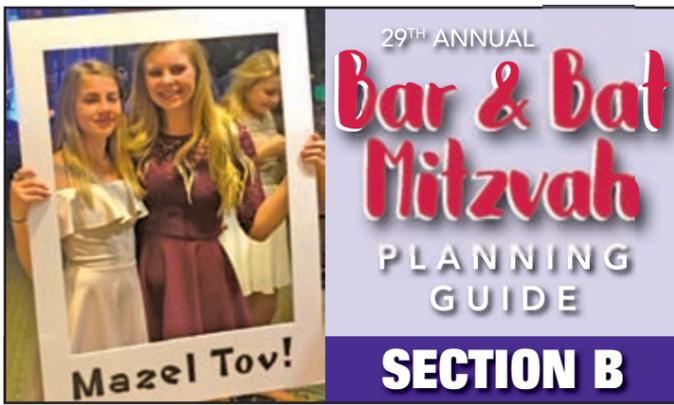


# Southern Israeli cities try to get back to normal

(JTA) – Following the most fierce exchange of fire between Israel and Gaza militants since 2014, Southern Israeli towns near the border tried to resume normalcy as a de facto cease-fire went into effect.

On Friday, Aug. 10, the municipalities of Netivot and Sderot, as well as smaller towns near the Gaza Strip, did not renew emergency regulations that had been in place for most of the week.

**NORMAL continued on PAGE 2**



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TAMPA, FLORIDA ☆ AUGUST 10 - 23, 2018

TWO SECTIONS 28 PAGES

# Suncoast Hillels enlists congregations for first Tashlich with a twist

On Rosh HaShanah, it is customary for Jews to go to a body of water and symbolically cast away their sins during the Tashlich service. But this year, nine Tampa Bay area Reform and Conservative congregations will join with Hillels of the Florida Suncoast to reverse the Tashlich tradition, removing human sins from the water by cleaning up local waterfronts.

The first Tampa Bay Jewish Community Reverse Tashlich will take place on Sunday, Sept. 16, which falls between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

The congregations that have signed up to participate in the Reverse Tashlich project are: Congregation B'nai Israel, St. Petersburg; Congregation Beth Am, Tampa; Congregation Beth Shalom, Clearwater; Congregation Kol Ami, Tampa; Congregation Rodeph Sholom, Tampa; Congregation Schaarai Zedek,



An Eckerd College Reverse Tashlich, sponsored by the school's Scubi Jew group two years ago, above, inspired plans to involve the entire Jewish community in the effort to clean up our shoreline.

Tampa; Temple Ahavat Shalom, Palm Harbor; Temple B'nai Israel, Clearwater; and Temple Beth-El, St. Petersburg.

**TASHLICH continued on PAGE 8**



Compiled from news wires

## Kuwait Airways will pay damages to Israeli passenger refused ticket

Kuwait Airways agreed to pay damages plus legal costs to an Israeli who was refused a ticket on a flight from London to Bangkok on the grounds of her nationality.

Mandy Blumenthal, with the help of UK Lawyers for Israel, had claimed damages against the airline for racial discrimination and harassment after she tried to buy a return ticket to the Thai capital at Heathrow Airport in November.

Blumenthal's encounter at the Kuwait Airways desk was filmed and the video is available on YouTube. It shows that Kuwait Airways was prepared to sell her the ticket but refused once it saw the Israeli passport. The ticket clerk repeatedly explained that "Israeli passport holders are not permitted to travel on Kuwait Airways."

The airline has agreed to pay Blumenthal damages but without admitting liability, UK Lawyers for Israel said. The report did not say how much the airline was willing to pay.

"The law is clear: Direct discrimination on grounds of nationality in the provision of a service to the public is illegal," said David Berens, one of Blumenthal's attorneys. "Kuwait Airways is now legally obliged to end this policy or end its services from the UK altogether."

"It is horrible to be singled out, to be told you are not allowed to do something because of who you are," Blumenthal said. "In my mind it is an anti-Semitic policy to single out the only Jewish state to boycott."

In 2016, Kuwait Airways ended its New York to London service over its refusal to carry Israeli passengers, which prompted the U.S. Department of Transportation to issue the firm an ultimatum.

The airline has also been taken to court in Germany for refusing to fly Israelis, but a court in Frankfurt ruled the practice was legal.

## Billboards erected in support of vandalized Indiana synagogue

Billboards were erected in support of an Indiana synagogue that was targeted with anti-Semitic graffiti. The billboard's message is "LOVE" with a Star of David inside the "O."

"We just wanted to put a positive message out there. We just thought, what's more positive than love," Chris Iverson, vice president and general manager of Lamar Advertising, told WISH-TV.

Four billboards went up along two major highways near Carmel, a suburb of Indianapolis. Another 12 digital billboards with the same message are found throughout the state, according to the report.

A black swastika surrounded by a red background and the German and Nazi Military Iron Cross were painted Saturday, July 28 on a wall at Shaarey Tefilla, a Conservative synagogue near Indianapolis with 200-member families.

Hundreds also attended a community solidarity gathering at the synagogue.

## Israeli hospitals see record baby boom

Several hospitals in Israel have reported record-breaking numbers of deliveries of newborns.

Maternity wards in most of Israel's hospitals are at capacity, with some mothers being referred to other departments and others having their babies delivered in hallways, Ynet reported Thursday, Aug. 9.

The uptick is connected to rising fertility rates and the fact that there is a significantly higher number of births during the summer months compared to winter, according to the report. August is typically the month with the most births.

In 2016, Israel had 181,405 deliveries – August led the way with 16,540 – and a fertility rate of 3.11 children per mother. It's by far the highest fertility rate among the members of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, which has 34 industrialized nations. Israel had a fertility rate of four children per mother in 1970, but it dropped to 2.9 by 1999 before climbing to its current level.

The average fertility rate within the OECD is 1.7 children per mother.

# Israel again suspect in assassination; does it pay off?

RON KAMPEAS  
JTA news service

WASHINGTON – Aziz Asbar was a leading Syrian rocket scientist, working with Hezbollah and Iran to develop systems that could reach deep inside Israel. Now he's dead, blown up in a car.

The natural inclination in the Middle East and even farther afield is to blame the Mossad, Israel's intelligence agency, for such killings. Indeed, Mossad was named as the perpetrator in a *New York*

Times story.

The Times cited "a senior official from a Middle Eastern intelligence agency" in reporting Asbar's death on Aug. 4 in May-saf, which is near a major Syrian weapons development facility. It also reported that it was at least the fourth assassination attempt by Israel in three years against an enemy weapons engineer on foreign soil.

The Mossad hardly ever confirm its operations, which the prime minister must approve. An exception came in April when

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu extolled an operation in which Israeli agents stole a literal ton of documents from Iran related to its nuclear program.

But that operation, as far as anyone knows, did not involve a killing. Another, in Kuala Lumpur the same month, did: Two motorcyclists shot dead a Hamas associated engineer, Fadi Two motorcyclists shot dead a Hamas associated engineer, Fadi al-Batsh.

**ASSASSINATION continued on PAGE 8**

# Birthright Israel grapples with Palestinian questions

By BEN SALES  
JTA news service

When Samuel Green talks about Israel's West bank security barrier with the Birthright groups he guides, he first explains the Israeli view that the barrier was built to prevent Palestinian terrorists from breaching Israeli territory and that Israelis generally feel it has saved lives.

But then he'll talk about what the barrier – which is part wall, part fence – means for Palestinians: how it cuts into West Bank territory, how it has separated people from their farmland, how they see it as an imposing wall.

"It's a disservice to the people in front of me to leave out such information," Green said. "So if you're

trying to understand why there's conflict, you have to understand why people are annoyed. It's important to talk about."

That approach contrasts with the one viewed by 2.7 million people in a viral Facebook video taken by activists of IfNotNow, a group of young American Jews who oppose Israel's control over the West Bank. In the video, a Birthright tour guide spars with a participant on a Birthright bus over the status of the West Bank.

Rather than aim to present a range of views on Israel's control of the territory, the guide says "Israel sees the West Bank as part of Israel" – a misleading claim that does not accord with the legal

**BIRTHRIGHT continued on PAGE 15**

# Newly ordained rabbi takes helm at Brandon temple



By BOB FRYER  
Jewish Press

Rabbi Bryan Mann wears a rainbow kippah, to let people know that he is supportive of all Jews no matter who they love. He's also a social activist and was motivated to standup against hate by joining with other clergy in Charlottesville to march against white supremacists and neo-Nazis in Charlottesville, VA, one

year ago.

Just two months after his ordination at Hebrew College of Newton Centre, MA, Rabbi Mann, 29, has assumed duties as full-time rabbi Congregation Beth Shalom in Brandon.

He fills a position vacant since Rabbi Betsy Torop left in January to become director of Rabbinic Support, Engagement and Growth for the Central Confer-

ence of American Rabbis. Rabbi Torop had led Congregation Beth Shalom for 14 years.

Rabbi Mann said he was highly impressed with the close sense of community and family among the congregants at Beth Shalom when he visited here and during the interview process. "While they had no clergy, lay members took on many rabbinical responsibilities

**NEW RABBI continued on PAGE 14**

Rabbi Bryan Mann

## Segel returns to Tampa JCCs & Federation; You name it, he can help with that

Mark Segel, who has served both the Tampa JCCs & Federation and Jewish Federation of Pinellas and Pasco Counties in previous years, is returning to the Tampa JCCs & Federation as director of strategic initiatives.

In this role, he will work on a variety of development-focused projects, including offering corporate naming rights at both the Bryan Glazer Family JCC and the JCC on the Cohn Campus as well as assisting in the continuing growth of the Florida-Israel Business Accelerator.

Following a 20-plus year career in banking and financial services, Segel was previously the director of external relations for the Tampa JCCs & Federation and executive director of the Jewish Federation of Pinellas & Pasco Counties.

“It’s an exciting time to be a part of the organization’s ongoing success. So much has been accomplished over the past few years yet we have the potential to do so much more.” Segel said. “I’m very pleased to be back with the JCCs & Federation and continue the important work we do to grow and strengthen the Jewish community.”

Organizations or individuals interested in learning more about naming rights opportunities at the Glazer JCC or the Cohn Campus should contact Segel directly at [mark.segel@jewishtampa.com](mailto:mark.segel@jewishtampa.com).



Mark Segel

## Enjoy glamour and glitz at Silver dinner- dance for ‘active adults’

Active adults throughout the county are invited to the Tampa Silver Night Out Dance on Thursday, Sept. 20 from 6-10 p.m. at the Bryan Glazer JCC.

Those 50 and older are invited to dress in their finest and dance the night away at the event, presented by the JCC and Tampa Parks and Recreation Department. There will be live music, a full-course dinner, cash bar, photo booth, red carpet and door prizes

Tickets can be purchased and

tables reserved by contacting the Glazer JCC at (813) 264-9000 or the Parks and Recreation Department at (813) 348-1180.

Those who want to participate in the event planning committee should contact Pnina Levermore at (813) 291-2253, at the Glazer JCC.

The event is sponsored by Davis Islands Pharmacy and Compounding Lab, Rangel Medical Center and North Tampa Foot Care.

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



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Photo by Yanatan Sindel/Flash90

The site where a mortar shell from Gaza hit an apartment building and cars in the southern Israeli city of Sderot, near the border with Gaza, on Aug. 9.

## NORMAL

• CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

The regulations prevented holding any gatherings outside sheltered areas, including summer camp activities, as well as public transportation. A nearby annual hot air balloon fest had to be cancelled.

The resumption of activity – including by the Ashkelon-Sderot line of the Israel Railways – followed the de-facto cease-fire that started Thursday night, Aug. 9, the Israel Broadcasting Corp. reported.

More than 150 rockets hit southern Israel during flare up with Israel reporting 11 wounded, but no fatalities, along with some building damage.

The Israeli Air Force struck back, hitting more than 150 targets across the Gaza Strip, including military training camps, weapons caches and terrorists themselves. The air strikes killed three Palestinians, according to Hamas, including a pregnant mother and her toddler.

The cease-fire with Hamas was reached with Egyptian mediation, according to Al Jazeera.

An Israeli official denied that Israel had engaged in any talks on a cease-fire, telling the Israel Broadcasting Corp. that Israel has a longstanding policy of striking in Gaza only in retaliation to strikes on Israel.

The whole thing might have been started by a mistake.

On Tuesday morning, Aug. 7, Israeli troops on the Gaza border detected Hamas fire in their direction. They responded in kind, killing two Hamas military officials. That triggered Hamas to retaliate by firing rockets.

The Hamas gunfire apparently had not been meant for Israeli soldiers. It was, according to Hamas, part of a naval commando exercise in the presence of senior Hamas officials in Gaza.

Prior to that, Israel and Hamas were actually in indirect talks to establish a long-term truce on the border. The truce would see Hamas attacks against Israel end in exchange for Israel easing the blockade and allowing more goods in and out of Gaza. Two Israelis and the bodies of two dead soldiers held by Hamas would be exchanged for Palestinian prisoners.

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# Jewish? Democratic? Israel's nation-state law raises questions over the country's purpose

By CHARLES DUNST  
JTA news service

Last month Israel's government passed, by a narrow 62-55 margin, a controversial nation-state law, which declared Israel as the "nation-state of the Jewish people."

Scores of liberal critics denounced the measure as an unnecessary and racist provocation, while defenders called it a statement of the obvious.

Akin to a constitutional amendment, the "basic law" declares — much like the country's Declaration of Independence — that Israel is "the home of the Jewish people." Unlike the declaration, however, it asserts that Jerusalem is its capital, that Hebrew is its only official language and that national self-determination is "unique to the Jewish people."

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called the passage of the law "a pivotal moment in the annals of Zionism and the State of Israel," while Ahmad Tibi, an Arab Knesset member, denounced it as "the end of democracy" and "the official beginning of fascism and apartheid."

Prior to its passage, Israel's president, Reuven Rivlin, called the law a "weapon (for) our enemies."

Outgoing Jewish Agency head Natan Sharansky said it would end up "driving a wedge between Jews in Israel and in the Diaspora." And likewise, Jerry Silverman, CEO of the Jewish Federations of North America, told JTA he is concerned the legislation, with its focus on the Jewish aspects of Israel, will alienate young American Jews who are "so social-justice conscious today."

Other reactions to the law reflect the wide divides within Israeli society itself and among observers abroad. Here's a sampling:

## Do Arab citizens have a place in Israel?

The bill "failed to grapple with Palestinians citizens' insistence that they have a right to live in Israel with full and equal rights, and that they will not give up their Palestinian national identity to do so," Maha Nassar, an associate professor at Arizona University, said in the *Forward*. "It's time that we have a serious conversation about whether it was ever really possible to have a 'Jewish and democratic state' that took seriously Palestinians' national identity and ties to their land."

Noah Kulwin, senior editor of the left-wing Jewish *Currents* magazine, said the bill codifies discrimination against Arabs, comparing Israel to apartheid South Africa and noting that the country is "finding common cause with the European far right."

## Stating the obvious

David Hazony, founding editor of *The Tower* magazine, says the critics are distorting what the bill actually states.

"Building a Jewish homeland — through sovereignty, through culture, and through settlement — has always been the core purpose of

the country," Hazony wrote in the *Forward*. "The bottom line is that Israel is the Jewish State, and this law tells us what that means, just as other Basic Laws tell us what goes into its democratic foundations."

Avi Dichter, the Likud party Knesset member who sponsored the bill, suggested it was meant as a response to Arabs — both Israeli citizens and living in the West Bank — who believe that Israel would one day become a binational state of all its people.

"We are enshrining this important bill into a law today to prevent even the slightest thought, let alone attempt, to transform Israel to a country of all its citizens," he said.

In remarks to the Knesset, Dichter responded to members of the Joint List, the Arab Israeli bloc in the parliament.

"When I listened attentively to the Joint List MKs, it was impossible to miss their clear words: 'We, the Arabs, will win, we are in our homeland, we were here before you and we'll be here after you.' This Basic Law is the clear-cut answer to those who think that and it is clear: You were not here before us and you will not be here after us," he said.

## Jewish and democratic? Jewish or democratic?

The arguments on both sides get at an implicit tension that has hounded Israel since its founding in 1948: The Jewish state, founded as such, wants to privilege and shelter Jews and explicitly be a homeland for the Jewish people while simultaneously maintaining a democracy that supports all of its citizens — non-Jews included. Israel aimed to tolerate its minorities in a way the world, including Europe and the Middle East, had not previously tolerated Jews.

The tensions are seen in the Declaration of Independence.

Israel's foundational text is fiercely ethnonationalistic, saying that the recognition of Israel by the United Nations General Assembly "is irrevocable. This right is the natural right of the Jewish people to be masters of their own fate, like all other nations, in their own sovereign State."

At the same time, the declaration ensures "complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex."

## Riding a wave of ethnic nationalism

Max Fisher of the *New York Times* insists that the bill puts Israel firmly on the nationalist side of the equation, comparing countries like Hungary that "have overtly embraced an old-style national identity, with leaders championing the ethnic origins of the state, warning darkly of foreigners and curtailing basic rights."

"Those who say Israel should be Jewish first overwhelmingly belong to the political right, which pushed through this week's national self-determination law," he wrote. "But even those who say democracy should prevail express

support for some caveats. In 2014, most Jews said that 'crucial national decisions' — like, say, self-determination — should be left to the Jewish majority."

## Words have meaning

Israel still remains a democracy, with Freedom House deeming the Jewish state a fundamentally free "multiparty democracy with strong and independent institutions that guarantee political rights and civil liberties for most of the population," referencing political moves against minorities. There is a large Arab bloc in the Knesset, and a robust NGO culture of Jews and Arabs that promotes a "shared society" for all Israelis.

And the nation-state bill won't change that in a single stroke. Still, "the law could eventually have far-reaching implications for Jewish-Arab relations within Israel and for Israeli-Palestinian relations," wrote Dov Waxman, professor of political science, international affairs and Israel studies at Northwestern University.

Gila Gamliel, Israel's minister for social equality, said on Israeli TV that the nation-state law will act as a counterweight to a previous Basic Law that enshrines human rights, freedom and dignity. That law, Gamliel said, ensures Israel's democratic character and this law will place the state's Jewish character on the same level.

As an example, Gamliel suggested that the nation-state law could give greater legal force to Israeli government efforts to deport African asylum seekers from Israel. Previous laws targeting asylum seekers have been struck down by Israel's Supreme Court on the basis of the Human Freedom and Dignity Law.

