

Table of Contents

Area Synagogues	
Beth David Synagogue	9A
Chabad of Oneonta.....	18A
Congregation Tikkun v’Or, Ithaca Reform Temple	11A
Norwich Jewish Center.....	11A
Penn-York Jewish Community	11A
Rohr Chabad Center of Binghamton	9A
Roitman Chabad Center at Cornell	17A
Temple Beth-El, Ithaca.....	12A
Temple Beth El, Oneonta	12A
Temple Brith Sholom, Cortland.....	12A
Temple Concord.....	10A
Temple Israel.....	10A
Binghamton Jewish Film Fest	5A
Board of Rabbis	7A
College of Jewish Studies	6A
Community Relations Committee	5A
Eruv Map for Binghamton’s West Side.....	13A
Eruv Map for Binghamton University/Vestal.....	13A
Hillel Academy.....	3A
Ithaca Area United Jewish Community	7A
Ithaca Beit Midrash	7A
Jewish Community Center	14A
Jewish Family Service	5A
Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton.....	4A
The Reporter Group	6A
William H. Seigel Lodge of B’nai B’rith	7A
Universities	
Binghamton University Zionist Organization.....	16A
Center for Israel Studies at Binghamton U.....	16A
Center for Jewish Living, Cornell U.	17A
Steven K. and Winifred A. Grinspoon Hillel Center for Jewish Community at Cornell.....	17A
Hillel at Binghamton.....	16A
Hillel at Ithaca College	18A
Jewish Studies Program at Cornell U.....	17A
Judaic Studies Department, Binghamton U.....	16A
MEOR Upstate.....	16A
SUNY Cortland Hillel.....	18A
Calendars	
Candlelighting Times	8A
Two-Year Jewish Holiday Calendar	8A
Directories	
Advertiser Directory	2A
Kashrut Guide	19A
Organizations.....	20A
Life Cycle	
Birth	15A
Brit Milah.....	15A
Simchat Bat	15A
Bar/Bat Mitzvah	15A
Confirmation	15A
Mikvah	15A
Conversion.....	18A
Illness.....	18A
Death	18A

Advertiser Directory

Name	Phone.....	Page
Asthma & Allergy Associates, PC.....	766-0235, 800-88-ASTHMA.....	19A
Basha’s Lebanese Grill	217-5288	7A
Binghamton-Johnson City Monument Co.	797-2922	17A
Binghamton Plate Glass.....	723-8293	17A
Blanding Electric Inc.	729-3545	3A
Cat Doctor, The	754-7221	6A
Cheevers, Hand & Angeline Inc.	754-7550, 800-999-7550.....	5A
Congregation Tikkun v”Or	256-1471	20A
Coughlin & Gerhart LLP	723-9511, 877-COUGHLIN	6A
Disaster Cleanup	748-0128	15A
Ernest H. Parsons Funeral Home Inc.....	724-1336	6A
Faith L. Sigler & Associates – Dedicated Financial Solutions	765-4882, 217-7431, 240-5670.....	4A
Glass Creations By Carole.....	754-2728	9A
Hillel Academy	304-4544	5A
Hopler & Eschbach Funeral Home	722-4023	15A
Jewish Family Service	724-2332	9A
Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton Inc.	724-2332.....	12A
Kristys Imagination Photography	221-1225	14A
Levene, Gouldin and Thompson	Vestal 763-9200.....	7A
Mel Manasse & Son Auctioneers.....	692-4540, 800-MANASSE.....	9A
NAC Broadway Theatre League.....	772-1391	11A
Piaker & Lyons.....	729-9373.....	14A
Reporter, The – Kathy Brown.....	724-2360, ext. 244	2A, 8A
.....	800-779-7896, ext. 244	
Savitch Insurance Agency	772-1101	3A
Temple Concord Sisterhood Judaic Shop.....	723-7355.....	20A
Temple Israel	723-7461, 231-3746	9A
TYR Travel	752-0333	14A
Triple Cities Family Dental, PC	723-8377.....	19A
Warner, Dr. Howard	775-3334	19A
Warren Real Estate – Suzanne (Sue) Krause	760-3366, 772-1177	3A
www.AudioClassics.com.....	766-3501	4A

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

Seen around the community...



Hillel Academy students learned about voting and Election Day by participating in a schoolwide election to name the class pet bearded dragon. The winning name? Wakanda Pancake!



Attendees at Beth David Sisterhood’s paid-up membership dinner on November 13 listened to Dina Danon speak about marriage and matchmaking customs in the pre-modern Ottoman Sephardi world. (Photos by Cathy Velenchik)



More than 50 people attended the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton’s Yom Hashoah program on April 22.

Disclaimer

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

About the cover

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

Your ad won’t get lost in the shuffle in *The Reporter’s* pages! For more information, contact Kathy Brown at 607-724-2360, ext. 244 or advertising@thereportergroup.org

Hillel Academy

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

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

As a true community school, Hillel Academy brings together children from all corners of Binghamton's Jewish community – Conservative, Orthodox, Reform and unaffiliated – in a warm, nurturing environment. Hillel Academy fosters a community spirit based on mutual acceptance, and recognizes, respects and values diversity. Hillel Academy

has served Binghamton for more than 50 years, providing the best in secular and Judaic education.

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

For more information, contact the school at 607-304-4544 or e-mail frontoffice@hillelacademyofbc.org; Rabbi Moshe Shmaryahu, director of Judaic studies, at rabbishmaryahu@gmail.com; or Sarah MacDougal, director of secular education, at sthamas1320@hillelacademyofbc.org.



This past fall, Hillel Academy students celebrated Rosh Hashanah with an apple-picking trip to Apple Hills – embracing the sweet traditions of the new year.



As part of their Civil War studies, Hillel Academy students enjoyed a special visit from "Clara Barton," bringing history to life in a fun and engaging way.



Hillel Academy student Jonah Kaminsky presented his research on aerogels to fellow students, teachers and parents at this year's Science Fair.



Hillel Academy students sharpened their skills and had fun during an after-school Chess Club session.



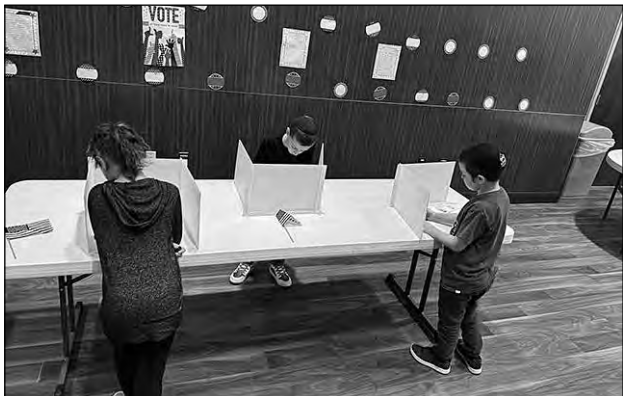
Hillel Academy students, parents and teachers all joined in the Purim fun. Pictured here (l-r) are teachers Ilana Segal, Amy Derkowski and Danielle Kane dressed as a graham cracker, marshmallow and chocolate – coming together to make the perfect s'more.



Hillel Academy students showcased their artwork at this year's Family Art Night – and even had the chance to create brand-new masterpieces alongside their families.



Hillel Academy students celebrated Rosh Hashanah with a seder led by Rabbi Moshe Shmaryahu.



Hillel Academy students learned about voting and Election Day by participating in a schoolwide election to name the class pet bearded dragon. The winning name? Wakanda Pancake!



Hillel Academy wrapped up the school year with a splash-tastic Water Fun Day, featuring giant inflatable slides and a dunk tank. Rabbi Micah Friedman quizzed students on their Torah knowledge – and when they answered correctly, they earned a chance to dunk him.

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Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton

Run by a volunteer board and established locally in 1937, the mission of the Federation is to serve and further the welfare of the Jewish community. The Federation's primary international beneficiary is the Jewish Federations of North America. The Federation is an advocate for local Jewish organizations. Federation serves as a unifying umbrella for the entire Binghamton Jewish community. Since its origination, the Jewish Federation has focused on a unified fund-raising Campaign, the proceeds of which provide grants to local Jewish organizations through an allocation process. The Federation also sponsors educational, cultural and faith-based activities throughout the year.

Through its Committee for Safety and Security, Federation works to address security concerns for the community.

Additional Federation grants to support Jewish infrastructure and culture come from the Federation endowment fund.

The Federation is a proud sponsor of the PJ Library program, which sends Jewish "Bedtime Stories and Songs for Families" free of charge to the homes of children in the community. PJ Library can be enjoyed by all families regardless of their affiliation or observance. It is a great way for parents to

connect their children with their Jewish roots.

