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## Executive Director's remarks at Federation's Annual Meeting

### FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

■ Alan Isaacs



would participate in the activities that we provide. I must say that the challenge that burdens me most is enticing those who don't participate.

**O**n May 9, the Jewish Federation held its Annual Meeting, generously hosted by Fine-Mark National Bank and Trust. It was an opportunity to share with the community the progress made in serving our community during the previous year and this year, and to honor Rozzi Osterman, an outgoing and former president and all-time Jewish community activist and leader.

As a follow up to Rozzi's remarks at the Annual Meeting published last month, the following is from my remarks that summarize the Federation's role in sustaining and building our community in the 2017-1018 cycle as well as my letter to Rozzi on that special occasion.

"...To bring some perspective to the significance of this year I'd like to highlight evidence of a vital Jewish community. When I arrived in our community, our president-elect, Brian Simon, and Keith Grossman, also now serving on our board, were arranging programs for the Young Adult Division. Tonight, Brian will, with your endorsement, become president of our

growth and health this year is the benefit of outright title to the Federation community building. We are therefore able to direct additional resources to programs and services. The building experienced more frequent use, including hosting organizations that needed assistance as a result of damage from Irma. I am proud to recall a Shabbat service that was held in our community room that brought several synagogues together to worship. It is a great example of the purpose for which the Federation exists.

While all of you are familiar with the programming and services that we provide, I'd like to reference a few that deserve special attention. Most recently we held our annual Holocaust Memorial Service, hosted this year by Temple Beth Shalom in Cape Coral. Film footage of interviews with local Holocaust survivors was edited by Rozzi Osterman into a moving tribute to those who survived and those who were murdered in the Holocaust. Fewer of our survivors are with us each year and their presence among us is an ever-rarer privilege.

Our Senior Outreach Program,

and professional leadership in charge of this project and I am confident that we will report about additional successes in the near future.

It is impossible to describe thriving Jewish Federation programs without highlighting the Jewish Film Festival. This event continues to provide a meaningful cultural experience as well as an enjoyable gathering space for our community. Friends are made and reunited around very Jewish themes



Rozzi Osterman presents departing board member and former president Charles Idelson with an award

– the movies. And what movies! The films are carefully selected by a well-qualified committee for a diverse and demanding audience whose consistent and increasing attendance number speaks for itself each year.

Israeli folk dancing is another consistent favorite among members of our community – some who travel a long distance each week to participate. It is a true Israeli cultural icon that has its ardent fans.

We have hosted authors, also in collaboration with other local arts and



Newly elected president Brian Simon

Federation with Keith continuing to serve on our board.

A refrain that we sometimes hear is that we need younger community members in positions of leadership, and that leadership doesn't change frequently enough and, without that, the community lacks vitality. Well, I can assure you that our community does not lack vitality.

Our leadership, on and off the board, long-serving and newfound, young and younger, is evidence that our community boasts individuals who are deeply concerned about and engaged in our community-building enterprise.

It is true, and I hear it all the time, that we wish more of our community



Alan Isaacs (at left) with Federation board members

run through Jewish Family Services, is growing in size with an increasing number of seniors participating in the monthly Lunch Bunch, and we are discussing the possibility of additional services to this constituency. We are optimistic that both volunteer and financial resources will be available for this expansion. We have excellent lay

culture organizations, delivered over 200 holiday gift bags to seniors three times this year, distributed children's Jewish-themed books through PJ Library, hosted a monthly Jewish genealogy club and weekly Mah Jongg. We held several fundraising dinners and celebrated the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of

*continued on page 2*



Federation's Senior Lunch Bunch update



Sabiche: a great Israeli sandwich – recipe by Dalia



10 breakthrough health techs emerging from Israel



Jewish War Veterans-Victor Paul Tuchman Post 400 update

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To strengthen and enrich the Jewish Community by providing and supporting philanthropic, educational and social service programs locally, in Israel and throughout the world.

OUR VISION

A Jewish Community that is based on Jewish values such as Tzedakah (benevolence), Tikkun Olam (repairing the world) and K'lal Yisrael (taking responsibility for one another).

L'CHAYIM

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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.

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AUGUST ISSUE  
EDITORIAL DEADLINE:  
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Program notes

Summer is the slowest time of the year for receiving donations to our food pantry, but the requests for food do not slow down. Some of our families have even more need for food during the summer because their children are out of school and not receiving free breakfasts and lunches.



Leni Sack

So when you do grocery shopping, please remember the food pantry and buy an extra can or box or two of a food pantry staple to donate, including canned meats, peanut butter and jelly, pasta sauce, cereal and canned fruits. Currently, we are well stocked with canned vegetables and pasta.

We also welcome items from your pantry that you may not be using, but please be sure the expiration date on the items have not passed and that the items are unopened.

Your donations are very much appreciated and help to make a difference in the life of many.

As I mentioned in my column last month, Car-

Alan Isaacs...continued from previous page 1

Israel's independence – among many other programs.

Finally, our Jewish Family Services division continues to make a substantial impact on individuals and families on a non-sectarian basis. We provide resources for food, shelter and the many other areas of essential need faced by the indigent. I am greatly comforted by the generosity shown by a growing number of individuals in our community directed at Jewish Family Services needs. The Marcia Can Help initiative, named for the late Marcia Cohen, has generated a good deal of response from the community.

I urge you to read L'CHAYIM each month and follow our email newsletters to keep up with everything that our community offers.

As you will see and hear later tonight we will acknowledge and honor several people, and one in particular, who have made a lasting and positive difference to our Federation and in our community.

We look forward to bringing innovative and exciting programs and meaningful services to our community in the coming year. We cannot do this without the reliable support of our volunteers, whom we thank, and the efforts of the superb Federation staff: Leni Sack, our program director; Lori Ramos, our administrator; Jodi Cohen, our senior outreach coordinator; and Ted Epstein, editor of L'CHAYIM." ▲



In the foreground are former co-presidents Rozzi Osterman and Brian Simon; Mindi Simon, who installed the new board; and board member and former president Barbara Siegel



Karen Fine, a new board member, and Sherri Zucker are installed



Jack Esformes, a new board member, Andi Horowitz and Sylvia Simko are installed

olyn Gora and I attended the Jewish Book Council Conference in New York City the end of May. We heard about some wonderful books coming out in the next year and are excited to bring some of the authors to our area. We already have plans to co-sponsor an author event again this year, with the Alliance for the Arts, and also will be co-sponsoring an author event with the Lee County Public Library. Details about these events and others will be coming in the next few months.

The first three films previewed by the film festival committee were well received, so we are off to a great start for the upcoming 2019 film fest. The committee is always open to suggestions for movies to preview. If you have heard of any, be sure to let us know.

Thank you to Temple Judea and Temple Beth El for co-sponsoring the Israeli Scouts Caravan with the Jewish Federation again this year. Those of you who attended the performance were treated to a lively musical show that showcased some of the best of Israel. It's an annual event we look forward to, and are grateful to all those who make it happen.

Continue to enjoy your summer. ▲

Wednesday, May 9, 2018  
2018 Annual Meeting  
Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties  
Dear Rozzi,

You and I stand here tonight after more than ten years working closely together toward one objective: a healthy and vital Jewish community. You can and should look with pride and pleasure at what you have achieved. You can and should listen with confidence to the accolades. You can and should enjoy the satisfaction of accomplishment. You can and should take note of the love and respect that is expressed and that you thoroughly deserve.

But ten years tell me that none of these well-earned tributes will make nearly the impression on you that they should. It's all in a day's work to you; no more that you should be doing. Concern for our community flows through you as naturally as going the extra distance to improve and perfect.

I, however, take pride and pleasure in what you have achieved. I listen confidently to the accolades you receive. I appreciate with satisfaction your accomplishments and express now to you the love and respect that you deserve - all on behalf of our community.

Chazak, chazak, v'nitchazek - Be strong, be strong, and we will be strengthened.

Alan



Rozzi Osterman presents departing board member and former president JoAnn Lewin with an award



Rozzi Osterman presents departing board member and former president Herb Fried with an award

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

# Senior Lunch Bunch update

By Jodi Cohen, Senior Outreach Coordinator

We returned to Temple Beth El for our May senior luncheon, and were welcomed so graciously by Rabbi Nicole Luna and the entire TBE staff. While there were a few new faces, there was the same warmth and welcoming atmosphere that is constant at our monthly gatherings. What's true is that we build community by showing up, by getting to know other people, and letting them get to know us. I delight in learning more and more about the people who attend the Senior Lunch Bunch each month: where they were born, where they grew up, their simchas, their hobbies and, yes, even their various health challenges. I asked one woman how her hand was doing and she said, "Oh, my hand is fine... now it's my foot!" To which I replied,

"Oh dear, let me update your chart immediately!"

Our delicious lunch was provided by our loyal community partner, Jason's Deli. The many volunteers who are essential to making these lunches a success were attentive and hardworking as always. There is such generosity of spirit in the room every single month.

After lunch, Rabbi Luna led a lively discussion where she invited people



Jodi Cohen



Above: Volunteers at the senior luncheon at Temple Beth El in May; Other photos: Participants at the luncheon

## NEXT SENIOR LUNCH BUNCH:

Thursday, July 19 at noon

Community Free Synagogue

10868 Metro Pkwy., Fort Myers

RSVP by Monday, July 16 to

Jodi Cohen at 239.481.4449 x6 or [jodicohen@jfedlcc.org](mailto:jodicohen@jfedlcc.org)

to share how they experienced God's love in their lives. The answers ranged far and wide, including from people who don't normally speak up in the large group. Then Rabbi Luna got more specific and asked people how they experienced God's love as a mother, father and companion. It was a privilege to listen to people share their thoughts and feelings at such a deep level.

The Senior Lunch Bunch is a free monthly gathering for seniors to come

together to make friends, be in community, eat lunch and learn something. The programs each month range from entertainment to discussions about upcoming holidays, to sharing personal stories on a range of topics. If you would like to attend a lunch, we'd love to have you. There is always a place at the table for you. If you need a ride, we have drivers. If you'd like to volunteer and help with lunch, please call Sherri Zucker at 239.980.5760.▲



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



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This year please consider making an additional campaign contribution in honor or 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 the community.

## TRIBUTES

In honor of Rozzi Osterman  
from Marsha & Mike Kistler

A generous donation to the Federation Annual Campaign was made by Rabbi Nicole Luna and Joe Bord in honor of the 35<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of Drs. Roberto and Rachelle Luna.

Each month, L'CHAYIM will list your Tributes. Please send them to Lori Ramos at the Federation at [loriramos@jfedlcc.org](mailto:loriramos@jfedlcc.org).

Stay in touch throughout the month. Sign up for the Federation's e-blasts.



Get the latest information on upcoming community events and cultural activities, breaking news items, updates from Israel and lots more.

Send an email to [lenibsack@jfedlcc.org](mailto:lenibsack@jfedlcc.org)

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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, visit our website at [JewishFederationLCC.org](http://JewishFederationLCC.org).

# Holocaust Museum & Cohen Education Center update

By Susan Suarez, President & CEO

As I attend community meetings around town, I am heartened by the positive comments I hear about our Museum and its Education programs.

People are aware of us for a variety of reasons – their child’s Museum Field Trip or participation in a program presented by Museum Educators at their school. Often, people note attending a Museum program or event, or taking a tour with family and friends.

Since 2001, our mission has been to educate students and Museum visitors about the dangers of indifference against the backdrop of the largest genocide ever to occur – the Holocaust. We’ve taught them to think about their own responsibility to end hatred in our society, and encouraged them to take action against bigotry, hatred and violence.

Our longstanding partners in this endeavor have been the teachers of Southwest Florida. In addition to offering student education programs and classroom resources for their schools, the Museum has also provided education workshops for the teachers themselves. These seminars aid teachers in fulfilling the State of Florida mandate requiring all school districts to incorporate Holocaust education for their K-12 classes.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Merrill Kuller Education Series, the Museum is again hosting its annual Summer Teacher Workshop. Three dates are offered this year to better fit into teachers’ busy schedules: Monday, June 11; Monday, July 23; and Wednesday, August 1. The day-long sessions run from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Over the years, the Summer Teacher Workshops have offered a variety of presentation topics on Holocaust history geared to engage teachers of students in grades K-12. In addition to the

specialized content, teachers receive a docent-led tour of the Museum and hear a first-person account of the Holocaust from a survivor or camp liberator. Workshops have also included presentations by area, regional, national and international scholars and experts on the Holocaust.

The 2018 Summer Workshop theme is *School for Barbarians - How to Raise a Nazi*. It examines how the Nazis used propaganda to indoctrinate German youth during WWII. The title borrows from the 1938 book by Erika Mann, *School for Barbarians: Education Under the Nazis*. Mann’s exposé depicted a real-time concern for the role of National Socialism and its core principles as they related to that day’s youth: destruction of the family and religion; control of teachers, school and curriculum; and inculcation into the State Youth Program. Unfortunately, Mann’s concerns were realized in the years that followed publication of *School for Barbarians*. The manipulation of German children by the state began at an early age in their homes and was continued by their teachers at school, as well as in youth group environments.

The workshop is free of charge to attend. All active teachers of grades 5-12 in Collier, Charlotte, Glades, Hendry, Lee and Sarasota counties are invited to attend. Workshop participants will earn Continuing Education Points; a meal and light refreshments will also be provided. If you know a public, private, religious or home-school teacher who might be interested in attending, please let them know about the workshop. They can contact Museum Education Specialist Sam Parish for more information at [sam@holocaustmuseumswfl.org](mailto:sam@holocaustmuseumswfl.org) or 239.263.9200.

As we go to press, the Museum was awarded a 2018 “Certificate of Excellence” from TripAdvisor, joining our 2018 repeat designation as “Best of the Gulfshore” from readers of *Gulfshore Life* magazine. Also, TripAdvisor has ranked the Museum as # 6 on its “Things to Do in Naples,” up from the

previous ranking of #11.

I invite you to visit our current exhibit, *I Witness*, featuring photographic portraits honoring the survivors, liberators and witnesses who have shared their stories with us in our Oral Visual History Project. Photographer Erik Kellar took these dramatic b&w portraits as part of the Museum’s 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Several of the portraits on display are accompanied by short

video compilations, created by Education Specialist David Nelson and taken from the Museum’s Oral Visual History Project testimonies. The exhibit will be on display through October 31, 2018.

On behalf of the Museum board, staff and volunteers, we wish you a safe and happy summer. We hope you will include a stop at the Museum in your plans!▲



■ Susan Suarez

TEMPLE JUDEA is looking for enthusiastic, dedicated morim and morot (religious school teachers) for our growing religious school. Grades 1- 8, training provided.

Email, [tjswfl@gmail.com](mailto:tjswfl@gmail.com) or call 239/433-0201 and ask for Leslie for more information.

**Conference for child survivors and their descendants to be held in Florida**

The World Federation of Jewish Child Survivors of the Holocaust & Descendants will hold its 30<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference of Child Survivors, Second and Third Generations, Spouses and Families in Cooperation with the Kindertransport, and Generations of the Shoah, in West Palm Beach this year. The 2018 conference will be held from Friday, November 9 to Monday, November 12. For conference information and registration, visit [www.holocaustchild.org](http://www.holocaustchild.org) or call Susan at 818.606.0793.

