

# HERITAGE

FLORIDA JEWISH NEWS

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**Shana Tova!**

**5779**



# Jewish Academy of Orlando students score two and three grade levels ahead of their peers compared to national norms



Jewish Academy student Liann enjoys her classes at the day school.

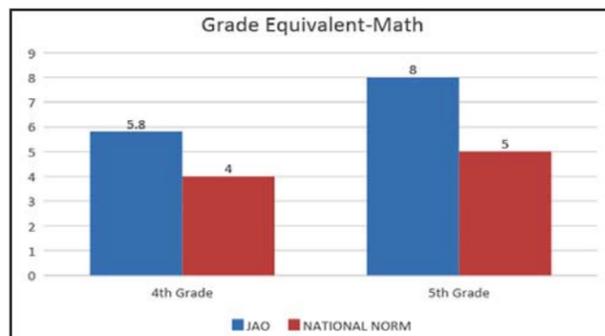
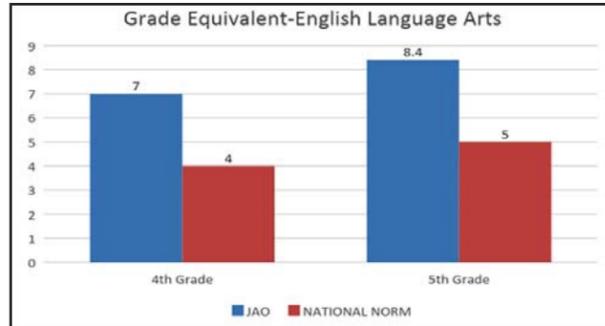
For the fourth straight year, on average, students at Jewish Academy of Orlando performed at least two grade levels ahead of their peers nationwide. Each April, Jewish Academy students take the Iowa Test of Basic Skills, a nationally standardized achievement test for K-12 students. The test allows schools to compare students' scores to national norms in Reading, Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies and Science.

This year, the upper grades at Jewish Academy outperformed their past achieve-

ments, with average scores of three grade levels ahead of their peers.

The Iowa Assessments rank the students' scores by grade level equivalents. As a general guide, a score of 8.4 for a 5th grader means the student is testing on an achievement continuum at a level equivalent to an 8th grader in their fourth month, or also indicates they are 3 years and 4 months ahead of their current grade level.

"We are always thrilled to see our students' scores and even more delighted about the upper grades' perfor-



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mance," Alan Rusonik stated, who is beginning his fifth year of Head of School. "The scores show the nation that Jewish Academy of Orlando is a top-ranking school, not only in Orlando but in our country."

"We try to challenge every student to the best of their ability. Differentiated learning," Rusonik explains, "provides students with instruction, which adjusts learning, projects, homework, and classwork to meet the needs of each individual student. Through differentiated learning, teachers increase the speed at which a student covers the material. This could include opportunities for instruction beyond their current grade level to more challenging material."

While many schools focus on "teaching to the test,"

Jewish Academy of Orlando focuses on the love of learning and high achievement through innovative, differentiated curriculum based on students' individual needs. "We use this test for a variety of reasons. One is to get a glimpse of how our student body is performing against national norms. It is one of many indicators teachers use to gauge how well students have met benchmarks at each grade level," Rusonik said. "We are proud of our students, and we truly believe that our dedicated teachers ensure that our students reach their fullest potential."

To learn more about the Jewish Academy of Orlando, please visit <https://www.jewishacademyorlando.org> or follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/JewishAcademyOrlando>.

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**Happy New Year!**

# Clermont Congregation Sinai celebrates their new location



The grand opening Torah procession to Congregation Sinai's new facility.

Congregation Sinai has now moved into their new location with a special grand opening Torah procession, a ceremonial mezuzah placement and a Kabbalat Shabbat service. With over 100 members and guests attending, it was a full house. Congregation Sinai has been serving the Jewish Community of Central Florida since 2003. They have now moved to 1200 West Broad Street in nearby Groveland at the edge of Clermont. Most Sinai members live in the Clermont, Minneola and Groveland areas.

At all Congregation Sinai services and programs Joe and Lynn Goldovitz provide distinctively unique spiritual leadership. This organization serves as a house of prayer, assembly and study in which

the spectrum of Jewish expression is cultivated, protected and nurtured. With student education programs for children, adult education, bible study groups, bar/bat mitzvah study programs and group tours to Israel; they strive to educate adults and children in Judaism's rich heritage with contemporary significance, while sharing Jewish culture, rituals, traditions and values. They hold Shabbat Services every Friday Night with Torah readings, Bible & Bagel study workshops, Healing Services; many very creative service events as well as special services for every major Jewish Holiday. Sinai has a very active Sisterhood with special events and annual fashion shows. They also host

various women's outreach programs inviting all area churches. Their Men's Club is active with monthly movie and pizza nights, charitable programs as well as their annual golf tournament. The new board of directors is led by Peter Sobel as president.

Congregation Sinai offers a full and comprehensive education program with an active Sisterhood and Men's Club. They regularly supply donations of food and supplies for the local schools as well as food and clothing for Puerto Rican and US Virgin Islands relief. While the local Jewish community attends prayer services and special events, they have opened their doors to the entire community, regardless of faith. They hold ongoing food

drives for the needy and interfaith activities to promote understanding among our different cultures. They welcome all with open arms and hearts to their services. They provide a warm spiritual environment for observance of Jewish holidays, traditions and celebration of our members' life cycle events.

For more information about their Friday night and the upcoming High Holiday services, membership, and special events; contact: Congregation Sinai at: 1200 West Broad Street, Groveland, FL 34736. Phone 352-243-5353. Email info@congregation-sinai.org and visit www.congregation-sinai.org. Affordable High Holiday and annual memberships are available.

## Federation's JTEN helps students, teachers gear up for new school year

Even before the new school year kicked off this month, local students and educators were hard at work learning, sharing and growing by participating in two programs by the Jewish Federation of Greater Orlando's Jewish Teen Education Network.

On Aug. 6, nearly 40 Central Florida teens gathered at Camp Challenge in Sorrento for "New Beginnings," the first-ever Communitywide Teen Education Retreat, a two-day event sponsored and organized by JTEN.

After the teens arrived, they participated in icebreakers, followed by learning sessions led by Cantor Kim Singer of Temple Shir Shalom and Jayme Epstein of BBYO. Dinner was followed by a campfire (with s'mores, of course) and a sing down led by Amy Geboff of Congregation Ohev Shalom. The students enjoyed dessert before heading back to their cabins for the night.

Day Two of the retreat opened with a prayerful meditation led by Rabbi Joshua Neely, followed by a Shacharit morning service and nature walk. Daniel Nabatain and Lauren Oback of Congregation of Reform Judaism oversaw the morning learning sessions. As the program drew

to an end in the afternoon, Dr. Sheryl Sacharoff (Congregation of Reform Judaism) led the closing session, inspired by Mr. Roger's "Won't You Be My Neighbor?"

All of the learning sessions were tied into the theme of Rosh Hashanah—new beginnings, making a fresh start and being more mindful in the new school year and new Jewish year.

Five days later, on Aug. 12, it was the teachers' turn to pick up some new tricks of the trade during "Building Your Teachers' Toolkit," a daylong workshop held at Congregation Ohev Shalom. The workshop was a collaborative effort between the Federation and the JTEN Educators of six synagogues—Congregation Beth Am, Congregation Ohev Shalom, Congregation of Reform Judaism, Southwest Orlando Jewish Congregation, Temple Israel and Temple Shir Shalom.

In attendance were 50 teachers from six synagogues, including the JTEN Educators, representing more than 700 combined years of teaching experience.

The theme and structure of the 2018 workshop was the result of the feedback received after the first JTEN teachers' workshop last year. Teachers



Students, educators and staff at the 2018 JTEN teen retreat at Camp Challenge in Sorrento, Fla., Aug. 6-7, 2018.

said overwhelmingly that they wanted more opportunities to share, network and connect with other teachers in our community.

Prior to this year's workshop, teachers submitted their "best" lesson plans, which served as the launch point for a discussion focusing on creative and innovative ways educators can be most effective in the classroom. The lesson plans were compiled

and saved on JTEN-branded electronic flash drives that were given to each teacher as their Teacher's Toolkit, which they can continue to build. The Federation plans to make these and future lesson plans available for download by educators via the Federation website.

All teachers received a professional development certificate from the Jewish Federation.

The workshop was planned by the JTEN Educators: Rabbi Joshua Neely (Temple Israel), Amy Geboff (Congregation Ohev Shalom), Cantor Kim Singer (Temple Shir Shalom), Dr. Sheryl Sacharoff (Congregation of Reform Judaism) and Cantor Nina Fine (Congregation Beth Am). Rabbi Hillel Skolnik, formerly of SOJC, was instrumental in helping to plan the workshop before he moved out of state.

Federation JTEN Coordinator Jennifer Cohen said she has heard a lot of positive feedback from participants in both events.

"People said it was inspiring to see our teens so engaged in a meaningful learning experience at the retreat, and the teachers at the workshop were thrilled to have the opportunity to interact and share their ideas," Cohen said.

## Rollins' Hillel is home away from home at Rosh Hashanah



Emily Block

"Why are we here?" the question hung in the air of the first board meeting of the revamped Rollins Hillel student board. Sure, who doesn't love free Shabbat dinners and trips to Israel, but really, at the end

of the day, why are we here? There are over 100 student organizations in addition to athletics, Greek life, internships, etc., that students at Rollins can be a part of. Why is it important that there is a Jewish student organization on campus?

After a moment a student leader looked up, thought for a moment, and said, "Everyone needs a place where they feel like they belong, and for the nearly 200 Jewish students at Rollins, this is that place. I want this to be a place for the Rollins Jewish community to call home. Whether this is a physical space or through events and relationships, I want Jewish students from across campus to feel that they are welcomed and connected to the other Jewish students."

That sentiment sums up the hours of work our student

leaders dedicate to the Jewish community on campus, and every Shabbat we hold, every brunch and holiday service, is in pursuit of creating a community where Jewish students feel connected to their peers and ultimately, to their culture and faith.

This past year at Rollins has been one filled with peaks and growing pains as we establish a formalized student-led Jewish community on campus. We restructured our programming reflect the values of the Jewish community on campus and to be able to truly meet the diverse needs of the Jewish students at Rollins College. From Shabbat dinners, to Tuesday Schmooze-Day bagel brunches, Torah on Tap happy hours, the creation of an AIPAC cadre and increased opportunities for student leadership, Hillel is reinvent-

ing the way students can "do Jewish" at Rollins.

We started off the fall term strong with a Welcome Back Bonfire, and even though the rain may have forced us inside for some very creative microwave s'mores, this was our largest entirely student attended event, with over 50 students present. We will be continuing our Welcome Back week with a "free and open to all" Shabbat dinner on campus.

Rollins Hillel will be welcoming in the New Year by facilitating multiple different holiday experiences for students. Students will have the opportunity to attend services at a local synagogue of their choice, or with Central Florida Hillel at the UCF Campus. We will also be holding breakfast at Rollins with all the traditional noshes.

This year, many Jewish students will celebrate the High Holidays away from home for the first time. Students will be presented with a multitude of freedoms and challenges when it comes to celebrating at college. We here at Hillel work to empower students to have ownership over their High Holiday experience. No

matter how they celebrate they know that Rollins is there to support them as they navigate what it means to do Jewish, on their own terms.

L'Shana Tova! Wishing you a sweet, joyful and healthy New Year, from our family to yours!

Emily Block, Rollins College Hillel director



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# A High Holidays plea: Listen to each other on Israel's nation-state debate

By Avi Weiss

(JTA)—The High Holidays are approaching. It is a time when Jews worldwide join together in the spirit of camaraderie, pouring out their hearts for a good new year.

But the lead-up this year has been different, often pitting Jews against Jews in bitter controversy. Rosh Hashanah 5779 arrives with the passage of legislation declaring that Israel is a Jewish state with the right of Jewish self-determination. Supporters and detractors have been characterizing each other using inappropriate, explosive language. On one side, too many have called the law's supporters "racist"; on the other, too many have called its detractors "anti-Zionist."

Such language must stop. It fans the flames of conflict, potentially leading to hatred—even violence. While a word is a word and a deed is a deed, words lead to deeds. As the rabbis declare, wise people must be careful with language.

Rather than call the other names, each side should listen to the other's concerns, allowing them to influence their own thoughts. Listening is at the core of Rosh Hashanah's shofar ritual. The ritual is not only about sounding the shofar, but, as its preamble blessing proclaims, listening ("lishmoah") to its sound.

Supporters ought listen to issues raised by detractors. Specifically, with the one-state solution gaining traction among Israel's Jews, will Arab citizens be denied an equal vote? And, it must be added, does a Jewish state mean a theocratic state where Jewish religious law will be imposed against the will of many?

Recent events have increased these fears. A Conservative rabbi was picked up by police for performing a marriage outside of the jurisdic-

tion of the Chief Rabbinate, which follows rigid Orthodox practices. I, too, an Orthodox rabbi, have felt the sting of the Chief Rabbinate. Letters I've written attesting to the Jewishness of longtime congregants of my synagogue in New York, where I have served for 45 years, have been denied.

Detractors, too, must take into account questions raised by the law's supporters.

Too many Israeli Supreme Court decisions have alienated many Jews living in Israel. While all communities ideally should be open to everyone, the Israeli Supreme Court has allowed Arab communities to exclude Jews while forcing Jewish communities to include Arabs. Additionally, because of the importance of free speech, some rhetoric by Arab members of the Israeli parliament that has bordered on treasonous has been permitted on the Knesset floor. This has outraged some Israeli Jews.

I have long felt that the founders of the state should have been more decisive and named the country the Jewish State of Israel in 1948, proclaiming its Jewish identity from the outset. Among other matters, this would have clearly declared "Hatikvah" as Israel's national anthem, Hebrew as its official language, the Israeli flag as its national banner and the Law of Return as applying exclusively to Jews.

I support the nation-state law, even as I insist that all citizens of Israel be treated equally. I believe strongly in reaching out to our Arab brothers and sisters, and so I visited the mosque in Yasuf that was desecrated in 2009 and reached out to the father of Mohammed Abu Khdeir, the Palestinian teenager who was murdered in 2014 after three Jewish boys were kidnapped and murdered. I have reached out because of my passionate belief

that all of humanity regardless of religion or race is sacred and every human is created in the image of God.

For me, a strong sense of Jewish identity does not contradict universal consciousness but is a prerequisite to it.

I have little doubt that the architects of this new law believe that it does not discriminate against Arabs. They would insist that equality for all is legislated in other Basic Laws that would fully protect Arabs and other non-Jews living in Israel.

But with nationalism on the rise both in the U.S. and around the globe, the timing of this new law is suspect. And it very well may be that politicians are using the law to gain political points.

Because of these concerns, I, a strong supporter of Jewish settlements, believe that the new law should be amended to include a simple but important phrase from Israel's Declaration of Independence: "[Israel] will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex." I suggest this addition because these rights are absolutely central Jewish values. Such an amendment would win over support of many of the law's original naysayers.

Truth be told, supporters and detractors of the new law have more in common than not. Too many are politicizing the issue and painting their opponents as extremists. The center, including supporters and detractors of the law, recognize that Israel is a hybrid: a Jewish democratic state.

There are many democracies in the world. No two are the same. Israel is not simply a Western

democracy that happens to be in the Middle East. It is a unique Jewish democracy—with all its beauty and complexity.

And no democracy faces the existential challenges that Israel does. Despite threats on each of its borders, and even from within, Israel tries to do all it can to adhere to democratic principles. It's difficult to imagine that other nations facing similar threats would do the same.

This Rosh Hashanah, supporters and detractors should remember that there is a short but clear pause between the sounds of the shofar. The pause may be understood as giving participants time to listen and incorporate each individual note's meaning into our hearts and souls.

This, I believe, is our mandate, our "tzav hash'a'ah." Rather than the two sides in this debate demonizing the other, each must listen to the other. Each must see the other as an ally in the common goal of strengthening Israel as it was originally created to be: a Jewish state with inextricably built-in democratic values of individual equality for all of its citizens.

Avi Weiss is the founding rabbi of the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale, Bronx, N.Y., and founder of Yeshivat Chovevei Torah and Yeshivat Maharat rabbinical schools. He is a co-founder of the International Rabbinic Fellowship and longtime Jewish activist for Israel and human rights. The views expressed in this article are his own.

The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of JTA or its parent company, 70 Faces Media.

## How to misread anti-Semitism

By Ben Cohen

(JNS)—In all the furor around the anti-Semitism plaguing the British Labour Party, I've noticed two distinct forms of defense of both the party and its far-left leader, Jeremy Corbyn.

The first defense, favored by those for whom Corbyn is a Socialist equivalent of L. Ron Hubbard, is to dismiss any and all accusations of anti-Semitism as a "hoax" or "smear" aimed solely at destroying their leader's prospects of becoming Britain's next prime minister. The second, which may be wrong-headed but is at least grounded in intellectual sincerity, is that there is indeed a problem inside the Labour Party, but that including anti-Zionism among the examples of contemporary anti-Semitism only makes the problem worse.

Numerous examples of both of these defenses have appeared in the last week. To take an instance of the first, according to veteran pro-Palestinian commentator David Hearst in Middle East Eye, the definition of anti-Semitism drawn up by International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA)—the source of the current Labour row—is actually a "weapon" intended to "terrify all politicians ... from having any contact with Palestinian organizations." Because Corbyn has shown principled resistance to the depiction of anti-Zionism as a mutation of anti-Semitism, Hearst argued, the hostile reaction of the British press leaves only the question of "how much dirtier the campaign to unseat Jeremy Corbyn as leader of the Labour Party is going to get."

Instances of the more nuanced approach appeared, ironically enough, on the Qatari

government-backed Al Jazeera website. "[T]o be honest I assumed that the issue of anti-Semitism was something that was exclusively associated with the far-right," confessed Steven Fielding, a professor of politics at the University of Nottingham. He continued: "What has surprised me is the alacrity with which supporters of Jeremy Corbyn—and sometimes very close and prominent supporters of Jeremy Corbyn—have been guilty of, at best, indulging in unconsciously anti-Semitic tropes."

That theme was taken up in a longer article by Ian Almond, who teaches at Georgetown University's campus in Qatar. Briefly recounting his childhood in England, Almond recalled his shock "when, at the age of 12, my teacher told me the word 'joo' I had just spoken, which I had thought to mean to lie or cheat, was actually 'Jew' and was anti-Semitic." He went on to assert that "anti-Semitism is so entrenched in our society, so depressingly persistent, that to trivialize it is to trivialize the blueprint of prejudice itself. It is a barometer of moral cowardice: when someone doesn't want to take responsibility for their own faults or problems, they blame the Jews."

Nothing to disagree with there, as Almond clearly grasps the critical role that anti-Semitism has played historically. The problem is that his understanding is restricted to the appearance of anti-Semitism in its vulgar, crude form only: ugly myths about Jews and the Transatlantic slave trade, say, or Internet tirades about "the Rothschilds" and other "Jewish bankers." It does not occur to him that what is sold under the label of "criticism of Israel"

Cohen on page 21A



### Everywhere

To forgive or not to forgive? That is the question!

By Mel Pearlman

In a previous Everywhere column, "Love is not the antidote to hate," (Heritage Florida Jewish News, Aug. 17, 2018), I suggested that respect for one another was the only effective antidote to hate.

Now, as we approach the High Holy Days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, a time of self-reflection in our relationship with the Divine, we will also likely hear from the pulpit of many synagogues, the need to reflect on our many personal relationships, on our general behavior, and how well we treated those with whom we have interacted within the past year.

As we seek forgiveness via prayer, repentance and charity for our heavenly transgressions, we are also urged to seek forgiveness from those we have mistreated or hurt, and in turn to forgive those who have behaved badly toward us.

A good start then would begin by reintroducing the practice of respecting one another despite our different views, and forgiving those with whom we had issues during this past year. Respect for one another may even make the path to forgiveness less treacherous. In the final analysis the decisions we make about forgiveness will be unique to each of us, but there is no reason not to make mutual respect the underlying basis for all our actions.

