

After nearly 29 years, Cong. B'nai Emmunah disbands

By BOB FRYER

Jewish Press

Congregation B'nai Emmunah, a Reform congregation established in 1989 and located for most of its life in Tarpon Springs, will hold its final service on Friday, May 25 at 7:30 p.m.

The temple will officially cease to exist as of June 30, when its contract with Rabbi Lynn Goldstein expires.

In its heyday in 1997, Congregation B'nai Emmunah boasted a membership of

62 families and had 30 children in its religious school. But the congregation has had financial ups and downs, including a filing for bankruptcy after its founding Rabbi Jan Bresky died in 1991, a lawsuit in which two factions battled for control of the congregation, then periods of growth and stability.

Prior to 1997, B'nai Emmunah congregants met in rented facilities in Tarpon Springs, Clearwater and near Palm Harbor. Then the temple bought property at 3374 Keystone Road, near the Pinellas-Hillsbor-

ough-Pasco County lines and renovated the house into a sanctuary and offices. That remained the home for the congregation until last year when financial difficulties forced the sale of the property.

Since then, the congregation has been sharing space with Unitarians and Buddhists in a facility in downtown Tarpon Springs owned by the Unitarian Universalist Church.

Congregation President Don Martin said

B'NAI EMMUNAH continued on PAGE 18

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Photo by Miriam Alster/Flash90

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu shows where the thousands of secret documents and CDs on Iran's nuclear program were stored, which were smuggled out by Israel agents.

Report: Mossad grabbed Iranian nuke docs in one night's work

(JTA) — Israel's Mossad intelligence service broke into the anonymous Tehran building that housed Iran's secret nuclear files and smuggled half a ton of documents and compact discs back to Israel the same night.

The Mossad discovered the warehouse in February 2016 and since then kept the building under surveillance, according to *The New York Times*, quoting a senior Israeli official who spoke on condition of anonymity. Mossad operatives broke into the building in January, took the original documents and returned to Israel the same night, the official told the *Times*.

In his nationally televised speech on

April 30, broadcast first in English to reach the widest possible audience, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu described the hiding place of the documents.

"This is where they kept the atomic archives. Right here. Few Iranians knew where it was, very few, and also a few Israelis," the Israeli leader said. "Now, from the outside, this was an innocent looking compound. It looks like a dilapidated warehouse. But from the inside, it contained Iran's secret atomic archives locked in massive files," he said.

On stage with Netanyahu were shelves of binders and a moveable wall of CDs.

NUKE DOCS continued on PAGE 18

'RBG' film connects Ginsburg's personal life, career

By JOSEFIN DOLSTEN
JTA news service

NEW YORK — One of the first scenes in a new documentary about Ruth Bader Ginsburg features the Supreme Court associate justice, then 84, vigorously lifting weights, doing leg exercises and holding herself in a plank position. The much buzzed-about workout routine has only added to her status as a cultural icon among young progressives.

Though Ginsburg joined the Supreme Court in 1993, becoming the second female justice on

the high court, she attained pop culture icon status in the last decade as her dissents made her a loud liberal voice on an increasingly right-leaning court. Fans have given Ginsburg, now 85, the nickname "Notorious R.B.G." (a riff on the late rapper Notorious B.I.G.), memes of her have gone viral and Saturday Night Live has done sketches about her.

RBG producers Julie Cohen, 54, and Betsy West, 66, decided to make a documentary about the Jewish jurist's life for that very

RBG FILM continued on PAGE 5



Courtesy of Magnolia Pictures

Eighty-five year-old U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg chats with her granddaughter, Clara Spera.

Explosives-laden kite sent from Gaza ignites Israeli forest and fields

JERUSALEM — A fire burned dozens of acres of forest and agricultural fields in southern Israel after a kite carrying a firebomb crossed the border from Gaza.

It was the largest fire triggered by the kites sent from Gaza since their first use by Gaza Palestinians in late March, at the start of weekly protests at the Gaza-Israel border. Israel has experienced hot and dry conditions and high winds over the past few days.

The explosives-laden kites are an escalation of the weekly protests called the March of Return, which are scheduled to end on May 14, the 70th anniversary, according to the Gregorian calendar, of the birth of the modern State of Israel. Officials in southern Israel have told the Israeli media that the explosives-laden kites are now a daily occurrence.

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Meet Sarah Feld,

volunteer extraordinaire and recipient of the 2018 Dawkins Young Woman of Distinction Award. This woman who "always says yes" dedicates her time to Congregation B'nai Israel, to bettering her own leadership path with the Federation's YESOD program, and helping the March of Dimes.



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A "macher" in Yiddish is someone who gets it done, or an important person. It's often used tongue-in-cheek. Sarah's family calls her a "big macher," and her longtime dream of showing up in the Jewish Press has finally come true—on the front page no less!

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PERSPECTIVE

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

**Cryptic crypto, but where's the connection?**

If you asked if you could make a gift to the Federation in Bitcoin, I'd probably say yes ... then rush to learn how to accept this cryptocurrency. Acceptance is key, as I understand it, and the lack of regulation is both a blessing and a curse to the worldwide digital currency market.

Here's the rub: the idea behind cryptocurrency at its core goes back to the days of yore, when transactions were not tracked to any degree, when electronic chips, gadgets, apps, and most of all banks and financial clearinghouses were not needed. One could spend what one carried; at most you could start a tab or an account, but ultimately use physical money to make good. The amount of thievery possible was limited by the amount carried by the victim, or stored in one's bank (or mattress).

Entering the digital age, our monetary processes have gotten far more complex, as have the types of thievery. To this end, I found a recent story in the *Times of Israel* in which cryptocurrency entrepreneurs calling for regulation to prevent scamming to be fascinating. The attempt to create an "off the grid" currency has attracted droves of crypto-crooks, and Israel has an unusual approach.

A few months back, the Finance Ministry and Bank of Israel began the consideration of issuing a digital shekel, which would make both the government happy (by being recorded and thus potentially taxed) and the consumer (by transferring immediately from person to person, as in a cash transaction, yet still with some sort of safety net). In concert with this exploration, he also took steps to remove Bitboin and other cryptocurrencies from the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange. Shortly before, Egypt had forbidden Bitcoin entirely, likening it to gambling, which is forbidden in Islam. This was indeed something of a blessing since at the time, the value of Bitcoin had reduced abruptly by 30 percent and as of today, it's down about 70 percent from last fall when additional regulation was announced.

The idea of a digital shekel raises questions. If you must keep your digital shekels in a digital wallet, who is responsible for the security of this wallet? Does it reside on your phone, online, in conjunction with some other technological "housing"?

Further, if the entire idea behind cryptocurrencies is that they exist in the "darknet" or black market spaces, doesn't having the government involved defeat that purpose?

One of the basic features of the use of cryptocurrencies is a technology called blockchain, which in essence creates snips of computer code that are difficult (if not impossible) to crack, are anonymous, and time stamped. In order to have truly unobtrusive exchange of currency, a highly developed system of encoding is necessary.

In Israel, several scandals have emerged surrounding the use of cryptocurrencies, but notable is the adaptation of the technological underpinnings to completely unrelated ventures. For example, a shipping company called Wave, based out of Kfar Saba, is using the blockchain capabilities to manage the documentation requirements across all channels of the shipping and delivery transaction. Another company – Colu in Tel Aviv – is using blockchain and other digital wallet features to help develop technologies to protect digital assets, like songs.

The scandals and the denouncement of Bitcoin from appearing on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange did not dissuade Israel's Diamond Exchange to announce the release of its own cryptocurrency, cleverly dubbed "Carat" and "Cut" and purported to be (partially) backed by diamonds, set to launch in May. Israel boasts one of the world's top three diamond exchanges (Israel's calls the city of Ramat Gan home, just east of Tel Aviv, while the other two hail from Antwerp and Mumbai). Israel's diamond industry represents about \$7 billion in the tiny sparkles.

The two "coins" have two different audiences: one for those who actually deal in diamonds ("Cut") and those who wish to invest in a nonregulated space that is backed by the physical value of diamonds ("Carat"). While physical diamonds are valued on four characteristics, these coins will have fourteen measures of value instead.

In some ways, I am reminded of the wonder on my younger daughter, Hila's, face a few years back when she received one of the resurrected Polaroid cameras (now called Instamax). She was fascinated that you would put "films" into the device, and that photos would appear on the "films" moments after pressing the shutter button. In so many ways, what's old is new again ... even in the field of cryptocurrency.

Without presenting too much bias, I would argue that so much of the technology that exists to make life simpler has complicated, overconnected, and overexposed us without an equal share of benefit.

From a community-building perspective, I can't authentically say that trying to rally interest in an event or mobilize in response to a social action initiative is any more effective or meaningful since I'm able to promote it on Facebook, Instagram, and the myriad online calendars. I would fathom a guess that my synagogue colleagues find that we're no more connected despite offering streaming Friday night services.

Convenient? Sure. Meaningful? Meh.

I have to wonder if, just like Bitcoin, we're facing a social connection bubble that will burst in the near future, and if we'll have that same wonderment in going back to using our phones for making voice calls, or writing letters and mailing them, or reading a physical newspaper (like you're probably doing at this moment). Will we once again see the magic in connecting in the physical sense?

Are we so removed from our ancestral bartering and economic system when we think that the idea of a currency being backed by a hard asset is a "new" concept.

Correction

An incorrect web address was listed in a story about the Scubi Jew program in the April 20 edition of the *Jewish Press*. The correct web address is www.repairtheseas.org.

Joint wine, cheese [cake] and Torah event May 18

Two reform congregations, Temple Beth-El in St. Petersburg and Temple B'nai Israel in Clearwater, along with Hillels of the Florida Suncoast are collaborating for a multi-sensory experience titled Cheese (cake), Wine & Torah on the evening of Shavuot, Saturday, May 18.

The event at Beth-El will begin at 7 p.m. with an erev Shavuot Yizkor service.

From 7:30-8:30 p.m. the program will be "The Tastes of France" and will include a sampling of wine and cheeses, offered by Clifford and Leslie Will. The main program will be from 8:30-9:15 p.m. when a secret presenter will offer "a cheesy surprise."

Also during the program Rabbi Michael Torop of Beth-El will speak on "Kosher Wine: an Ethical Dilemma" and Rabbi Ed Rosenthal of Hillels of the Florida Suncoast will speak on "Partying with God: The Saini Banquet."

The evening will conclude with a cheesecake bake-off at 9:15 p.m. with an opportunity to taste and vote on cheesecakes that participants bring to the event.

There is no charge to attend, but RSVPs are requested. To RSVP, go to info@templebeth-el.com or call (727) 347-6136 and while doing so, indicate if you will be bringing a cheesecake for the bake-off. The temple is located at 400 S. Pasadena Ave., St. Petersburg.

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10 teens die in flash flood; 2 arrested after warnings ignored

(JNS) – The mood throughout Israel was somber following the deaths of 10 teens in a flash flood near the Dead Sea on April 26.

The students – 9 girls and 1 boy – died during a hike. They were part of a group of 25 young people who had been accepted to the Bnei Tzion pre-military academy in Tel Aviv and were participating in a bonding experience prior to the beginning of the program in September.

Survivors told rescue teams that a massive wave of water as high as 13 feet tall smashed into part of the group as it walked through a dried riverbed, washing 10 of the 25 students away. The 15 who managed to avert the wave or climb out of the water were saved by rescue teams and treated for light injuries and hypothermia.

All the victims were 17 or 18 years old. The lone boy who died aspired to be a teacher; one of the girls was a graduating dance student in Jerusalem's High School for the Arts, while another had tutored sick kids in Africa. The teens were described as sociable, optimistic, smiling, brilliant and charming.

The students were hiking in the Judean Desert along the Nahal Tzafit riverbed trail that empties into the Dead Sea when gushing water poured through.

Israel's Ministry of Education claims that it was not made aware of the trip, as per protocol. Nationwide, warnings had been made over the past several days for individuals to avoid flood-prone areas.