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**Religion & genocide speaker at FGCU Holocaust center**

On Thursday, August 30, the Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Genocide Studies at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) is proud to be hosting Dr. Steven Leonard Jacobs, the Aaron Aronov Endowed Professor of Judaic Studies at the University of Alabama.

Entitled "The Nexus Between Religion and Genocide," the event will take place at the Sugden Welcome Center between 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Dr. Jacobs notes that examining cases of genocide, both historically before and after World War II, and the present moment – Bosnia, Rwanda, Sudan – is always painful, but necessary nonetheless. One neglected area of consideration is the painful relationship between acts of genocide and the religious foundations of the various communities wherein these horrors have occurred. As he argues, if we are to make sense of

what has already transpired and commit ourselves to non-repetition, then this nexus, too, is worth our examination and conversation.

All FGCU students, faculty and staff are welcome to attend this important and timely presentation. Outside guests are especially invited to join with the FGCU community in discussing this central topic for our times. The event is free; no registration or RSVP is necessary. Those coming from outside should obtain a parking permit from the Welcome Kiosk at the University entrance off Ben Hill Griffin Parkway. The Sugden Welcome Center is adjacent to the Welcome Kiosk. FGCU is located at 10501 FGCU Blvd., Fort Myers.

For further details, please contact the Center Director, Dr. Paul Bartrop (pbartrop@fgcu.edu), or the Associate Director, Jessica Evers (jevers@fgcu.edu).▲

**Community Free Synagogue June 2019 Israel Pilgrimage**

The 6<sup>th</sup> biennial Community Free Synagogue Israel Pilgrimage will be in early June 2019 and includes nine nights superior first-class hotel reservations, nine breakfast buffets, a welcome dinner in Jaffa and farewell banquet in Abu Gosh, in addition to six other dinners on tour and even a Bedouin lunch after a camel ride near Avdat in the Negev!

Land services include 10 days of private touring with an English-speaking guide and private transporta-

tion on an air-conditioned coach. This travel adventure, led by Rabbi Bruce Diamond, is a lifetime opportunity for a moving and uplifting religious, cultural and historical tour of Israel.

This tour is limited to 26 people and will cost under \$3,000 per traveler (excluding airfare).

If you are interested and would like more information on schedule, costs, reservations and other details as they become available, please email Arnie Harris at arnieh@embarqmail.com.▲

**Have an item you'd like to share? Need to reach the editor of L'CHAYIM? Send an email to LChayim36@gmail.com.**

**SENIOR OUTREACH PROGRAM**

**LUNCH BUNCH**

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

**Thursday, July 19th**  
12:00 PM  
Community Free Synagogue  
10868 Metro Pkwy., Fort Myers  
(RSVP by July 16th)

**Thursday, August 16th**  
12:30 PM  
Brookdale—College Parkway  
8351 College Pkwy., Fort Myers  
(RSVP by August 10 - Space for only 40 people)

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




**YOU Can HELP**

**Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte Counties**

**Food Pantry Needs**

Following is a list of staples & non-perishable items always in need at the food pantry.

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- ✦ Pasta and Pasta sauce
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# Temple Beth Shalom honors Jewish War Veterans and sends off one of its own

The Jewish War Veterans came to Temple Beth Shalom on Friday, May 25 for a moving service to honor American veterans and remember those who lost their lives serving our country. At the same time, the

congregation honored Zachary Urban, a longtime member and recent high school graduate who left on Memorial Day to begin his military service.

The service started with the "Pledge of Allegiance." Harvey Charter read a moving piece written by the late Robert Kummins, and then the veterans took turns reading the names of Jewish soldiers killed in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Harvey ended by playing "Taps" while everyone stood. The TBS choir sang various military songs while veterans of each branch of the

Rabbi Devora Buchen honors Zachary Urban, longtime Temple Beth Shalom member who left on Memorial Day to begin his military service



military stood to be recognized. Finally, the entire congregation joined in singing "God Bless America" and "America the Beautiful."

Temple Beth Shalom has been hosting the Jewish War Veterans on Memorial Day for many years and it's just one of the many ways in which the congregation reaches out to the wider

community and works for the greater good. Guests and new members are always welcome and we hope that you will join us at services or in our many activities.

We are proud of Zachary and wish him lots of success in his military service. We look forward to welcoming him back and standing with the JWV. ▲



Harvey Charter plays "Taps"



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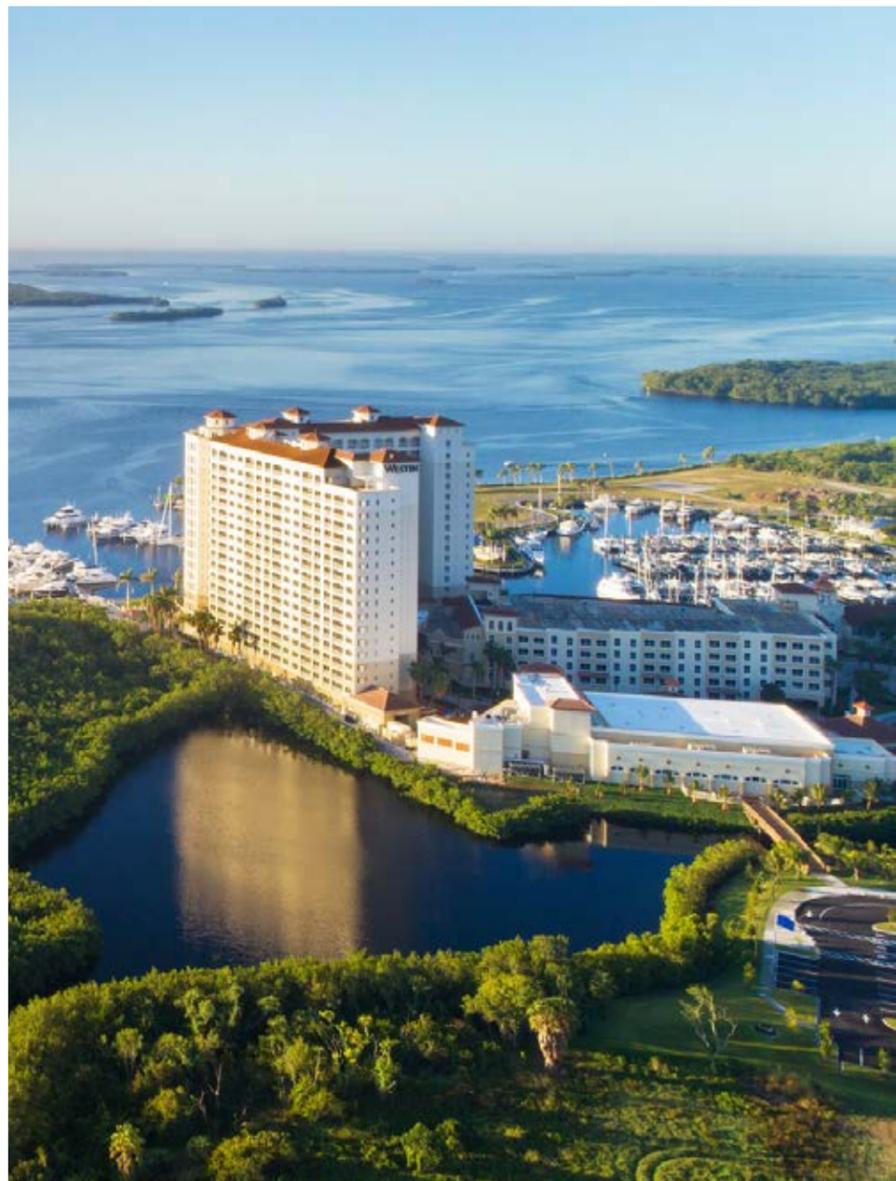
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## Community Free Synagogue events and programs

### "Brown Bag Movie Night"

The Community Free Synagogue's next entry in its very popular long-running "Brown Bag Movie Night" series is the English subtitled 1967 French classic *The Two of Us (Le Vieil Homme et L'enfant)* starring Michel Simon. The event takes place at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 19 in the Community Hall. Pack your dinner; admission and soft drinks are free.

From Rotten Tomatoes: "Simon plays a likeable old soak with one significant character flaw: he is a flagrant anti-Semite. During the Nazi occupation of Paris, 8-year-old Jewish lad Alain Cohen is sent to the country to live with the parents of his family's Catholic friends. One of those parents is, inevitably, Simon. Taking a liking to Alain, and unaware that the boy is Jewish, Simon attempts to introduce the lad to the doctrine of anti-Semitism. The boy plays along with the old man, teasing him about his prejudices. Despite their obvious philosophical differences, Simon and Alain form a

strong and affectionate bond. Director Claude Berri, whose films have often touched upon the Jewish experience in France, once more draws from his own experiences to weave a sensitive, serio-comic scenario."

### Summer Sabbath Eve dinners

Sabbath Eve dinners continue throughout the summer every Friday at 6:30 p.m. and are open all at no charge. These "kosher-style" meals begin with kindling the Sabbath lights, proclaiming its sanctity (*Qiddush*) with a cup of wine, the traditional blessing by parents of their children and by spouses of each other, sharing homemade artisan hallah, and end with the thanksgiving prayers, the *Birchat Hamazohn*.

Participants may bring a salad or a dish of their choosing as long as it is non-dairy and conforms to the Torah meat regulations. Wine is also always welcome!

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## BAT MITZVAH

Mazel Tov to Ashlie Clopein and Luba Grossman, who conducted worship and chanted from the Torah as *Bnot Mitsva* at the Community Free Synagogue on *Shabbat Naso*, May 25. Tutored by Rabbi Thomas Miess, Ashlie and Luba are graduates of his annual winter Intensive Prayerbook Hebrew Ulpan. *Yasher Koah!*



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](mailto:LChayim36@gmail.com). Photos are appreciated; please e-mail as JPGs at 300dpi.

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# 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.

### Summer Nights at the Movies

Opening Friday, June 29, is *Under the Silver Lake*, a mystery in the "film noir" style. Sam (**ANDREW GARFIELD**, 34) lives in the L.A. neighborhood called Silver Lake. Sam's life isn't going that well and things get really weird when he sees a young woman frolicking in his apartment's swimming pool. She mysteriously disappears and Sam goes on a quest across L.A. to find out what happened to her. Like in the 1940s "noirs," he has to plumb the depths of scandal and conspiracy. The supporting cast includes **ZOSIA MAMET**, 30 (*Girls*), the daughter of famous playwright **DAVID MAMET**, 70. Garfield just won the Tony for lead actor in a play (*Angels in America*) and got a best actor Oscar nomination for *Hacksaw Ridge* (2017).

Much lighter is *Ant-Man and the Wasp*. It features Marvel heroes with the incredible ability to shrink. **PAUL RUDD**, 49, who starred in the 2015 film *Ant-Man*, reprises that title role in this film. Evangeline Lily, who had a co-starring role as the Wasp in the 2015 film, returns for the sequel. The plot has Ant-Man (AKA Scott Lang) torn between his new role as a husband and father and the call of duty when the Wasp says she really, really needs his help. (Opens Friday, July 6)

### Heads-Up on Light Summer Fare

Comedian **HOWIE MANDEL**, 63, hosts the new Nat Geo Wild series *Animal Doing Things* (Saturdays at 9:00 p.m.; began June 16). The show features the best, never-before-seen animal videos submitted to the popular Instagram

account @AnimalsDoingThings. Each video is hosted by Mandel, who provides funny narration and witty commentary before and/or after the videos.

### Food and Hedy

**ANTHONY BOURDAIN**, hands down, was the best host of a travel and cooking show. (Bourdain was the always-secular son of a Jewish mother and a non-Jewish father.) However, **PHIL ROSENTHAL**'s Netflix series, *Somebody Feed Phil*, is at least in the same league as Bourdain's shows. It is a witty and interesting look at the cultures and food of the worldwide places Rosenthal visits. The show's complete second season starts streaming on Friday, July 6.

Rosenthal, 58, was the co-creator of the mega-hit *Everybody Loves Raymond*. He has been married since 1990 to **MONICA HORAN**, 55, who played Amy, the wife of Raymond's policeman brother in *Raymond*.

Now streaming on Netflix is *Bombshell*, a documentary about the life of actress and inventor **HEDY LAMARR** (1914-2000). The film had a limited theatrical opening last year. Few persons under 50 have even heard of Lamarr, but in her heyday, circa 1940, she was a big Hollywood star and was widely considered the most beautiful actress alive. In the last 25 years, another side of the actress has become known – her talent for invention.

Lamarr, the child of affluent, assimilated Viennese Jews, led an extraordinary, improbable life, and that alone makes this well-crafted film worth your time. Via interviews with her three children, and many others (including

# 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.**

**MEL BROOKS**, 91), a full portrait of Lamarr emerges. But, be warned, it isn't a happy story.

Early on, Lamarr was interested in science, but that wasn't, then, a viable career path for women. Her beauty led her into an acting career in European films and, later, in Hollywood pics. She sometimes had great courage. On the other hand, she cast off things that were "inconvenient," like her Jewish background, her one adopted child and her five husbands. Much time is spent on her most famous invention: a way to make radio-controlled torpedoes invulnerable to "jamming" by Nazi subs. The Navy didn't use the invention during WWII, but later, her "frequency hopping" idea became the basis for the way cell-phone

calls, Wi-Fi and GPS are transmitted.

### Probably Final Thoughts on Roseanne Barr

In May, half my column was devoted to **ROSEANNE BARR**, 65. Readers might recall I said that she suffered from a personality disorder and I recounted how she swung from being virulently anti-Israel from 2009-2012 to being pro-Israel a few years later. A big problem, I said, was her use of Twitter to attack liberals and Muslims in vile personal terms, and her re-tweeting of crackpot conspiracy theories. While I didn't use the term "loose cannon," it was the subtext of my piece. So I wasn't shocked when she self-destructed in May because she tweeted something so racist that it couldn't be ignored or explained away.▲

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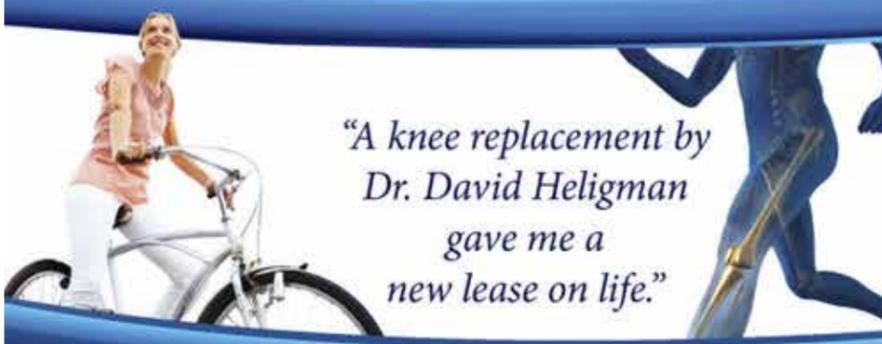
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# Failing to understand failure: The Evian Conference of 1938

By Paul R. Bartrop, PhD

Between July 6 and July 15, 1938 – 80 years ago this month – delegates from 32 countries met in Evian, France, to discuss what the options were for accepting refugees from Nazi Germany. Those present were there at the invitation of U.S. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

The unspoken assumption on the agenda was that the refugees in question were Jews, and they were not officially mentioned by name at the conference. Roosevelt's invitation emphasized that the countries attending were not expected to depart from their existing immigration regulations.

