

THE REPORTER

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Holocaust memorial service to be held on Sept. 28

By Reporter staff

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton will hold a memorial service at the Holocaust Memorial Monument in the Temple Israel Cemetery, on Conklin Avenue in Conklin, on Sunday, September 28, at 10:30 am. The service will be led by area rabbis. The monument was one of the first memorial stones in the United States to acknowledge the Holocaust.

"We are pleased to be able to hold this important event again this year," said Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Federation. "We not only remember those who lost their lives in the Holocaust, but honor

those who developed, created and sustained this important community memorial."

The monument was the project of the Get Together Club, which was a social and philanthropic group formed in 1948 by 13 German-speaking Jewish women. The women were the wives of cattle dealers who had resettled in the Southern Tier after fleeing Nazism. The decision to raise a memorial stone occurred after a member's husband wished he



The Holocaust Memorial in the Temple Israel Cemetery

had a place to say *Kaddish* for his parents, who, since they had died in the Holocaust, had no grave he could visit. The club raised the necessary funds for the stone. The names of more than 250 individuals who died in the Holocaust and had no grave were placed in a copper box, which was buried at the foot of the monument. The inscription on the stone says, "Victims of Racial Persecution who lost Their Lives in Europe During the Years 1933-1945.

They Will Never Be Forgotten."

The first ceremony took place on Sunday, November 9, 1952, and continued for 20 years. Then, after Professor Rhonda Levine spoke about the Get Together Club at the Federation's Super Sunday in 2015, it was decided to resume the ceremony, holding it between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur each year.

"I want to thank our local clergy for supporting the memorial program," said Hubal. "I hope you will join us for what is always a moving event. It's important that we never forget the lives lost in the Holocaust."

Federation to hold 10/7 commemoration on Oct. 5

By Reporter staff

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton will hold a 10/7 commemorative service and speaker on Sunday, October 5, at 10 am, at Temple Israel. Dr. Yehezkel Caine, president of Herzog Medical Center in Jerusalem, will speak virtually about the work being done at Herzog's Israel Center for the Treatment of Psychotrauma with survivors, soldiers and families. The event is co-sponsored by Beth David Synagogue, Temple Concord and Temple Israel.

According to its website (www.afherzoghospital.org/psychotrauma), "Herzog's

Israel Center for the Treatment of Psychotrauma maintains one of the most effective treatment and research centers in Israel. It has become an international resource center and works closely with trauma specialists throughout the world. Today, it is a nationwide leader in helping individuals cope with the trauma of terrorist violence, rocket attacks and war. The Trauma Center has become the key magnet providing trauma counseling services, therapy and educational seminars in Jerusalem and throughout Israel."

Before being appointed as president of the

center, Caine was its director general from 1995 until the beginning of 2021. His previous experience includes more than 20 years in various command, flying and professional positions in the Israeli Air Force, including surgeon general (chief medical officer) of the Air Force. His studies include medicine and a residency in general surgery at the Hebrew University Medical School in Jerusalem. In addition, he has been a visiting lecturer in medicine at Harvard Medical School and a visiting scientist at MIT in Boston. Caine was also a Fellow of the Department of Aerospace Medicine at Ohio State University.

"It is important for our community to come together in a meaningful way to remember the atrocities of October 7th and pray for the hostages. I hope everyone will come out for this special event," said Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Federation. "Dr. Caine's presentation is certain to be moving and informative."

To watch a video about Herzog hospital, visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y-lo0V-v45V1&t=2s. To watch a video about an IDF soldier's injury and recovery at Herzog, visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=8EyXx68q-Sg&t=12s.

Film Fest announces 2025-26 films and dates

By Reporter staff

The Binghamton Jewish Film Fest will feature five events during its 2025-26 season:

◆ "Running on Sand": The virtual discussion will take place on Sunday, November 23, at 7 pm. Dora E. Polachek, visiting associate professor of Romance Languages and Literatures at Binghamton University, will lead the discussion. The film tells the story of Aumari, a young Eritrean refugee being deported from Israel who is mistaken for the new foreign player of a struggling football team.

◆ Four short films: "No Harm Done," "The Sacred Society," "Women of Virtue" and

"The Father, The Son and The Rav": The virtual discussion will take place on Sunday, December 7, at 7 pm. Rivky Slonim, co-director of The Rohr Chabad Center for Jewish Life, will lead the discussion. Each of the four short films illustrates a different part of the Jewish life cycle.

◆ "The Matchmaker": The virtual discussion will take place on Sunday, December 28, at 7 pm. Matthew Johnson, professor of psychology and director of Clinical Training at Binghamton University, will lead the discussion. The film tells the story of a young teenage boy after he begins working for a Holocaust survivor, who is a professional matchmaker. The relationship changes both of their lives.

◆ "The Tasters": The virtual discussion will take place on Sunday, February 8, at 7 pm. Nancy Bassman, a historian who trained at the School of Oriental and African Studies in the University of London and earned a doctorate in urban studies from the University of Kent in Canterbury, will lead the discussion. In 1943, 26-year-old Rosa, escaping from bombed Berlin, arrives at a village that hides a secret: Hitler's headquarters are located there. Rosa is one of the women chosen to taste Hitler's food before it is served to make certain it has not been poisoned.

◆ "Soul of a Nation": The in-person discussion will take place on Sunday, March 15,

at 7 pm, place TBA. Irle Goldman, who has been a clinical psychologist for more than 50 years, will be the moderator. The film is a documentary that "delves into Israel's most perilous chapter in recent history, a time of profound internal conflict and external danger."

"The Film Fest Committee is excited to present the coming year's line-up," said Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, which sponsored the Film Fest. "The films range from comedy to drama to documentary, and even several short films. We hope the community will once again come together and enjoy their local Jewish Film Fest."

Spotlight

Zoom with author at TC on Oct. 21

Inspired by family, Jennifer Brown explores the 1920s

By Rabbi Rachel Esserman

Jennifer Brown will speak about her book "The Whisper Sister" on Tuesday, October 21, at 10:30 am, via Zoom at Temple Concord. The event is free and open to the community. It is not necessary to have read the book to attend. To read The Reporter's review of Brown's book, visit www.thereporter.org/book-reviews/cjl-jews-and-crime-fact-and-fiction?entry=481281.

Jennifer Brown, author of "Modern Girls" and "The Whisper Sister," didn't have to look far to discover what topics and time periods to feature in her novels: her family history inspired both. "The

Whisper Sister' started with questions I had about my own family," she said in an e-mail interview. "My great-great-grandparents immigrated from Ukraine to the Lower East Side of New York in 1906. The whole (large) family lived in one apartment, and my great-great grandfather worked at a newsstand."

That means her family lived in New York City during the 1920s, a time period Brown finds fascinating. "The glamor! The excitement! Flappers and speakeasies!" she said. "So much of



Jennifer Brown (Photo by Sharona Jacobs)

what I read or saw about the 1920s focused on the seductive charms of the Jazz Age."

However, Brown also realized that that glamour was not reflected in the lives of the poorer, immigrant population, which led her to ponder what her family's life was really like. "My immigrant family. In a small apartment. The work at the newsstand," she said. "Other family members worked as iron molders, seamstresses, painters. Money was tight. These folks weren't drinking it up at secret bars. What was life like for

those who weren't part of the swell life? How did immigrants fare in the 1920s? What were the less enchanting parts of life during Prohibition? These are the questions I asked myself as I conjured up the premise of 'The Whisper Sister.'"

To Brown's surprise, she learned that women were actively involved in bootlegging during Prohibition. "I hadn't realized just how many women were involved in the liquor business," she noted. "Whisper sisters were women who operated drinking establishments. Speakeasies could be anything from a swanky hidden bar to someone's See "Brown" on page 4

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Masters of shtick: A comedian minyan: part I

BILL SIMONS

Jews figure prominently in the history of American comedy. Time magazine estimated that nearly 80 percent of U.S. comics were Jewish. That's enough of a prompt for me to forward my Top 10 list of Jewish American comedians/comediennes.

