

# Israeli tech companies to show off products at Tampa event

Eight startup companies from Israel and two speakers from Israeli tech superstars, Waze and Wix, will be featured at the second annual Innovation Fusion event on Wednesday, June 13 at the Bryan Glazer Family JCC in Tampa.

The event is being put on by the Florida-Israel Business Accelerator

(FIBA), based at the JCC, and will showcase how FIBA is enabling partnerships and collaboration between Israeli tech companies and local organizations with the goal of bringing in hi-tech jobs and growing the Tampa Bay economy.

The Israeli companies presenting at

**TECH SHOW continued on PAGE 16**



Executives Aron Di Castro of WAZE, left, and Danny Brigido of Wix will be guest speakers at Innovation Fusion.



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16 PAGES



Photo by Yonatan Sindel/Flash90

People watching President Donald Trump speak via video at the opening ceremony of the U.S. embassy in Jerusalem on May 14. Some in the crowd wore Trump's signature red baseball cap commemorating the move.

## At US Embassy dedication, a day for marking history and praising Trump

By SAM SOKOL  
JTA news service

JERUSALEM – Israeli leaders and citizens responded with euphoria as the Trump administration moved the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem on Monday, May 14, designating a pre-existing consular building as the official U.S. diplomatic mission to the Jewish State.

Hundreds of revelers sat on bleachers outside the new embassy in Jerusalem's Arnona neighborhood as an honor guard of U.S.

Marines paraded the national colors and Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin and First Daughter Ivanka Trump unveiled the building's seal carved into an outer wall.

The crowd, which included both chief rabbis, the Israel Defense Forces chief of staff, the mayor of Jerusalem and the head of the Jewish Agency, stood and applauded for at least half a minute after U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman welcomed them, in a booming voice, "to the dedication

**EMBASSY continued on PAGE 13**

## Birthright alum invited to beach reunion June 10



Jonathan Bowman rides a camel in the Negev desert during his Birthright trip in 2006.

By BOB FRYER  
Jewish Press

Anyone in the Tampa Bay area who has ever been on a Taglit-Birthright trip since the program that sends young adults to Israel began in 1999 is invited to a reunion on the beach in Treasure Island on Sunday, June 10.

The free Birthright Beach Bash begins at 5:30 p.m. and will end at sunset. The event is sponsored by the Tampa JCCs and Federation and the Jewish Federation of Pinellas and Pasco Counties.

At the reunion, Birthright alumni will be transported back to the sights and sounds of Israel, a time for reconnecting with Birthright friends, sharing stories,

**BIRTHRIGHT continued on PAGE 6**



Compiled from news wires

## Canadian government to apologize for turning away Jewish refugees in 1939

Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said the Canadian government will formally apologize for turning away a ship full of Jewish refugees who had fled Nazi Germany.

"When Canada denied asylum to the 907 German Jews on board the *MS St. Louis*, we failed not only those passengers, but also their descendants and community," Trudeau said in a statement.

In May 1939, the ship set sail from Hamburg, Germany. Even though they had Cuba landing certificates, Cuban authorities refused to let them disembark. The ship then headed toward the United States, but was denied entry there, too. The ship ultimately returned to Europe and most of the passengers ended up back in the hands of the Nazis. About a quarter of those on board died in the Holocaust.

"An apology in the House of Commons will not rewrite this shameful chapter of our history," Trudeau said. "It will not bring back those who perished or repair the lives shattered by tragedy. But it is our collective responsibility to acknowledge this difficult truth, learn from this story, and continue to fight against anti-Semitism every day, as we give meaning to the solemn vow: 'Never again.' I look forward to offering this apology on the floor of the House."

The U.S. officially apologized in 2012.

## In California, campaign robocall refers to Dianne Feinstein as 'traitorous' Jew

A robocall against California Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein used anti-Semitic slurs and urged listeners to support the campaign of her neo-Nazi challenger.

Patrick Little, who is running as a Republican, is polling at 18 percent behind Feinstein, a Democrat who has served more than four terms in the Senate. Feinstein is polling at 39 percent in the race, which will pit the top two vote-getters in the June 5 primary against each other in the general election in November. Mainstream Republicans have not put up a serious challenge in what is considered a safe seat for a Democrat.

"To rid America of the traitorous Jews like Dianne Feinstein, vote for Patrick Little for U.S. Senator for California," the 90-second call said. "He's a patriot, a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, and he's vowed to end Jewish control over America, starting with Diane Feinstein, an Israeli citizen pretending to be an American while she takes our money for her real country, Israel, and kills our children for it, too."

The call continues: "He's going to get rid of all the nation-wrecking Jews from our country."

Little told the *San Francisco Chronicle* that he was not aware of the existence of the call. He did not renounce its message, however, telling the newspaper: "Show me

## Did Israel's action on Gaza border actually save lives?

By BEN SALES  
JTA news service

What should an army do when tens of thousands of protesters mass on its border?

When that happened on Gaza's border with Israel on Monday, May 14, Israeli soldiers opened fire on protesters who were storming the border fence, killing 60 and wounding more than a thousand.

Britain, France, Canada and other countries have accused Israel of using excessive force in Gaza, though the U.S., Australia and other countries have blamed Hamas for the bloodshed.

But in real time, did the Israel Defense Forces conduct itself appropriately? Could it have defended its border with less lethal force?

**GAZA BORDER continued on PAGE 10**



Photo by Spencer Platt/Getty Images

Palestinians protest at the border fence with Israel in Gaza City on May 14.

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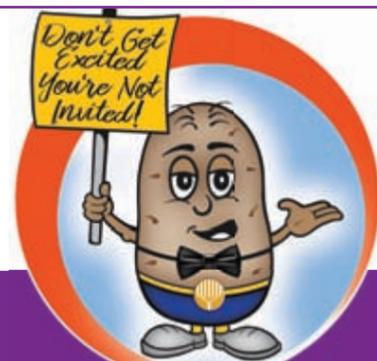
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# Mueller's team questioning Israeli-run social media firm about its efforts to help elect Trump

(JTA) – U.S. special counsel Robert Mueller has sent investigators to Israel to uncover the activities of an Israeli-run social media firm that may have led a social media manipulation effort to help Donald Trump get elected.

The co-founder of the firm, identified as Joel Zamel, who was born in Australia, met in New York three months before the 2016 election with Donald Trump Jr., as well as with Lebanese-American businessman George Nader representing the crown

princes of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, who he said wanted to help get his father elected, according to a *New York Times* report.

The Aug. 3, 2016, meeting was arranged by Erik Prince, the founder and former head of private military contractor Blackwater, who also attended the meeting. (Prince is the brother of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos).

It is illegal for foreign governments or individuals to be involved in American elec-

tions. The Israel Police and Zamel are cooperating with the investigation, according to the *Times*.

After Trump was elected, Nader reportedly paid Zamel a large sum of money, reportedly up to \$2 million, because among other reasons given, a company linked to Zamel provided Nader with an elaborate presentation about the significance of social media campaigning to Trump's victory.

Zamel told the *Times* that his client never carried out any campaign on Trump's be-

half.

A company connected to Zamel, Psy-Group, had been working on a proposal for a covert multimillion-dollar online manipulation campaign to help elect Trump, the *Times* reported. The plan involved using thousands of fake social media accounts to promote Trump's candidacy.

The company, whose motto is "shape reality," consulted an American law firm, and was told that it would be illegal if any non-Americans were involved in the campaign.



Image courtesy of Google Images/Thunder Bay Literacy Group (tblg.org).  
Image (below) courtesy of Google Images/Davis & Davis Attorneys at Law (davisanddavislaw.com).

## Time to brush up on your double-letter words, anagrams and bingos. We're playing Scrabble!

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To register, go to [www.BryanGlazerFamilyJCC.com/Scrabble](http://www.BryanGlazerFamilyJCC.com/Scrabble)

For more information, please contact:

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## Religious leaders urge State Dept. to name anti-Semitism monitor

WASHINGTON (JTA) – More than a thousand lay and clergy leaders across a range of faiths signed a petition urging Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to name an anti-Semitism monitor.

"Around the world, violent and even lethal attacks have been made on Jews and Jewish institutions; physical harassment of Jews who wear a kippah in public is all too common," says the petition addressed to Pompeo, organized by the American Jewish Committee.

There has been no anti-Semitism monitor since President Donald Trump assumed office in January 2017, and Rex Tillerson, Pompeo's predecessor, emptied the Office to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism of staff last summer.

"New campaigns of Holocaust distortion have been waged and there are proposals in some countries to ban central Jewish religious practices. Mr. Secretary, anti-Semitism starts with Jews, but doesn't end there: when any minority is threatened, everyone is less safe," the petition says.

The signatories include a wide geographical range of Jewish lay leaders, rabbis covering all streams of Judaism, and hundreds of Christian leaders. There are also a number of Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, Sikh and Bahai leaders.

Tillerson said he wanted to transfer duties from special envoys to State Department staff as a cost-saving measure. A range of Jewish organizations and lawmakers reminded him that the anti-Semitism monitor is mandated by Congress and is required by law to be filled.

Meanwhile, the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee approved a bill – with bipartisan support – that would elevate the anti-Semitism monitor to ambassador level and require the president to nominate someone for the position within 90 days of its passage.

The bill now goes to the full House. With a companion bill introduced in the Senate, the likelihood of it becoming law is enhanced.

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## Trump's faith-based initiative removes barrier to proselytizing – and some Jews are worried

By RON KAMPEAS  
JTA news service

WASHINGTON – Flanked by clergy – including a priest, an imam and an Orthodox rabbi – President Trump revived the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, which since its 2001 launch has delivered humanitarian assistance to Americans through religious organizations.

“Americans of faith have built the hospitals that care for our sick, the homes that tend to our elderly, and the charities that house the orphaned, and they minister – and they really do, they minister to the poor, and so beautifully and with such love,” Trump said in remarks in the Rose Garden.

Buried in legal speak in the executive order, however, was a clause that left liberal-leaning Jewish groups aghast: Trump removed a section that required religious groups using government money to refer applicants to appropriate alternatives if the applicant did not want a dose of salvation with their relief.

