

May You Be Incribed In The Book Of Life For Good



From the Virtual Reality film, "The Last Good Bye," Holocaust survivor Pinchas Gutter takes viewers inside a barracks at the Majdanek death camp in Poland.

Film reveals a new reality for Holocaust remembrance

The Florida Holocaust Museum in St. Petersburg has been selected as one of only four in the nation to premiere a virtual reality film, *The Last Goodbye*, which enables viewers to virtually walk in the shoes of a Holocaust survivor as he retraces his steps from a railroad boxcar into a Nazi death camp.

The USC Shoah Foundation -The Institute for Visual History and Education, one of the co-producers of the film, selected Jewish museums in Chicago, Los Angeles and New York, as well as here to show the 17-minute film in its first museum exhibitions.

All four museums will simultaneously premiere the precedent-

setting film on Sunday, Sept. 16. The limited engagement exhibit is expected to remain at the Florida Holocaust Museum through mid-January.

The Last Goodbye features survivor Pinchas Gutter's visit to the site of the Nazi death camp Majdanek in Poland. Gutter, 86, is the only member of his family of four to have survived the Holocaust.

Viewers, wearing VR headsets, will get a fully immersive experience, visiting the site with Gutter as he travels in life-sized projections through the railway car, gas chamber, shower room and barracks of Majdanek seven decades later.

FILM continued on PAGE 7

Federation names Ezra Singer president; welcomes new board

While Ezra Singer has only lived in St. Petersburg for three years, he just made a big commitment to the Jewish community by becoming the new president of the Jewish Federation of Pinellas and Pasco Counties.

The Federation also welcomed the slate of officers and directors for the 2018-19 year during its first meeting of the fiscal year.

Singer, a native of New York, moved here with his wife, Skipper. They selected the locale for its vibrant arts community and comfortable climate. Prior to his move to Florida, Singer lived in Columbus, OH, where he worked as an executive with L Brands and served on the

NEW BOARD continued on PAGE 13



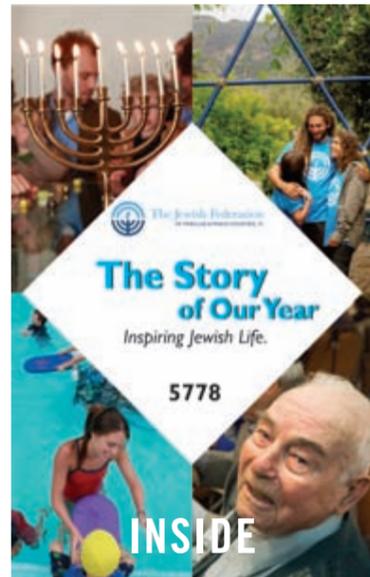
Ezra Singer

Theater in the Rye offers kosher slice of Broadway

J.D. Salinger gave us *Catcher in the Rye* and some unknown culinary genius came up with pastrami on rye, but it takes a rye sense of humor to come up with this one: Jo-El's Theater in the Rye.

Step right up and order your tickets quickly because there is seating for only 100 at St. Petersburg's latest entertainment venue on Sunday, Oct. 14 at 4:30 p.m. when Jo-El's Kosher Deli & Marketplace is transformed into the Theater in the Rye for a production of *Tops from Flops: An Exuberant Tour of Musical Theater*.

THEATER continued on PAGE 14



Just a nosh..

Compiled from news wires

In flip-flop, Paraguay's embassy is leaving Jerusalem for Tel Aviv

JERUSALEM — Israel closed its embassy in Paraguay following an announcement by the South American country that it was relocating its embassy back to Tel Aviv four months after moving to Jerusalem.

The move comes as Paraguay joins the effort to bring peace to the Middle East. "Paraguay wants to contribute to an intensification of regional diplomatic efforts to achieve a broad, fair and lasting peace in the Middle East," Foreign Minister Luis Alberto Castiglioni told reporters.

Shortly after the announcement of the return to Tel Aviv, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu recalled his country's ambassador to Paraguay and then ordered the Israeli embassy closed. Netanyahu also holds the foreign minister's portfolio.

"Israel views with great severity the unusual decision of Paraguay, which will cloud bilateral relations," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Paraguay opened its new embassy in Jerusalem in May, a week after the United States moved its embassy to the capital from Tel Aviv and days after Guatemala moved its embassy.

Israeli on way to explosives detection seminar arrested for fake bomb at airport

An Israeli man heading to Florida for a police training seminar on X-ray detection of explosives was arrested at Newark Liberty Airport for carrying a realistic-looking fake homemade bomb.

Alon Feldman, 50, was charged Sept. 4 with creating a false public alarm and interfering with transportation after a Transportation Security Administration officer at the airport saw the item in his carry-on and alerted a supervisor, according to local media reports.

TSA temporarily closed the third level of Terminal C at the busy international airport while it confirmed that the device was not a working bomb. A local bomb squad was called to the scene.

Feldman was headed to Panama City, for the training conference. He could face a civil fine of up to \$13,000 for the incident.

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These Events!

Save These
Dates!

- Sep 18. Erev Yom Kippur
- Sep 19. Yom Kippur
- Sep 21. Fed Friday #3
- Sep 23. Erev Sukkot
- Sep 24. Sukkot Begins
- Sep 28. Fed Friday #4
- Sep 30. Sukkot Ends



COMING UP: 9/21 – Center for Israel Education, Erica Hruby

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9/28 – Jewflicks Video: “A Renewable Light to the Start Up Nation,” Yosef Abramowitz

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

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I love Israel

Column writer Aliza Norstein, her husband, Keith Norstein and Jordyn Schwersky, all of Pinellas County, attended the national Young Leadership summer mission to Israel, sponsored by the Jewish Federations of North America. The three earned their trip by serving for the past year as Federation Fellows volunteering their time for various projects of the Jewish Federation of Pinellas and Pasco Counties.

I love Israel. I always have. Maybe it's because much of my family lives there. Maybe it's because I feel comfortable surrounded by other Jews. Maybe it's because I'm not the minority with the odd name and even odder eating habits. Maybe it's because I feel a spiritual connection to the Jewish ancestral homeland. I can't nail down one reason why I love Israel so much because there are too many reasons to love such a magical and historic place.

Zionism is part of the fabric of who I am as a person. Israel provided a home to my father and his family after fleeing Morocco. My parents met and fell in love in Israel. I asked my parents to make me an Israeli citizen when I was in elementary school. I wanted the comfort of knowing that I'd have a home if the US ever failed to protect me as a Jew. The trauma of what our people have experienced is like a ghost, an ever-lurking presence reminding you of your "otherness."

It was hard on me to have such an understanding of that hate at a young age but I also think it led me down the path I'm on today, working for Israel Bonds and being an active member of our Jewish community.

Being selected as Federation Fellows for the Jewish Federation of Pinellas and Pasco Counties was a dream come true for me and my husband, Keith. We'd get to see family. I'd get to show Keith some of the places I didn't get to show him on his first visit. We'd have some amazing experiences with the new friends we would meet. While all of those things happened and were amazing, what I didn't realize was how much this trip would affect us.

Seeing Israel through eyes of the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) was a revelation. Steven Spielberg himself wouldn't be able to capture the magnitude of the JFNA's impact on the lives of people in Israel. We picked apples for the hungry with Project Leket. Keith almost passed out from the heat and I was picking cactus needles out of my legs for days but it felt good to get our hands dirty to help others. We visited Independence Hall where the state of Israel was established in 1948. We rafted down the Jordan River.

We learned about iRep, Israel's Religious Expression Platform, a new JFNA initiative that encourages respect for diverse expressions of Judaism in Israel such as in the area of marriage and divorce, which is currently controlled by Israel's Orthodox rabbinate. IRep is trying to change the laws to reflect the desires of 75 percent of Israel's population to expand the legally recognized options for marriage and divorce.

We played wheelchair basketball with the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) and did a blind exercise to better understand the needs of people living with disabilities. We learned about the Youth Futures Program where troubled kids get mentors to help them through rough times.

We learned about Israel's Operation Good Neighbor from Lt. Col. Moreno and how Israel has been providing humanitarian aid to Syrians fleeing the Syrian civil war. We visited the border of Syria on the Golan Heights. We heard from Dr. Yotam Dagan, a psychologist working to help soldiers reintegrate into life outside of the armed forces.

We played games with children from the Ethiopian National Project. Ethiopian Jews have preserved their Jewish identities for over 2,500 years completely closed off from the rest of the world. Many of the adults brought to Israel from Ethiopia were farmers so their children struggled in school so the ENP was created to help those children fulfill their potential.

Having those experiences and seeing first hand what the Federation is doing made me realize how grateful and proud I am to be a part of our Jewish community and our Jewish Federation. It also made me eager for more.

Cultivating so many new friendships from around the U.S. was something that I had hoped for but didn't expect over such a short period of time. Boy was I wrong. We were able to create real bonds with people because of the meaningful experiences we

PERSPECTIVE

Aliza Norstein
Federation Fellow



Aliza and Keith Norstein in Jaffa overlooking Tel Aviv



(L-R) Luy Teitelroit, representing the Tampa Jewish Federation; and Pinellas-Pasco Fed Fellows Keith Norstein, Jordyn Schwersky and Aliza Norstein enjoying a glass of wine in Jerusalem overlooking the Western Wall.

were sharing. Keith and I made friends with other young Jewish professionals from as far away as California to as close as Tampa.

While exploring Jerusalem one day we witnessed such a perfect rebuttal to the BS we're always hearing about Israel in the news. We were standing on a bus that was completely full when a young Muslim woman in a hijab walked on with a squirming infant in her arms. Immediately an older religious Jewish man wearing a yarmulke and tzitzits stood up and offered his seat to her. She looked at him gratefully and said *Shukran* which means "Thank You" in Arabic (thanks to Fauda for teaching me basic Arabic.). I wish I had captured it on film because it was such a perfect representation of the Israel that I know and love.

Watching my husband fall in love with Israel was my favorite part of the trip. He's always loved my passion for all things Israel and Jewish but I know that he never quite understood it. Keith and I have visited 20 different countries together so he couldn't grasp why Israel was always my favorite. The first time he went to Israel he was terrified because of the way Israel is reported in the news. At the time Jerusalem was dirty and there was garbage and graffiti everywhere. We later found out that necessary funding was going toward preparations for the 2008 Gaza war later that year. Seeing people walk around with large automatic weapons was jarring to him, understandably so. The National Young Leadership JFNA Summer Mission was his second time in Israel and I could tell right away that things were different. He started to learn basic Hebrew phrases. He got comfortable. He took thousands of photos. He knew where we were more often than I did. He asked me to take a photo of him with every shawarma he ate. He immersed himself into Israeli life as if he had been doing it for years. I left the US with a pro-Israel husband; I came home with a Zionist.

I am grateful and proud to have represented our communities at this year's Summer Mission to Israel as a Federation Fellow. It was an experience Keith and I will never forget. Just this past week Keith said to me "I could do that mission trip to Israel every year." I can't describe how much joy it brings me to hear him say that. Hopefully we'll see all of you "Next Year In Jerusalem."

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Second Chances: Teshuvah and Amendment 4

By RABBI MICHAEL TOROP
Temple Beth-El, St Petersburg

We are in the season of second chances. After all, that is what *teshuvah*, returning to the path, is all about. Consider what is, perhaps, the Israelites' greatest sin, creating the Golden Calf at the foot of Mount Sinai. Afterwards, Moses goes up the mountain to receive the second set of tablets. When Moses asks to see God's face, what happens? He stands in the cleft of the rock, and God's glory passes before him, and he proclaims, "Adonai! Adonai! el rachum v'chanun ... (Exodus 34:6), "Adonai, Adonai, you are merciful and *gracious*, endlessly patient, true and loving..." God is forever ready to forgive our failures, always eager to meet our sincere attempts at *teshuvah* (repentance and return) with an unconditional pardon. In Judaism, God is the supreme giver of second (and, sometimes, third and fourth) chances. Judaism says we are accepted for who we are, given credit for our efforts, and forgiven out of love, not entitlement.

We don't like to see who we are in the eyes of others. In fact, we often don't like what we see when we look honestly at ourselves. No matter how hard we have tried, our deeds are insufficient to truly and completely live up to the person that God created us to be. We have no reason to think that we warrant the forgiveness that we seek.

It is not that we cannot make a sincere effort to change and to grow – of course we can. But in the end, we cannot rely on ourselves alone. In spite of our failings, Judaism teaches us that God does not want to exact a penalty for our misdeeds. Rather, on Yom Kippur, we are comforted by the affirmation that, out of a sense of *chesed* (kindness), God will forgive us because God loves us, unconditionally. If we accept that God's grace is bestowed upon us in this way, if we affirm that God is gracious and merciful and loving and true, how will that impact our lives? The logical consequence of experiencing God's love, of knowing God's grace, is to then act graciously toward others.

