

First Jewish Heritage Night with Bucs is Dec. 18

■ More Hanukkah Happenings, Page 5

In celebration of Hanukkah, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers will host its first ever Jewish Heritage Night on Monday, Dec. 18 as the team takes on the Atlanta Falcons at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa.

The event will begin with an exclusive tailgate at 7 p.m. as Bryan Glazer, Bucs co-chairman and a Jewish community leader, along with others light a 12-foot tall menorah.

The tailgate, located at Quad C near the

southeast corner of the stadium, will also feature special Hanukkah music, potato latkes, doughnuts and desserts, limited-edition souvenirs and a cash bar.

Later, during the game, the menorah lighting ceremony will be replayed on the giant Bucs Vision screen in the stadium.

The only Jewish member of the Buccaneers is center Ali Marpet, shown in advertising for the event with the headline: "Siege the Night with the Power of Light." Marpet recently suffered a season-ending

injury and a Bucs' spokeswoman said she was not sure if Marpet would be at the tailgate.

Jewish Heritage Night is a joint project of Chabad Centers of Tampa Bay and the Bucs.

The area's other two professional sports franchises, the Tampa Bay Lightning and Tampa Bay Rays, have been holding Jewish Heritage events for several years, but this will be the first for the Bucs.

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Jewish Press of Pinellas County
P. O. Box 6970
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Light
Love
Laughter
at
Hanukkah

It's always Hanukkah in this picture-perfect Italian town

By RUTH ELLEN GRUBER
JTA news service

CASALE MONFERRATO, Italy — It's always Hanukkah in this picturesque town in northern Italy's Piedmont region.

Jews have lived in Casale Monferrato for more than 500 years, with the community reaching its peak of 850 members at about the time Jews here were granted civil rights in 1848. The town still boasts one of Italy's most ornate synagogues, a rococo gem that dates to the 16th century.

These days, only two Jewish families live



in Casale. The synagogue, which is part of a larger museum complex, is now a major tourist attraction — and not only because of its opulent sanctuary with huge chandeliers, colorfully painted walls and lots of gilding. The former women's section has been transformed into a Judaica and Jewish history museum. And the synagogue's basement, formerly a matzah bakery, is now home to the Museum of Lights.

Hanukkah here is commemorated nonstop with a year-round exhibit featuring dozens of menorahs, or hanukkiyot, created

TOWN continued on PAGE 19



The collection of Hanukkah menorahs in the town of Casale Monferrato is housed in the basement of its synagogue, which used to be a public matzah bakery.

Acclaimed playwright Israel Horovitz, far right, with cast members of his play, "Lebensraum," which was performed at the Jobsite Theater in Tampa in January 2016.



Local theater ousts playwright after sex claims

JTA and Jewish Press staff

Accusations of sexual misconduct by high profile men have headlined news reports on a near daily basis recently, and on Thursday, Nov. 30, they hit home, rocking the Tampa theater community with accusations by nine women of sexual misconduct, including rape, against award-winning playwright Israel Horovitz.

Since 2014, Horovitz has collaborated with Jobsite Theater, the resident theater company of the Straz Performing Arts Center. Hours after the *New York Times* published a story on Nov. 30 detailing the accusations, the theater group announced it was cutting ties with Horovitz and cancelling the scheduled production of his play, *Man in Snow*.

The women cited in the *New York Times* article, accused Horovitz of inappropriate advances and sexual assault in incidents dating back at least four decades. The story did not indicate any of the incidents happened locally. Many of the women were teenagers at the time of the alleged events.

Jobsite Producing Artistic Director
PLAYWRIGHT continued on PAGE 13



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TJFS adds food Collection box at Glazer JCC

Tampa Jewish Family Services' Community Food Bank has a new collection location in the front lobby of the Bryan Glazer Family JCC in west Tampa. This is in addition to the collection box located outside the offices of TJFS at the JCC on the Cohn Campus in northwest Tampa.



The new food bank collection bin at the Bryan Glazer Family JCC

Both wooden bins were constructed by TJFS board member Lloyd Stern.

Michael Barnett, Tampa Jewish Family Services CEO, noted the convenience of the new food bin at the Glazer JCC. "You can drop off non-perishables on your way in to work out or when attending an event," said Barnett.

Community members are encouraged to donate non-perishable goods including canned tuna fish, peanut butter, canned fruits and vegetables and cereal.

"There is a critical need for donated items in the Tampa Bay area. We help feed thousands of families every year and could not do it without these generous donations," said Barnett.

Donations can be dropped off in the TJFS offices, located in the Glazer JCC, 522 S. Howard Ave., and the Cohn campus, 13009 Community Campus Drive.

TJFS provides programs and services for those in the Tampa Bay community who are in need of food, counseling and financial assistance. For more information on the Community Food Bank and Tampa Jewish Family Services, visit www.tjfs.org.

Crist, Bilirakis bill seeks to curb illicit Iranian military buildup

Two Bay area congressman, U.S. Rep. Charlie Crist, Democrat of St. Petersburg, and U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis, Republican of Palm Harbor, introduced bipartisan legislation prohibiting U.S. military assistance to any country that sells restricted weapons or technology to Iran.

The No Arms Sales to Iran Act aims to discourage others in the international community from arms sales that could undermine ongoing efforts to contain and curb Iran's aggression.

"Iran's aggressive actions remain a threat to America, Israel, and the rest of the world. As the top state sponsor of terrorism, Iran's nefarious pursuit of restricted weapons further destabilizes the region," said Crist. "Our bill sends a strong message to countries considering arms deals with Iran that supporting state sponsors of terrorism will not be tolerated."

"Despite the Iran Deal, Iran continues to demonstrate its commitment to tyranny through its continued support and spread of terror in an effort to destabilize the Middle East," said Bilirakis. "As we work with allies to keep the pressure on Iran, we must ensure that our efforts are not being undermined by other nations and, if so, that they are exposed and held accountable."

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PUBLICATION & DEADLINE DATES

DECEMBER 15
 Press Release Dec 1
 Advertising Dec 5
JANUARY 12
 Press Release Dec 29
 Advertising Jan 2
JANUARY 26
 Press Release Jan 12
 Advertising Jan 16

Jewish Press
 of TAMPA • Established in 1988
 An independent, bi-weekly newspaper owned by
THE JEWISH PRESS GROUP of TAMPA BAY, INC.
 Also publisher of the Jewish Press of Pinellas County
www.jewishpresstampa.com
 P.O. BOX 6970, CLEARWATER, FL 33758-6970
 (6416 Central Ave., St. Petersburg, FL 33707)
 Telephone: (813) 871-2332 • Fax: (727) 440-6037
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The Jewish Press of Tampa is privately owned, but published in cooperation with the the Tampa JCCs & Federation as a community newspaper. The JCCs & Federation underwrites home delivery of the paper to every identified Jewish household in Hillsborough County, to promote Jewish community cohesiveness and identity.

THE TAMPA JCCS & FEDERATION MAINTAINS THE MAILING LIST FOR THE JEWISH PRESS.
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Answering some oft-asked Hanukkah questions

(My Jewish Learning via JTA) – Here are the answers to some frequently asked questions about Hanukkah. Or is it Chanukah?

Is there a correct way to spell Hanukkah?

Hanukkah is a Hebrew word, not an English one, and there is no standard transliteration. My Jewish Learning uses “Hanukkah,” but “Chanukah,” “Chanukka” and “Hanukka” are also common spellings.

Why does Hanukkah last eight days?

There are two explanations for the eight-day length. One is that Hanukkah commemorates not just the Maccabees’ victory and rededication of the Temple, but the miracle of the oil: one day’s supply for the Temple lamp lasted eight days.

Another explanation is that the first Hanukkah celebration was actually a delayed Sukkot celebration, and Sukkot – which, like Passover, is a pilgrimage festival – traditionally lasts eight days.

What is Hanukkah about?

Hanukkah celebrates the Maccabees’ rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem after its defilement by the Syrian Greeks in 164 BCE. According to rabbinic tradition, the holiday also commemorates the miracle of the oil noted above.

Some people see Hanukkah as a celebration of religious freedom, whereas others see it as a triumph of tradition over assimilation. For many people, it is simply an opportunity for festivity during the darkest time of the year, the winter solstice.

Why does Hanukkah fall on a different date each year?

Hanukkah always falls on the 25th of the Hebrew month of Kislev, which usually is sometime in December. Because the Jewish calendar is a combination of solar and lunar, the date on the Gregorian calendar fluctuates each year.

Is the candelabra lit on Hanukkah called a menorah or a hanukkah?

Menorah simply means lamp and can refer to other candelabras such as the seven-branch menorah in the Emblem of Israel and used in the Temple in Jerusalem. A hanukkah is a candelabra specifically for use on Hanukkah. However, many people call it a menorah or Hanukkah menorah — you usually can tell from context when a person is referring to a Hanukkah candelabra and not another kind of lamp.

Why do Jews play dreidel on Hanukkah?

There are different explanations for this tradition, but historians believe the dreidel is an adaptation of another top-spinning game that Europeans played at Christmas time.

Do Jews traditionally exchange gifts on all eight nights of Hanukkah?

Actually, exchanging gifts on Hanukkah is a relatively new tradition. American Jews used to exchange gifts on Purim, but in the late 19th century there was a shift from Purim to Hanukkah. Christmas, which falls at the same time of year, became a national

holiday in America at this time, and the Jewish custom of gifts on Hanukkah shifted as the Christian holiday’s consumerism grew.

When it comes to how many gifts to exchange and when, families have different traditions.

Why is the first night of Hanukkah one day before the date listed on my calendar?



There is more than one type of menorah: Shown here, the nine-branched Hanukkah menorah, or hanukkah, and a seven-branch menorah used in the Israeli emblem.

While dates on the Gregorian calendar begin at midnight, dates on the Hebrew calendar begin at sundown — that means a holiday starts hours before the corresponding date on the Gregorian calendar. This difference is particularly noticeable on Hanukkah, since celebrations tend to take place at night rather than during the day. So while your calendar may say Hanukkah starts on Dec. 13, it actually begins this year on the preceding evening, Dec. 12. The last candle will be lit this year on Tuesday, Dec. 19.

What’s the proper way to greet someone on Hanukkah?

Happy Hanukkah, “chag sameach” (Hebrew for happy holiday) or “Hanukkah sameach” (Hebrew for Happy Hanukkah).

