and Judy Silber. (Photo by Cathy Velenchik)



Community members enjoyed schmoozing and holiday treats at the Jewish Community Center's community Purim Carnival on March 1.

## Hillel Academy celebrated Purim

Hillel Academy celebrated the holiday of Purim this year with the reading of Megillat Esther. The celebration continued with a Purim play performed by the students, followed by activities with the Binghamton University JLIC students. As part of the celebration, the students also participated in baking hamantaschen under the guidance of Hadassah Slonim. Goldie Ohana baked large hamantaschen for the event.

The planning, preparation and coordination of the event were led by Rabbi Moshe Shmaryahu, with the assistance and support of the staff of Hillel Academy. "Thank you to the entire staff of Hillel Academy, thank you to Tara Kaminsky, Hadassah Slonim and Goldie Ohana, and thank you to the students," he said.



A BU JLIC student danced with Hillel Academy students.



Rabbi Zev Silber unrolled his megillah in preparation for reading it at Beth David Synagogue on Purim eve. (Photo by Cathy Velenchik)



The cast of the Purimspiel at Temple Concord. (Photo by Moon Choi)



Hillel Academy students performed a Purim play.



Rabbi Moshe Shmaryahu prepared to read the megillah on Purim afternoon at Beth David Synagogue. (Photo by Cathy Velenchik)



L-r: Susan Hubal (back to camera), Julie Piaker, Alan Piaker and Stacey Silber made hamantaschen for the Beth David Purim seudah. (Photo by Cathy Velenchik)



Richard Stram and Arlene Kutz enjoyed the JCC Purim Carnival.



Above: Members and friends of Beth David enjoyed themselves at the Beth David Purim seudah. (Photo by Cathy Velenchik)



L-r: Alan Piaker, Julie Piaker (with back to camera), Susan Hubal, Stacey Silber (background), Gerry Hubal and Chaim Joy made hamantaschen at Beth David Sisterhood. (Photo by Cathy Velenchik)



Temple Concord celebrated Purim with a Purimspiel on March 1, with Susan High as Queen Esther and Elliot Niman as King Ahasuerus. (Photo by Moon Choi)



A Hillel Academy student dressed as Harry Potter celebrated Purim. (Names withheld on request.)



Those attending the Purimspiel enjoyed a buffet. (Photo by Moon Choi)

*Happy Passover*  
from  
**The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton**



**Shelley Hubal, Executive Director**  
**Suzanne Holwitt, President**  
**Jennifer Kakusian, Administrative Assistant**



Community members enjoyed a variety of games and activities at the JCC's community Purim Carnival.



# Happy Passover



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**7<sup>59</sup>**



Kedem Concord Grape Juice 64 oz

**4<sup>99</sup>**



Streit's Chocolate Chip or Coconut Macaroon 10 oz

**6<sup>49</sup>**



Manischewitz Potato Pancake Mix 6 oz

**2 for \$5**



Streit's Matzo Ball & Soup Mix or Matzo Ball 4.5 oz

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Streit's Passover Matzos 5 lb

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# Beth David Sisterhood held Pre-Passover workshop



At left: Beth David Sisterhood held Pre-Passover workshop given by Rabbi Zev and Judy Silber. L-r: Gina Santiago and Phillip Goodman helped themselves to refreshments. (Photos by Cathy Velenchik)



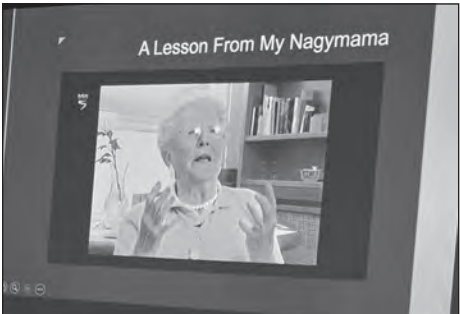
L-r: Gina Santiago, Rabbi David Serkin, Chaim Joy, Judy Silber, Rabbi Zev Silber, Phillip Goodman, Arline Kutz and Carolynn Kutz at the Beth David Sisterhood's Pre-Passover workshop and lecture.

## Federation sponsors 3GNY speaker at area high school



L-r: Federation Executive Director Shelley Hubal and 3GNY speaker Leah Goldberg.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton sponsored a 3GNY Holocaust presentation by Leah Goldberg at Susquehanna Valley High School on March 10. There were approximately 100 sophomores gathered to hear her tell her grandmother's story of surviving the Holocaust.



Video testimony of Holocaust survivor Susy Rafal, grandmother of 3GNY speaker Leah Goldberg, was shown to the SVHS students.



L-r: Susquehanna Valley High School sophomore Emma Whalen and 3GNY speaker Leah Goldberg.



At left: Judy Silber gave historical context for the rabbis mentioned in the haggadah.

At right: Rabbi Zev Silber discussed the story in the haggadah of the rabbis who met in B'nai Brak for a seder.



## Copeland . . . . . Continued from page 7

has served as a consultant to the music departments of Illinois State University, Utah Valley University and the United Kingdom's Cambridge University. She has been in her current position at the Philharmonic since August 2023. Her project-based work in integrated music learning across age groups has won grants from the BCC Foundation, the New York Foundation for the Arts and the Broome County Arts Council. Her book, "Sound, Sin, and Conversion in Victorian England," won the 2019 Diana McVeagh Award for Best Book on British Music.

Beth David Synagogue's Shabbat services begin at 9:30 am, with the luncheon and program following the conclusion

of services. The monthly series, which includes the luncheon, is free and open to the community. Since its continuation depends on the generosity of contributors, Beth David welcomes donations to the Luncheon Fund. Donations can be made in honor of, or in memory of, someone, or to mark a special occasion. Those wishing an acknowledgment to be sent to the person being honored, or to the family of someone being remembered, can indicate that, along with the necessary information. Donations can be sent to Beth David Synagogue, 39 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905, Attention: Luncheon Fund. Partial or full sponsorships of a luncheon are also available.

## Dinner . . . . . Continued from page 5

community services. Particularly committed to real estate and real estate development, he has sought to revitalize downtown Binghamton through the creation of new eateries and the repurposing of buildings that, instead of being demolished, continue to be used and reflect Binghamton's architectural history. "I've always considered downtown Binghamton a diamond in the rough," he added, "and my love of this place has enabled me, along with my business partners, to bring to fruition the vision I have for it." Among his most recent projects was the purchase of the old Lackawanna Train Station, which now houses the Station 45 Chophouse, along with providing space for local businesses. He and his wife Inessa are the proprietors of The Goldsmith and Vintageness Consignment Boutique.

Among the many awards garnered by Yonaty is the 2020 Greater Binghamton Chamber of Commerce Entrepreneur of the Year Award. He and his wife Inessa were Hillel Academy's honorees in 2023 at its 59th annual journal event, where they received the N. Theodore Sommer Award for their "exceptional impact on the Broome County community."

"Beth David Synagogue has been a part of my life since I was born, and I am deeply honored to be receiving its Jack and Mary Ferber Award. Inessa and I look forward to celebrating this milestone along with our family, friends and the Binghamton community. We have been to past Beth David annual award dinners and know that the event will be elegant, delicious and joyful!" Yonaty said.