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

The Jewish Federation publishes *The Reporter*, the nationally recognized twice-monthly newspaper of the Jewish community. News of international, national and local importance is found in its pages, as well as announcements and information about upcoming and recent community events. Executive Editor Rabbi Rachel Esserman has won numerous journalism awards.

The Federation works to promote good relations with other ethnic and religious groups, and actively combats antisemitism and discrimination. It is also a source for Jewish culture in Broome County.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton extends its gratitude to all its contributing members and volunteers whose support helps to keep the Binghamton Jewish community engaged. For additional information, to make a contribution, or to volunteer for one of our committees, visit its website, www.jfgb.org; or call 607-724-2332.



The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton's Security Committee met on July 9, 2024. L-r: Debra Martinez, Federation Executive Director Shelley Hubal, Steve Malkin, Raychel Reilly, Charlie Manasse, Jon Burgman and Neisen Luks.



The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton held a "Guardian/Greeter Safety Training" on August 27 at the Jewish Community Center. Around 50 people attended the event.



The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton held a vigil/program on August 8 for the Israeli hostages held in Gaza featuring area rabbis and the reading of the names of the hostages. The program concluded with remarks by Eitan and Varda Morell, whose son, IDF Staff Sgt. Maoz Morell, was wounded on February 15 while fighting in Gaza and died on February 19 at the age of 22. Around 60 people attended the event. (Photo by Shelley Hubal)



More than 50 people attended the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton's Yom Hashoah program on April 22.



The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton held the security training "Navigating Conflict: The Power of De-Escalation," which was led by Mark Henderson, regional security advisor, Rochester, for the Secure Community Network, on March 27. Twenty-five community members attended.



The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton received a donation of more than \$800 from Visions Federal Credit Union. The gift helped fund Jewish Family Service's We Remember You program and The Reporter. L-r: Mandy DeHate, AVP Marketing, Visions Federal Credit Union; Shelley Hubal, executive director, Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton; and Jocelyn Bailey, community development liaison, Visions Federal Credit Union.



L-r: Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Jewish Federation, and Eileen Miller attended a Binghamton Black Bears hockey game on January 18. The event was sponsored by the Federation. Twenty-two people attended the event.

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L-r: Author Joan Leegant, who spoke at the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton's Super Sunday brunch on September 8; Suzanne Holwitt, president of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton; Shelley Hubal, Federation executive director; Merri Pell-Preus, who introduced the speaker; and Campaign Chairwoman Marilyn Bell.

Jewish Family Service

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

As a small agency, JFS is unable to provide all necessary services alone to help recipients maintain their highest quality of life however, JFS collaborates with the human service network in Binghamton to meet the needs of the community. Through the generosity of the Binghamton Jewish community, JFS collects and distributes money on Jewish holidays throughout the year. This program is called “We Remember You.” It serves fiscally vulnerable Jewish individuals in the community. JFS also provides support in the form of social and educational programming.

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

Rita Bleier, Chairperson of JFS
Merryl Wallach, Director of JFS



Jewish Family Service, in partnership with Visions Federal Credit Union and the JCC Friendship Club, presented a seminar titled “Recognizing Identity Theft and Scams (especially for older adults)” on June 18. Around 15 people attended.

Community Relations Committee

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

to respond to issues and developments of concern to the Jewish community. Global acts of terror and antisemitism continue to be of great concern. At the local level, the CRC responds to instances of antisemitism. The CRC also advises local

school officials with regard to observance of religious holidays. The members of the CRC stand ready to respond to developments that affect the local Jewish community in a positive and meaningful way, and to initiate initiatives

that promote a peaceful coexistence with all groupings within the region. As always, the support and input of the entire community is sought and appreciated. To contact the CRC committee, call the Federation office at 607-724-2332.

Binghamton Jewish Film Fest

The Binghamton Jewish Film Fest, under the auspices of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, provides a diverse range of film events that add to the cultural life of the Greater Binghamton Jewish community. The film festival began in 2012. A committee of four community members screen and chose the films each year. Each film is followed by a moderated discussion. Films

are held both virtually and in-person, and cover a wide range of genres – comedy to drama to documentary to short film – and a wide range of topics. Screenings are open to any member of the community. The Ithaca Jewish community participates in the festival’s virtual screenings. The Jewish Federation looks forward to continuing this community cultural event with more films in 2025-26 season.



The Binghamton Jewish Film Fest Committee met on July 10, 2024, to plan for the 2024-25 Film Fest. Standing: Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Federation of Greater Binghamton. Seated (l-r): Steve Lisman, Susan Hubal and Ben Kasper.



The Binghamton Jewish Film Fest held a virtual discussion of the film “All About the Levkoviches” on December 8. Bill Simons, Ph.D., professor emeritus of American history at SUNY Oneonta, moderated the discussion, which was attended by 25 people.



The Binghamton Jewish Film Fest held a discussion of “Golden Voices” on January 26. Andy Horowitz led the discussion and 27 people attended.

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Contact Information

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College of Jewish Studies

The College of Jewish Studies was founded in 1986 as a coalition of the Judaic Studies Department at Binghamton University and several local Jewish sponsoring institutions, including the Jewish Community Center, the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, Beth David Synagogue, Temple Concord and Temple Israel. Its mission is to provide opportunities for quality adult Jewish education in Broome County. The CJS Committee strives to bring scholars locally and from

across the U.S. for enlightening lectures; an effort is made to combine broad appeal with intellectual and stimulating content and challenge. The programs are open to the community.

Programming for the College of Jewish Studies is made possible through program admission fees, contributions from sponsoring institutions and additional financial support from a grant from The Community Foundation for South Central New York – David and Virginia Eisen-

berg Donor Advised Fund, the Jacob and Rose Olum Foundation, the B’nai B’rith Lectureship Fund, the Victor and Esther Rozen Foundation, an endowment fund from the former Temple Beth El of Endicott, a grant from the JoyVel Charitable Fund, and the generous donations of individual sponsors.

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

The Reporter Group

The Reporter, a bi-monthly newspaper published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, provides a voice for an inclusive Jewish community. *The Reporter* turns 54 this year and is still going strong, holding true to its roots as a community newspaper. Members of the community are encouraged to share their news, *simcha* or sad, via *The Reporter*.

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

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

The paper focuses on coverage of local events and activities of interest to the community, including synagogue, school, JCC and community events. Also featured are *Reporter* columnist Bill Simons and other guest columnists writing on a variety of topics. In addition, the paper publishes blog posts by Jeremy Staiman (with the permission of the *Times of Israel*). *The Reporter’s* website (www.thereporter.org) and Facebook page complement the print edition. Information is also featured

in the Federation’s e-mail blasts.

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

Seen around the community...



At left: Temple Concord celebrated Simchat Torah on October 24 with a service and dancing. Members also unrolled the full Torah scroll in the social hall.



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At the Federation’s vigil/program on August 8 for the Israeli hostages held in Gaza, Eitan Morell spoke about his son, IDF Staff Sgt. Maoz Morell, who was wounded on February 15 while fighting in Gaza and died on February 19 at the age of 22.



Showing off their Purim costumes were Josh Witter as Snow White, Gina Santiago as the Wicked Queen and Yaara Tzanani as Mickey Mouse. (Photo by Stacey Silber)



To celebrate Dr. Seuss Day, Hillel Academy students showed off their wackiest hats in true Seussian style.




A breakout group held a discussion during the Global Day of Jewish Learning held on November 17 at Temple Israel.



During Camp JCC 2024, campers enjoyed a trip Ithaca State Park.



BUZO held a memorial for Omer Neutra, an accepted BU student, who died in the October 7 Hamas attack on Israel.



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Other Organizations

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

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

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

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

Ithaca Area United Jewish Community

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

This year, the IAUJC continues to pray for the release of the hostages in Gaza and for the end of hate and war, and real peace in Israel for all its inhabitants.

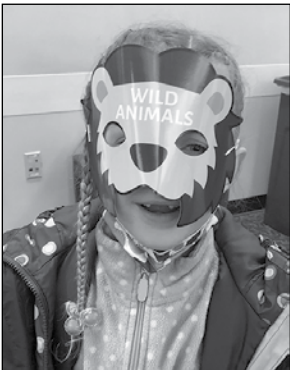
A commemoration of October 7, 2023, was held for the one-year anniversary, with the support of Jewish Federations of North America, at Temple Beth-El with live Zoom conversations. The first speaker was Michael Atiya, a resident of Kfar Maimon, a village just east of Be’eri on the Gaza Envelope, and part of its security squad – one of 10 to protect a community of 1,500 with no weapons beyond a kitchen knife. Those attending the commemoration heard how the day passed as 17 family members huddled in a

safe room while Michael and his security detail monitored the perimeter. In their case, two IDF helicopters landed as a barrage of Hamas terrorists reached the village. Even fleeing by car to Beer Sheva was fraught with danger as thousands of Hamas terrorists were on the attack.