When the meeting's final recommendations were made, no definite action on behalf of the refugees was proposed – only that the deliberations should continue and that a subsequent meeting should take place in London.

Only an exchange of information took place at Evian. Contrary to what has become post-Holocaust popular wisdom, the delegates did not meet to open doors for refugee Jews, or force certain countries to ease their restrictions, or save Jews from the Holocaust. In 1938 there was no Holocaust from which Jews needed saving... yet.

Roosevelt's initiative in calling the meeting was not intended to compromise the existing policy of any country. A careful analysis of his invitation revealed that no specific ethnic, political or religious group should be identified with the refugee problem or the calling of the conference, and no country would be required to amend its current

immigration laws to accommodate the refugees.

The conference was dominated by three men: Myron Taylor from the United States, Edward Turnour (Lord Winterton) from Britain, and Henry Bérenger from France. Each stated that their country was not prepared to do anything that would expand Jewish refugee immigration. The United States would not commit to any expansion of its immigration quotas (which included refugees), only a merging of the existing German and Austrian allocations. Britain said it would not attend if there was any mention of Palestine or the colonial Empire, and the French argued that since 1918 France had taken in more "aliens" than any other European country and was now "saturated."

This gave a lead to all the other countries, as they, too, lined up to make their presentations.

The Europeans expressed hesitation over the possibility of supplanting the League of Nations High Commission on Refugees; hoped that the United States and other countries outside Europe would accept a greater share of the burden; and stated that they would only accept refugees for temporary asylum in a short-term transit capacity.

The largest group of states, the countries of Latin America, recognized that the refugee crisis was a humanitarian disaster, but expressed a preference for farmers over "urban-dwelling professionals and intellectuals." They held, moreover, that the U.S. and the European nations should pick up the slack in solving the refugee issue.

The self-governing British Dominions informed the conference that they had no interest in resolving the refugee problem. Canada only wanted farmers;

New Zealand did not want foreigners; South Africa, though invited, did not attend; Ireland, which had not been invited but went anyway, declared that it was not an immigrant-receiving country; and the Australian position, expressed by the Minister for Trade and Customs, Sir Thomas White, was that "as we have no real racial problems, we are not desirous of importing one by encouraging any scheme of large-scale foreign migration."

While many spoke of a "refugee crisis," the various nations formed policies in accordance with their existing priorities. Every country in the world formulated and administered an immigration policy – not a rescue-from-the-Holocaust policy. No one holding senior office during the 1930s, in any major state, envisaged the Holocaust that would emerge within eighteen months of the outbreak of war.

One final, key question needs to be asked: Would the Evian Conference have made a difference to the events that would follow? The best answer is only... perhaps. Evian *could* have acted as an occasion for caring administrations to voluntarily announce that they would agree to an increase in their refugee or immigration intakes. However, questions of *realpolitik*, racial and population preferences, anti-Semitism, economic priorities and other factors led to a collective rejection of any liberalization in favor of Nazi Germany's unwanted Jews. No other outcome was ever likely at this meeting, and the

hopes of many were consequently both misplaced and unrealizable.

It is therefore inaccurate to refer to Evian, as many have done, as a "failed" conference. After all, it lived up to the terms of Roosevelt's original invitation, with delegate after delegate lining up to say that their country was doing much for the refugees while at the same time demonstrating that they could do no more and were not prepared to try. The immediate results of the conference amounted to nothing of any lasting worth, which was exactly what was anticipated. The assembled countries used the opportunity presented to look good, but the refugees got nothing for it.

It is perhaps no coincidence that the word Evian, when spelled backwards reads "naïve." For that is precisely what the conference was: a cynical attempt to deflect attention from otherwise unhelpful policies globally. If there was any failure, it was a failure of imagination – not only on the part of the countries attending, but also of those hoping that some other outcome would be possible.

The years that followed Evian should have broadened humanity's horizons, and how far that rings true today is for another generation to judge. But, considering Evian, they will have a template upon which to rest their considerations.▲

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



■ Dr. Paul Bartrop

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# The Israeli-Palestinian conflict comes to life in a devastating tale of friendship and tragedy

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

*Sadness Is a White Bird: A Novel*, by Moriel Rothman-Zecher. Atria Books. 288 pages. Hardcover \$26.00.

Searing in its beauty, devastating in its emotional power, and dazzling in its insights, Rothman-Zecher's first novel is, I promise you, like nothing you've ever read. If I'm wrong, you've been luckier than I have. His particular vision of today's Israel, told through the convention of a coming-of-age story, will break your heart.

Has this author named himself, or has he grown into his name? After the hyphen, the name translates (from Hebrew) into "memory." The first name into something like "God is my teacher." There is something in a name.

The book's protagonist and narrator, Jonathan, has returned to Israel in his late teens. He looks forward to joining the Israel Defense Forces, in part to honor his freedom-fighter grandfather. His life undergoes a radical change after he meets and becomes intimate with Laith and Nimreen – a dynamic Arab-Israeli brother and sister, twins with whom he shares his deepest thoughts. The three are inseparable. Their closeness offers a hint of hope for the remaking of Jewish-Arab relationships. Indeed, for the remaking of Israel, almost by osmosis, as a peaceful, co-national state.

Can you love and admire people so deeply that barriers of difference can be

overcome? Will the world you live in allow this to happen?

The closer Jonathan comes to his induction date, the more his various strands of identity are stressed. How can he become a soldier who will be at war with his dear friends' people? How can he become an agent in their disgrace and humiliation? For all of their ease with the Israeli brand of western culture, Laith and Nimreen are, at a deep level, strangers. This is true even though they are the children of Jonathan's mother's friend.

The story, told by Jonathan, is presented as if he is addressing Laith. Sometimes it seems as if he is rehearsing or imagining the conversation; at other times, it seems as if it is happening. Sometimes it's as if he's addressing a person who is dead. There is almost nothing of Laith responding, yet there are other scenes in which these friends are engaged in three-way conversations that are amazingly revealing.

Jonathan waivers somewhat before fully committing to his required military duty. And he waivers again when pressed into putting down a potentially dangerous demonstration. In the aftermath of the skirmish, Jonathan is imprisoned by his superiors.

The novel sings out in the distinctive voices of Rothman-Zecher's characters, in their almost palpable presence, and in their hopes and hesitations. The authenticity of the voices is especially

strong in the scenes populated by Jonathan's friends, all serving in, or inevitably bound for the IDF.

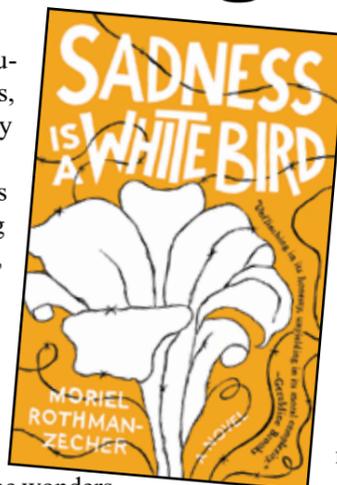
Rothman-Zecher shows great skill in portraying different neighborhoods, not only in terms of physical characteristics but also through capturing the cultural and atmospheric dimensions. As an author/narrator, he always seems to be on familiar ground. One wonders to what degree the novel is rooted in direct, if transformed, experience.

The growing and finally overwhelming sense of sadness that haunts the novel grows out of the ecstasy of expectations. Jonathan and Nimreen are lovers whose circumstances thwart a fruition. Readers will wonder what hope there is for the productive sharing of Palestine/Israel. As young as they are, Jonathan and his dear friends carry the baggage of difference. It weighs them down. It might weigh all of Israel down forever.

If the title had not already been taken by Daniel Gordis's *If a Place Can Make You Cry* (2002), Moriel Rothman-Zecher's novel could well be thought of in terms of that forlorn phrase.

One is left hoping for miracles. Is one out there?

Jonathan met Laith and Nimreen in the last years of high school. What if



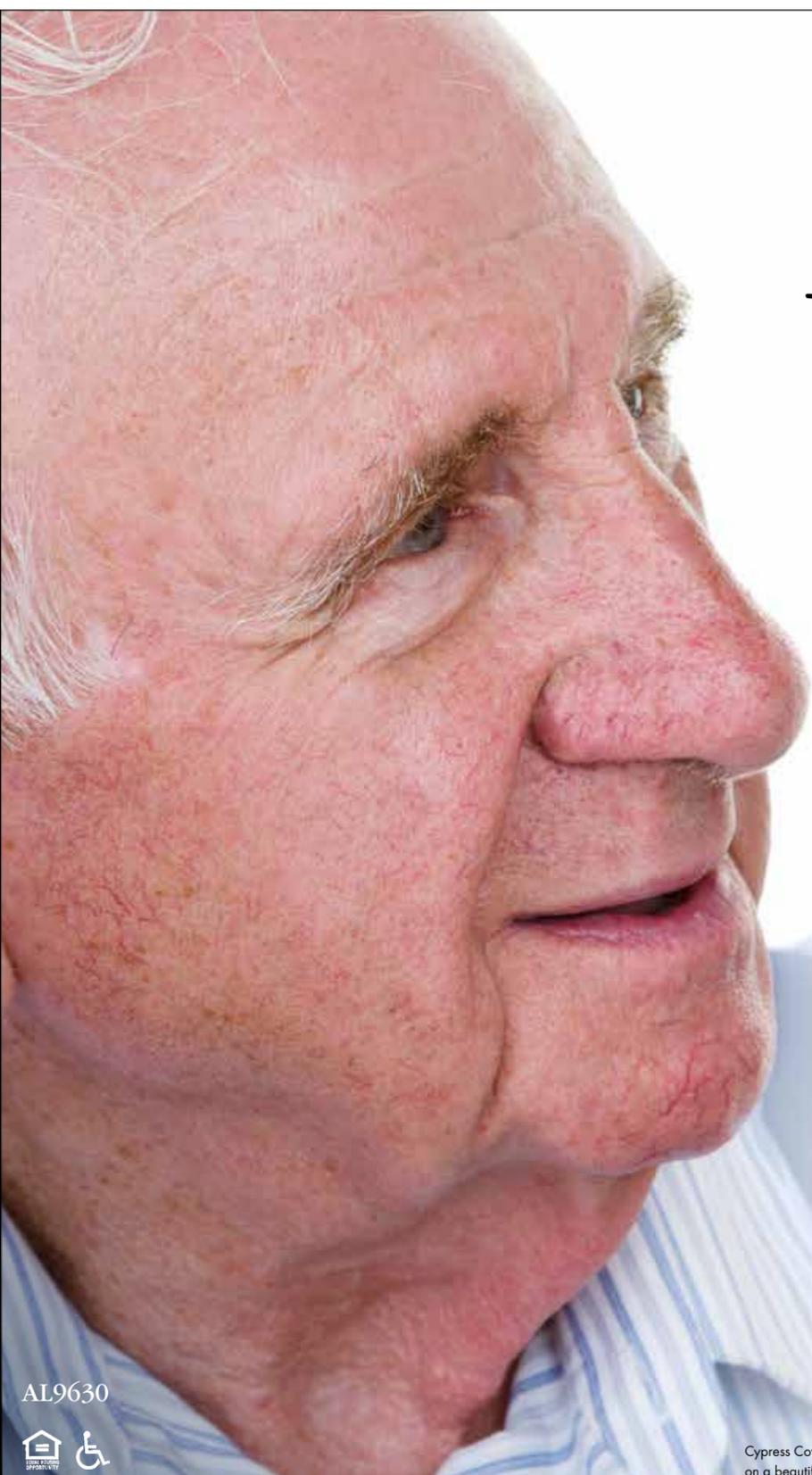
they had met much earlier? What if they, and other Israeli Arab and Jewish children, had gone through school together from the beginning, sharing the process of growing up? What if school with such an integrated population became the focal point of communities?

Such an effort, begun in 1998, is well on its way to changing the educational and cultural landscape. It is called Hand in Hand. The Center for Jewish-Arab Education in Israel is not a miracle. It is hard work. But it offers a situation in which "Jewish and Arab children attend school together on a daily basis, learning each other's language, sharing stories, facing and overcoming differences, growing up together" with committed parents fighting to get past the distrust and fear that dooms other initiatives.

Perhaps the tragic vision of *Sadness Is a White Bird*, intentionally or not, points in that direction. Meanwhile, I have only praise for this poetic, distressingly original book. ▲  
*This review first appeared in the Washington Independent Review of Books and is reprinted by permission. 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.*



Moriel Rothman-Zecher (credit Joanna Eldredge Morrissey)



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## Let's talk tannin

By The Wine Whisperer

When you come right down to it, wine is a highly complex soup of juices and naturally-occurring chemicals created by fermentation, which is itself hysterically complicated. In fact, I've been told that chemists don't fully understand exactly how fermentation works even to this day.

But when we talk about red wine, the tannin topic is always right up front. It occurs everywhere in nature: tree bark, wood, leaves...and the skins of fruit. In wine, it contributes a quality called astringency, which creates a dry, chalky feeling in the mouth, and a kind of bitterness in the middle of your tongue.

If you want to discover what tannin really feels like (and it's a feeling, not a flavor) put a used wet teabag in your mouth.

As W.C. Fields once remarked, "It feels like the Russian army marched through my mouth in stocking feet." Depending on how "dry" a wine feels on your palate, you can determine

whether it has a high or low level of tannin.

Now all this sounds awful, but tannin is a major structural component of red wine, and is one of the ingredients that helps a good wine age and develop. The level of tannin in wine, whether strong or weak, depends on how the wine is made. If the juice sits on the skins for a long time, more tannin will be extracted and the levels will be higher, and so will the overall complexity of the wine.

Tannins are also a natural antioxidant so they can help preserve and protect the wine. This explains why wines like Cabernet Sauvignon and Shiraz can age for long periods. And as we all know, antioxidants have sensational health benefits, so go ahead and enjoy that second glass.

The word "tannin" is actually quite ancient. Plant extracts are used to cure and process leather, which is why it's called "tanning." They turn soft leather into something that's hard and durable enough to make belts and shoes out of.

It's important to understand the role of tannins in the structure and enjoyment of wine. First, higher levels mean we can "lay down" the wine and age it, coming back for more enjoy-

ment a few years later. Second, knowing which foods are high in tannin lets us put together some interesting and complementary combinations. For example, walnuts are extremely tannic, which is why you get that "Russian army" dry feeling in your mouth when you eat them. But pair a glass of big red wine with a dish like steak with gorgonzola walnut butter, and get ready for some heavenly sensations.

So how do winemakers control tannins? Some grapes are naturally more tannic than others, making selection important. So is deciding when to harvest. Then, there's the judgment of how long to leave the juice on the skins, and the decision whether to de-stem the bunches before crushing them. Stems have high concentrations of tannins, too.

Some winemakers use a process called microoxygenation, which pumps air through the wine to "soften" tannins and create a more pleasant mouthfeel. The list goes on.

I've read lengthy essays about how tannins contribute to the structure and "mouthfeel" of wines. We talked a bit about astringency and bitterness above, and these are major characteristics which, in proper balance with alcohol,

acidity, fruit sugars and other ingredients, turn grape juice into the beverage we all know and love.