**We Remember You 2026**  
**JFS Accepting Passover Donations**

Jewish Family Service will once again be collecting funds to help members of the community celebrate Passover. These donations will be distributed to more than 14 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 Road, Vestal, NY 13850. Donations may also be made online at [www.jfsg.org](http://www.jfsg.org); please click on Jewish Family Service to do so. Contact Merryll Wallach (she/her), JFS Director, at 607-724-2332, ext. 339, with any questions.

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# Cornell Hillel breaks ground on new Jewish student center

The Steven K. and Winifred A. Grinspoon Hillel Center for Jewish Community at Cornell broke ground on Harkavy Hall, its new state-of-the-art Jewish student center, on March 8. The groundbreaking ceremony marked a major milestone in the “Hillel is Home” campaign, which has raised more than \$37 million from more than 1,300 donors toward its \$54 million goal.

The ceremony included remarks from Cornell University President Michael Kotlikoff; Hillel International President and CEO Adam Lehman; Grinspoon Hillel CEO Rabbi Ari Weiss; and donor Steven K. Grinspoon. “We’re honored to support this campaign and even prouder of what this building will mean for every Jewish student who walks through its doors,” said Grinspoon. “This center will provide a beautiful new home for Jewish community, celebration and learning for decades to come.”

Grinspoon Hillel aims to engage 1,800 donors to secure Cornell’s Jewish future. In addition to raising funds for the construction costs and a fund for building maintenance, the campaign will establish an endowment to support ongoing professional support and programmatic costs.

“This building is decades in the making, but what it represents goes far beyond bricks and mortar,” said Weiss. “At a moment when Jewish students across the country are looking for places to belong, we’re building a home that will stand for generations.”

Cornell is the only Ivy League university without a Hillel building. The new 24,000 square foot Harkavy Hall



Breaking ground on Harkavy Hall, Cornell’s new Hillel student center. L-r: Rabbi Ari Weiss, CEO of Grinspoon Hillel; Dr. Steven Grinspoon; Winifred “Winnie” Grinspoon; Harriet Harkavy; Adam Lehman, president and CEO of Hillel International; and Cornell President Michael I. Kotlikoff. (Photo by Sreang Hok)

will serve as a hub of Jewish life and community for the 3,000-plus Cornellians expected to use the building each year. The facility will feature Herb’s, a kosher café, a large multi-purpose events hall with space for Shabbat dinners for 230 students; a *beit midrash* and classroom; a communal kosher kitchen; study rooms; a lounge; and a rooftop deck.

“I’ve seen how much our community can accomplish even without a standalone space,” said Noah Bodner, Grinspoon Hillel student president. “Breaking ground on a building that future Cornell students will call home is a

testament that Jewish life at Cornell matters, and it’s here to stay.”

“Cornell has long been home to a vibrant and engaged Jewish community,” said Kotlikoff. “This new center will ensure that tradition continues for generations to come.”

Donors who contribute \$1,800 or more will be recognized on a permanent Founders Wall in the new center. Naming opportunities are available at a range of giving levels. “Hillel makes such a difference in students’ lives, and I wanted to invest in a space that reflects the warmth and depth of that community,” said Grinspoon Hillel Co-Chair Bonnie Altman. “Cornell deserves a Hillel building that truly matches its greatness, and I am honored to help make that a reality.”

“This groundbreaking demonstrates a commitment to a thriving Jewish life at Cornell,” said Grinspoon Hillel Co-Chair Len Feldman. “This new home will ensure that future generations of Jewish students thrive on campus.”

“For nearly a century, Hillel at Cornell has been building incredibly vibrant Jewish life on campus even without a permanent home” said Lehman. “This amazing new center will give Jewish Cornellians a special place to gather, grow, and build relationships that last long after graduation. This groundbreaking is a testament to the dedication of supporters, staff, and students who believe in the critical importance of ensuring strong, visible and vibrant Jewish life at Cornell for decades to come.”

For more information about the campaign or to donate, visit <https://www.cornellhillelcampaign.org/>.

Founded in 1929 and now serving the largest Jewish student population in the Ivy League, Grinspoon Hillel aims to inspire every Jewish student to make an enduring commitment to Jewish life, learning and Israel. Every year, Hillel engages more than 3,000 Jewish and non-Jewish students. It seeks to empower Jewish students to build vibrant and engaging communities that cultivate ownership of identity, a sense of the dynamic role of Judaism, and an appreciation of the rich diversity of the Jewish experience.

For more than 100 years, the Hillel Internal movement has been focused on serving all Jewish students, no matter who they are or how they express their Judaism. Today, Hillel is the largest Jewish campus organization in the world, serving more than 180,000 Jewish students each year at 850-plus colleges and universities around the world.

## PA county, FCC investigate antisemitic broadcasts on public safety radio

by JNS staff

(JNS) – Authorities in Allegheny County, PA, are investigating a series of unauthorized transmissions of antisemitic messages and Nazi propaganda broadcast over a public safety radio channel starting on March 2.

Allegheny County Emergency Services was first alerted around 2 p.m. on March 2 to an unidentified radio user transmitting threatening and hateful messages on public safety radio channels, officials said. A second set of messages was broadcast the following morning on the same channel.

Federal and county law enforcement partners, including the Federal Communications Commission, are assisting in the investigation.

According to statements shared with JNS by Kasey Reigner, a county spokeswoman, the public safety system was not hacked. Instead, an unknown individual accessed the county’s analog radio system using an unregistered device to transmit the messages. Reigner told local outlet TribLIVE that the county has had “unknown subscribers show up on our channels in the past.”

Local reports indicate some messages contained racist and antisemitic language, including threats against Pittsburgh Mayor Corey O’Connor, whose late mother was Jewish, and phrases invoking white nationalist ideology. One broadcast reportedly stated, “We will never stop until

our children have a future in a white nation,” ending with praise for Adolf Hitler. Another claimed to be from William Luther Pierce, a neo-Nazi who died in 2002.

Public safety officials have temporarily moved usual radio traffic to secure channels to ensure emergency communications remain uninterrupted. Police have not publicly identified any suspects or disclosed the origin of the device used to broadcast the messages, according to county officials.

## Israeli immune-cell therapy tested for Alzheimer’s in mice

By JNS staff

(JNS) – Scientists at Israel’s Weizmann Institute of Science, in collaboration with Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, have adapted the same immune-cell technology that revolutionized cancer treatment to combat Alzheimer’s disease in mice.

The study, published recently in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences ([www.pnas.org/doi/10.1073/pnas.2530977123](http://www.pnas.org/doi/10.1073/pnas.2530977123)), marks the first time that chimeric antigen receptor T-cell (CAR-T) therapy – pioneered more than three decades ago at Weizmann by the late Professor Zelig Eshhar – has been applied to a neurodegenerative disorder.

