

THE REPORTER

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Film Fest to hold in-person showing of “Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles” on Nov. 6

By Reporter staff

The Binghamton Jewish Film Fest will show “Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles” on Sunday, November 6, at Temple Israel, 4737 Deerfield Place, Vestal. The evening will include a kosher dairy dinner and begin at 5:30 pm. The cost is \$12 per person for the film and the dinner. Larry Kassan, who has directed productions of the musical, will facilitate the film discussion. Reservations are required for the event and should be made by Tuesday, November 1. Registration can be made at www.jfgb.org or by calling the Federation at 607-724-2332.

“Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles,” a documentary by Max Lewkowicz, tells the origin story of the Broadway musical “Fiddler on the Roof,” and its creative roots in early 1960s New York City. The film includes interviews with the show’s creators, which reveal how the success and worldwide impact of “Fiddler” and its subsequent film adaptation is most appropriately viewed through the lens of the social upheaval

and change in mid-20th century America. The documentary also explores a variety of international productions of the show, detailing how individuals of many cultures see themselves in the residents of Anatevka. The film features scenes from productions in Canada, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands, as well as the last Broadway production revival with Danny Burstein and Jessica Hecht.

Kassan, who is coordinator of special events and theatre at the Rod Serling School of Fine Arts at Binghamton City School District, knows “Fiddler on the Roof”: not only has he seen more than a dozen productions of the musical, but he has directed, designed or produced “Fiddler” at least six times. Why does he feel the musical is so popular? “I can say that in one word: *tradition*,” he noted in an e-mail interview. “Honestly, Tevye’s story is universal... Tevye’s struggles [with a] changing world [where one is] so desperately trying to hold onto one’s traditions.”

Shelley Hubal, executive director of the



A scene from “Fiddler on the Roof” as performed at Chichester Festival Theatre, U.K. (Photo by the Chichester Festival Theatre, courtesy of Roadside Attractions and Samuel Goldwyn Films)

Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, which sponsors the film fest, noted how pleased she is that the film is finally going to be shown. “We’ve wanted to show this film in person and almost did last year on Super Sunday before the pandemic made us cancel the event,” said Hubal.

“‘Miracle’ is the type of film that speaks to the shared human experience. This documentary will make you feel proud of your ancestry. Join us for a wonderful evening that includes dinner, the film and what will be a great conversation with Larry Kassan.”

The Reporter is celebrating 50 years – and counting

By The Reporter Editorial Committee

The Reporter Editorial Committee invites readers to join its anniversary celebration: “We are celebrating the completion of the 50th year of publishing *The Reporter*, the Jewish newspaper of our community. To recognize this milestone, we are publishing a special section in the November 18 issue of the paper. In this publication, a retrospective will appear, including clips from the early years, and we hope greetings from members of the community – both personal and business – both Jewish and non-Jewish – who have

supported us over the years. Personal and business ads can be purchased, and different prices and sizes are available. You are welcome to choose from pre-existing copy and graphics, or make up your own – our graphics department is ready and willing to help you be a part of this special issue.”

“It is so unusual these days for a small Jewish community to have its very own award-winning newspaper,” said Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Jewish

Federation of Greater Binghamton. “We are so lucky to have *The Reporter*. It is just one of the things that makes Binghamton a special place. The paper keeps us all connected and creates an archive of the history of Jewish life in the Southern Tier.”

“Although I didn’t grow up here, *The Reporter* has been part of my life for the past 15 years – first as executive editor and now as chairwoman of the Editorial Committee,” said Rebecca Goldstein Kahn.

“Most importantly, I value *The Reporter* as a member of the Jewish community. Please help ensure this gem is around for another 50 years!”

Hubal added, “I hear from former community members all the time who remember Binghamton so fondly. Whether you used to live here or are a current resident, we hope you will take this opportunity to congratulate *The Reporter* on 50 years well done!”

For more information, see the ad on page 4 or contact Kathy Brown at 724-2360, ext. 244, or advertising@thereporter.org.

50 years of service

December 3, 1971-December 3, 2021

Fall 2022 College of Jewish Studies series to feature two lectures and a movie

The fall 2022 College of Jewish Studies series will be comprised of two Zoom lectures and a movie. The two lectures will focus on American Jewish politics. The first will be held on the evening of Thursday, October 27, at 7:30 pm, and will feature Tel Aviv University Professor Yoav Fromer speaking about former New York Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan’s engagement with Jews and Jewish political thought. The second is scheduled for Thursday, November 10, at 7:30 pm, and will feature Binghamton University Professor Allan Arkush discussing the career of Lewis Strauss, the only Jew to be appointed to a Cabinet post between the Roosevelt Administration and the Kennedy Administration.

On the night of Thursday, November 3, at 7 pm, the College of Jewish Studies is co-sponsoring an in-person event: a classic silent film with live music performed by violin virtuoso and klezmer fiddler Alicia Svigals, of The Klezmatics fame,

and Donald Sosin, a world-renowned silent film piano accompanist. This showing of “Dos Alte Gesetz” (“The Ancient Law”), from Weimar director Ewald Andrew Dupont, will be held at Binghamton University’s Casadesus Recital Hall. Parking for the university event is available at the parking garage just below the Fine Arts Building.

Fromer’s October 27 talk is titled “Sons of City College: Daniel Patrick Moynihan and the Jewish World of Ideas.” “Among the many intellectual influences that informed the unique mindset of the legendary (and controversial) scholar and politician, Daniel Patrick Moynihan, none were more central



Prof. Allan Arkush
(Photo by Bonnie Edwards)



Prof. Yoav Fromer
(Photo courtesy Yoav Fromer)

than the ideas of New York’s Jewish intellectuals,” said CJS organizers. “Despite his strong Catholic-Irish heritage and pragmatic political instincts, much of Moynihan’s political orientation was shaped by the ideas and sensibilities of New York’s Jewish intellectual community.” Fromer’s presentation will explore Moynihan’s admiration for New York’s Jewish intellectuals in the 1960s-70s and his embrace of some of their most notable political initiatives (like the unequivocal support of Israel), and try to understand why the liberal Moynihan was drawn to Neoconservative Jewish thinkers like the sociologist Nathan Glazer, Com-

mentary Editor Norman Podhoretz, and the writer and columnist Irving Kristol, all of whom also became his personal friends.

Fromer heads the Center for the Study of the United States at Tel Aviv University and is a fellow in the School of Government and Diplomacy. Fromer’s research explores the relationship between politics and culture, and focuses primarily on modern American liberalism, conservatism, and foreign policy. His academic research has been published in journals like *Review of Politics*, *Modern Intellectual History*, *American Jewish History* and *Journal of American Studies*. His latest book, “The Moderate Imagination: The Political Thought of John Updike and the Decline of New Deal Liberalism” (2020) was published by the University Press of Kansas. In addition to his academic work, Fromer is a commentator for the Israeli daily newspaper *Yediot Aharonot*, and writes for *The Washington Post*. See “Studies” on page 11

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Talks around town
“Tea and Talk”; Kristallnacht program; BD to restart its Shabbat Luncheon Speaker series.
.....Pages 3 and 5

On college campuses
ADL issues report on upswing in campus antisemitism; student uproar at SUNY New Paltz.
.....Page 9

News in brief...
Israel giving intel to Ukraine; Abbas meets with Putin; violence in Jerusalem; and more.
.....Page 12

Special Sections
Book Review..... 4
Home Improvement..... 7
Women in Business..... 9
Classifieds 12


**Television
Review**

The U.S. and the Holocaust

BILL SIMONS

"The U.S. and the Holocaust," a six-hour series by Ken Burns, America's pre-eminent documentary filmmaker, made its PBS debut with two-hour installments on the evenings of September 18, 20 and 21. Although it looked back to antecedents and forward to legacy, the documentary truly begins in 1933, the year that Adolf Hitler and Franklin Roosevelt come to power in Germany and the United States respectively, and ends in 1945 with the defeat of the Nazi Third Reich, as well as the deaths of Hitler and Roosevelt. The focus is on the Holocaust, the genocidal murder of two-thirds of Europe's Jewish population; even more specifically, the Burns' lens examines the American response to the persecution of the Jews and the eventual Shoah. Questions are raised about the adequacy of the American response, from a moral and political perspective; the circumstances and personalities that shaped the American stance; the extent to which the plight of European Jews was known and understood in America; the leadership of President Roosevelt; and the priorities of American Jews. Burns provides few new revelations, but he repackages material from government records, speeches, diaries, letters, newspapers, radio broadcasts, photographs, newsreels, scholarship and interviews masterfully, rendering "The U.S. and the Holocaust" relevant, compelling and accessible to a new generation.

In preparation for viewing the Burns documentary, I revisited the Roosevelt home in Hyde Park, NY, the day before the series debut in the company of three other educators, my former student and friend Matt Maholchic; his wife, Jamie; and their friend Trish. Polls by historians consistently rank FDR as one of America's three greatest presidents. His policies ameliorated the Great Depression and enabled victory during World War II. American Jews gave Roosevelt support and affection unmatched by any other president. Why, then, did FDR not do more to prevent the genocidal killing of six million European Jews?

Burns makes an effective case that adversaries, priorities and Constitutional restraints limited FDR's response to the persecution and subsequent murder of European Jews. In 1924, nine years before Roosevelt assumed the presidency, Congress, pervaded by nativism and tribalism, passed the Johnson-Reed Act, establishing, for the first

time, limits on the number of immigrants admitted into the U.S. per year and nationality quotas, restrictive on countries that harbored most of European Jewry. During the 1930s, domestic challenges, specifically combatting the Great Depression, preoccupied FDR. Moreover, after the mayhem of Kristallnacht in 1938, even the modest proposal to admit an additional 20,000 German-Jewish refugee children under the Wagner-Rogers Bill died in Congress. In 1939, 900 Jews aboard the German passenger ship *St. Louis* could glimpse Miami, but, denied entry to the U.S., were forced to return to Germany. For a time, it appeared that the charismatic aviator Charles Lindbergh, an isolationist and antisemite, might gain the presidency in 1940. An internationalist president facing strong isolationist sentiment, FDR was constrained by public and congressional opinion.