Only Americans are eligible, thus expect no riffs on ironic rabbinic texts or the tummel in the Book of Esther. Charlie Chaplin was emperor of comedy, but he wasn't American and his ties to Judaism unclear. Following a

trajectory from stereotypical dialect on the vaudeville stage to a staple of mass media, Jewish American humor has evolved amidst immersion in democracy, assimilation and commercialism.

I focus exclusively on performers, so literary scholars need not fear appropriation of novelists Sholem Aleichem or Philip Roth. Most of those on my list largely eschewed overt ethnic content. However, beyond membership in "the tribe," the performers selected express a Jewish sensibility.

Although Jewish comics have ranged from the very proper Sam Levenson to the scatological *mashugana* Andrew Dice Clay, my designees exhibit some, not necessarily all, of the cultural traits often attributed to American Jews: wit as a defense mechanism against our depressive history, the vantage point of an outlier, self and group criticism, confrontation with the absurdity and cruelty of the larger society, a commitment to social justice, quick intelligence. See "Shtick" on page 8

Opinion

One Perspective from Israel

An idol in shul

JEREMY M. STAIMAN

This article originally appeared in the Times of Israel and is being reprinted with permission.

Three guesses what this is about:

Reference to the placing of a statue in the Holy Temple, which we mourn on Shiva Asar b'Tamuz. Nope.

Was an inappropriate symbol discovered during the construction of a new synagogue? Uh-uh.

Was the *shul* treasurer caught red-handed embezzling funds? Heaven forbid!

It was the end of Shabbat services recently, when I overheard an unfamiliar gentleman introducing himself to the treasurer of our *shul* (who, I might add, would never fall under even the slightest whiff of suspicion of malfeasance!). When the guest spoke his name, I couldn't help but smile: Ben Gasner.

Years before I became a graphic designer almost four decades ago, I knew his name. In today's parlance, I would have been called a fanboy. I vividly remember walking into the decrepit old building in Romema which housed my yeshiva in Elul of 1979, and seeing a dramatic poster on the bulletin board. It showed a close-up of a bearded man with less-than-stellar orthodontia, a cigarette near his lips. The caption simply read: *al tiftach peh l'sartan*. In English: don't open your mouth to cancer.

It's never ideal to have to explain a pun, let alone one in another language, but bear with me. This one is worth it.

The original phrase is *al tiftach peh l'satan*. In English: don't open your mouth to the Satan. Ben had altered just a letter or two of the original, and produced a brilliant anti-smoking message.

I searched the internet to see if this pre-personal computer

image was to be found. Amazingly, I found a blurry image, which only contrasted with the fact that my memory was remarkably sharp.

A couple of years later, I received an invitation to a cousin's wedding, also designed by Ben Gasner. Unlike any invitation I had seen before, it was modern and bold with eight panels, fresh fonts, blind embossing and green ink. It was a thing of beauty.

Over the years, I learned to discern his work even before I discovered his name. Not because it was repetitive. Not because he gravitated to a certain style or color palette. But because it was thoroughly thought-out and impeccably executed. If the design looked perfect, and if every letter of every word was precisely spaced, I knew the work was his. See "Idol" on page 5

In My Own Words

Varying thoughts on a murder

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

I thought about opening this column with an inflammatory statement, but decided that would get me into trouble, even though I planned to explain why I didn't really believe that statement a sentence or two later. In fact, I was trying to avoid this whole discussion because the United States is so polarized now that no one is going to change their minds by reading my words. However, after unsuccessfully thinking about several other ideas for this column, I realized there was no way I could write about anything else.

The inflammatory statement: "Since most murders are committed by white, heterosexual men, it's time to do something to stop these beasts from killing." Yes, that is

pretty inflammatory, but why do we never hear anyone say that, even though that group commits the majority of murders? The answer is easy: If a white, heterosexual man commits a crime, all other white, heterosexual men are never held responsible for his actions.

How many of you were also holding your breath praying that the person who murdered Charlie Kirk wasn't Jewish? I certainly was. I'd bet the Black, Latino, Asian and the immigrant communities were doing the same: praying it wasn't one of them because then *all of them* would be blamed. The fears of a backlash – of members of their community being attacked – are real and terrifying. If you

are Jewish and were not worried, then it's great that you didn't have to face that fear, but too many times our leaders and citizens have lashed out against a whole community for what *one* member of that group has done.

Every crime by a member of the minority community reflects on that community the way a crime committed by someone who belongs to the majority group does not. If you know anything about Jewish American history, you'll be familiar with the accusations of criminal behavior committed by our immigrant ancestors, many of whom were described as animals, as subhuman. They are our grandparents, our great-grandparents and our great-great-grandparents. Think about that for a moment. Yes, some of them did commit crimes – the recent influx of books about Jewish criminals from that time period proves that – but far more were hard-working people trying to get ahead in a strange, new land.

Should we not fear becoming like those who accused our ancestors of being animals? How can we face this holiday season if we paint others with the slanders with which we were once painted? When did the U.S. stop being proud of being a great nation of immigrants? We are the children of those immigrants, some of whom came here illegally. Don't forget that many Jews died in the hell of World War II because countries – white Christian countries – refused them entry to their shores.

After learning the identity of Kirk's accused shooter, I said a heartfelt "thank God" to myself that maybe this time no innocents would suffer because of what one man did. However, remember this the next time one of our leaders condemns a group because of what one person did. Remember and think about what might happen if that person were Jewish. Then count your blessings if it's not; the bullet we dodged as a community means that this time all Jews won't be held responsible for one Jew's sins.

Letters

The 2nd Avenue Deli

Roz Antoun's article about her visit to the 2nd Avenue Deli, "On the Jewish food scene: Memories to make your mouth water," appeared on page 9 of The Reporter's June 13 issue. (The column can also be found at www.thereporter.org/features/on-the-jewish-food-scene-memories-to-make-your-mouth-water.) On her next trip to the deli, Antoun shared her article with the owners of the deli. Below is an e-mail she received from one co-owner about the article.

Dear Roz,

Thank you for sharing your wonderful article – I truly enjoyed reading it.

Your vivid storytelling brought back so many memories of classic Jewish dining experiences, from the Catskills to our very own dining room. The way you described

the sights, smells and flavors so vividly – especially the "two-fisted pour" and the deli counter filled with favorites – was both heartwarming and a testament to the cultural significance of this food.

It means a great deal to us when customers not only enjoy their experience, but also take the time to reflect on it so thoughtfully. Your piece beautifully captured the spirit of what we strive to preserve at 2nd Avenue Deli: a place where food, memory, and tradition come together.

We look forward to welcoming you back on your next visit (please let me know in advance) – that corned beef sandwich will be waiting!

Warm regards,
Josh Lebewohl

Co-owner of 2nd Avenue Deli



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BINGHAMTON, NY

OPINIONS

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

LETTERS

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

ADS

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

DEADLINE

Regular deadline is noon, Wednesday, for the following week's newspaper (see deadline dates on page 3). All articles should be e-mailed to TReporter@aol.com.

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Chabad to hold JLI course on Jewish mystical teachings in November

Rivkah Slonim will teach a six-session Rohr Jewish Learning Institute course, "The Kabbalah of Meaning," beginning Monday, November 3, from 7-8:30 pm, at the Chabad Center, 420 Murray Hill Rd., Vestal, and via Zoom. The cost is \$99 per person or \$175 per couple (which includes one textbook). Register before Monday, October 20, to receive a discount of \$90 per person and \$165 for a couple. Additional textbooks are available for \$25 each. The course is open to all members of the community regardless of previous experience with Jewish learning. To register, visit www.Jewishbu.com/JLIBing or contact Ruth Shea at rshea@Jewishbu.com or 607-797-0015.

"We're addressing the question of meaning in life from a classic Jewish perspective, specifically the mystical tradition," Slonim said. "There are questions you answer once

in a lifetime. Then there are questions worth revisiting at each stage of life. This topic is in the second category."