Still with me? Good. Here are some new recommendations for your enjoyment:

**Besieged Red Blend Sonoma 2014 (\$12)** The Ravenswood winery in Sonoma is a pioneer of Zinfandel, and this red blend shows they do other things well, too. A mélange of Petite Sirah, Carignane, Zinfandel, Syrah, Alicante Bouschet and Barbera, it's concentrated and purple-black in the glass. There are extracted flavors of sweet black mixed fruit, smoke and currant. WW 86-87

**Frank Family Chardonnay Carneros 2015 (\$40)** A stunner. This wine contains all the right flavors, and plenty of them. Oak, melon, minerality, butter, hay, vanilla and juicy tropical fruit...all perfectly balanced. A favorite, and well worth the price. WW 95.▲  
*Jerry Greenfield is The Wine Whisperer. He is Creative Director of Greenfield Advertising Group, and Wine Director of the international Direct Cellars wine club. His book, Secrets of the Wine Whisperer, is available through his website. Read his other writings at www.winewhisperer.com.*

## Sabiche: One of the world's great Israeli sandwiches – recipe by Dalia Hemed

We are continuing our visit to the beautiful country of Israel for the "70 Years of History Through Food Journey." Israeli cuisine includes local dishes by native Israelis as well as the Jewish dishes brought in by Jews from the Diaspora. One of the most popular Israeli dishes, Malabi (milk pudding) was my first pick. My selection for this month's recipe is this mouth-watering Sabiche sandwich. Oh, Sabiche.

While hummus, falafel and even shawarma are known around the globe, the ultimate Israeli street food – Sabiche – remains one of the country's best-kept secrets. It is a pita stuffed with fried eggplant, hard-boiled eggs (traditionally haminados, which are the brown eggs from Sephardic-style cholent), hummus, tahini and vegetable salad, while some versions contain boiled potatoes as well. Pickled cucumbers, chopped parsley, and onions seasoned with purple sumac are

usually added, as well as a Yemenite hot sauce called schug, and amba – a thick yellow sauce containing pickled mangoes, fenugreek and turmeric. The Sabiche sandwich is usually eaten for



breakfast, but makes a delicious lunch or dinner, too.

As opposed to hummus or falafel

– Arabic dishes adopted by Israelis and exported around the world – Sabiche is a local concoction. The core ingredients can be found in the traditional Shabbat breakfast of Iraqi Jews, but the idea of putting them into a pita and eating them as a sandwich is 100 percent Israeli. This shouldn't be surprising, since Israelis consume everything in a pita, from schnitzel to Nutella.

Today, Sabiche is popular all over Israel, although it's more widespread in the Tel Aviv area, especially in Ramat Gan and Givatayim, to the east of the city. In recent years, Sabiche has become so popular that some local gourmet chefs have created their personal upscale version of it, and many cafés in Tel Aviv serve a Sabiche-inspired sandwich, placing the eggplant and egg inside whole wheat or rye bread.

It's a very simple recipe.

Okay, I said simple and have a laundry list of components to put together. But these take just a little bit of chopping and tossing, so even though there are quite a few ingredients needed for the recipe, they are probably in your pantry already.

This is a very filling and absolutely delicious sandwich. All the ingredients and condiments work together and there is an explosion of flavor in every bite. You will need quite a few napkins to keep the sauce from dripping down your chin, but that is the fun of enjoying this dish.

So here we go – my version of Sabiche!

### Ingredients:

(Please note that the only thing that requires some kind of preparation is the eggplant. The rest can be cut and made quickly on the spot. One eggplant is enough for four people. I usually make more.)

- Pita pocket
- Roasted eggplant – original Sabiche is with fried eggplant, but frying does not really take place in my kitchen so I just wash the eggplant, cut the tips, slice it, brush it with



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

olive oil, add some salt and roast it for 30-40 minutes on 400f

- Sliced pickled cucumbers
- Sliced onion with sumac – sumac is a lovely garnish spice that is being used a lot in the Israeli kitchen
- Fresh parsley leaves
- Tahini – the staple of the vegan Israeli kitchen (store-bought or you can make your own)
- amba – mango pickle (mango chutney)
- Israeli salad – finely diced tomatoes, cucumber and onion with olive oil, lemon, salt and pepper
- Hummus

### Other optional ingredients:

- Cooked potato
- Spicy sauce – Schug – originally from Yemen – if you like it hot and have no Schug you can use Sriracha
- Roasted peppers

And now all you need is to fill your pita/bread in any order you wish. Just load what you love, as much as you love, enjoy every bite, and no worries if it leaks and drips all over!▲

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



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# 10 breakthrough health techs emerging from Israel

ISRAEL21c takes a look at some of the brightest and best new health startups on show at the recent MIXiii-Biomed conference.

By Nicky Blackburn,, israel21c.org, May 22, 2018

If there's one conference every year that is guaranteed to highlight fascinating new health innovations, it's Israel's MIXiii-Biomed, held last week in Tel Aviv.

This annual three-day life-science and biomed conference has been running for 17 years and attracts around 6,000 healthcare professionals, investors, engineers and scientists, including more than 1,000 attendees from over 45 countries, who come to learn about the newest developments in biotech, digital health and medical devices emerging from Israel.

The event at the David InterContinental Hotel featured an exhibition sponsored by the Israel Innovation Authority (IIA) showcasing 45 startups developing healthcare products in anything from medical devices to nanotech, biomed and drug-delivery systems.

For the second year in a row, 10 of the companies taking part in this exhibition were invited to enter the IIA's Biomed Startup of the Year competition.

Finalists were chosen by a panel including Ami Appelbaum, chairman of the IIA and chief scientist of the

Israel's life-science industry. The winning companies exemplify differentiated technology and solid global strategy, serving as a beacon of excellence for the well-being of humanity."

Here we take a more in-depth look at the 10 Israeli startups chosen as the best of the year.

## CorNeat Vision

CorNeat Vision was one of the joint winners of the startup competition at Biomed, and for good reason – the technology is just so cool. The company is developing an artificial cornea implant, the CorNeat KPro, which could offer a remedy to millions of people suffering from diseases of the cornea.

The early-stage technology is a patented synthetic cornea that uses advanced cell technology to integrate artificial optics within resident ocular tissue. It can be transplanted in a simple 30-minute surgery, according to the company. Ra'anana-based CorNeat plans to move to human implantations sometime this year, and to begin clinical trials in the U.S.

According to the World Health Organization, diseases of the cornea are

With just a tiny drop of blood, PixCell's HemoScreen can analyze 20 standard CBC parameters, including red blood cells and five different white blood cell types, and identify anomalous cells and hemoglobin levels, in just five minutes.

HemoScreen relies on a new microfluidics technology that causes cells to migrate to the center of flow and perfectly align into a single layer. Identification and classification of the cells is achieved using machine-learning and machine-vision algorithms superior to present methods.

## SpacePharma

Swiss-Israeli SpacePharma will democratize the process of doing experiments in space, according to Guy Samburski, the company's head of chemical and pharmaceutical technologies.

"NASA has made huge efforts to enable commercial companies to carry out experiments in space, but it's too slow and expensive. SpacePharma makes the same science available to everyone – universities, pharma companies – at a much, much cheaper price," he tells ISRAEL21c.

Experimenting in microgravity is an essential tool for many pharma and research companies today. Taking gravity out of the equation simplifies the physics and removes many obstacles to bacteria growth and stem-cell research. Already companies like Merck, Procter & Gamble and Eli Lilly have conducted tests on the International Space Station

## NovaSight

Two-and-a-half-year-old NovaSight has developed a technology based on eye-tracking to help children with vision



NovaSight helps diagnose and treat vision problems in children (photo courtesy NovaSight)

disorders. The company's first product is a system called EyeSwift, which it claims can revolutionize diagnosis of strabismus – a misalignment of the eyes, CI (Convergence Insufficiency) and reading disorders.

Strabismus is treated by corrective surgery, but its success is dependent on the accuracy of the misalignment measurement – until now a laborious, inaccurate, manual process that has not changed for decades.

EyeSwift uses eye-tracking technology as well as self-designed active glasses to diagnose visual disorders quickly and reliably while patients watch a short animated video. The system has already received CE approval.

NovaSight, which is based in Airport City in Israel, has also developed another product called CureSight to treat amblyopia (lazy eye) and CI.

"When you have lazy eye the gold standard treatment is a patch covering the good eye," Liran Adlin, the company's marketing manager, tells ISRAEL21c. "This can be a great source of embarrassment for children, however, and there's only about 50% compliance, which isn't good. "With our device, children can instead watch videos while we process the content in real time recording the momentary

direction of the eyes, two or three times a week, and this trains the eye."

## Neurosteer

Herzliya startup Neurosteer has developed a small wearable sensor for monitoring brain activity in people with neurological disorders, and providing high-quality neurological data.

The sticker-sized sensor can be used for a wide range of medical, wellness and lifestyle applications, and combines advanced neuroscience and proprietary machine learning to capture brain activity, interpret brain dynamics, and detect emotions, neurological states, engagement, attention and intent in real time.

The sensor can be used in the hospital, in rehab and at home. It can also be used to monitor patients undergoing psychiatric clinical trials.

## Alpha Tau Medical

Alpha particles are considered a powerful tool against cancer because they can damage the DNA of a tumor cell regardless of the level of oxygenation or the

*continued on next page*



The Startup Pavilion at MIXiii Biomed (photo by Alexander Elman)

Israel Ministry of Economy and Industry; Anya Eldan, vice president of the IIA's startup division; and Karin Mayer Rubinstein, CEO and President of Israel Advanced Technology Industries (IATI).

The winners, announced on Thursday last week, were CorNeat Vision, which has developed an artificial cornea; and PixCell Medical, which is developing a bedside blood-count device.

"The 10 companies that participated were a remarkable variety of what the Israeli life-science industry has to offer," said Appelbaum.

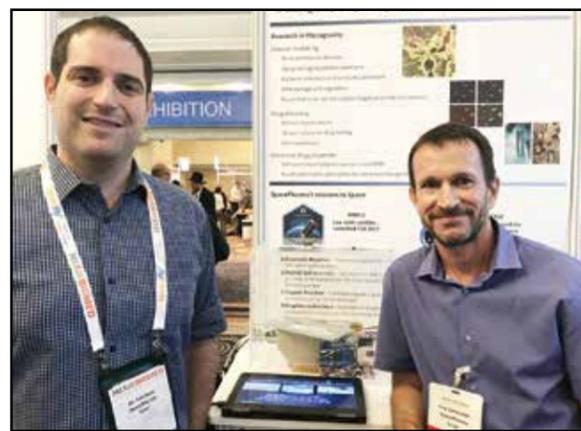
"They all presented impressive innovative technologies, and choosing the best one was not an easy task. From cellular biology to space technology, we were presented with the best startups in

the second leading cause of blindness worldwide, second only to cataracts. As many as 30 million people are affected, with around two million new cases each year.

"Unlike previous devices, which attempt to integrate optics into the native cornea, CorNeat's implant leverages a virtual space under the conjunctiva that is rich with fibroblast cells, heals quickly and provides robust long-term integration," said CorNeat CEO and VP R&D Almog Aley-Raz.

## PixCell Medical

PixCell Medical is the second winner of this year's Biomed startup competition. The company is developing a breakthrough low-cost portable hematology analyzer that performs a complete blood count (CBC) at the point of care.



Dr. Yair Glick and Guy Samburski from Swiss-Israeli company SpacePharma at MIXiii-Biomed (photo by Nicky Blackburn)

over the last decade. However, these experiments are hugely expensive and have to be extremely well vetted because they need to be carried out by the astronauts themselves.

SpacePharma creates minilabs that can be rented for up to six months of orbital research. These minilabs – about the size of a milk carton – can include a number of experiments that can be carried out remotely from Israel, reducing costs drastically. All an astronaut has to do is turn it on.

Since all experiments are done remotely, the minilabs can be docked on the International Space Station or attached to private satellites.

SpacePharma was founded by Yossi Yamin, a former commander of the Israel Defense Forces' satellite unit, and has already carried out two rounds of experiments in space. It is the first company in the field, and though competitors are now beginning to emerge, Samburski says SpacePharma, which is headquartered in Switzerland with R&D in Herzliya, is two to three years ahead.

A non-invasive system to

detect Alzheimer's, depression and ADHD



ElMindA is revolutionizing the treatment of everything from Alzheimer's to depression, ADHD, concussions and other brain disorders. The FDA-cleared non-invasive technology known as Brain Networks Activation allows healthcare providers to accurately evaluate brain functions by mapping and monitoring changes in brain networks and measuring how different parts of the brain communicate. This Israeli technology improves clinical decision-making and transforms drug development by reducing the risk of failed trials.

ISRAEL21c

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ISRAEL21c...continued from previous page

cell cycle stage, but their downside is a short range. Israeli startup Alpha Tau Medical believes its potent alpha radiotherapy technology provides the answer.

Alpha DaRT (Diffusing Alpha-Emitters Radiation Therapy), developed in 2003 by Itzhak Kelson and Yona Keisara from Tel Aviv University, is based on a radioactive seed that can be injected into a solid tumor. As the seed decays it releases atoms that emit high-energy alpha particles that destroy tumor tissue.

Preclinical trials have found the technology to be safe for various indi-

limited ability to eat detrimentally affects well-being and quality of life.

Founded in 2011, Tel Aviv's E-Motion Medical has developed a unique technology that it claims can deliver stimulation to the esophagus, generating contractions, restoring esophageal and digestive motor function, reducing infectious complications, and improving survival and physical function.

#### BarimOte

Patients who have undergone gastric weight-loss surgery have to alter their eating behavior radically in order to sustain their lower weight. For many, this proves too difficult, and can lead to complications, weight gain and new operations.

Israeli startup BarimOte hopes to improve those odds with a new eating behavior monitoring and training technology, which it claims can enhance the success rate of weight-loss surgery.

The company's patented technology will offer biofeedback during meals, real-time analysis of eating behavior patterns, remote e-monitoring to caregivers, and even caloric intake at every meal. It sends alerts and referrals to the surgeon in case of complications.

Brainvivo

Tel Aviv's Brainvivo develops MRI-based software that enhances MRI resolution for early detection, monitoring and treatment of neurodegenerative brain disorders.

The company's software overcomes the MRI resolution limitation by tracking the movement of water molecules within brain tissues, and providing MRI data that allows the measurement of both the neural fiber diameter and layers of the brain cortex.

The company was cofounded by Assaf Horowitz and Prof. Yaniv Assaf from Tel Aviv University. ▲

Editor and Israel Director Nicky Blackburn has worked extensively as a journalist and editor both in Britain and Israel for a range of national and international publications including The Cambridge Evening News, London News, Travel Weekly, Israel High Tech Investor and The Times of London. She was the Associate Editor at LINK Israel's Business and Technology Magazine, and the High-Tech Correspondent for The Jerusalem Post.



Staff from Alpha Tau Medical talk to delegates at MIXiii-Biomed (photo by Alexander Elman)

ications, including tumors considered resistant to standard radiotherapy. The company, led by CEO and Chairman Uzi Sofer, is now carrying out clinical trials in Israel and Italy and plans further trials around the world.

#### TempraMed

TempraMed develops small, hassle-free cooling products for keeping sensitive injectable medications like insulin, for the treatment of diabetes, at the proper temperature.