Do Jews traditionally go to synagogue on Hanukkah?

Jewish law does not require Jews to observe Hanukkah anywhere outside the home. However, some special liturgy and readings are added to the daily and Shabbat prayer services that take place during Hanukkah.

I tried to find the story of the Maccabees in the Bible, but couldn’t. Where is it?

The Book of Maccabees, in which the Hanukkah story is detailed, was not included in the Hebrew Bible and instead is in a category of texts called Apocrypha. For centuries, some Jews used to read the story from an Aramaic-language scroll called The Scroll of Antiochus, which detailed the Maccabees’ victories and added numerous legends.

Why do Jews eat greasy food on Hanukkah?

It is traditional to eat fried foods, such as latkes and jelly doughnuts (called sufganiyot in Hebrew) as a way of commemorating the miracle of the oil that lasted eight days. If you’re worried about the health (or waistline) implications, consider celebrating the oil by dipping bread into a variety of gourmet olive oils.

Another traditional Hanukkah food, cheese, unfortunately isn’t much better for those concerned about fat. The cheese tradition is in honor of Judith, a woman who helped the Maccabee effort by feeding salty cheese and wine to one of Antiochus’ generals – and then beheading him.

Shul bomb plot lands man in hospital, then prison

(JTA) – A South Florida man who pleaded guilty to plotting to bomb a Miami-area synagogue and Jewish school will undergo medical treatment and serve time in prison.

James Medina, 41, is expected to serve up to 25 years in prison. The prosecution and defense reached an uncommon deal in which Medina will likely spend the first part of his sentence in a medical facility, *The Sun-Sentinel* reported. Medina has been diagnosed with schizoaffective disorder and a brain cyst.

The FBI arrested Medina in April 2016

while he was approaching the Aventura Turnberry Jewish Center with what he believed was a bomb. An FBI informant had furnished Medina with the real looking but fake bomb.

According to prosecutors, Medina initially planned to attack the 800-member Conservative synagogue and its school with assault rifles on Yom Kippur and was hoping to inspire other Muslims to commit terrorist attacks.

At his sentencing he said he had been struggling with the aftermath of a fraught divorce and decided to convert to Islam.

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For details on this and other chapter events, visit our website at
www.Hadassah.org/TampaAmeet or call Michele Norris, 813.352.8765

Young leaders in training learn about philanthropy at Bucs training facility

This year's Jewish Leadership Training Institute (JLTI) class visited One Buc Place, learning about philanthropy and giving back with Tampa Bay Buccaneers Co-chairman Bryan Glazer and Emilie Socash, executive director of the Jewish Federation of Pinellas & Pasco Counties.

JLTI is a joint program of the Tampa Jewish Federation and Pinellas/Pasco Federation.

The program invites emerging young leaders from throughout the Tampa Bay area to participate in an innovative, 11-session, leadership development experience.



JLTI class members with Bucs Co-chairman Bryan Glazer. (L-R) Nathan Black, Michael Schwartz, Jeff Katzman, Jacklyn Steinberg, Yoni Haim, Jessica Schneider, Aaron Slavin, Luy Teitelroit, Cory Kleinman, Bryan Glazer, Brian Waksman, David Goldscheine, Stephanie Kaminoff, Loren Pincus, Abby Altman, Lance Misztal and Lauryn Solomon

Cardozo, Montefiore Societies to honor law and financial professionals

Two outstanding Jewish professionals in the worlds of legal and financial services will be honored Feb. 8 at the annual Cardozo and Montefiore Societies reception.

The Jewish Federation of Pinellas and Pasco Counties and the Tampa Jewish Federation, which sponsor the two Jewish professional societies, will host the event at the Bryan Glazer Family JCC, 522 N. Howard Ave., in Tampa, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The reception and program are open to the entire community. Cost to attend is \$25 per person.

Some five years ago, the two Jewish federations began offering this joint event, first solely honoring lawyers through the Cardozo Society, then in 2017 introducing the Montefiore Society for financial professionals.



Event co-chair Bonnie Wise (above) of Tampa and Hal Hershkowitz of St. Petersburg (below)



The 2018 event will honor Barry Kanner of Pinellas County with the Cardozo Society award, and Sam Linsky of Tampa with the Montefiore Society award.

This year's celebration will be co-chaired by last year's honorees, Hal Hershkowitz, partner in the St. Petersburg CPA firm of Hershkowitz and Kunitzer; and Bonnie Wise, chief financial administrator of Hillsborough County.

The evening will open with a cocktail hour, including heavy hors d'oeuvres, followed by a presentation of the awards and a discussion of the consideration of "Ethical Behavior through a Jewish Lens: Contending with Economic, Social, and Cultural Issues."

The event is sponsored by the Bank of Tampa.

Further event details are available at www.jewishtampa.com or (813) 264-9000 and www.jewish-pinellas.org or (727) 530-3223.

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HERITAGE NIGHT

• CONTINUED from FRONT PAGE

That is not to say the Bucs and the Jewish community have not collaborated before. The Jewish Leadership Training Institute annually holds a session at One Buc Place (see story above). Plus, in the past, the Jewish federations' Young Adult Divisions have attended practice sessions and held tailgate and game events.

For this first ever Hanukkah celebration, the Bucs are offering discounted tickets in the Club level for \$155 or upper corner section for \$55. The tickets include passes to the tailgate. The tailgate only is \$10 for those who already have tickets.

Go to Buccaneers.com/JHN to purchase tickets and tailgate only passes. The deadline to order tickets is Friday, Dec. 15.

Rabbi Mendy Dubrowski, who directs Chabad Chai in South Tampa and helped organize the event, remarked "Hanukkah is a chance to celebrate the power of light to dispel darkness, no matter the odds. At a time when the world faces numerous obstacles, and the darkness seems stronger than ever, the menorah is a reminder that when we kindle the light of our souls, nothing can stop us."

The Bucs may want to take that philosophy to heart in the nationally televised Monday Night Football game with kickoff at 8:30 p.m.

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US aircraft carrier gets a Torah scroll

WASHINGTON (JTA) – Jewish sailors aboard the Navy aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford now have a Torah scroll to use during their six- to eight-month stints at sea. The umbrella body for Jewish chaplains, the JWB Jewish Chaplains Council, dedicated the scroll on Nov. 29 aboard the ship in Norfolk, VA.

It was dedicated to the memory Sgt. Jacob Kamaras, a World War II U.S. Army Air Corps veteran. He was drafted at age 34 and fought in Europe. On hand for the ceremony were his son, Philip Kamaras, a New York lawyer, and his namesake grandson, Jacob Kamaras, a journalist and publicist in Houston.

The Kamaras family helped pay for the \$36,000 scroll as part of the chaplains' council Torah for Our Troops campaign, which equips chaplains with travel-size Torah scrolls. The scroll, slightly smaller than those used in most synagogues, is designed for use in the shipboard chapel.

Hanukkah Happenings

Information received as of press time:

SOUTH TAMPA
Congregation Rodeph Sholom, 2713 Bayshore Blvd., Tampa, will hold a **Hanukkah Fun Day** on **Sunday, Dec. 10** from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event will include Hanukkah activities, crafts, games and more for children of all ages. The festivities include a complimentary latke and hot dog lunch from noon to 1 p.m., sponsored by the Men's Club.

☆☆☆
 The annual **Hanukkah in the City extravaganza**, sponsored by **Chabad Lubavitch of Tampa Bay**, will be held on **Tuesday, Dec. 12** at City Hall Plaza, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Assisting in the lighting of the menorah will be Tampa City Councilman Harry Cohen. The celebration also will feature Dallas The Fire Breather, break dancers, slot car racing, face painting, a gyroscope, balloon artist, caricaturist, crafts for kids and lots of food including doughnuts and a latke demonstration by Publix. The Hebrew Academy Choir will perform.

☆☆☆
 There will be a **Hanukkah menorah lighting** ceremony at **Congregation Rodeph Sholom** every evening throughout Hanukkah, from **Dec. 12 - Dec. 19** with singing, gelt and celebrating.

☆☆☆
 The **Chabad Jewish Student Union at the University of Tampa** invites the community to celebrate **Hanukkah on the Bay** at Plant Park, 401 W. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa, on **Tuesday, Dec 12** from 5-7 p.m. with Rabbi Levi Rivkin. Bais Menachem Chabad is organizing the festivities, which will include fire jugglers, a giant menorah, gelt, dreidels, music and more. Admission is free for students, \$54 for sponsors. There will also be \$5 boat rides available during the event. For more information, email bmchabad@gmail.com.

☆☆☆
Congregation Schaarai Zedek, 3303 W. Swann Ave., will have a **Hanukkah Shabbat service and Sing-Along** featuring the Koleinu Choir on **Friday, Dec. 15** at 7:30 p.m. Participants are encouraged to bring menorahs for a group candle lighting. The Sisterhood will provide a latke and doughnut oneg after the service. RSVP at (813) 876-2377 or at office@zedek.org.

☆☆☆
 On **Saturday, Dec. 16**, light candles, watch Hanukkah puppets, sing songs, make crafts, eat latkes and see a show at a family **Hanukkah Havdalah Party and Magic Show** at **Congregation Schaarai Zedek**. The event begins at 3:30 p.m. To RSVP, call (813) 876-2377 or email office@zedek.org.

☆☆☆
 The **Tampa JCCs & Federation** will hold a communitywide **Hanukkah Dinner Extravaganza** on **Sunday, Dec. 17** at 5:30 p.m. at the Bryan Glazer Family JCC, offering an informal and fun way for families to gather and celebrate the holiday. The party will include a buffet dinner, tableside entertainment, menorah lighting, dreidel spinning and festive Hanukkah music. Tickets are available through Friday, Dec. 15 at \$36 per person for those 12 and older, \$18 for children 5-12, \$10 for toddlers ages 2-4 and free for those under 2. High chairs are available by request at the time of reservation. Alcohol will be available for purchase. For tickets, go to www.jewishtampa.com/Hanukkah. The Glazer JCC is at 522 N. Howard Ave., Tampa.

☆☆☆
 Twenty- and 30-somethings are invited to **Congregation Schaarai Zedek** for a **Hanukkah Happening** on **Sunday, Dec. 17** from 6:30 -8:30 p.m. Appetizers, doughnuts, latkes, wine and beer will be served. Bring your menorah to light the candles. Toy donations will be collected for Tampa Jewish Family Services. To RSVP, contact Lindsey Dewey at

ldewey@zedek.org or (813) 876-2377, ext. 221.