Marc Stern, the counsel for the American Jewish Committee, said the now moot requirement protected the starving man from having to listen to a sermon before entering a soup kitchen for a meal. “It’s always been thought that the provision of an alternative is an essential element of preserving religious liberty,” Stern said in an interview. “Dropping it is more than a step backward. Forced sermons remind us” – Jews – “of efforts at various times to make us listen to conversionary sermons.”

Orthodox groups welcomed the re-establishment of the faith-based initiative office and Trump’s expansion of its ambit to the entire executive branch. But groups that lobbied hard for the protection under past administrations were quick to object.

The order “puts America’s most vulnerable citizens at risk of choosing between accessing essential, taxpayer-funded social services and being subject to unwanted proselytizing or religious activity,” the Anti-Defamation League said in a statement.

“Any White House faith-based initiative must uphold and enhance constitutional protections for the separation of church and state and protect the rights of all people, regardless of their faith,” the Reform movement’s Religious Action Center said.

Conservative religious groups were pleased by the executive order not only because it reopens an office that has been moribund since Trump assumed office in 2017, but because it expands its scope. The office steers funding to faith-based groups to carry out humanitarian interventions, including delivering food to the needy and administering addiction rehabilitation programs. It had been limited to White House initiatives. Now other government agencies will be expected to launch faith-based initiatives.

President George W. Bush created the office in 2001 and Barack Obama – to the surprise of some – maintained it, but launched a lengthy review process to make sure it operated within constitutional church-state separations.

Conservative religious groups have chafed at the Obama-imposed restrictions, saying they inhibited productive partnerships with proven relief providers. Michelle Boorstein, *Washington Post* religion correspondent, tweeted a quote from an unnamed Trump administration official saying the idea behind this week’s order was to launch programs “without all of these arbitrary concerns as to what is appropriate.”

That outraged Jack Moline, a Conservative movement rabbi who is the president of the Interfaith Alliance, a liberal-leaning umbrella group. “President Trump and his staff would do well to remember that we are a nation of laws, not prayers, and that there is nothing arbitrary in respecting the First Amendment,” he said in a statement linking to the tweet.

In a Religion News Service column, Mark Silk, who heads the Leonard E. Greenberg Center for the Study of Religion in Public Life at Trinity College in Connecticut, said, “Where Obama ensured religious freedom, Trump creates religious establishments.”

It probably didn’t help that Trump, in extemporized remarks at the signing, goaded church-state separatists, saying that the use of the phrase “Merry Christmas” had increased since he assumed office. “We’re starting to say ‘Merry Christmas’ when that day comes around,” the president said to applause. “You notice the big difference between now and two or three years ago?” He provided no evidence for his claim.

Agudath Israel of America, a haredi Orthodox umbrella group, welcomed Trump’s order. Abba Cohen, Agudah’s Washington director, said in an email that the removal of the protection made sense to religious assistance programs that chafed at having to identify alternative providers – a job he said was best left to government authorities.

Other Orthodox groups, while supporting the overall order and the expansion of the office, were less than sanguine about the removal of the requirement for referrals. “I certainly would have preferred that provision not be eliminated in the new executive order,” Nathan Diament, the Washington director for the Orthodox Union, said in an email. “That said, other critical protections we developed and were adopted in the Obama executive order remain in place – the most important of which are that the faith-based entity receiving a government grant may not use the grant funds for its religious activities and that those religious activities must take place at a separate time and in a separate location from the government-funded activities.”

The Orthodox Union, like Agudah, praised Trump’s order. Diament, in a statement noting that he attended the signing ceremony, said the notion of faith-based collaboration spanned Republican and Democratic administrations. “This bipartisan continuity is an important statement of principle and rebuttal to those who would seek to have government policy discriminate against faith-based entities,” he said.

Rabbi Levi Shemtov, the executive vice president of Friends of Lubavitch (Chabad), who delivered a prayer at the signing, said he would raise the removal of the protection with the administration. “Any time somebody doesn’t feel comfortable religiously in the context of humanitarian assistance it’s a cause for concern and review, and I definitely intend to be in touch with the administration as appropriate to learn what implications this might have,” he said. “At the same time, I would doubt that a religious institution offering humanitarian help would be crass in this regard if the person needing this help objected.”

Stern of the American Jewish Committee said it’s not a question of having to accept an institution’s religious beliefs, but being forced to listen to them in the first place. He predicted that a civil rights group would soon challenge the order with a lawsuit.

## Say no to the dress up but yes to wine, jewelry, Utah or a really suite deal

For a non-event, it could prove to be pretty eventful for those who participate by not showing up.

For sports enthusiasts, the no-shows could wind up with Tampa Bay Buccaneers club seats and pregame field access and an autographed football, or luxury suite tickets to a Tampa Bay Lightning game or an autographed Lightning jersey. For Tampa Bay Rays fans, this is a chance for a Blake Snell autographed baseball or a Wilson Ramos autographed bat.

Not into sports? Then how about tickets to Bern’s Wine Fest, or a week-long stay at a private residence in Utah, or tickets to a variety of local tourist attractions?

All those items and many more will be up for grabs through an online auction from June 1-11 at the No Show Black Tie Gala. This fundraising non-event is being put on by the Tampa JCCs and Federation and will feature an extensive list of items for bid.

The idea behind holding a black-tie event that folks are cordially invited *not* to attend is to save them the trouble of preparing for yet another big social event and instead to make a donation of the money they would have forked over for tickets, dresses, tuxedos, dry cleaning, babysitters, etc.

The advantage for the event organizers is that the money they would normally spend on a fancy dinner and decorations or entertainment is saved and 100 percent of donations will directly benefit the members and guests that visit the Tampa JCCs. It also means that gala participants are able to enjoy a night off with family and friends while feeling good about supporting their local JCCs.

How does this work? It’s simple. Visit [www.jewishtampa.com/noshowgala](http://www.jewishtampa.com/noshowgala) and make a donation of your choosing. That same website provides access to the auction, which features loads of items to bid on in addition to the, sports, wine fest, Utah getaway or tourist attractions.

No-shows can bid on fine jewelry, teeth whitening, cosmetic procedures, dance lessons, interior design services, a staycation, a one-day yacht excursion, a party bus trip or private tutoring for SAT/ACT tests, among other items, and there is a wide array of gift cards people can bid on.

Those interested in donating an auction item or sponsoring the gala should contact Michelle Gallagher at (813) 739-1687 or [michelle.gallagher@jewishtampa.com](mailto:michelle.gallagher@jewishtampa.com).

### Who does the Bryan Glazer Family JCC and JCC on the Cohn Campus serve?

- They serve over 5,500 members that have access to health and wellness classes, state-of-the-art fitness centers, the Mezrah Family Aquatic Center and more.

- The JCC on the Cohn Campus and Congregation Rodeph Sholom house the JCC Preschools – schools that serve children of all faiths and are respected for quality early childhood education.

- The Glazer JCC is also home to the Florida-Israel Business Accelerator (FIBA), a Florida-based technology accelerator that is designed to establish and grow successful, high-growth Israeli ventures in the Tampa Bay Area.

- Both JCCs offer arts and cultural programs and experiences, including the Tampa Bay Jewish Film Festival and the Festival of Jewish Books and Conversations.

- The Glazer JCC is home to the Roberta M. Golding Visual Arts Center and offers a wide range of classes including ceramic sculpture, pottery, oil painting, watercolor, drawing, digital, mixed media, small scale metal sculpture, jewelry, glass fusion, stained glass, fiber arts and printmaking.

- The JCCs offer social and fitness programs and lively events.

- They provide #Gather experiences – a mix of social, interactive and hands-on activities designed to help young adults of all faiths and backgrounds in their 20s, 30s and 40s connect with friends, meet new people and have meaningful experiences.

- Each center hosts events for PJ Library – a program that sends books and music about Jewish traditions, values or holidays to families with children ages 6 months through 8 years.

- The Glazer JCC provides enrichment classes for children of all ages.

- The JCCs also offer Camp J – a summer camp program for children.

- The Glazer JCC has event space to host community and corporate gatherings, events and celebrations of all kinds.

## Dr. Ron Pross receives Maimonides Society Leadership Award

The Tampa JCCs and Federation honored Dr. Ron Pross for his extensive involvements within the Jewish and medical communities at this year’s Maimonides Society program on Tuesday, May 1, at the Bryan Glazer Family JCC.

The event was chaired by Dr. Stephen Kreitzer who welcomed guests in attendance and presented Pross, whom he considers a friend and fellow lay leader, with the Maimonides Society Leadership Award.

“Having my name associated with this society is something that I don’t take lightly” said Pross in his acceptance remarks.

He also quoted Maimonides: “We each decide whether to make ourselves learned or ignorant, compassionate or cruel, generous or miserly. No one forces us. No one decides for us, no one drags us along one path or the other. We are responsible for what we are.” This is the mantra Pross puts in to practice in his many volunteer capacities.

Following the award ceremony, Dr. Charles Lockwood, senior vice president of USF and the dean of USF Health Morsani College of Medicine gave an insightful presentation on how the Water Street Project in Channelside will revolutionize the medical field locally. He said that USF’s presence in the health care district will be “more than just a building, we are building a healthier future economy in Tampa Bay.”



(L-R) Dr. Stephen Kreitzer, Dr. Ron Pross and guest speaker Dr. Charles Lockwood.

With medical knowledge doubling every 73 days, he added that USF plans to create a flexible facility that can adapt to unforeseen advances in medical education.

This year’s Maimonides program brought in over 100 community members in attendance, including Joe Probasco, president of the Tampa JCCs and Federation, who introduced the speaker. For more information about the Maimonides Society, visit [www.jewishtampa.com](http://www.jewishtampa.com).

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★★★★ – “The food was amazing, the staff were awesome, and the drinks were fantastic. The head chef Cole was awesome to meet and was happy to chat with my friends and I about the food. I would highly recommend checking this place out if you’re a foodie. This isn’t the place for your standard fair food... Thank goodness.”

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## Living in תולג —Living in a paradox

By RABBI JOSH HEARSHEN  
Congregation Rodeph Sholom

I have a paradox that I would like to unpack and then learn to live with. How is it that I am a Zionist who believes with all of my being in the free, secure and democratic Jewish State of Israel in our ancestral homeland and yet I live in Tampa?