In Israel, rivers fill up with water during the winter rain season, which typically ends around the Passover holiday. The river had been dry for several weeks before unseasonable torrential downpours struck the country on April 25 and 26. When dry, riverbeds are popular hiking destinations. Yet during heavy rains, the water in the rivers can rise quickly, leading to flash floods. Hikers are warned to steer clear of river beds during inclement weather, when the riverbeds can be notoriously dangerous.

The riverbed was completely dry when the students started their hike. One of the survivors of the flood said that shortly after the water suddenly appeared, the rapids quickly swelled to a height of 3 to 4 meters (more than 10 feet). The hikers were caught in a steep area of the riverbed when the waters struck, with survivors holding on for their lives to trees or scrambling onto large rocks above the water's reach.

The principal of the Bnei Zion pre-military academy resigned a week after the tragedy. He and an instructor leading the hike were arrested on suspicion of negligent homicide for ignoring the flash flood warnings. They were released on a five-day house arrest.

Police said both suspects knew about the weather warnings ahead of the trip, but never-



Photos from Facebook

9 of the 10 Israeli teens who were killed in the tragedy.

theless decided to proceed with the hike, despite even some students voicing their concerns of the potential for fatal consequences.

"I cannot believe I'm going on a trip in such weather," one of the 10 students who died said in a WhatsApp group chat to friends before the hike, Israel's Hadashot TV news reported. "It doesn't make sense for us to go to a place where everything is flooding. It's tempting fate – we're going to die, I'm serious."

However, in a WhatsApp message ahead of the trip, the pre-military academy downplayed the threat, merely suggesting that students bring "a rain coat," "a rain cover for your bags" and "a change of dry clothes in case you need [it]."

"Don't worry," the message said. "We are well-prepared for the hike and the academy has checked with the relevant authorities. It will be fun and wet and an experience!"

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

May recognizes Jewish contributions to American music

The month of May marks the United States' commemoration of Jewish American Heritage Month, a time dedicated to educating our community about the contributions Jewish Americans have made and continue to make to American culture and society.



Fanny Brice and Barbra Streisand as Brice in Funny Girl

Music, the theme of this year's Jewish American Heritage Month, provides an opportunity to recognize the many American Jews who have helped create the nation's soundtrack, from patriotic anthems and classical compositions to Broadway scores and rock and roll.

There are numerous examples of composers, conductors, lyricists, musicians and singers who have been shaped by American life, society and culture and in turn enriched America's musical repertoire:

- Songwriter Irving Berlin (1888-1989) was an Eastern European immigrant who produced timeless hits, including "God Bless America," while fighting for the United States in World War I.

- West Side Story composer Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990), whose centennial birthday is currently being observed worldwide, used the power of music to respond to the political and social crises of his day.

- Singer Fanny Brice (1891-1951), the child of Jewish immigrants, delighted audiences with her vaudeville acts, inspiring a stage and film portrayal by another widely successful singer and global stage and screen sensation.

- Barbra Streisand (b. 1942) is one of only a handful of artists to have won an Oscar, Emmy, Grammy and Tony awards. With the 1983 release of the Jewish-themed *Yentl*, she became the first woman to write, produce, direct, and star in a major studio film.

- Chart-topping hits have been produced by Bob Dylan (b. 1941), Carole King (b. 1942), Paul Simon (b. 1941), Regina Spektor (b. 1980) and many more.

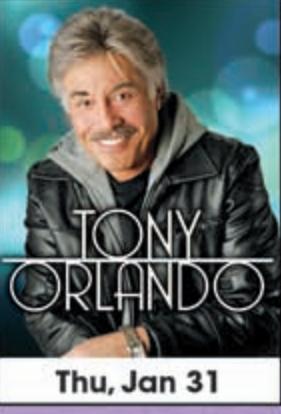
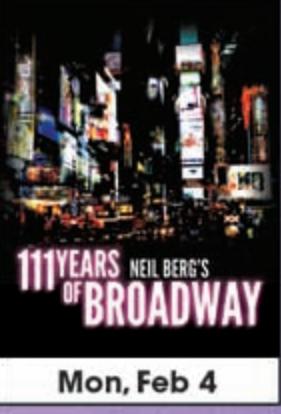
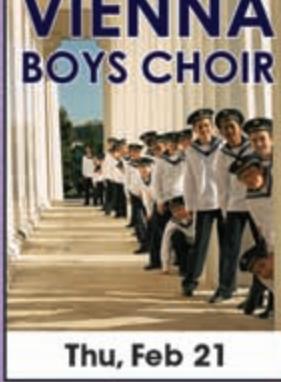
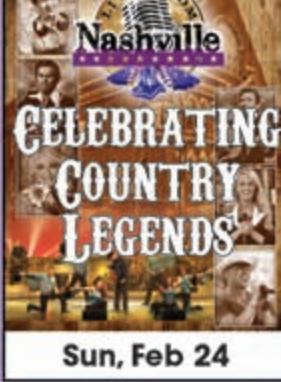
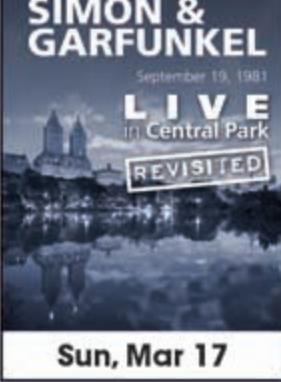
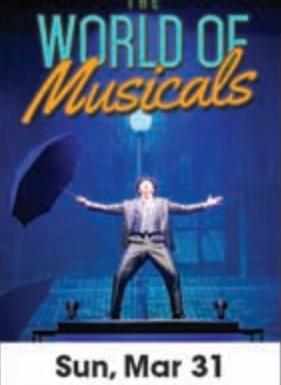
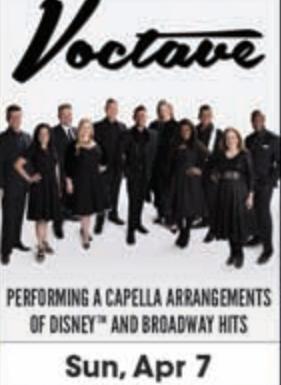
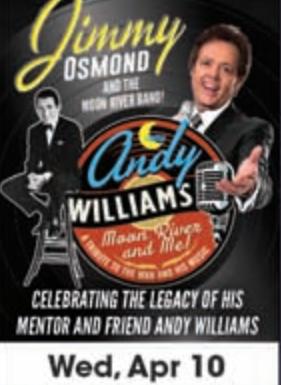
About Jewish American Heritage Month

On April 20, 2006, President George W. Bush proclaimed that May would be Jewish American Heritage Month. The announcement was the crowning achievement in an effort by the Jewish Museum of Florida, led by then executive director Marcia Zerivitz, that resulted in resolutions introduced by U.S. Rep Debbie Wasserman Schultz of Florida and Sen. Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, urging the president to proclaim a month that would recognize the more than 350-year history of Jewish contributions to American culture. The resolutions passed unanimously, first in the House of Representatives in December 2005 and later in the Senate in February 2006.

Each year since, the president has issued a proclamation recognizing the month-long event. In this year's proclamation, President Donald Trump said, said that "Jewish Americans have helped guide the moral character of our nation."

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It's not just Palestinian leader Abbas: Blaming Jews for the Holocaust is widespread

By CNAAN LIPSHIZ

JTA news service

Even reliable supporters condemned Mahmoud Abbas when he blamed the Holocaust on the Jews' own behavior.

That claim and others made during the Palestinian leader's 90-minute address Monday, April 30, in Ramallah triggered the harshest wave of censures ever directed at him in the West.

Israel, the United States and a United Nations official used some of the strongest terms in the diplomatic vocabulary to denounce Abbas. *The New York Times* editorial board called for him to step down, and even the main Palestinian rights advocacy group in Germany criticized the speech and labeled it anti-Semitic.

Faced with a tsunami of condemnations, Abbas apologized in a statement Friday, May 4, in which he called the genocide against the Jews "the most heinous crime in history." It was a familiar pattern for someone who for decades has alternated between recognition and denial of the Holocaust.

But if the reaction to Abbas' speech was unusual, his discredited theories about the Holocaust are not – not among Palestinians, who used them as an ideological weapon against Israel, and not in Europe, where they are proliferating for different reasons.

European Jews, Abbas said in Ramallah, have been "subjected to a massacre every 10 to 15 years, since the 11th century and until the Holocaust in Germany." The Palestinian Authority president went on to say that the Soviet despot Joseph Stalin, who was not Jewish, was in fact a Jew and that Stalin and other Jews had said that "this anti-Jewish [sentiment] was not because of their religion, but because of their function in society, which had to do with usury, banks and so on."

Abbas, 82, then corrected himself and said he had meant to quote Karl Marx, not Stalin.

This trope that Jews brought



Photo by Drew Angerer/Getty Images

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, center, next to Secretary-General of the United Nations Antonio Guterres, second from left, arriving at a meeting at U.N. headquarters in New York in February.

genocide on themselves by controlling the levers of financial power is rooted in European classical anti-Semitism as expressed in the Russian forgery *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, according to Esther Webman, a senior scholar at the Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies in Tel Aviv. Her field of expertise is Arab anti-Semitism and perceptions of the Holocaust.

"In Arab discourse, these anti-Semitic teachings are weaponization to foment hatred of Israel," she said.

The Holocaust as 'payback'

For various reasons, such theories are particularly prevalent in Eastern European countries whose populations were widely complicit in the Holocaust, according to Holocaust historian Efraim Zuroff, the Eastern Europe director for the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

"A very strong element of Holocaust distortion in the region is to justify complicity in the Holocaust by framing it as a payback for the actions of Jews," he said, referencing the outsize support by Jews for communism, which Russia imposed on the region with ruthless oppression.

For example, Zsolt Bayer, a

co-founder of Hungary's ruling Fidesz party, wrote an op-ed in 2016 in which he justified Eastern European Holocaust collaboration as payback for the actions of communists.

"Why do we find it shocking that 20 years later he watched without pity as the gendarmes dragged the Jews away from his village?" Bayer said of the average villager in Hungary.

But in Abbas' case, his Ramallah speech was merely the latest of a series of statements that he has made since the 1980s that have been widely considered anti-Semitic.

Zionist complicity theory

In the introduction to his 1984 book titled *The Other Aspect: The Secret Ties Between the Nazis and the Leadership of the Zionist Movement*, Abbas wrote about the figure of 6 million Jews killed in the Holocaust: "In truth, no one can refute or confirm this number. In other words, the number of Jewish victims could be six million and could be much smaller – even less than one million."

In the book, he also quoted the French-British Holocaust denier Robert Faurisson's discredited claim that the Nazis used gas

chambers only for disease control rather than to murder Jews.

But since climbing up the ranks of the PLO, Abbas has largely stayed off the topic of the Holocaust, according to Webman.

"This is an unusual return for him," she said of the April 30 speech.

Abbas' journey from denial to justification represents an evolution in how Palestinian society as a whole has treated the Holocaust since the 1990s, according to Itamar Marcus, founder of Palestinian Media Watch in Jerusalem, which monitors Arab outlets.

From outright denial in 1991, the press in the West Bank and Gaza have shifted to blaming Zionist activists for alleged complicity in the Holocaust, citing and exaggerating agreements made by Zionist activists with Nazi officials in the early 1930s that facilitated German Jewish immigration to pre-state Israel.

Abbas repeated that claim in his remarks, depicting what Zionists viewed as a desperate rescue mission as proof that Zionism was a Nazi-backed enterprise.

Amid international pressure over this distortion, Marcus said, the state-controlled Palestinian media in the 2000s began showing signs of recognition for the Holocaust. But that gradually gave way to drawing comparisons between Israel and Nazi Germany, including by Abbas.

Denial, distortion, justification

"In recent years, we're seeing a fifth stage: justification for the Holocaust becoming a main narrative," Marcus said.

He cited an article from 2011 in the *Zayzafuna* youth magazine of Abbas' PLO, whose author, a 10th-grader, imagined having a conversation with Adolf Hitler. She asks the Fuehrer if he's the "one who killed the Jews." Hitler replies: "Yes. I killed them so you would all know that they are a nation which spreads destruction all over the world."