After the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, Roosevelt's priority was winning World War II. He felt that he could most effectively combat the destruction of European Jewry by defeating Nazi Germany. Many Jewish voices pressed Roosevelt to do more to rescue European Jews. However, American Jews were not unified in their approach: some feared visibility would heighten antisemitism and others focused on a postwar Jewish homeland. Burns presents strong evidence that U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Breckinridge Long cynically manipulated the visa system, erecting barriers to deny European Jews escape to the U.S.

Burns demonstrates that the American public and policymakers received information in the 1930s about persecution of the Jews and then, during the war, of genocide. Newspapers, however, limited coverage or sequestered such articles in the back pages. Moreover, the false World War I propaganda of German horrors deterred Americans from believing accounts of Hitler's atrocities. At war's end, Burns depicts Supreme Allied Commander Dwight Eisenhower, anticipating future Holocaust deniers, ordering thousands of American soldiers, as well as prodding journalists, to view the horrors at the Nazi death camps.

In two powerful volumes, "Paper Walls" and "The Abandonment of the Jews," my late professor David Wyman bore witness that more could and should have been done. During the prewar years before genocide, Hitler sought

to drive the Jews from Germany, but relatively few were able to navigate the immigration restrictions of the Western democracies. According to Wyman, Allies should have bombed concentration camps and repeatedly warned the perpetrators of genocide that postwar justice would hold them accountable.

Burns acknowledges that the U.S. took in more refugees than any other nation and recognizes the work of the War Refugee Board. The courageous endeavors of individual government officials, politicians, journalists, ordinary people and 16 million American soldiers are commended by the documentary. America, along with allies and partisans, finally awoke to heroically defeat the subjugators, at great cost to U.S. lives and resources, but wasted years in denial.

Through powerful case studies, Burns humanizes the six million Holocaust deaths, including a fresh telling of the Anne Frank story. Aged survivors and their children speak. With the passing of the last of the survivors, the documentary will provide a bulwark against the Holocaust fading into historical oblivion.

By intent, "The U.S. and the Holocaust" is not easy viewing. Graphic images and pointed language explicitly document mistakes, indifference, suffering and devastation. Moreover, Burns does not allow viewers to hide behind smug assurance that they would have – or are – responding differently than did an earlier generation. The current Congress, like its predecessor of the 1930s, fails to adopt humane immigration reform. And Ukraine's struggle for survival, and the fate of its refugees, raises anew troubling questions about the geopolitical and humanitarian obligations of the American democracy. Denouncing "the illusion of isolationism" in his February 23, 1942, "Fireside Chat," President Roosevelt spoke to his time and to ours: "The present great struggle has taught us increasingly that freedom of person and security of property anywhere in the world depend upon the security of the rights and obligations of liberty and justice everywhere in the world."

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

Opinion

In My Own Words

An unusual beginning to 5783

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

I did two unusual things in September: for the first time in at least 40 years, I did not attend services or pray during Rosh Hashanah. I also posted about the death of a relative on Facebook, something I've never done before. Both of these things occurred because my mother, Elinor "Honey" Esserman, died the morning of September 25. Rosh Hashanah began that evening.

My reason for not attending Rosh Hashanah services was simple: I couldn't bear to step foot into the synagogue or open a *machzor* (holiday prayer book). I went with a Jewish tradition that declares we do not pray when our dead lie before us. Due to the logistics of the holiday, the burial could not take place until Wednesday, the day after the holiday. I had thought I'd look at my *machzor* at home, but viewing those readings before the funeral was just too much.

As for posting on Facebook, I didn't write about my father's death in 2006 or my little brother Larry's in 2010. But I felt obligated this time because I had been posting about my visits with my mother that occurred when I was finally allowed to once again enter the nursing home where she was living. A friend came with me the first time and took a picture of me and my mom, which I posted on Facebook, noting that I was not going to do this every time I visited.

The responses to that photo can be summarized by saying, "Please continue to post about your visits." From then on, I regularly posted, even when I didn't have a photo or there wasn't much to write about. I felt it was necessary to let the people who regularly liked or commented on these posts to know what happened. One person very sweetly wrote that she'd enjoyed being part of the journey I took with my mom.

My reaction to my mom's death surprised me. It's not that I wasn't upset: I was a mess on the Sunday I received the call from the home that she passed away. But I've been far calmer than I thought I would be and that includes during the burial, which is usually the most difficult time for me. One person has suggested that I've already done a great deal of mourning for my mom since I've watched her decline over the past few years. The mother I could depend on and talk to was no longer there, although her basic personality (and sense of humor) remained intact. Someone else suggested that it would hit me when I least expected it. Yet another noted it would probably be some combination of the two.

I've been attending services since then, including *Yizkor* during Yom Kippur and, again, I was sad, but not distraught. One moment during services did take me by surprise. When

we used to hold holiday parties at my chaplaincy job, we would always say my favorite blessing – the *Shehecheyanu* prayer – during which we thank God that we've managed to live through this past year and be together again. Hearing and saying that prayer this year was the hardest part of the day because, this time, my mom was not there.

My mother's biggest worry was what would happen to me when she died. That's because I'm unmarried and have no children (something which at times still takes me by surprise since it was not by deliberate intent). What I and others told her is that I have friends and a community that would offer me support. That proved true before, during and after the *shiva*. Community doesn't mean we need to be best friends or even see each other frequently. What it does mean is that we are there when people need us to help celebrate their joys and to commiserate and support them during their sorrowful moments.

Thank you to all who supported me during the past few years – in person or virtually – during my mom's decline and after her death. The day before this paper appears in print would have been my mom's 96th birthday. She almost made it; she lived longer than her parents and siblings. I carry her with me in my thoughts and actions; I wouldn't be who I am without her. For me, her memory is a blessing.



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER BINGHAMTON

Suzanne Holwitt, President
Shelley Hubal, Executive Director

607-724-2332 ~ www.jfgeb.org

The Reporter Editorial Committee

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

HOW TO REACH THE REPORTER

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

E-mail ~ TRReporter@aol.com

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

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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.

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Executive Editor Rabbi Rachel Esserman

Layout Editor Diana Sochor

Advertising Kathy Brown

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Production Associate Julie Weber



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

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Chabad and Federation sponsor "Tea and Talk"

Chabad of Binghamton, with co-sponsorship from the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, will hold its next "Tea and Talk" on Thursday, November 17, from 11 am-noon, in Chabad's atrium lounge. "Tea and Talk" is a monthly hour-long gathering for local Jewish seniors who are looking for "a meaningful conversation."

"The 'Tea and Talk' gatherings have become one of my favorite monthly events," said Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Federation. "The conversation is engaging, and the atmosphere is friendly. If you are looking for a way to connect with others and learn something new, then join us for 'Tea and Talk.' We welcome your participation."

"If you are a Jewish senior living in Broome County who enjoys spending time with others like you, discussing contemporary Jewish topics and a little nosh, this program is for you," said organizers of the event. "Bring your thoughts and opinions!" To RSVP, visit www.JewishBU.com/Tea or call 797-0015.

Hillel Academy to hold open house on Nov. 9

Hillel Academy of Broome County will hold an open house on Wednesday, November 9, from 6-8 pm. Enrollment is open for the 2023-24 year. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 304-4544, e-mailing

frontoffice@hillelacademyofbc.org or using the QR code in the ad on page 6. "Why choose Hillel?" asked organizers of the event. "We offer small class sizes and a warm, nurturing environment.

We are preparing future leaders for tomorrow by giving your children a superior education with a purpose. We also offer after school enrichment programs in S.T.E.A.M."

Chabad to offer JLI course "My G-d: Defining the Divine"

Chabad of Binghamton will offer a six-week course "My G-d: Defining the Divine," produced by the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute, beginning on Monday, November 7. There will be a 7 pm session and an 8:45 pm session (if 10 people sign up for that time). The course fee is \$79 per person or \$150 per couple, which includes the textbook. To register for the course, call 797-0015, email to ruthshea@Jewishbu.com or visit www.myJLI.com.

"This course unpacks Judaism's understanding of God while providing fresh, profound answers to common questions about God," said organizers of the class. "How did God come to be? Is God a He, a She or a They? Does God have feelings? If God has foreknowledge of all events, do we have free choice? Is there a place in Judaism for doubts about God? These are just some of the 25 questions addressed in 'My G-d: Defining the Divine.'"

Organizers added, "Jewish culture and the Jewish people's outlook on life are indelibly shaped by the classic Jewish understanding of God. 'My G-d: Defining the Divine' is a one-of-a-kind course that brings to light the Jewish understanding of G-d, from which Judaism and Jewish identity inevitably flow. Its fast-paced lessons will lead participants toward a comprehensive understanding of Jewish monotheism. The discussions will probe philosophical topics, but the course is anchored

in real life and offers accessible answers for students of all backgrounds."

"These are questions we hear all the time," said Rivky Slonim. "This course might be the first time you can get straight, deep, but accessible answers to all the big questions about God."

Slonim said the new course is "the perfect offering for anyone with sincere questions about God or who just seeks an enhanced understanding of Judaism's approach to this core topic."

As with other JLI offerings, the course is designed for people at all levels of knowledge, including those without any prior exposure to Jewish learning. All JLI courses are open to the public, and attendees need not be affiliated with a particular synagogue, temple, or house of worship.

JLI, the adult education branch of Chabad-Lubavitch, offers programs in more than 1,600 international locations in the U.S., Argentina, Australia, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands, Panama, Russia, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, Uruguay and Venezuela. More than 400,000 students have attended JLI classes since it was founded in 1998.