In that light, I would begin by asking forgiveness from those readers of my column who were personally offended or hurt by the contents of any of my columns this past year, and by forgiving those who may have denigrated me personally for the views expressed in my writings rather than respectfully expressing an alternative view.

While respect for others is always appropriate, there are some views, matters and conduct that are so egregious as to be unforgivable.

Despite the legitimacy of the Women's Movement for equality in all aspects of American life, I find myself unable to forgive those progressive Jews who in January marched with the anti-Semites and anti-Zionists (redundancy?) in Washington, D.C.; nor will I forgive the Jew-haters who proclaimed that feminism is incompatible with Zionism.

As a supporter of equal rights for the LGBTQ community, I will not forgive those members in that community who condemn Israel, which is the only nation in the Middle

East where LGBTQ individuals can live openly without fear, are respected, and enjoy equal protection of the law.

I also find myself, in this time of forgiveness, unable to forgive those Jews who opposed the U.S. recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital and the relocation of the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem.

While criticism of Israeli government and U.S. policies that effect Israel is perfectly legitimate, I do not forgive those who reside outside Israel who seek to impose policy changes by coercive methods, because they cannot effect change in Israel by the legitimate use of the Israeli ballot box.

Those who threaten to withhold donations to Israel's social and medical NGOs, or wage economic war on Israel through the BDS to delegitimize the Jewish state, and organizations like Students for Justice in Palestine who physically intimidate Jewish students and suppress free speech, or actively support indirect funding of terrorism against Jews and Israelis, are not only not forgiven, but must be continuously condemned and actively opposed.

As the new year unfolds, we should keep in mind Israel's security needs and pray for a year of peace, prosperity, health, and good fortune for both America and Israel.

As Jewish Americans we should give particular thanks that we are doubly blessed by G-d's Covenant with the Jewish people and by the protective embrace of the U.S. Constitution. La Shana Tovah!

In you wish to comment or respond to any of the contents herein you can reach me at melpearlman322@gmail.com. Please do so in a rational, thoughtful, respectful and civil manner. If you wish to respond by ranting and raving, please go into your bathroom, lock the door and shout your brains out.

Mel Pearlman has been practicing law in Central Florida for the past 45 years. He has served as president of the Jewish Federation of Greater Orlando; on the District VII Mental Health Board, as Special Prosecutor for the City of Winter Park, Florida; and on the Board of Directors of the Central Florida Research and Development Authority. He was a charter member of the Board of Directors and served as the first Vice President of the Holocaust Memorial Resource and Education Center of Central Florida, as well as its first pro-bono legal counsel.

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# Why we still need heroes like John McCain

By Jonathan S. Tobin

(JNS)—Anybody who pays attention to the sorts of things honored by contemporary popular culture knows that stories about heroism are passé. But why then do we still long for them? One example comes from an incident that took place almost a century ago.

In March 1920, Arab gangs attacked the Jewish settlement of Tel Hai in the Upper Galilee. Josef Trumpeldor led the defense of the isolated farming village. He was a rare Jew who had served in the army of the Tsar and then helped lead the first contingent of Zionist Jews fighting with the British against the Turks in World War I. He returned to Russia, organized Jewish self-defense against pogroms and then headed back to Palestine, where he wound up defending newly established Jewish farming villages near the border with Lebanon.

Trumpeldor was mortally wounded during the exchange of fire at Tel Hai. But before he died, he was reported to have consoled his companions in

Hebrew, saying: Ein davar, tov lamut be'adartzeinu—"Never mind, it's good to die for our country."

As was fitting for a secular Jew like Trumpeldor, his words echoed those of the Roman poet Ovid's *Odes*—dulce et decorum est pro patria mori ("it is sweet and fitting to die for one's country") more than any traditional Jewish text. But his sacrifice inspired generations who followed in his footsteps rebuilding and then successfully defending the Jewish homeland. Just as important, he was embraced as a hero by both the Jewish right—the Betar national youth group founded by Ze'ev Jabotinsky and later led by Menachem Begin was named for Trumpeldor—as well as by their Labor Zionist rivals on the left.

But to future generations of Israelis, the authenticity of Trumpeldor's final utterance was called into question. He may have just cursed in Russian about his bad luck. His shaky command of Hebrew might also not have enabled him to say something so eloquent. It's a dispute that can

never be definitively settled.

More important is that many also came to doubt the validity of the sentiment behind those noble words. To the cynics of the last 20th and early 21st century, the idea of there being something glorious about bloody sacrifice for the sake of a national ideal was exactly the sort of talk that starts wars. To some, patriotism was not just old-fashioned, but also dangerous.

That is especially true for Americans who came of age after Vietnam, Watergate and countless other scandals that have robbed the nation of much of the idealism about patriotism that was once taken for granted.

It's in this context that we should think about the life of Sen. John McCain, who passed away this past weekend at the age of 81 after a long battle with brain cancer.

McCain was a central figure in American politics for a generation and twice unsuccessfully sought the presidency. An independent spirit, he was often an unpredictable guided missile, taking up causes that struck his fancy regardless

of whether they fit in with his generally conservative approach to politics.

Sadly, in his final years, he was subjected to a torrent of abuse because of his feud with U.S. President Donald Trump, who started the spat by wrongly calling into question McCain's status as a war hero. Some on the far right, especially on social media, even continued calling him a "traitor" after his death, though in doing so they demonstrated their own ignorance and lack of grace. That echoed the abuse he had always gotten from the far left, which viewed his unswerving support for Israel and belief in a strong U.S. foreign policy advocating American values of freedom of democracy with equal contempt.

But what is important about McCain is that he lived his life in the same spirit as Trumpeldor's famous quotation. His was a life lived in service to his nation. There is no denying that his bravery in enduring torture and imprisonment at the hands of his North Vietnamese captors. And whether you agreed with

him on every issue or not, the fact that he continued serving his country throughout the rest of his life completed a legacy that was based more on character and patriotism than anything else.

McCain mattered because unlike most politicians, his claim to office was based not so much on ideology as it was on biography. Not many U.S. presidents have been truly great men. And while we can't be sure that he would have been a good president, the main reason he came so close to that goal was because so many thought he deserved the honor as a result of his life story. In that sense, he was very much a throwback to an earlier time in American history, when the presidency was seen more as a reward for meritorious service or heroism than a mere political contest.

We may not need presidents to be heroes, but the founders of the American republic believed that civic virtue was essential to the survival of their experiment. The manner in which Israel's founding generation lived was a testa-

ment to the same sentiment. Cynics and those who decry even the most democratic forms of nationalism often dismiss patriotism and the idea of sacrifice for the nation. We no longer engage in hero worship of the kind that produced generations of Americans who thought George Washington never told a lie or Israelis who believed in the Zionist equivalents of that myth.

We're right to keep even the most seemingly exemplary leaders' feet of clay firmly in view. But we still need heroes because they are essential to perpetuating the ideals that are the foundation of American society. Nations like the United States and Israel are, after all, based on ideals more than other considerations. That's why we need the Josef Trumpeldors and John McCains. They point the way for the rest of us towards the values to which we aspire but so often fall short.

May the senator's memory be for a blessing.

Jonathan S. Tobin is editor in chief of JNS—Jewish News Syndicate. Follow him on Twitter at: @jonathans\_tobin.

## Reducing the malevolent impact of UNRWA

By Sarah N. Stern

(JNS)—U.S. President Donald Trump gave the Jewish people a gift of historic proportions by taking the issue of Jerusalem off the table back in December. On Aug. 25, President Trump gave a gift that is arguably of equal or greater value to the Jewish nation by significantly reducing by \$200 million the aid that the United States gives to UNRWA, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine.

PLO Secretary General Saeb Erekat predictably called the decision "disgraceful," and said that President Trump

was "meddling in the internal affairs of other people in an attempt to impact their national options."

Since when is it that an American president deciding how to spend U.S. taxpayer dollars is considered "meddling in the affairs of other people"?

Beyond that, according to an Aug. 25 report on Israeli Channel 2 news, the Trump administration announced that it will oppose the Palestinian claim for the "right of return" for the descendants of the original Palestinian refugees displaced by the 1948 war.

If true, this would be a historic development—not just

to the American taxpayer, the Jewish people and the State of Israel, but to the Palestinians themselves.

UNRWA was formed in 1949, in the aftermath of the 1948 War for Palestinian refugees. These refugees, fleeing from the war (Dec. 1, 1947 to June 1, 1948), originally numbered 550,000 to 600,000. Because the Palestinians have inflated the number—and because they count multiple generations of descendants—the figure that Palestinians and their advocates now invoke is 5 million.

The U.N. High Commission of Refugees defines a "refugee" as "someone who has

been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war or violence." Only in the case of the Palestinians is this status passed down for generations.

And only in the case of the UNRWA is there a refugee agency exclusively for one particular refugee group. In 1950, in the aftermath of World War II, the United Nations High Commission of Refugees was established to deal with the millions of displaced refugees. However, the Arab League refused to allow the Palestinian refugees to go under that rubric.

Why? Because the mandate of UNHCR is for the refugees

to be settled and integrated into their host country as soon as possible. The Arab League, however, wanted to keep the Palestinian refugees in a perpetual state of limbo in order to use the Palestinian refugee issue as a thorn in the side of Israel.

The Arab world seems have no concern over their Palestinian brethren, apparently preferring to keep generations of Palestinians in a perpetual state of victimhood, squalor and conflict.

According to David Bedein of the Center for Near East Policy Research, "the right of return is the focus of the entire life... to take back their

homes that were abandoned in 1948... The children are taught you have to go back to these homes and kill the people who live there."

Upon entering the Aida UNRWA camp, for example, one immediately sees a gate adorned by an oversized key, symbolic of their ancestor's house left behind in Israel. The symbol of the key is used constantly in pageants that UNRWA schools put on, where the message is constantly drummed in that they will someday return to their ancestor's orchards and vineyard in pre-1948 Israel.

UNRWA on page 22A

## Neil Simon got us right

By Ari Roth

WASHINGTON, D.C. (JTA)—On Sunday, the theater community's reactions to the death of playwright Neil Simon came even as social media were still processing the death the day before of Sen. John McCain. The homages to McCain bordered on the hagiographic until fights erupted (this being Facebook) between those who remembered the Arizona senator's opposition to Martin Luther King Day and those who admired his bipartisanship and self-critique.

Almost everyone remembering Neil Simon, on the other hand, did so with wistfulness, because everyone in the theater business had been touched by the breadth of Simon's achievement.

Playwrights remembered how Simon crafted a line and set up an entrance; more than anything, they appreciated the crest of his career: how it shot forth like a cannon yet managed to sustain and grow ever more impressive, penetrating and personally revealing with the writing of the Eugene Trilogy—"Brighton Beach Memoirs,"

"Biloxi Blues" and "Broadway Bound."

Actors remembered what it was to perform Simon.

"It was almost impossible," said Broadway veteran and now writer Peter Birkenhead, "to go fully up on a line in a Neil Simon play" (that is, improvise a forgotten line of dialogue) "because the next thing out of your character's mouth always followed naturally from the last thing and pointed towards the next."

Producers remembered the dependability of the Simon brand and the vast volume of it. They remembered Simon either as their "bread and butter" or their "stock and trade." Then there were those like me who, once upon a time, as a younger renegade, remember condescending to Simon, referring to him as a "sop to subscribers; a thing to define oneself against—until growing out of such sanctimony to embrace his achievement."

Producers would sneer at Neil Simon for other reasons too. I remember a goyish theater company in the middle of Michigan, not far from Ann Arbor, back in the '90s, where the artistic director said that they defined their brand of comedy as being "the oppo-

site of Neil Simon. Less New York in our references, less guilt-ridden, less neurotic, or driven by a particular kind of rhythm." That struck me as vaguely anti-Semitic at the time—and strikes me as less vaguely and more explicitly so today, despite the admirable cultivation of "local voices." Neil Simon, it appears, was so big that he became something to rebel against, for Jews and non-Jews alike.

My first reflection upon hearing of Simon's passing was to think of the death of Philip Roth almost 100 days earlier: twin towers of literary and theatrical achievement now gone. Prolific, uninhibited, and unapologetically gifted, Simon and Roth in their passing seem to have left a hole in the fabric of American Jewish culture. The very garment of that fabric is now moth-eaten: that power suit of the Straight White Jewish Male Secularist who, in the cases of Roth and Simon, spawned their own veritable one-man industries. That period of immense dominance is now done.

Theirs were the careers to look up to, back in the day, if you were dreaming of a life as a writer. Surely there

were differences between them beyond discipline; Roth the provocateur and prolix subversive; Simon the pleasing jester, chafing at life's annoyances, who played conflict and odd couplings for theatrical laughs. But their shared vibrancy, moxie and attitude—unapologetically Jewish yet secularized; worshiping the ironies of the American experience more than the signposts of Jewish history—were instructive tickets that they passed onto their progenitors and colleagues. They each had their particular American Voice down pat: urban and urbane; assimilated with healthy shmeers of cultural quirks and loyalty, along with a cranky independence, interwoven into an identity that could clearly be demarcated as "New York Times Arts Section Jewish."

I'm glad I met Neil Simon when I did, in the early '90s, while on a trip to L.A. for a reading of a play of mine. I was at a lunch meeting, pitching a project to a friend in the business from Chicago at an upscale Hamburger Hamlet in Westwood. We spied Neil Simon sitting alone reading "The Jordan Rules" by Sam

Smith, right after the Bulls had won their second NBA championship. Simon was then on the crest of what seemed to be a career high

point, soon to earn a Pulitzer Prize for "Lost in Yonkers." Perhaps Simon could identify

Simon on page 21A

### Letters To The Editor

We are a diverse community and we welcome your letters and viewpoints. The views and opinions expressed in the opinion pieces and letters published in *The Heritage* are the views of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of *The Heritage Florida Jewish News* or its staff. *The Heritage* reserves the right to edit letters for clarity, content, and accuracy. And respectful of *lashon hara*, we will not print derogatory statements against any individual.

Please limit letters to 250 words. Send letters to P.O. Box 300742, Fern Park, FL 32730. Or e-mail to [news@orlandoheritage.com](mailto:news@orlandoheritage.com).

### American Jewish Congress mourns loss of John McCain

Dear Editor:

To lose as titanic a warrior and statesman as John McCain at any time is cause for national sorrow. As Jews and as Americans, we are filled with sadness at the loss of this implacable ally of the Jewish people and Israel who served as the epitome of American patriotism. It is our hope—and we will do all

that we can to ensure—that Senator McCain's legacy of courageous, moral leadership will endure, and help light the path out of the darkness in which we now find ourselves.

Thank you,  
Jack Rosen, president  
Dr. Munir Kazmir, vice president  
Dr. Ben Chouake, secretary

# What's Happening

## A COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY CALENDAR

LIGHT SHABBAT CANDLES AT

SEPT. 7  
7:21 p.m.  
SEPT. 14  
7:12 p.m.

For inclusion in the What's Happening Calendar, copy must be sent on separate sheet and clearly marked for Calendar. Submit copy via: e-mail (news@orlandoheritage.com); mail (P.O. Box 300742, Fern Park, FL 32730-0742); fax (407-831-0507); or drop it by the office (207 O'Brien Rd., Ste. 101, Fern Park) Deadline is Wednesday noon, 10 days prior to publication.

### MORNING AND EVENING MINYANS (Call synagogue to confirm time.)

Chabad of South Orlando—Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. and 10 minutes before sunset; Saturday, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday, 8:15 a.m., 407-354-3660.  
 Congregation Ahavas Yisrael—Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m.; Saturday, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday, 9 a.m., 407-644-2500.  
 Congregation Chabad Lubavitch of Greater Daytona—Monday, 8 a.m.; Thursday, 8 a.m., 904-672-9300.  
 Congregation Ohev Shalom—Sunday, 9 a.m., 407-298-4650.  
 GOBOR Community Minyan at Jewish Academy of Orlando—Monday—Friday, 7:45 a.m.—8:30 a.m.  
 Temple Israel—Sunday, 9 a.m., 407-647-3055.

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Ahavas Yisrael—Kabbalat, 30 minutes before sundown.

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Torah Portion—Nitzavim: Deuteronomy 29:9-30:20; Haftarah: Isaiah 61:10-63:9.

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

#### Erev Rosh Hashanah

The Holocaust Memorial, Resource & Education Center—Exhibit: Heroes of Warsaw, illustrations of Bill Farnsworth that highlight the courage of Irena Sendler and Janusz Korczak. On exhibit through Dec. 28.

### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

#### Rosh Hashanah

Israeli Folk Dancing—No class.

### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

#### Second day Rosh Hashanah

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Temple Israel—Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Neely, noon—1 p.m. A parashat discussion class. Open to the public, no RSVP needed. Info: 407-647-3055.  
 SPARK—Learning & Lattes, 9:30 a.m.- 10:30 a.m. at The Join House.

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Grief Support—JFS Orlando and The Jewish Pavilion, in cooperation with The Hospice of the Comforter and VITAS Healthcare, host a grief support group, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Congregation Ohev Shalom, 613 Concourse Pkwy S., Maitland. Registration: call 407-644-7593, ext. 247. \$5 per session contribution suggested.

Join Orlando—Men's Whisky & Wisdom, 8 p.m.—9:30 p.m. at the Join House.

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Ahavas Yisrael—Kabbalat, 30 minutes before sundown.

# Happy new year from the Roth JCC!

This past year has been a very exciting one that saw the J improve and expand its programs to better serve our community. We are excited about our current offerings and we are looking forward to adding new and exciting programs for the community in this new year.

November marks the 20th annual Central Florida Jewish Film Festival, in partnership with the Enzian Theater, featuring significant, acclaimed movies with a focus on the Jewish experience. Last year we showed "1945," a film winning awards this year. These are brilliant and thought-provoking films and we expect this year's festival to continue exceeding expectations. Look for new film opportunities this year after the film festival as we increase our Jewish film programming.

The Central Florida Jewish Book Festival, celebrating Jewish authors from around the country, is highlighted by Leah Rachel Berkowitz, author of "The World

Needs Beautiful Things"; Sally Kohn, author of "The Opposite of Hate"; and B.A. Shapiro, author of "The Collector's Apprentice." In addition, Jonathan Weisman, author of "(((Semitism)))", David Litt, author of "Thanks Obama," and Jenna Blum, author of "The Lost Family" will join us throughout the year.

In October, we will debut a monthly lecture series in partnership with Touro College. High-level professors will join us each month to discuss current topics with a Jewish connection. We hope you enjoy this thoughtful and insightful program to learn from outstanding educators.

Our new afterschool enrichment program offers families a wide variety of educational and fitness classes to make the most of their children's afternoons. In addition, we have adult dodge ball, our ongoing men's basketball leagues and new sports and fitness programs designed to encourage health and communal fun.



Keith Dvorchik

There is much more to come in the upcoming year including planned new tennis courts and a new tennis center, additions to our fitness program through new equipment and classes, as well as a revitalized spin program including new spin bikes! We cannot wait to show you what we have in store.

*Shana Tovah and we will see you at the J!*  
 Keith Dvorchik, CEO

## Quote of the Week

"Rosh Hashanah isn't just about being new, it's about a change."