How do I live in a world where my “homeland” feels so un-homely at times? How do I live in a world where I am considered a visitor in my “homeland?” All of these questions are posed by examining the beautiful words in the Passover Haggadah. Every year we conclude the seder with the words הנשל האבה מילשורייב האבה, Next Year in Jerusalem and yet we live outside of Jerusalem and choose to maintain such a life. What are we singing about and what are we doing about those words?

What was it like in 1948 on the first night of Passover? The Holocaust was still fresh in our minds and we were refugees in every meaning of the word. When the seders ended and we sang: Next Year in Jerusalem, did the Jews of the world know that they would be all that closer by the same time next year? How did the Jewish world feel in 1967 when they were so close to Jerusalem that they could almost taste it? How did they feel? Then in 1967 it all came together and we were now able to literally live out the words of the Haggadah and could celebrate together where we were supposed to be celebrating. Jews from all around the world could finally celebrate their Judaism and their relationship with God in our homeland and in the city of Jerusalem. But many of us haven't ... we have stayed in the diaspora and live in countries outside of the Land.

How do we diaspora Jews relate to Israel? What is our role to play? I am reminded time and again of the end of the exodus from Egypt. As we were preparing to cross over the Jordan river, two of our tribes made a decision that is the basis for the symbiotic relationship in which we find ourselves today. Two tribes made a decision that the right place for them to be living would be in modern day Jordan on the other side of the river. They were the original diaspora. Moses



## RABBINICALLY —SPEAKING—

responded to them by saying they couldn't stand on the sidelines while the Nation of Israel was going to fight for their survival. The two tribes responded that they had no intention to do that. They would not settle their own lands until the rest of the nation was settled. They would serve in the army and they would be 100 percent committed to the cause. Then, after the war was over they would return home to their families and continue their lives. Perhaps they understood the words of the Haggadah long before they were even written? They understood the paradoxical existence before we chose to live it.

We are committed to state of Israel. We are committed to her prosperity ... to her safety ... to her future ... and to her legacy. We support from afar in times of peace and in times of war. Our lives are so entangled in their lives and we see our homeland as being a place to be proud of being a part of and a cause that demands our support. As supporters of Zion we must be aware of the power of our words. If we want to continue allowing for “Next years in Jerusalem,” we must fight for the standing of and the place for the State of Israel. As members of the family we must be willing to accept our homeland not just as it is now but also help to make it as it should be ... to help make Jerusalem into a city of peace which is the meaning of its name. Israel is and always has been a light unto the nations. It remains so to this very day, no matter what the UN or anyone says. As Jewish leaders living the paradox we have a responsibility to remind the world over and over again of this basic fact encapsulated in these beautiful words, מילשורייב האבה הנשל, next year in Jerusalem. Though we choose to live outside of our Homeland we nevertheless have a great role to play in her future just as we did in her past.

Every time that I leave Israel I shed tears of sadness and tears of joy. Sadness that I am leaving my home again and joy that I was blessed to live in a generation that has the ability to build and maintain the state of Israel. For the foreseeable future I will continue to embrace this paradox of my life in the diaspora. But that will never alter my love and affection for Israel and my support as well.

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

## Congregations

### Cong. Schaarai Zedek

**Saturday movie night:** A movie, a meal and a discussion will take place on Saturday, June 16 beginning at 5:30 p.m. There will be pizza and salad, then a showing of *The Greatest Showman*, starring Hugh Jackman, Michelle Williams and Zac Efron. Based on the life of show business visionary P.T. Barnum, this is an original movie musical. After the movie, **Rabbi Richard Birnholz** will lead a discussion. RSVP at [www.Zedek.org/rsvp](http://www.Zedek.org/rsvp), or call (813) 876-2377 or email [office@zedek.org](mailto:office@zedek.org).

**Cantor in concert:** There will be an afternoon of music on Sunday, June 3 when **Cantor Deborah Cannizzaro** sings her favorite songs of opera, Broadway and The Great Songbook. Pianist **Robert Jarosh** and bass player **Watts Shamura** will join her. RSVP online [www.zedek.org/RSVP](http://www.zedek.org/RSVP) or call the temple.

**Annual meeting:** The temple's annual meeting will feature a Shabbat dinner, election of new officers and board members and their installation on Friday, June 1. Dinner begins at 5:30 p.m. The cost is \$25 for adults and \$15 for children up to 9 years old. At 6:30 p.m., along with the election, the congregation will honor the 2018 President's Cup recipient. The Shabbat service and installation of the board begins at 7:30 p.m. To RSVP for the dinner call the temple or go to [www.zedek.org/RSVP](http://www.zedek.org/RSVP).

**Religious School registration:** It is time to register for the 2018-19 religious school year. All children who will be 4 years old by Sept. 1, 2018, are eligible to attend and the deadline for registration is Aug. 10. Registration forms are available online at <http://www.zedek.org/learning/religious-school> or contact the school office at [dwood@zedek.org](mailto:dwood@zedek.org) or (813) 876-2377, ext. 210.

### Cong. Rodeph Sholom

**Jammies and Jeans Shabbat:** Throw on your jeans and get your children in their jammies for a casual “Summer fun” themed Shabbat experience on Friday, June 1 at 5:30 p.m. Children receive a special summer kippah to keep. Light refreshments will be served. RSVP to **Judy Van Der Stelt** at [educator@rsholom.org](mailto:educator@rsholom.org) or register at [rsholom.org](http://rsholom.org).

**Camp Rodeph Sholom:** A day camp for kids from pre-K through seventh grade will be offered at the synagogue from June 4-8 and June 11-15. There are limited spaces available. Contact Judy at

## Shabbat Candle Lighting Times

May 25 • 8:00 pm  
June 1 • 8:04 pm  
June 8 • 8:07 pm  
June 15 • 8:10 pm  
June 22 • 8:11 pm



[educator@rsholom.org](mailto:educator@rsholom.org) for an application.

**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. Kol Ami

**Book group:** The Tree of Life Long Learning Book Group will meet Tuesday, May 29 at 7 p.m. in the Jay Fink Library. The group will discuss *All the Rivers* by Dorit Rabinyan, a controversial, award-winning story about the passionate but untenable affair between an Israeli woman and a Palestinian man, from one of Israel's most acclaimed novelists.

**Pizza & PJ Shabbat:** Join in on Friday night, June 8 from 6-7 p.m. to celebrate Shabbat filled with guitar playing, singing, dancing, friendship and food. All young families are welcome. PJs are not required, but all are urged to dress comfortably. Following a pizza dinner, there will be a short musical service, led by **Rabbi Howard Siegel and David Berger** and followed by ice cream dessert. Cost for this event is \$5 per person, with a \$25 family maximum. Children 3 and under are free. This program is recommended for families with children ages 15 months through second grade, but everyone is welcome. RSVP to [frontoffice@kolami.org](mailto:frontoffice@kolami.org) by Wednesday, June 6.

**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 June 20.

**Talmud:** A Talmud study class with Rabbi Siegel is offered on Thursdays from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Jewish law confronts everything from capital punishment to how to make rain. This is open to everyone

• CONTINUED on NEXT PAGE

## Religious Directory

### HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY Reform

**BETH ISRAEL/ JEWISH CONGREGATION OF SUN CITY CENTER** — 1115 E. Del Webb Blvd., Sun City Center • Mailing Address: P. O. Box 5203, Sun City Center, 33571 • Rabbi Carla Freedman • Shabbat Services: Friday 7:30 p.m., 2nd & 4th Saturday 10 a.m., Torah Study: noon • Telephone: (813) 634-2590 • Web address: [www.jccsc.org](http://www.jccsc.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 at 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.Orhavah.org](http://www.Orhavah.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 • Cantorial soloist, Allison Rosoff • 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

### POLK COUNTY Reform

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

## B'nai Mitzvah

### Jessica Rachel Ross

Jessica Rachel Ross, daughter of Sharon and Steven Ross of Tampa, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, June 2, at Congregation Schaarai in Tampa.



Entering eighth grade, Jessica is a Principal's List student at Wilson Middle School and a member of the National Junior Honor Society. Active in sports, she plays club soccer for the Liverpool Football Club and also plays on the Wilson Middle School soccer team. For her mitzvah project, Jessica was a volunteer at Guardian Angels Dog Rescue.

Sharon and Steven Ross will host a celebration at the Barrymore Hotel, Tampa Riverwalk on Saturday evening, June 2.

Special guests will include grandparents Irene and Marty Ross and grandmother Rhea Uager.

### Garrett Luke Schwartz

Garrett Luke Schwartz, son of Jodi and Jon Schwartz of Wesley Chapel, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, June 2, at Congregation Schaarai Zedek in Tampa.



Garrett is a seventh-grade honors student at a Dr. John Long Middle School. Active in sports, he especially enjoys lacrosse and plays competitive and recreational lacrosse and is both a middle and an attack position. Garrett also enjoys being a camper in the summer at Camp Horseshoe in Wisconsin.

Jodi and Jon Schwartz will host a celebration at the Westin Hotel on Saturday, June 2.

Special guests will include family and friends from Chicago, New Jersey, New York, St. Louis and south Florida.

### Sela Ivy Teplin

Sela Ivy Teplin, daughter of Vicki Teplin and Stephen Teplin of Tampa will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, June 2, at Congregation Schaarai Zedek in Tampa.



Sela is a seventh-grade student at Coleman Middle School. Active in dance, she is part of a competitive dance team at New Level Dance Company. Sela also enjoys being a camper in the summer at Camp Interlaken JCC in Wisconsin.

Sela's parents will host a celebration at the Westshore Grand on Saturday evening, June 9.

Special guests will include family and friends from Wisconsin, Maryland, Illinois, California, New York, New Jersey, Hawaii, California and Texas.

As the time nears for your child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah, you will want to let the community know by announcing it in the Jewish Press. There is a \$5 charge to cover the cost of reproducing the photo. Announcements are printed one to two weeks before the celebration, if possible. Mail to the Jewish Press, PO Box 6970, Clearwater, FL 33758.

## Congregations

• CONTINUED from PREVIOUS PAGE

from beginners through experts. Texts are provided. There will be no class June 21.

**Knitting time:** The Sisterhood Needle Workers hold weekly knitting sessions on Tuesdays from 1:30 - 3 p.m. in the boardroom. The knitters make fabric quilt wall hangings and knitting and crocheting squares to make quilts that are donated to charity. For more information, call the Kol Ami office.