NORTH TAMPA
Congregation Kol Ami, 3919 Moran Road, Tampa, will conduct a **menorah candle lighting ceremony** outside the synagogue each evening of Hanukkah, from **Tuesday, Dec. 12 through Tuesday, Dec. 19**. Call the synagogue for lighting times at (813) 962-6338.

☆☆☆
 On **Wednesday, Dec. 13** at 6:30 p.m. light up the Second Night of Hanukkah at **Congregation Mekor Shalom's Fifth Annual Hanukkah Party**. Bring your hanukkiah for a communal lighting at the synagogue at 14005A N. Dale Mabry Hwy., Tampa. For more information call the synagogue at (813) 963-1818.

☆☆☆
 Bring your Hanukkiah and a dairy or vegetarian dish to go along with the Men's Club's latkes at **Congregation Beth Am's Hanukkah Potluck Supper** on **Friday, Dec. 15**, at 6 p.m. at 2030 W. Fletcher Ave., Tampa. Shabbat eve services, led by members of the BITTY youth group, start at 7:30 p.m. followed by an oneg. In addition, the congregation will be holding its annual Menorah Building Contest. Almost anything goes, although the candles should all be at the same level to be considered kosher. The contest is limited to one entry per family or person. Prizes will be awarded. Email Amanda Wagner at abawagner@gmail.com to participate or for more information.

☆☆☆
Congregation Kol Ami will hold its **Hanukkah Party** on **Sunday, Dec. 17** at 6:30 p.m. at the synagogue. Light the hanukkiah and enjoy latkes, suganiyot, singing, games and a family dance party with a deejay. The congregation's youth director will lead a special workshop on juggling and twirling. This is a free, family event.

BRANDON/VALRICO
 Cantor Tanya Greenblatt of Pompano Beach will visit **Congregation Beth Shalom**, 706 Bryan Road, Brandon, for a **Hanukkah musical performance** on **Sunday, Dec. 10**. She will perform Music Beyond 'I had a little Dreidel' as she engages the congregation in holiday song. Both performances are at 4 p.m. Bring the family.

☆☆☆
 On **Friday, Dec. 15** at 7 p.m., **Congregation Beth Shalom** in Brandon, will hold a **Hanukkah candle lighting, consecration and Kabbalat HaSiddur**. All are welcome. Call (813) 681-6547 for more information.

☆☆☆
 The CKids Club will hold a **Hanukkah Chocolate Gelt Factory** event on **Sunday, Dec. 17** from 11 a.m. to noon at the Chabad Jewish Discovery Center 1578 Bloomingdale Ave., Valrico. This **Chabad of Brandon** event includes an electric menorah wiring workshop, consisting of copper tape, batteries, & LED lights. Then kids can grind, melt and mold their own chocolate coins. This is for families and children ages 3-13 at a cost of \$8 per child. For more information and to RSVP, go to JewishBrandon.com/CKids

SOUTH HILLSBOROUGH
Chabad Jewish Discovery Center will hold a **Hanukkah Festival** at the Winthrop Town Centre, 6108 Winthrop Town Centre Ave, Riverview, on the first night of Hanukkah, **Tuesday Dec. 12** at 6 p.m. The celebration will feature face painting, hot latkes, Hanukkah crafts, Tony the Balloon Guy and the lighting of a tall menorah. Hillsborough County Fire Rescue will be honored for its service, with a captain from the department lighting the shamash. A fire engine will be on hand and used for a mega drop of more than 1,000 chocolate gelt coins. Kosher

hot dogs will be on sale. This event is free of charge.

☆☆☆
 The Freylach Band will perform at the **Hanukkah Klezmer Festival and Menorah Lighting**, on **Thursday, Dec. 14** at 4:30 p.m. The event, put on by **Chabad of Brandon**, will be held at the Sun City Center Chamber of Commerce, 1651 Sun City Center Plaza, Sun City Center, and will feature New York deli-style sandwiches available for purchase and the lighting of a 9-foot tall menorah. There is no cost for admission. To reserve a seat, go to JewishBrandon.com/RSVP

☆☆☆
 An adult **Hanukkah party** will be held on **Saturday, Dec. 16** from 8-10 p.m. at the Lithia home of congregants of **Chabad of Brandon**. The event will include Hanukkah games, treats and cocktails. To RSVP, go to JewishBrandon.com/RSVP.

☆☆☆
Congregation Beth Israel, 1115 E. Del Webb Blvd., Sun City Center, will hold its annual Sisterhood and Men's Club **Hanukkah Party** on **Sunday, Dec. 17** at 2 p.m. in the temple's social hall. There will be latkes, doughnuts, singing and fun. The cost is \$7 per person. RSVP by Dec. 12. Call the synagogue at (813) 634-2590 for ticket purchase information.

☆☆☆
Chabad of Brandon will also hold a **Menorah Lighting** at Park Square in FishHawk Ranch, 16132 Churchview Drive, Lithia on **Sunday, Dec. 17**. The celebration kicks off in front of Cool Beans at 6 p.m., and features the kindling of a giant menorah, chocolate gelt, hot latkes, Hanukkah music and crafts and more. The event is free of charge. For more information visit www.jewishbrandon.com/hanukkah or call (813) 571-8100.

PASCO COUNTY
 Light up the night at the Ninth Annual **Hanukkah celebration** put on by **Chabad Jewish Centre at Wiregrass**. There will be a grand menorah lighting and entertainment. Enjoy the Nerdy Noah Show, a live deejay, strolling magic, balloon making, face painting, a stilt walker, hip hop dancing, a raffle, a caricaturist, kid activities, potato latkes, Hanukkah gelt, music, crafts for kids, prizes and more. This event is free and open to the community. The celebration is **Sunday, Dec. 17** beginning at 5 p.m. at the Shops at Wiregrass (in front of Dillard's), 28211 Paseo Drive, Wesley Chapel. For more information, call (813) 642-3244.

☆☆☆
 The 13th annual **Chanukah on Ice** will be put on by **Young Israel of Tampa** on **Tuesday, Dec. 19** from 5:45 to 7:45 p.m. at Florida Hospital Center Ice, 3173 Cypress Ridge Blvd., Wesley Chapel. The event will feature the lighting of a sculpted grand ice menorah and ice skating to Jewish music. There will be a kosher food stand, arts and crafts, latkes and a raffle. The cost is \$5 and includes skate rental. To

RSVP, call (813) 983-9770 or go to www.youngisraeloftampa.org.

POLK COUNTY
Chabad of Lakeland will hold several **public menorah lightings** for Hanukkah. There will be lighting ceremonies at Virginia Miller Park, 325 Avenue A NW, Winter Haven on **Thursday, Dec. 14** at 5:30 p.m., Kryger Park, 108 S. Massachusetts Ave., Lakeland, on **Monday, Dec. 18** at 5:30 p.m. and Lake Wales City Hall, 201 W. Central Ave., on **Tuesday, Dec. 19** at 5:30 p.m. Each menorah lighting will be attended by local government officials and will feature music, doughnuts, and Hanukkah kits (menorah, candles, dreidel) to take home. In addition, in Lakeland the festivities will feature laser tag, a fire show, a magician, balloon art, face painting, a bounce house, knocker ball, a gift shop and a concession stand.

☆☆☆
Temple Beth Shalom Reform Jewish Congregation in Winter Haven

will hold a **Hanukkah dinner, menorah lighting**, and Shabbat service on **Friday, Dec 15** at 6 p.m. Dinner is \$12.50 for members and \$16 for non-members. The chicken dinner, which will include latkes and other traditional treats, will be held at Temple Beth Shalom, 1029 Bradbury Road, Winter Haven. Call (863) 292-0722 or email sandi@tampabay.rr.com for more information.

☆☆☆
Temple Emanuel of Lakeland will hold its annual **Hanukkah party** on **Sunday, Dec. 17** from 5-7 p.m. in the temple's Education Building, 600 Lake Hollingsworth Drive, Lakeland. There will be lots of latkes and other refreshments, games and fun for all. Everyone is encouraged to bring their own Hanukkah menorah and candles to light. The suggested minimum donation to attend is \$5 per person. The community is welcome to join in the festivities. RSVP by or before Dec. 10 to Tammy Serebin at (863) 682-8616 or (863) 838-2583.

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The 'minor' holiday that could

By **RABBI ED ROSENTHAL**
Executive Director, Hillels of the Florida Suncoast

OK, Seriously... How can you not love a holiday that encourages you to eat fried food and doughnuts?

There's no doubt that culture is transmitted through food, and each Jewish holiday has its own unique dishes, but Hanukkah surpasses them all. Rosh HaShanah? Does anybody really eat a fish head? Purim is nice, if you like fluffy pastries. And Pesach? Don't even get me started on Pesach. By the end of the holiday my digestive tract and I are definitely not on speaking terms. I'll give a thumbs up to Shavuot because you can never go wrong with ice cream and cheese cake, but Hanukkah? There's nothing like it. Latkes and doughnuts. French fries and mozzarella sticks. Jalapeno poppers and well... you name it and I'll try to fry it on Hanukkah.

Interestingly however, no matter how good the food, Hanukkah is still considered a "minor" holiday. Sure it has taken on greater significance in America as Jews in this country have had to face the challenge of the "December Dilemma," but that's more about commercialism and doing all we can not to have our children tempted by the presents, music, lights, parades and all the trappings of Christmas. We started giving gifts on Hanukkah so our kids wouldn't be jealous of their Christian friends who woke up on Christmas morning to the smell of the yule log and tons of presents under the tree.

For us, we light little, tiny candles, sing some lame Hanukkah songs (if Jews wrote Hanukkah songs as good as the Christmas song they've written, we'd be golden), give gifts to our children and grandchildren, eat delicious, oily food that is certain to harden the most pliable of arteries, all to show that Hanukkah is as good as anybody else's holiday. So take THAT Christmas!

Of course we talk about the fact that the revolt of the Jews against the Assyrians in 164 BCE represents the first time in his-

RABBINICALLY SPEAKING

tory that any people fought for religious freedom. We tell how the few defeated the many, and the weak defeated the mighty. We will recount the story about the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem after it was liberated from the hands of the idolatrous Assyrians, the miracle of the oil, and then we'll eat our latkes and doughnuts. What a beautiful holiday.

