

Save the Date

Jewish Film Festival of Southwest Florida

January 13 - February 12, 2019



L'CHAYIM

Published by the Jewish Federation
Lee and Charlotte Counties

www.JewishFederationLCC.org

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Help get the message out

By Brian Simon, Federation President

Each fall, the Federation board meets for a retreat. It's an opportunity to plan for the year ahead and have longer discussions about what we do.

This year, we discussed three big-picture issues: programming, fundraising and messaging. The discussions were lively and productive. My first thought coming out of the retreat was, "That was great." My next thought was, "Man, we've got a lot of work to do!"

One of the interesting themes that came out of the discussions was how much messaging affects programming and fundraising. By messaging, I mean the way people hear (or don't hear) about what we're doing. In other words, our job is not only to put on great programs but also to make sure

everyone in the community knows about them. My perception is that our programming is great, and not enough people know that.

L'CHAYIM is our main form of communication. We also have a very good website, and we're growing our social media presence (please like us on Facebook!). We will continue to try to reach more of the Jewish community on a more consistent basis. A really important part of that is through word of mouth. The next time you're planning to come to a Jewish Federation event, please invite a friend.

Come to the Community Breakfast in December. Bring a friend. Know someone who is new to Southwest Florida? Invite them to meet others in the community.

We're aware that the world has changed. People don't support an organization like the Federation just because they've done it in the past. They support organizations that believe what they believe.

We believe that we can do good

in Southwest Florida by living Jewish values. We feed the hungry, give money to the poor, and attend to the elderly in Southwest Florida. We also put on cultural events: presentations from Jewish authors, the Jewish Film Festival, and the Holocaust remembrance ceremony. We provide volunteer opportunities for children and adults. We support Israel with dollars for social programs, and we support Israel through our advocacy.

The Federation's mission is 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 is a Jewish community that's based on Jewish values, such as *tzedakah* (benevolence), *tikkun olam* (repairing the world), and *k'lal Yisrael* (taking responsibility for one another).

We're doing good work. We have a lot more work to do. We appreciate your support.▲

The fourth quarter

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

■ Alan Isaacs

The fourth quarter of the Jewish Federation's financial and budget year also marks the last 90 days of our 2018 Annual Campaign. The last three months of the year is a period during which the leadership and staff of the Federation reflect on what we have been able to accomplish during the year, and what it will take to raise the quality of our programs and services and increase our relevance.

As Brian Simon, our president, states in his article this month, "People don't support an organization like the Federation just because they've done it in the past. They support organizations that believe what they believe."

And the Jewish Federation believes that our community deserves



the best programming and social services that we can provide.

The fourth quarter is also a period during which many of our long-time and prospective supporters respond to the needs of the Federation. All one has to do is look over this publication to appreciate the full scope of what we do and whom we serve. During the following months, if you have not made your pledge already, you will be approached for your 2018 pledge to support our programming and services. Please respond as generously as you can.

A reminder: Starting after age 70½, traditional Individual Retirement Account (IRA) holders must take Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from their IRAs. Holders can

use the Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) – associated with the Required Minimum Distribution – to efficiently contribute money to the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties..

This strategy will exempt the QCD from taxation, thereby reducing the donor's Adjusted Gross Income (AGI). Because the AGI number is the one used for many tax calculations, having a lower number may allow the donor to stay in a lower tax bracket, reduce or eliminate the taxation of Social Security or other income, and remain eligible for deductions and credits that might be lost if the taxpayer had to declare the RMD amount as income.

Please consult your tax advisor to establish whether you are eligible to take advantage of this strategy.▲



Federation's Food pantry update



Federation's Senior Lunch Bunch update



Thanksgiving with a Jewish twist – recipes by Dalia Hemed



Temple Judea October Rosh Hodesh event

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

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OUR MISSION

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

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

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DECEMBER ISSUE
EDITORIAL DEADLINE:
Monday, November 5

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Program notes

By Debbie Sanford, Program Director

The Jewish Federation will once again be presenting a selection of the very best Jewish cinema.

10 Films, from 5 Countries, for 1 Community

The Jewish Film Festival of Southwest Florida will begin on Sunday, January 13 with our opening day event. Films will be shown every Tuesday and Thursday evening at 7:15 p.m. through February 12. We will once again be at the Regal Belltower Stadium 20 in Fort Myers.



Debbie Sanford

Accompanying the classic film, *The Graduate*, on Sunday, January 13 is special guest, author Beverly Gray. Her novel, *Seduced by Mrs. Robinson*, celebrates the golden anniversary of the film with a spirited account of how it all came together and why its legacy endures.

Sponsors of the film festival will get to enjoy a private VIP reception and meet-and-greet with Ms. Gray, plus a special sweet treat. You will not want to miss out on this event!

You may now be thinking, "What is a sponsorship and why should I be a sponsor?" Let me tell you why. Our sponsor community enriches the festival experience and helps sustain the year-round programming we run at our Federation, both in our building and collaboratively with other partners in the community.

This is our largest fundraiser of the year. If you enjoy the opportunity to meet your friends, neighbors and new people out and about, enjoy international films with Jewish content, all the while supporting your local Federation, it's a win-win for everyone and the answer to the question, "Why be a sponsor?"

For more information, please contact me at 239.481.4449 x4 or debbiesanford@jfedlcc.org.

Please consider becoming a sponsor! Thank you for your support! ▲

MARCIA CAN HELP fund update

By Jodi Cohen, Senior Outreach & Food Pantry Coordinator

What's true is that no one ever schedules an emergency on the calendar of his or her life. Things happen – illness, weather, accidents – and then we do the best we can to respond, react and move forward, although not everyone has the available resources to do so.

In the 16 months that I've been working for Jewish Family Services, the calls from people in Lee and Charlotte counties requesting financial assistance have steadily increased. In September, an elderly couple called asking for any assistance we could provide to help pay one of five bills that were due. The husband is recovering from cancer surgery and their medical bills have been steep. Another client, who is a food server on Fort Myers Beach, hardly worked this summer due to the red tide situation and asked for help paying part of her utility bill. A veteran called asking for help with rent, due to a hefty increase that came along with a change in ownership of his apartment building. The calls come in almost daily now.

In September 2017, Jack Cohen and the Jewish Federation founded the MARCIA CAN HELP fund

as a tribute to his late wife Marcia, as well as a way to continue supporting the Federation and Jewish Family Services' ability to assist the neediest in our community. The fund provides crisis grants to prevent utility cut-offs, evictions, loss of transportation, and other essential services without which none of us can live.

Through your generous donations to the MARCIA CAN HELP fund, the Federation is able to continue assisting people who need help. I was talking to a client on the phone a few weeks ago, letting her know we would pay her utility bill that month, when she became very quiet. At first, I thought we'd gotten disconnected because of the silence, only to realize that she was overcome with emotion and was unable to speak for a few moments.

The Federation's ability to help people in difficult times provides relief at so many levels, and the gratitude of those we are able to serve is palpable.

Marcia Cohen was an example for all of us. Jack is continuing the tradition. Please join him. ▲

THE JEWISH FEDERATION
LEE & CHARLOTTE COUNTIES



Presents

A MUSICAL JOURNEY

You are cordially invited to our

Community Breakfast

Sunday, December 9, 2018

10:00 A.M.

The Landings
4571 S. Landings Dr.
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Couvert \$25/person

Menu

LIVE MUSIC FROM
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IRVIN BERLIN
BETTE MIDLER
& MORE!

R.S.V.P. by Nov. 30
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debbiesanford@jfedlcc.org



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

Food pantry update

By Jodi Cohen, Senior Outreach & Food Pantry Coordinator

A huge and heartfelt “thank you” to everyone who donated to the food pantry as part of the High Holy Days food drive. It does indeed take a village and you should all be proud of our community’s response to the call for donations to provide food for those in need, including two people who read about the woman who didn’t have enough gas to get to the Federation and offered to drive any client who might be in that situation in the future.

We are especially grateful to Temple Beth El for the gift cards, checks and all of the food delivered by Fabian Ruiz, Russ Bogen, Laurie Morris and Barbara Gribin; to Rabbi Sack for delivering Temple Judea donations; and to Ruthie and Barry Belkin and Sharon Berry for Temple Beth Shalom donations.

We now have 11 food pantry volunteers: Judith Yevick, Carolyn Gora, Barbara Gribin, Donna Cotler, Suzanne

Orkin, Karen Whitman, Laurie Morris, Laurie McConville, Susan Cohen, Lois Jacobson and Larry Epstein. It took quite a few days to organize all of the food donated and I am grateful to Judith, Barbara, Suzanne and both of the Lauries for their muscle, dedication and hard work.

The Federation is required to provide a monthly summary of those we serve to the Harry Chapin Food Bank (HCFB). In September we helped 12 households for a total of 53 people, 29 of whom were children under the age of 18. For the most part, we were able to provide one bag of food per person, per household. Consider that each bag of food contains the main staples of two cans of beans and vegetables each, one box of pasta, one jar of sauce, two cans of meat, one bag of rice and one jar of peanut butter. Multiply each item listed above by 53 to understand how quickly our inventory flies off the shelf.

I am getting to know our regular food pantry clients who come each month, including Miss B. who picks up food for a household of six and is being treated for leukemia and Mr. C. who has a household of eight and had two deaths in his family last month.

I met Miss K. two months ago when she came in to get food for her family of four. She shared part of her story, telling me that both she and her husband are on disability. When I offered her a Publix gift card, she just started crying. I’m educating clients about the HCFB mobile food pantry, which travels to five different counties and has fresh food. I told one client when the mobile pantry would be in her area and she said, “Oh wow...oh wow.”

Besides our regular clients, there are people who need food in emergency situations, like the sisters who called, came in during a downpour, and

needed food for 13 people, or the pregnant woman with three children who needed help.

The Federation goes to the Midwest Food Bank - Florida Division (MFB) on the first Tuesday of every month to pick up free food for the pantry. All of the MFB food is donated and ranges from crackers to juice boxes to hair conditioner. Federation volunteer Larry Epstein meets me there every month and drives his roomy seven-seat car right into the warehouse where the MFB volunteers load all of the items. I’ve selected for the Federation food pantry right into Larry’s car. We drive back to the Federation and Larry helps me unload and organize the food.

Our small food pantry is stocked and run by so many of you. Your thoughtfulness and generosity enable the Federation to provide a resource that is so desperately needed.▲



Extra shelving was set up to accommodate some of the food donations in September

Day trips for people...
who want to see great places
and meet new faces

JFED Hits the Road...

Trip information - coming soon!

UPCOMING FEDERATION EVENTS 2018/19

- NOV. 14** Pacesetters/Major Gifts - An Evening with Alon Ben-Gurion, grandson of the late Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion.
- DEC. 9** Community Breakfast - “A Musical Journey” featuring your favorite music from Jewish Artists.
- DEC. 19** Read the Book; Skype the Author - Author Peter Golden, “Nothing is Forgotten” Free and open to the community. A light dairy dinner will be served.
- 2019**
- JAN. 13** 2019 Jewish Film Festival Opening Day Event - Jewish Film Festival, Regal Cinemas at Bell Towers Special Guest: Author Beverly Gray, “Seduced by Mrs. Robinson”. Feature film, “The Graduate”. Special VIP Sponsor Reception. Sponsorship Opportunities Available.
- JAN. 15 - FEB. 12** Jewish Film Festival - Showings are Tuesdays & Thursdays.
- FEB. 18** PJ Library - Presidents Day Fun Day
- FEB. 20** Read the Book; Skype the Author - “TBD” Free and open to the community. A light dairy dinner will be served.
- FEB. 26** Author Event - Alyson Richman, Lakes Library
- MAR. 5** Lion of Judah - Program and Speaker TBD
- MAR. 16** Queen Esther (Adults Only) Masquerade Ball
- MAR. 28** Author Event - B.A. Shapiro, “The Collector’s Apprentice” The Alliance for the Arts
- APR. 14** PJ Library - Pre-Pesach Party
- APR. 28** Yom HaShoah Event
- MAY 8** Annual Meeting

STAY TUNED. MORE INFO TO FOLLOW!

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MARTIN FLETCHER

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OUR VISION
Jewish Community that is based on...
Jewish values such as Tzedakah
(benevolence), Tikkun Olam (repairing

jewish film festival
of southwest florida

PJ
Library

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



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

The Board of Directors and staff of the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties extend condolences to Lee Warshaw, whose husband Stanley passed away on September 18.

The Board of Directors and staff of the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties extend their condolences to John Osterman, whose father William passed away October 8. In recent years, William was very involved with the Jewish Federation of Palm Springs, the Barbara Sinatra Children's Center, and the Eisenhower Medical Center Foundation. And they loved him back for not only his generosity, but his time as an executive board member of these and numerous other organizations. An avid golfer, bridge player and history buff... Bill's love of friends and family was ever present in the way he conducted his life.

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

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Together we **CAN** Make a Difference!

HOW THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF LEE & CHARLOTTE COUNTIES SERVES



Local Jewish Education and Culture

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



Overseas

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



Local Seniors Services

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



Local Case Management Services

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

Local Emergency Services

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



Local Community Services

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



Jewish Community Foundation

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

Joseph Horowitz Israel Travel Grants Available

The Joseph Horowitz Israel Travel Grant is available through the Community Foundation of the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties.

The grant may be used for travel to Israel to participate in programs that are volunteer or educational in nature.

OUR HOPE is that these programs will enhance Jewish knowledge and identity in preparation for participation in American Jewish life.

THIS GRANT is for Jewish residents of either county who are 25 years old or younger and can demonstrate a financial need. Academic standing and community involvement may also be considered.



For more information or an application, visit our website at JewishFederationLCC.org.

Senior Lunch Bunch update

By Jodi Cohen, Senior Outreach & Food Pantry Coordinator

The Federation's ongoing efforts to build partnerships with various senior resources in and around Lee County continued in September when the senior luncheon was hosted by Grand Villa of Fort Myers.

We were delighted to have Sheila Laboda as our guest speaker to share her stories about the early days of the Fort Myers Jewish community, including her service as the Federation's first president. Sixty-five people attended a delicious lunch and entered their names into a raffle for various prizes. We are grateful to Tom Watson and Kelly Jenkinson, as well as all of the staff at Grand Villa for taking such good care of us. Tom and Kelly wanted to honor the Jewish New Year and so Grand Villa had apples and honey on every table.

The senior lunch is a free monthly luncheon for Jewish seniors that serves



as a chance for people to get together, eat a little something, visit with each other, and learn. The vibe is casual and friendly, the food is always good, the

short program after the lunch is interesting, and the lunch feels like one big celebration.

For those coming to the lunch for the first time, we match you with a "lunch buddy" so you have someone to introduce you to people and show you around.


There is a place at the table just for you, so come on down!▲



Jodi Cohen




NEXT SENIOR LUNCH BUNCH:
Thursday, November 8 at noon
Temple Judea, 14486 A and W Bulb Rd. Fort Myers
RSVP by November 5 to
Jodi Cohen at 239.481.4449 x2 or jodicohen@jfedlcc.org



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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH, 3:00—5:00 P.M.

Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte Counties
Community Room
9701 Commerce Center Court, Fort Myers 33908

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Stephen Wilczynski, MD, FCCP
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Rabbi Dr. Michael J. Schorin, MAPC, BCC
Co-Chair, Gulf Coast Medical Center Ethics Committee

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

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

Time: 9:30 A.M.

Friday, November 16, 2018
Wednesday, December 26, 2018

Community Free Synagogue screens *Rosenstrasse*

In commemoration of Kristallnacht, The Community Free Synagogue will screen *Rosenstrasse* at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, November 11 in its Community Hall, 10868 Metro Parkway, Fort Myers.

The film dramatizes the 1943 Rosenstrasse Protests in Berlin, when Christian wives protested for a week during the winter in front of a Gestapo jail where their Jewish husbands had been rounded up for deportation to concentration camps. In the face of S.S. machine guns, the women's pro-

test was astonishingly successful, even as the "Final Solution" was underway, and their husbands were released.

German historian Konrad Kwiet noted that "the successful outcome of this late protest suggests that if similar actions at an earlier stage had been carried out throughout Germany, they might have halted the increasingly destructive course of the German anti-Jewish policy."

Admission is free and open to the public. Pack a dinner; soft drinks are also complimentary.▲

"A History of the Jews and the Mob"

The history of the Mob and history of the Jews in America are intertwined. It's the history that Myron Sugarman, author of *The Last Jewish Gangster: From Meyer to Myron*, traces from the earliest days of the Mafia to the present day. Sugarman tells the Mob story from a Jewish viewpoint with stories gleaned from his firsthand experience and family connections with some of the most in-

famous Jewish mobsters.

Join us on Wednesday, Nov 21 at 6:00 p.m. at Chabad of Charlotte County, 204 E. McKenzie St., Unit B, Punta Gorda. Light refreshments will be served. Donations are \$12 by November 17, and \$18 thereafter. Be a partial event sponsor for \$100.

An RSVP is required to chabadpg@gmail.com or 941.258.0177.▲

Collier/Lee Chapter of Hadassah presents #The Swinging Sixties

Be sure to mark your calendars and save the date of Saturday, January 5 at 6:30 p.m.

Did you know that in 1960, nearly half of America's population was under 18 years old? And that it was the most affluent generation in U.S. history? That was then, this is now, and we are planning a fabulous musical evening that will not only take you back to the pop culture of the time, but recreate the essence of the sights and sounds that so many of us remember so well.

In reality, we will be at the Heritage Bay Golf and Country Club in Naples, but our imaginations will take us to wherever we wish to be – perhaps at a

Beatles concert, or maybe performances by The Shirelles or The Supremes. Or maybe watching *The Beverly Hillbillies* or *Batman* in your living on your very first color TV.