— Max Levis

### Easy puzzle

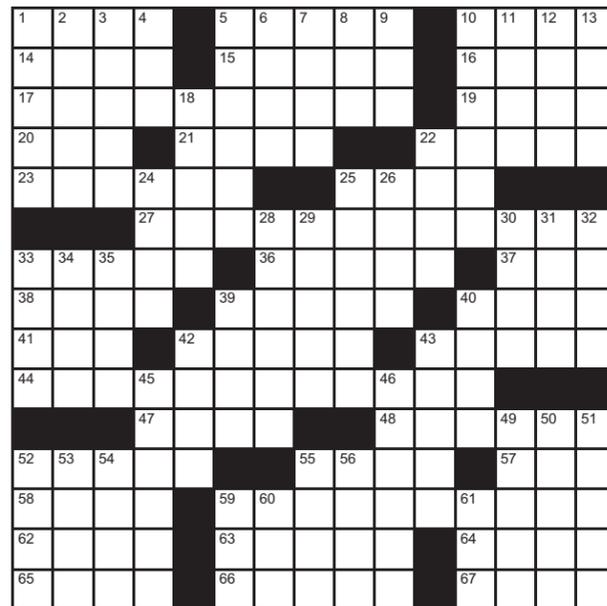
"Starts to the New Year" by Yoni Glatt  
 koshercrosswords@gmail.com

#### Across

1. Annoys
5. Not live, as on TV
10. Snake sound
14. Mine finds
15. Kemper who plays Kimmy Schmidt
16. Arches National Park state
17. Trips after being under the chuppah
19. Prefix with phone, tron or bytes
20. Leb. neighbor
21. Mimicked
22. Big name in Jewish camps
23. Chew on a baby toy, say
25. "The Man" Musial
27. Building a sukkah near them is a bad idea
33. Cold home
36. Make into a movie, maybe
37. Soap ingredient
38. "Dark" film
39. Makes mittens, in a way
40. "Just Do It" brand
41. . follower
42. 'The Da \_\_\_ Code'
43. With \_\_\_ breath (showing anticipation)
44. They can remind people to burn more (Rosh Hashanah) calories
47. Hawaiian necklaces
48. Best Actor winner in 2018
52. They aren't given to Israelis in some Arab countries
55. Batman's hood
57. Some kosher symbols
58. First name?
59. The tale of Jonah?
62. Del Rey or Turner
63. Legendary composer Morricone
64. Dershowitz of note
65. They might be split
66. Linda Ronstadt hit "Blue \_\_\_"
67. Fem. counterpart

#### Down

2. Got up
3. 38-Across, e.g.
4. Tel Aviv to Hebron dir.
5. Short fuse, so to speak
6. Sunburn soother
7. Slog (through)
8. \_\_\_ Gedi, Israel
9. Moines preceder
10. Compassionate
11. Tabloid twosome
12. Long tale
13. Iran ruler, once
18. Where many play Fantasy Football
22. Deliver a diatribe, e.g.
24. One eyed Marvel hero
25. Crackling noise, in radio
26. Recipe abbr.
28. Mums' mums
29. Authoritative order
30. Skirt opening
31. Little one
32. Plant starter
33. Ancient Peruvian
34. Gunk
35. Bizkit of rock
39. One from New Zealand
40. \_\_\_AQ, NYSE competitor
42. Victory letters
43. Quasimodo rang them
45. Alpaca relatives
46. "\_\_\_ doin'?" (Tribbiani catchphrase)
49. Cash, casually
50. Angels might have them
51. Big boy band in 2000
52. Land between hills, poetically
53. "Boee" singer Raichel
54. Beach, mostly
55. They sang 56-Down
56. State that was a hit for 55-Down
59. Summer mo., in Australia
60. "Barefoot" Garten in the kitchen
61. When doubled, a cracker



See answers on page 20A.

**"I'm lost without it!"**

**"It's inexcusable!"**

**"My week is not complete without it!"**

**"I can't live without it!"**

**"How in the world am I supposed to know what's going on?"**

These are some of the comments we receive from readers when they miss an issue of *Heritage Florida Jewish News*.

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1. Like a rare baseball game

# Time to reflect on the many lives changed through Jewish Family Services



Michael McKee



Eric Geboff

For 40 years, Jewish Family Services of Greater Orlando has served the needs of our neighbors, regardless of race, religion, culture or national

origin. We have cared for tens of thousands of those neighbors, keeping true to our mission of "providing services to stabilize indi-

viduals and families in crisis, and enhancing the quality of life across generations to all members of the Central Florida community." We strive to ensure that our mission is reflected in everything we do. Our mission gives us purpose and direction and we appreciate the opportunities that our mission provides. We continue to provide those services in four core service areas: Mental and Emotional Stability, Hunger, Homelessness Prevention and Aging Services.

Annually, the Jewish New Year gives us the opportu-

nity to reflect on the lives we changed and the impact that we have in our community. The delivery and relevance of our programs have allowed us to grow our services, thereby allowing us to serve more people. However, the need is still great.

Whether a family needs counseling following a crisis, or a parent needs help putting food on the dinner table, Jewish Family Services provides the help necessary to meet these basic yet vital needs of our community. Our services are as diverse as those we serve. We are proud to offer

counseling services that care for clients from age four and up; the Pearlman Emergency Food Pantry that provides shelf stable foods, produce and meats; transportation for the elderly and disabled for medical appointments and essential shopping; emergency financial assistance; a structured family stabilization program that has tremendous success and outcomes; and more.

The efforts at Jewish Family Services of Greater Orlando are a great example of a community coming together because they need to. Because

we still need to today. Because Central Florida needs us, the resources we offer and the services we provide. We need these sorts of pure motives to nurture genuine communities. What we will continue to provide and create with your help will be something remarkable.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff and clients that we serve, our best wishes to you and your families for a happy, healthy and prosperous 5779.

Michael McKee, president  
Eric Geboff, executive director

# HMREC's hope is that all people feel safe and respected



Ellen Wise Lang



Pamela Cash Kancher

The Journal of Moral Education published an article

titled "Holocaust Knowledge and Holocaust Educa-

tion Experiences" predicting citizenship values among U.S. adults. The research investigated the relationship between Holocaust knowledge, Holocaust educational experiences and citizenship values. The authors concluded that learning about the Holocaust in school, hearing Holocaust Survivor testimony (in person or via electronic media) and visiting a Holocaust museum were the strongest predictors of citizenship values. They suggested that "Holocaust education provides the opportunity to examine fundamental moral and ethical issues related to diversity and human behavior in society,

especially the causes and effects of stereotyping and how it contributes to prejudice, racism, and the infringement of civil rights."

For those who know Tess Wise, it is not surprising that she predicted this correlation in 1980 when she founded the Holocaust Project and planned a community-wide conference on the Holocaust and relevant human rights issues. According to Tess' original notes, the purpose of the conference was to "focus on the social, historical, moral, ethical and economic implications of the Holocaust and to show how these relate to current human rights issues facing the world, the

country and citizens of Central Florida."

Our Holocaust Center's mission remains faithful to Tess' vision. To use the history and lessons of the Holocaust to create an inclusive community free of anti-Semitism and all forms of prejudice and bigotry. Through our exhibits and programs, we work to build a community where diversity is celebrated and all people feel safe and respected.

At the dedication of our building expansion in 1994, Tess said the following:

A wise man once said, "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." I know, because

I once was there when evil triumphed. If this evil should ever again triumph, it will not be because I did nothing. I know it's important for you to be able to say the same thing to yourself."

Rosh Hashanah is a time for joy, a time for new beginnings, counting our blessings and for standing up and being counted.

On behalf of the board and staff of the Holocaust Memorial Resource & Education Center of Florida, Shanah Tovah Umetukah. We hope that you have a good and sweet year.

Ellen Wise Lang, president  
Pamela Cash Kancher, executive director

שנה טובה *bonne année* 新年快樂  
С НОВЫМ ГОДОМ FELIZ AÑO NUEVO

*Frohes neues Jahr* SHANA TOVA *नया साल मुबारक हो*  
**HAPPY**

Sretna Nova Godina **NEW YEAR**

Gelukkig Nieuwjaar ετυχισμένο το νέο έτος  
明けましておめでとうございます *Felice Anno Nuovo*



Wishing you a year of peace, health and prosperity!

Your friends at the Jewish Federation of Greater Orlando



Jewish Federation OF GREATER ORLANDO

851 North Maitland Ave. Maitland, FL 32751 407.645.5933

www.jfgo.org

## Central Florida Synagogues

**Orlando Weekday Morning Minyan (Conservative/Egalitarian)**, services Monday-Friday 7:45 a.m. (9 a.m.—national holidays); 2nd floor Chapel—Jewish Academy of Orlando; 851 N. Maitland Ave., Maitland. For information call 407-298-4650.

**Celebration Jewish Congregation (R)**, services and holiday schedules shown at www.JewishCelebration.org; 407-566-9792.

**Chabad Lubavitch of North Orlando (O)**, 1701 Markham Woods Road, Longwood, 407-636-5994, www.jewishorlando.com; services: Friday 7:00 p.m.; Saturday at 9:30 a.m.

**Chabad of Altamonte Springs (O)**, 414 Spring Valley Lane, Altamonte Springs, 407-280-0535; www.jewishaltamonte.com.

**Chabad of South Orlando (O)**, 7347 Sand Lake Road, Orlando, 407-354-3660; www.jewishorlando.com; Shabbat services: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. and 10 minutes before sunset; Saturday, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday, 8:15 a.m.

**Chabad of the Space & Treasure Coasts (O)**, 1190 Highway A1A, Satellite Beach, 321-777-2770.

**Congregation Ahavas Yisrael/Chabad (O)**, 708 Lake Howell Rd., Maitland, 407-644-2500; www.chabadorlando.org; services: Sunday, 9 a.m.; Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.; Shabbat services: Friday, 6:30 p.m.; Saturday, 9:30 a.m.; Family service, 4th Friday of the month.

**Congregation Bet Chaim (R)**, 181 E. Mitchell Hammock, Oviedo, 407-830-7211; www.betchaim.org; Shabbat services: Friday, 8 p.m.

**Congregation Beth Am (C)**, 3899 Sand Lake Road, Longwood, 407-862-3505; www.congbetham.org; Shabbat services: Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, 9:30 a.m.

**Congregation Beth El (C)**, 2185 Meadowlane Ave., West Melbourne, 321-779-0740; Shabbat services, 1st & 3rd Friday, 8 p.m.; 2nd & 4th Saturdays, 9:30 a.m.

**Congregation Beth Emeth (R)**, 2205 Blue Sapphire Circle, Orlando, 407-222-6393; Shabbat service: monthly, 8 p.m.

**Congregation Beth Israel (Rec)**, Collins Resource Center, Suite 303, 9401 S.R. 200, Ocala, 352-237-8277; bethisraelocala.org; Shabbat service, second Friday of the month, 8 p.m.

**Congregation Beth Shalom (R-C)**, 315 North 13th St., Leesburg, 352-326-3692; www.bethshalomflorida.org; schedule of services on website.

**Congregation Beth Shalom (Progressive Conservative)**, Orange City congregation holds services at 1308 E. Normandy Blvd., Deltona; 386-804-8283; www.mybethshalom.com; Shabbat services: Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.

**Congregation B'nai Torah (C)**, 403 N. Nova Rd., Ormond Beach, 32174, 386-672-1174; www.mybnaitorah.com; Shabbat services: Friday, 8 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.

**Congregation Chabad Lubavitch of Greater Daytona (O)**, 1079 W. Granada Blvd., Ormond Beach, 386-672-9300; Shabbat services Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.

**Congregation of Reform Judaism (R)**, 928 Malone Dr., Orlando, 407-645-0444; www.crjorlando.org; Shabbat services, 7 p.m. 1st, 2nd and 3rd Fridays; 6 p.m., 4th and 5th Fridays; Saturday: 10 a.m.

**Congregation Mateh Chaim (R)**, P.O. Box 060847, Palm Bay, 32906, 321-768-6722.

**Congregation Ohev Shalom (C)**, 613 Concourse Parkway South, Maitland, 407-298-4650; www.ohevshalom.org; Shabbat service, Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, 9:30 a.m.

**Congregation Shalom Aleichem (R)**, 3501 Oak Pointe Blvd., Kissimmee, 407-935-0064; www.shalomaleichem.com; Shabbat service, 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month, 8 p.m.

**Congregation Shomer Yisrael (C)**, 5382 Hoffner Ave., Orlando, 407-227-1258, call for services and holiday schedules.

**Congregation Sinai (C/R)**, 303A N. S.R. 27, Minneola; 352-243-5353; congregation-sinai.org; services: every Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Shabbat Service every Saturday, 10 a.m.

**Orlando Torah Center (O)**, 8591 Banyan Blvd., Orlando; 347-456-6485; Shacharis-Shabbos 9 a.m.; Mon.—Thurs. 6:45 a.m.; Sun. and Legal Holidays 8 a.m.; Mincha/Maariv Please call for times.

**Southwest Orlando Jewish Congregation/Ohalei Rivka (C)**, 11200 S. Apopka-Vineland Rd., Orlando, 407-239-5444; Shabbat service, Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, 9:30 a.m.

**Temple Beth El (R)**, 579 N. Nova Rd., Ormond Beach, 386-677-2484.

**Temple Beth Shalom (R)**, P.O. Box 031233, Winter Haven, 813-324-2882.

**Temple Beth Shalom (C)**, 40 Wellington Drive, Palm Coast, 386-445-3006; Shabbat service, Friday, 8 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.

**Temple Beth Shalom (C)**, 5995 N. Wickham Rd. Melbourne, 321-254-6333; www.mytbs.org; Shabbat services: Friday, 7 p.m.; Saturday: 9:30 a.m. Minyan, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.; Thursday, 10:00 a.m.

**Temple Beth Shalom (R)**, 1109 N.E. 8th Ave., Ocala, 352-629-3587; Shabbat services: Friday, 8 p.m.; Torah study: Saturday, 10:00 a.m.

**Temple B'nai Darom (R)**, 49 Banyan Course, Ocala, 352-624-0380; Friday Services 8 p.m.

**Temple Israel (C)**, 50 S. Moss Rd., Winter Springs, 407-647-3055; www.tiflorida.org; Shabbat services: Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday 9:00 a.m.

**Temple Israel (R)**, 7350 Lake Andrew Drive, Melbourne, 321-631-9494.

**Temple Israel (C)**, 579 N. Nova Road, Ormond Beach, 386-252-3097; Shabbat service, Friday, 7 p.m.; Saturday: 10:30 a.m.

**Temple Israel of DeLand (R)**, 1001 E. New York Ave., DeLand, 386-736-1646; www.templeisraelofdeland.org; Friday Shabbat service, 7 p.m.; Saturday, 10:00 a.m. followed by Torah study.

**Temple Shalom (formerly New Jewish Congregation) (R)**, 13563 Country Road 101, Oxford, 352-748-1800; www.templeshalomcentralfl.org; Shabbat services: Friday, 7 p.m.; last Saturday of the month, 9:30 a.m.

**Temple Shalom of Deltona (R/C)**, 1785 Elkcam Blvd., Deltona, 386-789-2202; www.shalomdeltona.org; Shabbat service; Saturday: 10 a.m.

**Temple Shir Shalom (R)** Services held at Temple Israel, 50 S. Moss Rd., Winter Springs, 407-366-3556, www.templeshirshalom.org; Shabbat services: three Fridays each month, 7:30 p.m.

**Traditional Congregation of Mount Dora (T)** Mount Dora, 352-735-4774; www.tcomd.org; Shabbat services: Saturday, 9:30 a.m. sharp.

(R) Reform (C) Conservative (O) Orthodox (Rec) Reconstructionist (T) Mehitsa

## Lifecycles 5778

### B'nai Mitzvah

Kathryn "Katie" Rose Botwinik  
Audrey Kaye Brennan  
Stella Haiden Cohen  
Benjamin David Colley  
Morgan Ackerbaum Cox  
Jonathan David Eichenholz  
Joshua Glasser  
Rebecca Hayaliah Kira  
Charles Edward Lehr  
Jonah Ruben Podberesky  
Samuel Ethan Poteshman  
Lily Paige Rebar  
Evan Lawrence Richman  
Lou Aaron Tauber

### Engagements

Alexa Lindsay Zazik and Alexander Stuart Bourne

### Obituaries

Ruth Abels  
Ruth Katz Aronson  
Nanette Babenzien  
Celle M Basch  
Nancy R. Behrman  
Opal Claire Benson  
Frances Bercov  
Alan B. Berman  
Theresa Frankel Bernstein  
Ruth K. Birman  
Lisa Ann Black  
Lorraine R. Buxbaum  
Zvi (Steve) Chamu  
Leah Codron  
Robert Cohen  
Ira Daitzman  
Golda Dansker  
Joseph Davids  
Joseph Ira Denberg  
Herman Milton Disler  
Albert Elman  
David Jack Epstein  
Zachary "Zach" Farber  
Brenda "Bunny" Feldman  
Celia Feldman  
Dr. Marc M. Feldman  
Sarah Shirley Finer  
David Fitzer  
Harold Forman  
Rita F. Geller  
Rosalie Glenn  
Shirley Gold  
Jack B. Goldman  
Lewis N. Goldman  
Leah T. Goldsmith  
Etta Flaster Goldstein  
Howard Mark Goldstein  
Melvyn R. Goldstein  
Rabbi Arthur Grae  
Dr. Jonathan Greenberg  
Susan Cecelia Murfin Greene  
Ira M. Grell  
Julius A. Haberman  
Anita L. Hara  
Joseph Hara  
Charles David Harris  
Maxine Hayt

Bernice Hecht  
Barbara Lee Herman  
Lt. Col USAF (Ret) Joseph J. Herman  
Dr. Barry J. Kaplan  
Nina Rebecca Karlinsky  
Pearl Katz  
Rose Kellman  
Ira Kirsch  
Harriett Lake  
Harold S. Landey  
Henri Landwirth  
Rae Louis Lawrence  
Karen L. Lipkind  
Betty Loomas  
Elaine Markowitz  
Doris Mazer  
\*Sidney Mehr  
Inez Mishler-Berg  
Alan B. Mogul  
Charlotte F. Nathan  
Lois G. Parness  
Berny Raff  
Sylvia Rapp  
Phyllis Muriel Rosenfield  
\*Emanuel Rosenthal  
Bernard Rubin  
Myrtle Rebecca Skop Rutberg  
Norman Salinsky  
Alvin M. Sarnoff  
Helayne Schreiber  
Ira Silver  
Joel M. Siskind  
June B. Solomon  
Sheila Marie Sorkin  
Elly G. Soski  
Carolyn Sprung  
Gene Starn  
Gerald William Steinfeld  
Arnold Howard Travitsky  
Dr. Brent Harold Weinman  
\*Stanley A. Weinroth  
Bertha Weinstein  
Cecilia Roth Weissberger  
Laura J. Winton  
Naomi (Bobbi) Ava Jackson Wise  
Sharon "Sherry" Eisen Wright

\*Those names with stars passed away between the time the Heritage's Rosh Hashanah issue came out and the actual beginning of Rosh Hashanah.



# Scene Around

By Gloria Yousha—Call 407-657-9405 or gloriayousha@gmail.com

**A special date...**

Today, Sept. 7, my beloved spouse, Irv and his twin brother, Jack, were born. Irv and I were married for 55 years until his death on Aug. 20, 2015. Life goes on... barely.

I also just received a message on my cell phone that said U.S. Senator John McCain has died. How sad! I had so much respect for Senator McCain, he will be sorely missed by me and by the entire country (and maybe even the world.) May he rest in peace.

**French justice...**

I read this recently about the murder of a Holocaust survivor (that I wrote about in one of my columns recently) and I pass it along to you:

“Two men have been indicted for the murder in March of 85 year old Mireille Knoll, a handicapped Holocaust survivor, who was found dead in her Paris apartment. She had been stabbed 11 times and set on fire. One of those arrested was a 27 year old neighbor of Knoll whom the victim had known since he was seven years old.



*Mireille Knoll*

Shortly after, the Paris Prosecutor’s Office opened an official inquiry for ‘murder motivated by the real or presumed religion of the victim, and against a vulnerable person.’ Leaders of the Jewish community insisted that authorities treat the killing as an anti-Semitic hate crime.

**We remember...**

More than 650 million people from 155 countries were reached in the World Jewish Congress 2018 “We Remember” campaign, which urged people to photograph themselves holding a sign reading #We Remember, post the image to social media and share.

The campaign, which included heads of state, celebrities, religious leaders and average citizens, culminated on International Holocaust Remembrance Day with participant photos streamed live on a projection screen on the grounds of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

**Give yourself a break...**

On Saturday, Sept. 8, from 5:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m., you can send your kids (ages 18 months to Grade 5) to the JCC while you enjoy a night on the town.