Speaking to a group of ex-convicts in recovery who were coming into an Israeli rehabilitation program, the counselor began to speak of self-esteem. Avi interrupted saying, "How can you talk to us of this? I've been in and out of jail for half of my 34 years. I've been a thief since I was 8. When I'm out of prison I can't find work and my family doesn't want to see me." The group leader responded: "Consider the diamonds in the window of a jewelry store. When they come out of the mine, as lumps of dirty ore, it takes a person who understands the diamond to take the shapeless mound and bring out its intrinsic beauty. That's what we do here, we look for the diamond in everyone; we help the soul's beauty come to the surface, we polish it until it gleams."

Two years passed. Avi graduated from the treatment center, and was integrated into the

RABBINICALLY — SPEAKING —

community, working in construction. One day the manager of the treatment center called Avi and asked him to pick up a piece of furniture being donated from an estate. When he went to pick it up, he saw that it wasn't worth saving, but not wanting to insult the family, he hauled it anyway. While Avi was laboring to carry the shabby sofa up the stairs to the halfway house, an envelope fell from the cushions, in which he found five thousand shekels (about \$1,700). Avi called the manager and told her about the envelope, who said it must be reported to the family.

The family was so gratified by their honesty that they told them to keep the money for the halfway house. As a result, the halfway house was able to buy one more bed and provide room for one more guest, creating another opportunity for recovery. And Avi wasn't a thief anymore. At the halfway house a sign hangs above the entry. It reads: "Diamonds Polished Here."

In the coming months each of us has a chance to polish diamonds. Each of us has an opportunity to be "God-like" in our attitudes and actions toward those who deserve a second chance. Florida remains one of only four states in the country where felons who have served their time in prison, been released on parole and probation, have been rehabilitated in the eyes of the state, but can never reclaim their citizenship right to vote in any election. Having done the equivalent of *teshuvah*, our state does not give them a second chance. As Jews who are right now getting a second chance through the rituals and prayers of the High Holy Days, we cannot ethically or morally deny that same second chance to others.

On the ballot in November is Amendment 4 for Restoration of Voting Rights. With the exception of those who committed murder or sexual offenses, this Amendment (if passed) would restore the right of other ex-felons to once again vote. 1.4 million citizens would get back this essential democratic right. It would be the fourth largest voter enfranchisement in the history of the United States, after the Reconstruction Amendments that established equal voting rights to freed (male) slaves after the Civil War; Women's Suffrage of 1920; and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. We have the historic opportunity to restore civil rights to Florida's disenfranchised voters – the largest such group in the entire country.

Synagogues across Florida are working in coalition with the Jewish community and other community partners to bring Amendment 4 to the attention of the electorate. Please research the issue and consider if you will be one who is willing to be like God, and with kindness and compassion and a sense of justice, give a second chance to those who need it.

The Rabbically 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

Cong. Beth Shalom Clearwater

Sukkot services: Yom Tov services for Sukkot will be held on Monday and Tuesday, Sept. 24 and 25 at 9 a.m. and include waving of the lulav and etrog, followed by a kiddush luncheon in the sukkah.

Suds in the Sukkah: Enjoy a beer in the Sukkah, sponsored by the Brotherhood, on Thursday, Sept. 27 at 6 p.m.

Shabbat unplugged: Bring in the Sabbath with music, song and community on Friday, Sept. 28 at 6:30 p.m. After the service, enjoy a Shabbat meal in the Sukkah. The cost is \$18 for adults and \$10 for those 12 and younger. Call the synagogue office at (727) 531-1418 to save your seat at the table.

Bagel talk: Come to the synagogue on Sunday, Sept. 16 at 10:30 a.m. to hear **Dr. Eric Steckler** talk about "The History of the Bagel: The 'Hole' Story."

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.

Lox & Learn: Explore the treasures of the weekly Torah portion, led by **Rabbi David Weizman**, every Thursday. Come for breakfast at 9:45 a.m., minyan at 10 a.m., then discussion with the rabbi.

Torah study: Take part in an interactive conversation with **Jason Palmer** about the weekly Torah portion, incorporating both historical and contemporary reference material. The next session will be Saturday, Sept. 22 at noon. Everyone is welcome.

Chabad of Clearwater

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

Temple B'nai Israel Clearwater

New members Brunch: Mix and mingle with members, old and new, on Sunday Sept. 23 at 10:30 a.m., then enjoy a brunch catered by the Brotherhood. The Women of Temple B'nai Israel will follow that up with "Just Desserts." The Temple affiliate organizations will be there with information on all of their programs and events.

Race to the beach & Tashlich: Enjoy a family, Amazing Race style game on Saturday, Sept. 15, beginning at 4 p.m., as you follow clues and race around town, ending at Sand Key Park for a picnic dinner and Tashlich with the congregation. For reservations, contact **Dani Gamson** at danig@tbclearwater.org or (561) 789-8442.

Shabbat and Yom Tov Candle Lighting Times



Sept 18	• 7:13 pm
Sept 21	• 7:10 pm
Sept 23	• 7:08 pm
Sept 24	• 8:00 pm
Sept 28	• 7:02 pm
Sept 30	• 6:59 pm
Oct 1	• 7:52 pm

The congregational Havdalah and Tashlich at Sand Key Park (North End) begins at 6 p.m. Bring food or let the temple cater your picnic dinner and join together to cast our sins into the Gulf. Services begin at 7 p.m. If the weather does not cooperate, report to Shelter 2. To RSVP for the dinner, call (727) 531-5829.

Sukkot program: Bring a picnic dinner to eat in the Sukkah on Sunday Sept. 23 at 6 p.m., followed by a Sukkot eve service.

Sukkot discussion: The temporary nature and fragility of life and how it relates to the Festival of Sukkot is the topic of an informal discussion from the Book of Ecclesiastes on Monday Sept. 24 at 10:30 a.m.

Simchat Torah service: Celebrate the completion of the cycle of Torah readings on Sunday, Sept. 30 at 6 p.m.

Sunday Cinema Café: The movie *The Wisdom of the Pretzel*, an Israeli comedy, will be shown on Sunday, Sept. 16 at 1 p.m. Popcorn and non-alcoholic drinks will be provided. There is no charge for members and friends.

Playtime: The temple invites preschoolers and their parents to gather with other families with young children on Sunday, Sept. 23 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.

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.

Gun violence discussion: **Shannon Watts**, founder of Moms Demand Action, will discuss the Second Amendment and how people can protect their children from gun violence on Sunday, Oct. 21 at 5 p.m. Tickets are on sale now for \$40. For sponsorships contact **Katie Blaxberg** at KatieBlaxberg@gmail.com or (727) 417-0964.

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Religious Directory

PINELLAS COUNTY Reform

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

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

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

Conservative

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

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

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

Orthodox

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

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

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

PASCO COUNTY Conservative

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

Orthodox

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

HERNANDO COUNTY Reform

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Congregations

• CONTINUED from PREVIOUS PAGE

For tickets, go to www.eventbrite.com/e/communities-rising-for-action-tickets-47905477573.

Chabad of St. Petersburg

Sukkot spectacular: Take in a free family event featuring barbecue in the Sukkah, music, bungee jumping, rock climbing, cotton candy and Sukkot crafts on Thursday, Sept. 27 at 5:30 p.m. Although there is no charge, RSVPs are requested for planning purposes. Email Info@ChabadSP.com or call (727) 344-4900.

Simchat Torah: On Monday, Oct. 1 at 7 p.m. there will be a Simchat Torah celebration featuring a dinner, open bar, dancing and singing, and treats for the kids. This is a free event. RSVP to Info@ChabadSP.com or call (727) 344-4900.

Cong. B'nai Israel St. Petersburg

Coffee talk: Join Rabbi Philip Weintraub on Chol HaMoed Sukkot on Wednesday, Sept. 26 at 9 a.m. in the Sukkah at the synagogue for conversation and coffee.

Beer and barbecue: Celebrate the mitzvah of dwelling in the Sukkah as the Mitzvah Men's Club hosts its annual Suds in the Sukkah community dinner on Wednesday, Sept. 26 at 6 p.m. Cost is \$4 for adults; \$2 for children. RSVP at www.cbistpete.org by Friday, Sept. 21.

Sukkot dinner and service: The congregation will hold a Sukkot dinner following services on Friday, Sept. 28 at 6 p.m. Cost is \$20 for adults and free for those 17 and younger. RSVP by Friday, Sept. 21 to chelsea@cbistpete.org or (727) 381-4900.

Simchat Torah & Sundaes: Join the congregation to dance with the Torah during Erev Simchat Torah services on Monday, Oct. 1 at 6:30 p.m., then stay for an ice cream sundae.

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.

Temple Beth-El St. Petersburg

Jewish genealogy: A Jewish genealogy course continues on Tuesdays, Oct. 2, Nov. 6, and Dec. 4, at 6 p.m. in BEEFY Lounge. These sessions will introduce tools and techniques in researching your genealogy and encourage participants to "show and tell." Contact

Bill Israel for any questions at wisrael1@tampabay.rr.com.

Temple Ahavat Shalom Palm Harbor

Men's Night Out: Meet up at Frenchy's Outpost Bar and Grill, 466 Causeway Blvd., Dunedin, for fun and food with the guys of the Brotherhood on Wednesday, Sept. 26 at 7 p.m.

Tot Shabbat: Join in a Sukkot Shabbat on Friday, Sept. 28 at 6 p.m. Visit the temple Sukkah and make fun holiday crafts to hang in the Sukkah. Pizza and salad are free. Bring your favorite family dessert to share.

Lunch 'n' Learn: A Torah study class led by Susan Segal meets on Thursdays from noon to 1:15 p.m. and will resume on Thursday, Sept. 20. Bring your lunch and your opinions. No prior knowledge or attendance is required. We will use the book *The Torah: A Woman's Commentary*.

Hebrew for Adults: Two classes, a beginners and intermediate Hebrew class, starts on Monday, Oct. 8. The beginners class, which meets from 6:30-7:30 p.m., will teach participants to recognize the Hebrew aleph-bet and basic prayers. For those who can read Hebrew, the intermediate class will concentrate on learning the Shabbat morning service and the customs/ rituals associated with becoming a Bat/Bar Mitzvah. This class, which meets from 7:30 - 8:30 p.m., is for those that have never had a Bar or Bat Mitzvah and would like to do so. Register with the temple office for either class. The fee for each course is \$100 for the year (October through May) plus the cost of books.

Young Israel Chabad of Pinellas County

Sukkot & Simchat Torah: Sukkot evening services will be held on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, Sept. 23-25 at 7 p.m. and Sukkot morning services will be held on Mondays and Tuesdays, Sept. 24 and 25 at 9:30 a.m.

A Sukkot community dinner is planned on Wednesday, Sept. 26 at 5 p.m. The cost is \$12 for adults and \$8 for children.

Additional services include: Sunday, Sept. 30, Hoshana Rabbah Shacharit at 8:30 a.m. and Shemini Atzeret evening service at 7 p.m.; On Monday, Oct. 1, Shemini Atzeret Shacharit at 9:30 a.m.; Yizkor at 11:15 a.m., Shemini Atzeret Minchah at 6:30 p.m.

A Simchat Torah Grand Kiddush Dinner will be held on Monday,

Oct. 1 at 6:45 p.m. followed by Maariv and dance *shtick* from 7:30 p.m. through the night. The dinner is free.

On Tuesday, Oct. 2, Simchat Torah services are at 10 a.m. and 1:51 p.m.

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 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

Oy Vay Cabaret: A cabaret style show, hosted by Carla Becker, will be performed at the temple on Saturday, Nov. 10 at 7 p.m. Enjoy the magic of music and great memories with a variety of song selections from country to Sinatra. There will also be a tribute honoring our veterans. Tickets will go on sale Sept. 20 for \$18. They can be purchased online at www.tbfl.org or by calling (352) 428-9946. Tickets will not be sold at time of performance.

Religious school: The temple's religious school will begin classes on Sunday, Sept. 16 for the new school year for children ages 4-13. Classes meet on Sunday from 9 a.m. to noon. Using a multi-media approach, the children learn about Jewish holidays, Torah, customs, ethics, prayer and Hebrew are taught, and kids also are exposed to music, arts and crafts, games and participation in services.

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.

Gulf Coast JFCS announces new officers and board members

Gulf Coast Jewish Family & Community Services recently selected new board members and officers.

Judy Benjamin was selected as board chair. A member of the Gulf Coast board since 2012, she brings health care administration credentials and a strong belief in philanthropy to the agency.

A native of St. Petersburg and third generation Floridian, she is currently president of Benjamin Healthcare Consulting, LLC, and previously worked with several regional and national healthcare systems. Benjamin also serves on the board of the Philip Benjamin Tower Foundation, which supports services and Jewish programming for the St. Petersburg independent living facility for low income seniors that was named in honor of her late father.

Serving as vice president is Eric Feder, retired hospital executive who served as interim CEO of Gulf Coast in 2015-16. Treasurer is Frank "Skip" Tylman, attorney at Baby Boomers' Barrister, and secretary is David Delrahim, an attorney at Englander Fischer. Julie



Judy Benjamin board chair

Klavans is the immediate past chair.