"Developed by the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute, 'The Kabbalah of Meaning' offers a fresh approach to a well-worn topic. We often think that the most meaningful experiences are distinct from our everyday life," Slonim reflected. "In this bold course, we'll learn how to better see the profound meaning already there in every breath of life. Life is busy. This is a chance to step back and see how all the seemingly unrelated parts of our lives can add up to a cohesive whole."

The six sessions will combine the study of classic texts with practical applications for modern living. Each session will explore one fundamental aspect of meaning and purpose, seeking to provide tools that participants can

immediately incorporate into their daily lives.

"Regardless of your background or previous Jewish learning, you'll feel right at home at this course," Slonim said.

"The Kabbalah of Meaning" is certified for continuing education credits for doctors, psychologists, social workers, L.M.F.T.s, and L.P.C./L.M.H.C.s in many states can satisfy their CE requirements by participating in the course. Anyone seeking to verify if a profession is covered at a specific location should e-mail continuingeducation@myjli.com with their name, credentials and state or states they are licensed to practice in.

The Rohr Jewish Learning Institute is the adult education arm of Chabad-Lubavitch. JLI's classes and programs are offered at over 1,600 locations in more than 900 communities worldwide.

TI to host "Sukkot with the Rabbis" on Oct. 12

Temple Israel will hold "Sukkot with the Rabbis" on Sunday, October 12, from 2-4 pm, at the temple. There is a charge of \$5 per person or \$18 per family. The community is invited to attend. The event will celebrate the holiday of Sukkot and the beginning of Rabbi Micah Friedman's third year with Temple Israel. Rabbi Talia Laster will lead the program along with Friedman. To volunteer to help with the event, contact Arlene Osber 607-206-2032 or Bonnie Brown at 607-759-5476. To make a reservation

or to sponsor the event, contact the temple office at 607-723-7461 or office@templeisraelvestal.org.

"The rabbis look forward to meeting and connecting with everyone as we share in the joy of community and tradition," said organizers of the event. "Light refreshments will be provided in either the sukkah or the social hall, depending on the weather. Join us for this joyful occasion of community, tradition and celebration. We look forward to seeing you there!"

JFS/Friendship Club event on Oct. 22

Jewish Family Service and the JCC Friendship Club will host a chair yoga program on Wednesday, October 22, at 1 pm, at the Jewish Community Center. Jill Lukach, who is a certified yoga teacher and works as part of the JCC Athletics Department, will lead. There is no charge

to attend. To register for the event, visit www.jfsg.org or call 607-724-2332.

"Jill makes her classes fun and appropriate for all age groups," said organizers of the event. "We look forward to seeing you there."

TC Sisterhood to hold Whale of a Sale and UpCycle Market

Temple Concord Sisterhood's 41st annual Whale of a Sale and its first UpCycle Market will be held on Sunday, November 9, from 10 am-4 pm, at 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton. The Whale of a Sale will be held in the social hall and the UpCycle Market will be on the first floor of the

Kilmer Mansion. The Whale of a Sale also will be open Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, November 10-12, from noon-6 pm, and on Sunday, November 16, from 10 am-4 pm, when the bag sale will be held. A bag will cost \$15 for a traditional size paper grocery bag that Sisterhood will provide.

Whale of a Sale will feature donated goods, including clothing and shoes for the whole family, household goods, See "Sale" on page 4

OF NOTE

Mativetsky

Hadassah Mativetsky was nominated and selected for the Pardes Pioneer alumni fellowship. As a Pardes Pioneer fellow, Mativetsky is part of an international cohort of 15 Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies alumni being trained in facilitation and experiential pedagogy. Her fellow project will be facilitating an eight-part learning circle titled "Living Jewishly in a Democracy: Exploring our roles and responsibilities as Jewish citizens" using a curriculum crafted by the institute.

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The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to **Bonnie Rozen** on the death of her sister,
Elaine (Rosen) DiCicco



DEADLINES

The following are deadlines for all articles and photos for upcoming issues of the biweekly **REPORTER**.

ISSUE	DEADLINE
October 10-23	September 29 (early)
October 24-November 13	October 13 (early)
November 14-27	November 5
November 28-December 11...	November 19

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

The staff of *The Reporter* offer their condolences to former longtime advertising representative **Bonnie Rozen** on the death of her sister,
Elaine DiCicco.
May Elaine's memory be for a blessing.

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Off the Shelf

Family, Zionism and life in the U.K.

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

According to the dictionary, an author is a person who writes a book. That leads to an interesting question: can someone be called an author if the overwhelming majority of the prose in her work was written by someone else? That question arose because Rachel Cockerell's "Melting Point: Family, Memory, and the Search for a Promised Land" (Farrar, Straus and Giroux) is, except for its preface and afterward, a compilation of short writings from different time periods. Does compiling these writings make Cockerell the author? While that is open to debate, an additional and more interesting question is whether her prose experiment is successful. While the work as a whole doesn't completely jell, parts of it are intriguing enough to make me glad that I read it.

Cockerell explores three disparate time periods: The most interesting section is "Vienna, Basel, Galveston," which looks at a failed Zionist experiment to create a Jewish colony in Texas. "New York" tells the story of

Emmanuel Jochelman (AKA under his pen name Emjo Basshe), a Jewish playwright, and the experimental theater in which he took part. "London" focuses on two things: Cockerell's extended family and the conflicts in British politics over the creation of a Jewish state in Palestine. The three sections are very loosely tied together by the appearance of her great-grandfather, David Jochelman. However, he plays a very minor role in the first section. While David is Emmanuel's father by his first wife, David has no other connection to the story that takes place in "New York." The second section is connected to the third when Emmanuel's daughter, Emjo Basshe II, travels to London to spend time with her newly found relatives. However, these latter two sections were not nearly as interesting as the failed Zionist experiment.

Although I knew that the early Zionists explored several ideas for where to found a Jewish colony – most of which were dismissed as impractical – I was not as familiar with

the attempt to found a colony in Texas. The decision split the movement as the splinter group formed an organization to help Jews from Russia immigrate to Texas in the early part of the 20th century. They wanted to steer immigrants away from the East Coast cities – particularly New York City – to other parts of the country. They recognized that if immigrants disembarked at the northern part of the East Coast, they would rarely travel elsewhere. This led to an effort to have ships dock further south first and then travel to Galveston. Unfortunately, the scheme was not a success for a variety of reasons.

Where Cockerell's work differs from other books is that rather than offering her own thoughts about the subject, she collects short selections of writing from newspapers, journals, diaries and other historical documents. These offer a wide variety of opinions, which give readers a chance to learn about events from a 360-degree point of view. Positive and negative comments are given equal weight, which will not appeal to those looking for an author's commentary on how best to interpret the material. This method did work for the first section of "Melting Point," because the sheer number of opinions offered were interesting and absorbing.

One important thing is missing, though: there are no biographies of the writers/speakers. Readers do learn a great deal about a few of them, for example, Theodore Herzl and Israel Zangwill, a British novelist and playwright whose writings were once very popular. But how much value to give a particular comment is left up to the reader. Knowing something about the writers is helpful. For example, in "New York," one of the most quoted is John Dos Passos. The fact that I am familiar with his writings and life added a depth to his comments. Readers unfamiliar with all the writers may feel something is missing or wonder why they should care about Emjo Basshe, except that he is a distant relative of Cockerell.

The "London" section uneasily juggles the Zionist movement and the daily life of Cockerell's family. This section features the longest pieces of prose, many of which are really dictations telling of Emjo Basshe II's time in London. Unfortunately, I didn't find the author's family that interesting: the daily problems of who made lunch or who couldn't cope with her children just didn't resonate after having read about the Galveston experiment. That left the book feeling very lopsided.

However, while Cockerell's experiment was not completely successful, it was absorbing and easy to read. This unusual book will not appeal to everyone, but those interested in the early days of the Zionist movement will find much of interest in the first section, while those interested in experimental nonfiction may enjoy exploring the author's presentation of newspaper writings and personal musings.



