

# THE REPORTER

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## Jewish Baseball Players

# Joctober baseball: Pederson in pearls

BILL SIMONS

Joc Pederson is one of the most colorful and best liked players in the major leagues. A National League All-Star team selection, Pederson paced the weak hitting 2022 San Francisco Giants in batting average (.274), home runs (23), RBIs (70) and slugging percentage (.521). Pederson spurned free agency to accept a \$19.65 million qualifying offer to return to the Giants in 2023. After nine MLB seasons (Los Angeles Dodgers/2014-20, Chicago Cubs/2021, Atlanta/2021, San Francisco Giants/2022), it is evident that the 6'1", 220-pound, lefty outfielder is not on a Hall of Fame trajectory.

His career batting average is a lackluster .237, even though he typically doesn't hit against left-handed pitchers, against whom he is generally ineffectual. Originally a center fielder, the 30-year-old Pederson, who with age lost a step, is now a solid left fielder. Pederson, however, does hit home runs – career total of 171, season high of 36 and five seasons with 23 or more. He is at his explosive best in the post-season when it matters most, hence the nickname Joctober. Pederson lifts the performance of teammates and attracts fan attention through his distinctive personality and sartorial style. Moreover, his commitment to Team Israel creates a bond with Jewish fans.

Joining the Giants in 2022 represented a coming home for Pederson. He grew up in Palo Alto, part of the San Francisco Bay Area, as a Giants fan, rooting for Barry Bonds. A two-sport star, baseball and football, in high school, Pederson comes from an athletic family. His father

and Little League coach, Stu, appeared in a few Los Angeles Dodgers games in 1985 and spent over a decade in the minor leagues. Mother Shelly (Cahn) Pederson was an athletic trainer. Middle brother Tyger was a minor league second baseman (2011-16) in the Dodgers organization. Younger sister Jacey, a soccer forward, played for UCLA and the Under-19 U.S. National Women's Team.

Affability, accessibility and iconoclasm contribute to Pederson's popularity with media and fans. Not surprisingly, he was one of several major leaguers to volunteer for the featured role in an episode of YouTube's "A Day in the Life" baseball series. With his casual dress and grooming topped by bleached blond hair, Pederson, his face open and youthful, looks more like a 20-year-old undergrad than the 30-year-old professional athlete and devoted family man that he is. The 2022 film captures the essential Pederson demeanor – relaxed, laid back and cheerful.

"A Day in the Life" opens with Pederson gently tossing a fleece ball to his preschoolers, toddler son, Wilder, and older sister, Poppy. Wilder, wielding a plastic bat, hits the ball squarely, sending him on a happy romp through imaginary bases in the kitchen and living room. Poppy complains that Dad is throwing the ball too high, but with Mom (Kelsey) sharing the swing a hit ensues. Then Pederson follows the children to the playroom for puzzles and construction, progress impeded when Wilder knocks down Poppy's tower. Next stop, the kitchen, where Poppy and Wilder partake of healthy snacks. After kissing the

children and Kelsey good-bye, Pederson gets behind the wheel of his Tesla to start game-day routines.

Champ Pederson, Joc's older brother and sidekick, appears in "A Day in the Life," sharing the front seat of the Tesla and accompanying Joc to the Dodger clubhouse where Champ has free run of the facility. Joc and Champ are very close. Champ was born with Down syndrome, a genetic condition often accompanied by distinct facial features, small stature and cognitive limitations. Champ is on the high functioning end of the Down syndrome spectrum. In certain circles, Champ is better known than Joc. An inspirational motivational speaker and role model for others with disabilities, Champ formerly worked in the front office of the NBA Golden State Warriors. After the Dodgers won the 2020 World Series, both Joc and Champ received rings. When Joc joined San Francisco, he was moved when the Giants gave Champ his own locker during spring training.

Pederson was involved in one of the most controversial episodes of the 2022 season. On May 27 in Cincinnati, Reds' outfielder Tommy Pham approached Pederson in the outfield during pre-game warmups and slapped him on the cheek. Remaining calm and with other players around, Pederson left the area, subsequently explaining that he disavows violence. The volatile and unrepentant Pham claimed Pederson had it coming for misdeeds – stacking players on the injured reserve list, misappropriating

See "Pederson" on page 12

## Opinion

From the Desk of the Federation Executive Director

### With gratitude

SHELLEY HUBAL

It's called "My Unsung Hero." NPR describes these mini-podcasts as "Stories of people whose kindness left a lasting impression." I like to listen to one or two episodes in the morning while I exercise. Each story is a reminder that every individual and every act of kindness – no matter how big or small – has the power to transform the world.

In a few weeks, we will gather and retell the story of the Exodus of the Jewish people from Egypt. At the end

of the seder, we sing "Dayenu." This is a song of gratitude that reminds us that at each step what God gave us "would have been enough."

Listening to the "My Unsung Hero" stories is my daily reminder that God gives us what we need. Sometimes it comes in the form of a teacher or a stranger on a train or a medical provider. Whatever the form, everyday miracles and acts of kindness are often right in front of us. Our job

is to acknowledge them and say "Dayenu."

Nobody walks this earth without struggle and I know it is impossible to feel grateful for every challenge we face, but when you practice "Dayenu" in some form every day, your connection to God becomes illuminated. Wishing you all a *Pesach* filled with good health and lots of love. That, along with some matzah ball soup, ought to be enough!

In My Own Words

### Church, state and marriage

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Do you think two Jews should have the right to marry? This is not a trick question. I'm not asking about LGBTQ marriages or anything controversial (at least, not yet). What I want to know is simple: Are you willing to risk that a governmental official will refuse to allow you, your children or your grandchildren the right to marry another Jew because it is against their religion to allow those who refuse to recognize Christ as their savior the ability to marry and have children. Believe it or not, I'm not writing about a future dystopia, but the possibility of this occurring in the United States right now.

Before going into more detail about this potential problem, I need to differentiate between clergy who perform religious marriages and governmental officials (clerks) whose salary is paid by our taxes. Clergy have always been allowed to

choose which couples they marry. That's because in the U.S. there are other options: a different clergy person, a justice of the peace, a judge, etc. But there is only one legal place to purchase a wedding license that is recognized by state and federal governments: that's usually the office of a town or county clerk. There is no religious aspect to that job: no religious requirements, no ethical or moral ones except to follow state and federal laws that allow people to marry.

A bill passed recently by the Tennessee House of Representatives would change that. Even if this bill doesn't become a law, it's important to note that a legislative body in the United States would allow county clerks to refuse to certify marriage licenses – which is a requirement of their job – because they have religious objections to the marriage. It's clear that this is aimed at LGBTQ and transgender couples, but its implications are far wider. These clerks could also refuse to certify interfaith marriages or interracial marriages. That's right: they could refuse to certify the marriage license of a white person and a Black person. No one has yet suggested they would refuse to do so for two Jews, but there is *nothing* that would prevent them from doing so.

Think this is farfetched? Ten years ago, I would have

scoffed at the suggestion. But, then again, if you asked me 10 years ago if the current rise in antisemitism would have taken place, I would have probably said no. If you asked me whether buildings containing Jewish organizations would have to be kept locked, I would have said no. If you asked whether I would feel the need to take an active shooter training, again my answer would have been no. If you asked whether I would worry that someone would open fire and kill congregants attending a religious service (Christian, Muslim or Jewish), I would have said no. But that was before the Tree of Life shooting, the Poway synagogue shooting, the Colleyville synagogue hostage crisis and the February shootings of Orthodox Jews near synagogues in Los Angeles.

Am I being alarmist? Maybe, but let me ask you one thing: Do you want to take that chance? Jews have been systematically and violently persecuted in every country in which they've lived – that is, except for the United States. There's nothing to stop it here, though, if we sit back and let it happen. Not worried about this because LGBTQ, transgendered people and Black citizens are first on the line? Who do you think is going to stand up for you, if you don't stand up for them?

### About the cover

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



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BINGHAMTON, NY

#### OPINIONS

The views expressed in editorials and opinion pieces are those of each author and not necessarily the views of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton.

#### LETTERS

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

#### ADS

The Reporter does not necessarily endorse any advertised products and services. In addition, the paper is not responsible for the kashruth of any advertiser's product or establishment.

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# Federation to hold Yom Hashoah program on April 17

By Reporter staff

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

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

shared with people who knew her and cared about her."

During the interview, which can be found on the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Collection website, Buschman "discusses her childhood in Beclean, Transylvania, Romania and her Orthodox Jewish upbringing; the occupation of her town by Hungarian troops in 1942; the confiscation of her family business; the family's deportation to Auschwitz in 1944; her impression when she arrived at the camp; her separation from her mother; her experiences in Auschwitz; her transfer to camp Nurnberg; her immigration to the United States in 1946; and her marriage and family life." The Bay Area Holocaust Oral History Project conducted the interview on November 20, 2002, and it was received by the museum's Archives Branch in September 2003. It is part of The Jeff and Toby Herr Oral History Archive special collection.

**To read an interview of Suzanne Buschman-Erez about her mother, the late Ruth Buschman, see the article on page 6.**

# Federation to hold Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration on April 23

By Reporter staff

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton will hold a Yom Ha'atzmaut (Independence Day) celebration celebrating Israel's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Sunday, April 23, at 11:30 am, at Temple Israel, 4737 Deerfield Pl., Vestal. The event is open to all ages. Admission is free due to a grant from the Rozen Foundation. Registration is required and can be made at [www.jfgb.org](http://www.jfgb.org) or by calling the Federation office at 724-2332. Donations will be accepted.

The event will include a virtual live tour of Jerusalem's Old City, Israeli dancing led by Ted Major and the Roberson



International Folk Dancers, a 10-foot puzzle of Israel for the children to put together and a kosher "Happy birthday Israel" cake.

"We hope the community will come out and celebrate Israel at 75," said Shelley Hubal, Federation executive director.

"The goal is to bring the Jewish community together, young and old, for a joyous celebration. We also want to thank Temple Israel for hosting the event."

Hubal added, "Israel is going through some growing pains right now, but one thing most Jews can agree on is that it is always in our hearts. For this event, we will put politics aside and simply say 'cheers' to 75 years!"

# TBE Oneonta to present baseball talk with Simons, Katz on April 2

Temple Beth El of Oneonta will host the program "The Diamond District: Jews in Baseball" on Sunday, April 2, at 11 am, at the Cooperstown Village Hall,

22 Main St., Cooperstown, in the ballroom. Bill Simons and Jeff Katz will be the presenters. The event is free and open to the public. Rabbi Meir Rubashkin of Chabad in Oneonta will provide kosher hot dogs. To reserve a kosher hot dog, contact Temple Beth El at [tbeoneonta@gmail.com](mailto:tbeoneonta@gmail.com) or 432-5522, leaving a name, the number of people in the party and contact information. Seating is limited.

Simons will discuss "The Jews, Dodgers and Brooklyn: The Jackie Robinson Decade," which will examine the special relationship that existed between the Dodgers and Brooklyn's large Jewish community. Simons is professor emeritus at SUNY Oneonta, former chairman of the History Department and recipient of the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Katz will discuss "Marvin Miller: From Brooklyn to Cooperstown," noting how "Marvin Miller fought the owners and their archaic views, and led baseball into a new era of free agency, enhanced competition and unimagined profitability." Katz is an author, executive director of the Community Foundation of Otsego County and the former mayor of Cooperstown.

## Essential security tips

### See something, say something

If you see someone or something suspicious, report it to the building office or the person in charge. Do not approach the suspicious person or object yourself; that is for the professionals. Your part is to be alert to something unusual happening in or around the building. That includes packages in areas where they don't belong or people taking photos or measurements of the building.



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### Create a Jewish Legacy

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



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The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to the family of **Elizabeth "Lib" Rappaport**

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

ISSUE	DEADLINE
April 7-20.....	March 29
April 21-May 4.....	April 10 (early)
May 5-18.....	April 26
May 19-June 1.....	May 10

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

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## Off the Shelf

# Jokes, stories and poetry

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

Most books are relatively easy to define. Even those that straddle genres or categories can usually be described in simple terms. That's not true for "JEWels: Teasing out the Poetry in Jewish Humor and Storytelling" edited by Steve Zeitlin with lead commentary by Peninnah Schram (The Jewish Publication Society). This is not a poetry book in the traditional sense because, while the works are formatted into prose poems, many either originally appeared in paragraph form or could easily be converted to that form. Not that I'm complaining: the poetic line breaks make the works very easy to read. To add to the fun, the commentaries not only offer thoughts about the poems, but feature jokes and stories of their own.

For those thinking that I've mistyped the title, the capital letters in "JEWels" are deliberate. The editor sees each piece as a polished jewel created by Jews. Zeitlin notes that his purpose is "to transform the living tradition of Jewish stories and jokes into short, accessible poems, recording and reflecting on Jewish experiences from the past through the present day, with original commentary as well... The pieces are in the tradition of found poems – in this case, found within jokes and stories. Some might call them prose poems; others, miniature stories in which the compressed narrative teases out the poetry within."