Whatever your preference, and whatever you do, be sure to plan on bringing your friends and being in attendance for this evening to remember. From the scrumptious meal, to the music reminiscent of the time, to the dancing and entertainment you thought you had forgotten, and for the opportunity to be the recipient of some amazing prizes, you will not be disappointed! Stay tuned for more information. Be there or be square!▲

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



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BAT MITZVAH



Sarah Elizabeth Glass will be called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah on Saturday, November 3. Sarah is the daughter of Tiffany and Matthew Glass and sister to Catie. The grandparents are Marilyn and Arnold Glass of Delray Beach, Florida, and Sheri and John Whitt of Gahanna, Ohio. The Glass family are long-standing members of Temple Beth El.

An eighth grader at Three Oaks Middle School, Sarah been an honor roll student every year. Sarah participated in Duke University's TIP seventh grade program, where she took the SATs and earned achievement awards. Sarah has been inducted into the Junior National Honor Society. Sarah enjoys being in the school's Rotary Club and Girl Scouts.

Sarah's bat mitzvah project was to assist in fostering dogs for elderly folks who were no longer able to care for their pet.

The Glass family thanks friends and family for celebrating the bat mitzvah either in spirit or presence. They also extend gratitude to Temple Beth El Religious School Director Morah Dale Cohen and Rabbi Nicole Luna, as well as the staff, religious school teachers, and Temple Beth El community for assisting in preparation for Sarah's bat mitzvah and enriching their Jewish identity.

NACHES



Mazel Tov and *Yeyasher Ko'ah* to Charlotte Atkins, daughter of Chad Atkins and Debra Antzis, who was the Community Free Synagogue's *Kallat Devarim* at this year's Simhat Torah celebration, chanting the final verses of Deuteronomy. After her bat mitzvah celebration four years ago, Charlotte continued studying as a budding *Ba'alat Qreayah*, a master Torah chanter. Congratulations also to her coach, Aux. Rabbi Thomas Miess.

Each month, *L'CHAYIM* will list your Life Cycle events – births, B'nai Mitzvah, engagements, weddings, anniversaries and obituaries. For B'nai Mitzvah, please include up to 150 words about your child. Submit your events to LChayim36@gmail.com. Photos are appreciated; please e-mail as JPGs at 300dpi.

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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Holocaust Museum & Cohen Education Center update

By Susan Suarez, President & CEO

Here at the Holocaust Museum, we are excited about our upcoming move to the Janet G. and Harvey D. Cohen Education Center! This November and December we are honored to present several special events associated with the world-famous Violins of Hope Project. The project was founded by Israeli luthier Amnon Weinstein. Over the years, people sought out his skills to restore to playing condition violins which had somehow survived the Holocaust and WWII.



Susan Suarez

Many of the violins were built in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. They were among the precious possessions carried by Jewish musicians and families deported to concentration camps and ghettos across Europe.

Our latest exhibit, entitled *Violins of Hope*, is on display from November 13 through December 31. It provides an overview of the project and profiles several

of the restored violins. Through a special loan, a restored klezmer violin, built circa 1888, will be on display during the exhibit.

The 2018 Violins of Hope Series, which includes our annual event, The Luncheon, will take place Wednesday, December 12 and Thursday, December 13. On December 12 at 7:00 p.m. at Temple Shalom, Dr. James A. Grymes

will discuss his book, *Violins of Hope: Violins of the Holocaust – Instruments of Hope and Liberation in Mankind's Darkest Hour*. On December 13 at The Ritz-Carlton Beach Resort in Naples, a Mimosa Reception will be held from 11:00 to 11:45 a.m., followed by The Luncheon event from 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The Mimosa Reception will feature Avshalom Weinstein, luthier and son of Amnon Weinstein. Mr. Weinstein is bringing several restored violins from Israel to Naples for our Series. He will discuss how the project locates and restores string instruments with a past connection to the Holocaust, and recount the stories behind them. During The Luncheon, there will be a special music performance using these violins. For information on Series ticket and Sponsorship opportunities, please visit <https://www.holocaustmuseumswfl.org/calendar-item/the-luncheon-2018-series-2/2018-12-13/>. We hope

you will join us for these memorable events. Tickets sold out early last year, so please make your reservations now!

November will be a very busy month, with the following events and programs:

Thursday, November 1: "Movies That Matter" Series – *Freedom to Marry* at 7:00 p.m. at Temple Shalom. RSVP required and free of charge. RSVP at <https://www.holocaustmuseumswfl.org/calendar-item/movies-that-matter-swfl-freedom-to-marry/>

Sunday, November 4: Kristallnacht

Commemoration at 2:30 p.m. at Temple Shalom. The event is open to the public and free of charge. No reservation required.

Monday, November 5: Museum's Volunteer Welcome Back event from 10 a.m. to noon at Skillet's Restaurant in the Bed Bath & Beyond Plaza, 5461 Airport Rd. North, Naples. RSVP to info@HolocaustMuseumSWFL.org.

Sunday, November 11: Veterans Day – in honor of their service, veterans and active duty military will receive complimentary Museum admission.

Tuesday, November 13: "Movies That Matter" Series – *John Lewis - Get in the Way* at 7:00 p.m. at Sheffield Theatre, Moorings Park, 120 Moorings Park Drive, Naples. RSVP required and free of charge. RSVP at <https://www.holocaustmuseumswfl.org/calendar-item/movies-that-matter-swfl-john-lewis-get-in-the-way/>

Two other dates in November are important to non-profit organizations

like ours. Friday, November 23 is Black Friday, when certain purchases on AmazonSmile benefit our Education programs; and Tuesday, November 27 is the annual Giving Tuesday event. If you plan to shop AmazonSmile on Black Friday, just click on this link: [smile.amazon.com/ch/59-3740883](https://www.amazon.com/ch/59-3740883) and specify your charity as Southwest Florida Holocaust Museum Inc.

We are grateful for the generous support of all our donors and volunteers over the years. You have enabled our programs to reach over

200,000 students, teachers and visitors who have learned they have the power to act against bigotry, hatred and violence in their communities. For more on the variety of opportunities available for you to support our mission and programs, please contact me at Susan@HolocaustMuseumSWFL.org or 239.263.9200.

We at the Museum wish you and your family a very happy Thanksgiving. We are always thankful for you!▲



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The Holocaust Museum & Janet G. and Harvey D. Cohen Education Center

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The inspiring Violins of Hope Project is a unique blend of history, humanity and music. The Project locates and restores string instruments with a past connection to the Holocaust, and preserves their unique stories. The Violins of Hope are coming from Israel to Naples for these very special events:



Wednesday, December 12, 2018
An Evening Presentation with Dr. James Grymes, the author of *Violins of Hope* at Temple Shalom, 4630 Pine Ridge Rd, Naples FL, 34119
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm



Thursday, December 13, 2018
Mimosa Reception with Avshalom Weinstein, Violin maker and display of restored violins
11:00 am - 11:45 am
The Luncheon Event and a performance featuring the Violins of Hope at
The Ritz-Carlton Beach Resort, 280 Vanderbilt Beach Road, Naples, FL 34108.
11:45 am - 1:30 pm

Ticket and Sponsorship information is available on our website – HolocaustMuseumSWFL.org.

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Who are we without our memories?

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

Returning, by Yael Shahaar.

Kasva Press. 496 pages. Hardcover \$28.95, Trade Paperback \$19.95.

Returning is an extraordinary and challenging book on many levels. It attempts to make the intangible as close to tangible as possible. It engages readers in a kind of time travel that has nothing to do with science fiction. It might remind some of paranormal romance, but the stakes are much higher.

What genre does it belong to? Author Yael Shahaar once thought of calling it "fiction memoir," but

that does not capture enough of its essence.

The workings of dreams are central to the book's technique and meaning, but what if you dream someone else's dreams? What if someone else dreams yours and remembers your memories? Shahaar's artistry is to make these "what-ifs" credible and meaningful; in fact, inevitable and necessary. She imbeds these actualized possibilities in a theological – or, at least, a biblical – context.

The primary character is an older man named Alex. He is a tormented, guilt-ridden soul who has lived in Israel for many decades following his escape from slave labor at Auschwitz-Birkenau. A Greek Jew from Salonika ("Saloniki" throughout this book), Alex, whose given name is Ovadya (servant of God), was part of a *sonderkommando* crew, mostly Jewish, who were worked to exhaustion day after day hauling away the bones

and ashes of incinerated Jews and other doomed prisoners.

All of his adult life, Alex has been trying, without much success, to resist the constant pressures of memories that take him back to his *sonderkommando* experience, a trauma that he would like to forget. As an unwilling witness and assistant to the obliteration of his people, Alex is a man with a diseased soul. Part of him knows that he must face his past and accept responsibility for actions taken and not taken.

He seeks the help of Rabbi Ish-Shalom ("man of peace"), a person of remarkable learning, wisdom and sensitivity. The rabbi becomes a spiritual coach who leads Alex on the path of self-knowledge, atonement and redemption.

But this is not a feel-good journey. It is filled with harrowing confrontations with Alex's younger self. The rabbi insists, through a series of questions and refutations of Alex's answers, that there are times when the giving of one's own life may be the moral choice.

Alex's resistance to his job of making room for the next victims to be pushed into the gas chambers would not have saved those lives, but that defense is slowly taken away during his conversations with the rabbi.

As Alex releases his memories, first by writing them down and later by speaking them aloud, he undergoes renewal and revelation that properly elevate his sense of self. He can take back his given name because he earns his right to it.

Yael Shahaar, as a character in her

book, is an intermediary between Alex and Rabbi Ish-Shalom. She brings them together. In a literal sense, with her name given as author of the book, she is telling Alex's story – including his dialogue with the rabbi.

However, she seems as well to be a recipient or conduit for Alex's memories and his paralyzing responses to them, which, like her own torturous memories, are consequences of trauma. Through her role in Alex's story, Yael draws readers to sophisticated understandings of Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome and appropriate therapies.

Part of the book, then, is the author's memoir – one in which she is the subordinate character.

In terms of Jewish concepts, the book is poised on the relationships among the acts of returning, remembering and *t'shuvah*, usually translated as repentance. Laced through the narrative are references to, and quotations from, the prophetic books that deal with the destruction of ancient Israel and the promised messianic age of restoration. The place of modern Israel in this scheme is given measured attention.

The graphic dimension of Shahaar's book is a typographer's field day (or nightmare). Various sizes of various fonts are employed to signal the relationships among the book's voices and concerns. There are also typographical distinctions in headings and subheadings that suggest hierarchical and other

relationships of the content. These devices are a bit unsettling at first, but effective once one gets used to them.

Though Holocaust memory is the major concern of this dazzling exploration, presented in the age of a

dwindling number of survivors, it has wider application on the more general level of addressing the importance, power and utility of memory. This is especially useful in an age in which history and memory are often considered opposing constructs.

The book asks: Who are we without our memories? Who are we without our children's memories of us? To help us answer, this inspiring narrative is supplemented by a glossary of Hebrew terms, a Q&A section, and a helpful commentary as afterword by Rabbi Dr. Nathan Lopes Cardozo. ▲

This review first appeared, with a different title, in the Washington Independent Review of Books and is reprinted by permission.

Philip K. Jason is Professor Emeritus of English from the United States Naval Academy. He reviews regularly for Florida Weekly, Washington Independent Review of Books, Southern Literary Review, other publications and the Jewish Book Council. Please visit Phil's website at www.philjason.wordpress.com.

What do you think?

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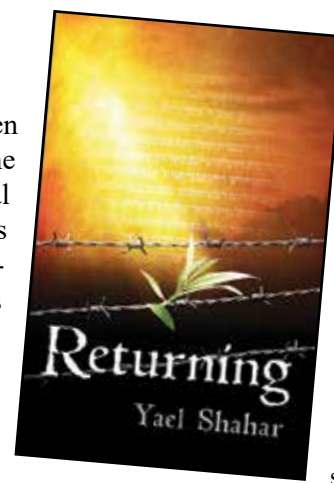


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■ Phil Jason

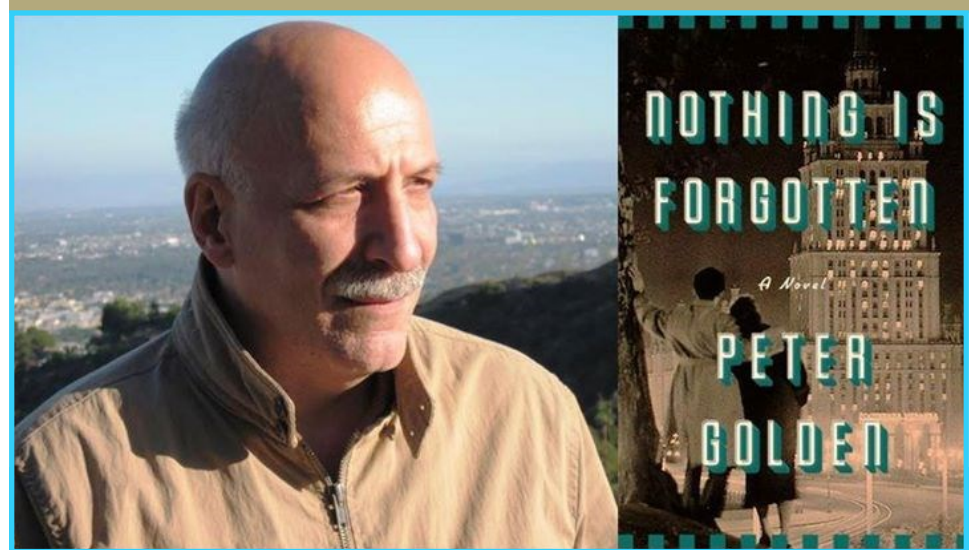


Yael Shahaar (credit: Rahel Jaskow)



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British diplomats confront Kristallnacht

By Paul R. Bartrop, PhD

Known as the “Night of Broken Glass,” the Kristallnacht of November 9-10, 1938, eighty years ago this month, was a sudden and widespread assault on Jews and their property in Germany prior to World War II. It legitimized violence against Jews by the Nazi state and foreshadowed Adolf Hitler’s later attempts to exterminate European Jews through the Final Solution.

Reactions in Britain to the pogrom were swift. Arguably the first official comment to arrive at the British Foreign Office came in during the morning of Thursday, November 10. With the Ambassador to Berlin, Sir Nevile Henderson, in London on medical leave, the Embassy was left in the hands of the Chargé d’Affaires, Sir George Ogilvie-Forbes. On November 10 he sent a telegram to the Foreign Secretary, Viscount Halifax, reporting that “anti-Jewish rioting on an unprecedented scale” had broken out late the night before in Berlin. Similar reports, he wrote, were “coming in from all over the provinces.”

On November 14 he reported that “many” Jews were “wandering about in the streets and parks afraid to return to their homes,” while measures were being introduced intended “to deprive all Jews of [the] means of earning [a] livelihood.” He could not contain his outrage at what he was witnessing, writing that “I can find no words strong enough in condemnation of the disgusting treatment of so many innocent people, and the civilized world is faced with [the] appalling sight of 500,000 people about to rot away in starvation.”

The next day came the first intimation that Kristallnacht might not have been an isolated event, when Ogilvie-Forbes wrote about “grave apprehension here amongst Jews that there will be further excesses,” with the prospect of a second Kristallnacht being suggested.

In a long letter to Halifax on November 16, Ogilvie-Forbes concluded that “The present position of the Jews is indeed tragic,” in which “They dwell in the grip and at the mercy of a brutal oligarchy, which fiercely resents all humanitarian foreign intervention.” No amount of condemnation would “have any influence over the insensate gang in present control of Nazi Germany.”

Robert Smallbones was the British Consul-General in Frankfurt. When the pogrom took place, he immediately sought out leading members of the Home Office in London to see what could be done to alleviate Jewish distress. He realized that the first thing needed was to facilitate the release of men who had been arrested and sent to concentration camps. Evidence that a British visa had been authorized could secure a man’s release, but Jewish women and children would not be permitted to emigrate from Nazi Germany without the male breadwinner of the family present.

Smallbones thereupon contacted the Home Secretary, Sir Samuel Hoare, and presented a plan that would allow for a limited two-year transit visa for German Jews to come to the U.K. while awaiting an entry visa from a third country. Hoare accepted the proposal, resulting in what

became known as the “Smallbones System.” Under this, some 48,000 Jews from Germany would arrive in the U.K. by October 1939.

Enormous help came from Smallbones’s Vice-Consul, Arthur Dowden, who worked to ensure that the British visas were actually delivered to the threatened Jewish families. In addition, he provided practical help in the form of deliveries of food, given that Jews were not permitted to buy food for nine days after the pogrom. Dowden was remembered as driving through the streets, with food in his car, distributing food to those in want.

British diplomats in other locations were just as active in their response. John Carvell, Consul-General in Munich, issued certificates permitting 300 Jewish men to be released from Dachau to travel to British Mandate Palestine. His Vice-Consul, Frank Fulham, was particularly interested in saving children, while Donald St. Clair Gainer, the Consul-General in Vienna, reported faithfully and with horror to the Foreign Office of the destruction of synagogues in Salzburg and Linz, as well as in various locations in Vienna.

In London, concerns were expressed from an early date that what happened in November might be repeated as a way to hasten the wholesale Jewish exodus from Germany. On December 9, 1938, the head of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees, Lord Winterton, wrote a confidential letter to Lord Halifax stating that there was every indication that the Germans “were about to make an even more drastic and brutal attack on the Jews,” and it was only on December 15 that it seemed the danger of an acute flare-up in persecution might have passed.

