

Combined High Holidays and hurricane edition

Jewish Press

of Pinellas County

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Rabbi Daniel Treiser of Temple B'nai Israel carries two Torahs out of the temple for safe-keeping at a secure place during the storm.

Irma slams cemetery but spares most other local Jewish facilities

By BOB FRYER
Jewish Press

High winds from Hurricane Irma toppled 8 huge trees and 20 medium sized ones at Chapel Hill Cemetery in Largo, uprooting one casket and causing up to \$75,000 damage.

Though the casket, entangled in roots of a large tree, was not in the Jewish portion of the cemetery, the fallen trees damaged the main irrigation pump and pulled irrigation and drainage lines from the ground, leaving the cemetery, owned by the Jewish Burial Society of Pinellas County, with estimates of \$50,000 to \$75,000 to make all repairs and do landscaping work to restore the grounds to normal. It is apparently the hardest hit Jewish facility in the Tampa Bay area. Only relatively minor damage was reported to other local Jewish community institutions, as of the press deadline.

On Friday, Sept. 15, four days after Irma struck the Bay area, Doug Negretti, chairman of the Jewish Burial Society, was at Chapel Hill waiting on a crane to remove the casket from the roots and rebury it.

"All of the caskets [in the Jewish portion of the cemetery] are secure and people should not worry about their loved ones," Negretti said. There was no damage to headstones and only two small trees blew down in the Jewish Menorah Gardens. Those toppled trees did not affect burials sites.

As utility trucks were arriving and giving Negretti hope the facility would have power before the day was out, he noted that the cemetery is still capable of holding funerals. The Jewish Federation of Pinellas and Pasco Counties board is to meet on Monday, Sept. 18, to discuss the cemetery's funding needs.

The rest of the Tampa Bay Jewish community heaved a collective sigh of relief after Hurricane Irma swept through the region in the early morning hours of Monday, Sept. 11 and left many grateful that a change in the projected path spared the region of catastrophic disaster.

Instead of talk about buildings destroyed and lives lost, the main concerns for most were when electrical power, cable and internet service would be restored and when some of the few postponed events would be held.

With power still not restored to all areas by Friday, Sept. 15, a few synagogues had not been reached as of press time.

IRMA continued on PAGE 18

Letter from the Editors

It's all about power – the power of Mother Nature and the type of power you get out of an electrical plug. Like many of you, the *Jewish Press* office lost power during Hurricane Irma and as of Friday, Sept. 15, the electricity still had not been restored. Combine that with our printer and mailer shutting down a couple of days before the hurricane to protect their sensitive equipment and it was a perfect storm for us.

As a consequence, we decided to combine the Sept. 8 and Sept. 22 High Holiday editions. Right now, we are producing the paper out of our small condominium. That has presented its own challenges, but we are persevering.

One of our main goals has been to document – at least preliminarily – how the official Jewish community fared in the hurricane. There are some heart-warming stories of how various institutions reached out during and in the aftermath of Irma.

Thank you in advance for your understanding. Some of the usual synagogue and organizational news may not make it in the paper due to space restraints and our effort to get the paper to the printer as soon as possible. Some other information may be outdated by the time you receive your copy in the mail. Hopefully, you will receive this combined edition prior to the start of the High Holidays, but unfortunately there are no guarantees.

Karen and Jim Dawkins
Jewish Press co-owners



Rabbi Leah Herz, left, and Janice LeVine, at the piano, lead Menorah Manor staff and their family members in song during the Hurricane Irma.

Elderly pass night peacefully as Hurricane Irma rages

By BOB FRYER
Jewish Press

While many fretted in darkness as Hurricane Irma battered the region, some weathered the storm in style, staying in facilities where the lights, television and internet never went out, hot showers and three hot meals a day were offered and day care for kids was a reality.

That is how it was for those who stayed at Jewish centers for the elderly in Tampa Bay. "I heard a quote somewhere that 'The worst natural disaster can bring out the best in human nature' and I think that was true for

us," said Rob Goldstein, CEO of Menorah Manor, the St. Petersburg institution that serves a number of frail and elderly Jewish residents at the Toby Weinman Assisted Living Residence and the Marion and Bernard L. Samson Nursing Center.

There and at Weinberg Village, an assisted living facility on the Maureen and Douglas Cohn Jewish Community Campus in Citrus Park, northwest of Tampa, some of the most vulnerable members of the Jewish community were in good hands.

At both institutions the
ELDERLY continued on PAGE 19

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- Oct 28. Catalyst 2018: An Evening with Ben & Jerry
- Oct 29. Federation's Super Sunday

- Nov 9. Gulf Coast's Annual Faces Gala
- Dec 3. CBI Chase the Dreidel 5K
- Dec 17. PJ Library Teddy Bear Tea
- Jan 27-29. TBE Art Festival
- Feb 10. Florida Holocaust Museum's Annual "To Life" Gala

- Feb 25. TBI Food Festival & Purim Carnival
- Mar 11. CBI Chaivana Nights Gala
- Mar 24. Gulf Coast Golf Like a Rock Star
- Apr 15. Jewish Heritage Festival
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As Holocaust survivors grow older, their needs increase

PERSPECTIVE

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



Last year at this time, I wrote a special column asking you to step up and support a special initiative. Below, I've updated this request: please know that your help is needed now more than ever in meeting the needs of our remaining Holocaust survivors.

About 10 years ago, I learned the ins and outs of Rule 116 of German National Law, which in some way tries to address the issue of "denaturalization," or the "process" by which many German nationals lost their citizenship between 1933 and 1945. The rule allows for the "renaturalization" of former citizens and their descendants, provided the proper documentation is submitted. Interestingly, the records exist that would present a good case for both my daughter, Hila, and her father to benefit from Rule 116, giving them each dual citizenship. We celebrated the envisioned benefits: European university education. Healthcare across the continent. Easier travel and even living abroad.

But was this something we really wanted to do? Did we really feel comfortable taking that step, having a legal connection to this land that murdered so many of our own, having our family name "on a list?"

Since last writing about this 12 months ago, the renaturalization process has begun, only to hit numerous roadblocks on getting proper documentation from Bolivia. Maybe it's not meant to be.

But remembrance can be embraced in countless ways. We are surrounded by our story, and I've seen its retelling countless times recently:

- at Sachsenhausen, the model concentration camp north of Berlin that my family and I visited this summer, and in the stolpersteine that I saw across Germany in 2014, commemorating the name of just one person at their last known residence.
- in our response to incidents like the rally in Charlottesville or the terrible anti-Semitic undercurrents we are fighting against with greater frequency.
- in the Paper Clip Project from 2006, launched by a school in Tennessee to try to comprehend just what 6 million of anything looks like.
- in lighting six candles or building six pillars or saying a prayer six times.

But keeping a count of the outcomes of the Holocaust or our responses to its reverberations in modern-day life isn't enough. I propose that we need to make the remaining days of our survivors, our heroes, count.

Over the next few weeks, many of you are going to be getting a letter from me, separate from our usual Rosh Hashanah annual campaign ask. Regardless of your level of interest in supporting the Federation's annual campaign, I implore you to take a moment to consider this important communicate (either now, or when you receive it in your mailbox). And if you're one of our regular donors, know that your gift supports this program and so many other important initiatives around the world.

This is the best way that I can think of to make our support of our Holocaust survivors really count.

Your invitation:

Community presentations planned for results of demographic study

The results from the region-wide demographic study begun in 2016 have been received and the results will be presented in two, two-day visits from lead demographer Ira Sheskin.

The study itself was an initiative of Gulf Coast Jewish Family & Community Services and the Jewish Federation of Pinellas and Pasco Counties and was funded by nearly all Jewish organizations in the two counties, as well as generous support from Craig and Jan Sher.

"The results are rich with meaningful trends and indicators for our community," noted Federation Executive Director Emilie Socash following an initial review of the findings that are contained in more than 1,200 pages of data. "Several things immediately jumped out at me: for example, our area has one

of the highest percentages of kids who have visited Israel compared to about 50 other communities," she continued.

Overall, the Jewish community of the two counties has remained stable and the total number of Jewish-identifying households has increased.

"I believe that each person who reads this survey, even in its summary form, will find something that speaks to them about the texture of our community," Socash noted.

Ira Sheskin will present the findings at invitation-only sessions on Oct. 15 and 16 and to the public on Nov. 5 and 6. In the first visit, he will meet with the Gulf Coast and Federation boards, the study's funders, staff from both organizations, and other key individuals who made a significant contribu-

Last year, at this time, I shared the story of Helen, an 89-year-old Holocaust survivor who needed help. Helen faced eviction, loss of power, legal troubles, and self-care assistance. She needed more than I could even fathom.

I learned then that the cost of caring for our aging Holocaust survivors is increasing, while the governmental support is decreasing. This means that Helen, and many other survivors in our area, are not getting the vital support services they need. After surviving the terrors of the Holocaust, imagine that Helen may injure herself at home due to frailty, age, or mental difficulties; may become homeless; and may, at the end of her spirited life, pass away alone and confused.

Because of our community's generosity last year, Helen doesn't know that funding has been cut. And this year, I'd like to keep it that way.

At the High Holidays last year, your Federation partnered with Gulf Coast Jewish Family & Community Services to launch an effort to raise at least \$50,000 from the Pinellas and Pasco communities to support the needs of those just like Helen, 100 percent of which went to the critical services needed by this special population.

Our community delivered: we met our goal and were able to offer uninterrupted services – medication management, transportation, home care, and much more – because of the generosity of our community members.

Now is your chance to change a life: I invite you to join many others right here in our area who support the programs that allow Helen and those like her to receive more home-care hours, a competent adult monitoring her medicine and helping her with her finances, and pro bono legal support.

Holocaust survivors are our family. Our responsibility. Our inspiration.

My daughter Hila is named after her great-grandmother, Herta (ז"ל), an equally spirited woman who survived the Holocaust and escaped Germany to Bolivia together with her husband Gerhard. In her memory, and because I can't imagine living in a community in which the Helens, the Hertas, and the countless other survivors are left without the care they need, my family will again commit to making the first gift toward this important effort.

Will you join us with a gift toward this effort, all of which will be applied toward the services needed by this very special population?

Please contact me at your earliest convenience with your commitment, or simply mail it in or make your gift online. Remember, 100 percent of your gift will be used toward the Holocaust survivor programs offered by Gulf Coast Jewish Family & Community Services.

On behalf of all whose lives you will change, thank you.

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

Best wishes for a New Year of peace, prosperity and good health

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First Israeli emissary to Jewish community arriving for year stay

The Jewish Federation of Pinellas and Pasco Counties is launching a new program that will put a human face on Israel for local Jewish community members.

The Federation is bringing a young woman from Israel here to serve as a *shlichah*, or emissary, to work with a variety of local Jewish organizations and institutions.

The Federation is starting the program with the aid of the Jewish Agency, which provides *shlichim* (plural) to a variety of Jewish communities. These emissaries are hand-picked from various parts of Israeli society, with a variety professional and academic backgrounds. The main goal of the program is to engage all age groups in a range of Jewish cultural, educational and social activities.

The first *shlichah* for Pinellas and Pasco communities is Yael Mor, who grew up on Kibbutz Givat Brenner in the center of Israel. She is a recent graduate of Ben Gurion University in the Negev, with a bachelor's degree in geography. She served two years in the Israel Defense Forces as a medic in the Gaza division.

"The *shlichim* get communities actively involved in securing a vital Jewish future by creating programming tailor-made for specific communities' needs—designed to increase Jewish awareness, knowledge, and pride;

to bridge the gap between Jews of different backgrounds and Israel; and to promote an understanding of Israel and its ideals," said Federation Executive Director Emilie Socash.

The Federation said Mor will work with a large variety of Jewish agencies around the community, including the different synagogues and religious schools.

The *shlichah* will not only bring the flavor of Israel into the community, but she will also connect local Jews to Israelis and create opportunities to experience Israel within the community.

"Whether at the Federation, Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services, local synagogues and temples, Hadassah, or any combination of organizations, there will be an identifiable and palpable taste of Israel in Pinellas and Pasco counties," said Maxine Kaufman, the Federation's director of arts, culture and education who is coordinating Mor's stay.

For more information about this program contact Kaufman, at (727) 333-3106 or mkaufman@jewish-federation.org.