Led by professor Ido Amit of Weizmann’s Systems Immunology Department and professor Jonathan Kipnis, a Weizmann alumnus now at Washington University, the research team genetically engineered immune cells to target amyloid-beta proteins, which form plaques in the brains of Alzheimer’s patients. When injected into mouse models with such plaques, the modified cells significantly reduced

See “Mice” on page 16

Passover Greetings from these Healthcare Professionals 




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*Happy Passover!*

# A taste of Morocco for the Passover seder

By Ethel G. Hofman

(JNS) – For Jews throughout the Diaspora, Passover is celebrated for eight days. The first seder begins on the evening of Wednesday, April 1 – the 15<sup>th</sup> of the Jewish month of Nisan – and ends on the evening of Thursday, April 9. But in Israel, Passover is observed for seven days. After the destruction of the First Temple in 586 B.C.E., when the Jewish people were scattered, an additional day was added so that news of the holiday could reach countries and areas outside of Jerusalem.

Growing up in an Ashkenazi family – in fact, the only Jewish family on the Shetland Islands – I had never heard of Sephardim. But early in my career, I discovered an exciting new culinary world: Sephardic food, which is vibrant with its aromatic herbs and spices, fresh lemons, stuffed vegetables and olive oil – a rich mix of Mediterranean and Middle Eastern flavors. I was hooked. And that is why at Passover time at the Hofman home, one seder is Ashkenazi with familiar Eastern European dishes and my mother's 12-egg sponge cake. The second seder resembles the Sephardic tradition; no chicken soup this night! Beans, legumes and even rice are allowed, and each dish is fragrant with dried fruits and spices.

Helen Loeb was born in Toulouse, France, to Moroccan parents Armang and Laurette Cohen-Scali. Now living in the Philadelphia area, her Passover seders are rooted in Moroccan traditions. Petite and smart, with just a trace of French accent, she describes how her parents left Morocco, where her ancestral family had lived for generations. "When the French Protectorate ended in 1956, for Jews, it wasn't a comfortable situation," she says. "Most emigrated to Canada, Israel and France."

In 1962, the family left for Paris. After a year, they settled in Toulouse, where Helen grew up. Today, Israel has few friends around the world, but Morocco renewed diplomatic and other ties when it signed the Abraham Accords on September 15, 2020, as part of an agreement toward Arab-Israeli normalization that also included the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Sudan.

Before 1956, Morocco was home to more than a quarter of a million Jews – the largest Jewish community in the Muslim world. Today, according to the World Federation



Helen Loeb (Photo courtesy of Helen Loeb)

of Moroccan Jewry, nearly one million Moroccan Jews and those of Moroccan descent live in Israel. It is the largest minority population in Israel.

For these families, Passover is celebrated in Sephardic traditions. When the Jews were expelled from the Iberian Peninsula in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, they brought their own culinary customs from Spain, where beans and legumes were eaten at Passover. But in their adopted country, they incorporated Morocco's abundant fruit and vegetables, lamb, nuts and olives so that Moroccan Passover dishes are quite different from the Passovers of Eastern Europe.

Loeb is emphatic about this. "At Passover, we always had lamb – a stew with prunes and raisins," adding that "there was always fava-bean soup and several more dishes containing green beans." Lamb commemorates the Passover paschal offering,

of which its blood marked the doorposts of the Israelite slaves in Egypt, allowing the Angel of Death to pass over them and spare their firstborn.

She also remembers eating truffles, an edible underground fungus with an earthy, aromatic flavor: "When we could get them, they were expensive and were only for special occasions like at Passover."

With a large Moroccan population in Israel, it's no surprise that the Mimouna, a dinner marking the return of eating *chametz*, is an annual event celebrated with picnics and barbecues. It begins after nightfall on the last day of Passover. Helen remembers so many friends visiting and bringing mufleta – crepes dipped in honey and butter. "We went from house to house, but someone was always left at home to receive friends and family," she says.

She describes one of the most important Moroccan Passover traditions: "The seder plate is raised and encircled over each person's head while chanting a blessing for deliverance to freedom." Even the Ten Plagues are different from an Ashkenazi seder. The leader pours water into a bowl and then pours in wine to recreate what happened when the Nile River turned red with blood. This ritual turns the plagues into a blessing, but in some communities, an unmarried person carries the bowl outside and pours out the contents, wishing that he/she will find their soulmate in the coming year. (It's a custom that is popular with singles.)

The recipes below are true Passover Moroccan ones. I cook the tagine-like lamb stew in a crockpot, but it may be cooked in a heavy pot in the oven. The heavenly aromas that waft from your kitchen come from the variety of spices, which are rather laborious when you need to measure each ingredient. But searching online, I found *ras el hanout*, a kosher blend of 10 spices, including lavender and anise. Add judiciously to flavor soups, stews and vegetables. I've included other spices as a substitute. If you want to omit the chickpeas, add a little more potatoes.

The charoset is a spicy blend of prunes, dates, apricots and walnuts rolled into little balls or bricks. Make a lot; they are addictive to snack on. The name charoset originally comes from the word for "clay" (*cheres*), a reference to the mortar that the Israelites used to make bricks when they were slaves in Egypt. For the soup, flat, tan fava beans are traditional. They are not easily available here, but frozen baby lima beans are a good substitute. Delicious and nutritious, it's a dish you can make year-round.

Desserts are an abundance of sweet and simple. A loaded

sweet table may include dates stuffed with marzipan, fruit preserves, attractive platters of cantaloupe, honeydew, black and green grapes, and chocolate-dipped fruit and nuts.

*Chag Pesach sameach!*

## Moroccan Charoset (pareve)

Makes 15-20 balls

Cook's tips:

- ◆ Any combination of dried fruits, such as peaches and pineapple, may be used.
- ◆ Check for any pits left in pitted dates and prunes.
- ◆ In a hurry? Spoon charoset into a bowl. Drizzle with honey.

10 pitted prunes

10 pitted dates

10 dried apricots

1 cup walnuts

1 tsp. cinnamon

¼ tsp. ground cloves

5 to 6 Tbsp. honey or to taste

5 Tbsp. sweet kosher wine, plus more, if needed

Place all ingredients in a food processor. Blend until the mixture is finely chopped.

Add a little more wine to moisten, if needed, but the mixture should be fairly stiff.

Shape into balls and roll in ground almonds, or roll the mixture out to a half-inch thickness on a board sprinkled with ground almonds. Cut into bricks.

Chill. Serve cool.

## Moroccan Bean Soup (pareve)

Serves 6-8

Cook's tips:

- ◆ Frozen ginger cubes are my staple: 1 cube equals 1 teaspoon ginger. No fuss.
- ◆ A Moroccan kosher spice blend called *ras el hanout*, containing many spices, is available online and in some grocery stores, or substitute by Ethel G. Hofman
- ½ teaspoon each cumin, cardamom, allspice, turmeric and ¼ teaspoon of ground cloves.
- ◆ Fava beans are tan-colored beans resembling lima beans. Frozen lima beans are a good substitute.

2 Tbsp. olive oil

1 large onion, chopped

3 medium carrots, chopped

3 celery ribs, chopped

1 tsp. chopped garlic in a jar

1½ tsp. grated ginger

½ tsp. each turmeric, cumin and cinnamon

4 to 5 cups pareve chicken or vegetable broth

½ cup red lentils, rinsed

1 can (15-oz.) diced tomatoes

1 can (15-oz.) chickpeas, undrained

1 (12-oz.) package frozen baby lima beans

Salt and white pepper to taste

Snipped fresh cilantro or parsley to garnish

Heat the oil in a large pot over medium heat.

