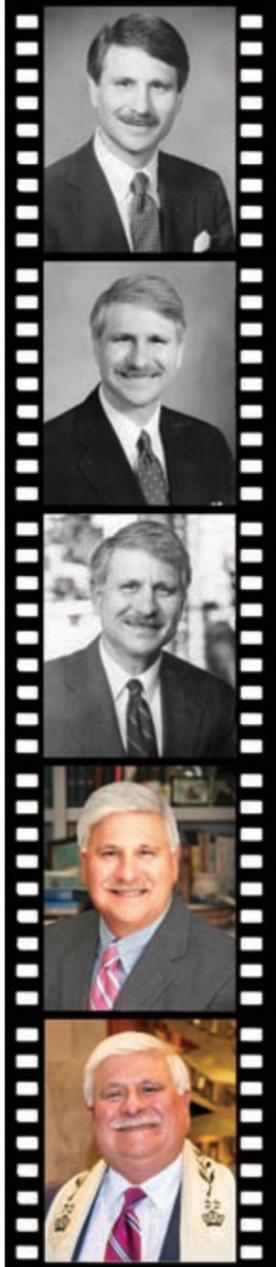


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Rabbi Birnholz looking forward to life as congregant



By BRUCE LOWITT
Jewish Press

He's not really leaving. Relocating is more like it.

"Donna and I will definitely be participating here – as congregants," Rabbi Richard Birnholz said. "The difference will be instead of sitting on the pulpit I'll sit in the congregation with my wife."

After 31 years as the rabbi at Congregation Schaarai Zedek (Gates of Righteousness) on Swann Avenue, during which membership at the Reform synagogue doubled to its current 1,100 families, Rabbi Birnholz is retiring, handing the reins to former associate Rabbi Joel Simon.

"I think I'll be giving a sermon on the High Holy Days, probably a sermon from time to time," said Birnholz who will assume the title of rabbi emeritus. "I won't have an advisory role. Rabbi Simon needs no advice from me. Part of my joy will be watching what he does, and continuing to learn from him and to kvell over all the new things that he does and the ways he does them."

With their children in Tampa and Vero Beach, the Birnholzes will be sticking close to home for the most part. Besides, he said, they're not travelers. Occasional visits to national parks is about the extent of it.

"I like woodworking, and Donna and I love gardening," he said. "Plus, we have 47 years of stuff we've accumulated that we have to go through, to decide what to toss and what to put to good use. And we'll have more time to socialize."

A rabbi is responsible for a lot of official socializing, as well as the usual daytime and middle-of-the-night emergencies. The 73-year-old Birnholz will be able to pick and choose the former, with less of the latter.

He came to Tampa in 1986 from Jackson, MS, where he had led a synagogue of 250 families for 13 years.

Rabbi Birnholz was in Jackson at the tail
BIRNHOLZ continued on PAGE 8



An Israeli holds a "terror kite" and the incendiary materials attached to it.

'Terror kites' shake residents in Israel, but not their resolve

By SAM SOKOL
JTA news service

NAHAL OZ, Israel – Dani Ben David fiddles with his radio, switching between it and his cellphone as he drives through the Beeri Forest, a nature reserve located on the border of Israel and the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip.

As his Jeep jolts over the dirt road, he quickly and calmly jumps between multiple conversations, coordinating efforts to extinguish the multiple fires that have sprung up across his territory. As regional director for the Western Negev for Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael-Jewish National Fund, Ben David is responsible for maintaining the forest's tens of thousands of acres in the face of Palestinian efforts to torch them and the surrounding farmland.

Since April, more than 450 open-air fires have been set along the border region by kites and balloons carrying incendiary materials launched from Gaza. Flying aimlessly over the kibbutzim, they have turned large swatches of what was once an oasis of green in a dry and dusty south into a charred landscape.

Many of those kites have landed in the wheat fields of farmers, causing millions of shekels in damage to the local agricultural sector as well as in the area's vast nature reserves.

"Look over there," Ben David says, pointing to a pillar of smoke in the distance. His finger sweeps across the horizon, noting the locations of several other fires in the distance. "We see three, four, five fires. There are eight fires now."

"It's like this every day," he continues, describing how more than 4,000 dunams, or nearly 490 acres, have already gone up in smoke over the past two months. "It's

KITES continued on PAGE 12



Raymond Reijnen, an emigre from the Netherlands, joined the fire fighting team on his kibbutz.

Israeli firms see Tampa as fertile ground for expansion

By RACHEL MINETTI
Jewish Press

About 500 business owners, investors, and others packed into the Bryan Glazer Family JCC's ballroom for the second annual Florida-Israel Business Accelerator (FIBA) Innovation Fusion event to listen to Israeli entrepreneurs pitch their products.

FIBA is hoping the Israeli businesses can cultivate local investors, establish a U.S. base in the Tampa Bay area and grow their market here.

State Sen. Dana Young, Florida Rep. Jackie Toledo, and County Commissioner Sandy Murman presented a \$750,000 grant from Florida's Department of Economic Opportunity to FIBA to ensure the continuation of the mission of innovation and entrepreneurship in Tampa. All three emphasized the desire for

Tampa to become the best tech community in the state

While FIBA chooses to work with Israeli companies that have moved past the startup phase and into the next steps of establishing a workforce, creating offices in the U.S., and expanding their networks, the event served as a platform to offer advice to business owners, investors, and startups.

This year's event on June 13 featured presentations from eight Israeli companies as well as two keynote speakers, Aron Di Castro of Waze and Danny Brigido of Wix, both start-ups out of Israel that have become highly successful.

"We are seeking bridges between Israelis and Floridians," said Guy Gilady, Deputy Consul General for Israel in Miami.

ISRAELI FIRMS continued on PAGE 2

Carlyn Neuman selected for prestigious National Young Leadership Cabinet

Tampa Jewish community leader Carlyn Neuman has been selected as a new member of National Young Leadership (NYL) Cabinet, the premier leadership development program of the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA).

NYL Cabinet is designed for dedicated and philanthropic-minded men and women from ages 30-45 across the U.S. and Canada who are deeply committed to building a strong future for the Jewish people. Neuman

is one of 75 individuals from across North America to be accepted into this year's cohort and she will join the incoming class this July during NYL Cabinet's annual retreat in Fort Lauderdale.

"We are so grateful for Carlyn's ongoing support, leadership and commitment to the Tampa Jewish community. She truly embodies all that NYL Cabinet represents," said Alissa Fischel, chief development officer of the Tampa JCCs & Federation.

"Through her NYL involvements, we cannot wait to see what she will accomplish on a national level and are proud that she will be representing Jewish Tampa."

Applicants to the Cabinet are nominated by their communities as significant change makers who have demonstrated the highest ideals of leadership.

Neuman has been involved with the Tampa Jewish Federation for more than 12 years, taking on leadership roles such as



Compiled from news wires

New York City councilman to provide day of gender-segregated beach

A New York City councilman is renting a city beach on Coney Island in order to host gender-segregated swim days for his Jewish and Muslim constituents.

Brooklyn Democrat Chaim Deutsch announced on his Facebook page: "For many New Yorkers, including religious Jews and Muslims who observe modesty laws, there isn't an opportunity to utilize our City's beautiful beaches. I'm excited to offer the chance for EVERYONE to enjoy!"

Men and boys will be able to swim at the southern Brooklyn beach on Friday, June 29. Women and girls will be invited on Friday, July 27.

Religious Jewish and Muslim women adhere to stringent laws of modesty that do not allow them to wear bathing suits in front of men.

Deutsch has raised \$400 per day to cover the cost of lifeguards and other staff, the *New York Post* reported. The beach at Kingsborough Community College, next to the popular Manhattan Beach in south Brooklyn, is usually closed on those Fridays.

Deutsch told the *Post*, he has a lot of Orthodox Jewish and Muslim constituents who have "never been able to smell the beach, to walk in the sand. Everyone should be able to enjoy the beach."

'The Band's Visit' wins 10 Tony Awards, including for best musical

The Band's Visit, a musical based on an Israeli film about an Egyptian band stranded in a hardscrabble Negev town, won the 2018 Tony Award for best musical, and dominating its categories at the awards ceremony.

Ari'el Stachel, the California-born son of an Israeli-Yemeni father and an Ashkenazi mother from New York, won the award for best featured actor in a musical for his performance as a romantic Egyptian trumpeter in the musical. Tony Shalhoub ("Monk") won for best actor in a musical and Katrina Lenk for best actress in a musical for their roles as, respectively, the leader of the band and the Israeli cafe owner who takes him in.

The Band's Visit also won awards for best book (by Itamar Moses), best direction of a musical, best original score (by David Yazbek), best lighting design, best orchestration and best sound design.

The play is based on the 2007 award-winning Israeli movie.

In his acceptance speech, Stachel, 26, acknowledged his parents, who were in the audience, saying the musical led him to embrace an identity he had long avoided. "Both my parents are here tonight. I have avoided so many events with them because for so many years of my life I pretended I was not a Middle Eastern person," he said. "And after 9/11 it was very, very difficult for me, and so I concealed and I missed so many special events with them. And they're looking at me right now and I can't believe it."

He also thanked producer Orin Wolf "for telling a small story about Arabs and Israelis getting along at a time where we need that more than ever."

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Carlyn Neuman

chair of the Young Adult Division, Morasha chair and Pomegranate chair. She is a member of the first graduating class of the Jewish Leadership Training

Institute, a program of the Tampa Jewish Federation and the Jewish Federation of
NEUMAN continued on PAGE 3



Israeli business executives and leadership from the Florida-Israel Business Accelerator (FIBA). (L-R) Back row: Shaik Schatzberger - UC-Care; Tomer Schatzberger - UC-Care; Oren Rosen - eProc Solutions; Shalom Nakdimon - WiseShelf; Ido Sella - ECOConcrete; Roy Heller - Nucleon. Front row - Rakefet Bachur - FIBA; Oren Kedem - Intervyo; Shaked Lev - Say; Rachel Feinman - FIBA; Andrew Rella - ECOConcrete; Carmi Peleg - GlobeKeeper; Pam Miniati - FIBA.