What we don't talk about however, is the fact that were it not for this "minor" holiday, the world as we know it today would be a very different place. Had the Assyrians succeeded in destroying Judaism, not only would we not be here, the system of morals and values from the Torah that are the foundation of Western society would have been lost.

Sure, we can do everything possible to make Hanukkah so appealing to our children that they don't have that December Dilemma, but were it not for the courage and convictions of the Maccabees, there would not be a Christmas. Jesus grew out of the specific Jewish environment of the Land of Israel. Had the Assyrians won, that environment would have been completely different. Indeed, had it not been for the Maccabees, our Christian friends and neighbors would not be celebrating the yuletide season at all.

So, as we light our menorahs and eat our latkes, remember that Hanukkah is a "minor" holiday that changed the world. Forget the commercialism. Forget the presents. Forget the competition with Christmas. Hanukkah is the Festival of Lights, not only because of the tiny candles of the menorah, but because of the great flame that still burns and brings Light to the world which was kept alive by our ancestors who stood up in the face of tyranny and injustice.

Indeed, Hanukkah is a major holiday for the Jewish people... and for the world. Tell that to your children, and make them proud of who they are and the heritage which is theirs. Then enjoy some latkes and donuts.

Happy Hanukkah.

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. Rodeph Sholom

Talent show: Rodeph's Got Talent show will be held on Sunday, Dec. 17 at 4 p.m. Competition categories include group or solos in vocal, dancing, gymnastics, musician, comedian, juggler or magician. The contest is open to the community and sign-ups are still being accepted. Performances are limited to 4 minutes maximum and only 20 groups will be invited to compete. A band will be available to accompany the contestants or contestants can provide a CD. There will be two winners. One will be selected by the audience, who will fill jars with tickets purchased for \$1 each. The contestant that receives the most votes will be the winner. The judges will determine the winner of the Judges Choice Award. All contestants will receive a prize. Everyone is invited to attend the free event.

Following the show, there will be a giant menorah candle lighting ceremony and a fried chicken dinner. For more information and to sign up, contact **Cantor Andreas Kornworcel** at cantor@rsholom.org or (813) 325-6789 or go to www.rsholom.org.

'Minion' Shabbat: Throw on your jeans and get your kids in their jammies for a fun and casual Shabbat celebration on Friday, Dec. 22 at 5:30 p.m. Sing songs, dance around and listen to a fun story together as we celebrate Shabbat "Minion" style in the chapel, with refreshments.

CineRodeph: Enjoy a Chinese dinner and movie at the synagogue on Sunday, Dec. 24 from 6-9 p.m. For more information, call the office at (813) 837-1911.

Cong. Or Ahavah

Human Rights Shabbat: Join with Or Ahavah and more than 120 other congregations for a Human Rights Shabbat on Saturday, Dec. 9 at 10:30 a.m. at a north side location. A brief service and Torah study with focus on human rights, then there will be a dairy/veggie/fish potluck meal. Location given upon RSVP. For more information and to RSVP, email orahavahatampa@gmail.com.

Cong. Kol Ami

40 and Fabulous: The congregation will celebrate its 40th anniversary with weekend events on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 15 and 16. On Friday, Shabbat services begin at 6 p.m. with founding members being honored during services. There will be a

Shabbat Candle Lighting Times



Dec. 8	•	5:18 pm
Dec. 15	•	5:20 pm
Dec. 22	•	5:23 pm
Dec. 29	•	5:27 pm

dinner following services. RSVP is required by Dec. 1. The cost is \$20 for adults and \$15 for children ages 4-12. Those 3 and younger eat for free.

On Saturday, Dec. 16, following 9:30 a.m. Shabbat services, the Howard Kanter z"l Kiddush Fund will host a luncheon open to the Jewish community. There is no charge for this luncheon but non-members are asked to contact the Kol Ami office to RSVP at (813) 962-6338.

A Gala 40th Anniversary Celebration with dinner, a live auction, dancing, and an open bar will be held Saturday evening from 6:30 to 11 p.m. This is a black tie optional event. Reminisce with music, skits and vignettes from the 1970s. RSVP immediately by contacting the Kol Ami office at (813) 962-6338. Babysitting is available for \$20 per child with advanced reservation.

Jewish ethics: Rabbi Howard Siegel leads a course in Jewish ethics on Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to noon. 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. There will be no class on Dec. 27.

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. There will be no classes on Dec. 19 and 26.

Talmud: A Talmud study class with Rabbi Siegel is offered on Thursdays from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Jewish law confronts everything from capital punishment to how to make rain. This is open to everyone from beginners through experts. Texts are provided. There will be no class on Dec. 28.

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

• 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.jsccc.org • Affiliated with Union for Reform Judaism

Congregation BETH AM — 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 Service: 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 Hershman • 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

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 Piny 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 — 102 Civic Circle, Beverly Hills • Mailing address: Beverly Hills Jewish Center, P. O. Box 640024, Beverly Hills, FL 34464-0024 • Shabbat services: Friday, 6 p.m., Saturday, 9:30 a.m. Telephone (352) 746-6258 • 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.ahavatshalom.org • Affiliated with Union for Reform Judaism

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

POLK COUNTY

Reform

Temple BETH SHALOM — 1029 Bradbury Road, • P.O. Box 313 Winter Haven, 33882-0313 • Rabbi Garson Herzfeld • Shabbat evening services: (usually 2nd and 4th Shabbat of the month at 7:30 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.

Congregations

• CONTINUED from PREVIOUS PAGE

room. 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 charities.

For more information, call the Kol Ami office.

Yoga: A yoga class for mindful meditation and stretching will be led by **Dr. Tanya Gold** on Sunday, Dec. 10 from 10-11 a.m. 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.

Cong. Beth Shalom Brandon

Tribute to Rabbi Torop: Congregants will honor and bid farewell to **Rabbi Betsy Torop** on Saturday, Dec. 16 at 7 p.m. as she embarks on a new rabbinic adventure. Havdalah will be followed by a program and festivities, including a latke dairy meal. Donations toward adding a boulder on the temple's Tree of Life honoring Rabbi Torop are appreciated. She has been spiritual leader of the congregation for 14 years and will remain in the Tampa Bay area as director of Rabbinic Support, Engagement and Growth for the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

Cong. Beth Am

Movie and crafts: The congregation's Craft Klatsch and Film Society will meet on Sunday, Dec. 10 from 12:30-2:30 p.m. to watch the movie, *The Hebrew Hammer*, followed by a discussion. Participants can also work on craft projects, whether it is knitting, crochet, painting or modge-podge. Bring your own supplies. Fellow crafters will be there to plan future themed sessions, if there is interest. Contact **Adam Shoemaker** for more information: adamshoe@yahoo.com

Havdalah on the beach: Say goodbye to Shabbat as the sun sets over the Gulf of Mexico at Pass-a-Grille beach on Saturday, Dec. 16 at 5 p.m. **Donna Huneycutt** and **Dr. Lauren Weiner** will meet participants beginning at 4:30 pm. at 10th Avenue and Gulf Way,

just south of Paradise Grill. All are welcome.

Go bowling: Join with other congregants on Sunday, Jan. 7 from 9-11 a.m. at Pin Chasers, 5555 W. Hillsborough Ave., Tampa. Unlimited bowling, shoes, bowling ball and breakfast bowl is included. There are only 25 spots available, so RSVP now to reserve a spot. The cost is \$8, and payable to Pin Chasers at their front desk that morning. RSVP before Dec. 27 to mcTreasurer@BethAmTampa.org. This event is sponsored by the Men's Club.

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. Schaarai Zedek

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 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 **Sherry Stein** at (813) 995-1394 or wizardexplorations@yahoo.com. The congregation will also send volunteers to the Children's Home, a residential facility for children in need, on Christmas morning to prepare and serve a breakfast for residents and staff. To participate, contact **Sherry Stein** at (813) 876-2377, ext. 212. Additionally, the congregation will send a contingent to Metropolitan Ministries on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day to serve a meal, but those volunteer slots are already filled.

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. The next classes are on Wednesdays Dec. 13 and 20 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. There is no charge 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: Dec. 13, Passover; and Dec. 20, Peoplehood holidays – Shavuot, Purim, Tisha B'Av and Israel's holidays. Call **Ming Brewer** to register at (813) 876-2377, ext. 202

Senior luncheon: **Jenny Kim-Godfrey** and **Dr. Jonathan Godfrey**, a musical husband and wife duo known as Corda Voce, will perform on Thursday, Dec. 21. Their performance intertwines the influences of cabaret, classical, jazz and popular music as their repertoire showcases Jonathan's guitar playing and Jenny's agile coloratura technique. Seating begins at 11:15 a.m. and the preschool children will perform at 11:30 a.m. There is no charge but reservations are needed.

RSVP to the temple office at (813) 876-2377 or email office@zedek.org.

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, Dec. 10.

Cong. Mekor Shalom

Bunco night: Roll, laugh, throw, chat and repeat at Bunco night on Thursday, Dec. 21 at 7 p.m. at Mekor Shalom.

Cong. Bais Menacham Chabad

Torah class: Join a weekly Torah class on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. at the University of Tampa. The class explores contemporary issues through a Torah perspective.

For more information, contact **Rabbi Levi Rivkin** at (813) 504-4432 or email bmchabad@gmail.com.

