

# Jewish film fest to add reach with new partnership

The Tampa Bay Jewish Film Festival and the Suncoast Credit Union Gasparilla International Film Festival (GIFF) have agreed to a partnership that will create one of the largest film festivals in Florida.

From March 20-25, the newly combined six-day event will showcase over 150 films, which is expected to attract more than 25,000 attendees in both Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties.

Venues will include Tampa Theatre, AMC Centro Ybor, Bryan Glazer Family JCC, AMC Sundial, AMC Palm Harbor and Largo Cultural Center.

"Combining efforts with the Jewish Film Festival allows us to leverage each other's reach and resources to put Tampa Bay on the map for having one of the largest film festivals in the South-

east," said Joseph Alexander, board president of Tampa Film Institute, Inc., which oversees GIFF.

The logo for this year's Tampa Bay Jewish Film Festival (at left) has been updated to reflect the change.

"This collaboration exposes the broader Tampa Bay Film community to the vast array of offerings that our two festivals provide," said Heidi Shimberg, chief operating officer of Tampa JCCs.

The Tampa JCCs and Federation and the Jewish Federation of Pinellas and Pasco Counties are co-sponsors of the Tampa Bay Jewish Film Festival.

Emilie Socash, executive director of the Pinellas/Pasco Federation, said the Jewish portion of the film festival will

**PARTNERSHIP continued on PAGE 7**



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# Tampa synagogue leader, PR executive slain in Afghanistan hotel terror attack

By BOB FRYER  
Jewish Press

Glenn Selig of Tampa, president of Congregation Mekor Shalom, former investigative reporter for WTVT-Channel 13 and owner of a high profile public relations firm, was among 22 people killed when Taliban terrorists attacked the Intercontinental Hotel in Kabul, Afghanistan on Jan. 20.

Selig, 50, is survived by his wife Charyn, daughter Drew, 15, and son Josh, 13, all of Tampa.

Selig was one of four Americans who died after a small group of Taliban wearing suicide vests stormed the hotel, beginning a 13-hour siege. News reports said that the attackers targeted foreigners and Afghan officials who were there for a conference. During the siege, a portion of the hotel went up in flames and multiple explosions could be heard as security forces battled with the attackers, all of whom were killed. Video showed people trying to escape by tying bedsheets together and climbing down the side of the 6-story luxury hotel. Besides those who died in the attack, about 150 were injured.

"Glenn was in Kabul on a potential success story involving Afghanistan and its steps to battle extremism. The focus was highlighting the country's new president



With the Tampa skyline behind him, Glenn Selig appears on the "Good Morning Britain" television program in 2015. Known for taking on controversial clients, former TV host Nancy Grace called him a "PR guru." On his softer side, Selig created websites with parenting advice for dads.

and constructing a democracy forum event for Afghani women," SeligMultimedia spokesman Adam Farragut said.

"From the information we've been given we're unable to determine if Glenn was targeted because of his faith," Farragut added.

On Jan. 14, less than a week before he died, Selig was re-elected president of Mekor Shalom, a small Conservative congregation in the Carrollwood area.

"So honored and thankful to be the synagogue president," he wrote on the synagogue's Facebook page last Thanksgiving.

Selig had already served two years as president and this year, to ensure a smooth transition when his new term was to end, bylaws were changed to create a position of president elect, filled by Yael Hatfield.

Both Hatfield and the congregation's

**SELIG continued on PAGE 9**



At the 35th Annual Planning and Design Awards ceremony, the Hillsborough County Planning Commission recognized the Bryan Glazer Family JCC for the facility's contributions to a better quality of life in the community. Accepting the award were: David Scher, second from right, representing the JCCs and Federation; and FleichmanGarcia personnel (L-R) Duane Wright, project manager; Virginia Larrea, graduate architect/licensed interior designer; Sol Flesichman Jr., founder and CEO; and John Cutler Kelly, company president.

# Glazer JCC racks up awards for design, construction

Since opening Dec. 8, 2016, the Bryan Glazer Family JCC has not only become a community hub, but the facility has picked up accolades for those who helped conceptualize and renovate the historic Fort Homer Hesterly Armory in West Tampa.

Tampa JCCs and Federation officials say it cost \$31 million to transform the long-vacant and aging building – it opened the day after Pearl Harbor was attacked in 1941 – into today's vibrant multi-use facility, which

has been called "the communal heartbeat" and a "YMCA on steroids."

The Federation agreed from the start to preserve much of the art-deco exterior. A leaky roof was replaced and scores of windows with small panes and aging frames were restored to keep the exterior look, yet weatherproofed to today's standards. The armory's seal, embedded in the floor and emblazoned with the motto

**AWARDS continued on PAGE 3**

# Synagogues in Philadelphia and Boston make Super Bowl wager

They are calling it the Tzedakah Super Bowl Wager Congregation Rodeph Shalom of Philadelphia and Temple Israel of Boston are making a friendly bet on next week's Super Bowl for charity.

The synagogue from the city of the losing team will donate 18 times the point difference in the final score to the charity of the other synagogue's choice.

Rodeph Shalom has chosen Philly Youth Basketball, which empowers youth as students, athletes and leaders. Temple Israel has chosen the CTE Center at Boston University Medical Center, which conducts high-impact, innovative research on the long-term consequences of repetitive brain trauma in athletes and military personnel. Both synagogues also urged their congregants to donate to the charities ahead of the Super Bowl.

There are cross-city Jewish ties on each side of the upcoming game. Philadelphia Eagles owner Jeff Lurie, who grew up in Newton, MA, attended Temple Israel of Boston as a child. He is a former Patriots season ticket holder and reportedly was outbid by current Patriots owner Robert Kraft in an effort to purchase the team, WHDH Boston reported. Meanwhile, Temple Israel's Associate Rabbi Matt Soffer is from Philadelphia and remains an Eagle's fan. He grew up going to Congregation Rodeph Shalom.

# At LA Women's March, Natalie Portman recalls 'sexual terrorism' after 1st film

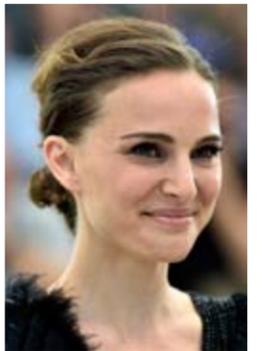
Actress Natalie Portman told thousands of marchers at the Women's March Los Angeles that she experienced "sexual terrorism" at the age of 13 following the release of her first movie.

The Israeli-born actress said her first fan letter after the release of *The Professional*, in which she played a young girl who befriended a hit man in hopes of avenging the murder of her parents, was from a man describing his "rape fantasy" involving the young actress.

Portman, 36, said she rejected movie roles including a kissing scene, began to dress in an "elegant" style, and built a reputation as a "prudish, conservative, nerdy, serious" young woman "in an attempt to feel that my body was safe and that my voice would be listened to."

"At 13 years old, the message from our culture was clear to me," Portman said. "I felt the need to cover my body and to inhibit my expression and my work in order to send my own message to the world that I'm someone worthy of safety and respect. The response to my expression, from small comments about my body to more threatening deliberate statements, served to control my behavior through an environment of sexual terrorism."

In November, Portman was named the winner of the 2018 Genesis Prize, the so-called Jewish Nobel, and said the \$1 million prize will go to programs that focus on advancing women's equality.



# William Hauben – cantor, author, teacher, survivor – dies at 95

By BOB FRYER  
Jewish Press

Although the Nazis killed his family and his life was in constant peril during World War II, William Hauben survived – despite imprisonment in four concentration camps – and went on to live a full life.

He spent nearly half a century in Tampa, including 20 years as cantor at Congregation Rodeph Shalom. He

was also known as a teacher and author.

Cantor Hauben died on Jan. 20 at the age of 95. He is survived by his son, Sheldon, of Miami.

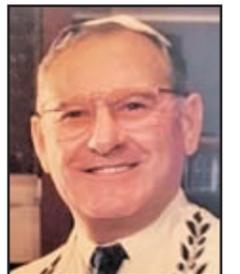
He was born in 1922 in Cracow, Poland, and by age 4 his parents said he was destined for a life of music, which Hauben speculated came from his paternal grandfather and from his father, who played violin.

He began singing in the synagogue choir at age 6, then he studied cantorial art under the tutelage of prominent cantors until he became a soloist with a beautiful alto voice.

After Nazis invaded Poland, his family was sent to a ghetto in Cracow and eventually his parents and younger brother were sent to death camps and perished. Hauben was an apprentice electrician, so the Nazis put him

to work in the Plaszow concentration camp. In time, the Germans learned of his singing talent and forced him to perform at their social events. As the war wore on, he was transferred to the Gross-Rosen death camp in Poland, the Ludwigsdorf death camp in Austria and finally to Ebensee in Austria, where he and others were liberated by the Americans.

**HAUBEN continued on PAGE 14**



Cantor William Hauben

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### Aid group: One third of Holocaust survivors in U.S. live in poverty

(JTA) – One-third of Holocaust survivors in the United States continue to live at or below the poverty line, according to an aid organization.

The Blue Card, which provides financial assistance to survivors, reported the statistic ahead of International Holocaust Remembrance Day on Jan. 27. Last year, the same proportion of survivors were at or below the poverty line, according to CNN.

The 2018 report also said that 61 percent of the 100,000 survivors in the United States live on less than \$23,000 a year, or double the poverty line. The median income for individuals in the U.S. was about \$31,000 in 2016.

Blue Card said it sees requests for aid grow 20 percent annually. Three quarters of the approximately 3,000 survivors the group aids are older than 75, and saw a 10 percent increase this year in aid requests for survivors battling cancer.

“For those senior citizens that survived the atrocities of the Holocaust, many are struggling to make ends meet in the face of a growing number of medical issues, the rising cost of living and challenges navigating the health system,” said Blue Card Executive Director Masha Pearl. “The time to help is now.”

Separately, the Jewish Federations of North America announced \$2.8 million in grants to 30 organizations that provide “person-centered, trauma-informed” supportive services to Holocaust survivors in the United States.

JFNA, through its Center for Advancing Holocaust Survivor Care, will distribute \$2.2 million to 21 organizations for new projects and an additional \$662,500 to last year’s awardees to sustain ongoing programs. Combined with matching funds required by the grant, the funding for Holocaust survivor services will total \$4 million.

JFNA launched the Center for Advancing Holocaust Survivor Care in 2015, following an award from the United States Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Community Living for up to \$12 million over five years.

“It is critical that we deliver these lifesaving and life-enhancing services to Holocaust survivors. The past two years of this federal grant program have shown the deep impact that person-centered, trauma-informed services can have on Holocaust survivors. We are grateful to partner with the government to augment this work,” said Mark Wilf, chair of JFNA’s National Holocaust Survivor Initiative.

# Sip and Skype Series

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**Sunday, February 18 • 7:00 PM**  
**Pam Jenoff, *The Orphan's Tale***

Jenoff, a featured author in Tampa’s Jewish Book Festival several years ago, is the author of *The Kommandant's Girl*, which was an international bestseller, and seven other novels. Her books are based on her time working at the Pentagon and as a diplomat for the State Department handling Holocaust issues in Poland. *The Orphan's Tale* is inspired by a true story of a German circus which hid a young woman fleeing the Nazis and a baby she rescued from a boxcar containing dozens of Jewish infants bound for a concentration camp.

**Sunday, March 11 • 10:30 AM**  
**Anita Mishook, *Helen***

When Helen left New York on a train bound for California in 1936, she was looking for a change of scene; planning to stay with her sister in Glendale. Mishook’s well-researched and brilliantly written debut novel transports us to a world of bookies, mobsters and a pro-Nazi underworld which is planning a headquarters for Hitler near the Los Angeles coast. The book arose from Mishook’s exploration of her family’s background and her skills from her career as a forensic psychologist.

**Sunday, April 22 • 10:30 AM**  
**Randy Susan Meyers, *The Widow of Wall Street***

The story of a family caught in the before, during and after of a Ponzi scheme, told from two points of view; a man with a criminal hunger for wealth, and his wife, who’s unknowingly building her life, her marriage, family and even friendships, on disappearing sand.

Phoebe sees the fire in Jake Pierce’s belly from the moment they meet as teenagers in Brooklyn. Eventually he creates a financial dynasty and she trusts him without hesitation – unaware his hunger for success hides a dark talent for deception.