Attendees also heard from three educational directors from the Youth Futures program, one Arab and two Jewish. They were tasked with aiding their students who were displaced from their homes to many communities, and in some cases they themselves were displaced or even had home(s) damaged/destroyed. In addition, attendees heard from Jewish and Arab high school students at the Givat Haviva program, where Jewish, Arab and international students learn together, with a focus on leadership and understanding between people of varied backgrounds.

The IAUJC Annual Community Dinner was held on March 18. IAUJC honored Naomi Wilensky, who has served for 25 years now as director of the Jewish Learning Initiative at Tikkun v’Or, the Ithaca Reform Temple. Also honored were educators Carrie and Joe Regenstein. Joe, a professor, is a world expert on *kashrut* and *hallal*, and was responsible for halting the coating of fresh fruit with beef tallow some decades ago. Joe and Carrie have worked together to ensure the integrity of the process. This year, instead of a keynote speaker, attendees were serenaded by the Tikkun v’Or choral group Azameera. The music and sing-along were called uplifting and most welcome.

The IAUJC’s 11th annual community Holocaust commemoration took place on April 24, hosted at Temple



An attendee at the PJ Library community Passover event. (Photo by Marjorie Hoffman)

Beth-El. The program was very well-attended, attracting both Jewish and non-Jewish community members, including teachers and school children. This year, the Holocaust commemoration featured Jack Mayer, who spoke about his book “Life in a Jar,” the tale of Irena Sendler, a Polish Catholic social worker who, together with other professionals, set about rescuing and saving 2,500 Jewish children from the Warsaw Ghetto.

A panel discussion on antisemitism was held on May 5 hosted at the First Congregational Church in Ithaca. Senior Pastor David Kaden served as one of the panelists, joined by Rabbi Caleb Brommer, rabbi of Temple Beth-El, and Professor Menachem Rosensaft, who currently teaches courses on antisemitism at Cornell and Columbia law

schools. Also joining the discussion was Rabbi Joshua Stanton, who serves as the associate VP in charge of interfaith and intergroup relations for Jewish Federations of North America. In seeking to deal with rising antisemitism, IAUJC members sought to share their experiences beyond the Jewish community. They felt supported by the Ithaca community beyond the Jewish bubble. Also, a wide swath of the Jewish community came together in need of solidarity despite the fact that everyone’s views may differ on many issues. Community members found common ground and threw a wide enough net that people felt gratified to come together over the issue of antisemitism, which affects everyone.

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

In the 10th year of the camper scholarship program, made possible through the generosity of the late Robert and Marcia Ascher, the IAUJC has been able to award grants to assist families in sending their children to Jewish summer camp and teen experiences. For the summer of 2024, IAUJC awarded \$4,870, which enabled three children to attend summer camp and two children to attend winter camp programs. This summer, IAUJC is pleased to

See “IAUJC” on page 8A

Ithaca Beit Midrash

Ithaca Beit Midrash, a relatively new, vibrant alternative approach to Jewish education and engagement, describes itself as “out of the box and off the wall.” Through both in-person and Zoom offerings open to all regardless of where you live, Ithaca Beit Midrash is dedicated to fostering deep, meaningful and entertaining study of Jewish texts. People of all backgrounds and levels of knowledge can explore their heritage, engage in intellectual discourse, build a sense of community and experience personalized courses.

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

Do you need to live in or travel to Ithaca to participate? No, Ithaca Beit Midrash offers many programs suitable for teens and adults over Zoom. Ithaca Beit Midrash aims to create a dynamic and inclusive space that makes Jewish learning accessible and meaningful for everyone. Rabbi

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

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

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



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












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5785-5786 SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES											
SEPTEMBER		OCTOBER		NOVEMBER		DECEMBER		JANUARY		FEBRUARY	
Date	Light Candles	Date	Light Candles	Date	Light Candles	Date	Light Candles	Date	Light Candles	Date	Light Candles
5	7:11 pm	1	*6:26 pm	7	4:31 pm	5	4:13 pm	2	4:25 pm	6	5:06 pm
12	6:59 pm	3	6:23 pm	14	4:24 pm	12	4:14 pm	9	4:32 pm	13	5:15 pm
19	6:47 pm	6	*6:18 pm	21	4:19 pm	19	4:16 pm	16	4:40 pm	20	5:24 pm
22	*6:42 pm	7	*after 7:16 pm	28	4:15 pm	26	4:20 pm	23	4:48 pm	27	5:33 pm
23	*after 7:40 pm	10	6:11 pm								
26	6:35 pm	13	*6:06 pm								
		14	*after 7:04 pm								
		17	6 pm								
		24	5:49 pm								
		31	5:40 pm								
											
MARCH		APRIL		MAY		JUNE		JULY		AUGUST	
Date	Light Candles	Date	Light Candles	Date	Light Candles	Date	Light Candles	Date	Light Candles	Date	Light Candles
6	5:41 pm	1	*7:11 pm	1	7:44 pm	5	8:17 pm	3	8:24 pm	7	7:56 pm
13	6:49 pm	2	*after 8:12 pm	8	7:52 pm	12	8:22 pm	10	8:22 pm	14	7:47 pm
20	6:57 pm	3	7:13 pm	15	7:59 pm	19	8:24 pm	17	8:18 pm	21	7:36 pm
27	7:05 pm	7	*7:18 pm	21	*8:05 pm	26	8:25 pm	24	8:12 pm	28	7:25 pm
		8	*after 8:19 pm	22	*8:06 pm			31	8:05 pm		
		10	7:21 pm	29	8:12 pm						
		17	7:29 pm								
		24	7:36 pm								
											
											
SEPTEMBER											
Date	Light Candles										
4	7:14 pm										
11	*7:02 pm										
12	*after 8 pm										
18	6:49 pm										
20	*6:46 pm										
25	*6:37 pm										
26	*after 7:35 pm										

Jewish Holiday Calendar		
HOLIDAY	2025-26 • 5785	2026-27 • 5786
Rosh Hashanah	Tuesday-Wednesday, September 23-24	Saturday-Sunday, September 12-13
Yom Kippur	Thursday, October 2	Monday, September 21
Sukkot	Tuesday-Monday, October 7-13	Saturday-Friday, Sept. 26-Oct. 2
Shemini Atzeret	Tuesday, October 14	Saturday, October 3
Simchat Torah	Wednesday, October 15	Sunday, October 4
Chanukah	Monday-Monday, December 15-22	Saturday-Saturday, December 5-12
Tu B'Shevat	Monday, February 2	Saturday, January 23
Purim	Tuesday, March 3	Tuesday, March 23
Passover	Thursday-Thursday, April 2-9	Thursday-Thursday, April 22-29
Yom Hashoah	Tuesday, April 14	Tuesday, May 4
Yom Ha'atzmaut	Wednesday, April 22	Wednesday, May 12
Lag B'Omer	Tuesday, May 5	Tuesday, May 25
Yom Yerushalayim	Friday, May 15	Friday, June 4
Shavuot	Friday-Saturday, May 22-23	Friday-Saturday, June 11-12
Shiva'a Asar B'Tammuz	Thursday, July 2	Thursday, July 2
Tisha B'Av	Thursday, July 23	Thursday, August 12

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IAUJC.....Continued from page 7A

announce that it has been able to support 10 children who will be attending Jewish summer camp.

The IAUJC Holocaust Speakers Bureau, headed by Gale Halpern, continues to provide volunteer speakers who travel to local middle and high schools. From March-May, five speakers who are first and second generation Holocaust survivors presented to approximately 350 students. Working with the bureau, the Ithaca College Park Scholars have recorded the stories of local Holocaust survivors and created a series of videos that can be shown in the classroom. The videos are available on the IAUJC website at <https://iaujc.org/holocaust-education/oral-histories-and-books-local-interest>.

The Hesed Emergency Fund, created in 2020 with generous contributions from donors, continues to assist a number of individuals and families. Support comes in the form of direct payments to creditors and gift cards to local grocery stores.


From its Humanitarian Aid to Israel 10-year anonymous gift totaling \$500,000, IAUJC awarded its final support for three humanitarian projects in southern Israel. These projects include Youth Futures in Dimona, which provides mentors to work with at-risk elementary and middle school children and their families; the Ethiopian National Project, School Performance and Community Empowerment (or SPACE) program in Beer Sheva, which provides after-school scholastic assistance to Ethiopian-Israeli youth in grades seven-12 and

their families; and the AMIT Elaine Silver Technological High School, Beer Sheva, which provides mentoring and vocational training to teenagers who have not succeeded in traditional schools. Moving forward, the IAUJC has secured some funding to continue to support the Youth Futures program in Dimona, Israel.