Yael Mor is the new Pinellas-Pasco *shlichah*.

Organizations

Singles

Dinner and a play: The Tampa Jewish Singles Group is going to see the romantic comedy, *Bell, Book, and Candle*, on Sunday, Oct. 8 at 3 p.m. at the James McCabe Theater, 506 Fifth St. in Valrico. Tickets are \$15 and there is free parking. Following the play, there will be a dinner at Bonefish Grill, 1015 Providence Road, Brandon, for those who want to keep the evening going. Email Anita at niewdnarb@yahoo.com to save your place for the play and for more information about dinner.

Genealogical Society

Research tips: The Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay will meet at Gulf Coast Jewish Family & Community Services, 14041 Icot Blvd., Clearwater, on Sunday Oct. 8, for a presentation by

Drew Smith on "Organizing Your Genealogy Research Process."

A social with refreshments and library access begins at 1:30 p.m. and the featured program starts at 2 p.m. Smith, who is well known in local and national genealogical circles, is an associate librarian with the USF Tampa Library. Anyone interested in learning how to do Jewish genealogical research is invited to participate. There is no charge to attend.

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

Job-Links

Career counseling: Tampa Bay Job-Links offers free motivational Monday Morning Links sessions from 9:30 - 11 a.m. at the Jack Roth Center for Career Development at TampaBay-Job-Links, 4100 W. Kennedy Blvd., Suite 206, Tampa.

Reservations are required. To RSVP, call (813) 344-0200,

email RSVP@TBJL.org, or visit www.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.

Benjamin Tower

Holiday dinner: The community is invited to the Philip Benjamin Tower for a "Friends and Family Rosh Hashanah Dinner" on Friday, Sept. 22 at 5 p.m. The cost is \$10. RSVP by calling Philip Benjamin Tower at (727) 347-519 by Tuesday, Sept. 19.

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Second group of Federation Fellows announced

In an effort to forge stronger ties between the local Jewish community and the Jewish nation, six local young professionals has been selected as Fed Fellows to participate in a nine-day mission to Israel.

The Fed Fellows program was created last year by the Jewish Federation of Pinellas and Pasco Counties as a way to cultivate future leaders. Its participants embark on a yearlong leadership journey that includes 10 hours per month of volunteer work for the Federation and culminates the free trip to Israel as part of the National Young Leadership program of the Jewish Federations of North America.

From a dozen applicants, six 2017-18 Fed Fellows, including two married couples, were chosen by a selection committee that consisted of Young Adult Division Chair Jamie Gray, past Fed Fellow Korri Krajicek, Federation President Steve Klein and Federation Executive Director Emilie Socash.

Unlike the first year of the program when most of those selected had never been to Israel, the new Fed Fellows have all had been to Israel at least once.

"In selecting the current cohort, we looked at the individual as well as how we felt they would work as part of a group," noted Krajicek. "Considering a group that has already had tremendous connection to Israel changed the conversation significantly about what sort of connection that these young adults would have to the program. Those selected really shared with us their desire to bring their passion to Israel home and make our connection to Israel stronger at the local level," added Jamie Gray.

The 2017-18 Federation Fellows selected include:

Aliza and Keith Norstein

Aliza holds dual citizenship in Israel and the United States and has already shown her leadership in her professional role at Israel Bonds and her volunteer work as past chair of the Young Adult Division and current role as secretary for the Federation board. In her personal statement, she commented, "The more people know about Israel, the more they can defend it ... I want to see what our hard work actual does instead of just reading about it. I want to be able to come back home and tell our community partners why their support for the Federation is so important and the best way to learn about something is to experience it."

Aliza's husband, Keith, has shown his passion already for bridging Jewish understanding with cultural connection on his planning of several popular YAD "ghost tours." He grew up in an interfaith home in which he describes life as "more Jew-ish than Jewish," and noted that "being a Federation Fellow would give me more insight into this world and how to make

it better ... being able to see Israel through the Federation's eyes will teach us the tools we need to share why the Federation is so important."

Jessi and Zac Oppenheim

Jessi is a member of Temple Beth-El, and together with her husband was among several congregants recommended for the program by Rabbi Michael Torop. She considers herself a life-long Jewish learner and after converting in 2002, she crafted a path of active involvement with the local Hillel on campus, Birthright Israel, and with Temple Beth El as an educator. She shared in her personal statement that, "I would love to share my ideas and love for Judaism with other young professionals, but most importantly, want to open them up to become strong members of the trip in any way they feel comfortable."

Husband Zac joins the program as someone who experienced Israel through Birthright. He looks forward to experiencing Israel in a more substantive way. He is a professional at Eckerd College who has a self-described passion for connecting Jews in the collegiate setting. He will bring to the Federation Fellows cohort what he notes is "the pulse of college life to the group" while helping "connect others to their Jewish foundation."

Jordyn Schwersky

Jordyn has been active in synagogue life for her entire life, and is proud that her family was one of the founding members of Temple B'nai Israel. Several years ago, she participated in a program in Israel where she put her journalism degree to use as intern reporter for the *Jerusalem Post*. She currently co-hosts the *Sunday Simcha* radio show and is also pursuing her entrepreneurial dreams. In her statement, she said she would like to "bring more young people to the Jewish community. As America becomes more and more secular, it seems as if our community is comprised more of older generations who understand the importance and need for the teachings of Judaism and a strong connection to Israel than of younger people who wish to learn from those generations."

Michael Igel

Michael is an attorney who has been a lifelong activist in the local Jewish community and currently takes an active role in leadership at Congregation Beth Shalom, the Florida Holocaust Museum, and AIPAC. In his personal statement he noted, "My mantra is that I am always happy to do whatever I am asked as long as it helps to advance the Jewish community. There has never been a greater need to teach the world the lessons learned from the Holocaust, and to support the America-Israel relationship."

Israel night to celebrate connection, newcomers

The Young Adult Division (YAD) of Pinellas and Pasco counties will host an "Israel Night" on Monday, Oct. 2 at Meze 119 from 7-10 p.m. to highlight the experiences of the first group of Federation Fellows on their Israel Mission in July and welcome the Federation's community schlichta (emissary/ambassador) Yael Mor.

All young adults ages 21-45 are encouraged to attend the event, which will feature Israeli food and drink.

The evening will be an opportunity to celebrate the community's connection to Israel through shared experiences. The most recent group of Federation Fellows - Jamie Gray, Sam Eshelman, Hilary Hemmins, Jennifer Rosoff, and Korri Krajicek - will share photos, stories, and personal reflections on their participation in the National Young Leadership Mission to Israel.

The new group of Federation Fellows will also be present.

Mor, the new schlichta who will be here for a year, will introduce herself to the community's young adults at the event. Mor's role in the community will be one of supporting the connection to Israel through culture, language, and people-to-people opportunities. She is able to visit the community through funding provided by the Jewish Federation of Pinellas and Pasco Counties in partnership with the Jewish Agency for Israel.

"Having Yael in our community is tremendously meaningful for all of us," said Jamie Gray, chair of the Young Adult Division. "We're looking forward to crafting a really dynamic year of programming that includes Israel in the spotlight."

The Young Adult Division connects those ages 21 through 45 with each other and with the work of the Federation. Past popular

events have included a ghost tour, a Purim pub crawl, and the annual Vodka Latke social on Dec. 24. The year ahead will also include in-home Shabbat dinners and involvement with well-known Federation initiatives such as the Tampa Bay Jewish Film Festival and Super Sunday.

Those interested in checking out the YAD programs or getting more involved, should visit the group's facebook page (www.facebook.com/yadpinellas) or email emilie@jewishpinellas.org.

3rd annual Mega Challah Bake set for Oct. 26

The third annual Mega Challah Bake on Thursday, Oct. 26 at 7 p.m. is expected to draw women from across Pinellas County for an evening of friendship, inspiration, relaxation, and pouring and mixing.

The event at The Club at Treasure Island will begin with an hors d'oeuvres, sushi and wine social, then women from all walks of life will participate in a common experience for Jewish women - making challah that they can take home to bake and share Shabbat

with others.

This event runs in sync with thousands of women worldwide who will be baking challah with their communities. With table captains assisting the challah making process, this is a stress-free, hands-on baking experience for novice or veteran bakers. This year will also have a few "new twists" for those who have come before.

The past two years have been sold out. Book tickets at www.MegaChallahFL.com.

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RABBINICALLY — SPEAKING —

High Holidays 5778

“Anyone *meshugga* enough to call himself a Jew, IS a Jew.” – David Ben-Gurion.

As the High Holiday season fast approaches, we can see why being Jewish can be crazy sometimes. We start the month by proclaiming a new year, yet instead of partying we pray and blow a ram’s horn. We continue on to the most solemn day of the year where we fast for 24 hours and end off with a lavish break-the-fast. Five days later we are sitting outside in huts and shaking plants in all directions. To top it off, we end the month by dancing in circles around the bima with a closed Torah scroll. No wonder people think we are *meshugga*!

Of course, we know that there is a deeper significance to all these holy rituals. The question is how do we go through this coming month in a way that it will make a difference for the entire year ahead?

There is seemingly a wide gap between the High Holiday season and the months following. Festivals are days of holiness, a day to spend in synagogue and other rituals that connect us to G-D, while the rest of the year, the connection may not be so apparent.

The truth is that everything we do is an opportunity to connect to G-D. Being as our mission is to make this world a dwelling place for G-D, the ultimate expression of this is when even our mundane actions are dedicated to G-D.

Where do we get the inspiration to bring G-D into our day-to-day lives? By harnessing the power of our spiritual journey during the high holidays and using it to fuel us during the rest of the year.

This High Holiday season, let us make a commitment to attend services and celebrate not just because that is what we do as Jews, but to think about why we are doing it and reaffirm our commitment to making this world a G-dly place. Wishing you all a happy and healthy sweet year.

Rabbi Pinchas Adler

Chabad of Pinellas County

☆ ☆ ☆

“There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle.” Albert Einstein

For one brief moment on Aug. 21, 2017 a miracle took place. Millions of pairs of eyes turned skyward to watch the solar eclipse. Rabbis argued (what else is new?) about whether or not there was an appropriate *bracha*, blessing, for a solar eclipse and if so, what was it?

But the real miracle that occurred wasn’t necessarily the eclipse itself. The *real miracle* was in the coming together of millions of people of all races, genders, religions, sexual orientations, ages and socio-economic classes, wearing silly glasses and hoisting home-made cereal box viewers ... all having a good time and marveling at what was happening to that big, bright, gaseous blob known as the sun. Miracles create community.

Our Jewish tradition is rich in the recounting of miracles. From the very first words of *Breishet* (Genesis) that teach us of the wondrous miracle of creation, to the plagues sent by God, which led to our redemption from slavery in Egypt, our Jewish Bible and Rabbinic literature are filled with events that could only be construed as miraculous.

The Sea of Reeds splits just in the nick of time. A donkey opens its mouth and speaks to the prophet Bilaam. Oil from a tiny flask burns for eight full days, an event that causes us to proclaim, “*Nes Gadol Haya Sham ...* A great miracle happened there.” To our ancient ancestors, these astonishing events were explained through their belief in an all-powerful and ever-present God who came to the aid of those who were faithful followers.

I believe that as Jews living in the 21st century, many of us have lost our sense of wonder and our belief in miracles. We often feel compelled to “figure it out,” and to find an explanation or answer for the marvels that exist in our world. Jewish tradition teaches that we should each say at least 100 blessings every day, but if some of those blessings are for occurrences that no longer seem miraculous, why go to the trouble? After all, if a rainbow is only a refraction of light through water droplets, it’s really no longer a big deal and perhaps not worthy of blessing.

What might it feel like to live one’s life as if miracles happen on a daily basis? One translation of the *Kedusha* states, “Days pass and the years vanish and we walk sightless among the miracles. Holy One of Blessing, fill our eyes with seeing and our minds with knowing.”

As we move through this self-reflective month of *Elul*, advancing ever closer to the start of a new year, may we each awaken to the daily miracles all around us and may we always experience wonder and delight, ever aware of the blessing that is life.