Admission to each of the Sip and Skype Series events is \$5 and includes spirits to sip and a nosh.

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# Palestinian envoy to U.S. says Trump's Jerusalem decision was 'backstabbing'

By RON KAMPEAS  
JTA news service

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital amounted to "backstabbing," the Palestine Liberation Organization envoy to Washington said.

Husam Zomlot delivered his first remarks since the Dec. 6 recognition, addressing the Middle East Institute, a think tank on Jan. 25. A main contact between the Trump administration and the Palestinian Authority, Zomlot conveyed a measure of the fury with Trump that P.A. President Mahmoud Abbas delivered at a PLO Central Council meeting last week.

But he also recommended the Palestinians to the two-state solution and to continuing to seek engagement with Israelis. The remarks, while defiant, also underscored a key Palestinian weakness, one Zomlot said his side must take blame for: They had failed to make their case to the American people, while domestic support for Israel in the United States remained strong.

"We need to start the real process of either removing Israel-Palestine [as a domestic issue] or making Palestine a domestic issue," he said. "But just to keep Israel as a domestic issue and not Palestine — that hasn't worked for 26 years." He said Palestinians might target Congress, the elites, the media and the Jewish community.

Zomlot suggested the winds were in the Palestinians' favor, alluding to an erosion of support for Israel among younger and liberal Americans. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu "can speak to this Congress," he said. "But can he speak at a university in California or Wisconsin?"

Trump, by recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital, Zomlot said, broke with 26 years of U.S. commitments to act only as a peace mediator between the Israelis and Palestinians.

But also with the decision, "Trump violated his own pledge, 'I do not want to impose, I do not want to dictate,'" Zomlot, formerly a top aide to Abbas and the leader's confidant, said. "Then you come and you want to take the core of the two-state solution out ... you turn, backstabbing?"

Zomlot dismissed Trump's reassurance at the time that the recognition and the pledge to move the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem did not determine the city's final status, and that it left open the possibility that a Palestinian capital might still emerge in eastern Jerusalem.

Zomlot said that Trump himself now insists that Jerusalem is "off the table." He said that if Trump and the negotiating team led by Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, were sincere about maintaining a Palestinian stake in Jerusalem, they could have waited until Kushner rolled out a peace plan later this year and included in it a vision of the city as the capital for Israel and Palestine.

"Any embassy in the city is tacit recognition of Israel's claim," Zomlot said. "After reaching an agreement, we don't mind two embassies" in Jerusalem, one serving Israel, the other Palestine.

Trump in Davos said the Palestinians had "disrespected" the United States by refusing to meet this week with Vice President Mike Pence during his visit to the region. He suggested that if they don't return to talks, the United States would cut assistance to the Palestinians.

Zomlot said threats to cut U.S. funding to the Palestinians would only embolden his people.

"If the choice is between starving the people of Palestine and surrendering rights, the people will not choose surrendering their rights," he said.

The thrust of Zomlot's speech was that the Palestinians no longer saw the United States as an honest broker, and were now seeking a different multilateral structure for peace talks — one that would include the United States, but in which it would not be preeminent. That could be a critical distinction if Zomlot is to keep his job: the Trump administration has said the PLO office will remain open only as long as the Palestinians are committed to a peace process.

He said the Palestinians remained committed to the two-state solution — a retreat from a threat that Abbas and others have made recently that, should they despair of the peace negotiations, they would agitate toward Israeli citizenship and a "one state solution," a solution that would likely ultimately erase Israel's Jewish character. "Even if we are the last samurai," the Palestinians believe that the blood shed on both sides toward a two-state outcome made it worthwhile, Zomlot said.

Zomlot also downplayed a litany of anti-Jewish tropes in Abbas' recent speech. The Palestinian leader dismissed any Jewish connection to Israel, said Zionism was a European colonialist plot and claimed Holocaust era Jews had preferred the Nazis to Zionism. Zomlot said that the media would have done better to focus on the policy substance of the speech, in which he said Abbas renounced violence and called for engagement with Israelis, repudiating those Palestinians who oppose such encounters because they "normalize" the Israeli occupation.

Zomlot refuted claims by Netanyahu that Israel could accrue support without coming to a deal with the Palestinians, repeatedly saying such claims were "delusional." In addition, he belittled leaked reports that U.S. allies including Egypt and Saudi Arabia were ready to back a peace deal that would deliver Palestinians a truncated state, with its capital in the West Bank near Jerusalem, and not in the city.

Zomlot challenged Netanyahu to find an Arab leader who would look the Palestinians "in the eye" and back such a plan. He claimed that support for Palestinian statehood remained strong worldwide.

# Invitations are out for this year's President's Dinner

The Tampa Jewish Federation hosts the 15th Annual President's Dinner on Feb. 25 at the Bryan Glazer Family JCC, 522 N. Howard Ave. in Tampa.

The premiere campaign, educational and outreach event for the Federation, this year's program features keynote speaker, Frank Luntz, Ph.D. He will speak on "Words That Work: Combatting Anti-Semitism and Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions."

The Annual President's Dinner has distinguished itself as a contributor to the Annual Campaign

and facilitates the Federation's ability to raise funds for local and global Jewish causes.

Event Co-Chairs Carol Jaffe and David Rosenbach, MD, encourage the community to reserve their tickets and consider participating as a patron.

"Our Patrons and major donors play a pivotal role in not only the success of this event, but also the fulfillment of the Federation's mission to serve all those in need," said Rosenbach.

Jaffe added, "We are most appreciative of the generosity of pa-

trons who contribute beyond the cost of a general ticket and who make an even greater positive impact."

Patrons will be recognized and thanked at the President's Dinner for their commitment and generosity.

Patron tickets may be purchased for \$300. Regular tickets are \$180. To purchase tickets or for additional information, visit [jewishtampa.com/APD](http://jewishtampa.com/APD) or contact Loni Lindsay at [loni.lindsay@jewishtampa.com](mailto:loni.lindsay@jewishtampa.com) or 813-769-2802.

## AWARDS

• CONTINUED from FRONT PAGE

Never a Step Backward, were retained. Other efforts were made to create displays highlighting the building's past as a venue for speeches by President John F. Kennedy and civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, as well as the many professional wrestling bouts and musical concerts.

A new grand entrance was built and air conditioning was added. An elevated jogging track was created around a new gymnasium and a large variety of fitness and exercise equipment was added. The new creation also includes a premier events center, stage for lectures and performing arts and screens for showing movies. A café, aquatics center, arts center, and agency offices are also part of the new JCC.

At the 6th Annual CREW (Commercial Real Estate Women) Tampa Bay Excellence Awards in November, FleischmanGarcia Architecture, the architect of record for the JCC project, and BeharPeteranecz Architecture, the firm that designed the center's Jeff and Penny Vinik Grand Entry and other parts of the facility, were both honored with the Exterior Architecture Excellence award.

The same evening, Creative Contractors Inc. took home a Construction Renovation Excellence award for their work on the Glazer JCC. The construction firm also received an Excellence in Construction award for the project from the Associated Builders & Contractors, Inc.-Florida Gulf Coast Chapter at a separate event.

At the 35th Annual Planning & Design awards in October, FleischmanGarcia received the Jan Abell Award from the Hillsborough Planning Commission for the Glazer JCC's outstanding contributions to the community. The judges loved the adaptive reuse of the armory and how the new look, both inside and out, incorporates historic preservation.

Capping off its award-winning first year, the Glazer JCC placed third in the Florida Foundation for Architecture's People's Choice awards.

David Scher, a commercial real estate developer and member of the Tampa JCCs and Federation's Leadership Council, was there to help receive most of the awards. As lay chairman, Scher was heavily involved with the project from its initial inception.

He, along with Tampa JCCs and Federation CEO Gary Gould, worked with pencils and paper at Scher's dining room table on a Sunday afternoon more than five years ago and developed the original conceptual framework the project was designed around.

"It was a very ambitious idea," noted Sol Fleischman Jr., chairman and CEO of FleischmanGarcia. "We helped put together a master plan, floor plan and rendering for the site, which were circulated among various influencers in the community to gauge interest in the project. There was obviously considerable



Awards received for the design and construction of the Bryan Glazer Family JCC from CREW - Commercial Real Estate Women - Tampa Bay (back), and the Gulf Coast Chapter of the Associated Builders and Contractors (center).

excitement."

After Scher headed the effort to negotiate the lease for the property, he and Fleischman became involved in every aspect of the project — from the design and planning to the construction documents and administration. They also worked closely with Gould, Jack Ross, the former executive director of the JCCs, and Sally Benjamin, the organization's chief financial and administrative officer, until the JCC opened its doors.

Creative Contractors Inc. and its vice president, Josh Bomstein, were brought on as the general contractor to help the building's renovation and construction come to fruition and according to Gould, "did a remarkable job."

Bryan Glazer, who the facility is named in honor of, has had a long-term interest in architecture and he also contributed several innovative concepts that were used in designing the facility. "Bryan's ideas were very creative and extremely helpful," Gould said.

When recently reached for comment, both Scher and Fleischman reflected on the Glazer JCC in its completed state.

"How lucky are we to be surrounded by such wonderful art at the JCC, from the remarkable Art Deco armory building to the brand-new Roberta M. Golding Center for Visual Arts and the exciting new art collection that adorns the facility's walls," Scher said. "How does an individual get such an opportunity in a lifetime to contribute something of this magnitude? It was a blessing."

A lifelong native of Tampa, Fleischman has many fond memories of the armory building during its previous heyday as a premier event venue throughout the 1950s-'60s. "I'm so pleased I was able to be a part of helping the building continue for at least another 75 years."

The Glazer JCC is located at 522 N. Howard Ave. For more information about programs, go to [BryanGlazerFamilyJCC.com](http://BryanGlazerFamilyJCC.com) or call (813) 575-5900.

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# RABBINICALLY — SPEAKING —

## Closeness: Holding on for dear life

By RABBI GARSON HERZFELD  
Temple Beth Shalom, Winter Haven

Recently I finished reading a novel by Jonathan Safran Foer, *Here I Am*. Near the end of the book, one of the main characters, Jacob, reflects on his life and remembers part of his second son Max's Bar Mitzvah speech. One paragraph in particular really resonated with me:

"Closeness," he [Max] said, surveying the congregation. "It is easy to be close, but almost impossible to stay close. Think about friends. Think about hobbies. Even ideas. They're close to us - sometimes so close we think they are part of us - and then at some point, they aren't close anymore. They go away..."

We all have had this experience. Friends - more generically, relationships - often seem to dwindle. We become distant, grow apart or sometimes our lives go in different directions. We often attribute this to moving around - physical distances. We live in a mobile society.

Relationships take work. Sometimes we disagree with those whom we love. We don't always receive the feedback we want to hear. We feel controlled or manipulated. Walking away, distancing ourselves is easy, but remaining engaged and valuing each other's opinions will move the relationship forward.

Hobbies and interests can change during a lifetime. That is natural as a result of growth and maturity. However, eliminating hobbies altogether can occur due to other responsibilities that take precedence such as earning a living or raising a family or caring for an older loved one. Maybe it simply is a matter of letting go and not prioritizing a hobby or interest. Or it simply could be a matter of lack of time management.

Hobbies and interests can be beneficial to our well being - our health. Regular exercise is one example. Lifelong education stimulates the brain. Music, art, hiking, sports, dance can provide release from daily stress and provide needed relaxation.

Ideas are more difficult to pinpoint. As we grow, our ideas about subjects such as family, our community, the world may change. Do we set goals for ourselves? How do we advance our ideas? Moreover, perhaps Max is pointing to idealism as well. How do we maintain the idealism of youth or a mature outlook infused with idealism? How can we share that with others and positively influence those around us? Is Tikun Olam part of the mix?

Max in Jonathan Foer's novel tries to answer the question of "closeness" through purposeful engagement. I think his answer is poignant:

"Only one thing can keep something close over time; holding it there. Grappling with it. Wrestling it to the ground as Jacob did with the angel, and refusing to let go. What we don't wrestle, we let go of. Love isn't the absence of struggle. Love is struggle."