The company, which has been working in stealth mode for some years, has developed a series of products including replaceable caps lined with a space-grade thermal insulation to fit over popular insulin pens and vials. It is now working on a similar product for EpiPens, which are designed for treating allergies.

TempraMed was founded by Israeli Ron Nagar, who has worked in the medical-device field for 20 years, and whose father has Type 2 diabetes.

#### E-Motion Medical

Millions of people suffer from reduced motor function of their digestive system, leading to malnutrition and a higher risk of infection. It's a phenomenon common in critically ill patients, as well as neurological, surgical, geriatric and neonatal patients. A severely

## BRIEFS

### TOURISM TO ISRAEL KEEPS RISING

Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics said Monday, June 11, that 395,900 tourists came to Israel in May 2018, 14% more than in May 2017 and 33% more than in May 2016. (*Globes*)

### NETANYAHU OFFERS TO "SAVE COUNTLESS IRANIAN LIVES" WITH ISRAELI WATER TECH

On Sunday, June 10, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu offered Iranians solutions to their growing water problems in a two-minute YouTube video. "Israel stands with the people of Iran and that is why I want to save countless Iranian lives. Iran's meteorological organization says that nearly 96% of Iran suffers from some levels of drought."

"Israel also has water challenges. We've developed cutting-edge technologies to address them. Israel recycles nearly 90% of its waste-water... Israel has the knowhow to prevent environmental catastrophe in Iran. I want to share this information with the people of Iran. Sadly, Iran bans Israelis from visiting, so we'll have to get creative. We will launch a Farsi website with detailed plans on how Iranians can recycle their waste-water. We will show how Iranian farmers can save their crops and feed their families."

"The Iranian regime shouts:

'Death to Israel.' In response, Israel shouts: 'Life to the Iranian people.'... We are with you. We will help so that millions of Iranians don't have to suffer." (Prime Minister's Office)

### SHIFT IN SAUDI MEDIA'S ATTITUDE TO ISRAEL

Iran's military involvement in the region is perceived by Saudis as an existential threat to their country. Israel, on the other hand, is not perceived as a threat to Saudi Arabia, but as a potential ally in the struggle against Iran.

Against this backdrop, Saudi intellectuals, journalists and writers have been increasingly expressing open support for Israel, even calling to normalize relations and make peace with it.

Saudi liberal thinker Turki Al-Hamad placed the responsibility for the deaths of dozens of Palestinians in the confrontations on the Gaza border on Hamas and Iran.

He wrote on Twitter on May 14, 2018: "The whole thing was an Iranian maneuver carried out by Hamas at the expense of the children of Gaza, and this is unacceptable."

Saudi businessman Khalid Al-Ashaerah tweeted on the same day: "[Examining] Zionist history, we find no bombing of our mosques, no targeting of the sacred compounds [in Mecca and Medina], and no incitement against us... They haven't attacked us or supported our enemies." (Z. Harel, MEMRI) ▲

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# CAMERA op-ed: Here's why the media got the Gaza violence wrong

By Sean Durns, Senior Research Analyst, camera.org, May 29, 2018

Western journalists covering the Arab-Israeli conflict are in need of an intervention. Many of them have spent the last several weeks regurgitating claims by Hamas, confusing terrorists with “protesters.” In so doing, they’ve helped the U.S.-designated terror group in its attempt to delegitimize and destroy the Jewish state. And they should’ve known better. Since late March 2018, Hamas has been sending terrorists – interspersed with unarmed civilians serving as human shields – to try and breach the Israel-Gaza border.

Hamas has dubbed this long operation – whose participants have included members of U.S.-designated terror groups like Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) – the “Great Return March.” The terror groups hope to sacrifice their own people by placing Israel in a no-win situation. If terror operatives are able to cross the border, violating Israel’s sovereignty and endangering its citizens, it’s a win. If Israel defends itself and Gazans die in the process it’ll garner condemnation from self-styled human rights arbitrators, fueled by a gullible media.

Matti Friedman, a former IDF soldier and AP journalist, recently observed that Hamas knows that, “The press could be trusted to present dead human beings not as victims of the terrorist group that controls their lives, or of a tragic confluence of events, but of an unwarranted Israeli slaughter.” And Hamas has pulled out all the stops to put on a grotesque show: paying and busing in demonstrators and bringing children and the disabled to the border in the hopes that they catch an errant bullet.

Indeed, the group has even burned tires and used mirrors to obscure the vision of Israel Defense Forces (IDF) snipers who are seeking to specifically target the terror leaders hiding among the civilians.

On May 14, as many as 62 Gazans were killed on the border, prompting front-page headlines by *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and others – all repeating claims provided by the Hamas-run Health Ministry – about “protesters killed” and “indiscriminate” and “excessive” use of force. Some, such as *USA Today*, uncritically repeated claims by anti-Israel U.N. official Michael Lynk that the “demonstrators” were “largely unarmed.” Many pundits contrasted the bloodshed in Gaza with the ceremonies on the same day for the dedication of the newly moved U.S. embassy in Jerusalem – some even claiming that the embassy move was responsible for the violence.

Two days later, Salah Bardawil, a senior Hamas official, told Palestinian news outlet Baladna TV that “Fifty of the martyrs were from Hamas, and the other 12 were regular people.” He added, “I am giving you an official figure.” In short, the overwhelming majority of the “protesters” killed were, in fact, terrorists.

And the media had every reason to expect that this would be the case. On April 26, the Meir Amit Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center published a report showing that of the Palestinians killed up to that point in the “Great Return March,” 32 – or eighty percent – were linked to terrorist groups. Indeed, according to a translation provided by the Middle East Media

Research Institute (MEMRI), Hamas official Mahmoud al-Zahar admitted to Al-Jazeera on May 13 that the group was “deceiving the public” when it claimed that the March was one of “peaceful resistance.” It was, he proudly said, “a clear terminological deception.”

Nonetheless, many journalists, including those at *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, *USA Today*, NPR and others, continued to refer to the dead as “protesters” and omitted or minimized evidence that the “march” was a Hamas-run propaganda ploy. In short: they ignored who Hamas is and has always been.

Hamas has always targeted Israeli civilians and employed Palestinian human shields – a double war crime. The group has used schools to hide its weaponry, equipment and fighters, and, as recently as the 2014 conflict, employed ambulances as “transport vehicles” and hospitals as “command centers.”

Since its creation as a Muslim Brotherhood spinoff in 1987, Hamas has made its objectives clear. The group’s own founding charter calls for the destruction of Israel and the genocide of Jews – even approvingly quoting Adolf Hitler’s *Mein Kampf*. Since Israel’s unilateral withdrawal from the Gaza Strip in 2005, Hamas has launched no fewer than three wars against the Jewish state in 2008, 2012 and 2014 – all in addition to the frequent rocket attacks that began shortly after the group seized power in 2007.

Yet, this history – and Hamas’s genocidal objectives – has largely gone unmentioned by many media outlets covering the latest round of violent

demonstrations at the border. Instead, many in the media have uncritically echoed casualty claims made by the “Palestinian Health Ministry” – a Hamas-controlled entity that shares the terror group’s objective of delegitimizing and destroying Israel.

It’s hard to imagine the press echoing the claims of other Islamist terrorist groups, such as the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) or al-Qaeda. Yet, with near ubiquity, they’ve done so with Hamas – and all while ignoring video and photographic evidence showing Palestinians planting explosives, carrying firearms, knives and Molotov cocktails, even launching kite bombs embroidered with swastikas, because, as one 19-year-old Gazan proudly told an NPR reporter: “We want to burn” the “Jews...this is actually what we want them to know.”

But when it comes to Israel, there is a double standard. The terrorist perpetrators are treated with a different benchmark – one of privileged victimhood instead of independent agency. To many in the press, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is but one of dueling narratives, as opposed to cold hard facts – as unpleasant as they might be. And the facts remain: Hamas is a genocidal terrorist group. Peaceful protests don’t involve violence. And no matter how many times headlines blare it, terrorists are not protesters.▲

Founded in 1982, the *Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America (CAMERA)* is a media-monitoring, research and membership organization devoted to promoting accurate and balanced coverage of Israel and the Middle East.

# There was never a country called Palestine

By Jerrold L. Sobel, ZOA of SWFL President

Please forget one of the great misnomers of our time: Israel did not steal Palestinian land. It’s not their land, it’s never been their land, and it will never be their land. This land was given to the Jewish people, as stated in the Bible, by the Creator, and will remain the homeland of the Jewish people in perpetuity. Despite 27 invasions of Judea and Samaria – erroneously called the West Bank – conquests by many, forced conversions, exiles, massive op-

pressions, generations of Diaspora, and cowardly acquiescence by a cadre of 5<sup>th</sup> column Jews themselves, Jews have not only survived in what’s known as Eretz Yisrael (Israel), they’ve taken a desert wasteland and turned it into a powerful little democracy, the envy of the world.

To her detractors, which there are many worldwide, the mantra remains the same, ad nauseam. “Israel is complicit in doing this...” “She omitted doing that...” “We respect Judaism but

are against Zionism.” Attempting to mask their anti-Semitism as anti-Zionism, her enemies propagandize the most vile accusations against the Jewish state in such numbers that much of it sticks. To cite just a couple:

Myth: “Israel discriminates against its Arab citizens.”

The facts show otherwise. Israel is one of the most open societies in the world. Out of a population of 8.8 million, 1.85 million are Arabs, 170,000 are Christians, and 230,000 are Druze or other religions. All have equal voting rights. It’s one of a very few places where Arab women have the right to vote. Arabs currently hold 18 seats in the Knesset.

Following a 5-year trial, in a landmark decision for women’s rights, an Arab judge, Salim Joubran, sentenced the former president of Israel, Moshe Katsav, to seven years in prison for rape. In what Muslim country do Jews have such rights? How many seats do Jews hold in the Saudi government or Jordan? Can anyone recall a Jewish judge sentencing a prominent Arab in Egypt? More to the point, has anyone even heard of a Jewish judge in Egypt?

Myth: “The Palestinian Authority protects Jewish holy sites.”

If only that were true, one important element blocking a sincere peace would be eliminated, but the facts speak otherwise. Just in the years between 1996-2000:

- ◆ In September 1996, Palestinian rioters destroyed a synagogue at Joseph’s Tomb in Nablus.
- ◆ Rachel’s Tomb near Bethlehem has been repeatedly attacked since 1996.
- ◆ In October 2000, Joseph’s Tomb was torched after the Israeli garrison guarding it was temporarily

withdrawn. It was subsequently rebuilt as a mosque.

- ◆ In October 2000, the ancient synagogue in Jericho was destroyed by arson and a second historic synagogue was damaged.

Forget about protecting these sites.

In textbooks, speech and daily life, the Palestinians and their supporters absurdly deny any Jewish connection to these ancient landmarks at all. This all occurs under nominal Israeli control of these areas. One can only imagine the fate of Jewish holy sites left to Palestinian stewardship.

This brings us to the greatest canard of them all, the foundation on which every pro-Palestinian lie is based upon: “The Jews are building settlements on Palestinian land.”

This granddaddy of all fabrications makes great copy for the media and is excellent for denigrators of Israel, but lack historical fact. There is no Palestinian land plain and simple. If there was: When was it founded and by whom? What were its borders and the name of its capital? What were its major cities? What constituted the basis of its economy? What form of government did it live under? Was Palestine ever recognized as an entity by another country? By whom? What was the language of the country called Palestine? What was Palestine’s religion? What was the name of its currency? Since there is no country today, what caused her demise? These questions were posed by a Japanese writer, Yashiko Sagamori. Only the most revisionist adherents of the Palestinian narrative couldn’t even attempt to answer her queries. Pose these same questions regarding Israel and Jewish connection to this land, and each can be factually answered.▲

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July 20: 8:03

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## “Holy, holy, holy”

We use the term so often, we Jews must have holiness on the brain! In our marriage ceremony, we are “sanctified” to each other. In the Amidah prayer, we say the “kedusha” or holiness prayer.



■ Rabbi Michael J. Schorin

And, of course, when someone dies we say the “kaddish.” The basic commandment comes from Leviticus 19:2: “You shall be holy (kadosh), for I the Lord your God am holy.”

## Different rules for Israel

By George Rosinger

What country in the world has not been permitted to select its capital and its location? What country in the world would permit up to 30,000 rioters, including terrorists, to mass on their border with the objective of breaching the border to kill their citizens? And what country other than Israel is subjected to harsh criticism when it defends itself? As is the case for many international issues, there are different rules for Israel than there are for other countries. Further, much of the reporting regarding Israel is biased and inaccurate.

Jews have had a continuous presence in Israel for over 3,000 years with Jerusalem as its capital. Jerusalem has never been the capital of an Arab or Muslim country. While Jerusalem is mentioned hundreds of times in Jewish holy scriptures, there is no mention of Jerusalem in the Koran.

Much of the reporting of the current efforts by the Gaza Palestinians to penetrate Israel’s security fence has been biased and false. Hamas, a designated terrorist organization, directed the “demonstrations” at the border and portrayed them as peaceful. Likewise, many media outlets also described the demonstrations as non-violent. These statements were false. Prior to the demonstrations, Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar stated, “We will take down the border and tear out their hearts from their bodies.” In keeping with Sinwar’s statement, Hamas terrorists interspersed with the Palestinians, attacked Israeli forces with Molotov cocktails, pipe bombs, guns and grenades. They also targeted Israeli fields with incendiary devices which set large fires. Hamas directed thousands of the rioters to rush at the border with the objective of penetrating Israel’s security fence. And they placed women and children in the front lines to serve as human shields and “cannon fodder.”

Israeli forces tried to minimize Palestinian casualties, but given the circumstances there were deaths and injuries. Of the 62 deaths on one particular day, Salah Bardawil, a senior Hamas official, stated, “Fifty of the

separate ourselves, especially from our neighbors. Rules about dietary practices, prayer shawls and fringes and drinking wine all can come under this rubric. But this doesn’t quite explain the term, does it? Especially in the modern world, we need a better definition.

One such attempt to redefine it came from Rabbi Mordecai M. Kaplan, z”l. Almost a hundred years ago, he suggested the correct definition of “kadosh” would be to mean worthwhile. Just as God pursues the worthwhile, so must we. As an improvement on being separate, this works well. It is worthwhile to improve the lot of those who are poor, it is worthwhile to nurture our connections with our fellow congregants, it is worthwhile to give “zedakah.” These are all fine, but there is a piece of “kadosh” missing here. It

is the piece that is beyond our normal thinking.

For biblical society, “kadosh” was the highest value they could give something. It could pertain to the Sanctuary (or later, the Temple), to the Sabbath and even to the people of Israel. So what is the highest term we could use to reflect that? I believe the answer is to use the term “consciousness.” Looking at Leviticus 19:2 again, the commandment would now read: “You shall be conscious, for I the Lord your God am conscious.” Our mission as Jews, and as human beings, is to become ever more conscious. Becoming more aware is not an easy task. TV and Twitter distract us. The internet intrigues. Work tires us and daily chores take time. How do we get past all of this?

Maybe it is possible the mitzvot

/ commandments were given to us to help us along this path? Every time we remember to take a moment to recite a “b’racha,” a blessing, we raise our awareness. When we bind the “tefillin” to our arm, we remember that we are not in charge. And when we light the Sabbath candles, we become conscious of the gifts of the Sabbath, food to eat and family to enjoy.