Denial, distortion and justification of the Holocaust serve a clear political purpose in the Arab world, according to Webman.

"In the Arab view, the state of Israel was created because of the Holocaust. So, to undermine the Holocaust is to undermine the moral grounds for Israel's creation," she said.

If the Jews brought the Holocaust on themselves, the reasoning goes, then there is no moral grounds for compensating them with a national home in what the PLO considers Palestine.

This ignores not just a Nazi obsession with Jews that did not discriminate by occupation, nationality, age or gender, but also the legitimacy of a Jewish project of self-rule in their historic homeland that predated and was well under way before the Holocaust.

"But this is not accepted in the Arab worldview," she said.

Claiming that Zionists were complicit in the Holocaust – a trope that is gaining traction among supporters of the far left in Britain – also feeds the notion that the West is to blame for giving Palestine to the Jews, Webman said.

In the Arab world, Holocaust distortion is part of a broader effort to deny ties between the Jewish people and Israel, Webman said. And on that front, she added, "Abbas is a prominent voice, it's a big part of his legacy."

This effort by Abbas included promoting at UNESCO several resolutions since 2015 that deny or ignore Jewish historical ties to Jerusalem. And it also featured prominently in his Ramallah speech, although this element was eclipsed by his apparent justification of the Holocaust.

On April 30, quoting a widely discredited theory about the mass conversion to Judaism of the Turkic nation of the Khazars in the ninth century, Abbas said about Ashkenazi Jews, "They are not Semites and have no connection to Semites, neither to Abraham nor to Jacob."

RBG FILM

• CONTINUED from FRONT PAGE

reason, they told JTA in a phone interview earlier this month.

"We felt that Justice Ginsburg had a lot of fans, many younger millennial fans, and many of them really didn't know her extraordinary story and the role she played in winning rights for women," West said.

The film opens locally May 11 at the Tampa Theatre and on May 17 at the AMC Veterans in Tampa and the AMC Woodlands Square in Oldsmar.

The film shows the Brooklyn native's professional accomplishments and provides insight into her personal life, such as her twice-weekly workout. Shooting that scene presented its challenges, Cohen said.

"There is all this equipment around, and there are mirrors all around," she recalled. "Really for the logistics of the shoot it probably would have been better for us not to be in the room, but there was no way that Betsy and I were going to miss being in that room."

The New York-based pair had filmed Ginsburg previously – West for a project called MAKERS that spotlighted important American women, and Cohen for *The Sturgeon Queens*, a documentary about the New York deli Russ and Daughters, a favorite of Ginsburg's. Still, Ginsburg was not sold on the idea.

"Her initial answer essentially was not yes," Cohen said. But they persevered and came back to Ginsburg with a plan of action of whom they would interview for the film. A few months later she agreed to do an interview – in two years.

In 2016, with the participation of CNN Films and Storyville Films, Cohen and West started interviewing friends, relatives and others who know her, including former President Bill Clinton, who nominated her to the Supreme Court, and feminist icon Gloria Steinem.

The documentary chronicles Ginsburg's journey to the Supreme Court, from enrolling in Harvard Law School in 1956 – one of only nine women in a class of over 500 – to not being able to get a job at a New

York law firm due to her gender. It shows how she became a trailblazer in the fight for women's equality as co-founder of the Women's Rights Project at the American Civil Liberties Union, arguing cases to end gender discrimination, including six in front of the Supreme Court.

Interspersed with her career milestones are interviews that shed light on other aspects of her life. "Our main goal in the film was trying to connect elements of her personal life with elements of her career life," Cohen said.

The film does not focus on Ginsburg's Jewish background, though it does not shy away from it. It includes the story of Ginsburg's Odessa-born grandfather, who faced anti-Semitism in his native Ukraine, and features her granddaughter, Clara Spera, explaining the meaning of *bubbe*, the Yiddish term for grandmother.

Judaism "seems to be an undercurrent in her life, [but it's] something that we didn't deal with overtly" in the film, West said.

Cohen said that one challenge facing the filmmakers was getting Ginsburg to open up. "Put her in front of a crowd of a thousand people and she's quite an amazing public speaker," she said, "but in a quieter situation you have to draw her out."

Though the pair worried about what Ginsburg would think of the final product, the justice told them after a screening at the Sundance Festival that she was happy with how it turned out. "She said that it exceeded all expectations and she thought it was a beautiful rendering of her life," Cohen said.

West said that Ginsburg's career, fighting for women's equality at a time when that was considered rebellious, is especially relevant today.

"At a time of #MeToo and Time's Up and a new consideration of discrimination that women continue to face," she said, "it is inspiring and perhaps instructive to take a look at the way Justice Ginsburg faced even tougher battles."

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RABBINICALLY SPEAKING

Gulf Coast agency is real community treasure

By RABBI GARY KLEIN
Temple Ahavat Shalom, Palm Harbor

My purpose in writing this column is to remind you of our community's good fortune in being home to Gulf Coast Jewish Family & Community Services. I am very familiar with this wonderful agency; having served on its board of directors for 21 years until I left that board a couple of years ago, and having served as an officer of the Gulf Coast board for about a half dozen of those 21 years.

In that capacity I had the opportunity to interact with several gifted and devoted executive directors, many capable members of Gulf Coast's administrative professional staff, and numerous board members whose commitment to the Jewish concept of "Tikun Olam" always served as an inspiration for me.

Gulf Coast serves thousands of Jews and non-Jews around our state every year. Its programming includes individual and family counseling, foster care and post foster-care assistance, child warfare management, numerous programs for Holocaust survivors, teen mother support, violence prevention programs, programming for survivors of torture who have come here from other countries, refugee settlement, non-custodial parent employment, elderly services, substance abuse treatment, services to the mentally ill, a food pantry, and other services.

Gulf Coast's utilization of its approximate \$34 million annual budget is an example of ultimate efficiency. The agency functions with only 12 percent overhead. Furthermore, in a study conducted last year by a respected social service agency monitoring organization, Gulf Coast Jewish Family & Community Services ranked fifth highest in satisfaction of any social service agency in the United States of America.

Gulf Coast's funding comes from state, local, and federal government sources, as well as from donations, many of which are contributed by members of the Jewish community who are aware that we best worship God when we work as God's partners in improving the lives of our fellow human beings. I hope that all of us become even more generous than we have been thus far, in our support of Gulf Coast Jewish Family & Community Services. Supporting such a wonderful organization should be viewed by each of us, not only as an obligation, but also as privilege.

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



Congregations

Chabad of St. Petersburg

Shavuot Late Night Learning: Enjoy a buffet Shavuot meal at an all-night learning event on Saturday, May 19, beginning at 9 p.m. Featured topics will be: angels, blessings, and evil eyes; and myths, misconceptions, and urban legends. The program takes place at the home of **Rabbi Alter and Chaya Korf**. For more information and to RSVP, go to Info@ChabadSP.com.

Top 10 plus dairy meal: Listen to the Ten Commandments, while reliving the giving of the Torah at Mt. Sinai on Sunday, May 20 at 5:30 p.m. A dairy dinner will follow, featuring an assortment of pastas, salads, blintzes, salmon, cheesecakes and ice cream. There will also be a children's program. Each child attending will be entered into a drawing for free tickets to a Rays game. For more information and to RSVP, go to Info@ChabadSP.com.

Lunch and Learn: Women are invited to share an hour of camaraderie, inspiration and a free lunch at a Lunch and Learn session on Tuesday, May 15 at noon. There is no charge for the event. RSVP's are appreciated but not necessary. To RSVP: Chaya@ChabadSP.com or call (727) 344-4900.

Women's Book Club: Get your weekly social and spiritual boost over a round-table discussion led by **Chaya Korf** on Tuesdays, May 15, 22 and 29 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Delve into the book for this year, *Towards a Meaningful Life*, by Simon Jacobson. The group will share strategies, tips and suggestions for discovering where your true meaning lies and making it a part of your daily life. Refreshments will be served. There is no charge and walk-ins are welcome. RSVP to Chaya@ChabadSP.com.

Temple Beth-El St. Petersburg

Learn all about Yiddish: The monthly meeting of the SAGE (Seniors for Arts, Growth and Education) group will be treated to a lecture about Yiddish on Monday, May 21 at 11 a.m. from **Florence Leiman**, who grew up in a Yiddish-speaking house with her parents and grandparents. **Larry Engler** will also perform a puppet show. Engler's Poko Puppet show has performed all across the globe. Those who would like an \$8 catered lunch should contact **Pamela Siskin** at prisksink@gmail.com

Boomers at the bar: Join **Rabbi Michael Torop** at Room 901, 901 First Ave. S., St. Petersburg, on Tuesday, May 22 at 6:30 p.m. for an intimate conversation about Judaism and life at the temple. This event is geared toward those in the baby boomer age range. RSVP to info@templebeth-el.com.

Beach Shabbat: Join in the congregation's annual family-friendly Shabbat

at the beach on Friday, May 25 at 6 p.m. at Elva Rouse Park. The park is at North Shore Drive NE and 10th Avenue NE in St. Petersburg.

Jewish genealogy: A three-part course on Jewish genealogy continues on May 15 and June 15 at 6 p.m. in the BEEFY lounge. Learn about genealogy tools and techniques and listen as participants "show and tell." Contact **Bill Israel** for any questions at wisrael1@tampabay.rr.com.

Cong. B'nai Israel St. Petersburg

Shavuot: Join guest speaker **Rabbi Ed Rosenthal**, director of Hillels of the Florida Suncoast, for a Tikkun Layl Shavuot learning session on Saturday, May 19. Services begin at 8:30 p.m., followed by the learning session and a dairy dessert reception. All are welcome.

Talmud Made Easy: On Tuesday, May 22 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, discussion and is open to all. The class is free; no previous knowledge is needed.

Contact the synagogue office at (727) 381-4900 or info@cbistpete.org for details.

Chabad of Clearwater

Shavuot: Shavuot morning services including a reading of the Ten Commandments will be held at 10 a.m. on Sunday, May 20, followed by a dairy lunch with ice cream and cheesecake for dessert at 11 a.m. All are welcome. There is no charge, but RSVPs are requested to (727) 265-2770 or JewishClearwater@gmail.com.

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

Cong. Beth Shalom Clearwater

Shavuot learning: A special Shavuot Lunch and Learn presentation: on "The Evolution of Shavuot through Story and Song" will be presented by **Naomi Rubenstein and Rabbi Danielle Upbin** on Sunday, May 20 at 9 a.m.

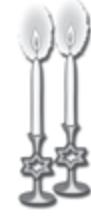
Shavuot service: This service will be held on Monday, May 21 at 9 a.m. and include yizkor and a kiddush lunch.

Meditation: Join the Shabbat Meditation Circle, led by **Rabbi Upbin**, on Saturday, May 26 at 11 a.m.

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.

Shabbat & Shavuot Candle Lighting Times

- May 11 • 7:52 pm
- May 18 • 7:56 pm
- May 19 • 8:54 pm
- May 20 • 8:55 pm
- May 25 • 8:00 pm



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.

Haftarat study: This study will be led by **Johanna Bromberg** in the synagogue library on Wednesday, April 25 at 10 a.m.

More Torah study: Take part in an interactive conversation about the weekly Torah portion, incorporating both historical and contemporary reference material, on Saturday, May 26 at 12:30 p.m. led by **Jason Palmer**. Everyone is welcome.

Temple B'nai Israel Clearwater

Confirmation Shabbat: Congregants will worship and celebrate on Friday May 18 at 7:30 p.m. as the newest confirmation class is honored and high school seniors preparing for the next phase of their lives are honored. The confirmands are: **Amanda Golden, Sophie Goldsmith, Joshua Jacobs, Sophie Klein, Elana Treiser, Jacob Wall and Feidra Zeldin**.

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 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.