Rabbi Leah M. Herz

*Director of Spiritual Care,
Religious Programming, Menorah Manor*

While we celebrate the holidays every year, there is always something that makes it special. One aspect that makes this year unique is that the two days of Rosh Hashanah, Sept. 21 and 22 are on Thursday and Friday, leading right into Shabbat. Interestingly, Rosh Hashanah is celebrated for two days in Israel as well. Hence, Jews the world over will begin the year with a three day continuum of holiness, the number three carrying significance of “Chazaka,” something established, or permanent, in Jewish law.

Certainly, this beginning of the year on a high note will help us bring more spirituality and holiness into our daily lives throughout the year.

In fact, while in Israel they only start the year with one “3-day Yom Tov,” Jews outside of Israel will have an additional two times to do so. For us here in the diaspora, we will celebrate the first 2 days of Sukkot, Oct. 5 and 6 and Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah, Oct. 12 and 13, both of which are immediately followed by Shabbat. For those living in Israel, it being the Holy Land, one “Chazaka” might suffice. Outside of Israel, we could use the extra boost, and so we begin the year with three sets of 3-day holy days.

Looking ahead, it won’t be until 5785 till this schedule repeats itself, so as the famous Yiddish expression goes, “Chap Arein” take advantage of this unique opportunity now.

On behalf of my wife Miriam, my family and myself, I take this opportunity to wish you and all your loved ones a Kesiva Vachasima Tova. May you be inscribed for a happy, healthy, and sweet new year.

Rabbi Levi Hodakov

Chabad of Clearwater

☆ ☆ ☆

As has long been my custom, I attend the annual High Holy Day preparation seminar that is sponsored by the Miami Board of Rabbis. At these seminars, Rabbis share ideas with each other that assist us in making the Holy day experience more meaningful for the members of the congregations we serve.

At this year’s seminar, one of my colleagues pointed out that some American Jews may not be inclined to be as compassionate toward the suffering of others as our tradition teaches. We live in a society where one of the mottos is, “keep a stiff upper lip,” and another is “God only gives us as much suffering as we can handle.” These sayings reflect an attitude in our society that encourages us to be more concerned with our own gratification than with others’ suffering.

Our ancestors however, taught us a different approach. They observed that some suffering is more painful than any human being can endure. This view is reflected in the fact that in the Torah, the passage describing Isaac’s harrowing ordeal at the hand of his father, Abraham, is immediately followed by the passage that begins with the words, “And Sarah, Isaac’s mother, died.”

According to a Midrash, a work of Jewish sacred literature, that while not included in the Bible, answers a question that a thoughtful reading of the Bible might raise, the passage about Sarah’s death immediately follows the passage about Isaac’s ordeal to teach us that when Sarah saw how severely Isaac’s psyche was scarred, she couldn’t endure her anguish.

One of the Rabbis at the seminar I attended suggested that Sarah’s death coming immediately upon seeing her son in his traumatized state is to remind us that some people endure horrible suffering and that the rest of us must do everything we can to open our hands and hearts to them. I pray that all of us, during the coming year, will find a way to be more compassionate to those who are suffering.

I wish everyone in the community, a Shana Tova.

Rabbi Gary Klein

Temple Ahavat Shalom, Palm Harbor

☆ ☆ ☆

A few weeks ago, the United States experienced one of nature’s most dramatic phenomena. In the middle of a summer day, the sunlight disappeared, and there was complete darkness. The stars were visible and the temperature dropped sharply in a few minutes. Millions of Americans gathered under the skies to see the total solar eclipse that crossed the U.S. from coast to coast.

Throughout history, in many eras and countless cultures, the occurrence of an eclipse was filled with fear and superstition, creating fantastic myths and folklore. According to Judaism, time is not homogeneous. G-d assigned different energies and forces to different times and seasons. The Talmud teaches that people who are born on different days of the week are prone to certain dispositions.

Though recognizing these propensities, we must be aware that we are not slaves to astrology or zodiacs;

The Judaic view is that it is forbidden to be guided by astrology. Not because it does not exist, but because we are connected with the creator of it all. We have a direct channel of communication with the Lord of the Universe, which is above stars and signs, and He alone can transform everything for good and for blessing.

As the winds of the New Year begin to blow, we turn to G-d Almighty Himself, and tap into the open and direct line of communication that we have with Him. We pray for a happy and healthy new year, overflowing with blessings for us and our families, and for our brothers and sisters all over the world. Shaná Tova Umetuká.

Rabbi Alter Korf

Chabad of St. Petersburg

During the month of Elul that led up to Rosh Hashanah we heard the shofar calling to us out of the depths of so many difficult and challenging experiences. The Shofar will again sound on the New Year calling us to action so that the year ahead brings forth the best that we have to offer. The month of Elul bore witness to disasters, brought on by the forces of both nature and humanity. In the New Year of 5778 we hope and we pray that indomitable human spirit that responded with resilience when the deluge came will inspire us to hear the call. Then we shall know that each of us has a responsibility to create a community, a nation and a world that is guided by our highest values and most deeply held morals.

When we sounded the shofar this past month, these words (from *Mishkan HaLev: Prayers for S’lichot and the Month of Elul*, CCAR Press, 2017) helped to inspire us, and I share them with the hope that when the *Tekiah Gedolah* is sounded that we shall all be similarly moved, and we shall all answer the call.

Reach deep – into the sanctuary of the heart.

Reach beyond – to the infinite and eternal.

Reach deep – with every quiet breath.

Reach beyond – summoned by the ancient, ringing blast of the shofar.

Shanah Tova tikateivu v’tikhateimu – May we all find goodness and peace in the New Year of 5778.

Rabbi Michael Torop

Temple Beth-El, St. Petersburg

☆ ☆ ☆

Once I served as a rabbi on a retreat for JACS (Jewish Alcoholics, Chemically Dependent Persons and Significant Others) in the Catskills of Upstate New York. One old timer, who was a mentor, told a story from his days in the *biet ha’soar*, his self imposed prison. “I was so down,” he said “that I didn’t even know where the door was. So one day after an AA meeting, I saw that there was a broom in the corner of the room. I waited until everyone had left, and then I swept up the room. I made that a practice for myself after every meeting, and began to notice, that my apartment looked different as well. I saw that things had a place where they belonged.”

In the wake of Hurricane Harvey, you can turn anywhere to find a way to help, even at the register at Walgreens. Most of us feel a sense of urgency when these natural disasters happen and give with sympathy and *n’div libo*, from the heart. *Hare ze m’shubach*, this is certainly to be praised. All the more so, those who continue to help, weeks or months after the news media has shifted its focus. We are commanded to perform *tzedakah* on a continual basis, and to train us in that, it is customary to put a little money in the *pushke* right before *Shirat Ha’yam* in the morning prayers. For the next three months, I’ll set aside my daily *tzedaka* for the people of Houston.

This time of year, we are compelled to do *teshuvah*, to turn from the dark side of ourselves to the light. But sometimes it’s too dark to even see what needs to change. That’s when we pick up the broom and start to sweep up. For every good deed makes you feel like the good person that you are, and the better one you could be.

Wishing everyone a bright New Year,

Rabbi David Weizman

Congregation Beth Shalom, Clearwater

☆ ☆ ☆

I can still hear my childhood rabbi telling the story in our youth *machzor* every Yom Kippur. In the story, a farmer brings his young son to services on Yom Kippur in the shul of Rabbi Israel ben Eleazar, also known as the Baal Shem Tov, the Chasidic master. The boy, unable to read the prayers, asked his father if he can play his small shepherd’s flute so he too could pray to God. “No,” his father replied, “it is forbidden to play a flute on Yom Kippur.” The boy sat sadly next to his father throughout the day. Every so often he would turn to his father and ask, “Please, Papa, may I play my flute,” and his father would refuse. The boy shifted and wiggled in his seat all day long. Finally, as the *Ne’ilah* prayers were coming to a close, the boy could take it no longer. He reached into his pocket and dug out his flute. Before his father could stop him, the flute flew to the boy’s lips, and he blew one long, clear beautiful note. The entire congregation gasped. His father, red with embarrassment, grabbed the flute from his son’s hands.

The rabbi quickly concluded his prayers. Immediately after the service, the father ran to beg forgiveness for his son’s ruining the holiest day of the year. “There is nothing to forgive,” the Baal Shem Tov replied. “All throughout the day, I felt as if our prayers were scattered like dirt on the floor. We read the words, chanted the melodies, but it was as if God would not receive them. But then, your son expressed the longings of his heart with his flute in a simple, clear note. That note was the most beautiful prayer all day. Your son’s prayer moved God so much, that the very gates of heaven were opened, and all our prayers were received.” (Chasidic folk tale, retold in many instances, including *Gates of Repentance*, Chaim Stern ed. 1978 and *Every Person’s Guide to the High Holidays* by Ronald Isaacs, 1998).

The High Holy Days are filled with so many beautiful rituals that we find in the synagogue as well as the customs of our homes and families. While each one serves a specific purpose to make these days holy, it is easy to become preoccupied with ensuring they are done correctly without ensuring they are done for the right reasons. Indeed, there

is tremendous value in doing so, for it is these same rituals and customs that have kept our people alive throughout the centuries. But the story of the little boy and his flute remind us that it is our *kavannah*, our intention, our purpose and the direction of our hearts behind these prayers and rituals that is essential, that is sacred, that matters most to God.

May the prayers and customs of these *Yamim Noraim* inspire us to experience a Holy Day season of inspiration and reflection, of joy and renewal. My family joins me in wishing you and your family a *Shanah Tovah u'Metukah* – A Healthy, Safe and Happy New Year.

Rabbi Daniel Treiser

Temple B'nai Israel, Clearwater
☆☆☆

The annual renewal of Rosh Hashanah presents all of us with a unique opportunity. As Rosh Hashana concerns the

level of Divine investment, not reward and punishment, it is possible to surpass one's spiritual level without the need to put oneself through the drastic changes demanded by true repentance. When you are facing investors, your moral standing is relevant only in so far as it contributes to your productivity. Investors are focused on higher returns; they really don't care much about just desserts. They are looking out for enterprise, determination, intelligence and foresight. They are future oriented; the past doesn't really interest them.

Rosh Hashana is a time for imagination, for the formulation of daring new ideas regarding spiritual progress. If you have imaginative proposals to submit concerning contributions you are willing and able to make toward the successful future, and you can persuade the Heavenly Court of the sincerity of your intentions, they will increase their investment in you regardless

of your past performance. A junior executive can walk out of a director's meeting on a much higher rung up the corporate ladder than he entered if he manages to persuade the directors to invest in his ideas. Rosh Hashana offers us all the opportunity of dramatic promotions in our level of involvement with God.

We can move overnight from a world that belongs to other people to a world that is created specifically for us. We can pass from a state of relative obscurity where we live in other people's shadows, to creatures that are literally held in the palm of God's hand, His attention focused on us constantly. We can define our own reality.

May we all succeed in making a huge spiritual jump this Rosh Hashana. A happy, healthy and peaceful year to all Israel!

Rabbi Jacob Luski

Congregation B'nai Israel,
St. Petersburg

Shabbat & High Holiday Candle Lighting Times



Sept. 20	•	7:11 pm
Sept. 21	•	8:04 pm
Sept. 22	•	7:09 pm
Sept. 29	•	7:00 pm
Oct. 6	•	6:52 pm

For High Holiday Service Schedules, See Page 15

Congregations

Temple B'nai Israel Clearwater

Race and tashlich: On Saturday, Sept. 23 at 4 p.m., meet at the temple for the start of an Amazing Race style scavenger hunt, finishing at the beach at Sand Key Park. There will be a picnic dinner there at 6 p.m., followed by Tashlich service at 7. Call the temple office for more information.

Sukkot Shabbat service: This service will be held, followed by Sugar in the Shack, on Friday Oct. 6 at 7:30 p.m.

Pizza in the hut: There will be a pizza dinner on Wednesday Oct. 11 at 5:30 p.m., followed by Simchat Torah services at 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$5 per person. RSVP to (727) 531-5829.

Cong. Beth Shalom Clearwater

Meditation circle: Join in a meditation circle with **Rabbi Danielle Upbin** on Saturday, Sept. 23 at noon.

Interfaith prayer: The congregation will participate in an interfaith prayer for peace event at First Methodist Church, 411 Turner St., Clearwater on Sunday, Sept. 24 at 6:30 p.m.

