

# Global Day of Jewish Learning to be held on Nov. 9

By Howard Warner

A Global Day of Jewish Learning event will be held on Sunday, November 9, at 10 am, at Temple Israel. The theme of this year's discussion will be "The 70 Faces of Torah." The event is co-sponsored by Beth David Synagogue, the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, Temple Concord and Temple Israel. Breakfast will be served and prepared by Victor Torres. A suggested donation of \$5-20 is requested. Financial support has been provided by the Eisenberg Fund. To register for the event, call the Temple Israel office at 607-723-7461 by

Tuesday, November 4.

This year's theme is "The 70 Faces of Torah," which refers to the multifaceted interpretations of the Torah. This concept can be found in the kabbalistic work "Tikkunei Zohar." Each interpretation can be categorized into four types: *peshat* (plain meaning), *remez* (allegorical), *derash* (moral) and *sod* (mystical). The local rabbis will lead the discussion of the source materials. "This theme celebrates Judaism's embrace of multiple and competing perspectives to enrich our understanding of the world, Torah and ourselves," said organizers of the event.

One day every year, more 10,000 people around the world participate in the Global Day of Jewish Learning. In hundreds of synagogues, Jewish Community Centers and other communal institutions, Jews of all backgrounds seek to connect with one another through the shared study of Judaism's sacred texts. Held annually since 2010, the initiative is inspired by the vision of the late Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz. The event is held in groups and congregations across the country, and is powered by Limmud, which supports the creation of "a diverse, cohesive Jewish community rooted in the

importance of celebrating and learning from differences."

This year, Sepharia is joining the event as a partner to Limmud, NA. (More information on Limmud can be found at <https://limmudna.org>.)

"The Global Day of Jewish Learning brings the community together to explore basic Jewish principles," said Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Federation. "That fulfills the mission of the Federation and I am excited that we can bring this opportunity to Binghamton. I hope everyone will come out to learn and shmooze."

## 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](http://www.Jewishbu.com/JLIBing) or contact Ruth Shea at [rshea@Jewishbu.com](mailto:rshea@Jewishbu.com) or 607-797-0015.

"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](mailto:continuingeducation@myjli.com) with their name, credentials and state or states they are licensed to practice in.

### Author to speak in person on Oct. 21

## Morning Book Club to feature Jennifer Brown

The Morning Book will meet at Temple Concord and on Zoom on Tuesday, October 21, at 10:30 am. Jennifer S. Brown will join the book club in person to speak about her second book, "The

Whisper Sister," a coming of age novel set during the years of Prohibition, from January 17, 1920 through December 1933. For more information, contact Merri Pell-Preus at [merrypell.preus@gmail.com](mailto:merrypell.preus@gmail.com).

(*The Reporter* review of the book can be found at [www.thereporter.org/book-reviews/cjl-jews-and-crime-fact-and-fiction](http://www.thereporter.org/book-reviews/cjl-jews-and-crime-fact-and-fiction).)

It is not necessary to have read the book

to attend. Refreshments will be available.

On Tuesday, November 4, the book to be discussed is "On Her Own: A Novel" by Lihi Lapid, translated from the Hebrew by Sondra Silverston.

## Ithaca College talk to focus on TV show "Transparent"

The Jewish Studies Program at Ithaca College will present a talk by Martin Shuster, professor of philosophy and the Isaac Swift distinguished professor of Jewish studies at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, on Monday, October 13, at 7 pm, in Textor 103 on the Ithaca College campus. He will speak on "New Television and Jewish Historiography: The Case of Transparent." The talk is free and open to the public.



Martin Shuster

"Amazon's 2014 show, 'Transparent,' was groundbreaking in many ways, not least in how richly and poignantly it represented gender identity and queer dynamics," said organizers of the event. "This talk revisits the show to argue that in addition to its aesthetic, cultural and political merits as a work of new television, the show was also a remarkable bit of Jewish historiography, comparable in that sense to other Jewish modes of memorialization like literature, song or even prayer."

In addition to his positions at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte,

Shuster is affiliated with the Center for Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights, and with the program in capitalism studies. In 2023, he founded the Philosophy and Critical Theory Lab (PaCT Lab). His research ranges topically across political philosophy, ethics, aesthetics, critical theory, philosophy of religion and the history of philosophy. He also engages in fields like genocide studies, film theory, television studies, psychoanalysis and various kinds of critical theory.

In addition to his scholarly writing, Shuster writes for public-facing venues, most recently, for example, the Forward, Aeon, The Montréal Review, The LA Review of Books and the Philosophical Salon. He's also been involved with teaching in prisons, both officially and as a volunteer. He is currently completing three books: "Genocide and the State: An Alternative History of Modern Political Philosophy," the "Oxford Handbook of Theodor W. Adorno" (with Henry Pickford), and "Lifting" with Duke University

Press in its "Practices" series. With Sandra Laugier and Robert Sinnerbrink, he

edits the "TV-Philosophy" book series at University of Exeter Press.

## JFS/Friendship Club to hold Chair Yoga on Oct. 22

Jewish Family Services 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, 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."



Jewish Family Service and the JCC Friendship Club held a seminar on trusts and estates on September 17. Seventeen people attended the seminar.

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# Masters of shtick: A comedian minyan: part II

BILL SIMONS

In descending order, “Masters of shtick: part I” led off with Groucho Marx, Jack Benny, Woody Allen, Alan King and Elain May. With five final entries, Part II completes the comic minyan.

6. Jerry Seinfeld. He didn’t invent observational comedy but brought it to a new level. Quintessential Seinfeld humor riffed on every day, mundane things. Until recently, Seinfeld eschewed the political, polemical and consequential. During the past year, however, he has generated controversy, claiming at a Duke University appearance that the Ku Klux Klan “is actually a little better... [than the Free Palestine movement] because they can come right out and say, ‘We don’t like Blacks, we don’t like Jews.’ OK, that’s honest.” In contrast, the primetime Seinfeld shtick of former days was “about nothing,” or more precisely commonplace experience, and it is that earlier Jerry who in under discussion. Classic Seinfeld typically dealt with topics as universally relatable as shirt buttons, relationships between elderly parents and their adult children, dating, phone messages and double-dipping chips. “What’s the deal with” was not a ubiquitous Seinfeldism, but embellished memory recognizes that it captures the ethos, if not the specifics, of Jerry’s heyday humor.

“Seinfeld” (1989-98), his eponymous TV show, and decades of standup routines were both set in an implicitly Jewish milieu. The Seinfeld ensemble satirized overreaction to minor indignities, labeling an imperious food vendor “the soup Nazi” and equating the search for the identity of a New York Mets player who allegedly spit on an overzealous fan to John F. Kennedy assassination conspiracy theories. Seinfeld and his cohorts sometimes acted outrageously insensitive and selfish as when invading the space of an immunologically compromised “bubble boy,” ridiculing a blowhard with the phrase “Maybe the dingo ate your baby” or “making out” during a screening of Schindler’s List.