On the Jewish food scene

Babka and pizza

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

If you are shaking your head wondering why those two food items appear in the same headline, you would not be alone. I did the same when reading an e-mail about Jewish happenings in New York City. I am a big fan of pizza: my favorite is the traditional sauce (lots of sauce, please!) and cheese pizza. When my mom, my Aunt Naomi and I used to travel to NYC to see Broadway matinees, a slice of pizza from one of the numerous pizza joints that existed at the time was our dinner. (We never sat: we would pick up a slice and eat it while walking so we could do more shopping.)

On the other hand, I am not a big fan of babka. I don't remember eating it when I was growing up in Endwell. As an adult, it was just not on my radar as a Jewish food. Bagels, on the other hand, were a Jewish food and it used to be difficult to find good ones in upstate New York. When we visited relatives in Queens, we would bring bagels back home with us. (I have one memory of people going into the bagel shop on a Sunday morning and asking for one or two bagels. My parents were ordering them in dozens.) Anyway, although I've come to like toasted babka with cream cheese or butter, it would not be my first choice on any menu.

This means you might be able to imagine my shock and outrage when looking at an e-mail touting a new food available at Breads Bakery's Brooklyn Bridge Park kiosk: a babka pizza. Then I calmed for a moment, thinking that this must be a sweet version of a pizza: maybe babka with

other sweet toppings? The Google AI search result suggested that, but it turns out that AI was looking at babka recipes on YouTube, not the food combination offered at this particular bakery.

The AI description is clearly wrong, at least when it comes to Breads' babka pizza, which is described as having a "shakshuka-spiced tomato sauce and a thick layer of squeaky mozzarella on top." The photos showed a melty, cheesy pizza slice made with babka dough. But that's when I began to have hope: babka dough. Maybe this dough wasn't the sweet version of babka, meaning dough filled with chocolate, cinnamon or other traditional sweet flavors. Maybe this was just regular pizza toppings placed on a different kind of dough.

I grew up with thin-crust pizza, but I am more than happy to eat those with thicker crusts, as long as they have enough tomato sauce. Would I like a pizza made with babka dough? I would be willing to try it since it looks to lean toward savory, not sweet. If someone is visiting Brooklyn and wants to bring me back a slice, I'll be more than happy to do a taste test. My mother used to say that anything would taste good with tomato sauce. While I wouldn't go that far (yuck, just imagine a sweet doughnut covered with tomato sauce), I am open to the possibility of a babka pizza as long as it sticks to savory ingredients.

Brown. Continued from page 1

apartment where alcoholic drinks were served in teacups. Some were teeny tiny; others quite elaborate. Women tended to run the apartment and tearoom speakeasies more than the bars, but that doesn't mean women were absent from the bigger places. Texas Guinan, an actress, was a well-known hostess at the El Fey Club. She was famous for her greeting to customers: "Hello, Sucker! Come on in and leave your wallet on the bar."

Running speakeasies was not the only aspect of bootlegging in which women were involved. "Lady-leggers" were also a problem," she added. "Female bootleggers often made deliveries because police rarely suspected them of illegalities. Women were also used as screens; they were placed in the rear of a car so that police wouldn't shoot. I read one article that mentioned in a small town in California, in 1926, 60 women were arrested. If there were 60 lady-leggers in a small town, you can imagine how many might be working in a city."

An additional surprise came when Brown learned that a major figure in the fight against illegal liquor was also a woman: "The person responsible for enforcing the Volstead Act – which declared the selling and buying of alcohol to be illegal – was the U.S. assistant attorney general, who, at the time, was a woman, Mabel Walker Willebrandt. While she personally didn't support Prohibition, she took her job seriously and enforced it with determination. The press nicknamed her Deborah of the Drys, as well as Mrs. Firebrand. I love that women worked both sides of Prohibition."

The main character in "The Whisper Sister" faces some very difficult personal choices. While Brown didn't want to give away details that would spoil plot surprises, she was willing to talk in general about the problems women faced during that time period. "I will say that I wanted the problems Minnie [the main character in 'The Whisper Sister'] had and the decisions she had to make realistic to the time period," she said. "Life could be quite ugly in those days (well, in many days, but I was focused on this time period)."

Brown noted that Anzia Yezierska, a Jewish immigrant from Poland, also touched on some of the same material. "Her writing was heart-breaking, rarely was there a happy

ending," she said. "In 'The Lost Beautifulness,' she writes of a woman who saves and saves to paint her kitchen white, so when her son comes home from the army, he'll have a beautiful home to return to. She's so proud of what she's done and insists that everyone comes to look at it. Even her landlord comes, who agrees the apartment is greatly improved and, therefore, he's raising her rent. The story ends with the son returning to see his mother and all her belongings on the street, having been evicted for not being able to afford the rent increase."

It wasn't possible for Brown to capture all the difficulties women and immigrants faced in that time period in "The Whisper Sister." She did note that authors who wrote in the 1920s offer additional insight. "In Yezierska's stories, babies are left locked in apartments so mothers can do shopping," she said. "Immigrants are humiliated by those meant to help them assimilate. Boarders pay too much for rooms with only an airshaft window. In her novels [and those of] Henry Roth, Michael Gold [and] Abraham Cahan, life is usually bleak with only glimmers of hope. These books were the basis for my imaginings of life in the tenements. Honestly, what I wrote didn't touch many of the horrors of the time period, but I tried to capture what I could."

She believes that contemporary women and immigrants still face some of the same difficulties. "Unfortunately, some of what contemporary women can learn is that not much has changed," she said. "Women still face difficulties in the workplace. Good childcare can be near impossible to find and afford. Immigrants face prejudice and hostility. I wish that historical fiction was just that – something left to history – but these issues come up time and time again. I would like to think we can learn from the past, but based on current news, I don't think we have learned much."

Even though the tone of "The Whisper Sister" is serious, Brown mentioned that the writing process had its pleasures. "Writing 'The Whisper Sister' was great fun, learning about Prohibition, gangsters and speakeasies," she noted. "My husband and I did a great deal of 'research' at home that involved many cocktails (and mocktails for the kids) as well as the baking of the dishes [the characters] make. I'm happy to report I can make a pretty decent knish now!"

Sale. Continued from page 3

dishes, serving pieces, collectibles, CDs and DVDs, bedding, small appliances, books, games, puzzles, sports equipment, children's toys and more.

The first ever UpCycle Market will seek to educate people and provide UpCycled art and crafted goods for sale. All items available for purchase at the UpCycle Market will be crafted from recycled and up-cycled materials. Artists, craftspeople and local organizations will be on hand to share their knowledge and expertise in keeping useful materials out of the landfill and in the consumer cycle. "Come and explore, learn and get ideas for your crafts and your lifestyle," organizers said.

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There are four levels: Bronze \$200, Silver \$400, Gold \$600 and Platinum \$1,000.

To arrange for a sponsorship or for answers to questions, contact Rabbi Rachel Esserman at rachel@thereporter.org.

BD Sisterhood made challah



L-r: Eliyana Adler, Toby Kohn and Harold Kohn rolled their challah dough into strips.



Stacey Silber held the challahs that were made during the class.

The Sisterhood of Beth David Synagogue held their opening meeting of the new season on September 10. Members and friends were instructed by Stacey Silber in an easy way to braid a round challah for the High Holidays. Each participant went home with a challah, which had



L-r: Shelley Hubal, Susan Hubal and Arlene Krassin listened to the instructions on how to make challah. (Photos by Nancy Basmann)

been baked earlier in the day by Stacey and Judy Silber, and one which they braided and baked themselves during the meeting.



Deborah Slonim began dividing her challah dough into equal portions. Her husband, David Slonim, watched.

Looking for this issue's "Jewish Resources"? Visit www.thereporter.org/jewish-online-resources to find out what's happening online."

Israel to pump desalinated Med. water into the Galilee

By JNS staff

(JNS)—Israel plans to pump desalinated Mediterranean seawater into the Sea of Galilee to combat years of drought and falling water levels, in what is considered the first project of its kind in the world.

Located in northeastern Israel, between the Golan Heights and the Galilee, the lake is the country's main freshwater reservoir, underscoring the importance of the Water Authority's initiative. Officials aim to reverse the decline after a series of droughts pushed the lake dangerously close to the "black line" – the level at which water extraction becomes ecologically harmful and could cause irreversible damage.