Add the onion, carrots, celery, garlic and ginger. Sauté for 10 minutes.

Add all the remaining ingredients except the cilantro or parsley. Bring to simmer, cooking for 30 minutes until the lentils are softened. Add salt and pepper to taste.

Serve hot, sprinkled with cilantro or parsley.

## Blood Orange-and-Olive Salad (pareve)

Serves 6-8

Cook's tip: Use navel oranges instead of blood oranges.

3 medium blood oranges, peeled and thickly sliced

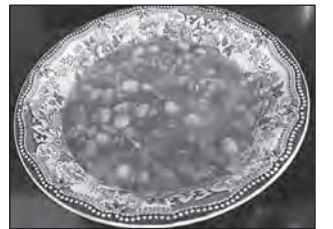
½ cup pitted black olives

½ cup pitted green olives

Dressing:

3 Tbsp. orange juice

See "Morocco" on page 13



Moroccan Bean Soup. (Photo by Ethel G. Hofman)



The Mimouna table. (Photo courtesy of Helen Loeb)

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Passover Blessings

From the Jewish Community Center staff

# Israel visit interrupted by war, but mission goes on

By Josh Hasten

(JNS) – The Jewish National Fund-USA’s third annual Brotherhood Mission to Israel was in full swing on the morning of February 28 when “Operation Roaring Lion” (“Operation Epic Fury” in the United States) was launched—abruptly diverting the group’s itinerary, but not its purpose.

The 35 participants had arrived in Israel after raising millions of dollars to stand in solidarity with Israelis affected by the war, including the bereaved, the injured and former hostages. As sirens sounded and missile barrages began, the group spent much of the remainder of the trip sheltered in a hotel. Even so, they continued providing financial and emotional support to Israelis whose lives have been upended by the conflict.

Richard Wolkowitz, a financial consultant from St. Louis and a third-time participant on the Brotherhood Mission, told JNS that this year’s trip was the most impactful because it unfolded during an active war. He described running to bomb shelters alongside Israelis, forging bonds in tense moments and offering support in real time.

Wolkowitz said that although the mission officially ended on March 4, he had no plans to leave Israel until EL AL resumed direct flights to the United States. “We’re here to give of ourselves – not when it’s easy or convenient, but when the need is real,” he said. He added that the post-October 7 reality requires a reset in the relationship between Israel and the Jewish Diaspora.

“Israel isn’t just a place for Americans to visit like a vacation or Disneyland,” Wolkowitz said. “Israel has done so much for us, and now it’s time for us, as family, to show up when it’s required.”

Dr. Todd Goldberg, an OB-GYN from Weston, FL, participating in his second Brotherhood Mission, said he was undeterred from traveling to Israel even as the prospect of war with Iran loomed. In fact, he said he felt safer in Israel than at home, despite the wartime circumstances. Even as the group had to improvise its schedule, the situation motivated participants to do more, he said.

On Purim, mission members visited a local supermarket and purchased thousands of shekels’ worth of groceries and treats for families in need.

Goldberg said he originally planned to stay in Israel an extra week after the mission and had no intention of cutting his trip short even if the airport reopened. “The mission is about spreading love and happiness,” he stated. “It’s about bringing light in the face of evil. Most importantly, people need to understand that without the state of Israel, there would be no more Jews in the world.”

Mark Block, a businessman from Fort Lauderdale, FL, participating in his second Brotherhood Mission, said the trip served as a way to express emotional support and boost morale for Israelis. He added that many Israelis were surprised that participants would leave their homes and come to Israel despite the threat of war. “Israelis are on the front lines, and we want them to know they are not alone,” he said. “Millions of people are counting on them and thinking of them. We are blessed to be here at this moment in history.”

Block described one of the most meaningful moments of the trip as a presentation at the hotel by Izhay Shay, a former Israeli minister of science and technology and venture capitalist whose son, Yaron Oree Shay, was killed fighting Hamas terrorists on October 7, 2023. Shay spoke about “The Next October Initiative,” a project aimed at establishing a new tech startup for each soldier and civilian killed since October 7.

“In Judaism, we say, ‘May their memory be a blessing,’” Block said. “This project turns grief into something meaningful.”

Israeli activist Uri Gobey, who runs the social-media account “Documenting Israel,” helped manage the constantly changing logistics of the mission while documenting the trip online. “The Israelis we encounter feel the love and the hug coming from these guys who show up during crazy times,” he said. “It’s not only the money; it’s the fact that they came here physically.”

The Jewish National Fund-USA Brotherhood Mission was co-chaired by philanthropists Dr. Steven Katz and Michael Segel.

Tali Tzour, chief Israel officer of Jewish National Fund-USA, said the mission demonstrates what happens when commitment, vision and shared responsibility come together. Over the past several years, she said, participants have raised nearly \$5 million for projects strengthening Israeli communities and resilience.

“Through every mission experience, we are reinforcing the unbreakable connection between the Jewish people worldwide and the land and people of Israel,” she said.

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## Morocco . . . . .Continued from page 12

1 Tbsp. olive oil  
1/8 tsp. each paprika, cumin and powdered garlic  
Arrange sliced oranges on a platter. Scatter the olives over. Cover and refrigerate.  
Whisk the dressing ingredients in a small bowl. Drizzle over before serving.

### Crockpot Lamb Stew With Apricots and Prunes (meat)

Serves 6-8  
Cook’s tips:  
◆ May use lamb loin chops for cubed leg of lamb.  
◆ For ras el hanout, substitute 1/2 teaspoon each cumin, cardamom, allspice, turmeric and 1/4 teaspoon of ground cloves.



Moroccan Lamb Stew. (Photo by Ethel G. Hofman)

5 Tbsp. olive oil, divided  
1 large onion, thinly sliced  
12 to 15 baby carrots  
12 to 15 little golden potatoes  
1 tsp. bottled chopped garlic  
1 cup dried apricots  
6 pitted prunes, halved  
1/2 pounds cubed leg of lamb  
1 1/2 tsp. ras el hanout or Moroccan spice blend  
1 tsp. ground ginger  
2 cups beef broth  
1 (15-oz.) can chick peas, drained  
Salt and pepper

In a large deep pot, heat 2 tablespoons of oil over medium heat. Add the onions, carrots and potatoes, and sauté for 5 minutes. Sprinkle lightly with salt and pepper.

Add the garlic, apricots and prunes. Sprinkle lightly with salt and pepper. Transfer to the crockpot.

Heat 3 tablespoons oil to the deep pot. No need to wash the pot. Add the lamb and cook over medium heat until

nicely browned on all sides. Transfer to crockpot.  
Add the spice blend and ginger, and pour the broth over. Stir gently to mix. Cover and cook on Low for 5 hours. Then add the tomatoes and chickpeas. Cook for 1 hour more.  
Serve hot.  
May be made ahead of time and refrigerated.

