



Join us
as we celebrate
ISRAEL@70

SUNDAY, APRIL 15 | 12:30 ~ 3:30 P.M.
HEIGHTS CENTER * 15570 HAGIE DRIVE * FT MYERS

ISRAEL *FEST*ivities

- ✧ Fabulous Entertainment
- ✧ "Shuk" Shopping
- ✧ Delicious Israeli Food
- ✧ Henna and Face Painting
- ✧ Israeli Games & Activities
- ✧ Send a Message to Israeli Soldiers
- ✧ Israeli Wine Tasting
- ✧ Dead Sea Mud Facials
- ✧ Israeli Folk Dancing
- ✧ Children's Arts & Crafts
- ✧ Add Prayers to the Western Wall

Activities for the Whole Family!

- ✧ Free Admission. Items in the shuk and food will be available for purchase.



If you would like to be a vendor selling items in the shuk,
or if you are able to volunteer at the celebration,
contact Leni Sack at 239.481.4449 or lenibsack@jfedlcc.org



Program notes

April is a busy month. On **Sunday, April 8** at 3:00 p.m. at Temple Beth Shalom in Cape Coral, the community will come together to remember the victims of the Holocaust. Attendees of this year's annual Holocaust Memorial Service will



■ Leni Sack

hear the stories of the survivors we invite to light the memorial candles. Documentary filmmaker Rozzi Osterman has produced a short film that will highlight the poignant history of survivors who live in our community. Supported by interviews that Temple Judea Religious School students conducted as a school project to learn

about the Holocaust, and by interviews previously conducted by the Holocaust Museum & Education Center of Southwest Florida, this presentation will help to ensure that these important stories are not forgotten. Please join us.

On **Wednesday, April 11** there is a special program at the Federation featuring Nir Kabaretti, conductor of the Southwest Florida Symphony. Following a dessert and wine reception, Maestro Kabaretti will speak about "The Two Bernsteins" – composers Leonard Bernstein and Elmer Bernstein. Although the two were not related, they were both very talented and prolific Jewish composers. Israeli-born conductor Nir Kabaretti has been a wonderful addition to the Southwest Florida community and we are honored to have him as our guest speaker at this

event. Seating is limited and RSVPs are a must to me at 239.481.4449 x3 or lenibsack@jfedlcc.org. There is no cost to attend.

And if the previous two events were not enough, **Sunday, April 15** brings the community celebration of ISRAEL AT 70. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend Israel's 70th birthday party. An Israeli band from Miami, the SHALOM band, will perform along with local entertainers like The Big Yamulkes and the Temple Beth El children's choir. Our fabulous Israeli dancers will be on hand to teach us Israeli dancing. Traditional fun Israeli activities for children are planned – think Party Steam Spray cans and Yom Ha'Atzmaut hammer noisemakers. Ladies (and men) can luxuriate in an Israeli spa with Dead Sea Mud facials. Get a henna design or have your

face painted or do both! Eat delicious Israeli-style falafel, hummus and pita, while tasting a variety of Israeli wines or shopping for items in the "shuk." All this and more is planned for this very momentous event.

There is no cost for admission. Vendor items and food will be for sale. ISRAEL AT 70 will take place from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. at The Heights Center, 15570 Hagie Road, Fort Myers.

Wait, you might think April's already so full, that there couldn't be anything else happening – but you would be wrong. The last of the four PJ Library holiday programs for families will take place on **Thursday, April 26** at 5:00 p.m. at Temple Judea. Families will celebrate Lag B'Omer, a festive minor holiday that falls during the seven weeks between Passover and

continued on page 3



9701 Commerce Center Court
Fort Myers, Florida 33908

DELIVER TO CURRENT RESIDENT OR

**POSTMASTER:
DATED RELIGIOUS
NEWS ITEMS.
TIME SENSITIVE—
PLEASE EXPEDITE!**

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
FT. MYERS, FL
PERMIT NO. 175

VISIT THE FEDERATION ONLINE AT:

www.JewishFederationLCC.org

social service ► philanthropy ► education

In this issue:

- 7 Our Community**
- 8 Jewish Interest**
- 12 Marketplace**
- 14 Israel & the Jewish World**
- 18 Commentary**
- 20 From the Bimah**
- 22 Focus on Youth**
- 24 Organizations**
- 26 Community Directory**
- 26 Temple News**

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

Jewish news published monthly by
Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte Counties
9701 Commerce Center Court, Fort Myers, FL 33908
(239) 481-4449 • Fax: (239) 481-0139
Online at www.JewishFederationLCC.org

April 2018 • Volume 40, Number 8

Co-Presidents: Rozzi Osterman • Brian Simon
Board: Paul Bartrop • Herb Fried • Carolyn Gora
Jerry Greenfield • Keith Grossman • Andi Horowitz
Charles Idelson • Linda Idelson • Marsha Kistler
Sara Krivisky • Michele Laboda • JoAnn Lewin
Barbara Siegel • Sylvia Simko • Sherri Zucker
Executive Director: Alan Isaacs
Program Director: Leni Sack
Executive Assistant: Lori Ramos
Jewish Family Services: Jodi Cohen

Editor/Designer: Ted Epstein (239) 249-0699
Advertising: Jim Lewin (239) 634-6923

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.

Photographs should be clear, black-and-white or color prints. If you wish a photograph returned, include a stamped, self-addressed envelope of appropriate size.

The Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte Counties disclaims responsibility or endorsement of the views expressed by the writers and claims by advertisers.

**MAY ISSUE
EDITORIAL DEADLINE:
Thursday, April 5**

**Grow your business
with L'CHAYIM.
Reach 5,000 local
Jewish residents
through this paper.**
For more information
or to place an ad, call Jim
at 239.634.6923
or send an email to
JamesLewin@jfedLCC.org.

Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte Counties

**ANNUAL
MEETING**

and Dessert Reception

HONORING ROZZI OSTERMAN
&
OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY

**Wednesday, May 9, 2018
7:00 P.M.**

Hosted by

FineMark Bank
12681 Creekside Lane
Fort Myers, FL



- * Emptying your kitchen cabinets?
- * Reorganizing your cupboards?
- * Spring cleaning?

Bring us unexpired
canned goods and
other non-perishable
food items.



Jewish
Federation
Lee and Charlotte Counties

FOOD PANTRY

**WE FEED
THE HUNGRY**

Program notes...continued from previous page 1

Shavuot (this period is known as the Omer). Although we won't be celebrating with a bonfire, which is a typical celebration in Israel, we will be playing games, doing arts and crafts, singing and reading stories about the holiday. All families with children ages 2-8 are invited to attend. The program

is free, but RSVPs are necessary to me.

Now is also the time to mark your calendars to attend the Jewish Federation's Annual Meeting, held this year at FineMark Bank on Wednesday, May 9 at 7:00 p.m. Besides a delicious dessert and wine reception, we will be installing a new Board of Directors for

the coming year and honoring those stepping down from the board. Show your support for the women and men who make such a valuable contribution to our community each year. You will also hear about some of the plans for the upcoming year and have a chance to "schmooze" with old friends and

meet some new ones.

Our community and our community calendar of events continue to grow. I hope you take advantage of the variety of upcoming programs. I look forward to seeing you soon. ▲

An Evening with Maestro

NIR KABARETTI

of the Southwest Florida Symphony

Presenting

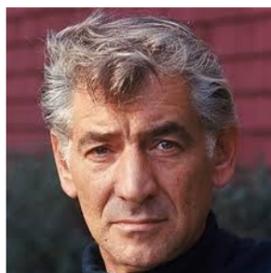
"THE TWO BERNSTEINS"



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
Seating is limited
RSVP by April 8th to
Leni Sack lenibsack@jfedlcc.org
239-481-4449 Ext. 3

Enjoy an evening with
Nir Kabaretti and learn
about these two talented
Jewish composers
at the
Jewish Federation
9701 Commerce Center Ct.
Fort Myers



For a continuously updated calendar of events, visit www.JewishFederationLCC.org.

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
Cape Coral
33990

"To remember, not once to forget"

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

The Jewish Federation Annual Campaign provides the resources to strengthen and enrich our Jewish community locally, in Israel and around the world.

YOUR SUPPORT

Honor/
Remember
A LOVED ONE

Share your
MITZVAH

Promote
KINDNESS

Strengthen & enrich
JEWISH COMMUNITY

This year please consider making an additional campaign contribution in honor or in memory of a loved one. Because kindness is contagious we would like to highlight your generosity in L'CHAYIM and notify personally those whom you honor. You may choose how your generosity is noted and how we share your mitzvah with our community.

Happy Passover

First night Seder - March 30

Passover is a time for family gatherings and happiness

as we commemorate the story of the Exodus.

The Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte Counties

wishes your family a happy and healthy Passover.

TRIBUTES

In memory of Sonny Mandell
from Sheila & Jerry Laboda and family

**Each month, L'CHAYIM will list your Tributes.
Please send them to Lori Ramos
at the Federation at loriramos@jfedlcc.org.**

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

REPORTERS:

David Heligman

SUBSCRIBERS:

**Hilde M. Abraham
Rabbi Stephen & Victoria Fuchs**

The Jewish Federation thanks our GENEROUS DONORS

INDIGENT FUND

Shalom Dancers
Robert & Carolyn Siegel
Jack & Ellen Esformes



Sheila & Gerald Laboda
Gene & Andrea Sipe

FOOD PANTRY

Temple Beth El
Temple Judea
Shalom Life Center
Mellow Mah Jongg
Brian & Mindy Simon
Beginner's Mah Jongg Group

Boni Raitt
Leon Goldstein
Don Kamito
Jary Scott
Ruth Lefberg



Together we CAN Make a Difference!

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 or contact the Federation at 239-481-4449, ext. 4 or email loriramos@jfedlcc.org.

Senior Lunch Bunch update

By Jodi Cohen, Senior Outreach Coordinator

Our February lunch took place right before Purim, so we were delighted when Rabbi Bruce Diamond of The Community Free Synagogue dressed up in costume, talked about the holiday, and led us in a sing-a-long. Jacob Rubin did a fine job twirling the grogger, and a good time was had by all.

■ Jodi Cohen

We were delighted to welcome new people to the Federation's monthly senior lunch, and as always, grateful for the work of the volunteers who help before, during and after the lunch. Because the Federation rotates venues every month, we rely on our dedicated volunteers to shlep in and set up every-

thing we use during the lunch. There are a lot of moving pieces and the generosity of spirit is glorious.

The free monthly lunch continues to be a friendly inviting place to meet people, connect with friends, and be in community. I have come to describe the monthly lunch as a cross between a bar/bat mitzvah, a wedding and a simcha because there is so much joy in the room as well as abundant delicious food provided by our community partner, Jason's Deli.

Our next Senior Lunch Bunch is Tuesday, April 10 at noon at Temple Beth Shalom in Cape Coral. RSVP to me by April 6 at 239.481.4449 x6 or jodicohen@jfedlcc.org. Please let me know if you would like a volunteer to pick you up. There is always a place at the table for YOU so come on down!▲

Giving and receiving – who benefits the most?

By Jodi Cohen, Senior Outreach Coordinator

Many years ago a friend invited me to join her where she volunteered at a nursing home to transport the Jewish residents from their respective apartments or rooms to the lounge for the monthly Shabbat service. I had never done anything like this before and didn't know what to expect. I ended up volunteering for over five years and eventually led the singing at the service after the cantor had the nerve to accept a position in the Virgin Islands.

The nursing home complex was huge and required traversing several buildings, floors and elevators in order to gather residents in their wheelchairs, and sometimes even hospital beds, to bring them to the lounge. Every month I was afraid I would get lost. There was an ongoing sense of adventure among the volunteers about navigating our way, wondering if we were ever going to make it to the Promised Land, which in this case was the lounge. Sometimes we ended up at the beauty shop or the popcorn cart, but we always found our way to the Shabbat service.

The social worker who led the service would invite residents to answer a question each month that was related to the holiday or *parsha* (Torah portion), and that was how I got to know everyone. There was Anna, who was smuggled out of Germany and hidden in a barn during the first two years of her life, and Charlotte, who had been

a nationally recognized math scholar. I became close friends with Anne, a hypnotist who worked in the Catskills during its heyday. We laughed uproariously whenever she showed me her collection of black-and-white photos of people all over the stage in various states of sleep during her act.

These people became part of my orbit, my personal landscape. We celebrated Shabbat, holidays, birthdays and anniversaries together. A family with two small girls and no grandparents in town started coming to help hand out the wine and challah, and the girls became everyone's granddaughters. A woman and the big black dog she rescued after Hurricane Katrina started attending and we all would pet the dog before, during and after the service. It is hard to say who benefited more from attending the monthly Shabbat service because how can you measure depth of feeling, how can you measure the fullness of the human heart?

The needs of Jewish seniors in our own community continue to grow. The Federation is evaluating the services it provides for seniors and potential volunteer opportunities such as driving someone to a doctor's appointment or helping someone shop for groceries. If you have any needs that are not currently being met or are interested in volunteering, please contact me at the Federation at 239.481.4449 x6 or jodicohen@jfedlcc.org.▲

This month's advertisers

This publication is brought to you each month thanks to the support of our advertisers. Please be sure to use their products and services, and mention that you found them in L'CHAYIM.

- Advanced Pain Management...28
- Advanced Physical Therapy.....10
- Alliance Financial Group.....12
- Hal Arkin, Realtor®.....12
- Art of Fashion and Moore.....12
- Gwen Baker, Realtor®.....12
- Dr. Daniel Bendetowicz.....12
- Cruise Everything.....9
- Cypress Cove.....17
- Harold Eskin, Attorney.....12
- FGCU.....19
- FineMark Natl. Bank & Trust...20
- Florida Specialists in Urology...12
- Susan Glasser, Realtor®.....19
- Gordon's Pool & Spa Service....12
- Green Schoenfeld & Kyle, LLP.12
- Gulf Coast Orthodontics.....16
- Dr. David Heligman.....7
- Henderson Franklin.....12
- Higginson Tax & Accounting....12
- Hodges Funeral Home.....6
- Lee Lighting.....12
- Living Happily Counseling.....12
- Charles Massie, CPA, CFP®.....12
- Michael Shapiro Photography...23
- Miromar Outlets.....21
- Paragon Pools.....12
- PCC Tile.....12
- Alan J. Rubinstein, Attorney....12
- Senior Housing Solutions.....13
- Seniors Helping Seniors.....12
- Shell Point.....11
- Snyderman's Shoes.....12
- Douglas Spiegel, Attorney.....12
- Southwest Florida Symphony....8
- Taschner Periodontics.....14
- The Palms of Fort Myers.....15
- The Terraces at Bonita Springs..13
- Bob Vinikoor, Realtor®.....12
- Paul Weinstein, CFP®.....12

SENIOR OUTREACH PROGRAM

LUNCH BUNCH

Come out for lunch, see familiar faces and meet new friends at our monthly senior lunches.

Tuesday, April 10th
12:00 PM
Temple Beth Shalom
702 SE 24th Ave, Cape Coral
(RSVP by April 6th)

Thursday, May 10th
12:00 PM
Temple Beth El
16225 Winkler Ave. Fort Myers
(RSVP by May 7th)





Let us know if you will be driving or if you would like a volunteer to pick you up.

RSVP—Jodi Cohen
239-481-4449, ext. 6 or
jodicohen@jfedlcc.org



Like us on Facebook!



CONNECT

with your Jewish Community

www.facebook.com/JewishFederationLCC





LAG B'OMER is a festive minor holiday that falls during the seven weeks between Passover & Shavuot (this period is known as the Omer).




PJ LIBRARY PROGRAM
FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN
2-8 YEARS OF AGE

Celebrate Lag B'Omer
Israeli Style

Thursday, April 26 5:00-6:30 p.m.

We won't have a big bonfire like in Israel, but we will play games, do arts & crafts, sing and read stories. There is no cost to attend. RSVP to Leni at 239-481-4449 Ext. 3 Or lenibsack@jfedlcc.org

at TEMPLE JUDEA
14486 A&W Bulb Rd.
Fort Myers




Holocaust Museum update – Triumph 2018

By Susan Suarez, Executive Director

Thank you to all who made our *Triumph 2018* event a great success! Special thanks to our Sponsors: Title *Inspire* Sponsors Rissa and Richard Grossman, *Naples Daily News*, WGPU Public Media, First Florida Integrity Bank, *Life In Naples Magazine* and Publix Super Markets Charities. Congratulations on an outstanding event to *Triumph 2018* Committee members Rosalee Bogo, Sandra Buxton, Rissa Grossman, Maureen Lerner, Jack Nortman, Estelle Price, Hadassah Schulman and Nancy White.

David Eisenhower, grandson of the late president, was our featured speaker. While in town, David toured the Museum with board members and special guest Holocaust survivor Reva Kibort. As a 12-year-old girl in a DP camp, she was selected to present General Eisenhower with flowers during his inspection visit. David honored Reva by presenting her with a rose during the

Triumph 2018 dinner. WGPU Public Media reporter Quincy Walters filed a story about the visit and President Eisenhower's impact on Holocaust education. Here's a link: <http://news.wgcu.org/post/david-eisenhower-reflects-grandfathers-impact-after-holocaust>

Triumph 2018 honored the 20th anniversary of "Out of the Ashes," the Golden Gate Middle School classroom project about the Holocaust and the genesis for our Museum. Seventh-grade teachers David Bell and Michelle Lee and their students carried on the Holocaust education work begun by General Eisenhower in 1945. On a visit to newly liberated Ohrdruf concentration camp, he immediately ordered the devastation be documented and publicized so the world would remember and couldn't deny in the future that the Holocaust happened.

Accepting the Award on behalf of Golden Gate Middle School were Mr. Bell and Ms. Lee, along with Collier County School Superintendent Kamela Patton and current Golden Gate Middle School Principal Mason Clark. The students' motto for "Out of the Ashes" remains as viable today as it did in 1998:



Mason Clark, Michelle Lee, David Bell, Susan Suarez, Kamela Patton, Herb Berkeley (photo courtesy Nancy Yachnes, Dell River Imagery)

"Tell your children to tell their children, and their children to tell their children. We will never forget!"

The evening ended with a conversation between David Eisenhower and former CBS News correspondent Phil Jones. The discussion centered on the life and legacy of General Eisenhower, and his impact on Holocaust education. They also discussed the two books David wrote about his grandfather: *Eisenhower at War*, about his military career, and *Going Home to Glory*, a personal reminiscence about life with his grandfather in the years 1961-1969.

With its participation in the upcoming Yom HaShoah commemoration at Temple Shalom, and the April observance of Genocide Awareness Month, the Museum continues the education mission of General Eisenhower and "Out of the Ashes." The students would be astounded at their legacy today – over 175,000 students in six counties impacted by Museum programs, Museum visitors from all 50 states and 40-plus countries, the designation as "2017 Best Museum – Collier County" by *Gulfshore Life Magazine*, and an established organization dedicated to sharing the lessons of the Holocaust with students and the public so that the Holocaust will never be forgotten.

The Holocaust Museum has come a long way from its first tiny storefront location and initial school programs. We were originally founded with community support, and have since grown into an important community partner. In fact, we have grown so much that we have a very exciting announcement!

The Museum will be moving to its own building in late 2018! Located on US 41, just north of Immokalee Road, the building offers 6,000 square feet for additional exhibit space for our permanent collection and temporary exhibit galleries, updated technology, and ample parking for visitors and school and tour group buses. The new Museum will use our amazing collection of artifacts and present them in refreshed, professionally-designed displays.

Owning our own facility gives us greater financial stability and flexibility to ensure our ability to continue offering quality programs and fulfill our mission – "Teach the lessons of the Holocaust to inspire action against bigotry, hatred and violence."

For more information on our plans, programs and opportunities to help us grow, please contact me at Susan@HolocaustMuseumSWFL.org or call 239.263.9200. We look forward to seeing you before and after we move!▲



David Eisenhower, Survivor Reva Kibort, Susan Suarez (photo courtesy Nancy Yachnes, Dell River Imagery)



Proudly serving the Jewish community of Lee County for over 52 years,

Hodges Funeral Home at Lee Memorial Park Cemetery off State Road 82 provides many convenient and affordable options for traditional as well as contemporary funeral and burial services.

✧ Garden of David ✧ spaces starting at \$2,995



Hodges
Funeral Home

at Lee Memorial Park

12777 State Road 82
Fort Myers, FL 33967

Dignity
LIFE WELL CELEBRATED

(239) 334-4880

Passover begins at sundown on Friday, March 30. Many of the area's temples will hold first- and second-night Seders open to the community. Contact the temples for more information.



Mellow Mah Jongg

Each Tuesday afternoon, an open session of Mah Jongg is held at the Jewish Federation.

Players must be at least advanced beginners, as no lessons are given.

DAY: Tuesdays, 12:30~3:30 P.M.
FEE: \$1 per week



for more information call
Rona Strausberg at 239.949.9003



Deeper thinking, deeper living in Southwest Florida

Beginning Thursday, April 26 (Day Course at 12:30 p.m. and Evening Course at 7:30 p.m.), Rabbi Yitzchok Minkowicz of Chabad Lubavitch of Southwest Florida will be offering "What Is? Rethinking Everything We Know About Our Universe," a fascinating, new six-session course from the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute (JLI).

The website description of the course reads: Drawing on the wisdom of Chassidic teaching, the most basic building blocks of existence are reexamined from the bottom up, revolutionizing our understanding of life, reality and our place in the world.

"I find that many people, particu-

larly in Southwest Florida, are looking to deepen their experience of life," explained Rabbi Minkowicz. "This JLI course invites participants to live more deeply, by deepening their thinking, insight and awareness of the fundamentals of life and of our universe."

"What Is?" explores six of the most intriguing questions that have plagued mankind, such as: Is the world real? Is time travel possible? Why does evil exist? Who is God? What is consciousness? And are we bound by fate?

"Our goal is to invite participants to seek out a deeper understanding of their world," explained Rabbi Zalman Abraham of JLI's Brooklyn headquarters. "In doing so, we hope to give

people the tools to experience a richer, deeper and more meaningful life."

