

# Palm Harbor native turns rebuff on 'Bachelorette' into match with JScreen

By RACHEL MINETTI  
Jewish Press

Emergency room doctor Grant Hubsher might have been booted from *The Bachelorette* last season on the first night, but he is still quite the eligible bachelor.

The Palm Harbor native recently paired up with JScreen, a genetic testing and screening non-

profit, to offer a chance to win a date with him at Wolf and Lamb Steakhouse in New York City (it's kosher friendly, don't worry.)

The idea to partner with Hubsher was a no-brainer. By the time the contest ended June 1, JScreen had received a few hundred applications from women all over the country looking to dine with

the doctor. While requesting the screening kit was not a requirement to enter the contest, it put the topic of Jewish genetic testing on people's radar.

"He's a Jewish doctor himself and he's in the exact age demographic of who should be getting screened," said Hillary Kener,

**MATCH continued on PAGE 16**



Dr. Grant Hubsher

The Jewish Press Group of Tampa Bay, Inc.  
Jewish Press of Pinellas County  
6416 Central Avenue  
St. Petersburg, FL 33707

# Jewish Press

Est. 1986  
of Pinellas County

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

VOL. 33, NO. 1

ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA ☆ JULY 13 - AUGUST 9, 2018

16 PAGES

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# Rock & roll at Holocaust Museum? Life of legendary concert promoter Bill Graham makes it happen

The Florida Holocaust Museum's upcoming exhibit will intersect the Holocaust with the rock & roll explosion that ignited in the 1960s.

Opening in St. Petersburg in August, "Bill Graham and the Rock & Roll Revolution" is the first exhibition to explore the extraordinary life of renowned concert impresario Bill Graham (1931- 1991), who helped launch the careers of many music legends of the 1960s at his famed Fillmore Auditorium in San Francisco.

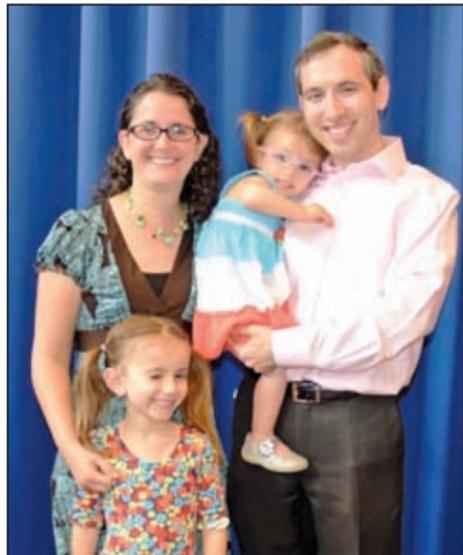
Over the years, he worked with such iconic musicians as the Grateful Dead, Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix, Santana, the Who, Led Zeppelin and the Rolling Stones. He also conceived rock & roll as a powerful force for supporting humanitarian causes and was instrumental in the production of milestone benefit concerts such as Live Aid (1985) and Human Rights Now! (1988).

**BILL GRAHAM continued on PAGE 15**



Photo by John Olson/The LIFE Picture Collection/Getty Images

Bill Graham onstage before the final concert at the Fillmore East in New York City on Jan. 1, 1970.



Rabbi Philip Weintraub of Congregation B'nai Israel and wife Rebecca have two daughters, Hannah, 5, and Eliana, nearly 2.

# New CBI rabbi to honor past, forge new paths

By BOB FRYER  
Jewish Press

Just how does a new rabbi replace a person that has been the backbone of a congregation for more than four decades? By being himself, says Rabbi Philip Weintraub, who officially became Congregation B'nai Israel's rabbi on July 1, replacing retiring Rabbi Jacob Luski.

"I have huge admiration for Rabbi Luski, but I do not want to be another Rabbi Luski. I can't be another Rabbi Luski. I have to be me."

Rabbi Weintraub becomes only the fifth senior rabbi in the Conservative congregation's 95-year history.

From his first arrival in St. Petersburg for an interview with the Rabbinic Search Committee, leading a service and meeting congregants, Rabbi Weintraub said everyone was

**NEW RABBI continued on PAGE 10**

# Play gives voice to struggles with ritual, legacy

By DOROTHY HERSHMAN  
Special to the Jewish Press

The story goes that playwright Joshua Harmon's grandmother asked him to change the provocatively titled *Bad Jews* to *Good Jews*.

The dark comedy, which has played to mostly enthusiastic reviews around the country since its off-Broadway premiere in 2012, opened July 11 at American Stage in downtown St. Petersburg.

The central dilemma of the play: Who is deserving of a late grandfather's Chai



JOEY CLAY STUDIO

Actors Jenny Lester and Jackson Goldberg play feuding cousins in "Bad Jews," now playing at American Stage.

pendant, an object so dear he hid it in his mouth throughout time in a concentration camp?

Locally, the theater company has been sensitive to the Jewish community's concerns, holding a pre-production panel discussion with director Amy Resnick and six millennial Jews – the

**PLAY continued on PAGE 6**

# Fundraising stays strong; Federation dollars go further

The Jewish Federation of Pinellas and Pasco Counties again surpassed the \$1.5 million mark in its annual fundraising, allowing for a broadening of local and international allocation and community program investment.

The 2017-18 charitable dollars were about the same as last year's total, despite the 2016-17 year seeing several one-time and unusual gifts.

The Federation raises money through its Annual Campaign and donor directed gifts, which is then allocated to organizations around the globe. The Federation leadership, through its Allocations Committee, acts as

**DOLLARS continued on PAGE 7**

# Breakfast planned to engage, educate media about Jewish community

The Jewish Federation of Pinellas and Pasco Counties will offer a first-of-its-kind breakfast for local media representatives to connect them to key leaders in the community and provide them with resources on Jewish life, reporting on Israel, and facts about the local community.

The meeting will be held on

Aug. 23 from 8 to 9 a.m. in the Federation's Community Room at its Largo office.

"The idea for this meeting emerged from the data we found in the 2017 demographic study, which reported that 44 percent of our community members perceive a moderate or great deal of anti-Semitism in the region. By

creating a strong working relationship with the media, we envision elevating the level of discourse to the point that this perception is decreased," said Aliza Norstein, chair of the Jewish Community Relations Council.

The event is open to all; specific invitations will include all reporters, editors, bloggers, and

calendar managers who maintain mainstream and localized news sources. Each participant will have the opportunity to meet individuals from across the Jewish community who serve as local experts on Jewish custom, Israeli politics, anti-Semitism, and Jewish life as well as will receive a compact and comprehensive guide to these

topics with contact information, Jewish calendar details, and key terms to use (and avoid) when reporting on Jewish issues.

Those interested in attending can register online after Aug. 6 at [www.jewishpinellas.org](http://www.jewishpinellas.org). The Federation is located at 13191 Starkey Road, Suite 8. For more information, call (727) 530-3223.

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## Meet Murray Zolkower,

World War II Veteran, who continues to play an active role in supporting Jewish life and culture in our community. At 97, Murray still takes an active role in the Jewish War Veterans activities, delivering toiletries to veterans across the region.



Our Campaign Begins on November 1st!

## Did you know?

In addition to cowboys, America's Wild West had its fair share of Jews. In fact, by 1900, there weren't any settlements west of the Mississippi without Jewish pioneers.

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- Aug 25.** The Florida Holocaust Museum Night with the Tampa Bay Rays
- Aug 26.** Newcomer Nosh
- Aug 28.** Jewish Women International Meet and Greet
- Sep 1.** Leil Selichot begins after nightfall



**You are Invited to Attend:**  
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of PINELLAS COUNTY • Established in 1986

An independent, bi-weekly newspaper owned by  
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Also publisher of the Jewish Press of Tampa  
[www.jewishpresspinellas.com](http://www.jewishpresspinellas.com)

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

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**Look at me!**

**PERSPECTIVE**

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



I'm taking a class this summer entitled "Building Resilience in Communities After Trauma," which focuses on the unique leadership roles required to do just that. The most interesting part of the class thus far is that so much about resilience and disaster response is about all that comes before the incident happens. Regardless of whether it is a natural disaster, political unrest, a terrorist attack, or an unpredictable tragedy, it's the relationalism at play in the lead-up that can accurately predict how effectively the community will adapt to change and move forward.

Relationalism is a lens through which we can consider how things relate to or are a function of other things, and makes something of an inanimate argument for nature versus nurture. Relationalism recognizes that we all have interpretive horizons from which we see things, and also that there exist invisible mechanisms that happens between these things, drawing all together into this thing we call "community."

In the class readings, the concept of "Ubuntu" is described as an originating concept of interpersonal relationalism: it's an African term to express the idea that a person is a person only through another person. In so many ways, ubuntu is at play in Jewish relationalism too.

My husband, Shane, and I recently had dinner with a (non-Jewish) couple we've been friends with for years. They no longer live in Pinellas, and are looking to sell their home in St. Pete, and as such asked for a realtor recommendation. I referred them to a professional in the Jewish community, noting that I had never worked with her personally but had heard good things about her work.

They went forward with this recommendation, working with her from a distance, and on the day of our dinner, they had finally met her in person. She was visiting the soon-to-be-listed property, and our friends apologized for the state of the house: their two young sons' toys peppered the floors, packing was still to be done, touch-up construction projects were in mid-stream.

The realtor took Susie by the shoulders and said, "Look at me. Look at me. This is your life. This is how it should look. Everything's fine."

It was an interaction that affected both of them enough for them to tell us separately of the details. "She's the Jewish mother I never had!" Joe said. "I have never had anyone say that to me - 'Look at me!' - and I believed her. This is how it should be, and everything will be fine!" Susie said.

Ubuntu at its best: they felt seen and understood - and felt like real people - through this near-stranger's remarks.

\* \* \*

An Instagram profile I enjoy following is the account run by the Israel Defense Forces. It's usually filled with handsome and adorable young soldiers doing what the IDF does: training exercises, wishing me a Shabbat Shalom, graduating, and guarding. From time to time, a soldier named "Hila" will pop up (and I *kvell*), or one soldier will propose to another he met in basic training.

Earlier this month, a bill went to committee in

Israel that caught my eye, under catchy headlines noting that filming of the IDF would be forbidden and thus potentially taking away #IDF on Instagram. The bill was proposed by MK Robert Ilatov of the Yisrael Beytenu party, and advanced from committee to Knesset. The bill as described by Ilatov would outlaw and make punishable by law not just the filming of defense forces but filming for the purpose of slandering them. The debate that this seemingly tiny bill sparked is fascinating: one side argues for a free and uninhibited media provision (including the ability to criticize), the other argues that the problem isn't with the filming but in the actions being captured (particularly those at the borders).