Lastly, this is the fourth year of the Global Spotlight Initiative. The IAUJC board invites donors to nominate international non-profit organizations doing important humanitarian work assisting Jews globally, including in Israel. This year, awards were made to two organizations:

1. Lehem Zeh (This Bread), an organization in Yeruham south of Beer Sheva, is a cooperative bakery project, which brings community members together to bake communally instead of baking in individual homes. A variety of breads and pastries are sold and café service is available on Friday mornings. Workshops are also offered for community bakers to share their expertise.
2. Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel – Israel's oldest and largest independent non-profit environmental organization. Since October 7, 2023, SPNI continues to offer free housing for Israelis displaced by the war, and provides programs and field trips for education and emotional support.

IAUJC invites community members to become active volunteers and donors, and to provide feedback on its programs. For more information, contact info@iaujc.org or visit www.iaujc.org.



Jeffrey Foote Photography

Marcia Zax spoke at the commemoration of the October 7th attack on Israel. (Photo by Jeffrey Foote Photography)

Broome County Synagogues

Beth David Synagogue

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

Beth David is known throughout the community for its activity and involvement in all community functions, events and organizations. Its members occupy leadership roles in communal organizations and its rabbi is involved in community planning and events. All services and activities at Beth David are always open to any member of the community, regardless of synagogue affiliation. Members seek to make everyone and anyone comfortable, and welcome all with open arms. Beth David's services, traditionally chanted in Hebrew, are made easy to follow. Many parts of



Beth David Sisterhood sponsored Rabbi Zev Silber's annual pre-Passover workshop, which was open to the entire community. Clockwise from right: Eileen Miller, Susan Hubal, Rabbi Zev Silber, Nancy Basmann and Phil Goodman. (Photo by Cathy Velenchik)

the service are sung to traditional tunes, which help make them accessible to the novice and experienced alike. The veteran participants can always be counted upon to guide the visitors through the service, helping one feel at ease as a participant.

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

Social activities abound at Beth David. A weekly Shabbat *kiddush* after services reverts into a Shabbat luncheon once a month, free and open to the community. Sisterhood sponsors many *kiddushim* and luncheons for various holidays, and all can celebrate Purim and Shavuot together at the communal festive meals. The Sisterhood also sponsors many social activities throughout the year, both at the synagogue and at other locations. The Men's Club invites all to its periodic Sunday breakfast. The Beth David sukkah is available for the community to use.

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

Judaism addresses every aspect of religious life and these can be observed at the *shul*. In addition to daily services both morning and night, which will be started again when enough men will be willing to participate, See "Beth David" on page 13A



Attendees helped themselves to food at the Beth David Hanukkah party on December 29. (Photo by Stacey Silber)



Clockwise from left: Marilyn Bell, Merri Pell-Preus and Tony Preus, Neil and Sima Auerbach, Hollie Levine, and Julie and Alan Piaker attended the Beth David May 4 gala dinner.

Rohr Chabad Center of Binghamton

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

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

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

Chabad hosts communitywide holiday celebrations such as dinners in the sukkah; a Chanukah family dinner; a Purim feast that features ethnic food, live music and entertainment; and Passover seders. The Chabad Center staff provides counseling, referrals and pastoral advice, as well as guidance in religious matters and life cycle events. Chabad offers assistance by *kashering* kitchens, affixing kosher *mezuzot*, and providing the necessary instruction and physical resources necessary to



On October 29, Binghamton's Jewish community marked October 7 at the annual Pauline and Philip M. Piaker Memorial Lecture, which featured speaker Orit Mark Ettinger, who presented her life story and lessons in a talk titled "Broken Ray of Light; Finding the Light through the Darkness."

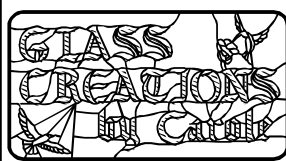
enhance Jewish observance.

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

The Chabad Center administrated Barrett J. Raff Maa-sim Tovim Foundation volunteers visit residents in area nursing homes, as well as shut-ins, on a weekly basis with See "Chabad" on page 12A



L-r: Rabbi Aaron Slonim, Alan Piaker, Orit Mark Ettinger, Susan Kasper and Julie Piaker at the annual Pauline and Philip M. Piaker Memorial Lecture on October 29.



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Temple Israel, a modern, egalitarian Conservative synagogue, provides a complete range of religious, educational, spiritual and pastoral services to its members and the community.

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The Abraham Piaker Free Loan Association

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



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Temple Concord

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

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

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

Worship

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

Community

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

events. The Sisterhood board welcomes all and oversees all its programs.

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

The Social Action Committee focuses on *tikkun olam*, making the world a better place. The committee sponsors programs of social and political interest, and engages in political awareness and advocacy efforts. Recently, these have included programs on human rights, immigration, LGBTQ+ issues, combating racism and other forms of hate, and local community involvement. The committee sponsors several mitzvah collection projects where a community agency is selected and a list of needed items is produced. Members of the committee and other congregants help prepare and serve hot meals to the needy at the Trinity Canteen at Trinity Memorial Church in Binghamton. Temple Concord is one of the principal groups in Interfaith Broome County, which seeks to foster dialogue and understanding between Jewish, Christian and Muslim residents in Greater Binghamton.

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

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

The temple also has the Morning Book Club, which meets monthly on the first Tuesday or Wednesday of the month at 10:30 am (changes in the meeting schedule See "Concord" on page 19A



On November 17, members of the Temple Concord Sisterhood attended a cooking event to learn to prepare street foods. The event was held at the Phantom Chef. Front row (l-r): Nancy Dorfman, Hollie Levine, Phyllis Kellenberger and Suzanne Holwitt. Back row: Rabbi Rachel Esserman, Lynn Ross, Deb Daniels and Rachel Coker.



Temple Concord Religious School students prepared soup in a jar for CHOW on March 22. (Names held on request.)

Temple Israel

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

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

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

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

Temple Israel reached its 139th birthday as a Conservative synagogue. It welcomes all into a friendly, caring environment. As an egalitarian congregation, Temple Israel proudly invites men and women to sit together, count in the minyan, and lead from the *bima*.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Temple Israel members joined fellow member Hadassah Mativetsky in the sukkah on October 22-23 to discuss Jewish texts, as well as academic research in social psychology presented to her as part of her Mahloket Matters fellowship with Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies. Clockwise from left: Rabbi Micah Friedman, Ben Kasper, Arthur Siegel and Hadassah Mativetsky.



Members of the Green family attended the Temple Israel porch party on August 15. L-r: Shira Green, Lynne Green, Eli Green and Brett Green.



L-r: Larry Hurwitz, Art Siegel and Arieh Ullmann dressed for the Purim celebration that was held during the Temple Israel Artist in Residence weekend.



Around 75 people attended the Temple Israel porch party, which was held on August 15.

Area Synagogues

Congregation Tikkun v'Or

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

Spirit

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

each member as individuals.

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

Tikkun v'Or's current spiritual leadership model embraces the talents within our congregation. The majority of Shabbat and holiday services are led by members Michael Margolin, Rabbi Lenore Bohm, Laruen Korfine and Faith Rogow.

Community

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

Members take to heart "my house is

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

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

Justice

Inspired by the prophetic tradition and the historical experience of the Jewish people, Tikkun v'Or's members are dedicated to the pursuit of justice and peace, locally and globally. As Torah teaches that humankind was created in God's image, they honor the inherent godliness in each person. The community actively seeks to promote racial and economic justice for all, resist antisemitism and Islamophobia, encourage education and dialogue about Israel and Palestine, support refugees in the community, feed the hungry and protect the environment. Members are dedicated to justice, equality, human rights and security for people all over the world, and specifically for all Israelis and Palestinians. Members are committed to an open and respectful dialogue about these issues and welcome those who feel excluded or silenced by other Jewish communities

because of their opinions. Tikkun v'Or's congregation is enriched by the multiplicity of views of its members.

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

Students in kindergarten-seventh grade/bmitzvah can join Jewish Learning Experiences, with classes on Sunday mornings, Wednesday afternoons, or Shabbat morning programs. There are classes and programs for adults. Members participate in holiday celebrations, community social action projects, Shabbat dish-to-pass dinners, Shabbat-in-the-community, Shabbat-in-the-Park, music and dance programs, guest speakers, discussion groups and special events. There are several active working groups of the Social Justice Committee.

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

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

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

Seen around the community...



At left: Hillel Academy students enjoyed a visit from Therapy Dogs 607. They spent time cuddling with the dogs and reading to them – building reading confidence and supporting social-emotional growth along the way.



Around 60 people attended the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton's Super Sunday brunch on September 8. The event kicked off Campaign 2024.



