



Marty Goldberg, in yellow shirt, leads volunteers toting a mattress from the shore of the Courtney Campbell Causeway to a debris collection site during the Reverse Tashlich cleanup on Sunday, Sept. 16. Another memory foam mattress was also recovered at the same site.

Reverse Tashlich: Volunteers haul mankind's sins from local waters

By BOB FRYER
Jewish Press

The beach clean-up treasure of the day was overlooked by a dozen or more "Reverse Tashlich" volunteers before 9-year-old Joaquin Acanda spotted it in the water, just a small dark portion of a huge memory foam mattress poking above the surface.

"I just looked and saw it in the water and told an adult," Joaquin explained. It was covered in black scum and once he pointed it out to the adults, several men and women, including his dad, Aaron Medina, attacked it with zeal. For all their struggle they could not budge it until finally a piece broke off in one man's hands.

Soon several volunteers were breaking off chunks, getting wet and filthy in the process. Others helped relay the waterlogged foam bits to the shore, where people would stand on the debris to squeeze the water out. Then the still-heavy chunks were lugged to the cleanup collection site at the west end of the Courtney Campbell Causeway. Finally, someone found a small wagon and loaded it up with the final pieces of the mattress.

Despite the hard work, everyone was smiling and delighted by the find. Several volunteers, including Joaquin's mom Elyse Acanda,



From left, Sam Wax, Lynda Arredondo, and Rabbi Nathan Farb, all of Congregation Schaarai Zedek, scour for debris in the mangroves along McKay Bay in Tampa.

congratulated him for his sharp eye.

Most of the folks at the causeway participating in the first Bay Area Reverse Tashlich on Sunday, Sept. 16, were members of Congregation Beth Shalom and Temple B'nai Israel, both in Clearwater,

VOLUNTEERS continued on PAGE 8

Israel to accept more Ethiopian Falash Mura

JERUSALEM (JTA) – Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced that he has decided to bring some 1,000 Ethiopian Falash Mura who have children living in Israel to the country.

Netanyahu made the announcement on Monday, Sept. 17, at a meeting of the Ministerial Committee on the Advancement and Integration of Israeli Citizens of Ethiopian Origin.

There are some 8,000 Falash Mura in Ethiopia awaiting permission to immigrate to Israel, most of whom have some family members in Israel.

The Falash Mura claim links to descendants of Jews who converted to Christianity generations ago under duress but now seek to return to Judaism. They must get special permission to immigrate to Israel due to their uncertain Jewish status.

"This is not a simple decision due to other ramifications that we have regarding members of the Ethiopian community," Netanyahu said at the meeting. "However, I am determined to do this and I add that this is in wake of 1,300 Falash Mura who have already come to Israel."

The announcement came a day after reports that Rabbi Moshe Havlin, the chief rabbi of the southern Israeli town of Kiryat Gat, said he would withdraw kosher certification from a local catering company if Ethiopian women continued to prepare the food there unless they could prove their Jewishness. Under Orthodox Jewish law, certain foods that are completely cooked by a non-Jew, known as *bishul akum*, may not be eaten by a kosher observer even if the ingredients are kosher and cooked in a kosher kitchen.

Some political officials charged that the rabbi's motives are racist, not religious.

ETHIOPIAN continued on PAGE 15



Cleveland Browns sign Jewish kicker

The Cleveland Browns have signed kicker Greg Joseph, who played football and soccer at the Donna Klein Jewish Academy in Boca Raton. Joseph, a 24-year-old rookie, was cut by the Miami Dolphins this summer after signing with the club as an undrafted free agent out of Florida Atlantic University.

The Browns signed Joseph after Zane Gonzalez missed four kicks in the

Sunday, Sept. 16 game against the New Orleans Saints – two field goals and two extra point attempts including a potential game-tying field goal of 52 yards.

"Obviously, we have to find someone that can put the ball through the uprights," Browns coach Hue Jackson said after Joseph signed. "We have had this situation happen now for a couple of weeks. We have to keep searching and keep looking."

Joseph said he had been working out to stay prepared in case a team showed interest, but was not expecting the call from the Browns on that Sunday afternoon. "I was just living the South Florida life. Hung out by the water with some buddies, relaxing and watching some games. Nothing crazy."

