

## “Covenant With Israel” celebration

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

■ Alan Isaacs



Celebrating Israel, her meaning and accomplishments, has changed over the years – just as Israel has changed. And just as everything seems more complex today, so does Israel and how to celebrate her existence.

To some of us, Israel is with us, in our consciousness, routinely. We skim articles online or on paper, and if we skim the word “Israel” we instinctively stop skimming, to read. To us, the chance occurrence of the colors blue and white together has meaning. We recognize an Israeli accent in a crowd. And these are the very superficial things that signify a deeper

mindfulness.

Now, one doesn't need to react in these ways in order to love Israel. These reflexive actions are probably attributable to growing up in a certain environment where Israel and, more importantly, when Israel mattered in very different ways than it does today.

Many who love Israel have come to do so through study of the Bible and the teachings of their spiritual leaders; in some cases as a revelation. Their commitment to Israel and her people, indeed, all Jewish people, emanates from a devotion to their faith.

On January 29, I spent the evening with a large group of Israel supporters at the “Covenant With Israel” celebration hosted by Pastor Gaspar Anastasi at his Word of Life Ministries in Fort Myers. We were joined by members of his congregation as well as mem-

bers and leaders of other Christian churches from Lee, Charlotte and Collier counties. Also attending was the Deputy Consul General of Israel from the Miami consulate as well as other luminaries from Israel and the U.S.

This annual event, now in its 10<sup>th</sup> year, underscores the commitment that this evangelical Christian community feels toward Israel and the support that they are ready to give, and already give, to our Israel and the Israel that celebrates the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its establishment this year. ▲



“Covenant With Israel” celebration at Word of Life Ministries



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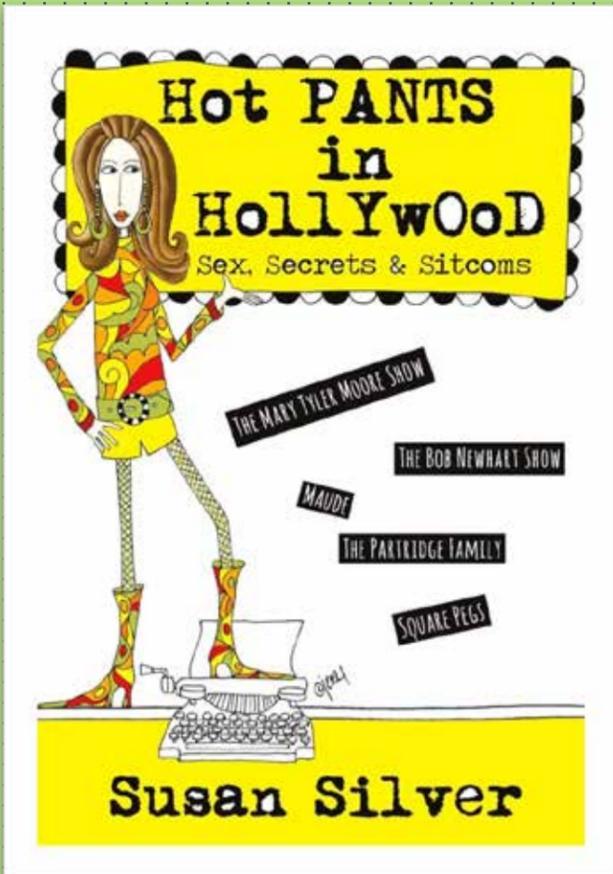
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The mission of the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties is to provide and support philanthropic, educational and social service programs that promote such Jewish values as Tzedakah *benevolence*, Tikun Olam *repairing the world* and K'lal Yisrael *taking responsibility for one another*, in order to strengthen and enrich the Jewish community locally, in Israel and throughout the world.

# L'CHAYIM

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L'CHAYIM invites correspondence on subjects of interest to Jewish people. Partisan political opinions will not be published, but opinions on subjects affecting the Jewish community are welcome. All inquiries regarding copy for L'CHAYIM should be directed to the editor. All news material must be very clearly printed or typed (not in all-capital letters) and double-spaced. Electronic submissions encouraged. The editor reserves the right to edit for space and content.

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## Program notes

Fulltime residents, snowbirds and short-term visitors to our community helped to make the Jewish Film Festival of Southwest Florida a great success this year. Every film was screened to a packed theater, and two of the films were shown simultaneously on two screens with over 350 attendees each of the two nights. Thank you again to everyone who bought tickets, to the film selection committee and to the sponsors – all of you helped to ensure the continuity of this popular annual event.



■ Leni Sack

There's lots more happening in the next few months.

### PJ Library holiday program

PJ Library families will enjoy the third of a series of four holiday programs held at different congregations around the community. On Tuesday, March 6 from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m., Temple Judea Shlichah Zohar Ben Hamu will lead a fun Passover-themed program for families with children ages 6 months to 8 years at the Shalom Life Center. There is no cost to attend, but RSVPs are needed at [lenibsack@jfedlcc.org](mailto:lenibsack@jfedlcc.org) or 239.481.4449 x3. The fourth PJ Library program will celebrate Lag B'Omer at Temple Judea on Thursday, April 26.

### Women's Philanthropy event

There is still time to RSVP for the Women's Philanthropy event on Tuesday, March 13 at 7:30 p.m. at FineMark Bank. The event is open to everyone in the community. Susan Silver, one of television's first female comedy writers, will share some hilarious stories about her life as a writer for shows like *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*, *Maude* and *Bob Newhart*. She'll also share how she came to reconnect with her Jewish roots. The event is open to everyone. The cost is \$36 and includes a copy of her book, *Hot Pants in Hollywood*, which Susan will autograph after her talk. It also includes a lovely dessert reception. Come prepared to laugh a lot and enjoy a relaxing, fun evening.

### Passover gift bags

By the time you read this, we will have just celebrated Purim, which means Passover is not far behind! As always, we are looking for volunteers to help pack and distribute the over 200 Passover gift bags we send to seniors in independent, assisted living and nursing homes in Lee and Charlotte counties. It's a wonderful

mitzvah for all ages. As much as the seniors like receiving the gift bags, what they most enjoy is the visit from the volunteers. Packing takes place on Wednesday, March 14 at 11:00 a.m., and bags can be picked up for delivery any weekday starting on Thursday, March 1<sup>st</sup> and also on Sunday, March 18 between 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. Please let me know if you are able to help with packing and/or delivery.

### Holocaust Memorial Service

On Sunday, April 8, the community is invited to the annual Holocaust Memorial Service, which takes place this year at Temple Beth Shalom in Cape Coral. This annual service is a moving remembrance to the victims of the Holocaust and a tribute to those who survived to tell their stories. This year we will be telling the stories of some of the survivors now living in our community. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

### "Two Bernsteins"

On Wednesday, April 11, a special evening is planned at the Federation. Nir Kabaretti, Conductor of the Southwest Florida Symphony, will give a talk about the "Two Bernsteins" – the two Jewish composers, Leonard Bernstein and Elmer Bernstein. While Leonard Bernstein is better known, especially for composing the music for *West Side Story*, Elmer Bernstein was a prolific composer of many film scores who won an Oscar for his score to *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and was nominated for fourteen Oscars in all. The community is invited to enjoy a dessert and wine reception before hearing Maestro Kabaretti's talk. Seating is limited. RSVPs are a must to me.

### Happy birthday, Israel!

You are invited to a community celebration of Israel's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday on Sunday, April 15 at the Heights Center. There will be entertainment, shopping opportunities in the "shuk," activities for all ages, and delicious Israeli food. There is no entry fee or cost for the entertainment or many of the activities. Food and items in the shuk will be available for purchase.

I look forward to seeing you at all our events over the next few months. Snowbirds, don't forget to let the Federation know when you are leaving our area. L'CHAYIM does not get forwarded to your other address. Please let Lori Ramos (239.481.4449 x4 or [loriramos@jfedlcc.org](mailto:loriramos@jfedlcc.org)) in our office know when you leave and again when you return, so your current address is on file and you receive all necessary mailings.▲

### From Rozzi Osterman, Federation President



As you probably know, I have been involved with our Federation for many years. I have held leadership positions as Program/Education VP, Administration VP, Partnership P2G - Hadera/Eiron USA Chair, Nominating Committee Chair, Jewish Family Services Chair, Campaign Chair (the most challenging and least fitting of my natural inclinations), and as President. This wide range of responsibilities has enriched me with new skills, innovative approaches and a deeper understanding of our Jewish values.

Working with our talented staff and dedicated volunteers brings out the best of my thinking and creativity. I have met so many wonderful people here and in Israel, and have created lifelong friendships. The bottom line is that I have truly received more than I have given. I am honored to be a part of this inspired Federation and am grateful for all the love and support that you gift me every day.

Thank you, Rozzi



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Strengthen & enrich  
JEWISH COMMUNITY

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## TRIBUTES

In memory of Dr. Allen Shevach  
*from the Rosman family*  
*from Sheila & Gerald Laboda*

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Please send them to Lori Ramos  
at the Federation at [loriramos@jfedlcc.org](mailto:loriramos@jfedlcc.org).**

**Thanks to the following supporters of L'CHAYIM  
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bringing news of the local, national and international  
Jewish community to your mailbox every month!**

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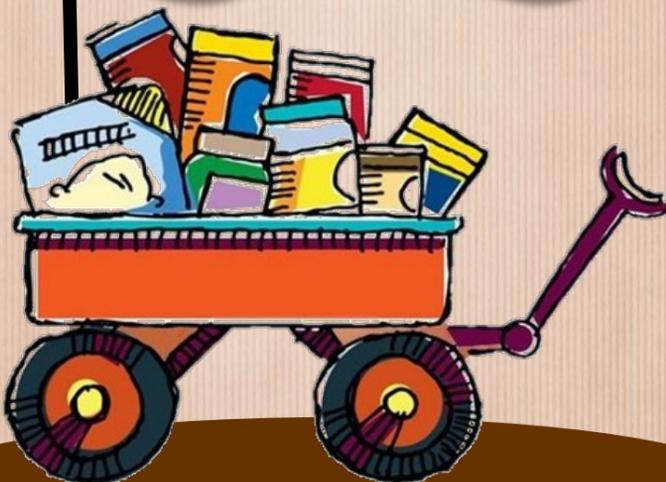
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### HOW THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF LEE & CHARLOTTE COUNTIES SERVES



#### Local Jewish Education and Culture

- ✧ Community-wide Jewish Education and Culture Programs for all ages including the Jewish Film Festival, Jewish Author Events, Israel Celebration, Jewish genealogy, Israeli folk dancing, social groups, etc.
- ✧ L'CHAYIM published monthly to keep the Jewish community informed about local, national and international Jewish issues.
- ✧ Community Relations activities include monitoring anti-Semitism and issues of separation of church and state in the community.
- ✧ Israel Advocacy and Initiatives to strengthen local Jewish community ties with Israel. Holocaust Education through the Holocaust Museum of Southwest Florida to middle and high school students in the community.



#### Overseas

- ✧ Funding to the Jewish Agency for Israel and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) for full spectrum social services to Israel and Jewish communities in 60+ countries around the world.
- ✧ Partnership 2Gether relationship with the Hadera-Eiron Region in Israel.



#### Local Seniors Services

- ✧ Holiday baskets and teen visits to seniors and senior facilities for Rosh Hashanah, Hanukah and Passover.
- ✧ Seniors & Volunteers Lunch Program.
- ✧ Emerging and pressing needs related to senior housing, health and socialization.



#### Local Case Management Services

- ✧ Non-sectarian, individual and family outreach, information and referral services.
- ✧ Individual life coaching and support services.

#### Local Emergency Services

- ✧ Food Pantry.
- ✧ Emergency financial assistance.
- ✧ Education and aid associated with natural disasters.



#### Local Community Services

- ✧ Support families of children with special needs.
- ✧ SAT preparatory classes for high school students.
- ✧ Volunteerism.
- ✧ Organizational Collaboration.
- ✧ Assessment and Planning.



#### Jewish Community Foundation

- ✧ An endowment that ensures the long-term financial base of charitable, social and educational programs in our community.
- ✧ Needs-based college scholarships and study scholarships in Israel.
- ✧ Projects and programs aimed at Jewish community enrichment.



## Joseph Horowitz Israel Travel Grants Available

The Joseph Horowitz Israel Travel Grant is available through the Community Foundation of the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties. The grant may be used for travel to Israel to participate in programs that are volunteer or educational in nature. Our hope is that these programs will enhance Jewish knowledge and identity in preparation for participation in American Jewish life. This grant is for Jewish residents of either county who are 25 years old or younger and can demonstrate a financial need. Academic standing and community involvement may also be considered. For more information or an application, please visit our website at [www.JewishFederationLCC.org](http://www.JewishFederationLCC.org) or contact the Federation at 239-481-4449, ext. 4 or email [loriramos@jfedlcc.org](mailto:loriramos@jfedlcc.org).

# Senior Lunch Bunch update

By Jodi Cohen, Senior Outreach Coordinator

What do you get when you add together 21 sponsors, 19 volunteers, one magician, 72 people in attendance and cold weather? Since this is an equation of joy and spirit, the only possible answer is a fantastic senior luncheon in January, hosted by Temple Beth El.

■ Jodi Cohen

Twenty-one families from the Grandezza community in Estero generously offered to sponsor the entire January luncheon, including the program, and thus "The Grandezza Volunteers" were created! We were delighted to have six of The Grandezza Volunteers in attendance. They created floral table arrangements, provided the desserts, tended to the participants, and assisted with the luncheon. While there are several benefits for the people or companies who choose to support the Federation's



Senior Lunch Bunch program, perhaps the biggest benefit is being there in person to experience the gratitude and appreciation of everyone involved.

It is always a pleasure to widen the circle of the luncheon to include new people, and in January we had the largest group ever – with 72 people! The cold weather didn't stop people from coming to eat a delicious lunch catered by Jason's Deli. Stuart Rudnick performed comedy mixed with magic that included making things disappear, optical illusions, and ending with a live rabbit in a red box which everyone got



to pet. A personal highlight was when volunteer Bob Vinikoor pointed to Stuart, who was talking to folks before the lunch, and asked me, "Is that man in the bowtie and vest the magician, or am I underdressed for the occasion?"

The free monthly Senior Lunch Bunch program is an opportunity for seniors to get together to socialize, make new friends, stay connected to current friends, eat a good meal and learn something. The more people in the room, the more *freylach*, merrier, the vibe. We are delighted to welcome new people, and if you're worried about not knowing anyone, we will make sure you have a lunch buddy. There is always room for more Jewish seniors at the table.



Stuart Rudnick (center) performed comedy mixed with magic

So many people are instrumental in helping before, during and after the lunch, that there is literally a village of volunteers who are responsible for pulling off this event every single month with attention to detail, joy and warmth. If you're interested in joining this volunteer village, please call Sherri Zucker at 239.980.5760.

The Senior Lunch Bunch lost one of its original participants, Muriel Fichtelberg, in January. Our condo-

lences go out to her family.

The next Senior Lunch Bunch is on Thursday, March 15 at noon at Temple Judea, 14486 A&W Bulb Road, Fort Myers. RSVP by Monday, March 12 by calling 239.481.4449 x6 or emailing [jodicohen@jfedlcc.org](mailto:jodicohen@jfedlcc.org). Let me know if you'll need a ride or if this will be your first time attending the lunch. It is difficult to capture the true spirit in the room with words, so come on down and see for yourself! ▲



The Grandezza Volunteers: Karen Schwartz, Annette Paine, Kathy Renas, Winnie Silberman, Felice Hurwitz, Shelley Handler

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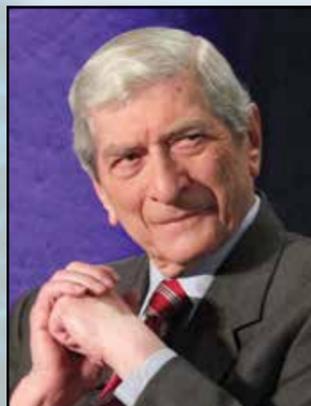
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## ANNUAL PASSOVER VISITS TO SENIORS

**Volunteers Needed**

Do a *mitzvah* and **help pack and/or deliver** our PESACH bags to the Jewish seniors living in independent, assisted living and nursing home facilities in Lee & Charlotte Counties. The residents enjoy not only the contents of the gift bags, they love being visited by the members of the community who deliver them.

*THIS IS A GREAT WAY FOR STUDENTS TO EARN VOLUNTEER HOURS OR TO DO A MITZVAH PROJECT FOR THEIR BAR/BAT MITZVAH.*

**Bags will be packed on Wednesday, March 14.**

**Bags will be delivered on Sunday, March 18.**

**Volunteers should come to the Federation between 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. to pick up the bags to deliver.**

**(Other pick-up and delivery times can be arranged also, if needed.)**

This is an opportunity for all family members to get involved.

Seniors love having young children come visit.

From babies to bubbes, this is a mitzvah the whole family can do together.

**TO VOLUNTEER, CONTACT LENI:**

**lenibsack@jfedlcc.org or 239-481-4449 Ext. 3**

## The “Heart Remembers” project

By Jodi Cohen, Senior Outreach Coordinator

Consider the number 23,545. If you are counting raindrops, they might add up to the size of a puddle you could jump over. If you are counting pieces of candy, that number represents one seriously busy trick-or-treater. Without context, the number has no meaning.

Local artist and Jewish Federation board member Carolyn Gora is spearheading a group of six local artists to participate in Israel’s “Heart Remembers” project, a national artistic exhibition meant to commemorate fallen IDF soldiers. The project will see the creation of 23,545 ceramic red hearts

organizational and whole-community level.

In 2016, eight artists from Fort Myers participated in P2G’s “Art Beyond Boundaries” project where they



collaborated with Israeli artists to create pieces of art inspired by selected Psalms. The work was shown and celebrated in Israel as well as Fort Myers.