The following are new board members who will serve a three-year term ending in 2021: Jeff Baker, Duke Energy government and community relations manager; Karen Raymund Marder, nurse practitioner and Elizabeth Samuelson, a physical therapist.

"We are pleased to have a great group of volunteer leaders who have made a commitment to support our work and drive the strategic direction of the agency and its programs which serve more than 30,000 Floridians annually," noted Gulf Coast President and CEO Dr. Sandra Braham.

Headquartered in Clearwater, Gulf Coast offers Jewish family services including emergency assistance, a Holocaust survivor program and Yad B'Yad (Jewish Big Brother type program) in the local community as well as provides a wide range of non-sectarian social services to the broader community in 40 counties across the state.

Learn more about Gulf Coast at www.gcjfcs.org.

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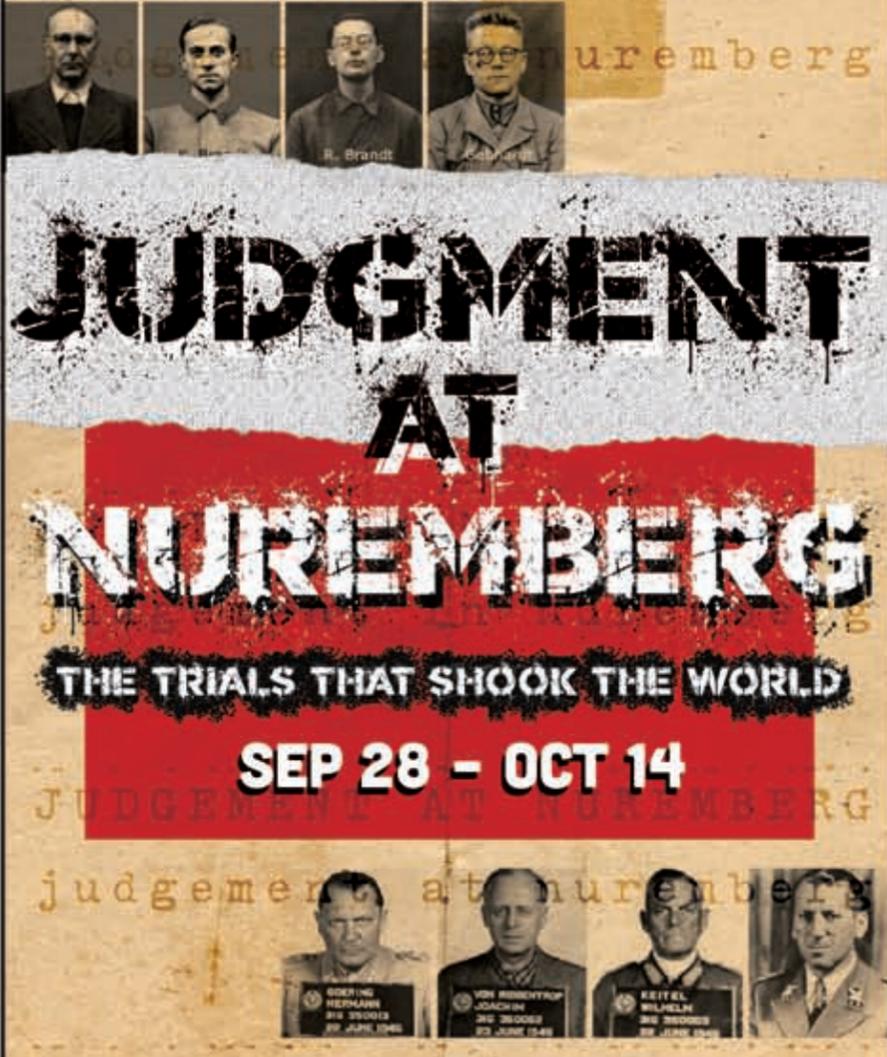
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Teens and screen time subject of film, discussion

Raising children in the age of the internet and smart phones can be a challenge, and many parents struggle to understand the effects of this technology and how to set limits on screen time.

To better understand the issues involved, the Jewish Federation of Pinellas and Pasco Counties and the Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County will present the movie, *Screenagers: Growing up in the Digital Age*. Congregation Beth Shalom's Rabbi Danielle Upbin, a mother of four, will lead a discussion following the movie.

The free program will be held on Sunday, Oct. 14 at the mid-Pinellas location of Empath Health's Gathering Place, 5771 Roosevelt Blvd., Clearwater, beginning at 3 p.m.

Middle school and high school students and their parents are urged to attend. Attendees will enjoy a complimentary pizza dinner.

Screenagers has been screened more than 6,000 times to two million people in more than 50 countries around the world. Last year, the movie was shown at the Hillel Academy in Tampa.

It is the first feature documentary to explore the impact of screen technology on kids and offer families proven solutions that work to get teens to cutback on their screen time.

Some of the movie's surprising – or may be not so surprising – statistics show that kids spend on average 6.5 hours a day on screens not including classroom or homework and boys spend on average the equivalent of 1.5 days on video games every week.

Physician and filmmaker Delaney Ruston decided to make *Screenagers* when she found herself constantly struggling with her two kids about the issue. As a director, Ruston turned the camera on her own family and others – revealing stories of conflicts over



From the film, "Screenagers: Growing up in Digital World."

social media, video games, academics and internet addiction. The stories include Hannah, a 14-year old victim of social media bullying who tried to hide her social media use from her mom, and Andrew, whose love of video games, turned into an addiction taking him from earning straight As to flunking out of college.

Registration for the Oct. 14 program is required. For more information, or to register for this event, contact Maxine Kaufman, Federation's director of arts, culture, and education, at mkaufman@jewishpinellas.org.

For more information about the movie and educational programming, go to www.screenagersmovie.com.

Save dates for Festival of Jewish Books & Conversations

Tampa's 13th Festival of Jewish Books & Conversations, hosted by the Tampa JCCs, will begin Thursday, Nov. 1 and will run through Sunday, Nov. 18, during the National Jewish Book Month.

More than a dozen authors will be featured, many acclaimed award winners.

Featured topics include never-before-told stories of a mysterious Coney Island doctor who saved thousands of babies, another doctor who was one of our youngest and most visionary Founding Fathers, an Italian cycling legend and of a mom who helped save the Louvre and its treasures from the Nazis. Festival novels offer tales of a mystic's death predictions and a humorous look at a family wedding.

Events will take place at the JCC on the Cohn Campus, 13009 Community Campus Drive, Tampa, the Bryan Glazer Family JCC, 522 N. Howard, Tampa and other locations around the community.

The featured books are chosen each year by the Jewish Book Festival Committee, led by Debbie Doliner and Barbara Manners.

Tampa JCCs Arts and Culture Director Brandy Gold emphasizes that participants in festival events do not need to be book lovers or avid readers.

"Most attendees have not read the book prior to attending. Our festival is all about offering conversations about compelling top-

ics of interest," said Gold. "Come out, enjoy and support our Jewish community, while learning, listening, engaging in stimulating conversations while having lots of fun."

All programs are open to the entire community. Reservations are encouraged (required for a restaurant luncheon event) and can be made with your ticket purchases at jewishtampa.com/books, beginning Oct. 1 or at the door. Tickets range in price from \$5 to \$25. All events, excluding the Skype program, will conclude with a book signing by the featured author.

The Tampa JCC on the Cohn Campus will feature a festival bookstore throughout the two weeks where guests could purchase the featured books.

Additional festival authors will be presented January through May, 2019, through the popular Sip & Skype programs plus a bookstore author appearance is scheduled in April.

The Gemunder Family Foundation is the Jewish Books & Conversations presenting sponsor.

For more information about the authors, books, festival events, or sponsorships, contact Brandy Gold at brandy.gold@jewishtampa.com or (813) 769-4725.

More details and the schedule for the festival will be included in the next issue of the *Jewish Press*.

Letter to the Editor

The Jewish Press welcomes Letters to the Editor. Letters are published on a space available basis with the Jewish Press reserving the right to edit or reject letters for clarity, brevity, legalities or taste. Letters must be signed and bear the writer's address and telephone number (which will not be published). The writer's name will be withheld on request.

JTA writer avoids the real story

The primary mission of the Jewish protest group IfNotNow (INN) is to end the West Bank occupation. Some like me would argue the group is radical, but their actions would require another article to explain. JTA writer Ben Sales described the protest of Birthright tours in the Jewish Press Aug. 10 issue. The story reported how tour participants spontaneously argued with tour guides explaining Israeli policy in the West Bank and then left the tours in protest. The truth is this was an organized campaign by INN that was openly promoted on their website all summer. INN targeted Birthright participants and invited them to attend workshops to encourage protest. Birthright donors were demonized as rich, right-wing extremists attempting to conceal evil motives. Of course, without a solid understanding of Israeli history, and the onslaught of anti-Israel nar-

ratives, some Jewish kids will be converted. What's unacceptable is that Ben Sales either ignored or concealed the reason behind the protests. The headline should have simply read: "IfNotNow Targets Birthright Tours."

I believe we're raising a generation of anti-intellectuals. A common observation after reviewing INN news stories is there's not a single constructive solution they offer; it's strictly protest-only. When they refused an invitation to meet with the ADL after protesting at their headquarters, INN leadership claimed enough talk, time for action. A critic of INN called their behavior "infantile." I would add "convenient."

One look at their website and it's clear why this group is impossible to nail down. How can one argue the merits if there are no specifics? How convenient to offer popular slogans without describing how to achieve them. One compliment I can give is I appreciate their history of peaceful protest. But I also hope they acknowledge it's morally wrong to accept a free trip to Israel and then insult the people who donated it. Two factual statements: 1. Israel is one of our greatest allies and an amazing country. 2. The reasons and solutions to the occupation are difficult and complex. Let's be open, honest, and teach that message to our youth.

Noah Jacobson
Tampa

FILM

• CONTINUED from FRONT PAGE

“We believe this new technology will enhance Holocaust learning in a world where fewer and fewer survivors still live to share their authentic experiences,” said Elizabeth Gelman, executive director of the Florida Holocaust Museum.

Calling the immersive experience of *The Last Goodbye* “a game changer for Holocaust education,” Gelman said, “Our goal is to connect one person to one person, bringing the focus away from incomprehensible numbers and to the actual people who were affected.”

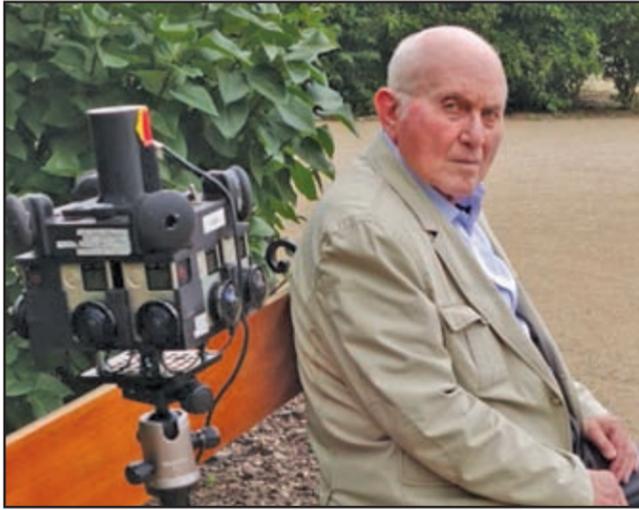
First screened at the 2017 Tribeca Film Festival, the movie is exhibited within an installation created by David Korins, the renowned designer of Broadway hits *Hamilton* and *Dear Evan Hansen*. *The Last Goodbye* has achieved critical acclaim and received numerous prestigious awards, including two Webby Awards and the Creative Arts Award, VR - Documentary Jury Prize at the 2018 Lumiere Awards.

“Every generation needs to bear witness to these atrocities, but our tools for learning and preservation change. We felt that producing the first Holocaust survivor testimony in room-scale VR would engage audiences in understanding the nature of the Nazi concentration camp system where the SS authorities could murder targeted groups,” said USC Shoah Foundation Finci-Viterbi Executive Director Stephen Smith, who is also one of the film’s producers.

Through the use of VR technology, “We can give viewers the opportunity to explore the space side by side with Pinchas in order to truly understand what this experience was

like. It is a powerful way of understanding and emotionally connecting to history,” added Moving Picture Company (MPC) official Tim Dillon, another of the film’s producers.

Capturing Gutter’s testimony on-site and ensuring it was incorporated into the film was itself a feat of innovation. Thousands of photos were stitched together by an expert



Holocaust survivor Pinchas Gutter’s visit to the Majdanek death camp in Poland is the subject of the Virtual Reality film, “The Last Goodbye.” Gutter was 10 when he was taken to the camp.

at MPC to create three-dimensional images of the interiors to scale. Gutter’s video testimony, taken in the same spaces, was then incorporated into the film, providing a vivid environment in which he recounts his heart-breaking story of suffering, loss and survival. It stands as a testament to the strength of the human heart and the enduring power of hope and perseverance.

The Last Goodbye virtual reality film experience is included with the cost of admission to the Florida Holocaust Museum. It is available to one person at a time, with only two time slots offered every hour. Tickets will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. The public may contact the museum after Thursday, Sept. 13 at (727) 820-0100, ext. 226, to schedule a viewing.

