

THE REPORTER

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BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK



Community Guide 2024

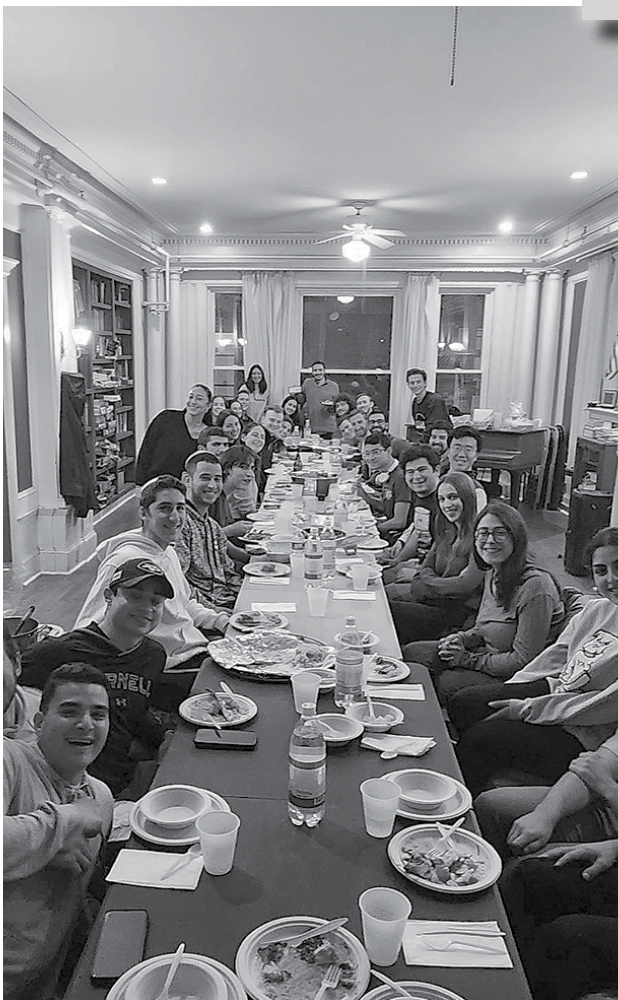


Table of Contents

Area Synagogues

Beth David Synagogue 9A

Chabad of Oneonta 18A

Congregation Tikken v'Or, Ithaca Reform Temple 11A

Norwich Jewish Center 11A

Penn-York Jewish Community 11A

Rohr Chabad Center of Binghamton 9A

Roitman Chabad Center at Cornell 17A

Temple Beth-El, Ithaca 12A

Temple Beth El, Oneonta 12A

Temple Brith Sholom, Cortland 12A

Temple Concord 10A

Temple Israel 10A

Binghamton Jewish Film Fest 5A

Board of Rabbis 7A

B'Yachad Ithaca Jewish Preschool 7A

College of Jewish Studies 6A

Community Relations Committee 5A

Eruv Map for Binghamton's West Side 13A

Eruv Map for Binghamton University/Vestal 13A

Hillel Academy 3A

Ithaca Area United Jewish Community 7A

Ithaca Beit Midrash 7A

Jewish Community Center 14A

Jewish Family Service 5A

Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton 4A

The Reporter Group 6A

William H. Seigel Lodge of B'nai B'rith 7A

Universities

Binghamton University Zionist Organization 16A

Center for Israel Studies at Binghamton U. 16A

Center for Jewish Living, Cornell U. 17A

Steven K. and Winifred A. Grinspoon Hillel Center for Jewish Community at Cornell 17A

Hillel at Binghamton 16A

Hillel at Ithaca College 18A

Jewish Studies Program at Cornell U. 17A

Judaic Studies Department, Binghamton U. 16A

MEOR Upstate 16A

SUNY Cortland Hillel 18A

Calendars

Candlelighting Times 8A

Two-Year Jewish Holiday Calendar 8A

Directories

Advertiser Directory 2A

Kashrut Guide 19A

Organizations 20A

Life Cycle

Birth 15A

Brit Milah 15A

Simchat Bat 15A

Bar/Bat Mitzvah 15A

Confirmation 15A

Mikvah 15A

Conversion 18A

Illness 18A

Death 18A

Advertiser Directory

Name	Phone	Page
Asthma & Allergy Associates, PC	766-0235, 800-88-ASTHMA	19A
Basha's Lebanese Grill	217-5288	7A
Binghamton-Johnson City Monument Co.	797-2922	20A
Binghamton Plate Glass	723-8293	20A
Blanding Electric Inc.	729-3545	3A
Cat Doctor, The	754-7221	6A
Cheevers, Hand & Angeline Inc.	754-7550, 800-999-7550	5A
Congregation Tikken v'Or	256-1471	17A
Coughlin & Gerhart LLP	821-2202, 877-COUGHLIN	6A
Disaster Cleanup	748-0128	15A
Early Owego Antique Center	223-4723	6A
Ernest H. Parsons Funeral Home Inc.	724-1336	6A
Faith L. Sigler & Associates - Dedicated Financial Solutions	765-4882, 240-5670	4A
Glass Creations By Carole	754-2728	9A
Hopler & Eschbach Funeral Home	722-4023	15A
Jewish Family Service	724-2332, ext. 339	9A
Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton Inc.	724-2332	12A
Kristys Imagination Photography	221-1225	14A
Leroy Package Store	724-2935	4A
Levene, Gouldin and Thompson	Vestal 763-9200	7A
Mel Manasse & Son Auctioneers	692-4540, 800-MANASSE	9A
NAC Broadway Theatre League	772-1391	11A
Piaker & Lyons	729-9373	14A
Reporter, The - Kathy Brown	724-2360, ext. 244	8A, 13A
	800-779-7896, ext. 244	
Savitch Insurance Agency	772-1101	3A
Temple Concord Sisterhood Judaic Shop	723-7355	17A
Temple Israel	723-7461	3A
TYR Travel	752-0333	14A
Triple Cities Family Dental, PC	723-8377	19A
Warner, Dr. Howard	775-3334	19A
Warren Real Estate - Suzanne (Sue) Krause	760-3366, 772-1177	3A
www.AudioClassics.com	766-3501	5A

(Note: Unless otherwise specified, all area codes are 607.)



Article Deadlines 2024-25

The following are deadlines for all articles and photos for The Reporter.

Deadlines are Wednesdays of the week prior to publication unless otherwise noted.

ISSUE DATE	DEADLINE
July 26-August 8	July 17
August 9-22	July 31
August 23-September 5	August 14
September 6-19	August 28
September 20-October 3	September 11
October 4-17	September 25
October 18-31	October 9
November 1-14	October 21 (early)
November 15-28	November 6
November 29-December 12	November 20
December 13-26	December 4
December 27-January 9, 2025	December 18
January 10-23	December 30 (early)
January 24-February 6	January 15
February 7-20	January 29
February 21-March 6	February 12
March 7-20	February 26
March 21-April 3	March 12
April 4-17	March 26
April 18-May 1	April 9
May 2-15	April 23
May 16-29	May 7
May 30-June 12	May 21
June 13-26	June 4
June 27-July 10	June 18
July 11-24	July 2
July 25-August 7	July 16
August 8-21	July 30
August 22-September 4	August 13
September 5-18	August 27
September 19-October 2	September 10
October 3-16	September 19 (early)
October 17-30	October 3 (early)
October 31-November 13	October 22
November 14-27	November 5
November 28-December 11	November 19
December 12-25	December 3
December 26-January 8, 2026	December 17

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Disclaimer

All information contained in The Reporter's Community Guide was provided by the individual synagogues and organizations. The Reporter accepts no responsibility for the information provided by contributors.

About the cover

This year's Community Guide cover was created by Julie Weber, production associate of The Reporter.



Hillel Academy

Mission Statement: Hillel Academy of Broome County is a pluralistic Jewish day school educating students in a nurturing environment, from pre-kindergarten to fifth grade. Hillel Academy develops lifelong learners, critical thinkers and caring individuals who are passionate about Judaism, and will make lasting contributions to the Jewish community, American society and the world-at-large.

The value of a day school education extends far beyond learning history, customs and ceremonies, and prayers. Hillel Academy helps young students form strong Jewish identities.

As a true community school, Hillel Academy brings together children from all corners of Binghamton's Jewish community – Conservative, Orthodox, Reform and unaffiliated – in a warm, nurturing environment. Hillel Academy fosters a community spirit based on mutual acceptance, and recognizes, respects and values diversity. Hillel Academy has served Binghamton for more than 50 years, providing the best in secular and Judaic education.

Hillel Academy's faculty teaches to each student's learning style. The school offers mixed classrooms, and students thrive in a dynamic learning environment. As a small private school, Hillel Academy customizes each student's learning experiences, allowing for maximum growth and development. Hillel Academy trains its students to be lifetime learners, instead of test-takers. Hillel Academy offers foreign language instruction in Hebrew, art, music, science, social studies and Jewish learning, all beginning in pre-kindergarten.

For more information, contact the school at 607-304-4544 or e-mail frontoffice@hillelacademyofbc.org; Rabbi Moshe Shmaryahu, director of Judaic studies, at rabbishmaryahu@gmail.com; or Sarah MacDougal, director of secular education, at stomas1320@hillelacademyofbc.org.



As part of their study of the story of creation in the book of Genesis, the children at Hillel Academy also learned about the scientific and geological way in which the earth was made, focusing on rocks, soil, water and sky. As part of their study, the children received small geode rocks and were asked to break them to find out what is inside. Students said they were amazed to find crystals in the rocks.



Liza Wiemer, author of "Out and About: A Tale of Giving" (published by Kalanot Press), visited Hillel Academy on October 4. L-r: Wiemer; Rabbi Moshe Shmaryahu, head of Judaic studies; Lili Rosenstreich, publisher of Kalanot Press; and Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton.



Hillel Academy of Broome County held a community Challah Bake and Kabbalat Shabbat on January 19. More than 40 challahs were made and people were able to take them home. Pictured: Students mixed dough for challah during the Challah Bake.



On March 17, Hillel Academy students sang the national anthem at a Binghamton Black Bears hockey game.



Hillel Academy students made menorot for Hanukkah. (Photo courtesy of Hillel Academy)



Hillel Academy celebrated Tu B'Shevat, the New Year of the Trees, by holding a Tu B'Shevat seder that was open to the community. Students potted plants as part of their Tu B'Shevat celebration.



Hillel Academy of Broome County held a model seder on April 18. Community members were invited to attend.

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Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton

Established locally in 1937 and incorporated in 1957, the mission of the Federation is to serve and further the welfare of the Jewish community. The Federation is an advocate for local Jewish organizations. Federation serves as a unifying umbrella for the entire Binghamton Jewish community. Since its origination, the Jewish Federation has focused on a unified fund-raising Campaign, the proceeds of which provide grants to local Jewish organizations through an allocation process. The Federation also sponsors educational, cultural and faith-based activities throughout the year. Through its Committee for Safety and Security, Federation acts as a unifying organization to address security concerns for the community.

Additional Federation grants to support Jewish infrastructure and culture come from the Federation endowment fund. A gift to the endowment ensures the Jewish community of Greater Binghamton will remain intact for years to come.

The Federation is a proud sponsor of the PJ Library program, which sends Jewish "Bedtime Stories and Songs for Families" free of charge to the homes of children in the community. PJ Library can be enjoyed by all families regardless of their affiliation or observance. To support this program or to add your child to the list, call the Federation office.

Jewish Family Service, an agency of the Federation, provides essential human services and limited financial supports to families and individuals facing challenges to their well-being.

The Jewish Federation publishes *The Reporter*, the nationally recognized biweek-

ly newspaper of the Jewish community. News of international, national and local importance is found in its pages, as well as announcements and information about upcoming and recent community events. Executive Editor Rabbi Rachel Esserman has won numerous journalism awards.

The Federation provides balanced public information about Israel and Jewish culture to Broome County, works to promote good relations with other ethnic and religious groups, and actively combats antisemitism and discrimination.

The Federation's primary international beneficiary is the Jewish Federations of North America. JFNA carries out life-supporting work through its affiliates (the Jewish Agency for Israel and the Joint Distribution Committee) in Israel and around the world. The Jewish Agency provides job training for new immigrants in Israel, and supports preschools, youth services, nursing homes, health care, agricultural settlements, neighborhood rehabilitation and higher education. The Joint Distribution Committee provides emergency services, disaster relief, and access to religious and educational materials to Jews in Eastern Europe and other countries outside of Israel.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton extends its gratitude to all its contributing members and volunteers whose support helps to keep the Binghamton Jewish community strong. For additional information, to make a contribution, or to volunteer for one of the programs, stop by the Federation office at 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850; visit its website, www.jfgb.org; or call 607-724-2332.



The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton sponsored a Jewish community outing to see the Rumble Ponies baseball game on July 18. Around 20 people attended the event.



The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton's PJ Library program held a Rosh Hashanah family event on September 10, co-sponsored with Beth David Synagogue, the Jewish Community Center, Temple Concord and Temple Israel. PJ Library children played on the JCC playground during the program.



L-r: Steven Malkin, chairman of the Jewish Federation's Security Committee, delivered a Stop the Bleed kit to Ron Feldstein at Temple Beth El of Oneonta. The Stop the Bleed kits are designed to enable trained bystanders to take life-saving action if needed until professional help can arrive following an accident, mass shooting or other acts of violence.



On October 4, the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton and the Jewish Community Center co-sponsored a community Sukkot event at which Liza Wiemer read her picture book "Out and About: A Tale of Giving" just outside the JCC's sukkah.



Sima Auerbach (left), former executive director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, volunteered to help make Campaign 2024 calls on October 15. Auerbach is shown with Suzanne Holwitt, Federation president.



Barbara Mullen (seated) and Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, discussed talking points for the Campaign 2024 phone calls on October 15.



At left: Lieutenant Governor Antonio Delgado (center) made a 45-minute visit to the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton's office on November 2. He met with Shelley Hubal, Federation executive director, and the Community Relations Chair Randy Friedman. They discussed the rise in antisemitism and how it is playing out on campus and in the local community. They also discussed ways the New York state government can make security funding more accessible for small religious organizations.



The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton held a "Conversations about the Day After" with David Rittberg (shown far left, second down, in photo), senior director at the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Philanthropies, on January 31; 37 computers and more than 50 people joined the webinar. Rittberg discussed life after the October 7 attack on Israel, what is happening in southern Israel, and how the war will affect Jewish communities and philanthropy in the United States.

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Jewish Family Service

Jewish Family Service delivers essential human services to individuals and families facing challenges to their well-being. By providing information, referrals and advocacy, JFS assists people in navigating the complex safety net systems in the Greater Binghamton area, all in the hope of easing hardships, sustaining healthy relationships and supporting people in times of need. Financial assistance is provided within specific guidelines as funding permits. It is through thoughtful listening and compassionate caring that JFS can help people move from instability to a more secure and positive place.

JFS is a resource for family members looking for caregivers and home services

for their elderly family members. On occasion, out of town family members or friends will contact JFS regarding concerns they have about their loved one, and information and assistance will be provided. As a goal of providing opportunities for socialization and diminishing isolation, JFS has coordinated various programs as well as invitations to the Jewish International Film Festival. As JFS is a small agency and is unable to provide all necessary services alone to help recipients maintain their highest quality of life, the human service



Rose Shea, director of JFS

network in Greater Binghamton collaborates with JFS.

