



Rochelle Walk, recipient of the Leo Levinson Award for Leadership Excellence with Tampa JCCs and Federation President Joe Probasco.



Judy Balber, winner of the Bob Jacobson Memorial Award for Excellence, with presenter Steve Specter.

'Builders, doers and mensches' honored

The Tampa Jewish Community Centers & Federation held its annual Community Leadership Awards ceremony on Thursday, Oct. 19 at the Maureen and Douglas Cohn Jewish Community Campus honoring men and women "who give their time and expertise to further the mission of various Jewish agencies and create a vibrant Jewish community across Tampa Bay," said Joe Probasco, president of the JCCs and Federation.

He described the honorees as "the builders, the doers and the mensches" of the community.

Rochelle Walk was the recipient of the high-

ly-coveted Leo Levinson Award for Leadership Excellence, which was presented by Tampa JCCs and Federation CEO Gary Gould. He said he knew immediately after meeting Walk that she "gets it" – explaining that Walk understands what it means to be a star volunteer and continues to rise to the occasion to take on any challenge she faces in her various lay leadership capacities.

Walk has a longtime law career culminating in her own practice and a history of serving her community through volunteerism, pro bono

HONORED continued on PAGE 9

Transplant recipient is WOD speaker

Amy Silverstein, a two-time heart transplant recipient, will tell her unforgettable story about survival, faith and the power of friendship at this year's Bobbe Karpay Women of Distinction (WOD) event.



Amy Silverstein

Though it is uncommon to undergo a heart transplant at 25 and another at age 51, everyone will recognize their own stories in her insightful, unflinching look at life, love, and extraordinary courage.

The WOD program is sponsored by the Tampa Jewish Federation Women's Philanthropy and will be held on Thursday, Nov. 30 at 7 p.m. at Congregation Rodeph Shalom, 2713 Bayshore Blvd., Tampa.

WOD continued on PAGE 2

Garden keeps Hillel student's memory alive

By THAIS LEON-MILLER
Jewish Press

Rachel Hatfield loved mermaids, butterflies and the color purple.

All three of her favorite things were incorporated into a ceremony dedicating a garden at Hillel Academy in Tampa in memory of the 11-year-old who lost her 16-month battle with glioblastoma, a type of brain cancer, in November 2016.

The germination of the idea for the garden began in February when parents Yael and Henry Hatfield planted a tree for Tu B'Shevat on the Hillel Academy grounds in memory of Rachel.

Since the summer, they have not stopped adding to the patch of land, which has become a de-facto memorial for their daughter. Two gazebos, a faux wishing well and two ivy-covered arches now adorn the spot, erected next to where school children eat lunch and play during recess.



Rachel's Garden was formally dedicated last month on the Hillel Academy campus in north Tampa. The certified butterfly garden was created in memory of Rachel Hatfield, right, an 11-year-old student who died of cancer a year ago.

"They were here almost every day," said interim Head of School Gordon Rode. "The walkway they added themselves, the pagoda too. They worked almost every day, working around Henry's schedule."

GARDEN continued on PAGE 11



One of the incidents of anti-Semitic vandalism perpetrated in Florida since the beginning of 2017.

ADL: Florida sees big spike in anti-Semitic vandalism

While the pace of anti-Semitic incidents Florida for the first three-quarters of this year is down from the same period in 2016, cases of anti-Semitic vandalism are up statewide by 200 percent, including three reported incidents in Pinellas County, according to an Anti Defamation League audit.

Additionally, a Jewish student in Pinellas County was subjected this year to having pennies thrown at him, and was belittled with Holocaust jokes. Holocaust-themed memes were also disseminated at his school and a classmate drew a swastika and a number, similar to

ANTI-SEMITISM continued on PAGE 14

National group donates \$25K for cemetery fix

By BOB FRYER
Jewish Press

Work to repair damage from Hurricane Irma to Chapel Hill Memorial Park cemetery in Largo is progressing faster than anticipated, and funding for the job got a recent boost when the Jewish Federations of North America approved a request for \$25,000 from its national emergency fund.

"I said before I thought it would take six months to get back to normal, but I think we will finish before that," said Doug Negretti, chairman of the non-profit Jewish Burial Society of Pinellas County, which owns the cemetery. "We are about 75 percent done."

The \$25,000 from Jewish Federations of North America was requested on behalf of the Burial Society by the Jewish Federation of Pinellas and Pasco Counties, which had pledged \$50,000 of its own funds through allocations and a loan. Community members have also donated more than \$12,000.

Negretti said the Burial Society is still accepting donations, noting that he recently received a call from a temple in Tampa inquiring about making a donation. The donations will be used to repair any hurricane damage not already funded or for

CEMETERY continued on PAGE 6

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Alex Bregman



Joc Pederson

Jewish players shine in World Series

Two Jewish major league baseball players – one on each team – played pivotal roles in the World Series.

Houston Astros infielder Alex Bregman notched the first-ever walk-off hit by a Jewish player in the World Series when his RBI single drove home Derek Fisher to lead his team to an epic 13-12, 10-inning win over the Los Angeles Dodgers in Game Five. Bregman's game-winning single came with two outs and the winning run on second base.

Bregman, 23, in his first full season in the majors, posted eye-popping numbers in the Series: 5 runs, 7 hits, 2 home runs and 5 RBIs. His glove was chosen to be enshrined in the Baseball Hall of Fame as an artifact of the Series, won by the Astros in seven games.

Meanwhile in the Dodgers' dugout another Jewish player made headlines in the World Series. Joc Pederson set a new home run record for Jewish players in one World Series. Pederson, a left-swinging outfielder, blasted three home runs in the Series and moved Pederson past Hall of Famer Hank Greenberg, the Detroit Tigers' slugger who had two homers in the 1934 Fall Classic.

Pederson's stats were even better than Bregman's with 7 runs, 7 hits, 3 home runs and 5 RBIs.

Greenberg still holds the mark for most runs batted in by a Jewish player in one World Series with seven.

Ex-Tampa Bay Ray, Gabe Kapler is named Phillies manager

Gabe Kapler, a major league outfielder for 12 seasons and a coach for Team Israel in the World Baseball Classic, was named manager of the Philadelphia Phillies.

Kapler, who played for seven teams including the Tampa Bay Rays has been the head of player development for the Los Angeles Dodgers organization since 2014.

"I'm equal parts honored, humbled and excited by the opportunity with the Phillies, an elite franchise in a city rich in history, tradition, sports excellence and with amazingly passionate fans," Kapler said in a statement.

Kapler, 42, is Jewish and has a tattoo of a Jewish star on his left leg and another that reads "Never Again" — a reference to the Holocaust — on his right leg.

He coached the Israelis during the 2013 WBC's qualifying period and was invited to travel through Israel with the national team earlier this year. Kapler had never been to Israel before and called the visit an "extraordinary life experience," adding that his trip to the Yad Vashem Holocaust museum there left him "emotional for several days after."

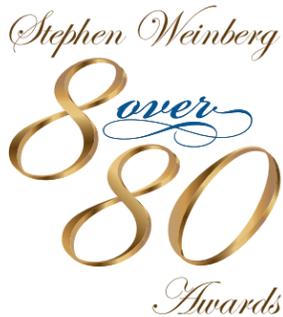
In 2006, Kapler was one of four Jewish players on the Boston Red Sox roster along with Kevin Youkilis, Craig Breslow and Adam Stern.

Kapler is known for his interest in sports science and sabermetrics, the empirical analysis of baseball made famous in the book and movie *Moneyball*.

He will become the third-youngest manager in the league after Kevin Cash, 39, of the Tampa Bay Rays and Andy Green, 40, of the San Diego Padres.



Gabe Kapler



Please join us at the Stephen Weinberg 8 over 80 Awards as we recognize the distinguished honorees who have dedicated their time, talent, and lives to the Jewish community

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WOD

• CONTINUED from FRONT PAGE

Women of Distinction honorees – nominated by local Jewish organizations and synagogues - embody the principles of *tikkun olam* and elevate their group's mission through dedicated leadership and commitment. This year, 20 women will be recognized.

More than 300 people are expected to attend the annual event.

Selected for their exceptional service to the community, the 2017 Women of Distinction are:

Deborah Barnes, TampaBay-Job-Links; **Lynn Chernin**, State of Israel Bonds; **Denise Freedman**, Congregation Kol Ami; **Maxine Gourse**, Brandeis National Committee; **Andrea Holper**, Tampa Ameet Chapter of Hadassah; **Sara Ingber**, Congregation Rodeph Sholom; **Stacy Leeds**, Tampa Jewish Federation; **Alicia LeVine**, Congregation Schaarai Zedek; **Rachel Levy**, Young Israel of Tampa; **Ricki Lewis**, Florida Holocaust Museum; **Beth Morris**, Jewish National Fund; **Andi Parker**, Weinberg Village Assisted Living Residences; **Kristin Schmidt**, Tampa JCCs; **Talia Shuman**, Hillels of the Florida Suncoast; **Vikki Silverman**, Congregation Beth Am; **Sheila Slavkin**, Congregation Beth Shalom; **Joanne Sudman**, TOP Jewish Foundation; **Bonnie Wise**, Tampa Jewish Family Services; **Jan Wuliger**, Hillel Academy of Tampa and **Sandra Zians**, Beth Israel of Sun City Center.

The guest speaker, Amy Silverstein, was a vibrant, energetic 24-year-old student when she learned she had a failing heart. After undergoing heart transplant surgery at age 25, she experienced an extraordinary kind of "medical miracle." Silverstein's new heart beat strong for nearly three decades, despite a 10-year prognosis.

Silverstein wrote about that experience in the 2007 memoir, *Sick Girl*, which was a recipient of the "Books for a Better Life" award and a finalist for the "Borders Original Voices" award *Elle Magazine* reported that "the crowning miracle is that she wrote this feisty, insightful, improbable book at all. Silverstein has cheated death to thrive in her post-transplant existence and to write about it with incredible courage, determination, self-scrutiny, and verve."

That was not the end of the story though. In 2014 doctors informed her that her transplanted heart was worn out and her best shot at survival depended on moving across the country from New York to California to wait for a donor match. Silverstein's friends dropped everything and followed her, in a constant rotation, to sit by her bedside until a new heart became available.

Silverstein tells her life-altering experience and the powerful influence of friendship in life's most difficult times in her 2017 memoir, *My Glory Was I Had Such Friends*. Director and producer J.J. Abrams recently optioned the book for a limited television series.

Silverstein is a graduate of NYU School of Law and practiced corporate law prior to beginning her writing career. She has served several years on the board of the United Network of Organ Sharing (UNOS), a federally contracted transplant network and is an active speaker on women's health issues and patient advocacy. She has written articles for articles for *SELF*, *Prevention*, and *Glamour* magazines.

Prior to Nov. 27, the cost to attend is \$25 or \$36 for patrons. Patrons will receive special recognition and priority seating at the event. After that date, general seating tickets will be available for \$36 at the door.

To RSVP or for more information, visit www.jewishtampa.com/WOD or contact Michelle Gallagher at Michelle.gallagher@jewishtampa.com or (813) 739-1687.

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Photo by Ben Sales

Yair Pomburg raps during a performance of the Shalva Band at North Shore Hebrew Academy on Long Island.

Israeli band doesn't let disability get in the way of making music

By BEN SALES
JTA news service

GREAT NECK, NY — The crowd of middle schoolers goes wild when Dina Samteh hits her high notes, jumping out of their seats in the synagogue sanctuary, cheering and clapping.

Samteh, 20, is blind, so she can't see their conga line-style dancing. But she can hear and feel it.

Next to her Yair Pomburg, 26, throws his entire body into beating the bongo drums, then steps forward and raps, in Hebrew, to the Israeli peace song "Od Yavo Shalom Aleinu."

Over the course of a 75-minute concert, the seven members of the Shalva Band play everything from the Disney hit "Let It Go" to Matisyahu's "One Day" to Adele's "Someone Like You."