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Winter/Spring 2018 Program Calendar

Sunday, January 7, 2018
Baby Loves Disco & Tzedakah Dance Party!
10:00 - 11:30 am | Bryan Glazer Family JCC
522 N. Howard Avenue, Tampa, FL 33606
Dance the morning away; enjoy snacks, parachute play and featured PJ Library story book, *Jumping Jenny!*
Geared toward ages 6 months - 8 years.
FREE

SIGNATURE EVENT
Sunday, March 4, 2018
Family LEGO Building Mission & Pizza Dinner
4:30 - 6:30 pm | Bryan Glazer Family JCC
522 N. Howard Avenue, Tampa, FL 33606
70,000 LEGO blocks will be used to create the Kotel, David's Tower, the 2nd Temple, The Montefiore Windmill, all the Gates going into the Old City and 80 buildings inside the walls! Completion will be a 400 square foot model, exactly to scale!
PJ Library friends ages 5+ and their families are also welcome!
\$36 per family (up to 6) or \$12 for individual
RSVP to Brandy Gold at brandy.gold@jewishtampa.com

Sunday, May 6, 2018
Celebrate Lag B'Omer
6:30 - 8:00 pm | JCC on the Cohn Campus
13009 Community Campus Drive, Tampa, FL 33625
Come celebrate the holiday of Lag B' Omer, a festive day which is celebrated with family outings on which children traditionally play with bow and arrows, march in parades, and enjoy grand bonfires!
Geared towards ages 9 - 13 years.
FREE
In Collaboration with **Club J**

Sunday, February 11, 2018
Challah Twisting!
10:00 - 11:30 am | JCC on the Cohn Campus
13009 Community Campus Drive, Tampa, FL 33625
Twist, roll, knead and color! Make Challah; enjoy snacks, Shaboom video, "Why We Eat Challah" and coloring. Featured PJ Library book, *This is the Challah*.
Geared toward ages 6 months - 8 years.
FREE

Sunday, June 10, 2018
End of the Year Pool Party
9:00 - 11:00 am | Bryan Glazer Family JCC
522 N. Howard Avenue, Tampa, FL 33606
Kick-off the summer with the splashiest PJ Library Splash Pad Pool Party around! Games, music, snacks and lots of splashing around!
Geared toward ages 6 months - 8 years.
FREE

Sunday, February 11, 2018
Challah Baking & Tie Dying
1:00 - 4:00 pm | JCC on the Cohn Campus
13009 Community Campus Drive, Tampa, FL 33625
Bake Challah, Tie Dye T-Shirts & Pillow cases - one to keep, one to donate!
Geared towards ages 9 - 13 years.
\$10
(includes Challah & T-Shirt)

Sunday, April 22, 2018
Let's go to Israel!
12:00 - 4:00 pm | JCC on the Cohn Campus
13009 Community Campus Drive, Tampa, FL 33625
The community wide Israel Independence Day Celebration will have a special time and place set aside for our PJ Library friends to celebrate Israel's 70th Birthday!
Geared toward ages 6 months - 13 years.
FREE
(concessions & food available for purchase)

Sunday, June 10, 2018
Summer Pool Party
1:00 - 4:00 pm
Bryan Glazer Family JCC
522 N. Howard Avenue, Tampa, FL 33606
The summer starts with the ultimate PJ Pool Party! Pool games, contests and prizes, entertainment by DJ John Wendleken, hot dogs, cold treats and swimming in the pool.
FREE

Sunday, March 25, 2018
Movie Day
1:00 - 4:00 pm | Bryan Glazer Family JCC
522 N. Howard Avenue, Tampa, FL 33606
In collaboration with the Gasparilla International Film Festival showcasing the 22nd annual Tampa Bay Jewish Film Festival.
Geared towards ages 9 - 13 years.
\$5
(popcorn/water included)

Sunday, May 6, 2018
PJ Library celebrates Lag B'Omer
6:00 - 7:30 pm | JCC on the Cohn Campus
13009 Community Campus Drive, Tampa, FL 33625
Enjoy songs and stories around the bonfire with s'mores and arts & crafts and archery games. Featured PJ Library story book, *A Holiday for Ari Ant*.
Geared toward friends of all ages.
FREE
In Collaboration with **Club J**

More coming Fall 2018!

Here are eight new children's books for Hanukkah

By PENNY SCHWARTZ
JTA news service

BOSTON — Move over, potato latkes. Make room for dosas. The savory fried Indian lentil and rice pancakes take center stage in *Queen of the Dosas*, a gem of a new Hanukkah book by the award-winning children's writer Pamela Ehrenberg.

It's among eight new Hanukkah books for kids — one for each night of the holiday— sure to kindle the flames of imagination in young readers.

The bounty of this season's books travel the globe, from city life to wooded forests, with engaging — and many humorous — stories and dazzling illustrations that reflect the diversity in how Jewish families celebrate the holiday. Old World traditions mix it up with new rituals taking root in today's modern American Jewish families.

These new reads showcase the many ways Jewish families from all walks of life celebrate the Festival of Lights

**Way Too Many Latkes:
A Hanukkah in Chelm**

Linda Glaser; illustrated by Aleksandar Zolotic; ages 3-8

Oy vey! It's the first night of Hanukkah and Faigel, the best latke maker in the village of Chelm, forgot the recipe for her mouth-watering, sizzling potato pancakes. Her husband, Shmuel, races over to the village rabbi for advice. But what does the rabbi know about making latkes? This ticklishly fun adventure, set in the fictional Old World town of Chelm — the source of enduring Jewish storytelling — will have kids laughing as they wonder how Faigel and Shmuel solve their problem. Aleksandar Zolotic's large format, animation-style illustrations are perfectly paired for the lively story.

**Little Red Ruthie:
A Hanukkah Tale**

Gloria Koster; illustrated by Sue Eastland; ages 4-8

This uplifting spin on "Little Red Riding Hood" features a spirited young girl named Ruthie setting off on the eve of Hanukkah to visit her bubbe, so they can cook up potato latkes for the holiday. In the snow-packed forest Ruthie, bundled up in a bright red hooded parka, meets a not overly menacing-looking wolf. Ruthie summons her courage and smarts as she recalls the brave Maccabee heroes of Hanukkah who fought for religious freedom for the Jews in ancient Israel. But will Ruthie's clever schemes outsmart the hungry but foolish wolf, who has fun dressing up in bubbe's colorful clothing?

Queen of the Hanukkah Dosas
Pamela Ehrenberg; illustrated by Anjar Sarkar; ages 4-7

In this humor-filled tale, an endearing school-age boy in a multicultural Indian-Jewish family can hardly contain his enthusiasm for his family's special Hanukkah celebration of making dosas, Indian fried pancakes made with lentils, called dal, and rice. But his younger sister, Sadie, who can't resist her urge to climb on everything, may spoil the fun. Anjar Sarkar's colorful, cartoon-like illustrations add giggles and put readers in on the action. Recipes for Dosas and Sambar, a vegetable-based filling or dip for the

dosas, are included.

**The Missing Letters:
A Dreidel Story**

Renee Londner; illustrated by Iryna Bodnaruk; ages 4-9

Wooden dreidels come to life in this heartwarming page turner. On the eve of Hanukkah, in a dreidel maker's shop, there are some bad feelings among the Hebrew letters painted on the four-sided spinning toy. The nun, hey and shin are jealous of the gimel, considered the favorite letter in the game of chance, and decide to hide all of them. Among Iryna Bodnaruk's animated illustrations is a double-page spread that is like a puzzle; kids can follow clues to find where the gimels have been hidden.

**Hanukkah Harvie vs. Santa Claus:
The Christmukkah Kerfuffle**

David Michael Slater; illustrated by Michelle Simpson; ages 5-8

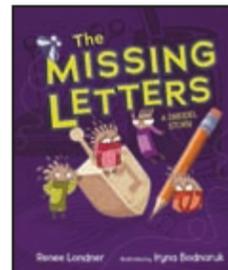
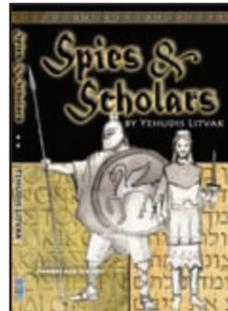
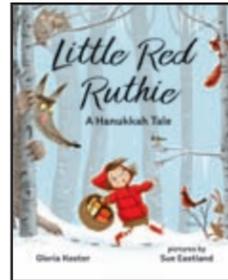
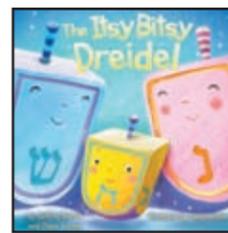
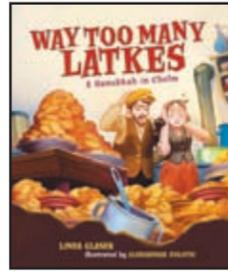
On the first night of Hanukkah, Hanukkah Harvie oils up his steampunk-like machinery to produce all the gifts he needs and

climbs aboard his flying Hanukopter to deliver eight nights of presents to children. Placing one family's presents next to their Hanukkah menorah, Harvie bumps into a red-suited jolly Santa Claus piling gifts under their Christmas tree. Harvey and Santa go on to discover some other homes with both menorahs and Christmas trees and get into a rollicking present-giving competition. A young girl who spies them in action puts the quarrelsome pair to shame, and let's them in on the joy of celebrating the two holidays happening at about the same time each year — thus the Christmukkah mashup.

**For toddlers:
The Itsy Bitsy Dreidel**

Jeffrey Burton and Chani Tor-now; illustrated by Sanja Rescek

A delightful read-aloud board book for the youngest kids who will enjoy the playful rhymes as the lively little dreidel celebrates Hanukkah. This is the latest in the upbeat Itsy Bitsy board book series that includes the "Itsy Bitsy Pilgrim," the "Itsy Bitsy Snow-



man," and others.

Grover's Eight Nights of Light

Jodie Shepherd; illustrated by Joe Mathieu

Young fans of Sesame Street enjoy a Hanukkah party at Grover's house along with their favorite Sesame Street characters. The book features lighting the menorah, eating latkes and playing dreidel. Stickers, Hanukkah cards and a poster with a Hanukkah party game are included.

**For teens:
Spies & Scholars**

The historical fiction adventure is set during the reign of the Greek King Antiochus in ancient Israel where the Maccabees are fighting the Greeks. The 200-page teen read is geared to Orthodox Jewish teen readers and published by Jewish Children's Book Club in conjunction with Torah Umesorah-National Society for Hebrew Day Schools.

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WITH THE POWER OF LIGHT



MONDAY, DECEMBER 18
KICKOFF: 8:30 PM

PREGAME TAILGATE
QUAD C - 7:00 PM

Join us as we celebrate Chanukah with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers!

Start the celebration with an exclusive pregame giant Menorah lighting at 7 p.m. featuring special guest, Buccaneers Co-Chairman Bryan Glazer. A special tailgate will follow, located at Quad C on the southeast corner of the stadium, complete with delicious latkes, doughnuts and dessert. Plus! Jam along with some Chanukah tunes as you enjoy a premium cash bar.

Enjoy discounted game tickets in both the Club and upper levels that include a special Buccaneers souvenir. Plus! Catch a replay of the menorah lighting during the game on the Stadium's BucVision video screens.