### Cong. Beth Am

#### Cocktail conversations:

Each month congregants gather for Cocktail Convos, a casual but serious discussion on topic ranging from current events to our lives as Jews [and partners to Jews]. The next conversation will be on Sunday, May 27 at 7 p.m. The discussion topic will be "Interfaith - How does Judaism/Congregation Beth Am look to the non-Jews among us?" This event will be held at Grill-Smith at the Shops of Wiregrass. Everyone is welcome. RSVPs are requested, but not necessary. RSVP to admin@BethAmTampa.org

### Cong. Beth Shalom Brandon

**Cabaret night:** A potluck dinner and an evening of entertainment will be on tap Saturday, June 2. Events begin at 5:30 p.m. with a dairy potluck dinner. This is a BYOB meal. At 7, sit back and listen to friends sing familiar melodies of Broadway. You may

be surprised at the Jewish connections. Call Phyllis Newman at (813) 209-3710 to RSVP.

### Cong. Beth Israel Sun City Center

**Shabbat dinner:** Share a meal with other congregants on Friday, June 1 at 6 p.m. in Henry Gibson Hall. There will be a catered chicken or vegetarian dinner at a cost of \$12 for members, \$14 for non-members. RSVP immediately to the temple.

### Cong. Mekor Shalom

**Teddy Bear Shabbat:** Calling teddy bear owners of all ages for a teddy bear Shabbat on Friday, June 15 at 6 p.m. Celebrate Shabbat in a "beary" joyful way. Kaddish will be included at some time after 6:30 p.m. and there will be an oneg Shabbat right after the service.

### 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.

**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.

## Brunch to honor 15 who have lived at least 90 years

Weinberg Village will honor 15 members from throughout the local Jewish community who are age 90 and older, when it hosts its third Oldest Jewish Americans Brunch at the Cohn Jewish Community Campus on Sunday, June 10 at 11 a.m.

The event will include a brunch and entertainment by one of Tampa's distinguished Barbershop Quartets, Song Daddy.

This year's honorees are: Doris Baer, Donald Epstein, Nina Glazer, Frances Grunberger, Isaac Kaskinski, Mordechai Kolpakchi, Zenaida Kolpakchi, Arthur Meier, Betty Olinsky, Harold Rosenthal, Thomas Schwartz, Betty Solomon, Herbert Thau, Rita Weissman and Bruce Zimmerman.

Ron Rudolph and Andi Parker, Weinberg Village

board members, are serving as co-chairs for the brunch.

Tickets to attend the event are \$18 in advance or \$20 at the door. Checks can be made out to: Weinberg Village Assisted Living Residences. Checks and names of those attending can be mailed or dropped off at Weinberg Village Assisted Living Residences, 13005 Community Campus Drive, Tampa 33625.

The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Village Assisted Living Residences provides care for seniors within the local community and hosting an event like this meets the organization's mission.

For more information about Weinberg Village programs and services, call Dan Sultan, executive director, or Ben Gersten, marketing director, at (813) 969-1818 or visit [www.weinbergvillage.com](http://www.weinbergvillage.com).

## British Muslim group runs anti-Semitism ad

(JTA) - Muslim leaders took out a full-page ad in a major British newspaper condemning anti-Semitism.

"We understand that many in our country empathize with the Palestinians and their right to a sovereign state," said the ad Thursday, May 18, in the *Telegraph*, a national broadsheet, and signed by a group called Muslims Against Anti-Semitism. "However, we must be ever vigilant against those who cynically use international issues to vilify Jews or promote anti-Semitic tropes."

The ad was signed by the leaders of groups including Faith Matters, a Muslim anti-extremism group; the Association of British Muslims, and Tell MAMA, a clearinghouse for complaints about anti-Muslim attacks.

The Board of Deputies of British Jews praised the ad on Twitter. "Incredible solidarity - a full-page ad by Muslim sisters & brothers in today's @Telegraph," it said. "Thank you. Together we will defeat the twin evils of antisemitism & anti-Muslim hate."

Previously, the Board of Deputies had joined Tell MAMA in condemning Islamophobia, when that group on May 8 rolled out a report on anti-Muslim bias in Britain.



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# BIRTHRIGHT

• CONTINUED from FRONT PAGE

enjoying Israeli food, playing games and participating in a service project to Repair the Seas (Tikkun Ha'Yam).

Among those planning to attend are Melanie and Jonathan Bowman of St. Petersburg, who both said their trips – Melanie in 2005 and Jonathan in 2006 – served to strengthen their bonds to both Israel and Judaism – major goals of those who created the Birthright program.

The founders of Taglit [the Hebrew word for discovery] Birthright wanted young adults of Jewish heritage to discover new meaning in their personal Jewish identity and to connect to Jewish history and culture through Israel – all without the impediment of cost. The free 10-day trips are restricted to those aged 18-26 (now with limited expansion to age 32). Since

trips began, more than 600,000 from 67 countries have participated in the program – now at a rate of 40,000 a year – with the vast majority of participants from the United States and Canada.

“It [the trip] gives you a real respect for Israel, for members of their army and what they do,” Jonathan said, adding that his sunrise hike to Masada, (regarded by many as a sacred place of Jewish resistance to Roman rule), was “a very spiritual experience.”

Melanie, who went on her trip before she met Jonathan, was also impacted by it. “My Birthright trip sparked a love and concern for Israel. Now that I’ve been to Israel, I would do anything to protect it. After climbing Masada, visiting the Kotel and walking the streets of Jerusalem, the story I tell myself about who I am changed forever. My Birthright trip deeply connected me to the story of Judaism.” Jonathan said Melanie had fin-

ished her trip when he met her at a Vodka Latke event in the Tampa Bay area, just before he was to go on his trip. He said when he returned from his trip, they began dating.

Soon after their trips both became more involved in the local Jewish community, taking turns as president of the Federation’s Young Adult Division, serving on the Federation board and getting involved in the Jewish National Fund. The birth of two children since their trips has taken time away from participation in local Jewish organizations, but Jonathan said as the kids get older they would love to take them to Israel.

Jonathan grew up in Clearwater and is founder and CEO of Harmony Home Health in Largo. Melanie, who grew up in Tampa, is owner of Caregiver Strategies and Support.

Yet another local Birthright participant, Josh Bloom, who lives in Pinellas Park and went on a Birth-



Josh Bloom’s 2001 Birthright group wades in the water at the Nahal Snir Nature Reserve in Israel.

right tour in 2001, said even before he went to Israel, he had an affinity toward the Jewish state. His mother lived on a kibbutz for about a year after she finished high school, so he was raised knowing about the culture in Israel.

“Israel is our homeland, so I always wanted to go there and see my homeland. . . . I absolutely loved being there,” Bloom said.

Not only was he touched by his tour of Yad Vashem, Israel’s official memorial to the Holocaust, but after he returned, he created a Power-Point presentation on Yad Vashem and the Holocaust for a college class he was taking. His professor was so impressed he got Josh to return for presentations to other classes, something he liked doing until marriage and a baby made life too busy to continue. He said lecturing on the Holocaust helped him feel stronger about his faith and have a greater appreciation “for what others have gone through.”

Josh, who does technology support and audio-visual engineering for St. Petersburg College, said he continues to have a strong affinity toward the Israeli people. He said when he hears news reports of people accusing Israel of attacking people, his response is, “No, we do not attack until after we are attacked.”

Soon after his return from his Birthright trip Bloom began going to temple again and he said his wife is in the process of converting to Judaism.

Visits to the Western Wall, the Dead Sea, Yad Vashem and Masada are common for Birthright participants, but one sight that caught 2008 participant Michael Tebbi off guard: “Seeing graffiti in Hebrew left an impression. It’s a mundane thing that blends into the background for people there but was an oddity to me – graffiti in the same

language as holy prayers.”

An attorney who grew up in Tampa and still lives here, Tebbi said the people of Israel were like people everywhere, focused on their day-to-day issues and with a wide range of personalities. “In general people had the humor, sharp wit, and sometimes abrupt character traits I expected.”

Tebbi said his Birthright trip served as more of a confirmation of his Jewish commitment than a spiritual awakening. “I was pretty involved in the Jewish community in college and law school before my Birthright trip and remained so afterwards. I was a regular at Hillel and Chabad both before and after



Michael Tebbi was taken aback when he spotted graffiti in Hebrew during his Birthright trip.

the trip,” he said.

Like the Bowmans and Bloom, Tebbi said, “I supported Israel before going and still do after.”

\* \* \*

Those who know a Birthright alum living in the Tampa Bay area are asked to send their contact information to Lisa Robbins, director of young adult engagement for the Tampa JCCs and Federation, so they can be sent a personal invitation to the reunion. Robbins can be contacted at (813) 769-4723 or [lisa.robbs@jewishtampa.com](mailto:lisa.robbs@jewishtampa.com).

Those planning to go to the reunion should RSVP by going to [www.jetishtampa.com/IMPACT](http://www.jetishtampa.com/IMPACT). Location details will be shared upon receiving RSVPs.

## INVESTMENT SERVICES



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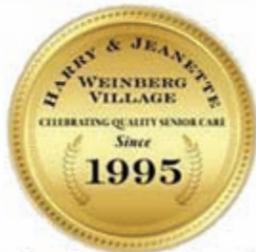
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# Israeli 'Friendship Caravan' to display talents at 2 shows

By BOB FRYER  
Jewish Press

Much like in the United States, they have Scouts in Israel, and next month a group (they call it a Caravan) of them will make two visits in Pinellas County.

Unlike most American Scout groups, the Tzofim Friendship Caravan will offer performances akin to a variety show as they share their musical, singing and dancing talents and sprinkle in stories about life in Israel.

Their first visit in Pinellas this year will be at Congregation B'nai Israel in St. Petersburg where they will entertain folks of all ages on Thursday, June 14 at 5:30 p.m. The public is invited to this free event and light refreshments will be served. The synagogue is located at 300 Fifth St. N. in St. Petersburg.

On Friday, June 15 at 2 p.m. the caravan will perform for the Jewish Community Camp housed at Temple B'nai Israel, 1685 S. Belcher Road, Clearwater. This free event is also open to the public as well as to kids in the summer camp sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Pinellas and Pasco Counties.