The work is divided into sections with similar themes,

something that makes sense so readers don't find silly jokes next to Holocaust memories. Yes, the offerings cover that great a range, from the humorous to the extremely serious. The underlying idea is that Jews love to tell stories and those stories beget more stories that need to be shared with the current generation and written down for the next. These poems made me laugh, cry or nod with acknowledgment to the wisdom offered. It helps that each offering is short and easy to absorb.

There are almost 180 poems so it's difficult to talk about them in any depth. One of my favorite folktales is the basis for "The Rooster Prince," which Zeitlin adapted into a poetic form. In this version, which is attributed to Rabbi Nachman of Breslov, a prince decides he was a rooster. The tale when shows how a clever sage convinces him to rejoin the human world. The short verses read like straight prose – "A young prince decided he was a rooster / He sat naked under the table, / flapped his arms" – words that could easily be used to illustrate a picture book. In her commentary on the tale, Schram notes a conversation she had with a psychiatrist who recalled a similar instance that occurred when a woman in a psychiatric hospital refused to get up from the floor.

Not every story/joke comes with commentary. Some of the jokes are traditional ones with which many older readers will be familiar. There's "The Plotkin Diamond"

that will make many readers groan: "Mrs. Cohen sees her friend at the mall / with a gorgeous diamond on her finger. // Oh, my, she says, / that is the most beautiful diamond I have ever seen. // It is a beautiful diamond, her friend says. In fact, it is the world-famous Plotkin diamond. // Really? // But it comes with a curse. // A curse? says Mrs. Cohen. What curse? // Plotkin."

Some very short selections are great fun. Barbara Kirshblatt-Gimblett notes in her two-line poem "The Rabbi": "If you have to ask the Rabbi, / the answer is no." Publicist Carol Klenfner tells a "True Story": "Grandpa, a child asks, / is the glass half-empty or half-full? // What does it matter? he answers. / It's such a beautiful glass." Zev Shanken notes another way to look at this question in his commentary: "The kvetch says, 'My glass is only half full.' The tzadik says, 'Thank God my glass is only half empty.'"

"JEWels: Teasing out the Poetry in Jewish Humor and Storytelling" concludes with questions for discussion, which would be helpful if the book is used in a class or a discussion group. It can be easily read straight through, although readers may be tempted to read small sections over a long period of time in order to better appreciate each work. In his conclusion, Zeitlin notes that he hopes to give readers a chance to experience a wide range of Jewish perspectives on the world. In that, he has definitely succeeded.



## Off the Shelf

# Various genres, including...

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

### Mystery/thriller

#### ◆ "Death of a Dancing Queen"

Hardboiled detectives certainly had it easier in the past. They didn't have to worry about ex-boyfriends with connections to the Jewish mob; a grandfather who drinks too much; a gay brother, David, with mental health issues; and a mother suffering from early onset Alzheimer's. All these factor into why Billie (Belinda) Levine, the heroine in Kimberly G. Giarrantano's "Death of a Dancing Queen" (Datura Books), decided to take over the detective agency her grandfather founded when he retired from the police force.

Billie is hoping for simple cases, like tailing cheating spouses, and, at first, believes her new case won't be complicated. After all, it's clear her client, Tommy Russo, is a drug addict, so Billie wonders if his missing girlfriend is just ghosting him. Unfortunately, the case proves far more complex. The missing person case morphs into a murder investigation that uncovers connections to the mob and a neo-Nazi group, and the reappearance of Billie's ex, Aaron, whose family may not only be involved in her current case, but the murder of an exotic dancer 30 years before. To add to Billie's troubles, it becomes clear that her mother can no longer be left alone, so difficult family decisions have to be made. That is, if Billie lives long enough.

Billie is a great character: courageous, caring and flawed enough to be interesting. The novel does an excellent job balancing the detective action and Billie's personal life. The mystery is complex and convoluted, but exciting in its twist and turns. There are a few very subtle hints about the reasons for the murders, but it's highly unlikely that anyone will guess them. Readers will definitely want to see more of Billie; here's hoping this is the first book in a series.

#### ◆ "The Red Balcony"

Jonathan Wilson's legal thriller "The Red Balcony" (Schocken Books) is the most serious novel in this review. It focuses on life in 1933 Palestine when the British administration was trying to balance the demands of the Jewish community for increased immigration of Jews from Europe with the Arab preference for the status quo. The plot is partly based on the real-life assassination of Haim Arlososoff, a leader of the Labor Zionist Movement who'd been working with Nazi Germany to allow Jews to emigrate to Palestine. Ivor Castle, a British Jew whose outsider status in England was confirmed when he attended Oxford University, comes to the territory as the second counsel defending the two Jews accused of the crime. The prosecution believes that Arlososoff was murdered by those who disapproved of his dealings with the Nazis, even if they might have saved Jewish lives.

It quickly becomes clear that Ivor is out of his depth: he has no understanding of the politics involved in the trial and, even worse, falls deeply in love with a potential witness, Tsiona, an artist whose demands make little sense to the lovesick lawyer. Ivor also realizes that Palestine is having an odd effect on him: after several weeks, he acknowledges

that while he no longer feels as if England is his home, he also doesn't see Palestine as his homeland. Life gets even more confusing when he meets Susannah Green, a young American woman who is visiting the territory with her parents. She seems like a perfect match for him, but he is unable to forget Tsiona. However, even Susannah's visit has political implications: her father is involved with secret meetings that will play a role in Ivor's life.

Those looking for a clear resolution to the murder will be disappointed in "The Red Balcony." Just as in real life, there are no answers: readers will have to decide for themselves whether the testimony offered makes sense and if the accused are guilty or innocent. However, the main focus of the work is watching Ivor change from a naive young man to one with a greater understanding of life's realities. In that, the novel is a success.

### Rom-coms

#### ◆ "Best Served Hot"

Romance, comedy and food: if you think that combination equals heaven, then you'll find much to enjoy in "Best Served Hot" by Amanda Elliot (Berkley Romance). This is Elliot's second novel to feature those elements: her "Sadie on a Plate" focused on its main character's participation in a TV cooking contest. (To read *The Reporter's* review of the book, visit [www.thereporter.com/archives/feature/off-the-shelf-romance-fantasy-or-a-combination-of-the-two-part-two-405747](http://www.thereporter.com/archives/feature/off-the-shelf-romance-fantasy-or-a-combination-of-the-two-part-two-405747).) This time, the author focuses on the debate between Internet food influencers and print media restaurant reviewers as to who best serves the public.

The narrator, Jewish Julie Zimmerman, works as an assistant to a retired CEO of a major TV network, but the true love of her life is food reviewing. As JulieZeeEatsNYC, she takes photos of the dishes she eats and posts her reviews online. However, eating out is expensive, which means she worries about her bank account becoming overdrawn. What she wants is the food reviewer's job at the *New York Scroll*, a newspaper gig where she could charge her meals to an expense account. Unfortunately, rich, society boy Bennett Richard Macalester Wright is offered the job instead.

When Julie realizes that Bennett is at the same outdoor food festival she's attending, the two have an argument about food and social media. When the encounter is posted online, the number of Julie's followers soar, as does social See "Genres" on page 6

## Happy Passover

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# Adam Weitsman donates \$250,000 to Hillel Academy

**By Stephen Donnelly and Associates**

Hillel Academy of Broome County has received a \$250,000 donation from Adam Weitsman to help with operation costs for the 2023 academic year. The school has served Binghamton and the surrounding communities for more than 50 years, providing secular and Judaic education. As a small private school, Hillel Academy seeks to customize each student's learning experiences. However, being a small, privately funded school brings many challenges, including financial ones.

In 2022, Hillel Academy of Broome County President Joy Yarkoni reached out to Weitsman to let him know that the academy was on the verge of closing.

"I asked him to consider donating to help us survive. Literally 30 seconds after I reached out, he (Adam) responded by calling me and simply said 'No it's not.' I remember saying to him, that unless he knows something that I don't, we simply do not have enough money to run the school for another year. In typical Adam

Weitsman style, he stepped in and saved the day. Our organization and community are deeply grateful for his help and support," said Yarkoni.

In September 2022, Weitsman joined the Executive Board of Hillel Academy. The executive team has stated that the school would not exist if it weren't for Weitsman and his financial and leadership contributions.

"The Hillel Academy means a lot to me and my family. We are all very involved with the school, and regularly attend school functions, holiday plays and teacher meetings. My parents, Fred and Sandra, have also been very involved with the academy for many years, so when I heard that the school needed assistance, I felt it was my obligation and pleasure to step in and help however I could," Weitsman stated.

For more information on Hillel Academy of Broome County, visit its website, [www.hillelacademyofbroomecounty.org](http://www.hillelacademyofbroomecounty.org), or Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/hillelacademybroomecounty/](http://www.facebook.com/hillelacademybroomecounty/).



Students from Hillel Academy of Broome County sang songs from the Kabbalat Shabbat service on November 18. They were led by Rabbi Moshe Shmaryahu (standing), head of Jewish studies at the school, and Rabbi Ben Menorah (seated). (Names of the students held by request.)

## JFS expands We Remember You program

**By Reporter staff**

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

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

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

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

"What we realized," Shea said, "is that we don't just remember people on Rosh Hashanah. JFS raises and distributes funds throughout the year for all the holidays. We decided to combine this under one heading: we remember our community members all year-round! However, the main fund-raiser will be before Passover."

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

## JFS prepares as extra SNAP support ends

**By Reporter staff**

Rose Shea, director of Jewish Family Service, likes to be prepared. So, when she learned that the extra funds given to those receiving the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (or SNAP) were to stop at the end of February, she knew that JFS needed to be ready for an increase in calls for help.

"In December 2022, Congress passed a bill that ended these extra supplemental benefits," Shea said. "Unfortunately, with food costs increasing and inflation raising the price of everyday needed items, many people still could use this help as they face food insecurity. And that means more people are going to need our help."

Jewish Family Service wants to be prepared for these calls for help by purchasing grocery gift cards that will be distributed to those in need. Interested donors can make a donation to JFS and earmark the funds for "grocery cards." Donations can be sent to JFS, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850.

Shea believes the community will answer this call as part of its communal practice of *tzedakah*, which is not considered charity as much as it is social justice: a communal obligation to help those in need. "I've been amazed at the continuing generosity of the local Jewish community," Shea added, "and know our members will once again step up to help. Thank you in advance for any help you can give."

### Tea and Talk

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

Upcoming dates are:

◆ March 30

◆ April 20

To RSVP and for more information, visit [www.JewishBU.com/Tea](http://www.JewishBU.com/Tea) or call 797-0015.



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We Create Community



**Jewish Federation**  
of Greater Binghamton

# She never talked to us about her experiences

By Reporter staff

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton will hold a hybrid Yom Hashoah program on Monday, April 17, at 7 pm. It will include recorded excerpts from the survivor testimony of the late Ruth Buschman. Buschman's children, Suzanne Buschman-Erez and Steve Buschman, will join the program on Zoom. Below is an interview with Buschman-Erez. For more information about the event, see the article on page 3.

The first question children of Holocaust survivors are usually asked is, "When did your parents first talk to you about their experiences?" Suzanne Buschman-Erez can't answer that question because her mother, the late Ruth Buschman, never discussed her life in Europe during World War II. "My mom never really talked to us about her experiences in the concentration camps, or what happened with her parents and brother," Buschman-Erez said in an e-mail interview. "We just knew that she was in the camps and didn't know much more. After my mother and her three sisters got out of the camps, and moved to the U.S.A., they didn't want to dwell on their memories. They wanted to start anew. They deliberately chose not to marry European men who had similar experiences. The four sisters all married Americans and moved into life as Americans."

Unlike many whose parents were survivors, Buschman-Erez doesn't lay claim to being a Second Gener-

ation survivor because her mother and father didn't want their children carrying that burden. "We are true Broome County children, running around the neighborhoods, going to the public school system and cheering for the local high school team," she added. "Except for the fact that we were Jewish, we didn't think of ourselves as any different from our neighbors. Of course, being Jewish made a difference in what we did and didn't do (such as Christmas activities), but we did not even know we were children of a survivor."

This led Buschman-Erez, who lives in Israel, to note the very different way Yom Hashoah is experienced in that country: "Yom Hashoah in Israel is a day of remembrance. All televised programmed programs are cancelled. On cable TV the only shows are movies about the Shoah. On Israeli channels, (such as our ABC, NBC or CBS), the day is filled with stories from survivors and documentaries about the war. The school systems dedicate the week to talking about the war, Hitler and the camps. Grandparents, when they were younger - many are much older now or have died - would go to the schools and speak to the children."