7. Fanny Brice. With all due respect to Sophie Tucker, Brice was the first Jewish comedienne to generate a heterogeneous following in mass media. For continuing to inspire other Jewish women to take the stage, Brice earned her Top Ten niche. In addition to her comic popularity, Brice, a Ziegfeld Follies’ legend, displayed acting and singing talents on stage, film, record and radio. For a generation, her Baby Snooks routine – featuring a precocious, energetic, curious little girl pestering her exasperated father with endless questions – produced hilarity. During the

1960s, creative adaptation of Brice’s life on stage and film made Barbra Streisand a superstar. Herself an exemplar of chutzpah and courage, Beanie Feldstein, who played Fannie in a 2022 Broadway revival of “Funny Girl,” asserted, “Any Jewish woman who gets to be themselves on stage owes something to Fanny Brice. There’s no Bette Midler – there’s no Sarah Silverman. None of us would have had that ability if it wasn’t for Fanny smashing through that glass ceiling with that ferocious, you’re-not-going-to-turn-me-away-energy.”

8. Lenny Bruce. Bruce, aka Leonard Schneider, expressed his lineage through sensibility, proclaiming, “If you live in New York or any other big city, you are Jewish. It doesn’t matter even if you’re Catholic; if you live in New York, you’re Jewish. If you live in Butte, Montana, you’re going to be goyish even if you’re Jewish.” No sacred cows were immune from Bruce’s scathing wit. Taking no prisoners, his improvisational standup comedy was cutting and on the mark. Religion, race, sex, morality, politics, commerce, illicit substances, celebrities and, indeed, the gamut of human experience were Bruce’s canvas. Oppression, hypocrisy, cruelty and stupidity of any sort were

See “Shtick” on page 5

## Opinion

From the Desk of the Federation Executive Director

### With gratitude

SHELLEY HUBAL

Is it possible to do something simple and have the impact be profound? The answer is, yes. Recently, the students at Hillel Academy did exactly that.

These young students created beautiful, cheerful Rosh Hashanah cards for Jewish Family Service. These special cards – decorated with apples, *shofars*, honey pots, flowers and even smiling bumble bees – were sent, with much

delight, to the families in the We Remember You project. I had the immense pleasure of reading all the cards and can tell you they simply oozed with joy. The feedback from the card recipients was astounding. “You brightened my day,” read one response. “We loved your card. Thank you for remembering me,” read another.

It is with sincere gratitude that I say *yasher koach* and

thank you to the students at Hillel Academy. They made a difference in the life of their Jewish neighbors here in Broome County and they reminded me that you need not make a grand gesture to have an impact in this world.

Wishing you all a belated *shanah tovah*. May this new year bring you fulfillment, purpose and many occasions to smile like a happy bumble bee.

In My Own Words

### Forgiveness in the political world

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

This is the season of *teshuvah*, when we repent and pray that God will forgive us our sins. Just as we hope to be forgiven, so, too, are we asked to forgive those who have done us harm. That is not just a religious value: it’s a mental health one. Focusing on the hurt done to us by friends and family gives them far too much space in our heads and hearts. It can be hard to ignore criticism, but that’s what an adult learns to do. Not everyone in the world will like us or approve of us. Accepting that shows maturity and gives us the space to focus on our own lives.

That is also true in politics, but with a difference. Those in power are *not* supposed to use that power to harm those who criticize or disagree with them. This is not some liberal, new age, woke thing. The Bible talks about the abuse of power, seeking to limit what Jewish kings can do. The biblical prophets spoke out against kings, who were

condemned by God if they tried to silence those prophetic voices. Two recent Republican presidents echoed this idea in more contemporary terms:

◆ “We need the media to hold people like me to account... power can be very addictive and it can be corrosive.” – George W. Bush

◆ “Since the founding of this nation, freedom of the press has been a fundamental tenet of American life. The economic freedom that has earned us such great bounty and the precious freedoms of speech and assembly would have little meaning or be totally nullified should freedom of the press ever be ended.” – Ronald Reagan

That’s why what President Donald Trump has said and done recently is so disturbing. Trump made it very clear when he spoke at Charlie Kirk’s memorial that he doesn’t understand the concept of forgiveness. His actual words were “I hate my opponent, and I don’t want the best for them.” One thing I’ve noted over and over in my chaplaincy work is that we can’t help our feelings. They are real. However – and this is a *big* however – I note that we *can* control what we do with them. Mad at someone? That happens. Hitting or throwing something at them? That is inappropriate and something under our control.

Unfortunately, Trump has done the political version of physically lashing out. According to an Associated Press article, Trump asked “Attorney General Pam Bondi by name in a Truth Social post to seek criminal charges against high-profile critics, such as former FBI Director James Comey; Sen. Adam Schiff, D-California; and New

York Attorney General Letitia James.” As of this writing, Comey has been indicted, even though sources at the Justice Department noted that they didn’t feel they had enough evidence for an indictment. Other sources note that charges against James and others are coming due to the insistence of the president.

Think about this: one of the most powerful men in the world has declared that if he doesn’t like what you say, then he will find a way to destroy your career or livelihood, or place you behind bars. Those in power seem to have forgotten about the First Amendment: “*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.*” (Italics are mine.) To be blunt: how is it OK to own weapons that are capable of killing numerous people in minutes, but making a joke about the president or criticizing him is not? When did words become worse than bullets?

The United States has thrived on debate. Our press protects the average citizens by calling out the misdeeds of those in power. That is *their job* and it serves as a necessary protection from the very real problem that “power can be very addictive and it can be corrosive.” Every voice should be raised to condemn our government being used as a weapon against anyone who criticizes the president. Those voices are our contemporary prophets and, in light of the holiday season we just celebrated, we need to support them for religious and political reasons.

## Corrections

◆ In the September 12 issue of *The Reporter*, the Film Fest article on page 1 had the spelling of the moderator’s name for the film “The Taster” incorrect. It should have read Nancy Basmann.

◆ Also on page 1 of that issue, in the interview of Jennifer Brown, it should have noted that she is speaking in person at Temple Concord, not via Zoom. Her talk will also be live-streamed via Zoom for those who cannot attend in person. See the article on page 1 of this issue for details.



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of Greater Binghamton

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**E-mail** ~ [TReporter@aol.com](mailto:TReporter@aol.com)

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

**Extension#/Department** ~ 1. Advertising 2. Business Office  
4. Circulation 6. Editorial/News



Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton

BINGHAMTON, NY

**OPINIONS**

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

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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.

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**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](mailto:TReporter@aol.com).

**Executive Editor** Rabbi Rachel Esserman

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Ilene Pinsker



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

[www.thereportergroup.org](http://www.thereportergroup.org)



# 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!”

# BD Nov. 8 Luncheon to feature Bill Simons speaking on “The Tree of Life Massacre and the New Antisemitism”

Beth David Synagogue’s December Luncheon will be held on Saturday, November 8, with featured speaker Bill Simons, who will talk about “The Tree of Life Massacre and the New Antisemitism.” The community is invited to attend. Morning services will begin at 9:30 am, with the luncheon and program following the conclusion of services. The luncheon is free and open to the public.

Known to many as a featured and award-winning columnist for *The Reporter* since 2020, Simons will speak about the October 27, 2018, massacre that took place during Shabbat services in Pittsburgh’s Tree of Life Synagogue. Eleven Jews from three congregations were slaughtered. “The murders constitute the bloodiest single episode in Jewish American history,” Simons said. “The attack also marked an intensification of American antisemitism, a phenomenon that preceded the Hamas-Israel War.”