Holidays can be a difficult time for those struggling and JFS attempts to improve the situation by collecting and distributing money during the holidays of Rosh Hashanah, Hanukkah, Purim and Passover. JFS invited people to be guests at the Temple Concord Passover Seder and partnered with the JCC Friendship Club in visiting adult care facilities with greeting cards and *shalach manot* during Purim. We hope to be able to return to these activities in the future.

Periodic articles in *The Reporter* keep people informed about topics relevant to JFS activities and other issues in society. Volunteers are much appreciated and assist the director in implementing and completing various programs and tasks. Monetary donations from community members, as well as the annual allocation from the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, allow JFS to help many people in the community. If you are interested in joining the JFS Board or assisting in any other way, contact JFS at 607-724-2332. Remember, JFS is there for you in times of need. Please feel free to contact the office with any questions or concerns.

Rita Bleier, Chairperson of JFS
Rose Shea, Director of JFS

Community Relations Committee

The charge of the Community Relations Committee is to educate the larger community about Judaism, explain Jewish viewpoints and Israel, and to help foster amicable relationships. In cooperation with other organizations, the CRC stands ready to respond to issues and developments of concern to

the Jewish community. Acts of terror against Jews in the U.S. and against the people of Israel, attempts to isolate and delegitimize the state of Israel, and the enduring anti-Israeli sentiment that often has antisemitic overtones in the media, on university campuses and throughout the international community

continue to be of great concern. At the local level, the CRC responds to instances of antisemitism and to inappropriate actions by local school officials with regard to observance of religious holidays in the schools.

The members of the CRC stand ready to respond to developments that affect the

local Jewish community in a positive and meaningful way, and to initiate initiatives that promote a peaceful coexistence with all groupings within the region. As always, the support and input of the entire community is sought and appreciated. The CRC's greatest success comes from widespread participation.

Binghamton Jewish Film Fest

The Binghamton Jewish Film Fest, under the auspices of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, provides a diverse range of film events that add to the cultural life of the Greater Binghamton Jewish community.

The film festival began in 2012 with a committee of five. Each film is followed by a discussion. Films are held both virtually and in-person, and cover a wide

range of genres – comedy to drama to documentary to short film – and a wide range of topics. Screenings are open to any member of the community. In 2023, the Jewish Federation invited the Ithaca community to participate in the festival's virtual screenings.

The Jewish Federation looks forward to continuing this community cultural event with more films in 2024 and 2025.



The Greater Binghamton Jewish Film Fest held a virtual discussion of the film "Our Almost Completely True Love Story" moderated by Richard Mattson on February 4. Forty-five computers registered to watch the film and 23 computers were tuned into the discussion.



At left: Twenty-two households took part in the Jewish Film Fest of Greater Binghamton discussion of "March '68" on March 17. The virtual discussion was moderated by Ben Kasper.



More than 50 people signed up to view the Jewish Film Fest of Greater Binghamton film "The Narrow Bridge." More than 25 computers logged into the virtual discussion led by Dr. Terence M. Keane, Ph.D., director of the Behavioral Science Division of the National Center for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, on January 7. Shown are some of those who attended the discussion.

Seen around the community...



The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton held a Counteractive Threat Training on November 30 at Temple Israel. Mark Henderson, the director of community security for the Jewish Community Federation of Greater Rochester, led the session, which was attended by approximately 25 community members.



Children had the opportunity to play with dreidels during the "Discover Hanukkah" event on December 10 at the Discovery Center. The event was co-sponsored by the PJ Library, the Jewish Community Center and the Discovery Center. (Names held on request.)

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College of Jewish Studies

The College of Jewish Studies was founded in 1986 as a coalition of the Judaic Studies Department at Binghamton University and several local Jewish sponsoring institutions, including the Jewish Community Center, the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, Beth David Synagogue, Temple Concord and Temple Israel. Its mission is to provide opportunities for quality adult Jewish education in Broome County. The CJS Committee strives to bring scholars locally and from across the U.S. for enlightening lectures; an effort is made to combine broad appeal with intellectual and stimulating content and challenge. The programs are open to the community.

Programming for the College of Jewish Studies is made possible through program admission fees, contributions from sponsoring institutions and additional financial support from a grant from The Community Foundation for South Central New York – David and Virginia Eisenberg Donor Advised Fund, the Jacob and Rose Olum Foundation, the B'nai B'rith Lectureship Fund, the Victor and Esther Rozen

Foundation, an endowment fund from the former Temple Beth El of Endicott, a grant from the JoyVel Charitable Fund, and the generous donations of individual sponsors.

The College of Jewish Studies committee is comprised of representatives from the local Jewish community and faculty from Binghamton University.

The Reporter Group

The Reporter, a bi-weekly newspaper published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, provides a voice for an inclusive Jewish community. *The Reporter* turns 53 this year and is still going strong, holding true to its roots as a community newspaper. Members of the community are encouraged to share their news, *simcha* or sad, via *The Reporter*.

The paper also publishes national and international news of Jewish interest, features and opinion pieces. *The Reporter*, an essential source of information and communication for the local Jewish community, has received recognition and professional awards for distinguished journalism.

The dedicated and exceptional staff of The Reporter Group not only produces *The Reporter*, the bi-weekly paper for the local community, but also produces a monthly newspaper for the Scranton, PA, Jewish community. Both newspapers are tailored to meet each community's needs. The news staff is assisted by a group of volunteer proofreaders.

The paper focuses on coverage of local events and activities of interest to the community, including synagogue, school, JCC and community events. Also featured are *Reporter* columnist Bill Simons and other guest columnists writing on a variety of topics. In addition, the paper publishes blog posts by Jeremy Staiman (with the permission of the *Times of Israel*). *The Reporter's* website



A screenshot of The Reporter's website, which was updated and relaunched in December.

(www.thereportergroup.org) and Facebook page complement the print edition. Information is also featured in the Federation's e-mail blasts.

The Reporter is provided free of charge to individuals and families who are members of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, and it is available to everyone else for a nominal subscription fee. Voluntary subscriptions from Federation members are appreciated. Anyone who has questions, comments or suggestions, or would like to submit an article to the paper, should contact the office at 607-724-2360 or treporter@aol.com.



Approximately 20 community members attended the College of Jewish Studies lecture on April 18 at the Jewish Community Center to discuss the October 7 Hamas attack on Israel and its aftermath with (l-r) Randy Friedman, Shay Rabineau, Allan Arkush and Jon Karp, members of Binghamton University's Judaic Studies Department and Israel Studies Institute.

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Seen around the community...



Hillel Academy held a Purim carnival open to the community that included prayer, music, dancing and singing, along with holiday treats.



Cathy Velenchik (left) planted seeds while Susan Hubal looked on at the October 11 Beth David Sisterhood meeting.

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The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton and the Rohr Chabad Center for Jewish Student Life held a "Farewell gathering to honor Michael Wright" event on September 13. Close to 40 people came to honor Wright, who was moving out of the area. L-r: Rabbi Aaron Slonim, co-director of the Rohr Chabad Center for Jewish Student Life; Michael Wright; and Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton. (Photo by Dora Polachek)



In late October, Chabad of Binghamton staff led a small-group, 18-hour mission to Israel in the wake of the October 7 Hamas attack. The group posed for a photo upon arrival at Ben Gurion Airport. (Photo by Chabad of Binghamton)

Other Organizations

William H. Seigel Lodge of B'nai B'rith

The William H. Seigel Lodge of B'nai B'rith serves Bradford County (Pennsylvania) and southern Tioga County (New York). The Lodge is affiliated with the

Penn-York Jewish Community, and it draws members mostly from the Southern Tier of New York and the Northern Tier of Pennsylvania. As part of B'nai B'rith

International, the oldest and largest Jewish service organization in the world, the Lodge supports a variety of community activities.

Ithaca Area United Jewish Community

The Ithaca Area United Jewish Community functions as an umbrella organization for the Ithaca area and endeavors to welcome all Jewish members of the community. IAUJC raises funds to support a variety of Jewish organizations in Tompkins County, such as the Hillels at Cornell University and Ithaca College, the religious schools of Temple Beth-El and Congregation Tikun v'Or, B'Yachad Jewish Preschool, Chabad at Cornell University and Chabad of Ithaca College. In addition, IAUJC allocates funding to programs that support Jewish communities in Israel and around the world. Cultural and educational programs are also created and supported by IAUJC.

This year, all Jews experienced an unprecedented challenge in the wake of the atrocities committed by Hamas on October 7, 2023, in 22 communities bordering Gaza; 1,200 Israelis, Jews and Arabs, as well as foreign workers, were killed and 253 were taken hostage. While 105 hostages have since been released, many continue to pray for the release of the hostages still captive in Gaza. IAUJC made a donation of \$10,000 to the emergency JFNA Swords of Iron campaign to aid Israel during the war in Gaza.

On October 22, 2023, the IAUJC held a Solidarity with Israel event hosted by Temple Beth-El that included Jewish communal leaders, many of whom had not yet met

the community as it was still emerging from the cocoon of COVID times. Psalms and poems were read by various communal leaders and those attending heard directly from former Ithacan CJ Glass, son of Rabbi Emeritus Scott Glass and Sharon Glass, who made *aliyah* and currently lives in Ramle, Israel.

On March 25, IAUJC hosted its annual Community Dinner Party in honor of Professor Roald Hoffman, Noble Prize winner in chemistry, child survivor of the Holocaust, local speaker for Holocaust education, poet and playwright. The keynote speaker for the event was Menachem Rosensaft, general counsel emeritus of the World Jewish Congress and adjunct professor at Cornell and Columbia law schools. Currently teaching about antisemitism and the judicial system, Rosensaft spoke about "Light at the End of the Tunnel: Perseverance in the Face of Adversity." Rosensaft is the child of Holocaust survivors and was born in the displaced persons camp at Bergen Belsen. The connection between the IAUJC's honoree and speaker, and their personal examples of kindness and caring for the other specifically derived from their own experience, was a model for all.

On May 5, IAUJC hosted its 10th annual community Holocaust commemoration at Temple Beth-El. The pro-

gram was very well attended, attracting both Jewish and non-Jewish community members, including teachers and school children. This year, the Holocaust commemoration featured Ralph Berger, adjunct lecturer at Cornell University, who spoke about his parents who escaped from the Nazis and were resistance fighters with the Bielski Brigade in Poland. Their story is told in the book Berger co-edited, "With Courage Shall We Fight: The Memoirs and Poetry of Frances (Fruma) Bulkowich Berger and Murray (Motke) Berger."

Serving the Jewish youth of Tompkins County is one of IAUJC's objectives. Since 2008, IAUJC has sponsored the PJ Library, administered by Marjorie Hoffman, which provides free monthly books to Jewish children from birth to age 9. PJ was very active this past year. Local families were able to meet in person for events celebrating Rosh Hashanah, Hanukkah and Passover. Currently, there are approximately 170 subscribers in the Ithaca area.

Through the generosity of the late Robert and Marcia Ascher, the IAUJC has been able to award grants to assist families in sending their children to Jewish summer camp and teen experiences. This summer, the 10th year, awards totaling \$4870 were provided to three children.

See "IAUJC" on page 8A

B'Yachad Ithaca Jewish Preschool

B'Yachad is unique in the Ithaca area. It is the only Ithaca preschool to offer a dual language curriculum of Hebrew and English within its program of play, exploration, relationship-building and the expressive arts. In addition to a comprehensive general studies curriculum, based on the New York state pre-kindergarten guidelines, B'Yachad integrates Jewish holidays, ethics, Hebrew language and songs.

At B'Yachad, each child enjoys individualized attention and a strong connection with faculty and other students due to the excellent faculty to student ratio. In B'Yachad's small

classrooms, children are given the opportunity to develop self-confidence in a warm, supportive and nurturing environment, and to develop security and stability, all while engaging in play and educational activities. Music, dance, yoga, and art are important components of the B'Yachad daily program. The program emphasizes meaningful – and fun – experiential learning, and seeks to provide a positive and nurturing social experience for its children. A large outdoor play yard, with climbing structures and a sand box, offers snow play in the winter and gardening activities in warmer weather.

B'Yachad has its home at Temple Beth-El in downtown Ithaca (402 North Tioga St., Ithaca, NY 14850) and is open to all children ages 2.5-5 years. During the school year, B'Yachad offers a full-day program from 8:30 am-2:30 pm, along with a 8:30 am-11:30 am half-day option and a 2:30-3 pm extended day option. B'Yachad Ithaca Jewish Preschool is licensed by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services. For inquiries and registration, visit the B'Yachad website at www.ithacajewishpreschool.com, e-mail byachadithaca@gmail.com or call 607-273-5775 (the Temple Beth-El Administrative Office).

Ithaca Beit Midrash

A relative newcomer to the scene, Ithaca Beit Midrash is now entering into its second year. This vibrant new center is dedicated to fostering deep and meaningful study of Jewish texts where people of all backgrounds and levels of knowledge can explore their heritage, engage in intellectual discourse, and build a sense of community. The Mission of Ithaca Beit Midrash is to form meaningful connections to Judaism and each other through personalized learning experiences for children, teens, families and adults of all ages and backgrounds.

What is Ithaca Beit Midrash?

"Beit Midrash," which translates to "house of study," is a traditional Jewish learning environment where individuals gather to study sacred texts such as the Torah, Talmud and other religious writings. This setting is characterized by its collaborative approach to learning, where discussions and debates about interpretations are encouraged, thereby deepening everyone's understanding of and connection to the material and each other.

Ithaca Beit Midrash aims to create a dynamic and

inclusive space that makes Jewish learning accessible and meaningful for everyone. Rabbi Suzanne Brody, the founder of Ithaca Beit Midrash, is a respected educator and community leader whose passion for innovating new ways to share a love of learning about and doing Judaism has found outlets in creating dynamic programming for Jews of all ages. She has worked in both formal and informal educational settings, and has designed and taught numerous courses. Brody's creativity informs the wide variety of courses available through Ithaca Beit Midrash.

Ithaca Beit Midrash offers a variety of programs and options for enrollment designed to meet the needs and interests of the community, from individual sessions to year-long enrollment, as well as plenty of options in-between. The majority of the adult education offerings are held over Zoom to accommodate busy schedules and make them accessible to a wider range of students. Programs for children and teens are primarily offered in person, though they are not limited to those living in Ithaca.

Whether you are a seasoned scholar or someone new to Jewish learning, there is a place for you at Ithaca Beit Midrash. For more information about programs, events and how to get involved, visit the Ithaca Beit Midrash website at www.ithacabeitmidrash.com or contact Ithaca.Beit.Midrash@gmail.com.

Board of Rabbis

The Broome County Board of Rabbis is an informal association comprised of the active pulpit rabbis in Broome County. The rabbis seek to have their respective synagogues and temples present a united front in dealing with communal problems and crises.

The rabbis participate in the annual communal Yom Hashoah u'Gevurah observance to commemorate the Holocaust. The rabbis also serve on the board of the College of Jewish Studies and give lectures under its sponsorship.