Keynote speakers: At Left, Aron DiCastro from Waze, a popular GPS app that was started in Israel and acquired by Google for nearly \$1 billion. Below, Danny Brigido from Wix.com, a successful Israeli company that offers DIY website design for small business.



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Guy Giladi - Deputy Consul General of Israel to Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Puerto Rico, based in Miami.

ISRAELI FIRMS

• CONTINUED from FRONT PAGE

“We hope that platforms and events like this will foster relationships between business from both sides, find opportunities for cooperation, and basically increase the economic activity between our two countries,” Giladi said.

The presentation kicked off with a video from the 2017 event. Lightning owner Jeff Vinik, who invested in one of the Israeli companies that FIBA brought here last year, spoke over upbeat music about how Tampa will be one of the fastest growing cities in the country over the next 10 to 20 years with a 2 percent population growth each year.

Manager of the Wix Customer Solutions office in Miami, Danny Brigido, spoke on challenges that startups come across and how Wix overcame some of those challenges to get to where they are now. Wix is a website development platform for small businesses. When Wix built its Miami office a year and a half ago, Brigido was tasked with managing a group of about 30 employees – the office now employees more than 120 people.

“I believe it was the right choice to come to Florida,” said Brigido. Wix’s previous office in tech-hub San Francisco was competing for highly-qualified employees in a cutthroat environment. “When Wix got into Miami, we were fresh, we were new, there weren’t that many other tech companies that were recruiting or offering what we had to offer so we gained a lot of key individuals.”

Brigido also placed emphasis on creating a comfortable and collaborative workplace, which is

important in the tech business, as priorities change quickly and the workforce needs to be prepared to handle the constant changes.

The eight companies that were featured not only presented their ideas in hopes of gaining investments, but also discussed their business structures and how they plan to grow. Each company showed a promotional video and then participated in a question and answer session with Rachel Feinman, executive director of FIBA.

ECOConcrete joined with FIBA earlier this year and has already been working with local business to bring their eco-engineered marine infrastructure to Florida’s largest cargo port in Tampa. ECOConcrete executives talked about their construction material that would suit the needs of the community while protecting the wildlife.

“We’re looking to raise funds to establish our entity right here in Tampa,” said Tomer Schatzberger, vice president of marketing for UC-Care, a company aimed at improving prostate cancer diagnosis and treatment. “This is a really great opportunity to present our solution and get investments for our company.”

Shalom Nakdimon, CEO and founder of WiseShelf, a company offering inventory management solutions for retailers, spoke about building successful tech companies in a business environment that is constantly changing.

Shaked Lev explained the platform for his company, Say, a name-tag and phone app communication system that he hopes will change the role of business cards at conferences and events such as Innovation Fusion.

BetterCare, a company with a care management platform aimed at improving care in nursing facilities, and Nucleon, a company with a focus on identifying and analyzing cyber threats, have also been actively involved in scouting out places in Tampa to open their offices.

Others in the 2018 group of companies working with FIBA include GlobeKeeper, a tech company that developed an encrypted communication platform to keep security personnel safe and reduce costs, and Intervyo, developer of a digital interview simulation engine that uses human predictive analytics to screen candidates and assess their



suitability for a job.

Waze’s DiCastro, wrapped up the event by discussing the company’s new Connected Citizens program, a free data-sharing program in which Tampa already participates. The popular GPS navigation app – now owned by Google – paired up with the Florida Department of Transportation when Hurricane Irma threatened the last year by posting locations of available evacuation shelters.

FIBA focuses not only on embracing business in the Jewish community, but for the entirety of Tampa.

Based at the Glazer JCC in Tampa, FIBA was created in 2016 by the Tampa JCCs and Federation with a \$1 million state grant to offer office space to select Israeli companies so they can get to know the Tampa Bay area, giving them access to the community’s industry experts, corporations, and investors.

FIBA’s Feinman pitched the Tampa Bay area as a good place for Israeli companies to establish U.S. markets. “From the number of small businesses to larger businesses, restaurants, and real estate developments,” Feinman said. “Everything has really felt like it’s boomed since we started coming out of the recession in the last eight years or so.”

Two of the companies from FIBA’s 2017 cohort of Israeli businesses achieved notable success after coming to Tampa. StemRad, which makes protection equipment to shield individuals from deadly gamma radiation, scored a \$6 million investment led by Vinik, and WeissBeerger, a beverage consumption and analytics company, was purchased for a reported \$80 million by Anheuser-Busch.

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"We Spoke Out: Comic Books and the Holocaust" features 18 comics that dealt with the Holocaust.

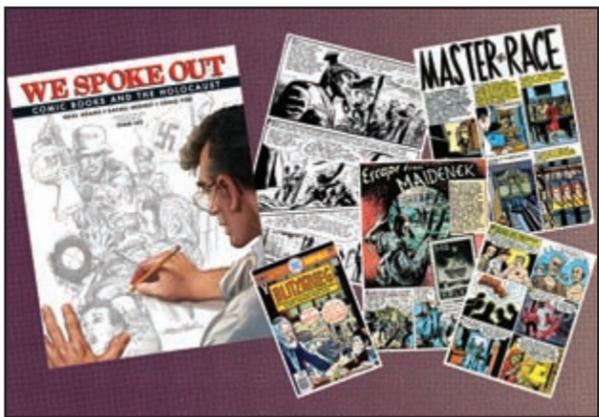


Photo courtesy of IDW Publishing/Yoe Books, JTA Collage

How comic books taught American kids about the Holocaust

By JOSEFIN DOLSTEN
JTA news service

NEW YORK — In 2008, famed comic book artist Neal Adams and Holocaust historian Rafael Medoff teamed up to create a comic about Dina Babbitt, a Czech Jewish artist forced by the infamous Dr. Josef Mengele to paint watercolors of Roma prisoners in Auschwitz. They hoped to bring attention to a little-known figure in the Holocaust.

But their work on the comic, published by Marvel, also led them to ponder a larger issue: the surprising degree to which comic books had addressed the genocide in Europe.

"We were surprised and impressed to discover that a number of mainstream comic books had taken on Holocaust-related themes in their story lines at various points over the years," Medoff, the founding director of the David Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies, told JTA in a phone interview.

Medoff and Adams — known for his iconic work on DC Comics' Batman and Green Arrow — decided to explore how a genre aimed at entertaining youths tackled one of history's darkest chapters.

The results of the research is their new book, *We Spoke Out: Comic Books and the Holocaust*, which was published recently and co-written with author and artist Craig Yoe.

In the decades immediately following World War II, many high school students did not learn about the Holocaust, and TV programs, movies and books only addressed it sporadically, Medoff told JTA.

"It struck us that comic books apparently were one of the ways in which American teenagers were learning about the Holocaust at a time when most of them were not learning about it in school," he said. Adams, who designed the book's cover image, created three of the comics reproduced in full in the book: "Night of the Reaper," a 1971 comic featuring Batman and Robin and a Holocaust survivor bent on revenge; "Thou Shalt Not Kill!," a 1972 comic about a golem that kills Nazis in Prague; and "The Last Outrage," the 2008 comic he created with Medoff about Babbitt's life.

The book also features three works by the late Jewish comic book icon Joe Kubert, the Polish-born pioneer at DC Comics who founded The Kubert School for budding comics artists.

Captain America, a superhero who fought the Nazis in a comic book series that began in 1940, is featured in a 1979 comic about a Holocaust survivor's experiences at a fictionalized concentration camp. Notably, it was the first time in the character's long run that the persecution of the Jews was mentioned.

Many of the 18 comics in the book feature Holocaust survivors seeking vengeance against Nazis, and some present superheroes.

Jews wrote about or drew half the comics.

Adams, 76, said comics provide a way to present the horror of the Holocaust in a way that people can "endure it." As a 10-year-old living in West Germany, where his father was stationed with the U.S. Army, he was shown three hours of footage of concentration camps being liberated. He was so traumatized by what he saw that he did not speak for a week afterward.

"You're just seeing it over and over again, the devastation, people living in their own filth, and after a while you just can't," he said of the experience. "The idea of this [book] was to take this down to smaller chunks so that people could endure it."

Yoe said comics also allow readers to take time to think about what they are learning.

"One of the advantages to comics over movies and TV is that you can read at your own pace, especially important stories like these," he said. "You can stop and ponder a particular panel, or go back and look at the other thing."

Comics have taken on other weighty issues, including racism, drug abuse and the environment, but such story lines are the exception.

"Most comic book stories of course are just about superheroes chasing supervillains, but there have been many important exceptions to that," Medoff said.

The authors note several distinct ways the Holocaust was depicted at various times. In the 1950s and early '60s, comics tended to portray the Holocaust in general terms, without references to Jews as the victims.

"It seemed to me as a historian that this reflected the general mindset in American society at that time, in the '50s and early '60s, which was to play down ethnic differences and to universalize the Holocaust as if it was something that kind of happened to everybody," Medoff said.

In the following decades, he said, writers were more likely to explicitly identify Holocaust victims as Jewish.

Medoff believes the book can be a useful teaching aid in educating about the Holocaust.

"Unfortunately, classroom Holocaust education has not been as effective as we hoped it would be," he said, citing a recent survey that found that many U.S. millennials lacked basic knowledge about the Holocaust. "Comic book stories offer a way to communicate these history lessons to students that might be more effective than some of the ways that have been used until now."

Adams said that need is especially urgent today.

"Anyone who's even paying attention to modern politics ought to be warned that if you do not study history, you're doomed to repeat it," he said. "We're on the cusp of some very difficult times, and a book like this is a good reminder."

Scher aims to raise Tel Aviv University profile in Bay area

David Scher has already done much to support the Tampa Jewish community through generous donations to Jewish causes and through hours of time serving on a committee that made the dream of a new JCC into the reality of the Bryan Glazer Family JCC.