Hafarot study: Join **Johanna Bromberg** for Hafarot study in the synagogue library on Wednesday, Sept. 27 at 10 a.m.

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

Shabbat Sukkot dinner: There will be a Shabbat service on Friday, Oct. 6 at 6:30 p.m. with dinner in the sukkah. Call the synagogue office to RSVP.

Book talk: Take part in a discussion of *My Father's Paradise* by Ariel Sabar on Sunday, Oct. 8 at 10:30 a.m. This is a story about one of the lost tribes of Israel and one man's commitment to preserve the traditions of his people.

Simchat Torah: This service takes place on Thursday, Oct. 12 at 6:30 p.m.

Chabad of Clearwater

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

Cong. B'nai Israel St. Petersburg

Hebrew High programs: Two programs are being launched at Congregation B'nai Israel for high school students as part of Hebrew High. The first of the monthly seminars will be held on Sunday, Sept. 24 from 1-4 p.m. when teens can participate in the first Tampa Bay Jewish Community Reverse Tashlich by cleaning up trash on Gandy Beach. The seminars will include text and video study through discussion questions and reflections online, in the class-

room, and in the community. Each seminar includes brunch and a social action/tikkun olam project open to the entire teen Jewish community.

The second program is called "*Hayinu Kecholmim: We Were As Dreamers.*" Participants will learn about the development of Zionism, increase their knowledge of Israel and receive guidance to debate those who support BDS sanctions and engage in anti-Israel rhetoric. Beginning at the synagogue next month, *Hayinu Kecholmim* is recommended for high school seniors. To sign up, contact **Maureen Sechan** at dll@cbistpete.org or call (727) 381-4900, ext. 1011.

Talmud class: **Steve Wein** continues his Talmud Made Easy class with the study of *Berachot* (Blessings) - the first tractate in the Talmud. Class begins Tuesday, Sept. 19 at 5 p.m. in the library. Explore the origins and reasons of our prayers and the genesis of the scheme of prayer we follow today. All are welcome. For more information or to sign up, contact **Pam Askin** in the synagogue office.

Picnic in the sukkah: Enjoy a deli picnic in the congregation's sukkah on Tuesday, Oct. 10 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Order directly from Jo-El's by calling (727) 321-3847 before Sunday, Oct. 8.

Music soiree: Explore Jewish connections to musical selections with Eckerd College Professor of Music, **Joan O. Epstein**. The first event is a free Sunday Music Soiree series, focusing on Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*, will be held on Sunday, Oct. 1 at 11 a.m. and will include a light reception. RSVP to **Maureen Sechan** at (727) 381-4900, ext. 1011 or email dll@cbistpete.org.

Sukkot services: Erev Sukkot service, Wednesday, Oct., 4, at 6:30 p.m.; First Day Sukkot services – "Shake A Lulav" Hoshanot processions – on Thursday, Oct. 5, at 9 a.m. and Yom Tov evening service at 6:30 p.m. Second Day Yom Tov services – "Shake A Lulav" Hoshanot processions – on Friday, Oct. 6 at 9 a.m. and Yom Tov Mincha and Shabbat Hol Hamoed service at 6 p.m., followed by a Sukkot congregational dinner. Cost is \$20 per adult. Children and new members are free. Childcare is available on Yom Tov mornings upon request prior to holiday. RSVP by Sept. 29 to **Pam Askin** at officemgr@cbistpete.org or call the synagogue office.

Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah: Erev Shemini Atzeret service is Wednesday, Oct. 11 at 6:30 p.m. Shemini Atzeret Yom Tov morning services on Thursday, Oct. 12 include Yizkor and memorial plaques dedication at 9 a.m. and Erev Simchat Torah procession at 6:30 p.m., which includes a youth celebration and ice cream sundaes. On Friday, Oct. 13, the Simchat Torah service, beginning at 9 a.m. will honor the congregation's Hatanei Hatorah, "Princes of the Torah."

Chabad Center of St. Petersburg

Service and sushi: There will be a short Rosh Hashanah service on Wednesday, Sept. 20 at 7 p.m., followed by a sushi bar and desserts, apples and honey. There is no charge. To RSVP, contact the Chabad center.

Temple Beth-El St. Petersburg

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

Chabad of Pinellas Palm Harbor

Rosh Hashanah dinner: Celebrate the new year with traditional holiday foods on Wednesday, Sept. 20 at 8 p.m. The cost is \$25 for adults and \$12 for children, or \$75 for families. RSVP immediately to www.yichabad.com/dinner or call (727) 789-0408.

Temple Ahavat Shalom Palm Harbor

Sunshine tot time: On Sunday, Sept. 24 from 10 - 11 a.m. the theme will be "Happy Birthday, World" as the Sisterhood sponsors a tot time with adult and child activities, Judaics and snacks. This is open to children from 1 through 4 years old and is free, but there is space for only eight. Each child will go home with a new book. RSVP by Sept. 19 by calling (727) 543-5670 or emailing Jorie1022@aol.com.

Book club: The temple's book club will meet on Sunday, Sept. 24 at 10:30 a.m. and

discuss *Judas by Amos Oz*, an Israeli born author. For more information, contact **Steve Konigsberg** at (727) 399-1010, stevkon@aol.com.

Temple Beth David, Spring Hill:

Annual Sukkot Festival: The temple will hold its annual Sukkot Festival on Sunday, Oct. 8 at noon. A free chicken luncheon will be served. For RSVP information, contact the temple by Oct. 2.

Chabad Center of West Pasco Trinity

Rosh Hashanah dinner: There will be a traditional dinner to usher in Rosh Hashanah on Sept. 20, beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Chabad Center. The cost is \$36 for adults and \$25 for children. For reservations, call the Chabad Center at (727) 376-3366.

Cong. Beth Tefillah/JCC of West Pasco Port Richey

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

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High Holidays stand alone on the calendar for interfaith families, but still pose challenges

By SEAN SAVAGE
 JNS.org

For many Jews, the High Holiday period is a time of deep observance and self-reflection, but for an increasingly large share of American Jewry, the holidays also bring a new set of challenges that go to the very core of one's faith.

According to the Pew Research Center's October 2013 "A Portrait of Jewish Americans" survey, 58 percent of Jews marry outside the faith, up from 46 percent in 1990 and 17 percent before 1970.

Unlike other Jewish holidays such as Hanukkah and Passover, which sometimes overlap with major Christian or secular holiday periods, the High Holidays fall in September or October. Given the seriousness of the holidays, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur provide a unique challenge for many interfaith families.

Rabbi Jillian Cameron, a Boston-based regional director for Interfaith Family, a national organization supporting interfaith couples and families exploring Jewish life, told JNS.org, "For many families, interfaith or not, the High Holidays can seem overwhelming and therefore, a family meal, attending a beautiful tashlich (a Jewish atonement ritual) service by a beautiful body of water or a children's service may be their only formal High Holiday experience."

Observing the High Holidays

Sam Goodman of Tinton Falls, NJ, said his wife Anne, who is Catholic, gives him wide latitude in observing the High Holidays, and that they often go to synagogue together.

"I don't think my holiday observance would be significantly different if Anne were Jewish, with the exception of having to 'share' the holidays with her parents," he told JNS.org.

Now with an 18-month-old son he is raising Jewish, Goodman expects the family's High Holiday practice to be more centered on their New Jersey Jewish community.

Cameron said being members of a wider Jewish community, especially for interfaith families, can be very helpful for observing the rigors of the High Holidays.

"For those who feel comfortable, safe and part of a loving community, this experience can be incred-

ibly powerful, for interfaith families just as much as families with two Jews," she said. "However, for those who haven't found their place yet, who struggle with religion, with theology, with God, or who just don't have enough information, it can easily be overwhelming, exhausting and frustrating."

Jessica Boatright, a mother of two from Boston whose husband was raised Episcopal, said observing the High Holidays is actually less of a challenge than other Jewish holidays that may overlap with Christian ones.

"The High Holidays feel more singly focused religiously, because there isn't a Christian holiday at the same time like there is at Hanukkah or Passover," Boatright told JNS.org.

Nevertheless, Boatright noted that as an interfaith family living in a non-Jewish community, the High Holidays do bring some complexity to managing observance.

"In my Jewish household growing up, there was never a question about missing school or work for the High Holidays – no matter what was going on, that's what you did," she said. "My husband didn't grow up that way, and our current school system doesn't close school, so we've had to develop a practice for our family to clear the schedule."

Cameron pointed out that the High Holidays take place in a more formal Jewish setting than Hanukkah or Passover, which may prove more difficult for some interfaith families.

"If you belong to a synagogue you're set, but what if you don't, what if you haven't found the right place for your family, or you're not sure a synagogue is the right Jewish community for you and your family?" she said. "Access to the holiday can be physically difficult, and often the intellectual, spiritual and emotional access is even more difficult."

While introducing one's partner to the complexities of observing the High Holidays, it may be even more challenging to introduce these holidays to extended non-Jewish family members, who may be less invested in learning about the holidays.

Goodman believes communication is one of the most important factors to helping extended family members understand different religious traditions.

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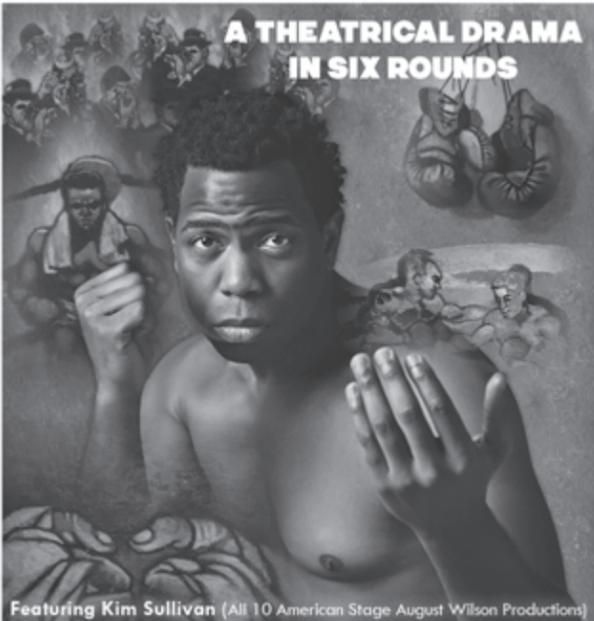
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Star Event to spotlight Nancy Spielberg

Documentary filmmaker Nancy Spielberg will be the keynote speaker at the 16th annual Franci Golman Rudolph Schaarai Zedek Sisterhood Star Event on Monday, Oct. 23 at the Renaissance Hotel in Tampa.

The youngest of the four siblings, producer Nancy Spielberg grew up immersed in filmmaking, working on the early films of her acclaimed brother, Steven, as cast and crew.



Nancy Spielberg

Even though she's been around the business for most of her life, taking a lead role in filmmaking is relatively new for her. According to Spielberg, "I was intimidated to go out there publicly and possibly fail publicly, but the stories resonated so much that they pushed away the fear."

Spielberg attended Arizona State University and UCLA and, after moving to New York in 1978, studied film at Sarah Lawrence College and the New School in New York. She is an accomplished businesswoman, fundraiser, and philanthropist and is founder or co-founder of several charities including "A Bid for Charity," "Children of Chernobyl," "Project Sunshine," and the American branch of The Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance.

In recent years, Spielberg has turned her energy and talents to producing documentary films. She served as consultant on the 2003 Oscar-winning documentary, *Chernobyl Heart*. In 2008, she produced a project for the Israeli government, *Celebrities Salute Israel's 60th*, which was featured in Times Square on the NASDAQ screens for one month. Spielberg was also executive producer of *Elusive Justice: The Search for Nazi War Criminals*, which aired nationally on PBS in 2011.

According to Spielberg, "The role of the sibling is to stay family, to be there for each other, not to have an agenda." However, that family affiliation changed a bit when Nancy Spielberg began doing production work and first showed her Academy Award winning brother the rough cut of *Above and Beyond*, her 2014 film about U.S. airmen volunteering to help fight in Israel's 1948 War of Independence. She was more than a little nervous to hear what he thought. She stated, "I knew that if he said he hates it, I'm in trouble. Given that he's the expert, anyone who has the chance to show their work to Steven Spielberg should take his advice. Luckily, he loved it." She said that he came into their mother's restaurant and told his kid sister that the movie made him cry. In fact, he liked it so much that he told her he would recommend it to the Cannes Film Festival where he sat on the jury. Her production of

• CONTINUED on NEXT PAGE

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• CONTINUED from PREVIOUS PAGE

Above and Beyond subsequently won the audience award at more than 20 film festivals in 2015.