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Broome County Synagogues

Beth David Synagogue

Beth David Synagogue is a member of the Orthodox Union and the only Orthodox congregation in the area. Beth David can trace its history to 1905 when the informal "minyan" was incorporated as the Hebrew Brothers Association. Outgrowing their facility in a house on Susquehanna Street, members purchased a building on Carroll Street in 1930 and changed their name to United Hebrew Brothers Congregation. The "little shul" became Beth David Synagogue in 1956, and the revitalized Orthodox congregation became more active and saw its membership grow sizably. Having outgrown its facility, Beth David Synagogue purchased the property on Riverside Drive in 1962 and formally relocated to its present location in 1964.

Beth David is known throughout the community for its activity and involvement in all community functions, events and organizations. Its members occupy leadership roles in communal organizations and its rabbi is involved in community planning and events. All services and activities at Beth David are always open to any member of the community, regardless of synagogue affiliation. Members seek to make everyone and anyone comfortable, and welcome all with open arms. Beth David's services, traditionally chanted in Hebrew, are made easy to follow. Many parts of the service are sung to traditional tunes, which help make them accessible to the novice and experienced alike. The veteran participants can always be counted upon to guide the visitors through the service, helping one feel at ease as a participant.

Youth activities have always been integral part of Beth David. Members are proud of the award winning youth program, affiliated with NCSY, the National Council of Synagogue Youth. The synagogue is prepared to revive these programs when the number of potential participants increases to make them viable.

Social activities abound at Beth David. A weekly Shabbat kiddush after services reverts into a Shabbat luncheon once a month, free and open to the community.



Members of Beth David Sisterhood met in August to plan programs for the coming 2023-24 season. From top right (counterclockwise): Susan Wright, Marcy Yonaty, Susan Hubal, Stacey Silber, Judy Silber, Marlene Serkin, Cathy Velenchik and Saba Wiesner. Kerry Wright (not shown) also attended. (Photo by Kerry Wright)

Sisterhood sponsors many kiddushim and luncheons for various holidays, and all can celebrate Purim and Shavuot together at the communal festive meals. The Sisterhood also sponsors many social activities throughout the year, both at the synagogue and at other locations. The Men's Club invites all to its periodic Sunday breakfast. The Beth David sukkah is available for the community to use.

Judaism flourishes through the study of Torah. Beth David strives to offer a full array of educational opportunities. There are regular classes, special learning sessions, guest speakers and video presentations. Student scholars from Yeshiva University and other yeshivot enhance Torah study and celebrations during Simchat Torah and Shavuot. The active Sisterhood regularly hosts speakers who are experts in their fields. The beit midrash, study hall and library, located in the synagogue, are filled with English and Hebrew books, and are always open.

See "Beth David" on page 13A



Katie Dotzler, Gershom Meir Kellman, Rivka Ayelet Kellman, Eleanor Kellman and Benny Kellman came as friendly Jewish pirates to the Beth David Purim celebration.



Those attending the Beth David Hanukkah party on December 13 enjoyed the refreshments, including latkes prepared by Charles Manassee and sufganiyot prepared by Stacey Silber, and a chance to catch up with friends. (Photo by Stacey Silber)

Rohr Chabad Center of Binghamton

The Rohr Chabad Center in Broome County is an affiliate of the international Chabad-Lubavitch network, which maintains educational and social service institutions in approximately 4,600 locations. The Chabad Center is located at 420 Murray Hill Rd., Vestal; a satellite center serving the needs of BU students living downtown is located at 60 Henry St., in downtown Binghamton. While the primary focus of Chabad is its programs and services geared toward the thousands of Jewish students at Binghamton University, Chabad is open to all members of the Jewish community. There is no membership fee, nor is a prior background or experience in Jewish life necessary.

The people who avail themselves of Chabad's numerous services and programs span the gamut of religious affiliation; the varied group includes those without formal affiliation at all. Chabad provides community members with many opportunities for enhancing their Jewish education and experience. To this end, it offers classes on a variety of topics, presented on multiple levels, free of charge. Private tutorials are offered, as well. Chabad Center is an

affiliate of the prestigious Rohr Jewish Learning Institute and offers three semesters of JLI university level Judaic classes annually. Chabad sponsors lectures and open forums featuring noted speakers and authorities in diverse fields of interest. On occasion, Chabad brings quality Jewish entertainment, artists and personalities to the area. Chabad Center is also the sponsor of the annual Pauline and Philip Piaker Memorial Lecture. Additionally, Chabad maintains a well-stocked, easy-to-use library of Jewish books; the resource serves both the casual browser as well as the serious researcher.

Chabad hosts communitywide holiday celebrations such as dinners in the sukkah; a Chanukah family dinner; a Purim feast that features ethnic food, live music and entertainment; and Passover seders. The Chabad Center



The Rohr Chabad Center for Jewish Student Life at Binghamton University inaugurated a new Torah scroll with a parade and a celebration on October 29. A crown was placed on the Torah by Rabbi Yakkov Ohana, who dedicated the town in memory of his late parents. Holding the Torah was Rabbi Levi Slonim, director of development and co-director of Chabad Downtown.



A record 2,200 Binghamton University students celebrated Chabad's Shabbat 2400 before the start of Shabbat on April 5. (Photo by S. Grossbaum/Chabad of Binghamton)

staff provides counseling, referrals and pastoral advice, as well as guidance in religious matters and life cycle events. Chabad offers assistance by kashering kitchens, affixing kosher mezuzot, and providing the necessary instruction and physical resources necessary to enhance Jewish observance.

The Women's League for Chabad offers a local shalach manot service for the Purim holiday.

The Chabad Center administrated Barrett J. Raff Maa-sim Tovim Foundation volunteers visit residents in area See "Chabad" on page 12A



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The Abraham Piaker Free Loan Association

The Chabad Center maintains the Abraham Piaker Free Loan Association for the purpose of providing short-term, completely confidential, interest-free loans to aid worthy persons in the Jewish community who have a pressing need. For an application or for more information about the fund, call the Chabad Center office at 607-797-0015. Persons interested in making donations to this fund can mark them as such and mail them to the Chabad Center, 420 Murray Hill Rd., Vestal, NY 13850. Acknowledgment of gifts will be sent to the Piaker family.



The Rohr Chabad Center for Jewish Student Life and the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton held a "Farewell gathering to honor Michael Wright" event on September 13. Close to 40 people came to honor Wright, who was moving out of the area. Shown are some of those who attended. (Photo by Dora Polachek)



Rose Shea
 Director
 Jewish Family Service

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Temple Concord

Temple Concord, a Reform congregation affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism, represents a modern interpretation of Jewish tradition, designed to meet individuals in their search for personal Jewish meaning within the context of community. Temple leaders reach out to members in the three areas important to Judaism: worship (*avodah*), community (*Am Yisrael*) and education (Torah).

Temple Concord offers a welcoming and inclusive Reform Jewish experience to a diverse congregation, creating connections and increasing engagement in the Greater Binghamton community.

Temple Concord now offers its programs, classes and worship services with in-person and online options. Worship services, adult learning, Sisterhood, Book Club and meetings have been held beyond the building, expanding members' connections and encouraging supporting one another. Consult the temple directly to learn how to participate in its many offerings, whether in one or several physical locations.

Worship

Friday evening Shabbat services are held weekly, at 7:30 pm both in the building and online via Zoom and Facebook Live. Saturday morning family services are held when religious school is in session. Jewish holidays are an important part of the year. High Holidays, festival and holiday services and programs are open to all. Services are designed for people to find the joy of Judaism within the context of community worship. As part of Shabbat and holiday celebrations, Temple Concord congregants often will come together for a celebratory meal.

Community

Temple Concord's community consists of many smaller communities. Temple Concord Sisterhood is the largest and most active auxiliary. It consists of dedicated, hardworking and enthusiastic women who work to support the temple, its religious school and the community. Sisterhood, a service and social organization, is affiliated with the national Women of Reform Judaism. Programs include holiday parties for religious school students; educational programs; a women's seder; and a Sisterhood retreat. Whale of a Sale and monthly rummage sales are the major fund-raising events. The Sisterhood board welcomes all and oversees all its programs.

The Brotherhood is the men's auxiliary of Temple Concord. Brotherhood activities include brunches, poker nights and sports outings. In addition to these types of social activities, service projects in support of the temple are also part of the Brotherhood's agenda: it has organized High Holiday ushering, Purim dinners and sukkah building for many years. While Brotherhood focuses on social growth and activities oriented to the temple's male membership, many events it sponsors are open to the entire congregation.

The Social Action Committee focuses on *tikkun olam*, making the world a better place. The committee sponsors programs of social and political interest, and engages in political awareness and advocacy efforts. Recently, these have included programs on human rights, immigration, LGBTQ+ issues, combating racism and other forms of hate, and local community involvement. The committee sponsors several mitzvah collection projects where a community agency is selected and a list of needed items is produced. Members of the committee and other congregants help prepare and serve hot



Temple Concord Religious School students led the Shabbat morning service on January 27. The class service was followed by lunch. Back row: Teachers Karen Hammer and Orly Shoer. (Students' names held on request)

meals to the needy at the Trinity Canteen at Trinity Memorial Church in Binghamton. Temple Concord is one of the principal groups in the Children of Abraham of the Southern Tier, which seeks to foster dialogue and understanding between Jewish, Christian and Muslim residents in Greater Binghamton.

Temple Concord is the site of a weekly CHOW pantry. The CHOW pantry operates through the Social Action Committee, with members volunteering to staff the pantry and help families in need select their groceries. ACHOW food drive is held during the High Holidays and a CHOW collection basket is available throughout the year to receive donations of non-perishable food.

The members of Caring Community prepare and serve meals of consolation following the funeral of temple members. They provide additional support to members at times of illness, accident, or other needs.

The temple also has the Morning Book Club, which meets monthly on the first Tuesday or Wednesday of the month at 10:30 am (changes in the meeting schedule can be found in the temple's "Happenings" e-mails, on its Facebook page and on its website). The book club is open to the public and offers a discussion of the chosen book in a social setting.

Education

In keeping with the tradition of the Jewish people and the principles of Reform Judaism, Temple Concord has a comprehensive religious school and Hebrew school program, starting with younger children and progressing to confirmation. Religious school for children

See "Concord" on page 11A



The Temple Concord Sisterhood held its annual book review with Rabbi Rachel Esserman on January 28. More than 20 people listened to Esserman discuss "Kunstlers in Paradise" by Cathleen Schine, "Abomination" by Ashley Goldberg and "Loving Our Own Bones: Disability Wisdom and the Spiritual Subversiveness of Knowing Ourselves Whole" by Julia Watts Belser.

At right: Temple Concord Religious School students learned about Israel. Their studies included hands-on activities, such as learning to make shakshuka. (Names held on request)



Temple Israel

Temple Israel, located in Vestal, NY, is a modern, egalitarian, Conservative synagogue founded in 1886. Temple Israel provides a complete range of religious, educational, spiritual, pastoral and community-building services. Members are dedicated to sustaining the Jewish future through cherishing Judaism as a living heritage that is both loyal to the past and relevant to the present.

Traditional in practice, yet sensitive to the diverse needs of all the members of the community, Temple Israel holds that the religious experience, as reflected in the synagogue, should be spiritually satisfying, intellectually honest and aesthetically appealing. The synagogue aims to create a community of mutual support, intellectual vitality and spiritual sustenance through the active participation of all its members, and a rich program of education, social and cultural activities.

Temple Israel has evolved with the Southern Tier Jewish community, moving from a downtown home to a modern building in the suburbs in 1969. In December 2013, the roof collapsed, leaving the building uninhabitable. The Temple Israel congregation persisted through this setback, operating at the Jewish Community Center while building a new building. In the summer of 2016, the congregation occupied its spiritual home for the 21st century. Temple Israel adapted ritual practice and technology to address the pandemic, and did not miss a single Shabbat service throughout. All services are now live-streamed to enable inclusion of those unable to participate in person.

In 2023, Temple Israel welcomed Rabbi Micah Friedman as the spiritual leader of the congregation. Friedman offers group and individual opportunities for every member of the community to deepen their personal Jewish learning, and brings a sense of *simcha* to regular communal worship on Shabbat and holidays.

Temple Israel reached its 138th birthday as a Conservative synagogue. It welcomes all into a friendly, caring environment. As an egalitarian congregation, Temple Israel proudly invites men and women to sit together, count in the minyan, and lead from the bima.

The Hebrew school provides a Jewish education for children through *b'nai mitzvah*. Students build relationships with peers and receive personalized instruction in Hebrew, prayer, rituals and traditions, as well as Jewish history and current events. All study is geared to preparing them to become empowered Jewish adults through experiences of community and acquiring foundational Jewish knowledge.

Temple Israel has both an adult library and a children's library, each with a relevant collection including classic and modern literature.

Adult education and family programming provides events and programs with guest speakers, learning and celebration. See the Temple Israel website (www.templeisraelvestal.org), Facebook page (www.facebook.com/TempleIsraelVestal) or "Bulletin" calendar for up-to-date programming details.

The Mitzvah Corps provides the meal of consolation after funerals. Although there is no charge for this service, donations are appreciated to cover costs.



Taking part in the reading of the megillah at Temple Israel for Purim were Savannah Lipner, Jeremy Kohler, Art Siegel and Rabbi Micah Friedman.



Adam Nasar and Alex Kaminsky were among those attending the Chocolate Seder at Temple Israel on April 14.

The Caring Community volunteers visit the sick, the bereaved and the elderly in residence homes. It attempts to help assuage a variety of needs. Both of these committees are sources of temple pride as examples of *gimilut chasidim*, acts of loving kindness.

Temple Israel provides a traditional Jewish cemetery for burial of members, located in the town of Conklin. The Chevra Kadisha (Jewish burial society) is available to prepare deceased members for burial according to the laws of Jewish burial practice.

The Temple Israel Sisterhood is active in sponsoring a wide range of programs, special events, fund-raising and much more.

Temple Israel hosts a community garden operated by VINES (Volunteers Improving Neighborhood Environments). The Deerfield Place Community Garden is experiencing its fifth growing season this summer. Raised 3x10 beds are available for an annual rental fee. Contact VINES for more information.

Temple Israel welcomes volunteers for any of the aforementioned committees. For more information and updated calendars, visit the synagogue website, templeisraelvestal.org.



L-r: Jim Mason, Carol Engel and Lynne Green enjoyed their pizza at Temple Israel's new members dinner on March 18.



Members of the Temple Israel congregation and their children had a chance to bond over pizza at the March 18 dinner to welcome new members.

Area Synagogues

Congregation Tikkun v'Or

Congregation Tikkun v'Or (Ithaca Reform Temple) is a vibrant congregation that strives for a warm, personal bond among its members, quality education for the children and a dynamic program for adults. Tikkun v'Or welcomes those from diverse backgrounds, interfaith families, those of any race and ethnicity, LGBTQ families and people who are newly discovering Jewish connections, as well as those with a wide range of Jewish experiences. The core values of Congregation Tikkun v'Or are best described by three words: spirit, community and justice.

Spirit

At heart, Tikkun v'Or's community embraces living with compassion (*rachamim*), love (*chesed*), awe (*yirah*), gratitude (*hakarat hatov*), joy (*simcha*) and generosity (*nedivut*) – Jewish spiritual values that nurture the congregation and each member as individuals.