She added, "My children and I, and my grandchildren, all live in Israel. We experience Yom Hashoah each year. In the school systems, the children are asked to speak to their grandparents about their experiences of the war. My children have always known that Grandma was in the camps, and so do my grandchildren. We never discussed the details, mostly because I didn't know them."

Buschman-Erez noted that her experience with survivors in Israel has been very different. "In Israel, we are surrounded by families such as ours, families with grandparents who were survivors," she said. "My partner's parents were both in the war - one in the camps and the other living in the woods to escape the camps. My son-in-law's grandmother was in the camps. My daughter-in-law's grandparents were in the camps. Everyone has a family member [who] was in the war. We do not forget. We live with survivors every day."

Learning more about what it was like for people to live through the Holocaust taught Buschman-Erez a different way of looking at those who survived. "Some survivors in Israel live in great poverty - the memories of the war were too great, and they were never able to get a handle on living," she noted. "Some survivors spent years in the camps - my partner's mother was 12 when she went into the Warsaw Ghetto and was 20 when the war was over. She had nightmares of the ghetto her entire life. In Israel, survivors, children and grandchildren of survivors have a community to support them. It doesn't make it easy, but it helps that people understand."

This knowledge also has helped Buschman-Erez better understand her mother and why she refused to share her story. "My mother's silence used to frustrate me, until I realized that some feelings and memories can be too big to face," she said. "Living in the camps, having your parents torn away from you, living in starvation and fear - can all be too strong to confront. We all have our way of going forward... Now, as an adult, I do understand how those experiences affected who my mother was as a person and how she dealt with life."

Her mother's refusal to discuss the past affected other parts of her life. "Just the way my mother never discussed the war and the camps, my mother never discussed the hardships she experienced in life," Buschman-Erez said. "When my brother died, my mother sat *shiva*, and didn't talk about him again. She grieved deeply until her dying day, but she didn't want to talk about it. She didn't want to go into those feelings - what would it have helped to bring them up? She didn't deny it happened, but then again, it was better to put those feelings in a box and not think of them. It was the same way with my father's Alzheimer's. She never mentioned it and kept saying, 'It is getting better.' Putting stuff in the past, not taking them out, and only looking at the future was her way of coping - something she learned from the camps."

**Moving any time soon?**  
 Whether you're moving across town or across the country, please let *The Reporter* know so you can stay up to date on community news! E-mail [treporter@aol.com](mailto:treporter@aol.com) with "Reporter Address change" in the subject line, or call 607-724-2360, ext. 254, to let *The Reporter* know about your new address.



## Genres.....Continued from page 4

media interest in the *Scroll*. Julie and Bennett agree to work together to help both her account and the *Scroll's* get more buzz. As much as Julie disliked Bennett at first, she finds herself very attracted to him. Not only that, but he actually seems to be a nice person, even though he's grown up rich and entitled. The question then becomes whether they can overcome their differences.

"Best Served Hot" has several subplots that add interest, especially one about Julie's friend Alice, who works in the tech industry. Also debated are the differences between food reviews on social media and those that appear in the print media. The descriptions of the food (most of which are definitely *not* kosher) are well done and the sex scenes are hot. Lovers of rom-coms should find much to enjoy.

◆ "Planning Perfect"

It's not easy being young, at least in Haley Neil's "Planning Perfect" (Bloomsbury). This isn't helped by the fact that high school sophomore Felicity Becker has very strong ideas about the proper way things should be done. She is obsessed with doing everything in what she considers the correct manner, in addition to worrying about school, getting into college and her future personal life - so much so that after an incident, she's been seeing a therapist. Her mother, Hannah, on the other hand, seems to have done everything in the wrong order, at least according to Felicity: Hannah made a fortune selling tech software when she was

in college. Then she had Felicity on her own, created an addictive phone game that became a movie franchise and now writes book adaptations of movies.

Felicity's life becomes even more complicated after her mother's boyfriend, Eric, proposes. Felicity wants to be an event planner and decides she'll create the perfect wedding for them. A friend, Nancy, whom she met during an LGBTQ high school get-away, invites her to hold the wedding at her great-aunt's apple orchard, noting there's a cottage where Felicity, Hannah and Eric can spend the summer. Hannah agrees because she thinks spending the summer away from Boston will be a good way for her, Felicity and Eric to bond without outside pressures. Unfortunately, complications arise, including Felicity (who considers herself asexual) worrying about her relationship with Nancy, problems with her grandmother (who disapproves of Hannah's life and puts pressure on Felicity to be perfect) and whether the wedding will be the one of Felicity's dreams or the one her mother and Eric actually want.

Felicity is an engaging character and it's fun to watch her learn more about herself, including how to better appreciate other people's feelings and desires. Anyone who was uptight and dogmatic when they were young will understand Felicity's dilemma, although those who have outgrown those feelings will find her mother delightful. While "Planning Perfect" is aimed at a teen audience, older readers will delight in the joy of not being young anymore.

**Fantasy/adventure**

◆ "Ring of Solomon"

Adventure, fantasy and humor: Those words describes Aden Polydoros' tween novel "Ring of Solomon" (Inkyard Press). Polydoros is best known for "The City Beautiful,"

a young adult novel that was so good it became one of my favorite books of 2022. (*The Reporter's* review can be found at [www.thereporter.com/past-articles/feature-book-review/feature-book-review-stream/book-review-stream/off-the-shelf-alternate-versions-of-reality](http://www.thereporter.com/past-articles/feature-book-review/feature-book-review-stream/book-review-stream/off-the-shelf-alternate-versions-of-reality).) What surprised me about his new work was not the page-turning adventure; that was also true of "The City Beautiful." It was the humor that was an added delight: the novel's main character, Zach, can't keep from spouting sarcastic remarks, even when faced with demons and monsters who take exception to his words.

When 12-year-old Zach and his younger sister, Naomi, buy a very gaudy ring for their mother's birthday, their lives change. To Zach's surprise, if you rub the ring, you can understand the speech of animals. Wondering if rubbing the ring might also produce a genie, Zach suddenly finds Ashmedai the King of the Demons standing in his bedroom. Ash looks like a regular teenager, well, except for the black wings, sharp teeth and bird talons instead of feet. When Zach shares news of Ash's appearance with his best friend Sandra, she wants them to go to a priest or rabbi for help. However, Zach wants to use Ash to get back at Jeffrey, a bully who makes his life miserable at school. Unfortunately, they are not the only people who know about Ash's appearance: a mysterious group wants both the ring and Ash in their power. Why? They plan to destroy the world so a chosen few can enter the Garden of Eden. Zach, Ash and Zach's friends must prevent that from happening.

Zach is a great character, partly because his insecurities make him talk when he should keep his mouth shut. He has several reasons to be insecure: he's worried that his parents won't accept the fact that he's gay (the only person who knows is Sandra), and that, since his family is interfaith, he's not Jewish enough - although Jeffrey's bullying is partly based on Zach's religion. The plot is exciting and fun, and the characters' reactions to events felt real. While not as literary as his previous work, Polydoros has written a great novel for teens and anyone who enjoys adventure.

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**THE LASKY FAMILY**

# TC Sisterhood to hold elections April 19

Temple Concord Sisterhood will hold elections for 2023-24 on Wednesday, April 19, in person at Temple Concord, 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton. All Sisterhood members are invited to participate. The event will start with a “bring your own dinner and schmooze” period at 5:30 pm. The elections will be held at 7 pm, followed by a game of “Left Right Center.” There is no charge for the game, except to bring three quarters. Anyone wishing to attend should RSVP by Monday, April 17, to Phyllis Kellenberger at pweinste@stny.rr.com or 727-8305.

To be elected are Barbara Thomas, meeting coordinator and Sisterhood representative to Temple; Lani Dunthorn, past president; Nancy Dorfman, treasurer; Helene Philips, financial secretary; Marty Eisenstadt, recording secretary; Sandy Foreman, corresponding secretary; Marsha Luks and Barbara Thomas, directors for 2022-2024; and Babs Putzel-Bischoff and Philips, directors for 2023-2025. There is no nominating committee chairwoman.

Also Putzel-Bischoff, publicity chairwoman and Rosh Hashanah Kiddush

chairwoman; Barbara Dickman, Luks and Tracy Putzel-Bischoff, Rosh Hashanah Kiddush committee; Ani Loew and Lynn Ross, Whale of a Sale co-chairwomen with Deb Williams as consultant; Pam Burgman and Williams, rummage sale co-chairwomen; Susan High and Robin Hazen, Judaica Shop co-chairwomen with Carol Herz as consultant; Philips and Williams, Artisan Marketplace co-chairwomen; and Rachel Coker for 2024 Sisterhood Shabbat.

Also Luks, Cookie Schaeffer, Jodi Sampey and Roz Antoun, Intersisterhood;

Jesse Parker, cradle roll; Amanda Donahue, High Holiday child care if needed; Phyllis Kellenberger, Deb Daniels and Antoun, adult education, programming and donor; Sylvia Diamond, Eisenstadt and Dickman, Friday Night *Onegs*; Jean Hecht, Scholar-in-Residence *Oneg*; Dunthorn and Herz, membership and retention co-chairwomen; Foreman and Eisenstadt, hospitality; Coker, seder in 2024; Foreman, Putzel-Bischoff, Robin Haas and Antoun, nominating committee; and Hecht, Sisterhood funds and Uniongrams.

# Intersisterhood event to be held on May 3

The 2023 Intersisterhood event will be held at Temple Concord on Wednesday, May 3, at 7 pm. The topic will be “Jewish Merchants in Binghamton’s Heyday.” The admission price of \$5 will give attendees an occasion to socialize, to partake in refreshments and to participate in a raffle for door prizes, as well as to have a chance to hear four local Binghamtonians – Marti Klionsky, Francine Stein, Howard Zendle and Ron Sall – recall what Binghamton was like in the 1950s and ‘60s.

Because of the subject matter, the event will also be open to men. Those planning to attend are asked to make their reservations by Wednesday, April 26, by contacting Beth David at 722-1793 or bethdavid@stny.rr.com; Temple Israel at 723-7461 or titammy@stny.twcbc.com; or Temple Concord at 723-7355 or templeconcordaa@gmail.com. Those who wish to attend can also respond by using the QR code included with this article, on the event flyer that the synagogues will be including in their bulletins and announcements, or on the Federation website.



“Do you remember the great meeting place called The Hub?” organizers ask. “Or a high-end women’s store that had local Binghamton girls serve as models for their clothing on their television commercials? Or the iconic, huge discount department store where they gave you free popcorn while you were hunting for fabulous bargains? The answers to these questions and more will be revealed to all who attend this year’s annual.”

“I was born in Rochester, and my family moved to Binghamton when I was 18 months old,” recalls Klionsky. “I have vivid memories of the many Jewish merchant stores, and I look forward to sharing them at the Intersisterhood event. If I have the time, I will try to create a map of where all these stores were, including my favorite

go-to place for the wonderful fabrics they had for the clothes I made for myself and my family: Philadelphia Sales!”

In 1960, Francine Stein moved from Philadelphia to Binghamton, when her husband, Steve Stein, began a new job in a store called Philadelphia Sales, owned by his father and an uncle of Alan Jablon. “The store was open seven days a week; Steve loved working there, and eventually took over,” Stein recalls. “I never worked there, but bought lots of stuff there for my three kids, each of whom worked in the store when they were teenagers. So I can tell you lots about the store that people affectionately called Philly Sales. Alan Jablon is a friend who also continues to live in Binghamton, and he is looking forward to attending the event, and will help me fill in anything I leave out!”

Zendle was born and raised in Binghamton and, until his retirement in 2009, worked at IBM Owego as an operational programmer for computers that navigate airplanes. Like Klionsky and Stein, he continues to live in the area. “My father owned the Binghamton Kosher Market,” Zendle told organizers. “When I was in high school in the ‘60s, I made a video of my Dad in the new location of the butcher shop, which had its grand opening on Conklin Avenue. I am delighted that the video will be shown at the Intersisterhood event – it’s truly a historical document now, and I bet some audience members will recognize some of those who attended the shop’s grand opening! I also remember very well the many Jewish merchants and the stores that flourished at the time.”

Sall-Stearns Fine Men’s Clothing and Tailoring dates back to 1929, and is currently owned by Sall, who will be part of the program through a video interview. “Ron will share the fascinating story of this family-owned fine men’s haberdashery store,” organizers said, “and will detail what the store was like through the years and how it continues to be an important part of Binghamton’s retail scene.”

Coordinating the evening’s program are representatives from each of the three tem-



A large crowd attended the 2022 Sisterhood event.

ple sponsors sponsoring the event: Dora Polachek and Eileen Miller from Beth David; Marsha Luks and Anne (Cookie) Schaeffer from Temple Concord; and Barbara Zelter from Temple Israel. “Last year’s Intersisterhood event,” say organizers, “was the first time since the beginning of Covid where we were able to gather in person. and the turnout was tremendous. A good time was had by all, as Robert Rogers and David Sperber entertained us with their Jewish-inflected parodies of memorable Broadway show tunes from the past.”