The Binghamton Jewish Film Fest held an in-person showing of the film "Kidnapped: The Abduction of Edgardo Mortara" on March 30 at the Jewish Community Center. Dora Polachek, Ph.D., associate professor of romance languages and literatures at Binghamton University, moderated a discussion after the film. Forty people attended the event.



Hillel Academy students wrapped up the school year with a spirited Spirit Week. On Wacky Wednesday, they dressed in their wackiest outfits and strutted their stuff in a fun and festive fashion show.

Norwich Jewish Center

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

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

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



The Norwich Jewish Center

Penn-York Jewish Community

The purpose of this congregation is to promote Jewish identity through cultural, educational, social and religious activities in the Southern Tier of New York and the Northern Tier of Pennsylvania, including Waverly, NY, Sayre, Athens and Towanda, PA, and surrounding communities.

The Penn-York Jewish Community is a supporting member of the Community Foundation for the Twin Tiers, and supports and participates in the activities and events held at Congregation Kol Ami in Elmira, NY. For more information, contact Beth Herbst, 607-857-0976.

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Temple Beth-El of Ithaca

402 N. Tioga St., Ithaca, NY 14850, 607-273-5775
Temple Beth-El is a welcoming, progressive, egalitarian synagogue that strives to preserve and enhance its members' Jewish heritage. The synagogue provides a wide range of religious, educational, social and cultural activities to encourage exploration of and involvement in Judaism, and it supports participation in the social action initiatives and interdenominational life of the broader community.

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

Temple Beth-El provides support and education for all ages and for all life cycle events, and newcomers are always welcome. Programs include Rabbi Felix Aber Religious School (grades K-12), robust family, youth and teen events, abundant adult education opportunities, and tons of schmoozing.

Worship Services and Celebrations

- TBE services are held in person, with the option of one-way Zoom participation.
- ◆ *Kabbalat Shabbat* and *Ma'ariv* (evening) services take place every Friday evening, with times listed on the website homepage and calendar.
 - ◆ Shabbat morning services begin at 9:30 am. Morning and evening services for children and youth, including Tot Shabbat, occur on a regular basis.
 - ◆ The daily minyan meets in person and on Zoom at 7:30 am (9 am on Sundays and federal holidays) and at 5:30 pm, with some services via Zoom only.
 - ◆ Festival services on evenings and mornings generally follow the Shabbat schedule, with special programs available for families and children on Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Simchat Torah, Hanukkah, Purim and Shavuot.
 - ◆ High Holy Days at Temple Beth-El include traditional



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

Chabad. . . . Continued from page 9A

programming and special food gift packages distributed before every holiday. Individuals interested in joining this group, or having a friend or relative visited, should call the Chabad office.

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

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



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worship, with extended services, and special services with educational enrichment for children, youth and adults. Temple Beth-El has announced that services to welcome 5786 in October 2025 will be led by Rabbi Caleb Brommer and guest rabbinical/cantorial student Shira Bodnar. Services for preschoolers and youth and their families will be led by Director of Education and Engagement Calle Schueler and Shira Bodnar.

Youth Community

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

Religious School

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

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

Kindergartners and first-graders attend classes on Sundays to learn about the holidays, Torah stories, Jewish values and a taste of the Hebrew language.

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

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

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

Adult Education

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

Arts

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



Temple Beth-El of Ithaca's playground for children in the Rabbi Felix Aber Religious School.

presentations by artists on their work.

Sisterhood of Temple Beth-El

The Sisterhood of Temple Beth-El offers a community where women connect, learn, support and share experiences with each other bound by their common interest in Jewish life. Sisterhood enhances Jewish life at Temple Beth-El by supporting the Rabbi Felix Aber Religious School; sponsoring social, cultural and educational programs for its members and the community; and encouraging Jewish observance. The Sisterhood is affiliated with the Women's League for Conservative Judaism, which provides members with a voice in national and global arenas.

Community Activities

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

The congregation contributes to numerous local, national and international charities and organizations doing justice work. There are a number of social justice opportunities through the synagogue, as well. In the wider Ithaca community, Temple Beth-El belongs to and supports Area Congregations Together, an organization of local congregations. Temple Beth-El members assist with ACT's Ithaca Kitchen Cupboard food pantry by collecting and distributing food, as well as by participating in the administration of the Cupboard. In addition, the congregation partners with Catholic Charities to provide financial and pastoral assistance to community members throughout Tompkins and Tioga counties. Temple Beth-El's Social Action Committee and individual members are involved in a wide range of other activities both locally and beyond.

Temple Beth El of Oneonta

Temple Beth El of Oneonta warmly welcomes interfaith couples and partners to join its community. Temple Beth El of Oneonta is an egalitarian congregation affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. Located approximately halfway between Binghamton and Albany, its membership of approximately 60 families is drawn from surrounding counties.

Cantor-led Friday evening services are held once a month September-May with Torah study held Saturday mornings when the cantor is in residence. Supplemental lay-led services, Torah study and discussion groups are held throughout each month. Religious school meets Sunday mornings during the school year. The Men's Club holds Sunday breakfasts on the third Sunday of each month and the Sisterhood meets on a Sunday as scheduled.

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

Please visit the Temple Beth El website, www.templebetheloneonta.org, for more information on current



Temple Beth El of Oneonta

activities and on how to become a member of Temple Beth El. Temple Beth El is located at 83 Chestnut St., Oneonta, NY 13820. The phone number is 607-432-5522; leave a message for a return call. For more information, e-mail tbeoneonta@gmail.com.

Temple Brith Sholom

Temple Brith Sholom acts as the center for Jewish religious and cultural activities in Cortland, NY, and in the surrounding Cortland County community. A diverse group comprised of about 30 individuals and family members, Temple Brith Sholom frequently shares programs with the active SUNY Cortland Hillel, and participates in interfaith community events. High Holiday services, Shabbat services and other events will be offered in person and/or virtually in 2025-26. Plans are currently under way to meet the religious and cultural needs of the congregation, as well as to host several concerts and other cultural on line or live events.

The community maintains a Jewish cemetery on the

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

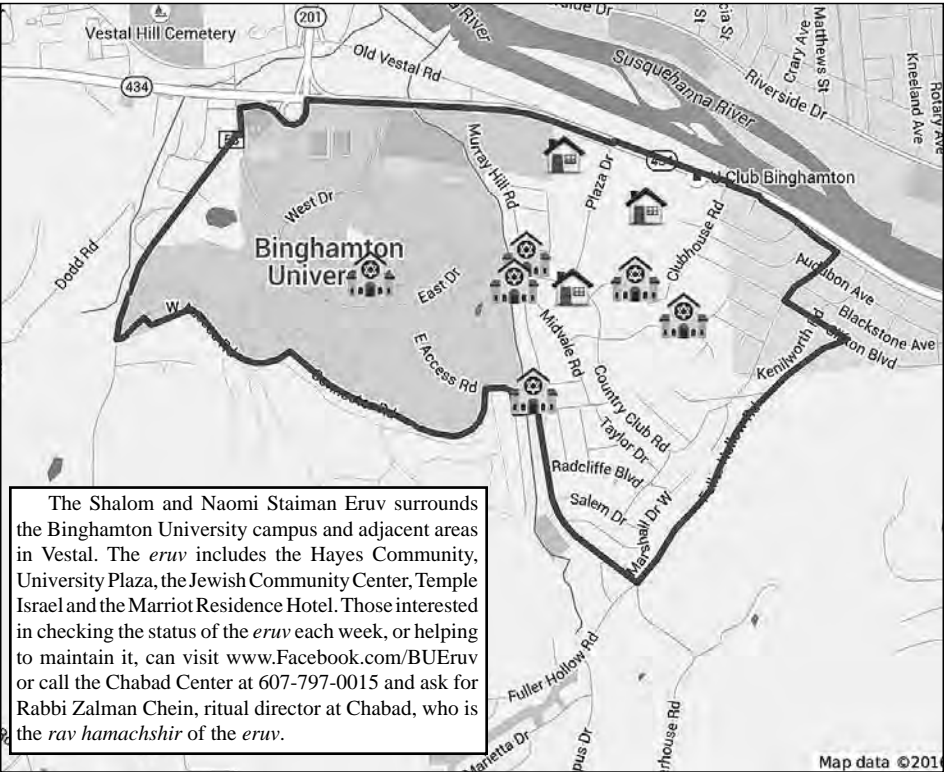
Binghamton West Side *Eruv* and other points of interest



An *eruv* is *halachic* (Jewish legal code) device to enable Sabbath observing Jews in a particular geographical area to carry items and wheel baby carriages on Shabbat. Its boundaries frequently consist of existing utility poles and cables under a specific plan drawn up by a rabbinic authority. It is then checked each week to see that the *eruv* is intact for that particular Shabbat.

In Binghamton, the *eruv* extends over a significant portion of the West Side. The *eruv* was updated in September 2011.