Like all JLI programs, this course is designed to appeal to people at all levels of knowledge, including those without any prior experience or background in Jewish learning. All JLI courses are open to the public, and attendees need not be affiliated with a particular synagogue, temple or other house of worship.

Interested students may call 239.433.7708 or visit www.myJLI.com for registration and other course-related information. JLI courses are presented in Fort Myers in conjunction with Chabad Lubavitch of Southwest Florida, and sponsored by Dr. Gary &

Marlene Price.

JLI, the adult education branch of Chabad-Lubavitch, offers programs in more than 800 locations in the U.S. and in numerous foreign countries, including Argentina, Australia, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Estonia, France, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands, Panama, Russia, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, Uruguay and Venezuela. More than 400,000 students have attended JLI classes since the organization was founded in 1998.▲

Babies and Bagels

Temple Beth El welcomed eight babies into our community in 2017! To celebrate, all young families with babies are welcome to join us for a Babies and Bagels brunch on Saturday, April 21 at 11:00 a.m. at the home of Rabbi Nicole Luna and Joe Bord, parents of baby Iris and

big sister Zara.

Come meet other young parents, commiserate over lack of sleep, and have in-depth conversations about pacifiers, sleep training and baby milestones that only other parents of babies can appreciate! RSVP to Rabbi Luna at 239.433.0018.▲

Read the current and recent issues of *L'CHAYIM* online at www.JewishFederationLCC.org.

B'NAI MITZVAH



Jacob Spiegel, son of Andrew and Elena Spiegel, brother of Nathan, grandson of Stan and Judy Spiegel and Ed and Anita Straney, will be called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah on Saturday, April 14.

Jacob is a seventh-grader at Lexington Middle School, where he continues to get high honors of achievement and is a member of the National Junior Honor Society. Some of his favorite hobbies are spending

time with his friends, playing sports. Jacob always has a smile on his face and loves to make people laugh.

Jacob thanks his friends and family for helping him to achieve this important milestone in his Jewish life. He also thanks Dale Cohen, Rabbi Nicole Luna and all of his Hebrew teachers. He looks forward to continuing his journey and commitment to Jewish life.



Zoe Sax, youngest daughter of Vanessa and Jay Sax, sister to Mackenzie, will be called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah on Saturday, April 28.

A seventh-grade member of the National Junior Honor Society at Lexington Middle School, Zoe loves singing, drawing, music, biking, swimming, babysitting, and hanging out with her friends.

For her mitzvah project, Zoe volunteers at Gladiolus Learning and Development Center, at Temple Beth El and at the Jewish Federation.

Grateful to all her teachers, committed to Judaism, remembering her late teacher,

Morah Claire with love, Zoe looks forward to celebrating with family and friends. Zoe thanks Dale Cohen for going above and beyond, and is grateful for the spiritual teachings and guidance of Rabbi Nicole Luna.



Jack Andrew Calder, son of Alison and Andrew Calder, and younger brother to Ian, will be called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah on Saturday, May 5.

A seventh-grade honor roll student at Lexington Middle School, Jack enjoys tennis, summer camp, spending time with his family, video games, Netflix and joking around.

For his mitzvah project, Jack will volunteer at Ronald McDonald House, using his love of cooking to prepare meals for the families staying there.

Jack thanks Dale Cohen, Rabbi Nicole Luna, Morah Hillary and all his other religious school teachers. He is excited to share this special occasion with his family and friends.

Holocaust Memorial Day Gathering

This year, Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Memorial Day) begins at sunset on Wednesday, April 11, and in its observance, The Community Free Synagogue will host a 7:00 p.m. gathering featuring the screening of the new award-winning documentary, *Aida's Secrets*.

"Family secrets, lies, high drama and generations of contemporary history unspool in this international story that begins with World War II and concludes with an emotional 21st-century family reunion. Izak was born inside the Bergen-Belsen displaced persons camp in 1945 and sent for adoption in Israel. Secret details of his birth

mother, an unknown brother in Canada and his father's true identity slowly emerge in this extremely personal investigative film. Timely questions of identity, resilience, compassion and the plight of displaced persons are brought to life as Izak and Shep, the almost 70-year-old brothers, finally meet in Canada, then head to a nursing home in Quebec to introduce Shep to his elderly mother, Aida, for the first time." (IMDb)

The Community Free Yom Hashoah gathering will also include memorial candle lightings and prayers. Open to all, this event takes place at 10868 Metro Parkway, Fort Myers.▲



Be active, again

INSTITUTE FOR
**Orthopaedic Surgery &
Sports Medicine**

- Specializing in outpatient hip and knee replacement
- Joint replacement & reconstruction surgery
- Arthroscopic surgery of the knee & shoulder
- Treatment of sports-related injuries, pains & problems
- Joint pain & arthritis care
- Fracture care
- Minimally invasive technologies

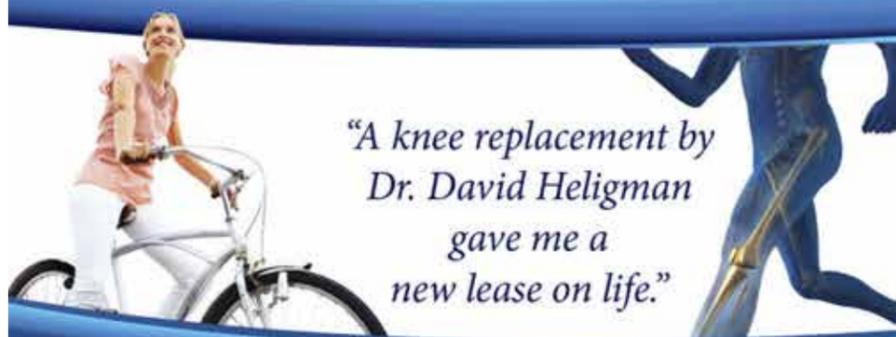


David M. Heligman, M.D.

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
Doctorate of Medicine

Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center
Chicago, IL
Orthopaedic Surgery

Diplomat - American Board of Orthopaedic Surgeons



"A knee replacement by
Dr. David Heligman
gave me a
new lease on life."

Riverwalk Orthopaedic Center
8350 Riverwalk Park Blvd, Suite 1 • Ft Myers

Estero Medical Center
10201 Arco Ave, Suite 206 • Estero

www.jointteam.com • 239-482-5399

Accepting New Patients • Call Today for a Consultation!

Each month, *L'CHAYIM* will list your Life Cycle events

– births, B'nai Mitzvah, engagements, weddings, anniversaries and obituaries. For B'nai Mitzvah,

please include up to 150 words about your child.

Submit your events to LChayim36@gmail.com.

Photos are appreciated; please e-mail as JPGs at 300dpi.

Mimouna: a delicious way to celebrate the end of Passover – recipe by Dalia Hemed

The end of Passover is celebrated widely by indulging in gloriously leavened foods like pizza, bread and cookies. But in Morocco, Israel and most Sephardic communities, there's an actual holiday for that called Mimouna.

There is a unique, beautiful and delicious end-of-Passover tradition observed by Moroccan Jewry, which has recently become a national celebration in Israel. On the day after Passover, Moroccan Jews around the world celebrate the Mimouna holiday in order to mark the beginning of spring and the ability to once again eat *hametz* (leavened bread products). It is a day full of celebration and joy, where women wear traditional Moroccan dresses, men dress in traditional Moroccan fez hats, Moroccan music is played, and everyone enjoys various foods.

Moroccan Jews celebrate this day by baking a variety of sweet things. Different Moroccan Jewish communities have different traditions for the holiday. Some Moroccan Jews make a sweet pancake called *mufleta*, which is served with honey, butter and unique homemade jams, which Moroccan women work to prepare throughout the year. These jams can include eggplants, lemons, oranges, tomatoes and a variety of other fruits and vegetables.

Other Moroccan Jews have a tradition of making couscous mixed with either warm milk or yogurt. This dish is known as *birkouksh*. Yet, still, other Moroccan Jews make a special cream called *jaban*, which is made with almonds and eggs.

Naturally, all Moroccan Jews, regardless where they are from within Morocco, make a variety of cookies. Some of the cookies look like various

fruits, vegetables and flowers, yet are sweet and eatable. Other cookies are made with chocolate, and others are made with sesame, almonds and a variety of other tasty things.

Jewish women make a challah-like round loaf with a hard-boiled egg secured in the center with strips of dough. Single men and women receive blessings that they would be married in the year ahead. Women wear their fanciest clothes, girls don white, and children dress in costumes.

Many traditional Mimouna tables are set with symbols of luck and fertility: live fish in a bowl signify life and vitality; five coins dipped in flour for prosperity; stalks of wheat for a full harvest; a *hamsa*, or hand-shaped amulet, to ward off evil; and honey and dates for sweetness. A typical spread features colored marzipan sweets, candied citrus rind, date rolls, assorted homemade jams and jellies made from fruits and vegetables such as kumquats, carrots, even eggplant, almond crisp cookies and marzipan cookies.

However, the most popular dish served on this night is *mufleta*, and the Mimouna simply wouldn't be complete without it.

Mufleta are essentially like crepes that are either dipped or coated in honey and butter. Traditional *mufleta* are made as follows: balls of dough are rolled out in very thin leaves or sheets and cooked together in a frying pan. Each new sheet or leaf is laid on the previous one so that the fresh leaf is always on the bottom. When the *Mufleta* is finished cooking, it is brought to the table and the leaves are separated. *Mufleta* are then eaten in one of two ways: one way is that pieces are broken off and dipped in a blend of butter and

honey, and the second way is that they are smeared with butter and honey and then rolled like a cigar with the butter and honey inside them.

On Saturday night, April 7, I am going to host a traditional Israeli Mimouna fest to celebrate the end of Passover exactly like I used to do in Israel. Come to listen to traditional music, connect with friends and eat *mufleta*. Drop by if you want to join in the fun!

Even if you can't get to my house, Israel or Morocco to join in one of the many community parties, or if you are not of North African descent, you can get in on the Mimouna celebrations. Make your favorite sweets or try your hand at *mufleta*. It takes a bit of practice to make them perfectly, but they are easy to make. They are so delicious that they disappear before they have a chance to get cold. They have only a few ingredients, so you can easily make your own. Serve them with mint tea and lots of honey to help ensure that all that you do this spring is sweet and successful.

Mufleta Ingredients:

- 1 package (2¼ teaspoons) active dry yeast
 - 1½ cups lukewarm water
 - 1 teaspoon sugar or honey
 - 2 teaspoons table salt
 - About 3¾ cups unbleached all-purpose flour
 - About ½ cup vegetable oil for dipping
 - Melted butter for drizzling
 - Honey for drizzling
- Dissolve the yeast in ¼ cup water. Stir in the sugar and let stand until foamy, 5 to 10 minutes. In a large bowl, combine the yeast mixture, remaining water, salt and 2 cups flour. Gradually add enough remaining flour to make dough slightly softer than regular bread dough. On a lightly floured surface, knead until smooth and elastic, about 10 minutes.
- Divide the dough into 20 egg-sized



Personal Chef Dalia Hemed can be reached at daliahemed@msn.com.

balls or 40 small balls (half eggs). The traditional way is to grab the mass of dough and squeeze the desired amount between a forefinger and thumb, then twist and pinch off the protruding ball. Dip and roll the balls in the oil to coat, place on a flat surface, and let stand for 30 minutes.

- Heat an ungreased large cast-iron or nonstick skillet over medium heat.
- On an oiled flat surface and using oiled hands, flatten the balls into 1/8-inch-thick rounds. Cook the dough rounds until golden brown on the bottom, about 2 minutes. Turn and cook until golden and cooked through, about 1 minute. Cover the *mufletas* with a kitchen towel until serving to keep soft. Eat warm, drizzled with butter and honey.▲

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

Southwest Florida Symphony
WORLD CLASS MUSIC IN PARADISE™
LEE COUNTY'S PROFESSIONAL ORCHESTRA SEASON 57

MASTERWORKS

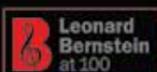
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, LEONARD BERNSTEIN

APR 14 | 7:30 PM PRE-CONCERT LECTURE 6:30

Nir Kabaretti, conductor
Pablo Sáinz Villegas, guitar

Leonard Bernstein: *Three Dance Episodes from Fancy Free*
Elmer Bernstein: *Guitar Concerto*
Tchaikovsky: *Symphony No. 5*

Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall at FSW



EVE BERNSTEIN

ERNIE FOGG SR. & MARGOT FLINN

2018-19 SEASON SUBSCRIPTIONS ON SALE NOW!

TICKETS START AT JUST \$29!

239.418.1500 | WWW.SWFLSO.ORG
8290 COLLEGE PKWY, SUITE 103, FORT MYERS, FL



Studying family history brings more than just historical knowledge, it builds relationships. Learning the stories behind names and dates teaches a personal history that explains more than just how each person came to be. **EVERYONE WELCOME.**

Jewish Genealogy SIG (Special Interest Group)

Next meeting: Thursday, April 12
10:00 - 11:30 a.m.



LEARN HOW TO BEGIN RESEARCH INTO YOUR FAMILY'S HISTORY OR GET HELP FINDING NEW STRATEGIES TO ENHANCE THE SEARCH YOU HAVE ALREADY STARTED.

There is no cost to attend. **RSVP is a must to Arthur at genresearch13@yahoo.com**
Meetings are held at the Jewish Federation • 9701 Commerce Center Ct. • Fort Myers 33908

STAY IN TOUCH

Sign up for e-blasts!

GET THE LATEST INFORMATION ON
UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS,
CULTURAL ACTIVITIES,
BREAKING NEWS,
UPDATES FROM ISRAEL & MORE.



Send an email to
lenibsack@jfedlcc.org

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.

An Oscar First, and it's a Jewish Woman

A reliable source just told me that I failed to include a notable Jewish Oscar nominee in my recent coverage: **RACHEL MORRISON**, 39, the first woman in Oscar history to be nominated for the (best) cinematographer Oscar. Morrison was nominated for shooting *Mudbound*. She is almost a cinch for another Oscar nomination next year: she was the cinematographer for this year's mega-mega hit *Black Panther*. Born and raised in Cambridge, Massachusetts, the daughter of a doctor, Morrison didn't have an easy childhood. Her mother was diagnosed with breast cancer when Rachel was four and died when she was 14. Morrison told *Time* that she turned to photography and home movies to capture her childhood's fleeting happy moments and freeze them in time.

Morrison said that it took her shooting 11 indie films until she was given a chance to shoot a "studio" movie. Men, she said, usually got a studio "gig" after two or three good indie films. But there's progress, she says. Women she's mentored now get a studio gig after two or three indie films, like the men. Her breakthrough film was *Fruitvale Station* (2013), a hit indie film directed by African-American Ryan Coogler. Coogler had another hit with *Creed* and had the "juice" to make *Black Panther* and to hire Morrison to shoot a big-budget comic-based spectacular. Morrison is the first woman to be the cinematographer on this type

of film. There's a very good interview with Morrison on the *Time* magazine website. It includes a brief video with pics of her family. Google: Time Rachel Morrison Firsts.

TV Series Catch-Up

The Netflix series *Love*, a quirky romantic comedy with drama, started streaming its entire 3rd and final season on Friday, March 9. The series was co-created by **JUDD APATOW**, 50, **LESLEY ARFIN**, 38, and Paul Rust, 36 (who is married to Arfin). It's worth your time. Rust plays Gus, a decent, smart and kind guy who aspires to be a scriptwriter. Gus is in an off-and-on relationship with Mickey, an attractive radio program manager with a whole lot of problems. Rust, who looks stereotypically Jewish, but is not, told the story of how he met Arfin at a publicity roundtable last year. They were both at the same party, and Arfin asked **SARAH SILVERMAN** whether or not he was a member of the tribe. Silverman told her, "If he's not, his face should sue God."

On Tuesday, March 13, NBC premiered *Rise*, a musical drama based on the non-fiction book *Drama High* (2013) by **MICHAEL SOKOLOVE**, 61. He grew up in Levittown, Pennsylvania, a blue-collar community which has been in an economic slump for decades. But it has had at least one great thing going for it: Lou Volpe, a recently retired teacher who ran, for 45 years, a nationally-acclaimed theater program at Levittown's only high school. **JOSH RADNOR**, 43, stars in

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.

Rise, playing a character who is based on Volpe. Radnor, the former star of *How I Met Your Mother*, is a practicing Jew and a practicing musician. Late last year, he released a CD in collaboration with Australian Jewish musician **BEN LEE**, 39.

Also starting on the 13th was the ABC series *For the People*. It focuses on new lawyers working for the prosecution and the defense as they litigate criminal cases before the federal court in New York City. **BEN RAPPAPORT**, 32, plays a newly minted assistant U.S. attorney. **BEN SHENKMAN**, 49, plays the head of the federal prosecution unit. Rappaport, a handsome fellow who grew up in a religious home in Houston, has appeared in a few recurring TV roles (including *The Good Wife*). Shenkman was a regular on the TBS comedy *Royal Pains* (Dr. Sacani) and Emmy-nominated for his performance in the HBO production of *Angels in America*. (Joke: Where do they send Jewish

federal government prisoners during Passover? Answer: Un-Leavenworth).

The HBO series *Barry* stars Bill Hader as a low-rent hitman who moves to Los Angeles and finds a new outlook on life by getting involved in the L.A. community theater scene. Co-stars include **HENRY WINKLER**, 72, Canadian actress **SARAH GOLDBERG**, 32, and **GLENN FLESHLER**, 49 (started Sunday, March 25).

On Wednesday, March 28, **ZACH BRAFF**, 42, the former star of *Scrubs*, returned to series TV with his new ABC series, *Alex, Inc.* He plays Alex Schuman, a radio journalist, husband and father of two, who decides to quit his job and start his own company. ▲

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

Remarkable Rhine River Cruise / Jewish Heritage Tour

An 11-Day Luxury River Cruise That Showcases Your Dynamic Jewish Heritage

AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS – BASEL, SWITZERLAND



Book now to Save \$300 per person Space is very limited. Call today!

- NETHERLANDS**
 - Amsterdam
 - Rotterdam
 - Arnhem
- GERMANY**
 - Cologne
 - Oberwesel/Bacharach
 - Frankfurt
 - Speyer/Worms
 - Strasbourg
- SWITZERLAND**
 - Basel



11 Days – June 1 to 11, 2019 – Aboard Uniworld's 5-Star River Empress

- This truly all-inclusive luxury cruise is hosted by Rabbi and Mrs. Solomon Agin, and features Jewish Heritage Tours at each port specifically designed just for this sailing
- Rates starting at \$3699 per person plus tax and fees
- For more information, visit www.cruiseeverything.com or contact Herb Tinley at 239-275-1717
- Request a brochure by emailing herb@cruiseeverything.com

Ship Registry The Netherlands
Florida Seller of Travel Registration Number ST14302

www.cruiseeverything.com



A cynical exercise in futility: The Bermuda Conference at 75 years

By Paul R. Bartrop, PhD

Exactly 75 years ago this month, on April 19, 1943, two events began which were to have an important impact on the fate of the Jews still left in Europe. In one of history's coincidences, the Jews of the Warsaw Ghetto rose in rebellion against the Nazis, and, on the same day, American and British representatives met in Bermuda ostensibly to discuss ways of rescuing Jews from Nazi Europe.



■ Dr. Paul Bartrop

Both events, as we now know, were failures: the first a military one, the second diplomatic. The Jews of Warsaw did not liberate themselves (indeed, it was never likely that this was their intention), nor did the Uprising inspire Warsaw's Poles to come to their aid. In Bermuda, the American State Department and the British Foreign Office did not accomplish any effective means to rescue Europe's Jews, their avowed aim in getting together.

The Conference, held in Hamilton, Bermuda, from April 19 to April 30, 1943, was a joint Anglo-American wartime meeting convened allegedly to discuss the plight of European Jewry. By the latter half of 1942, news of the Nazis' plan to exterminate the European Jews had been made public, and while the American press tended to downplay these reports, the British press paid more attention to them. Before long, leaders of the Anglican Church and some British political leaders began lobbying the government of Prime Minister Winston Churchill to do something to alleviate the mounting humanitarian catastrophe.

On March 23, 1943, William Temple, the Archbishop of Canterbury, gave an impassioned speech to the House of Lords imploring the British government to address the as-yet unnamed Holocaust – a catastrophe which Churchill himself had, on August 21, 1941, referred to as “a crime without a name.” The Archbishop's remarks received wide press coverage and prompted the Foreign Office to propose an Anglo-American conference to address the issue.

From the start, however, the Foreign Office warned others in the British government, as well as the U.S. State Department, that if a comprehensive plan to rescue European Jews did come to fruition, it might force the Germans and their satellite collaborators to abandon their policy of extermination in favor of mass deportation – a move which could well create an unwelcome flood of millions of Jews into Allied-controlled areas. The impact would be a disaster for the war effort, in that it would quickly overwhelm Allied logistics, destabilize governments, and possibly further imperil Jewish refugees.

The Americans took several weeks to respond to the British proposal, and the Bermuda Conference did not begin until April 19. The United States delegation was led by Dr. Harold W. Dodds, President of Princeton University, and the British by Richard Law, a junior minister at the Foreign Office.

Perhaps with an eye to the last international gathering on Jewish refugees, at Evian, France, in July 1938, both governments worked to lower expectations of the meeting, and tried to keep its deliberations secret. Indeed, Bermuda was chosen as the venue largely because of its isolation and the lack

of a large media presence. Moreover, the conference was limited strictly to government officials, and no reporters were permitted to attend the sessions. A number of Jewish organizations asked to participate in the meeting, but were denied access, and Jews, by name, were not even mentioned before or during the meeting. The preferred term was “political refugees.”

A major topic for discussion at the meeting related to the question of refugees who had been liberated by Allied forces and those still suffering under the Nazis. No solutions were forthcoming. In line with the general consensus that the war against Hitler must be won as the number one priority above all others, refugee-rescue (with a hidden agenda that applied to Jews even more) was somewhat lower in the order of affairs.

