

L'SHANA TOVA

MAY YOU BE INSCRIBED & SEALED FOR A GOOD YEAR

From the Board & Staff of the Jewish Federation

L'CHAYIM

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www.JewishFederationLCC.org

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Tracing Jewish Japan – the Japanese-Jewish connection

Sorting and cleaning

By Brian Simon, Federation President

Mindi and I recently cleaned out our office. By "office," I mean the room in our house that had become a de facto storage closet. Years and years of papers, toys, bar/bat mitzvah decorations and other assorted items had been collecting there. We took everything out of the room – literally everything – sorted through it and threw out hundreds of pounds of stuff. We tried



■ Brian Simon

to put back only what we deemed necessary to keep.

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are symbolically our own kind of cleaning project. We sort through a year's worth of behavior, apologize for our sins and resolve to live cleaner in the year to come.

Here at the Federation board, we're in the process of sorting through our activities: What do we do well? What are we doing that maybe we shouldn't be doing? What impact are we trying to make?

So far, we have determined that we're trying to make an impact in three areas: Jewish cultural events, Jewish

Family Services and Israel advocacy. The Israel advocacy can go two ways. We advocate for Israel here in the U.S., and we advocate for American Jewry in Israel.

There is more work to do. More sorting. More cleaning. I am open to hearing your perspective. If you'd like to talk, please feel welcome to leave me a message through the Federation office or email me at brian.simon@utexas.edu.

Mindi and I wish you *L'Shana Tova*. I hope your personal sorting and cleaning goes well. ▲

The Federation Food Pantry – from the inside and the outside

By Jodi Cohen, Senior Outreach & Food Pantry Coordinator

I begin this article with a confession. I took over the Federation Food Pantry responsibilities in July and had no idea, really, what it meant and how important it is. Before Leni Sack retired from the Federation she showed me how the pantry works, handed over the necessary paperwork, explained the processes, and I, being a good learner, took notes.

What changed my understanding was meeting the grandmother who came in to get food for her household of six, including her children and grandchildren, and said, "I'm so grateful for this food because I did not have grocery money this week." Or the woman who called to make an appointment to pick up food that day, only to call back later that morning to say that she didn't have enough gas to make it from North Fort Myers to the Federation. Or the woman who said her grown daughter would be calling me to come and get food because she just had her second set of twins (yes, you read that right) and needed help with groceries.

The Federation is one of 150 or-

ganizations that partner with the Harry Chapin Food Bank (HCFB) to provide food for five surrounding counties. I attended a meeting last July at the HCFB and was amazed to see the size and scope of the warehouse, number of volunteers and the entire operation. I encourage you to visit the website to learn about what they do and who they serve: <http://harrychapinfoodbank.org>. At the meeting I learned that the HCFB distributed 22.3 million pounds of food last year and expects to distribute more in 2018.

22.3 million pounds of food is... well, it's a lot of food.

The Federation packs bags of food for its clients and each bag weighs about 10 pounds. Each bag contains canned vegetables, protein (tuna, chili, peanut butter, beans), pasta or rice, sauce, cereal and other items, including chips, cookies, dried fruit or canned fruit, depending on what we have in our inventory. I always ask if people need toilet paper, paper towels and toiletries, if we have those products, and everyone says yes. We try to provide one bag of food per person in a household.

Consider this: Ten pounds is also the weight of a puppy, a bowling ball, a 3-month-old baby and a case of 12 cans of food.

If you divide 22.3 million pounds of food by 10 pounds, well, that's a lot of puppies, babies, bowling balls and cans of food.

The Federation serves clients that are non-denominational who only have to show ID to prove they live in Lee or Charlotte counties. Examples of Federation Food Pantry clients include families who have just moved to town and do not have a place to live yet, people who have lost their jobs, people who haven't started receiving their food stamps yet, and people who need help supplementing what they can afford. Our clients are Jewish and non-Jewish. All ages. All races. One afternoon I had clients from three households with a total of 16 people, and because we were well-stocked and had pre-packaged bags of food, I was able to provide one bag of food per person.

Judith Yevick and Carolyn Gora are the regular pantry volunteers who put away food donations, organize the pantry inventory, check for expiration dates, and pack the bags of food for clients. Aron Rudolf, a 16-year-old I met when he came with his grandfather Murray to a senior luncheon, spent an entire day in July moving everything out of the pantry and doing a deep,

continued on page 3



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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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Advertising: Jim Lewin (239) 634-6923

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

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OCTOBER ISSUE
EDITORIAL DEADLINE:
Wednesday, September 5

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Program notes

By Debbie Sanford, Program Director

I left a great job in New York two years ago to move my son and me closer to my parents. You know the parent shpiel: "We will see what it is like to be snowbirds," turned into "We are moving to Florida fulltime. We can't take the winters anymore." It happened in just two winters. But who can blame them? No snow and ice to shovel, no hats and gloves. And look at the weather here, and the beaches! I fell in love the first time I came to visit. But it was a hard move for us leaving all of our friends and my sister (my best friend) and her family behind.



Debbie Sanford

But we did it. We packed up and moved to Sarasota. My brother and his family had already taken the plunge a couple of years earlier and so it helped to have them here.

I have to say, I think I am a very lucky person and I truly believe that things happen for a reason. (You will hear me say things are *b'shert* all the time.)

So, in the two years I have been in Southwest Florida, I gained a ton of knowledge working for The Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee. I met a wonderful man and his beautiful daughter, who happen to live in Charlotte County, and that in turn is what brought me down this way from Sarasota (*b'shert*). My 17-year-old son, Ian, is happy and healthy and enrolled in a local college for a dual enrollment program for his last year of high school – and he is loving that. My parents are healthy and happy in Sun City Center and NOW...I am the new program director for the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties.

Executive Director Alan Isaacs, the staff, and the board members I have met have been so welcoming and helpful. And thank you to the entire community for your welcome emails and phone calls. I can't wait to meet everyone I have spoken with thus far. I am thrilled to be working in Fort Myers with this wonderful and active community.

I bring to the Jewish Federation 14 years of Jewish

programming and event experience through previous Jewish Family Services and Jewish Community Center positions I have held, and I love what I do. I am very excited about the upcoming year of programming, and for now I am listening and learning. So talk to me...and tell me what you want.

Book Club will restart on Wednesday, October 17 at 6:00 p.m. with a live Q&A session with the author and dinner. See the Book Club ad for more details.

Young Professionals Group? Let's get together and meet, and look at ways we can get this group active again. (I love to plan fun get-togethers and social events.)

J-Fed Hits the Road (formerly the J-Fed Social Club) are daytrips for people who want to see great places and meet new faces! What do YOU like to do for fun? A bus trip to a museum, a show or a casino?

The Community Breakfast is not that far off and happens to fall during Hanukkah, so you won't want to miss the entertainment we have in store for you this year!

Our dedicated Jewish Film Festival committee is tirelessly watching film after film to pick just the right ones for another fantastic festival. Save the date...The Jewish Film Festival is kicking off with a big Opening Day Event on Sunday, January 13, 2019. More details will follow soon.

Pacesetters, Lions of Judah, Major Givers: We are planning some great events for you.

Author events are being booked as I write this article and, maybe by next month, we will have some confirmed guest announcements.

I will stop here so as not to overwhelm you just yet. I do enjoy writing a little note to you each week in the weekly newsletter, which is emailed every Wednesday. If you do not already receive it, please email me at debbiesanford@jfedlcc.org with your email address and I will add you to the list.

I wish you a happy and healthy New Year from my family to yours. May you be inscribed and sealed for a good year.▲

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visit www.JewishFederationLCC.org.

Senior Lunch Bunch update

By Jodi Cohen, Senior Outreach & Food Pantry Coordinator

“We are not here for the food. The food is secondary. We are here because we are starving – starving for each other.” That is how Rabbi Bruce Diamond welcomed the crowd of 69 people at the July lunch hosted by The Community Free Synagogue.

What he said is true. The Senior Lunch Bunch started out as a monthly gathering for seniors who are isolated and homebound as an opportunity for them to have a meal together and be in

ple out of their cars when they arrive. We are ever grateful to our community partner, Jason’s Deli, for providing delicious food.

We are a welcoming crowd and there is always a place at the table for you. People attending the lunch for the first time are assigned a “lunch buddy” so they don’t have to navigate on their own. Volunteers provide rides for people who need transportation. There’s a short program after people finish eating, and it’s usually interactive. We

NEXT SENIOR LUNCH BUNCH:
Thursday, September 13 at 12:30 p.m.
Grand Villa, 1499 S. Brandywine Circle, Fort Myers
RSVP by September 7 to
Jodi Cohen at 239.481.4449 x6 or jodicohen@jfedlcc.org

community with other Jewish seniors.

While we are still in service to that population, the Senior Lunch Bunch has transformed over the last three years into a gathering that welcomes ALL seniors. If you would like to have lunch and enjoy the community of other Jewish people your age, then this is the lunch for you. If you’re new to the community or have lived here for many years, if you have a busy lifestyle or if you’ve slowed down a bit... it doesn’t matter. We welcome you!

Every lunch feels like a celebration and there is always abundant joy in the room.

Every month, the volunteers, of all ages, work together seamlessly to put on a lunch in a different venue. There are small touches that showcase a caring sense of community: seniors being warmly greeted at the name tag table, fresh-cut flowers on the tables, and volunteers helping peo-

welcome any ideas or suggestions you have about a program that you think would be interesting.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Sherri Zucker at 239.980.5760 or sherriz62@aol.com.▲



Creative Movement Class

By Jodi Cohen, Senior Outreach & Food Pantry Coordinator

The Federation sponsored a Creative Movement Class for Seniors led by Valerie Green on July 22 at Brookdale on College Parkway. Valerie runs a dance company and leads workshops for seniors in New York City. She reached out to the Federation and asked if she might lead a workshop during her next visit to Fort Myers to see her parents, Bob and Carol Green.

Twenty people attended a class that was full of frolic! We warmed up to Latin music, then experimented with tempo, space and levels while accompanied by a wide variety of music. Finally, we worked in silence while practicing mirroring with a partner.

There was a lot of sizzle in the room – whether people were moving in their chairs or bopping around the room.

The Federation would like to thank Brookdale for hosting this event.

If you are interested in additional Creative Movement Classes, please contact me at 239.481.4449 x6 or jodicohen@jfedlcc.org.▲



Food Pantry...continued from page 1 thorough cleaning. It takes a dedicated village to run the pantry.

I had the pleasure of speaking with Federation volunteer Victor Gold one morning as he dropped off his regular pantry donation, and asked him to talk about why he donated. He said, “Unless you’re sure that you’re going to die broke, you can afford to buy a few extra cans of food, pack them in a separate bag and drop them off.” What inspired him was when he saw the name of someone he knew listed in the L’CHAYIM food pantry donations and asked her about it. “It’s incredibly painless to donate food, and there’s no down side,” Victor said.

Another confession: While I knew about the Federation Food Pantry prior to my own involvement, I only donated sporadically, as it wasn’t on my radar the way it is now. Now I pay attention to the BOGO (buy one get one free) bins in the grocery store. If I’m at a dollar store to buy glue sticks, I will also buy food. If I’m grocery shopping, I buy extra food. The need to feed people in Lee County continues to grow and, for me, the need is no longer abstract. The people who receive food at the Federa-

tion are incredibly grateful. We have had deodorant to offer people recently and you would think I had given them the moon.

The High Holidays are when local congregations invite their members to donate to the pantry. Those donations are crucial to keeping our pantry stocked until, and sometimes through, the Thanksgiving and winter holidays. Our weekly e-newsletter, sent out by Program Director Debbie Sanford, lists current needs for the pantry in the beginning of the email, as our needs change weekly. The food pantry ads featured in the e-newsletter, L’CHAYIM (see below) and on the Federation website list the staples that we always need. You are welcome to donate food to the pantry at the Federation all year long.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the food pantry, please contact me at jodicohen@jfedlcc.org or 239.481.4449 x6.

For those of you who have understood all along the importance of supporting the Federation Food Pantry, I humbly thank you. A heartfelt thank you to those of you who will donate in the future.▲

High Holiday services and events will take place on the following dates:
Erev Rosh Hashanah: Sept. 9
Rosh Hashanah: Sept. 10-11
Yom Kippur Eve: Sept. 18
Yom Kippur: Sept. 19



Please contact the area’s temples for their specific schedules and more information.

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.

- ✦ 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.

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

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



YOU MAKE IT HAPPEN

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 memory of Martin Schlager
from Steve & Toni Goodman

In honor of Harry Shapiro's 93rd birthday
from Lindy Smith

The leadership and staff of the Jewish Federation extend deepest condolences to Chely Dosoretz on the death of her father, Saul Patrich

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

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

REPORTERS:

Adele Young
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HOW THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF LEE & CHARLOTTE COUNTIES SERVES



Local Jewish Education and Culture

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



Overseas

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



Local Seniors Services

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



Local Case Management Services

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

Local Emergency Services

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



Local Community Services

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



Jewish Community Foundation

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



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Together we CAN Make a Difference!

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.

Holocaust Museum & Cohen Education Center update

By Susan Suarez, President & CEO

Greetings from The Holocaust Museum & the Janet G. and Harvey D. Cohen Education Center! I hope everyone had a good summer.

Preparations continue for our exciting move in early 2019 to larger quarters with new exhibits. A recent review of our student and visitor statistics for this past year have pushed our impact numbers to a new level. Since 2001, now over 200,000 students and visitors have been impacted by Museum education programming and tours! The new Museum will allow us to educate even more students and visitors about the dangers of indifference.

Our *I Witness* exhibit continues through October 31. Visit our website for details. Invitations will be mailed next month for the December 2018 Luncheon Series, featuring the Violins of Hope Project. The Series will include an Author Talk on December 12 by Dr. James Grymes, author of *Violins of Hope*. And on December 13, a Sponsor reception will be held with Violins of Hope violinmaker Avshi Weinstein, followed by The Luncheon, which will feature a musical presentation using several of the restored violins. For information on the Series, sponsorships and to receive an invitation, contact Tim Morrison at Tim@HolocaustMuseumSWFL.org or call 239.263.9200.

“Save the Date” for Triumph 2019 at Grey Oaks Country Club on March 4, featuring speaker Christian Picciolini,

founder of Life After Hate.

This fall, the Museum is excited to partner with the Human Rights Film Coalition of SWFL, presenting its inaugural community initiative, “Movies That Matter SWFL – We CAN Make a Difference.” The Coalition’s mission in sponsoring “Movies That Matter SWFL” is to educate, engage and facilitate discussion around human rights topics through film. The Coalition members are The Holocaust Museum & Education Center, GenShoah SWFL, the Jewish Federation of Greater Naples/Jewish Community Relations Council and Temple Shalom.

As the Coalition notes: “Human rights are rights that are believed to belong justifiably to every person. They are basic rights and freedoms inherent to all human beings, whatever their nationality, place of residence, sex, religion, color, ethnic origin or any other status. These rights are based on shared values like dignity, fairness, equality and respect. Human rights include the right to life and liberty, freedom from slavery and torture, the right to education and many more.”

The carefully-selected documentary films will be facilitated by an authority on the topic and be followed by a Q&A, providing audiences the opportunity to explore the topic. RSVP required. Rather than charging admission this inaugural season, a \$10 minimum donation per film is requested. \$75 Patron tickets for reserved seats are also available, as are sponsorships to help make these presentations possible. For sponsorship details, please contact Tim Morrison at Tim@HolocaustMuseumSWFL.org or call 239.263.9200. Film reservations and Patron tickets requests

can be made after September 1 by visiting www.HolocaustMuseumSWFL.org.

The four films to be presented are: *I Am Jane Doe* deals with sex trafficking and tells the story of mothers advocating on behalf of their daughters who were victims. A “gripping legal thriller,” it is a powerful call to action. Human trafficking occurs in all 50 states, with the highest incidents in California, Texas, Florida and New York. Thursday, October 18, 6:30 p.m. at Temple Shalom, 4630 Pine Ridge Road, Naples.

Freedom to Marry goes behind the scenes to show the historic civil rights struggle that led to the U.S. Supreme Court decision. “A primer for social change, and an inspirational tale of how people can actually make a difference.” Thursday, November 1, 7:00 p.m. at Temple Shalom.

John Lewis - Get in the Way documents 50+ years in the life of the legislator, activist and civil rights leader

considered by many to be “the conscience of Congress.” Lewis continues to fight to protect the rights afforded to every person in this nation. Tuesday, November 13, 7:00 p.m. at Sheffield Theater, Moorings Park, 120 Moorings Park Dr., Naples.

Bending the Arc follows the work of Dr. Paul Farmer and other dedicated professionals on the frontlines of the global health crisis. Despite the seemingly hopeless situations they face, they are making a difference to those who suffer from poverty and ill health. This film premiered at the Sundance Film Festival. This final film of the inaugural season will be shown free of charge on Monday, December 10 at 6:00 p.m. at South Regional Library, 8065 Lely Cultural Pkwy, Naples. RSVP to www.HolocaustMuseumSWFL.org after September 1.

We hope you will be able to attend these important community events, and please visit us soon at the Museum! ▲



■ Susan Suarez

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 30th 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 or call Susan at 818.606.0793.

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Rosh Hashanah:

7:00 PM Sunday September: Rosh Hashanah Eve
10:00 AM Monday September 10: Morning Worship
4:00 PM September 10: Tashlikh and Rabbi's Open House

Yom Kippur:

7:00 P M Tuesday September 18
Wednesday September 19
10:00 AM Morning Worship
2:30 PM Study with the Rabbi
4:00 PM *Minhah, Yizkor and Ne'ilah*
Complimentary Break-the-Fast after worship

Sukkot:

6:00 PM Sunday September 23 Sukkah Topping
7:00 PM Saturday September 29 *Simhat Bet Hasho'evah*
Dancing, wine and cheese, sweet table
7:00 PM Sunday September 30 Yizkor and Simhat Torah

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A new Fort Myers Jewish celebration

Simhat Bet Hasho'ayvah festivities will begin with Havdalah at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, September 29 in the Community Hall of The Community Free Synagogue, 10868 Metro Parkway. It is free and open to all.

The Talmud teaches that, "One who has never witnessed Simhat Bet Hasho'ayvah (The Waterhouse Celebration) has never really seen a celebration in his lifetime!" (Sukkot 51a)

Each day of the Feast of Tabernacles, a ceremonial vessel of water was drawn from the magnificent Silo'am Pools complex at the base of the ancient City of David and, accompanied by flutes, drums and cymbals, was paraded up the Pilgrim Way up to the Great Temple at the top of the hill. There, it was carefully poured out in a ritual libation, *nisukh hamayim*, over the sacrificial altar. This was in keeping with the Scriptures: "You shall joy-

ously draw water from the wellsprings of salvation." (Isaiah 12:3)

Then both men and women danced together and celebrated all night by the light of the giant golden candelabras that were erected just for this purpose in the Temple's Women's Precinct. Even the usually staid sages came out for the festivities and, reportedly, juggled with lit torches as they danced (Sukkot 51b), while shofar and silver trumpets continuously sounded all night long! Without a doubt this was Jerusalem's happiest time each year that the Temple existed, and some Hassidic groups still carry on this celebration.

In keeping with the spirit of Simhat Bet Hasho'ayvah, the very popular Fort Myers D.J., Max Weinberg from Max Weinberg Entertainment, will provide dance music while Total Wines and More will conduct a wine tasting. Hors d'oeuvre and a sweet table will be served. Party attire is requested.▲

"Wrestling with Faith" – a new JLI course in SWFL

Most people, even the devout, struggle with beliefs about G-d. It is easy, for example, to affirm the basic tenets of Judaism during a prayer service, but when it comes to trusting G-d with our daily decisions, many share a secret, painful fear that G-d isn't really looking out for them.

Many of us have been brought up under the assumption that mainstream science is incompatible with our Jewish faith. So when we see compelling evidence for biological evolution, for example, we feel forced to choose between science and our faith.

"Wrestling with Faith" was created to tackle questions like these – the "big issues" that keep people from an intimate relationship with G-d. The course acknowledges the often unspoken doubts and fears that all people share, and seizes their invitation for us to dig deeper for the answers.

The six-week course begins on Thursday, October 18 at Chabad Lubavitch of Southwest Florida, 5620 Winkler Road, Fort Myers. To register, please call 239.433.7708, email rabbi@chabadswf.org or visit www.chabadswf.org.

Lesson 1:
I Have Trouble Believing In G-d
There are many things about G-d that bother me. For starters, what is G-d?

Besides, I can live perfectly well without Him. Why do I need Him in my life?