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



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SISTERHOOD GOES GREEN • NO PAPER INVITATION THIS YEAR

An all-female Orthodox ambulance corps in Brooklyn gets a film of their own

By CURT SCHLEIER
JTA news service

Like many heavily Orthodox sections of Brooklyn, Borough Park has been served for decades by an all-male volunteer ambulance corps called Hatzalah.

The corps caters to a religious Jewish community with particular needs and customs – including one custom that can increase the tension for patients in already stressful emergency situations. The strict boundaries between men and women are familiar to anyone who has attended an Orthodox synagogue or has read the stories of airplane flights being delayed because haredi Orthodox men refuse to sit next to women.

In the event of a medical emergency, the male Hatzalah volunteers may touch women – if, for example, a woman needs to be moved to a stretcher or requires assistance while giving birth. But while Jewish law has its exemptions, women concerned about the rules of modesty have plenty of reasons to prefer treatment by a female EMT.

93Queen, Orthodox filmmaker



Photo courtesy of Malka Films

Rachel Freier shown in the film with her husband.

Paula Eiselt's big-screen debut, documents one woman's attempt to create an all-female version of Hatzalah with only strictly observant Orthodox members. In a statement, Eiselt explains that over four years of filming, she essentially operated as a one-woman crew.

The film, which has had a limited theatrical release around the country this summer, will have its broadcast premiere as part of PBS's documentary POV series. It will air locally on WEDU on Monday, Sept. 17 at 10 p.m. (The program will be repeated on Tues-

day, Sept. 18 at 1:30 a.m. and Wednesday, Sept. 19 at 4 a.m.)

The woman behind the female corps is Rachel "Ruchie" Freier, a lawyer and Borough Park native. In the film when she introduces the viewer to her Brooklyn Hasidic enclave, she acknowledges the community's prevailing view of a woman's role: "The focus of a woman is being a mother. Any profession, or extra schooling, is



Photo by Julietta Ceramies

Rachel Freier, center, came up with the idea for the all female, Hasidic EMT corps.

discouraged."

Nevertheless, Freier assembles a group of volunteers, albeit who are tentative at the start.

And, not surprisingly, her plan sets up a clash with the establishment Hatzalah and its supporters. Opponents threaten to boycott the hospital that is training the women

and the companies that sell them medical supplies. They also post nasty comments on Twitter, such as "God have mercy if you wait for them to get their make-up and the right dress on."

But Freier's leadership and inner strength help the members of what they call Ezras Nashim ("helping women") persevere. "The worst thing you can tell me is that I can't do something because I'm a woman, a religious woman," she says.

Part of Freier's fortitude manifests itself in a my-way-or-the-highway manner. When she insists that only married women can join the team, some members object – including an experienced EMT who recently became religious – and others resign. "There's a whole host of issues that come up in a marriage that will give you that level of maturity," she says.

Though the film is gripping, the viewer is never entirely sure how it all works. The women on call respond from wherever they are to the scene of the emergency. However, it does not appear that Ezras Nashim owns its own ambulance. It contracts with a private company to provide patient transport. Who staffs that ambulance? Men? Do the women EMTs accompany patients in the ambulance?

There are other questions. At one point Freier says she refuses to let the project fail because that might blemish her image and hurt her plans to run for a judgeship. Was the ambulance fight just a way to build a political base, to get her name out there?

In fact, in 2016 Freier was elected as a judge in New York City's 5th Civil Court District, becoming what is believed to be the first Hasidic woman elected to public office in the United States.

Does it matter?

In the end, Freier must be doing something right: Last year, Ezras Nashim won the New York Basic Life Support Agency of the Year award, a high honor.

Eiselt also must be doing something right. Last year, the film was previewed at the Toronto Hot Docs Forum and pitch program and won the top prize of \$54,000.

She calls her film a story of "proud Hasidic women challenging the status quo of their own community and refusing to take no for an answer from the all-powerful patriarchy."

Regardless of your background – religious or atheist, feminist or nonpolitical – 93Queen is a film that will get your juices boiling.



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Monica Lewinsky cuts short Jerusalem interview after question about Clinton apology

JERUSALEM (JTA) – Monica Lewinsky, an anti-bullying advocate who gained fame for her affair with Bill Clinton while serving as a White House intern, cut short a live interview in Jerusalem after the first question was about the former president.

Lewinsky, who will be the keynote speaker for the Congregation Schaarai Zedek Sisterhood's annual Star Event in Tampa on Oct. 15, appeared at a conference in the Israeli capital organized by the Israel Television News Company, where she delivered a speech and then sat on stage for a live interview with Israel Channel 2 news anchor Yonit Levi.

Levi asked Lewinsky if she was still expecting a personal apology from Clinton over the inappropriate relationship, for which Clinton was impeached, Channel 2 reported.

"I'm so sorry, I'm not going to be able to do this," Lewinsky said as she walked off stage following the question, according to reports.

Lewinsky said later in a tweet that she and Levi had discussed prior to the staged event what questions were fair game and what were off limits.

"The exact question the interviewer asked first, she had put to me when we met the day prior. I said that was off limits," Lewinsky said in the tweet. "When she asked me it on stage, with blatant disregard for our agreement, it became clear to me that I had been misled. I left because it is more important than ever for women to stand up for themselves and not allow others to control their narrative."

Lewinsky also apologized to the audience "that this talk had to end this way."

She did not publicly discuss her relationship with Clinton until 2014. In February, Lewinsky wrote a personal essay for Vanity Fair on the 20th anniversary of the investigation into the affair, in which she admitted that she suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder over the fallout from the investigation and publicity, and that the #MeToo movement had changed her perspective on the affair and its aftermath.

"I don't think I would have felt so isolated if what happened in 1998 happened in 2018," she told her Jerusalem audience. "By and large I had been alone. Publicly alone. Abandoned most by the main figure in this crisis, who knew me well and intimately."

Lewinsky also told the audience that after the news broke of her affair with Clinton, "I was shunned from almost every community which I belonged to, including my religious community. That led to some very dark times for me."

Clinton said in an interview in June with NBC's Today show correspondent Craig Melvin that he felt his public apologies for the relationship were enough.

Lewinsky's visit to Tampa next month is part of the temple Sisterhood's 17th annual Franci Goldman Rudolph Star event at the Renaissance Hotel in Tampa's International Plaza. For more information on the event, go to www.zedek.org/starevent or call the temple at (813) 876-2377.

Anti-Semitic online post says Jews are taking over Indiana U

(JTA) – An online post said a "bunch of hairy stink rude obnoxious jews" are overtaking the Indiana University campus.

The existence of the anonymous post was first reported by the alternative student publication *The Tab* on its Instagram account.

The Aug. 29 post had appeared on the Greekrank website about fraternities and sororities on campus. It has been deleted, but screenshots have circulated.

University officials denounced the post in a statement, *The Indiana Daily Student* reported. "The language used by these anonymous posters is hurtful and offensive," the statement said. It also said that "Hoosiers are better than this."

The post said: "OMG so first of all I don't want to sound racist or anything.. but like wtf why are there so many jews here at IU now wat happened?" the post said. "where being taken over by a bunch of hairy stink rude obnoxious jews... the girls acts so damn exclusive and if ur not jewish u can't hang out with them or even talk to them.. they give us looks like were below them and not worthy of talking too...this must end or this school is gonna go to ****!"

Responses included "UR not wrong but you can't do anything about it" and "Don't really have a problem with the guys or girls, just the JAPS," and "seriously there everywhere."

The editor of *The Tab* said on Instagram that "to hear that anti-Semitism is alive and well as a Jew on campus makes me mad. We are better than this. Now show it."

University officials also met with students at Hillel, *The Indiana Daily Student* reported, citing Hillel director Rabbi Sue Silberberg. "They're very upset and take it very, very seriously, and that's been very comforting for the students," Silberberg said of the university officials.

There are about 4,000 Jewish undergraduates on Indiana University's Bloomington campus, making up 11 percent of the undergraduate student population, according to the *Hillel Guide to Colleges*.

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Presented By



Newcomer Nosh draws young, old and in-between

Nearly two dozen people noshed on bagels and lox, fruit, and coffee cake on Sunday morning, Aug. 26 at a Newcomer Nosh hosted by the Jewish Federation of Pinellas and Pasco Counties.

Held in the Federation's newly appointed Community Room, several couples, one infant, and a few singles who are new to the area or just new to Federation chatted, played some Jewish geography and learned more about the community and each other.

"As a relatively new resident in the area, I found the warmth and connection to others to be very enjoyable," said Linda Weiss, a third-year transplant to the area from South Florida. "It is terrific to have this opportunity to know more about the Jewish community and to meet new people — one couple who just moved here two weeks prior."

Maxine Kaufman, Federation's director of arts, culture, and education, expressed her delight at seeing new faces around the table "from all demographics. We are trying to reach out to the entire gamut of the community — infants to seniors."

Another Nosh is planned for Sunday, Jan. 27. Stay tuned for more details. Anyone interested in learning more about the Jewish Federation of Pinellas and Pasco Counties, should contact the organization at info@jewishpinellas.org or (727) 530-3223.



(L-R) Wendy Weinberg, Juliana Miller and Emilie Socash, executive director of the Jewish Federation of Pinellas and Pasco Counties.



A display of information about the local Jewish community was set up for the Newcomer Nosh.

'Iran fighting to survive,' Trump says on Rosh Hashanah greeting call

(JTA) — The U.S. pullout from the nuclear deal with Iran triggered a European desertion of that country that is threatening its regime's survival, President Donald Trump said.

Trump spoke about the issue Thursday, Sept. 6, during a Rosh Hashanah phone call with rabbis and Jewish leaders. Taking part in the 20-minute call were his son-in-law and adviser Jared Kushner; U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman; the attorney and law professor Alan Dershowitz; and former U.S. Sen. Norm Coleman of Minnesota.

Trump did not invite questions from listeners, although Coleman and Dershowitz both asked questions. Last year, leaders of the Reconstructionist, Reform and Conservative streams declined to organize the annual pre-Rosh Hashanah call in the wake of Trump's comments surrounding the Charlottesville white supremacist rally. This year's invitation list leaned heavily toward Orthodox and hawkish pro-Israel groups, the *Forward* reported.

"Now the Europeans are finally leaving. They're finally saying, 'All right, look, this is just not working.' You know, they tried to play hardball for a little while, but they're now leaving and they're doing the right thing," Trump said about Iran.

In June, the French automaker Peugeot-Citroen said it intended to leave the Iranian market for fear of U.S. sanctions. Other European corporations that said they would leave Iran following the deal's termination in May include the French energy firm Total; the Danish shipping giant Maersk; the German conglomerate Siemens; and the Russian energy firm Lukoil.

American corporations including General Electric, Honeywell and Boeing also announced that they were leaving Iran following the U.S. pullout from the deal. The Asian conglomerates Reliance, Mazda and Hyundai suspended contracts with Iran.

Trump has said that Iran did not live up to the spirit of the deal it reached with the United States and six other powers under former president Barack Obama in 2015. It offered Iran sanctions relief in return for its scaling back of parts of its nuclear program. Israel and Saudi Arabia opposed the deal, arguing it was too soft and that its 10-year time limitation period meant Iran could build nuclear weapons once it expires. But Obama, leaders of the European Union, which was a party in the deal, and other advocates said it was the best way to block Iran's path to developing a nuclear bomb.

When the United States pulled out, it exposed European and other firms that do business with Iran to U.S. sanctions, forcing several of the firms to leave Iran. These developments, compounded by low oil prices, sent the Iranian currency into a free-fall. The rial hit a record low this week of around 150,000 against the dollar, compared to about 3,500 rial for one dollar in September 2016.

In the phone call Trump said he did not anticipate the full scope of his actions on Iran.

"It turned out to have a much bigger impact than I thought. I did it primarily because of nuclear, but I knew it wouldn't be great for their economy. I had no idea how devastating it would be," he said.

In 2016, Trump said, "It was a question of when will they [Iran] take over the entire Middle East. And that probably includes Israel, in the mind of a lot of people." Yet today, "they are now really looking to survive."

He said the United States would be prepared to negotiate a new agreement with Iran if the latter seeks talks.

Trump also said that his former secretary of state, Rex Tillerson, "didn't like terminating" the deal.

"I played the game for a while; I wish I did it sooner," the president said. "But I played that little game for a while, and then ultimately I decided I'm just doing it. And I did it."

In the talk, Trump and his interlocutors revisited major policy changes vis-à-vis Israel since he took office, including moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv. The speakers thanked Trump for making the move. Trump said he encountered so much resistance from world leaders that he stopped taking their calls over the issue.

He also noted the U.S. announcement that it would pull out of the United Nations Human Rights Council over its anti-Israel bias and the decision to permanently stop making contributions to UNRWA, the U.N. aid agency for Palestinians.

Trump reiterated his belief that moving the embassy to Jerusalem took the subject "off the table," clearing a path to peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. The Palestinian Authority has said it will not engage in such talks, saying the United States is not an honest broker.