Throughout this time, the Ambassador, Sir Nevile Henderson, had been in Britain. An arch-appeaser who favored acquiescing to every one of Hitler’s demands, his management of the Embassy staff upon his return in February 1939 provides us with a clue as to how differently the British diplomatic response to the Kristallnacht could otherwise have been. When Henderson returned to Berlin, his first act was to rebuke the assembled Embassy staff for the negative tone of their reports, accusing them of misinforming the government over Germany’s behavior. All future reports from the Embassy, they were instructed, “would be in strict accordance” with Henderson’s personal opinions. Two days later he sent a letter to Viscount Halifax, stating “that Hitler personally had disapproved of the campaign against the Jews.”

What might have been the British diplomatic response to Kristallnacht had Henderson been present in November 1938? We can only surmise. The reality was that his brave deputy in Berlin and his consuls outside the capital met and confronted the challenge head-on and in a compassionate manner that literally saved tens of thousands of Jewish lives. Their actions, thankfully, worked to the advantage of Germany’s Jews at a time when they needed all the help they could get.▲

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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What's up with Washington?!

By The Wine Whisperer

A typical wine lover's vacation usually involves traveling to some vineyard region and spending a few days wandering (or stumbling) from one tasting room to another. Fortunately, most winegrowing regions are set up to allow you to do just that. Most, but not all.

Napa Valley is. Just get on Route 29 in the city of Napa and make your way north. The wineries are as close together as mini-mansions on Bonita Beach, and you can hit a whole bunch of them each day. Sonoma, not so much. It's more rural, and you need to drive a bit more, so it's important to be judicious in your consumption.

Oregon is, for the most part. In the Willamette area, many wineries are on a main road, and weaving from one to

the other isn't all that tough.

Then there's Washington state. The good news is that the area is producing a lot of very satisfying value wines, mostly reds and a few Rieslings. In fact, the state is second in wine production after California. The bad news is that the wineries are all way out in the eastern part of the state over the Cascade Mountains, while the tasting rooms are in the big cities in the west, close to the Pacific. Too bad, because part of wine appreciation is drinking it where it's made, and tasting rooms in some downtown area just don't have the charm. Anyway...

The Columbia Valley and the several vineyard regions around it (Walla Walla, Horse Heaven Hills, Rattlesnake Hills, etc.) get about eight inches of rain a year, which makes irrigation absolutely vital. There's lots of sun in the summer, and early onset of cold weather. It's a terrible place to grow anything but apples and wine grapes. Plus, the area is vast. The Columbia

Valley appellation alone covers almost half the state, and some of it spills over into Oregon. So there are hotels and restaurants, a wine tourism industry and almost 700 registered wineries, but it's a heck of a drive to get out there.

It may not be worth the trip to eastern Washington, but the state's wines are definitely worth a trip to the supermarket or your favorite store. First of all, in addition to some nice Chardonnays and elegant Rieslings, the area's long suit is big, mouthwatering reds. They grow over 80 types of grapes up there, but you should look mainly for Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah and (if you can find them) wines made from Cabernet Franc and even Nebbiolo, which is the primary grape in the big expensive Barolos from northern Italy.

There are two big names in Washington wines...one is Chateau Ste. Michelle and the other is Columbia Crest. Both of them make wines in several price ranges (starting around \$5-\$6), but the ones you should look for are these:

Chateau Ste. Michelle Indian Wells – There's a Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon. They're both terrific and cost under \$13 a bottle. WW 89-90

Columbia Crest Grand Estates and Horse Heaven Hills – Both these labels offer excellent quality. The H3 style has a Cab and a red blend called Les Chevaux, which is big, bold and fruity. Excellent.

There are other wines from the region that are well worth sampling, but my best discovery comes from the **Milbrandt** family. Butch Milbrandt is doing some great things with Cabernet Sauvignon and the other big red varieties and putting them out at under \$15 a bottle.

Milbrandt Merlot Wahluke Slope The Estates 2010 – Darker than most Merlots, it has a soft, plush edge, nicely structured with aromas of cocoa, cassis and plums. Taste carefully and you might get a hint of maple and vanilla. WW 92

Milbrandt Brothers' Blend 2011 – I guess only the brothers know what's in the bottle...the blend must be a family secret. But there are nice aromas of fresh blueberry, cherry, plum and vanilla. On the palate, you'll get some dark berry, cocoa and vanilla. WW 92-93

When shopping for Milbrandt wines, look for the "Traditions" series at around \$12-\$14. Great values.

(By the way, the "WW" in front of the point scores stands for "Wine Whisperer." These are ratings I assign based on the sample done by me and some of my very knowledgeable wine buddies.)▲

Jerry Greenfield is The Wine Whisperer. He is Creative Director of Greenfield Advertising Group. His second wine book, Ask the Wine Whisperer, is now available on his website at www.winewhisperer.com

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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.

New TV Season: Catch-Up and Look Ahead

The first, 8-episode season of *Forever* is now streaming on Amazon. It stars Fred Armisen and **MAYA RUDOLPH**, 46, as a long-married couple. They love each other but are caught in a rut. They try to shake things up just a little and that "little" has an unexpected effect on their whole existence. I agree with the critics who gave *Forever* very good reviews. But, I'd ruin the *really* unexpected plot twists if I say more. **NOAH ROBBINS**, 27, co-stars in the last six episodes as Mark, a 17-year-old skateboarder.

Wanderlust is a "steamy" 6-episode BBC series that began streaming on Netflix on October 19. Joy, a therapist (Toni Collette) and Alan, a teacher, find that their marriage is in a rut, sexually and otherwise, and consider openly seeing other people. Brit actress **SOPHIE OKONEDO** (Oscar-nominee for *Hotel Rwanda*), 50, plays Angela, Joy's therapist. Okonedo was raised by her white, Jewish mother and identifies as Jewish. Her father is Nigerian.

Tell Me a Story begins streaming on CBS All-Access on Wednesday, October 31. The publicity release says, "Set in modern day New York... the world's most beloved fairy tales are re-imagined as a dark and twisted psychological thriller." The handsome **JAMES WOLK**, 33 (*Mad Men*) is a series regular.

Homecoming, based on a well-received fictional podcast of the same name, starts on Friday, November 2 on Netflix. Heidi Bergman (Julia Roberts)

is a caseworker assigned to a young veteran at a secret government facility. **ALEX KARPOVSKY** (*Girls*), 43, a series regular, plays Craig, another employee at the facility.

The Kominsky Method, a comedy/drama, begins on Netflix on Friday, November 16. Created by **CHUCK LORRE** (*The Big Bang Theory*), 65, it stars **MICHAEL DOUGLAS**, 74, as Sandy Kominsky, an aging actor turned acting coach. **ALAN ARKIN**, 84, plays Norman, Sandy's former agent and best friend. **LISA EDELSTEIN** (*House*), 52, has a recurring role as Norman's daughter, a pill-popping alcoholic.

A Wedding, a Baby and an Emmy
On September 29, **GWYNETH PALTROW**, 46, wed longtime beau **BRAD FALCHUK**, 47, in a private backyard ceremony on Long Island. Reports say that guests included **JERRY SEINFELD**, 64, and **STEVEN SPIELBERG**, 71. As I write this, no news has leaked out as to whether it was a secular or Jewish wedding.

Paltrow, who identifies as Jewish, was close to her late father, director **BRUCE PALTROW** (her mother, actress Blythe Danner, isn't Jewish). Falchuk, like Paltrow, has two children under 18 from a previous marriage. (His first wife was Jewish. Paltrow's ex, rock star Chris Martin, isn't.) Falchuk is best known as the co-producer/co-creator of *Glee* and *American Horror Story*.

It leaked out in October that musician **EZRA KOENIG**, 34, and his longtime girlfriend, actress **RASHIDA JONES**, 42, had a son named **ISAIAH**

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.

JONES KOENIG in August. The boy is Jones's first child and I believe the same is true of Koenig. Jones is the daughter of actress **PEGGY LIPTON**, 72, and legendary music producer Quincy Jones, 85.

Jones, a Harvard grad, is a "multi-talent" – she is a very competent comedy actress (*Parks and Recreation* and *Angie Tribeca*) and has drama "chops" too; she writes and produces many of her showbiz projects (like the very good film *Celeste and Jesse Forever*); she co-writes documentaries, including a documentary on her father that began streaming on Netflix in September; and she can sing. Jones was raised Jewish, identifies strongly as Jewish, and most of her beaus have been Jewish. Likewise, Koenig was raised Jewish and had a bar mitzvah.

On a scholarship, Koenig went to Columbia University, where he and three other students formed (2005) the literate band Vampire Weekend. He's the band's lead guitarist and lead vocalist.

Vampire really broke out in 2010 with a CD (*Contra*) that was a worldwide big seller. Koenig is also the creator of the Netflix animated series *Neo Yokio*.

Last month, I received an e-mail from **ARLENE LEIBOVICH**, a *Federation Star* reader in Naples. The letter informed me that her daughter, **KAREN LEIBOVICH**, a *Sesame Street* producer, had won a 2018 "Creative Arts" Emmy (Best Children's Program). The proud mom also told me that Karen won the same award in 2017.

NFL Briefly Noted

Here are the Jewish players on a National Football League team roster as of October 10: **NATE EBNER**, 29, defensive back, New England; **ALI MARPET**, 25, center, Tampa Bay; **MITCHELL SCHWARTZ**, 29, offensive tackle, Kansas City; **MICHAEL DUNN**, 22, linebacker, Jacksonville; **ANTHONY FIRKSER**, 22, tight end, Tennessee; and **JOSH ROSEN**, 21, quarterback, Arizona. Rosen, a rookie, began starting with his team's 4th game. ▲

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Klezmer music

By Arlene Stolnitz

On Monday, December 17 at 7:30 p.m., Sarasota will be privileged with the appearance of renowned violinist Itzhak Perlman in an evening devoted to klezmer music. The program, entitled "In the Fiddler's House (A Night of Klezmer)," will be presented at Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall and will feature special guest artists, including the Klezmer Conservatory Band. The Perlman Music Program has invited well-known Sarasota/Venice lecturer Baila Miller to present a program on "History of Klezmer Music to Modern Jazz" on Thursday, November 1 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. on The Larry Greenspon Family Campus for Jewish Life, 580 McIntosh Road, Sarasota.

Coincidentally, during the past summer, I traveled to Upstate New York for a family reunion. I always knew I had come from a family of musicians but, until that weekend, I hadn't realized my European-born grandparents and their children were a family of klezmer musicians. In an early column, I wrote about klezmer music as an art form. My intention to write about klezmer music again came at a particularly opportune time!

The term "klezmer" comes from the Hebrew words "klei" (vessel) and "zemer" (song). "Klezmer" literally means "instrument of song." In Eastern Europe, the word "klezmer" referred to the traditional instrumental music of Yiddish-speaking people of Eastern whose origins can be traced back to the Middle Ages.

Often played at weddings, bar mitzvahs and other joyous occasions, klezmer had its origins in the countries of Eastern Europe and was widely influenced by the Roma or gypsy population. Violins, clarinets and accordions were used to create the distinctive sounds that we identify as klezmer. These instruments were popular because they were easily transported by klezmer musicians as they traveled from village to village playing for weddings and other community events. Years later in America, klezmer had a huge impact on contemporary jazz music. Many Jewish American composers such as Leonard Bernstein and Aaron Copland were

influenced by klezmer sounds heard during their youth. The opening notes of "Rhapsody in Blue" are a nod to the klezmer clarinet. Even some clarinet stylings of swing jazz bandleaders Benny Goodman and Artie Shaw can be interpreted as having been derived from klezmer.

According to Miller, "The history of klezmer is full of surprises because it is rooted in 1800s European Nationalism, regional pride and individual identity. There is much more than meets the eye. Its history is long, deep and wide. Music is the soul of a nation. It reflects a nation's tears, joys, fears and hopes. As such, it mirrors a culture's humanity. Klezmer can be enjoyed as the folk music of the Jewish people, but its unique sound in the mid-1880s reflected cultural changes surfacing in Europe that focused on dissemination of democratic ideals."

Miller, a lecturer in the Humanities in the Sarasota area, started her career as a social worker. In later years she pursued her interest in Art Appreciation and today presents college-level courses exploring the role of literature, paintings, architecture, sculpture, cinema and photography, as well as orchestral and operatic influences.

Born in Poland in the 1950s, her family immigrated to Israel when she was six. At the age of nine, her family moved to Memphis, Tennessee, where they were sponsored by a wealthy family member.

Miller has taught at Road Scholar International, Longboat Key Education Center, Venice Art Center, Historic Spanish Point, Venice Performing Arts Center and the Ringling College of Art + Design. Under the name "Miller Music and Fine Arts Programs," her lectures are received with great acclaim in the community.

Our community is indeed fortunate to have this great artist and well-known lecturer expand our appreciation and enjoyment of this unique art form.▲

Arlene Stolnitz, founder of the Sarasota Jewish Chorale, has sung in choral groups for over 25 years. A retired educator, she is a graduate of the Gulf Coast Community Leadership Foundation. A member of the Jewish Congregation of Venice, the Venice Chorale and the Sarasota Jewish Chorale, 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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- ✦ Canned meats & fish

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Thanksgiving with a Jewish twist – recipes by Dalia Hemed

Thanksgiving and Jewish holidays share two themes: gratitude for surviving great hardship (Passover) and a welcoming table (Rosh Hashanah). When I arrived in the U.S. from Israel, my first Thanksgiving was like an “American Passover.” In keeping with the spirit of the Jewish holiday, I adapted the most emblematic dishes to celebrate the similar day I discovered in America.

Jewish foods echo the diversity of the countries and cultures that Jews have lived in for thousands of years, from Morocco to Iran to Italy, and include flavors and ingredients from around the world that are often used in Thanksgiving dishes. So, when you’re setting a Thanksgiving menu, think about making your meal more “Jewish” this year by including recipes of some iconic Jewish food tastes that enhance traditional Thanksgiving flavors. *B’tayavon* (“bon appétit” in Hebrew)!

Roasted Turkey with Za’atar, Sumac and Honey

I use a kosher turkey, which eliminates the need for brining. Kosher meat is salted and, in general, this creates automatically juicy poultry.

Ingredients:

- 1 (13 pound) kosher turkey (remove and reserve the neck and bag of giblets)
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 ¼ tsp freshly ground pepper
- ¼ cup honey
- 1 tsp za’atar
- 1 tsp ground sumac
- 2 tbsp chopped fresh parsley
- ▶ Preheat oven to 450 F and place rack in lower third of oven.
- ▶ Rinse turkey and dry it well.
- ▶ Use your hands to give it a light

coating of olive oil.

- ▶ Rub in the salt and pepper, za’atar, sumac and parsley.
- ▶ Place it on the roasting rack in the roasting pan. Place in the oven and cook for 2 hours. Let the breast rest for at least 10 minutes before slicing.

Challah Stuffing / Dressing

My Thanksgiving stuffing with the ultimate Jewish bread – challah!

Ingredients:

- 1 large challah
- 6 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- 1 large yellow onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 lb carrots, peeled and chopped
- 1 lb celery, peeled and chopped
- ¼ cup fresh parsley, chopped
- 1 ½ tsp dried sage
- 1 ½ tsp dried marjoram
- 1 tsp dried oregano
- 4 cups chicken broth
- 1 lb sliced white mushrooms
- 2 eggs, beaten
- Salt and pepper
- ▶ Preheat the oven to 350 F.
- ▶ Cut the challah into ½-inch cubes. Spread the cubes out across two baking sheets.
- ▶ Place the trays in the oven for about 12 minutes. Remove from oven and allow cooling.
- ▶ Heat 4 tbsp of olive oil in a large sauté pan over medium high. Add the onions, carrots and celery to the same pan and sauté for 5-6 minutes. Add garlic and sauté for an additional 2 minutes.
- ▶ Pour 2 ½ cups of chicken broth into the pan along with 1 tsp of salt and ½ tsp of black pepper. Remove from

heat. Reserve remaining chicken broth.

- ▶ Heat the remaining 2 tbsp of olive oil in a clean skillet over medium high heat. Add sliced mushrooms to the skillet. Sauté for 10 minutes. Remove from heat.
- ▶ In a very large mixing bowl, combine challah cubes, vegetable/chicken broth mixture, mushrooms and herbs. Stir to blend all ingredients. Add the beaten eggs to the mixture and stir until they are fully incorporated into the stuffing. Spray the slow cooker with nonstick cooking spray; then pour in the challah mixture.
- ▶ Set slow cooker on high heat and cover the pot. Cook for 30 minutes. Remove the cover and stir to redistribute the liquid throughout the stuffing.
- ▶ Let cook on low for 4 hours.
- ▶ After 4 hours, stir, taste and add more salt or pepper, if desired. Switch to warm setting until ready to serve.



Butternut Squash Tzimmes with Tahini and Silan

Ingredients:

- 1 large butternut squash cut into ¾ by 2 ½-inch wedges
- 2 red onions, cut into 1 ¼ -inch wedges
- 3 ½ tbsp olive oil
- 3 ½ tbsp light tahini paste
- 1 ½ tbsp lemon juice
- 2 tbsp water
- 1 small clove garlic, crushed
- ½ cup pitted prunes (optional)
- ½ cup raisins
- ½ cup honey or silan (date honey)
- 3 ½ tbsp pine nuts
- Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper
- ▶ Preheat the oven to 475 F.
- ▶ Put the squash and onion in a large mixing bowl, add 3 tablespoons of the oil, 1 teaspoon salt and some black pepper and toss well. Spread on a baking sheet with the skin facing down and roast in the oven for 40 minutes. Remove from the oven and leave to cool.