Beyond that, when it came to substantive issues, the Americans did not offer to raise their immigration quotas, while the British made it clear that the prohibition on Jewish refugees seeking refuge in the British Mandate of Palestine would continue. The delegates at the conference rejected any recommendations that could not be accomplished under wartime conditions, and did not even discuss sending food or other supplies to Jews interned in concentration camps.

British and American Jews, together with others, saw the Bermuda Conference as nothing but a major disappointment. Rabbi Stephen Wise, in New

York, considered the meeting to have been “a cynical exercise in futility,” in which the Allies could be seen to be doing something worthwhile but in which the Jews themselves got nothing. These days, the term would be “virtue signaling.”

And while the delegates talked, no one even thought to mention or acknowledge the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising which had commenced the same day as the conference, continued throughout it, and of which the delegates were fully apprised in daily updates.

The major focus of commemorative events this month will, no doubt, rest on the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. This is as it should be. But it is also worth keeping in mind that the valiant Jews fighting at that time and in that place were betrayed by the very Allies who claimed that they were united in a common cause.

Eight months later, on December 10, 1943, the report of the conference was published. Its only positive decision was to revive the refugee committee established at that earlier conference at Evian, in 1938. For most of the Jews murdered under the Nazis, it came too late. The Bermuda Conference accomplished nothing, and did not save a single Jew from the Holocaust. A cynical exercise, indeed. ▲

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.

ELIMINATE YOUR PAIN RESTORE YOUR MOBILITY REGAIN YOUR QUALITY OF LIFE

All physical therapy is not the same...
Thank you for letting us show you
what sets us apart from the rest!



AWARDED SW FLORIDA'S BEST PHYSICAL THERAPY & REHABILITATION CENTER 5 YEARS IN A ROW!



- One-on-one care with all patients
- You will always receive the personalized care you deserve
- Highly skilled and licensed therapists
- Relaxed, friendly and encouraging atmosphere
- Therapist-owned private practice
- Best of Southwest Florida recipient

“We invest ourselves personally in every patient's progress and goals. This is all part of having a true commitment and passion for what we do.”



THE RESULTS YOU WANT. THE CARE YOU DESERVE.

Thomas S. Zeller, DPT & Associates
www.YourBestTherapy.com

Fort Myers 239-432-0556
Cape Coral 239-772-2363



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 & 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.



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, April 23, 2018

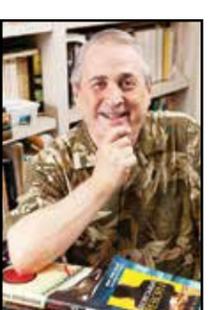
Tuesday, May 22, 2018

A young, partly Jewish German soldier serves as a member of elite SS unit

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

The Soul of a Thief, by Steven Hartov. Hanover Square Press. 304 pages. Hardcover \$24.99.

Mischling” is a German term employed in the period of Nazi rule for those with mixed ancestry; that is, less than fully Aryan parentage. Most often it connotes individuals of mixed Aryan and Jewish blood. The narrator of this admirable historical novel, Shtefan Brandt, is one such person.



Phil Jason

Somehow, Shtefan – like approximately 150,000 people of similar ethnic/racial status – came to serve in Germany’s military during WWII. In this case, because the SS leader found something attractive about him, Shtefan became an adjutant to Colonel Erich Himmel and thus attached to the Waffen SS command.

It is not clear if Himmel knew that his young functionary was of tainted blood. What is clear is that Shtefan’s status made him especially vulnerable. His true identity, if known, could lead to all kinds of deprivations. It could even lead to his death (as if the risk of death in battle was not enough). If Himmel was aware of the mischling, he would take opportunities to exploit Shtefan’s marginality. For reasons beyond the ladder of command, Shtefan could not question any command, let alone say “no.”

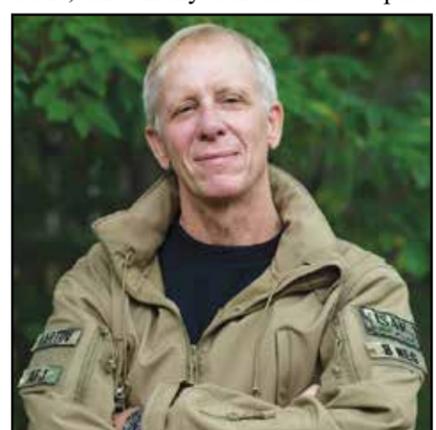
Shtefan, as memoirist-narrator, draws a complex portrait of Himmel. The man is skillful, charismatic and

gregarious. However, he also exhibits cruelty, extreme egocentricity and unquenchable lust. For the most part, he effectively rallies those in his command. Yet he is frequently unpredictable. He certainly takes every opportunity to abuse women, and he does so monstrosously and without remorse.

In a way, Himmel is Shtefan’s benefactor. He insists that his fighting men are real men. No virgins will do. And when Shtefan reveals his sexual innocence, this leader makes the appropriate arrangements. The young man is terrified, though finally successful, oddly appreciative and indebted.

Shtefan adores the colonel and despises him at the same time.

Nazi-occupied Europe during 1943 and 1944 is the novel’s overall setting. Many scenes are set on the Russian front, and many others in occupied



Steven Hartov (photo by Robert L. Cunningham)

France. Hartov’s portraits of the places and the battle actions are magnificent. Through the lens of Shtefan’s processing of Himmel’s decisions and leadership strength, readers witness appalling combat scenes. Sensory detail is abundant: uniforms in repair and disrepair,

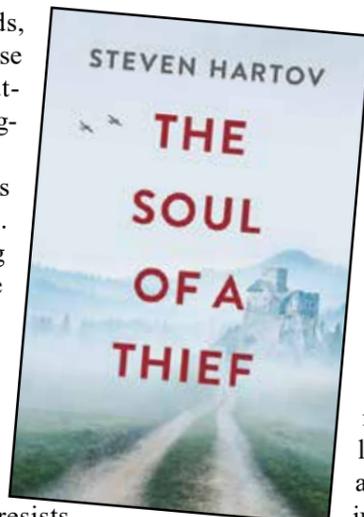
weapons of all kinds, and the effects of those weapons on combatants, buildings and vegetation.

And then there is Gabrielle Belmont. This gorgeous young woman lives in the town of Le Pontet, now occupied by Nazi forces. Himmel has discovered her and sends Shtefan to bring her to the colonel’s bed. She resists these second-hand advances, which impresses Shtefan immensely. In fact, the young adjutant has fallen in love with her. Eventually, Himmel finds a way of forcing her to his will. Shtefan is crushed, but he eventually learns that she had no choice.

The stretch of the novel that involves the interplay of these three characters – Shtefan, Gabrielle and Himmel – includes many of the book’s most memorable scenes. Many other fine scenes take readers through stages of the Allied invasion. Hartov boldly paints the dashed hopes of Nazi leadership and the ensuing chaos leading up to Hitler’s death.

And then, once Himmel comes to see that he will be on the losing side of the war, there is his plan to steal Allied money and “retire” – probably to another continent! Shtefan, privy to the plan and no longer in thrall of Himmel, intends to play along but then takes the money and runs.

Though I enjoyed this book immensely for its hard-pulsing action, sharply drawn combat scenes, and

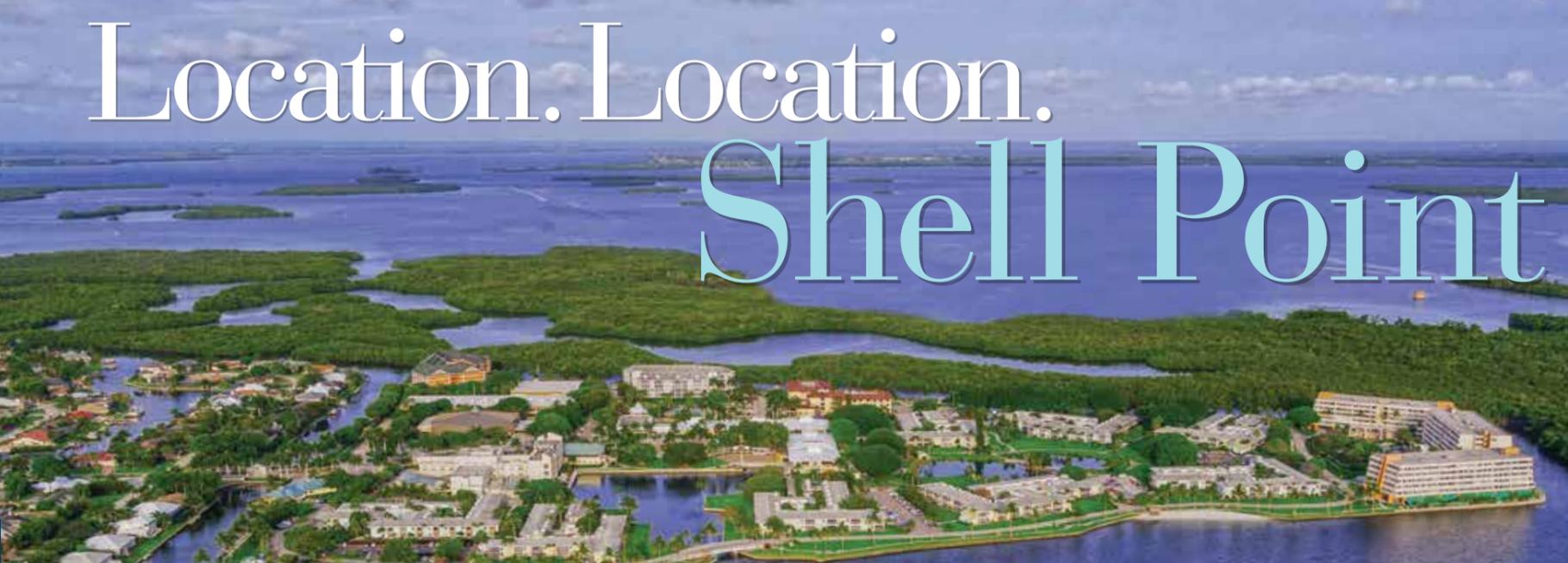


distinctive characters, I kept waiting for the consequences of raising the mischling issue. Somehow, it’s just not there. Nor is the relevance of Gabrielle eventually being identified as a Jew-ess. A closing reference to the Jewish Brigade seems forced.

Nonetheless, I heartily recommend this book to lovers of historical fiction and combat literature. Also, just for good measure, there is a surprising amount of wit and humor mixed in with the horrors of the Nazi war machine.

Steven Hartov is the coauthor of the *New York Times* bestseller *In the Company of Heroes*, as well as *The Night Stalkers* and *Afghanistan on the Bounce*. For six years he served as Editor-in-Chief of *Special Operations Report*. He has appeared on CNN, MSNBC, CNBC, FOX and, most recently, the History Channel’s *Secret Armies*. A former Merchant Marine sailor, Israel Defense Forces paratrooper and special operator, he is currently a Task Force Commander in the New York Guard. He lives in New Jersey. ▲

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.



Location. Location. Shell Point

Resort Retirement Lifestyle and the Assurance of Lifecare



EXPLORE SHELL POINT TODAY!

ATTEND A DISCOVERY SEMINAR | 9:30 A.M.

Tuesday, April 3
Tuesday, April 17

Wednesday, April 4
Wednesday, April 18

Tuesday, April 10
Tuesday, April 24

Wednesday, April 11
Wednesday, April 25

Reserve today; call (239) 529-4749 or 1-800-780-1131. Or, reserve online at shellpoint.org/seminars.

Shell Point is located on the banks of the Caloosahatchee River just 2 miles from the Islands of Sanibel and Captiva.

Shell Point is a nonprofit ministry of The Christian and Missionary Alliance Foundation, Inc. ©2018 Shell Point. All rights reserved. SLS-3549-18



Unparalleled setting. Unparalleled lifestyle.™

www.shellpoint.org

Green Schoenfeld & Kyle LLP
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Lowell S. Schoenfeld
Florida Board Certified Wills,
Trusts & Estates Attorney

1380 Royal Palm Square Boulevard
Fort Myers, Florida 33919
239-936-7200
lowellschoenfeld@gskattorneys.com

www.gskattorneys.com



RICK SNYDERMAN
Licensed Pedorthist

1900 Trailwinds Dr.
Fort Myers, FL 33907

Ph: (239) 939-2239
Fax: (239) 939-7792

FIT • SERVICE • QUALITY

We Specialize In All Widths
We Will Ship Anywhere



FORT MYERS

Douglas E. Spiegel, P.A.
Attorney at Law

Divorce • Child Support • Visitation

P: 239.333.0500
F: 239.333.0501
doug@leejustice.com
www.leejustice.com

1625 Hendry Street, Suite 102
Fort Myers, Florida 33901



Spish Comfortable Different
The Art of Fashion and Moore
(in the Arcade in historic
downtown Ft. Myers)

Teri Moore, Owner (239) 204-9759
2267 1st. St., Suite 12 info@artoffashionandmoore.com
Ft. Myers, FL 33901 www.artoffashionandmoore.com



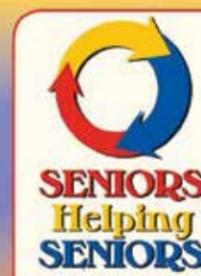
SENIORS Helping SENIORS
...a way to give and to receive®

SENIOR CARE SERVICES
Homemaker/Companions - Nurses - Nurses Aides

Helping Southwest Florida
Phone: (239) 243-8555
Fax: (239) 689-5374

12995 S. Cleveland Ave. Suite #258
Fort Myers, FL 33907

E-mail: helpingseniors@comcast.net
www.seniorcareSouthwestFlorida.com



ALLIANCE FINANCIAL GROUP

Brian Simon, ChFC®, CLU®
Financial Advisor, Park Avenue Securities, LLC

14021 Metropolis Avenue
Fort Myers, Florida 33912
brian.simon@afgfl.com

Office: 239-561-2900
Cell: 239-246-8928
Fax: 239-210-9203

www.afgfl.com

SELLSTATE
ACHIEVERS REALTY

Cell: 602.326.5850
gmb1028@aol.com
SWFLRealEstateNow.com
sellstate.com
12820 Kenwood Lane • Suite #1
Fort Myers, FL 33907

Gwen Baker
REALTOR®
Certified Military
Residential Specialist




DANIEL BENDETOWICZ, M.D., P.A.
Board Certified in Internal Medicine

INTERNIST OF THE YEAR AWARD
Presented by the Florida Chapter
of the American College
of Physicians

Call us today. Now accepting new patients.

985-1050 www.doctorben.net

6840 International Center Blvd., Fort Myers, FL 33912
Located in Plantation Professional Center next to the CenturyLink Sports Complex



LIVING HAPPILY
Solution Focused Counseling For Modern Thinkers

Lisa Bendetowicz, LCSW
Michelle Schoenfeld, LCSW

www.livinghappily.org 239.208.2217
15050 Elderberry Lane, Suite 4, Ft Myers
Insurance and Medicare Accepted




CONDO FOR RENT
2 Bed, 2 Bath, lake views, turn-key
At *The Landings* in Fort Myers

\$1,480/month

Call or text Bob Vinikoor at
(802) 236-1629



MASSIE O'REILLY CPAs, PLLC
Certified Public Accountants/Financial Consultants

Charles Abels Massie CPA, CFP®
NFLPA Registered Player Financial Advisor

15671 San Carlos Blvd. Ste 201
Fort Myers, FL 33908
www.cpamassie.com

O: 239-768-2171
F: 239-768-6074
charlesm@cpamassie.com

"We Save Your Income for You to Enjoy Your Outcome"

Frye Commercial Group
Commercial & Investment Real Estate
Sales • Leasing

Hal Arkin

7910 Summerlin Lakes Drive
Fort Myers, Florida 33907

harkin@remax.net
www.ftmyerscommercial.com

Direct: (239) 689-2246 Cell: (239) 910-5363
Office: (239) 489-0444 Fax: (239) 790-4800

Each Office Independently Owned and Operated **MLS**



Paragon Pools SWF

Serving Charlotte County Since 1974
Repairs • Salt Chlorine Generators • Heat Pumps

Lake Suzy
Florida (941) 627-2001

State Cert. Lic. #CPC015315



WEINSTEIN WILKES
FINANCIAL GROUP
An Independent Firm

Paul Weinstein, CFP®
Managing Partner, WWFG
Branch Manager, RJFS

RAYMOND JAMES®

13720 Six Mile Cypress Pkwy #1 • Fort Myers, FL 33912
239-768-1490 • 888-768-1490 Toll Free • 239-768-1935 Fax
paul.weinstein@raymondjames.com

Securities offered through
Raymond James Financial Services, Inc. Member FINRA/SIPC

Rubinstein, Holz & King P.A.
Family Law Attorneys

Alan J. Rubinstein
Board Certified - Marital & Family Law
Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers

1375 Jackson St., Ste. 304 (239) 332-3400
Fort Myers, FL 33901 Fax (239) 332-5078

FLORIDA SPECIALISTS IN UROLOGY
A Division of 21st Century Oncology LLC

Steven H. Paletsky, M.D.
Jonathan F. Eschedor, MSN ARNP-C

7335 Gladiolus Drive • Fort Myers, FL 33908 • 239-689-6677
126 Del Prado Blvd. N., Ste. 103 • Cape Coral, FL 33909 • 239-458-6677
3501 Health Center Blvd. • Bonita Springs, FL 34135 • 239-949-2211
Fax: 239-939-5809



LEE LIGHTING

Janet Astrin
Sales Associate

14360 S. Tamiami Trail • Fort Myers, Florida 33912
(239) 482-3001 • Fax (239) 482-8846
leelightingflorida.com
Like us on Facebook



**YOUR AD COULD BE
HERE FOR AS LITTLE
AS \$25 PER MONTH!
CALL 239.634.6923**

HIGGINSON TAX & ACCOUNTING, LLC
TAX PREPARATION • PLANNING • AUDIT REPRESENTATION

ERIC HIGGINSON, CPA

8695 COLLEGE PARKWAY, SUITE 2024
FORT MYERS, FL 33919

TEL 239.935.6950
FAX 239.425.3289
ERIC@HIGGINSONTAX.COM WWW.HIGGINSONTAX.COM

PCC Tile

Importers & Distributors of quality
Tile Marble Carpet Wood
Bath Fixtures and supplies

916 S.E. 15th Avenue
Cape Coral, FL 33990
Tel: (239) 772-5815

16165 S. Tamiami Trail
Fort Myers, FL 33908
Tel.: (239) 267-1445

See our web site at www.pcctile.com



Gordon's
Pool & Spa Service

REPAIRS • SUPPLIES • RENOVATIONS • SPAS
542-3066

BARRIE ROSS, C.S.P. 1520-A SE 46th Lane
poolczar@mindspring.com Cape Coral, FL 33904

State Cert. Lic. #CPC043145



PATTERSON, ESKIN & BALL

HAROLD S. ESKIN, P.A.
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW
CERTIFIED FAMILY LAW MEDIATOR
CERTIFIED CIVIL LAW MEDIATOR

1420 S.E. 47TH STREET, CAPE CORAL
(239) 549-5551 • FAX (239) 549-4834
E-mail: haleskin@legalsurrogacy.com
E-mail: haleskin@earthlink.net

Business & Tax Planning
Divorce, Marital & Family Law
Wills, Trusts & Estates

Guy E. Whitesman
Florida Bar Board Certified Tax Attorney

Jennifer Siegal-Miller

Eric Gurgold
Florida Bar Board Certified Wills, Trust and Estate Attorney

Henderson | Franklin
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
henlaw.com • 239.344.1100



**PLEASE SUPPORT
OUR ADVERTISERS –
THEY HELP MAKE
L'CHAYIM POSSIBLE.**

BDS: the Israeli music scene and the cultural boycott

By Arlene Stolnitz

Hard to believe, isn't it, that the Israeli pop music culture scene has been affected by the BDS (Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions) movement? Yes, it has been affected, and in quite a big way.

You may not recognize the names of some of these performers unless you are a pop music fan, one who follows the activities of these stars in the world of music. Traveling worldwide in performance, they appear in every country to throngs of adoring fans – every country that is, except Israel. There is a move on, you see, to prevent these musicians from performing in Israel.

When musicians sign contracts to appear in Israel, they are pressured to cancel. In fact, last year, several musicians withdrew from Berlin's Pop-Kultur Festival over its partnership with the Israeli embassy. Worldwide, hundreds of musicians have refused to appear in Israel.

In case you need a refresher on BDS, it is a non-violent Palestinian-led campaign that encourages the withdrawal of all investment in Israeli and international companies. The campaign claims that Israel violates Palestinian rights, and according to international law, is running an apartheid state. The group promotes Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories, removal of the separation barrier from the West Bank, full equality for Arab-Palestinians of Israel, and promotion of the right of return of Palestinian refugees.

Besides a ban on doing business

with Israel, it also fosters the idea of a cultural boycott by preventing artists from appearing in Israel. The term used is "art-washing," the use of art and culture to cover up the oppression of Israel and give a picture of normalcy. The proponents of BDS claim Israel uses art-washing as a form of propaganda, that is, using culture as a weapon.

Who are some of the supporters of BDS and who are their opponents? There are a core of singers and celebrities who have resisted the pressure imposed on them. British singer Morrissey is a resister as well as Boy George, who recently performed in Tel Aviv wearing a Star of David decorated suit. Others have been outspoken also. J.K. Rowling, renowned author of the *Harry Potter* series, musician Jon Bon Jovi, the late Joan Rivers, radio shock jock Howard Stern, and English-born music producer Simon Cowell have been positive advocates for Israel by encouraging singers to perform.

Those who openly support the Palestinian movement include singer Rihanna, former *Daily Show* host Jon Stewart, basketball star Dwight Howard, singer Selena Gomez, rapper Lupe Fiasco, actresses Penelope Cruz and Emma Thompson, late physicist Stephen Hawking, actor Danny Glover, and Pink Floyd songwriter Roger Waters, who has been one of the most vocal proponents of BDS. Then there is South African Nobel Peace Prize laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who has compared the Israeli government to South Africa's former apartheid regime. There are many others...too long a list to include here.

