

Serving the Jewish communities of Pinellas County:  
St. Petersburg, Clearwater, Seminole, Largo,  
the Beaches, Dunedin, Safety Harbor,  
Palm Harbor, Tarpon Springs, East Lake...  
& Pasco County: New Port Richey, Trinity...

The Jewish Press Group of Tampa Bay, Inc.  
Jewish Press of Pinellas County  
P. O. Box 6970  
Clearwater, FL 33758-6970

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
The Jewish Press Group  
of Tampa Bay, Inc.

## Rain can't dampen spirits for Israel's 70th birthday

By THAIS LEON-MILLER  
Jewish Press

Not even a tornado watch could keep away the approximately 300 attendees of the Jewish Federation of Pinellas and Pasco Counties' Israel Independence celebration Sunday, April 15 in Largo.

Community members of all ages braved the wind and rain to take silly photos in front of a royal blue, crushed velvet backdrop and watch youngsters get their faces painted and jump around in a bounce house that filled the entirety of one of the rooms in the main gallery of the Pinewood Cultural Park. Falafel, hummus and Israeli salad were served inside while hot dogs and chips were available outside. The deejay played music while children ran around with blue and white bal-



Participants wave Israeli flags and dance the hora during the Israel Independence Day celebration at the Pinewood Cultural Park in Largo.

loon animals and Israeli flags.

There was fun and games, but there was also a more somber tone of discussion. Former

Defense Department official Eric Lynn spoke about the Israeli rocket defense system, the Iron Dome, and his part in mak-

ing sure the program got off the ground under the Obama administration.

**BIRTHDAY continued on PAGE 10**



Photo courtesy of CASA

A portion of the new library at the CASA (Community Action Stops Abuse) shelter in south Pinellas County.

## JWI chapter donates library for children at abuse shelter

Members of the Clearwater Chapter of Jewish Women International (JWI), recently donated a new children's library at CASA, (Community Action Stops Abuse), south Pinellas County's domestic abuse shelter.

The library at CASA is the 68th to open as part of the JWI National Library Initiative and the third one to open in Florida. The other two in the state are in Naples and Miami.

The national goal is to establish 100 children's libraries in domestic violence shelters across the country in conjunction with JWI's mission to end domestic and sexual violence against women and girls.

The library initiative puts the children front and center by providing a sanctuary where each child can find the comfort that only a good book and a safe place can provide.

"Kids escaping volatile and danger-

ous homes are at high risk of falling behind grade level at school," said CASA's CEO Lariana Forsythe. "That is why JWI's children's library at CASA's emergency shelter is so important. It will provide key learning resources to the 50-60 kids staying at our shelter each night. Integrated with our other programs for children and their guardians, it will be a critical resource helping families break the generational cycle of violence."

The money to completely furnish the CASA library and stock the shelves was raised primarily by the members of the JWI Clearwater Chapter.

"It was truly a dream come true. As a National Board of Trustees member, I had heard about the libraries and when CASA announced their new facility, I asked the Clearwater Chapter to sponsor a library there. The members

**LIBRARY continued on PAGE 7**

## Scubi Jew appeal blooms – even in the Arizona desert

By BOB FRYER  
Jewish Press

When Rabbi Ed Rosenthal, founder of the Scubi Jew scuba diving program at Eckerd College, got a call from the Hillel program director at the University of Arizona, asking about starting a Scubi Jew chapter there, Rosenthal's reaction was, "Dude, you live in the desert."

The program director, who had read about the scuba diving program in a magazine highlighting college Hillel organizations across the nation, was not put off by Rabbi Rosenthal's reaction and said there was strong interest in starting a chapter there. He also pointed out that the University of Arizona is closer to the Sea of Cortez than Eckerd College is to the Florida Keys. Soon, a chapter was formed and the Arizona students wound up on spring break diving trip to Key Largo to help clean up waters after Hurricane Irma ravaged the area.

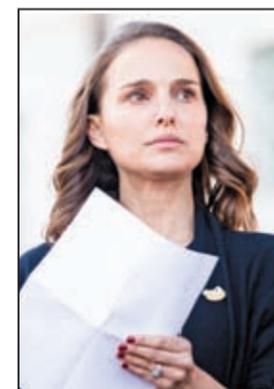
While Rosenthal chuckled over the exchange with the Arizona program director, he is actually very proud and, he added, "a little amazed" by how the Scubi Jew program has grown and its prospects for future growth.

**SCUBI continued on PAGE 14**



University of Arizona students on their first Scubi Jew dive trip to Key Largo during spring break 2018.

## Portman won't go pick up prize due to beef with Bibi



Emma McIntyre/Getty Images  
Natalie Portman at the Jan. 20 Women's March in LA

(JTA) — Natalie Portman said she wouldn't attend a prize ceremony in Israel because of her feelings about its prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, and "atrocities" committed on his watch, but emphasized that she would not shun Israel itself.

The Jerusalem-born director

and actor, posting comments on Instagram, explained her decision not to accept in person the \$2 million Genesis Prize, which calls itself the "Jewish Nobel," after a day of speculation in the media that she was turning down the prize because she was joining the movement to boycott, divest from and sanction Israel, known as BDS. The prize foundation had the day before announced Portman's decision not to attend the ceremony.

"I chose not to attend because I did not want to appear as endorsing Benjamin Netanyahu, who was to be giving a speech at the ceremony," said Portman, who in 2011 won a best actress Oscar for *Black Swan*.

"By the same token, I am not part of the BDS movement and do not endorse it," Portman said.

"Like many Israelis and Jews around the world, I can be critical of the leadership in Israel without wanting to boycott the entire nation," she said. "I treasure my Israeli friends and family, Israeli food, books, art, cinema, and dance. Israel was created exactly 70 years ago as a haven for refugees from the Holocaust. But the mistreatment of those suffering from today's atrocities is simply not in line with my Jewish values. Because I care about Israel, I must stand up against violence, corruption, inequality, and abuse of power."

She did not explain what she was referring to by "atrocities."

Israel has drawn sharp criticism in recent months for confrontations with Palestinian protesters on its Gaza border. Israeli troops have killed more than 30 Palestinians and wounded hundreds. Israel says the protesters are not peaceful and have tossed rocks and explosive devices at troops.

**PORTMAN continued on PAGE 6**

» DO GOOD EVERYWHERE. FROM ANYWHERE. »

Join our page @ www.facebook.com/jfed.pinellas



### Meet Rabbi Jacob Luski,

who has served the Congregation B'nai Israel community for 40 years. Rabbi Luski's service was celebrated recently at the "Chaivana Nights" event, recognizing his work and wishing him well on his approaching retirement.



Since July 1, 2017  
we have raised  
**\$1,313,940**

plus an additional \$288,134 in contributions to endowment funds at TOP benefiting our Federation.

### Did you know? »

Rabbi Luski arrived in the United States in 1960 at the age of 11, joined by nearly 100 members of his family from Cuba. His first leadership role was as president of the Temple Israel Youth Group in Charlotte, North Carolina.

www.JewishPinellas.org



The Jewish Federation  
OF PINELLAS & PASCO COUNTIES, FL

www.JewishPinellas.org

Check Out  
These Events!

Save These  
Dates!

- Apr 22.** YAD Mini-Golf Outing
- Apr 29.** Sonya Miller Women of Distinction
- May 12.** YAD Lag B'Omer Boat Bash
- May 20.** Jewish Genealogy Society & FHM Event
- May 29.** St. Pete Happy Hour with YAD
- June 13.** Seminole Happy Hour with YAD
- June 22.** YAD Shabbat Dinner
- July 17.** Happy Hour at Jimmy B's with YAD

Young Adult Division (YAD) Events: See facebook.com/pinellasyad for full details

Want More  
Events?

Visit us online at  
jewishpinellas.org/calendar  
for all of the Jewish events  
happening in our community!

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S HONOREES

Benjamin Tower Foundation: Barbara Jean (BJ) Murphy • Congregation Beth Shalom: Anne DeMarlor  
 Congregation Beth Shalom Sisterhood: Esther Schwegman • Congregation B'nai Israel: Sandy Brasch  
 Congregation B'nai Israel Sisterhood: Jacqueline Wertel • The Florida Holocaust Museum: Debbie Heitweil  
 Gulf Coast JFCS: Jan Sher • Hadassah - St. Pete: Laurie Resikind • Hadassah - Lylah Pinellas: Terri Tankel  
 Hadassah - North Pinellas: Janice Caine & Betty Slavney • Israel Bonds: Dr. Leslie Weiss, z"l  
 Jewish Federation: Barbara Eisenman • Jewish Genealogical Society: Linda Zolinsky  
 Jewish Women's International: Lynn Brodsky • Menorah Manor: Susan Berman  
 Tampa Bay Job Links: Starr Silver • Temple Ahavat Shalom: Paula Rosoff  
 Temple Ahavat Shalom Sisterhood: Marlene Wain • Temple Beth-El: Sonya Miller, z"l  
 Temple B'nai Israel: Barbara Goldberg • Temple B'nai Israel Sisterhood: Katie Blaxberg



## JEWISH COMMUNITY CAMP



### AWESOME ADVENTURES!

Swimming 3 times per week  
 Field trips include Rays vs. Yankees game, Boat to Anclote Island, Horsepower for Kids, Pirate Ship, Splash Harbour & Luau!  
 Sabrim Summer Program for grades 6 to 10...includes community service hours!



### SUMMER SCHEDULE

- TASTE OF CAMP:**  
 Tuesday, May 29 - Friday, June 1
- SESSION 1:**  
 Monday, June 4 - Friday, June 22
- SESSION 2:**  
 Monday, June 25 - Friday, July 13
- SESSION 3:**  
 Monday, July 16 - Friday, August 3

Transportation available from St. Pete and Palm Harbor and discounts for siblings and full-summer campers

» THROUGH FEDERATION YOU CAN DO GOOD EVERYWHERE. FROM ANYWHERE.

13191 Starkey Road, Suite 8, Largo, FL 33773-1438 | Phone 727.530.3223 | Fax 727.531.0221 | f jfed.pinellas | @jewishpinellas | www.JewishPinellas.org

#### STAFF

- JIM DAWKINS**  
 Publisher & Co-Owner
- KAREN DAWKINS**  
 Managing Editor & Co-Owner
- Advertising Sales  
**GARY POLIN**  
**TORI GEE**
- GALE TARNOFSKY-ABERCROMBIE**  
 Staff Writer & Editor
- BOB FRYER**
- Ad Design & Graphics  
**REY VILLALBA**  
**DAVID HERSHMAN**
- Social Columnist  
**JUDY LUDIN**
- Editorial Assistant  
**GAIL WISEBERG**

The Jewish Press is a subscriber to JTA, The Global Jewish News Source.

#### PUBLICATION & DEADLINE DATES

- MAY 4**  
 Press Release ..... Apr 20  
 Advertising ..... Apr 24
- MAY 18**  
 Press Release ..... May 4  
 Advertising ..... May 8
- JUNE 15**  
 Press Release ..... June 1  
 Advertising ..... June 5

## Jewish Press

of PINELLAS COUNTY • Established in 1986

An independent, bi-weekly newspaper owned by  
**THE JEWISH PRESS GROUP of TAMPA BAY, INC.**  
 Also publisher of the Jewish Press of Tampa  
[www.jewishpresspinellas.com](http://www.jewishpresspinellas.com)

P.O. BOX 6970, CLEARWATER, FL 33758-6970  
 (6416 Central Ave., St. Petersburg, FL 33707)  
 Telephone: (727) 535-4400 • Fax: (727) 440-6037  
 E-mail: jewishpress@aol.com

The Jewish Press assumes no responsibility for the opinions of columnists, letter writers, claims of advertisers, nor does the paper guarantee the kashruth of products & services advertised or mentioned otherwise.

The Jewish Press of Pinellas County is a privately owned, community newspaper published in cooperation with the Jewish Federation of Pinellas & Pasco Counties. The Federation underwrites home delivery to every identified Jewish household in Pinellas County (approx. 4,500), to promote Jewish community cohesiveness and identity.

#### THE FEDERATION MAINTAINS THE MAILING LIST FOR THE JEWISH PRESS.

To RECEIVE THE PAPER or for ADDRESS CHANGES,

- Call (727) 530-3223
- Go to info@jewishpinellas.org

The Jewish Press is mailed STANDARD CLASS. Standard Class DOES NOT include a speedy delivery guarantee. Date of delivery varies depending on your individual post office.  
 Standard Class Postage Permit: TAMPA PI #3763

# Can you do me a favor?

## PERSPECTIVE

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



I've been writing this column for just under three years now, and early on in my decision to use this space to connect with the community, I created some parameters and goals.

Most of all, I wanted to write a piece that would drive connections: by sharing thoughts, ideas, interesting news, and commentary, I could reach more members of the community than a normal work week allows. I could put a face on our Federation, convey the areas that I am well-versed in (and explore those that I'm not), and generally share a personal window into my world – a world which is focused on building a better world.

I've been pleased with the results, both in terms of supportive responses often received by email and in terms of movement in our event attendance, volunteer participation, and Federation giving – all of which have grown significantly.

I also made the commitment to myself that I would not be heavy-handed in promoting solely the work of the Federation, and that I'd ask for campaign support very infrequently.

"Infrequent" is now, and I hope that you'll consider my plea carefully.

I've worked with three Federations – the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland, the Tampa Jewish Community Center and Federation, and now here – and in each of these very different communities, the Federation model has a reputation of always asking for money. This isn't unique to these three communities, but I do think it speaks to an existential crisis that the Federation model itself is undergoing in making the very important work we do more visible, more relevant, and perhaps more broad in scope.

"What we do matters!" is a rallying cry, but unfortunately is often followed with, "Here's your pledge card!"

I am tremendously proud of the work that our Federation fundraising makes possible, but in our Pinellas and Pasco region, I'm even prouder of the collaborative and visionary work that is executed by the entirety of our Jewish community institutions, working together in shaping an increasingly vibrant and connected community. This is unusual, and something that should be celebrated and supported.

From the Federation perspective, we are touching more lives than ever: the Jewish Community Camp, the Federation Fellows program, our festivals and events, summer camp scholarships, Israel missions, leadership development, and so much more all enhances Jewish life in Pinellas and Pasco Counties.

Looking more broadly, our entire community will honor two dozen women on April 29 at the Sonya Miller Women of Distinction Award event, and we'll again lead the charge in a coordinated event-planning effort in our annual community calendar meeting in mid-May.

We're collectively wrestling with the results from our recent demographic study, forming action plans around Israel, visibility, and responding to the demographics, and we're determining what we want our community to look like in five, 10, or more years.

But there's much work left to do. And that's where you come in.

Gloria Steinem once said, "It is more rewarding to watch money change the world than watch it accumulate."

At its core, what our community makes possible is only made possible by caring individuals who contribute of their time and of their treasure. At this time of year, as each of our organizations – including our Federation – are finalizing their annual budgets and planning for their next fiscal year (most of which begin on July 1), and in an effort to help our community see the best year yet, I want to ask a favor from you.

**If you haven't made your gift to the Federation or your Jewish cause of choice, could you do so now? If you have time to contribute – as an empty nester, as a new parent with a few hours in the day, as an active senior looking to do good and be social – please connect now.**

What does more money mean for our community, though? And what types of volunteers are needed?

More money means more change.

Consider:

- Because of Federation and synagogue support, dozens of kids in our area are able to attend Jewish sleep-away summer camps and have Israel experiences that, without these funds, would otherwise be financially impossible. More funding would mean more kids having Jewish experiences.