Tahini sauce:

- ▶ Place the tahini in a small bowl along with the lemon juice, water, garlic and 1/4 teaspoon salt. Whisk until the sauce is the consistency of honey.

Pine nuts and prunes:

- ▶ Pour the remaining 1 ½ teaspoons oil into a small frying pan and place over medium-low heat.
- ▶ Add the prunes (optional), raisins and pine nuts along with ½ teaspoon salt and cook for 2 minutes, stirring often, until the nuts are golden brown.



cook for about 5 minutes, stirring constantly until mixture thickens.

- ▶ In a separate bowl, beat egg yolks and add slowly to the saucepan.
- ▶ Add pumpkin and all seasonings.
- ▶ Beat egg whites to a stiff peak in separate bowl. Fold in egg whites to the pumpkin mixture.
- ▶ Pour into greased 9 by 13 casserole pan. Sprinkle with cinnamon.
- ▶ Bake at 350 F for 45 minutes until firm and golden.▲



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

To serve:

- ▶ Spread out the vegetables on a large serving platter and drizzle over the tahini and silan. Sprinkle the pine nuts and their oil on top.

Pumpkin Kugel

How does one combine traditional Thanksgiving flavors with a Jewish food flare? Pumpkin Kugel! While kugel is generally a dish served during the High Holidays and Passover, it has endless potential in flavor combinations that can make it appropriate for Thanksgiving.

Ingredients:

- ¼ cup (non-dairy) butter
- ½ cup flour
- 1 cup coconut milk
- 4 eggs, separated
- 3 ½ cups pumpkin puree
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- ½ tsp nutmeg
- ½ tsp cloves
- ½ teaspoon salt

Pumpkin Puree Preparation:

- ▶ Take a canned pumpkin and cut it in half, remove seeds and then cut the pumpkin into smaller pieces and arrange on a sheet pan. Bake at 350 F for 2 hours until cooked thoroughly. After the pumpkin has cooled enough to handle, cut away the skin. Using a grinder or food mill reduce the pumpkin to a mash and then place in a strainer overnight to drain. Ideally you want the puree as dry as possible to control the moisture content of the custard.
- ▶ Preheat oven to 350 F.
- ▶ In a saucepan melt butter, then whisk in flour.
- ▶ Gradually add coconut milk and

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BRIEFS

TEN-YEAR U.S.-ISRAEL SECURITY AGREEMENT BEGINS

On October 1, "the ten-year period of the \$38 billion Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the United States and Israel in 2016 began. Under the terms of the MOU, the United States will set funding for Israel at levels of \$3.3 billion in Foreign Military Financing and \$500 million for cooperative programs for missile defense over each of the next ten years."

"The MOU was negotiated under the previous Administration, reflecting the bi-partisan nature of this commitment. Israel is a valuable and capable ally to the United States that today faces dangerously escalating regional threats, first and foremost from the Iranian regime's sponsorship of terrorist groups seeking to attack not only Israel but also American interests."

"The United States unconditionally affirms Israel's right to self-defense, and this MOU is a concrete demonstration of our commitment to Israel's capacity to defend itself with a qualitative military edge over all potential regional adversaries." (Spokesperson Heather Nauert, State Department)

JORDAN TO IMPORT 85 PERCENT OF ITS NATURAL GAS FROM ISRAEL

Jordan will import 8.5 million cubic meters of natural gas from Israel every day, Amani Azzam, secretary general of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, said recently.

Jordan's daily needs of natural gas stand at 9.9 million cubic meters.

A 65-km. pipeline will transfer \$10 billion worth of natural gas from Israel into Jordan for 15 years, with supplies expected to begin in 2020.

The gas will be distributed to the country's power plants for electricity generation.

The deal is expected to save around 700 million Jordanian dinars (nearly \$1 billion) annually from the country's energy bill.

Egyptian gas supply to the kingdom halted in 2013 following terrorist attacks that destroyed the pipeline that brought cheap gas to Jordan. (Mohammad Ghazal, *Jordan Times*)

NETANYAHU AT UN: ISRAEL WILL DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST IRAN'S AGGRESSION

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addressed the UN General Assembly on Thursday, September 27:

◆ "Israel openly opposed the nuclear deal with Iran. We oppose it because it threatens our future, even our very survival. We oppose it because the deal paved Iran's path to a nuclear arsenal. And by lifting the sanctions, it's fueled Iran's campaign of carnage and conquest throughout the Middle East."

◆ "Last February, Israel conducted a daring raid on Iran's secret atomic archive. We obtained over 100,000 documents and videos that had been stashed in vaults in an innocent looking building in the heart of Tehran... Israel shared this information and even more damning evidence that we found with members of the P5+1, and with the International Atomic Energy Agency. Months have passed. The IAEA has still not taken any action... It has not demanded to inspect a single new site discovered in that secret archive."

◆ "Iran has another secret facility in Tehran – a secret atomic warehouse for storing massive amounts of equipment and materiel from Iran's secret nuclear weapons program...in the Turquz-abad district of Tehran. Iranian officials...have been busy cleaning out the atomic warehouse. Just last month, they removed 15 kilograms of radioactive material...and they spread it around Tehran in an effort to hide the evidence....This site contains as much as 300 tons of nuclear-related equipment and material."

◆ "Why did Iran keep a secret atomic archive and a secret atomic warehouse? Because, after all, when South Africa and Libya gave up their nuclear programs, the first thing they did was to destroy both the archives and the material and equipment... The reason Iran didn't destroy its atomic archive and its atomic warehouse is because it hasn't abandoned its goal to develop nuclear weapons."

◆ "I have a message to the head of the IAEA. Mr. Yukiya Amano... Go inspect this atomic warehouse, immediately, before the Iranians finish clearing it out. Do you remember when we were promised that inspections could take place anytime, anywhere?... Well, how about inspections right here, right now. And Mr. Amano, while you're at it, inspect the other secret sites we told you about. Once and for all, tell the world the truth about Iran."

◆ "Israel will do whatever it must do to defend itself against Iran's aggression. We will continue to act against you in Syria. We will act against you in Lebanon. We will act against you in Iraq. We will act against you whenever and wherever we must act to defend our state and defend our people." (Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

TEL AVIV WILL HOST THE 2019 EUROVISION

Several Israeli cities have been vying to host the 2019 Eurovision Song Contest, a privilege the country won by virtue of Israeli singer Netta Barzilai's first-place finish in the most recent contest last May, held in Portugal.

On September 13, it was announced that Tel Aviv-Yafo was chosen as the venue. It is the first time ever that Tel Aviv is hosting the show (now entering its 64th season), which most

recently attracted 186 million viewers and around 20,000 tourists.

The European Broadcasting Union and the Israeli Public Broadcasting Corporation selected Tel Aviv because "it is Israel's financial and cultural center, an international hub of art and creativity, commerce and trade, media and academia. It is a city that celebrates pluralism and tolerance, warmly embracing the many communities that compose its unique human mosaic."

The three main events – two semifinals and the final live broadcast – will take place at the EXPO Tel Aviv International Convention Center.

The opening ceremony and red carpet event will take place at the Tel Aviv Museum of Art; the official Eurovision key handover ceremony and semifinal allocation draw will be held at historic Town Hall on Bialik Square; and the largest-ever Eurovision Village will be on display at the Tel Aviv boardwalk overlooking the Mediterranean.

"Dozens of events will take place throughout the city on top of the main events, turning the city into one big Eurovision celebration," said Gidi Scherling, project director of the 2019 Eurovision on behalf of the Tel Aviv-Yafo municipality.

This will be the third time Israel will host Eurovision. The other two times – 1979 and 1999 – the event was held in Jerusalem's International Convention Center. (ISRAEL21c)

continued on next page



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BRIEFS

*continued from previous page***U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER BOLTON: "WE WILL NOT ALLOW THE ICC TO CONSTRAIN ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO SELF-DEFENSE"**

U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton told the Federalist Society in Washington on September 10, "I am here to make a major announcement on U.S. policy toward the International Criminal Court, or ICC... In theory, the ICC holds perpetrators of the most egregious atrocities accountable for their crimes, provides justice to the victims, and deters future abuses. In practice, however, the court has been ineffective, unaccountable, and indeed, outright dangerous. Moreover, the largely unspoken, but always central, aim of its most vigorous supporters was to constrain the United States."

"The International Criminal Court constituted an assault on the constitutional rights of the American people and the sovereignty of the United States... In November of 2017, the ICC prosecutor requested authorization to investigate alleged war crimes committed by U.S. service members and intelligence professionals during the war in Afghanistan... Any day now, the

ICC may announce the start of a formal investigation against these American patriots, who voluntarily went into harm's way to protect our nation, our homes and our families in the wake of the 9/11 attacks."

"The United States will use any means necessary to protect our citizens and those of our allies from unjust prosecution by this illegitimate court. We will not cooperate with the ICC... We will let the ICC die on its own. After all, for all intents and purposes, the ICC is already dead to us... The International Criminal Court's authority has been sharply criticized and rejected by most of the world. Today, more than 70 nations, representing 2/3 of the world's population, and over 70% of the world's armed forces, are not members of the ICC."

"While the court welcomes the membership of the so-called 'State of Palestine,' it has threatened Israel – a liberal, democratic nation – with investigation into its actions to defend citizens from terrorist attacks in the West Bank and Gaza... The United States supports a direct and robust peace process, and we will not allow the ICC, or any other organization, to constrain Israel's right to self-defense... If the court comes after us, Israel or other U.S. allies, we will not sit quietly." (Lawfare Institute-Brookings)▲

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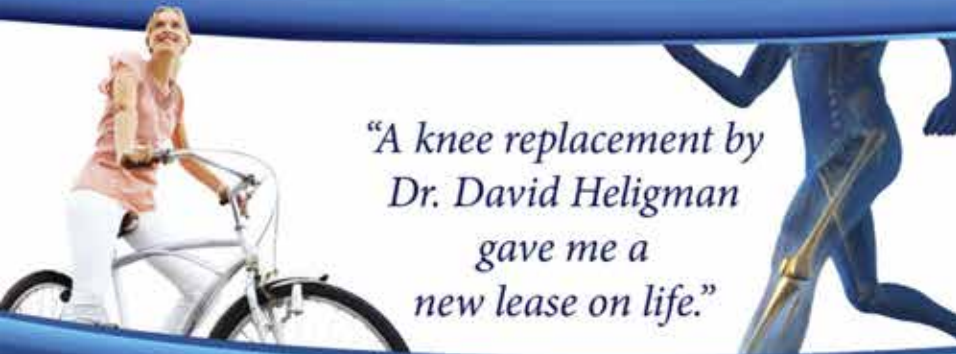
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COMMENTARY BRIEFS

SHUTTING DOWN THE PLO

The Palestine Liberation Organization was allowed to open an office in Washington, D.C., in 1994 after the Oslo accords produced hope for a new era of reconciliation between the PLO and Israel. That hope has never been fulfilled, notably since Yasser Arafat began the second intifada after walking away from the generous Israeli peace offer brokered by Bill Clinton in 2000. Long-term indulgence of the PLO's recalcitrance has allowed a toxic and reflexive anti-Israel sentiment to build in international institutions and on U.S. campuses.

The U.S. Congress said in 2015 – before Donald Trump became President – that the Secretary of State was required to certify that the PLO wasn't trying to use the International Criminal Court (ICC) against Israel. Last November, PA President Mahmoud Abbas, speaking at the UN, called for the investigation and prosecution of Israeli officials by the ICC.

The point of recent U.S. moves and funding cuts isn't to be vindictive but to show Abbas and the PLO that they can't continue to underwrite anti-Semitic textbooks and anti-Israel terrorism without consequences. If the Palestinians want to be treated with the respect of a peace partner, they have to first show a desire for peace. (Editorial, *Wall Street Journal*)

WITH NIKKI HALEY'S RESIGNATION, WE ISRAELIS LOST A HERO

Nikki Haley was the international friend many Israelis have waited decades to have. The friend who called out class bullies, crushed the old boy's club and outshone the teacher's pet.

She is the friend who has your back with grace, poise and deadly precision, just when you need her most. She had honesty, the grit and the willingness to stand up for what's right. That she did all of this without using inflammatory and partisan language made her all the more worthy of admiration.

Haley consistently spoke out against the bias she saw in the institution meant to be the embodiment of all that is good in humanity. What should have been the coming together of mankind to seek good and prosperity for the world instead has become a black hole of back door deals where the worst human rights offenders parade as human rights defenders whose common goal is the vilification of the world's only Jewish state. (Shoshanna Keats Jaskoll, *Forward*)

NIKKI HALEY: A SHERIFF IN HEELS ON ISRAEL'S BEHALF

For Israel's supporters in America, Nikki Haley was a superstar. She told the AIPAC convention in 2017, "I wear heels. It's not for a fashion statement. It's because if I see something wrong, we're going to kick them every single time. So for anyone that says you can't get anything done at the UN, they need to know there's a new sheriff in town."

Unapologetically, calmly and intelligently, Haley passionately called out the UN over its anti-Israel bias; eloquently defended the decision to move the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem; and firmly called the Palestinians out for the folly of many of their policies. Haley's presence at the UN, her style and her avid defense, will surely be missed by Israel. (Herb Keinon, *Jerusalem Post*)

continued on page 18

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Oslo at 25: What might have been

By Mitchell Bard, September 5, 2018

September 13 will mark the 25th anniversary of the Oslo agreement. Most commentators see it as something between a well-intentioned failure and a catastrophe that provoked more Palestinian terrorism, and gave the Palestinians roughly 40 percent of the West Bank and 80 percent of Gaza in exchange for nothing.

Though skeptics never believed in the Oslo process and now delight in saying, "I told you so," the approach was based on a successful precedent that could, in theory, still work.

Those who were quick to criticize Oslo ignored the precedent of negotiations with Egypt. Like Oslo, those negotiations began with incremental territorial compromises after the 1973 Yom Kippur War. Israel tested Anwar Sadat to see how he would behave after each withdrawal. When he kept the peace, Israel saw that it could afford to make additional compromises. Sadat did not get all he wanted when he wanted it, but rather than return to war or terror, he continued to negotiate. Had he responded differently, Israel would have gone no further.

It took 14 years before Egypt was completely satisfied (when Israel withdrew from Taba in 1988), but even before then, Sadat signed a peace treaty. Israelis took a tremendous risk throughout the talks because they gave up tangible, valuable assets for little more than a verbal promise. They gambled that Sadat was a man of his word and would keep the peace without any guarantee that his successors would do the same. Sadat's speech directly to the Israeli people at the Knesset, though a hardline one, broke a psychological barrier and

persuaded the Israeli public that he was sincere. The land for peace formula, negotiated incrementally, ultimately succeeded.

Oslo failed because the Palestinians interpreted every Israeli concession as a sign of weakness, emboldening them to demand more. They were unwilling to negotiate over differences of opinion. When they did not get what they wanted, they resorted to terrorism – all of which strengthened the psychological barrier that Israelis felt against betting their future on the hope that the Palestinians would trade land for peace.

Oslo was premised on Yasser Arafat's paper promises to recognize Israel, cease terrorism and negotiate over the two sides' differences. Arafat was no Sadat. Though he was the dominant figure in Palestinian politics, he did not have the dictatorial powers of the Egyptian president. He could not or would not stop Palestinians who rejected the idea of co-existence, particularly those driven by Islamic fervor who became Hamas loyalists.

Yitzhak Rabin never trusted Arafat, but he still agreed to Oslo because he understood the demographic dilemma that Israel faced and had no interest in "Greater Israel." He wanted out of the territories and was therefore willing to ignore Palestinian violations of the Declarations of Principles and sign the Oslo II agreement just weeks after two suicide bombings killed 10 Israelis.

Had Rabin lived and completed the withdrawal from all of Gaza and most of the West Bank, the Palestinians and their supporters could no longer claim to be under "occupation." More important, Israel would no longer face the choice of

democracy or remaining a Jewish state.

Rabin knew that the Palestinians would still demand full sovereignty, a capital in Jerusalem, and would dream of liberating the rest of "Palestine." Rabin was also aware of the danger of a Palestinian state, and never agreed to create one, but he was willing to give up sparsely populated territory of little or no significance to the Jews for the establishment of a Palestinian "entity." Rabin knew that Israel was strong enough to defend itself against any Palestinian threat. Meanwhile, he made no concessions on Jerusalem, never accepted Palestinian demands regarding refugees, and did not agree to stop building settlements.

Many people have forgotten the optimism of Oslo. I had Israeli friends talking about not having to send their young children to the army when they grew up. But the Palestinians literally blew up the peace process. Shimon Peres likely would have continued the unilateral withdrawal, but the terror attacks preceding the 1996 election led to the victory of Benjamin Netanyahu, who had no intention of pursuing the Rabin/Peres policy.

Nevertheless, the supposedly anti-peace, right-wing fanatic did not abandon Oslo. Netanyahu met with Arafat, which he said he would never do, agreed to the redeployment of Israeli forces in Hebron, and was prepared to withdraw from an additional 13 percent of the West Bank, albeit under pressure from the Clinton administration.

Yet neither the compromises of Oslo nor the offers of statehood (and the evacuation of nearly the entire West Bank and all of Gaza) by Ehud Barak

and Ehud Olmert placated the Palestinians. Violence escalated after Israel's unilateral withdrawal from Gaza.