The young-uns will have activities, games, crafts, dinner, and a movie!

(Att: Robby. I am begging you to invite me!!!!)

**I love dogs...**

(But you knew that already.) I also love my dog’s primary care doctor, CHANTAL M. JONES, D.V.M., at McAbee Veterinary Hospital. She is loving, skilled and just perfect! (I want her for my primary doctor!)

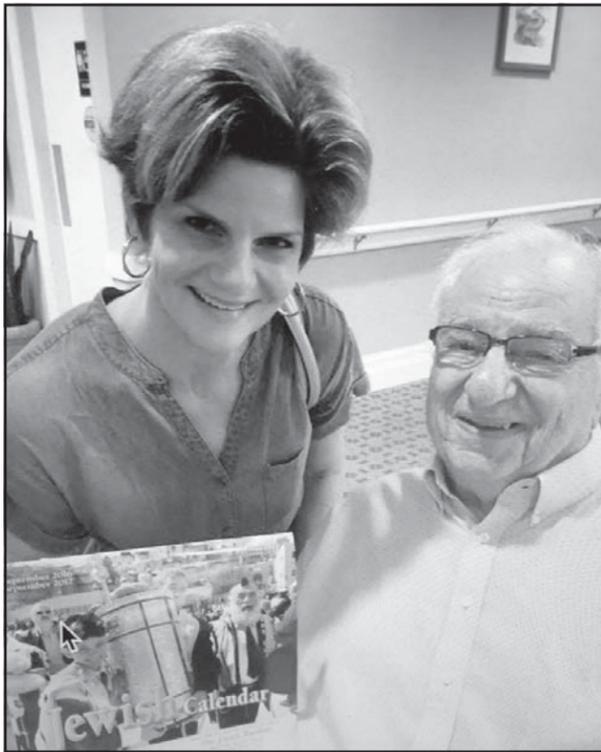
Oh yes... if you want to help homeless pets, please give to your local shelter.

**Jewish Pavilion mensch...**

The Jewish Pavilion gives special thanks to EMILY NEWMAN who worked as a program director for the JP for seven years and a program assistant for three years. She also staffed the Orlando Senior Help Desk for several years, answering calls and providing advice to hundreds of families.

Over the years, Emily has developed positive relationships with more than a thousand seniors in elder care. She has touched their lives and brought them joy. Some of the people she visited in skilled nursing had no family and Emily was their only contact outside of their building.

Emily made sure that elders were not forgotten by the Jewish community, She insured that they were visited and participated



*Emily Newman (l) and Berny Raff.*

in Shabbat and holiday festivals. Emily coordinated a team of dedicated volunteers who served as companions, service leaders, musicians and mahjong players.

NANCY LUDIN, executive director of the Jewish Pavilion, said that Emily was very devoted, talented, efficient, bright and reliable. She developed very positive relationships with seniors, staff in facilities and volunteers. Emily will be succeeded by SUSAN BERNSTEIN, who was an incredible volunteer for the Jewish Pavilion for many years. Ludin added, “We are so thankful that Emily was able to train Susan and be available to answer questions and provide direction as new situations arise.

(Emily is much more than a mensch... maybe a SUPER MENSCH!!)

**Shout-out...**

Lately I’ve been to TooJays in Altamonte Springs, because I love their matzo ball soup. The latest waiter was JOHN HUFF, an efficient, pleasant and caring server... and also a handsome guy! (I can say that because I am elderly!)

**JCC 39ers...**

There will be no Cinema Sunday film on Sept. 9 as it is Erev Rosh Hashanah.

**More 39ers...**

On Terrific Thursday, Sept. 13, in the JCC Senior Lounge at 1:30 p.m., there will be two book reviews directed by LOIS LILLING.

“Moving Day” by Stone and “The Seven Sisters” by Lucinda Riley.

**One for the road...**

Moshe was at his golf club and went into the clubhouse to see whether anyone could offer him a lift to his home. His own car was off the road being serviced.

“Sure,” said Morry, “I’ll give you a lift. My Rolls Royce is just outside.”

As they’re driving along, Moshe says, “Morry, what’s that thing on the dashboard ticking all the time?” “That’s my digital clock.”

A few minutes later, Moshe asks, “And what’s that thing on the dashboard moving up and down?”

“That’s my tachometer,” says Morry.

Then a few minutes after that, Moshe starts to ask, “But what’s that...”

“Hold on a minute, Moshe,” says Morry, “I can see you’ve never been in a Rolls Royce before.”

“Never in the front seat.” says Moshe. (Neither have I!!)

## Tracey Kagan wins Democratic Primary in Florida House District 29

LONGWOOD—Tracey Kagan, Democrat for State Representative District 29, won her primary election on Tuesday by a 2:1 margin.

Kagan, a Ruth’s List endorsed candidate, defeated her primary opponent, Darryl Block, with 66.8 percent of the vote in all 34 precincts. She is veteran criminal defense attorney, community activist and a

Seminole County mother of three.

She will now face Rep. Scott Plakon, the Republican incumbent, in the general election on Nov. 6, 2018.

“This win is a pinch-me moment and a dream come true,” said Kagan. “It is also the culmination of months of speaking with the voters of District 29, knocking doors, calling and really listening.

What I heard is that our families care passionately about public education, affordable healthcare, common-sense gun legislation and protecting our environment. I’ve lived in Seminole County for more than two decades, and those are the issues that matter most to me too—and the reasons I’m running.



*Kagan on page 22A*

*Tracey Kagan*



can be purchased at the following locations:

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**SEMINOLE COUNTY**

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Federation of Volusia/Flagler, 470 Andalusia Ave., Ormond Beach • Most Publix Supermarkets • All Winn Dixie Supermarkets • Barnes & Noble, 1900 W. International Speedway Blvd., Daytona Beach • Perrys Ocean Edge Resort, 2209 South Atlantic Ave. Daytona Beach • Debary City Hall • Debary Library • Vienna Coffee House, 275 Charles Richard Beall Bl • Starbucks, 2575 Enterprise Rd • Orange City City Hall • Orange City Library • Dunkin Donuts, 1296 S Woodland • Stetson University Carlton Union • Deland Chamber of Commerce • Sterling House, 1210 Stone St • Temple Israel, 1001 E New York Ave • Beth Shalom, 1310 Maximillan St • Deltona City Hall • Deltona Library • Temple Shalom, 1785 Elkam Dr. • Temple Israel, 1001 E New York Ave, Deland • College Arms Apt, 101 Amelia Ave, Deland • Boston Gourmet Coffee House, 109 E. New York Ave, Deland • Stetson University Carlton Union, 421 N Woodland Ave, Deland • Family Bookstore, 1301 N Woodland Ave, Deland • Deland Chamber of Commerce, 336 Woodland Ave, Deland • Deland City Hall, 120 S Florida Ave, Deland • Beth Shalom, 206 S. Sprng Garden Ave, Deland • Orange City Library, 148 Albertus Way, Orange City • Boston Gourmet Coffee House, 1105 Saxon Blvd, Deltona • Deltona Library, 2150 Eustace Ave, Deltona • Temple Shalom, 1785 Elkam Dr., Deltona • Deltona Community Center, 980 Lakeshore Dr, Deltona • Debary City Hall, 16 Colomba Rd, Debary • Debary Library, 200 Florence K. Little, Debary

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**Sudoku (see page 20A for solution)**

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# Rosh Hashanah message from the Jewish Academy of Orlando



Alan Rusonik

Many people are familiar with the “Aleinu” prayer recited at the conclusion of each Jewish prayer service. I would even venture to say that it is one of the favorite prayers of the Jewish people because it indicates that services are coming to an end. What many people don’t realize is that this ancient prayer was originally only recited as part of the High Holiday liturgy. It was so popular that the rabbis decided to incorporate it as the concluding prayer of our daily service. During Aleinu we bend our knees and bow in prayer as

a symbol of our dedication and commitment to G-d. The prayer also contains the phrase “L’Taken Olam B’Malchut Shaddai” which means “to repair the world in G-d’s sovereignty.” From this phrase, we have derived the more familiar concept of Tikkun Olam, the call to the Jewish people to repair our broken and fractured world in partnership with the Torah’s teachings. This call for universal justice has been a clarion call of the Jewish people since ancient times.

At Jewish Academy of Orlando, one of our core

values is leadership. The core value reads “We empower students to become leaders and challenge them to go out and change the world through the concept of Tikkun Olam.” Jewish day schools have been nurturing the leaders of our Jewish communities for decades. Around the country, graduates of Jewish day schools are the leaders of their Federations, JCCs, synagogues and other communal organizations. Studies indicate that Jewish day school graduates tend to give more Tzedakah, support Israel and are engaged in the

community at a higher level than their peers who did not attend Jewish day school. The idea of Tikkun Olam is at the core of everything we teach and do at Jewish Academy. It is the message that we bless our students with each and every day. As in the Aleinu prayer, we teach our students that it is incumbent on each and every one of them to make our world a better place, to look at the world around them and say “how can I make a difference?” At Jewish Academy, we encourage our students to change the world, one good deed at

a time. This is what has made Jewish Academy of Orlando a unique and special place in our community for over 40 years.

May this New Year be a year of peace and righteousness, and may we all work together to repair our broken world. L’Shana Tova Tikatevu V’Techatemu! May you be written and inscribed in the Book of Life for a year of health and wholeness! May this be a year of learning and growing for you and all of your loved ones!

Alan Rusonik, head of school

## A great beginning for Hillel at Stetson—L’Shana Tova and go Hatters!

I have to confess something—when I was in college, I did not go to Hillel. I made a deal with my mother that I would go once a semester for a bagel brunch or a Shabbat dinner, but after fall of my freshmen year I decided it wasn’t for me (sorry Mom). Even five years ago when I moved to the Orlando area to help restart Central Florida Hillel I was

skeptical. Does Hillel work? Does it have an impact? Can a truly welcoming and inclusive community really exist on a college campus?

Through no small amount of coaching, and an even larger amount of patience, my friend and mentor, Aaron Weil (whose High Holiday message I imagine is somewhere near here), I came to see the impact

that a truly exceptional Hillel can have. Notably, that excellent Hillels develop excellent students, who foster excellence on campus, and it’s inspiring to watch an excellent Hillel develop at Stetson.

In the past few months, Stetson Hillel has hosted:

- The first Shavuot celebration in the history of the university where Jewish and non-Jewish students came to eat cheesecake, celebrate Shavuot, and discuss commandments and values together.

- The largest Shabbat dinner in the history of the university, with 1/3 of the Jewish population in attendance, the president and her husband joining us, and a spirit that can only come when you’re experiencing something magical.

- A back to school BBQ where over 80 hot dogs, 40 hamburgers and tons of chips

and sodas were consumed in the sprawling yard of the Stetson Hillel House.

- A weekly values-based “Jew Wanna Talk About It?” discussion series where students come to discuss Jewish values and how they relate to each themselves, to the campus, and to the greater Jewish community.

Looking ahead, Stetson Hillel has a full program of holidays, events, shindigs, get-togethers, meals parties and other opportunities for Jews on campus to be together including:

- Weekly Shabbat dinners
- High Holiday meals and services for Rosh HaShanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot and Simchat Torah

- A water cleanup, as part of the statewide Reverse Tashlich program developed by Hillels of the Florida Suncoast

- Delegations, the first in the history of Stetson, to the JNF College Summit in Arizona, and the AIPAC SabanART training in New Jersey

- A Chanukah bar night to celebrate the end of the semester, celebrate Chanukah, and add our own light to the world

We are also developing our first AIPAC Cadre (HatterPAC), working on bringing Jewish Greek life to campus, and beginning discussions with campus catering on ensuring students who keep Kosher have options to eat on campus with their meal plan. It’s an exciting time, and it’s a busy time, and you’re welcome to join us.

Soyes, Hillel does work, and at Stetson it’s off to a great start; the community we are developing is meaningful, inclusive, and welcoming. As we go into 5779 may



Sam Friedman

the knowledge that even in DeLand, Florida, Judaism matters, allow us all to have a good year. L’Shana Tova, and Go Hatters!

Sam Friedman, Hillel director



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# New Year's greeting from Central Florida Hillel



**Aaron Weil**

It's that time of the year again when roughly 350,000 Jewish college students will be facing the High Holidays away



**Dana Bial**

from home. Whether for the very first time or just returning for another year of school, this is a time of the year when

Central Florida Hillel is at its busiest. The High Holidays present a perfect opportunity for young Jewish adults to get together, whether they are observant or completely secular. The social aspects of the holiday combined with our famously abundant, delicious kosher food create a special place for students to gather and enjoy the benefits of community. Our synagogue partners in the community—like Congregation Ohev Shalom, Congregation of Reform Judaism and Temple Israel—open up their doors as well for our students that prefer an environment more like their shuls and temples back home.

These offerings weren't always available here in Orlando and, as 5778 is making

way for 5779, it is impressive to consider how just one year has changed so much on our campuses here in Central Florida.

This time last year, there was no Hillel staff at Rollins College and now we have an associate director of Jewish Student Life, Emily Block, who is leading a movement to create a vibrant, dynamic and sustainable Jewish community. This was highlighted when on Passover, President Grant Cornwell became the first president in Rollins' 130-year history to host a Passover seder at Barker House.

This time last year, there was no Hillel staff at Stetson University and now they have Sam Friedman (formerly our assistant director) as the first

Hillel director at Florida's oldest university. There are literally more programs in the next two weeks at Stetson than there were almost all of last year and they are just getting started.

This time last year, there was no Israel Fellow to serve our campuses here in Central Florida. Now we have Nirit Gelfer who will be working with our students to educate the campus community about Israel.

This time last year, we had no rabbi to provide for the spiritual needs of our students. This year, we have an amazing partnership with Yehudi which brought us Rabbi Yisrael and Tamar Abisror whose beautiful home just down the street from campus is already being filled

with students who are eager to learn more about their heritage, as well as experience the feeling of being in a home away from home.

At the board level this time last year, we were still evolving from a nascent board to a more expansive model. Under the leadership of Board Chair Dana Bial, the board approved a new set of bylaws, introduced a committee structure where every board member serves, and inaugurated the agency's first strategic plan so that the organization that is the gateway for young adults coming into our community, can prepare a path for sustainability for the future.

*Dana Bial, Hillel Board chair  
Aaron Weil, CEO*

## Kinneret residents reminisce about High Holidays past



**Carol Feuerman**

In the next few days we'll celebrate Rosh Hashanah and



**Rhonda Pearlman**

herald in the new year 5779. It is a time of renewal and



**Sharon F. Weil**

of family—filled with good food, traditions and wishes,

hopes and prayers for the future.

While the holiday is best known by the name "Rosh Hashanah," which literally means "head of the year," in the Torah the holiday is called "Zichron Truah," which roughly translates as "Memory Blast." Additionally, the only mitzvah, or commandment, that is directly connected with this holiday is to hear the blast of the shofar. Why is the Jewish New Year actually a memorial day? And why is the only commandment of this day to listen to a simple blast from the shofar?

According to tradition, on Rosh Hashanah the past is

brought to the fore, and God remembers us, our deeds and our actions. But I believe God isn't the only one who remembers; this is a time when we can also "remember ourselves."

Intertwined with memory is an element of judgment and personal responsibility, a defining characteristic of Rosh Hashanah. By remembering, we compare between the past and the present, between our hopes and expectations and the way they played out in reality. We don't just think of the past, we re-live the moment. When we remember the people, the places and the experiences that impacted us the most, we are whisked

back to that moment and we experience it again.

I had the opportunity to talk with some of our residents as they shared their memories of the High Holidays. Memories can have a significant impact on our day-to-day lives, and when reminiscing, these women were transported to the past, re-lived the moments, and in that space, were able to bridge the gap between past and present.

"When I was 12 years old," Bernice Landis reminisced, "Israel became a country. A man came to services to talk about the new country and gather donations. My

*Kinneret on page 22A*

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## 2018-2019 High Holiday greetings from the Jewish Pavilion



**Nancy Ludin, CEO**

Picture a pretty welcome table in the lobby with Jewish calendars, apples and honey. Imagine a front desk clerk wishing all Jewish residents and their family members a happy New Year. Think about a holiday menu with challah, noodle pudding, tzimmes and apple cake. While these things were once unimaginable in Orlando, they are occurring today in over 70 elder-care communities thanks to the Jewish Pavilion. Seniors who are no longer able to travel to shul can celebrate the High Holidays with their friends



**Faye Novick, Board chair**

in their buildings. Elders, like Sylvia Cohen, who just moved to senior living, will hear the shofar for the first time in many years. The Jewish Pavilion steps in as a "mobile community center on wheels." We have been bringing community, culture and companionship to the doorsteps of senior living communities since 2001, serving as a resource that provides room visits, festive holiday celebrations, intergenerational and memorial programs to 500 Jewish residents in more than 70

facilities for your mom's and dad's in long-term care. We also offer Jewish cultural education to their staff through our training program. The Jewish Pavilion promotes inclusion as loneliness knows no cultural borders, and thousands of seniors of all faiths attend and are welcomed into our programs each year. [www.jewishpavilionn.org](http://www.jewishpavilionn.org)

Our Senior Help Desk has assisted thousands of callers navigate their way through the daunting senior maze, alleviating caregiver stress while giving advice on all types of elder issues. [www.orlandoseniorhelpdesk.org](http://www.orlandoseniorhelpdesk.org)

Please join us for our 18th (Chai) anniversary at our gala this year on Sunday, Oct. 28 at the Hilton in Altamonte Springs. We will be honoring Jason Mendelsohn and Paul Stenzler and celebrating all that has happened over the past 18 years to enhance the lives of our elders and their families.

The Jewish Pavilion staff and volunteers wishes everyone a happy and healthy New Year!

*Faye Novick, Board chair, and Nancy Ludin, CEO*

# HERITAGE FLORIDA JEWISH NEWS

## L'Shana Tova

**From all of us at the Heritage.**

- Jeffrey Gaeser**
- Christine DeSouza**
- Kim Fischer**
- Gloria Yousha**
- Paulette Alfonso**
- Joyce Gore**
- Gil Dombrosky**
- David Lehman**

## Here's to a promising new year with the Jewish Federation

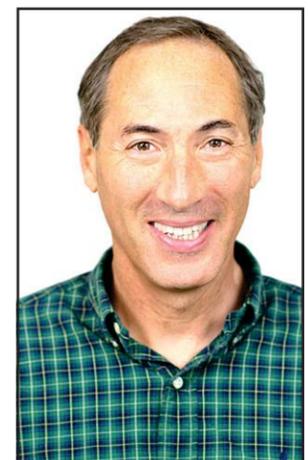
Shalom, friends, On behalf of the staff and Board of Directors of the Jewish Federation of Greater Orlando, I wish you a sweet New Year 5779!

Just over a month ago, I was elected president of the Federation, and during our annual meeting I discussed our strategic plan to refine and modernize Orlando's Federation model to better serve the modern local Jewish community.

As we embark on a promising new year, it is apropos to reaffirm the principles that will fuel our progress in the months ahead.

The Federation mission is built on four core objectives that we strive to achieve every day on your behalf: Advocating, Connecting, Educating and Supporting. It is our goal that every Federation initiative fulfill at least one—and, ideally, all four—of these objectives.

One such example is the recently announced community demographic study and needs assessment. The Federation, working in collaboration with The Roth Family JCC, is in the process of securing the funding to launch this comprehensive study, the first in a quarter-



**Brad Jacobs**

century. The project will be funded exclusively by donors who are enthusiastic about vision planning and our future, and the results will be shared with all of our synagogues and Jewish organizations so that we all are attuned to the needs of our modern Jewish community. The Federation is proud to be a catalyst for this initiative, which will benefit all Jews in Central Florida for decades to come.

Our goal is for every member of our community to have the ability to participate in Jewish experiences, regardless of affiliation, generation or economic status. We can achieve that goal if we all approach the new year, and every new day, with a collective commitment to stand unified, confident and strong in support of the Jewish values we share.