"The nation-state law is not meant to hurt any citizen of the State of Israel," Gamliel said.

But Waxman wrote that the law contains no "recognition of the presence of a Palestinian-Arab minority in Israel."

"On the contrary, the new law implicitly denies their very existence as an indigenous national minority that also has a legitimate claim to national self-determination, or at least collective rights. In doing so, the nation-state law will only anger, and further alienate, Israel's Arab citizens. The message the law sends to them is unequivocal: This state is not yours and this land does not belong to you."

Amir Fuchs, an expert at the Israel Democracy Institute, told the *New York Times* that even if the law is only declarative and won't change anything in the near future, "I am 100 percent sure it will worsen the feeling of non-Jews and especially the Arab minority in Israel."



Pnina Levermore, Active Adults program manager, (L) and Liam Brien, a senior consultant for Cardinal Solutions, the company that donated computers to the Glazer JCC's mobile lab, in front of a charging cart with the new laptops.

## Computer lab aims to improve active adults' tech skills

The Bryan Glazer JCC in Tampa is launching a new mobile computer lab to benefit active adults through its JCC Plugged-In program, where participants can meet and question professionals about their tech devices and various applications.

From Microsoft Suite software training to social media and website design coaching, participants are learning a full gamut of new skills.

This program was further enhanced thanks to a donation of 10 laptops by Cardinal Solutions. Liam Brien, a senior consultant at the company, facilitated the donation and serves as the program's

instructor.

"We are immensely grateful for the time and expertise that Liam brings to the table to enhance the JCC Plugged-In program," said Active Adults Program Manager Pnina Levermore.

Cardinal Solutions encourages volunteerism and community involvement, Brien said. "We've been able to pair our employees' talents with the needs of the active adult population in a meaningful way," Brien said.

For more information on JCC Plugged-In, contact Levermore at (813) 291-2253 or pnina.levermore@jewishtampa.com.

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# Save your life, save the world

By **RABBI HOWARD SIEGEL**  
Congregation Kol Ami, Tampa

Eight years ago I suffered a heart attack. I was taken to a nearby hospital where a stent was put in, opening the clogged artery. Within 48 hours I was home. Within four days I was engaging in light exercise and returning to a scaled-back schedule.

Several factors figured into my survival. I am sharing them with the hope that maybe even one life is changed as a result. The

Talmudic tractate Sanhedrin contains the following teaching: "He who saves one life, it is as if he saved an entire world."

My clogged artery was popularly referred to as the widow maker (proximal left anterior descending coronary artery of the heart). I survived the attack because:

1. I responded to the chest pain quickly,
2. I maintain vigorous daily exercise,
3. I pay close attention to my diet, and
4. I follow a daily aspirin regimen.

I have always known I had a genetic proclivity for heart disease (it runs in the family), so I have followed items 2, 3, and 4, religiously in the hope of avoiding a heart attack. Now, I realize they also contributed to surviving one.

The human body is a Divine gift protecting the holiness of our soul and being. The only spiritual stipulation placed on us is the requirement to care for the health and welfare of the body we possess. The body is not who we are but allows who we are to be.

Inactivity, obesity, and neglect of our body are denying our own Divine nature. I do not believe in a God who preordains human sufferings, such as a heart attack. Nor do I believe in a God who can prevent them. I do believe in a partnership between God and humankind. God has made possible the gift of life; we are responsible for its well-being.

I also believe God is present in our moments of trauma and despair provid-

## RABBINICALLY SPEAKING

ing hope and support; holding our hand in the darkness of life.

If you want to continue experiencing the joys of a beautiful sunrise, an awe-inspiring mountain range, the cries and laughter of children and grandchildren, the gentle touch of a soul-mate companion, then commit to some practical steps:

1. Quit smoking. Not tomorrow, today!
2. Join a health club and begin regular daily exercise. Excuses don't make pounds fall away, physical exercise does. The money saved from snacking and restaurants (especially the fast food variety) will pay for the health club.
3. Meet with your physician or nutritionist and begin a healthy diet. Start by avoiding processed meat (salami, corned beef, etc.). Next, consider giving up meat entirely. In fact, the ideal of Kashrut (Jewish dietary laws) is vegetarianism.

It hurts me to see so many young mothers and fathers overweight and under-exercised. Don't they want to enjoy the fruits of long life accompanied with good health or are they blinded by a myopic view that they will have more time to deal with this in the future. They won't, and the one thing we can be certain with regard to the future is it's fatal!

Being a spiritual person means recognizing God's presence in us. Being a religious person means acting upon this realization. The first step is the hardest: Admitting you need help – I am overweight, I have terrible eating habits, I really want to quit smoking, I know I am out of shape. The next step is doing something about it.

I am so thankful for my life and the continued opportunity I have to learn and teach Torah, to celebrate with my wife, children, grandchildren, and friends, and to cherish my partnership with God. On the eve of a new year, I pray we all share in the blessings of life for many, many years to come.

*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. Kol Ami

**Open house:** Kol Ami invites members and the community to an open house to kick off the new season of activities on Sunday, Aug. 19 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. This is a time for signing up kids for one of the four different youth groups and for potential new congregants to meet the Kol Ami members, committee leaders, **Rabbi Howard Siegel**, Youth Director **Rachel Degani** and Education Director **Jennifer Halls** or to join in a drum program. USY will have a car wash from 9 a.m. – noon. There will be free hot dogs, fruit, cookies and more.

**Family Shabbat services:** Families are invited to celebrate family Shabbat eve services on Friday, Aug. 24 at 6:30 p.m. Sing family friendly melodies along with your children while enjoying guitar music. Join your children as they dance in the aisles and play tambourines and shaker eggs.

**Book club:** The Tree of Life Long Learning Book Club will meet Tuesday, Aug. 28 at 7 p.m. to discuss *If All the Seas Were Ink* by Ilana Kurshan. The author immerses herself in the demands of daily Talmud study and allows the words of ancient scholars to transform the patterns of her own life.

**Youth activities:** A variety of youth group activities are planned in August. On Sunday, Aug. 19, there will be a Chaverim and Boneem kickoff event from 2:30-4:30 p.m. at Altitude Trampoline Park, 4340 Hillsborough Ave., Tampa. Youth from Rodeph Sholom will join in. The cost is \$12 per person.

On Wednesday, Aug. 22 from 7:15-9:15 p.m. there will be a Youth Lounge Night where kids can eat, hang-out, do homework, play games or just chill.

On Saturday, Aug. 25 from 8:30-10:30 p.m. USY will hold a kickoff party at the synagogue. Hang out with friends and enjoy music, food and party games.

A Kadima kickoff event will be held Sunday, Aug. 26 from 1-3 p.m. at Q-Zar Laser Tag, 7807 N. Dale Mabry Highway, Tampa. The event includes laser tag, arcade games, food, fun and friends and costs \$15 per person. Food will be provided. For all these events, RSVP to Youth@kolami.org.

**L'Chaim:** Take in a program of sharing life's lessons on Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to noon. A different topic, readings and different leader will be chosen for each weekly session.

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

## Shabbat Candle Lighting Times

- Aug 17 • 7:49 pm**  
**Aug 24 • 7:42 pm**  
**Aug 31 • 7:34 pm**  
**Sept 7 • 7:26 pm**



through experts. Texts are provided.

**Jewish ethics:** Rabbi Siegel leads a course in Jewish ethics on Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to noon. This course will use *Pirke Avot: Ethics of Our Ancestors* as a springboard to discussion and debate on issues of the day in the light of Jewish moral/ethical demands.

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

### Cong. Beth Am

**Open house:** The congregation will hold its annual open house for prospective members and to welcome back members for a breakfast on Sunday, Aug. 26 from 9:30 a.m. to noon. **Rabbi Jason Rosenberg**, board members, the Men's Club, Sisterhood, Youth Groups, and congregants will be on hand to meet guests. The congregation welcome members of all ages and reminds folks the best time to get people interested in Judaism is when they are young. Especially welcome are inter-faith families, LGBTQIA individuals, couples, and families. For more information, call the temple.

**Prep for High Holy Days:** A continuing education class led by Rabbi Rosenberg will be held on Thursdays, Aug. 23 and 30 at 7 p.m. The class utilizes a book about the High Holy Days called *This Is Real And You Are Completely Unprepared* by Alan Lew. Come and discuss what this sacred time is supposed to mean, and how to get more out of it by doing your own work of *Heshbon HaNefesh* (accounting of the soul, or spiritual preparation). Reading the book is suggested, but not required.

**Pre-neg:** Instead of rushing at home to eat before coming to Shabbat services on Friday, Aug. 24, come at 6 p.m. for a free light nosh. For more information, call the **Victoria Cain** at (813) 968-8511.

**Trivia night:** Challenge friends and fellow congregants to see how much you know about

• CONTINUED on NEXT PAGE

## Religious Directory

### HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY Reform

**BETH ISRAEL/ JEWISH CONGREGATION OF SUN CITY CENTER** — 1115 E. Del Webb Blvd., Sun City Center • Mailing Address: P. O. Box 5203, Sun City Center, 33571 • Rabbi Carla Freedman • Shabbat Services: Friday 7:30 p.m., 2nd & 4th Saturday 10 a.m., Torah Study: noon • Telephone: (813) 634-2590 • Web address: www.jccsc.org. • 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 Bryan Mann • Cantor Moshe Friedler (visiting) • Shabbat Service: Friday 7 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 Joel Simon, 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: (813) 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.

## Karaoke mixer offered for those with Parkinson's at Glazer JCC

People with Parkinson's, as well as their care partners, friends and supporters, are invited to the free Big & Loud Parkinson's Karaoke Mixer on Wednesday, Aug. 22 from 3-5 p.m. at the Bryan Glazer Family JCC, 522 N. Howard Ave., Tampa.

This promises to be a fun social event with a lively and upbeat atmosphere. DJ

Mike Sean will serve as emcee, providing song bursts and entertaining the audience with a Name that TV Show game, '50s & '60s trivia and Karaoke-style sing-alongs.

Refreshments, music and decorations will add to the festive ambiance. There is no charge for those who attend. Representatives from the Parkinson's Foundation,

the Tampa JCCs and USF Health will be there to join in the fun.

This event is sponsored by The Edmond J Safra National Parkinson's Wellness Initiative Grant and by a grant from the Parkinson's Foundation.

For more information, contact the Glazer JCC at (813) 264-9000.

## Bat Mitzvah

### Davina Feldman

Davina Feldman, daughter of Tiffany and Brandon Feldman of Lithia, was called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, Aug. 4 at Congregation Beth Shalom in Brandon.

Davina is a Principal's Honor Roll student entering the eighth grade at Randall Middle School.

## Congregations

• CONTINUED from PREVIOUS PAGE

topics from Judaism to baseball in a pub-style trivia contest on Saturday, Aug. 25 from 6:30-9 p.m. BYOB and a nosh to share. Come as a team, or alone and others can form one with you. All ages are welcome. A kids' trivia challenge (16 and under) will run concurrently with the general game. Contact the temple for more information.

**Cafe Shabbat:** The next Café Shabbat will be held on Saturday, Sept. 1 at 9 a.m. at the temple. This is a monthly opportunity to come together, eat food, engage in Shabbat fun, different ways, and then top it off with some time to pray together. For more information, email Admin@BethAmTampa.org.

**Selichot:** The congregation's Selichot service, followed by a potluck dessert, will be held on Saturday, Sept. 1 at 8 p.m.

### Cong. Schaarai Zedek

**Courtyard Shabbat:** Enjoy an outdoor Shabbat service without leaving Schaarai Zedek on Friday, Aug. 31 at 7:30 p.m. Participants will meet in the courtyard of the education wing to celebrate Shabbat (weather permitting) outdoors. Dress comfortably. Indoor seating will also be available.

**Selichot:** Begin the High Holiday season on Saturday, Sept. 1 with a deli dinner at 5:30 p.m., a showing of the movie *Come Sunday* at 6:30 p.m., and Selichot service at 8:30 p.m. "Selichot" means "forgiveness," and it prepares people to atone during the Holy Days ahead. As part of this service, the Torah covers will be changed to white in anticipation of the approaching High Holy Days. *Come Sunday* is based on the true story about Pastor Carlton Pearson's excommunication after he questioned the church's doctrine on hell. Following the movie, the clergy will lead a brief discussion of High Holy Day themes in the movie, including atonement for transgressions and desire to do good without fear of divine punish-

ment. There is no charge for dinner but an RSVP is requested at [www.zedek.org/RSVP](http://www.zedek.org/RSVP) or by calling the temple at (813) 876-2377.

**Challahpalooza:** The Sisterhood will hold a Challahpalooza on Thursday, Aug. 23 from 7-9 p.m. Sisterhood members, their guests and anyone wanting to join are invited to the temple to prepare challahs together to take home and bake the next day for Shabbat. To RSVP, call the temple office or register online at [www.zedek.org/rsvp](http://www.zedek.org/rsvp).

**Country-themed Shabbat:** The congregation will hold its annual Sha'Barbeque dinner and Yee Haw Shabbat service to welcome new and prospective members on Friday, Aug. 24. The dinner begins at 6 p.m. and the rabbis and cantor will be grillin' and chillin'. The menu includes grilled chicken, kosher hot dogs, baked beans, corn on the cob, and salad. There is no charge for the dinner, but RSVPs are requested. RSVP by Thursday, Aug. 20 at [www.zedek.org/RSVP](http://www.zedek.org/RSVP) or (813) 876-2377. Following the dinner, there will be a Yee Haw Shabbat service at 7:30 p.m. This will be a country style service with the Yee Haw Band. Optional attire is "Cowboy Chic." An oneg will follow the service.

**Meet and greet:** The Brotherhood and Sisterhood together will host a bagels and coffee Meet and Greet during the first day of religious school on Sunday, Aug. 26 from 9-11 a.m.

### Cong. Rodeph Sholom

**About art therapy:** Sisterhood's opening event will feature **Merrilee Jorn**, a board certified art therapist, who will give a presentation on art therapy and its de-stressing nature for mind, body and spirit on Tuesday, Aug. 28 at 7 p.m. The event is free to Sisterhood members; \$18 for non-members. Wine, cheese and desserts will be served. RSVP by Aug. 21 to (813) 837-1911. Payment will be accepted at the door.

**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. Mekor Shalom

**Selichot services:** For those who like their communal experiences to go late into the evening, come to Selichot services on Saturday, Sept. 1 at 9 a.m. There will be fellowship, prayer, and reflection as congregants gather in advance of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

**Open house and birthday bash:** The congregation will celebrate its fifth anniversary and hold an open house and birthday brunch on Sunday, Aug. 19 at 11 a.m. Those looking for a synagogue are invited to find out what Mekor Shalom is all about. To RSVP or for more information, visit [mekorshalom.org](http://mekorshalom.org) or call (813) 963-1818.

**Color and connect:** Bring your own coloring book or use pages provided at the shul and participate in a color and connect event on Wednesday, Aug. 22 at 11:30 a.m. Coloring supplies will be available.

**Service and dinner:** All are welcome to a Shabbat service on Friday, Aug. 24 at 6:30 p.m., followed by a dinner. The cost is \$12 for an adult meal, \$8 for those ages 4-8 and free for those 3 and younger. Advance reservation/fee required. Go to [www.mekorshalom.org](http://www.mekorshalom.org) or call the office at (813) 963-1818 for more details.

### 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](mailto:bmchabad@gmail.com).

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

# VOTE GREG GREEN



Green  
to Court the People

Tampa Bay Times

"He is attuned to the stress that many experience navigating the judicial process, and he knows judges should be even-keeled and prepared. With his courtroom experience, Green has a solid grasp of how to manage a courtroom. He is plain spoken and affable, and his work in high school sports, with disadvantaged youth and as a marriage counselor at his church shows his involvement in the community. *The Tampa Bay Times* recommends Greg Green." -Editorials, July 26th, 2018

## ENDORSEMENTS:

- 3 Retired Circuit Court Judges in Hillsborough County (Including Former Chief Judge Dennis Alvarez)
- 6 Former Hillsborough County Bar Presidents
- Well Over 100 Lawyers
- West Central Florida AFL-CIO
- Hillsborough County Firefighters Local 2294
- Tampa Firefighters Local 754
- West Central Florida Police Benevolent Association
- Tampa Police Benevolent Association
- The Teamsters Local 79
- IBEW Local 108
- Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc. - Florida Gulf Coast Chapter
- The Tampa Bay Times

Approved and Paid for by Greg Green, Candidate for Hillsborough County Court Judge Group 2



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13th Judicial Circuit, Group 25

# Missouri Republican who said 'Hitler was right' wins state House primary

(JTA) – A Missouri Republican who has made anti-Semitic and other bigoted statements handily won a primary for the state's House of Representatives.

Steve West, who promotes anti-Semitic conspiracy theories on a radio show he hosts, defeated three other candidates Tuesday, Aug. 7, in the bid for a seat representing Clay County, northeast of Kansas City. He won with 49.5 percent of the vote; the second-place finisher had 24.4 percent.

"Looking back in history, unfortunately, Hitler was right about what was taking place in Germany. And who was behind it," West said on KCXL radio in January 2017, the *Kansas City Star* reported Aug. 9.

He has spoken of "Jewish cabals" that are "harvesting baby parts" from Planned Parenthood, abuse children and control the Republican Party.

West also has a YouTube channel on which he has made homophobic,

anti-Semitic, Islamophobic and racist statements, according to the *Star*.

West will face Democratic incumbent Jon Carpenter in November.

The Missouri Republican Party denounced West's "shocking and vile" comments. "West's abhorrent rhetoric has absolutely no place in the Missouri Republican Party or anywhere. We wholeheartedly condemn his comments," the party told the *Star*.

Reached by the *Star*, West said his comments were taken out of context, but went on to criticize both Judaism and Islam. "Jewish people can be beautiful people, but there's ideologies associated with that that I don't agree with," he said. "Jews today are a remnant of the tribe of Judah that rejected Christ."

The local chapter of the Anti-Defamation League said it was not sure why West's comments had not been publicized earlier.

"I'm trying to get a sense of why he flew under the radar, and I'm not sure I have a great answer," said Karen Aroesty, who directs ADL in Missouri, Southern Illinois and Eastern Kansas.