P2G connects 450 Jewish and Israeli communities in 46 city-to-city and region-to-region partnerships. Fort Myers is fortunate to be included in the Hadera - Eiron and Southeast Communities U.S. region. Check out the inspiring work that P2G is doing all over the world at [www.jewishagency.org/p2g-eng](http://www.jewishagency.org/p2g-eng).

These tens of thousands of hearts will be hand-created by thousands of ceramic artists throughout Israel and the U.S. The ceramic hearts will be of uniform size (approximately 4.7”) and be painted red, as an expression of love and honor. The Hebrew words *HaLev Zocher* (the heart remembers) will be printed on each heart. We are invited to include ornamental elements in our creations and add a personal inscription on the reverse side of each heart.

I am honored to contribute to this project, as it feels like sacred work. On the back of each heart that I create, I plan to write a line from a poem by Holocaust survivor and French poet Paul Celan: “The world is gone, I must carry you.”▲



(one for each fallen soldier) that will be placed along a long, winding path outside of Tel Aviv’s Yitzhak Rabin Center and running into it. The hearts will be placed just prior to Remembrance Day for Fallen IDF Soldiers, April 2018.

Along with Carolyn and myself, Janice Heligman, Juli Bobman, Celeste Borah and Sheila Sklar will participate in yet another project through Partnership2gether (P2G), a successful Jewish Agency model for generating ongoing, direct and meaningful partnerships between Jewish world communities and Israeli communities – on an individual,

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# Holocaust Museum update

By Susan Suarez, Executive Director

The Museum is proud of the positive reviews on Trip Advisor from our guests. This comment from a recent guest is a great example of our impact: "Though the Museum itself is small, it packs a major punch with personal stories, letters and artifacts from the Holocaust. The staff and docents were knowledgeable and friendly, and it is a gift to the local community to have such a place for learning and remembrance."

That comment encapsulates two themes inherent in our work – education and community.

**Education:** This is the basis of our mission statement: to teach the lessons of the Holocaust to inspire action against bigotry, hatred and violence. The word "education" is also an integral part of our organization's name. Indeed, education plays its part in every interaction with students, teachers, the public and our wonderful volunteers and supporters.

**Community:** We began and evolved as an educational institution with local community input, and our programs continue to serve our schools and the public. The genesis of the Museum was also local – a community middle school classroom project on the Holocaust, "Out of the Ashes." Twenty years ago this school year, under the direction of teachers David Bell and Michelle Lee, Golden Gate Middle School 7<sup>th</sup> graders

undertook their own educational mission to teach the lessons of the Holocaust to their families, friends and community.

As we support our community through partnerships in programming and events, so our community supports our mission in a variety of interesting ways. Last month, through the generosity of Board Member Maureen Lerner, community members supported the Museum by attending a concert featuring Brian Thornton, cellist and William P. Blair III Endowed Chair at the Cleveland Orchestra.

Mr. Thornton performed the music of his former teacher, Lev Aronson, a Holocaust survivor, and skillfully interwove stories of Aronson's life with his music. Naples-based fine artist Arturo Correa donated a portion of the proceeds of the "Open Studio Day" he held to benefit our Education programs.

The Museum will celebrate both our Educational mission and Community partnerships during our *Triumph 2018* event on Monday, March 5 at the new Club Pelican Bay. The highlights of this special evening will include a discussion with our Featured Speaker, David Eisenhower, and veteran CBS News Correspondent Phil Jones, as they recall Dwight D. Eisenhower's World War II legacy and, specifically, his actions to document and tell the world about the existence of the Holocaust to forcefully contradict those who might deny it happened in the future. This effort to educate future generations about the lessons of the Holocaust stands along with his many other notable achievements as a world leader. The Museum

will honor Golden Gate Middle School teachers David Bell and Michelle Lee on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of "Out of The Ashes." Both their students and the Museum have carried on the important Holocaust education work begun by General Eisenhower in 1945.

If you'd like to attend *Triumph 2018*, contact Development & Membership Specialist Tim Morrison at 239.263.9200 x207 or Tim@HolocaustMuseumSWFL.org.

We hope you'll visit our current exhibit, "Resettling and Rebuilding: The Displaced Persons in Post-War Europe." It looks at that chaotic period and the impact of DP camps in helping the Jewish population devastated by the Holocaust try to rebuild their shattered lives.

Our self-guided Museum tour has

been updated with new information and interactive features. The Boxcar Exhibit, on loan to the Museum from Jack and F.E. Nortman and The Boxcar Foundation, continues its travels in Southwest Florida. Contact the Museum for locations. Thursday, March 8 and 22 are the final 2018 Elliott Katz lectures at Hodges University. Contact April May at amay@hodges.edu.

Finally, Palmetto Ridge High School will present the play *And A Child Shall Lead Them*, Friday, March 24 and Saturday, March 25 at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium. Written by Michael Slade, the fast-paced drama incorporates the poems of children imprisoned at the Theresienstadt (Terezin) camp in World War II. Contact the school at 239.377.2400 for more information.▲



■ Susan Suarez

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# Dr. Talbot Spivak Holocaust Memorial Week at Florida SouthWestern State College

Florida SouthWestern State College (FSW) will observe the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Dr. Talbot Spivak Holocaust Memorial Week, March 26-30, with a series of events. The mission of the Dr. Talbot Spivak Holocaust Memorial Week at FSW is to educate students and the community about the Holocaust, to honor its victims and survivors, to cultivate tolerance, and to promote

awareness of modern-day genocide in support of the world's promise of "Never Again."

A major feature of Holocaust Memorial Week at FSW continues to be firsthand commentary by Holocaust survivors. Our local community has been blessed to have a number of residents who are Holocaust survivors and are willing to share their personal

Holocaust experiences with students and the community. Renee Beddouk, Marcel Fachler, Cesare Frustaci, Steen Metz, Rob Nossen and Irene Skolnick will present their individual Holocaust survivor stories. Steen, also, will present his heartrending story to the FSW Collegiate High School students. All of the survivor stories help our students realize how tragic the Holocaust was and to put a face to the victims. Renee Beddouk, Marcel Fachler, Cesare Frustaci, Steen Metz and Irene Skolnick will participate in a Round Table Lunch where they are able to talk to students in a more intimate setting to tell their stories. This is a unique opportunity to meet and get to know our local Holocaust survivors.

We are honored to offer several sessions with guest speakers. Myra Roberts will present pieces from her "Dream Peace" collection featuring portraits of Bielski partisans and other survivors of the Holocaust. Michael Berube II (FSW Alumni) will retell his great-grandfather's experiences as an American soldier in Germany.

Other sessions will include presentations by FSW faculty: Dr. Bruno Baltodano (Professor of Political Science), Professor Rachel Cox (Professor of Violin/Viola), Sarah Gottwalles (Professor of History), Dr. Mark Herman (Professor of History), Professor Frank Kohn (Professor of Psychology), Professor Robbie Manauis (Professor of First Year Experience), and Dr. Sandi Towers-Romero (Professor of Hospitality Law).

The FSW Writing Center's Book Club will hold a book discussion on Elie Wiesel's *Night*.

The FSW Holocaust Memorial Committee would like to thank the Holocaust Museum & Education Center of Southwest Florida, the Kenneth and Mary Ruth Stegman Endowed Chair, Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties, and FSW Campus Student Engagement for their continued support.

Please visit <https://www.FSW.edu/holocaust> for more detailed event information and to access archived videos from our Holocaust survivors. ▲

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## Community Free Synagogue events and programs

### Brown Bag Movie Night

The Community Free Synagogue's next Brown Bag Movie Night is Thursday, March 22 at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Hall, 10868 Metro Parkway, Fort Myers. It features the 1958 classic *Marjorie Morningstar*, starring Natalie Wood, Gene Kelly and Carolyn Jones.

Based on Herman Wouk's 1955 novel, the film depicts a young Jewish woman from New York trying to break away from her traditional roots. Notably, it featured the first on-screen depictions of Jewish rituals since the 1927 *Jazz Singer*.

Pack a dinner; admission and soft-drinks are free!

### Adult Education: Getting Ready for Passover

Rabbi Bruce Diamond will teach the traditions of Passover on Sundays, March 4 and 11 from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Learn about the Seder's history and how to conduct one at home, as well as the holiday's dietary laws and related practices.

On Sunday, March 25 at 10:30 a.m., Rabbi Diamond will once again conduct his very popular workshop on how to bake your own matzah from scratch. Once you've made your own, you won't be going back to the industrial boxed substitute. The classes are free and open to all. ▲

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# And so it began

By Carol B. Polis

Every story has a beginning, and mine was writing diaries as a young girl. My book, *The Lady is a Champ*, with co-author Rich Herschlag, would not have come to pass were it not for all the diaries I kept of my 27 title fights all over the world plus many boxing experiences. Bob Polis, my husband who passed away, was both a stock broker and boxing referee. He was the referee for the Joey Giardello vs Hurricane Rubin Carter fight in 1965. He insisted I go to the fights with him, which I found barbaric and cruel, as I didn't understand why the fight wasn't stopped when one or



Carol B. Polis

both of the fighters were bleeding. Through osmosis and judging thousands of fights from 1973 on, I learned that the only way the fight would be stopped was due to profuse bleeding, is if the blood interfered with their vision.

When judging fights both here and all over the world, I always wore dark clothes, as blood would get on me and my score card. My husband gave me only a 10-second "how to" judge a fight on the back of a program. He was the referee and I kept score sitting in the audience at the spectrum in Philadelphia. At the end of the night, Bob came to get my scores to share with the state athletic commissioner, Zack Clayton. Zack was the referee for the fight, "The rumble in the Jungle." It was not a pretty sight seeing a grown woman begging her husband NOT to

turn in her scores, but Bob didn't listen. Lo and behold, when Zack looked at my scores, he said they were better than the men, and for me to keep doing it. Zack sent me a small but super-thick book of Pennsylvania Rules and Regulations, which took me a year and a half to get through.

Every time I went to the fights, Zack would ask me on-the-spot questions. I also turned in my scores for him to compare to those of the male officials. Call that the oral and written part of my exam.

One night at intermission, prior to the wind-up or main event, Zack came over to me and said he had some good and bad news for me. The bad news was a 2-hour ride to Harrisburg, the capital of Pennsylvania, and the good news was that Governor Milton Shapp of Pennsylvania was going to appoint me as the first woman professional boxing judge in the world! At first I thought he was kidding, and then it sunk in. What an aha moment, which I shall never forget!

Off Bob and I went the following week to the Governor's chamber. I was asked to put on huge gloves and pretend I was hitting the Governor. When I leaned over, I whispered in his ear, "Local Jewish girl makes good." He was hysterical, and I have photos of that moment. Television, radio and newspaper people were there, and I loved every minute of it. I kept thinking this is the way Marilyn Monroe must have felt. When we got back home, many reporters were waiting on the front porch.

It is now 45 years later and I have judged 27 title fights throughout the world - I have judged Mike Tyson and Larry Holmes. I have appeared on *What's My Line* and *To Tell the Truth*, and in the movie, *Rocky V*. I have done many speaking engagements as I love sharing my story. I moved to Cape Coral four months ago and hope to continue speaking all over Florida. Come meet me at the farmers' market on the weekends where I will be selling my book.▲



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For a continuously updated  
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## 2<sup>nd</sup> Night Community Seder

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# Rescuing the Jews of Bulgaria

By Paul R. Bartrop, PhD

While many people know that Denmark rescued most of its Jewish community from the Nazis, the story of how the 48,000 Jews of Bulgaria were saved was hidden for many decades.

Seventy-five years ago this month, in March 1943, the worst fears and brightest hopes of the Jews of Bulgaria were realized. They were saved largely through the effort of one remarkable politician.

■ **Dr. Paul Bartrop**

Dimitar Peshev was a leading Bulgarian lawmaker in the 1930s and 1940s, and a major actor in resisting the pro-Nazi government of Premier Bogdan Filov. Through this opposition he prevented the deportation of Bulgaria's Jews to the death camps of Nazi Germany. The small Jewish community dated back to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century CE, and there were also some Sephardic Jews whose ancestors had been expelled from Spain after 1492.

Bulgaria had resisted pressure to join the Axis until circumstances beyond its control forced the government to take sides, and in order to spare his country the devastation of possible German occupation, Tsar Boris III reluctantly agreed to join the Tripartite Pact on March 1, 1941. This alliance allowed Bulgaria to recapture Macedonia from Yugoslavia, and Thrace from Greece, territories which the country lost after World War I.

Under German pressure, Bulgaria enacted anti-Semitic laws even before becoming an Axis ally. On January 23, 1941, the Law for Protection of the Nation, which copied Nazi Germany's Nuremberg Laws, came into effect, and

in 1942 the government set up a special Commissariat for Jewish Affairs.

On January 21, 1943, SS officer Theodor Dannecker, acting on behalf of Adolf Eichmann, arrived in Sofia to force Bulgaria to deport its Jewish population. On February 22, 1943, he reached a secret agreement with the head of the Bulgarian Commissariat for Jewish Affairs, Alexander Belev, for the deportation of Jews from the newly-acquired Bulgarian territories in Thrace and Macedonia, to German-occupied areas, by April 15. The Jews in these territories numbered around 13,000, but the Germans were hoping also to deport some 8,000 Bulgarian citizens of Jewish ancestry living in "old" Bulgaria.

In the spring of 1943, the Bulgarian government signed a new law whereby all of Bulgaria's Jews would be deported through Kyustendil on March 10, 1943, and sent to Nazi death camps in Poland. Jews in Thrace and Macedonia would also be rounded up and deported. When the Jews of Kyustendil learned of their imminent deportation, they attempted to have the order overturned through the intercession of one they knew as a friend: Dimitar Peshev, the Minister for Justice and Deputy Speaker of the *Sobranie* (Parliament).

On March 8, 1943, a local Jewish delegation, including Jakob Baruch, a personal friend of Peshev's, spoke with him about the government's deportation plan. Peshev had not previously known of it. Upon confirmation of the story, he decided that the deportations had to be stopped. He traveled to Kyustendil and met with the assistant chief of police, who described to him how they were to take place. Peshev now saw all too clearly the consequences of Bulgaria's alliance with Hitler, and decided he had to act.

Together with a close friend and colleague from Kyustendil, Petar Mihalev, he went to Parliament and burst into the office of Interior Minister Petar Gabrovski, insisting that he cancel the deportations. Explaining the gravity of the situation, and after a fierce argument, Gabrovski called the governor of Kyustendil and instructed him to stop the deportations. By 5:30 p.m. on March 9 – just one day after Peshev had learned about the planned action against the Jews – the deportations had been cancelled.

Despite Gabrovski's assurance, however, Peshev needed further guarantees – especially after he learned that the Jews in the occupied territories of Thrace and Macedonia were already being deported. On March 18-19, 1943, Jews in Thrace were taken to Lom, in Bulgaria; from there they were shipped to Vienna, and then transferred to trains going to Auschwitz and Katowice. All Macedonian Jews were interned by March 11. On March 22 and 25, some were deported by train to Auschwitz; on March 29, the rest were deported to Treblinka.

Peshev now decided to bring up the matter in Parliament. On March 17, 1943, he wrote a letter of protest and had 42 Members sign it. Disregarding Prime Minister Filov's instruction not to subject the letter to a vote in the House, it was discussed in caucus on March 23,

1943. Not wishing to have his authority undermined, Filov demanded that each of the signatories stand and verbally announce their support of Peshev's letter. Shamefully, only 30 of the original 42 affirmed their position, and when a final vote was taken it was decided to censure Peshev. The next day he was forced to step down as Deputy Speaker.

The years that followed were not kind. Under communist rule, Peshev was arrested as a member of the former Bulgarian collaborationist government and, facing the death penalty, members of the Jewish community from Kyustendil testified on his behalf. He was sentenced to 15 years in prison at forced labor, but after eighteen months the court reviewed his case and he was released upon learning of his key role in saving Bulgaria's Jews. Released, he was forced to live in isolation, without a job or a means for sustenance.

In January 1973, Yad Vashem recognized Dimitar Peshev as one of the Righteous among the Nations for his role in saving the Jews of Bulgaria. A few weeks later, on February 20, 1973, he died – a Holocaust resister recognized, sadly, much too late.▲

*Dr. Paul Bartrop is Professor of History and the Director of the Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Genocide Studies at Florida Gulf Coast University. He can be reached at [pbartrop@fgcu.edu](mailto:pbartrop@fgcu.edu).*



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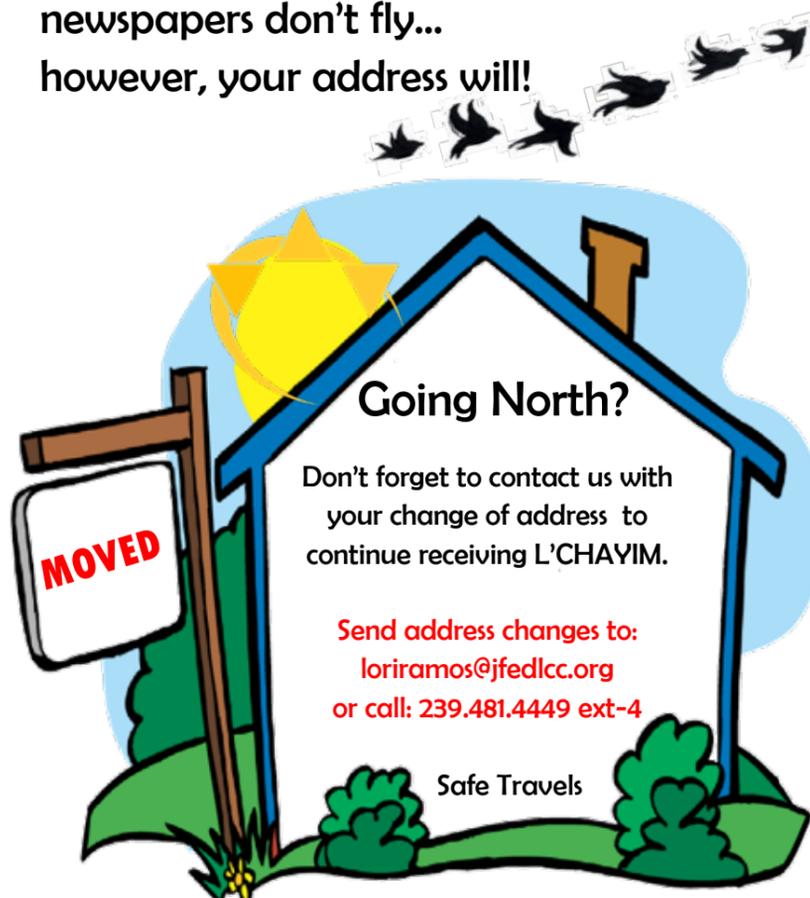


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Safe Travels

# Stars of David

By Nate Bloom, Contributing Columnist

**Editor's note:** Persons in **BOLD CAPS** are deemed by Nate Bloom to be Jewish for the purpose of the column. Persons identified as Jewish have at least one Jewish parent and were not raised in a faith other than Judaism – and don't identify with a faith other than Judaism as an adult. Converts to Judaism, of course, are also identified as Jewish.

