

# Israel@70 bash climax to 7 weeks, 7 days of happenings

The Tampa Bay community will come together on Sunday, April 22 to celebrate Israel's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday and in advance of this milestone, the Tampa JCCs and Federation is getting the community ready with "7 weeks, 7 days Celebrating Israel@70."

The main event will be a daylong party at the Maureen & Douglas Cohn Jewish Community Campus in Citrus Park. More than 1,500 people are expected to attend and the festivities will go on rain or shine.

Starting at 10:30 a.m., the celebration will feature children and adult activities including book events and a movie, a DJ dance party, Israeli wine and beer tasting and a kids zone. Plus what would a party be without food: lots of Israeli-themed goodies are on the menu, along with the Happy Birthday Israel Cupcake Extravaganza to end the day at 3:15 p.m.

But the excitement will be building way before then with other free community

events.

During the seven weeks prior to the Israel Independence Day celebration, tidbits about Israel and famous Israelis are being featured in Shalom Tampa, the Tampa JCCs and Federation's weekly e-newsletter, and on the Jewishtampa.com website.

And for the final seven days before the big event, the community is invited to indulge in Israel themed activities.

**CELEBRATION continued on PAGE 14**

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# Let my people go!



## Passover - the Festival of Freedom

First Seder - Friday, March 30

## Morsels you (probably) don't know about Passover

My Jewish Learning via JTA news service

### 1. In Gibraltar, there's dust in the charoset.

The traditional charoset is a sweet Passover paste whose texture is meant as a reminder of the mortar the enslaved Jews used to build in ancient Egypt. The name itself is related to the Hebrew word for clay. In Ashkenazi tradition, it is traditionally made from crushed nuts, apples and sweet red wine, while Sephardic Jews use figs or dates. But the tiny Jewish community of this small British territory at the tip of the Iberian Peninsula takes the brick symbolism to another level, using the dust of actual bricks in their recipe.

### 2. Arizona is a hub for matzah wheat.

Hasidic Jews from Brooklyn have been increasingly sourcing wheat for their Passover matzah from farmers in Arizona. Excessive moisture in wheat kernels can result in fermentation, rendering the harvest unsuitable for Passover use. But rain is scarce in Arizona, which allows for a stricter standard of matzah production. Rabbis from New York travel to Arizona in the days leading up to the harvest, where they inspect the grains meticulously to ensure they are cut at the precise moisture levels.

### 3. At the Seder, Persian Jews whip each other with scallions.

Many of the Passover Seder rituals are intended to re-create the sensory experience of Egyptian slavery, from the eating of bitter herbs and matzah to the dipping of greenery in saltwater, which symbolizes the tears shed by the oppressed Israelites. Some Jews from Iran and Afghanistan have the tradition of whipping each other with green onions before the singing of "Dayenu."

### 4. Karaite Jews skip the wine.

Karaite Jews reject rabbinic Judaism, observing only laws detailed in the Torah. That's why they don't drink the traditional four cups of wine at the Seder. Wine is fermented, and fermented foods are prohibited on Passover, so instead they drink fruit juice. (Mainstream Jews hold that only fermented grains are prohibited.) The Karaites also eschew

**KNOW continued on PAGE 5**

## RABBI WITH A BADGE Tampa Police hires first Jewish chaplain

By THAIS LEON-MILLER  
Jewish Press

The City of Tampa Police Department's mission statement is simple: to reduce crime and enhance the quality of life through a cooperative partnership with all citizens.

The police officers handle crime reduction, but what to do for the sec-

ond part? Enter Rabbi Mendy Dubrowski, director of Chabad Chai of South Tampa.

On Feb. 15, Rabbi Dubrowski officially became the Tampa Police Department's first Jewish chaplain (at least the first anyone can remember), complete with badge in hand.

It was a journey that took longer

than a year to complete.

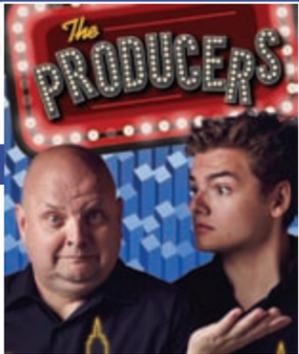
The rabbi said the idea to become a police chaplain first came to him during a conversation with Tampa Mayor Bob Buckhorn and lawyer Barry Cohen two years ago. Rabbi Dubrowski said while discussing community issues with the two men,

**CHAPLAIN continued on PAGE 5**



Rabbi Mendy Dubrowski receives his badge from Tampa Police Chief Brian Dugan.

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## Dentist, ‘mensch’ is Maimonides Society honoree

The Maimonides Society of Tampa will honor Dr. Ron Pross with its leadership award on Tuesday, May 1 at the Bryan Glazer Family JCC, 522 N. Howard Ave., Tampa. The annual event will also feature guest speaker Dr. Charles Lockwood, dean of USF Health Morsani College of Medicine, who will provide a look at how Channelside’s Water Street redevelopment project will revolutionize the future of medicine in Tampa Bay.

The event will kick off with a cocktail reception with heavy hors d’oeuvres at 6:30 p.m. and will be followed by the program at 7:15 p.m.

Pross has practiced dentistry for more than 42 years in Tampa. He received his bachelor’s degree from Queens College of City University of New York and his dental degree from the University of Pennsylvania. Upon graduation, he spent two years as a captain in the U.S. Air Force Dental Corps, serving at MacDill Air Force Base and then started a private practice. He formed North Pointe Dental Associates where he has spent his entire dental career. In a professional capacity, he volunteers at the Gulf Coast Dental Outreach Clinic, is a member of the Hillsborough County Dental Society, West Coast Dental Society, Florida Dental Association, American Dental Association and Academy of General Dentistry, to name a few. He is also a fellow of the Academy of General Dentistry.



Honoree Dr. Ron Pross

“Ron embodies what it means to be a mensch in and outside of the office,” said Dr. Stephen Kreitzer, this year’s Maimonides Society event chair. “He is actively involved in the Jewish community and continues to serve as a dedicated lay leader in various capacities.”

Pross is active at Congregation Kol Ami, where he is past president and sits on the board of directors, Ritual Committee and Rabbi Search Committee. He is active in other organizations as well as a Tampa JCCs and Federation board member, board liaison to Hillels of the Florida Suncoast and a Washington Club member of AIPAC. As the past president of Jewish National Fund, Pross has further demonstrated his commitment to Jewish life, to Israel and to creating a better world.

Pross and his wife, Susan, are committed to setting an example for their three children and eight grand-

children to engage in causes that ensure for a better and brighter Jewish tomorrow.

Guest speaker Lockwood is the senior vice president of USF Health as well as the medical school dean. In this role, he leads the Morsani College of Medicine and the Colleges of Nursing, Public Health and Pharmacy as well as the School of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Sciences. He also oversees the USF Physicians Group, which is the faculty group practice of the medical school and the largest multi specialty group practice in West-Central Florida. Lockwood also holds the rank of professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.



Guest speaker Dr. Charles Lockwood

Lockwood will talk about the new USF Health Morsani College of Medicine and Heart Institute, currently under construction at Meridian Avenue and Channelside Drive and scheduled to open in 2019. The medical school and heart institute will be a key anchor in Jeff Vinik’s \$3 billion Strategic Property Partners Water Street Development, which is destined to become the world’s first WELL certified city district. The downtown site will also put USF Health in close proximity to its primary teaching and clinical affiliate, Tampa General Hospital, as well as its world-class simulation center, the USF Health Center for Advanced Medical Learning and Simulation.

The Maimonides Society event is sponsored by Valley National Bank and is free for all Federation donors, with an entry fee of \$25 per person for all non-donors.

The Maimonides Society is a fellowship of physicians and dentists and other healthcare professionals who seek to strengthen the bonds between themselves, Israel and the broader Jewish community. The Maimonides Society includes healthcare professionals who are committed to the highest ideals of the healthcare profession. They serve as resources to the Jewish and general community whenever leadership might be needed, whether in areas of philanthropy, health action or scholarship.

For more information about the Maimonides Society or to RSVP, visit [jewishtampa.com/Maimonides](http://jewishtampa.com/Maimonides) or call Michelle Gallagher at (813) 739-1687.



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## Over 20,000 protest coming deportation of Africans in Israel

JERUSALEM (JTA) – More than 20,000 protested in Tel Aviv against a government plan to deport African asylum seekers from Eritrea and Sudan to a third country in Africa.

The rally in Rabin Square was organized by NGOs (non-governmental organizations), Sudanese and Eritrean groups, Stop the Deportation movement and the South Tel Aviv against the Deportation group, the *Jerusalem Post* reported.

The deportations were scheduled to begin on April 1, but Israel’s Supreme Court has halted the deportations until it reviews a petition filed against the practice. According to the government plan, migrants who choose to leave by March 31 will receive a payment of \$3,500 as well as free airfare and other incentives.

There are up to 40,000 Eritreans and Sudanese living in Israel, including 5,000 children.

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 (6416 Central Ave., St. Petersburg, FL 33707)  
 Telephone: (813) 871-2332 • Fax: (727) 440-6037  
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# The government is funding houses of worship and why no one seemed to notice (or care)

By **RON KAMPEAS**  
JTA news service

WASHINGTON — President George W. Bush's first act as president, on Jan. 29, 2001, was to open an office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. Church-state separations that had hindered such partnerships, he said in a statement, were "inherently unfair."

Jewish groups, civil libertarians and Democrats immediately raised concerns, and the Bush administration soon dispatched the office's then-director, John DiIulio, to a Jewish conference to make the case and note money would not directly assist churches and synagogues. Critics remained skeptical.

Fast forward 17 years: Congress passed a law last month that would allow federal disaster relief to go straight to churches and synagogues. President Donald Trump signed the bipartisan bill, ensuring that houses of worship and secular nonprofit organizations are treated equally when applying for disaster through the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Hardly anyone blinked. At least two Jewish groups unnerved by Bush's actions welcomed the law, and the legislation included Democratic sponsors.

What happened? Interviews with a range of Jewish officials suggested a number of factors:

"Certainly from the Bush years and through the Obama years, it became a more consensus principle that it's appropriate in certain concepts for government to partner with religious groups and even in providing religious groups funding," said Nathan Diamant, Washington director of the Orthodox Union, among the few Jewish organizations that welcomed Bush's 2001 initiative.

Obama, as the Democratic nominee in 2008, said that while he "believed deeply" in separation of church and state, he thought the partnership was okay as long as the money was not used for proselytizing and it was spent strictly on secular programs, like child care or addiction recovery.

"There was no political cost to be paid" by Obama in backing faith-based partnerships, said Marc Stern, the general counsel for the American Jewish Committee. AJC opposed Bush's office in 2001, but more recently lobbied to advance the disaster relief bill. Stern said Democrats were going to vote for Obama anyway, and Obama as the nominee had to tack to the center.

Additionally Obama, with his past as a community worker in a troubled Chicago neighborhood, had experienced the benefits of partnering with churches to alleviate strife. "He disappointed the strict church-state separationists," Diamant recalled.

Obama once in office sweetened the deal for liberals, inviting them to join an advisory council (including three Jews) that tinkered for two years on recommendations that would protect the Faith-Based office from violating constitutional separations.

Under Trump, the office has been moribund, but he has aggressively embraced many of its principles. Just a month before the disaster aid bill had passed, he used his executive powers to remove the restrictions.

Diamant has led the charge for decades to direct more funding toward religious institutions. Activists like Diamant have worked doggedly to codify the changes into permanent law in Congress -- and they have picked their battles well.

In the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the Orthodox Union, Agudath Israel of America and the Jewish Federations of North America joined in advocating for nonprofit security grants, which reinforce protections for religious organizations. The program was launched under Bush in 2005. More than 90 percent of the grants have gone to Jewish buildings.

"Assistance for security is different than assistance for some other things," Diamant said, explaining why the grants encountered little resistance. "It's become a more pragmatic conversation than an ideological one."

"The era when a synagogue is next door to a Kmart, where both of them are damaged by a tornado, and Kmart can have its roof replaced by FEMA emergency funds and a synagogue cannot is anachronistic," said William Daroff, currently the Washington

director of the JFNA. (JFNA's predecessor, United Jewish Communities, in 2001 also opposed the Bush faith-based initiative.)

Rep. Grace Meng, D-NY, the lead Democratic co-sponsor of the FEMA legislation, was brought up as a devout Christian and has a substantial Orthodox constituency in her Queens district. Those elements made the legislation a no-brainer, she said.

"As a representative of a diverse and multicultural neighborhood, people needed to know their government is there for them regardless of their faith," she said. (Meng's district was hard hit by Superstorm Sandy in 2012). Meng noted that her bill included constitutional protections: Money could not go to "church pews and Bibles" but to secular services provided by a house of worship.

Daroff said that much of the Jewish opposition to church-state partnerships derived from anxieties about majority privilege that have long since subsided.