Bill Simons  
(Courtesy of Bill Simons)

With his press credentials and past residency in Pittsburgh, Simons was able to return to the city to sit in on some of the trial sessions of Robert Bowers, who was found guilty of the crime. Simons’ talk will examine the causes, conduct, consequences and legacy of the Tree of Life tragedy. He will also speak about the healing and rebuilding process that has followed since then.

A native of Lynn, MA, Simons earned his doctorate from Carnegie Mellon University. He is the former chairman and professor emeritus of SUNY Oneonta’s History Department. He is the recipient of two SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence Teaching and Service.

“Bill gave a wonderful talk in 2023 at Beth David about the Brooklyn Dodgers and their Jewish fanbase in the ‘50s,” said organizers of the event. “In addition to his renown for all things baseball, his Jewish activism developed through

participation in the Lynn chapter of Aleph Zadik Aleph, a Jewish fraternal group for youth, in which he, like his father before him, served as *aleph gadol* (president). For many years, he was the co-advisor to the Jewish student group at SUNY Oneonta. His numerous articles, reviews and essays have appeared in many journals and books. For his writings in *The Reporter*, he has received American See “Simons” on page 4

The Jewish Community wishes to express its sympathy to Rabbi Geoffrey Brown on the death of his mother,  
**Lois Brown**

# TC Brotherhood brunch on Oct. 26 to feature Jason Garner

A Temple Concord Brotherhood brunch will be held on Sunday, October 26, from 10-11:30 am, in the social hall of Temple Concord, 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton. The guest speaker will be Broome County Executive Jason Garner, who will speak about the current state of the economy of

the county. The cost of the brunch is \$10/adult, but there is no charge for attending the talk. The meeting is open to all adults in the Jewish community. Reservations for the brunch must be made by Wednesday, October 22, by calling the temple office at 607-723-7355.

# BD Sisterhood paid-up membership dinner Nov. 12


The Sisterhood of Beth David Synagogue will treat its paid-up members to a free pasta dinner on Wednesday, November 12, at 6 pm, in the Beth David social hall. Non-member friends and guests – both male and female – are welcome to attend, but will be asked to pay \$10 for the dinner. A non-dairy option will be available, but gluten free must be requested in advance.

Reservations should be made by Wednesday, November 5, by calling or texting Stacey Silber at 607-727-9738 or e-mailing silbercreations@gmail.com. Messages may also be left with the Beth David office at 607-722-1793 or bethdavid@stny.rr.com. Drop-ins will not be turned away.

“Unlike so many things these days, Sisterhood dues have not gone up!” said organizers of the event. “Membership in Beth David Sisterhood is still only \$25 for the year. A real bargain! The collection of dues is one of the primary ways in which Beth David Sisterhood raises funds, which pay for refreshments at meetings, help provide programs of interest to our members and the community, and allows

Sisterhood to make a generous donation to Beth David Synagogue each year.” See “Paid-up” on page 4

|   |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
| 13. Publication Title<br>THE REPORTER   |   | 14. Issue Date for Circulation Data<br>September 26, 2025      |   |
| 15. Extent and Nature of Circulation  |   | Average No. Copies<br>Each Issue<br>During Preceding 12 Months | No. Copies of Single Issue<br>Published Nearest to<br>Filing Date |
| a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)   |   | 1,079  | 1,072   |
| b. Paid<br>Circulation<br>(By Mail<br>and<br>Outside<br>the Mail)   | (1) Mailed Outside-Country Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies) | 989  | 982   |
|   | (2) Mailed In-Country Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)      | 14   | 15  |
|   | (3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®      | 0  | 0   |
|   | (4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail®)  | 0  | 0   |
| c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3) and (4).   |   | 1,003  | 997   |
| d. Free or<br>Nominal<br>Rate<br>Distribution<br>(By Mail<br>and<br>Outside<br>the Mail)  | (1) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside-County Copies included on PS Form 3541  | 0  | 0   |
|   | (2) Free or Nominal Rate In-Country Copies Included on PS Form 3541   | 0  | 0   |
|   | (3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail)  | 0  | 0   |
|   | (4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)  | 0  | 0   |
| e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4).   |   | 0  | 0   |
| f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e) ▶  |   | 1,003  | 997   |
| g. Copies not Distributed (See instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3)) ▶   |   | 76   | 75  |
| h. Total (Sum of 15f and g) ▶   |   | 1,079  | 1,072   |
| i. Percent Paid (15c, divided by 15f times 100) ▶   |   | 100%   | 100%  |
| 16. Electronic Copy Circulation   |   | Average No. Copies<br>Each Issue During<br>Preceding 12 Months | No. Copies of Single Issue<br>Published Nearest to<br>Filing Date |
| a. Paid Electronic Copies   |   | 0  | 0   |
| b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)   |   | 1,003  | 997   |
| c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15f) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)  |   | 1,003  | 997   |
| d. Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (16b divided by 16c x100)  |   | 100%   | 100%  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I certify that 50% of all my distributed copies (electronic and print) are paid above a nominal price.   |   |  |   |
| 17. Publication of Statement of Ownership<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the 10/10/2025 issue of this publication. <input type="checkbox"/> Publication not required.  |   |  |   |
| 18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager or Owner<br><i>Debra M. Silber, Managing Editor</i>  |   | Date<br>9-26-2025  |   |
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The following are deadlines for all articles and photos for upcoming issues of the biweekly *THE REPORTER*.

| ISSUE                   | DEADLINE           |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| October 24-Nov. 13      | October 13 (early) |
| November 14-27          | November 5         |
| November 28-December 11 | November 19        |
| December 12-25          | December 3         |

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# American detention camps and difficult choices

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

When I took American history classes in high school, several aspects of our past were ignored. We never learned about the restraints placed on Jewish immigration to the U.S., even when it became clear how dangerous it was to be Jewish in Europe before and during World War II. We also never learned that, once the U.S. entered the war, Japanese-Americans on the West Coast were ordered to sell their homes and possessions, and report to the American concentration camps (which is what those camps were called at that time). This included Japanese-American citizens and their non-citizen relatives, many of whom had been in the U.S. for years, but were not allowed to become American citizens no matter how long they lived here.

These thoughts arose while reading “Together in Manzanar: The True Story of a Japanese Jewish Family in an American Concentration Camp” by Tracy Slater (Chicago Review Press). These camps were later referred to as detention camps since the term concentration camps came to reference Nazi death camps. Why is the detention of those who might have sided with America’s enemy problematic? It might not have been if German or Italian Americans had been also sent to camps. However, that didn’t happen: only someone with Japanese lineage, no matter how minor, was considered a potential enemy.

Slater’s work focuses on Elaine Buchman Yoneda and her husband, Karl, although the author explores others who were in the camps. Although Elaine was Jewish, her family was not religious. Or, rather, Elaine’s religion was the support of labor and progressive movements. That is what drew her and Karl together: both were firm anti-fascists. Although Elaine was not required to leave her home,

her half-Japanese, 3-year-old son, Tommy, who suffered from health issues, was. Elaine had to fight to accompany him. That choice may not have been easy: Elaine had an older daughter from a first marriage whom she had to leave with her parents.