- Because of our affiliation with national organizations (primarily the Jewish Federations of North America, the American Joint Distribution Committee, and the Jewish Agency for Israel), hundreds of individuals of all ages are able to connect with Israel in a meaningful way through our community Israel ambassador program (in which we have a young Israeli working in our community for a year) and we're also able to touch thousands of lives in Israel through programs like the Ethiopian National Project, Leket, and the Society for Preservation of Nature in Israel, to name just a few. More funding means improving more Israeli lives.

- This Jewish newspaper's home delivery is subsidized by our community's fundraising, so that everyone who wants to be "in the know" about our Jewish world can do so. More funding means reaching and connecting more people.

- We welcome thousands to big community events: the Tampa Bay Jewish Film Festival, the Tampa Bay Jewish Food Festival, and Israel Independence Day let us celebrate our culture and heritage in meaningful ways. More funding means creating a bigger tent under which we can gather!

The community needs you now.

**Please support the very fine work that's underway in revitalizing our community by visiting [jewishpinellas.org](http://jewishpinellas.org) to give of your time, talent, and treasure.**

A visit to this website can connect you with the entirety of our Jewish world in a way that means an even brighter tomorrow.

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

**Linda S. Goldfarb**

Managing Member Broker Owner  
Florida Realtors® Director  
CIPS®, AHWD®, RSPS, TRC

[Linda@LSGConsulting.com](mailto:Linda@LSGConsulting.com)

(727) 415-3016

[www.LSGConsulting.com](http://www.LSGConsulting.com)

*LSG*  
Consulting Services LLC



Consulting & Real Estate Services Tailored to your Needs



**Sartorial Inc**  
style for the classic male

400 Beach Drive NE Unit 169  
Downtown St. Petersburg

Affordable Made-to-Measure  
Dresswear – Linen & Silk  
World Class Shirts, Jeans,  
Tees, Performance Wear

[www.sartorialinc.com](http://www.sartorialinc.com)  
(727) 290-6783



*Cruising for Fun & Relaxation? We can arrange it!*

Member **ASTA**  
American Society of Travel Agents

**DUGGAR**  
TRAVEL AGENCY, INC.

4300 Central Avenue, St. Petersburg  
(727) 327-6196 • FAX: 327-2205

**Eugenia K. Duggar, CTC**  
Director of Operations  
**Terry W. Cox**  
Assistant Manager

*Redman Steele*

**Floral Design Studio**  
6700 Central Ave., St. Petersburg  
local and worldwide delivery

**Weddings • Events • Bar/Bat Mitzvahs**

**727.343.1020 RedmanSteeleFlorist.net**

**HATHA YOGA**

Bringing the body and mind Together using Posture, balance and meditation

**JOIN US!**  
Tuesdays 9:45-11a.m. (sign in/settle in 9:30 a.m.)

**TEMPLE B'NAI ISRAEL**  
1685 S. Belcher Road, Clearwater, FL  
\$ 10 Drop In

For more information call, text or email  
Jamie Grollman - Yoga Instructor  
(941) 539-3987  
[jamiiegrollman@aol.com](mailto:jamiiegrollman@aol.com)

**BLIND & SHUTTER Gallery**

727.823.2929

*Quality Treatment for You and Your Windows.*

- Shades, blinds, draperies
- Hunter Douglas window fashions
- Complimentary in-home design consultation
- Installation
- Shade and blind repair services
- Window covering motorization

**HunterDouglas**

Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. ~ Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
**2610 4th Street North, St. Petersburg**  
[www.blindandshuttergallery.com](http://www.blindandshuttergallery.com)

**Souzou Daily Deals**

**Martini Mondays**  
All specialty martinis \$5

**Rollover Tuesdays**  
2 sushi rolls or hand rolls for \$10 all day from our great selection of rolls

**50% Off Wednesdays**  
Half off bottles of wine and sake

**Happy Hour**  
Big savings, open to 6pm, 7 days a week

**Palladium Guest Special**  
Park free for Palladium events and present your tickets before or after the show and get 15% off your check

435 5th Ave N. St. Pete (behind IBERIABANK)  
[SouzouAsianKitchen.com](http://SouzouAsianKitchen.com) - 727.823.4050

SUSHI & GASTRO PUB  
寿司 居酒屋

**SOUZOU**  
Asian Kitchen

# RABBINICALLY — SPEAKING —

## Make the most of your time

By RABBI LEVI HODAKOV  
Chabad of Clearwater

I hope that you and your loved ones celebrated a liberating, uplifting and Happy Passover.

The current calendar period, following Passover and leading up to the holiday of Shavuot, when G-d gave us the Torah, is known as “Yemei HaSefira,” the days of Sefira.

When our ancestors left Egypt, they eagerly proceeded toward Mount Sinai to receive the Torah. We, too, look forward to reliving that experience, and count the days as we prepare to celebrate the purpose for which we were redeemed in the first place.

Every night, after nightfall, we fulfill the unique Mitzvah of Sefiras HaOmer, the “counting of the Omer.” In fact, it is customary that both men and women refrain from work from sunset until after counting the Omer.

The Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, of righteous memory, points out that the word “Sefira” which translates as counting, also shares a connection with the word “Sapir,” which means sapphire, and is something that shines.

As can well be imagined, after hundreds of years of Egyptian slavery, the Jews spiritual morale was at the bottom of the barrel. They weren't exactly ready for the great G-dly revelations that they merited during the Exodus. And so, beginning one day after safely checking out of Egypt, they got to work on their spiritual side. As they counted the days toward receiving the Torah, they refined themselves to a spiritual “shine.”

We are now 3330 years from that great escape, but every year we still keep counting, and spiritually refining ourselves. The Rebbe tells us that we must keep in mind that we are lucky to be G-d's chosen people, and fortunate that He has given us His holy Torah.

There's another benefit to counting. When we do so, we are reminded that time is precious. Let's not waste our limited time here on Earth. Every day, indeed every hour and minute is a wonderful gift from the One Above, and by properly utilizing our time, we can be assured of amazing results. Let's welcome each day with increased Torah study and conducting ourselves better than ever.

In the book, *Hayom Yom*, the 6<sup>th</sup> Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Yosef Yitzchak Schneersohn, of righteous memory, is quoted as saying “One must be vigilant with time. One must take upon oneself the yoke of Torah. Every period of time, every day that passes, is not just a day but a life's concern.”

With the summer fast approaching, I hope you will think about the aforementioned points. I wish you a healthy summer, and hope you will be able to make the most out of your time, making it productive as well.

*The Rabbiniically Speaking column is provided as a public service by the Jewish Press. Columns are assigned on a rotating basis by the Pinellas County Board of Rabbis. The views expressed in this guest column are those of the rabbi and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Jewish Press or the Board of Rabbis.*



## Congregations

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

**Educators Shabbat:** A special Shabbat service recognizing the importance of education in our society and the role educators have in our daily lives will be held on Saturday, May 5 at 9 a.m., followed by a breakfast kiddush.

**Shabbat on the Beach:** Greet Shabbat with sandy feet and a joyful heart at Upham Beach on Friday, May 11. Young families (and the young-at-heart) are invited to bring a dairy picnic and beach toys to make sandcastles beginning at 5 p.m. prior to a musical Kabbalat Shabbat service for the whole community at 6:15 p.m. Take Gulf Boulevard to 68<sup>th</sup> Avenue and go two blocks. There will be metered parking that ends at 8 p.m. In case of rain the service will be at the synagogue.

**Fashion show:** Take in an evening of friends, fun, and fashions sponsored by the Sisterhood and modeled by the women of Congregation B'nai Israel, on Wednesday, May 9 at 7 p.m. There will be wine, cheese and fancy desserts included with vegan options available. The cost is \$5 for Sisterhood members with a donation to the Gulf Coast Jewish Family & Community Services food pantry, or \$18 without donation and for non-members. RSVP to **Billie Bornstein** at [billiesue@aol.com](mailto:billiesue@aol.com) or (727) 455-1726.

**Mother's Day Brunch:** Honor the important women in your life with a Sunday brunch with the whole mishpacha on Sunday, May 13 at 10:30 a.m. The cost is \$20 for adults and \$12 for children (ages 4-18). Women of the congregation eat for free. RSVP by Monday, May 7 to **Pam Askin** at [officemgr@cbistpete.org](mailto:officemgr@cbistpete.org) or call the CBI office at (727) 381-4901. This event is hosted by the Mitzvah Men's Club.

**Torah for Seniors: Rabbi Jacob Luski** meets with seniors for a monthly Torah discussion at Philip Benjamin Tower. The next session will be on Tuesday, May 8 at 11 a.m.

**Talmud Made Easy:** On Tuesdays at 5 p.m., **Steve Wein** will 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. Contact synagogue office at (727) 381-4900 or [info@cbistpete.org](mailto:info@cbistpete.org) for details.

### Chabad of St. Petersburg

**Lag B'Omer family barbecue:** Bring your favorite musical instrument on Thursday, May 3 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. and enjoy a barbecue dinner, inflatables and klezmer music. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children until April 25, then it is \$12 for adults and \$7 per child. RSVP at [www.ChabadSP.com](http://www.ChabadSP.com) or call (727) 344-4900.

**Women's Book Club:** Get your

weekly social and spiritual boost with friends over a round-table discussion led by **Chaya Korf** on Tuesdays, May 1, 8 and 15 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Delve into the book for this year, *Towards a Meaningful Life*, by Simon Jacobson. We'll share strategies, tips and suggestions for not only discovering where your true meaning lies, but also making it a part of your daily existence. These sessions will help you see life as the mysterious, challenging and satisfying wonder that it really is. Enjoy coffee, fruit and homemade pastries free of charge. Walk-ins are welcome. RSVP to [Chaya@ChabadSP.com](mailto:Chaya@ChabadSP.com).

### Temple Beth-El St. Petersburg

**Shabbat on the Block:** Friday, May 11, is the last opportunity this year to attend a Shabbat on the Block event at the home of a congregant. This is a smaller, intimate alternative service and potluck dinner. Bring a dish. RSVP to [shaneheatherdavis@me.com](mailto:shaneheatherdavis@me.com).

**Brotherhood schmooze:** Families are invited to hang out and relax while children attend religious school classes. Enjoy a bagel and a cup of coffee while you read the Sunday paper.

### Cong. Beth Shalom Clearwater

**Lag B'Omer picnic:** Enjoy a fun time in the botanical garden outside the synagogue in celebration of Lag B'Omer on Wednesday, May 2, beginning at 5:30 p.m. There will be food and beverages and a bounce house for children. There is no charge to attend. RSVP to (727) 531-1418.

**Beach service:** Welcome Shabbat at Clearwater Beach on Friday, May 4 at 6:30 p.m. For location, go to [www.cbsclearwater.org](http://www.cbsclearwater.org).

**Yoga "Shabbasana:"** Greet the new day with a blend of gentle yoga and prayer from the Jewish tradition on Saturday, May 5 at 9:15 a.m. This is open to all levels. Wear comfortable clothes for movement. Bring a mat and towel. Due to limited space, the class is able to accommodate 15 people. Call the synagogue office to reserve your spot.

**Civil War talk:** On Sunday, April 29 at noon, **Dr. Eric Steckler** will speak on “Jews and the Battle of Gettysburg.” The event is sponsored by the Brotherhood.

**Talmud classes:** On Mondays and most Wednesdays, explore ancient legal tradition with **Dr. Priscilla Nathanson**. The class is 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 at (727) 531-1418 to confirm dates of the classes.

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

## Shabbat Candle Lighting Times

April 27 • 7:44 pm  
May 4 • 7:48 pm  
May 11 • 7:52 pm  
May 18 • 7:56 pm



### Temple B'nai Israel Clearwater

**Tot Shabbat & pot luck dinner:** On Friday May 4 at 5:30 p.m. there will be a special service geared to the pre-school crowd followed by a pot luck. If you wish to bring a dish, contact the temple at (727) 531-5829.

**Mystery trip:** An “out of this world” mystery adventure for youths in grades 8-12 will be offered on Saturday, May 5. The bus will leave the temple at 7:30 a.m. and return the teens from the surprise trip at 11:30 p.m. Cost is \$140. To reserve your spot, contact **Dani Gamson** at [danig@tbclearwater.org](mailto:danig@tbclearwater.org).

**Cinema Café:** The temple will show the movie *Israel: A Nation is Born*, on Sunday, May 6 at 1 p.m. Popcorn and non-alcoholic beverages will be provided. There is no charge for members and friends.

**A night to celebrate:** The new temple board will be installed and the third-grade religious school class will receive their own siddurim at a Kabbalat Hasidur ceremony during Shabbat eve services on Friday, May 11, at 6 p.m. This will be followed by an Israeli dinner. The cost is \$13.50 per adult and \$9 per child. Come early to mingle and nosh at 5 p.m. Dinner reservations are required. To RSVP, call (727) 531-5829.

**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.

**Adult play time:** Join active seniors and play mah jongg, Mexican Train Dominoes or Bridge on Thursdays at 1 p.m. Coffee and cake is served. For more information, contact **Linda White** at [linda33217@gmail.com](mailto:linda33217@gmail.com) or (727) 688-0626.

**Sunday funday:** Preschoolers and their parents can enjoy playtime on Sunday, May 20 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. when the children can meet one another and engage in fun activities. Non-members are welcome. Call the temple office for full schedule and pricing information at (727) 531-5829.

### Chabad of Clearwater

**Give Day competition:** Last year Chabad of Clearwater received more donations than any other group and won \$11,000 in prize money during Give Day Tampa Bay, a 24-hour online giving chal-

• CONTINUED on NEXT PAGE

## Religious Directory

### PINELLAS COUNTY Reform

**Temple AHAVAT SHALOM** — 1575 Culew Rd., Palm Harbor, 34683 • Rabbi Gary Klein • Cantorial soloist, Allison Rosoff • 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](http://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](http://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](http://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.cbsclearwater.org](http://www.cbsclearwater.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](http://sholomgulfport.org) • Unaffiliated.

**Congregation B'NAI ISRAEL** — 300 58th St. N., St. Petersburg 33710 • Rabbi Jacob Luski • Cantor Jonathan Schultz • Services: Friday 6:00 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](http://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](http://www.JewishClearwater.com) • email: [rabbil18@gmail.com](mailto:rabbil18@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](http://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](http://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](http://jewishcommunitycenterofwestpasco.com) • Email at: [Eileenhochstadt13005@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.ChabadWP.org) • email: [rabbichabadwp.org](mailto:rabbichabadwp.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](http://www.tbdf.org).

### 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](http://chabadspringhill.com)

## Remembering the 23,645 who've died to keep Israel alive – it's personal

Israel has made it to 70. It is so young, yet we have achieved so much. Israel has advanced technology, education, medical systems, army you name it – we've got it. Still, until this day, Israel needs to protect its citizens from others who want to sabotage its peace.

On Israel's Independence Day we celebrate how successful it has become and the continuation of this success, but it wasn't easy to achieve. A day before the celebration we remind ourselves "the price we paid" for this success by commemorating all Israeli military personnel who lost their lives in the struggle that led to the establishment of the state of Israel and those who have been killed subsequently while on active duty in Israel's armed forces. That day is called Yom Hazikaron – Remembrance Day or Memorial Day for the Fallen soldiers of Israel and Victims of Terrorism. As of Yom Hazikaron in 2018 the number of fallen is 23,645.