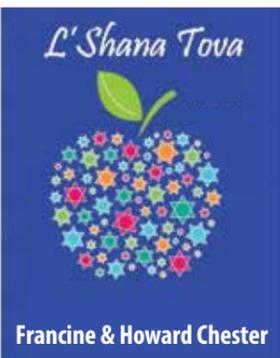
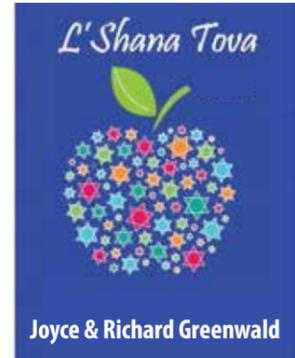
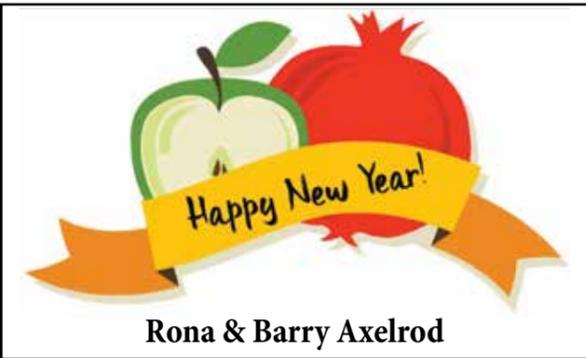
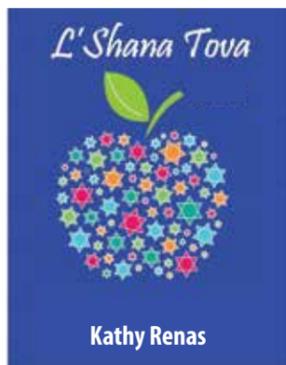
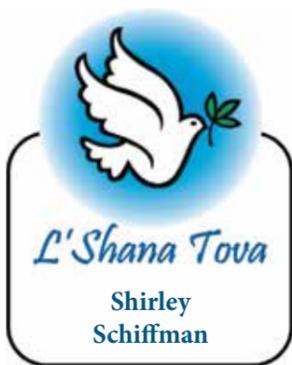
Lesson 2:
Does God Really Care?
Many Jewish observances seem petty and burdensome, and they interfere with the way we choose to run our lives. Why can't G-d just leave me alone?

Lesson 3:
Jewish Beliefs Seem Primitive
G-d seems to espouse outdated beliefs such as the notions of a "chosen nation" and designated gender roles. Plus, He interferes with our choice of lifestyle.

Lesson 4:
A Good G-d Who Does Bad Stuff
How can we understand and relate to G-d's intimate and caring presence in our lives amid the experience of suffering and tragedy?

Lesson 5:
Are Religion and Science at Odds?
How might a scientific person embrace beliefs that cannot be proven in a lab, or reconcile compelling evidence for the theory of evolution and the age of the universe with a literal reading of the Bible?

Lesson 6:
How Can I Relate to a G-d I Cannot See?
Can a finite human have an intimate relationship with an infinite G-d? If it is indeed possible, where do I start?▲



Look for more New Year greetings from members of our Jewish community throughout this issue.

2018/5779 HIGH HOLY DAYS SCHEDULE



14486 A & W Bulb Road
Fort Myers, FL 33908

For more information and High Holiday tickets, please call the Temple Judea Office at 239-433-0201

www.tjswfl.org

Selichot

Saturday, September 1
9:00pm Reception, and Service

Rosh Hashanah

Sunday, September 9
6:00pm Family Service – Open to community
6:30 pm Congregational Service
Monday, September 10
9:30am Congregational Service and Child Care
10:30am Youth Service
4:30pm Tashlich

Tuesday, September 11
9:30am Congregational Service

Kol Nidre

Tuesday, September 18
6:30pm Family Service – Open to community
7:00 pm Congregational Service

Yom Kippur

Wednesday, September 19
9:30am Congregational Service and Child Care
10:30am Youth Service
4:30pm Afternoon Discussion
5:30 pm Minchah/N'ilah/Havdalah
7:54pm Shofar Blowing

Sukkot

Monday, September 24
9:30am Service
Friday, September 28
6:30pm Shabbat Sukkot
Consecration, Sukkot Dinner
Sunday, September 30
5:30pm Spaghetti Dinner
& Erev Simchat Torah
Monday, October 1
9:30 am Sh'mini Atzeret/Simchat Torah
(includes Yizkor)

All services conducted by Rabbi Marc Sack

Dedication Ceremony of the "Eternal Light" section of the Memorial Gardens Cemetery

The Chevra Kadisha of Lee County has the rare opportunity to dedicate the new Jewish "Eternal Light" section of the Memorial Gardens Cemetery and you are invited. You may not even know that Lee County has a Chevra Kadisha (sacred burial society) that provides *Tahara* (ritual purification) services for the Jewish community, regardless of religious or non-affiliated status. We are all volunteers who believe in the sanctity of the Jewish *neshama* (spirit). We never charge for our services and we work with all the local religious leaders and funeral service providers.

In addition to performing the *Tahara* service for the deceased, *chevra kadishim* are occasionally called upon to perform the sanctification ceremony to dedicate the section of a cemetery where the Jewish community is buried. I say "occasionally," because this opportunity rarely occurs. Most com-

munities have cemeteries that date back to the first Jewish settlers' arrival and the land was consecrated generations ago. In our healthy and growing Fort Myers Jewish community, we are blessed with a funeral home and cemetery that appreciates the needs of our expanded community, and strives to support our traditions and timeless rituals. They have gone to great efforts to comply with our halachic requirements and, accordingly, invited your local *chevra* to consecrate the grounds.

The ceremony will be conducted by members of the Chevra Kadisha of Lee County. During

the ceremony we will provide an explanation of the meaning of this mitzvah. The members of the *chevra* will circle the area to be dedicated while reciting verses from the Book of Psalms. Upon completion of the readings, a shofar is sounded, signaling that this

ground is now consecrated for Jewish burial.

Following this ceremony, a burial of sacred texts that have fallen into a state of disrepair will occur in the newly dedicated Jewish section, and a memorial service for the community, followed by a nosh, is scheduled (see the article below).

Please plan to attend this rare occasion at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 16 at the "Eternal Light" section of the Fort Myers Memorial Gardens, 1589 Colonial Blvd., Fort Myers. Members of the *chevra* will be on hand to answer any questions you may have regarding the service we provide or how you can participate in this wonderful mitzvah.

The Chevra Kadisha of Lee County is a member of the National Association of Chevra Kadisha (naskc.org) and the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties. ▲



Genizah Ceremony to take place after dedication of new Jewish cemetery section

By Terri Goldberg

The dedication of Ner Tamid (Eternal Light), the new Jewish section in the Fort Myers Memorial Gardens, will take place on Sunday, September 16. Following the dedication, and prior to the traditional High Holiday Memorial Service, our community will have the opportunity to experience and participate in a very unique ceremony. Fort Myers Memorial Gardens has graciously donated an empty plot for us to use to bury our ritual items that are no longer usable. The entire program begins at 11:00

a.m. and concludes with a reception at their Family Center.

The term "*genizah*," which means reserved or hidden in Hebrew, is traditionally known as the temporary place to store ritual items before they are buried. These *genizot* were usually found in either synagogues or at the cemetery itself. Items put into a *genizah* include all sacred writings such as Torah scrolls, volumes of the Talmud, and *siddurim* (prayer books), as well as *tzitzit*, *tefillin* and *tallitot*. The Genizah Ceremony is when all of

these items are buried in the cemetery itself. We bury these items as a sign of respect for God's holy name, just as we bury our loved ones when they are deceased.

The Cairo Genizah is probably the best known *genizah*. Discovered in 1896, it contained some 300,000 Jewish manuscript fragments that outlined a 1,000-year continuum (870 CE to the 19th century) of Jewish Middle Eastern and North African history. Solomon Schechter was instrumental in bringing the contents of the Cairo Genizah

to Cambridge University.

We invite you to look around your home, collect items to be properly disposed of in a *genizah* and bring them with you on September 16. Even if you do not have items you would like to have buried, we hope you will join us in this, possibly once-in-a-lifetime, cemetery dedication and Genizah Ceremony. ▲

Terri Goldberg is an Auxiliary Rabbi at The Community Free Synagogue.



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Bill Graham and the Rock & Roll Revolution opens at The Florida Holocaust Museum

The Florida Holocaust Museum is thrilled to announce that *Bill Graham and the Rock & Roll Revolution* has recently opened. This exhibition explores the extraordinary life of renowned music promoter Bill Graham (1931-1991), who helped launch and promote the careers of countless rock & roll artists. It also traces the indomitable spirit of a man brought to the United States as an 11-year-old Jewish refugee fleeing the Nazis, fueling a lifelong passion and advocacy for justice.

Due to the increasing peril to Jews in Germany, Graham's mother placed her son and her youngest daughter, Tanya, "Tolla," in a Berlin orphanage, which sent them to France in a pre-Holocaust exchange of Jewish children for Christian orphans. Graham's older sisters, Sonja and Ester, stayed behind with their mother. After the fall of France, Graham was among a group of Jewish orphans spirited out of France, some of whom finally reached the United States. But a majority, including Tolla, did not survive the difficult journey.

He was one of the One Thousand Children (OTC), those mainly Jewish children who managed to flee Hitler and Europe, and come directly to North America, but whose parents were forced to stay behind. Nearly all of these OTC parents were killed by

the Reich. Graham's mother died at Auschwitz. Graham had five sisters, Rita, Evelyn, Sonia, Ester and Tolla. The elder four survived the Holocaust. Rita and Ester moved to the United

States and were close to Graham in his later life. Evelyn and Sonia escaped the Holocaust, first to Shanghai and, later, after the war, to Europe.

Named one of the best museum shows of 2017 by the *Chicago Tribune*, The FHM is proud to present this iconic exhibition, organized and circulated by the Skirball Cultural Center, Los Angeles, in association with the Bill Graham Memorial Foundation, and made possible by the support of Alex Graham, David Graham and Danny Scher.

Bill Graham and the Rock & Roll Revolution is the first comprehensive retrospective about the life and career of Bill Graham. Recognized as one of the most influential concert promoters in history, Graham launched the careers of numerous legends in the 1960s at his famed Fillmore Auditorium. He conceived rock & roll as a powerful force for supporting humanitarian causes and was instrumental in the production of mile-



American-Soviet Concert for Peace, Izmailovo Stadium, Moscow, July 4, 1987, gelatin silver print, photo courtesy of Ken Friedman

stone benefit concerts such as Live Aid (1985) and Human Rights Now! (1988). As a promoter and manager, he worked with iconic artists including the Grateful Dead, Jefferson Airplane, Janis Joplin,

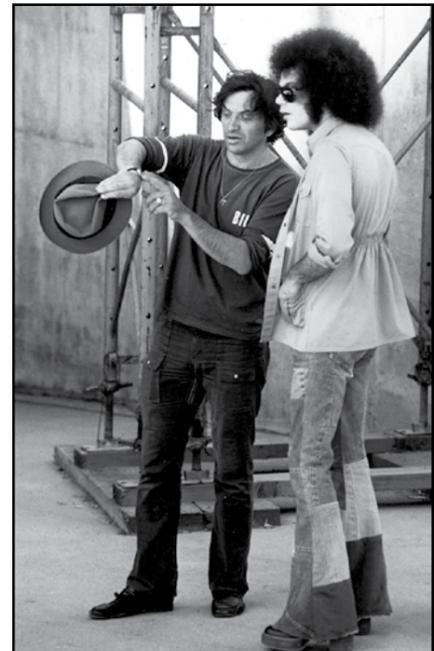
Jimi Hendrix, Santana, Fleetwood Mac, The Who, Led Zeppelin, The Doors and The Rolling Stones.

Through memorabilia, photographs, archival concert footage, historical and new video interviews, ephemera and psychedelic art, *Bill Graham and the Rock & Roll Revolution* is both a deeply personal reflection on Graham's life and an exploration of how Graham helped transform rock music into the immersive, multi-dimensional and highly lucrative phenomenon

of rock theater that persists today. Treasured photographs and artifacts from Graham's early life and career will be on loan from the Graham family, many on view to the public for the first time. Also for the first time ever, preparatory drawings and the original artwork of several iconic Fillmore concert posters will be on museum display, revealing the signature visual styles and creative process of poster artists Bonnie MacLean, Wes Wilson, David Singer, Greg Irons and David Byrd.

Bill Graham and the Rock & Roll Revolution also illuminates how Graham's childhood experiences as a Jewish emigrant from Nazi Germany fueled his drive and ingenuity as a cultural innovator and advocate for social justice. Born in Berlin, Graham arrived in New York at the age of eleven as part of a Red Cross effort to help Jewish children fleeing the Nazis. He went to live with a foster family in the Bronx and spent his teenage years in New York City before being drafted into the U.S. Army to fight

in the Korean War. He relocated to San Francisco just as the hippie movement was gathering steam, and became the business manager for the San Francisco Mime Troupe, a radical theater company that performed for free in parks. The first show Graham presented was on November 6, 1965: a fundraiser to support the legal defense of one of the



Bill Graham enlightens Beach Boys Management: "Your band is late." Berkeley Coliseum Stadium, Berkeley, CA, June 1971, chromogenic print, photo courtesy of Robert Altman

Mime Troupe actors. It was a transformative moment for the 34-year-old, who'd finally found something he was good at from which he could also earn a living. Soon afterwards he took over the lease on the famed Fillmore Auditorium, where he produced groundbreaking shows throughout the 1960s, including sold-out concerts by the Grateful Dead, Cream, Big Brother and the Holding Company, and The Doors, among many

continued on next page

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NO TICKETS ARE REQUIRED for services, but donations are welcome

For more information, visit BATYAM.ORG

Selichot

EVENING SERVICE Saturday, **SEPTEMBER 1** at 7:00pm, 1839 Farm Trail Road, Sanibel

Rosh Hashanah

EVENING SERVICE Sunday, **SEPTEMBER 9** at 7:30pm

MORNING SERVICE Monday, **SEPTEMBER 10** at 10:00am

TASHLICH (casting out of sins) Monday, **SEPTEMBER 10** at 1:00pm, 1605 Middle Gulf Drive, Unit 128, Sanibel

Yom Kippur

KOL NIDRE Tuesday, **SEPTEMBER 18** at 7:30pm

MORNING SERVICE Wednesday, **SEPTEMBER 19** at 10:00am

CONGREGANTS' HOUR following the morning service • featuring reflections from three congregants

SERVICE OF MUSIC & MEDITATION 3:00pm • featuring cellist Susannah Kelly and pianist Abigail Allison

AFTERNOON SERVICE 4:00pm • includes a discussion of the Book of Jonah, the Yom Kippur afternoon Haftarah, and Yizkor/Memorial service

BREAK-THE-FAST 6:00pm in Heron Hall • Reservations required

Contact Miriam Bailey at miriambailey@aol.com or Esta Berger at erb1882@aol.com

Best wishes for a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year to our Bat Yam family and friends, whether in SWFL or elsewhere!

Museum...continued from previous page

others. Graham's mastery at promoting, marketing and managing artists propelled him to become one of the music industry's most important figures.

The public will also be able to see, for the first time in more than 40 years, the original apple barrel that greeted fans with fresh apples at the entrance to the Fillmore Auditorium, letters and gifts from performers and fans,



The Silver Megaphone Award given to Bill Graham by The Rolling Stones, 1972, silver, Collection of David and Alex Graham, photo by Robert Wedemeyer

and remarkable live performance and backstage photos from the Fillmore, Winterland, Day on the Green, Live Aid and other Bill Graham Presents concerts throughout the era. An installation of "The Joshua Light Show" – the trailblazing liquid light show conceived in 1967 by multimedia artist Joshua

White, which served as a backdrop to many Graham-produced shows – will be customized by White specifically for the exhibition. It will be one of several gallery components designed to evoke the sights and sounds of the era.

Bill Graham and the Rock & Roll Revolution opened to the public on August 18 and will be on display through February 10, 2019.

Bill Graham and the Rock & Roll Revolution is organized and circulated by the Skirball Cultural Center, Los Angeles, in association with the Bill Graham Memorial Foundation, and made possible by the support of Alex Graham, David Graham and Danny Scher. It is presented locally by Bank of America, with additional support from the State of Florida Department of Cultural Affairs and The June Baumgardner Gelbart Foundation.

About The Florida Holocaust Museum

2017 marked a monumental milestone for The Florida Holocaust Museum as the Museum celebrated its 25th anniversary. One of the largest Holocaust museums in the country, and one of three nationally accredited Holocaust museums, The FHM honors the memory of millions of men, women and children who suffered or died in the Holocaust. The FHM is dedicated to teaching members of all races and cultures the inherent worth and dignity of human life in order to prevent future genocides. For additional information, please visit www.TheFHM.org. ▲



Temple Beth Shalom
702 SE 24th Avenue
Cape Coral
239-772-4555



High Holiday Service Schedule 2018-5779

Selichot

Saturday evening, September 1
8:00pm - Coffee & Dessert
8:30pm - Havdalah and Selichot Service

Rosh Hashanah Services

Sunday, September 9
7:30pm - Services
Monday September 10
10:00am - Services
11:00am - Children's Service
Light luncheon and Tashlich Ceremony following the morning services at Temple Beth Shalom

Cemetery Visitation Service

Sunday, September 16
11:00 am - Coral Ridge Cemetery (corner of Chiquita and Pine Island Road) - We will remember and honor our dearly departed loved ones – no matter where they are buried.

Yom Kippur Services

Tuesday September 18
7:30pm - Kol Nidre Service
Wednesday September 19
10:00am - 1:00pm - Morning Service
11:00am - Children's Service
3:30pm - Mincha, followed by Yizkor Memorial and Neilah Services, Concluding Shofar and Havdalah
Approx. 6:00pm - Break-the-Fast at Sundown (reservations required)

www.templebethshalomcc.org



TEMPLE BETH SHALOM



Please join us for any of the above services. Tickets are required for non-members. Please call the Temple Beth Shalom office for reservations and pricing at 239-772-4555.

The Start of the New Year

May the sounds of the shofar signal peace and unity for Israel and good health and contentment in our lives.

Naomi Bloom & Ron Wallace

L'Shana Tova

Muriel S. Freedman

L'Shana Tova Umetukah

Paula & Ira Zlatkin

L'Shana Tova

Brenda & Jacob Buck

The Start of the New Year

May the sounds of the shofar signal peace and unity for Israel and good health and contentment in our lives.

Marsha & Mike Kistler

L'Shana Tova

Alan & Esta Rubinstein

L'Shana Tova Umetukah

Phyllis & Barney Arnonson

SHANA TOVA

Cynthia Boyer

Happy New Year!

Richard H. & Judi Davis & family

L'Shana Tova

Dolly Roth & family

The surprisingly influential Jewish community at the southernmost corner of the United States

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

The Jews of Key West: Smugglers, Cigar Makers, and Revolutionaries (1823-1969), by Arlo Haskell. Sand Paper Press. 208 pages. Deluxe Trade Paperback \$24.00.

In seven well-shaped chapters, author Arlo Haskell packs an enjoyable and frequently astonishing history of Key West's Jewish community. Hearing of the topic, some people will assume that this is a slender thread to spin into a book. However, they would be wrong. Haskell's research has turned up a considerable amount of information that brings to life 144 years of Jewish involvement in this most idiosyncratic town.

The chapters bite off chronological slices of history, each focusing on the economic and cultural aspects of Jewish life. Thus, the journey begins with a discussion of sailors and merchants in an era of military events, stressing the importance of Key West as a port town, a multilingual place that had an international flair. In the first half of the nineteenth century, the Jewish community was tiny, hardly a real community. Early Jewish settlers included tailors and clothes merchants. The naval presence brought them customers.

During a 20-year span that followed the initial attraction of Jews to Key West, opportunities in a growth industry took hold and swelled the population, including the Cuban and the Jewish population. Samuel Seidenberg "was

the first manufacturer to capitalize on the fact that a cigar as good as the Cuban ones could be made in Key West at significantly lower cost." He constructed a huge factory. His Jewish rivals included M. Myerson, Max Marx, the Pohalski brothers and Julius Ellinger. Haskell's narrative of the Key West tobacco boom shows how it promoted the town's economy, attracting investments with its hundreds of employees. The Pohalski brothers built a company corner of town with homes for their workers. Their section of Key West gave rise to dry goods and grocery stores, as well as a drug store and a saloon. These leaders were primarily secular Jews.

As he traces the growth of the Jewish presence in Key West, Haskell keeps us in touch with larger issues of the time, including the Civil War and the Ten Years' War fought to liberate Cuba from the Spanish Empire. He points out parallels in the age-old Jewish and nineteenth century Cuban struggles for autonomy and independence. Haskell sheds light on the need for Key West's Jews to form alliances with exiled Cubans who, under the leadership of José Martí, had made Key West their command center.

The latter decades of the nineteenth century mark the beginning of a true Jewish community. New Jewish settlers in Key West often continued their European enterprises as peddlers and shopkeepers. Though Key West was ravaged by a fire in 1886, the rebuilding of the town brought new opportunities. Abram Wolkowsky and other Eastern European Jews shared religious customs, the experience of exile and the Yiddish language. Slowly, Jewish institutions begin to take hold. Congregation B'nai Zion, still function-

ing, gives 1887 as its date of origin.

The Jewish Alliance's Key West chapter emerged in 1891. Its primary concern was to establish a Jewish cemetery, and it did so. As the century wound down, "Jews had become an important and highly visible component of Key West business life." One of the community leaders, Louis Fine, was not only a successful businessman, but also served as lay leader for religious matters until Key West had its first rabbi.

Fine's grocery store had a lower level used "to store weapons for the [Cuban] rebel army." Haskell devotes a chapter to exploring the phenomenon of "Jewish Revolutionaries" in the 1890s.



Arlo Haskell (photo by Nick Doll)

The first two decades of the twentieth century witness a strong, thriving Key West Jewish community. The Jewish congregation held services and other activities on the second floor of the Fine family's hardware store. When Fine was not available, itinerant Rabbi Herman Horowitz handled the community's religious needs. All kinds of Jewish

businesses were set up along and near Duval Street.

On top of the Honest Profit House, a clothing store run by the Wolkowsky family, sat the office of the U.S. Immigration Inspector, and through that office many hundreds of Jews took their first steps toward citizenship.