Life itself at times is a struggle, but we must be active participants and not spectators. Maintaining our closeness to family and friends, involvement in hobbies and interests, striving to maintain ideals or following through on important ideas means being engaged and wrestling both inwardly and outwardly.

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



## Congregations

### Cong. Schaarai Zedek

**Winter wonderland:** Put on your mittens and jackets and come to Schaarai Zedek to play in the snow on Saturday, Feb. 24 from 3:30-5 p.m. In addition, there will be a dessert truck, juice and pizza. This free event is for families with young children and their siblings. RSVP to [www.zedek.org/rsvp](http://www.zedek.org/rsvp) or call the temple at (813) 867-2377.

**S'more snow:** The 20s+30s group will host "Snow and S'mores," featuring a campfire, doughnut dessert truck, "adult" hot chocolate bar and a chance to play in what is left of the temple's "snowstorm" on Saturday, Feb. 24 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. RSVP at [www.zedek.org/20s30s](http://www.zedek.org/20s30s) or contact **Lindsey Dewey** at (813) 876-2377 or [LDewey@zedek.org](mailto:LDewey@zedek.org).

**Sisterhood Shabbat:** Susan Bass, president-elect of the Women of Reform Judaism, will be the guest speaker at the Shabbat service on Friday, Feb. 9 at 7:30 p.m. A native of Atlanta, Bass now resides in Houston. She has been involved in and assumed leadership roles with the Reform movement organizations since she was a teen. A dinner will be served that evening at 6 p.m. at a cost of \$18 per person. Bass will also conduct a leadership workshop for women on Saturday, Feb. 10. For more information, call the temple at (813) 876-2377.

**YES Fund Brunch:** The Sisterhood will honor **Donna Birnholz** at its annual Youth, Education, and Special Services Fund Brunch on Monday, Feb. 26 at 11 a.m. at the temple. The event will recognize Birnholz for her 30 years of service as the Flom Religious School administrative secretary, the support and strength she has provided to her husband, **Rabbi Richard Birnholz**, as well as aid to various religious school activities, to the students, to the temple, and to the Sisterhood. The annual brunch is a fundraiser for Women of Reform Judaism's YES (Youth Education and Special Projects) Fund. All who attend will be expected to make at least a minimum donation of \$36 to the fund in addition to \$18 for brunch.

**Hamantaschen sale:** Sisterhood members will be baking and selling apricot, prune, poppy, cherry and chocolate chip varieties of hamantaschen for \$10 a dozen. All proceeds will go to the Schaarai Zedek religious school. Call the temple at (813) 876-2377 for more information.

**Tampa's infamous 'split':** Guest speaker and local historian **Carl Zielonka** will talk about "The Split" on Thursday, Feb. 15, at the Senior Luncheon. In 1902, internal disagreements about religious philosophy in Schaarai Zedek led to a non-repairable split in the congregation. Learn from temple Archives Chair Zielonka what happened, why it happened, and how it was eventually resolved, resulting in a division of the Jewish community that lasted for generations. Seating begins at 11:15 a.m. and the temple's preschool singers will perform at 11:30 a.m. There is no charge but reservations are needed. RSVP to the temple or email

## Shabbat Candle Lighting Times

Feb. 2	•	5:54 pm
Feb. 9	•	5:59 pm
Feb. 16	•	6:04 pm
Feb. 23	•	6:09 pm



[office@zedek.org](mailto: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, Feb. 4.

### Cong. Kol Ami

**Justice reform talk:** Join the Brotherhood for its Second Sunday Lecture and Brunch on Sunday, Feb. 11 at 10 a.m. when Hillsborough County State Attorney **Andrew Warren** speaks about criminal justice reform. Warren leads an office of approximately 130 prosecutors. Since taking office, he has expanded the use of civil citations, taken a more reserved approach in seeking the death penalty and increased his office's community engagement.

**World Wide Wrap:** Participate on Sunday, Feb. 4 from 9:15-10:15 a.m. as men and women join other congregations around the world in celebrating the mitzvah of tefillin. This event is presented by the Brotherhood. Come and learn how and why Jews wrap tefillin. Start at 9 a.m. with bagels and light refreshments. For more information, contact the Kol Ami office at (813) 962-6338 or email **Mitchell Weiss** at [execdirector@kolami.org](mailto:execdirector@kolami.org).

**Super Bowl viewing party:** The Brotherhood will hold a viewing party on Sunday, Feb. 4 at 5:45 p.m. Watch the game on a 12-by-12-foot screen. There will be pizza, homemade baked ziti, Caesar salad, garlic bread, chips and dips, homemade pastries, soda, wine, beer and more. Bridge tables will be set up for those wanting to play board games. The cost is \$8 per adult; children 12 and younger are free. RSVP immediately to [frontoffice@kolami.org](mailto:frontoffice@kolami.org), or call the synagogue.

**Family Shabbat:** A Family Shabbat Service will be held on Friday, Feb. 9, at 6:30 p.m. Sing family-friendly melodies along with the children while enjoying guitar music. Join with the kids as they dance in the aisles and play tambourines and shaker eggs. Bring Bubbie and Zayde too.

**Israel, past, present, future:** Ephraim Graff presents a series of Wednesday evening classes focusing on Israel. Participants can attend any class as they are on separate Israel-related topics. On Feb. 7 the topic is Israel and the Palestinians and on Feb. 14 the topic is Israel: Challenges and Opportunities. All sessions begin at 7:30 p.m.

**L'Chaim:** A class, "Sharing Life's Lessons," is

• CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

## Religious Directory

### HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY Reform

**BETH ISRAEL/ JEWISH CONGREGATION OF SUN CITY CENTER** — 1115 E. Del Webb Blvd., Sun City Center • Mailing Address: P. O. Box 5203, Sun City Center, 33571 • Rabbi Carla Freedman • Shabbat Services: Friday 7:30 p.m., 2nd & 4th Saturday 10 a.m., Torah Study: noon • Telephone: (813) 634-2590 • Web address: [www.jcsc.org](http://www.jcsc.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.; 2nd and 4th Fridays, 6:30 p.m., potluck dinner to follow; Saturdays, 9 a.m. • Torah study 3rd Saturday, 10 a.m. • Telephone: (813) 968-8511 • Website: [www.bethamtampa.org](http://www.bethamtampa.org). • Affiliated with Union for Reform Judaism

**Congregation BETH SHALOM** — 706 Bryan Road, Brandon, 33511 • Rabbi Richard Address (visiting) • Cantor Moshe Friedler (visiting) • 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.mekorshalom.org). • Unaffiliated  
**Congregation RODEPH SHOLOM** — 2713 Bayshore Blvd., Tampa 33629 • Rabbi Josh Hershenson • 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](http://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](http://www.chabadofcentralflorida.com). • Email: [Drivkin52@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](http://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) 922-1273 • Website: [www.ChabadSouthTampa.com](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.chabadhouseusf.org) • Email: [bmchabad@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.suncoasthillels.org).

**USF CHABAD on CAMPUS** — 4506 Sweetwater Lake Drive, Tampa, 33620 • Rabbi Pinny Backman • Website: [www.USFChabad.com](http://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](mailto:D.shenefelt@att.net). • Website: [www.Orahavah.org](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.chabadlakeland.org).

# Congregations

• CONTINUED from PREVIOUS PAGE

offered on Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to noon. Topics, readings and a different leader are chosen for each weekly session.

**Talmud:** A Talmud study class with **Rabbi Howard 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.

**Jewish ethics:** Rabbi 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.

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

## Cong. Beth Am

**Havdallah on the beach:** Enjoy the beach at Pass-a-Grille for Havdallah with Congregation Beth Am as members say "goodbye" to Shabbat as the sun sets over the Gulf of Mexico on Saturday, Feb. 24 at 6 p.m. Look for Beth Am members just south of Paradise Grill at 10th Avenue. For more information, contact Admin@BethAmTampa.org.

**Purim carnival:** Dress up in your favorite costume and join in games, face painting and more during the Beth Am annual Purim Carnival on Sunday, Feb. 25. This is open to the community. For more information and to confirm start time, contact Admin@BethAmTampa.org.

**Pasta and bingo:** The Youth and Social Committee is sponsoring a Family Pasta & Bingo Night on Saturday, Feb. 17 with dinner at 6 p.m. and bingo at 7 at the temple. The cost is \$8 per person or \$25 per family and a bonus bingo card if you RSVP by Feb. 10. Pricing will increase after this date. The cost includes dinner and one bingo card per person with additional ones at \$1 per card. RSVP to Victoria by Feb. 13 at (813) 968-8511 or email admin@bethamtampa.org

**Talmud study:** Talmud study sessions will be offered on Thursdays, Feb. 8 and 15 at 9:30 a.m. For more information, contact Admin@BethAmTampa.org

**Zahav group:** The Adults at Leisure group will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 13 at 12:30 p.m. at the temple for a brown bag session and to hear guest speaker **Ron Rinner**, president of the congregation. His topic is "Jewish Business Ethics." This event is open to all.

**Tot Shabbat:** Every third Friday of the month there is a Tot Shabbat service at 6:30 for tots up to age 5 and their families as they welcome in Shabbat with music, prayer and a story. This casual service is followed by an oneg Shabbat.

**Israeli dancing:** Lessons in Israeli dancing are offered every Tuesday at 7 p.m. For more information, contact **Irma Polster** at

Ipolster@TampaBay.rr.com or call the temple office.

## Cong. Rodeph Sholom

**Animal House party:** The congregation will hold an Animal House college themed bash on Saturday, Feb. 17 from 7:30-11:30 p.m. Come hang out at the Rodeph Sholom "house on fraternity row" and chow down on tasty eats from "House Mom" **Lynn Molett**. Dance to music and enjoy karaoke and open mic in the den. Wear your best or favorite college attire or go Toga. This event is expected to sell out. Get tickets and sponsorship information at www.rsholom.org.

## Cong. Bais Menachem 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.

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

## Cong. Mekor Shalom

**Fun with fillings:** Hamantaschen baking at Congregation Mekor Shalom will take place on Sunday, Feb. 4 at noon. Bakers are asked to bring Duncan Hines yellow cake mix and kosher fillings such as, apricot, cherry, prune and chocolate chips.

## Cong. Beth Shalom Brandon

**Mardi Gras Gala:** The congregation will hold its annual fundraiser, "Mardi Gras Gala for a Cause," on Saturday, Feb. 17 at 7 p.m. This year's event will feature games, prizes, and silent and live auctions, a buffet dinner and dancing. Among the many items to be auctioned are a NASCAR driving experience, a Top Gun flight experience, VIP tickets to *Hamilton* on Broadway, and tickets to the Country Music Awards in Nashville. Once again, the congregation is partnering with the Special Olympics Florida Healthy Community Program to raise funds for

the congregation and the Special Olympics program. The gala will be at the River Hills Country Club, 3945 New River Hills Parkway in Valrico. Tickets, which include buffet dinner and entertainment, are \$30 for adults and \$15 for children 5-12. Children under 5 are free. Purchase tickets on www.bethshalom-brandon.org.

## Cong. Beth Israel Sun City Center

**Lilith editor to speak:** The congregation will host **Susan Weidman Schneider**, founder of *Lilith*

*Magazine* and editor in chief since its debut in 1976, on Monday, Feb. 5 at 1 p.m. at the synagogue. The magazine, with the tagline - "Independent, Jewish & Frankly Feminist" - and Schneider's writings and lectures, have been credited with changing the way Jewish women see themselves and their role in the Jewish community. Schneider will speak about her experiences, with her talk followed by an informal coffee hour. This program is open to the public at a cost of \$5 per person. For more information, contact **Rochelle Lafer** at bisisterhood@jcscc.org.

"I love what I do and you'll love the results."



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jillneuman.com

**KW TAMPA CENTRAL**  
KELLERWILLIAMS REALTY

1208 E. Kennedy Blvd. Suite 231, Tampa, FL 33602

**12:30-5:00 pm**

(Registration 11:45 am - 12:30 pm)

**Sunday,  
March 18, 2018**

Ed Radice Park  
14720 Ed Radice Drive, Tampa 33626

**Cost:**  
\$45 per individual  
\$425 to sign up an entire team  
Includes a team shirt and snacks for the day

Sign up as a team through your synagogue, sisterhood, brotherhood, book club, family or any group of friends you'd like to spend the day with.