Now, Scher hopes in his role as a newly installed member of the Tel Aviv University (TAU) Board of Governors to build strong ties between the university he calls "the center of Start-Up nation" and the Tampa Bay area.

"I want to use the opportunity to promote TAU in Tampa and its connection with FIBA [The Florida-Israel Business Accelerator based at the Glazer JCC] as well as connecting with the TAU Tish School of Film to enhance our Tampa Bay Jewish Film Festival through an annual shorts program," Scher said.

Scher's wife, Sara, is co-chair of the Tampa Bay Jewish Film Festival and initiated the connection to the film school while attending the ceremony where he was installed as a TAU governor. Scher said talks are ongoing about bringing short films from the Tish School of Film to the festival.

FIBA was created in 2016 and brought eight high-tech companies



David Scher of Tampa poses with Richard Anton of the United Kingdom as Scher is inducted as a governor at Tel Aviv University last month. Anton is president of TAU UK.

from Israel to work in its offices at the Glazer JCC last year as FIBA officials helped company execs meet potential investors, taught them about the markets in Tampa Bay and gave them advice with the goal of helping them open U.S. offices in the Bay area. Many in the first crop of Israeli businesses at FIBA fared well, finding investors, buyers for their products, or a buyer for their business. A second group of Israeli companies is now

going through the same process and this week showcased their products or services before hundreds of local businessmen and investors.

Scher noted that the companies that have come through FIBA are companies that have had time to mature enough to be ready for a U.S. market and are not truly start-ups, but he said many of the company officials were either grads of TAU or had connections to the university. He said he wants those future Israeli entrepreneurs studying at the university to know about FIBA. "My mission is to create greater ties so we develop a future pipeline between them and FIBA, though this will take some time," he said.

Scher said his brother, Eddie, who lives in the UK, is a TAU governor and came to Tampa for the opening of the Glazer JCC in 2016. He said his brother "was amazed at what we had accomplished and also was very excited at FIBA and its core mission, which ties in so well with everything TAU."

"Because of my connection to FIBA he invited me to the 2017 Board of Governors conference in Tel Aviv. I was asked to return this year to be inducted as a governor," he said.

NEUMAN

• CONTINUED from FRONT PAGE

Pinellas and Pasco Counties for emerging leaders.

She currently chairs and sponsors the Federation's Professional Community Connection, an initiative she conceived, which seeks to foster the development of networks and relationships between Jewish professionals and businesses in the Tampa Bay area. She also serves on the board of directors for Weinberg Village Assisted Living Residences, Hillels of the Florida Suncoast and Schaarai Zedek Sisterhood.

A real estate broker and owner of 360 Realty in Tampa as well as a licensed attorney, Neuman resides in South Tampa with her husband, Brian, and her two children, Caleb and Harper.

As part of this five-year program, Neuman will participate in retreats, conferences and missions, learning from subject-matter experts about emerging trends and best practices, and connecting with peers from across North America.

"I am so deeply honored to have been selected as a member of National Young Leadership Cabinet," said Neuman. "I am excited for the opportunity to meet with other young professionals who share the same passion and commitment for the Jewish community as I do. I am also looking forward to participating in national conversations about how the Federation can help make a difference locally and globally, and exploring how I can be an even stronger ambassador for supporting the Tampa Jewish community."

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RABBINICALLY — SPEAKING —

Summertime rejuvenation

By RABBI GARSON HERZFELD
Temple Beth Shalom, Winter Haven

Summer for me is a time of rejuvenation. It provides a hiatus from my regular schedule with opportunities for travel, recreation, study and to catch up with friends. As one gets older, relationships with friends become more and more important, especially for one who is single. Family members, for many of us, are scattered all over the country or even abroad. Children, grandchildren, siblings and cousins ... often are busy with their own lives. I am fortunate to have made many dear friends here in the Tampa area and in Winter Haven, where my synagogue is located.

Dinah Craik in *A Life for a Life* (1859) wrote:

Oh, the comfort – the inexpressible comfort

of feeling safe with a person –
having neither to weigh thoughts nor
measure words,

but pouring them all right out
just as they are, chaff and grain together
certain that a faithful hand will take and sift them,
keep what is worth keeping,
and then with the breath of kindness, blow the rest away.

Here too I have been blessed with a handful of close friends, especially one who is almost like family that lives about 10 minutes from me. Moreover, during July and August, I usually reconnect with others that live in distant locations. These are the people that I can share my innermost thoughts. They have been with me at joyful occasions and sad ones as well.

Each summer, as I take off for Israel to study at the Shalom Hartman Institute and anticipate seeing rabbinic colleagues, among them friends that go back 40-plus years, I cannot help but think of the following verses from Pirke Avot/Wisdom of the Fathers attributed to Joshua ben Perachya (1:6):

Get yourself a teacher; acquire a friend to study with you. When you judge people, give them the benefit of the doubt.

There is no shortage of teachers – scholars that share their wisdom during the two-week rabbinic seminar in Jerusalem. The chevruva (small group) of which I am a part has been reunited each July for more than 18 years. When all of us study together (as well as on a personal level one to one), we try to suspend judgment and to respect each other's opinions.

Yes, summer is a special time for me and hopefully for each of you and your families as well. May you renew treasured friendships and may the coming months be a period of rejuvenation – physically, mentally and spiritually – as we approach a new Jewish year this autumn.

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

Rabbi's final Shabbat: Rabbi Richard Birnholz will give his final Shabbat service sermon before retirement on Friday, June 29 at 7:30 p.m. when he speaks on "The Most Important Piece of Advice I Can Give After 47 Years in the Rabbinate." A special oneg will follow the service.

New rabbi's first Shabbat: The congregation will hold a complimentary Sha'Barbeque Shabbat on Friday, July 6 at 6 p.m. to welcome new Senior Rabbi Joel Simon, his wife Jacent and their children Eva and Judd at a belated Fourth of July celebration dinner. Rabbi Simon will then conduct his first Shabbat service in his new role at 7:30 p.m. RSVP for the Sha'Barbeque dinner by Thursday, July 5. RSVP online at www.zedek.org/RSVP or call (813) 876-2377 to let those planning the dinner how many are coming.

Movie night: Schaarai Zedek's summer event, Wednesday Wine & Movie Night, begins on Wednesday, June 27 at 5:30 p.m. Sip a glass of wine and have a light dinner, followed by a showing of *Darkest Hour*, starring Gary Oldman, Kristin Scott Thomas and Lily James. The movie begins at the precipice of World War II. Newly elected Prime Minister Winston Churchill must decide whether to negotiate with Nazi Germany or stand up to Hitler in the fight for the ideals of his nation. At the conclusion, Rabbi Richard Birnholz will discuss the movie.

Up next will be July 11 showing of *The Women's Balcony*. The movie begins at 5:30 and at the conclusion, Rabbi Simon will discuss the movie. There is no charge to attend, but RSVPs are requested to the temple office at (813) 876-2377 or email office@zedek.org.

Senior luncheon: Seniors will be treated to a performance of songs from *Hello Dolly* by members of the Patel Conservatory Theater on Thursday, July 19. Students from grades 9 through college bring this Broadway hit to life as they perform numbers from the show. The senior luncheon will begin at 11:15 a.m. and in addition to the show, the synagogue's pre-

school singers will perform at 11:30 a.m. before lunch is served. There is no charge, but reservations requested. RSVP to the temple office.

Family movie night: Dine on pizza, salad and desert and take in a showing of *Inside Out*, starring Amy Poehler on Saturday, July 21 at 5:30 p.m. This Academy Award winning film is rated PG and is appropriate for the whole family at parent's discretion. Lindsey Dewey will have activities for young children and will show a children's movie, *Nut Job 2*. At the conclusion, Rabbi Simon will discuss the main movie. There is no charge but RSVPs are requested.

Happy hour: The congregation's 20s+30s group will meet at the Green Lemon, 915 S. Howard Ave., on Thursday, July 26 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. for happy hour. Come out and connect or re-connect, with Rabbi Simon. The temple will pick up the tab for the first drink and light appetizers. RSVP at www.zedek.org/20s30s. For questions contact Lindsey Dewey at ldewey@zedek.org or (813) 876-2377, ext. 221.

Tot Shabbat: Children up to 5 years old, their older siblings and their parents are invited to meet outside the temple on Saturday, July 28 at 10:30 a.m. for Shabbat songs and prayers, followed by a Water Wonderland featuring a water pad, sprinklers, and plenty of water toys for tots (and play area for older kids). There will be pizza and refreshments at no charge. Teenokot, a group for moms and children up to age 4 who meet on weekday mornings, will also join in the Tot Shabbat. RSVP by July 26 online at www.zedek.org/RSVP or email: office@zedek.org.

Cong. Rodeph Sholom

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

Religious school: Registration for the Kol Yeladim Religious School 2018-19 school year is open

Shabbat Candle Lighting Times

June 22 • 8:11 pm
June 29 • 8:12 pm
July 6 • 8:12 pm
July 13 • 8:11 pm
July 20 • 8:08 pm



through Aug. 19. There is Sunday school classes for pre-K through seventh-grade with additional Wednesday classes for third-seventh graders. Students in grades eight - 12 meet one Sunday a month. For more information and to register, contact Jennifer Halls at education@kolami.org or (813) 960-3654.

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 Israel Sun City Center

Board game party: The congregation will hold a board game party on Sunday, June 24 from 3-5 p.m. "Nostalgic" refreshments will be available.

Open mic and karaoke night: Take in a musical evening on Sunday, July 29 from 7-9 p.m. at the synagogue. The event will include wine and cheese refreshments.