Organizers added, “The event covered all bases – conviviality, delicious refreshments,

as well as door prizes for the lucky raffle ticket winners. This year’s Intersisterhood promises to be equally enjoyable, as we focus on Jewish merchants in the Binghamton area in what we consider Binghamton’s heyday in the ‘50s and ‘60s.

“This is a unique program,” organizers said, “and we promise that it will be highly interactive, with audience members encouraged to add their recollections of the Jewish-owned stores they frequented, or have fond memories of. We look forward to having long-time residents, as well as newer members of the community, join us in what promises to be a memorable event!”

## We Remember You 2023



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



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

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# Jewish online resources

By Reporter staff

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

◆ The Lower East Side Jewish Conservancy will hold the virtual talk “Irving Berlin – one of America’s most prolific songwriters” on Thursday, March 30, from 7-8:15 pm. Paul M. Kaplan, author of “Irving Berlin: From Penniless Immigrant to America’s Songwriter” will discuss Berlin’s life and work. There is a sliding scale cost to attend. For more information or to register, visit [www.nycjewishtours.org/event-log/irving-berlin](http://www.nycjewishtours.org/event-log/irving-berlin).

◆ The Lower East Side Jewish Conservancy will hold the virtual talk “The New York Settlement House and The Transformation of America” with urban historian Justin Ferate on Tuesday, April 18, from 7-8:45 pm. Ferate will discuss how settlement houses can into being and their effect on the community. There is a sliding scale cost to attend. For more information or to register, visit [www.nycjewishtours.org/event-log/](http://www.nycjewishtours.org/event-log/)

settlement-houses-zoom-talk.

◆ The Jewish Telegraphic Agency will hold several “Israel at 75: Where We Go from Here” events, including “U.S. Jews & Israel” on Wednesday, March 15, at noon; “The evolution of Israeli cuisine” on Wednesday, May 3, at noon; “Parched no more? How Israel is turning lemons into lemonade” on Tuesday, May 16, at noon; and “It’s getting crowded in here” on Tuesday, May 23, at noon. For more information or to register, visit [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdE13nLm\\_ZjOD-TyaDso08i20BTKQB19Ee2pPRMP7Y-d5YICRA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdE13nLm_ZjOD-TyaDso08i20BTKQB19Ee2pPRMP7Y-d5YICRA/viewform).

◆ The Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks-Herentstein Center for Values and Leadership at Yeshiva University will hold the virtual program “Haggadah Insights from R. Jonathan Sacks” with Dr. Erica Brown and Dr. Shira Weiss on Tuesday, March 28, from 8-9 pm. To register, visit <https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=tA7HBCaPB0iZ-NOAuiSZq0G24318MG6tjGHWu0RT3B-pUQ0U3VFU5MDVJQjFNWTFJNUdD-MEE00DIRUy4u>.

See “Resources” on page 15

➔ Visit us on the web at [www.thereportergroup.org](http://www.thereportergroup.org)

# Purim celebrated at Beth David and Temple Israel



Two dozen Temple Israel congregants—mostly live, a few via Zoom—enjoyed a participatory Purim megillah recitation with Rabbi Geoffrey Brown on March 6. Shown are some of those who took part in the reading.



L-r: Aaron Alweis, Judy Silber, Rabbi Moshe Shmaryahu, Bob Kutz, Maria Kutz and Brian Tuberman (with his back to the camera) enjoyed hamantaschen after the evening megillah reading at Beth David Synagogue. (Photo by Cathy Velenchik)



L-r: Cathy Velenchik dressed as a pirate while her husband Chaim Joy sported a Hawaiian lei for Purim at Beth David synagogue. (Photo by Dora Polachek)



Rabbi Moshe Shmaryahu (right) held the megillah as he and Rabbi Zev Silber talked while enjoying hamantaschen at Beth David. (Photo by Cathy Velenchik)



L-r: Natalie Weiss Pachter dressed as a pirate queen and Gina Santiago dressed as Wednesday Adams for Purim at Beth David. (Photo by Cathy Velenchik)



At left: Zoey Kaplan showed off her Purim grogger at Beth David. (Photo by Cathy Velenchik)



The informal costume contest at Temple Israel was won by a pair of intergalactic travelers. Hamantaschen were served as refreshments.



At right, l-r: Rabbi Zev Silber and Gabbai Aaron Alweis prepared for the reading of the megillah at Beth David Synagogue. (Photo by Cathy Velenchik)



L-r: Stacey Silber, Natalie Weiss Pachter, Gina Santiago, Joshua Witte and Charlotte Shults waited for the beginning of the Purim seudah at Beth David synagogue. (Photo by Cathy Velenchik)

*Happy Passover*  
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# On the Jewish food scene

## Matzah brei: sweet or savory?

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

I was shocked! Seriously, I had difficulty absorbing what I was hearing. Even a year later, it still makes me shake my head. This shock occurred when I turned the TV to the Food Network and saw that Molly Yeh's show was on. She was talking about matzah brei (AKA fried matzah) and what she said stunned me. (For those who are unfamiliar with Yeh, she has a Jewish mother and a Chinese father, and her dishes often utilize elements of both cultures.) She noted that while she normally preferred savory to sweet, in the case of matzah brei, she went with sweet. Well, excuse me, but sweet is the *only* type of matzah brei there is.

However, the idea that matzah brei could be savory – as much as I like vegetables, matzah and veggies just don't go together – was not the only shocking part of the show. You may be thinking, "What could be more shocking than savory matzah brei?" To soften the matzah, Yeh used cold water. Seriously, cold water? That made no sense. My mother always filled the tea kettle and used boiling water

to soften the matzah. How could cold water possibly give you the same results?

After recovering a bit from my shock, I decided that I needed more input on the issue. That meant learning what real people (as opposed to TV or online cooks) thought about these two issues, so I turned to Facebook. There I posted the questions: Savory or sweet? Hot or cold? The answers were an interesting mix. On the subject of savory vs. sweet: some preferred savory, some preferred sweet and some ate both. The big surprise was that *no one* else used boiling water to soften their matzah. Some used cold water while others used warm from the tap. I'm not sure why my mother decided the water needed to be boiled first (yes, she let it come to a full boil), but that was the tradition in my household, so I will probably continue to do so in my mother's honor.

Looking at recipes online to expand on my friends' comments, I noticed many descriptions of matzah brei called it a breakfast food. What? That also made no

sense because, to me, it's a great, quick evening meal. I don't think we ever ate it for breakfast. Maybe that's because the way my mom made it, the eggs didn't stand out. This was not a dish of eggs and matzah, but rather a cooked product whose outstanding feature was the warm matzah, kind of like a Passover bread pudding. As a child, I sprinkled cinnamon sugar on mine; now that I don't use sugar as a sweetener, I either sprinkle plain cinnamon on it, or pour maple syrup on it. In the past few years, I've added the cinnamon to the matzah and eggs before I cook them to get even more cinnamon taste.

Will I be making savory matzah brei this year? Absolutely not! I'll save my veggies for salads and other side dishes during the holiday. The fact that matzah brei is sweet is what makes it a great treat, different from regular meals of a protein, starch and vegetable. So, do me a favor and call your savory matzah dishes something other than matzah brei. Matzah brei is sweet!

## Tastings: Passover treats

By Rabbi Rachel Esserman

Every Passover, food manufacturers create new kosher-for-Passover products. That's good news for consumers looking for more interesting choices during the holiday. Some products are so good, you'll want to eat them all year-round.

◆ Gefen Sliced Pickled Red Beets

Pickled beets may not sound like a treat, but I like beets and love pickles. It's embarrassing to admit, but I ate the whole 16 ounce jar in one sitting. The nutritional facts suggest seven servings per jar, but the beets served as the vegetable for my dinner. I'd only planned to have part of the jar, but ended up going back and finishing what was left.

The beets are sweet with just enough pickling so as not to overwhelm the beet flavor. Rather than the soggy texture of some jarred beets, these were crisp, with a firm and chewy texture. The ingredients are simple: just beets, sugar, acetic acid and salt. The best news? I have another jar sitting in my cupboard to eat during the holiday.

◆ Manischewitz Mehadrin Dark Chocolate Coconut Patties

A character in a comic strip I like once noted that no one wants to eat the coconut candies in a box of mixed chocolate candies. Well, that character is wrong: some of us love coconut fillings, especially with dark chocolate. This Manischewitz version is one of the best I've ever had. The coconut patty is completely surrounded by chocolate and is so rich that just one is very satisfying. That doesn't mean you won't be



New kosher-for-Passover products.

tempted to eat a second, though, because they are that good.

I was going to suggest these would make a perfect hostess/host gift when visiting someone during the holiday. The only problem will be parting with the gift. So, I suggest getting one for a gift and one for yourself. Oh, and they are pareve so you can have them after a meat meal (that is, if you don't find yourself nibbling on them before dinner). If you like coconut candy, you'll love these.

◆ Heaven & Earth Grain Free Tortilla Chips

Chips – any kind of chips – are a very popular American food. But there's a problem if you don't eat corn on Passover: the only chips available are potato chips. Not that there is anything wrong with potato chips, but they don't generally have the same crispy crunch as corn chips.

Now you can have grain-free tortilla chips made with cassava flour to replace your corn chips. This gluten-free alternative comes in three flavors: sea salt, sweet BBQ and chili lime. I tried the BBQ, which had a nice light barbecue flavor. The chips are definitely crunchy, although the barbecue taste disappeared before I finished chewing. The basic chip taste was also fine, though, so that wasn't a problem. Unlike some chips, these are not too salty. They are an excellent replacement for corn chips because the crunch is definitely a satisfying bite.

◆ Tuscanini Sparkling Sicilian Lemonade

I don't normally think of carbonation and lemonade, but the combination works well in the Tuscanini version. The carbonation is light: it's like a sparkling wine, rather than soda. The lemonade is sweet, but not too sweet; the lemon flavor still manages to shine through. It comes in 9.3 fluid ounce bottles, which serve one person. This is a good replacement for soda at the seder table since it feels like a fancy treat, although anyone watching their sugar intake should note that each bottle contains 28 grams of added sugar.

# PASSOVER GREETINGS

May you and your family have a joyous Pesach

Terri Bennett

HAPPY PASSOVER

Shari & Rob Neuberger

HAPPY PASSOVER

לחיים

Next year may we all be free!

From Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell and Family

from Bob Tomanek

May you and your family have a joyous Pesach

Rabbi Zev & Judy Silber

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

Marilyn Aigen

Happy Passover!

Rhona & Richard Esserman

חג כשר ושמח

BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY & KOSHER PASSOVER

Susan and Ben Kasper

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

Jean & Lew Hecht and Family

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

Passover Greetings

from Linda & Dennis Robi and Family

HAPPY PASSOVER

Ann C. Brillant

# Chabad to hold community seder – seder in a box, *shmurah* matzah available

◆ Passover seder

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

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

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

For more information and reservations, e-mail [aslonim@Jewishbu.com](mailto:aslonim@Jewishbu.com) or call the Chabad office at 797-0015.

◆ Seder in a Box

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

The subsidized cost of the Seder in a Box is \$36 or \$54 (depending on amount of meals included).

Community members who wish to assist in this effort can help with delivery, underwrite a box or two, and/ or can help with the cooking of the food and packaging of the boxes. To offer assistance call Rabbi Aaron Slonim or Rivky Slonim at 797-0015. Checks earmarked for this

purpose may be sent to Chabad 420 Murray Hill Rd., Vestal.

◆ *Shmura*h Matzah available

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

## Hillel Academy to hold community seder on April 5

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

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

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

For addition information, contact Joy Yarkoni at [frontoffice@hillelacademyofbc.org](mailto:frontoffice@hillelacademyofbc.org).

## Passover: free *haggadot* to download

By Reporter staff

Some people use the same haggadah every year and find comfort in those pages stained with food and wine. Others look for new works to challenge themselves and stimulate new ways to think about Passover. Neither decision is wrong: what people want and need from the holiday can be different. In the past, if someone sought a new haggadah, they had to go to a bookstore or order through an online site. However, there are now *haggadot* available to download and print. Below are some of those

works to explore. Since the pages can be printed, they offer people the opportunity to use them as is, or to mix and match from different sites.

◆ For the widest choice of *haggadot*, visit [www.haggadot.com/clip-search](http://www.haggadot.com/clip-search). The site offers more than 45 different potential works for your holiday table. There are ones focusing on specific topics, for example, the Hunger Haggadah, the HIAS Haggadah, the JQ International GLBT Haggadah and one “Honoring The People Of Ukraine.” For those See “*Haggadot*” on page 12

# PASSOVER GREETINGS

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



Hon. Hollie S. Levine

HAPPY PASSOVER



Next year may we all be free!  
Suzanne Holwitt and family

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Merri & Tony  
Linka, Alexander, Anna,  
Maya, Dora,  
Ari & Max Preus

We wish everyone a sweet & healthy Pesach.