TC to hold Kristallnacht program on Nov. 9

Temple Concord will hold a Kristallnacht program at the synagogue and on Zoom on Wednesday, November 9, at 7:30 pm. The program will include the documentary "Letters to Frieda," a Julian Farris film production with

Holocaust survivor Michele Willner Levy and a discussion with Levy, who will share her family's story. Registration is required in advance to receive the Zoom link and can be made at bit.ly/3MoelDi, meeting ID 783 628 8415 and passcode 867957. All are welcome to attend.

"Michele Willner Levy is featured in this documentary See "TC" on page 4



Michele Willner Levy (Used with permission from Julian Farris film production)

OF NOTE

Bidney

Martin Bidney, professor emeritus at Binghamton University, recently published "Alcaic Adventurer: Ninety-nine Poems and Five Songs." His work includes 99 original poems in Greco-Roman "alcaic" stanza form, plus five alcaic art songs.

DEADLINES

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

ISSUE	DEADLINE
November 4-17	October 26
November 18-December 1	November 9
December 2-15	November 21*
December 16-29	December 7

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

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Off the Shelf

Searching for romance: intellect vs. emotion

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

Looking back at the past year, I'm surprised by the number of rom-coms I've read – at least for the paper. You won't find many on my not-for-the-paper bookshelves. However, I find myself looking forward to the break these works provide since many of the novels I review are very serious, whether they are literary fiction, fantasy or mysteries. That's not to say these rom-coms are just fluff. In fact, "Mr. Perfect on Paper" by Jean Meltzer (Mira) and "Funny You Should Ask" by Elissa Sussman (Dell) do have a serious side, but also managed to make me laugh and cheer for their heroines.

Meltzer's novels feature far more Jewish and far less sexual content than most rom-coms I've read in recent months. That is not a complaint on either account. In fact, it's wonderful to read about a Jewish character who clearly cares about her religion. I didn't note the lack of sexual content until after finishing the work because it fit the nature of the book. Both novels Meltzer has published focus on a main character with a medical condition that negatively affects her life. In her first novel, "The Matzah Ball," Meltzer wrote about a woman who suffered from chronic fatigue syndrome. (To see the Reporter's review of that book, visit www.thereporter.org/archives/feature/off-the-shelf-looking-for-romance.) In this new work, her heroine has been diagnosed with generalized anxiety disorder (meaning that she suffers from panic attacks). The author also includes male characters who face emotional problems that they contend with before they can enter a relationship.

However, her medical condition does not prevent Dara Rabinowitz working as the creator and CEO of a very successful Jewish dating site and being a third-generation

matchmaker. Unfortunately, her dating site is no longer considered a cool platform and Dara is looking for ways to increase its membership. Her public life is very controlled and confined: she has assistants to help her with almost everything. But they can't help her with her personal life: her mother passed away 10 years before and her beloved grandmother Miriam has been diagnosed with brain cancer. When Dara agrees to go on national TV with Miriam to promote her app, the unexpected happens: Miriam shares Dara's list of the traits a perfect Jewish husband should have. Dara feels humiliated, but the interview segment becomes a viral success.

This is good news for her interviewer Chris Steadfast, who moved to New York City with his daughter after the tragic death of his wife. His daytime news program has been threatened with cancellation. But with Dara's interview going viral, he sees an interesting possibility: the show could arrange dates with men who fit Dara's criteria and film their dates. Unfortunately for Chris and Dara, they find themselves attracted to each other, even though Chris doesn't check off one item on her list, especially the most important one: he's not Jewish.

"Mr. Perfect on Paper" is filled with funny scenes that made me laugh out loud. (If you think you've had bad dates, you should see what happens to Dara.) It also looks closely at why Dara wants to marry someone Jewish and takes that desire very seriously. Also under discussion are whether intellectual or emotional connections are the best basis for a marriage. Fans of the genre will love this rom-com.

While Dara's story takes place in one time period, "Funny You Should Ask" covers two different phases of Chani Horowitz' life. The first takes place when she's

asked to write a profile of actor Gabe Parker, who was about to become the new James Bond. The second begins 10 years later, when Chani, now a divorced successful writer, is asked to interview Gabe again, this time after his divorce, a smashed career and time in rehab. Chani has her own struggles. Although she's famous for her interviews and has produced a successful book of essays, she doesn't feel like a real writer: her former classmates have published literary novels and consider her work fluff. While this may not sound amusing, Sussman has written a very funny book. It's also perfect for anyone who has ever had a crush on a celebrity.

The novel works because it moves back and forth in time and offers different points of view. The original interview Chani did with Gabe appears in short selections, which are spread throughout the book. Readers then learn what really occurred then and what is currently happening in Chani's life after she reluctantly agrees to interview Gabe again. Interspersed are Chani's personal blog, reviews of Gabe's films and Chani's book of essays, and gossip from newspapers and websites about Gabe's personal life. This helps readers understand the characters because it shows the pressures that they face.

The suspense is helped by the foreshadowing Sussman does, offering tantalizing glimpses of what might have happened, which made me eagerly turn the book's pages. It was fun writing my reactions to particular parts of the novel in my notes, many of which I can't share in a family friendly newspaper. You don't have to have had a crush on a celebrity to enjoy "Funny You Should Ask," but if you did, you'll be glad to follow Chani's experience, which include... well, I'm not going to spoil the surprises!



On the Jewish food scene

Honey, date syrup and apple butter

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

What do honey, date syrup and apple butter have in common? They all came in a packet of samples I received from a PR firm offering products for Rosh Hashanah. I answered the original e-mail by saying it was too late for me to get an article in the paper before the holidays. The person answered: these products aren't just for the High Holidays. They can be used all year-round!

There's something very exciting – well, at least for me – about receiving food to taste and think about it. As someone who was once an extremely picky eater, I've greatly expanded the types of food I consume. (Nothing like a seven-day rotation diet – yes, I was on one for several years – to make you search for different foods to eat. At two foods a meal, I needed to find 42 different things to eat over the course of a week.) Now I relish discovering new and interesting things. OK, only one of these goods was something I'd never tasted (that's the date syrup), but it's the principle of the thing.

I decided it would be more fun to taste the food with someone else so when Rebecca Kahn, the chairwoman of The Reporter Editorial Committee, and I were getting together to work on something for the paper, I thought we



The samples tasted for this column. (Photo provided by Kayco)

should do the taste test together. I brought over two brown rice waffles to use as a base to taste the Manischewitz Honey Bear, the Manischewitz Apple Butter and the Heaven & Earth Date Syrup. All three products are kosher, so they will work for holidays or other times.

It's difficult not to like honey and we both agreed the one in the Honey Bear was excellent. When we were trying to decide what the date syrup tasted like, we agreed that it was similar to maple syrup. Rebecca is not a fan of maple syrup (I know, makes no sense to me either), but I am. What surprised me was when I compared the sugar content of the date syrup to maple syrup: the date syrup has far less sugar, making it perfect for anyone who is watching their sugar consumption. I don't do much baking, but I imagine it would be an excellent way to replace some sweeteners in recipes. The apple butter was a bit of a disappointment

for both of us – not as much apple taste as I expected, although I think it might be interesting for use in apple cake. It also doesn't have any added sugar, so it would also be a wonderful replacement for anyone looking to reduce the amount of sugar in their diet.

I agree that all three products can be used all year long. But what they also made me do was start thinking about Hanukkah. I wonder what treats might be available for that holiday.

Other suggestions for how to use these products can be found at www.kosher.com/lifestyle/7-sweet-ways-to-use-apple-butter-this-rosh-hashanah-2084, www.kosher.com/lifestyle/top-10-uses-for-honey-this-rosh-hashanah-2090 and <https://www.kosher.com/search/recipes?k=Date%20syrup%20recipes>.

NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

German Jewish music festival to bring global performers

Meshing Chassidic jazz, klezmer, opera and film, Germany's International Days of Jewish Music are set to celebrate the coexistence of European Jews and non-Jews. Running from Nov. 21-27, the fourth edition of the festival will take place at synagogues, Jewish community centers and gathering places across the country, including in Berlin, Würzburg, Potsdam, Stavenhagen, Görlitz and Usedom. "It's very important now in Germany to be clearly on the side of the Jewish people, not only in Germany, but also abroad and, of course, in Israel. So that's our daily fight, to show what fantastic culture the Jewish people have," Thomas Hummel, artistic director of the Usedom Music Festival and organizer of International Days of Jewish Music, told JNS.

TC. Continued from page 3

about her family's survival and heartbreaking destruction in the wake of the Holocaust," said organizers of the event. "Michele is one of the youngest witnesses to the Holocaust and the keeper of her family's history. She has a treasure trove of artifacts from that time: pictures, passports and handwritten letters that mask an unspeakable horror, and tie her to a past she never knew."

Organizers added, "Levy will be joining us on Zoom from her home in Pennsylvania. She will share her uncle's account about Kristallnacht, including his arrest that night. There will be an opportunity for questions, as well."

"We are honored that Michele has agreed to do this program with us," organizers continued. "Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell worked with her to plan many Yom Hashoah v'Hagvurah programs in Allentown before she came to Binghamton."

SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE SECTION

Join us in celebrating our **50th years of service** **Friday, November 18, 2022**
 Deadline: Tuesday, November 8, 2022
 December 3, 1971-December 3, 2021

Special features to include a retrospective of **The Reporter**, clips from the early years, and greetings from members of the community - both personal and business - who have supported us over the years.

The Reporter newspaper has reached a publication milestone - 50 years of service to area Jewish communities! In honor of this event, and to salute our sustainers throughout the years, we will publish a special commemorative section on Friday, November 18, 2022. Help us celebrate the end of our "golden" anniversary year with a show of support from your family or business. We look forward to serving you for another 50 years!

For information on your customized greeting, contact Kathy Brown at 724-2360, ext. 244, or advertising@thereporter.org.

50th Anniversary Discount Rates

3X4 (eighth of a page)	\$108
3X8 (quarter of a page)	\$235
6X8 (half page)	\$440
6X16 (full page)	\$865

Other sizes available - contact Kathy for information!

STAY UP TO DATE!