There are different scout groups in Israel that send caravans abroad, all part of a mission to serve as goodwill ambassadors from Israel, making friendships and building bonds between Americans and Israelis. The group that has been making frequent summer visits to this area is the Tzofim organization. Founded in 1919, it was the first Zionist youth movement in pre-state Israel and today it is the largest scout group in Israel with 80,000 active members and 180 chapters/troops in various cities, towns, moshavim and kibbutzim.

Just like American scouts, the Israeli scouts start young – around age 10 – and participate in regular meetings, attending camps and taking on projects to help others while earning badges. But when the Israeli Scouts, reach age 16 or 17, select ones are chosen to be members of the Caravan based on their maturity, fluency in English, and of course their talent in the performing arts. After several rounds of competitive auditions and interviews, the scouts spend a year training and rehearsing for their exciting summer in North America.

Traditionally each caravan has 10 teen members and two counselors in their 20s. This year one teen is not able to make this trip, but among those coming, all are quite notable.



The Israeli Scout Caravan

Each teen enjoys working with younger scouts in their homeland, mentoring them and sharing a positive attitude. Most of those coming here have older brothers or sisters serving in Israel Defense Forces (IDF) and several have apparently inherited their love for music, song or acting from their parents. One girl, Shai, is the daughter of the CEO of SodaStream International whose bio also notes that her dad has been a longtime cantor at a synagogue in Cincinnati, where Shai and her singer/songwriter mom got to join him on the bima for the High Holidays.

Shai is not the only one who has already visited the United States. Sharon visited the Grand Canyon and Universal Studios on a trip to America and a boy, Amir, lived in California for three years when he was younger and his dad got transferred to a job there.

All the caravan members said they are eager to share their talents, stories, culture and values with Americans in hopes of forming strong bonds.



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## For second year, Clearwater Chabad wins big at Give Day

For the second year in a row Chabad of Clearwater was the winner of the Give Day Tampa Bay contest. Chabad once again received the highest number of unique donors in the small nonprofits category.

Give Day Tampa Bay is a 24-hour online giving event sponsored by the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay to promote charitable giving to local nonprofits.

This year's contest was held on Tuesday May 1 and featured more than 400 non-profit organizations from across the Tampa Bay region.

When the clock on the contest ran out at midnight on Wednesday, Chabad of Clearwater had raised more than \$12,000 from 415 donors. Additionally, Chabad won \$5,000 in prize money including \$2,000 for being first in the small nonprofits category, \$2,000 for winning the power hour lunch prize and a \$1,000 Matching Grant Prize.

The 415 unique donors for Chabad of Clearwater was the second highest total of donors from all the non profits competing in Give Day.

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- **GROUP SWIM LESSONS**

Parent & Tot (6 months - 3 years)

### Preschool Swim Lessons (Ages 3 - 5)

#### Level 1 - Tadpole

This introductory class is for children who are new to swimming or nervous in the water. Our goal is to develop confidence, breath control and proper body position. Positive reinforcement is critical to help the child build trust and confidence. Graduates will be able to do five relaxed bobs, front float and kicks for five seconds, get in the ready position, jump to teacher from the wall and relax in an assisted back float.

#### Level 2 - Turtle

This class is for children who are comfortable in the pool and will go underwater willingly and happily. In this level the focus is on learning proper breathing techniques, improve floating skills, kicking strength and survival skills. Graduates will be able to do a back float for 10 seconds, streamline with straight leg kicks, basic freestyle arms, rollovers and turnarounds.

#### Level 3 - Seal

This level is for children who are able to swim independently and are ready to learn the basics of all four competitive strokes. In this advanced level, graduates will be able to swim freestyle with rollovers for 10 yards, side breathing and side kicking with assistance, elementary backstroke and breaststroke kicks.

### Grade School Swim Lessons (Ages 6 - 12)

#### Level 1 - Stingray

The focus of this level is to build confidence and learn basic water safety skills through fun and games. Graduates will be able to do streamline, front kicks and back kicks for 25 yards, jump in the water and recover safely, elementary backstroke, freestyle with rollovers and swim underwater to pick up toys.

#### Level 2 - Otter

This class focuses on introducing all four competitive strokes. Graduates will be able to start in ready position, swim 15 yards of freestyle with side breathing, 15 yards of backstroke, do a safe sit dive, and have a basic understanding of breaststroke and dolphin kicks.

- **PRIVATE SWIM LESSONS**

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- **ADULT MASTER SWIMMING**

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#### Pre-Team (Ages 10-12)

The goal of this group is to develop our swim team. Emphasis on technique in freestyle. Child may attend with parent.

#### Blue I (Ages 7-9)

This is an introductory level for each practice session. Swimmers will work on technique and racing dives, and basic freestyle.

#### Blue II (Ages 10-12)

The goal of this group is to improve swimming while increasing fitness levels. This group is for swimmers who want to get into competitive swimming but are not looking for a full-time commitment and endurance work. Training includes challenging sets. Focus on good habits for life or to compete.

- **STAND UP PADDLING**

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# AQUATIC CENTER

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## ADULT SWIM CLUB

## JUNIOR SWIM CLUB

(Ages 6 - 9)

The main group is to prepare swimmers for participation on a competitive level. Emphasis will be placed on developing stroke technique for freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke and butterfly. Practice times listed.

(Ages 10 - 13)

The main focus of this group is to develop proper stroke technique. Participants will work on all four competitive strokes, racing turns and relays while also improving their stamina in the water.

(Ages 11+)

The main group is to cultivate a love and appreciation for swimming. Increasing endurance, health and general physical fitness. This group is perfect for those who love the water and want to be in shape while increasing their swimming ability. Participants will be working for a competitive environment. Stroke technique will be accomplished through both fun and drills. This is the ideal place to develop great training for those looking to join their high school swim team.

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# American Red Cross

## Certification Courses

### JUNIOR LIFEGUARD COURSE (AGES 12-14)

The BGFJCC JR Guard program is designed for participants ages 12-14, who are interested in a future position as a lifeguard. Participants will be introduced to lifeguarding and instructing while volunteering at the Mezrah Family Aquatic Center. Along with learning basic lifesaving skills, participants will also receive an American Red Cross CPR certification. This program will allow participants the chance to aid lifeguards and lesson instructors, in addition to assisting in other areas of the Bryan Glazer Family JCC.

*\*Note: This is not a Lifeguard Training class. You must be 15 to take that course.*

### LIFEGUARD CERTIFICATION COURSE (AGES 15+)

American Red Cross Lifeguard Training is a certification for all lifeguards. This course is designed to teach basic lifesaving and water safety skills recommended for pool supervision. At the end of this course, each participant who passes the written and practical exams, will be presented with a certificate in: Lifeguarding/First Aid/CPR/AED. 100% attendance required for course completion.

### LIFEGUARD RECERTIFICATION COURSE (AGES 15+)

Lifeguarding/First Aid and CPR for the professional rescuer are all now two-year certifications! All of our challenge classes include a two-year certification for Lifeguarding/First Aid/CPR/AED. This is a single day course. Participants must be currently certified or have a certification expired by no more than 30 days of the course review date.

### ADULT & PEDIATRIC FIRST AID/CPR/AED CERTIFICATION COURSE (AGES 15+)

This course is designed to teach individuals how to respond using CPR and an AED in emergency situations. Participants learn how to perform CPR and care for breathing and cardiac emergencies to victims of any age, how to use automatic external defibrillators and how to provide care using first aid.

### BABYSITTING CERTIFICATION COURSE (AGES 11-15)

This course is designed to teach the fundamentals of safety and child care. The course will provide instruction on responsibilities of becoming a babysitter, safety tips for taking care of children, basic child care skills and what to do in case of an emergency. You will also become certified in Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED.



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## GAZA BORDER

• CONTINUED from FRONT PAGE

Here are the cases for and against the IDF's conduct – and an example of a similar situation where things ended a little differently.

Defenders of Israel's conduct say it minimized casualties.

"The number of casualties was very, very small," said Doron Almog, who led the IDF Southern Command from 2000 to 2003.

Like other Israeli officials and veterans, he is defiant. What the world described as a protest, he said, was a crowd-sourced operation by Hamas, the militant group governing Gaza, to infiltrate Israeli territory and harm civilians.

"What's the last time you stood opposite 47,000 people?" he said. "Are you crazy enough to imagine what that is? What happened was a planned affair by Hamas. Hamas took out operational directives, it gave orders that within the groups of people there would be people armed with pistols."

Defenders of Israel's conduct all said that the core threat lay in protesters who were trying to break through the fence, which is only a couple hundred yards away from Israeli towns. Protesters had to be stopped before they breached the fence, the Israeli officers said, because a break in the fence could allow thousands to stream through and overwhelm Israeli forces, and then Israeli civilians, at a close distance.

Shooting protesters before that happened, they said, minimized the number of dead. And they all emphasized that Israel used crowd-dispersal means like tear gas and rubber bullets before turning to sniper fire.

"Once it becomes a question of two meters, three meters, ten meters, if you're 100 soldiers there, and there are 2,000 unarmed people, at that point the numbers talk," said Noru Tsalic, a veteran of the IDF who was a low-level officer during the first Palestinian intifada in the late 1980s, which saw frequent Palestinian protests. "If there is no fence anymore and thousands of people are coming toward you, then your only option is to shoot into the crowd and try to kill as many people as possible."

Israel has not officially accounted for every person it killed, instead publicly relying on a declaration from Hamas that 50 of the victims were its own members. But Shaul Shay, the former deputy head of Israel's National Security Council, said the issue boils down to Israel facing an incursion on its southern border – and acting as any sovereign state would.

"The role of the IDF on the Gaza border is to defend the borders of the state of Israel, and the way the IDF functioned was correct," said Shay, now the director of research at the Interdisciplinary Center's Institute for Policy and Strategy. "It showed a lot of strength, and in the end, no Gazans infiltrated into Israel."

A human rights lawyer says Israel must do more to protect human life.

"The Israeli forces have adopted rules of engagement that deviate in a not just dangerous but immoral way from what international law allows," said Michael Sfar, a prominent Israeli human rights lawyer.

Sfar acknowledged that Israel faced a threat on its border and had the responsibility to counter that threat. But those counter measures, he said, should not include live fire except if someone's life is under clear threat.