Young Israel Chabad of Pinellas County

Dinner and all-night learning: Join in a Shavuot dairy dinner on Saturday, May 19 at 9 p.m., then stay for an all-night learning session. This event is free, but donations are welcome. RSVP is mandatory. To RSVP go to www.yichabad.com/dinner or call (727) 789-0408.

Ice cream and Ten Commandments: Children and adults are invited on Sunday, May 20 at 11 a.m. to hear the Ten Commandments. Following the

• CONTINUED on NEXT PAGE

Religious Directory

PINELLAS COUNTY Reform

Temple AHAVAT SHALOM — 1575 Curlew 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 • Affiliated with Union for Reform Judaism

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

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

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

Conservative

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

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

Orthodox

CHABAD OF CLEARWATER — 2280 Belleair Road, Clearwater, 33764 • Rabbi Levi Hodakov • Services: Call for information on Friday service times, Sunday, 9:30 a.m., men only • Telephone: (727) 265-2770 • Website: www.JewishClearwater.com • email: rabbibi18@gmail.com.

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

CHABAD OF PINELLAS COUNTY — 3696 Fisher Road, Palm Harbor, 34683 • Rabbi Pinchas Adler • Services: Friday, 6:30 p.m.; Saturday, 9:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.; Sunday, 8:30 a.m. • Telephone: (727) 789-0408 • Website: Yichabad.com.

PASCO COUNTY Conservative

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

Orthodox

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

HERNANDO COUNTY Reform

Temple BETH DAVID — 13158 Antelope St., Spring Hill • Rabbi Paul Schreiber • Shabbat Services: Friday, 7:30 p.m., third Friday traditional service, 7:30 p.m. • Saturday, 10 a.m. • Telephone: (352) 686-7034 • Website: www.tbdfl.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

Whether in dresses or t-shirts, women make a statement in Israel

Every time I say I grew up with four older brothers, I get questions about the way it affected me, being the last child and the only girl. Understandingly, there's the famous comment that I "probably grew up like a princess," which couldn't be more wrong.

My mom used to dress me up in dresses and all sorts of flowery accessories, since she finally had a girl after four boys (You can say she used me as her own private mannequin). Despite that, as I grew up, all I wanted was to be as cool as my brothers and wear Nirvana t-shirts with saggy pants. Even though I grew out of it and now my closet is filled with dresses, I remember thinking that there's nothing wrong with wearing pants and t-shirts – I'm still very much a girl.

In my home, I watched both my mom and my dad equally handling "manly jobs" around the house like fixing furniture, fixing the electricity and running fearlessly after cockroaches (which I still can't handle to this day, even if my life depended on it). My interests and hobbies were affected by what I saw back home and the environment I grew up in. Helping my dad fix things was always one of my favorite activities, regardless of my femininity. My parents, my brothers and my friends always gave me the confidence to believe that being a female in society could never be a barrier that would prevent me from achieving whatever I want.

In recent years there are many examples of efforts to make changes in women's roles everywhere. A lot of it has to do with discussing issues in a more transparent way – sexual harassment, wage differences and even parenthood.

I have been present while these battles for change occur both in Israel, and here in the U.S. After meeting so many inspiring women both here and in Israel, which



Israel Shlucha [Emissary]

only made my opinion about women's roles in changing society grow stronger, I started thinking: Does the way I live my life and my perspective about women really represent what is going on with women in Israel?

Before Israel got its independence in 1948, female discrimination was a given – not just in Israel – all over the world. The changes in Israel began with the Second Aliyah, in the early years of the 21st century, when women came from different parts of the world while holding different points of view regarding their status in society. Women began demanding equal opportunities in key positions at different organizations such as Hashomer (Jewish defense organization) and Hapo'el Hatzair (non-Marxist, Zionist and socialist organization, active in Palestine).

In the 1940s, The League for Women's Rights in Israel was founded, after a long battle regarding women's roles in the Israeli Knesset. A few years later, women were granted full equality of rights when the Declaration of Independence expressly stated, "The State of Israel ... shall maintain complete equality of social and political rights for all its citizens, regardless of religion, race or gender."

As a result, since then, there is no legal impediment to women in Israel from participating actively in Israeli public life. As a matter of fact, the Declaration of Independence was signed by non-other than Golda Meir. In 1969, she became the prime minister of Israel, making her the world's fourth and Israel's first and only woman

(so far) to hold such an office.

Today, the population of Israel is 50.5 percent female and 49.5 percent male. According to the Central Bureau of Statistics in Israel, the average monthly income gap between men and women is 27 percent. On average, the monthly income of an employed woman is \$2,126 compared to the overall employee average salary of \$3,110. It is explained that part of the wage gap between the sexes stems from the difference in the number of working hours of men and women (44.9 hours per week for men and 36.7 hours per week for women).

Over the years, there have been some laws passed to guarantee the continuation of equal rights, such as: Women's Equal Rights Law, Employment (equal opportunities) Law and the Prevention of Sexual Harassment Law.

One of the biggest milestones in change has occurred in the army system during mid '90s when a woman named Alice Miller petitioned the High Court of Justice for the chance to be a combat pilot. Before her petition, women in IDF couldn't vie for the position of combat pilot. Although Miller did not pass the pilot course, this precedent-setting ruling opened doors for women in Israel to positions they had never been able to hold in the IDF before.

Seeing strong women who succeed in so many fields of their lives makes me feel proud as an Israeli woman and gives me the confidence that women in Israel can thrive, especially with the support of feminist activism. Although women in Israel still fight for definite equality, changes in the past show how far we went and especially how far we can go in this democratic state. In my mind it is very much plausible.

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

Wedding

Kitenplon/Ludin

Ali Kitenplon and Josh Ludin were married Feb. 15 in Nassau, The Bahamas.

The bride is the daughter of Ivy and David Kitenplon of St. Petersburg. She is a graduate of the University of Miami with a bachelor's degree in communications.

The bridegroom is the son of Judy and Eric Ludin of St. Petersburg.



He is a graduate of the University of Florida with a bachelor's degree in finance.

Grandmothers are Marietta Drucker and Arlene Ludin, both of St. Petersburg.

The couple reside in Huntington Beach, CA, where they own and operate Kit Media, a web design and marketing firm.

added oil and minimal salt and sugar. RSVP to Paula Rosoff at prosoff3@gmail.com.

Lunch 'n' Learn: Torah study class meets on Thursdays from 12:00-1:15 p.m. in the social hall. Bring your lunch, and of course, your opinions. No prior knowledge or attendance is required. We will use the book *The Torah: A Woman's Commentary*.

Misfortune and grief: An adult education class is underway on Tuesdays at 11 a.m. with **Rabbi Gary 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 the primary text the book, *Option B*, by Facebook CEO Sheryl Sandburg. Call the temple office at (727) 785-8811 to join

Temple Beth David

Spring Hill

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.

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.

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SPECIAL SECTION



How 1948 changed American Jews

By BEN SALES
JTA news service

One year after Israel's establishment, in the dead of night, three students ascended a tower at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York and raised the Israeli flag.

The next morning, the Conservative rabbinical school's administration took it down.

That act of surreptitious Zionist protest was one of several at JTS during the years surrounding 1948, when Israel gained independence, Michael Greenbaum wrote in an essay in *Tradition Renewed, a JTS history*. Students supported the new Jewish state. However, the seminary's chancellor, Louis Finkelstein, opposed American Judaism focusing all its efforts across an ocean, and also needed to appease a board wary of Jewish nationalism.

But the students persisted. Once, they sang the Israeli anthem "Hatikvah" following graduation ceremonies. Another time, they convinced their colleagues at the Union Theological Seminary, the Protestant school next door, to play the anthem from their bell tower.

Today, nearly all American Jewish institutions are vocally, even passionately pro-Israel. But even in the years after the Jewish state won its independence 70 years ago, that feeling was not yet universal.

Before the Holocaust, Zionism itself was polarizing among American Jews. Many, especially

"There are those who seek to extinguish the light that emanates from Zion. I promise you; it will not happen"

~ ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER BENJAMIN NETANYAHU
on the 70th anniversary of Israel's Declaration of Independence



The largest ever celebration of statehood, marking the Israel's milestone 70th anniversary, was held on Mt. Herzl in Jerusalem and featured more than 1,500 participants, including 150 musicians, 400 choir singers, 350 dancers and hundreds of flag-bearers. The festivities, held on April 18, coincided with the date on the Jewish calendar for the Declaration of Independence, May 14, 1948.

Hadas Parush/Flash90



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Iron Dome missile defense system voted top Israeli invention

(JNS) – The Iron Dome missile-defense system has been voted the winner of Israel's Ministry of Economy and Industry contest ranking of the greatest Israeli inventions of all time, in honor of Israel's 70th Independence Day.

In the first stage of the competition, 70 Israeli inventions were listed and then whittled down to the top nine by 52,000 participants. In the second stage, some 63,000 online participants had to choose the single greatest Israeli invention.

In first place among the top nine came

the Iron Dome missile-defense system. St. Petersburg's own Eric Lynn, who worked for the State Department during the Obama administration, was instrumental in getting the U.S. to financially back the system. Between 2011 and 2016, Iron Dome reportedly intercepted about 1,500 targets, a success rate of some 90 percent.

Behind the Iron Dome, the invention competition chose the Waze international navigation system; the drip-irrigation targeted watering system; Disk On Key

data storage; the surgical-assistance robot Watergen, which extracts water for use from the air; durable Shoresh sandals; Check Point IT security software and hardware; and the military spy satellite Ofek.

The inventions "are excellent examples of Israeli ingenuity, innovation and creativity that provide solutions to significant challenges, inspire the world and bring a lot of national pride for Israel," said Economy and Industry Minister Eli Cohen.



Photo by Nati Shohat/Flash90

In March 2013, officials, including President Barack Obama and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, next to a battery of the Iron Dome, Israel's U.S.-funded missile-defense system.

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Israel's economy exceeds expectations

By YORAM ETTINGER
Jewish News Syndicate

In 1948, conventional wisdom considered the newly re-established Jewish state insolvent economically, indefensible militarily, a basket case, totally dependent upon handouts.

In 2018, *Forbes Magazine* quoted Warren Buffett: "I'm not Jewish, but Israel reminds me of the USA after its birth. The determination, motivation, intelligence and initiative of its people are remarkable and extraordinary. I'm a big believer in Israel's economy."

According to *Forbes*, "Buffett just purchased a \$358 million stake in Teva Pharmaceutical, 1.8 percent of Teva's outstanding shares. ... In 2006, Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway purchased an 80 percent stake in Israel's Iscar for \$4 billion, its first international acquisition. ... In 2013, Berkshire bought out the remaining 20 percent for \$2 billion. ... Other Israeli companies purchased by Berkshire include eVolusion Networks, creators of wireless network energy savings software, Ray-Q Interconnect, a distributor of electronic components and AgroLogic, a designer of electronic control units for agriculture."

The new book, *Israel – Island of Success* by Adam Reuter and Noga Kainan, provides more critical data on Israel's surging economy between 1987 and 2017:

- Israel's population increased from 4.4 million to 8.75 million
- GDP went from \$35 billion to \$358 billion; GDP per capita, from \$8,000 to \$41,000; national debt to GDP ratio, from 155 percent to 59 percent
- Tax burden went from 45 percent to 30 percent;

This article was originally published at www.TheEttingerReport.com.

Tampa area woman recalls childhood in Israel at dawn of statehood

Malka Isaak is a retired attorney who now resides in Odessa with her husband, Sam. But in 1948, she was a 12-year-old living in Israel and a witness to the historic birth of the Jewish state.

Born in 1936 in Czechoslovakia, her family moved to pre-state Israel in 1938, which coincided with the ascension of Hitler and Nazism in Germany and the intensified threat to the Jewish people throughout Eastern Europe.

Isaak grew up primarily in Netanya, along the Mediterranean coast. Her parents were part of Etzel, an underground organization that rose up against the British army. She recalls hiding guns and learning how to shoot at a young age – a necessary part of growing up at this time.

Although there was a shortage of food, Isaak said she and her family all came together to do their part.