Harold & Toby Kohn and Family

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



Shelley, Mark,  
Josh & Rae Hubal



Francine Stein & Family

Wishing all of our friends a Happy Passover



Arieh Ullmann & Rhonda Levine

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



Neil & Sima Auerbach

כוס מרים



This year, may we all be free!  
Happy Passover

Rebecca Kahn

Passover Blessings



-Kathy Brown Advertising Representative

Have a Joyous Passover



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

Rabbi Rachel Esserman

# Post-Passover seder Shabbat dinner: Make it light and easy

By Ethel G. Hofman

(JNS) – The Passover seders fall mid-week this year: the first one on Wednesday, April 5, and the second on Thursday, April 6. Most of us go out of our way to prepare substantial festive meals for a substantial number of guests. But after all that (coupled with the preparation involved and dish-cleaning afterward), I'm looking to follow these feasts with a Friday-night Shabbat dinner that's a bit lighter than usual.

Skip the usual soup and stick with the two proteins: fish and meat. Each may become a year-round favorite.

In a treasured paperback cookbook, held together with a rubber band, I found a recipe for Piquant Meatballs. It came from an "almost-ancient" Jewish cookbook (published in 1956) called "Love and Knishes" by Sara Kasdan. It was my standby for casual suppers with friends when the kids were safely tucked up in bed. Adapted slightly for the holiday, it's a no-fuss, tasty dish.

To make matters quicker, make the meatballs as part of the larger pre-Passover cooking frenzy and stick in the freezer. The same goes for the slaw. The macarons can also be prepared ahead of time and stored in a tight-lidded container, though they are fresher the day of. The salmon fillets can be pan-seared an hour or so before needed.

Even though it is the second day of the holiday, food preparation for Shabbat is allowed as per the laws of *yom tov*, but check with a rabbi.

## Crunchy Cucumber Slaw (Pareve)

Serves 6

Cook's tips:

- ◆ Shredded broccoli is available in the supermarket vegetable section
- ◆ Red onion may be thinly sliced on a mandolin; a kitchen utensil made up of a flat surface fitted with a sharp blade.

½ cup apple-cider vinegar  
¼ cup water  
¼ cup sugar  
½ tsp. salt  
2 cucumbers, peeled and sliced (about ¼ inch thick)  
1½ cups shredded broccoli  
½ red onion, thinly sliced  
1 to 2 Tbsp. snipped fresh dill, or 1 to 2 tsp. dried

In a small bowl, combine the vinegar, water, sugar and salt. Stir to dissolve sugar. Set aside.

In a medium bowl, place the cucumbers, broccoli and onion. Pour the vinegar mixture over, stirring to coat evenly. Chill for at least 30 minutes.

Drain off any liquid.  
Sprinkle with dill and serve.

## Seared Salmon Steaks (Pareve)

Serves 4

Cook's tips:

- ◆ Recipe may be doubled.
- ◆ Salmon steaks or cod may be substituted for fillets.

◆ If the fish is not descaled, use a knife to gently scrape off the scales.

◆ For those who prefer not to use heat, fish can be prepared ahead of time and served cold or at room temperature.

4 Tbsp. pareve margarine, softened  
1 Tbsp. lemon juice  
4 salmon fillets, skin on, 6 oz. each, 1-inch thick

1 Tbsp. potato starch or matzah meal (either works fine, though matzah meal makes more of a crunch)

1½ tsp. mixed-seasoning blend (look for Lieber's, Pereg, etc.)

3 Tbsp. vegetable oil  
In a small bowl, blend the lemon juice into the margarine. Set aside.

With a paper towel, pat the salmon on both sides to dry completely. In a shallow dish, combine the potato starch or matzah meal and seasoning. Dust the salmon on both sides with the mixture.

Heat the oil in a large heavy, nonstick skillet over medium heat until the oil is shimmering, not smoking. If a drop of water sizzles when dropped, the oil is ready.

Place the salmon fillets in skillet, skin-side down. Press down with a wide spatula for 10 seconds to prevent curling. Sear for 5 to 6 minutes until salmon appears 80 percent to 90 percent opaque. The top won't be done.

Flip over with a spatula. Add the margarine mixture stirring around the salmon until it melts. Cook for 1 to 2 minutes longer.

Flip salmon over, skin-side up. Arrange on a serving platter, drizzle remaining juices over top and serve.



Salmon fillets (Photo by Pixabay)

## Piquant Meatballs (Meat)

Serves 6-8

Cook's tip: A mixture of turkey, chicken and beef may be used.

1½ lbs. ground beef  
1 egg, lightly beaten  
3 Tbsp. matzah meal  
1 bottle (12-oz.) chili sauce  
6 oz. grape jelly  
Juice of 1 medium lemon

Combine the beef, egg and matzah meal. Shape into balls the size of a walnut (about



Meatballs (Photo by Ethel G. Hofman)

1½ inches in diameter). Set aside.

In a large pot, mix the chili sauce, grape jelly and lemon juice over medium heat until melted. Add the meatballs, cover and simmer 30 minutes. Uncover and cook 5 minutes longer. Stir often to avoid sticking.

Serve with the slaw.

## Chocolate Macarons (Pareve)

Makes 24 sandwiches

3 egg whites  
1 cup sugar  
½ cup finely ground almonds  
¼ tsp. vanilla extract

1 cup dark pareve chocolate chips, melted and cooled to room temperature

About cup Israeli dark-chocolate spread, pareve and kosher for Passover

Preheat oven to 350°F. Line two cookie sheets with aluminum foil. Spray with non-stick cooking spray with flour. Set aside.

Place the egg whites in a medium bowl and whisk until stiff. Beat in the sugar gradually, about 1/3 cup at a time. The mixture should be glossy and peak softly.

Fold in the almonds, vanilla extract and melted chocolate, mixing until no white streaks remain.

Drop by the teaspoonful onto the prepared cookie sheets. Bake in preheated oven for 12 to 15 minutes. Macarons will have a firm crust and be soft in the center. Let cool slightly on baking sheet, then transfer to a wire rack. They will firm up in a few minutes.

When completely cooled, sandwich together with the Israeli dark-chocolate spread.

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



Chocolate macarons (Photo by Pixabay)

## Haggadot... Continued from page 11

with a sense of humor, there is the Comedy Seder and the Golden Girl Haggadah. Others include the Coloring Book Haggadah, the Heroes Haggadah, the Women's Haggadah and the Secular Haggadah.

◆ Those looking for a traditional haggadah will find one on Chabad's site at [www.chabad.org/holidays/passover/pesach\\_cdo/aid/4354402/jewish/HebrewEnglish-Haggadah.htm](http://www.chabad.org/holidays/passover/pesach_cdo/aid/4354402/jewish/HebrewEnglish-Haggadah.htm).

◆ The Jewish Federation of North America created its own haggadah, which can be found at <https://cdn.fedweb.org/fed-69/2/JFNA-Haggadah.pdf>.

◆ The haggadah "A True Feast of Freedom: Celebrating 100 Years of the Abayudaya" can be found at [www.cantors.org/haggadah](http://www.cantors.org/haggadah).

◆ American Jewish World Service offers its own take on the haggadah at <https://ajws.org/who-we-are/resources/holiday-resources/passover/global-justice-haggadah/>.

◆ The Mezuzah Store offers its own 31-page haggadah at <https://mezuzahstore.com/pages/free-passover-haggadah-downloadable>.

◆ Cha Ching Queen offers several short haggadot to choose from at <https://chachingqueen.com/short-passover-seders-free-online-pesach-haggadahs/>.

◆ Jewish Boston offers its "The Wandering Is Over Haggadah" at [www.jewishboston.com/read/the-wandering-is-over-haggadah/](http://www.jewishboston.com/read/the-wandering-is-over-haggadah/).

◆ JewBelong asks people to sign up at <https://get.jewbelong.com/haggadah-just-printcopies/> to receive a copy of a short, non-traditional haggadah in their e-mail.

◆ The kid-friendly Kveller haggadah can be purchased, but a free download will be sent for those who sign up at [www.kveller.com/haggadah/](http://www.kveller.com/haggadah/).

◆ The Jewish Grandparents Network offers the "Dayenu Seder" at <https://jewishgrandparentsnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/JGN-Ten-Minute-Dayenu-Seder-4-2-2020.pdf>.

## Passover Greetings from these Health Care Professionals

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## Pederson... Continued from page 2

gambling money and trash talk belittlement of Pham and former teammates – in a fantasy football league. Public opinion praised Pederson for retaining his dignity and termed Pham's actions bizarre. MLB suspended Pham for three games.

Like his Giants manager Gabe Kapler, a fellow Jew and Team Israel veteran, Pederson possesses a charismatic idiosyncrasy. Before games, Pederson walks around the ballpark barefoot. And Pederson created a national buzz when first donning his now iconic white pearls during a September 29, 2022, game. Attracted by the pearls, Pederson points out that they are real, not costume jewelry knockoffs. Cultural commentator Evelyn Frick finds larger meaning in Pederson's pearls: "[a] piece of jewelry which is often associated with 1950s-era housewives and thus femininity... ultimately pushes gender boundaries in an extraordinary way."

Although Hall of Fame slugger Reggie Jackson remains Mr. October, Pederson is now Joctober, an appellation saluting his post-season clutch hitting. Pederson has

launched 12 playoff home runs, stepping up in decisive situations. He is one of the few players in baseball history to win World Series championships in consecutive years with different teams (Dodgers, 2020; Braves, 2021). Pederson is at his best on the big stage.

The son of a Jewish mother and Gentile father, Pederson is a strong proponent of Jewish baseball. He played for Team Israel in 2013 in the World Baseball classic and is doing so again this year despite the intrusion on Dodger spring training. With the abstentions of Max Fried and Alex Bregman, Pederson will be the best and best-known player on Team Israel. Committed to the team, Pederson recruited other Jewish major leaguers to play for Team Israel.

To be continued.

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

# Pew: Americans view Jews, Protestants, Catholics more favorably than Muslims, Mormons

By Menachem Wecker

(JNS) – A new survey released by Pew Research Center on March 15 contains positive news for American Jews and certain, but not all, other faith groups stateside.

Among the 42 percent of non-Jewish Americans who expressed favorable-unfavorable opinions about Jews, 34 percent were very or somewhat favorable, while 7 percent were unfavorable. That positive differential – 27 points – was the largest of any faith group in the survey.

Among non-Catholics, 26 percent were very or somewhat favorable and 21 percent were unfavorable toward Catholics (5 points), while more Americans who aren't Muslim, atheist or Mormon saw those groups as more unfavorable than favorable.

A total of 17 percent of non-Muslims saw Muslims favorably, compared to 22 percent unfavorably (a -5 differential), 17 percent of non-atheists saw atheism at least somewhat favorably compared to 25 percent unfavorably (-9 differential) and just 14 percent of non-Mormons had favorable views of members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, compared to 26 percent unfavorable (-12 percent differential).

"This survey confirms what we have found repeatedly over the past decade, which is that on the whole, Jews are among the most positively regarded religious groups in America," Alan Cooperman, director of religion research at Pew Research Center, told JNS. "Overwhelmingly, Americans express either favorable or neutral feelings toward Jews, and relatively few – about 6 percent in the latest survey – say they view Jews unfavorably."

No matter how Pew has posed the question about attitudes toward U.S. religious groups over the years, "Jews have topped the list or been tied at the top of the list with a few other groups," such as Catholics and mainline Protestants, "as the most positively viewed overall," he said.

The data does not mean that the United States is nearly free of antisemitism. Other sorts of studies show increasing numbers of antisemitic incidents, as well as hate crimes broadly, in the United States in recent years, according to Cooperman. "In our 2020 survey of U.S. Jews, which came in the wake of violent attacks on Jews at synagogues in Pittsburgh and Poway, CA, we found that 75 percent of Jewish Americans thought there was more antisemitism in America than there had been five years earlier, and a slight majority (53 percent) of Jewish Americans said in the 2020 survey that they, personally, felt less safe as a Jewish person in America than they had five years earlier," he told JNS.

The two findings do not contradict one another, according to Cooperman. "Both things can be true at the same time – that, on the whole, Jews are well-regarded by their fellow citizens in the United States, and that antisemitic incidents are rising. In fact, when we asked Jewish Americans in 2020 for their thoughts on why antisemitism was rising, relatively few said they thought it was solely because the number of antisemites in the U.S. public had risen. Many more cited a changed atmosphere," he said.

The new Pew analysis is based on a survey of 10,588 U.S. adults, which was conducted between September 13-18, 2022. (The margin of error is plus or minus 1.5 percentage points, according to Pew.)