Karl was already at Manzanar when Elaine and Tommy arrived. Housing at the camp was sub-par with no heat and little protection from the sun. Multiple families were crowded together in small spaces, giving them little privacy and helping the spread of illness. Karl had volunteered to help build the camp because he wanted to prove to the authorities that he was a loyal American citizen. His dream was to become a soldier so he could fight Japanese fascism, which he deplored. This led to his and Elaine’s downplaying the civil rights violations that were taking place since they felt fighting against fascism in Japan and Europe was more important.

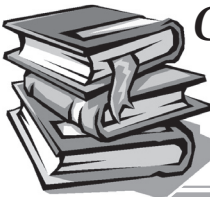
Not everyone accepted their treatment. Of particular interest is Joe Kurihara, a World War I veteran who had been extremely proud of his service to the U.S. He rightly called their detention “false imprisonment” and, by the end of the war, renounced his American citizenship, even though he knew no Japanese and had never visited Japan. He and others protested against those Japanese who were cooperating with the military running the camps. They also condemned the conditions under which they were forced to live, especially the fences surrounding the camps and the armed guards keeping them inside. These differences of opinions later led to violence, leaving those – like Elaine – who cooperated with the authorities in fear of their lives.

One interesting note is that the American military and the

Japanese had negative opinions of Jews. Slater quotes from a textbook used at West Point and the Army War College at that time. According to that book, “Eastern European Jews were cast as low as – or even lower than – Asians. At the War College, the assigned text... argued that modern Jews were actually an Asian hybrid race with Mongoloid traits and inherited tendencies that would one day lead them to destroy America’s cherished institutions.” Some of the Japanese in the camps claimed that “Roosevelt was a Jew, and Jews hate the Japanese.” Other Asians were also considered beneath them: a Korean living in the camp was referred to as a “dog.”

What is clear is that Elaine and Karl felt that winning the war against fascism was more important than civil rights (and she is quoted as specifically stating that) since they feared what would happen if the U.S. lost. Obviously, others did not feel the same : they saw the camps – which they considered prisons – as a blot on America’s claims of equality, especially since only those with Asian ancestry were considered potential enemies, while white Europeans (German and Italian Americans) were not.

The prose in “Together in Manzanar” is blunt and easy to read. The work reads more as journalism than history: that is not a complaint, but rather shows how Slater makes what occurred feel real and immediate. The book does not contain a great deal of Jewish content, but it does include a Jewish woman readers will be proud to meet – one who volunteered to live in a camp rather than abandon her son. While this complicated her daughter’s life (details are more sparse about her, but her adult life was not a happy one), this fierce Jewish mother worked to protect her son, sometimes at the risk of her own life.



Off the Shelf

# Israelis in the United States

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

People emigrate to a country for a variety of reasons. Some leave their native shores after experiencing persecution. Others come for economic reasons; a few even plan to return to their former homes once they’ve made their fortune. Then there are those looking to escape family pressures or seeking to live their lives on their own terms. A few of these possibilities are explored with two recent novels about Israeli women who emigrated to the United States: “Happy New Years” by Maya Arad (New Vessel Press) and “Hunting in America” by Tehila Hakimi (Penguin Books) offer views of two very different women and their approaches to life away from home.

Except for its short preface and afterward, “Happy New Years” features the yearly letters Leah writes to the friends she made when attending college in Israel. Perhaps “friends” is too strong a word: it becomes clear over the course of 60 years of letters that Leah is only close to one of the women. Not having been born in Israel – her family moved there from Romania – seems to affect the way her fellow students thought about her. But she is determined to keep in touch with them, even after she moves from Israel to the United States.

When life takes an unfortunate or unpleasant turn, Leah is still upbeat, painting a prettier picture the one than really exists as, for example, when the promised job as a Hebrew teacher in Boston she moved to the U.S. for does not materialize. It’s only in the postscripts that are for Mira alone that Leah admits to life not being perfect, whether it’s her job, her marriage or her children. Even with Mira, though, she doesn’t always reveal the complete story. It’s only by reading between the lines that readers gain true insight into her actions. Toward the end of her life – when Leah re-evaluates parts of her past – she does finally write about events that shamed her, although the shame belongs to the people who mistreated her.

Although Leah makes many mistakes because her naiveté, in many ways, her life reflects the changes in the world around her. At first embracing the life of a housewife

who takes care of her children, she later focuses the same amount of enthusiasm in her work, hoping to make a fortune selling real estate. Whenever she is knocked down in life, she tries to rise up again, remaking her life and herself to fit the new version of the world she embraces.

“Happy New Years” leaves much for readers to debate. Did Leah create some of her own problems by placing herself in situations she should have known would turn out badly? Was she naive to believe the promises made to her or was she actually seeking to profit from those she pretended to help? The afterward of the work, with essays written by one of Leah’s sons and her granddaughter, shine a different light on this interesting, complex woman.

While “Happy New Years” takes place over a period of years, the unnamed narrator of “Hunting in America” only writes about the first months in her new home. After accepting a job and moving to the U.S., the narrator doesn’t attempt to create much of a life for herself outside of work, that is, except for joining her co-workers on a deer hunt. She not only discovers a liking for the sport, but develops a close relationship with a married co-worker, David.

Life seems steady until there are questions about her position in the office; her relationship to David is also changing. The narrator describes her life by the number of times she goes hunting, as if those moments define her world. When a problem arises on a solo hunt, readers are forced to debate exactly what occurred since the narrator never clearly describes the scene. The same is true of the work’s abrupt ending, leaving readers to decide if what is suggested actually occurred.

“Hunting in America” offers as many questions as it does answers. Its narrator doesn’t come across as a particularly pleasant person, but that may be because her prose is emotionally flat, as if her emotions are buried deep inside. Readers may wonder if she suffers from depression, especially after learning one of the reasons she moved to the U.S.

The women in both works came to the United States

in the hopes of creating a new life. Leah had planned to return to Israel, but changed her mind when she realized her sons identified as Americans, rather than Israelis. The narrator in “Hunting in America” picked an unusual way to adjust to life in the U.S. since most Jews are not hunters. Then again, this allowed her to distance herself from her past. Readers may find it easier to sympathize with Leah than the unnamed narrator. That’s partly because “Happy New Years” is a far richer work with more depth than “Hunting in America.” While the former work comes highly recommended, it’s difficult to pinpoint readers for “Hunting in America.”

## Paid-up. . . . Continued from page 3

Organizers added, “An evening of fun games is being planned for after the dinner.”

Flyers will be sent to everyone on the Sisterhood e-mail list. Anyone who is not on the list and wishes to be included should e- mail Beth David Synagogue at bethdavid@stny.rr.com with your request. Mitzvah cards, which cost \$3, may be requested at the meeting and food for CHOW will be collected.

“Please join us on November 12 as we celebrate our loyal members who keep Beth David Sisterhood strong,” organizers added.

## Simons. . . . Continued from page 3

Jewish Press Association and Syracuse Press Club awards.

“Bill’s talk comes right on the heels of the seventh anniversary of the Tree of Life Synagogue tragedy,” organizers said. “His talk is sure to offer fresh insights into a chapter of Jewish history that continues to have repercussions today.”