Note: For oven cooking: cover and cook in preheated 350°F oven for 1 1/2 hours. Add tomatoes and chickpeas. Cook for 45 to 60 minutes longer or until lamb is tender. Add more broth, if needed.

### Chocolate-Dipped Apricots and Almonds (pareve)

Makes about 1 pound  
Cook’s tip: Use a variety of dried fruits such as pineapple, mango or pears.

1 (6-oz.) package dried apricots  
1 cup whole almonds  
1 cup pareve chocolate chips  
1 Tbsp. butter at room temperature



Chocolate-Dipped Apricots. (Photo by Ethel G. Hofman)

Line a large baking sheet with wax paper. Melt the chocolate by placing it in a microwave-safe bowl; microwave for 15 seconds at a time, stirring after each 15 seconds. Once it looks shiny and almost melted with just a few lumps, add the butter. Stir until completely smooth. Use immediately.

With tongs, dip apricots into melted chocolate to cover half of each apricot. Place on prepared baking sheet. Repeat with almonds, dipping to cover half of each.

Refrigerate for at least 30 minutes to harden the chocolate. Store between layers of wax paper in a tightly covered container in a cool, dry place (not in the refrigerator).

Serve on a doily-covered tray.  
Ethel G. Hofman is a widely syndicated American Jewish food and travel columnist, author and culinary consultant.

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## Viktor Frankl's "Man's Search for Meaning"

RABBI MOSHE SHMARYAHU, HEAD OF JEWISH STUDIES, HILLEL ACADEMY OF BROOME COUNTY

They gave him a number – 119104. Yet with all their determination, the Nazis were not only trying to destroy his body, but also the very thing that would one day save millions of lives. In 1942, in Vienna, Viktor Frankl was 37 years old. He was already a respected psychiatrist with a promising career and a nearly completed manuscript. At his side was his wife Tilly, whose laughter, he later recalled, could warm an entire room. Frankl had a visa to America – a real chance to escape. But his parents could not leave, and he chose to stay with them. He later wrote that after much hesitation, what strengthened his decision

not to abandon his parents was a fragment of marble from the Ten Commandments that his father found on the morning Frankl received his visa to the United States. The fragment had been discovered where their synagogue had once stood before it was burned. On that piece of stone was engraved the letter representing the commandment "Honor your father and your mother." Frankl saw this as a sign and understood that he must remain with his parents.

Within months the Nazis arrived. Frankl was deported first to Theresienstadt, then to Auschwitz, and later to Dachau. The manuscript he had sewn into the lining of

his coat was taken from him within the first hours of his arrival. His life's work – the ideas that had given meaning to his intellectual world – fell into the dust. He was stripped of his clothes, his hair was shaved, and even his name was taken away. All that remained on his uniform was a number: 119104. Yet the guards did not understand the essential truth. A man's clothes can be taken from him, his possessions can be taken from him, even his name can be erased – but not what lives in the depths of his soul.

Frankl was a psychiatrist, and even in the camp he **See "Frankl" on page 15**

## Congregational Notes

### Temple Israel

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Website: www.templeisraelvestal.org  
Service schedule: Tues., 5:30 pm; Fri., 5:30 pm; Sat., 9:30 am – all via Zoom and in-person

On Fridays and Tuesdays at 5:30 pm, services will be led by Rabbi Micah Friedman.

On Saturday, April 4, Shabbat services will be held at 9:30 am. The Torah portion is Exodus 33:12- 4:26 and the haftarah is Ezekiel 37:1-14. A Zoom Havdalah service will take place at 8:30 pm.

On Saturday, April 11, Shabbat services will be held at 9:30 am. The Torah portion is Leviticus 9:1-11:47 and the haftarah is II Samuel 6:1-7:17. A Zoom Havdalah service will take place at 8:30 pm.

On Saturday, April 18, Shabbat services will be held at 9:30 am. The Torah portion is Leviticus 12:1-15:33 and the haftarah is Isaiah 66:1-24. A Zoom Havdalah service will take place at 8:45 pm.

On Saturday, April 25, Shabbat services will be held at 9:30 am. The Torah portion is Leviticus 16:1-20:27 and the haftarah is Amos 9:7-15. A Zoom Havdalah service will take place at 8:45 pm.

Upcoming events:

The temple office will be closed for Passover on April 2, 3, 8 and 9.

Tuesday, April 2: Passover first day services from 10:30 am-12:15 pm.

Thursday, April 9: Passover eighth day services from 9:30 am-noon.

Monday April 6: Executive Board meeting at 7 pm.

Mondays, April 6, 13, 20 and 27: "Hebrew with the Weekly Parsha" class with Rabbi Micah Friedman from 6:30-7:45 pm.

Tuesdays, March 7, 14, 21 and 28: "Torah and Our Times" class with Rabbi Micah Friedman at 4:30 pm.

Wednesdays, April 15, 22 and 29: Hebrew school at 4 pm. No school on April 1 and 8.

Sunday, April 19: TI/TC Adult Ed. at Temple Concord at 10 am.

Tuesday, April 21: Board of Trustees meeting at 7 pm.

Wednesday, April 22: Ritual Committee meeting at 10 am.

### Norwich Jewish Center

Orientation: Inclusive  
Address: 72 South Broad St., Norwich, NY 13815  
Phone: 607-334-2691  
Purpose: To maintain a Jewish identity and meet the needs of the Jewish community in the area.

### Temple Brith Sholom

Affiliation: Unaffiliated  
Address: P.O. Box 572, 117 Madison St., Cortland, NY 13045  
Phone: 607-756-7181  
President: Mark Suben  
Cemetery Committee: 315-696-5744  
Website: templebrithsholomcortland.org  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Temple-Brith-Sholom-114006981962930/>  
Service leaders: Lay leadership

Shabbat services: Services are usually on the third Friday of the month and led by a variety of leaders. 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." The community extends a warm welcome to the Jewish student population of SUNY Cortland, as well as the residents of local adult residences. The Board of Trustees meets on the second Tuesday of the month.

Services and programs are held by Zoom usually on the third Friday of the month.

### Beth David Synagogue

Affiliation: Orthodox Union  
Rabbi: Zev Silber  
Assistant Rabbi: Moshe Shmaryahu  
Address: 39 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905  
Phone: 722-1793  
Rabbi's Office: 722-7514  
Fax: 722-7121  
Office hours: Tues. 10 am-1 pm; Thurs. 9 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  
Classes: Rabbi Zev Silber will hold his weekly Talmud class every Tuesday evening after services.

### Temple Beth El of Oneonta

Affiliation: United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism  
Cantor: David Green  
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.

### Temple Beth-El of Ithaca

Affiliation: United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism  
Rabbi: Caleb Brommer  
Address: 402 North Tioga St. (the corner of Court and Tioga streets), Ithaca, NY 14850-4292  
Phone: 607-273-5775  
Website: www.tbeithaca.org  
Presidents: Jerry Dietz and Ariel Avgar  
Director of Education and Engagement: Calle Schueler  
Services: Friday 6:30 pm; Saturday 9:30 am, unless otherwise announced. Weekday morning minyan 7:30 am (9 am on Sundays and legal holidays).  
Religious School/Education: September-May: Classes meet on Sundays from 9 am-noon and Wednesdays from 4-6 pm. Teen Midrasha meets Tuesdays from 6-8 pm.  
Adult Ed.: Numerous weekly courses, several semester-long courses and a variety of lectures are offered throughout the year. Call the temple office or email secretary@tbeithaca.org for more information.