Cong. Bais Menachem Chabad

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

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

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

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 • 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 • 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 • Affiliated with Union for Reform Judaism

Conservative

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

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

Congregation RODEPH SHOLOM — 2713 Bayshore Blvd., Tampa 33629 • Rabbi Josh Hearshen • Cantor Andres Kornworcel • Services: Friday, 6 p.m.; Saturday service, 9:30 a.m.; Mon. - Fri. 7:15 a.m., Sunday, 9:15 a.m. • Telephone: (813) 837-1911 • Website: www.rsholom.org • Affiliated with United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

Orthodox

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

CHABAD LUBAVITCH of TAMPA BAY — 14908 Pennington Road, Tampa

33624 • Rabbi Yossie Dubrowski, executive director • Telephone: (813) 963-2317 • Website: www.chabadoftampabay.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

Campus

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

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

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

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

Jewish Renewal

Congregation OR AHAVAH — Rabbi Debrah Shenefelt, spiritual leader •

Monthly gathering – see website for more information • Telephone: 813-968-7850; email: D.shenefelt@att.net. • Website: www.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

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.

Unaffiliated

Congregation BETH CHAVARIM – Shabbat services: third Friday at a member's home. Telephone: (813) 957-1269 • Email 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 • 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 • Affiliated with Union for Reform Judaism

Conservative

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

Orthodox

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

Chabad brings busloads of Bulls on Birthright trip to Israel

Chabad of USF recently took its largest group ever of Jewish students at the university on their Birthright trip to Israel.

Rabbi Pinny Backman, director of Chabad at the University of South Florida accompanied the group.

It took two buses to carry the 57 USF students to the Western Wall, Masada, the Dead Sea and for visits with Israeli soldiers and other sites during the 10-day free trip.

"When I stood in front of the Wall, I felt a special connection, not only with G-d, but with Judaism

as a whole," said student Danielle Britton. Another student noted that "From Tiberius to Tel-Aviv, everywhere we went blew me away." He took note of how he met an Israeli soldier his own age, but was amazed by how different their lives were, adding, "I will never forget [the trip] for the rest of my life."

He and another student, Hunter Luboff both found their visit to the Wall on Shabbat the most moving part of the trip. "I was fortunate to go up to the Wall and at that moment touching the Wall, I felt a connection to my Jewish heritage



Students show their USF pride with Bull horn gestures while on their Birthright trip to Israel.

that blew me away," Luboff said.

He also took note of how he met an Israeli soldier his own age, but was amazed by how different

their lives were. This trip had a tremendous impact on my life and something I will never forget for the rest of my life," Luboff said.



Hunter Luboff at the Western Wall.

Weinberg Village event offers glimpse into diverse lives of 15 honorees 90+ years old

By BOB FRYER
Jewish Press

Get 15 people who are age 90 or older together for a brunch and ask them about their lives and you get some interesting answers – and some reasons to believe they deserve the title of "Greatest Generation."

Many served during World War II or had husbands who did, and remember their service vividly. One, Isaac Kashinski, was wounded in battle against German forces, spent four years in hospitals and had more than 20 surgeries on his back.

Their occupations included three engineers, a surgeon and a lawyer and folks who did public relations, radio advertising, program director the American Heart Association, construction work, guidance counselor, translator, business owner, educator, stay at home mom and purchasing agent.

Collectively they had 32 children and three step-children, 58 grandchildren and 6 step-grandchildren and 27 great grandchildren.

The honorees at the third annual "Oldest Jewish American Brunch," hosted on Sunday, June 10, by Weinberg Village, shared not only their military service and occupations, but also other facts about their lives. During the entertainment portion of the event the barbershop quartet group Song Daddy shared some of those facts with the audience.

Those honored were Doris Baer, Donald Epstein, Nina Glazer, Frances Grunberger, Isaac Kaskinski, Mordechai Kolpakchi, Zenaïda Kolpakchi, Arthur Meier,

Betty Olinsky, Harold Rosenthal, Thomas Schwartz, Betty Solomon, Herbert Thau, Rita Weissman and Bruce Zimmerman.

Many of the honorees say they still have favorite activities, such as volunteering, taking walks, playing video games, solving Sudoku puzzles or writing short stories. Oh, and for Herbert Thau, the answer was "chasing women," but he added an "lol" so maybe he is just kidding.

When asked about their favorite movies, *Casablanca*, starring Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman, got the most votes, though *Blazing Saddles*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Modern Times*, *The Dirty Dozen*, *Guns of Navarone*, *Gone With The Wind* and *King Kong* also collected at least one vote. Bruce Zimmerman explained the appeal of *Casablanca* – which won three Oscars in 1943. He said he lived through the history of that time and he could relate to the story. "It had major elements of love, drama, humor, suspense, etc. It had a great cast of major characters, and was a story well told," he added. On the other hand, Thomas Schwartz liked *King Kong* because he loved hearing Fay Wray scream.

"I still cannot believe what incredible lives these honorees had. One of the honorees is still driving around the country to explore various cities. It is amazing to discover people's passions they continue to participate in today" said one family member. Zimmerman is the one who still drives on long trips to various parts of the country, while Glazer said she "loves to run around all over the place" and also

likes to make people laugh.

For Grunberger, one of the things she still does is light Shabbat candles every Friday night and say her prayers in honor of her family members killed in the Holocaust. For others, the activities they like were less somber, such as retired surgeon Mordechai Kolpakchi, who can easily crack Sudoku puzzles, or his wife Zenaïda, a retired physician who enjoys the Bouncing Balls video game, despite declining vision. Rosenthal still likes going to casinos. Olinsky and Schwartz enjoy crossword puzzles, Epstein enjoys photography and computer work, Meier enjoys opera and Weissman says she is very proficient on her iPod and also plays mahjongg and Rummy Cube.

At least two are long-time volunteers. Baer is continuing a 23-year stint as a Hospice volunteer and Solomon is continuing a 15-year tradition as a volunteer in the family waiting room at St. Joseph Hospital.

"As one of the recipients of the 90-year-old honorees, I want to thank you for the wonderful program you presented. I have been a Tampa resident since way before you were born and it was indeed an honor to have my life recognized. Too bad I couldn't share this moment with all my friends. This get-together reminded me of how important it is to have family surrounding you. I was thrilled to be surrounded by family and friends at the table with me. Again, thanks, it was wonderful," said one of the honorees.

Cantor Deborah Cannizzaro

Lecture on Iran's threat to peace set for July 6

The Tampa JCCs and Federation Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) will present a topical lecture, "Iran: A Threat to Peace and Human Rights," with Bob Feferman from the United Against Nuclear Iran (UANI) on Friday, July 6 at 11:30 a.m. at the Bryan Glazer Family JCC.

Feferman is the outreach coordinator for United Against Nuclear Iran. In 2009, Feferman helped to initiate legislation in the Indiana General Assembly that required Indiana's state pension funds to divest from holdings in companies working in Iran's energy sector. In 2011, he helped to support the efforts of the Indianapolis JCRC in passing Iran Contracting Legislation that was signed into law in 2012. Prior to working for UANI, Feferman taught history and language arts in a Montessori school in Indiana.

According to UANI's website, "the prospect of a nuclear-armed Iran is a danger to world peace," and therefore since 2008 the not-

for-profit, bi-partisan advocacy group has set as its mission to "prevent Iran from fulfilling its ambition to obtain nuclear weapons." Ambassador Mark D. Wallace, the late Ambassador Richard Holbrooke, and Middle East expert Dennis Ross, among others, founded the organization, and UANI "works to ensure the economic and diplomatic isolation of the Iranian regime in order to compel Iran to abandon its illegal nuclear weapons program, support for terrorism and human rights violations."

The group, which is currently chaired by former Sen. Joe Lieberman (CT-I), was in favor of President Donald Trump's decision to pull out of the Iran nuclear deal.

The Glazer JCC is at 522 N. Howard Ave. in Tampa and reservations are requested for catering purposes. Lunch will be available for a charge of \$7 per person. For more information on this program or to RSVP, contact Michelle Gallagher at michelle.gallagher@

jewishtampa.com or call (813) 739-1687.

of Congregation Schaarai Zedek described the brunch as "a wonderful way to honor the people in our community who have been with us the longest and everything they have done for us."

For more information about

Weinberg Village Assisted Living Residence programs and services, call Dan Sultan, executive director, or Ben Gersten, marketing director, at (813) 969-1818 or visit us on the web at www.weinbergvillage.com.

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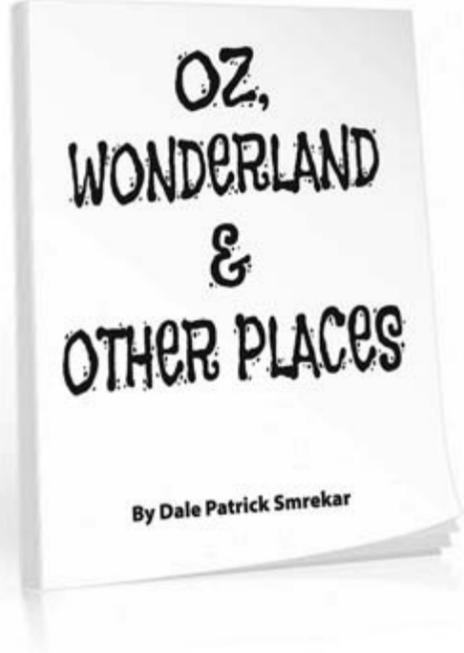
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Much has changed since last visited by Frank Baum and Lewis Carroll. It is a world where violence, intolerance, lies and misrepresentations have become so common no one knows who or what to believe.

Into this world Alice, not Carroll's Alice, but another Alice and her team must recruit unexpected allies from this universe to guide her efforts to counter the evils of OZ and Wonderland.

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Organizations

Hadassah

Cruise to Cozumel: The Tampa Ameet Chapter of Hadassah is hosting a four-night Hanukkah cruise on the Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines *Brilliance of the Seas* from Dec. 6-10, departing from Tampa and sailing to Cozumel, Mexico. The cruise includes all meals (kosher food is available), Broadway-style entertainment, mah jongg, and all the standard fare the ship offers. Special events will be planned revolving around the group's common interests, including lighting Hanukkah candles at sea. Everyone is welcome. Cabin rates range from \$512 to \$639 and a \$75 deposit is due by June 29, with final payment by Sept. 10. Proceeds will benefit Hadassah's medical research. For additional information, contact **Michele Norris** at (813) 352-8765.