Many Palestinians and people on the left blame Israel's expansion of settlements for the collapse of Oslo; however, the agreements placed no restrictions on settlement construction. When Oslo was signed, approximately 130,000 Jews lived in the territories. Had the Palestinians kept the peace and negotiated a final deal, that number would have been frozen and ultimately reduced after Israel evacuated the communities outside the large blocs. Instead, thanks to Palestinian irredentism, the Jewish population of the West Bank has increased in the last 25 years by 300,000.

Despite this history, some people are angry that Netanyahu is not begging to talk to Mahmoud Abbas, and does not extol the virtues of a two-state solution that the Palestinians have proven to have no interest in achieving. Hamas openly calls for Israel's destruction, while Abbas has refused to negotiate for nearly a decade, giving up all pretense of a desire for peace. Abbas has put his faith in the fantasy that the international community will coerce Israel to capitulate to his demands. But that strategy has no more chance of success than the Palestinians' previous hope that the Arab states would drive the Jews into the sea, or that terrorism would force them to leave their homeland.

Could a new Oslo approach change the dynamic?

Not likely.

The only chance would be if a Palestinian leader, with a clear mandate

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I believe this Palestinian teenager

By Stephen M. Flatow, October 5, 2018

Ahed Tamimi, the Palestinian teenager jailed for assaulting an Israeli soldier, says that she supports violence against Jews and seeks the destruction of Israel.

I believe her.

And I believe that groups such as J Street, which have defended Tamimi and claimed that she is non-violently resisting “the Israeli occupation of the West Bank,” owe the Jewish community an apology for refusing to believe her.

When Tamimi was arrested last December for assaulting an Israeli soldier, some on the Jewish left leaped to her defense. J Street president Jeremy-Ben Ami wrote an op-ed arguing that Israel has been “illegally taking over” the land of her village, and that her assault of the Israeli soldier “results quite naturally ... from the human impulse to resist injustice against one’s community and family.”

The J Street website posted an essay by a Washington, D.C., rabbi named Hannah Goldstein, declaring that she could “understand why” Tamimi’s father sent her and her siblings to throw rocks at Jews since “under occupation, their opportunities are limited” and “putting children [or allowing them to put themselves] in harm’s way for the sake of greater change seems worth the risk.”

But as soon as Tamimi finished her jail sentence, she began issuing statements making it clear that for her, the issue is not the village’s land, but rather the very existence of Israel. And far from being some kind of Palestinian Gandhi, she supports terrorism and terrorists.

In an interview with a Lebanese television station on August 22, Tamimi

praised Hezbollah terrorist leader Hassan Nasrallah. That’s right, Hezbollah – bombers of the Jewish community center in Buenos Aires, murderers of hundreds of Americans, hijackers of TWA flight 847. That’s right, Nasrallah – the Holocaust-denier and virulent anti-Semite. Tamimi thanked Nasrallah profusely for boosting “not just my morale, but the morale of many people,” and wished him a happy holiday (Eid-al-Fitr).

In an interview with the French television station France24 on September 17, Tamimi was asked if she had any regrets about publicly praising Hezbollah. “No absolutely not,” she declared, pointing out that Nasrallah “stands against the United States and Israel, so I agree with him on this particular point.”

The France24 interview was revealing in other ways, too.

Look at this exchange:

Interviewer: You are calling for a peaceful resistance.

Tamimi: I call for a people’s resistance, of any kind. To me, it’s important for the people to be able to choose how they would like to resist against this occupation. To me, there are different manners to fight this occupation. To each his own. Some may choose poetry, others slapping a soldier, others might choose throwing stones or drawing. I respect every type of resistance.

She specifically refused to say that she supports “peaceful” actions. And she specifically said that she supports assaulting Israeli soldiers and “throwing stones” – meaning, trying to stone Jews to death. She also specifically said that she “respects every type of resistance” – obviously including the other kinds of “resistance” in which Palestinians

engage: knives, guns and bombs.

Tamimi has never explicitly condemned stabbing, shooting or bombing Jews. And she never will. Because she believes in stabbing, shooting and bombing Jews. Her words are clear: “Every type of resistance.” I believe she means it.

And what is “this occupation” to which Tamimi refers? Again, she made it very clear to the France24 interviewer. He asked her how she can justify slapping an Israeli soldier. She replied: “These soldiers are occupying my country – Jaffa, Haifa, Akko.”

Those parts of “occupied Palestine” are not in the “West Bank.” They are nowhere near her village of Nabi Saleh. They are within pre-1967 Israel. Tamimi could not have been clearer. She was saying that she considers all of Israel “occupied territory.”

It takes a certain kind of hubris (some would call it racism and sexism) to say that Palestinian girls should not be believed – to pretend that they don’t mean what they say when they support violence against Jews and the destruction of Israel.

I call on Ahed Tamimi’s Jewish defenders to believe her words and apologize to the Jewish community for trying to deceive us about her beliefs and intentions.

Stephen M. Flatow is an attorney in New Jersey and the father of Alisa Flatow, who was murdered in an Iranian-sponsored Palestinian terrorist attack in 1995. His book A Father’s Story – My Fight for Justice Against Iranian Terror will be published this month.▲

Briefs...continued from page 16

BDS HAS ZERO IMPACT ON ISRAELI BUSINESSES

- ◆ A study of the effect of BDS on the Israeli economy by our company, Financial Immunities, revealed a wide gap between journalists’ reports about the effect of the anti-Israel boycott campaign and its actual effects, which were negligible.
- ◆ Using a false digital identity, I asked the BDS organization what I should do to boycott Israel. They sent me a link to a page with hundreds of names of international companies having connections with Israel. Boycotting them would have prevented me from buying things ranging from basic items at the supermarket to any kind of mobile telephone, a refrigerator or a car.
- ◆ I asked managers of Israeli companies, “Can you quantify in money how much your company lost as a result of the economic boycott created by BDS?” The proportion of Israeli companies able to state that they had been damaged by the sanctions was around 0.75%. The rate of damage of each of them was less than 10% of their turnover.
- ◆ The cumulative proportion of economic damage to Israel from BDS since 2010 was 0.004% – meaning if the Israeli economy’s yearly income were 1 million shekels, the damage would have been 40 shekels.
- ◆ Paradoxically, there were Israeli companies that benefited from the boycott. One company said that after BDS activists stood in front of its store in London and called for boycotting its products, the number of buyers jumped by four times the usual number as many came to demonstrate their sympathy for Israel. (Adam Reuter, *Globes*)



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Saving the transatlantic partnership

By David Harris, CEO of the American Jewish Committee (AJC), September 24, 2018

These days, I consider myself an endangered species. I am a committed transatlanticist. Until just a few years back, that was rather unexceptional. No longer.

The gap is widening, mutual suspicion is growing, accusations are being leveled, and calls for unilateralism are being heard, especially coming from Washington.

Call me hopelessly, irredeemably naïve, but, as a son of America and grandson of Europe, I remain convinced that Americans and Europeans are joined at the hip by common foundational values and common existential threats, and thus by a common agenda.

Our shared values emanate from the building blocks of our respective societies: democracy, the rule of law, and respect for human dignity.

The ties that link this precious, ever-so-fragile community of freedom-loving nations must never be permitted to fray; they represent the best hope for the ultimate realization of a genuinely peaceful and prosperous world.

After all, these countries have renounced war as an instrument of resolving disputes among themselves. The weapons of choice when disagreements arise are diplomats and lawyers, not armies and suicide bombers.

Take Europe, historically, perhaps, the most blood-soaked continent on the planet. Since the inventive genius of France's Robert Schuman and Jean Monnet in the postwar years to conceptualize a structure that would prevent future wars with Germany – namely, the process that led to today's European Union – war has become unthinkable among member states. Indeed, the EU is

the most ambitious and successful peace project in modern history, and, at its core, is not about the standardization of light bulbs but the protection of democratic values and mutual dependence.

In the same spirit, NATO has been the most effective collective defense pact in history. Given the charges leveled against it in Washington, it is important to remember that the only time Article V was invoked to support a member state under attack was immediately following 9/11. That member state was the United States.

The challenges facing us are, to an ever-increasing degree, transnational in nature – from terrorism to proliferation, from failing states to fanaticism in the name of faith, from climate change to mass migration, from pandemics to cyberattacks.

None of these challenges is unique to any one nation. Rather, they are as often as not overarching, requiring maximum intelligence-sharing, coordination and cooperation.

And none of these challenges is likely to be solved by any one nation or bloc going it alone, no matter how large or powerful. It may have become a cliché to speak of an interconnected world, but that's our present – and foreseeable – condition.

An economic crisis in Greece reverberates in the United States. The 9/11 jihadists wreaked havoc in America, but some of them spent a lot of time moving around Europe beforehand and a number of the victims on that fateful day were European (and other foreign) nationals. Russia interferes with elections here, while also casting a long shadow on elections in European states.

Foreign fighters flock to Syria and Iraq from both sides of the Atlantic.

To be sure, there are, and always will be, differences between Europe and the United States rooted in political rivalry, economic competition and divergent assessments, including today regarding Iran, Israeli-Palestinian issues and NATO.

In the larger scheme of things, however, and with a measure of goodwill rather than rancor and recrimination, these differences ought to be quite manageable. They certainly should not be permitted to overshadow our commonalities.

That's why the American Jewish Committee launched a new transatlantic initiative – a pledge of unity and resolve – that notable European and American leaders have endorsed.

To quote from the text: "We rise in defense of the precious alliance of democracies – and its treaties, institutions and norms – that has sustained peace and generated prosperity from the Cold War to the present day. As students of history, we know all too well the terrible price that has been paid when these principles were not respected and protected. ... We

are united in reaffirming our commitment to the rules-based international order ... our confidence in NATO ... our respect for the European Union ... our determination to assure the integrity of the West's intelligence, law enforcement and security agencies ... our defense of democracy."

The initial signatories include former presidents, vice presidents, prime ministers, national security advisers, secretaries of state, and ministers of defense and foreign affairs – among them former Vice President Joe Biden, Secretary of State George Shultz, British Prime Minister Tony Blair, French Prime Minister Manuel Valls and German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer.

Some would argue that the transatlantic partnership served another era and should be seen as a time-specific alliance that largely has outlived its usefulness. I beg to differ. The partnership's future is not behind us. It needs to be very much in front of us. ▲

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

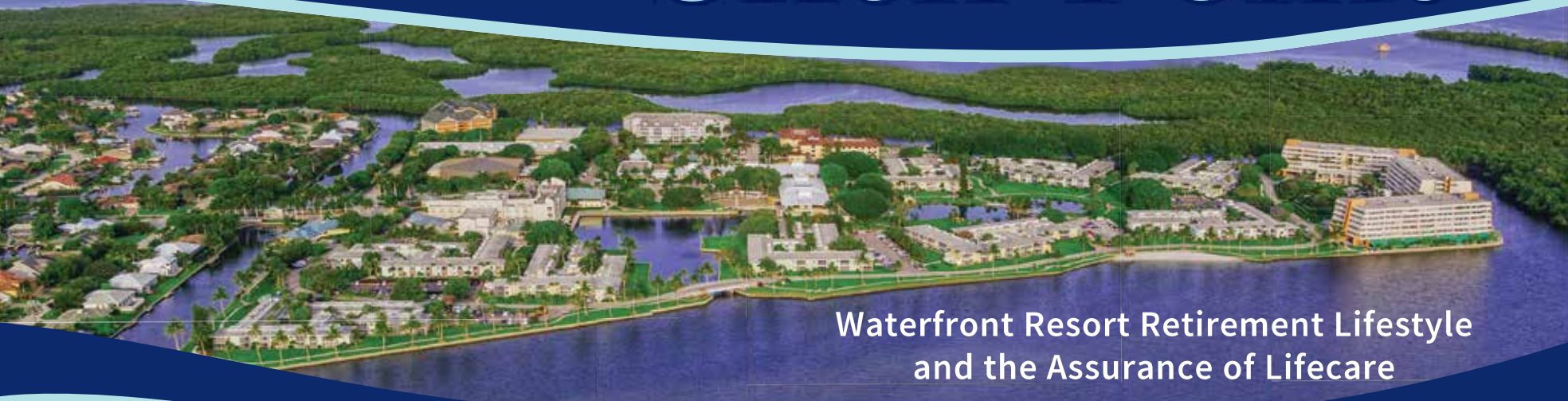
Mitchell Bard...continued from page 17

from his people, traveled to Jerusalem and stood before the Knesset and said in Arabic that he recognizes Israel as the Jewish state, is prepared to live in peace, and does not seek to divide Israel's capital or overrun the country with millions of refugees. Those words would have to be followed by action: ending all incitement in textbooks and the media, and dismantling all terror groups. That

and a determination to resolve all differences through negotiations is what it would take for the Oslo model to have any chance of revival or success. ▲

Mitchell Bard, Executive Director of AICE and Jewish Virtual Library, has written 24 books, including The Arab Lobby, Death to the Infidels: Radical Islam's War Against the Jews and After Anatevka: Tevye in Palestine.

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"Thou shalt be...mindful?"

No matter how many services you might have attended during the High Holy Days, Sukkot and Simchat Torah, you probably never heard the term "mindfulness" chanted from the Torah, spoken from the pulpit or read in English translation. For many of us, mindfulness has a secular or even Buddhist feel to it. Before we look for a Jewish equivalent, let us investigate how this term is used today.

Jon Kabat-Zinn is a professor emeritus of medicine at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. As a student during the Vietnam and Watergate days, he did a lot of Buddhist meditation. Influenced by his teachers and meditation, he came up with a great idea. By combining meditation and yoga, and by keeping it secular, he developed a program called Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR). Kabat-Zinn's thinking was that by raising your moment-to-moment awareness, you can lower your stress, pain and illness levels.

In 1993, his MBSR program was profiled on a Bill Moyers PBS special called *Healing and the Mind*. From then on, the program has taken off and become very popular. Kabat-Zinn has also written several books detailing his program, including *Wherever You Go, There You Are* from 1994. This program has been especially helpful for those who work in the fields of mental health and medicine.

Is there any connection between mindfulness and the Jewish tradition? I would say yes, without a doubt. Some of us have heard the term "kavanah" or

intention, which is often used to help us become more mindful of the prayer we are about to say or the mitzvah we are about to enact. Throughout the holidays, we also heard much of a term called "teshuvah." Most often, it is translated as repentance or return. But according to the Hasidic leader, Rebbe Zusia of Onipol (1718-1800), *teshuvah* can be seen in a different light.

Instead of reading *teshuvah* literally, Rebbe Zusia saw each of its five Hebrew letters standing for a salient verse from our tradition. Thus, for the Tav, he chose the verse: "Thou shalt be wholehearted with the Lord, thy God." (Deut.18:13) For the Shin, he used the verse from the Book of Psalms (16:8): "I have set the Lord before me always." For the Vav, he chose: "But thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." (Lev. 19:18) The letter Vet is associated with this verse from Proverbs 3:6: "In all thy ways, acknowledge Him." And for the Heh at the end of *teshuvah*, he suggested: "To walk humbly with thy God." (Micah 6:8)

Reb Zusia said these five verses constitute the essence of our faith. But if you look deeply at all of these verses, they are asking us to be aware – of God, ourselves and our neighbors, and of the moment in which we live. The question for me is whether you can fulfill these verses without at the same time being mindful. I doubt it. Indeed, the challenge and essence of the High Holy Days is to help us feel more repentant, more aware and more mindful and thus closer to Hashem. Sounds to me like "Reb" Jon Kabat-Zinn is on to something!▲

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.

How important is the synagogue to you?

In early October, Melinda and I spent four wonderful days visiting friends in Bethlehem, New Hampshire, in the White Mountains. They belong to a congregation I helped revive in the '90s. On the way up from Boston, we also stopped in Derry, New Hampshire, near the Massachusetts line, to visit another happy little congregation that I founded 27 years ago. For seven years I divided my time between my own new congregation in the south of the state and another one founded in 1919 that needed help above Franconia Notch.

We arrived at the spectacular peak of the foliage season and were totally engulfed by explosions of red, yellow and orange. While there, Melinda and I also merrily wore ourselves out climbing Mt. Willard along a very rocky sloping trail. As you can imagine, living over 20 years on Florida's relentless horizontal makes a mountain trail that much more magical (and exhausting)!

I was asked to lead worship on Sabbath eve and teach Torah as is my custom on Sabbath morning. The worship was joyous and, of course, teaching Torah is always exhilarating. Seeing old friends from long ago in both congregations was enough in and of itself to make the whole trip worthwhile! (I moved down here in 1997 as a

single parent so that my son would be closer to grandparents, uncles, aunts and cousins who lived an easy driving distance from here in the Palm Beach area. But I deeply regretted leaving "my" mountains and the change of seasons, both of which, I believe, are needed to nourish and grow the soul. But, as they say, you must bloom where you are planted. Besides, Melinda loves oceans and beaches as much as I love mountains and seasons, and we are making this mixed marriage work!)

But here is what I really wanted to share with you about our trip. Our people in these little towns really cherish their synagogues and struggle to keep them prospering. It is part of the very bone and marrow of their lives. These little congregations are hardly just places where they drop off their kids on Sunday mornings, nor are they merely settings to stage bar and bat mitzvahs for family and friends. They are way too important to them to permit petty grievances and destructive fishbowl politics to get in the way.

Maybe that's a true measure of just how important the synagogue is to you. Are you willing to put your ego needs on the backburner for the sake of your synagogue, or do you feel that "everyone is entitled to YOUR opinion?" If it's the former, you belong in a synagogue and your presence is appreciated. If it's the latter, why not join a bowling league instead?▲
Rabbi Bruce Diamond serves at The Community Free Synagogue in Fort Myers.