Israeli media reported on the debate widely, and shared that the bill advanced by a close margin on June 20, and continued argument ensued to prevent anti-Israel and pro-Palestinian groups from filming specifically to slander and undermine morale. Yet soon, the underlying truth about this bill emerged, and its underpinnings and rationale are nothing short of a fascinating reflection of the darker side of ubuntu.

It was all a farce. A charade played out, even if briefly, on a locally macro stage. It turns out that the bill was proposed by Ilatov as a means to gain visibility for his party and himself, not on a matter that actually mattered to him, but as a means of positioning for future legislation. The heated debates, the spotty reporting on committee progress, were all part of what turned out to be a charade. (The bill that passed committee actually gutted the original language and merely upped penalties for obstructing an IDF soldier.)

Yet Ilatov was only made real in the public lens through another person - the reporter, the reader, or even me as one making commentary. The issue of filming IDF soldiers, and the proposal of a bill that could very likely prove impossible to enforce if it ever did gain true traction, became real when we considered it as such. On its own, it is a vapid, hollow document; it gains life after we've breathed into it our consideration, our concern, and our ultimate taking of an opinion on it.

Community resilience isn't a simple task, and relies so much on the relationalism between individuals and institutions (including the media). Whether we call it partnership, collaboration, cooperation, coordination, strategic alignment, or any other number of corporate-sounding terms, each time we join together across the lines of our individual playing fields, we're making another investment in ubuntu, making not only each other real, but making a strong future together possible.

So look at me. Really look at me. I'm a person through you; together, we're people through each other.

*Liked it? Loathed it? Want to react? I would welcome your feedback and can be reached at emilie@jewishpinellas.org.*

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# RABBINICALLY — SPEAKING —

## Lessons from a flight attendant

By RABBI DANIELLE UPBIN  
Cong Beth Shalom, Clearwater

I recently flew on an airline known for its snarky, albeit entertaining, flight crew. As we prepared to disembark, we heard the usual script over the sound system, thanking the passengers for choosing airline X and welcoming us to the Tampa Bay area. I thought he was finished, but then the flight attendant went rogue and closed with these heartfelt words: “Be kind to others out there. Try not to be impatient, especially on the road. Know that you can truly make a difference.”

In that liminal moment between our safe containment on terra firma and the relatively unexpected nature of what lies ahead “out there,” his words spoke to me. Essentially, the “rabbi in the jump seat” was reworking the teaching of Hillel: “What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor, go forth and study.” (Babylonian Talmud, Sanhedrin 31a), which is an iteration of the verse from Torah: “Love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord your God” (Leviticus 19:18). The problem with pithy quotes is that as powerful as they are, their potency relies on action. Our “lived experience” is the teacher of their truth.

Our flight attendant likely felt the need to remind us of these holy teachings because our society seems to be losing its grip on the ethical life. We often remind our children of the “golden rule,” but as adults, we sometimes forget what it means. Notice how easy it is to get frazzled and impatient – especially during these long hot summer days. Sometimes even the slightest infraction creates inner-turbulence: somebody says the wrong thing or looks at us the wrong way, a slow driver holds us up when we are in a rush, another solicitor lights up our cell phone. It doesn’t take much to yank us off the path of civility.

Our tradition, however, reminds us that we have options in how we choose to respond.

We can make the conscious choice to act and react calmly – even pleasantly, when faced with the daily array of unpleasant situations. How does that work? The first step is to notice our unconscious reactions to daily disturbances. There is always that moment when we make a choice: to let go or to dig in, to offer a kind word or to sling an insult – or to say nothing at all. Notice how we pave a smooth path of compassion or a rocky road of harsh judgment. In our hands is the power to make or break a great day – for ourselves and for the people we meet.

In more familiar terms – whenever possible, “Be a Mensch.” I don’t think my flight attendant knows Yiddish, but he certainly knows what a Mensch does: “Be kind to others out there. Try not to be impatient. Know that you can truly make a difference.” If we all try a little harder, with a little more humility and a little more love, we can surely make our lives a little easier.

*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

### Temple B’nai Israel Clearwater

**New members event:** New members are invited to enjoy an intimate Shabbat dinner hosted by various congregants in their homes on Friday, Aug. 17 at 5 p.m., then attend Shabbat services at 7 p.m. with an opportunity to meet the clergy and see all that Temple B’nai Israel has to offer.

For more information call the temple office (727) 531-5829

**Religious school open house:** Try a new Jewish holiday food, learn a new song and see why this is not your parents’ religious school at an open house on Sunday, Aug. 19 from 9 a.m. to noon. This is a time to meet the teachers and hear about the temple’s educational programs for all generations.

For more information, email **Dani Gamson**, director of education and youth, at danig@tbclearwater.org

**Game night:** The Brotherhood is hosting a relaxing evening of playing cards with the guys on Monday, Aug. 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the Makom room.

**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.

**Playtime:** The temple invites preschoolers and their parents to gather with other families with young children on Sunday, Aug. 19 from 10 a.m. to noon. This is an opportunity for families to engage in fun activities with their tots. Non-members are welcome. Call the temple office for schedule and pricing information at (727) 531-5829.

**Pop-up shop:** See the latest in women’s designer fashions on Sunday, Aug. 19 from noon to 3 p.m. and Wednesday, Aug. 22 from 6-8 p.m. The event will feature CAbi’s fall line.

### Cong. Beth Shalom Clearwater

**Spiritual workshop:** A combination of guided meditation, Torah study and personal reflection are included in a summer series of workshops with **Rabbi Danielle Upbin**. The next session is Thursday, July 26 at 12:30 p.m. These sessions offer Jewish tools to nurture self-growth and spiritual awareness. New participants are welcome. Call the CBS office to RSVP.

**‘Prayer in Motion’:** An alternative Shabbat morning service, led by Rabbi Upbin, will take place on Saturday, Aug. 11 from 9:30-10:30 a.m. “Prayer in Motion” is a combination of study, discussion and personalization of the morning service along with guided, gentle movement to awaken the body and stir the soul. Come as you are and leave after the session or stay for the

main service and lunch.

**Talmud classes:** On Mondays and most Wednesdays, explore ancient legal tradition with **Dr. Priscilla Nathanson**. The class is open to all levels of knowledge. The Monday class is held after minyan from 10 - 11:15 a.m. and the Wednesday class is at 7 p.m. Contact the synagogue office at (727) 531-1418 to confirm dates of the classes.

**Lox & Learn:** Discuss the weekly Torah portion with **Rabbi David Weizman** every Thursday. There will be a breakfast beginning at 9:45 a.m. then Torah study after minyan at 10 a.m. Contact the congregation office with any questions at (727) 531-1418.

**Torah study:** Study the Torah with **Jason Palmer** on Saturday, July 28 at noon.

**Book chat:** The CBS Reads group will have a wine and words session on Sunday, Aug. 5 at 5 p.m. to discuss *Dinner at the Center of the World* by Nathan Englander. RSVPs are requested. Call the office at (727) 531-1418.

### Chabad of Clearwater

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

### Cong. B’nai Israel St. Petersburg

**Special services:** The congregation will hold Erev Tisha B’Av services on Saturday, July 21 at 8:15 p.m. and hold Tisha B’Av Services, Sunday, July 22 at 9 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

**Guess Who’s Coming to Shabbat?** Congregants host monthly Shabbat dinners at their homes, welcoming participation in the beautiful tradition of the Friday night Shabbat dinner. If interested in participating on Friday, Aug. 3 as a host or guest, contact the synagogue office at (727) 381-4900.

**Welcome back dinner:** Welcome **Rabbi Philip Weintraub** and his family to the community, install a new board of directors and partake in a Welcome Back Shabbat Dinner on Friday, Aug. 24 at 6 p.m. Contact the office for pricing and to RSVP at [info@cbistpete.org](mailto:info@cbistpete.org).

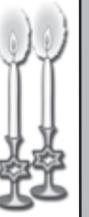
**Popsicle social:** Children and their families are invited on Sunday, Aug. 19 at noon after religious school for a popsicle social. RSVP for this free event to [info@cbistpete.org](mailto:info@cbistpete.org) or call the office.

### Cong. Beth Shalom Gulfport

**Israel trip:** The congregation is planning a trip to Israel next year. For more information, call the synagogue at (727) 321-3380.

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### Temple Ahavat Shalom Palm Harbor

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### Young Israel Chabad of Pinellas County

**Shabbat learning:** Attend a class on “Ethics of our Fathers” at the Chabad center an hour before sunset on Shabbat afternoons. The class is free and no reservation is needed.

For more information, call (727) 789-0408 or email [info@yichabad.com](mailto:info@yichabad.com).

### Chabad of West Pasco

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

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

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

### Temple Beth David Spring Hill

**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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**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](http://www.ahavatshalom.org) • Affiliated with Union for Reform Judaism

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

**Temple B’NAI ISRAEL** — 1685 S. Belcher Road, Clearwater, 33764 • Rabbi Daniel Treiser • cantorial soloist, Laura Berkson • Services: Friday, 7:00 p.m. • Telephone: (727) 531-5829 • Website: [www.TBclearwater.org](http://www.TBclearwater.org) • Affiliated with Union for Reform Judaism

### Conservative

**Congregation BETH SHALOM** — 1325 S. Belcher Road, Clearwater 33764 • Rabbi David Weizman • Rabbi Danielle Upbin, associate • Services: Friday: 6:30 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m., Sunday 9 a.m., Mon. & Thurs 8:30 a.m. • Telephone: (727) 531-1418 • Website: [www.cbclearwater.org](http://www.cbclearwater.org) • Affiliated with United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

**Congregation BETH SHOLOM** — 1844 54th St. S., Gulfport 33707 • Evan Cohen, lay leader • Services: Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. • Telephone: (727) 321-3380 • Website: [sholomgulfport.org](http://sholomgulfport.org) • Unaffiliated.

**Congregation B’NAI ISRAEL** — 300 58th St. N., St. Petersburg 33710 • Rabbi Jacob Luski • Cantor Jonathan Schultz • Services: Friday 6:00 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m., Mon. - Fri. 7:45 a.m., Sun. 9 a.m.; evening minyan, 6:30 p.m. • Telephone: (727) 381-4900 • Website: [www.cbistpete.org](http://www.cbistpete.org) • Affiliated with United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

### Orthodox

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

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

### PASCO COUNTY Conservative

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

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

### HERNANDO COUNTY Reform

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### Orthodox

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

# Israeli firms see Tampa as fertile ground for expansion

By RACHEL MINETTI  
Jewish Press

About 500 business owners, investors, and others packed into the Bryan Glazer Family JCC's ballroom for the second annual Florida-Israel Business Accelerator (FIBA) Innovation Fusion event to listen to Israeli entrepreneurs pitch their products.

FIBA is hoping the Israeli businesses can cultivate local investors, establish a U.S. base in the Tampa Bay area and grow their market here and expanding their networks, the event served as a platform to offer advice to business owners, investors, and startups.