Members treasure the richness and complexity of the community. The wide diversity of beliefs and relationships to God are a source of strength and learning. Congregation Tikkun v'Or is a safe place for members to share their faith and their doubt as they support one another in the search for meaning and purpose in their lives.

Tikkun v'Or offers an array of member-led religious services on Shabbat and holidays, and educational programs for children and adults.

Community

A caring and loving community, Tikkun v'Or sanctifies and celebrates significant moments in its members' lives within the framework of Jewish ritual and values.

Members take to heart "my house is a house of prayer for all people" (Isaiah 56:7) and seek to include rather than exclude. Tikkun v'Or welcomes interfaith families, LGBTQ people and others who have been denied full acceptance in the broader community. Tikkun v'Or treasures the members of its congregation who are not Jewish and celebrates the interfaith character of the community.

The final word of the *Shema* – *echad*, all one – resonates as Tikkun v'Or's members join hands with other faith communities, community organizations and activist groups to fulfill shared values.

Justice

Inspired by the prophetic tradition and the

historical experience of the Jewish people, Tikkun v'Or is dedicated to the pursuit of justice and peace, locally and globally. The Torah teaches that humankind was created in God's image and Tikkun v'Or honors this inherent godliness in each person. Toward that end, Tikkun v'Or's community actively seeks to promote racial and economic justice for all, resist Islamophobia, encourage education and dialogue about Israel and Palestine, support refugees in the community, feed the hungry, and protect the environment.

Tikkun v'Or's members are dedicated to justice, equality, human rights, and security for people all over the world, and specifically for all Israelis and Palestinians. Tikkun v'Or is committed to an open and respectful dialogue about these issues, and welcome those who feel excluded or silenced by other Jewish communities because of their opinions. The congregation is enriched by the multiplicity of views of its members.

"Spirit, Community and Justice" are integrated into all aspects of the life of the congregation. May all be blessed to witness the day when "love and truth will meet, justice and peace will kiss" (Psalms 85:11).

Students in kindergarten-seventh grade/bmitzvah can join Jewish Learning Experiences, with classes on Sunday mornings, Wednesday afternoons, or Shabbat morning programs.

There are classes and programs for adults. Members participate in holiday celebrations, community social action projects, Shabbat dish-to-pass dinners, Shabbat-in-the-community, Shabbat-in-the-Park, music and dance programs, guest speakers, discussion groups and special events. There are several active working groups of the Social Justice Committee.

The educational program is under the direction of Naomi Wilensky. The bmitzvah program is led by Michael Margolin. Other activities of the temple are planned by a full range of committees.

Shabbat services are held every Friday evening, usually at 7:30 pm. Most are offered both in-person and on Zoom.

The synagogue is located at 2550 Tripphammer Rd., Ithaca. For more information about Congregation Tikkun v'Or, call 607-256-1471, visit www.tikkunvor.org, e-mail info@tikkunvor.org or write to P.O. Box 3981, Ithaca, NY 14852.



The kitah vav and zayin (sixth and seventh grade) students lit candlesticks they made at Jewish Learning Experiences at Congregation Tikkun v'Or in April.



Jewish Learning Experiences at Congregation Tikkun v'Or held a Rosh Hashanah Shofar Parade with kitah gan/alef (kindergarten and first grade) in September.

Norwich Jewish Center

The Norwich Jewish Center, located at 72 South Broad St., Norwich, NY, serves to meet the needs of the Jewish community in this rural area.

Call Guilia Greenberg at 607-373-5087 for information. There is also an answering machine at the Jewish Center, 607-334-2691. Callers are asked to leave a message including their phone number with area code. Information can also be requested by e-mailing fertigj@roadrunner.com.

The Norwich Jewish Center conducts various cultural and community events throughout the year. Call ahead for information.



The Norwich Jewish Center

Penn-York Jewish Community

The purpose of this congregation is to promote Jewish identity through cultural, educational, social and religious 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.

The Penn-York Jewish Community is a supporting member of the Community Foundation for the Twin Tiers, and supports and participates in the activities and events held at Congregation Kol Ami in Elmira, NY. For more information, contact Harvey Chernosky at 570-265-3869.

Concord Continued from page 10A

in kindergarten through seventh grade meets on Saturdays from 9-11:45 am and includes attending Shabbat morning services. Hebrew classes meet on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Children in eighth, ninth and 10th grades, the post-bar/bat mitzvah program, will meet once or twice a month. The curriculum covers Jewish religious concepts and practices; Torah; Hebrew; Jewish values, morals and ethics; Jewish history from biblical to present time; and comparative religion. Congregation membership is not required

to participate in these programs.

Adults have many opportunities to study together. Torah study takes place on Saturdays at 9:15 am and is open to all.

Temple Concord is located at 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905. The temple may be reached by phone at 607-723-7355, by e-mail at TempleConcordBinghamton@gmail.com, online at www.templeconcord.com and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/templeconcord.

Alycia J. Harris, President
Orly Shoer, Religious School Principal



The Temple Concord Religious School celebrated Purim with a purimspiel, a parade, hamantashen and games on March 23. Shown are children and teachers in their costumes.

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Temple Beth-El of Ithaca

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Temple Beth-El is a welcoming, progressive, egalitarian synagogue that strives to preserve and enhance its members' Jewish heritage. The synagogue provides a wide range of religious, educational, social and cultural activities to encourage exploration of and involvement in Judaism, and it supports participation in the social action initiatives and interdenominational life of the broader community.

The synagogue is an active center of Jewish life for downtown Ithaca and the surrounding area, and is affiliated with United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. Temple Beth-El welcomes Jews from all backgrounds, persons of all cultures, races, ethnicities, genders and sexual orientations, as well as individuals of other faiths interested in exploring Jewish traditions. All are welcome to attend services and programs. Visit the website, www.tbeithaca.org, for updated times of services and events.

Temple Beth-El provides support and education for all ages and for all life cycle events, and newcomers are always welcome. Programs include the B'Yachad Ithaca Jewish Preschool (www.ithacajewishpreschool.com) and the Rabbi Felix Aber Religious School.

Worship Services and Celebrations

Most TBE services are held both in person and via Zoom. ♦ *Kabbalat Shabbat* and *Ma'ariv* (evening) services take place every Friday evening, with times listed on the website homepage and calendar.

♦ Shabbat morning services begin at 10 am. Morning and evening services for children and youth, including Tot Shabbat, occur on a regular basis.

♦ The daily minyan meets in person and on Zoom at 7:30 am (9 am on Sundays and federal holidays) and at 5:30 pm, with some services via Zoom only.

♦ Festival services on evenings and mornings generally follow the Shabbat schedule, with special programs available for families and children on Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Simchat Torah, Hanukkah, Purim and Shavuot.

♦ High Holy Days at Temple Beth-El include traditional worship, with extended services, and special services with educational enrichment for children, youth and adults. Temple Beth-El has announced that services to welcome 5785 in October will be led by Rabbi Caleb Brommer and guest cantors. Services for preschoolers and youth and their families will be led by Director of Education and Engagement Calle Schueler and the returning guest hazzan, Hazzan Star Wahnon.

Youth Community

Temple Beth-El provides young people with a balanced program of religious, social and educational activities. The program is offered in conjunction with the Tzafon Region of United Synagogue Youth (ninth through 12th grade) and Kadima (sixth through eighth grade).

Religious School

The program of the Rabbi Felix Aber Religious School of Temple Beth-El begins with preschool and extends through high school, and is open to members and others (except where noted).

Preschoolers and their adults meet once each month for a taste of religious school, including stories, songs, crafts and more to introduce Shabbat and holidays.

Kindergartners and first-graders attend classes on Sundays to learn about the holidays, Bible stories, Jewish



A view of the windows in Temple Beth-El's sanctuary.

values and a taste of the Hebrew language.

Second through seventh grades attend twice a week on Sunday mornings and Wednesday afternoons for a comprehensive program that includes Hebrew reading, prayer, Torah study, Jewish ethics and values, the Jewish calendar and life cycle, history and Israel. To prepare for greater participation in the life of the community and to enhance their study of liturgy, each class participates in leading a Shabbat service at least once each year.

B'nai mitzvah training begins in sixth grade and continues through seventh grade and beyond, with classroom instruction, as well as private weekly lessons. Preparation includes family meetings for all members of the family to participate in the learning that precedes the celebration. *b'nai* mitzvah opportunities are offered only to member families.

Ithaca's post-*b'nai* mitzvah Midrasha program meets twice per month on Thursdays and/or Sundays in the early evening. Designed to accommodate busy student schedules, each session includes dinner and a chance to socialize with friends. Midrasha is a place where post-*b'nai* mitzvah students, grades eight-12, can discuss relevant current events and topics with Jewish peers in a safe, nurturing space.

Adult Education

Regular classes for adults currently include "Chanting the Tanach" and "Prayerbook Hebrew." Additional lectures and mini-courses occur throughout the year. Guest lecturers and visiting scholars often enhance these offerings. Many classes are available via Zoom.

Arts

TBE has an active Arts Committee that provides exhibits and programs throughout the year, focusing on the arts and entertainment. Programs include craft fairs; film festivals; an annual evening of Jewish stories, poetry and music; and presentations by artists on their work.

Sisterhood of Temple Beth-El

The Sisterhood of Temple Beth-El offers a community where women connect, learn, support and share experiences with each other bound by their common interest in Jewish life. Sisterhood enhances Jewish life at Temple Beth-El by supporting the Rabbi Felix Aber Religious School; sponsoring social, cultural and educational programs for its members and the community; and encouraging Jewish



Temple Beth-El of Ithaca

observance. The Sisterhood is affiliated with the Women's League for Conservative Judaism, which provides members with a voice in national and global arenas.

Community Activities

Temple Beth-El members participate in a variety of Jewish initiatives that seek to widen and deepen engagement with Judaism. The Ithaca Area United Jewish Community supports many projects at the local and international level, including PJ Library, and sponsors an annual Holocaust Memorial event for Yom Hashoah at Temple Beth-El. IAUGC is a network organization of the Jewish Federations of North America. The congregation contributes to Mazon and encourages active support of Mercaz and the Masorti movement in Israel.

In the wider Ithaca community, Temple Beth-El belongs to and supports Area Congregations Together, an organization of local congregations. Temple Beth-El members assist with ACT's Ithaca Kitchen Cupboard food pantry by collecting and distributing food, as well as by participating in the administration of the Cupboard. In addition, the congregation helps provide personal care items to clients of Catholic Charities. Temple Beth-El's Social Action Committee and individual members are involved in a wide range of other activities both locally and beyond.

Temple Beth El of Oneonta

Temple Beth El of Oneonta is an egalitarian congregation affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. Located approximately halfway between Binghamton and Albany, its membership of approximately 50 families is drawn from surrounding counties.

Services are held once a month on Friday evenings and adult Torah study takes place on Shabbat morning once a month. (Neither is held in the summer.) Religious school meets Sunday mornings during the school year. The Men's Club holds Sunday breakfasts on the third Sunday of each month and the Sisterhood meets on a Sunday as scheduled. Services are being held in person.

The synagogue has its own cemetery located in Oneonta. Plots are available for purchase.

Temple Beth El is located at 83 Chestnut St., Oneonta, NY 13820. The phone number is 607-432-5522; leave a message for a return call. The temple's website, www.templebetheloneonta.org, is updated regularly. For more information, e-mail tbeoneonta@gmail.com.



Temple Beth El of Oneonta

templebetheloneonta.org, is updated regularly. For more information, e-mail tbeoneonta@gmail.com.

Temple Brith Sholom

Temple Brith Sholom acts as the center for Jewish religious and cultural activities in Cortland, NY, and in the surrounding Cortland County community. A diverse group comprised of about 30 individuals and family members, Temple Brith Sholom frequently shares programs with the active SUNY Cortland Hillel, and participates in interfaith community events. High Holiday services, Shabbat services and other events will be offered in person and/or virtually in 2023-24. Plans are currently under way to meet the religious and cultural needs of the congregation, as well as to host several concerts and other cultural on line or live events.

The community maintains a Jewish cemetery on the

grounds of the Cortland Rural Cemetery. The congregation provides many opportunities for personal growth through service to the community, whether serving on the Board of Trustees, serving on committees, leading services, or planning a special program. Members welcome new friends at any service or program. Temple Brith Sholom is located at 117 Madison St., Cortland, NY 13045. Its mailing address is PO Box 572, Cortland, NY 13045. For further information about services, other events, or the cemetery, call 607-756-7181. Also, see the temple's website (templebrithsholomcortland.org) and Facebook page for more information about services and events.

Chabad Continued from page 9A

nursing homes, as well as shut-ins, on a weekly basis with programming and special food gift packages distributed before every holiday. Individuals interested in joining this group, or having a friend or relative visited, should call the Chabad office.

Chabad Center publishes the Hakesher magazine, as well as the Jewish Art Calendar, both of which it sends free of charge to community members.

In sum, Chabad Center is many things to many people, but for all it is a warm, open and welcoming environment where Jewish education, enrichment and joy is the priority. For more information, to join the mailing list or to set up an appointment to visit with the Chabad staff, call the office at 607-797-0015, or e-mail aslonim@binghamton.edu. Don't forget to visit Chabad's websites at www.chabad-ofbinghamton.com or www.JewishBU.com.