West's campaign platform does not mention Jews, but contains a section titled "Islam is a Problem for America" and says that "most parents don't want their children receiving (sic) alternative sex ed, or having to deal with or be around the LGBT clubs."

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## Letters to the Editor

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

### Protect religious freedom, democracy and Israel with your vote

Dear Editor,

I write this letter in response to an article entitled, "Jewish Dems contend with wave of progressives critical of Israel." I hope that American Jews, (Democratic, Republican or otherwise,) will consider the coming midterm elections as a referendum on the future of our religious freedom and democracy in America, rather than on how the outcome affects the future of Israel. Our recent presidential election resulted in a Neo-Nazi, fascist administration, which is just now beginning to reveal its real agenda. During that campaign I heard many Jews say they voted for Trump because they decided that he, rather than Hillary Clinton, was more sympathetic to the state of Israel.

One can only hope that, in the coming midterm election, Jews will realize the folly of voting Republican because of their allegiance to Israel over that to our own United States. If we lose our religious freedom and democracy there will be little hope for the survival of Israel or Jews throughout the world.

A. H. Felman, M.D.  
Tampa

### Democrats' Israel bashing a serious threat

Dear Editor:

The lengthy article by Charles Dunst about liberal American Jews tolerating anti-Israel

sentiment within the Democratic Party was a confounding mess. A more apt title should be: "Jews supporting Israel not too welcome in today's Democratic Party." The article cited dwindling support for Israel among Democrats. He listed a new crop of liberal 2018 candidates who openly rail against Israel. Strangely, the author suggests current trends shouldn't concern us much. If this doesn't alarm you, nothing will.

The frightening truth is that liberal progressives running in 2018 will grow their support by bashing Israel because it works in their favor. Should this surprise anyone? Liberal elites, academia and media constantly bash Israel, and since they're now the party majority, they no longer need to hide it. Any candidate who dares to support Israel has a good chance of being shouted down, threatened, or candidacy destroyed. How did we get here and why such tepid support among Jews to reverse this trend? Perhaps a lack of advocacy and education created generations of Jews who don't care or understand what's at stake. The article concludes by suggesting the two-state solution could help fix this. I fail to understand the logic. Assuming such land and status was granted, does anyone honestly believe this would change anything? Would Hamas, Fatah, and the Arab world suddenly reward Israel with lasting peace and goodwill?

Perhaps a good place for us to start is with ourselves. Don't sit on the sidelines and let a growing problem worsen. The *Jewish Press*, whose mission is to be "an impartial, ethical community-building force" can best serve our community by addressing these serious threats head-on. The trend is not in our favor and now is not the time to downplay a serious problem.

Noah Jacobson  
Tampa

*Editor's note: The article referred to stated that a Pew survey showed support for Israel decreased among self identified "liberal" Democrats from 48 percent in 2001 to 19 percent in 2018, not all Democrats.*

## Congregation Kol Ami High Holiday Services • 2018/5779

Rabbi Howard Siegel • Rabbi Leon Rosenblum

### Start Your Year with Kol Ami and join us for the High Holidays

#### ❖ SELICHOT SERVICE

Saturday, September 1

Selichot Service .....8:30 p.m.

#### ❖ EREV ROSH HASHANAH

Sunday, September 9

Ma'ariv.....6:30 p.m.

#### ❖ ROSH HASHANAH

Monday, September 10

Rosh Hashanah Service, Day 1.....9:00 a.m.

Tashlich/ Ma'ariv.....6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 11

Rosh Hashanah Service, Day 2.....9:00 a.m.

Evening Minyan .....7:30 p.m.

#### ❖ SHABBAT SHUVAH

Saturday, September 15

Shabbat Services.....9:30 a.m.

#### ❖ KEVER AVOT SERVICE

Sunday, September 16

Service at Gan Shalom.....12:00 p.m.



#### ❖ EREV YOM KIPPUR

Tuesday, September 18

Kol Nidre.....6:30 p.m.

#### ❖ YOM KIPPUR

Wednesday, September 19

Shacharit/Yizkor.....9:00 a.m.

Rabbi's Discussion.....4:15 p.m.

Mincha.....6:00 p.m.

Neilah.....7:00 p.m.

Shofar.....8:10 p.m.

Break The Fast.....8:15 p.m.

If you have not yet celebrated the High Holidays with us, we invite you to be our guest as we celebrate the coming New Year. For your complimentary tickets, please contact the Kol Ami office.



❖ YOUTH PROGRAMMING & CHILD CARE ARE AVAILABLE DURING HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES - FIRST AND SECOND DAY ROSH HASHANAH MORNING AND YOM KIPPUR MORNING.

Congregation Kol Ami is affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

3919 Moran Road, Tampa, FL 33618

813-962-6338

www.kolami.org

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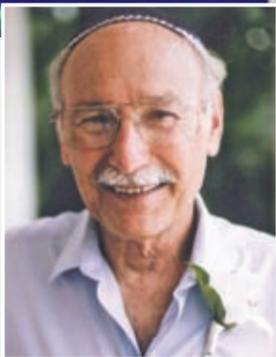
## FAMILY



★ **Malka Isaak**, retired attorney, campaigning for her son.

★ **Samuel Isaak**, USF math professor emeritus, former cantor Congregations Kol Ami and Beth Israel, Sun City Center.

Married for over 60 years, Michael's parents are members at Kol Ami, where they were founders and Malka served on its first board of directors.



תודה רבה על תמיכתכם בבנו מיכאל איזק  
*Thank you for your support of our son Michael Isaak.*



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★ Michael has lived in the Tampa Bay area for 50 years. Married to wife Betsy, they have two children, daughter Sophia and son Jackson. Betsy is a professional cellist having performed nationally, and regionally.

*"I decided to run for judge because with 26 years of legal experience, I have developed the necessary life and work experience to deal with the many complex and difficult issues judges face every day on the bench"*

## ENDORSEMENTS

### OUR COMMUNITY MEMBERS

- |                             |                                   |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Barry Cohen, Esq.           | Michael Gold, Esq.                |
| Todd Foster, Esq.           | Haim & Mazzi Goldenburg           |
| William Kalish, Esq.        | Dr. Yossi (Joseph) & Sarit Gutman |
| Craig Rothburd, Esq.        | Drs. Jason & Jill Hechtman        |
| Stanford Solomon, Esq.      | Donna Segal Honeycutt, Esq.       |
| David Anton, Esq.           | Stuart Levine, Esq.               |
| David Bekhor                | Ziona Kopelovich, Esq.            |
| Richard Bokor, Esq.         | Dr. Shlomo & Sharlena Korman      |
| Samuel Bulmash, Ph.D        | David & Elanit Aarons-Kravetzky   |
| Joel Epperson, Esq.         | Carylyn Margolies, Esq.           |
| Ric & Yvette Feinberg, Esq. | Brian & Michelle Mezrah           |
| Dr. Randy & Kelly Feldman   | Justin Jacobson, Esq.             |
| Moti & Dorit Feldman        | Lee Pearlman, Esq.                |
| Darren Finebloom, Esq.      | Brian Rubenstein, Esq.            |
| Philip A. Friedman, Esq     | David M. Rosenbaum, Esq.          |
| Moshe & Michal Gazar        | Harvey & Cherie Schonbrun, Esq.   |

- Eric Seidel, Esq.  
 Charles & Shelly Segal  
 Dr. Daryl Shaw  
 Ella Shenhav, Esq.  
 Elaine Shimberg  
 Kasey Shimberg Kelly  
 Rick Silverman, Esq.  
 Keith Warshofsky, Esq.  
 Steve & Julie Weintraub  
 John Wilson (retired news anchor Fox 13)  
 Michael Zaritsky, Esq.  
 Ashley Zohar, Esq.  
 Dan Zohar, Esq.

### ELECTED OFFICIALS AND ORGANIZATIONS

- Lynn Gray - Hillsborough County School Board, District 7  
 Bob Henriquez - Hillsborough County Property Appraiser  
 Mel Jurado - Mayor of Temple Terrace  
 Rick Lott- Mayor of Plant City  
 Mark Proctor - Hillsborough County Soil & Water Conservation, Group 5  
 AFL-CIO, West Central Florida Labor Council  
 La Gaceta newspaper  
 Florida Sentinel newspaper

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# SPOTLIGHT

## The Abelson Group at Morgan Stanley

A Q&A with select Jewish Press advertisers

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**Location:** We are headquartered in Palm Harbor. Our clients reside throughout the USA.

**Ownership:** David and Adam Abelson (and Morgan Stanley)



Adam, left, and David Abelson

**Q What product or services do you offer?**

**A** Intellectual capital. We offer expertise in financial planning, retirement planning and estate planning.

**Q What inspires your work and what sets you apart?**

**A** The importance of our work makes a big difference in people's lives. We take this responsibility seriously and treat other people as we would want to be treated ourselves.

**Q Why do customers select your business?**

**A** We give back to the community. We return phone calls the same day. Between the two of us, we have a Columbia University, MBA, a Duke University BS, a Certified Investment Management Analyst™ (CIMA®) from the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania and a Certified Financial Planner™ (CFP®) degree. We stress education and, most importantly, we give 100 percent effort and truly care about our clients.

**Q Tell us an interesting tidbit about your business.**

**A** We have our own Bloomberg Terminal that gives us access to every major firm's opinions and allows us to do a very in-depth analysis of equities and fixed income products. Our business is fun and we enjoy it!

**Q Do you have a personal or professional motto?**

**A** Strive to be better than we were yesterday and not as good as we'll be tomorrow.

**Q What is your biggest success to date?**

**A** From David: Marrying a wonderful woman, Jeanie, and having three great children, Adam, Amy Leigh and Alan.

To reach The Abelson Group at Morgan Stanley, call 727.773.4626

## ASSASSINATION

• CONTINUED from FRONT PAGE

These assassinations once were the stuff of major headlines and books – like *Operation Damocles*, which in the early 1960s targeted German scientists who were developing missiles for Egypt. Now such killings merit an article, if that, and a cursory mention on a Wikipedia page.

“Every day in the Middle East there are hundreds of explosions and settling of scores,” Defense Minister Avigdor Liberman told Israel's Channel 2 after Asbar's killing. “Every time they try to place the blame on us. So we won't take this too seriously.”

This is likely, in part, because the volume has increased.

Ronen Bergman, the Israeli reporter who last year wrote an exhaustive history of Israel's assassinations titled *Rise and Kill First*, and who co-wrote the *Times* scoop on Asbar, has reported that before 2000, Israel carried out 500 such operations since its founding. Since then, there have been more than 1,800. Israel, Bergman wrote in his book, “has assassinated more people than any other country in the Western world” in the postwar period.

Scott Lasensky, a former senior adviser on Israel to the Obama administration, said the acceleration after 2000 was due in part to the intensity and bloodiness of attacks on Israeli civilians of the second intifada launched in 2000, as well as the George W. Bush administration's pivot to targeted assassinations after the 9/11 terrorist attacks in 2001.

Whereas before “there had been some public discussion about whether they could backfire, across the national security community and in the broader public, the debate ended,” said Lasensky, now a visiting scholar at Israel's Institute for National Security Studies. “Because it co-

incided with America's post-9/11 campaign, it gave Israelis even less reason to question.”

Which raises the question: Do the assassinations work? That, in turn, raises another question: What is the purpose of the assassination?

### The ticking bomb

Bergman's book comes from an injunction in the Talmud that he repeatedly heard cited by the former officials he interviewed: “If someone comes to kill you, rise up and kill him first.” If the death of a figure would keep others alive, it is a no-brainer, according to this rationale: He must die.

Asbar could be in that category. According to the *Times* report, he was a critical actor in developing precision-guided missiles that could reach deep into Israel and in stabilizing rocket fuel. With Syria's Assad regime and its allies – Iran and its allied Lebanese militia, Hezbollah – emerging triumphant in that country's civil war, Israel suspected that it would be the only logical target for such firepower.

A famous ticking bomb assassination was Imad Mughniyeh in Syria in 2008, believed to be a CIA-Mossad effort. The Bush administration blamed Mughniyeh, the Hezbollah chief of operations, for attacks on U.S. troops in Iraq.

Another was Yahya Ayyash, “The Engineer,” the Hamas designer of a rash of bombs that devastated Israel in the mid-1990s. His head was blown off when he answered a cellphone call in Gaza City.

### Be nervous, be very nervous

Strategic killings keep the enemy off-balance – likely the key factor informing those of four Iranian nuclear scientists in the early part of this decade.

Jonathan Schanzer, the vice president of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, said the killings not only deprived Iran of its knowledge base, it made the Iranian security establishment expend resources on protecting its scientists.

“It forced the Iranians to engage in greater operational security, holding scientists in underground undisclosed facilities because of the fear they would lose their brain trust,” he said.

The same likely is now true of Syria's rocket makers.

“They will be more paranoid,” Schanzer said. “That's what counterterrorism is, encumbering the enemy, not necessarily defeating the enemy.”

### Revenge

Some of the alleged Israeli killings have seemed gratuitous.

Bergman chronicles the late Is-

raeli defense minister and prime minister Ariel Sharon's obsession with killing Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, at times contemplating operations that would have killed large numbers of civilians and qualified as war crimes. (Younger officers thwarted the plans.) Arafat managed to escape multiple bombings – often by minutes – and even a bizarre “Manchurian Candidate”-style bid to hypnotize a Palestinian into killing him. (The Palestinian pretended to be under hypnosis, then promptly turned himself in to Arafat's people.)

Bergman, who hints in a *New York Times Magazine* excerpt of his book that Sharon may have ultimately succeeded in poisoning Arafat in 2004, said Sharon was simply furious that a man behind the killing of Israeli civilians should keep breathing.

“He took to heart every casualty of every terror attack, Bergman quoted the late Mossad chief Meir Dagan as saying of Sharon. “There were some things that he simply could not let pass.”

Revenge likely also was a factor in the case of Ahmed Yassin, the Hamas founder and cleric killed in an airstrike in March 2004. Yassin was Hamas spiritual leader, given to vile justifications of the murder of Israelis, but he was not involved in its operations.

### Does the plan work?

Sometimes it backfires. The attempts on Arafat fed his legend and lent him stature among Palestinians. Israeli commandos in 1988 killed Khalil al-Wazir, also known as Abu Jihad, in Tunis in 1988. Abu Jihad, Arafat's second-in-command, also was among the Palestinian leaders seeking accommodation with Israel. The killing did nothing to stop the first intifada. Israeli leaders believed that Abu Jihad was directing its violence, but it was a homegrown affair.

Other times, when a critical actor is killed, it appears to have results. The 1996 assassination of Ayyash, “The Engineer,” was followed by a rash of bus bombings believed to have been planned before his death – and then several years of relative quiet.

Schanzer said the policy may work in conjunction with an overall strategy. The campaign against Iran's nuclear scientists, he said, was coupled with cyber warfare that for a time crippled Iran's uranium enrichment and tough sanctions that slowed its nuclear program.

“Israelis have always used targeted assassination as not the only means but as one element of a broader strategy,” he said.

## TASHLICH

• CONTINUED from FRONT PAGE

“Reverse Tashlich will bring members of the Jewish community together for a day of *tikkun olam* (repair the world), or *Tikkun HaYam*™ (Repair the Sea), Suncoast Hillels' new Jewish marine conservation initiative. It will give us all a chance to do this very meaningful work for the benefit of the marine environment and the entire Tampa Bay community,” said Rabbi Ed Rosenthal, Suncoast Hillel's executive director. “I am thrilled that so many of our Bay Area congregations and community members will share in this spiritual and important program.”

Reverse Tashlich is the brainchild of the scuba diving enthusiasts' Scubi Jew club at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg. Two years ago, the students organized a Reverse Tashlich on campus. After that experience, the students wanted to make it a bigger program with a broader reach, so the decision was made to bring the pro-

gram to the community-at-large.

The inaugural community-wide Reverse Tashlich was planned during last year's High Holiday season, but Hurricane Irma forced its cancellation.

During this year's event, each team of volunteers will be assigned a waterfront area in Hillsborough or Pinellas Counties to be cleaned during one of two shift choices, either 9 a.m. to noon or 1 to 4 p.m. Participants are asked to wear closed-toe shoes, comfortable clothing and adequate sun protection. Community service hours will be available for student participants.

All required materials will be provided by Keep Pinellas Beautiful and Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful, which are partnering with Hillels of the Florida Suncoast.

Everyone is welcome to lend a hand. To join the effort, contact one of the participating congregations or Hillels of the Florida Suncoast at (813) 899-2788.

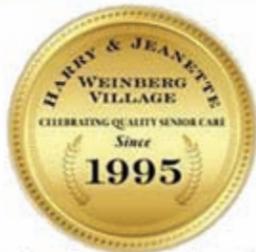
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# High Holiday Service Schedules

Received as of press time:

## HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

### Orthodox

#### CHABAD CHAI OF SOUTH TAMPA

2511 W. Swann Ave., #201, Tampa (813) 922-1723

#### EREV ROSH HASHANAH

Sunday, Sept. 9

Evening service, 7 p.m.  
\*Community dinner to follow  
RSVP required

#### ROSH HASHANAH – 1<sup>st</sup> Day

Monday, Sept. 10

Morning service, 9:30 a.m.  
Shofar, 11:30 a.m.

#### ROSH HASHANAH – 2<sup>ND</sup> Day

Tuesday, Sept. 11

Morning service, 9:30 a.m.  
Shofar, 11:30 a.m.

#### EREV YOM KIPPUR

Tuesday, Sept. 18

Kol Nidre, 7 p.m.

#### YOM KIPPUR

Wednesday, Sept. 19

Morning service, 9:30 a.m.  
Yizkor, noon (approx.)  
Mincha /Ne'ilah, 6 p.m.  
Final Shofar, 8 p.m.  
Break-the-Fast, 8:05 p.m.

#### BAIS MENACHEM CHABAD

1319 West North B St., Tampa (813) 504-4432

\*at University of Tampa

#### EREV ROSH HASHANAH

Sunday, Sept. 9

Evening service & dinner, 7 p.m.\*

#### ROSH HASHANAH – 1<sup>st</sup> Day

Monday, Sept. 10

Morning service, 10 a.m.  
Shofar & Tashlich 4 p.m.\*  
(Hillsborough River)

#### ROSH HASHANAH – 2<sup>ND</sup> Day

Tuesday, Sept. 11

Morning service, 10 a.m.