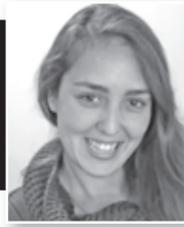
The day opens with a siren the preceding evening at 8 p.m., given that in the Hebrew calendar system, a day begins at sunset. A siren is heard all over the country and lasts for one minute, during which Israelis stop everything, including driving on highways, and stand in silence, commemorating the fallen and showing respect. By law, all places of entertainment are closed on the eve of Yom Hazikaron, and broadcasting and educational bodies note the solemnity of the day. Regular television programs cease for the day, and the names and ranks of every soldier who died for Israel are displayed in a 24-hour television broadcast.

A two-minute siren is sounded at 11 the following morning, which marks the opening of the official memorial ceremonies and private remembrance gatherings at each cemetery where soldiers are buried. Many Israelis visit the resting places of loved ones throughout the day.

## Mor About Israel

Yael Mor

Israel Shlichah (Emissary)



The day officially ends at sundown in a ceremony at the national military cemetery on Mount Herzl in Jerusalem. The flag of Israel is returned to full staff, marking the start of Israel Independence Day.

To me, Yom Hazikaron has always been a private one, where I commemorate with my family, one specific person – my father's brother, Herzl.

My father is the oldest of five and Herzl was the fourth child. I was always afraid to bring up the subject of Herzl, because in my mind bringing up his name involved a lot of pain. When I got older I finally got the courage to ask my dad about his beloved brother, thinking how to approach the subject without hurting too much.

When I first asked my dad to tell me a little about who Herzl was, it was obvious to see how much my dad misses him still, no matter how long ago it happened. Herzl was an A student who loved crafts, art and music. It's amazing to hear how much he had done. According to my dad everyone loved him and wanted to be in his company.

Herzl had only been in the army a few months when the Yom Kippur war began in 1973. On the first day of

the war, Herzl was on a Dabur class patrol boat heading toward south Sinai. His original assignment was to man the radar to detect if there were any enemy ships around. But when another soldier was wounded, he volunteered to be on the machine gun station. Herzl was shot by the Egyptian army and died that day. Herzl was 18.

In my memory, Yom Hazikaron is the picture of my grandmother mourning the death of Herzl, sitting next to his grave and crying. Seeing it as a kid was very baffling and confusing, because I couldn't really understand what was going on.

Picture this: A kid, standing next to a grave of an uncle she never had the chance to meet, holding her mother's hand with her family next to her, seeing her grandmother sobbing, along with some other people she didn't know who mourned the death of their beloved ones. I was just very confused. That's why when I finally got old enough to understand what was going on, and my grandparents were still alive, I prepared myself mentally for Yom Hazikaron. I knew how much Herzl's memory was still so alive in my family's mind and I knew what a big sacrifice it was for them. I too mourned the death of Herzl, trying to picture what life was like with him around.

According to my relatives, after my grandparents got the news of their son's death – my grandmother aged in an instant and my grandfather became very religious. I always knew they weren't alone. Every year more and more parents join that circle that no one wants to be in.

Yom Ha'atzmaut is bittersweet. It's the day we celebrate the State of Israel, right after we mourn the death of those whom without we couldn't have been here. It's also the day in which we remind ourselves that still, even after 70 years, we continue to fight for our existence.

*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*



Herzl Mor

## Congregations

• CONTINUED from PREVIOUS PAGE

allenge, and this year the Chabad center will be competing again. As an extra incentive to donate, all donors to Chabad of Clearwater will have a chance to win two roundtrip tickets to New York and for each donation, the Chabad will give an apple to a hungry person. The funds raised will go toward Chabad's building campaign. Although Give Day is set for May 1, donations can already be made online by logging on to [www.JewishClearwater.com](http://www.JewishClearwater.com). Last year, Give Day, sponsored by the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay, raised \$1.75 million for 515 local nonprofits.

**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](mailto:MiriamHodakov@gmail.com) or (727) 265-2770.

**Pray, eat, watch video:** On Sundays from 9-10 a.m., feed your body and soul with a bagel and lox plus tefillin. Afterward there will be a short video presentation. There is no charge, and everyone is welcome.

**Study groups:** Probe the ideas and issues presented in each week's Torah portion on Mondays from 7-8 p.m. The Torah studies classes offer timely lessons for living. The class is free.

**Tanya class:** A weekly Tanya class, A Tale of Two Souls, meets on Saturdays from 10:15-11 a.m. The Tanya offers a roadmap for emotional healthy living. The in-depth study will ask such questions as: What is a soul? What is our purpose here on earth? The class is free.

### Cong. B'nai Emmunah Tarpon Springs

**Learn about Israel:** The final two parts of a four-part class titled "Israel's Milestones and Their Meanings" will be offered on Mondays and May 7 and 14 from 7-9 p.m. This class is in celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the state of Israel and is a course designed by the Shalom Hartman Institute. The

course will include video lectures from the Hartman faculty.

**Introduction to Judaism:** This class is offered on Mondays and Tuesdays from 5-7 p.m. weekly through May.

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

**Understanding prayer:** A class focused on the history, meaning, and relevance of Shabbat service prayers meets on Wednesdays through May at 7 p.m. Knowledge of Hebrew is not required. There is no fee, and all are welcome.

### Temple Ahavat Shalom Palm Harbor

**Temple family picnic:** The temple will hold a picnic on Sunday, May 6 at 12:30 p.m. at Anderson Park/Shelter 6 in Tarpon Springs. Food and drinks with vegetarian options will be available. This event is sponsored by the Brotherhood.

**Tot time:** There will be an hour of activities incorporating music, literacy, Judaics and snacks for children ages 1-4 on Sunday, May 6 at 10 a.m. Tots are invited to bring a special adult with them.

**Tot Shabbat:** Families with young children are invited to tot Shabbat services on Friday, May 11 at 6 p.m. There will be crafts, story time, singing, pizza, salad, and ice cream. Bring a favorite appetizer or dessert to share. The temple will observe Kosher-style (no pork/shellfish and refrain from using meat/poultry in your dish). Bring a friend or two.

**Lunch 'n learn:** 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*.

**Judaism basics:** An Introduction to Judaism class is offered on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. This class, taught by Rabbi Gary 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 enhance their knowledge of Judaism. New students are welcome anytime. Cost is \$100 per person or couple, for non-members; free for temple members.

**Misfortune and grief:** An adult education class is underway on Tuesdays at 11 a.m. with Rabbi Klein focusing on misfortune and grief. The rabbi will provide tools from the social sciences and from Jewish tradition that will help us cope with our own suffering and help us assist others in dealing with theirs. He will use, as primary text the book, *Option B*, by Facebook CEO Sheryl Sandberg. Call the temple office at (727) 785-8811 to join.

### Temple Beth David Spring Hill

**Lag B'Omer:** Celebrate Lag B'Omer on Wednesday, May 2 at 6:30 p.m. with a bonfire – marshmallows for roasting will be provided - and songs. Bring your favorite musical instrument and a chair or blanket to sit on to the gathering on the green just outside the temple.

**Temple history lesson:** Diane Paskowitz, the first lay leader of Temple Beth David, will take folks on a journey through the history and highlights that made the temple what it is today on Sunday, May 6 at 2 p.m.

RSVP by April 27 to Eileen Beaman at [ebeaman@bellsouth.net](mailto:ebeaman@bellsouth.net) or (352) 796-4679 or to Nancy Schreiber at [nancycytd@gmail.com](mailto:nancycytd@gmail.com) or (305) 439-7427.

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

### Chabad of Spring Hill

**Torah studies:** The community is invited to attend Torah study classes on Wednesdays from noon to 1 p.m. The classes, taught by Rabbi Chaim Lipszyc, are not sequential, so drop-ins are welcome.

Brunch and coffee will be served. The first class is free then \$7 per class. For more information, call (352) 600-2779.

**Fashion Show:** Temple Beth David will host Shabby Chic Fashions on Sunday, June 3 at noon. Fashions will be shown by Southern Sisters Boutique specializing in gently used women's clothing. Also featured at this event will be door prizes, contests, and a Chinese auction. Lunch will be provided by Panera Bread and entertainment will be by Nadine Joy. There is no cost for children age 3 and under. It is \$8 for those 3-10, and the cost is \$18 for all other guests \$18. RSVP by May 24. To RSVP and for more information, call Mickie at (352) 597-7393.

### Chabad of West Pasco

**Lag B'Omer barbecue:** Join in a Lag B'Omer family barbecue on Thursday, May 3 from 5:30-7 p.m. at the Champion Club Club-

house, 101 Robert Trent Jones Parkway, Trinity. There will be music, entertainment for all ages, hotdogs and hamburgers. The cost is \$10 per person of \$15 per family. To RSVP, contact the Chabad center.

**Classes with the rabbi: Rabbi Yossi Eber** teaches weekly classes, alternating between Torah study and the Tanya, on Mondays at 7 p.m.

**Pray, eat, watch video:** On Sundays from 9-10 a.m., feed your body and soul with a bagel and lox plus tefillin. Afterward there will be a short video presentation. There is no charge, and everyone is welcome.

**Tanya class:** A new weekly Tanya class, A Tale of Two Souls, meets on Saturdays from 10:15-11 a.m. The Tanya offers a roadmap for emotional healthy living. The in-depth study will ask such questions as: What is a soul? What is our purpose here on earth? The class is free.

## Bellissimo Italian Eatery

### & Banquet Hall

13220 S. Belcher Rd. • Largo • 727.223.3305

See What The Critics Are Saying...  
"AMAZING"  
"Simply, The Best"



Be Our Guest!  
10% OFF  
Entire Check  
With Coupon

#### CATERING ON SITE:

- Weddings
- Bar Mitzvahs
- Business Meetings
- Birthday Parties

Seating for up to 80 people

Customize your own event!  
Southern Italian cooking or other type of menus available



**ABC Bicycles**  
6633 Central Avenue  
St. Petersburg, FL 33710  
727-345-5391  
Abcbicycles.com

Bring This Ad & Save **15%**

Bicycles and labor not included. Coupons may not be combined with other offers and may only be used on regular priced (not sale) items. Coupons are not good on prior sales.

**Trek Bicycle Store**  
3169 4th Street North  
St. Petersburg, FL 33704  
727-498-8655  
Trekstpete.com

Hours: M-F 10-6 | Sat. 10-5 | Sun. 12-4

**Exclusive Dealer Trek Bicycles**  
**Full Service Bicycle Repairs, Est. 1958**

[www.JewishPressPinellas.com](http://www.JewishPressPinellas.com)

Your 24/7 Source For:

Jewish Community News | Advertising Information | National & International News

## PORTMAN

• CONTINUED from FRONT PAGE

Netanyahu last month also drew sharp rebukes for reversing his decision to work with the United Nations to resettle some 38,000 African asylum seekers in the country, and reverting to an earlier plan to summarily deport them to Uganda or another African nation. Among the critics were Jewish groups and figures who rarely criticize Israeli government policies.

In the wake of Portman's decision, the Genesis Prize Foundation said it would cancel the prize presentation ceremony scheduled for June and would distribute the \$2 million to women's rights groups, but not those of Portman's choosing. Winners of the prize, which "honors individuals who serve as an inspiration to the next generation of Jews through their outstanding professional achievement along with their commitment to Jewish values and the Jewish people," conventionally donate the prize money to charitable causes of their choosing.

The Genesis Prize Foundation said it was "very saddened" that the Israeli-American actress would not take part in the ceremony. And in canceling the ceremony, it issued a statement that its organizers "fear that Ms.

Portman's decision will cause our philanthropic initiative to be politicized, something we have worked hard for the past five years to avoid."

The Genesis Prize was established by Mikhail Fridman and other wealthy Russian-Jewish businessmen and operates in a partnership with Israel's Prime Minister's Office and the Jewish Agency for Israel.

In November, the Genesis Prize announced that Portman would receive its 2018 award. She joins artist Anish Kapoor, violinist Itzhak Perlman, former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg and actor-director Michael Douglas as winners of the \$1 million prize.

In December, Portman's prize money was doubled to \$2 million by a donation by Israeli philanthropist Morris Kahn. But after announcing her refusal to attend the ceremony, Kahn released a statement saying Portman would no longer get to choose where her \$2 million prize will be donated. The Genesis Foundation will distribute the money to women's rights groups as she wished, but not allow her to choose the recipients.

"I cannot support the decision of canceling an appearance due to 'recent events in Israel,'" Kahn said, referring to the original statement put out on Portman's behalf. That statement did not mention Netanyahu, saying only that "[r]ecent events in Israel have been extremely distressing to her and she does not feel comfortable participating in any public events in Israel."

Portman's decision also brought a strong rebuke from Israel's culture minister Miri Regev who asserted she had "fallen like a ripe fruit into the hands of the BDS (boycott, divestment and sanctions) movement supporters." Her comment came before Portman said she did not endorse BDS.

One member of the Knesset, Oren Hazzan, went further, suggesting that Portman's citizenship should be revoked.

Portman said in her Instagram post she would soon announce charities she would support in Israel.

"This experience has inspired me to support a number of charities in Israel," she said. "I will be announcing them soon, and I hope others will join me in supporting the great work they are doing."

Portman has previously joined efforts to support Israel. She directed and starred in the 2015 *A Tale of Love and Darkness*, a Hebrew-language film adaptation of the Amos Oz book of the same name that chronicles the author's life surrounding Israel's founding.

In 2015, following the re-election of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Portman said she was "very, very upset and disappointed."

"I find his racist comments horrific," she told *The Hollywood Reporter*. "However, I don't - what I want to make sure is, I don't want to use my platform [the wrong way]. I feel like there's some people who become prominent, and then it's out in the foreign press. You know, shit on Israel. I do not. I don't want to do that."

## 40 UN ambassadors visit Israel as nation celebrates 70th anniversary

JERUSALEM - Forty ambassadors to the United Nations visited Israel as the nation celebrated its 70th Independence Day. Israel's ambassador to the U.N., Danny Danon, led the five-day visit. No ambassadors from Arab countries participated.

The visitors included ambassadors from Serbia, Jamaica, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Hungary, Liberia, Ukraine, Uganda, Slovenia, Malta, Mozambique and Ethiopia. Not all of the countries represented vote with Israel in the U.N. Security Council.

Fifteen of the ambassadors first joined Danon in Poland last week for the March of the Living, which was held on Israel's Holocaust Remembrance Day. It was the first time that U.N. ambassadors had joined in the March of the Living.

The visit is the largest to come to Israel so far. There were nine participants in 2016 and 14 in 2017.

## French mayor denied entrance to Israel

JERUSALEM - Patrice Leclerc, the mayor of Gennevilliers, a suburb of Paris, and his wife, were barred from entering Israel from Jordan via the Allenby Bridge border crossing due to his support for the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement against Israel and for a Palestinian state.

Ordered by Interior Minister Aryeh Deri, the denial was widely reported in French newspapers.

Leclerc said in a post on Facebook that he had been detained at the border for six hours and questioned six times before his entry was denied. He called the situation whereby Israel can refuse supporters of a Palestinian state entry into Israel "intolerable."

# Harriett Lieberman

TODAY, HER LEGACY LIVES ON!

We just observed the first Yahrzeit of a dear friend of our community, **Ms. Harriett Lieberman.**

During her lifetime, it was Harriett's priority to ensure a strong, vibrant Jewish community.

Harriett recognized the importance of Jewish camp experience and the special impact that it has on a child's life.