In the coming weeks, desalinated water from Israel's Mediterranean coast will begin to be redirected into the Sea of Galilee, Ynet reported on September 2. By late October or early November, the Water Authority expects to start pumping up to 5,000 cubic meters (1.3 million gallons) of water per hour, with a long-term plan to expand to 15,000 as additional infrastructure is completed.

The desalinated water will travel 62 to 93 miles, drawn from plants in Ashdod, Hadera and other coastal sites. The project has required upgrading pumping stations, constructing new pipelines and reinforcing reservoirs, at a cost of around 1 billion shekels (\$297 million).

"We dropped below the lower red line and came close to the black line. That's when experts proposed reversing the National Water Carrier and channeling desalinated water into the lake. Ultimately, this became the chosen solution," said Firas Talhami, head of the Water Authority's northern region, in an interview with Ynet.

"This is a historic event that has never been done before anywhere in the world," Talhami added. "We also considered the ecological impact, and the project will restore the Zalmon stream as a perennial waterway, reviving plant and animal life."

Idol Continued from page 2

Graphic design might be described as a distillery. We take people's often complex thoughts and ideas and refine them into an elegant, simple message, blending sharp copywriting with iconic imagery.

No one does that better than Ben. Every project is a masterclass in discarding the usual assumptions, rethinking from the ground up, and infusing subtle brilliance into one's work.

He's now retired, and has moved from Jerusalem to our neighborhood to live near his children. He lives two doors down from us.

My admiration for his work has never waned in all this time. I'm still the same fanboy I was when I walked through the doors of yeshiva in 1979.

Although our professional paths have rarely intersected in the last 45 years, it brings me joy that our personal paths now do. I can look forward to seeing my idol regularly.

In *shul!*

TC Hebrew School starts new year

Temple Concord Hebrew School opened its 2025-26 school year on September 13 with its first Saturday morning class, bringing together students, families and teachers. The school welcomes children from kindergarten and up to learn Jewish tradition, Hebrew language and community life. Classes meet at Temple Concord, 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, with Saturday morning sessions from 9-10:30 am and weekday Hebrew classes for grades three through seven. For the youngest children, Temple Concord also offers Tot-Shabbat, a once-a-month Shabbat class filled with age-appropriate stories, songs and activities. For more information or to register for Temple Concord Hebrew School, families should contact the temple office at 607-723-7355.

The Hebrew School teaches Jewish tradition, Hebrew language and community life. The first day's lesson focused on the holiday of Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, and an introduction to the Hebrew calendar. Through stories, discussions and other activities, students explored how Jewish holidays are tied to the cycles of the moon and the seasons. "This set the tone for a year of joyful and meaningful learning," said school organizers.

Throughout the school year, the curriculum blends classroom study with hands-on activities such as drama, music, art and crafts. Students learn Bible stories, lifecycle events, Jewish history and holiday traditions. Beginning in third grade, children also study Hebrew reading and writing. "This helps them gradually become confident so they can lead Shabbat prayers, read the Torah and haftarah portions for their *b'nei mitzvah* and share their own reflections on the weekly *parasha*," organizers noted. "Temple Concord Hebrew School not only teaches knowledge and skills, but fosters belonging, pride and a lasting sense of Jewish community in every student."



Students started a new school year at Temple Concord Hebrew School.

Fall Home & Garden

Keep your air clean

(NAPSI) – Even in the cleanest house, the indoor air system can recirculate dust, dirt, and particles from renovation and remodeling projects. Your home's heating and cooling system is the lungs of your home. The system pulls air from your rooms; filters, heats or cools it; and sends it back out again.

Unfortunately, the average home generates 40 pounds of dust a year, so the filters can't get every speck. They get clogged and can send contaminants back into your home. This can lead not only to unhealthy air – a particular problem for children, seniors and those with respiratory or autoimmune conditions – but higher energy bills as well.

Fortunately, it can be easy to have clean ducts when you turn to a reputable, certified HVAC professional. Making it simple to find one is NADCA (National Air Duct Cleaners Association). Its members comply with a code of ethics and meet the organization's standards. For a list of certified, nearby professionals, visit www.nadca.com.

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Weekly Parasha

Haazinu, Deuteronomy 32:1-52

Growing and stretching: a message for the New Year

CHANA SILBERSTEIN, THE ROITMAN CHABAD CENTER AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY

The *parasha* of Haazinu is filled with dramatic prophetic poetry as Moses relays his penultimate words to the Jewish people. All that remains before his passing is his words of blessings to the tribes. He begins by exhorting the heavens to “give ear” and the earth to “hear” his words, bearing witness to what he is about to say.

The Sifri comments that because Moses, the holiest of all the prophets, was closer in consciousness to heaven than to earth, he exhorted the heavens to listen closely, but the

earth merely to overhear. By contrast, the prophet Isaiah, in the text that serves as the *haftorah* for this *parasha*, asks the earth to listen and the heavens to overhear.

Given that we all speak and understand based on our personal experience, what was the purpose in Moses speaking to the earth at all? Likewise, was not Isaiah exceeding his reach in addressing the heavens – a realm seemingly beyond him?

The reason that the Torah asks us to have two witnesses

when testimony is given is because no two people see things or interpret events in exactly the same way. By reconciling two different perspectives, we are able to establish a more complete picture of the truth.

Moses is indeed closer to heaven, but, to speak in a way that will touch the people, he must also address earth. And Isaiah may be more grounded and closer to earth, but to accomplish his mission of inspiring the people, he must **See “Year” on page 8**

Congregational Notes

Holiday service schedules

September-October holiday service schedules can be found on page 11 of the August 22-September 11 issue (online at www.thereporter.org/local-news/2025-high-holiday-services-at-area-synagogues) and page 6 of the September 12-25 issue (online at <https://www.thereporter.org/local-news/2025-high-holiday-services-at-area-synagogues-part-2>). Contact information for area synagogues can be found in the congregational notes on this page.

Temple Israel

Orientation: Conservative
Rabbi: Micah Friedman
Address: 4737 Deerfield Pl., Vestal, NY 13850
Phone: 607-723-7461 and 607-231-3746
Office hours: Mon.-Thurs., 8:30 am-3:30 pm; Fri., 8 am-3 pm
E-mail: office@templeisraelvestal.org
Website: www.templeisraelvestal.org
Service schedule: Tues., 5:30 pm; Fri., 5:30 pm; Sat., 9:30 am

On Fridays and Tuesdays at 5:30 pm, services will be led by Rabbi Micah Friedman via Zoom and in-person.

On Saturday, September 27, Shacharit services will be held at 9:30 am via Zoom and in-person. The Torah portion is Deuteronomy 31:1-30 and the haftarah is Micah 7:18-20. A Zoom Havdalah service will take place at 7:45 pm.

On Wednesday, October 1, Kol Nidre services at 6:15 pm.

On Thursday, October 2, Yom Kippur service at 8:45 am.

On Saturday, October 4, Shacharit services will be held at 9:30 am via Zoom and in-person. The Torah portion is Deuteronomy 32:1-52 and the haftarah is II Samuel 22:1-51. A Zoom Havdalah service will take place at 7:30 pm.

On Tuesday, October 7, Sukkot services at 9:30 am.

On Wednesday, October 8, Sukkot learning with Hallel at 4:30 pm, minyan service at 5:30 pm and snacks in the sukkah at 6:15 pm.

Penn-York Jewish Community

Treasurer: Beth Herbst, 607-857-0976
B'nai B'rith: William H. Seigel Lodge
Purpose: To promote Jewish identity through religious, cultural, educational and social activities in the Southern Tier of New York and the Northern Tier of Pennsylvania, including Waverly, NY; Sayre, Athens and Towanda, PA, and surrounding communities.

Temple Beth-El of Ithaca

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

Presidents: Melanie Kalman and Alexis Siemon
Sisterhood President: Gail Zussman
Director of Education: Calle Schueler
Services: Friday 8 pm; Saturday 10 am, unless otherwise announced. Weekday morning minyan 7:30 am (9 am on Sundays and legal holidays).
Religious School/Education: September-May: Classes meet on Sunday, 9 am-12:30 pm and Wednesday afternoons, 3:45-5:45 pm. The teen No'ar program meets twice per month (every other Sunday from 5-7 pm) and is designed with the flexibility to accommodate busy student schedules.

