

THE REPORTER

Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton

BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK

June 3-16, 2022
Volume LI, Number 11

Federation to hold a Next Generation “Brews and Jews” event on June 16

By Reporter staff

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton will hold a L’Dor v’Dor – Next Generation event on Thursday, June 16, at 6:30 pm, at the Beer Tree Factory at the Oakdale Mall, 511 Reynolds Rd., Johnson City. The cost is \$10 and will include one drink and some vegetarian appetizers. Those interested in attending must make a

reservation by Monday, June 13, by visiting www.jfgb.org. Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Federation, and Rose Shapiro-Rouse are the co-chairwomen for the event.

“I’m very excited we will be holding our first L’Dor v’Dor – Next Generation event,” said Hubal. “Rose and I felt a great way to begin the group would



be a social event. There will be no fund-raising taking place. What we are offering is an opportunity for people to mix and mingle in a fun, vibrant situation. Those in their 20s and 30s are invited to attend, although there is no age limit.”

Hubal added, “In part, the Jewish Federation’s mission is to create a vibrant and

enduring community here in Binghamton. This event aims to connect the next generation of Jewish community members. We are hoping participants will reconnect with old friends, make new connections and come away with a desire to continue their involvement in our Jewish community.”

For more information, contact Hubal at director@jfgb.org or 724-2332.

Federation to hold 2022 Annual Meeting on June 15

By Reporter staff

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton will hold its 2022 Annual Meeting on Wednesday, June 15, at 7 pm. There will be no program, although ice cream sundaes will be served. The event will include the election of the new Board of Directors. The Federation’s Annual Report will be available at the meeting in hard copy. It will also appear on the Federation website, www.jfgb.org, and in

the June 3 issue of *The Reporter*.

“Because of concerns of the increasing cases of COVID, while we hope to hold the meeting in person, we’re aware that we might have to go virtual at the last minute,” said Federation Executive Director Shelley Hubal. “That’s one reason why we are not scheduling a program for the event. Our priority is to keep everyone safe.”

Hubal also noted that community mem-

bers should call her at 222-9026 on the day of the meeting in case there is another COVID surge and the meeting has to go virtual.

Board of Directors

◆ Executive Committee: Suzanne Holwitt, president; Howard Warner, immediate past president; Mark Walker, vice president; Jeffrey Shapiro, treasurer; Lee Schechter, assistant treasurer; Eileen Miller, secretary; Brendan Byrnes, assistant secretary; Marilyn Bell, Campaign chairwoman; Michael

Wright, endowment chairman; and Randy Friedman, community relations chairman.

◆ Board members until 2023: Nancy Dorfman, Mark Epstein, Dennis Foreman and Cathy Velenchik.

◆ Board members until 2024: Sondra Foreman, Charles Gilinsky and Tara Kaminsky

◆ Board members until 2025: Rita Bleier, Steve Gilbert, Jeff Platsky, Josh Shapiro, Rose Shapiro, Susan Walker and Arieh Ullmann.

Federation to hold Active Shooter Training on June 23

By Reporter staff

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton will hold an Active Shooter Training with Captain Christopher Streno of the Vestal Police Department on Thursday, June 23, at 6:30 pm, at Temple Israel, 4737 Deerfield Place, Vestal. The training is a follow-up to the Security Seminar the Federation held on May 12. To register for the event, contact the Federation at 724-

2332 or director@jfgb.org, or visit www.jfgb.org.

“Sadly, we are living in an era that requires all people in this country to be vigilant of their surroundings,” said Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Federation. “No matter how many security measures we have in place, if we wish to be a welcoming



community, we risk having a terror attack. The important thing is to know what to do if, God forbid, that does happen. We hope and pray never to have to put what we learn into practice, but it is clear that the best thing we can do is be prepared.”

Streno, who spoke at the Security Seminar, has more than 30 years of expe-

rience working in law enforcement. His skills include hostage negotiation, crime prevention and community policing. He will outline steps people should take if they are in an active shooter situation.

“What could be more important than learning how to save your life or the life of someone else? Please make it a priority to join us for this important training,” Hubal added. “Help us to protect each other.”

TC-TI Adult Education to present Bill Simons on June 19

The joint Temple Concord and Temple Israel Adult Education Committee will hold a brunch featuring a presentation by Professor Bill Simons on “The Legacy of Hank Greenberg, Baseball’s Pre-eminent Jewish Hero” at Temple Concord on Sunday, June 19, at 10 am. There will be a \$7 charge at the door for the brunch, which will be followed by the talk. Reservations should be made by Thursday, June 16, by contacting the synagogue at 723-7355 or templeconcordaa@gmail.com. Walk-ins will also be welcomed. The program will be available on Zoom, at <https://bit.ly/3vWNAhA>, meeting ID 850 9986 1626 and passcode 623610.

Simons’ lecture will examine Hank Greenberg’s 1934 decision not to play during a play-off game that was held on Rosh Hashanah within the context of the national and international zeitgeist of the time. A PowerPoint presentation will employ photographs and other supporting materials. In addition to the 1934 High Holiday decision, the lecture will discuss the full

arc of Greenberg’s Hall of Fame baseball career, military service, role in facilitating the racial integration of baseball, evolving relationship to Judaism and his legacy, as well as a comparison to Sandy Koufax and contemporary Jewish major leaguers. Questions and comments will follow the formal presentation.

“Despite a career abbreviated by four-and-one-half years of World War II military service, Greenberg, a 6’4” first baseman-outfielder, ranks as one baseball’s greatest sluggers and stands with pitcher Sandy Koufax, a fellow Hall of Famer, atop the list of the game’s most iconic Jewish players,” said organizers of the event. “In the equivalent of nine-and-one-half seasons, Greenberg hit 331 home runs, accumulated 1,274 runs batted in, averaged .313, four times led the American League in both home runs and runs batted in, won two



Professor Bill Simons (Photo by Armand La Potin)

Most Valuable Player Awards and led his team to four pennants. Until 1998, no right-handed batter exceeded Greenberg’s 1938 season total of 58 home runs. His .605 career slugging percentage is exceeded by only five other players.”

Organizers added, “In contrast to Koufax, whose 1961-1966 pitching peak coincided with a period of general acceptance of Jews in America, Greenberg’s 1933-1940 prime seasons took place amidst resurgent domestic antisemitism, fueled by victims of the Great Depression who blamed hard times on the Jews, and isolationists who believed that Jews sought to provoke a war between Nazi Germany and the United States. Moreover, Greenberg played for the Tigers, who shared a Detroit home with Henry Ford and Father Charles Coughlin, arguably America’s two most notorious

antisemites. Automobile manufacturer Ford republished ‘The Protocols of the Elders of Zion,’ a venerable forgery purporting to document a Jewish conspiracy to control international finance and world government. Coughlin, a Catholic priest with a national radio show, railed against Jewish dominance of the American economy, manipulation of politics and support of Communism. During the 1934 baseball season, public attention to Greenberg’s Jewishness peaked both amongst co-religionists and Gentile Americans.

“The Tigers entered September 1934 battling for the American League pennant for the first time since 1909, and the 23-year-old Greenberg, the team’s top slugger, was crucial to Detroit’s chances,” organizers continued. “With the automobile industry devastated by the Great Depression, baseball provided Detroit with one of its few strong bonds of social cohesion. When Greenberg indicated that he might not play in See “Simons” on page 11

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Musical weekend

Temple Concord’s scholar-in-residence weekend June 10-12 will feature Kol B’Seder in concert.Page 3

Interview with a poet

Poet Susan Comminos discusses her debut collection of poetry, “Out of Nowhere.”Page 8

Shavuot

Shavuot recipes from the Shetland Islands; a look at some reasons for eating dairy on the holiday.Page 8

Special Sections

Book Review..... 4
Dine Out..... 5
Federation Annual Report.....6-7
Classifieds 12

History
Revisited

Daniel Burros, American Nazi

BILL SIMONS

There are newspaper front pages that you never forget. In my lifetime, the headlines following the assassination of JFK and the 9/11 attack remain indelible. So, too, does page 1 of the Sunday, October 31, 1965, issue of *The New York Times*. Articles concerning the final days of the New York City mayoral campaign, escalating American involvement in Vietnam, the road to Rhodesian independence and machinations to replace ailing Indonesian President Sukarno commanded attention. As substantive as several of the preceding items were, the reason this issue of the *Times*, originally read by my 16-year-old self, remains burned in consciousness is an article at the bottom of page 1 about Daniel Burros by reporter McCandlish Phillips.

Burros, previously national secretary of the American Nazi Party, was the Grand Dragon – highest-ranking leader – of the New York Ku Klux Klan. A photo of smiling, bespectacled Burros, hooded and robbed in full Klan regalia accompanied the text. A native of Queens, Burros was Jewish, the fact that invested Phillips' story with significance.

Building upon the original newspaper coverage by Phillips and his associates for their 1967 book "One More Victim: The Life and Times of an American-Jewish Nazi," A. M. Rosenthal and Arthur Gelb, then, respectively, assistant managing editor and metropolitan editor of the *Times*, drilled deeply into school, military, legal and employment records to illuminate the trajectory that took Burros from *bris* to stalwart of hate-groups primed for assault on Jews and Blacks.

Growing up in the Richmond Hills section of Queens, Burros was the only child of older, working-class parents – George and Esther – at a time when certain streets still posed the threat of a pummeling to a Jewish boy. An overprotective mother walked Burros to school. Early on, he impressed elders by his devotion to Jewish studies and mastery of his bar mitzvah portion at Talmud Torah, an Orthodox synagogue. A bright youth, Burros, possessed of an impressive 154 IQ, generally received excellent grades at John Adams High School.

But there were warnings signs. Drawing attention to himself, Burros, in and out of school, expressed reactionary arguments at odds with the liberal milieu around him. Tirades morphed into fistfights. Burros drew incessantly,

fixated on soldiers, specifically those of Hitler's Nazi Germany. He came to view Judaism as overly intellectual, lacking physicality and an impediment to his aspiration to assume the mantle of warrior.

Rejected by West Point, Corporal Burros recorded 17 jumps as a paratrooper in the 187th Army Airborne Combat Team. Repelled by his assignment to Little Rock, AR, to defend Black students integrating Central High School in 1957, Burros exhibited an aberrant extremism that led to a less than honorable discharge.

Burros found purpose, excitement and belonging in a series of fringe hate groups. Even within these factions, however, his incessant talk of Jewish and Black perversion and inferiority, the unfinished task of genocide and the greatness of Hitler created unease. With his brownish-blond hair buzz cut, visceral antisemitism and espousal of Odinism, a religion of war and Nordic supremacy, Burros kept his Jewish antecedents secret from comrades.

Between his stint in the American Nazi Party barracks in Arlington, VA, and his appointment as head of the New York Klan, there were other far-right affiliations. Distribution of incendiary literature and fantastical plans for the coming purification war provided common ballast to these groups. Counter-protests and physical disruptions of civil rights and other liberal events lead to Burros' five arrests, brief jail time and citation by the House Un-American Activities Committee.

Burros' skills as a draftsman and printer brought intermittent employment. Until managing a relationship with a woman in the last months of his life, he frequented prostitutes.