Key West rode the wave of nationwide improvements in communication and other technologies. The growing Jewish population was serviced by efforts of the Jewish Alliance to find jobs for Jewish immigrants. This initiative included relocating immigrants from overcrowded New York to various other places around the country, Key West included. By 1905, the Jewish community reported having 158 members. Its members joined efforts to reunite Jewish families that had been separated.

Louis Fine led the formal establishment of the initial Key West synagogue known as Roidef Sulim. Its members were primarily Romanian Jews. The name transformed into Rodef Shalom and then Rodof Sholom. Rabbi Julian Shapo traveled from Oregon to be Key West's first ordained rabbi. He helped establish the Young Men's Hebrew Association before relocating to Tampa.

Two powerful hurricanes crippled Key West and challenged the future of the community and its synagogue. Just as dangerous was an internal fight that led to the collapse of Rodof Sholom and the emergence of B'nai Zion, first led, in 1909, by Rabbi Moise Marcu Siegell.

continued on next page

On the other side of the door, your spiritual home and family await.

Selichot

Saturday, September 1st
8:00 pm Dessert Reception
9:00 pm Selichot Service

Rosh Hashanah

Sunday, September 9th
7:30 pm Evening Service

Monday, September 10th
10:00 am Morning Service
10:30 am Jr. Congregation
12:30 pm Tashlich

In Lakes Park - be our guest at lunch
Families welcome

Rosh Hashanah 2nd Day

Tuesday, September 11th
10:00 am Morning Service

Yom Kippur

Tuesday, September 18th
7:30 pm Kol Nidre Eve Service

Wednesday, September 19th
10:00 am Morning Service
10:30 am Jr. Congregation
4:30 pm Musical Meditation
5:30 pm Yizkor
6:00 pm Mincha/Neilah
followed by Break-the-Fast

Sukkot

Monday, September 24th
11:00 am Sukkot Service
followed by lunch in the sukkah

All are welcome regardless of financial ability. For tickets, please call:

Simchat Torah

Sunday, September 30th
5:30 pm Simchat Torah Dinner & Celebration

Monday, October 1st
10:00 am Yizkor Service

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Book review...continued from previous page

Siegell was followed in 1914 by Rabbi Gidalyahu "Guy" Mendelson, who formed Key West's first Hebrew school.

In the 1920s, severe restrictions in U.S. immigration policies created tumult for would-be Jewish settlers in Key West and elsewhere. The spirit (or spirits) of the time led to new Jewish businesses – saloons and pool rooms. Temperance forces brought about the constitutional amendment that either stopped the flow of alcoholic beverages or made the sale, transport and use illegal. While they could, Jewish merchants took a healthy share of the liquor business.

Through the 1920s and 1930s, Jews were engaged in smuggling aliens. They were also busy defending themselves against the menace of the Ku Klux Klan and other manifestations of anti-Semitism. Weather disasters continued to threaten. Though several hundred Jews resided in Key West in 1912, the number had shrunk to barely 200 when Rabbi Mendelson left in 1919. A decade later, the community had almost vanished. All of Key West had fallen upon hard times.

However, a renaissance was at hand. America's war effort transformed Key

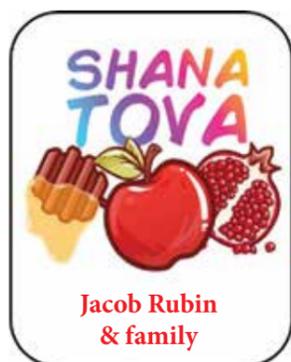
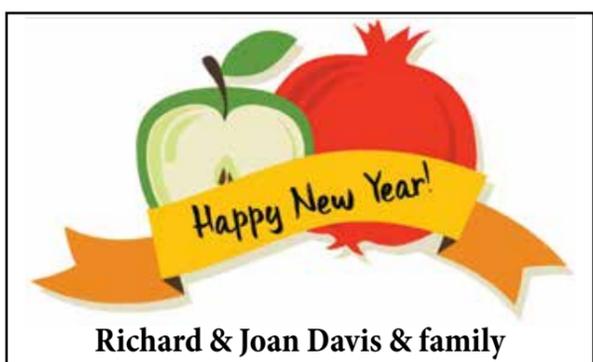
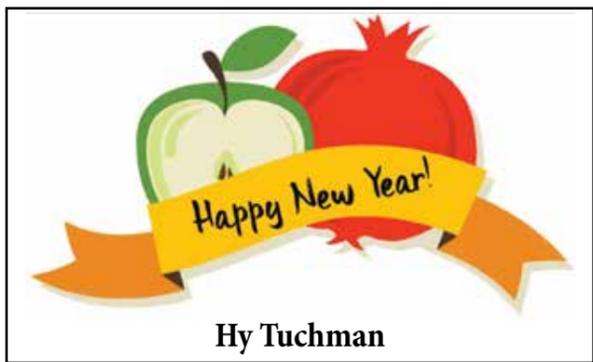
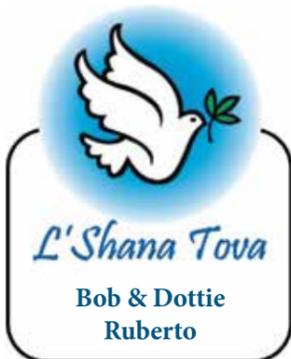
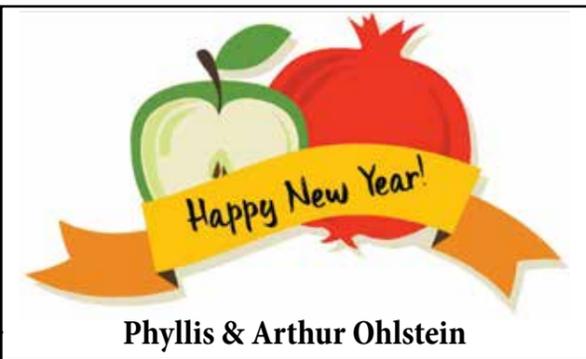
West, once again, into a Navy town. "Hitler opened the Navy Yard," said Jack Einhorn, a Key West Jew whose military service helped defeat the Nazi powers. It was boom time. The wartime economic growth of Key West led to many new businesses and a population influx, with Key West's population doubling between 1940 and 1950. The Jewish population shared in this resurgence.

In 1965, B'nai Zion began building its new, modern home. When it opened in 1969, it ushered in a new age of confidence and a respectful sense of the longstanding Jewish influence in this tiny, dynamic corner of the U.S.

Haskell's dazzling book is beautifully designed with French flaps, foil stamping and printed endsheets. Illustrated with over 100 full-color plates, it includes extensive chapter notes, an index and a bibliography. ▲

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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.





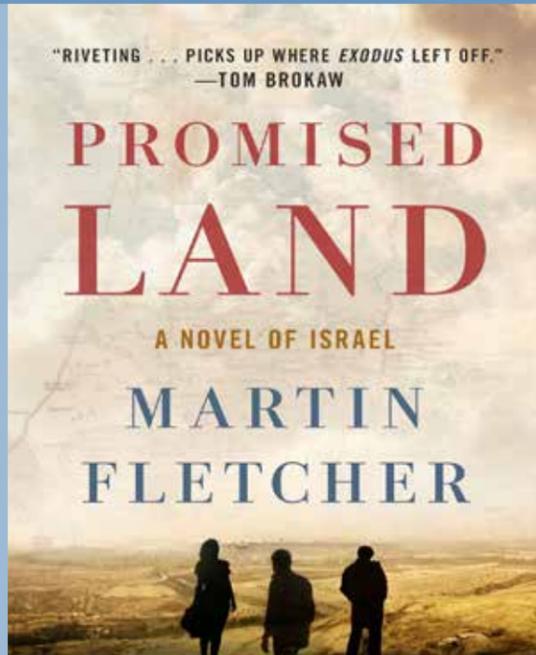
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2018 Eurovision Song Contest won by Netta Barzilai

By Arlene Stolnitz

Israel's first-place win in the 2018 Eurovision Song Contest, normally held every year in May, and held in Lisbon, Portugal, this year, was a shock to all even though Netta Barzilai's "Toy" had been touted as a favorite. It was reported that she would sing "Toy" in English except for a few Hebrew phrases. Opposition to even a mention of the name Jerusalem was apparent during the event, but that didn't stop the judges from choosing the sassy song with its strong message.

Barzilai, Israel's famous transgender pop singer, exclaimed after the contest, "Thank you for choosing difference, thank you for celebrating diversity."

As an ambitious and determined 25-year-old, Barzilai has an extensive and excellent background in music studies. She has studied at the renowned Rimon School of Music in Ramat HaSharon, Israel, where she specialized in electronic music. Rimon is Israel's largest independent professional school for the advanced study of jazz, R&B, bebop, rock and pop music. (Florida residents will be interested in knowing Rimon's international program includes a course of study in Winter Park, Florida.)

Barzilai's choice of "Toy" is characteristic of the unique artist that she is. It's not just bop, but a special mix of ethnic Mizrahi with influences from Europe, North Africa and the Middle East.

Known by her stage name Netta, her song is a women's anthem to female empowerment, as well as to everyone else.

The catchy song uses lyrics such as: "Look at me, I'm a beautiful creature/ I don't care about your modern-time preachers/ Welcome boys, too much noise, I will teach you." The message, "I am a strong, independent woman," is an obvious reference to the #MeToo movement.

For those brave enough to listen to the song online, Netta clucks like a chicken with noises that are meant to imitate the voices of a coward, a chicken – someone who doesn't act the way he/she feels and treats you like a toy.

Forty-three countries participated in the contest this year with Cyprus and the Czech Republic scoring their highest results ever. The international song competition, established in 1956, is held among the member nations of the European Broadcasting Union and is reportedly the longest-running international television contest with an audience of over 100 million viewers. It is also broadcast in several countries that do not compete such as the U.S., Canada, New Zealand and China.

This is Israel's fourth win at the contest. Familiar to *Jewish News* readers are songs such as "Hallelujah!" and "Yahad Na'amod" (Together We Stand), past Israeli winners. The Sarasota Jewish Chorale sang "Yahad Na'amod" in its production of "Remembering to Rejoicing" earlier this year.

Traditionally, the winner of the contest hosts the competition the following year. Next year's Eurovision (as it is called) will take place in Jerusalem, which is already causing some consternation among the anti-Israel contingent. According to sources, there is some concern that countries may boycott the event due to the political situation. Another concern involves violation of the Sabbath, since the Friday night jury

show and Saturday afternoon rehearsals would involve Sabbath transgressions according to United Torah Judaism, Israel's ultra-Orthodox party.

Kan, the Israel Public Broadcasting Corporation, has stated that every effort will be made to ensure Israel's hosting of next year's Eurovision.▲

Arlene Stolnitz, founder of the Sara-

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



Arlene Stolnitz



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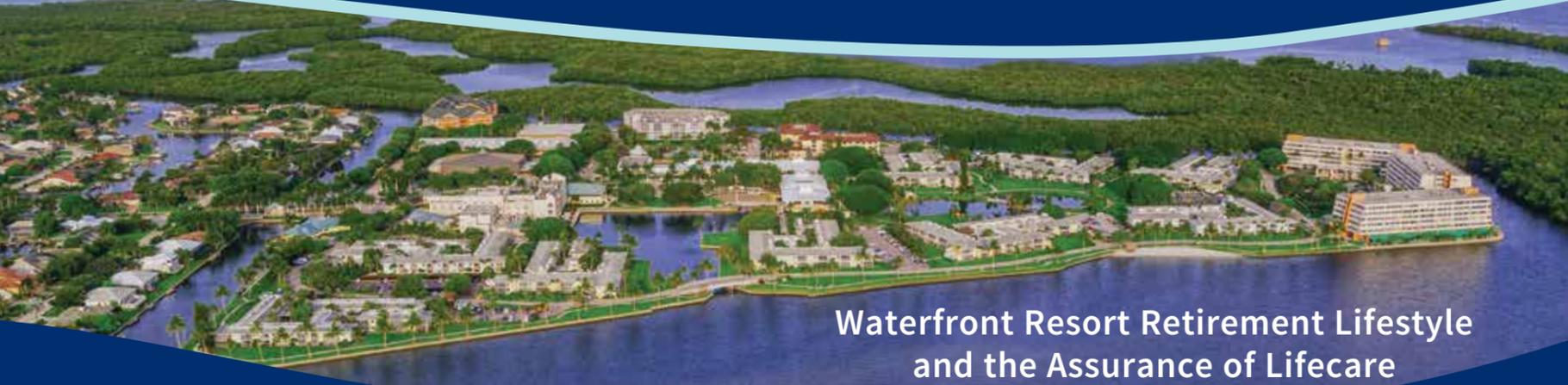
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Stars of David

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.

The Tribe at the Emmys: 2018 Edition

The Primetime Emmy Awards will be televised, live, on NBC on Monday, September 17 at 8:00 p.m. Here are the verified Jewish nominees in the "marquee" categories.

Lead actor, comedy: **LARRY DAVID**, 71, *Curb Your Enthusiasm*; Lead actress, comedy: **PAMELA ADLON**, 52, *Better Things*, and **TRACEE EL-LIS ROSS**, 45, *Black-ish*; Lead actress, drama: **EVAN RACHEL WOOD**, 30, *Westworld*; Supporting actor, comedy: **HENRY WINKLER**, 72, *Barry*; Supporting actress, comedy: **ALEX BORSTEIN**, 47, *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*; Supporting actor, drama: **MANDY PATINKIN**, 65, *Homeland*; Supporting actor, limited series/TV movie: **MICHAEL STUHLBARG**, 50, *The Looming Tower*; Supporting actress, limited series/TV movie: **JUDITH LIGHT**, 69, *The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story*.

Director, comedy: **JESSE PERETZ**, 50, *Glow*, and **AMY SHERMAN-PALLADINO**, 52, *Mrs. Maisel* (she also created this series); Director, drama: **JEREMY PODEWSKA**, 55, *Game of Thrones*, and **DANIEL SACKHEIM**, 60ish, *Ozark*; Director, Variety Special: **GLENN WEISS**, 60ish, *The Oscars*; Directing, limited series/TV Movie: **SCOTT FRANK**, 58, *Godless* (he also wrote the series), **CRAIG ZISK**, 68, *The Looming Tower*, and **BARRY LEVINSON**, 76, *Paterno*. (Note: The writing and directing awards cite a specific episode, which I have omitted.)

Writing, comedy: **AMY SHERMAN-PALLADINO**, *Mrs. Maisel*; Writing, drama: **JOE WEISBERG**, 57, *The Americans*, **PETER MORGAN**,

55, *The Crown*, and **DAVID BENIOFF** and **D.B. WEISS**, both 47, *Game of Thrones*; Writing, limited series/TV movie: **SCOTT FRANK**, *Godless*.

The Outstanding (or "best") series awards go to the series' principal producers, of whom there are many. My practice is to list the "best of" series that have a Jewish creator or co-creator (who is usually a producer, too).

Outstanding Comedy Series: **LARRY DAVID**, *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, **AMY SHERMAN-PALLADINO**, *Mrs. Maisel*, and **JOHN ALTSCHULER**, 55, with **DAVE KRINSKY**, 55, *Silicon Valley*. Outstanding Drama Series: **JOE WEISBERG**, *The Americans*, **PETER MORGAN**, *The Crown*, **DAVID BENIOFF** with **D.B. WEISS**, *Game of Thrones*, and **DAN FOGELMAN**, 39, *This is Us*.

Outstanding Variety Sketch Series: **SARAH SILVERMAN**, 47, *I Love You America with Sarah Silverman*, **CARRIE BROWNSTEIN**, 43, *Portlandia*, and **LORNE MICHAELS**, 73, *Saturday Night Live*. Outstanding Limited Series: **NOAH PINK**, 35ish, *Genius: Picasso*, and **SCOTT FRANK**, *Godless*.

As you might know, the number of Emmy categories has grown so much that some categories formerly presented in "prime time" have been moved to the Creative Arts ceremony (which also includes technical categories). The "Creatives" will be broadcast on cable station FXX on Saturday, September 15 at 8:00 p.m. Here are some of the notable Jewish "Creative" nominees.

Outstanding TV movie: **JENNIFER FOX**, 59 (writer), *The Tale*, and **DEBORACAHN**, 47, (writer) *Paterno*. Outstanding Informational Series: the late **ANTHONY BOURDAIN** (whose mother was Jewish), *Anthony Bourdain*:

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.

Parts Unknown; Outstanding Documentary: **BRYAN FOGEL**, 50ish, *Icarus*, and **JUDD APATOW**, 50, *The Zen Diaries of Garry Shandling*. Outstanding Guest Actress, Comedy Series: **TIFFANY HADDISH**, 38, *Saturday Night Live*, and **MAYA RUDOLPH**, 46, *The Good Place*; Outstanding Narrator: **CARL REINER**, 96, *If You're Not in the Obit, Eat Breakfast*, and **LIEV SCHREIBER**, 50, *24/7*.

Chabon, Waldman and Ryan

The series *Star Trek: Discovery* on the CBS All-Access streaming service, has turned into a pretty big hit. The 2nd season of *Discovery* begins next January and to keep viewer interest fresh, CBS commissioned four, 15-minute mini-episodes that will premiere this fall. The mini-episode *Calypso* was written by Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist **MICHAEL CHABON**, 55. *Calypso* follows a man who finds himself alone on a deserted space ship.

Chabon has been married since 1993 to writer and former attorney **AYELET WALDMAN**, 53. They have

four children. Like Chabon, Waldman's novels frequently have Jewish characters and themes, and they both have written essays on Jewish subjects.

Waldman was in the news last month soon after Henry Louis Gates, the host of the PBS celebrity ancestry show, *Finding Your Roots*, disclosed (July 31) that House Speaker Paul Ryan, a practicing Catholic, has some remote Ashkenazi Jewish ancestry (about 3% of his DNA). Gates let this drop during a news conference promoting the 5th season of his show, which premieres in January.

On August 1, Ryan tweeted: "Guess I have to start saying *L'Chaim*, too." Waldman, a political progressive like her husband, responded to the *Roots* news a few hours after Ryan. In a tweet that was widely reported, Waldman wrote: "I'm sorry but no, we don't want him." Also weighing in was Stephen Colbert, a practicing Catholic like Ryan, and a progressive like Waldman. He joked on-air: "Haven't the Jewish people suffered enough?" ▲

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The bottle that did it for me

By The Wine Whisperer

Maybe some of the Kiwis from the South Island would argue with this, but to my mind, the New Zealanders have taken the art of making Sauvignon Blanc completely over the top. Now, it's true that many of the SBs from that part of the world are a bit predictable and similar in their flavor profile, but there's still plenty of variety in the various producers and regions.

Let's go back a bit. I've written in the past that people who become passionate about wine (maybe not to the point where they become wine writers and educators, but...) have had an epiphany somewhere along the way. Someone pours you a glass of something, you taste it and say, "Holy moly, I never knew anything could taste like that." You are transformed...and pretty much lost forever.

For wife Debi and me, it was a glass of Cloudy Bay Sauvignon Blanc from Marlborough, New Zealand, back in 1995. Life changing, and I'm serious about that. However, when I looked back over my previous columns, I was shocked – shocked – to discover that I had never written about this particular varietal. Let's correct that omission right now.

First, the Sauvignon Blanc grape is pretty much native to the Loire Valley in France, and grown at the eastern

end of the river, primarily around the villages of Pouilly and Sancerre. It's made in many styles. Visit one winery, and all the wine is resting in oak barrels. Go to the winery across the street, and there's not a stick of wood anywhere; everything is stainless steel.

Typically, characteristics of this refreshing white wine include grapefruit, pineapple, hay, maybe some lychee and gooseberry, and often a whiff of what we politely call *pipi du chat*. As strange as that may sound, the slight aroma of what Scruffy does in the litterbox is very much part of the aroma profile of many Sauvignon Blancs. To be a bit less coarse about it, most critics refer to that particular aroma as "boxwood." Strangely enough, it works.

Nevertheless. This is a wine that pairs incredibly well with a wide range of dishes, especially if they involve seafood. I have formulated what I call the "lemon law." If you can put lemon ON it, you can drink Sauvignon Blanc WITH it. This is especially true of shellfish, and even more so during the current stone crab season. If you want a treat, just buy a few pounds of claws and wash them down with a bottle of New Zealand's finest. The flavors of the New Zealand wines are very much up front and, well, pretty obvious. The notes of grapefruit, pineapple and citrus mentioned above are unmistakable, and hit you as soon as you put your nose in the glass. Not necessarily a bad thing.

My favorite New Zealand producers are Cloudy Bay (of course), Villa Maria, Nobilo, Oyster Bay and Kim

Crawford. The Cloudy Bay runs around \$35 a bottle, but the other brands are more economical.

Meanwhile, enjoy some of our latest selections.

Priest Ranch Sauvignon Blanc Napa Valley 2016 (\$22) – While this Sauvignon Blanc is a product of Napa Valley, it follows the characteristic (and delicious) flavor profile of those that hail from New Zealand. There is a pronounced aroma of boxwood on the nose. Peach schnapps, tutti-frutti and pineapple follow along on the palate. As with many wines made from this varietal, enjoy it with seafood and shellfish. WW 90
Grgich Hills Estate Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2014 (\$72) – A

blockbuster that's going to need a few years to really show its stuff. It's deep inky purple, promising an extracted, full-bodied style. Raspberry aromas on the nose, along with other mixed red and black fruits. The palate comes through with black plum, graphite, red and black cherry and clove. This wine is a baby, and will benefit greatly from a few more years in the bottle or several hours in a decanter. WW 93.▲
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.