"There was an era when Jews could not live in certain neighborhoods, Jewish doctors could not practice in certain hospitals," he said. "We've evolved as a country and we don't need to be as fearful of government or of intrusion."

Abba Cohen, who heads the Washington office of Agudah, the haredi Orthodox interest group that advocated for nonprofit security grants and the FEMA grants, said hostility toward religion is abating. "Society and the courts are rejecting absolutist policies of the past that too often evinced a hostility toward religion and religious institutions," he said in an email. "There is an understanding that there is a need for a more balanced, more reasoned approach — one that looks to fairness and rejects discrimination against religious community organizations simply because they are religious."

The conservative majority on the Supreme Court also has left its imprint on church-state separations. Most recently, last year, the court ruled 7-2 that a church may receive government funds for secular purpose — in that case, repaving a playground. Court rulings, Diamant noted, tend to shape the overall debate by signaling to partisans what is winnable and what is not. He said he did not expect a fight on the FEMA law.

"To take an extreme position on that would be at odds with Supreme Court's understanding of the constitution," he said.

Nevertheless, David Barkey, the Anti-Defamation League's religious freedom counsel, said popular opposition to eroding church-state separations still persists. He pointed to a 2012 ballot initiative in Florida-- a "purple" state representative of national trends -- that would have removed state restrictions on funding for religious institutions. It failed 55-45 percent.

"We have a large constituency that has never been comfortable with" government funding for houses of worship, he said.

Stern of the AJC also said that the issue was likely not dead and buried: He noted that the FEMA bill, despite having Democratic lead sponsors, had trouble attracting Democratic co-sponsors in both chambers. Meng is the sole Democrat sponsoring the House bill, and Sen. Claire McCaskill of Missouri was the sole Democrat on the Senate version.

Jack Moline, a Conservative rabbi who leads the Interfaith Alliance, a coalition of faith groups that backs vigorous church-state separations, said the issues that have galvanized separationists in the past would continue to engage them. "Even though a house of worship may think that accepting money after a flood is an appropriate grant, the government now has a reason to look into the funding of a house of worship because of federal funds," he said.

Another issue is how the money is used for hiring purposes, Barkey said: Would houses of worship reject contractors or fire staffers who did not adhere to certain religious beliefs or practices?

"Even houses of worship acting with the best of intentions may use the money for unconstitutional purposes," Barkey said.

Diamant said he was not letting his guard down. "In advocacy, you need to be very patient," he said, contemplating the 17-year trajectory from the Bush office to the FEMA bill. "It can take decades."

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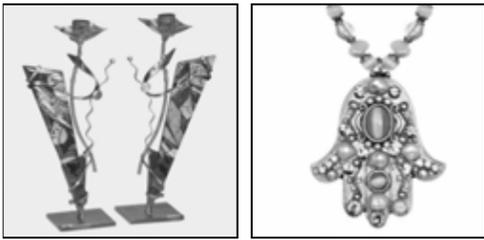
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## JNF breakfast to feature former Israeli Ambassador Ayalon

Former Israeli Ambassador to the U.S. Danny Ayalon will be guest speaker at a free Jewish National Fund breakfast for Israel on Tuesday, May 1 from 9-10 a.m. at the Bryan Glazer Family JCC in Tampa.

Ayalon was born in Tel Aviv in 1955, viewing himself as the product of the ingathering of the exiles, the intersection between the Jewish Diasporas of East and West, Sephardic and Ashkenazi, and the first generation of Israel's reestablishment. His father came to Israel from Algeria before the War of Independence in 1948 and fought in the Golani Brigade. His mother immigrated there in 1937 from Poland, escaping the Holocaust, in which members of her extended family perished. She also fought in the War of Independence in Jerusalem and was wounded in battle.



Danny Ayalon

Ayalon served in Israel's Foreign Service for more than 20 years, beginning in Panama, and then the UN mission in New York. He was political adviser to three different prime ministers: Ehud Barak, Benjamin Netanyahu, and Ariel Sharon. In 2002, he was named Israel's

ambassador in the U.S., serving in that capacity for four years.

"During my ambassadorial tenure, Israel-US relations increased and improved, with American support of Israel reaching an all-time high in many areas," Ayalon writes on his website.

Upon retirement from the diplomatic service in 2006, he joined Nefesh B'Nefesh, an organization committed to revitalizing Aliyah, and the Or Movement for settlement in the Negev and the Galilee, both issues he believes should be top national priorities. "That's not only a wise financial investment, but a Zionist imperative and also a moral obligation upon us and future generations," he says.

In February 2009, he was elected a member of the Knesset and soon after was named deputy foreign minister, serving in the parliament until 2013.

Among his many pursuits since then, Ayalon has served as a visiting professor of foreign policy at Yeshiva University. He recently founded The Truth About Israel, a nonprofit organization to combat attempts to delegitimize Israel and strengthen its political status and image.

Chair for the breakfast program is Lynne Merriam.

RSVPs are requested to [jnf.org/tampabreakfast](http://jnf.org/tampabreakfast) by April 20. Dietary laws will be observed. The JCC is at 522 N. Howard Ave., Tampa.








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Students from the Orlando Torah Academy look on as Gov. Rick Scott signs a bill that prohibits public entities from dealing with companies that boycott Israel.

## Scott signs pro-Israel bill; touts \$2m in budget for Day School security

Florida Gov. Rick Scott has signed a bill that prohibits state agencies and local governments from contracting with companies that are boycotting Israel.

Scott's bill-signing ceremony Wednesday, March 21, at the Orlando Torah Academy, a Jewish day school, also allowed him to highlight the \$2 million that was included in the state budget to allow such schools to harden security against terrorist and other potential attacks. Funding will be used to help provide upgrades such as video cameras, fences, bulletproof glass, alarm systems and other safety equipment.

Last year, the state legislature approved more than \$650,000 for security at Jewish day schools.

The governor touted the state's strong relationship with Israel in signing the anti-BDS legislation.

"The state of Florida stands firm with our ally Israel. In 2016, I was proud to sign legislation that prohibited the state, or administration,

from investing in companies that boycott Israel. Today I'm proud to sign HB 545, an important piece of legislation that builds on our efforts by prohibiting any state agency and local governments from contracting with companies that boycott Israel," said Scott.

In 2016, Gov. Scott signed legislation that prohibits the State Board of Administration from investing in companies that boycott Israel.

Gov. Scott also supported the U.S. Embassy moving from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. In December, he led a delegation of Florida business and education leaders on a second trade mission to Israel.

During the 2011 mission, Scott signed the Florida-Israel Memorandum of Understanding Agreement between Space Florida and Israel, to support research, development and aerospace and technology projects.

Florida's total economic development and trading partnership with Israel exceeds \$283 million a year.

### Correction

Congregation Beth Am in Tampa is sending 11 teens and three chaperones to the March for Our Lives in Washington, D.C. on March 24. Temple B'nai in Clearwater is sending eight teens and three chaperones; Temple Beth-El in St. Petersburg is sending four

teens and two chaperones and Temple Ahavat Shalom in Palm Harbor is sending one teen. A story in the March 9 issue of the Jewish Press contained incorrect numbers for how many people were going to the march from each congregation.

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# Tampa JCC Preschool coming to Hillel Academy next fall

Beginning next fall, the Tampa JCC Preschool will expand to the Hillel Academy campus in Carrollwood.

This will be the first time that the JCC Preschool has offered a class at Hillel Academy, Tampa's only accredited Jewish day school for students in grades K through eight.

The Hillel Academy will be the third branch for Tampa JCC Preschool, with others in Citrus Park and South Tampa. This new preschool will open with one blended class for ages 3 and 4.

The JCC Preschool at Hillel Academy will follow the same curriculum and philosophical approach as the other existing locations, but its schedule will mirror Hillel Academy's, opening in August and running through May. The preschool will be open 8 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. weekdays.

The new preschool will offer the innovative Sheva model developed through the National JCC Association. Sheva, which means seven in Hebrew, employs seven core principles



Former JCC Preschool students (L-R) Tyler Fulmino, Coby Goldberg-Blander, and Kelsie Keough. The preschool will open a class for 3- and 4-year-olds at the Hillel Academy.

of early care and education and contemporary and ancient texts, using seven Jewish lenses to reveal universal values. Sheva classrooms

weave these values throughout their educational day.

"We are thrilled to be partnering with Hillel Academy. Adding a JCC Preschool branch at Hillel Academy helps bring high quality early childhood education to the Carrollwood area. We plan to continue to collaborate with Hillel Academy to build on our traditions of excellent Judaic and secular education for our youngest children through middle school," said Heidi Shimberg, chief operating officer of Tampa JCCs.

Allison Oakes, head of school at Hillel Academy, noted, "This natural partnership between two Jewish educational pillars in our community provides an opportunity for us to meet the needs of the expanding population in northeast Tampa."

More information about JCC Preschools is available by contacting Jen Goldberg, executive director of education at the Tampa JCCs and Federation at [jennifer.goldberg@jewishtampa.com](mailto:jennifer.goldberg@jewishtampa.com) or (813) 769-4738.

# CHAPLAIN

• CONTINUED from FRONT PAGE

Mayor Buckhorn told him, "If you want to help, you need to do it from the inside."

That advice never left him. He looked for the best way he could help and researched how he could make the most positive impact. His search eventually led him to the TPD and he set out to apply.

It took one local and one FBI background check, a polygraph test, drug tests, a 30-page written application and a four-hour interview just to be considered for employment.

"They put you through the same application process the officers go through, outside of field training," said Rabbi Dubrowski.

He said he understood the process and felt it helped him to get a comprehensive view of what police have to go through to work in their high stress field, insight that could only help him in his new position.

As a chaplain, Rabbi Dubrowski has a variety of duties from giving invocations and benedictions to assisting with death notifications and counseling. His services are available to all officers, regardless of faith or background.

Even before he was formally sworn-in, the Tampa Police Department called on him to counsel the family of a Jewish officer who was killed in an off-duty accident. Unfortunately, he knows those services likely will be needed again.

He is prepared for all of that, but he has one more responsibility that is self-imposed.

"It's more about helping these officers to better communicate," said Rabbi Dubrowski. "Helping them to find the right language and verbiage to be able to communicate and to be able to enjoy the support of the community."

His efforts will be added to the work of three other chaplains and the City of Tampa liaisons for the LGBT and Hispanic communities, as well as Ybor City-Channelside, South Howard and Westshore business and security partnerships.

In the end, Rabbi Dubrowski believes communities and police presence can coexist in harmony and aims to help both in his new role.

"They [officers] sacrifice their time, their energy, even their lives," said Rabbi Dubrowski. "They deserve to have the full support of the community behind them."

# New national security adviser is Iran hawk, close to pro-Israel groups

By RON KAMPEAS  
JTA news service

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's new national security adviser John Bolton is a hawk who has said military strikes may be inevitable as a means of preventing Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon.

Naming Bolton suggests that Trump is ready to pull out of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal by May 12, the deadline to waive sanctions. The agreement trades sanctions relief for a rollback of Iran's nuclear program. Bolton is a staunch opponent of the deal, as is Mike Pompeo, the CIA chief Trump just nominated to replace Rex Tillerson as secretary of state.

Bolton has said on multiple occasions that striking Iran to stop it from going nuclear may be inevitable.

"I don't make any disguise of the idea that ultimately it may take an Israeli strike against Iran's nuclear program to stop it," he told the conservative *Washington Free Beacon* in August.

Tillerson and outgoing national security adviser H.R. McMaster both don't like the deal but counseled against pulling out of it because Iran is complying with its narrow strictures, and leaving would remove whatever leverage the United States has with its allies to pressure Iran outside the deal's confines. That leaves James Mattis, the defense secretary, as the only Cabinet-level official who opposes leaving the deal.

Bolton has close relations with the pro-Israel community stemming from his success in 1991 in getting the United Nations to rescind its Zionism is racism resolution. Bolton at the time was the assistant secretary of state for international organization affairs under President George H.W. Bush.

Bush's son, George W. Bush, nominated Bolton as ambassador to the United Nations in 2005 and named him acting ambassador. Bolton never cleared the Senate nominating process, in part because of his hawkishness on Middle Eastern issues, but also because subordinates at the State Department emerged to describe him as an abusive boss. Bolton under the younger Bush had been the undersecretary of state for arms control and international security affairs.



Photo by Darren McColester/Getty Images  
John Bolton speaking at the First in the Nation Republican Leadership Summit in Nashua, N.H. in 2015.

Pro-Israel groups, including the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, at the time broke with their protocol against endorsing a nominee and lobbied for Bolton's confirmation, but to no avail. Bolton was forced to step down from the U.N. post.

The national security post is not subject to Senate confirmation.

McMaster got along well with his Israeli counterparts, but angered some on the right wing of the pro-Israel community because of reports that he blocked Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital. Trump ultimately recognized Jerusalem in December and announced plans to open a temporary embassy there in May.

Morton Klein, who heads the hawkish Zionist Organization of America, called Bolton a "spectacular choice" to lead the NSC.