This year's event on June 13 featured presentations from eight Israeli companies as well as two keynote speakers, Aron Di Castro of Waze and Danny Brigido of Wix, both start-ups out of Israel that have become highly successful.

"We are seeking bridges between Israelis and Floridians," said Guy Gilady, Deputy Consul General for Israel in Miami.

State Sen. Dana Young, Florida Rep. Jackie Toledo, and County Commissioner Sandy Murman presented a \$750,000 grant from Florida's Department of Economic Opportunity to FIBA to ensure the continuation of the mission of innovation and entrepreneurship in Tampa. All three emphasized the desire for Tampa to become the best tech community in the state.

While FIBA chooses to work with Israeli companies that have moved past the startup phase and into the next steps of establishing a workforce, creating offices in the U.S., "We hope that platforms and events like this will foster relationships between business from both sides, find opportunities for cooperation, and basically increase the economic activity between our two countries," Giladi said.

The presentation kicked off with a video from the 2017 event. Tampa Bay Lightning owner Jeff Vinik, who invested in one of the Israeli companies that FIBA brought here last year, spoke over upbeat music about how Tampa will be one of the fastest growing cities in the country over the next 10 to 20 years with a 2 percent population growth each year.

Manager of the Wix Customer Solutions office in Miami, Danny Brigido, spoke on challenges that startups come across and how Wix overcame some of those challenges to get to where they are now. Wix is a website development platform for small businesses. When Wix built its Miami office a year and a half ago, Brigido was tasked with managing a group of about 30 employees – the office now employees more than 120 people.

"I believe it was the right choice to come to Florida," said Brigido. Wix's previous office in tech-hub San Francisco was competing for highly-qualified employees in a cutthroat environment. "When Wix got into Miami, we were fresh, we were new, there weren't that many other tech companies that were recruiting or offering what we had to offer so we gained a lot of key individuals."

Brigido also placed emphasis on creating a comfortable and collaborative workplace, which is important in the tech business, as priorities change quickly and the workforce needs to be prepared to handle the constant changes.

The eight companies that were featured not only presented their ideas in hopes of gaining investments, but also discussed their business structures and how they plan to grow. Each company showed a promotional video and then participated in a question and answer session with Rachel Feinman, executive director of FIBA.

ECONcrete joined with FIBA earlier this year and has already been working with local business to bring their eco-engineered marine infrastructure to Florida's largest cargo port in Tampa. ECONcrete executives talked about their construction material that would suit the needs of the community while protecting the wildlife.

"We're looking to raise funds to establish our entity right here in Tampa," said Tomer Schatzberger, vice president of marketing for UC-Care, a company aimed at improving prostate cancer diagnosis and treatment. "This is a really great opportunity to present our solution and get investments for our company."

Shalom Nakdimon, CEO and founder of WiseShelf, a company offering inventory management solutions for retailers, spoke about building successful tech companies in a business environment that is constantly changing.

Shaked Lev explained the platform for his company, Say, a name-tag and phone app communication system that he hopes will change the role of business cards at conferences and events such as Innovation Fusion.

BetterCare, a company with a care management platform aimed at improving care in nursing facilities, and Nucleon, a company with a focus on identifying and analyzing cyber threats, have also been actively involved in scouting out places in Tampa to open their offices.

Others in the 2018 group of companies working with FIBA include GlobeKeeper, a tech company that developed an encrypted communication platform to keep security personnel safe and reduce costs, and Intervyo, developer of a digital interview simulation engine that uses human predictive analytics to screen candidates and assess their suitability for a job.

Waze's DiCastro, wrapped up the event by discussing the company's new Connected Citizens program, a free data-sharing program in which Tampa already participates. The popular GPS navigation app – now owned by Google – paired up with the Florida Department of Transportation when Hurricane Irma threatened the last year by posting locations of available evacuation shelters.

FIBA focuses not only on embracing business in the Jewish community, but for the entirety of Tampa.

Based at the Glazer JCC in Tampa, FIBA was created in 2016 by the Tampa JCCs and Federation with a \$1 million state grant to offer office space to select Israeli companies so they can get to know the Tampa Bay area, giving them access to the community's industry experts, corporations, and investors.

FIBA's Feinman pitched the Tampa Bay area as a good place for Israeli companies to establish U.S. markets. "From the number of small businesses to larger businesses,

restaurants, and real estate developments," Feinman said. "Everything has really felt like it's boomed since we started coming out of the recession in the last eight years or so."

Two of the companies from FIBA's 2017 cohort of Israeli businesses achieved notable success after coming to Tampa. StemRad, which makes protection equipment to shield individuals from deadly gamma radiation, scored a \$6 million investment led by Vinik, and WeissBecker, a beverage consumption and analytics company, was purchased for a reported \$80 million by Anheuser-Busch.



Guy Giladi - Deputy Consul General of Israel to Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Puerto Rico, based in Miami., speaking at the FIBA Innovation Fusion event in Tampa.



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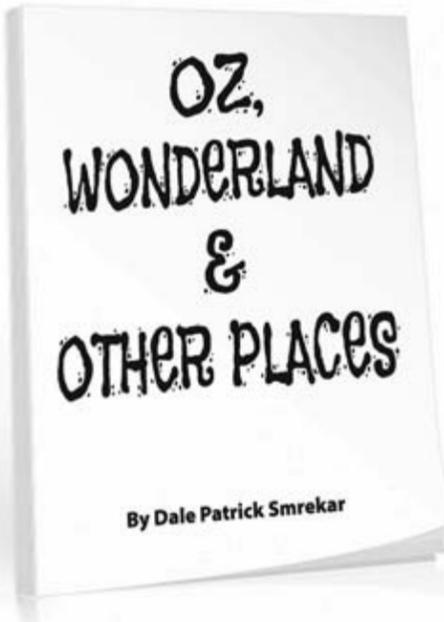
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# PLAY

• CONTINUED from FRONT PAGE

play's target audience. The panelists talked about what the term "bad Jew" means to them and shared anecdotes relating the term as in-group, self-deprecating humor.

So, it would seem perhaps that the title, *Bad Jews*, is the Jewish playwright's "in joke" with the Jewish community, particularly with the younger generation, intending to ask what sort of behavior constitutes being a "good" or "bad" Jew in the world today.

The characters, through their interactions, beg two questions: Is being a good Jew more about living one's life according to Jewish ethical teachings or one's observance of the rituals? And, what is the relevance of legacy to either?

These were the questions the panelists related to in terms of their own lives. One panelist was the granddaughter of Holocaust survivors; one was married to a non-Jewish man, but devoutly Jewish herself; one had left the faith, but was now finding his way back into the community; one was a deeply devout student of the faith. Some talked about their trips to Israel with beautiful reverence while others explained why they hadn't yet gone. Every one of them felt remembering Jewish history was important. Altogether they represented the very questions the play explores. They also represented the other diverse "voice" this production seeks to relate to - millennials.

Further, the playwright has contended that these questions of identity should resonate with



A scene from 'Bad Jews'

the non-Jewish audience as well: Which of the traditions/legacy and ethical contract of your group will you keep or discard in your quest to become human in today's changing world?

However, as universal as the theme might be seen in this way, Harmon wrote, *Bad Jews* from his own experience as a young Jewish American and that particular perspective enriches the play with its particular voice.

Harmon, 35, said in an interview that the seed for the play – and the title – was a Yom HaShoah ceremony he attended while a student at Northwestern University. Grandchildren of survivors were speaking about their grandparents' experiences. Unlike the emotional response when hearing the stories directly from survivors, Harmon said, the retelling was "just kind of scary and it jarred me."

Kara Goldberg, American Stage's advancement associate, who moderated the panel discussion, talked about how the play's four college-age characters might well represent the "Four Children" story at Passover: (1) "The wise and faithful" would be Daphna (here played by Jenny Lester); (2) "The wicked and mocking," her cousin Liam (Jackson Goldberg); (3) "The simple and vaguely curious," Liam's younger brother Jonah (Matt Acquard); and, "Unable to even ask the questions" would be Melody (Kate Berg), Liam's well intentioned, but clueless *shiksa* girlfriend.

In writing about the play, Rabbi Howard A. Berman of the Central Reform Temple of Boston also pointed out that Harmon's characters are wonderfully three-dimensional: "The wise Daphna is also arrogant and offensive; mocking alienated Liam does have a deep down connection; and, in the end it is the simple inarticulate Jonah and the even more ethereal and clueless Melody that together emerge as the most redeeming and positive forces."

This complexity gives the play life and substance, but also challenges the actors.

Rabbi Berman goes on to note his concern with, "the challenge presented by the figure of Daphna—who embodies much of the biased, narrow minded and exclusionary zeal of 'true believers' of all faiths. Her personal insecurities and inner struggles are cloaked in her holier than thou diatribes..."

Such an unsympathetic Daphna could come off as a tedious caricature and the play just a long irritating family argument. And, what with the set designer's expressed

intention to make the small apartment make us feel "closed in for the long haul," the audience might cower and miss many of the finer points Daphna makes.

Actor Jenny Lester told the *Jewish Press* she had first seen Daphna as "utterly insufferable," and thought, "I must play her."

On further study she has come to see, "both Daphna and Liam as brilliant sparring partners, both totally committed to their beliefs about religion, the importance of tradition and both fiercely devoted to their family."

Lester comes from a Reform Jewish, show business family in Los Angeles and credits her father with instilling in her, "a sense of utter pride in the resilience of our people; the humor of the great Jewish comedians; the importance of carrying out the traditions so they don't die out; and, a fierce love for the pursuit of knowledge." She added to this, "Sometimes the most Jewish thing in the world is knowing how to challenge and ask questions."

One of those questions that remains: Why *Bad Jews*? At the panel discussion, an elderly man, introducing himself as a "Holocaust survivor," said he thinks he has the real answer.

"I have no problem with the play. It's a good play," he said. "But I think (Harmon) should have taken his grandmother's advice. I think he only named it that to sell tickets."

\* \* \*

The play runs Wednesdays – Sundays through Aug. 5. Tickets are \$39 and \$49, depending on the day and time.

A "free Community Conversation Part 2: Jewish & American, Today" & Tomorrow will be held Sunday, July 29 at 4:30 p.m. following the matinee performance. The inter-generational panel discussion will focus on Jewish legacy and family life as millennials grow into adulthood, balancing tradition and progress and how differing perspectives on culture and history impact family dynamics, as well as the fabric of community. Confirmed panelist, as of press time, is Barbara Mazer Gross, executive director of Studio@620, congregant of Temple Beth-El, and member of musical group The Jammin Jews.

There will also be chatback sessions immediately following the performances on Thursday, July 19 and Sunday, July 22. Audience members will have the opportunity to talk with the cast and ask questions about the play, the characters, and the process, plus respond to the story and ideas prompted by the production. There is no charge for ticketholders.