■ Jerry Greenfield

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The martyrdom of Czechoslovakia

By Paul R. Bartrop, PhD

In September 1938 – eighty years ago this month – one of the greatest surrenders to bullying on the international stage took place when Britain and France sacrificed the democratic state of Czechoslovakia on the altar of a policy that became known as appeasement, in the hope that they could buy off Adolf Hitler and thus avoid having to confront him in a war they were not prepared to fight. By not standing up to him, however, all they did was encourage him to continue with his campaign of intimidation and threats. Every time the Western powers surrendered to some new demand, Hitler was inspired to reach even higher, firm in his belief that he could get what he wanted at no cost to himself.

The Munich Agreement was signed on September 30, 1938, by Germany, Britain, France and Italy. It permitted Germany's annexation of the Sudetenland region, an area populated by about three-million German-speaking people who had, as it turned out, never belonged to Germany. As early as May 1938, it was known that Hitler and his generals had their eyes set on Czechoslovakia, while the Czechs, in turn, relied on alliances with France and the Soviet Union to counter German threats. As the year progressed, however, it became clear that both France and its ally, Britain, were not prepared to defend Czechoslovakia. There was a desperate desire to avoid a military confrontation with Germany – at any price.

To keep the peace, British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain made three trips during September to see

Hitler: on September 15 he went to the Führer's mountain retreat at Berchtesgaden; on September 22 he went to a second meeting at Bad Godesberg, not far from Cologne; and then, finally, he went to Munich on September 29. In each case, he discussed the situation personally with Hitler, offering whatever concessions it would take to stop Germany from going to war.

With the third trip, Chamberlain proposed that a four-power conference be convened to settle the issue, and on that final occasion Hitler and Chamberlain, together with Eduard Daladier of France and Benito Mussolini of Italy, met on September 30 in Hitler's headquarters, the Führerbau in the Bavarian capital. (The building is still used today as the *Hochschule für Musik*, or Music College.) They agreed that Germany would annex the Sudetenland, with an international commission to decide the future of other disputed areas.

The Czech government of Edvard Beneš played no role in these discussions and was simply informed of developments. Two Czech delegates were denied access to the meeting and were kept under virtual house arrest in their hotel until the agreement had been signed. Britain and France then informed the Czechs that they faced two options: they could either resist Germany alone, or acquiesce to the German invasion of their sovereign territory. So that Britain and France would not have to confront the Nazis, this small democratic nation would have to pay the price they demanded and were left to suffer the ultimate punishment for merely existing, as their country was dismembered in tears and sorrow.

Before returning to London, Chamberlain paid Hitler a personal visit in his Munich apartment. He took

with him a short note prepared earlier in London, declaring that the two nations agreed henceforth to always resolve their differences through consultation rather than war. Offering this to Hitler, Chamberlain then signed it. Hitler signed too, reputedly telling one of those in his circle later that the British Prime Minister seemed like such a nice old gentleman, he was pleased to offer him his autograph.

Upon his return to London, Chamberlain was met at Heston Airport by jubilant crowds, relieved that the threat of war had passed. He informed the British public that he had achieved "peace with honor," saying that he believed the settlement would bring "peace for our time." A few months later, on March 15, 1939, the hollowness of this promise was revealed when Hitler marched his troops into what was left of Czechoslovakia and snuffed out the little country without a hand being raised to defend it.

It was little wonder that Winston Churchill, then seemingly at the end of his political career, could state that the impact of Munich would not mean peace with honor, but war with dishonor. On September 1, 1939, six months after the invasion of "rump Czechoslovakia," Hitler tried his bullying tactics one time too many, invading Poland in the firm

belief that the democracies would again back down. This time, of course, they did not – and World War II was set in motion.

For the Jews of Czechoslovakia, none of this passed without chilling fear and apprehension. The Sudetenland was gradually occupied between October 1 and October 10, and Jews in the region started feeling the Nazi presence immediately. Persecution began, and synagogues were burned down during the *Kristallnacht* pogrom of November 9-10, 1938. The full weight of Nazi anti-Semitic laws was imposed on the Czech Jews, and it took little time for the whole region to become the most actively Nazified area within the Third Reich.

A frantic search for some sort of haven now took place for the Jews of the Czech lands. By this time, however, with the Evian Conference of earlier in the year a bad memory, the doors of entry for Jews were being closed all over the world – a situation that would only get worse in the year after Munich.▲

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.



■ Dr. Paul Bartrop



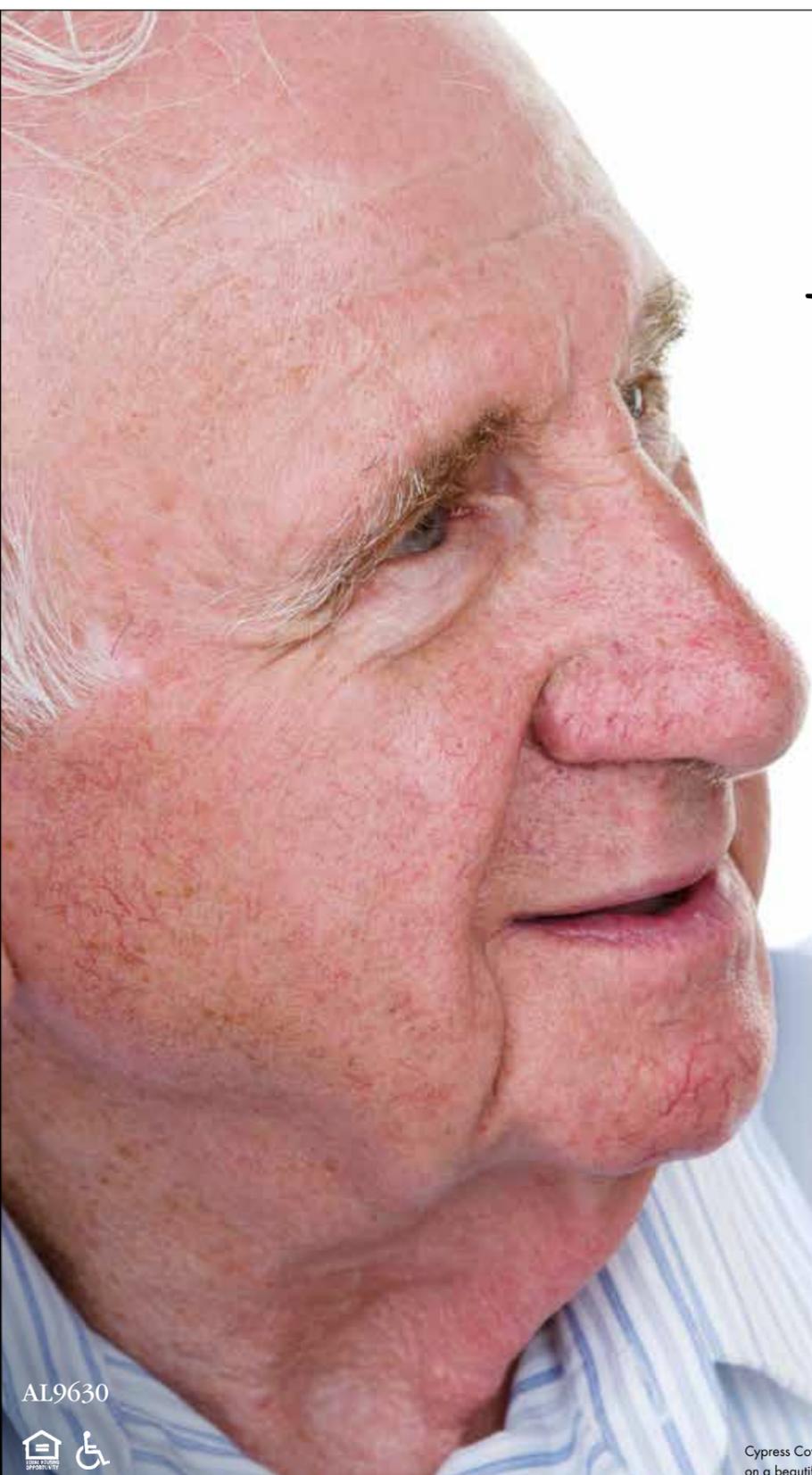
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The Queen of the Table: Apple and Honey Rose Challah – recipe by Dalia

One of the best times to explore Jewish cuisine is now, when the food-centric Jewish holidays are just around the corner. The first is Rosh Hashanah, the celebration of the Jewish New Year, and it begins Sunday, September 9 at sundown.

Of all the holidays in the Jewish calendar, Rosh Hashanah is my favorite. Rosh Hashanah is a holiday of culinary celebration worth waiting for a whole year.

The Rosh Hashanah meal is particularly fun especially for a sweets lover like me. This is the only holiday where eating sweets is a must, because it features sweet-flavored food to symbolize the cycle of life and our hope for a “sweet” new year. At the head of this entire culinary feast stands the queen of the table and one of the traditional Jewish New Year foods that is most beloved, the challah bread.

What better way to celebrate than with a freshly-baked apple honey challah? On Rosh Hashanah we dip apples into honey to symbolize our hope for a

sweet new year. I’ve always wanted to integrate the apple and honey tradition into my challah recipe. Inspired by my chocolate challah, I find that apple butter will be just perfect for this recipe. I



was absolutely happy with it. I’m finally ready to share it with you!

The Rosh Hashanah tradition is to braid challah in a round shape for the holiday. Some believe the round shape represents a crown for God. My family tradition says that the circular shape represents the cyclical nature of the year

– as one year draws to a close, another year begins, and so the circle continues.

There are many ways to make a round challah. Today, I’ll share a braiding technique that was first introduced to me many years ago as a little girl in Israel by my grandmother who passed away last year.

We used to bake it together every Rosh Hashanah. It creates a lovely challah with a very pretty design on the top. I’ve broken it down in step-by-step instructions for you. It seems complicated at first, but once you get the hang of it you’ll realize it’s actually pretty easy.

Apple and Honey Rose Challah

Ingredients:

For 2 challahs, 9” in diameter:

- 7 cups bread flour
- 1 tablespoon salt
- ¼ cup granulated sugar
- 2 tablespoons dry active yeast
- 2 large eggs
- ½ cup vegetable oil or olive oil
- ¼ cup silan (date honey syrup) or honey
- 1½ cup lukewarm water
- Filling: homemade apple butter (see recipe below) or apple butter spread ready to use

For the glaze:

- 4 tablespoons honey diluted with 2 tablespoons boiling water

Directions:

- ▶ In a small bowl add ¼ cup lukewarm water, yeast, 1 tsp of sugar and let the yeast activate for 10 minutes.
- ▶ In the mixing bowl of your mixer add the remainder of the water, oil, ¼ cup of sugar, eggs, salt and honey, and mix well. Now add the yeast mixture and give it a swirl.
- ▶ Add a cup of flour at a time and mix until you’ve finished all the flour. When everything is well incorporated, take it out and knead for a minute.
- ▶ Oil the dough a bit so it doesn’t dry up, cover it with a cloth or plastic wrap, and let it rise for about two hours until it doubles in size.
- ▶ Cut the dough to half (for 2 challahs). Cut the first piece of dough into 24 little pieces, and roll out each piece into a ball. Take four balls at a time and roll out each one into a disc so that it’s about 3” in diameter, ¼” thick. Place the discs on top of each other from the middle down, and top with one or two tablespoons of the apple butter, spreading it evenly over each one.
- ▶ Starting at the bottom, start rolling the discs until you’ve rolled all the way up. You don’t need to pinch the sides.
- ▶ Take a knife and cut exactly down the middle. Place roses cut side down, in the pan, about 1” apart. Repeat the steps above to make enough roses to fill the first pan. Repeat the steps above for the second challah. Cover and let rise for 30-40 minutes.
- ▶ Preheat oven to 375° F.
- ▶ Bake the challah for 25 minutes until golden.
- ▶ Meanwhile, prepare the glaze: Mix the honey with the boiling water.
- ▶ When the challah is done, brush each challah with half of the honey glaze.



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

- ▶ Let the challah cool a bit, and then remove from pan using a sharp knife.
- ▶ Let cool completely on a wire rack.
- ▶ The challah is best to eat the day it is made. However, it can be made ahead of time, wrapped in plastic, and frozen for up to one month.



Apple Butter

Ingredients:

- 4 lbs assorted apples, peeled and chopped
- 2 cups apple cider
- 1 cup packed light brown sugar
- Kosher salt
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Pinch of ground cloves

Directions:

- ▶ Preheat the oven to 250° F. Combine the apples, apple cider, brown sugar and ½ teaspoon salt in a large ovenproof pot over medium heat. Bring to a simmer, partially cover and cook until the apples are soft, about 20 minutes.
- ▶ Remove from the heat and stir in the lemon juice, cinnamon, vanilla and cloves. Puree the mixture in a blender in batches until smooth.
- ▶ Return the mixture to the pot, put the pot in the oven and bake, uncovered, 2½ to 3½ hours (stirring every 30 minutes). Remove from the oven and let cool completely, then transfer to an airtight container and refrigerate up to five days.▲

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



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The power of music

By Ida Margolis

For quite a while I've been wanting to write about a song by Sally Fingerett that I had heard at our local Jewish Book Festival a few years ago. As a child of Holocaust survivors, the song "Faces On My Wall" haunted me. I wrote Sally, author of *The Mental Yental*, telling her that the song had an impact on me and on those who were at a GenShoah SWFL program when I played it. She wrote back telling me about her family history and the background of this poignant song. She explained how when her father was downsizing after her mother passed away, they were looking through rescued 1940s photos, most of familiar family members. But when she tried to take a portrait out of its frame, small photos that were behind it fell out. Sally wrote that the "small pictures had clearly been taken in Europe and had possibly been carried to America by my grandparents."

She knew that her grandmother had three siblings in Lodz and one died in

the camps. Her father had no knowledge of the people in the photos, and with her mother gone "there was no one to ask and no one to answer," but she knew they were her people. This inspired her to write "Faces On My Wall." Here are the moving and powerful lyrics:

"To these faces on my wall, I long to know you. I long to learn about your life, about your husband, about your wife. And your children, what were they like, were they like me? To these faces from the past, this glass will keep you. From the elements of time, that separate your years from mine..."

Recently, on a train heading to Philadelphia, thinking of finally writing about Sally Fingerett's song and other songs that send a powerful message, I thought I would title the article "The power of music." This trip included a visit to the excellent National Museum of American Jewish History to see a special exhibit dedicated to Leonard Bernstein, which, I did not know prior to visiting, was titled "Leonard Bernstein:

The Power of Music."

Among the many things I learned about Bernstein was that he was a humanitarian whose "passions encompassed social justice as well as artistic excellence." Included with the fascinating items in the exhibit was one that I was drawn to, a haunting, large 1940s-era photograph. It was of a young Bernstein with a small orchestra of Holocaust survivors in a displaced persons camp in May 1948. The backstory is that Bernstein was on a conducting tour in Europe and asked to go the DP camp and conduct the musicians and singers there. It was reported by an American in attendance, that he could see tears streaming down Bernstein's face as he was playing the piano. According to museum curator Ivy Wingram, "Bernstein never really overcame this experience, and at the end of his life he was writing a Holocaust opera."

The question of why Bernstein was so committed to activism is posed in an article written by Stanford Thompson. Thompson writes, "From a young age, Bernstein was aware of the indignities that could be forced on less-powerful or

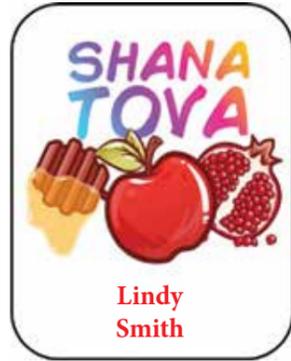
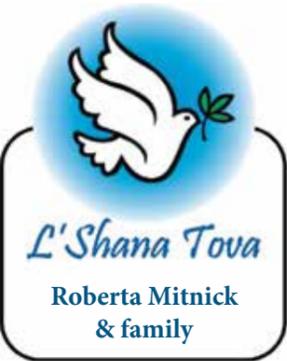
marginalized groups of people. Perhaps he could empathize with those suffering injustice and powerlessness because of his American-Jewish upbringing by immigrant parents whose family had been greatly affected by the Holocaust."

The power of music is evident in *Violins of Hope*, a fascinating story about music, instruments played by Jews during the Holocaust, and their subsequent restoration. This December, James Grymes, author of *Violins of Hope*, will be coming to Naples, brought by the Holocaust Museum & Cohen Education Center. In January, a concert of "Music of the Holocaust" will be performed by Rachel Cox at the Jewish Community Day of Learning.

Recently attending the premier of the Yiddish version of *Fiddler on the Roof*, I was not the only person crying as the Jews had to leave Anatevka.

Please email me at genshoahswfl@gmail.com and tell me about some song, piece of music or musical that was very moving for you and why. ▲
Ida Margolis is president of GenShoah SWFL.

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Tracing Jewish Japan...continued from previous page

Russia. In 1906 he became the first Jew in the Tsar's Army to receive an officer's commission. In 1911 he led a group of young Zionists he identified and trained to Palestine, Ottoman Empire.

At the outbreak of WWI, together with Ze'ev Jabotinsky, Trumpeldor developed the idea of the Jewish Legion for the British, and in 1915 The Zion Mule Corps was formed to become the first all-Jewish military unit in nearly 2,000 years, and the precursor of the Israel Defense Forces. After WWI, he prepared immigrants for aliyah, and returned to British Mandate Palestine. Trumpeldor was murdered by Lebanese Shiites in 1920 in the Upper Galilee.

From the mid-1920s until the 1950s, the Kobe Jewish community was the largest Jewish community in Japan, formed by hundreds of Jews arriving from Russia, the Manchurian city of Harbin, Iraq, Syria, and Central and Eastern Europe. It had both Ashkenazi and Sephardim. The Tokyo Jewish community, now Japan's largest, was also growing then with the arrival of Jews from the U.S. and Western Europe.

The Japanese-Jewish common ancestry theory made its first appearance in the 17th century. It is a hypothetical claim that the Japanese people were the main part of the ten lost tribes of Israel. In 1908, Japanese historian Saeki Yoshiro published a book in which he developed a vector on this theory. He was an expert on Japanese Nestorianism. Saeki theorized that the Hata clan, which arrived from Korea and settled in Japan in the third century, was a Jewish-Nestorian tribe, named after the first century patriarch of Constantinople.

According to Ben-Ami Shillony, professor of Japanese history at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, "Saeki's writings spread the theory about 'the common ancestry of the Japanese and

the Jews' (*Nichi-Yu dosoron*) in Japan, a theory that was endorsed by some Christian groups."

In some other versions of this theory, the entire population of Japan descended from Jewish tribes, yet some others purport that only a specific group did. Shillony states that "The Ten Lost Tribes of Israel" Japanese legend refuses to die, because there are just too many incidental similarities in words, symbols and practices throughout Japan. Even Queen Victoria was intrigued by this theory.

Perhaps Nestorianism is the real reason why Chiune Sugihara did all he personally could in July and August 1940 to rescue Jews in Lithuania. It is a much less known fact that he was stationed in Manchuria until 1935 and was an expert on Russian affairs during the tumultuous post-revolution years when he married his first wife, Klaudia Semionovna Apollonova, and converted to the Russian Orthodox religion in Harbin in 1919, taking the baptismal name of Sergei Pavlovich. It's an interesting fact, particularly since the Japanese-Jewish ancestry theories originated in Harbin, Manchuria, in the 17th century by Christian missionaries. It's also interesting that Sugihara was a student at Waseda University. Saeki Yoshiro was a professor at the same university. Perhaps they exchanged their thoughts on this matter.

With the recent popularity of DNA testing, no conclusive proof of Judaic ancestry has been gained, as of yet. But as my kimono ceremony volunteers do, I believe there has to be a connection somewhere. The Japanese, as the Jews, take much pride in education and research. There are so many tangents to explore further by a persistent diligent researcher.▲

Marina Berkovich is president of the Jewish Historical Society of SWFL.



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The man who just can't stop inventing

Nanotech pioneer Prof. Oded Shoseyov has already founded 11 companies based on his inventions. Now he's on his next: a 4D printing platform to create customized meals.

By Abigail Klein Leichman, ISRAEL21c.org, June 10, 2018

Oded Shoseyov's lackluster grades failed to get him into the undergraduate chemistry program at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. So he audaciously persuaded a committee of professors to take a chance on him.

It was a good gamble. He would later become a professor of protein engineering and nano-biotechnology at the same university, and one of its most prolific inventors and serial entrepreneurs. Shoseyov, now about to found the 12th company spun out of his research, has a knack for turning crazy concepts into commercially viable products such as printed meals, human collagen, transgenic eucalyptus trees for the paper industry, and a pooper-scooper that turns dog droppings into odorless powdered fertilizer.

"I wasn't a particularly good student but I was always curious about science. As a kid, I had a chemistry and electronics lab and I built things with my brother," Shoseyov tells ISRAEL21c from his lab at the Robert H. Smith Institute of Plant Science and Genetics at Hebrew University's Rehovot campus for agriculture, food and environment.

He is the eighth generation of his family in Rehovot, a city of 150,000 about 20 kilometers south of Tel Aviv. A major academic and biotech hub, Rehovot also has a rich farming tradition.