The Harriett Lieberman Camp Scholarship Fund at Camp Gan Israel, generously underwritten by her children, Barry and Jackie Kanner and Susan LaPlante enables every child in the Jewish community to experience a summer of fun, growth and friendship in a wholesome, Jewish camp setting.



## Camp Gan Israel of St. Petersburg

CELEBRATING 11 YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY!



For more information about Camp Gan Israel, please visit [www.MyJewishCamp.org](http://www.MyJewishCamp.org)  
727.344.4900 or [Director@MyJewishCamp.org](mailto:Director@MyJewishCamp.org)  
4010 Park St. N, S. Pete 33709

## JWI helps remember moms “who are most in need of love”

For victims of domestic violence, Mother’s Day can be especially tough, so the local Jewish Women International (JWI) chapter is once again ensuring that moms in local domestic abuse shelters receive a bouquet of flowers and a Mother’s Day card.

It is all part of the JWI Flower Project, begun in 1999, to show women who are in domestic abuse shelters that they are remembered and loved. In addition to the cards and flowers, the women receive financial literacy information to help rebuild their lives and create safe homes for their children.

In the Tampa Bay area, the Clearwater Chapter of JWI is working with The Haven in Clearwater, The Spring in Tampa and CASA in St. Petersburg. Nationwide, 200 shelters are involved in the project.

The Flower Project gives women in the shelters “a chance to spend a moment away from the daily worries of housing, safety, employment and their health

and well-being, by lifting their spirits and letting them know that people they have never met before are thinking about them,” said Vivian Bass, chair of the JWI board.

With a minimum \$25 contribution, JWI will send a Mother’s Day, or, if appropriate, a Father’s Day card to an honoree of the funder’s choosing.

The donations go to support the shelters through the Flower Project as well as a National Library Initiative, which establishes children’s libraries in homeless and domestic abuse shelters. Funds also help support JWI advocacy and educational initiatives to empower women and girls to break the cycle of domestic and sexual abuse.

To make a donation and for more information about the program, visit [www.jwi.org/flowerproject](http://www.jwi.org/flowerproject) or call 1-800-343-2823. Locally, contact Evvy Bernstein at [ozexpress54@gmail.com](mailto:ozexpress54@gmail.com).



Members of the JWI Clearwater Chapter along with national JWI Board Chair Vivian Bass and leaders from CASA at the library dedication. Deena Silver, (second from left front) local JWI library chair and a JWI national trustee, is holding a painting done by children living at CASA with empowering quotes from their favorite authors.

## LIBRARY

• CONTINUED from FRONT PAGE

enthusiastically agreed,” said Deena Silver, who also serves as the local library chair.

“Most of the libraries have been built by corporate sponsors so we are very proud that the women of the local chapter had various fundraising projects during the past two and a half years to raise most of the necessary \$25,000,” Silver said. The fundraising events included a theater party, vendor boutiques, bingo nights, and a fashion show. The remaining balance was raised through personal gifts from members and donations from charitable foundations and families, she said.

Vivian Bass, chair of the JWI board of trustees, came from Washington, D.C. to participate in the dedication ceremony with CASA executives, local dignitaries and local JWI members. A luncheon reception followed the dedication and was hosted by Bass.

St. Petersburg’s Chief of Police Anthony Holloway also participated in the April 9 ceremony and stressed the importance of CASA

and projects like the JWI libraries to help break the cycle of family violence.

Founded in 1977, CASA operates the area’s 24-hour hotline and emergency shelter; non-residential programs, such as support groups, economic empowerment and legal advocacy; Child Protection Investigative Team support; community and corporate training; and the CASA Peacemakers anti-bullying and healthy relationship school curriculum.

JWI is a Steering Committee member of NO MORE and the National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence Against Women and convenes the Interfaith Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence and the Clergy Task Force to End Domestic Abuse in the Jewish Community, and is a member of the Gun Violence Table. JWI’s advocacy efforts focus on the passage of legislation that supports women and girls, ensures their economic security, and protects their right to live free of violence.

For more information on the local JWI, contact Silver at [dsilvervol@gmail.com](mailto:dsilvervol@gmail.com).

## Madoff victims to receive \$504m in second payout

(JTA) – The Madoff Victim Fund began distributing \$504 million in funds to victims of Bernard Madoff’s Ponzi scheme.

The funds, whose distribution began on a week ago, will be sent to more than 21,000 Madoff victims around the world, according to a statement by the Justice Department.

The distribution is the second in a series of payments that will eventually return more than \$4 billion to Madoff victims.

“We cannot undo the damage that Bernie Madoff has done, but today’s distribution will provide significant relief to many of the victims of one of the worst frauds of all time,” Attorney General Jeff Sessions said in the statement.

Madoff, a Jewish New Yorker,

used his position as the chairman of his investment securities company to swindle billions of dollars from tens of thousands of investors from the early 1970s until his arrest in 2008.

The uncovering of the Ponzi scheme revealed the tens of billions of dollars in fake profit that victims believed they had earned through Madoff. Many prominent Jewish nonprofits also suffered big losses, with Yeshiva University taking a \$140 million hit, Hadasah \$90 million and Elie Wiesel’s foundation losing \$15 million.

In 2009, Madoff pleaded guilty to 11 federal felonies and is serving a 150-year sentence in a federal prison in North Carolina. He was also ordered to forfeit nearly \$171 billion.



“Boiled & Baked the traditional way at the same location for over 30 years!”

Mon. – Fri. 6:00 am – Noon  
Sat. & Sun. 6:00 am – 1:00 pm

11 varieties of Bagels • 14 varieties of Cream Cheeses  
Smoked Salmon • Home-Made Rugelach  
Coffee Fresh Roasted & Brewed on premises daily

1871 Gulf To Bay Blvd. (Clearwater)  
~ Next to Clearwater High School ~  
**(727) 446-7631**

JP

## INVESTMENT SERVICES



### The Abelson Group at Morgan Stanley

**David Abelson, CFP®, CIMA®**  
Executive Director  
Senior Portfolio Management Director  
Financial Advisor

**Adam Abelson**  
Financial Advisor

Ranked by Forbes “Best in State Wealth Advisors”  
in the United States for 2018

Ranked by Barron’s “Top 1,200 Financial Advisors”  
in the United States for 2018, 2017 & 2016

4114 Woodlands Parkway, Suite 200 Palm Harbor, FL 34685  
**727.773.4626**

Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards Inc. owns the certification marks CFP®, CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ and federally registered CFP (with flame design) in the U.S., Investment Management Consultants Association, Inc. owns the marks CIMA®, Certified Investment Management Analyst™ (with graph element)®, and Certified Investment Management Analyst™.

© 2015

Investments and services offered through Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC, Member SIPC.

CRC1363455

## “HAPPINESS... A TOP PRIORITY!!!”

- 24 hours on-site wellness staff
- On-site rehabilitation therapy
  - Cultural, social & therapeutic daily activities
- Three kosher meals a day
- Multi generational JCC campus experience
- No upfront community fee & long-term commitment
- A beautiful dining room & with spacious social areas
- An onsite beauty salon
- Transportation to doctors, shopping & weekly outings
- A private dining room for special occasions
- Kitchenettes in every room
- Diversity welcomed & respected



Harry & Jeanette  
**Weinberg Village**



Weinberg Village Assisted Living Residences  
Sylvan & Jean Orloff Memory Support Unit

For information on various financial assistance programs, to schedule a lunch tour, or inquire about our limited time move-in specials call 813.969.1818

[weinbergvillage.com](http://weinbergvillage.com) On the Maureen and Douglas Cohn Jewish Community Campus  
A wholly owned subsidiary of the Tampa Jewish Community Centers & Federation

Assisted Living Facility License # 08679

Kosher Facility

**SEASON FINALE CONCERTS!**

**TFO THE FLORIDA ORCHESTRA**

Tampa Bay Times Masterworks  
**Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4**  
 May 4 - 6

Rock Concert  
**The Music of Michael Jackson**  
 May 11 - One Night Only!

Tampa Bay Times Masterworks  
**Beethoven's Pastoral Symphony**  
 May 18 - 20

Raymond James Pops  
**Patriotic Salute**  
 May 25 & 26

**FloridaOrchestra.org**  
**727.892.3337 or 1.800.662.7286**



**APRIL 20-22**

**RAYSBASEBALL.COM** 2018 SEASON PRESENTED BY TGH Tampa General Hospital

## Public invited to talk on 'Holocaust by Bullets'

The community is invited to a talk on Sunday, May 20, at the Florida Holocaust Museum on researching names of victims of what is known as the "Holocaust by Bullets" – the mass shootings of more than 2 million Jews by the Nazis and their collaborators during the Holocaust.

The guest speaker will be Urszula Szczepinska, the curator of education and director of research for the museum, located in downtown St. Petersburg. Her appearance is jointly sponsored by the museum and the Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay. Members of both organizations as well as anyone interested in Jewish Genealogy and Holocaust research may attend the program at no charge.



Urszula Szczepinska

Szczepinska will present online resources that have the most updated information based on the latest historical research. She will also demonstrate how to use archival databases to look for information about individuals who perished in the Holocaust by Bullets. Retrieving identities of individual victims is one of the most significant memorial projects for the post-Holocaust generations.

Szczepinska received the 2011 "Outstanding Achievement Award" from the Florida Association of Museums for her contributions to Yad Vashem's Shoah Victims' Names Recovery Project. Prior to joining the museum 13 years ago, she worked at the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw and at the State Museum at Majdanek in Lublin, Poland. She is responsible for the Shoah Victims' Names Recovery Project at the Florida Holocaust Museum in cooperation with Yad Vashem and has collected and submitted more than 700 pages of testimony from local survivors.

Szczepinska is the author of a 155-page study guide for the traveling exhibition on the Holocaust by Bullets by the French organization Yahad-In Unum, which works to locate execution sites and mass graves. She has taught the subject to various audiences, including honors classes at USF Tampa.

Registration for the event begins at the museum at 1:30 p.m. and the program will begin on the third floor at 2 p.m. Following the talk, an optional self-guided tour of the museum will be offered at no charge to members of either sponsoring organizations. Non-members may tour at a reduced charge of \$9.

For more information about this program, call Szczepinska at (727) 820-0100, ext. 241; for more information about the Florida Holocaust Museum, visit [www.thefhm.org](http://www.thefhm.org). The museum is located at 55 5<sup>th</sup> St. S., St. Petersburg.

For more information on the Genealogical Society, call Bruce Hadburg at (727) 796-7981 or go to [www.facebook.com/JGSTB](http://www.facebook.com/JGSTB)

For those planning to include a tour of the museum, advanced registration is requested by calling Sally Israel at (727) 343-1652.



Lucie Neustein, Self Portrait. This painting was featured in the Austrian Art Magazine in March 1935.

Photos courtesy of Florida Holocaust Museum permanent collection, gift of Colin Jenkins, son of Marietta Neustein.

## Florida Holocaust Museum receives large artifact donation

A new exhibition, *A European Escape: The Journey of the Neustein Family*, is now on display at the Florida Holocaust Museum.

These items, now part of the museum's permanent collection, were recently donated and are available to view on the third floor of the museum.

After a visit to the museum last year, Colin Jenkins contacted the museum's exhibitions staff to ask if they would have any interest in accepting his grandfather's Austrian passport as a donation. When museum staff members met to accept the donation, he brought a treasure-trove of other objects related to his family.

Jenkins donated a total of 118 items, including identification papers belonging to his grandparents, Lucie and Leopold Neustein, letters, a marriage certificate, original photographs from before and after the war and original artwork created by his grandmother Lucie.

"On a recent visit to my mother's home in Scotland, I came across a considerable variety of material relating to my family's experience during the Holocaust. I am donating this collection to the Florida Holocaust Museum both to honor their memory and to share a written and visual record of their lives before, during, and after WWII. I hope this will be of interest and value to those who view it," said Jenkins, who recently moved to this area from the United Kingdom.

"One of the best things about working for the Florida Holocaust Museum is meeting survivors and children of survivors and hearing their stories. Even better is being honored with the responsibility of retelling their stories when being entrusted with their original materials – family treasures, really – that help recount individuals' experiences," said Erin Blankenship, the museum's curator of exhibitions and collections.

Jenkins' grandparents, Lucie and Leopold Neustein, were originally from Lvov, Poland, but moved to Vienna in the 1920s. The couple had two children, Erik and Marietta. Leopold was a doctor of law but worked with his father-in-law in their timber export business. Lucie was an accomplished artist, trained at Vienna's Academy of Art.

After Anschluss in 1938 and the institution of anti-Jewish laws, it became apparent to the family that they had to leave their home.

Erik was sent to England first. But, at age 17 he was considered an adult and was sent to an internment camp in Canada, due to initial fears that German Jewish refugees could be spies. The British also set up internment camps in Australia.

• CONTINUED on NEXT PAGE



Overlooking the peaceful waters of Tampa Bay, you will discover a one-of-a-kind destination rich in history and hailed for exquisite hospitality. Stunning chandelier-lit ballrooms glimmer with regal elegance, a lush Tranquility Garden quietly lulls and the Espiritu Santo Springs enliven the mind, body and spirit. Welcome to a place where wishes for a perfect wedding and dreams of a happily ever after flourish.

**Awe-Inspiring Waterfront Location on Tampa Bay**  
**Beautiful Ballrooms • Breathtaking Outdoor Spaces**  
**Classic Celebration Tent • 172 Spacious Guestrooms & Suites**  
**Accomplished Culinary Staff • Attentive Personal Service**  
**Experienced On-Site Wedding Planners**

**SAFETY HARBOR RESORT AND SPA**  
**727.724.7707 | SAFETYHARBORSPA.COM**  
 105 North Bayshore Drive, Safety Harbor




**SHAPIRO'S**  
 GALLERY OF CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN CRAFTS

Visit us on both sides of the Bay

**Hyde Park Village** 1619 W Snow Circle Tampa, FL 33606 813.831.2111

**St. Petersburg** 300 Beach Drive NE St. Petersburg, FL 33701 727.894.2111



Shabbat Candlesticks



Hamsa Necklace

Shipping and Gift Wrapping Available

**www.shapirogallery.com**  
 You can also shop online!

MADE IN THE USA



Snapshot of some of the items Jenkins donated to the Florida Holocaust Museum, including identification papers belonging to his grandparents Lucie and Leopold Neustein, letters, a marriage certificate, original photographs from before and after the war and original artwork created by his grandmother Lucie.

• CONTINUED from PREVIOUS PAGE

Marietta followed on the Kindertransport and was sent to a boarding school in Scotland.

Lucie and Leopold fled Vienna for Agen, a small city in the south of France where they apparently lived as gentiles. Marietta worked as an artist in order to earn money. The couple remained in France even after liberation while Erik and Marietta, by then adults, stayed in Great Britain.

Central to the mission of the museum is the program to collect, preserve and make available to the public the historical record

and artistic and interpretation of the Holocaust and other genocides. The museum collects and maintains the material that supports its efforts in the areas of research, exhibition, education and commemoration.

The focus of the museum's collections are policies, events and experiences associated with the Holocaust.

For donation inquiries, contact Blankenship at eblankenship@thefhm.org.

The Florida Holocaust Museum is located at 55 Fifth St. S., St. Petersburg.