Joseph didn't have much time to become acquainted with his new teammates, as Cleveland hosted the New York Jets on Thursday, Sept. 20, in which the Browns chalked up their first win since 2016, 21-17. Joseph went two for two in field goals, the longest 45 yards.

He left FAU as its all-time field goal leader and shares the school record for most extra points. Along with playing at Donna Klein Jewish Academy, Joseph also kicked at the American Heritage School in Delray Beach.

The Boca Raton native, who has been praised for his charity work, credits his mother, a teacher and head of the math department at a Jewish day school, for teaching him the values of giving back to the community.



One of Hezbollah's most important members arrested in Brazil

BUENOS AIRES – One of Hezbollah's most wanted members, Assad Ahmad Barakat, was arrested near Brazil's border with Argentina and Paraguay on Sept. 21. Barakat has been labeled by the U.S. Treasury as one of the Lebanese terrorist group's main financiers. He is part of the Barakat Clan, a criminal organization known for its links to Hezbollah.

Barakat was arrested in Foz de Iguazú, in southern Brazil. In July, the Barakat Clan's assets were frozen by the Financial Information Unit of Argentina. On Aug. 31, Argentine Judge Rubén Darío Riquelme ordered Barakat's international capture.

"We commend this arrest and the expected extradition of Barakat to Argentina, as a sign that the three countries will begin to drive Hezbollah out of Latin America," Shimon Samuels of the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

SC rep. jokes that Ruth Bader Ginsburg accused Abraham Lincoln of groping

A South Carolina congressman made a joke about Abraham Lincoln groping Ruth Bader Ginsburg, mocking the controversy over a woman who accused Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh of assaulting her 36 years ago.

"I thought I was going to be late. Did you all hear the latest late-breaking news from the Kavanaugh hearings?" Rep. Ralph Norman, a Republican, said at an event Sept. 20 in Rock Hill, SC, the *Herald* newspaper reported. "Ruth Bader Ginsburg came out that she was groped by Abraham Lincoln."

Ginsburg, 85, is the oldest justice on the court. A reliable liberal vote, she has said she has plans to serve through the term of President Donald Trump.

Norman, whose 5th District borders North Carolina, won a surprisingly tight race against Democrat Archie Parnell in a special election a year ago. He faces Parnell again in November.

Jewish book fest touts variety of topics

Jewish Press staff report

Tampa's 13th Festival of Jewish Books & Conversations, hosted by the Tampa JCCs, will feature more than a dozen authors – many of them acclaimed award winners – at programs Nov. 1 through Nov. 18.

Topics for the slate of authors include never-before-told stories of a mysterious Coney Island doctor who saved thousands of babies; another doctor who was one of our youngest and most

visionary Founding Fathers; an Italian cycling legend and a mom who helped save the Louvre and its treasures from the Nazis. There are also tales of a mystic's death predictions and a humorous look at a family wedding.

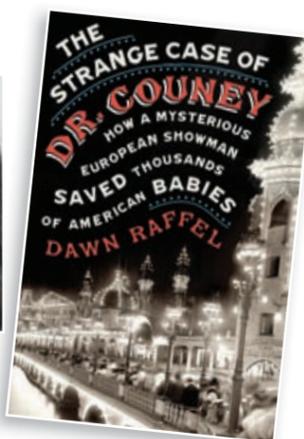
Festival events will take place at the JCC on the Cohn Campus, 13009 Community Campus Drive, Tampa, and the Bryan Glazer Family JCC, 522 N. Howard Ave., Tampa. The

Opening night will feature author Dawn Raffel



festival coincides with the National Jewish Book Month of November.

BOOK FEST continued on PAGE 10



Rays foundation grant helps fund JCC scholarships

The Tampa JCCs and Federation recently received a \$20,000 donation from the Rays Baseball Foundation, the official charity of the Tampa Bay Rays, to help young families with financial hardships be able to enroll their children in the Tampa JCC Preschools, Club J Enrichment Program and Camp JCC.

The Rays Foundation funds were awarded through a partnership grant in support

of the Corbett JCC Preschool Scholarship Fund. This is the second year the organization has received funding from the Rays, part of the foundation's commitment to a three-year \$60,000 contribution. The foundation strives to improve the quality of education, literacy and life skills training provided to youths by creating and supporting programming that meets their most critical needs.