What is the answer? There are many reasons to oppose BDS. First and foremost is that the movement does not recognize the State of Israel and seeks its destruction. Then, the BDS movement

applies a double standard in criticizing Israel and ignoring abuses by other nations. Boycotting Israeli products and imposing cultural restrictions does nothing to improve the lives of Palestinians. Critics of Israeli peace policy and peace activists oppose BDS campaigns as being counterproductive. The cultural boycott attempts to prevent Israeli artists from performing anywhere in the world and to block international artists from appearing in Israel.

It would do us well to remember the words of Sir Elton John, who wrote in 2010, "Musicians spread love and peace, and bring people together." And

those of Sir Paul McCartney in 2008, who stated, "I was approached by different groups and political bodies who asked me not to come here. I refused. I do what I think, and I have many friends who support Israel." ▲

Arlene Stolnitz, founder of the Sarasota Jewish Chorale, is a member of the Jewish Congregation of Venice. A retired educator from Rochester, New York, she has sung in choral groups for over 25 years and also sings in Venice's Chorale (formerly Exsultate!). Her interest in choral music has led to this series of articles on Jewish folk music in the Diaspora.



Arlene Stolnitz

PLEASE SUPPORT THE ADVERTISERS WHO SUPPORT OUR FEDERATION & HELP MAKE L'CHAYIM POSSIBLE.



Senior Housing SOLUTIONS

Honest, caring and knowledgeable advice about assisted living options... at no cost to you!

Personal and professional advice for you or a loved one when you need it the most

Bruce B. Rosenblatt, *Owner*
Senior Housing Expert

239.595.0207
WWW.SENIORHOUSINGSOLUTIONS.NET

What is a beautiful Retirement?

The Terraces at Bonita Springs
Bonita Springs' Only Continuing Care Retirement Community

It's elegant, comfortable surroundings and a vibrant, carefree lifestyle. It's impeccable service and hospitality, and never having to worry about future health care needs.

Call: 239-319-4042
Visit: TheTerracesAtBonitaSprings.com
26455 S. Tamiami Trail
Bonita Springs, FL 34134

The Terraces
at Bonita Springs
A SantaFe Senior Living Community



Israel steps in to help teachers after Parkland shooting

Israeli trauma experts arrive in Florida to offer coping strategies a day before the children go back to lessons at Stoneman Douglas High School.

By Abigail Klein Leichman, ISRAEL21c, www.israel21c.org, March 7, 2018

Ten days after the shooting at Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, experts from the Israel Trauma Coalition arrived at the community to guide teachers, clinicians, law enforcers, first responders, social workers, parents and clergy through a “day after” strategy for helping people face the future with resilience.

Seventeen people were killed in the shooting – 14 students and three staff members – making it one of the world’s deadliest school massacres. The community, which had never dealt with a shooting on this scale, was in shock.

“It was devastating,” says Nancy Teitelbaum, senior director of marketing and communications at Goodman Jewish Family Services of Broward County. “Everyone in our small community in Parkland is affected.”

Teitelbaum has a son in 11th grade at Stoneman Douglas, and he was at the school on the day of the shooting. Her older son graduated from the same school just a year ago.

“Most counselors, teachers and clinicians have never dealt with a mass shooting,” she tells ISRAEL21c. “They have no frame of reference.”

That’s exactly what the Israeli team came to provide. ITC members Yotam Dagan from Natal Israel Center for Trauma and Resilience, and Alan Cohen from the Community Stress Prevention Center, led sessions for about 600 community leaders in the Parkland area.

Returning to normalcy

“We got there the first day teachers went back to school and the day before students went back to school, so we were very relevant in teaching them how to handle that period with some kind of normalcy,” Dagan, a seasoned clinical psychologist, tells ISRAEL21c.

“The psychological shockwaves of the event have been tremendous. Almost everyone had a connection with someone on the scene. We met as many community members as we could, enabled them to talk about their trauma and then shared Israeli best practices for the day after.”

“What was really apparent was that the experts from Israel really knew what they were talking about,” says Teitelbaum. “They have deep experience and long-term insight from what they’ve seen at home and from crises they’ve

helped deal with all over the world.”

Dagan felt that most of the professionals and lay people are now better equipped to understand what they went through and to intervene using practical



Israel Trauma Coalition professionals Yotam Dagan and Alan Cohen lead a training session for 600 community leaders in southern Florida after the Parkland school shooting

tools developed in Israel. But there is more to be done.

“The situation in the Parkland area didn’t end when we left,” says Dagan. “There is still work to do and we will go again soon. As we did in the Philippines four years ago, in Florida we hope to select a smaller group to be trainers, leaving our model in place when we go back home.”

ITC professionals offer their expertise following crises across the globe. Currently, ITC is actively assisting communities in Houston in the wake of Hurricane Harvey last August; in Mexico after a deadly September earthquake; in Las Vegas following a mass shooting in October; and now in Florida.

“So many disasters are happening in the world and we always try to see if we can help,” says ITC Director Talia Levanon, a clinical social worker who has flown to several countries – in addition to overseeing ITC’s work in Israel – to train leaders in community-based healing and resilience.

Helping the helpers

The ITC was created in 2002, a year of unrelenting terror attacks in Israel, to harness the collective knowledge, expertise and experience of Israel’s governmental and non-governmental trauma management organizations.

Originally focused on direct care, the umbrella organization expanded to professional training for community resilience and national emergency preparedness in Israel and elsewhere. Thus

far, ITC has sent 17 delegations abroad – usually two or three professionals from ITC partner organizations who speak the local language.

“Outside of Israel, 95 percent of the time we do not provide direct care,” Levanon explains. “It’s the local professionals who know the community and the culture. Our purpose is to train them in wellbeing, resilience and coping skills, and to provide tools to take care of themselves and others.

“Wherever we go, we always focus on the strengths of the people and how they cope as individuals or as part of the community. When someone from the outside comes to help they bring a fresh perspective and can see your pain and your strengths.”

ITC’s sessions in Florida were coordinated by the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the Consulate General of Israel in Miami, Behavioral Health

Associates of Broward-Counseling Centers of Goodman JFS and the Jewish Federation of Broward County.

Ongoing ITC trainings in Houston, with three more scheduled for this year, are funded by the UJA-Federation of New York. ITC’s work in Las Vegas, funded by Jewish Nevada, is getting started with a “mapping mission” to identify local partners, needs and resources. In Mexico, local Jewish Federations are supporting ITC training through the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC).

Michael Balaban, president and chief executive officer of the Jewish Federation of Broward County, said, “We know that the need for these kinds of resources is, unfortunately, going to be long lasting, and we know that we have a partnership with the ITC that allows us to lean on them for that expertise over the long haul.”

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.

BRIEFS

ISRAELI FOOD TECH IS BOOMING

Israeli start-up companies are finding new ideas to change the way we think about, produce and eat food.

Inno-Bev has created a plant-based drink that keeps El Al pilots awake during long flights.

SuperMeat is developing lab-made chicken meat.

Hargol runs a commercial farm producing grasshoppers as a source of protein.

Other companies are developing new solutions to check for food safety. Inspecto is working on a portable device that detects contaminants in food, like residues of fertilizer.

Yarok has invented a microbiological test which allows to check for bacteria in food in 45 minutes; the tests in use now take up to 72 hours and the results are often inaccurate. (Simone Somekh, *Tablet*)

CAPE TOWN MAY DRY UP BECAUSE OF AN AVERSION TO ISRAEL

Water taps in Cape Town, South Africa, are expected to go dry on July 9, due to drought, inept management, and a devotion to anti-Israel ideology.

Israel has trained water technicians in more than 100 countries, and in 2016, Israel’s Foreign Ministry offered to bring in desalination experts to help, but South African officials ignored or rebuffed the no-strings Israeli proposal.

If the South Africans are snubbing the Israelis out of solidarity with the Palestinians, they might want to consider that the Palestinian Authority has worked with Israel on a range of water projects since 1995.

Israel provides the PA with more than half the water for domestic consumption by Palestinians in the West Bank. And it pipes more than 2.5 billion gallons of water into Hamas-controlled Gaza each year. (Seth M. Siegel, *Wall Street Journal*)

WHY IS ISRAEL SCATTERING MILLIONS OF FLIES AROUND GAZA?

Every week, 33 million flies are scattered from airplanes onto orchards and agricultural farmland surrounding Gaza by Israel’s Agriculture Ministry

in order to combat the Mediterranean fruit fly.

The sterile male flies mate with female flies infesting the crops, thus preventing the creation of the next generation of fruit flies.

The technique is an environmentally-friendly and chemical-free pest control method. (Lidar Grave-Lazi, *Jerusalem Post*)

ISRAEL NOTES ADVANCES IN ANTI-TUNNEL TECHNOLOGY

Advances in anti-tunnel technology have provided the Israeli military with new means of heading off attacks from Palestinian militants based in Gaza, an Israeli military official who heads the underground-warfare section of the IDF’s technological unit said recently. He noted that the new technology had resulted in the elimination of at least three tunnels since October. “We know what we’re doing now... We have a good plan,” he said.

The official suggested that the technology was based on techniques used by the oil and gas industries, which sometimes employ seismic or sound waves to prospect for minerals or fossil fuels. Detection technology needed to distinguish between concrete or open space associated with tunnels, and naturally occurring clay or sand. Looking for tunnels is basically a task of finding “the right anomaly,” he said.

He also described advances in technologies used to destroy tunnels once they have been detected. The IDF is now able to detonate tunnels in certain instances with minimal damage to surface structures. (Missy Ryan, *Washington Post*)

HOW EGYPT WILL GAIN FROM THE GAS DEAL WITH ISRAEL

Egypt is the only country in the eastern Mediterranean that has the infrastructure for liquefying natural gas, with two of the world’s largest liquefaction plants: SEGAS and Egyptian LNG, which were established 15 years ago at a cost of \$3.2 billion but are now lying idle. The Egyptian company Dolphin Holdings is to purchase \$15 billion of Israeli gas over 10 years, to

continued on next page

 **Taschner Periodontics**
PERIODONTAL THERAPY & DENTAL IMPLANTS

Ronny S Taschner DDS

Active Member of the American Academy of Periodontology

Jennifer Taschner DDS MMSc

Diplomate of the American Board of Periodontology



1645 Medical Lane, Fort Myers, FL

Phone 239-936-0635

Visit Our Website www.taschnerperio.com

BRIEFS

continued from previous page

be delivered to the liquefaction stations in Damietta and Edco. The Egyptian company will then export the liquefied Israeli gas to Europe.

What will happen with the Israeli gas will also happen with Cypriot, Greek and Lebanese gas. Consequently, Egypt will be the main center for the export of gas to Europe. In addition to the expected profit from the deal, the gas will allow Egypt to establish new projects in the field of petrochemicals. It is now incumbent on Egypt to deal with this agreement as a direct Egyptian interest that constitutes a purely non-political trade agreement. (Abdellatif El-Menawy, *Arab News* - Saudi Arabia)

EGYPT GAS DEAL A CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION

Celebration is in order after the operators of the Tamar and Leviathan natural-gas fields off Israel's coast signed a \$15 billion deal with an Egyptian consortium in Israel's biggest gas export deal to date. The claim that no Arab neighbor would be willing to enter into an agreement with Israel was wrong. As soon as a proper pipeline is set up, the Israeli gas will be transferred to Egypt, where it will be liquefied and exported to Europe.

Geopolitically, the deal fortifies commercial ties with Egypt and provides an example of how it is possible to do business with the Jewish state. Israel signed a deal with the Jordan Electric Power Company in 2016. Now two Arab countries that share borders with Israel shared an appreciation of Israel's contribution to their own well-being. Additional export deals are reportedly in the offing with Greece, Turkey, Bulgaria and Cyprus.

The Egyptian sale will provide funding to develop the Leviathan field, which still has not begun producing. The deal also provides Israel with additional tax revenues.

Skeptics have claimed that exporting gas will mean that less is left for Israel. However, less than half is slated for export, and Israel has enough gas to provide its needs for about 50 years, even if no new reserves are discovered. (*Jerusalem Post*)

POLL: AMERICANS REMAIN STAUNCHLY IN ISRAEL'S CORNER

Americans' stance on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is as strongly pro-Israel as at any time in Gallup's three-decade trend.

In a poll taken February 1-10, 64% say their sympathies in the dispute lie more with the Israelis, tying the high previously recorded in 2013 and 1991.

Just 19% of Americans sympathize more with the Palestinians, slightly higher than the 15% in Gallup's initial 1988 measurement.

Currently, 74% of U.S. adults view Israel favorably and 23% view it unfavorably, whereas 21% view the Palestinian Authority favorably and 71% unfavorably.

This results in a strong tendency for Americans to sympathize with Israel in the conflict and to call for greater diplomatic pressure on the Palestinians. (Lydia Saad, Gallup)

AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL AT RECORD HIGH: WHAT THE GALLUP POLL SAYS

Recently, Gallup released its annual poll on American attitudes toward Israel and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. As it has for decades, the survey showed overwhelming American support for Israel.

◆ What is remarkable about the polling on Israel is how consistent it

has been. Notably, despite endless talk about the Democratic party "turning against Israel" under Obama, Democratic support for Israel is essentially the same in 2018 (49%) as it was when Obama took office in 2008 (48%).

- ◆ Israel is viewed even more positively than head-to-head polling about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict would indicate. When asked simply whether they viewed Israel favorably (rather than to choose a side in the conflict), "83% of Republicans, 72% of independents and 64% of Democrats view Israel favorably."
- ◆ Support for Israel is higher among older brackets, but still robust among the young. As Gallup puts it, "Israel also receives higher favorable ratings from adults 55 and older (80% favorable) than from those 35 to 54 (72%) or 18 to 34 (65%)." (Yair Rosenberg, *Tablet*)

ISRAEL TO BROADCAST 2018 SOCCER WORLD CUP TO ARAB STATES FOR FREE

One of the most watched events in the world, the FIFA World Cup, will be broadcast via satellite in Arabic for free by the Israel Broadcasting Authority.

The Israel Foreign Ministry called the move "a historic step that confirms the status of the Arabic language and Israel's respect for it."

The IBA paid \$7.8 million to purchase the rights to broadcast the 2018 World Cup.

For millions of soccer fans in Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon, to watch the World Cup costs \$45 per household through Qatar's beIN Sports channel. (i24News)

IS FAVORING ISRAEL AN AMERICAN NATIONAL SECURITY INTEREST?

The State Department, over the years, has been reluctant to "take sides" in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. However, this has magnified Palestinian intransigence, while draining American taxpayer dollars, propping up a corrupt Palestinian Authority without demanding anything substantial of it.

For the U.S., there is no better source of reliable information in the Middle East than Israel. The Israelis live in this bad neighborhood and understand the realities better than those on the outside. It was Israel that discovered the North Korean-built Syrian nuclear reactor and destroyed it. Can you imagine if there were loose nukes in today's Syria?

Today the U.S. has a reliable naval port in Haifa, joint military exercises preparing its soldiers, American troops manning the X-band anti-missile system in Israel to protect Europe, Israeli security technology for U.S. homeland security, and Israel's advances in drone technology to benefit our military.

You need only to look at Erdogan's Turkey, the eastern flank of NATO, to know how important Israel has become to American long-term security interests in the region. Favoring Israel is an American national security interest. (Eric R. Mandel, director of the Middle East Political and Information Network, *The Hill*)

ISRAEL DISTRIBUTES FOOD AID TO REFUGEES IN SOUTH SUDAN

An Israeli Foreign Ministry delegation headed by Ambassador to South Sudan Hanan Goder recently distributed 20 tons of food to refugees affected by the civil war there.

Goder also announced that Israel will receive 60 students from South Sudan for agricultural training in the coming year, up from 20 students this year. (Itamar Eichner, *Ynet News*)

continued on page 17

DISCOVER WHAT IT'S LIKE TO HAVE AN EXCEPTIONAL DAY, EVERY DAY.

THE PALMS OF FORT MYERS

2674 Winkler Avenue
Fort Myers, FL 33901

239-275-7800



What does exceptional senior living mean to you? At **The Palms of Fort Myers** it means a lifestyle where 24-hour Five Star service meets a world of opportunities. Savor a delicious meal prepared for you by our culinary team or whip up something special in your own kitchen. Take an exercise class with your neighbors or start your day with our Coffee and Crosswords group. Our lifestyle is designed for the way you live.

DISCOVER:

- Month-to-month rental community
- Five Star Dining Experience, featuring Signature recipes
- Lifestyle360 program offering a full-schedule of activities
- Variety of in-house religious services
- Scheduled local transportation for medical appointments and shopping
- 24-hour care available, should your needs change
- Exceptional senior living experiences

Call to see how you can live the exceptional life today!

www.ThePalmsAtFortMyers.com
INDEPENDENT LIVING • ASSISTED LIVING
MEMORY CARE • REHABILITATION

Assisted Living Facility License #AL07269

©2018 Five Star Senior Living



FIDF supporters heading to Poland and Israel with Holocaust survivors and Israeli Army officers

More than 150 Friends of the Israel Defense Forces (FIDF) supporters from across the United States will embark on a mission to Poland and Israel, April 12-20, with Holocaust survivors and 50 soldiers and officers representing all branches of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). The mission is the largest in FIDF's history, and will celebrate Israel's 70th anniversary, as well as the establishment of the IDF on May 26, 1948, two weeks after the creation of the State of Israel.

Joining the delegation will be

Auschwitz survivor Leon Shear, 91, who was born in Bedzin, Poland, and watched his mother and sister being sent to the gas chambers at Auschwitz-Birkenau. Except for his brother, who also resides in the United States, his entire family perished in the Holocaust. Shear now lives in Beachwood, Ohio. His son, Howard, and grandson, Jeremy, will accompany him on his journey to Poland and Israel.

"I survived two years at Auschwitz, but it was as if time stood still in that hell. To return to this awful place in the

presence of our people's bravest – the soldiers of the IDF – fills my spirit with new hope," said Shear, who plans to say a special prayer for those murdered at the camp. "I haven't forgotten you, and our people will always remember what happened there."

Also joining the group from Israel will be Holocaust survivors Giselle "Gita" Cycowicz, 91, Eva Lavi, 81, and Arie Oz, 82. Cycowicz was born in the town of Khust, then part of Czechoslovakia, in the Carpathian Mountains, and survived five months in Birkenau. At just six years old, Lavi was the youngest person on German industrialist Oskar Schindler's list, which helped spare the lives of some 1,200 Jews who were destined for Auschwitz. Born in Germany, Oz fled to Holland, where a Christian family hid him. From their attic, he watched Allied bombers attack the Nazis and dreamed of one day becoming a pilot. Oz moved to Israel after the war and joined the Israeli Air Force, flying in Israel's historic wars and operations, and retiring with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Led by FIDF National President Peter Weintraub and FIDF National Director and CEO Maj. Gen. (Res.) Meir Klifi-Amir, the nine-day "From Holocaust to Independence" mission will span Jewish history, from its darkest moments to its most triumphant. Israeli soldiers and Holocaust survivors will accompany the FIDF supporters on a trip across Poland, starting in Krakow, once home to more than 60,000 Jews, and tracing the community's steps from the city's ghetto to the Buczyna forest, where the Nazis executed more than 800 children, and then to the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration and extermination camps.

The entire delegation will then fly to Israel, where they will visit IDF bases and meet soldiers serving on Israel's front lines, commemorate Yom HaZikaron – Israel's Memorial Day for fallen soldiers and victims of terror – and celebrate Israel's 70th Independence Day.

"This historic delegation traces the modern history of the Jewish people through the memories of Holocaust survivors and the eyes of IDF officers," said Klifi-Amir. "It tells the story of our

near-extinction in Europe, the creation of the State of Israel 70 years ago as the Jewish homeland, and the new generation of Jewish defenders who safeguard our legacy today. Marching tall and proud into the dreadful Auschwitz-Birkenau camps together with IDF officers and the survivors who somehow endured there, all while flying the Israeli flag, sends a powerful message to the world that we will never forget; 'Never



Leon Shear (fourth from left) with his family before the war. Only Leon and his brother, Sam (left), survived. (Photo courtesy of the Shear family)

'Forget' is the guarantee of 'Never Again.' Thanks to a strong IDF – one of the world's most moral armies – we can make sure that the Holocaust cannot and will not ever happen again."

"This mission comes at a crucial time, and is one of the last opportunities for survivors to return to Auschwitz and tell of its horrors," said Weintraub. "We will pass through the gates of hell, ignoring the false promise that 'work will set you free,' where countless Jews suffered from unimaginable cold, hunger and despair. We'll be surrounded by those who survived within the camps' walls, and also by those who make sure their stories are not forgotten – the brave soldiers who protect their legacy: the State of Israel and the Jewish diaspora."

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 United States 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 United States, the soldiers of the IDF, and the State of Israel. For more information, visit www.fidf.org. ▲



IAF Commander of Aerial Defense Brig. Gen. Zvika Haimovich; Auschwitz-Birkenau survivor Giselle "Gita" Cycowicz; FIDF National Vice President Robert Cohen; Auschwitz-Birkenau survivor Bronia Brandman; and FIDF National Director and CEO Maj. Gen. (Res.) Meir Klifi-Amir walking through the entrance to Auschwitz-Birkenau, beneath the infamous sign that reads "work sets you free," in German, on April 27, 2017 (Photo credit: Shaha Azran)

Gulf Coast ORTHODONTICS

Dr. Michèle Laboda
Dr. Van R. Speas

Let Us Straighten Your... SMILE!

Fort Myers 239-561-2258 www.drilaboda.com Estero 239-390-0289

For daily news stories related to Israel & the Jewish world, visit the Federation's website at www.JewishFederationLCC.org.



Sundays at 4:00 P.M.

Jewish Federation Community Room
9701 Commerce Center Ct.
Fort Myers 33908

ISRAELI DANCING IS FOR ALL AGES

Everyone is welcome, no partner is needed and no previous experience is necessary. Wear comfortable shoes and bring a water bottle. Better yet, bring a friend — the more the merrier!



RSVP necessary each week
to Marsha Kistler
marshatemple2012@gmail.com



Ezer Mizion launches #SharedLife at AIPAC conference

Organization recognized for largest global Jewish bone marrow registry; unveils recipient story alongside new campaign.