Beth David’s luncheon speaker series takes place the second Saturday of the month after Shabbat morning services, and is open to the community. There is no charge for the luncheon. Since the monthly series’ continuation depends on the generosity of contributors, Beth David welcomes and appreciates donations to the Luncheon Fund in order to keep the program going. Donations can be made in honor of or in memory of someone, or to mark a special occasion. Those wishing an acknowledgment to be sent to the person being honored, or to the family of someone being remembered, can indicate that, along with the necessary information. Donations can be sent to Beth David Synagogue, 39 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905, Attention: Luncheon Fund.

## Moving any time soon?

Whether you’re moving across town or across the country, please let *The Reporter* know so you can stay up to date on community news! E-mail [treporter@aol.com](mailto:treporter@aol.com) with “Reporter Address change” in the subject line to let *The Reporter* know about your new address.



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# TC Sisterhood to hold Whale of a Sale and UpCycle Market

Temple Concord Sisterhood's 41<sup>st</sup> 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 will also 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, 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.

## Holocaust memorial service held



The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton held a memorial service at the Holocaust Memorial Monument in the Temple Israel Cemetery on September 28. The service was led by area rabbis. Around 40 people attended the service.



Those attending the service talked together before the service started.

## Shtick. . . . .Continued from page 2

fair game. And he was devastatingly funny. At a historic Carnegie Hall performance on February 4, 1961, Bruce displayed sheer genius.

In our own era, retrospective creatives imagined Bruce seducing Midge Maisel. But history records that the repressive establishment sent undercover detectives after Bruce, recording his performances. The silencing of iconoclastic comedians didn't start with Stephen Colbert and Jimmy Kimmel. Like Socrates in ancient Athens, Bruce was deemed a corrupter of youth, arrested, charged with obscenity and convicted, raising serious First Amendment issues. A self-destructive genius, Bruce, the dark prince of Jewish American comedy, turned to drugs that sapped his talent and cratered his audience. Derided by critics as sick, an observant commentator rebutted that Bruce wasn't sick, rather he held a mirror up to the sick elements of our society. Socrates took the hemlock, and Bruce, dead at 40, the morphine.

9. Sid Caesar. Big, muscular and physically imposing, Caesar was the ultimate counter to stories that began with "Did you hear the one about the little Jewish gentleman?" He looked like a gangster. During television's 1950s golden age of comedy, his two live variety shows, "Caesar's Hour" and "Your Show of Shows," were "Must See TV," even before that term was coined. Entertainment critic Gene Seymour termed Caesar "hilariously out of control," and Todd Leopold highlighted his "anarchic" style. Caesar's humor — broad, physically frenetic and uproarious — rendered him quite plausibly greatest-of-all-time amongst sketch comedians.

Caesar satirized actual and fictive phenomenon. On his stage, the popular and critically acclaimed film, "From Here to Eternity," recipient of eight Academy Awards, morphed into "From Here to Obscurity," a hysterical farce. Dialogue in many Caesar sketches employed a bombastic faux immigrant language, sometimes laced with a few Yiddish expressions. However, Caesar's comedy was Jewish more in its tone and sensibility than content, generated by his nonpareil team of Jewish gag writers: Neil Simon, Larry Gelbart, Carl Reiner, Mel Brooks, Selma Diamond and the young Woody Allen. Although Caesar lived into his 90s, the stress of performance and pace led to alcohol and drug addictions, marring the second half of his life and career.

10. Sarah Silverman. At 54, Silverman is in her prime, still a work in progress. Nonetheless, her feats earn Silverman a place within this non-Orthodox minyan. Accessible, ingenious and devoid of restraint, she invites comparison more to Amy Schumer than Gertrude Berg. Standup is Silverman's forte. Frequently profane, sexually explicit and controversial, Silverman, whose sister is a rabbi, shocks with routines on diarrhea, bed wetting, pornography, mothers and Hitler, often finding a hook to the Jewish American experience and to her own journey. Occasionally, she adopts the personae of a bigot to demonstrate prejudice's moorings in ignorance. In appearance and demeanor, Silverman evokes novelist Philip Roth's quintessential Jewish American Princess, Brenda Patimkin. Silverman's routines are often simultaneously offensive and the source of uncontrollable laughter.

Given the inevitability of dissent from my Comedian Minyan choices, I anticipate future columns on Jewish wit.

## Challah making at TC Religious School



Temple Concord Hebrew School students made traditional round challahs for Rosh Hashanah on September 20 as part of their studies for the holiday.



Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, spoke about her familial connection to the event.



Suzanne Holwitt, president of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, welcomed those attending and read a prayer.

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# On acceptance and inclusion

RABBI LEVI Y. SLONIM, CO-DIRECTOR OF CHABAD DOWNTOWN AND DIR. OF DEVELOPMENT, ROHR CHABAD CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDENT LIFE AT BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

In an increasingly contentious society, many of us find ourselves seeking ways to foster a more tolerant, accepting discourse. We want to raise the next generation of Americans to be more considerate of – and compassionate toward – people who embrace different political views from those we hold. Whoever thought that after years of fighting racial and sexual discrimination, we would find ourselves so fractured over opinion?

While the notion of inclusion in America has become more prevalent over the last 50 years, one of the essential *mitzvot* performed on the holiday of Sukkot – given to the Jewish people 3,330 years ago – can teach us a thing or two about true acceptance and inclusion.

I am referring to the mitzvah of the lulav and etrog, or

the four kinds. The verse states: “You shall take for yourselves on the first day the fruit of the hadar tree [citron], date palm fronds, a branch of a braided tree, and willows of the brook, and you shall rejoice before the Lord your God for a seven day period.” (Leviticus 23:40) For the duration of the holiday (except Shabbat), every day we take the four kinds, recite a blessing over them, bring them together and wave them in all six directions: right, left, forward, up, down and toward the back.

The *midrash* (Vayikra Rabbah 30:12) explains that the unity of the Jewish people is expressed and demonstrated in this mitzvah of lulav and etrog. Each of the four species represents a different type of Jew.

The etrog (citron) has both a pleasant smell and taste –

corresponding to the Jew that is both rich in Torah study and knowledge (taste), as well as full of observance of *mitzvot* and good deeds (smell). The lulav (date palm), which comes from a date tree, symbolizes the Jew that while may be lacking in observance of *mitzvot*, but is knowledgeable with Torah (taste). The hadas (myrtle) smells good – symbolizing the Jew who excels in action of *mitzvot*, even if s/he is lacking in Torah study and knowledge. And then we come to the aravah (willow) that lacks both a fragrant odor and taste – it does not have any of them, representing the Jew lacking in both Torah and *mitzvot*.

The mitzvah can only be fulfilled when *all* four of the species are present and bound together; if even one is

**See “Inclusion” on page 8**

## Congregational Notes

### Holiday service schedules

October holiday service schedules provided to *The Reporter* can be found on page 11 of the August 22-September 11 issue (online at [www.thereportergruop.org/local-news/2025-high-holiday-services-at-area-synagogues](http://www.thereportergruop.org/local-news/2025-high-holiday-services-at-area-synagogues)) and page 6 of the September 12-25 issue (online at [www.thereportergruop.org/local-news/2025-high-holiday-services-at-area-synagogues-part-2](http://www.thereportergruop.org/local-news/2025-high-holiday-services-at-area-synagogues-part-2)). Contact information for area synagogues can be found 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](mailto:office@templeisraelvestal.org)  
Website: [www.templeisraelvestal.org](http://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, October 11, Shacharit services will be held at 9:30 am via Zoom and in-person. The Torah portion is Exodus 33:12-34:26 the haftarah is Ezekiel 38:18-39:16. A Zoom Havdalah service will take place at 7:15 pm.