For more details and to purchase tickets click here or visit WWW.BUCCANEERS.COM/JHN

Or contact Rabbi Mendy Dubrowski at rmd@chabadchaicenter.com






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Photo courtesy of the Office of Eliot Engel
Rep. Eliot Engel is featured on a Kosovo postage stamp in what may be a first.

Why did this Muslim majority country put a Jewish congressman on a stamp?

By RON KAMPEAS
JTA news service

WASHINGTON – Rep. Eliot Engel has become the first U.S. congressman to be featured on a postage stamp in Kosovo.

Engel, a New York Democrat, may be the first Jewish member of Congress on a stamp, period. Bella Abzug helped inspire a 1999 stamp celebrating the women's rights movement, but the late New York Democrat's face isn't on it.

There's a Jewish story behind why a Muslim majority nation honored Engel this week with a two-euro stamp.

Engel was among a cadre of U.S. lawmakers and public figures who urged the Clinton administration to intervene during the Kosovo war in 1999, heading off what many feared would be a genocide of Kosovo's ethnic Albanians at the hands of Serbian strongman Slobodan Milosevic.

Many of the same figures were part of the push to recognize the Balkan state when it declared independence in 2008.

Among those out front in the push to protect Kosovo were Engel and Rep. Jerry Nadler, a fellow New York Democrat, along with Sen. Ben Cardin, D-MD, and two late congressmen, Reps. Tom Lantos and Ben Gilman, as well as the late Holocaust memoirist Elie Wiesel. Ask Kosovar Albanians why, and more often than not they'll explain that it's because the men are Jewish. Albanians saved Jews during the Holocaust, and Jews subsequently returned the favor in how it usually goes.

Engel is aware of the valor of Albanians during World War II. But he and others say they were haunted by America's reticence to intervene on behalf of the Jews during the Holocaust and driven not to repeat history.

"What do you see in terms of on the ground, the people there, do you see despair?" Engel asked an American fact-finding team at a 1998 hearing. "Is there a feeling that the United States has abandoned them?"

Engel's stamp was presented to him this week when he was in the country to help open an office of the Millennium Challenge Corp., a U.S. government assistance agency. Engel's office helped secure a \$49 million MCC grant for the country.

"I'm deeply honored and surprised that this was being done. I had no idea," Engel told JTA in an email message. "My work to promote the U.S.-Kosovo relationship has been among the most meaningful endeavors of my years in Congress. I'm happy to have helped people's lives and promote prosperity in the region."

It's not Engel's first honor in the country: In 2008, the town of Pec named a street for him.

15th Annual
President's Dinner



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Sunday, February 25, 2018



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Menorah Manor Celebrates its 32nd Annual Meeting

On Wednesday, November 8, 2017, trustees, donors and staff came together for Menorah Manor's 32nd Annual Meeting. The meeting highlighted the exciting accomplishments that were made during the past year.

One of the biggest successes of the year was the Operation Upgrade campaign, which made it possible to make major renovations to the 2nd and 3rd floors. The renovations include new living rooms, acoustic ceiling tiles and LED lighting,

decorative handrails and wall protection, luxury vinyl tile flooring, a fresh coat of paint on the walls, and beautiful new artwork.

Another major highlight from the year was how Menorah Manor staff pulled together to provide seamless care to residents during Hurricane Irma.

During the storm, Menorah Manor sheltered over 200 family members and staff, took care of their pets, offered child care services and provided

three meals a day. The emergency generators kicked in, ensuring that Menorah Manor never lost power. Life was business as usual for residents, who received uninterrupted care during the hurricane.

Rob Goldstein, chief executive officer, told the gathering: "You can never be thanked enough for your time and commitment. We could not accomplish all that we do without you. You make a huge difference and are owed much gratitude."



(L-R) Rob Goldstein, chief executive officer; Susie Berman, Menorah Manor Foundation chair; Joel Berman, new Menorah Manor Foundation Trustee



(L-R) Founders Association Members, Arnie Ross and Diane Ross; Judy Ludin, chief development and communications officer; Barry Kanner, Menorah Manor Chair.



(L-R) Phyllis Dorian Schoenberg; Marilyn Benjamin; Edie Seligman



(L-R) Ann Soble, Menorah Manor Foundation vice chair; Jim Soble; David Delrahim, Esq., Menorah Manor Treasurer



Adam Abelson, new Menorah Manor Foundation Trustee

Barbara Baughman, Menorah Manor Guild President; Rob Goldstein

2017-2018 Newly Elected Officers & Trustees

MENORAH MANOR

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(for re-election to a three-year term)
Ruth Glickman
Barry Kanner, Esq.
Eric Ludin, Esq.
Howard Miller, Esq.
David Wein, M.D.

NEW TRUSTEES

(for election to a two-year term)
Saul Rachelson
Linda Reimer

MENORAH MANOR FOUNDATION

OFFICERS

(for election to a two-year term)
Susie Berman, Chair
Ann Soble, Vice Chair
Brennan Hervey, Treasurer
Susie Schwartz, Secretary

NEW TRUSTEES

(for election to a three-year term)
Adam Abelson
Joel Berman
Phyllis Dorian Schoenberg

TRUSTEES

(for re-election to a three-year term)
Susie Berman
Gregory A. Fox, Esq.
Michael Gross
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Jan Sher
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Happy Hanukkah!



From the Abelson Family
Adam, Jeanie, David, Amy Leigh and Alan

Erin Brokovich to speak at Clearwater temple

Erin Brockovich, who became a household name following the self-titled movie that starred Julia Roberts in her Oscar winning role as the dogged legal researcher, will be the guest speaker Sunday, Jan. 7 at Temple B'nai Israel in Clearwater.

The program, "Truth. Humanity. Justice: Empowering Change with Erin Brockovich" is sponsored by the Women of Temple B'nai Israel. Brockovich, a consumer advocate, is known to inspire her audiences to stop feeling like spectators and start empowering change in their own backyards.

Some 17 years after the movie that showcased her determination to get justice and the largest medical lawsuit settlement in history for southern California families fighting against a behemoth utility, Brockovich's "stick-to-it-iveness" fuels her continued determination to expose injustice and lend her voice to those who do not have one.

"Erin Brockovich stands for who we are as a community. At a time when people need hope, when people want to feel like they can make a difference - a real life change agent can inspire and normalize being extraordinary, she will shine a light on the greatness within us all," said co-chair Becca Tieder.

Following the movie, Brockovich realized that



Erin Brokovich

she could use her notoriety to spread positive messages of personal empowerment and to encourage others to stand up and make a difference.

For three seasons, Brockovich hosted the Lifetime series, *Final Justice with Erin Brockovich*. The show celebrated everyday women who triumphed when faced with overwhelming adversity. She also has had a New York Times Business best-seller, *Take It from Me. Life's A Struggle, But You Can Win*.

As President of Brockovich Research & Consulting, she is currently involved in numerous environmental projects worldwide. She has requests for her help in ground water contamination complaints in every state of the US, Australia and other international hot spots.

This is the second year that the Women of Temple B'nai Israel has sponsored a speaker, focusing on empowerment.

"This program has become so important because it gathers 850 members of our community. All religions, identities, races and creeds come together with the hopes of building a better place to live and love. This evening is a powerful reminder that we all belong to one another," said event co-chair Katie Burns Blaxberg.

Tickets are \$40 and available by going to www.Eventbrite.com and searching under Erin Brockovich. The temple is located at 1685 S. Belcher Road, Clearwater. For more information, call the temple office at (727) 531-5829.

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\$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

Sponsored by:



Comic rabbi coming to Beth Shalom in Brandon

Rabbi Bob Alper, who bills himself as the only practicing clergyman doing standup comedy... intentional, will bring his *shtick* to Congregation Beth Shalom in Brandon on Jan. 6.



Rabbi Bob Alper

Alper credits his unique background - he's an ordained rabbi who served congregations for 14 years and holds a doctorate from Princeton Theological Seminary - prepared him well for a 27-year comedy career with wonderful material presented in a way that's intelligent, sophisticated, and 100 percent clean.

His 90-minute stand-up act is fast-paced, with material that's definitely sharp yet gentle and un hurtful.

In addition to being a full-time stand-up comic and conducting annual High Holyday services, Alper is the author of three books: *Life Doesn't Get Any Better Than This*, an inspirational collection that the *Detroit Free Press* called "a volume of spiritual gems;" the award-winning full-color cartoon book *A Rabbi Confesses*; and the recently-published *Thanks. I Needed That*, more stories that touch readers with their warmth, humor, and wisdom. He's also produced two best-selling comedy CDs as well as a DVD. His routines can often be heard on Sirius/XM satellite radio, sandwiched in between Jerry Seinfeld and Bob Newhart.

Alper resides in rural Vermont with his wife Sherri, a psychotherapist.

Doors open for the show at 6 p.m. at the temple, 706 Bryan Rd. Brandon, with the laughter starting at 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door and may be purchased online at www.bethshalom-brandon.org. For more information, call (813) 681-6547.

chic attire

Tickets on sale for 15th Annual President's Dinner

Tickets are now available for the 15th Annual President's Dinner featuring keynote speaker Frank Luntz, a pioneering pollster and political pundit.

At the Feb. 25 dinner, he will offer "words that work:" actionable and empowering solutions to combat anti-Semitism and Boycott/Divestment/ Sanctions movement.

Once a year, the community members and leaders of the Greater Tampa community gather to toast the vibrancy and success of the Tampa Jewish Federation. The Annual President's Dinner is an elegant evening hosted at the Bryan Glazer Family JCC featuring a cocktail reception and seated dinner and top-notch speaker.

Heading into its 15th year, the event boasts a long list of formidable speakers including Israel's Permanent Representative to the UN (2011-2015), Amb. Ron

Prosor; former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak; past U.S. secretaries of state, Gen. Colin L. Powell and Madeleine Albright; former U.S. Ambassador to Israel Dennis Ross; former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and columnists David Brooks and Thomas Friedman; historian Doris Kearns Goodwin and journalist Cokie Roberts.

Event co-chairs Carol Jaffe and David Rosenbach ask folks to register for the event soon.

Formal invitations will be reaching the community shortly, however, reservations can be made at www.jewishtampa.com/APD.

Tickets are \$180 with patron tickets, \$300. Tickets for young adults ages 35 and under are \$90.