In many ways it's a typical, high-energy Jewish music concert for teenagers, and the crowd is feeling it from start to finish. The singers belt out Israeli songs, religious Jewish songs and a smattering of pop before concluding with the Israeli national anthem, "Hatikvah." The band manager perches on a wooden box and drums on its side. By the middle of the set, the kids are out of their seats and crowding the floor.

But what makes the Jerusalem-based Shalva Band unique is that its members are people with disabilities — Pomburg, for example, has Down syndrome. Others have Williams syndrome and cerebral palsy.

"People said, 'Wow, you sing so beautifully,'" said Samteh, recalling the first time she sang in public. "It really excited me that people were coming and saying something good about me. I felt that finally I found something good about myself, aside from being blind."

"Since I began singing, I had a dream of being on stage and singing all the time and making people happy."

Samteh and her bandmates appear to have met that goal. The Shalva Band is on its first international tour, with more than a dozen stops at day schools and fundraisers in the United States, Canada and Mexico. After a week back in Israel, it's on to the United Kingdom and Russia.

The band was founded 12 years ago by Shai Ben Shushan, a drummer who had sustained a head injury in special forces combat. He had to live six months with his mouth surgically shut, after which he re-learned to speak and eat.

The experience of disability led Ben Shushan to volunteer with Shalva, an Israeli organization that provides a range of services to people with disabilities, including therapy, arts programs, job training and advocacy work. At that time, its directors had noticed several kids with standout musical talent and tapped Ben Shushan to form a band.

Shalva Band members range

from their late teens to mid-20s; some have been practicing together since they were 6. They say they love making music — but also perform just to prove they can.

"Every individual with or without disability has some capabilities, and it's critical to focus on those if you want a person to have any meaning and fulfillment," said Kalman Samuels, a co-founder of Shalva. "These band members were chosen because they showed musical ability."

Ben Shushan spent a year teaching the kids music — they began with basic melodies and rhythms — before the band was ready to begin performing in Israel. A professional musician himself, he said directing the band comes with unique challenges: For example, it took Pomburg two years to get his first drum beat down. Now, however, Ben Shushan calls him "one of the best drummers I know."

On the international tour, the band is traveling with a support staff of more than one person per band member, including a musical therapist who also backs up as a flautist.

Ben Shushan said the key to success is sensitive time management.

"You want to know their abilities, but you need to know when to stop, to say it's too hard," he said. "It takes sensitivity to their feelings. If you see someone is having a hard time, you need to strengthen him."

But the overwhelming impression of the Shalva Band while on the road is that it is a hardworking group of musicians hoping for their big break.

Following a concert at the North Shore Hebrew Academy on Long Island, the band members load their instruments in the back of a van and pile in, bantering or putting on headphones and tuning out. As Ben Shushan debriefs them en route to their next gig, he sounds less like a teacher and more like a manager pushing his musicians just a little harder: He chides the lead singers for paying too little attention to rhythm. He tells the group to focus less on the crowd and more on the music. He warns them not to wear out their voices.

"I know it feels like I'm drilling into you," he said, sighing. "But you're at a level now where you can take it."

Despite their commitment, for some of the band members, music is just a hobby. Pomburg, for example, works at a soap factory and waits tables at Cafe Shalva, the organization's in-house coffee shop, but said drumming is always a new and exhilarating experience.

Still, others have enjoyed moments in the spotlight so much that they hope to go pro. Samteh, who joined the Shalva Band five years ago, has performed with leading Israeli musicians and traveled abroad several times to sing. At first, Samteh said, she found it difficult to share the stage. But now she can't imagine doing it alone.

Hanukkah Dinner set for Dec. 17

A community-wide Hanukkah Dinner Extravaganza will take place on Sunday, Dec. 17 at the Bryan Glazer Family JCC, offering an informal and fun way for families — both Jewish and non-Jewish — to gather and celebrate a holiday rich in tradition.

The party will include a buffet dinner, tableside entertainment, menorah lighting, dreidel spinning and festive Hanukkah music.

While the dinner promises to be a festive occasion, organizers don't want to forget the serious side of the holiday.

"This dinner will create an opportunity for us to reflect on the tradition of Hanukkah as a community," said Laura Roberts, program director of the Tampa JCCs & Federation. "Today we are faced with growing anti-Semitism and an active BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanction) movement on our local college campuses. Hanukkah reminds us of the importance of keeping the Jewish faith alive. As we light the menorah, we remember that despite the challenges the Jewish people have encountered, we have and will continue to persevere."

Dinner seating begins at 5:30 p.m. and will be followed by the lighting of the menorah.

Tickets are now available through Friday, Dec. 15. Cost is \$36 per person for those 12 and older, \$18 for children ages 5-12, \$10 for toddlers ages 2 to 4 and free for those younger than 2. High chairs are available by request at the time of reservation. Tables can accommodate up to nine guests with community seating for parties less than nine. Alcohol will be available for purchase for adults.

This event is expected to fill up fast. To purchase tickets, go to www.jewishtampa.com/Hanukkah. The Glazer JCC is at 522 N. Howard Ave., Tampa.



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RABBINICALLY — SPEAKING —

Living on the bridge

By RABBI AARON M LEVER, BCC
Gulfside Hospice and Pasco Palliative Care

The great Hasidic master Rabbi Nachman of Bratzlav (1772-1810) taught: *Kol ha-olam kulo gesher tzar m'od* — “The whole world is a very narrow bridge” — *v'ha-ikar lo l'facheid k'lal* — “and the main thing is not to fear.”

In my office, I have a beautiful artistic rendition of this teaching painted by Jackie Olenick that depicts a narrow footbridge connecting two steep mountains. I look upon this painting every day as I do my sacred work as a hospice chaplain at Gulfside Hospice. After regularly seeing these powerful words and images, I felt drawn to explore what Rabbi Nachman's teaching means to me.

“The whole world is a very narrow bridge” — How can the whole world be a narrow bridge? How can something so vast be so small? I believe Rabbi Nachman is talking about one's life perspective. In the face of a major life change or crisis — the loss of one's job, foreclosure of one's home, moving to a new place, a car accident, divorce, the diagnosis of a terminal illness, or death of a loved one — our thoughts, feelings, and energy become focused on the difficult situation at hand.

As Rabbi Elie Kaplan Spitz describes in his book *Healing from Despair*, our lives and the way we view our world can become narrow, unstable, and even terrifying. In his book *Making Loss Matter*, Rabbi David Wolpe suggests that our lives consist of journeying from one bridge to another. No one's life is immune to change. We are vulnerable, and our lives are fragile. At times, we all have lived on one of those bridges of change in a state of despair.

“And the main thing is not to fear” — while at times our world may feel like a very narrow bridge, Rabbi Nachman says the main thing is not to fear. Is this a reasonable expectation? In the midst of danger, threat, and uncertainty, it is normal to feel anxious and afraid as we wonder what the future may bring. This is how I understand Rabbi Nachman's powerful words: yes, the whole world is a narrow bridge, and the main thing is not to be *paralyzed* by our fear — but to have the faith that we will not fall off the bridge and the hope that some how we will make it to the other side. When we are no longer paralyzed by our fear and anxiety, we can breathe and expand our world to make room for recognizing the goodness and blessing in our lives in spite of the crisis at hand and to experience moments of happiness even during the most challenging times in our lives.

“The whole world is a very narrow bridge, and the main thing is not to fear.” In times of crisis and despair, may the wisdom of Rabbi Nachman's words offer us the comfort and strength to live on the bridge with hope and even joy.

Rabbinically Speaking is published as a public service by the Jewish Press in cooperation with the Tampa Rabbinical Association, which assigns the column on a rotating basis.



Congregations

Cong. Schaarai Zedek

Knighthood to speak:

The first and only American-born rabbi to be knighted by Queen Elizabeth II, Rabbi Mark Winer, will be guest speaker at Schaarai Zedek on Wednesday, Nov. 15 from 7-8:30 p.m. Rabbi Winer, an international, interfaith scholar and leader, has served for 43 years as a congregational rabbi — 30 years in the New York area and 13 years in London. In 2014, Queen Elizabeth II appointed him a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) for “promoting interfaith dialogue and social cohesion in London and the UK.” Among his accomplishments include meeting with members of the Muslim Caucus in the English Parliament after the 9/11 attacks in the U.S. and leading a seder for members of parliament with the bishop of London and one of the imams from the Central Mosque. Currently residing in South Florida, Rabbi Winer has continued his involvement in improving interfaith relations through an organization he founded called FAITH, the Foundation to Advance Interfaith Trust and Harmony. RSVP online www.Zedek.org/RSVP or call the temple at (813) 876-2377.



Rabbi Mark Winer

Musical performance: The Amici Chamber Winds, a musical ensemble of woodwinds, brass, and percussion instruments, will perform for the congregation's senior luncheon on Thursday, Nov. 16 at 11:15 a.m. The Amici Chamber Winds features professional musicians Kim McCormick (flutist), Amy Colleens (oboiist), Tony Negron (clarinetist), and Agnieszka Zick (pianist). Also during the luncheon, the religious school's preschool children will perform some songs. There is no charge but reservations are needed. RSVP to the temple.

Café CSZ: Enjoy a bagel and a cup of coffee at Café CSZ on Sunday

mornings from 9-11 a.m. when religious school is meeting. The next café session is on Sunday, Nov. 12.

Helping out at Christmas:

Volunteers are needed for two Christmas mitzvah projects. Congregant Debbie Steinfeld is organizing volunteers to go to the Wesley Memorial Methodist Church in Town 'n Country to prepare and serve Christmas Dinner for those in need. Volunteers will work with church members from 10 a.m. to noon preparing and setting up at the church, and then beginning at 2 p.m., they will serve and clean up. Contact Steinfeld to help with this project at (813) 995-1394 or wizardexplorations@yahoo.com. The congregation will also send a contingent to Metropolitan Ministries on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day to serve a meal so that the Metropolitan Ministries staff can be with their families. Contact Religious School Director Donna Wood at dwood@zedek.org to sign up for that volunteer opportunity.

Sisterhood mah jongg: Enjoy a mah jongg night with food, wine, and fun on Tuesday, Nov. 14 at 6:30 p.m. Bring your own group or meet new people to play with. There will be a teaching table for anyone who wants to learn or needs a refresher course.

Introduction to Judaism:

Rabbi Richard Birnholz and Rabbi Nathan Farb talk about the nature of Judaism, God, Torah, worship, life cycle observances and holidays during Introduction to Judaism classes on Wednesdays now through Dec. 13 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. There is no charge for the classes but books for the course are purchased separately. This course is open to everyone who wishes to learn about basic Judaism and Jewish practice. It is required for anyone who is planning to convert. Upcoming topics are: Nov. 15, death and the afterlife; Nov. 29, nature holidays — build a sukkah and Tu B'Shevat Seder. Call Ming Brewer to register at (813) 876-2377, ext. 202.

Cong. Kol Ami

Israel's interdenominational efforts: The third annual Am Yisrael Chai Lecture will fea-

Shabbat Candle Lighting Times



Nov. 10 • 5:22 pm
Nov. 17 • 5:19 pm
Nov. 24 • 5:17 pm
Dec. 1 • 5:17 pm

ture Modern Orthodox Israeli Rabbi Shlomo Riskin on Tuesday Nov. 14 at 7:30 p.m. He will speak on “Israel and the Jewish People: Reform and Conservative Jews are My Partners.” The rupture in the relationship between Israel and the Diaspora relating to non-Orthodox prayer, especially relating to women, near the Kotel underscores the need for dialogue among the streams of Judaism. While combining scholarship and storytelling, Rabbi Riskin will share his experiences in interdenominational efforts and offer a vision of future cooperation.