#### EREV YOM KIPPUR

Tuesday, Sept. 18

Kol Nidre, 7 p.m.\*

#### YOM KIPPUR

Wednesday, Sept. 19

Morning service, 10 a.m.  
Mincha & Ne'ilah, 6 p.m.  
Break-the-Fast, 8:05 p.m.

#### BAIS DAVID CHABAD

2001 W. Swann Ave., Tampa (813) 966-8770

#### EREV ROSH HASHANAH

Sunday, Sept. 9

Evening service, 7:30 p.m.

#### ROSH HASHANAH – 1<sup>st</sup> Day

Monday, Sept. 10

Morning service, 10 a.m.  
Shofar, noon

#### ROSH HASHANAH – 2<sup>ND</sup> Day

Tuesday, Sept. 11

Morning service, 10 a.m.

#### EREV YOM KIPPUR

Tuesday, Sept. 18

Kol Nidre, 7:20 p.m.

#### YOM KIPPUR

Wednesday, Sept. 19

Morning service, 10 a.m.  
Evening service, 6 p.m.  
Break-the-Fast, 8:05 p.m.

#### CHABAD OF TAMPA BAY

14908 Pennington Rd., Tampa (813) 963-2317

#### EREV ROSH HASHANAH

Sunday, Sept. 9

Evening service, 7:30 p.m.  
Community dinner to follow,  
RSVP required

#### ROSH HASHANAH – 1<sup>st</sup> Day

Monday, Sept. 10

Morning service, 10 a.m.  
Shofar, noon

Tashlich, 6 p.m.

#### ROSH HASHANAH – 2<sup>ND</sup> Day

Tuesday, Sept. 11

Morning service, 10 a.m.  
Shofar, noon

#### EREV YOM KIPPUR

Tuesday, Sept. 18

Kol Nidre, 6:30 p.m.

#### YOM KIPPUR

Wednesday, Sept. 19

Morning service, 10 a.m.  
Yizkor, noon  
Afternoon service, 5:30 p.m.  
Ne'ilah, 7 p.m.  
Break-the-Fast, 7:52 p.m.

#### CHABAD OF BRANDON/ JEWISH DISCOVERY CENTER

1578 Bloomingdale Ave., Valrico (813) 571-1800

#### EREV ROSH HASHANAH

Sunday, Sept. 9

Evening service, 7 p.m.  
Dinner to follow RSVP required

#### ROSH HASHANAH – 1<sup>st</sup> Day

Monday, Sept. 10

Morning service, 10 a.m.  
Shofar, 11:30 a.m.

#### ROSH HASHANAH – 2<sup>ND</sup> Day

Tuesday, Sept. 11

Morning service, 10 a.m.  
Shofar, 11:30 a.m.

#### EREV YOM KIPPUR

Tuesday, Sept. 18

Kol Nidre, 7 p.m.

#### YOM KIPPUR

Wednesday, Sept. 19

Morning service, 10 a.m.  
Yizkor, noon  
Mincha /Ne'ilah, 6 p.m.  
Break-the-Fast, to follow

### Conservative

#### CONG. KOL AMI

3919 Moran Rd., Tampa (813) 962-6338

#### SELICHOT

Saturday, Sept. 1

Service, 8:30 p.m.

#### EREV ROSH HASHANAH

Sunday, Sept. 9

Evening service, 6:30 p.m.

#### ROSH HASHANAH – 1<sup>st</sup> Day

Monday, Sept. 10

Morning service, 9 a.m.  
Tashlich/Maariv, 6 p.m.

#### ROSH HASHANAH – 2<sup>ND</sup> Day

Tuesday, Sept. 11

Morning service, 9 a.m.  
CEMETERY SERVICES

Sunday, Sept. 16

Gan Shalom, noon

#### EREV YOM KIPPUR

Tuesday, Sept. 18

Kol Nidre, 6:30 p.m.

#### YOM KIPPUR

Wednesday, Sept. 19

Morning service, 9 a.m.  
Yizkor, to follow  
Mincha, 6 p.m.  
Ne'ilah, 7 p.m.  
Final shofar, 8:10 p.m.  
Break-the-Fast, 8:15 p.m.

#### CONG.

#### RODEPH SHOLOM

2713 Bayshore Blvd., Tampa (813) 837-1911

#### SELICHOT \*at Cong. Kol Ami

Saturday, Sept. 1

Service, 8:30 p.m.

#### EREV ROSH HASHANAH

#### Sunday, Sept. 9

Evening service, 6:30 p.m.

#### ROSH HASHANAH – 1<sup>st</sup> Day

Monday, Sept. 10

Shacharit service, 9 a.m.  
Youth services, 10 a.m.

Tashlich, following service

#### ROSH HASHANAH – 2<sup>ND</sup> Day

Tuesday, Sept. 11

Shacharit service, 9 a.m.  
Youth services, 10 a.m.

#### CEMETERY SERVICES

Sunday, Sept. 16

Beth Israel Cemetery, 10:30 a.m.  
Rodeph Sholom Cemetery, 11 a.m.

Myrtle Hill Cemetery, noon  
Tampa Jewish Memorial Gardens,  
12:45 p.m.

#### EREV YOM KIPPUR

Tuesday, Sept. 18

Kol Nidre, 6:45 p.m.

#### YOM KIPPUR

Wednesday, Sept. 19

Shacharit, 9 a.m.  
Mincha, 5:45 p.m.  
Ne'ilah, 7:10 p.m.  
Havdalah & Shofar, 8:20 p.m.

#### CONGREGATION MEKOR SHALOM

14005A N. Dale Mabry Hwy., Tampa (813) 963-1818

\*Services at Carrollwood Country Club

13903 Clubhouse Dr., Tampa

#### SELICHOT

Saturday, Sept. 1

Service, 9 p.m.

#### EREV ROSH HASHANAH

Sunday, Sept. 9

Evening service, 6:30 p.m.

#### ROSH HASHANAH – 1<sup>st</sup> Day\*

Monday, Sept. 10

Morning service, 9 a.m.  
Tashlich, 1 p.m.

#### ROSH HASHANAH – 2<sup>ND</sup> Day

Tuesday, Sept. 11

Morning service, 9 a.m.

#### EREV YOM KIPPUR\*

Tuesday, Sept. 18

Kol Nidre, 7 p.m.

#### YOM KIPPUR

Wednesday, Sept. 19

Morning service, 9 a.m.\*  
(including Yizkor)

Mincha, Ma'riv & Ne'ilah 5:30 p.m.  
Final Shofar, 8:12 p.m.  
Break-the-Fast, to follow

### Reform

#### CONG. BETH AM

2030 W. Fletcher Ave., Tampa (813) 968-8511

#### SELICHOT

Saturday, Sept. 1

Dinner program, 6 p.m.  
Selichot service & dessert, 8 p.m.

#### EREV ROSH HASHANAH

Sunday, Sept. 9

Evening service, 8 p.m.

#### ROSH HASHANAH – 1<sup>st</sup> Day

Monday, Sept. 10

Morning service, 10 a.m.  
Jr. Cong., 11:30 a.m.  
Tashlich, immediately following services

#### CEMETERY SERVICES

Sunday, Sept. 16

Hillsboro Memorial Gardens, 10 a.m.

#### EREV YOM KIPPUR

Tuesday, Sept. 18

Kol Nidre, 8 p.m.

#### YOM KIPPUR

Wednesday, Sept. 19

Morning service, 10 a.m.  
Jr. Cong., 11:30 a.m.  
Yizkor and Ne'ilah, 4:30 p.m.  
Final Shofar 7:30 p.m.

#### BETH ISRAEL JEWISH CONG.

#### SUN CITY CENTER

1115 Del Webb Blvd., Sun City Center (813) 633-2548

#### EREV ROSH HASHANAH

Sunday, Sept. 9

Evening service, 7:30 p.m.

#### ROSH HASHANAH – 1<sup>st</sup> Day

Monday, Sept. 10

Morning service, 10 a.m.  
Tashlich immediately following service

#### ROSH HASHANAH – 2<sup>ND</sup> Day

Tuesday, Sept. 11

Morning service, 10 a.m.

#### EREV YOM KIPPUR

Tuesday, Sept. 18

Kol Nidre, 7:30 p.m.

#### YOM KIPPUR

Wednesday, Sept. 19

Morning service, 10 a.m.  
Yizkor, approx. 1:15 p.m.  
Concluding service, 5 p.m.  
Final Shofar, 7 p.m.  
Break-the-Fast, after final Shofar

#### CONG. SCHAARAI ZEDEK

3303 W. Swann Ave., Tampa (813) 876-2377

#### SELICHOT

Saturday, Sept. 1

Deli dinner, 5 p.m.  
Film, Come Sunday, 6:30 p.m.  
Selichot service 8:30 p.m.

#### EREV ROSH HASHANAH

Sunday, Sept. 9

First service, 6 p.m.  
Second service, 8:30 p.m.

#### ROSH HASHANAH – 1<sup>st</sup> Day

Monday, Sept. 10

First morning service, 8:30 a.m.  
Second morning service, 11:30 a.m.  
Children & tot services, 2:45 p.m.

Tashlich, 4 p.m.  
(Ballast Point)

#### CEMETERY SERVICES

Sunday, Sept. 16

Woodlawn Cemetery, 9 a.m.  
Myrtle Hill Cemetery, 10 a.m.

#### EREV YOM KIPPUR

Tuesday, Sept. 18

Kol Nidre, first service, 6 p.m.  
Kol Nidre, second service, 8:30 p.m.

#### YOM KIPPUR

Wednesday, Sept. 19

First morning service, 8:30 a.m.  
Second morning service, 11:30 a.m.  
Children & tot services, 2:45 p.m.  
Afternoon service, 4:15 p.m.  
Yizkor, 4:45 p.m.  
Ne'ilah, 5:15 p.m.  
Break-the-Fast, 5:45 p.m.

## Pasco County

### Orthodox

#### CHABAD JEWISH CENTRE AT WIREGRASS

2124 Ashley Oaks Circle

Wesley Chapel (813) 642 3244

#### EREV ROSH HASHANAH

Sunday, Sept. 9

Evening service, 7:15 p.m.

#### ROSH HASHANAH – 1<sup>st</sup> Day

Monday, Sept. 10

Morning service, 10 a.m.  
Shofar sounding, noon  
Kiddush lunch following services

Tashlich, 1:30 p.m.

#### ROSH HASHANAH – 2<sup>ND</sup> Day

Tuesday, Sept. 11

Morning service, 10 a.m.  
Shofar sounding, noon  
Kiddush lunch following services

#### EREV YOM KIPPUR

Tuesday, Sept. 18

Kol Nidre, 7 p.m.

## Sukkot luncheon to honor Holocaust survivors

A Sukkot luncheon for Holocaust survivors and their spouses from Pinellas, Hillsborough and Pasco counties will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 26 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Menorah Manor, 255 59th St. N., St. Petersburg.

There is no charge for the luncheon and all survivors and their guests are invited, no matter what sort of definition they use for the term survivor and regardless of any agency affiliation.

Music for the luncheon will be provided by Clearwater Jazz Holiday Foundation.

The event is sponsored by Gulf Coast Jewish Family & Communi-

ty Services with funding provided by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany.

Gulf Coast JFCS supports Holocaust survivors in a variety of ways including in home care, light cleaning services, transportation, emergency financial assistance, restitution assistance, and social events.

Those who would like to attend should RSVP by Sept. 14 to Gulf Coast JFCS Holocaust Survivor Case Manager Assistant Kerri Brennan at (727) 479-1811 or kerri.brennan@gcjfcs.org. Transportation may be arranged if required.



Campers from Tampa, St. Pete and Palm Harbor Stand on line for Kona ices after a long day of Maccabiah races and other fun activities.



Kids play a get-to-know-you game at the start of the intercamp meeting.

## 3-camp meet-up

It was a noisy, happy day when three Camp Gan Israel camps from Tampa, Palm Harbor and St. Petersburg united for the first intercamp get together at the Chabad Center of Greater St. Petersburg. About 60 campers enjoyed a full day's activities including Maccabiah games and a bubble show. The groups easily melded as if they were life-long friends. Camp Gan Israel is sponsored by the Chabad Lubavitch movement.

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Portraits from the exhibit "Miki Kratsman, People I Met," 2010-2017.

## Photo exhibit of Palestinians by Israeli to open at USF

An exhibit featuring thousands of photographs of anonymous Palestinians titled *Miki Kratsman: People I Met*, will be on display at the University of South Florida Contemporary Art Museum, from Aug. 20 through Dec. 8, and the award-winning photographer will be at USF for several events on Aug. 30 and 31.

For three decades, Kratsman, an Israeli photo journalist, has been

one of the leading chroniclers of life in Palestinian territories. His photographs – many of them taken for the Israeli newspapers *Hadashot* and *Haaretz* – uncover personal stories and Israel's military impact in the West Bank and Gaza.

While trying to answer the question – What happened to the people in the photographs? – Kratsman amassed a vast archive of more than 9,000 portraits of Palestinians, which he first uploaded onto a dedicated Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/kratsman.people.i.met/>) in 2011.

The USF Contemporary Art Museum will display the artist's growing portrait archive, together with identifying commentary that, in some cases, serves as a literal proof of life – or death. *People I Met* continues the museum's tradition of presenting challenging artwork with social content.

The exhibition also includes works from several other contemporary projects. These include photographic selections from Kratsman's *Bedouin Archive* and his *Displaced* series, and table-top "panoramas" of "unrecognized" Arab villages the Israeli government has slated for demolition. The 2017 video titled *70 Meters... White T-shirt* condenses a year of shooting in the Palestinian village of Nabi Sahli.

Kratsman was born in 1959 in Argentina and immigrated to Israel in 1971. From 1993 to 2012 his photographs appeared regularly in the newspaper *Haaretz*. From 2006 to 2014 he served as director of the Photography Department of Bezalel Academy of Arts, Jerusalem, where he continues to teach and lecture. Kratsman is the fifth recipient of the Robert Gardner Fellowship in Photography, awarded by Harvard University's Peabody Museum of Archeology and Ethnology.

Since 2004, he has been the

chairman of the board of Breaking the Silence, a controversial organization of veteran Israeli combatants that collects testimonies from soldiers about their service in the Palestinian territories. Critics, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, say misinforms international audiences about the military and its activities. Last month, a new Israeli law barred the group from appearing at schools or speaking to students.

In 2011, he was the first photographer to win Israel's Emet Prize for Science, Art and Culture, which includes a portion of a \$1 million prize. Due to the political nature of his photographs, he said he was surprised when he won the Emet Prize, but is also proud to have won it.

In conjunction with the exhibit, the museum will present a conversation between Kratsman and the museum's curator-at-large Christian Viveros-Fauné, a New York-based art critic, on Thursday, Aug. 30 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Oxford Exchange, 420 Kennedy Blvd., Tampa. Admission is \$5 and those interested should RSVP to <https://oxfordexchange.ticketspice.com/art-conversation-miki-kratsman-0830>. Kratsman will be signing the book *The Resolution of the Suspect* (Photographs by Miki Kratsman, Text by Ariella Azoulay), following the talk. The \$5 ticket can be applied to the purchase of a book.

Kratsman and Viveros-Faune will also have a conversation about the *People I Met* exhibit on Friday, Aug. 31 from 6-7 p.m. at the museum's concert hall. Following the talk there will be a reception for Kratsman at the museum from 7-9 that evening. The museum is located at 3821 USF Holly Drive.

Other events related to the exhibit will be held in October. For more information, visit [cam.usf.edu](http://cam.usf.edu) or call (813) 974-4133.

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## Poland obtains WWII-era archive showing Polish diplomats' efforts to save Jews during Holocaust

(JTA) – Poland has obtained a World War II-era archive that documents efforts by Polish diplomats to get Jews out of Europe by issuing fake passports from Latin American countries.

The Eiss archive shows that 330 people survived the Holocaust due to the efforts of the Polish diplomats based in Switzerland, and another 387 were killed despite having the forged passports. The fate of 430 others is not known.

Poland's Culture Ministry and the Auschwitz-Birkenau state museum negotiated with a private owner in Israel for the archive for the past year, the museum said Monday in a statement.

The statement calls the archive "irrefutable proof that Poles, the Polish state, and its representatives systemically and institutionally were involved in saving Jews during World War II."

"The activities of the then-Polish diplomats in Switzerland, newly discovered and documented, can be an inspiration for historians, but also for writers, filmmakers, and creators of culture," it said.

The rescue effort was led by the Polish ambassador to Switzerland, Aleksander Lados, as well as three other Polish diplomats and two representatives of Jewish organizations. The archive is named for Rabbi Chaim Eiss, one of the Jewish activists, who died of a heart attack in late 1943. The documents reportedly came to Israel with one of Eiss' descendants after World War II.

The collection includes eight of the false Paraguayan passports; photos of Jews requesting the passports; and letters between the Polish diplomats and Jewish organizations. It also includes a list of Jewish children in Warsaw orphanages.

The documents, which will be displayed at first in Bern, Switzerland, will become part of the collection at the Auschwitz museum next year. They will be subject to conservation and thoroughly analyzed by archivists and historians once they arrive at the museum.

Poland passed a controversial law early this year making it a criminal offense to accuse the country of complicity in the Holocaust. Lawmakers later revised the law to make it a civil offense.

During the war, Poles saved thousands of Jews. Other Poles killed thousands of Jews or betrayed them to the Nazis. The Nazis killed 3 million Jewish Poles and another 3 million non-Jewish ones.



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While the Holocaust survivor population is dwindling, the remaining survivors are aging and increasingly need greater levels of service. Current funding to support survivors in the greater Tampa Bay region is provided by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, the Florida Department of Financial Services and private donations, but it would cost much more to offer the full range of services survivors in our area need.

The following four organizations have joined together to raise money to address this serious situation and provide more support to survivors in the region.

- Tampa Jewish Community Centers and Federation
- Gulf Coast Jewish Family & Community Services
- Tampa Jewish Family Services
- The Jewish Federation of Pasco and Pinellas Counties

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*I cherish those friendships today and look forward to the support of the Hillsborough County Jewish Community in this judicial race." ~ Bill*

# Obituaries

**SANDRA ZIPP FISHMAN**, 75, of Cleveland, Owls Head and Tampa, died July 6. A native of Cleveland, she attended Cleveland Heights High prior to attending Ohio University where she met her late husband Larry Fishman. They enjoyed traveling and playing golf. She worked for several years at University Hospital of Cleveland's Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital, serving as the business manager for the intensive care, pharmacology and neonatology units. She was a volunteer for the Jewish Woman's Federation in Cleveland. Survivors include her two children, Mara Centanni Knapp (Mike), and Douglas Fishman (Bridgid); and three grandchildren. The family suggests memorials be made to Bancroft NeuroHealth Flicker Residences in Voorhees, NJ.