"He understands the Arab Islamic war against Israel and the West," Klein tweeted. "Bolton is a patriot and an ardent clear thinking Extraordinary supporter of Israel. He testified with me to move the Embassy, opposes the disastrous Iran Deal."

Rep. Adam Schiff, D-CA, the ranking member of the House Intelligence Committee, was alarmed by Bolton's appointment. "It's hard to escape the disquieting conclusion that the mass exodus of the 'adults' from this Administration is putting our nation's security at risk," he tweeted. "Ambassador Bolton's hawkish and conspiratorial thinking will only make matters dangerously worse."

In February, Bolton wrote an op-ed in *The Wall Street Journal* urging the United States to use force to solve the nuclear standoff with North Korea.

# KNOW

• CONTINUED from FRONT PAGE

other staples of the traditional Seder, including the Seder plate and charoset. Their maror (bitter herbs) is a mixture of lemon peel, bitter lettuce and an assortment of other herbs.

## 6. Israeli Jews have only one Seder.

Israeli Jews observe only one Passover Seder, unlike everywhere else where traditionally two Seders are held, one on each of the first two nights of the holiday. Known as *yom tov sheni shel galuyot* — literally "the second festival day of the Diaspora" — the practice was begun 2,000 years ago when Jews were informed of the start of a new lunar month only after it had been confirmed by witnesses in Jerusalem. Because Jewish communities outside of Israel were often delayed in learning the news, they consequently couldn't be sure precisely which day festivals were meant to be observed. As a result, the practice of observing two Seder days was instituted just to be sure.

## 6. You're wrong about the orange on the Seder plate.

Some progressive Jews have adopted the practice of including an orange on the Seder plate as a symbol of inclusion of gays, lesbians and other groups marginalized in the Jewish community. The story goes that the practice was instituted by the feminist scholar Susannah Heschel after she was told that a woman belongs on the synagogue bimah, or prayer podium, like an orange belongs on a Seder plate. But according to Heschel, that story is false. In that apocryphal version, she said, "a woman's words are attributed to a man, and the affirmation of lesbians and gay men is erased. Isn't

that precisely what's happened over the centuries to women's ideas?"

In truth, the idea occurred after a visit to a university where some students had been putting bread crusts on the seder plate as a symbol of protest against the exclusion of women, gays and lesbians. Heschel liked the idea but instead proposed an alternative that did not bring hametz onto the seder table. The orange was to be consumed and the seeds spit out - representing the rejection of homophobia.

## 7. "Afikomen" isn't Hebrew.

For many Seder participants, the highlight of the meal is the afikomen — a broken piece of matzah that the Seder leader hides and the children search for; the person who finds the afikomen usually gets a small reward. Most scholars believe the word "afikomen" derives from the Greek word for dessert. Others say it refers to a kind of post-meal revelry common among the Greeks. Either theory would explain why the afikomen is traditionally the last thing eaten at the Seder.

## 8. For North African Jews, after Passover comes Mimouna.

Most people are eager for a break from holiday meals when the eight-day Passover holiday concludes. But for the Jews of North Africa, the holiday's end is the perfect time for another feast, Mimouna, marking the beginning of spring. Celebrated after nightfall on the last day of Passover, Mimouna is marked by a large spread of foods and the opening of homes to guests. The celebration is often laden with symbolism, including fish for fertility and golden rings for wealth.

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HAPPY PASSOVER

## Finding Exodus

# RABBINICALLY SPEAKING

By RABBI CARLA FREEDMAN  
Congregation Beth Israel of Sun City Center

Recently, mainstream publications have drawn attention to the fact that there is no archeological evidence, either in Egypt or the Sinai Peninsula, to support the Torah's story of the exodus from Egypt. In my experience, the Torah's account of the number of participants in that event is a huge obstacle to its acceptance by many modern readers. They argue that a group of more than 2 million people would have left some material evidence of their journey, and yet (so far) there is none.



But the absence of evidence is not the evidence of absence... The Torah does give some information about the event, including two not-quite-the-same itineraries of the journey. It also makes clear that something of great importance happened at Mt Sinai, but there are at least half a dozen possible locations for that mountain, which in turn would obviously determine the exact route between Egypt and Canaan. And despite reasonable certainty of some of the locations along the route, there have been, as yet, none of the archeological discoveries one would expect where a community camped, even briefly.

Perhaps the most helpful approach to this problem is offered by Prof. Richard Elliott Friedman, in his recent book, *The Exodus*. His theory accounts for lots of the loose ends in the Biblical account, and provides an interesting new slant on the origins of the Jewish people. His thinking is shared by a number of other prominent scholars from various relevant disciplines. One key point that Friedman makes is that, though he tells the

story differently than the Bible does, he is *not* arguing that the exodus never happened.

Most importantly, Judaism takes the Biblical story of the exodus as its point of origin (before that, the Torah tells about the evolution of a specific family into a nation, but offers almost no information about their religious practices). We cite the exodus in almost all of our services, and refer to it in many prayers. But Judaism never asks us to assert belief in the "miracles" of the plagues, the revelation at Sinai. For those of us who do not take the Bible to be the divinely revealed word of God, the discovery that there may be another way to understand the story of the exodus might be welcome and inspirational, without depriving us of the customs, rituals and practices of our heritage.

I for one will not be shaken by the notion that the exodus as described in the Bible may be a significant reworking...and embellishment...of the actual events. For me, the critical thing has always been what our people learned from that experience, and what we have given to the world as a result.

The learning came from the texts we treasure, from a story that has become a paradigm for many who experience enslavement in their own lives, because this story teaches hope. And that is, alas, a lesson still needed in our own time.

So, at your seder this year, I encourage you to add two more questions to the traditional four:

- What are the important lessons of the Pesach story?
  - How are these lessons meaningful in our own lives?
- I wish you a *zissen Pesach*.

*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. Beth Am

**Social justice discussion:** Congregation Beth Am's Social Action committee is hosting a moderated discussion around the Emmy-winning and Oscar-nominated documentary *13<sup>th</sup>* on Wednesday, April 4 from 7:30-9 p.m. at the synagogue. The film is about race, justice, and mass incarceration in the United States and is named after the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution. As we celebrate and commemorate our ancestors escape from slavery, let's learn together about people who aren't free in modern times. Those attending are asked to watch the movie (available on Netflix) prior to the program. This is a communitywide event, and wine and snacks will be served. Contact **Katie** at [katie@yellen.com](mailto:katie@yellen.com) and (865) 712-2092.

**Zahav group:** The Adults at Leisure group will meet on Tuesday, April 10 at 12:30 p.m. at the temple for a brown bag session and to hear guest speaker **Dr. Hillary Rosenberg**, director of the Beth Am Religious School. This event is open to all. Dr. Rosenberg will speak on "The Dybbuk." Dybbuk myths come from Jewish folklore, where they are believed to be spirits of the dead who can take possession of a living human.

**Talmud study:** An ongoing group is now deeply into Tractate Sanhedrin, where they are learning the ins and outs of the ancient Jewish legal system. It is fascinating stuff, and drop-ins and "just want to try it out's" are always welcome. The next sessions are on Thursdays, April 5 and 12 at 9:30 a.m. at the synagogue. For more information contact Admin@BethAmTampa.org.

**Focus on prayers:** On Tuesdays, April 3 and 10 at 7 p.m. dive into the prayer book with **Rabbi Jason Rosenberg**. He will walk through the service, prayer by prayer, exploring what these prayers mean, and trying to understand what they can mean to us, personally.

**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](mailto:Ipolster@TampaBay.rr.com) or call the temple office.

### Cong. Kol Ami

**Scholar in residence:** The Rabbi Joel S. Wasser Memorial Scholar-in-Residence weekend, April 13-15, will feature **Rabbi Hayim Herring, Ph.D.** Rabbi Herring is an author, presenter and non-profit organizational futurist. He has worked with more than 300 rabbis and congregations of all sizes and denominations throughout North America on a wide range of issues. Rabbi Herring will present the D'Var Torah Friday, April 13 at 6 p.m. titled "Who Moved my Jewish Community?" This is a broad overview of the changed landscape of the Jewish community and the forces that continue to disrupt Jewish life as we have known it until recently. On Saturday, April 14 at 9:30 a.m. Shabbat services,

## Shabbat and Passover Candle Lighting Times

March 30	• 7:29 pm
March 31	• 8:24 pm
April 5	• 7:32 pm
April 6	• 7:33 pm
April 13	• 7:36 pm



Rabbi Herring will present a D'var Torah on "Your Role in Transitioning to an Engaged Congregation." He will speak on how every member is empowered to rethink how a congregation conducts its work so that it can be more inclusive of new ideas and possibilities and learn some proven principles of engagement that work in a congregational setting. On Sunday morning, April 15 at 10 a.m., Rabbi Herring will present a workshop on "Inspiring Community Through Practices of Engagement."

**Meet the doctor:** As part of the congregation's "who NU" program where individual members of the congregation get a chance to tell others about themselves, **Dr. Tanya Gold** will be on hand to talk about her life and work in holistic medicine on Sunday, April 8 from 10 a.m. to noon. This will be a discussion about holistic treatments for common ailments.

**Passover service schedule:** On Sunday, April 1 there will be Passover services at 9:30 a.m., followed by kiddush.

On Thursday, April 5 at 6:30 p.m. erev Passover seventh day services will be held.

On Friday April 6 at 9:30 a.m., Passover seventh day services will be held, followed by kiddush. That evening at 6:30 p.m., Passover eighth day services will be held.

On Saturday, April 7 at 9:30 a.m., Passover eighth day services, including Yizkor, will be held, followed by kiddush. That evening at 8:30 p.m. Passover concluding services will be held.

**L'Chaim:** A class, "Sharing Life's Lessons," is offered on Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to noon. Topics, readings and a different leader are chosen for each weekly session. There will be no class on April 3.

**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. There will be no class on April 5.

**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. There will be no class on April 4.

• 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 and 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 Hearshen • Cantor Andres Kornworcel • Services: Friday, 6 p.m.; Saturday service, 9:30 a.m.; Mon. - Fri. 7:15 a.m., Sunday, 9:15 a.m. • Telephone: (813) 837-1911 • Website: [www.rsholom.org](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) 922-1723 • 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: Saturday, 10:30 a.m.

• Telephone: (813) 642-3244 • Website: [www.ChabadatWiregrass.com](http://www.ChabadatWiregrass.com).

#### Unaffiliated

**Congregation BETH CHAVARIM** — Shabbat services: third Friday at a member's home. Telephone: (813) 957-1269 • Email [familyfriendlytemple@yahoo.com](mailto:familyfriendlytemple@yahoo.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

### Cong. Rodeph Sholom

**Yom HaShoah observance:** A Holocaust Remembrance Day event is planned at the synagogue on Wednesday, April 11 at 6 p.m. when there will be a short ceremony plus a movie, *Fanny's Journey*. A discussion of the movie will follow.

**Israeli nostalgia:** Come with friends for an evening filled with familiar Israeli songs on Saturday, April 21 at 8:30 p.m. Hum, sing-along, tap your feet, get up and dance. This evening is guaranteed to take you back to the good old days in Israel. Everyone is welcome and there is a suggested donation of \$10 per person that includes a tasty nosh. Register for the event online at [www.rsholom.org](http://www.rsholom.org).

**Adult education: Rabbi Josh Hearshen** will teach Torah study on Thursdays at 11 a.m. and Talmud study on Thursdays at noon. At 7 p.m. on Thursdays he teaches a class titled "Embracing Judaism."

### Cong. Schaarai Zedek

**Artist in residence: Rabbi Noam Katz**, an influential voice in contemporary Jewish music, will bring his high-energy and soulful melodies to Schaarai Zedek April 6-8 as the temple's artist-in-residence. He will sing at Shabbat services, hold a Torah study, coffeehouse style concert and be featured at a Yom HaShoah commemoration. He is a longtime song leader and educator who has performed for Jewish and interfaith audiences across North America, Africa and Israel.

On Friday, April 6 at 7:30 p.m., the rabbi will be joined by the Schaarai Zedek's Koleinu Choir to sing a unique Shabbat service. Saturday morning at 9 a.m., Rabbi Katz will hold a Torah study class.

At 7 p.m. Saturday, the Sisterhood and Brotherhood will sponsor an informal "coffee house concert." Specialty coffees plus wine, beer, cheese and dessert will be available. There is no cost to attend, but an RSVP is required.

For more information, call the temple office at (813) 876-2377.

**Tot Shabbat on the farm:** Celebrate Shabbat in nature on Saturday, April 14 from 9:30 a.m. to noon as congregants meet at Old Mickey's Farm for a springtime barnyard tour. Participants can milk a cow, pet a rabbit, or hold a chicken. There will be a tractor tour to learn about what happens when spring comes to a farm. There is no charge with advanced RSVP. Old Mickey's Farm is at 9612 Crescent Drive, Odessa. There will be a brief musical Shabbat morning service. Bring a bag lunch if you wish. To RSVP, go to [www.Zedek.org/rsvp](http://www.Zedek.org/rsvp) or call (813) 876-2377.