"Some survey respondents may find it strange or difficult to be asked to rate an entire group of people," noted Pew, which is why many respondents gave neutral answers. "The patterns are affected in part by the size of the groups asked about since people tend to rate their own religious group positively," according to the report.

More Jews than others rated their own group positively. Some 81 percent of Jews were at least somewhat favorable to Jews (a 79-point increase over the 2 percent who were unfavorable). The differential was 78 points for Mormons

(80 percent positive, 3 percent negative; some numbers are rounded), 70 for atheists (72 percent favorable, 2 percent unfavorable) and 62 for Catholics (66 percent positive, 4 percent negative).

"Jews make up such a small portion of the U.S. population – about 2 percent – that excluding their own views makes little difference in overall public opinion toward Jews," reported Pew. Indeed, the overall U.S. numbers were 35 percent favorable and 6 percent unfavorable about Jews.

Cooperman told JNS that the breakdown of the overall numbers was 14 percent very favorable, 21 percent somewhat favorable, 43 percent neutral ("neither favorable nor unfavorable"), 4 percent somewhat unfavorable and 2 percent very unfavorable with respect to Jews.

"This is the first time we have asked the question this way, so the figures are not directly comparable to the 'feeling thermometer' ratings we have collected in the past, and it's not possible to say whether the latest numbers are higher, lower or about the same as in the past," he said. "However, the overall pattern is similar to what we found with the 'feeling thermometer' question, which we asked three times over the past decade."

Those who know a Jewish person were twice as likely as those who did not to report positive views of Jews: 42 percent compared to 21 percent. Among non-Jews who view Jews negatively, about the same percentage know (6 percent) and don't know (7 percent) a Jew.

The Pew data also showed that Jews were the only group in the study to "universally receive net positive ratings from all other groups." Some 45 percent of born-again or evangelical Protestants have positive views of Jews (6 percent are unfavorable). And Jews were the only religious group to get a net positive rating from atheists (+13 percentage points).

"The survey did not include enough interviews with Muslim Americans to accurately measure their views toward Jews or any other group," stated Pew.

Americans with unfavorable views of Jews tend to have the same about Muslims, but those with unfavorable views of Muslims do not necessarily have the same about Jews, according to Pew. Just 4 percent of U.S. adults have unfavorable views of both Jews and Muslims. A minuscule 2 percent had unfavorable views of Jews but not Muslims, while 18 percent had unfavorable views of Muslims, but not Jews.

Pew added: "Both Republicans and Democrats tend to view Jews favorably. About four-in-10 Republicans say they see Jews positively (38 percent), as do one-third of Democrats (33 percent). Identical shares view them negatively (6 percent each)."

## Artist depicts disarmingly beautiful Holocaust art

By JNS staff

(JNS) – At first blush, the recent, photorealistic paintings of Los Angeles-based Jewish artist Robert Russell look inviting, almost sweet. A lamb turns its head to look back over its shoulder in one, and in another, a crouching dog looks to the right, wide-eyed.

But all is not well in these enormous pictures. In the works, which went on view March 9 at Anat Ebgi Gallery (<https://anatebgi.com/exhibitions/robert-russell-2/>) in Los Angeles, Russell drew inspiration from photos in auction catalogs of Allach porcelain figures. Henrich Himmler founded the company, based near Munich, in 1935. When it was short on employees during the war, the Nazis forced Jewish prisoners at the Dachau concentration camp to make the figurines.

"Until they were liberated in 1945, these prisoners, living in unimaginable circumstances, created figurines of such things as puppies, sheep, rabbits and perfect Aryan children," according to the gallery.

"Russell places these subjects against vacant horizonless

backdrops; the result is compositions that are hauntingly still and breathless," it added. "On the surface, the beautiful imagery provides viewers with the opportunity for quiet reflection, while the reality of their origin turns thoughts to the nature of evil."

As a Jewish artist, Russell said he wanted to "reclaim" the images and to "paint them vastly larger than life, exposing them as the monstrous creations they really were."



Robert Russell Lamb Model 107, 2022. (Photo by Anat Ebgi Gallery, Los Angeles)

*Passover Greetings from these Healthcare Professionals* 



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**THE REPORTER**  
Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton



## Weekly Parasha

Vayikra, Leviticus 1:1-5:26

# When the political leader sins

RABBI ZEV SILBER, BETH DAVID SYNAGOGUE

This portion opens the third book of the Torah, known by the same name, Vayikra. In English, the book is called Leviticus and the ancient talmudic name is Torat Kohanim, the procedures of the priests. Both these names are an accurate description of its contents, as most of the book deals with the operation of the tabernacle in desert and the Holy Temple in Jerusalem, which was the domain of the priests and the tribe of Levi.

The main purpose of the tabernacle was to have a place where God communicated with the Jewish people through Moses and Aaron. This was also the main purpose of the Temple, which was designed for people to increase their level of spirituality and offer a place

for them to communicate with God.

Our modern-day synagogues have the same purpose. The Temple, however, also had the purpose of being the only place where sacrifices could be offered, which were designed for the same reason – getting closer to God. The procedures for sacrifices and human behavior in the Temple occupies the majority of this book.

Interestingly, the book and portion opens with voluntary sacrifices and, later in the book, we find the descriptions of communal sacrifices. Sacrifices brought as atonement for sins are generally limited to a sin committed by mistake, not as a request for forgiveness for one who sins on purpose. The one who rebels and sins on purpose cannot yet begin

approaching God. He is too far removed. He must repent and start showing allegiance to God. He must demonstrate that he truly has changed his entire personality. He is not ready to come closer to God. No sacrifice can change that until he changes himself.

The procedures for the sacrifice brought the individual in case of accidental sin is the fourth offering mentioned in the case of sin. The first, at the beginning of chapter four is the case of a kohen, high priest, who sins; the second is when the Sanhedrin, the high court, errs in judgment; and the third is when the nasi, the political leader, sins.

I often like to point out nuances in the text of the Torah, **See “Sins” on page 15**

## Congregational Notes

### Beth David Synagogue

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

### Temple Israel

Orientation: Conservative  
Rabbi: Geoffrey Brown  
Address: 4737 Deerfield Pl., Vestal, NY 13850  
Phone: 723-7461 and 231-3746  
Office hours: Mon.-Thurs., 8:30 am-3:30 pm; Fri., 8 am-3 pm  
E-mail: titammy@stny.twcbb.com  
Website: www.templeisraelvestal.org  
Service schedule: Tues., 5:30 pm; Fri., 5:30 pm; Sat., 9:30 am

On Fridays and Tuesdays at 5:30 pm, services will be led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown via Zoom and in-person (masks are required).

On Saturday, March 25, Shacharit services will be held at 9:30 am via Zoom and in-person (masks are required). The Torah portion is Leviticus 1:1-5:26 and the haftarah is Isaiah 43:21-44:23. At 8:45 pm, there will be Havdalah services via Zoom.

On Wednesday, March 29, Torah study will be held from 4-5 pm on Zoom.

Temple office hours: Monday, March 27, from 11 am-1 pm. The office will be closed Tuesday March 28, and, for Passover, Thursday-Friday, April 6-7, and Wednesday-Thursday, April 12 and 13.

On Saturday, April 1, at 9:30 am, Shacharit services will be held via Zoom and in-person (masks are required). The Torah portion is Leviticus 6:1-8:36 and the haftarah is Malachi 3:4-24. At 8:45 pm, there will be Havdalah services via Zoom.

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

There will be no Hebrew school Wednesday, April 5, or Sunday, April 9.

Passover services will be held on Thursday, April 6, at 9:30 am and on Thursday, April 13, at 9:30 with Yizkor.

### Temple Beth-El of Ithaca

Affiliation: United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism  
Rabbi: Rachel Safman  
Rabbi Emeritus: Scott L. Glass  
Address: 402 North Tioga St. (the corner of Court and Tioga streets), Ithaca, NY 14850-4292  
Phone: 273-5775  
E-mail: rabbi-safman@tbeithaca.org, secretary@tbeithaca.org  
Website: www.tbeithaca.org

Presidents: David Weiner and Linda Aigen  
Sisterhood President: Gail Zussman  
Director of Education: Rabbi Suzanne Brody  
Services: Fri. 8 pm; Sat. 10 am, unless otherwise announced. Weekday morning minyan 7:30 am (9 am on Sun. and legal holidays).

Religious School/Education: September-May: Classes meet on Sunday, 9 am-12:30 pm and Wednesday, 3:45-5:45 pm. The Midrashah (eighth grade and high school) classes will meet at times designated by their respective teachers. Adult Ed.: Numerous weekly courses, several semester-long courses and a variety of mini-courses and lectures are offered throughout the year. Call the temple office for more details.

For upcoming services and events on Zoom, visit [www.tinyurl.com/HappeningAtTBE](http://www.tinyurl.com/HappeningAtTBE).

### Norwich Jewish Center

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

### Synagogues limit face-to-face gatherings

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

### Rohr Chabad Center

Affiliation: Chabad-Lubavitch  
Rabbi Aaron and Rivkah Slonim, Directors  
E-mail: aslonim@binghamton.edu  
rslonim@chabadofbinghamton.com  
Address: 420 Murray Hill Rd., Vestal, NY 13850  
Phone: 797-0015, Fax: 797-0095  
Website: www.Chabadofbinghamton.com  
Rabbi Zalman and Rochel Chein, Education  
E-mail: zchein@Jewishbu.com, rchein@Jewishbu.com  
Rabbi Levi and Hadasa Slonim, Downtown and Development  
Chabad Downtown Center: 60 Henry St., Binghamton  
E-mail: lslonim@Jewishbu.com, hslonim@Jewishbu.com  
Rabbi Yisroel and Goldie Ohana, Programming  
E-mail: yohana@Jewishbu.com, gohana@Jewishbu.com  
Regular service times: Daily 7:30 am, Friday evening 6 pm, Shabbat morning 9:30 am, Maariv and Havdalah one hour after candle-lighting time, Sundays 9:30 am.  
To join the mailing list, for up-to-date information on adult education offerings or to arrange for a private tutorial, for details concerning the Judaica shop and resource center, or for assistance through the Piaker Free Loan Society or Raff Maasim Tovim Foundation, call Chabad's office at 797-0015.

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

### Congregation Tikkun v'Or

Affiliation: Union for Reform Judaism  
Address: PO Box 3981, Ithaca, NY 14852; 2550 Triphammer Rd. (corner of Triphammer and Burdick Hill), Lansing, NY  
Phone: 607-256-1471  
Website: www.tikkunvor.org  
E-mail: info@tikkunvor.org

Rabbi: Shifrah Tobacman, rabbishifrah@tikkunvor.org  
Presidents: Sue Merkel and Laurie Willick, presidents\_22@tikkunvor.org  
Education Director/Administrative Coordinator: Naomi Wilensky  
Bnai Mitzvah Coordinator: Michael Margolin

Services: All services currently on Zoom. E-mail info@tikkunvor.org for the times and links. Contemplative morning services every Tuesday from 8:30-9:30 am. Saturday mornings, Gan Shabbat and other special services at least once a month. Call for the weekly schedule.  
Jewish Learning Experiences (JLE) for second through seventh grade classes meet on Sunday mornings. Sixth and seventh grades also meet on Wednesday afternoons. Family programs for kindergarten and first grade held monthly.  
Adult Education: Offered regularly throughout the year. Check the website for details.

Services: All services currently on Zoom. E-mail info@tikkunvor.org for the times and links. Contemplative morning services every Tuesday from 8:30-9:30 am. Saturday mornings, Gan Shabbat and other special services at least once a month. Call for the weekly schedule.

### Penn-York Jewish Community

President-Treasurer-Secretary: Harvey Chernosky, 570-265-3869  
B'nai B'rith: William H. Seigel Lodge  
Purpose: To promote Jewish identity through religious, cultural, educational and social activities in the Southern Tier of New York and the Northern Tier of Pennsylvania, including Waverly, NY; Sayre, Athens and Towanda, PA, and surrounding communities.

### Temple Beth El of Oneonta

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

Friday, March 24, light candles before..... 7:02 pm  
Shabbat ends Saturday, March 25 ..... 8:03 pm  
Friday, March 31, light candles before..... 7:10 pm  
Shabbat ends Saturday, April 1 ..... 8:11 pm  
Wednesday, April 5, light candles before ..... 7:15 pm  
Thursday, April 6, light candles after ..... 8:16 pm  
Friday, April 7, light candles before..... 7:17 pm  
Shabbat ends Saturday, April 8 ..... 8:19 pm

### Temple Concord

Affiliation: Union for Reform Judaism  
Rabbi: Barbara Goldman-Wartell  
Address: 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905  
Office hours: Tues.-Fri., 10 am-2 pm  
Phone: 723-7355  
Fax: 723-0785  
Office e-mail: TempleConcordbinghamton@gmail.com  
Website: www.templeconcord.com  
Regular service times: Fri., 7:30 pm; Sat., 10:35 am, when religious school is in session.  
Hebrew school: Hebrew school meets at 4:15 pm and 5:15 pm on Tues. and Thurs. during the school year unless otherwise noted.