Along with serving as chief rabbi of Efrat, Rabbi Riskin is founder and chancellor of Ohr Torah Stone, an educational network that is known for training Orthodox women for leadership roles. Prior to moving to Israel, he was founding Rabbi of Lincoln Square Synagogue. Rabbi Riskin's book, *Listening to God*, will be on sale for \$30. A dessert reception will follow his presentation, which is open to the entire community.

For more information contact the synagogue office.

Yoga: A yoga class for mindful meditation and stretching will be led by Dr. Tanya Gold on Sundays from 10-11 a.m. on Nov. 12 and 19 and Dec. 3. Participants of all abilities are welcome. The cost is \$8 per class. RSVP to the Kol Ami office at (813) 962-6338, the Friday before the class.

Brotherhood night out: The Brotherhood will meet on Thursday, Nov. 16 at 7 p.m. at Brick House Tavern and Tap, 1102 N. Dale Mabry

• CONTINUED on NEXT PAGE

Religious Directory

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY Reform

BETH ISRAEL/ JEWISH CONGREGATION OF SUN CITY CENTER — 1115 E. Del Webb Blvd., Sun City Center • Mailing Address: P. O. Box 5203, Sun City Center, 33571 • Rabbi Carla Freedman • Shabbat Services: Friday 7:30 p.m., 2nd & 4th Saturday 10 a.m., Torah Study: noon • Telephone: (813) 634-2590 • Web address: www.jcsc.org. • Affiliated with Union for Reform Judaism

Congregation BETHAM — 2030 W. Fletcher Ave, Tampa 33612 • Rabbi Jason Rosenberg • Joy Katzen-Guthrie, Cantorial Leader • Shabbat Services: 1st, 3rd and 5th Fridays, 7:30 p.m., potluck dinner to follow; 2nd and 4th Fridays, 6:30 p.m.; 2nd-5th Saturdays, 9 a.m.; Torah study 3rd Saturday, 10 a.m. • Telephone (813) 968-8511 • Website: www.mybetham.com. • Affiliated with Union for Reform Judaism

Congregation BETH SHALOM — 706 Bryan Road, Brandon, 33511 • Rabbi Betsy Torop • Shabbat Services: Friday 7:45 p.m., • Telephone: (813) 681-6547 • Website: <http://bethshalom-brandon.org>. • Affiliated with Union for Reform Judaism

Congregation SCHAARAI ZEDEK — 3303 W. Swann Ave., Tampa 33609 • Rabbi Richard J. Birnholz, Rabbi Nathan Farb • Cantor Deborah Cannizzaro • Services: Friday, 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Torah study, 9 a.m. • Telephone: (813) 876-2377 • Website: www.zedek.org. • Affiliated with Union for Reform Judaism

Conservative

Congregation KOL AMI — 3919 Moran Road, Tampa 33618 • Rabbi Howard Siegel • Cantor Beth Schlossberg • Services: Friday 6:30 p.m. (Family Service first Friday of the month); Saturday 9:30 a.m.; Sunday, 9:15 a.m.; Monday-Thursday, 7:30 p.m. • Torah study every Saturday, 8:30 - 9:25 a.m. • Telephone: 962-6338 • website: www.kolami.org. • Affiliated with United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

Congregation MEKOR SHALOM — 14005A N. Dale Mabry Hwy., Tampa, 33618 • Hazzan Jodi Sered-Lever, Spiritual Leader • Services: Friday 6:30 p.m., Saturday, 9:30 a.m. Telephone: (813) 963-1818 • Website: www.mekorshalom.org. • Unaffiliated

Congregation RODEPH SHOLOM — 2713 Bayshore Blvd., Tampa 33629 • Rabbi Josh Hearshen • Cantor Andres Kornworcel • Services: Friday, 6 p.m.; Saturday service, 9:30 a.m.; Mon. - Fri. 7:15 a.m., Sunday, 9:15 a.m. •

Telephone: (813) 837-1911 • Website: www.rsholom.org. • Affiliated with United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

Orthodox

BAIS (TEMPLE) DAVID CHABAD — 2001 W. Swann Ave., Tampa 33606 • Rabbi Lazer Rivkin • Shabbat Services and meal: Friday 7:30 p.m., Saturday 9:45 a.m., 7:30 p.m. • Telephone: (813) 966-8770 • Website: www.chabadofcentralflorida.com. • Email: Drivkin52@gmail.com

CHABAD LUBAVITCH OF TAMPA BAY — 14908 Pennington Road, Tampa 33624 • Rabbi Yossie Dubrowski, executive director • Telephone: (813) 963-2317 • Website: www.chabadoftampabay.com.

CHABAD OF BRANDON / JEWISH DISCOVERY CENTER — 1578 Bloomingdale Ave., Valrico, 33596 • Rabbi Mendel Rubashkin • Services: Saturday, 10 a.m. • Call for location, Telephone: (813) 571-8100 • Website: chabadbrandon.org.

CHABAD CHAI of SOUTH TAMPA — 2511 W. Swann Ave. #201, Tampa, FL 33606 • Rabbi Mendy Dubrowski • Services: 1st and 3rd Saturday of month, 10 a.m. • Telephone: (813) 922-1723 • Website: www.ChabadSouthTampa.com

BAIS MENACHEM CHABAD — 1319 North B. St., Tampa, 33606 • Rabbi Levi Rivkin • Shabbat dinner, 8 p.m. • Shacharit service: Mon. & Thurs., 8:15 a.m., Weinberg Village. Mincha service: Mon. - Thurs., 7 p.m., • Telephone: (813) 375-9799, (813) 504-4432 • Website: www.bmchabad.com

Congregation BAIS TEFILLAH — 14908 Pennington Road, Tampa, 33624 • Rabbi Yossie Dubrowski • Shabbat Services: Friday, 8 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. • Sunday Shachrit, 9 a.m. • Telephone: (813) 963-2317 • Website: www.chabadoftampabay.com

Congregation YOUNG ISRAEL of TAMPA — 13207 N. 52nd St., Tampa, 33617 • Rabbi Uriel Rivkin • Services: Monday - Friday 7 a.m., Friday, 7 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. • Sunday, 9:00 a.m. • Evening services every night at sunset • (813) 832-3018 • Website: www.youngisraeloftampa.org

MERKOS CHABAD LUBAVITCH OF CENTRAL FLORIDA — 613 S. Melville Ave. Tampa, 33606 • Director: Rabbi Lazer Rivkin • Telephone: (813) 966-8770 • Website: www.ChabadOfCentralFlorida.com

Campus

CHABAD HOUSE JEWISH STUDENT CENTER at USF — 13287 Arbor Point Circle unit 102, Tampa, 33617, Mailing address: USF Marshall CTR. Box 310, Tampa, 33620. • Rabbi Levi Rivkin • Shabbat Services and meal: Friday 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. • Housing Available • Telephone: (813) 504-4432 • Website: www.chabadhouseusf.org • Email: bmchabad@gmail.com

CHABAD JEWISH STUDENT CENTER at UT — 401 W. Kennedy Blvd. Box P., Tampa 33606 • Rabbi Levi Rivkin • Telephone: (813) 504-4432 • Website: www.chabadut.org

HILLELS OF THE FLORIDA SUNCOAST — 13101 Sycamore Drive, Tampa, 33620 • Rabbi Ed Rosenthal • Shabbat Services: (during academic year) Friday 6:30 p.m. • Telephone: (813) 899-2788 • Website: www.suncoasthillels.org

USF CHABAD on CAMPUS — 4506 Sweetwater Lake Drive, Tampa, 33620 • Rabbi Pinny Backman • Website: www.USFChabad.com • Telephone: (813) 978-8723

Jewish Renewal

Congregation OR AHAVAH — Rabbi Debrah Shenefelt, spiritual leader • Monthly gathering — see website for more information • Telephone: 813-968-7850; email: D.shenefelt@att.net. • Website: www.Orahavah.org • Affiliated with Aleph.

CITRUS COUNTY Conservative

Congregation BETH SHOLOM — Civic Circle, Beverly Hills • Mailing address: Beverly Hills Jewish Center, P. O. Box 640024, Beverly Hills, FL 34464-0024 • Hazzan Mordecai Kamlot, cantor/spiritual leader • Shabbat services: Friday, 6 p.m., Saturday, 9:30 a.m. Telephone (352) 643-0995 Website: www.bethsholomcitrus.org

PASCO COUNTY

Orthodox

CHABAD JEWISH CENTRE at WIREGRASS — 2124 Ashley Oaks Circle, Wesley Chapel, 33544 • Rabbi Mendy Yarmush • Services: First and Third Saturday of the month, 10:30 a.m. • Telephone: (813) 642-3244 • Website: www.ChabadatWiregrass.com.

NORTH PINELLAS COUNTY Reform

Temple AHAVAT SHALOM — 1575 Curlew Rd., Palm Harbor, 34683 • Rabbi Gary Klein • Services: First Friday: 6:00 p.m., All other Fridays: 7:30 p.m., call for Saturday service time • Telephone: (727) 785-8811 • Website: www.avatshalom.org. • Affiliated with Union for Reform Judaism

Temple BETH CHAI DAVID — 39330 U.S. 19 N., Bradley Plaza, Tarpon Springs • Mailing address: P.O. Box 535, New Port Richey, 34653 • Rabbi David Levin • Shabbat Services: Friday: 7:30 p.m. • Telephone: (727) 697-3982 or (352) 428-2280 • Unaffiliated

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

POLK COUNTY

Reform

Temple BETH SHALOM — 1029 Bradbury Road, • P.O.B. 313 Winter Haven, 33882-0313 • Rabbi Garson Herzfeld • Shabbat evening services: (usually 2nd and 4th Shabbat of the month at 8 p.m.) Torah study-Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. • Telephone: (863) 292-0722. • Website: www.templebethshalompolk.org. • Affiliated with Union for Reform Judaism

Conservative

Temple EMANUEL — 600 Lake Hollingsworth Drive, Lakeland, 33803 • Rabbi David Goldstein • Shabbat Services: Friday 7:30 p.m.; Saturday 9:30 a.m. Telephone: (863) 682-8616. • Website: TempleEmanuelLakeland.com. • Affiliated with United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

Orthodox

CHABAD JEWISH CENTER — 2270 Griffin Road, Lakeland, 33810 • Rabbi Moshe Lazaros • Shabbat Services: Saturday 10 a.m. • Telephone: (863) 937-5565 • Website: www.chabadlakeland.org.

Former commander at MacDill to speak on Jews in military

Retired Rear Admiral Paul Becker, USN, a former commander of the U.S. Central Command's Joint Intelligence Center at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, will speak about "Jews in the Military" as Shabbat guest speaker on Friday, Nov. 17 at 7:30 p.m. at Congregation Schaarai Zedek.

The event is free and open to the community.

Becker had a long and celebrated career in the military and will share his personal military history as part of this program. He is a former Naval intelligence officer who served 30 years in peace, crisis and combat. His military service included duty as the director of intelligence for the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the Pentagon, the U.S. Pacific Command in Hawaii, the International Security Assistance Force Joint Command in Afghanistan, and U.S. Naval Forces Central Command in Bahrain.

From 2007-2009 he commanded the U.S. Central Command's Joint Intelligence Center at MacDill Air Force Base. During his time at MacDill, he was a member of



Rear Admiral Paul Becker

Congregation Schaarai Zedek.

Upon retirement in 2016, he founded the Becker T3 Group LLC, a consulting firm focused on business intelligence and cyber operations with expertise in Asia, the Middle East and Europe. In the fall and winter of 2016, Becker led the Presidential Transition's Intelligence Community Landing Team which provided policy input, strategic guidance and operational counsel to new Cabinet secretaries.

Becker holds an MPA from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and a BS from the U.S. Naval Academy. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, is a Senior Fellow with the Center for Naval Analyses and a Professor of Practice at the University of Virginia's Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy.

The rear admiral is a recipient of the U.S. Intelligence Community's, Department of Defense's and Navy's Distinguished Service medals, the National Military Intelligence Association's Leadership Award and the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations' Ellis Island Medal of Honor. The Naval Intelligence Community recognized Becker in 2016 by establishing the "Teamwork, Tone, Tenacity" leadership award in his honor. He and his wife Kim reside in Alexandria, VA.