**Adult learning: Rabbi Nathan Farb** will present a three-part series, "Bargaining with God," on Wednesdays, April 4, 11 and 18 from 7-8:30 p.m. Our Jewish tradition is full of examples of great figures who argued, cajoled, and haggled with God.

On April 4 the presentation will deal with Noah, Abraham, and Moses. On April 11 the topic is Hannah, Honi, and the Voice of Heaven: How far we can push God?

On April 18 the topic is Bargaining with God in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: How the Jewish State, the Holocaust, and modern technology are changing the way we argue with and about God.

**Café CSZ:** Have a bagel and a cup of coffee at Café CSZ on Sundays, April 8, 15, 22 and 29 from 9-11 a.m. when religious school is meeting.

### Cong Beth Shalom Brandon

**Interfaith Yom HaShoah service:** In a joint program with Sun City Center United Methodist Church and Congregation Beth Shalom, there will be a Yom HaShoah service that includes prayers, memorial candle lighting and readings, and an interfaith community choir led by **Jeff Jordan** on Wednesday, April 11 at 7 p.m. at the church, 1201 Del Webb Blvd. W., Sun City Center. As a community, the congregations will come together to remember what happened to the victims of Hitler, and to remember the heroes who did not live to tell their stories.

For carpool information, contact **Rudina Richter** at (813) 690-1436 or meet at Beth Shalom at 6 p.m.

**Diversity discussion:** Keeping in mind that the Holocaust was fueled by the dynamics of discrimination, demonization and marginalization, the congregation will host a panel discussion of diverse and marginalized community groups on Saturday, April 14 at 7 p.m. All will share information to help congregants become aware of each group's challenges and missions in an effort to create a better understanding and acceptance.

**Yom Ha'Atzmaut festival:** Celebrate and honor Israel's 70th birthday in south Hillsborough County on Sunday, April 15 from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be something for all ages: food, music, crafts, games, and raffles. All invited and welcome to join us for this festive celebration.

**Pirkei Avot study:** Join **Julie Enzer** as she leads us through this collection of ethical writings and maxims from the rabbis, "Chapters (or Ethics) of the People." Pirkei Avot is filled with ethical degrees worth grappling with in our contemporary lives. One tradition is to read the Pirkei Avot in the weeks between Pesach and Shavuot. This year there will be five Sunday morning sessions from April 8 to May 6 from 9:30-10:30 a.m.

For information on accessing Pirkei Avot online, contact **Julie** at (813) 502-5549 or [JulieREnszer@gmail.com](mailto:JulieREnszer@gmail.com).

### Cong. Beth Israel Sun City Center

**Songs of the '50s and '60s:** Entertainer **Marc Sternberg** will perform the songs of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr., Nat King Cole, Andy Williams, Johnny Mathis and many more at a concert on Sunday April 8 at 2 p.m. at Cong. Beth Israel. Tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased in advance by calling (813) 331-3888. Tickets will also be available at the door, if space is available. There is limited seating. Refreshments will be served following the performance.

**Movie time:** There will be a showing of the film, *The Little Traitor*, on Sunday, April 22 at 3 p.m. This is an independent family drama based on the novel, *Panther in the Basement*, by Amos Oz. The story takes place in Palestine on the eve of the expiration of the British Mandate and the establishment in 1948 of an Israeli state. The film

stars Alfred Molina and Theodore Bikel.

Refreshments following the movie will include hummus, falafel, Israeli salad and dessert. Cost per person is \$5. Reservations are required. Contact **Betty Schare** at (248) 568-7610 or email her at [bet33pet@gmail.com](mailto:bet33pet@gmail.com) by Sunday, April 15.

**Rummage sale:** The congregation will hold a rummage sale on Tuesday, May 15 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the synagogue. For information on donating, contact **Barbara Nova** at [Barbaranova03@gmail.com](mailto:Barbaranova03@gmail.com).

### Young Israel

**Guest speaker:** Celebrate the new moon with a festive meal, then listen to speaker **Harvey Hyman** speak on "The Military History of Ancient Israel," focusing on the Exodus story. The event is on Sunday, April 15 at 7:30 p.m. in the Norman Jewish Library. Suggested donation is \$18.

To RSVP, go to [youngisrael@hotmail.com](mailto:youngisrael@hotmail.com) or call **Zev** at (917) 439-5888.

### Cong. Bais Menacham Chabad

**Torah class:** Join a weekly Torah class on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. at the University of Tampa. The class explores contemporary issues through a Torah perspective. For more information, contact **Rabbi Levi Rivkin** at (813) 504-4432 or email [bmchabad@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## Retiring Rabbi Birnholz and wife to be honored April 27-29

Congregation Schaarai Zedek in Tampa will honor retiring Rabbi Richard Birnholz and his wife, Donna on the weekend of Friday through Sunday, April 27-29.

Rabbi Richard Birnholz has served as senior rabbi of Congregation Schaarai Zedek for 32 years.

Following his ordination from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, New York, in 1971, Rabbi Birnholz began his career as assistant rabbi of Temple Israel in Memphis. From 1973-1986, he was rabbi at Beth Israel Congregation in Jackson, MS, where he also served as visiting professor in the Religion Department at Millsaps College, before accepting the position at Schaarai Zedek.

Rabbi Birnholz has won numerous awards for his contributions to Reform Jewish life. In 1977, he won the national Samuel Kaminker Memorial Curriculum Award for outstanding informal education curriculum. In 1983, he was alumni-in-residence at Hebrew Union College in New York. In 1989, he was a United Jewish Appeal National Rabbinic Award winner.

In the early '90s he served as a teacher of the eighth and ninth grades at Hillel Academy and in 1991 he was given the professional title of Reform Jewish Educator. In March 1996, he was conferred with an honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity by Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion for serving the spiritual and intellectual needs of the Jewish community. Rabbi Birnholz was elected to the executive board of the Central Conference of American Rabbis

from 1996-1998.

The weekend celebration begins on Friday, April 27 with a Todah Rabah Shabbat. It will include a wine and cheese reception at 6:30 p.m. and Shabbat service with guest speaker Rabbi Harry Danziger at 7:30 p.m.

In 1986, Rabbi Danziger installed Rabbi Birnholz as the fourth senior rabbi at Congregation Schaarai Zedek. Rabbi Danziger is rabbi emeritus of Temple Israel in Memphis. He is a past president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis and a member of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. Most of all, Rabbi Danziger and his wife Jeanne are dear friends of the Birnholz's.

On Saturday evening, April 28, award-winning entertainer Jason Hewlett will present "A Rabbi Walks into a Temple ... Stand-Up Comedy for a Stand-Out Guy." The event begins at 7 p.m. with a pre-performance champagne and small bites reception, followed at 8 p.m. by Hewlett's one-man show featuring comedy, music and impressions, appropriate for all ages. Hewlett has performed more than 2,000 shows, for more than 1 million people from Las Vegas to troops in Afghanistan.

Cake and coffee will be served after the performance. There is no charge for this event but an RSVP is required.

On Sunday, April 29 at 11:30 a.m. there will be a "Holy Smokes" family barbecue bash with the Birnholzes. For more information, contact the temple at (813) 876-2377 or [office@zedek.org](mailto:office@zedek.org).



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# Spending bill has big boost for Jewish groups seeking security funds, approves Taylor Force Act

By **RON KAMPEAS**  
JTA news service

WASHINGTON – An omnibus spending bill approved by Congress and signed by President Donald Trump more than doubles spending for security grants that have been overwhelmingly tapped by Jewish institutions.

The \$1.3 trillion bill includes \$60 million for the security grants, up from \$25 million last year. More than 90 percent of the grants have been used to harden security at Jewish institutions since the nonprofit security grant program was launched in 2005.

Nathan Diament, the Washington director of the Orthodox Union, one of the lead advocates for the grants, said a spike in threats on Jewish institutions over the last year drove the increase.

According to the Anti-Defamation League, anti-Semitic incidents in the U.S. in 2017 increased by 43 percent over 2016, not including a spate of bomb threats carried out

against Jewish institutions by a Jewish man in Israel.

Of the \$60 million, \$10 million for the first time will go to areas outside major metropolitan areas. Diament said that will allow Jewish institutions outside such designated areas to apply for the funds. He named Monsey, in upstate New York, as an example of an area with a high (Orthodox) Jewish concentration that until now has not been able to access the existing program.

Also advocating for the security grants over the years were the Jewish Federations of North America and Agudath Israel of North America.

The bill also includes \$175 million over the next 10 years to improve security at schools, a provision that was accelerated after the deadly school shooting in Parkland last month. The bill will fund training in violence prevention, police-school coordination and crisis intervention, and will be

extended to private and parochial schools as well as public schools. (The new Florida budget also increases the amount for security grants to Jewish day schools, see story, page 4)

JFNA praised the inclusion in the omnibus bill of \$5 million for the Holocaust Survivor Assistance Program, double the amount of previous years. The program partners with Jewish institutions to deliver assistance to elderly Holocaust survivors.

“There are approximately 100,000 Holocaust survivors living in the United States today, with an estimated 30,000 living in poverty,” said William Daroff, the Washington director of JFNA, in a statement. “By doubling funding levels to \$5 million, the program now will be able to provide immediate support to ensure that Holocaust survivors are able to live in dignity and comfort for the remainder of their lives.”

Also wrapped into the omnibus

is the Taylor Force Act, which slashes funding to the Palestinians until the Palestinian Authority stops payments to Palestinians killed or arrested during attacks on Israelis. Taylor Force was an American who was murdered by a Palestinian terrorist in a stabbing attack in Tel Aviv in 2016.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-SC, a key backer of the bill, told the news website Jewish Insider that he secured U.S. House of Representatives support for the bill by preserving some humanitarian exceptions, that will allow up to \$5 million for wastewater treatment and up to \$500,000 for vaccinations for children.

Leading the demand for the humanitarian exceptions was Rep. Eliot Engel, D-NY, the leading Democrat on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and one of the staunchest defenders of Israel in the House.

Palestinian officials say that only a small portion of the targeted money goes to violent attackers, and that much of the money serves as a welfare program for Palestinians who are imprisoned by Israel, many without charges

The State Department has for

years cut funds to the Palestinians commensurate with its payment to killers and their families, although it has not revealed its formula. U.S. funding for the Palestinians currently stands at about \$260 million a year. None of the money targeted goes directly to the Palestinian Authority, instead funding programs run by NGOs that assist Palestinians.

Also included:

- \$700 million, an increase of \$100 million for U.S.-Israeli missile defense programs. Starting next year, missile defense will be rolled into the overall defense assistance package for Israel, part of a \$38 billion to be delivered to Israel over ten years. “This massive investment is vital to the safety and security of Israel and will help save countless lives in the future,” Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-NY., the minority leader in the Senate, said of the missile defense spending.

- One million dollars to combat anti-Semitism abroad, in addition to existing funding for the office of the anti-Semitism monitor at the State Department. Jewish groups have expressed their concern that the Trump administration has yet to name an anti-Semitism monitor.



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## Florida Holocaust Museum again receives accreditation

Florida Holocaust Museum has received reaccreditation from the American Alliance of Museums, making it one of only three nationally accredited Holocaust museums.

To receive reaccreditation, the museum went through a rigorous process of self-assessment and review by its peers.

"Accredited museums are a community of institutions that have chosen to hold themselves publicly accountable to excellence," said Laura Lott, Alliance president and CEO. The organization is the only one representing the entire scope of the museum community.

"Accreditation is clearly a significant achievement, of which both the institutions and the communities they serve can be extremely proud," said Lott.

Developed and sustained by museum professionals for over 45 years, the museum accreditation program is the field's primary vehicle for quality assurance, self-regulation, and public accountability. Accredita-

tion helps to ensure the integrity and accessibility of museum collections, reinforce the educational and public service roles of museums, and promote good governance practices and ethical behavior.

Of the nation's estimated 33,000 museums, 1,070 are currently accredited through the Alliance. To earn accreditation a museum submits a self-study questionnaire and key operational documents for evaluation, then undergoes a site visit by a two-person team of peer reviewers. The Accreditation Commission considers these results to determine whether a museum should receive accreditation.

"I commend the staff, board and volunteers of these institutions for their focus and commitment to excellence," said Accreditation Commission Chair Amy Bartow-Melia. "They're an inspiration to our field and vital assets to the communities they serve."

The Florida Holocaust Museum is located at 55 5th St. S., St. Petersburg. For additional information, visit [www.TheFHM.org](http://www.TheFHM.org) or call (727) 820-0100.

## Hear victims' names, listen to survivors at Yom HaShoah observance

For 7½ hours, the names of Holocaust victims will be read aloud as the Florida Holocaust Museum commemorates Yom HaShoah. The day of remembrance will be interspersed with talks by four who survived and now bear witness to the Nazi atrocities.