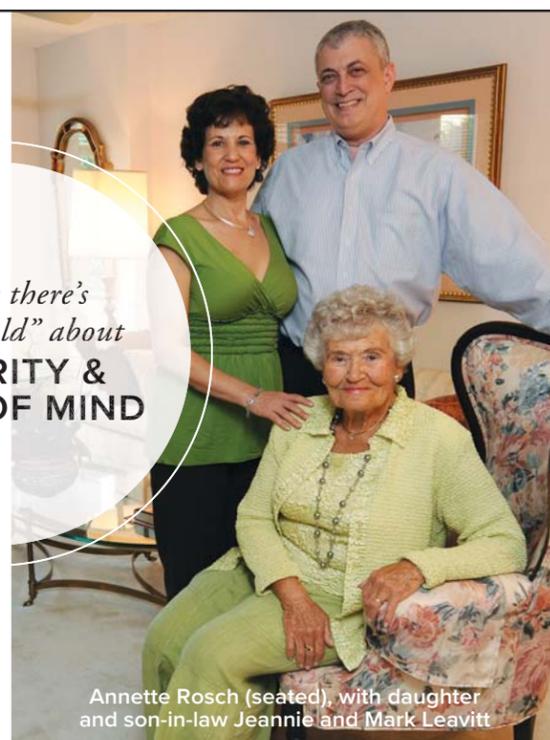
As we enter 5779, let us pledge to do all we can to nurture and celebrate Jewish life. I invite you to join the Federation on its mission to build and sustain a bright future for Jews in Central Florida, in Israel and around the world.

*L'Shana tova umetukah, Brad Jacobs, president*



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Annette Rosch (seated), with daughter and son-in-law Jeannie and Mark Leavitt

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88141 PRAD FHJN 9/2017

# Jewish Pavilion brings the flavors of the High Holidays to seniors

By Lisa Levine

Ask people what they look forward to as the High Holidays approach, and most will respond with descriptions of a treasured family recipe for apple-honey cake or a steaming bowl of matzoh ball soup, redolent of dill, carrots and chives.

For residents of senior living facilities, especially those who are ill or who do not have family in town, going to synagogue and sharing traditional holiday foods with family are not possible. So the Jewish Pavilion brings Jewish holidays and Jewish culture and Jewish food to facility-bound Jewish seniors. When they can't come to the Jewish community, it

brings the Jewish community to them.

Weeks before the holidays begin, the Pavilion's four program directors send out packets to activity directors, chefs, and other administrators at the buildings whose Jewish programming they oversee. The packets explain the approaching holidays and detail when and how they are celebrated, giving the dates for special programs the Jewish Pavilion is hosting at their buildings.

They also explain the significance of traditional holiday foods such as round challah and apples with honey in celebration of the holidays and suggest setting special holiday tables for Jewish resi-

dents. To ensure the facilities understand what residents will expect at holiday meals, sample Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur break-fast menus with detailed recipes are included.

The facility staff, many of whom are not Jewish, appreciate the guidance because it helps them to make their Jewish residents feel more at home. Sonata West, a newly built facility that opened just after last year's High Holidays, is planning a lovely Rosh Hashanah banquet this year, following on the success of its Passover seder meal this past spring. Ashley Baptista, lifestyle director at Sonata West, said that Chef Juan Garcia, who heads their

kitchen, is planning a full dinner with challah, matzoh ball soup, brisket, kugel and carrot tzimmes.

It's a highly anticipated meal: "We've already had quite a few of our Jewish residents RSVP and ask if they can bring their families," said Baptista in August. Walter Goldstein, the Pavilion's program director for south Orlando, will be on hand to conduct the program and has high praise for Baptista and the Sonata West staff, who he said are really responsive and work hard to make his programs, including his monthly Shabbat programs, a great success.

"I enjoy doing this for the residents, and what I really like about when Walter comes in is that he includes everyone, not just our Jewish residents," said Baptista. "It makes it fun for everyone."

Brookdale Altamonte's activities director, Rich Besser, is Jewish, and each year he puts a great deal of effort into making the High Holidays special. "He gets one of his residents to decorate a gorgeous table," noted Nancy Ludin, the Pavilion's executive director. "In the past, he's had a resident who was a professional decorator. They go shopping together and buy things to make it special. It's a really big production."

Besser brings in roasted chicken from Publix and has the kitchen staff make matzoh ball soup. Each year, Jewish Pavilion volunteers and staff



The Jewish Pavilion works with senior living facilities to bring Jewish residents a festive holiday table with traditional dishes such as matzoh ball soup.

members supplement this holiday banquet with homemade specialties from their own kitchens. Past meals have featured Bernice Davis' honey cake, Pat Rubenstein's brisket and other kind contributions. This year, Ludin's own tzimmes and delicacies from a few volunteers will add homemade holiday flavors to the meal.

themselves provide their own family recipes for the chefs to prepare. For example, Helen Tishman, who passed away some time ago, "used to go down to the kitchen a month before the holidays and hand the chef at Brookdale Island Lake all of her recipes for the holidays," recalled Ludin. "She insisted that they make it

Sometimes the residents

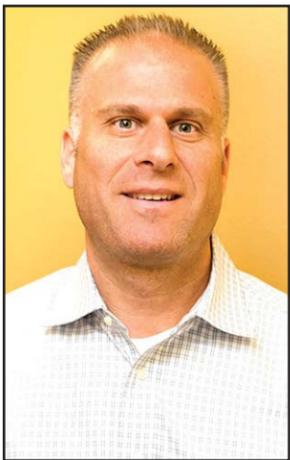
Pavilion on page 22A

## Jewish Pavilion's 2018 High Holiday Schedule

Join the Jewish Pavilion program directors and volunteers for a High Holiday service at any of these locations. The services are open to all. If you are looking for an address, please visit The Jewish Pavilion website, [www.jewishpavilion.org](http://www.jewishpavilion.org) and click on facilities.

Sept. 7	11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Brookdale Dr. Phillips II
Sept. 7	noon-1 p.m.	Brookdale Lake Orienta
Sept. 7	1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.	Brookdale Lake Mary
Sept. 7	2 p.m.-3 p.m.	Life Care of Altamonte
Sept. 7	3 p.m.-4 p.m.	Lake Mary Health & Rehab
Sept. 7	3 p.m.-4 p.m.	Oakmonte Village Siena
Sept. 7	4 p.m.-5 p.m.	Brookdale Island Lake
Sept. 10	10 a.m.-11 a.m.	Mayflower (downstairs)
Sept. 10	10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.	Inspired Living
Sept. 10	1 p.m.-noon	Brookdale Ocoee
Sept. 10	5 p.m.-6 p.m.	Oakmonte Village Valencia/Cordova
Sept. 12	10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.	Westchester/Regents
Sept. 12	1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.	Savannah Court Oviedo
Sept. 13	5 p.m.-6 p.m.	Sonata West
Sept. 14	10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.	Encore at Avalon Park
Sept. 14	noon-1 p.m.	Grand Villa
Sept. 14	1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.	Allegro
Sept. 14	3 p.m.-4 p.m.	Mayflower Country Kitchen
Sept. 14	3 p.m.-4 p.m.	Village on the Green
Sept. 14	4 p.m.-5 p.m.	Atria
Sept. 14	4 p.m.-5 p.m.	Westminster Winter Park Towers
Sept. 17	10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.	Westminster Towers
Sept. 20	1 p.m.-2 p.m.	Kinneret
Sept. 24	10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.	The Watercrest of Lake Nona
Sept. 28	10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.	Plantation Oaks

## L'shana tova u'metukah from the Rosen JCC



Brett Spector

5778 was another spectacular year for the Rosen JCC. We saw continued growth in our early childhood, summer camp and senior adult programs, and increased membership, event rentals and community reach. Highlights include:

- Reaching new highs in early childhood enrollment (over 200 children) and summer camp enrollment (over 400 children). We also opened our new state-of-the-art Noah's Ark Infant Room.

- Programmatic partnerships with the Orlando Repertory Theatre, Orlando Science Center, Orlando City Soccer and Orlando Magic.
- The celebration of Israel's



Eric Lightman

70th anniversary at Lake Eola Park, in partnership with The Roth Family JCC, made possible by the Jewish Federation of Greater Orlando.

- Creative programming for our senior adult group, including a visit to the 1892 World's Fair in Chicago, a virtual cruise on the Mediterranean and an "April in Paris" tea party.

While we take time during the holidays to reflect on the past year we also begin to look forward to the coming one. Rosh Hashanah is a time for both individual and organizational renewal. As we complete our campus' first decade in operation and build toward our 10th anniversary, we think about the

community and values that have sustained our amazing growth.

We thank you for your support of the Rosen JCC as we celebrate 5778 and look forward to 5779. We wish you and your family health, happiness and a sweet New Year.

*Brett Spector, president  
Eric Lightman, interim executive director*

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5779



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*From all of your friends at The Roth Family JCC*



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**Jewish Community Center  
of Greater Orlando**

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rosh hashanah and yom kippur 2018**

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Rosh Hashanah orders can be picked up by Saturday, September 8th  
Yom Kippur orders can be picked up by Tuesday, September 18th  
All products are homemade on the premises!!!  
Under the Rabbinical supervision of the Orlando Council.  
Restaurant not kosher, all meat products not kosher

**rosh hashanah menu**

**appetizer**

- Chopped Chicken Liver \$3.99/8oz.
- Matzo Ball Soup \$8.98/qt
- Mini kasha knish \$1.49 ea
- Mock Chicken Liver \$2.99/8oz.

**side dishes**

- Mini Potato Knish \$.99 ea
- Large Potato Knish \$2.00ea
- Mini Broc Chedd Knish \$1.49ea
- Mini spinach feta knish \$1.49 ea

**desserts**

- Rugulach 18 to # \$9.99/lb
- (chocolate chip, nut raisin, raspberry)
- Gourmet Honey Cake \$8.99 loaf
- Almond Sponge Cake \$4.99 loaf
- Marble Sponge Cake \$4.99 loaf
- Chocolate sponge cake \$4.99 loaf
- Plain Sponge Cake \$4.99 loaf
- Mandel Bread \$4.99 loaf
- Chocolate covered macaroons \$9.99/lb
- chocolate & vanilla lace cookies \$9.99
- Peanut butter buckeye \$12.00/dz
- Mini Black -n- Whites \$9.00dz
- Mini Linzer Tarts \$9.00dz
- Mini almond horns \$9.00dz
- Round Challah \$4.49 ea
- With raisin \$4.99 ea
- Kugel (Apricot topped) \$34.99/1/2 pan
- Rainbow Cookies \$9.99/lb

**bagel king break fast menu  
Fresh fish menu**

- Baked Salmon Salad \$7.99/half lb
- White Fish Salad \$7.99/half lb
- Herring Salad \$3.99/half lb
- Herring in Cream Sauce \$3.99/half lb
- Tuna Salad \$4.49/half lb
- Egg Salad \$3.49/half lb
- Garlicky Hummus \$3.99/half lb
- Roasted red pepper hummus \$3.99/half lb
- Chunky Nova or smooth lox Spread \$3.99/half lb
- Whole White Fish (3 to 4 pounds) \$5.99/half lb
- Fresh Sliced Lox or Nova \$15.99/half lb

**bagels** 24 Varieties \$9.99 dz Miniature Bagels \$6.00 dz  
Always 13 to a dozen



**fresh fish kings feast**

This eye catching platter features fresh sliced smoked salmon nova, cream cheese, lettuce, tomato, and sweet onion, cucumbers, black olives and an assortment of bagels and bialys  
\$13.99 per guest  
With Tuna and Egg Salad \$17.99 per guest  
10 person minimum

**Scrumptious dessert platter "all miniature"**

Honey Cake, Sponge Cake, Rainbow Cookies, Chinese Almond Cookies, Mandel Bread, Black and Whites, Linzer Tarts, Almond Horns, cheese pillows, Rugulach, Brownies, Chocolate covered macaroons, peanut butter buckeyes  
\$3.99 per person (3-4 pieces per guest)  
10 person minimum  
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**high holiday dinners! just heat, serve, and enjoy!**

- Juicy beef brisket "melt in your mouth"
- Or Herb encrusted chicken breast
- Double Smashed Mashed Potatoes
- Mushroom barley
- Roasted vegetables
- Matzo ball soup
- Chicken Liver served with vegetable crudites
- Gourmet salad of your choice
- 10 person minimum —\$22.99 per guest



Support our elders by attending  
**Gems & Jeans (our Chai Anniversary Gala)**  
Honoring Jason Mendelsohn & Paul Stenzler  
Sunday, October 28th at 5 p.m. at the  
Hilton in Altamonte Springs

*The Jewish Pavilion's staff and volunteers  
wish the community  
a happy and healthy New Year!*

Call (407) 678-9363  
421 Montgomery Road Suite 131  
Altamonte Springs, FL 32714



Visit our websites: [www.jewishpavilion.org](http://www.jewishpavilion.org)  
and [www.orlandoseniorhelpdesk.org](http://www.orlandoseniorhelpdesk.org)

# Hillel

Central Florida

From all of us at Central Florida Hillel,  
we wish you and your families a  
**Happy and Sweet New Year!**

Thank you one and all for investing in  
us and believing in the future of our  
Jewish community in Orlando.



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our new partnership  
with Yehudi Orlando,  
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New for 2018,  
our new  
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# 5778 Community Year in Review



**Central Florida Jewish Film Festival committee, (l-r) Jay Glick, Dolores Indek, Harriet Weiss, Risa Tetenbaum and Sheila Greenspoon.**

**September 2017**

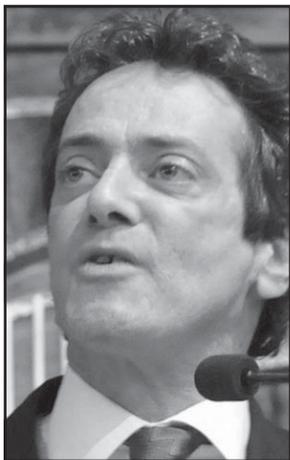
Myrtle Skop Rutberg, z"l, celebrated her 106th birthday with 360 women at Chabad's annual Mega Challah Bake. She left us on Aug. 8, 2018, just shy of the new year. She would have been 107 on Sept. 17.

Hurricane Irma had come pounding on Central Florida's door, causing damage and power losses throughout the community. JFS Orlando was ready to assist any and all who needed food, counseling and emergency financial assistance.

The Central Florida Jewish Film Festival committee spent hours reviewing films to be featured at The Roth Family JCC's very successful three-day event.

**October 2017**

Congregation Ohev Shalom's senior rabbi, Aaron Rubinger, stepped down from his position, stating that it was a "good time for a change." He assumed the title of rabbi emeritus.



**Rabbi Aaron Rubinger**

The Jewish Pavilion brought together many of the community's talented musicians and held a "toe-tapping, finger-snapping" Music Fest. This first-time musical event featured Carol Stein, Michael and Ben Kramer, Barbara Jones, Cantor Jacqueline Rawiszer, Howard Herman, Penny D'Agostino, Walter "Sky" Goldstein and Paul Stenzler who showcased music from jazz to Broadway.

Compared to national norms, Jewish Academy of Orlando students are ahead of their peers. For the third straight year, JAO students were shown to be performing at least two grade levels ahead of their peers, according to the results of the Iowa Test of Basic Skills.

Gov. Rick Scott came to The Roth Family JCC to announce his proposal of \$1 million to provide extra security to Jewish day schools throughout Florida.

**November 2017**



**Avi Abramowitz, Arnold Bierman and Alan Ginsburg enjoy the fun at Men's Night Out.**



**The Kehillah leadership (l-r), Rachel Heimovics Braun, script editor; Sara Stern, script editor, Roz Fuch, exhibit chair; Marcia Jo Zerivitz, exhibit curator; Lisa Schwartz, IT collections database and photo editor.**

Orlando's synagogue Men's Clubs and JFGO introduced a Men's Night Out to benefit local Jewish youth educational



**Central Florida Hillel students with Senator Joe Lieberman at an AIPAC event.**

programs. It was a success, raising \$12,000. "This was a first-time happening with men in the Jewish community," said Jeff Gaeser, publisher of the Heritage.

The Kehillah: A History of Jewish life in Greater Orlando exhibit opened at the Orange County Regional History Center. More than 500 historical photographs, interactive displays, artifacts and examples of current generations' contributions and accomplishments were displayed for three months.

Former U.S. Senator and vice-presidential candidate Joe Lieberman came to town to speak at an AIPAC meeting held at Congregation Ohev Shalom. Students from Central Florida Hillel attended the event and Lieberman spent time with them afterwards, entertaining their questions and sharing stories.



**Shown here (l-r): Club L'Chaim co-presidents Alana Halperin and Jordan Greenberg, faculty adviser Dan Smith, speaker Dr. Jacob Eisenbach, and Rabbi Mendy Bronstein.**

High school students at Lake Brantley's Club L'Chaim, sponsored by Chabad of Altamonte Springs, stood up to hate by hosting keynote speaker Dr. Jacob Eisenbach, a 94-year-old Holocaust survivor at an event that packed the high school auditorium. The message students took away from the meeting was not to shy away from anti-Semitism and to be proud of their heritage.



**Consul General Nagesh Singh, Jeff Colman and Dr. Terri Susan Fine.**

India and Israel found common ground between the two countries, and this spurred Drs. Amish Parikh and Daniel Layish, members of the Central Florida Association of Physicians from the Indian Subcontinent and the JFGO Maimonides Medical Society respectively, to bring community awareness to the growing relationship. Guest speakers of the event were Consul General of India in Atlanta Nagesh Singh and Deputy Director of Policy and Government Affairs for AIPAC Jeff Colman. Dr. Terri Fine moderated the discussion.

Rollins College, in partnership with Central Florida Hillel, created a Hillel on campus, making Rollins the only small, liberal arts college in the state of Florida to have a full-time Hillel professional. Emily Block, formerly the assistant director of Hillel at The University of Connecticut, was hired as the associate director of Jewish Student Life.



**Bruce K. Gould at Jewish National Fund's 2017 National Conference in South Florida.**

**December 2017**

Bruce Gould was appointed to the positions of president-elect and vice president of Campaign for the Jewish National Fund National Board.



**Joe and Anita Hara**

The Jewish Academy of Orlando celebrated its 40th anniversary on Dec. 17.

Joe Hara died on Dec. 24, just five days shy of his 92nd birthday. A true community leader, he always likened his life to a Horatio Alger tale—a man who rose from a humble background and achieved success beyond his wildest dreams. His wife, Anita, died on April 27, 2018.

**January 2018**

Congregation Ohev Shalom celebrated its 100th anniversary with a centennial gala weekend.

The Jewish Academy of Orlando opened enrollment to students of all faiths, offering the benefits of the independent school's academic and cultural excellence to the broader community.

After three years of searching, the Holocaust Memorial Resource and Education Center Board of Directors offered a proposal to lease the Orlando Regional Chamber of Commerce, located at 75 S. Ivanhoe Blvd., the proposal was accepted by the Orlando City Council. The agency plans to move within five years from its current location on The Roth Family JCC campus.



**The 8 Over 80 honorees are (standing, l-r): Gerald Robison, Dick Weiner, Bette Anne Leider, Charles Schulman; (seated, l-r): Eva Ritt, Rosalind Levitt, Doris Gilbert, and Lillian Berkowitz.**

Kinneret Council of Aging announced its 8 over 80 honorees. They were Gerald Robison, Dick Weiner, Bette Anne Leider, Charles Schulman, Eva Ritt, Rosalind Levitt, Doris Gilbert and Lillian Berkowitz.

**February 2018**

With the theme of "Together We Will," BBYO hosted its international convention in Orlando. This epic event gathered more than 3,000 teens from 36 countries, and thousands of educators, business leaders, celebrities, political figures and philanthropists.



