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## What Israel and the Palestinians make of Jerusalem recognition



Photo by Chris McGrath/Getty Images

Following President Donald Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, protestors burn a poster of the president in front of the Damascus Gate at the entrance to Jerusalem's Old City on Dec. 11.

By ANDREW TOBIN  
JTA news service

■ Related story, Page 8

JERUSALEM – Amid the global controversy over President Donald Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of the Jewish state, Israeli and Palestinian leaders actually found rare consensus: They agreed that the development was a win for Israel and a loss for the Palestinians.

To be sure, Trump's concession was not a major one. Israel was always expected to get a recognized capital in Jerusalem under any Mideast peace deal, and the president did not reject Palestinian claims to have their capital in the city, too.

JERUSALEM continued on PAGE 9

Smiling for the cameras in Tel Aviv, Florida Gov. Rick Scott, center, with Oren Milstein, founder and CEO of StemRad Ltd., left, and Jack Ross of Tampa, vice president of the company's North American operations, at an event to recognize the success of the first cohort of Israeli startups taken under the wing of the Florida Israel Business Accelerator (FIBA), the brainchild of the Tampa JCCs and Federation.



## Vinik's newest investment is Rad

By BOB FRYER  
Jewish Press

Less than 6 months ago, Tampa Bay Lightning owner Jeff Vinik spoke at an event showcasing eight Israeli startup tech companies that were seeking U.S. investors. He told a crowd of about 350 at the Bryan Glazer Family JCC that, "We have to let it be known that Tampa and the Tampa Bay area is open for business in the innovation space."

He added, "Tampa is one of the country's best kept secrets. We need to change that."

As the companies made their pitch at that meeting, one apparently stood out for Vinik – a company called StemRad that makes radiation protective wear for use by

nuclear power plant workers in the event of a meltdown, first responders, military personnel in the event a nuclear radiation event and even astronauts.

Vinik met with the company founder and CEO, Oren Milstein, after the June 22 event, and began looking harder at the company.

Recently, he put his words at the JCC meeting into action by becoming the lead in a small group of Tampa investors that chipped in \$6 million for a stake in StemRad.

The investors include Tampa radiologist Dr. Bruce Zwiebel, who is advising the company on development of a lightweight radiation shield for use in the medical field.

INVESTMENT continued on PAGE 14



"We cannot sit around in Tampa or wherever we are and wait for others to help; it is our job and our responsibility to be the help."  
Rabbi Josh Hearshen



At, left, Rabbi Josh Hearshen of Congregation Rodeph Sholom with two children in Dorado, Puerto Rico. The rabbi and six other volunteers from Tampa painted and repaired the kids' house and bought them shoes and Christmas presents. Above, Members of the group hand out some of the relief supplies they brought from Tampa in the city of Carolina.

## Tampa Jews deliver aid, love, hope to Puerto Rico

By BOB FRYER  
Jewish Press

When Rabbi Josh Hearshen and six congregants of Congregation Rodeph Sholom in Tampa made a recent trip to deliver aid to the victims of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico, they were struck by the spirit of the people there, as well as how long the recovery process is likely to take.

"It is not a matter of months, but more

of years or maybe decades before they are back to normal," Rabbi Hearshen said.

Puerto Rico was devastated when the island was struck by Maria on Sept. 20 as a strong Category 4 storm. The group from Rodeph Sholom visited more than two months later, from Nov. 26-29, delivering assistance near the capital, San Juan. Along with the rabbi, those on the mission were Vanessa Cohn, Michael Edgerley, Michael

Leeds, David Magness, Michael Sinnreich and Lynne Winderbaum.

The volunteers not only delivered essential items for families at Catholic and Jewish facilities, but also repaired homes, made friends and took time to buy shoes and toys for some children in need.

As the group flew in they could not see a single house without a blue tarp on it,

PUERTO RICO continued on PAGE 16



Compiled from JTA news service

## Trump administration: Western Wall will surely be a part of Israel

WASHINGTON – The Trump administration said it cannot envision an outcome in which the Western Wall is not part of Israel – the first signal by any U.S. administration that it recognizes a claim to Jerusalem outside the 1967 lines.

Senior administration officials briefing reporters about Vice President Mike Pence's upcoming visit to the region were asked whether Pence planned to visit the Wall, as President Donald Trump had done during his June visit, and whether it would be an official visit, as opposed to Trump's, which was private.

"We cannot envision any situation under which the Western Wall would not be part of Israel," said an official, confirming that Pence's visit would be in an official capacity. "But as the president said, the specific boundaries of sovereignty of Israel are going to be part of the final status agreement."

Israel captured eastern Jerusalem, including the Old City, in the 1967 Six-Day War. The Western Wall is the outer wall of the Second Temple, destroyed in 70 C.E., and its largest remnant. It is adjacent to the Temple Mount, the holiest site in Judaism, and currently home to Islam's third holiest site. The mount is controlled in part by a Muslim religious authority.

In 2004, President George W. Bush said in a letter to then-Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon that it was "unrealistic" to expect the sides to return to the 1967 lines, but also spoke about land swaps to compensate Palestinians for Israeli settlements, a position that the Obama administration also embraced.

## Couple sues Manhattan hotel for 'starving' guests at bat mitzvah

A couple is suing a Manhattan hotel for allegedly "starving" the guests at her daughter's \$37,000 bat mitzvah party.

The lawsuit against Hotel Eventi was filed in Manhattan Supreme Court, the *New York Post* reported.

Nancy Held, the mother of the bat mitzvah girl, said the food for her 150 guests at the party in May was so mishandled that the hungry adult guests began eating the children's ice cream desserts. She said in the lawsuit that the 700 hors d'oeuvres were never served to the guests as promised, and that the main course, a choice of steak or scallops, was served cold.

"We were starving," Held's husband, Marc, told *The Post*. "We were hosting the party and we didn't have any food to eat."

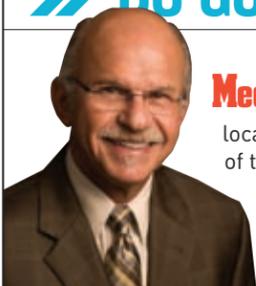
The hotel offered \$1,000 and a night in a suite to make up for the errors, according to Held. The couple is suing for \$637,000 in damages.

Nancy Held said in a court filing that she had been planning for her daughter's big day ever since being misdiagnosed with a fatal genetic mutation in 2013.

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### Did you know?

In 1932, President Herbert Hoover appointed Benjamin Nathan Cardozo to the Supreme Court of the United States. Cardozo was the second Jew, after Louis D. Brandeis, to serve on the nation's highest court.

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|---|---|---|
| <b>Dec 24.</b> Young Adult Division Vodka Latke   | <b>Feb 8.</b> Cardozo & Montefiore Societies Event              | <b>Mar 24.</b> Gulf Coast Golf Like a Rock Star   |
| <b>Jan 7.</b> Truth.Humanity.Justice An Evening With Erin Brockovich at Temple B'nai Israel | <b>Feb 10.</b> Florida Holocaust Museum's Annual "To Life" Gala | <b>Mar 25.</b> Tampa Bay Jewish Film Festival     |
| <b>Jan 27-29.</b> TBE Art Festival  | <b>Feb 25.</b> Tampa Bay Jewish Food Festival & Purim Carnival  | <b>Apr 15.</b> Jewish Heritage Festival Israel@70 |
|   | <b>Mar 11.</b> CBI Chaivana Nights Gala                         | <b>Apr 29.</b> Sonya Miller Women of Distinction  |
|   | <b>Mar 13.</b> Community Women's Seder                          |   |

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# Resolutions, I've had a few

## PERSPECTIVE

**Emilie Socash**  
Executive Director, Jewish Federation of Pinellas & Pasco Counties



I've only made one New Year's resolution that I've kept.

Picture it:

Winter, 2005, at a deli on Euclid Avenue in downtown Cleveland. I sat around the table with seven or eight Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland colleagues. I was a freshly minted mom, having just had my daughter, Hila, some three months prior, and I was newly back to work. We often had lunch together, either dining out at a neighborhood lunch bar or in the break room. The cast of characters often changed, but the vibe was always good-natured, spirited, and supportive. (Which I guess is something of a given in a workplace that lists *L'shon hora*—evil speech or gossip—as a fireable offense in the employee handbook.)

The subject turned to New Year's resolutions, and the usual suspects were shared: lose weight, go to the gym, be more patient with my kids, and so forth. My turn arrived, and I shared my on-the-spot commitment for 2006: "I'm going to stop asking questions that I don't truly care about the answer to."

Crickets. A few polite-yet-awkward chuckles. My buddy, Avi Friedman, who was the Young Adult Division Director and now is the VP of Development for Hillel International, grinned but noted, "That's harsh, Em!"

I probably went on to awkwardly explain my rationale or quietly imploded under the table; I don't remember the specifics of what happened in the immediate next moment. What I do remember, though, is that 2006 arrived and my resolution went into effect.

It's the only one I've ever kept. It grew from a place of frustration: I endured a long pregnancy at a Jewish organization with 160 employees, each of whom seemed to be excessively inquisitive or remarkably skilled at the opinion-as-question communique ("You're wearing high heels at nine months?" or "What does the doctor say about your weight gain?"). But it grew to a place of contemplation that some 12 years later I find to be one of the most meaningful decisions I've made regarding my own behavior.

This commitment to pursue meaningful conversation has led me to ask people real questions, for which I want real answers. I ask young kids what they are currently reading. I ask adults where they'd love to take a trip to. I ask co-workers what I can do to help them be even more effective. I generally don't ask "How are you," but rather want to know more in the realm of "What goes on in your mind?"

One of my favorite podcasts is "Hidden Brain," a show in which host Shankar Vedantam tours the listener through an array of fascinating topics about brain operations and behavioral science. The Nov. 29 edition, entitled "People Like People Who Ask Questions," caught my eye (or ear!), for two reasons: it was forwarded to me by a colleague at the Harold Grinspoon Foundation as critical consideration regarding the legacy conversations that Foundation and Federation team members have, and secondly, I pretty much devour every episode that comes out.

## Tickets on sale for annual Vodka Latke on Dec. 24

The Tampa Jewish Federation and Jewish Federation of Pinellas & Pasco Counties will jointly host the annual Vodka Latke, a popular annual event for Jewish singles and couples in their 20s, 30s and 40s, on Sunday, Dec. 24 from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Franklin Manor in downtown Tampa.

Franklin Manor, a co-sponsor of the event, offers handcrafted cocktails, a premium beer selection and live music. It is located at 912 N. Franklin St.

Tickets can be purchased until Dec. 22 for \$45 at [jewishtampa.com/VodkaLatke](http://jewishtampa.com/VodkaLatke). The price at the door is \$54.

Free vodka drinks will be provided by Tito's Handmade Vodka (while supplies last) and hors d'oeuvres will be served, compliments of Carriage House. Additional food and drinks will be available for purchase throughout the evening.

Other event sponsors include Jonathan Singer and Erin and Milton Carp.

For more information, contact Lisa Robbins, director of Young Adult Engagement for the Tampa JCCs & Federation, at (813) 769-4723 or [lisa.robbs@jewishtampa.com](mailto:lisa.robbs@jewishtampa.com).

The title says it all: people are more likable when they ask questions. It's a bit more constrained though, in that the questionee likes the questioner more when receiving the questions ... but likability isn't improved when observing questioning by others. In other words, "It's when they ask questions of us that makes us feel special."