JCC

Scrabble tourney: 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.

Young Adults

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 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 dinner is not included.

Cocktails by the pool: The #Gather group will meet on Wednesday, Aug. 29 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. for a poolside party with cocktails at the Mezrah Family Aquatics Center at the Bryan Glazer Family JCC, 522 N. Howard Ave., Tampa. This event is free to JCC members and \$5 for guests. There will be cocktails and hors d'oeuvres by the pool. RSVP by Friday, Aug. 24 and receive one free drink ticket. There will be icebreakers, pool deck games, prizes and more. For more information, visit: www.bryanglazerfamilyjcc.com/gather or www.jcccconcampus.com/programs/youngadults.

#Gather offers a mix of social and interactive activities for 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 or contact **Lisa Robbins** at 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, 522 N. Howard Ave.** To RSVP or for more information on programs at either center, contact **Pnina Levermore** at (813) 291-2253 or pnina.levermore@JewishTampa.com. All registrations should be completed before events begin.

Men's Club: This group will meet on Tuesdays, July 10 and 24 from 5 - 6:30 p.m. at the Glazer JCC for men to gather in relaxed and friendly surroundings for card games, ping-pong, billiards and occasional outings.

Bridge: Those who want to learn how to

play bridge or improve their game can take a series of six classes at the Glazer JCC on Fridays, from June 29 to Aug. 3 from 1-2:30 p.m. The sessions will cover the fundamentals of bridge, including bidding and the play of hand. The cost is \$50 for members; \$60 for non-members.

Crochet lessons: A Knit and Crochet Club, led by **Kay Friedlander**, will meet every Wednesday at the Glazer JCC in the J Café from 10:30 a.m. to noon. This is open to those who want to learn and all levels of expertise. Bring your current project or start a new one.

Plugged in: Learn about web security, map navigation, website design and social media at a session where young tech-savvy professionals share their knowledge on Monday, July 16 at the Glazer JCC. Laptops are available. To register, call (813) 291-2253.

Tampa History series: **Carl Zielonka** leads a series of lectures on the history of Tampa at the Glazer JCC. The next session will be on Wednesday, July 11 from 1-2 p.m. and the topic is "Cigar City: The history of the Cigar Industry in Ybor City and West Tampa."

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. All levels of 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 Cohn campus the Thursday, June 28 program is part of a concert series, this time featuring balladeer **George Aldrich**.

At the Glazer JCC, JetSetters will meet on Wednesday, July 11 to hear stories and songs of legendary singers and songwriters such as the Kingston Trio, John Denver, Roger Miller and more. This session will feature **Andrie Cheine**, a graduate of the Leningrad Conservatory who has performed often in the Bay area. He sings in six different languages.

Both groups meet 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. Sessions at the Glazer JCC are on Tuesdays from 7-8:30 p.m.

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

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

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, July 11 and 25. This is a discussion course with participation open to people of all faiths and backgrounds. Bring your own Bible so participants can compare different translations. Cost is \$3 for members and \$4 for guests.

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

Movie matinee: Enjoy a classic movie and popcorn on the first non-holiday Wednesday of the month from 10 a.m. to noon on the Cohn campus. There is no charge to attend. The July 11 film will be *The Jazz Singer*, a top-rated film in the National Classic Jewish Film Guide.

Job-Links

Monday Morning Links: Free sessions of Monday Morning Links are offered at the Jack Roth Center for Career Development at TampaBay-Job-Links, 4100 W. Kennedy Blvd., Suite 206, Tampa from 9:30 - 11 a.m. On June 25 from 9:30-11 a.m., the topic is "What to do if your job search stalls?" The program is supported by the Vinik Family Foundation.

Job-search aids: There are Success workshops on select Thursdays to aid with job-search skills. On June 28 from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. the topic is "Preparing for your interview." The workshops are free for Job-Links program participants and \$15 for guests. Reservations required. To RSVP, call (813) 344-0200, email RSVP@TBJL.org.

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TOP Jewish Foundation appoints new executive director

The TOP Jewish Foundation selected Ellen Weiss as its new executive director, effective last month.



Ellen Weiss

The leadership transition was relatively seamless as Weiss has been on the TOP staff since the beginning of 2016 and, most recently, served as the Foundation's associate executive director, working alongside Emilie Socash, TOP's former executive director.

"Ellen is assuming the role of executive director at a critical point in our growth. We are confident in her ability to tap her experience and talent to propel us to the next stage in our organization's evolution," said Jeffrey Herman, TOP board president.

Weiss said she is "honored to work closely with donors and organizations that care so deeply about the future of our Jewish community." Her primary focus will be managing funds for donors, continuing to build the legacy program and expanding the organization geographically to provide the services of a Jewish foundation in communities where one doesn't exist.

Weiss has had significant success at TOP in forging new relationships, notably expanding TOP's territory to include the Naples Jewish community.

Weiss brings 20 years of leadership experience in nonprofit management and corporate marketing. Before joining TOP, she spearheaded the countrywide expansion of the Children's Heart Foundation, creating the only national nonprofit that exclusively funds congenital heart defect research. She is an executive committee member, as well as a past president of Temple Ahavat Shalom in Palm Harbor. She holds an MBA from New York University and a BA from Brandeis University.

Weiss follows Socash, whose six-year leadership propelled the Foundation from \$35 million in assets under management to nearly \$50 million. Socash brought the Life & Legacy program to TOP, which secured close to 500 legacy gifts with an estimated future value of \$15 million. For the past three years, Socash split her time between TOP and serving as executive director of the Jewish Federation of Pinellas and Pasco Counties. She will now focus her attention solely on the federation.

With a portfolio of more than 600 donor-advised, endowment and institutional funds, TOP serves hundreds of individuals, families

and organizations. TOP was founded with the original intention of serving the Jewish community in central Florida. More recently, the Foundation recognized the need for its unique services well beyond the three-community Tampa, Orlando, Pinellas region and now works closely with donors and organizations throughout Florida and a handful of other states. TOP's unique anti-terror and pro-Israel investment policy as well as its focus on providing philanthropic consulting service resonates with donors who collectively aim to ensure the financial strength of our Jewish communities.

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UF Hillel listed among America's top 50 innovative Jewish organizations

The University of Florida Hillel has been named one of North America's top 50 innovative Jewish organizations in the 13th annual Slingshot Guide.

Selected from among hundreds of finalists reviewed by more than 100 individuals with expertise in grant-making and Jewish communal life, the Guide recognized the University of Florida Hillel for its "new approaches for Judaism's future by helping students amplify their voices through tradition, inspiration, and activation."

The only other Florida organization to make the 2018 Slingshot Guide is Fuente Latina, a source for Latino media covering Israel, based in South Florida.

UF Hillel was acknowledged for shifting its programming model, focusing its efforts on training future leaders to positively impact the world through a Jewish lens. Students are connected through Israel, travel experiences, spirituality, career advancement op-

portunities, and entrepreneurial endeavors.

Programming includes Career Up Now, which features career advancement retreats in cities across the country for students to connect with top industry leaders, and the Selling Factory, which hires students to assist start-ups.

"Being recognized by Slingshot affirms the great work occurring by the UF Hillel team in engaging the disengaged and disenfranchised Jewish population and highlights the importance of reimagining old paradigms to inspire a new generation with Jewish meaning," said UF Hillel's CEO Rabbi Adam Grossman.

The Guide has become a go-to resource for volunteers, activists, and donors looking for new opportunities and projects that, through their innovative nature, will ensure the Jewish community remains relevant and thriving. The Guide is available as a free download at www.slingshotfund.org.

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Letter to the Editor

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Beware of consequences of Embassy 'grand bargain'

Dear Editor:

Finally, the Jewish news service, JTA, has written articles that the Jewish Press has reprinted that indicate a through-line from Evangelicals supporting the move of Israel's capital to Jerusalem to the support of President Trump. The grand bargain was to give up on the two-state solution and re-appropriate Israel as a prize to Evangelicals for their support of his agenda.

Obviously moving the capital to Jerusalem was well received by the majority of Israelis, but I would caution them to examine

the history of others who have climbed out on the Trump limb because virtually no one has escaped being deceived, demeaned, or embarrassed as a consequence of supporting this president.

This should be especially true of Jews who should have learned to recognize a demagogue on the rise who always begins with the co-opting of business, demeaning the court system and the rule of law, and a free press.

It's a shame there is no perspective offered from our community, especially from our rabbis how defining deviancy down is different this time.

Robert Berman
St. Petersburg

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Rabbi Birnholz clowns around at Purim in 1990.

BIRNHOLZ

• CONTINUED from FRONT PAGE

end of the civil rights movement and at a time when overt anti-Semitism was prevalent. There were times he felt it necessary to wear a bulletproof vest and carry a .38-caliber pistol.

Just before he left Jackson, he said, “the Nazi party called and told me, ‘We’re going to burn down your Jew church and all your Jew businesses.’” Nothing ever came of it. But in the years before his arrival in Mississippi, the synagogue and the rabbi’s house were dynamited by the Klan “and in ‘73 they burned crosses on the lawns of a number of my



Rabbi Richard and Donna Birnholz when they arrived in Tampa in 1987.

congregants and on two occasions Klan night riders shot up the front of the temple.”

His experiences in Jackson as well as an assistant rabbi in Memphis made Rabbi Birnholz well suited to succeed Rabbi Frank Sundheim when the pulpit at Schaarai Zedek came open, said Carl Zielonka, a member of the rabbinic search committee. Zielonka’s father, David Zielonka, had been Schaarai Zedek’s rabbi from 1930-70.