NEW YORK, NY, March 8, 2018 – Ezer Mizion, the largest non-profit organization providing health support services in Israel and the largest Jewish bone marrow registry... saving lives globally, launched its new campaign, #SharedLife, at the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) Annual Policy Conference. The campaign showcases the strong connection between a donor and a recipient. Additionally, Ezer Mizion

received recognition for building and maintaining the largest Jewish bone marrow registry.

In 1998, Dr. Bracha and Moti Zisser founded the Ezer Mizion's bone marrow registry. What originally began as a small project has today expanded to be the largest Jewish-specific registry around the world. Through its exclusive partnership, formed in 2005, with the Israel Defense Forces, Ezer Mizion is able to obtain a fresh pool of pre-screened

candidates from each recruitment cycle. To date, its database has 885,264 registrants (including 470,038 IDF recruits), has successfully matched nearly 12,000 patients, and has facilitated nearly 3,000 transplants.

Dr. Bracha Zisser, Director of the Registry, debuted the new campaign and unveiled a donor/recipient duo to demonstrate its impact. Steve Arnow's journey began when he was diagnosed with Myelodysplastic Syndrome. Through Ezer Mizion, he connected with IDF soldier/donor Gev Blau for a transplant. The two were introduced for an emotional first-meeting on the AIPAC stage.

To honor Ezer Mizion, AIPAC shared an emotional video showcasing the organization's impact. Honorable

guests were on-site to share in the celebrations. Israeli supermodel Bar Refaeli, a registry member since 2009, has generously lent her support through social media to bring awareness to #SharedLife.

About Ezer Mizion

Established in 1979 by Chananya Chollak, Ezer Mizion is one of the largest nonprofit organizations in Israel providing medical support services. The organization's goal is to positively impact the lives of the sick, disabled, elderly and underprivileged. It benefits 670,000+ people annually, has 25,000+ volunteers, and an annual budget of \$100M. One of its key initiatives is the largest Jewish bone marrow registry. To learn more, please visit www.ezer-mizion.org. ▲

BRIEFS

continued from page 15

ISRAEL IS 11TH HAPPIEST NATION IN THE WORLD

Israel remains the 11th happiest country in the world for the fifth year running, according to the UN's annual "World Happiness Report," published March 14.

The report for the first time evaluated 117 countries by the happiness and well-being of their immigrants. It notes that Jews who immigrated to Israel from the former Soviet Union have much better lives than before they immigrated. (*Times of Israel*)

OECD: ISRAEL ONE OF WORLD'S LEADING ECONOMIES

A new report by the 35-member Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development has found that the Israeli economy is one of the strongest in the world. Israel's economy grew by 3.3% in 2017, helped by strong population growth and a robust high-tech sector, and the OECD forecasts 3.5% growth in 2018.

"The Israeli economy has grown

faster and more consistently than nearly any other in the OECD for the past 15 years," said OECD acting Chief Economist Alvaro Pereira. (Ariel Whitman, *Israel Hayom*)

BIRTHRIGHT ISRAEL PARTICIPANTS SAVE OVER 200 LIVES

More than 53,000 participants in Birthright Israel have given tissue samples for testing to see if they can be bone marrow donors. 1,543 matches were made and 205 saved others' lives. (Judy Siegel-Itzkovich, *Jerusalem Post*)

ISRAEL HAS HIGHEST FERTILITY RATE IN THE WEST

The average number of children per mother in Israel – 3.11 in 2016 – is the highest in the West, according to Central Bureau of Statistics data published Tuesday, March 13.

In most OECD countries, fertility rates in recent years were less than 2.1.

73.9% of babies born in Israel in 2016 were born to Jewish women, 20.7% to Muslims, 1.4% to Christians, 1.3% to Druze and 2.6% not classified. (Amir Alon, *Ynet News*)

continued on page 24



Join us
as we celebrate
ISRAEL@70

SUNDAY, APRIL 15 | 12:30 ~ 3:30 P.M.
HEIGHTS CENTER * 15570 HAGIE DRIVE * FT MYERS

ISRAEL FESTivities

- Fabulous Entertainment
- "Shuk" Shopping
- Delicious Israeli Food
- Henna and Face Painting
- Israeli Games & Activities
- Send a Message to Israeli Soldiers
- Israeli Wine Tasting
- Dead Sea Mud Facials
- Israeli Folk Dancing
- Children's Arts & Crafts
- Add Prayers to the Western Wall

Activities for the Whole Family!

- Free Admission. Items in the shuk and food will be available for purchase.

If you would like to be a vendor selling items in the shuk, or if you are able to volunteer at the celebration, contact Leni Sack at 239.481.4449 or lenisack@jfedcc.org






NEW VILLAS COMING IN 2018 NOW ACCEPTING RESERVATIONS



Call
239-481-6605
to schedule
a personal tour.



Cypress Cove offers Independent Living at its finest!

Living at Cypress Cove means living with ease – unparalleled amenities, five-star dining, beauty salon and spa, art studio, cocktail lounges, and refined décor, what's not to love!

Immediate availability on select apartments.

Visit us online at www.CypressCoveLiving.org

Independent Living | Assisted Living | Memory Care | Rehabilitation | Skilled Nursing

10200 Cypress Cove Drive | Fort Myers, FL 33908
Located on HealthPark Campus

Cypress Cove is a non-profit organization, sponsored by Lee Healthcare Resources; a support organization to Lee Memorial Health System, one of Southwest Florida's most well-respected healthcare providers.



Opinions and letters printed in L'CHAYIM do not necessarily reflect the views of the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties, its Board of Directors or staff, or its advertisers.

Shame: 10 ways Israel is treated differently

By David Harris, AJC CEO, January 4, 2018

The recent focus on the Jerusalem issue is a telling reminder that Israel is treated according to a totally different standard than other countries in the international system.

Of course, Israel deserves attention and scrutiny as does every other nation. But it also merits equal treatment – nothing more, nothing less.

First, Israel is the only state whose capital city, Jerusalem, with which the Jewish people have been umbilically linked for more than 3,000 years, is not recognized by almost all other countries.

Imagine the absurdity of this. Foreign diplomats live in Tel Aviv while conducting virtually all their business in Jerusalem, where the prime minister's office, the Knesset (Parliament), the Supreme Court and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are located.

In fact, look at listings of world cities, including places of birth in passports, and you'll see something striking – Paris, France; Tokyo, Japan; Pretoria, South Africa; Lima, Peru; and Jerusalem, sans country – orphaned, if you will.

Second, Israel is the only UN member state whose very right to exist is under constant challenge.

Notwithstanding the fact that Israel embodies an age-old connection with the Jewish people, as repeatedly cited in the most widely read book in the world, the Bible; that it was reborn based on the 1947 recommendation of the UN; and that it has been a member of the world body since 1949, there's a relentless chorus denying Israel's very political legitimacy.

No one would dare question the right to exist of many other countries whose basis for statehood is infinitely

more questionable than Israel's, such as those that were created by brute force, occupation or distant mapmakers. Just look around at how many nations fit those categories – including, by the way, quite a few Arab countries. Why, then, is it open hunting season only on Israel? Could it possibly have anything to do with the fact that it's the only Jewish-majority country in the world?

Third, Israel is the only UN member state that's been targeted for annihilation by another UN member state.

Think about it. The leadership of Iran, together with Iran-funded proxies in Lebanon and Gaza, has repeatedly called for wiping Israel off the map. Is there any other country facing such a stated goal of genocidal destruction? Meanwhile, a majority of countries continues to conduct business as usual with Tehran, as if this threat to another nation was either welcome or somehow deemed irrelevant.

Fourth, the UN has two agencies dealing with refugees.

One, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), focuses on all the world's refugee populations, save one. The other, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine (UNRWA), handles only the Palestinians.

But the difference goes beyond the anomaly of two structures and two bureaucracies. In fact, they have two strikingly different mandates.

UNHCR seeks to resettle refugees; UNRWA does not. When, in 1951, John Blanford, UNRWA's then-director, proposed resettling up to 250,000 refugees in nearby Arab countries, those countries reacted with rage and refused, leading to his departure. The message

got through. No UN official since has pushed for resettlement.

Moreover, the UNRWA and UNHCR definitions of a refugee differ markedly. Whereas the UNHCR services only those who've actually fled their homelands, the UNRWA definition covers "the descendants of persons who became refugees in 1948," without any generational limitations.

Fifth, Israel is the only country that has won all its major wars for survival and self-defense, yet is confronted by defeated adversaries who have insisted on dictating the terms of peace.

In doing so, ironically, they've found support from many countries which, victorious in war themselves, demanded – and, yes, got – major border adjustments. A quick glance at, say, earlier maps of Europe and today's amply illustrates the point.

Sixth, Israel is the only country in the world with a separate – and permanent – agenda item, #7, at the Geneva-based UN Human Rights Council.

No other member state, including serial human-rights violators like North Korea, Syria, Iran and Sudan, gets its own agenda item.

Only the sole liberal democracy in the Middle East is treated in this blatantly biased manner because that's the way it works – the bad guys circle the wagons to protect one another, and, at the same time, gang up on Israel, creating an automatic majority against it.

Seventh, Israel is the only country condemned by name at the World Health Organization as a "violator" of health rights.

This canard is registered despite the fact that Israel provides world-class medical assistance to Syrians wounded in the country's civil war and Palestinians living in Hamas-ruled Gaza; has achieved one of the world's highest life expectancy rates for all its citizens, Jewish and non-Jewish alike; is among the very first medical responders to humanitarian crises wherever they may occur, from Haiti to Nepal; and is daily advancing the frontiers of medicine for everyone, something that can't be said for too many other nations.

Eighth, Israel is the only country that's the continuous target of three standing UN bodies established and staffed solely for the purpose of advancing the Palestinian cause and bashing Israel – the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People; the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People; and the Division for Palestinian Rights in the UN's Department of Political Affairs.

Ninth, Israel is the only country annually targeted by at least 20 UN General Assembly resolutions and countless measures in other UN bodies, such as

the Human Rights Council.

Indeed, astonishingly, every year, Israel is on the receiving end of more such efforts than the other 192 UN member states combined. No one can seriously argue that this is remotely warranted, but it's a reality because in every UN body except the Security Council, where each of the five permanent members has a veto, it's all about majority voting.

When close to two-thirds of the world's nations today belong to the Non-Aligned Movement, and when they elected a country like Iran as its chair from 2013 to 2016, followed by Venezuela, the current leader, that just about says it all.

And tenth, Israel is the only state targeted by the BDS (boycott, divestment and sanctions) movement.

Has anyone seen any significant campus activity that takes aim at true human rights offenders, including some in Israel's neighborhood, who behead, forcibly convert and expel Christians; drop chemically-laced barrel bombs on civilians; deny Palestinians full rights; persecute LGBT communities; and use capital punishment, even for minors, with abandon?

Has any student group tried to prevent undergraduates from traveling to any country other than Israel, as was the case with an earlier "pledge" circulated at UCLA?

Has anyone seen any flotillas or flytillas organized by European far-left groups that don't involve an anti-Israel angle?

Has anyone seen movements for companies to pull out of any country other than Israel?

Turkey, to take one example, has brazenly and unjustifiably occupied one-third of the island nation of Cyprus for 44 years, deployed an estimated 40,000 Turkish troops there, and transferred countless settlers there from Anatolia, yet there's not a peep about Ankara from those who purport to act in the name of "justice" and against "occupation."

Given political realities, tackling any of these instances of egregious double standards and blatant hypocrisy can be a daunting challenge. And, still worse, this list is not complete.

The old advertisement proclaimed that you don't have to be Jewish to love Levy's Jewish rye bread. Well, surely, you don't have to be a pro-Israel activist to be troubled by the grotesquely unjust treatment of Israel. All it takes is a capacity for moral outrage that things like this are happening in today's world. ▲

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

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



THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

If you are already signed up, you know how great PJ Library is; if not, sign up today for your children ages 6 months - 8 years to receive free monthly books and CDs of Jewish content.

Just go to www.pjlibrary.org.

PJ Library in Lee & Charlotte Counties is generously sponsored by the Roth Family Foundation and the Asher Family Foundation



Opinions and letters printed in L'CHAYIM do not necessarily reflect the views of the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties, its Board of Directors or staff, or its advertisers.

Three billboards east of Fort Myers

By Rabbi Michael J. Schorin

As we leave the Academy Awards and head to Passover, forgive me if I use a cinematic metaphor. Imagine you're on a road and you see three billboards coming up. As you get closer, you see the first one has a picture of a matzah and the words "bread of affliction." Well, this isn't your first Seder and you know that matzah is not among your favorite culinary treats for the holiday, so you agree with the billboard. Without leaving and being able to rise, this poor person's bread may be filling, but it has little else to recommend it. Indeed, one of the explanations for consuming matzah is this is a perfect food for slaves: it is simple, quick and filling. It reminds us of how poor we were as slaves and how limited the options were.

Drive on a bit further and you see a second billboard coming up. Here,

there is another picture of matzah and the word next to it is "humility." Well, that's interesting, you think. What connects matzah and humility? Pharaoh, Passover's bad boy, would never have eaten matzah, for he saw himself as a god. He was a master of "chutzpah." When Pharaoh is told to let the Israelites go, he replies that he has never heard of our G-d, so why should he? Pharaoh doesn't want to let our people go and attempts to keep them in subjugation. Sometimes, we all want to stay in our limited circumstances and not break out of them. Pharaoh is like our individual ego, wanting to keep the status quo rather than moving on to a deeper level of awareness. So, this billboard is calling on us to side with Moshe Rabbenu and stay on the humble side of the road. From the moment the water hits the flour, we only

have 18 minutes to get the matzah in the oven. Similarly, our ego's tendency to rise needs to be countered every so often.

And then we drive up to the third billboard. Once again, we see the same picture of a piece of matzah, but this time the word next to it is "faith." After the chicken soup and brisket, and even after the macaroons and chocolate, we pause to eat the *Afikomen*. This is from the piece of matzah that was hidden and then was ransomed back. Traditionally, this was made to be the last morsel eaten so that the taste of all of the miracles of Passover would stay with us through the night. So it represents the faith of all those people who were willing to follow Moses into the unknown, and

on to Mt. Sinai, and on to the Promised Land. And it is our faith, too, which reminds us that even if life can be difficult, and our ordeals can be bitter, and Pharaoh can be a frightening opponent, this journey is our exodus, as well. Perhaps that is why the Haggadah tells us, "In every generation, each individual is bound to regard themselves, as if they personally had gone forth from Egypt."

With best wishes for a *Chag Samedch* and great billboards along the way!▲

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.

Poland's new law

By Jerrold L. Sobel, ZOA of SWFL President

This past February a new law was enacted and approved by President Andrzej Duda of Poland. It states, anyone suggesting Poland was complicit in the Holocaust could face fines or even imprisonment of up to three years. The law makes it illegal to accuse the Polish nation of having taken part in the atrocities and the systematic mass murder of Jews committed by the Germans during World War II.

For the better part of 73 years, Poles have been grappling with their complicity in the destruction of 3,000,000 Jews in Poland. According to the *Jewish Virtual Library*, this equates to 90% of the pre-final solution Jewish population in that country. Of the 21 European countries overrun by the Nazis from 1939-1945, not unsurprisingly, Ukraine accounted for the second most deaths, 900,000.

This new law also grants the government the right to restrict different interpretations of the past. So much for the much ballyhooed Polish gambit in democracy. It's nothing less than an attempt to rewrite Polish history according to nationalist political aspirations.

In an article published in *Haaretz*, Polish-born historian Jan Grabowski was lambasted and eventually won a lawsuit against a Polish website for an annotated book he recently had published: *Hunt For the Jews: Betrayal and Murder in German-Occupied Po-*

land. Based on a foundation of primary sources, the book describes the Polish population's involvement in turning in and murdering Jews who asked for their help during the Holocaust.

The author, whose father was a Holocaust survivor, concentrates part of his book on a rural region of southeastern Poland called Dabrowa Tarnowska. Of its population of 60,000 on the eve of the war, 5,000 were Jews, most of whom were deported to the death camp Belzec. Approximately 500 managed to escape and hid amongst Polish citizens, but Grabowski discovered only 38 survived the war. The others were betrayed and either directly or indirectly murdered by their Polish neighbors."

Were there cases where Poles tried to rescue their Jewish neighbors? Absolutely, and the author highlights them. But he also points out many of their motives were not exactly altruistic. He points out instances where victims were extorted and, in some cases, murdered if the "rescuers" didn't get what they wanted.

Some might ask, why believe him and not the nationalist Polish government in power today? Whereas Grabowski's book overflows with first-hand accounts and is replete with Polish, Jewish and German records from the war and postwar periods, the government has only wishful revisionist history to buttress their argument.▲

What do you think?

L'CHAYIM wants to know!

Send your letters & comments to LChayim36@gmail.com.

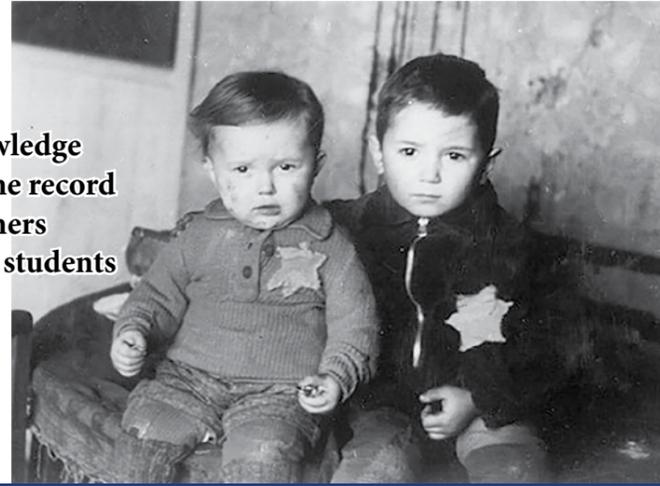
Letters Policy

Letters must include the writer's full name, full address and daytime phone. Letters should be no longer than 300 words. We reserve the right to edit for length and/or accuracy. Letters do not necessarily reflect the viewpoint of L'CHAYIM nor its advertisers. We cannot acknowledge or publish every letter received.

Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Genocide Studies

Dedicated to educating all sectors of society about Jewish civilization, the Holocaust, and genocide through:

- scholarship
- outreach
- inquiry
- sharing knowledge
- preserving the record
- helping teachers
- encouraging students



Visit www.fgcu.edu/hc/
Dr. Paul Bartrop, Director

SNOWBIRDS,

newspapers don't fly...

however, your address will!



Going North?

Don't forget to contact us with your change of address to continue receiving L'CHAYIM.

Send address changes to:
loriramos@jfedlcc.org
or call: 239.481.4449 ext-4

Safe Travels

For All Your Southwest Florida Real Estate Needs

Susan Glasser, Realtor®

John R. Wood Properties
15065 McGregor Blvd. #105
Fort Myers, FL 33908
In front of Gulf Harbour

SusanLGlasser@gmail.com
Mobile: (239) 281-3105
Office: (239) 472-2411



Lee County resident
for more than 20 years

JOHN R. WOOD
PROPERTIES

Island Real Estate, Inc. Independently Owned and Operated

Opinions and letters printed in L'CHAYIM do not necessarily reflect the views of the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties, its Board of Directors or staff, or its advertisers.

“The Season of Our Freedom”

In the Passover Haggadah, we say: “Even if we are all wise, all men of understanding, and all know the Torah, it is a mitzva (commandment) for us to tell of the exodus from Egypt.” This quote indicates that the point of the Seder is not merely an intellectual experience. For after all, if we are wise and know the Torah, then we also know the story of the Exodus.

Instead, the intent is that the Seder enables us to relive the Exodus, to realize – as we say later in the Haggadah – that “not only our ancestors [were] redeemed from Egypt, but [G-d] redeemed us as well.” Every Seder is an opportunity for each one of us to leave Egypt.

What does it mean for us to leave Egypt, when many of us have never seen that part of the world?

Mitzrayim, the Hebrew name for Egypt, shares a connection with the term *meitzarim*, meaning “boundaries” or “limitations.” Leaving Egypt means going beyond those forces that hold us back and prevent us from expressing who we really are. The idea of leaving Egypt reminds us that, in a certain way, we are all slaves.

Each one of us has a soul which is “an actual part of G-d.” This is the core of our being, our real “I.” But we find ourselves in Egypt, for there are forces, both external and internal, that prevent us from being in touch with this spiri-

tual potential and giving it expression.

The Seder night is a time when these forces do not have the power to hold us back. For Passover is “The Season of Our Freedom.” From the time of the Exodus – and indeed, from the beginning of time – this night was chosen as a night on which the potential is granted to express our G-dly core. Every year, at this time, within the spiritual hierarchy of the world, there is “an exodus from Egypt.” All restrictions fall away and transcendent G-dliness is revealed.

This spiritual awakening filters down within our souls, prompting us to tap our spiritual core, express our unbounded G-dly potential, and leave Egypt, i.e., to break through any and all restraints.

This experience should not remain an isolated spiritual peak. Instead, Passover should initiate a process of endless growth, empowering us to continuously break through ever subtle levels of limitations and express our spiritual potential at all times.

This concept is reflected in the Lubavitch custom not to recite the passage “*Chasal Siddur Pesach*” (“The Passover Seder is concluded”), which others say at the end of the Seder. The intent of the omission is to emphasize that our Passover experience should be ongoing. Throughout the year, we should look to the Seder as the beginning of a pattern of new growth and spiritual expression.▲

Rabbi Yitzchok Minkowicz serves at Chabad Lubavitch of Southwest Florida.



■ Rabbi Yitzchok Minkowicz

The meaning of matzah

Matzah, unleavened bread, is called *lehem oni*. The second Hebrew word carries with it several different meanings.



■ Rabbi Solomon Agin

The first and oldest use of *lehem oni* is “the bread of affliction or oppression.” Matzah is a slave bread. That is because it is not enriched but is simply flour and water. It is bread that can be made quickly. Therefore, it becomes a symbol of slavery and our commitment to work on behalf of freedom.