Sukkot at UT

The Chabad Student Union of the University of Tampa built and decorated a sukkah that stood in the Vaughn Courtyard during the eight days of Sukkot. On Oct. 8, Rabbi Levi and Chana Rivkin conducted the First Annual Succot Fair with memories framed by an Instagram display.

Congregations

• CONTINUED from PREVIOUS PAGE

Hwy., Tampa. There will be happy hour and drink specials all night. The Brotherhood will provide appetizers. Drinks, alcoholic or nonalcoholic, are on you. Space is limited. RSVP immediately to the Kol Ami office or Brotherhood. kolami@gmail.com.

Pizza and PJ Shabbat: All young families are welcome on Friday, Nov. 17 from 6-7 p.m. to celebrate Shabbat with guitar playing, singing, dancing and a pizza dinner. There will be a child-friendly musical service, led by **Rabbi Howard Siegel** and **David Berger**, followed by ice cream dessert. PJs are not required, but all attending are asked to dress comfortably. The cost is \$5 per person, with a \$25 family maximum. Children 3 and younger are free. RSVP to the Kol Ami office by Nov. 13.

Jewish ethics: Join Rabbi Siegel for a course in Jewish ethics on Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to noon (no class on Nov. 22). This course will use *Pirke Avot: Ethics of Our Ancestors* as a springboard to discussion and debate on issues of the day in the light of Jewish moral/ethical demands.

Talmud: A Talmud study class with Rabbi Siegel is offered on Thursdays from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. (No class on Nov. 23). Jewish law confronts everything from capital punishment to how to make rain. This is open to everyone from beginners through experts. Texts are provided.

L'Chaim: A class, "Sharing Life's Lessons," is offered on Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to noon. Topics, readings and a different leader are chosen for each weekly session.

Knitting time: The Sisterhood Needle Workers hold weekly knitting sessions on Tuesdays from 1:30 - 3 p.m. in the boardroom.

For more information, call the synagogue. The knitters make fabric quilt wall hangings and knitting and crocheting squares to make quilts. These are then donated to a group that provides housing for local teens aging out of foster care, as well as other worthy charities. The Needle Workers will meet for a special Sunday session on Nov. 12 from 10 a.m. to noon. For more information, call the Kol Ami office at (813) 962-6338.

Cong. Beth Am

Hebrew course: An adult intermediate Hebrew course will begin Monday, Nov. 13 at 7 p.m. and continue weekly through Feb. 26. This will be a continuation of

last year's Beginning Adult Hebrew class and will focus on reading from the prayer book, Torah commentaries and some grammar. New members of the class are welcome. The only requirements are knowledge of the alef-bet and basic Hebrew reading skills.

For more information, contact **Irma Polster** at IPolster@tampabay.rr.com or (813) 610-1123.

Israeli dancing: Lessons in Israeli dancing are offered every Tuesday at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Irma Polster at IPolster@TampaBay.rr.com or call the temple office.

Cong. Rodeph Sholom

Interfaith service: Congregants will join with those from St. John's Episcopal Church for an interfaith Thanksgiving service at Rodeph Sholom on Thursday, Nov. 16. Call the synagogue office for more information.

Movie time: The Latin America Jewish Movies Season 2 begins on Monday, Nov. 27 at 6:30 p.m. with a showing of *Autumn Sun*. Clara Goldstein (Norma Aleandro) is a Jewish woman who places a personal ad in the Buenos Aires newspaper requesting the company of an older Jewish man, but her sole respondent, Raul Ferraro (Federico Luppi) turns out to be a Gentile from Uruguay.

Beatles Shabbat: Sing Shabbat prayers to tunes of the Beatles on Friday, Dec. 8 at 6 p.m. Come and feel the spirit of the '60s. This event is for the whole family.

Home hospitality: Some members of Rodeph Sholom will prepare dinners in their homes and host other congregants as a benefit for the synagogue. Dinners will be held on Nov. 12, 18 and 19. Reserve your place for dinner or "Toast a Host" by calling (813) 837-1911.

Cong. Mekor Shalom

Bunco night: Roll, laugh, throw, chat and repeat at Bunco night on Thursday, Nov. 16 at 7 p.m. at Mekor Shalom.

Shabbat dinner: Following the Nov. 17 "teddy bear" Shabbat service, the congregation will host a dinner. Advanced registration is required for the dinner. Call (813) 968-7150 to RSVP.

Color and connect: The congregation will hold an adult coloring get together on Wednesday, Dec. 6 at 11 a.m. Bring your own coloring book or use pages already at the synagogue. Coloring supplies will be available.

Cong. Beth Israel Sun City Center

Sisterhood lunch and movie: On Tuesday, Nov. 14 at noon, the Beth Israel Sisterhood will hold its annual paid-up members luncheon. All Sisterhood members who have paid their dues are invited to attend at no cost for lunch and a movie. Reservations must be made by immediately.

For more information about this event or Beth Israel Sisterhood, contact **Rochelle Lafer** at sisterhood@jcscc.org

Cong. Bais Menachem Chabad

Practical kabbalah: Enrich the soul and mind with a touch of kabbalah. Learn practical spirituality for everyday life. Classes are held on Wednesdays, 6:15 - 7 p.m.

Chabad Jewish Centre at Wiregrass

Holocaust survivor to speak: Dr. Jacob Eisenbach, 94, the lone survivor out of an extended Polish family of 100, will come to talk about his life in the grip of Hitler's Third Reich for five years. The program will be on Tuesday, Nov. 14 at 7 p.m. at the Chabad Centre, 2124 Ashley Oaks Circle, Wesley Chapel. His story was the subject of a 2015 book, *Where You Go, I Go: The Astonishing Life of Dr. Jacob Eisenbach, Holocaust Survivor and 92-year-old Full-Time Dentist*. Shortly after the book was published he retired from his dental practice in Southern California after 60 years. While detailing the horrors that befell him, Eisenbach's message is one of hope for a better tomorrow.

The cost \$10 per person in advance or \$15 at the door and \$180 for a sponsorship. Call the Chabad center for more information.

Chabad of Brandon

Get plugged into Shabbat: This November, the Rosh Chodesh Society – the women's division of the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) – launches its latest course, "Pause & Affect," a new seven-session series for women which provides multiple entry points so students at every level of affiliation can explore ways to enrich their lives through the lessons of Shabbat. "Shabbat is G-d's gift to the Jewish people. It offers respite from labor and a break from the intrusion of our ubiquitous technologies. It allows family and community the time to connect and reflect without distraction," said RCS Director **Shaindy Jacobson**.

The course will be taught by **Tzippy Rubashkin** of Chabad of Brandon once per month for seven consecutive months. The first ses-

sion of the course will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 15 at 10:30 a.m.

For more information on the course, visit jewishbrandon.com/res or call (813) 571-8100.

Cong. Beth Shalom Brandon

Hanukkah music: Cantor **Tanya Greenblatt** will serenade the congregation with Hanukkah melodies, both ancient and modern, on Sunday, Dec. 3 at 4 p.m. Learn about the texts and tunes that add joy to this popular holiday.

Cantor Greenblatt holds a master's of Sacred Music and Cantorial Ordination from Hebrew Union College. She has served as cantor at Temple Israel in Tallahassee and had previous experience in Merrick, NY; Norwalk, CT; and Tenafly, NJ.

Her most recent post was at Temple Israel, in New Rochelle, NY, before moving back to Florida. She is currently serving as interim cantor at Temple Beth Orr in Pompano Beach.

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Ex-skinhead to deliver message of tolerance

A former skinhead will speak out against hate during a program at Eckerd College on Thursday, Nov. 16 at 7 p.m.

The speech, by Frank Meeink, author of *Autobiography of a Recovering Skinhead*, is part of the Florida Holocaust Museum's Genocide and Human Rights Awareness Movement. It had been scheduled earlier but postponed due to Hurricane Irma.

Meeink was a skinhead at age 13. By age 17 he had his own cable-access TV show, *The Reich*, and was roaming the country as a skinhead leader and Neo-Nazi recruiter, with gangs that would beat people indiscriminately. At age 18, he was arrested and convicted of kidnapping and beating a member of a rival skinhead gang.

While in prison he befriended men he used to think he hated — men of different races. After being released from prison, Meeink tried to rejoin his old skinhead pals but couldn't bring himself to hate those whom he had come to know as friends.

Now a noted speaker, author, and founder of Harmony Through Hockey, Meeink's life stands for tolerance,



Frank Meeink

diversity, and mutual understanding in racial, political, and all other aspects of society.

His speech is free and open to the public. RSVP by calling the Florida Holocaust Museum at (727) 820-0100, ext. 301.

The Genocide and Human Rights Awareness Movement is an annual initiative of the museum. Its goal is to build public awareness about the current genocide in Darfur and past genocides including the Holocaust, the Armenian genocide, the Rwandan genocide as well as other human rights violations.

Rabbi Betsy Torop to leave Brandon's Beth Shalom after 14 years

After 14 years, Rabbi Betsy Torop is stepping down as spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Shalom in Brandon, and congregants are planning an evening to honor her for her service.

"Rabbi Torop has been a valuable, beloved member and spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Shalom of Brandon," said Toby Koch, a vice president and member of the congregation's executive committee. "She has initiated many innovative programs, expanding our holiday observances and breadth of Jewish musical experiences, developing family learning for our religious school and deepening Jewish learning opportunities for members of all ages. The community will miss her daily contributions to our spiritual life."

While she will be leaving her position at the synagogue, — effective Jan. 8 — she will remain in the Tampa Bay area as director of Rabbinic Support, Engagement and Growth for the Central Conference of American Rabbis. The CCAR is the largest rabbinic organization in North America representing 2,000 Reform rabbis. She is married to Rabbi Michael Torop of Temple Beth-El in St. Petersburg.

Congregants are planning to honor Rabbi Torop on the weekend of Dec. 15-17.

"All are invited to join the congregation as we say chazak, chazak v'nitchazek to Rabbi Torop. May we all continue to go from strength to strength,"

Koch said.

The congregation will celebrate Hanukkah at Shabbat service on Friday, Dec. 15 at 7 p.m. and the next morning, Saturday, Dec. 16, Rabbi Torop will lead a Bible and Bagels session at 10 a.m.

That evening, there will be a Havdalah service, followed by a celebration of Rabbi Torop beginning at 5:30 p.m. The festivities will include a Hanukkah buffet dinner, as well as dancing, and more activities for children, youths, and adults. All are invited to join the party. RSVP to cbs-admin@hotmail.com by Dec. 10.

On Sunday, Dec. 17 at 11:30 a.m., the religious school will hold a special goodbye for Rabbi Torop during its annual Hanukkah party. Contributions in all amounts to Congregation Beth Shalom in honor of Rabbi Torop are welcome and will be recognized on Saturday evening, Dec. 16. In a permanent meaningful way, Congregation Beth Shalom will be adding a rock in her honor under its Tree of Life.

The congregation is assembling a special memory box with letters, photographs, and small items of significance for Rabbi Torop. Memory Box items may be left at the synagogue, emailed, or mailed to the synagogue at 706 Bryan Road, Brandon, FL 33511.



Rabbi Betsy Torop

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www.JewishTampa.com/VodkaLatke
 \$36 early bird - until Dec 1 | \$45 in advance - until Dec 22 | \$54 at the door
 Ticket sales limited to 150. This event will sell out!

This event is hosted by the Tampa Jewish Federation and the Jewish Federation of Pinellas & Pasco Counties. Proceeds from this event will benefit Tampa Jewish Family Services, a beneficiary agency that provides emergency food bags, counseling and financial services to the Tampa community's most needy and vulnerable populations.