**Stoneman Douglas High School alumni say the blessing over the challah at the Shabbat of Champions, in honor of the fallen Parkland students and staff.**

# 5778 Community Year in Review



**Carol McNally**

UCF students honored Parkland victims at the annual Mega Shabbat. More than 550 students, faculty, community members and Stoneman Douglas High School alumni attended the event, which paid tribute to the victims of the tragic Parkland high school shooting.

**March 2018**

The Roth Family JCC honored Carol McNally with the Harriet Weiss JCC Legacy Award at the annual JBall. She had been a teacher, then director of the Richard S. Adler Early Childhood Center for 29 years and would be retiring. “Who would have

thought when I started 29 years ago, they would have a non-Jewish director,” she said. “You don’t have to be Jewish to run a wonderful Jewish school. You just have to be passionate and love the culture, the heritage, and the traditions.”

Thanks to the leadership of the Orlando Jewish community, UCF brought the fourth largest student delegation in the country to the AIPAC Policy Conference.



**Maya Brenner**

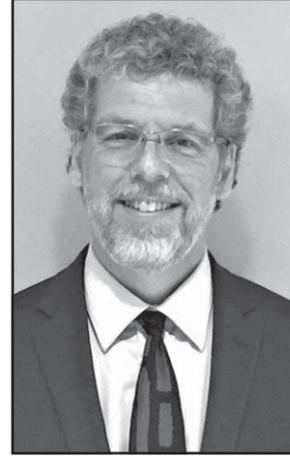
Scimone, the group grew to a membership of more than 250 people.

Rabbi David Kay was resoundingly approved by the members of Congregation Ohev Shalom to be their religious leader. Rabbi Kay came to COS as an assistant rabbi in 2004 and had been serving as interim rabbi since Rabbi Aaron Rubinger decided to semi-retire.

**June 2018**

UCF’s Knights for Israel was honored with the David Bar-Ilan Award for outstanding campus activism at the CAMERA Gala 2018. Accepting the award were Emily Aspinwall, Sam Busey, Jake Suster, Jesse Benjamin Slomowitz and Benji Osterman.

The Jewish Pavilion’s executive director, Nancy Ludin, was chosen to be one of Orlando Magazine’s Woman of the Year. The 23 women selected have made a positive impact on their community.



**Rabbi David Kay**



**Harriett Lake**

**July 2018**

Harriett Lake, the woman with an extremely generous spirit, died on July 10 at the age of 96.

Gene Starn, founder of the Heritage Florida Jewish News, died at age 94, on July 14.

**August 2018**

Roz Fuchs was the recipient of the Heritage Human Service Award. Last year’s recipient, Sara Stern, presented the award to Fuchs at the Federation Annual Meeting.

Congratulations to the 2018 Bornstein Leadership graduates: David Zissman, Toni Turocy, Mike Schneider, Emily Raij, Abby Nelson, Dana Meyer, Shannon Melnick, Rachel Kropp, Jennifer Culumber and Joey Korman.

Another well-known name in the Jewish community, Bobbi Wise, wife of community leader Zelig Wise, z”l, died at the age of 86.



**Gene Starn**



Christine DeSouza

**Harris Rosen, David and Jacqueline Siegel.**

The Rosen JCC named its lobby in honor of Victoria Siegel, daughter of David and Jacqueline Siegel. Victoria died of a drug overdose at the age of 18 in 2015. Encouraging parents to have their children drug tested beginning at age 14, and that schools should do random drug testing. He shared that when people enter the JCC’s lobby and see Victoria’s name, “don’t think of the money given to have this naming, think of a life wasted and gone way too soon.”

Gov. Rick Scott visited the Orlando Torah Academy for a legislation signing ceremony of HB 545, the “scrutinized-companies” bill that prevents companies that boycott Israel from bidding on local or state government contracts.



**Sam Friedman**

**April 2018**

JFS Orlando celebrated its 40th anniversary just a month after it opened its newest wing of the facility.

Sam Friedman was selected to be Stetson University’s first Hillel director. Formerly, Friedman was the director of Community Relations and then assistant director for Central Florida Hillel.

Founder of Give Kids the World and a loyal philanthropist to the Jewish community, Henri Landwirth, died at the age of 91 on April 16.



**Henri Landwirth**

Jewish Academy of Orlando fourth-grade student Maya Brenner was one of 50 winners in the 2018 Worldwide Jewish International Heritage competition called “My Family Story.”

**May 2018**

A local Zionist Organization of America chapter was formed in Central Florida with the local Zionistas forming the core of the new chapter. Founded eight years ago by Sandi Solomon, Eva Ritt, Judy Shujman and Diana

*Happy New Year  
to all our Family & Friends*

*from The Gaeser Family  
Jeff, Marci, Haley and Tyler*

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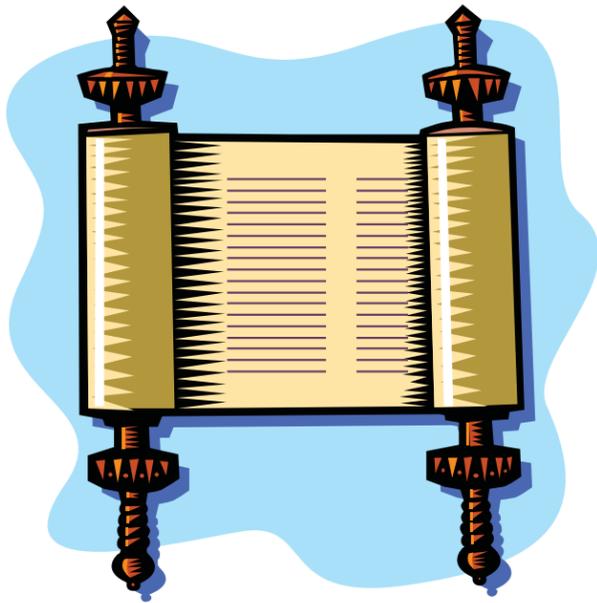
# Why twice a year is not enough.

*Because you are missing out on so much.*

*You are missing out on the comfort of sharing everyday joys and sorrows, the security of our faith and heritage, the excitement of learning.*

*You and your children are missing out on the knowledge and adventures of creative and modern Jewish identity and involvement.*

*Knowledge is the keystone of Judaism. Our religious schools are innovative in bringing this knowledge, the history and heritage and religious significance of our very being, to our youngsters.*



## L'Shana Tovah HAPPY NEW YEAR 5779

*Our sisterhoods and brotherhoods combine social service with social enjoyment for an enlightened and enriched well-being.*

*Our special projects and programs for all ages, entertaining social activities and interchange of ideas and philosophies make for a fulfilling lifestyle.*

*And, of course, we worship together.*

*Come share with us, and let us share with you. We urge you to join one of the synagogues listed below to truly discover why twice a year is not enough.*

Congregation

**Beth Am**

(Conservative)

3899 Sand Lake Rd. • Longwood

**(407) 862-3505**

Congregation of

**Reform Judaism**

(Reform)

928 Malone Dr., • Orlando

**(407) 645-0444**

Rabbi Steven Engel

Cantor Jacqueline Rawiszer

Congregation

**Ohev Shalom**

(Conservative)

613 Concourse Pkwy. S., Maitland

**(407) 298-4650**

Rabbi David Kay

Rabbi Aaron Rubinger

Cantor Allan Robuck

**Southwest Orlando Jewish**

**Congregation**

(Conservative)

11200 S. Apopka Vineland Rd., Orlando

**(407) 239-5444**

Rabbi Hillel Skolnik

Cantor Doug Ramsay

**Temple Israel**

(Conservative)

50 S. Moss Road • Winter Springs

**(407) 647-3055**

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

Rabbi Joshua Neely

**Temple Shir Shalom**

(Reform)

P.O. Box 623182 • Oviedo

**(407) 366-3556**

Cantor Kim Singer

# SYNAGOGUE SERVICE SCHEDULE

## Synagogue Service Schedule

The following synagogues provided information about their High Holiday services to the Heritage by press time. For information about services at other local synagogues, contact the individual congregations. Most synagogues require tickets for admission, and their cost varies from congregation to congregation. Some may open one or more of their holiday services to the community. For tickets or information, contact the individual synagogue.

### Celebration Jewish Congregation (Reform)

Celebration Jewish Congregation members have received an invitation from Rabbi Robert Lefkowitz of Congregation Beth Emeth to attend High Holy Days Services this year. Congregation Beth Emeth is a Reform congregation that conducts High Holy Days services at the Rosen Plaza Hotel, 9700 International Drive, Orlando, FL 32819. Rabbi Lefkowitz has graciously invited CJC congregants to worship with Beth Emeth without the formality of paying annual dues. Like CJC, attendees should consider an appropriate donation to help defray costs of conducting services. Please go to Beth Emeth's website at [www.congregationbethemeth.com](http://www.congregationbethemeth.com) for specific service schedule and other information.

### Chabad House, Center for Jewish Life (Orthodox)

Rabbi Yossi Hecht

All services take place at

13030 CR 103

Oxford, Fla. 352-330-4466

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

Services are free of charge. Please RSVP

Sun. Sept. 9, Erev Rosh Hashanah, 7 p.m. (open to all); Dinner, 8 p.m. (by RSVP only)

Mon. Sept. 10, Rosh Hashanah morning service, 10 a.m.; Torah Reading, 11:45 a.m.; Shofar blowing, 12:30 p.m.; Kiddush (~ 1:30 p.m.)

Tashlich service at 3:30 p.m. at the Pond at the WallMart on CR 466; Afternoon service, 5:30 p.m. (open to all); Dinner, 6 p.m. (RSVP only); Evening service, 8:15 p.m.

Tues. Sept. 11 Rosh Hashanah II morning services, 10 a.m.; Torah reading, 11:45 a.m.; shofar blowing, 12:30 p.m.; Kiddush after services, ~ 1 p.m.

Tues. Sept. 18, Kol Nidre, 7:15 p.m.

Wed. Sept. 19, Yom Kippur morning services 10 a.m.; Torah reading, 12:30 p.m.; Yizkor, 1 p.m.; Mincha, 6 p.m.; Neilah, 6:45 p.m.; Fast ends 8:04 p.m. Breakfast and refreshments, ~ 8:04

### Chabad-Lubavitch of North Orlando (Orthodox)

Rabbi Yanky Majesky

All services held at Noah's Even Venue, 720 Currency Circle, Lake Mary, Fla. 406-636-5994

[www.jewishnorthorlando.com](http://www.jewishnorthorlando.com)

At Chabad, no one is turned away due to lack of funds. Reservations are appreciated.

Sun. Sept. 9, Erev Rosh Hashanah, 7:30 p.m.

Mon. Sept. 10, Rosh Hashanah, morning service, children's program, 9:30 a.m.; Mincha, 6:30 p.m.; Tashlich ceremony, 6:45 p.m.; Shofar service followed by Kiddush, 7 p.m.

Tues. Sept. 11, Rosh Hashanah II morning service, 9:30 a.m.

Tues. Sept. 18, Yom Kippur eve, Kol Nidrei, children's program, 7:30 p.m.

Wed. Sept. 19, Yom Kippur morning service/children's program, 9:30 a.m.; Mincha, 5:30; Neilah/children's service/BreakFast, starting 6:45 p.m.

### Chabad of South Orlando (Orthodox)

Rabbi Yosef Konikov

Services will be held at:

The Sheraton Lake Buena Vista

12205 Apopka-Vineland Rd.

Orlando, FL 32836

[www.jewishorlando.com](http://www.jewishorlando.com)

No membership fees or tickets required. Donations recommended.

Sun. Sept. 9, Erev Rosh Hashanah, 7:20 p.m., Dinner, 8 p.m. (RSVP)

Mon. Sept. 10, Rosh Hashanah, morning, 9 a.m.; Children's service, 10 a.m.; Shofar, 10:30 a.m.; Tashlich, 2 p.m.; evening service, 7:30 p.m.; Dinner, 8 p.m. (RSVP)

Tues. Sept. 11, Rosh Hashanah II morning service, 9 a.m.; Shofar, 10:30 a.m.; Evening service, 7:10 p.m.

Tues. Sept. 18, Erev Yom Kippur, Kol Nidre, 7:10 p.m.

Wed. Sept. 19, Yom Kippur morning service, 9 a.m.; Yizkor, 11 a.m.; Mincha, 5:30 p.m.; Neilah, 6:30 p.m.; Fast ends, 8 p.m.

### Congregation Ahavas Yisrael/Chabad (Orthodox)

Rabbi Sholom Dubov

Chabad Jewish Center

708 Lake Howell Road

Maitland, Fla. 407-644-2500

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

Sun. Sept. 9, Erev Rosh Hashanah, 7 p.m., Dinner, 8 p.m. (Reservations)

Mon. Sept. 10, Rosh Hashanah, morning & Shofar service, 10 a.m.; Kiddush luncheon, noon; Mincha & Tashlich, 2 p.m.

Tues. Sept. 11, Rosh Hashanah II morning & Shofar service, 10 a.m.; Kiddush luncheon, noon

Tues. Sept. 18, Erev Yom Kippur, Kol Nidre, 7 p.m.

Wed. Sept. 19, Yom Kippur morning service, 9:30 a.m.; Yizkor, noon; Neilah, 6:30 p.m.; Fast ends, 8:01 p.m.

### Congregation B'nai Torah (Progressive Conservative)

Rabbi S. David Kane

403 N. Nova Rd.

Ormond Beach, Fla. 386-672-6834

[www.mybnaitorah.com](http://www.mybnaitorah.com)

No tickets required.

Sun. Sept. 9, Erev Rosh Hashanah, 7 p.m.

Mon. Sept. 10, Rosh Hashanah morning service, 9 a.m.; Tashlich, 4:30 p.m. at the Gazebo

Tues. Sept. 11, Rosh Hashanah II morning service, 9 a.m.

Tues. Sept. 18, Kol Nidre, 7 p.m.

Wed. Sept. 19, Yom Kippur service, 9 a.m.; Jonah & the Whale,

Neilah, 5:30 p.m., followed by Break Fast

### Congregation Bet Chaim (Reform)

Cantorial soloist, Jillian Marini

Services will be held at:

The Figland Event Center

220 Alafaya Woods Blvd. #1004

Oviedo, FL 32765

407-830-7211

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

Sun. Sept. 9, Erev Rosh Hashanah 8 p.m.

Mon. Sept. 10, Rosh Hashanah morning 10 a.m., Tashlich to follow

Tues. Sept. 18, Erev Yom Kippur 8 p.m.

Wed. Sept. 19, Yom Kippur morning service, 10 a.m.; Afternoon service, 2:30 p.m.; Yizkor, 4:30 p.m.

### Congregation Beth Am (Conservative)

3899 Sand Lake Rd.

Longwood, Fla. 407-862-3505

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

Services are open to the community

Sun. Sept. 9, Erev Rosh Hashanah, 7:30 p.m.

Mon. Sept. 10, Rosh Hashanah morning service, 9 a.m.; Rosh Hashanah Experience, 4-5 p.m. (open to the community); Tashlich, 5 p.m.

Tues. Sept. 11, Rosh Hashanah II service 9 a.m.

Tues. Sept. 18, Kol Nidre, 6:30 p.m.

Wed. Sept. 19, Yom Kippur, 9:30 a.m.; Family Neilah, 6:30 p.m.; Glowstick Havdalah and shofar, 7:58 p.m.

### Congregation Beth Israel (Progressive)

Rabbi Goldie Milgram (via a live, interactive streaming broadcast)

Services to be held at:

Brentwood Assisted Living Facility

4511 48th ave.

Ocala, Fla.

352-307-3662

[www.mybethshalom.com](http://www.mybethshalom.com)

Mon. Sept. 10, Rosh Hashanah morning service, 10 a.m.

Tues. Sept. 18, Erev Yom Kippur, Kol Nidre, 7:30 p.m.

Wed. Sept. 19, Yom Kippur, 10 a.m.; Study session, 4 p.m.; Yizkor, 4:30 p.m.; Neilah, 5 p.m.; Break Fast, 7 p.m.

### Congregation Beth Shalom (Progressive Conservative)

Rabbi Winston Weilheimer

1308 E. Normandy Blvd, Deltona 32725

Deltona, Fla. 386-804-8283

[www.mybethshalom.com](http://www.mybethshalom.com)

Sun. Sept. 9, Erev Rosh Hashanah, 7:30 p.m.

Mon. Sept. 10, Rosh Hashanah morning service, 9 a.m.

Tues. Sept. 18, Erev Yom Kippur, Kol Nidre, 6:30 p.m.

Wed. Sept. 19, Yom Kippur, 9 a.m.; Yizkor, noon; Neilah, 6:30 p.m.; Break Fast, 7 p.m.

### Congregation Beth Shalom of Leesburg (Reform/Conservative)

Rabbi Karen Allen

315 North 13th St.

Leesburg Fla. 352-326-3692

[bethshalomflorida.org](http://bethshalomflorida.org)

Sun. Sept. 9, Erev Rosh Hashanah, 7 p.m.

Mon. Sept. 10, Rosh Hashanah children's service, 10 a.m.; morning service, 10:30 a.m. followed by Tashlich

Tues. Sept. 11, Rosh Hashanah II morning service, 10 a.m.

Tues. Sept. 18, Kol Nidre, 7 p.m.

Wed. Sept. 19, Children's service, 10 a.m.; morning service, 10:30 a.m.; Yizkor, noon; Afternoon service and Neilah, 5:15 p.m.

### Congregation of Reform Judaism (Reform)

Rabbi Steven W. Engel

Cantor Jacqueline Rawiszer

928 Malone Dr.

Orlando, Fla. 407-645-0444

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

Sun. Sept. 9, Erev Rosh Hashanah service, 8 p.m.

Mon. Sept. 10, Rosh Hashanah morning service, Youth service and Babysitting 9:30 a.m.; Family service, 2 p.m.; Tashlich at The Springs, 5 p.m.

Tues. Sept. 18, Kol Nidre, 8 p.m.

Wed. Sept. 19, Yom Kippur morning service, Youth service and Babysitting 9:30 a.m.; Meditation service, 12:45 p.m.; Family service, 2 p.m.; Yizkor, 3:45 p.m.; Healing service, 5 p.m.; Neilah, 6 p.m. Break Fast, 6:15 p.m.

### Congregation Ohev Shalom (Conservative)

Senior Rabbi David Kay

Cantor Allan Robuck

613 Concourse Pkwy. S.,

Maitland, Fla. 407-298-4650

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

Sun. Sept. 9, Erev Rosh Hashanah service 8 p.m.

Mon. Sept. 10, Rosh Hashanah morning service 9 a.m.; Evening service, 8 p.m.

Tues. Sept. 11 Rosh Hashanah II service 9 a.m.; Preschool Family service (open to the community), 9:30 a.m.; Family service (open to the community), 10:30 a.m.

Tues. Sept. 18, Mincha, 6:30 p.m.; Kol Nidre, 6:45 p.m.

Wed. Sept. 19, Yom Kippur, 9 a.m.; Yizkor, 1:30 p.m.; Mincha, 5:30 p.m.; Neilah, 6:45 p.m.

### Congregation Shalom Aleichem (Reform)

Rabbi Rafi Cohen

3501 Oak Pointe Blvd.

Kissimmee, FL 34746

407-935-0064

Sun. Sept. 9, Erev Rosh Hashanah service 8 p.m.

Mon. Sept. 10, Rosh Hashanah morning service, 10 a.m.

Tues. Sept. 18, Kol Nidre, 8 p.m.

Wed. Sept. 19, Yom Kippur, 10 a.m.; Neilah, 5 p.m.

### Congregation Sinai of Minneola (Conservative/Reform)

Spiritual leader Joseph Goldovitz and Lynn Goldovitz

1200 West Broad St.

Groveland, Fla., 34736

352-243-5353

[www.congregaton-sinai.org](http://www.congregaton-sinai.org)

Sun. Sept. 9, Erev Rosh Hashanah service, 7:30 p.m.

Mon. Sept. 10, Rosh Hashanah morning service, 10 a.m.; Lunch & Learn, 12:30 p.m.; Tashlich, 2 p.m.