Key contributors to the Rays Baseball Foundation include Rays' owners, players, sponsors, fans and employees. Funds are raised through a variety of events and programs throughout the baseball season.

"We are incredibly grateful for the support of the Rays Baseball Foundation," said Alissa Fischel, Tampa JCCs and Federation's chief development officer.

RAYS continued on PAGE 5

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Q What services do you offer?

A Collaborative Divorce and Family Law, Mediation, Unbundled Legal Services, Adoptions, Name Changes

Q What inspires your work and sets you apart from everyone else?

A My firm focuses on helping people through difficult times in the least painful way possible. That is why we specialize in collaborative family law, where the children are the top priority and where respect and privacy are fostered.

Q Why do clients select your business?

A Because we practice exclusively in private, peaceful dispute resolution and do not engage in costly and painful court battles.

Q How did the business get started?

A During law school in Washington, D.C., I also received a master's degree in International Relations and learned under ambassadors and diplomats. It turned out that a lot of the skills we learned in International Relations – such as interest-based negotiations, face-to-face diplomacy, etc. – also applied to Domestic Relations and family law. And so I've taken the diplomatic skills I learned in my master's program to help families resolve disputes in better ways.

Q Tell us an interesting tidbit about your business:

A I was involved in the first same-sex divorce in Florida to challenge the Defense of Marriage Act and constitutional amendment banning recognition of same-sex relationships. I was collaborative attorney and helped the clients reach an agreement. The trial court rejected the agreement because same-sex marriage was not recognized at the time. We appealed to the Second District Court of Appeals, and the case briefly went to the Florida Supreme Court. Ultimately, the trial judge was overruled and the two women were allowed to divorce.

Q If your business were a book, song or famous artwork, what would it be and why?

A Actually, the American Bar Association just published a book I authored: Building A Successful Collaborative Family Law Practice. The book looks to disrupt traditional adversarial divorce practice and teach lawyers to make a living while helping spouses collaboratively work together.

Q Do you have a personal or professional motto?

A Finding A Better Way, Together

Q What's the nicest thing a client has said to you about your service?

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To reach Family Diplomacy: A Collaborative Law Firm, call 813.443.0615 or go to www.FamilyDiplomacy.com email: adam@cordoverlaw.com



Most of Paraguay's 1,000 Jews live in Asuncion, where the Torah from Congregation B'nai Jacob in Ottumwa, IA, shown here, has found a new home at an egalitarian minyan.

Photo courtesy of Erin Jones-Avni

A Torah scroll makes its way from Iowa to Paraguay, telling a story about modern Judaism on its way

By VICTOR WISHNA
JTA news service

One family after another hurried through Erin Jones-Avni's front door, anxious to get their first glimpse of the new arrival – to admire its ornate silver breastplate and touch its satiny mantle.

"People just kept coming, and they'd make a beeline for the Torah," she told JTA from her home in Asuncion, Paraguay's capital and largest city. "They were overcome with emotion, to show it to their children, to take their picture with it."

All were members of the country's first egalitarian minyan, which was founded earlier this year at the home of Gabriela Alonso and her husband, Rabbi Julian Vainstein.

"Now, to have the Torah here, it is amazing," Alonso said. "It is a new beginning."

It is also a new chapter in a story that started more than a century ago and a continent away. The inscription on one of the scroll's wooden dowels is faded but legible: "Property of Cong. B'nai Jacob, Ottumwa, Iowa."

How this Torah found its way from the plains of Iowa to the central hills of Paraguay is a remarkable story of Jewish geography and connection, of history and timing, of ancient ties and internet links. Through a series of fortunate events and the efforts of more than a dozen relative strangers, the sunset of Jewish life in one part of the world is providing a spark of vitality in another – and there may be more to come.

* * *

More than 5,000 miles away, on East Main Street in downtown Ottumwa is the pristine, silent sanctuary of Congregation B'nai Jacob. When this stately Renais-

sance Revival building was dedicated in 1915, the community numbered more than 100 families. Today, B'nai Jacob counts perhaps three active members in town. It has been five years or more since a Rosh Hashanah service.