Minimum of 10, and maximum of 14, people per team. There must be a minimum of 3 females per team.

**community-wide co-ed**

sponsored by  
as of 1/19/18



**Deadline to register as a team or individual:** Friday, March 2

**Deadline to submit entire team roster:** Friday, March 9  
(Team captains can submit their rosters online by visiting [jewishtampa.com/softball](http://jewishtampa.com/softball))

- Three ways to register:**
1. Online at [jewishtampa.com/softball](http://jewishtampa.com/softball)
  2. Call 813.769.4748 (Pam Cotner)
  3. Fill out the form below

**Sign me up to play in the JCC softball tournament as:**

- an individual  a team

individual name \_\_\_\_\_  
 team captain's name (required for teams) \_\_\_\_\_  
 team name/organization \_\_\_\_\_  
 address \_\_\_\_\_  
 phone number \_\_\_\_\_  
 email \_\_\_\_\_  
 signature \_\_\_\_\_

please makes checks payable to:  
Tampa JCC

mail completed form to:  
JCC Softball Tournament  
JCC on the Cohn Campus  
13009 Community Campus Drive  
Tampa, FL 33625

**I/We would like to be a team sponsor:**

- Level 1 - \$100 or equivalent in-kind donations**
- Company logo on team t-shirts
  - Advertising on the JCC website and e-newsletter
  - Game Day Advertising
- Level 2 - \$250 or equivalent in-kind donations**
- Company logo on team t-shirts
  - Advertising on the JCC website and e-newsletter
  - Game Day Advertising
  - Advertising in the Jewish Press, fliers, local vendors and synagogues

## A new monthly celebration offers a 'Festive Meal on the New Moon'

About 50 people gathered on Jan. 17 at the Norman Jewish Library in Temple Terrace for the first "Festive Meal on the New Moon" celebration.

The event – which it is hoped will become a monthly happening – was inspired by an ancient tradition where families celebrated Rosh Chodesh by eating a festive meal.

"If we look at the Jews of Tampa Bay as a large family, this is a perfect way to build a feeling of community," said organizer Zev Schlomann. "People attend different synagogues, or none at all, and live in different neighborhoods, so this is a wonderful opportunity to gather, socialize, and celebrate, and for anyone to attend regardless of affiliation."

The free event was co-sponsored by Young Israel Chabad Alon Yedvab Jewish Center.

Guest speaker Donna Joseph, a long-time Tampa resident, shared her fascinating story of growing etrog seedlings right in Carrollwood. Joseph shared her gardening

secrets and gave away baby plants to four lucky winners.

The evening included singing, discussions about Rosh Chodesh and kabbalistic insights into the upcoming month of Shevat.

There was also plenty to drink and food, elegantly displayed by Dvorki Rivkin, including a wide variety of organic kosher gourmet cheeses.

Each monthly program will touch on the meaning and significance of the new month.

The next "Festive Meal on the New Moon" will be on Feb. 15 on Rosh Chodesh Adar.

Adar is the month in which Purim is celebrated and is known for its frivolity and fun. Featuring an "open mic," attendees are invited to share a 2-4 minute Jewish-themed joke, story or poem. To be sure, no one will leave hungry or thirsty either.

All are welcome and there is no cost to attend.

The celebration begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Norman Jewish Library, 13207 N 52nd St.



Donna Joseph talks about her success in growing etrogs (below left) at the first monthly Rosh Chodesh celebration, held at the Norman Jewish Library in Temple Terrace.



For additional information, and to RSVP call Schlomann at (917) 439-5888 or email [youngisrael-tampa@hotmail.com](mailto:youngisrael-tampa@hotmail.com)



A portion of the 'festive meal' spread for the crowd of about 50 at the event, co-sponsored by Young Israel Chabad Alon Yedvab Jewish Center.

## BarMitzvah

### Joshua Samuel Frenden



Joshua Samuel Frenden, son of Dan and Lori Frenden of New Port Richey, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, Feb. 3 at Congregation Beth Am in Tampa.

A seventh-grade honors student at Dayspring Academy, Joshua is a member of the Thespians. Interested in baseball, he also is a member of Jr. Bitty. Joshua is an annual Jewish National Fund donor.

Special guests will include grandfather Stuart Portnoy of Land O'Lakes, grandmother Marie Frenden from South Dakota and great-grandmother Rosemarie Hlosta from Chicago.

## Registration for the 2018-2019 school year opens January 28th!

**ONE WEEK ONLY - receive 50% off the registration fee!**  
 January 28 – February 3 early bird registration fee is \$100.  
 Beginning February 4th, the registration fee is \$200.

**Register early to save a spot for your child for the 2018-2019 school year!**

Registration includes part and full-time options for summer, 10-month and 12 month programs for infants (north branch only) through PreK.

**Schedule a tour at either convenient JCC Preschool location.**

**PRESCHOOL NORTH**  
 13013 Community Campus Drive  
[jccpreschoolnorth@jewishtampa.com](mailto:jccpreschoolnorth@jewishtampa.com)  
**813.962-2863**

Sign up online at  
[www.jcccohcampus.com/preschool](http://www.jcccohcampus.com/preschool)

**PRESCHOOL SOUTH**  
 2710 South Ysabella Avenue  
[jccsouth@jewishtampa.com](mailto:jccsouth@jewishtampa.com)  
**813.835.6614**



Tal Cohen

### Israeli-born jazz pianist to perform in St. Pete

The Tal Cohen Trio will perform at the Palladium Theater's Side Door on Wednesday, Feb. 21, at 7:30 p.m.

Pianist Cohen was born in Gedera, Israel, and owes his musical roots to the Jewish folk songs and classical music he played during his childhood there. He moved to Perth, Australia, as a teenager and earned a bachelor's and master's degree in Jazz Performance at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts. Cohen recently graduated from the University of Miami School of Music, where he received a full scholarship and teaching assistantship while completing another master's degree.

Cohen has performed at the Melbourne Jazz Festival in Australia, including several shows with renowned saxophonist Joe Lovano who praised Cohen's playing as "full of passion, focus, and creativity."

In 2014, Cohen was named the Grand Prize Winner in the Barry Harris National Jazz Piano Competition in Detroit.

Along with Cohen, the trio includes Dion Kerr on bass and David Chiverton on drums.

Part of the 2018 St. Petersburg Jazz Festival, admission to the performance is \$20 for general seating; \$30 for reserved seats. The Palladium is located at 253 Fifth Ave. N. in downtown St. Petersburg. For tickets, go to [www.mypalladium.org](http://www.mypalladium.org) or call (727) 822-3590.

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## Dr. Robert Entel to receive PRIMER award for Israel advocacy at awards brunch on Feb. 18

Dr. Robert Entel will be recognized for his Israel advocacy efforts at the ninth annual PRIMER (Promoting Responsibility in Middle East Reporting) Advocacy Award brunch on Sunday, Feb. 18.

The award and brunch is sponsored by the Greater Tampa Bay B'nai B'rith Unit 2603, in conjunction with the Jewish Federation of Pinellas and Pasco Counties and the Tampa JCCs and Federation.

In addition to the award presentation, the brunch will feature past PRIMER award winner Dr. Eric Steckler, who will speak on the history, modern-day controversy and Jewish perspective of the Western Wall in the Old City of Jerusalem.

Entel, director of radiology at Morton Plant North Bay Hospital, has been a visiting professor of medicine in many coun-

tries abroad, including Israel, where he has taught at Hadassah Hospital, Hadassah College and Al Quds medical school in the West Bank. For 10 years, he served on the special projects team of Hadassah International, for which he received the Myrtle Wreath Award.

Currently on AIPAC's National Council, Entel also serves on the board of the Jewish National Fund of Tampa Bay. He previously served as a board member of the Jewish Federation of Pinellas and Pasco Counties, Gulf Coast Jewish Family and



Dr. Robert Entel

Community Services, the Florida Holocaust Museum, and the Jewish Community Centers of Pinellas. In addition, Entel has been on the boards of the Morton Plant Mease Health Care Foundation and Pinellas Community Foundation. He is a member of Temple Ahavat Shalom.

Entel has been the recipient of the Dr. Alfred Schick Award from the Maimonides Society of the Jewish Federation of Pinellas and Pasco Counties, the Humanitarian award from the American Friends of Magen David Adom, the Tree of Life Award from JNF and was recognized by State of Israel Bonds.

PRIMER was established in 1992 by Dr. Norman Gross, M.D., and others, to counter anti-Jewish and anti-Israel messages in the media. In August of 2009, PRIMER became

inactive, but created the Dr. Norman Gross "PRIMER" Advocacy Award through the TOP Jewish Foundation to recognize individuals in Tampa Bay who best embody the PRIMER motto that "silence is not golden" when dealing with Israel and anti-Jewish bias.

Gross was the first recipient, followed by Herb Swartzman, Dr. Eric Steckler, Steve Schwesky, Hillel of the University of South Florida, Stuart Berger and last year's honoree, Jonathan Ellis.

The event will be held at The Preserve (formerly the Inn on the Pond), 2010 Greenbriar Blvd. in Clearwater, beginning at 10 a.m. Cost of the brunch is \$15, payable at the door. RSVP to Maxine Kaufman at (727) 333-3106 or email her at mkaufman@jewishpinellas.org no later than Wednesday, Feb. 14.

## PARTNERSHIP

• CONTINUED from FRONT PAGE

continue to operate the same way with committee members participating in planning and selection of the films.

"The great thing about this partnership is the symbiotic relationship it creates, allowing for a greater number of films of Jewish interest to be a part of the phenomenal GIFF line-up and for GIFF to have partnership and visibility within the TBJFF," Socash said.

"In many ways, this is a natural next step for both festivals, as each has credibility in its own right. Through this partnership, we're able to offer our audiences more exposure to the art of film and the corresponding experiences that go along with a film festival experience," she added. "Who benefits? Everyone."

A complete schedule of events, film lineup, special guests and more will be announced in February.

### About the Tampa Bay Jewish Film Festival

Started in 1995, The Tampa Bay Jewish Film Festival (TBJFF) is

dedicated to using film to celebrate Jewish culture and reflect the diversity and richness of the Jewish experience. The festival seeks to use the power of film to entertain, educate and challenge conventional perspectives on complex issues facing the Jewish people and global community alike.

The festival delivers a collection of dramas, documentaries, and comedies depicting Jewish life from filmmakers around the world. The films are shown in venues across Tampa Bay. For more information, visit [www.tbjff.org](http://www.tbjff.org).

### About the Gasparilla International Film Festival

Launched in the summer of 2006, the Gasparilla International Film Festival (GIFF) has grown into an entertaining and educational year-round entity in Tampa Bay. GIFF is operated by the 501(c)(3) non-profit Tampa Film Institute and continually upholds its mission to provide yearlong support for film screening, production, and education throughout Tampa Bay and the region. For more information on GIFF, visit: [www.gasparillafilm.com](http://www.gasparillafilm.com).

## Israeli Embassy to reopen in Jordan, ending diplomatic crisis over shooting

(JTA) – Israel and Jordan agreed on the resolution of deadly incidents that shut down the work of the Israeli Embassy in Amman, officials in both countries said.

Officials in Jerusalem announced the agreement Jan. 18, saying it means that "the Israeli embassy in Jordan will return to full activity immediately."

The agreement was on the shooting of two Jordanians by a security officer at the Amman embassy in July and on the 2014 slaying of a Jordanian judge by Israeli security officers at the Allenby border crossing. Israel has already apologized for the shooting of the judge.

In the embassy shooting, security officer Ziv Moyal shot two Jordanians dead after one of them

allegedly attacked him. The ensuing diplomatic crisis between Jerusalem and Amman prompted diplomatic staff, including Ambassador Einat Schlein, to return to Israel in 2017.

"The Israeli authorities will continue reviewing the materials regarding the July 2017 incident and anticipate making a decision in the coming weeks," said the Israeli Prime Minister's Office. The statement did not say that Israel has apologized for the incident.

But at least one Jordanian official, government spokesman Mohammad Momani, said Israel did apologize and would bring legal action against Moyal while offering financial compensation to the families of the three people killed.