“(Birnholz) was a good Southern boy.... I thought he’d be a perfect fit for what at the time was a real Southern congregation,” Zielonka said.

“I saw it as an opportunity to take a congregation that was doing well and hopefully to enable it to flourish,” Rabbi Birnholz said.

He also saw something else in Tampa – the city as a whole. “There was a degree of religious apathy that I had never experienced before. It seemed like people moved down here in order to give up their prior life and interest in causes and wanted to be more laid back and just enjoy life rather than worry about issues.”

Schaarai Zedek was a classical Reform congregation when he arrived. Congregants didn’t necessarily wear a yarmulke (neither did he in those early years) and the prayers were primarily in English, and the congregation was happy with that, he said.

“I learned during my assistantship that it was important for the rabbi to always be aware of liturgical trends in the Reform movement,” Rabbi Birnholz said. “I watched those closely, and I realized that even Reform Judaism was becoming more and more traditional in its observance. So slowly but surely I added new Hebrew elements to the service that we hadn’t read or chanted before.”

Mark Wolfson, a longtime congregant and a past president, said Rabbi Birnholz “kind of led us there, but at a thoughtful pace that would be acceptable to the congregants. We went from a congregation that had a professional non-Jewish choir to a cantorial soloist and eventually to a cantor.”

“And he was very influential in the development of our Sunday school. I remember, growing up, before he was here, we’d read a textbook; it would be like regular school. He made it much more experiential, involving us in current events. He’d bring a celebration of Israel into the picture, talking about a Jewish topic or a story from the Bible, introducing Hebrew at an age-appropriate level, making it more interesting. I thought he was a big innovator in that regard,” Wolfson said. “And he’s been very supportive of the Reform movement’s summer camps and scholarships for kids going to Reform camps.”

Rabbi Birnholz also came up with this idea for Confirmation students: he pairs boys and girls in canoes and they navigate a waterway – it has been the Hillsborough River, Weeki Wachee River or elsewhere – and learn about relationships, how to cooperate in



Rabbi Birnholz in 1992 with the late Rev. A Leon Lowry, a Tampa civil rights leader and Hillsborough County School Board member.



Rabbi Birnholz was selected as a torch bearer in 1996 as the Olympic flame wended its way through Tampa on its way to the Atlanta Games.



Rabbi Birnholz, left, with Rabbi Joel Simon, who will be assuming the senior rabbinate at Schaarai Zedek, having a little fun while publicizing a youth group event in 2010.

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order to be successful in life. The rabbi paddles among them in a kayak.

He also created the idea of turning Confirmation students into teaching assistants, enabling the synagogue to grow its youth program because the youngsters were staying involved, and he supported congregants interested in starting a Jewish preschool, and hiring a full-time youth director.

And services are now live-streamed. “You can go back and see them all. They’re archived,” Rabbi Birnholz said. “What’s kind of nice is how many folks we run into who say they haven’t been able to get to temple because they’re not feeling well but with the live streaming they can pray at home along with the congregation, and can go back and find a sermon they heard and want to hear again.”

“I think if my predecessors, the senior rabbis, came back today, they would say we’re a much more Conservative congregation and wonder what happened, how did it happen – and how could we let it happen.”

There was some resistance to a few of the changes, Rabbi Birnholz said, “but I think that the leaders saw that good things were happening and decided to be good sports about it and see how things went, and as the congregation continued to grow they realized that maybe we were onto something and had a future. And I think had we not changed we would not have grown to the extent that we have.”

Not that he thinks he’s done enough.

“We’re seeing a growth in the number of baby boomers. With that growth comes people with time on their hands, who are active, healthy and looking for things to do. Starting new initiatives is tons of fun and a great challenge.

“We need more ROMEO-type lunches – ROMEO stands for Retired Old Men Eating Out,” Rabbi Birnholz said with a laugh. “We need more of that, more daytime study for folks who have trouble driving at night.”

“And trips – short weekends or four-or-five-day trips around the United States of Jewish interest. And there’s a huge need for *tikkun olam*, projects to repair the world, to do good works with different communities. And to try to do things with Sisterhood and Brotherhood and youth groups that cross generations. I could make a full-time career out of what I call the retired-years program.”

Rabbi Birnholz said he will miss officiating at “milestones” – baby namings, bar and bat mitzvahs, weddings, even funerals.

Joan Wadler, a past temple president, liked how the rabbi gave sermons “I could relate to. He knows how to make a point and tell a story to make it interesting and relevant to life.”

She also learned a lot from him about dealing with people and caring about people. “For every occasion, he has a gift for words and he knows the right things to say at the right time. That’s one of his greatest gifts and attributes that I will miss,” Wadler said.

She’s not the only one.

“If I had a vote on who’s the best pulpit rabbi in America,” Wolfson added, “and I’ve been to a lot of congregations around the country, I’d say Rabbi Birnholz has got to be among the top 10. He’s a brilliant man, writes and speaks so eloquently, his understanding of the English language, how he exudes ethos and pathos whether he’s at a funeral service or uplifting people at a bar mitzvah. ... That’s one thing I’ll miss, his sermons, connecting with a topic and tying it back to Jewish values.”

Tampa Federation's first woman president, Hope Cohen Barnett, dies



Hope Cohen Barnett

Hope Cohen Barnett, the first woman president of the Tampa Jewish Federation, a mentor and philanthropist, died on June 8 at age 69.

Barnett was born in Jacksonville, raised in Tampa, and spent her life devoted to family, community and philanthropy. She gave her time, attention and resources to many causes, but those closest to her heart were Jewish causes, health care and grandparents' rights.

Her hard work and fortitude were recognized early in her career as a "professional volunteer" when she was elected to serve as the first and youngest woman president of the Tampa Jewish Federation in 1980. She

rose through the ranks by serving on many committees and holding leadership positions, including campaign chair, secretary and Tampa's representative to the National Women's Board of United Jewish Communities.

Her active leadership inspired the founding of the Federation's "Hope Cohen Barnett Young Leadership Award" and endowment fund that annually recognizes and supports an outstanding young leader in the Jewish community.

She was an active member on the boards of many other organizations, including the original Tampa Jewish Community Center, Congregation Rodeph Sholom and the State

of Israel Bonds Young Leadership Committee. She founded the Tampa chapter of JACS, a Jewish alcohol and drug dependency group, in 2003, and in 2008 received the Kipnis-Wilson Friedland Lion of Judah Award for outstanding communal leadership.

She summed up her lifelong passion for service with the simple mantra, "I just try to do things that are right."

Outside the Jewish community, she was an informal mentor and resource for those living with multiple sclerosis and lupus. An avid researcher and health advocate, she shared her own personal experiences and knowledge with others.

Survivors include her husband of 47 years Leslie Barnett; two sons, Ben Barnett and Irving Barnett; sister and brother-in-law Cynthia and Stanley Wright; brother and sister-in-law Barry and Barbara Cohen; and three grandchildren.

The family suggests memorials be made to TOP Jewish Foundation, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society or the Lupus Research Alliance. (Segal Funeral Home, Beth David Chapel)

Obituaries

NINA ISIDORA, 87, of Land O'Lakes, died June 1. Born in Sofia, Bulgaria, she was a dedicated concert pianist and instructor. She began playing the piano at the age of 5, giving her first recital at the age of 8. In her early 20s she moved to Israel and applying the Alexander principal in her playing and teaching, became a famous concert pianist along with producing many prize-winning students. She had a Bachelor of Arts, a Master of Arts and Artist Diploma with teachers from Germany, Julliard School and Hungary. She performed numerous times with the Tel Aviv Philharmonic Orchestra and gave many recitals in Israel, New York and Tampa, along with countless benefit concerts. In her private studios, where she always had her two grand pianos, she mentored and taught hundreds

of students in Tel Aviv, New York, Tampa and Land O'Lakes. Along with being a judge in many competitions she also taught at the University of South Florida music division. Survivors include her husband, David Isidora; three daughters and son-in-law, Sima Ragusa, Odessa; Dorit and Mark Stone, Odessa; Ruthie Levy, Tampa; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. The family suggests memorials be made to the Parkinson's Foundation, www.parkinson.org.

CYNTHIA JUNE JACOBSON, 69, of Tampa, died June 8. Born in Lakewood, OH, she moved to Tampa, after studies at the University of Tennessee, to attend the University of South Florida. She was involved in fine arts as an artist and musician and a teacher at the Dunedin Fine Arts Center. A past president of the Beach Park Women's Club and Las Damas Dearte, she was also a member of Palma Ceia Golf and Country Club

and Congregation Schaarai Zedek. Survivors include her husband of 49 years, Mel Sonny Jacobson; two sons, Robert Jacobson (fiancé Michelle Lai) and David Jacobson; sister Corliss Conway; sister-in-law Sonya Jacobson; step brother-in-law, John (Vicki) Jacobson. The family suggests memorials to Congregation Schaarai Zedek or a charity to support the arts. (Segal Funeral Home, Beth David Chapel)

DONNA CAREN JOSEPH, 64, of Tampa, died June 9. Survivors include her sister Cheryl Evans and family. The family suggests memorials be made to a charity of one's choice. (Segal Funeral Home, Beth David Chapel)

SALOMON (SAM) PILA, 92, of Tampa, died May 24. Born in Charcznitza, Poland, he was a Holocaust survivor. As a teenager, he was interred in concentration camps, and for a time was a worker in the

Oskar Schindler factory. After the war he moved to Stewartville, MN, in 1952 and established the Pila Livestock company with his brother and a close family friend. In 1975, he moved to Tampa to assume the reigns of Milk A Way Farms, Inc. in Brooksville, retiring in 2006. Survivors include his wife of 65 years, Herta; his children; Kalman (Ethel), Moritz (Elizabeth) and Harriet, nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. The family suggests memorials be made to the Florida Holocaust Museum in St. Petersburg or Congregation Rodeph Sholom in Tampa. (Segal Funeral Home, Beth David Chapel)

GEO ROJAS, 83, of Tampa, died May 26. He moved to Tampa in 1979 from his native Chile. He was an engineer and technician with Lockheed Martin Corporation for 30 years and a member of Congregation Schaarai Zedek in Tampa. Survivors include his wife of more than 40 years, Susan; son

Miguel Lob; two daughters, Monica Fishman and Debora Meyerson; four grandchildren and a great-granddaughter. The family suggests memorials to Metropolitan Ministries or Congregation Schaarai Zedek. (Segal Funeral Home, Beth David Chapel)

JOEL M. TORO, 75, of Tampa, died June 7. During his professional career, he worked in the automobile industry holding various positions in the industry. He had been the general manager at Friendly Toyota and Friendly Jeep Eagle. Survivors include his wife of 25 years, Carmen Greco Toro; son and daughter-in-law, James and Marcy Baker; daughters and sons-in-law, Heather and Mike Leseney, and Michelle and Richard Alfonso; stepfather Joseph Toro; two sisters, Francine Firsdon and Teri Hughes; and four grandchildren. The family suggests memorials to Florida Cancer Specialists Foundation. (Segal Funeral Home, Beth David Chapel)

Poll: Add Trump to the list of what divides Israeli and U.S. Jews

By RON KAMPEAS
JTA news service

WASHINGTON – Israeli and American Jews disagree on much – settlements, religious pluralism, even the degree to which they are "family."