Courting discovery and destruction, Burros frequently visited his parents in their Richmond Hills neighborhood. On the streets, Orthodox men, bearded and attired traditionally, greeted Burros by name.

The virulently antisemitic Burros finally acted upon his rage to kill the enemy. On October 31, 1965, he murdered the Jew he most hated. After 28 years of obscurity, Burros made the front page of America's pre-eminent newspaper for a second time. The Monday, November 1, 1965, issue of the *Times* announced Burros' apparent suicide, later confirmed by the coroner, by self-inflicted chest and head

wounds from a .32 caliber revolver.

Burros had purchased the *Times* on the morning of Sunday, October 31, read McCandlish Phillips' article outing him as a Jew, screamed in rage, violently kicked open the door of the room domiciling firearms in the Reading, PA, Klan safe house where he was staying and fatally confronted his self-loathing.

Phillips, a Christian fundamentalist, acknowledged no more than "a vague sense of sadness" over Burros' suicide and felt no personal responsibility for the tragedy. Phillips described the shooting as "the G-d of Israel acting in judgment." Heading a crack investigative team, Phillips' remarkable research on Burros encompassed diverse and often obscure documents as well as interviews, the final one with Burros himself.

When Burros confessed his desperation and threatened to kill Phillips if he revealed Burros' Jewish identity, Phillips exhorted him to accept Jesus as his personal savior. The *Times* took Burros' death threats against Phillips seriously, providing the reporter with round-the-clock bodyguards.

As with Burros, enigma and isolation obscure Phillips. Phillips abandoned journalism for Pentecostal missionary work eight years after Burros' suicide. The childless Phillips condemned premarital sex, yet never married. His 2013 *Times* obituary recounted Phillips' devotion into an invisible "threadbare existence, preaching the Gospel on the Columbia University campus." A reader perceived veiled antisemitism in Phillips' religious writings.

Daniel Burros and Los Angeles Dodgers ace pitcher Sandy Koufax, both born to Jewish parents in the outer boroughs of New York City during the Great Depression, rocked the news cycle in October 1965. Koufax affirmed his Jewish identity by refusing to pitch game 1 of the World Series on Wednesday, October 6, 1965, because it fell on Yom Kippur. Twenty-five days later, Burros killed himself, shamed that he had been publicly identified as a Jew.

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.

Opinion

In My Own Words

More than one million gone

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

More than one million Americans have died of COVID during the pandemic. More lives have been lost to this disease than the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, the two world wars, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan combined. The death toll is greater than the death toll of the 1918 influenza outbreak. Hundreds of people continue to die every day. According to the *Binghamton Press and Sun-Bulletin*, one in every 332 Americans have died of COVID. This death toll doesn't include those who were so weakened by COVID that they later succumbed to different diseases that they would have otherwise survived.

Don't personally know anyone who has died of COVID? Consider yourself blessed because I know too many. One died before we understood the nature of the disease and how it spread. One died last year because he had diabetes and refused to get vaccinated. I didn't know the people who died in my mother's nursing home, but their deaths were reported to me in weekly e-mails. By some stroke of luck, my mother survived her bout, but I can tell how it affected her mentally: her memory is way worse than it was before she became sick.

And then there are those whom I knew in my chaplaincy work. During the early part of the pandemic, non-essential staff were placed on furlough in order to protect the

individuals, many of whom have health issues. When I returned, I was taken aside to be quietly told of the death of someone I'd known for 20 years. Then other names followed and those didn't include the individuals whom COVID had left physically and mentally devastated. It was, and is, painful to watch. And some of them died during their next illness because their bodies no longer had the resilience to survive.

As we return to more normal lives, even more people I know are getting COVID. Fortunately, most of them have been vaccinated and boosted, and generally had mild cases. But there is no guarantee with this illness, any more than there is with the flu, which according to the CDC, caused 20,000 deaths during the 2019-20 flu season. But vaccines and boosters help. Wearing masks helps: yes, I know some people are "so over" masks, but anything we can do to prevent a death is important.

That, by the way, is not a political statement, but a religious one. Judaism commands us to do almost everything we can to save a life. That includes medical treatments. And that's what a vaccine is, only we take it before we are sick to prevent an illness. Just as we put a fence around the Torah to keep from breaking a commandment, so, too, should we put a fence to prevent a potentially deadly

disease from killing us or those we love.

As a rabbi and chaplain, I have been crushed by all the death that has occurred over the past few years. I try to celebrate the good in our world, but it gets harder and harder when I think of those who are no longer alive to enjoy the beautiful spring weather or complain about the late snow storm we had in April. If each of those one million people is mourned by two people, then there are two million people suffering from loss. If each of those one million people is mourned by three people, then there are three million people in mourning. And the count continues because the number of lives touched is limitless.

If you are not vaccinated and don't have a medical reason, please get the vaccine. If you've been vaccinated and have not yet had a booster, please get a booster shot. If you are eligible for a second booster and have not yet had one, please consider doing so. I don't want to cry for one more person lost to COVID. I don't want *anyone* to have to cry for one more loved one gone. And I am willing to wear a mask forever if it means I can save even one life because the words of the ancient rabbis resonate with me: whoever saves one life, it is as if they have saved the whole world.



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER BINGHAMTON

Suzanne Holwitt, President
Shelley Hubal, Executive Director

607-724-2332 ~ www.jfgeb.org

The Reporter Editorial Committee

Rachel Coker, chairwoman
Rebecca Goldstein Kahn, Ben Kasper,
Toby Kohn, Richard Lewis,
Robert Neuberger, Dora Polachek

HOW TO REACH THE REPORTER

Mail ~ The Reporter, 500 Clubhouse Rd. Vestal, NY 13850

E-mail ~ TReporter@aol.com

Phone ~ 607-724-2360 or 800-779-7896

Extension#/Department ~ 1. Advertising 2. Business Office

3. Art Department 4. Circulation 6. Editorial/News

THE REPORTER
Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton
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.

DEADLINE

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

Executive Editor Rabbi Rachel Esserman

Layout Editor Diana Sochor

Advertising Kathy Brown

Bookkeeper Kathy Brown

Production Associate Julie Weber

Proofreaders
Barbara Bank, Fran Ferentinos,
Rebecca Goldstein Kahn, Merri Pell-Preus,
Ilene Pinsker, Heidi Thirer

ajpa
AMERICAN JEWISH
PRESS ASSOCIATION

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

www.thereporter.org

TC to hold scholar-in-residence event with Kol B'Seder on June 10-12

Temple Concord will hold a musical Solis-Cohen Scholar-in-Residence weekend with Cantor Jeff Klepper and Rabbi Dan Frelander of Kol B'Seder from Friday-Sunday, June 10-12. The event is sponsored by Temple Concord's Solis-Cohen Scholar-in-Residence Fund. All programs will be offered in person and online via zoom and the Temple Concord Facebook page.

"We are looking forward to gathering together in person and online to celebrate Shabbat together with Cantor Klepper and singer performer Sue Horowitz on Friday night, study and sing with Rabbi Frelander and Cantor Klepper on Saturday, enjoy their concert Saturday night and learn from Rabbi Frelander about Jewish communities worldwide on Sunday morning," said organizers of the event.

Klepper and Frelander formed their musical duo, Kol B'Seder, in 1971. "We are honored to be part of their pandemic-extended 50th Anniversary Tour with their concert Saturday night in the social hall," said organizers. "Jeff and Dan have composed some of the most beloved and enduring Jewish songs of the 20th and 21st centuries. We often sing their Shalom Rav, Haporeis Sukkat Shalom, Modeh Ani and Oseh Shalom at our services."

Klepper, assisted by singer-songwriter Sue Horowitz, will be leading Shabbat services on Friday night with Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell. He will also give a sermon in song about "How Contemporary Music has Changed the Sound of the Synagogue." It will feature information

about Debbie Friedman's impact on Kol B'Seder and other musicians' music. Horowitz recently moved to Ithaca and has produced five CDs of original music. She has toured, and offered programs to congregations and communities using song. To view the service virtually, visit <https://bit.ly/3hRmW2Y>, meeting ID: 869 9699 8146 and passcode 826330.

Frelander and Klepper will lead in Shabbat song and Torah study on June 11 at 9:15 am in person and on Zoom at <https://bit.ly/3CVxM14>, meeting ID 882 9808 7579 and passcode 676707.

Kol B'Seder will perform a concert on June 11 at 7 pm. For more information, see the sidebar to this article below.

Frelander will speak about "Progressive Jewish Communities outside of the United States and Israel" on June 12 as part of Temple Concord's joint adult education brunch series with Temple Israel. "Rabbi Frelander is uniquely qualified to talk about these communities as he was the president of the World Union for Progressive Judaism from 2014-2019," organizers said. The brunch will begin at 10 am at Temple Concord, with the program starting at 10:30 am. The cost is \$7 per person for the brunch. Reservations are due by Thursday, June 9, and can be made by contacting the synagogue at TempleConcordbinghamton@gmail.com or 723-7355. Walk-ins are also welcome. The Zoom link for the event is <https://bit.ly/38f6yYW>, meeting ID 850 9986 1626 and passcode 623610.

The Solis-Cohen Scholar-in-Residence Fund was established at Temple Concord by Ann Rosenthal and her sister, Mary Keller, as a memorial to their parents, J. Solis-Cohen, Jr. and Marion Labe Solis-Cohen of Philadelphia. The purpose of the Solis-Cohen Scholar-in-Residence Fund is to bring speakers and programs to Temple Concord every other year. Donations to the Temple Concord's Solis-Cohen Scholarship-in-Residence Fund are appreciated to ensure that the synagogue can continue to provide adult educational programs.

Kol B'Seder Community Concert at Temple Concord on June 11

Temple Concord will hold a Kol B'Seder in Concert, featuring the musical duo Cantor Jeff Klepper and Rabbi Dan Frelander on Saturday, June 11, at 7 pm. Klepper and Frelander – authors of "Shalom Rav" and "Lo Alecha"

– will sing their greatest hits and comic satires, plus the music of Debbie Friedman with whom they performed more than four decades. The concert is free online, for Temple Concord members and children under 13, and \$10 for adults and \$5 for students in person. To watch the concert on Zoom, visit <https://bit.ly/38f6yYW>. The concert is funded through the Temple Concord Solis-Cohen Scholar-In-Residence Fund as part of a weekend of programs. Contact the synagogue office for concert reservations at 723-7355 or templeconcordaa@gmail.com.

The *Jewish News of Greater Phoenix* called Kol B'Seder, "Perhaps the most famous duo in contemporary Jewish music... often likened to Simon and Garfunkel, the duo is at the forefront of the Jewish rock/folk scene." According to *The Jewish Review*, "Klepper and Frelander compose See "Concert" on page 9

JEWETICA fest in Utica on June 12

JEWETICA, Utica's new Jewish cultural festival, will be held on Sunday, June 12, from noon-8 pm, at the Jewish Community Center, 2310 Oneida St., Utica. Admission is free. There will be games and activities for children, food trucks, cooking demonstrations and rabbis who can answer questions at the "Ask a Rabbi" tent. The event will be held rain or shine.

Headlining the musical acts will be the Isle of Klezbos, who have been called "one of New York's finest klezmer bands." The six female musicians swing with traditional and updated music from eastern European shtetls such as those found in Ukraine and Poland. The Village Voice said, "These women will make you shake your tushies!" Musicians from the local Jewish community will also perform.