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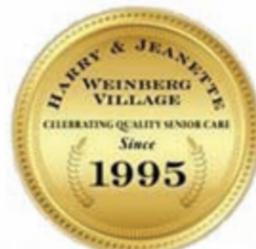
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# Engagement

## Appelbaum/Walker

Dr. and Mrs. Peter Appelbaum of Land O'Lakes announce the engagement of their daughter Madeleine Lisette Appelbaum to Michael Walker, son of Nanette Fiermark Walker of St. Petersburg.

The future bride is a graduate of Clarion University with a bachelor's degree in Rehabilitative Science and a master's degree in Public Administration from Villanova University. She is a teacher at Pepin Academy in New Port Richey.

The prospective bridegroom graduated from Ohio State University with a bachelor of science in Applied Mathematics and received his master's in Statistics from the University of Florida. He works as a data analyst for Citibank of Tampa. A June 2019 wedding is planned.



## Israeli youth from varied backgrounds to display tennis talent

Daniel Dudockin was born and raised in a kibbutz near the Lebanon border.

When he was 9, the second Lebanon war had started and his family was wrought with fear and uncertainty because his oldest brother was a soldier. The Israel Tennis Center (ITC) became Dudockin's safe haven, the place he turned to, during his personal struggles.



Daniel Dudockin

ITC is an organization that works through the medium of sport to enhance the development of Israeli youth. The Tampa JCCs & Federation will again host the ITC Foundation tennis team on Thursday, March 1 from noon to 1:30 p.m. for an exhibition and fundraiser at the Sandra W. Freedman Tennis Complex on Davis Islands, 59 Columbia Drive, Tampa. A complimentary lunch will be served.

While there is no admission, a donation is appreciated to help fund current ITC programs. Maureen and Doug Cohn are chairing the

event.

Those in attendance will get to see some talented young tennis players, hear their inspiring stories and learn more about the Israel Tennis Centers.

Since opening its first center in Ramat Hasharon in 1976, the ITC has helped over a half million children, including at-risk youth and those with special needs with many coming from outlying and underserved towns. The ITC's 14 centers stretch from Kiryat Shmona on the Lebanese border in the North to Beer Sheva bordering the Negev Desert in the South.

Dudockin, 20, is the oldest of the Israeli tennis players who will be showing off their talents here.

Other ITC players are:

Jessica Bekkerman, 18, lives in Jaffa with her parents, who emigrated from the former Soviet Union before she was born. She attends an international school where the student population is predominantly comprised of Arabs, and as an Israeli Jew, Bekkerman is the anomaly. Since the age of 5, she trained as a competitive ballroom dancer and traveled abroad for international competitions. Her parents encouraged her to learn tennis at the Nussdorf Mark Families ITC-Jaffa as a recreational sport to maintain her fitness and health.



Jessica Bekkerman

Besides learning a new sport that she has grown to love, Bekkerman joined the Girls Empowerment Program, where the girls learn about nutrition, fitness and coping skills to deal with a variety of gender issues and concerns including sexism in Israeli society.

Jennifer Ibeto, 16, is the oldest child of a Nigerian single mother who came to Israel 16 years ago. Jennifer trains at the ITC's Center in South Tel Aviv. Things have been financially difficult for Ibeto. As a result, the ITC sponsors her training and equipment.



Jennifer Ibeto

In addition, the center provides counseling to help her become a more confident and successful person both on the court and in life. She says her ITC coach is like the father she never had. "He is a man that loves everybody regardless of where they came from."

Orel Adga, 14, lives in Beer Sheva with his seven brothers and sisters. His parents emigrated from Ethiopia to Israel via Sudan in the mid-1980s during Operation Moses. He joined the ITC sponsored "Future Generation" tennis program for Ethiopian children at the Samson Israel Tennis Center in Beer Sheva at the age of 6, benefiting from not only tennis training, but also help with homework, English language fluency, science projects and social activities, as well as meals and transportation.



Orel Adga

"The ITC has not only taught me how to be a better player, but how to be a better friend and teammate with kids from all backgrounds," said Adga. "The other activities in my program have helped me improve in school. The ITC is preparing me for life."

The coach of the team is Badia Karkabi, a Christian Arab from the northern Israeli town of Wadi Nisnas. It is an underserved community, and Karkabi had a difficult childhood. He found the Selma & Irving Ettenberg Israel Tennis Center in Haifa and was able to thrive at school and on the court. He eventually became an assistant coach at the ITC-Haifa, where he participates in a program that teaches the younger students life skills and values. Recently, Badia became the head coach of the ITC-Galilee-Sajur.

Following the exhibition, there also will be an opportunity for community members to play with team members.

Anyone interested in playing or for more information, contact Doug Cohn at dcohn@trane.com. If you are interested in housing a member of the team for the evening, contact Pam Cotner at pam.cotner@jewishtampa.com.

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# SELIG

• CONTINUED from FRONT PAGE

spiritual leader, Hazzan Jodi Sered-Lever, declined to speak about Selig, citing family wishes for privacy. But later on the synagogue's Facebook page, condolence messages were posted: "Congregation Mekor Shalom notes with deepest sorrow the death of our beloved, dedicated, and indefatigable president" and "We honor Glenn Selig for his steadfast commitment to Congregation Mekor Shalom."

"Glenn was very involved in the Jewish community and passionate about his faith," said Farragut. "Since I've known Glenn it has been abundantly clear that his faith played a large role in his life..."

Selig's death rocked the local community and prompted expressions of sympathy to his family and respect for Selig by friends and former co-workers.

"If there was a dictionary of Yiddish words Glenn's picture would be next to the word Mensch," wrote Dena Joy-Schwartz Fields on the Mekor Shalom page. "He was a wonderful leader BUT most of all friend, husband and father! He will be missed profoundly by all and never forgotten! May his memory always be for a blessing and a smile! I can think of so many times when I smiled from the pure kindness he projected!"

SeligMultimedia officials wrote: "Glenn was a tireless professional, loyal friend and pillar of the community, but most importantly he was a loving husband and wonderful father. The loss for his family and friends cannot be measured nor conveyed strongly enough, but we thank everyone for the outpouring of support we have received."

"I respected you as a colleague at Fox 13. I was in awe of your successful transition into public

relations," wrote Ray Collins on Selig's Facebook page, adding "I am so sorry for your family. You were so proud of them."

Selig was born in Los Angeles in 1967, and graduated in 1985 from Valley Torah High School in North Hollywood. He graduated from New York University in 1989, where he studied politics, international relations and journalism.

In his company biography, Selig said that even as a young child, he was destined for a career in media. He would write letters to family and sign them "Glenn Selig, News Staff."

Selig described himself as a workaholic.

His first television news job was in El Centro, CA, and then he worked for TV stations in Eureka, CA, Victoria and Beaumont, TX, and Flint, MI, before moving to Tampa to work as an investigative reporter for the local FOX news affiliate, WTVT, Channel 13. During his news career, he won the National Headline Award. He was a fill-in anchor at times before leaving WTVT in 2007.

That same year, he formed SeligMultimedia, serving as company president and CEO. He also founded The Publicity Agency and PR Newschannel. SeligMultimedia is parent company to those entities. The companies provided a variety of services from producing standard press releases to providing crises management strategies for politicians and criminal defendants.

Several other ventures revolved around fatherhood. In 2002, while still at WTVT and his daughter Drew was about to be born, he created Interactive Dad, "It [the website] came to be because while seeking a tool for myself as a dad-

to-be, I discovered that most (actually nearly all) parenting stuff was geared toward moms, and dads were the 'also-parent,'" he wrote, adding "So I figured I'd create it. And Interactive Dad was born." Selig brought writers and other experts for his website "because I obviously did not know much about being a dad... I remember vividly holding Drew as a newborn on my lap as I typed!"

That website eventually petered out due to demands of his jobs, but in 2013 Daddyhood.net, was launched, which covered news, finance sports and parenting for dads.

That pride in being a father did not wane as Selig and his wife shared details of how they planned Drew's bat mitzvah in the *Jewish Press'* annual *Bar/Bat Mitzvah Planning Guide* in 2016. They provided pictures of decorations they made for the cleverly named, "Selibration."

After entering the public relations field, Selig gained a reputation for handling high profile clients. Among those he represented are Rod Blagojevich, the Illinois governor convicted of soliciting bribes for political appointments, and Casey Anthony, the Orlando mom acquitted of killing her daughter Caylee. More recently his firm was hired by former top Trump campaign operative Rick Gates after his indictment in connection with an investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election.

Selig appeared on a variety of television news shows and in publications, offering advice on how public personalities should handle their public relations

But it was not all about the "big fish," touting on the company's website a branding campaign for

Hillel Academy. Selig's wife is on the board for Hillel Academy in Tampa. Son Josh still attends the school and daughter Drew graduated from there last year.

Selig's last post on his Facebook page on Jan. 17, three days before the hotel attack, was of a video of him on the streets of Dubai, where he stopped on his way to Kabul. He said it was "an absolutely gorgeous night," with the weather similar to Tampa. He said he was just checking in, decided to take a walk, and assured his Facebook friends, "It is extremely safe here."

He ended the post with, "I will talk to you soon."

As of press time, there was no indication of any funeral arrangements.

## New Orleans rescinds resolution favored by anti-Israel activists

(JTA) – The City of New Orleans rescinded a resolution, celebrated by anti-Israel activists, that would have prohibited investment with human rights violators.

Although the measure passed 5-0 on Jan. 11 did not mention Israel or the Palestinians, it was drafted by the New Orleans Palestinian Solidarity Committee.

Both pro-Palestinian supporters of the resolution and Israel supporters say the resolution could be used to target Israel as part of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement.



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## VP Pence's faith drives his support for Israel. Does it drive Mideast policy?

By RON KAMPEAS

JTA news service

WASHINGTON — When Mike Pence moved to Washington last year, he and his wife took with them a framed phrase they had for years hung over their fireplace in their Indiana home, and then over the fireplace in the governor's mansion in that state.

Now it hangs over the mantle at the vice president's residence at the Naval Observatory. The words, from the *Book of Jeremiah*, reads: "For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you, and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope, and a future."

The "you" is the people of Israel, and Pence, an evangelical Christian, makes that clear when he addresses pro-Israel audiences. "They're words to which my family has repaired to as generations of Americans have done so throughout our history, and the people of Israel through all their storied history have clung," Pence said last August at the annual conference of Christians United for Israel.

Pence took that message to Israel on his recent trip ostensibly aimed in part at reviving the prospects for Israeli-Palestinian peace. He is seen as a key Trump administration figure when it comes to Israel policy and reportedly helped nudge the president to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

Pence's first visit to Israel as vice president led some to ask to what degree are his views — and the administration's policies — shaped by the brand of evangelical Christianity that invests his faith?

Pence, a convert to evangelical Christianity from Roman Catholicism, has spooked some liberals with his insistence on rooting his pro-Israel bona fides in faith as much as the United States' national security. Their fear is that a messianic outlook might run riot over one of the most delicate dilemmas facing successive U.S. governments, namely stability in the Middle East.

"Trump has handed Israel policy to Evangelicals," *The Forward's* Jane Eisner wrote in an editorial as Pence headed to Israel. "That's terrifying." Like many liberals, she worries that policy will be driven by evangelical beliefs that certain conditions — like Jewish control over the West Bank and sovereignty in Jerusalem — fulfill biblical prophecies.

Republicans and conservatives say that it is reductive to believe that Pence shapes his views solely ac-



Vice President Mike Pence at the Kotel

From Twitter

ording to the tenets of his faith.

"They always highlight the fact that he's an evangelical, as if that's a pejorative when in fact [Pence and other evangelicals] are motivated first and foremost by shared values with Israel," said Matt Brooks, the director of the Republican Jewish Coalition, who has known Pence for years.

Pence began his speech to the Knesset by outlining the shared values Brooks described, but he quickly pivoted to depict support of Israel as both biblical (Deuteronomy 30:4, to be exact) and rooted in an American strain of Christianity.

"Down through the generations, the American people became fierce advocates of the Jewish people's aspiration to return to the land of your forefathers, to claim your own new birth of freedom in your beloved homeland," he said to applause. "The Jewish people held fast to a promise through all the ages, written so long ago, that 'even if you have been banished to the most distant land under the heavens,' from there. He would gather and bring you back to the land which your fathers possessed."

Pastor John Hagee, the founder of Christians United for Israel, described a natural trajectory for evangelical supporters of Israel from biblical belief to the more practical modern reasons for supporting the state.