The temple office will be closed Monday-Wednesday, October 13-15.

On Tuesday, October 14, at 4:30 pm, there will be Shemini Atzeret services, followed by snacks at 5:30 pm and Simchat Torah services at 6 pm.

On Saturday, October 18, Shacharit services will be held at 9:30 am via Zoom and in-person. The Torah portion is Genesis 1:1-6:8 and the haftarah is Isaiah 42:5-21. A Zoom Havdalah service will take place at 7 pm.

On Tuesday, October 21, at 7 pm, the Board of Trustees will meet.

On Wednesday, October 22, at 10 am, the Ritual Committee will meet.

#### Penn-York Jewish Community

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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](mailto:president@tbeithaca.org), [secretary@tbeithaca.org](mailto:secretary@tbeithaca.org)  
Website: [www.tbeithaca.org](http://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](http://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](mailto:bethdavid@stny.rr.com)  
Rabbi's e-mail: [rabbisilber@stny.rr.com](mailto:rabbisilber@stny.rr.com)  
Website: [www.bethdavid.org](http://www.bethdavid.org)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/bethdavidbinghamton](http://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.edu](mailto:aslonim@binghamton.edu)  
[rslonim@chabadofbinghamton.com](mailto:rslonim@chabadofbinghamton.com)  
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Rabbi Zalman and Rochel Chein, Education  
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Rabbi Levi and Hadasa Slonim, Downtown and Development  
Chabad Downtown Center: 60 Henry St., Binghamton  
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Rabbi Yisroel and Goldie Ohana, Programming  
E-mail: [yohana@Jewishbu.com](mailto:yohana@Jewishbu.com), [gohana@Jewishbu.com](mailto:gohana@Jewishbu.com)  
Regular service times: Daily 7:30 am, Friday evening 6 pm, Shabbat morning 9:30 am, Maariv and Havdalah one hour after candle-lighting time, Sundays 9:30 am.  
To join the mailing list, for up-to-date information on adult education offerings or to arrange for a private tutorial, for details concerning the Judaica shop and resource center, or for assistance through the Piaker Free Loan Society or Raff Maasim Tovim Foundation, call Chabad's office at 797-0015.

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

#### 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](http://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, 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  
Friday, October 17, light candles before ..... 6 pm  
Shabbat ends Saturday, October 18 ..... 6:59 pm  
Friday, October 24, light candles before ..... 5:49 pm  
Shabbat ends Saturday, October 25 ..... 6:48 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](mailto:TempleConcordBinghamton@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.TempleConcord.com](http://www.TempleConcord.com)  
Please contact Temple Concord for Zoom links.

Some services and programs are online only.

Fridays, October 10 and 17: At 7:30 pm, Friday Shabbat services are in person, on Zoom and on Facebook.

Saturdays, October 11 and 18: 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 15 and 22: At 5:30 pm, evening prayers in person only. At 6 pm, adult education class in person and on Zoom.

Upcoming events:

Friday, October 10: At 6:30 pm, “Wine and Cheese in the Sukkah” followed by Shabbat service at 7:30 pm.

Tuesday, October 14: At 7:30 pm, Simchat Torah service with Yizkor.

Wednesday, October 15: At 10 am, Simchat Torah service with Yizkor; BYO lunch to follow (in person only).

Sunday, October 19: From 8:45 am-noon, Temple Concord's Riverbank Cleanup starting at the end of Oak Street near the river. For more information or to RSVP, contact Vicky Alt at [valt18@gmail.com](mailto:valt18@gmail.com).

Tuesday, October 21: At 10:30 am, Morning Book Club: “The Whisper Sister: A Novel” by Jennifer S. Brown. The author will join the club in person. At 7:30 pm, there will be a General Board meeting.

Wednesday, October 22: At 7 pm, the Social Action Committee will meet.

#### Norwich Jewish Center

Orientation: Inclusive  
Address: 72 South Broad St., Norwich, NY 13815  
Phone: 334-2691  
E-mail: [fertigj@roadrunner.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 Tikkun v'Or

Affiliation: Union for Reform Judaism  
Address: PO Box 3981, Ithaca, NY 14852; 2550 Triphammer Rd. (corner of Triphammer and Burdick Hill), Lansing, NY  
Phone: 607-256-1471  
Website: [www.tikkunvor.org](http://www.tikkunvor.org), E-mail: [info@tikkunvor.org](mailto:info@tikkunvor.org)  
Presidents: Martha Armstrong and Mitch Grossman, [presidents\\_22@tikkunvor.org](mailto: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](mailto: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.



# Jewish online resources

By Reporter staff

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

◆ Roundtable will hold the virtual class “Forgotten Holocaust Fiction” on Wednesdays, December 3-17, from 4-5 pm. The cost to attend is \$132. Professor Anna Katsnelson will examine two works of Holocaust literature: “The Oppermans” by Lion Feuchtwanger (1933) and “A Scrap of Time” by Ida Fink (1987). For more information or to register, visit <https://roundtable.org/live-courses/literature/forgotten-holocaust-fiction>.

◆ The Hadassah-Brandeis Institute will hold two virtual Sandra Seltzer Silberman HBI Conversations: Elly Teman and Zsuzsa Berend, authors of “A Tale of Two Surrogates: A Graphic Narrative on Assisted Reproduction” on Thursday, October 30, at 12:30 pm (<https://brandeis.zoom.us/join/register/s7sXsCGeSuq-Eekf2pHz2g#/registration>); and Yehudis Fletcher, author of “Chutzpah! A Memoir of Faith, Sexuality and Daring to Stay” on Tuesday, November 18, at 11:30 am (<https://brandeis.zoom.us/join/register/>

[HGHOEtDQium9zJ\\_zXzwWQ#/registration](https://brandeis.zoom.us/join/register/)).

◆ Qesher will hold its virtual book talk about “Alive and Beating” by Rebecca Wolf on Tuesday, October 28, at 4 pm. “Inspired by a true story, [the novel] follows six people from diverse backgrounds and neighborhoods throughout Jerusalem, all desperately in need of organ transplants, on the day their lives will forever be changed.” For more information or to register, visit [www.qesher.com/alive-and-beating](http://www.qesher.com/alive-and-beating).

◆ Sapir will hold the hybrid program “Does Zionism Have a Future on the American Left?” with Kathy E. Manning, Yehuda Kurtzer, Batya Ungar-Sargon and James Kirchick in conversation with Bret Stephens on Thursday, October 23, at 6 pm. The cost to attend is \$18. For more information, visit <https://sapijournal.org/events>. To register for the event, visit [www.92ny.org/event/sapir-debates-does-zionism-have-a-future-on-the-american-left](http://www.92ny.org/event/sapir-debates-does-zionism-have-a-future-on-the-american-left).