In addition, Spielberg was the executive producer of Sophie Sartain's documentary, *Mimi and Dona*, which was broadcast nationally on PBS in late 2015. She was also one of the producers of *On The Map*, the 2016 documentary by filmmaker Dani Menkin, which tells the story of the 1977 underdog Israeli basketball team that triumphed over a series of European basketball powers. She is currently executive producer of *Who Will Write Our History*, which is now in post-production with a 2018 release planned. This film tells the story of Warsaw Ghetto Jews who wrote and buried their documents and stories into Polish soil before they were killed by the Nazis.

"Schaarai Zedek Sisterhood is thrilled to have Nancy Spielberg speak at this year's Star Event on her personal experiences growing up in the Spielberg family, the way that her background led her to become a film producer, her recent documentary film productions, and her experiences as a female producer," said event co-chairs Judith Mish and Sharon Ravner.

The Star Event celebrates the memory of Franci Golman Rudolph, a beloved former Sisterhood president, who also played an integral part in previous Star Events as the emcee of the segment where the Star Event headliner is interviewed in the style of *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. Franci was dedicated to Tikun Olam, to changing the world, and received wide praise from the Tampa community for her work for various charitable organizations.

As Schaarai Zedek Sisterhood's major fundraiser, the Franci Golman Rudolph Star Event provides funds for its many projects. These include donations to local, national, and international agencies, such as Tampa Jewish Family Services food bank, the Florida Holocaust Museum, Camp Coleman, URJ's Emergency Relief Fund for natural disasters, Weinberg Village Jewish Assisted Living Facility, the Women of Reform Judaism's many worldwide projects through the YES Fund, and the World Union for Progressive Judaism. In addition, the Star Event funds allow the Sisterhood to underwrite salaries for Schaarai Zedek religious school teacher assistants, purchase equipment for the religious school, and donate money to projects of the Schaarai Zedek youth groups.

Open to the community, registration, social hour, and silent auction for the Star Event will begin at 10 a.m. on Oct. 23, followed by lunch and the program at 11 a.m. Early bird tickets for \$75 are available until Oct. 6, after which registrations will begin at \$90. Additional sponsorships are being sought ranging from \$250 to \$5,000. Sponsors of \$250 and above will be invited to attend a VIP reception with Nancy Spielberg on Sunday evening prior to the event.

For more information on the event, contact Mish and Ravner at sisterhoodstarevent@gmail.com. Reservations can be made online at www.zedek.org/starevent or by check or credit card through the Congregation Schaarai Zedek office at (813) 876-2377 or office@zedek.org.



Sophie Goldsmith, left, and Maya Rolfe place books for burial.

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Temple B'nai Israel religious school students recently participated in a Genizah, the ceremonial burial of sacred books, with Rabbi

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In 8-minute call, Trump says New Year offers chance for Israeli peace, vows to keep Jews safe from hate

By RON KAMPEAS
JTA news service

WASHINGTON — The debate has gone on for weeks among rabbis and Jewish leaders: If President Donald Trump does not formally renounce white supremacists, is it still worth engaging in a conversation with him?

This was on much of the Jewish community's mind since Aug. 23, when the leaders of three religious streams — Reconstructionist, Reform and Conservative — said they would not organize the annual pre-Rosh Hashanah call with the president, which the rabbinical groups had instituted at the start of the Obama administration. That call, principally for clergy, was aimed at helping to shape High Holidays.

Instead, the White House decided to hold a call with Jewish leaders — one that would be in line with the calls and meetings that Jewish leaders have had with the sitting

president since the Eisenhower era. It would be initiated by the White House, and both lay and religious leaders would be invited.

On Friday, Sept. 15, Trump delivered his holiday greetings in a conference call that barely lasted eight minutes. He took no questions. By contrast, calls and meetings with past presidents have included exchanges — sometimes tough — and generally lasted at least 45 minutes.

Some of the participants expressed disappointment after having done public battle with the Reform, Reconstructionist and Conservative movements over whether one should engage Trump in conversation.

"Everyone would look less stupid if he had just put it on YouTube," one said, encapsulating the one-way direction of the "conversation."

Not invited to join the call were the Reform and Reconstructionist movements.



President Donald Trump speaking to Jewish leaders in a conference call at the White House as staff members look on.

The Conservative movement did receive an invitation but Rabbi Julie Schonfeld, the CEO of its Rabbinical Assembly, declined to participate.

All the participants who spoke to JTA asked not to be identified because the call was off the record, although the White House released a transcript that afternoon.

Rabbi Avi Shafran, the director of public affairs for Agudath Israel, a haredi Orthodox group, had argued in a *Forward* op-ed Thursday, Sept. 14, that the rabbis who had opted out of the call with the president were missing an opportunity to raise the painful issue of the white supremacists and neo-Nazis who marched in Charlottesville, which culminated in an attack by an alleged white supremacist that killed one counterprotester and wounded at least 20 others.

"There is a difference between respectfully asking a president to clarify that he does not equate proponents of white supremacy with protesters against the same and, however one might feel about him, publicly and starkly insulting our nation's duly elected national leader," he said.

In the end, there were no surprises. Trump covered the standard range of issues in these calls and did not depart from the script.

Anti-Semitism and bias: "We forcefully condemn those who seek to incite anti-Semitism, or to spread any form of slander and hate — and I will ensure we protect Jewish communities, and all communities, that face threats to their safety," he said.

Israel: "The United States will always support Israel not only because of the vital security partnership between our two nations, but because of the shared values between our two peoples," he said.

Trump noted that his ambassador to the United Nations, Nikki Haley, was making a priority of keeping international bodies from singling out Israel for criticism.

"I can tell you on a personal basis, and I just left Israel recently, I love Israel," he said.

Peace: "This next New Year also offers a new opportunity to seek peace between the Israelis and Palestinians, and I am very hopeful that we will see significant progress before the end of the year," the president

said. "Ambassador David Friedman, Jared [Kushner], Jason [Greenblatt], and the rest of my team are working very hard to achieve a peace agreement. I think it's something that actually could happen." Friedman is the ambassador to Israel, Kushner is his son-in-law and a top adviser, and Greenblatt is his top international negotiator.

Kushner, an observant Jew, opened the call by introducing the president, saying his father-in-law "takes great pride in having a Jewish daughter and Jewish grandchildren." Ivanka Trump, Jared's wife, is also a top adviser to her father.

The controversy surrounding the call began last month, when the Reform, Reconstructionist and Conservative movements cast their decision to cancel the call — an outcome of Trump's equivocation after the Charlottesville violence, when he said "many sides" were to blame for the violence, and that there were "very fine people" among both the white supremacists and the counterprotesters.

"The president's words have given succor to those who advocate anti-Semitism, racism, and xenophobia," the statement said.

On Thursday, Sept. 14, Trump again insisted that there was blame on both sides.

Those who participated in the call said that even absent a question-and-answer period, it was still better to be on the call than not. "These are rabbis whose foremost cause should be the Jewish people and Israel," said Morton Klein, the president of the Zionist Organization of America.

Klein, who was on the call, noted that he participated in similar calls and meetings with Obama, even though he rarely agreed with him. "Why stupidly insult the president, who we need for these issues?" he asked.

Rabbi Jonah Dov Pesner, director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, said in an email to JTA that because he was not on the call, he had no comment on what was said. But, he wrote, "We stand by our decision to not host a High Holy Days call with the President this year. We are disappointed that the President continues to draw a false equivalency between white supremacists and counter-demonstrators in Charlottesville."

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A Jewish 'Dreamer' is scared, but refuses to despair

By PENNY SCHWARTZ
JTA news service

BOSTON — At 15, Elias Rosenfeld became a "Dreamer."

At the time, the Venezuela native was attending Dr. Michael M. Krop Senior High School in Miami, where he had lived since he was 6 years old, when his Jewish family moved to South Florida from Caracas. His mother was a media executive and they traveled to the United States on an L1 visa, which allows specialized, managerial employees to work for the U.S. office of a parent company.

But tragedy struck the family: When Rosenfeld was in the fifth grade, his mother was diagnosed with kidney cancer. She died two years later.

In high school, Rosenfeld applied for a driver's permit, only to find out that he lacked the required legal papers. He discovered that his mother's death voided her visa. He and his older sister were undocumented.

"It was an embarrassing moment for me," Rosenfeld recalled more than five years later.

Within five months, in June 2012, President Barack Obama signed an executive order, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, granting temporary, renewable legal status to young unauthorized immigrants who had been brought to America by their parents as children.

Known as DACA, the order opened up a world of opportunities for some 800,000 young people who were now able to apply for driver's licenses, temporary work permits and college. "Dreamers" refers to a bipartisan bill, known as the Dream Act, which would have offered them a path to legal residency.

"It was the power of one order that can so directly change one's life," Rosenfeld said. "That launched me. I became an advocate."

He launched United Student Immigrants, a non-profit to assist undocumented students that has been credited with raising tens of thousands of dollars for help with scholarships and applications.

Rosenfeld, now a 20-year-old sophomore at Brandeis University on a full scholarship, spoke with JTA at a rally outside of this city's Faneuil Hall, just hours after President Donald Trump and Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced they would rescind DACA. The president gave Congress a six-month window to preserve the program through legislation. Or not.

The Boston protest was organized by the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition, where Rosenfeld is an intern. He shared his story with several hundred people at the quickly organized rally.

He explained that DACA enabled him to drive, buy his first car, and apply for internships, jobs and scholarships.

Calling the president's actions "cruel," Rosenfeld said, "Now is not the time of despair, however, but to put our energy towards effective action." He urged the crowd to work for protective legislation at the federal and state levels. There are some 8,000 DACA residents in Massachusetts.

Another Dreamer, Filipe Zamborlini, who came to the U.S. from Brazil when he was 12 and now works as a career coach at Jewish Vocational Services, also spoke.

"We're going to mourn today," Zamborlini, 28, told the assembly.

Rosenfeld said the Trump administration's decision was disturbing and unsettling.

"There's a high level of fear and anxiety in DACA communities," he told JTA.

Rosenfeld recalls too well the sting and uncertainty of being undocumented.

"It means you can't do everything your peers and your friends are doing. You feel American, but you are suffering these consequences from choices you didn't make," he said.

But he also sounded a note of optimism, pointing out that Trump called on Congress to act.

"We hope Congress follows their president's word now and does the job of passing one of the many pieces of legislation" before them, Rosenfeld said.

He readily admits to feeling scared and anxious.

"But I'm also feeling empowered and motivated from seeing the outpouring of support," locally and across the country, he said.

To DACA opponents, including Jewish supporters of Trump, Rosenfeld asks them to look at the facts and the stories of people like himself.

"I don't think it aligns with our values, with Jewish values and the Jewish community," he said of a policy that would essentially strip a generation of people

raised here of official recognition.

Rosenfeld cited the activism of a group called Torah Trumps Hate, which opposes policies that it considers anathema to values contained in Jewish teachings.

Growing up, his family attended synagogue often and celebrated Shabbat and Jewish holidays.

Despite the hardships he faced following his mother's death, Rosenfeld excelled in high school. He completed 13 Advanced Placement courses and ranked among the top 10 percent of his graduating class, according to a Miami-Dade County school bulletin. Rosenfeld was widely recognized as a student leader, receiving several awards and honors. During the presidential campaign, he volunteered for the Hillary Clinton campaign.

Earlier in the day, before the president's announcement, Brandeis President Ron Liebowitz sent a letter to Trump urging him not to undo DACA.

"Here at Brandeis University, we value our DACA students, who enrich our campus in many ways and are integral to our community," the letter said. "Reversing DACA inflicts harsh punishment on the innocent. As a nation founded by immigrants, we can, should, and must do better."

Rosenfeld was attracted to Brandeis both for its academics and its commitment to social justice. He is studying political science, sociology and law, with plans to continue his advocacy work on behalf of immigrants. He hopes one day to attend law school and work in politics or practice law.

With a full schedule of courses and volunteer work, Rosenfeld gets by without much sleep, he acknowledged with an easy laugh.