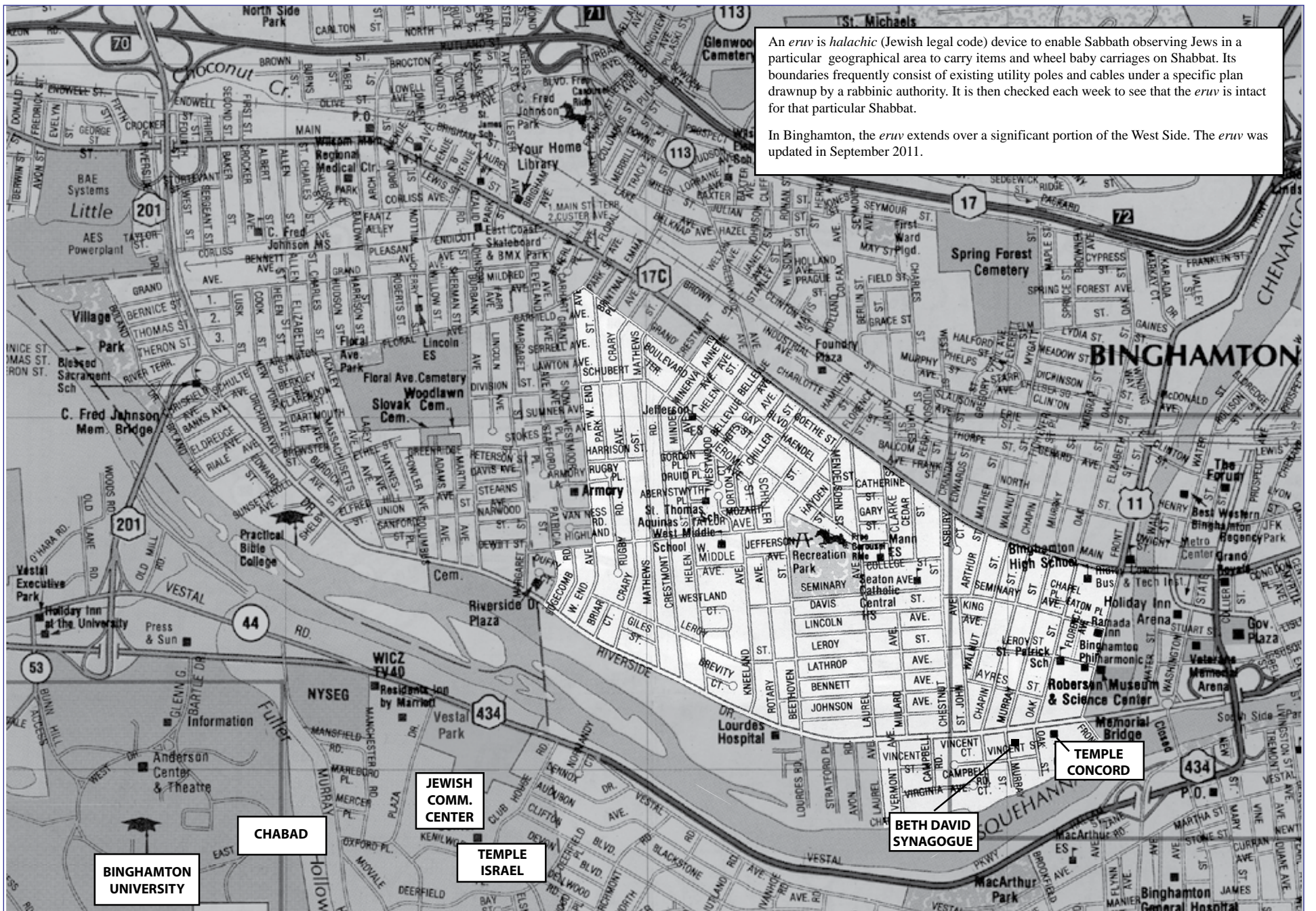
A record 2,200 Binghamton University students attended Chabad's Shabbat 2400, celebrating with food, song and prayers for the Israeli hostages still being held in the Gaza Strip since October 7 in a photo taken before the start of Shabbat on April 5. (Photo by S. Grossbaum/Chabad of Binghamton)

"We take care of our own."
- Marcy Yonaty

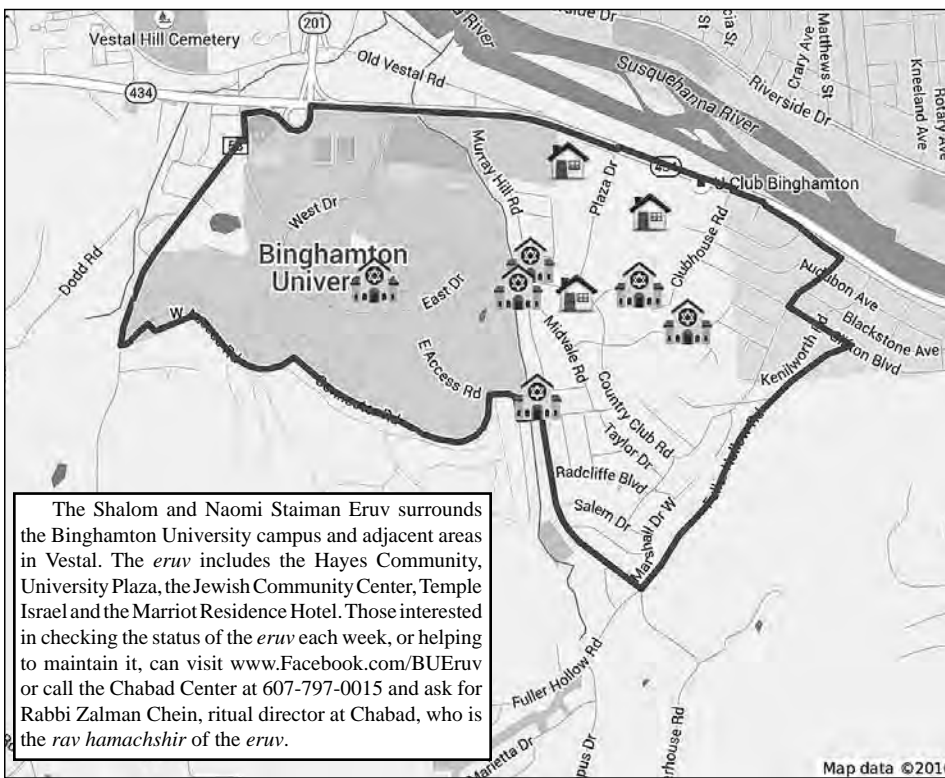
Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton

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Binghamton West Side *Eruv* and other points of interest



The Shalom and Naomi Staiman *Eruv* in Vestal



Beth DavidContinued from page 9A

Judaism addresses every aspect of religious life and these can be observed at the *shul*. In addition to daily services both morning and night, which will be started again when enough men will be willing to participate, Beth David can be helpful to those who wish to observe Judaism in accordance with tradition. Anyone observing a *yahrzeit* can comfortably come to say *Kaddish* for a loved one. The synagogue maintains the Binghamton *eruv* (Sabbath boundary) and *mikvah* (ritual bath).

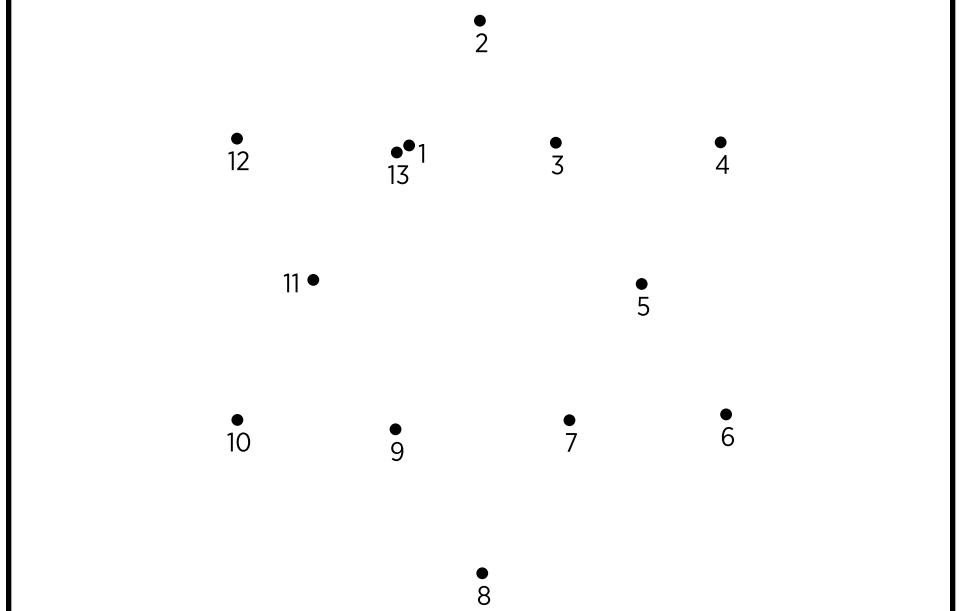
Beth David is also a resource for life cycle events; feel free to call for assistance in arranging for a *kiddush* to celebrate a happy occasion; a BRIT and/or *pidyon haben* upon the birth of a son; a *simchat bat* upon the birth of a daughter; a wedding ceremony;

or, when needed, a funeral. Beth David Synagogue is the main address when seeking a Jewish religious and social experience. Those with questions may call Beth David's office at 607-722-1793. Regular office hours are Tuesdays, 10 am-1 pm; and Thursdays, 9 am-1 pm.

At risk: Rabbi Zev Silber presented his annual pre-Passover workshop to members and friends of Beth David Sisterhood on April 3. (Photo by Chaim Joy)



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Jewish Community Center

Mission Statement and Purpose

The JCC's mission is to provide Jewish and secular programming and services in a safe and welcoming environment. The JCC also strives to cultivate and promote community relations and strengthen Jewish heritage, culture and identity in the Greater Binghamton community.

Seeking to embrace the true spirit of community, the JCC of Binghamton is dedicated to the enrichment of family life and fosters the spiritual, emotional and physical development of its members and friends through all of life's stages and circumstances. The JCC represents the model of acceptance, understanding and diversity. As such, people look to the JCC as a center that epitomizes how shared values can support a vibrant and evolving community. The JCC welcomes social inclusiveness, catering to a wide variety of ages, lifestyles, ethnicities and socio-economic backgrounds.

Founded August 15, 1927, the JCC provides programs and services to the community in its ever-expanding, modern facilities in Vestal. For almost 100 years, the JCC has offered programs in five major service areas to individuals and families with infants to senior adults: (1) Early Childhood Center services include infant care, daycare and preschool classes; (2) Youth and Teen programs/services; (3) Adult and Senior programs/services; (4) Mind, Body and Health program/services; and (5) Summer Day Camp.

Dr. I.J. Rosefsky Early Childhood Center

At the ECC, staff believe in developing the whole child. They take the time to recognize and nurture the physical, emotional, social, linguistic and cognitive skills of each child. The goals of the ECC are to develop positive self-esteem, new skills and a love of learning. The ECC is a busy, happy and creative place for children to play and



ECC students celebrated Shabbat with "Mr. Harry" Cohen.



Children in the ECC swimming program.

learn, and offers a broad range of programs for children 6 weeks to 5 years of age. The ECC offers participants on-site swimming, gym, an outdoor playground and lunch.

To register for any of the ECC programs, e-mail admissions@binghamtonjcc.org or call 607-724-2417.

Full-Day Program

The ECC's full-day program, opened in 1992, brings childcare services year-round to families with children aged 6 weeks-5 years, from 7:30 am-5:30 pm Monday-Friday. The morning programs provide opportunities for both free play and directed activities. Art, crafts, music, dramatic play, story-time, outdoor play, cooking, nature and science are included. The program also includes a weekly large-motor gym period, with instruction provided by a qualified physical education specialist, and the opportunity to swim in the JCC's pool, a unique offering among local programs. Morning and afternoon snacks are provided.

The ECC also has its own cook, preparing and serving daily kosher lunches.

An appreciation of Jewish culture is conveyed through Sabbath and individual holiday programs, as the children learn songs, hear stories, do crafts and prepare foods pertaining to Jewish holidays.

Universal Pre-Kindergarten

The JCC is a Universal Pre-Kindergarten provider for the Vestal and Binghamton school districts. Half-day and full-day slots are available. The morning session runs from 9-11:45 am and the afternoon session runs from 1-3:45 pm. UPK follows the Common Core standards as set by the New York state Department of Education. Enrollment for Vestal is conducted through the school district. Binghamton residents may enroll directly through the JCC. Students are eligible for UPK the year they are 4 on or before December 1. Community residents can also join the ECC's UPK program as self-paying clients. Contact the ECC at 607-724-2417 or by e-mail (admissions@binghamtonjcc.org) regarding enrollment.

Youth and Teen Programs/Services

The Youth Department provides a variety of classes and vacation programs for children in preschool through sixth grade. A variety of different classes are offered seasonally for youth of all ages and include art, sports, music, dance and special interests. Classes offer instruction in a creative, friendly atmosphere. Special interests expressed by participants often generate new programming ideas.

Kids Connection

The Jewish Community Center's licensed school-age childcare program, Kids Connection, is open to area elementary school-aged children in grades kindergarten-seventh and offers a diversified program with professional staff. Kids Connection is scheduled from 3:15-6 pm Monday-Friday, and 7:30 am-6 pm when Vestal schools are closed due to a snow day, vacation day, half-day or holiday. At Kids Connection, children can play, do homework, have a snack, relax or participate in the weekly themed program. A day



Children celebrated their graduation from the ECC/UPK programs.

may also include swimming, games in the gym, youth sports and fitness, time on the school-aged playground and activities in science, music, cooking and art. A CIT, or Counselor-in-Training, program is available for students in grades six-eight.

Adult and Senior Programs/Services

The JCC sponsors many cultural, educational and social activities and programs throughout the year, which have included exhibits, lectures, trips, dances, classes, the Jewish Book Fair and Jewish cultural festivals. There is Jewish holiday programming for the entire family for Chanukah and Purim. Senior volunteers prepare and bring holiday food packages to people in adult residences.

In addition, classes and workshops have been offered in the fall, winter and spring in areas that have included crafts, music, dog training, lectures on health topics, book discussions and defensive driving.

Friendship Club

The Jewish Community Center Friendship Club meets the third Wednesday of the month at the JCC for a variety of activities and programs. After refreshments at 1:30 pm, in addition to musical, educational, cultural and holiday programs, there is plenty of time to socialize, work on crafts, play cards or just talk. Meetings may also include a birthday celebration for all seniors whose birthdays fall during that month. The senior group also plans trips and outings during the year.

Mind, Body and Health Programs/Services

The JCC provides programs and activities for all interests and levels of mind, body and health in the community. Fall, winter, spring and summer classes make use of the JCC's Fitness Center, gymnasium, pool, loft and outdoor complex.

Certified personal trainers, and yoga and pilates specialists welcome clients to the JCC's comprehensive fitness facility. Ellipticals, treadmills, exercise bicycles, free weights and a complete range of strength training equipment is available for members' use every day, except on the Sabbath when the JCC is closed.

The JCC offers specialized personal fitness programs, post-rehab, strength and conditioning, as well as a variety of exercise classes to members and non-members of all ages. JCC fitness staff believe that being a part of JCC fitness, whether through a personal trainer or group class, is considered the best way to monitor progression and to maintain motivation.

Group exercise classes, including aerobics, spinning, SilverSneakers, pilates and kettlebell pump, are held throughout the week by certified instructors to help clients improve cardiovascular fitness and muscle tone. Anyone can come and try a group exercise class for free.


Other activities for adults include men's basketball leagues and open games, water exercise, lap swimming, pickleball and more.

The Fitness Center and Health Club facilities have separate steam and sauna, locker and shower facilities available for men and women members. TV lounges are also part of the Health Club facility and are a way to relax after a workout or just escape for some solitude.

Aquatics

The JCC Aquatics Department provides a broad spectrum of aquatic courses. Offerings include American Red Cross swim levels for parent/child, preschoolers, youth, advanced youth and adult learn-to-swim, which includes competitive swimming and stroke development.

Water exercise and arthritis water exercise continue to grow and stay in demand. The department also provides instruction at the higher aquatic levels in ARC Lifeguarding, Waterfront Lifeguarding, CPR for the Professional Rescuer, AED, Pediatric AED, Community First Aid and Community CPR. The aquatics facility is designed for easy access with ease-in steps and a chair lift. The water See "JCC" on page 15A



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Other Offices:
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The members of the JCC Board of Directors at the JCC Annual Meeting on June 20.



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JCC.....Continued from page 14A

temperature is kept around 84 degrees.

Personal aquatic training and private lessons are available. Recreational swim is provided to the JCC Early Childhood Center and school-age children on a weekly basis.

JCC Summer Camp

For more than 40 years, Camp JCC has earned a reputation for providing a quality day camp experience for the young people of the Southern Tier. Open to the entire community, Camp JCC is a place where children from ages 5-16 years come to develop new friendships and take on new experiences and challenges. Camps at the JCC also include week-long co-ed sports camps and specialty camps.



Campers took to the stage at Camp JCC 2023 to perform "Fiddler on the Roof Jr." on July 28 last year.