**The Tribe at the Oscars: 2018 Edition**

The 90<sup>th</sup> Oscars ceremony takes place on Sunday, March 4. It begins at 8:00 p.m. on ABC. Jimmy Kimmel will host. The following is a list of "confirmed" Jewish Oscar nominees. My practice is not to include the technical categories. The number of Jewish nominees is smaller than some years, but still substantial.

Best Leading actor: **TIMOTHÉE CHALAMET**, 24, *Call Me by My Name*. He competes in this category with **DANIEL DAY-LEWIS**, 60, who starred in *The Phantom Thread*. Chalamet is the breakout actor of 2017. Besides starring in *Call Me*, a best picture nominee, he had a biggish supporting role in *Lady Bird*, another best picture nominee. He grew up in New York City, the son of an American Jewish mother and a French Protestant father. He's referred to himself as Jewish. In *Call Me*, he plays a 17-year-old Jewish man living in Italy who has a brief same-sex affair with a visiting American Jewish student. Day-Lewis, 60, is the only male actor to win three best actor Oscars. His father, famous poet Cecil Day-Lewis, was of Irish Protestant background, while his mother, the late actress **JILL BALCON**, was Jewish. Jill's father, **MICHAEL**, was a founder of the British film industry. Daniel has always been secular. He says *Phantom Thread*, in which he plays a fashion designer, will be his last film. (No Jewish actresses were nominated this year and no Jewish actor got a supporting actor nomination.)

No Jewish writers are nominated for an original screenplay. However, a number are nominated for best adapted screenplay. *The Disaster Artist*, a comedy about a terrible real movie, was written by **SCOTT NEUSTADTER** and **MICHAEL H. WEBER**, both 40. They have been a writing team since 1999 and have similar backgrounds. Neustadter grew up on Long Island and Weber in Atlantic City. Both had a bar mitzvah and like to dish about Jews in the movies. Their breakout film was *500 Days of Summer* (2006), a clever original romantic comedy/drama. Also in this category: *Logan*, which was co-written by **SCOTT FRANK**, 57, James Mangold and **MICHAEL GREEN**, 45. *Logan* is the first comic-book based movie to get a best screenplay Oscar nomination. Frank's credits include writing *Minority Report*, *Marley and Me* and *Out of Sight* (best adapted nomination). He also wrote and directed *Godless*, a Netflix series. Green, grew up in a New York City suburb where his religious, Israel-born mother insisted he attend a yeshiva. He became more secular as he grew older. A top screenwriter, now, he got his big break writing a first season *Sex and the City* episode. Also: **AARON SORKIN**, 56, for *Molly's Game*, a film from a memoir by Molly Bloom (whose father is Jewish) about running high-stakes poker games. Sorkin became famous with his 1989 play *A Few Good Men*. It became a hit movie in 1992.

**LEE UNKRICH**, 50, is the co-director and co-producer of *Coco*, a

## Interested in Your Family's History?

Nate Bloom (see column at left) has become a family history expert in 10 years of doing his celebrity column, and he has expert friends who can help when called on. Most family history experts charge \$1,000 or more to do a full family-tree search. However, Bloom knows that most people want to start with a limited search of one family line.

**So here's the deal:**

**Write Bloom at nteibloom@aol.com and enclose a phone number. Nate will then contact you about starting a limited search. If that goes well, additional and more extensive searches are possible. The first search fee is no more than \$100. No upfront cost. Also, several of this newspaper's readers have asked Bloom to locate friends and family members from their past, and that's worked out great for them. So contact him about this as well.**

best feature-length animated movie nominee. He directed *Toy Story 3*, which won the Oscar in 2011. **FRANK STIEFEL**, 60ish, is nominated for best documentary short subject with *Heaven is a Traffic Jam*. It's about **MINDY ALPER**, 58, a talented artist who has battled mental problems. Stiefel made a short movie, *Ingelore* (2009), about how his mother, a deaf teen, escaped Nazi Germany. **BRYAN FOGEL**, 40ish, wrote and co-starred in *Icarus*, a best feature-length documentary nominee. Fogel, a very serious bicyclist, blew the lid off Russian athlete doping in his film. Before *Icarus*, he was best known for *Jewtopia*, a comedic play/film. His parents, who belong to a Denver Orthodox synagogue, will accompany him to the Oscars.

**DIANE WARREN**, 61, is nominated for best song, "Stand Up for Something" from *Marshall*. This is her 9<sup>th</sup> best song nomination. She competes with **BENJ PASEK**, 32, and Justin Paul, who wrote "This is Me" from *The*

*Greatest Showman*. **HANS ZIMMER**, 60, is nominated for best musical score for *Dunkirk*. He's been Oscar nominated 11 times, winning in 1995 for *The Lion King*.

The best picture nomination goes to the film's producers. Nine movies are nominated. The following have "confirmed" Jewish producers: *Call Me by My Name* (**PETER SPEARS**, 50); *The Darkest Hour* (**ERIC FELLNER**, 58); *Lady Bird* (**SCOTT RUDIN**, 59) – the film's director/writer, Greta Gerwig, recently told NPR she wanted to use excerpts of a **STEPHEN SONDHEIM** musical in her film. Fortunately, she said, Rudin is friends with Sondheim, 87, and Sondheim gave her permission; *The Post* (**AMY PASCAL**, 59, and **STEVEN SPIELBERG**, 71 – Spielberg directed *The Post*, but wasn't nominated for best director this year. ▲

**What do you think? Need to reach the editor of L'CHAYIM? Send an email to LChayim36@gmail.com.**

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# The Best Hamantaschen – recipe by Dalia Hemed

Purim is the Jewish calendar's biggest party festival. The holiday celebrates the heroism of Queen Esther, a Jewish woman who rose to become the Queen of Persia and saved her people from destruction at the hands of her husband's ill-intentioned advisor, Haman. People celebrate Purim by gathering in synagogues to read Esther's story aloud. They then head off to parties to celebrate the ancient victory by wearing costumes, getting tipsy and, of course, eating.

Hamantaschen, the triangular cookies that hold a variety of tasty fillings, are Purim's most recognizable food. The name translates from Yiddish as "Haman's pockets," and the cookie fittingly represents the pockets of the Purim story's primary villain, Haman. (Some people say it also represents the tri-cornered hat he wore.)

In Eastern Europe, where hamantaschen originated, they were traditionally filled with sweetened ground poppy seeds, thick prune jam, or apricot preserves. Those fillings remain popular today, but in recent years bakeries and home cooks have also taken creative license with hamantaschen, swapping out the typical preserves for spreads like halvah, marzipan, apple caramel and Nutella. On a festive holiday like Purim, the more cookie varieties the merrier!

Each Purim, it is customary to bundle up small gifts of food – typically a few hamantaschen and another edible goodie or two – and deliver them to friends and family. The idea behind this tradition stems from the notion that Purim is meant to be a joyous holiday, and sharing these food gifts ensures that everyone will have enough to celebrate with. Delivering *mishloach manot*, which literally means "sending of portions" in Hebrew, also offers a chance to drop by for a visit with friends.

Hamantaschen originated in Eastern Europe, but Jewish communities across the globe had their own Purim foods. In addition to hamantaschen, some Eastern European Jews serve kreplach, meat-filled soup dumplings that keep their filling hidden inside, the way Queen Esther initially had to hide her Jewish identity. Moroccan Jews, meanwhile, make yeast bread shaped like Haman's face with hardboiled eggs baked directly into the bread that symbolize his eyes. And in Italy, Jews make fried strips of dough served in honey syrup that represent Haman's ears. Without doubt, there seems to be a global trend of immortalizing the guy in baked-good form!

In Israel, for weeks, every grocery store and baker is hawking the Purim pastry of hamantaschen. By the time the holiday finally rolls around, everyone has more than had their fill of these poppy-seed and prune-filled delights. My childhood memories of Purim celebrations in Israel are filled with a lot

of those triangle-shaped cookies.

My grandmother owned a restaurant and bakery in Israel, and I would bake hamantaschen with her. All my teenage life, we made hamantaschen every Purim. They are my favorite. When I left Israel and came to America, my grandmother would always mail me a box full of hamantaschen from Israel just before Purim. My grandmother passed away few months ago. I am not going to have a box of hamantaschen from her this year. Now, I will need to make them myself. I am sharing her Best Hamantaschen recipe as a memorial to my grandmother. Hamantaschen traditionally have poppy seed filling, but my grandma used to make other flavors too.

#### Hamantaschen Dough Ingredients:

- 3/4 cup unsalted butter, room temperature
- 2/3 cup sugar
- 1 egg, room temperature
- tsp vanilla instant pudding
- 3 Tbsp heavy whipping cream
- 1 tsp grated orange zest
- 2 1/4 cups flour
- 1/4 tsp salt

#### Filling for Hamantaschen:

You can fill the Hamantaschen with poppy seeds filling, apricot jam, prune jam, Nutella, caramel apple filling and almost everything you feel like. My favorite is, the best filling of all – cherry pie filling.

#### You will also need:

Large mixing bowl, electric mixer, sifter, pastry scraper, rolling pin, 3-inch cookie cutter or drinking glass with 3-inch diameter rim.

- ▶ Slice room-temperature butter into small chunks and place in a large mixing bowl.
- ▶ Add sugar to the bowl. Use an electric mixer to cream the butter and sugar together for a few minutes till light and fluffy.
- ▶ Add the egg, vanilla and orange zest to the bowl. Beat again till creamy and well mixed.
- ▶ Sift flour and salt into the bowl.
- ▶ Mix with the electric mixer on low speed till a crumbly dough forms.
- ▶ Begin to knead dough with hands till a smooth dough ball forms.
- ▶ Form the dough into a flat disk and wrap in plastic wrap. Place in the refrigerator to chill for 3 hours to overnight.
- ▶ Before you begin to assemble the hamantaschen, choose and make your filling and have it on hand to work with. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Lightly flour a smooth, clean surface. Unwrap the dough disk and place it on the floured surface. The dough will be very firm after chilling.
- ▶ Use a rolling pin to roll the dough out to 1/4-inch thick.
- ▶ When the dough reaches 1/4-inch thickness, scrape the dough up with a pastry scraper, lightly re-flour the

surface, and flip the dough over. Continue rolling the dough out very thin (less than 1/8-inch thick). The thinner you roll the dough, the more delicate and crisp the cookies will turn out. Just make sure that the dough is still thick enough to hold the filling and its shape!

- ▶ Use a 3-inch cookie cutter (not smaller) or the 3-inch rim of a glass to cut circles out of the dough, cutting as many as you can from the dough.
- ▶ Gather the scraps and roll them out again. Cut circles. Repeat the process again if needed until you've cut as many circles as you can from the dough. You should end up with around 35 circles.
- ▶ Use two cherries and place a little bit of filling (whichever filling you choose) into the center of each circle. Do not use more than a teaspoon of filling or you run the risk of your hamantaschen opening and spilling out during baking.
- ▶ Assemble the hamantaschen in three steps. First, grasp the left side of the circle and fold it toward the center to make a flap that covers the left third of the circle.
- ▶ Grasp the right side of the circle and fold it toward the center, overlapping the upper part of the left side flap to create a triangular tip at the top of the circle. A small triangle of filling should still be visible in the center.
- ▶ Grasp the bottom part of the circle and fold it upward to create a third flap and complete the triangle. When you fold this flap up, be sure to tuck the left side of this new flap underneath the left side of the triangle, while letting the right side of this new flap overlap the right side of the triangle. This way, each side of your triangle has a corner



**Personal Chef Dalia Hemed can be reached at [daliahemed@msn.com](mailto:daliahemed@msn.com).**

that folds over and a corner that folds under. This creates a "pinwheel" effect. This method of folding is not only pretty, it will help to keep the cookies from opening while they bake.

- ▶ Pinch each corner of the triangle gently but firmly to secure the shape.
- ▶ Repeat this process for the remaining circles.
- ▶ When all of your hamantaschen have been filled, place them on a lightly greased baking sheet, evenly spaced.
- ▶ Place them in the oven and let them bake at 350 degrees for 20-25 minutes, till the cookies are cooked through and lightly golden.▲

**Look for Chef Dalia Hemed's recipes each month in the pages of L'CHAYIM.**

## Fall 2018 Educational Scholarships Available

Scholarship applications are now available for Jewish residents of Lee and Charlotte Counties, Florida, wishing to pursue postsecondary education.

Applicants must be under 30 years of age and priority will be given to full-time students. Funding is limited and decisions will be based primarily on financial need.

Completed applications are due by April 30, 2018

Scholarships are made available from designated funds held by the Jewish Community Foundation.

For more information or to request an application, contact the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties at (239) 481-4449 ext. 4, fax (239) 481-0139 or email: [loriramos@jfedlcc.org](mailto:loriramos@jfedlcc.org)



JEWISH FEDERATION  
FOOD PANTRY



Following is a list of staples always in need at the food pantry:

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| <i>Peanut butter and jelly</i> | <i>Pasta sauce (pasta, not needed)</i>      |
| <i>Rice and beans</i>          | <i>Canned vegetables and fruits</i>         |
| <i>Cereal</i>                  | <i>Canned meats</i>                         |
| <i>Condiments</i>              | <i>Toiletries for adults &amp; children</i> |

Gift cards to places like Publix, Walmart, Target, etc., as well as cash donations, are also appreciated. Jewish Family Services helps seniors, individuals and families with a variety of needs.



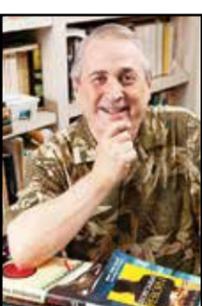
# Breathtaking tale of prominent professor's undoing expertly woven with biblical and Mishnaic passages

Book review by Philip K. Jason, Special to L'CHAYIM

*The Ruined House: A Novel*, by Ruby Namdar. Translated by Hillel Halkin. Harper. 528 pages. Hardcover \$29.99.

Some books are so spectacularly original, so far beyond the boundaries of any reader's expectations, and so challenging, that they establish a new point of reference for any further discussions of literary achievement.

Ruby Namdar's *The Ruined House*, set at the dawn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, explores the givens of a cataclysmic era that may become a period of tumultuous cleansing.



Phil Jason

Though centered on the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual disintegration of a successful, middle-aged college professor, it fully engages the new American century's self-masking: its adulation of elites and its confusion of cultural values.

Andrew P. Cohen, an accomplished and proud secular Jew, has tripped over the scales of hubris and found himself to be a foul beast. His aura of polite self-congratulation has become contaminated and slowly begins to smother him. His many faults, the recognition of which he has artfully hidden from himself for decades, are in the process of being revealed.

The selfishness with which he ended his marriage is exposed to him. The comfort and security he felt in his academic achievements, the physical attractiveness and health that he nurtured and in which he delighted, and his assumption of fully controlling his always upward-bound destiny are most painfully stripped away.

Namdar tells his story, almost sings

it, with a lyricism that is only the richer for the hideous images that increasingly fill up Cohen's world as he falls apart. The erotic turns into its hideous opposite. Images of grotesque tongues and penises fill his imagination. He sees signs of what's coming, has nightmares and incredible daydreams, and they all finally rest on how his being – if not his world — has been penetrated and irradiated by ancient texts: sections of Old Testament with accompanying Mishnaic commentary.

This material, represented in the graphic style of the original manuscripts, focuses on the preparation of the Temple's high priest for performing his duties during the seven days leading to Yom Kippur, the holiest day in the Jewish calendar. These duties are largely rituals of purification, but also include various kinds of sacrifices – offerings to God.

Inner and outer cleansing of the self and the Temple are described, along with a number of sacred objects like fire pans and candelabras. The strange ceremonial practice of purifying holy places by sprinkling them with blood is included.

Seven sections drawn from this running narrative/commentary serve as the dividers marking the seven chapters of Namdar's book. The yearning for divine approval registered in the priest's actions seems to magically journey through time and space, ushering in Cohen's self-loathing. The images in these passages also vividly reveal themselves in Cohen's world and Cohen's awareness, however fleetingly.

Of course, Cohen bears the title of priest. That's what his last name means. However, he has not taken on the mantle of a Kohane's responsibilities. If he were truly a descendent of the Kohanim, his behavior until this invasion of the distant past would have disgraced his lineage.

It is hard to determine to what extent author Namdar wishes his readers to engage with these seven intriguing passages, but clearly they are not meant to be merely ornamental digressions. Readers must be open to the relevance of this unexpected material.

As Andy Cohen falls from the grace of his comfortable, prestigious university position, it is as though he has worshiped false gods. He had taken his gifts for granted by deluding himself into thinking that he had used them well.

His behavior toward his ex-wife, his daughters, his students and colleagues, and his girlfriend is ultimately always Andy-centric. Namdar is remarkable at painting Cohen's dawning awareness of his ravenous ego, as well as at representing the false promises Cohen makes to himself to change his ways.