The JLT class of 2017-2018 graduated during a special ceremony at this year's Tampa Bay Jewish Film Festival. (L-R): Yoni Haim, Jeff Katzman, Aaron Slavin, Jessica Schneider, Lance Misztal, Luy Teitelroit, Brian Waksman, David Goldschein, Cory Kleinman, Lauryn Solomon, Loren Pincus, Abby Altman, Nathan Black and Jacklyn Steinberg. Not pictured: Michael Schwartz.

## Jewish Leadership Training Institute invites 13 years of alumni to first reunion on May 23

Graduates of the Jewish Leadership Training Institute (JLTI) are invited to an evening of reconnecting and networking during the program's first reunion on Wednesday, May 23.

Since 2007, JLTI, a joint program of the Tampa JCCs and Federation and the Jewish Federation of Pinellas and Pasco Counties, has invited emerging young leaders from the Tampa Bay area to participate in an innovative, 11-session, leadership development experience. Graduates have held leadership positions on boards and committees of local Jewish organizations and agencies on both sides of the Bay and have also made lifelong friendships and connections to other young professionals.

"With more than 200 alumni in our Jewish Leadership Training Institute network, many of whom have been actively involved in leadership roles in the Jewish community, we look forward to creating opportunities for meaningful connection," said Lisa Robbins, director of Young Adult Engagement for the

Tampa JCCs & Federation.

The reunion will be held from 7-8:30 p.m. at a private residence. Hors d'oeuvres and desserts will be served. The reunion is sponsored by Aaron and Cherie Silberman.

There is no cost to attend this event. RSVP for catering purposes and to receive address details to [www.jewishtampa.com/impact](http://www.jewishtampa.com/impact).

The JLTI program is open to young Jewish adults, ages 25-40 with a passion for making a difference and who want to take a leadership role in making the Jewish community stronger. The 2018-2019 JLTI class will meet every other Monday evening from October through March. The cost to participate is \$99, which includes course materials and dinner during each session.

For more information and to apply for the program, contact Robbins at [lisa.robbs@jewishtampa.com](mailto:lisa.robbs@jewishtampa.com) or (813) 769-4723. Space is limited to 25 people.



## Menorah Manor Moments






## Warren and Rebecca's Love Story

Warren Simmons, a resident at the Toby Weinman Assisted Living Residence, and Rebecca Simmons, a resident at the Samson Nursing Center, have a unique love story: They became engaged five minutes after they met.

It happened in 1948, when they were both 27 years old. Rebecca was visiting from Israel and staying with mutual friends of Warren's in the Bronx, who suggested that the two of them meet.

When Warren arrived to pick up Rebecca for their date, they walked out onto the street together.

"I looked at her," Warren said. "I said to her, I'd like to marry you."

To Warren's delight, Rebecca asked if he would like to marry her "yesterday or today."

"I said, if I could marry you today I would!" Warren recalled.

The rest is history. The couple got a marriage license and married 10 days later in City Hall.

"We still laugh about it to this day," Warren said. "Who gets engaged five minutes after they meet?"

For the next few years, they lived in New Jersey in a basement apartment. They later moved to New Orleans, where Rebecca's sister lived, and started a family. They have a daughter, Anita, and a son,

Ronny.

"We have had a wonderful life," Warren said. "We were always happy. You couldn't be happier."

Warren, who worked at an oil company, said that he and Rebecca came up with an arrangement early in their relationship to keep them from arguing.

"Whenever there was an argument, one of us would go outside for a while. When we came back, we couldn't remember what we were even fighting about," Warren said.

The couple traveled to many places together throughout their marriage, including New Zealand and Morocco. Rebecca, who especially loves traveling and speaks English, Hebrew, French and Arabic, would sometimes take trips on her own—visiting more than 120 countries.

"She loved it," Warren said. "She made friends with everybody she met."

Almost a decade ago, Rebecca and Warren moved to St. Petersburg to retire. In July 2017, they made the decision to move to Menorah Manor together.

It is the best of both worlds; Warren lives at the Toby Weinman Assisted Living Residence, and Rebecca lives at the Samson Nursing Center next door.

Because of their close dis-



Rebecca Simmons as a young woman



Rebecca and Warren pose for a photo with their son, Ronny.

tance, Warren and Rebecca are able to visit each other every day.

"Whenever we want to see each other, we see each other," Warren said.

At the Samson Nursing Center, Rebecca likes to work out in the rehabilitation gym and attend musical performances. At the Toby Weinman Assisted Living Residence, Warren enjoys attending discussion groups and going on lunch outings.

The couple also enjoys a variety of activities and holiday celebrations together, including weekly Shabbat dinners.

This September, Rebecca and Warren will celebrate their 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

"We want to be together and help one another," Warren said. "I would do anything in the world for her."



Warren and Rebecca enjoy an event at the Toby Weinman Assisted Living Residence together.

[www.menorahmanor.org](http://www.menorahmanor.org) (727) 345-2775

Marion and Bernard L. Samson Nursing Center  
Irv Weissman Adult Day Center  
Toby Weinman Assisted Living Residence



**Now Booking Parties for Any Occasion!**  
Complimentary Poolside Cabana with any reserved party.

**FREE WIFI - FREE PARKING**

**421 FOURTH AVE N. - ST. PETE**  
**727.873.7900 - HOLLANDERHOTEL.COM**

**MOTHERS DAY BRUNCH**

May 13  
8 am - 1 pm  
**\$20**

Reservations Recommended for parties of 6 or more

---

**BLOODY MARY BAR**

Saturdays & Sundays  
8 am - noon  
\$6 build your own

JAY E. KAUFFMAN, C.P.A.

- Tax Planning and Preparation
- Business Accounting and Consulting
- Litigation Support
- Estate Planning

Are you sure you are paying the least possible income tax? Let us give you some suggestions.

727.381.5999

5338 First Avenue N., St. Petersburg, FL 33710  
Visit our website for more about us: [www.jekcpa.com](http://www.jekcpa.com)

- Critically acclaimed chef
- Creative new American cuisine with a Mediterranean flair
- Casually elegant ambiance
- Extensive selection of fine wines & spirits
- Outdoor sidewalk café dining
- "O to Go" gourmet carryout
- Upscale martini bar
- Champagne Sunday brunch
- Wine dinners & monthly Chef table
- Private dining room available (seats 50)



Your Neighborhood Restaurant & Martini Bar

The Experience makes you say "O"

- 6661 Central Avenue •
- 727.381.1212 •

EXTENDED HOURS FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE!





JOHNS HOPKINS MEDICINE

JOHNS HOPKINS ALL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Pediatric & Adolescent Medicine

727.767.8917 • [www.hopkinsallchildrens.org](http://www.hopkinsallchildrens.org)

Outpatient Care Center, Suite 504  
601 Fifth Street South • St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Now accepting new patients

Jewish Press Online Ticket Contest

Win 2 Tickets

STRAIT OF GIBRALTAR

TO THE FLORIDA PREMIERE OF

At American Stage

MAY 23 ~ JUNE 17

The winner will be chosen from those correctly answering the following:

Name the biblical woman who said, "Whither you go, I will go... your people will be my people..."



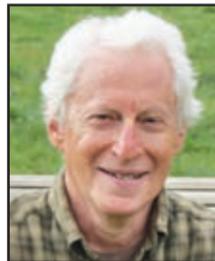
To enter:  
Go to [www.JEWISHPRESSPINELLAS.com](http://www.JEWISHPRESSPINELLAS.com)

ONLY online submissions will be accepted. Deadline for submission May 11, 2018  
One submission per day allowed.

## Talk: Sholem Aleichem and 'Fiddling with Tradition'

Historian Jeff Lipkes will discuss the transformations undergone by the Tevye stories of the great Yiddish writer Sholem Aleichem when the tales crossed the Atlantic, and what these changes reveal about American descendants of Eastern European Jews.

The talk will focus on how these Jews perceived their own past, their relations with gentiles, and especially intermarriage. The program will feature a showing of Maurice Schwartz's 1939 film *Tevye* (Yiddish with English subtitles).



Jeff Lipkes

The event will be held Sunday, May 20, from 2 - 4:45 p.m., at the Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library, 2902 W. Bearss Ave., Tampa.

In the discussion there will be a comparison of the

1939 film to both the 1964 Broadway production and to Norman Jewison's 1971 film adaptation, as well as to the original Sholem Aleichem stories. Included in the discussion will be a consideration of the "bible" of the creators of *Fiddler on the Roof*, Mark Zborowski and Elizabeth Herzog's classic account of the shtetl, *Life Is With People*.

In advance, attendees should watch on youtube the following musical numbers and excerpts from *Fiddler*: "Tradition," "If I Were a Rich Man," "Matchmaker," "Fyedka and Chava," "Perchik," and "Sabbath Prayer." The original Tevye stories also are available in three English translations for those interested.

Lipkes, who holds a Ph.D from Princeton, has taught modern European history at USF, Eckerd College, and Florida Southern College.

Lipkes is the organizer of Humanistic Jews of Tampa Bay.

## BIRTHDAY

• Continued from FRONT PAGE

Author Lynda Lippman-Lockhart discussed her book, *The Laundry Room*, a historical novel that describes the courage of 45 young people who managed to manufacture the bullets that helped Israel become an independent state, all while under the noses of British officers.

"They were pressing and washing British uniforms while creating ammunition underneath," said Lippman-Lockhart. "If there was ever a story about being creative and courageous ... these people are my heroes. Without them and without those 9-mm bullets, there would be no Israel today."

The work of photographer Erez Kaganovitz brought event guests from the stories of Israelis past to Israelis present. Kaganovitz's *Humans of Tel Aviv* exhibit mirrors the globally popular *Humans of New York* series. In each vignette, everyday people are photo subjects and the viewers gets small glimpses into their life with a short narrative.

Kaganovitz' *Humans of Tel Aviv* showed the range of people and personalities that coexist in Tel Aviv and, perhaps unintentionally, compares and contrasts the similarities and differences of U.S. and Israeli culture. One of the photos is of a man dressed in drag during a pride parade in Tel Aviv. Twenty years ago you could be openly gay in the Israeli military and no one would make a fuss about it, said the photographer.

His photo series, started in 2012, reaches 500,000 people around the world each month through his website.

"You don't need to be a great photographer," said Kaganovitz. "You just need to know your neighbors. It doesn't matter if you are Jewish, it doesn't matter if you are Muslim, it doesn't matter if you are Christian. Love is the most important thing."

Even as the rain poured heavily outside, inside the audience participated in a ceremony and sing-along. Taking part were Rabbis Gary Klein of Temple Ahavat Shalom and Ed Rosenthal of the Hillels of the Florida Suncoast, cantorial soloist Laura Berkson of Temple B'nai Israel and Cantor Jonathan Schultz of Congregation B'nai Israel. Rabbi Danielle Upbin accompanied by guitarist Blake Lenett and drummer Alan Feinman, all of Congregation Beth Shalom in Clearwater, also entertained.

The day finished with a lively rendition of "Hava Nagila" by Bash Entertainment as celebrants circled the room, dancing the hora.

The rain began to let up just as the event came to a close.



Photographer Erez Kaganovitz speaks to an audience about his photo exhibit, "Humans of Tel Aviv," inside the Pinewood Cultural Park in Largo.



Pinellas/ Pasco Jewish Federation staffer Diana Morin (left) and Temple B'nai Israel Director of Engagement Barbara Bloom handle registration at the Israel Independence Day event. The federation sponsored the festivities.



Harvey Bailin writes a letter to an Israeli soldier during the celebration of Israel's 70th anniversary of its founding.



Children brave the rains outside to pick up hot dogs and chips from Joel Goetz of Jo-EI's Delicatessen & Marketplace during the Israel Independence Day event on Sunday, April 15. Most of the activities were moved inside due to the inclement weather.

## Teen summer program offers personal development at Federation's Jewish Community Camp

The Jewish Federation of Pinellas and Pasco Counties' Jewish Community Camp will offer a program specially geared for the "unique needs and discriminating tastes" of campers entering grades six through 10.

There will be three one-week sessions, each offering a personal development theme through a Jewish values lens: happiness, gratitude and purpose.

Lisa Schmid, Community Camp administrator, said the Sabrim program curriculum will allow for self-reflection, identity formation and service. The model for the three sessions is the Service Learning Toolkit created by Repair the World and Avodah: The Jewish Service Corps.

Each camp session will provide 18 hours of documented community service with local Jewish and non-Jewish organizations; a day trip to Busch Gardens, which will include an exclusive group challenge; down time for camp activities like conquering the rock wall or going swimming; and the opportunity to design part of the Shabbat experience for the entire Jewish Community Camp.

The Sabrim sessions are:

**Discover your Happy:** In this session, from June 4-8, campers will explore the six pillars of happiness (mindfulness, human connection, positive outlook, purpose, generosity, and gratitude) in the service of self and

others.

**Thanks, Gratitude for Greatness:** This session, from June 26-30, teaches campers the impact gratitude can have in one's own life and the lives of others.

**The Purpose Challenge:** This session from July 16-20 offers four days of challenges. It presents a thoughtful journey through creating change in the world in a personal way. Sabrim will conquer their own values statements and learn a bit more about their own perspectives on *tikkun olam* – repair the world.

The Sabrim Summer Program camp hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.. A one-week session costs \$275 per camper, which includes

all activities, snack, a t-shirt, and a Shabbat pizza party. Lunch is not provided.

Transportation with other campers is available for an additional fee.

During weeks when the Sabrim Summer Program is not offered, campers in grades six through eight are invited to participate in regular camp activities, while those entering grades nine and 10 are invited to participate in the counselor-in-training program.

Home base for the camp is 1685 S. Belcher Road, Clearwater, on the grounds of Temple B'nai Israel. Interested campers and families should visit [www.jewishcommunitycamp.com](http://www.jewishcommunitycamp.com) for more information and to register.

## Francine Wolf presents 'Meshuga' improv at Fringe Festival

Francine Wolf will present a solo improv performance, *This Show is Meshuga*, at the second annual Tampa International Fringe Festival from May 3-12.

Each show is an improvised solo performance with audience interaction. Every show is unique with quirky characters taking shape before your eyes with a sprinkling of *Yiddishkeit*.

Wolf, a resident of Largo, has been a professional actor, singer, improviser and SAG-AFTRA member, appearing on stage, film and TV for more than 27 years. She just wrapped up a run



Francine Wolf

of *Sex Please, We're Sixty*, at the Just for Laughs Dinner Theatre. Before retiring to return to acting full time, she worked for several Jewish organizations, including the Gulf Coast Jewish Family & Community Services, Menorah Manor and Jewish Federations of Ohio.

Wolf will perform *This Show is Meshuga* on Thursday, May 3 at 8 p.m.; Saturday, May 5 at 9:15 p.m.; Sunday, May 6 at 4:45 p.m.; Wednesday, May 9 at 9:45 p.m.; Thursday, May 10 at 8:45 p.m. and Saturday, May 12 at 4:45 p.m.

The Hillsborough Community College Ybor City Campus Theatre building is at 1411 E. 11th Ave., Tampa. Tickets are \$8, with a Thrifty Thursday ticket price of \$7. For ticket information, go to [www.tampafringe.org](http://www.tampafringe.org).

## FULL SERVICE FOR DOGS & CATS

**4<sup>TH</sup> STREET PET HOSPITAL**  
 3125 4th St. N. • St. Petersburg  
**727.289.7190**  
[www.4thstreetpethospital.com](http://www.4thstreetpethospital.com)  
**FREE Meet & Greet (\$55 Value)**  
 Comprehensive Exam - Exp. 3/31/18

Family owned and operated



**Dr. Stephanie Montor**  
 Univ. of Pennsylvania  
 Veterinary Med. School

## Hillel Academy names Cantor Schlossberg as Jewish Life, Curriculum director

Hillel Academy has appointed Cantor Beth Schlossberg, who has served for the past 5 years as cantor at Congregation Kol Ami in Tampa, as director of Jewish Life and Curriculum at the academy.