"I think it's disrespectful when people don't come to the table," Trump said about the issue.

Regarding Rosh Hashanah, Trump said: "I send my warmest wishes to the Jewish people in the United States and around the world as we approach the High Holy Days. I want to express my deep admiration and gratitude for the extraordinary contributions of the Jewish people to the United States and to the world."

Over the centuries, he said, "The Jewish people have suffered unthinkable persecution, yet you have not only endured, you have thrived and flourished as an example of humankind."

His own "connection to Judaism is also personal," Trump said. "I am the very proud father of a Jewish daughter, Ivanka, and my son-in-law, who I'm very proud of also — I will say that very loudly — Jared, and my several Jewish grandchildren, namely three beautiful Jewish grandchildren that I love."

Jewish American soldier buried for 74 years after going missing

(JTA) — A Jewish-American soldier from World War II who was listed as missing 74 years ago has finally been buried in California.

Staff Sgt. David Rosenkrantz was buried at the Riverside National Cemetery, where four of his brothers also are buried. In March, his remains were recovered and identified near the farm in the Netherlands where he was killed, the *Los Angeles Times* reported.

More than 30 of his relatives, including nieces and nephews, great nieces and great nephews, and their children, attended the funeral, according to the *Times*.

Rosenkrantz became a hometown hero three months after being shipped out to Europe in 1943, when he and another paratrooper were mistakenly dropped into an Italian unit and all 200 of them surrendered to the two American soldiers.

He was killed at the age of 28 during Op-

eration Market Garden in the Netherlands, in a battle chronicled in the 1977 film *A Bridge Too Far*.

Rosenkrantz's dog tags, which were stamped with a "J" for Jewish, had been returned to the family in March 2012, according to a website in his memory maintained by his nephew Dr. Phillip Rosenkrantz. According to the website, the dog tags were found not long after the war by a farmer and turned over to the U.S. Army. They were then misplaced and found by the army in 2011 and released to the family.

The soldier's remains had been recovered by Canadian soldiers and buried in an American military grave in the southern part of the Netherlands. This was discovered by a Dutchman, Ben Overhand, who as a teenager began trying to find the remains of soldiers who helped liberate the Netherlands and saw the website dedicated to Rosenkrantz.

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Things you probably don't know about Yom Kippur

By MY JEWISH LEARNING STAFF

Yom Kippur, the Jewish Day of Atonement, starts at sundown on Tuesday, Sept. 18. Traditionally one of the most somber days on the Jewish calendar, it's known for fasting and repentance – not to mention killer caffeine withdrawal headaches.

However, the holiday has some lesser-known associations as well.

1. The word “scapegoat” originates in an ancient Yom Kippur ritual.

Jews historically have been popular scapegoats – blamed for an array of ills not of their creation. But, and we're not kidding, they really do deserve blame (or credit) for the term scapegoat. In Leviticus 16:8 (in the Torah portion Achrei Mot), the High Priest is instructed on Yom Kippur to lay his hands upon a goat while confessing the sins of the entire community – and then to throw the animal off a cliff.

2. Another animal ritual, swinging a chicken around one's head, has sparked considerable controversy, and not just from animal-rights activists.

In 2015, the kapparot ritual, in which a chicken is symbolically invested with a person's sins, then slaughtered and given to the needy, spurred two lawsuits in the United States: one by traditional Jews claiming their right to perform it was being abridged by the government and another by animal-rights activists. Centuries earlier, the ritual drew criticism from notable sages like the Ramban (13th century) and Rabbi Joseph Caro (16th century), whose objections had less to do with animal welfare than with religious integrity. Some observant Jews today, unable or unwilling to gain possession of a live chicken, now swing money over their heads that then goes to charity.

3. Yom Kippur once was a big matchmaking day.

The Talmud states that both Yom Kippur and Tu b'Av (often described as the Jewish Valentine's Day) were the most joyous days of the year, when women would wear white gowns and dance in the vineyards chanting “Young man, lift up your eyes and see what you choose for yourself. Do not set your eyes on beauty, but set your eyes on a good family.” Given the aforementioned caffeine headaches and the difficulty of making a decision on an empty stomach, we're glad this particular tradition is no more.

4. Food and drink are not the only things Jews abstain from on Yom Kippur.

Other traditional no-nos on Yom Kippur include bathing, wearing perfume or lotions and having sexual relations. The less-than-attractive aroma resulting from the first two restrictions (not to mention the romantic restrictions imposed by the third) may explain why the day ceased to be an occasion for finding true love. Traditionalists also refrain from wearing leather. So the good news is that you can go to shul in comfy (non-leather) sneakers or flips flops.

5. In Israel, Yom Kippur is the most bike-friendly day of the year.

Although many Israelis are secular, and there is no law on the books forbidding driving on Yom Kippur, virtually all the country's Jews avoid their cars on this day. With only the occasional emergency vehicle on the road, bikers of all ages can be seen pedaling, even on major highways.

6. Eating a big meal before the holiday begins will make your fast harder rather than easier.

Traditionally, the meal eaten before beginning the fast is supposed to be large and festive, following the Talmudic dictum that it is a mitzvah (commandment) to eat on the eve of Yom Kippur, just as it is a mitzvah to



Photo by Ilia Yefimovich/Getty Images

Orthodox Jewish girl performing the kapparot ceremony prior to Yom Kippur in Jerusalem in 2016.



Sarah Chandler, an ordained Kohenet (Hebrew priestess) and animal rights activist, suggests a twist on the kapparot ceremony – instead of grabbing the chicken and whipping it through the air, just give it a hug.

fast on Yom Kippur itself. However, eating extra food – particularly in one last-minute feast – does not help to keep you going for 24 hours, says Dr. Tzvi Dwolatzky of Israel's Rambam Health Care Campus. He suggests eating small amounts of carbohydrates (bread, potato, rice, pasta), some protein (fish, chicken) and fruit.

7. On Yom Kippur in 1940, London's Jews kept calm and carried on.

In the midst of the Battle of Britain, the relentless Nazi bombardment of London that began in September 1940, the city's synagogues went on with their Yom Kippur services. According to JTA, while air raid warnings “twice disturbed” the morning services on Oct. 12, 1940, “most synagogues carried on regardless” and a “large proportion of the men attending services wore uniforms of the various forces.”

8. Yom Kippur's Kol Nidre services are the only night of the entire Jewish calendar when a tallit is worn for evening prayers.

According to the late Rabbi Louis Jacobs, the tallit is worn during Kol Nidre as “a token of special reverence for the holy day.” It is traditional to wear a tallit or a white garment for the entire holiday, with the color white symbolizing both our spiritual purity and our removing ourselves from the vanities of the material world. Many people actually wear a white robe called a kittel.

9. A Virginia rabbi's pro-civil rights movement sermon on Yom Kippur in 1958 riled up local segregationists and sparked fears of an anti-Semitic backlash.

JTA reported that Virginia's Defenders of State Sovereignty group demanded that local Jews “move quickly to refute and condemn” Rabbi Emmet Frank of Alexandria's Temple Beth El for his sermon criticizing the state's “massive resistance” to school desegregation and said that if he had intended to destroy Christian-Jewish relations, “he could not have been more effective.” While a “leading member” of the Reform temple reportedly said a “considerable” number of congregants worried Frank's stand “might result in increased anti-Semitism,” others “sided with the rabbi, holding that he held a spiritual and moral duty to speak out for social justice.” The congregation stood by Frank, and *The Washington Post* published an editorial calling him a “courageous clergyman.”

View High Holy Day services on tv, online

Jewish Broadcasting Service will be broadcasting live services from Central Synagogue in New York City during the High Holy Days which can be viewed locally on various cable and streaming services.

The schedule includes:

- Kol Nidre on Tuesday, Sept. 18 at 6 p.m.
- Kol Nidre on Tuesday, Sept. 18, at 8:30 p.m.
- Yom Kippur family service on Wednesday, Sept. 19 at 9 a.m.
- Yom Kippur service on Wednesday, Sept. 19 at 10:45 a.m.

- Erev Sukkot service on Sunday, Sept. 23 at 6 p.m.
- Sukkot service on Monday, Sept. 24 at 9:30 a.m.
- Erev Simchat Torah service on Sunday, Sept. 30 at 6 p.m.
- Simchat Torah service on Monday, Oct. 1 at 9:30 a.m.

For those with Spectrum cable the programming is on channel 166 SD and 1223 HD; for AT&T DirecTV viewers it is on channel 388; for Roku subscribers, look under “religion” and online it is at jbstv.org.

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Find your roots: Guest speaker **Bruce Hadburg** of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay will present an overview of Jewish Genealogy at the meeting of Jewish Women International on Tuesday, Sept. 25 at 7 p.m. Hadburg will provide the basic tools to start your genealogical search. The meeting will be at the Preserve at Clearwater, 2010 Greenbriar Blvd., Clearwater. For more information, contact hhadburg@gmail.com or call Heidi at (727) 403-0393. Light refreshments will be served and all are welcome

Genealogical Society

Enhancing the family tree: The Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay will host guest speakers **Jo Anne Spatz De Vargas** and **Marty Lazar** of Vu Documentaries on Sunday, Sept. 16 at 2 p.m. as they discuss "How Video Can Enhance a Family Tree." Those attending will learn about personal documentaries with videos that help you share your family story. The meeting will be held at Gulf Coast Jewish Family & Community Services, 14041 Icot Blvd., Clearwater. A pre-session social with refreshments and library access begins at 1:30 p.m. Everyone is invited.

For more information, call **Bruce Hadburg** at (727) 796-7981.

Young Adults

Break-the-Fast dinner: The 20s+30s group at Congregation Schaarai Zedek in Tampa invites others in that age group to a Yom Kippur Break-the-Fast at Metro Diner, 4011 W. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa on Wednesday, Sept. 19 at 6:30 p.m. Appetizers are free but participants pay for their own dinner. The group is sponsored by Schaarai Zedek but open to all. RSVP by Sept. 17 at www.zedek.org/20s30s.

For more information, contact **Lindsey Dewey** at ldewey@zedek.org or (813) 876-2377, ext. 221.

Bowling: Enjoy an afternoon of bowling at Pinarama, 5008 S. Dale Mabry Highway, Tampa, with #Gather on Sunday, Sept. 23 from 1-3 p.m. Cost is \$5 for members and \$10 for guests.

Trivia night and brews: Test your trivia knowledge with Team #Gather at 81Bay Brewing, 4465 W. Gandy Blvd., Tampa on Wednesday, Oct. 10. Happy hour

begins at 7 p.m. and trivia is at 8 p.m. This is a free event.

Bagel lovers unite: Enjoy your Sunday morning with a bagel brunch spread on Sunday, Oct. 21 from 10-11:30 a.m. This #Gather event is at Ballast Point Park, 5300 Interbay Blvd., Tampa, and the cost is \$5 for members and \$8 for guests. There will be bagels, lox, cream cheese, coffee and juice with great playground facilities. Families and children are welcome to join.

#Gather 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 #Gather events, visit: www.bryanglazerfamilyjcc.com/gather or www.jcccohn-campus.com/programs/young-adults or contact **Lisa Robbins** at lisa.robbins@jewishtampa.com or (813) 769-4723.

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 Sept. 17, the topic is "12 Keys to a Productive Career Transition." On Sept. 24 the topic will be "Self Care: Strategies to Replenish, Recharge, & Reboot." On Oct. 1 the topic will be "Demystifying Behavioral Interviewing."

Job-search aids: Success workshops to aid with job-search skills will be held on Thursdays, Sept. 20, 27 and Oct. 4. On Sept. 20 from 9:30 a.m. to noon the topic is "Customize Your Résumé to Stand Out From the

Crowd." On Sept. 27 from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. the topic is "Preparing for Your Interview" and on Oct. 4 from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. the topic is "Financial Fundamentals for Now and the Future." The workshops are free for Job-Links program participants; \$15 for guests. Reservations required. To RSVP, call (813) 344-0200, email RSVP@TBJL.org.

Switching Gears: A four-part Switching Gears workshop series is taking place from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, Oct. 3, 10, 17, and 24 at the Jack Roth Center for Career Development at TampaBay-Job-Links. TBJL's professional career coaches will present interactive content to enhance attendees' job-search skills - whether they are just beginning their career, returning to the workforce after an absence, or considering a career change. Topics include conducting self-assessments, developing a brand, enhancing interview skills, managing networking, strengthening résumés and LinkedIn profiles, targeting companies, and more. Participants can attend any or all workshops. The fee to attend is \$15 for individual sessions or \$50 for all four. Dinner is included. Seating is limited.

To register call (813) 344-0200 or email rsvp@tbjl.org.

Support groups

Alzheimer's caregiver group: Menorah Manor offers a support group meeting in the Samson Nursing Center at Menorah Manor, 255 59th St. N., St. Petersburg, on the first Thursday of the month from 3:30-5 p.m.

For more information, call **Gwen Kaldenberg** at (727) 302-3750.