Some services and programs are online only.  
Friday, March 24: At 7:30 pm, Shabbat service with Eve Berman and Robin Hazen. Masks are optional for those attending in person. Join via Zoom at <https://bit.ly/3hRmW2Y>, meeting ID 869 9699 8146 and passcode 826330, or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/templeconcord/](http://www.facebook.com/templeconcord/).

Saturday, March 25: At 9 am, Shabbat school; 9:15 am, Torah study led by Allen Alt and Suzanne Holwitt (join via Zoom at <http://bit.ly/3XDnVRE>, meeting ID 825 1226 2831 and passcode 743892); and 10:35 am, Shabbat family service.

Sunday, March 26: At 7 pm, the Temple Concord Foundation's membership meeting on Zoom. For more information, contact the synagogue office.

Wednesday, March 29: At 10:30 am, TC Book Club: "Concealed Memoir of a Jewish Iranian Daughter Caught Between the Chador and America" by Esther Amini on Zoom or in the library. For information about the Morning Book Club at Temple Concord, contact Merri Pell-Preus at [merrypell.preus@gmail.com](mailto:merrypell.preus@gmail.com). To join via Zoom, visit <https://bit.ly/3CXVd9b>, meeting ID 881 6469 4206 and passcode 653272.

Friday, March 31: At 7:30 pm, Shabbat service with Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell. Masks are optional for those attending in person. Join via Zoom at <https://bit.ly/3hRmW2Y>, meeting ID 869 9699 8146 and passcode 826330, or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/templeconcord/](http://www.facebook.com/templeconcord/).

Saturday, April 1: At 9 am, Shabbat school; 9:15 am, Torah study (join via Zoom at <http://bit.ly/3XDnVRE>, meeting ID 825 1226 2831 and passcode 743892); and 10:35 am, Shabbat School leads family service, followed by a potluck lunch.

Sunday, April 2: From 10 am-2 pm, Sisterhood rummage sale in the basement. Shoppers are asked to use the Oak Street entrance. Masks are optional, but encouraged.

Tuesday, April 4-Saturday, April 15, Hebrew and Shabbat School will be closed for Passover/spring break.

### Temple Brith Sholom

Affiliation: Unaffiliated  
Address: P.O. Box 572, 117 Madison St., Cortland, NY 13045  
Phone: 607-756-7181  
President: Carol Levine, 315-696-5744  
Cemetery Committee: 315-696-5744  
Website: [templebrithsholomcortland.org](http://templebrithsholomcortland.org)  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Temple-Brith-Sholom-114006981962930/>  
Service leaders: Lay leadership  
Shabbat services: Either Friday evening at 7:30 pm or Saturday at 10 am from Rosh Hashanah to Shavuot. Holiday services are also held. Check the Facebook page or weekly e-mail for upcoming services. Contact the president to get on the e-mail list.

Religious School: Students are educated on an individual basis. Temple Brith Sholom is a small equalitarian congregation serving the greater Cortland community. Congregants span the gamut of observance and services are largely dependent on the service leader. The Friday night siddur is "Likrat Shabbat," while the Saturday morning siddur is "Gates of Prayer." The community extends a warm welcome to the Jewish student population of SUNY Cortland, as well as the residents of local adult residences.

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

# Resources . . . . . Continued from page 7

◆ Maven will hold the five-week course “Essential Travel Phrases For Your Trip to Israel” on Wednesdays, April 19-May 17, from 1:30-3 pm. The cost to attend is \$173. No prior knowledge in Hebrew is required. For more information or to register, visit <https://maven.aju.edu/events-classes/program/essential-travel-phrases-for-your-trip-to-israel1>.

◆ The Bender JCC of Greater Washington will hold the following lectures as part of its Biblical Archaeology Forum: “Reconstruction of the (Dead Sea) Temple Scroll” on Wednesday, April 26, at 7 pm; “How to Speak to Kings in Cuneiform (The Amarna Letters)” on Wednesday, May 17, at 7 pm; and “Emperor in Rome, Deity in the Provinces” on Wednesday, June 14, at 8 pm. There is a cost to attend. For more information or to register, visit <https://www.benderjccgw.org/arts-culture-jewish-life/biblical-archaeology-forum/>.

◆ The Temple Emanu-El Streicker Center will hold the following virtual programs: Jewish Dynasties: Edmond Safra “A Banker’s Journey from Aleppo” with Daniel Gross on Tuesday, March 28, at 6:30 pm; Daniel Gordis in conversation with Abigail Pogrebin, “On Fulfilling Israel’s Impossible Dreams” on Wednesday, April 19, at 6:30 pm; “The Devil’s Confession; The Lost Eichmann Tapes” screening and discussion on Thursday, April 20, at 6:30 pm; Chita Rivera in conversation with Nathan Lane on Monday, April 24, at 7 pm (there is a cost of \$36 for this program); and Simon Sebag Montefiore, “A Family History of Humanity” on Tuesday, May 16, at 6:30 pm (a cost of \$36 includes a copy of the book). For more information on these and other program or to register, visit <https://streicker.nyc/>.

◆ Hadassah Magazine will hold the virtual talk “One Book, One Hadassah: ‘Code Name Sapphire’” on Thursday, April 20, from 7-9 pm. Hadassah Magazine Executive Editor Lisa Hostein will interview best-selling author Pam Jenoff about her latest historical fiction book, “Code Name Sapphire.” The event is open to all. To register, visit <https://secure2.convio.net/wzoa/site/Ticketing?view=Tickets&id=111291>.

◆ The Center for Jewish History will hold the hybrid symposium “American Jews and Zionism: Bringing Us Together and Pulling Us Apart” on Sunday, April 30. The cost for those livestreaming is \$5. There will be five sessions: “What is Zionism?” at 10 am; “Zionism Before Statehood: Between Hostility and Advocacy” at 11:15 am; “Zionism After Statehood: The Legacy of 1948” at 12:30 pm; “Zionism Today: Religion and Culture” at 2:30 pm; and “Zionism’s Future: Whither Israel-Diaspora Relations?” at 3:45 pm. For more information or to register, visit <https://cjh.org/zionism/>.

◆ Mazon: A Jewish Response to Hunger has opened a virtual Hunger Museum, [hungermuseum.org](http://hungermuseum.org), that looks at the past 100-plus years of hunger and anti-hunger public policy in the United States. It includes immersive and interactive exhibits about the political, economic and cultural story of the expansion and dismantling of the American social safety net.

◆ The 92nd Street Young Men’s and Young Women’s Hebrew Association will hold the hybrid program “Israel in the Press: Bret Stephens, Ronen Bergman, Anshel Pfeffer, and Lucy Aharish in Conversation with Roni Kuban” on Sunday, Apr 23, at 7:30 pm. The cost to attend is \$18. For more information or to register, visit [www.92ny.org/event/israel-in-the-press](http://www.92ny.org/event/israel-in-the-press).

◆ Holistic Jew will hold the virtual “Kabbalah, Prayer, and Meditation” course on Wednesdays, April 19-May 31, except for May 24, from 8-9:30 pm. The cost to attend is \$180. For more information or to register, visit [www.eventbrite.com/e/kabbalah-prayer-and-meditation-course-tickets-502850769187](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/kabbalah-prayer-and-meditation-course-tickets-502850769187).

◆ The Biblical Archaeology Society will hold its BAS Summer Seminar 2023 at St. Olaf in hybrid form from July 16-22. There is a cost for the event. For a complete listing of lectures, pricing information and more, visit [www.biblicalarchaeology.org/travel-study/bas-summer-seminar-2023-at-st-olaf/](http://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/travel-study/bas-summer-seminar-2023-at-st-olaf/).

◆ HUC Connects will hold a virtual spring session, including the lectures “What’s the Matter With American Democracy?” on Thursday, April 20, at 2 pm; “The Crisis of Democracy and the Attractions of Authoritarianism” on Tuesday, April 25, at 1 pm; “Art and Protest” on Tuesday, May 2, at 2 pm; and “Exploration of the Oxford Annotated Mishnah” on Tuesday, May 9, at 1 pm. For more information or to register, visit <https://huc.edu/public-programs-events/huc-connect-upcoming-events/webinar/>.

◆ Tikvah will hold the online course “Menachem Begin’s Jewish Soul” taught by Daniel Gordis. In six lectures, Gordis will explore the life and legacy of Menachem Begin, from his time as an underground freedom fighter to his premiership of the state of Israel. For more information or to register, visit <https://begin.tikvahfund.org/>.

◆ POLIN: Museum of the History of Polish Jews and Jewish Women’s Archive will hold the virtual course “Women and Resistance in the Warsaw Ghetto” on Tuesdays, April 18-May 16, at noon. Lecture topics include “Warsaw Ghetto Through Women’s Eyes,” “Rachela Auerbach at the Frontline of the Struggle,” “Dorka Goldkorn and other Communists in the Ghetto,” “The Interwar Roots of Military Resistance of Jewish Women in the Ghetto” and “Herstories of Resistance.” For more information or to register, visit <https://polin.pl/en/news/2023/02/24/online-history-course-women-and-resistance-warsaw-ghetto>.

◆ The Jewish Museum for Jewish Heritage will hold two virtual programs commemorating the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising:

1) “The 1943 Warsaw Ghetto Uprising: Resistance and Survival in the Holocaust” on Wednesday, April 19, from 2-3 pm Dr. Zachary Mazur will reflect on the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising as an example of Jewish resistance and action in the face of Nazi oppression during the Holocaust. For more information or to register, visit <https://898a.blackbaudhosting.com/898a/tickets?tab=2&txobjid=61357419-f155-420b-849c-7926088b92a5&ga=2.82763734.1354184269.1678197757-2047842403.1667495158>.

2) “To Paint the Earth” on Thursday, May 4, from 7-8:30 pm. “To Paint the Earth” is the Richard Rodgers’ Award-winning musical that tells the story of the Jewish Underground in the Warsaw Ghetto in 1943. This performance is the first-ever orchestrated concert version of the full musical. <https://898a.blackbaudhosting.com/898a/tickets?tab=2&txobjid=2728c731-b210-44ec-b256-0747bc4b7574&ga=2.148804599.1354184269.1678197757-2047842403.1667495158>.

◆ Maven will host a virtual event featuring “Unorthodox” creator Anna Winger speaking about her new Netflix mini-series “Transatlantic” on Thursday, April 20, from 3-3:45 pm. According to Netflix, the series plot focuses on two Americans who, in 1940, attempt to rescue refugees fleeing Europe during World War II. For more information or to register, visit <https://maven.aju.edu/events-classes/program/netflixs-new-holocaust-series-anna-winger-on-transatlantic>.

◆ The Center for Jewish History will hold the virtual 10-session course “All in the Mishpocheh: Intro to Jewish Genealogy” on Tuesdays, April 18-June 20, from 6-7:15 pm (<https://programs.cjh.org/event/mishpocheh-tuesdays-2023-04>) or Fridays, April 21-June 30, from 10-11:15 am (<https://programs.cjh.org/event/mishpocheh-fridays-2023-04>). Topics will include family trees, online search strategies, immigration, DNA, Holocaust, finding ancestral towns, name changes, obtaining records from other countries and more.

◆ The Yiddish Book Center is offering free streaming of the award-winning documentary film, “Beyle: The Artist and Her Legacy.” The film tells the story of the Yiddish poet, artist and activist Beyle Schaechter-Gottesman. The film explores her influence on contemporary Yiddish culture and features recorded oral history interviews in both English and Yiddish with family, friends and colleagues. For more information and to stream the film, visit [www.yiddishbookcenter.org/language-literature-culture/wexler-oral-history-project-films-features-news/wexler-oral-history-project-presents/beyle-artist-and-her-legacy-film](http://www.yiddishbookcenter.org/language-literature-culture/wexler-oral-history-project-films-features-news/wexler-oral-history-project-presents/beyle-artist-and-her-legacy-film).

◆ Maven will hold the virtual talk “The Madwoman in the Rabbi’s Attic: The Tale of Yalta the Shrew” with Pardes Lecturer Gila Fine on Monday, May 22, from 3-3:45. The cost to attend is \$21. Fine will look at the talmudic tale of Yalta through the lens of authors and thinkers such as Aristotle and Aelian, William Shakespeare and William Congreve, Washington Irving, Charles Dickens and more. For more information or to register, visit <https://maven.aju.edu/events-classes/program/the-madwoman-in-the-rabbis-attic-the-tale-of-yalta-the-shrew>.