"It was a wonderful community, an active community," said B'nai Jacob board member Sue Weinberg, 60, who spent most of her childhood in Ottumwa before leaving for college in Iowa City, where she still lives. Weinberg's great-grandparents helped found B'nai Jacob and donated one of its four Torah scrolls. Their story reflects the larger history of Ottumwa's Jewish community.

Arriving in New York in the late 1800s, originally from Russia, they sought life beyond the sweatshops and ventured west. Her great-grandfather arrived in the coal mining town of Ottumwa as a peddler, eventually opening a hardware store, which morphed into an appliance shop. The 1915 city directory listed some two dozen Jewish-owned businesses in Ottumwa, from grocers and mattress manufacturers to clothiers and shoemakers – many of the shopkeepers' names are still embedded in the sidewalk along East Main Street.

A Jewish cemetery had been established by an earlier settlement of German Reform Jews, and the new influx of mostly Orthodox Jews from Eastern Europe expanded it, established B'nai Jacob in 1900 and bought the lot upon which the synagogue would be built in 1915. Other institutions – B'nai B'rith, Hadasah – followed, and by the early 1960s there was even talk of building a larger synagogue.

"It was like one big family," said Bernie Ullman, who was born in Ottumwa in 1939 and now lives in Kansas City.

Over time, the synagogue evolved from Orthodox to Conservative. Oral history claims it was Weinberg's grandmother who, nursing a broken leg, first refused to climb up to the women's balcony.

Yet eventually most of Ullman's and Weinberg's generations left. Those that remained largely intermarried and lost connection with the Jewish community. By 1970, B'nai Jacob could no longer support a resident rabbi – though the High Holidays continued to be a scene, when many former Ottumwans returned.

"I can [still] see where everyone was sitting – there were probably a couple hundred people, and the personalities were so vibrant," said Allan Gonsler, a child psychologist and ordained rabbi who, starting in the 1980s, trekked to Ottumwa from Omaha, NE, to lead High Holidays services for more than 30 years.

"Very few really knew how to daven, but they understood. If you gave them an aliyah, they saw that as the most valuable thing. When the Torah was walked around, people would kiss it. This was a community that felt their Yiddishkeit – in the shul. Outside – pork, shrimp, whatever. But inside the shul, there was a sanctity."

Every year, Gonsler made sure to use a different scroll, and to roll it, because otherwise, he said, "the

• TORAH continued on PAGE 14

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At 20, Jacob Wohl wants to be the face and voice of young Jewish Trump supporters

By **BEN SALES**
JTA news service

NEW YORK (JTA) – If you scroll down the Twitter feed of Jacob Wohl, former teenage hedge fund manager and current pro-Donald Trump provocateur, you’ll see a stream of insults directed at Robert Mueller, liberals and a proposed plastic straw ban.

And that was just Friday morning. To his 158,000 followers, Wohl, 20, describes himself as “Conservative, Trump Supporter, Zionist.” So he seemed like an interesting person to profile for JTA. And in the 19 minutes before he hung up on me, Wohl said his share of interesting things.



Screenshot from YouTube
Jacob Wohl describes himself as a conservative, a Zionist and one of President Trump’s most loyal supporters.

He complained about children of immigrants who couldn’t speak English in his second-grade class. He insisted that Puerto Rico, a territory of the United States, has a socialist government. He equated the Palestinian Authority with ISIS.

“I think that conservatives find that I really have my finger on the pulse of the issues that matter,” Wohl said of his hyperactive Twitter feed, which has gained nearly 100,000 followers in the past year. “I don’t spend a lot of time on things I view as unimportant.”

The weekend saw more bombastic tweets. On Sunday, Wohl called Trump “the greatest friend of the Jewish People to ever occupy the White House.” A day earlier he called on Barack Obama to be extradited to Israel for meddling in its 2015 elections. (A former Obama campaign aide, Jeremy Bird, worked for a nonpartisan Israeli NGO that campaigned against Benjamin Netanyahu. American campaign consultants of both parties have a long history of working on Israeli elections.)

Later on Sunday, he debated the causes of Puerto Rico’s economic misery with Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, the New York congressional nominee and a rising star of progressive Democrats.