"Using force that is potentially lethal can only be done in an immediate danger to life," he said. "Not to property, not to sovereignty, not to anything else. That does not mean if there is a danger to property, to sovereignty, that we should stand idle."

In other words, Sfar says Israel is not allowed to use live fire to stop someone from breaking through the fence. If that person has a gun and is coming toward soldiers, force would be acceptable, he said. But if not, soldiers should wound or arrest the culprit. Soldiers cannot simply assume, he said, that every infiltrator intends to kill civilians.

"This is killing people on the basis of a speculation," he said. "You have enough forces in [border kibbutz] Nahal Oz and everywhere else, and the IDF knows exactly if the border is being cracked."

"If you see someone who's armed, that's a different matter," he continued. "You can shoot to kill. We're talking about unarmed civilians. To say that cracking the fence and infiltrating Israel is a capital offense – someone completely lost their mind."

Sfar likewise questioned the relevance of 50 of the dead belonging to Hamas. While Hamas is a terror group, it also has a political party and a bureaucracy that runs the coastal strip. The key question, Sfar said, was whether those Hamas members posed a threat to Israeli lives when they were shot.

"The question is not whether someone is a member of a terror organization," Sfar said. "The question is whether a person is a combatant or a civilian, and if a civilian, does he engage in combat or pose an immediate danger? Their ideology has no bearing on whether they should be targeted."

What happened when protesters breached Israel's northern border?

Both Sfar and Shay discussed a previous time when Israel had to deal with the same problem: a mass rush on its border by civilians. In June 2011, thousands of people in Syria stormed toward the border into the Golan Heights, with some crossing over. Israeli forces fired on them, killing 22 and wounding 350. No Israelis died in the clashes.

Sfar and Shay both pointed to the incident as proof of their points. Sfar says that, in a case when protesters did actually rush into Israel, its citizens were unscathed, and fewer people died. Israel could have taken the same approach this week, he said.

"Did the sky fall?" he said. "No, they were arrested. Many people got in, and what happened? We're dealing with unarmed civilian protesters."

But Shay said the 2011 incident should be seen as a debacle, not a test case. The army was unprepared, he said, and should never have allowed anyone to cross the border. The fact that no Israelis were harmed, he added, was a lucky break that Israel cannot expect again.

"It was a failure that the IDF wasn't ready as it should have been," he said. "Don't bring a failure as a best practice."

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# Parkinsons poolside mixer



The Tampa JCCs and USF co-hosted a Parkinson's Poolside Mixer at the Bryan Glazer Family JCC as part of the Parkinson's Wellness Initiative. More than 40 Parkinson's patients and their caregivers had a chance to learn more about the Parkinson's programs and resources available to them at the Tampa JCCs, including the Wellness Initiative, Rock Steady Boxing, and the North Tampa Parkinson's Action Group.

## Talent for teaching...

**Brett Kushner** of Tampa was voted Teacher of the Year for the 2017-2018 school year at his SLAM charter school in Citrus Park. For the honor, he won a cash award along with a trip to Miami where he will mingle with other SLAM! (Sports Leadership & Management) teachers from around the state. Kushner teaches sixth grade at his school, which serves kids in grades 6-12 and has more than 500 students. Students focus on sports-related majors and college prep. Kushner has a master's degree in elementary education and is currently working on another master's in educational leadership. For the 2018-2019 school year Brett will take on a new role and will be dean of students. Proud parents are **Alyce and David Kushner** of Tampa, aunt and uncle **Joy and Jerry Lolli**, also of Tampa, brother **Seth** in St. Petersburg and another brother, **Micah**, in Chicago. Excellent teaching runs in the family as Brett's mom, who has been teaching for 25 years in Hillsborough County, received a Teacher of the Year award in 2007.



**Brett Kushner and SLAM! Charter school Principal Jim Griffin standing in front of the "check" Brett received for being named the school's Teacher of the Year.**

## Obituaries

**RUTH "COOKIE" NEUMAN**, 81, of Tampa, died May 12. Born in Columbia, MI, she moved to Tampa in 1941, where she attended Robert E. Lee Elementary, George Washington Jr. High and Thomas Jefferson High School. After graduating in 1954, she attended the University of Florida and Jackson Memorial Hospital of Nursing, completing her education at Barnes Hospital in St. Louis, graduating as a nurse anesthetist. She worked for 45 years, her last 31 years with Women's Hospital. She retired in 2006. Survivors include her sons and daughters-in-law Rod and Jill Neuman and Lon and Jenn Neuman; daughter-in-law Collette; and six grandchildren. The family suggests memorials be made to the American Cancer Society. (Segal Funeral Home, Beth David Chapel)

**SAMUEL D. SHAINWALD**, 86, of Tampa, died May 3. Born in Chicago, he moved to Tampa in 1994. Survivors include his wife of 63 years, Lucille; son Mark Shainwald, Skokie, IL; daughter and son-in-law Naomi and Joel Brooks of Tampa; and one grandson. The family suggests memorials to the American Heart Association, American Diabetes Association, the Arc Nature Coast, Hillel USF. (Segal Funeral Home, Beth David Chapel)

**MITCHELL SCOTT STONE**, 42, of Tampa, died May 6. He attended Young Israel of Tampa. Survivors include his wife Lilian; his three children; Gabriel, Sophia and Julian; parents Mark and Terry Stone; brother and sister-in-law Jason and Kim Stone. (Segal Funeral Home, Beth David Chapel)

**HENRY ZYNDORF**, 92, of Tampa, died May 19. He was born in Poland and was a Holocaust survivor. Survivors include his daughter Bernice Saxon, Odessa; sons and daughters-in-law, Sol and Naomi Zyndorf, Toledo, OH, and Andy and Ann Zyndorf, Tampa; and eight grandchildren. The family suggests memorials to the U. S. Holocaust Museum, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place, SW, Washington DC 20024 or to Congregation Kol Ami in Tampa. (Segal Funeral Home, Beth David Chapel)

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## U.S. Israeli ambassador chose 'controversial' pastors who gave embassy prayers

(JTA) – Two controversial pastors who offered prayers at the dedication of the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem were invited by U.S. Ambassador to Israel, David Friedman.

Robert Jeffress, the Dallas pastor of a Southern Baptist megachurch who has disparaged Jews, Mormons and Muslims delivered the opening prayer at the Jerusalem embassy dedication. Robert Jeffress, is a Fox News contributor, a prominent supporter of President Donald Trump and host of radio and television shows broadcast throughout the United States.



Robert Jeffress

He has said “you can’t be saved by being a Jew” and “Mormonism is a heresy from the pit of hell.”

Prior to the embassy dedication ceremony on May 14, former Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney lambasted Jeffress as a religious bigot.

The other minister, Pastor John Hagee, head of Christians United for Israel, who gave the closing benediction, has also made controversial remarks including that Hitler and the Holocaust were part of God’s plan to bring Jews to Israel.

The day following the embassy dedication, State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said in response to a reporter’s question that it was Friedman’s decision to bring Jeffress on board for the ceremony. “We would certainly not agree with the pastor’s remarks, some of his controversial remarks that he has made about various religious groups, but he was chosen by Ambassador Friedman, who was certainly welcome to do so, and made that decision,” Nauert said.

“(E)mbassies certainly have their free will sometimes to make decisions about who they want to bring in as guest lecturers or people to lead a ceremony or some sort of a celebration.



John Hagee

To my knowledge, we did not have any role in making that decision,” she also said.

Friedman, who is Jewish, defended the participation of Jeffress and Hagee in an interview with Breitbart News. “I chose those pastors because they deserve to speak,” he said, “because they represented a community very much in support of what happened yesterday.”

Added Friedman: “The evangelical community in particular shares the same belief that Jewish people have, that Israel is a special place, that its existence is evidence of a covenant between God and the Jewish people, and that the relationship between the United States and Israel is a blessed one, and that America itself will receive blessings – if not Godly blessings, then certainly the benefits that come to people who act righteously and courageously.”

According to the *New York Times*, Hagee told an NPR interviewer that he believes Jews will be saved during the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. While Jews do not believe in Jesus as their savior, Hagee said, they will accept him when he appears and “they will weep as one weeps for his only son for a period of one week.”

## EMBASSY

• CONTINUED from FRONT PAGE

and opening of the United States Embassy in Jerusalem, Israel.”

Inevitably, perhaps, the images of pageantry vied with darker news out of Gaza, where at least 60 Palestinians died during violent clashes with the Israeli military along the border. Outside the new embassy, dozens of demonstrators, including several Arab members of Knesset, held up signs calling Jerusalem the capital of Palestine. Fourteen protesters were arrested following skirmishes with police.

At the ceremony itself, meanwhile, local politicians vied with each other to see who could offer the most expansive plaudits as their constituents posted memes on social media describing the president in almost messianic terms.

Addressing the dedication ceremony via video, President Donald Trump asserted that “for many years we failed to acknowledge the obvious, the plain reality that Israel’s capital is Jerusalem.”

Likely responding to Palestinian assertions that such recognition hampers efforts at a negotiated settlement to the conflict, Trump asserted that the United States was “committed to facilitating a lasting peace agreement” and to the maintenance of the status quo on the Temple Mount.

Despite the violence accompanying the embassy move, Trump adviser and son-in-law Jared Kushner told attendees at the ceremony that “previously unimaginable alliances are emerging” and that the U.S. would support a peace agreement in which “both sides can get more than they give.” Last week, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain welcomed Trump’s decision to pull the U.S. out of the Iran nuclear deal and reimpose sanctions on Tehran.

### Bibi: Trump made history

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who juxtaposed Trump’s Embassy decision with the Balfour Declaration promising British support for a Jewish homeland, said “by recognizing history” Trump had “made history.”

“The truth and peace are interconnected. A peace built on lies will crash on the rocks of Middle Eastern realities and the truth is that Jerusalem will always be the capital of the Jewish state,” he said. “May the truth advance a lasting peace between us and our neighbors.”