◆ Maven will hold several Global Jewish Life virtual tours: Majorca on Thursday, April 27 (<https://maven.aju.edu/events-classes/program/tour-global-jewish-life-majorca>); Kyiv, Ukraine, on Thursday, May 11 (<https://maven.aju.edu/events-classes/program/tour-global-jewish-life-kyiv-ukraine>); and Egypt on Thursday, June 8 (<https://maven.aju.edu/events-classes/program/tour-global-jewish-life-egypt>). All tours take place from 3-4 pm and cost \$21.

For additional resources, see previous issues of The Reporter on its website, [www.thereportergroup.org/streams/miscellaneous-features/miscellaneous-features/tag/80309?](http://www.thereportergroup.org/streams/miscellaneous-features/miscellaneous-features/tag/80309?)

## Sins . . . . . Continued from page 14

and here we have an instructive example. The Torah states *if* the kohen sins, *if* the court sins, because the kohen and court are all human and they may err. When they do, because of their close relationship to God, they immediately wish to restore their relationship with the divine. As that relationship is restored, incidents of error become fewer and fewer.

When it comes to the nasi, however, the Torah does not say *if* the nasi sins, but rather *asher – when*. The Torah takes it for granted that the nasi will sin, and perhaps over and over again. *When* he sins!

The king, the president, the political leader is constantly trying to please his constituencies. He will make promises he has no intention of keeping; he will act in a way that pleases his political allies and not necessarily do what is just and proper. He will place his career above all else; he will begin believing that he is all powerful and can do no wrong. So he never admits, fully and convincingly, that he is sorry. This idea does get internalized into his being. This attitude guarantees that sin will constantly return: *when* a nasi sins.

The Tosefta on Bava Kamma (7:5) comments on the verse that we have mentioned. “*Asher nasi yechata* – When the prince sins. Happy is the generation when the political leaders sin – and bring a sin offering for their mistakes. Happy is the generation when the leader can say, ‘I’m sorry,’ ‘I made a mistake.’”

When our leaders start doing that, perhaps we will learn to do the same. What a better, safer and more peaceful world will this be!

### Quick Reference Guide to Planned Giving

Use this planned giving quick reference guide to help determine the best strategy for achieving your philanthropic and financial goals.

For further information or assistance, please contact Shelley Hubal at 724-2332 or [director@jfgb.org](mailto:director@jfgb.org)

If Your Goal is to:	Then You Can:	Your Benefits May Include:
Make a quick and easy gift	Simply write a check now or use a credit card	An income tax deduction and immediate charitable impact
Avoid tax on capital gains	Contribute long-term appreciated stock or other securities	A charitable deduction plus no capital gains tax
Defer a gift until after your death	Put a bequest in your will (gifts of cash or a share or the residue of your estate)	Exemption from federal estate tax on donations
Receive guaranteed fixed income that is partially tax-free	Create a charitable gift annuity	Current and future savings on income taxes plus fixed stable payments
Avoid the two-fold taxation on IRA or other employee benefit plans	Name a charity as the beneficiary of the remainder of the retirement assets after your lifetime	Tax relief to your family on inherited assets
Make a large gift with little cost to you	Contribute a life insurance policy you no longer need or purchase a new one and designate a charity as the owner	Current and possible future income tax deductions
Reduce taxable income from IRA Required Minimum Distributions	Make a qualified charitable donation directly from your IRA (after age 70½)	Reducing taxable income



## Judaic Shop

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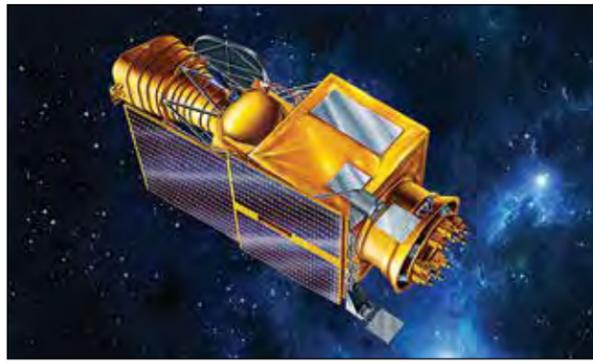
# NASA to launch Israel's first space telescope

By JNS staff

(JNS)—Israel's first space telescope will enter geostationary orbit in 2026, where it will scan the universe for events such as stars colliding or exploding and the impact of giant black holes, the Weizmann Institute of Science announced on February 21.

The Ultraviolet Transient Astronomy Satellite, or ULTRASAT – which will be launched as part of a newly signed partnership between NASA and Israel's Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology – is expected to revolutionize scientists' ability to detect and analyze transient events in the universe such as neutron star mergers and supernova explosions, the institute said, noting it is the premier project of the Israel Space Agency in the ministry and the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot.

According to the agreement, NASA partnered in ULTRASAT and will provide the launch opportunity, Flight Payload Adapter and other launch-related needs for the project. The Israel Space Agency will deliver the completed observatory to the Kennedy Space Center in Florida for the launch. ULTRASAT will cost about \$90



The future Ultraviolet Transient Astronomy Satellite (ULTRASAT). (Photo by The Weizmann Institute of Science)

million to build.

ULTRASAT's unprecedented field of view of 204 square degrees (square degrees are used to measure parts of a sphere) represents a 100-fold leap in the extra-galactic volume accessible to scientists for the discovery of transient sources compared to observatories on Earth, the institute said. Moreover, ULTRASAT will measure ultraviolet light that cannot be measured from Earth, and provide the scientific com-

munity with real-time alerts on transient events.

"The combination of these unique capabilities will allow scientists to observe the universe as never before, shedding light on some basic questions, such as the origin of heavy elements in nature and the impact of giant black holes on their environments. It will enhance research on a wide variety of astronomical subjects, including supernovae, variable and flare stars, active galaxies, the source of

gravitational waves and accretion of stars by massive black holes," the Weizmann Institute said.

Uri Oron, director of the Israel Space Agency, said, "Groundbreaking science calls for cutting-edge technology. The Israel Space Agency is proud of the cooperation with NASA as a direct example of the strong partnership between the agencies and of the Israeli space industry's technological effort involved in the development of the telescope."

Dr. Mark Clampin, director of the Astrophysics Division in the Science Mission Directorate at NASA headquarters in Washington, said, "We are proud to join this partnership, an international effort that will help us better understand the mysteries of the hot, transient universe. ULTRASAT will give the global science community another important capability for making new observations in the nascent field of Time Domain and Multi-Messenger astrophysics programs."

"This is a breakthrough project that places Israel at the forefront of global research," said Prof. Eli Waxman, an astrophysicist at the Weizmann Institute and ULTRASAT's head researcher. "Leading international bodies such as NASA... have joined this Israeli-led project as partners, having recognized its scientific significance. It's a science-driven partnership."

The mission's high scientific profile is expected to strengthen Israel's space industry and status in the international arena thanks to the partnerships that the mission cements with leading agencies and industries in the field.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

### Bill to bar judicial review of ministerial appointments passes first reading in Knesset

A bill barring Israel's Supreme Court from conducting judicial review of ministerial appointments passed its first reading in the Knesset plenum on March 20. The proposed legislation would allow for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to restore Shas Party leader Aryeh Deri to his previous roles in the new government leading the interior and health ministries. Netanyahu was forced to fire Deri on Jan. 22 after the court ruled that Deri's appointment was "unreasonable in the extreme" due to a prior tax fraud conviction. Amendment 16 to Basic Law: The Government prohibits all courts, including the Supreme Court, from ruling on the legality of government ministerial appointments. It was passed by a vote of 63 for and 55 against. More Knesset oversight of ministerial appointments is provided for in the amendment, including the ability to remove a minister from office. Coalition whip Likud MK Ofir Katz presented the proposed amendment. "We believe that the proposal will strengthen the position of the judiciary so that it will focus again on those areas in which it has priority and advantage over the other authorities, and will not restrict the legislative authority," said Katz. The opposition blasted the legislation, with opposition leader Yair Lapid calling it a "happy day for criminals" in a Twitter post. "The law that will allow a convicted criminal (twice) to become a minister passed in the first reading. That's the only thing this government is concerned with – not cost of living, not health, not security – only corruption laws and vested interests," the Yesh Atid Party head wrote. The Supreme Court issued the ruling despite a Knesset amendment passed in December to allow Deri to serve as a minister. The amendment specified that a ban on persons serving as ministers for seven years if convicted of a criminal offense applies only to those serving active jail sentences. Deri was handed a suspended jail sentence as part of a plea bargain on tax fraud last February. The law had been unclear on whether the seven-year ban applied to suspended sentences. Deri, who immigrated to Israel from Morocco, was also dismissed from his role as vice prime minister in the government following the High Court's ruling. "The Supreme Court threw into the trash the votes of 400,000 voters," the Shas Party said in a statement after the decision. Shas Party member Michael Malchieli is currently serving as acting interior minister, while another Shas member, Yoav Ben-Tzur, is serving as acting health minister.

### Jewish student claims victory against University of Leeds

The University of Leeds settled a legal claim brought by sociology graduate Danielle Greyman after her coursework was wrongly failed because it did not blame Israel for the crimes of Hamas against Palestinians. The university agreed to pay Greyman an undis-

closed sum. Greyman was assisted by UK Lawyers for Israel (or UKLFI) Charitable Trust in her appeal and legal claim, in which she was represented by Jonathan D.C. Turner, barrister, and Daniel Berke, solicitor, both directors of UK Lawyers for Israel. "We are very pleased with the settlement and hope that it will serve as a warning to universities and academics not to allow marking to be influenced by the anti-Israel bias which is so prevalent in academia. Ms. Greyman is to be congratulated for standing up to this dogma," Turner said in a statement put out by UKLFI. Greyman chose "State crime and immorality" as an optional module in the final year of her three-year B.A. course in sociology in the 2020/2021 academic year. With her tutors' agreement, Greyman decided to write about the crimes committed against Palestinians by Hamas, and the U.N.'s contribution to these crimes. Her examiners failed her for not discussing supposed crimes committed by Israel and because the essay was too short (even though it met the specified requirement of 5,000 words +/- 10 percent). "The feedback on the essay by the markers also indicated hostility and prejudice against Israel, as did their social media," the UKLFI statement said. Greyman had never failed an assignment before and was on track to receive a class 2.1 Honours Degree. Her coursework had earlier been revised to a passing grade following Greyman's successful internal appeal, and she has been awarded a B.A. degree with Honours in Class 2.1. However, the appeal process and regrading took more than a year, and the university's confirmation of Greyman's entitlement to the degree came too late to enable her to take up a place in a master's degree course at the University of Glasgow.

### Israel ranked fourth happiest country in world

Israel is the fourth happiest country in the world, according to a report produced by the U.N.-affiliated Sustainable Development Solutions Network. Based on Gallup World Poll data, the study leverages six key factors to help explain variation in self-reported levels of happiness across the world: social support, income, health, freedom, generosity and absence of corruption. The report was released on March 20 to mark the International Day of Happiness, which was established when the U.N. General Assembly adopted Resolution 66/281 in June 2012. The report named Finland the happiest country in the world for the sixth consecutive year, followed by Denmark, Iceland, Israel and the Netherlands. This year's Happiness Report found that despite several overlapping crises, most populations around the world continue to be remarkably resilient, with global life satisfaction averages in the COVID-19 years 2020-22 just as high as pre-pandemic. "The happiness movement shows that well-being is not a 'soft' and 'vague' idea but rather focuses on areas of life of critical importance: material conditions, mental and physical wealth, personal virtues and good citizenship," said Prof. Jeffrey D. Sachs, director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University, who worked on the study. "We need to turn this wisdom into practical results to achieve more peace, prosperity, trust, civility – and yes, happiness – in our societies," he added. Afghanistan and Lebanon were the two unhappiest countries in the survey, with average life evaluations more than five points lower (on a scale running from 0 to 10) than in the 10 happiest countries. Rounding out the top 10 countries on the list were Sweden, Norway, Switzerland, Luxembourg and New Zealand. The United States ranked 15<sup>th</sup>, Britain 19<sup>th</sup> and France 21<sup>st</sup>. Israel placed ninth in last year's report.



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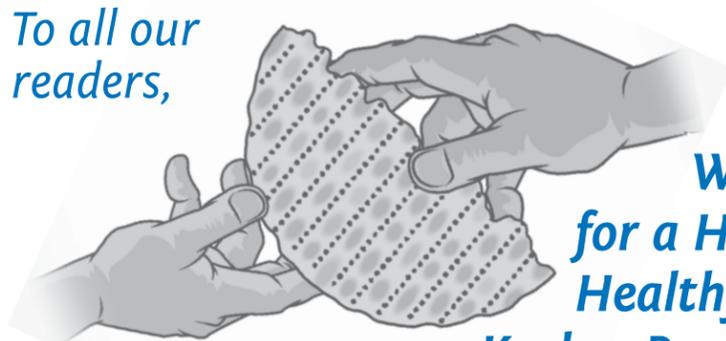
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