### Congregation Tikkun v'Or

Affiliation: Union for Reform Judaism  
Address: PO Box 3981, Ithaca, NY 14852; 2550 Triphammer Rd. (corner of Triphammer and Burdick Hill), Lansing, NY  
Phone: 607-256-1471  
Website: www.tikkunvor.org, E-mail: info@tikkunvor.org  
Presidents: Martha Armstrong and Mitch Grossman, presidents\_22@tikkunvor.org  
Education Director/Admin. 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.

Wednesday, April 1, light candles before ..... 7:11 pm  
Thursday, April 2, light candles after ..... 8:12 pm  
Friday, April 3, light candles before ..... 7:13 pm  
Shabbat ends Saturday, April 4 ..... 8:15 pm  
Tuesday, April 7, light candles before ..... 7:18 pm  
Wednesday, April 8, light candles after ..... 8:19 pm  
Yom tov ends Thursday, April 9 ..... 8:20 pm  
Friday, April 10, light candles before ..... 7:21 pm  
Shabbat ends Saturday, April 11 ..... 8:23 pm  
Friday, April 17, light candles before ..... 7:29 pm  
Shabbat ends Saturday, April 18 ..... 8:30 pm  
Friday, April 24, light candles before ..... 7:37 pm  
Shabbat ends Saturday, April 25 ..... 8:38 pm  
Friday, May 1, light candles before ..... 7:44 pm  
Shabbat ends Saturday, May 2 ..... 8:46 pm

### Temple Concord

Affiliation: Union for Reform Judaism  
Rabbi: Leah Moser  
Address: 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton NY 13905  
Office hours: Tues.-Fri., 10 am-2 pm  
Phone: 607-723-7355  
Office e-mail: TempleConcordBinghamton@gmail.com  
Website: www.TempleConcord.com  
Please contact Temple Concord for Zoom links.

Some services and programs are online only. For Zoom links, contact Temple Concord.

Services, ongoing classes and evening prayers at Temple Concord:

Fridays: At 7:30 pm, Shabbat service (in person, on Zoom and on Facebook).

Saturdays: At 9:15 am, Torah study (in person and on Zoom) and at 10:30 am, Shabbat service (in person).

Wednesdays: At 5:30 pm, evening prayers (in person). At 6 pm, adult education classes (in person and on Zoom).

Contact the temple office for more details.

Upcoming events:

Thursday, April 2: At 5:30 pm, Temple Concord invites the community to attend its Community Seder in the social hall. A fish/vegetarian dinner will be provided by chef David A. Stroka. Dinner will be \$35/adults, \$15/children 6-12, and free for children 0-5. Grape juice will be provided for the four cups; bring your own wine if preferred. For more information, visit templeconcord.com. Call or email the Temple Concord office to RSVP by Tuesday, March 24.

Friday, April 3: At 7:30 pm, Passover service.

Tuesday, April 7: At 10:30 am, the Tuesday Morning Book Club will discuss "The Talented Mrs. Mandelbaum: The Rise and Fall of an American Organized Crime Boss" by Margalit Fox. For more information, contact Merri Pell-Preus at 607-222-2875 or e-mail merrypell.preus@gmail.com. To join via Zoom, visit <https://bit.ly/3CX-Vd9b>, meeting ID 881 6469 4206 and passcode 653272.

Wednesday, April 8: At 10 am, Yizkor morning service.

Sunday, April 12: From 10 am-2 pm, Sisterhood Rummage Sale in the basement; buy one short sleeve or sleeveless shirt, blouse, top or shorts, get one free. Shoppers are asked to use the Oak Street entrance.

**See "TC" on page 15**

### Penn-York Jewish Community

Treasurer: Beth Herbst, 607-857-0976  
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.

### 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: 607-797-0015, Fax: 607-797-0095  
Website: www.Chabadofbinghamton.com  
Rabbi Zalman and Rochel Chein, Education  
E-mail: zchein@Jewishbu.com, rchein@Jewishbu.com  
Rabbi Levi and Hadasa Slonim, Downtown and Development  
Chabad Downtown Center: 60 Henry St., Binghamton  
E-mail: lslonim@Jewishbu.com, hslonim@Jewishbu.com  
Rabbi Yisroel and Goldie Ohana, Programming  
E-mail: yohana@Jewishbu.com, gohana@Jewishbu.com  
Regular service times: Daily 7:30 am, Friday evening 6 pm, Shabbat morning 9:30 am, Maariv and Havdalah one hour after candle-lighting time, Sundays 9:30 am.  
To join the mailing list, for up-to-date information on adult education offerings or to arrange for a private tutorial, for details concerning the Judaica shop and resource center, or for assistance through the Piaker Free Loan Society or Raff Maasim Tovim Foundation, call Chabad's office at 797-0015.

Chabad will be holding pre-Shabbat virtual programs. For more information, visit [www.JewishBU.com/S2020Partnership](http://www.JewishBU.com/S2020Partnership).

# Frankl. . . . . Continued from page 14

continued to observe human behavior. He noticed a striking pattern: people did not die only from hunger or disease. Many died when they lost the meaning of their lives. When a person lost his “why,” his body often gave up within days. The camp doctors even referred to this condition as “the giving-up illness.” Yet those who still had something to live for – a loved one they hoped to see again, a child waiting for them, a task still unfinished – somehow managed to endure even the most unbearable suffering.

Frankl began what could be described as an experiment, not in a laboratory but in the barracks of the camp. He approached men who were on the edge of despair and asked them simple but profound questions: Who is waiting for you? What task still awaits you in life? What would you want to say to your child so that he could survive this? Frankl could not give them bread or freedom, but he could give them something that could not be stolen – a reason to live. One man remembered the face of his daughter and held on in order to embrace her again. Another thought of a task he still needed to complete and found strength to survive. Frankl himself survived in a similar way. Each night he reconstructed in his memory the manuscript that had been taken from him, line by line, idea by idea.

In April 1945 the camps were liberated. Frankl weighed barely 85 pounds. His body was little more than skin and bones. When he returned to civilian life he discovered that almost his entire family had perished. His wife Tilly was gone, his parents were gone, and his brother was gone. Nearly everything he loved had been destroyed. He had every reason to surrender to despair. Instead, he sat down and began to write.

From the suffering and insights born in the camps emerged the book “Man’s Search for Meaning,” first published in 1946. In it Frankl described his experiences as a prisoner and the profound psychological insight he had gained: that the primary human drive is not pleasure or power, but the search for meaning. He called the approach he developed logotherapy – therapy through meaning. Its central idea can be summarized in a sentence that became famous around the world: “He who has a why to live can bear almost any how.”