"My great-grandfather was one of the founders of Rehovot. What is now the main street, Rehov Herzl, was his vineyard," Shoseyov relates. "We still own a vineyard of about 50 acres. Situated in the middle is a boutique winery, Bravdo, established about 19 years ago."

The name of the winery pays homage to its founding partner, Hebrew University Prof. Ben Ami Bravdo, a leading scientist of modern viticulture under whom Shoseyov studied for his PhD on the biochemistry of wine and grape flavor.

After a post-doc at the University of California at Davis in 1987 to 1990, Shoseyov accepted a position with Hebrew University's Faculty of Agriculture and founded its first protein-engineering lab.

Cellulose is everywhere

For the past 15 years, Shoseyov has focused on nano-biotech, especially nanocellulose.

This lightweight transparent nano-fiber is stronger than steel and has infinite potential as the basis for super-durable fabrics, shoes, touchscreens, packaging, paints, buildings, medical implants and much more. It's derived from plant cellulose, a polysaccharide (sugar) that is the most abundant polymer on earth.

"Cellulose is everywhere," says Shoseyov, whose first breakthrough



Prof. Oded Shoseyov with his transgenic tobacco plants (photo by Nati Shohat/FLASH90)

back in 1993 was developing and cloning a protein that binds to cellulose in order to create composite materials.

At that point he was naively ready to publish a paper before patenting his invention. Luckily, he mentioned this during a casual lunch with George Aaron, cofounder of an Israeli-American pharmaceutical company for which Shoseyov had done some consulting.

Alarmed, Aaron put down his fork and phoned Yisum, Hebrew University's tech-transfer company. He hastily arranged to get Shoseyov's protein patented before the paper was published, gave the budding scientist \$150,000 to do a proof of concept, promised him 4% equity in a commercial venture based on his invention, and asked Yisum to negotiate any licensing agreements.

"We didn't even write the agreement on a napkin but they fulfilled it," says Shoseyov.

CBD Technologies, the protein-engineering company founded in December 1993 as a result of that café conversation, merged with FuturaGene 13 years later and was sold for \$100 million to Brazilian paper company Suzano in 2010. The R&D center remained in Rehovot Science Park.

Shoseyov's technology accelerates the growth rate of transgenic eucalyptus trees used for making paper. (Transgenic plants are enhanced with DNA from other organisms.)

"It was the first commercial transgenic tree ever approved," says Shoseyov.

"I realized it was one thing to do research and publish a paper, but we can find ways to use the data for economic benefit. So I've done that now more than 10 times," he tells ISRAEL21c.

Human collagen from tobacco, food from a printer

Another offshoot of his university laboratory is regenerative medicine company CollPlant.

Recombinant human collagen fibers extracted from Shoseyov's proprietary transgenic tobacco plants are six times

tougher than the body's own tendons and ligaments.

CollPlant's first two CE-approved products are for healing diabetic foot ulcers and treating tendinitis.

"We have now developed a bio-ink based on our collagen that is suitable for use in 3D printing," Shoseyov reports, and he has collaborations in place to develop 3D-printed human corneas, kidneys and lungs.

Meanwhile, Shoseyov is establishing his 12th company, Chef-it, with fellow Hebrew University Prof. Ido Braslavsky.

"It's really a revolution," says Shoseyov. "For the first time we can print the food and cook it at the same time."

The Chef-it computerized platform enables 4D printing and cooking of personalized meals using ingredient cartridges including one containing calorie-free nanocellulose fiber as a self-assembling binder in place of starch, eggs, gluten or gelatin.

A wide variety of dishes can be baked, fried or grilled, and tailored according to taste preferences and dietary restrictions. Printed and cooked layer by layer, they can take virtually any form.

"You could make a plant-based burger with fries in the middle," says Shoseyov. "I'm talking about things that are not possible with regular cooking methods."

In about 18 months he hopes to have beta sites up and running in Israeli workplaces. Hospitals and restaurants may follow.

In the future, he envisions individual Chef-it users programming the machine to prepare food in time for the kids to come home from school. "You could use a smartphone app to send a print command to each of your children to order exactly what they want and need for their personal diet and taste," he explains.

"70 by 70"

There's no question those chemistry

continued on next page



Wonder Woman

Girls get a positive new role model



Widely praised by critics, Israeli actress Gal Gadot is giving girls all over the world a positive new role model, with her portrayal of Wonder Woman in the Warner Brothers movie Batman v. Superman. This model-actress-mom who served in the Israeli army, and started on a law career before turning to Hollywood, creates a superhero that is all about compassion, love, truth, justice and equality. And she's pretty tough, too.

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ISRAEL21c...continued from previous page

professors at Hebrew University are happy they accepted Oded Shoseyov in 1978. His first year of university, after his service in the artillery corps, Shoseyov made the dean's list.

He has won several awards, authored or co-authored more than 180 scientific publications, invented or co-invented 50 patents, and was recently chosen by the Founders Studio for its "70 by 70" feature saluting outstanding Israelis.

In addition to overseeing the 20 graduate students in his lab, teaching classes and maintaining an active role in his businesses, Shoseyov enjoys running, mountain biking and singing in a quartet.

"My inspiration is Leonardo da Vinci, the most interdisciplinary scientist ever – a chemist and medical doctor, engineer and artist," says Shoseyov, the



Prof. Oded Shoseyov samples a product of his Bravdo winery

father of a daughter and two sons from his first marriage and stepfather of two daughters with his present wife, Yaeli Pintchuk, a psychologist specializing

in eating disorders.

Other nanotech companies Shoseyov helped found are SP Nano, Melodea (nano-crystalline cellulose from paper sludge for structural foam, composites and adhesives), Valentis Nanotech (nano-bio-based transparent films for food packaging and agriculture), Paulee CleanTec (transforming pet and human waste into sterile powdered fertilizer), GemmaCert (fast cannabis plant analysis), Biobetter (producing therapeutic antibodies on tobacco plants), Cannabi-Tech (standardization tools for medical cannabis products) and BondX (environmentally-friendly bio-additives for the paper industry).

He also serves on the boards of PlantArcBio and UBQ Materials.

Most of his firms' offices are in Rehovot Science Park. At the two companies headquartered in the North, he delegates more of the responsibilities.

"I'm always ready to give my ideas up to other people because I have probably more than I can take care of myself. I believe if you really want to take something to the next step, it's important to collaborate with people from different disciplines," Shoseyov says. "I'm lucky to work with very good people so it's not all on my shoulders." ▲

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

BRIEFS

YAD VASHEM SEEKS TO PASS THE HISTORY OF THE HOLOCAUST ON TO THE NEXT GENERATION

In 2017, over 925,000 people visited Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center in Jerusalem. More than 45,000 individuals from around the world participated in online courses, while the Yad Vashem website registered 18.6 million visits.

In 2017, Yad Vashem established the Holocaust Remembrance and Heroism Educational Center at the IDF Training Campus in the Negev. Its programs are an integral part of IDF training activities, retelling the story of the Holocaust as a central event in the history of the Jewish people and examining Jewish identity, mutual responsibility, heroism and attachment to the Land of Israel.

Yad Vashem is far more than a memorial to the events of the past century. Its educational and commemorative activities, programs and courses ensure a greater commitment and understanding not only of the Jewish past, but also for the Jewish future and that of humanity as a whole. (Alan Rosenbaum, *Jerusalem Post*)

SENATE APPROVES \$500 MILLION FOR U.S.-ISRAEL MISSILE DEFENSE COOPERATION

The U.S. Senate on Wednesday, August 1, approved the Defense Authorization Act for FY 2019 that includes \$500 million for U.S.-Israel missile defense cooperation and \$50 million for counter-tunnel cooperation. The bill extends authorization for the U.S. War Reserve Stockpile in Israel by five years and allocates an additional \$1 billion for U.S. weapons stockpiles in Israel.

AIPAC noted that the bill calls for a "joint assessment of the quantity and type of precision-guided munitions necessary for Israel to defend itself against Hizbullah, Hamas and other terrorist groups." Additionally, the measure authorizes the establishment of a cooperative R&D program with Israel to develop capabilities for countering unmanned aerial systems. (*Algemeiner*)

U.S. AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL VISITS JOINT FIREFIGHTING TEAM NEAR GAZA

Ten American firefighters arrived in Israel recently to help battle the blazes caused by incendiary kites and balloons launched from Gaza.

David Friedman, U.S. Ambassador to Israel, visited Sderot's fire station to thank the American firefighters and their Israeli counterparts cooperating to extinguish the fires.

"They demonstrated an amazing solidarity between the American people and the Israeli people," Friedman said.

Another 50 American firefighters are on standby, ready to come, American firefighter Aston Bright said. "Just yesterday, we had two very large fires near Gaza. One we had to call in the bulldozers. We called in the fire planes. We also called in the fire helicopters. It was actually the first time I've ever worked with all three of those pieces of equipment at the same time on the same fire." (i24News)

ISRAELI EXPORTS TO CHINA HIT RECORD HIGH

Israeli exports to China set a new record in the first half of 2018 and reached \$2.8 billion, up 73% over the same period in 2017, the Israel Governmental Export Institute reported Monday, July 23. (*Xinhua* - China)

CYBER WEEK SHOWCASES ISRAEL AS LEADING CYBERPOWER

The Israel Cyber Week conference hosted 8,000 delegates from more than 66 countries. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told the delegates, "Israel now receives 20% of the total global private investment in cybersecurity. Given that we are about one-tenth of 1% of the world's population, we are punching at about 200 times our weight here. My goal eight years ago was to make Israel one of the five leading cyberpowers in the world, and I think we've reached that."

Israel's cybersecurity industry saw exports of \$3.8 billion last year and investments of \$815 million. Israel has 420 native cybersecurity companies as well as 50 international research and development centers, according to figures cited by Netanyahu. (John Leyden, *The Register* - UK)

TURKEY'S RISE SPARKS NEW FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN ISRAEL AND GREECE

It's hard to find a better example of how geopolitical realities trump ideology than the blossoming friendship between Israel and Greece. In the 1980s and 1990s, Greece was among Israel's harshest critics and a vocal supporter of the Palestinian cause. As the leader of Greece's leftist Syriza party before gaining office in 2015, Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras called to expel Israel's ambassador. Today, Tsipras has intensified cooperation with Israel.

Turkish President Erdogan's increasingly hard-line foreign policy, which seeks to project Turkey's power across the region, threatened both Israel and Greece, uniting them like never

continued on next page

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Friends of the IDF Florida supporters join "Fun Day" for 5,000 Israeli Lone Soldiers

SHEFAYIM, Israel, July 2 – Friends of the Israel Defense Forces (FIDF) Florida supporters Tzippy Faye Holand of Miami and National FIDF Board member Sam Moshe, of Hollywood, were among those who joined some 5,000 Israel Defense Forces (IDF) Lone Soldiers – those with no immediate family in Israel – for a "Fun Day" last week at Israel's largest waterpark just outside Tel Aviv for a day of rest and recuperation.

The "Fun Day" was hosted by FIDF in partnership with the IDF and Yachad Le'maan Ha'chayal (The Association for the Wellbeing of Israel's Soldiers and The LIBI Fund). For the first time ever, the organizations also hosted an additional "Fun Day" for 5,000 front-line IDF combat soldiers at the waterpark last Thursday. "There are almost 5,000 soldiers here. It just brings warmth to my heart and being a part of it is invaluable," Moshe said.

There are some 7,000 Lone Soldiers from 80 countries serving in the IDF today. About 925 came from the U.S., 639 from Ukraine, 559 from Russia and 545 from France. Thirty-three percent of Lone Soldiers are women. Some 59 percent of Lone Soldiers serve in combat or combat-support roles. FIDF cares for all Lone Soldiers serving in the IDF through the Lone Soldiers Program, which supports them financially, socially and emotionally during and after their challenging military service. FIDF also sponsors flights for Lone Soldiers to visit their families and friends in their countries of origin.

The FIDF "Fun Day" at the Shefayim Water Park benefited Lone Soldiers from all IDF units. In addition to the park's many attractions, the "Fun Day" featured a pool party with leading Israeli DJ Eran Barnea, game and fitness areas, an all-day smorgasbord of barbeque and desserts, and a special performance by

popular Israeli band Hatikva 6. Likewise, the frontline IDF combat soldiers enjoyed performances by Israeli rapper Tuna and the musical duo Static and Ben El Tavori the following day. The Lone Soldiers also received essential information about life after their military service, including about the FIDF IMPACT! Scholarship Program, which grants college scholarships to Israeli combat veterans of modest means.

In addition to the Lone Soldiers, IDF unit commanders, non-commissioned officers, high-ranking military officials and FIDF supporters also attended the "Fun Day" festivities to meet and personally thank these brave men and women in uniform for serving despite numerous challenges.

The two "Fun Days" kicked off the second annual "IDF Appreciation Week," June 27-July 8, which benefits more than 50,000 soldiers. During the weeklong series of events, FIDF is also

sending four ice cream trucks to visit more than 24,000 soldiers on IDF combat bases across the country.

About Friends of the Israel Defense Forces (FIDF):

FIDF was established in 1981 by a group of Holocaust survivors as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization with the mission of offering educational, cultural, recreational and social programs and facilities that provide hope, purpose and life-changing support for the soldiers who protect Israel and Jews worldwide. Today, FIDF has more than 150,000 loyal supporters and 20 chapters throughout the United States and Panama. FIDF proudly supports IDF soldiers, families of fallen soldiers, and wounded veterans through a variety of innovative programs that reinforce the vital bond between the communities in the United States, the soldiers of the IDF and the State of Israel. For more information, visit www.fidf.org. ▲



FIDF National Director and CEO Maj. Gen. (Res.) Meir Klifi-Amir, IDF Head of Donations Branch Lt. Col. Hila Ekshten, and Yachad Le'maan Ha'chayal Chairman Maj. Gen. (Res.) Yoram 'Yaya' Yair



Two IDF Lone Soldiers arrive for "Fun Day" (photo credits: Nir Buxenbaum Photography)



FIDF National Director and CEO Maj. Gen. (Res.) Meir Klifi-Amir, FIDF Florida Executive Director Dina Ben-Ari, Miami FIDF supporter Tzippy Faye Holand (center)

BRIEFS

continued from previous page

before. "We have to keep in mind that to our east we are not neighboring Switzerland or Liechtenstein, but a very nervous and in some cases a very aggressive neighbor," said Yiannis Bournous, Tsipras' strategic planning chief. (Yaroslav Trofimov, *Wall Street Journal*)

ISRAELI TECHNOLOGY MAKES IMPACT AT SOCCER WORLD CUP

Israeli fire and smoke detection systems produced by Matael contributed to the security of hundreds of thousands of World Cup spectators in the huge stadiums in the Russian cities of Volgograd and Nizhny Novograd.

Israel's LiveU deployed 300 transmission units for use by broadcast crews to enable the transmission of live broadcasts over cellular networks.

LiveU had signed agreements with Russian mobile operators to ensure fast connectivity and smooth and stable transmissions. (*Xinhua* - China)

ISRAEL'S GROWING TIES WITH CHINA

China has ten cities larger than Israel's entire population. China has no indigenous Jewish community, and Israel has no indigenous Chinese community. Israel is closely aligned with China's main competitor in the world, the U.S. However, the China-Israel relationship has been expanding rapidly in trade, investment, education exchanges and tourism. China is attracted to Israel's vaunted technology sector, and Israel welcomes China's investments and potential as a research collaborator.

At the University of Haifa, Chinese student enrollment has gone from 20 to 200 in the past five years. In 2013, Israel's Technion Institute of Technology was awarded a \$130 million grant

from the Li Ka Shing Foundation to establish a branch in Guangdong Province. In 2014, Tel Aviv University announced that it would partner with Tsinghua University in Beijing to build the CIN Research Center to focus on biotech, solar, water and environmental technology. In 2016, the University of Haifa announced plans to build a joint laboratory at East China Normal University in Shanghai to research ecology, data, biomedicine and neurobiology. (Elliott Abrams, Council on Foreign Relations)

PA HAS PAID \$294,332 TO JERUSALEM PIZZA BOMBERS

On August 9, 2001, a suicide bomber entered the Sbarro pizza shop in downtown Jerusalem, detonated his suicide vest and murdered 15 people including seven children. 130 people were injured. The suicide bomber's family has received \$50,124 from the PA as a reward. The terrorist who planned the attack and brought the bomber to Sbarro, Ahlam Tamimi, has received \$52,681. The suicide belt was built by Hamas bombmaker Abdallah Barghouti, who has received \$191,526 from the PA. (Maurice Hirsch and Itamar Marcus, Palestinian Media Watch)

TOUGH TIMES FOR PALESTINIANS DETAINED BY ISRAEL: PICNICS, PARTIES, SINGALONGS

Last December, a 17-year-old Palestinian woman named Ahed Tamimi assaulted an IDF soldier and was arrested and sentenced to eight months in prison. After her release, in an interview on Al-Jazeera, Tamimi addressed the issue of how young Palestinians detained by Israel are treated.

Each day, she recalled, began with all the prisoners in her wing congregating in the yard to enjoy a potluck picnic. Then, mornings were spent studying for her high school diploma.

Lunches were again a communal affair, followed by "having parties, sitting around together, singing, dancing, just passing the time, watching TV, jumping around from room to room, going wild." (Liel Leibovitz, *Tablet*)

THE QUESTION OF PROPORTIONALITY IN GAZA

During the recent flare-up with Hamas in Gaza, several foreign correspondents raised questions of proportionality in the IDF's conduct. The IDF conducted 180 precision strikes in Gaza, in the aftermath of which the Hamas Ministry of Health announced that three people had been killed. One of the dead was announced as a Hamas terrorist. The two others were a woman

and her daughter. While their deaths are tragic, they are not an indication of a disproportionate response to Hamas' bombardment of Israeli communities with 200 rockets and mortars, resulting in 28 Israelis that required medical assistance.

The precision strikes on Hamas assets with so few deaths reflects the deep and thorough IDF planning process, its vast intelligence capabilities, and its nearly flawless execution. Kinetic diplomacy sent a clear message and that message was proportionate. Its military action proved once again that Israel does everything professionally possible in order to limit the deaths of non-combatants. (Lt.-Col. (res.) Peter Lerner, former IDF spokesperson, *Jerusalem Post*) ▲

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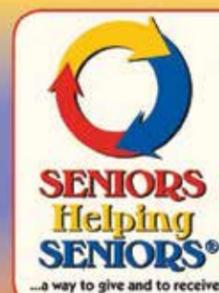
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Strengthen your faith

Let's talk about faith today. As we approach the High Holidays, this seems to be the basic question. Is there a purpose in life, to our life, or is everything that occurs random? Many hospital patients voice this concern when they ask, "Why me? Am I being punished? Why would God do this to me when I am a good person?"

From the famous prayers of the season, to the blowing of the shofar, to the daily reading of Psalm 27, everything points to building up our faith. Rebbe Nachman of Bratzlav said, "Do all you can to develop your faith in God...faith is the foundation of all spiritual quest...the root of all teaching and practice...the channel for every benefit and blessing." You might ask what our faith should consist of.

Avinu Malkeinu – you might want to think about God as our parent as well as our king. The language might be old-fashioned, but the term suggests that God is as close to us as our father or mother, or even our breath. And that God, as king, is in control. Sometimes that is hard to believe. We see terrible things happen – murders, terrorism and even natural disasters – and we wonder. There are some who believe that

everything happens for a reason. For Rebbe Nachman, the reason is to wake us up from our slumber. It has been said that "the glory of God is a fully-alive human being." And yet, if we are coasting or sleepwalking through life, we will not be paying attention to the daily miracles all around us. How sad it is to be surrounded by miracles and not have them acknowledged! The daily sunrise, clothes to wear and food to eat, cars that run, and clouds and sunsets, etc. With Rebbe Nachman, I ask you to strengthen your faith in yourself:

- I believe that I am very important in God's eyes.
- I believe that I can return, no matter how far I've strayed.
- I believe that I have the inner strength to change.
- I believe that I can become truly devoted and close to God.

So what makes this day different from all other days? Today, this day, is our only day. Be grateful for all of the miracles and all of the people you love and who love you back. Live this day fully, and faithfully, and you will be all set for the High Holidays.

Wishing each and every one of you a Blessed and Joyous New Year! ▲
Rabbi Dr. Michael J. Schorin, MAPC, BCC is a Chaplain in Lee Health's Department of Spiritual Services, and ministers at the Gulf Coast Medical Center.

COMMENTARY BRIEFS

HALEY: "THE U.S. HAS NO MORAL DUTY TO BE NEUTRAL BETWEEN RIGHT AND WRONG"

UN Ambassador Nikki Haley told the Christians United for Israel Summit on Monday, July 23:

- ◆ "We respect everyone's right to peacefully protest. But no one should be fooled about the role of Hamas. Many of the protesters in Gaza are anything but peaceful. If they were peaceful, there would be no burning tires, there would be no Molotov cocktails, there would be no flaming swastika kites flying into Israel burning thousands of acres of land. And of course, if this was a peaceful movement, there would not be hundreds of rockets fired from Gaza into Israel."
- ◆ "Like any country would do, Israel has responded to the violence at its border. What is so stunning is the international reaction to all of this. Think about it. If there were tens of thousands of people looking to attack your border fence, and you had a terrorist group providing guidance on how best to kill innocent civilians inside your country once the border fence was broken, what would you do? What would the United States do? What would any country do?... Israel has acted with more restraint than just about any other country would under those same conditions. It's true."
- ◆ "The United States has no moral duty to be neutral between right and wrong. On the contrary, we have a moral duty to take sides, even when that means standing alone. Being silent has never been something I was good at... The top Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat – bless his heart – recently had some advice for me. He told me I just needed to 'shut up.' I responded by saying, 'Mr. Erekat, I will always be respectful, but I will not shut up.'"
- ◆ "[At the UN] our approach on Israel is tied together by one major

idea. The idea that runs through all of it is the simple concept that Israel must be treated like any other normal country. We demand that Israel not be treated like some sort of temporary provisional entity or pariah. It cannot be the case that only one country in the world doesn't get to choose its capital city."