Camp JCC continues to offer new programs designed specifically to address the changing needs of campers and their families. The counselor orientation and training ensure the highest quality of camper supervision. Camp structure guarantees that children of all ages will be provided with the opportunity to thrive and grow. The program emphasizes outdoor fun, physical growth and learning cooperation, and encourages children to explore new aspects of the world around them.

Camp JCC is based at the Jewish Community Center complex (indoor and outdoor) at 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal. The location provides children with a safe, clean and flexible environment where they can enjoy all that summer has to offer, rain or shine.

Camp JCC is the perfect place for young children to learn to swim, study nature, sing, dance, play sports, polish their sports skills, learn arts and crafts, explore folklore, and experience day trips, overnights and much more. All camp information and fees can be found online at www.binghamtonjcc.org.

JCC Guest Pass Policy

JCC members in good standing may receive complimentary passes to the JCC for out-of-town house guests for a period of up to two weeks. A \$10 guest pass is required each time a local guest is brought to the JCC accompanied by a member. After three visits per year, local guests can choose to become a JCC member by visiting or calling the JCC office at 607-724-2417.

Seasonal Program Guide

JCC Program Guides are distributed and posted online in the spring, fall and winter. The Center offers educational,



A group of pickleball players posed for a photo.

fitness, family-oriented and community-based programs and services for all ages, from toddlers to senior citizens. Day and evening classes, lectures and special programs are scheduled throughout the year. Those interested need not be members to enroll in the many JCC courses listed in the guide. The Program Guide can be found and downloaded from the JCC's website, www.binghamtonjcc.org, at any time. To receive a paper copy, call the JCC office at 607-724-2417.

The JCC is a member agency of the United Way of Broome County and the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, whose support underwrites priority services for those who cannot afford to pay the full cost of fees and charges.

Life Cycles

From the Jewish News of Greater Phoenix, with additions by Marc S. Goldberg.

Birth

When a child is born, parents choose a name, which is inscribed on the birth certificate. A Hebrew name also is chosen but is not given officially until the *brit milah* or *simchat bat*.

In Jewish families of European origin (Ashkenazic), a child usually is named after a deceased relative. In families of Mediterranean origin (Sephardic), a child usually is named after a living relative the parents wish to honor.

Brit Milah

Circumcision, or *brit milah*, is performed to symbolize the covenant between God and Israel. A healthy baby boy is circumcised on the eighth day of life. The ceremony includes giving the child his Hebrew name. Traditionally, circumcision is done by a *mohel* (a person ritually trained to perform circumcisions).

Beth David Synagogue suggests that people call the rabbi to arrange the *brit milah*, including arranging for a *mohel* to perform the circumcision.

Congregation Tikken v'Or can arrange for a *brit milah* or alternative Jewish ceremonies (with or without circumcision) to welcome children into the Jewish community.

Ceremonies can be arranged for Temple Beth-El of Ithaca members and newcomers. A certified *mohel* is engaged for circumcision.

Cantor David Green of Temple Beth El of Oneonta coordinates the *brit milah* for the congregation.

Temple Concord works in coordination with local physicians for *brit milah* ceremonies.

Temple Israel refers people to a certified *mohel*.

Simchat Bat

The birth of a baby girl traditionally is marked in the synagogue, when her father or parents are called to the Torah on the Sabbath to give the newborn girl her Hebrew name. There are also baby-naming ceremonies available to be used at home or in a synagogue.

Beth David Synagogue can arrange a *simchat bat* ceremony in the synagogue or in the home.

Congregation Tikken v'Or can arrange for *simchat bat* or alternative Jewish ceremonies to welcome children into the Jewish community.

Temple Beth-El of Ithaca can arrange a *simchat bat* service for members and newcomers.

Cantor David Green of Temple Beth El of Oneonta coordinates the *simchat bat* ceremony for the congregation.

Temple Concord encourages *simchat bat* ceremonies to be held at temple for naming a girl.

Temple Israel will arrange a *simchat bat* ceremony according to the Sephardic ritual, in the home, or according to the Ashkenazic ritual, in the synagogue.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah

From *simchat bat*, before you know it, it is time to plan for the bat mitzvah (for a girl) or bar mitzvah (for a boy). From the time a Jewish child enters religious school, he can be said to be preparing for this master recital. Boys and in many cases today girls reach this milestone at age 13. In Orthodox and some other synagogues, a girl becomes bat mitzvah at age 12. While the core of a bar mitzvah is to be called up to the Torah for an *aliyah* (which entails learning only two relatively short blessings), traditionally

the bar mitzvah chants the *haftarah*. He may also read the Torah portion, lead part of the service and give a short speech on the Torah portion, demonstrating his ability to be counted as a member of the congregation. In most Reform and Conservative synagogues, the bat mitzvah ceremony is identical to that of the bar mitzvah. In Orthodox synagogues the ceremony varies.

"Today, I am a man," the old cliché bar mitzvah speech begins and, in a religious sense, it is accurate. A bar mitzvah marks a religious coming of age. A bar or bat mitzvah is now religiously responsible for their actions and can participate in most religious functions as an adult.

And then, after this serious demonstration, there is the party. It can range from an elegant luncheon for the congregation immediately following the service, to a full-blast catered affair on Saturday night. Aside from the ritual blessings associated with any meal, there are no rituals required here, just fun – and a sense of relief on the part of the bar/bat mitzvah.

At Beth David Synagogue, the traditional bar mitzvah ceremony can be held on Shabbat or another day that the Torah is read. The bat mitzvah is expected to give an in-depth talk to the congregation demonstrating serious learning of some aspect of Judaism. The bat mitzvah may also lead some religious ceremonies such as *Havdalah*. Each ceremony is individually planned with the participation of the parents and rabbi.

Congregation Tikken v'Or offers education and bmitzvah preparation as part of the religious school program. Adult bmitzvah programs are offered when requested.

Temple Beth-El of Ithaca provides *b'nai* mitzvah training to students and their families. *b'nai* mitzvah celebrations are limited to synagogue members.

Temple Beth El of Oneonta has a bar and bat mitzvah program, which the cantor conducts.

Temple Concord has a bar/bat mitzvah guide available for parents. In addition to leading worship services and reading from the Torah, *b'nai* mitzvah students are required to do a mitzvah project.

Temple Israel has a bar/bat mitzvah guide available for parents. The guide covers the history of the ceremony, the honors given out in the synagogue, making party arrangements, etc.

To make bar/bat mitzvah arrangements, call any of the synagogues to get particulars on what they require.

Confirmation

For Reform and some Conservative Jews, the confirmation year, 10th or 11th grade, represents a special time of celebration and commitment. Typically, the year includes study and meetings with the rabbi, culminating in a special service, often held during Shavuot since that holiday commemorates the receiving of the Torah by the Jewish people.

The Temple Concord confirmation class is for ninth- and 10th-graders. The Kollel program is two years of study for eighth- and ninth-graders. The curriculum of the class includes Jewish texts that help the students find ways to make Judaism relevant in their own personal lives. A creative confirmation worship service is usually held on Shavuot.

Mikvah

Mikvah is a ritual bath of water used for spiritual purification. For many Jews, married life involves laws of *taharat hamishpachah* (family purity), after menstruation. The *mikvah* is also used today by some brides and grooms before their wedding, for purification before the High Holy Days and to renew or establish a deep commitment to Judaism. Converts to Judaism traditionally go to the *mikvah* as part of the birth of a new Jewish soul. New cooking utensils and dishes are taken to the *mikvah* before See "Life" on page 18A



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Binghamton University Hillel at Binghamton

Hillel at Binghamton, established in 2001, sponsors social, educational, religious and cultural programs for the nearly 4,000 Jewish students at Binghamton University. The office is located in the University Union on the second floor and the student lounge is located on the third floor. Hillel at Binghamton is served by a dedicated staff and group of student leaders. The commitment and support of the Hillel at Binghamton lay board – along with the Binghamton Jewish community, Binghamton alumni, parents, friends and other stakeholders – enables the staff and student leaders to create a pluralistic Jewish atmosphere that encompasses students from all backgrounds at Binghamton University.

Hillel at Binghamton's programs are truly led by the students. Seven student leaders are elected to the Executive Board and oversee nearly 30 student leaders in more

than 15 program areas. Hillel's hardworking students envision, plan and implement more than 200 programs each semester, ensuring a wide variety of options for Jewish students on campus. Hillel programs reach more than 2,000 different students throughout the year.

Among the program offerings each year are:

◆ **Israel programming:** In addition to two Birthright trips per year, Hillel offers many different Israel programs throughout the semester. Bearcats for Israel hosts several successful programs annually, such as Café Aroma, with hundreds of students enjoying Israeli cuisine and music, and the Leadership Reception, which brings together student leaders from 40 different student organizations. There is an annual Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israel's Independence Day) celebration, as well. Hillel also offers a Jewish Learning Fellowship dedicated to asking big Israel

questions. With Israeli learning, living and travel experiences plentiful, there are always ways to get involved with Israel through Hillel.

◆ **Shabbat:** More than 150 students find themselves in the C4 Multipurpose Room each week in order to spend Shabbat together. They enjoy a traditional meal, words of inspiration and the time to celebrate with their friends. Themed *Shabbatot* – such as Israel Shabbat and Interfaith Shabbat (a collaboration with the Muslim Student Association and Newman House) – bring even more students from every walk of life together to experience and celebrate Shabbat, and learn about what unites all Jews.

◆ **Jewish Learning:** The Orthodox Union and Hillel continued to partner in the Jewish Learning Initiative (or OU-JLIC) program, maintaining the *eruv* throughout campus and the neighboring community, and weekly

learning opportunities, guest speakers, Shabbat programming and support. Students were also supported by the Slifka fellowship, bringing Jewish Theological Seminary rabbinic students throughout the year. Reform Jews of Hillel hosted several brunch and learns to foster religious inclusion and pluralism on campus. In addition, the Jewish Learning fellowship hosts three to four small cohorts of about 20 students in deep, meaningful Jewish learning for 10 weeks of the semester, facilitating community through Jewish thought.

◆ **Social justice:** Making the world a better place is an important value to Hillel's students, as seen through both charity and actively volunteering. Hillel at Binghamton's Challah for Hunger chapter continues to be called one of the best in the country, and has baked and sold more than 2,500 See **"Hillel"** on page 19A

Center for Israel Studies

Founded in 2016, the Center for Israel Studies at Binghamton University offers academic courses featuring a Binghamton University minor in Israel studies, research opportunities, and programming for students and faculty. Three core faculty and a range of affiliated faculty who carry out rigorous and interdisciplinary scholarship on various aspects of Israel and Palestine, offer courses in modern Israeli history, Hebrew and Israeli literature and culture, and society in Israel. Recognizing the value of complex questions, the Center's activities emphasize critical thinking and perspectives on topics including Zionism, Israel, and Palestine, in an independent and non-partisan scholarly

space, which does not engage in advocacy.

The Center also directly supports undergraduate research, including paid summer internships and other research opportunities, through grants and fellowships generously funded by donors. Lectures and workshops open to university and local community members enrich the Center's academic offerings. Community members are invited to participate in courses and Center for Israel Studies activities on campus and online through live-streaming of all events.

For more information about courses and programming, contact the director, Professor Lior Libman, via e-mail at llibman@binghamton.edu.

Judaic Studies Department

The Department of Judaic Studies at Binghamton University offers a major and a minor in both Judaic studies and Hebrew studies, and minors in Israel studies and religious studies. The department also collaborates with BU's College of Community and Public Affairs to offer Judaic studies majors the opportunity to pursue a combined B.A./M.P.A. program. In addition, the department serves the broader Binghamton community through its collaboration with the College of Jewish Studies, a project of the Jewish Community Center.

The department offers a wide range of courses in Jewish history, philosophy, literature, American Judaism, Israel

studies, religious studies, Sephardi and Mizrahi studies and Holocaust studies – as well as language instruction in Hebrew and Yiddish. The department lists current courses on its web page: www.binghamton.edu/judaic-studies/undergraduate/courses.html.

Students are encouraged to work as interns in local institutions through departmental community internships. Community members are invited to audit all courses in Judaic studies and Israel studies.

For more information about courses, programming and auditing courses, contact the chair, Dr. Shay C. Rabineau, via e-mail at rabineau@binghamton.edu.

Binghamton University Zionist Organization

The BU Zionist Organization (BUZO) is a pro-Israel, SA chartered, independently run student organization at Binghamton University, dedicated to advocating for Israel and advancing the foundational principles of Zionism. Its mission revolves around cultivating an understanding of Israel's history and the core tenets of Zionism, with a particular emphasis on Jewish self-determination in their ancestral homeland.

In response to the concerning surge of antisemitic incidents across campuses and cities in the Western world since October 7, BUZO has proactively engaged in efforts to counter these sentiments and shed light

on the challenges facing Israel within and beyond the university. Its initiatives include a diverse array of activities, such as hosting guest speakers and educators, advocacy campaigns, visual displays on campus, educational seminars, cultural events, distribution of educational materials at the university and more. Notably, since October 7, BUZO has expanded its outreach efforts and speaker events to include survivors of the Nova Festival and individuals with personal experiences during historical events in the Middle East.

Through collaborative efforts with various student and non-student organizations,

BUZO unites with other pro-Israel groups on campus to orchestrate cultural fairs, community rallies and joint endeavors to counter antisemitic rhetoric, notably through the "Say No! To BDS" Coalition. Its commitment extends to organizing counter-protests in the peak of antisemitism, hosting educational seminars, uniting to support pro-Israel groups from other universities, and conducting advocacy campaigns aimed at fostering an understanding of Israel's history, the complexities of the Middle East and the Zionist narrative.

BUZO's exciting cultural events, educational seminars, advocacy training, community engagement, and constant educational and cultural promotion creates opportunities for education, conversation

and understanding. By consistently promoting dialogue, advocacy and pride, BUZO strives to serve as a pivotal platform for fostering education surrounding Israel and the intricate dynamics of the Middle East.

For more information and a schedule of upcoming events, e-mail buzo@binghamtonsa.org and follow BUZO on Instagram @buzo1948.

MEOR Upstate

MEOR Upstate serves the students of Binghamton University, Cornell University and other area colleges. MEOR seeks to create a vibrant Jewish future led by a new generation who are literate in Jewish wisdom, culture and heritage; instilled with a personal identity that inspires commitment to Jewish values; and empowered and engaged in the Jewish community and support of Israel.

MEOR Upstate realizes that each person is unique and that true growth is an organic process. In that spirit, MEOR provides educational, religious and social programming to Jews of all backgrounds at Binghamton and Cornell universities, as well as other Southern Tier and Central New York colleges. Among MEOR's offerings are seminars, fellowships, study abroad programs, talks and other events that are open to the greater community.

MEOR's Rabbi Chaim Harkavy, his wife Adina and their nine children welcome BU students to their home with homemade meals and religious services in celebration of Shabbat and holidays, and treat guests like family. Throughout the academic year MEOR celebrates Shabbat from Friday sunset through Saturday night at the Maimonides House, located at 401 Murray Hill Rd., Vestal – right next to

Binghamton University. Depending on how the Jewish calendar coincides with the BU academic calendar, the following holidays may be celebrated at the Maimonides House: Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Simchat Torah, Chanukah, Purim, Passover, Lag B'Omer and Shavuot.