Jeffrey Yoskowitz, co-author of "The Gefilte Manifesto" cookbook, will be on hand to demonstrate how to make kosher dill pickles and cheese blintzes. He'll also teach how to make the cheese for the blintzes from scratch. Yoskowitz is also a scholar of historic Jewish foodways and will give a presentation on "Food from the Shtetls."

"Everyone is welcome to this festival to explore Jewish culture and life," said organizers of the event. "As your bubbe (Yiddish for Jewish grandmother) would say, 'If you miss this event, it will be a shanda (a sin)!'"

REPORTER DEADLINES

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

ISSUE	DEADLINE
June 17-30.....	June 8
July 1-14.....	June 22
July 15-28.....	July 6
July 29-August 11.....	July 20

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

PLAY BALL WEEKEND JUNE 10TH-12TH

BRETT BATY BOBBLEHEAD GIVEAWAY

PRESENTED BY: **IBM**

FIRST 1,000 FANS

SATURDAY, JUNE 11TH, 2022

FIRST PITCH 6:35 PM | GATES OPEN 5:35 PM

MR. & MRS. MET APPEARANCE

SUNDAY, JUNE 12TH, 2022

FIRST PITCH 1:05 PM | GATES OPEN 12:05 PM

PHOTO AND AUTOGRAPH OPPORTUNITIES

PLAYERS TAKEOVER WEEKEND
JERSEYS WORN ALL WEEKEND

JUNE 21ST - JUNE 26TH

PRIDE NIGHT JUNE 24TH **VS.** RUMBLE JERSEYS

DOUBLE-A PHILLIES **VS.** DOUBLE-A METS

WHAT IF? NIGHT STUD. MURFIN 2.0 JUNE 25TH

WWW.BINGRP.COM | 607.722.FUNN (3866)

SAME SUE, SAME RESULTS...

SUZANNE "SUE" KRAUSE
NYS Lic. Associate R.E. Broker

(C) 607-760-3366 | SUEKRAUSE@WARRENHOMES.COM
THELAURAMELVILLETEAM.WARRENHOMES.COM
33 FRONT STREET • BINGHAMTON, NY 13905

ERNEST H. PARSONS FUNERAL HOME

Faithfully Serving Broome County Since 1928

PRE-ARRANGEMENTS AND PRE-FUNDING AVAILABLE

Joseph Fritsch
Managing Director

71 Main St., Binghamton, NY 13905
Phone 607-724-1336
Fax 800-948-5844

parsonsfuneral@yahoo.com
www.ParsonsFuneral.com

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

An Evening of Klezmer featuring the highly acclaimed

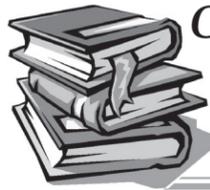
BIG GALUT(E)

June 18, 2022, 7 p.m.
Social hour 6 p.m.
Center for the Arts of Homer
72 S. Main Street, Homer, NY

Produced by
Temple Brith Sholom of Cortland

Supported with a grant from CNY Arts

Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-big-galute-tickets-328227767087>



Off the Shelf

Post-World War II mysteries

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

Reverberations from World War II have continued throughout the decades, but, when novelists deal with these echoes, they often focus on very different aspects. Take, for example, two recent novels: Joss Weiss offers a dystopian version of the United States in the 1950s – with Joseph McCarthy as its president – in “Beat the Devils” (Grand Central Publishing), while Claudia Riess focuses on art thefts that occurred during the war in “Knight Light: An Art History Mystery (Level Best Books), which takes place in contemporary times. Both works are mysteries, the former with a Jewish main character who survived the Holocaust and the latter with non-Jewish characters attempting to discover what happened to a Jewish-owned art gallery during the war.

Morris Baker, the main character in “Beat the Devils,” relives the horror of Holocaust in his waking and sleeping dreams. Desiring to do some good in the world, he became a

detective with the Los Angeles Police Department. When Morris and his Irish partner, Brogan Connolly, are called to investigate a double murder – John Huston, who had been blacklisted and no longer makes films, and the young reporter Walter Cronkite – they find themselves told to back off when agents from the House Un-American Activities Committee Office (also known as Hueys) appear at the house. The Hueys are known not only for kidnapping and torturing those whom they suspect of being communists, but anyone who publicly disagrees with any of McCarthy’s official policies. They also reflect McCarthy’s antisemitism. However, Morris finds himself unable to stop trying to learn the truth about the murders. He soon discovers a conspiracy that not only threatens the United States, but in which he is personally implicated.

“Beat the Devils” is a complex mystery and thriller filled with exciting action. Even

though readers may make some connections before Morris, there are more than enough plot twists to keep them involved. Even better is watching how the author develops Morris’ character. The cynical detective looks to reconcile his past with his present; he also must come to terms with the idea that many people believe their evil actions actually serve the greater good. It’s not clear at the end of the novel whether this is the first in a series, but, if it is, readers will certainly look forward to spending more time with Morris.

While “Beat the Devils” takes place in an alternative reality, the fictional world in “Knight Light” attempts to represent reality, although part of its plot does reflect that of Weiss’ novel. The detectives are Harrison Wheatley, an art history professor, and his wife, Erika Shawn, a magazine art editor, neither of whom are Jewish. Their current focus is on their newborn son. Then a former

student of Harrison’s discovers a letter that could identify someone who looted Jewish art during World War II. Unfortunately, the discovery leads to murder. When Harrison decides the wrong person is being accused of the crime, he travels to Paris to learn more about the looted gallery, which moves the murderers’ focus to his family. It’s then up to Erika, with the help of an Israeli Mossad agent, to discover the truth behind the crime and uncover a conspiracy connected to the looted paintings.

At first, Harrison and Erika’s characters seemed too perfect, but this was the result of not having read the previous two books in the series. Their insecurities and difficulties are soon brought forth, which made them far more interesting characters. The last part of the novel was very exciting, for reasons that can’t be revealed because it would spoil the plot. Mystery lovers may find much to enjoy.



Off the Shelf

Light, fire and fathers

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

I have an eclectic taste in books. Sorry, eclectic was a high school vocabulary word that I fell in love with: it’s just a fancy way of saying I like to read a wide variety of books. Years ago, there was bookstore on Washington Avenue in Endicott. The salesman and I became friendly, and he tried to figure out my taste in books, but finally gave up. It’s not that I read everything, but my concern is less with genre than with whether a particular book sounds interesting. How do I define interesting? Even I can’t give you a firm answer. However, the assorted nonfiction works in this review do have one thing in common: a connection to Judaism.

A new view of creation

I don’t think regular readers of this column will be surprised that the title of Liana Finck’s latest book caught my interest: “Let There Be Light: The Real Story of Her Creation” (Random House). The “Her” in the title is not a typo: In this graphic retelling of the biblical book of Genesis, God is a woman. The black-and-white drawings are relatively simple, but this new version of Genesis was more complex than I expected. What is especially interesting is where Finck’s work remains close to the original text and when it offers a revised version, while never completely departing from the biblical stories.

You could say that Finck has remade God in her own image: her God loves to create, but also suffers from periodic depression. Although God loves Her creation, She finds that men refuse to see Her as anything other than a stern old man with a beard. Men dominated the story, although there is also a delightful version of Lilith, who refused to



A page from “Let There Be Light” by Liana Finck

let the Man (AKA Adam) give her a name because she had already named herself.

After God begins to withdraw Herself from the world, the next stories take a more contemporary tone. For example, Abra(ha)m follows God’s voice, but he leaves his home in order to become an artist and travels to a place that resembles New York City. The city becomes more and more polluted and, by the time Jacob’s story is told, people have to wear helmets to breathe the outside air. Another change occurs in the story of



A page from “Let There Be Light” by Liana Finck

Joseph: when he is thrown down a well, he’s captured by mermen who take him to a kingdom where, similar to the biblical story, he becomes the Sea King’s favorite after interpreting his dreams and helping collect food for the upcoming famine.

It’s possible to read “Let There Be Light” without knowing the biblical stories, but it’s much more fun if you do. My favorite section was the incredibly clever “The Begats (A Rash of Miraculous Births),” which left me puzzled at first and then made me laugh. The sweetest part of the book is the meeting of Leah and Esau, but to say more would spoil the surprise. Finck’s book may seem sacrilegious to some, but I found it thought provoking and intriguing.

Music, war and inspiration

I read and reviewed Matt Friedman’s first three books and was intrigued by the subject matter of his latest work, “Who By Fire: Leonard Cohen in the Sinai” (Spiegel and Grau), which tells of Leonard Cohen’s visit to Israel during the 1973 Yom Kippur War. I can’t say I’m a big fan of Cohen: the work I know best is from his “Songs from a Room” album, which was released in 1969 and contained the “Story of Isaac,” a song that Friedman notes Cohen later stopped singing. It was only in the past few years that I learned about his later, more famous music.

“Who By Fire” features contrasting images: Israeli soldiers fighting and dying in the Yom Kippur War and the self-absorbed Cohen, who was living in Greece at the time and had talked about ending his music career. Friedman shows how the war took Israel by surprise and, for the first time in

the country’s short history, it looked like it might lose. It’s unclear whether Cohen’s visit was to help Israel or if he just wanted to escape from the woman he referred to as his wife (they were not legally married) and their young son. (Even though Friedman has access to Cohen’s notebooks from that time, his notes are often vague and evasive.) However, whatever his personal reasons for traveling to Israel, Cohen’s concerts for the troops became an important symbol for those young Israelis.

Cohen was not a practicing Jew, but, as Friedman makes clear, he never completely rejected Judaism. However, while Cohen played only for the Israelis during his tour, he later claimed that he never took sides in the conflict. This change can also be seen in the lyrics from a song, “Lover, Lover, Lover” that he wrote while he was in Israel: the original version identified with the Israeli soldiers. In the formally released version, those lines were gone, something which turned at least one Israeli, whom Friedman interviewed, against Cohen.

The best parts of “Who By Fire” are the recollections of the Israelis who saw Cohen perform during the war. Cohen and Israeli musicians, who were also on tour, played in airplane hangers, encampments and the desert. The concerts were informal, but seeing Cohen had a great effect on the morale of the Israelis who were familiar with his work. The most moving chapter, “The Story of Isaac,” talks about what Israelis sacrificed for their country during the war and features a real life Isaac who returned from abroad in order to protect Israel. As Friedman notes, if this were fiction, readers would shake their heads with disbelief at the use of a biblical name for someone who risked his life for his country.

Friedman does manage to tie the disparate stories together because it is the myth of Cohen that matters, not the man. Whether he felt solidarity with Israel or he just was escaping from his own life is irrelevant. For Cohen, Israel is where he rediscovered his love of music. For Israelis, Cohen was a sign that the world had not deserted them in their time of need.

Fathers and children in the Talmud

One way to study the Talmud is to search the text for clues about the social reality of the time it was written and compiled. Reading between the lines – for example, how groups of people are defined – increases insight into rabbinic lives and thought. “The Return of the Absent Father: A New Reading of a Chain of Stories from the Babylonian Talmud” by Haim Weiss and Shira Stav (University of Pennsylvania Press) focuses on an aspect of rabbinic life that has rarely been explored: the relationship between fathers (usually rabbis) and their children. See “Fathers” on page 5

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

Federation held Security Seminar



The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, in conjunction with the Broome County Council of Churches, held a security seminar for faith-based organizations on May 12. More than 30 people attended the meeting.