Isaak told her story as part of the weeklong community celebration of Israel at 70. The program, which also featured a talk, via Skype, with ABC newsman Martin Fletcher, was held at the Bryan Glazer Family JCC. The program was moderated by Debbie Doliner.

Isaak shared an emotionally charged story of when she and her neighbors first heard that the UN voted for *Eretz Yisrael*, the Land of Israel, to become a nation:

"It was already past midnight. Many people didn't even have a radio, but the radios were blasting out the vote, 'yes,' 'no,' 'yes,' 'no.' And the minute there were enough votes for the establishment of the State of Israel – I'm going to cry – my town, Netanya, had 40,000 people (and) at least 20,000 people were there, everybody started dancing the hora. And they danced and they danced and they continued to dance."

The Tampa JCCs and Federation collaborated with *Misaviv LaMedura* (Around the Bonfire), to bring the program to the community. The Around the Bonfire project is an initiative which began about two years ago with the purpose of connecting Israel's founding generation and its younger generations and to increase awareness and knowledge of the stories of the early years of Israel's statehood. The project uses these inter-generational connections to create awareness of the courage and resilience of the founding generation.

1948**•CONTINUED from PAGE 8**

in the Reform movement, felt support for a Jewish homeland would cause their loyalty to America to be called into question. The other side was represented by Louis Brandeis, the first Jewish Supreme Court justice, who saw no conflict between American values and Zionist aspirations.

By the time Israel declared independence on May 14, 1948, American Jews, scarred by images of the Holocaust and Nazism and inspired by newsreels of tanned kibbutzniks, were largely supportive of Zionism. But they were not yet turning out for organized political advocacy and mass tourism to Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. Instead they were getting used to the idea of a Jewish sovereign state – gradually incorporating it into their culture, prayers and religious outlook.

North American Jewish support for Israel was turbocharged by the Truman administration's quick recognition of the state, and by the Israeli army's victory against the Arab states in its war of independence.

In February of that year, Golda Meyerson (later Meir), raised \$400,000 in one day (the equivalent of some \$4 million today) on behalf of the provisional state on just one stop in Montreal. In the weeks following independence, she started a drive in the United States and Canada for \$75 million more (or about \$750 million in 2018 dollars).

"There was a sense that once America recognized the state, Zionism had won, and everyone wanted to link with the winners," said Jonathan Sarna, a professor of Jewish history at Brandeis University. "It was growing very quickly, it took in all of these refugees, which solved that problem."

After Israel secured its independence, American Jews began to engage with the new nation in small ways. There was no rush of tourism, but American Jews would show their support by purchasing goods from Israel, reading books about Israel or holding Israeli dance classes in their community centers.

"Here's this new state they had to kind of develop this relationship with, [and] the cultural realm was really the place it was happening," Emily Alice Katz, author of the 2015 book *Bringing Zion Home*, said in a podcast. "There were these years in which it wasn't as much about rallying the troops for these massive outpourings of aid or political influence, but it was more of this coming to know Israel."

1950s America and the assimilation factor

Part of the reticence to support Israel stemmed from the ethos of 1950s America, with its focus on suburban growth, the "melting pot" and assimilation. Against that backdrop, American Jews were trying to prove they belonged as social and cultural equals in American society. So again they were fearful of "dual loyalty" charges that could stem from vocal support for a Jewish state.

In a watershed moment in that debate, Israeli Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion sent a letter in 1950 to Jacob Blaustein, president of the American Jewish Committee, which for many years had been hesitant to throw its support behind the Jewish national movement. Ben-Gurion pledged not to speak for American Jewry or intervene in

its affairs, and to dial down his insistence that American Jews move to Israel. In exchange, Blaustein recognized "the necessity and desirability" of supporting Israel in its nation building.

"The 1950s were the heyday of American Jewish assimilation," said Sara Hirschhorn, an Israel studies professor at Oxford University. "It was the postwar era, when American Jews were benefiting from the same things everyone else was benefiting from – the GI bill, all kinds of ways for people to move into the middle class – and they wanted to continue to make the most of that."

Gaining acceptance

Nevertheless, Israel began to show up in American Jewish religious practice. A Conservative prayer book published in 1949 had readings about Israel, but not the prayer for Israel that is now standard in many prayer books. Religious schools gradually shifted their pronunciation of Hebrew from European Ashkenazic to Sephardic-inflected Israeli. Non-Zionist religious leaders, like Finkelstein of JTS, eventually were sidelined.

The biggest shift, Sarna said,

was American Jewry viewing Judaism's history as one of "destruction and rebirth." That outlook posed the Holocaust and the establishment of Israel as its two poles and, Sarna said, remains dominant in American Jewish thinking today. He noted that Israel's Holocaust Remembrance Day and its Independence Day are commemorated about a week apart by design.

"The theme of destruction and rebirth becomes a very important theme in the lives of American Jews," he said. "So much so that American Jews don't know the history of Zionism going back, and have bought the idea that it's all about the Holocaust being linked to the birth of the State of Israel."

American Jews became more open in their celebration of Israel about a decade after 1948. *Exodus*, the 1958 novel by Leon Uris that painted Israel in heroic terms, was a national best-seller and was adapted into a popular movie in 1960 starring Paul Newman and Eva Marie Saint.

In 1961, the Yiddish star Molly Picon starred in a Broadway musical about a visit by American

Jews to Israel, *Milk and Honey*, which ran for more than 500 performances. A few years later, the Israel Pavilion at the New York World's Fair showcased the country's charms. And as Cold War tensions continued into the 1960s, Israel began to be seen as a U.S. ally against the Soviet Union.

In 1967, Israel's existence was again threatened by Arab armies. Between the anxious buildup to that war and Israel's lightning victory, American Jewish acceptance of Israel had turned to adulation, placing the Jewish state at the cen-

ter of their identity.

The few dissenters are found on the non-Zionist left, among various haredi Orthodox movements, and in the quiet grumblings of some mainstream leaders and rabbis who think the emphasis on Israel has thwarted the development of distinctly American Judaism.

"Slowly but surely, Israel became more important for American Jews," Sarna said. "1967 is at once a reflection of Israel's growing importance, but at the same time it is a great intensification of Israel's centrality."

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St. Petersburg resident and Masa Israel Teaching Fellow Heather Hammerling (center) stands with cohorts – who are teaching in various schools across Israel – at Masa Israel Journey's annual Yom Hazikaron ceremony to remember Israel's fallen soldiers and victims of terror.

Local teacher learns a lot about Israel, her Judaism during 10-month 'journey'

By BOB FRYER
Jewish Press

When Heather Hammerling was a student at USF St. Petersburg, studying to be a teacher, she went on a Birthright trip to Israel. It rekindled her interest in Judaism and sparked a desire to return to Israel.

During the Birthright trip she heard of the Masa Israel Journey program, which offers a variety of experiences for American Jews who wish to come to Israel for a longer stay. One of the options is teaching English to Israeli students, so after she graduated in December 2016 and began teaching second grade at Lakeview Fundamental School in St. Petersburg, she applied for the program. Last September, she joined the Masa program and was assigned to teach at a school in Netanya, a city on the Mediterranean coast not far from Tel Aviv. Hammerling, 24, will complete her 10-month stay in Israel soon and plans to return to teach third grade in St. Petersburg.

We asked her to share memories of her experiences in Israel, including the recent ceremonies to remember those who died fighting for Israel and the nation's celebration of its 70th anniversary. Here are her responses, edited for length:

Tell us what you like about teaching English to Israeli students and what the challenges are?

Teaching English to Israeli students is extremely rewarding, however, as with any job, there are daily challenges, the main thing being the language barrier. ... The teaching environment in Israel is much more casual; the students call you by your first name.

I love how excited the students are to learn English. When I first started teaching in September, the students had a much smaller vocabulary and communicating was very difficult. Now, having worked with the students for eight months, I am really getting to see their progress and see them having breakthroughs. I have also learned what their personal interests are and can use them to engage the students in English lessons. My students are very interested in American culture and I have had a lot of fun teaching them about certain holidays and traditions that are specific to the U.S. For example, we did a lesson on Halloween and Thanksgiving and we talk about football and American pop culture.

Tell us about sights and places you have visited in Israel, your interactions with the Israeli people and how life in Israel differs from life in the U.S.

Over the holidays, when we are off from school, I have had the opportunity to travel and explore Israel. This has been a huge highlight of my time here. I have volunteered on a kibbutz, hiked part of the Israel National Trail and have had time to see both the north and south of Israel. ... The geography

is really amazing, and the weather here makes being outside possible all year long.

I live within walking distance of my school and oftentimes I see my students and their families out and about. ... I feel very well taken care of and embraced by the community. I am never alone on Shabbat and have had dinner at the homes of my students, my colleagues and various members of the community. This is very different than in the U.S., where work and personal life are much more compartmentalized.

How has this experience enhanced or changed your views of Judaism?

I was raised Reform [in Montclair, NJ]. However, after my Bat Mitzvah my involvement in Jewish life was almost non-existent. It was not until my Birthright trip that I started to become curious about my Jewish identity and desired to explore it further. This experience has had a positive impact on the development of my Jewish identity. I feel much more connected to Israel and value the Jewish traditions. I have loved celebrating Shabbat every Friday and recognizing the Jewish holidays. I plan to continue these traditions when I return.

Can you tell us about what you felt and heard at the Yom Hazikaron and Israel Independence Day ceremonies?

The ceremonies surrounding Yom Hazikaron and Israel Independence Day were very emotional for me. It was truly heartbreaking to realize that almost anyone you speak to in Israel has lost someone in the armed forces. I have felt very safe while living in Israel, and I know it is due to the young men and women in the armed forces who put their lives at risk every day. However, until it is brought to your attention and you hear the stories, it almost doesn't feel real. Now that I have this personal connection to Israel, these ceremonies made me feel extremely proud for the nation of Israel and grateful for the opportunities I have here.

What are some of your most treasured experiences from participating in this program and your time spent in Israel?

The ability to live in another country and experience another culture so fully has been my most treasured experience. Israel is such a unique place and I do not think you can really understand how precious it is until you've lived here. I love how on Fridays the entire country begins to slow down for Shabbat, and Saturdays are a clear day of rest. The emphasis on spending time with family is really heartwarming. If you go to a park on a Saturday, you will see tons of families sitting outside having picnics and barbeques.

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Israel ready for its close-up as 'Big Start' spot for Giro D'Italia, one of world's top cycling races

By ELIANA RUDEE

Jewish News Syndicate

The biggest biking event in the history of the Jewish state has arrived, placing Israel in the center of the sporting map. The Giro d'Italia is second only to the Tour de France as professional cycling's most important race.

For the first time in the race's history, the event began outside of Europe, with three days of racing in Israel starting on May 4 in Jerusalem.

The driving force behind bringing the race to Israel is Canadian-Israeli philanthropist Sylvan Adams, a passionate biker and the honorary president of Giro d'Italia's "Big Start" in Israel.

The almost 60-year-old immigrated to Israel last year from Montreal, where he made his living in real estate.

According to Adams, the Giro will be "the largest and most significant sporting event ever held in Israel."

Last year, the race was broadcast on television to 840 million people worldwide. This year, viewership is expected to be 1 billion during the three days and 16 hours of television coverage. Tens of thousands of tourists are expected to see it in real time. And some 25,000 people will be on hand to make the race go smoothly, making it the largest event ever held in Israel, both in terms of people watching and working. Tens of thousands of tourists are expected.

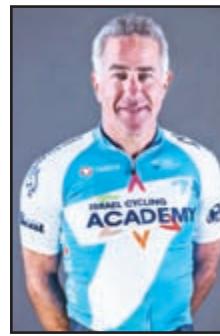
In the first stage of the race, helicopters will fly over famous sites such as the Western Wall, the Dome of the Rock and the Israel Museum, all in Jerusalem. In the second stage of the race, cyclists will ride in Haifa, Mount Carmel, Akko, Nazareth and Caesarea. They will proceed to Netanya, Tel Aviv and Jaffa, finishing by the beach. In the third stage, the cyclists will ride around Beersheva and by the Mitzpe Ramon Crater, enjoying the Negev landscape, all the way to Eilat. The race will then move on to Italy.