- ◆ "It cannot be the case that the Human Rights Council has a standing agenda item for only one country. It cannot be the case that only one set of refugees throughout the world is counted in a way that causes the number to grow literally forever. It cannot be the case that in an organization with 193 countries, the United Nations spends half of its time attacking only one country."
- ◆ "Our demand for fairness for Israel is actually a demand for peace. The UN's bias against Israel has long undermined peace, by encouraging an illusion that Israel will go away. Israel is not going to go away. When the world recognizes that, then peace becomes possible. It becomes possible because all sides will be dealing with realities, not fantasies. Fantasies encourage absolutist demands. When realities are accepted, then compromise becomes possible. When the reality of Israel's existence is accepted, both sides will become freed to achieve a durable peace." (UN Ambassador Nikki Haley, U.S. Mission to the UN)

ISRAEL SHOWS POWER OF GOOD DEFENSE

What impressed me on my latest visit to Israel was the confidence of the Israeli people. The Israeli military wasn't present in heavy numbers in the border towns, at least not out in the open. Ashkelon and Sderot were thriving, expanding and growing, with families and lots of children everywhere. No one was concerned about Palestinian terrorists. The defenses were working, keeping the killers away from the Israeli people.

A journalist colleague in Jerusa-

Israel and the Palestinians: An irreconcilable conflict

By Jerrold L. Sobel, ZOA of SWFL President, July 25, 2018

There are still many matters that mankind just can't get a grip on. For instance: When exactly did the universe begin? When will it end? What's the last digit in pi? Why can't there be peace between Israel and the Palestinians? All mysteries, all irreconcilable questions, the last one seemingly as difficult as the first three.

What separates the degree of difficulty between the Middle East conflict and the three other questions posed is the option of acquiescence to the demands of the Palestinian terrorists is always available to Israel. To some, bowing to the pressures of the Islamic world, the international community, and extreme leftists both here and in Israel is the way to go. Considering generations of Jews have grown up in the Jewish state not knowing a moment's peace, such thinking is understandable.

But to the majority of Israelis, the relinquishment of the Jewish character of Israel, the abandonment of sovereignty after 2,000 years, and living what in effect would be a Palestinian state is untenable. They argue that despite seven decades of unreciprocated concessions, incessant terrorist attacks, and notwithstanding six major wars with Palestinian and Islamic state regimes, peace is no closer.

The Madrid Conference, Oslo I, Oslo II, Annapolis, The Road Map, the Arab Initiative, the Saudi Peace Plan and countless others, all are recipes containing the same ingredients – Israel should relinquish territory and receive two hypotheticals: peace and recognition (hasn't happened yet). Each is an abysmal failure due to the fact that this age-old conflict is less about land and more about the underpinnings and religious nature of Islam.

By Koranic decree, Islam cannot surrender land it considers dar al-Islam (land belonging to its uncompromising, political/religious views). That's the true issue, the least common denominator of this conflict. A sovereign Jewish state is an affront to Islamists. Secondly, there cannot be any true peace with people who adhere to another Islamic practice, that of deception. Taquia is an Islamic provision which allows for advancing "Allah's cause" by lying to one's enemies.

The late Yasser Arafat, mentor and co-founder of the PLO with present president Mahmoud Abbas, admitted as much prior to signing the Declaration of Principles concluding the catastrophic Oslo agreements. At a mosque in Johannesburg, he proclaimed, "The agreement

was nothing to worry about." Abed Rabbo, former Minister of Culture and Information, likewise stated, "We can't remain committed to the agreements that were signed with Israel forever." Keep in mind, these are the good guys, Fatah, not Hamas, ISIS or any myriad of terrorist groups sworn to Israel's destruction.

Add in the nuclear bound, puppeteers of terrorism, the Ayatollahs of Iran, Hezbollah waiting to be turned loose in the North, an emboldened Assad in Syria, Hamas straining at the bit for war with Israel, and any scenario of peace with the Palestinians for the foreseeable future is a pipe dream going forward.

The questions would always remain: A binding peace with whom? Could Israel ever relinquish a military presence in Judea/Samaria? Would the Palestinians ever accept less? Regarding the issue of Jerusalem, could any Israeli government survive ceding any part of Jerusalem particularly since President Trump's recognition of that city as the capital of Israel? How about the thorniest question of all, the right of return? Abbas insists, not only upon all Palestinian refugees from the 1948 War be returned, but their prodigy, today numbering in the millions. Could Israel afford to do that and maintain its Jewish character and continue as the homeland of the Jewish people? Not a chance.

Yet despite all this, like a rite of passage for every administration, President Trump will soon unveil his "peace plan" to the world. According to a recent article in the *Jerusalem Post*, a poll was taken of 800 adult Israelis. 21% believed the plan will entail recognition of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. 62% strongly disagreed. But not to worry, even before its disclosure, the Palestinians will most likely reject it out of hand.

Arabs such as Jordan's King Abdullah of Jordan have urged President Trump "not to reveal the details of his much-touted peace plan so as not to destabilize the entire Middle East." One can only surmise the King hasn't noticed how unstable the Middle East is already.

In addition to the aforementioned, the recalcitrance of the Palestinians to make peace go far beyond issues of land and statehood. In every aspect of Palestinian culture, hatred of Jews and Israel is generationally inculcated into the young of their society. Until, if ever, a reformation of such thinking is reversed, outside attempts at peace talks will be meaningless, and this conflict will remain irreconcilable. ▲

lem told me that the Palestinians "have tried suicide vests, car bombs, stabbings, tunnels, rockets, etc. Nothing has worked... Now Hamas is reduced to flying flaming kites to burn Israeli grassland."

Israel will survive this phase of the conflict as well and come out even

stronger. Take it from one who has just been there: For all the media hand-wringing and pro-Palestinian forces at the UN and in Europe, Israel is stronger than ever. (L. Todd Wood, a former U.S. Air Force special operations helicopter pilot, *Washington Times*) ▲

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The three Rs of Judaism

If your sins are as scarlet threads may they be whitened as snow," we read in the Haftorah on Yom Kippur.

Whether they are scarlet sins, teal transgressions, magenta misdeeds, violet vices, indigo inadequacies or orange offences, through the three Rs – regret, rectification, and resolve for the future – they can be whitened. For white is the absence of all color, and when we sincerely practice the three Rs, every trace of color of our previous failings is removed.

White: May our sins that come from having our heads too much into the mire and muck and mud of the brown earth turn white, like billowy clouds.

White: May our transgressions that have come from letting our red blood boil in outrage, anger, hostility, animosity and resentment turn white as fresh milk.

White: May our ink-blue sins be blotted out, deleted, removed in such a way that they look not like a paper that was written on and erased, but that they look like a new, fresh, clean white paper.

White: May our sins that are like dense, black coal and come from a density of spirit and mind and emotion, become white like light, airy cotton.

The Jewish approach to the three Rs is unique. For, the verb describing

what one who has transgressed must do to atone is "*teshuva* – return."

A Jew must return to his Source, to the origin of his pure soul, the spark of G-dliness within. He must return to his previously colorless state, return to the teachings of the Torah and the fulfillment of mitzvot that his soul intrinsically craves.

Jewish teachings explain that in the place where a *baal teshuva* – one who returns – stands, even a perfectly righteous person cannot stand. For when one truly and fully returns, all of his previous misdeeds are transformed into merits. One extracts the color from the misdeed and it becomes pure white.

Concerning exact details as to how one returns, there is a story of a chasid who came to his rebbe, sobbing bitterly, "Rebbe, I have sinned. I have transgressed. Please, teach me how to do *teshuva*, how to return."

Queried the rebbe, "Who taught you how to sin?"

"No one taught me. I just saw an opportunity, seized the moment, and sinned."

"And that is how you should return," explained the rebbe. "Just do it."

We all have our own ways and methods for achieving whatever goals we set for ourselves in life. Let us apply these honed skills during this season of "return" to practice the three Rs of Judaism and come home for good.

Chag Sameach!

Rabbi Yitzchok Minkowicz serves at Chabad Lubavitch of Southwest Florida.



■ **Rabbi Yitzchok Minkowicz**

The source of our blessings is God

Moses can see it coming. He foresees the day when the wandering desert Israelites will be settled in the fertile land of Israel. He describes in Deuteronomy: They feast on the land's wheat and barley, vines, figs, pomegranates, olive trees and honey, they drink from the flowing streams and fountains. They build fine houses to live in, the herds and flocks have multiplied, they are rich with silver and gold. No enemies disturb them; they have triumphed

over all the inhabitants. They are wealthy, safe and content – the picture of success.

But Moses is worried, he is worried that this success will lead the Israelites to forget their sacred mission of building a society in Israel based on the covenant and its ethical obligations toward each other. The Israelites will have comfortable homes, plenty of food to eat, an occupation to rely on, and few outside threats. Will they simply enjoy their success and forget God? How can they create a holy society in the midst of abundance?

Moses' first step is the quintessential Jewish response: we remember. He tells the Israelites "remember the long way that the Eternal your God has made you travel in the wilderness these past forty years...God subjected you to the hardships of hunger and then gave you manna to eat, in order to teach you that a human being does not live on bread alone, but that one may live on anything that the Eternal decrees." (Deut. 8:3) Moses points us back to a time when we were acutely aware of our dependence on God, when all we had to eat was the manna God provided. The colloquial phrase "man does not live by bread alone" does not con-

vey the original meaning in the Torah. The verse is not just a reminder of a spiritual dimension of life, but dependence on God. Moses is telling us: remember back when you did not have the abundance you enjoy today – just as you depended on God then, so too do you still depend on God now. Just as God was the source of the manna which sustained us in the wilderness, God is the source of our wealth today.

Moses tells the Israelites: "Beware lest your heart grow haughty...and you say to yourselves, "my own power and the might of my own hand have won this wealth for me." (Deut. 8:17) The overarching message of Moses is that success is dependent entirely on God. This can be a difficult message for us modern Jews to hear. Surely we have worked hard at our jobs, been financially prudent, put in the time and effort it takes to be successful. Don't we also deserve some credit?

Perhaps the Torah ignores our role because Moses wisely knows that our instinct will be to give ourselves credit. We don't need a pat on the back from Moses, we'll give it to ourselves. The message Moses is so desperately trying to get across is to remember that the source of our blessings is God. If we forget this then we forget the covenant, we forget our moral and ritual traditions, and we forget our obligation to build a sacred society. This is why Moses shares this message just before the Israelites enter the land of Israel. It's not just about each individual Israelite, it's about the entire community.

By recalling the desert experience of living off manna from God and by seeing our success not as the result of our own power but God's, then we not only strength our relationship with the divine and secure our place in God's covenant, but ultimately, we build a world of justice and success for all.

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



■ **Rabbi Nicole Luna**

My childhood Days of Awe

Possibly before it was ever called Rosh Hashanah, what we know now as New Years was *Yom Hazikaron*, Remembrance Day. To find out why, you can look it up yourself or, worst case scenario, listen to my Rosh Hashanah sermon. But for now, let me share some of my early Rosh Hashanah memories with you. I know you have your own, but I get to write this column.

Although I spent my toddler and preschool years on Miami Beach, my folks moved the family back to Brooklyn in 1955, in time to enroll me in 1st grade at the Yeshivah of Flatbush. Like a lot of families, my folks joined a local synagogue, the Avenue P Jewish Center (Conservative), about six blocks away, until all three sons were "bar mitzvahed" (ugh, I really dislike that faux verb!), and then dropped their memberships. Instead, we *davened* at the Young Israel just around the corner on Ocean Parkway, which suited me just fine.

Here's what I remember about the Days of Awe at the Avenue P Jewish Center. Even though we belonged, we, like everyone else, had to pay extra for tickets, but it didn't end there. Premium-priced tickets entitled you to pray in the synagogue's well-appointed sanctuary building, with worship conducted by the congregation's rabbi and cantor. Economy tickets got you into a parallel service next door in the social hall building sitting on folding chairs where the liturgies offered by rabbi and cantor "temps." We never got to sit in the real sanctuary since either it was all sold out to the high rollers, or maybe we couldn't afford the premium prices. Be that as it may, I remember gray-uniformed guards at each of the entrances checking for tickets. As a kid, I also remember playing around with lots of other kids on the sidewalk in the front of the synagogue to fill the time during those impossibly long services. And then there was the fidgeting with dad's *tsitsis* when he made me come in and sit with him.

But, mercifully, that's not how we spent every Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Just as often we would go up to our lake house in the Catskill's White Lake (about one mile from where Woodstock happened), which was a very short walking distance to my mother's parents' summer cottage. Dad was born on the family farm in the area, and he and mom met up there while he was on a Navy furlough during WWII, so we considered White Lake the cradle of our family.

Now here's the good part: on *yontiff*, grandpa, my two uncles, dad and we three brothers walked the three miles to the little shul in White Lake, which my great grandfather, great uncles and my father's father helped build with their own hands around WWI. (That long walk made me feel very mature and bonded into the fellowship of Jewish men.)

The White Lake synagogue didn't sell tickets, but, besides the appeal where people called out their pledges during services, it did auction off the honors like the *aliyot*, the *haftarah*, the ark openings, and the lifting and binding of the Torah scrolls. I vividly recall how, when I was about 14 or 15, my grandpa won the honor of me chanting the *haftarah* with a \$1,000 bid – a regal amount in those days. I was a big money player even back then!

I am sure the way I recall the Days of Awe as a youngster exert a powerful influence on the way I approach "The Holidays" now, and how I try to do my part to make the best part of these memories come to life for my people: the need to let everyone who comes to pray know that they are first class without looking into their wallets, and the free-flowing joy that comes from a real closeness with others doing something really uplifting.

Blessed are those young people who still get to form those memories today, twice blessed are the parents who see that they do, and all of God's blessing to those congregations who help make them possible.

Have a good one!

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



■ **Rabbi Bruce Diamond**

What do you think?

L'CHAYIM wants to know!

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A new beginning

During the ordinary course of the year, we rarely stop to ask where we are or in what direction we are traveling; we just travel. But intelligent people know that whether we are steering or driving depends on knowing our present position and our destination and then adjusting the course between them. And the first step is really knowing our position – where we are and who we are.

An interesting analogy can be found in a news story which would be funny if it were not so foolish. The skipper of a sinking pleasure boat near Chesapeake Bay radioed repeatedly and frantically for help. “We’re on our way,” the Coast Guard replied. “What is your position?” The yachtsman answered, “I’m Executive Vice President of the First National Bank. Please hurry!”

Most of us are prisoners of our set

minds and captives of our status symbols. We are governed by what our friends say and what our neighbors think.

But then comes Rosh Hashanah, the beginning of the New Year, and it asks, “Where are you going?” Conformity says our present way of life is comfortable, but Rosh Hashanah asks: Is it correct? Status drives tell us our goals for today are desirable, but Rosh Hashanah asks: Are they sensible for tomorrow? Public morality dictates a view on a given issue, but Rosh Hashanah speaks to the privacy of the individual conscience and asks: Is it right? For the focus of this holy day is not on the passing hour, but on the honorable position. With the coming of a New Year we are given the opportunity to rethink our positions in life and then to lift the levels of lives to new heights of meaning and purpose.

Best wishes for a Happy, Healthy and Sweet New Year.▲

Rabbi Solomon Agin serves at Temple Shalom in Port Charlotte.

What we celebrate on Rosh Hashanah

“Hayom harat Olam!” “This is the day of the world’s birth,” we proclaim each time we hear the shofar’s blast! It is the central message of Rosh Hashanah: to celebrate the teachings and ideals of Genesis’ magnificent Creation Story.

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth,” our Torah begins. So many ask: How could God have created the world in seven days? What about the dinosaurs and evolution? Don’t we believe in that?

Of course we believe in that! The creation story in Genesis does not offer a scientific account of HOW the world was created. It is rather an exquisite religious poem offering insight as to WHY we are here.

The biblical authors were not interested in writing science. The truths of the creation story are the religious ideas that it sets forth – ideas upon which all subsequent Jewish thought depends.

The first assumption of the story is that God is behind creation. However the world came to be, our story contends that a single, good caring God initiated the process. God acted with purpose and meaning. Therefore, our lives have purpose and meaning.

The story also reminds us that we human beings are in charge of and responsible for the world.

Until the text begins to tell of the creation of humanity, the method by which God creates is simple: God said, “Let there be...” and the next step in creation unfolds.

With human beings, God’s method changes. “And God said: Let us create humanity in our image after our likeness. And they shall rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the cattle and all the earth and everything that creeps

on the earth. And God created us human beings – male and female – in the Divine Image.” (Genesis 1:26)

That does not mean that we look like God; God has no shape or form. It means that we human beings have God-like powers, and the Almighty puts us in charge of and responsible for the earth. It is an awesome power, and we can use it for good or for ill.

The Midrash (Bereshit Rabbah 8:11) teaches that we human beings stand midway between God and the rest of the animals. Like the animals, we eat, sleep, drink, procreate, eliminate our waste and die. But in a God-like way we have the power to think, analyze, create and shape the environment in ways that far surpass any other creature.

Only humans can mine ore from a mountain, and turn the ore into iron, the iron into steel, and with that steel forge the most delicate of surgical instruments to heal and to save lives.

But only humans can mine the same ore to fashion bombs and bullets whose only purpose is to kill and to maim.

Finally, the Creation Story introduces the concept of Shabbat, a weekly day to step back from our strivings and contemplate how we can better fulfill God’s charge to us to make a better world.

Genesis’ Creation Story makes no pretense of being scientific. It teaches the core values of our tradition. It teaches that God entrusts the earth to our care, and it warns us, as the Midrash (Ecclesiastes Rabbah 7:13) reminds us: This is the only earth we will get.

The message of Rosh Hashanah is that we must care for the earth God entrusted to our care and work – each of us in our own way – to create on it, a just, caring and compassionate society.▲

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

A time to reflect on bigger questions

Here’s a story from a professional football game in the early 1990s, before instant replay. A quarterback threw the ball to a receiver who caught, but dropped the ball. The receiver quickly fell to the ground, retrieved the football, jumped up and celebrated. The home viewers saw the charade but the umpires on the field did not. The next play was run as though the receiver had caught the ball. He got away with cheating. (I don’t know if his team ultimately won the game.)

Contrast this with the ethics of baseball player Ryne Sandberg, who said this during his induction into the Hall of Fame. “I was taught you never, ever disrespect your opponent or your teammates or your organization or your manager and never, ever your uniform. Make a great play – act like you’ve done it before. Get a big hit – look at the third base coach and...get ready to run the bases, because the name on the front (of the uniform) is a lot more important than the name on the back... A lot of people say this honor validates my career, but I didn’t work hard for validation. I didn’t play the game right because I saw a reward at the end of the tunnel. I played it right because that’s what you’re supposed to do – play it right and with respect.”

For one of these athletes, winning was the only thing that counted, and he would openly cheat to make that happen. Perhaps that’s what his coach and team owners wanted. They wanted to win at any cost. Ryne Sandberg, who played second base for the Chicago Cubs long before they were a competitive team, thought about his team and about the game of baseball itself. He wanted to honor the game – and the opportunity he had to play professional ball. His concern was not just for winning – surely he wanted to do that – but also for doing the right thing, playing the game in a way that honored the institution of professional baseball.

Several years ago, a new *siddur* was published, a book with wonderful explanations of the prayers and with

ancient and modern reflective readings. After the shooting at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando two years ago, I went through the book looking for a reading about standing together during times of tragedy, about a collective need to support other people. I could find none. The readings were full of the words “I” and “me.” It had powerful readings about our personal relationship with God, but I struggled to find the words “we” and “us.”

Perhaps reflecting the tenor of our times, the book did not move its readers to stand for something bigger than themselves. It did not seem to be concerned with people doing the right thing simply because it was the right thing to do.

It is instinctual to think about ourselves and our own needs first. We need more time, reflective time, to ask: What’s the right thing to do? How will my actions affect the people and world around me? That reflective time, time to ask the big questions, is what the *Yamim Nora-im*, the Days of Awe, are about. We spend more time in synagogue because we need that time to ask ourselves, standing before God, whether we are living life right and with respect.

Moses Maimonides (1135-1204) taught that we should see our lives as a giant scale with our good deeds and sins equally balanced. Every good deed tipped our scale to the side of the good, and every sin tipped the scale to the side of bad. Then he taught that we should see the entire world as an evenly balanced scale. Every one of our personal good deeds tipped the scale of the entire world to the side of the good, and every one of our sins tipped the scale of the entire world to the side of evil. In other words, everything we do counts. Everything we do affects the world around us.

The tenor of our time supports our natural inclination to put our personal interests before all others. But the holidays give us a time to reflect on bigger questions: How do my actions affect the world around me? How can I bring a little more peace to the world? I think these questions are critically important as we approach this new year.▲

Rabbi Marc Sack serves at Temple Judea in Fort Myers.