Event Co-Chairs: Dori Marlin and Thomas Stanton
 Host Committee: Rebecca Berger, Allison Fox, Ben Gersten, Jamie Gray, Alissa Myers, Jonathan Singer

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CEMETERY

• CONTINUED from FRONT PAGE
 other capital improvements, he said.

The latest estimate of costs to restore the cemetery to its condition before the hurricane is \$93,000 but Negretti said until drainage system repairs are made, a firm total can not be determined.

"As they make repairs, they may find more damage. We just won't know until work on that begins," he said.

The hurricane overturned huge trees and about 20 medium sized ones and as the trees toppled, some uprooted drainage and irrigation lines and left large holes that needed to be filled. The bulk of the damage was done to the non-Jewish area of the cemetery, including a casket being uprooted when one tree fell. The casket has now been reburied.

"We have finished the irrigation system work, and now that we have the sprinklers back on, we are finding some small holes to fill, but the repair also means we can now start on landscaping work, adding sod and replacing trees and bushes."

Though the sod and landscaping work is still to be done, as well as the drainage system, he said the fallen trees have been removed, the stumps have been ground down and most holes are filled. The biggest job still undone is fixing the drainage system.

Even though the cemetery remained open for burial services, with damaged areas taped off during those services, the cemetery was closed to gravesite visitations due to fears that unescorted visitors might fall into holes or get hurt tripping over exposed pipes. Negretti said the cemetery is still not ready for folks to visit on their own, but if they stop by the cemetery office during office hours, a worker there will be happy to escort them.

"We are coming along faster than I thought we would and I hope we are back to normal soon," Negretti said.

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Women and girls participate in a challah bake in Costa Rica as part of the worldwide Shabbat Project 2017.



Shabbat Project reaches more than 1 million people in 97 countries

(JTA) – More than one million people in 97 countries around the world participated in the 5th annual Shabbat Project.

Some 1,416 cities around the world, up from 1,152 cities last year, held activities surrounding the 25 hours of Shabbat on Oct. 27 and Oct. 28.

Some 586 of the participating cities were located in the United States. Another more than 300 cities and small communities throughout Israel participated in the Shabbat Project. Meanwhile, countries such as Mozambique, Cyprus, Paraguay and Venezuela hosted Shabbat Project events for the first time

“The response from around the world has been overwhelming and heart-warming, and shows the remarkable depth and reach of The Shabbat Project,” said South African Chief Rabbi Dr. Warren Goldstein, the founder and director of The Shabbat Project.

“Such a visceral reaction demonstrates that the ideas of Jewish unity and Shabbat are compelling to Jews from all walks of life,” he said. “Each year, more and more Jews are coming together across every conceivable divide – language, culture, ethnicity, geography, and observance – to enjoy the simple, yet profound gifts of Shabbat.”

Events included: 1,000 Israelis eating dinner in a shipping hanger in Tel Aviv; a tour group of 30 people from around the world deciding to keep a full Shabbat together in Marrakesh, Morocco; 3,000 at an open-air musical Kabbalat Shabbat overlooking Australia’s Sydney Harbour Bridge; an interfaith unity bake bringing together Muslim and Jewish

children at a local preschool in nearby Woolahra, a Sydney suburb; the lone Jew serving in an army regiment in Abuja, Nigeria who kept Shabbat with the rest of the Jewish world; 750 people at a free block-party Shabbat luncheon served in a parking lot in Toco Hills, GA; and two South African expats keeping Shabbat together in Amman, Jordan.

Other events featured hundreds of Jewish teenagers brought together by the EnerJew youth movement to celebrate Shabbat in 40 cities in the Former Soviet Union; the “Dark Tisches” – Friday night meditative gatherings held in total darkness – in venues across Johannesburg and Cape Town; and a binational challah bake which brought together the communities of Tijuana, Mexico and South County, SD.

Hundreds of communities also hosted challah bakes in the days leading up to the Shabbat, attracting dozens to hundreds of participants.

Just one associated event was listed for the Tampa Bay area, a Shabbat dinner at USF Chabad on Campus.

To coordinate the global initiative, a centralized team worked with around 8,000 volunteer partners worldwide. At the Shabbat Project headquarters in Johannesburg, a team of designers, copywriters and campaign strategists worked to custom-design marketing and educational materials for hundreds of cities. Eight separate help desks at the international call center in Tel Aviv fielded tens of thousands of calls and emails in 10 different languages. A Facebook campaign reached some 5.2 million people worldwide, according to the project.



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Israeli army vows to defend nearby Druze village in Syria after 9 die in attack

(JTA) – In a departure from Israel’s policy of minimal intervention in Syria’s civil war, the Israeli army said it would help defend a Druze village in Syria where Sunni militants killed nine people.

The Israel Defense Forces will prevent the village of Khadr, near its northern border, from being run over by the militants “out of a commitment to the Druze population,” the IDF said in a highly unusual statement of allegiance to a group that is seen as loyal to Syria’s contested president, Bashar Assad.

The statement follows an explosion inside the village Nov. 3

in which nine were killed and 23 were wounded, according to reports from Syria.

Later in the day, an Israeli living in the Israeli Druze town of Majdl Shams was lightly wounded by a bullet shot from inside the Syrian territory into Israel. Hundreds of Druze from the Golan in Israel protested the violence in Khadr; a few dozen attempted to cross the border illegally to reach the village.

Israel has refrained from any major intervention in the war that was not deemed to have short- or medium-term implications for Is-

rael.

But the IDF statement reflected how the Druze are valued inside Israel as brethren by many Jews because thousands of them enlist in the IDF with the blessing of their communal leaders. Several Druze soldiers have reached the upper echelon of the army.

However, in Lebanon and Syria, the Druze minority is widely perceived as allied not only with the Alawite group of Assad, but also with the Shiite Hezbollah terrorist group, which fights for Israel’s destruction.

The Druze follow a monothe-

istic religion that is related to but distinct from Islam.

Unlike other Druze populations in Israel who serve in the Israeli military, the Golan population of some 20,000 has been careful not to align itself publicly with the Jewish state, which annexed the Golan in 1981.

Some Druze residents of the Golan, an area that Israel captured from Syria in 1967, have taken Israeli citizenship in recent years after decades of spurning it in protest of what their leaders called occupation.

Hundreds of Golan Druze have

applied for citizenship after decades in which only 1,700 took the step.

Following the incident in Khadr, hundreds of Golan Druze were allowed to march to the border to demonstrate their solidarity with the village’s residents.

The area is a closed military zone, but security forces did not block the march, the news site Walla reported. Several dozens of them cut the border fence and crossed over in a bid to reach Khadr and defend it before they were apprehended and brought back by Israeli troops.

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November 28, 2017



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Questions? Contact Michelle Gallagher at michelle.gallagher@jewishtampa.com or 813.739.1687.

HONORED

• CONTINUED from FRONT PAGE

and not-for-profit work. Since coming to Tampa 12 years ago, she has served on the boards of Weinberg Village and the TOP Jewish Foundation and just completed her term as president of the Tampa JCCs & Federation. Her efforts and expertise in helping get the Bryan Glazer Family JCC open were of particular note.

She also volunteers for SCORE by teaching and counseling people interested in going into business. In addition, Walk has mentored students interested in business and served many other non-profit organizations as a volunteer leader.

Leo Levinson, of blessed memory, is the namesake of this award for his volunteer accomplishments and significant generosity. The purpose of this award is to honor and recognize an exceptional leader in the community who has brought energy, leadership and resources to the Tampa JCCs & Federation in a way that is transformative.

Other notable awards presented that evening were:

- The Bob Jacobson Memorial Award for Excellence went to Judy Balber for her commitment and pivotal roles within programming at the JCC on the Cohn Campus. She leads a crochet class at the Cohn Campus and is an active Tampa Jewish Family Services volunteer.



(L-R) Hope Cohen Barnett Young Leadership Award recipient Ashley Simon with presenter Lisa Robbins

- The Hope Cohen Barnett Young Leadership Award was presented to Ashley Simon. She is a community-minded woman who practices law and is committed to serving the Tampa Bay community through her volunteer service with Weinberg Village and the Tampa JCCs & Federation, among other organizations. Simon co-chaired the Stephen Weinberg 8 Over 80 Awards, was a past Women of Distinction for Weinberg Village and is a past JLTJ graduate.



Charles Adler Young Leadership Award recipient Kip Goulder with presenter Leah Whitmill

- The Charles Adler Young Leadership Award went to Kip Goulder, a JCCs & Federation board member and the vice president of Brotherhood at Congregation Schaarai Zedek.



(L-R) Presenter Ann Rosenbach with Leonore Kessler Women's Division Leadership Excellence Award recipient Betty Shalett

- Betty Shalett received the Leonore Kessler Women's Division Leadership Excellence Award. Betty has served in countless leadership positions for Jewish and non-Jewish organizations alike, helping local Jewish agencies take meaningful strides to best serve their mission. Among positions she has held are: president of Hadassah Tampa Ameet Group, president of Florida Central Region of Hadassah, president of Rodeph Sholom Sisterhood, officer of Congregation Rodeph Sholom, JNF Board member, Tampa Jewish Federation's Women's Division chair and Hillel Academy School board member, to name a few.



(L-R) Michael Gamson, representing the Hillel Academy, which received the Steve Marx Innovation Award, with presenter Nat Doliner

- The Hillel Academy MakerLab was the recipient of the Steve Marx Innovation Award. The MakerLab provides students with tools, guidance and encouragement to experiment and create whatever they can imagine. This program challenges kids to find answers and solutions on their own.



(L-R) Alice Rosenthal was presenter for her namesake "Alice Rosenthal It's More than Just a Job" Award, which went to Pam Levenstone

- Pam Levenstone, accounting manager of the Tampa JCCs & Federation and controller for the Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Village Assisted Living Residences, was recognized with the "Alice Rosenthal It's More than Just a Job" Award for her dedication, hard work and impact within the organization over the last 17 years.



(L-R) Maril Jacobs, for whom the award is named, with Todah Rabah Award recipient Tampa Police Det. Charlie George and presenter Shawn Stroud

- The Maril Jacobs Todah Rabah Award was presented to Det. Charlie George for assisting the Tampa JCCs & Federation maintain a safe and secure Jewish community.

In addition to the awards presented to Tampa JCCs & Federation volunteers, community members were honored for their involvement within various local Jewish agencies.

- The Hillel Academy Outstanding Service Award went to the Hatfield Family
- The Hillels of the Florida Suncoast Appreciation Award recipient was Jim Annarelli.



(L-R) Tampa Jewish Family Services Sofia Maisler Leadership Award recipient Debbie Doliner with presenter Beth Gemunder

- Debbie Doliner was named the Tampa Jewish Family Services Sofia Maisler Leadership Award recipient.

- Dr. Abe Marcadis was the recipient of the Tampa Orlando Pinellas Jewish Foundation Distinguished Trustee Award.



(L-R) Weinberg Village Volunteer Service Award recipient Jerome Messerman with presenter Jason Kislak

- The Weinberg Village Volunteer Service Award was given to Jerome Messerman.



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Anniversary Celebration Weekend Events

Friday, December 15, 2017

Shabbat Services begin at 6:00 p.m.

Our founding members will be honored during services.

Join us for Shabbat dinner
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Advance reservations required. Contact the Kol Ami Office to RSVP.
Reservations must be received by December 1, 2017.

Saturday, December 16, 2017

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Our past presidents and former clergy
will be honored during services.

A delicious Howard Kanter Kiddush Lunch will follow services.

Saturday, December 16, 2017

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Reservations must be received by **December 1, 2017.**
Babysitting \$20 per child with advance reservation.

Sunday, December 17, 2017

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6:30 p.m.

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Campus unity drowns out hate speech by white supremacist at University of Florida

By JAMIE SHAPIRO

Special to the Jewish Press

In the three years that I have been a student at the University of Florida I have seen and become a part of the large and extremely accepting Jewish community on campus.