The community is invited to visit the St. Petersburg museum free of charge between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Yom HaShoah, Thursday, April 12, and take part in the observance, which will conclude with a memorial service at 5:30 p.m. The service is being conducted in conjunction with the Pinellas County Board of Rabbis and Tampa Rabbinical Association.

Known more commonly outside of Israel as Holocaust Remembrance Day, Yom HaShoah honors the memory of the more than 6 million Jews who perished during the Holocaust. The full name of the day is *Yom HaShoah Ve-Hagevurah* or "Day of the Remembrance of the Holocaust and the Heroism" as it also marks the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. (Designated by the U.N., International Holocaust Remembrance Day is observed on Jan. 27 and coincides with the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camps).

The Name Reading Commemoration is intended as an effort to remember the victims as individuals with life stories and histories.

"Victims of the Holocaust don't have graves – reciting their names allows for them to be memorialized while reminding us of their human dignity," said museum Executive Director Elizabeth Gelman.

The museum is reinforcing its commitment to ensuring such atrocities do not occur again both through the reading of victims' names and hearing from survivors.

At noon, Halina Herman, who survived the war as a hidden child, will tell her story. Herman was born in Warsaw, Poland in 1939. Her father was a physician and was sent away by the Germans to a slave-labor camp in April 1941 and she never saw him again. Herman's

mother obtained false papers and got a job as a maid in Cracow. She placed Halina with a non-Jewish family who raised her as Christian. After the war, she was reunited with her mother. Halina continued to go to church until her mother revealed their Jewish identity to her in 1949. They went to France where they stayed until they were able to immigrate to Canada.

Gary Silvers and his family took quite a different route in order to survive. Silvers, who will speak at 2 p.m., was born in Berlin, Germany in 1929. His mother was Christian, his father was Jewish. When the persecution of Jews ensued in Nazi Germany, in 1938, the family decided to seek refuge in Shanghai, China – one of the few places that would take Jews in. From 1933 to 1941, Shanghai accepted some 18,000 Jewish refugees fleeing Europe. Most were from Germany and Austria. Silvers' father pleaded with his relatives to leave Germany, but they were not ready to abandon their lives and did not think the situation would deteriorate. Aside from his immediate family who survived in China, all of Silvers' Jewish relatives died in the Holocaust.

Following the 5:30 p.m. memorial service, there will be a special Holocaust Survivor talk with sisters Marie Silverman and Jeannette Bornstein.

Marie Silverman was born in 1931 and her sister Jeannette Bornstein was born in 1935. They lived in Antwerp, Belgium, with their parents when World War II began. After Germany invaded Belgium, the family escaped to France. For awhile, non-Jews hid them on a farm but when the roundups began, the family was captured and separated:

the sisters with their mother were placed in an internment camp at Rivesaltes, France, while their father was sent to a different camp. After 9 months, Marie and Jeannette's mother managed to smuggle the girls out of Rivesaltes. The family was briefly reunited in Vence, France, but their father soon died as a result of the mistreatment he had endured in the internment camp. Two partisan couriers took the sisters across the Pyrénées Mountains on foot from Vence to Barcelona, Spain. They lived with their aunt and uncle and then came to the United States. Once here, they were placed in an orphanage and with foster families until their mother was able to reunite with them in 1949.

Anyone wishing to participate in the reading of Holocaust victims' names should call the museum at (727) 820-0100 ext. 249 to schedule your time slot.

The Florida Holocaust Museum is located at 55 5th St. S., downtown St. Petersburg.



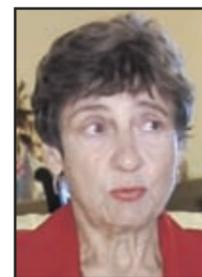
Gary Silvers



Marie Silverman



Jeannette Bornstein



Halina Herman

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or send a check payable to the Menorah Manor Foundation  
or call 727-302-3888

*This event is sponsored by the Menorah Manor Guild.*

# Summer Programs

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www.shorecrest.org/summer

Summer Camps and Programs for students in preschool through high school.

# At Tampa Yom HaShoah program, songs of resilience; survivor stories through teen lens

Survivors of the Nazi death camps and those who fled the oppression will have their stories told through the eyes of today's teenagers at a community Yom HaShoah program on Sunday, April 8 at 2 p.m. at Congregation Schaarai Zedek in Tampa.

Along with the Holocaust survivors, the program will feature middle and high school students from both sides of the bay, songs of resilience and renewal by nationally acclaimed musician Rabbi Noam Katz, and a candle-lighting ceremony. The program is being put on by the Tampa Rabbinical Association and Tampa Jewish Federation.

Students in Jewish youth groups from congregations in Hillsborough

and Pinellas counties will gather at the Tampa temple at noon for a dairy lunch and to meet with the local Holocaust survivors. Groups of students will be assigned to each survivor to hear their accounts first-hand, said Rabbi Richard Birnholz, who took part in planning the Yom HaShoah program.

He said the youths will use poster boards to write summaries of the stories the survivors tell them. Each storyboard summary, with a photo of the survivor, will be presented to the survivors during the 2 p.m. program at the temple.

Cindy Minetti of Gulf Coast Jewish Family & Community Services, which runs the region's Holocaust Survivor Program, is assembling a group of survivors

to participate in the Yom HaShoah observance. Due to the ages and health conditions of the survivors, she said she is uncertain exactly who will participate, but she expects five to eight survivors will be on hand to share their stories with the youth.

Besides creating a written version of the survivors' stories, the teens will retell their accounts at the ceremony. Minetti said this helps show the survivors that their stories live on and it stresses the importance of learning from generation to generation.

Amid prayers and the retelling of the stories, Rabbi Katz will perform. The rabbi, who is also serving that weekend as artist-in-residence at Congregation Schaarai Zedek,

is a longtime camp song leader/educator and currently serves as rabbi/dean of Jewish Living at a Toronto day school. Considered one of the most influential voices in contemporary Jewish music, his newest album, *After the Flood*, includes 14 new songs of "resilience and remembrance."



Rabbi Noam Katz

A candle lighting ceremony will be held during the program. Rabbi Birnholz explained there will be six candles lit – one for the sur-

vivors who were in death camps, one for the refugees who fled from the Holocaust, one for the children of death camp survivors, one for the children of the refugees, one for the grandchildren of survivors and refugees, and a final one for the unknowns who died during the Holocaust and were never accounted for.

Sponsoring congregations include Beth Israel of Sun City Center, Beth Shalom of Brandon and Beth Am, Kol Ami, Mekor Shalom, Rodeph Sholom, all of Tampa, and Temple Beth Shalom of Winter Haven.

Congregation Schaarai Zedek is at 3303 W. Swann Ave. This event is free and open to the entire community.

## Menorah Manor gains 'seal of approval'

Menorah Manor has earned the Gold Seal of Approval® for Nursing Care Center Accreditation from the Joint Commission.

The Gold Seal of Approval® is a symbol of quality that reflects an organization's commitment to providing safe and effective patient and resident care.

The Samson Nursing Center at Menorah Manor in St. Petersburg recently underwent a rigorous on-site survey from the Joint Commission. During the review, expert surveyors evaluated compliance with nursing center standards related to several areas, including assistance with activities of daily living, coordination of care, and staff education and training. Surveyors also conducted on-site observations and interviews with leaders and staff of Menorah Manor.

"Joint Commission accreditation provides nursing homes with a framework for the processes needed to improve the care patients and residents receive," said Gina

Zimmermann, executive director, Nursing Care Center Accreditation Program, The Joint Commission. "We commend Menorah Manor for its efforts to become a quality improvement organization."

"Menorah Manor is pleased to receive accreditation from The Joint Commission, the premier health care quality improvement and accrediting body in the nation," said Rob Goldstein, chief executive officer of Menorah Manor. "Staff from across the organization continue to work together to develop and implement approaches and strategies that will improve care for our residents."

An independent, nonprofit organization, The Joint Commission is the nation's oldest and largest standards-setting and accrediting body in health care.

For more information about Menorah Manor and the services it offers, go to [www.menorahmanor.org](http://www.menorahmanor.org).

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# CELEBRATE ISRAEL@70 AT THE JEWISH NATIONAL FUND BREAKFAST FOR ISRAEL



Featuring Guest Speaker

**AMBASSADOR DANNY AYALON**

**Tuesday, May 1, 2018**

9:00 – 10:00 am; Registration begins at 8:30 am

**Bryan Glazer Family JCC**

522 North Howard Avenue, Tampa, FL

**RSVP by April 20 [jnf.org/tampabreakfast](http://jnf.org/tampabreakfast)**

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CHAIR Lynne Merriam

MORE INFORMATION

Uri Smajovits, Executive Director, Northern Florida, [usmajovits@jnf.org](mailto:usmajovits@jnf.org) or 727.536.5263.



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# 7 Weeks. 7 Days. Celebrating Israel 70

## COMMUNITY EVENTS | APRIL 16 - 22, 2018

For **7 WEEKS** leading up to April 22nd, the community will enjoy reading thoughtful "tidbits" about Israel in Shalom Tampa and on the [Jewishtampa.com](http://Jewishtampa.com) website.

For **7 DAYS** leading up to April 22nd, the community can indulge in Israeli themed activities all across the Tampa area!

### MONDAY, APRIL 16 | 7:00 – 8:00 PM – STORIES AND SIPS:

Enjoy tales of real life Israeli experiences while sipping Israeli wine. Martin Fletcher has been covering world events for forty years, mostly for NBC News. Martin will be joining us via Skype. Local guest speaker, Malka Isaac, will moderate and share tales of real life experiences during the founding of Israel.  
Bryan Glazer Family JCC | Hesterly Salon

### TUESDAY, APRIL 17 | 5:30 – 6:30 PM – HUMMUS...SO

**MANY WAYS!** Cooking demonstration and tasting by Sylvia Cohen. This hands on experience will be enjoyed by all ages! JCC on the Cohn Campus | Auditorium

### \*WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18 | 6:30 PM – MOVIE: THE

**MATCHMAKER:** Arik, a teenage boy growing up in Haifa in 1968, gets a job working for Yankele Bride, a matchmaker. Yankele, a mysterious Holocaust survivor, has an office in back of a movie theater that shows only love stories, run by a family of seven Romanian dwarves in the seedy area by the port. Yankele introduces Arik to a new world, built on the ruins of an old one.  
Villagio Cinemas Carrollwood.

### \*THURSDAY, APRIL 19 | 4:00 – 5:30 PM – PAINT YOUR

**HEART OUT ISRAELI FLAG:** Join your friends for an afternoon filled with painting and pita! Leave with your Israel  70 canvas memory. Ages 8+. JCC on the Cohn Campus – seating limited. Register at [brandy.gold@jewishtampa.com](mailto:brandy.gold@jewishtampa.com).

### FRIDAY, APRIL 20 – TOT SHABBAT CELEBRATING ISRAEL!

JCC on the Cohn Campus | 9:30 AM  
Bryan Glazer Family JCC | 3:30 PM  
Sing, dance, play and pray! Open to all families and their tots.

### SATURDAY, APRIL 21 – FAMILY NIGHT AT HOME:

Visit fun links at [www.jewishtampa.com/IID](http://www.jewishtampa.com/IID) that the entire family will enjoy.

All events are open to the community and **FREE** to attend.

\* Limited space available - please RSVP.

### SUNDAY, APRIL 22 – CELEBRATING ISRAEL 70.

**10:30 AM – 3:30 PM | JCC on the Cohn Campus**  
13009 Community Campus Drive | Tampa, Florida  
FREE admission on day of event | \$5 Per Car parking fee  
Food and Fare available for a FEE  
CASH or CREDIT accepted (no checks please)

Join the community at the Maureen and Douglas Cohn Jewish Community Campus for a fun-filled day celebrating Israel  70.

**10:30 AM – 12:00 PM | Adult Activity | Auditorium – Sip & Skype** with author, Randy Susan Meyers, *The Widow of Wall Street*. Includes spirits to sip and a nosh. **\$5**

**11:00 AM – 12:00 PM | Youth & Family Activity | Roth Hall – PJ Library Goes to Israel!** Geared toward ages 6 months - 6 years. The community wide *Israel Independence Day Celebration* will have a special time set aside for our PJ Library friends to celebrate Israel's 70th Birthday! Enjoy age appropriate crafts, games, songs and the featured PJ Library story *Dinosaur Goes to Israel & 3 Falafels in my Pita!*

**12:00 – 12:30 PM | All Ages | Celebrate the opening of the Judy Cohn Plaza and the Jack Roth Garden with a ceremonial ribbon cutting.** The festivities will continue with the singing of Hatikvah and the National Anthem accompanied by the local War Veterans presenting our colors. The JCC Preschool and Club J students will perform in a Zum Gali Gali choral concert. The rock painting tent will be open for all to create well-wishes.

**12:30 – 1:30 PM | Youth Activity | Auditorium – Movie:** *Shalom Sesame: Welcome to Israel* and *Adventures in Israel*.