**MAURICE GARRETT**, 92, of Tampa, died July 29. Born in the Bronx, he lived most of his life in Tampa. A U.S. Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, he was the founder and president of a women's clothing chain, The Colony Shops, for more than 50 years. Survivors include his wife of 68 years Barbara; son and daughter-in-law Richard and Robyn Garrett; daughter and son-in-law Laurie Garrett and Mike Deeson; two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. The family suggests memorials be made to the Honor Flight of Central Florida or Congregation Schaarai Zedek. (Segal Funeral Home, Beth David Chapel)

**MARJORIE "MARGIE" HODES**, 95, of Tampa, died Aug. 4. A native of New Orleans, she moved to Tampa in 1950. She was a member of Congregation Schaarai Zedek and its Sisterhood. She was an active volunteer for numerous organizations including the Tampa Arts Council. Survivors include her daughter and son-in-law Lyn and Barry Meyerson; a granddaughter and a great-granddaughter. The family suggests memorials be made to the Amy Gail Buchman Pre-School. (Segal Funeral Home, Beth David Chapel)

**CAPTAIN ALFRED NATHAN "AL" SCHIFF**, 87, of Tampa, died July 10. Born in Cleveland, he attended the University of Louisville, graduated from the University of Rochester with a BS in engineering physics. He served in the U.S. Air Force and was stationed in Morocco. Achieving the rank of Captain, he flew the SA-16 Albatross and the C-124 Globemaster. He went to work for Reliance Electric in Cleveland while continuing to serve in the USAF Reserves, flying the C-119 and serving as a liaison for the Air Force Academy. Instrumental in the growth of the motors and drives industry, designing the first tracking control system for sub-orbital and orbital space missions, he also pioneered the use of DC drives in the pulp and paper industry. He became general manager of Toledo Scale and transformed it from mechanical to electronic technologies, building the company on multiple continents. Under his leadership the company was awarded the presidential "E" Award, for significant contributions to the expansion of export trade. In 1979, Toledo Scale became part of Exxon and in 1981 Exxon asked him to move to Greensboro, NC, to work at Gilbarco, the leading provider of gas station technology, where he led its transformation from mechanical to electrical technologies and ran its worldwide operations. Each place he and his family lived they were patrons of the arts and culture. He served as a director at large of the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce and sat on the boards of Guilford College, NCNB Greensboro, the North Carolina Symphony and Eastern Music Festival. In 1987, he and his wife moved to Tampa, where he served on the boards of TOP Jewish Foundation, USF Foundation, WEDU and MOSI. He and his wife also became patrons of the Florida Orchestra, Straz Center, Opera Tampa, Sarasota Opera and Asolo Theater. Involved in the USF College of Engineering, he chaired its Advisory Board, gaining the college international recognition. He was honored with the USF Class of '56 Award and the USF Lifetime Achievement Engineering Excellence Award. Survivors include his wife of 64 years Rose Wallens Schiff; sons and daughters-in-law, Brian and Marcia Schiff, Gordon and April Schiff, and Ned Schiff; sister Elaine Soffer; and 10 grandchildren. The family suggests memorials to Congregation Schaarai Zedek Rabbi Simon Discretionary Fund, or Eastern Music Festival, Schiff Family Scholarship Fund, USF College of Engineering. (Segal Funeral Home, Beth David Chapel)

**BARBARA JO WARD**, 68, of Tampa, died July 21. Born in New York City, she grew up in Westport, CT, graduating from Staples High School in Westport. She attended the University of Tampa earning a bachelor of arts degree in economics. She worked in marketing and sales at Southeast Bank of Tampa, Exxon Corp. and Revlon. Following the birth of her middle child, Justin, she became an advocate for children with special needs. She spent many years counseling other parents with special needs children and publicly speaking on the topic throughout the country. Survivors include her husband of 41 years, Alton C. Ward; her children, Nicole Moore, Justin Ward, and Shane and Morgan Ward; sister Pamela Feldman; and one grandson. The family suggests memorials to the National Down Syndrome Society. (Segal Funeral Home, Beth David Chapel)

# Senators urged to back bill targeting Hamas and Hezbollah for using human shields

WASHINGTON (JTA) – The American Israel Public Affairs Committee and the Anti-Defamation League are urging lawmakers to co-sponsor a Senate bill targeting Hezbollah and Hamas for using human shields.

The bill, introduced last week by Sens. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, and Joe Donnelly, D-Ind., would sanction those who use civilians to shield themselves while carrying out attacks. It singles out Hamas and Hezbollah as egregious violators.

Three Democrats and 12 Republicans have sponsored the bill thus far.

"We strongly agree that the use of human shields by terrorist groups is illegal, harms innocent civilians, and impedes necessary efforts at self-defense by democracies such as the United States and Israel. There's clearly a need for this legislation," the ADL told JTA in a statement.

Also backing the bill are B'nai B'rith International and the Orthodox Union.

The bill calls Hezbollah, the terrorist Lebanese militia, and Hamas, the terrorist group controlling the Gaza, as "repeated" practitioners of an action that violates

international law. It notes reports that Hezbollah is concealing missiles in villages in Lebanon and that Hamas routinely launches missiles at Israel from densely populated areas.

AIPAC sent an action alert to its activists, asking them to urge their senators to back the bill. "Terrorist groups – including Hamas, Hezbollah and ISIS – are blatantly violating international law by placing their terrorist infrastructure among civilian populations and hiding behind innocent civilians as they carry out armed attacks," the alert said.

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

# Organizations

## Genealogical Society

**Enhancing the family tree:** The Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay will host guest speakers **Jo Anne Spatz De Vargas** and **Marty Lazar** of Vu Documentaries on Sunday, Sept. 16 at 2 p.m. as they discuss "How Video Can Enhance a Family Tree." The meeting will be held at Gulf Coast Jewish Family & Community Services; 14041 Icot Blvd., Clearwater. A pre-session social with refreshments and library access begins at 1:30 p.m. Those attending will learn about personal documentaries with videos that help you share your family story. De Vargas is a market research interviewer and video storyteller. Lazar is a multi-media, technology and audio/video professional. Everyone is invited.

For more information, call **Bruce Hadburg** at (727) 796-7981

## 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 Aug. 20, the topic is "Market Yourself Through Business-Networking Cards." The Aug. 27 topic is "What is Emotional Intelligence and How Does it Impact Your Career?"

**Job-search aids:** A Success workshop to aid with job-search skills will be held on Thursday, Aug. 23 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; \$15 for guests. Reservations required. To RSVP, call (813) 344-0200, email [RSVP@TBJL.org](mailto:RSVP@TBJL.org).

## Young Adults

**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, icebreakers, pool deck games, prizes and more. RSVP by Friday, Aug. 24 and receive one free drink ticket

#Gather offers a mix of social and interactive activities for those in their 20s, 30s and 40s of all faiths and backgrounds. For more information or to RSVP for #Gather events, visit: [www.bryan-glazerfamilyjcc.com/gather](http://www.bryan-glazerfamilyjcc.com/gather) or contact **Lisa Robbins** at [lisa.robbins@jewishtampa.com](mailto:lisa.robbins@jewishtampa.com) or (813) 769-4723.

## Active Adults

All programs listed are either at the **Maureen & Douglas Cohn Jewish Community Campus, 13009 Community Campus Drive, or at the Bryan Glazer Family JCC, 522 N. Howard Ave.** To RSVP or for more information on programs at either center, contact **Pnina Levermore** at (813) 291-2253 or [pnina.levermore@JewishTampa.com](mailto:pnina.levermore@JewishTampa.com). All registrations should be completed before events begin.

**New book club:** Book lovers are encouraged to drop by the Glazer JCC on Wednesday, Sept. 5 from 5-6 p.m. for the start of a new book club. Input from participants is sought.

**Men's Club:** This group will meet on Tuesday, Sept. 4 from 5 - 6:30 p.m. at the Glazer JCC for card games, ping-pong, billiards and occasional outings.

**Yiddish nostalgia:** Join **Ruth Weston** and her group of Yiddish enthusiasts on Thursday, Sept. 27 from 12:30-1:30 p.m. as they chat and reminisce.

**Bridge lessons:** A series of six lessons in bridge will be offered on Fridays, Sept. 7 through Oct. 12 from 1-2:30 p.m. at the Glazer JCC. The cost is \$50 for JCC members and \$60 for non-members. This is for players at any level.

**History of surrealism:** University of South Florida history professor **Joseph McAuliffe** will offer a historical background of surrealism and provide an overview of the cultural climate of the Surrealist Movement on Wednesday, Sept. 12 from 1-2 p.m. at the Glazer JCC.

**Computer help:** Learn tricks and shortcuts for Google and YouTube at a workshop on Tuesday, Aug. 21 from 4-5:30 p.m. at the Glazer JCC. No computer experience is required and laptops are available to use. This workshop is led by high-tech volunteers and

they will answer questions about tech devices and platforms. To register, call (813) 291-2253.

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

**News talk:** This discussion group, meeting at both JCCs, is led by **Pat Renfro** 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.

**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 1:30-3:30 p.m. on the Cohn campus. There is no charge to attend. The Sept. 5 film will be *West Side Story*.

**JetSetters:** The Phyllis Borrell JetSetters social group for adults of all ages meets at the Cohn campus for an hourlong program followed by lunch. The next program will take place on Thursday, Sept. 27 from 11 a.m. to noon and is a Sukkot special event from 11 a.m. to noon. The lunch is free for members, though a donation of

\$5 is suggested.

**Do the Dali:** Sign up for a docent-led tour of the Dali Museum in St. Petersburg on Wednesday, Sept. 26 at noon. The tour includes a lunch at Café Gala. The cost excluding lunch is \$19 and registration is required. The special exhibit of "Visions of Dali's Spain" by photographer **Clyde Butcher** will be on display.

## Support groups

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

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



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*Rosh Hashanah	Monday	9/10/18	10:00 AM
Children's service (0-7 yr. no tickets required)			3:00 PM
*Kol Nidre	Tuesday	9/18/18	8:00 PM
*Yom Kippur	Wednesday	9/19/18	10:00 AM
Children's service (0-7 yr. no tickets required)			3:00 PM

\*no ticket fees for first time attendees (call for more information)

#### CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact the office at 813-968-8511 or email [Admin@BethAmTampa.org](mailto:Admin@BethAmTampa.org)

Visit our Website at [www.BethAmTampa.org](http://www.BethAmTampa.org)

Join us on Facebook at Congregation Beth Am of Tampa

## Female Israeli pilot makes Air Force history

JERUSALEM (JTA) – A female pilot for the first time has been appointed to head an Israel Air Force flight squadron, operating surveillance aircraft.

Major G, whose full name is not provided due to security concerns, will command the 122nd Squadron, also known as the Nachshon Squadron, which takes part in covert aerial operations, sometimes thousands of miles away from Israel. She will be promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel.

"A great privilege alongside a great responsibility," Major G said in a statement issued by the IDF. "The real work is still ahead. I am proud to serve in the Air Force."

Her appointment comes after the military in January named its first woman to head an IAF aviation squadron, which is responsible for ground-based operations. Flight

squadrons operate aircraft.

Major G served as deputy commander of the squadron that she will command from 2015 to 2017. She completed the required command course a month ago and will assume the helm of the squadron in the "coming months," according to the IDF.

She entered the military in 2003 and first trained as a transport plane pilot. Major G is married with children.

Her appointment comes as the IDF announced that some 1,000 women were inducted this summer into the military to serve in combat units, a record.

The number represents 150 more female combat unit recruits than in 2017, and nearly double the 547 female combat soldiers who served in the IDF in 2012, *The Times of Israel* reported, citing IDF figures.

## NEW RABBI

• CONTINUED from FRONT PAGE

to keep things going, showing a deep commitment to their faith and other congregants," he said, adding that he hopes to support their passion for whatever way they want to serve their temple in the future.

His first official Shabbat service will take place Friday, Aug. 17 at 7 p.m. with an oneg to follow. Additional events will be planned throughout the remaining summer and fall months for congregants and community members to meet the new rabbi.

Though his parents told him that around Bar Mitzvah age he expressed a desire to be a rabbi, he said he has no memory of that. Instead, he recalled that while in his gap year between high school and college he was in a Jewish program based in Jerusalem that sent young Jews throughout the state of Israel. It was on such a trip, in the Negev desert, that he concluded that he wanted to become a rabbi. He went on to major in Judaic Studies at Temple University in Philadelphia, before heading to Hebrew College where he was ordained on June 3.

While at Hebrew College he joined Kavod in Jamaica Plains, MA, a 20s and 30s social justice community. When he heard about a call for clergy to come to Charlottesville to serve as a buffer between hate groups and those opposing them, he and a few friends from Boston decided to go.

At the protests, he encountered people clad in military style uniforms, heavily armed and with riot shields who he quickly realized were not police, but members of hate groups. He heard them chant "blood and soil," a phrase evoking Nazi ideology, and other hateful words.

Israel's *Haaretz* newspaper, like many others around the globe, covered the Charlottesville protests and wrote: "Bryan Mann, a rabbinical student at Hebrew College in Boston, related that one white nationalist said, 'Look at that bunch of kikes' as he walked past him. 'I've never been called a kike in my life,' Mann said, still sounding shocked."

The group Mann was with was not caught up in any physical confrontations, but he did see a number of people injured by the hate groups and joined with other clergy in praying over them and linking arms to act as a human buffer between the protesters and counter-protesters.

Among his takeaways from Charlottesville: "It is amazing how connected racism and anti-Semitism are."

He pointed out that in Charlottesville, people of color, immigrants, refugees and Muslims probably ranked higher in terms of hatred

directed at them than Jews did, but it is important for Jews to support those other groups targeted for hatred.

While he is committed to social justice causes, he said, "I am new to the area. I don't know what affects this community. I do not want to come in as a new rabbi and tell you what to do. Social justice is born out of what is affecting your people. You have to discover where the needs are and help people build skills and try to empower them. I am coming here with my own commitments and ideals and passions but not to tell people what to do."

As for being gay, he said, "I am here to be rabbi for all, but as a gay rabbi I have a certain sensitivity to the LGBTQ group."

He said the day he interviewed for the job here was the second anniversary of the Pulse slayings in Orlando and in the LGBTQ community, that was foremost in people's minds that day. "A straight rabbi might not have been as aware of that and know to reach out" to offer emotional support, Rabbi Mann said.

"I am here to be welcoming and open and I know intimately both the pain and immense joy of being gay in the U.S. today. I am here ... to support that community," he said. "I purposely wear a rainbow kippah every day. I do that for a lot of people who view religions as oppressive, who see it as why their families have disowned them. For a long time religion has been seen as the oppressor, the enemy of LGBTQ, but there is so much joy and inspiration in Judaism and I want to welcome and encourage and support them with open arms. Religion in the 21st century does not have to be seen as an oppressor."

Rabbi Mann grew up in Penacook, NH. His family were members of Temple Beth Jacob in Concord, where he attended Hebrew School, had his Bar Mitzvah, was confirmed, and was active in the NFTY youth group. In 2016, he was an Israel Fellow of T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights.

Though he grew up in the Reform movement and is proud to be rabbi of a Reform temple, he points out, "I was ordained by non-denominational institution. There are congregants at Beth Shalom who have Orthodox and Conservative backgrounds and there is a wide array of people and Jewish practices. I want to be a rabbi for everyone and anyone. I know Reform well, but I am a non-denominational rabbi who wants to sit down and talk with any Jew or one beloved of a Jew who wants to talk and grow with us."

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# BIRTHRIGHT

• CONTINUED from FRONT PAGE

status of the territory or encompass the variety of ways Israelis see it.

Soon after the bus argument, several participants on that Birthright trip staged a walk-off from the tour and visited Palestinian areas. It was one of three such walk-offs conducted in recent weeks – all organized by IfNotNow – to protest what the group calls Birthright’s silence on Israel’s occupation.

The walk-offs have sparked a debate over whether Birthright – a popular 10-day free tour to Israel for young Jews – has a responsibility to grapple with Israel’s control of the West Bank. Some 40,000 young Jews, mostly from North America, go on Birthright every year. For some it is their first exposure to the country.

But Birthright tour guides say the debate is unnecessary. While acknowledging that they speak from an Israeli perspective, the guides said they make an effort to represent a range of opinions on the tour – including Palestinian views – and are happy to answer any questions.

“In general, what tour guides are taught is that it’s not about us,” said Daniel Rubenstein, an immigrant to Israel from Texas who is about to lead his fourth Birthright trip. “As educators, it’s our job to teach what the various players in this region, in this conflict and in this shared society, are saying, and for us to articulate the basic vision of Zionism as well as Palestinian national identity.”

In addition to completing Israel’s two-year certification course for tour guides, most Birthright guides must complete a three-week course run by Birthright. Guides said the course focuses on how to engage groups in discussion, how to make Israel’s history and nature come alive, and how to relate to a North American audience.

But the guides said the Birthright training course was light on politics. It instructs guides to represent a range of perspectives, they said, but doesn’t provide a list of Israeli talking points on contentious issues like the status of Palestinian refugees or the security barrier. Green scoffed at the idea that right-

wing donors to Birthright, like casino mogul Sheldon Adelson, dictate how they conduct their tours.

“They don’t have a lot of control over what guides say in the field,” Green said regarding Birthright. “They’re trusting the guides to execute their vision. It’s not like Birthright says ‘do this’ and the guide parrots something.”

“In the Birthright training we were encouraged to represent different points of view. So this idea that Adelson is dictating how we talk about the conflict is bonkers.”

The guides acknowledged that their tours are inevitably given from an Israeli perspective. One of Birthright’s explicit goals is to strengthen American Jews’ connection to the country, along with the Jewish identity of participants. And most if not all of the guides are either native-born Israelis or Diaspora Jews who chose to make their lives in Israel.

“Personally, I’m going to value and weigh some perspectives differently than others,” said Rubenstein, who worked at the pro-Israel lobby AIPAC in Washington, D.C., before becoming a guide after moving to Israel. “I’m an Israeli by choice, so I’m not Wikipedia-neutral, but people are looking to engage with me because of who I am. I strive to represent different perspectives and make sure all voices are heard.”