With a whopping 6,500 Jewish undergraduate students making up almost 20 percent of the undergraduate population, I had never once felt like the Jewish community was unwelcome or disliked. This dynamic began to change on Aug. 12, the day the student body received an alarming email from University President Kent Fuchs. The email, titled "Potential Speaker on Campus," was the beginning of a period of uncertainty and fear for many of my fellow Jewish students.

Over the next few months, we received an abundance of emails from Fuchs and other university officials. We watched as

they unsuccessfully tried to prevent white supremacist Richard Spencer and his followers from coming to the city we called home and we realized, with resignation, that there was little the university could do for us. Spencer's speech was eventually confirmed and the amendment that allows us to speak freely was used as ammunition against us.

The day was fast approaching, Oct. 19. More emails flooded our student accounts. We were informed we'd be required to show student ID cards to gain entry to certain buildings on campus. We were asked to stay away from the event. We learned that certain parts of campus that we went to on a daily basis would be shut down.

We were told the university did everything it could to stop the event, and that much I believed.

At no point during this entire ordeal did it feel like the University of Florida didn't care

about its Jewish students. It went to great lengths to keep its students safe and remind us all that hate speech was not acceptable.

In anticipation of demonstrations, police from across the state appeared on campus. Members of the Highway Patrol traveled around in large groups and some were stationed on the campus' free speech zone, Turlington Plaza.

Oct. 18, the day before Spencer was set to speak, was the day everything set in. Seeing the extra security measures in person, having to dig out our student IDs just to go study in one of the campus libraries, it suddenly became very real and very alarming.

As a Jewish student at the University of Florida, I had never felt afraid or even remotely discriminated against, not until the week of Oct. 19. We were prepared for the worst, but we hoped for the best.

The speech came and went, Spencer was

shut down by a group of protestors who were inside the Phillips Center, shouting "Orange" and "Blue" between one another and chanting "It's great to be a Florida Gator" over his speech.

In the days leading up, students, Jewish and non-Jews, were spreading messages of unity and acceptance across campus. Students stood up to Spencer supporters and made it clear that their hate had no place on our campus. The University of Florida and its students showed the world that there was no room for discrimination or hate in Gainesville.

On Oct. 19, it was truly great to be a Florida Gator.

Jamie Shapiro of Pinellas County served as a 2017 Jewish Press summer intern. A journalism major, she plays piccolo in the Gator Marching Band.

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Downtown Tampa will be scene of Vodka Latke

The Tampa Jewish Federation and Jewish Federation of Pinellas & Pasco Counties will jointly host the annual Vodka Latke, a popular annual event for Jewish singles and couples in their 20s, 30s and 40s, on Sunday, Dec. 24 from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Franklin Manor in downtown Tampa.

Franklin Manor, a co-sponsor of the event, offers handcrafted cocktails, a premium beer selection and live music. It is located at 912 N. Franklin St.

The event, traditionally known as the Vodka Latke in the Tampa Bay area, is also known as the Matzoh Ball in other cities around the United States.

Tickets will go on sale in mid-November at jewishtampa.com/VodkaLatke. Early bird tickets can be purchased for \$36 until Dec. 1 and are \$45 thereafter until Dec. 22. The price at the door is \$54.

Free vodka drinks will be provided by Tito's Handmade Vodka (while supplies last) and hors d'oeuvres will be served, compliments of Carriage House. Additional food and drinks will be available for purchase throughout the evening.

Thomas Stanton and Dori Marlin are this

year's Vodka Latke chairs and have a host committee which includes Rebecca Berger, Allison Fox, Jamie Gray, Ben Gerstein, Alissa Myers, and Jonathan Singer.

Proceeds from the Vodka Latke support the Jewish federations and Tampa Jewish Family Services, a beneficiary agency that provides essential services such as emergency food bags, counseling and financial services.

The Vodka Latke is a program of IMPACT, a community of young adults, ages 20s, 30s and 40s, who share a commitment and passion for tikkun olam (repairing the world) and building a strong Jewish community with the Tampa Jewish Federation, and the Young Adult Division of the Jewish Federation of Pinellas & Pasco Counties, connecting young adults to a broad range of educational, social, philanthropic and leadership activities.

Other event sponsors include Jonathan Singer and Erin and Milton Carp.

For more information, contact Lisa Robbins, director of Young Adult Engagement for the Tampa JCCs & Federation, at (813) 769-4723 or lisa.robbs@jewishtampa.com.

Hanukkah lunch for Holocaust survivors Dec. 14

A Hanukkah luncheon honoring Holocaust survivors from Pinellas, Hillsborough and Pasco counties will be held on Thursday, Dec. 14, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Florida Holocaust Museum, 55 Fifth St. S., St. Petersburg.

Musical entertainment will be provided by Boris N Sax.

The catered luncheon is for Holocaust survivors and spouses. It is co-sponsored by Gulf Coast Jewish Family & Community Services and the Florida Holocaust Museum.

Gulf Coast supports Holocaust survivors in a variety of ways, including in home care, cleaning services, transportation, emergency financial assistance, restitution assistance, and social events.

Funding for the luncheon is provided by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, Department of Financial Services and private donations.

Those who would like to attend should RSVP by Dec. 8 to Ashley Hiscock at (727) 479-1811 or ashley.hiscock@gcjfcs.org. Transportation may be arranged if needed.

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Argentine Jewish businessman, 4 friends among dead in NYC terrorist attack

Five of the fatalities in the terrorist truck-ramming attack in New York City on Oct. 31 were Argentine tourists celebrating the 30th anniversary of their high school graduation, including one Jewish businessman.

Eight people were killed and about a dozen injured when a truck rammed into a crowd on a bike path in Manhattan in what is being called “an act of terror.”

According to Argentina’s Foreign Ministry, the victims included Ariel Erluj, 48. A Jewish steel mill owner from the city of Rosario in central Argentina, Erluj reportedly paid for two of his high school friends to go on the trip so they could all be together for the anniversary. They graduated in 1987 from the Poly-



Ariel Erluj, third from left, shown with some of his friends who were also killed in the terrorist attack in New York City.

technic School in Rosario.

Misaskim, an American Orthodox Jewish not-for-profit organization that provides services for the care of the dead, was working with the New York City Medical Examiner’s Office to ensure that Erluj’s body was handled according to Jewish custom, the *Yeshiva World News* reported.

GARDEN

• CONTINUED from FRONT PAGE

The Hatfields decided to make the new area a certified butterfly garden, recruiting the help of Lois Weber, the self-proclaimed “butterfly lady” from Tarpon Springs. They learned which plants attract, feed and support butterflies.

Henry Hatfield said they bought plants from Weber, and sent pictures to the University of Florida to get the official butterfly garden designation. The certification now rests on the roof of the faux wishing well, next to the lending library they placed to the right of it, which is registered with the Little Free Library organization.

Hillel Academy Class of 2020 students, friends and family came to help plant trees and set up a walkway with stones in the shape of footprints that lead between a row of generational totems created by students on Grandparents’ Day this year.

“They wanted a place where the kids could congregate that wasn’t a “memorial,” said Rode.

As Yael Hatfield stood in front of an audience of close to 150 friends and family at the formal dedication of the garden, her 13-year-old son Nevin handed her a tissue.

She laughed when she said that she had promised herself she wasn’t going to cry, while wiping tears off of her face. Henry stood beside her and rubbed her back as she spoke. She thanked everyone for coming out to celebrate “Rachel and her legacy,” and asked children to add to or take away anything they wanted from the new garden.

One of those in attendance was David Cain, a student in Rachel’s class. “She was always really kind and tried to do stuff for other people,” he said.

“She was like a little Buddha,” said family friend and Hillel parent Shana Levine. “She always wanted to do for others and her brother. She was very peaceful. Every day Yael came [to work on the garden], she would take pictures of the butterflies. It was as if Rachel was sending a message.”

The Hatfields created purple bracelets with a butterfly and a mermaid printed on it to hand out. They also had plastic cards printed with a list of activities people could do in honor of their daughter.

“The cards are her favorite things to do,” said Yael, challenging everyone present to do them as well. Among the 11 activities were baking cookies for police and donating toys to a children’s hospital.

Although the garden is named for Rachel, “she was not the kind of person that would want her name on something,” her mom said.

Rachel’s selflessness even came out in her Make-A-Wish dream. “She chose to have a party at her school with her friends. She specifically wanted it during school hours because she thought if it were later, some kids might not be able to make it. She



Yael and Henry Hatfield and 13-year-old son Nevin at a recent Tampa Community Leadership Awards ceremony where they received the Hillel Academy’s Outstanding Service Award for their efforts to develop Rachel’s Garden.



The entrance to the walkway of Rachel’s Garden, lined with generational totems and stone footprints

wanted there to be dancing and food,” Yael said.

The garden will remain at Hillel as a constant reminder of their fun-loving classmate and friend. “It’s a nice, peaceful place for the kids to come to and bring the classroom outside,” said Hillel teacher Lisa Caine.



Shana Levine examines painted rocks at the entrance of Rachel’s Garden.

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Student arrested after bomb threat thwarts talk at Florida Jewish Museum in Miami Beach

(JTA) – A bomb threat forced the cancellation of an event at the Jewish Museum of Florida on the Balfour Declaration.

Law enforcement apprehended a 21-year-old college student after he allegedly issued the threat ahead of event scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 2, the American Jewish Committee's Miami office said in a statement.

Oscar Aguayo, who attends

Florida International University, was taken into police custody, according to the *Miami Herald*. Police said the message threatened to "raise havoc" at the event.

While Aguayo was being interviewed by police, an FIU police dog identified possible explosives in his car, leading to the evacuation of a university parking garage.

"We won't be intimidated by

threats and will continue to stand for our principles and values," wrote Brian Siegal, the AJC Florida office's director, who was scheduled to speak at the event.

He added: "We must take seriously the guidance of law enforcement authorities who advised that in the interests of public safety our educational event could not take place as scheduled. We hope to

reschedule in the very near future."

The event was to celebrate the centenary of the 1917 Balfour Declaration, in which the British government vowed to help establish a national home for the Jewish people in the Land of Israel without jeopardizing the rights of other area inhabitants. The document was named for Arthur Balfour, the United Kingdom's foreign secretary at the time.

It was the first formal recognition and approval by a world power of the Zionist cause. The Palestinian Authority has demanded Britain apologize for the declaration, which British Prime Minister Theresa May declined to do, saying she and her nation were proud of it.

Other scheduled speakers on the Florida program included the consul generals of Israel and Britain.

Obituaries

ROBERT "BOB" J. HYMAN, 92, of Tampa, died Oct. 19. A native of St. Louis, he moved to Tampa in 1934. He was a United States Navy veteran of World War II. A financial planner and stockbroker, he began at Goodbody & Co and then Merrill Lynch, where he worked for nearly 40 years before retiring with Dean Witter. Survivors include his daughters, Phyllis Hyman and Sue-Helen Motley, and son-in-law, Dick Motley; two grandchildren and one great-granddaughter. The family suggests memorials to Congregation Schaarai Zedek. (Segal Funeral Home, Beth David Chapel)

HARVEY WOLF, 79, of Tampa, formerly of Farmington Hills, MI, died Oct. 22. Survivors include his wife Marsha; son Steve Wolf; daughter Shelli Meyerson; brother and sister-in-law Billy and Georgann Wolf, sister, Marilyn Wolf; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law; Verna Wolf, Edwin and Loretta Adelman and Sheldon and Ann Adelman; and four grandchildren. (Ira Kaufman Chapel)

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Organizations

Hadassah

Guest speaker: Holocaust survivor **Jackie Albin** will speak of her ordeals as a child in France during World War II at the next meeting of the North Pinellas Chapter of Hadassah on Monday, Nov. 13 at 11:30 a.m. at Temple Ahavat Shalom, 1575 Curlew Road, Palm Harbor. Albin, a local resident who for many years was a docent at the Florida Holocaust Museum and has often spoken at local schools, will tell of how she was told as a child never to tell anyone she was a Jew. Her non-Jewish neighbors put their lives at risk to hide her and her family. Albin's father was in the French Resistance and sometimes received intelligence of roundups by Germans and was able to take steps to hide the family at such times. There will be an opportunity for chapter members to share their own stories. Bring lunch. Coffee, tea, and dessert will be provided.