**12:30 – 3:30 PM | Enjoy Israeli food and fare!** Falafel, Pita & Hummus, Berekas, Israeli Salad and Biseli/Bomba and so much more! **\$ Fees apply**

**12:30 – 3:30 PM | Youth & Family Activity | Dance Party with DJ John Wendelken!** Enjoy arts & crafts, rides, bounce house & obstacle course, balloon twisting, face-painting and rock wall climbing.

**1:00 – 3:00 PM | Adult Activity | Israeli wine & beer tasting.**

**1:30 – 3:00 PM | Family Activity | Auditorium – Movie:** *Israeli Cuisine*. Enjoy the movie with popcorn.

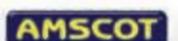
**3:15 PM | Happy Birthday to Israel - Cupcake Extravaganza!**

For more information, visit [www.jewishtampa.com/IID](http://www.jewishtampa.com/IID) or contact Brandy Gold at 813.769.4725.

### SPONSORED BY:









**Bryan Glazer Family JCC**  
522 N. Howard Avenue Tampa, Florida  
**JCC on the Cohn Campus**  
13009 Community Campus Drive Tampa, Florida





From the documentary 'GI Jews,' which will air in honor of Holocaust Remembrance Day.

## Film on PBS documents service of Jews during World War II

A feature-length documentary, *GI Jews: Jewish Americans in World War II*, will air nationwide on PBS stations on Wednesday, April 11 at 10 p.m.

The film spotlights the story of the more than 550,000 Jewish Americans who served their country in all branches of the military during World War II.

Filmmaker Lisa Ades (*American Experience: Miss America*) brings the struggles of these brave men and women to life through first-hand experiences that reveal their fight against fascism, as well as their more personal war to liberate loved ones in Europe. After years of battle, these pioneering servicemen and women emerged transformed: more profoundly American, more deeply Jewish, and determined to continue the fight for equality and tolerance at home.

*GI Jews* premieres April 11 on PBS (check local listings) in honor of Holocaust Remembrance Day (April 12). The film will be available to stream the following day on pbs.org and PBS apps.

*GI Jews* features more than 25 original interviews with veterans who speak candidly about the impact of their wartime experiences: Mel Brooks, who served in the Army; Henry Kissinger, a refugee from Nazi Germany who was drafted into the Army; Carl Reiner, the son of Jewish immigrants, who traveled throughout the Pacific theater with the Special Services Entertainment Unit; the late Bea Cohen, who was a member of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps

(WAAC) in England; and Max Fuchs, who served in the 1st infantry division and was the cantor at a Jewish service in Aachen, Germany, broadcast by NBC in 1944.

"While Jewish Americans' relationship to the Holocaust has been covered extensively, the extraordinary experiences of these servicemen and women bring the well-known saga of World War II to life in a new way and with a uniquely Jewish perspective," said Ades, who produced and directed the documentary.

In addition to battling the enemy, Jewish Americans fought a second, more private battle against anti-Semitism within the ranks. They sought to observe their religion far from home while enduring slurs and even violence from their fellow servicemen.

These Jewish Americans were often felt forced to prove their courage and patriotism. Fighting together in the trenches, at sea, in the air and in war offices, they forged deep friendships across religious lines and learned to set aside their differences for the greater good.

In the aftermath of the Holocaust, America's Jewish community was now the largest in the world, and by the end of World War II, the United States had begun to embrace its Jewish citizens as true Americans. With their new responsibility as international leaders, many Jews became passionate about postwar culture and politics, fighting for justice and social change.



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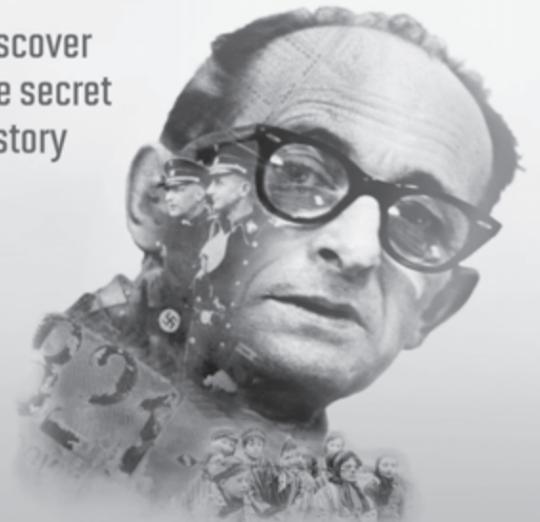
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## CELEBRATION

CONTINUED from FRONT PAGE

Daily activities to celebrate the Israel @70 will begin with Israeli stories and Israeli wine on Monday, April 16 at the Bryan Glazer Family JCC from 7-8 p.m. Martin Fletcher, a former NBC news Middle East correspondent, will join the program via Skype, along with local guest speaker, Malka Isaac. The two will share talks of real life Israeli experiences.

On Tuesday, April 17, sample various hummus recipes along with cooking demonstrations by Sylvia Cohen of the popular chickpea dish. All ages are welcome to participate in this hands on (and lip smacking) experience. The program will take place from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the JCC on the Cohn Campus.

The following night, Wednesday, April 18, an award winning movie, *The Matchmaker*, a 2010 Israeli film, will be featured at 6:30 p.m. at the Villagio Cinemas in Carrollwood. During the summer of 1968 a teenage boy goes to work



From the movie, 'In Search of Israeli Cuisine,' guide and chef Michael Solomonov, left, samples cheese with Shai Seltzer, a cheesemaker in the Judean Hills. The documentary will be shown during the April 22 Israel Independence Day event.



for a matchmaker who has survived the Holocaust and both their lives are changed forever.

Next up on Thursday, April 19 teens and tweens will paint their hearts out while creating an Israeli flag JCC on the Cohn Campus from 4-5:30 p.m.

To end the week, on Friday, April 20, young families are invited to join in a Tot Shabbat celebrating Israel. Celebrations will be held at 9:30 a.m. at the Cohn Campus and 3:30 p.m. at the Glazer JCC. The Tot Shabbat will include singing, dancing and lots of fun with friends.

For Saturday, April 21, the JCCs and Federation is suggesting Family Night at Home with ideas at [www.jewishtampa.com/IID](http://www.jewishtampa.com/IID).

### The Main event

Tampa's largest celebration of Israel's 70th year of independence will take place on Sunday, April 22 at the JCC on the Cohn Campus.

Opening the day, will be a Sip & Skype program with Randy Susan Meyers, author of *The Widow of Wall Street*, a ripped-from-the-headlines story about deceit, scandal and guilt. The event will be from 10:30 a.m. – noon and includes spirits and a nosh. Cost is \$5 per person.

At 11 a.m., an hour-long PJ Library Goes to Israel program will be held. There will be crafts, games, songs and reading of the stories *Dinosaur Goes to Israel* and *3 Falafels in my Pita* – all just right for children ages 6 months to 6 years.

The grand opening and ceremonial ribbon cutting for the Judy Cohn Park and Jack Roth Garden on the campus begins at noon. The ceremony will include presenting of the colors by local war veterans, a Zum Gali Gali concert by the JCC Preschoolers and Club J students.

The 70th birthday celebration of Israel continues with DJ John Wendleken playing Israeli music, dancing and trivia all afternoon. Arts & crafts, rides, bounce house, balloon twisting, face-painting and rock climbing will all fill the afternoon. For adults, there will be Israeli beer and wine tasting in the garden.

For those wanting to wind down for awhile, at 1:30 p.m., the movie, *In Search of Israeli Cuisine*, will be shown. Appropriate for the whole family, the documentary offers a portrait of the Israeli people through food.

There is no charge to attend, although there is a \$5 per car parking fee and food, beverages and some activities are available for purchase.

The JCC on the Cohn campus is located at 13009 Community Campus Drive, off Gunn Highway just east of the Veterans Expressway. This event is sponsored by the *Tampa Bay Times*, United Janitorial Services and Amscot Financial.

For the community events April 16-20, space is limited so participants are asked to register in advance by e-mailing [brandy.gold@jewishtampa.com](mailto:brandy.gold@jewishtampa.com).

More information on "7 weeks, 7 days Celebrating Israel@70" is available at [www.jewishtampa.com](http://www.jewishtampa.com) or call the Tampa JCCs & Federation at (813) 264-9000.

### About Israel Independence Day

The Declaration of Independence for the state of Israel was signed on May 14, 1948 in Tel Aviv. On the Hebrew calendar that is the fifth day of the month of Iyar, which this year begins at sundown on Wednesday, April 18. It is known as Yom Ha'atzmaut, which literally means Day of Independence.

The day before Yom Ha'atzmaut is Yom Hazikaron, Day of Remembrance for Israeli fallen soldiers and victims of terrorism.

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# Organizations

## Genealogical Society

**Members helping members:** The Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay will meet on Sunday April 8 at 2 p.m. at Gulf Coast Jewish Family & Community Services, 14041 Icot Blvd., Clearwater, for a hands-on working session for individual research using the Internet and library resources of the organization. Experienced society mentors will be on hand to provide guidance and assistance. Free access to Ancestry.com and to MyHeritage.com (Premium), will be offered on several computers and available for use. Attendees are asked to bring their own research materials and information and their own laptop computer if they have one. A pre-session social with refreshments and library access begins at 1:30 p.m.

For information about the organization or directions to the meeting, call **Bruce Hadburg** at (727) 796-7981.

## Young Adults

*#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.*

**Flavor tripping:** The #Gather group will meet Monday, April 9 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at 81 Bay Brewing Company, 4465 W. Gandy Blvd, Tampa, to experience the "miracle berry" from West Africa that turns tart and savory foods into sweet flavors. A lemon suddenly tastes like lemonade. Cheese tastes like frosting. Vinegar tastes like apple juice. The cost is \$5 for members and \$10 for guests. Half-price flights of beer will be available for \$5.

**Spin class:** Join in a high-energy spin class with other #Gather members at the Glazer JCC on Monday, April 23 at 6:30 p.m. This is free for members and \$7 for guests and includes access to the entire JCC for the day. Pedal through hill climbs, sprints and interval training with motivational music to help push you through the challenge. Cool down with a smoothie by the pool together. Reserve your bike today.

## 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 April 2 the topic is "What's Your Nonverbal Communication Saying?" On April 9 the topic is "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Job Seekers" and on April 16 the topic is "How to Work the Room at a Networking Event or Job Fair." Monday Morning Links is supported by the Vinik Family Foundation.

**Job-search aids:** The next Success workshop will be Thursday, April 5 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The topic is "5 Steps to Negotiate a Job Offer" and on April 12 it is "Mastering Change and Transition." The workshops are free for TampaBay Job-Links full program participants and \$15 for guests. Reservations required for all programs. To RSVP, call (813) 344-0200, email [RSVP@TBJL.org](mailto:RSVP@TBJL.org).

**Boot camp:** In partnership with Congregation B'nai Israel of St. Petersburg, Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services, and the Jewish Federation of Pinellas and Pasco Counties, TampaBay-Job-Links will present a full-day Job-Search Boot Camp providing tools and strategies to help individuals in career transition kick their job search into high gear. The workshop will take place at Congregation B'nai Israel, 300 58th St. N., St. Petersburg, on Wednesday, April 25 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The cost to attend is \$25, and a kosher lunch will be provided. Advance registration is required, and seating is limited. To register, call TampaBay-Job-Links at (813) 344-0200 or email [RSVP@TBJL.org](mailto:RSVP@TBJL.org) by April 18.

## Jewish War Veterans

**Volunteers needed:** The Jewish War Veterans Post 373 is seeking members who would like to help ill and disabled veterans. Contact **Commander Jack Rudowsky** at (813) 598-8061 or email [rochelletrs@gmail.com](mailto:rochelletrs@gmail.com).

## 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.

**Culture Café:** Enjoy a taste of Jewish Food, music and dress at a Culture Café event at the Glazer JCC on Wednesday, April 25 from 7-8:30 p.m. Cost is \$10 for members and \$15 for guests.

**Bridge lessons:** Those who want to learn how to play bridge or improve their game can take bridge classes at the Glazer JCC on Fridays April 13-May 18. This is for players at any level and sessions are from 1-2:30 p.m. The cost is \$50 for members; \$60 for non-members. There are also open play bridge days on Mondays at the Glazer JCC from 10:30 a.m. to noon. This is free for members and \$10 for non-members.

**Men's Club:** This group will meet on Tuesdays, April 10 and 24 from 5-6:30 p.m. at the Glazer JCC for men to gather in relaxed and friendly surroundings. Potential activities include poker, billiards, ping-pong, sporting events, fishing or camping, community volunteering or discussions.

**The whole enchilada:** Take a class at the Glazer JCC that offers fitness for body and mind on Wednesdays, April 4 - 25 from 10 a.m. to noon, taught by **June Kitay and Eric Pfeiffer**. Combine the advantages of physical and mental fitness exercises to produce fun and enhanced health. The cost is \$40. This is an Osher class offered through USF. For more information and to register, contact the USF Institute of Life Long Learning at (813) 974-8036.