The *Jewish Press* is the Community Engagement partner for *Bad Jews*.

American Stage is located at 163 Third St. N., in St. Petersburg. For tickets, call (727) 823-7529 or email [boxoffice@americanstage.org](mailto:boxoffice@americanstage.org). More information can be found at [www.americanstage.org](http://www.americanstage.org).

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# DOLLARS

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the “eyes and ears” of the community, performing the due diligence required to fund the programs of highest need. This year’s allocations went into effect on July 1 and will be distributed throughout the year.

“Our Federation has expanded its reach so far beyond what it used to do, and we’re able to do so much with a modest budget. I think that it’s a very positive reflection of how our team lives our Jewish values by really spending their time on the things that matter most: creating Jewish connections and experiences, putting out more cultural and heritage focused programs, and encouraging Jewish living,” said Emilie Socash, Federation’s executive director.

The Federation’s 12 percent overhead represents \$150,000 of the total budget and includes the “core” expenses of keeping the organization running such as utilities, IT, postage, and a portion of the salaries for its five staff members who are responsible for programs and events, education and fundraising.

“In the past year we were able to reduce our salary overhead by about \$40,000 by reconfiguring our staff, and yet we also look forward to our most dynamic program year yet,” said Socash.

## Local allocations

Specific allocations were made to:

• **Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services:** \$157,000 in annual allocation, an increase of \$5,000 over the previous year’s funding. The Federation allocation will support Jewish Family Services counseling center activities, the Koved emergency fund, and the Holocaust survivor support program.

• **The Jewish Press:** \$68,000, an increase of \$20,000 over last year. Funding will support home delivery of the paper, with particular emphasis on funding delivery to at least 2,000 additional homes in Pinellas and Pasco Counties.

• **Menorah Manor:** Fully funded at \$19,334, this is an increase of \$2,504. Funding will support community rabbinical activities, particularly for end-of-life care, as well as the continuation of the popular YOUiversity program.

• **Empath Health:** A newly funded organization, at \$2,500, the money will be used to create a therapeutic Jewish music program for their end-of-life clients.

• **Hillels of the Florida Suncoast:** Funded at \$10,000, the money will support Jewish programs at Eckerd College, including Shabbat programming and the development of a new “adopt-a-student” program.

• **Jewish Burial Society of Pinellas County:** Funding of \$31,000 is an increase of \$20,000 over last year. Funding will continue to maintain the grounds of Chapel Hill Memorial Park and also allow for maintenance of expansion activities. The increased funding will be used to launch a program to shore up internal operations and ensure smooth operations over time.

• **Philip Benjamin Tower:** Funded at \$7,280, this will support the Shabbat dinner program for residents.

• **Florida Holocaust Museum:** Funding of \$25,000 represents an increase of \$5,000 over last year. Funding will support upcoming exhibits at the museum with an emphasis on community partnership initiatives.

• **Jewish War Veterans:** \$2,000 to support VA hospital visits and care packages.

## Federation programming

Federation funding to be invested in direct community impact included:

• \$18,000 was earmarked to fund **summer camp scholarships**.

• The **“Federation Fellows”** program, funded with \$22,000, will continue for its third year, welcoming five young adults as regular volunteers for the Federation who will each receive a full scholarship for the Jewish Federations of North America Young Adult summer mission to Israel at the end of their year-long volunteer term. Additional young adult programming was funded at \$2,500.

• As part of the Federation’s **“Partnership Together”** program with the Hadera-Eiron region and continued relationship with the Jewish Agency for Israel, a group of teens will visit our area from Israel in late July. The connection to the region and the program also has supported visits from Pinellas temples on their own missions to people-to-people activities. Funding of the Partnership Together effort of \$15,000 was approved.

• The Federation will continue its successful **arts and culture initiative** with \$72,000 in funding that will be used to fund and promote events and engagement opportunities across the community, both in partnership with synagogues and agencies as well as stand-alone projects. A new initiative under the arts and culture umbrella will be “Federation Fridays,” a weekly series of daytime programs happening in the Federation’s community room offering education, engagement, and socializing.

• Additional programming funds totaling \$16,700 were budgeted for the **Tampa Bay Jewish Film Festival** (now expanded to include

the Gasparilla International Film Festival), the **Jewish Community Relations Council**, and general programming.

• **PJ Library and family programming** will continue this year, with a Federation investment of \$42,000, an increase of \$9,000. The program will expand this year under the direction of a new Young Family Coordinator position at the Federation, with farther-reaching ongoing programs and opportunities for families to connect with each other.

• **The Jewish Community Camp** initiative was funded for a third year for the summer of 2019 with an investment of \$25,000 to offset program needs.

## Allocations to Israel

Nine new Israeli or Israel-related organizations were added to the list of recipient organizations. Continuing and new internationally related organizations receiving funding from the Federation are:

• **Israel Action Network**, \$450, promoting North American action and advocacy on behalf of Israel.

• **The Jewish Agency for Israel electives** totaling \$30,000. Of this amount, \$20,000 will go to **Youth Futures**, a program which offers mentorship, individual success plans, interdisciplinary meetings, and toolkits for building self-esteem of Israeli children living in poverty. \$5,000 was earmarked for **Nativ**, a program which offers pluralistic Jewish and Zionist educational programs for non-traditional Jewish soldiers in the IDF. The final \$5,000 was budgeted for **Mechinot**, a program for young Israeli high school graduates who come from challenging backgrounds that prepares them for military service through a range of targeted pre-army academies.

• **Leket**, \$5,000, to support the continued growth of this efficient meal rescue program which takes institutional unused meals and serves them to people in need within 24 hours.

• **Jewish Federations of North America Overseas Core** funding, \$155,000

• **Birthright Israel**, \$5,000, supporting the national effort to send young adults to Israel for free.

• **Ethiopian National Project**, \$17,000. The ENP focuses its efforts on integrating Ethiopian-Israeli teens into society through a unique funding and programming partnership of social service organizations, the government of Israel, Jewish Federations of North America, and others.

## Other recipients

The Federation also approved continued support of a variety of national organizations that have meaningful reach within and beyond our community. These include:

• **HIAS**, \$250, to show support for the international work of rescu-

ing and supporting refugees.

• **Jewish Council for Public Affairs**, \$1,100, to support the mission of media literacy, accuracy in Middle East reporting, and ongoing training endeavors.

• **Florida Association of Jewish Federations**, \$1,100, for ongoing legislative briefings and lobbying representation.

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A complete report of the Federation’s charitable revenues and expenses will be available on its website, [www.jewishpinellas.org](http://www.jewishpinellas.org).

The Federation always welcomes community input and participation in the allocations process and seeks new members of the Allocations Committee for a year-long commitment. Interested? Contact Diana Morin at [dmorin@jewishpinellas.org](mailto:dmorin@jewishpinellas.org) for more information.

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# Bay area investors meet ‘Oracle of Omaha,’ help raise \$80 million for Israel Bonds

Billionaire Warren Buffett recently welcomed investors, including two from Pinellas County and three from Tampa, to an event in his home state of Nebraska in support of Israel Bonds. Each attendee had to agree to purchase at least \$1 million in Israel Bonds.

It is the third event in the past 18 months in which the Berkshire Hathaway magnate has drummed up investment in the Development Corporation for Israel, commonly known as Israel Bonds.

Two of those events, including the one on June 7 in which five Tampa Bay area investors attended, were held in Omaha, where Buffett is based. That event alone helped secure \$80 million in Israel Bonds

investments. Among those at the event were Irwin Novack, CEO of St. Petersburg-based Kane’s Furniture; Craig Sher, executive chairman of the Sembler Company, also based in St. Petersburg; Dr. Rob Lewenson of Tampa, CEO of Eye Doctor’s Optical Outlets; and Stuart and Tyler Lasher, both of Tampa, managing director and president respectively of Quantum Capital Partners, Inc.

The exclusive evening with the famed “Oracle of Omaha,” which took place at the University of Nebraska Medical Center’s Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center, included a dinner reception attended by more than 70 investors from the U.S. and Canada, in addition

to Israeli dignitaries and members of the diplomatic corps, including Shai Babad, Director General, Israel’s Finance Ministry; Ambassador Danny Danon, Israel’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations; and Ambassador Dani Dayan, Consul General of Israel in New York.

Buffett, who made Israeli tool company ISCAR Metalworks his first major overseas acquisition in 2006, spoke warmly of the Jewish state.

Calling Israel’s independence, “a good day for the world,” Buffet said, “I’ve lived through Israel’s entire 70-year history and I believe it is one of the most remarkable countries in the world.”

He explained his commitment



Photos by David Radler  
Warren Buffett and Craig Sher



Warren Buffett and Irwin Novack

to Israel and Israel Bonds “I have nothing but good feelings about what I am doing. The United States and Israel will always be linked. It is a good thing for Israel that there is an America, and it is a good thing for America that there is an Israel.”

Israel Bonds Vice President of Sales Stuart Garowitz announced sales for all three events – two in Omaha and one in New York – totaled \$290 million, declaring, “This could not have happened without the full support of Warren Buffett.”

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## Ginsburg goes Jerusalem to get award, attend film screening

JERUSALEM (JTA) – Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg described how grateful she was for her Jewish heritage during a screening of a new documentary film, *RBG*, about her life and career at the Jerusalem Cinematheque.

“The demand for justice, peace and enlightenment runs through Jewish history and tradition,” she said, describing how she is reminded of this fact every day when she enters her judicial chambers and is confronted with a poster proclaiming the biblical verse “Justice, justice thou shalt pursue.”

“My room has the only mezuzah in the U.S. Supreme Court,” she said, noting that “growing up Jewish, the concept of *tikkun olam*, repairing tears in the community and making things better for people less fortunate, was part of my heritage. The Jews are the people of the book and learning is prized above all else. I am lucky to have that heritage.”

In Jerusalem to receive a lifetime achievement award from the Genesis Prize Foundation, Ginsburg was feted by Israel’s political and judicial elites.

Former Israeli Supreme Court President Aharon Barak called Ginsburg “one of the great legal minds of our time; an outstanding Jewish jurist whose fearless pursuit of human rights, equality and justice for all stems from her Jewish values.”

Speaking at the ceremony, Ginsburg evoked the memory of Anne Frank, who questioned common gender roles in her famous diary. “When I became active in the movement to open doors to women, enabling them to enter occupations once closed to them – lawyering and judging, bartending, policing and firefighting, for example – I was heartened by the words of a girl of my generation,” said Ginsburg, 85.

“I am a judge, born, raised and proud of being a Jew. The demand for justice, for peace and for enlightenment runs through the entirety of Jewish history and Jewish tradition. I hope, in all the years I have the good fortune to continue serving on the bench of the Supreme Court of the United States, I will have the strength and courage to remain steadfast in the service of that demand,” she said.