Asked what America means to him, Rosenfeld does not hesitate.

"It means my country. It's my home. There's a connection. I want to contribute," he said. "I just don't think it's valuable to want to kick out people that want to contribute to this country."



Elias Rosenfeld, a sophomore at Brandeis University and one of 800,000 "Dreamers," speaking at a rally at Boston's Faneuil Hall hours after President Trump announced he was rescinding DACA protections for some 800,000 young people, Sept. 5..



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9/21	Rosh Hashanah I	8:30am
9/21	Tashlich	6:00pm
9/21	Ma'ariv	8:00pm
9/22	Rosh Hashanah 2	8:30am
9/22	Kabbalat Shabbat	6:30pm
9/23	Shabbat Shuvah	9:00am
9/29	Kol Nidre	6:45pm
9/30	Yom Kippur	9:00am
9/30	Talk & Break	2:15pm
9/30	Mincha Yom Kippur	5:30pm
9/30	Ne'ilah	6:50pm
9/30	Shofar and Ma'ariv	7:53pm



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Counselors offer advice on facing down hate, discrimination

By THAIS LEON-MILLER
Jewish Press

With rising reports of anti-Semitic incidents throughout the nation and the recent ugliness of self-proclaimed Nazis marching in Charlottesville, the Jewish Federation of Pinellas and Pasco Counties called upon two local mental health experts to offer tips for dealing with hatred.

At the heart of their message – fight back with kindness and empathy.

Therapists Sarah Grace Nadler and Maurie Lung held a web/telephone conference on Aug. 31, with some folks going online and others listening in by phone. The webinar was moderated by Federation staffers Emilie Socash and Elana Gootson.

They noted that bigoted people seemed to have become more “emboldened” since the November presidential election. “It’s almost as if those people feel they now have permission,” said Lung. “These people have been there, always,” added Nadler. “But it’s become fashionable again.”

There are many examples of hatred run amuck. Middle school children in Detroit chanted “build the wall” at Latino students during lunchtime in their school cafeteria last November. The Anti Defamation League has reported an 86 percent increase in anti-Semitic incidents this year so far. One woman died and others were injured when white supremacists and neo-Nazis marched in Charlottesville and chanted “Jews will not replace us.”

Nadler and Lung focused on how adults can help children who’ve been targeted by negative and discriminatory behavior. Both agreed on the three Rs plan: regulate, relate and redirect.

When children are faced with bullying or attacking behavior, it’s common for them to have a “fight, flight or freeze” reaction. One way the therapists suggest pulling children out of that moment is to offer them a way to regulate, or reset, their emotions. Doing anything for four to seven minutes can help: jumping rope, playing a video game or doing anything else repetitive.

Once there has been a chance to step back from the situation, relating to the child is the next step. For children, or really anyone, hearing that what they are feeling is valid and understandable provides a feeling of comfort, said Nadler, who is a professor at Eckerd College. She has specialized group expertise in mindful impulse and stress management, radical acceptance and garden therapy.

Using sentences that begin with, “It makes sense

you are upset about...” can help validate children’s emotions, said Lung, a co-author of *Power of Family* and a counselor in Seminole.

Finally, asking open-ended questions can help children to redirect. By asking them to explain more about the incident or having them come up with ideas to potentially remedy the problem, children can feel more in control. Lung used her 4-year-old son as an example. When he was upset about his younger triplet siblings playing with his building blocks, he came up with his own solution during the redirect phase.

“He suggested we tape their hands to the floor, so they could see his Legos but not touch them,” said Lung. “I had to tell him that might make them a little upset, so we should think about some other options.”

The three Rs plan can be geared to children and adults of all ages, said Nadler. It’s just a matter of taking into account the person’s emotional level and making sure responses are age appropriate. Both therapists have and do use the plan in their own lives.

Nadler is Jewish and grew up in St. Louis, MO, and was one of only three Jews in her entire school district.

“When I was in middle school, I went on a class trip to Costa Rica,” she said during the webinar. “One of the fathers found out I was Jewish. This particular father slept outside of my tent to protect these other girls from the ‘dirty Jew.’”

Nadler said she was never vocal about her religion, but word had still spread that she was Jewish, and she found herself judged by it.

“My parents would always tell me Judaism’s response to hate is to ramp up the empathy,” said Nadler.

Lung, who is not Jewish, teaches her children to have the same response. She told the story of a neighbor that would stand outside of his house and stare at her and her partner. He wouldn’t let his children play with hers outside. One day, she and her 4-year-old son noticed the neighbor’s trash was knocked over.

In picking up the trash, her son noticed the neighbor drank a particular kind of coffee and asked Lung if they could get him one, so they did.

“He lets the kids play outside with mine now,” she said. “But we still aren’t friends.”

According to both therapists, there is never a time too soon to start talking to children about discrimination and empathy. Speaking openly helps them to trust parents as a resource. Modeling equality can teach them how to treat people equally as part of everyday life. Doing something by standing up to those treating others unfairly can teach justice by example.

“Little rabbits have big ears,” said Lung.

Israeli firm chosen to build prototype of Mexico border wall

(JTA) – Elta North America, an Israeli-owned defense manufacturer with U.S. headquarters in Maryland, was one of four companies chosen to build one prototype version for the border wall between the United States and Mexico.

The company is a subsidiary of Israel Aerospace Industries. Some 200 companies vied for the tenders, which will provide a \$300,000 to \$500,000 grant to develop a model. The tender was announced late last week.

In total, eight companies are building prototypes for the nearly 2,000-mile-long wall. Four will be concrete and four will have see-through or “smart” walls. Elta was chosen to work on the see-through walls project. The final project could cost up to \$25 billion.

President Donald Trump has praised Israel for its southern border wall meant to stop African migrants from illegally entering the country.

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EREV ROSH HASHANAH

Wednesday, Sept. 20

Evening service, 7 p.m.

ROSH HASHANAH – 1st Day

Thursday, Sept. 21

Morning service, 9:30 a.m.

Youth Program, 11 a.m.

Shofar, approx. 11:30 a.m.

Mincha and Tashlich, 6:30 p.m.

ROSH HASHANAH – 2nd Day

Friday, Sept. 22

Morning service, 9:30 a.m.

Youth Program, 11 a.m.

Shofar, approx. 11:30 a.m.

EREV YOM KIPPUR

Friday, Sept. 29

Kol Nidre, 7 p.m.

YOM KIPPUR

Saturday, Sept. 20

Morning service, 9:30 a.m.

Youth Program, 11 a.m.

Yizkor, approx. 12:30 p.m.

Mincha, 5:30 p.m.

Ne'ilah, 6:45 p.m.

Break-The-Fast, 7:53 p.m.

CHABAD OF CLEARWATER

Services at Tabacnic Chabad Center
2280 Belleair Road, Clearwater
(727) 265-2770

EREV ROSH HASHANAH

Wednesday, Sept. 20

Evening service, 7:15 p.m.

ROSH HASHANAH – 1st Day

Thursday, Sept. 21

Morning service, 9:30 a.m.

Shofar sounding, 11:30 a.m.

Kiddush following services

Mincha and Tashlich, 6:45 p.m.

ROSH HASHANAH – 2nd Day

Friday, Sept. 22

Morning service, 9:30 a.m.

Shofar sounding, 11:30 a.m.

EREV YOM KIPPUR

Friday, Sept. 29

Kol Nidre, 7:15 p.m.

YOM KIPPUR

Saturday, Sept. 30

Morning service, 10 a.m.

Yizkor, 12:30 a.m.

Mincha, 5:45 p.m.

Ne'ilah, 6:45 p.m.

Final Shofar, 7:53 p.m.

Break-The-Fast to follow

CHABAD JEWISH CENTER OF GREATER ST. PETERSBURG

4010 Park St. N., St. Petersburg
(727) 344-4900

EREV ROSH HASHANAH

Wednesday, Sept. 20

Evening service, 7 p.m.

ROSH HASHANAH – 1st Day

Thursday, Sept. 21

Morning service, 9 a.m.

Children's services, 9:30 a.m.

Shofar, 10:45 a.m.

Tashlich service, 6 p.m.

(at Abercrombie Park waterfront)

ROSH HASHANAH – 2nd Day

Friday, Sept. 22

Morning service, 9 a.m.

Children's services, 9:30 a.m.

Shofar, 10:45 a.m.

EREV YOM KIPPUR

Friday, Sept. 29

Kol Nidre, 7 p.m.

YOM KIPPUR

Saturday, Sept. 30

Morning service, 9 a.m.

Children's services, 9:30 a.m.

Yizkor, 11:15 p.m.

Mincha, 6 p.m.

Ne'ilah 7 p.m.

Final Shofar, 7:52 p.m.

Break-The-Fast to follow

Conservative

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EREV ROSH HASHANAH

Wednesday, Sept. 20

Evening service, 7 p.m.

ROSH HASHANAH – 1st Day

Thursday, Sept. 21

Morning service, 8:30 a.m.

Shofar, 10:15 a.m.

Children's activity, 4:30 p.m.

Tashlich, 5:45 p.m.

(Lake Pasadena)

Mincha & Ma'ariv, 7 p.m.

ROSH HASHANAH – 2nd Day

Friday, Sept. 22

Morning service, 8:30 a.m.

Shofar sounding, 10:15 a.m.

EREV YOM KIPPUR

Friday, Sept. 29

Kol Nidre, 7 p.m.

YOM KIPPUR

Saturday, Sept. 30

Morning service, 8:30 a.m.

Yizkor, 1 p.m.

Mincha 4:50 p.m.

Ne'ilah, 5:50 p.m. (approx.)

Final Shofar, 7:50 p.m.

Break-the-Fast snacks to follow

CONG. BETH SHOLOM

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EREV ROSH HASHANAH

Wednesday, Sept. 20

Evening service, 7:30 p.m.

ROSH HASHANAH – 1st Day

Thursday, Sept. 21

Morning service, 9:30 a.m.

Tashlich to follow service

ROSH HASHANAH – 2nd Day

Friday, Sept. 22

Morning service, 9:30 a.m.

EREV YOM KIPPUR

Friday, Sept. 29

Kol Nidre, 7:30 p.m.

YOM KIPPUR

Saturday, Sept. 30

Morning service, 9:30 a.m.

Yizkor, 11 a.m.

Services resume, 4 p.m.

Ne'ilah, 5 p.m.

Break-the-Fast at conclusion

CONG. BETH SHALOM

1325 S. Belcher Road, Clearwater

(727) 531-1418

EREV ROSH HASHANAH

Wednesday, Sept. 20

Evening service, 7:30 p.m.

ROSH HASHANAH – 1st Day

Thursday, Sept. 21

Morning service, 8:30 a.m.

Tashlich, 6 p.m.

Ma'ariv, 8 p.m.

ROSH HASHANAH – 2ND Day

Friday, Sept. 22

Morning service, 8:30 a.m.

EREV YOM KIPPUR

Friday, Sept. 29

Kol Nidre, 6:45 p.m.

YOM KIPPUR

Saturday, Sept. 30

Morning service, 9 a.m.

Mincha, 5:30 p.m.

Ne'ilah, 6:50 p.m.

Final Shofar, 7:53 p.m.

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Saturday, Sept. 16

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and service, 8 p.m.

CEMETERY SERVICES

Sunday, Sept. 17

Sylvan Abbey, noon

Curlew Hills, 1 p.m.

EREV ROSH HASHANAH

Wednesday, Sept. 20

Evening service, 8 p.m.

ROSH HASHANAH – 1st Day

Thursday, Sept. 21

Morning service, 10 a.m.

Youth services,

(grade 3+), 11 a.m.

(tot-2nd grade) 3 p.m.

Tashlich, 4:30 p.m.

(Dunedin Causeway)

ROSH HASHANAH – 2nd Day

Friday, Sept. 22

Morning service, 10 a.m.

EREV YOM KIPPUR

Friday, Sept. 29

Kol Nidre, 7:30 p.m.

YOM KIPPUR

Saturday, Sept. 30

Morning service, 10 a.m.

Youth services,

(grade 3+), 11 a.m.

(tot-2nd grade) 1:30 p.m.

Yizkor, 4:30 p.m.

Ne'ilah, 5:30 p.m.

Break-the-Fast, 6:30 p.m.