Yet we often overlook questioning as something we can actively do to be more likable. We know to avoid politics and religion in conversation, to maintain and break eye contact appropriately, to shake hands firmly, to smile showing our teeth, and to exhibit open and warm body language. We know to be good listeners, and asking questions can be a great addition to the conversational toolkit to move this ideal forward.

But it's not the volume of questions. In fact, it's really asking the right questions at the right time. The resource eJewishPhilanthropy says it well: "Once we are asking the right questions, only then can we move forward with our goals" (from the 2016 article, "Asking the Right Questions"). The author gives the example of moving from the question of "How can we prevent intermarriage?" to "How can we engage students in such a way that Judaism becomes an integral part of who they are and who they want to be?"

In early December, I joined Karen Tashman, executive director of Congregation Beth Shalom in Clearwater, and Sarah Gotlieb, executive director of Temple Beth-El in St. Petersburg, for a session with human resources lawyer Meredith Gaunce to get a little more familiar with how to better support our employees and particularly look to prevent harassment in the workplace. Sarah pulled this together as part of our new effort to join forces cross-organizationally on matters that benefit all.

As we walked out together, she shared that she was feeling energized from her recent National Association of Temple Administrators conference, particularly about a discussion about adaptive challenges. The concept of adaptive challenge and change is something I recently covered in a class I was taking on leadership psychology, and we chatted for a moment about seeing our Jewish community in a new light. In a nutshell, Ronald Heifetz introduced the idea that change happens in two ways: through technical means or through adaptive means. Technical problems can be solved by an expert who has knowledge; adaptive challenges require new learning that comes from the collective intelligence of the entire group.

When we ask the right question, we're engaging in the adaptive work required to make long-lasting and meaningful change.

So do I have to change my resolution? I'd argue no. But I find myself seeking to marry the (somewhat) new perspective of asking the right questions and my staunch commitment to only inquiring on things I truly care about.

*Liked it? Loathed it? Want to react? I would welcome your feedback and can be reached at [emilie@jewishpinellas.org](mailto:emilie@jewishpinellas.org).*

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## How do we allow this to happen?

By **RABBI ED ROSENTHAL**  
Executive Director, Hillels  
of the Florida Suncoast

As a product of the television generation, I admit it... I love *Game of Thrones*, *Ray Donovan*, and *This Is Us*. To see them usually entails binge watching over vacation, but that just adds to the fun. So when ABC launched a new series this fall entitled *Kevin Probably Saves the World*, I was intrigued. It's a fairly mediocre "dramedy" starring Jason Ritter as Kevin Finn. ABC describes Kevin as "not a good person. He's not terrible, but he's selfish, and clueless, and values material wealth and status over all else. And he's beginning to realize that those things aren't making him happy—in fact, he's fairly miserable. Just when things seem to be at their worst, he finds himself tasked with an unbelievable mission... saving the world." And how is Kevin going to save the world? Well, he is visited by an angel who tells him that he is the last of 36 righteous people whose goodness saves the world. Kevin is tasked with finding the other 35.



If this story line sounds familiar to you, then you are familiar with the ancient Jewish legend of the *Lamed-Vav Tzadikim*, the 36 righteous people whose goodness ensures the continuation of the world. The basis of the legend comes from the Talmud Tractate Sanhedrin 97b: "Abaye said: The world has no fewer than 36 righteous people in each generation who greet the Divine Presence, as it is stated 'Happy are all they who wait for Him (Lo)' *Isaiah 30:18*." The legend teaches that these 36 righteous people live their lives in quiet anonymity, but without them the world would be destroyed. The *Lamed-Vavniks* do not reveal themselves, but through their righteousness and goodness, allow us all to live our lives.

When I saw the first episode of *Kevin Probably Saves the World* I waited for some reference to the ancient legend of the *Lamed-Vavniks*. It did not come. When I saw the first episode, I thought the main character would be so good, that everyone would love him. He was not. When I watched the first episode, I thought there would be some mention of Jews, Judaism or a Jewish story. There was none. To say I was

disappointed would be an understatement. Anyone who has read Andre Schwarz-Bart's *Last of the Just* would be offended at the equivalency of Ernie Levy, walking to his death at Auschwitz among the multitude of innocent martyr of our people crying tears of blood, to the selfish, materialistic, buffoonish Kevin Flinn.

The bigger issue however, is not that this is yet another example of the appropriation of our Jewish tradition, but that our own people don't know their own heritage. At a time when Harvey Weinstein dominates the news, and Roy Moore is "Mr. Ten Commandments," our children need to be learning about the *Lamed-Vavniks*. They need to know of this beautiful teaching that tells us to treat every stranger with kindness, because that person just might be a *Tzadik Nistar*, a hidden *Tzadik* (one of the *Lamed-Vavniks*). They need to know that the Ten Commandments were not written in a courthouse in Alabama, but on Mt. Sinai and given to the Jewish People... and we shared them with the rest of the world. How much of our rich tradition has been lost, whether by appropriation or by our own ignorance? How do we allow this to happen?

As someone who works with college students, I hear the same line all the time: "I'm not religious. I'm spiritual." Our young people are looking for spirituality. They crave it, but we continue teaching them the same old things; Bible Stories (although we rarely get past the Red Sea) and Holidays. We teach them a language they can't speak, and tell them they have to know how to read it so they can have a party when they're 13. Their knowledge of Israel is inadequate, and their commitment to Israel is limited to the thought that, thanks to Birthright, they'll get a free trip there once they turn 18. Some of the staunchest supporters of Israel today are Christians, not Jews.

As a community, we need to do better. We need to start asking them what they want, not just continuing to teach them what we think they need. The simple fact is this; if we give them what they want, they will eventually want what they need to continue the rich, beautiful heritage of our ancestors. This is how we will ensure the Jewish future..... theirs and ours.

*Rabbinically Speaking* is published as a public service by the Jewish Press in cooperation with the Tampa Rabbinical Association which assigns the column on a rotating basis.

## Congregations

### Temple Ahavat Shalom Palm Harbor

**Former U.S. ambassador to speak:** Spend an evening with Ambassador Robert Ford on Tuesday, Jan. 16 at 7:30 p.m. in an appearance sponsored by AIPAC. Ford is currently a senior fellow at Middle East Institute in Washington, where he writes about developments in the Middle East and North Africa. He served as U.S. ambassador to Syria from 2010-2014, making him the last American ambassador to that country. He also was deputy ambassador to Iraq from 2008-2010. In 2014, he received the Secretary's Service Award, the U.S. State Department's highest honor, and in April 2012 he was a recipient of the Profile in Courage Award from the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston for his defense of human rights in Syria. For more information, call the temple.

**Torah study:** Congregant Susan Segal teaches a Torah study class on Thursdays from noon to 1:15 p.m. Bring a lunch, and of course, opinions. No prior knowledge or attendance is required. The class will use the book *The Torah: A Woman's Commentary*.

**Adult education class:** Rabbi Gary Klein's Tuesday morning adult education class will begin this winter and meet on Tuesdays at 11 a.m. in the social hall. The Rabbi welcomes your suggestions for course topics.

**Judaism basics:** An Introduction to Judaism class is offered on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. This class, taught by Rabbi Klein, is appropriate for non-Jewish spouses and significant others; those considering adopting Judaism as their faith, and those who are already Jewish who wish to review and enhance their knowledge of Judaism. New students are welcome at anytime. The course fee is \$100 per person or couple, for non-members. There is no fee for temple members.

**Mah jongg:** The temple's Sisterhood invites women to open mah jongg sessions on Tuesdays at 1 p.m. Contact Debbie Rosen at (727) 686-2931.

### Cong. B'nai Israel St. Petersburg

**Happy new year:** Ring in the New Year early and bid farewell to Shabbat with a champagne toast on Saturday, Dec. 30 at 5:30 p.m. at the congregation's annual New Year's Eve Seudah Shlishit, the traditional third meal of Shabbat. An RSVP is required for this free event. RSVP to Pam Askin at (727) 381-4901 or officemgr@cbistpete.org.

**Havdala in the City:** Bring a flashlight and dress for a service under the stars and twinkling lights of South Straub Park at the congregation's annual Havdala in downtown St. Petersburg on Saturday, Jan. 6 at 6:30 p.m. Meet at the Bicentennial Fountain in the park, 198 Bayshore Dr. N.E. In case of rain, the service will be rescheduled. This event is free and open to the community. Social events to follow include a Jewbilee (Baby Boomer) Dinner at Meze 119 and ish (20ish - 40ish) meet-up at Hawkers Asian Street Fair.

RSVP recommended for both social events to Maureen Sechan at dll@cbistpete.org or call the synagogue office and ask for ext. 1011.

**Myth of the Cultural Jew:** DePaul University Prof. Roberta Rosenthal Kwall will discuss her thought-provoking book *The Myth of the Cultural Jew: Culture and Law in Jewish Tradition* on Sunday, Jan. 7 at 10 a.m. Books will be avail-

## Shabbat Candle Lighting Times

Dec. 22	•	5:23 pm
Dec. 29	•	5:27 pm
Jan. 5	•	5:32 pm
Jan. 12	•	5:37 pm
Jan. 19	•	5:43 pm



able for purchase for \$18. Kwall is a contributor to the *Jewish Forward*, *Commentary Magazine*, *Times of Israel*, and Jewish Book Council. RSVP suggested for this free event to Maureen Sechan at dll@cbistpete.org or call the temple.

**Torah study:** Join in a monthly Torah discussion led by members of the congregation on Saturday, Dec. 30 following Shabbat morning services. The group will search for insights in the Torah over lunch and discovers new ways of making Torah relevant.

**Talmud Made Easy:** On Tuesdays, Jan 9 and 23 at 5 p.m., Steve Wein continues to lead a study of Talmudic text and selected commentaries. All materials will be provided. The class involves textual analysis, lively discussion, and is open to all. The class is free; no previous knowledge is needed.

**Family Shabbat:** Put the kids in their jammies and wear your favorite jeans while you celebrate a casual and kid-friendly Shabbat experience on Friday, Jan. 12 at 5 p.m., followed by a \$5 mac & cheese dinner. RSVP by Wednesday, Jan. 10 to Maureen Sechan at dll@cbistpete.org or (727) 38-4900, ext. 1011.

**Lunch with the rabbi:** Enjoy a deli lunch and mishna study with Rabbi Jacob Luski on Wednesday, Jan. 17 at noon in the atrium. Submit lunch orders by Tuesday, Jan. 16 to Pam Askin at officemgr@cbistpete.org or (727) 381-4901.

**Sisterhood Shabbat:** Support Sisterhood "Side by Side at Congregation B'nai Israel" on Friday, Jan. 19 beginning with a Kabbalat Shabbat service led by the Sisterhood at 6 p.m. That will be followed by a Shabbat meal. RSVP for dinner - adults: \$20, children free - to Pam Askin at the temple or officemgr@cbistpete.org.

**Craft night:** Make your own challah board or serving platter and learn the arts of resin dipping and woodworking at MakeMe Studio on Tuesday, Jan. 23 at 7 p.m. Class is \$45 per person. The studio is located at 3028 Dr. MLK Jr. St. N., St. Petersburg. RSVP required to Maureen Sechan at dll@cbistpete.org or call the synagogue.

### Chabad of St. Petersburg

**Chinese buffet and movie:** Take in a kosher dinner and movie for the whole family on Sunday, Dec. 24 at 4 p.m. The cost is \$10. RSVP to info@ChabadSP.com.