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Beth David Nov. 12 Luncheon Speaker Series to feature Prof. Randy Friedman

Beth David's monthly Luncheon Speaker Series will resume in person on Saturday, November 12, and is scheduled to take place the second Saturday of each month after Shabbat morning services, except for when Shabbat is a holiday. The luncheon and speaker will take place after Shabbat morning services and are open to the community. People are encouraged to attend the morning service, which begins at 9:30 am. 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 as well as sponsorships 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.



Professor Randy Friedman (Photo courtesy of Randy Friedman)

passage is of particular interest to me," Friedman continues, "because, as far as Jewish religious law is concerned, it opens the door to both fundamentalism and progressivism, depending on who the rabbis are."

Friedman majored in philosophy at Yale University, where he earned his undergraduate degree in 1993. He spent the following three years at the Hebrew University in

Jerusalem in the Department of Philosophy. In 2005, he was awarded his Ph.D. from Brown University's Department of Religious Studies. He has been teaching at Binghamton University since 2005 in the Department of Judaic Studies, with a specialization in the philosophy of religion, and has also taught in the Department of Philosophy. Since 2013 he

See "Speaker" on page 6

Whale of a Sale back in November at TC

Temple Concord Sisterhood's almost annual Whale of a Sale will be held Sundays, November 6 and 13, from 10 am-4 pm; Monday-Thursday, November 7-10, from noon-6 pm; and Friday, November 11, from noon-4 pm, in the first-floor social hall of Temple Concord, 9 Riverside Dr., Binghamton. Shoppers should use the Riverside Drive or rear doors for entrance.

There will be a bake sale in the lobby on Sunday, November 6, from 10 am until it is sold out. On Sunday, November 13, there will be a bag sale at \$12 per bag.

Items have been accumulating for the past two years when the sale could not be held due to COVID. Organizers say this 2022 Whale of a Sale is one not to be missed. They expect the social hall to be "overwhelmed" with items for sale.

"Whale of a Sale features new and upscale used items," organizers noted. "The merchandise, very reasonably priced and just in time for holiday gifts and winter needs, includes quality clothing for all ages and sizes, housewares, home furnishings, jewelry, books for children and adults, baby items, toys, games, sports equipment, appliances and more!"

TI to hold concert on Oct. 29

Temple Israel will hold the concert "Music of Violinsky: Binghamton's Eccentric Genius of Violin and Piano" on Saturday, October 29, at 7 pm. Theresa Lee Whiting and the Women's Trio of the Binghamton Madrigal Choir, accompanied by Jean Henssler, will perform. Also included will be a brief presentation of the life of Violinsky, telling of how he found his way from Binghamton to vaudeville. The event is free of charge and light refreshments will be served. For more information, contact 607-723-7461.

"Come hear the songs of Binghamton's native Jewish star of Vaudeville," said organizers of the event. "The performers will tell the fantastic story about how the son of Binghamton's first rabbi, Louis Ginsberg, became the great

Violinsky—a famous vaudeville performer and songwriter."

Whiting has appeared at many venues, including Temple Concord as part of First Friday, and the Roberson Museum and Science Center, where she presented on "Ragtime and Vaudeville in Early 20th Century Binghamton." The Madrigal Choir has been singing in Binghamton for more than 40 years.

"Rooted in a cappella music, the 45-voice auditioned choir, led by Dr. Bruce Borton, performs music from Palestrina and Gesualdo to Lauridsen and Whitacre for a faithful audience of all ages," organizers said. "The Madrigal Choir performs a variety of styles from medieval chant to Broadway, in languages ranging from Latin to Mandarin!"

THE REPORTER

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50 years of service

December 3, 1971-December 3, 2021

Dear Community Member,

We would like to invite you to join our anniversary celebration - we are celebrating the completion of our 50th year of publishing *The Reporter*. To recognize this milestone, we are publishing a special section in the November 18, 2022, issue of the paper. In this publication, a retrospective will appear, including clips from the early years, and we hope greetings from members of the community - both personal and business - both Jewish and non-Jewish - who have supported us over the years.

Personal and business ads can be purchased, and different prices and sizes are available. You are welcome to choose from pre-existing copy and graphics, or make up your own - our graphics department is ready and willing

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Larger sizes are also available. Spot color available for an add'l \$50.

Memories of the Get Together Club

By Alice Zappert Bonis

Editor's note: This talk was given by Alice Zappert Bonis at the Holocaust memorial service on October 2 at the Temple Israel Cemetery.

When I was asked to share my memories of the Get Together Club my mind went to more than the storied *kaffeeklatsch* that ended each monthly meeting.

But first a little background.

As recounted by Rhonda Levine [in her book "Class, Networks, and Identity: Replanting Jewish Lives from Nazi Germany to Rural New York"], this part of New York state – by the middle [1930s] – had a thriving German Jewish community, mostly cattle dealers, many of whom were already involved with the local Binghamton synagogues and religious schools.

In the late '30s, they were joined by those who fled the Nazis from their homes in Germany, Austria [and] in central Europe, and who found homes in Binghamton, Whitney Point, Greene and Norwich for example. Among them were the families of Louie Rosenberg, Charlie Manasse, Steve and Carol Herz, Shelley Hubal and mine – the Zapperts, Schneiders and Platschecks.

Several years ago, I shared a photo with you, probably taken in 1940. Germaine Rosenberg is seated next to my mother Angela Zappert, who is holding a 2-year-old Louie on her lap.

I became curious how these newcomers had found each other and become close friends. Searching old Jewish Center Reporter Year Books, I found that the

JCC, in late 1938, founded a Jewish New-comers Club. Mystery probably solved. That club was initially chaired by Mrs. Izetta Dorfman.

Her husband, Dr. Maurice Dorfman, was the sponsor in 1938 for my father Dr. Robert Zappert. The two men had received their doctorates in chemistry at the University of Vienna in 1935. If it were not for Dr. Dorfman, I would not be here today, nor would the rest of my family, including my uncle Josef Schneider, whose anguish inspired the creation of the monument.

And so friendships were made, especially among the women, both living in the Triple Cities as well as the rural surrounding areas.

Then, the next influx of "newcomers" arrived as a result of Congress' Displaced Persons Act of 1948, which allowed up to 200,000 DPs to enter this country. Our JCC sponsored in total more than 20 of these family units.

The Get Together club was formed the same year, 1948. A coincidence?

Although I can't find it in the sources I have searched, my memory and impression are that the club reached out in particular to these DPs and that was on the agenda for most of the meetings. Several of the women became members and friends.

According to the reports in the annual JCC yearbooks, the club was comprised of women fortunate enough to establish new homes [who had] a desire to extend a helping hand where needed, to bring some cheer to the Jewish patients at the State Hospital [and] remembering

the senior citizens at the Home for the Aged in Syracuse. In [its] earlier years, [they supported] Youth Aliyah and I particularly remember the collection and shipment of items to relocation centers and individuals in Israel. But, and I quote, "There are instances where we help but we keep it confidential."

Those goals were met by dues and activities like the annual bake sale at Fowlers Department Store. My grandmother was featured in an article in the *Binghamton Press* making strudel and Sacher torte.

Their most cherished accomplishment was the reason we are here today. The dedication in 1952 of this memorial.

My actual memories are limited as I was only 7 in 1948 and 11 in 1952.

But, yes, I do remember the trips to different homes, waiting with the children and men until the business meeting was over. Yes, I remember the plentiful and delicious deserts. Yes, I remember in later years the meetings at the Old JCC on Front St.

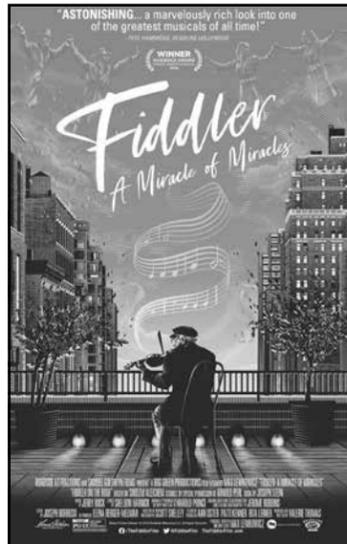
Mostly I remember the enduring friendships: the friendships of our grandmothers, the friendships of our mothers. They came together for a bridal shower for my cousin Lucy Schneider. They came together to celebrate my Grandmother Louise Platscheck's special birthday. They came together to help me celebrate my mother Angela Zappert's 80th birthday.



Angela Zappert (left) holding 2-year-old Louie Rosenberg, whose mother, Germaine Rosenberg, is sitting next to Zappert.

As a daughter of the Get Together Club, I am sure I speak for the other children of the Get Together Club. I am extremely grateful to Rhonda Levine and her curiosity that led her to tell the story both of this monument and of the ceremony that had been held here annually. I am thankful she was able to tell the story in the words of members she was able to interview, among them my mother and her sister, Lilly Schneider.

I am also grateful that the Federation has revived the ceremony, and grateful that all of our communities' rabbis participate: *Kaddish* once again for those whose names are enshrined in this monument.



Join the Jewish Federation for "Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles"

Sunday, November 6th at 5:30 pm.
Temple Israel, Vestal.
Cost is \$12 per person.

Kosher dairy meal, followed by the film screening and discussion.

Go to jfgb.org to register.

NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

Maccabi Haifa stuns Juventus in Champions League match

Maccabi Haifa F.C. defeated Italian soccer powerhouse Juventus 2-0 the night of Oct. 11, securing the Israeli team's first UEFA Champions League win since 2002. Forward Omer Atzili's two first-half goals and Maccabi's stubborn defense propelled the team to a historic victory before 30,074 fans at Sammy Ofer Stadium in Haifa. The top two teams in Group H are currently Paris St. Germain and Benfica. After its loss, third-placed Juventus' chances of advancing to the knock-out phase are slim. Despite its 3-1 victory over Maccabi Haifa at home the week of Oct. 7, Juventus has only collected three points from a possible 12 in four games played to date. The Italian team is also struggling domestically, in eighth place in Series A. Maccabi Haifa is last in Group H and second in the Israeli Premier League.