At first publishers hesitated to release the book, believing the world was not ready to read about the horrors of the concentration camps. But when it was finally published, it touched the hearts of millions. The book sold millions of copies, was translated into many languages, and became one of the most influential works of the twentieth century. People who had experienced loss, illness, grief, or deep personal crises discovered in Frankl’s words a source of strength and hope.

Viktor Frankl, born in 1905 and who passed away in 1997, was a Jewish Viennese neurologist and psychiatrist. He founded logotherapy and existential analysis, which came to be known as the third Viennese school of psychotherapy, following Sigmund Freud’s psychoanalysis and Alfred Adler’s individual psychology. Frankl published his first academic article in 1924 and eventually wrote 27 books that were translated into many languages.

One of the deepest insights he described in his writings came to him while he was still imprisoned. He realized that love is the ultimate and highest goal to which a human being can aspire. Even a man who has lost everything in the world can still experience a moment of happiness when he contemplates the image of the person he loves. In complete loneliness, when a person can do nothing but endure suffering with dignity, he can still find fulfillment by turning inward and holding the image of his beloved in his heart.

During his time in Theresienstadt Frankl worked as a physician in the camp clinic. When the authorities noticed his skills in psychotherapy, he was asked to establish a special unit to help newly arrived prisoners cope with the initial shock of camp life. Later he also organized efforts to prevent suicide among prisoners. To preserve his own sanity he would sometimes imagine himself lecturing to an audience about the psychological experiences of life in concentration camps. In doing so he reminded himself that although the Nazis could control his body, they could never control his inner freedom.

From his experiences Frankl concluded that every human being needs a central purpose in life – a meaning that allows him to endure even the most difficult circumstances. He also observed that in the camps humanity revealed itself

in two types of people: those who remained decent and those who did not.

Frankl later proposed a symbolic idea: if the Statue of Liberty stands on the East Coast of the United States, there should be another monument on the West Coast – a Statue of Responsibility. Freedom, he believed, must always be accompanied by responsibility. In his later book “The Unconscious God,” he suggested that within every human being there exists a hidden, unconscious spirituality waiting to emerge.

Thus the man who was reduced to a number – 119104 – revealed a profound truth about human existence. Almost everything can be taken from a person: freedom, family, possessions and even the future. But one thing can never be taken away – the freedom to choose one’s attitude toward what happens. The Nazis gave him a number – 119104. History gave him immortality. The man who lost almost everything discovered the one thing that no one can ever steal from a human being: meaning. And the prisoner 119104 did not merely survive. He transformed suffering into hope.

## Jewish Community Center

### JCC Friendship Club

The JCC Friendship Club met on February 24 at Castle Gardens nursing facility. We had a Purim party and passed out graggers. Benny Kellman told the story of Purim in his inimitable way. He played guitar and sang some original songs. One of his songs was about animals. It started with “Bad Jokes.” He asked, “What do you call an exploding monkey? Answer: a baboooom.” It went on from there. In between, he juggled objects with his hands and feet.

Jade, an activities worker, passed out refreshments, which included hamantashen, challah and a drink. Jade was also using sign language for a guest who was deaf. Many of us had a good time conversing afterward.

The next meeting for the JCC Friendship Club was planned for March 18, with Rabbi Leiah Mosier joining us to talk about memories of Passover. The holiday starts on the evening of April 1 this year.

*Sylvia Diamond, president*

# Holocaust. . . . . Continued from page 3

Sussman is the rabbi emeritus at Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel in Elkins Park, PA. He was formerly the rabbi of Temple Concord, Binghamton, and the former Temple Beth-El of Endicott, and served as the chairman of the Jewish Studies Department at Binghamton University. He has published numerous books and articles, including “Portrait of a Rabbi-Historian: How Did We Get Here?,” “Portrait of a Reform Rabbi: Continuity and Change,” “Portrait of an American Rabbi: In His Own Words,” “Isaac Lesser and the Making of American Judaism” and “Sharing Sacred Moments” (a collection of his sermons); he co-authored “In Our Midst: How the Holocaust Touched One American Community” with Mary Rose; and he also served as an editor of “Reform Judaism in America: A Biographical Dictionary and Sourcebook.” Sussman is a professor of Jewish history at Gratz College in Melrose Park, PA.

“We Don’t Say Goodbye” was produced by WSKG Public Media and offers the first-hand testimonies of Holocaust survivors who rebuilt their lives after settling in the Southern Tier of New York.

“The film we will be watching at our upcoming Yom Hashoah program features Rabbi Sussman and the writings from his book, ‘In Our Midst: How the Holocaust Touched One American Community.’ Through deeply personal stories, his book gives voice to lives forever changed yet marked by resilience and dignity,” said Sheryl Brumer, JCC executive director. “We are thrilled and honored to have Rabbi Sussman as the keynote speaker at our event, and encourage everyone to join us for a moving and meaningful evening.”

“Thank you to all the community organizations and synagogues that are making this event happen,” said Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Jewish Federation. “I hope everyone will come out for an evening of learning and healing.”



*Leopold Ackermann A"H*

Help the JCC and Jewish Federation commemorate Yom HaShoah in a meaningful way.

Send jpeg photos of loved ones lost in the Shoah to [director@jfgb.org](mailto:director@jfgb.org).

We will create a gallery to be shared at the community commemoration on Thursday, April 16.

Deadline to send photos is April 1st.

Passover Blessings from

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Please join us for a community-wide

## Yom HaShoah




Holocaust Memorial Program  
at the JCC  
500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY  
Thursday April 16, 2026  
7:00 - 9:00pm  
Viewing of the film  
“We Don’t Say Goodbye”

Southern Tier People Remember the Holocaust

Followed by a lecture & discussion led by Rabbi Lance Sussman ....  
published historian of American Jewish history who has had a long, multifaceted career as a rabbi, historian, educator, author, and interfaith leader. His work spans academic scholarship, innovative synagogue leadership, national and international dialogue, and community engagement.

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Free to the public. For information and reservations call the JCC office at (607) 724-2417

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# Fewer U.S. Jews identify as Zionist, but support for Israel remains strong, survey finds

**By Jessica Russak-Hoffman**  
(JNS) – Newly released data from the Jewish Federations of North America’s national survey suggests that declining identification with the term “Zionist” among American Jews should not be interpreted as opposition to Israel’s existence.

The findings (www.jewishdatabank.org/databank/search-results/study/1277) come from JFNA’s “Survey of Jewish Life since Oct. 7,” which was conducted March 5-25, 2025, and has been released

in stages. The data published on February 5 focuses on attitudes toward Israel, Zionism and Jewish identity.

While only 37 percent of respondents said they identify as Zionists, 88 percent affirmed that Israel has the right to exist as a Jewish and democratic state.

“It’s easy to draw incorrect conclusions from the data, so let’s be clear: the falling identification with the word ‘Zionism’ does not mean large numbers of Jews are turning against the existence of Israel itself,” Mimi Kravetz, chief impact

and growth officer at JFNA, told JNS. “That’s even true among younger Jews.”

Among respondents between the ages of 18 and 34, 76 percent said Israel has the right to exist, despite comparatively low levels of Zionist self-identification within that cohort.