"It will be dramatic in terms of the scenery," said Adams, who believes the Giro will benefit from Israel's scenic roads and sound weather, historical sites, restaurants and a wonderful cycling culture.



Photos courtesy of Israel Cycling Academy

Sylvan Adams, a Canadian-Israeli, philanthropist, training with Israel Cycling Academy.



Sylvan Adams was instrumental in bringing Giro D'Italia to Israel.

In all, some 22 teams from nearly 20 countries participate in the race, which comprises three weeks, or 21 days, of biking roughly 2,200 miles.

For non-Jews around the world, the event "will show that Israel is open, free, democratic and safe, and move the needle when it comes to tourism by inviting a billion viewers to Israel," he said.

Adams also voiced his hope that "the Jewish people will be proud that Israel is hosting this event on its 70th anniversary. We must take great pride in the homeland of the Jewish people and its achievements. It belongs to all Jewish people, not just Israelis, but all of us."

Outside of promoting Israel to non-Jews and Jew alike, another goal is to expand the already-strong cycling culture in Israel. Adams is the driving force behind Israel's only professional cycling team – the Israel Cycling Academy, which is competing in the Giro – as well as the man behind the building of the Middle East's first-ever velodrome, due to be completed this year in Tel Aviv.

"All around the country, there are hundreds of cyclists riding together and a growing number of cycling clubs," he related. "Israel can reach the highest of the sport and race internationally. By bringing the absolute best athletes in the world, who will ride right in front of peoples' homes, I'm hopeful that Israeli kids and their parents will be inspired by the event, buy a bike and join our fast-growing sport."

Israel's population tops 8.8 million on 70th anniversary

(JNS) – The population of Israel now numbers 8.842 million people, a tenfold increase since the state's establishment, according to a special report published by the Central Bureau of Statistics for the Jewish state's 70th Anniversary.

According to the report, 805,000 people lived in Israel in 1948. At the state's centennial in 2048, the

population is expected to reach 15.2 million.

The data showed that Israel's population comprises 6.589 million Jews residents (74.5 percent of the total), 1.849 million Arabs (20.9 percent) and 404,000 (4.6 percent) others: non-Arab Christians, people of other religions and people unaffiliated with any religion.

Over the past year, the population has grown by 163,000, or 1.9 percent, the report said. During this period, 177,000 babies were born, 28,000 people made aliyah, and 41,000 people died.

Since the founding of the state, some 3.2 million immigrants have arrived in Israel. The first of the two largest immigration waves began with Israel's establishment and ended in the mid-1950s, with 700,000-plus immigrants arriving during these years, almost doubling the state's population in four years. The second large wave came in the 1990s, when an estimated 900,000 immigrants from the former Soviet Union arrived, making up more than 10 percent of Israel's total population.

The report noted that in 1949 there were 500 communities in Israel, which grew to 1,214 by 2016. Today, some 44 percent of Israelis live in the nation's 16 largest cities. Israel's capital, Jerusalem, is the country's largest city, with 882,000 residents. The remaining 15 – Ashdod, Beersheva, Givatayim, Hadera, Haifa, Herzliya, Holon, Kfar Saba, Netanya, Petach Tikva, Ra'anana, Ramat Gan, Rehovot, Rishon Lezion and Tel Aviv – each has more than 100,000 people.

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A Holocaust museum in Brooklyn tells the story through the eyes of Orthodox Jews

By JON KALISH

JTA news service

NEW YORK (JTA) – Like Holocaust museums the world over, the Amud Aish Memorial Museum in Brooklyn focuses on European Jewish communities that thrived before the Nazis came to power, the killing machine that led to millions of deaths, and the resilience of survivors both during the war and in rebuilding their Jewish lives in the aftermath.

But the small museum also has a particular focus: telling the story of the Shoah through the eyes of Orthodox Jews. Its current exhibit, for example, focuses on Jews who escaped to Shanghai in the 1930s -- a familiar story in which 20,000 Jewish refugees fled to the Japanese-occupied area, one of the few safe havens in the world that did not require a visa.

But the Amud Aish display includes photos and documents from the Bais Yaakov school in Shanghai, an affiliate of the Orthodox girls school movement that originated in Europe and spread to America. The exhibit also documents how students from the famed Lublin Yeshiva in Poland made a monthlong walk to Vilna, Lithuania, before proceeding to Shanghai.

"I felt that the Orthodox community's story throughout the Holocaust is really not that well-documented and there's a lot to be mined in that story," said the museum's director, Rabbi Sholom Friedmann. "We're looking at how these Jews during the worst of times looked to their faith, looked to Jewish law as a means to make some sort of meaning out of their experience, and to be able to move forward and have the resilience that they did."

Located in the decidedly non-Orthodox neighborhood of Mill Basin, Amud Aish is housed in the headquarters of The Americare Companies, a home health care provider owned by Elly Kleinman, who is president of the museum. There are no visible signs in or on the five-story office building alerting visitors that they have arrived at the museum. A receptionist buzzes visitors into the 1,000-square-foot exhibition space. Visits are by appointment only.

Amud Aish is Hebrew for "pillar of fire," a reference to the flames that guided the Jews at night as they wandered the desert during the Exodus from Egypt. The museum's mission statement declares that "the lessons of the Holocaust are a guiding light for us."

Personal connections

Friedmann, a Detroit native who completed a fellowship in Holocaust education at the Imperial War Museum in London, came up with the name.

The museum is staffed mostly by the children and grandchildren of Holocaust survivors, including Kleinman, its founder, and Friedmann, the son of a Belgian Holocaust survivor. Other members of the nine-person staff include acquisitions curator Chavi Felsenburg, whose grandmother was a hidden child and whose grandfather survived six concentration camps; collections manager Perachya Sorscher, whose grandfather managed to get extra food to the Satmar rebbe in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp; and chief curator Henri Lustiger-Thaler, whose mother was liberated from Bergen-Belsen.

"I feel like I'm doing something that they would be very proud of and very, very meaningful to our family," said Felsenburg.

Rescue efforts

One of Felsenburg's acquisitions include a rescue plea written on a piece of coat lining and smuggled out of a ghetto in southern France.

"We actually had known that such a plea was sent out," she said of the document, which was rolled up and disguised as a cigarette. "We were re-housing a collection, putting it into sheet protectors and there it is. I did not expect to see it just like that, by flipping pages."

Friedman said Amud Aish has a large collection of documents pertaining to Orthodox rescue efforts. This includes documents related to the rescue activities of Solomon Schonfeld, a British rabbi who saved thousands of Jews, many of them children, by arranging for South American travel papers, kindertransports to England and temporary refuge in various British territories. His efforts were conducted under the auspices of the Religious Emergency Council, which was created by Schonfeld's father-in-law, Joseph Hertz, the chief rabbi of England.

Amud Aish also has the papers of Mike Tress, a Brooklyn businessman who was the grandfather of Rabbi Dovid Reidel, a Bobover chasid who serves as the museum's director of research and archives. The Tress Collection, like some of the other donations, had been sitting in an attic or basement for 60 years.

"After the invasion of Poland, he gives up his business, he throws himself full force into trying to rescue Jews," Reidel said of his grandfather. "He's using his personal money, he's selling his stocks to put that money into those rescue efforts."

Tress made weekly trips from his home in Brooklyn to Washington, D.C., where he met with First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and officials at the State Department. Reidel said his grandfather violated the prohibition against travel on the Sabbath because his mission involved *pikuach nefesh*, the saving of a human soul.

One Saturday Tress joined Jacob Rosenheim, president of the umbrella group for Orthodox Jewry, Agudath Israel, at the State

Department. They were desperate to get a visa to the U.S. Embassy in Moscow for Rabbi Aharon Kotler, an Orthodox Jewish leader in Lithuania. The way Reidel tells the story, Breckenridge Long, an assistant secretary at the State Department, was convinced of the gravity of the situation because these Orthodox Jews were willing to violate their Sabbath, and he intervened.

Kotler made it out of the Soviet Union and went on to found Beth Medrash Govoha in New Jersey, also known as the Lakewood Yeshiva, which is thought to be the largest yeshiva in the world.

Artifacts of note

One of Amud Aish's most precious objects is a book in which the Chevra Kadisha, or burial society, at Bergen-Belsen recorded deaths and burials of the concentration camp's survivors who died after the camp was liberated. The Chevra Kadisha at Bergen-Belsen, established right after it was liberated, was organized by a rabbi who served as a chaplain in the British Army. The book was donated by the relative of a camp survivor who was part of the burial society.

Also of great value in the museum's collection are the hundreds of responsa -- rabbinical decisions in response to legal and moral questions submitted by Jews.

"The responsa tell us what questions [observant] Jews were strug-



A small suitcase taken to the Budapest ghetto by a family named Horowitz, holding family photos, postcards and a challah cover, is on display at the Amud Aish Memorial Museum. Avigdor shared the smuggled tefillin with other inmates during his imprisonment.



A set of tefillin and diary pages belonging to Isaac Avigdor, a young Polish rabbi imprisoned at Mauthausen, are on display at the Amud Aish Memorial Museum. Avigdor shared the smuggled tefillin with other inmates during his imprisonment.

gling with," said Michael Berenbaum, who served as the project director during the creation of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., and was involved in the establishment of Steven Spielberg's oral history project, now known as the Shoah Foundation-The Institute for Visual History and Education.

Telling a 'certain' story

Asked whether a separate museum is needed to focus on the Holocaust through the eyes of the Orthodox, Berenbaum replied: "A museum is not an encyclopedia, therefore it has to tell a certain story. And by virtue of telling a certain story, it omits other stories. This [Amud Aish] is a corrective part of the story."

Berenbaum does see some thorny issues the new museum may encounter, including the matter of Jewish children who had been living as gentiles with gentile families. Although he praised the Orthodox for doing a heroic job of reuniting these children with the Jewish people, there is what he termed "an interesting value tension" when considering what was in the best interests of the child in such situations.

Another challenge is grappling with the dynamics of the Holocaust's impact on religious belief.

"If they tell the story of Jews who preserved their faith in a moment of darkness, they may not tell the story of the Jews who lost their faith in a moment of darkness," Berenbaum said. "If they do it correctly, they will present the dilemma."

The Shanghai exhibit drew Yehuda and Breindy Gelbfish of Lakewood, who brought four of their 10 children. Gelbfish is the son of the late Benjamin Gelbfish, one of the Lublin Yeshiva students who fled to Vilna.

Yehuda Gelbfish has loaned Amud Aish a number of items, including a yellow receipt good for a meal at a soup kitchen in Vilna in 1939. The ticket went unused because Benjamin Gelbfish was

laundry ticket. The elder Gelbfish did make it to Shanghai. After the war, Benjamin Gelbfish made a living as a watchmaker and jewelry manufacturer. He died in 2008.

"God was always on his lips," Yehuda Gelbfish said of his father. "God gave him the ability to persevere."

Asked why he lent his father's documents to Amud Aish, Gelbfish replied, "We're transmitting not only the lives of those who perished but more than anything else we're transmitting the way life continues. And the way survivors rebuilt their lives. That's what this museum's about."

(Manhattan-based radio journalist Jon Kalish has reported for NPR since 1980. Find him at www.kalish.nyc. Twitter: @kalishjon)

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B'not Mitzvah**Isabella Arely Grodin**

Isabella Arely Grodin, daughter of Jill Grodin of Palm Harbor, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, May 12 at Temple Ahavat Shalom in Palm Harbor.

A seventh-grade student at Palm Harbor Montessori School, Isabella is a member of the school's swim team and has studied the Suzuki method of viola. Active in musical theater, Isabella has participated twice in the Moscow Nutcracker in St. Petersburg and also in Ruth Eckerd Musical Theatre and ballet, and this year was in her school's production of *Fame*. She also enjoys swimming, reading and traveling. For her mitzvah project Isabella has been volunteering at Suncoast Animal Rescue.