Speaker.Continued from page 5

is an associate professor of Judaic studies and comparative literature. As of 2015, he also holds the position of director of Israel Studies, housed in Binghamton University's Department of Judaic Studies. He and Brenda Schlaen have lived in Binghamton for 17 years, and are the parents of Ellie, Mika and Zohar, all former students of Hillel Academy. Friedman also serves on the

boards of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton and Temple Israel.

"Those of us who have heard Randy Friedman speak before already know what a gifted teacher he is, with that special talent of making all subjects engaging and thought-provoking," organizers say. "His talk at the first in-person luncheon speaker series is sure to generate a lively discussion!"



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For further information or assistance, please contact Shelley Hubal at 724-2332 or director@jfgb.org



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Federation held Holocaust memorial service



The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton held a Holocaust memorial service at the Holocaust Memorial Monument in the Temple Israel Cemetery on October 2. The monument was one of the first memorials in the United States to acknowledge the Holocaust. Approximately 20 people attended the event. Shown are some of those who attended the event. (Photos are by Shelley Hubal and Arieh Ullmann)



Alice Bonis (left), who spoke at the event, with Suzanne Holwitt, president of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton. (See page 6 for the speech given by Bonis.)



Rabbi Moshe Shmaryahu sang during the event.



Part of the crowd that attended the Holocaust memorial service.



Rabbi Zev Silber (at right) and Charles Manasse (at left) spoke during the event.



At right: Rabbi Zev Silber (left) talked during the event. Shown in back (l-r): Shelley Hubal, executive director of the Federation, and Alice Bonis.



Did you know?

(NAPSA) - The average household spends \$2,000 a year on utility bills, with nearly half going to cooling and heating the home. The U.S. EPA's Energy Star Program offers resources to help you save energy, save money and protect the climate at www.energystar.gov.



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Jewish online resources

By Reporter staff

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

- ◆ Yodeah will hold a free virtual event for Breast Cancer Awareness Month: “The Power of Knowledge: How Knowing About Your Genetics Can Save Your Life and The Lives Of Those You Love” on Tuesday, October 25, at 7 pm. The program will feature conversations with medical experts and the personal story a young woman who found out she was BRCA positive. To register for the event, visit https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_O17wlBouQuGnQ9d70uar2g.
- ◆ The Center for Jewish History will hold the 10-section virtual class “All in the Mishpocheh: Intro to Jewish Genealogy” from November-January. Section 1 will be held on Tuesdays at 4:30 pm beginning on November 1. Section 2 will be held on Fridays at 10 am beginning on November 4. For more information or to register, visit <https://programs.cjh.org/event/mishpocheh-tuesdays>.
- ◆ The Museum of Jewish Heritage will hold “Archtober – The Museum of Jewish Heritage: Past, Present, and Future” on Sunday, October 30, from 4-5 pm. Members of the design firm behind the Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust’s building will discuss the history of the project, the decisions the firm made throughout the building process and the future of the Museum. For more information or to register, visit https://898a.blackbaudhosting.com/898a/tickets?tab=2&txobjid=f1f4fcf5-0553-4ff8-ab01-2a445cd13ff8&_ga=2.123024771.925505628.1662988775-1935898665.1661346607.
- ◆ The MeyersonJCC of Cincinnati will hold several virtual events in its Jewish Book Series: “Bittersweet” by Susan Cain and “Lost and Found” by Kathryn Schulz on Tuesday, November 1, from 7-8:15 pm (<https://mayersonjcc.org/event/jewish-book-series-bittersweet-by-susan-cain-and-lost-found-by-kathryn-schulz/>); “Why Do Jewish?” by

Zack Bodner” on Monday, December 5, from 7-8:15 pm (<https://mayersonjcc.org/event/jewish-book-series-why-do-jewish-by-zack-bodner/>); and “The Thread Collectors” by Shaunna J. Edwards and Alyson Richman on Thursday, January 12, from 7-8:15 pm (<https://mayersonjcc.org/event/jewish-book-series-the-thread-collectors-by-shaunna-j-edwards-alyson-richman/>).

- ◆ Aleph, the Alliance for Jewish Renewal, will hold “Remembering Richard: A Gathering to Honor the First Yahrzeit of Cantor Richard Kaplan z”l” on Sunday, October 30, at 1 pm. To register, visit <https://aleph.org/civircrm/event/register/?reset=1&id=485>.
- ◆ The virtual program “Jewish Astrological Insights into 5783” with “Astrolojew” Lorelai Kude will take place on Monday, October 24, at 3 pm. Kude will look into the astrology of the Jewish year 5783, and the solar year of 2023. The 90-minute presentation will be recorded. All who register will receive the recording link. For more information or to register, visit www.eventbrite.com/e/jewish-astrological-insights-into-5783-with-astrolojew-lore-lai-kude-tickets-401835228987.
- ◆ Qesher will hold virtual tours in November, including “Jewish Life in China: Tales from the Far East” on Thursday, November 17, at 3 pm; “Desert Roots: Concert and Presentation” on Sunday, November 20, at 3 pm; and “Two people, one womb: The Jews of Italy” on Sunday, November 27, at 3 pm. For more information or to register, visit www.qesher.com/upcoming-events/.
- ◆ The Jewish Book Council will hold the in-person and virtual program “Joshua Cohen, Rivka Galchen and Ruby Namdar: Remembering A.B. Yehoshua” on Wednesday, November 16, from 6:30-7:30 pm. The program will “explore Yehoshua’s legacy and the role of Hebrew literature and language in Israel and America.” For more information or to register, visit www.jewishbookcouncil.org/events/joshua-cohen-rivka-galchen-ruby-namdar-remembering-ab-yehoshua.
- ◆ The Yiddish Book Center will hold the virtual book talk “Fear and Other Stories,” with translator Anita Norich on Tuesday, December 13, at 7 pm. Norich will talk about translating the collected stories of Chana Blankshteyn (~1860-1939) from Yiddish to English. For more information or to register, visit https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_XWc70zkUQ7GaI3dEE7fiYw.
- ◆ The Hartman Institute will hold the virtual talk “Lady Justice: Women, the Law, and the Battle to Save America: How significant political changes affect the Jewish community” on Wednesday, October 26, at 7:30-8:30 pm. Masua

Sagiv, Hartman scholar-in-residence and a scholar of the intersection of law, religion and gender, will talk with Dahlia Lithwick about her new book, “Lady Justice: Women, the Law, and the Battle to Save America” and what recent political changes mean for the Jewish community. For more information or to register, visit https://www.hartman.org.il/event/judaism-public-square-session-2/?mc_cid=29a64c631c&mc_eid=96085fa8a5.

- ◆ The Hartman Institute will hold the virtual four-part class “Why Israel? Revisiting the Meaning of Zionism” with Lauren Berkun on Thursday, October 27-November 17 from 2-3:30 pm. For more information or to register, visit https://www.hartman.org.il/event/ift-zionist-idea/?mc_cid=29a64c631c&mc_eid=96085fa8a5.
- ◆ The Institute for Jewish Spirituality will hold virtual “Abigail Pogrebin in Conversation with Rabbi Josh Feigelson” from Wednesday, October 26, from 8-9 pm. Feigelson will talk about his “Eternal Questions” and will discuss how his book “serves as a companion for Jewish mindfulness and spiritual practice throughout the year.” To register for the event, visit <https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E102272&id=50>.
- ◆ The 13-part series “American Jewish Music from the Milken Archive with Leonard Nimoy” is being released as a podcast. For more information, visit <https://open.spotify.com/episode/0IRUkzzJxLt94hAHuM50gU>.
- ◆ The Museum at Eldridge Street will hold the virtual “Cinema Chats: ‘Casablanca,’ Jewish Origins and Contemporary Reflections” on Wednesday, November 2, at 6 pm. Lucy Shahar and Dr. Kate Hearst will discuss the Jewish connections in “Casablanca” and how the film can be viewed in contemporary times. For more information or to register for the event, visit www.eldridgestreet.org/event/cinema-chats-casablanca-jewish-origins-and-contemporary-reflections/.
- ◆ Jewish Women’s Archive will hold several book talks in November and December: Thursday, November 3, at 8 pm, Liana Finck on “Let There Be Light: The Real Story of Her Creation”; Thursday, November 17, at 8 pm, “One Hundred Saturdays” by Michael Frank; Thursday, December 1, at 8 pm, Alicia Jo Rabins on “Even God Had Bad Parenting Days”; and Thursday, December 15, at 8 pm, “When Rabbis Abuse” by Elana Sztokman. For more information or to register, visit <https://jwa.org/events>.

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

Moving any time soon?

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We Create Community



Report: More than 350 antisemitic incidents occurred on U.S. college campuses last school year

By JNS staff

(JNS)—A total of 359 antisemitic incidents took place on U.S. college campuses during the 2021-22 academic year, according to a report (<https://www.adl.org/resources/report/anti-israel-activism-us-campuses-2021-2022>) released by the Anti-Defamation League on October 12.

The ADL's Campus Report documented instances of accusations or "genocide" and "ethnic genocide" levied against Israel as well as the "ostracizing of Jewish students from campus organizations because of their assumed support for Israel or Zionism." Among the incidents, there were 165 protests/actions, 143 anti-Israel events, 20 BDS resolutions and referendums, 11 incidents of vandalism,

nine instances of targeted verbal and/or written harassment and one physical assault.

In response to the large number of incidents, the ADL announced that it would be "broadening its educational and programmatic investment on campus, including the launch today of an expanded online resource to support students and combat antisemitism on campus."

According to the ADL, the report exhibits a snapshot of a growing campus radicalism that places opposition to Israel and Zionism as "core elements of collegiate life or as a requirement for full acceptance in the campus community."