The second meaning of *lehem oni* is “the bread of poverty.” Since matzah is made of just flour and water and no other ingredients, it is the cheapest form of bread. It is the bread of poor

people. It is a reminder of our responsibility to deal with the problem of world hunger.

The third meaning of *lehem oni* is “the bread over which much is answered.” The word *haggadah* itself means literally “the telling.” The Seder service tells the children and, incidentally, the adults, the answers to some basic questions about history and life itself.

Judaism is a repository of wisdom which offers a guide to the conduct of a good life. In fact, someone once observed that the problem today is that Judaism has the answers but we modern Jews have forgotten the questions. Perhaps, if we ask again the meaning of matzah, we will find some very significant answers to the questions of life.

A Joyous Passover to all.▲
Rabbi Solomon Agin serves at Temple Shalom in Port Charlotte.

Remembering Matthew Shepard as we confront homophobia today

My 50th college reunion approaches, and it makes me aware of how much things have changed.

When I graduated from Hamilton College in 1968, it was an all men’s school, and none of my classmates was openly gay. By the time we celebrated our 25th reunion, a good number had come out.



■ Rabbi Stephen Fuchs

For much of my career, I was silent on the issue. I regret that silence because there are events which force us to confront who we are and how we think. There are events which motivate us to change.

For me such an event was the tragic death of Matthew Wayne Shepard. Murderous thugs savagely beat Matthew Shepard, and then hung him on a fence post like a scarecrow to die for only one reason in Laramie, Wyoming, on October 6, 1998. He was a homosexual.

His horrible death taught me I could no longer stand idly by the issues of rights for gay and transgender individuals. His death taught me that we are all either part of the problem or part of the solution.

Matthew Shepard could have been anyone’s brother, son, cousin or friend. His horrible death evoked appropriate outrage across the country.

But his death also unleashed acts of homophobia and hatred too despicable for adequate description. A *TIME* magazine article by Steve Lopez noted, “While his family prepared for his burial and spoke of Shepard’s gentleness and tolerant ways, a Kansas minister with a website called *godhatesfags.com* made plans, “to do a grave dance at the funeral.”

In Fort Collins, Colorado, some members of Colorado State University fraternities and sororities rode atop a homecoming float with a scarecrow figure, which resembled the body of Matthew Shepard, tied to a fence post.

The float makers attached a sign to the Shepard like figure, which read, “I’m gay.”

Kevin Jennings, executive director of the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network, noted, “People would like to think that what happened to Matthew was an exception to the rule, but it was an extreme version of what happens in our schools on a daily basis.”

For too long, religious teaching has been part of the problem. To my sadness, homosexual hatred finds its greatest support in the words of our Hebrew Scriptures:

“Do not lie with a male as one lies with a woman; it is an abhorrence.” (Leviticus 18:22) And, “If a man lies with a man as one lies with a woman, the two of them have done an abhorrent thing; they shall be put to death – their bloodguilt is upon them.” (Leviticus 20:13).

I have no cute exegetical tricks to re-interpret these passages. Like many other biblical verses to which I could point, they have no validity and make no sense in our times.

As Rabbi Jerome Davidson of Great Neck, New York, noted in reference to homosexual acts, “The Bible (only) knew of these acts in the context of war, coercion and idolatry – not in the context of loving, caring relationships.”

For me there is a prior, more enduring passage that supersedes those I quoted earlier. It is the Torah’s first story that teaches that God created human beings in God’s image, in the very image of God.

I believe homosexual men and women are the way they are because God made them that way. If God made people a certain way, how dare we judge them inferior to the way God made others?

When it comes to our LGBT neighbors, every day each of us must choose: Are we part of the problem or part of the solution?▲

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

FINEMARK NATIONAL BANK & TRUST is proud to consistently earn a 5-star rating from Bauer Financial, the nation’s leading independent bank rating firm*. We attribute our success to the meaningful relationships we build with our clients. The better we know you, the better we can serve you.



FINEMARK
NATIONAL BANK & TRUST

Fort Myers • Bonita Springs • Charleston • Estero • Naples • Palm Beach • Scottsdale
239-461-5900 • www.finemarkbank.com • Member FDIC • Equal Housing Lender

*5-Star Financial Rating issued by Bauer Financial, a leading independent bank rating and research firm. Rating is 5 out of 5. Trust and investment services are not FDIC insured, are not guaranteed by the bank and may lose value.

**PLEASE SUPPORT THE ADVERTISERS
WHO SUPPORT OUR FEDERATION
& HELP MAKE L'CHAYIM POSSIBLE.**

Opinions and letters printed in L'CHAYIM do not necessarily reflect the views of the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties, its Board of Directors or staff, or its advertisers.

Our experience of enslavement and liberation

There is an under-theme of concern that goes through our celebration of Pesach. We read about a wicked child who sits at the table but feels no connection to the story of our people. Then we spill out wine for each of the Ten Plagues because the entire people of Egypt suffered, whether they participated in our oppression or not. As Jeffrey Goldberg wrote in *New American Haggadah*, "There is no such thing as an immaculate liberation... It is naïve to think that the defeat of evil comes without cost."

When we think about the story of Pesach, we think mostly in black-and-white terms: Pharaoh and the Egyptians enslaved us; God saved us. Pharaoh and the Egyptians chased after us; God split the sea for the Jewish people but the Egyptians were drowned. In the dominant strand of the Haggadah, the story of our persecution and liberation is the model for all Jewish history. "In every generation there are those who seek our destruction, but the Holy One, praised be He, saves us from their hands." But, when we read the Haggadah closely, there are rumblings of discomfort. Were all the Jews worthy of being freed? Did all the Egyptians deserve to be punished?

I've just returned from the AIPAC Policy Conference in Washington, D.C., where there were very strong dominant themes: the growing threat from Iran; celebration of the United States recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel; the concern about the BDS movement; Israel's continuing development of technology that it is selling throughout the world. Israel's place in the world was in the foreground.

But in the background, there were hints of concern. AIPAC leaders emphasized regularly that it works equally with Democrats and Republicans. People spoke repeatedly about all the members of Congress – from both parties – who AIPAC brings to Israel. People were worried that liberal Jews were pulling away from Israel and AIPAC.

There was repeated reference to the Kotel Agreement and the possibility of reviving that effort. Underlying this discussion was the concern that Reform and Conservative Jews would disengage from Israel involvement. One presenter spoke about how differently Israelis and American Jews saw issues of religion.

Tying these sub-themes together, there was concern that strident partisanship, within America and the within the Jewish community, would be hurtful to Israel. It would make the work of building a pro-Israel coalition that much harder.

The dominant theme of the Seder is that what unites us – our experience of enslavement and liberation – is fundamental to who we are. Life has rarely been easy for us Jews and we cherish our freedom. We remind ourselves of this every year. But what I love about the Seder – in addition to the company and good food – is that it does not shy away from the issues that continue to confront us. We still have children who sit at the table grudgingly. The liberation of the Jews was not always pretty. Our openness to these issues is what really makes us free: everything is up for discussion.

This balance of dominant themes that unite us, while not shying away from those issues with which we still struggle, was found at AIPAC as well. At both settings, we are reminded that there is much work to be done.▲

Rabbi Marc Sack serves at Temple Judea in Fort Myers.

The Passover Seder is like a family photo album

Like all new parents, I take a lot of pictures of our new baby. She's too young for music recitals, dance performances, sporting games, graduations – the usual picture-taking occasions. Right now I just document her everyday life. I snap pictures of Iris playing on her activity mat, wiggling around on her blanket, resting in her rocker, even sleeping in the bassinet, when she does manage to get to sleep.

We all have photo albums filled with pictures of fun vacations, family Passover Seders, beach days, and outings with friends we want to remember. We take pictures because we want to seize those happy occasions and preserve them. Photos help us remember details of joyous events and lead to fun reminiscing. We love the illusion that a moment can last forever, that we can view a photo and instantly be transported back to a time when our kids were younger, when we were younger, when we were enjoying that vacation and not worrying about work or errands to run.

Yet what about the everyday moments – those that don't warrant taking out the camera, making people pose, or

worrying about the lighting? It is not just the special events worthy of a photograph that make up our life. It is the daily activities we engage in, the moments we take for granted as just life being lived, and the rituals that have become part of who we are. Can these moments be photographed? Some yes, some no. We don't think to photograph taking a walk with a friend, the dog jumping on you when you come home from work, the cup of coffee you drink every morning.

The Passover Seder is like a family photo album. Just as a photo album gives us just brief glimpses and highlights of our lives, so too the Seder gives us the Exodus story's overview, and then leaves it to us to ask questions, to add commentary and fill in the details. What was Moses' relationship with Miriam and Aaron? What was Pharaoh like as a grandfather and ruler? How did God come up with the ideas for the 10 plagues? What did the Israelites do as slaves? How did they feel crossing the Red Sea? As we celebrate Passover, and perhaps even take out our camera to capture the moment, let us delve deeply into the Passover story, spend time imagining the lives of our ancient ancestors, and picture what our family photo album would contain.▲

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



■ Rabbi Marc Sack



■ Rabbi Nicole Luna

The true meaning of *nahes*

So what is *nahes* (the "H" sound is like the "H" in Hanukah) and how do you get it?

When you drill down into it, *nahes* doesn't really mean joy or pride. *Nahes* is the Yiddish form of the Hebrew term that means "tranquility" or "repose." So I guess the best translation would be "peace of mind."



■ Rabbi Bruce Diamond

Two Jewish mothers are sitting on a park bench. One gives out with an "Oy yoy yoy!"

The other says, "Selma, I thought we agreed not to discuss the kids today!" I discovered that when I became a parent, worry became the continuous background music of my life, and often that music didn't stay in the background. It's always there no matter how well the kids are doing and how old you or they get.

Nahes is when a maturing child does or achieves something that helps you worry just a little bit less about their future and your dreams and hopes for them.

While you're alive, *nahes* comes in drips and drabs and can dissolve with the very next phone call. If you're lucky, you'll get little tastes of *nahes* here and there, but there is nothing that can make that background worry music completely go away, since you never know...

A cherished teacher, Rabbi Herbert Brichto (ז"ל), explained to me that *nahes* is really reserved for the last few

moments of your conscious life in this world, when you leave it feeling that the ones you love, who depended on you, will be alright. It's the ultimate satisfaction you get from finally feeling that that you have managed to equip them with enough of what they will need to carry on without you.

That's what we hope for the deceased during the *El Male* memorial when we say *veyanoohoo beshalom* "may they rest in peace" (*veyanoohoo* and *nahes* share the same root). It's a prayerful hope that the deceased left this world with a feeling of "mission accomplished" *nahes*, and that they take that feeling into the next world and keep it for eternity as they observe their children and their children's children carry as on in this world as the deceased would want.

The way I see it, *nahes* is the ultimate prize. I have been around countless individuals during the last days and hours of their lives, and not a one of them was concerned about not having a fancier home, a classier car, or not having spent enough of their lives and talents accumulating wealth and toys. All they really think about in the end is the ones that they are leaving behind.

The people who have a good end are the ones who have the *nahes* from knowing they made their best efforts throughout their lives for those who continue after them, and that they have lived long enough to see those efforts bear fruit.▲

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

HIGH STYLE at affordable prices!



bloomingdale's

Neiman Marcus

Saks Fifth Avenue

OFF 5TH

H&M

lastcall

kate spade NEW YORK

Vera Bradley

MICHAEL KORS

COLE HAAN

COACH

LACOSTE

NikeFactoryStore

TOMMY HILFINGER

J.CREW FACTORY

MOVADO COMPANY STORE

chico's outlet

JOHNSTON & MURPHY FACTORY STORE

K A Y JEWELERS - OUTLET -

LOFT OUTLET

BANANA REPUBLIC FACTORY STORE

vineyard vines

SWAROVSKI

AÉROPOSTALE

new balance FACTORY STORE

TALBOTS OUTLET

Calvin Klein

WHITE HOUSE BLACK MARKET

TRUE RELIGION BRAND JEANS

LUCKY * BRAND OUTLET

AÉROPOSTALE

TUMI

adidas OUTLET STORE

NINE WEST OUTLET

Brooks Brothers FACTORY STORE

Soma

Abercrombie & Fitch NEW YORK

Eddie Bauer OUTLET

U.S. POLO ASSN.

UNDER ARMOUR

PERRY ELLIS

Hurley

PUMA OUTLET

CONVERSE

EXPRESS FACTORY OUTLET

OAKLEY VAULT

Columbia FACTORY STORE

NAUTICA

LE CREUSET

asics

FOSSIL

NORMAN LOVE CONFECTIONS

francesca's

JANIE AND JACK

OSHKOSH Bigosh

GREG NORMAN

WORTH

OFF THE WALL

MIROMAR OUTLETS®

OVER 140 TOP DESIGNER AND BRAND NAME OUTLET STORES AND AN ARRAY OF RESTAURANTS

Voted the Best Shopping Mall and Best Factory Outlet Mall in Southwest Florida

UP TO 70% OFF RETAIL PRICES

Visit the Mall Office or the Information Kiosk to receive your FREE VIP Savings Brochure

GIFT CARDS MAKE THE *Perfect Gift*

MiromarOutlets.com • I-75, Exit 123 • (239) 948-3766 •

*Subject to monthly maintenance fee. Terms and Conditions of the Card Agreement are set forth at MiromarOutlets.com. Copyright © 2018, Miromar Development Corporation. Miromar Outlets is a registered service mark of Miromar Development Corporation.



LAG B'OMER is a festive minor holiday that falls during the seven weeks between Passover & Shavuot (this period is known as the Omer).

PJ LIBRARY PROGRAM
FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN
2-8 YEARS OF AGE
Celebrate Lag B'Omer
Israeli Style
Thursday, April 26 5:00-6:30 p.m.

We won't have a big bonfire like in Israel, but we will play games, do arts & crafts, sing and read stories. There is no cost to attend. RSVP to Leni at 239-481-4449 Ext. 3 Or lenibsack@jfedlcc.org

at TEMPLE JUDEA
14486 A&W Bulb Rd.
Fort Myers

TEMPLE JUDEA SCHOOLS
Fort Myers

Temple Judea Religious School
Liz Singer
Dir. of Congregational Learning
March began with our Religious School Purim celebration. On the Sunday following Purim, March 4, students convened and did a version of an Escape Room. Students were split into mixed-aged groups that were tasked to solve five puzzles that would give them clues that would allow them to open the five locked boxes that held prizes.

All of the puzzles were centered around the holiday of Purim. One puzzle was a crossword puzzle with a clue hidden in invisible ink. The others included two logic puzzles, a comprehension puzzle based on the content of the Megillah text, a puzzle where they had to know about the four *mitzvot* of Purim, and putting the Purim story in sequential order. Every aspect of the holiday was covered, and the puzzles



Students in grades K-2 learning Hebrew

utilized different skills. Great care was made that even the youngest children could contribute.

Our older students have been doing very important work in their *chugim* (electives). Our cooking class learned about the history of rugelach. Knowing the background makes cooking them and then enjoying them even sweeter. They have also been making challahs to give to people in the community to let them know that they are being thought of.

The students in the media *chug* have interviewed two Holocaust survivors and learned from their experiences. To prepare for this experience, students in the media *chug* were mentored by filmmaker Rozzi Osterman, who taught us how to approach the sensitive subject and how important it is that we document the survivors' stories. The stories were very meaningful. This was an important experience for our students. The hope is that our contribution of video interviews will be part of a Fort Myers community-wide event.

April is also filled with many fun activities. On Sunday, April 8, we will have another day of experiential education solving some puzzles related to Passover. On Sunday, April 15, we will join with the rest of the Fort Myers

community to celebrate Yom Ha'Atzmaut. We hope that you will join us there, although you are

always welcome to join us for any of our programming.

Temple Judea Preschool

Joann Goldman, Director
The month of April begins matzah covers and Seder plates. We will take a journey back in time to the land of Egypt as we discuss the holiday of Passover. The children will enjoy singing songs and sharing some special traditions.

We will taste and learn about vegetables. We will help students understand that lettuce does not grow in a bag from Publix. (Interesting what children think and say.)

The children really enjoyed Dr. Seuss week and making edible Cat in the Hat hats! Planting beans and watching the growth as well as getting to dye their own flowers really sparked the children's interest.

The children in Pre-k had a wonderful time celebrating Dr. Seuss's birthday. They enjoyed listening to and making up their own rhymes. This really prepared them for our rhyming party. All of the children brought in three items that rhyme and they had a chance to explain what the items were to the class.

Now that our letter of the week program has come to a close, we are reviewing all of our letters. The children are doing a fantastic job writing all of their letters and take such pride in doing so. They really enjoy their journals.

Our Teaching Time Program was a huge success! The children taught their friends how to fish, bounce a ball, make a sandwich, create a salad, ride a scooter, crack an egg and how to play baseball.

This month we will have a chance to create new colors as we discuss the color wheel. We are looking forward to creating new colors and coming up with some interesting names.

Our classroom will be in full bloom as we start planting flowers. The children will learn about different gardening tools and how to nurture the plants.

On Tuesday, April 3, it's "I Dressed Myself Today!" Let children express themselves by dressing themselves.

Preschool Registration for 2018-19
If you are interested in registering for preschool, we have limited spots available. We do not have any openings in our Pre-k class.

If you are would like further information regarding Temple Judea Preschool's various programs, please call 239.482.1121.

Candle lighting times:



April 6: 7:29
April 13: 7:33
April 20: 7:36
April 27: 7:40

90% of PJ Library families say that they are very likely to recommend PJ Library to their family and friends.

Results of a recent national survey of 25,000 families conducted by PJ Library

91% of PJ Library families say that PJ Library has been a valuable parenting tool.

Parents in Lee and Charlotte counties whose children are enrolled in PJ Library participated in the survey.

95% of PJ Library families read at least one PJ Library book each month.

PJ Library is making a difference in the lives of families raising Jewish children.

STAY IN TOUCH

Sign up for e-blasts!

GET THE LATEST INFORMATION ON UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS, CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, BREAKING NEWS, UPDATES FROM ISRAEL & MORE.

Send an email to lenibsack@jfedlcc.org

Earn CAS Credits

The Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties is interested in hearing from teenagers in high school who might like to earn CAS credits through various work in the Jewish community.

If you are interested, please send the following information to LeniBSack@jfedlcc.org:

- Name
- Address
- Phone #
- Age
- Grade
- School
- Preferred volunteer hours (e.g. 2 - 5PM. Sundays)



TEMPLE BETH EL SCHOOLS
Fort Myers

Temple Beth El Religious School
Dale M. Cohen, R.J.E., MA.Ed.
Religious Education Director

I am reflecting back to when we had our wonderful Tu B'Shevat Seder. It was such fun, interactive, educational and extremely delicious, munching on all of those fruits. Somehow, we managed to sneak in some chocolate (in lieu of the carob). *Todah rabah* to our spectacular volunteers, Vanessa Sax, Berny & Phyllis Aronson, Jordan Olitsky, Catie Glass, Karen, Abby and Evan Kagan and many more. We are grateful for everyone's assistance. We had a wonderful time, and then our students had the opportunity to decorate their pots and plant seeds to take home.

I have just tallied up the amounts from our Barton's (Miss Chocolate) Passover candy sale and other items, not all related to food, and we have sold approximately \$1,000 worth of some of the finest kosher candies available. The Activity Fund will gross 40% of the total. *Todah rabah* to everyone who participated. We are very grateful for your support of Temple Beth El Religious School.

Our Purim celebration and activities in February were absolutely phenomenal. Students baked hamentashen for the congregation's Megillah reading. Vanessa Sax, Mackenzie Sax and Zoe Sax prepared all of the dough prior to the creating and baking. We are thankful and grateful for all of your help!

The Purim pancake breakfast was full of whimsy as we watched our students and adults decorate their favorite Purim characters on top of their pancakes. The Megillah reading with Rabbi Luna, Cantor Bessman and Randy

Kashi on Sunday, March 4 was simply exceptional!

On Sunday, March 11 we had another phenomenal learning experience, our chocolate Seder, which is always a great way to spice up the traditional Seder experience. It was followed by Morah Hilary's class performing a wonderful and extremely entertaining Passover play that never disappoints.

On Sunday, April 8, the Membership Committee will meet and greet all of our parents with the bagel and coffee schmooze. After you drop off your children for Religious School, please stay a while as we thank YOU, our wonderful and supportive parents of Temple Beth El Religious School.

On Saturday, April 14, Jacob Spiegel will be called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah. We are so proud of Jacob and all of his accomplishments.

On Saturday, April 28, Zoe Sax will be called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah. We are so proud of Zoe and all of her accomplishments.

We wish both the Spiegel and Sax families much *mazel* and *naches* on one of the most meaningful days of their lives.

Our next Junior Congregation is scheduled for Saturday, April 21 from 9:00 to 10:15 a.m. in the sanctuary. Please remember that this is a mandatory part of our curriculum for grades 4-7. This is the best way to familiarize our students with the Saturday morning liturgy. We look forward to seeing you all there. This will be our final Junior Congregation for this calendar year.

On Sunday, April 22, please come and participate in our wonderful Mitzvah Day. It will begin promptly at 9:30 a.m., as we prepare to engage not only in *mitzvot* for the community, but also for our beloved Temple Beth El.

Tot Shabbat

Looking for a great way for young Jewish families to get to know each other and for non-Jewish spouses to feel comfortable in the synagogue? Come to Tot Shabbat at Temple Beth El!

On March 2, young Jewish families joined Rabbi Luna in the beautiful Temple Beth El sanctuary for a Shabbat celebration. At the start of the service, each child shared their name and received a warm "Shabbat Shalom" from the group. In addition to singing Shabbat songs and basic prayers, the babies, toddlers and young children

met Sababa the Shabbat dinosaur, a blue dinosaur who loves to celebrate Shabbat. The families adjourned to the social hall for blessings over Shabbat candles, grape juice and challah, and enjoyed a pot luck dinner and schmoozing.

Parents and grandparents are welcome to the next Tot Shabbats, which will be at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, April 6 and 6:00 p.m. on Friday, May 4 at Temple Beth El, 16225 Winkler Road, Fort Myers. For more information, call Rabbi Luna at 239.433.0018. ▲

Michael Shapiro
PHOTOGRAPHY

Bar / Bat Mitzvah Specialist

Choosing the right photographer is an important decision. Michael Shapiro has more than 30 years experience in media and journalism. He is able to capture images that are unique, unexpected and spontaneous.