MEOR Upstate offers an array of travel opportunities to current students and alumni. Most trips are either to Israel, including Birthright trips, or regional/national. It also facilitates opportunities for students to explore Judaism in the outdoors. The programs include outdoor activities and relaxation time, as well as classes taught by world-class educators.

MEOR Upstate also offers students the opportunity to study and grow at Jewish institutions in America and in Israel. Additionally, MEOR Upstate offers internships in an array of fields, both in America and Israel, in partnership a number of programs.

MEOR Upstate is a branch of the MEOR Heritage Foundation, which aims to bring the highest quality of Jewish programming to Jewish students at America's colleges and universities. For more information about the national MEOR Heritage Foundation, visit meor.org. For more information on MEOR Upstate, visit www.meorupstate.org or e-mail meorupstate@gmail.com.



BUZO members showed their support at the largest pro-Israel rally in American history in Washington, DC on November 14.



BUZO held a counter-protest on October 13 commemorating the lives silenced in Hamas' October 7 attack.



BUZO held a counter-protest, "Me Too, Unless You're a Jew," on February 14.



A BUZO cultural event on November 1 commemorated Rachel Edry's bravery during Hamas' October 7 attack.

Cornell University

Steven K. and Winifred A. Grinspoon Hillel Center for Jewish Community at Cornell

The Steven K. and Winifred A. Grinspoon Hillel Center for Jewish Community at Cornell is the gateway for Cornell University's 2,500 Jewish students to get involved in a wide variety of cultural, social, educational, political and religious activities on campus. As one of the largest and most dynamic Jewish campus communities in North America, Cornell Hillel provides positive and meaningful Jewish experiences that are relevant to the lives of Jewish undergraduate and graduate students. This is done through a broad coalition of 30 different Jewish student groups, plan-

ning more than 1,000 programs a year, that are constantly developing as the needs of the students grow and change. Whether it's Israeli politics and advocacy, advocacy and service for local refugees, Latin-Israeli dancing, *a cappella* singing, traditional learning, or religious services, there is truly something for everyone.

Cornell Hillel is dedicated to training and nurturing its students to become future leaders and members of the American Jewish community, empowering them to find the balance between being distinctively Jewish and uni-

versally human. Over the past several years, Cornell Hillel has seen a tremendous growth in the number of students taking an active part in Jewish life, both on campus and at national and international locations for leadership training and service work.

Cornell Hillel is a member of CURW (Cornell United Religious Work) and the Hillel offices are located in G-34 Anabel Taylor Hall. For news and activities of Jewish life on campus, visit Cornell Hillel's website at cornellhillel.org or call 607-255-4227.

The Center for Jewish Living at Cornell

The Center for Jewish Living serves Cornell University's vibrant and diverse Jewish student community. Since 1959, CJL has been the epicenter of Jewish life and belonging at Cornell, offering daily religious services, providing kosher food at adjoining 104 West Dining Hall, and organizing social and Jewish scholarly programming such as guest lectures, panel discussions and cultural events. Most importantly, CJL is a place for students, offering a residence experience that provides a warm, welcoming and supportive Jewish experience. CJL covers one square acre on the south edge of the campus. CJL offers Cornell Jewish students a residential living environment, kosher dining, Shabbat and holiday celebrations, religious programs, social events and a community for safe expression.

CJL student members, who are knowledgeable advisors, had the opportunity to meet with New York State Governor Kathy Hochul, Cornell President Martha Pollack and Vice President Ryan Lombardi. These meetings were held to discuss the campus community environment and its impact on Jewish students due to antisemitism, showcasing the CJL's commitment to advocating for the needs of its members.

Cornell is home to a large and diverse Jewish community, and CJL is committed to connecting students from



Students met with New York Governor Hochul at the Center for Jewish Living at Cornell on October 30, 2023.

all backgrounds. CJL religious and social programming events aim to imbue each student with a sense of belonging and community, while reinforcing their connection to their Jewish roots.

The residential house is the epicenter of the CJL community, serving as a home away from home for members. It is here where students learn, study and connect in an inviting atmosphere. Thirty male and female students live in the CJL residence each semester.

Adjacent to CJL is 104West! Kosher Dining Hall with

seating for 250. Cornell Dining manages the kosher dining hall, a part of the student dining plan. Jewish artwork adorns the facility, which provides two kosher meals daily during the academic year and traditional Friday night and holiday meals. Menus are prepared under the supervision of STAR-K (meat and *pareve*) and STAR-D (dairy) kosher certifications, ensuring compliance with Jewish dietary laws. The resident *mashgiach* plays a crucial role in this process, overseeing the preparation and serving of kosher meals.

The chapel is appointed with stained glass windows with verses from *kohelet*. Three prayer services, including morning, afternoon and evening prayers, are held daily. Students participate in these religious services and faith education each week, which include Torah study sessions, discussions on Jewish ethics and opportunities for spiritual reflection. CJL has a rabbi-in-residence in partnership with the OU Heshe and Harriet Seif Jewish Learning Initiative on Campus (or JLIC), a program of the Orthodox Union.

CJL houses an extensive library and artwork collection, and offers a wide range of classes and events on timely and relevant Jewish topics and issues. These include courses on Jewish history, culture and religious texts, as well as See "Cornell" on page 18A

Jewish Studies Program at Cornell

The Cornell University Jewish Studies Program was founded in 1973 on the conviction that understanding the impact and richness of Jewish culture requires training in the languages, literature and history of the Jewish people, as these developed across the globe and over thousands of years. Jewish Studies course offerings cover Jewish civilization from its ancient Near Eastern origins through its contemporary history. It is an interdisciplinary program, the interests of which are diverse and cross-cultural. The program brings together faculty from an array of departments, including Anthropology; Classics; English; German Studies; History; Linguistics; Near Eastern Studies; Per-

forming and Media Arts; Philosophy; Romance Studies; and Science and Technology Studies.

The Jewish Studies Program provides instruction in a range of fields, including Semitic languages; the Hebrew Bible; medieval and modern Hebrew literature and film; ancient, medieval and modern Jewish history; Holocaust studies; Jewish ethnography; and Yiddish culture. Undergraduate students can earn a minor in Jewish Studies. The Jewish Studies Program also supports graduate and undergraduate student research.

Events and lectures throughout the academic year, sponsored by the Jewish Studies Program, serve to explore

the depth and breadth of Jewish experience, and also allow partnerships with a broad range of other programs and departments.

The Jewish Studies Program's public programs are aimed at the general community, as well as a more specialized academic audience. Interested area residents are invited to contact the Jewish Studies Program, to follow it on Facebook at www.facebook.com/JWSTCornell and to join its e-mail list to receive updates about upcoming events and developments in the program. For more information on the Cornell University Jewish Studies Program, e-mail jewishstudies@cornell.edu.

Roitman Chabad Center at Cornell

The Roitman Chabad Center at Cornell University offers a warm and welcoming Jewish environment to all Jewish people in the Greater Ithaca area. Chabad caters to students, community members and visitors. The center, located at 102 Willard Way, Ithaca, provides open and lively Shabbat meals on both Friday night and Saturday for lunch, as well as a traditional service on Friday night and Saturday morning. All Jewish holidays are celebrated at Chabad and open to the public.

There are classes on a variety of topics offered by Chabad,



Students enjoyed a Challah Baking Workshop at the Roitman Chabad Center at Cornell University.

including Jewish mysticism, the weekly Torah portion, Jewish law and much more. The staff at Chabad are also available for one-on-one learning sessions on any topic. Chabad is now offering classes via Zoom (online video conferencing); sign up online at www.chabadcornell.com/zoom.

In addition to events and classes, Chabad provides for all practical Jewish needs – *mezuzahs*, kashering a home, birth of a child, bar and bat mitzvah preparation, marriage, *mikvah* usage and assistance upon the passing of a relative, among others.



The crowd at the megillah reading at the Roitman Chabad Center at Cornell University.

Chabad at Cornell is undergoing a major expansion with a new 10,000 square foot building. Construction is underway and due to be finished in December 2024. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to build the future of Jewish life at Cornell by participating in this capital campaign. Community members are asked to consider a dedication or pledging a major gift at ChabadCornell.com/build.

Contact Chabad for all of your Jewish needs and RSVP for events via the website at www.chabadcornell.com.



At right: Tefillin wrapping on the main lawn on Cornell's campus was organized by the Roitman Chabad Center at Cornell University.



Graduates from the Roitman Chabad Center at Cornell University's Israel course.



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info@tikkunvor.org



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Area Universities

Hillel at Ithaca College

Hillel's mission is to enrich the lives of Jewish students so that they may enrich the Jewish people and the world. Hillel at Ithaca College, part of the Foundation for Jewish Campus Life, provides the infrastructure for incoming and current students on campus to develop leadership skills, and become social entrepreneurs and change agents who can help build a meaningful, socially aware student life at Ithaca College.

With more than 100 student programs and initiatives

on campus, free and open to all members of the Ithaca College community, Hillel prides itself as a partner with the college in building a diverse and inclusive community on campus. Hillel offers a spectrum of initiatives, ranging from holiday celebrations and religious observance, to social, cultural, fund-raising and educational opportunities in various fields of interest to Jewish students and to the general student population.

Hillel co-sponsors programs with various college

departments and student organizations. Hillel is committed to offering leadership and professional development to students on campus. Through volunteer board positions, paid internships and other leadership opportunities, Hillel supports a cohort of socially aware student leaders who are shaping the Ithaca College community and building partnerships with key stakeholders among students, faculty, staff and the larger Ithaca college community.

Chabad of Oneonta

Chabad of Oneonta is a "home away from home" for Jewish students at SUNY Oneonta and Hartwick College. Rabbi Meir and Fraidy Rubashkin, Chabad of Oneonta's staff, strive to create meaningful relationships with a broad spectrum of students. Chabad is always open and welcome to any student of any affiliation, background or level of observance.

Through its diverse programming, Chabad offers ev-

erything from weekly Shabbat dinners to engaging Jewish educational opportunities. Chabad strives to reach every Jewish student and to inspire a positive connection to Judaism and Israel through a non-judgmental, friendly environment.

Each Friday night, Chabad celebrates students' birthdays of that week and presents each student who is marking their birthday with a home-baked cake (students are sent a birthday card that week to let them know there

is a cake waiting for them).

Chabad also offers the Chicken Soup Express, when notified, for students who are feeling under the weather or who just need a small "pick me up." Chabad will deliver home-made chicken soup and cheer right to a student's room.

Chabad of Oneonta is located at 71 Chestnut St., Oneonta. Visit www.chabadoneonta.com or call 845-204-7436 for further information.

SUNY Cortland Hillel

SUNY Cortland Hillel is a vibrant club that has grown substantially over the past few years due to its strong, diverse peer leadership. The club meets every other Friday, usually at 5:30 pm, in the Voice Office in the Corey Union Building. Each week, there is a new activity or topic of discussion, such as paint night, bingo, celebrations, game nights, holiday parties, Holocaust memorials, a student-led Passover seder and more.

There is a Chabad House adjacent to campus, where

students are welcomed for Friday night Shabbat dinners, holiday celebrations, traditional kosher food and activities. Hillel also participates in inter-club events and charitable fund-raising activities.

Hillel maintains a membership in the local synagogue, Temple Brith Sholom, where students are afforded an opportunity to participate in, as well as conduct, a creative service for the High Holidays and for the Sabbath

of Parents Weekend.

The club welcomes students from all backgrounds who would like to have fun, socialize, engage in civic activities, and identify with and learn about Judaism. For more information on Jewish life on campus, contact student President Samantha Frisch at samantha.frisch@cornell.edu, or faculty advisor Nance Wilson at nance.wilson@cornell.edu or 607-753-4375.

Life.....

they are used in a Jewish home.

A *mikvah* is located at Beth David Synagogue in Binghamton. It is modern, beautiful, filtered and heated. Persons wishing to use it must schedule their visit in advance by calling the *shul* office at 607-722-1793. Women should call 607-761-0944.

Temple Beth-El of Ithaca has a beautiful *mikvah*, available for Conservative conversion and other traditional uses. Those interested in using the *mikvah* may contact the temple office at 607-273-5775 for details.

Arrangements to immerse in the *mikvah* for any reason may be made through the cantor of Temple Beth El of Oneonta.

The Temple Concord rabbi will make arrangements.

Temple Israel has access to the *mikvah* at Beth David Synagogue in Binghamton.

Conversion

Conversion to Judaism is a path that requires both personal commitment and an extended period of study. Most rabbis are available to counsel and/or teach potential converts. All of the synagogues in town refer someone interested in conversion to Judaism to their rabbi for a private course of study.

The rabbi of Beth David Synagogue asks that anyone interested in conversion contact him to discuss each case individually.

Congregation Tikkun v'Or offers a conversion program for adults when requested.

Temple Beth-El of Ithaca provides for Conservative conversion. Study and preparation for conversion are provided by the congregational rabbi.

Those interested in conversion to Judaism should consult with Cantor David Green of Temple Beth El of Oneonta to discuss this and other milestones.

Temple Concord welcome those who would like to pursue the possibility of becoming a Jew-by-Choice. The following are part of the process of preparing for conversion: "Introduction to Judaism" course, attending services, involvement in holiday celebrations, readings, and meetings with the rabbi.

Call Rabbi Micah Friedman at Temple Israel to discuss interest in conversion.

Illness

Kosher meals are available upon request at all of the local hospitals. With some advance notice they can also often be arranged to meet dietary restrictions. Each of the hospitals in Broome County has an electric candelabrum, donated by Beth David Sisterhood, to be used in place of candles for Shabbat and holidays. Many of the synagogues arrange visits to the sick or otherwise remember them.

Beth David Synagogue has a Sisterhood committee that regularly visits people in the hospital. The rabbi visits patients in the hospital upon request.

Congregation Tikkun v'Or's Caring Committee can make arrangements for meals, transportation, child care, home visits and any other requests for the ill or their families.

Temple Beth-El of Ithaca offers pastoral care for those who are ill or in need of spiritual support.

The cantor of Temple Beth El of Oneonta pays as-needed visits to hospitals and nursing homes.

Temple Concord includes prayers for those who are ill in all worship services. The Caring Community arranges for visitors at home during long-term illnesses.

Temple Israel's Caring Community assists individuals and families with a variety of needs and problems.

Death

The Jewish traditions related to death and mourning are intended to recognize death as a part of life. The traditions of preparing the body, sitting *shiva* (a seven-day period of mourning immediately following a funeral), saying *Kaddish* (prayer for the dead) and observing the *yahrzeit* (anniversary of a death) guide Jews through a difficult period. These familiar customs and rituals provide for mourning, grief and re-emphasizing the true nature of life.

The body of the deceased is treated with respect, ritually washed, wrapped in a plain white shroud and placed in a plain pine coffin before burial. During *shiva*, the departed is remembered with tears and reverence.

Mourning is restricted to a maximum period of one year. The *Kaddish* prayer is said by the mourners for the first 11 months, on the anniversary of the death and at *Yizkor* services in the synagogue. A *yahrzeit* candle is lit for the seven days of mourning as well as on the anniversary of the death and on the evenings before we say the *Yizkor* service.

The synagogues in the area have arrangements with cemeteries.