Adult Ed.: Numerous weekly courses, several semester-long courses and a variety of mini-courses and lectures are offered throughout the year. Call the temple office for more details.

For upcoming services and events on Zoom, visit www.tinyurl.com/HappeningAtTBE.

Synagogues limit face-to-face gatherings

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

Beth David Synagogue

Affiliation: Orthodox Union
Rabbi: Zev Silber
Address: 39 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905
Phone: 607-722-1793, Rabbi's Office: 607-722-7514
Fax: 607-722-7121
Office hours: Tues. 10 am-1 pm; Thurs. 9 am-1 pm
Beth David e-mail address: bethdavid@stny.rr.com
Rabbi's e-mail: rabbisilber@stny.rr.com
Website: www.bethdavid.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/bethdavidbinghamton
Classes: Rabbi Zev Silber will hold his weekly Talmud class every Tuesday evening after services.

Rohr Chabad Center

Affiliation: Chabad-Lubavitch
Rabbi Aaron and Rivkah Slonim, Directors
E-mail: aslonim@binghamton.com
rslonim@chabadofbinghamton.com
Address: 420 Murray Hill Rd., Vestal, NY 13850
Phone: 607-797-0015, Fax: 607-797-0095
Website: www.Chabadofbinghamton.com
Rabbi Zalman and Rochel Chein, Education
E-mail: zchein@Jewishbu.com, rchein@Jewishbu.com
Rabbi Levi and Hadasa Slonim, Downtown and Development
Chabad Downtown Center: 60 Henry St., Binghamton
E-mail: lslonim@Jewishbu.com, hslonim@Jewishbu.com
Rabbi Yisroel and Goldie Ohana, Programming
E-mail: yohana@Jewishbu.com, gohana@Jewishbu.com
Regular service times: Daily 7:30 am, Friday evening 6 pm, Shabbat morning 9:30 am, Maariv and Havdalah one hour after candle-lighting time, Sundays 9:30 am.
To join the mailing list, for up-to-date information on adult education offerings or to arrange for a private tutorial, for details concerning the Judaica shop and resource center, or for assistance through the Piaker Free Loan Society or Raff Maasim Tovim Foundation, call Chabad's office at 797-0015.

Chabad will be holding pre-Shabbat virtual programs. For more information, visit www.JewishBU.com/S2020Partnership.

Temple Brith Sholom

Affiliation: Unaffiliated
Address: P.O. Box 572, 117 Madison St., Cortland, NY 13045
Phone: 607-756-7181
President: Mark Suben
Cemetery Committee: 315-696-5744
Website: templebrithsholomcortland.org
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Temple-Brith-Sholom-114006981962930/>
Service leaders: Lay leadership
Shabbat services: Services are usually on the third Friday of the month and led by a variety of leaders. Check the Facebook page or weekly e-mail for upcoming services. Contact the president to get on the e-mail list.
Religious School: Students are educated on an individual basis. Temple Brith Sholom is a small equalitarian congregation serving the greater Cortland community. Congregants span the gamut of observance and services are largely dependent on the service leader. The Friday night siddur is “Likrat Shabbat.” The community extends a warm welcome to the Jewish student population of SUNY Cortland, as well as the residents of local adult residences. The Board of Trustees meets on the second Tuesday of the month.

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

Friday, September 26, light candles before 6:35 pm
Shabbat ends Saturday, September 27..... 7:34 pm
Wednesday, October 1, light candles before 6:26 pm
Thursday, October 2, yom tov ends..... 7:25 pm
Friday, October 3, light candles before 6:23 pm
Shabbat ends Saturday, October 4..... 7:21 pm
Monday, October 6, light candles before 6:18 pm
Tuesday, October 7, light candles after 7:16 pm
Wednesday, October 8, yom tov ends 7:15 pm
Friday, October 10, light candles before 6:11 pm
Shabbat ends Saturday, October 11 7:10 pm
Monday, October 13, light candles before 6:06 pm
Tuesday, October 14, light candles after 7:04 pm
Wednesday, October 15, yom tov ends 7:03 pm

Temple Concord

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

Some services and programs are online only.
Fridays, September 26 and October 3: At 7:30 pm, Friday Shabbat services are in person, on Zoom and Facebook.com.

Saturdays, September 27 and October 4: At 9:15 am, Torah study is in person and on Zoom. An in-person only service will take place at 10:30 am.

Wednesdays, October 1 and 8: At 5:30 pm, evening prayers in person only. At 6 pm, adult education class in person and on Zoom.

Upcoming events:
High Holidays: Temple Concord welcomes the Greater Binghamton Jewish community to attend the synagogue for its High Holiday services. As part of its security procedures, attendees are asked to register in advance for free tickets by contacting the temple office. Anyone who is not a member must bring a photo ID in order to attend High Holiday services.

Saturday, September 27: At 6 pm, Community Board Game Night for an all-ages. Refreshments will be provided. RSVP are requested by Thursday, September 25, and may be made to the temple office. There is a suggested donation \$5 per person, or \$20 per family, to cover the cost of refreshments.

Sunday, September 28: At 10:30, Holocaust Memorial Event at Temple Israel Cemetery.
See “TC” on page 8

Norwich Jewish Center

Orientation: Inclusive
Address: 72 South Broad St., Norwich, NY 13815
Phone: 334-2691
E-mail: fertigj@roadrunner.com
Contact: Guilia Greenberg, 373-5087
Purpose: To maintain a Jewish identity and meet the needs of the Jewish community in the area.
Adult Ed.: Call ahead, text or e-mail to confirm dates.

Temple Beth El of Oneonta

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

Congregation Tikun v'Or

Affiliation: Union for Reform Judaism
Address: PO Box 3981, Ithaca, NY 14852; 2550 Triphammer Rd. (corner of Triphammer and Burdick Hill), Lansing, NY
Phone: 607-256-1471
Website: www.tikkunvor.org, E-mail: info@tikkunvor.org
Presidents: Martha Armstrong and Mitch Grossman, presidents_22@tikkunvor.org
Education Director/Admin. Coordinator: Naomi Wilensky
Bnai Mitzvah Coordinator: Michael Margolin
Services: All services currently on Zoom. E-mail info@tikkunvor.org for the times and links. Contemplative morning services every Tuesday from 8:30-9:30 am. Saturday mornings, Gan Shabbat and other special services at least once a month. Call for the weekly schedule. Jewish Learning Experiences (JLE) for second through seventh grade classes meet on Sunday mornings. Sixth and seventh grades also meet on Wednesday afternoons. Family programs for kindergarten and first grade held monthly. Adult Education: Offered regularly throughout the year. Check the website for details.

Fish and fall fruits to break the Yom Kippur fast

By Ethel G. Hofman

(JNS) – It’s tradition! After *Neilah* services at my synagogue on Yom Kippur, there’s a surge to tables of light fare typically set out by the Sisterhood. Tired and hungry worshippers gather round to gulp down a glass of orange juice or sweet wine, along with a bit of sponge or honey cake. Then it’s back home for platters of fish, cheese, kugel and dairy dishes.

That’s a custom for American Jews in the United States. But for those from Russia – and for so many from Ukraine – break-fast is a slice of sweet babka and a glass of lemon tea. Syrian and Iraqi Jews tend to nibble on *ka’akim*, round crunchy sesame cookies that look like mini-bagels. Turkish and Greek Jews break their fast with a sweet drink made with melon seeds. On the Shetland Islands where I grew up, my mother served homemade pickled herring and seltzer water – essential, she insisted, “to replenish liquids and salt lost during fasting.” And rightly so.