The beauty of our Southwest Florida home

On Sunday, September 23, as the Jewish festival of Sukkot was about to begin, our congregation, Bat Yam Temple of the Islands, joined our host congregation, Sanibel Congregational UCC, so ably pastored by Dr. John Danner, for an extraordinary morning of sharing and solidarity.

Sukkot is the Jewish harvest festival. In its celebration lie the roots of our American Thanksgiving.

On Sukkot we celebrate that the earth has yielded food for us to eat in the Jewish year just begun. But this year we decry how we have abused the earth that God has entrusted to our care.

When Vickie and I came to Sanibel for the first time in the spring of 2017, the waters were beautiful. Fish jumped, dolphins swam, and the docile manatees plodded along beneath the surface. Birds of every size and color decorated the air.

When we arrived this year in late August, there were no dolphins, fish or manatees to be seen. No pelicans dive-bombed into the Gulf for their daily sustenance.

We are shocked the by devastation that pollution, red tide and green algae have wrought on Sanibel and the surrounding area. We want the earth to continue to yield food. We want our Southwest Florida home to be a place of beauty and abundant land and sea creatures once again. We want those who depend on tourism to earn their livelihoods.

Sukkot is over. We have taken down our booths, but the struggle to save our Southwest Florida home from devastation must continue.

When, a Midrash teaches, God finished creating the world, the Eternal

One addressed humanity, saying, "You are in charge of and responsible for this earth. But it is the only one you will get. So preserve and enhance it. Do not pollute or destroy it." (Kohelet Rabbah, 7:13)

A Hasidic story tells that once there was a goat with horns so long and beautiful that when he lifted his head, he could touch the stars, and they would sing the most beautiful melody that anyone had ever heard.

One day, a man encountered the goat, and thought, "I could make my wife a gorgeous jewelry box for her birthday from a piece of the goat's horns."

The man approached the tame and friendly goat and asked, "May I cut just a small piece of one of your horns. It won't hurt, and I'll just take a small piece." The goat lowered his head.

Hi wife adored the beautiful jewelry box. When she showed it to her friends, they wanted one just like it, and many others cut off a small piece of one of the goat's horns. Soon, of course, the goat could no longer reach the stars, and that most beautiful melody was forever silenced.

Do we hope to pass on a beautiful and healthful environment to our children and grandchildren? Then we must find a way to restore the horns of the goat. We must do a much better job than we are now of taking care of our planet.

I am not a scientist, so I don't have the formula to clean up the mess we have made. But I know that restoring the beauty of our Southwest Florida home requires the efforts of all of us. We must join forces to demand that our government pass the laws and spend the money to do what must be done to save this once beautiful corner of the world we have made our home. We must do it now, before it is too late.▲
Rabbi Stephen Lewis Fuchs serves at Bat Yam Temple of the Islands on Sanibel Island.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Community Service

Thanksgiving is truly an all-American holiday. Across the United States, people of all faiths and ethnicities celebrate this holiday of gratitude. Here in Fort Myers, the Wednesday before Thanksgiving is also an opportunity to connect with other faith groups, learn about and observe their unique rituals and expressions of thanks, and build relationships among different religious communities.

For the third year in a row, the interfaith community will gather for the annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Community Service. Temple Beth El is proud to host this event on Wednesday, November 21 at 6:00 p.m.

One thing I am looking forward to about the service is that each faith will share a ritual, prayer or tradition that is genuine and authentic to their religion. We will honor our diverse expressions of gratitude to God, however we understand the divine. Jews will be invited to blow the shofar, Unitarians are invited to light their Flaming Chalice, Buddhists to play their Tibetan singing bowl, Muslims and Christians of various denominations to share prayers and sing praise songs.

I hope you will join us for this year's Interfaith Thanksgiving Community Service at Temple Beth El, 16225 Winkler Road, Fort Myers.

May your celebration of Thanksgiving be abundant and full of blessings.▲
Rabbi Nicole Luna serves at Temple Beth El in Fort Myers.



■ Rabbi Michael J. Schorin



■ Rabbi Stephen Fuchs



■ Rabbi Bruce Diamond



■ Rabbi Nicole Luna

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Lighting Shabbat candles

I heard a new Jewish story recently and, however farfetched, I believe it is true.

A Chabad rabbi goes to a town in far western Alaska. He is looking for Jews. The rabbi visits the mayor of the town and asks if he knows of anyone Jewish in the area. The mayor says he does not but, as long as the rabbi is in the area, it would be nice to have a multicultural event. The rabbi could teach people about Jews and Judaism, and he could learn about Eskimo culture.

The rabbi visits a fifth-grade class in a public school and asks if anyone had met a Jew before. One girl raised her hand. The rabbi asked, "Who?" And the girl said, "My mother." The rabbi, taken aback, asked, "Where's your mother?" The girl pointed to the teacher of the classroom, "My mother is the teacher!"

Later, the woman explained that she grew up in "the lower 48," met and fell in love with someone from Alaska and moved there. Then she said, "This may be the only time my daughter meets a rabbi. Can you teach her something that will help her feel the power

of Judaism?" The rabbi taught the girl about Shabbat and explained that Jewish mothers and their daughters began the Shabbat by lighting candles on Friday nights. The rabbi asked the girl, "On any Friday, where do you think is the first place in the world where Shabbat candles are lit?" The girl, knowing something about geography, said, "New Zealand or Australia." The rabbi complimented her and explained that, from there, candles would be lit in Asia, Israel, in European cities, then on the east coast of the United States and across the country. The rabbi continued, "This town is probably the last place on the planet where Shabbat candles will be lit on any Friday. You and your mother can complete the process of ushering in the Shabbat for Jews around the world."

The story gave me chills. How often do we rabbis get such an exquisite opportunity to bring Judaism into someone's life? I don't know whether the girl and her mother lit Shabbat candles after meeting the rabbi. I do think the rabbi "nailed it" in helping that girl feel the power of being Jewish.

I often tell people, "If you can only do one thing Jewish, light Shabbat candles. Those candles will bring Judaism into your home." The ritual has multiple layers: the fire of the candles draws our attention; it helps us feel

God's presence and the power of our tradition. And we know we are connected to Jews throughout the world who are bringing that light into their own homes as well.

Years ago, I was teaching a conversion candidate who was active in the local Chamber of Commerce. She was coordinating a business group that met for dinner on Friday nights. She could never make it to synagogue, and she rarely got home before 9:00 p.m. As a Conservative rabbi I was trained to promote traditional Jewish law, but I swallowed hard and said, "I don't care what time you get home. Light your candles, say a blessing with your husband, and have a small meal together, even if it is coffee and dessert. Make it Shabbat in your home."

Except for books with God's name in them, we Jews don't have sacred items. And while we may have some sacred places, like Jerusalem and the Kotel, not all Jews can be there together. What ties us Jews together is sacred time and the rites we use to mark them. At the top of this list is lighting

Shabbat candles.

One more story. A woman who was raised very traditionally did nothing Jewish in her home as an adult until her grandmother died and her mother offered her something from her grandmother's home. "I want her Shabbat candlesticks," she said. And she lit them every Friday night saying, "I'm not that religious but I do this in memory of my grandmother." No doubt the woman remembered her grandmother fondly when she lit the candlesticks on Friday afternoons. But perhaps her feelings ran deeper, and she felt the power of Jewish tradition, even God's presence, to which her grandmother was so devoted. It was those Shabbat lights that connected her to God, our heritage and the Jewish people throughout the world.

If one can do only one Jewish thing, it should be lighting Shabbat candles. They bring the power of our tradition with them.▲

Rabbi Marc Sack serves at Temple Judea in Fort Myers.



■ Rabbi Marc Sack

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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 Mitzah 10:30 a.m. Saturday
Religious School: 9:30 a.m.-noon Sunday
Hebrew School: 5:00-6:30 p.m. Wednesday
Judaica Gift Gallery
Affiliated: Union for Reform Judaism

TEMPLE BETH SHALOM

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

BAT YAM TEMPLE OF THE ISLANDS

REFORM
Meets at Sanibel Congregational Church 2050 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel Island
Rabbi Stephen L. Fuchs
President: Alan Lessack
Phone: 239-579-0296 (Oct-Apr)
773-251-8862 (May-Sept)
Email: batyamsanibel@gmail.com
Cantor: Murray Simon
Web site: www.batyam.org
Services: 7:30 p.m. Friday (Oct-Apr)
7:00 p.m. Friday (May-Sept)
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

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HARBOR AND THE GULF ISLANDS
REFORM
23190 Utica Ave., P.O. Box 494675
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Rabbi Solomon Agin
President: Gary Wein
Phone: (941) 625-2116
E-mail: shalom06@netzero.com
Web site: templeshalomfl.com
Services: 7:30 p.m. Friday
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Advanced Hebrew: Thursday 4:15 - 5:15 p.m.
Organizations: Sisterhood
Affiliated: Union for Reform Judaism

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IN LEE & CHARLOTTE COUNTIES

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TEMPLE JUDEA

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14486 A&W Bulb Road, Fort Myers, FL 33908
Rabbi Marc Sack
E-mail: rabbi@tjswfl.org
President: Dan Fox
Director of Congregational Learning:
Tab Scribner
Preschool Director: Joann Goldman
templejudeapreschool@gmail.com
Phone: 433-0201 • Fax: 433-3371
E-mail: tjswfl@gmail.com
Web site: www.tjswfl.org
Services: 6:15 p.m. Friday and 9:30 a.m.
Saturday Minyan: 9:00 a.m. Monday
Religious School: Sun. 9:30 a.m.-noon;
Wed. 4:30-6 p.m.
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Web site: www.chabadcape.com
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Hebrew School: Sunday 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
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- 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
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Chabad of Charlotte County Hebrew School is in full swing. We have friendly, caring teachers; affordable tuition; and fun, hands-on lessons. No

synagogue membership is required.

Join us for a Children's Shabbat Dinner on Friday, November 9. The event is open to all community children. RSVP required to sheinapg@gmail.com. For more information, call 941.258.0188.

Candle lighting times:



- November 2: 6:26**
- November 9: 5:22**
- November 16: 5:19**
- November 23: 5:17**
- November 30: 5:17**

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

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:

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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: This is what is trending at Temple Beth El Religious School. It is 9:00 a.m. on a Sunday morning. Students and their parents enter a warm and welcoming sanctuary where Rabbi Luna is ready to engage our families in a 20-minute *tefillah* (prayer program). Everyone is alert and ready to start the day. The *tefillah* is engaging and interactive. The Shema and the Barechu and blessings of every day are meaningful and every participant is encouraged to share all of the things they are thankful for in their lives. Rabbi Luna concludes with the parents blessing their children. I could not think of a better way to start the day.

We then move to our classrooms and Hebrew is studied in a variety of interactive ways – and not just from a textbook. Students use a variety of materials to learn their Aleph Bet. For example: magnetic letters on a board as the students put letters in order and so forth. A plethora of resources are used to enhance the Hebrew learning. This has generated so much enthusiasm for our teachers as well as our students.

Snack time is another great chance for our students to develop camaraderie with their peers. Yes, each week we have challah and drinks and other such goodies. However, this is another educational opportunity for our students to practice reciting *berachot* over different foods and to appreciate the gifts we have received from G-d.

We then move back to our classrooms to study Judaica. This month I will focus on kindergarten and grade one. Morah Tursky uses *A Child's Garden of Torah*, which teaches and explores the Torah portion for every week. It is a great synopsis and developmentally appropriate for this age group. Morah Tursky makes the Torah come to life.

We have electives this year. We offer cooking with Neena Kushner, who has graciously offered to help us out every week. We are eternally grateful and blessed for her dedication and sup-

port of Temple Beth El Religious School. Neena will share recipes with our students to imbue them with Jewish culture and traditions.

We also offer music, which will be taught by Randy Kashi and me. Our traditional music, as well as modern Israeli music, will be taught from a variety of genres. We will also use a variety of instruments and hand motions to become more interactive with the music.

Our final elective will be art. We will have a special guest teacher, Sallie Hirshberg, who will teach periodically. Since Sallie is in the art business, we are excited for her to share her expertise with us. On other days, classroom teachers Amy Shinbaum, Barbara Tursky, Hilary Stone and I will teach art to our classes as well.

Our electives will rotate every three weeks, so every student will be able to experience a variety of Jewish opportunities to be exposed to for their wonderful Jewish education.

We consecrated seven new students into the Religious School during our Simchat Torah celebration. Rabbi Luna performed a wonderful ceremony for the children and their families. There is nothing better than seeing all of the enthusiasm from our students and their Temple Beth El family.

Our next Junior Congregation will be held on Saturday, November 17 from 9:00 to 10:15 a.m. in the sanctuary with Morah Dale. This is a mandatory part of our curriculum for grades 4-7.

On November 3, Sarah Glass will be called up to the Torah as a bat mitzvah.

On November 10, Colin Taschner will be called up to the Torah as a bar mitzvah.

We are so proud of our students and their tremendous accomplishments on this most special day.

Please note: The Religious School will not be in session on Sunday, November 25.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of the children and their families a very happy and healthy Thanksgiving holiday (*Yom Ha Hoda'ah*).



Rabbi Nicole Luna with students holding up a chuppah



Cooking with Neena Kushner: Students decorate Jewish stars, Torahs and Hebrew letters

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**TEMPLE JUDEA SCHOOLS
Fort Myers**

*Tab Scribner,
Director of Congregational Learning*
Now that the High Holidays have winded down, I have a moment to catch my breath and look back on what we've accomplished and look ahead at what is still to come. It's been a whirlwind and humbling.

We hosted family and children's services for Rosh Hashanah, as well as a plethora of children's activities geared toward the holiday. Stories and games filled the morning, and apples and honey filled their bellies.

No sooner had we sound the shofar, we hosted family and children's services for Yom Kippur, followed by children's activities. Our shlichah, Zohar ben Hamu, led our children in building a replica of the Western Wall, to where they brought their wishes for the year to come. A "pin-the-tail-on-the-donkey" style activity based on *het* (sin) gave our children an opportunity to recognize and acknowledge mistakes and identify better choices going forward.

Another activity, playfully called "Teshuvah Texts," put real-life events into preprinted "screens" allowing the children to read the impact of their choices and choose among a range of possible messages to "send" in return. Additionally, our 5th and 6th grade students acted out *Jonah* for the younger students and families who had gathered to conclude the morning. In true Temple Judea fashion, the children returned later that evening for their moment to parade in front of the congregation to finish Ne'ilah. I can't count how many people shared their joy in having the children join the congregation to conclude the evening.

Before I could turn the calendar page we celebrated Sukkot Shabbat and consecration of several students on September 28. Our 6th and 7th grade students joined Rabbi Sack to lead parts of the service. The evening concluded in the sukkah with a delicious Israeli falafel dinner prepared by Zohar ben Hamu. It was a delight to see so many families under the lights of the sukkah enjoying Shabbat dinner together.

I could barely turn around before we hosted another dinner for Erev Simchat Torah. The procession of Sifrieh Torah was led by 1st grade student Asher Moon.

Just when I thought it was safe to go back in the water, it became b'nai mitzvah season at Temple Judea. (The similarities to shark week are uncanny.) On October 6, Benjamin Manekin, son of Jennifer and Larry Manekin, was called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah. The following week, on October 13, Emily Polk, daughter of Carin and Michael Polk, was called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah. Some time after these events, I finally took a moment to investigate the viral baby shark video. A fun time was had by all.

Looking forward, I am most excited about getting our youth minyan and

family Shabbat services started. This will give our students a more kid-friendly Shabbat service that allows them to take ownership of leading the service at their level in a family-friendly setting. I am hopeful that these new opportunities will help serve the needs of our growing congregation.

*Joann Goldman,
Temple Judea Preschool Director*
We love November as we smell the popcorn, listen to the sounds of drums, touch the soft feathers, taste the stone soup and see our Native American village. During November, we will concentrate on food, nutrition and Thanksgiving. The children will be involved in learning about healthy foods and will have fun doing projects that increase their awareness of good food. We will discuss the "First Thanksgiving" and the many ways the Native Americans helped the Pilgrims survive. The children will have the opportunity to pop popcorn, string popcorn and make stone soup. We will conclude this theme with a listening play, which the pre-k class will perform for their parents on November 17.

The children enjoyed the wonderful puppet show that our local firefighters put on for them. They had a great time singing and dancing with the puppets.

The children are looking forward to putting on their own performance of "Wa, Wa Wa and Wa Wa Wa" to celebrate Thanksgiving. Our Thanksgiving play will take place on November 13 at 9:30 a.m. They have been rehearsing and having a blast. They can't wait to wear their special costumes.

One of our themes this month will be Multicultural Week. We will learn about the various cultures that our preschool families identify with. We invite our parents to join us and share the customs and traditions they grew up with. This is a fun time for our students and families.

When entering the pre-k classroom, you will hear singing, laughing and talking, which takes place during circle time. This is the start of children's day. Whether they are participating in calendar time, letterbox, songs, movement or sharing a story, the children love circle time. We encourage parents to join us for circle time. You will walk away singing, laughing and feeling great. What a way to start the day!

Join our book club at TJP

Would you like to donate a children's book to our book club? When you or your child have a birthday, bring your favorite children's book to our preschool. We will write your name and birthdate in the book and read it to our students. If you would like to schedule a time to read your favorite book, please call the preschool. We welcome you to our Birthday Book Club.

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SHALOM LIFE CENTER**Fort Myers****(239) 218-3433***Lawrence & Robin Dermer*

Judaism is so much more than a system of laws and commandments. It's a system of values. One of the most fundamental values in Jewish thought is gratitude. We give thanks to G-d for implanting within us eternal life, to our parents for giving us physical life and gratitude for our sustenance and safety. In short, our Torah is teaching us that the two greatest words in the English language are "thank you."