Initially offered the Genesis Foundation’s annual Genesis Prize, which comes with a cash grant, Ginsburg said she demurred, worried the presence of Israeli politicians on the selection committee would run afoul of the Constitution’s restriction on government officials receiving gifts from foreign powers. She said it was only after the foundation agreed to create a new lifetime achievement award whose selection committee was apolitical that she relented and agreed to be honored.



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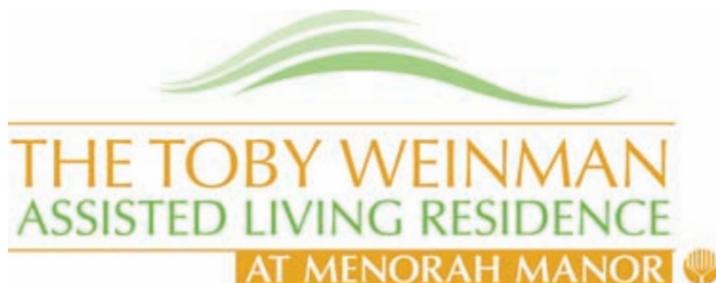
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**Germany boosts funding for Holocaust survivors by \$88 million**

Germany has agreed to increase its funding for social welfare services for Holocaust survivors by \$88 million. The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany in its announcement Tuesday said the increase brings global allocations by Germany for 2019 to \$564 million.

The Claims Conference and representatives of the German government negotiated the increase in Washington, D.C. During the negotiations, the German officials were taken on a tour of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and heard from survivors.

"The significant increase for social welfare services secured by our negotiating team will lead to more home care, food support, medicine and transportation services for Jewish Holocaust survivors around the world," said Claims Conference President Julius

**Just a nosh..**

Compiled from news wires

Berman.

Also as a result of the negotiations, 55,000 Holocaust survivors in Central and Eastern Europe will see an increase in pensions and more child survivors who were living in hiding or under a false identity will be eligible to receive payments.

**Illinois' Republican governor calls on voters to reject neo-Nazi candidate**

The governor of Illinois, who called on a neo-Nazi candidate for a Chicago-area congressional seat to drop out of the race, has called on voters to "vote for anybody" else.

Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner denounced Arthur Jones, also a Republican and a former leader of the American Nazi Party, advising voters in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District to "vote for anybody but Arthur Jones. Nazis have no place in our country and no one should vote for him."

Rauner said that the Illinois GOP and the national Republican Party did everything they could to get Jones off the ballot, for which he ran uncontested.

Republican Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas, a former presidential candidate, was the first to call on Illinois voters to vote for a write-in candidate or the Democrat.

**Minnesota House candidate called Israel apartheid regime**

A Somali-American congressional candidate running for the Democratic nomination in Minnesota called Israel "the apartheid Israeli regime."

Ilhan Omar's tweet came in response to

accusations that a tweet she wrote in 2012, accusing Israel of "evil doings," amounts to anti-Semitism. In an interview with ABC News for a segment titled "Progressive Democrats increasingly criticize Israel, and could reap political rewards," Omar rejected accusations of anti-Semitism by conservative critics.

Among her tweets is a response to a critic who had accused her of anti-Semitism: "Drawing attention to the apartheid Israeli regime is far from hating Jews..."

In the 2012 tweet, Omar wrote "Israel has hypnotized the world, may Allah awaken the people and help them see the evil doings of Israel. #Gaza #Palestine #Israel"

The ABC segment noted the recent upset primary victory of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez in New York, calling her one of several progressives whose willingness to criticize Israel's actions have paid off politically.



**Summer at Camp Gan**

Campers at Chabad of St. Petersburg's Camp Gan Israel are having jam-packed days of action, friendship and memories such as baking for moms, left, and dancing to beats of the drum circle, above.

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## Former student now board president of Hillel Academy

Dr. Seth Forman was recently elected president of the board of trustees for Hillel Academy in Tampa, completing a journey that began when he was a student at the school and continued when his children became students there as well.



Dr. Seth Forman

Forman succeeds Stanford Solomon as board president.

The selection of Forman is part of a move to select a new leadership team, new board additions and an ambitious strategic roadmap to secure the school's future in the Tampa Bay area, according to a prepared statement from the school.

"It's important for this community, for any major community, to have a thriving Jewish day school, as it helps to prepare and educate the young Jewish leaders of tomorrow," said Forman, adding that he is very enthusiastic about the school's new direction and focus.

Forman and his three brothers

are graduates of Hillel Academy. In addition, all of their children are Hillel Academy graduates or are current students at the school.

Forman, who graduated from Hillel Academy in 1986, practices clinical dermatology, and dermatopathology in Tampa. He also is the principal investigator and CEO of Forward Clinical Trials, where he has led multiple research endeavors for psoriasis and other chronic dermatological conditions.

He also has served as a regional member of the National Psoriasis Foundation (NPF) and as the medical director of the NPFs "Walk for a Cure" in 2015.

In addition, Forman serves the community as a member of the Rays 100, a group of business leaders focused on keeping the Tampa Bay Rays in the region.

Forman and his wife, Hannah, live in Tampa with their three children. Sons Sam and Gabriel attend Hillel Academy, in eighth and fourth grade respectively. Daughter Abigail is a rising junior at Berkeley Preparatory School.

## NEW RABBI

• CONTINUED from FRONT PAGE

exceptionally warm and welcoming. That will help assuage some initial nervousness, he said.

He is looking forward to becoming a part of the community, both inside the synagogue and away from it.

In announcing the selection of Rabbi Weintraub, the Rabbinic Search committee noted that he "brings a very diverse skill set to our Kehilla (congregation)" and "prides himself on his relationships working across generations."

Rabbi Weintraub said he is sure Rabbi Luski did some things better than he can and maybe he will be able to do some things, possibly social media, better than him.

Inevitably, he will do some things differently, but said, "If there is something I see that I want to change, I want to work with the congregation and want their voice in the process. ... For me, being a rabbi is about the relationships and getting to know people."

Unlike his predecessor who was fresh out of rabbinical school when he became rabbi at Congregation B'nai Israel, Rabbi Weintraub, 34, comes to the synagogue with some pulpit experience.

He received his rabbinic ordina-

tion and master's, with a concentration in pastoral care, in 2011 at Jewish Theological Seminary. Prior to that he earned a bachelor's degree in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies at Brandeis University.

For the past seven years he has served as rabbi at the 130-year-old Congregation Agudas Israel in Newberry, NY. A certified chaplain, he also worked at a local hospital. He served as treasurer of the Greater Newburgh Interfaith Council.

Rabbi Weintraub and wife Rebecca have two daughters, Hannah, 5, and Eliana, nearly 2. From the kids' visits to relatives in Florida they developed a love for Publix mac and cheese, so he said they are happy it is now conveniently available. He also said he already knows about Jo-Els, the longstanding kosher deli and market in St. Petersburg.

They found a new home within walking distance of B'nai Israel and Rabbi Weintraub is looking forward to taking the family to the beach and getting to know St. Petersburg.

Born in New York, Rabbi Weintraub grew up in the Atlanta area and was active in United Synagogue Youth (USY). He recalls attending some USY conventions in Florida and said his only other memories of Florida were going to Disney World and going on cruises with his family out of Miami.

"All my memories of Florida deal with positive Jewish experiences," he said. He has in-laws in Boynton Beach, where there is a heavier concentration of the Jewish population than here. But having a smaller, more spread-out Jewish community here only means he will need to get out into the neighborhoods to meet folks, some who may be unlikely to attend shul.

In Newberry, he had a twice weekly gathering at a local coffee house and says he will probably do the same here.

"I see my rabbinic career as one for me to pastor and teach the Jewish community, but also to be a learner," he said. "It is important to be the face of the congregation, representing the members and our faith in public" and that this should happen inside the synagogue and outside.

He said he wants to meet the mayor, work with the city and local Jewish organizations in any way that is helpful and wants to become an integral part of both the secular and Jewish community.

"I love liturgy but that is not everybody's way of getting into Jewish life. So, social and educational events and senior and youth groups are important, and one of the things I want to look at is where our members live and what they need," Rabbi Weintraub said.

He said it is important to cater to the various interests of all the demographic groups and create different opportunities to engage them in Judaism. "We can invite them in all different ways, like the dreidel run and being involved in St. Pete Pride" and other ways to make the public feel engaged and welcomed.

In only a short time, new members are likely to notice two things about Rabbi Weintraub that are different from Rabbi Luski: He is a guitar player and he carries around \$2 bills.

He uses the \$2 bills for many purchases and that alone makes folks smile and remember him and sometimes stop and chat with him.

"I am an amateur guitar player," he said. Rabbi Weintraub said there will be times with or without the congregation's cantor he may play the guitar for preschool kids at the synagogue or incorporate it into other events. "For me, it is relaxing and a way to inspire and bring joy."

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## Birthright Israel reunion draws crowd to beach

More than 55 young adults turned out last month for the first local Birthright Israel reunion.

The Birthright Beach Bash on Treasure Island brought together Tampa Bay area participants in Birthright during the past 18 years. Those in attendance – many with their young children – enjoyed Israeli food from Meze 119, sharing Birthright Israel memories, and watching the sun set over the Gulf of Mexico.

The event was sponsored by



the Tampa Jewish Federation, and the Jewish Federation of Pinellas & Pasco Counties, in partnership with Hillels of the Florida Sun-coast.

Above, Micah Friedman holds a beach ball during an “ice breaker” game. When the ball was passed to participants, they had to introduce themselves and then answer a question written on the beach ball such as: What’s one word that describes your birthright experience? What do you carry with you from Birthright? What’s your favorite Birthright memory? Favorite Israeli food?

At left, The next generation of potential Birthright Israel travelers have some hoola hoop fun at the reunion of their parents and others.



## Rabbi Aaron Lever named chaplain at Menorah Manor

Rabbi Aaron Lever is joining Menorah Manor as chaplain and director of spiritual care.

His responsibilities include the Marion and Bernard L. Samson Nursing Center, Toby Weinman Assisted Living Residence, and community referrals for end-of-life support with partnering organizations.

Rabbi Lever is replacing Rabbi Leah Herz, who for more than eight years served in the roles Rabbi Lever is assuming. Rabbi Herz is moving to California to be closer to her son and daughter-in-law.

Rabbi Lever has resided in the Tampa Bay community for the past 12 years, serving as a chaplain with the Moffitt Cancer Center and several positions of increasing responsibility with Gulfside Hospice and Pasco Palliative Care in Land O’Lakes. In addition, Rabbi Lever is a board-certified chaplain. He is married to Hazzan Jodi M. Sered-Lever, spiritual leader of Congregation Mekor Shalom in Tampa. The couple has one daughter.