The Shalom and Naomi Staiman *Eruv* in Vestal



The Shalom and Naomi Staiman Eruv surrounds the Binghamton University campus and adjacent areas in Vestal. The *eruv* includes the Hayes Community, University Plaza, the Jewish Community Center, Temple Israel and the Marriot Residence Hotel. Those interested in checking the status of the *eruv* each week, or helping to maintain it, can visit www.Facebook.com/BUeruv or call the Chabad Center at 607-797-0015 and ask for Rabbi Zalman Chein, ritual director at Chabad, who is the *rav hamachshir* of the *eruv*.

Beth David.....Continued from page 9A

Beth David can be helpful to those who wish to observe Judaism in accordance with tradition. Anyone observing a *yahrzeit* can comfortably come to say *Kaddish* for a loved one. The synagogue maintains the Binghamton *eruv* (Sabbath boundary) and *mikvah* (ritual bath).

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

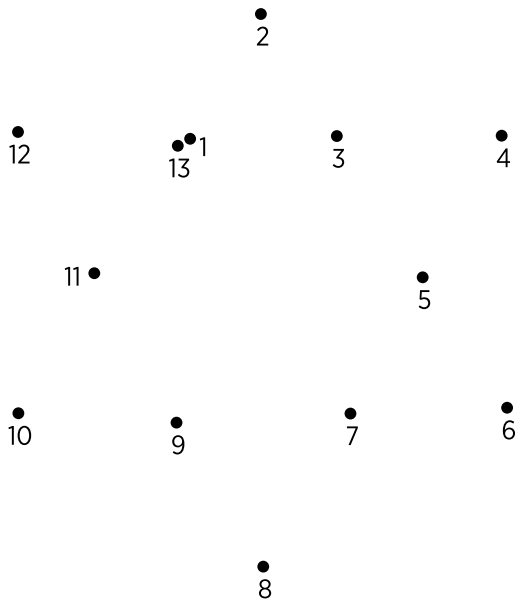
Beth David Synagogue is the main address when seeking a Jewish religious and social experience. Those with questions may call Beth David's office at 607-722-1793.

Regular office hours are Tuesdays, 10 am-1 pm; and Thursdays, 9 am-1 pm.

Rabbi Zev Silber lit the Beth David menorah for the community during the Beth David Synagogue Chanukah party on December 29. (Photo by Stacey Silber)



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Jewish Community Center

Mission Statement

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

Purpose

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

History

Founded August 15, 1927, the JCC provides programs and services to the community in its ever-expanding, modern facilities in Vestal. For almost 100 years, the JCC has offered programs in five major service areas to individuals and families with infants to senior adults: (1) Early Childhood Education Center, with services including infant care, toddler program, preschool program and UPK program; (2) Youth and Teen programs/services; (3) Arts and Culture program; (4) Health and Wellness program and services, including fitness, athletics, and aquatics; and (5) Summer Day Camp.

Dr. I.J. Rosefsky Early Childhood Education Center

The JCC offers a premier, full-day early childhood program for children ages 6 weeks to 5 years, operating year-round from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm, Monday through Friday.

The Dr. I.J. Rosefsky Early Childhood Education Center at the Jewish Community Center offers a warm, child-centered environment designed to help children grow into confident, responsible and successful learners. Emphasizing the journey of learning rather than predetermined outcomes, the school fosters creativity and exploration in every activity.

Guided by developmentally appropriate practices and the principles of the Creative Curriculum, the program is thoughtfully structured to support each child's unique growth and development. The Center is dedicated to creating a safe, supportive and enriching environment where every child can thrive and reach their fullest potential.

Families are encouraged to discover the nurturing,

inspiring atmosphere that makes the Early Childhood Education Center a standout choice for early education in the community.

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

Infant, Toddler and Preschool Program

Utilizing the nationally acclaimed Creative Curriculum, the program emphasizes hands-on learning, social-emotional growth and age-appropriate exploration across infant, toddler and preschool classrooms.

What distinguishes the program is its access to exceptional enrichment: children 18 months and older receive weekly swimming lessons in the JCC's heated indoor pool and physical education classes. Daily activities include art, music, science, story time, dramatic play and outdoor exploration.

Children benefit from access to a dedicated art room, a full gymnasium, three age-specific playgrounds and scenic nature trails. Morning and afternoon snacks are provided, along with fresh kosher lunches prepared onsite by the ECC's own cook.

Jewish culture is celebrated through weekly Shabbat observances and holiday-themed activities that include stories, crafts, songs, and food.

With its outstanding curriculum, caring environment and unique facilities, the ECC provides an enriching early childhood experience unlike any other in the region.

Universal Pre-Kindergarten

The JCC is a Universal Pre-Kindergarten full-day provider for the Vestal and Binghamton school districts, and accepts limited self-pay spots out of district. The school prioritizes school readiness by blending academic instruction with social-emotional development. Early literacy and numeracy are introduced through structured lessons, group discussions, and play-based learning centers.

All UPK students benefit from weekly swimming in the JCC's heated indoor pool and physical education classes, enhancing gross motor skills and overall physical wellness. Daily programming includes art, music, science, story time, dramatic play and outdoor exploration – providing a well-rounded foundation for lifelong learning.

Through cooperative play, self-regulation strategies and leadership opportunities, students build confidence, independence and the skills needed to thrive in kindergarten and beyond.

Contact the ECC at 607-724-2417 or by e-mail (admissions@binghamtonjcc.org) regarding enrollment.

Youth and Teen Programs/Services

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

Kids Connection

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

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

Arts and Culture

The JCC sponsors many cultural, educational and social activities and programs throughout the year, which have included exhibits, lectures, trips, dances, classes, the Jewish Book Fair and Jewish cultural festivals. There is Jewish holiday programming for the entire family for Hanukkah and Purim as well as a drag show experience for the community. JCC classes range from youth through adult and can include art, nature, dance, theater and more.

Friendship Club

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

Health and Wellness Program/Services

The Binghamton JCC offers a full spectrum of programs to support mind, body and wellness, featuring year-round classes and activities across its facilities – including a Fitness Center, gymnasium, indoor pool, Pilates reformer studio, fitness loft, outdoor complex and 18-plus health clubs equipped with lounge areas, steam rooms and saunas. Certified personal trainers and yoga and Pilates reformer instructors – most with exercise science degrees – guide members through personalized workouts and specialized sessions in areas like tai chi, Pilates and yoga.

The JCC offers group fitness and specialty classes, personal and small group training, and daily fitness center use, except on the Sabbath. The welcoming fitness center boasts ellipticals, treadmills, exercise bikes, selectorized equipment, squat racks and a variety of functional equipment, including fixed barbells, balls, bands, ropes and free weights. Certified personal trainers are available to help reach goals safely and effectively. The JCC offers SilverSneakers classes and accepts many senior insurance plans for membership.

Athletics offerings span from age 2 through adult leagues and offerings. Pickleball continues to surge in popularity, with opportunities ranging from beginner instruction to competitive match play. Adults can also join popular basketball leagues, including both 3v3 and 4v4 formats, designed for competitive and recreational players alike.

Youth athletics are a cornerstone of the JCC's programming. The JCC Hoopsters program offers engaging clinics, leagues and private basketball coaching for skill development and confidence-building. For younger children ages 2-5, classes like Lil Hoopsters, Lil Tumblers, Soccer Shots and more introduce fundamental movement and teamwork in a fun, supportive environment.

With a newly renovated gymnasium, expert coaching, and a focus on inclusivity and growth, the JCC's sports offerings promote active lifestyles, healthy habits and a strong sense of community.


Contact the JCC today and mention this article for a complimentary trial pass.

Aquatics

The Binghamton JCC Aquatics Department offers American Red Cross swim lessons for all ages, including parent/child, preschool, youth, advanced youth and adult. See "JCC" on page 15A.



The Universal Pre-Kindergarten class participated in Earth Day.



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JCC/ECC staff and ECC families attended the ECC Harvest Luncheon in November.



Harry Cohen, arts and culture director, with performers in the Youth Theater Performance and Art Show in February.



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JCC.....Continued from page 14A

levels, with a focus on stroke development and water safety. A Masters Swim Program is available for adults, led by a certified USA Swimming instructor.

Water aerobics classes remain popular, promoting low-impact wellness for all fitness levels. The department also provides Red Cross certification courses in Lifeguarding, CPR, First Aid and AED, as well as Wilderness CPR.

The indoor pool is maintained at a comfortable 85 degrees and features ease-in steps and a chair lift for accessibility. Private swim lessons and personal aquatic training are available, led by certified instructors specializing in everything from learn-to-swim and adult lessons to adapted swim, ISR and more.