TEMPLE B'NAI ISRAEL

1685 S. Belcher Road, Clearwater

(727) 531-5829

EREV ROSH HASHANAH

Wednesday, Sept. 20

Evening service, 8 p.m.

ROSH HASHANAH

Thursday, Sept. 21

Tot Family Service, 9 a.m.

Morning service, 10:15 a.m.

Saturday, Sept. 23

Havdalah and Tashlich, 6 p.m.

(on the beach)

CEMETERY SERVICES

Sunday, Sept. 24

Sylvan Abbey, 10 a.m.

Curlew Hills, 11 a.m.

EREV YOM KIPPUR

Friday, Sept. 29

Kol Nidre, 8 p.m.

YOM KIPPUR

Saturday, Sept. 30

Tot Family service, 9 a.m.

Morning service, 10:15 a.m.

Afternoon service, 4:15 p.m.

(includes Yizkor, Ne'ilah)

Break-the-Fast

TEMPLE BETH-EL

400 S. Pasadena Ave., St. Petersburg

(727) 347-6136

EREV ROSH HASHANAH

Wednesday, Sept. 20

Evening service, 7:30 p.m.

ROSH HASHANAH – 1st Day

Thursday, Sept. 21

Family services, 9:45 a.m.

Morning service, 10 a.m.

ROSH HASHANAH – 2nd Day

Friday, Sept. 22

Morning service, 10 a.m.

Friday, Sept. 22 – 6:30 p.m.

Shabbat & Tashlich (on the beach)

CEMETERY SERVICES

Sunday, Sept. 24

Chapel Hill, 9:30 a.m.

Royal Palm, 10:30 a.m.

EREV YOM KIPPUR

Friday, Sept. 29

Kol Nidre, 7:30 p.m.

YOM KIPPUR

Saturday, Sept. 30

Family service, 9:45 a.m.

Morning service, 10 a.m.

Yizkor, 12:30 p.m.

Afternoon service, 4 p.m.

Ne'ilah, 6 p.m.

Break-the-Fast, 7 p.m.

CONG. B'NAI EMMUNAH

57 Read Street, Tarpon Springs

(727) 938-9000

*Services at Church on the Bayou,

409 Whitcomb Blvd., Tarpon Springs

EREV ROSH HASHANAH

Wednesday, Sept. 20

Evening service, 8 p.m.

Trump gives new hope to Jewish push for FEMA assistance to houses of worship

By **RON KAMPEAS**
JTA news service

WASHINGTON – A tweet by President Donald Trump on Friday night, Sept. 8, with Houston recovering from Hurricane Harvey and his sister Irma set to ravage Florida, is renewing hope among Jewish groups that have long advocated for emergency assistance to houses of worship.

“Churches in Texas should be entitled to reimbursement from FEMA Relief Funds for helping victims of Hurricane Harvey (just like others),” Trump said on Twitter, referring to the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Attempts in the past two Congresses to extend FEMA protections to houses of worship had broad bipartisan support, but were stymied by the Obama administration’s concerns over church-state separation.

Jewish groups advocating for the change welcomed the change in tone.

Nathan Diament, the Washington director of the Orthodox Union, which has led advocacy for the policy change, said that Trump needed only to order the change; there was no statute barring emergency funds from going to houses of worship. Still, he said, including houses of worship as beneficiaries of FEMA assistance should be written into law.

“There’s a little bit of distance between the president tweeting and actual policy,” he told JTA on Monday. “We also want it codified in legislation.”

Lawmakers who have favored the change have included Reps. Grace Meng, D-NY and Chris Smith, R-NJ in the House and Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-NY and Roy Blunt, R-MO, in the Senate. (Those bids were inspired in part by Superstorm Sandy, which clobbered the northeast in 2012.)

FEMA currently allows nonprofits such as community centers and zoos to apply for the funds.

“We’re asking for the same treatment as other nonprofits,” Diament said.

“They serve as shelters, they serve as collection and distribution centers for emergency assistance after natural disasters,” he said. “Community centers are on this list because they function as gathering places for the community and places for educational and other programs; houses of worship do that as well.”

Diament said as many as four OU-affiliated synagogues in the Houston area could use the assistance; it was too early to tell regarding Florida, he said.

The Orthodox Union is allied with religious umbrellas from other faiths in favoring the legislation, but Diament emphasized that the change has broad support, including from the Jewish Federations of North America, the Conservative movement and the American Jewish Committee, an organization that has in other areas emphasized church-state separations.

Richard Foltin, the AJC’s director of legislative affairs, said that as long as there were safeguards keeping the assistance from directly funding religious activity, expanding the assistance to houses of worship was the right thing to do.

“This is a natural disaster for which everyone has suffered and a house of worship ought not to be ineligible for support,” he

said.

Among Jewish groups that usually voice church-separation concerns, the Anti-Defamation League in 2013 dropped its objections to legislative bids to include houses of worship as eligible for FEMA assistance, and the Reform movement has not raised objections.

Abba Cohen, the Washington director of Agudath Israel of America, said extending the assistance to houses of worship was common sense.

“It defies common sense or any sense of fairness to deny disaster relief to houses of worship, especially when zoos and other recreational facilities are eligible to receive such aid,” Cohen said in an email. “When disaster strikes, the stability of a community’s houses of worship and other religious entities is vital to its spirit and morale and ultimately to its ability to recover.”

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Jewish Leadership Training Institute seeks new recruits, touts record of its graduates

Since 2007, the Jewish Leadership Training Institute (JLTI), a program of the Tampa Jewish Federation and the Jewish Federation of Pinellas and Pasco Counties, has invited emerging young leaders from the Tampa Bay area to participate in an innovative, 11-session, leadership development experience.

Now recruiting for its 13th class (in the early years, the program ran more than once a year), JLTI has inspired more than 200 young professionals to get involved and take on leadership roles on boards and committees of local Jewish organizations and agencies on both sides of the bay.

Among these JLTI grads is Joe Probasco, the new president of the board of the Tampa JCCs and Federation.

In addition to participating in the first JLTI class in 2007, Probasco first got involved with the Federation through the Young Adult Division board. He then joined the Federation's finance committee and became treasurer of the Federation board. He served on that board for eight years before taking on his new role as president.

"JLTI was a tremendous opportunity to learn more about our beneficiary agencies and to meet the leadership behind what is now Hillels of the Florida Suncoast, and what is now Hillel Academy, and Tampa Jewish Family Services for example, and to get some insight into what the goals of their organizations were," said Probasco.

"It was also a great way to learn about the nuts and bolts, and how my involvement in the young adult community fit into the Federation and its master plan, and allowed me to understand how everything worked from a high level," he said. "There are so many people who want to contribute and don't know how. JLTI opens the door to opportunities to get involved."

Other standout grads include:
• Carlyn Neuman, who currently serves on the board of the Weinberg Village Assisted Living Residences, chairs the Professional Community Connection initiative of the Federation. She has been the chair the Young Adult Division, Morasha and Pomegranate Societies and served on the executive board of Congregation Rodeph Sholom.

"JLTI helped make Federation more tangible. I gained more exposure to the community and better understood how the Federation helps and supports people in here in Tampa and around the world," said Neuman. "I was also connected to other like-minded people who want to heal the world."

• Jeff Herman quickly got involved with the Tampa Orlando Pinellas (TOP) Jewish Foundation,

serving first as a trustee representing the Jewish Federation of Pinellas and Pasco Counties and then serving as secretary of the TOP board. Jeff is now serving as the president of TOP.

"One thing which I took from the course is that no person is an island," said Herman. "To be able to achieve a goal, it takes many people understanding the goal working together to succeed."

• David Delrahim joined the Gulf Coast Jewish Family & Community Services board in 2011 shortly after graduating the JLTI program and continues in this role today. He also became a board member of Menorah Manor in 2012 and is currently serving in his second term as treasurer for Menorah Manor.

"I felt it was my duty to give back to the Jewish community and bring a fresh approach to the local Jewish boards," said Delrahim,

"The discussions prepared me for the real life problems of engagement. ... Since graduating JLTI and being in Jewish leadership positions, it has been a challenge to get other younger Jews to get excited about being involved in Jewish organizations. ... We need to constantly evaluate and reevaluate the way we grow, fund and excite others about being involved in Jewish non-profits," he said.

• Kip Goulder, who has just started in his role as a member of the Tampa Federation board, was inspired to take on leadership roles in the community after many years of being involved in high school with BBYO, in college with Alpha Epsilon Pi Fraternity and Hillel and then with the Young Adult Division. In addition to serving on the Federation board, he served on the Brotherhood board for Congregation Scharai Zedek and is now vice president of membership and social activities.

"After the first (Brotherhood) meeting, where I mostly sat in observation learning the dynamic of the group, I remember one of my fellow board members telling me, politely, that I should speak up more next time because I represented the young demographic and they were interested in my opinion," said Goulder.



Jeff Herman



Aaron Silberman



David Delrahim



Kip Goulder

• Aaron Silberman has served as president of Weinberg Village and also recently joined the Federation board. He has found getting involved with the community personally rewarding.

"It was very meaningful to lead an organization that has a goal of caring for and enhancing the lives of the elderly, which is one of the biggest mitzvahs we can do," said Silberman.

• Ashley Simon also recently joined the Tampa Federation board after serving on the Weinberg Village board and co-chairing the organization's annual Stephen Weinberg 8 Over 80 fundraising event honoring seniors living in the Tampa community.

"JLTI gave me a broad picture and greater understanding of Jewish activity in the Tampa Bay area," said Simon.

Other JLTI graduates who have

made an impact include Lindsay August, who served on the Tampa Federation board for the past seven years; Leah Whitmill, who recently joined the Tampa Federation board; Alfred Goldberg, a key advisor to the Florida-Israel Business Accelerator; Joe Weissman, treasurer of the board for Congregation Rodeph Sholom, and Jan Stern, who served as co-chair of Tampa Jewish Family Services' Tampa Trifecta fundraising event this past year.

* * *

The series of interactive classes will begin with an orientation on Monday, Oct. 23 and will run through Sunday Feb. 25, with a graduation date to be determined. All classes start at 6:45 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Meetings locations will be announced.

The cost to participate in JLTI is \$99, which includes course materials and dinner during each session. Space is limited to 25 people.

Special highlights of JLTI include guest admission to the Tampa Jewish Federation's Annual President's Dinner on Sunday, Feb. 25 and an exclusive tour of

One Buc Place with philanthropist Bryan Glazer, co-chairman of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, on Monday, Nov. 13. The group will also connect to Israel as the "Start-Up Nation" by visiting the Florida-Israel Business Accelerator on Monday, Nov. 27, learning about its efforts to help Israeli entrepreneurs grow in the U.S. market.

Class dates are: Mondays, Oct. 23 and 30, Nov. 13 and 27, Dec. 11, Jan. 8 and 22 and Feb. 5; Tuesdays, Feb. 5 and 20 and Sunday, Feb. 25. The graduation date is to be determined.

To apply for JLTI, visit www.jewishtampa.com/JLTI or jewishpinellas.org. The deadline to apply is Monday, Oct. 2. Applicants will be notified by email about the status of their applications by Wednesday, Oct. 11.

For more information about JLTI, contact Lisa Robbins (Tampa Jewish Federation) at (813) 769-4723 or email lisa.robbs@jewishtampa.com, or Emilie So-cash (Jewish Federation of Pinellas and Pasco Counties) at (727) 530-3223 or email esocash@jewishpinellas.org.

Israeli consulate in NY evacuated after threat to Netanyahu

NEW YORK (JTA) – The Israeli consulate in New York City was evacuated after receiving a threatening letter.

A consulate spokeswoman, confirmed that the building was evacuated Friday, Sept. 15, due to a threatening package and that the situation was under control, but did not provide further details. The *Jerusalem Post* reported that the package contained an envelope with white powder and a letter threatening Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's life, written in English.

Netanyahu was to visit New York to speak at the United Nations General Assembly on Tuesday, Sept. 19 and meet with President Donald Trump.