◆ ALEPH will hold the virtual program “Returning the Feminine to the Stories of our People” on Sunday, October 26, at 8 pm. The cost to attend is pay what you wish. Maggidah Debra Gordon Zaslow, Rabbi Rivkah Coburn and Magiddah Cassandra Sagan from the Jewish Women’s

Storytelling Collective will talk about their new book “The Rooster Princess and Other Tales: Jewish Stories Repopulated with Spunky Heroines, Wise Women, Brave Crones, and Powerful Prophetesses.” For more information or to register, visit [https://secure.lglforms.com/form\\_engine/s/CoJ8QjozQWS-JMNdKEFxfw](https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/CoJ8QjozQWS-JMNdKEFxfw).

◆ The Jewish Theological Seminary will hold the virtual series “You Say You Want a Revolution: Jewish Encounters with Radical Change” on Mondays, October 20-December 8, from 1-2 pm. There is a suggested donation depending on how many lectures a person attends. The same Zoom link will be used for all sessions. Lectures include “Monotheism: Evolution or Revolution”; “Revolutionizing Belonging: Disability Inclusion and the Future of Jewish Camp”; “Before the Print Revolution: Manuscripts and the World They Made”; “Peshat: The Reinvention of Reading During the Twelfth Century Renaissance”; “Progress, Regress, and Transformation: Hermann Cohen’s Ezekiel as a Revolutionary Prophet”; “Possibility and Peril: Jews and the Russian Revolution”; “A Scholarly Revolution: Rewriting the Rules of Talmud Study”; and “Hanukkah.” See “Resources” on page 8



## Business Profiles



### Disaster Clean-up

Specialty: Full-service fire and water damage restoration  
Name: Arthur Diamond  
Location: 3216 Watson Blvd.  
Endwell, NY 13760  
Phone: 607-748-0128  
Hours: 24/7, including holidays

Disaster Clean-Up is a full-service fire and water damage restoration company. The company covers all of Broome County and the Southern Tier, and has trained technicians on call 24/7, including holidays, to respond to emergencies. Disaster Clean-Up is proud to offer the most advanced technology and largest capacity for drying and dehumidification in all of the Southern Tier. Services range from mold removal to moisture testing to cleaning of buildings and their contents, and more.

From the smallest fire or water loss in your home to the largest commercial disasters, Disaster Clean-Up can do it all.

### Ernest H. Parsons Funeral Home

Specialty: Funeral  
Location: 71 Main St.  
Binghamton, NY 13905  
Name: Joseph Fritsch  
Phone: 607-724-1336  
Fax: 607-724-1337  
E-mail: [parsonsfuneral@yahoo.com](mailto:parsonsfuneral@yahoo.com)  
Website: [www.parsonsfuneral.com](http://www.parsonsfuneral.com)  
Hours: 24/7/365

The Ernest H. Parsons Funeral Home, located at 71 Main St., Binghamton, has been a landmark since 1928 and is located in the J. Stewart Wells Mansion, built by renowned architect Isaac Perry, who completed construction in 1867.

Ernest H. Parsons owned and operated the funeral home from 1928 until his death in 1976. Charles Mills purchased the funeral home after Ernest’s death and continued the tradition until his retirement in 2012. The current owners – J. Fritsch, R. Fynboe, S. Pitkorchemny and K. Vakiener – strive to uphold the original motto of the founder: “Let Us Serve You with Understanding.” Parsons Funeral Home offers distinctive service with respectful attentiveness to the ceremonial rites and the utmost consideration of families’ desires to accord a last tribute of affection and esteem to their departed loved ones.

### Hopler & Eschbach Funeral Home

Specialty: Funeral services, burials and cremation  
Location: 483 Chenango St.  
Binghamton, NY 13901  
Name: Kurt M. Eschbach  
Phone: 607-722-4023  
E-mail: [hoplereschbachfh@aol.com](mailto:hoplereschbachfh@aol.com)  
Website: [www.hefuneralhome.com](http://www.hefuneralhome.com)  
Hours: 24-hour service, 365 days a year

When faced with the death of a loved one, Hopler & Eschbach Funeral Home invites you to turn to its caring staff to help guide you through the funeral process. Deeply experienced and knowledgeable in the performance of Jewish burial customs, Kurt Eschbach and his staff are the most qualified professionals in the community to help plan and carry out your funeral or memorial services. They provide services at your synagogue, the funeral home or cemetery, and also provide cremation services and funeral pre-planning.

The funeral home and parking areas are newly renovated and spacious. Staff work diligently to provide the highest quality service at a cost that is 10-30% lower than other funeral homes. With their quality service, fair pricing and newly renovated facilities, Kurt and his staff believe you will make Hopler & Eschbach Funeral Home your new family tradition.

### The Reporter

Specialty: Advertising  
Location: 500 Clubhouse Rd.  
Vestal, NY 13850  
Name: Kathy Brown  
Phone: 607-724-2360, ext. 244  
E-mail: [advertising@thereportergroup.org](mailto:advertising@thereportergroup.org)  
Website: [www.thereportergroup.org](http://www.thereportergroup.org)  
Facebook: The Reporter Group  
Hours: Mon. 9 am-4 pm, Wed. 9 am-3 pm, Thurs. 9 am-4 pm

Advertising was a new field for Kathy when she started four years ago, but she’s discovered the pleasure of working with the clients, giving them ideas on how to promote their business using print ads. Her motto is “the client comes first” and, to prove that, she researches each client to see what they have done in the past and tries to figure out if there is a way to improve their ad-image. She also works with them to discover the ad sections that will best highlight their business.

Kathy has lived here for 40 years, moving from Long Island to meet and marry her husband. She loves the outdoors, even in the winter. She is ready to help you advertise your business in *The Reporter*, in Binghamton and Scranton, the best way she can. Call or e-mail her to discuss options.



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Arthur Diamond, President  
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Endwell, NY 13760  
[www.disaster-cleanup.com](http://www.disaster-cleanup.com)



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KATHY BROWN  
ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE



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Contact Advertising Representative Kathy Brown for all your advertising needs at 607-724-2360, ext. 244, or [advertising@thereportergroup.org](mailto:advertising@thereportergroup.org)

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



# First migrating cranes arrive at Israel’s Hula Valley Reserve

**By JNS staff**

(JNS)—The first flock of migrating cranes arrived on September 29 at the KKL-JNF Hula Valley Nature Reserve, marking the start of the region’s annual spectacle as the birds move from their Russian breeding grounds toward Africa.

Among the arrivals are young cranes experiencing their first long-distance migration, traveling with their parents to ensure a safe journey. Some flocks are expected to remain in the Hula Valley for the entire winter, while others will continue on to Africa.

“The arrival of the first cranes at the Hula Valley is always moving, filling the heart with beauty and hope. The magic of migration is exciting time after time, and one can never get used to these breathtaking sights when the lake fills with the voices of the cranes,” said Inbar Shlomit Rubin, field manager at the KKL-JNF Hula Lake. “We all hope that, just like the cranes, all the hostages will return to us soon, so that the joy will be complete,” she added.

The Hula Valley, recognized as one of Israel’s and the world’s most important avian habitats, serves as a crucial stopover for hundreds of thousands of migratory birds each year. The reserve offers safety, plentiful food, and rest needed to fuel the birds’ journeys.