JCC Summer Camp

For more than 80 years, Camp JCC has earned a reputation for providing a quality day camp experience for



Participants in Caty's Bootcamp, one of many health and wellness programs at the JCC.

the young people of the Southern Tier. Open to the entire community, Camp JCC is a place where children from ages 5-16 years come to develop new friendships and take on new experiences and challenges. Camps at the JCC also include week-long co-ed sports camps and specialty camps.

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

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

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

JCC Guest Pass Policy

JCC members in good standing may receive complimentary passes to the JCC for out-of-town house guests for a period of up to two weeks. After three visits per year, local guests can choose to become a JCC member by visiting or calling the JCC office at 607-724-2417.



The Jewish Community Center's indoor pool is used throughout the year for swim lessons and open swim time for members.

Seasonal Program Guide

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

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

Life Cycles

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

Birth

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

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

Brit Milah

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

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

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

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

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

Temple Israel refers people to a certified *mohel*.

Simchat Bat

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bar/Bat Mitzvah

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

counted as a member of the congregation. In most Reform and Conservative synagogues, the bat mitzvah ceremony is identical to that of the bar mitzvah. In Orthodox synagogues the ceremony varies.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rabbi Micah Friedman tutors all of Temple Israel's bar/bat mitzvah students. The temple also has a guide that covers the history of the ceremony, the honors given out in the synagogue, making party arrangements, etc.

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

Confirmation

For Reform and some Conservative Jews, the confir-

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

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

Mikvah

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

A *mikvah* is located at Beth David Synagogue in Binghamton. It is modern, beautiful, filtered and heated. Persons See "Life" on page 18A

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Binghamton University Hillel at Binghamton

With about 4,000 Jewish students enrolled at Binghamton University, the city of Binghamton is home to one of the largest and most vibrant Jewish student populations in the country. At the heart of it all is Hillel at Binghamton, proudly serving as “The Jewish Hub,” a place where students connect with their heritage, develop leadership skills and find a sense of home, all while building bridges with the broader community.

Since its founding in 2001, Hillel at Binghamton has become one of the university’s most active and beloved organizations. Each year, student leaders and professional staff work hand in hand to plan and deliver more than 200 programs across religious, cultural, educational and social spaces. Whether you’re looking for a



Celebrating Yom Ha’atzmaut, Israel’s Independence Day, Hillel at Binghamton hosted an event featuring Israeli music, food and a carnival.

spirited Shabbat dinner, a meaningful volunteer opportunity, or simply a warm community, Hillel is where it all comes together.

A Welcoming Place for Shabbat and Holidays

Every Friday night, more than 150 students gather for Hillel’s signature Shabbat experience. The evening begins with Reform, Conservative and Orthodox services, reflecting the diversity of Jewish practice on campus, and is followed by a festive, free kosher dinner where students can relax, reflect and connect with one another. “Hillel Shabbat is the best part of my week,” said one student. “It’s the one time I know I can slow down, be with friends and feel like I belong.”

Jewish holidays are celebrated with equal care and creativity. High Holiday services are hosted on campus and in collaboration with local synagogues, allowing students to choose from a variety of prayer styles and settings. Sukkot celebrations include festive meals and student-favorite events like S’mores in the Sukkah and Pizza in the Hut. During Purim, students don costumes and enjoy carnivals, megillah readings and a campuswide gift basket exchange. For Passover, Hillel distributes baskets of kosher-for-Passover food and hosts engaging

holiday events and learning opportunities, helping students celebrate the season with meaning, connection and community.

Connecting Students with Israel

Hillel at Binghamton offers robust opportunities for students to connect with Israel through culture, education and travel. Each year, students take part in Birthright Israel trips, experiencing Israel firsthand alongside their peers – and often returning with lifelong memories and friendships.

Students can also participate in Hillel’s Perspectives Israel immersion program, which brings together student leaders of all backgrounds to engage in complex conversations and meet voices from across the Israeli and Palestinian landscapes.

Back on campus, the Bearcats for Israel student group hosts events like Aroma Café, a pop-up inspired by Israeli coffee culture, along with engaging programs that explore Israel’s politics, culture and innovations. One of the highlights of the year is the campuswide celebration of Yom Ha’atzmaut (Israel’s Independence Day), complete with music, Israeli food and festive activities. An on-campus Israel Fellow helps guide students as they build their personal connection to Israel and engage in respectful, thoughtful dialogue.



Through monthly baking and sales of challah, Hillel at Binghamton’s Challah for Hunger chapter raises funds and awareness for anti-hunger initiatives, fostering community engagement and philanthropy.

Jewish Learning That Meets Students Where They Are

At Hillel, Jewish learning is accessible, relevant and meaningful, no matter a student’s background or level of experience.

The Jewish Learning Fellowship (JLF), a popular 10-week seminar, invites students to explore life’s big questions through a Jewish lens. Topics range from friendship
See “Hillel” on page 19A

Center for Israel Studies

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

space, which does not engage in advocacy.

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

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

Judaic Studies Department

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

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

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

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

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

Binghamton University Zionist Organization

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

mination in their ancestral homeland.

In response to the concerning surge of antisemitic incidents across campuses and cities in the Western world since October 7, BUZO has proactively engaged in efforts to counter these sentiments and shed light on the challenges facing Israel within and beyond the university. Its initiatives include a diverse array of activities, such as hosting

guest speakers and educators, advocacy campaigns, visual displays on campus, educational seminars, cultural events, distribution of educational materials at the university and more. Notably, since October 7, BUZO has expanded its outreach efforts and speaker events to include survivors of the Nova Festival and individuals with personal experiences during historical events in the Middle East.

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

BUZO’s exciting cultural events, educational seminars, advocacy training, community engagement, and constant

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

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



A BUZO tableting for the hostages held by Hamas.

MEOR Upstate

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



BUZO marked the one-year anniversary of the October 7 attack on Israel by Hamas.

Cornell University

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

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

ning more than 1,000 programs a year, that are constantly developing as the needs of the students grow and change. Whether it's Israeli politics and advocacy, advocacy and service for local refugees, Latin-Israeli dancing, *a cappella* singing, traditional learning, or religious services, there is truly something for everyone. Cornell Hillel is dedicated to training and nurturing its students to become future leaders and members of the American Jewish community, empowering them to find the balance between being distinctively Jewish and uni-

versally human. Over the past several years, Cornell Hillel has seen a tremendous growth in the number of students taking an active part in Jewish life, both on campus and at national and international locations for leadership training and service work. Cornell Hillel is a member of CURW (Cornell United Religious Work) and the Hillel offices are located in G-34 Anabel Taylor Hall. For news and activities of Jewish life on campus, visit Cornell Hillel's website at cornellhillel.org or call 607-255-4227.

The Center for Jewish Living at Cornell

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

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

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



The Center for Jewish Living residence and adjoining kosher dining hall on Cornell University's west campus.

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

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

Adjacent to CJL is 104 West! Kosher Dining Hall with seating for 250. Cornell Dining manages the kosher dining

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

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

CJL houses an extensive library and artwork collection, and offers a wide range of classes and events on timely and relevant Jewish topics and issues. These include courses on Jewish history, culture and religious texts, as well as discussions and lectures on contemporary issues.

See "Cornell" on page 18A

Jewish Studies Program at Cornell

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

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

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

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

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

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

Roitman Chabad Center at Cornell

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

There are classes on a variety of topics offered by Chabad, including Jewish mysticism, the weekly Torah portion, Jewish law and much more. The staff at Chabad are also available for one-on-one learning sessions on any topic. Chabad is now offering classes via Zoom (online video conferencing); sign up online

at www.chabadcornell.com/zoom.

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

Chabad at Cornell is undergoing a major expansion with a new 10,000 square foot building. Construction is nearing the end and due to be finished in summer 2025. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to build the future of Jewish life at Cornell by participating in this capital campaign. Community members are asked to consider a dedication or pledging a major gift at ChabadCornell.com/build.

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

Seen around the community...



Students enjoyed Hillel at Binghamton's annual Aroma Café event.



Hillel at Binghamton's "Get Lost with Hillel" event invited students to explore the Stoughton Farms corn maze.

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Area Universities

Hillel at Ithaca College

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

With more than 100 student programs and initiatives

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

Hillel co-sponsors programs with various college

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

Chabad of Oneonta

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

Through its diverse programming, Chabad offers ev-

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

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

is a cake waiting for them).

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

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

SUNY Cortland Hillel

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

There is a Chabad House adjacent to campus, where students are welcomed for Friday night Shabbat dinners, holiday celebrations, traditional kosher food and activities. Hillel also participates in inter-club events and charitable fund-raising activities.

Hillel maintains a membership in the local synagogue, Temple Brith Sholom, where students are afforded an opportunity to participate in, as well as conduct, a cre-

ative service for the High Holidays and for the Sabbath of Parents Weekend.