So go and enjoy. Say a blessing when you see a rainbow, say another when you see the Gulf. Take a moment and bless God for this world that is becoming ever more conscious, just as we are. ▲

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.

martyrs in the recent battle were from Hamas.”

It should be noted that Hamas has a history of using human shields in its uprisings and wars against Israel. It is a diabolical tactic used by Hamas so that they can claim massacres and generate sympathy for their cause when their human shields are shot.

Whenever Israel defends itself against Hamas attacks it is subjected to criticism from around the world. Since its inception, Israel has been demonized and threatened with destruction. In fact, the Hamas charter seeks the destruction of Israel and the murder of Jews. The Palestinians together with some Arab countries started several wars against Israel, including the Israeli War of Independence in 1948; the Sinai War in 1956; the Six-Day War in 1967; and the Yom Kippur war in 1973. Currently, Hamas, Hezbollah and Iran continue to threaten Israel’s existence. And now Iran has bases in Syria with advanced offensive equipment.

Since its inception in 1948, if Israel hadn’t defended itself, it would have ceased to exist many years ago. And yet Israel’s critics claim that it uses disproportionate force.

Israel’s critics also appear to ignore the fact that the Palestinians rejected three major peace offers. The UN partition in 1947 established a Jewish state and a Palestinian state. While Israel accepted the partition, the Palestinians rejected it and started the war against Israel in 1948. Subsequently, in 2000, Prime Minister Ehud Barak made a peace offer and, in 2008, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert likewise made a peace offer. The two latter peace offers granted the Palestinians nearly everything they demanded.

Recently, the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, Mohammed Bin Salman, made an encouraging statement. He castigated the Palestinian leadership for rejecting opportunities over a period of 40 years for peace with Israel and said they should either start accepting peace proposals or “shut up.” ▲

George Rosinger lives in Fort Myers.

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## Strive to be happy

The present iteration of the Dalai Lama has famously said, "I believe that the very purpose of life is to be happy." I don't know about that, but I do know that when I am unhappy I'm not at my best.



■ Rabbi Bruce Diamond

When they lose a peaceful mind and become enraged.

So cultivating and preserving our personal happiness and not letting things get to us seems to be a necessary ingredient for finding out what life's all about.

It's also pretty clear from this that spreading unhappiness in others is a terrible thing. You might as well pour poison in the drinking water!

Want to know what I think is a key to my happiness? I try not to take too many things personally. Most all of other people's bad behaviors have little to do with me, even if they are aimed at me. What others say about and do to you tells you more about them than it does about you. If they are trying to make you unhappy it is probably because they are miserable themselves and haven't tended their own spiritual gardens.

Of course, happiness has a lot to

do with living in the moment, knowing what you can fix, working around what you can't, and not letting things that really have nothing to do with you personally get to you. Doing the best I can about the things I can do something about keeps me from feeling overwhelmed by all the things the TV and internet show me are hurting in this world.

Not promptly attending to the close-by things that disturb us is a certain prescription for unhappiness and eventual depression. The opposite is equally true. Don't live with things that upset you, but if you have no choice, turn your attention to things that contribute to your happiness that you can do something about.

Don't dwell in the past, and leave tomorrow for tomorrow.

I know that a lot of this sounds like "fortune cookie advice," but it's the best I can do. If you don't think there's much truth in this, try to find your own paths to happiness, but no matter what, don't let sadness, fear and anger get the best of you.

Remember what Max Ehrmann wrote at the end of this famous *Desiderata*:

With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams,

it is still a beautiful world.

Be cheerful.

Strive to be happy.▲

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

## Pastors Convention in Breklum

Vickie and I are spending several weeks in Germany as we have for the past three years. Here we teach about the *Shoah* in high schools using a wonderful exhibit that chronicles the life and journeys of Vickie's 97-year-old mother, Stefanie Steinberg, from her childhood in Breslau (then Germany, now Wroclaw, Poland) to her life today as a still active artist in San Francisco.



■ Rabbi Stephen Fuchs

I also teach a seminar for rabbinical and cantorial students at the Abraham Geiger College in Berlin, teach and speak in synagogues, and preach in different Lutheran churches.

One of the highlights of this year's visit was the invitation to address a regional convention for Lutheran Pastors on the concept of "Memory" in Jewish thought and to connect those ideas to a Jewish Theology after Auschwitz.

Anxiety and fear well up in me any time I speak to any group anywhere. On this occasion those fears were multiplied.

To make me even more nervous, Stefan Block, the Propst (Area-wide Supervising Pastor) who invited me, informed me that as far as the conference attendees were concerned, "You are a surprise visitor." That means these pastors were unaware that a rabbi was to address them.

My room at the Christian Jensen College in the North Sea Village of Breklum was lovely – spacious and airy with lots of green trees in full bloom outside my window.

It was a welcome relief to be greeted so warmly by two pastors at whose churches I have spoken in past years: Martina Dittkrist from Kaltenkirchen and Anke Wolf-Steger from Schulensee. I have such wonderful memories of how each of these pastors welcomed Vickie and me to their communities and hosted us after the service for a de-

licious lunch in their homes.

Seeing them and feeling the genuine warmth of their smiles made me feel more comfortable.

At the outset of my talk I stressed that while they may never have heard a rabbi speak to them before, I was not representing "the official Jewish position" on anything, but was merely offering my personal perspective on the importance of memory as awareness of the horrors of the Holocaust recede and the number of eyewitnesses rapidly diminishes.

The presentation went well in large measure because I spent the afternoon listening, listening and listening to the pastors' own struggles and the struggles of their families and parishioners with the memories of what they were doing during the Hitler years.

Hearing their anxieties somehow took the jumble of material swirling around in my head and helped it come out in a coherent one-hour presentation that I offered without notes of any kind.

After a 15-minute break there were probing questions and, I pray, helpful answers. I urged them to continue to struggle with these issues and stressed the importance of memory as a lesson from which to learn. I emphasized as I do before almost every German audience I address: *Wir können die Vergangenheit nicht ungeschehen machen, aber wir können gemeinsam an einer besseren Zukunft arbeiten!* We cannot undo the past, but we can work together to shape a better future!

I often ask myself, "Does this and other teaching and speaking in Germany make a difference?" Sometimes I feel that we try to empty an ocean of emotional water using a teaspoon.

Still, we cling to the hope that it does, and we continue. For, as Rabbi Tarphon taught, "It is not incumbent on us to complete the task, yet we are not free to desist from the labor." (*Pirke Avot* 2:21)▲

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

## The Torah insists on truth

Watching a news program the other day, I caught a segment about the 'raw water' movement in California. A "raw water" guru assured viewers that for \$22



■ Rabbi Nicole Luna

a bottle, they could enjoy the spiritual and pro-biotic advantages of untreated stream water. Recalling the maxim that you should keep an open mind, but not so open that your brains fall out, our Torah includes laws against fraud, giving us insight to help us identify and resist scams and schemes.

An effective fraud traffics in dishonesty, capturing the confidence of victims by giving them something that they think should be possible, that they want to be true, and that they will do anything to make real. Yet the Torah insists on truth. In Leviticus we are commanded, "Do not falsify measures of length, weight or capacity. You shall have an honest balance, honest weights, an honest dry measure and an honest liquid measure."

The Torah guides us to demand and expect honesty. While this may seem obvious, we are often swayed by something that is really "too good to be true." Who hasn't been tempted by a lotion that promises to make us look 10 years younger, or a drink that claims it will help us lose 10 pounds?

Behind any successful con, is a clever fraudster. As Jews we are commanded, "You shall not deal deceitfully or falsely with one another," but we are also warned against turning to false gods, spirits or soothsayers. Why are these prohibited? Ibn Ezra, a

12<sup>th</sup> century scholar, explains that these refer to people who declare that something will undoubtedly take place at a particular time in the future. The Torah is warning us against the façade of certainty. Though ambiguity is part of life, fraudsters prey on our desires, and using charisma, bogus credentials or a claim of a heightened spiritual status, they promise to fulfill our greatest wishes.

Religiously, Judaism offers the possibility of a holy life, while expecting a great amount from us. There are no easy fixes. How do we achieve well-being, righteousness, a sense that God is near to us? We do so through mitzvot, through our actions, through how we live our life. Our Torah states "kedoshim tiheyu," you shall be holy, and then lists all the commandments for us to follow to fulfill this. Have honest measures. Do not deal deceitfully with one another. Leave the corners of your field for the poor and the stranger. Rise before the aged and show deference to the old. Observe a day of rest. Do not bear a grudge. Love your fellow as yourself.

Judaism gives us the insights to avoid being deceived by false promises, by something that seems too good to be true. Demand and expect honesty. Be wary of those who claim certainty. And every time we do a mitzvah, recite the blessing "asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav," who makes us holy through commandments. Blessed are you Adonai our God, ruler of the universe, who teaches us sacred actions to perform, leading us to a life of truth and well-being.▲

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

## Being Jewish is important

In 2002, the UJA-Federation of New York did a survey of New York Jews. In response to the question, "Do you feel that being Jewish is very important?," 65% of respondents answered affirmatively. Ten years later, that number had fallen to 57%. That same 10-year period saw dramatic drops in synagogue affiliation in the Conservative and Reform Movements.



■ Rabbi Marc Sack

How is it that being Jewish would not be important? I've spoken with many people who are unaffiliated and who do little with the organized Jewish community who say, "I feel very Jewish." While I'm not sure what this means, I think being Jewish is very important to them. They are proud of being part of the Jewish people.

It seems that some people are no longer proud of being Jewish. What can we do about that?

I lead a young leadership program at my congregation. At a recent meeting, we discussed the component elements of a strong religious community. I expected answers like "uplifting services," or "great programming" or "friendly and welcoming." I got something else. I got "social contract," and "organizational culture" and "high standards of behavior." There are no Temple Judea secrets to reveal here. Thank God, we're doing well. But I think the members of my young leadership program were saying that a synagogue – perhaps all Jewish organizations – must have a very strong ethic, one that guides what happens inside the congregation and the congregation's involvement with the general community. The congregation must stand for something important.

It was the historian, Simon Rawidowicz, who wrote the famous essay, "Israel – The Ever-Dying People" (1948), in which he said that we Jews are forever afraid that this generation will be our last. That fear drives the agenda of many Jewish organizations. We must raise committed, educated Jewish children for the future. With this agenda I agree, in part.

But we must also believe in and teach an ethic that reflects the best of our tradition: guarding our tongues, taking care of the poor, welcoming guests into our homes, visiting the sick. To these values, I would add "lifelong learning." Our understanding of what God wants of us, of what it means to be Jewish, should never stand still. More, our understanding of what God wants of us should never end with the Jewish community. We Jews have much to contribute to the outside world. We should look for opportunities to do that regularly.

Most synagogues worry about getting Jews in the door. In 2018, that's understandable. We should also worry about keeping them coming back. To do that, we must convey our conviction that being Jewish informs every aspect of our lives, that it guides how we act in our families and in the world. In other words, that being Jewish is important. That it helps us be good people in the world.

Each in our own way, every Jewish organization must figure out what piece of the Jewish message it wants to reflect. But everyone who meets us must feel that being Jewish is not something we just do on Shabbat and holidays. It guides who we are. It is the deep conviction of our community that will keep people coming back.▲

Rabbi Marc Sack serves at Temple Judea in Fort Myers.

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Chabad of Charlotte County offers three full weeks of amazing fun (July 2-20) for girls and boys ages 3-13.

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Gan Israel campers are imbued with a deep sense of pride in their Jewish heritage. Weekly Judaic themes are taught through activities, stories and games that are part of the unique Gan Israel experience. Combined with discussions and educational programs, camp brings to life the beauty and values of our traditions.

For more information on Camp Gan Israel and other programs Chabad provides, call Sheina at 941.258.0188 or visit [www.chabadofcharlottecounty.com](http://www.chabadofcharlottecounty.com).

### TEMPLE BETH EL SCHOOLS Fort Myers

#### Temple Beth El Religious School 2017-2018 Year in Review

*Dale Cohen*

My heart and soul are here at Temple Beth El Religious School, where so much learning takes place. We always strive to imbue our students with the best possible Jewish education. I believe that we succeed.

Each Monday, beginning last August, our preschool students took part in the Aleph Bet club. We sang songs, learned about Jewish holidays, and began learning Hebrew letters.

Junior Congregation, an ongoing program for the past 15 years, is specifically designed for our students in grades 4-7. One Saturday a month, they practice the liturgy in preparation for their bar/bat mitzvahs. They lead the service. The prayers and blessings are explained. It's a great way to practice with their peers and learn from each other.

K-7<sup>th</sup> grade students participated in High Holiday Junior Congregation services where they sang beautifully. Other holiday observances included fun-filled and educational Sukkot and Simchat Torah celebrations, when we decorated the sukkah, made the berachot over the etrog and the lulav, and most importantly followed the mitzvot of dwelling and eating in the sukkah.

Confirmation students took a field trip to LARC, visiting group home residents with developmental disabilities. They visited Eva's Closet, a non-profit organization that provides necessities to families in need in our area, where students helped sort and organize items.

Another field trip was to the Shy Wolf Sanctuary, where the students helped clean the grounds

after taking an educational tour.

Confirmation students are engaged in tikkun olam throughout their two years in confirmation class. The Confirmation service in May honored our 9<sup>th</sup> grade confirmands.

Hebrew Chai high school class meets once a month. Activities this year included a meeting with Congressman Francis Rooney at TBE in October; a Chanukah party hosted by Michele Laboda and Eric Dochinger, featuring a potluck dinner, candle lighting, playing dreidel, and a small gift exchange; and six students traveled to Washington, D.C., in February for the Religious Action Center's L'Taken teen social justice leadership program.

Other highlights of our busy year included: a 6<sup>th</sup> grade family bar/bat mitzvah workshop; several bar/bat mitzvahs; a bagel schmooze with parents; a Chanukah party (including an original Hal Eskin song called "The Sunday School Blues"); a middle school trip to the Jewish Museum and Holocaust Memorial in Miami; a Tu B'Shevat PJ Library program; a Tu B'Shevat Seder; baking hamentashen and attending the Megillah reading; welcoming back Rabbi Luna with an original song written by Randy Kashi; an educational chocolate Seder; Mitzvah Day; and an end-of-year pancake breakfast plus family fun at Sky Zone, where everyone cheered on the children to reach new heights.

We look forward to even greater success in the 2018-2019 school year. Have a great summer!

## 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](mailto:LeniBSack@jfedlcc.org):

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



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PJ Library

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More information, contact Leni Sack 239.481.4449 ext. 3 [lenibsack@jfedlcc.org](mailto:lenibsack@jfedlcc.org)

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.



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The Little Gym of Fort Myers  
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239-362-0335

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.