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

JCC

All programs listed are either at the **Maureen & Douglas Cohn Jewish Community Campus, 13009 Community Campus Drive, or at the Bryan Glazer Family JCC at 522 N. Howard Ave. To RSVP or for more information on programs at either center, contact **Pnina Levermore** at (813) 291-2253 or pnina.levermore@JewishTampa.com. All registrations should be completed before events begin.**

Yiddish nostalgia: Join **Ruth Weston** and other Yiddish enthusiasts on Thursday, Nov. 30 from 12:45-1:45 p.m. at the Cohn campus to share favorite expressions and reminisce.

Stay balanced: A program to help seniors develop strategies to reduce the fear of falling and increase activity levels will be offered at the Glazer JCC led by **Judy London**, a licensed health-care agent and gerontologist, on Thursdays through Nov. 30 from 1-3 p.m. This is free for members and \$15 for guests.

Crochet lessons: Learn crochet with **Judy Balber** in classes every Monday on the Cohn campus from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Bring yarn, crochet hooks and any pattern you want. Cost is \$25 for members; \$30 for non-members with prorating options available.

Mah jongg: Folks can play at both JCCs. At the Cohn campus, there will be sessions every Tuesday and Thursday from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

At the Glazer JCC, drop-in sessions are offered on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. This is free for members and \$5 for non-members. Novices and experienced players are welcome.

Ballroom dancing: Private ballroom dance lessons are offered at the Glazer JCC on Mondays through Dec. 18 from 5-6 p.m. The cost is \$35 for single members, \$50 for couple members, \$40 for single non-members and \$55 for couples who are non-members. There are also weekly classes at the Glazer JCC on Mondays from 1:15 - 2:15 p.m. through Dec. 18 that are \$8 for members and \$12 for guests.

All that jazz: Enjoy craft beer, cheese and music at "Culture Café: A Beginner's Guide to Loving Jazz," a multi-media exploration of Miles Davis' career. The first three of four sessions are over, but the remaining session is from 7-8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 14. The topic is Miles Davis Goes Electric. Cost per session is \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members.

Biblical literature: This course, which meets at the Cohn campus every other Wednesday from 1:30 - 2:30 p.m., provides an opportunity to see the Bible not from a religious perspective but as a piece of remarkable writing. This is a discussion course with open participation from people of all faiths and backgrounds. Bring your own Bible so participants can compare different translations. Cost is \$3 for members and \$4 for guests. The next meeting is on Nov. 22.

JetSetters: This social group for adults of all ages meets at both JCCs for an hour-long program followed by lunch. At the Glazer JCC, JetSetters meet on the second Wednesday of the month from 11 a.m. to noon. The lunch is free for members but donations are welcome.

The JetSetters group also meets on the fourth Thursday of every month at the Cohn campus at 11 a.m., but due to Thanksgiving, will meet instead on Nov. 30. The lunch is free for members. Reservations are required. **Rabbi Levi Rivkin** will give a presentation of melodies, stories and songs from ancient and modern times.

News schmooze: A discussion group, led by **Pat Renfroe**, which explores "hot button" issues, is held at both JCCs. Upcoming News Schmooze sessions at the Glazer JCC are Tuesdays from 7-8:30 p.m. The group will discuss the business of Congress on Nov. 14, states' and grassroots engagement on Nov. 21 and NAFTA on Nov. 28.

The group at the Cohn campus, meets the second and fourth Friday from 10:30 a.m. to noon. The group will talk about states and grass-roots citizen engagement on Nov. 24. There is no charge to attend.

Bridge lessons: Those who want to learn how to play bridge or improve their game can take a session of six bridge lessons at the Glazer JCC Fridays from now through Dec. 15. Beginners are from noon to 1:30 p.m. and advanced players are from 1 - 2:30 p.m. The cost for classes is \$50 for members and \$60 for non-members.

Genealogical Society

Explore Largo Library: The Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay will meet on Saturday, Nov. 11 at 2 p.m. at the Largo Library, 120 Central Park Drive, Largo, for an introduction and tour of the library's genealogical holdings, with an emphasis on its subscription databases. The Largo Public Library has one of the most extensive genealogical collections in the Tampa Bay region including a large collection of books on Jewish Genealogy. Volunteers will remain after the tour to help interested persons with guided assistance. Those attending are asked to

bring library cards if you have one for easy access to online genealogical resources.

Young Adults

Baking class: On Sunday, Nov. 19, from 4:30-6:30 p.m., chefs from Petit Piquant, 1704 N. Howard Ave., Tampa, will conduct a lesson in how to make babka, an Eastern-European sweet, filled and rolled coffee cake pastry. Wine, coffee, tea and hors d'oeuvres will be served throughout the afternoon.

The event is sponsored by #Gather, a new social group for young adults ages 20s, 30s and 40s sponsored by the JCCs in Tampa. Cost: \$25 for JCC members; \$30 for guests. Space is limited to 20 people.

For more information or to RSVP, contact: **Lisa Robbins**, director of Young Adult Engagement for the Tampa JCCs & Federation, lisa.robbins@jewishtampa.com or (813) 769-4723.

Job-Links

Career counseling: Free motivational Monday Morning Links sessions are held 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. On Nov. 13, the topic is "How to Ace a Phone, Skype, or Online Interview." On Nov. 20, the topic is "The Power of Resilience," and on Nov. 27, the topic is "Keys to Job Search Success - At Every Age." Monday Morning Links is supported by the Vinik Family Foundation.

There are also Success workshops on select Thursdays to aid with job-search skills. On Nov. 16, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., the workshop topic will be "How to Write Effective Cover Letters, Thank-you Notes, and Targeted Email" and on Nov. 30 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. the topic is "Is Your Network Working For You?" The workshop is free for TampaBay Job-Links full program participants and \$15 for guests. Reservations required for all programs.

To RSVP, call (813) 344-0200, email RSVP@TBJL.org, 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.

Bar Mitzvah

Albert Richard Tawil-Brown

Albert Richard Tawil-Brown, son of Lisa Tawil and Rick Brown of Tampa, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, Nov. 4 at Congregation Rodeph Sholom in Tampa.

Albert is a seventh-grade honor roll student at Tampa Preparatory School. Active in sports, he is on the varsity cross country team, qualifying for state in cross country this year. He also is on the junior varsity track and wrestling teams, winning the wrestling championship last year.

Albert enjoys singing and playing the saxophone and won the department music award in the sixth grade and has qualified for all-state music competition.

He is also active in the Boy Scouts and is the patrol leader

for his Boy Scout Troop #22. For his mitzvah project, Albert collected supplies and donations for the Hillsborough County Humane Society.

Rick Brown and Lisa Tawil will host a celebration at the Tampa Airport Marriott on Saturday evening, Nov. 4.

Special guests will include grandparents Judy and Albert Tawil along with family and friends from Florida, New York, California, North Carolina and Georgia.



Jewish family learns they are related to Scarlett Johansson by watching PBS show

By **CURT SCHLEIER**
JTA news service

(JTA) — Turns out you don't actually have to be a guest on Henry Louis Gates' PBS show *Finding Your Roots* to, well, find your roots.

Gili Rozenfeld, 29, a video editor who lives in Tel Aviv, caught a glimpse of the episode on Israeli TV showing actress Scarlett Johansson tearing up when she learns of ancestors who died in the Warsaw Ghetto.

Rozenfeld was shocked when she recognized the names of Johansson's relatives, particularly Zlata Szlamberg, who was 15 at the time she died, and Mandil Szlamberg, who was 17. They were her siblings of her grandmother Sara.

Rozenfeld immediately dialed her mom, Dina, in California and her big sister, Michal, in New Jersey and told them to watch the episode.

They did. And like Johansson, they welled up, but not because they discovered a relative who was a big Hollywood star. "We were overwhelmed that we had any relatives at all," Michal Rozenfeld told JTA.

On the phone Michal, 42, a designer of children's clothing who lives in Hoboken, said there was no doubt that the Szlamberg that Johansson read about on screen were her ancestors, too.

"There aren't many Szlambergs" near Warsaw, Michal said.

Michal and her family grew up hearing stories — and names — from their grandmother.

"She told the entire family how she missed everybody and would like to have had family for the holidays," Michal said. "We knew

that they [Zlata and Mandil] existed. We knew that they died in the ghetto."

However, "We didn't know [for sure] that there was any other family," she added. "We vaguely knew there was a great-grand-uncle who moved to the United States, but we didn't have anymore information."

Even before this unexpected brush with fame, the family had an interesting history. Grandma Sara Szlamberg Klopot was the second youngest of 10 siblings in Grojec, Poland. She was in love but and it wasn't her "turn" to get married. So at age 16 or 17 — Michal isn't certain — she was sent to Palestine to stay with her sister, Miriam.

The move ended the romance — Klopot's true love died in the war — but ultimately saved her life.

She married Michal's grandfather, a merchant. The family lived in the Sinai, but was forced to give up its melon farm when Israel signed the peace accord with Egypt. They moved to the Dominican Republic, operating a large farm there, but returned to Israel when it was time for their children to serve in the army.

The extended family is now divided between the United States and Israel — and, apparently, Hollywood.

"It's been an emotional few days. We couldn't sleep. We were all very happy. I don't know if it gave us closure," Michal said, "but it definitely made us happy to discover that there were more of us that we thought."

Though their great-grandfathers were brothers, Michal and her family have no plans to contact their A-list cousin. "We don't want to impose," she said.

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ANTI-SEMITIC

• CONTINUED from FRONT PAGE

those which were tattooed by Nazis on concentration camp prisoners, on the student's arm.

The audit also includes reports of bomb threats to both Tampa Jewish Community Center preschools.

All that and more is included in the Anti-Defamation League's (ADL) annual Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents released Nov. 1.

The audit shows somewhat encouraging news that there were 69 total verified incidents of anti-Semitism in Florida in the first three quarters of 2017, compared to 85 verified incidents in the first three quarters of 2016 with assaults and harassments down. But those statistics are offset by the spike in anti-Semitic vandalism cases that includes three congregations in Clearwater, all within a mile of each other, that were targeted with anti-Semitic and neo-Nazi graffiti on the same day, Jan. 12.

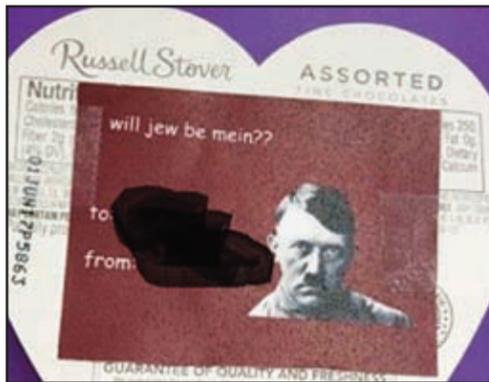
Rabbi Levi Hodakov of Chabad of Clearwater discovered swastikas and the white supremacist numeric symbol - 1488 - scrawled in chalk

in front of his Chabad center. Alerted by Rabbi Hodakov, two nearby synagogues – Temple B'nai Israel and Congregation Beth Shalom – also found similar graffiti.

"We are seeing a disturbing escalation, where anti-Semitic rhetoric and expressions have progressed into acts of vandalism, as highlighted in the audit's findings. This is a sobering reminder that we must be vigilant in educating and speaking out in the face of hate," said Sheri Zvi, ADL Florida regional director.