Namdar alludes to (and briefly quotes from) Yeats' *The Second Coming*, and through this reference, reminds us, if not Cohen, that the professor is

only a representative figure in a doomed civilization. For Cohen, the phrase "Things fall apart, the centre cannot hold" is only about him.

The many scenes of disorientation, gluttony, perverse visions, panic and depletion in the novel are gorgeously crafted, as are those that develop the several boldly conceived characters in this convention-bursting novel. These include

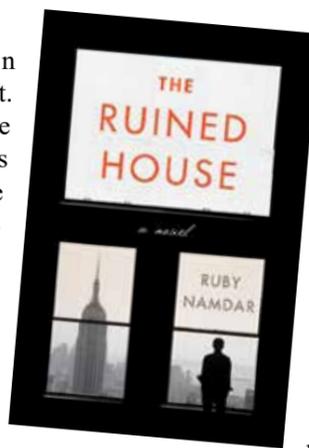
Cohen's insightful older daughter, Rachel, his shallow friend the university president, and his clever, complicated girlfriend, Ann Lee.

Namdar's sketches of the various New York neighborhoods in which scenes are set are in themselves small masterpieces. So, too, are his descriptions of the more confined settings: the restaurants, the apartments, the offices, and the interiors of universities.

This effort must have been an enormous challenge for translator Hillel Halkin, whose contribution to Namdar's opportunity to amaze the English-language audience is immeasurable.

Ruby Namdar has set himself enormous challenges, met them marvelously, and left this reader gasping for breath. Reprinted, with permission, from [www.washingtonindependentreviewofbooks.com](http://www.washingtonindependentreviewofbooks.com). See: <http://www.washingtonindependentreviewofbooks.com/bookreview/the-ruined-house-a-novel>.

Philip K. Jason is Professor Emeritus of English from the United States Naval Academy. He reviews regularly for Florida Weekly, Jewish Book World, Southern Literary Review, and other publications. Please visit Phil's website at [www.philjason.wordpress.com](http://www.philjason.wordpress.com).



Ruby Namdar

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**BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP**

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# 7 Israeli buildings that will make you stop and stare

*Ranging from unusual to daring to strangely appealing, these extraordinary architectural eye-poppers show the quirky side of Israeli creative genius.*

By Abigail Klein Leichman, ISRAEL21c, [www.israel21c.org](http://www.israel21c.org), January 11, 2018

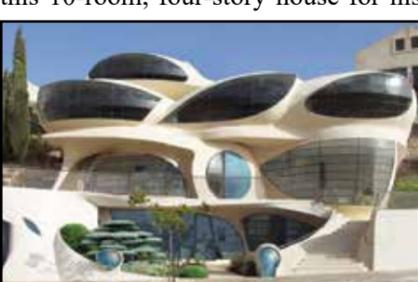
The austere “less is more” mantra of architecture in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century gave way to the postmodern “less is bore” approach that said buildings could be both functional and artistic, even incorporating elements of irony and asymmetry.

While “less is more” defines the famous White City Bauhaus buildings that earned Tel Aviv a UNESCO World Heritage Site designation, the “less is bore” approach in Tel Aviv and other Israeli locales led to structures that have people stopping in their tracks to gawk, grin or gasp.

Are these buildings beautiful or baffling, or both? That’s up to you. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

## ‘BUBBLE HOUSE,’ NEVE DANIEL

French-born architect and interior designer Ephraim Henry Pavie planned this 10-room, four-story house for his



The Pavie Bubble House mimics the flowing shapes of nature (photo courtesy of Ephraim Henry Pavie)



An interior view of the Bubble House in Neve Daniel (photo courtesy of Ephraim Henry Pavie)

own family in 2007. It’s not completely finished because he’s always experimenting with the design.

“I’ve been doing this kind of shape since I started learning architecture in Paris,” Pavie tells ISRAEL21c. “I don’t see why I should be obliged to use geometrical shapes which have nothing in common with nature’s system of shapes. The separation between inside and outside should integrate the life of the outside, and I think curves are the best way to make an envelope for a family.”

His teachers warned that if he wanted to graduate he’d have to sketch rectangular buildings like everyone else. But once his diploma was safely in hand, Pavie and a few friends built two feng shui-inspired bubble houses in Paris in 1974.

“The technical approach we developed allowed us to build free shapes. The structure is flexible, and when I’m sure everything fits the way it should fit I spray concrete on it,” says Pavie, who has also built bubble houses in Miami and on the French Riviera, and is completing another one in Israel. Every component, including the windows, is custom made onsite.

## ‘BEEHIVES,’ RAMOT POLIN, JERUSALEM

Israel prize-winning architect Zvi Hecker designed the northern Jerusalem neighborhood of Ramot Polin as an enormous grid of pentagonal (five-sided) units. Completed in 1975 and since expanded upon, Ramot Polin’s 720 apartments zigzag around inner courtyards.

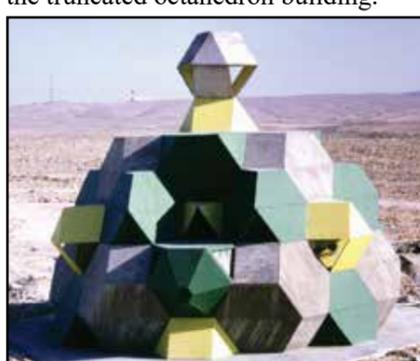
“The general plan of the Ramot Housing is reminiscent of the palm of an open hand – its five fingers are retaining walls ‘supporting’ the slope of the



Ramot Polin, Jerusalem (photo via [zvihecker.com/projects](http://zvihecker.com/projects))

hill,” explained Hecker. “Each ‘finger’ is composed again of five boomerang-like buildings assembled in such a way as to create interior courtyards [transected] by pedestrian paths reminiscent of the Old City of Jerusalem.”

Similar geometry is seen in Hecker’s Synagogue in the Negev, where three types of polyhedral units comprise the truncated octahedron building.



Synagogue in the Negev (photo via [zvihecker.com/projects](http://zvihecker.com/projects))

## SPIRAL HOUSE, RAMAT GAN

The internationally prolific Zvi Hecker also designed this twisty house, which took five years to build, from 1984 to 1989. The facade of plaster, pink glass, stone fragments, corrugated tin and mirrors reflect the interior courtyard and the surroundings.

Hecker describes the Spiral House, which won an architecture award in



Spiral House, Ramat Gan (photo via [zvihecker.com/projects](http://zvihecker.com/projects))

1999, as a modern Tower of Babel. “It is a work of incomplete precision. Because it is so precise it can’t be really finished. The Spiral’s incompleteness is also its poetry, because poetry is the most precise expression of our need for precision. Expressive as it is, the Spiral can’t be fully understood. It speaks to many languages at one and the same time.”

## ‘THE CRAZY HOUSE,’ TEL AVIV

This nine-story postmodernist apartment house, finished in 1985, was designed by Syrian-born architect Leon Gaignebet (also called Leon Geneva).

The side of the building that faces the beach is embedded with gravel, shells, sand, natural wood and plants. The front-facing side features a metal-and-concrete fresco.

The architect has described these opposite sides as “east and west, masculine and feminine, mineral and natural.”

Due to its prime location along Hayarkon Street in north-central Tel Aviv, the Crazy House elicits lots of smiles and picture-taking from visitors to Tel Aviv.

*continued on next page*

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS TO ATTEND

The Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte Counties

## Annual Holocaust Memorial Service

Sunday, April 8 at 3:00 P.M.

Temple Beth Shalom

702 SE 24th Avenue

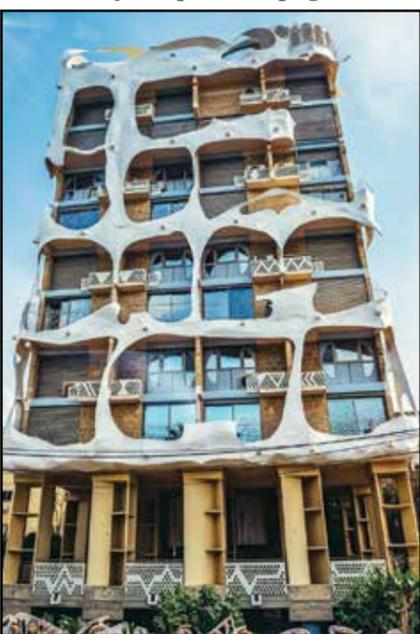
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“To remember, not once to forget”

**Come hear the stories of the survivors in our community, who light the memorial candles each year.**

continued from previous page



The front of the "Crazy House," Tel Aviv (photo by Fotokon/Shutterstock.com)

**'HOUSE ON THE BOARDWALK,' TEL AVIV**

Tel Aviv University Prof. Tzvi Harel, the good-natured architect who designed this post-modernist gravity-defying seaside apartment house, tells ISRAEL21c that he is "proud of being insulted about it. I believe humor and criticism in architecture is very important."

The four-story building was never meant to be more than imaginary. Harel sketched it for a 1980s newspaper column on the renaissance of Tel Aviv culture and art.

Local entrepreneur Avraham Piltz



House on the Boardwalk at 2 Trumpeldor Street, Tel Aviv (photo via happyintlv.net)

loved the oddball design and brought it to life, though he died before the house was completed in the mid-1990s.

"The idea was that since it was on the shore of Tel Aviv, which in those days was quite neglected, you could be an exhibitionist and expose yourself playfully in front of the sea," Harel says, pointing out that every room in each of the seven apartments has a sea view.

**SAIL TOWER (MIGDAL HAMIFRAS), HAIFA**

This government office building is meant to evoke a huge boat with inflated sails. Locals call it "The Rocket" because it looks like it's ready to

launch into outer space. Designed by Dina Ammar, the tower was completed on February 28, 2002, and made



Sail Tower in Haifa (photo by Simeon Kohlman Rabbani/skyscrapercenter.com)

Emporis.com's top 10 list of best skyscrapers that year.

The Sail Tower, with 29 above-ground and three below-ground stories, is covered in curtain walls of aluminum and glass. Counting the antennas, it stands at 152.5 meters (500 feet) tall, making it the highest skyscraper in Haifa. In the lobby, 10 steel arcs soar above mosaics depicting Haifa's history, including a city map from 1773 and a painting of Mount Carmel from 1667.

**HERODS EILAT HOTELS**

The Herods Eilat Hotels are the brainchild of architect/entrepreneur/sailor Yoav Igra. Born and educated in Jerusa-

lem, Igra earned a degree in architecture in Canada and returned to Israel in 1989 to create Israel's first themed hotel resort similar to those in Las Vegas.

The \$140 million project is distinguished by historic-looking arches, towers, domes and columns symbolizing seven cultures that had great influence on the region: the Egyptians, Nabateans, Greeks, Romans, Ayyubids, British and Israelis. Igra oversaw each detail down to the doorknobs.

The complex of three hotels (Herods Palace for families, Herods Boutique for business travelers and Herods Vitalis spa hotel) opened in 1999. Igra lives in the Palace and continues to update and tweak his creation.▲

*Abigail Klein Leichman is a writer and associate editor at ISRAEL21c. Prior to moving to Israel in 2007, she was a specialty writer and copy editor at a daily newspaper in New Jersey and has freelanced for a variety of newspapers and periodicals since 1984.*



Herods Eilat Hotels complex by Yoav Igra



**March 18, 2018 @ 11:00 A.M**

**THE U.S.-ISRAEL RELATIONSHIP IN A RAPIDLY CHANGING MIDDLE EAST**

**Joshua Karsh is AIPAC's Florida Deputy Regional Director.** He is responsible for creating the strategic direction and supervising the daily operations for one of the largest AIPAC offices in the United States. He previously served five years as AIPAC's Southeast Region Synagogue Initiative Director.

Prior to his position at AIPAC, Joshua served as the Chief Operating Officer for a leading political consulting firm in South Florida where he was responsible for managing the political campaigns for members of Congress, representatives to the Florida State House and numerous local mayors and commissioners.

Joshua previously worked in Jerusalem with a political consulting firm that served Israeli and European clientele. In addition, he served as a Foreign Affairs Analyst in the elite General Staff of Israel Defense Forces.

[R.S.V.P to Jeff Dawson at jdawson@aipac.org](mailto:jdawson@aipac.org) or at (954) 382-6110



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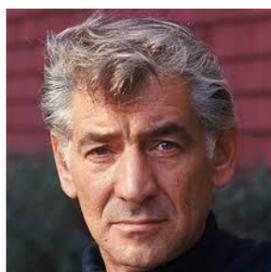
An Evening with Maestro  
**NIR KABARETTI**  
of the Southwest Florida Symphony  
Presenting  
**"THE TWO BERNSTEINS"**



Wednesday  
April 11, 2018

7:15 P.M.  
Wine & Dessert Reception

8:00 P.M.  
Maestro Kabaretti's talk



Leonard Bernstein



Elmer Bernstein

There is no cost to attend  
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Enjoy an evening with  
Nir Kabaretti and learn  
about these two talented  
Jewish composers  
at the  
Jewish Federation  
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Fort Myers



## For All Your Southwest Florida Real Estate Needs

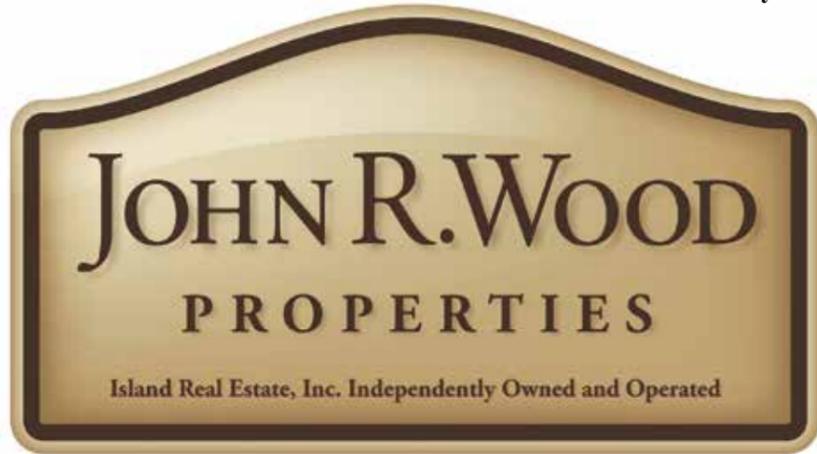
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### NEEDED TO LABEL L'CHAYIM

JOIN US for coffee, bagels and the simple satisfaction that comes from meeting and making friends with other volunteers, as we help keep thousands of local readers informed about local, national and international Jewish news.

Call 481.4449 ext. 3 to add your name to the phone list. Each month we will call to confirm the mailing date and you can let us know if you are available to help label L'CHAYIM.

**Time: 9:30 A.M.**

**Monday, March 26, 2018**

**Monday, April 23, 2018**

## BRIEFS

### CHINA IS ISRAEL'S FASTEST GROWING SOURCE OF TOURISTS

Over 113,000 Chinese traveled to Israel in 2017, up 41% over 2016, said Bora Shnitman, China director of the Israel Government Tourism Office.

He attributed the surge to more targeted promotion campaigns, streamlined visa applications, and more direct flights. (*Xinhua* - China)

### PENCE SAYS U.S. EMBASSY TO MAKE JERUSALEM MOVE NEXT YEAR ON FASTER TIMETABLE

The U.S. will open its embassy in Jerusalem next year, Vice President Pence said Monday, January 22, in Israel's parliament. After President Trump formally recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital in December, the State Department began looking for a possible site on which to build an embassy to replace the existing one in Tel Aviv.

The administration weighed whether to build an entirely new embassy, which could take as long as a decade and be very expensive, or whether to retrofit one of the consulate buildings in Jerusalem. A State Department official said the building being eyed is the U.S. consular service building in the Arnona neighborhood, which opened in 2010 on a site originally slated for the embassy. (*Washington Post*)

### ISRAEL DIGS DEEP TO THWART TUNNEL THREAT FROM GAZA

The Israeli military said Thursday, January 18, that a secretive project to build an underground wall along the border with Gaza is proving to be a deterrent against Palestinian attack tunnels. The wall extends hundreds of feet below ground and is studded with sensors. It's also topped by a 26-foot metal fence. Excavating machines, concrete mixers and hundreds of workers are toiling furiously to complete the barrier by mid-2019 at a cost of \$700 million. (Ilan Ben Zion, *Washington Post*)

### ISRAEL'S REMARKABLE DIPLOMATIC ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2017

◆ During 2017, Israel secured a series of unprecedented diplomatic achievements, reflecting a growing global and regional recognition of

a shared threat from totalitarian Islamism, as well as an appreciation of Israel's capacity to contribute in a variety of fields.

- ◆ President Trump's declaration on December 6, 2017, that the American administration recognizes Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and is planning to move the American embassy there constitutes a significant landmark in the struggle, which has been ongoing since 1949, over the formulation of the U.S. position on Jerusalem. For the first time since Israel's founding, the president has recognized that Israel is the sovereign in Jerusalem.
- ◆ The willingness to present reality as it is, after two generations of succumbing to Arab and Islamic pressures and threats, constitutes a first-rate Israeli diplomatic achievement. The American move reflects the president's decision to abandon the patterns of appeasing Palestinians and deliberately creating a position gap with Israel.
- ◆ In May 2017, an American president chose Israel as one of the destinations for his first trip abroad. In his meeting with Mahmoud Abbas in Bethlehem, President Trump publicly demanded that the PA should end the extensive financing of families of Palestinian prisoners and "martyrs" (terrorists).
- ◆ In June, Prime Minister Netanyahu was the sole non-African speaker at the summit of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in Liberia. Later that month was the tripartite Israel-Greece-Cyprus summit in Thessaloniki to discuss the production of energy in the eastern Mediterranean.
- ◆ In July, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi came for a three-day visit to Israel (and to Israel alone). Israel's relationship with India is rooted in both countries' self-image as democracies opposed by ruthless Islamist enemies.
- ◆ In September, Netanyahu met Egyptian President el-Sisi on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, their first public meeting since Sisi came to power in 2013. The mere fact that a public meeting took place – let alone in a relaxed mood and garnering

*continued on next page*



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*Briefs...continued from previous page*

positive coverage – illustrated the vast transformation in Israel's standing in the region. (Col. (res.) Dr. Eran Lerman, Jerusalem Institute for Strategic Studies)

### ISRAEL TRIES ARABIC OUTREACH

Israel is using the Arabic language to seek common ground with Tehran's enemies. With 1.2 million followers on his Arabic Facebook page and more than 181,000 on Twitter, Maj. Avichay Adraee is the face of the Israeli army's messaging campaign. For Israel, social media has become a way to engage with Arabs and reinforce a growing alignment with Sunni Muslim Arab states.