Jill Grodin will host a luncheon on Saturday, May 12. Special guests will include family from out of town.

Jordan Leah Weisberg

Jordan Leah Weisberg, daughter of Seth and Angela Weisberg of Palm Harbor, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, May 19 at Temple Ahavat Shalom in Palm Harbor.

A seventh grade Principal's List student at Dunedin Highland Middle School, Jordan is enrolled in the Center for Gifted Studies. A member of the school's track team, Jordan also enjoys rock climbing and biking.



Seth and Angela Weisberg will host a party at Bon Appétit on Saturday, May 19.

Special guests will include Jordan's great-grandfather and other grandparents along with family from New York and Connecticut.

As time nears for your child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah, let the community know in the Jewish Press. There is a \$5 cost for reproducing the photo. The Jewish Press prints announcement one to two weeks before the celebration, if possible. Mail to the Jewish Press, PO Box 6970, Clearwater, FL 33758.

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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.

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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.

Young Adults

Brew bus adventure: The #Gather group will go on a brew bus adventure on Sunday, June 3 from noon to 4 p.m. The cost is \$10 for unlimited bus rides throughout the day on the local loop bus as folks stop at various breweries, restaurants and bars in Tampa. Food and beverages are at the cost of participants. For information on where to meet, visit: <https://www.bryanglazerfamilyjcc.com/gather> or <https://www.jcccohncampus.com/programs/young-adults>.

#Gather offers a mix of social and interactive activities designed to help young adults connect. It is open to young adults of all faiths and backgrounds. For more information or to RSVP for any #Gather events, visit: www.bryanglazerfamilyjcc.com/gather or contact Lisa Robbins at lisa.robbins@jewishtampa.com or (813) 769-4723.

Cheese tasting: The 20s-30s group, sponsored by Congregation Schaarai Zedek, invites all young adults to a Shavuot Cheese Tasting at Cheese Please restaurant, 3225 S MacDill Ave, Tampa, on Thursday, May 17 from 6:30 – 8 p.m. Meet at Cheese Please for an evening of

Torah Trivia for Shavuot as well as several courses of wine and cheese. Cost is \$20 per person. For questions, contact **Lindsey Dewey** at ldewey@zedek.org or (813) 876-2377, ext. 221. RSVP at www.zedek.org/20s30s.

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.

On May 14, the topic will be, "How to Ace a Phone, Skype or Online Interview."

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 24 from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. the topic is "Is Your Brand Helping You Land a Job?" On May 31 from 9:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. the topic is "Financial Fundamentals for Now and the Future."

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.

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.

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.

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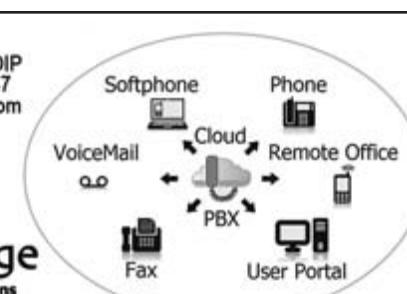
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Toni Rinde shares closing remarks



(L-R) Lion of Judah Chair, Jeanie Abelson with new Women's Philanthropy society members: Jackie Kanner and Ellen Weiss, Lion of Judah; Maxine Kaufman, Pomegranate Society



Fagl Oxman introduces Dr. Heimer



Jeanie Abelson with speaker Malcolm Heimer and Heimer's wife, Yael

Women's spring lunch features Israel's contribution to humanity

More than 30 women joined together for a thought-provoking program exploring Israel's contributions to humanity on April 19.

The lunch for Lions of Judah and Pomegranate Society members which was organized by the Jewish Federation held at the Sandpearl Resort, and featured Dr. Malcolm Heimer, a Baptist-raised engineer who fell in love with Israel some 30 years ago. The women present represented the affiliation groups of Lions of Judah and Pomegranate Society.

In addition to Heimer's dynamic presentation, which featured powerful imagery and videos on everything from arts to agriculture, three new philanthropic women received their society pins: Jackie Kanner and Ellen Weiss as Lions of Judah and Maxine Kaufman as a Pomegranate Society member.

The Lion of Judah Endowment program was also highlighted, now in its 25th year, as well as the upcoming Lion of Judah

conference, to be held January 13-15, 2019 in Miami.

Heimer is a retired electrical and biomedical engineer who earned degrees from Bucknell University and Cal Tech before earning his PhD from Penn State University. His connection to Israel is through his wife, Yael. She was a young pioneer who moved to Israel and lived there for 10 years in the 1950s as a kibbutz member. Daughter Deborah and grandson, Ofir, both still live in Israel, and Heimer has visited Israel seven times, including twice to give lectures at the Technion. He was raised Baptist in rural Appalachia in central Pennsylvania and never met a Jewish person until college; now, after 30 years of marriage to Yael, they have relocated to Tamarac and he is the president of their community's American-Israeli Club.

For more information about the Federation's Women's Philanthropy activities, visit jewishpinellas.org or call (727) 530-3223.

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'Holocaust by Bullets' talk is May 20

Urszula Szczepinska, curator of education and director of research for the Florida Holocaust Museum, will speak at the museum on Sunday, May 20, about 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.

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 victims is one of the most significant memorial projects for the post-Holocaust generations.

Her appearance is jointly sponsored by the museum and the Jewish Genealogical

Society of Tampa Bay. Everyone is invited to attend the program at no charge.

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

Registration begins at the museum at 1:30 p.m. and the program starts at 2 p.m. Following the talk, an optional self-guided museum tour will be offered at no charge to members of either sponsoring organization. Non-members tour cost is \$9. For those planning to include a tour, advanced registration is requested by calling Sally Israel at (727) 343-1652.

The museum is located at 55 Fifth St. S., St. Petersburg.

Birthright co-founder proposes opening lobby in Israel to advocate for North American Jews

By JOSEFIN DOLSTEN
JTA news service

NEW YORK — The co-founder of Birthright Israel, Charles Bronfman, proposed opening a lobby in Jerusalem to demonstrate how Israeli policies will affect North American Jews.

Bronfman made the proposal in a May 3 address to graduates of the Hebrew Union College — Jewish Institute of Religion's campus here, in which he spoke in harsh terms about Israel's treatment of non-Orthodox Jews. Bronfman was receiving an honorary doctorate from the college, the Reform movement's flagship institution.

"The time has come to demonstrate both the negatives as well as the positives that proposed Israeli legislation will have on North American Jewry," the Canadian-American businessman and philanthropist said. The lobby would include Israelis and Jews from abroad.

Bronfman co-founded the Birthright program, which offers free 10-day-trips to Israel to Jews aged 18-26, along with phi-

lanthropist and real estate magnate Michael Steinhardt in 1999. To date, over 600,000 participants from 67 countries have participated in Birthright trips.

In his speech, Bronfman slammed the haredi Orthodox Chief Rabbinate's religious monopoly in Israel.

"We have but one Jewish state. It shocks me to the marrow of my bones that Conservative, Reform, Liberal and Reconstructionist Judaism are legally unrecognized by the State of Israel," said Bronfman, who serves as chair of the Israel Policy Forum's advisory council.

Religious rites in Israel, including marriage, divorce, conversion and burial, are controlled by the Chief Rabbinate, and ceremonies conducted by non-Orthodox rabbis in Israel are not recognized.

Bronfman also slammed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for bowing to pressure from his Orthodox coalition partners and freezing last year a compromise agreement intended to create an egalitarian prayer section at the Western Wall.

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B'NAI EMMUNAH

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the sale of the Keystone property rendered the congregation debt free and provided enough money to continue paying the salary of Rabbi Goldstein through the term of her contract. Rabbi Goldstein came to B'nai Emmunah in July 2015.

Martin contacted the Jewish Press May 1 to announce the congregation's final end, calling the closure "painful."

"I met a lot of wonderful people and caring individuals [at B'nai Emmunah] and we, just like a lot of other little places, got caught up in our inability to bring in youth and enough people," he said.

The membership, predominately elderly, had dwindled to only about a dozen people, Martin said.

Rabbi Boldberg praised the remaining congregants and said, "I think it is an incredibly sad day when a congregation like B'nai Emmunah is forced to close – not just for those in the congregation, but for the broader community as well. I will miss the members, will miss the warmth and closeness of the congregation."

Rabbi Goldstein said the bonds of those remaining members was very strong and that their attendance at services and classes was extraordinary. "On any given Friday, there is only one time I can think of we did not have a minyan," she said. (At least 10 are required for a minyan).

She noted that attendance at Torah study and classes was always good. "These are people who are really dedicated and caring. It may have been a small group, but they were there all the time and they loved it," she said.

The rabbi said she has accepted another position outside of the area.

"Our members are visiting other synagogues and I'm sure [will] settle somewhere in the future," Martin said.

The final Shabbat service on May 25 will be an opportunity for members to say farewell to Rabbi Goldstein.

When the congregation moved last year, it gave its bima and ark to Hillels of the Florida Suncoast and both were used at the Hillel facilities at the University of South Florida during High Holidays. Linda Wolf, Hillels' assistant director, said the gift was appreciated and will continue to be put to use.

Also when the building was sold, an eternal light that was on loan from the Museum of Southern Jewish Experience in Mississippi was returned to the museum, Martin said. The light was first lit at a synagogue in Port Gibson, MS, and burned there for more than 90 years before that congregation disbanded.

As for the congregation's Torah scroll, "We are looking, with the assistance of the URJ [Union for Reform Judaism], for a home for the Torah," Martin said.

NUKE DOCS

• CONTINUED from FRONT PAGE

"And here's what we got. Fifty-five thousand pages. Another 55,000 files on 183 CDs. Everything you're about to see is an exact copy of the original Iranian material," he said, adding: "You may want to know where are the originals? Well, I can say they're now in a very safe place."

The unnamed official told the newspaper that President Donald Trump was told of the operation to retrieve the documents by Mossad Director Yossi Cohen when he visited Washington, D.C., in January.

The material was not unveiled until now because the documents had to be analyzed and translated from Persian, the official said.

Netanyahu said during his presentation that the information had been shared with the United States and that "the United States can vouch for its authenticity."

Among the documents, Netanyahu said, is proof of the existence of Project Amad, a program to design, build and test nuclear weapons. The program was scrapped in 2003 after the Gulf War, but work continued in other guises and with

the same personnel, according to Netanyahu, citing the documents.

Other documents also proved that the Fordow uranium enrichment facility was not intended to produce medical isotopes but uranium for nuclear weapons.

"Iran is brazenly lying when it says it never had a nuclear weapons program," Netanyahu said.

However, Netanyahu did not appear to present evidence of ongoing nuclear activity in violation of the deal signed in 2015 between Iran and six world powers, which traded sanctions relief for a rollback of Iran's nuclear program.

Netanyahu said he is certain that Trump will "do the right thing" in deciding whether to stay in the nuclear deal. "The right thing for the United States. The right thing for Israel. And the right thing for the peace of the world," he said.

Trump is set to decide by May 12 whether the U.S. will remain in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, as the deal is known.

In a meeting with reporters in the White House Rose Garden shortly after Netanyahu's presentation, Trump said that the disclosure "showed that I was 100 percent right" in criticizing the Iran nuclear deal. "That is just not an

acceptable situation," he also said.

Trump declined to say what he would decide on the Iran nuclear deal.

"We'll see what happens. I'm not telling you what I'm doing, but a lot of people think they know," he said. "On or before the 12th, we'll make a decision. That doesn't mean we won't negotiate a real agreement."

The reaction to Netanyahu's speech were mixed. "[W]hen Iranian officials claim – as they often do – that Iran [never had] a nuclear weapons program, they were lying," James Acton, co-director of the nuclear policy program at the Carnegie Endowment, tweeted. "But, we knew that already. The JCPOA was designed on that basis."

Opponents of the Iran nuclear deal said it confirmed that Iran cannot be trusted.