Rabbi Lever graduated and received his rabbinic ordination

from Jewish Theological Seminary in New York. Prior to this he received his master’s in Jewish education from the Jewish Theological Seminary and bachelor’s in psychology and political science from the University of Rochester in New York. He has written numerous publications and participated in local and national presentations.

“We look forward to having Rabbi Lever on the Menorah Manor team,” said Rob Goldstein, Menorah Manor CEO.

Menorah Manor, based in St. Petersburg, is a not-for-profit community sponsored organization providing care in a homelike Jewish environment to seniors on Florida’s Gulf Coast. Its services include skilled nursing, assisted living, Alzheimer’s care, rehabilitation and adult day care.

For more information, contact Menorah Manor at (727) 345-2775.



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## Kosher agency says it can no longer vouch for many beverages sold at Starbucks

(JTA) — A kosher-certifying agency said it can no longer vouch for the kashrut of many beverages served at Starbucks. The Star-K agency said it is ending a program under which it deemed many Starbucks products permissible without actually certifying them as kosher.

Plenty of kosher consumers aren't taking the news lying down: Initiating a change.org petition calling to "Make Starbucks Kosher Again."

Star-K for years has kept a list of the drinks prepared at Starbucks that it called "kosher friendly." The stores were not under the certifying agency's supervision, but Star-K regularly checked in with the company to determine which items were kosher friendly — that is, contained no objectionable ingredients. In recent years, even Frappuccinos were considered OK for kosher observers.

But several years ago, Starbucks began selling sandwiches, includ-

ing some made with bacon and non-kosher cheese. That brought up kashrut issues, like whether the utensils used to make the coffee were washed with utensils that had been used with non-kosher items in stores.

Nevertheless, Star-K has posted a limited list of Starbucks drinks that can be considered acceptable including cafe Americano, espresso, iced caramel brulee latte and nitro cold brew served in paper cups. Exceptions are also made for people who are traveling — "when no other viable option is readily available" — or at stores that don't serve meat or cheese items.

But the petition signers are looking for more. Under the reasons for signing, one person wrote: "For a company that closed down all their stores for 8 hours for sensitivity training when people want to use their bathrooms without making a purchase they can at least show a little sensitivity to Orthodox Jews who would like to be paying customers!"

## Organizations

### Hadassah

**Musical meeting:** Pianist **Mike Warner** will perform at the next meeting of the North Pinellas Chapter of Hadassah on Monday, Aug. 20, at 11:30 a.m. at Temple Ahavat Shalom, 1575 Curlew Road, Palm Harbor. There will be a pot luck lunch. RSVPs are required. Call **Janice Caine** at (727) 726-3735 or **Betty Slavney** at (727) 446-5895 to RSVP and to be assigned a dish to bring.

**Membership brunch:** The Lylah Chapter of Hadassah will celebrate current Hadassah members and invite others to join the organization at a brunch on Sunday, Aug. 26 from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Dunedin Fine Arts Center, 1143 Michigan Blvd., Dunedin. The cost is \$25 per person. For RSVP information contact **Cheryl Schwartz** at cschwartz@ramapo.edu or call (551) 265-2745. Multiple Hadassah membership levels are available from \$36 for an annual membership to \$250 for a life membership. Guests who sign up for membership at the brunch will receive a special gift.

### Young Adults

**#Gather events:** #Gather, sponsored by the Tampa JCCs, offers a mix of social and interactive activities for those in their 20s, 30s and 40s of all faiths and backgrounds. For more information or to RSVP for any #Gather event, visit: [www.bryanglazerfamilyjcc.com/gather](http://www.bryanglazerfamilyjcc.com/gather) or contact **Lisa Robbins** at [lisa.robbins@jewishtampa.com](mailto:lisa.robbins@jewishtampa.com) or (813) 769-4723.

**Pie and tart baking** — Learn the art of pie and tart baking on Sunday, July 29 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at Piquant, 704 N. Howard Ave., Tampa. This event is sponsored by #Gather. Cost is \$20 for JCC members and \$30 for non-members. Space is limited to 20 people.

**Wine and cheese party** — Enjoy both wine and cheese at a #Gather outing to Cheese Please, 3225 MacDill Ave., Tampa on Tuesday, Aug. 7 from 7-8:30 p.m. This is free for JCC members and \$5 for guests. Space is limited to 30 people.

**Cocktails by the pool** — The #Gather group will meet on Wednesday, Aug. 29 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. for a poolside party with cocktails at the Mezrah Family Aquatics Center at the Glazer JCC, 522 N. Howard Ave., Tampa. This event is free to JCC members and \$5 for guests. There will be cocktails and hors d'oeuvres by the pool. RSVP by Friday, Aug. 24 and receive one free drink ticket. There will be icebreakers, pool deck games, prizes and more.

### 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 July 23, the topic is "How to Write a Robot-Friendly Resume." On July 30 the topic is "10 Little Things That Make a Big Difference to Hiring Managers." On Aug. 6 the topic is "What's in Your Job-Search Toolbox?" On Aug. 13 the topic is "Staying Optimistic During Career Transition." On Aug. 20, the topic is "Market Yourself Through Business-Networking Cards."

**Job-search aids:** Upcoming Success workshops to aid with job-search skills are: Aug. 2 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. the topic is "Is Your Network Working for You?" Aug. 9 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. the topic is "Getting Organized and Staying on Track During Job Search." Aug. 16 from 9:30 a.m.

to 1 p.m. the topic is "Is Your Brand Helping You Land a Job?" The workshops are free for Job-Links program participants; \$15 for guests. Reservations required. To RSVP, call (813) 344-0200, email [RSVP@TBJL.org](mailto:RSVP@TBJL.org).

**Job-search Boot Camp:** A day-long job search boot camp will be held on Wednesday, July 25 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., hosted by the Nonprofit Leadership Center of Tampa Bay, 1408 N. Westshore Blvd., Suite 140, Tampa. The workshop is designed to kick

your job search into high gear. This is free and open to the public. Lunch is included. Registration is required by calling (813) 344-0200 or email [RSVP@TBJL.org](mailto:RSVP@TBJL.org).

### Support groups

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

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**Pomp and circumstance**

It's graduation time for four of the grandchildren of **Dr. Morris and Marilyn LeVine** of St. Petersburg.

**Danielle LeVine**, daughter of **Dr. Steve and Susan LeVine** of St. Petersburg, graduated summa cum laude and with other honors from St. Petersburg IB High School, and **Rachel LeVine**, daughter of **Dr. David and Janice LeVine** of Seminole, also graduated summa cum laude and with other honors from Dixie Hollins High School. Danielle is now a counselor at Camp Ramah and will attend University of Florida in the fall. Rachel will attend University of Central Florida this summer, but meanwhile had an all-expense trip to New York City to receive a national gold medal award at Carnegie Hall for her photographic art.

Meanwhile, Rachel's sister, **Naomi**, received her master's degree in couples and family therapy from the University of Maryland.

**Stacy**, daughter of **Dr. Mitch and Ellie LeVine** of Seminole, received her master's in creative writing, non-fiction from Lesley University in Cambridge, MA. Her thesis is a book about her father,

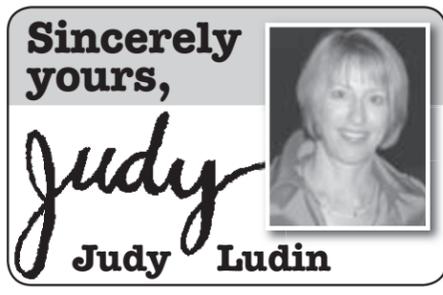
which her professor said is the best she has ever read.



(L-R) **David M. Friedman** and **Rabbi Levi Hodakov**

**Diplomatic encounter**

**Rabbi Levi Hodakov**, director of Chabad of Clearwater, met briefly with **David M. Friedman**, U.S. Ambassador to Israel when the two crossed paths on June 20. They met at the visitor center by the resting place of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, of righteous memory in Cambria Heights, NY. The two exchanged pleasantries and Hodakov wished the Ambassador continued success. Despite it being several days after the 24th anniversary of the Rebbe's passing – thousands came to pray at the



resting place – there were still several hundred visitors on hand.

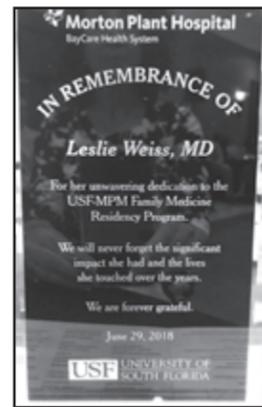
**Welcome to the world:**

**Vanessa Lopez Rosin** was born June 4 in Mamaroneck, NY, to parents **Jason and Morgan Rosin**. She is sister to **Brady and Trevor**. Kveling grandparents are **Dr. Joseph and Diana Rosin** of Largo and **Joseph and Deyanne Lopez** of Stamford, CT.

**In remembrance**

The USF-Morton Plant Mease Family Residency Program has created an award in memory of **Dr. Leslie Weiss**, a pediatrician who practiced at the hospital. Leslie, along with her husband, **Dr. Mitchell Weiss**, and their two children,

**Hannah and Ari**, died in a plane crash Dec. 31 in Costa Rica. The award will be presented annually and the first recipient is **Dr. Ernesto Meyer**, a longtime pediatrician in Clearwater. The award



**The memory of plaque for Dr. Leslie Weiss**

was presented on June 29 and a plaque in remembrance of Leslie's "unwavering dedication" to the residency program was presented to Leslie's mother-in-law, **Bibby Weiss** of Safety Harbor. The plaque adds, "We will never forget the significant impact she had and the lives she touched over the years." So true.