• CONTINUED on NEXT PAGE



Photo from Twitter @netanyahu

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President Donald Trump meet at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

## Embassy move timetable revealed; Trump blasts PA for Pence brush-off

(JTA) — President Donald Trump said Palestinians disrespected Vice President Mike Pence when they snubbed him during his recent trip to Israel and threatened to cut off assistance to the Palestinians unless they returned to the negotiating table.

During a Thursday, Jan. 25, meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the World Economic Summit in Davos, Switzerland, the president also added detail to Pence's announcement that the U.S. would move its embassy to Jerusalem in 2019.

"We anticipate having a small version of it open by next year," Trump said, apparently confirming reports that the embassy will temporarily be in a building already owned by the United States, while a larger new embassy is built.

Pence, in a speech to the Knesset three days earlier, called the decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital "in the best interest" of peace, saying that "fact is the only basis for peace." He stressed that such recognition does not change the status quo arrangements on holy sites in the city and that the United States has not taken a position on final status issues such as borders.

As he began to speak, Arab-Israeli lawmakers from the Joint Arab List party began waving signs protesting the U.S. recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital, leading to their expulsion from the Knesset chamber. Palestinians also declined to meet with Pence during his visit to the region, also blaming it on that announcement.

"When they disrespected us a week ago by not allowing our great vice president to see them and we give them hundreds of millions of dollars in aid and support, tremendous numbers, numbers that nobody understands, that money's on the table, that money's not going to them unless they sit down and negotiate peace," Trump said during his sit down with Netanyahu.

In recent weeks, the administration froze \$65 million in U.S. funding for UNRWA, the organization that delivers relief to Palestinian refugees and their descendants. However, it is allowing another \$60 million to go through.

Trump also suggested that should negotiations resume, Netanyahu would have to come up with concessions.

"You win one point," Trump said, looking at Netanyahu and apparently referring to his recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital, "and you'll give up some points later on in the negotiation if it ever takes place. I don't know that it ever will take place."

He also said he believed Israel wanted to negotiate peace.

"I can tell you that Israel does want to make peace and they're [the Palestinians] going to have to want to make peace too or we're going to have nothing to do with it any longer," he said.

Netanyahu thanked Trump for recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital and promising to move the embassy, for his support for Israel's position on the Iran nuclear deal and for U.S. support at the United Nations.

"As you finish your first year in office, I want to say that I look forward to continuing our remarkable, tremendous friendship in the years ahead, and I want to express the appreciation of the people of Israel to you," said Netanyahu.



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“The promises of the Hebrew Bible are the foundation of Christian Zionism, but our motivations for supporting Israel do not end there,” he told JTA in an email. “We see in Israel a democracy that shares Western values and is a force for stability in the Middle East. While standing with Israel is a Biblical mandate, it is also a moral imperative and in the national security interests of the US. I am confident that all three of these considerations inform the Vice President’s approach to the Middle East and I believe that is perfectly appropriate.”

Pence has since the outset of his political career made it clear that his support for Israel is first grounded in biblical precepts. “My support for Israel stems largely from my personal faith,” he told *Congressional Quarterly* in 2002, a year after he was first elected to Congress. “God promises Abraham, ‘those who bless you, I will bless, and those who curse you, I will curse.’”

Sarah Posner, a journalist who for years has tracked evangelicals, said Pence’s faith seemed to be preeminent in his consideration of Israel. “I don’t think he is thinking about that in terms of shared democracy or not shared democracy, he’s thinking about it providential terms, that these missions are God’s plans for Israel,” said Posner, a reporting fellow at The Nation Institute’s Investigative Fund.

It’s hard not to see Pence’s belief as an impetus driving Trump’s recognition of Jerusalem, said Daniel Seidemann, an Israeli expert on Jerusalem who advocates for including all the city’s sects and groupings in considering its permanent status.

“It would be fine for him to have those beliefs, if he weren’t the vice president and shaping policy,” Seidemann told JTA. “Jerusalem has been witnessing over the last 20 years the ascendancy of faith communities that weaponize religion.”

Pence’s trip, by including only Jewish sites and skipping meetings with other faith leaders, was contributing to the weaponization, Seidemann said.

Christian faith leaders declined to meet with Pence during his visits to Egypt and Israel; various reports framed their objections as a reaction to policies they feared put religious imperatives before meeting the needs of Arabs in the region, including the Christian minority.

Mae Elise Cannon, the director of Churches for Middle East Peace, an umbrella group that includes most of the Christian denominations in Israel and the West Bank, told JTA that local Christians were wary of how Pence framed his support for Israel as a matter of Christian faith. “They didn’t meet with him because they don’t view him as an honest broker or an unbiased broker,” she said.

Still, some conservatives charge liberals with weaponizing religion, and using Pence’s faith as a way to discredit otherwise normative policies.

“That vast numbers of Americans are inspired by the Bible to support Jewish rights in their ancient homeland isn’t so much a function of the left-right conflict as it is an integral part of the nation’s political culture,” wrote Jonathan Tobin, a former executive editor of *Commentary* and current editor in chief of JNS.org. “Those turned off by Pence’s rhetoric need to ask what exactly it is about a desire to respect Jewish rights and demand that Palestinians give up their century-old war on Zionism that annoys them so much.”

## Israeli female reporter threatens to sue Wall rabbi over segregation at Pence visit

JERUSALEM (JTA) – An Israeli journalist threatened to file a lawsuit against the rabbi of the Western Wall over the segregation of female reporters and photographers from their male counterparts during Vice President Mike Pence’s visit to the site.

Tal Schneider of the Israeli business daily *Globes* told an Israeli radio station, 103 FM, that she is being backed by *Globes* in suing Rabbi Shmuel Rabinovich, *The Times of Israel* reported.

“First we will send him a warning letter and see how he responds, and then we will go to court if necessary,” Schneider said. “It seems unreasonable to us that male and female journalists are treated dif-

ferently when they come to report and work.”

On a podium erected for the journalists, the women were required to stand behind the men. The women finally removed a tarp and stood on chairs so they could see over their male colleagues.

In a personal reflection on the incident published in *Globes*, Schneider took her male colleagues to task for not showing solidarity with the female journalists. “Next time, look behind you and see what is happening behind your backs,” she said.

The women journalists created a hashtag – #PenceFence – and took to social media to decry the second-class treatment.

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## Obituaries

**ALFRED IRVIN ARNOLD**, 92, of Tampa, died Dec. 2. A native of Tampa, he graduated from Hillsborough High School, served in the United States Air Corp. He attended the university of Florida, and graduated Case Western Reserve where he earned a Doctorate of Podiatric Medicine. He was a member of Congregation Beth Am. Survivors include his wife, Betty; and four children: Douglas Arnold, Deborah and Robert Velthuizen, Patty Arnold, Richard Arnold.

**CARRIE DEMPSEY**, 42, of Lutz, died Jan. 14. A native of Cleveland, OH, she moved to the from there to the Tampa Bay area in 1985. Survivors include her children, Megan and Chad Dempsey; her parents, Jules and Renee Deutsch of Tampa; sisters and brothers-in-law: Debbie and Jeffrey Minsky, Livingston, NJ; and Darci and John Brammer, Orlando. The family suggests memorials to a college fund for her children at [www.gofundme.com/the-dempsey-family](http://www.gofundme.com/the-dempsey-family). (Segal Funeral Home, Beth David Chapel)

**BEATRICE HYMES**, 97, of Tampa, died Jan. 22. A native of New York, she moved to Tampa in 1986. She was a member of Congregation Kol Ami and was active in Brandeis Women. Survivors include her daughters and sons-in-law: Susan and Ron Pross, Tampa, and Sharon Hymes and Michael Schiff, Sugarland, TX; sister and brother-in-law, Edith and Irving Alter, Encinitas, CA; nine grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. The family suggests memorials to Congregation Kol Ami. (Segal Funeral Home, Beth David Chapel)

**DAVE ZIMRING**, 93, of St. Petersburg, died Jan. 14. Born in Toledo, OH, he grew up in Pittsburgh. He was a veteran of the United States Navy, serving as an Ensign on transport carriers in the South Pacific during World War II. He was a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh with a degree in Industrial Engineering and from the University of Virginia with a degree in Naval Reserve Officers' Training Corps, Engineering. He also attended the University of Wisconsin and New York University during his tour of duty during the war. He moved to St. Petersburg in the early 1950s to join his brother in a window manufacturing business. He went on to develop and build homes, office buildings and shopping centers across the Tampa/St. Petersburg region. Survivors include his wife of 38 years, Sharon Moore Zimring; children: Sabrina Zimring, Denver; Dane and Jessica Zimring, Tampa; Lisa Zimring, Bradenton; Lori Zimring Woodward and Jeff Woodward, Atlanta; Devin Zimring, Terra Ceia; and six grandchildren. The family suggests memorials be made to Menorah Manor. (David C. Gross Funeral Homes, St. Petersburg Chapel)

OBITUARIES are published as a public service at no charge in the *Jewish Press of Pinellas County* based on information supplied by the family to the funeral home. However, the information contained in the free obituary is at the discretion of the Jewish Press.

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## Jewish same-sex couple sues US for denying citizenship to one of their twins

(JTA)—A Jewish same-sex couple is suing the United States for denying citizenship to one of their twin sons.

Andrew Dvash-Banks, an American, and Elad Dvash-Banks, an Israeli, married in Canada in 2010. Their sons, Ethan and Aiden, now 16 months, were conceived with donor eggs and the sperm from both fathers, and were born from the same surrogate mother minutes apart in September 2016. Both fathers are listed as the parents on the birth certificates.

Shortly after the births, the fathers went to the U.S. Consulate in Toronto to apply for American citizenship for their sons. The officer there asked for "highly personal details"

about the conception of the twins, leading the men to leave the consulate "shocked, humiliated, and hurt," according to the lawsuit filed by Immigration Equality, an LGBTQ immigrant rights organization, and the law firm of Sullivan & Cromwell.

The men and the babies were "forced to submit DNA tests and other documentation of their biological relationships to their boys, even though the law imposes no biological requirement," according to the Immigration Equality. The tests proved that Elad Dvash-Banks is the father of Ethan and Andrew Dvash-Banks is the father of Aiden.

In March, Aiden received a U.S. passport,

but Ethan received a letter saying his citizenship request had been denied. The family has since moved to Los Angeles and applied for a Green Card for Ethan. The lawsuit asks the court to declare that he is a U.S. citizen from birth.

The suit charges that the State Department's "policy unconstitutionally disregards the dignity and sanctity of same-sex marriages by refusing to recognize the birthright citizenship of the children of married same-sex couples."

It claims the twins qualify for citizenship under the Immigration and Nationality Act, but the State Department is applying a section that applies to children born out of wedlock.

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# Organizations

## Hadassah

**History of healthcare in Israel:** Special guest **Freda DeKeyser Ganz** will address "100 Years of Nursing and Health Care in Israel" at a lecture sponsored by the St. Petersburg, Lylah, North Pinnellas, and Tampa Ameet chapters of Hadassah.



**Freda DeKeyser Ganz**

The program will be on Sunday, Feb. 11 at 11 a.m. at Temple B'nai Israel, 1685 S. Belcher Road, Clearwater. Ganz's resume includes more than 40 years in nursing as well as more than 80 published articles. She was the first person named a professor at Hadassah-Hebrew University School of Nursing in Jerusalem, where she continues to teach. Her areas of concentration include ethics in the ICU, palliative and end-of-life care. She holds a PhD in Nursing-Psychophysiology from the University of Maryland and has done post doctorate work at Johns Hopkins University in Psychoimmunology. She will speak with perspectives from both Israel and the United States. RSVP to **Harriet Stein** at (727) 465-4641 or [harnaomi@outlook.com](mailto:harnaomi@outlook.com) or to **Sally Laufer** at (727) 781-3619 or [sally1318@yahoo.com](mailto:sally1318@yahoo.com).

## Young Adults

**Bark in the Park:** Bring your pup for a relaxing afternoon at the Davis Islands Dog Park, 1002 Severn Ave, Tampa, hanging with other pooches and dog owners on Sunday, Feb. 11 from noon to 2 p.m. as part of a #Gather event. Don't have a dog? Come out and play anyway.