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

Life.....

wishing to use it must schedule their visit in advance by calling the *shul* office at 607-722-1793. Women should call 607-761-0944.

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

The Temple Concord rabbi will make arrangements.

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

Conversion

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

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

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

Temple Beth-El of Ithaca provides for Conservative conversion. Study and preparation for conversion are provided by the Rabbi Caleb Brommer and the community.

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

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

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

Illness

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

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

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

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

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

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

Death

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

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

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

The synagogues in the area have arrangements with cemeteries.

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

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

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

.....Continued from page 15A

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

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

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

Temple Beth El of Oneonta owns and operates a Jewish cemetery. Call Steven Feuer, chairman of the cemetery committee, at 432-0108 for information.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cornell.....Continued from page 17A

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

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

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

Around the community...



On October 1, Temple Concord Religious School students dressed the Torahs in white in preparation for the High Holidays.

Kashruth Guide

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

Kosher establishments
Kosher Kitchen of Binghamton University
In the C-4 building
Kashrut supervision: OU – Rabbi Benjamin Kellman
Follows university calendar:
Mon.-Thurs.: breakfast (bagels only) 8-10 am; lunch 11 am-1:30 pm; dinner 5-8 pm
Fri.: breakfast (bagels only) 8-10 am; lunch 11 am-1:30 pm
Sat.: Closed
Sun.: brunch 11 am-1:30 pm; dinner 5-8 pm
Phone: 777-3193
104West! Kosher Dining Hall at Cornell University
104 West Ave., Ithaca

Concord Continued from page 10A

can be found in the temple’s “Happenings” e-mails, on its Facebook page and on its website). The book club is open to the public and offers a discussion of the chosen book in a social setting.

Education

In keeping with the tradition of the Jewish people and the principles of Reform Judaism, Temple Concord has a comprehensive religious school and Hebrew school program, starting with younger children and progressing to confirmation. Religious school for children in kindergarten through seventh grade meets on Saturdays from 9-11:45 am and includes attending Shabbat morning services. Hebrew classes meet on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Children in eighth, ninth and 10th grades, the post-bat mitzvah program, will meet once

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

or twice a month. The curriculum covers Jewish religious concepts and practices; Torah; Hebrew; Jewish values, morals and ethics; Jewish history from biblical to present time; and comparative religion. Congregation membership is not required to participate in these programs.

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

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

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

Hillel Continued from page 16A

and purpose to values and identity. Students receive a stipend for their participation, but most say the real reward is the sense of community and clarity they gain.

For students who want to dig deeper, programs like Kol Yisrael explore contemporary issues in Israeli society, while one-on-one study sessions and informal learning opportunities are available year-round. Hillel’s learning environment is enriched by an OU-JLIC educator couple, a rabbi and rebbetzin, who support Orthodox students and offer classes open to everyone. Visiting rabbinical students from the Jewish Theological Seminary also contribute to campus life by leading discussions and sharing diverse perspectives.

Hillel is currently searching for candidates to serve as a full-time campus rabbi, a role that will further strengthen Jewish learning, spiritual leadership and student support on campus.

Social Justice and Service in Action

Hillel at Binghamton is rooted in the Jewish value of *tikkun olam*, or repairing the world. The student-run Challah for Hunger chapter bakes and sells challah each week, with proceeds supporting hunger relief efforts both locally and nationally.

Hillel also champions interfaith partnerships. Hillel’s annual Interfaith Shabbat invites students of all faiths to come together in celebration and conversation. More interfaith programs are on the horizon as Hillel continues to build bridges across campus.

When global events affect communities near and far, Hillel helps students respond with compassion and action. Whether organizing a candlelight vigil, a donation drive, or a service project, students learn to lead with empathy and purpose.

A Home for Arts, Culture, and Creativity

Jewish identity comes to life at Hillel through a blend of tradition, learning, creativity, and community.

Kaskeset, the university’s Jewish *a cappella* group, is a beloved fixture on campus and beyond. Known for blending Hebrew liturgy with contemporary pop songs, the group performs across the country and has even sung at the Israeli ambassador’s United Nations Hanukkah reception and at the State Department in Washington, DC.

Throughout the year, Hillel hosts cultural events like film screenings, art nights, cooking

through late August).

Kosher grab-n-go meals are available in Campus Center Dining Hall.

Kosher supervision by Star K.

Hours as of spring 2023:
Sun. brunch 10 am-2 pm
Mon.-Thurs. lunch 11 am-2 pm, dinner 5-7 pm
Fri. lunch 11 am-1:30 pm
Sat. closed
Phone: 274-3905

Kosher meat

There is no local kosher butcher.

Binghamton Price Chopper
Foundry Plaza, 10 Glenwood Ave., Binghamton
Phone: 770-7151
This store carries packaged products, and frozen meats and chicken.

Lipman’s Kosher Market
1482 Monroe Ave., Rochester, NY 14618
Phone: 585-271-7886
Glatt kosher meat deliveries are usually once a month to Temple Beth-El of Ithaca. Call Lipman’s for more information or visit its Facebook page. Kosher supervision by Rochester Kosher Services and Buffalo Vaad Kashrut (BVK).

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

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

Weis Markets
50 Pennsylvania Ave., Binghamton
Phone: 762-5410

Carries a small selection of fresh and frozen kosher poultry.

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

Supermarket products

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

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

Green Star Cooperative
Ithaca

Oasis (a health food store)
DeWitt Mall, Ithaca

Price Chopper
Foundry Plaza, Binghamton
Endicott
Oneonta

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

Trader Joe’s
744 S. Meadow St., Ithaca

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

Weis Markets
Various locations

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Directory of Organizations

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

Beth David Synagogue – 722-1793

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

BinghamtonUniversityZionistOrganization

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

Center for Israel Studies, Binghamton University – 777-3030

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

Chabad of Oneonta – 845-204-7436

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

Congregation Tikkun v’Or – 256-1471

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

Cornell University Jewish Studies Program – 255-6275

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

Hillel Academy – 304-4544

Director of Secular Education: Sarah MacDougal – sthomas1320@hillelacademyofbc.org
Director of Judaic Studies-Hebrew: Rabbi Moshe Shmaryahu – rabbishmaryahu@gmail.com
President: Alex Kaminsky
Enrollment, Community Outreach, Grants and Fund-raising – frontoffice@hillelacademyofbc.org
Office hours: 8:30 am-3:30 pm
E-mail: frontoffice@hillelacademyofbc.org
Website: www.hillelacademyofbroomecounty.org
Facebook: Hillel Academy of Broome County
Instagram: @hillel_academy_bc

Hillel at Binghamton – 777-3424

Executive Director: Chelsea Rego
Springboard Ezra Jewish Education Specialist: Noah Lenkin
Jewish Agency Israel Fellow: Amit Bachrach
OU-JLIC Directors: Rav Jared and Sarit Anstandig
Campus Marketing and Development Manager: Rachel Miller
JTS Rabbinical Intern: Maddie Herrup
E-mail: hillel@binghamton.edu
Website: www.hillelatbinghamton.org
Hillel at Ithaca College: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life – 274-3323
Executive Director: Julie Boden Adams
Jewish chaplain: Cantor Abbe Lyons
E-mail: hillel@ithaca.edu
Website: ithaca.edu/hillel
Facebook: fb.com/ichillel

Ithaca Area United Jewish Community – 257-5181

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

Ithaca Beit Midrash

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

Jewish Community Center – 724-2417

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Jonathan Rivera, Personal Trainer
Office Hours: Mon. 9 am-8 pm, Tues.-Wed. 9 am-5 pm, Thurs., 9 am-8 pm, Fri. 9 am-5 pm
Early Childhood Center Hours: Mon.-Fri. 7:30 am -5:30 pm
Website: www.binghamtonjcc.org
Facebook: facebook.com/JCCBinghamton
Instagram: @thebinghamtonjcc

Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton – 724-2332

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

Jewish Studies Program at Cornell University

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

Judaic Studies Department, Binghamton University – 777-3030

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

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Facebook: MEOR Binghamton and MEOR Cornell

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

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

Roitman Chabad Center at Cornell – 319-0874

Website: www.chabadcornell.com
SUNY Cortland Hillel
Student President: Emma Lisnow emma.lisnow@cortland.edu
Faculty Advisor: Nance S. Wilson, nance.wilson@cortland.edu, 753-4375

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

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Temple Beth-El, Ithaca – 273-5775

Temple Co-Presidents: Jerry Dietz, Ariel Avgar
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Facebook: www.facebook.com/templeconcord

Temple Israel – 723-7461

Rabbi: Micah Friedman
President: Arthur Siegel
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E-mail: titammy@stny.twcbc.com
Website: www.templeisraelvestal.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/TempleIsraelVestal

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The students of Hillel Academy practiced blowing the shofar to prepare for Rosh Hashanah.

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