Close as Shetland is to Norway, my mother served the Norwegian herring salad year-round, not just during the High Holidays. Similarly, these break-fast recipes can be enjoyed all year long. A rib of celery adds a slight zest to Cool Peach Soup. Vegans will delight with an antipasto platter, Jewish-style, as supermarkets offer the makings of a bright palette of exotic and familiar items. Seasons and Gefen offer briny items like pickled eggplant, baby corn, straw mushrooms and hearts of palm to name just a few. Open the cans, drain and arrange on a lettuce-lined platter. Add fresh veggies like sliced avocado (sprinkled with lemon juice to avoid discoloration), tricolored fresh pepper strips, sweet cherry tomatoes and pitted black olives. Toss sliced water chestnuts over top to add some crunch. No recipe is needed. What could be easier?

Keep in mind:

- ◆ Have plenty of seltzer and orange juice ready to pull from the fridge.
- ◆ Measure coffee and water into the percolator to plug in as soon as you get home from synagogue or set on a timer so it’s ready when the fast ends.
- ◆ For a crowd, set up two percolators, one for decaf coffee and one for regular. If using only one, make it decaf unless you know guests definitely want regular coffee.
- ◆ Split bagels ahead of time, arrange on a tray and cover with a damp paper towel, then with plastic wrap to prevent drying out.
- ◆ Don’t hesitate to use paper and plastic; there are so many lovely designs these days. Heavy-duty plastic flatware may be recycled.
- ◆ Cook ahead and freeze.

L’shanah tovah! May we be inscribed for a sweet, healthy and happy New Year.

Cool Peach Soup (Dairy)

Serves 4-6

Cook’s tips:

- ◆ May use 4 small mangoes instead.
 - ◆ Kefir is fermented milk similar to a thin type of yogurt.
 - ◆ 4 large peaches, pits removed and sliced
 - ◆ 1 cup orange juice
 - ◆ 1 Tbsp. fresh-squeezed lemon juice
 - ◆ 1 cup peach kefir
 - ◆ 1 rib celery, sliced
 - ◆ 2 Tbsp. finely shredded mint or 2 tsp. dried
- Place all ingredients except the mint into a blender or food processor.

Purée, stir in the mint and chill.

Serve in small bowls or glasses.

Norwegian Herring Salad (Dairy)

Serves 6

Cook’s tips:

- ◆ May be prepared 1-2 days ahead and stored in fridge.
- ◆ Top the bowl of herring salad with sliced hard-cooked egg.

1 jar (12 oz.) pickled herring tidbits with onions, drained

1 small baked potato, peeled and cut into ¼-inch chunks

- ◆ 1 sweet apple, peeled, cored and cut into ¼-inch chunks
 - ◆ 2-3 Tbsp. plain yogurt
 - ◆ 2 Tbsp. snipped dill, packed
- Snip the onions into ½-inch pieces. Place in a bowl with herring tidbits and remaining ingredients. Stir lightly to mix. Cover and refrigerate until ready to serve.



Herring Salad (Photo by Ethel G. Hofman)

Potato Pesto Soufflé (Dairy)

Serves 8-10

Cook’s tip: Recipe may be doubled. Bake in a 13x9x2-inch dish.

- ◆ 10 potato blintzes
- ◆ 1½ cups frozen sugar snap peas, thawed (optional)

½ medium onion, thinly sliced

- ◆ 3 Tbsp. butter or margarine
- ◆ ½ cup bottled pesto
- ◆ 3 eggs

- ◆ 1 cup sour cream
- ◆ ½ tsp. minced garlic
- ◆ ½ tsp. freshly ground pepper
- ◆ 2 Tbsp. Parmesan cheese

Preheat oven to 350°F.

Spray a 9-inch square baking dish with nonstick cooking spray.

Arrange the blintzes in one layer in prepared dish. Scatter the snap peas (if using) and onions over the blintzes. Set aside.

In a medium bowl, melt the butter in the microwave. Add the pesto, eggs, sour cream, garlic and pepper. Mix well. Pour over the blintz mixture. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese.

Bake in preheated oven for 1 hour, or until puffed and nicely brown.

Serve hot or at room temperature.

Figs in Pomegranate Syrup (pareve)

Serves 6-8

Cook’s tips:

- ◆ Fresh figs may be used for dried figs. No need to soak or microwave.
- ◆ Substitute 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon for a cinnamon stick.
- ◆ May prepare 1 to 2 days ahead and refrigerate.
- ◆ Pomegranate juice is available in supermarkets.

- ◆ 1 lb. dried figs
- ◆ 1 cup golden raisins
- ◆ 1½ cups pomegranate juice
- ◆ ½ cup kosher white wine (Pinot Grigio or Sauvignon Blanc, for instance)

2 Tbsp. fresh-squeezed lemon juice

3 Tbsp. water

cinnamon stick

3 thin slices of ginger root, about 1-inch diameter

2 Tbsp. honey or to taste

Place figs in a bowl and cover with hot water. Microwave for 3 minutes at high heat. Drain well.

Place in a saucepan with raisins, pomegranate juice, wine, lemon juice, water, cinnamon stick, ginger root and honey. Cover loosely.

Simmer for 30 minutes or until dried figs are plump. Sweeten to taste. Chill.

Remove cinnamon stick and ginger before serving.

Simple Espresso Mold (pareve)

Serves 6-8

Cook’s tips:

- ◆ Substitute for espresso, strong coffee with ¼ teaspoon vanilla extract.
- ◆ For a dairy showstopper: When chilled, chop mold coarsely, spoon into demitasse cups or wine glasses. Top with a dollop of vanilla yogurt or whipped cream and a sprinkling of shaved chocolate.

2 (3-oz.) packages kosher peach gelatin

1½ cups boiling water

1½ cups cold espresso coffee

¾ cup white wine

½ cup pareve chocolate coffee beans

In a large bowl, thoroughly dissolve gelatin in boiling water. Stir in the coffee and wine.

Pour into a 1-quart bowl or mold. Refrigerate until just beginning to jell. Stir in the coffee beans.

Return to fridge and chill until set.

Bundt Cake Stuffed With Fall Fruits (pareve)

Serves 15-18

Cook’s tips:

- ◆ This cake freezes well. Freeze individual slices to remove as needed.
- ◆ Use kitchen scissors to snip plums and dates.
- ◆ Substitute diced mango for pear, apple or dates.
- ◆ Make a batch of cinnamon sugar; equal amounts of



Potato Pesto Soufflé (Photo by Ethel G. Hofman)

cinnamon and sugar. Stir, cover tightly and store in a cool dry place. Do not refrigerate.

◆ Note: 1 tablespoon of baking powder equals 3 teaspoons.

- ◆ 1 pear, core removed and coarsely diced
- ◆ 1 Granny Smith apple, core removed and coarsely diced
- ◆ 4 prune plums, pitted and snipped in ¼-inch pieces
- ◆ 1 cup dried cranberries
- ◆ 1 cup pitted dates, coarsely chopped
- ◆ 2 Tbsp. cinnamon-sugar
- ◆ 1 tsp. cardamom
- ◆ 3 cups all-purpose flour
- ◆ 2 cups sugar
- ◆ 1 Tbsp. baking powder
- ◆ 1 cup vegetable oil
- ◆ 5 eggs
- ◆ 1 Tbsp. vanilla extract
- ◆ ¼ cup orange juice (optional)

Preheat oven to 350°F.

Spray a 12-cup Bundt pan with nonstick cooking spray.

In a medium bowl, combine the pear, apple, plums, cranberries, dates, cinnamon-sugar and cardamom. Set aside.

In a large bowl, stir together the flour, sugar, baking powder, vegetable oil, eggs, vanilla and orange juice. Using an electric hand mixer, beat at medium speed, 3 to 4 minutes, until mixture is smooth and little bubbles appear.

See “Fruits” on page 8

Jewish Community Center

JCC Friendship Club

The JCC Friendship Club had a joint meeting with the Jewish Family service on September 17. The speaker was Amanda L. Giannone, from the law firm of Levene Gouldin and Thompson, LLP. She spoke about “The Basics of Estate Planning.” She talked about the law relating to having a will, as well as the legal aspects of power of attorney. The laws are different in different states. What she told us applies to New York state. She concluded by telling us about the laws relating to trusts, health care proxy and living wills. We look forward to her returning on November 19 to talk about more legal matters, such as gifting, Medicaid and protecting your assets.