Captain Christopher Streno from the Vestal Police Department spoke at the event about measures to help keep organizations safe.



Pete Owen from the Department of Homeland Security spoke about being prepared for potential attacks.



Members of the audience listened to the presentations.



Representatives from a variety of governmental agencies answered questions once their presentations were finished.

Fathers. Continued from page 4

The authors note that scholars usually focus on the draw of the study house (the desire to study Torah) versus the pull of marital life (including sexual relationships with wives). However, Weiss and Stav show how these same stories can be used to explore the difference between absent fathers and those who remain close to home and supervise their children.

The seven stories featured come from Ketubot 62b-63a of the Babylonian Talmud. It's difficult to discuss the authors' analysis without knowing the particular stories, but they all have common elements. One is that the wives/daughters are usually unnamed and rarely speak. The action focuses on male behavior and decision making. The main exception is in the story of Rabbi Akiva and his wife; however, her name is not given in this version and her father rewards Akiva at the end of the tale with half his wealth, rather than giving it to his daughter, who made Akiva's success possible. Not only did husbands spend years studying without returning home, they rarely interacted with their children – leaving household matters and the raising of those children to their

wives. In these stories, fathers who attended to their children's lives are portrayed as being ineffectual.

Weiss and Stav note these stories contain an idealized version of women who are able to manage without their husbands. The authors call these women "living widows": their husbands are alive, but they might as well not be. In fact, they credit the Babylonian Jewish culture as creating "a class of married monk." Although technically married, the men lived at their study houses for years at a time with no knowledge of what was happening in their homes. As portrayed in a few of these stories, some were away for so long they didn't remember where their houses were located nor recognize their children when they saw them.

"The Return of the Absent Father" contains a great deal of scholarly jargon and uses psychoanalytic theory to explain some of the tales. At times, it feels as if the authors are trying to read too much into the stories, but what they reveal about the multi-level way of understanding these texts should appeal to those interested in the study of the Talmud.



Catering
Extra Parking in Rear
WIFI



EAT BASHA'S

Fresh & Healthy

Lunch Combo \$10 **Delivery through BingBites**

11:00am - 3:00pm

Your Choice of 1 Sandwich (Beef/Chicken Shawarma or Falafel)

1 Side (Salad, French Fries or Rice) Follow us on for up to date information and any drink out of the fridge

3748 Vestal Parkway East, Vestal, NY
607-217-5288 WWW.BASHASGRILL.COM

Hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 11am - 8pm • Closed Sunday and Monday

Annual Campaign 2022

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE!

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

To make your pledge/payment:

- 1) Visit the Federation website at www.jfgb.org/campaign-2022 and click on either "Make 2022 Pledge Now!" or "Pay 2022 Pledge Now!"
- 2) Pledges and payments (checks should be made payable to "Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton") can be mailed to The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, 500 Clubhouse Road, Vestal, NY 13850
- 3) Fill out the form in this ad and mail it to the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, 500 Clubhouse Road, Vestal, NY 13850.

Mail this form to:

**Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton,
500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850**

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Phone number: _____

Amount of pledge: _____





Please support these **THE REPORTER** Dine Out advertisers! Order take out or purchase gift certificates to support them during the pandemic.

Annual Report June 2021 through May 2022 The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton

Mission Statement

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton strives to create a caring, vibrant, enduring community locally, in Israel and worldwide. The Federation uses its assets and contributions to strengthen local Jewish institutions and organizations, to support Jewish people in need, and to educate the people in the Southern Tier about Jewish values and identity.

Message from Leadership

Dear Community Members,

This annual report reflects both the challenges we faced in the last year and our many successes.

Despite the restrictions due to the Coronavirus, Federation remained committed to creating a vibrant Jewish community. We held 14 events over the course of the year. Seven of these events were in person while the rest were conducted virtually. We are proud of the important work we are doing to sustain Jewish culture and education here in the Broome County region!

This year saw many long-time Binghamton residents permanently leaving the area for warmer climates or to be closer to family. This trend will continue as our Jewish community ages and will most likely have an impact on our fund-raising efforts going forward. However, our annual Campaign, led by chair Marilyn Bell, saw an increase in new donors for 2022. We are working hard to fiscally sustain our local institutions and going forward we plan to explore new ways to keep our community vibrant and connected.

Over the last year, the world continued to grapple with a global pandemic, a rise in antisemitism, political upheaval and the war in Ukraine. Now, more than ever before, Federation will be guided by the principal that "All of Israel is responsible for one another - Kol Israel arevim zeh lazeh."

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all of our many donors, volunteers and leaders for their generous and compassionate investment in Federation, and for trusting in the work we do.

L'Shalom,

Shelley Hubal, Executive Director
Suzanne Holwitt, President

Federation Leadership

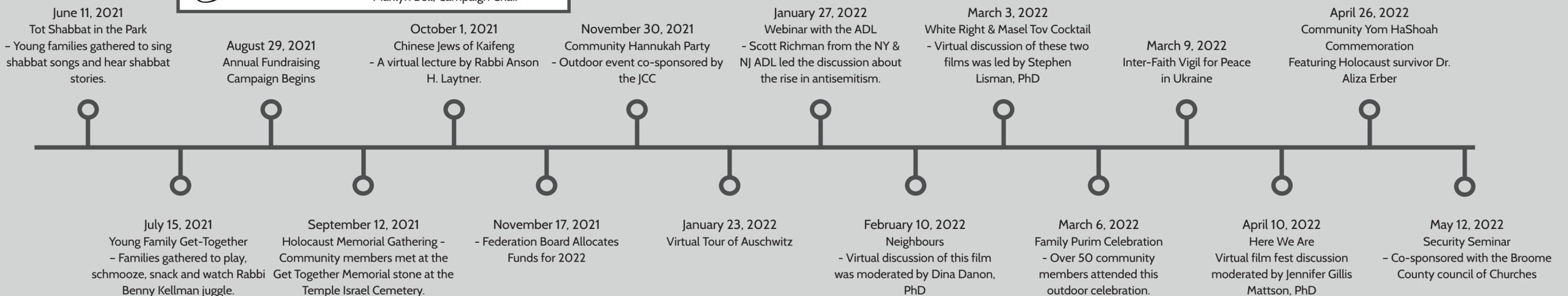
Executive Committee

- Suzanne Holwitt, President
- Howard Warner, Immediate Past President
- Mark Walker, Vice-President
- Jeffrey Shapiro, Treasurer
- Lee Schechter, Assistant Treasurer
- Eileen Miller, Secretary
- Brendan Byrnes, Assistant Secretary
- Marilyn Bell, Campaign Chair
- Michael Wright, Endowment Chair
- Randy Friedman, Community Relations Chair

Board of Directors

- Allan Berk
- Rita Bleier
- Rabbi Geoffrey Brown
- Sheryl Brumer
- Rachel Coker
- Nancy Dorfman
- Mark Epstein
- Dennis Foreman
- Sondra Foreman
- Brian Friedman
- Barbara Gilbert
- Steve Gilbert
- Charles Gilinsky
- Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell
- Rabbi Benny Kellman
- Neisen Luks
- Jeff Platsky
- Rose Shapiro
- Rabbi Moshe Shmaryahu
- Arthur Siegel
- Rabbi Zev Silber
- Rabbi Aaron Slonim
- Arieh A. Ullmann
- Cathy Velenchik
- Susan Walker

Timeline of Events



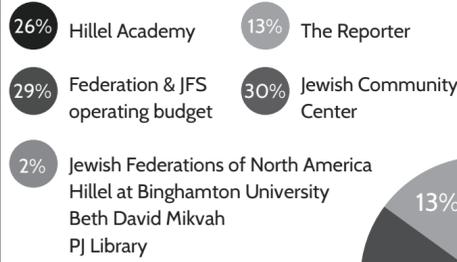
Thank you

for being part of the Federation family. Your gift enables us to keep our Jewish community connected and strong, now and for generations to come.

- Marilyn Bell, Campaign Chair

Federation Supported Organization and Financials

2021 Beneficiary Agencies



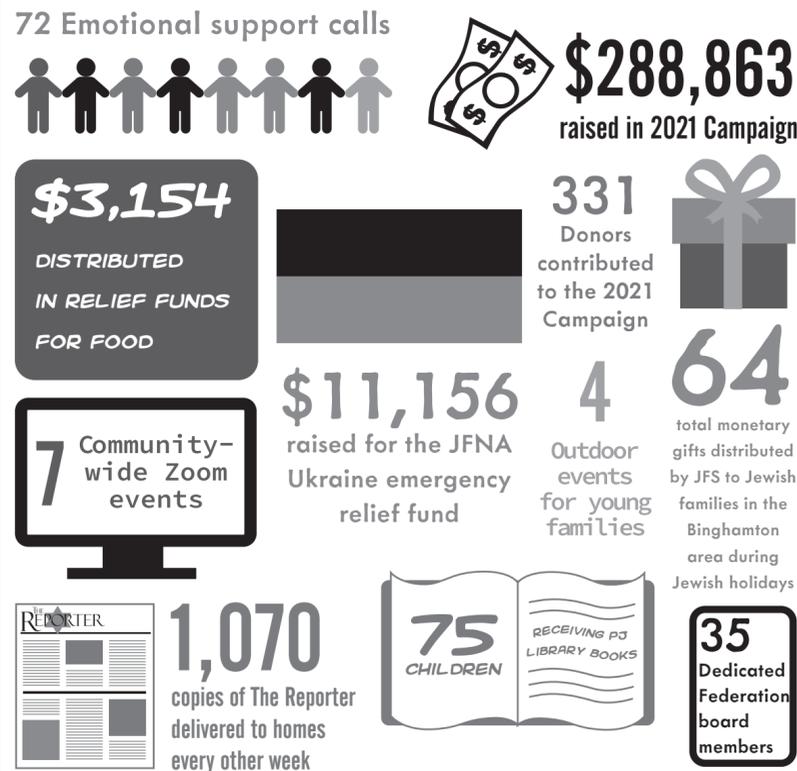
Allocation Distribution

The Federation raises funds and uses its endowment to meet the needs of local Jewish organizations. In addition, as a member of JFNA's Network Communities, we are proud to support social service programs in Israel and the Republic of Georgia. The board of directors oversees the process of allocating funds. In November of 2020, they voted to allocate \$298,349 to eight different organizations.

Endowment Grants

In January of 2022, the Federation Board of Directors voted to distribute a total of \$40,000 in grants from the endowment to three local synagogues and the Rohr Chabad Center at Binghamton University. These unrestricted funds helped to ease budget shortfalls caused by the pandemic.

Federation by Numbers



The Reporter

The Reporter keeps our area informed of Jewish activities, programming and important news (local, national and global). Our staff continues to find ways to remain solvent and relevant during the ongoing struggles of print media. We have created a more robust online presence, and the editorial committee is also working on fund-raising ideas to ensure the paper's sustainability in the years to come. During the pandemic, we kept readers connected with online resources and by promoting virtual programming offered by various Jewish organizations. In 2021, the executive editor of The Reporter, Rabbi Rachel Esserman, won two awards from the American Jewish Press Association and two awards from the Syracuse Press Club. We are grateful for her talent and dedication. We also want to thank Bill Simon for his columns, including one which also won an award from the American Jewish Press Association. The paper is grateful for its loyal readers and generous supporters.