Other Services: Weddings / Family Portraits / Events

239.770.6860

mike@shapiro-photography.com
www.shapiro-photography.com

DISCOVER THE FUN!

PJ Library



SHARE the experience of reading with your children as they grow with PJ Library books.

SIGN UP TODAY!

Enrollment is open to Jewish families with children between the **ages of six months to eight years** living in Lee & Charlotte Counties.

RECEIVE THE GIFT OF FREE JEWISH CHILDREN'S BOOKS MAILED TO YOUR HOME EVERY MONTH!

Funded by the

Roth Family Foundation & Asher Family Foundation

More information, contact Leni Sack 239.481.4449 ext. 3 lenisack@jfedlcc.org

Jewish Federation
Lee and Charlotte Counties

CONNECT
with your Jewish Community

www.facebook.com/JewishFederationLCC

PJ LIBRARY RADIO LIVE!



Now PJ library families can listen to Jewish kids music — anytime, anywhere.

Introducing *PJLibraryRadio.com*, an online streaming radio station with more than 2,000 songs from hundreds of artists across the globe.

Music is available 24/7 with special music blocks for Shabbat, Holiday and Bedtime.

- Listen to the music online
- Download the free app on iTunes, Google Play or Tune In Radio



Families can sign up for PJ Library at pjlibrary.org

SHALOM LIFE CENTER

Fort Myers

(239) 218-3433

Israel is 70!

Lawrence & Robin Dermer

On May 14, 1948, President Truman recognized Israel. On May 14, 2018, President Trump will move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem. These two historic decisions are 70 years apart. This is the year Jerusalem will become one united capital when we celebrate Yom Ha'Atzmaut, Israel's seventieth anniversary.

In 1948 there were 600,000 people in a tiny country armed with little more than handguns fighting six well-trained and equipped Arab armies that came within 25 miles of Tel Aviv. As we proudly celebrate the U.S. Embassy being moved to Jerusalem, let

us imagine a time not so long ago, when Israel was surrounded by enemies intent on its destruction within minutes of reaching us. In those days we had no economy, no friends or allies, and were largely made up of people coming from displaced persons camps in Europe after the Holocaust.

Seventy years on, Israel has accomplished so much more than just survive. Israel has thrived. Our army is one of the most powerful in the world and we've become world leaders in technology and humanitarian efforts as well. The miracle of our survival has blossomed into the fulfillment of our mission, tikkun olam, the Jewish ideal of repairing the world. As our prophet Isaiah wrote almost 2,700 years ago, we are to be a light to the nations. Looking back, we see the modern-day

State of Israel is every bit as much of a miracle as the miracles we recount during Pesach, Purim and Chanukah.

Though we continue to face threats from Iran, Syria, Hamas, Hezbollah and others who still seek our destruction, we will remain positive, steadfast and hopeful that peace will come to us and the rest of the world. 2018 brings us to a time when the nation of Israel is better, greener, stronger, smarter and more wonderful than ever before. We will never allow fear to overshadow our faith. Our continued survival throughout the millennia is nothing short of a miracle, and our Divine covenant assures us that G-d will continue to protect our nation and its people. Am Yisrael Chai – the people of Israel live – and Anachnu Chazakim – We are strong!

Mark your calendar for "Encore - The Best of the Season Intimate and

Unplugged" on Saturday, April 28 at 7:30 p.m. Sing and dance the night away at this fabulous concert event featuring the music of the 1950s, country favorites, Elton John, The Beach Boys, The Bee Gees and so much more. For more information and to RSVP, call 239.218.3433 or email info@shalomlifecenter.org

Join us for Shabbat services every Friday at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday mornings for Torah study at 10:00 a.m. From Yiddish Culture Club, Book Club, Men's Group and Sisterhood, to Women's Circle, SLC Kitchen, Choir and BBYO, there are so many ways to enhance your Jewish life at Shalom Life Center. Visit our website at www.shalomlifecenter.org for more information on our many clubs, programs and special events.

JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

(239) 566-1771

Lucky for us

Marina Berkovich

"Mesmerized!" That is a one-word summary of the February 18 presentation of *Southwest Florida Jewish Pioneers: The Labodas of Fort Myers* to the Jewish community of Lee and Charlotte counties at Temple Beth El in Fort Myers. This educational film was previously shown in Collier County to WCA members.

The Lee County event was organized by the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties and was attended by the audience of nearly 200, including many who know the Laboda story, were part of their journey, and heard about it in their respective counties. Now their wonderful story of Jewish legacy is part of the Jewish Historical Society of Southwest Florida's valuable collection.

We express our gratitude to Alan Isaacs, Federation Executive Director, and Leni Sack, Program Director, as well as the three generations of the Laboda family, who made this event possible and came out to support their elders and the work of JHSSWF.

During the fascinating discussion

after the film, some of the residents shared their recollections of the early days of Port Charlotte Jewish life, including

traveling to Hebrew school by boat – the only means of access at the time. The new arrivals, unfamiliar with the inconveniences and hardships residents had to weather, or the vast range of developmental efforts they undertook, were truly amazed that within a human lifespan our region underwent such drastic progress and that Jews were very involved.

One man in the audience identified himself as an employee of the Rosen Brothers and will be willing to share his story with us later this year. That is the ultimate validation of our work – finding the eyewitnesses to the deep trail the Jewish pioneers and settlers created, which, thanks to our members and supporters, we are collecting and preserving.

A special note of gratitude to Charlane King, JHSSWF's super dedicated board member, for lending her wonderful skills and talents to all projects the Society undertakes. Charlane also serves as JHSSWF Events Coordinator. She is also the Director of Events of CAPA (Cultural and Performing Arts Center in Naples), and received the 2013 CAPA Outstanding Service

Award. Charlane's prior experience includes ownership and operation of a pack-and-ship businesses in Burlington and Lexington, Massachusetts; Communications Director for Home Goods, a division of TJX Corporation; board member of Burlington Business Roundtable; Chairperson of Burlington Food Pantry.

Please note change of date: JHSSWF's next Master Class presentation will be at the Jewish Federation of Greater Naples on Wednesday, May 16 at 5:00 p.m. There will be no Master Class on April 24. Master Classes include film presentations and discussions of early Southwest Florida Jewish history. Classes are free. Light refreshments are provided. Register at <http://jewishhistorysouthwestflorida.org/> by May 10.

We are also extending the decision deadline for next season's programming and Southwest Florida Jewish Pioneers films to June 1. Please submit your nominations of a noteworthy SWFL Jewish resident or a candidate for an Eyewitness Interview to jhsswf@gmail.com.

To renew your membership or become a member or an event sponsor, please email jhsswf@gmail.com, visit www.jhsswf.org or call us.

Want to volunteer? Email 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.

HAZAK 55+ CHAPTER at Temple Judea

(239) 433-0201

Jan Klein

In March there was a great turnout for a tour of the Holocaust Museum & Education Center of Southwest Florida in Naples, followed by lunch out.

On Sunday, April 22 at 4:00 p.m. at Temple Judea, there will be a Musical

Ensemble Sing-a-Long led by Liz Singer, Avi Gev and Sasha Zuckerman.

In May there will be an afternoon of miniature golf followed by dinner. Specifics will be announced at a later time.

For more information about Hazak, contact President Andy Chernow at tjhazak@gmail.com or 607.423.3801.

BRIEFS

continued from page 17

ISRAEL CALLED STRATEGIC PARTNER OF AZERBAIJAN

Israel is a strategic partner of Azerbaijan and both cooperate in military-technical matters, in the latest technologies, and in healthcare, Ali Hasanov, the Azerbaijani President's Assistant for Public and Political Affairs, told the Israel-Azerbaijan International Association.

"Israeli specialists have been working in Azerbaijan for several years in various fields of our economy, and in particular, in agriculture...where they introduce the latest technologies and equipment. Our countries are also united by our people. There is a big community of Azerbaijanis in Israel, who have already integrated into Israeli society and represent our republic with dignity," Hasanov said. He also noted that in recent years, Azerbaijan is engaged in building a "bridge" between Israel and the Muslim world. (*Trend - Azerbaijan*)

DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE'S VISIT TO ISRAEL WILL END A 70-YEAR ROYAL SNUB

For 70 long years, Israelis have watched Britain's royals jet over their heads on visits to autocratic Middle Eastern countries without stopping in

the Jewish state. Generations of Israeli presidents have extended invitations to Jerusalem. Each time they have been quietly rebuffed on the advice of the Foreign Office, which worried about upsetting the UK's Arab allies. But that decades-long snub will come to an end this summer when the Duke of Cambridge touches down at Tel Aviv's Ben-Gurion Airport.

The shift reflects Britain's deepening security and trade relationship with Israel as well as a broader realignment in the Middle East. Whereas Israel was once an awkward former colony with little to offer Britain except political heartburn, today it is a dynamic high-tech economy and a regional intelligence superpower. British and Israeli security services cooperate closely on counter-terrorism.

While a royal visit might once have been met with fury in Arab capitals, today many of those Arab states are quietly aligning with Israel against their shared enemy Iran. (Raf Sanchez, *Telegraph* - UK)

ISRAELI TECHNOLOGY IS HELPING TO GROW CROPS IN INDIA

From increasing tomato yields in Tamil Nadu to helping farmers grow crops in the deserts of Rajasthan, the Indo-Israel Agriculture Project over the last decade has been a fruitful one.

Israel recently inaugurated its 23rd agricultural center of excellence in India at Mizoram. Twenty-two more cen-

ters have been set up in 16 states since 2006 and have helped transfer Israeli agricultural technologies and knowledge to Indian farmers.

"Generally, 15-17 tons of tomatoes are harvested per acre. After implementing mulching, combined with drip irrigation, we have harvested up to 54 tons per acre," said Indian official Srinivasan K.

In Maharashtra, experiments to combine Israeli mango varieties with local ones has helped reduce the height of the trees from 40 feet to 15 feet, making spraying and harvesting very easy. Swapna Merlin (*The Print* - India)

WORK BEGINS ON NEW JERUSALEM LIGHT RAIL EXTENSION TO SERVE JEWS AND ARABS

Work has begun on the infrastructure for the Jerusalem light rail's second line, the "Green Line," which will run from Hebrew University on Mount Scopus in the north to Gilo in the south. Like its predecessor, the line will serve both the Jewish and Arab populations. At the same time, the "Red Line," which opened in 2011, will be extended to Neve Yaakov in the north and Hadassah Ein Karem Medical Center in the south.

The Jerusalem light rail has become a symbol of coexistence, and 200,000 Jews and Arabs ride it each day. In 2014-2016, the railway became a target for firebombs and stone

throwers, but the Israeli authorities insisted on continuing to run the train through the Arab neighborhoods of Shuafat and Beit Hanina. (Nadav Shragai, Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs)

PRO-PALESTINIAN CAMPAIGNER ADMITS THEIR ACTIVIST INITIATED 2010 VIOLENCE ABOARD MAVI MARMARA

In newly revealed posts from a secret British Facebook group, Greta Berlin, the spokesperson of the group involved in the flotilla that attempted to enter Gaza in May 2010, states that the Israeli troops did not open fire until after Ken O'Keefe, a former U.S. marine aboard the Mavi Marmara, seized a gun from one of them.

O'Keefe "was responsible for some of the deaths on board the Mavi Marmara. Had he not disarmed an Israeli...soldier, they would not have started to fire," she wrote on the Palestine Live group in 2014.

She added that O'Keefe was "not a hero and his actions put others on the Mavi Marmara at risk."

She also refers to "Ken's crazy ideas to attack" soldiers, branding him "a menace," and writing of his "rather crazy ideas of wanting to have a 'suicide boat.'" (Robert Philpot, *Times of Israel*)▲

HADASSAH
Collier/Lee Chapter
(239) 301-0509

Happy birthday, Israel!

Shelley Skelton

Seventy years ago, the newspaper headlines were ominous: “Israel Constantly Working For Peace,” “An Immediate Cease-Fire is Called For,” and fear was expressed over “Israel’s deep concern lest the fighting in Korea ignite world peace.” Change a few names and dates and the headlines could have been written today. But even with those ominous headlines, Israel became a nation in 1948, and this year celebrates 70 years of independence.

And far be it from us to pass up a celebration!

On Sunday, February 25, members and friends of our Collier/Lee Chapter of Hadassah attended the birthday party of the year! It was a fabulous brunch held at the Hilton Naples, featuring Israeli cuisine and music, candles glowing on a huge birthday cake, guest entertainment by the Shalom Dancers, Cantor Donna Azu and Cantorial Soloist Jane Galler, with our own Rhonda Brazina as the MC. A good

time was had by all! We graciously thank Lee Henson, chair of this exciting event, along with all of our friends, colleagues, committee members and board members, without whom none of this would have been possible.

Proceeds from the event will help Hadassah continue to carry on its extraordinary work. Through it all, time marches on and we pride ourselves on what has been accomplished. The efforts of all of our dedicated volunteers, highly-qualified personnel, medical researchers, scientists, doctors, generous donors, everyone involved in this monumental achievement, help to support Hadassah’s initiatives.

Hadassah offers members a wide variety of health awareness programs

and activities that strengthen Jewish identity and support for Israel while providing a unique opportunity to connect socially. In a perfect world, Hadassah would be a world of healthy people living in peace. It would be a Middle East made more secure by breakthroughs in medicine. The Sarah Wetsman Davidson Tower at Hadassah Medical Center was the first to unite advanced medical technologies with a profound spirit of healing. People from all over the world turn to Hadassah Hospital for medical treatment in Israel. We are proud to be volunteers for an organization that supports a hospital where the patient always comes first.

How do we reach our goals and quotas? Through the generous support of people like yourself, our members and benefactors.

Medicine at Hadassah is above politics, beyond borders, indifferent to religious differences. Each patient who comes through its doors for treatment receives personalized attention in an environment of compassionate care. We can continue to build better lives for all the children of Israel while promoting peace through medicine.

And finally, be sure to mark your calendars for the Hadassah-sponsored Collier County Jewish Book Festival event. Plan on joining our Hadassah chapter at Beth Tikvah on Monday, April 9, at 2:30 p.m., as we sponsor Abigail Pogrebin, author of *My Jewish Year – 18 Holidays, One Wandering Jew*.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.jewishbookfestival.org or call Renee’ Bialek at 239.263.4205.



The Shalom Dancers were part of the festivities at the Hadassah Collier/Lee Chapter birthday party for Israel at the Hilton Naples on February 25



Event Chair Lee Henson, Karen Cohn, Nancy Wiadro and Elaine Soffer at the Hadassah Collier/Lee Chapter birthday party for Israel

GENERATIONS OF THE SHOAH
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

(239) 963-9347

“Never again” and Yom HaShoah

Ida Margolis

Most individuals reading this column are familiar with Yom HaShoah, known as Holocaust Remembrance Day. It is a memorial day for those who died in the Shoah. It is a day of commemoration for the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust as a result of the actions carried out by Nazi Germany and its collaborators, and for the Jewish resistance.

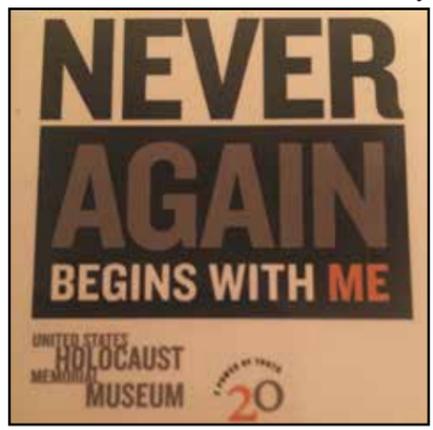
This year, the annual community Yom HaShoah Commemoration will be held at Temple Shalom (4630 Pine Ridge Road, Naples) on Sunday, April 8 at 10:00 am. Local students and local Holocaust survivors will be participating. This community is fortunate to have survivors who are willing to share their stories with local students. The importance of the students having this opportunity is immense. Not only should no one ever think that the Holocaust never happened, but also the

lessons of the Holocaust must never be forgotten.

Following the Holocaust, two phrases were used not only as phrases but also Jewish resolutions. The first was “Zachor” (the Hebrew word that means to remember), to ensure that the past will never be forgotten and its memory will always serve as a guide for the future. The second was “Never Again.” This phrase or slogan is usually meant to “symbolize the Jewish people’s collective resolve to never stand by as the blood of their brethren is shed and to never allow innocents to be brutalized for the crime of being Jewish.”

Shortly after the horrific murders at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, only about 100 miles from Naples, I saw in the media that there was a student-led organization advocating for tighter regulations to prevent gun violence that was called #NeverAgain. My first response was, why would they use the slogan associated with the Holocaust? After all, I often wear my button from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum that states

“NEVER AGAIN BEGINS WITH ME.” To me, “never again” means no one should ever be murdered just for their religion or race or sexual orientation, the way that millions of men, women and children were brutally



murdered. Historian Raul Hilberg said that “never again” was seen written in various languages at the liberation of Buchenwald. So why should this slogan be a hashtag slogan for stricter gun laws? Doesn’t it just belong to the Holocaust? While researching the slogan, I came across the following quote by Eli Wiesel:

“Never again” becomes more than a slogan: It’s a prayer, a promise,

a vow. There will never again be hatred, people say. Never again jail and torture. Never again the suffering of innocent people, or the shooting of starving, frightened, terrified children. And never again the glorification of base, ugly, dark violence. It’s a prayer.”

After reading that, I no longer felt that the students “hijacked” a Holocaust slogan. I now felt they found the perfect slogan – a slogan that also applies to the shooting of our innocent school children. Never again should students be murdered in a place of learning, a place that should be safe. Never again should any innocent person become a target of a crazed killer just because they are at a concert, a shopping mall or a place of worship.

Eli Wiesel said, “Never again is more than a slogan... it is a prayer.” Now it is also a call to action, a call by children who want to save the lives of other children. It is a call for policymakers to work together.” I will be proud to wear my button from the Holocaust Museum not only for the victims of the Holocaust, but also for our children.

HUMANISTIC JEWISH HAVURAH
of Southwest Florida

(239) 495-8484

Significant topic for consideration on Yom HaShoah

Paula Creed

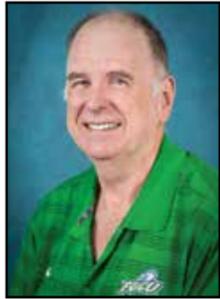
On Sunday afternoon, April 15, the Humanistic Jewish Havurah of Southwest Florida will commemorate Yom Ha-Shoah (Holocaust Memorial Day) with a program featuring Paul R. Bartrop, PhD, Professor of History, at Florida Gulf Coast University. His topic is “Not Accepting Refugees: The Evian Conference of 1938 and its Relevance Today.”

At 1:30 p.m. we gather for coffee ‘n chat before the lecture begins promptly at 2:00 p.m. in the David G. Willens Community Room of the Jewish Federation of Collier County, 2500 Vanderbilt Beach Road, Suite 2201, Naples. Due to the limited capacity of this venue, we request that you contact Dena Sklaroff at 239.591.0101 or demas27@aol.com to make your reservation.

This event will be most extraordinary. The content of Dr. Bartrop’s address is based on his recent book on

the subject, which is the first major study of this conference. It will be the first time this talk will be presented in Southwest Florida. Dr. Bartrop could not have chosen a better audience than a community of Humanistic Jews seeking better understanding of our Jewish history as related to the Holocaust. The public is invited to share in this experience.

The Evian conference on refugees from Nazism has long been identified as a “lost opportunity” – a failed initiative to save the Jews of Europe from the Nazi menace. However, as Paul Bartrop explains, this critique is based on the erroneous premise that the conference was intended to rescue the Jews in the first place. Rather, he argues, the conference was completely successful in what it set out to achieve: to discuss the refugee problem without committing any nation to concrete action or a departure from its existing position. In this presentation, he will show that the refugee conference was always intended to be window dressing onto which humanitarian agencies and Jewish



Dr. Paul Bartrop

communities placed too many hopes – hopes that, by design, were never going to be realized.

The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum describes the conference on its website: “The Nazis aimed to make Germany *judenrein* (cleansed of Jews) by making life so difficult for them that they would be forced to leave the country. By 1939 about 150,000 German Jews, one in four, had already fled the country. After Germany annexed Austria in March 1938, however, an additional 185,000 Jews were brought under Nazi rule. Many Jews were unable to find countries willing to take them in.”

Even though news of the violent pogroms of November 1938 was widely reported, Americans remained reluctant to welcome Jewish refugees. In the midst of the Great Depression, many Americans believed that refugees would compete with them for jobs and overburden social programs set up

to assist the needy.

In the summer of 1938, delegates from 32 countries met at the French resort of Evian. President Roosevelt chose not to send a high-level official, such as the secretary of state to Evian. Instead, Myron C. Taylor, a businessman and close friend of Roosevelt’s, represented the U.S. at the conference. During the nine-day meeting, delegates after delegate rose to express sympathy for the refugees. But most countries, including the United States and Britain, offered excuses for not letting in more refugees.

Responding to Evian, the German government was able to state with great pleasure how “astounding” it was that foreign countries criticized Germany for their treatment of Jews, but none of them wanted to open the doors to them when “the opportunity offered.”

The current migrant crisis is Europe’s worst since World War II – and the struggle to find places for migrants and refugees bears great similarity with that earlier crisis.

Read the current and recent issues of L’CHAYIM online at www.JewishFederationLCC.org.

TEMPLE BETH EL
Fort Myers**(239) 433-0018**
www.templebethel.com

Temple Beth El's Mitzvah Day is coming soon, back by popular demand, on Sunday, April 22 from 9:30 a.m. to noon. All are invited to attend. Mitzvah Day is an opportunity to share in events that help the broader Southwest Florida community, providing us with an avenue for *tzedakah* and learning for ourselves and our children. We will be packing lunches for Community Cooperative, making arts and crafts for children in hospitals and others in need of a greeting, and doing cleanup of some of the temple areas as well as the cemetery. If you are interested in participating in the activities or in leading the efforts, please call the temple office at 239.433.0018.