Lulavs and etrogs on shaky ground at Israel's airport

(JNS) - A special task force will begin operating at Ben-Gurion International Airport in Israel in the next few days, charged with preventing the import of three of the four species that comprise the lulav and etrog combination necessary for the traditional celebration of the Sukkot holiday, which starts on the night of Sept. 23.

The Agriculture Ministry said its ban on myrtle (hadassim), willow branches (aravot) and palm fronds (lulav) is meant to prevent the spread of plant diseases and pests inside the country.

Inbound passengers will be permitted to bring in a citron (etrog), providing that they pass an Agriculture Ministry inspection at the airport.

Israel is the only country in the world that grows and exports the three plant types, and one of few countries that grows etrogs commercially.

Though offenders bringing illegal lulav parts into the country may be subject to fines or even criminal offenses depending on the severity of the infraction, the task force has purchased thousands of sets of the four species deemed kosher for use on Sukkot and will distribute them for free at the airport for all those who wish to receive them.

Ministry inspectors caught a woman last week trying to smuggle 40 etrogs, valued at more than \$1,000, into the country by falsely declaring her suitcase was lost in the hopes of retrieving it later without having to pass through customs.

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Sweden to create its first Holocaust museum

(JTA) – Sweden has plans to build its first Holocaust museum with a focus on Holocaust survivors from the Scandinavian country and a center devoted to the diplomat Raoul Wallenberg. Announcing the decision to create the museum, Swedish Minister of Social Affairs and Sports Minister Annika Strandhäll said on Twitter that the news “feels more important than ever.”

The museum is likely to be built in Malmo, a city of approximately 350,000 where dozens of anti-Semitic incidents are recorded annually. It is tentatively slated to be ready to open in 2020, the Dagen news website reported.

A center on Wallenberg, who saved tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews from the Nazis during the Holocaust, is expected to attract international visitors, accord-

ing to Dagen.

The museum will focus on surviving Swedes and collect items, interviews and documents about their experiences. Many of these objects are now scattered at museums, archives and private homes.

In Malmo, first- and second-generation immigrants from the Middle East make up one-third of the population. Several hundred Jews live there.

NEW BOARD

• CONTINUED from FRONT PAGE

boards of the Columbus Jewish Federation and the Hillel of the Ohio State University. A lawyer by training, he previously held executive human resource positions with Verizon and Lenovo. Singer has an adult daughter, Allison.

Immediately upon arriving in Florida, Singer reached out to the Jewish Federation to become more involved and joined the board in 2016. He also serves on the board of freeFall Theatre and is a Big Brother.

“For me, taking on the role of president of our Federation is tribal. I grew up in an Orthodox home, and I’ve come to understand personally that it’s important to be a part of a people. I am incredibly proud of what the Jewish people have and continue to contribute to society at large. This is my people, and I’ve been so impressed with what our Federation has been able to do right here in my own community that I want to be a part of the next chapter,” Singer said.

Emilie Socash, executive director of the Federation, said, “The past few years, we have been so fortunate to have such skilled and connected community members as president. Karen Reich, Margot Benstock, and Steve Klein all were instrumental in assisting our Federation in the most-needed ways, and I am excited to have the chance to work with Ezra on taking our organization and our community to the next level.”

During the past three years, the Federation’s annual operating budget has grown from approximately \$900,000 to more than \$1.5 million through efforts led by these presidents together with Socash. The Federation has operationally stabilized as well as expanded its role in the community, bringing resources together in such a fashion that allowed for the launch of the Jewish Community Camp in 2017, hosting a

community schlicha (ambassador) from Israel during the 2017-18 year, placing a new emphasis on arts and culture programming, and increasing allocations to all local and international beneficiaries.

“In my two years as president, I am setting my sights on continuing to build a high-capacity leadership team, rolling out an action plan related to the recent demographic study findings, and doing more of the things that touch our community, which help drive the resources needed to continue our growth,” Singer said.

Joining him on the executive committee are Aliza Norstein as secretary, Hal Hershkowitz as treasurer, and Steve Klein as immediate past president.

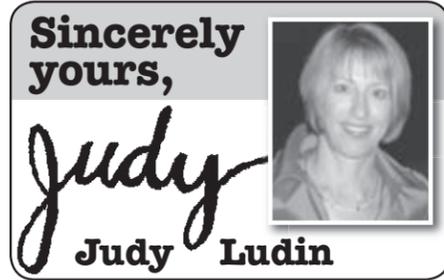
New members to the Federation board are Jessica Englehard, Susie Schwartz, Aaron Slavin, and Rabbi Michael Torop (as a representative of the Pinellas County Board of Rabbis). Continuing board members fulfilling their three-year terms are David Bernstein, Eric Lynn, Louis Orloff, Karen Reich, Toni Rinde, Brian Rolfe, Les Rubin, and Steve Schwesky.

The nomination process requires a seven-member committee nominate new and continuing board members as well as recommend executive committee members. This year’s committee was headed by past president Margot Benstock and included five board members in addition to Rabbi Danielle Upbin, representing the Leadership Council. At the Aug. 23 meeting of the board the slate was proposed and unanimously approved.

The Jewish Federation of Pinellas and Pasco Counties creates opportunities for all Jewish community members – regardless of affiliation or observance – to connect in meaningful ways. For more information about getting connected or involved, visit www.jewishpinellas.org.

Peak circulation

The *Jewish Press* is widely circulated in the Tampa Bay area, but until we saw photographic proof, we had no idea we had a following atop Mount Kilimanjaro. This past summer, **Nermine Khouzam Rubin** and daughter **Samantha Rubin**, both of Clearwater, climbed Uhuru Peak, “The Roof of Africa” and brought with them not only a *Jewish Press*, but also documents promoting Nermine’s cause, Water4Mercy, a project she founded earlier this year. She partnered with an Israeli non-governmental organization that has solar, water and drip irrigation technology. Their goal is providing a permanent source of water to schools and villages in remote areas of Africa. To that end, Water4Mercy will hold an invitation-only fundraiser on Thursday, Sept. 20 with live music, food and a special master of ceremonies. For more information on Water4Mercy, call Nermine at (727) 439-4222.



Nermine Khouzam Rubin and Samantha Rubin on Uhuru Peak

Rabbi in training...

Lily Lucey, former cantorial soloist and B’nai Mitzvah tutor at Congregation Beth Shalom in Clearwater, has been named Rabbinic Intern at Congregation Shomrei Emunah of Montclair, NJ. Lucey, who also serves as the assistant education director for the synagogue, is currently working toward her ordination at the Academy for Jewish Religion in Yonkers, NY. Proud parents are Robert and **Leslie Freedman** of Clearwater.



Lily Lucey

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

GLORIA ARONOFF, 93, of **Oldsmar**, died Aug. 22. Survivors include her daughters, Merry Aronoff and Ellen Kent. The family suggests memorials to the Colorectal Cancer Alliance or Hospice of the Florida Suncoast. (David C. Gross Funeral Homes, Clearwater Chapel)

DONALD OSCAR DRAYER, 85, of **St. Petersburg**, died Aug. 29. Survivors include his wife Bebe; two daughters and son-in-law; Wendy Drayer, Robin Drayer and Stephen Siegel; son and daughter-in-law Michael and Elizabeth Drayer; and four grandchildren. The family suggests memorials to American Technion Society. (David C. Gross Funeral Homes, St. Petersburg Chapel)

ALVIN (AL) LEONARD EDEL-

STEIN, 87, of **Seminole** and **Brooklyn**, died Aug. 11. Born in Los Angeles, he was a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War. He was a member of Temple B’nai Israel in Clearwater. Survivors include his wife of 66 years Mikki; daughter and son-in-law Susan and Robert; sons and daughter-in-law; Mark and Lael, and Brian; three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. The family suggests memorials to Suncoast Hospice of Pinellas County. (Sylvan Abbey Funeral Home)

MARCIA R. LITOV, 80, died Aug. 22. (David C. Gross Funeral Homes, Clearwater Chapel)

DAVID B. WOLF, 59, of **Hilton Head Island, SC**, died Aug. 30. Born in Albert Lead, MN, he was a graduate of Indiana University. He worked in the

human resources industry for various companies including UPS in Connecticut, the 1996 Summer Olympic Games in Atlanta, Vistana Resorts in Orlando, Bertson Porter & Company and Building, both in Bellevue, WA, and most recently his own company, Simplicity Talent Solutions of Hilton Head Island. He was involved with various organizations and was an active member of the Rotary Club. Survivors include his wife of 19 years, Julie; his mother Barbara Levin; brother and sister-in-law Michael and Tami Wolf; sister and brother-in-law Kimberly and Art Collins; mother-in-law Odette Martin; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law; Claude Jr. and Carole, Anne and Luc, Louis and Dominique. The family suggests memorials to: www.shiva.com/trees-for-israel; www.mymemorymatters.org; www.hheroes.com; www.cancer.org; www.lifelinkfoundation.org. (David C. Gross Funeral Homes, Clearwater Chapel)

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THEATER

• CONTINUED from FRONT PAGE

“We will have theater-style seating and a backdrop on a wall for the performance,” explained Sharon Goetz, daughter of Joel and Ellen Goetz, owners of Jo-El’s. There will also be a raised platform, sound system, special lighting and a piano to accommodate a trio of cantors who will perform famous Broadway songs.

The event will include a wine tasting and hors d’oeuvres.

The Jewish Federation of Pinellas and Pasco Counties is assisting with marketing for the event. “We like the idea of Jewish arts and entertainment and are happy to see things like this going on,” said Maxine Kaufman, the Federation’s director of arts, culture, and education.

It will be no mean feat to turn Jo-El’s into a

theater, navigating around shelves chock full of kosher food items and wine, a butcher shop and deli counter. Some tables, chairs and hot dog carts will definitely have to be moved, Sharon said. The store, at 2619 23rd Ave. N. in St. Petersburg, is tucked away in a district where warehouses are common, but the local Jewish community, as well as non-Jews, have been coming to the place for years to get their kosher fix, and yes, even a pastrami on rye.

The idea for the Theater in the Rye was conceived one day when Cantor Riselle Bain, formerly of Congregation Schaarai Zedek in Tampa and now spiritual leader at Temple Israel of Highlands County, stopped by Jo-El’s, as she often does, for chopped liver.

Bain chatted about her *Tops from Flops* original production that she put on earlier in the summer in Sarasota.

“Sharon said, ‘Can we do that here?’” Bain recalled. “They decided to make it the first

Theater in the Rye production and I am very excited about it.”

While Sharon says her dad, Joel, came up with the name Theater in the Rye, she takes credit for the concept of “doing fun things” at Jo-El’s “as a way of giving back to the community.”

She hopes this is just the beginning of new and innovative events Jo-El’s will host. “They will not all necessarily be theater. We have a musical group interested in performing, and we would like to do food tastings, wine tastings, poetry readings. We are looking to be more part of the community,” she said. “Entertainment and food and alcohol and community. You can’t ask for anything more.”

During the *Tops from Flops* show, Bain will narrate and join Cantor Jonathan Schultz of Congregation B’nai Israel in St. Petersburg and Cantor Marci Vitkus of Venice in singing Broadway songs.

The tunes are by famous composers such as Irving Berlin, George and Ira Gershwin, Richard Rodgers and Lorenzo Hart, Harold Arlen, Cole Porter and George M. Cohan—all but the latter two Jewish.

“This is music that everybody knows and loves, but many do not know they were in some of Broadway’s biggest financial or critical flops,” Bain said. The narration will include information on the shows, who was in them and the reviews they got, she said.

Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at Jo-El’s or online at www.jewishpinellas.org. Complimentary refreshments will be served to all ticket holders. For more information, contact Sharon Goetz at (727) 321-3847.

“Show tunes and a nosh on a Sunday afternoon – what could be bad?” Sharon asks, adding that the Goetz family is excited to bring this entertainment to the community after the holidays.

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SodaStream is behind this 20-foot Statue of Liberty replica drowning in plastic bottles

By JOSEFIN DOLSTEN
JTA news service

NEW YORK – Tourists and locals wandering around Flatiron Plaza in downtown Manhattan were met with an unusual sight: a 20-foot replica of the Statue of Liberty standing in a steel cage filled with empty plastic bottles and metal cans.

On the other side of the eye-catching set-up, titled “Drowning Liberty,” were booths with people handing out glasses of seltzer. The installation, on display for three days last week, was organized by SodaStream, an Israeli company that sells at-home carbonation kits, together with the Oceanic Society.

Its goal is to raise awareness of the negative consequences of single-use plastic (and drum up business for the company while they’re at it). Passers-by were encouraged to sign SodaStream’s sustainability pledge, promising to eschew one-use bottles for reusable ones. The company claims that making soda at home in reusable bottles results



This SodaStream display was set up in New York City this month to raise awareness of the negative consequences of one-use plastic bottles.

in “less plastic manufactured, less plastic waste and less transport of bottled beverages.”

“We have no choice,” SodaStream CEO Daniel Birnbaum said in a statement. “We have to go reusable. Annual plastic production is skyrocketing and the U.S. is one of the biggest polluters in the world.”