Jewish Family Service

Jewish Family Service delivers essential human services to individuals and families facing challenges to their well-being. Financial assistance is provided within specific guidelines as funding permits. It is through thoughtful listening and compassionate caring that JFS can help people move from instability to a more secure and positive place. With the COVID 19 crisis, JFS has assumed a large role in providing emotional as well as financial assistance amid very difficult times.

JFS would like to thank all of our generous donors.

Summary of JFS support June 2021 - May 31, 2022:

- 64 monetary gifts to Jewish families at the holidays
- \$4,086 distributed in essential emergency relief funds other than food
- 72 emotional support calls
- 50 well check calls
- 61 referrals to food pantries
- 40 referrals to NYSEG for funding support
- 52 housing and rent support referrals
- 10 home care referrals
- 46 mental health referrals
- 27 legal assistance referrals
- 10 employment assistance referrals
- 9 refugee assistance support calls

Annual Campaign

The annual campaign is the core of the Jewish Federation. Our staff and volunteers work hard every year to raise the funds that sustain Jewish life in Binghamton. The 2021 campaign raised \$288,863 from 331 donors. The campaign for 2022 kicked off in August. Due to social distancing restrictions, volunteers made calls and wrote thank you notes from their homes. To date, the campaign for 2022 has \$229,352 in pledges from 334 donors. The drop in campaign dollars in 2022 reflects the changing demographics for the Binghamton Jewish community, with many long-time Binghamton residents leaving the area permanently. While there are fewer dollars, the needs of our community organizations continue to grow. We remain grateful for all who have stepped up to support the local Jewish community.

Federation Staff

- Shelley Hubal, Executive Director
- Jennifer Kakusian, Office Manager
- Rose Shea, Director Jewish Family Service

The Reporter Staff

- Rabbi Rachel Esserman, Executive Editor
- Diana Sochor, Layout Editor
- Kathy Brown, Bookkeeping and Advertising
- Julie Weber, Production Associate

Susan Comninos publishes her first book of poetry

By Rabbi Rachel Esserman

Award-winning poet Susan Comninos, formerly of Endwell, has published her debut collection of poetry, "Out of Nowhere" (Stephen F. Austin University Press). Comninos is a graduate of Cornell University and holds an M.F.A. in creative writing from the University of Michigan. She currently teaches at SUNY Albany and works as a freelance writer. Her poetry awards include the Yehuda Halevi Poetry Contest run by Tablet Magazine (winner 2010), the Dora and Alexander Raynes Poetry Prize (2013 finalist), the VQR Writers' Conference Scholarship in poetry (2016 winner), the Conduit Books' Marystina Santiestevan First Book Prize (2019 finalist), the Cider Press Review Book Award (2019 finalist) and the Cowles Poetry Book Award (2021 longlist finalist). Award-winning poet Marilyn Kallet called the poems in Comninos' book "sassy, provocative, perfectly cut," noting that they will "delight, console and nurture our spirits through troubled times."



Susan Comninos (Photo by Lana Ortiz)

erotic and furious elements that were emerging in my recasting of traditional work. But that was before I knew anything about the Jewish singer-songwriter Leonard Cohen (think: 'Who By Fire' and 'Hallelujah'). He'd done the exact same thing – beautifully, and long before me!" She added that two of her poems in her book are reworkings of the High Holiday prayers: "Avinu Malkeinu" ("Our Father, Our King") and "Ashamnu" ("We Have Trespassed").

In her poetry, Comninos uses languages other than English to emphasize a point. "A poem like 'A Love Poem (for my mother)' uses Yiddish because my mother's family spoke Yiddish," she noted. "She was bilingual as a child. Her parents emigrated respectively from Ukraine and Lithuania. Maybe fled is more accurate. In October 1905, the city then known as Yekaterinoslav (now Dnipro), was wracked by three anti-Jewish pogroms shortly before my grandmother left it for the U.S. (Although I feel awful about what's currently happening in Ukraine, I also suspect that it's not widely known how Ukraine historically treated its Jewish population. The Ukrainian-Christian filmmaker Sergei Loznitsa, in his recent documentary, 'Babi Yar: Context,' challenges Ukraine to come to terms with its own role in past atrocities: in this case, the 1941 slaughter of some 33,000 Jews outside of Kyiv.)"

In an e-mail interview, Comninos spoke about growing up Jewish in Endwell during the 1970s and '80s. "It was pretty homogenous," she said. "A majority of the kids I went to school with – if I remember correctly – were Italian-American. Their families traced their roots to Sicily and Naples, so the surrounding culture was predominantly Catholic. I don't recall much diversity. Certainly, that led to my feeling different. (As I mentioned in a biographical note accompanying my poem 'Imagining Abraham,' when it first appeared in Rattle magazine, I only ever knew of one other Jewish kid in my grade within the Union-Endicott school system. But I always loved – and still love – being Jewish.)"

She noted the influence of Jewish poetry on her work, but it was only when she wrote for *The Reporter* that she realized that prayers were also poetry. "It wasn't until my late 20s, when *The Reporter's* then-Editor Marc Goldberg assigned me to write about the poetic nature of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur liturgy, that it occurred to me to think of the prayers as poems," she said. "After that, I kept trying my hand at penning contemporized versions of them. I remember feeling very guilty about it, given the

Nostalgia in the form of rich dairy on Shavuot

By Ethel G. Hofman

(JNS) – It was a typical one-hour flight from Edinburgh to Shetland; tea and biscuits (cookies) were served by a smiling tartan-clad stewardess. My heart flipped as the little Saab plane bumped over the landing strip. Ocean waves lapped up almost to the edges of the runway. As I clung to the rail of a rickety stairway to descend onto the tarmac, I inhaled the familiar salty air deep into my lungs.

Other poems borrow language from their subjects. Comninos noted that "Naked Admission," for example, is pegged to a 2018 news story about French nudists enjoying a naked night out at the Palais de Tokyo, in Paris. The poem uses French terms because of its setting. It also pushes things in a broader comic direction by imagining the nudists heading to the Louvre and during the day. The poem decides they need to commute there during morning rush hour, on mass transit."

When deciding what poetry to include in her book, Comninos didn't have a central theme in mind. Instead, she focused on individual poems. "The book was written over time, poem by poem," she said. "It takes its shape from my strongest poems. The weaker ones, I pulled. But of course, I see that I keep revisiting certain themes. The book is very interested in legacy and chance. One we inherit, the other strikes as we grow up and older – and at random. If you look at the book's epigraphs – one by Jewish writer-translator Stephen Mitchell, the other by Jewish poet Louise Gluck – both treat how we grapple with what we're given."

She refused to pick a favorite poem, noting that "I don't think I want to pick a favorite child! But I hope that there are poems in the book that speak to readers, that hold their interest, and that perhaps help some feel less alone in trying to make sense of what can appear delivered to us – at times uninvited and seemingly from 'out of nowhere.'"

This was Sumburgh Airport, Shetland – the most northerly commercial airport in the United Kingdom. Although I've spent a lifetime in the United States, this is still home.

I landed, curious. How were these remote islands coping with the deadly pandemic? The population hovering at 23,000 did not escape COVID-19, though they fared much better than most in the beginning. As my 70ish friend Jean Anne described it: "Being here saved my sanity; I could be out in the fresh air. Even in winter, I could go out walking, take my dog out, and two or three of us, observing social distance, would take a swim every day in the ocean." (OK, I did give her a look and a shudder when she added: "No sweatsuits and 8 degrees Celsius, warmed by the Gulf Stream.")

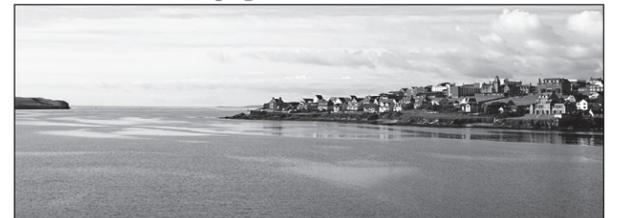
While respectful of those with autoimmune systems, Shetlanders are seemingly nonchalant about being out and about right now. "Almost everyone is vaccinated; after all, it's not going to kill you," they say.

With restrictions lifted at the end of April, hundreds of locals mingled with American and overseas visitors for the Folk Festival, a weekend event showcasing the best international, British and Shetland music. Organized by an enormous group of volunteers, they shuttled between venues. "It's crazy, but it works," voiced an enthusiastic group of teenagers. This is typical of people coming together – Shetlanders, newcomers, oil-rig workers, young and old all pulling together for a common cause. All year long there are events such as fund-raising Sunday teas, where volunteers of all ages bake and serve; Shanty Songs, a group to support Alzheimer's caregivers, or on a recent weekend, Voar Redd Up (dialect meaning "spring cleanup"). About 4,500 volunteers – or 20 percent of the population – clear beaches, coastlines and roadsides of litter and debris washed up by winter storms.

I'm grateful for having grown up Jewish on this remote island. I learned the value of respect and caring within a Christian community – one where extended family included "Granny Hunter, Auntie Joanne, Uncle Johnny," and playmates who became close as cousins. My parents who assimilated socially made sure I was immersed in my Jewish heritage. Friday morning was abuzz with cooking and cleaning, newspapers spread on the scrubbed kitchen floor, tall brass candlesticks polished to light on Shabbat and always a chicken simmering in a pot ready for kneidlach (matzah balls) to be dropped in.

For my mother, cooking for Shavuot was easy. Even during the starkness of World War II, there were plenty of fresh local dairy ingredients – eggs, butter, cheeses, milk and cream – all delivered daily to our front door. In fact, many of our weekday, dairy dishes, like baked rice puddings and fish pies, fit right in with Shavuot, the holiday that commemorates the giving of the Torah to the Jewish people on Mount Sinai more than 3,300 years ago.

Shavuot begins this year on the evening of June 4, the fifth of Sivan, right after Shabbat. It's customary to serve dairy meals during the two-day festival (one day in Israel). Some See "Shavuot" on page 12



The Shetland Islands. (Photo by Pixabay)

On the Jewish food scene

Shavuot Jeopardy

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

Shavuot for \$200: Because now that the Israelites had received the Torah, their meat dishes were not kosher.

Shavuot for \$400: Because the land of Israel was described as the land of milk and honey.

Shavuot for \$600: The numerical value of the Hebrew word for milk is 40, which is the number of days Moses was on Mount Sinai.

Shavuot for \$800: The numerical value for the Hebrew word for cheese is 70, which equals the 70 faces of the Torah given at Sinai.

Shavuot for \$1,000: Because dairy products were plentiful in the spring, making them perfect for use in a feast.

And the answer, or rather the correct question, is, "Why is dairy eaten on Shavuot?"

All of these answers have been given as reason for why we eat dairy on Shavuot. When there are so many possible answers, it usually means the real reason is lost to history (although the \$1,000 one strikes me as a good anthropological explanation). There are no verses in the Torah requiring Jews to eat dairy products on Shavuot. That developed later, although we'll probably never know exactly when.