The tour’s itinerary is transparently geared toward giving participants an appreciation of Israel’s natural, historical and cultural attractions. All trips must visit a series of sites, from the beachfront metropolis of Tel Aviv to the Western Wall in Jerusalem’s Old City to Masada, the ancient hilltop fortress where a group of Jewish rebels held out against an invading Roman army before committing mass suicide.

Groups will also visit the City of David, a Jewish archaeological site and community in a Palestinian neighborhood in eastern Jerusalem, over Israel’s pre-1967 border. Palestinians condemn the site’s presence as an illegal settlement.

All groups receive a lecture on geopolitics from an Israeli expert. Meeting Palestinians, and seeing Palestinian life, is not part of the itinerary. Optional programs that take place immediately following the trip offer Birth-



Birthright guide Daniel Rubenstein

right participants the opportunity to see Palestinian society.

“Part of tour education is that you’re educating about the things you see in front of you,” said a Birthright guide who asked to remain anonymous for fear of professional repercussions. “If the route of your trip didn’t take the road next to the Israeli [security] barrier, you’re not going to start a discussion about the Israeli barrier.”

The guide said he presents Palestinian viewpoints, but that “it’s clearly not a comprehensive exposure to Palestinian views if you’re not meeting a Palestinian.”

IfNotNow activists, unsurprisingly, take a far less generous view of the tours’ approach.

Rebecca Oliver, one of the participants who walked off the bus shown in the viral video, said their guide did willingly answer their questions and discuss the conflict with them. But she said Palestinians were mentioned only when she and other participants asked about them. And she said the guide did not present a spectrum of Israeli views on sensitive issues.

In the video, the guide does not appear to attempt to be evenhanded when discussing the West Bank. He inaccurately claims that Israel sees the West Bank as part of the country (While Israel controls the West Bank to varying degrees, it has not annexed

the territory and treats it differently, in legal terms, than its recognized territory.). He also claimed that Israel does not demarcate the West Bank on its maps, which is true of some maps but not all.

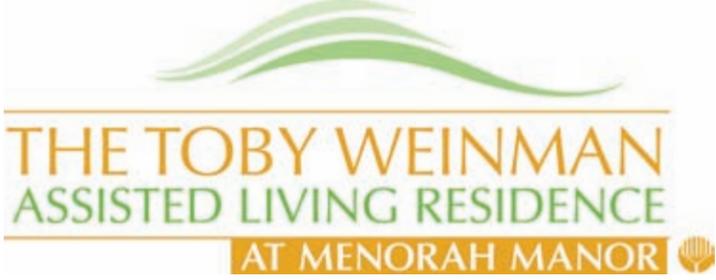
“They provide a really, really biased version of what Israel is and what that education is, and in doing so, they are upholding the Israeli government and the military occupation in Palestine,” Oliver told JTA. “They either provide misinformation or biased information without clarifying that it’s biased, or omit it.”

Tour guides chafed at the suggestion that discussing the conflict should be more of a focus. They said that not all participants are interested in a political debate. And they appreciate that the trip’s focus is on Jewish identity.

“When IfNotNow says, ‘Oh, Birthright doesn’t present the full picture of the Palestinian occupation,’ well OK, but that’s not the purpose of this trip,” said an American Jewish communal official who has organized and co-led many Birthright trips, but who didn’t want to be named without approval from Birthright. “The point of the trip is not to learn all of every single aspect of the occupation. It’s to learn about Judaism and Jewish heritage and make friends and have a good time.”

Plus, the official added, if Birthright is seeking to drive American Jews politically rightward, it’s doing a bad job. American Jews tend to hold markedly more liberal views on the conflict than their Israeli counterparts.

“I’m sure the Israeli government gives money [to Birthright] because they have whatever their goals are,” the official said. “I’m not sure how much that translates to a micro level. If their goal is to transform a generation of Jews into Likud supporters, they’ve clearly failed.”



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## Sons of late music promoter to speak during weekend of museum exhibit opening

Two events are planned for the opening weekend of the Florida Holocaust Museum's exhibit "Bill Graham and the Rock & Roll Revolution."

The exhibit, opening Saturday, Aug. 18, explores the extraordinary life of renowned music promoter Bill Graham (1931- 1991) who helped launch and promote the careers of countless rock & roll artists from Grateful Dead, Janis Joplin, the Doors and the Rolling Stones.

The exhibit also traces the indomitable spirit of Graham and how his experience as a refugee fleeing the Nazis fueled a lifelong passion and advocacy for justice. He conceived rock & roll as a powerful force for supporting humanitarian causes and was instrumental in the production of milestone benefit concerts such as Live Aid (1985) and Human Rights Now! (1988).

The exhibit, which runs through Feb. 10, features 400 pieces of memorabilia, including photographs of the musicians Graham promoted plus some of their guitars and onstage costumes, archival concert footage, historical and video interviews, psychedelic art and several original Fillmore concert posters.

On opening day there will be a reception at 6:30 p.m. including wine, hors d'oeuvres and a chance to celebrate the exhibit opening with Graham's family and friends. This program will feature a panel discussion with those who knew him well, with additional insight about the exhibition and how it came together.



Photo by Ken Friedman  
Bill Graham and Bob Hope make a radio appeal during the earthquake rock-a-thon on Nov. 26, 1989 in San Francisco.

On Sunday, Aug. 19 at 2 p.m. there will be a panel discussion with Graham's sons, Alex and David Graham. This program, titled "Legacy and Remembrance" will explore how life lessons that are conveyed by parents and grandparents have profound effect. When those patriarchs and matriarchs endured the Holocaust, those lessons and their legacy have special resonance. A local second-generation family member of a Holocaust survivor will share experiences with the Graham brothers on lessons learned from parents and grandparents.

Bill Graham and the youngest of his five sisters were placed in an orphanage in Berlin by their mother in an effort to save him. The orphanage had an agreement to send the children to France in exchange of Jewish children for Christian children. Later, after France fell to Germany, he and his sister were spirited out of the country. Graham would up in the U.S. but his sister dies during a journey to escape Nazis. Graham's mother died in Auschwitz.

Named one of the best museum shows of 2017 by the Chicago Tribune, the exhibition was organized and circulated by the Skirball Cultural Center, Los Angeles, in association with the Bill Graham Memorial Foundation, and made possible by the support of Alex Graham, David Graham, and Danny Scher.

The cost to attend each of the opening weekend programs is \$9 per person for general admission and/or free for Museum members. To attend, call (727) 820-0100, ext. 301 to reserve your space. RSVPs are required.

The museum is located at 55 Fifth St. S., St. Petersburg.

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Christine Nicole Photography

Melinda Linsky receives her tallit from great grandfather Frank Rosenblatt.

STORY - PAGE 7



Robin Hendershot Photography

Dayna Schreiber on the bima at Congregation Schaarai Zedek.

STORY - PAGE 8

# Blown Away



Robin Reiss Photography

Naomi Rappaport looks through the Star of David sculpture at Kol Ami.

STORY PAGE 3

## Irma wrecks havoc on B'not Mitzvah plans

Nearly a year ago Tampa Bay area residents were warily watching Hurricane Irma's projected track and debating whether to flee or hunker down. But four families also fretted how the massive storm would impact their daughter's Bat Mitzvahs.

Each had a different, memorable tale to tell.

Three of the families lived in Level A mandatory evacuation zones. The fourth family also opted to take shelter elsewhere.

Two of the families fled to Atlanta and wound up beneficiaries of hospitality extended by strangers whose daughters had met the Tampa Bat Mitzvah girls at Jewish summer camps. One family fled to relatives in the Daytona area where they had trouble finding an open restaurant, and another family rode out the storm a few miles away with friends, losing power at the hosts' home while never losing power at their own.

Remarkably, one girl actually had her Bat Mitzvah on schedule, though before a sparse audience at her synagogue. Later that afternoon, instead of getting ready for the planned beach-themed party, the family, including four grandparents and a great grandmother, plus two dogs, piled into two vehicles and drove to Atlanta.

In all cases, as is common when the chips are down, synagogue staffers, friends, party venue operators and vendors, with one exception, were both helpful and flexible in assisting to reschedule the services and parties.

In the end, the four girls excelled during their services and regrets over the party plans Irma spoiled were forgotten when their delayed celebrations took place.

Their stories are inside.

— Bob Fryer



Ashlyn Goldstein with her family and Rabbi Michael Torop at Temple Beth-El.

STORY PAGE 11

# Coming-of-Age With Timeless Elegance

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# Tears, then poise, then a dash to Atlanta

By BOB FRYER  
Jewish Press

As Hurricane Irma skirted Cuba, many Floridians were on edge, waiting for its long-anticipated turn to the north and wondering which region of the state would get hit hardest. It was already one of the most powerful hurricanes on record and had left a deadly trail through islands in the Caribbean.

Even longtime residents who were veterans of hurricanes figured this was the big one and thousands clogged the roads as they fled the state. Ultimately, despite widespread power outages, many downed trees and flooding, once it swept up the state and petered out, most—especially in the Tampa Bay area—felt we had dodged a bullet.

For Naomi Rappaport, however, when Irma’s path was still a coin flip on Saturday morning, Sept. 9, the storm had her in tears as she fretted over who would and would not show up for her Bat Mitzvah at Congregation Kol Ami in north Tampa.

Naomi was one of four girls in the Tampa Bay area who had scheduled Bat Mitzvahs that day at various synagogues. Naomi’s was the only Bat Mitzvah service that did not get postponed.

She had already done well leading the Friday evening service—although attendance was down a bit as some folks were making hurricane preparations. But on Saturday morning all of it began to sink in and the tears flowed. It did not help that she kept getting texts from friends saying they weren’t going to make it.

On top of that, Naomi was still dealing with the news she got the day before that her party would have to be postponed indefinitely because the venue shut down for the hurricane. Not to mention the usual anxiety of a Bat Mitzvah: how she would do during the service.

Soon after her the tears and fears welled up, Naomi more than got it all together. By the time the service started Naomi recited her Torah portion like a champ and everything went smoothly, said her mom, Jody. “She had such poise that you could not believe that before the service, she had been hysterically crying.”

Because many had either already headed out of harm’s way or were in the process of securing their homes, attendance at the service was low.

Jody and Yoav Rappaport weren’t taking any chances either. Right after the afternoon luncheon at the synagogue, the family—two kids, the parents, four grandparents, one great grandmother and two dogs—piled into the family van and another vehicle and caravanned to Atlanta.

Because Naomi was active on social media and posted information about the planned flight north, Vanessa Leibowitz, the mother of a girl Naomi had become friends with at Camp Ramah Darom in north Georgia, called Jody. Vanessa and her husband Adam, who have three kids and a dog, insisted the Rappaport family—dogs included—stay at their home, even though only Naomi and the Leibowitz’s daughter had ever met.

Naomi’s grandparents, Leslie and Reva Pearlstein, and great-grandmother, Dr. Patricia Cottrille, stayed at a hotel, but the rest of the



Photos by Robin Reiss Photography

Naomi Rappaport, front row center, surrounded by Camp Ramah friends who came to her rescheduled Bat Mitzvah Party, after the original date was canceled due to the threat of Hurricane Irma.

bunch, including Jody’s father-in-law from Tel Aviv, Dan Rapaport, and mother-in-law from Arizona, Yudit Gottlieb, stayed at the hosts’ home.

The Southern hospitality after the Rappaports’ 12-hour trek to Atlanta could not have been more gracious. Jody said the kids, dogs and adults all got along well and their hosts took the whole group out to dinner the next night. “They showered us with love,” Jody said, adding that they still stay in touch.

Because Irma, downgraded to a tropical storm, was headed for Atlanta, the Rappaports helped their hosts secure lawn furniture and prepare for gusty winds. Then they decided Irma was diminished enough that it was time to drive home. They had to pull off the road once near Macon to ride out heavy winds and rain, but made it home safely and were pleased that there was no damage and they still had power.

### New party date picked

The Rappaports were fortunate enough to reschedule Naomi’s Bat Mitzvah party for Oct. 20. The same morning of the party, Naomi again got to lead the morning Shabbat service and included a new Torah portion she learned for that date.

Jody’s mother-in-law was able to make it back to Tampa for the party, but her father-in-law in Tel Aviv could not make a return.

Some people who planned to attend the original party were unable to make the Oct. 20 party. However, some who had scheduling conflicts for the original date were able to make it to the rescheduled party, including Camp Ramah friends.

On the original date for her Bat Mitzvah, two Camp Ramah boys were having their Bar Mitzvahs, so Naomi did not invite any Camp Ramah boys so they would not be conflicted about which invitation to accept. But with the new party date, she invited boys and girls she knew at camp and about 20 of them, from Chattanooga, Atlanta, Jacksonville, Orlando and South Florida, showed up.

In addition to the extra campers at the party, there was one other change of note. When a vendor asked if they wanted to offer any specialty drinks for adults at the party, Jody said, “Yes, make Hurricanes.”

There was a beach theme for the party, including a large size cardboard scene showing a muscle-bound guy and a curvy girl in a bikini—with holes cut out where

kids could put their faces for photos. Jody and her husband made that and all the other decorations, including a display for the candle lighting ceremony and the table centerpieces. There were colorful handmade flip-flop designs that served as seating cards for the adults and purchased miniature surfboard picture frames that served as seating cards for the kids. They did not use a party planner, instead relying on Pinterest for décor ideas. Jody’s husband, Yoav, even made a large sign with arrows on it showing directions to famous beaches (each table was designated as a particular beach).

“The only thing we did not decorate was the candy table, which was done by a group of our closest friends,” Jody said.

### Advice for others

Asked if she had advice for other parents who may have their plans suddenly upended, for whatever reason, she said it is ok to be disappointed if a change in plans means



Above, Two friends pick up Naomi Rappaport at the end of her Bat Mitzvah party.

With a beach theme, these flip-flop place cards directed adults to their table.

folks who were originally going to attend, can’t show up—as in the case of families who had to make their own hurricane preparations as Irma was approaching—but it is also important to understand why they bowed out and to not be offended by it. She said Irma was “a big punch” to roll with, but ultimately, that is what you have to do—roll with the punches.

Jody added that the change of plans, the turmoil, were challenges that helped Naomi grow from and she wound up better off for the experience, and the fact that so many

camper friends made such an effort to get to her party “made Naomi feel loved and cared for.”

That being said, Jody has already given Naomi one piece of advice for the future: Do not get married during hurricane season.

Jody said Naomi was “a hurricane baby,” recalling that in 2004, when four hurricanes swept through Florida, Jody and her brand new daughter were released from the hospital a day before Hurricane Frances hit, coming home just as their house was being boarded up for the storm.

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# Fireworks, posh venue, a little magic give Bat Mitzvah party 'wow' factor

By BOB FRYER  
Jewish Press

Madeline Goldish knew years in advance that she wanted her daughter Aurora's Bat Mitzvah party to be one the guests would never forget.

"And it was," Goldish said, explaining that she pulled out all the stops for the gala held on the 28th floor of a Beach Drive condominium tower in downtown St. Petersburg with a great view of the Tampa Bay.

"I wanted a New York City party for my daughter. I wanted it to have a wow factor. I wanted it to be a night to remember, and it was," she said.

The key to success, Goldish explained, was finding the right party planner, for what she had in mind. The person she chose, "got it" right away, Goldish said, adding that the planner was good at implementing her vision and the choices she made about the celebration.

When asked to describe a New York party, Goldish said it had to be an over-the-top sort of affair that would leave folks talking about it long after the event. As an example she told of a New York City hotel owner who turned the massive ballroom into "Superman's Ice Palace" for his son's Bar Mitzvah – including hiring a company that came in from Colorado and created stalagmite and stalactite decorations to make it look authentic. "That is the only party I can think of that topped Aurora's," she said.

In addition to lavish decorations to make one area a "magic garden" for the kids and another area a "secret garden" for adults, Goldish said the "wow factor" for the party was a 12-minute professional fireworks spectacular. The party guests watched the fireworks from the balcony.

Since the mass shootings of fans attending a country music concert in Las Vegas happened not too long before Aurora's party, and the Tampa Bay Rowdies were having a



Photos by Maddock Photographers

An elaborately designed tree supports golden candles for the candle-lighting ceremony at Aurora Goldish's party.

soccer match in the stadium near the condo on the same night, Goldish took extra pains not to rattle nerves. She worried that if soccer fans were not alerted to the sounds of the fireworks they might panic. So, she negotiated with the Rowdies, agreeing to hold the fireworks show during halftime for the game – with fans alerted to the show – and in turn the Rowdies posted Aurora's name and a congratulatory message on its big screen display.

The dress for the event was not black tie, but still dressy, Goldish said. "It was cocktail and party dresses for the girls and women," she said.

To turn the kids' room into a magic garden, a company from Orlando used black lights of different hues and white curtains to create just the right lighting to transform the room. It also featured a white fabricated tree that picked up the blacklight colors.

The kids and adults had separate, elaborately designed entrances. The kids each got gold keys with Aurora's name on them and they passed through golden gates to the magic garden. The secret garden entrance was an elaborate archway of foliage.

There was a band for the adults and a DJ for the kids. In total there were about 180 guests,

75 of them children.

Though things started out with kids and adults in separate rooms, in time some adults began sneaking off to the kids room to mingle and to play on a giant foosball table. The band supplanted the DJ music for the hora, playing a special tune for the event.

There were acrobatic bartenders in the adults' and kids' rooms, juggling items as they mixed drinks (non-alcoholic for the kids) in both rooms. In the magic garden, there were also television sets that displayed photos of Aurora throughout her childhood.

The "secret" garden for the adults' room was decorated with greenery and flowers featuring a tree covered in roses, again brought in and set up by the decorating company. "Everything was decorated to death," she said.

As takeaway gifts, adult guests received large boxes of chocolates with the Star of David printed on top, filled with truffles and

chocolate bark. The children received LED drinking cups, bracelets, glasses and a bucket of Dylan's Candies, a boutique candymaker with outlets in New York, LA, Chicago and Miami.

Having the party planner helped relieve stress and gave her a better opportunity to enjoy the event, she said, but commented it was still a whirlwind weekend.

The day after the Bat Mitzvah service and party, Goldish, her boyfriend and Aurora flew to New York and then Tel Aviv to catch up with Temple Beth-El's Rabbi Michael Torop who had left a day earlier to lead a two-week group tour of Israel.