**Exploring Israel's survival:** A six-session Rohr Jewish Learning Institute course titled "Survival of a Nation: Exploring Israel Through the Lens of the Six-Day War" will be taught on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., beginning Jan. 10. The cost is \$65 per person or \$110 for couples. Fees include 6 classes, class materials and recorded lessons (for sessions missed). For more information, call (727) 344-4900 or www.ChabadSP.com.

• CONTINUED on NEXT PAGE

## Religious Directory

### PINELLAS COUNTY Reform

**Temple AHAVAT SHALOM** — 1575 Curlew Rd., Palm Harbor, 34683 • Rabbi Gary Klein • Services: Friday: 7:30 p.m., First Friday: 6 p.m., Saturday: traditional service third week of the month. 9 a.m., call for other service times • Telephone: (727) 785-8811 • Website: www.ahavatshalom.org • Affiliated with Union for Reform Judaism

**Temple BETH-EL** — 400 S. Pasadena Ave., St. Petersburg 33707 • Rabbi Michael Torop • Services: Friday 7:30 p.m., Saturday, service and Torah study, 10 a.m. • Telephone: (727) 347-6136 • Website: www.templebeth-el.com • Affiliated with Union for Reform Judaism

**Congregation B'NAI EMMUNAH** — 57 Read St., Tarpon Springs, 34689 • Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1312, Tarpon Springs, 34688 • Rabbi Lynn Goldstein • Services: Friday: 7:30 p.m. • Torah study Saturday, 10:30 a.m. • Telephone: (727) 938-9000 • Affiliated with Union for Reform Judaism

**Temple B'NAI ISRAEL** — 1685 S. Belcher Road, Clearwater, 33764 • Rabbi Daniel Treiser • cantorial soloist, Laura Berkson • Services: Friday, 7:30 p.m. • Telephone: (727) 531-5829 • Website: www.TBclearwater.org • Affiliated with Union for Reform Judaism

### Conservative

**Congregation BETH SHALOM** — 1325 S. Belcher Road, Clearwater 33764 • Rabbi David Weizman • Rabbi Danielle Upbin, associate • Services: Friday: 6:30 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m., Sunday 9 a.m., Mon. & Thurs 8:30 a.m.

• Telephone: (727) 531-1418 • Website: www.cbclearwater.org • Affiliated with United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

**Congregation BETH SHOLOM** — 1844 54th St. S., Gulfport 33707 • Cantor David Wicentowski • Services: Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. • Telephone: (727) 321-3380 • Website: sholomgulfport.org • Unaffiliated.

**Congregation B'NAI ISRAEL** — 300 58th St. N., St. Petersburg 33710 • Rabbi Jacob Luski • Cantor Jonathan Schultz • Services: Friday 7:30 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m., Mon. - Fri. 7:45 a.m., Sun. 9 a.m.; evening minyan, 6:30 p.m. • Telephone: (727) 381-4900 • Website: www.cbistpete.org • Affiliated with United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

### Orthodox

**CHABAD of CLEARWATER** — 2280 Belleair Road, Clearwater, 33764 • Rabbi Levi Hodakov • Services: Call for information on Friday service times, Sunday, 9:30 a.m., men only • Telephone: (727) 265-2770 • Website: www.JewishClearwater.com • email: rabbi18@gmail.com.

**CHABAD JEWISH CENTER OF GREATER ST. PETERSBURG** — 4010 Park St. N., St. Petersburg 33709 • Rabbi Alter Korf • Services: Saturday, 9:30 a.m.; Shacharit, Mon.-Thurs., 7:15 a.m., Torah study at 10:30 a.m. on Sturday, Sun., 8 a.m.; • Telephone: (727) 344-4900 • Website: www.chabadsp.com.

**CHABAD of PINELLAS COUNTY** — 3696 Fisher Road, Palm Harbor, 34683 • Rabbi Pinchas Adler • Services: Friday, 5:30 p.m.; Saturday, 9:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. • Telephone: (727) 789-0408 • Website: Yichabad.com.

### PASCO COUNTY Conservative

**BETH TEFILLAH/JCC OF WEST PASCO** — 9841 Scenic Drive, Port Richey, 34668 • Ron Becker and Elliot Shapiro, spiritual leaders • Services: Friday, 7:30 p.m., Saturday, 9:30 a.m. • Telephone: (727) 847-3814 • website: jewishcommunitycenterofwestpasco.com • Email at: Eileenhochstadt13005@gmail.com • Unaffiliated

### Orthodox

**CHABAD OF WEST PASCO** — Rabbi Yossi Eber • 10733 Maple Creek Dr., Suite 101, Trinity, FL 34655 • Services: Saturday, 9:30 a.m.; class: 10 a.m., • Telephone: (727) 376-3366 • Website: www.ChabadWP.org • email: info@chabadwp.org

### HERNANDO COUNTY Reform

**Temple BETH DAVID** — 13158 Antelope St., Spring Hill • Rabbi Paul Schreiber • Shabbat Services: Friday, 7:30 p.m., third Friday traditional service, 7:30 p.m. • Saturday, 10 a.m. • Telephone: (352) 686-7034 • Website: www.tbdf.org. Affiliated with Union for Reform Judaism.

### Orthodox

**CHABAD SPRING HILL** — 13576 Hunters Point St, Spring Hill, 34609 • Rabbi Chaim Lipszyc • Services: Monthly First Friday call for times Telephone: (352) 600-2779 • Website: chabadspringhill.com

## It's a small world (after all)

A couple of weeks ago I went to a synagogue and talked with the fourth and fifth<sup>h</sup> graders about life in Israel. I talked about my army service, about living in the Kibbutz and about growing up in Israel. When I was done, it was time for questions. One of the girls raised her hand and asked me “do you know Lihi?” “Lihi what?” I asked, but she didn't know. Lihi is actually a common name in Israel, so I couldn't tell if I knew her or not. In my head I was thinking that I might actually know her, but if not Lihi herself, I probably do know someone who knows her in one way or another.

In Israel, when you meet someone new there are these three “must ask” questions we ask each other: “What's your name?”, “Where are you from?”, “Do you know...?” So many times, it happened that I said yes to that last question and then opened a conversation about the individual that I and the other person in the conversation happen to know. Last time it happened to me was when I went to a Jewish Agency conference and just happened to mention I originally come from Kibbutz Giv'at Brenner. Someone who heard me saying that, asked me if I know Aviv (a childhood friend of mine) and we ended up discovering that Aviv married his best friend.

## Mor About Israel

Yael Mor

Israel Shlichah (Emissary)



So why in Israel, when you meet someone new, there's a big chance that you will have a friend in common or someone both of you know? I think there are a few reasons for that. First, and probably the main reason, is Israel's physical and population size. Israel's land is spread across 8,522 square miles. If you're having a hard time imagining that, it's about the same size as the state of New Jersey (8,728 square miles). According to the 2016 census, Israel has a population of almost 9 million people. It might sound like a lot but it's not that much when you compare it to other countries. Those 9 million people live in a relatively small area, making the task of meeting someone new very easy.

The army service has a part in it too. When entering the army, you go there by yourself, not knowing anyone. You just have to make friends. What makes your army

friends so special is the fact that everyone comes from such different backgrounds. Growing up in the Kibbutz, I had very little friends who lived in cities, especially big cities like Tel Aviv or Be'er Sheva. Once I started my army service I met people from all over the country, and again expanding my social network.

Besides that, there's another factor that comes into consideration – most Israelis move from one place to another at some point of their lives. So not only do they know the people they grew up with, their family (and family friends), and army friends – once they move to a new place, to work, study or just be in a different area, they also get to meet a whole new environment of people.

This phenomenon has a name, similar to what you say here in America: “olam katan,” meaning “small world.” It even became so common to find out that almost everyone in Israel has a common friend, that some people just don't get excited about it anymore when it happens. So are all Israelis connected? I would say yes, in one way or another.

*Yael Mor's yearlong visit to the community is sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Pinellas and Pasco Counties. She can be reached at (727) 530-3223 or by email at yael@jewishpinellas.org*

## Congregations

• CONTINUED from PREVIOUS PAGE

**Pickle University:** Make your own jar of kosher pickles, and enjoy a variety of pickles and appetizers on Monday, Jan. 2 at 7 p.m. when nationally traveled “Rabbi Pickle” – **Rabbi Shmuel Marcus** of Cypress, CA. – shares the secrets of making a great kosher pickle at his traveling kosher pickle factory. This will be a hands-on experience. The cost is \$10 for those who register before Jan. 7 and \$15 after that date. RSVPs are required and can be made at info@ChabadSP.com.

**Kids in the kitchen:** Kids will be running the show at Shabbat dinner on Friday Jan. 26 at 5:30 p.m. Join in a worldwide unity event, as CKids groups around the world celebrate family, community, and the power of children to make a difference. The cost is \$18 per family. RSVP to Chaya@ChabadSP.com.

**Women's Book Club:** Get a weekly social and spiritual boost with friends every Tuesday from 10:30-11:30 a.m. during a roundtable discussion led by **Chaya Korf**. Delve into the book for this year, *Towards a Meaningful Life*, by Simon Jacobson. The group will share strategies, tips, and suggestions for not only discovering where your true meaning lies, but also in actually making it a part of your daily life. Enjoy coffee, fruit and homemade pastries during these free sessions. Walk-ins are welcome. RSVP to Chaya@ChabadSP.com.

**Lunch and learn:** Women are invited to share an hour of camaraderie, inspiration and lunch at a Lunch and Learn session at the Chabad Jewish Center on Thursday, Jan. 16 at noon. There is no charge for the event. RSVPs are appreciated but not necessary. To RSVP, email Chaya@ChabadSP.com or call (727) 344-4900.

### Cong. Beth Shalom Gulfport

**Honoring Holocaust survivors:** The congregation will host a B'nai Mitzvah ceremony for Holocaust survivors who never had a chance to have a Bar or Bat Mitzvah celebration. This will be a group ceremony on Saturday, Jan. 27 at 9:30 a.m. during which each Holocaust survivor will read or chant one line of their Haftarah. The ceremony will take place in conjunction with International Holocaust Remembrance

Day. Holocaust survivors wishing to participate in the ceremony should contact the synagogue at (727) 321-3380. This event is free to all with a kiddush lunch after the ceremony, sponsored by **Dr. Bernie Wolfson**.

**Seeking donations:** The congregation's annual flea market is not until the spring, but donations are being sought for the event now. Those who have items to give should call the synagogue at (727) 321-3380.

### Temple Beth-EI St. Petersburg

**Brotherhood schmooze:** Families are invited to hang out and relax while children attend religious school classes on Sundays from 9 a.m. to noon in the social hall. Enjoy a bagel and a cup of coffee and read the newspaper.

### Temple B'nai Israel Clearwater

**Erin Brockovich talk:** For those who have not already purchased tickets for “An Evening with **Erin Brockovich**, the renowned consumer advocate made famous in the film starring Julia Roberts, it is time to do so. Brockovich will speak at the temple on Sunday, Jan. 7 at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$40 and available on at www.Eventbrite. or for more details, call the temple.

**Mitzvah Day:** Take part in a day of good deeds to help benefit the Tampa Bay community on Sunday, Jan. 14 beginning at 9 a.m. Feed the homeless, clean up parks, comfort the sick and much more. A complimentary lunch will be provided to all do-gooders. Sign up at www.tbclearwater.org or call the temple office.

**Tot Shabbat:** A special service designed for the temple's youngest members and their families is set for Friday, Jan. 19 at 5:30 p.m., followed by a pot luck dinner. Call the temple office so the menu can be coordinated.