Among those who stopped by to sign the pledge was Adrian Grenier, an actor known for his role on the TV series *Entourage*.

Passers-by who paused to take photos and have a drink of seltzer told JTA that the set-up resonated with them.

Henry Ortega, 24, said that seeing Lady Liberty up to her waist

in plastic bottles reminded him of the importance of not littering. “As you know, the city of New York is dirty in the streets,” he said. “This can actually give us an open mind that we’ve got to wake up. It’s a wake-up call.”

Azinat Axorova, a 28-year-old visitor from Russia, said the statue made her think of what she had observed about Americans’ consumer habits. “Americans use a lot of things that they don’t need,” she said. “Consumption in this country is so vast that there is so much waste that you don’t even think about it.”

Last month, PepsiCo announced plans to acquire SodaStream for \$3.2 billion.

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Hillel International launches MitzVote campaign

By JOSEFIN DOLSTEN
JTA news service

(JTA) – Joshua Malina and Lisa Edelstein are among the actors and comedians starring in a campaign launched by Hillel International to encourage college students to vote.

Malina, known for his roles on the TV series' *The West Wing*, *Scandal*, and Edelstein, of *House*, portray parents congratulating their daughter, Hannah, on turning 18 and becoming a "MitzVote," a play on the bar and bat mitzvah coming-of-age ceremony.

The comic video also features Israeli-American actress Odeya Rush, comedian Michael Ian Black, *Saturday Night Live* alumnus Tim Meadows and Scott Rogowsky, who hosts the popular smartphone game show HQTrivia.

The actors portray relatives and family friends of the teen, from Rush as a reluctant sister to Black and Meadows as family friends who refer to her as "the second favorite" child. In short clips, all congratulate Hannah on being able to vote. There's even a "rabbi," who explains that she considers voting, the 614th mitzvot.

The video, released Thursday,



Lisa Edelstein and Joshua Malina star in the launch video for Hillel International's "MitzVote" campaign.

Screenshot via YouTube

Sept. 6, marks the launch of Hillel International's MitzVote campaign, which aims to register and engage 100,000 young voters on over 100 college campuses across the United States. (www.mitz.vote)

The non-partisan campaign aims to give "college students an opportunity to become engaged citizens in the way that b'nai mitzvot recognizes young Jews as an adult in the Jewish community," according to a statement.

"Long before American democracy was born, Jews have been celebrating their b'nai mitzvot. This campaign is creating a meaningful coming-of-age experience for all Americans who turn 18 and are eligible to vote," said Sheila Katz, vice president for student engagement and leadership at Hillel Inter-

national.

The organization is partnering with Hillel chapters across the country, get-out-the-vote groups and Jewish fraternities and organizations as part of the campaign. The video was produced by Mik Moore, one of the creators of "The Great Schlep," a Jewish initiative that promoted Barack Obama's presidential run in 2008.

Katz told JTA that Moore's past work did not affect the non-partisan nature of the campaign.

"We're not endorsing any candidates, we're not pushing out a particular agenda, other than voting is a Jewish value, and we were excited to hire a great creative agency that has a history of doing political campaigns and other types of campaigns," she said.

Indie band Of Montreal joins Lana Del Rey, other acts in pulling out of music festival in Israel

JERUSALEM (JTA) – The American indie pop band Of Montreal from Athens, GA, is the latest artist or group to cancel its participation in the three-day Meteor Festival in Israel.

"After exhausting all of the different possible ways of justifying playing an Israeli party festival, while the political and military leaders of the country continue their murderous and brutal policies against the Palestinian people, we came to the realization that there is no actual appropriate move other than to cancel the show," the band said in a statement.

The band's decision comes days after headliner Lana Del Rey canceled her participation, saying it was because she was unable to arrange a second performance for her Palestinian fans.

A day after Del Rey canceled, the American electronic musician Shlohmo also announced on Twitter that he would not perform. He had decided initially that he would perform and donate his earnings to the people of Gaza.

In all, out of the more than 125 announced acts about 18 artists and groups have pulled out of the Meteor Festival in recent weeks, after coming under pressure from the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement against Israel.

Following Del Rey's cancellation, Pink Floyd front-

man Roger Waters, who supports the BDS movement and contacted Del Rey directly to drop her participation, turned his public attention to American jazz saxophonist Kamasi Washington, despite contacting Washington and his publicist privately last month.

"Given that Lana Del Rey has now cancelled, you are the only notable standout. Please don't play the Meteor Festival in Tel Aviv. To do so would be a betrayal of everyone who ever stood up for civil or human rights anywhere," Waters wrote in a post on Facebook.

Among the other artists that have canceled are the South African duo Black Motion, American DJ Volvox, British DJ Leon Vynehall, Turkish singer Selda, Nazareth electronic duo Zenobia and Australian DJ Mall Grab.

Several other artists who were asked to perform cited BDS in declining the invitation, according to reports.

On its website, the festival organizers issued a statement responding to the BDS protest, saying it is "100 percent politics free," receiving no money from the government or any political entity.

"No one will make us hate, that includes the BDS, which insanely politicized our event. no one," the statement reads. "Music heals, politics kills."



Jewish rapper Mac Miller dead at 26

(JTA) – Rapper Mac Miller was found dead of an apparent drug overdose on Friday, Sept. 7. TMZ reported.

Miller, 26, was born to a Christian father and Jewish mother in Pittsburgh. He has talked about having a bar mitzvah and celebrating Jewish holidays growing up. He also has a Star of David tattoo on his hand.

In his song "S.D.S.," he describes himself as a "Jewish Buddhist tryna consume the views of Christianity."

Miller struggled with substance abuse for years, including during a high-profile relationship with pop star Ariana Grande.

He was found by police at his home in California's San Fernando Valley, and pronounced dead at the scene. He was about to start a concert tour next month.

Correction

The date of the closing reception for a photo exhibit titled *To Bear Witness*, by USF student Avi Davidson, is Friday, Sept. 14 from 7-9 p.m. at the Centra Gallery in the Marshall Student Center. An incorrect date for the reception was listed in the Aug. 24 edition of the Jewish Press.

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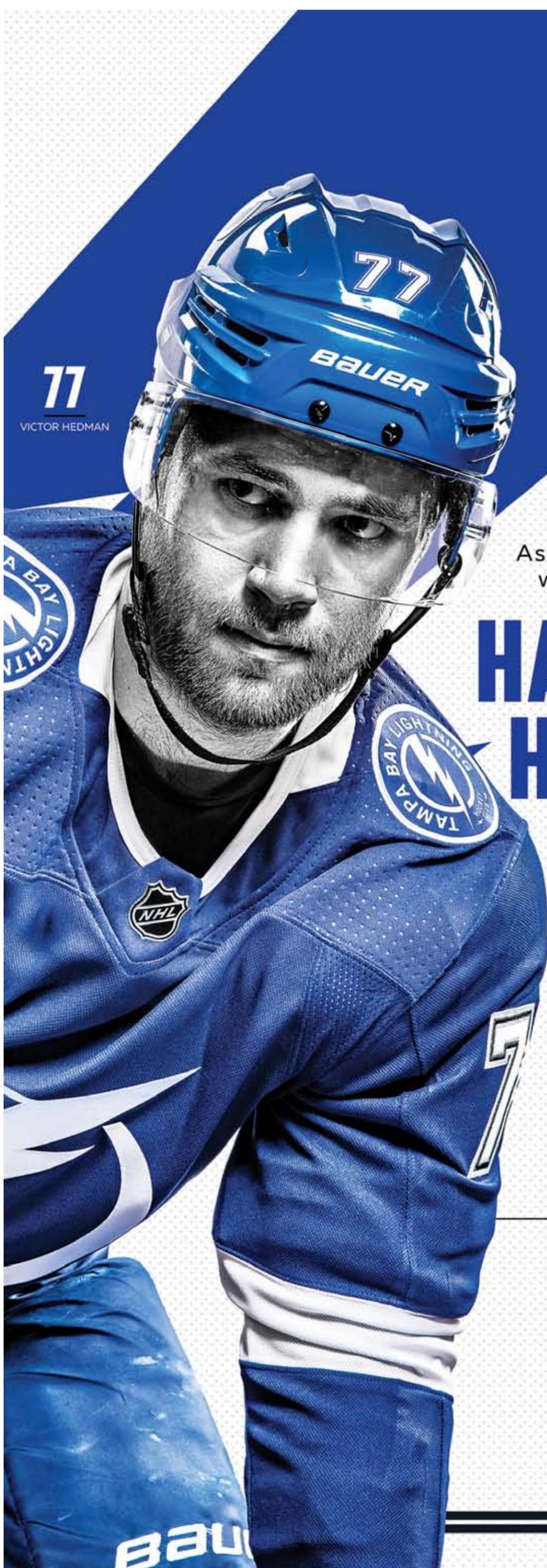
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Letter from the President



It is bittersweet to reflect back on the last two years of my service as the Federation's president. Sweet because of all that I've been able to see and help happen; bitter because my term as president has come to an end. I have joined the ranks of the very esteemed group of "past presidents," and will continue to remain actively involved in the growth and reach of our Federation.

During this past year, we came together as a community in response to a natural disaster, and I take tremendous pride in the manner in which we were able to aid all of our area's Jewish organizations following Hurricane Irma. Fortunately, we sustained minimal damage on the whole, with the exception of a remarkable amount of damage to Chapel Hill Memorial Park, one of our area's Jewish cemeteries.

A Federation's mandate is two-fold: to help the Jewish community of today, and to remain at the ready for future needs (including crisis). Over the past few years, we've bolstered our efforts to build resources that could meet both of these needs, thus allowing us to increase our funding immediately to the Pinellas County Jewish Burial Society and secure \$50,000 in out-of-area crisis funding from New York and Chicago's Federations as well as the Jewish Federations of North America.

In so many ways, this year has made me proud to be the Federation president. Seeing how we came together to repair, rebuild, and restore a strong and stable future following Irma shows all that we can do—and will continue to do—as a unified force.

Thank you for all that you have done as a community member. We're all better for it.

Steve Klein, President

Letter from the Executive Director

There's a Jewish proverb that goes something like "The wise one does something at once, while the foolish one does something at last." Here at our Federation, I like to think we are like the former, doing at once what needs to be done, not waiting for the perfect moment. This year, we did many things "at once" in both senses of the word -- right away and concurrently -- and as you'll see from the pages of this annual report, we put forth our best efforts in doing something that might interest everyone.



The tone and theme of our year was making our impact in the community real, and we did so by sending young adults to Israel as Federation Fellows to see our international work first-hand. We brought together hundreds to hear the inspirational words of Ben and Jerry in consideration of social action as well as celebrated Jewish cinematic arts with men's clubs from across the state to enjoy the film "The Suit." Families who had never met before joined in on a Purim party in Pasco, and countless women, men, and children enjoyed art direct from Israel at our "Wonder Women of Israel" and "Humans of Tel Aviv" art exhibits.

When our community *schlich*a arrived last summer, however, I knew that our impact and how real it is would become so much more relevant. Yael Mor spent the year with our community, working with all ages in making Israel current, modern, and lovable. Funded entirely by our Federation, Yael served the community by elevating the stories of Holocaust survivors in living rooms across the county, leading dance and crafts with kids and seniors, teaching Hebrew during a lunch-and-learn series, and bringing a little *ruach* (spirit) to our Young Adult Division activities. While sad to see her go, our community was better for her presence.

In the coming year, we will continue to do "at once" in the introduction of even more new ways to connect in a real and meaningful way, and I hope you'll be a part of our growing reach into the community.