And now you can add Donald Trump to the mix.

New twin polls of Israeli and American Jews published by the American Jewish Committee uncovered divides on all these issues, but an especially stark one about perceptions of the American president.

Asked if they approved of Trump's handling of the U.S.-Israel relationship, 57 percent of American Jews disapproved while 34 percent approved. Among Israeli respondents, the divide was 77 percent approved while 10 percent disapproved.

That gap extended to perhaps Trump's best known Israel related policy, moving the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. American Jews were statistically evenly split, with 46 percent supporting and 47 percent opposing. Israeli Jews were overwhelmingly in favor, with 85 percent supporting and 7 percent opposing.

There are areas of agreement as well, on the importance of a thriving Israel and a thriving Diaspora to the Jewish future, and on whether being Jewish is a matter of religion or ethnicity.

There's also a small bright light for Trump state-side: American Jews still overwhelmingly disapprove of him, but not as much as they did the last time AJC polled them – he gained 6 points, going from 77 to 71, just outside the margin of error of 3.9 percentage points. Favorable ratings climbed 5 points, from 21 to 26. (By way of contrast, a recent *Wall Street Journal*/NBC poll scored 44 percent approval ratings for Trump among the general population.)

Other areas of division included:

Settlements: Asked whether Israel should dismantle some, all or none of its West Bank settlements in a peace deal with the Palestinians, 4 percent of Israeli Jews said all, 35 percent said some and 54 percent said none. Among American Jews, 15 percent said

all, 44 percent said some and 35 percent said none.

Pluralism: Among American Jews, 80 percent said non-Orthodox rabbis should be able to officiate at weddings in Israel and 17 percent said they should not; among Israeli Jews, the split was 49 percent in favor and 45 percent against.

American Jews favored by 73 percent "a mixed-gender prayer area adjacent to the Western Wall administered on an equal basis with the services at the Wall itself," while 21 percent were opposed. Among Israeli Jews, the split was 42 percent in favor and 48 percent opposed.

Peoplehood: Asked how they viewed Israelis, 12 percent of American Jews said "siblings," 15 percent said "first cousins," 39 percent said "extended family" and 31 percent said "not part of my family." Affections were greater among Israelis: 28 percent regarded American Jews as "siblings," 10 percent as "first cousins" and 40 percent as "extended family," while just 22 percent said "not part of my family."

There were areas of agreement, too:

The Jewish future: Among Israeli Jews, 78 percent thought a "thriving" Diaspora was vital to the future of the Jewish people, while 15 percent did not. The split among American Jews was 69 percent agreeing and 17 percent disagreeing. The same question regarding a "thriving" Israel had 87 percent approval among Israeli Jews, with 6 percent disagreeing, while among American Jews the split was 79 percent agreeing and 17 percent disagreeing.

Jewish identity: 56 percent of American Jews said being Jewish was "mostly a matter of ethnicity or culture," while 24 percent said it was mostly a matter of religion and 17 percent said it was both equally. Among Israeli Jews, the split was 40 percent believing ethnicity and culture were more important, 19 percent listing religion and 37 percent listing both.

The Israeli poll has a margin of error of 3.1 percentage points. The American poll has a margin of error of 3.9 percentage points. Both were conducted by phone.

Young Jews just as religious as parents, Pew study finds

(JTA) – Jewish young adults in the U.S. and Israel are, on average, just as religious as their elders, even though young people worldwide are largely less religious than their parents, a new study found.

The study, released June 13 by the Pew Research Center, also found that Israelis are far less religious than their Middle Eastern counterparts.

If the findings seem to contradict a perception of slipping religiosity among Jews in the U.S. and Israel, the study explains that is partly due to higher birthrates among Orthodox Jews than other denominations: "Orthodox Jews –

who tend to have more children – make up a growing share of both Jewish populations, and thus a larger percentage of young Jewish adults," it said.

The study's main finding is that across continents, economies and religions, adults under 40 are less religious than those older than 40. Judging by four criteria – attending worship services, praying daily, affiliating with a religious group and considering religion "very important" – young citizens of only two or three countries scored higher than their elders. As a whole, the study found younger Christians and Muslims are less

religious than older ones.

But in the United States and Israel, Jews under and over 40 scored roughly the same on the four criteria. There were not sufficient data to evaluate Jews from other countries.

When comparing it to the rest of the Middle East, Pew attributed Israel's relatively low levels of religiosity to its higher per-capita GDP. The study found that the higher a country's per-capita GDP, the lower its level of daily prayer. Israel is the only country in the Middle East and North Africa where fewer than 50 percent of citizens pray daily.

OBITUARIES of Jewish community members, both local residents and individuals whose survivors live in the area, are published as a FREE public service in the Jewish Press of Pinellas County, based on information supplied by the family to the funeral home. Information may also be submitted directly in writing to the Jewish Press. Email to jewishpress@aol.com or send to PO Box 6970, Clearwater, FL 33758. Be sure to include contact information. The information contained in the published obituary is at the discretion of the Jewish Press.

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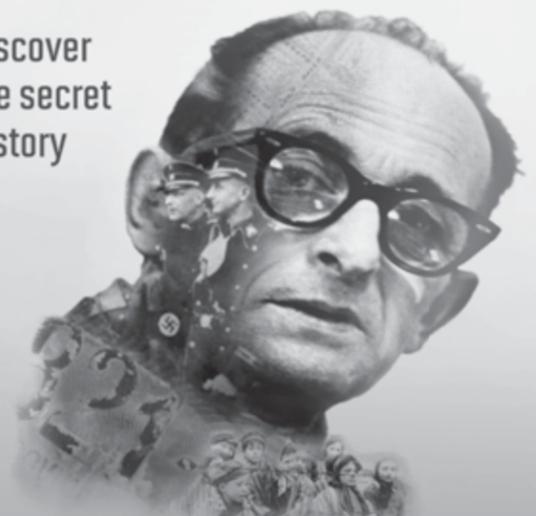
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Prince William to visit Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Ramallah on historic trip

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Prince William will meet with Israeli officials and see sites in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv during the first-ever official visit by a member of the British royal family to Israel.

The prince, who will visit the region later this month, also will visit Ramallah in the West Bank and meet there with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, according to the itinerary released Monday by Kensington Palace.

William, who also bears the title Duke of Cambridge, will arrive in Israel on June 25 from Jordan and visit the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial the following morning accompanied by British Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis. He will meet in Jerusalem with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and separately with President Reuven Rivlin, then attend a soccer match with Jewish and Arab children sponsored by the Equaliser and the Peres Center for Peace charities, according to the Jewish Chronicle.

He also will visit the Mount of Olives, where his great-grandmother, Princess Alice of Battenberg, is buried, and meet with representatives from Israeli startup companies. His itinerary reportedly includes time for “allowing His Royal Highness to understand and pay respect to the religions and history of the region.”

“The Duke considers it a great privilege to be undertaking the first ever official Royal tour of Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories and to be able to help further strengthen the friendship between Jordan and the United Kingdom,” the Kensington Palace said in a statement.

Some members of the royal family have made private visits to Israel: Prince Philip visited in 1994 for a Yad Vashem ceremony to honor his mother and Prince Charles attended the state funeral of Shimon Peres.

Israel destroyed Hamas terror tunnel that stretched into sea

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israel’s military destroyed a Hamas terror tunnel that reached several yards into the sea, which would have allowed the group’s naval commandos to launch an attack on Israel from its coast.

The tunnel was destroyed by the Air Force on June 3, when Israel carried out several airstrikes on Gaza in retaliation for rocket and mortar fire on southern Israel, the IDF said in a statement.

Hamas divers would have been able to discretely enter Israel in a short amount of time by using the tunnel, according to the IDF.

“The IDF will not allow any threat to the security of the State of Israel and will continue to act with determination against terror of all kinds. The IDF is determined to continue performing its task of defending the citizens of the State of Israel and its sovereignty,” it said in a statement.

Hamas has been increasing its naval prowess and power for some time, a senior Navy official said in a statement.

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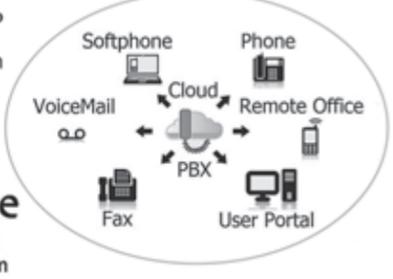
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'Operation Finale' doubles museum's normal attendance

The public response to the Florida Holocaust Museum's current display of Operation Finale: The Capture and Trial of Adolf Eichmann has been extraordinary, according to museum officials.