**Cinema Café:** Come watch a movie at the temple on Sunday, Jan. 21 at 1 p.m. The film, *The Kindergarten Teacher*, is an Israeli psychological thriller about poetry and obsession. Popcorn and non-alcoholic beverages will be provided. There is no charge for members and friends.

**Join the festival:** Temple B'nai Israel is planning the second annual Tampa Bay Jewish Food

Festival on Sunday, Feb. 28 and is seeking representation of other Jewish organizations and congregations at the event. Last year the event drew a crowd of 2,000. This year the entire outdoor area will be tented and tables for various organizations will be located near the temple entrance. Festival organizers are hoping all local Jewish organizations are represented at the event. Those wishing to participate need to contact **Barbara Bloom** at (727) 531-5829 by Jan. 15.

**Bible study:** Explore the Second Book of Samuel and discover a unique period of Jewish history. **Rabbi Daniel Treiser** leads the classes on Wednesdays from 7-8 p.m. There is no fee for members; \$30 for non-members for the year.

**Sunday funday:** Preschoolers and their parents can enjoy playtime on Sunday, Jan. 28 from 10 a.m. to noon. This is an opportunity for families with young children to meet one another, and engage in fun activities with their tots. Non-members are welcome. Call the temple office for full schedule and pricing information at (727) 531-5829.

**Adult playtime:** Play mah jongg, Mexican Train Dominoes or Bridge on Thursdays at 1 p.m. Join active seniors and play the game of your choice. Coffee and cake is served.

For more information, contact **Linda White** at linda33217@gmail.com or (727) 688-0626.

**Busch Gardens trip:** Temple B'nai Israel youths in grades 6 through 12 will make a trip to Busch Gardens on Sunday, Jan. 7 and spend the day with temple youth groups from throughout the Tampa Bay area. Call the temple office for details (727) 531-5829.

### Cong. B'nai Emmunah Tarpon Springs

**Medical ethics:** **Rabbi Lynn Goldstein** will conclude a series of classes on medical ethics on Thursday, Jan. 4 at 7 p.m. The Jan. 4 topic is on cloning, transplants, stem cells and more. RSVPs are requested at (727) 938-9000.

### Cong. Beth Shalom Clearwater

**Deli & dummy:** The Brotherhood will host Deli-Nite Live! on Saturday, Jan. 6 in the social hall. Along with the deli dinner, the entertainment will feature comedienne/ventriloquist **Lynn Trefzger**. Cost is \$30 and includes either a meat or vegetarian option. Reservations are required. Contact

**Stuart Lenett** at slenett@tam-pabay.rr.com.

**Talmud classes:** On Mondays and most Wednesdays, explore ancient legal tradition with **Dr. Priscilla Nathanson**. The class, open to all levels of knowledge. The Monday class is held after minyan from 10 - 11:15 a.m. and the Wednesday class is at 7 p.m. Contact the synagogue office to confirm when classes will be held.

**Haftarot study:** **Johanna Bromberg** leads this class on alternate Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Upcoming sessions are Jan. 3 and 17.

**Lox & Learn:** Led by **Rabbi David Weizman**, explore the weekly Torah portion every Thursday at following minyan. Breakfast begins at 9:45 a.m. and the study session at 10 a.m.

**Jewish spirituality:** **Rabbi Danielle Upbin** leads a series of lectures on Jewish spirituality, on Thursdays from 12:30 - 2 p.m. Upcoming classes are Dec. 2, Jan. 11 and Jan. 18. The course is exploring the foundations of Mussar as it relates to the weekly Torah portion and one's own inner development. Each session will incorporate time for meditation and other mindfulness practices. Call the synagogue office at (727) 531-1418 to RSVP.

### Chabad of Clearwater

**Torah and tea:** **Rebbetzin Miriam Hodakov** leads a “Torah and Tea” exclusively for women on Wednesdays at 11:15 a.m. There is no charge to attend. RSVP to MiriamHodakov@gmail.com or (727) 265-2770.

### Cong. Beth Tefillah/JCC of West Pasco Port Richey

**Adult education:** A class to study Pirkei Avot (Ethics of our Ancestors) and its relevance to Jewish life in the 21st century will be offered on Sundays from 10 - 11 a.m. The class is free, but donations are welcome.

### Cong. Beth David Spring Hill

**Torah study:** **Rabbi Paul Schreiber** will conduct Torah study classes on Mondays at 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. The classes are free for members and \$5 per class for non-members.

**Judaism class:** A free Jewish conversion class will be held on Saturdays at 1 p.m., conducted by **Rabbi Schreiber**.

**Talmud for beginners:** This class, already under way, is held every Wednesday at 8 p.m., except for the third Wednesday of the month. It is free for members and \$5 per class for non-members.

### Chabad of Spring Hill

**Torah studies:** The Jewish community is invited to attend Torah study classes, with bagels, on Wednesdays from noon to 1 p.m. The classes, taught by **Rabbi Chaim Lipszyc**, are not sequential, so folks can drop in for any class. The first class is free then the fee is \$7 per class.

For more information, call **Ro Kerschner** at (352) 746-6258.

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## Scads of scholarships, grants available to Jewish kids, teens, young adults

The Jewish Federation of Pinellas and Pasco Counties will once again offer an expanded array of scholarship and financial awards to children, teens, and young adults in 2018, mostly for Jewish summer camp and organized travel to Israel.

“As a community, we can be proud that we are making summer camp and Israel travel a reality for so many kids, teens and young adults. Studies have shown that these two experiential Jewish learning opportunities have a lifelong impact on Jewish identity. The Federation and our community partners are committed to investing in young people’s opportunities to connect with their Jewish identity in meaningful ways,” said Emilie Socash, executive director of the Federation.

Both merit and financial need are considered in evaluating applicants. It is required that families and/or the recipients volunteer for the Federation as a condition of accepting the award.

Summer camp scholarships are available through the Jewish Federation’s Covenant Fund and through the Mary Baumgardner Scholarship Fund at the Tampa Orlando Pinellas (TOP) Jewish Foundation. Both are available for area children attending overnight Jewish summer camp and award amounts vary. Total funding available is \$20,000. Recipients are recognized as “Jewish Federation Summer Scholars.”

Additional first-time Jewish sleep-away camper scholarships of up to \$1,000 are available through the One Happy Camper program, offered by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. More information is available at [www.jewishcamp.org](http://www.jewishcamp.org).

Teens interested in summer travel programs in the U.S. or abroad should apply to the Federation’s Passport to Israel and Teen Travel programs as well as the Loebenberg Scholarship Fund at TOP Jewish Foundation. These programs are based on merit and award amounts will vary. Recipients of the Passport to Israel and the Teen Travel award will be recognized as “Jewish Federation Teen Summer Scholars;” the Loebenberg Scholarship awardee will be recognized as the “Loebenberg Scholar.”

Young adults ages 21-45 interested in participating in the National Young Leadership Mission to Israel may apply for a subsidy of up to \$2,000 through the Federation to offset the approximate cost of \$4,000 for the

trip. The mission will take place July 2 - 8. Five young adults from the area are already planning to attend as “Federation Fellows.”

Those attending college in the 2018-19 year are eligible to apply to the Dr. Alfred M. Schick Award, which has a particular emphasis on those preparing for a medical career, as well as the Marilyn and Stevan Simon Scholarship Fund, which provides funding to those in or entering college who show leadership capacity for programs that deepen the recipient’s connection with Judaism, Jewish identity and Israel. Both funds are held at the TOP Jewish Foundation.

Interested families and individuals should visit the “Grants” section of the Federation’s website, [www.jewishpinellas.org](http://www.jewishpinellas.org), for information and an application. You may also contact Maxine Kaufman at [mkaufman@jewishpinellas.org](mailto:mkaufman@jewishpinellas.org)

All completed applications are due by Jan. 15 and decisions will be made by Feb. 1. Only completed applications will be considered.

All recipients will be recognized as a Federation award recipient in a future Jewish Press.

\* \* \*

Outside of the Federation’s scholarships, several additional programs may be of interest to teens and young adults:

- The Jewish Education Loan Fund (JELF) provides interest-free college loans to Jewish students in need. This program is funded in part by the Federation and administered locally through Gulf Coast Jewish Family & Community Services. The application and complete information can be found at [www.jelf.org](http://www.jelf.org).

- Masa Israel provides opportunities for young people, ages 18 to 30, to participate in summer learning, internships, professional placements, volunteer service, and more. Those accepted into a Masa Israel program should both apply for a scholarship directly with Masa as well as contact the Federation immediately to determine if additional funding is available.

- The Nachshon Project offers a significant leadership opportunity for those students who wish to spend their junior year of college studying at Hebrew University at no cost to the student. This highly selective program focuses on leadership and preparing future Jewish leadership; more information can be found at [www.nachshonproject.org](http://www.nachshonproject.org).

## Law banning religious groups’ politicking survives repeal bid

WASHINGTON (JTA) – A decades-old ban on houses of worship directly involving themselves in elections has survived a repeal bid by House Republican leaders.

Jewish groups from Reform to Orthodox, and including Jewish civil rights groups, have opposed the removal, saying it would unnecessarily politicize the pulpit.

The Senate parliamentarian ruled Thursday, Dec. 14, that the effort to repeal the ban did not belong in the tax reform bill because it was not germane to tax policy.

The amendment, named for Lyndon Johnson when he was a Senate leader, was passed

in the 1950s. It removes tax-exempt status from religious organizations that directly participate in political activity.

President Donald Trump has vowed to repeal it.

“This important legislation, appropriately restricting religious and other non-profit groups from supporting or opposing political candidates, has worked well for more than six decades,” Richard Foltin, the American Jewish Committee’s director of national and legislative affairs, said in a statement. “The effort to fix what is not broken was unnecessary and wrong.”

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## Federation's online giving program provides new options for donors

The Jewish Federation of Pinellas and Pasco Counties has launched a new way of giving that allows community members to not only make their donations and pledges online but also direct where the gift will be used.

Donors can direct their donations to the area of impact that is most meaningful to them. The designated impact areas include:

- building Jewish identity and culture
- caring for the most vulnerable
- Israel advocacy and education
- humanitarian programs in Israel and around the world.

There is also an option to "use my gift

where it is most needed."

In addition to giving a gift—whether immediate or as a recurring monthly contribution—the new online presence allows supporters to make a pledge online, which can be paid anytime in the next 12 months.

"Directed giving empowers our donors with choice and the opportunity to act on their values by investing in the areas of our work that are most meaningful to them," said Elana Gootson, director of development of the Jewish Federation. "Our website donation page also has an unusual option of allowing a pledge as well as a donation. A pledge is just a commitment of support that isn't payable

until the end of that campaign calendar year."

Additional giving opportunities of interest to many during this time of year is the donation of appreciated stock, which can provide significant tax savings on both income tax and capital gains tax. The Federation accepts donation of stock through the TOP Jewish Foundation, and stock donations to TOP are facilitated without charge by the Abelson Group of Morgan Stanley Wealth Management.

The Federation began fundraising for the 2018 Annual Campaign in October 2017 and the fundraising will end in the spring so the Federation board of directors can then

allocate the funds raised to the various beneficiary agencies, programming and strategic initiatives. Those funds are then collected by the end of the calendar year, Dec. 31, 2018.

"People often get confused because we will begin fundraising again for 2019 in October, before the 2018 gift is actually due. That's why I recommend giving an automatic monthly gift, so you don't have to worry about the year and you know that you are always supporting the Jewish community," Gootson said.