If we feel that everything we've gained and achieved is due only to our own efforts and wisdom, then we have become arrogant and this can lead to both personal and national destruction.

We are called to bless G-d throughout our day as a constant reminder of the value of gratitude that should be

a strong force in our life and outlook. Often times we complain about what we feel is missing and what we don't have rather than look what we've accomplished and all that we have to be truly thankful for. The choice is ours: the glass can be half full or half empty.

In Judaism, Thanksgiving is traditionally mentioned three times every day, in the "Birkat Hoda'ah" or "Thanksgiving Blessing." We also give thanks by saying a blessing before we eat with the Birkat Hamazon or grace after meals after we eat. Articulating our gratitude to G-d for the lush bounty of the earth is also a very Jewish thing to do. We say "Modim anachnu lach: We are thankful..." Every day of the year we're called to keep God's blessing on our lips and in our hearts.

Our generation has been blessed to witness events that no one thought were possible just a few years ago. How

can we be anything other than grateful for living in a time when the Jewish homeland, Eretz Yisrael, has been miraculously established, grown and flourished beyond our wildest dreams? We have returned to the promised land after 1,900 years in exile. Gratitude! We should be grateful for the freedom to practice and express ourselves Jewishly whether we choose to live here in the U.S. or in Israel.

We are thankful to be living longer to appreciate all that G-d has blessed us with. Advances in medicine have dramatically increased the average lifespan of people in much of the world in just the past century. Families, who a few decades ago only hoped and dreamed of seeing their grandchildren, now have a realistic expectation of not only seeing their great-grandchildren but being present at family simchas.

This year when we celebrate Thanksgiving, may we have a greater understanding that the American val-

ues we have celebrated for hundreds of years are firmly rooted in the Jewish traditions and values we have observed for thousands of years. This year may we all bring an attitude of gratitude toward everyone in our lives as we give thanks to G-d who is the source of all our shared ideals and our beloved Torah. May we be determined to partner with G-d to repair the world through acts of generosity, caring and loving kindness.

Thank you for giving us an opportunity to share our joyful, musical and meaningful Shalom Life Center with you. We express our gratitude by promising to bring even more innovative, creative, inspirational and exciting programs, special events, concerts, guest speakers and services in 5779! For more information, visit www.shalomlifecenter.org, email us at info@shalomlifecenter.org or call 239.218.3433.

HADASSAH**Collier/Lee Chapter****(239) 301-0509****Thanksgiving in Israel***Shelley Skelton*

For those of us in America, Thanksgiving is often associated with our families gathered together, sitting around a table with a carved turkey as the main attraction, along with various other traditional accompaniments – such as sweet potatoes, green bean casseroles and, in my house, the welcome addition of matzo ball soup and a sweet noodle kugel. Each family develops its own traditions, but despite how one celebrates or what food is on the table, my parents always encouraged us not to make this holiday all about the food. It was a time to welcome friends and extended family, and to think about how much there is to be grateful for every single day.

In Israel, Thanksgiving is celebrated mainly by Americans who have immigrated and brought their tradi-

tions with them. In fact, many will have just finished celebrating what they consider the "real" Thanksgiving, which is

Sukkot!

(The text in the next three paragraphs in my article is available from several sites on the internet, but it looks like the original text should be attributed to food-blogger Tori Avey's September 22, 2010, article.) You might have noticed that the Sukkot holiday resembles the American tradition of Thanksgiving. Believe it or not, the similarities between Sukkot and Thanksgiving actually have a historical frame of reference. Before coming to the New World, the Pilgrims lived for a short time among Sephardic Jews in Holland. In fact, our American Thanksgiving tradition may have been indirectly inspired by the Jewish holiday of Sukkot. And, if you look closely, the Thanksgiving cornucopia bears a strong resemblance to the Jewish shofar, blown during Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

This possible tie between Thanksgiving and Sukkot is pretty intriguing and can be seen on many symbolic levels. While harvest festivals were not unique during that time period, there are some particular aspects of Thanksgiving that seem at least loosely connected to Sukkot. The first Thanksgiving meal, in 1621, was said to have been eaten out-of-doors, which would correspond to the Sukkot tradition of dining outside in the sukkah. Sukkot, like Thanksgiving, is a holiday of welcoming; the Pilgrims welcomed Native Americans to the original Thanksgiving table just as Jews are encouraged to welcome friends and extended family to dine in the sukkah. And of course, there's the food: both Sukkot and Thanksgiving feature bountiful menus of delicious, seasonally inspired foods.

Beyond these details, we know very little about that first Thanksgiving meal. We do know that it was a multi-day celebration, similar to Sukkot. Some accounts say it lasted three days, others say seven. Over the years, it became customary to celebrate a single

day of thanks during the harvest season, which evolved into the holiday we now celebrate as Thanksgiving.

Of historical note, Thanksgiving did not become a "fixed holiday" in America until Abraham Lincoln declared it as such in 1863. However, it did not have a firm date until Congress established one – the fourth Thursday of each November – in 1941.

An American moving to Israel knows many things about how one's life will change. A new language will have to be learned, a new culture must be recognized, and one must give up lots of things about the old way of life. But there are some things in life you can give up and some things you'd never dream of letting go. A traditional Thanksgiving is one of the things that most Americans choose not to give up in the Holy Land.

And while we may never know if the first Thanksgiving was directly inspired by Sukkot, it is fun to ponder!

HUMANISTIC JEWISH HAVURAH of Southwest Florida**(239) 495-8484****A Humanist's view of Jewish identity***Paula Creed*

Rabbi Sherwin Wine, founder of Humanistic Judaism and the Birmingham Temple in Michigan, was my rabbi until his untimely death in the summer of 2007. He left a prodigious legacy, not only founding the first Humanistic Jewish congregation, but also the Society for Humanistic Judaism, our national organization, the International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism, the body charged with training our leaders, including our Humanistic Jewish rabbis, as well as many secular Jewish coalitions. Additionally, he was an influential member of the American Humanists Association, receiving its prestigious Humanist of the Year award.

This month I turn to Rabbi Wine's

writings in the *Guide to Humanistic Judaism*, a publication distributed to every new member of the Humanistic Jewish Havurah.

This book provides a wealth of information about our movement that many describe as the fifth branch of Judaism. If you are moved by Wine's words as they appear below, know that membership in the Humanistic Jewish Havurah of Southwest Florida is an experience you will find to be a fulfilling expression of your own individual Jewish identity.

Rabbi Wine wrote:

"It might be presumed that after three thousand years of Jewish existence, it should be possible to describe precisely what the Jews are. However, due to the singular character of Jewish history, a clear accurate definition of Jewish identity is exceedingly difficult to formulate. The dispersion of the Jews among other nations throughout most of their existence, their partici-

pation in widely diverse cultures, and the lack of a unifying religious commitment shared by all Jews make it impossible to define the Jews except as a unique people; a transnational, transcultural, transreligious, yet identifiable people.

Being Jewish is a social, psychological and historical identity. The large number of Jewish secularists, atheists, agnostics and otherwise unaffiliated Jews belies the popular assumption that Jews constitute a religious community. Jews are united, not by theological conviction, but by social identification (with ethnic overtones) and ancestral roots. Jews are free to believe whatever they wish. Membership in the Jewish people via birth or choice, rather than religious commitment, gives them their Jewish identity. There are Jews who believe in God, many who do not, and some who are unsure. All are equally Jewish insofar as they affirm their connection to the community of persons known as Jews.

More basic than Jews' beliefs and more significant than their politics or ethnics is their history. Jews share a sense of participating in a historical continuum that reaches back to biblical times. One may be born into the Jewish

continuum or one may choose to participate in it. In either case, Jewishness is not a religious or ideological identity. Nor is it a national or racial identity. It is a historical identity. Jews are an evolving historical people.

Jewish identity is pluralistic. Given the complex nature of the Jewish historical experience and the many and contradictory beliefs and commitments that Jews have accepted over the centuries, the meaning and significance of Jewish identity depend upon the perspective of the individual Jew. A person's desire to identify himself or herself as a Jew – to identify with the Jewish people, its history and future – is sufficient reason for membership in the Jewish community.

The growth and development of Humanistic Jewish communities enrich the life of the wider Jewish community. Humanistic Jewish communities reach out and attract many unaffiliated, uncommitted and unconnected Jews, promoting pluralism and Jewish survival."

The Humanistic Jewish Havurah offers a unique combination of adherence to universal Humanistic ideals coupled strongly with recognition of the value of our Jewish culture. Please join us.

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

We will meet for dinner at Roadhouse Cafe (15660 San Carlos Blvd., Fort Myers) with the date still to be set. If you are interested in joining us, please send a note to tjhazak@gmail.com and we will let you know once the date and time are decided.

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 Chap-

ters 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.

Temple Judea's HAZAK has wonderful future programs planned for 2018-2019. Members of the community are always welcome to attend our programs. For more information, contact us at the email address noted above or call Temple Judea at 239.433.0201.

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JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

(239) 566-1771

The unifying power of J

Marina Berkovich

We do not see eye-to-eye on a variety of issues, like diets, books, music, politics, words, practices, sentiments, stances, etc. Name a category, and I bet we differ in our view of it. The framework of our mindsets, education and experience, as well as the context, manner and form of our expressions and other parameters, separate us, sometimes irreparably or seemingly so. And then there is that unifying majestic mystifying power of a J as in Jew.

As we climb up the ladder of life, we advance or reverse our tastes, opinions and positions, but whatever we do, whoever we become, wherever we are – we are Jews.

I believe it is a blessing that human beings are not made from the same mold. It would be disastrously boring if we were, wouldn't it? Nei-

ther our friends nor our foes could ever surprise us with anything. In fact, would we even have foes if everyone thought the same, said the same, felt the same and acted the same? How could we know then what a friend is?

There is a spectrum of Jews currently in this region, where just a few decades ago we were but a short list of people to exclude. We have turned many foes into friends. We are all unified in our Jewish impact.

At the Jewish Historical Society of Southwest Florida, we celebrate the Jews who have taken significant steps to establish, develop, improve, diversify, unify and promote the very Jewish presence in this region. Many among us belong to organizations now that have that J in it – Jewish Federation, JFCS, Jewish Society, Jewish Havurah, etc. It is not a competition in besting one another. I see it now as a quest for Jewish unity with all roads leading each Jew to being as Jewish as he or she wants. Together, we create and cultivate the

environment of acceptance and respect for any subsequent Jewish resident, visitor, elected official, professional or business owner. We are each responsible for one another through that power of J.

Just after Rosh Hashanah, together with WCA, we welcomed back one of Southwest Florida's Jewish Pioneers, Naples own homebuilder extraordinaire, Stuart Kaye, who led the fascinating discussion following the presentation of the JHSSWF film about his life and achievements.

On Wednesday, November 7 at 6:00 p.m., the Timeline of Southwest Florida Jewish History will be presented by the Collier County Museum's Cultural Conversations at 3331 Tamiami Trail East, Naples. Tickets are \$10 and include light refreshments; free for members of the Friends of Collier County Museums. Limited seating is available so your RSVP to 239.252.8476 is highly recommended.

The Museum press release says: "Cultural Conversations is an opportunity to learn about and appreciate the

influences of the diverse cultures that make their home in our region."

On Monday, December 17 at 4:00 p.m. at the Jewish Federation of Greater Naples office, a friend of JHSSWF, Emil G. Hirsch, who is the descendant of several world-famous rabbis and scholars, will speak about his ancestors and their prominent impact on the United States' Jewish presence in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Please note our contact information has changed:
The Jewish Historical Society of Southwest Florida
8805 Tamiami Trail North
Suite # 255
Naples FL 34108
833-547-7935
office@jhsswf.org
www.jhsswf.org

The Jewish Historical Society of Southwest Florida is a section 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Contributions are deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

GENERATIONS OF THE SHOAH SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

(239) 963-9347

Stirring films, Kristallnacht

Commemoration, book discussions

Ida Margolis

How often do you think about the rights and freedoms that we have today in the U.S.? How often are we grateful to those who worked and fought for the many rights and freedoms granted to U.S. citizens?

Most of those who attend GenShoah programs are very aware of what can happen when civil rights and basic freedoms are taken away from citizens. Jews began losing rights in Germany in 1933. In 1936, Jews were banned from all professional jobs and from participation in education, politics and industry. On the night of November 9, 1938, in Germany and Austria, Nazi government-sponsored anti-Jewish riots took place. Storefronts of Jewish shops and offices were smashed and many syna-

gogues burned. Known as Kristallnacht, this was a turning point in the history of the Holocaust.

GenShoah SWFL is grateful to the Catholic-Jewish Dialogue of Collier County, the Jewish Federation of Greater Naples and others for sponsoring an annual Kristallnacht Commemoration. This year, which is the 80th anniversary of Kristallnacht, the Commemoration will be held on Sunday, November 4 at 2:30 p.m. at Temple Shalom. All members of the community are invited to attend. If you are a Second Generation (2g) and are able to attend the event, please email me at genshoahswfl@gmail.com.

The mission of GenShoah SWFL – promotion of Holocaust education and human rights, preservation of the history and memories of the Holocaust, connection of the Second Generation to one another, and support of the Holocaust Museum & Janet G. and Harvey D. Cohen Educational Center – will be reflected in GenShoah pro-

grams throughout the season.

Along with other members of the Human Rights Film Coalition of SWFL, GenShoah is presenting "Movies That Matter," important and inspirational films that will educate and facilitate discussion of human rights topics. *Freedom to Marry* will be presented on Thursday, November 1 at 7:00 p.m. at Temple Shalom, and *John Lewis - Get in the Way* will be screened on Tuesday, November 13 at 7:00 p.m. at Moorings Park. The screening of the films will be followed by a panel discussion and a Q&A. To reserve your seat, go to Events at www.HolocaustMuseumSWFL.org. On Thursday, November 14 at 2:00 p.m. there will be a discussion of the book *Mountains Beyond Mountains* about Dr. Paul Farmer. He is the subject of the film *Bending the Arc*, which will be screened on Monday, December 10 at 6:00 p.m. Both of these programs will take place at the South Regional Library, 8065 Lely Cultural Parkway.

For those who want to get a head

start on reading, members of GenShoah SWFL will discuss the book *Violins of Hope* at the annual potluck on Sunday, December 16. Space is very limited for this event and RSVPs to shirleybesikof@gmail.com are required. The Holocaust Museum will be presenting programs relating to *Violins of Hope* this December. For more information, visit the Museum's website or read the GenShoah monthly newsletter.

Since GenShoah SWFL is an affinity group of the Holocaust Museum and does not charge membership dues, we have requested that all those who receive the GenShoah newsletter and who are interested in GenShoah programs be members of the Museum. For those not currently members, call the Museum at 239.263.9200 or visit www.HolocaustMuseumSWFL.org. For more information about GenShoah, send an email to genshoahswfl@gmail.com.

ZIONIST ORG. of AMERICA Southwest Florida Chapter

(914) 329-1024

The Holocaust: What the U.S. government and American people knew at the time

Jerrold L. Sobel

On the evening of Friday, November 9, Jewish people around the world will memorialize one of the most sordid events in their glorious, but often tragic history – the 80th anniversary of Kristallnacht (night of the broken glass).

During a 48-hour period, a carefully orchestrated anti-Jewish event erupted throughout Germany and Austria, which by that time had already been included in the Third Reich. In those dark hours, rioters burned or damaged more than 1,000 synagogues, ransacked and broke the windows of more than 7,500 businesses, and 30,000 Jewish men between the ages of 16 and 60 were arrested and sent to concentration camps. Ninety-one Jews were killed; Jewish cemeteries were vandalized; hospitals, homes and schools were badly damaged or destroyed; and many cases of rape were reported.

The cost of glass alone exceeded \$400 million in 1938 dollars, which the Nazis confiscated from any claims that insurance companies paid to Jews; not to speak of an additional \$400 million

in collective punishment for being the victims of these atrocities. Apropos, the name Kristallnacht was attached to this pogrom, for during those two nights, along with the broken glass went the dreams and aspirations of German Jews and soon to be those of all Europe.

From earliest times, predating the modern era, during the Middle Ages and onward, Jews have been accustomed to indiscriminate violence. For millennia they served at the whim of the monarchy, nobility and Church, only to be set upon and scapegoated when their services were no longer essential. During these epochs, they suffered innumerable violence, incalculable property damage, wanton attacks upon women and children, and death to hundreds of thousands of people. As the 20th century dawned, Jews were certainly not new to pogroms, except their extent and virulence became exponentially greater.

Many students of 20th century history view Kristallnacht and the Holocaust as a natural outgrowth of three particularly distinct, well-orchestrated waves of anti-Semitic violence which swept Eastern Europe and Russia at the beginning of the century. It was during these earlier pogroms that Jewish blood was shown to be cheap as international responses to these acts of

barbarism directed against them were nil to none. No doubt the Nazis were emboldened by this as they prepared to put their stamp upon genocide.

From a recent article published by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum: The November 9, 1938, pogroms sparked a wave of outrage among U.S. religious leaders. In the weeks following, there were numerous editorials, radio broadcasts and sermons denouncing the ratcheting up of anti-Semitic violence in Germany. In some instances local Christian clergy invited their Jewish colleagues to address their congregations for the first time. Unfortunately, a great deal of this concern was geared more toward what was happening in the U.S. than the depredations Jews were suffering in Germany.