Tues. Sept. 11, Rosh Hashanah II service 10 a.m.; Torah study and brunch, no charge, 11 a.m.

Tues. Sept. 18, Kol Nidre, 6:30 p.m.

Wed. Sept. 19, Yom Kippur, 9:45 a.m.; Yizkor, noon; Closing service, 5 p.m.; Break Fast following closing service

### Southwest Orlando Jewish Congregation (Conservative)

Rabbi Hillel Skolnik

Cantor Doug Ramsay

11200 S. Apopka Vineland Rd.

Orlando Fla. 407-239-5444

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

Sun. Sept. 9, Erev Rosh Hashanah service, 7 p.m.

Mon. Sept. 10, Rosh Hashanah morning service, 9 a.m.; evening, 7 p.m.

Tues. Sept. 11, Rosh Hashanah II service, 9 a.m.

Tues. Sept. 18, Kol Nidre, 6:45 p.m.

Wed. Sept. 19, Yom Kippur service, 9 a.m.; Afternoon services, 5 p.m.

### Temple Israel (Conservative)

Rabbi Joshua Neely

Cantorial soloist Debbie Meitin

50 S. Moss Rd.

Winter Springs, Fla. 407-647-3055

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

Sun. Sept. 9, Erev Rosh Hashanah service, 7 p.m.

Mon. Sept. 10, Rosh Hashanah morning service, 9 a.m.; Shofar, 11:25 a.m.; Musaf, noon; Tashlich, 6:15 p.m.; Mincha/Maariv, 7 p.m.

Tues. Sept. 11, Rosh Hashanah II morning service, 9 a.m.; Shofars, 11:25 a.m.; Musaf, noon, conclusion, 1:30 p.m.

Tues. Sept. 18 Kol Nidre, 7 p.m.

Wed. Sept. 19, Yom Kippur, 9 a.m.; Yizkor, 11:50 a.m.; Mincha, 5 p.m.; Neilah, 7 p.m.; Ma'ariv, 7:50 p.m.; Shofar, 8:15 p.m.

### Temple Shir Shalom (Reform)

Rabbi Kim Singer

All services held at the First United Methodist Church of Oviedo. 263 King St.

Oviedo, Fla. 406-366-3556

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

Sun. Sept. 9, Erev Rosh Hashanah service 7:30 p.m.

Mon. Sept. 10, Rosh Hashanah morning service, 10 a.m.; Family service, 1:15 p.m.

Tues. Sept. 18, Kol Nidre, 7:30 p.m.

Wed. Sept. 19, Yom Kippur, 10 a.m.; Family service, 3 p.m.; Yizkor, 4:30 p.m.; Neilah, 5:30 p.m.; Break Fast, 6:30 p.m.

### Traditional Congregation of Mount Dora (Traditional)

Rabbi Hayyim Solomon

848 North Donnelly

Mount Dora, Fla. 352-735-4774

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

Sun. Sept. 9, Erev Rosh Hashanah service, 7 p.m.

Mon. Sept. 10, Rosh Hashanah morning service 9 a.m.

Tues. Sept. 11, Rosh Hashanah II morning service, 9 a.m.

Tues. Sept. 18, Kol Nidre, 6:45 p.m.

Wed. Sept. 19, Yom Kippur, 9 a.m.; Mincha, 2 p.m.; Neilah, 7 p.m.; 8:02 fast ends.

**Greetings and Best Wishes  
for the New Year**

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**Andrew L. Reiff, P.A.**

**Attorney and Counselor at Law**

# Overcoming 'otherness' makes the High Holy days even sweeter



Wilfred "Bill" Cohen, the author's father, in front of the family home in Keeseville in the early 1950s.

By Marilyn Shapiro

Since the year that we met, my husband, Larry, and I attend Rosh Hashanah services. We hear the shofar, listen to melodies that we only hear on the High Holy Days, and greet our friends with L'Shana Tova—Have a good year!

Attending High Holy Day services as an adult is different from my experiences as a child growing up in Keeseville, N.Y., a small upstate town of two thousand people about 90 minutes south of Montreal. My Uncle Paul had opened Pearl's, one of a chain of small department

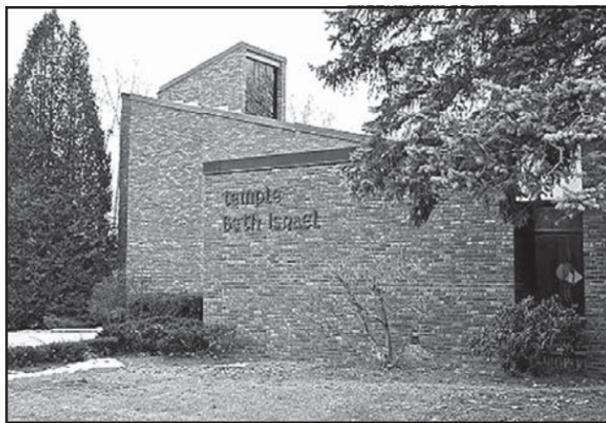
stores he had established in Vermont and Upstate New York. He hired my father to manage it. Although my parents had both grown up in New York City in Jewish neighborhoods, they had lived most of their married life in overwhelmingly Christian communities. In 1952, however, they found themselves in a town where they were the only Jewish family except for a childless couple, a lawyer and his wife. The next Jewish family didn't move in until the mid-1960s.

To offset the effects of our non-Jewish environment, my parents immediately joined

Congregation Beth Israel, a Reform temple in Plattsburgh. We attended High Holy Day services and, depending on the weather conditions for the 15-mile drive, Shabbat services on Friday night. Saturday services were only held for the boys' bar mitzvahs; all the girls were confirmed at age 16.

In addition to attending services, my parents were insistent on their children getting a Jewish education. For a span of 20 years, our father made the trip up Route 9 every Sunday with whatever number of his children between the ages of five to 16 were taking religious school lessons. We would arrive in Plattsburgh a half hour early. Then Dad would take us to the newsstand across the street from the temple on Oak Street. He purchased the New York Times for himself and comic books for us, our perk for going to Sunday school. My brother, Jay, chose Superman, Laura and Bobbie, Archie, and Richie Rich; and I chose Classics Illustrated. Dad would then wait for us in his idling car—it got cold in that parking lot in the winter—reading the paper and smoking Kents. Over the years, all of us learned Jewish history, customs, and ethics. Jay learned Hebrew for his bar mitzvah. The three of us girls' Hebrew education was limited to the six-word Shema and blessings over bread, candles and wine. When we got home from school, Mom would have an elaborate dinner waiting for us—brisket, roasted potatoes, candied carrots, pickles, and delicious spiced apples from a jar—an other perk for our going to Sunday school.

As residents of Keeseville and members of a temple in Plattsburgh, we were caught between two worlds. As we did not live in Plattsburgh, we often viewed ourselves as outsiders at Temple Beth Israel. My mother, in particular, did not feel comfortable with many of the congregants. A daughter of poor Russian immigrants, she often felt inferior to those who were third or fourth generation German Jews who historically



Temple Beth Israel in Plattsburgh where the author and her brother went every Sunday for Sunday school.

regarded themselves as more educated and refined than those from the shtetls—the small towns with large Jewish populations which existed in Central and Eastern Europe before the Holocaust.

The residents of Keeseville were generally welcoming to our family, and we rarely experienced anti-Semitism. There were moments, however, that are etched in my memory. My parents were usually included, but there were occasional "lost" invitations to events, and we knew some viewed us as different. On rare occasions, the insults were more direct. When I was around six years old, I was playing on my front lawn with my doll. A teenaged boy who lived up the street came by and, giving the Nazi goose salute, yelled "Heil Hitler!" I ran inside crying. Jay, four years older than I, ran out of the house to chase him down and punch him in the nose. When Jay was in high school, the local priest advised his young female parishioners that it was best not to date "Hebrews." Obviously, this did not help Jay's social life.

The High Holy Days emphasized this "otherness" even more strongly. We did not attend school on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. My father closed the store, an event worthy of coverage in the Essex County Republican. Jay, who played football for Keeseville Central, missed every game that fell on the two major fall holidays, again newsworthy enough to make the local paper.

Everyone in Keeseville

knew that the Cohens celebrated their Jewish High Holy Days, but I was still sensitive to our being the only children missing school. One Rosh Hashanah, I was pushing my doll carriage in front of the house when I was overcome with embarrassment. What if someone saw me and wondered if I were playing hooky? I went inside to avoid the potential scrutiny and a visit from the truancy officer.

My feeling of "otherness" continued as the seasons changed. Beginning in November, I often had to explain that Chanukah was not the "Jewish Christmas," and no, we didn't have a Christmas tree or a Chanukah bush. As soon as we returned to school from the Thanksgiving break, the music classes I attended and, later, the choruses I joined in junior and senior high were filled with Christmas music. I could handle "Little Town of Bethlehem" and "Deck the Halls." When it came to the line in "Silent Night" which stated "Christ the Savior is born," however, I would just mouth the words. The token inclusion of the song "I Had a Little Dreidel" didn't make me feel that the school was sensitive to my religion and culture.

Other events brought their challenges. Passover often fell around Easter, and I watched my Christian friends devour bunny shaped chocolate eggs and jelly beans while I nibbled on my dry matzoh and butter. Once again, I felt different. In high school, my World History textbook reduced the Holocaust to the iconic 1943 picture from the Warsaw Ghetto of a German soldier pointing his machine gun at a little boy, clad in a coat with the yellow star, holding up his hands in terror. I can still remember looking down and crying silent tears while the teacher quietly and sympathetically moved on to the next topic. I understood clearly that the horror of the Jews was diminished by this negligible treatment of the Holocaust in our textbook.

For many years, I saw other Jewish children mostly at Sunday school. As I got older, I joined a Jewish youth group and finally had Jewish friends. For the most part, however, our friends were our Christian classmates from Keeseville. We all dated in high school, but my parents pressed upon us their wish we would leave Keeseville after we graduated and make our lives in settings with more Jewish people.

In part because of my desire to be with other Jews, I enrolled in University of Albany



A logo of Keeseville, N.Y.

in 1968. While at college, I attended High Holy Day services at Congregation Beth Emeth, but that was the extent of my Jewish participation until I met my future husband in 1973.

Larry and I attended High Holy Day services at Congregation Shaara T'Fille, the then-Orthodox shul in Saratoga to which his family belonged. What a dramatic difference for me! Men sat in the center pews, and the women, although not behind a mehitzah, (a curtain which separated the men from the women), sat in the back or on the sides. Most of the service was in Hebrew, and everyone prayed at what seemed to be lightning speed. Page numbers that were displayed on a chart on the bima provided my only means of following along with the prayer book. The services were much longer than those at Temple Beth Israel, and even the rabbis, with their black beards, payots (side curls), and yarmulkes (skull caps), were strange to me. In many ways, it was as foreign to me as the churches I had attended on occasion with my Christian friends.

After Larry and I were married, we bought a home in Clifton Park, a suburb of Albany, New York, in part because we knew that a synagogue had recently been built in the community. We joined in 1983, and we found that the Conservative service was a good compromise between Larry's Orthodox shul and my Reform temple. Ten years later, I celebrated my own bat mitzvah on my father's 80th birthday, my way of honoring his commitment to our Jewish education.

Throughout my life, people assume that I was brought up, like many Jews, "downstate," in New York City or Long Island. When I tell them about growing up in Keeseville, they comment, "That must have been hard!"

It had its challenges, but it also offered wonderful opportunities. I grew up in a loving, close-knit family, developed lifelong friendships, and enjoyed the beauty of Lake Champlain and the Adirondacks. I proudly identify myself as an Upstate New Yorker, with roots still entwined in that tiny town an hour south of the Canadian border.

Because of my unique upbringing, rather than losing my Jewish identity, my faith grew stronger. I could never take being a Jew for granted. And having a faith I had to hold on so tightly to maintain makes each High Holy Day, each Jewish milestone, even sweeter.

Marilyn Shapiro lives in Kissimmee. She writes regularly for the Jewish World in Schenectady, and published her book "There Goes My Heart," which is available on Amazon. You may also follow her on her blog, theregoesmyheart.me.

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To All Our Family and Friends  
**May The New Year  
 Bring You Health,  
 Happiness and  
 Peace  
 L'Shana  
 Tova Tikatevu**



The Shaders  
 Mardi & Ron

# After 26 years, popular Jewish email available in Hebrew and Spanish

By Jonathan Weiss

It all started with 50 faxes. Yes, faxes. In 1992, after moving to South Florida, Rabbi Kalman Packouz was fascinated with the latest technology, a fax modem. So he found a way to put it to good use, by sending out a one-page "dot-matrix" fax about the weekly Torah portion to 50 people. Today, it's still sent out by fax to tens of thousands and has grown to become one of the world's most popular Jewish emails as well with hundreds of thousands of readers worldwide.

The goal of the Shabbat Shalom Weekly (originally called Shabbat Shalom Fax and referred to as "The Fax of Life") is to excite and connect Jews of all ages and all different backgrounds to their heritage. With insights into life, personal growth and Torah, Rabbi Packouz's caring for and connection to his readers, along with

his delightful sense of humor and great story telling, have earned him a following across the English-speaking world.

Now, Rabbi Packouz is embarking on an expansion to reach an even wider audience. Starting this Rosh Hashanah, 26 years after sending that first fax, the Shabbat Shalom Weekly is launching Hebrew and Spanish editions.

"I am thrilled and humbled that I have been able to touch so many lives, and with the new Hebrew and Spanish emails, I look forward to the opportunity of connecting even more Jews to the Almighty, their heritage and Israel," said Rabbi Packouz. "I am both touched and saddened when readers write that the Shabbat Shalom Weekly is their only connection to anything Jewish in their lives."

What is the Shabbat Shalom Weekly? It's a weekly uplift and inspiration in five short sections:

1. Insights into personal growth and life or an upcoming holiday, usually with a humorous story or joke.

2. A concise overview of the Torah portion of the week.

3. A short D'var Torah imparting a lesson for life—how to be happy, find the right spouse, make one's marriage work, raise one's children and have more joy in life, spring boarding from a verse in the weekly Torah portion.

4. Candlelighting times around the world.

5. Quote of the week. "Some people subscribe just for the quote—and many read it first!" Rabbi Packouz has a thick folder of notes from his readers. Writes Abby, "Your Shabbat Shalom Weekly has helped me shape my Jewish identity." Rick shares, "The Shabbat Shalom Weekly has connected me to my Jewish heritage, faith and belief. You cannot image how much I value your weekly letters."

For a taste of the Shabbat Shalom Weekly, here's a timely excerpt from Rabbi Packouz's Rosh Hashanah edition:

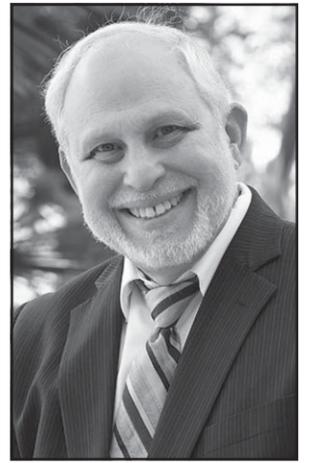
This time of year, many Jews all over the world are rushing to make sure that they have places reserved in their synagogues. I am reminded of the story of the person who had to deliver a very important message to a man in a synagogue on Rosh Hashanah. The usher wouldn't let him in because he didn't have a ticket. "Please, I just need a moment to tell him the message!" "No way!" says the usher, "No ticket, no entrance!" "Please," begs the man, "I promise ... I won't pray!"

Rabbi Packouz was born in Portland, Oregon, where he attended Beth Israel, a reform temple that has given him a sensitivity to Jews from all backgrounds. After college, he found his way

to Israel. Following a brief stay on a Kibbutz, he was introduced to Rabbi Noah Weinberg, the founder of both Yeshiva Ohr Somayach and the Aish HaTorah worldwide outreach movement.

Continuing his studies under Rabbi Weinberg for six years, he received his rabbinical ordination and for 45 years has helped build Aish HaTorah into a powerhouse and leader in the Jewish outreach movement.

Rabbi Packouz was the co-founder of Aish HaTorah's first branch in St. Louis, Missouri. In 1980 Rabbi Packouz founded the Aish HaTorah Jewish Computer Dating Service, perhaps the world's first Jewish digital dating service, leading to an appearance on the Today Show. He is the creator of TheWall.org, Aish HaTorah's webcam on the Western Wall where you can see the Kotel live in real-time and even send a note to be placed



Rabbi Kalman Packouz

in the Wall. To date it has received almost 37 million visitors. Of all of his accomplishments and creations, the Shabbat Shalom Weekly is his greatest love.

To sign up for the free weekly newsletter, in English, Spanish or Hebrew, visit [www.ShabbatShalom.org](http://www.ShabbatShalom.org).

## Grandson of terrorist poised to win congressional seat

(JNS)—With the indictment of U.S. Rep. Duncan Hunter, Democrat Ammar Campa-Najjar, a grandson of a Black September terrorist who killed 11 members of the Israeli athletic team at the 1972 Munich Summer Olympics, is likely to go from being a long-shot candidate to upsetting the California Republican this November in what is a heavy conservative congressional district.

Campa-Najjar, 28, a practicing Christian born to a

Palestinian father and a Mexican mother, has distanced himself from his grandfather, Muhammad Yousef al-Najjar, who was involved in the planning of the Munich massacre and was assassinated by Israeli commandos in Beirut in 1973.

"As an American citizen living in the 21st century, I will never be able to understand or condone the actions and motivations of my grandfather," he told Haaretz in February before

telling local outlets that these remarks would not be utilized for political gain.

"Like many American families, my heritage bears a heartbreaking history," he added. "To achieve peace, Palestinians and Israelis will have to make the same personal choice I've had to make: leave the dark past behind so that the future shines brighter in the eyes of our children."

Campa-Najjar is running as a progressive in California's

50th district which the non-partisan Cook Political Report shifted from "Solid Republican" to "Lean Republican."

Along with his wife, Hunter pleaded not guilty to illegally using \$250,000 in campaign funds for personal use and filing false reports with the Federal Election Commission.

As of June 30, Campa-Najjar raised more than \$1 million but spent much of it, according to federal records. Campa-Najjar's campaign reported \$280,000 in the bank, with

\$25,000 in debt, while Hunter reported raising \$850,000 but had a surplus of \$350,000 by the end of June.

Whether the Democratic Party will allocate significant money into a race they deem as not winnable, compared to other districts consisting of vulnerable Republican incumbents, remains to be seen. U.S. President Donald Trump won Hunter's district by 15 points, despite losing statewide by more than 4 million votes in 2016.



Ammar Campa-Najjar

## Cohen

From page 4A

frequently and consciously draws on anti-Semitic notions of "Jewish power."

The best illustration of this is the very same argument that Almond chooses to defend from the charge of anti-Semitism; namely, that Israel is the outcome of a "racist endeavor," a favorite theme of the Corbynite left. This argument has historically been the preserve of anti-democratic ideologies and regimes. As early as 1965, Soviet diplomats at the United Nations were bracketing Zionism with Nazism;

a decade later, the U.N. General Assembly passed a resolution spearheaded by a coalition of communist and authoritarian member states that equated Zionism with "apartheid" and "racism." Publishing houses in Moscow pumped out cheap booklets that often ended up on Western university campuses, in which the reader would learn that Zionism was a natural extension of the "Jewish exclusivism" fostered by the Talmud. Similar propaganda appeared in the Arab media, usually accompanied by lurid cartoons of hook-nosed Israeli soldiers driving inno-

cent Palestinians from their homes in Nazi-like fashion.