Find options for donating online at [www.jewishpinellas.org/donate](http://www.jewishpinellas.org/donate) or call Gootson at the Federation at (727) 530-3223.



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## Trump's Jerusalem decision is a big deal, but won't change much, at least for now

By **RON KAMPEAS**  
JTA news service

WASHINGTON — In announcing U.S. recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital, President Donald Trump spoke loud and clear — except when he didn't.

That's not to say that Israel and many of its supporters weren't thrilled with what they called the "long overdue" acknowledgement by the United States that

### ANALYSIS

Israel gets to say where its own capital is. But Trump was cautious, celebrating Israel's control of the entire city, yet insisting that he was not recognizing Israel's control of the entire city; taking Israel's side on a decades-long dispute, but also saying that "we are not taking a position of any final status issues."

Here are a few other things the president said and didn't say.

#### Decision is a significant break from predecessors

Congress recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital in 1995, but the executive branch until now has taken pains — all the way up to the Supreme Court — to resist doing the same. In the wake of the 1949 armistice, the U.S. administration officially sought international status for Jerusalem. After peace talks with the Palestinians began in the early 1990s, the position shifted to leaving it up to the sides to decide what the final status of the city should be. Since then, Trump's predecessors have signed twice-yearly waivers keeping the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv.

Trump is the first president to unreservedly embrace the 1995 law.

"In 1995, Congress adopted the Jerusalem Embassy Act, urging the federal government to relocate the American embassy to Jerusalem and to recognize that that city — and so importantly — is Israel's capital," he said. "That is why, consistent with the Jerusalem Embassy Act, I am also directing the State Department to begin preparation to move the American embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem."

#### Trump embraced Israel's narrative of stewardship

The president seemed to embrace a narrative of Israeli stewardship of the entire city that might have been written in the office of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu: It's not just good for Israel, or for the Jews, it's good for the city and those who love it.

"Jerusalem is not just the heart of three great religions, but it is now also the heart of one of the most successful democracies in the world," Trump said. "Over the past seven decades, the Israeli people have built a country where Jews, Muslims and Christians, and people of all faiths are free to live and worship according to their conscience and according to their beliefs. Jerusalem is today, and must remain, a place where Jews pray at the Western Wall, where Christians walk the Stations of the Cross, and where Muslims worship at Al-Aqsa mosque."

That's not a narrative that Palestinians would countenance; they say restrictive security measures keep Muslims and Christians from easily reaching holy sites.

A letter from 13 leaders of Jerusalem churches, representing the range of faiths in the holy city, reflected a far less rosy picture of interfaith relations there. It urged Trump not to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital, saying that tensions in the city argue against such a recognition. "The Holy City can be shared and fully enjoyed once a political process helps liberate the hearts of all people, that live within it, from the conditions of conflict and destructiveness that they are experiencing," the letter said.

#### The announcement sets a precedent for others

Until 1980, a dozen or so nations recognized Jeru-

salem as Israel's capital and kept embassies in or near the city. That year, Israel passed one of several laws that claimed the entire city as its capital. Countries with embassies in the city, unable to withstand pressure from the Arab world, pulled out.

With a superpower's recognition of Jerusalem as the capital and Trump's stated intention to move the embassy there from Tel Aviv, other countries may be less shy about following suit. Indeed, the Czech Republic said it now recognizes Jerusalem as the capital of Israel (and the "future capital of both states," Israel and the future Palestine).

#### This isn't the final say on Jerusalem

Once peace talks were launched by Israel and the Palestinians in 1993, the U.S. position has been that the sides should hash out what the boundaries are in and around Jerusalem. Since the Camp David talks in 2000, the operating presumption among U.S. negotiators has been that Israel and Palestine would share the city, with an international arrangement at the most sensitive sites in the Old City. In recent years, however, Netanyahu has insisted that the city will remain "undivided" under Israeli control.

"Undivided" and its synonyms did not make an appearance in Trump's remarks. Instead, he said, work out the borders yourselves.

"We are not taking a position of any final status issues, including the specific boundaries of the Israeli sovereignty in Jerusalem or the resolution of contested borders," he said. "Those questions are up to the parties involved."

#### The embassy isn't going anywhere — for now

Trump, as noted, said he was directing the State Department to start planning the embassy's move to Jerusalem. Top aides, speaking the previous evening to reporters, said it would take years for such a move — perhaps close to a decade — and that no one had been scouting for sites.

In fact, shortly after his announcement he signed another six-month presidential waiver of the 1995 law, as his predecessors had done. Reportedly this was done to avoid a legally stipulated cut in State Department funding until the new embassy is actually open. White House officials told the *Guardian* that previous presidents used the waiver to avoid moving the embassy, whereas Trump instructed the start of practical work on the mission.

#### The Temple Mount status quo is ... status quo

"I call on all parties to maintain the status quo at Jerusalem's holy sites, including the Temple Mount, also known as Haram al-Sharif," Trump said.

The status quo on the Temple Mount — holy to Muslims and Jews — right now is that the Wakf, a Muslim authority that Israel's government sees as hypernationalist, controls access. Jordan also has a say in its running.

Netanyahu, who has resisted right-wing members of Israel's governing coalition who want to ease access for Jewish worshippers, is all about maintaining the status quo. Still, Trump cautioning him to keep it that way — and in language that his predecessors have used — must sound awfully familiar.

#### Trump couldn't resist a dig at his predecessors

"Presidents issued these waivers under the belief that delaying the recognition of Jerusalem would advance the cause of peace," Trump said, referring to the waiver option, renewable every six months, built into the 1995 law. "Some say they lacked courage, but they made their best judgments based on facts as they understood them at the time."

Got that? Maybe it was a lack of guts, but let's be generous — it may just have been a lack of smarts.

"While previous presidents have made this a major campaign promise, they failed to deliver," Trump said. "Today, I am delivering."

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## David Friedman, US ambassador to Israel, lights menorah at Western Wall

JERUSALEM (JTA) – David Friedman, the U.S. ambassador to Israel, lit the menorah at the Western Wall in Jerusalem for the second night of Hanukkah. Thousands attended the ceremony on Dec. 13, one week after President Donald Trump announced that the United States would recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

“Some 2,180 years ago, the Maccabees reclaimed this very site and restored Jewish ritual to the Second Temple” Friedman tweeted after the lighting ceremony. “Awed to stand on the same hallowed ground.”

Friedman lit the candles accompanied by the Western Wall rabbi, Shmuel Rabinovitch; Jerusalem’s chief rabbi, Shlomo Amar; and the minister of tourism, Yariv Levin, Ynet reported.



Ambassador Friedman lighting the menorah at the Western Wall.

## JERUSALEM

• CONTINUED from FRONT PAGE

However, the change in two decades of American policy on Jerusalem cemented the impression on both sides that the United States was tilting toward Israel. With Trump’s team working on a peace deal, Israeli and Palestinian leaders debated how his decision would affect the effort.

The Israelis said their country still wants peace and Trump was only recognizing the obvious: Israel already controls all of Jerusalem, has treated it as its capital for 69 years and was never going to settle for anything less than an acknowledgement that Jerusalem is its capital. Whether the Palestinians can also claim parts of Jerusalem as their capital remains an open question, but that was always one of the so-called “final-status issues” at the heart of negotiations.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Sunday, Dec. 10, during a visit with French President Emanuel Macron that Jerusalem was as much Israel’s capital as Paris was France’s, and that recognition of this fact was necessary for peace.

“I think that what peace requires is to be built on the foundation of truth, on the facts of the past and on the present,” Netanyahu said. “This is the only way that you can build a pluralistic and successful future.”

More important, Israeli leaders contended, Trump gave the Palestinians a long overdue reality check. They said the president showed that he would not indulge the Palestinians’ attempts to deny Israel’s existence.

Netanyahu made that equation explicit in a meeting with European foreign ministers in Brussels. He likened the Palestinians’ opposition to recognizing Jerusalem as Israel’s capital with their refusal to accept the existence of a Jewish state, which he has long maintained was the primary obstacle to peace.

“I think we should give peace a chance. I think we should see what is presented and see if we can advance this peace. But if we have to begin it, I would say it’s one place: Recognize the Jewish state,” he said Monday, Dec. 11, in Brussels. “It’s always been about the Jewish state. And it’s time that the Palestinians recognize the Jewish state and also recognize the fact that it has a capital. It’s called Jerusalem.”

Palestinian leaders, meanwhile, accused Israel of having no interest in making peace on terms they could ever accept. By giving Israel something it wants for free, they suggested, Trump signaled that he would not even try to oppose its continued settlement of eastern Jerusalem and the West Bank, which they said has made nearly impossible the creation of the state the Palestinians demand as part of a peace deal.

In an op-ed, in *The New York Times*, Hanan Ashrawi, a Pales-

tinian lawmaker and a member of the Palestine Liberation Organization’s executive committee, said Trump may have “finally put to rest the dream of a two-state solution, which has been on life support for years already.”

“By rewarding its claim on Jerusalem with official recognition, Mr. Trump is giving Israel a free hand to accelerate its policies of creeping annexation of the occupied Palestinian territories and its deliberate attempts to erase the Palestinians’ historical, political, cultural and demographic presence in historic Palestine,” she wrote.

Following Trump’s announcement, Saeb Erekat, the Palestinian Authority’s chief peace negotiator, for the first time endorsed giving up on a separate Palestinian state and instead pushing for a binational state shared by Jews and Arabs – an outcome unthinkable to most Israelis.

“Now is the time to transform the struggle for one state with equal rights for everyone living in historic Palestine,” Erekat told Israel’s *Haaretz* newspaper.

At the same time, Palestinian leaders said Trump’s recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel showed once and for all that the United States was not an honest broker for peace. Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas said in a statement Friday, Dec. 8, that the United States was no longer fit to oversee the peace process. The next day, Abbas’ diplomatic affairs adviser confirmed that the president canceled plans to meet with Vice President Mike Pence this month in Ramallah, the Palestinian Authority’s de facto capital in the West Bank, because of the announcement on Jerusalem.

“There will not be a meeting with Pence. The matter is bigger than a mere meeting because the United States, in its decisions on Jerusalem, crossed red lines,” Majdi al-Khalidi told the P.A. radio station.

Palestinian leaders warned that with the two-state solution no longer viable, their people would turn to violence. The Palestinian Authority urged protests, and the Palestinian terrorist group Hamas called for a new intifada, or uprising – granted, a call they make habitually. A series of rockets was launched at southern Israel from Gaza, where Hamas governs.

However, by Tuesday, Dec. 12, the status quo seemed to remain in effect. To ease pressure on Trump over his Jerusalem announcement, Netanyahu quietly delayed the final votes, slated for this week, on a bill that would make it harder for Israel to hand over any part of the city under a future peace deal, Israel’s Hadashot TV news reported. Pleased but not ecstatic over Trump’s decision, Israelis continued their daily routines.

In eastern Jerusalem, Gaza and the West Bank, a wave of Palestinian demonstrations petered out and

schools and businesses that had closed reopened. Abbas’ foreign affairs adviser on Sunday, Dec. 10, clarified to *The Times of Israel* that the Palestinians had no plans to cut ties with the United States.

“We are not cutting our relationship with America. We are protesting the move of Mr. Trump,” Nabil Shaath said. “We think Mr. Trump has acted in a way that makes it impossible for the United States to act as an honest broker. We are just expressing that.”

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## Chase the Dreidel draws crowd

They ran, they skipped, they strolled. People from all over Pinellas County came to Congregation B'nai Israel of St. Petersburg on Sunday, Dec. 3, to the third annual Chase the Dreidel 5K.