#Gather offers a mix of social and interactive activities designed to help young adults connect. It is open to young adults of all faiths and backgrounds. For more information or to RSVP for any #Gather events, visit: [www.bryanglazerfamilyjcc.com/gather](http://www.bryanglazerfamilyjcc.com/gather) or contact **Lisa Robbins** at [lisa.robbins@jewishtampa.com](mailto:lisa.robbins@jewishtampa.com) or (813) 769-4723.

**Art night:** Create a self-portrait at the private art studio of local artist **Sara Scher** on Monday, Feb. 26 from 7-9 p.m. The cost is \$15 for #Gather members and \$20 for guests (includes art materials, snacks and wine). This event is limited to 14 people. No skill is needed.

## 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](mailto:pnina.levermore@JewishTampa.com). All registrations should be completed before events begin. Advance registration is also required through the **USF Osher Lifelong Learning Institute** for Osher classes offered at the Cohn campus or Glazer JCC. For more information on those classes, contact the institute at (813) 974-8036.

**Excursion:** A tour of the Nielsen Media Research facility will be offered on Tuesday, Feb.

20 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., followed by a lunch. The tour will showcase Nielsen's history and its audience measuring systems. Participants can learn how the company collects information on what people watch on TV, personal computers and mobile devices and the methods they use to determine what people will buy in stores. The tour includes a visit to the call center. Transportation for this event is provided.

**Canasta:** Meet in the senior lounge at the Cohn campus every Friday from 3-4:30 p.m. for friendly games of canasta.

**Movie matinees:** Enjoy a classic movie and popcorn on the first Wednesday of the month from 10 a.m. to noon on the Cohn campus. There is no charge to attend. On Feb. 7, the movie will be *A Majority of One*. On March 7, the movie will be *Driving Miss Daisy*.

**Trivial Pursuit and pizza:** This group meets at the Cohn campus on the second Thursday of the month from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. to exercise minds and enjoy some pizza. This event is free.

**Yiddish nostalgia:** Join **Ruth Weston** and other Yiddish enthusiasts on Thursday, Feb. 22 from 12:45-1:45 p.m. at the Cohn campus to share favorite expressions and reminisce. This program is free.

**Crochet lessons:** Learn crochet with **Judy Balber** 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. The next class is Feb. 7. This is a discussion course with participation open to 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.

**Mah jongg:** Folks can play at both JCCs. At the Cohn campus, there will be open play sessions every Tuesday and Thursday from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. Also at that location there will be sessions of guided instruction on Mondays from 1:30-3 p.m. at a cost of \$5 for members and \$10 for guests. This is a chance to learn the basics.

At the Glazer JCC, drop-in sessions are offered on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1-3 p.m. This is free for all members. Novices and experienced players are welcome. Also at the Glazer JCC, lessons will be offered on Sundays, Feb. 11, March 18 and April 15 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. The cost is \$65 for members and \$70 for non-members, with advanced registration required. Call the Glazer JCC for more information.

**JetSetters:** The Phyllis Borrell JetSetters social group for adults of all ages meets at both JCCs for an hour-long program followed by lunch. At the Glazer JCC, JetSetters meet on the second Wednesday of the month from 11 a.m. to noon. The lunch is free for members, but donations are welcome. On Feb. 14 there will be a presentation about international love ballads with the University of Tampa Theater and Dance Department. The JetSetters group also meets on the Cohn campus on the fourth Thursday of the month

from 11 a.m. to noon and will feature a discussion about the golden days of radio. The lunch is free for members, though a donation of \$5 is suggested.

**News talk:** This discussion group, meeting at both JCCs, is led by **Pat Renfro** and explores "hot button" issues of the day. Upcoming News Talk sessions at the Glazer JCC are Tuesdays from 7-8:30 p.m. Topics include the party nomination process on Feb. 6, the role of super delegates on Feb. 13, voting in America on Feb. 20 and the Florida Legislature's agenda on Feb. 27. These sessions are free.

The group at the Cohn campus, meets the second and fourth Friday from 10:30 a.m. to noon. The Feb. 9 session is on civil disobedience and the Feb. 23 session is on the populist movement. There is no charge to attend.

**Tampa history series:** Learn about Tampa's history during free sessions led by **Carl Zielonka** at the Glazer JCC. On Wednesday, Feb. 7 from 1-2 p.m. the topic will be the history of the Tampa Jewish community.

**Culture Café:** Get a behind the scenes look as University of Tampa dance students and faculty show how they create choreography and prepare for performances. See pieces performed live and join in a question and answer session.

**Osher class offerings:**

- **The First Amendment** - "Can We Talk?: The First Amendment Under Fire" will be taught by **Adele McCollum** on Wednesdays, Feb. 7 - 28 from 1-3 p.m. at the Cohn campus. The cost is \$40.

- **Understanding the Media** - "Understanding What You See, Hear, and Read in Today's Media" taught by **George Hyde**, will be offered at the Glazer JCC on Mondays through Feb. 26 from 1-3 p.m. at a cost of \$60. At a time when "fake news" and "alternative facts" are household words, learn how to identify news slanted to serve a particular agenda or

invented simply to make a buck. This class will give you the tools to sort through the "noise" and make informed rational judgments.

- **Death wishes:** "Dying in America," will be taught at the Glazer JCC on Thursdays, Feb. 8 through March 1 from 1-3 p.m. for \$40. The process of dying has evolved from an event commonly occurring at home to one that mostly occurs in the sterility of an institution. Learn what you can do to die according to your wishes and what rights you have relative to physician-assisted death. This class will be taught by **John Dormois**.

## Job-Links

**Monday Morning Links:**

Free sessions of Monday Morning Links are offered at the Jack Roth Center for Career Development at TampaBay-Job-Links, 4100 W. Kennedy Blvd., Suite 206, Tampa from 9:30 - 11 a.m. On Monday, Feb. 5, the topic is "What's in Your Job Search Toolbox." On Feb. 12 the topic is "Market Yourself Through Business/Networking Cards." On Feb. 19, the topic is "Staying Optimistic During Career Transition." On Feb. 26 the topic is "Why the Most Qualified Candidate Doesn't Always Get the Job." Monday Morning Links is supported by the Vinik Family Foundation.

**Job-search aids:** There are Success workshops on select Thursdays to aid with job-search skills. On Feb. 15, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. the topic is "Preparing for Your Interview." On March 1 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. the topic is "Transferring Your Skills and Re-Careering." The workshops are free for TampaBay Job-Links full program participants and \$15 for guests. Reservations required for all programs.

**Career transitioning:** The next series of "Switching Gears" workshops for those in career transition will be on Wednesday, Feb. 7 and Thursday, Feb. 8. On Feb. 7 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. the topic

is "Enhance Interviewing Skills and Techniques, Compose Cover Letters, Thank You Notes and Email." On Feb. 8 from 9:30 a.m. to noon, the topic is "Financial Fundamentals for Now and the Future." These are targeted to those in career transition. To RSVP, call (813) 344-0200, email [RSVP@TBJL.org](mailto:RSVP@TBJL.org).

## Genealogical Society

**Immigration research:**

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay will offer a two-session seminar titled: "The JGSTB 2018 Guide to Immigration Research: "Why You Can't Find Your Bubbe's Immigration Record" on Sunday, Feb. 11 and Sunday, March 11 at 2 p.m. at Gulf Coast Jewish Family & Community Services, 14041 Icot Blvd., Clearwater. Registration will be at 1:30 p.m. on both dates. This seminar will enable participants to discover their family's immigration records. The presentations will concentrate on both traditional and recently available Internet resources.

**Dr. Emil H. Isaacson**, who will lead the seminar, has more than 33 years of experience in genealogy. The seminar is free to members. Nonmembers will be charged \$25 for individuals or \$35 for a family, which will include an annual membership. A seminar booklet, for attendees only, summarizing the presentation and containing updated references will be available for \$10. To pre-register for the class, for more information, or for directions, call **Bruce Hadburg** at (727) 796-7981.

## Support groups

**Alzheimer's caregiver**

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

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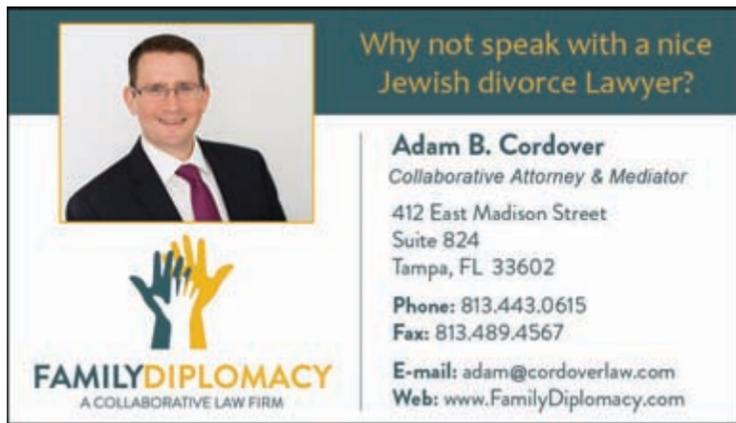
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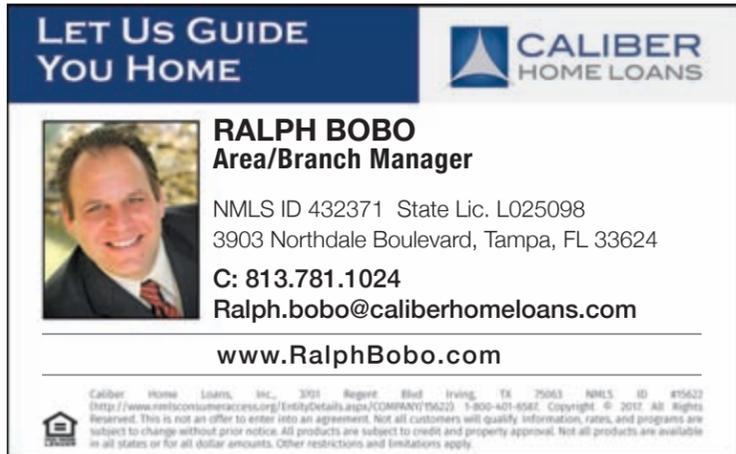
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## Fossil in Israel has scientists thinking humans left Africa long before previously thought

(JTA) – A fossil found in Israel indicates modern humans may have left Africa as much as 100,000 years earlier than previously thought.

Scientists say that an ancient upper jawbone and associated stone tools could also mean that Homo sapiens, modern humans, arose in Africa far earlier than fossils now show, according to a study published in the journal *Science* by Tel Aviv University anthropologist Israel Hershkovitz.

The results of Hershkovitz's study may cause rethinking about how we evolved and interacted with now-extinct cousin species such as Neanderthals, according to The Associated Press.

"When they start moving out of Africa and what geographical route they choose to do it are the two most important questions in recent human evolution," Hershkovitz told AP.

The jawbone, complete with several well-preserved teeth, was dated to be somewhere between 177,000 and

194,000 years old.

Previously, the oldest fossils of modern humans found outside of Africa were somewhere from 90,000 to 120,000 years old, also in Israel.

The jaw was found in 2002 in the collapsed Misliya cave on the western slope of Mount Carmel. Researchers spent the last 15 years looking for more remains and other fossils before publishing their study. They say the jaw belonged to a young adult of unknown gender.

The *Science* paper suggested that modern humans could have left Africa 220,000 years ago, with some of the authors saying maybe it was even earlier. That's in part because the cave also contained about 60,000 flint tools, mostly blades and sharp points, some of which are 250,000 years old, said study co-author Mina Weinstein-Evron.

The tool supply in the cave and other evidence were so complete it basically showed "industry" by the early modern humans, she said.

## HAUBEN

• CONTINUED from FRONT PAGE

Rabbi Josh Hearshen of Congregation Rodeph Sholom came to serve here years after Cantor Hauben had retired, but got to know him, talking about his legacy when he delivered Hauben's eulogy.

Hauben "survived the hatred and the murder. He survived the madness and the camps. He survived all of that and then paved a path for himself that paid a lasting tribute to the world that looked like it could've been destroyed," said Hearshen. "He survived the terror of God's creations only to spend the remainder of his life bringing people closer to God."