**Plugged in workshop:** In the coming weeks - dates to be announced later - there will be workshops at the Glazer JCC on cloud storage and managing device storage and what to look for in choosing a device. This is a free program, but advanced registration required.

**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 classes are on April 11 and 25. 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

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

**Movie matinee:** 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 April 4, the movie will be *Daniel*.

**Yiddish nostalgia:** Join **Ruth Weston** and other Yiddish enthusiasts on Thursday, April 26 from 12:30-1:30 p.m. at the Cohn campus to share favorite expressions and reminisce. This program is free.

**Crochet lessons:** Learn crochet with instructor **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.

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

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

**JetSetters:** The Phyllis Borell JetSetters social group for adults of all ages meets at both JCCs for an hour-long program followed by lunch. The JetSetters group meets on the Cohn campus on the fourth Thursday of the month from 11 a.m. to noon. On Thursday, April 26 enjoy singing along to vaudeville tunes with **Joy Katzen-Guthrie**.

The lunch is free for members, though a donation of \$5 is suggested.

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 April 11 there will be a presentation on "From Russia with Love."

**News talk:** This discussion group, meeting at both JCCs, is led by **Pat Renfroe** and explores "hot button" issues of the day. Upcoming News Talk sessions at the Glazer JCC are Tuesdays from 7-8:30 p.m.

The group at the Cohn cam-

pus, meets the second and fourth Friday from 10:30 a.m. to noon. The topic on April 13 will be the Florida legislature and the Constitutional Review Commission and on April 27 the topic will be What American values seem to have been set aside.

There is no charge to attend at either location.

**The other four questions:** **Rabbi Jason Rosenberg** of Congregation Beth Am will lead classes to explain the background and significance of the holidays. The next class, on Purim, Hanukkah and other minor days, is Wednesday, April 11 at noon at the Cohn campus.

**Trivial Pursuit and pizza:** Enjoy pizza and exercise your mind on Thursday, April 12 from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Cohn campus. There is no charge.

## Support groups

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

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

# Bar Mitzvah

## Jacob Paul Sams

Jacob Paul Sams, son of Monica and Andrew Sams of Tampa, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, April 7 at Congregation Schaarai Zedek in Tampa.



Jacob is a seventh grade Headmasters List student at Berkeley Preparatory School. Active in the Spanish Club, he also plays club soccer and tennis. For his mitzvah project, Jacob hosted a Thanksgiving neighborhood food drive to benefit the Holiday Tent at Metropolitan Ministries of Tampa.

Monica and Andrew Sams will host a celebration at Palma Ceia Golf and Country Club on Saturday evening, April 7.

Special guests will include grandparents Alice and Stanley Rosenthal from Tampa and Dave and Betsy Sams from Vero Beach, along with family and friends from coast to coast.

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# The first Torah reading in orbit and other fun facts about Jews in space

By JOSEFIN DOLSTEN  
JTA news service

NEW YORK — The Torah tells how God created the earth and the heavens, although the stories that follow tell us more about the former than the latter. A new exhibit doesn't quite answer theological questions about space, but it does show the ways in which Jews have looked at, written about and traveled into the final frontier.

"Jews in Space: Members of the Tribe in Orbit," named after a Mel Brooks gag, is an exhibit organized and on view at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research and the Center for Jewish History here. It features both Yiddish and Hebrew books on astronomy and astrology, science fiction works created by Jews and sections on the history of Jewish astronauts. JTA was given a tour by Eddy Portnoy, YIVO's senior researcher and director of exhibitions, who co-curated the collection, and learned about some of the unusual and unexpected relationship between Jews and the cosmos.

## The first Jewish American to go into space was a woman.

Judith Resnik became the first Jewish American and second Jew (Soviet astronaut Boris Volynov was the first) to go into space when



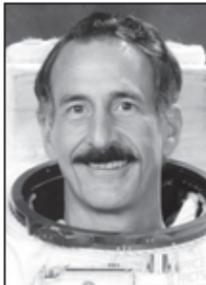
NASA/Space Frontiers/Getty Images

**Mission specialist Judith Resnik sending a message to her father from the shuttle Discovery on its maiden voyage, Aug. 30, 1984.**

she flew on the maiden voyage of the Space Shuttle Discovery in 1984. Born in 1949 to Jewish immigrants from Ukraine who settled in Ohio, Resnik worked as an engineer at the Xerox Corp. before being recruited to NASA in a program to diversify its workforce. Resnik was only the fourth female to ever do so. She died in 1986 along with the rest of the crew of the Space Shuttle Challenger when the spacecraft broke apart shortly after takeoff.

## In 1985, a Jewish-American astronaut read from the Torah in space.

Jeffrey Hoffman, the first Jewish-American man to go into space, consulted a rabbi on how to observe Judaism on his first



Astronaut Jeffrey Hoffman

trip, in 1985. Hoffman, a Brooklyn native who was born in 1944, brought with him a scaled-down Torah and did the first Torah reading outside of Earth. He also had a set of Jewish ritual items specially made for his trip, including a mezuzah with a Velcro strip that he would attach to his bunk and a tallit with weights to keep it from floating away in zero-gravity. He also brought a menorah to celebrate Hanukkah, although he was never able to actually light it aboard the spacecraft.

## The Vulcan salute on "Star Trek" has Jewish origins.

Actor Leonard Nimoy used an unlikely source of inspiration for his character Spock's iconic Vulcan salute, which consists of a raised hand with the middle and ring fingers parted into a V. The gesture looks just like the one Kohanim do in synagogue during the Priestly Blessing. In his autobiography, Nimoy explained that he had copied the Jewish ges-

ture, which he had seen in a synagogue as a child (it also appears on tombstones of Kohanim). The Vulcan salute, which is accompanied by the phrase "Live long and prosper" (the Kohanim's blessing begins "May God bless you and guard you"), became so iconic that the White House mentioned it in a statement issued on Nimoy's death in 2015.

## A Jewish immigrant to the U.S. helped popularize science fiction.

Hugo Gernsback, a Jewish immigrant from Luxembourg, is sometimes called "The Father of Science Fiction" for publishing a magazine that helped popularize the genre. Launched in 1926, *Amazing Stories* featured tales of aliens, robots and other beings, including ones written by Gernsback himself. His magazine brought science fiction — a term he coined — to the mainstream and inspired many writers, such as Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster, the Jewish-American duo that created Superman. Gernsback left *Amazing Stories* in 1929, although it



Leonard Nimoy, as Spock on "Star Trek" giving the Vulcan salute.

held on in one form or another until 2005. Among the Jewish writers who had their first stories published in the magazine were Isaac Asimov and Howard Fast.

## This book of horoscopes was written in Yiddish.

Published in 1907 in Odessa, Ukraine, *The Revealer of That Which Is Hidden: A New Practical Book of Fate* gave Yiddish readers a way to learn about their futures by way of astrology. The book offered predictions based on the reader's zodiac sign. Similar books existed both in Yiddish and Hebrew during the time period, but rabbinic authorities were not thrilled, since astrology is banned by Jewish law (although zodiac symbols have shown up as synagogue decorations for at least 1,500 years). Despite that, Jews at the time continued to read horoscopes as well as seek other ways of predicting the future, such as by going to psychics and reading tea leaves.



## Obituaries

**ESTHER JEAN PLOWDEN (JEANNIE)**, 83, of Tampa, died March 11. A pharmacist for 51 years, she was an active volunteer in the school system, the Judeo-Christian Clinic and the Suicide and Crisis Prevention Center. Survivors include her son Randy Pisetzky (Karen Haag); daughter Lorna Knowles (Robin); sister Cookie Neuman; and five grandchildren. (Segal Funeral Home, Beth David Chapel)

OBITUARIES of Jewish community members, both local residents and individuals whose survivors live in the area, are published as a FREE public service in the *Jewish Press*, based on information supplied by the family to the funeral home. Information may also be submitted directly in writing to the *Jewish Press*. Email to jewishpress@aol.com. The information contained in the published obituary is at the discretion of the *Jewish Press*.

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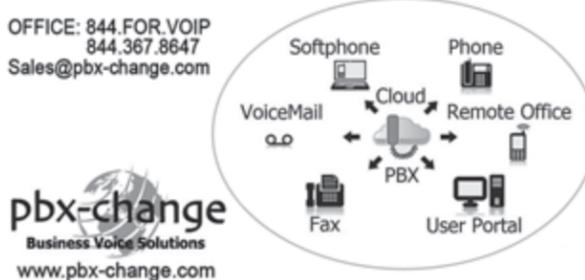
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Florida Division



Photographer Erez Kaganovits, creator of the Humans of Tel Aviv exhibit, right, will be at the Pinellas Israel Independence Day event on Sunday, April 15.

### Across the bay: Israel celebration in Largo will feature something for all

It will be an afternoon of speeches, food, family fun, photographic art, music and festivities when the Pinellas/Pasco Jewish community celebrates the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Israel on Sunday, April 15 in Largo.

Hosted by the Jewish Federation of Pinellas and Pasco Counties, the free celebration will be held at the Creative Pinellas/Pinewood Cultural Center, 12211 Walsingham Road, Largo, from 1 to 4 p.m.

One of the featured guests at the festivities will be Israeli photographer Erez Kaganovits, who will talk about an exhibit of his work, *Humans of Tel Aviv*, that will be on display throughout the day.

“What I love most about this project is that I can reach people in a way that I’m not forcing my ideas upon others, but rather simply taking a photo, telling a story, and letting it speak for itself,” the photographer said.

A variety of other speakers also will be on hand to remind folks of the importance of the Jewish state and what the nation faces as it continues to grow and bloom.

Rabbi Ed Rosenthal of Hillels of the Florida Suncoast will speak about the challenges Jewish students face on college campuses around the Tampa Bay area when speakers and student groups voice positions against Israel.

Two authors will discuss their Jewish-themed books. Roslyn Franken of Seminole will talk about her book, *Meant To Be: A True Story of Might, Miracles and Triumph of the Human Spirit*. It is a love story about how her mom, who survived Nazi concentration camps, and dad, who was in a Japanese prisoner of war camp, met and fell in love.

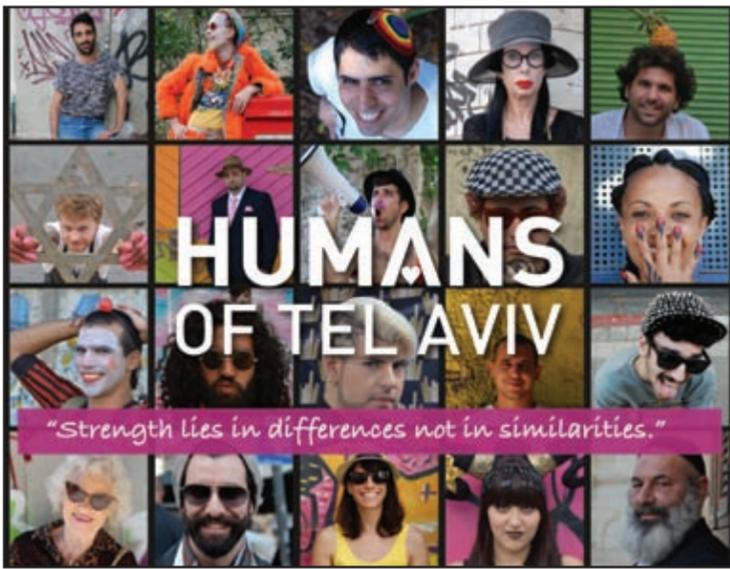
Lynda Lippman-Lockhart of St. Petersburg will also speak about her book, *The Laundry Room*, a tale of Israeli resistance in 1946.

Eric Lynn of St. Petersburg, who played a large role in getting approval and funding for Israel’s Iron Dome rocket defense system, will discuss his work on the project.

There will be a sing-a-long, complimentary traditional Israeli and Jewish food, and fun for kids that includes a bounce house, an archeological dig, face painting, balloon art and the opportunity to make Israeli flags.

For all ages, there will be Krav Maga self defense demonstrations and Israeli dancing.

Learn more about the celebration at [www.jewishpinellas.org](http://www.jewishpinellas.org) or call (727) 530-3223.



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## Colombian Jewish news anchor asked to resign for refusal to cross herself on air

RIO DE JANEIRO (JTA) — A Colombian Jewish journalist was ordered to resign from her anchor post on a daily TV newscast after refusing to cross herself while she was on the air.

Channel 1's Cathy Bekerman was asked to resign after refusing the order by Yamid Amat, newscast director of the CM& broadcast network, the Agencia Judia de Noticias website reported.

"He told me to cross myself, I did not do it and he asked me to resign at that moment, to which I did not agree," Bekerman told the media.

According to Graciela Torres, another well-known Colombian journalist, Bekerman showed up in the newsroom two days after the March 14 incident escorted by her father and a lawyer.