Actually, the traditional foods we eat on most holidays

are not based on biblical commandments, only customs that developed over time. There is no commandment saying we have to eat fried food on Hanukkah, although I'm grateful for that decision. (And the original food wouldn't have been latkes because potatoes only arrived in Europe during the 16th century.) You'll find no mention of hamantashen in the book of Esther (the first written reference of that cookie also occurred during the 16th century) and the biblical verses concerning Rosh Hashanah say nothing about eating pomegranates, fish heads or honey cake. The one exception is Passover, when we are actually commanded to eat matzah, although the original *matzot* (plural for matzah) were far thicker than the cracker we eat today.

As for Shavuot, the dairy foods eaten have changed over the years. When I was growing up, we didn't have ice cream buffets for the holiday, but it's a wonderful idea that attracts folks of all ages. I still love blintzes, but I can't recall the last time I've had a homemade one. For awhile cheesecake was all the rage, but I think ice cream has won out. Although there is nothing wrong with a bowl of ice cream and a side dish of cheesecake. Oh, I think I just decided what I am going to have for Shavuot dinner this year.

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

If Your Goal is to:

Make a quick and easy gift

Avoid tax on capital gains

Defer a gift until after your death

Receive guaranteed fixed income that is partially tax-free

Avoid the two-fold taxation on IRA or other employee benefit plans

Make a large gift with little cost to you

Reduce taxable income from IRA Required Minimum Distributions

Then You Can:

Simply write a check now or use a credit card

Contribute long-term appreciated stock or other securities

Put a bequest in your will (gifts of cash or a share or the residue of your estate)

Create a charitable gift annuity

Name a charity as the beneficiary of the remainder of the retirement assets after your lifetime

Contribute a life insurance policy you no longer need or purchase a new one and designate a charity as the owner

Make a qualified charitable donation directly from your IRA (after age 70½)

Your Benefits May Include:

An income tax deduction and immediate charitable impact

A charitable deduction plus no capital gains tax

Exemption from federal estate tax on donations

Current and future savings on income taxes plus fixed stable payments

Tax relief to your family on inherited assets

Current and possible future income tax deductions

Reducing taxable income



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER BINGHAMTON

Beth David held annual dinner

After a COVID hiatus of two years, Beth David's Annual Dinner took place on May 15. Charlie Manasse was the honoree chosen to receive the Mary and Jack Ferber Award for his years of continuing service to the synagogue.

More than 50 people attended at the catered reception and dinner, which was coordinated by past recipients Harold and Toby Kohn, and emceed by Michael Wright.

Instead of the tradition presentation of the award, friends Brendan Byrnes, Charles Gilinsky and Arieh Ullmann roasted Manasse in poetry and prose.

"It was wonderful to finally get together," organizers said, "and enjoy the amazing menu created by Beth David President Saba Wiesner and prepared by caterer Victor Torres, as well as to celebrate as a community Charlie's so well-deserved honor!"



More than 50 people attended the Beth David 2022 dinner.



L-r: Rabbi Moshe Shmaryahu, Susan Wright, Kelly Wright, Trudy Greenspan, Meryl Sasnowitz and Harold Sasnowitz.



L-r: Arieh Ullmann, Brendan Byrnes and Charles Gilinsky roasted Charlie Manasse prior to giving him the award.



L-r: Arieh Ullmann read the Ferber Memorial Plaque presented to Charlie Manasse.



L-r: Charles Gilinsky and guest of honor Charlie Manasse



Harold Kohn and Rabbi Moshe Shmaryahu enjoyed hors d'oeuvres.



Clockwise from left: Dinner attendees included Marilyn Bell, Shelley Hubal, Suzanne Holwitt, Neil Auerbach, Sima Auerbach, Julie Piaker and Alan Piaker.

TC held Confirmation Service



Six teenagers from Temple Concord were confirmed during a service held on May 15. Confirmation is the culmination of the congregation's Religious School program. Students made statements about their connection to God, Torah and/or Israel/the Jewish people during the service. Back row (l-r): Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell, Eve Krasno, Charlotte Coker and Evan Grills. Front row: Anna Grills, Victoria Heilveil and Laura Klotzkin.

TC held Sisterhood Shabbat



Members of Temple Concord's Sisterhood participated in a Shabbat service with readings and board installation on May 6. In-person participants included (from left): Roz Antoun, Deb Daniels, Phyllis Kellenberger, Marty Eisenstadt, Sondra Foreman and Marsha Luks.

Concert.....Continued from page 3

original melodies for both liturgical and English texts in a bright, rock-n-roll style. All of their albums are terrific."

Klepper and Frelander have sung together as Kol B'Seder for almost 50 years. Klepper has composed hundreds of Jewish songs. He was ordained at HUC-JIR in 1980 and received an honorary doctorate

in 2005. He co-edited the song section in the Reform prayerbook, "Mishkan T'filah," and co-founded the annual Hava Nashira song-leader workshop. Klepper is cantor emeritus of Temple Sinai of Sharon, MA, and teaches at the School of Jewish Music at Hebrew College in Newton, MA.

Frelander recently retired as president of the World Union for Progressive Judaism and served for 40 years as a senior officer of the Union for Reform Judaism. His career has focused on the evolution of Progressive synagogues with an emphasis on the central role of Jewish music. He was the founding director of the Commission on Synagogue Music and the annual North American Jewish Choral Festival. He currently serves as board chairman of the Mary McDowell Friends School. A founding member of Kol B'Seder, he and Klepper are celebrating their 50th anniversary of composing and performing new Jewish songs for young people and adults.



L-r: Rabbi Dan Frelander and Cantor Jeff Klepper (Photo by Enid Bloch)

THE REPORTER
 Contact Kathy Brown for all your advertising needs at 724-2360, ext. 244, or advertising@thereportergroup.org

Judaic Shop
 Tallit for all B'nai Mitzvot
 Kippot in many colors and fabrics
 Guest registers, Havdalah candles, Long ceremonial candles & more
 9 Riverside Drive • Binghamton, NY 13905
 Monday - Friday 607-723-7355

www.AUDIOCLASSICS.com
 AUDIO • HOME THEATER • STEREO
 Phone/Fax 607-766-3501
 BUY • SELL • TRADE • REPAIR • CONSIGN
 3501 Vestal Road Vestal, NY 13850 Hours: Mon-Fri 8-5:30 • Sat 11-4

Visit us on the web at www.thereportergroup.org



Weekly Parasha

Bamidbar, Numbers 1:1-4:20

Preparing for war

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR, THE REPORTER GROUP

When one begins reading *parasha* Bamidbar, one's first reaction may be to groan and say, "not another genealogy!" Once again, the Torah lists a "who's who" of the Israelite tribes. Traditional commentators, such as Rashi, have very little to say about this listing; for the most part, it is just noted and ignored. However, if one were to step back and analyze the book of Numbers as if it were a novel, one sees that the genealogy sets the stage for the rest of the story.

The opening of the book of Numbers marks God's attempt to transform the Israelites from slaves into warriors. The heads of the households, listed in the genealogy, become

the leaders of divisions in the army. The men numbered in the census are those old enough (at least 20 years old) and able-bodied enough for inclusion in the army. There is no question that the Israelites are preparing for war.

The theme of transformation continues in the second chapter when God orders Moses to organize the people into a war camp. No longer may they pitch their tents wherever they desire; there is now a set place for each tribe. Each tribe has become a unit in the army complete with its own standard and banners. The order of the march is set and the tribes know their place and purpose. When the camp rests, the tribes form a circle around the tent of the meeting

which contains their most important possession, the ark of the covenant.

Even the priests are not exempt from army service. The Torah assumes that the priests will lead the army, not as soldiers, but as representatives of God. How will they do this? By carrying the ark of the covenant. The Torah makes it clear that it will be God, represented by the ark, who will bring the Israelites victory and not their military prowess.

Of course, as in any good novel, there are plot complications. The Israelites listed in the census will not be the ones who conquer the land. Even though they have seen **See "War" on page 11**

Congregational Notes

Temple Israel

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

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

On Saturday, June 4, Shacharit services will be held at 9:30 am via Zoom and in-person (masks are required). The Torah portion is Numbers 1:1-4:20 and the haftarah is Hosea 2:1-22. There will be no Havdalah service.

On Sunday, June 5, at 9:30 am, there will be services for the first day of Shavuot.

On Monday, June 6, the temple office will be closed for the second day of Shavuot.

On Tuesday, June 7, there will be an Executive Board meeting at 7 pm.

On Wednesday, June 8, there will be a Ritual Committee meeting at 10 am and Torah study from 4-5 pm on Zoom.

On Saturday, June 11, at 9:30 am, Shacharit services will be held via Zoom and in-person (masks are required). The Torah portion is Numbers 4:21-7:89 and the haftarah is Judges 13:2-25. At 9:30 pm, there will be Havdalah services via Zoom.

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

The b'nai mitzvah of Isaac and Aaron Sambursky will take place on Saturday, June 25, during services.

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 bar/bat mitzvah, meets Sunday mornings. For the schedule of services, classes and events, contact the temple.

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
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.

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.

Kol Haverim

Affiliation: Society for Humanistic Judaism
Address: P.O. Box 4972, Ithaca, NY 14852-4972
Phone: 607-277-3345, E-mail: info@kolhaverim.net
Website: www.kolhaverim.net
Chairwoman: Abby Cohn
Kol Haverim: The Finger Lakes Community for Humanistic Judaism, is an Ithaca-based organization that brings people together to explore and celebrate Jewish identity, history, culture and ethics within a secular, humanistic framework. KH is part of an international movement for Secular Humanistic Judaism and is affiliated with the Society for Humanistic Judaism, a national association with over 30 member communities and congregations around the country. Established in the spring of 1999, it offers celebrations of Jewish holidays, monthly Shabbat pot-lucks, adult education, a twice-monthly Cultural School for children, and a bar and bat mitzvah program.
KH welcomes all individuals and families, including those from mixed religious backgrounds, who wish to strengthen the Jewish experience in their lives and provide their children with a Jewish identity and experience.

Congregation Tikkun v'Or

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

Friday, June 3, light candles before 8:16 pm
Saturday, June 4, light candles after 9:17 pm
Sunday, June 5, light candles after 9:18 pm
Monday, June 6, yom tov ends 9:19 pm
Friday, June 10, light candles before 8:21 pm
Saturday, June 11, light candles after 9:22 pm
Friday, June 17, light candles before 8:24 pm
Saturday, June 18, light candles after 9:25 pm

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 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, June 3: 5-7 pm, First Friday at the Kilmer Mansion, featuring artists from FASST and live music.
Friday, June 3: at 7:30 pm, Shabbat Service celebrating Rabbi Sally Priesand's ordination by Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. Rabbis Rachel Esserman and Barbara Goldman-Wartell will share their reflections on the meaning and legacy of her ordination for them in their lives. To attend in person, all must show proof of COVID-19 vaccinations. Masks are required. Join via Zoom at <https://bit.ly/3hRmW2Y>, meeting ID 869 9699 8146 and passcode 826330; or on the Temple Concord Facebook page.

Saturday, June 4: Torah study at 9:15 am on Zoom at <https://bit.ly/3CVxM14>, meeting ID 882 9808 7579 and passcode 676707; and 6:30 pm, Shavuot Ice Cream Social with Temple Israel in the Dorothy Schagrin Garden at Temple Concord.