Aurora Goldish and friends pose at the entrance to the Secret Garden at her party.



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Partygoers watch fireworks from the 28th floor balcony of a condo tower in downtown St. Petersburg. The fireworks were to celebrate Aurora Goldish's Bat Mitzvah.

## Get your Bar/Bat Mitzvah noticed in the Jewish Press

As the time nears for your child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah, you will want to let the community know by announcing it in the *Jewish Press*.

Forms should be available at all synagogue offices. Forms may also be filled out online. Click the submit button to find the form on either the [www.jewishpress-stampa.com](http://www.jewishpress-stampa.com) or [www.jewishpresspinellas.com](http://www.jewishpresspinellas.com). To have a form sent to you, contact the Jewish Press at [jewishpressinfo@aol.com](mailto:jewishpressinfo@aol.com) or call (727) 535-4400.

Black and white or color photographs are acceptable (no color copies or digital prints). The photo may be mailed or e-

mailed to [jewishpress@aol.com](mailto:jewishpress@aol.com) as a JPG or TIF. Photos should be clear headshots and if emailed must be high resolution. There is a \$5 charge to cover the cost of reproducing the photo.

The completed form should be sent approximately a month in advance. The Jewish Press prints the announcement one to two weeks before the celebration, if possible.

All information is published at the discretion of the *Jewish Press*.

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# St. Pete girl plants seeds for future generations

An acacia tree seedling nestles in a plastic container. Hannah Davis had to purchase acacia seeds from Australia put them in boiling water to get them to open.



Photos courtesy of Davis family

By BOB FRYER  
Jewish Press

Not only do Hannah Davis' local roots run deep – she is a fifth generation resident of St. Petersburg – but the products of her Bat Mitzvah project are also firmly rooted in Florida soil.

When Hannah, daughter of Shane and Gerald Davis, began thinking of Bat Mitzvah project ideas, around age 10, her first idea was to pick up trash on the beach. At the time her family lived in St. Pete Beach and Hannah was a nature lover who wanted a clean beach and to help protect seabirds.

As they discussed ideas more, Shane suggested to Hannah that her mitzvah project should be something she carried with her through life. Eventually, Hannah settled on a tree-growing project.

With her project in mind, she hoped to have her Bat Mitzvah in conjunction with Tu B'Shevat, commonly referred to as the Birthday of Trees or Jewish Arbor Day, but learned that date conflicted with Temple Beth-El's annual arts show. Then she asked Rabbi Michael Torop if there were any Torah portions involving trees and he said there was one that referenced the acacia tree (sometimes called a mimosa tree) as a precious wood that was collected for the building of a tabernacle. So, Hannah decided to grow acacia trees, even though they are thorny and not as much of a nesting spot for birds as she had hoped.

## Project starts off in hot water

Davis said Hannah loves challenges and growing acacia trees was no easy project. Acacia seeds can sit dormant for thousands of years and they are slow growing trees, but Hannah stuck with it.

Hannah started by ordering the acacia seeds from Australia, then had to sandpaper the seeds and place them in a bowl full of boiling water to get the seeds to open. Then the seeds were placed in petri dishes, wrapped in wet paper towels that she spritzed with water.

When they were about 6 inches tall and in small containers, the seedlings were set outside – a move that proved disastrous.

"It was like a salad bar for creatures of the night. Fifty of them were eaten," Davis said. From that lesson learned, subsequent seedlings were kept inside until after the stage where they attracted whatever destroyed the first batch of them.

For her next attempt, she decided to supplement the new crop of acacias with live oaks, laurel oaks, bald cypress, maples and some olives trees. Other than the olive trees, these are pretty easy to grow. That assured



Hannah Davis chose a floral print dress and parasol for an outdoor luncheon in her back yard.

years has participated with her family in the annual Audubon Society Bird Count. She was delighted when she learned her Bat Mitzvah date would fall on the same day as the bird count.

Following her Bat Mitzvah service and in keeping with the Hannah's love of nature, a garden luncheon was held in the backyard of the Davis's St. Petersburg home. Standing next to some the larger trees she grew (smaller seedlings were nestled in tea cups with moss around them and used as table centerpieces), Hannah spoke about her mitzvah project and made an appeal for people to help enlarge the database of bird sightings.

Because the Bat Mitzvah was in the winter, Hannah kept the seedlings and young trees until the spring growing season began, then they were delivered to Boyd Hill.

Shane described the afternoon party as a "working luncheon" for Hannah. "I wanted her to understand how to entertain like an adult and told her, 'You deal with it at the luncheon and at night just have fun.' She had a receiving line and greeted everyone at lunch."

"She got a lot out of it," Shane said of Hannah's mitzvah project and her Bat Mitzvah experience.

"I gave her parameters [for the weekend of festivities] and she worked within them and made some exceptionally good choices and owned it – and that is what I wanted her to do."

## The family tree

Hannah became the third generation of her family to celebrate a B'nai Mitzvah at Temple Beth-El – the temple her maternal great grandparents, Edward and Evelyn Goldman, helped found in 1929. (Her ancestors on her father's side – the Max Davis side of the family – were more involved in Congregation B'nai Israel, the Conservative congregation in St.

Petersburg founded in 1923.) At one point, Max Davis and Edward Goldman had stores side by side on Central Avenue and participated in minyan together in the storage room of Davis' store. Max Davis moved to the area with seven daughters and through them, Hannah's family is connected to many longtime Jewish families in the community.

Many relatives attended the afternoon garden party, with the number of attendees tilted more to adults than children, but the reverse was true for the backyard evening party, where lights were hung from trees, 20 tables and a dance floor were set up and a DJ played tunes. Decorations to match the home's awnings, and a catered meal, rounded out the party.

In reference to Hannah's project and the bat mitzvah party, Davis said, "I wanted to have a more wholesome meaningful experience for her and not something flashy. I think it is an important message to send to this generation and it is nice to keep them grounded."



Hannah is hoisted in her chair during her Bat Mitzvah party in her back yard. Bright lights were strung to illuminate the party area.

that if another disaster occurred with the acacias, she would still have something to show for her labors.

Shane noted that one attraction to growing olive trees is that before oranges were a commercial crop, Florida pioneers grew olive trees for cash. Given the family roots – Hannah's paternal great-great grandfather, Samuel Davis, settled in Key West in the 1800s and her great grandfather Max Davis moved from Key West to St. Petersburg in the early 1900s – growing olive trees seemed like a meaningful choice.

There wound up being three rounds of plantings with some successes and some failures, but by the time her Bat Mitzvah rolled around, Hannah had more than 20 trees that she donated to the city and that are now growing at the Boyd Hill Nature Preserve.

One reason her bat mitzvah project appealed to Hannah is because trees provide habitat for birds, and she is very much a bird lover. From a young age she became a member of the Audubon Society and for

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# One big blow, then another, make for memorable Bat Mitzvah

By BOB FRYER  
Jewish Press

Getting her bat mitzvah service and party postponed because of Hurricane Irma was a headache for Melinda Linsky of Tampa, but getting a concussion days before the rescheduled service and party – well, that was an even bigger headache.

There is nothing like seeing double the night before your Bat Mitzvah – but more about that later.

Like three other Tampa Bay area families whose daughters were to have their Bat Mitzvahs on Saturday, Sept. 9, 2017, the Linskys kept a wary eye on the projected track of Irma, hoping the spaghetti models would show it shifting away from Florida so Melinda could go ahead with her Bat Mitzvah at Congregation Schaarai Zedek and her party at a venue not too far away.

Several days before the scheduled bat mitzvah, officials announced they were closing Hillsborough County schools for the rest of the week. That's when Melinda's parents, Sam and Stacie, made the decision to postpone the service and party. Notifications were made via phone calls, emails and texts to let guests know of their decision.

Because the family home is in a Level A evacuation zone, they knew if they stayed in Tampa they would likely be ordered to leave their home. So, on Thursday of that week, the family – both parents and three children – caught one of the last flights out of Tampa before the airport closed. They stayed in a hotel in Atlanta until the storm passed.

## Sleepover silver lining

Melinda had been a camper at Camp Barney Medintz, a Jewish summer camp in Cleveland, GA, for five years before her bat mitzvah. On the day when Melinda had originally expected to have her Bat Mitzvah, instead she wound up at a sleepover with five other Camp Barney friends. Thanks to social media, two other camp girls whose families had fled from Savannah, GA, and three other camp friends who lived in Atlanta got together at one of their homes. That, Stacie said, "was a real silver lining" helping ease Melinda's disappointment.

The Linskys returned to Tampa on the Tuesday after Irma swept through and found trees and power lines down in their neighborhood. They stayed in a hotel that night, then stayed at Sam's brother's townhouse the next day.

Once back in Tampa they learned the temple and party venue were undamaged and were able to reschedule Melinda's Bat Mitzvah and her party for the very next Saturday – Sept. 16. That evening was Selichot, not normally available for holding a Bat Mitzvah, but Stacie said Rabbi Richard Birnholz allowed it, due to extenuating circumstances.

The rabbi also announced during the service that he was not requiring Melinda to learn and read new Torah and Haftarah portions even though they did not match the portions for the date of the rescheduled service, Stacie said.

The rabbi and the staff were extremely helpful in working with the family through all the changes in plans, she said, with their focus on ensuring it was a good experience for Melinda.

## A bonk on the head

On Wednesday, Sept. 13, just as

folks were receiving notice of the quickly rescheduled service and party, Melinda went to school at Berkeley Prep, where she is a member of the girls' volleyball team. During a practice that day she was struck on the head by a volleyball and suffered a concussion – the only sports injury she has ever had.

Initially, both she and her parents were concerned that the Bat Mitzvah might have to be postponed again.

Her doctor put her in concussion protocol, telling her parents to put her in a dark room for 48 hours and keep her still. During that time Melinda and her parents fretted she might not be able to go on with her Bat Mitzvah, but held off on canceling it.

They did get permission from Rabbi Birnholz for her to skip her plans to lead the Friday night service – a good thing because she was still seeing double that evening and could not read.

The next morning Melinda went to the temple early to see if she could read. By that time her double vision was gone, but she still had a bit of a headache, Stacie said, so the temple staff dimmed the lights in the synagogue during the service.

"Her performance was perfect. She did not make a single mistake," Stacie said, adding that she was "happy Melinda had memorized everything before."

Her party, including luncheon, was held after the service and because Melinda's eyes were still sensitive to light, she wore sunglasses and no flash photos were allowed.

## Everybody gets shades

Because Melinda was in sunglasses and Stacie did not want her daughter to feel conspicuous, Stacie went shopping to find enough sunglasses for all the kids attending the party. "We hit every dollar store in Tampa," she said.

The original plan was to hold the party in a ballroom at the venue, but when it had to be quickly rescheduled, the ballroom was booked. The new plan was to convert a

gymnasium at the venue into a spot for the party. Then they got a call that those renting the ballroom had backed out, so Melinda got to have her party right where she had envisioned it for months.

With the date for the service and party only getting pushed back by a week, many out-of-towners who had planned to come on Sept. 9 could not re-book their flights so soon without paying extra fees, so quite a few of those folks did not make it to the Sept. 16 events.

Originally about 280 people were expected for the service and party, but after the storm about 180 turned out for both events. One thing Stacie was grateful for was that Melinda's great-grandparents, ages 95 and 92, were able to take part in the service. "That was very special," she said.

There was music at the party "and we were nervous about it" due to the lingering effects of the concussion, Stacie said. Melinda managed to be there for most of the party, but eventually had to leave as her headache worsened.

And in acknowledgement of Irma's role in the events, the signature adult drink for the party was – what else – hurricanes.

There were a couple of glitches caused by the postponement. The photographer booked for the original date could not make it, but found a substitute who did a good job, Stacie said. A transportation company was to provide trolley service from the temple to the party venue for guests, but could not accommodate new date and would not offer a deposit refund. Another company was hired to



Photo by Christine Nicole Photography

Special cups were designed for Melinda Linsky's Bat Mitzvah party, with the original Sept. 9, 2017 date on them. Hurricane Irma forced the family to move the party and service to Sept. 16.



Melinda Linsky had to wear sunglasses and stay in dimly lit rooms after she suffered a concussion days before her rescheduled Bat Mitzvah service. She is shown at her temple prior to her service.

provide buses for transportation.

Stacie said not only was the synagogue staff very easy to work with, but the party planner she hired was also well worth it, taking care of details once new decisions were made.

She said in hindsight everything worked out well. Folks seemed to enjoy both the service and party and Melinda will have plenty of good memories to tell friends about for years to come.

## Roll with the punches

Despite all the unforeseen mishaps, Stacie said she is looking forward to the Bar Mitzvahs of her two sons. "Melinda was our first. I am so happy with all the craziness that happened that I loved every minute of it and get to do it two more times."

While it is not common for hurricanes to force postponements of B'nai Mitzvahs, sometimes events beyond one's control can mess with the best laid plans. Stacie's advice for parents planning their child's event: "Number one, hire a planner if you can. We would make the major decisions and she implemented a lot of changes for us. That helped a lot."

It also helps to remember what is important. The concussion was nerve wracking, Stacie said, but added, "In a way it put things in perspective. We just had to see what would happen and things worked out. ... My daughter told me, 'Just

remember what it is all about and that your family and close friends are going to be there, so it does not matter how big the party is or if the food is perfect.'"

Staying positive also helps. At one point Melinda seemed down and asked, "why is all this happening to me?"

After the service and party were over, Stacie told her, "Everything that could go wrong, did go wrong and you overcame it. Look what you accomplished. Use that self-confidence as you go forward in life."

## More Melinda mitzvahs

About three months after Melinda's Bat Mitzvah and party, 15 Linsky family members traveled to Israel. Melinda held a "twinning" ceremony at Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust Remembrance Center in Jerusalem.

Because so many children were murdered during the Holocaust, many never living long enough to have a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, Yad Vashem holds twinning ceremonies with modern day children celebrating B'nai Mitzvah. The children tour the museum and conduct a ceremony in memory of their "twin," a Holocaust child victim who shares something in common – same birthday or name or something else – with the Bar or Bat Mitzvah child.

In addition, Melinda had another Bat Mitzvah service at Masada.

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# Bat Mitzvah service juggled from evening to morning when Irma intrudes

By **BOB FRYER**  
Jewish Press

Children and their parents often spend months, if not years, planning a bar or bat mitzvah, and for parents Adrian and Pattie Schreiber and their daughter Dayna, some of that planning was washed away by Hurricane Irma.

Dayna's original Havdalah Bat Mitzvah service was to be held at Congregation Schaarai Zedek in south Tampa on Saturday evening, Sept. 9, with a party immediately following. However, with Irma threatening and the Schreiber home in an evacuation A zone – the first area subject to mandatory evacuation – the decision to postpone the service was made several days ahead of time.

"Rabbi [Richard] Birnholz helped us decide it would be best to postpone," said Pattie.

The fact that some of Dayna's friends were making their own evacuation plans helped her accept the change in plans.

Like three other Tampa Bay area families whose daughters had bat mitzvahs planned for Sept. 9, texts, phone calls and emails were used to alert those who were planning to attend of the postponement. Pattie said both she and her husband helped with the notifications and it took a couple of hours to reach everyone.

Luckily, the synagogue and party venue were both able to reschedule the event for Oct. 14, but instead of Dayna conducting a Havdalah (evening) service, it was changed to a morning service. She was not required to learn a new Torah and Haftarah portions, but she did have to learn some new prayers.

"I was already somewhat familiar with the new prayers, but had not practiced them before," Dayna said.

When an evacuation order was issued for their area on Thursday, Sept. 7, the family drove to Adrian's father's home in Daytona.

By the time they arrived there Pattie said Dayna was "very disappointed" and it was "kind of a sad night" due to anxiety about the storm and the postponement. She recalled that the family de-

ecided to go out to eat that first night to brighten the mood, but had to drive around for awhile before finally finding an open restaurant.

They delayed their return home for a bit while waiting for street flooding in south Tampa and debris on some roads to be cleaned up, returning the Tuesday after the hurricane passed through.

For the second time around, the family emailed invitations instead of using formal printed and mailed invitations as they had originally.

Dayna said she was a little anxious before the service, but calmed herself and then was ok. Her mom said Dayna was flawless during the service, not missing a thing, including the new prayers.

"I enjoyed the morning service better and the lighting was better," Dayna said. Picking out her favorite memory for the service and party was hard, she said, "because they were both great. There were so many memories, it is hard to choose."

One highlight, she said, was that for the new date, even more of her camp friends were able to attend.

The change of dates did mean some folks who originally said they could come, including friends from Kentucky she looked forward to seeing, had other plans on the new date and could not make it.

However, subtracting those who had to cancel and those added because the date changed, the total number for those at the service and party remained pretty much what was originally expected.

When the Havdalah service was planned, it was to be followed right away by the party, so buses were lined up for transporting folks from the temple to the party venue. When the service changed to a morning event, Pattie said they added a luncheon after the service and no longer needed the bus service, as guests had time to go home before the party that night. This also allowed a special treat for Dayna. Pattie arranged for her to get her hair styled between the two events.

The vendors who could fit the new date into their schedules did so. In the case of the DJ, he had another



Photo by Robin Hendershot.

Dayna Schreiber hugs the Schreiber family dog, a mini schnauzer named Sparkie which she brought to her Bat Mitzvah party. Dayna's party theme combined her love of New York City and dogs.

event booked, but provided another DJ from the same company and Pattie said the new person did a great job. The videographer was not available for the new date, so they just did without.

Otherwise, the party went off as planned – just 6 weeks later.

Because Dayna loves New York City and dogs, the theme for her party was a mashup of the two. The décor included the New York skyline projected on walls and the three food stations were patterned after Dayna's three favorite places to eat in New York, a Chinese restaurant, a Jewish deli and an Italian pizza place. She took logos from all three places and added her name to them, along with Hebrew lettering. She also loves a yogurt place at Bloomingdales and the colors associated with this, along with the font used for Bloomingdale's logo, in her original invitations. Meanwhile, she had tables designated for various dog breeds and had cutouts and photos of dogs throughout the party venue. She even brought her dog, Sparkie, the family's schnauzer, to her party.

One of the things that really stood out for Pattie is that "the rabbis and synagogue staff were just wonderful. They gave fantastic support and were really helpful and there for us with all the adjustments and changes. ... You know, in difficult times, having the Jewish community makes it good."