The survey also suggests that perceptions of the term “Zionism” beyond its traditional definition play “a significant” role. Respondents who said they were not Zionists often associated the word with ideas such as unconditional

support for Israeli government actions, the ideology of Israel’s ruling class or specific territorial claims – rather than its traditional definition as support for Jewish self-determination in Israel.

At the same time, the survey found that overall emotional attachment to Israel remains high, as 71 percent of Jewish respondents said they feel emotionally attached to Israel, compared to 58 percent in 2020. Additionally, 60 percent said that Israel makes them proud to be Jewish.

## Nefesh B’Nefesh: Tel Aviv top city for North America aliyah

**By JNS staff**

Nefesh B’Nefesh welcomed more than 300 Jewish immigrants to its Tel Aviv Center for a recent event designed to connect the attendees with organizations, resources and networks in Israel’s most dynamic city, the nonprofit said.

The event, held in the Azrieli Center’s Circular Tower in partnership with JNF-USA, catered to *olim* living in Tel Aviv, the urban center that consistently ranks among the top three cities in Israel for North American *aliyah*, welcoming

hundreds of newcomers annually.

The event, titled “Meet Tel Aviv: A Community Fair for Olim in Tel Aviv,” gave *olim* the opportunity to connect with one another and engage directly with a wide range of organizations and resources dedicated to supporting their smooth integration into Israeli society, Nefesh B’Nefesh said. Participants connected with groups focused on community building, religious life, social connection, family support, professional development, culture, sports and more.

“It was incredible to see the Tel Aviv

*olim* community fill our offices and bring this space to life,” Devon Conway, TLV *olim* events and partnerships manager at Nefesh B’Nefesh, was quoted as saying.

“The conversations and connections happening throughout the night were a powerful reminder of how strong and engaged this community is. When *olim* come together to learn about resources and meet one another, a real sense of community is felt,” Conway added.

Local organizations that participated in the event included Kerem House, Beit

Daniel, Olim Matslihim, ESRA, LGBT Olim, Yakar Tel Aviv, Gvachim, Tel Aviv Municipality services, Tribe Tel Aviv, Misrad HaKlita, Chabad on the Coast, The Rebelpreneur Club, Her Tel Aviv and Tazuz sports, alongside many additional grassroots initiatives and community groups.

In 2025, Nefesh B’Nefesh concluded the year with 457 *olim* from the United States and Canada moving to Tel Aviv, compared to 405 in 2024 and 314 in 2023—an increase of more than 45 percent over the past three years, the nonprofit noted.

## Israeli scientists update measurements of Jupiter

**By JNS staff**

Planet Jupiter is slightly smaller than previously estimated, researchers at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot say in a study published recently. Jupiter is about eight kilometers (five miles) narrower at the equator and 24 kilometers (15 miles) flatter at the poles, the research published in Nature Astronomy says.

“The size of Jupiter hasn’t changed, of course, but the way we measure it has.

Textbooks will need to be updated,” said Professor Yohai Kaspi of Weizmann’s Earth and Planetary Sciences Department.

“These few kilometers matter. Shifting the radius by just a little lets our models of Jupiter’s interior fit both the gravity data and atmospheric measurements much better,” Eli Galanti, a senior staff scientist who led the research in Kaspi’s team, was quoted by the institute as saying.

Galanti continued, “Jupiter’s shape,

as understood until now, was derived by researchers from just six measurements made almost five decades ago by NASA’s Voyager and Pioneer missions, which sent radio beams from the spacecraft to Earth. Those missions provided a foundation, but now we got the rare opportunity to spearhead the analysis of as many as 26 new measurements made by NASA’s Juno spacecraft.”

Launched in 2011 and orbiting Jupiter since 2016, Juno has been sending back to NASA streams of raw data. When NASA extended the mission in 2021 so the spacecraft could keep studying Jupiter and its moons more closely, Juno’s new expanded path placed the spacecraft in an orbit that allowed it to pass behind Jupiter from Earth’s point of view, something its earlier orbit never did, according to the Weizmann Institute of Science.

“Juno’s passing behind Jupiter provides an opportunity for new science objectives. When the spacecraft passes behind the planet, its radio communication signal is blocked and bent by Jupiter’s atmosphere. This enables an accurate measurement of Jupiter’s size,” said Juno’s Principal Investigator Scott J. Bolton of Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio, TX.

The Weizmann scientists were assisted in their research by an international team

from Italy, the U.S., France and Switzerland.

“Just by knowing the distance to Jupiter and watching how it rotates, it’s possible to figure out its size and shape,” Kaspi was quoted as saying. “But making really accurate measurements calls for more sophisticated methods.”

Kaspi said that earlier measurements did not account for Jupiter’s powerful winds. By including these extreme winds in their calculations, the Weizmann team cleared up long-standing discrepancies in earlier measurements. “It’s difficult to see what’s happening beneath the clouds of Jupiter, but the radio data give us a window into the depth of Jupiter’s zonal winds and powerful hurricanes,” he said.

“This research helps us understand how planets form and evolve,” Kaspi continued. “Jupiter was likely the first planet to form in the solar system, and by studying what’s happening inside it, we get closer to understanding how the solar system, and planets like ours, came to be.”

Looking to the future, the techniques developed in these studies will serve the team during its analysis of data from the European Space Agency’s unmanned spacecraft JUICE, launched in 2023. The mission carries a Weizmann-designed instrument that will allow a deeper view into Jupiter’s atmosphere.

## TC..... Continued from page 14

Sunday, April 12: At noon, Brotherhood’s “Jewish Genealogy Talk” will feature Sharon Sherman of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Central New York. The cost is \$10/person. Call Temple Concord at 607-723-7355 or e-mail templeconcordaa@gmail.com to RSVP by Wednesday, March 25.

Tuesday, April 21: At 7:30 pm, general (Board of Trustees) board meeting open to members of Temple Concord. For a meeting link, call at 607-723-7355 or e-mail templeconcordaa@gmail.com.

Friday, April 24: At 6 pm Potluck Shabbat

dinner, followed by Shabbat services.

Saturday, April 25: At 6 pm, Community Board Game Night in the social hall for all ages. Pizza and salad will be provided. RSVP to the temple office by Wednesday, April 22. Suggested donation is \$5 per person or \$20 per family to cover the cost of refreshments.

Tuesday, April 28: At 7 pm, there will be a Social Action Committee meeting. For details, contact the temple office or committee Co-chairs Phyllis Weinstein (pweinste@stny.rr.com) or Debra Saltzman (dsmsw@yahoo.com).


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Happy Passover



## Mice..... Continued from page 11

amyloid buildup and inflammation markers.

“This is the first CAR-T cell approach for a neurodegenerative disease,” said Kipnis. Amit added that future work may explore how engineered immune cells could help repair brain tissue or address conditions such

as ALS and Parkinson’s disease.

Weizmann, a research campus located in Rehovot just south of Tel Aviv, sustained extensive damage when it was struck during an Iranian ballistic missile attack on Israel in June 2025.

To all our readers,



Best Wishes for a Happy, Healthy and Kosher Passover!


The Staff and Editorial Board of

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