Schlossberg's "vast skills, experience and background are exactly what we need and will ensure our ongoing trajectory forward as a premiere Jewish day school, constantly improving and looking to take Hillel Academy to the next level," said board President Stanford Solomon.

Head of School Allison Oakes said Schlossberg's "passion for Jewish education and her creativity will even further develop the Jewish identity and leadership skills of our students."

Schlossberg comes to Hillel Academy after most recently serving as cantor and co-director for the religious school at Congregation Kol Ami, where she built a comprehensive and creative elementary and middle school Hebrew and Judaics Curriculum.

Schlossberg will remain at Kol Ami until her contract ends on June 30 and begin at Hillel Academy on July 1.

A graduate of the University of Michigan, Schlossberg earned a bachelor of music specializing in voice performance and spent several years singing professionally. She has taught piano and voice, directed the Hebrew School and pre-school music programs at Har Zion Temple in Narberth, PA, and has offered holiday and diversity programming for other private religious institutions, both Jewish and non Jewish.

In 2003, realizing that the cantorate was a perfect fit to combine her love of Judaism, education, and music, Schlossberg began her studies at the H.L. Miller Cantorial School at the Jewish Theological Seminary. After being invested, Schlossberg spent four years with Beth El Synagogue in Omaha, NE. In 2013, she and her husband Michael, moved to Tampa to join Congregation Kol Ami in 2013.



At Suncoast Hospice, your loved one is our priority. For more than 40 years, we have provided compassionate life-changing care to patients and their families. Our nonprofit, community-based hospice is the only Pinellas County hospice:

- With freestanding specialized care centers providing continuous medical care if your loved one has uncontrolled pain and symptoms – improving their quality of life and your peace of mind.
- Where expert staff are supported by nearly 2,000 community volunteers, helping us provide the best possible care for your loved one.
- With a local foundation that supports services and care not paid for by insurance. This means your donations and support of our hospice stay in your community.
- That's part of the larger Empath Health network including palliative care, home health, elder care, advance care planning and more – offering complete support for your loved one.

**We're not just hospice, we're Suncoast Hospice.**



(727) 467-7423 | [SuncoastHospice.org](http://SuncoastHospice.org)



**Birthright co-founder Michael Steinhardt shows anti-Israel protesters exactly how he feels outside a gala dinner in New York City celebrating 18 years of the program.**

## Birthright Israel founder flips off protesters outside gala

Michael Steinhardt, the co-founder and major supporter of Birthright Israel – a program that has brought more than 600,000 Jewish young adults from around the world to Israel for free 10-day trips – gave the middle finger to a group of anti-Israel, anti-Birthright activists outside a gala Birthright celebration on April 15.

When Steinhardt arrived at the dinner in New York celebrating Birthright's 18th anniversary, more than 150 protesters verbally accosted him, including members of the Palestine Solidarity Alliance, Democratic Socialists of America and Students for Justice in Palestine. His responding gesture was captured on film and going viral around the Jewish world.

The protest was led by "Return the Birthright," a campaign calling on young Jews to boycott Birthright and support Palestinian claims to the land. Participants wrapped themselves in tallit and read out the names of Palestinian villages that existed prior to Israel's independence, as well as the names of 32 Gaza Palestinians who were killed in riots on the Gaza border in the last three weeks, most of whom have been identified as operatives for Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

Sheldon and Miriam Adelson, who recently announced that they were contributing an additional \$70 million to Birthright, were presented with the "Guardians of the Jewish Future" award at the event.

## CLASSIFIEDS ADS

The Jewish Press accepts only pre-paid classified advertising. The paper accepts no responsibility for services and merchandise advertised, nor screens advertisers. All ads must be submitted in writing. Mail to PO Box 6970, Clearwater, FL 33758; fax (727) 530-3039 or e-mail: jewishpress@aol.com Rates: \$10 for 15 words, 10¢ each additional word.

### POSITION AVAILABLE

**JEWISH PRESS has OPENINGS for: SUMMER INTERNS**

College student with journalism major preferred. Duties will include writing assignments and clerical work. Paid position. Part-time. Flexible hours. Must have transportation. Send resume with clips, if available.

**Karen Dawkins, managing editor**  
 PO Box 6970, Clearwater, FL 33758  
 email: jewishpress@aol.com.  
 or call, (727) 535-4400 or (813) 871-2332.

### COMMUNITY SERVICES

**COULD YOUR CHILD USE ANOTHER ADULT IN THEIR LIFE?** Do you have children between the ages 6-17 who would benefit from frequent interaction with another Jewish adult/mentor? Call the Yad B'Yad Program Coordinator at Gulf Coast Jewish Family & Community Services, Deena Silver, at (727) 450-7278, for more information.

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**WANTED:** Adults with a desire to befriend a Jewish youngster. As a mentor/role model you can greatly influence a child's life. For details, call Deena Silver, Yad B'Yad Program Coordinator at Gulf Coast Jewish Family & Community Services, (727) 450-7278.

**Advertise in Business & Professional Directory for as little as \$38 per issue including web.**  
 For more information, call (727) 535-4400

## Organizations

### Hadassah

**Weather report:** Meteorologist **Andrew McKaughan**, who has worked with the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for the past eight years, will speak at the next meeting of the North Pinellas Chapter of Hadassah on Monday, May 14 at 11:30 a.m. He will talk about the National Weather Service, what the agency does, the past hurricane season and the changes to the climate being observed. All are welcome to attend. Bring your own lunch. Drinks and desserts will be provided. The meeting will be at Temple Ahavat Shalom, 1575 Curlew Road, Palm Harbor.

For more information, call **Janice Caine** at (727) 726-3735 or **Betty Slavney** at (727) 446-5895.

**Printmaking:** Create unique imagery with printmaking techniques using soft linoleum tiles as a stamp on paper on Monday May 7 from 6-9 p.m. This includes a social hour and the class, which will be held at the Bryan Glazer Family JCC in the visual arts center. The cost, including materials, is \$15 for members and guests. Bring snacks and wine to share during the social hour. For more information, visit: <https://www.bryanglazerfamilyjcc.com/gather> or <https://www.jccohncampus.com/programs/young-adults>. This is a #Gather event.

#Gather offers a mix of social and interactive activities designed to help young adults con-

nect. It is open to young adults of all faiths and backgrounds. For more information or to RSVP for any #Gather events, visit: [www.bryanglazerfamilyjcc.com/gather](http://www.bryanglazerfamilyjcc.com/gather) or contact **Lisa Robbins** at [lisa.robbins@jewishtampa.com](mailto:lisa.robbins@jewishtampa.com) or (813) 769-4723.

### Young Adults

**Kickball anyone?:** The Tampa JCCs is forming a kickball team. Beginning in early June, the JCC plans to join the Tampa Bay Club Sports League. The team will play seven regular season games on Tuesdays plus participate in one play-off week. The cost is \$70 per person. The games will be at Gadsden Park in South Tampa. This is a #Gather event. All those interested should contact **Lisa Robbins** by Monday, May 7.

### Job-Links

**Monday Morning Links:** Free sessions of Monday Morning Links are offered at the Jack Roth Center for Career Development at TampaBay-Job-Links, 4100 W. Kennedy Blvd., Suite 206, Tampa from 9:30 - 11 a.m.

- April 30: "12 Keys to a Productive Career Transition."
- May 7: "Ways to Stay Relevant in an Ever-changing Job Market."
- May 14: "How to Ace a Phone, Skype or Online Interview."
- May 21: "The Power of Resilience: How

to Bounce Back and Stay Positive."

Monday Morning Links is supported by the Vinik Family Foundation.

**Job-search aids:** There are Success workshops on select Thursdays to aid with job-search skills. On May 3 from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., the topic is "Preparing for Your Interview." On May 10 from 9:30 a.m. to noon the topic is "Getting Organized and Staying on Track During Your Job Search. On May 24 from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. the topic is "Is Your Brand Helping You Land a Job?" The workshops are free for TampaBay-Job-Links full program participants and \$15 for guests. Reservations required for all programs. To RSVP, call (813) 344-0200, email [RSVP@TBJL.org](mailto:RSVP@TBJL.org).

**Switching gears:** A series of four evening workshops, each from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. are offered, targeting those in career transition. These sessions cover the nuts and bolts of career transition. People can enroll for the full series or come for any individual session. The sessions are on Tuesdays, May 15, 22 and 29 and June 5. Reservations are required. Cost is \$15 per workshop or \$50 for all four. 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.

# Business & Professional Directory



12450 Roosevelt Blvd  
 Suite 301  
 St. Petersburg, FL 33716  
 Phone: 727-824-8727  
 Cell: 727-642-8283  
 Fax: 727-573-8508  
[RobynFiel@synovusmortgage.com](mailto:RobynFiel@synovusmortgage.com)



**Robyn Fiel**  
 Mortgage Loan Officer  
 NMLS ID 437132

OFFICE: 844.FOR.VOIP  
 844.367.8647  
[Sales@pbx-change.com](mailto:Sales@pbx-change.com)



www.pbx-change.com

5625 W. Waters Ave., Suite E, Tampa, FL 33634

**Hal E. Hershkowitz**  
 Certified Public Accountant  
 President & Managing Partner



**HERSHKOWITZ & KUNITZER, P.A.**

**CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS**

5039 Central Avenue St. Petersburg, FL 33710  
 Phone (727)344-1463 | Fax (727)343-3539  
[hal@hk-cpas.com](mailto:hal@hk-cpas.com)

SMILE BUILDERS™

**ROBYN B. LESSER, D.M.D.**  
 Pediatric Dentistry  
 comprehensive care for  
 infants, children, & adolescents

**6415 Sheldon Rd.  
 Tampa, FL 33615**

PH (813) 880-0100  
 Fax (813) 880-0111  
[www.smilebuilders4kids.com](http://www.smilebuilders4kids.com)



**Anna Adamczyk** NMLS ID# 757729  
 Vice President  
 Commercial Lender

1700- S. MacDill Avenue, Suite 360  
 Tampa FL 33629

Phone: 813.549.0557  
 Cell: 727.415.8193  
 Fax: 727.739.2343  
 Email: [aadamczyk@valleynationalbank.com](mailto:aadamczyk@valleynationalbank.com)

**Florida Division**

The Counseling Center  
 of Gulf Coast

*Counseling in a private, safe and compassionate environment*

- Individual & Family Counseling
- Medication Management
- Licensed Professional Therapists
- Most Insurances Accepted

Call for an appointment (727) 479-1897  
 or for information on other Jewish Family Services



[www.gcjfcs.org](http://www.gcjfcs.org)

ADVANCED  
 PRINTING & GRAPHIC  
 SOLUTIONS

We Are Your Full-Service Printer!

7245 Bryan Dairy Road • Seminole, FL 33777  
 (727) 545-9000 • Fax (727) 546-9463  
[advancedprintingrose@gmail.com](mailto:advancedprintingrose@gmail.com)  
[www.advancedprintingfl.com](http://www.advancedprintingfl.com)



**INSURANCE  
 TAXES  
 FINANCIAL SERVICES**



**KEVIN M. BURKART**  
 CPA, CFP® • President

5301 Central Ave. • St. Petersburg, FL 33710  
 727.896.6269 ph • 727.213.6769 fax  
[kburkart@burkartco.com](mailto:kburkart@burkartco.com)  
[burkartco.com](http://burkartco.com)

# As situation heats up in Syria, will Iran again target Israel?

By ISRAEL KASNETT  
Jewish News Syndicate

Israel's covert war with Iran became overt when, in a clear escalation, Iran sent an armed drone into Israeli territory in February.

Then Israel wiped out most of Syria's air defenses after an Israel Air Force fighter jet was shot down. And now, after Israel reportedly struck the T-4 base in Syria and killed several Iranian personnel, Iran is threatening to retaliate.

The issue is when, where and how.

According to David Makovsky, director of the Project on the Middle East Peace Process at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, "There is no question that there is more uncertainty of a possible war between Israel and Iran or its proxies than there has been in the past," he told JNS.

The *Wall Street Journal* reported Tuesday night, April 17, that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, after conferring with President Donald Trump, ordered the strike on the anti-aircraft battery to prevent Iranian forces from using it against Israeli warplanes carrying out operations in Syria. The newspaper cited unnamed U.S. intelligence officials and others briefed on the matter.

The air-defense system had been installed recently at the T-4 air base, which has been reported to be the site for deployment of Iranian drones, such as the one Israel shot down in February. Israeli military officials announced that the drone was loaded with explosives and on an attack mission.

Israel would prefer to see the international community take a larger role in preventing Iran from becoming even further established in Syria, but this is unlikely since, as he explained, "the American strategy in Syria is largely focused on ISIS."

Makovsky acknowledged that "all this is not great comfort for Israel, which would like to see America launch its own military strikes." Since this is unlikely at the moment, it is assumed that the United States would back Israel politically if it decides to take further military action against Iran in Syria. "It doesn't seem to me that the president, given his public statements, has an interest in expanding America's role in Syria," he added.

Behnam Ben Taleblu, a senior Iran analyst at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, told JNS that "the main strategy now for Israel is managing escalation

dynamics in Israel's favor. This is because Iran will seek to test Israel again. The armed drone was a qualitatively different threat for Israel — it represents a threat against the entire population and not just a message to Israel's political or military establishment."

Like Makovsky, Ben Taleblu also does not see an expanded U.S. role in Syria, and at present, U.S. foreign policy there is still muddled. "Right now," he said, "there is an unknown 'unknown' in terms of American analysts who are trying to define U.S. defense strategy in Syria. First is the anti-ISIS campaign. The second is more normative, and that is upholding the non-use of chemical weapons. And the third is military commanders rhetorically blaming Iran for what is taking place in Syria."

### Netanyahu: 'Aggression against aggression'

In anticipation of Iran's intentions to retaliate, Israeli security and defense planners are making every effort to demonstrate to Iran that Israel has superiority, and that it is not worth the consequences for Iran to try and strike Israel.

As such, Israel announced that it canceled plans to send its warplanes to a joint military exercise with the United States in Alaska amid concerns of the Iranian buildup.

At the same time, Israeli leaders have made it clear to Iran that they will not tolerate its threats.

"Our policy can be summed up in three words: aggression against aggression," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said last week.

However, Iranian officials have responded to Israel's actions and rhetoric. "Israeli aggression against the Syrians and the region's Muslims remains ongoing," Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Ghasemi said earlier this week, adding that Tehran would respond "sooner or later."

Similarly, Hezbollah's Deputy Secretary General Naim Qassem told the pan-Arab satellite TV station Al-Mayadeen that Iran would retaliate against Israel. "We have to expect something from Iran," he said. "Hezbollah and Iran will not allow Israel to limit their movement in Syria."

### 'Finish off last pockets of resistance'

Assaf Orion, a senior research fellow at the Institute for National Security Studies, told JNS "what we see in Syria now is an accumulation of several issues. One is the latest phase in the civil war, which



Photo by GPO

**Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu displays a fragment of an Iranian drone destroyed over Israeli airspace in February during his speech at the Munich Security Conference.**

means the regime feels quite emboldened to wrap up the last places of resistance. There is action up north between Turkey and the Kurds. Farther south, Russia has concentrated on Damascus and its suburbs.