Conservative commentator Ben Shapiro wrote that the documents demonstrate "that the Obama administration lied constantly and repeatedly to the public about Iran's newfound moderation in order to scam the public into approving Obama's Iran nuclear deal – a deal that allowed Iran to maximize its regional power with income from the West."



JNF
Breakfast for Israel drew about 200 people to the Bryan Glazer Family JCC in Tampa



Former Israeli Ambassador Danny Ayalon spoke to the threat to Israel from Iran.



Chair Lynne Merriam addresses the breakfast.

JNF

• CONTINUED from FRONT PAGE

The diplomat said the Palestinians were wrong in thinking the Israeli people would come and go like other groups have before. With a population now of 8.9 million and a Gross Domestic Product of \$40,000 per capita 40 thousand (compared to \$53,000 in the U.S.) and climbing, Israel is becoming a leader in the world economy. He later added that "Israel can be proud of what we've achieved and should be optimistic of the future." Even so, he insisted now was not the time to "rest on our laurels."

Iran remains Israel's biggest nemesis. Ayalon said Iran has threatened to raze Tel Aviv. Not only is Iran denying the Holocaust, they want to cause another.

"Iran is very much like 1930s Nazis," he said. "If you recall, the Nazis invaded in a very incremental way. Iran wants to do the same thing. They are already in Iraq. They are already in Lebanon. Syria is the missing link and we must keep them away."

Ayalon also shared his views on the Iran nuclear deal, which is under review with the current U.S. administration. It's common knowledge the Iranians wanted to strike a deal in the first place, he said. They were on the verge of financial and political collapse when they negotiated a deal with the U.S., he asserted, adding that the deal gave them an infusion of cash that they then used to sponsor terrorism. "I don't believe Iran will attack frontally," Ayalon told the room. "The Iranians are no match for Israel's capabilities. The best opportunity for them is through terrorism. They have a lot of Hezbollah cells."

While Iran was negotiating, Israel was acting, preventing Iran's entrenchment in Syria and thwarting attempts of Iran to get "weapons of mass destruction" to Hezbollah.

Then he told the audience another anecdote to explain his "never relax" worldview.

Henry Kissinger came to the Middle East after 1973 to visit several countries, said the diplomat. His staffers kept his schedule filled at all times, until one day he had

a few hours free. The staffers decided to send him to the zoo before his next scheduled event. While there, he came upon a lion and a lamb, playing together in a pen. Kissinger was so impressed with seeing this, he searched for and found the zookeeper to ask how he could make this happen. "I bring the lion a fresh new lamb every day," said the zookeeper.

Following Ayalon's talk, JNF Breakfast Chairperson Lynne Merriam spoke before playing a video showing some of the services the JNF provides.

"So many people think JNF is trees," said Merriam. While Israel is now the only country in the world to have more trees than it did a century ago, the main goal is to "enhance the quality of life for Israelis all around the world."

Funding from JNF goes to support Israeli firefighters, water conservation efforts and Project Baseball: a program that promotes unity through play between Israeli and Arab children, among other projects. Merriam is particularly involved with the Special in Uniform program that trains and helps special needs adults contribute to the Israeli Defense Force (IDF) and is the only country to do so. Her son, who has cerebral palsy, received an honorary invitation to the IDF.

After the speaking and most of the eating had ended, students from Hillel Academy walked around collecting donations in paper JNF bags. In return, donors received a small blue and white Israeli flag.

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Tampa Bay author brings personal perspective on triumphing over trauma to Parkland students

Roslyn Franken knows about hope and healing when it comes to survival and overcoming adversity. Her mother survived the concentration camps of Nazi Europe, including Auschwitz. Her father survived the Nagasaki atomic bomb as a prisoner of war in Japan. At 29, Roslyn survived cancer to become a long-term survivor.

On April 12, Franken spoke to survivors of the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, sharing her parents' inspiring story and the positive influence they had on her life. That story is told in her book, *Meant to Be: A True Story of Might, Miracles and Triumph of the Human Spirit*.

Her visit to Parkland marked the launch of a speaking tour Franken will make across the United States and Canada.

"Roslyn was able to bring such a positive experience to my students as they were feeling so down about everything," said Ivy Schamis, who teaches the history of the Holocaust at Stoneman Douglas High. "She brought so much brightness and hope to the students and just watching the way they were watching her



Roslyn Franken, center, with students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, where 17 were killed by a gunman on Feb. 14. All the students received a copy of Franken's book, which details her parents' inspiring life story.

when she spoke was just amazing. The kids were very enraptured by what she said and we are

so thankful she was able to come to our school because any little bit of healing helps and Roslyn Franken did a lot of healing."

Franken said of her talk with the students, "We all have a choice in life. We can be bitter or we can choose to be better. So that message, I think, really resonated with the kids. You survived, and you're here, and that's why you need to make the most of your life, like my

parents did."

Franken also recently spoke about her book at the Israel Independence Day celebration, sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Pinellas and Pasco Counties. A feature film adaptation of Franken's book is in development through Five Star Studios Inc.

For more information about the book or to invite Franken to speak at schools, visit www.RoslynFranken.com, call (613) 843-0155 or email info@roslynfranken.com.

Bunching: A way to take advantage of new tax law

With the tax overhaul, the Tampa Orlando Jewish Foundation (TOP) has experienced a spike in interest in creating or adding to a donor-advised fund for charitable giving and the use of what is known as "bunching."

Generally, people think of different fruits or vegetables when they think of "bunching." But recently, with tax reform, financial advisors have recommended the idea of "bunching" your charitable donations.

One of the most significant provisions of the 2017 tax act impacting individuals is the dramatic increase in the standard deduction. Because the standard deduction has almost doubled, it is anticipated that only a small percentage of taxpayers will continue to itemize and thus receive any tax benefit from specific tax deductions, such as charitable deductions.

In order to continue taking advantage of the charitable deduction, some taxpayers may want to consider strategically structuring their charitable gifts by "bunching" their donations into one year where they would be able to exceed the standard deductions amount of \$12,000 for singles and \$24,000 for married couples filing jointly.

This bunching strategy makes sense when combined with a contribution to a new or existing donor-advised fund or DAF. With a DAF, the donor receives a tax deduction immediately when contributing to the fund, then the investments in the fund grow tax-free. In some cases, donors may decide to alternate years in which they contribute to their donor-advised funds and receive the tax benefit while continuing to recommend grants to their favorite charities each year.

Donors can reap even more favorable tax benefits if

they donate long-term appreciated securities to their funds than if they contribute cash as capital gains taxes are eliminated. TOP also accepts more complex gifts such as private stock, real estate and limited partnership interests.

The minimum to establish a donor-advised fund at TOP is \$10,000 for donors 40 years and older. To encourage younger philanthropists, TOP's minimum to start a fund is \$5,000 for 21 to 39-year-olds.

"DAF donors may designate family members to make grant recommendations from their fund, which is a great way to encourage family communications and to teach the next generation philanthropic values. TOP's DAFs encourage fund holders to appoint successor recommenders, which creates a vehicle for multigenerational giving," said Ellen Weiss, TOP's executive director.

Many families also are realizing the ease and lower cost of establishing and operating a donor-advised fund compared to a private family foundation.

"We have seen an increased interest in migrating existing private family foundations when families realize the simplicity of operating a donor-advised fund. Another plus is that DAFs do not have an annual distribution minimum whereas family foundations are required to distribute 5 percent of their assets annually," said Michael Schwartz, an estate planning attorney and TOP Board member.

With all of these factors in play, the increased interest in DAFs bodes well for TOP and for the Jewish and greater communities that they substantially impact through distributions, said Weiss.

For more information on TOP and its DAF program, contact ellen@topjewishfoundation.org

Teen in JCC threat case accused of making similar calls from prison

(JTA) — The American-Israeli man accused of making hundreds of bomb threats to Jewish community centers in the U.S. is suspected of making another 100 hoax bomb threats in Israel from prison.

Bomb threats received by the Israel Police against schools in Tel Aviv and Kfar Saba were traced to Michael Kadar, Israeli news channels reported. Kadar, 19, of Ashkelon, is being held in prison pending trial.

In a hearing in Magistrates' Court in Rishon Lezion on the new charges, police said there have been more than 100 hoax threats to several schools recently that originated from the prison.

Kadar was charged in Israel in April 2017 with offenses that include publishing false information, causing panic, computer hacking and money laundering. He was arrested in Israel in a joint operation with the FBI.

Early last month, Kadar was indicted by the U.S. Justice Department for federal hate crimes. The hoax threats to the JCCs – including to Tampa's JCC preschools – and other Jewish institutions in the first three months of 2017 forced widespread evacuations and raised fears of a resurgence in anti-Semitism.

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Jackie Wertel – honoree from Congregation B'nai Israel Sisterhood; Linda Zolinsky – honoree from Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay; Debbie Heilweil – honoree from the Florida Holocaust Museum; BJ Murphy – honoree from Philip Benjamin Tower Foundation.



2018 class photo.

22 honored at Sonya Miller Women of Distinction event

The Jewish Federation of Pinellas and Pasco Counties celebrated the dedication and leadership of 22 women in the local Jewish community when they honored women from nearly all of the Jewish organizations in Pinellas and Pasco Counties at the 16th annual Women of Distinction award ceremony.

The event included an afternoon reception on April 29 at Temple Beth-El in St. Petersburg. This year it was renamed the Sonya Miller, z'l Women of Distinction award ceremony to honor the St.

Petersburg native who spent her life building and strengthening the Jewish community.

One of the highlights of the event was the announcement of Sarah Feld as the winner of the Dawkins Young Woman of Distinction award. The award was created three years ago to honor a woman in her 30s who has become an example of leadership. The award celebrates the longevity of the *Jewish Press* and the significant vision that Karen and Jim Dawkins had in the creation of the *Jewish Press* in the

Committee members, from left, Barbara Sterensis, Caren Evans and Harriet Stein. Committee members not shown are Barbara Baughman and Gayle Maller.

Tampa Bay region.

Feld is an active member of Congregation B'nai Israel in St. Petersburg, where she sings in the synagogue's choir and volunteers

for various programs and events, and is a lifetime member of Hadassah. Feld is also a participant in the Yesod community leadership development program sponsored

by the Federation. She does all this while balancing a full-time job as a pharmacy technician. She and her husband, Forrest Feld, live in Seminole.

Attendees were treated to an art exhibit on loan from the Israeli Consulate office in Miami. It featured Israeli artists' depictions of Wonder Woman through the ages. As they viewed the artwork and socialized with friends, guests indulged in catered delicacies.

Elizabeth Gelman, executive director of the Florida Holocaust Museum, sang the National Anthem and Hatikvah. Rabbi Michael Torop of Beth-El welcomed all to the temple and spoke about Sonya Miller and her dedication to Beth-El. Jan Sher, daughter of Sonya Miller, and Barbara Sterensis, longtime family friend, relayed their thoughts and personal stories of Miller and her influence on them.

Barbara Jean Murphy, the honoree selected by Benjamin Tower Foundation, quipped after receiving her award, "It was such a wonderful experience and a day to remember. I will cherish this in my heart always."

This year's participating organizations and their honorees sent are: Benjamin Tower Foundation, **Barbara Jean (B.J.) Murphy**; Congregation Beth Shalom, **Anne deMarlor**; Congregation Beth Shalom Sisterhood, **Esther Schwegman**; Congregation B'nai Israel, **Sandy Brasch**; Congregation B'nai Israel Sisterhood, **Jackie Wertel**; Florida Holocaust Museum, **Debbie Heilweil**; Gulf Coast Jewish Family & Community Services, **Jan Sher**; Hadassah - St. Petersburg Chapter, **Laurie Slomka Reiskind**; Hadassah - Lylah Pinellas Chapter, **Terri Tanel**; Hadassah - North Pinellas Chapter, **Janice Caine** and **Betty Slavney**; Israel Bonds, **Dr. Leslie Weiss, z'l**; Jewish Federation of Pinellas and Pasco Counties, **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** and Temple B'nai Israel Sisterhood, **Katie Blaxberg**.



Sarah Feld, recipient of the Dawkins Young Woman of Distinction award.