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, May 9. Sisterhood invites members and their guests to Mimosas, Mah Jongg, and More, beginning at 10:30 a.m. For \$25 per person we will provide a delicious brunch, prizes and a fun day out. Bring your friends and the game of your choice: mah jongg, dominoes, cards or whatever you and your friends enjoy playing. Don't have a regular game? We'll do our best to match you up with the game of your choice. Contact Bernice Turner for more information at bt-cansing@hotmail.com.

Temple Beth El Religious School Director Dale Cohen and VP of Education Vanessa Sax accompanied six of our high-school students in the URJ Religious Action Center L'Taken Seminar in Washington, D.C., February 9-12. L'Taken is a teen social justice extensive four-day educational lead-

ership program. Our students, Sarah Gatof, Evan Kagan, Brianna Murray, Jared Olitsky, Mackenzie Sax and Allison Traiger, made us proud. They had a wonderful opportunity for camaraderie, celebration of Shabbat and Havdalah with 500 Jewish teenagers from all over the United States, participation in interactive learning opportunities on policy issues (shuk programs), lobbying simulation, text study of Israel's declaration of independence, and advocacy preparation. In the seminars, students learned about becoming active and informed citizens. We visited the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, the Holocaust Memorial Museum, had dinner in Georgetown, visited the Jefferson Memorial, explored some Smithsonian museums and had dinner on Pentagon Row.

After about 35 hours of seminars, discussion and educational exercises under the supervision of an expert education staff, students went to Capitol

Hill and met with the office of their senators and representatives. The students, part of 30 Jewish teenagers from Florida, met with legislative correspondents at Senator Bill Nelson's office. Then our group met with an assistant from Rep. Francis Rooney's office. At each office, they were given the opportunity to speak about issues of importance to not only them, but the United States and Reform Judaism. Their passion was articulated with intensity and integrity, representing themselves as proud Jewish teenagers.

Temple Beth El honored these six high-schoolers at Shabbat services on March 2 as we shared with our congregation a video summary of the trip and presented the students with their L'Taken certificates of completion. L'Taken was an incredible opportunity for all which will not soon be forgotten.

TEMPLE JUDEA
Fort Myers**(239) 433-0201**
www.tjswfl.org

Temple Judea is hosting a second night Passover Seder on Saturday, March 31 at 6:30 p.m. in the social hall. Members and nonmembers are invited to attend this event which includes a traditional kosher Passover meal. Reservations are a must. Please call the synagogue office for information about the cost and to reserve a space.

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 back-

ground and all questions are encouraged. Everyone is welcome and there is no cost to attend. The next Torah study is Thursday, April 5.

Temple Judea follows the Israeli calendar for holidays, so Yizkor which is observed at the end of Passover, will be on Friday, April 6 during services which begin at 9:30 a.m. Services are open to the community.

PJ Library families will be at Temple Judea celebrating Lag B'Omer on Thursday, April 26. It is the last of a series of four holiday programs for families with children ages two through eight. Children will be playing games, doing arts and crafts, singing and reading stories. RSVP to Leni Sack at

the Jewish Federation at lenibsack@jfedlcc.org or 239.481.4449 x 3. There is no cost to attend.

In May 2019, Rabbi Sack will be leading a trip to Israel for people who have already been there two, three or more times. He will be taking the group to out-of-the-way places and exploring parts of Israel that aren't usually on the itinerary for first-time sightseers. Information about the trip is now available. Call Rabbi Sack for more information about this new adventure.

Our monthly volunteering at the Salvation Army's Meals with Compassion (formerly Sally's Café) continues. Volunteers are needed for Sundays, April 15 and 29. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Linda Idelson at lindaaidelson8@gmail.com.

A wine and cheese reception is

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

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.
- Lunctime Torah study with Rabbi Sack the first Thursday of each month.
- Morning minyan every Monday at 9:00 a.m.

SYNAGOGUES & ORGANIZATIONS

IN LEE & CHARLOTTE COUNTIES

TEMPLE BETH EL**REFORM**

16225 Winkler Road, Fort Myers, FL 33908
Rabbi Nicole Luna
E-mail: rabbiluna@templebethel.com
Temple educator: Dale Cohen, Ma.Ed., R.J.E
Preschool director: Jesyca Virnig
President: Ellis Rabinowitz
Phone: 433-0018 • Fax: 433-3235
Web site: www.templebethel.com
Shabbat services: 7:30 p.m. Friday; Torah study 9:00 a.m. Saturday; B'nai Mitzvah 10:30 a.m. Saturday
Religious School: 9:30 a.m.-noon Sunday
Hebrew School: 5:00-6:30 p.m. Wednesday
Judaica Gift Gallery
Affiliated: Union for Reform Judaism

TEMPLE BETH SHALOM**REFORM**

702 S.E. 24th Ave., Cape Coral, FL 33990
Rabbi Devora Buchen
President: Arnie Schwartz
Phone: 772-4555 • Fax: 772-4625
E-mail: office@templebethshalomcc.org
Web site: www.templebethshalomcc.org
Services: 7:30 p.m. Friday
Religious School: Thursday 4:00 - 6:30 p.m.
Torah study with Rabbi Buchen: Shabbat 10:30 a.m.
Organizations: Brotherhood, Sisterhood, Family Service (1st Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m.)

BAT YAM TEMPLE OF THE ISLANDS**REFORM**

Meets at Sanibel Congregational Church
2050 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel Island
Rabbi Stephen L. Fuchs
President: Alan Lessack
Phone: 239-579-0296 (Oct-Apr)
773-251-8862 (May-Sept)
Email: batyamsanibel@gmail.com
Cantor: Murray Simon
Web site: www.batyam.org
Services: 7:30 p.m. Friday (Nov-Apr)
7:00 p.m. Friday (May-Oct)
Adult Education:
Saturday, 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. (Nov-Apr)
Jewish Current Events: Saturday, 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. (Nov-Apr)
Write: P.O. Box 84, Sanibel, FL 33957
Affiliated: Union for Reform Judaism

TEMPLE SHALOM CHARLOTTE HARBOR AND THE GULF ISLANDS**REFORM**

23190 Utica Ave., P.O. Box 494675
Port Charlotte, FL 33949-4675
Rabbi Solomon Agin
President: Gary Wein
Phone: (941) 625-2116
E-mail: shalom06@netzero.com
Web site: templeshalomfl.com
Services: 7:30 p.m. Friday
Religious school: Sunday 10 a.m.
Beginning Hebrew: Tuesday 4:15 - 5:15 p.m.
Advanced Hebrew: Thursday 4:15 - 5:15 p.m.
Organizations: Sisterhood
Affiliated: Union for Reform Judaism

COMMUNITY FREE SYNAGOGUE**REFORM**

10868 Metro Parkway, South Fort Myers
(The Southwest Florida Masonic Center)
P.O. Box 07144, Fort Myers, FL 33919
Rabbi Bruce Diamond
(bdiamond5@comcast.net)
Coordinator: Natalie Fulton
Adult Educator: Jessica Evers
Phone: (239) 466-6671
E-mail: comfreesyn@gmail.com
Web site: www.fortmyerssynagogue.com
Community Sabbath eve dinner each Friday at 6:30 p.m.
Sabbath eve worship every Friday at 7:30 p.m.
Light breakfast and Torah study with the rabbi every Saturday morning from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

TEMPLE JUDEA**CONSERVATIVE**

14486 A&W Bulb Road, Fort Myers, FL 33908
Rabbi Marc Sack
E-mail: rabbim@tjswfl.org
President: Jennifer Manekin
Director of Congregational Learning: Elizabeth Singer
Preschool Director: Joann Goldman
templejudeapreschool@gmail.com
Phone: 433-0201 • Fax: 433-3371
E-mail: tjswfl@gmail.com
Web site: www.tjswfl.org
Services: 6:15 p.m. Friday and 9:30 a.m. Saturday Minyan: 9:00 a.m. Monday
Religious School: Sun. 9:30 a.m.-noon; Wed. 4:30-6 p.m.
Early childhood education:
Preschool, M-F, ages 18 months-5 years;
"Mommy & Me," 12 months-2 years
Affiliated: United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

CHABAD OF BONITA SPRINGS/ ESTERO**ORTHODOX**

24850 Old 41 Road, Suite 20 (in the Bernwood Centre)
Bonita Springs, FL 34135-7024
Rabbi Mendy Greenberg
Phone: 949-6900
Web site: www.JewishBonita.com
Services: Saturday at 10 a.m., followed by a kiddush

CHABAD OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY**ORTHODOX**

204 E Mckenzie St Unit B, Punta Gorda, FL 33950
Rabbi Simon Jacobson
Phone: (941) 833-3381
E-mail: chabadpg@yahoo.com
Web site: www.chabadofcharlottecounty.com
Services: Saturday at 10 a.m. followed by a kiddush
Torah study: Wednesday at 8 p.m.

CHABAD LUBAVITCH**OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA****ORTHODOX**

5620 Winkler Road
Fort Myers, FL 33919
Rabbi Yitzchok Minkowicz
Phone: 433-7708 • Fax: 481-9109
E-mail: rabbim@chabadswf.org
Web site: www.chabadswf.org
Services: Friday 5:15 p.m.; Saturday Kabbalah class 9 a.m.; Shacharit 10 a.m.; Kiddush at noon
Minyan: Monday & Thursday 7:00 a.m.

CHABAD JEWISH CENTER**OF CAPE CORAL****ORTHODOX**

1716 Cape Coral Pkwy, W., Cape Coral, FL 33914
Rabbi Yossi Labkowski
Phone: 963-4770
E-mail: info@chabadcape.com
Web site: www.chabadcape.com
Services: Friday Evening 7:30 p.m.
Saturday morning 9:30 a.m. followed by Kiddush luncheon
Sunday morning 8:00 a.m.
Monday-Friday morning 7:00 a.m.
JLI Courses: Monday evening at 7:00 p.m.
Weekly Torah Study: Tuesday evening 7:30 p.m.
Hebrew School: Sunday 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Jgirls: Tuesday 6:00-7:00 p.m.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

- Shalom Life Center
- Lawrence Dermer, Spiritual Leader - 218-3433
- AIPAC (American Israel Public Affairs Committee): Jacki Waksman - (954) 653-9053
- AJC (American Jewish Committee): Brian Lipton - (941) 365-4955
- Anti-Defamation League: (561) 988-2900
- B'Nai B'rith International: (941) 302-4500
- Chevra Kadisha: Gene Sipe - 841-4615
- Generations of the Shoah SWFL: 963-9347
- Hadassah - Collier/Lee Chapter: Lynn Weiner - 598-1009
- Hadassah - Sharon Chapter (Charlotte County): Odette Port - (941) 505-1409
- Hazak 55+ Chapter: Joyce Rosinger - 437-1566
- Humanistic Jewish Havurah: Paula Creed - 495-8484
- Israel Bonds: Regional Headquarters: (800) 622-8017
- Jewish Community Services: 481-4449
- Jewish National Fund: (727) 536-5263
- Memorial Tree Planting in Israel - 1-800-542-8733
- Jewish War Veterans: Post 400: Commander Harvey Charter - 246-3151
- Mikvah Bashka of Southwest Florida: Nechamie Minkowicz - 822-2784

BAT YAM TEMPLE OF THE ISLANDS

Sanibel

(773) 251-8862

www.batyam.org

The Purim celebration at Temple Bat Yam took place on March 2. Rabbi Stephen Fuchs and guest Cantor Pamela Siskin presented a dramatic retelling of the Book of Esther spiced by popular songs featuring special Purim lyrics written and sung by Tanya Hochschild, Kathy Zoss, Edina Lessack and Ben Yokel, joined by Rabbi Fuchs and Cantor Siskin. At the request of Rabbi Fuchs, groggers (noisemakers) were crafted and filled with coins and then donated to *zedakah*. It was a very rewarding evening.

The Bat Yam community Passover Seder is scheduled for Friday, March 30 with a wonderful blend of exegesis by Rabbi Stephen Fuchs, melody by Cantor Murray Simon, food, friends and family. The children will be kept busy

looking for the *afikomen*. The evening is possible due to the meticulous planning by Sue Danford and Annette Pacyga.

In between the two religious observances, Temple

Bat Yam sponsored two special programs. On March 11, the public received a singing history lesson from Cantor Murray Simon about famous cantors. On March 25, Marvin Kalb spoke about his experiences in the Soviet Union.

The Federation is sponsoring the annual Holocaust Memorial Service on Sunday, April 8 at Temple Beth Shalom in Cape Coral. For Jews, the phrase "Never Again" has been shorthand for an ongoing commitment to remembering the Holocaust. Students from the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School who survived the shooting carnage in February, have adopted the phrase "Never Again." One can only hope that the killing stops.

This year, Israel turns 70 years old or young, depending on one's perspec-

ive. Israeli Independence Day, Yom Ha'Atzmaut, is determined by the Hebrew calendar date of 5 Iyar, that is April 19 in 2018. It was May 14 in 1948. Plans in Israel include 70 hours of celebration with events for Israelis and visitors. There will be a torch-lighting ceremony, singing, folk dancing, fireworks, an all-night beach party and a parade of lights highlighting Israeli accomplishments and innovation.

Those members of Bat Yam who are in their 80s and 90s can remember the turmoil and the amazement at the creation of the State of Israel in 1948. With the British withdrawal from that territory, on May 14, 1948, David Ben-Gurion, then head of the Jewish Agency, proclaimed the establishment of the State of Israel. U.S. President Harry S. Truman recognized the new nation on the same day. Against tremendous odds, Israel prevailed militarily against the assault by the Arab League members. Having a home for the Jews of the world for the last 70 years in the land of Israel has been an incredible ac-

complishment. We need a vibrant and democratic Israel forever.

Until the end of April, Adult Education classes are 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. From 10:30 a.m., congregants offer presentations on varied interesting topics. Israeli current events begin at 11:30 a.m. In November, Adult Education will begin again.

Our snowbird congregants are leaving. The number of programs and events is lessening. Thanks to volunteer congregants, Friday evening Shabbat services will take place every week at 7:00 p.m., from May until Rabbi Fuchs returns for Rosh Hashanah.

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.

COMMUNITY FREE SYNAGOGUE

Fort Myers

(239) 466-6671

www.fortmyerssynagogue.com

The people of The Community Free Synagogue are saddened by the mid-February passing of Gary Kolko. Gary was a loving husband, engaged father, committed Jew and early, enthusiastic participant in our synagogue. Sincerest condolences are extended to his devoted wife, his daughters and their families.

Mazel Tov to Melinda and Bruce Diamond on their March 18 wedding in the synagogue. Mrs. Diamond runs The Pampered Soul Spa and Rabbi Diamond works with our congregation.

Heartfelt thanks to the many kitch-

en and set-up volunteers who are making our Community Free Passover Seder such a joyous and uplifting event. Thanks to them and underwriters Drs. David

Heligman and Alan Tannenbaum, our free five-course homemade Seder remains the largest Passover meal in Southwest Florida!

We relished the 180 delicious artisan hummentaschen Shelly and Jerry Gershune and their "holy roller" helpers baked on the Sunday before our gala Purim Eve Megillah reading. The apple pie, Nutella, strawberry and other creative scrumptious fillings made these definitely not your grandmother's holiday treats!

The C.F.S. Yom HaShoah Eve ob-

servance starts at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 11 in the Community Hall. Accompanying traditional memorial prayers and candle lighting, the touching Holocaust survivors' documentary *Aida's Secrets* will be screened. Please consult the article in this month's issue for details.

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 at 9:30 a.m., C.F.S. 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 13th year, The Commu-

nity Free Synagogue is an independent not-for-profit open community religious resource. All of its events and programs, including youth and adult Jewish education, are open to all and always free.

The purpose of The Community Free Synagogue is "Study, Worship and Benevolent Acts," generally following progressive Jewish traditions.

C.F.S.' founder and leader, Rabbi Bruce Diamond, D.D., is celebrating the 40th year since ordination at The Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, and his 21st year in Fort Myers.

The synagogue meets at the Southwest Florida Masonic Center, 10868 Metro Parkway in South Fort Myers. For more information visit its website at www.fortmyerssynagogue.com.

TEMPLE SHALOM

Charlotte Harbor & the Gulf Islands

(941) 625-2116

www.templeshalomfl.com

Temple Shalom's Congregational Community Seder will be held on Saturday, March 31 at 5:30 p.m. at the Kingsway Country Club. This Seder is open to nonmembers. Please call Odette Port at 941.505.1409 for additional information. The Seder is led by Rabbi Solomon Agin and attendees are called upon to participate.

The concluding service for Passover will take place Friday, April 6 at 7:30 p.m. as part of the Shabbat service. Yizkor will be included in the service.

The film *Above and Beyond* will be shown on Sunday, April 8 at 4:00 p.m. This is a film about the Israel Air Force.

Dr. Alan Solomon will lead Shabbat services on Friday, April 13 during Rabbi Agin's absence from the pulpit. Dr. David Katz will be assisting.

The Harry and Emmy Loeb Holo-

caust Community Remembrance Day Service will be held on Thursday, April 12 (Yom HaShoah) at 6:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church of Punta Gorda. This is the only Community Service for the entire county.

Temple Shalom will celebrate Israel's 70th anniversary on Saturday evening, April 21. This will be a great event with Middle Eastern food, klezmer music and dancing. The chairperson for this event is Judi Migdol and the donation is \$50. Open to all. Call the temple office at 941.625.2116 for more information.

The concluding session of Lunch

& Learn with the *Forward* will be held on Tuesday, April 24 from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. There is no charge for lunch as this is a funded program.

The Temple Shalom Congregational Meeting will be held on Thursday April 26 at 7:00 p.m. This meeting will give members a clear understanding of the direction that the temple took during the past year.

Temple Shalom is Charlotte County's only Reform congregation that serves all of the county, North Port and North Fort Myers. A Joyous Passover to you and your family filled with peace and good health.

CHABAD LUBAVITCH

Fort Myers

(239) 433-7708

www.chabadswf.org

Thursday March 29
Search for Chametz 8:08 P.M.

Friday March 30
Eat Chometz until 11:23 A.M.
Burn Chometz until 12:20 P.M.
Light Candles 7:25 P.M.

Evening Service 7:15 P.M.
First Seder 8:00 P.M.

Saturday March 31
Kabbalah Class 9:00 A.M.
Services 10:00 A.M.
Evening Service 7:15 P.M.
Second Seder 8:00 P.M.
Light Candles after 8:18 P.M.

Sunday April 1
Kabbalah Class 9:00 A.M.
Services 10:00 A.M.
Evening Service 7:15 P.M.
Yom Tov ends 8:19 P.M.

Thursday April 5
Evening Service 7:15 P.M.
Candle Lighting 7:28 P.M.

Friday April 6
Kabbalah Class 9:00 A.M.

Services 10:00 A.M.
Kiddush & Farbrengen 12:15 p.m.
Service 7:15 P.M.
Candle Lighting 7:29 P.M.

Saturday April 7

Kabbalah Class 9:00 A.M.
Service 10:00 A.M.
Kiddush 12:15 P.M.
Evening Service 7:15 P.M.
Shabbat & Yom Tov ends 8:22 P.M.

Friday April 13
Services 7:30 P.M.
Candle Lighting 7:32 P.M.

Saturday April 14
Kabbalah Class 9:00 A.M.
Services 10:00 A.M.
Kiddush & Farbrengen 12:15 P.M.
Evening Service 7:30 P.M.
Shabbat Ends 8:26 P.M.

You are cordially invited to join Chabad Lubavitch of SWFL for a Family Passover Seder at Chabad Lubavitch of SWFL, 5620 Winkler Road, Fort Myers, FL 33919. For reservations, please call 239.433.7708 or email rabbi@chabadswf.org.

Friday March 30
Mincha & Maariv @ 7:15 P.M.

First Seder @ 8:00 P.M.
Saturday March 31
Mincha & Maariv @ 7:15 P.M.
Second Seder @ 8:00 P.M.
Cost:
\$54 Per Person Per Night

\$36 Per Child Per Night (Ages 3 to 12)
Sponsor \$180
Double Chai Sponsor \$360
Elijah Sponsor \$540
Platinum Elijah Sponsor \$1,000

DELEGATION OF POWER FOR SALE OF CHAMETZ

I, the undersigned, fully empower and permit Rabbi Yitzchok Minkowicz to act in my place and stead, and on my behalf to sell all Chametz possessed by me, knowingly or unknowingly as defined by the Torah and Rabbinical Law (e.g. Chametz, possible Chametz, and all kinds of Chametz mixtures).

Also Chametz that tends to harden and adhere to inside surfaces of pans, pots or cooking utensils, the utensils themselves, and all kinds of live animals and pets that have been eating Chametz and mixtures thereof.

Rabbi Yitzchok Minkowicz is also empowered to lease all places wherein the Chametz owned by me may be found, particularly at the address/es listed below and elsewhere.

Rabbi Yitzchok Minkowicz has full right to appoint any agent or substitute in his stead and said substitute shall have full right to sell and lease as provided herein.

Rabbi Yitzchok Minkowicz also has the full power and right to act as he deems fit and proper in accordance with all the details of the Bill of Sale used in the transaction to sell all my Chametz, Chametz mixtures, etc., as provided herein.

This power is in conformity with all Torah, Rabbinical and civil laws.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Name: _____
Address/es: _____
City/ State/ Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

There is no need to live in **CONSTANT PAIN!**



Jonathan S. Daitch, MD

Providing leading edge treatment to relieve:

Sciatica
 Back Pain
 Neck Pain
 Neuralgia
 RSD/CRPS
 Cancer Pain
 Shingles Pain

Joint Arthritis
 Spinal Stenosis
 Herniated Discs
 Sacral Fractures
 Post-Surgical Pain
 Spinal Pain and Auto Injuries
 Vertebral Compression Fractures



Michael E. Frey, MD

Accepting New Patients!

239.437.8000

8255 College Parkway
Fort Myers, FL 33919



www.apmss.net

Michael E. Frey, MD Jonathan S. Daitch, MD