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Obituary

IRMA G. MAYER, 81, of Seminole, died Aug. 28. Born in Toledo, OH, she graduated from the University of Michigan and was a pharmacist. She and her husband moved to Seminole in 1995 from St. Louis, MO. They were members of Congregation B'nai Israel in St. Petersburg, and she was a member of the Sisterhood. They were honored as the Hatanei Hatorah, and she was awarded Woman of the Year. She was also a member of Hadassah and a docent at the Florida Holocaust Museum. Survivors include her husband of 56 years Jack Mayer; children, Ellen and Rick Samuels, and Marla Mayer all of St. Louis; and Susan and Rabbi Bradley Tecktiel of Las Vegas, NV; two brothers and sister-in-law, Zale Glauberman of Springfield, IL, and Michael and Elaine Glauberman of Philadelphia, PA; and five grandchildren. The family suggests memorials be made to Camp Yofi, c/o Camp Ramah Darom or to the American Cancer Society. (David C. Gross Funeral Homes, St. Petersburg Chapel)

Jewish Press obituary policy

The Jewish Press publishes obituaries of Jewish community members, both local residents and individuals whose survivors live in the area, as a FREE public service.



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IRMA

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Of those who could send out news, none reported serious damage, in spite of wind gusts reaching 79 mph in Pinellas County.

There was light cosmetic damage to the exterior of the Florida Holocaust Museum in St. Petersburg and it was scheduled to reopen Saturday, Sept. 16. There were two downed willow trees that did not hit any structures at Congregation B'nai Israel in St. Petersburg. A sign in front of Temple B'nai Israel in Clearwater was destroyed by winds and a tree fell in the temple's parking lot, but did not hit any cars.

Heidi Shimberg, chief operating officer for programs and services at the Tampa JCCs, reported no damage at JCC facilities and she had not heard of serious damage at any other Jewish institutions in Hillsborough County. "It bodes well that the Jewish organizations took care to prepare, or we would have heard of damage," she said.

The Tampa JCCs and Federation closed their JCC operations prior to the storm and reopened them on Wednesday, Sept. 13. The JCC preschools were also closed and reopened for full-time students on Sept. 13 and for all students the next day.

Four events at the Bryan Glazer Family JCC, each expected to draw 200 to 300 people, were postponed due to Irma. Among those events was a Bat Mitzvah.

Hillels of the Florida Suncoast cancelled the launch of its big communitywide "Reverse Tashlich" event on Sunday, Sept. 24. Synagogues including some youth groups had signed up to scour along the waterfront and pick up trash and debris.

Among other events postponed was a talk by a noted rabbi from the Czech Republic was to speak



Above, Doug Negretti, chair of the Jewish Burial Society of Pinellas County, seems dwarfed by a tree blown down by Hurricane Irma at Chapel Hill Memorial Park Cemetery in Largo. At right, a casket entangled in roots of one toppled tree, was unearthed in the non-Jewish section of the cemetery. Drainage and irrigation lines were also uprooted, with damage estimated to run as high as \$75,000.



at Congregation B'nai Israel in St. Petersburg and an open house at Congregation B'nai Emmunah in Tarpon Springs.

Power outages affected Jewish facilities throughout the area.

Due to an extended time without electricity, Temple B'nai Israel Shabbat services were cancelled on Friday, Sept. 15 as well as Selichot services on Sept. 16, with members invited to attend the Selichot program at Temple Beth-El in St. Petersburg. Lack of power at Congregation Beth Shalom in Clearwater also caused cancellation of Shabbat services with members invited to services at Congregation Kol Ami in Tampa.

The Jewish Press office in St. Petersburg was still without electricity as of Friday, Sept. 15. Four members of the staff finished putting out this edition by working from the home of its owners, Jim and Karen Dawkins, who were the only staffers not to lose power.

Emilie Socash, executive director of the Pinellas/Pasco Federation, monitored the situation in the

community from her out-of-town evacuation destination until the Federation offices regained power. The federation's office in Largo was able to reopen on Tuesday, Sept 12.

Reaching out to those hardest hit

Chabad of West Pasco served as a hurricane shelter for the duration of the storm, providing accommodations and meals for evacuees from Miami. Meanwhile, Chabad Centers throughout the Tampa Bay area offered hot meals to those without power or just in need of a hug for surviving the ordeal.

All of the Chabad of Tampa Bay affiliates were organizing a relief effort, including 50 young professional and student volunteers, who were to travel by buses to the Naples, Marco Island area in a few days to help folks there.

Menorah Manor assisted two other nursing homes, one in Charlotte County and another in Pasco County, to evacuate their residents by lending them their 16-passenger bus for a day. Menorah Manor also sent a truck with food, water and



Rabbi Yossie Eber of Chabad of West Pasco offers a hot meal to those affected by Hurricane Irma.

cleaning supplies to an independent living facilities in Tampa and another in Plant City that still did not have power.

Tampa Jewish Family Services closed early on the Friday before the storm to prepare for its blow, and the agency was closed on Monday, but reopened Tuesday after the storm and is both delivering food to those in need and accepting donations from those inclined to give to the food bank. The Tampa JCCs and Federation set up collection spots on behalf of TJFS at its JCCs a few days after the storm to send non-perishable food and hygiene items to Irma victims in harder hit areas.

Gulf Coast Jewish Family & Community Services headquarters in mid Pinellas County was still closed for at least four days after the storm and was unable to accept food donations. Some staffers there worked remotely and asked that donations not be brought to their food bank until Monday, Sept. 18.

An anonymous member of the Jewish community who has a business with offices locally and throughout the nation is arranging for a tractor trailer truck full of supplies to be sent to the Glazer JCC. The company deals with many vendors that are filling the

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management teams followed news of the storm and began preparations days in advance of it hitting here – stocking up on food, medications, water, snacks, nursing and emergency supplies and fuel for back-up generators.

The storm left those in Menorah Manor facilities and at Weinberg Village virtually unscathed. When the power went out in St. Petersburg a back-up generator switched on seamlessly, and at Weinberg Village, the facility never even had to use its generator.

“Staff and families came in to stay during the hurricane and we were so prepared that the event was uneventful. Of course, you have to consider how fortunate it was that it did not hit us as a Category 5 but more as a .5,” said Dan Sultan, executive director at Weinberg Village.

At both Menorah Manor facilities and at Weinberg Village, staff workers were invited to bring their families and pets and stay for the duration of the storm – a move that not only ensured an abundance of staff help but had the added bonus of staff family members pitching in to help in a variety of ways.

“It was an unbelievable sight to watch the families arrive on Saturday. We had people greet them at the front door to welcome them like they were coming to a 5-star hotel,” Goldstein said, noting that during the storm the Menorah Manor facilities housed about 180 residents, 100 staff members and 200 family members.

At Weinberg Village there are about 80 elderly residents and they were joined throughout the storm by about 25 staff members and 25 staff family members, including one child only 6 months old and the 65-year-old mother of a staff member.

At 2 a.m. Monday as the storm was hitting hard, Goldstein was walking the halls with Major, the 1-year-old son of a staffer, in his arms, trying to keep the wiggly child from waking others. Later, Major sat on a sleeping bag in Goldstein’s office, next to Goldstein’s dog – both baby and dog content.

At Weinberg Village, people watched the movie *Mama Mia* during the storm. Across the bay at Menorah Manor, Janice LeVine,



Menorah Manor CEO Rob Goldstein walked the halls with Major, the 1-year-old son of a staffer.

wife of Menorah Manor’s medical director Dr. David LeVine, played the piano, just to take her mind off things. Soon she was surrounded by children and they had a sing-along as the kids requested Bruno Mars tunes. Rabbi Leah Herz, Menorah Manor’s staff rabbi, joined in.

When an elderly woman developed a tooth problem, Dr. LeVine determined it needed to be pulled – something he had never done before. “He consulted with colleagues on the outside and found what he needed for the job and pulled her tooth, using topical anesthetic. She did beautifully,” said Judy Ludin, chief development and community relations officer for Menorah Manor.

At the facilities on both sides of the Bay, the routine of regular

activities was maintained for the residents and kosher meals were offered three times a day. Wi-Fi was available for all to keep other relatives and friends up to date on how they were weathering the hurricane.

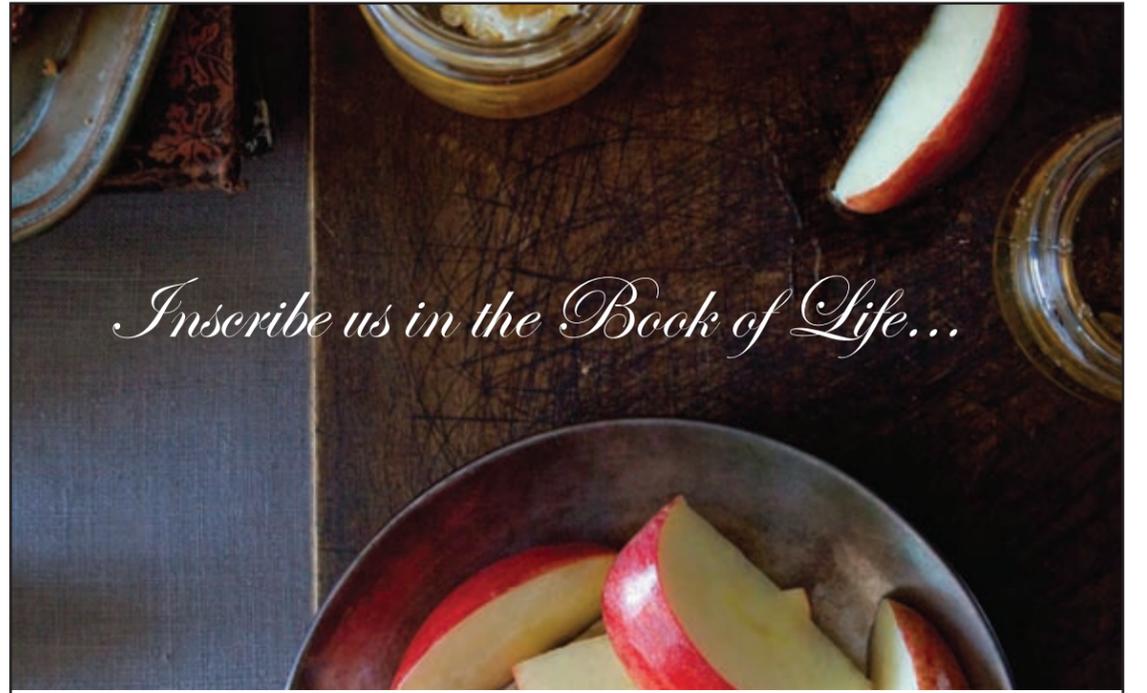
Goldstein at Menorah Manor and Sultan at Weinberg Village

both credited their staffs for an excellent job of caring for the residents at their facilities and making the residents feel safe and secure.

After the storm passed, some Menorah Manor staff members found their homes had no power and were allowed to stay on, with their families. At Weinberg Vil-

lage, one staffer who was not immediately allowed back into her home, stayed an extra night.

Because schools were closed for the entire week in Pinellas County, daycare service for Menorah Manor staff family members was offered through the end of the week.



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truck with battery operated fans, flashlights, toiletries, new blankets, towels, clothing and diapers. Hillels of the Suncoast students and others who have volunteered will sort out the donated items so they can be sent where most needed.

Alissa Fischel, director of development at the Tampa JCCs and Federation, said that Jacksonville was hard hit with flooding and that the Federation is waiting to hear from Federations that cover the hard hit areas in the Florida Keys, Naples and Miami to assess their needs and figure out what items to send and where to send them.

The Pinellas/Pasco Federation issued a call for people to go to a local blood bank to donate blood.

Emergency outreach

Before Irma hit, both local federations set up a web portal for their communities in the event of an emergency. A nationwide initiative, the web portal allows organizations and communities to set up individualized sites where community members and leadership can communicate with each other. Folks can indicate if they are safe or need help, if they wish to donate or volunteer, find access to available resources as well as receive timely updates from all participating community agencies. The Tampa JCCs and Federation web portal is Jewishtampa.recovers.org. The Pinellas and Pasco Federation uses jewishpinellasasco.recovers.org.

In an email to the community, Socash said she decided to set up

this communitywide disaster resource after Charlottesville, envisioning using it should the area ever face a similar hate-based rally. Then after seeing the devastation in Houston and the difficulty in communication, she said. “I could imagine how it could be doubly helpful in the unlikely event we faced such a situation,” she said. “Today we face this situation.”

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