Nature enthusiasts can watch the migration live through cameras operating around the clock on the KKL-JNF’s website, [www.kkl-jnf.org](http://www.kkl-jnf.org).



The year’s first flock of cranes touched down at KKL-JNF’s Hula Valley Nature Reserve in northern Israel on September 29, 2025, signaling the start of the migration season. (Photo by KKL-JNF)

## Israel unveils National Archaeological Database

**By JNS staff**

The Israel Antiquities Authority recently launched a digital platform centralizing all archaeological information collected and researched in Israel. The database currently contains 3,910,005 records, along with 964,393 objects, 1,223,552 images and 15,164 three-dimensional models. The National Archaeological Database, online at [discover.iaa.org.il](http://discover.iaa.org.il), allows users to browse publications, photos, 3D scans, excavation reports and archival documents through a smart search by site, period, type of find and other categories.

The system includes an interactive geographic search that lets users plot an area of interest on a map and instantly access all relevant archaeological information -- from findings to excavation documents, images, models and professional publications.

“In a country with a rich heritage like Israel, a huge collection of archaeological information from all periods has been collected over the years,” said Alby Malka, head of the IAA’s Technologies Division. “By Israeli law, every archaeological find that is uncovered must be reported, docu-

mented and deposited in the National Archives. As a result, data constantly gathers under the aegis of the Israel Antiquities Authority on many archaeological digs, as well as on hundreds of thousands of ancient items -- from scrolls and coins to pottery, jewelry and archaic architectural elements.

“A national archaeological database, which gathers and makes all this knowledge accessible both to the lay public and to researchers, is a tool of paramount importance for scientific research, for preserving the country’s heritage, and for deepening public knowledge,” added Malka.

## Resources . . . . . Continued from page 7

For information on individual sections or to register, visit [www.jtsa.edu/news/fall-2025-learning-series](http://www.jtsa.edu/news/fall-2025-learning-series).

◆ Roundtable will hold the virtual class “The Defiantly Jewish Voices of Sci Fi from Stanislaw Lem to Friedrich Gorenstein” on Sundays, October 26-November 9, from 7-8 pm. The cost to attend is \$132. The class will explore how two post-World War II writers sought “to understand a view of the world through the prism of the Jewish canon even after the links to tradition have been wrecked.” For more information or to register, visit <https://roundtable.org/live-courses/literature/the-defiantly-jewish-voices-of-authors-stanislaw-lem-and-friedrich-gorenstein>.

◆ The Institute for Jewish Spirituality will hold the virtual class “The Four Worlds of Kabbalah: A Mindfulness-Based Introduction” on Wednesdays, October 22-November 26, from 3-4:15 pm. There are three levels of tuition available. The class offers “practical introduction to mindful Jewish living grounded in the model of the ‘Four Worlds’ – which locates the sacred in our bodies, emotions, thoughts, and spirit.” For more information or to register, visit [www.jewishspirituality.org/courses-programs/the-four-worlds-of-kabbalah-a-mindfulness-based-introduction](http://www.jewishspirituality.org/courses-programs/the-four-worlds-of-kabbalah-a-mindfulness-based-introduction).

◆ The Yiddish Book Center will hold the virtual course “Why Yiddish Children’s Literature” on Wednesdays, October 29-November 19, from 7-8:30 pm. The cost to attend is \$100. The course “will explore how the stories and poems written for Yiddish-speaking children reflect and also help to create the contours of Ashkenazi modernity during an age of global Jewish Diaspora.” For more information or to register, visit <https://support.yiddishbookcenter.org/site/Ticketing?view=Tickets&id=11362>.

◆ The Jewish Grandparents Network will hold the virtual event “The Floor Is Yours! Listening Session with JGN’s New Executive Director Debra S. Weinberg” on Wednesday, November 12, from 1-1:45 pm. Weinberg will discuss her plans for JGN’s future. For more information or to register, visit <https://jewishgrandparentsnetwork.org/event/the-floor-is-yours-listening-session-with-jgns-new-executive-director-debra-s-weinberg>.

◆ My Jewish Learning will hold the virtual class “Beyond the Pale: A History of the Pale of Settlement” on Wednesday, October 22-November 5, at 7 pm. The cost to attend is \$60. Two-time National Jewish Book Award winner Elissa Bemporad “will trace the origin of the Pale of Settlement and the development of legislation against Jews in Tsarist Russia, from the late-18<sup>th</sup> century to the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.” For more information or to register, visit <https://my-jewish-learning.teachable.com/p/pale-of-settlement>.

◆ Roundtable will hold the virtual class “Jewish Literature and the Rise of Empires” on Mondays, November 3-24, from 10-11 am. The cost to attend is \$176. The “course looks at the developments and innovations in Jewish literature that took place in the context of the rise of European empires and the encounter between Jewish authors, communities, and these new world powers.” For more information or to register, visit <https://roundtable.org/live-courses/literature/jewish-literature-and-the-rise-of-empire>.

◆ Melton will hold a variety of courses this fall. The cost to attend is a sliding scale. Classes included “Jewish Vienna: a City of Two Tales” on Mondays, October 20 and 27, and November 3, from 1-2:30 pm (<https://events.org/events/calendarcourse?tid=b-cc65fc1-b7fc-44aa-8647-6e0ec74c1c02>); “Spiritually Fit: Jewish Wisdom on Personal Wellness” on Monday, October 20, from 7-8 pm (<https://events.org/events/calendarcourse?tid=c-bea802a-9acf-4c43-8b50-5d5d70a3a341>); “Inside the Shtetl: A Jewish Universe” on Tuesdays, October 21 and 28, from 1-2 pm (<https://events.org/events/calendarcourse?tid=5e62b543-28b4-43d2-a735-5d44bd7c6c11>); “When Truth-Telling Gets Complicated: Torah and the Ethics of Lying” on Tuesday, October 28, from 7-8 pm (<https://events.org/events/calendarcourse?tid=8754bb97-d813-4ffd-92ba-6fa6ba544df6>); and “CSI Babylonia: Investigating Talmudic Justice” on Wednesday, October 29, from 7-8 pm (<https://events.org/events/calendarcourse?tid=869a83b7-bf90-4788-88f8-f0e94b24a886>).

For additional resources, see previous issues of The Reporter on its website, [www.thereporter.org/jewish-online-resources](http://www.thereporter.org/jewish-online-resources).

## Inclusion . . . . . Continued from page 6

missing, one has not fulfilled the mitzvah. The message of this mitzvah is clear: one cannot truly attain fulfillment unless they are willing to go beyond themselves and connect with the other – every other – person. No matter how rich we may be with talent, knowledge, observance or impact, we can only attain real fulfillment and “completion” in this world – and in the eyes of God – when we respect the contribution of every other. Yes, including the person – like the willow – that seems to lack knowledge and deeds, both taste and odor.

This ancient rite has a lot to teach us Americans at this juncture and remains a crucial reminder to us Jews that the unity of our people is fundamental to our the growth and progress.

It also gives us the courage to retain our unique stance and opinions – it’s OK to be different. That’s what makes our community so special, after all.

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- 2) E-mail Federation Executive Director Shelley Hubal at [director@jfgb.org](mailto:director@jfgb.org) with “pledge” in the subject line.
- 3) Fill out the form in this ad and mail it to the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850.

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