Emilie Socash, Executive Director

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WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

BASED ON 2018 CAMPAIGN GIFTS

Your support of over \$1.3m makes a difference:

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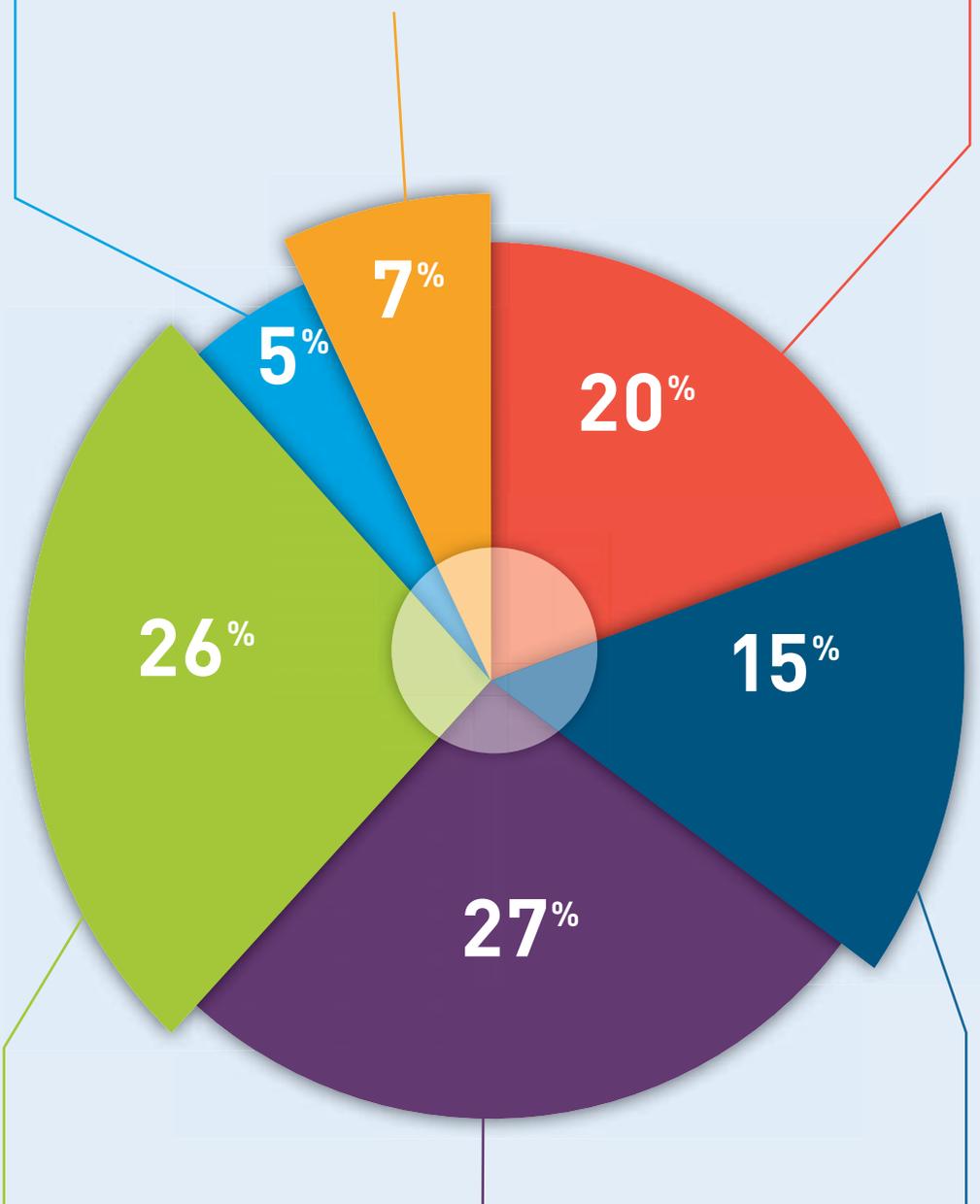
- Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society
- Jewish Council for Public Affairs
- Florida Association of Jewish Federations
- Jewish Community Relations Council

Israel & Overseas

- Support of the core social service programs of our partners: Joint Distribution Committee, Jewish Agency for Israel, and World ORT
- Improving Jewish lives throughout 70 vulnerable regions of the world
- Partnership 2Gether: cultural, social, and educational interaction between our community and the Hadera Eiron region

Donor Development and Organizational Management

- Engage, listen to, and build our donor base
- Develop partnerships with the broader community
- Support Jewish Federations of North America, our national partner that serves as our collective voice in Washington and Israel, Training, Materials, and are part of a 300-community network



Building Jewish Identity & Culture

- Hillels of the Florida Suncoast, Jewish Educational Loan Fund, Birthright Israel
- The Florida Holocaust Museum
- Annual conference through Tampa Bay Jewish Educators Council
- Free libraries and family programs through the Federation's PJ Library and PJ Our Way
- Tampa Bay Jewish Film Festival
- Connecting young adults through Federation Fellows, Young Adult Division activities, and leadership training
- Year-long Israel presence through our community shaliach (ambassador)
- Teen and youth camp and Israel scholarships
- Jewish Community Camp, operated by the Federation

Community Education, Planning, Informing, and Referring

- Community-wide Jewish connections app
- Innovation Grants
- Jewish Press of Pinellas
- Regional demographic study
- Federation website and community calendar
- Weekly e-newsletter
- YESOD Community Leadership Training

Caring For Our Most Vulnerable

- Jewish Burial Society of Pinellas, Jewish War Veterans
- Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services Counseling Support
- Koved Fund for emergency needs (GCJFCS)
- Holocaust survivor support services (GCJFCS)
- Emergency housing fund (GCJFCS)
- Menorah Manor
- Shabbat dinners at Philip Benjamin Towers
- Community rabbinic services for life cycle needs
- Jewish Music Therapy at Hospice Suncoast

Chai Society & Pomegranate Society

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July 2017



The first cohort of Federation Fellows—Jen Rosoff, Jamie Gray, Hilary Hemmins, Korri Krajicek, and Sam Eshelman—together with Young Adult Division Council member Lance Mizstal represented our community on the National Young Leadership Israel mission.

The Jewish Community Camp cheered on the Israeli junior women's softball team and welcomed four Israeli teens from our partnership region in Hadera-Eron.

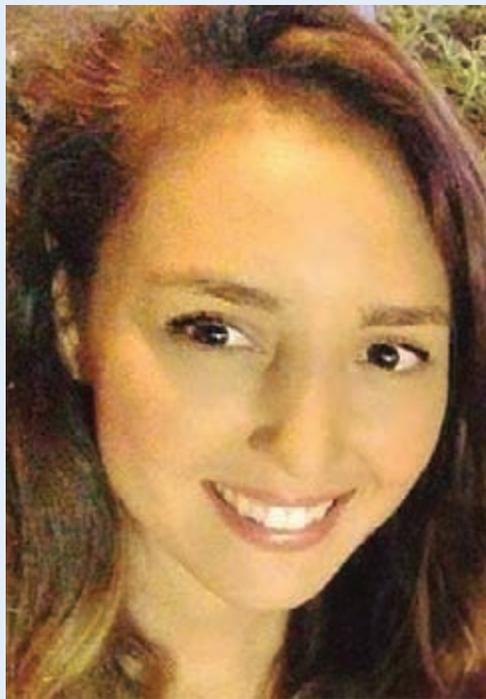
August 2017

Congregation Beth Shalom hosted a Tampa Bay Jewish Film Festival screening of the popular film, "On the Map," about Maccabi Tel Aviv, a basketball team in Israel.

Over one hundred youngsters (and their parents) said goodbye to summer at the PJ Library Back to School Bash and Book Swap at Temple B'nai Israel.



September 2017



Yael Mor, our community schlicha arrived just in time to be welcomed by Hurricane Irma.

Our Jewish institutions sustained minimal damage, with the exception of Chapel Hill Memorial Park which was hit with over \$100,000 in damage.

The Federation worked hard over the months to follow to secure \$50,000 in emergency funding from the national Federation system and fund an additional \$10,000.

October 2017



Young adult ruach (spirit) was in full swing at Israel Night at Meze 119, complete with beer from Schmaltz Brewery and Hebrew lessons.

Nadine Richterman, Florida Regional Director of the Center for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting (CAMERA), spoke at the new Bank of Tampa space, an event sponsored by the Jewish Community Relations Council.

sponsored by the Jewish Community Relations Council.

October Cont.

The Culture Club made a visit to the Syd Entel Gallery, enjoying the art of Helen Zarin, Persian-born Jewish artist. Over 200 attended the Federation's "Catalyst" event, which featured Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield, and included an ice cream reception. The Federation's most esteemed awards were presented, including the Ludin Young Leadership Award and the Alfred Schick MD Scholarship.

Dozens of volunteers pitched in at Super Sunday. We were then able to reach many more people and increase donations.



November 2017

Dr. Ira Sheskin completed the analysis of the year's demographic study of our region, and in a series of eight community presentations offered a snapshot of our community's 36,000 individuals living in 18,000 Jewish households.

The Young Adult Division kicked off a new tradition: monthly potluck Shabbat dinners, drawing in new and not-so-new young community members to enjoy the beauty and rest of Shabbat.

Federation staffers participated in the Jewish Federations of North America's General Assembly in Los Angeles, gleaning tips and tricks to build community in novel ways.

The Jewish Community Camp returned for Thanksgiving break, offering families a pinch of Jewish connection for their young ones in a fun Jewish environment.



December 2017

Across the county, volunteers led Chanukah storytimes in public libraries as part of the PJ Library Program.

We welcomed an educator as part of our Partnership Together initiative from our sister region, Hadera Eron, for a week of exchange learning and comraderie.

Over 200 attended the community-wide PJ Library Chanukah party, responding positively to the inclusive invitation to all types of Jewish families: adoptive, blended, single-parent, two Jewish parents, Jewish grandparents, LGBTQ families, and everyone curious about the beauty of Jewish tradition.

The Culture Club stopped in to see "The Little Prince" at freeFall Theatre, while campers enjoyed winter break camp at the Jewish Community Camp.

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Arthur Wasserman
Donna J. Waters
Gloria Weinberger
Claire Weinstein
Mason Weinstock
Leo & Ruth Weintraub
Alex & Adrienne Weiss
Allan & Rebecca Weiss
Linda Weiss
Ronald & Jayne Weissman
Rabbi David Weizman & Rabbi Danielle Upbin-Weizman
Sidney & Phyllis Werner
Donald Wexler & Miriam Zicht
Jay & Eleanor Whiteside
Kenneth & Elaine Wides
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Samuel & Judy Winer
Evelyn Wolf
Spencer & Hazel Wolf
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Mary Wygodski
Alan Yaeger
Ron & Claire Yogman
Elaine Zagebaum-Hinrichs
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Irvin & Donna Zelig
Douglas & Debra Zelman
Leon Zeman
Elliott & Marcia Jo Zerivitz
David & Judy Zimlin
Monte & Ruth Zimmerman
Terry & Linda Zolinsky
Maurice Zolkower
Arthur & Sandy Zucker
Dorte Zuckerman

January - February 2018



Two dozen young adults gathered at the home of Federation executive director, Emilie Socash, for a Young Adult Potluck Shabbat.

The Culture Club made a visit to the Mosaic House in Dunedin. The Young Adult Division partnered with PJ Library for a rock-painting party like no other with the "Tu B'Shvat Rocks!" event.

Barry Kanner was honored as this year's Cardozo Society Award recipient at a Tampa Bay annual dinner of the Cardozo and Montefiore Societies.

The PRIMER (Promoting Responsibility in Middle East Reporting) initiative honored Robert Entel at its annual brunch, which featured speaker Dr. Eric Steckler.

The Federation was proud to support the second annual Tampa Bay Jewish Food Festival, which drew nearly 4,000 people to enjoy the best that Jewish cuisine has to offer.

March 2018

A full slate of over a dozen films were shown in four locations across Pinellas and Pasco Counties as part of the Tampa Bay Jewish Film Festival, in its first year of collaboration with the Gasparilla International Film Festival.

Stirling Art Gallery, Penny Lane Beatles Museum and Dr. Robert Entel hosted an arts and culture reception to preview upcoming Jewish Federation arts and culture events.

Committees were formed to analyze and respond to the information presented in the demographic study. The groups began meeting to focus on Israel, visibility of the community, demographics, education, and arts and culture.



April 2018

Women who support the Federation as Lions of Judah or Pomegranate Society members joined together to enjoy a lecture by Malcolm Heimer on "What Israel has given to humanity." Also, the inaugural Sonya Miller z"L Women of Distinction Award ceremony was held at Temple Beth-El, honoring nearly two dozen women for their dedicated and tireless service to

April Cont.

the community. Sarah Feld received the Dawkins Young Woman of Distinction Award, and the event attendees enjoyed an exhibit of the "Wonder Woman" art collection featuring Israeli artists' perceptions on what modern wonder women may look like.

Israel Independence Day was celebrated at the Pinewood Cultural Center, welcoming 300 community members to dance, bounce, learn, and celebrate the 70th anniversary of Israel's statehood. A key feature of the day was the visit of Israeli photographer, Erez Kaganovitz, who spoke about the 36 photos on display as part of his "Humans of Tel Aviv" art exhibit. Additional lectures were given by Roslyn Franken, Eric Lynn, Lynda Lippman-Lockhart, and Rabbi Ed Rosenthal.

Three in-home evenings offered a unique window into the Holocaust survivor experience through the Zikaron B'Salon program. The personal stories of Ida Schmidt Chait and Robert Mansfeld offered attendees the chance to relate to the unique differences and trials in the intimate living-room setting.

May 2018

Thirty young adults enjoyed Lag B'Omer festivities with the wildly popular annual Boat Bash program.



The Jewish Community Camp launched its second season of operation, teed up to offer an unforgettable Jewish summer camp experience to over 50 area kids.

The Jewish Federation of Pinellas and Pasco Counties approves a budget of over \$1.3m for funding community initiatives in the year to come.

June 2018



The first-ever Birthright Beach Bash Reunion was held on Sunset Beach, welcoming 60 Tampa Bay Birthright alum.

The first and second sessions of the Jewish Community Camp Sabrim program launch, a first-of-its-kind program for middle and high schoolers offering personal development and community service hours in a week-long fun program.

Stay Connected!

Interested in learning more?
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- Community Calendar Online



JEWISH BEDTIME STORIES and SONGS

- Free Monthly Books for Kids
- 6 months - 11 years
- Fun Events!