See "Concord" on page 12

Norwich Jewish Center

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

Temple Beth-El of Ithaca

Affiliation: United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism
Rabbi: Rachel Safman
Rabbi Emeritus: Scott L. Glass
Address: 402 North Tioga St. (the corner of Court and Tioga streets), Ithaca, NY 14850-4292
Phone: 273-5775
E-mail: rabbi-safman@tbeithaca.org and secretary@tbeithaca.org
Website: www.tbeithaca.org
Presidents: David Weiner and Linda Aigen
Sisterhood President: Gail Zussman
Director of Education: Rabbi Suzanne Brody
Services: 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.

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.

◆ Siegal Lifelong Learning will hold several virtual programs this summer: “Childhood in Israel: Well-Being and Vulnerability” on Thursday, June 9, from 7-8:30 pm (<https://case.edu/lifelonglearning/lectures/childhood-israel-well-being-and-vulnerability-remote>); “Revisiting a Forgotten Center: Caribbean Jewry in a Global Perspective” on Wednesday, June 15, from noon-1:30 pm (<https://case.edu/lifelonglearning/lectures/revisiting-forgotten-center-caribbean-jewry-global-perspective-remote>); “Women on the Front Lines” on Sunday, June 26, from 1-2:30 pm (<https://case.edu/lifelonglearning/lectures/women-front-lines-remote>); “Israeli Graffiti Art: Secrets from Behind the Scenes” on Sunday, July 31, from 1-2:30 pm (<https://case.edu/lifelonglearning/lectures/israeli-graffiti-art-secrets-behind-scenes-remote>); and “Jews and Whiteness” on Wednesday, August 10, from 7-8:30 pm (<https://case.edu/lifelonglearning/lectures/jews-and-whiteness-remote>).

◆ JArts will hold the virtual “JLive with Beverly Sky” on Friday, June 10, from noon-5 pm, with Beverly Sky, a weaver and paper-maker. This is part of JArts’ series of virtual cultural experiences. For more information or to register, visit www.myjewishlearning.com/the-hub/jlive-with-beverly-sky/.

◆ Touro University will hold the online course “History of the Jewish Intellectual Tradition” from June 20-August 18. According to the university, “The course explores how the salient ideas and values of the Jewish intellectual tradition have not only stood the test of time but also – perhaps more importantly – have played a critical role in the shaping of traditional religious practices and customs, while profoundly influencing contemporary non-Jewish Western culture.” Anyone who is not a student of the university can register as a non-matriculated student. The cost is \$900. For more information, including how to apply for the course, visit www.touro.edu/courses/hjit/?af=&gs=.

◆ The Leo Baeck Institute will hold the virtual book event “Book Club: Where She Came From” about the book “A Daughter’s Search for Her Mother’s History” by Helen Epstein on Tuesday, June 7, at 2 pm. Ep-

stein’s book is about her search to hear about her grandmother and great-grandmother, who were victims of the Holocaust. For more information or to register, visit www.lbi.org/events/book-club-where-she-came-from/.

◆ The Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History will hold “La Nona Kanta: The Remarkable Life of Flory Jagoda” on Wednesday, June 15, from 8-9:30 pm. The program is free on Zoom with suggested \$10 donation. In taped interviews, the late Flory Jagoda the story of how music helped her escape from Nazi-occupied Yugoslavia when she was a teenager. Performances of her music by Trio Sefardi will alternate with her filmed narration. For more information, visit <https://theweitzman.org/events/la-nona-kanta-premiere/>.

◆ The Yiddish Book Center will hold the virtual talk “Working toward a Healthy Generation: An Archival Show-and-Tell on Jewish Women’s Health in Eastern Europe,” with Stefanie Halpern on Thursday, June 16, at 7 pm. Halpern will discuss folk remedies, patient medical records and pamphlets about contemporaneous medical practices at the turn of the 20th century. For more information or to register, visit https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_7uZiDjo2Rm60j_A9Jjn-FA?

◆ The Jewish Heritage Alliance will hold the virtual program “The Legacy of Sefarad in America Series.” The introductory lecture will be “SEFARAD: Jews in Early America. From Inquisition to Freedom” on Sunday, June 12, from 1-2:30 pm. It will look at “the role of Jews in the development of religious liberty in America, from the arrival of the earliest community of Jews in 1654 through the end of the 18th century.” For more information or to register, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sefarad-jews-in-early-america-from-inquisition-to-freedom-tickets-344297020657>.

◆ The YIVO Institute for Jewish Research will hold a book talk about “Fear and Other Stories” by Chana Blankshteyn, translated by Anita Norich, on Wednesday, July 6, at 6 pm. Norich will discuss the book with Chana Kronfeld, professor of Yiddish and comparative literature. For more information or to register, visit www.yivo.org/Blankshteyn.

◆ The podcast “Holocaust Histories” features real-life stories of those who were in the Holocaust. According to the website, “Each episode features a boxer with a different nationality and unique experience. Some will live, some will die. They will all fight to survive.” For more information or to listen to the podcasts, visit www.holocausthistories.com/.

◆ The Museum of Jewish Heritage will hold a “Virtual Walking Tour: Anne Frank’s Amsterdam” on Sunday, June 26, at 11 am. The cost is \$18 for museum members and \$36 for the general public. The tour marks the 75th anniversary of the publication of “The Diary of a Young Girl.” For more information or to register, visit <https://mjhnyc.org/events/virtual-walking-tour-anne-franks-amsterdam/>.

◆ Secret Chord Concerts is a free on-demand video series featuring 15-25 minute performances from celebrated Jewish musicians representing a broad range of styles, heritages and histories. The concerts are recorded live in front of audiences in Philadelphia and Los Angeles. Season One episodes will air the first Wednesday of every month from June until October. Concerts will air live via Facebook on the pages of the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History, the Lowell Milken Center for Music of American Jewish Experience and the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music. The series will be available on-demand after the event on the above Facebook pages, the Weitzman

museum’s website (<https://theweitzman.org/>) and on the Lowell Milken Center’s YouTube page (www.youtube.com/c/UCLAMAJE/featured). Scheduled concerts include July 6, Mostly Kosher; August 3, Neta Elkayam; September 7, Anthony Mordechai Tzvi Russell with the Baymele ensemble; and October 6 (a Thursday release date), Andy Statman.

◆ The Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust will hold the virtual program “Step by Step: Recreating a Family’s Lost Holocaust History” on Tuesday, June 14, at 2 pm. Jessica Shaw will be in conversation with her sister, Dr. Laura Shaw Frank, the American Jewish Committee’s director of contemporary Jewish life, to discuss the history of the Holocaust in France and being the children of a Holocaust survivor. For more information or to register, visit <https://mjhnyc.org/events/step-by-step-recreating-a-family-s-lost-holocaust-history/>.

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

War Continued from page 10

God’s might in Egypt and at Mt. Sinai, they believe themselves unable to conquer Canaan; the transformation from slave to warrior was too difficult for them. In later

chapters of Numbers, God will condemn them to wander 40 years in the wilderness. It will be a new generation that takes possession of the land.

Simons Continued from page 1

Detroit’s September 10 home game against the Boston Red Sox because it conflicted with Rosh Hashanah, the press retorted that the Tigers needed Greenberg on the playing field more than ever during this crucial phase of the pennant race. Detroit sportswriters emphasized Greenberg’s obligation to his teammates and to the fans.”

As professor emeritus and former chairman of the History Department at SUNY Oneonta, Simons continues to teach courses on the “Jazz Age and New Deal” and “Athletics, Society and Sports.” He is a recipient of both the SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence Teaching and for Excellence in Service. Simons earned degrees from Colby College (B.A.), the University of Massachusetts (M.A.) and Carnegie-Mellon University (D.A.). He is the longtime co-director of the Cooperstown Symposium on Baseball and American History, an annual academic conference on the national pastime co-sponsored by the National Baseball Hall of Fame and SUNY Oneonta. He has been a columnist for *The Reporter* since June 2020. Simons received the American Jewish Press Association 2021 First Place Award for Excellence in Writing About Sports for his column about Hank Greenberg.

Simons has served as editor and contributor to 12 baseball anthologies published by McFarland Press. His articles, reviews and essays have appeared in numerous journals and books, including “Addressing Antisem-

itism and Racism in Statuary and Text: A Pedagogical Approach” in *Israel Journal of Israel Foreign Affairs*; “Jackie Robinson and the American Mind: Media Images of the Reintegration of Baseball,” from “Jack Johnson to LeBron James: Sports, Media, and the Color Line”; “Greenberg at the Bat: A Twenty-first Century Jewish Moonlight Graham,” Cooperstown Symposium; “Baseball and American Culture: A Seminar,” in “Baseball in the Classroom: Essays on Teaching the National Pastime”; “Hank Greenberg: The Jewish American Sports Hero,” in *Sports and the American Jew*; “Sports,” *Jewish-American History and Culture*; “Andy Cohen: Second Baseman as Ethnic Hero,” in *The National Pastime: Baseball History*; “The Athlete as Jewish Standard Bearer: Media Images of Hank Greenberg”; in *Jewish Social Studies*; and “Bloomfield: An Italian Working Class Neighborhood,” in *Italian American*.

Simons has delivered many lectures on a wide variety of topics to a numerous museums, libraries, colleges and Jewish organizations in New York state, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and Maryland. Many of his presentations were as a speaker for the New York Council on the Humanities. For many years, Simons served as the co-advisor to the Jewish student group at SUNY Oneonta. A labor activist, he served 16 years as president of the Oneonta chapter of United University Professions. Simons lives in Oneonta, NY.

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 with “Reporter Address change” in the subject line to let *The Reporter* know about your new address.

HOPLER & ESCHBACH FUNERAL HOME

“A new family tradition”

*Personal Service
Professionalism
Experience You Can Trust*

COMPARE OUR PRICES
We charge far less than other area funeral homes

Kurt M. Eschbach, Funeral Director
483 Chenango Street Binghamton
607-722-4023
www.HEfuneralhome.com

Celebrate your milestone with a Graduation Simcha

Show the community your loved one’s accomplishment and the pride that it brings. Wish them well on their future endeavors and offer support in everything they may encounter. Send us a photo via e-mail and we’ll include it in your simcha - call for prices for a bigger ad.

College · High School · Middle School · Preschool

To book your Graduation Simcha, contact Kathy Brown at 724-2360, ext. 244, or e-mail advertising@thereporter.org

Cost:
\$20 (small)
\$40 (medium)
\$51 (large)

MAZEL TOV, DAVID
On Your Graduation
from the ECC and UPK
Love, Mom & Dad
(small)

RACHEL,
MAZEL TOV
ON YOUR GRADUATION
FROM BU! GOOD LUCK IN
GRAD SCHOOL!
LOVE, NANA
(medium) (large)

Mazel Tov, Sadie!
Congrats on your VMS Graduation!
Love,
Aunt Sheila & Uncle Dave
(medium) (large)

Name of Child _____

Greeting as you would like it to appear _____

Your Name _____

Your Address _____

Phone/e-mail _____

Must be received by **June 9th** for our June 17th Issue.
Mail to: The Reporter 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal NY 13850 or e-mail advertising@thereporter.org
Contact Kathy Brown at 724-2360 ext. 244 or e-mail advertising@thereporter.org if you have any questions

Visit us on the web at www.thereporter.org

Shavuot Continued from page 8

scholars claim that spring harvest festivals usually feature dairy dishes because cheese was produced during this season. Others take the practice directly from scripture saying we eat dairy to symbolize the “land flowing with milk and honey.”