The number of participants has doubled since the race began three years ago. Runners say they are drawn to the event because it starts at 4 p.m. instead of the early morning, and that it includes a tasty and plentiful latke buffet.

Participants ranged in age from 8 to 82. Besides the race, the event featured a fun run, bounce house and crafts for children.



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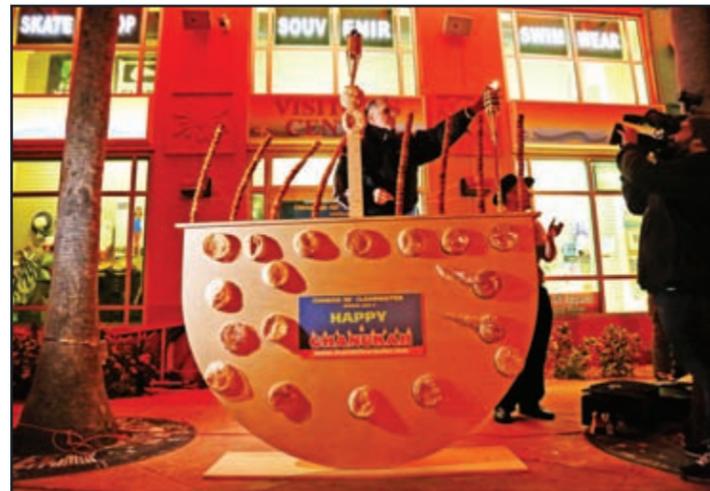
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## Chabad of Clearwater throws Hanukkah beach party



Community members braved windy conditions to light up the first night of Chanukah 5778 - 2017 at Surf Style on Clearwater Beach, sponsored by Chabad of Clearwater.

Dr. Erel Laufer kindled the "World's First Ever Giant Falafel Menorah," the Clearwater Fire Department dropped hundreds of chocolate gelt from their ladder truck, Carl Rutenberg entertained on the guitar and Mad Science enthralled the kids. Not to mention, the hundreds of latkes, doughnuts and falafel participants polished off.

Clearwater Mayor George Cretekos was on hand too to greet the partygoers.

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Above, The falafel menorah "shook like a lulav," in the strong winds, according to Rabbi Levi Hodakov of Chabad of Clearwater, as Dr. Erel Laufer had the honor of lighting the menorah on the first night of Hanukkah. At left, the rabbi and others dance on the Clearwater Beach plaza in celebration of the Festival of Lights



Photos by Douglas R. Clifford

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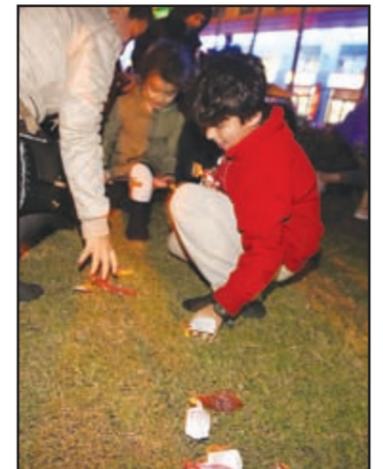
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Kids get an assist picking up chocolate gelt dropped from a Clearwater Fire department ladder truck.

# Army colonel to speak on tracking terror group funding

Army Col. Joshua Potter, an authority on tracking the financial activities of terror groups, drug trafficking organizations and transnational criminal organizations, will speak at Congregation Schaarai Zedek on Thursday, Jan. 25 at 7 p.m. on U.S. efforts to thwart those foes.



Col. Joshua Potter

public, but for security reasons no one will be admitted without a reservation.

Col. Potter's work deals with how Hezbollah and other terror and criminal groups are funded. He will share his personal experiences in coordinating U.S. operations against these threats, shedding light on the dark world of terror and crime.

The event will include complimentary desserts and a coffee buffet.

Col. Potter works at U.S. Special Operations Command at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, leading the Transactional Threats Division.

The program is part of the Schaarai Zedek Brotherhood's annual Steve Marx Speaker Series.

The talk is free and open to the

RSVP at [www.zedek.rsvp](http://www.zedek.rsvp) or call (813) 876-2377. The synagogue is located at 3303 W. Swann Ave., Tampa.

# 6<sup>th</sup> annual International Holocaust Remembrance Day set for Jan. 21

Diplomatic officials representing 40 nations will once again hold ceremonies in Tampa to honor the memory of the millions of lives lost in the Holocaust – a tradition that Vincent Genovese has upheld for the past five years.

The event will take place on Sunday, Jan. 21 at 3 p.m. at the Italian Club, 1731 E. Seventh Ave., Ybor City.

The program is free, but reservations are required by contacting [vgenovese@IDCFL.ORG](mailto:vgenovese@IDCFL.ORG). Registration at the Italian Club begins at 2 p.m.

Featured speaker will be Holocaust survivor Betty Grebenschikoff, author of the memoir *Once my Name Was Sara, a Story of Hope and Survival*. The memoir details her family's flight from Nazi Germany just days before her father's anticipated arrest by the Gestapo, and her later life growing up in Shanghai, China, the city that became her home. At the time of their flight, Shanghai offered the only port open to European Jews without visas or passports.

In recognition of China's humanitarian gesture to allow more than 20,000 Jewish refugees to enter the country during Nazi era, the Ambassador Consul General of China, Li Qiangmin, based in Houston, is scheduled to attend to receive an award.

Annette Klein, Consul General of Germany, will deliver opening remarks. Other speakers will be the Lior Haiat, Consul General of Israel; Steven Bernstein, chairman of Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce; Ambassador Barbara Stephenson, president of American Foreign Service Association.

Also in attendance will be governmental, military and religious leaders of many faiths and five other survivors of the Nazi horror, escorted by Consuls General of Germany, Canada, France, Greece, and the UK. The survivors will light candles in the presence of the Tampa Central Command Honor Guard and the European Guard representing Italy, France, Germany and the UK, in honor of the six million Jews who lost their lives. Rabbi Barbara Aiello of Sarasota will officiate at the candle lighting and Rabbi Carla Freedman of Sun City Center will lead the mourner's kaddish.

Members of the Tampa Bay Area Cantorial Association will also perform.

Jan. 27, 1945 marks the Liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp, where 1 million Jews were murdered by the Nazis. In No-

vember 2005, the United Nations General Assembly resolved that Jan. 27 should be observed as a day to honor the memory of Holocaust victims and encourage the development of education programs about Holocaust history to help prevent further acts of genocide.

Genovese has been organizing such an observance for the past five years but the event for 2018 was for a while in jeopardy when a rift developed between him and the leader of the Tampa Bay Consular Corps, under whose banner the event was previously held. Subsequently, Genovese formed the International Diplomatic Corps of Florida (IDCFK) and became its executive director. In that capacity he lined up the diplomats and consuls representing 40 countries to attend the event.

IDCFL is a non-profit organization with a mission to host annually the International Holocaust Remembrance Day and offer scholarships to university/college and high schools students to instill the memory of the Holocaust tragedy in the minds of future generations in order to combat anti-Semitism. To fund the annual commemoration and Holocaust scholarships, IDCFL welcomes donations, contributions and grants to be sent to IDCFL, 7217 Gulf Blvd, Suite 14-145, St. Petersburg, FL 33706.

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# Organizations

## Genealogical Society

**Get educated:** On Sunday Jan. 14, the Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay will present several selected recorded excerpts from a broad range of educational sessions presented at the 2017 International Conference on Jewish Genealogy. This program will provide an opportunity to hear from select conference speakers accompanied by a slide presentation of the material – almost like being there. The meeting will be at Gulf Coast Jewish Family & Community Services, Inc., 14041 Icot Blvd., Clearwater. A social with refreshments begins at 1:30 p.m., and the featured program starts at 2 p.m. The meeting is open to everyone at no charge. For more information, call **Bruce Hadburg** at (727) 796-7981.

## Young Adults

**Improv workshop:** #Gather will get together to explore the elements of improv at a workshop on Wednesday, Jan. 10 from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Bryan Glazer Family JCC, 522 N. Howard Ave., Tampa. There will be improvisational games, exercises and just plain silliness to help you let go and laugh, brought to you by American Stage Improv. The cost is \$18 for JCC members and \$22

for guests. #Gather offers a mix of social and interactive activities designed to help young adults connect. It is open to young adults of all faiths and backgrounds. For more information on any #Gather program, go to [www.bryanglazerfamilyjcc.com/gather](http://www.bryanglazerfamilyjcc.com/gather) or contact **Lisa Robbins**, Tampa JCCs & Federation director of Young Adult Engagement at [lisa.robbins@jewishtampa.com](mailto:lisa.robbins@jewishtampa.com) or (813) 769-4723.

**Yoga and brunch:** On Sunday, Jan. 14 from 9-11 a.m. join #Gather in an hourlong yoga session, followed by a light healthy lunch at the Glazer JCC. The cost is \$5 for members and \$7 for guests.

**Grown-up game night:** #Gather will host an evening playing games such as Exploding Kittens, Joking Hazard and Cards Against Humanity. Bring your own games to play, too. Snacks, beer and more will be offered. The event is Wednesday, Jan. 24 from 7-9 p.m. at the Glazer JCC. This is free for members and \$5 for guests.

## Job-Links

**Career counseling:** On Monday, Jan. 8, the topic for the Monday Morning Links program is “Setting goals and action steps for 2018” and the topic for the Jan. 22 Monday Morning Links session is “Interview tips and techniques that work.” These free sessions are held from 9:30 - 11 a.m. at the

Jack Roth Center for Career Development at TampaBay-Job-Links, 4100 W. Kennedy Blvd., Suite 206, Tampa. Monday Morning Links is supported by the Vinik Family Foundation.

There are also Success workshops on select Thursdays to aid with job-search skills. On Jan. 4, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., the topic will be “Mastering chance and transition.” On Jan. 11 from 9:30 a.m. to noon, the topic is “5 steps to negotiate a job offer.” The Jan. 25 Success workshop, from 9:30 a.m. to noon, is “Getting organized and staying on track during your job search.” The workshops are free for TampaBay Job-Links full program participants and \$15 for guests. Reservations required for all programs.

The next series of “Switching Gears” workshops will be on Wednesdays, Jan. 17, 24 and 31 and Feb. 7 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. These are targeted to those in career transition. To RSVP, call (813) 344-0200, email [RSVP@TBJL.org](mailto:RSVP@TBJL.org).

## Support groups

**Alzheimer’s caregiver group:** Menorah Manor offers a support group meeting in the Samson Nursing Center at Menorah Manor, 255 59th St. N., St. Petersburg, on the first Thursday of the month from 3:30-5 p.m. For more information, call **Gwen Kaldenberg** at (727) 302-3750.

# Bat Mitzvah

## Samantha Chaya Miller



Samantha Chaya Miller, daughter of Marcia and Mitchell Miller of Clearwater, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, Jan. 13 at Temple B’nai Israel in Clearwater.

Samantha is a seventh-grade honors student at St. Paul’s School. Active in sports, she plays soccer, tennis, volleyball and basketball, along with waterskiing, yoga and archery. She also enjoys reading, cooking and traveling with her family. For her mitzvah project Samantha started an environmental club at her school.

Samantha’s family will host a reception at Temple B’nai Israel on Saturday, Jan. 13.

Special guests will include grandparents, Myra and Robert Sann of Clearwater and Elaine and Steffan Miller of Princeton Junction, NJ, along with family and friends from Miami, New Jersey, New York, Washington, DC, Massachusetts, North Carolina and Colorado.