Three, Beth David Synagogue, Temple Beth-El of Ithaca and Temple Israel, have burial societies, *chevra kadisha*, which prepare the body for burial according to Jewish law. The *chevra kadisha* of Beth David may be reached by calling Charles Manasse at 607-765-3304 or the rabbi. The *chevra kadisha* of Temple Israel may be reached by calling David Tanenhaus at 772-9172. Arrangements with the *chevra kadishas* of Beth David and Temple Israel can also be made through funeral homes that specialize in Jewish funerals. Temple Beth-El of Ithaca provides a *chevra kadisha* that assists all members of the Jewish community, regardless of membership or affiliation; contact the temple office at 607-273-5775.

Cantor David Green of Temple Beth El of Oneonta conducts Jewish funerals for the community.

To make cemetery arrangements through Beth David Synagogue for its cemetery in Conklin, call Charles Manasse at 607-765-3304.

To make arrangements through Temple Israel for its cemetery in Conklin, call Temple Israel at 607-723-7461 or Ron Sall at 607-722-7780.

West Lawn Cemetery Association, incorporated in 1906, owns and operates the West Lawn Cemetery, a not-for-profit Jewish cemetery on Burbank Avenue in Johnson City. It is not affiliated with any area congregation. Plots are available to any member of the local Jewish community. All interments have to be with the assistance of an area congregational rabbi and the deceased must be Jewish. For more information, call the Temple Concord office at 607-723-7355.

Temple Beth-El of Ithaca owns and maintains gravesite locations at Lake View Cemetery for use by members of Temple Beth-El and their families.

Temple Beth El of Oneonta owns and operates a Jewish

.....Continued from page 15A

cemetery. Call Steven Feuer, chairman of the cemetery committee, at 607-432-0108 for information.

For information on Temple Brith Sholom's cemetery, contact Carol Levine at 315-696-5744.

There is a Jewish cemetery in Waverly, NY, located on Elm Street. For more information, contact Maynard Miran at 607-857-7991.

A number of synagogues have committees that try to help their member families, in mourning, with food and other services.

Beth David Sisterhood has a committee to prepare the meal for the family after the funeral.

Congregation Tikkun v'Or's Bereavement Support Committee helps congregants with issues surrounding death and dying, including offering information on Jewish ritual and local resources. Committee members are available to assist families when a loved is dying or has just died, and are also a resource for those who want to discuss or learn more about Jewish practices for death and mourning. The committee can be reached at BereavementSupport@tikunvor.org.

Temple Concord has a Caring Community Committee that attends to the needs of the family and prepares the meal of consolation. For more information, call the Temple Concord office at 607-723-7355.

The Temple Israel Mitzvah Committee prepares a meal of consolation after the funeral and can be contacted through Suzanne Siegel at 607-785-5087.

Cornell.....

Continued from page 17A

discussions and lectures on contemporary issues. Support is crucial in ensuring CJL continues to provide a safe and welcoming space for all Jewish students at Cornell. It helps in expanding social and scholarly programming, supporting religious services, holiday celebrations and kosher dining throughout campus. In the past year, programming has expanded to meet the expressed needs of students.

For more information, contact the Center for Jewish Living at 607-272-5810 or e-mail vpcomm@cornellcjl.com.

To support the CJL Endowment, send a gift to Cornell University, Acct# 0001399, PO Box 37334 Boone, IA 50037-0334.



Students enjoyed a dinner at the Center for Jewish Living at Cornell.

Kashruth Guide

(Note: Unless otherwise specified, all area codes are 607.)

Local Kosher Establishments

Kosher Kitchen of Binghamton University
 In the C-4 building
 Kashrut supervision: rabbi from the OU
 Follows university calendar:
 Mon.-Thurs.: breakfast (bagels only) 8-10 am; lunch 11 am-1:30 pm; dinner 5-8 pm
 Fri.: breakfast (bagels only) 8-10 am; lunch 11 am-1:30 pm
 Sat.: Closed
 Sun.: brunch 11 am-1:30 pm; dinner 5-8 pm
 Jewish holidays that BU is open: Kosher Kitchen closed; holiday meals available to order through Hillel
 Phone: 777-2991

104West! Kosher Dining Hall at Cornell University

104 West Ave., Ithaca
 Satellite dining hall, It's Kosher!, in Northstar Dining Room at Appel Commons
 Kashrut supervision provided by the Star-K under full-time *mashgiach*.
 Follows university calendar.
 All you can eat for a set fee.
 Phone: 272-6907 (or 272-5810 Young Israel of Cornell)
 Kosher meals are also available at various other dining halls on the Cornell campus. Cornell Dairy products – pasteurized and chocolate milks, ice cream and yogurt – are now certified kosher by the OU and are sold on campus in the dining halls and at the Dairy Bar in Stocking Hall.
Terrace Dining Hall at Ithaca College
 IC Kosher Korner has a station in Terrace Dining Hall, which is open when the college

is in session (closed mid-May through late August).
 Kosher grab-n-go meals are available in Campus Center Dining Hall.
 Kosher supervision by Star K.
 Hours as of spring 2024:
 Sun. brunch 10 am-2 pm
 Mon.-Thurs. lunch 11 am-2 pm, dinner 5-7 pm
 Fri. lunch 11 am-1:30 pm
 Sat. closed
 Phone: 274-3905

Carries a small selection of fresh and frozen kosher poultry.

Weis Markets

100 Rano Blvd., Vestal
 Phone: 763-8712
 Carries a small selection of fresh and frozen kosher poultry.

Supermarket Products

There are kosher product sections in most of the local supermarkets. Look for them in the following:

BJ's Wholesale Club

40 Graham Rd. West, Ithaca
 Phone: 241-4762
 Kosher bakery (under Kof-K supervision) and carries kosher products.
 756 State Highway 28, Oneonta
 Phone: 431-1111
 Kosher bakery and carries kosher products.

Green Star Cooperative

Ithaca

Oasis (a health food store)

DeWitt Mall, Ithaca

Price Chopper

Foundry Plaza, Binghamton
 Endicott
 Oneonta

Tops Supermarket

East Hill Plaza, Ithaca
 Elmira Rd., Ithaca
 Pyramid Mall area, Ithaca
 W. Main St., Owego

Trader Joe's

744 S. Meadow St., Ithaca

Wegmans

Harry L. Dr., Johnson City
 Elmira Rd., Ithaca

Weis Markets

Various locations

Seen around the community...



Around 45 people attended the Temple Concord/Temple Israel adult education brunch and presentation by Rabbi Talia Laster on January 21. Around 40 people were at Temple Concord, while five people joined online, to hear Laster discuss "Areyyut: What Responsibility Do Jews Have to One Another?" during the brunch.



At left: Members of the Binghamton Jewish community attended the November 14 March for Israel in Washington, DC. L-r: Art Siegel, Shelley Hubal (executive director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton), William Payes, Adam Payes and Jodi Sampey.



JCC staff and volunteers who worked at the JCC's community Purim Carnival.

Hillel.....Continued from page 16A

challahs. Each week, volunteers bake and sell hundreds of loaves of kosher challah at several locations on campus, and 100 percent of sales are donated, half to Mazon and half to local organizations that provide food to the hungry.

◆ Arts and culture: The arts also remain a pillar of Hillel's programming. Kaskeset, Hillel's *a capella* group, has become regionally well-known and is often invited to synagogues and Hebrew schools for performances. Jewish *a capella* competitions give the students a chance to showcase their talents on a broader stage.

◆ Social programming: Hillel's annual student-led FreshFest program allows new students to get to know other Jewish freshmen through a weekend-long retreat filled with fun and learning about the Jewish

community on campus. Upperclassmen also create programming for first-year students to help them adjust to campus and to develop the next generation of Hillel leaders. Hillel also has regular social programming, including an opening weekend, welcome back barbecue and a formal. The students of Hillel also screened movies related to Holocaust education, sponsored bagel brunches to learn about sexuality and gender in Judaism, enjoyed "Caffeination Station" or weekly drop in and chat opportunity, and held ice cream socials.

All Hillel at Binghamton events are open to the community. Those interested can reach the Hillel at Binghamton office by calling 607-777-3424 or e-mailing hillel@binghamton.edu. Visit Hillel's website, www.hillelatbinghamton.org, to learn more.

Kosher Meat

There is no local kosher butcher.

Binghamton Price Chopper

Foundry Plaza, 10 Glenwood Ave., Binghamton
 Phone: 770-7151

This store carries packaged products, and frozen meats and chicken.

Lipman's Kosher Market

1482 Monroe Ave., Rochester, NY 14618
 Phone: 585-271-7886

Glatt kosher meat deliveries are usually once a month to Temple Beth-El of Ithaca. Call Lipman's for more information or visit its Facebook page. Kosher supervision by Rochester Kosher Services and Buffalo Vaad Kashrut (BVK).

Wegmans

650 Harry L. Dr., Johnson City
 Carries a small selection of fresh kosher meat and poultry, as well as some *glatt* kosher deli.

Wegmans

Elmira Rd., Ithaca
 Carries a small selection of fresh kosher meat and poultry.

Weis Markets

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 Phone: 762-5410

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Directory of Organizations

(Note: Unless otherwise specified, all area codes are 607.)

Beth David Synagogue – 722-1793

Rabbi: Zev Silber
President: Saba Wiesner
Sisterhood President: Cathy Velenchik
PR Contact: Kathie Shelly
Office Hours: Tues., 10 am-1 pm; Thurs. 9 am-1 pm
E-mail: bethdavid@stny.rr.com
Rabbi's e-mail: rabbisilber@stny.rr.com
Website: www.bethdavid.org

Binghamton University Zionist Organization

E-mail: buzo@binghamtonsa.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/buzo1948/info
Instagram: @buzo1948

B'Yachad Ithaca Jewish Preschool – 273-5775

(Phone is the Temple Beth-El Administrative Office)
Director: director@tbeithaca.org
E-mail: byachadithaca@gmail.com
Website: www.ithacajewishpreschool.com

Center for Israel Studies, Binghamton University – 777-3030

Director: Professor Lior Libman
Administrative Assistant: Jaileen Pache
E-mail: llibman@binghamton.edu
Website: https://www.binghamton.edu/centers/israel-studies/

Chabad of Oneonta – 845-204-7436

Contacts: Rabbi Meir and Fraidy Rubashkin
Website: www.chabadofoneonta.com
Facebook: Chabad of Oneonta - Rohr Jewish Student Center

Congregation Tikkun v'Or – 256-1471

Presidents: Martha Armstrong and Mitch Grossman
Administrative Coordinator and Jewish Learning Experiences Director: Naomi Wilensky
Bmitzvah Coordinator: Michael Margolin
Website: www.tikkunvor.org

Cornell University Jewish Studies Program

Director: Jason Sion Mokhtarian
Phone: 255-6275
E-mail: jewishstudies@cornell.edu
Website: jewishstudies.cornell.edu
Facebook: www.facebook.com/JWSTCornell

Hillel Academy – 304-4544

President: Elliot Zenilman
Director of Judaic Studies-Hebrew: Rabbi Moshe Shmaryahu – rabbishmaryahu@gmail.com
Director of Secular Education: Sarah MacDougal – sthomas1320@hillelacademyofbc.org

Enrollment, Community Outreach, Grants and Fund-raising – frontoffice@hillelacademyofbc.org
Office hours: 8:30 am-3:30 pm
E-mail: frontoffice@hillelacademyofbc.org
Website: www.hillelacademyofbroomecounty.org
Facebook: Hillel Academy of Broome County

Hillel at Binghamton – 777-3424

Executive Director: TBA
Campus Director: TBA
Student President: Arielle Schlissel
E-mail: hillel@binghamton.edu
Website: www.hillelatbinghamton.org

Hillel at Ithaca College: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life – 274-3323

Executive Director: Julie Boden Adams
Jewish chaplain: Cantor Abbe Lyons
E-mail: hillel@ithaca.edu
Website: ithaca.edu/hillel
Facebook: fb.com/ichillel

Ithaca Area United Jewish Community – 257-5181

Contacts: Marcia Zax and Marjorie Hoffman
E-mail: info@iaujc.org
Website: www.iaujc.org
Facebook: Ithaca Area United Jewish Community

Ithaca Beit Midrash

Contact: Rabbi Suzanne Brody
E-mail: ithaca.beit.midrash@gmail.com
Website: www.ithacabeitmidrash.com

Jewish Community Center – 724-2417

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Health, Physical Education and Recreation Director: TBA
Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8:30 am-5 pm
Early Childhood Center Hours: Mon.-Fri. 7:30 am-5:30 pm
Website: www.binghamtonjcc.org
Facebook: JCC Binghamton

Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton – 724-2332

President: Suzanne Holwitt
Executive Director: Shelley Hubal
Jewish Family Services Director: Rose Shea
Office Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 9 am-4 pm
Website: www.jfgb.org

Jewish Studies Program at Cornell University

E-mail: jewishstudies@cornell.edu
Facebook: www.facebook.com/JWSTCornell

Judaic Studies Department, Binghamton University – 777-3030

Chair: Dr. Shay C. Rabineau
Administrative Assistant: Jaileen Pache
E-mail: rabineau@binghamton.edu
Website: www.binghamton.edu/judaic-studies
Facebook: Binghamton University Department of Judaic Studies

MEOR Upstate – 607-743-5579

Executive Director: Rabbi Chaim Harkavy
Director of Women's Programming: Adina Harkavy
Educators: Benjamin Kellman and Rivka Kellman
E-mail: meorupstate@gmail.com
Website: www.meorupstate.org
Facebook: MEOR Binghamton and MEOR Cornell

Norwich Jewish Center – 334-2691

Contact: Guilia Greenberg, 373-5087
Contact: Susan Fertig, 334-6756, fertigj@roadrunner.com

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Office hours: May be reached at any time
E-mail: info@chabadofbinghamton.com
Websites: www.chabadofbinghamton.com and www.JewishBU.com

Roitman Chabad Center at Cornell – 319-0874

Website: www.chabadcornell.com

SUNY Cortland Hillel

Student President: Samantha Frisch, samantha.frisch@cortland.edu
Faculty Advisor: Nance S. Wilson, nance.wilson@cortland.edu, 753-4375

Steven K. and Winifred A. Grinspoon Hillel Center for Jewish Community at Cornell – 255-9712

Executive Director: Rabbi Ari Weiss, adw224@cornell.edu
Assistant Executive Director: Emily Block, emb399@cornell.edu
Deputy Executive Director, Alumni Affairs & Development: Susanna Cohen, skc79@cornell.edu
E-mail: cuhillel@gmail.com
Website: www.cornellhillel.org

Temple Beth-El, Ithaca – 273-5775

Temple President: Jerry Dietz
Rabbi: Rabbi Caleb Brommer
Director of Education and Engagement: Calle Schueler
Sisterhood President: Gail Zussman
E-mails: rabbi@tbeithaca.org, director@tbeithaca.org
Website: www.tbeithaca.org

Temple Beth El, Oneonta – 432-5522

Cantor: David Green
President: Phyllis Sherman
Religious School Director: Dr. Bob Garfield
E-mail: TBEOneonta@gmail.com
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Facebook: www.facebook.com/search/top?q=temple%20beth%20el%20oneonta

Temple Brith Sholom, Cortland – 756-7181

President: Carol Levine, 315-696-5744
Cemetery Committee: 315-696-5744
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Temple Concord – 723-7355

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Temple Israel – 723-7461

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/TempleIsraelVestal

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