Pattie added, "The vendors were very understanding and

those we wound up not using gave back deposits without objection."

Pattie's advice to others who may find themselves in a similar situation on how to cope with a sudden change in plans: "Initially, I was anxious just like Dayna was, to figure out what to do and dealing with the uncertainty of not knowing if the hurricane was coming or not. But I would say, ask for advice; ask for help from those who have been through situations like this before."

Not only were folks at the temple helpful, but the special events manager at the party venue also stepped up to the challenge. The woman had dealt with last-minute cancellations before and jumped into action to contact Pattie's other vendors and to coordinate the change in plans. Her actions eased the burden on Pattie, which she said was a big help, because Pattie was also worrying about a medical issue her dad was dealing with at the time.

"My only other advice is to let people know it all does really work out in the end. It may not be what you planned it to be, but it will be OK," Pattie said. "The service is the most important thing anyway, and once your child has worked on the hard part, preparing for the service, then you just have to remember that part will go right, so don't worry. I told my daughter in my speech to her, because of what happened, she will have a story to tell about her Bat Mitzvah for the rest of her life."

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## BAR/BAT MITZVAH BUDGET CHECKLIST

### INVITATIONS

Save the Date card  
Main invitation  
Lining for outer envelopes  
Response cards  
Reception cards  
Directions/hotel information  
Stamps for invitations, response cards and thank yous (check weight and size of envelope for correct postage)  
Calligraphy for envelopes  
Extra envelopes  
Thank you notes

### FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Bima flowers and oneq for congregation Friday night (Check with the synagogue office for procedures)  
Shabbat dinner for out-of-town guests

### SATURDAY SERVICE

Programs for service  
Candy to throw at conclusion of Haftarah (if permitted)  
Challah  
Wine/grape juice  
Kiddush luncheon  
Imprinted napkins  
Decorations/flowers

### RECEPTION

Room rental  
Photographer  
Videographer  
Cocktail hour entertainment (piano player, magician, etc.)  
Hors d'ouvres  
Challah  
Candles for candlelighting  
Sign-in board

### DJ/Band/Entertainment

Entrees  
Liquor/wine/mixers  
Bar/Bat Mitzvah cake  
Dessert  
Centerpieces  
Flowers/balloons/decorations  
Table linens  
Favors  
Place cards  
Imprinted napkins  
Prizes for kids  
Extra waiters/bartenders  
Gratuities for waiters/ bartenders/ banquet manager

### MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Tallit  
Tallit bag  
Tallit clip

Kippah for Bar Mitzvah/ headcovering for Bat Mitzvah  
Clip for kippah  
Kippot for guests  
Dress/Suit for Bar/Bat Mitzvah child for Friday night and Saturday services  
Dress/Suit for party  
Shoes for Bar/Bat Mitzvah child.  
Photograph(s) of child for sign-in board/book newspaper, bulletin announcement.

### FOR OUT-OF-TOWN GUESTS

Hospitality baskets  
Maps to event sites  
Transportation, such as chartered bus or trolley  
Sunday brunch

- Compiled by the Jewish Press staff

# No-glitz party just the ticket for Bar Mitzvah boy

By RACHEL MINETTI  
Jewish Press

**E**laborate entrances, fun music, kitschy party favors, and photogenic table settings are some of the first things that come to mind when one thinks of a Bar or Bat Mitzvah party.

For the Bar Mitzvah boy or Bat Mitzvah girl, the weekend's festivities are all about them – their accomplishments and coming of age into the Jewish world. Whether attendees fly in from around the country or are just a 30-minute drive away, family and friends come together for the celebration of the teen.

Not every child, however, likes having the spotlight shining directly on them. For some, a weekend filled with incessant doting and reading their Torah portion to a sea of congregants is overwhelming or unappealing – and that's okay.

The celebration does not have to be an extravaganza with hundreds of people in order for it to be meaningful and a good



Friends enjoy the touch tank during Jacob Garbett's Bar Mitzvah party after an overnight sleepover at the aquarium.



Jacob and his friends huddled in their sleeping bags at the Florida Aquarium. They stayed up until 2 a.m. talking and giggling.

time. The Garbett family of Riverview wanted to take a different approach that would celebrate their son in a way that he would enjoy the most.

"My son isn't really big into being the center of attention," said Lea Garbett, Jacob's mother. "He didn't want a traditional party. He would not have been happy with the DJ and the music and dancing. That's just totally not him at all."

The Garbett family looked into some alternative options that would still do something to entertain the guests and celebrate Jacob. They started off with a computer search for non-traditional Bar and Bat Mitzvah

party ideas and for unique venues around the Tampa area that hosted birthday parties.

The Florida Aquarium had just what they needed. "It was something interesting that still had entertainment for the kids; some place my son and his friends could just hang out and talk," Lea said. "It combined everything – something for them to do and something fun for a whole bunch of different ages at the same time."

Fifty of Jacob's friends and cousins arrived at the aquarium at 7 p.m., with festivities beginning at 7:30. The agenda included a behind-the-scenes tour of the facility, arts and crafts activities, and a sleepover in the

shark room. "It was great because there was built-in entertainment," Lea Garbett said.

While the teens were exploring the aquarium, Jacob's grandparents, Seymour and Marjorie Levine, hosted out-of-town relatives at a restaurant in Brandon. Since Jacob's parents were chaperoning the sleepover, they had worked with the restaurant beforehand to set everything up and arrange a selected menu so that all the grandparents had to do was show up.

On Sunday morning, the aquarium put on a dive show and opened up the touch tank for the kids after a night of talking and giggling until 2 in the morning.



Photo by Beth Kelly Photography

The Reich family leads Havdallah at Avi Reich's Bar Mitzvah party. From left are Avi's dad Cary, mom Karen, Avi and sisters Yael and Ariel.

# Original song adds personal touch to meaningful memory

By RACHEL MINETTI  
Jewish Press

**W**hen dad is a song and jingle writer, getting an original song at your Bar Mitzvah is part of the deal.

Cary Reich created and sang an original song at each of his three children's Bar and Bat Mitzvahs.

On Saturday, April 14, Cary sang some of his original melodies to prayers at his youngest son Avi's Bar Mitzvah. At the party on Saturday night, he performed his original song, *Avi B-Davi* for his son. Cary works for a company that creates jungles for radio and television ads.

"I don't know how or why it came to me, but he's into traditional jazz, so I wrote kind of a swing tune, called *Avi Badabadavi*, which is one of our nicknames for him," Reich said. "I started out saying 'the boy of a million, I mean the man of a million talents.' It's just a little original song about him."

Along with the original music written and performed by Avi's father, other members of the Reich family also participated in Avi's Bar Mitzvah service. Avi's older sisters, Yael and Ariel, and his mom, Karen, read from the Torah.

Avi's sisters also wrote a personal song for him and sang it at the party.

"Oh our dreams take us far away from home, but our hearts are here with you," Yael

and Ariel sang. "We can't wait till you're living your dreams too, and we conquer all the world the two of us and you."

One other special aspect of Avi's Bar Mitzvah: After 41 years at Congregation B'nai Israel, Avi was Rabbi Jacob Luski's last Bar Mitzvah.

"We were honored that Avi was Rabbi Luski's last B'nai Mitzvah," Reich said. "We went out and found a photo of his first B'nai Mitzvah. It was actually two girls and they were cousins, and we presented a plaque with both their picture and Avi's picture with him."

While Avi's Bar Mitzvah was Rabbi Luski's last, Avi also celebrated a first for the congregation's new rabbi, Rabbi Philip Weintraub. At the synagogue there is a program called the Golden Kippah, which encourages youths to continue reading from the Torah after their B'nai Mitzvah. In order to earn the Golden Kippah, a teen has to read five new Torah portions. Avi received his on Rabbi Weintraub's first weekend.

Avi's Bar Mitzvah wasn't the only thing that cemented his personal relationship with Judaism. After returning from Camp Ramah Darom last summer, he was motivated to wear a kippah every day, regardless of how it would come across at school.

"To this day, he wears a kippah every day," Cary said. "He spoke about that in his speech. He said it makes him feel closer to God. He felt that it was important to him."

## Tips for thank you notes

After the Bar/Bat Mitzvah comes the task perhaps most dreaded: thank you notes.

### Why are they necessary?

Ask a member of the older generation and the answer you get will probably be simple: Manners.

And, news flash, emails or a quick shout out, "Thanks for the present," won't do. Nor will typed notes or ones done on a computer.

It's a rule. Thank you cards are supposed to be handwritten no matter how bad your handwriting is. That way the receiver knows you wrote it.

### Some tips to make it easier:

- Address the giver by name: "Dear Uncle Harvey....."
- Be direct. No "I am writing to..."
- Instead say "Thank you for..." and be specific. Then say something nice about

the present and how you will use it.

- Exception – money. Never refer to money directly. No "Thank you for the \$50." Instead say "Thank you for your generosity (or kindness)" and add how you will use the gift. Express attitudes like "It was great seeing you," "I'm glad that you were able to come..." or, if you don't really know the person, say something like "Thank you for coming," "Thank you for sharing in my ..."
- Even if you didn't like the gift, try to find something positive to say.
- Repeat your gratitude. "Thanks again for (name of the gift)."
- Wrap it up with a closing you are comfortable with: "Love," "Yours truly," "Sincerely"..., sign it and you are done.  
*P.S. Write the "Thank You" as soon as possible.*



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## BAR/BAT MITZVAH PLANNING CALENDAR

### 1-4 years in advance

- Begin to meet educational requirements.
- Set date and begin gathering information to decide format.

### 9 to 12 months in advance

- Determine budget.
- Plan tentative guest list.
- Select theme.
- Select and reserve site for main reception.
- Interview and contract with professionals including party planner, caterer, photographer, florist and entertainment.
- Meet with synagogue staff to discuss bar/bat mitzvah policies.

### 6 to 9 months in advance

- Reserve facilities for such functions as Shabbat eve dinner and Sunday brunch.
- Select and order invitations; thank you notes.
- Select caterer for oneg and kiddush
- Reserve hotel accommodations for out-of-town guests, especially if your event is "in season."
- Complete guest list and collect addresses.

### 4 to 6 months in advance

- Send "Save The Date" cards.
- Order any imprinted items, like yarmulkes, napkins.
- Recontact caterer, restaurant or hotel with approximate number of guests.
- Make menu selections.
- Make a list of clothing needs.
- Order flowers/decorations for synagogue, reception.

### 2 to 3 months in advance

- Help with child's speech.
- Purchase religious items such as yarmulke and tallit.
- Have photograph(s) taken for sign-in board/book, synagogue bulletin, newspaper.
- Finalize bakery order such as challah for kiddush and bar/bat mitzvah cake.

### 6-8 weeks in advance

- Mail and address invitations. You may want to send to out-of-towners earlier.
- Send announcement to the synagogue bulletin.

### 4 weeks in advance

- Finalize hotel reservations and plan hospitality baskets for out-of-town guests.
- Determine transportation arrangements as needed.
- Send announcement and photo to the *Jewish Press*.
- Finalize arrangements with rabbi, i.e. aliyot honors.
- Complete candle lighting or other reception presentation.

### 2 weeks in advance

- Draw up seating plan.
- Make place cards.

### Final week

- Have final consultation with caterer, florist, photographer, entertainment and confirm schedules.
- Confirm head count/floor plan with caterer.
- Deliver items, i.e. yarmulke and programs to synagogue.
- Deliver hospitality baskets to the hotel.
- Rehearsal at the synagogue.
- Relax and enjoy!

# Throwing a big Broadway bash

By RACHEL MINETTI  
Jewish Press

With the explosion of the Broadway musical *Hamilton*, and the continued popularity of shows such as *Wicked*, it's easy to see why a Broadway themed Bar or Bat Mitzvah party is a fun, enjoyable choice for everyone.

For Lauren Alexander of Tampa, choosing "Lauren's Broadway Bash" was easy. With a passion for musical theater, Lauren chose the theme two years prior to her Bat Mitzvah.

The same went for Brilee Gold of Land O' Lakes. As a Broadway enthusiast and thespian, a Broadway themed Bat Mitzvah party was a given long before her Bat Mitzvah last December.

But that's where the similarities ended. Each girl chose to carry out the theme differently.

Lauren arrived at her party by way of a red carpet with an entrance video playing on big screens. Throughout the party, guests could pose for pictures on the red carpet and "experience" life as a star.

At the entrance to Lauren's party stood a black door with silver stars and her name written in cursive. With a silver marker, guests were encouraged to fill in the blank space on the door with messages to Lauren.

The room at Lauren's party was dotted with street signs and cardboard cutouts of famous Broadway actors and actresses. The walls were lit up with projections of Playbills of *The Lion King*, *Spring Awakening*, *Memphis* and many more.

Lauren tied her theme into her service project, bringing her love of singing and acting to school theater departments that need funding. Lauren raised money for Rosie's Theater Kids, a non-profit organization started by comedian Rosie O'Donnell. It provides acting, singing, and dancing training for students at public schools in New York City.

For her party, Brilee ditched the typical red, gold, and black color scheme of Broadway and went with hot pink and sequins instead.

The Gold family went with a specialty boutique linen rental company to create the offbeat table settings. All the tables were designed in hot pink and black and white polka-dot satin and taffeta, with sequin table runners.

Brilee's guests picked up their table assignments at the "will call" booth. Instead of table numbers, each table was assigned a different Broadway musical, such as *Waitress*, *Seussical the Musical*, and *Dear Evan Hanson*. (And, of course, *Hamilton* and *Wicked*).

"We selected 16 of my daughter's favorite Broadway musicals and had the Playbills blown up and cased in black frames," Brilee's mom, Brandy, said. "They were lined with light bulbs to make it look like a Broadway dressing room mirror and the stands were decked out in black sparkle paint."

You can't have Broadway without its context – the bustling streets New York City.

In order to create that New York ambience, the walls of Brilee's party were lit up with images of Times Square using colored gel filters, which makes the images pop with

bright colors.

Brilee's mom also collected street lights and street signs with the names of famous streets in New York City and placed them around the room to give the guests the feel of walking through Times Square.

Besides the Bat Mitzvah girl, a marvelous, three-tiered cake was a centerpiece of Brilee's party. The cake was decorated with Playbills, sparkly stars, and a black New York skyline wrapped around the hot pink icing. Along with the cake was a candy buffet for the kids, a table lined with colorful sweets and bags for the guests to take home.



Photo by Calvin Roe Photography

Brilee Gold sits in front of a mirror signed by friends and family with light bulbs around the frame to give it the appearance of a backstage dressing room.



Photo by Calvin Roe Photography

Colorful images of Times Square were projected onto the walls to give guests the illusion of being in New York City.



Photo by Ryan Joseph Photography

Lauren's "dressing room" door waiting to be signed by friends and family at her Bat Mitzvah party.



Photo by Ryan Joseph Photography

The "red carpet" entrance to Lauren Alexander's Broadway Bash with cutout paparazzi and flashing lights.

# Mom gets by with help from friends after Irma upstages Bat Mitzvah

By **BOB FRYER**  
Jewish Press

It is tough enough for a Jewish mom to plan her daughter's Bat Mitzvah, but add Hurricane Irma to the mix – forcing postponements of both the service and party – then factor in that the mom is not Jewish, and things could have gone off the rails.

But they didn't for mom Jenn Goldstein or her daughter Ashlyn. Sure, as expected anytime plans have to change for any reason, it took more work and maybe a little more anxiety, but in the end, both the service and party went off without a hitch and Ashlyn has lots of good memories, even though her tallit and an engraved gift from her synagogue, Temple Beth-El in St. Petersburg, have the wrong (original) date inscribed on them instead of the date the service happened.

Just like three other Tampa Bay area families, Ashlyn's Bat Mitzvah was originally planned for Sept. 9, 2017. But as Hurricane Irma headed this way, both the temple and party venue announced a few days before Irma arrived that they were closing until the storm passed.

Like the other parents, emails, phone calls and texts went out to inform people of the postponement, but "because we have a pretty small family with not a lot of relatives living far away," Jenn said, nobody had to cancel flights. "I think most everyone who was coming was within a one or two-hour drive," she added.

The Goldsteins live near Treasure Island in a Level A evacuation zone and had to leave their home under a mandatory evacuation order, but rather than leave the Bay area, they stayed with friends a few miles away and rode out the hurricane there.

They watched how their own home was weathering the storm through a security camera until the power went out at the friends' home. Later, when they returned to their home, they discovered it, unlike many other homes in Pinellas County, never lost power. There was also no damage to their home.

Very quickly after Irma was gone they were able to reschedule Ashlyn's Bat Mitzvah service for the following Saturday, Sept. 16, but were unable to reschedule the party until a Friday night, Oct. 20.

Though a few folks who planned to come to the service and party on Sept. 9 could not make the service or party on the new dates, some other folks who had conflicts with the original date were able to attend on the new dates, so the numbers were only slightly less than originally expected.

"We kept same venue and same florist and DJ as originally scheduled," Jenn said, adding that they never planned on a photographer for the party, but did not miss having one.

There were large television screens around the room at the party that were programmed to show photos of Ashlyn throughout her childhood. Then guests were invited to use an app called Ever-snap that allowed them to take pictures as the party was going on and show them on the television screens. Jenn said at the end of the party she was able to get a file that saved all the photos folks took with the app.

The DJ was very good at his craft and kept the kids entertained throughout the evening, Jenn said. The party, from 6-11 p.m. included a sit down dinner for adults and a separate buffet "with kid-friendly food" for the

younger ones, she said.

There was a tropical theme for the party and kids got to take home giant tropical looking lollipops that were part of centerpieces at the tables.

Jenn said Ashlyn was very hands-on in planning the party, using Pinterest to make decorations and to make props for a photo booth she created for kids to use their cell phones to take photos.

"Everything went perfectly," Jenn said of both the service and party.

Asked for advice to other parents planning a Bat Mitzvah, Jenn admitted that for a while "I was a frazzled mess."

"I am not Jewish, though both of our kids are being raised Jewish. Knowing what the rules were and following them took some learning, so my advice to others is be flexible," she said. "Our synagogue is very welcoming of mixed families, so there was nothing too surprising I had to deal with. It was pretty easy and plenty of people at the temple were willing to help explain."



Bat Mitzvah girl Ashlyn Goldstein, left, poses inside a Mazel Tov frame with friend Tennyley Comparetto.



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