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

**Obituaries**

**SCOTT LANE ANTHONY**, 65, of **Port Richey**, died June 28. Born in Brookline, MA he worked for many years in the automotive industry. (David C. Gross Funeral Homes, Clearwater Chapel)

**ELLIOTT BUCHMAN**, 74, of **Indian Shores**, formerly of Tampa, died June 16. A native of Tampa, he graduated from Plant High School, where he had been a swimmer. He graduated from University of Florida and was a U.S. Army veteran. He was a CPA in private practice and was former CFO of the Cohen, Jayson, Foster Law Group. He had an affinity for fishing and scuba diving. Survivors include his wife of over 26 years Belinda; sons and daughters-in-law, Todd and Rhonda Buchman, Jarrod and Meghan Buchman, and Bradley and Amy Buchman; daughter and son-in-law Amanda and Greg Eisen; brother Ralph Buchman; and eight grandchildren. The family suggests memorials to the Humane Society. (Segal Funeral Homes, Beth David Chapel)

**JEAN ETHEL DIAMOND**, 96, of **Seminole**, died June 17. Born in Chicago, she lived in Lansing, IL, prior to relocating with her late husband Jack to St. Pete Beach in 1970. Active in the community, she volunteered for many organizations including Hadassah and her temple. She was a member of Brandeis National Committee and traveled with the group. An avid tennis player, she also won many bowling tournaments and loved playing mah jongg, bridge and bingo. Survivors include her two daughters, Judy Ober, Clearwater, and Sandy Diamond, St. Louis; son and daughter-in-law, Ron and Paula Diamond, Largo. The family

suggests memorials to Suncoast Hospice. (David C. Gross Funeral Homes, St. Petersburg Chapel)

**JOHN JACOB ENGEL**, 82, of **St. Petersburg**, died June 24. Born in the Bronx, he received his bachelor's degree from Adelphi University in Garden City, NY, and his master's degree from Boston University. He began his career as a program director at radio station WLAD-AM in Danbury, CT, and later held account executive positions at WBRY-AM in Waterbury, CT, and WNHC AM in New Haven, CT. The majority of his career was at the North America Precis Syndicate, first as an account executive and later as executive vice president and member of their board of directors. He was a member of the Public Relations Society of America, Publicity Club of New York (board of directors) and B'nai B'rith. Survivors include his wife of 31 years Miriam; children, Susan Lisa and Mark Alan; stepchildren, Alan Brett and Amy Ruth; and seven grandchildren. The family suggests memorials be made to Menorah Manor. (David C. Gross Funeral Homes, St. Petersburg Chapel)

**CYNTHIA RACHEL FORST**, 79, of **Gulfport**, died July 4. Born in Boston, she worked for many years as a nurse. She was a member of Temple Beth-El in St. Petersburg. (David C. Gross Funeral Homes, St. Petersburg Chapel)

**HAROLD G. FRIEDMAN**, 87, of **Pinellas Park**, died June 25. Born in Philadelphia, he was a U.S. Army veteran serving during the Korean War. Later he owned and operated a business specializing in air contracting for many years. (David C. Gross Funeral Homes, St. Petersburg Chapel)

**ELINOR Z. GORDON**, 88, died June 16. Survivor include her two sons, Jeffrey and Philip; sister and brother-in-law Roberta and Marvin; two grandchildren and two great-granddaughters. The family suggests memorials to www.insidebroadway.org.

**BARBARA HELEN KAPLAN**, 91, of **Clearwater**, died June 13. Born in Sioux Falls, SD, she was a graduate of Purdue University. A special education teacher, she worked for many years in Fort Wayne, IN. After moving to Florida, she was a member of Temple Ahavat Shalom in Palm Harbor. Survivors include her sons and daughters-in-law; Kerry and Debra Kaplan, David Kaplan and Kathy Smachlo, and Jack Kaplan and Joanne Altman; seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. The family suggests memorials to Temple Ahavat Shalom or Suncoast Hospice. (David C. Gross Funeral Homes, Clearwater Chapel)

**STEFANIE NICOLE KLEIN**, 32, of **St. Petersburg**, died June 18. She was born in Berks County, PA. Survivors include her parents, Howard M. Klein and Vanessa Klein; son, Riley; brother and sister-in-law Jason and Maressa Klein. The family suggests memorials to Congregation Beth Or in Maple Glen, PA, or NAMI.ORG or Nar-Anon. (David C. Gross Funeral Homes, St. Petersburg Chapel)

**MARTIN AARON NOCHIMSON**, 84, of **Largo**, died July 2. Born in Paterson, NJ, he owned a wholesale/retail business. (David C. Gross Funeral Homes, St. Petersburg Chapel)

**SAMUEL ROBACK**, 72, of **Largo**, died June 17. Born in Rome, Italy, he worked for many years in the insurance industry. (David C. Gross Funeral Homes, Clearwater Chapel)

**RUTH (GLASER) ROM**, died June 25. Survivors include her son and daughter-in-law Richard and Thirsha Rom, daughters and son-in-law, Randi Rom, and Robin and Jeffrey Cohen; brother and sister-in-law Herbie and Cherise Glaser; and four grandchildren.

**EDWARD SCHERER**, 89, died June 27. Born in Newark, NJ, he had served in the United State military. (David C. Gross Funeral Homes, St. Petersburg Chapel)

**BENJAMIN VOLK**, 73, died July 6. Born in New York City, he worked for many years as a mathematician. (Da-

vid C. Gross Funeral Homes, Clearwater Chapel)

**HARRIET ADELE WARACH**, 87, of **St. Petersburg**, died June 24. Born in New Brunswick, NJ, she resided in Doylestown, PA, and Oldsmar. She and her husband Irvin owned and operated Strand Cleaners in Doylestown until 1979. After retiring to Oldsmar, she went back to work as a salesperson at several large department stores. Survivors include her two daughters and son-in-law, Beth, and Lynn and Jon van Ingen; and a grandson. The family suggests memorials to Menorah Manor or a charity of one's choice. (Memorial Park Funeral Home and Cemetery)

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## Clearwater winter residents help teen-agers from Israel connect with their Ethiopian roots

When Clearwater winter resident Andi Kron uses the term “life altering” to describe the effect of a Hadassah mission, she is quick to explain the term applies both to how the experience affected both she and her husband Charlie Thorn and the Ethiopian youth they mentored.

Kron, a cartographer, and Thorn, a physicist at the Los Alamos (NM) National Laboratory, volunteer three months a year at Hadassah-Neurim, a teen youth village in Israel supported by the Hadassah organization in the United States. They live and eat with the teens, and tutor them in English, which is essential for higher education.

“It’s difficult teaching English. Sometimes it’s like pulling teeth, but the connections that are created and the relationships with the students are worth it,” says Kron.

About one third of the teens in the youth village come from families that emigrated from Ethiopia but have shared little with others about their lives in villages without electricity and schools, nor about the dangerous journey to Israel and adjusting to a modern country.

Kron was the first to spend time as a volunteer at the Hadassah-Neurim Youth Village, starting about six years ago, and on her first visit she spent six months there, living in a dormitory with 11<sup>th</sup> graders for six months.

“I fell in love with the place and the kids and then convinced Charlie to stop working and join me the following year,” she says. “We now come every year and have graduated to a small apartment, usually with a sea view. It’s our favorite time of the year.”

The Hadassah-Neurim youth village was established in 1948 in an abandoned British army barracks when students from a different youth village needed to be evacuated during the War of Independence. Neurim first served as a home for young Holocaust escapees and survivors, later for teen immigrants from Iraq, Romania, Morocco, and even later for youth from Ethiopia and the former Soviet Bloc. Many students come from troubled backgrounds, and most of them need help learning English. Today, Hadassah-Neurim is known for its athletic program and vocational schools for mechanics and technical jobs – many of these are feeder schools for positions in the IDF.

This year, Kron and Thorn thought that prior to their Israeli army service it was important for the Israeli-Ethiopians to visit the country where their ancestors lived in order to gain a greater appreciation of their culture and the sacrifices their parents made.



Andi Kron and husband Charlie Thorn, foreground, with teens from Hadassah Neurim Village in Israel at Blue Nile Falls, Ethiopia.

Teens from Ethiopian backgrounds made up half the students on the trip, which was sponsored by Kron and Thorn. “We hoped the trip would be significant for the non-Ethiopian students as well, to raise awareness about the struggles of Ethiopian Jewry – and not just among those who already know about it,” said Kron.

“One of the students met her uncle who still lives in Ethiopia. She was so happy to see him with a smile from ear-to-ear. He was overcome with emotion and crying after meeting his Israeli niece. The difference in their reactions was striking.”

Avid hikers, Kron and Thorn joined the teens for treks to the Blue Nile Falls and mountain trails inhabited by monkeys.

“It was a seven-day adventure,” said Kron. “I hope this trip helps the Israeli-Ethiopian kids honor their parents and be proud of their heritage.”

“Sitting next to the children on the bus was a completely different experience from teaching English at the youth village. I saw how the trip affected them close hand and watched as they became humbled and awed by their people’s history. I’m sure they will return home and be better human beings and citizens of Israel as a result of this experience.”

Kron and her family have a long history of supporting Hadassah. Kron is a former co-president of the Los Alamos Chapter of Hadassah and her late mother, Selma Kron, was the founder of the Yachad Chapter of Hadassah in Clearwater. As a major donor to the organization, Selma Kron established the Norman and Selma Kron Gene Therapy Center at Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem.



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## Tampa joins police agencies in hate crime awareness pledge

Five police departments in Florida, including Tampa Police Department, have joined 50 other departments around the nation that have pledged to promote transparency and increase awareness about hate crime.

The pledges were made to the Police Foundation as part of that organization’s national Hate Crime Open Data Challenge.

The Anti Defamation League worked closely with the foundation on that challenge and expressed gratitude to the departments that made the pledge.

In Florida, the departments joining with the Tampa Police Department are the Fort Lauderdale Police Department, Orlando Police Department, Wilton Manors Police Department, and Miami-Dade Police Department. They pledged to commit to releasing open data on hate and bias crimes.

ADL Florida Regional Director Sheri Zvi said: “Hate crimes affect entire communities. In light of the spike in extremism and bias-motivated crimes we are seeing locally and nationally, now is a crucial time for law enforcement agencies to send a clear message that hatred and bigotry will not be tolerated. We commend the five Florida agencies that have signed the pledge and encourage all other agencies to follow suit.”

“Hate crimes are often underreported and consequently not well documented,” the Police Foundation noted in a prepared statement.

“By releasing this information to the public in the form of open data, agencies can help narrow the reporting gap, call more attention to the problem in an effort to better prevent these incidents, and set a foundation for two-way engagement and problem-solving between law enforcement and the community,” the statement read. “More accurate reporting will ultimately lead to a better understanding of hate crime in the United States, which in turn will enable informed decision-making around preventing and addressing this type of offense.”

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# BILL GRAHAM

• CONTINUED from FRONT PAGE

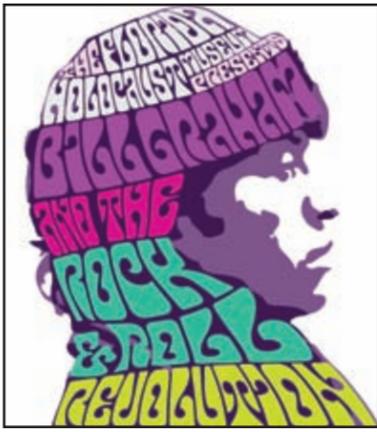
“My grandparents were Holocaust survivors. They always emphasized to me that it is important to tell the story of the atrocities of the Holocaust, but of equal importance is to let the world know that survivors dusted themselves off and changed the world in ways big and small. Bill Graham is the embodiment of this ideal,” said Michael Igel, the museum’s incoming board chair.

“The exhibition also gives us an opportunity to talk about other Holocaust survivors and the impact their lives had on their communities and the world. Some built hospitals, some became noted philanthropists, and some taught generations of students. Being a Holocaust survivor is part of each of their identities, but every person is so much more than that,” he said.