In one of Adraee's most intense social-media exchanges, a fighter from Hizbullah last year tweeted a picture of himself in uniform with a message that his group was going to conquer northern Israel. Adraee responded: "If you dare, we will surprise you." (Rory Jones and Nazih Osseiran, *Wall Street Journal*)

### STATEMENT ON HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE FROM HEAD OF SAUDI-BASED MUSLIM WORLD LEAGUE

- ◆ "On the occasion of the International Holocaust Remembrance Day, celebrating the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp...I confirm...our great sympathy with the victims of the Holocaust, an incident that shook humanity to the core, and created an event whose horrors could not be denied or underrated by any fair-minded or peace-loving person."
- ◆ "This human tragedy perpetrated by evil Nazism won't be forgotten by history, or meet the approval of

anyone, except criminal Nazis or their genre. True Islam is against these crimes. It classifies them in the highest degree of penal sanctions and among the worst human atrocities ever."

- ◆ "One would ask, who in his right mind would accept, sympathize or even diminish the extent of this brutal crime."
- ◆ "We consider any denial of the Holocaust or minimizing of its effect a crime to distort history and an insult to the dignity of those innocent souls who have perished...Islam...decrees that anyone who assaults and kills an innocent soul will be held accountable as if he has killed all people." (Dr. Mohammad Al Issa, Washington Institute for Near East Policy)

### IRAN AND HIZBULLAH ARE TAKING ISRAEL'S THREATS SERIOUSLY

- ◆ The Israeli intelligence community recently detected the emergence of serious strategic threats to Israel by Iran, Hizbullah, Syria, Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad. To prevent these threats from materializing, Israel's diplomatic and military system was enlisted for a concentrated diplomatic-PR effort to deter the threatening elements and use international leverages of influence against them (like Russian President Vladimir Putin, for example).
- ◆ There are still no Shiite militia fighters near the Golan Heights border, Hizbullah doesn't have a considerable number of precision-guided missiles yet, and there are no Iranian factories for improving the accuracy level of surface-to-surface missiles in Syria or Lebanon. There are, however, prepara-

tions and attempts by the Iranian Quds Force and Hizbullah to build such a factory in Lebanon, after a similar factory was destroyed in a bombing in Syria.

- ◆ The Iranians believe Israel won't dare strike in Lebanon for fear Hizbullah will respond by firing missiles and lead to war. They believe there is mutual deterrence between Israel and Hizbullah, which allows them to fearlessly build the "missile accuracy improvement factories" in Lebanon.
- ◆ Israel's political-security establishment, however, has conveyed to the Iranians and Hizbullah that their assessment is wrong: "We have red lines, and if precision missile factories are built in Lebanon, or if we detect Shiite militias in the Syrian Golan Heights, we'll act to remove the threat without any hesitations, even if this leads to an escalation and war. If there is an escalation, we'll act immediately, with full force."
- ◆ "Unlike you, Israel is already prepared, right now, to defend itself with offensive and defensive means, and your side stands to suffer from the results of that war much more than Israel would suffer. So you better think very carefully if you want Lebanon to return to the Stone Age for the sake of a precision-improvement factory."
- ◆ There are signs that Iran and Hizbullah are taking Israel's messages seriously. Hizbullah has yet to return its fighters from Syria. The Iranians, even the Revolutionary Guards, can't afford a war in Lebanon now in light of the economic situation at home.
- ◆ The Iranians are now focused on expanding their presence and influence in Syria and want to gain

from rebuilding that country. A war in Lebanon would thwart that too. (Ron Ben-Yishai, veteran Israeli military correspondent, *Ynet News*)

### 41 PERCENT OF PALESTINIAN TERRORISTS FREED IN EXCHANGE FOR CAPTIVE SOLDIER GILAD SHALIT HAVE RETURNED TO TERRORISM

420 of the 1,027 Palestinian terrorists released in exchange for captured IDF Cpl. Gilad Shalit in November 2011 have returned to terrorism and violence, according to a senior security official.

The major damage comes from the freed prisoners who were deported to or sent back to Gaza, beyond Israel's reach.

Prisoners released in the Shalit deal have seized control of Hamas in Gaza and are hatching plans for terrorist attacks in the West Bank.

Yahya Sinwar, the head of Hamas in Gaza who himself was released in the deal, is thinking up plans for another abduction. Hamas' fingerprints are all over many of the attacks that Israel managed to thwart in the past year. (Nadav Shragai, *Israel Hayom*)

### THE INDIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY HELPS FOSTER ISRAEL TIES

Israel has always sought friendship with India from even before the independence of both countries from the same imperial power. The Indian Jewish community has played an important part in fostering these relations. At the time of independence, many senior officers in the Indian Armed Forces were Jews. Many founders of medical faculties, leading doctors, senior

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# Mike Huckabee addresses 800 at Miami benefit raising \$2.4M for Israeli soldiers

Hollywood, Fla., Jan. 29 – Some 800 members of the Miami community gathered on Wednesday, January 24 for the Friends of the Israel Defense Forces (FIDF) Greater Miami Solidarity Gala, which raised \$2.4 million to support well-being and educational programs for Israel Defense Forces (IDF) soldiers.

The gala, which honored Israel's soldiers and celebrated 70 years of the IDF, was chaired by Oren and Rene Kattan, and featured a keynote address by former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee.

Also speaking were uniformed IDF soldiers and officers, including 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Noam, a woman combat paramedic who treated wounded Syrian civil war victims; 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Don, who commands Israel's "Iron Dome" missile interceptions; Israeli Navy Capt. "Y.," the grandson of Holocaust survivors and a

submarine fire control officer; and Israeli Air Force (IAF) Maj. "D.," a squadron leader and one of the first pilots to test the IAF's new F-35 fighter jet.

"As they did 70 years ago, the brave men and women of the IDF still put their lives on the line every day to protect Israel and Jews around the world," said FIDF Florida Executive Director Dina Ben-Ari. "This evening gave our supporters the chance to hear from steadfast supporter of Israel Mike Huckabee – and they were able to meet and personally thank some of the brave soldiers who risk everything to defend the Jewish homeland."

The gala also honored Tibor Feldmar, FIDF Young Leadership Miami President Emeritus Evan Glassman, Miriam Jacobi Josielewski and Malcia Rothstein for their commitment to Israel's troops.

Distinguished guests also included

FIDF National Chairman Emeritus Nily Falic, FIDF Miami President Oscar Feldenkreis, and FIDF National Director and CEO Maj. Gen. (Res.) Meir Klifi-Amir.

FIDF sweepstakes winner Rita Shmulevsky and her husband Mark flew from Portland, Oregon, to attend Wednesday's gala. Their son Arthur had served as a Lone Soldier – one who volunteers in the IDF without any immediate family in Israel.

## About Friends of the Israel Defense Forces (FIDF):

FIDF was established in 1981 by a group of Holocaust survivors as a 501(c)

(3) not-for-profit organization with the mission of offering educational, cultural, recreational and social programs and facilities that provide hope, purpose and life-changing support for the soldiers who protect Israel and Jews worldwide. Today, FIDF has more than 150,000 loyal supporters, and 20 chapters throughout the U.S. and Panama. FIDF proudly supports IDF soldiers, families of fallen soldiers, and wounded veterans through a variety of innovative programs that reinforce the vital bond between the communities in the U.S., the soldiers of the IDF, and Israel. For more information, visit [www.fidf.org](http://www.fidf.org). ▲

## Briefs...continued from previous page

teachers, lawyers and judges were from the Indian Jewish community.

Bombay University was the first in the world to revive the teaching of Hebrew as a second language way before Herzl even dreamt of the creation of the State of Israel. Mahatma Gandhi was operated upon at the Sassoon Hos-

pital in Poona, and his personal physician and friend was Abraham Solomon Erulkar. Even the signature tune of All India Radio was written by Walter Kaufman, a Jew. (Nissim Moses-Talkar, historian and president of the Indian Jewish Heritage Centre, *Hindustan Times* - India) ▲



Ellen Feldenkreis; FIDF Miami President Oscar Feldenkreis; former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee; FIDF National Chairman Emeritus Nily Falic; FIDF Florida Executive Director Dina Ben-Ari; FIDF National Director and CEO Maj. Gen. (Res.) Meir Klifi-Amir (Photo Credit: Carlos Chattah)

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# Connecting the dots

By Rabbi Michael J. Schorin

When you're hungry, every restaurant and fast food joint on U.S. 41 will jump out at you. If you're not especially hungry, all of these same places will fade into the background. There is nothing new about this. Indeed, there's a saying in the Talmud that says, "We see things not as they are, but as we are." What an amazing idea! For all of the physicality of this world, our eyes can still deceive us. We perceive what we are looking for.

A few weeks ago, in the portion Beshallah, we read of our ancestors leaving Egypt and encountering the desert. Nowadays, we don't go anywhere without our bottles of water, but obviously, the water they carried with them was sufficient for only so long. So, in Chapter 15 of Exodus, they come to the waters of Marah:

"They came to Marah, but they could not drink the water of Marah because it was bitter; that is why it was named Marah. And the people grumbled against Moses, saying, 'What shall we drink?' So he cried out to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a piece of wood; he threw it into the water and the water became sweet." (Exodus 15: 23-25)

Some commentators will suggest

a scientific basis for this. They say the wood of the oak contains tannin, which neutralizes albuminous matter, etc... and leaves me in need of a good dictionary. In *Legends of the Bible*, we read that "God bade him take a piece of a laurel tree, write upon it the great and glorious name of God, and throw it into the water, whereupon the water became drinkable and sweet." (Louis Ginzberg, *Legends of the Bible*, page 362)

In a Hasidic commentary called "Itture Torah," composed by Simcha Bunim of Przysucha (1765-1827), we read the following:

"It says: 'they could not drink the water because it was bitter.' Bitterness was not the actual condition of the water; rather, the Israelites felt bitter and therefore, whatever they tasted was bitter to them."

And so we return to "We see things not as they are, but as we are." No less than the Israelites having endured slavery for generation after generation, many of us can feel bitter at times. We lose the people we love, we face financial difficulties, and maybe our health has not been as robust as it used to be. Perhaps you bet on the New England Patriots to win and they didn't. It is okay to feel bitter sometimes. No text

or commentary has said you shouldn't feel that way. But I suggest we take these verses as a key to understanding ourselves better.

If you are feeling bitter, the first issue is to realize it. The second is to ask ourselves why we might be feeling that way. And the third idea would be to seek help from a rabbi or therapist. And finally, the answer seems to be that whether we write the Holy Name upon our suffering or we simply connect our individual affairs to that of our people, we will overcome the bitterness.

It has been said that every problem is psychological, and every remedy is spiritual. When we balance our individual ego with our people's existence, we come closer to healing. When we temper our egos with a dash of humility, we purify ourselves.

May all of your waters be sweet. **▲**  
Rabbi Dr. Michael J. Schorin, MAPC, BCC is a Chaplain in Lee Health's Department of Spiritual Services, and ministers at the Gulf Coast Medical Center.

## COMMENTARY BRIEFS

### THE HEART OF THE PALESTINIAN-ISRAELI CONFLICT

Actually, recognition of Israeli sovereignty over Jerusalem is unlikely to have a major effect on peace one way or the other. First of all, there has been no serious diplomacy for years. And secondly, the conflict is about much more than Jerusalem.

Let's be clear on why there is an Arab-Jewish conflict over Palestine – and why it has lasted for more than a century. At the heart of the matter is the

conviction that all of Palestine, like all of the rest of the Middle East, belongs exclusively to the Arabs and it is an unendurable and uncompromisable injustice for Jews to exercise sovereignty on Arab land.

Tactically useful peace agreements may be permitted, but permanent peace with Israel is not. This is a philosophical point rooted in both religious and nationalistic principles that are widely held as sacred in the Palestinian community. U.S. officials will be able to

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# Polish-Jewish relations: A case study in what can go wrong

By David Harris, AJC CEO, February 2, 2018

One day, I fear, what is currently happening in Polish-Israeli and Polish-Jewish relations will become a case study for universities and diplomatic academies around the world in how an outwardly strong partnership can unravel practically overnight.

The core lesson will doubtless be that the moderate voices – committed to finding common ground on difficult issues, as befits friends – were outshouted and outmaneuvered by shrill, uncompromising voices for whom any concession was seen as weakness, if not capitulation.

This is particularly true, alas, in Poland right now.

Having already confronted European Union institutions on unrelated issues, and finding itself quite isolated among member states, Poland has now chosen to jeopardize its links with Israel and the Jewish world by going ahead with problematic legislation regarding World War II and the Holocaust.

As if all this weren't enough for Warsaw, the United States has also spoken up, taking issue with the parliamentary measure and suggesting that its passage could adversely affect Poland's standing in America.

The last time I checked, Poland needed friends, just like every other country, all the more so given its entirely

legitimate and understandable security anxieties.

Who is there for Poland?

Well, for starters, Washington, the actor that, more than any other, has the will and capability to stand alongside Poland. Israel, with its long experience, has lots to offer as well.

Moreover, many in Poland attribute its NATO accession, in 1999, in part to the efforts of the American Jewish Committee, which testified in the United States Senate for the security pact's expansion, notwithstanding considerable opposition from those who feared Moscow's reaction.

Imagine a Poland today without NATO membership in light of what's been happening to the east.

Further, why does Poland, by its current action, seek to trigger a reopening of painful and complex historical narratives? Who stands to gain from this? Apart from the hotheads, I can imagine only one political leader outside the country who is grinning, and Vladimir Putin is not exactly Poland's most trusted friend to begin with.

To be sure, some in Israel and the larger Jewish world have made a bad situation worse by pouring oil on the fire, especially in their irresponsible claims suggesting, in effect, that Warsaw – attacked mercilessly by German

forces on September 1, 1939 – was Berlin's willing partner in Hitler's Final Solution.

Yes, there is an undeniable and immensely painful record of Polish anti-Semitism before, during and after the war, and Poland cannot dodge that history or seek, in effect, to outlaw discussion of any part of it. Democratic nations emerge far stronger from self-examination than self-denial.

But, however agonizing, this must not be the beginning and end of the discussion. There is far more to Poland's history regarding both Jews and its wartime record, and this can't conveniently be swept under the rug in a paroxysm of uncontrolled Jewish anger.

Poland was brutally occupied by two nations, not one – Nazi Germany and the USSR. Thousands of its finest military officers were murdered, under Stalin's orders, in the Katyn Forest. Countless Poles were sent to both Nazi and Soviet camps.

Polish pilots played a vital role in the Battle of Britain. Without them, the outcome might, in fact, have been quite different.

Polish cryptographers originally broke the Nazi code, leading to the game-changing breakthroughs at Bletchley Park.

The Polish underground alerted the world to the German plan to exterminate the Jewish people, and one unit, Żegota, worked to save individual Jews.

And Polish soldiers fought valiantly at the battle of Monte Cassino – as my late father, who was there, testified – and elsewhere in the Allied struggle.

In other words, Poland made a significant contribution to shortening Hitler's dream of a "thousand-year" reign by 988 years.

And fast forward to today.

Twenty-eight years after Poland led the remarkable effort to throw off the yoke of communism and reconnect to the Western world, a vibrant Jewish community has re-emerged and Israel looks to Warsaw for support in the European Union and at the UN, where it currently sits on the all-important Security Council.

It's often said that moderates – those willing to listen to others and look for a "ZOPA," Zone of Possible Agreement – are rarely as motivated and passionate as more extreme voices.

So far, regrettably, that seems to be the case in this current contretemps. But, as one who cares deeply about all that's been achieved since 1989, I refuse to be silent – or, for that matter, to abandon my moderation. ▲

The AJC West Coast Florida office, located in Sarasota, can be reached at 941.365.4955.

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## Six women heroes of Passover

My column in January dealt with the feminist leaning of the Hebrew Bible. Its argument is that women often play crucial roles in biblical stories, but they do not receive the attention they should.

In that column, I briefly mentioned the six women Heroes of the Exodus. This month I would like to elaborate on their heroism. Passover comes at the end of March this year, and sociologists tell us that more Jews will participate in some form of Passover Seder than will participate in any other religious event during the year!

We cannot really appreciate the meaning and message of Passover without recognizing the importance of these six women!

From a religious perspective, the Exodus from Egypt enabled all subsequent Jewish history to unfold. Without Passover we would still be slaves in Egypt! Moses, of course, is God's agent in the liberation and the story's foremost hero. The Book of Exodus, however, makes it clear that the role six women play in that event is crucial. Without them, the Exodus could not have taken place, and we would have no Passover to celebrate!