■ Rabbi Solomon Agin



■ Rabbi Marc Sack



■ Rabbi Stephen Fuchs

High School Students: 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 debbiesanford@jfedlcc.org:

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



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TEMPLE BETH EL SCHOOLS
Fort Myers

Dale M. Cohen, R.J.E. - M.A. Ed.
Religious School Director

Dear Parents of the Religious School:

It will be so wonderful to hear the pitter patter of feet in our Religious School hallways. Our first official day of Religious School is Sunday, September 16. It is a great thrill to have all of our children back into the swing of things. As I sit in my office writing this article, I anticipate the holiday of Rosh Hashanah. It is truly my favorite time of the year – a time to invigorate, refresh and renew ourselves as we forge into another year, a year to be positive and to look out for that silver lining in that dark cloud.

This is the information for our High Holiday Junior Congregation services:

- Monday, September 10 – 1st day of Rosh Hashanah
 - Wednesday, September 19 – Yom Kippur
- Rabbi Luna will announce where all of the children will be reporting to for their services.
- Kindergarten and Grade One – Rm # 2 with Morah Mackenzie Sax
 - Grades Two and Three – Rm # 1 with Morah Amy Shinbaum
 - Grades Four through Six – Rooms 3 and 4 with Morah Dale Cohen. Any seventh graders who would like to attend will be more than welcome.

As always, Larry Schoenfeld will come and read the Torah to all of the classes. We are grateful to have him with us – as I call it, a labor of love.

Our first Junior Congregation of the year will take place on Saturday, September 29. Please remember that this is a mandatory part of our curriculum to prepare our students with the

Saturday morning liturgy for grades 4-7. Parents are always encouraged to attend and support.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our students and their families a *Shanah Tovah Umetukah* (a happy and a sweet year) filled with great health, love, prosperity and peace, and a great year at Temple Beth El Religious School.

The members of the Education Task Force Committee are excited to announce the all new “face” of Temple Beth El Religious School. We realize the times are changing and that it is necessary to make adjustments that will be beneficial to all. Temple Beth El Religious School has revamped its program and structure. The goal is for students to attain the most effective way to learn, socialize and practice Judaism in a Jewish setting at an optimum level.

Temple Beth El’s Religious School program for all grades will be Sunday mornings only from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The actual instruction time is unchanged versus the former two-day schedule, in order to make more things more efficient for families.

Our new schedule is as follows:

- 9:00 - 9:20 a.m.: Family Tefillah (Prayer Service) in the sanctuary with Rabbi Luna and Morah Dale
- 9:20 - 9:30 a.m.: Classroom check-in
- 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.: Hebrew
- 10:30 - 10:50 a.m.: snack
- 10:50 - 11:40 a.m.: Jewish Studies
- 11:40 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.: electives – art, music or cooking

Our Religious School begins with a Family Fun Blast on Sunday, September 16 with a bagel breakfast. We look forward to seeing all of you on the first day to greet your family!

A customized day full of imaginative adventures for them.
A stress-free party for you, or in other words an

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- September 21: 7:07**
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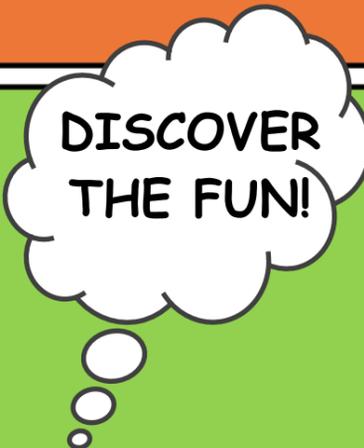


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SHALOM LIFE CENTER

Fort Myers

(239) 218-3433

The fuel of Elul

Lawrence & Robin Dermer

The month of Elul brings us the energy to expand our thoughts and enrich our lives. We begin to look at the “bigger picture,” and think about deeper and more thought-provoking questions: What am I? What are we?

The difference between “What am I?” and “What are we?” stresses how important and valuable community is in our Jewish tradition. Many of our prayers are expressed in the plural, reminding us that we’re all leaves on the tree of our *Eitz Chayim*. We’re all connected, sharing an obligation of looking for answers together. As a sacred community we support each other as we admit our frailties, failures and misjudgments during the past year. We ask difficult and seemingly unanswerable questions and, at the same time, we celebrate a year of achievements and the promise of limitless opportunities that the future holds for us all.

This year may we move forward in the realization that we are all dependent on each other. Our progress, success, hopes and dreams will become reality only when we join hands. Unity is our sacred Jewish responsibility. In 5779 we’re hoping to gain meaningful change in our lives and in the lives of others. Elie Wiesel put it best when he said, “Hope is like peace. It’s not a gift from G-d. It’s a gift only we can give one another.

The High Holy Days are a wonderful way to meet new people, become part of a warm and welcoming community, and connect to the richness of our tradition, its music, its history and the deeper meaning of Torah through our ancient prayers and rituals.

Every year we’re given the opportunity to focus on the ways we’ve individually and collectively missed the mark and strayed from that within us which is most holy, and how we can return to our highest, best and most G-dly selves. We also know this process as “*teshuvah*” or a return to the call of the Divine spiritual force we call G-d. This transformation is truly what it

means to believe in G-d as a powerful force and the only path to healing that can change negativity and despair into positivity and love. This is our shared hope for the healing of the entire world – *Tikkun Olam*.

During the High Holy Days we focus on much more than healing. At this time, we celebrate the grandeur and beauty of Divine creation with awe and radical amazement! Rosh Hashanah is meant to be a big birthday party for our world, and it’s with great joy that we open our tent to everyone as we sing, pray, dance, meditate and celebrate this new beginning that the High Holy Days are meant to offer us.

Just as our ancient traditions unite the generations and bless us each year, our Shalom Life Center family nourishes our souls and fills our hearts with gratitude and love for our sacred community of faith. We invite you to join us in 5779, as our cherished values are celebrated and together we’re blessed with the occasion to share a powerful and profoundly meaningful and spiritual experience, beginning on Saturday, September 1 at 7:30 p.m. with a beautiful Selichot service and lavish

dessert reception.

Everyone is welcome to join us for Rosh Hashanah, Tashlich and Yom Kippur services. While our message is traditional, our worship is contemporary, and our services combine meaningful prayers and soaring melodies that feature the Shalom Life Center Choir, Musical Ensemble and world-class accompanist Bela Gutshtein. Our Yom Kippur afternoon healing and meditative concert will be followed by afternoon Yizkor and Neilah concluding services and our Fabulous Break the Fast Feast!

For more information on joining us, please visit www.shalomlifecenter.org, call 239.218.3433 or email info@shalomlifecenter.org.

With the call of the shofar we pray that the timeless messages of our traditions – renewal, return, healing, transformation and the celebration of life’s potential for fulfillment and joy – will offer everyone a spiritual journey blessed with opportunity for growth and meaningful insight.

L’Shanah Tovah.

HADASSAH

Collier/Lee Chapter

(239) 301-0509

Shelley Skelton

This time of year is very busy and active for our Hadassah chapter. Far from being the “lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer,” we are hard at work preparing for another year of exciting and successful events, whether they be luncheons, knowledge and nosh meetings, brunches, educational seminars, fundraisers or just ordinary everyday get-togethers. If you ask most members why they joined Hadassah, the answer would most likely be, “to meet people,” with rare exceptions. But once they join and begin to learn about the extraordinary work of Hadassah, they become more and more involved and find themselves volunteering to be an integral part of the day-to-day operations.

Many organizations could not exist without the loyal and dedicated help of

volunteers. They depend upon and exist solely because of the willingness of those who devote their time and energy to fundraising, caregiving and all of the other tasks that are necessary to run the organization.

However, have you ever stopped to think of the benefits provided to you by the act of volunteering? Some people are naturally outgoing, others are shy and have a hard time meeting new people. Volunteering gives you the opportunity to practice and develop your social skills since you are meeting regularly with a group of people with common interests. It becomes easier to branch out and make more friends and contacts. Volunteering can help increase your self-confidence, it helps combat depression, and studies have shown that it can lessen the symptoms of chronic pain or heart disease.

Our volunteers are committed to strengthening the unity of the Jewish people. In Israel, we accomplish this

through progressive healthcare, education, youth institutions and volunteerism. In the United States, we reach our goals through Jewish and Zionist education programs, Zionist Youth programs and health awareness programs, as well as advocating for issues of importance to women and to the American Jewish community.

Men can also participate in Hadassah’s mission of peace and healing by becoming a Hadassah Associate. Working alongside Hadassah women or spearheading initiatives on their own, Associates make a significant contribution to the basic values of the Jewish people: *tikkun olam* (repairing the world) and *zedakah*. Associates support Hadassah’s vital work in the United States and Israel, working to change people’s lives. We are so happy to be taking this journey together. The Associates embody the ideals and values that have exemplified Hadassah for over 100 years.

Hadassah offers members a wide variety of health awareness programs

and activities that strengthen Jewish identity and support for Israel while providing a unique opportunity to connect socially. And so we gather together in the name of Hadassah to socialize, learn and enjoy. It is up to us to keep up-to-date on the latest information about our organization. There is always new information and we urge you to read your newsletter. Go to www.hadassah.org for the latest news from Hadassah. Hopefully, you will attend our meetings with a better understanding of what we do, what we raise funds for and why it is so important.

If you are an annual member, upgrade to Life Membership. If your spouse or partner is not a member, have him join as an Associate or, better yet, bestow it upon him as a gift! Life membership for either yourself or your Associate is currently \$250.

Each of us is capable of making a difference in someone else’s life as we stand together at the threshold of a new year.

HUMANISTIC JEWISH HAVURAH
of Southwest Florida

(239) 495-8484

Remembering Herbert Herman
on Yom Kippur

Paula Creed

Herbert Herman, an original member of the Humanistic Jewish Havurah of Southwest Florida, passed away on June 12. He leaves his wife Dr. Suzanne Hammersberg Herman, sons Dr. Clifford Herman and David Herman, stepson Grant Hammersberg and six grandchildren.

We especially remember him at the time of the High Holidays because Herbert played an important role in the first

Humanistic Jewish commemorations of Yom Kippur in Southwest Florida. At that time, a young Humanistic Jewish Rabbi, Jeffrey Falick, traveled to Naples from Miami to lead our services, but only after Herbert was able to acquire an appropriate venue for this momentous event.

The following year, we had no rabbi to lead our ceremony, but Herbert came forward and created the *Nizkor*

(“Let us remember”) service, a ceremony used by Humanistic Jews at the close of our Yom Kippur commemoration. A *Nizkor* service affirms that human beings preserve the memory of the dead. Thus, at the approach of Yom Kippur, we have a lasting memory of Herbert Herman’s contribution to the Humanistic Jewish community in SW Florida.

For Humanistic Jews, Rosh Hashanah is a time of renewal, reflection and new beginnings. Additionally, Humanistic Jews interpret this holiday as a time for *self-judgment* and as an affirmation of human power and human dignity. It is a time to consider the possibilities for change, for improvement, for happiness, that human beings can create for themselves. Rosh Hashanah marks a turning point, a separation between what was and what will be.

Yom Kippur climaxes the self-examination begun on Rosh Hashanah. It is a time of self-forgiveness and forgiveness of others.

Herbert Herman identified himself as a secular Humanistic Jew long before I met him. He had had an opportunity to meet and hear Rabbi Sherwin Wine, the founder of our movement, and was thoroughly impressed with the unique philosophy espoused by Rabbi Wine. Herbert immediately affiliated with the Society for Humanistic Judaism, our national organization, even though there was no organized Humanistic Jewish community in all South Florida. When the Humanistic Jewish Havurah was in its formation, Herbert

was delighted to become an important supporting player at its birth.

What made Herbert the epitome of a secular humanistic Jew?

Most important was his belief in the value of every human being. He sought the best for all in society and to foster the best in every person with whom he came into contact. I, as well as others, were the recipients of his praise and his encouragement to reach higher and achieve to the best of our ability. He maintained an unshakable belief in the human potential. As he clearly asserted in a letter to the editor of the *Naples Daily News* earlier this year, “I assumed that individuals are rational beings who can think intelligently and who will act wisely when they know the evidence.”

Herbert recognized that mortality is an unavoidable and final event. Life is valuable because it does not go on forever. Happiness is an urgent matter because it will not be available after we die. To accept this truth is to live courageously and generously even in the face of one’s personal tragedies.

To recognize one’s mortality is not to admit defeat but to acknowledge the necessity of finding in this world and in this life all possible purpose and meaning rather than to await fulfillment in the hereafter. It is to understand the nature of humankind which possesses a capability for independence, power, freedom and, hence, dignity.

Humans are masters of their destiny, but not forever.



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

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

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

**GENERATIONS OF THE SHOAH
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA**

(239) 963-9347

**GenShoah SWFL announces
programs for 2018-19 season**

Ida Margolis
Often the mission statement of groups, organizations and companies is not read by the general public. However, it is the mission statement that is actually the statement of purpose for that group and a guide for decision making.

A number of years ago, the Steering Committee of GenShoah SWFL developed its mission statement. It is included in every GenShoah newsletter and it guides program planning for each season. The Steering Committee gets numerous requests for programs each year and takes its responsibility very seriously in deciding what programs, speakers and films to include, always making sure that each program helps fulfill some aspect of our mission, which is: promotion of Holocaust education and human rights, preserva-

tion of the history and memories of the Holocaust, connection of the Second Generation with one another and support of the Holocaust Museum & Cohen Education Center.

The story of *Violins of Hope* and the film *Tresors: The Lost Jews of Kastoria* are two important but not widely known Holocaust stories that will be explored this season. The Museum will host Dr. James Grymes, the author of *Violins of Hope*, and GenShoah will discuss the book and present a related program. In a January discussion on "Finding Family," Hank Bitterman will tell how he searched for his roots through the story of his father, a Schindler Survivor, and explain how children of Survivors can tell their own parents' stories. A very special program will be presented by Laura Ivanov, Informational Retrieval Specialist from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. She will present significant information about the International Tracing Service and

how to use it.

Rene Geist and Shirley Besikof will host an intimate gathering for children of Survivors to share their own personal stories. Second Generation are requested to attend the Kristallnacht and Yom HaShoah commemorations.

Human rights issues will be highlighted and discussed at "Movies That Matter SWFL," with four screenings of films presented by the Human Rights Film Coalition of Southwest Florida of which GenShoah is a member. Each film will deal with current significant human rights issues, and facilitators with expertise in the film's topic will be present for a Q&A.

GenShoah believes that support of the Holocaust Museum & Cohen Education Center is essential so that the Museum can continue with its important and critical mission to "Teach the lessons of the Holocaust to inspire action against bigotry, hatred and violence." GenShoah is an affinity group of the Museum, which sends out the GenShoah e-newsletter, helps sponsor

and promote our programs, and often provides a venue for GenShoah programs and events. Most of the events are held at no charge, although there is a cost involved. We do not charge a membership, as many Second Generation groups do. In keeping with our mission of supporting the Museum, we ask that all those interested in the mission of GenShoah and who want to receive the GenShoah e-newsletter be members of the Holocaust Museum & Cohen Education Center. To become a member, call the Museum at 239.263.9200 or visit www.HolocaustMuseumSWFL.org.

GenShoah SWFL is grateful to the Museum for its support, to Janet G. Cohen and all contributors who help the Museum continue its mission, to Museum President & CEO Susan Suarez, Marketing & Communications Manager Joan Hogan, and all those who have presented, organized and attended programs.

For more information about GenShoah and its programs, please email genshoahswfl@gmail.com.

**HAZAK 55+ CHAPTER
at Temple Judea**

(239) 433-0201

Joyce Rosinger

HAZAK 55+ at Temple Judea is having another successful year. All of our programs have been well attended. Thank you to all of our board members who contribute to our planning meetings and help at our programs: President: Andy Chernow; Co-Presidents during the summer months: George & Joyce Rosinger; Treasurer: Shirley Schiffman; Programs: Lynda Maslow

& Bernie Perlstein; Sunshine: Selma Young. Additional Board Members: Paula Raboy, Izzy & Arlene Krupka, Kent & Freda Confeld, and Jerry Wadro.

A brief example of the programs we enjoyed were:

- A wonderful musical program taking us through the history of Jewish music that starred Liz Singer, Sid Wilker and Sasha Zuckerman
- A tour of the Holocaust Museum & Cohen Education Center of SWFL in Naples with a fabulous docent, and lunch afterwards

- During the summer months we had a variety of movies and enjoyed dinner together at various local restaurants

We have many future programs planned for the rest of 2018 into 2019. Join HAZAK on Sunday, October 7 for a wonderful program, "The Best of Africa: South Africa, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia," presented by Marsha & Mike Kistler and Andrea Abrams. In November (date to be determined), we will have happy hour and dinner at the Roadhouse Café.

HAZAK wishes our community a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year.

Temple Judea's active HAZAK Chapter is a chartered member of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. Membership in the organization is open to the community. Join HAZAK and meet new friends. HAZAK Chapters are for singles or couples. It's an organization that enables members to meet and socialize with each other. Our monthly programs vary in nature. For additional information, email us at tjhazak@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

**JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA**

(239) 566-1771

**Why and when does Florida
celebrate Jewish History Month?**

Marina Berkovich

Jews have settled in Florida since 1763. They came here to escape persecution and for economic opportunities. A notable first: In 1841, David Levy, later Yulee, a Jewish pioneer of Sephardic ancestry, born in St. Thomas to a Moroccan businessman father and Spaniard-British mother, an attorney and politician, was elected as Florida Territory's U.S. delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives. In 1845, after Florida was admitted into the Union, he was elected as a Democrat to the U.S. Senate, thus becoming the first Jew in the U.S. to win a Senate seat. He chartered the Florida Railroad in 1853. A Confederate and what would now be thought of as a "white supremacist," Levy encountered severe anti-Semitism despite converting to Christianity and using the last name Yulee from 1851 forward. His Florida legacy

is prominently visible in the names of Levy County and the town of Yulee.

Jews started resettling to Florida in large numbers following World War II, and since then have contributed greatly to the development of the entire state.

Recognizing that, on the first day of Passover in 2003, Florida Governor Jeb Bush signed a historic bill into law, designating the month of January as Florida Jewish History Month. An excerpt from House Bill No 803 reads: 683.195 Florida Jewish History Month. (1) The month of January of each year is designated as "Florida Jewish History Month." (2) The Governor may issue a proclamation annually designating the month of January as "Florida Jewish History Month" and calling upon the citizens of the state to observe the occasion. Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law. Approved by the Governor April 17, 2003. Filed in Office Secretary of State April 17, 2003.

The Jewish Historical Society of Southwest Florida is proud to have an

annual celebration in the month of January each year, and we do not limit our celebration of contributions by Jews into the development and history of our magnificent state to January only. We have exciting events year-round. Please check our calendar often and sign up to receive our emails.

On Wednesday, September 12, the Society will repeat a very special presentation of the documentary film *Southwest Florida Jewish Pioneers: Stuart Kaye, A Mensch for All Reasons*. The screening will take place in the *Naples Daily News* Community Room for Women's Cultural Alliance members. 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 as his home if he sets his mind and efforts to it, and perseveres through hardships and economic downturns. Whether you know Stuart

Kaye's story or not, this is a must-see film and presentation.

On Sunday, October 28, the Society will hold a special unveiling of documentaries about two of the many extraordinary Marco Island women: *Elena Rosner, When Destiny Calls* and *The Greensteins of Marco Island*. This event will be co-hosted by the Jewish Congregation of Marco Island.

Save the date for the Annual Florida Jewish History Celebration on Monday, January 28, 2019. A very special not-to-be-missed afternoon is being planned. Details will be announced in late September.

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

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

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



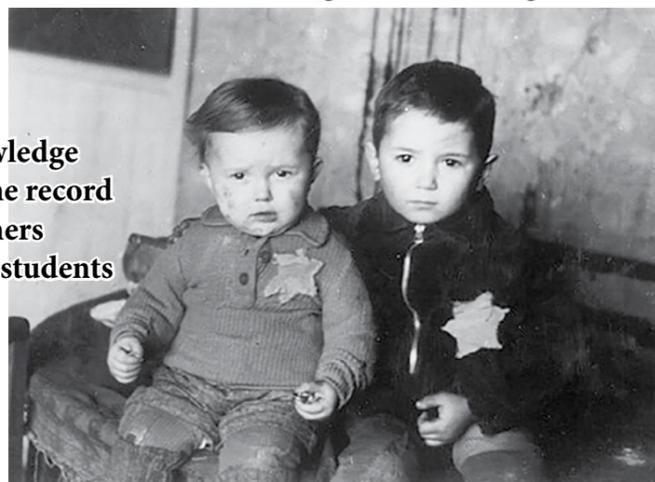
Get the latest information on upcoming community events and cultural activities, breaking news items, updates from Israel and lots more.

**Send an email to
debbiesanford@jfedlcc.org**

**Center for Judaic, Holocaust,
and Genocide Studies**

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

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



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

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

The board and staff of Temple Judea wish everyone a very Happy and Healthy New Year as they prepare for the upcoming holidays.

The holiday season begins on Saturday, September 1 with Selichot services. Before services begin, there will

be a dessert reception at 9:00 p.m., followed by a concert by Cellist Eric Dochinger and his accompanist. Selichot services will follow. Community members are invited to attend.

There is a schedule of Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot and Simchat Torah services in an ad in this issue of *L'CHAYIM*. Tickets for holiday services for nonmembers can be purchased by calling the synagogue office.

Volunteers are needed to help build the temple's sukkah on Sunday morning, September 23. Please call the Director of Congregational Learning, Tab Scribner, to volunteer.