For more information, contact Michelle Gallagher at michelle.gallagher@jewishtampa.com or (813) 739-1687.

PLAYWRIGHT

• CONTINUED from FRONT PAGE

David M. Jenkins and the pool of 13 artistic associates, core members of Jobsite Theater, will spend the next few weeks coming together to find a suitable alternate for the production of *Man in Snow*, which was slated to go up in March 2018.

"My heart is broken right now," Jenkins said. "I am absolutely gutted. Israel has become like a father to me over the past few years, and I have learned more from him than I can possibly put into words right now. To say I feel betrayed would be a gross understatement, and my heart goes out to the victims who have lived with this for so many years and the pain they must be experiencing all over again."

The company, having both harassment and whistleblower policies already in place, intends to do an investigation of their own into prior collaborations to ensure that there were no similar incidents in previous years.

Horovitz, 78, has written more than 70 plays in a career spanning more than 50 years. In Tampa, Jobsite Theater has performed several of his plays and conducted staged readings of his works and he has come here for short-term residencies to help with the productions and do talk-back sessions.

He splits his time between the U.S. and France. Horovitz is the father of Beastie Boys band member Adam Horovitz.

Among Horovitz's best known plays are *Line*, *Park Your Car in Harvard Yard*, *The Primary English Class*, *The Widow's Blind Date* and *The Indian Wants the Bronx*. His play, *Lebensraum*, which was performed in Tampa in January 2016, deals with a post-Holocaust question: What if 6 million Jews were invited back to Germany? Horovitz's screenwriting credits include *James Dean* starring James Franco and *Author! Author!*, a mostly biographical movie with Al Pacino.

"The nine women who spoke with the *Times* described Horovitz as a complicated man who was, at times, a charismatic mentor and empathic friend," the *Times* wrote. "He taught at several universities and nur-

tured young writers, was generous with his wisdom and dazzled with tales of his famous friends."

Horovitz responded to the newspaper that while he has "a different memory of some of these events, I apologize with all my heart to any woman who has ever felt compromised by my actions, and to my family and friends who have put their trust in me. To hear that I have caused pain is profoundly upsetting, as is the idea that I might have crossed a line with anyone who considered me a mentor."

Adam Horovitz backed the women.

"I believe the allegations against my father are true," he said in a statement, "and I stand behind the women that made them."

The Gloucester Stage, a Massachusetts regional theater where Horovitz was artistic director, cut ties with him a week earlier as at least one of the accusations surfaced.

In 1993, the *Boston Phoenix* published an article in which 10 unnamed women accused Horovitz of sexual harassment and assault. At the time the Gloucester Stage board's president, Barry Weiner, dismissed the allegations and described some of the accusers cited as "tightly wound."

On Thursday, Nov. 30, the current Gloucester Stage board president, Liz Neumeier, released a statement announcing that Horovitz had resigned as the organization's founding artistic director.

"When we recently learned that our founding artistic director, Israel Horovitz, has been accused of sexually assaulting a young actor in NYC - repeating conduct he allegedly engaged in here at GSC decades ago - we were appalled," Neumeier said in the statement. "Israel denied the allegations and asked to meet with the full Board. After he was unable to attend the meeting, he resigned and is no longer an ex-officio member of the board of directors."

"Our hearts go out to the many women who are, once again, reliving the harassment and assaults they endured. We recognize that in the past their reports were grossly mishandled. The Board is united and committed to ensuring that such behavior does not take place at Gloucester Stage and we will take any reports seriously."

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New lions who were pinned at the luncheon include (L-R) Debbie Hoffman, Sabrina Solomon, Karen Levy, Kat Kislak.



Stacy Leeds, Lion of Judah chair, with speaker Rabbi Shira Stutman

Rabbi inspires Lions of Judah at Women's Philanthropy kickoff

When guest speaker Rabbi Shira Stutman addressed women at the Tampa Jewish Federation's Lion of Judah luncheon, she stressed, "It's not just important to be Jewish. We have to do Jewish, as well."

The event, at Ocean Prime in Tampa, was held to kick off the Women's Philanthropy annual campaign. Through her talk, Rabbi Stutman motivated the Lions to re-examine their daily Jewish

practices and contemplate what communal, professional or religious involvements create a sense of fulfillment.

She went on to speak about how Tribal Judaism, the practice of Judaism that revolves around traditional norms or religious observations simply because it is "the right thing to do," has sustained us for many millennia.

Rabbi Stutman explained that this practice is waning among younger generations and we can consider this shift a challenge – or an opportunity. She stressed that this apparent shift provides an opportunity for us all to turn toward Judaism for clues and instructions on how to live a more reflective, involved, world-changing, meaningful life. "Lesson #1: It's not happiness that makes life meaningful. It's a meaningful life that makes us happy."

Rabbi Stutman is senior rabbi at Washington D.C's Sixth & I Historic Synagogue, a multi-denominational congregation. A graduate from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in 2007, she dedicates herself to building a Jewish community for young professionals in the nation's capital. She serves as scholar-in-residence for the National Women's Philanthropy of the Jewish Federations of North America.

"The event provided such a nice opportunity not only for Lions to come together. It also reinforced the reasons for which we give so generously to the Tampa Jewish Federation," said Stacy Leeds, Lion of Judah chair. "By giving to causes near and dear to our hearts, we feel fulfilled."

Those interested in exploring how to become a Lion of Judah should contact Alissa Fischel at alissa.fischel@jewishtampa.com or (813) 769-4726.

PLO office can stay open for peace purpose

(JTA) – The Trump administration will allow the Palestine Liberation Organization office in Washington, D.C., to remain open but will require it to "limit its activities to those related to achieving a lasting, comprehensive peace between the Israelis and Palestinians."

The State Department announced the decision on Nov. 24, saying the restrictions could be lifted after 90 days if the United States determines the Israelis and Palestinians are engaged in "meaningful" peace negotiations.

Earlier this last month, the administration announced that the PLO cannot operate a Washington office because it tried to convince the International Criminal Court to prosecute Israelis for crimes against Palestinians. It was the first time since the 1980s that the State Department refused to renew certification of the PLO's office in the U.S. capital, which must be done every six months.

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Organizations

Hadassah

Save the date: The Tampa Ameet Chapter of Hadassah will host its 2018 Associates Award Dinner on Thursday, Jan. 11, at 7 p.m. Featured speaker will be **Stewart Greenberg**, a trial lawyer and active member of the Miami Beach area Jewish community, who credits a doctor at the Hadassah Medical Organization in Israel for saving his life by administering a unique immunotherapy vaccine for his Stage 4 melanoma. For more information including location and cost, contact **Michele Norris** at (813) 352-8765.

Active Adults

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.

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.

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 Dec. 13.

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.

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 group will meet on Wednesday, Dec. 20 for a program by **Mario De Leon** on music from around the world. The lunch

is free for members but donations are welcome.

The JetSetters group also meets on the Cohn campus on Wednesday, Dec. 13 from 11 a.m. to noon for a special Hanukkah celebration with **Patti Rinner** and the JCC Preschoolers. The lunch is free for members. Reservations are required.

News schmooze: A discussion group, led by **Pat Renfro**, 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 Florida politics on Dec. 12 and "What is Possible in 2018" on Dec. 19.

The group at the Cohn campus, meets the second and fourth Friday from 10:30 a.m. to noon. The group will talk about "What is Possible in 2018" on Dec. 22. There is no charge to attend.

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.

Bridge lessons: Anyone wanting to learn how to play bridge or improve their game can take a session of six bridge lessons at the Glazer JCC on Fridays from Dec. 22 through Jan. 26 from 1-2:30 p.m. The cost for classes is \$50 for members and \$60 for non-members.

Movie matinee: Enjoy a classic movie and popcorn on Wednesday, Jan. 3 from 10 a.m. to noon on the Cohn campus. There is no charge to attend.

Culture Café: Enjoy craft beer and music at "Culture Café: A Beginner's Guide to Loving Jazz," on Tuesday, Jan. 16 from 7-8:30 p.m. at Glazer JCC.

This is a multi-media exploration of jazz from the fan's perspective, focusing on the career of Miles Davis. Cost per session is \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members.

Young adults

Whiffleball tournament: on Wednesday, Dec. 20 from 7:30 -10 p.m., #Gather will host a whiffleball tournament at the Bryan Glazer Family JCC basketball gym. Participants will be assigned to one of the four teams. This is free for JCC members and \$5 for guests.

Genealogical Society

Lunch and learn: The Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay will meet for a lunch and learn social on Sunday, Dec.

10 at noon at Gulf Coast Jewish Family & Community Services, 14041 Icot Blvd., Clearwater. A pot luck luncheon will be served at noon followed by a brief business meeting at 1:30 p.m. to elect and install new officers. The program will feature members' "success stories" and "lessons learned" in researching their families. There is no charge to members, \$5 for guests for lunch. Reservations must be made by Dec. 2 to ensure there will be ample food for those attending. RSVP by calling **Sally Israel** at (727) 343-1652.

For further information on the Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay or directions to the meeting call **Bruce Hadburg** at (727) 796-7981.

Job-Links

Career counseling: On Monday, Dec. 11, the topic for the Monday Morning Links program is "LinkedIn Tips for Professional Marketing" and on Dec. 18 the topic is "Celebrate Your Gifts & Talents." The free 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. 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 Dec. 14, from 9:30 a.m. to noon, the topic will be "Customize Your Résumé for the Job You Want" and on Dec. 21 from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. the topic is "Preparing for Your Interview." 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.



Photo by Jennifer Velt

Yael Hatfield displays a donated framed photograph taken by her 13-year-old son, Nevin. It brought in \$180 for Mekor Shalom.

Charity auction raises more than \$5k for Mekor Shalom

The fifth annual Charity Clem Auction, a live auction and the biggest fundraiser of the year for Congregation Mekor Shalom, netted a profit of \$5,216 for the small Tampa congregation recently.

"It was a lot of hard work but everyone had so much fun," said **Andrea Zuta**, who chaired the auction. Zuta gave a special shout to

event volunteers **Barbara Felder**, **Wendy** and **Larry Koppelman**, **Nicky Spivak**, **Jodi Freeman**, **Donna Provda**, **Yael Hatfield** and **Cindy Sherr**.

Auction items came from area attractions, theaters and restaurants along with donations from individuals such as photographs, knitted pieces and a mezuzah.