### Shiphrah and Puah

Shiphrah and Puah were humble midwives. Pharaoh ordered them to kill every baby boy that emerged from his mother's womb. The most powerful man on earth – one worshipped as a god – gave them a direct order! The midwives, though, answered to a higher authority than Pharaoh. Their bravery rings across the millennia as an answer to those Nazis who claimed they had no choice but to kill Jews. They were only following orders. Shiphrah and Puah teach us we always

have a choice. (Exodus 1:15-21)

### Yocheved

Yocheved, Moses' mother, hid her baby in defiance of Pharaoh's decree. Then she placed him in a wicker basket and floated him among the reeds of the Nile. What courage that took, but her gamble paid off! (Exodus 2:1-3)

### Miriam

Miriam, Moses' sister, watched the basket from afar. When Pharaoh's daughter drew it out of the water, Miriam runs to her and suggests the baby's own mother as its nurse. In so doing she saved her brother's life. (Exodus 2:4-9)

### Pharaoh's Daughter

The heroic role of Pharaoh's daughter also should not escape our attention. She defied her father's decree and saved Moses. For this she received the privilege of giving Moses' his name, and she herself received the name *Bityah*, which means "daughter of the Lord." (Exodus 2:5-10)

### Zipporah

The final female hero of Passover is Zipporah, Moses' wife. She circumcised their son Eleazar when apparently Moses had neglected to do so. The passage really does not fit into the flow of the story, so the rabbis could have interpreted it any way they wished. They could have deemed it crucial or inconsequential. They chose to teach us that God would have killed Moses had Zipporah not intervened and circumcised their son! (Exodus 4:24-26)

The heroism of the women who made Passover possible is a strong and accurate answer to those who claim that women always play a secondary or subordinate role in Jewish thinking. The heroic women of Passover also provide wonderful role models for girls and women today to admire and emulate. ▲

Rabbi Stephen Lewis Fuchs serves at Bat Yam Temple of the Islands on Sanibel Island.



■ Rabbi Stephen Fuchs

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## The beginning of prayer

In 1982, when I began my career, I don't remember doing a *mishebeirakh*, a special blessing for the sick, during the Shabbat morning service. (Mishebeirakh, means "May the One Who blessed.")

It is the first word of a variety of prayers of personal blessing that are usually said during the Torah service.)  
Some time around 2000, a new congregant told me that his former congregation spread out a large canopy during the Shabbat morning Torah service; they called it the *mishebeirakh tallit*. He said that many people came up and stood underneath it during the blessing for the sick. I was skeptical but gave it a try. I was shocked. Every Shabbat morning, dozens of people stood under the canopy and called out names of relatives or friends, in Hebrew or English, during the prayer. Now, at Temple Judea, we don't have a canopy. But every Shabbat morning, when we pause the Torah reading to say the *mishebeirakh*, people stand throughout the sanctuary, pull out a list of names from their pocket, and call them out to be included in our prayer for healing.

The practice of Temple Judea must be widespread. First-time visitors to the congregation come prepared with their list of names. People sing the Debbie Friedman *mishebeirakh* song without looking at the words. American Jews – and, I guess, many of our neighbors – have incorporated praying for healing as a regular part of their worship service.

I wonder what's changed from the beginning of my career when this prayer was not part of the service. Is it that we baby boomers once thought we

had life by the lapels, that modern science would cure all diseases? Are we confronting our own aches and pains, and those of our loved ones? Are we confronting our own mortality and saying, "we need some help"?

I suppose for many, perhaps most, people, when they participate in the *mishebeirakh*, their hopes are very literal. They are praying that God will bring physical health to their loved one who is sick. The prayer in our *siddur* (there may be more than one version), asks for more than this. It asks God to send a "healing of spirit and healing of body." What is this healing of spirit to which the prayer refers? That is left to our imagination. Are we praying that our loved one be less afraid; that they are hopeful and not depressed; that they have the courage to face whatever may come; perhaps that they find new strength to combat their illness? Perhaps all of these and more? (When it comes to prayer, we can only use the word "perhaps." Can we fully understand or capture our inner experiences in words?)

In his book about prayer, *Man's Quest for God*, Abraham Joshua Heschel wrote, "We do not communicate with God. We only make ourselves communicable to Him. Prayer is an emanation of what is most precious in us toward Him... The purpose of prayer is to be brought to His attention, to be listened to, to be understood by Him; not to know Him, but to be known to Him."

Perhaps this is why so many are calling out names for the *mishebeirakh*. We are showing a piece of our inner fear, longing and hope to God. We are hoping that the healing of body and spirit comes to our loved ones – and to ourselves. This is the beginning of prayer.▲

Rabbi Marc Sack serves at Temple Judea in Fort Myers.

## Musings

I suppose I should be writing something about Passover in this month's "From the Bimah" column, but since you're reading a Jewish paper you probably know most of the basics by now, so I'll pass on that. Besides, my cherished colleagues are probably writing about the holiday in their pieces and they're sure to be covering all the bases.

It occurred to me that I could be writing about turning 70 this month, and the Psalmist calls "threescore years and 10" a full lifespan. But 70 down here in Fort Myers is no big deal, since so many L'CHAYIM readers have already blown right past that so it's *gornisht mit gornisht*, right? So let's not write about that.

Of course, I bet some of you are expecting me to say something about getting married this month to one of the finest women ever created, but I won't be doing that either, even though this is really a big deal. You see, when I was first starting off in the clergy business, a respected senior rabbi advised me not to burden my audience with autobiographical stuff (he called them "Life with Father" sermons), since everybody has a life and lots of stories to tell, and mine are no more important or interesting than yours. Most of your marriages are long and great, and I'm just getting started, so what could I possibly tell you that you don't already know about the subject?

Besides, we all know how tedious it is to have to sit through someone else's home movies while putting on

an interested face.

So let me tell you something you may not know much about. Two months ago, I was invited to return to Florida Gulf Coast University to teach the course in social ethics called "Foundations of Civic Engagement." I had taught a course, the "Senior Seminar and Issues in Culture and Civilization," many times over for 10 years at the university before taking a break a few years ago, but I agreed with my department head that it was time to come back, and I sure am glad I did!

So here's the really good news. On the whole, these kids are better than ever. They seem more mature, more focused and more interested in the bigger world than I remember them, and I still have a pretty good memory.

Some of this might be attributable to FGCU's constantly rising admission standards and increasing sophistication as it aspires to become a top-tier school, but I think there's more to it.

These kids came of age in really rough economic times that surely impressed on them some of the concrete values of a good education. They also cannot help but notice just how screwed up politics and government have become over the last several years, and how society is fragmenting into lots of factions that just won't get along with each other. They realize they'll have to be more self-reliant and count more on themselves to sort things out.

It seems the net effect of all this *mishigas* it that there be other "Greatest Generations" in the pipeline! Now that's a really big deal, right?▲

Rabbi Bruce Diamond serves at The Community Free Synagogue in Fort Myers.

## A thought for Purim

There is a story of a man who spent most of the day in front of his television set watching one football game after another. Finally, he fell asleep and spent the night in his chair. When his wife arose in the morning she was afraid that he would be late for work. "Get up, dear," she said, "it is twenty to seven." In an instant, the man was fully awake. "In whose favor?" He asked. We must not fall asleep in life so that we do not know



■ Rabbi Solomon Agin

the goals of living.

There is a school of thought which maintains that only that which is perceived through the senses is real. A chair or table is something you see or

touch. Foul or fragrant is something we can smell. Loud or soft is something we can hear. Bitter or sweet is something we can taste. But freedom, justice, responsibility and decency are literally non sense or nonsense. Judaism, however, believes just the opposite – that these very values give meaning to life, and without them life is nonsense.

In fact, that belief is the basic difference between an animal and a human being. To an animal, morality and honor are meaningless tools, while to a human they are of supreme meaning. Values determine the direction and purposes of an individual, of a society. Human beings create concepts, goals and ideas. Human beings know that ideas have consequences.▲

Rabbi Solomon Agin serves at Temple Shalom in Port Charlotte.

## Daylight Savings Time

As we anticipate Daylight Savings Time and the return of extra daylight late into the evening, we turn to our liturgy to see God's hand in light and darkness, day and night. *Maariv Aravim* and *Yotzer Or* are prayers about creation. They



■ Rabbi Nicole Luna

make a claim about our world and also establish boundaries between what we believe compared to what others believe. They are based on a Jewish understanding of the universe, that God is the creator behind both light and dark, day and night, evening and morning. This was developed in direct contrast to Gnostics or Zoroastrians who emphasized duality – two creative forces in opposition to each other. Now today, we recognize more than two opposing forces at play in the universe: we have gravity, electromagnetism, strong and weak forces. But we still experience day and night, so still this prayer makes the claim that the universe is ordered, that it is set with laws that regulate times and seasons, that there is predictability, and of course that God is somehow part of this creative process.

But prayer is about more than text. It's about the setting, timing, the

people saying the prayer. Rabbi Lawrence Hoffman calls it a "sacred drama." Liturgy might be the script, but many aspects come together to create our act of worship, to bring us closer to God. On Shabbat, we warm up by reciting Psalms, singing together, transitioning into the sacred time of Shabbat. We are called to bless God with the *Barchu*, and then we formally start our prayers. So where should we begin? What inspires awe and wonder, a sense that there's something beyond us? How do we begin to connect with God?

In the evening, the sun is setting, darkness descends, it's that time of twilight when the day slips away and is gone. Stars come out, we rely on the light of the moon. In the morning, we bask in the sunlight, with light streaming through our sanctuary windows. We begin our worship by praising what is all around us – God's glorious act of creation that continues every day. Each sunset, each sunrise is God creating night and day, again and again. Our liturgy starts by exciting our imagination and sense of wonder with the claim that the world is ordered, and calls our attention to the beauty and mystery of creation. May we pay attention and give thanks to God.▲

Rabbi Nicole Luna serves at Temple Beth El in Fort Myers.



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**Briefs...continued from page 19**

help end the Palestinian-Israeli conflict only if they actually grasp what the conflict is about. (Douglas J. Feith, senior fellow at the Hudson Institute, served as the U.S. undersecretary of defense for policy in 2001-2005, *Foreign Policy*)

**MUSLIMS IGNORED JERUSALEM FOR CENTURIES**

There isn't a member of the Arab League or the Organization of Islamic Cooperation whose right to designate its own capital city is challenged by anyone. In every nation governed by Arabs or Muslims – or, for that matter, by Scandinavians or Africans or Christians or Latin Americans – foreign embassies are located in the capital. Every one, without exception. Only Israel has been treated differently.

Mohammed never saw Jerusalem or walked its streets; his Arab followers didn't conquer Jerusalem until six years after his death. During the centuries when various Islamic dynasties controlled Jerusalem, none established Jerusalem as its capital.

After 1948, when east Jerusalem and the Temple Mount were under Muslim rule, they were ignored by the Arab and Muslim powers. No foreign Arab leader ever paid a visit, not even to pray at the al-Aqsa mosque. Palestinians placed so low a priority on Jerusalem that the Palestinian National Covenant of 1964, the PLO's founding charter, makes no reference to it. Only when the Jews returned after the Six-Day War did the Arabs grow passionate about Jerusalem. (Jeff Jacoby, *Boston Globe*)

**WHY THIS MUSLIM WRITES IN A JEWISH NEWSPAPER**

As a U.S. citizen and as a Muslim who had lived and worked in Saudi Arabia for 13 years, I wanted to reach the "people of the book" and found the *Jerusalem Post* a perfect platform. While no Muslim country's newspaper would give me the opportunity to speak my mind openly, especially when I would expose the flaws of Muslims, the *Jerusalem Post* has so far published all my blogs without any alteration.

The fundamental problem with the Muslims is that they think that either God or America would solve all of their problems. The Muslims have been praying for the destruction of Israel since its existence, but their

prayers still remain unanswered. There is a mafia of religious thugs who, in the name of Islam, inflame the sentiments of the masses for stupid trivial issues. They challenge the rule of law at their will and no one has the courage to stand against this religious anarchy.

We should learn from the Jewish people and see what they did to overcome their adversaries. They emphasized education. They never let their religion become a hindrance in their progress. They let their women have equal rights and become progressive. Their contribution to science and knowledge speaks volumes. They focused on their survival and at the same time contributed a lot toward the good of mankind.

My dear fellow Muslims, please tell me if any Muslim country's newspaper will publish this article. That the *Jerusalem Post* published it is one of the reasons that I write in this newspaper. (Naseem Khan, *Jerusalem Post*)

**WHY IS ARAB VIOLENCE TAKEN AS A GIVEN?**

President Trump's announcement that America officially acknowledges Jerusalem as Israel's capital is entirely a symbolic gesture. The Israeli people already view Jerusalem as their capital in theory and in practice, and all government business is conducted in the city.

In response to Trump's declaration, the Palestinian "national and Islamic forces" announced "days of rage," which included rioters throwing rocks and firebombs. Over 30 rockets were fired indiscriminately into Israeli communities from Gaza, and Hamas promised an intifada. The last intifada, the Second Intifada that began in 2001, saw the killing of over 1,000 Israelis.

Why is the immediate international reaction to Trump's declaration a call to repeal his declaration, in light of the "eventual" violence and instability that this purely symbolic move will cause? Why is there not an immediate condemnation of the incitement and calls to violence witnessed across the Arab world? Why is Arab violence taken as a given and why does the international community impose few expectations regarding violent uprisings that target Israeli civilians. If we establish a status quo where violence against civilians is overlooked or justified, then there will never be peace. (Suri Bandler, CAM-ERA)▲

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**TEMPLE BETH EL SCHOOLS**  
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**Temple Beth El Religious School**  
*Dale M. Cohen, R.J.E., MA.Ed.*  
*Religious Education Director*

I wish everyone a happy and celebratory month of March. We have so many exciting programs planned for this month of Adar! (Be happy, it's Adar!)

On Friday, March 2, during the Shabbat service, our 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students who participated in the L'Taken trip (Religious Action Center) to Washington, D.C., will make a presentation on their experiences. I am thrilled this year to be leading, along with Vanessa Sax, our students on this most memorable trip.

On Sunday, March 4 we will have a Purim pancake breakfast where our students can invite their grandparents and/or parents to share in the fun. We will decorate our pancakes as our favorite Purim characters. Following the breakfast, Morah Hilary's 7<sup>th</sup> grade class will present a Purim play, which will leave you laughing right out of your seats! Following the play, at approximately at 11:00 a.m., we will go into the sanc-

tuary to hear Rabbi Luna read the Megillah, and we will use our groggers every time we hear Haman's name! The whole TBE community is invited to participate in this as well. Following the Megillah reading we will enjoy the hamantaschen that were made by our students.

On Saturday, March 10 we will have another Junior Congregation. This is the best opportunity for our students in grades 4-7 to practice the Saturday morning liturgy in order to prepare for their future bar or bat mitzvah. As always, I encourage our parents to attend and learn along with the students.

On Sunday, March 11 we will celebrate Passover. And by popular demand, our infamous chocolate Seder will return. It is so much fun and an interactive way to learn about the Passover Seder while munching on chocolate matzo and other delicious chocolate options.

On Sundays, March 18 and 25, and Wednesday, March 21, we will not have any Religious School as Lee County has its spring break. We will resume on Wednesday, March 28.

**TEMPLE JUDEA SCHOOLS**  
Fort Myers

**Temple Judea Religious School**  
*Liz Singer*  
*Dir. of Congregational Learning*

Temple Judea Religious School uses Jewish values as an overarching value which informs the rest of the students' studies.

The lower grades learned about *Eretz Yisrael*, which included being able to recognize some important places like Haifa, Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Eilat, as well as to be able to point out some key characteristics of these cities. Following that unit, our younger students began to study the value of *Ba'al Tashchit* (do not waste), which included how important it is to take care of the earth, and to not waste.

The upper grades completed learning about *Achrayut* (responsibility) and how it relates to the environment as well as our relationships with the people around us. These lessons manifested themselves in a variety of ways.

The 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade class talked about the Hillel and Shammai story of learning Torah while on one foot, and how we have an obligation to care for others. They also learned about the meaning of "loving your neighbor as yourself" and asked themselves what this means

in their daily lives.

The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade discussed responsibility as it relates to values like stewardship over the earth, *hashavat aveidah* (returning lost items), and how the military is viewed differently in Israel. In the context of Israel, they had a lengthy discussion centered around the controversial subject of *pidyon shvuyim* (redeeming the captives). Students also studied the Prayer for Israel as part of this unit.

Currently, students are learning about *HaKarat HaTov* (Calling out the Good). This will be taught in relationship with Purim, and recognizing Esther and Mordechai for their efforts in saving the Jewish people. Also for Purim, students heard the Megillah being read, and enjoyed fulfilling the custom of the *seudat* (meal) and enjoyed ample amounts of spaghetti.

Six of our teens traveled to Camp Shalom, where they joined with others from across the region in a summer-in-winter theme. Everyone had a blast, so much so, that many also signed up to meet their new friends at the next regional event which is an annual trip to the theme parks in Orlando that took place on Presidents' Day weekend.

It is always such a pleasure to see students so invigorated and engaged. We hope that you will be a part of it.



TJUSY teens

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#### Why do we celebrate the past?

Lawrence & Robin Dermer

Why do we celebrate events that have already happened? A celebration can be defined as: The act of observing a day or event with ceremonies. Or: Showing joy and gratification at an event.

When a Jewish holiday occurs on a specific day, there is a special, spiritual energy for that event. Each year on the anniversary of that event, the original essence is remembered, and it's as if it is happening all over again. The time and place are different, meaning the actual event does not happen all over again, but the spiritual feeling recurs. On Pesach, we recall the Divine intervention in which we were freed from bondage. On this day we were redeemed from Egyptian slavery and a slavery mindset as well.

Every year on Pesach we can access this amazing and transformative energy which is even stronger at the Seder. When G-d took us out of Egypt, we

were both physically and spiritually liberated. The deeper meaning behind *Yetziat Mitzrayim*, G-d's taking us out of Egypt,

was to clear the path for our ancestors and for us as well on our multi-generational quest for personal and collective redemption. Pesach offers us the potential for liberation, freedom from physical and emotional slavery. G-d rescued us from a place called Egypt and also a state of mind called *Mitzrayim*. In Hebrew, *Mitzrayim* can be translated as the narrow straits or narrow places, and even our own narrowmindedness that may keep us locked in a self-imposed bondage. G-d took us from a state of fear and self-doubt and gave us the ability to access His Divine assistance in all we do.