Families can sign up for PJ Library at [pjlibrary.org](http://pjlibrary.org)

### JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA (239) 566-1771

**Who remembers the Naples Jewish Social Club?**  
*Marina Berkovich*

Do you remember that old Jewish joke about why a Jewish man, who was stranded alone on a deserted island for a decade, needed a second temple? Hold that thought, please. Decades ago, there were no temples or Jewish Federations in Southwest Florida, but by the early 1990s there were. Please do not act shocked if not all Jews want to be a member of a temple or a Federation, for that matter. But some people recognized that every

Jew loves to eat and socialize. Hence, the Naples Jewish Social Club emerged to do just as its name hints – socialize. And, of course, have lots of Jewish food! In 2004 there were nearly 300 people on its active list. I'm told that in its heyday in the mid-1990s, it had more. Sid Kleiner and his wife Trudy were very active in NJSC and its events. Sid was also the club's videographer and created video-reports for the members, which are quite bittersweet now, since many of longtime area residents will recognize many of their departed friends. The beauty of these videos is that they are documents of Jewish history

in Southwest Florida. Before the days that WCA dominated (in a good way, of course!) the social calendar of the Jewish community of Greater Naples, there were NJSC and other social groups organized by full-timers and seasonals alike to create and keep the tribal togetherness. Although I previously heard about NJSC from Sid Kleiner, it was the *besheret* coincidence of another former NJSC member, Sid Kaye – a British man with nearly thirty years of SWFL active winter seasons, who until recently played the senior Wimbledon and Florida tennis circuits – and his wife Louise who recalled with love and regret the great times NJSC had while it lasted.

I perused the social club's membership list and recognized some very familiar names. They were not going to NJSC events because they disliked other activities "on the island." They were not looking for an alternative to Federations or temples. Here's what I concluded. The man on the deserted island may have needed a second synagogue so he could "never set a foot in that place," but the Jews in Paradise need every temple, every social club and every organization so that they can spread the positivity they bring to our "island," do great deeds while they can, and create wonderful memories for all of us and future generations.

We plan to add these and other invaluable stories to our Virtual Museum of SWFL Jewish History at <http://jewishhistorysouthwestflorida.org>. Save the date for the Annual Florida Jewish History Celebration on January 28, 2019. A very special not-to-be-missed afternoon is being planned. Details will be announced in September. Please do not forget to reserve your seats with WCA for the September 12 repeat presentation of the documentary film *Southwest Florida Jewish Pioneers: Stuart Kaye, A Mensch for All Reasons* in the Naples Daily News Community Room. Stuart's story is an inspiration for every young person who wants to make SWFL their home, raise a family and build a community here. It is also a fascinating discovery of just how much one man can impact a community he chooses for his home if he sets his mind and efforts to it, and perseveres through hardships and economic downturns.

To renew your membership or become a member or an event sponsor, please email [jhsswf@gmail.com](mailto:jhsswf@gmail.com), visit [www.jhsswf.org](http://www.jhsswf.org) or call us. Want to volunteer? Email [office@jhsswf.org](mailto:office@jhsswf.org) if you have time and would like to help. Specific needs: work independently in Microsoft Word, ability to do research, proofreading.

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

*Jan Klein*  
On Sunday, July 29 at 4:00 p.m. in the Temple Judea Social Hall, Hazak will show the movie *Chocolat*. The film is a fable of emotional liberation and chocolate. A mother and daughter move to a small French town where they open a chocolate shop. The town, reli-

gious and morally strict, is against them as they represent free-thinking. Dinner will follow at Carrabba's. The charge is \$3 for members and \$5 for nonmembers. This covers snacks and drinks. There will be a short planning meeting prior to the movie. Newcomers are welcome to attend and offer their input. Any questions should be addressed to the Hazak email at [tjhazak@gmail.com](mailto:tjhazak@gmail.com).

### JEWISH WAR VETERANS Victor Paul Tuchman Post 400 (239) 246-3151

*Eryka Aptaker*  
It's been quite some time since I have written an article for the Jewish War Veterans-Victor Paul Tuchman Post 400. Please do not believe for a minute that this is due to inactivity on their part. It is, admittedly, my fault, as there have been many challenges for me this year. I would like to share some of the highlights from the last few months. In October, we had a wonderful meeting at the American Legion Post 38. Our guest speaker was LCSO Undersheriff Carmine Marceno. The man held our interest in telling us all that the LCSO is doing for the community as well as sharing his military background and career as a police officer. Next up, members of our Post participated in the Lee County Veterans Day parade. The holidays came upon us quickly. For as busy as it was, that did not stop our fabulous group from lending

a helping hand at the HHV Christmas Party. They served food to our homeless/less fortunate vets and their families. The group worked hard to make the holidays a happy and special day for these men, women and most of all... the children. In January, members of our group participated in the Lee County stand down (Lee County Homeless Coalition), helping our homeless/indigent vets. Supplies were distributed to keep them warm and a bit more comfortable. As always, participants included Commander Harvey Charter, Vice Commander Bob Ruberto, Herb Lutsky and Isaac Osin. Thank you gentlemen. You are stellar individuals! In March, we had a very special member celebrating a very special birthday. Our very own Sid Harris attained the age of 95! We had the volunteer dancing group, Dancing Feet, perform for Sid. He enjoyed them immensely, and at 95, why shouldn't he? We had a cake for him, and his wife Rita was there to celebrate his special

day at our meeting. Our May meeting came early this year, as we wanted to remember all the great women behind our good men. We held the meeting on Mother's Day. There were five wives who were able to join us as we enjoyed a wonderful meeting and, once more, shared cake. May is an important month. Many of us tend to forget the true meaning of Memorial Day. This is not a day intended to shop the sales, nor is it another day to find a reason to barbecue. It is a day to remember our fallen and

deceased veterans. While our Post participated in multiple activities over that weekend, one of the most meaningful was acting as Honor Guard/Rifle Squad at the Lee County Memorial Day Service. Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, July 29 at 9:30 a.m. at the Jewish Federation building. We are actively seeking new members to join this fabulous group. Visit us at one of our meetings. Enjoy a breakfast nosh and much camaraderie.



Members of the Post participated in the Lee County stand down (Lee County Homeless Coalition), helping our homeless/indigent vets



At the Veterans Day event: Commander Harvey Charter with our newest and, perhaps, furriest member, Corporal Bogie



At the Post's meeting on Mother's Day, five veterans' wives joined the festivities



Dancing Feet, a volunteer dance group, performed at the Post's party to celebrate Sid Harris's 95th birthday

**SHALOM LIFE CENTER**

**Fort Myers**

**(239) 218-3433**

*Lawrence & Robin Dermer*

Happy summer! As you're reading this, maybe you're at the beach or pool enjoying the sunshine. Maybe you're like so many others using this season to spend time visiting family, traveling and experiencing wonderful places and sharing meaningful experiences. At Shalom Life Center we welcome the season with strong community participation at our earlier and more intimate Friday night Shabbat experience and continued activities within our SLC family and the whole community.

Our lives are continually enriched by the lives of those we touch, and we're constantly awed by the relationships and friendships formed at SLC. With each act of loving kindness and generosity, our community grows and is nourished. Israel Fest was a wonder-

ful opportunity to show our SLC unity and spirit. Led by the creativity and inspiration of Gale Shamblott, we created a magnificent community challah plate by inviting everyone to place an individual glass tile representing their unique light. The result is a magnificent mosaic we use every time we say motzie.

We continue to bring sustenance to the needy with love and dignity with the hundreds of pounds of food we collect for Jewish Family Services. We collect pop tops and badly needed toiletries for women in distress as well as spiritual and Jewish-themed books for inmates.

From the humble beginnings of its first informational meeting held at SLC, our Fort Myers chapter of BBYO continues to grow and flourish, bringing fellowship, unifying and inspiring young people from all backgrounds.

We're doing our part to never forget the Shoah by facilitating the place-

ment of exhibits and connecting stories in the Holocaust Museum & Cohen Education Center in Naples.

These are just a few of our many outreach activities. As a loving and sacred family of faith, we all share the joy that comes from the positive changes which result from our positive actions. While we never know exactly what the future holds, we know it's up to each one of us to be our best self to bring more good into the world. We're family, B'nei Yisrael – all children of Israel. SLC proudly and firmly stands with Israel. We acknowledge our connection to Eretz Yisrael and strive to strengthen our bonds with awareness, prayer and action. Ha Tikvah, this is our hope and we're a loud and proud voice for our right to exist. We reach in so we can reach out to our SLC family, greater community, the U.S. and Israel, and we're reaching deeper to prepare ourselves to take you higher this Holy Days season.

We're busy this summer planning

to ensure our 5779 High Holy Days experience exceeds every expectation. Everyone's invited to "come home" for the Holy Days and experience our beautiful, traditional, uplifting and inspiring services infused with meaningful and relevant messages, soaring melodies from our song leaders, choir, world class symphonic ensemble and special musical guests. Admission is complimentary and no ticket purchase is necessary. Join us for Rosh Hashanah, Tashlich and Yom Kippur services as well as our Meditative Healing Concerts and Grand Gourmet Break the Fast Feast. Together we will be celebrating a magnificent arrival of 5779 by sounding the call that will be heard from Fort Myers to Jerusalem.

Let your spirit soar at Shalom Life Center where community is family and prayer is always inspirational, meaningful and musical. For more information, visit [www.shalomlifecenter.org](http://www.shalomlifecenter.org), email us at [info@shalomlifecenter.org](mailto:info@shalomlifecenter.org) or call 239.218.3433.

**HADASSAH**

**Collier/Lee Chapter**

**(239) 301-0509**

**Hadassah update**

*Lynn Wilner*

Summer is in full swing and that means that our Hadassah leaders and volunteers are busy planning upcoming events and activities for you to enjoy.

We are looking forward to our Summer Pot Luck Luau on Sunday, August 12 at 6:00 p.m. at a private home. Enjoy an evening with old and new friends who are here over the summer! If you are interested in attending or helping with this casual summer event, please contact me at 239.598.1009 or [lynninaples@yahoo.com](mailto:lynninaples@yahoo.com), or Shelley

at 239.301.0509 or [shellskel@gmail.com](mailto:shellskel@gmail.com). Bring your spouse and friends.

We are also currently planning more informal summer activities. Contact us for more information.

Hadassah has many missions to Israel for you to choose from. Here are some of the latest missions being offered. There is still room available to sign up for the "From Dream to Innovation: Hadassah Milestone Mission" from October 7-15 with optional extensions available from October 15-18. Join Hadassah as we joyously mark these milestones and tour Israel: [Israel@70](mailto:Israel@70), [Hadassah Medical Organization@100](mailto:Hadassah Medical Organization@100), [Hadassah School of Nursing@100](mailto:Hadassah School of Nursing@100) and [\[Ophthalmology@100\]\(mailto:Ophthalmology@100\)! Local members Nancy and Jack Wiadro invite you to go on the Milestone Mission with them! The 2019 missions to Israel have just been released. They include: The Youth Aliyah Mission, Purim Mission, Yom Ha'Atzmaut Mission, Hadassah/JNF Family Tour, Interfaith Mission, Refresh and Recharge: Return to Israel with Hadassah and the Takin' It Easy Mission. For details on Hadassah missions, contact Ayelet Tours at \[ayelet.com\]\(http://ayelet.com\) or 800.237.1517. Hadassah missions are always exciting, informative and fun!](mailto:Hadassah Department of</a></p>
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If you would like to learn more about Hadassah, become a Hadassah member or Life Member, an Associate (male affiliate of Hadassah) or volunteer in Hadassah, please con-

tact Carol Hirsch at 239.631.6828 or [chirsch1951@gmail.com](mailto:chirsch1951@gmail.com), or Donna Goldblatt at [mom443@aol.com](mailto:mom443@aol.com). Annual membership is \$36, Life Membership is \$250, and Associate Membership is \$250. Children of any age, both girls and boys, can become Child Life Members for \$250.

Hadassah is a great way to meet people, support Hadassah Medical Organization and Hadassah Hospitals at Ein Kerem and Mount Scopus, and promote Hadassah's many wonderful programs in the U.S., Israel and around the world. To find out more about Hadassah go to Hadassah's website at [www.hadassah.org](http://www.hadassah.org).

**HUMANISTIC JEWISH HAVURAH of Southwest Florida**

**(248) 417-2514**

**Jewish Humanism**

*Paula Creed*

Last month's column cited Corliss Lamont's book, *The Philosophy of Humanism*. This book was used by Rabbi Sherwin Wine, the founder of Humanistic Judaism, while teaching a class I attended as a new congregant of Rabbi Wine's Birmingham temple.

This month I propose to explain Jewish Humanism in Rabbi Wine's words written for the Introduction to his *Guide to Humanistic Judaism*, obtainable from the Society for Humanistic Judaism at [www.shj.org](http://www.shj.org), and received when one becomes a member of the Humanistic Jewish Havurah of Southwest Florida.

"Are we Humanistic Jews or Jewish humanists? That question appeared very early in our development and remains persistent. We have two powerful connections – one Jewish and the other

humanistic. Which is primary? Or are they both of equal significance?

People who join our movement have minds of their own. They do not easily fit into formulas that we may choose to create. Most people who join want to find a way to live their lives Jewishly with integrity. Others who enter our movement enjoy Jewish culture but the message of humanism is what motivates them to stay. Both groups are legitimate parts of our movement.

Frequently people who are members of humanist groups will challenge me. They want to know why our communities have this parochial interest in Jewish culture when they should be promoting a universal humanism. They claim that our Jewish loyalty diminishes or is incompatible with humanism.

From the beginning we have been Humanistic Jews, rooted in the history and culture of the Jewish people. Our humanism has always been enhanced by our Jewish connection, because the message of Jewish experience is that

we cannot rely on the kindness of the fates. Most of us are humanists because the memories of Jewish history are 'in our bones.' The rabbinic establishment told us that we are the Chosen People. But our memories tell us that we are the victims of a cruel destiny. If the Jewish people survived, it was only because of human self-reliance, courage and cooperation. Our survival is a tribute to people power.

We are part of the Jewish world. Even when other Jews do not share our philosophy of life, they share our culture – and we share the social fate to which all Jews are subjected when society is in turmoil. Judaism has evolved over many centuries and provides us with roots and with a distinctive place in human culture.

Most cultures and religions accommodated different philosophies of life. Christianity, even though it did not begin as a nation, has roots in the Greco-Roman world, which embraced and molded its teachings. In many ways it has its own culture, independent of any specific ideology. In modern times,

the battle over the Enlightenment has splintered the church into many ideological factions. Like Judaism, it has become a culture with great ideological diversity.

The main divide in religion today is between the humanists, who explicitly embrace the Enlightenment, and the fundamentalists, who reject it. In the middle lie the overwhelming majority of adherents who linger in the limbo of confusion and ambivalence, paying lip service to old creeds they have ceased to believe in and feeling apprehensive about change. Humanistic Christians find it easier to talk to Humanistic Jews than to fundamentalist Christians. Humanistic Jews find it easier to talk to humanistic Christians than to converse with Orthodox Jews.

Most humanists who choose [religious] affiliation will be Humanistic Jews or humanistic Christians or humanistic Buddhists. Some will choose groups with strong ideologies but shallow cultural roots. Jewish humanists may be comfortable there. But we have chosen to be Humanistic Jews."

**GENERATIONS OF THE SHOAH SOUTHWEST FLORIDA**

**(239) 963-9347**

**GenShoah SWFL mission more important than ever**

*Ida Margolis*

In the monthly GenShoah SWFL newsletters and in most of my columns in L'CHAYIM, I usually include the mission statement of GenShoah SWFL: promotion of Holocaust education and human rights, preservation of the history and memories of the Holocaust, connection of the Second Generation with one another, and support of The Holocaust Museum & The Janet G. and Harvey D. Cohen Education Center.