Philly breaks ground on \$7m Holocaust memorial

(JTA) – Philadelphia Mayor **Jim Kenney** was on hand for the groundbreaking for his city's \$7 million Holocaust memorial plaza. Pennsylvania Attorney General **Josh Shapiro** also participated in the groundbreaking ceremony on Tuesday, Nov. 28.

The plaza, a project of the Philadelphia Holocaust Remembrance Foundation, is scheduled to be completed next fall.

"In light of the toxic national rhetoric, it's more important than ever that we properly commemorate the victims of the tragedy and never forget this dark period of history," Kenney said at the groundbreaking.

The plaza will feature six pillars erected in memory of the 6 million Jewish victims of the Holocaust, with each pillar chronicling a Holocaust atrocity and contrasting it with American constitutional protections and values. Original train tracks from the railroad adjacent to the Treblinka death camp will be embedded in the pavement near the "Theresienstadt tree," a sapling of the tree nurtured by children in the Theresienstadt camp.

A bronze Six Million Jewish Martyrs sculpture has memorialized the Holocaust in Philadelphia since 1964, and was the first such public monument in North America, according to the foundation.

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Obituaries

SAMMY BOBO, 83, of Tampa, died Nov. 17. Born in Macon, GA, he moved to Tampa in 1947 from New York. He was the owner of the Blue Ribbon Supermarket in Ybor City from 1947 until 2000. He was a tireless participant in all facets of Jewish and secular life in Tampa and was honored many times locally and worldwide for his philanthropy, service and dedication. A member of Congregation Rodeph Sholom, he was past president of the synagogue and its Men's Club. He helped to restructure the Chessed Shel Emes and establish Jewish Memorial Gardens. He served in the National Guard. Survivors include his wife of 53 years, Rieva; children Ralph, Sam and Sheryl Bobo, Silvia and Meyer Weitzman, Sheri and Matt Gable, Debora Bobo and Debbie Williams; his siblings, Latifa Cohen, Chella Bobo, Pauline Rophie, Sam Marcadis, Ezra and Gloria Bobo and Jerry Breslaw; and 10 grandchildren. The family suggests memorials be made to Congregation Rodeph Sholom or to Ring14USA.com to fund research. (Segal Funeral Home, Beth David Chapel)

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How to add some competitive excitement to your Hanukkah party

By RACHEL JARMAN MYERS
Southern & Jewish via JTA

With Hanukkah enmeshed in the Christmas season, it's tough to compete with the epic candy cane, hot chocolate, caroling, bright-cheery-Santa holiday festivities that dominate the seasonal parties and events. That's why Hanukkah needs a competitive edge ... by including an actual competition in our holiday celebrations.

No, not just the annual dreidel game – it gets pretty boring after awhile, right? I've found that adding a trophy to any gathering really ups the level of engagement. For my office birthday party one year, I chose to engage my colleagues in a pie competition (the winner was a classic chocolate pie, but most creative went to the French fry pie), and each year my husband and I host a backyard barbecue competition that draws hundreds of hungry attendees and about a dozen serious competitors vying for those glorious trophies.

For Hanukkah, we'll be game-ifying the best of Southern traditions: frying food.

Here's some tips on how to encourage a little competition at your own Hanukkah party this year:

Build excitement: The invitations go out encouraging guests to bring a latke batter of their choosing to fry at the party and share with a group of hungry judges. I usually include a few informative links for those who have never had the pleasure of crafting the perfect latke. Then I encourage the creativity: Sweet Potato Latkes. Carrot and Beet Latkes. Hushpuppy

Latkes. The options are endless when it comes to frying fritters.

Work on your prizes: Trophy toppers are easy to order online. My husband has a great talent for mounting them and getting official plates printed for each category. Or scour a few thrift shops for some old trophies that you can



A sizzling contest to find the best latkes might be just the thing to spice up your Hanukkah celebration.

spray-paint and customize. The more the better: It's the holidays, everyone can get a trophy!

Set up the stations: Because the weather is generally quite mild down South for Hanukkah, we are able to host this event outdoors. We set up a few different frying stations, and as competitors arrive they cook up their recipe in skillets and present them hot and fresh to whoever is standing close enough to the pan. We've found that a giant cast-iron skillet on a camp stove matched with a few electric griddles works best.

Celebrate enthusiastic participation: Competition usually involves friendly banter, hype music and a blow horn or two. I recommend playing the "Hanukkah Project" by Special Passenger Records to get spirits soaring. At the end of

the night the votes are tallied, the trophies presented, and our group remembers another holiday event where little Hanukkah can stand out among the punch bowls and

twinkle lights.

Rachel Jarman Myers is the museum and special projects coordinator for the Goldring/Wolden-

berg Institute of Southern Jewish Life in Jackson, MS. Southern & Jewish blog celebrates the stories, people, and experiences – past and present – of Jewish life in the American South. It is hosted by the Institute of Southern Jewish Life.

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Making an impact

Young adults from the Tampa Bay area came together in early November for a Newcomer Nosh, an initiative of IMPACT, a community of young adults, ages 20s, 30s and 40s. They share a commitment and passion for Tikkun Olam (Repairing the World) and building a strong Jewish community with the Tampa Jewish Federation. The event was hosted in the South Tampa home of Brian and Carlyn Neuman.



(L-R) Stuart Brownstein, Devon Francke, Simone Schectmann, and Lindsay Slavin

Making connections

This fall, the Tampa JCCs & Federation rolled out #Gather, a mix of social and interactive activities designed to help young adults to make authentic connections. The activities are open to young adults of all faiths and backgrounds and promoted through the JCC on the Cohn Campus and Bryan Glazer Family JCC. #Gather experiences will continue in 2018.



Jonathan Singer and Cory Kleinman go head to head in a fierce game of bubble hockey at Games & Brews at the Lowry Parcade & Tavern in Tampa.



(L-R) Carlyn Neuman chats with Joshua and Jennifer Pacheco



#Gather babka mavens baked more than 30 cinnamon, Nutella and chocolate varieties of the sweet treat during a class taught by Petit Piquant Bakery chefs Rosana Rivera and Ricardo Castro (front row). Back row, L-R: Ariel Elul, Lauren Patrusky, Ashley Gerchikov, Alexandra Vodenicharska, Robin Vidars, Erin Sheidler, Liliya and Alan Passman, and Diana Lott. Not pictured: Steven Shapiro and Gabriela Cao.

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• CONTINUED from FRONT PAGE

by international contemporary artists. The collection has some 185 menorahs, according to Adriana Ottolenghi, whose husband, Giorgio, has been president of Casale's Jewish community since the 1950s. There is no other museum in the world quite like it.

"We receive more every year, and each year at Hanukkah there is a public ceremony, where we light menorahs and welcome the new pieces," she said.

Only 30 to 40 can be displayed at a time in the vaulted underground chambers. The only time the collection was shown in its entirety was at Casale's centuries-old castle, part of an event connected to the 2015 Milan Expo.

The Museum of Lights' hanukkiyot come in an amazing variety of shapes, sizes, colors and media. Many resemble traditional menorahs: a straight line of candles or a candelabra with eight branches, with a ninth branch for the "shamash" candle used to kindle them. Some of the menorahs can be lighted and used on the holiday.

But other menorahs on display are more fanciful sculptural works created from the likes of metal, ceramic, plexiglass and wood.

"Artists were given a completely free rein to create a functional object or a purely evocative one," curator Maria Luisa Caffarelli wrote in the collection's catalog.

Each menorah is what designer Elio Carmi, who co-founded the collection in the mid-1990s with the non-Jewish artist Antonio Recalcati and other artist friends, describes as an "homage to the story of Hanukkah" and its message of the triumph of light over darkness.

They conceived the project as a way to highlight Jewish culture as a source of artis-



Above, the picturesque town of Casale Monferrato, located about 190 miles west of Venice in the Piedmont region of Italy. The synagogue, right, dates to the 16th century. The building houses a Jewish art and history museum as well as the Museum of Lights, a year-round display of nearly 200 menorah.



Wikimedia Commons

tic inspiration, promote creativity based in Jewish tradition and underscore the vitality of Jews in contemporary society.

"The idea was born to show that Jews, though small in number, are determined," said Carmi, who is the vice president of the Casale Jewish community, "and to use interpretations of the Hanukkah menorah to demonstrate, symbolically, the continuity of the community."

At Hanukkah, Jews light menorahs for eight days to recall the defeat by the Maccabees of Syrian tyrants in the second century BCE. According to legend, when the Maccabees reclaimed the Temple, the eternal light miraculously burned for eight days rather than the expected one, symbolizing the survival of the Jewish people.

Each menorah in the museum is a personal interpretation of the Festival of Lights

and its symbolism. The Italian artist Stefano Della Porta, for example, used ceramics and steel to create a menorah that appears to be made from giant burnt matches. American-born artist Robert Carroll created his menorah from olive wood, red Verona granite and brass. It has a sinuous, trunk-like base that supports eight branches that open out like a flower, each supporting a candle.

Carmi and his friends provided the first hanukkiyot for the project — Carmi's was a silver-plated metal bar with small cups for the eight candles and the shamash — and then reached out to others for contributions.

Other artists — Jews and non-Jews, mainly from Italy but also from other countries — soon began making their own menorahs and presenting them to the growing collection. All of the works are donated, most of them by the artists themselves.

"It was like a chain of artists," Carmi said. "And well-known artists began to be attracted."

Among those is Arnaldo Pomodoro, one of Italy's leading sculptors. His menorah, presented in 2013, is a horizontal metal



Corrado Bononi 2005

girder that supports the nine candles and is decorated with abstract symbols.

"I tried to bring out a series of abstract, imaginary signs to create a story that would connect, on a general level, with the idea of thought, experience and memory; without, however, wanting to enter into the multifaceted complexities of the symbology of the Jewish world," Pomodoro describes in the catalog.

Ultimately, Carmi said, the Museum of Lights is about "Judaism, art and identity."



Salvatore Greco, 1998

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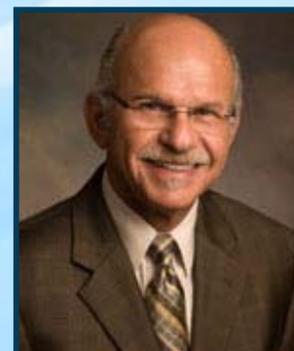
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