One might counter that not everyone who presents Israel as a "racist endeavor" is driven by the same motives—strategic, diplomatic, ideological—that the USSR was when it adopted anti-Semitism in the name of anti-Zionism. Perhaps. But to make the case, one is still forced to rely on the same arguments. If Israel should, as Almond astonishingly advocates, be presented as a "settler-colonial" project to school students encountering the Israeli-Palestinian conflict for the very first time,

how is that to be done in a way that doesn't jeopardize attitudes to local Jewish communities? If Israel is to be portrayed as a rogue state of global proportions, whose inhabitants have essentially fabricated their historic and spiritual links to the territory which they now occupy at the expense of the indigenous Arabs, how can such an argument possibly avoid anti-Semitic tropes about Jewish wealth, Jewish political influence and ingrained Jewish exclusivism? And if the Palestinians are to be portrayed as ongoing victims of ethnic cleansing by Jews

(and Jews alone), then how can one neatly separate the opposition to Zionism from the anti-Semitism?

The short answer is that you can't.

That's because the "racist endeavor" portrait of Israel, however much one encounters it in Middle East Studies departments, is grounded on the anti-Semitic trope of a distinctly "Jewish" dishonesty—in which schmaltzy, disingenuous appeals for public sympathy, ruthless political lobbying, the strategic use of financial wealth and overbearing military might are the essential elements in

the story of Israel's creation, as well as its ongoing existence. If Almond and those who agree with him want to protect Diaspora Jewish communities and achieve concrete progress for the Palestinians, the proper question they should ask themselves is whether their discourse about Israel is helping either of those goals.

Ben Cohen writes a weekly column for JNS on Jewish affairs and Middle Eastern politics. His writings have been published in *Commentary*, *The New York Post*, *Haaretz*, *The Wall Street Journal* and many other publications.

## Simon

From page 5A

with the book's unseemly treatment of Michael Jordan, just as Simon had to endure sneering critics who found his substance somehow lacking. Despite the achievement of the Eugene Trilogy, "Lost in Yonkers" had gotten trashed in Washington that winter. The New York Times critic who had so admired the trilogy also sniffed at Simon's latest.

But "Lost in Yonkers" would wind up running for two years on Broadway and found a new way to impact audiences—or at least me. And that's what I wanted to talk to Neil about in *Hamburger Hamlet*.

At the time, I too was working on a play about my

own German-Jewish family. In "Yonkers," we meet Bella Kurnitz, a sweet, middle-aged, behaviorally challenged woman still living at home. Her successful brothers have moved onto busy lives outside the home, leaving Bella to live with their fierce, commanding and less-than-demonstrative mother, who scares her visiting grandsons have to death. With the exception of that icy Grandmother Kurnitz, the set-up reminded me of the situation in my own father's family, and his own troubled sister, my Aunt Irene. Like Bella, she had been born with scarlet fever, was a little bit slow and very much the black sheep. Overshadowed as she approached middle age, she was a girl in a woman's

body with dreams that would likely not come true. My Aunt Irene didn't make it past 40 and, over the ensuing years, I tried to write what it meant to lose her.

A play came out but it took a long time—both in getting it produced, and then in trying to get it right; I probably never did. I was just at the beginning of writing that play when Neil Simon introduced Bella Kurnitz to the world, and I thought to myself, "He's captured my Irene better than I ever will. And he's saved her through comedy." I admired Neil Simon for a lot of reasons but none more than for the effortless dexterity that went into "Yonkers." Genius makes hard work look easy.

I got to produce "Lost in

Yonkers" some 16 years later, as I grew more comfortable as an artistic director at a Jewish theater, and it became a huge hit for us, of course. It attracted great artists and great audiences alike. It also attracted that surly critic from the Washington Post, now a fulltime writer outside of journalism, who joined our team as production dramaturge, having given Neil Simon and his play another look. Neil Simon would be vindicated before his critics, and before those acolytes who thought they could craft a deeper brand of expression. Neil won on account of his genius.

What set Simon apart, especially from Roth, was the empathy on display to women:

Bella and Grandma Kurnitz in "Lost in Yonkers," and to Kate, the broken mother in "Brighton Beach Memoirs" and "Broadway Bound," who would come to endure her husband's defection, echoing the same betrayal in Simon's own family. We see their grit, and then heartbreak, and then tenderness, framed in laughter. Simon found his material from within, but he wrote outside of himself just as brilliantly. He was the Michael Jordan of Broadway—with all quirks, critics, and limitations that come with. But his achievement was singular, and the way he re-shaped the game, and the art form and business of theater, is total. We'll not see his like again.

Ari Roth is a playwright,

producer and founding artistic director of Mosaic Theater Company of DC, dedicated to creating independent, intercultural, uncensored, socially relevant art. As artistic director over 18 seasons at Theater J, Roth built the fledgling DC theater into the largest Jewish theater in North America. Roth's plays include "Born Guilty," a sequel, "The Wolf In Peter," "Andy and The Shadows," "Life in Refusal," "Oh, the Innocents," "Love and Yearning in the Not for Profits" and "Goodnight Irene."

The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of JTA or its parent company, 70 Faces Media.

## UNRWA

From page 5A

Throughout the camp—and particularly, inside the schools—pictures hang on walls glorifying Palestinian shahids (“martyrs”), with messages encouraging youngsters to follow in their “noble” footsteps. Prominently displayed is the ubiquitous map of Israel, of course labeled “Palestine.”

During the summer, young

children attend a camp where they engage in military exercises, replete with walls they are taught to crawl under and firewalls they are taught to jump over, dressed in military fatigues.

Recently, Sen. James Risch (R-Idaho), asked for a General Accounting Office report of what is being taught in the UNRWA schools, but for some inexplicable reason, that office insists on keeping the report “classified.”

Perhaps because the results

are too damaging to UNRWA.

According to a recent study conducted by CNEPR together with the Simon Wiesenthal Center, in which 150 textbooks from kindergarten through 12th grade were examined, researchers found Israel and Jews depicted as “demonic,” with violent liberation emphasized. A 2017 text even includes a disturbing text by describing a Molotov cocktail attack on an Israeli bus as a “barbeque party,” while another extols the virtues of

Dalal Mughrabi, the female Palestinian terrorist who was responsible for the massacre of 38 Israeli civilians.

All of this stands in stark contrast to the United Nations’ Declaration of the Rights of the Child, which proclaims, among other things, that “the child shall enjoy special protection, and shall be given opportunities and facilities, by law and by other means, to enable him to develop physically, mentally, morally, spiritually and so-

cially in a healthy and normal manner and in conditions.”

Kids who are unfortunate enough to be educated in UNRWA camps enjoy none of the benefits of a normal childhood. Instead, they are indoctrinated to become nothing more than bullets

in a war machine—in a war that they will inevitably lose.

*Sarah N. Stern is the founder and president of the Endowment for Middle East Truth, an unabashedly pro-Israel and pro-American think tank and policy institute in Washington, D.C.*

## Kagan

From page 9A

“As a first-time candidate, I am deeply humbled to have earned Seminole County’s vote. As a lifelong fighter, I can’t wait to get to Tallahassee and start championing our families.”

In addition to Ruth’s List Florida, Kagan is endorsed by the Democratic Environmental Caucus of Florida, the Brady Campaign, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, Florida

State Senator Linda Stewart, Former State Representative Dick Batchelor, Florida NOW PAC, former Florida Education Commissioner Betty Castor and former Florida State Representative (and newly elected Orange County School Board member) Karen Castor Dentel.

Kagan is also very active in the Jewish community. Within the next month, Heritage plans to do an interview with her for our readers.

## Kinneret

From page 11A

friends and I came out of the synagogue. We were very upset because we wanted to contribute, but we didn’t have any money. I clearly remember that we decided that we would go to Israel and help them fight!”

In Judaism, we are taught to look forward with a sense of hope and take personal responsibility—to be a part of the change. To this day, Bernice feels a strong connection and love for Israel, which she traces back to that moment at synagogue. At the young age of 12, she wanted to be part of the change.

In the daily rush of life, we often forget our true selves and what really matters. Do we stop and question what memories we are creating today? Are we being true to who we are or want to be?

According to Maimonides, the great 12th century Spanish Jewish thinker, this is the purpose of the blowing of the shofar on Rosh Hashanah. That strong, piercing and simple blast serves as an awakening. It grabs our attention to remind us that something is happening. It is a day of judgment. This blast wakes up our memory, our expectations and our hopes.

“Hearing the shofar makes me feel good,” said Joan Rosenman.

“I’m a history buff,” added Bernice, “so I read a lot about ancient times. When you experience the traditions that are still here today—that have been brought through thousands of years... that’s really something special.”

Sandy Erstling added, “It gives me a warm feeling. I always look forward to another year in peace and harmony all over the world. It gives me hope.”

As we enter Rosh Hashanah, I encourage you to try to focus on memory and judgment. When you hear the shofar blast, perhaps you will experience that moment of awakening. Take a moment to connect with the past—your own memories and the collective memories of the Jewish people. Then look forward and take personal responsibility for what you want to do differently this year.

As the director of KCOA, I have the pleasure of spending my days with a special group of people who have far more wisdom than I do. I am lucky that they share their stories and memories with me. I wish you all a sweet and meaningful New Year.

*Carol Feuerman, KCOA Board president*

*Rhonda Pearlman, KI/KII Board president*

*Sharon F. Weil, KCOA director of Programming and Development*

## Pavilion

From page 13A

exactly the way she had it—in fact, she even sat and cooked with them. And she was 90 years old!”

At Oakmonte Village’s Valencia building, an independent living facility with a sizable Jewish population, Pavilion volunteer and former program director Cathy Swerdlow works closely with staff to make each holiday special. Oakmonte entertainment director Renee Court said that Cathy emails them menus and recipes and helps them arrange anything else that’s needed.

“Every time we get a new chef, she comes in and meets with them and explains to them what is expected and it’s very helpful,” Court said. Court and several other Oakmonte management staff members serve the meals at these programs, at tables set resplendently with holiday foods and décor.

Swerdlow’s programs—including bimonthly Shab-

bats, monthly lunch-and-learns, and Jewish holiday programs—draw large crowds, filling the building’s performing arts center to capacity. For the holiday programs, said Court, they invite only Jewish residents because they don’t have the space for everyone. “Of course the residents want to bring their families,” she explained. And Jewish residents of Oakmonte’s next-door Cordova assisted living building also come to these holiday programs.

In all, about 30 special Jewish Pavilion programs are planned for the High Holiday season. The coordination among Pavilion staff and volunteers involves a great deal of careful planning that begins each year more than a month before Rosh Hashanah. Residents and their families are invited to join in, and the spirit of the High Holidays is kept alive at Orlando’s senior living facilities and in the minds and hearts of their Jewish residents.

# THE EXCITEMENT OF THE FIRST SHOFAR BLAST

# THE SWEET TASTE OF AN APPLE DIPPED IN HONEY

# THE BLESSINGS OF A NEW YEAR . . .



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# Let's eat cake at Rosh Hashanah

## Date Honey Cake recipe

By **Ronnie Fein**

(The Nosh via JTA)—As a kid I would shiver at the prospect of eating honey cake, which I thought was too sticky, too pungent and too spicy. My mother served it every Rosh Hashanah because it was my Aunt Belle's recipe and among the treasures of my father's family, where the women were prize-winning bakers.

Tastes change. Years later, I actually looked forward to this once-a-year goodie. So I'd like to say that honey cake is an adult, acquired taste, but that's not so. Because now I bake one every year and my young grandchildren absolutely can't get enough of it.

Until recently I always made Aunt Belle's version. But then I discovered date honey. It changed everything.

Date honey, called silan throughout the Middle East, isn't actually honey made by bees, although it is nearly as thick, sweet and viscous. It's a syrup made from dates and has a more robust flavor than bee honey. It tastes almost like liquid dried fruit, and I'm thrilled with it. I've used it on top of yogurt and ice cream, pancakes and such. I serve it with sliced apples on Rosh Hashanah. I've made baked beans using date honey instead of molasses.

Silan is one of the seven species mentioned in the Torah (Deuteronomy 8:8) and most scholars say it is date honey, not bee honey, that the Bible means when it speaks of "the land of milk and honey" (Exodus 3:8). All to say that Rosh Hashanah is the perfect time to use date honey when you bake classic holiday honey cake.

Date Honey Cake isn't as heavy as regular honey cake. Aunt Belle's recipe is citrusy and fragrant with spices, so there's a gently seasoned, refreshing quality that balances the sugar



load. I usually make the cake a few weeks before the holidays, wrap it well and freeze (for up to a month). Unfortunately my local supermarkets don't stock date honey, but there are several kosher brands available online, which I buy several jars at a time.

**Ingredients:**  
 1 3/4 cups all-purpose flour  
 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder  
 1/2 teaspoon baking soda  
 1/2 teaspoon salt  
 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon  
 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger

1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg  
 2 teaspoons grated fresh orange peel  
 1 teaspoon grated fresh lemon peel  
 1 cup date honey  
 1/2 cup cold, strong coffee  
 1/4 cup vegetable oil  
 2 large eggs  
 1/3 cup sugar

**Directions:**

Preheat the oven to 325 F. Lightly grease a 9-by-5-inch loaf pan. Line the pan with parchment paper, then lightly grease the paper. Set the pan aside.

Mix the flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt, cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg, orange peel and lemon peel together in a bowl. Set aside.

Whisk the date honey, coffee and vegetable oil together and set aside.

In the bowl of an electric mixer set at medium speed, beat the eggs and sugar for 2-3 minutes or until well blended. Stir in the honey mixture and blend it in thoroughly. Add the flour mixture and blend it in thoroughly.

Spoon the batter into the prepared pan. Bake for 60-70 minutes or until a cake tester inserted into the center comes out clean. Cool in the pan for 10 minutes, then invert on a cake rack to cool completely.

*Ronnie Fein is a freelance food and lifestyle writer and author of four cookbooks.*

*The Nosh food blog offers a dazzling array of new and classic Jewish recipes and food news, from Europe to Yemen, from challah to shakshuka and beyond. Check it out at [www.TheNosh.com](http://www.TheNosh.com).*

## Blueberry Honey Cake recipe

By **Emanuelle Lee**

(The Nosh via JTA)—Rosh Hashanah has a way of sneaking up on you, and it's a bittersweet feeling when it does. Bitter because it means the summer is over, but sweet because the Jewish New Year is a sweet and delicious time of year to spend with family and friends.

One other sweet spot of the Jewish New Year is honey cake—often baked, gifted and eaten in abundance during the holidays. The cake is quite sweet and usually spiked with autumnal spices, almost like a surrender to the season that is approaching.

In this embrace of autumn and of the year to come, we often forget to make the most of what's left of the summer produce. This honey cake recipe combines the best of both worlds: fresh blueberries, moist honey cake and a hint of spice. It's the perfect sendoff for the last remaining blueberries of the season and the welcoming of a new year.

**Ingredients:**  
 3 cups self-raising flour  
 1/2 teaspoon salt  
 1 tablespoon baking powder  
 3 teaspoons cinnamon  
 1 teaspoon ginger powder  
 1/4 teaspoon all spice  
 1/2 cup brown sugar  
 2 large eggs  
 3/4 cup coconut or vegetable oil  
 1 cup honey  
 1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
 zest of 1 orange



1/4 cup orange juice  
 1 tablespoon whiskey  
 1 tablespoon almond milk  
 1/4 cup coffee, cooled down  
 2 cups blueberries (you can use frozen if you need to)  
**For the topping:**  
 1/4 cup toasted almonds, chopped  
 1 cup confectioners sugar  
 juice of 2 lemons  
 zest of 1 orange  
 additional blueberries

**Directions:**

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F

2. In a large mixing bowl, combine the flour, salt, baking powder, spices and sugar; mix well.

3. In a separate bowl, combine the eggs, oil, honey, vanilla extract, orange juice, whisky, almond milk and coffee. Combine the ingredients thoroughly with whisk or a hand mixer until smooth. Make a well in the center of the dry ingredients and add the wet mixture into the well. Whisk until you have a smooth cake batter with no lumps, making sure there is no flour at the bottom of the bowl. Add the blueberries and mix well.

4. Grease a 9-inch cake pan with a little bit of vegetable or coconut oil.

5. Pour in the cake batter and allow it to settle and even out for a few minutes.

6. Bake for 40-50 minutes or until a skewer comes out clean when pressed into the middle of the cake.

7. Allow the cake to cool a little and then remove from the cake pan. Allow it to cool fully.

8. Meanwhile, make the glaze: Combine the confectioners sugar with the orange zest and the lemon juice. Mix well with a spoon until smooth with no lumps and it has reached a syrupy consistency.

9. When the cake has cooled, drizzle it with the glaze and sprinkle it with blueberries and the toasted almonds. Enjoy for up to 3 days and store it in the refrigerator, covered. Serves 8-10.

*Emanuelle Lee is a recipe developer, food writer and food stylist.*

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## Sunken Plum Cake recipe

By **Sonya Sanford**

(The Nosh via JTA)—For as long as I've been cooking I've made honey cake for Rosh Hashanah. I do this just as my mother did, and my grandmother did, and likely my great-grandmother before her. I love my family's recipe, and I have even made tweaks to it over the years.

But the truth is, I like honey cake more for tradition's sake than for its flavor. Last year it finally occurred to me that I don't have to make honey cake for Rosh Hashanah.

What did I actually want to eat and serve on Rosh Hashanah?

I love sunken apple cake, but there are always so many apples eaten over the High Holidays that I wanted to make something featuring another fruit. I had just picked up a beautiful bag of plums from the market, and they called out to me. Why not make a sunken plum cake?

The flavor of plum goes so well with honey. Like an apple, the plum's tartness cuts through and complements honey's sweetness. Their bold colors always add beauty to any baked good, and I love that plums are highly seasonal. They're only at their best for a short window of time each year, which typically coincides with the Jewish New Year. For me, using plums at their peak is always celebratory.

This is a simple cake to make with lots of flavor. I add ginger to the batter for its warmth and zing, and cardamom for its subtle and welcome citrusy spiciness. The ginger and cardamom's perfume and oh-so-subtle heat also serve to exentuate the fruitiness in the plums. You can use any plum or pluot for this cake, but I like ones that are slightly firm and ripe, and not too small. This recipe can be made pareve by using vegan butter, and the flour can be swapped for a gluten-free, all-purpose mix.

Like any good holiday recipe, sunken plum cake tastes even



better made a day in advance. At dinner, I love to serve the cake topped with whipped cream or ice cream, but this also makes a delicious indulgent breakfast treat on the holiday.

**Ingredients:**  
 1/2 cup (1 stick) vegan butter or unsalted butter, at room temperature  
 1/2 cup sugar  
 1/4 cup honey  
 2 large eggs, at room temperature  
 2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract  
 1/2 teaspoon freshly grated ginger  
 1 1/4 cup all purpose flour or gluten free all purpose flour  
 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder  
 1/2 teaspoon ground cardamom  
 1/4 teaspoon salt if using unsalted butter, pinch of salt if using vegan butter  
 4-5 plums, halved, pitted and sliced 1/4-inch thick

Turbinado/raw sugar, for sprinkling on top  
 1/4 cup honey for the glaze (optional)

**Directions:**

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F

2. Grease and line a 9-inch springform pan with parchment paper, or you can also make this in a 9-by-9-inch baking dish.

3. Cream together vegan butter/butter and sugar until light and fluffy, about 3-4 minutes, using either a handheld mixer or stand mixer with the paddle attachment.

4. Add the honey to the sugar mixture and mix until well incorporated.

5. Add the eggs, vanilla and freshly grated ginger, and mix until they are also well incorporated.

6. Sift together the flour, baking powder, salt and cardamom. Slowly add the dry ingredients to the wet ingredients, and mix until just incorporated. Be careful not to over-mix.

7. Pour the batter into the lined and greased cake pan. Add the sliced plums on top of the cake; they will sink as they bake. Top the cake with a generous sprinkling of Turbinado/raw sugar, or regular sugar if you don't have raw sugar.

8. Bake 35-40 minutes, or until a cake tester comes out clean when tested in the center of the cake.

9. If desired, you can brush honey on top of the cake once it has cooled: Heat 1/4 cup of honey until just warm, and then brush it over the cake.

10. Serve topped with whipped cream or ice cream. Can be made a day in advance. Serves 8-10.

*Sonya Sanford is a chef, food stylist and writer based out of Los Angeles.*

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