G-d assisted Nachshon by splitting the red sea, but only after he took the leap of faith and jumped into the waters. G-d waited until he almost drowned and only then parted the seas. Pesach reminds us we must demonstrate our *emunah shleyma*, our complete and unwavering faith, before the miracles can happen. Nachshon didn't

know there would be a miracle when he jumped. He had doubts as we all do, but he chose faith, freeing himself from fear as he waded deeper and deeper into the water. This lesson is as relevant for us today as it was for our ancestors in Egypt. When we celebrate our Exodus, we're not just celebrating something that happened 3,000 years ago, we're celebrating the potential for freedom from any negativity, fear or doubt that keeps us from moving forward and being our very best selves.

We sing *Ha Lachma Anya* at our Seder, which means: "This is the bread of affliction that our ancestors ate in Egypt... This year we are still slaves, next year we will be a free people."

We need to be reminded and re-inspired, and that is why we celebrate every year. We celebrate to avoid falling back into bondage. We celebrate to appreciate and redefine the meaning of freedom in our own lives. Pesach reminds us we have another chance to reach the stars. Once again we celebrate our freedom from the physical and spiritual bondage of *Mitzrayim* and continue our journey to the promised land!

It's almost time to celebrate Pesach together again. This year our Shalom Life Center Seders will be even more wonderful than 2017. If you attended last year's amazing Seder on either the first or second night, you know that an SLC Seder is beautiful, traditional, musical, interactive and probably unlike any Seder you've ever attended. Please join us for the best Seder experience of your life, which will be held on March 30 and 31 at the elegant Crowne Plaza Hotel in the grand ballroom. For more information and to RSVP, call 239.218.3433 or email [info@shalomlifecenter.org](mailto:info@shalomlifecenter.org). We look forward to seeing you there!

Join us every Friday evening for joyful, musical and meaningful Shabbat Services at 7:30 p.m., and Saturday mornings for Torah study at 10:00 a.m. Visit our website at [www.shalomlifecenter.org](http://www.shalomlifecenter.org) for information on our many clubs, programs and special events such as Yiddish Culture Club, Book Club, Men's Group, Sisterhood, Women's Circle, Choir, BBYO, SLC Kitchen and more. There are so many ways to enhance your Jewish life at Shalom Life Center.

### JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

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#### Marching on!

Marina Berkovich

The Jewish Historical Society of Southwest Florida received glorious community support at our Annual Florida Jewish History Month Celebration on January 21. Many dignitaries honored our organization, its mission and our 2018 honoree by attending the event and offering proclamations to validate the work of Murray Hendel and our organization.

Among the dignitaries were Florida State Senator Kathleen Passidomo, Collier County Sheriff Kevin Rambosk, Collier County Commissioners Penny Taylor and Andy Solis, Naples Mayor Bill Barnett, Naples Vice Mayor Linda Penniman, Naples City Council members Ellen Seigel, Reg Buxton and Sam Saad, Marco Island City council member Charlette Roman, Rabbis Adam Miller and Fishel Zaklos, and Jewish Federation of Greater Naples President/CEO Jeffrey Feld.

Florida Governor Rick Scott was not able to attend, but sent a proclamation which ended with, "the State of Florida standing together with the nation of Israel in peace and security for our families."

Nearly two hundred guests were in attendance in the Hilton Naples ballroom for the festivities and the premiere of the

*Southwest Florida Jewish Pioneers: Murray's Mile* documentary. To quote Bob Raymond, whose heartfelt, often humorous, comments in the film generated spurts of laughter, "The world would be a better place if there were more Murray Hendels in it."

We extend our congratulations to Murray Hendel for his years of civic service to Collier County and its general and Jewish communities, the ties he built, the matchmaking he has done,

and the gratitude he earned while narrowing the gaps between people. Mr. Hendel received the Key to the City of Naples, a declaration of January

21, 2018, as Murray Hendel Day from Mayor Bill Barnett, and the Community Star from the Collier County Sheriff's Office.

The event committee chair Peter Klein, and event coordinators Ursula Pfahl of Bigham Jewelers and hard-working volunteer board member Charlane King made sure every detail was executed impeccably. Ted Epstein and Alexander Goldstein earned great accolades for selflessly contributing their talent, skill and time. Our goals of gaining wider exposure within the local community and funding to enable the Virtual Museum and other projects to grow and flourish in 2018 were ex-

ceeded. We are humbled and grateful. We thank all individuals, companies and organizations that supported this event by participation, donations,

time and other resources. Thanks to our members. Your support makes us stronger one day at a time. And very importantly, we thank our volunteers for a job well done at the event and the entire cycle. JHSSWF's next Master Class presentation will be at the Jewish Federation of Greater Naples on Tuesday, April 24 at 5:00 p.m. It will include a film presentation and discussion of Southwest Florida's early Jewish history. This is a free event; light refreshments will be served. Register at <http://jewishhistorysouthwestflorida.org/> by April 20.

On April 1 we will be making our decision for next year's programming and Southwest Florida Jewish Pioneers film(s). Please submit your nominations of a noteworthy SWFL Jewish resident or a candidate for an eyewitness interview to [jhsswf@gmail.com](mailto:jhsswf@gmail.com).

To renew your membership or become a member or an event sponsor, please email [jhsswf@gmail.com](mailto:jhsswf@gmail.com), visit [www.jhsswf.org](http://www.jhsswf.org) or call us.

Want to volunteer? Email [office@jhsswf.org](mailto:office@jhsswf.org) if you have time and would like to help. Specific needs: work independently in Microsoft Word, ability to do research, proofreading.

Explore the early Jewish life of SWFL by visiting the Virtual Museum of Southwest Jewish History at [www.jewishhistorysouthwestflorida.org](http://www.jewishhistorysouthwestflorida.org).



Peter Klein, Marina Berkovich, Murray Hendel and Alexander Goldstein at the Annual Florida Jewish History Month Celebration on January 21

and the gratitude he earned while narrowing the gaps between people. Mr. Hendel received the Key to the City of Naples, a declaration of January

21, 2018, as Murray Hendel Day from Mayor Bill Barnett, and the Community Star from the Collier County Sheriff's Office.

### HUMANISTIC JEWISH HAVURAH of Southwest Florida

(239) 495-8484

#### Memories of Seders past – experiencing Seders present

Paula Creed

As in years past, the Humanistic Jewish Havurah of Southwest Florida celebrates its Passover Seder at Bonita Bay Club, 26660 Club Drive, Bonita Springs. On Saturday, March 31, the event will start promptly at 5:30 p.m. and is open to the public. A traditional Passover menu will include gefilte fish, matzo ball soup, choice of chicken or brisket, dessert, beverage and more. Vegetarian plates are available. The cost is \$85 per person including gratuity. The charge for a child under 13 is \$35.

Reservations may be made by mailing a check payable to "HJH" to Joan Weinstein, 15191 Cedarwood Lane, Apt. 2505, Naples, FL 34110. Be sure to indicate your choice of entree with your payment. Reservations must be received by March 25. Further information is available at [www.hjhsfwfl.org](http://www.hjhsfwfl.org) or by calling Dena Sklaroff at

239.591.0101.

I asked several friends the question, "Why do you want to attend a Seder when you don't generally observe Shabbat, seldom attend services on the High Holidays, and only give Chanukah and other Jewish holidays cursory, if any, attention?" Maybe this question also applies to you as a reader of this article.

The consistent answer I received from everyone was related to memories of Seders they experienced as children and continued as they raised their own families. But, we may also retain childhood memories of Shabbat, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Chanukah and Purim while no longer being so strongly motivated to continue observing these holidays. So, I probed further, asking, "What makes the Seder so special?"

The response from nearly everyone was being together as a family, having fun with cousins, aunts, uncles and grandparents – singing songs, searching for the *afikoman*, good food, the story in the Haggadah, but mostly being together with family. Many with whom I spoke remem-

ber that the Seder was lengthy and tedious. Some remember the prayers were too long and too many. Some remember having to sit at the "kids' table." One person reported drinking wine and getting sick!

The inference, although not openly expressed, is their experience was also about being Jewish. Not one person spoke of Thanksgiving, Christmas or other family holidays having the same import. The Seder is a very positive Jewish experience shared by everyone.

Their Haggadahs may have varied from the Maxwell House Coffee version to one that was more traditional to the family, or even a creative version to hold the interest of the children. The important element I observed is that no matter the memories, the Seder remains a positive way to maintain our Jewish identity.

Now we find ourselves living in Southwest Florida, miles apart from family, still wanting to have that wonderful Seder experience. Our friends are our family. Doing something Jewish is important. And so, the Humanistic Jewish Havurah Seder has become a very popular event. We gather to continue celebrating Passover with all the

trimmings, but without the distasteful long readings, the prayers that do not have significance for secular Jews, and without rituals that carry no import.

Our Humanist Haggadah is current, includes songs, and speaks not only to the legendary tale of the exodus, but also includes the story of the modern Jewish exodus. Chef Richard Brumm is noted for his exquisite preparation and presentation of the beautiful Seder meal that is then served by the able Bonita Bay Club staff.

Humanistic Judaism is a non-theistic movement in which cultural Jews and their families, whether born Jewish or not, can affirm, celebrate and enrich their Jewish identity and values consistent with their philosophy of life.

We welcome you to join us this Passover for a truly meaningful celebration.

Have an item you'd like to share? Need to reach the editor of L'CHAYIM? Send an email to [LChayim36@gmail.com](mailto:LChayim36@gmail.com).

**HADASSAH**  
**Collier/Lee Chapter**  
**(239) 301-0509**

**A message from your  
Hadassah presidential team**

*Lynn Weiner*

2018 will be a historic year of celebrations for Hadassah. This year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hadassah Medical Organization, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Henrietta Szold Hadassah-Hebrew University School of Nursing, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hadassah Department of Ophthalmology, and Israel's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday! Watch for events and activities as we celebrate.

In addition, Hadassah presents "From Dream to Innovation: Hadassah Israel Milestone Mission" from October 7-15, 2018. This amazing mission includes a meeting with Israeli opinion leaders, a VIP Hadassah Hospital visit with renowned Hadassah researchers, as well as a special track for nurses. You will visit a Naval Base in Haifa, tour Hebron and Atlit, and enjoy Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. Participate in a "Learn-a-thon" with speakers and teachers in Jewish studies, politics, Israeli culture and more! Registration is open now at 800.237.1517 or ayelet.com.

On January 30 we installed our 2018 Officers:

- The Presidential Team: Shelley Skelton and Lynn Weiner

- Immediate Past Presidents: Karen Cohn and Gayle Dorio
- Membership Vice Presidents: Maxine Brenner, Donna Goldblatt and Carol Hirsch
- Program Vice President: Carol Finn
- Education Vice President: Elyse Morande
- Recording Secretary: Leda Lubin
- Corresponding Secretary: Iris Shur
- Fundraising Vice President: Lee Henson
- Records Administrator: Rona Senior

Welcome and congratulations to our new Executive Board!

Please join us for the Keepers of the Gate Reunion on Sunday, March 4 at 10:30 a.m. at a private home. This is for current, past and new Keepers. To become a Keeper of the Gate, you pledge an annual gift of \$1,000 or more that can be paid in a lump sum, monthly or with an Israel Bond. To RSVP, email Ellen at ehjh@comcast.net.

Our Annual Spring Luncheon will

be on Thursday, March 8 at 10:45 a.m. at The Club at Olde Cypress with guest speaker Patti Badiner talking about "Mindful Eating." For details, please contact Carol at 708.289.5181 or carol.thompson@mylegaledge.com.

Hadassah will sponsor Abigail Pogrebin, author of *My Jewish Year*, at the Jewish Book Festival closing event on Monday, April 9 from 2:30 to 4:15 p.m. at Beth Tikvah. For tickets, go to www.jewishbookfestival.org or call Renee' Bialek at 239.263.4205.

Looking forward to seeing you at some of these events!

\* \* \*

*Shelley Skelton*

Last week, I entered an elevator in a local office building, pushed the button and waited to be whisked up to the third floor. There was just one other person in the elevator with me and, as I stood quietly waiting to reach my destination, I heard a voice behind me say, "I hope you're having a nice day!"

I turned around to look at this very charming lady smiling at me, completely taken by surprise, and said, "Why thank you. It is a nice day, isn't it?" Up until that moment, I really hadn't given it much thought. But what a pleasant feeling surged through me and, as I left the elevator, I couldn't wipe the smile

from my face. What an impact a positive attitude has on our psyche.

So put on your smiles, think pleasant thoughts, and positively remind yourself what you DO for Hadassah and why you DO it! Our mothers and grandmothers helped build the State of Israel and started Hadassah. Now it is up to our generation, our children and grandchildren to continue the extraordinary work of Hadassah, known for its commitment to health, education and youth programs in Israel and the Jewish community worldwide.

Our medical centers are world renowned for their experience in cancer treatment, detection and research. And work continues in the fields of organ donation, stem cell research, heart disease, nutrition and so much more.

To support all of these programs and more, it is crucial that we work together efficiently and wisely. We have the resources to accomplish our goals, and our volunteers are hard at work making sure that this happens.

And remember, the next time you enter an elevator, you have the power to put a smile on the face of an absolute stranger. Take advantage of every opportunity!

**ZIONIST ORG. of AMERICA**  
**Southwest Florida Chapter**  
**(914) 329-1024**

**"Strategic Challenges  
for the U.S. and Israel"**

*Jerrold L. Sobel*

At no time since the end of the Cold War has global peace been threatened as it is today. Some may argue the world has always been a dangerous place, but the difference is, there has never been such a confluence of bad actors possessing or near possessing nuclear weapons as there presently are.

More than one member of the "Greatest Generation" I've spoken to sadly reminisces and finds analogous those daunting days, weeks and months leading to World War II to today. Whereas then, the Western pow-

ers did not take Hitler seriously and opted for appeasement, so too are America's "allies" today with unstable tyrants

such as Kim Jong-Un of North Korea.

Equally appalling and a major catalyst to every conflict in the Middle East as well as the major supporter of global terrorism is the repressive regime in Iran. Here again, faced with the choice of being steadfast in opposition to this rogue regime hellbent on acquiring nuclear capabilities, the Western response is tepid at best, pusillanimous at worst. Fortunately, in this theatre of conflict, the United States does have an unflinching, powerful ally, Israel. The battle-hardened Jewish state has a vested interest in thwarting direct threats from Iran and her puppets Hezbollah, Syria and Hamas.

The United States, presently sharing a golden age with Israel, shares common interests with her in these matters and in reversing the foothold in the Middle East that past Administrations have allowed Russia to regain.

Following updated policies on Iraq and Syria this year, the United States is finishing off the remnants of ISIS, pursuing an Assad-free Syria, and assisting the pro-Western side in Yemen's proxy war between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

In the February 4, 2018, edition of its paper, *Haaretz* reported Egypt has allowed Israel to conduct "over 100 airstrikes" on recalcitrant ISIS forces within the Sinai. This is proof the sands of change are rapidly taking place in the Middle East. When countries such as Egypt and Saudi Arabia seek military coordination with the United States and Israel against Islamic ter-

rorists and rogue states, this can be the only conclusion.

On Wednesday, March 14 at 7:30 p.m., famed military analyst and author Colonel Ralph Peters will be speaking at the Chabad Jewish Center of Naples, 1789 Mandarin Road. His topic will be "A World on Fire: Strategic Challenges for the United States and Israel." He will address the aforementioned and other military issues concerning the two allies.

There will also be a book signing at the conclusion of the presentation. Admission is \$30 per person prepaid; \$32 at the door. Make checks payable to ZOA of SWFL and mail to 4003 Upolo Lane, Naples, FL 34119. For more information, call 914.329.1024 or email jerrysobel@aol.com.

**GENERATIONS OF THE SHOAH**  
**SOUTHWEST FLORIDA**  
**(239) 963-9347**

**Intergenerational aspects of  
Holocaust trauma to be discussed  
at GenShoah meeting**

*Ida Margolis*

GenShoah SWFL is an affinity group of the Holocaust Museum & Education Center of Southwest Florida that was formed nine years ago. Currently the group is for both children of Holocaust survivors (known as 2gs) and any other individuals who are interested in Holocaust education and human rights. The number of individuals who have expressed an interest in Holocaust-related programs and who have

programs that many individuals have expressed an interest in attending. Because of the numerous requests for a program on

intergenerational aspects of Holocaust trauma, GenShoah has called upon two individuals to present such a program.

Dr. Ken Wetcher and Shelley Goodman will be presenting "L'dor Vador - Intergenerational Aspects of Holocaust Trauma" at the Holocaust Museum (4760 Tamiami Trail N., Naples) at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 18. Wetcher and Goodman note that "there has been a great deal studied and written about survivors of the Holocaust and how surviving has impacted their lives. That 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> generations of survivors are affected has been widely accepted. The 'how' and 'why' is different depending on the families and the circumstances."

Ken Wetcher is a psychiatrist who has over 50 years of diverse experience. He is a 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> generation survivor. Dr. Wetcher has worked extensively with men's issues, especially focused on PTSD from the Vietnam War. Shelley Goodman is a psychotherapist in

private practice in Toronto, Canada, since 1989. She has an eclectic practice working with individuals, couples and families with a focus primarily on relationships. She has done extensive work with Holocaust survivors and their children, examining the effects one generation's journey plays on the

next generation. Shelley continues to learn from her clients as she supports them through their life journeys.

Individuals who are interested are invited to attend and explore with Wetcher and Goodman as they discuss this topic. Space is limited and reservations are required to zalman08054@yahoo.com. There is no cost.

The annual Yom HaShoah Com-

memoration will be held at Temple Shalom (4630 Pine Ridge Road, Naples) on Sunday, April 8 at 10:00 a.m. No RSVP is required and there is no cost.

To contribute suggestions for future GenShoah programs or to receive the GenShoah e-newsletter, email me at genshoahswfl@gmail.com.

**HAZAK 55+ CHAPTER**  
**at Temple Judea**  
**(239) 433-0201**

*Jan Klein*

Hazak held its recent planning meetings on January 14 and February 11.

There was a very successful Hazak Shabbat on Saturday, December 30. Zohar, the Shlichah from Temple Judea, gave a fascinating *D'var Torah* on her life in Israel.