"This conjunction," he continued, "means Syria feels confident to use chemical weapons. The regime has regenerated capabilities and the resolve to use it. The chemical attack was part of the regime's usual style to finish off last pockets of resistance."

In 2013, Syria joined the Chemical Weapons Convention, "but it is evident that the two northernmost sites that were hit by the coalition forces were post-2013 sites," said Orion. "So actually, the Assad regime moved their assets around, kept some of its capabilities, hid them and then, assisted by Russia, used smoke and mirrors to deny their existence. The coalition strike was meant to tell Syria that the international community knows it used chemical weapons. But it all points to a failure of this mechanism to ascertain what is going on and to expose violations."

There are voices calling for the ouster — or even the assassination — of Syrian President Bashar Assad. What Assad must realize, said Orion, is that the crimes of tyrants like Adolph Eichmann, Saddam Hussein and Slobodan Milošević eventually caught up with them.

"Parallel to the chemical-weapons issue, there is the Iran-Israel axis," continued Orion. "Iran is established militarily in Syria. Now, Iran seems to feel it is time to reap its investment into actual gains and dig in to Syria. Iran is Hezbollah on steroids."

What Iran will do now is not immediately apparent, according to Orion, though he says he is certain that "the Israeli military has made preparations to thwart or counter any attempt by Iran" to further attack Israel.

The question that remains, stresses Ben Taleblu, is: "Will Iran actually look to test Israel again, or will it try to save face?"

*Information from the JTA news service was used in this report.*

# Syracuse U permanently expels frat over racist, anti-Semitic video

(JTA) — Syracuse University has permanently expelled a campus fraternity after a video surfaced of members using racist, anti-Semitic, homophobic and ableist slurs.

In the video, discovered by the *Daily Orange*, Syracuse's student newspaper, a member of Theta Tau, a national engineering fraternity, gets on his knees and repeats an oath, "I solemnly swear to always have hatred in my heart for n\*\*\*\*s, sp\*cs and most importantly the f\*\*\*in' k\*kes."

Soon after he yells, "You f\*\*\*in' k\*kes, get in the f\*\*\*in' showers," a reference to gas chambers during the Holocaust, as other members laugh and applaud.

The video also shows members simulating sexual acts and mock-

ing gay people. Another video features more anti-gay language, as well as a slur against people with disabilities.

University Chancellor Kent Syverud made the announcement in a video posted to the university's website. Syverud said students identified in the video could face suspension or expulsion.

The Syracuse Theta Tau chapter apologized for the actions captured on video. "It was a satirical sketch of an uneducated, racist, homophobic, misogynist, sexist, ableist and intolerant person," the fraternity said in a statement.

Syverud said the university believes this goes beyond one fraternity and has "begun a top-to-bottom review of our entire Greek system."

## Caring for Jewish Families since 1979



**Curlew Hills**  
MEMORY GARDENS

Traditional & Personalized Jewish Funerals  
Cremation Services  
Pristine 30-acre Cemetery  
Special Jewish Gardens  
Family Estates  
Florida's Most Beautiful Pet Cemetery

1750 Curlew Road • Palm Harbor • 727.789.2000  
CurlewHills.com • CurlewHillsPetCemetery.com



## Serving the Pinellas County Jewish Community since 1968

- Community sponsored non-profit
- Beautifully kept grounds
- Professional, courteous staff
- Family estate lots available
- 20 new crepe myrtles provided by Jewish Federation grant
- Hand washing station
- Rock bins available
- Waterfront family estates
- Better pricing than competitors

12905 Wild Acres Rd. Largo, FL 33773  
(727) 531-0475 • www.chapelhillmemprk.org

The Jewish Burial Society of Pinellas County Inc. dba Chapel Hill Memorial Park is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation licensed by the State of Florida

## Obituaries

**PHYLLIS BIRNBAUM**, 87, of Seminole, died April 14. Born in New York City, she worked for many years as a registered nurse. (David C. Gross Funeral Homes, St. Petersburg Chapel)

**HARRY EISENOFF**, 97, of Largo, died April 9. Born in Springfield, MA, he was a retired real estate broker. Survivors include a niece, Myra Warman, West Hempstead, NY. (David C. Gross Funeral Homes, Clearwater Chapel)

**STEFAN ALLEN FREIFELD**, 76, of St. Petersburg, died April 16. He was born in New York City and worked for many years as a general contractor. He moved to St. Petersburg with his wife and family in 1966. For many years his career was spent in everything related to real estate, including being a construction supervisor with the company that he and his brother established. He was a longtime member of Temple Beth-El, involved with UJA and Israel Bonds. A volunteer at Menorah Manor, he was awarded a plaque for his count-

less service hours. He was an avid collector of art, collectibles and particularly Judaica. He also liked to cook. Survivors include his wife of almost 58 years, Sandra; daughter and son-in-law, Deborah and Daniel; daughter Robin; son and daughter-in-law, Michael and Helen; daughter and son-in-law, Tamara and Howard; and son Mark; and eight grandchildren. The family suggests memorials to Menorah Manor Foundation. (David C. Gross Funeral Homes, St. Petersburg Chapel)

**MAXWELL "MAX" MISKE MILLER**, 26, of Treasure Island and Somerville, MA, died April 11. He had a passion for the culinary arts and was a student of craft beers and other liquors, along with enjoying deep sea fishing and rugby. Survivors include his parents Terri and Stephen Miller; grandmother Suzanne Miller. The family suggests memorials to Voices of Hope for Aphasia, 200 Second Ave. S. St. Petersburg, FL 33701. (David C. Gross Funeral Homes, St. Petersburg Chapel)

# A Sacred Trust

בית קבורה בית דוד



Michael, Mandi, David, Pati and Steven Gross

Generation to Generation, our reputation for superior service and fair pricing has made us the area's most often chosen Jewish funeral provider.

**DAVID C. GROSS**  
FUNERAL HOMES  
Reform Conservative Orthodox

**(727) 381-4911**

THE JEWISH FUNERAL HOMES OF PINELLAS & PASCO COUNTIES

6366 Central Avenue  
St. Petersburg Fl 33707

830 N. Belcher Road  
Clearwater, Fl 33765





Shayna Cohen, the new program coordinator for the Tikkun Hayam/Scubi Jew program.

## SCUBI

• CONTINUED from FRONT PAGE

In 2000, when he was based at Emory University in Atlanta, he took a small group of Jewish students from Emory on a trip to Crystal River to learn about endangered manatees and then they took another trip to the Bahamas to learn about declining sharp populations. It was with those students that the term Scubi Jew was born, though after Rosenthal left Emory the program there ended.

Rabbi Rosenthal became head of Hillel of the Florida Suncoast, which has Hillel

programs at college campuses in Pinellas, Hillsborough and Polk counties. In 2009 at Eckerd College, located on the St. Petersburg waterfront, he started a formal Scubi Jew program as a dive club for students, both Jewish and non-Jewish.

Since then, other Scubi Jew chapters have started at the University of South Florida, University of Tampa, University of Central Florida, Florida Atlantic University and the University of Miami, plus the newest chapter in Arizona. Rosenthal said he has other inquiries about starting chapters at Emory and Baruch College in New York City.

To meet the demands, Hillel of the Florida Suncoast recently hired Shayna Cohen, a master scuba diver trainer, as the new Scubi Jew program coordinator. In addition to her responsibilities to strengthen Scubi Jew at the Suncoast campuses and with other Hillels who create Scubi Jew chapters, she will work with members of the local Jewish community who are passionate about the marine environment. Prior to joining Hillel, she worked as dive guide and conservation coordinator at Rainbow Reef Dive Center in Key Largo.

“People always say the name Scubi Jew is so cute, but it is a serious project,” Rabbi Rosenthal explained. “The threat to the oceans is probably the greatest environmental threat to the planet as a whole and we want to raise awareness. ... If we do not change, all species in the ocean will collapse by 2048, from pollution, overfishing, scientists tell us.”

To reflect those concerns and in hopes of going beyond the venture’s dive club origins and building a broader community-based Jewish Marine Environmental Organization, the overall program has been renamed, *Tikkun HaYam*, which means repair the sea.

“In my 30 years in the rabbinate, this is the most spiritual project I have ever done,” Rabbi Rosenthal said.

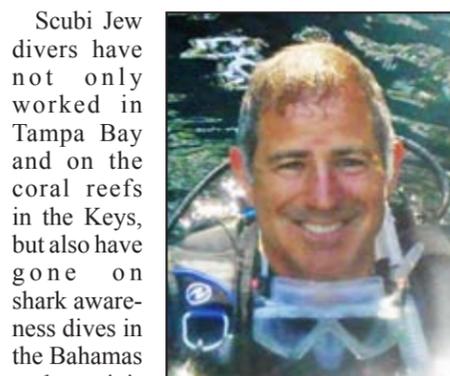
There is a Jewish element to the dives, he said, noting that a recent spring break dive trip to Key Largo included underwater meditation based on the *Shema*. For the non-Jewish members of the club, “they just know that they are learning something new to make themselves better citizens of the world,” he said

Among the environmental undertakings of his Scubi Jew divers is coral reef restoration in the Florida Keys, where 95 percent of the coral had died in the last 30 years. “Coral is the canary in the mine,” Rabbi Rosenthal said.

Local Scubi Jew divers often dive in the murky, low-visibility waters of Tampa Bay to clean up debris such as mono-filament fishing lines, old tires, plastic and other trash. For those dives, any guests who want to join them are welcome at no charge. When the divers go on reef repair trips to the Keys, or on other projects, there is a cost for participants, due to distance traveled and accommodations.



University of Central Florida is one of six Florida colleges that has a Scubi Jew club, started at Eckerd College by Rabbi Ed Rosenthal of Hillel of the Florida Suncoast.



Rabbi Ed Rosenthal

Scubi Jew divers have not only worked in Tampa Bay and on the coral reefs in the Keys, but also have gone on shark awareness dives in the Bahamas and participated in a “Diveheart” program where they buddy up with disabled divers. There are also manatee awareness trips to Crystal River, scuba certification courses, fish population and identification surveys, lectures and “Water Torah” learning events.

The offerings have also expanded to certification courses for middle and high school students and this summer will mark the fourth time that Scubi Jew birthright trips to Israel will take place.

Another project in the works is to make and sell mezuzah from recycled plastic debris recovered from the waters.

To accomplish some of their work Hillel of the Florida Suncoast is the only Hillel which owns its own boat, *Ally’s Way*, which allows access to waters for the students’ projects. The boat is named after Allison Willen, an Eckerd College Scubi Jew student who died during a study abroad trip in New Zealand. Her parents donated funds for the boat.

The expansion of the Tikkun HaYam/Scubi Jew program follows a generous grant from the Maurice A. & Thelma P. Rothman Family Foundation to train Hillel professionals in Florida.

For more information about the program, go to [www.repairthesea.org](http://www.repairthesea.org).

## Discover 2018 Summer Camps at ADMIRAL FARRAGUT ACADEMY



### Day Camps | PreK and Up | June-August

Fun and educational themed day camps include Little Captains, Basketball, STEM, Little Explorers, and Writing.

### Boarding Camp | 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade | June-August

Summer@Farragut is a unique two, four, or six-week summer boarding program for teens. They will attend college-prep classes (and earn high school credit!) and participate in fun activities while living in campus dormitories.

Use Code: JPSUMMER2018 for 10% off day camps

Register Online!

[www.farragut.org/summer](http://www.farragut.org/summer)

727-384-5500 ext 220 | 501 Park St. N., St. Petersburg, FL

All camps are open to the public, coed, and include a hot lunch!

## Learn how to get an iPhone 8 on us



iPhone 8

Ask an associate for details.  
**855-419-4103**



SMARTPHONE BOGO: Limited Time Offer. Select locations. Must buy each iPhone 8 64 GB (\$699.99) on 0% APR AT&T Next (30 mos. at \$23.34/mo.) or AT&T Next Every Year (24 mos. at \$29.17/mo.) with eligible service. Tax on full retail price of both due at sale. After all credits, get iPhone 8 64GB for free. Max credit may be applied towards other eligible iPhone 8/8 Plus models priced up to \$950, which will be discounted but not free. iPhone X is not eligible. Req'd Wireless: Eligible postpaid wireless voice & data svc on both devices (min. \$65/mo. for new svc with autopay and paperless bill discount. Pay \$75/mo. until discount starts w/in 2 bills. Existing customers can add to elig. current plans if you cancel wireless svc on one, will owe that device balance of up to \$950. Activation Fee: up to \$45/each. Return: Return w/in 14 days. Restocking fee up to \$45 each may apply. Add'l BOGO terms for customer w/consumer acct & Subscriber Paid User acct: Purchased device must be on Subscriber Paid User acct & free/discounted device must be on the consumer acct. Billing addresses for Subscriber Paid User & consumer acct must match. Req'd elig. postpaid wireless voice & data svc on both devices. Combined min. elig. wireless svc is \$73.50/mo. (\$28.50/mo. on Subscriber Paid User acct + \$45/mo. on consumer acct after autopay & paperless bill discount. Pay \$83.50/mo. until discount starts on consumer acct w/in 2 bills.) Bill Credits: Applied in equal amounts to device over entire agmt term & will not exceed \$700. Both wireless lines must be on same acct, be active & in good standing for 30 days to qualify. To get all credits, free wireless line must remain active, with eligible service, and on agmt for entire term. If you cancel service, upgrade or pay off agmt early your credits may cease. Limits: May not be combinable w/other offers, discounts or credits. Purchase, financing & other limits & restr's apply. Participation in this offer may make your wireless account ineligible for select other offers (including select bill credit offers) for a 12 month period. See store or att.com/iphone8offer for offer details. GEN. WIRELESS SVC. Subj. to Wireless Customer Agmt (att.com/wca). Credit approval required. Svcs not for resale. Deposit: May apply. Limits: Purch. & line limits apply. Prices may vary by location. Taxes, fees, monthly, other charges, usage, speed, coverage & other restr's apply per line. See att.com/additionalcharges for details on fees & charges. Promotions, terms & restr's subject to change & may be modified or terminated at any time without notice. AT&T service is subject to AT&T network management policies. See att.com/roadbandinfo for details. ©2018 AT&T Knowledge Ventures. All rights reserved. NRO PDT 0118-5323 E



## AUTO INSURANCE DESIGNED FOR AARP MEMBERS

**\$370\***

AVERAGE SAVINGS  
WHEN YOU SWITCH

IF YOUR CURRENT INSURANCE IS:	YOU COULD SAVE:
GEICO	\$380
ALLSTATE	\$477
STATE FARM	\$383

**Experienced Drivers 50+:** You could save hundreds\* on Auto Insurance when you switch to the **AARP® Auto Insurance Program from The Hartford.**

- Rates that reward you for your safe driving
- Exclusive package of benefits
- 24/7 Claim Hotline and exceptional claims service

**CALL THE HARTFORD TO REQUEST A FREE QUOTE AND SEE HOW MUCH YOU COULD SAVE: 1-877-644-6302**

**Not a member?** If you're 50 or over, request a FREE quote and more information today!

\* Savings amounts are averages based on information from The Hartford's AARP Auto Insurance Program customers who became new policyholders between 1/1/16 and 12/31/16 and provided data regarding their savings and prior carrier. Your savings may vary. AARP and its affiliates are not insurers. Paid endorsement. The Hartford pays royalty fees to AARP for the use of its intellectual property. These fees are used for the general purposes of AARP. AARP membership is required for Program eligibility in most states. The AARP Automobile Insurance Program from The Hartford is underwritten by Hartford Fire Insurance Company and its affiliates, One Hartford Plaza, Hartford, CT 06155. Auto program is currently unavailable in Massachusetts, Canada and U.S. Territories or possessions. Specific features, credits and discounts may vary and may not be available in all states in accordance with state filings and applicable law. Applicants are individually underwritten and some may not qualify. 1/18 CW

# The anti-Semitism controversy surrounding NFL prospect Josh Rosen

By GABE FRIEDMAN  
JTA news service

For most of last year, many predicted that UCLA quarterback Josh Rosen would be the first player chosen in the 2018 National Football League draft.