The report provided information about the sources of funding for the student clubs responsible for many of

the incidents, including Students for Justice in Palestine and Jewish Voice for Peace. While most funds come from student activity fees, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund funds JVP and Westchester Peace Action Coalition sponsors SJP.

There were three major themes and events characterizing campus antisemitism last year, according to the report — "Demeaning and ostracizing Zionists and Zionism, including expelling and excluding students from campus groups for expressing any affinity with Zionism or Israel; voicing support for anti-Israel terror and violence; and invoking classic antisemitic tropes and conspiracies in lectures and social media posts," the ADL stated.

SUNY New Paltz students kicked out of sexual assault survivors' group for being Zionist

By Dmitriy Shapiro

(JNS) — Two Jewish students at the State University of New York at New Paltz brought a formal complaint against the university recently, alleging that the university failed to prevent discrimination against their Jewish identity as members of a sexual assault survivors' group and failed to guarantee their security when attending classes.

The controversy surrounds a student organization called New Paltz Accountability (or NPA) which was co-founded by one of the victims, Cassandra Blotner, as an organization to combat sexual assault. According to a news release from the Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law, which is representing the students, Blotner made a post on social media in December expressing her identity as a Jew.

"Jews are an ethnic group who come from Israel," she

wrote. "This is proven by genealogical, historical and archeological evidence. Israel is not a 'colonial' state and Israelis aren't 'settlers.' You cannot colonize the land your ancestors are from."

Blotner's post was denounced by members of the NPA, saying that it concerned the organization as a whole and that Blotner needed to explain her statements.

At first, Blotner declined, as no other members were ever asked to justify their identities, but after speaking to some Jewish leaders on campus, she offered to discuss her post and suggested including representatives from the Jewish Student Union.

The NPA refused the offer and told her that Zionists were not welcome in the organization.

"While I didn't initially think I should be forced to

defend my personal beliefs, I realized the opportunity here to educate NPA that as Jews we share a history, theology and culture — we're both a faith and an ethnicity — and it's all deeply tied to the land of Israel," Blotner said in a statement. "Expressing support for the Jewish homeland is core to my Jewish identity, the two are inseparable, and I shouldn't have to shed that piece of my Judaism in order to advocate for survivors of sexual assault. To then get canceled, stalked and harassed, well I can't even put into words what a horrific and frightening experience this all turned into for me."

Another member of the group, Ofek Preis, who is Israeli, re-posted Blotner's post on her personal Instagram account and claims the NPA stopped contacting her about See "SUNY" on page 11



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Bereshit, Genesis 1:1-6:8

Man's best friend

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR, THE REPORTER GROUP

The story of the snake, Eve, a piece of fruit (the Torah doesn't say what type of fruit it was) and Adam seems simple at first glance, but has generated an enormous amount of commentary. When reviewing the story this year, the snake came across as the most intriguing character because it's difficult to determine why the snake acted as he did. Rabbinic commentaries have tried to discover his motive for tempting Eve. One interesting *midrash* claims the snake was in love with Eve, and suggested she eat from the tree so Adam would die and the snake could marry her. That *midrash* isn't completely convincing, though, because wouldn't Eve have also died, leaving the snake alone and mourning its loved one?

But the idea of the snake seeking company led me to a different interpretation. The text notes that the snake is clever or subtle. In his "The Beast That Crouches at the

Door: Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, and Beyond," Rabbi David Fohrman notes just how closely the snake resembles humans: the snake can talk, plan ahead and walk on its feet. (This also means, interestingly enough, that we really don't know exactly what the snake looked like before it was cursed.) My mind took Fohrman's ideas in a different direction, one that turns the rabbinic *midrash* on its head.

Maybe the snake did desire someone, but that someone was not Eve. I'm not talking about physical or sexual desire, but rather intellectual desire – seeking someone who was its intellectual equal. Since the snake resembled humans in many ways, perhaps the snake desired Adam's company: someone to talk to whose thoughts were more complex than the other beasts of the field or the birds of the sky. After all, Adam couldn't find a fit companion among any of those animals, so God created Eve as his companion.

True, the snake was thought not to be a fit companion, either, but perhaps he thought that Adam and God were wrong: he was the ideal companion for Adam, not Eve.

Therefore, Eve had to go. If God would kill Eve for eating the apple, then Adam might turn to the snake for companionship. Note that the snake *never* tells Eve to give the fruit to Adam. In fact, when he talks to her, they are alone. Perhaps the snake thought she would die before Adam learned what happened. The snake would then be in a perfect position to console Adam. Adam need never know why Eve ate from the tree, or that it was the snake who tempted her.

This may also explain why God never questions the snake about what occurred. Both Adam and Eve are questioned: Adam answers by blaming Eve and then Eve blames the See "Friend" on page 11

Congregational Notes

Temple Israel

Orientation: Conservative
Rabbi: Geoffrey Brown
Address: 4737 Deerfield Pl., Vestal, NY 13850
Phone: 723-7461 and 231-3746
Office hours: Mon.-Thurs., 8:30 am-3:30 pm; Fri., 8 am-3 pm
E-mail: titammy@stny.twcbc.com
Website: www.templeisraelvestal.org
Service schedule: Tues., 5:30 pm; Fri., 5:30 pm; Sat., 9:30 am
On Fridays and Tuesdays at 5:30 pm, services will be led by Rabbi Geoffrey Brown via Zoom and in-person (masks are required).

On Saturday, October 22, Shacharit services will be held at 9:30 am via Zoom and in-person (masks are required). The Torah portion is Genesis 1:1-6:8 and the haftarah is Isaiah 42:5-43:10. The bat mitzvah of Clover Weitsman will take place during the service. At 6:45 pm, there will be Havdalah services via Zoom.

There will be a Board of Trustees meeting on Tuesday, October 25, at 7 pm.

On Wednesday, October 26, Torah study will be held from 4-5 pm on Zoom.

On Saturday, October 29, at 9:30 am, Shacharit services will be held via Zoom and in-person (masks are required). The Torah portion is Genesis 6:9-11:32 and the haftarah is Isaiah 54:1-55:5. At 6:45 pm, there will be Havdalah services via Zoom.

On Wednesday, November 2, Torah study will be held from 4-5 pm on Zoom.

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Temple Beth El of Oneonta

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

Temple Brith Sholom

Affiliation: Unaffiliated
Address: P.O. Box 572, 117 Madison St., Cortland, NY 13045
Phone: 607-756-7181
President: Carol Levine, 315-696-5744
Cemetery Committee: 315-696-5744
Website: templebrithsholomcortland.org
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Temple-Brith-Sholom-114006981962930/>
Service leaders: Lay leadership
Shabbat services: Either Friday evening at 7:30 pm or Saturday at 10 am from Rosh Hashanah to Shavuot. Holiday services are also held. Check the Facebook page or weekly e-mail for upcoming services. Contact the president to get on the e-mail list.
Religious School: Students are educated on an individual basis. Temple Brith Sholom is a small equalitarian congregation serving the greater Cortland community. Congregants span the gamut of observance and services are largely dependent on the service leader. The Friday night siddur is "Likrat Shabbat," while the Saturday morning siddur is "Gates of Prayer." The community extends a warm welcome to the Jewish student population of SUNY Cortland, as well as the residents of local adult residences.

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

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

Rohr Chabad Center

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

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

Norwich Jewish Center

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

Temple Beth-El of Ithaca

Affiliation: United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism
Rabbi: Rachel Safman
Rabbi Emeritus: Scott L. Glass
Address: 402 North Tioga St. (the corner of Court and Tioga streets), Ithaca, NY 14850-4292
Phone: 273-5775
E-mail: rabbi-safman@tbeithaca.org, secretary@tbeithaca.org
Website: www.tbeithaca.org
Presidents: David Weiner and Linda Aigen
Sisterhood President: Gail Zussman
Director of Education: Rabbi Suzanne Brody
Services: Fri. 8 pm; Sat. 10 am, unless otherwise announced.
Weekday morning minyan 7:30 am (9 am on Sun. and legal holidays).
Religious School/Education: September-May: Classes meet on Sunday, 9 am-12:30 pm and Wednesday, 3:45-5:45 pm. The Midrashah (eighth grade and high school) classes will meet at times designated by their respective teachers.
Adult Ed.: Numerous weekly courses, several semester-long courses and a variety of mini-courses and lectures are offered throughout the year. Call the temple office for more details.
For upcoming services and events on Zoom, visit www.tinyurl.com/HappeningAtTBE.

Friday, October 21, light candles before 5:54 pm
Shabbat ends Saturday, October 22..... 6:53 pm
Friday, October 28, light candles before 5:44 pm
Shabbat ends Saturday, October 29..... 6:43 pm
Friday, November 4, light candles before 5:35 pm
Shabbat ends Saturday, November 5..... 6:34 pm

Beth David Synagogue

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

Temple Concord

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

Some services and programs are online only.
Friday, October 21: At 7:30 pm, Shabbat service with Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell. In person, masks are required at the CDC's high level and recommended at the medium level. Join via Zoom at <https://bit.ly/3hRmW2Y>, meeting ID 869 9699 8146 and passcode 826330, or via Facebook at www.facebook.com/templeconcord/.

Saturday, October 22: At 9 am, Shabbat school; at 9:15 am, there will be Torah study, in person and via Zoom at <https://bit.ly/3CVxM14>, meeting ID 882 9808 7579 and passcode 676707; at 10:15 am Sukkot Shabbat Family Service; and at 11:10 am Blessing of Pets in the Dorothy Shagrin Garden. (If it is raining, the blessing will take place on October 29.)

Friday, October 28: At 7:30 pm, Shabbat services with Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell; join via Zoom at <https://bit.ly/3hRmW2Y>, meeting ID 869 9699 8146 and passcode 826330 or Facebook at www.facebook.com/templeconcord/.

Saturday, October 15: At 9 am, Shabbat school; at 9:15 am, Torah study in person and via Zoom at <https://bit.ly/3CVxM14>, meeting ID 882 9808 7579 and passcode 676707; and at 10:30 am, Shabbat family service in person only.