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## POSITION AVAILABLE

**YOUTH ADVISOR POSITION AVAILABLE:** 6- 12 grade, Temple B’nai Israel. Salary commensurate with experience contact [Danig@tbclearwater.org](mailto:Danig@tbclearwater.org)

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# Inaugural Survivors' Night reminds world at Hanukkah of their triumph against all odds

BERLIN (JTA) – Hundreds of Holocaust survivors around the world participated in an inaugural global Hanukkah ceremony meant especially for them.

In Jerusalem, New York, Berlin and other German cities, the survivors lit candles on Thursday night, the third evening of the eight-day holiday.

International Holocaust Survivors' Night was sponsored by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany.

In the German capital, about 20 survivors met with Bundestag President Wolfgang Schäuble in the Reichstag and lit a menorah in the Jewish community center.

"They say every person is born with the Lebenslicht, the flame of life," said Berliner Marlene Herzberg, born in 1934 to a Jewish father and Christian mother. Herzberg survived because her mother had her baptized.

"The world should be filled with light," she said.

Rudolf Rosenberg, 92, whose family fled Nazi Germany in 1935, ended up in what was then Leningrad.

"When it's dark, you have to fight to bring the light back," he said.

Rosenberg, a retired educator who taught Russian in the former East Germany, returned to live in Berlin in 1993.

"In my opinion, everyone has experienced a miracle at some time in their life," he said. "For me it's that I fled Berlin at the age of 10, and that I am here again."

According to Greg Schneider, executive vice president of the Claims Conference, there are some 450,000 survivors living around the world, most of them former Soviet citizens who like Rosenberg had fled eastward. About 90,000 who survived concentration camps, in ghettos or in hiding are still alive, said Schneider, who participated in the Jerusalem event.

"We need to dedicate at least one night of Hanukkah to reminding the world about Holocaust survivors," Schneider told JTA, adding that he hopes to repeat this next year and beyond. The Hanukkah story "resonates with their story of resilience; of being powerless – you would not believe they could survive – and against all odds they come out triumphant and rebuild."

In Berlin, some survivors expressed worry about rising anti-Semitism following recent street demonstrations where Israeli flags were

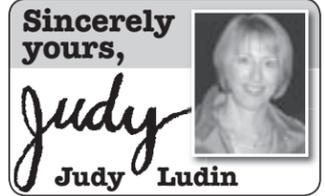


(L-R) Rabbi Charles Savenor of the Park Avenue Synagogue; Rose Feigenbaum, and Leon Levy, both Holocaust survivors from Poland; and Claims Conference Chief of Staff Arie Bucheister at the first International Holocaust Survivors Night in New York City on Dec. 14.

burned. The demonstrations came in response to President Donald Trump's pronouncement that the United States was recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

"They said that the very aggressive atmosphere and demonstrations at the Brandenburg Gate, right in front of the chanukiyah there, reminded them of 1938," Rüdiger Mahlo, the Claims Conference representative in Germany, told JTA.

In New York, the Holocaust Survivors Night took place at the Park Avenue Synagogue. And in Israel, some 300 survivors attended a ceremony at the Western Wall.



### Mazel tov!

Little **Jacob Ryan Kauffman** was welcomed into the world on Oct. 30, delighting his parents **Ben and Ciara Kauffman** of Tampa. Proud grandparents are **Jay and Karen Kauffman** of Seminole and **Rick and Nancy Chapman** of Madeira Beach. Great-Grandmother **Ellen Bernstein** of St. Petersburg is kvelling over great-grandchild #9.

*P.S. As always, I'm looking forward to hearing about all your family simchas. Photos are welcome, too. Send information to: Sincerely Yours, P.O. Box 6970, Clearwater, FL 33758, or e-mail jewishpress@aol.com.*

# Israeli drug maker to lay off 14,000 workers

JERUSALEM (JTA) – Israel-based Teva Pharmaceutical Industries, one of the largest manufacturers of generic drugs in the world, will lay off 14,000 workers as part of a global restructuring, or 25 percent of its workforce.

Teva made the announcement on Thursday, Dec. 14. The cuts will take place over the next two years, with most in 2018, The Associated Press reported.

After the cuts are completed, only 8 percent of Teva's employees will be Israeli, the Israeli business daily *Globes* reported. Teva, based in Petach Tikvah, is the country's largest private sector employer with nearly 7,000 employees in Israel. The cuts will reduce the number to about 4,000.

Teva stock has fallen 60 percent in the past year. The company also took a hit from the expiration of its patents on Copaxone, its drug for multiple sclerosis, and is struggling under a \$35 billion debt from its

acquisition of Allergan's Andra generic drug division.

The company said it will be closing or selling plants in Israel as well as the United States and Europe.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke with Teva CEO Kare Schultz, who was hired six weeks ago to turn the company's fortunes, following the announcement.

According to a statement from the Prime Minister's Office, Netanyahu asked Schultz to minimize the damage to Israeli workers, especially in the periphery of the country where two Teva factories reportedly will close.

Schultz said he would make a "supreme effort" to reduce the damage to the company's employees, the statement said.

Netanyahu also asked Schultz to do everything possible to preserve Teva's identity as an Israeli company, according to the statement.

# Family of Miss Iraq forced to flee country after photo posted with Miss Israel

JERUSALEM (JTA) – The family of Iraq's contestant in the Miss Universe pageant have left the country due to threats to their lives over her modeling in a bikini and posting on social media photos taken with Miss Israel.

Miss Iraq, Sarah Idan, lives in the United States and the rest of her family has now fled the country, Miss Israel, Adar Gandelsman, told Hadashot news.

During the competition in Tokyo in November, Gandelsman and Idan posed for photos on their respective Instagram accounts. Idan's caption read "Peace and Love from

Miss Iraq and Miss Israel."

Gandelsman told Hadashot news that Idan said she does not regret posting the photos.

"She did it to so that people can understand that it's possible to live together," Gandelsman said. "In order for people to see that we can connect, in the end we are both human beings."

Idan has not removed the photo from her Instagram account. Last month she defended the photo in a post in Arabic on Instagram, the *Times of Israel* reported.

"I want to stress that the purpose of the picture was only to express



Miss Israel, Adar Gandelsman, left, and Miss Iraq, Sarah Idan, in a photo on Gandelsman's Instagram page.

hope and desire for peace between the two countries," she wrote in the post.

Idan said the photo does not signal support for the Israeli government and apologized if the photo was harmful to the Palestinian cause.

## Obituaries

**STEVEN APPLEBAUM**, 56, of St. Petersburg, died Dec. 5. Born in Paterson, NJ, he worked for many years as a psychologist. (David C. Gross Funeral Homes, Clearwater Chapel)

**ANITA SCHNEIDER KLEINFELD**, 80, of St. Petersburg, died Dec. 10. Born in Bayonne, NJ she worked for many years as a top level real estate professional, earning a stellar reputation and the admiration and respect of her peers. Survivors include her sons and daughter-in-law, Howard and Patricia Kleinfeld, and Eric Kleinfeld; daughter and son-in-law Jill and Stuart Meistrich; sister, Judith Bloom; and three grandchildren. The family suggests memorials be made to [www.love-shriners.org](http://www.love-shriners.org).

(David C. Gross Funeral Homes, St. Petersburg Chapel)

**PHYLLIS SCHWARTZ**, 84, of Clearwater, died Dec. 11. She was born in Brooklyn. Survivors include her husband Milton; son and daughter-in-law Richard and Barbara Ann Zippin; daughter Jill Bryan; sister and brother-in-law Norma and Martin Hochman; 10 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. (David C. Gross Funeral Homes, Clearwater Chapel)

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### Palm Harbor library



Lance Larson colors his hanukkah.



Guest readers Isabella & Rowan



Gayle Maller, religious school principal at Temple Ahavat Shalom in Palm Harbor, reading a story

### Safety Harbor library



William raises his hand to answer a question.



Guest reader Barbara Bloom, director of membership engagement at Temple B'nai Israel in Clearwater.



Kara Tanner and daughter Lily enjoy the story.

## Federation creates December to remember with PJ Library events

The Jewish Federation of Pinellas and Pasco Counties found a way to make sweet Hanukkah memories accessible for many children and families in the community by holding PJ Library events at local libraries. Through the events, the Federation was able to reach passionate readers, families with children, and begin a year-round relationship with kids, parents and books. "This is a wonderful way to reach out to members of our community who may not know that the Federation is here, and has great things like the PJ Library to offer," said Maxine Kaufman, director of Arts and Culture at the Federation.

Each program featured latkes and sufganyot (doughnuts), story time, the spinning of the dreidel, craft projects and special guests plus a Hanukkah gift for every child courtesy of the Jewish Federation. Families also had the opportunity to sign up for both PJ Library for infants to children up to age 8, and PJ Our Way, the latest expansion of the book program for kids 9-11. Events were held on Dec. 14 at the public libraries in Safety Harbor and Palm Harbor. In addition to the December events, the libraries are adding PJ Library content to their circulation so readers can learn about Jewish holidays and more, year round.

## INVESTMENT

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All eight of the businesses pitching their products the day Vinik spoke in June were in the first cohort (group) of Israeli high-tech companies to participate in the Tampa Jewish Federation's Florida Israel Business Accelerator (FIBA) program. In exchange for giving the Federation a small stake in the companies, FIBA offered the companies office space at the Glazer JCC, marketing assistance, introduction to potential investors and an array of other support efforts aimed to helping the companies establish headquarters in the Tampa Bay area and launching markets in the U.S. With the anticipated success of StemRad as well as other companies, Federation officials are hopeful of a huge return on their investment.

StemRad is still working out of FIBA offices at the Glazer JCC, but is expected to open headquarters in Tampa in the near term as FIBA lines up a second cohort of companies to work out of their offices in 2018.

In another sign of local interest in the future of StemRad, Jack Ross, who had led FIBA since its inception in 2016, left that organization on Sept. 22 and three days later became StemRad's vice president of North American operations — and made his own investment in the company. Ross continues to be senior advisor to FIBA on a volunteer basis.

The announcement of the investment by Vinik and others came days before Florida Gov. Rick Scott recognized the first class of FIBA graduates during a reception in Tel Aviv on Monday, Dec. 4. It was part of Gov. Scott's week-long trade mission to Israel, where he was accompanied by about 70 business and education officials. Scott presented the Florida Govern-

nor's Award to Ross for creation of businesses and jobs in Florida and presented Milstein with an award for StemRad's work with Space Florida and with NASA in the development and deployment of the AstroRad vest to protect astronauts from radiation in space.

"Innovative partnerships like the Florida Israel Business Accelerator are helping bring global businesses to Florida, which ultimately leads to more job opportunities for Florida families," Gov. Scott said, adding "... I look forward to seeing StemRad's success in the Tampa Bay area."

"I am pleased to see FIBA being recognized by Gov. Scott for the good work they are doing to bring innovative Israeli companies to Tampa Bay," Vinik said in response to Scott's stop in Tel Aviv. "FIBA and its participating companies, including StemRad, are an impactful addition to our local entrepreneurial ecosystem."

If anyone can help grow that "ecosystem," it is Vinik, whose local real estate company Strategic Property Partners is undertaking a \$3 billion mixed-use project called Water Street Tampa that aims to revitalize more than 50 acres of downtown Tampa in the area near Amalie Arena, home of the Lightning.

When StemRad became a member of the FIBA inaugural cohort class, few could have anticipated the company's meteoric rise in the U.S. in such a short time.