I include the mission statement

for many reasons. The obvious one is simply to inform individuals of the organization's intent and goals. The purpose

of a mission statement is also to focus and direct the organization. The steering committee of GenShoah SWFL created its mission statement seven years ago and this mission has been the guide for our programming. We believe in our mission and feel that accomplishing it is more important now than ever. Our future programs, which will be announced soon, will include award-winning films, outstanding programs and renowned speakers relating to Holocaust education and human rights. There will be opportunities for Children of Survivors, the Second

Generation, to meet and connect with one another. Two special programs are being planned that will help preserve the memories of Holocaust survivors.

Specific to the human rights aspect of our mission is GenShoah's membership and leadership in the new Human Rights Film Coalition of SWFL. The first program to be presented by this Coalition will be The Human Rights Film Festival of SWFL, which will take place this fall. See the article elsewhere in this issue for more information.

We are fortunate to have a Holocaust Museum in our area, and more than ever it is important to support our local Holocaust Museum's mission to teach the lessons of the Holocaust, to inspire action against bigotry, hatred

and violence. It is very exciting that our Museum is moving to a new, larger building with lots of parking. A huge thank you to everyone, especially Janet Cohen, who has supported the Museum and contributed to the building.

Since the GenShoah mission includes support of the Holocaust Museum, we are asking everyone who wants to receive the GenShoah newsletter to become a member of the Museum. GenShoah has been generously supported by the Museum and donations.

For Museum membership information, visit [www.holocaustmuseumswfl.org](http://www.holocaustmuseumswfl.org) or call 239.963.9200 and ask for Tim. For the GenShoah newsletter and information, please email [genshoahswfl@gmail.com](mailto:genshoahswfl@gmail.com).

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

July brings a few changes to Temple Judea. Dr. Oren Daniel Fox will become the congregation's new president, succeeding outgoing president Jennifer Manekin. The congregation is very grateful to Jen for all her hard work the past two years. Jen will remain on the board as Immediate Past President. The members look forward to working with Dan to continue the congregation's growth and vibrancy.

The congregation also welcomes Tab Scribner as the new Director of Congregational Learning. Tab has a Master's in Music Education and has been accepted into the online Master of Jewish Education program at the Jewish Theological Seminary. She will be a creative and dynamic leader of our edu-

cation program, bringing children and families into the synagogue and Jewish life. The congregation also thanks outgoing Director of Congregational Learning Liz Singer, and wish her all the best.

Temple Judea will hold Tisha B'Av services on Saturday evening, July 21. Services will begin at 8:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Join new and old friends from Temple Judea and beyond for a new look at Israel's culture, terrain, innovations and traditions. Temple Judea's Israel Revisited Trip, scheduled for May 2019, is a travel experience for those who have been to Israel before and want to participate in its lively music, art and theater, eat in the best restaurants of the country, see the best archaeology, and meet Israelis who make the country the vibrant place it is.

Some of the highlights of the trip include: meeting with artists and

craftsmen from Tel Aviv, attending a theater performance in Tel Aviv, exploring Mahane Yehuda alongside an Israeli chef, visiting a gourmet spice farm in the Galilee, touring SodaStream's high-tech production facility in the Negev and so much more!

Rabbi Marc Sack will take the group to out-of-the-way places and explore 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, July 15 and 29. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Linda Idelson at [lindaaidelson8@gmail.com](mailto:lindaaidelson8@gmail.com).

Rabbi Sack's Torah study will meet on Thursday, July 5 at the offices of Myers and Brettholtz and Company. It is an hour of open discussion of Torah and Judaism where all levels

of background and all questions are encouraged. Everyone is welcome and there is no cost to attend. There will be no Torah study in August.

A wine and cheese reception is held every Friday evening from 6:00 to 6:30 p.m. right before Shabbat services. It's a great time for members to enjoy socializing and to 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.
- Lunchtime Torah study with Rabbi Sack the first Thursday of each month.
- Morning minyan every Monday at 9:00 a.m.

**TEMPLE SHALOM****Charlotte Harbor & the Gulf Islands****(941) 625-2116****www.templeshalomfl.com**

The Shabbat Service to Mother's Day at the temple was very well attended. This was the first time that we ran out of roses and the special service booklets that were printed. Shabbat services were also well attended.

Rabbi Solomon Agin has accepted an invitation from AIPAC to attend its special seminar in Washington this August for a select group of rabbis. There will be a number

of presenters from various sectors.

Plans are well underway for programs and events for 5779. The Bay Area Cantors Association will return for one of its outstanding Sunday afternoon concerts.

Rabbi James Rudin will offer one of his inspiring Friday Evening Shabbat talks.

Jeff Dawson from AIPAC will return with a Friday Evening Shabbat talk.

A new screen has been purchased for the film sessions and the streaming of special programs.

"Lunch and Learn with the Forward" will resume in the fall, discussing current Jewish items.

Ceramic Judaism will resume with

Dale Doyle. This is a once-a-year program that should not be missed.

Cantor Riselle Bains will return with her very special program on a Sunday afternoon.

Things happen at Temple Shalom as the committee continues its planning.

Temple Shalom is a Reform Congregation affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism.

**Send updates and changes to the Directory below to [loriramos@jfedlcc.org](mailto:loriramos@jfedlcc.org).**

**TEMPLE BETH EL**

REFORM

16225 Winkler Road, Fort Myers, FL 33908

Rabbi Nicole Luna

E-mail: [rabbiluna@templebethel.com](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:office@templebethshalomcc.org)Web site: [www.templebethshalomcc.org](http://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](mailto:batyamsanibel@gmail.com)

Cantor: Murray Simon

Web site: [www.batyam.org](http://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](mailto:shalom06@netzero.com)Web site: [templeshalomfl.com](http://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

**SYNAGOGUES & ORGANIZATIONS**

IN LEE &amp; CHARLOTTE COUNTIES

**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](mailto:comfreesyn@gmail.com)Web site: [www.fortmyerssynagogue.com](http://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&amp;W Bulb Road, Fort Myers, FL 33908

Rabbi Marc Sack

E-mail: [rabbim@tjswfl.org](mailto:rabbim@tjswfl.org)

President: Jennifer Manekin

Director of Congregational Learning:

Elizabeth Singer

Preschool Director: Joann Goldman

[templejudeapreschool@gmail.com](mailto:templejudeapreschool@gmail.com)

Phone: 433-0201 • Fax: 433-3371

E-mail: [tjswfl@gmail.com](mailto:tjswfl@gmail.com)Web site: [www.tjswfl.org](http://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 &amp; 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](http://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](mailto:chabadpg@yahoo.com)Web site: [www.chabadofcharlottecounty.com](http://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](mailto:rabbim@chabadswf.org)Web site: [www.chabadswf.org](http://www.chabadswf.org)

Services: Friday 5:15 p.m.; Saturday Kabbalah

class 9 a.m.; Shacharit 10 a.m.; Kiddush at noon

Minyan: Monday &amp; 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](mailto:info@chabadcape.com)Web site: [www.chabadcape.com](http://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**

On April 7, as part of the Saturday morning congregant-led Adult Education class, Barry Fulmer gave a presentation about the Czech Holocaust Torah acquired by Temple Bat Yam in 1991 soon after its inception as a Reform congregation on Sanibel. Instrumental to the success were Ann and Leonard Arnoff, and Mel and Shirley Bleiberg.

Barry became involved in the matter when Rabbi Myra Soifer received an email from Jeffrey Orenstein, chairperson of the Memorial Scrolls Trust in London. Mr. Orenstein wanted Bat Yam to include a link to the Memorial Scrolls Trust on the Bat Yam website and provide details about the Torah too. The Memorial Scrolls Trust is housed in the Westminster Synagogue in London.

Ann and Leonard wanted to obtain a Torah for Bat Yam in memory of their daughter who died at age 13. An American art dealer living in London made them aware of the Westminster Holocaust Torah Museum. Mel Bleiberg learned that the Museum was the repository of over 1,500 Torahs saved from synagogues in Czechoslovakia after WWII. Many were damaged, some partially burned, but all were given a distinct number and repaired, if possible, for use by Jewish congregations around the world.

Mel contacted the Museum about acquiring a Torah for Bat Yam but was told the congregation was too small. Mel persisted and even had a congregant who was a Holocaust survivor call the Museum. Finally, the Museum relented and consented to a long-term loan of a Torah. A check for \$1,000 was sent to London and the Torah was flown to Miami in the summer of 1991.

Mel quipped, "I'm sure the Torah sat in first class for that price in those days." A U.S. Customs Officer transported the Torah to Bat Yam.

During Chanukah in December 1991, there was a special service written by Mel and Shirley Bleiberg and led by Rabbi Soria to welcome the Holocaust Torah to Bat Yam. The dedication included the unrolling of the Torah down the main aisle of the Sanctuary at the Sanibel Congregational UCC by Mel and Ken Karasin. The members of Bat Yam and the UCC sitting by the aisle helped support the Torah. There were 300 people in attendance for the momentous event.

In addition to underwriting the cost of the Torah, Ann designed the Torah cover, doing the needlepoint herself. Every image had meaning to Ann. Look for details about the Torah cover in next month's issue of L'CHAYIM.

The schedule for the High Holy Days is as follows: Selichot gathering, Saturday, September 1, 7:00 p.m., at the home of Rabbi Stephen and

Vickie Fuchs on Sanibel; Erev Rosh Hashanah service, Sunday, September 9, 7:30 p.m., in Fellowship Hall; Rosh Hashanah service, Monday, September 10, 10:00 a.m., in Fellowship Hall followed by Tashlich on the beach; Kol Nidre service, Tuesday, September 18, 7:30 p.m., in Fellowship Hall; Yom Kippur service, Wednesday, September 19, 10:00 a.m., in Fellowship Hall. Rabbi Fuchs will lead all services. Cantor Murray Simon will chant the prayers accompanied by pianist Abigail Allison. There is no cost to attend services, but donations are appreciated.

While the snowbirds are elsewhere in the country for July, driving on Sanibel is much easier. Come to Bat Yam on Friday evenings at 7:00 p.m. for a Shabbat service held in Fellowship Hall on the campus of the Sanibel Congregational UCC 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**

Deepest sympathies are extended to Dr. David and Patti Shensa on the untimely passing of his daughter, Dr. Jodi Novick.

We grieve together with Dr. Judy Piesco and her family at the death of our beloved Edna Josephson at age 101.

May the *Maqom* comfort those

who mourn in the midst of those who grieve for Judah and Jerusalem.

*Mazal Tov* to C.F.S. newlyweds Jonathan and Nicole Cohen, and to Asher Pincus who was

called to the Torah for the first time as a Bar Mitzvah.

The next Jewish Federation senior luncheon will be in our Community Hall at noon on Thursday, July 19. It's free, but to make your reservation, call Jodi Cohen at the Federation at 239.481.4449 x6.

July's "Brown Bag Movie Night"

begins at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 19, and features the 1967 French masterpiece *The Two of Us (Le Vieil Homme Et L'enfant)*. (See the article elsewhere in this issue for details.) Pack your dinner; admission and soft drinks are free.

Each Friday evening at 6:30 p.m. The Community Free Synagogue serves a traditional Sabbath dinner. It is free and reservations are never required. At 7:30 p.m. the Sabbath is welcomed with prayer and song. A coffee hour follows worship.

Every Saturday morning at 9:30 a.m. C.F.S. offers a light breakfast fol-

lowed by a lively discussion of the week's Torah portion until 11:30 a.m., when the Mourner's Qaddish is recited.

Now in its 13<sup>th</sup> year, The Community Free Synagogue is an independent synagogue and valued 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, led by Rabbi Bruce Diamond, is "Study, Worship and Benevolent Acts" (Pirqay Avot 1:2), following progressive Jewish values while observing essential Jewish traditions.

**TEMPLE BETH EL**

**Fort Myers**

**(239) 433-0018**

**www.templebethel.com**

On Saturday, May 19, Temple Beth El's Membership and Ritual Committees sponsored a special outreach program for unaffiliated Jews at the lovely home of congregants in Pelican Preserve. Rabbi Nicole Luna conducted a beautiful Havdalah service, signifying the end of Shabbat and welcoming the new week. Around forty Pelican Preserve residents attended the program



Rabbi Nicole Luna with guests at the special outreach program

and enjoyed traditional cheesecakes and pastries with which to celebrate Shavuot.

The Learning Tree is anxiously awaiting final scores for our five-star

rating. However, we could not wait to share our excitement with the TBE community as we are extremely proud of our teachers.

Each year there is a series of classroom observations to evaluate the teachers' instructional strategies and interactions with the children. Our last observation was of our youngest classroom, a room where children are still at a very busy age and it is not always an easy balance to make sure the educational benefits are clearly demonstrated among the caregiving needs. As usual, our teachers rocked it! We had a different observer than last year, but the feedback was the same: the highest toddler scores they have ever given. Both of the last two years we have been asked to use examples from our classrooms for training other teachers, the highest form of flattery for sure.

We are thankful for our dedicated and talented Learning Tree teachers. The end of the school year becomes hectic and at times pressuring for them, and this was an amazing hurdle to sail over. While scores reflected upon our toddler classroom, all of our teachers work diligently all year long to achieve the greatest levels of classroom engagement and embedded critical thinking skills. Please take the time to offer any and all of our teachers a smile, hug or a thank you!



**Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte Counties**

**Food Pantry Needs**

Following is a list of staples & non-perishable items always in need at the food pantry.

- ✧ Peanut butter and jelly
- ✧ Pasta and Pasta sauce
- ✧ Rice and beans
- ✧ Canned fruits
- ✧ Cereal & oatmeal
- ✧ Canned meats & fish

Gift cards to 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.

 **CONNECT**  
with your Jewish Community

[www.facebook.com/JewishFederationLCC](http://www.facebook.com/JewishFederationLCC) 

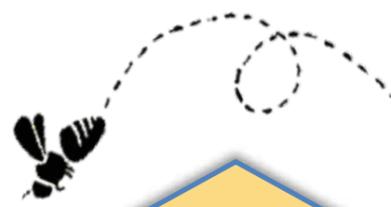
# Order Your High Holiday Greeting Today!

This High Holiday season, say "L'Shana Tova" to your friends and family in Southwest Florida!



**L'CHAYIM is continuing the practice of publishing your High Holiday greetings to your family and friends wherever they may be. Order your greeting for the September 2018 issue of L'CHAYIM.**

## L'Shana Tova Tikatevu.



Sign up now for the September issue of L'CHAYIM for as little as \$18 per greeting. Choose from these sample greetings.

*It's easy! Just select your ad(s), then complete and return the form below!*

**AUGUST  
3  
DEADLINE**



# 1A: \$18



# 1B: \$18



# 1C: \$18



# 1D: \$18



# 2A: \$36



# 2B: \$54

### ORDER FORM

I want to place the following High Holiday greeting(s) in the September 2018 L'CHAYIM.

PRINT your family names(s) on the lines below, in the exact order you would like them to appear:

\_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ made payable to the Jewish Federation.

Mail to: Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte Counties  
9701 Commerce Center Court, Fort Myers, FL 33908

#### CHECK YOUR AD CHOICES BELOW:

- \_\_\_ #1A (\$18)      \_\_\_ #1D (\$18)
- \_\_\_ #1B (\$18)      \_\_\_ #2A (\$36)
- \_\_\_ #1C (\$18)      \_\_\_ #2B (\$54)

**FORM & PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 3**