Wednesday, November 2: At 10:30 am, the Morning Book Club Discussion of "From Where I Stand," a novel by Carolyn Goldberg Igra, in person in the Temple Concord library and on Zoom at <https://bit.ly/3CXVd9b>, meeting ID 881 6469 4206 and passcode 653272. To join in person, masks are required at the CDC's high level and recommended at the medium level. For information about the book club, contact Merri Pell-Preus at merrypell.preus@gmail.com.

Congregation Tikkun v'Or

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

Prehistoric humans recycled old tools to honor ancestors

By Dianna Blatter

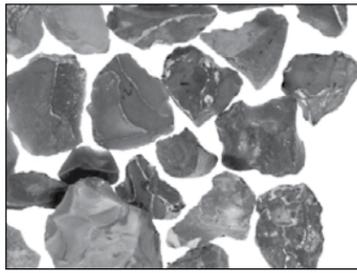
(Israel21c via JNS)—Prehistoric human beings collected and recycled old tools, possibly to preserve their ancestors' memory, according to scientists at Tel Aviv University who examined flint tools from 500,000 years ago found at an archeological site in Revadim in southern Israel.

Revadim was a popular site for early humans because of its abundance of wildlife and flint with which to make tools, write the scientists in Scientific Reports.

The study was authored by doctoral student Bar Efrati and Professor Ran Barkai of TAU, along with Flavia Venditti from the University of Tübingen in Germany and Professor Stella Nunziante Cesaro from the Sapienza University of Rome.

Even though there was enough flint available to make new tools, the early humans seemed to reuse older ones. Efrati said the researchers discovered tools from two

At right: Recycled patinated flint tools from Revadim, Israel (Photo courtesy of Tel Aviv University)



different eras. Examining the tools' patina revealed that prehistoric humans took the earlier tools, used mostly for cutting, and recycled and redesigned them for shaping soft materials like leather and bone.

Efrati added that the researchers had been surprised to find the tools reshaped very minimally, preserving the

original form. This suggests the early humans attached emotional significance to the old tools, she said.

"Imagine a prehistoric human walking through the landscape 500,000 years ago," said Barkai. When an old stone tool catches his eye, "the tool means something to him — it carries the memory of his ancestors."

Barkai said that the tool might evoke "a connection to a certain place. He picks it up. The artifact pleases him, so he decides to take it 'home.' Understanding that daily use can preserve and even enhance the memory, he retouches the edge for his own use, but takes care not to alter the overall shape — in honor of the first manufacturer."

This could be compared to a young farmer plowing his fields with his great-grandfather's rusty tractor, replacing some of its parts but preserving the old machine "because it symbolizes his family's bond with the land."

"The more we study early humans, we discover that they were not so different from us," said Barkai.

This article was first published by Israel21c.

SUNY..... Continued from page 9

the organization's activities, and blocked her access to shared organizational documents.

The NPA also continued to make social media posts against Jewish Zionist and Israeli sexual assault survivors at the university, equating Zionism with racism and white supremacy. The posts fueled further harassment of Blotner, with some posts calling her a "dumb b*tch" who supports "mass genocide."

Both students told university officials that the harassment made them feel unsafe on campus. The officials also declined Blotner's request to have security accompany her to class, instead advising her not to attend, according to the release. Blotner felt unable to attend class and left the campus to be with family. Preis, also feeling threatened having been attacked for being a Zionist and Israeli, also felt unable to attend class.

"We were left with nowhere to go, feeling isolated from those who claim to be fighting for us, for our right to an uninterrupted education. The accusations made against me on account of my national origin denied everything I inherently am as a person: a fighter for justice, an anti-racist, a combater of oppression, and most relevantly, a survivor," Preis said. "I should not have been asked to choose between being Israeli or being a survivor. I should not have been asked to align with only survivorship or only Zionism. It is possible and necessary to include intersectional identities in spaces that fight for survivors."

Despite acknowledging in a statement that NPA's actions were discriminatory, exclusionary and antisemitic, SUNY New Paltz President Donald Christian said that the school had a limited ability to intervene because the NPA was not a recognized student organization and no further action was taken. The NPA was allowed to continue operating on campus and use SUNY resources, according to the release.

Blotner and Preis's complaint against the university was made with the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, alleging a violation of their rights under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prevents discrimination on the basis of race, color and national origin, including discrimination against Jews. The complaint claims that the school violated Title VI by allowing

Blotner and Preis to be targeted and excluded for their Jewish ethnicity and identity.

Failure to address the discrimination on campus will likely affect other Jewish, Israeli or Zionist students on campus, said Blotner.

Julia Jassey, CEO of Jewish on Campus, said that this type of harassment at colleges against Jewish students is not unique, but the case also shows the xenophobia that Israeli students also face on American campuses, with Preis being explicitly harassed for being Israeli.

"Jewish students, like all students, deserve a college experience free from discrimination and abuse. In this case, acceptance into a community designed to protect survivors was conditional. These students were subject to a litmus test which forced them to decide: forfeit your commitment to an integral social cause, or forfeit your identity," Jassey said in the release.

The Brandeis Center said that Blotner and Preis have been victimized three times. First by sexual predators, later by the anti-Zionist members of the group established to support them and finally by the university's failure to hold those members accountable and creating a hostile environment for Jewish sexual assault survivors on campus.

The Brandeis Center's director of legal activities, Denise Katz-Prober, said that being excluded from social justice groups and activities on campus for expressing ethnic or national identity is a form of unlawful discrimination, but the complaint is not about what was said to Blotner and Preis.

"Rather, it is about the awful things that were done to them. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act requires universities like SUNY New Paltz to ensure that Jewish and Israeli students are not denied educational opportunities due to discriminatory behavior that targets them on the basis of their ethnic and national identities," Katz-Prober said in the release. "That's exactly what was done here when these women were thrown out of their student organization because, as Jews, they feel a strong sense of connection to the Jewish homeland. Unfortunately, universities are misdiagnosing the problem and, as a result, failing to protect their Jewish students, like Ms. Blotner and Ms. Preis, from unlawful discrimination."

Studies..... Continued from page 1

Post and Tablet Magazine about American politics and the Middle East. He is currently writing a book about Moynihan and the literary influences behind his politics.

Arkush's talk on November 10 is titled "The Other L. Strauss: The Curious Odyssey of an ex-Anti-Zionist." "Lewis Strauss had an amazing career in the American government, working for presidents from Hoover to Eisenhower in very high capacities, including as chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission. All of this has been forgotten now, as has his active but mostly behind-the-scenes role in American Jewish life, and his slow transformation from anti-Zionist to supporter of Israel," CJS organizers noted. Arkush will review the career and Jewish activities of Strauss.

Arkush is a professor of Judaic studies at Binghamton University, where he has been teaching since 1987. His scholarly research is mainly in the area of modern Jewish thought and history. He is the author of "Moses Mendelssohn and the Enlightenment" (SUNY, 1994) and numerous articles in such periodicals as Modern Judaism, Jewish Social Studies and the Jewish Quarterly Review. Since 2010, he has been the senior contributing editor of the Jewish Review of Books.

Both lectures will be held via Zoom, starting at 7:30 pm. They are free and open to the general public; pre-registration is required and can be done through the CJS Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/bing.cjs.5/>) or the Binghamton University Judaic Studies Department events page (<https://www.binghamton.edu/judaic-studies/events/index.html>). A Zoom link will be sent to each registrant a day before the talk.

The film event on November 3, at 7 pm, is titled "Live Music and a Movie: A Fusion Sensation!" "The Ancient Law" tells the tempestuous and age-old story of a hero caught between his traditional origins and the allure of the modern city," noted CJS organizers. "This promises to be a true fusion event, combining the extraordinary

beauty of a contemporary musical score — composed by Svigals and Sosin — with the visual cinematic delights of a German-Jewish silent era classic." The film with musical accompaniment is also free and open to the public. Those planning to attend should RSVP to jkarp@binghamton.edu.

The College of Jewish Studies provides opportunities for adult Jewish education for the Broome County community by offering fall and spring programs. Drawing on local resources and inviting scholars and experts from a range of universities and cultural and religious institutions, CJS sponsors a wide array of programs dealing with Jewish history, culture, religion and politics.

The College of Jewish Studies, founded in 1986, is an informal coalition between the Judaic Studies Department of Binghamton University and several area Jewish sponsoring institutions: the Jewish Community Center, the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, Beth David Synagogue, Temple Concord and Temple Israel. Programming for CJS would not be possible without the additional financial support of a generous grant from The Community Foundation for South Central New York — David and Virginia Eisenberg Donor Advised Fund, the Jacob and Rose Olum Foundation, the B'nai B'rith Lectureship Fund, the Victor and Esther Rozen Foundation, an endowment fund from the former Temple Beth El of Endicott, a grant from the JoyVel Charitable Fund, and the generous donations of individual sponsors.

Community members are asked to consider becoming an individual sponsor so that the CJS can continue bringing programs to the community. For more information on how to become an individual sponsor or to make a donation, e-mail bingcjs@gmail.com. The College of Jewish Studies is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

For more information on the College of Jewish Studies and its programs, go to www.bingcjs.org and www.facebook.com/bingcjs.



Professor Ran Barkai and Ph.D. student Bar Efrati (Photo courtesy of Tel Aviv University)

Friends..... Continued from page 10

snake. God then curses the snake, but never asks the talking snake the reason behind his behavior. Perhaps God knows; perhaps God now realizes that it is not good for animals to communicate with humans. The text doesn't note that the snake can no longer speak, but it is the rare animal that talks in the Torah after this.