"It's a dark situation for Yamid Amat and his newscast because they could be sued for religious intolerance in a country where there is freedom of worship," Torres said.

"It is not enough that Cathy's work situation is 'solved.' We expect a public apology from Mr. Amat in light of his discriminatory and violative behavior of freedom



Cathy Bekerman

of religion guaranteed in the Colombian Constitution," read a statement by the Confederation of Jewish Communities of Colombia.

Israel's ambassador to Colombia also weighed in. "A journalist with such a broad audience had the chance to use his position to raise awareness about anti-Semitism. Instead, he chose to level scorn on a serious anti-Semitic incident. This is not the way to fight against this scourge: Anti-Semitism is everybody's problem," Marco Sermoneta tweeted.

Amat eventually published an apology on Channel 1's website, reported Publimetro. "One of my instructions, to accentuate a piece of news that was not about religious beliefs, provoked a rejection from my colleague Cathy Bekerman. Because I feel that I affected her religious convictions without that being my purpose, I offer her a public apology," he wrote. "May the Jewish community and other religious organizations always receive a respectful treatment from me."

## Israel steps in to help teachers after Parkland school shooting

By ABIGAIL KLEIN LEICHMAN  
ISRAEL21c.org

Ten days after the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, experts from the Israel Trauma Coalition arrived at the community to guide teachers and community leaders through a "day after" strategy for helping people face the future with resilience.

Seventeen people were killed in the shooting — 14 students and three staff members — making it one of the world's deadliest school massacres. The community, which had never dealt with a shooting on this scale, was in shock.

"It was devastating," says Nancy Teitelbaum, senior director of marketing and communications at Goodman Jewish Family Services of Broward County. "Everyone in our small community in Parkland is affected."

Teitelbaum has a son in 11th grade at Stoneman Douglas, and he was at the school on the day of the shooting. Her older son graduated from the same school just a year ago.

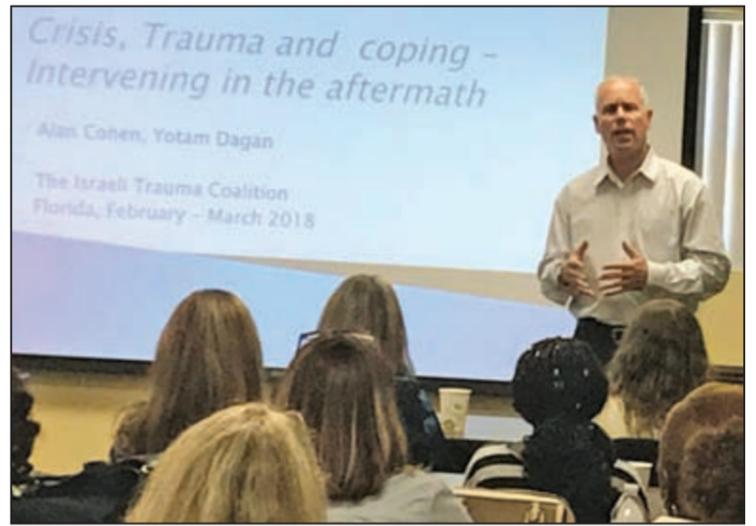
"Most counselors, teachers and clinicians have never dealt with a mass shooting," she told ISRAEL21c. "They have no frame of reference."

That's exactly what the Israeli team came to provide. Israel Trauma Coalition (ITC) members Yotam Dagan from Natal Israel Center for Trauma and Resilience, and Alan Cohen from the Community Stress Prevention Center, led sessions for about 600 community leaders including clinicians, law enforcers, social workers, first responders, parents and clergy in the Parkland area.

### Returning to normalcy

"We got there the first day teachers went back to school and the day before students went back to school, so we were very relevant in teaching them how to handle that period with some kind of normalcy," Dagan, a seasoned clinical psychologist, tells ISRAEL21c.

"The psychological shockwaves of the event have been tremendous. Almost everyone had a connection with someone on the scene. We met as many community members as we could, enabled them to talk about their trauma and then shared Israeli best practices for the day after."



Yotam Dagan leads an Israel Trauma Coalition workshop in Florida. The organization conducted training sessions for 600 community leaders in South Florida in the wake of massacre on Feb. 14 at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

"What was really apparent was that the experts from Israel really knew what they were talking about," says Teitelbaum. "They have deep experience and long-term insight from what they've seen at home and from crises they've helped deal with all over the world."

Dagan felt that most of the professionals and lay people are now better equipped to understand what they went through and to intervene using practical tools developed in Israel. But there is more to be done.

"The situation in the Parkland area didn't end when we left," says Dagan. "There is still work to do and we will go again soon. As we did in the Philippines four years ago, in Florida we hope to select a smaller group to be trainers, leaving our model in place when we go back home."

ITC professionals offer their expertise following crises across the globe. Currently, ITC is actively assisting communities in Houston in the wake of Hurricane Harvey last August; in Mexico after a deadly September earthquake; in Las Vegas following a mass shooting in October; and now in Florida.

"So many disasters are happening in the world and we always try to see if we can help," says ITC Director Talia Levanon, a clinical social worker who has flown to several countries — in addition to overseeing ITC's work in Israel — to train leaders in community-based healing and resilience.

### Helping the helpers

The ITC was created in 2002, a year of unrelenting terror attacks in Israel, to harness the collective knowledge, expertise and experience of Israel's governmental and non-governmental trauma management organizations.

Originally focused on direct care, the umbrella organization expanded to professional training for

community resilience and national emergency preparedness in Israel and elsewhere.

Thus far, ITC has sent 17 delegations abroad — usually two or three professionals from ITC partner organizations who speak the local language.

"Outside of Israel, 95 percent of the time we do not provide direct care," Levanon explains. "It's the local professionals who know the community and the culture. Our purpose is to train them in wellbeing, resilience and coping skills and provide tools to take care of themselves and others."

"Wherever we go, we always focus on the strengths of the people and how they cope as individuals or as part of the community. When someone from the outside comes to help they bring a fresh perspective and can see your pain and your strengths."

ITC's sessions in Florida were coordinated by the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the Consulate General of Israel in Miami, Behavioral Health Associates of Broward-Counseling Centers of Goodman JFS and the Jewish Federation of Broward County.

Ongoing ITC trainings in Houston, with three more scheduled for this year, are funded by the UJA-Federation of New York. ITC's work in Las Vegas, funded by Jewish Nevada, is getting started with a "mapping mission" to identify local partners, needs and resources. In Mexico, local Jewish federations are supporting ITC training through the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC).

Michael Balaban, president and chief executive officer of the Jewish Federation of Broward County, said, "We know that the need for these kinds of resources is, unfortunately, going to be long lasting, and we know that we have a partnership with the ITC that allows us to lean on them for that expertise over the long haul."

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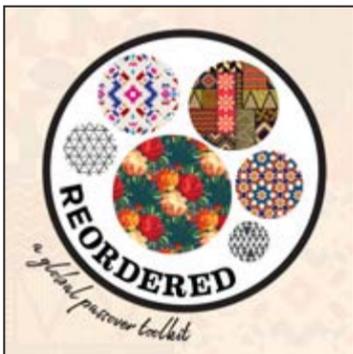
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# Haggadahs and other Passover supplements to change up your Seder table talk

By **GABE FRIEDMAN**  
JTA news service

NEW YORK — Although Jews have celebrated Passover by reading from the Haggadah in one form or another for 2,000 years, Jewish organizations and publishers strive each year to connect the holiday to modern times with fresh Haggadahs as well as supplements.

If you're looking to give your seder a distinct 2018 flavor, consider these options — they bring up topics ranging from Donald Trump to Ethiopian chickpea matzah.



**JDC Entwine toolkit**

Topic: Jewish diversity

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee was sending aid to Jews in need decades before gluten-free matzah was a thing. But one of its newer initiatives, Entwine, has produced a hip and fun “global Passover toolkit” it’s dubbing “ReOrdered” (a reference to the word seder, which means “order” in Hebrew).

It’s free to order online (<http://www.jdcentine.org/reordered/>) and comes with several goodies, including a recipe book with traditional Passover recipes from around the world. Then there’s the four “Community Cards,” each highlighting an international Jewish community that the JDC has helped in the past: from Ethiopia, the Soviet Union, Morocco and Sarajevo (in Bosnia and Herzegovina). Each card has a story from someone in that community, a ritual Passover food and a traditional toast. The details are as delightful as they are educational: Did you know Ethiopian Jews make matzah out of chickpeas, or that Bosnian Jews turn eggs black by boiling them with coffee grounds?

The guide also includes a sheet meant to help the Seder leader incorporate it all into the ritual meal, coasters and even a matzah box centerpiece with cards for the Four Questions meant to represent the supplies the JDC has sent around the world since World War I. It’s basically a historical, multicultural Seder in a box — just add Haggadah and food.

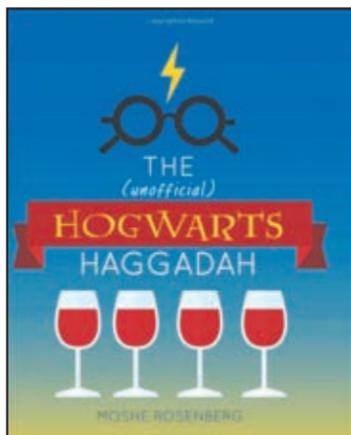
**The Trump Passover Haggadah**

Topic: The 45th president of the United States

The full title is *The Trump Passover Haggadah: People All The Time They Come Up To Me And Tell Me This Is The Best Haggadah They’ve Ever Read, They Do, Believe Me* and the Amazon description, like the title, will tell you this Haggadah isn’t for diehard fans of Donald Trump or President Zayde as his grandchildren call him in the introduction. “If you’re an afflicted liberal Jew, with an unconservative sense of humor, and you find traditional Seders as dry as matzo,” suggests Amazon, “try this radically irreverent political parody Haggadah this Passover.”

There isn’t much more information on the Amazon page, except that the Haggadah is an online

best-seller. Judging from author Dave Cowen’s bylines in *McSweeney’s* and *The New Yorker*, it’s probably pretty funny, too.



**The (unofficial) Hogwarts Haggadah**

Topic: What Harry Potter can teach us about Passover traditions

Self-published by Rabbi Moshe Rosenberg, a Queens teacher and spiritual leader, this Haggadah includes the entire standard text, interspersed with essays and thoughts related to Harry Potter and the wizarding world of Hogwarts. “From the concepts of slavery and freedom, to the focus

on education, to the number four, Harry Potter and Passover share almost everything,” Rabbi Rosenberg writes in the introduction.



**HIAS Haggadah supplement**

Topic: International refugees

Formerly the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, HIAS was founded in 1881 to help Russian Jewish immigrants settle into the U.S., but these days it lends a hand to all kinds of populations around the world. Its 11-page guide offers a blueprint for weaving refugee references and stories into almost every aspect of your seder, from

an Ethiopian saga meant for one of the blessings over wine to a Rohingya mention in the Seder plate discussion. It becomes explicitly political at the end and offers tips on how to take real-world action to help refugees.

“In the face of unprecedented efforts to limit refugees’ ability to seek safety in the United States — even as more people are displaced by violence and persecution than ever before — these powerful symbols of both the unimaginable suffering and the boundless resilience and hope of refugees feel particularly poignant,” a statement on the HIAS website reads.

**Repair the World/ Be'chol Lashon Haggadah insert and trivia cards**

Topic: Jewish diversity

“How do we connect the ancient story of Exodus to modern struggles for freedom as individuals and as a multiracial, multiethnic Jewish community?”

That’s the thinking behind this Haggadah insert and set of trivia cards from the nonprofits Repair the World and Be’chol Lashon, which help connect Jews with volunteer work and promote aware-

ness of Jewish diversity, respectively. The insert asks Seder participants to discuss the the Exodus theme, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and what freedom means. The cards contain trivia about international communities, such as the Abayudaya Jews in Uganda or the Jews of Gibraltar.

A landing page for the materials claims that 20 percent of American Jews identify as African-American, Latino, Asian, mixed race, Sephardi and Mizrahi.

**Haggadahs in French, Russian, Portuguese, Italian and Spanish**

Topic: Cultural and linguistic diversity

Have a non-English or non-Hebrew speaker coming to your Seder? Want to brush up on the foreign language skills you haven’t practiced since college? Then you might be interested in a Haggadah in a different language. These offerings from the Kehot Publication Society, an arm of Chabad-Lubavitch aren’t new, but cultural diversity is of the moment. They are all 114 pages and inexpensive.

Jewish Press staff contributed to this report.

## THIS PASSOVER, CONSIDER FOUR MORE QUESTIONS...

**Do you value your community’s Jewish organizations?**

**Do you want them to exist for future generations?**

**What is the legacy that you want to leave?**

**How can you make your charitable dollars go further?**



Have a joyous Passover. And share what it means to you.

#PassoverPublix

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