Since the exhibit's opening in February, attendance has nearly doubled. There have been visitors from Canada and all over the United States, coming from as far as Oregon, Colorado and Nebraska, as well as from cities all across Florida.

Operation Finale, which runs through July 15 at the St. Petersburg museum, is the first exhibition in the United States to offer an inside look into the capture and trial of the Nazi war criminal.

For those who have not yet seen the exhibition, the museum is offering free admission all day on Thursday, July 12.

Museum officials say not only the numbers, but the feedback has been enthusiastic.

One such visitor was a homeless woman who visited the exhibit about a month ago. Although she had walked past the museum almost daily, she had not visited the museum until then, taking advantage of the museum's partnership with the library system (See related story, this page) "She was very excited to see the Operation Finale," said Sara McDonald, the museum's admissions and store manager. "After viewing the exhibition, she spoke with museum staff about how horrible the atrocities

were and how the courtroom set up really made her feel like she was there."

Included within the exhibition are some interactive pieces, including a question that prompts viewers to put a chip in a box that they believe answers the question in the best way. The question reads, "Which outcome of Eichmann's trial is most significant?"

The options are:
 • Israel having tried and convicted a major Nazi war criminal
 • Survivor empowerment and publicizing the events of the Holocaust worldwide

The execution of a primary engineer of the Holocaust
 The second option has received the largest amount of chips. This idea of survivor empowerment and publicizing what happened during the Holocaust ensures these horrific events will never be forgotten, museum officials noted.

In addition to reaching people who visited the museum, the museum's education team has travelled across the state to teach people about the Operation Finale exhibit and the Eichmann trial, reaching people in Tallahassee, Gainesville, Miami, and Sarasota.

The museum is located at 55 Fifth St. S., St Petersburg. For more information call (727) 820-0100 or visit www.fholocaust-museum.org.

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Book a free visit to Holocaust museum and others

Got a library card? Snag a pass for free admission to the Florida Holocaust Museum.

The museum recently partnered with the Pinellas County and Hillsborough County Public Library Cooperatives to offer free admission to the museum.

This partnership is set to continue indefinitely. To take advantage of the offers:

The Pinellas County member library branches each have two museum passes that can be checked out with your library card, much like checking out a library book. The passes are available on a first-come, first-served basis and each pass is good for up to two adults and three children. You can ask for a pass at your branch or check the Pinellas Public Library Cooperative online catalog (www.pplc.us) to see where passes are available, then go to a branch with an available pass and check it out in person. You may place a request (hold) for a pass and pick it up when it becomes available.

You get a printed receipt that is valid for one visit within a 7-day period and you turn that receipt in at the museum. Passes are also available to the Museum of Fine Arts and the Great Explorations Children's Museum, both in St. Petersburg.

For Hillsborough County Library members, the rules are similar for its Discovery Pass. They are good for a family of up to five for a seven-day period. You can reserve a pass online (www.hcplc.org/services/Discoverypass) and once you are notified the pass is available you have five days to pick it up at a library branch. As with the passes in Pinellas, you turn the pass in at the museum. The passes are on a first-come, first-served basis. The Hillsborough County Library Discovery Pass is also good at a variety of other museums and attractions in Hillsborough County.

In addition to free admission via library card, the Holocaust Museum is offering free admission all day for everyone on July 12.

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UN condemns Israel for Gaza violence; US objects

(JTA) – The United Nations General Assembly at an emergency meeting on the Gaza Strip condemned Israel for an "excessive use of force" and rejected U.S. bids to amend the resolution to also condemn Hamas.

The resolution, backed by Arab countries, also calls for "protection of the Palestinian civilian population" in Gaza. It is similar to one that was introduced at the U.N. Security Council earlier that was vetoed by the U.S.

Some 130 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire since protests along the Gaza border began on March 30, including many members of the Hamas terrorist group that controls the strip. There have not been any Israeli casualties, though thousands of acres of Israeli land has been burned by incendiary kites and explosives-laden balloons flown from Gaza into southern Israel in order to start fires.

U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley opposed the measure targeting

Israel. Her amendments condemning Hamas for firing rockets into Israel, inciting violence during the border protests and using resources that could help civilians build terror tunnels to infiltrate Israel were rejected.

"The nature of this resolution clearly demonstrates that politics is driving the day," she said in her speech. "It makes not one mention of Hamas, who routinely initiates violence in Gaza. Such one-sided resolutions at the U.N. do nothing to advance peace between Israel and the Palestinians."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu thanked Haley for her defense of Israel. "The U.N.'s incessant focus on Israel not only brings shame to the organization, it also draws attention away from so many other pressing issues that demand the attention of the international community."

General Assembly resolutions are non-binding, while Security Council resolutions are binding.

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KITES

• CONTINUED from FRONT PAGE

doing great damage to the forest, to the plants and animals. Everything here is burned. We don't really see a solution, either from the government or the army, against this kite terror."

Ben David says KKL-JNF employs 12-13 private firefighters who are responsible for the forest, a number bolstered by volunteers from local communities and Israel's overstretched Fire and Rescue Services.

"We are doing what we can. You extinguish one and you move on to the next one," he says.

At another site nearby, a tractor puts out the flames by driving over them followed by a man carrying a hose attached to a small water tank on his back. It's siren blaring, a firetruck pulls up and a regular-duty firefighter gets out and starts spraying a flaming clump of trees.

Over the course of less than an

hour, Ben David visits more than five fires, one of which blazes alongside a small one-lane road, completely obscuring visibility.

"At the end of the day, we are succeeding at extinguishing everything," he says, but adding it would help if he had access to firefighting planes. Ben David explains that such aircraft are prohibited from taking part in the battle due to the proximity to the Gaza border.

"These kites aren't toys, they're weapons," he says. "If the IDF or government will understand that, I hope they will do something."

In nearby Nahal Oz, Yael Lachyani walks along pointing out the damage done to her kibbutz's farmlands. She points to a small patch of burnt ground on which small shoots are already beginning to sprout. Lachyani, the agricultural collective's spokeswoman, says that on the festival of Shavuot each year, a small ceremony is held here for the community's children, but this year it was set ablaze only hours before the gathering.

"We put out the fire and held the ceremony anyway. We are proud that we didn't let them destroy our holiday," she says, noting that 600 dunams, or almost 150 acres, have already gone up in flames.

"We try to be optimistic. It's all about resilience," Lachyani says. "We don't complain. We don't let them run our lives. You burn and we plant. Our morale is high."

While acknowledging the damage has only been to vegetation, she says it is only a matter of time until someone gets hurt in the community of fewer than 500 residents next to the border fence. The Israel Defense Forces and the government have not responded to the fires in the same way in which they act in the wake of a rocket attack, she says, and this "sends a message" to Hamas.

Lachyani says that despite the rocket attacks and fires, Nahal Oz is thriving, with residency at capacity, in part due to the "new secular Zionism of living wherever it's necessary and wherever it's meaningful." But while the community has grown since the last flare-up with Hamas in 2014, it does not mean the residents are totally sanguine about the situation.

"We are thriving under fire ... for the moment," she says, complaining of the feeling that "no one cares." Citing Regional Cooperation Minister Tzachi Hanegbi's statement that he was "not excited by the kite terrorism" – that is, that people shouldn't overreact to what he called a "pathetic" enemy – Lachyani asserts that the "government isn't doing anything."

Defense Minister Avigdor Liberman has pledged to strike back in response to the kites "when it is convenient for us." The army

is testing two types of drones for use against the kites as "part of a comprehensive response, which includes cooperation with firefighting forces and the activity of combat forces on the ground," an IDF spokesman told JTA.

According to police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld, bomb disposal experts have responded not only to kites dragging alcohol-soaked rags but also explosive devices, "which is a much more serious threat to both soldiers and civilians."

"Every day we have at least 30 firefighters with 10 fire engines to deal only with fires near the fence," Israel Fire and Rescue Services spokesman Yoram Levy says. "In order to respond quickly we opened five temporary stations in kibbutzim. ... When we receive intelligence that there might be mass demonstrations, we are reinforcing our staff as needed."

Levy says the fire service has used airplanes twice, near Kibbutz Or Haner and Kibbutz Karmia, after receiving permission from the Israeli Air Force.

One resident of Nahal Oz sees the attacks as an opportunity to give something back. Only weeks before the fires started, Raymond Reijnen immigrated to the kibbutz with family from Rotterdam in the Netherlands. A 16-year veteran of his city's fire brigade, Reijnen saw no future in Europe and decided to make aliyah so his children could grow up in a Jewish state.

Assigned to the kibbutz dairy, where he tends cows, Reijnen threw himself into agricultural work and learning Hebrew. Now he is volunteering for the kibbutz's own firefighting team.

He says he felt good that he could "give something back to the kib-

butz with my skills as a firefighter. I can pay them back for all the things they do for me here."

Kibbutz Saad, located three miles away, has had to deal with far fewer fires than Nahal Oz, and the fields that burned were already harvested, says Buki Bart, a member of the kibbutz administration. While expressing frustration, Bart says he understands that "everybody is doing the best that he can" and that the damage thus far has been minor enough that he doesn't feel he has to report every small fire to the kibbutz members.

According to Adi Meiri, a spokeswoman for the Shaar Hanegev Regional Council, whose territory includes Sderot, extinguishing the fires is not the only struggle for residents of the region. While the state has pledged reparations for farmers who have lost crops, local representatives also have been pushing hard for additional payments for those forced to harvest early, losing part of the value of their produce, as well as for those who have lost agricultural equipment.

Aside from the financial side, Meiri says the constant fires have caused stress for residents, especially children, many of whom are receiving help from psychologists at a local "resilience center." She describes how she has gone to great lengths to shield her own children from the reality of the past two months.

Picking up on Meiri's theme, council head Alon Schuster told JTA it is important that the IDF, when attacking targets in the Gaza Strip, announce that the strikes are in part in retaliation for the kites. He says "it is important for the internal psychological resilience of our residents."



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