Volunteers are also needed to help serve meals to the homeless at Sally's Café, an outreach service of the Salvation Army, on Sundays, September 16 and 30. Contact Linda Idelson at lindaieldson8@gmail.com.

Rabbi Sack's noontime Torah study begins again on Thursday, October 4 at the offices of Myers, Brettholtz. Rabbi

Sack provides the materials. The study sessions are open to all.

The congregation looks forward to celebrating the Bar Mitzvah of Ben Manekin on Saturday, October 6 and the Bat Mitzvah of Emily Polk the following Shabbat. Mazel Tov to both their families.

Adult Education classes will begin on Monday, October 8. Call the synagogue office for more information.

COMMUNITY FREE SYNAGOGUE**Fort Myers****(239) 466-6671****www.fortmyerssynagogue.com**

We lost our angel, Stephanie Dressman, at the end of July. We share in the heartbreak and profoundest grief with Stephie's mother Deb, her sister and brother, and the so very many who loved her. An ocean of words could not express her kindness and our loss.

Heartfelt condolences to Sandy Lurey at the passing of her beloved husband Joel Rosenberg, a gracious, dignified man and devoted partner.

Please consult the advertisement in this issue of *L'CHAYIM* for the synagogue's Days of Awe schedule. All worship and other events are open to all and always free. There are also no fund solicitations.

For those who prefer to spend their

Yom Kippur afternoon time between worship services in synagogue study and prayer, Rabbi Diamond is once again offering a study session from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m., examining various perspectives on the meanings of sin, repentance and atonement from traditional and more modern points of view. What does "sin" mean today and what is forgiveness?

We are grateful to the family of Edna Josephson for helping underwrite our Days of Awe guest musicians. Edna, who left us this year at age 101, was a joyously gifted pianist who lives in music.

Once again Dr. Alan Tannenbaum is helping sponsor our Community Free break-the-fast at the end of Yom Kippur. It is open to all who complete the Day of Atonement with us. We are always thankful for his continuing generosity.

Plan to participate in our annual "Sukkah Topping Off" at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 23. After the Community Free sukkah is complete, Sukkot will be welcomed in it with the festival *qiddush*, special Sukkot *hallah*, *lulav* and *etrog*.

Please see the story about our Saturday night September 29 Simhat Bet Hasho'ayvah in this issue. In keeping with the party spirit of this celebration, the very popular Fort Myers D.J., Max Weinberg from Max Weinberg Entertainment, will provide dance music while Total Wines and More will conduct a wine tasting. Hors d'oeuvres and a sweet table will be served. Of course, it's free and open to all!

Festival Yizkor will be recited at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 30, followed by a very joyous Simhat Torah celebration at 7:30 p.m. Charlotte Adkins will be the *Kallat Devrarim* who finishes the Torah, and Rabbi Thomas Miess will be the *Hatten Brayshit* who

begins it. Come dance with the Torah!

Now in its 13th year, The Community Free Synagogue is a valued independent community synagogue and essential religious resource. As a community synagogue, all of its events and programs, including youth and adult Jewish education, are open to all and always free.

The synagogue is led by Rabbi Bruce Diamond, D.D., who has served our local Jewish community for over 20 years and is a distinguished ordainee of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, from which he holds his Doctor of Divinities, and Adjunct Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies at Florida Gulf Coast University.

The purpose of The Community Free Synagogue is "Study, Worship and Benevolent Acts" (Pirqay Avot 1:2), following progressive Jewish values while observing essential Jewish traditions.

Send updates and changes to the Directory below to loriramos@jfedlcc.org.

TEMPLE BETH EL

REFORM

16225 Winkler Road, Fort Myers, FL 33908

Rabbi Nicole Luna

E-mail: rabbiluna@templebethel.com

Temple educator: Dale Cohen, Ma.Ed., R.J.E

Preschool director: Jesyca Virnig

President: Ellis Rabinowitz

Phone: 433-0018 • Fax: 433-3235

Web site: www.templebethel.com

Shabbat services: 7:30 p.m. Friday; Torah study

9:00 a.m. Saturday; B'nai Mitzvah 10:30 a.m. Saturday

Religious School: 9:30 a.m.-noon Sunday

Hebrew School: 5:00-6:30 p.m. Wednesday

Judaica Gift Gallery

Affiliated: Union for Reform Judaism

TEMPLE BETH SHALOM

REFORM

702 S.E. 24th Ave., Cape Coral, FL 33990

Rabbi Devora Buchen

President: Arnie Schwartz

Phone: 772-4555 • Fax: 772-4625

E-mail: office@templebethshalomcc.orgWeb site: www.templebethshalomcc.org

Services: 7:30 p.m. Friday

Religious School: Thursday 4:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Torah study with Rabbi Buchen: Shabbat 10:30 a.m.

Organizations: Brotherhood, Sisterhood,

Family Service (1st Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m.)

BAT YAM TEMPLE OF THE ISLANDS

REFORM

Meets at Sanibel Congregational Church

2050 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel Island

Rabbi Stephen L. Fuchs

President: Alan Lessack

Phone: 239-579-0296 (Oct-Apr)

773-251-8862 (May-Sept)

Email: batyamsanibel@gmail.com

Cantor: Murray Simon

Web site: www.batyam.org

Services: 7:30 p.m. Friday (Nov-Apr)

7:00 p.m. Friday (May-Oct)

Adult Education:

Saturday, 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. (Nov-Apr)

Jewish Current Events: Saturday, 11:30 a.m.

to 12:15 p.m. (Nov-Apr)

Write: P.O. Box 84, Sanibel, FL 33957

Affiliated: Union for Reform Judaism

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

REFORM

23190 Utica Ave., P.O. Box 494675

Port Charlotte, FL 33949-4675

Rabbi Solomon Agin

President: Gary Wein

Phone: (941) 625-2116

E-mail: shalom06@netzero.comWeb site: templeshalomfl.com

Services: 7:30 p.m. Friday

Religious school: Sunday 10 a.m.

Beginning Hebrew: Tuesday 4:15 - 5:15 p.m.

Advanced Hebrew: Thursday 4:15 - 5:15 p.m.

Organizations: Sisterhood

Affiliated: Union for Reform Judaism

SYNAGOGUES & ORGANIZATIONS

IN LEE & 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.comWeb site: www.fortmyerssynagogue.com

Community Sabbath eve dinner each Friday

at 6:30 p.m.

Sabbath eve worship every Friday at 7:30 p.m.

Light breakfast and Torah study with the rabbi

every Saturday morning from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

TEMPLE JUDEA

CONSERVATIVE

14486 A&W Bulb Road, Fort Myers, FL 33908

Rabbi Marc Sack

E-mail: rabbij@tjswfl.org

President: Jennifer Manekin

Director of Congregational Learning:

Elizabeth Singer

Preschool Director: Joann Goldman

templejudeapreschool@gmail.com

Phone: 433-0201 • Fax: 433-3371

E-mail: tjswfl@gmail.comWeb site: www.tjswfl.org

Services: 6:15 p.m. Friday and 9:30 a.m.

Saturday Minyan: 9:00 a.m. Monday

Religious School: Sun. 9:30 a.m.-noon;

Wed. 4:30-6 p.m.

Early childhood education:

Preschool, M-F, ages 18 months-5 years;

"Mommy & Me," 12 months-2 years

Affiliated: United Synagogue of Conservative

Judaism

CHABAD OF BONITA SPRINGS/**ESTERO**

ORTHODOX

24850 Old 41 Road, Suite 20 (in the Bernwood

Centre)

Bonita Springs, FL 34135-7024

Rabbi Mendy Greenberg

Phone: 949-6900

Web site: www.JewishBonita.com

Services: Saturday at 10 a.m., followed by

a kiddush

CHABAD OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY

ORTHODOX

204 E Mckenzie St Unit B, Punta Gorda, FL 33950

Rabbi Simon Jacobson

Phone: (941) 833-3381

E-mail: chabadpg@yahoo.comWeb site: www.chabadofcharlottecounty.com

Services: Saturday at 10 a.m. followed by

a kiddush

Torah study: Wednesday at 8 p.m.

CHABAD LUBAVITCH**OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA**

ORTHODOX

5620 Winkler Road

Fort Myers, FL 33919

Rabbi Yitzchok Minkowicz

Phone: 433-7708 • Fax: 481-9109

E-mail: rabbij@chabadswf.orgWeb site: www.chabadswf.org

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

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

Minyan: Monday & Thursday 7:00 a.m.

CHABAD JEWISH CENTER**OF CAPE CORAL**

ORTHODOX

1716 Cape Coral Pkwy. W., Cape Coral, FL 33914

Rabbi Yossi Labkowski

Phone: 963-4770

E-mail: info@chabadcape.comWeb site: www.chabadcape.com

Services: Friday Evening 7:30 p.m.

Saturday morning 9:30 a.m. followed by

Kiddush luncheon

Sunday morning 8:00 a.m.

Monday-Friday morning 7:00 a.m.

JLI Courses: Monday evening at 7:00 p.m.

Weekly Torah Study: Tuesday evening 7:30 p.m.

Hebrew School: Sunday 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Jgirls: Tuesday 6:00-7:00 p.m.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

• Shalom Life Center

• Lawrence Dermer, Spiritual Leader - 218-3433

• AIPAC (American Israel Public Affairs Committee):

Jacki Waksman - (954) 653-9053

• AJC (American Jewish Committee):

Brian Lipton - (941) 365-4955

• Anti-Defamation League: (561) 988-2900

• B'Nai B'rith International: (941) 302-4500

• Chevra Kadisha:

Gene Sipe - 841-4615

• Generations of the Shoah SWFL: 963-9347

• Hadassah - Collier/Lee Chapter:

Lynn Weiner - 598-1009

• Hadassah - Sharon Chapter (Charlotte County):

Odette Port - (941) 505-1409

• Hazak 55+ Chapter:

Joyce Rosinger - 437-1566

• Humanistic Jewish Havurah:

Paula Creed - 495-8484

• Israel Bonds: Regional Headquarters: (800) 622-8017

• Jewish Community Services: 481-4449

• Jewish National Fund: (727) 536-5263

• Memorial Tree Planting in Israel - 1-800-542-8733

• Jewish War Veterans:

Post 400: Commander Harvey Charter - 246-3151

• Mikvah Bashka of Southwest Florida:

Nechamie Minkowicz - 822-2784

BAT YAM TEMPLE OF THE ISLANDS

Sanibel

(773) 251-8862

www.batyam.org

The saying that time flies even faster as we age is proven correct once again. A year has come and gone since Temple Bat Yam welcomed Rabbi Stephen Fuchs and Vickie Fuchs into our SWFL community. Cantor Murray Simon and Toby Simon joined us shortly thereafter. The past year was filled with learning and song as well as new activities and events. A new cycle begins in the Jewish calendar with the High Holy Days for the year 5779.

Once again, Rabbi Stephen and Vickie Fuchs are opening their home to congregants and visitors for a special Selichot service on Saturday, September 1 at 7:00 p.m. Reflection and discussion of the special prayers and poems meant to help worshipers focus on the process of repentance will take place at 1839 Farm Trail Road on Sanibel.

From September 9 to September

19, Rabbi Fuchs will conduct High Holy Days services with Cantor Murray Simon in Fellowship Hall of the Sanibel Congregational UCC at 2050 Periwinkle Way on Sanibel. Abigail Allison will provide piano accompaniment. Tickets are not required.

The schedule for High Holy Days services is as follows:

- Erev Rosh Hashanah – Sunday, September 9 at 7:30 p.m.
- Morning Rosh Hashanah – Monday, September 10 at 10:00 a.m.
- Tashlich (casting out of sins into water) – Monday, September 10 at 1:30 p.m.
- Kol Nidre – Tuesday, September 18 at 7:30 p.m.
- Morning Yom Kippur – Wednesday, September 18 at 10:00 a.m.
- Afternoon Yom Kippur – Congregants Hour of Reflections at 1:00 p.m.
- Afternoon Yom Kippur – Music and Meditation at 3:00 p.m. with cellist Susannah Kelly and pianist Abigail Allison

- Yizkor/Memorial service and Ne'ilah/closing service beginning at 4:00 p.m.
- Break-the-Fast – in Heron Hall at 6:00 p.m. (advance reservations required)

Services take place at the Sanibel Congregational UCC at 2050 Periwinkle Way on Sanibel unless otherwise noted. Members of the community, guests and visitors are welcome to join with congregants. Tickets are not required for services but donations are always appreciated. For additional information, please check the website, www.batyam.org.

It is necessary to RSVP to Elissa Karasin Samet if you plan to attend the Tashlich service and potluck luncheon to follow. A brief service will take place at 1:30 p.m. on the beach in front of Michael and Elissa's Gulfside Place, Unit 128 at 1605 Middle Gulf Drive. The luncheon will be in the clubhouse.

The Break-the-Fast reservations deadline is Sunday, September 16. The check should be payable to Temple Bat Yam and will serve as your reservation. The cost is \$20 per person for members and \$25 per person for nonmembers.

Contact organizers Miriam Bailey or Esta Berger to confirm.

The Social Action Committee continues to coordinate a paper goods drive with the UCC. Thanks to Garry Weiss, there will be bins outside the church at every High Holy Days service for donations of paper goods to benefit F.I.S.H. on Sanibel.

In the absence of the Rabbi from May to September, congregants volunteer to lead Friday night Shabbat services. The personal selection of prayers and readings by each leader makes each Shabbat service different and special. Many thanks to those who made certain that there was a weekly Shabbat service throughout the warm and wet summer months.

Saturday morning Adult Education classes will start again on Saturday, November 3. Programming information will be available next month.

We extend best wishes for a healthy and peaceful New Year to all of our Temple Bat Yam family and friends whether in SWFL or elsewhere in the U.S. or abroad. We look forward to having everyone together again at Bat Yam very soon.

**TEMPLE BETH EL
Fort Myers**

(239) 433-0018

www.templebethel.com

Celebrate the New Year with Temple Beth El, where High Holiday preparations are in full swing. The band, choir and Cantor Bessman are gearing up for High Holiday services. Melodic prayers and music will take you back through past holidays of your lifetime. Our special Kol Nidre will feature Eric Dochinger, symphony cellist, and our customary presidential Torah march. Yom Kippur ends with traditional songs performed by our religious school students, who enter the sanctuary by tealight. Check the Temple Beth El High Holy Days newsletter for schedule and ticket information, or call the office at 239.433.0018.

Temple Beth El offers Junior Congregation services concurrent with morning services for adults. Lasting

approximately one hour, age-appropriate services for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur combine worship and learning opportunities for children to enhance their Jewish education. For more information, call Dale Cohen at 239.433.9808. Babysitting will be provided for temple members' children up to age four. Babysitting is by reservation only. For more information, call the office. A High Holiday memorial service will be held Sunday, September 16 at 10:00 a.m. at the Temple Beth El Garden of Memories Cemetery, 3200 Michigan Avenue, Fort Myers.

At Temple Beth El's Torah study, Rabbi Luna leads a congenial, eclectic group in poring over chapter and verse, turning the Torah and turning it again, as Rabbi Ben Bag would say (Avot 5,22): "Turn it and turn it again, for all is in it; see through it; grow old and worn in it; do not budge from it, for there is nothing that works better

than it." The oldest book in the world offers new insights for TBE's study group, some of whom have been attending for years, while others are new friends. Clearly, Rabbi Luna is fascinated with the material as well as with the interpretations. Accompanied often by sweets and a group breakfast at a restaurant afterwards, Torah study is the best-kept secret at Temple Beth El. Join us at 9:00 a.m. on Saturdays for an hour you won't forget all week long. All materials are provided; no prior Torah study experience is necessary.

Music improves memory, health and identity in those suffering from dementia. Music facilitates their communication by helping them remember long-forgotten songs as they sing along, improving their mood and most importantly bringing joy to their lives. And so the Senior Serenaders group was formed at Temple Beth El. Talented volunteer musicians and vocalists perform in local assisted living and memory care facilities. It's inspiring to see the residents' faces light up when

they remember and sing along to Jewish songs, patriotic tunes and old standards.

The Temple Beth El Gift Gallery has a beautiful new wood floor and freshly painted walls – materials and labor compliments of Andi Elkes and son. In the largest Judaica gift shop in Lee County, which is being totally restocked, you can find unique gifts as well as home and holiday items and the perfect Jewish greeting card.

And now for something completely different: Our July 27 Jewish Geography oneg was a delicious success. Congregants discovered their birthplace commonality identified on maps of America and the world while sampling delicious homemade desserts from these birthplaces. Included were a milk tart from South Africa, strudel from Austria, a Bakewell tart from England, apple cake from Vermont, buckeyes from Ohio, New York cheesecake, and salt water taffy from New Jersey, to name a few.

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

(941) 625-2116

www.templeshalomfl.com

The Temple Shalom Planning and Events Committee has been working throughout the summer to present wonderful, spiritual and cultural programs for the coming year 5779.

On Saturday, September 1 at 6:00 p.m. there will be a Selichot Service with Jane Galler assisting Rabbi Agin. Following the service there will be a free dairy buffet, and Cantor Riselle Baines will provide some beautiful interlude music.

On Sunday, September 9 at 8:00 p.m. the temple will have Rosh Hashanah evening services, followed by a special oneg sponsored by the Temple Shalom

Board of Directors. All are invited. Morning Rosh Hashanah services on Monday, September 10 will start at 10:00 a.m. A luncheon at Twin Isles Country Club will follow services. The cost is \$25 per person. RSVP to Judi Migdol at 516.635.9871. Tashlich services at Laishley Park Pier will begin at 3:30 p.m.

On Sunday, September 16 at 11:00 a.m. at Restlawn Cemetery there will be a memorial service.

Kol Nidre services take place on Tuesday, September 18 at 8:00 p.m.

On Wednesday, September 19 Yom Kippur services start at 10:00 a.m. with Yizkor afternoon service at 4:00 p.m. There is no charge for attending any of our services. A donation is appreciated. Break the fast will be at 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$20 per person. RSVP to Judi.

Decorating the sukkah will take place on Sunday, September 23 at 4:00 p.m. All the fruits and vegetables will be provided. A service will take place at 5:30 p.m., followed by a pizza dinner.

On Friday, September 28 at 7:30 p.m., Sukkot Service will be held in the sukkah, weather permitting.

Simchat Torah services will take

place on Monday, October 1 at 7:30 p.m. Yizkor will be recited.

The first Lunch and Learn with the Forward will take place on Tuesday October 30 at 12:30 p.m. Class is limited to 15 participants. Lunch is provided at no charge.

The Bay Area Cantors Association will perform at the temple on Sunday, November 4 at 4:00 p.m. This cultural event, made possible through the Leigh and Sylvia Hershkowitz Foundation, is open to the community at no charge.

There are many more events for the year including a Jewish Film Festival. Announcements will be made in this column throughout the year.

**CHABAD LUBAVITCH
Fort Myers**

(239) 433-7708

www.chabadswf.org

Please join us for the holiday celebrations. Here is the schedule of services for September and October:

Friday Night: Welcoming the Shabbat Services in September at 7:00 p.m. and in October at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday Morning: Kabbalah Class at 9:00 a.m., Schacharit (Hodu) at 10:00 a.m.; Children's Program from 10:00 a.m. to noon, Kiddush at 12:15 p.m.

High Holiday Schedule:

Sunday, September 2: Selichot services

at 1:25 a.m.

Sunday, September 9: Rosh Hashana Evening services at 7:00 p.m.

Monday, September 10: Rosh Hashana Day 1 Kabbalah / Educational

Service at 9:00 a.m., Services at 10:00 a.m., Shofar Blowing at 11:30 a.m., Children's Program from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Evening Services at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 11: Rosh Hashana Day 2 Kabbalah / Educational Service at 9:00 a.m., Services at 10:00 a.m., Shofar Blowing at 11:30 a.m., Children's Program from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Evening Services at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 18: Kol Nidre/

Yom Kippur services at 7:00 p.m., Children's Program from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 19: Regular services at 9:00 a.m., Yizkor at 10:45 a.m., Children's Program from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Concluding Yom Kippur services at 5:30 p.m., Break-the-fast meal at 8:01 p.m.

Sunday, September 23: Sukkot services at 7:00 p.m.

Monday, September 24: Sukkot Day 1 Kabbalah at 9:00 a.m., Services at 10:00 a.m., Children's Program from 10:00 a.m. to noon, Evening Services at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 25: Sukkot Day 2 Kabbalah at 9:00 a.m., Services at 10:00 a.m., Children's Program from 10:00 a.m. to noon, Evening Services

at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 30: Shmini Atzeret Services at 6:30 p.m., Rabbi's Birthday Party

Monday, October 1: Sukkot / Shmini Atzeret Kabbalah at 9:00 a.m., Services at 10:00 a.m. (Yizkor at 11:00 a.m.), Children's Program from 10:00 a.m. to noon, services at 6:30 p.m., followed by a Grand Simchat Torah Party

Tuesday, October 2: Sukkot / Simchat Torah Kabbalah at 9:00 a.m., Services at 10:00 a.m. (Yizkor at 11:00 a.m.), Children's Program from 10:00 a.m. to noon, services at 6:30 p.m.

Shana Tova. May you all be written in the book of life and a year infused with all blessing for prosperity, health and all that your heart desires.

The beginning
of a New Year.
Blessings of health
and Prosperity
The holiday table
graced with challah,
honey, sweet apples,
and even sweeter company.
Pomegranate seeds
rolling off the counter
Another chance
to begin
anew.



Have a sweet year. And share what Rosh Hashanah means to you.
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