The next meeting of the JCC Friendship Club will be held on Wednesday, October 22, at 1 pm. The program will be chair yoga, led by Jill Zukash. All are invited.

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President

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Shtick Continued from page 2

and evidence of warmth even when exhibiting anger or indulging bias (think Don Rickles and Jackie Mason). Oh, eligibility was limited to real people, thus excluding the truly marvelous Midge Maisel, as well as her Gentile muse, Rachel Brosnahan.

Before constructing my masters of shtick taxonomy, I consulted several comedy mavens amongst friends and associates. Although I was influenced by their thoughtful suggestions, ultimately the selections are mine. Number one signifies my top comic with the rankings then descending. Regardless of the topic, any time two Jews get together, three opinions emerge, so debate is anticipated and appreciated.

1. Groucho Marx. The overwhelming favorite amongst my correspondents, Groucho gets the nod for first place. Even his appearance – thick black eyebrows and mustache fashioned more by makeup than follicles, mischievous eyes peering out from rimless glasses and an aggressively forward-bent posture – elicited laughter. In classic movies with brothers Harpo and Chico, Groucho punctuated the pretensions of the privileged elite, frequently

represented by the regal Margaret Dumont. Subsequently going solo, notably as radio and television host of “You Bet Your Life,” he elevated riposte to an art form. With a few words, Groucho did more than sociologists to capture that distinctively Jewish amalgam of insecurity and resentment: “I refuse to join any club that would have me as a member.”

2. Jack Benny. On radio and TV, the former Benjamin Kubelsky was the maestro of comedic timing. Reflecting Jewish unease in the temporal world, Benny, in character, would sigh, “Well!” during frequent bouts of frustration. Presenting a faux version of himself, Benny poked fun at his own vanity, obsession with remaining 39 and cheapness. In his best-known skit, an armed robber accosts Benny, threatening, “Your money or your life!” The long silent pause evoked prolonged audience laughter. When the gunman finally repeats, even more menacingly, “Your money or your life!” Benny retorted, “I’m.... thinking it over.”

3. Woody Allen. Don’t I know about the accusations that he abused his own children? Yes, and those accusations are

serious. However, they remain contested and unproved, and I lack the knowledge to discern their veracity and thus confine commentary to Allen’s comedic career, eschewing character and legal judgment. Smart, but not academic, during his Bronx youth, Allan Konigsberg changed his name to Woody Allen and ascended quickly as a comedy writer before becoming a performer. As a 1960s standup comic and during his early years as film actor/director, the bespectacled, smallish Allen perpetuated the stereotype of the neurotic, overintellectual Jewish nebbish obsessed with shikshas, most famously in “Annie Hall.” Over time, however, Allen matured into a brilliant and prolific moviemaker, retaining the Jewish milieu, but exploring serious matters, punctuated with comic relief. As his films evolved into artfully crafted ensembles, his screen personae changed from sardonic kvetch-protagonist to savant commentator. Amidst the laughter, “Hannah and Her Sisters” explores depression (overcome by watching old Marx brothers’ films), loss of Jewish belief, interfaith romance, complex sibling and parental dynamics, and male mentoring providing camouflage for domination of women. In “Crimes and Misdemeanors,” a respected Jewish ophthalmologist literally gets away with the murder of a jilted mistress who had threatened to expose their affair. Carrying metaphoric meaning, “Crimes and Misdemeanors” features a rabbi, both patient and confidant of the ophthalmologist, going blind, highlighting the juxtaposition between guilt, conscience and an amoral universe gilded by wit. The film’s dark defining line asserts: “Comedy is tragedy plus time.”

4. Alan King. The son of Jewish immigrants, he grew up as Irwin Kniberg in working-class New York City neighborhoods and looked, sounded and moved more like

a former boxer or gangster turned bouncer than an entertainer. Indeed, King was an ex-fighter and, with his tough guy looks and ubiquitous cigar, he played gangsters in several films. Growing up in combative environments, he gravitated toward comedy, a means of self-defense and a barbed jab toward adversaries. His angry rants morphed into storytelling and King became comedy’s pre-eminent monologist. With an amalgam of loud fury, ridicule and humor, he attacked everyday inefficiencies, stupidities and slights. In long-form vignettes, King targeted insurance companies, airlines, hospitals, contractors, taxes, bureaucrats and widows who inevitably outlived their husbands. However, his bellicose outrage was leavened by a visceral warmth, solidarity with the underdog and *heimish* character. King frequently emceed fund-raisers for Jewish charities and Israel. Explaining his on-stage personae, King confided, “Let’s face it: It’s difficult enough to be funny without worrying about what is going to offend whom.”

5. Elaine May. Due to the brevity and intermittency of her career, as well as long periods of reclusively, May, now in her 90s, is oft forgotten. Although she went onto screenwriting and directing, it is her brilliant arc as a performer, specifically doing improvisational comedy teamed with Mike Nichols on television and records, that was transformative. May with Nichols, wrote critic Richard Brody, “brought improv comedy out of the night clubs and into the forefront of pop culture.” In the “Water Cooler Talk” sketch with Nichols, May, more sophisticated and creative than contemporaries Totie Fields and Joan Rivers, wisely observed, “A moral issue is always so much more interesting than a real issue.”

Part II of “Masters of shtick” will complete our comedian minyan.

Fruits Continued from page 7

Spoon half the batter into prepared pan. Spread about ¾ of the fruit mixture over. Top with remaining batter and fruits.

Bake in preheated oven for 1¼ hours or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean.

Cool slightly on a wire rack. Loosen sides and turn out onto a serving platter. When completely cool, slice with a serrated knife.

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



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 **Jewish Federation**
of Greater Binghamton

TC Continued from page 6

Wednesday, October 1: At 7:30 pm, Yom Kippur service.

Thursday, October 2: At 9:30 am, Yom Kippur morning service; from 10:30 am-12:30 pm, Yom Kippur school program (in person only); at 1:15 pm, discussion with Rabbi Leah Moser; at 3 pm, Meditative Music at the Kilmer Mansion; at 4:30 pm, Yizkor memorial service; at 5:15 pm, healing service; at 6 pm, Neilah and at 6:45 pm, Havdalah. Break fast to follow in the Kilmer Man-

sion after service (in person only).

Sunday, October 5: From 10 am-2 pm, Sisterhood Rummage Sale at the temple. Shoppers are asked to use the Oak Street entrance.

Tuesday, October 7: No Religious School; at 10 am, Sukkot service, potluck dairy/vegetarian lunch to follow service (in person only).

Friday, October 10: At 6:30 pm, “Wine and Cheese in the Sukkah” (in person only) and at 7:30 pm, Shabbat service.

Year Continued from page 6

also show them something higher.

As we traverse this season of self-reflection, resolution and aspiration, we, too, must listen to our inner voices, while overhearing the messages that we may have assumed are not meant for us.

Some of us naturally have a heavenly sensibility: we gravitate to spirituality, meditation, philosophy and deep study. Like Moses, our way of engaging with meaningful growth is by orienting ourselves inward and upward. Yet, Moses was also the faithful shepherd of Israel, tending them, defending them and sensitive to their every need. Likewise, even the most spiritual among us cannot allow our proximity to “heaven” to keep us from addressing “earth.” We must see the pain of others and remain sensitive to their needs.

Conversely, as a community, we are

blessed with activists who are sensitive to the needs of others. They work valiantly to feed the poor, to defend the oppressed, to heed the cry of the widow and orphan, and to advocate for those who stand alone in society – addicts, prisoners, the poor and the mentally ill. Like Isaiah, they are closer to earth. And, yet, to maintain their ethical compass, they must remember to spend time on building their connection to “heaven.” The desire to help can sometimes be misdirected when there is insufficient attention to the purpose of the assistance.

As we enter the new year, let us strengthen our natural propensities for pursuing truth and kindness, but also remember that it is a time to stretch ourselves beyond what comes naturally.

Wishing all our readers a sweet new year.

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