The sturdy 6-foot-4 signal-caller has racked up an impressive array of passing statistics since his freshman year in 2015, and analysts have praised the right-hander's throwing mechanics, accuracy and poise in the pocket.



The Cleveland Browns, the beleaguered franchise that holds the No. 1 pick this year, badly need a quarterback. The Jewish kid from Manhattan Beach, CA, who had a bar mitzvah and is just now barely old enough to legally drink alcohol, was set to make Jewish sports history at the April 26 draft. But over the past few months, Rosen's stock has dropped among analysts and as of press time it was yet to be seen how those predictions played out.

The reason for the potential slide? Apparently it has nothing to do with Rosen's physical health or ability to sling a football, but rather involves who he is and what he has said off the field.

And for at least one prominent sports TV personality, the conversation about Rosen has dipped into anti-Semitism.

### Some background: He's a talker

Rosen has not just made headlines with his grid skills. He has criticized the college football system, arguing that the high level of play required by the sport and schoolwork don't mesh. In the same vein, he sarcastically blasted UCLA for signing a \$280 million apparel deal with Under Armour while college athletes are unpaid. He once wore a hat on the golf course that read "F\*\*\* Trump." He snuck a hot tub into his dorm room.

This tendency to speak his mind — what the scouts call "intangibles" — put him at odds with UCLA coach Jim Mora throughout Rosen's tenure with the Bruins. Mora said Rosen reminded him of Johnny Manziel, a former college

star whose once promising NFL career was derailed by unorthodox behavior, substance abuse issues and multiple arrests.

Rosen has also been open about his ambitions for a post-NFL career, something that scouts and others in the industry have taken to mean that he isn't focused enough on football. The Sporting News reported that some believed Rosen was only interested in football to "make money and support the lifestyle he wants."

### Analysts seem to care he's Jewish.

So analysts were left wondering how teams would evaluate Rosen and some chose to dig into other factors that might offer clues, such as his identity and background.

"According to my source, he'd rather be in New York [on the Giants]. He's Jewish, there's a stronger Jewish community, he'd rather be in the New York market than the Cleveland market, blah blah blah, we don't know," ESPN's Stephen A. Smith said on a radio show.

Rosen has hinted at this kind of Jewish preference before. He was born and raised in a tony area of Southern California, the son of Charles Rosen, an orthopedic surgeon who was once on President Barack Obama's shortlist to become surgeon general, and Liz Lippincott, a journalist and the great-granddaughter of the founder of the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business.

In 2016, he told *Sports Illustrated* that Los Angeles' large Jewish community was a factor that brought him to UCLA, even though he had wanted to attend Stanford, which rejected him. "In retrospect, being Jewish is a big reason why I should have considered UCLA," he said. "Just because of how Jewish Hollywood is, and they really want someone to look up to because they just don't have professional athletes."

Another ESPN radio show, hosted by sports writers Jorge Sedano and LZ Granderson and former NFL player Keyshawn Johnson, picked up where Smith left off. But their analysis brought up Rosen's wealthy parents, and it became a little strange.

"First thing you say: doctor, Manhattan Beach ... the first thing you think, at least I think: pretty affluent neighborhood, little bit of money," Johnson said. "They could be broke as a bag of glass, I don't know, but certainly doesn't

seem that way.

"When you talk about his religion, I believe Josh is Jewish, [OK]?" he continued. "New York — big Jewish community ... much like L.A. You factor that into the equation."

Granderson posited that Rosen might even play better if he were drafted by New York or a team in a city with a big Jewish population, and Johnson agreed.

"If he is an observing Jewish individual who is embraced by the local community, that will certainly raise his ball," Granderson said.

### Is this anti-Semitism?

The development in this story that seems to have hit Rosen's draft hopes the hardest came earlier this month, when Mora questioned whether he is "fit" for the NFL. After praising his skill and intelligence on the field, the veteran coach told *Sports Illustrated's* Peter King that Rosen lacks a "blue-collar, gritty attitude."

"He needs to be challenged intellectually, so he doesn't get bored. He's a millennial," Mora said.

For Tony Kornheiser — the sports writer and TV personality who stars on ESPN's "Pardon the Interruption" — this was the last straw.

"This is classic anti-Semitism. Absolutely classic anti-Semitism. 'We don't want this guy, this guy's

too smart,'" Kornheiser said in a rant on his podcast. "There's no such thing as too smart ... [T]his is anti-Semitism in its most blatant form. It's like, 'we don't want this guy.'"

Kornheiser, who is Jewish, and his co-hosts also likened the NFL's fear of Rosen to its past prejudice against black quarterbacks, who on the flip side have been labeled as not smart enough to succeed at the demanding position.

Of course, Rosen's fellow quarterbacks in the draft pool, such as Baker Mayfield, Josh Allen and Sam Darnold, are also all millennials. It's also worth noting that

Mayfield, the Heisman Trophy winner from the University of Oklahoma, was arrested last year for being publicly intoxicated. But his personality hasn't made as many headlines as Rosen's leading up to the draft.

Former NFL quarterback Sage Rosenfels, who also is Jewish, saw Mora's comments in a different light.

"When Jim Mora said Josh Rosen is really smart and needs to be challenged every day or he'll get bored, that improved his draft stock in my book," he wrote. "Give me a player who wants to be challenged and doesn't get overwhelmed with basic XOs. I like this kid more and more."



## THE PEARL

by chef karim

163 107th Avenue • Treasure Island, FL 33706 • 727.360.9151  
HOURS: Mon - Sat 4-10pm • Sunday Closed

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>NIGHTLY EARLY DINNER SPECIALS</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Includes Entree, Soup or Salad</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>\$12</b></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">Must be seated by 5:45 pm Reservations recommended</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SUSHI TUESDAY</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">6 pm – close</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Reservations recommended</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>DRINK SPECIALS</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">4 – 6 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$5 House Wine \$5 Single Shot well drinks or martinis</p>
--	--

[thepearlfininedining.com](http://thepearlfininedining.com)

CATERING & PRIVATE PARTIES  
E-mail Catherine for more info:  
cateringbychefkarim@gmail.com



## ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY

Jewish Press

Celebrates Israel at 70

With a special section

May 4

Send your best wishes  
To the Jewish state  
On the 70th anniversary  
of its founding on May 14, 1948



## ISRAEL ANNIVERSARY PRICING

Celebratory ads (4" x 2.5") \$70

Add color for \$70 per edition

Other sizes available at a special rate of \$14 per col. Inch.

---

Call 727-535-4400 or 813-871-2332

jewishpressads@aol.com

## Are you a senior Downsizing?

## Have you recently lost a loved one?

Don't know what to do with all of the stuff in the home?

Let us provide the peace of mind you deserve when downsizing yours or a loved ones belongings.

### Downsizing Advisory Service



- Evaluates the contents of the home to determine items of unusual value
- Provides liquidation options to maximize the return and recommend honest estate sale companies
- Liquidates the valuable items at auction houses throughout the country



We liquidate jewelry and coin collections. We know who pays more.  
We Never Buy From Our Clients!



DOWNSIZING  
ADVISORY SERVICE

The Estate Liquidation Experts



Please call Dale Smrekar at 813.244.4160

Downsizingadvisoryservice.com





Angle's list

Discover the secret history



**OPERATION FINALE**  
THE CAPTURE & TRIAL OF ADOLF EICHMANN

ON DISPLAY FEBRUARY 10 – JULY 15 AT THE FHM

The Nazi responsible for transporting millions of innocent people to death camps mysteriously disappeared after World War II. Photographs, film and recently declassified espionage artifacts reveal the truth about his daring capture and historic 1961 trial.

25 years THE FLORIDA HOLOCAUST MUSEUM

55 Fifth Street South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701 • 727.820.0100 • www.TheFHM.org

## Treasures from a centennial exhibit on Leonard Bernstein

By PENNY SCHWARTZ  
JTA news service

From his birthplace in Boston to New York, Berlin, South Africa, China and Israel, Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990), the larger-than-life conductor, pianist, composer, educator and bon vivant, is being celebrated in a two-year bonanza of concerts, stage productions and programs marking the centennial of his birth.

The American-born son of Ukrainian Jewish immigrants, Bernstein's influence spanned the musical world, from classical music to Broadway.

Thousands of events are featured as a part of #Bernsteinat100, including *Leonard Bernstein: The Power of Music*, an exhibit that recently opened at the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia.

Last week, the Library of Congress got in on the act, making available online for the first time free access to more than 3,700 items including letters, photographs, audio recordings and other material from its vast Leonard Bernstein Collec-

tion. The release nearly tripled the library's digital offerings.

Curious fans can cue up *West Side Story*, *On the Town* or the "Chichester Psalms," and peruse volumes of scrapbooks in the Library's collection that were meticulously compiled by Helen Coates, his piano teacher and later, his career-long secretary.

"Bernstein arguably was the most prominent music figure in America in the second half of the 20th century," according to Mark Horowitz, the collection's curator, who has been immersed in the details of the maestro's life for a quarter century. He described Bernstein as a "polymath, a Renaissance man who wanted to do it all," from music to education to social activism.

Born on Aug. 28, 1918 in Lawrence, MA, to Jennie and Samuel Bernstein, the young musician famously catapulted onto the world stage in November, 1943, when he filled in on short notice as conductor for the New York Philharmonic for an ailing Bruno Walter, in a concert broadcast on national television.

In 1958 with his appointment as music director of the New York Philharmonic, Bernstein became the first American-born and educated conductor – and the first American Jewish conductor – to lead a major American orchestra.

With an estimated 400,000 items, the Bernstein Collection is one of the largest and most varied in the Library's music division, Horowitz told JTA. The archives fill 1,723 boxes that measure 710 linear feet.

Here are some treasures from the Library of Congress collection:

**1. Bernstein grew up in Boston in a deeply religious family and was influenced by the music he heard at synagogue.**

At Congregation Mishkan Tefila, his family's synagogue, the young Bernstein came under the influence of Solomon Braslavsky, a Viennese composer who became the synagogue's music director and led its choir. On Oct. 10, 1946, Bernstein wrote to Braslavsky, shortly after Yom Kippur: "I have come to realize what a debt I really owe to you ... for the marvelous music at Mishkan Tefila services. They surpass any that I have ever heard."

Bernstein had a strained relationship with his father, a successful business owner, whose life was guided by Talmudic learning. While he described his father as authoritarian, he admired his depth of knowledge of Jewish texts and thought.

**2. Bernstein was smitten by Israel and became a devoted and influential supporter of the Israel Philharmonic.**

In November 1948, during Israel's War of Independence, amidst fighting between the Israeli and Arab armies, Bernstein made his second conducting tour of Israel. He wrote a nine-page letter to his mother, Jennie, that glows with colorful, playful illustrations by Yossi Stern, a Hungarian refugee who became known as the "painter of Jerusalem."

"You can see his passion for the young state of Israel, its land, the people and the culture," according to Ivy Weingram, curator of the exhibit at the NMAJH, where visitors can see one page of the original letter, on loan from the Library of Congress.

Over his career, Bernstein conducted the Israel Philharmonic in 25 different seasons, in Israel, Europe and the U.S.

**3. Following the Six-Day War, Bernstein performed a concert in Israel.**

The July 1967 concert, with violinist Isaac Stern and the Israel Philharmonic, included Hatikvah, Israel's national anthem; Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto; and the final movement of Mahler's Second Symphony, known as the "Resurrection Symphony."



Photo courtesy of Library of Congress, Music Division

**Leonard Bernstein at the opening of "West Side Story" at the National Theater in Washington, D.C., Aug. 12, 1957.**

In his speech at the performance, handwritten on stationery from Jerusalem's Shemesh Oriental Restaurant, Bernstein recalled his exhilaration conducting the Mahler symphony 19 years earlier, during Israel's War of Independence. He marveled at the recent unification of Jerusalem, a city he envisioned would inspire peace.

"Is it too much to hope that this growing together of people in peace may radiate out to this general region ... and eventually ... the world," he wrote. "Why not? This is Jerusalem," with the name of the city written in Hebrew.

**4. Bernstein was gay. His wife Felicia seemed okay with that.**

In 1946, Bernstein married Felicia Cohn Montealegre, a Chilean actress who performed the role of narrator in Bernstein's Symphony No. 3, the "Kaddish Symphony." They had three children, Jamie, Alexander and Nina.

Bernstein didn't hide his homosexuality and attraction to men from his wife. Early in their marriage, Felicia wrote a stirring and remarkably broad-minded letter, undated, that revealed the deep love and bond between the couple.

"You are a homosexual and may never change – you don't admit to the possibility of a double life, but if your peace of mind, your health ... depends on a certain sexual pattern, what can you do?" she wrote. "I am willing to accept you as you are, without being a martyr. I happen to love you very much ..."

**5. "West Side Story" was originally about Jews and Catholics.**

In the 1950s, Bernstein and choreographer Jerome Robbins took inspiration from William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, adapting it to the ethnic and racial tensions of the 20th century. An annotated copy of *Romeo and Juliet* in the Library of Congress collection is on view at the NMAJH exhibit and includes notes by Bernstein and Robbins. It was originally conceived as "East Side Story," about conflicts between Jews and Catholics. Audition notes for *West Side Story*, which opened on Broadway in 1957, include Bernstein's comments about a young Warren Beatty, who sought the role of Riff ("Good voice, can't open jaw – charming as hell – clean cut".)

\* \* \*

The Library of Congress is hosting a series of programs from May 12-19 including performances and film screenings. On Saturday, May 19, rarely seen materials from the collection will be on display. More details on the Bernstein events are on the Library's website, [www.loc.gov](http://www.loc.gov).



## A Tax-Smart Way To Support Israel And Jewish National Fund

### Your Donor Advised Fund

#### GIVING MADE SIMPLE

Created with a single tax-deductible donation of cash, stock, or real estate, you can name your fund and give at your own pace—we manage the rest. We will help you create a personal fund through which you can grow your assets tax-free and conveniently direct grants to Jewish National Fund and other charities.

#### GIVING MADE FLEXIBLE

You can make grants from your fund as often and for as much as you like, with zero administration fees.

#### GIVING MADE PERSONAL

Your Donor Advised Fund allows you to pass on your philanthropic values and build a powerful legacy for the land and people of Israel and for your family here at home. It can be shared with your spouse or partner and passed down to your children or grandchildren.

Contact our Planned Giving Department today at **800.562.7526** or [plannedgiving@jnf.org](mailto:plannedgiving@jnf.org) to learn how a Jewish National Fund Donor Advised Fund can empower your giving.



JEWISH NATIONAL FUND

Your Voice in Israel

[jnflegacy.org](http://jnflegacy.org)  
800.562.7526