Nationally, anti-Semitic incidents rose to 1,299 – a 67 percent increase from the same time period in 2016. In addition to the significant bump in the first quarter of the year, there was also a notable increase after the "Unite the Right" rally in Charlottesville, VA., in August. From January through Sept. 30, according to ADL, there were:

- 702 incidents of harassment, including 162 bomb threats against Jewish institutions;
- 585 incidents of vandalism,



This Valentine's Day card was given out by a student in Miami-Dade County.

including 52 against Jewish institutions;

- and, 12 physical assaults.

Florida continues to be in the top states reporting incidents of anti-Semitism, with New York, California, and Massachusetts reporting higher incidents. The annual ADL Audit comprises criminal and non-criminal incidents reported to the ADL Florida office and law enforcement, including incidents of vandalism, assault, and harassment targeting Jewish individuals and institutions.

The Florida counties with the highest number of reported inci-

dents were Miami-Dade with 17, Palm Beach with 16, and Orange with 9.

In addition to the cases of vandalism in Clearwater, similar incidents involving swastikas and Holocaust-related imagery were reported in Escambia County in the Florida panhandle, in Daytona Beach, and in Palm Beach County.

The ADL Audit recorded 50 cases of anti-Semitic harassment in Florida in the first three quarters of 2017.

Incidents included verbal attacks and slurs against Jewish individuals (or individuals perceived to be Jewish); anti-Semitism conveyed in written or electronic communications, including anti-Semitic cyberbullying; and anti-Semitic speeches, picketing or events. Of particular note was the prevalence of the use of the swastika symbol in a significant number of harassment cases.

Florida Jewish institutions received 21 bomb threats this year. As the arrests that have been made in these bomb threats reveal, many

anti-Semitic incidents were not carried out by organized extremists. Sadly, a young Israeli was arrested in the case of numerous bomb threats in Florida and other states.

In addition to the harassment of the Pinellas County student, other incidents include:

- Miami-Dade County: For Valentine's Day, a student disseminated Valentine's Day cards with the phrase "Would Jew Be Mein?" and an image of Adolf Hitler.

- Broward County: A business was given an online review as a 'Jew-run business.'

- South Florida: A synagogue received an online check-in on a social media application with a one-word comment – "Jihad." After a thorough investigation, it was determined that the offender was overseas and not a security threat.

Two anti-Semitic assaults occurred in Florida in 2017, up from a single assault in the previous year. One of those happened when a man from Jupiter, claiming to be 'German royalty,' pushed a woman and made anti-Semitic remarks, including, "You Jews and blacks should just get over Hitler."

House advances bill sparked by JCC threats

WASHINGTON (JTA) – A U.S. House of Representatives committee advanced a bill that would enhance penalties for threats on religious institutions, sparked by a wave of threats on Jewish community centers and other Jewish institutions earlier this year.

"This bill clarifies that federal law prohibits threats toward religious institutions, and that the protection extends beyond places of worship, to places such as religiously-affiliated community centers," said Rep. Bob Goodlatte, R-VA, the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, after the committee advanced the Protecting Religiously Affiliated Institutions Act of 2017 bill to the full House.

"Specifically, the legislation ensures that federal law will prohibit threats to property such as bomb threats, provided the threat is so serious that it obstructs an individual's ability to exercise their right to practice their religion," Goodlatte said in his statement.

Among other measures, the bill and an identical one under consideration in the Senate adds the word "threatens" to existing laws that criminalize attacks and attempted attacks on religious institutions.

Originally dubbed the Combating Anti-Semitism Act of 2017 when it was introduced in March, its sponsors, Reps. David Kustoff, R-TN, and Derek Kilmer, D-WA, were reacting to bomb threats that shut down JCCs across America. Most of the 162 bomb threats are suspected of coming from an American-Israeli Jewish man living in Ashdod, Israel, who was arrested in March. In addition to Israeli charges, the suspect faces federal charges in the United States.

"We must stand united against acts of hate and protect the rights of all Americans to worship freely and without fear," Kustoff, who is Jewish and a former U.S. attorney, said in a statement.

The Anti-Defamation League praised the bill's advancement. "This important legislation will help ensure the First Amendment ideal that every American should be able to practice their religious beliefs freely and safely," its chairman, Marvin Nathan, said in a statement. The Senate bill is sponsored by Sens. Orrin Hatch, R-UT, and Dianne Feinstein, D-CA.

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BE THE THUNDER

TYLER JOHNSON
No. 9

IsraAID brings Israeli relief skills to the American season of disasters

By **RON KAMPEAS**
JTA news service

WASHINGTON – For 17 years, the Israeli NGO (non-governmental organization) IsraAID has been performing search and rescue, purifying water, providing emergency medical assistance and walking victims of trauma back to psychological health in dozens of disaster-hit countries.

But no season has been busier than this past summer and fall, its co-CEO Yotam Polizer said in an interview – and nowhere more than in the United States.

“The last few months have been unbelievable,” he said, listing a succession of disasters that occupied local staff and volunteers since August: Hurricane Harvey in Texas, Hurricane Irma in Florida, Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico and then the wildfires in northern California.

Polizer recalls that he was wrapping up a visit to IsraAID’s new American headquarters in Palo Alto on Oct. 8 and was on his way to a flight to Mexico to oversee operations after a devastating earthquake there when he got word of the wildfires. “I literally had to do a U-turn,” he said in an interview at the Israeli embassy in Washington.

Polizer spoke with the exhilaration of an executive whose team has come through a daunting challenge. “We’re the people who stay past the ‘aid festival,’” he said, grinning, describing the month after a disaster when media attention and donations are at their highest; both tend to disappear after that period.

He anticipated his teams would stay in Houston for another three months and in Puerto Rico for another year. An IsraAID team remains in Haiti eight years after a devastating earthquake hit that country.

The assistance IsraAID administered in the United States over the last two months is emblematic of the added Israeli value it brings to disaster relief across the globe:

- In Houston and in nearby Beaumont, TX, its team supervised and participated in cleaning debris and strategic house demolition, a skill derived from the clean-up Israeli authorities administer after wartime attacks on Israeli communities;

- In Puerto Rico, the teams administered emergency medical

care honed in post-attack scenarios, as well as training in water filtration cultivated in a country where fresh water is scarce;

- In Santa Rosa, CA, a social worker with the team led post-trauma care – a hard-won specialty in Israel – for families who lost their homes in the fires.

There are other, less tangible skills, associated with the Israeli experience that Polizer described. For example, Israel’s diverse immigrant base offers language skills: Polizer was able to immediately deploy Spanish speakers to Puerto Rico.

He boasts of an Israeli propensity to cut through bureaucracy when needed – “the Israeli manner,” he calls it. Almost as soon as Houston was hit, the Israeli embassy in Washington was organizing truckloads of relief for the area.

IsraAID volunteers often act as coordinators, a skill cultivated in a country where teenagers are thrust into leadership positions in the army.

“The biggest challenge is how you coordinate and communicate, how you identify what are the gaps in the response,” Polizer said.

One of IsraAID’s U.S. partners is Team Rubicon, an organization of military vets that deploys to disasters. In Houston, the Rubicon-IsraAID proportion was typical of the relationship, he said: The Americans deployed about 2,000 volunteers, while there were seven Israelis. IsraAID relies on a bank of 1,400 volunteers and 270 staff it rotates in and out of afflicted areas.

Polizer – to his own surprise – ended up tapping another non-Israeli team of volunteers in Houston: members of the Yazidi religious minority in Iraq who had sought refuge from deadly persecution at home.

The first call Polizer made after hearing Harvey hit was to Haider Elias, a Yazidi leader who had worked with IsraAID in advocating for greater assistance for Yazidis fleeing from areas controlled by the Islamic State. IsraAID had administered post-trauma counseling to Yazidi refugees.

Polizer called only because he wanted to know his Houston-based friend was okay. As it happens, the Yazidis in Houston mostly live on higher land – but Elias had heard that the Jewish community was hard hit, and saw an opportunity to



Haider Elias, center, of the Yazda group, working with IsraAID in Houston after Hurricane Harvey.

Photos courtesy of IsraAID



Niveen Rizkalla working with IsraAID in Santa Rosa, Calif., in the wake of deadly wildfires there.

return the favor. He called around and found another half-dozen Yazidis ready to deploy.

“I went with a truck, I put our logo on it, ‘Yazda,’” he said, referring to the Yazidi advocacy group he heads. The team wore the IsraAID t-shirts. “I met with Yotam in Greece,” where the Israeli organization was assisting Yazidis. “He was doing a great job.” Elias has since visited Israel to lobby the Knesset to recognize the massacres of Yazidis as a genocide, and has toured Yad Vashem, its Holocaust memorial.

IsraAID’s first crisis point is often a disaster area’s Jewish community, if it is afflicted. It then moves onto other communities. Elias and his team remained in Houston, assisting in debris-clearing and demolition, while the IsraAID team continued to Beaumont, TX, where it remains.

Connecting with Diaspora Jewish communities has become a central part of the IsraAID ethos, Polizer said, noting a program it now runs that deploys young American Jewish volunteers to assist in disaster areas. This year, there were 120 applicants for 14 fellowships.

“We’ve seen a lot of people change their perspective, even here in the United States. For younger Jewish people asking questions about their identity, we see this work really resonates,” he said. “We get large numbers of volunteers from the Jewish community” when IsraAID comes into

a disaster zone, he said.

The fellowships are funded by the San Francisco Koret Foundation, which also is funding IsraAID’s new Palo Alto office, and seed money that allows IsraAID to deploy teams quickly while raising money elsewhere for the longer term. (IsraAID’s \$9 million annual budget comes from foundations and private donors. Unusual for an Israeli group, 30 percent comes from the United Nations.)

In Santa Rosa, 30 Jewish families were evacuated and one community member died as a result of the fires. Polizer called one of the professionals IsraAID keeps on tab, Niveen Rizkalla, a social worker who is in a post-doctoral program at the University of California-Berkeley.

“In the first week when people are overwhelmed, you just want to listen and be there for them,” said Rizkalla, a Palestinian citizen of Israel originally from Ramle. “People who saw me on the first day saw me on the second day the third day – the consistency

of me being there helped them feel safe.”

In subsequent weeks, the strategy was to preoccupy the families, who may need to talk less and act more as a means of processing the trauma, she said. Additionally, the evacuation center – set up at the Congregation Shomrei Torah Reform synagogue in the town – served as a care center for children while parents traversed the bureaucratic slog of seeking insurance information.

Rizkalla said it was a skill that came naturally to someone steeped in the tensions of the region. In Haifa, she had directed the city’s crisis center, working with survivors of sexual violence, and before that she was a facilitator at Neve Shalom, the Jewish-Arab village in Israel that promotes dialogue.

“I was facilitating groups of Palestinian and Jewish Israelis, and sometimes Germans were added into this conflict,” she said, chuckling. “I developed tolerance and understanding of what is involved in a conflict situation.”

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\$225.00 (plus tax)

TIMES
8:30am - 3:15pm



FALL BREAK FUN LEARN TO SKATE CAMP

Fall Break Fun Learn to Skate Camp includes lessons on the ice, off-ice training & fun off-ice games. This camp will be a great addition to your fall break!

AGES
6- 13 years old

TIME
9:00am - 3:00pm

COST
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You are cordially invited to a

Hanukkah Dinner Extravaganza

Buffet dinner and tableside entertainment for your delight... dreidel spinning, crafts and festive music will fill the night.

Holiday Buffet Dinner includes: Brisket, Baked Chicken, Potato Latkes & Fixings, Rice Pilaf, Seasonal Vegetables, Kosher Hot Dogs, Pasta Bar, Dessert, Ice Tea, Water and Coffee.

Spirits will be available for purchase.

Sunday, December 17, 2017 at 5:30 pm

Bryan Glazer Family JCC | Ballroom

522 N. Howard Avenue | Tampa, Florida 33609

RSVP required by December 15, 2017

www.JewishTampa.com/Hanukkah

Per Person (12+) \$36 • Children (5-12) \$18/(2-4) \$10
Children under 2 are free. High chairs are available per request at time of reservation.