Both administration figures and Israeli politicians heaped praise on the president in response to the

embassy move. At a reception organized by the Orthodox Union at Jerusalem’s Waldorf Astoria hotel, former Sen. Joseph Lieberman, I-CT, one of the architects of the 1995 Jerusalem Embassy Act, told JTA that it had been “very frustrating and disappointing every time a president of the United States suspended the implementation of that act” and that he was “thrilled” by Trump’s decision. The Jerusalem Embassy Act recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and called for the relocation of the embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, but Trump’s predecessors declined to implement it, citing foreign policy concerns.

Asked if he believed that Trump’s involvement would turn Israel into a partisan issue, Lieberman replied that his bill had been bi-partisan and “support for Jerusalem as the capital of Israel is broadly supported by members of both parties.”

### Trump a Churchill?

The O.U.’s Mark Bane called Trump “God’s messenger on this important day.” Citing his decision to pull out of the Iran nuclear deal, Justice Minister Ayelet Shaked called Trump the “the [Winston] Churchill of the 21st century.”

This rhetoric was off-putting to some attendees, who decried what they saw as excessive. While there was no question that the embassy move was significant, “the focus needs to be on the essence and not about Trump,” opposition MK Pnina Tamano-Shata of Yesh Atid told JTA.

“To compare him to Churchill or to Balfour is a little exaggerated. The state of Israel and the people of Israel know that our capital is Jerusalem and the transfer of the Embassy is [correct] but let’s take things in proportion. I am for our nation celebrating but we also need to be careful that we don’t excessively praise in an exaggerated sense of euphoria ... and not to raise up a man in an exaggerated way,” she said.

Asked about how Israeli leaders were addressing Trump, Dan Shapiro, who served as U.S. ambassador to Israel under President Barack Obama, told JTA that it was understandable that they were engaging in “hyperbole” because “it’s become accepted in international circles that the way to gain favor with President Trump is to engage in excessive flattery.”

Shapiro said he supported the embassy move but harbored reservations about how it was implemented. He explained that Israel

was doing “everything possible to have the best possible relation with the president of the United States” and that this was “completely legitimate.”

However, he cautioned, “it would be advisable to bear in mind the significant number of Americans deeply who are alienated from this president on other issues” and to work on “maintaining the historic bi-partisan nature of this relationship.”

### A deadly decision?

K Ayman Odeh, an Arab Israeli who heads the Knesset’s Joint List, linked the killing of Gaza protesters – who are engaged in a six-week series of demonstrations to coincide with Israel’s 70th anniversary celebrations – to the embassy dedication.

“The opening of the American embassy in Jerusalem and its grand ceremony is part of the same policy that has claimed the lives of dozens of Gazans,” Odeh said in a statement. “Today, there is nothing to celebrate. The opening of the embassy is yet another provocative step that signals the destruction of the notion of peace. The Netanyahu-Trump alliance continues to deepen the conflict.”

Meanwhile, in East Jerusalem, the mood was subdued. Near the Damascus Gate, tourists and Arab shoppers mingled, watched by dozens of police officers clad in

body armor and carrying automatic weapons. Local residents, while unhappy with the American decision, seemed apathetic in the face of a reality they couldn’t change.

### Playing with fire

Inside the Old City’s Arab market, a man who identified himself only as Yassir sat in his dress shop, watching news footage from Gaza. “Trump is playing with fire,” he said. “There could be war all over. The people of Gaza don’t care if they die.” Asked why there wasn’t any significant unrest in East Jerusalem, Yassir replied resignedly that it was “very difficult living directly with the Israelis” and that any young man who went out in the street would end up with a police record that would follow him for life.

“It’s different in Gaza, the authorities support the protests,” he said.

In a nearby restaurant, a man named Tawfik expressed similarly fatalistic attitude, asserting that the Israelis had Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states in their pockets. Trump, he said, was “more Jewish than the Jews.” The Palestinians “have to be smart,” he continued, claiming that if Jerusalem residents took to the streets “the Jews will kill us and say we are against peace.”

“I’m not ready for my son to go out and die,” he said.

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## Organizations

### JCC

**Scrabble tourny:** Brush up on your double-letter words, anagrams and seven-letter words for a JCC Scrabble tournament on Sunday, July 15 from 1-4 p.m. at the Bryan Glazer Family JCC, 522 N. Howard Ave., Tampa. There will be games, snacks and prizes. The event is open to JCC members and guests of all ages and skill levels. There is no fee to participate. This is an inter-generational program of Tween Connex, #Gather and Active Adults of the JCCs. Bring your own Scrabble set and dictionary if you have them. Note: this is not an official NASPA Scrabble

tournament. Although there is no charge, registration is required. Go to [www.BryanGlazerFamilyJCC.com/Scrabble](http://www.BryanGlazerFamilyJCC.com/Scrabble).

### Genealogical Society

**Examining evidence:** Guest speaker **George G. Morgan** will discuss "Principles for Effective Evidence Analysis" during the next meeting of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay on Sunday June 10. The lecture will include the principles of genealogical evidence analysis and show examples of capturing all the clues to expand and improve research. The meeting takes place at Gulf Coast Jewish Family & Community Services;

14041 Icot Blvd., Clearwater. A pre-session social with refreshments and library access begins at 1:30 p.m. Morgan, a local resident, is one of the world's most prolific and best-known authors and speakers on genealogy. Among his books is the award-winning *How to Do Everything with Your Genealogy* and is co-host of two podcasts on the topic. Anyone interested in learning how to do Jewish genealogy research is invited to participate. There is no charge to attend and guests are welcome. For information about the organization or directions to the meeting, call **Bruce Hadburg** at (727) 796-7981.

### Jewish War Veterans

**Volunteers needed:** The Jewish War Veterans Post 373 is seeking members who would like to help ill and disabled veterans. For details regarding the Post and the latest post activities, visit [www.jwvtampa.org](http://www.jwvtampa.org). Contact **Commander Jack Rudowsky** at (813) 598-8061 or email [rochellets@gmail.com](mailto:rochellets@gmail.com).

### Young Adults

**Brew bus adventure:** The #Gather group will go on a brew bus adventure on Sunday, June 3 from noon to 4 p.m. The cost is \$10 for unlimited bus rides throughout the day on the local loop bus as folks stop at various breweries, restaurants and bars in Tampa. Food and beverages are at the cost of participants. See contact information below.

**Museum tour:** The #Gather group will take a private tour of the Florida Holocaust Museum's exhibition: "Operation Finale: The Capture & Trial of Adolf Eichmann," on Sunday, June 24. The group will gather first at 12:30 p.m. at La V, a Vietnamese fusion restaurant, at 441 Central Ave., St. Petersburg. The museum is a few blocks away and the tour there begins at 2 p.m. The cost is \$12 for members and \$15 for guests, lunch not included. Registration in advance is required for this event.

**Armature Works tour:** The #Gather group will take a free behind the scenes tour of Armature Works on Tuesday, June 26 at 6:30 p.m. Tour Tampa's hottest new project with **Taryn Bruck**, managing director of Armature Works. After the tour, the group will dine together in the Heights Market inside Armature Works. Cost of din-

ner is not included.

**#Gather offers a mix of social and interactive activities designed to help young adults connect. It is open to young adults in their 20s, 30s and 40s 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.**

### 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.

**Chess lessons:** Learn how to play chess on Mondays from 1:30-3 p.m. at the Cohn campus.

**Men's Club:** This group will meet on Tuesdays, June 12 and 26 from 5-6:30 p.m. at the Glazer JCC for men to gather in relaxed and friendly surroundings. Planned activities include a guided tour of the Florida Holocaust Museum on May 30; watching a Tampa Bay Rays vs Toronto Blue Jays game at Tropicana Field on Wednesday, June 13 at 1:10 p.m. and a member's lunch and chat on Tuesday, June 19 at Ciccio's Water Restaurant for \$2 Taco Tuesday.

**Parkinson's event:** A free community event is planned for Sunday, June 3 from 3-4:30 p.m. when speaker **Angela M. Hill** talks at the Glazer JCC about "Facts and Fiction about Traditional and Contemporary Treatment Approaches for Parkinson's Disease." Hill is pharmacy consultant for the USF Byrd Alzheimer's Institute/Parkinson's Center/Movement Disorders Clinic.

**Bridge:** Those who want to learn how to play bridge or improve their game can take the last four of a series of six bridge classes at the Glazer JCC on Fridays, June 1, 8, 15 and 22. 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, but pro-rating is available for those who missed the first two classes in May.

**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 Borrell JetSetters social group for adults of all ages meets at both JCCs for an hour-long program followed by lunch.

At the Glazer JCC, JetSetters will meet on Wednesday, June 13 to hear stories and songs of legendary singers and songwriters such as the Kingston Trio, John Denver, Roger Miller and more. Local guitarist and balladeer **George Aldrich** will perform.

The program will be repeated on Thursday, June 28 at the Cohn campus.

Both groups meet from from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The lunch is free for members, though a donation of \$5 is suggested.

**News talk:** This discussion group, meeting at both JCCs, is

led by **Pat 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. Topics are:

- May 29 – the history of the mid-terms and how they might change the direction of the country.

- June 5 – the platform proposal of each political party for mid-term elections.

- June 12 – how people get their news.

- June 19 – the divisions of ethical thinking in the Western world

- June 26 – how to effect social change.

The group at the Cohn campus, meets the second and fourth Friday from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Upcoming topics are:

- June 8 – the platform proposal of each political party for mid-term elections.

- June 22 – how social change is accomplished and what people may be willing to give up to make it happen.

**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 Wednesdays, June 13 and 27. 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. The June 6 film will be *The Chosen*, a top-rated film in the National Classic Jewish Film Guide.

**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.

### 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. Monday Morning Links is supported by the Vinik Family Foundation.

**Switching gears:** The final two in a series of four evening workshops, each from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. are offered, targeting those in career transition. These sessions cover the nuts and bolts of career transition. People can enroll for the full series or come for any individual session. The sessions are on Tuesdays, May 29 and June 5. Reservations are required. Cost is \$15 per workshop or \$50 for all four. To RSVP, call (813) 344-0200, email [RSVP@TBJL.org](mailto:RSVP@TBJL.org).

### 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.

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## Letters to the Editor

### Support for Israel should not trump hate speech

Dear Editor,

Where is the outrage from the organized Jewish community in the United States over the selection of two of the most virulent “Jew haters” in our country, the Reverends Robert Jeffress and John Hagee, to give the opening prayer and final benediction at the dedication of our Embassy in Jerusalem

They have said that Jews are going to hell; Hitler was a hunter from God to get the Jews to Israel; Mormons and Islam are heresies; Catholics were led astray by the devil; and 70 percent of gay people have AIDS.