During visits to longtime friends, besides laughter and memories, I brought back ideas and recipes, perfect to serve during Shavuot. Salmon and Haddock Pie was on the table in less than half an hour, using chunks of ocean-fresh fish in a milk gravy studded with green peas and a mashed-potato crust. Creamed mushrooms on slabs of homemade bread served as a late supper – the perfect way to finish leftover Shabbat challah. Boiled Fruit Loaf, a childhood favorite, is mixed in one pot. Checking my mother’s recipe, I tweaked it to reduce the sugar without sacrificing the rich fruit and spice flavors. In my house, Mondays were laundry days, and creamy rice pudding was the reward at suppertime. The cheesecake recipe, shared by my Florida friend, Terri, is prepared with ricotta cheese rather than cream cheese. It’s a fluffier version of the traditional cake, which is much richer, heavier and, yes, more calorie-laden, though those don’t count at holiday time.

Make one or all, and enjoy!

Salmon and Haddock Pie (Dairy)

Serves 4

Cook’s tip: Substitute any white fish for haddock (cod, for example).

- 1 Tbsp. vegetable oil
- ½ medium onion, thinly sliced
- 1 rib celery, cut into ¼-inch slices
- 6 oz. skinless salmon, cut into 1-inch chunks
- 6-8 oz. haddock, cut into 1-inch chunks
- ½ tsp. each salt and fresh ground pepper
- 1¼ cups milk
- 1 Tbsp. butter or margarine, softened
- 1 Tbsp. all-purpose flour
- 1 cup green peas



Ma’s Stovetop Rice Pudding. (Photo by Ethel G. Hofman)

- 3 cups mashed potatoes
 - Paprika to sprinkle (optional)
- Heat the vegetable oil in a large pot over medium heat. Add the onion and celery. Cook 5 minutes or until beginning to soften. Add the salmon, haddock, salt and pepper. Pour the milk over and stir gently. Cover and bring to boil. Reduce heat to medium. Cook for 15 minutes, or until the fish begins to flake.

Meanwhile, combine the butter and flour, mixing to a smooth paste. Drop a teaspoon at a time into the simmering liquid, stirring constantly. The mixture will begin to thicken. Stir in the peas.

Cook, simmering, for 4 to 5 minutes. Transfer to an ovenproof casserole. Spoon mashed potatoes over. Heat in the microwave for 3 to 4 minutes until hot.

Crofters Noodles (Dairy)

Serves 4-6

Cook’s tips:

- ◆ Any pasta may be used instead of noodles. Kids like macaroni.
 - ◆ Greens such as lettuce or spinach may be substituted for kale.
- 8 oz. noodles, cooked and drained according to package direction
 - 1½ cups small-curd cottage cheese
 - 1 Tbsp. olive oil
 - 1 leek, trimmed and thinly sliced



Cheesecake (Photo by Pexels)

1 cup finely shredded kale
Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste

Place the cooked noodles in a large microwave-safe serving dish. Stir in the cottage cheese and set aside.

In a medium skillet, heat olive oil over medium heat. Add the leek and kale. Cook and stir until softened, about 5 minutes. Add to the noodles, stirring lightly.

Season with salt and pepper to taste. Cover and microwave for 3 or 4 minutes to heat through. Spoon into bowls and serve.

Creamed Mushrooms on Toasted Challah (Dairy)

Serves 4

Cook’s tip: No challah? Toasted Kaiser rolls or thickly sliced bread work just as well.

- 2 Tbsp. butter or margarine
- 1 small onion, thinly sliced
- 1½ cups thinly sliced white mushrooms
- 1½ cups sour cream
- Freshly ground pepper to taste
- 4 slices of toasted challah about ½-inch thick

In a medium skillet, melt butter over medium heat.

Add the onions and cook until softened. Stir in the mushrooms. Reduce heat. Cover and simmer 5 minutes longer. Remove from heat. Stir in the sour cream.

Season to taste with pepper. Spoon onto toasted challah and serve at once.

Cucumber and Radish Salad With Lemon Zest (Dairy)

Serves 4-6

Cook’s tip: For a creamy texture and a few more calories, use ½ cup low-fat sour cream and ½ cup plain yogurt.

- 1 cup plain yogurt
- 1 Tbsp. lemon zest
- 1 Tbsp. rice vinegar
- ½ tsp. freshly ground pepper
- 2 cucumbers, unpeeled, thinly sliced
- 1 bunch of red radishes, trimmed and thinly sliced
- ½ cup golden raisins

In a medium bowl, combine the yogurt, lemon zest, vinegar and pepper.

Add the remaining ingredients and toss to mix. Serve chilled.

Boiled Fruit Loaf (Dairy)

Makes 8-10 slices

Cook’s tips:

- ◆ Use a mixture of any dried fruits such as raisins, currants, dried cranberries and a handful of shredded coconut; whatever you have on hand.
 - ◆ To make self-rising flour, add 2 teaspoons of baking powder to 1 cup of all-purpose flour.
 - ◆ Don’t be afraid of substituting favorite spices – pumpkin spice, Chinese Five Spice – but go easy on ground cloves.
- 2 cups dried fruits
 - ½ cup sugar

- 1½ cups milk
- 2 Tbsp. butter
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- 1¾ cups self-rising flour
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- ½ tsp. ground nutmeg

Preheat oven to 350°F. Spray a loaf pan, 9x5x3 inches, with nonstick vegetable spray.

In a medium saucepan, combine the dried fruits, sugar, milk, butter and baking soda. Bring to a boil over medium heat, stirring often.

Lower to simmer and cook for 5 minutes or until dark and beginning to be syrupy. Remove from heat. Set aside to cool completely.

After the mixture has cooled, whisk in the egg and spices, then add the flour gradually, ½ cup at a time. Transfer to prepared loaf pan. Bake in preheated oven 45-50 minutes or until a skewer comes out clean when inserted.

Ma’s Stovetop Rice Pudding (Dairy)

Serves 4-6

Cook’s tips:

- ◆ Best made in a double boiler but may use a heavy-bottomed saucepan, stirring often.
 - ◆ May use low-fat milk.
 - ◆ Add ¼ teaspoon orange or vanilla extract.
- ½ cup rice
 - 4 cups milk
 - ¼ cup sugar
 - 2 tsp. unsalted butter
 - ½ cup dark raisins

Place all ingredients in a double boiler. Stir to mix.

Cover and cook over the lowest heat for 1½ hours, or until thick and creamy. Stir often.

Check the water in the lower pot of the double boiler, adding more water as needed. Serve warm or at room temperature.

Terri’s Ricotta Cheesecake (Dairy)

Serves 12-16

Cook’s tips:

- ◆ Prepared pie crust may be used to line the pan instead of graham-cracker crumbs.
 - ◆ Top cheesecake with sugared strawberries or berries before serving.
- ⅓ cup graham-cracker crumbs
 - 8 eggs, separated
 - 2 cups sugar
 - 3 lbs. of ricotta cheese
 - ½ cup of flour, sifted
 - 1 Tbsp. finely grated lemon rind
 - 1 tsp. vanilla
 - ½ cup heavy cream, whipped

Preheat oven to 425°F. Spray a 12-inch springform pan with nonstick vegetable spray. Sprinkle graham cracker crumbs over the bottom. Set aside.

In a medium bowl, whisk the egg whites with ½ cup sugar until they peak. Set aside.

In a large bowl, beat ricotta until smooth. Gradually add 1½ cups sugar and the egg yolks, beating well after each addition.

Beat in the flour, lemon rind and vanilla. Fold in the stiffly beaten egg whites and the whipped cream. Turn into the prepared springform pan.

Bake in preheated 425°F oven for 10 minutes. Reduce temperature to 330°F and bake for 1 hour.

Turn off the heat. Allow to cool in the oven with the door closed for about 2½ hours.

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

Concord Continued from page 10

Sunday, June 5: at 9:30 am, Shavuot and Yizkor service at Temple Israel. Join via Zoom at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84097361294?pwd=dW1uM2hhMlo1U1NMdnIDS1hU3FEQT09>, meeting ID 840 9736 1294 and passcode Minyan18.

Friday-Sunday, June 10-12: Scholar-in-Residence weekend with Kol B’Seder

(Cantor Jeff Klepper and Rabbi Dan Freeland). To attend in person, all must show proof of COVID-19 vaccinations. For complete information, see the article on page 3.

Sunday, June 12: from 10 am-2 pm, Sisterhood Rummage Sale and Bag Sale, \$6 per bag. This is the last rummage sale until the fall.

Eye-Catching
Classifieds

GARY RILEY

*I'll drive you or
I'll deliver your vehicle near or far,
pets welcome!*

REFERENCES AVAILABLE
607-760-0530
GRILES45@GMAIL.COM

YOUR HEATING & PLUMBING SPECIALISTS

BAKER'S PLUMBING & HEATING

We Also Do Natural Gas Conversions & All Plumbing Work

Free Estimates • Fully Insured • Residential & Commercial

We Install, Service & Repair...

Furnaces • Air Conditioners
Water Heaters • Gas Fireplaces

SERVING BROOME & TIOGA COUNTIES

754-6376

pbaker927@yahoo.com

The Care You Need - in the Home You Love

Affordable, Professional Home Care You Deserve

Let At Home Help provide you or your loved ones independence and dignity by providing non-medical care services in the familiar surroundings of home, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Some of our many services:
Companionship • Alzheimer's & Dementia Care • Medication Reminders • Grocery Shopping • Laundry • Hospice Support • Overnight Care • Meal Preparation • House Cleaning
Plus other services tailored to your needs

607-238-1123 • Locally owned and operated • Free consultation
AtHomeHelpofBinghamton.com

NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT... YOUR AD SHOULD BE HERE!

For information, please contact Charlie Pritchett at 724-2360, ext. 244; cell 725-4110; or advertising@thereportergr.org

Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton

NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

New York state lawmakers pass Holocaust Education Bill

The New York State Senate unanimously passed a bill on May 25 that will ensure that schools across New York are teaching students about the Holocaust, as required by law. The bill, which unanimously passed the State Assembly earlier that week, will now be sent to Gov. Kathy Hochul for consideration. The legislation authorizes the New York State Education Department to survey schools to determine if they are teaching students about the Holocaust appropriately at each grade level, as required under existing law. It will also examine whether a school district is meeting learning standards about the Holocaust. Districts not in compliance will be required to submit a “corrective-action plan” on how they expect to comply with learning standards. The survey’s findings will be accessible to legislative leaders. The bill was sponsored by State Sen. Anna M. Kaplan and Assemblywoman Nily Rozić.

Israel authorizes transfer of \$220 million to Arab sector

Israel’s government on May 24 authorized the transfer of 740 million shekels (\$220.6 million) to the country’s Arab regional authorities, according to Israeli media reports. The move comes two weeks after the Islamist Ra’am Party ended a coalition crisis by returning to the government.