The January program had to be canceled due to the illness of the guest speaker. It will be rescheduled for the fall.

The February program was a trip to the Holocaust Museum & Education Center of SWFL. Those who attended enjoyed a tour by a very knowledgeable docent. After the tour, lunch was enjoyed at Brio Tuscan Grille.

**Upcoming programs**

- ◆ Sunday, March 11: Screening of *Remember* at Temple Judea with dinner to follow

- ◆ Sunday, April 22: Musical Ensemble, coordinated by Liz Singer and featuring, Liz, Avi, Sid and Sasha

Future possible programs include Mini Golf followed by lunch, Jewish Trivia Game Night, Story Telling, Art Shows, Movies, Dinner and Musical Program at The Roadhouse.

Anyone who has any inquiries about Hazak should send an email to tjhazak@gmail.com.

We are very pleased to announce the new board:

- President: Andy Chernow
- Past Presidents: Joyce and George Rosinger
- Program Chairs: Lynda Maslow and Bernie Perlstein
- Recording Secretaries: Fran Chernow and Bernie Perlstein
- Publicity: Jan Klein and Jodi Cohen
- Temple Judea Board Rep: Andy Chernow



Presenter Sandy Lessig with Stuart Mest and Ida Margolis at the January GenShoah program

asked to receive the GenShoah SWFL newsletter has grown each year. GenShoah offers programs from October to April, and every year asks for suggestions for programs for the next season. Of course, the number of programs that can be presented are limited, but the steering committee tries to present

**Q: Why is this night different from all other nights?**

**A: Thou shalt not cook or clean up your seder dinner!**



**TEMPLE BETH EL  
2ND NIGHT  
PASSOVER SEDER**

**MARCH 31, 2018  
6 pm - 9 pm**

*at The Club at Grandezza*  
11481 Grande Oak Blvd. Estero, Florida

*Limited seating - open to the public.  
Get your reservation in now!  
Reservation deadline is March 25*

Your non-refundable payment is your reservation.

**You may reserve by:**

\* Visit [www.templebethel.com](http://www.templebethel.com), scroll down to the flier, and click on the link to pay online by PayPal

OR

\* Call in your payment to Temple Beth El at 433-0018

OR

\* Mail in payment along with this form to:

Temple Beth El Sisterhood  
16225 Winkler Rd Fort Myers, FL 33908  
Checks payable to Temple Beth El Sisterhood



Cut here and return bottom with payment

**Yes, I would like to attend the Temple Beth El Passover Seder!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Total number of adults in your party @ \$45 per person

\_\_\_\_\_ Total number of children in your party @ \$22 per person

\_\_\_\_\_ My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed, or

\_\_\_\_\_ I will pay by credit card Type of Credit Card \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder's name if different than above: \_\_\_\_\_

3 or 4 digit code \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

**TEMPLE BETH EL  
Fort Myers**

**(239) 433-0018  
[www.templebethel.com](http://www.templebethel.com)**

As we welcome Rabbi Luna back from maternity leave, we also thank the many congregants who led Shabbat services, Torah study, and Lunch & Learn. We thank Cantor Bessman, as well, for his leadership during the rabbi's absence.

Let the games begin. Join Sisterhood on May 9 for a new program

we're calling Mimosas, Mah Jongg, and More. On that day, players will come with their usual game friends and play whatever they want. Mah jongg, dominoes, what-

ever. We will start with a buffet brunch followed by games. This event is open to Sisterhood members and nonmembers alike. Everyone will receive a favor, prizes will be given to table winners, and there will be great raffle prizes. For more information, please email [bticansing@hotmail.com](mailto:bticansing@hotmail.com).

**TEMPLE SHALOM  
Charlotte Harbor & the Gulf Islands**

**(941) 625-2116  
[www.templeshalomfl.com](http://www.templeshalomfl.com)**

On Friday evening, March 2, Temple Shalom will observe Purim with the reading of the Megillah. All are urged to be in costume. Hamentashen will be served. Prizes will be awarded.

Karaoke with the one and only Jack Bernstein will be here on Sunday March 4 at 5:00 p.m. Pizza and salad will be served. There is a \$12 donation per person. Come and enjoy a wonderful time. Open to all.

As part of its Jewish Film series, on Sunday, March 18 at 3:00 p.m., the temple will screen *Walk on Water*.

There will be a "Lunch and Learn with the Forward" on Tuesday, March 27 from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. If you wish to attend, please call the temple office at

941.625.2116. There is no charge to participate. This is a funded learning experience.

The annual Congregational/Community Seder will take place at the Kingsway Country Club on Saturday evening, March 31. Kindly call the temple office if you would like to attend. Space is limited and reservations are required.

Temple Shalom is the only affiliated Reform congregation servicing all of Charlotte County, North Fort Myers and North Port.

**TEMPLE JUDEA  
Fort Myers**

**(239) 433-0201  
[www.tjswfl.org](http://www.tjswfl.org)**

The community is invited to Temple Judea's big Purim Social and Fundraising event on Saturday evening, March 3. This special event will honor Temple Judea Preschool Director Joann Goldman for her 21 years of service at the preschool. There will be a DJ and dancing, hors d'oeuvres and dessert, and a silent and live auction. The cost is \$75 per person. Fun will be had by all. It is definitely the event of the season and not to be missed. RSVP to the synagogue office at 239.433.0201.

Another special event is planned just a few days later. Join our Shlichah, Zohar Ben Hamu, and her mother, Miri, who is visiting from Israel, on Thursday, March 8, to learn how to prepare a typical Israeli meal. The class will begin at 10:00 a.m. and the prepared food will be served as the Kiddush luncheon on Saturday, March 10. Those attending the cooking class are asked for a donation of \$18 (chai) or \$36 (double chai), and will then be listed as sponsors of the Shabbat luncheon. Donations of \$18 or \$36 are also welcome from those unable to attend the class, but who would like to be included as a sponsor for the Shabbat luncheon. RSVP to [tjchaverothfortmyers@gmail.com](mailto:tjchaverothfortmyers@gmail.com).

The community is invited to Temple Judea to hear a talk by AIPAC's Florida Deputy Regional Director, Joshua Karsh, on Sunday, March 18 at 11:00 a.m. Mr. Karsh will speak on "The U.S.-Israel Relationship in a Rapidly Changing Middle East." He is responsible for creating the strategic direction and supervising the daily operations for one of the largest AIPAC offices in the United States.

All members of Temple Judea re-

ceived a *Shalach Manot* bag of goodies in celebration of Purim. Volunteers will be assembling the bags on Sunday, March 25, and bags will be ready for pickup starting Monday, March 26. *Shalach Manot* bags were also sent to all Temple Judea college students.

A wine and cheese reception is held every Friday from 6:00 to 6:30 p.m., before Shabbat services. It's a great time for members to enjoy socializing and to greet prospective new members and those visiting the synagogue.

Join Rabbi Sack at his monthly Torah study session held at the offices of Myers and Brettholtz and Company. It is an hour of open discussion of Torah and Judaism where all levels of background and all questions are encouraged. Everyone is welcome and there is no cost to attend. The next Torah study is Thursday, March 1.

Our monthly volunteering at the Salvation Army's Meals with Compassion (formerly Sally's Café) continues. Volunteers are needed for Sundays, March 11 and 25. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Linda Idelson at [lindaieldson8@gmail.com](mailto:lindaieldson8@gmail.com).

It's not too early to start planning for Passover and to mark your calendar to attend the synagogue's second night Seder on Saturday, March 31. More information about the Seder will follow.

For more information about Temple Judea or upcoming programs, call or email the synagogue office.

**Regular scheduled events:**

- Friday evening Shabbat services at 6:30 p.m.
- Saturday morning Shabbat services at 9:30 a.m.
- Lunchtime Torah study with Rabbi Sack the first Thursday of each month.
- Morning minyan every Monday at 9:00 a.m.

**Changing you address? Keep L'CHAYIM coming to your home. Email [loriramos@jfedlcc.org](mailto:loriramos@jfedlcc.org).**

**COMMUNITY FREE SYNAGOGUE**

**Fort Myers**

**(239) 466-6671**

**www.fortmyerssynagogue.com**

The people of the Community Free Synagogue grieve the passing of our dearest friend, Phil Lefton, and express their heartfelt condolences to Charlotte and her family. Phil was a remarkable man in so many ways – a devoted family man, consummate educator and intellectual, gifted musician,



Phil Lefton

patriotic veteran, champion of progressive causes, and deeply-rooted son of the people of Israel. His lamp cannot be extinguished.

C.F.S. thoroughly enjoyed the gift boxes of Israel's fruits and nuts prepared by Auxiliary Rabbi Goldberg for Tu B'Shvat.

Heartfelt thanks to Prof. Jessica Evers, Associate Director of FGCU's

Center for Judaic, Holocaust and Genocide Studies and active CFSer, for her outstanding 3-week series on American anti-Semitism between the World Wars, and to Auxiliary Rabbi Miess for another of his highly effective Basic Hebrew Ulpan programs.

Once again all are invited to the Community Free Synagogue's very entertaining "PowerPoint Megillah" reading on Purim Eve, at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 28. Rabbi Diamond will read the Scroll of Esther as scenes are shown from the Megillah, staged by CFSers in lush period costumes with ancient Persian backdrops. Come in costume or use one of the many from the CFS wardrobe. Home-baked hummentaschen will be served after the reading. Thanks to all the enthusiastic bakers who returned to bake this year's batch of Purim delicacies in the synagogue kitchen. It was fun!

Rabbi Diamond will teach the traditions of Passover on Sundays, March 4 and 11 from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Learn about the Seder's history, how to conduct one at home, as well as the holiday's dietary laws and related practices.

On Sunday, March 25 at 10:30 a.m., Rabbi Diamond will once again

conduct his very popular workshop on how to bake your own matzah from scratch. Once you've made your own, you won't be going back to the industrial boxed substitute. The classes are free and open to all.

The Community Free Synagogue's next Brown Bag Movie Night is at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 22 in the Community Hall, 10868 Metro Parkway, Fort Myers. It features the 1958 classic *Marjorie Morningstar*, starring Natalie Wood, Gene Kelly and Carolyn Jones.

Based on Herman Wouk's 1955 novel, the film depicts a Jewish young woman from New York trying to break away from her traditional roots. Notably, it featured the first on-screen depictions of Jewish rituals since the 1927 *Jazz Singer*. Pack a dinner; admission and soft drinks are free!

The synagogue will be hosting a first night Seder on Friday, March 30 starting at 6:00 p.m. in its Community Hall. It is free and open to the first 150 participants, but reservations are required. To make yours, email Auxiliary Rabbi Goldberg at [synfreersvp@gmail.com](mailto:synfreersvp@gmail.com). Once again the congregation is most grateful to Drs. David Heligman and Alan Tannenbaum for underwriting the expenses of our Community Free Seder!

Each Friday evening at 6:30 p.m.,

The Community Free Synagogue serves a traditional Sabbath dinner. It is free and reservations are never required. At 7:30 p.m., the Sabbath is welcomed with prayer and song. A coffee hour follows worship.

Every Saturday morning at 9:30 a.m., CFS offers a light breakfast followed by a lively discussion of the week's Torah portion until 11:30 a.m., when the Mourner's Qaddish is recited.

Now in its 13<sup>th</sup> year, The Community Free Synagogue is a not-for-profit open community religious resource, not a private membership-based organization. All of its events and programs, including youth and adult Jewish education, are open to all and always free. While the synagogue generally follows Reform practice, it remains independent of particular "movement" affiliations.

The synagogue meets at the Southwest Florida Masonic Center, 10868 Metro Parkway in South Fort Myers. For more information, visit [www.fortmyerssynagogue.com](http://www.fortmyerssynagogue.com).

CFS' founder and leader, Rabbi Bruce Diamond, D.D., this year celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> year since ordination at The Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, marks his 21<sup>st</sup> year in Fort Myers.

**BAT YAM TEMPLE OF THE ISLANDS**

**Sanibel**

**(773) 251-8862**

**www.batyam.org**

March 2018 is an inordinately busy and exciting month for Temple Bat Yam. There are a variety of activities and events such that one or more will capture the attention of our congregants and visitors.

Due to the Hebrew lunar calendar, even Passover begins in March. The first day of any given Hebrew calendar month is determined by the first sighting of the new moon. Accordingly, the Hebrew calendar has twelve lunar months alternating between 29 and 30 days. In leap years, a month is added to realign to the solar year.

The Social Action Committee commemorates its first anniversary with a program on Thursday, March 1 at 7:00 p.m., concerning the significant problem of human trafficking in SWFL. Nola Theiss will speak in Heron Hall

about what the community can do to help prevent this crime.

On Friday, March 2 at 10:00 a.m., Temple Bat Yam will join in the Sanibel community's celebration of the worldwide ecumenical event, the World Day of Prayer. The service will be held at St. Michael's and All Angels Church located at 2304 Periwinkle Way.

At 7:30 p.m., on March 2, Purim, with the reading of the Book of Esther, will be celebrated during the Shabbat service. Rabbi Stephen Fuchs will include commentary on prejudice, sexual abuse and destiny that permeate the story.

For a leisurely opportunity for camaraderie, Temple Bat Yam is going to JetBlue Park in Fort Myers on Thursday, March 8 at 1:00 p.m. for a Boston Red Sox – Tampa Bay Rays baseball spring training game. Contact Howard Lorsch at 917.543.4271 for details.

Cantor Murray Simon has prepared a special program about prominent

cantors that will be held on Sunday, March 11 at 3:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. He will discuss and show the historic documentary DVDs that he has produced in conjunction with The National Center for Jewish Film at Brandeis University. The program is free and open to the public.

Thursday, March 15 at 6:00 p.m. is the Temple Bat Yam Annual Meeting to elect officers and directors. A potluck dinner will keep everyone content. Contact Paula Raboy (239.472.8957) or Paulette Lotstein (239.395.4527) so that they know what dish you will bring.

Another special program will take place on Sunday, March 25 at 3:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Marvin Kalb, famous for his reporting on CBS and NBC TV news, and his books about foreign policy and national security, will speak about his latest book that describes the early years he spent in Russia as a journalist. The program is free and open to the public thanks to the Rosner Foundation in honor of June Rosner.

To almost conclude the month,

Temple Bat Yam will hold its Passover Seder on Friday, March 30 at 6:00 p.m. Rabbi Fuchs will conduct the Seder. The gathering will be at the Sanibel Community House at 2173 Periwinkle Way. Space is limited. Reservations are required. The deadline for reservations is Tuesday, March 20. Contact Annette Pacyga (941.740.1650) or Sue Danford (239.579.0744) for details, including cost.

Adult Education classes are usually held Saturday mornings beginning at 9:00 a.m. with Hebrew reading with Rabbi Fuchs. At 9:30 a.m., Rabbi Fuchs speaks about a different Torah portion each week. At 10:30 a.m., congregants offer presentations. The theme for March is Jews in Sports, facilitated by Stan Levine.

Come to worship and learn at our meeting place located on the campus of the Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ at 2050 Periwinkle Way on Sanibel. Members of the community, guests and visitors are always welcome to join with congregants.

**TEMPLE BETH SHALOM**

**Cape Coral**

**(239) 772-4555**

**www.templebethshalomcc.org**

Gatlin is coming! Hurry up and get your tickets, as they are almost gone. The amazing singing duo of Andrea &

looking forward to another spectacular evening.

Just as exciting will be our Pass-

Darryl Gatlin will present their third annual show at Temple Beth Shalom on Saturday, March 10. Tickets are \$20. Their first two shows were huge hits and we are

over Seder on the first night of Pesach, March 30. The TBS Seder is always packed with members and nonmembers of all ages. There is always something special for the children, great food and lots of music and singing. Call the temple office for reservations.

In between, there will be Friday night services, Torah study on Saturday mornings, Brown Bag lunches

with the rabbi every other Wednesday, bowling on Sundays, and Rosh Hodesh with timely topics.

Join us for services, Passover or any other event and meet our very welcoming rabbi and members of the congregation. We are sure you will leave with some new friends and a warm feeling in your heart.

**CHABAD**

**Charlotte County**

**(941) 833-3381**

**www.chabadofcharlottecounty.com**

**Torah Study**

At Chabad, we know that the richness of our tradition, and the wisdom it offers can be exciting, even thrilling. Our Torah Studies program, developed by the world-renowned Jewish Learning Institute, brings you the tradition of classical Jewish learning in a series of inspiring and engaging weekly classes. Our lessons probe the depths of

contemporary Torah thought, with a special focus on issues surrounding spirituality, the human psyche, love and relationships. Every experience offers meaningful and timely lessons – from the most timeless of texts. You will walk away surprised, inspired, and knowing more about who we are as Jews, and who you are as an individual. Classes take place on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. at 204 E McKenzie St., Unit B, Punta Gorda.

**Purim Party**

Join us at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, March

1 for "Purim in the Shtetl," a joyous Purim celebration. Enjoy the Megillah reading, a Purim feast, hamentashen, entertainment for young and old, and live music. Dress up as your favorite Shtetl character.

**Jewish Women's Circle**

On Tuesday, March 6 at 7:00 p.m., "Pause and Effect" presents "Divine Delights" – Why on Shabbat do we indulge in physical delights? How can we reconcile the experience of physical pleasure with spiritual transcendence? Enjoy an evening out with friends and find out the answers.

**Family Pesach Seder**

Friday, March 30 at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 31 at 8:15 p.m.

Enjoy the Holiday of Freedom with friends and family at an inspirational Seder, complete with hand-baked shmurah matza, fine kosher wine and a delicious Seder meal. RSVP by March 27 at 941.833.3381 or [info@chabadofcharlottecounty.com](mailto:info@chabadofcharlottecounty.com).

For more information about educational opportunities, visit [www.chabadofcharlottecounty.com](http://www.chabadofcharlottecounty.com).

All Chabad events are open for all to attend, regardless of affiliation. No membership required. No will be turned away due to lack of funds. Please contact us for details.



Have a joyous Passover. And share what it means to you.  
#PassoverPublix

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