After liberation Hauben worked in Italy with the Jewish Brigade in intelligence. While in Italy he spent three years of intensive vocal study at a conservatory in Torino.

He arrived in the United States in 1949 and sold typewriters in Chicago before completing cantorial studies at the Cantor's Institute of the College of Jewish Studies there.

"He did this because singing and Judaism were who he was," said Rabbi Hearshen. "He did this because he loved teaching, he loved learning, he loved singing and he loved praying. Being a cantor just made sense and so he pursued it."

Hauben moved to Los Angeles to serve as a cantor at Temple Beth Am from 1958 to 1969, then moved to Tampa and served as cantor at Rodeph Shalom for the next 20 years before retiring and remaining a frequent worshiper at the synagogue.

For many years Hauben, like many Holocaust survivors, was reticent to talk of his experiences, and when Rabbi Kenneth Berger at Rodeph Shalom encouraged him to tell his story, he still resisted. It was not until after Rabbi Berger and his wife died in a plane crash in 1989 that "... suddenly he [Hauben] understood that he didn't have all of the time in the world to share and so he opened up and began to share his story,"

Rabbi Hearshen said.

"Once Cantor Hauben opened up his heart and soul it would never be shut ever again. He took every opportunity he had to share what had happened to him and to the Jewish people. He did so because he survived and because he needed to testify about what had happened and what had been done."

Hauben wrote of his Holocaust experiences in his book, *From the Flames: Miracles and Wonders of Survival* including two times in Plaszow when he miraculously escaped being killed when the camp Commandant, Amon Goeth, shot at groups of Jews as target practice. In one instance, Hauben recalled he and other Jews who had been forced to build a road made of Jewish tombstones were told to run while carrying the heavy stones as Goeth shot at them. Goeth, whose sadistic behavior was captured in the movie *Schindler's List*, was tried after the war, convicted of murdering tens of thousands of people, and hanged in 1946.

During his time at Rodeph Shalom, Cantor Hauben was instrumental in bringing renowned Jewish performers to the community for the annual Jewish Music festival and prepared hundreds of students for their B'nai Mitzvot. He received the Honorary Fellow (1985) recognition and Doctor of Music Honoris Causa (2006) from the Cantors Institute of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America.

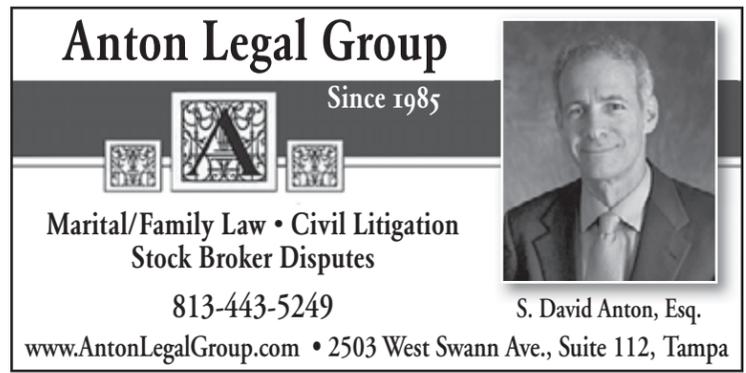
"Cantor Hauben came here and women were not allowed to really participate in services. He found this to be absurd. He explained that they were half of the community and their voices needed to be heard as well. He worked very hard to bring about egalitarian practices here at Rodeph," Rabbi Hearshen said.

Hauben was also credited with helping create the Hillel School at Rodeph Shalom before it later moved to north Tampa and is now known as Hillel Academy, a premier Jewish day school in our community.

In retirement, Cantor Hauben continued to teach others about the Holocaust and in his second book, *Light: Courage and Hope*, he and friend Bill Sefekar paid tribute to 10 nations and a variety of individuals who saved the lives of others during the Holocaust.

He would teach wherever there was a potential audience. He went to churches, schools and many other places. All of this was so that he could fight to realize the statement "Never Again."

The family suggests memorial donations to the Florida Holocaust Museum, St. Petersburg, or to USF to benefit Holocaust studies.



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## The puck stopped here

Members of the Tampa Bay Lightning organization including players conducted a hockey clinic for students at Hillel Academy during a clinic last month. While there was no ice, the students in third through eighth grade learned hockey techniques and played in scrimmages on Hillel's basketball court. Following the clinic, players and students enjoyed lunch together at the school.

Students getting instructions (above) and playing the game (below.)



## Sarasota group seeks artisans for Jewish cultural celebration

The Fogartyville Community Media and Arts Center will hold a showcase of Jewish culture March 3 - April 13.

"Celebrating Jewish Culture" seeks to showcase Judaic culture and diversity through Jewish artistic expression as well as use the arts to talk about contemporary issues impacting American Jews. The festival will include a series of events, including speakers, food, and music.

The art center is looking for visual arts, craft pieces, poetic, written, or spoken word pieces and performance presentations (including music and dance) that speak about and/or lead to a deeper appreciation of Jewish culture.

To have work considered for inclusion, send jpgs, excerpts or clips of pieces with a short description of your submission, an artist resume and a bio to FogartyvilleArt@gmail.com.

Deadline for submission is Feb. 16. For more information, contact Arlene Sweeting at peacenter@gmail.com or 941-545-5635

The arts center is also looking for Jewish food and craft vendors to participate.

The Fogartyville Community Media and Arts Center is located at 525 Kumquat Court, Sarasota.

The Fogartyville Community Media and Arts Center is a project of the Peace Education and Action Center in the Arts/Rosemary District of Sarasota.

## Correction

Incorrect and incomplete information supplied by the Florida Holocaust Museum about Mary Wygodski was contained in a Jan. 12 story in the *Jewish Press*. During Nazi occupation, the Vilna, Poland, ghetto was liquidated in 1943 and Wygodski was separated from her parents and siblings, never to see them again. The Stutthof concentration camp she spent some time in was in East Prussia. Upon liberation, she was placed in a displaced persons camp in Charleroi, Belgium, and from there she immigrated to Israel.

## Letter to the Editor

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

### Advice to Israel: Slow down the Trump name train

Dear Editor:

The Israeli Minister of Transportation, Yisrael Katz, intends to honor President Trump for recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel by naming a new train station after him in the Old City that would allow thousands of tourists directly into the Jewish Quarter a few hundred yards from the Western Wall.

I would recommend that he wait until the clouds over the Trump administration and President Trump involving the Special Counsel and the women who are suing him for harassment are cleared before he takes a step that could be em-

barrassing in the future. Over the last year the U.S. has experienced remorse over statues that were established during the Jim Crow period because they celebrated a war fought over slavery and did not comport with our values. President Trump used those episodes to further divide the country while being unsympathetic to that period of history.

Recognizing Jerusalem has been cheered by many and for good reason, but it also should be seen as what it really is: a negotiating chip so that the president can claim a "win" and while he is at it, satisfy the large Evangelical portion of his so-called base by playing up his support for Israel. What is missing is sincere interest in real Jews. The President had an opportunity to distinguish himself by standing up for Jewish values by condemning the events in Charlottesville, but he did not and he willingly accepts the support from groups of neo-Nazis as represented by their response to President Trump's characterization of immigrants and refugees from s—hole countries. According to the Daily Stormer website his remarks were seen as support for their alt-right/anti Semitic ideology.

Robert Berman  
St. Petersburg



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## At 100, Mildred Plotnick stays on track

By BRUCE LOWITT  
Jewish Press

Mildred Plotnick has come a long way from admiring horses on the stage of her father's theater outside Philadelphia to betting on them.

Since moving to Palm Harbor in 2003, Mildred has spent at least one day a week at Tampa Bay Downs in Oldsmar and on Jan. 20 she and five generations of Plotnicks celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday there. The family surprised her with the naming of the seventh race in her honor.

"I come as often as I can," she said, even when there's no live racing. There's always simulcasting of races at more than a dozen tracks from Aqueduct to Santa Anita.

Mildred is an inveterate, albeit judicious, bettor. The \$2 ticket is her style, so wins and losses are minimal – although she says she once collected \$1,200 on a \$2 daily double wager.

Born on Jan. 21, 1918, Mildred was introduced to horse racing by her late husband Samuel. "Samuel took me to my first race when I was 21, when we were first married," said Mildred. Samuel, who died 23 years ago, was a painting contractor whose biggest job was

painting the Ben Franklin Bridge that opened in 1926. She was his bookkeeper prior to their marriage.

That first horse race she and Samuel attended was at Havre de Grace in Maryland; blue laws outlawed thoroughbred racing in Pennsylvania until 1959. When Keystone Racetrack in Philadelphia opened in 1974, they became regulars there.

Fast horses begat fast cars. Mildred owned Corvettes in the 1950s and '60s and drove in sports car rallies. "I still have my (driver's) license," she said, "but I don't drive anymore."

While it was Samuel who introduced his wife to horse racing, Mildred's enthusiasm for equines began far earlier.

"My father owned the Ardmore Theater on West Lancaster Avenue," she said. It opened in 1922 and showed silent films, with animal acts, including horses, on stage between the movies. But the combination of talking pictures and the depression forced him to sell the theater and he went into the furniture business in southwest Philly. They kept a horse behind the house to pull the delivery wagon and Mildred would ride it. "I had a lot of fun," she said.

She's still having fun, win or lose. At



Mildred Plotnick at the horse track



Tampa Bay Downs' racing form printed birthday wishes to Mildred.

her 100th birthday celebration at Tampa Bay Downs, Mildred made her usual \$2 bet, on the No. 7 horse in the seventh race. It finished out of the money.

## BACA concert set for Feb. 11

An eclectic concert of liturgical, popular, Broadway and Hollywood music will be presented by the Tampa Bay Area Cantorial Association on Sunday, Feb. 11 at 3 p.m. at Congregation Beth Am in Tampa.

Participants in the 15<sup>th</sup> annual concert include Riselle Bain (Temple Israel of Highlands County, Sebring), Laura Berkson (Temple B'nai Israel, Clearwater), Rick Berlin (Temple Beth El of North Port), Deborrah Cannizzaro (Congregation Schaarai Zedek), Tanya Greenblatt (Temple Beth Orr, Coral Springs), Joy Katzen-Guthrie (Congregation Beth Am, Tampa), Andres Kornworcel (Congregation Rodeph Sholom, Tampa), Diane Becker Krasnick (Cantor Emerita, Hebrew Congregation of St. Thomas), Beth Schlossberg (Congregation Kol Ami, Tampa), Jonathan Schultz (Congregation B'nai Israel, St. Petersburg), Jodi Sered-Lever (Congregation Mekor Shalom, Tampa), Vikki Silverman (Cantor Emerita, Congregation Beth Am of Tampa), Marci Vitkus (Jewish Congregation of Venice), with pianist Tara Richards Swartzbaugh (University of Tampa).

Tickets are available at the door for a suggested donation of \$18 each. All donations are gratefully accepted and no one will be turned away. Beth Am is located at 2030 W. Fletcher Ave., Tampa. Doors open at 2:15 p.m. For more information Contact Admin@BethAmTampa.org or call (813) 968- 8511.



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# Menorah Manor Guild Hosts Luncheon at the Historic Vinoy Renaissance Hotel



Event attendees enjoy a one-hour, docent-guided tour of the Vinoy® Renaissance St. Petersburg.

On Thursday, January 11, the Menorah Manor Guild hosted a docent-led tour and lunch at the historic Vinoy® Renaissance St. Petersburg.

All proceeds from the event will be used to purchase new

therapeutic activity supplies to enhance the lives of residents in Menorah Manor's Bresler Alzheimer's Program. The Menorah Manor Guild is thankful to everyone who supported this event.



(L-R): Event committee members Lynda Lind-Fontana, Linda Reimer, Deanna Susskind and Barbara Baughman, Menorah Manor Guild President.

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Standing: (L-R) Susan Goldstein and Rob Goldstein, Menorah Manor Chief Executive Officer, Sitting: (L-R) Fagl Oxman and Marilyn Benjamin, Menorah Manor Guild members

The Menorah Manor Guild is the volunteer arm of Menorah Manor, with the purpose of enriching the lives of Menorah Manor's residents through service, special projects, and the funding of special equipment and programs. For more information about joining the Guild, please contact Bonnie Berman, director of volunteer services, at volunteers@menorahmanor.org.