"FIBA provided numerous opportunities to engage with customer end-users, investors, subject-matter experts and with various professional service providers who proved to be an integral part of our U.S. launch," StemRad co-founder Milstein said. "If that were not enough, the Tampa Jewish community and broader entrepreneurial

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The StemRad radiation shield as shown in promotional video

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# FIBA not the only venture in Florida to mine Israeli talent

The Florida Israel Business Alliance based at the Bryan Glazer JCC in Tampa is not the only entity seeking to form ties with Israeli companies in hopes of helping those companies establish a market in the U.S. and create jobs and commerce in the Sunshine State.

A new organization, the Israel-Florida Innovation Alliance (IFIA), was recently created with a mission to help Israeli innovation companies pick Florida as their U.S. headquarters, serving as a gateway for expansion into U.S. and Latin America markets.

IFIA was recently formed through a partnership of StartUp Nation Ventures with the Israel Innovation Authority. That partnership was recently recognized in Tel Aviv as

part of Florida Gov. Rick Scott's business development mission to Israel.

"This agreement will provide vital resources to entrepreneurs and drive innovation forward in both Israel and Florida. In Florida, our focus on cutting taxes and reducing burdensome regulations has created a business-friendly environment so job creators can succeed, and we are proud to welcome and support the growth of Israeli small businesses," Scott said.

Through the new alliance:

- StartUp Nation Ventures is a crowd-funded organization that will invest up to \$500,000 in select Israeli innovative companies and provide them with strategic, operational, and professional support. The capital investments aim to accelerate U.S. market

penetration through public/private partnerships. This framework provides these ventures with products/solutions analysis, testing, licensing and growth of these new established Florida based operations.

"Our growing public/private partnership ecosystem will help these promising early-stage companies test, adapt, and validate their solutions for the U.S. and Latin American markets, ultimately, helping our largest employers pursue market opportunities and leverage disruptive innovations to solve the most pressing industry needs," said Vicki Rabenou, originally from Jerusalem who served as FIBA's first CEO, but left and co-founded StartUp Nation Ventures in 2017.

- Israel Innovation Authority ("IIA"), an

Israel government ministry, may award research and development grants up to \$250,000 to support the scaling and expansion of Israeli innovation companies' products/solutions into the U.S., and Latin America markets. The IIA provides a three-month due-diligence process for grant applicants, awarding up to 50 percent of the company's research and development costs.

"We're excited to build upon the existing relationship with the state of Florida and the very successful, ongoing initiative with the Space Florida Partnership," said Aharon Aharon, Israel Innovation Authority CEO. "We will continue to strengthen the alliance between the state of Florida and the state of Israel with joint activities to advance innovation and economic development for the benefit of the two states."

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community embraced StemRad as if we were family. With FIBA, we found a trusted partner."

Milstein invented the 360 Gamma, the world's first wearable protective radiological shield. After the March 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster, he saw an immediate need for those first responders. Utilizing his PhD studies in bone marrow transplantation and anti-radiation models, Milstein developed a wearable vest to protect people from harmful gamma radiation.

While complete body coverage would be impractical due to how much it would weigh, the StemRad vest is a practical solution for those who need to move about, while still shielding "the bone marrow and other stem cell rich organs in the abdominal and pelvic regions such as the ovaries, colon and bladder," the company's website states, "This is the only way to provide meaningful protection while remaining mobile."

StemRad makes a civilian product for just under \$2,900, Ross said, declining to name prices of the company's other products.

StemRad's first responder protective shield for military, nuclear plant workers and first responders includes Kevlar and fire protection and dosimeters to measure levels of radiation. These products are already in use and the U.S. Army is doing tests to confirm its protective capabilities and to study when and where it might be used, Ross said, adding that a finding is due soon that could make it eligible for the U.S.

military to purchase them. By law, if the military wants to buy them, they have to be made in the United States. To that end, Ross said StemRad is in advanced talks with a manufacturing company in Tampa.

Meanwhile the FBI is testing a lighter weight shield that only protects one side of the body at a time – to be used by agents approaching suspected bombs.

The AstroRad vest for protecting astronauts from radiation has been chosen to be tested on the next unmanned orbiting moon mission in 2019 – a project of the German and Israeli space agencies and NASA. Also, StemRad and Lockheed Martin are working on a project to send AstroRad vests to the International Space Station next year for astronauts to wear and they will be the first component at the space station to bear an Israeli flag, Ross said.

"This is key technology to allow humans to go into deep space," Ross said, adding that the AstroRad vest was made for use on NASA's manned mission to Mars, set to happen in the 2030s.

While StemRad has received the most high-profile support, it is not the only success story to come out of FIBA's first cohort of companies.

FIBA Executive Director Rachel Feinman gave an update on some of the other first cohort companies:

- Tevatronic just signed its first deal with a local Tampa Bay farmer and is in discussions with a locally based reseller. The company developed a system aimed at taking the guesswork

out of irrigation and fertilization for farmers by using an algorithm to decide when to start and stop irrigation of their fields.

- EProc is a company that uses information technology services to help save companies time and money. EProc signed its first contract with a global business process outsourcer located in Tampa and is in active discussions with others in Tampa. They have also signed a deal with a local reseller.

- Blazepod has just started manufacturing its product and is fulfilling orders from two successful crowdfunding campaigns. Once that is complete, FIBA will begin to identify local strategic partnerships for the company. Blazepod makes an interactive and reactive fitness product that measures fitness results by reaction time, helping people get out of the monotonous gym routine.

- Weissbeberger is a beverage

data analytics technology company that gives restaurants, breweries and bars a real-time understanding of their market in order to optimize pricing, manage inventory, and create unique promotions and experiences for the consumer. The company is in discussions with an international restaurant chain and a national concessionaire, due to introductions from FIBA.

- SkySapience is a defense and communications technology company that has created a tethered hovering platform that can support a variety of large payloads and used in multiple ways such as border control, military surveillance, agriculture/national park monitoring and mass event monitoring. FIBA has succeeded in getting SkySapience entered into the SOCOM procurement database. This "makes the company accessible to all of the individuals and teams at SOCOM and other parts of the army looking for solutions to procure," Feinman said.

"We are working with our Israeli partners to market Tampa Bay as a global landing pad for business so we can welcome more high-tech, high-paying jobs for Tampa Bay families," Feinman said. "I am proud of the success of our first class of graduates and look forward to seeing their continued growth and commitment in Florida."

FIBA is currently reviewing candidates for the next cohort, with plans for those companies to set up offices at the Glazer JCC in February and go through the same sort of launch process the initial eight companies did.

"Companies that are a good fit for the FIBA launch program have a product/technology that is ready for market, preferably with a customer-base in Israel or other countries and resources allocated to activities surrounding launch of the product in the US market," a FIBA news release states.

To date the state has provided \$1.4 million in funding for FIBA.

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# PUERTO RICO

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signaling roof damage, Rabbi Hearshen said “You hear generators running all hours of day and night,” he said, adding that the streetlights and traffic lights are still not working in the city, making driving conditions hazardous.

Although other parts of the island are reportedly in much worse shape, Rabbi Hearshen still saw a number of downed power lines and one bridge that was washed out. Cell phone use and the ability to use credit cards, as well as water supplies in some areas, were spotty, he said.

Even in areas they visited around the capital, many homeowners had not cleaned up debris and damaged parts of their homes in fear that if they did, they might not qualify for FEMA assistance, which is slow in coming to many people.

A family from Puerto Rico with a child at Hillel Academy in Tampa helped Rabbi Hearshen and his group make a list of what sort of supplies were needed before the group left for the island. Members of the relief group stuffed suitcases with first aid supplies, batteries, water purification systems, diapers, shampoo, toothpaste, clothing, hats, and other items. Southwest Airlines officials were kind enough not to charge a fee when some bags exceeded weight limits.

On the day the group arrived, they delivered some of the items they brought along to a Catholic convent that also housed a senior living facility, and heard that after two months without power and running water, both services had just been restored.

Asked what sort of reaction he got as a Jew from folks on a predominantly Catholic island, Rabbi



Michael Leeds handing out relief supplies in Carolina

Hearshen said “When kids heard the word rabbi, for some of them, their eyes lit up.”

In addition to the items the group brought, Rabbi Hearshen said the congregation raised about \$10,000 for relief for victims of hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria. He said most of that money will go to Maria victims.

A small portion of that money went to help a young boy and his sister in Dorado that the Rodeph Sholom group met on their first full day in Puerto Rico. The group had gone to paint a flood damaged house occupied by a mother, grandmother and two small children. They discovered the children were not in school because the boy’s shoes had been stolen. They took the kids to a store and bought them shoes and toys.

On the second day, the group partnered with the Chabad of Puerto Rico to distribute aid in Toa Alta, a town about 18 miles inland from San Juan.

“We watched as people came down from their small towns to stand in line and we handed out goods to over 130 families. They



The group from Rodeph Sholom dropping off supplies and blankets to nuns at Hogar Santa Teresa Jornet, a convent and senior center. (L-R) Vanessa Cohn, Michael Edgerley, Rabbi Josh Hearshen, David Magness, Michael Leeds, Lynne Winderbaum and Michael Sinnreich.

received food. They received medicines. They received batteries. And they received so much more. But the greatest thing they received was the gift of hope and love. We showed them we cared and we showed them that there will be light at the end of this tunnel,” Rabbi Hearshen wrote in a letter to congregants.

Later the same day, they helped repair a community center that features a theatre program where kids get second chances when they have had legal problems.

The third day the group went south of Loiza to help a family remove destroyed belongings from the bottom floor of their house, which had been flooded by more than 5 feet of water. Rabbi Hearshen noted that a lot of family items and memorabilia was destroyed.

“Their 13-year-old son’s childhood was in shambles. His PlaySta-

tion had been destroyed and so we went and bought him a new tablet on which he could play games. We wanted to help them make new memories,” he wrote.

The group also visited Sharei Zedek, a Conservative synagogue in San Juan, where they learned about that organization and “everything that they went through these past months.”

The rabbi said that although the synagogue did not suffer substantial damage, it is in financial peril as it has cost about \$60,000 in fuel to keep a generator going since the hurricane.

Rabbi Hearshen said the island had “been hit by a one-two punch” – the hurricane on top of the already existing widespread poverty. But the rabbi said one thing that struck him again and again was the spirit of the Puerto Rican people, their hope and drive.

“All around the island we (saw)

the words in Spanish ‘Puerto Rico rises,’” Rabbi Hearshen said, then praised the people for their “strong and uplifting spirit.” He wrote to his congregation, “It was such a beautiful thing to see that Puerto Rico is rising up again and we are part of that work.”

Already Rabbi Hearshen is planning on taking a group back to the island next year, perhaps as part of a Habitat for Humanity project.

As he told his congregation, “The concept of tzedakah is not about charity nor is it about choice, it is all about justice and all about obligations. We are not going beyond the call. We are heeding the call as we all should be... We cannot sit around in Tampa or wherever we are and wait for others to help; it is our job and our responsibility to be the help. When one person is suffering in our cores and cry for them and work with them.”

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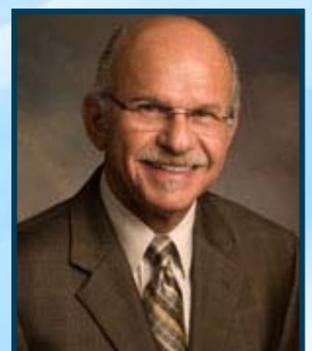
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