Why have our organizations remained silent? Have we sold our soul to the Evangelical Christian community in exchange for a few political coins to get their support for Israel? Do we care that the only reason for that support is the hope that the Messiah will come and that all Jews will become Christians?

Has Israel become the “New Golden Calf”? Do we worship Israel rather than God?

Evangelicals are just the latest group that would seek the destruction of Judaism. Embracing their support for political reasons is wrong.

The only outrage I have seen is in the American and Israeli press. They have called out the president for his selection of these virulent anti-Semites. Where are we?

Carl L. Zielonka, Tampa

### Volunteer for Israel feels pride

Dear Editor,

In February, I went to Israel to do volunteer work for the 10th time. I was with a group of 30 people who came from the United States, Canada, Australia, Hungary, England, and France. I was doing non-military, non-combat, non-political, non-religious volunteer work. I was emptying expired medical supplies, replacing them with new updated medical supplies, including vital signs medical gear, and first aid kits. It required paying attention to details, and affirming the new equipment is assembled according to instructions before going for inspection. Human lives relied on this equipment. The program authorities notified the group about 40 percent of the work is done by volunteers. I felt that I was where the action is and that my work was important. The group had three wonderful leaders. The leaders were women who came alone to serve Israel: a deed of courage.

The group had mature adults who were giving their best and showed how how difficulties can be overcome with a purpose in life. The group had soldiers who served from all branches of the United States military in past wars. Some of these volunteers also had children now serving in the military, making vital sacrifices for the great country we are privileged to live in – the United States of America. It is important to remember these heroes and their sacrifices.

This instilled pride in me that the United States of America is supporting Israel. I am looking forward to going again in the near future to do volunteer work in Israel with the Volunteers for Israel Program. Contact 866 514-1948 (Toll Free), or email address: info@vfi-usa.org.

Ruth H. Gileadi, Palm Harbor



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The summer months are a fabulous time to engage in the Arts! Enjoy movies, book discussions, culinary class, theater experiences, painting classes and performances during June and July at the Bryan Glazer Family JCC.

**Adult Acting/Improv (Ages 16+) – June 26 | July 31**  
\$5 (includes adult beverages) | Register at [www.BryanGlazerFamilyJCC.com/Theater](http://www.BryanGlazerFamilyJCC.com/Theater)

**Book Club (Ages 16+) – June 18 | *The Night Circus* by Erin Morgenstern  
July 23 | *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng**  
FREE | Register at [www.BryanGlazerFamilyJCC.com/Bookclub](http://www.BryanGlazerFamilyJCC.com/Bookclub)

**Canvas Painting Class (Ages 16+) – June 20 | July 18**  
\$20 | Register at [www.BryanGlazerFamilyJCC.com/Art](http://www.BryanGlazerFamilyJCC.com/Art)

**Film Festival ENCORE Nights (Ages 16+) – June 12 | *Sammy Davis Jr: I Gotta Be Me*  
July 10 | *Budapest Noir***  
FREE (Popcorn/Water \$1) | Register at [www.BryanGlazerFamilyJCC.com/Film](http://www.BryanGlazerFamilyJCC.com/Film)

**Culinary Experience (Ages 16+) – June 19 | *Sushi Rolling!***  
\$20 | Register at [www.BryanGlazerFamilyJCC.com/Culinary](http://www.BryanGlazerFamilyJCC.com/Culinary)

**PJ Library Timeless Tales Children’s Theater Shows (Ages 8 and under) – 10:00 AM**  
**June 24 – *Princess and the Pea* | July 22 – *Jack and the Beanstalk***  
FREE | RSVP to [brandy.gold@jewishtampa.com](mailto:brandy.gold@jewishtampa.com)



For more information, contact Brandy Gold at 813.769.4725 or [brandy.gold@jewishtampa.com](mailto:brandy.gold@jewishtampa.com).



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# TECH SHOW

• CONTINUED from FRONT PAGE

the event are participating in the FIBA 2018 program. Each of the FIBA companies has developed solutions in the healthcare, construction, HR, advertising, security or retail industries.

Aron Di Castro, head of WAZE global partnerships and business development, will speak about

the post-acquisition integration of Waze into Google, and about Waze's plans for growth. Waze is a GPS navigation app developed by an Israeli startup that was acquired by Google for nearly \$1 billion in 2013. Di Castro recently relocated from Tel-Aviv to Google's headquarters in Silicon Valley.

Danny Brigido, Wix director of customer solutions, built the Wix office in Miami. He will ad-

dress the challenge of hiring tech employees in Florida and how Wix was able to overcome this challenge and hire more than 100 Floridians to grow Wix's Miami operations. Wix is a website development platform for small businesses. Wix was founded in Israel in 2006 and today has 120 million users worldwide. Wix is traded on the NASDAQ.

Each year FIBA brings in promising Israeli tech companies that are ready to expand into the U.S. market. FIBA offers Israeli entrepreneurs strategic alignment with corporate partners, facilitates introductions to prospective customers, strategic partners and investors. FIBA also encourages the companies to establish a U.S. subsidiary in Tampa Bay that is responsible for sales, marketing, tech and customer support throughout North America.

FIBA, created in 2016 with a \$1 million state grant, and received additional state funding in 2017 and 2018, said Rakefet Bachur, FIBA's executive director of marketing. Additionally, FIBA receives support from Hillsborough County along with corporate and individual donations.

The Tampa JCCs and Federation originated the idea for FIBA to assist Israeli tech companies, create jobs in the Tampa Bay area and to provide a new revenue stream for the JCCs and Federation. FIBA negotiates individual agreements with each of the companies in the program. There are some companies in which the JCCs and Federation or its affiliates has a small equity stake.

From the inaugural cohort in 2017, StemRad, an Israeli company that makes personal protection equipment from deadly gamma radiation, landed a \$6 million investment led by Tampa's investor Jeff Vinik, and WeissBeerger, a beverage consumption analytics company, was acquired by Anheuser-Busch InBev SA/NV, the world's largest beer brewer, for a reported \$80 million.

FIBA's 2018 cohort of eight Israeli companies included four that came to Tampa in February and another four that were welcomed on May 9. All will be showcased at the Innovation Fusion event.

The newest contingent of companies is:

• **GlobeKeeper:** This company developed an encrypted communication platform centered around an intuitive collaboration interface to create a secure, end-to-end solution that keeps security personnel safe, reduces costs, and enhances decision making capabilities, using standard equipment.

• **Intervyo:** Leveraging human predictive analytics, Intervyo is the first and most advanced interview simulation engine in the world, capable of screening candidates, and accurately predict their suitability for the job.

• **Say:** This company created a dynamic wearable display controlled by a smartphone that can be incorporated into clothing and accessories. It allows consumers to express themselves, brands to engage with their fans in a new way and event organizers to deliver a synchronized live content experience.

• **WiseShelf:** This company transforms existing shelves into a dynamic inventory management solution for retailers. Using low cost hardware and a sophisticated software, WiseShelf helps stores to manage inventory and fulfill online orders.

Of the companies that joined with FIBA earlier in the year, three are already in active discussions about pilot projects with local businesses and are looking into opening an office and hiring in the Tampa Bay area. The four compa-

nies are:

• **BetterCare:** This company develops a real-time communication and care management platform to improve care at skilled nursing facilities.

• **ECOConcrete:** This company has developed a revolutionary approach to eco-engineering of coastal and marine infrastructure.

• **Nucleon:** The focus of this company is on identifying and analyzing cyber threats.

• **UC-Care:** This company develops, manufactures, and sells two products aimed at improved detection and treatment of prostate cancer.

### More about the speakers

Aron Di Castro has been leading global business development and partnerships at Waze since April 2017. He and his team focus on partnerships aimed at improving mobility for cities and citizens. The company leverages data and technology platforms to help develop smart cities through partnerships with municipalities, governments, startups and large enterprises. Prior to his current role at Waze, Di Castro led the Google "Startup Nation" Department, managing Google Israel international strategic business.

Danny Brigido co-manages the Wix Customer Solutions office in Miami, an operation of more than 120 highly trained gurus ready to provide support to an ever-growing number of Wix users. He started with Wix at the ground level in the Customer Solutions department in San Francisco in 2012. He has since helped the company grow its customer solutions reach by developing the U.S. Languages department. Brigido also developed the Miami office. Prior to Wix, he worked in retail management and CG Animation. Originally from Rio de Janeiro, he holds a bachelor's degree in communication from the University of Tampa.

### More about the event

Innovation Fusion 2018 will begin with registration and breakfast from 8-9 a.m. The program, featuring the two speakers and presentations from the eight 2018 FIBA companies, will be from 9 a.m. to noon, with a networking lunch from noon to 1 p.m. The cost is \$25 and includes breakfast, lunch and free parking. Valley National Bank is presenting sponsor.

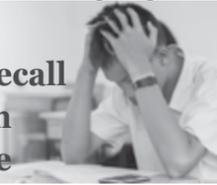
To register, go to <http://www.fiba.io/events/innovation-fusion/>.

The Glazer JCC is at 522 N. Howard Ave. in Tampa.

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# Kol Yeladim Religious School Registration for the 2018-19 School Year

אבגדהוזה



**Registration is open now through August 19!**

### Pre-K - 2nd Grade

Sundays: 9am - 12:30pm

### 3rd - 7th Grade

Sundays: 9am - 12:30pm

Wednesdays: 5pm - 7pm

\*Hillel Students (Sundays Only)

### 8th - 12th Grade

One Sunday Each Month:

10am - 11am

\*Tuition pricing does not include Book, Programming & Snack Fees

### \*2018-19 Tuition Rates:

Pre-K \$350

Grades K-2 \$555

Grades 3-7 \$820

\*Hillel Students Grade 7 \$310

Academy Grades 8 & 9 \$250

Confirmation Grade 10 \$310

Academy Grades 11 & 12

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Congregation Kol Ami is now proud to offer a complimentary, 1-year membership to non-affiliated JCC & Hillel families!

**LET US GUIDE YOU HOME**

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*You are NOT invited to Menorah Manor's 2018 event!*

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