“The exhibition is a way to bring people to the Florida Holocaust Museum who might not otherwise walk through our doors. People will come for the amazing rock & roll story, but they will walk out with an understanding of the consequences of unchecked hatred and bigotry, and with the inspiration that we will always rise above,” Igel said.

The exhibit features 400 pieces of memorabilia, including many from the musicians Graham promoted such as Janis Joplin (a velvet top, bell bottoms, boa fand tambourine from 1968) and Keith Richards (a pair of boots worn during a 1981 tour), some of the performers’ guitars or in the case of Jimi Hendrix a fragment of a smashed guitar, archival concert footage, historical and video interviews. The exhibit also includes letters and gifts from performers and fans and live performance and backstage photos from the Fillmore and other Bill Graham Presents concerts throughout the era.

But what makes the exhibit unique is its illumination of how Graham’s childhood



The Florida Holocaust Museum poster for the “Bill Graham & Rock Revolution” exhibits, opening Aug. 18.



Bill Graham, far right, motions backstage at Live Aid while Tina Turner and Mick Jagger perform. The concert was held in Philadelphia in 1985.

experiences as a Jewish emigrant from Nazi Germany fueled his drive and ingenuity as a cultural innovator and advocate for social justice.

Graham was born in Berlin. Due to the increasing peril to Jews, Graham’s mother placed her son and the youngest of her five daughters, Tanya “Tolla,” in a Berlin orphanage which sent them to France in a pre-Holocaust exchange of Jewish children for Christian orphans.

After the fall of France, Graham and his sister, Tolla, were among a group of Jewish orphans spirited out of France, some of whom finally reached the United States. His sister was among a large number of children who did not survive the difficult journey.

Graham was one of the One Thousand Children – those mainly Jewish children who managed to flee Hitler and Europe and come directly to North America, but whose parents were forced to stay behind. The Reich killed nearly all of these parents, including Graham’s mother, who died at Auschwitz.

Except for Tolla, Graham’s sisters, Rita, Evelyn, Sonia, and Ester all survived the Holocaust. Evelyn and Sonia fled to Shanghai before returning to Europe after the war while Rita and Ester moved to the United States and were close to their brother in his later life.

After arriving in New York at age of 11 as part of the Red Cross effort to help Jewish children fleeing the Nazis, Graham went to

live with a foster family in the Bronx and spent his teenage years in New York City before being drafted into the U.S. Army to fight in the Korean War.

He relocated to San Francisco just as the hippie movement was gathering steam and became the business manager for the San Francisco Mime Troupe, a radical theater company that performed for free in parks.

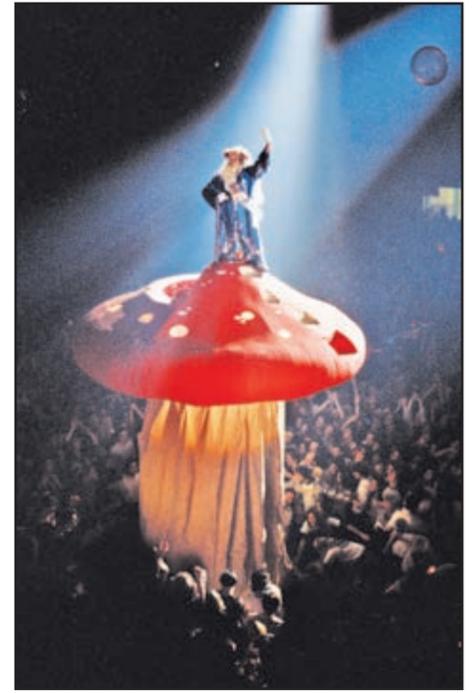
The first show Graham presented was on Nov. 6, 1965: a fundraiser to support the legal defense of one of the Mime Troupe actors. It was a transformative moment for the 34-year-old, who had finally found something he was good at and for which he could also earn a living.

Soon afterward, he took over the lease on the famed Fillmore Auditorium, where he produced groundbreaking shows throughout the 1960s, including sold-out concerts by the Grateful Dead, Cream and the Doors, among many.

Graham’s mastery at promoting, marketing, and managing artists propelled him to become one of the music industry’s most important figures and helped to transform rock music into the highly lucrative phenomenon of rock concerts as eye-popping theatrical events that continues today.

Graham died in a helicopter accident in 1991.

Treasured photos and artifacts from Graham’s early life and career are on loan from



Bill Graham as Father Time on New Year’s Eve 1988 in the Oakland Auditorium

the Graham family, many on view for the first time. Among the items that the public will see for the first time in more than 40 years is the original apple barrel that greeted fans with fresh apples at the entrance to the Fillmore Auditorium.

Ranked by the *Chicago Tribune* as one of 2017’s best, Bill Graham and the Rock & Roll Revolution will be at Florida Holocaust Museum from Aug. 18 – Feb. 10, 2019. It follows another blockbuster show, “Operation Finale: The Capture and Trial of Adolph Eichman,” which wraps up its five-month stop here on July 15

Bill Graham and the Rock & Roll Revolution was organized by the Skirball Cultural Center, Los Angeles, in association with the Bill Graham Memorial Foundation. Besides LA and Chicago, the exhibit has been on tour in San Francisco and Philadelphia.

The Holocaust Museum is located at 55 Fifth St. S., St. Petersburg. For more information, contact (727) 820-0100 or visit [www.fholocaustmuseum.org](http://www.fholocaustmuseum.org).

## BAD JEWS

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# Israel to launch moon mission from Florida in December

## Jewish Press wire services

Israel will launch a rocket from Florida in a bid to become the fourth country to reach the moon.

Israel Aerospace Industries and the non-profit SpaceIL announced July 10 that they plan a December launch from Cape Canaveral to land on the moon on Feb. 13. The landing would culminate eight years of collaboration on the project.

While famed entrepreneur Elon Musk sent one of his Tesla cars into space earlier this year on top of his SpaceX rocket, Musk also will help deliver Israel's first unmanned lunar spacecraft atop a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket, where it will assume a course that will take it to its final destination: the moon.

Ido Anteby, chief executive of SpaceIL, explained that SpaceIL will test the spacecraft through October, and in November, the company will deliver it to the Cape Canaveral launch site.

Private donations mostly paid for the project, including from the American businessman and Jewish philanthropist Sheldon Adelson, the Schusterman Family Foundation and South African-born billionaire entrepreneur Morris Kahn, SpaceIL's president who has provided about \$27 million. Kahn said costs associated with the program hover around \$95 million and emphasized that he will underwrite any gaps in funding, saying "this project will not stop, will not have any problem, because of money."

He also called on the Israeli government to follow through with its pledge to fund 10 percent of the project.

"When the rocket goes into orbit," Kahn said, "I think we will all remember where we were when Israel landed on the moon."

The United States, Russia and China are the only nations to have landed on the moon with the U.S. the only country to send manned missions there.

According to SpaceIL, once the spacecraft disengages from the launch rocket, it will begin orbiting Earth in continuously larger elliptical orbits. This long and complex course will allow the spacecraft to reach the moon with minimal fuel consumption. At a certain stage in its orbit, the spacecraft will reach a point that is near the moon. It will then ignite its engines and reduce its speed to allow the moon's gravity to pull it in, and will begin orbiting it.

The entire journey, from launch to landing, is expected to last about eight weeks.

In addition to taking photos on the surface of the moon, the spacecraft will measure its magnetic field at the landing site, using a magnetometer installed on it. The measurements are intended for research conducted at the Weizmann Institute of Science-UCLA.



Offer Doron, head of IAI's MBT Space Division speaks near the SpaceIL team's spacecraft, during a press conference at the Israel Aerospace facility in Yahud on July 10.

Once it completes its mission, the spacecraft will remain on the moon, proudly displaying the flag of the State of Israel.

The Israeli craft will be the smallest to land on the moon, weighing only 1,322 pounds.

## MATCH

### • CONTINUED from FRONT PAGE

the director of national outreach and communication for JScreen. "So we reached out to him and thought, you know, this would be a really fun opportunity - he's cute, he's a doctor, he's supporting a good cause, and who wouldn't want to win a date with him?"

The JScreen date is tentatively planned for August.

"As an ER doctor, I am keenly aware of the devastating effects that genetic diseases can have on families - and am honored to partner with JScreen to help educate couples on simple things they can do to help plan for their future

families. The test is quick, private and convenient - and the results can change the lives of future generations," said Hubsher, who was traveling through Europe when the *Jewish Press* first caught up with him via email.

Hubsher said his sister, Cher, a dating coach in New York, is

actually responsible for convincing him to take the plunge - so to speak - with *The Bachelorette*. Cher Hubsher was featured on MTV's *My Super Sweet Sixteen*, a show that documents elaborate 16th birthday parties, so reality TV runs in the family.

"My sister thought that I was

single for too long, and her being a fan of *The Bachelorette*, she thought it might be fun to apply for me to be on it," said Grant. "Then when ABC began calling me, I figured why not, could be fun, or will at least be a unique experience."

Hubsher said due to confidentiality agreements, he can't say much more about the 2017 summer season of *The Bachelorette*, which featured the show's first African American bachelorette, Rachel Lindsay. He was one of eight suitors not to get a rose at the end of the first episode.

The 30-year-old is currently an ER doc at a hospital in Brooklyn. He attended Pinellas County Jewish Day School and was active in United Synagogue Youth at Congregation Beth Shalom in Clearwater. In his time as a student at the University of Florida, he was a part of the Jewish Student Union and the AEPi fraternity.

"As a child I learned a lot about the customs of Judaism and the religion itself. While as I matured into college and involved myself in Jewish programs, I became more in tune with what it means to feel culturally Jewish," Hubsher said.

Growing up, some of his favorite memories were doing the hora and the electric slide at friends' Bar and Bat Mitzvahs.

Hubsher is still active in the Jewish community in New York. It's important to him that he frequents various Jewish social programs throughout the year and especially during the holidays. He still makes time to come back home to Florida several times a year.

Hubsher's connection to the Jewish community and his medical background were a perfect match for JScreen's mission. "I feel lucky that my time on *The Bachelorette* can help bring attention to the life-changing impact of genetic screening and JScreen," Hubsher said.

The goal of the nonprofit, which is affiliated with Emory University in Atlanta, is to take the difficulty out of the process of getting screened for Jewish genetic diseases. All one has to do is request a screening kit online and JScreen will send a kit right to your door. Enclosed are instructions about collecting a saliva specimen and a prepaid return label. Once sent back to the laboratory, JScreen's clinical team will have the results in about three weeks.

"Jewish genetic screening is really for anyone who plans on having kids in the future," said Kener. "Whether you're single, dating, or married, you should definitely do testing before either starting a family or adding to the family. It's not just for Jewish people, it's for interfaith couples as well."

For more information, go to <https://jscreen.org>.



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