The 1930s was a time of isolationism in the United States, and anti-Semitism was on the rise. There was a dramatic increase in the number of anti-Jewish groups in the country – from five in 1932 to 120 in 1939 – with the most prominent being the German-American Bund, which openly disseminated pro-Nazi, anti-Semitic propaganda.

As mentioned, Kristallnacht and its aftermath stirred up crossed currents in American ecumenical society as well. On the one hand, rabbis such as Samuel A. Friedman were invited to speak from pulpits such as the Church of the

Pilgrimage. On the other, there was a virulent anti-Semite, Catholic Priest, Father Charles Coughlin, with a radio audience of 3.5 million spewing vile, Jewish hatred during his weekly broadcasts. Somewhere between these two extremes, prominent Christian leaders did show empathy for the plight of European Jewry, but not much of an echo came from ordinary church members.

For young Jewish kids growing up in the '50s it was not uncommon to see survivors of Nazi concentration camps with numbers tattooed on their arms or hear directly from them about the horrors of the camps. As most of these people have passed since then, to the youth of today their stories are nothing more than ancient history. For this reason alone, it's important that parents should bring their children to the following upcoming event:

On Wednesday, November 28 at 7:30 p.m., the ZOA of SWFL is sponsoring a program by Robert Tanen, the Director of the Southeast Region of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, at the Chabad Jewish Center of Naples, 1789 Mandarin Road. His topic of discussion will be "Kristallnacht and the Holocaust: What the U.S. Government and People Knew at the Time." Tickets are \$20 prepaid, \$22 at the door, and \$7 for students. Mail your check, payable to ZOA of SWFL, to 4003 Upolo Lane, Naples, FL 34119.

Reach 5,000 local Jewish residents through L'CHAYIM.

For more information or to place an ad, call Jim Lewin at 239.634.6923.

COMMUNITY FREE SYNAGOGUE

Fort Myers

(239) 466-6671

www.fortmyerssynagogue.com

Once again Cantor Richard McConville, assisted by Corey Rioux, did a masterful job erecting the Community Free sukkah, which was topped off by dozens of volunteers just before the start of Sukkot.

Heartfelt thanks to Steve Starr, Kelly Schwartz, John Incretolli and Arnie Obstein for lavishly decorating our Community Hall for our Simhat Bet Hashoe'vah "Water House" Dance, to Melinda Diamond for the food, and to Total Wines and More for helping us select the top Israeli wines for the wine-tasting. A very special thanks is

extended to D.J. Max Weinberg & Co. for just the right dance tunes and terrific photo booth! We had a ball, perfectly capturing the joyous Sukkot spirit!

Yeyasher Ko'ah to Charlotte Atkins, daughter of Chad Atkins and Debora Antzis, who was the Community Free Synagogue's Kallat Devarim at this year's Simhat Torah celebration, chanting the final 12 verses of Deuteronomy. Congratulation also to her coach, Auxiliary Rabbi Thomas Miess, who chanted the beginning of Genesis as Hattan Brayshit.

Mazel Tov to mother and daughter Arline and Samantha Gallentine, who were called to the Torah as adult bnot mitzvah during Sabbath eve worship on Friday, October 19. They are gradu-

ates of Auxiliary Rabbi Thomas Miess' Hebrew Reading Ulpan and went on to study with Auxiliary Rabbi Terry Goldberg for this special occasion.

In commemoration of Kristallnacht, the 2003 movie *Rosenstrasse* will be screened at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, November 11. Please see the story in this issue for more details.

Our 2019 Israel Pilgrimage is on June 4-15. We limit our group size to 26 participants, so please be sure to get your application in if you are planning to join us. For more details and to download your application, visit www.fortmyerssynagogue.com or email pilgrimage coordinator Arnie Harris at arnieh@embarqmail.com.

Each Friday at 6:30 p.m., The Community Free Synagogue serves a traditional Sabbath dinner. It is free and reservations are never required.

At 7:30 p.m. the Sabbath is welcomed with prayer and song. A coffee hour follows worship.

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

Now in its 14th year, The Community Free Synagogue is an independent synagogue and valued community religious resource. All of its events and programs, including youth and adult Jewish education, are open to all and always free.

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

BAT YAM TEMPLE OF THE ISLANDS

Sanibel

(773) 251-8862

www.batyam.org

For Bat Yam, November means more of our snowbirds have landed and that Cantor Murray Simon will again join with Rabbi Stephen Fuchs at every Friday Shabbat service at 7:30 p.m. We welcome the snowbirds and the "hazzanish" melodies, old and new, sung by Cantor Simon.

November also means that Saturday morning Adult Education classes commence. Rabbi Fuchs will teach Hebrew reading instruction at 9:00 a.m. At 9:30 a.m. he will segue to Bible discussion. It is Vickie Fuchs who has graciously assumed the role of coordinator for the congregant-led segment of the morning. After many years of matching topics and speakers, Esther Pokedoff has retired. Beginning at 10:30 a.m., congregants in November will speak about aspects of the Holo-

caust. There will be no classes on Saturday, November 24 in recognition of the Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

For the first Friday Shabbat service of the month, November 2, bins will be set up for the joint Bat Yam and Sanibel Congregational UCC paper goods drive for F.I.S.H. on Sanibel. Garry and Beth Weiss with granddaughter Charlotte do the set-up and delivery to F.I.S.H. Consider donating paper goods. Due to the ongoing red tide, many workers in the tourist sector, restaurants and retail shops have had their hours and thus their income sharply reduced.

November 9 is Kristallnacht. Bat Yam will memorialize the "Night of Broken Glass" during the Friday Shabbat service.

Rabbi Fuchs is presenting the invocation for the annual Veterans Day Commemoration on Sanibel on Sunday, November 11 at 10:30 a.m. This year's event marks the 100th anniversary of World War I.

One can never thank people enough for their involvement that keeps Bat Yam such an active ongoing Jewish presence. Vickie and Rabbi Fuchs again opened their home for Selichot. Rabbi Fuchs and Cantor Simon brought the themes and melodies of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur to us. David Berger blew the shofar. Mel Bleiberg, Edina Lessack and Allan Sacks spoke from their hearts about their life experiences with Judaism on Rosh Hashanah. Tashlich on the beach, including the seashells, was hosted by Elissa Karasin Samet and Michael Samet. Esta Berger and Miriam Bailey organized the hungrily anticipated Break-the-Fast. Barry and Jay Solomon led the crew again that constructed a sukkah from the arbor at the SCUCC. Wanting to hold and carry the Torah, Alan Lessack assisted Jeannette Keyser allowing her to perform this mitzvah on Simchat Torah. Howard Lorsch, Garry Weiss, Michael Hochschild, Tanya Hochschild, Beth Weiss and Barry Fulmer helped unroll and re-roll the Torah for Simchat Torah

while Rabbi Fuchs provided a tour of the holy document.

Many Bat Yam congregants worship elsewhere for the High Holy Days and may use a different prayer book. There are passages in the *Gates of Repentance*, the 1973 edition of *The New Union Prayer Book for the Days of Awe*, that serve as "food for thought" all year, specifically the Silent Confession text on pages 325 and 326. A representative paragraph is: "How I wish I had learned to master myself; to control my impulses; to curb my craving for pleasure, power and possessions; to display consistently those qualities which are most admirable in others! Have I made any progress at all in this, the greatest of all arts, the art of living? Perhaps a little; certainly not enough."

All Bat Yam services and classes take place on the campus of the Sanibel Congregational UCC located at 2050 Periwinkle Way on Sanibel, where members of the community, guests and visitors are welcome to join with congregants.

CHABAD

Charlotte County

(941) 833-3381

www.chabadofcharlottecounty.com

A new women's course, "Larger than Life, Weaving G-D into the Details," begins Tuesday, November 13 at 7:00 p.m.

Lesson 1: Hide and peek: the right to privacy

Lesson 2: Carried away: the consumed consumer

Lesson 3: The pledge fund: a charitable foundation

Lesson 4: With all due respect: honoring our parents

Lesson 5: Whistle while you work: the balancing act

Lesson 6: Cause and effect: a soul-ar panel on social activism

Lesson 7: On higher ground: with liberty and justice for all

Course fee: \$100 (includes seven classes and course workbook); or \$18 per class

For more information, please call Sheina at 941.258.0188 or visit chabadofcharlottecounty.com.

"A History of the Jews and the Mob" with Myron Sugarman

Wednesday, November 21 at 6:00 p.m. at Chabad of Charlotte County; \$12 by November 17; \$18 thereafter. RSVP required to chabadpg@gmail.com or 941.258.0177.

Chanukah at the Mall

Join Chabad for the 14th annual Community-wide Chanukah Celebration inside the Port Charlotte Town Center Mall in front of Dillard's. Open to the

public free of charge. Enjoy a Grand Menorah Lighting, live music, hot latkes, donuts, crafts and fun for the entire family.

Call 941.833.3381 or visit chabadofcharlottecounty.com for more details

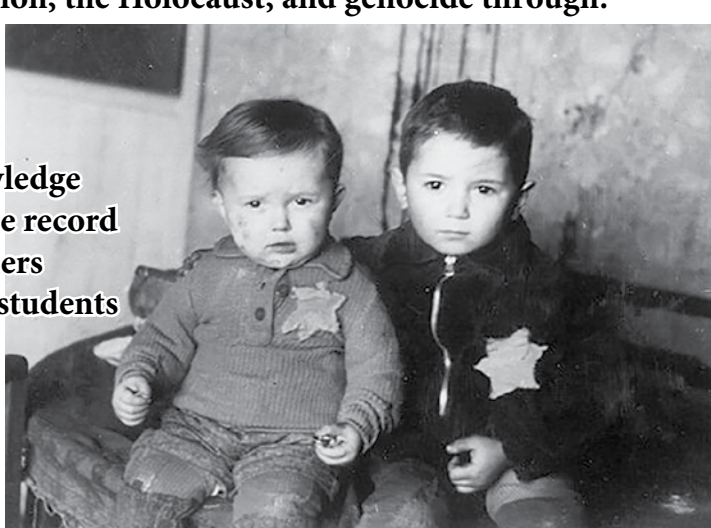
Menorah Lighting at Fisherman's Village

This year we will once again have a Menorah Lighting at Fisherman's Village in Punta Gorda. Join us on Saturday, December 8 at 7:00 p.m. for music and refreshments. For more Chanukah events, visit our website.

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debbiesanford@jfedlcc.org

**TEMPLE BETH EL
Fort Myers**

**(239) 433-0018
www.templebethel.com**

Temple Beth El's High Holy Days season includes a food drive for the Jewish Federation, which distributes food and supplies to local people in need. New this year at TBE is a drive for feminine products for almost a dozen local schools, food pantries and homeless shelters, with guidance from a non-profit organization called Cycle Forward Now (cycleforwardnow.org). The food drive and the feminine products drive are ongoing. Donations may be dropped off at TBE.

On the heels of the High Holy Days, we celebrate our fabulous ordained rabbi and cantor. Our accomplished and scholarly rabbi, Nicole Luna, a CCAR member, has graced TBE's bimah since 2016. Minister-

ing to the congregation via ancient Jewish texts and wisdom, she touches lives with her special brand of caring. Raised by a Jewish mother and a Catholic Hispanic father who converted to Judaism, Rabbi Luna understands the power of a welcoming rabbi and the partnership of the congregation in creating a Jewish family, including the complexity and diversity of Jewish journeys.

Originally from Norfolk, Virginia, Rabbi Luna earned her B.A. from the University of Virginia and her M.A. and ordination from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York City, and was awarded a fellowship to foster future transformational rabbinical leaders. Service at NYU's Langone Medical Center and synagogues in Altoona, Pennsylvania, and Omaha, Nebraska, was followed by five years as solo clergy at Congregation Bayt Shalom in Green-

ville, North Carolina. Through Auburn Theological Seminary's Center for Multifaith Education, she engaged in interfaith work. Building a sacred community at Temple Beth El, Rabbi Luna blends contemporary everyday experience with the intellectual adventure of Jewish wisdom, evidenced in our Talmud & Everyday Living class (each Wednesday at 1:30 p.m.), our Torah study class (each Saturday at 9:00 a.m.) and Lunch & Learn (third Thursday of the month at noon at Starz restaurant). Bringing our true selves into the synagogue, forming relationships with each other and God, putting the spiritual dimension of our lives into practice, Rabbi Luna encourages our practice of Judaism to flow beyond the walls of the synagogue into our everyday interactions.

Cantor Richard Bessman, an invested cantor from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America and member of the Cantors Assembly and the American Conference of Cantors,

has been with Temple Beth El one year as of October 1st. His beautiful tenor voice has enriched our Friday night services as well as our holiday services, simchas and life cycle events. Adding Cantor Bessman to our temple family has been a blessing. Coming to us from Madison, Wisconsin, Cantor Bessman is an experienced cantor, music teacher, religious school teacher and education director, having served congregations across the United States and in Luxembourg and Israel. In choir rehearsals for the holidays, the cantor imparted some great vocal tips, which the singers enjoyed learning from him. He shares his love for Jewish music and lifelong learning with all ages within our congregation.

Note: The Francophone group meets the second Wednesday of the month at noon in the TBE library. Next meeting: November 14.

**TEMPLE JUDEA
Fort Myers**

**(239) 433-0201
www.tjswfl.org**

The busy year continues at Temple Judea. On Sunday, November 4, Chaverot, the synagogue's Sisterhood, will host a Membership Brunch at the home of Kathy Toll. This event is open to all the women of the synagogue, as well as to women in the community not affiliated with another synagogue. There will be an opportunity to join the

Sisterhood at the event if you are not already a member. RSVP to TJChaverotFortMyers@gmail.com.

Chaverot also sponsors a monthly Rosh Hodesh event for women. This "Holiday for Women" is celebrated each month. The first successful Rosh Hodesh celebration was held in October. The next one is scheduled for Thursday, November 8 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the home of Jennifer Manekin. RSVP to the Chaverot email address above.

Future Chaverot events are in the planning stages, including Israeli cooking classes taught by our shlichah, Zohar ben Hamu. Zohar will also be teaching a Young Leadership program for high school students. The purpose of the program is to prepare the teens to transition from the local Jewish community to college, to teach them about Israel and the Middle East, and to enrich them with skills that will help them in their adult lives. The program will begin in January. Stay tuned for more information.

Adult education classes, which began on Monday, October 8, continue. Rabbi Sack is teaching two classes: an Introduction to Judaism class, which is a prerequisite for anyone considering conversion, but also open to those just wanting to learn more about Jewish practice, thought and history; and from 7:45 to 8:45 p.m. participants are reading and discussing *Letters to My Palestinian Neighbor* by Yossi Klein Halevi.

That same night, Rabbi Michael Schorin teaches *The Mystery of Love* by Marc Gafni, the X-rated side of Jewish Mysticism. Rabbi Schorin's class is from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. From 7:45 to 8:45 p.m., Herb Fried teaches "Crazy Herb's Hebrew Words" – a memory system for learning Jewish culture and modern Hebrew.

The adult education classes are open to the community. If you are interested in attending, please call the synagogue office.

The synagogue looks forward to hosting the November Senior

Lunch Bunch program sponsored by the Jewish Federation. If you would like to attend, contact Jodi Cohen at 238.481.4449 or jodicohen@jfedlcc.org.

Temple Judea will again participate in a community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. This year, the service is being held at Temple Beth El on Wednesday evening, November 21.

Rabbi Sack's monthly lunchtime Torah study is on Thursday, November 1 at noon at the offices of Myers and Brettholtz and Company. It is an hour of open discussion of Torah and Judaism, where all levels of background and all questions are encouraged. Everyone is welcome and there is no cost to attend.

Our monthly serving of meals at the Salvation Army's Meals with Compassion (formerly Sally's Café) continues. Meals are now served on Monday evenings and volunteers are needed for Mondays, November 5 and 19. To volunteer, please email Linda at lindaidelson8@gmail.com.

Regular scheduled events:

- Friday evening Shabbat services at 6:30 p.m., preceded each week with a wine and cheese reception starting at 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday morning Shabbat services at 9:30 a.m. followed by a Kid-dush luncheon
- Lunchtime Torah Study with Rabbi Sack the first Thursday of each month
- Morning minyan every Monday at 9:00 a.m.



A delightful evening was had by all who attended the October Rosh Hodesh event. Thank you Mindi Simon for being our hostess.

**TEMPLE BETH SHALOM
Cape Coral**

**(239) 772-4555
www.templebethshalomcc.org**

From joy to sorrow and back to joy. Such has been the roller coaster ride for the Temple Beth Shalom family these last few months. The excitement of Rosh Hashanah, the solemnness of Yom Kippur, the joy of three bar mitzvahs, the sadness of losing temple member April Freeman, and the joy of dinner under the stars for Sukkot, dancing with the Torahs during Simchat Torah and the ultimate joy of welcoming new members. All of these events were experienced as a family.

We cried and we laughed at the memorial service for April Freeman as her friends from all over the world shared their memories of her. We welcomed her friends and broke bread with them after the service with a love-

ly spread donated and set up by members of the congregation. With over 100 people at the service, we mourned our friend and made new ones at the same time.

We were thrilled to see three of our young members come to the Torah to become a bar mitzvah. Our religious school is small, but the results are outstanding.

Sisterhood and Brotherhood both have full schedules. Bowling began on October 14. Sisterhood's Purse & Jewelry Auction is coming up on Sunday, November 4. The next Rosh Hodesh will be announced shortly. Mah jongg, brown-bag lunches and Torah study are ongoing. For a full list of all the activities, call the temple office.

Guests are always welcome for Shabbat services and all temple activities. We invite you to come join our temple family and share in our joy.

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The editorial deadline for the December issue of L'CHAYIM is Monday, November 5.



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