The story makes sense if you consider that the snake wanted to be Adam's best friend. Perhaps, if the snake hadn't been so clever, he wouldn't have tempted Eve and found another way to remain close to humans. Perhaps the snake would have come to appreciate them both and would, therefore, still be able to speak a language we could understand, rather than being punished by being subject to an adversarial relationship with most of humankind.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

From JNS.org

Palestinian rivals agree to elections

Rival Palestinian factions convening for negotiations mediated by the Algerian government decided on Oct. 13 to end 15 years of strife through elections that would be held within a year, Palestinian and Algerian officials told Reuters. Back home in the West Bank, though, there remained skepticism that the Palestinian factions would bring any tangible reforms after prior electoral promises failed to materialize, according to the report. In preparation for an Arab summit in Algiers in November, the heads of 14 factions, including President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah organization and the Islamist party Hamas, met for two days. According to officials, the sides agreed in Algiers to "speed up the holding of presidential and legislative elections in all of the Palestinian territories including Jerusalem" within one year. The agreement was publicly announced later on Oct. 13. The deal also acknowledged Abbas' Palestine Liberation Organization as the sole representative of the Palestinian people, calling for elections to its national council within a year.

Abbas meets with Putin, says he does not trust America

In a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Oct. 13, Palestinian Authority leader Mahmoud Abbas reiterated his distrust of Washington in resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and expressed gratitude for Russia's role. "We don't trust America and you know our position. We don't trust it, we don't rely on it, and under no circumstances can we accept that America is the sole party in resolving a problem," Abbas told Putin at the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia in Kazakhstan, Reuters reported. "It can be within the Quartet since it is a great country but we will never accept it as the only one," said Abbas. The so-called Middle East Quartet of mediators includes Russia, the U.S., the U.N. and the European Union. Abbas stated that he was "completely satisfied" with Russia's attitude toward the Palestinians. "Russia stands by justice and international law and that is enough for us," he said, according to the report. "When you say you stand by international legitimacy, this is enough for me and that is what I want. Therefore, we are happy and satisfied with the Russian position."

Israel increases security amid escalating Palestinian violence in Jerusalem

Omer Bar-Lev, Israel's minister of public security, on Oct. 13 issued an order calling four reserve Border Police companies to increase security in eastern Jerusalem amid ongoing Palestinian rioting. The minister said that police would facilitate the freedom of movement of the Shuafat refugee camp without harming Israel's ability to prevent violence. Israeli police fired live rounds, tear gas and shock grenades at Palestinians throwing stones, firecrackers and firebombs in eastern Jerusalem. It was the most violent disturbance in the Israeli capital in recent months. Police arrested 23 rioters overnight Oct. 13 in the eastern part of the city. The riots continued into the night. Israel Police and Border Police units were deployed to several friction points. Prime Minister Yair Lapid received a detailed assessment on the deteriorating security situation. "The security forces are deployed throughout the country to enable the holiday events to be held as usual in Jerusalem and throughout the country," said Lapid. "We are determined to allow the events to take place as usual while taking a strong and uncompromising position against terrorism and violent disturbances," he said.

New York's largest Jewish Instagram page documents spike in antisemitic attacks

New York's largest Jewish community online platform has been bombarded with concerned citizens over the last few days. The Instagram page Jews of New York is receiving dozens of messages and videos of antisemitic incidents occurring throughout New York City, all being sent since the Jewish High Holidays began and with an increase since Kanye West made his antisemitic remarks the weekend of Oct. 9. Jews of New York represen-

tatives have gone out into the city streets to erase hate, such as "Jews suck" written on light posts. But threats against the city's Jews persist daily. A sukkah was vandalized on the Upper East Side the week of Oct. 14. A video on Instagram shows a man shouting at a visibly Orthodox Jew on the subway. "This is my history that you are hiding, the Jews were never enslaved, you wrote yourselves into history, this is no conspiracy," the man yelled. The hateful speech is similar to Kanye West's antisemitic remarks. "In my time managing Jews of New York, I have never seen such constant hate against Jews in our city," said Yoav Davis, founder of Jews of New York. "We are deeply concerned for the safety of the Jewish community in the world's largest diaspora. We need our friends and allies to speak up, and we are praying that this endless cycle of hate will come to an end."

Israel providing Ukraine with intel on Iranian drones

Israel has been providing Ukraine with "basic intelligence about Iranian drones" that Russia is deploying in its war against Ukraine, *The New York Times* reported on Oct. 12. A private Israeli company has also begun providing Ukraine with satellite imagery of Russian military positions on Ukrainian territory, the report said, citing a senior Ukrainian official. On Oct. 12, Ukraine shot down at least nine Iranian-made drones launched by Russia, Ukraine's military said. Meanwhile, Fox News reported on Oct. 11 that Moscow has armed its neighbor and ally Belarus with dozens of Iranian-made drones, as tensions between Minsk and NATO grow and Belarus threatens to send ground forces into Ukraine to support its Russian ally. Kyiv's Main Directorate of Intelligence, a part of its Defense Ministry, said on Oct. 11 that 32 Iranian-made Shahed-136 suicide drones arrived in Belarus in recent days and that eight more were slated to arrive by Oct. 14. Ukraine said 84 cruise missiles and dozens of drones were fired by Russia at its cities on Oct. 12, targeting energy infrastructure and other civilian sites. "Ukraine has asked Israel for air defense systems as well, given the successes of that country's Iron Dome as well as the longer-range Barak-8 [surface-to-air missile]. Israel has so far declined, however, reluctant to provoke Russia into obstructing Israeli airstrikes in Syria, where Russia has a military presence," the *Times* reported. In late September, a senior Ukrainian official said Israel delivered "a little bit of intelligence information" about Iranian weapons being supplied to Russia for use in its war against Ukraine. However, "we need much more than that," Kan News reported the official as saying.

U.S.: Reviving Iran nuclear deal "not our focus right now"

The United States is not currently focused on reviving the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran, State Department spokesman Ned Price said, adding that the Islamic Republic has shown little interest in moving ahead with negotiations to reach a signed agreement. Instead, Washington is concentrating on ways to support Iranian anti-regime protesters. Price, when asked on Oct. 12 whether Washington was taking active steps to break through a deadlock in talks with Iran, replied, "That's not our focus right now. "It is very clear and the Iranians have made very clear that this is not a deal that they have been prepared to make. The deal certainly does not appear imminent," he said. He added that the U.S. has seen no evidence in recent weeks of a change in the Iranian position. As a result, Washington is shifting its focus on helping Iranians protesting in the streets following the Sept. 13 arrest of 22-year-old Kurdish woman Mahsa Amini by the morality police in Tehran and her death in custody three days later. Amini's Kurdish first name was Zhina, but she was forced by the regime to go by the Persian Mahsa moniker. Price praised "the remarkable bravery and courage that the Iranian people are exhibiting through their peaceful demonstrations." At least 201 protesters, including 23 children, have been killed by Iranian security forces throughout the country, the Oslo-based Iran Human Rights group said on Oct. 12.

Lapid: maritime deal decreases likelihood of war with Hezbollah as Netanyahu blasts "historic surrender"

Prime Minister Yair Lapid said on Oct. 12 that Israel's new maritime agreement with Lebanon would decrease the likelihood of war with Iran-backed Hezbollah. "We refused the final demands raised by the Lebanese government last week, and they were removed from the final wording. Today, the agreement was presented before the Security Cabinet and the Government, both of whom approved by a large majority the continuation of this process," Lapid said, adding, "This agreement staves off the possibility of a military clash with Hezbollah. Israel is not afraid of Hezbollah." Defense Minister Benny Gantz, also speaking at the joint press conference with Energy Minister Karin Elharrar, said that Israel would continue to prevent Iran's entrenchment and transfer of advanced military equipment to Syria and Lebanon. "I would like to emphasize that we have not given up one 'millimeter' that is critical to our security," he stated. Likud party leader Benjamin Netanyahu blasted the deal as a "historic surrender" that sends money to Hezbollah and allows Iran to get its hands on the Qana gas field. The deal, Netanyahu argued, also surrenders Israeli territory and "gives into Hezbollah's demand to allow Iran to drill for gas off Israel's coast. They are bringing Iran close to our northern border."

Japan to trial Israeli, U.S. drones

The Japanese Defense Ministry plans to deploy Israeli- and U.S.-made attack drones in 2023 to defend isolated islands. The American-made Switchblade and the Israel Aerospace Industries' Harop drone are expected to be deployed. Both are loitering munition weapons (also known as suicide drones or kamikaze drones) that wait passively around the target area and attack once a target is located. The ministry intends to have in place several hundred attack drones beginning in 2025, including drones manufactured in Japan, to bolster its deterrence capabilities, reported *The Japan News*, citing government sources. The report noted that the Ukrainian military has used attack drones against Russian forces, achieving substantial results while limiting deaths. The government intends to use drones mostly on the Ryukyu Islands (aka the Nansei Islands). It anticipates them being employed in an emergency to strike hostile naval vessels approaching the islands and enemy forces attempting to land. Drones will also be employed for surveillance. The Harop is around 2.5 meters (8.2 -feet) long and can fly for nine hours, whereas the Switchblade is about 36 centimeters (14 inches) long and is easy to carry, but can only fly for 15 minutes.

Israel's president lends ancient stone to Samaritan exhibit at Bible museum

Israeli President Isaac Herzog has presented a stone inscription to the Museum of the Bible's first-ever major exhibition on the Samaritans. The exhibition, created in collaboration with Yeshiva University, provides "unprecedented access" to the life, culture and history of the 2,000-year-old community. "I'm so pleased that this inscription, which bears the mark of human faith, intention and creativity across the ages, will be part of the very first exhibition about the Samaritan Israelite community," he said. A large stone inscription loaned by the Israeli presidential house and the Israel Antiquities Authority is one of the six objects on loan from Israel. The Samaritan Hebrew inscription originated in the medieval Samaritan synagogue in Kefar Kalil and was published by Itzhak Ben-Zvi, Israel's second president and a Samaritan historian. For millennia, the Samaritans have resided in the Land of Israel beside their sacred mountain. They are descended from the Israelite tribe of Ephraim. They are mentioned in biblical and rabbinic sources, but few people know that this ancient group still survives in the present world as a micro-community.

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