The way Wohl tells his story, he began his first hedge fund, Wohl Capital Investment Group, with money from high school classmates and their parents. In a Bloomberg profile, he claimed the principal of his high school invested with him. Subsequently he started another investment fund, Montgomery Assets. Both funds are currently inactive.

But the young investor, who has been called “The Wohl of Wall Street,” soon ran into trouble and has been investigated by multiple regulatory organizations. He also posted personal ads on Craigslist seeking attractive women while claiming to run a modeling agency, according to the Daily Beast. One woman accused him of posting her photo online, in a bra, as the “Wohl Girl of the Month” without her permission. The domain WohlGirls.com expired last month.

Wohl told JTA that he now does due diligence for mergers and acquisitions, though he would not reveal the name of his company or any further details.

“I’m not going to tell you because I don’t like journalists meddling in my private business,” he said. “It can only cause problems when journalists start meddling around in my employment situations and what I’m doing businesswise, as I’ve learned.”

Wohl was raised and still lives in Orange County, a politically conservative area of Southern California, in a Republican home.

His father, David Wohl, is an attorney who has appeared on Fox News as a commentator and describes himself as a campaign surrogate for Trump. Wohl has followed in his father’s footsteps, appearing on Fox Business as early as 2015 to discuss his hedge fund.

His political activism ramped up with the start of Trump’s campaign in 2015, and since has skyrocketed. In addition to his Twitter activity, Wohl writes pieces for the right-wing site The Gateway Pundit, runs his own right-wing news site called The Washington Reporter and co-hosts a podcast with the independent journalist Laura Loomer called “2 Live Jew,” which is advertised as the “#1 Podcast for Jewish Trump Supporters.” Episode titles have included “The Caliphate Comes to Toronto” and “Full Commie.”

Loomer boasts of “confronting public figures” in the style of Project Veritas, the right-wing gotcha operation where she worked in 2016. Last month she asked a Democrat gubernatorial candidate in Michigan who is Muslim to “reconcile your own personal practice of Islamic law with your Marxist socialist political platform that directly contradicts tenets within Islamic law.”

“Laura is on the cutting edge of stopping the Sharia invasion that’s happening in the United States, the Islamification of neighborhoods,” Wohl said on a recent podcast, referring to Islamic religious law. “They want Sharia courts. This is what they’re calling for, this is their vision, is to establish a caliphate in the West.”

Wohl said he agrees with Trump “on 90 percent or 95 percent of his positions” – first and foremost immigration. He said that “illegal immigration has just devastated communities” in Southern California, something Wohl said he realized when most of his second-grade class could not speak “a lick of English.” He said that hindered his education.

“A wall would change a lot about a lot of border states as far as public safety,” he said. “What’s coming across our southern border is in many cases, not in all cases, but in many cases tremendous crime.”

“When Trump came down the escalator and said, ‘We’re going to build a great, great wall and we’re going to make Mexico pay for that wall,’ he had my vote,” Wohl said, referring to Trump’s campaign launch.

One of the issues on which Wohl disagrees with Trump relates to Israel. Wohl would like to see the president, who has been friendly to the Israeli government’s agenda, take an even harder line against the Palestinian Authority, which administers the Palestinian areas of the West Bank.

“I would like to see the Palestinian Authority defunded completely by the United States and treated like ISIS or any other terrorist organization because that’s what they are,” he said.

Wohl’s political opinions are no less pointed on Twitter, where he focuses his commentary on praising the president and opposing his opponents. Wohl said proudly that Trump has retweeted him three times and replied to one of his tweets, which he said is “a recognition that you’re doing something right.”

Other tweeters have enjoyed mocking Wohl for a curious trope he repeats: a contention that he hears “coffee shop hipster liberals” praising the president. He has said so six separate times.

I wanted to ask Wohl about this surreptitiously pro-Trump hipster cafe. I also wanted to ask him more about his Judaism, as well as his future plans. But he hung up on me after I asked him a follow-up question about his claim that Puerto Rico is socialist.

“You’ve got a terrible attitude,” he said before ending the call.

Trump administration continues to pressure Palestinians; orders close of PLO offices in Washington

(JTA) – The Trump administration ordered the close of the Palestine Liberation Organization office in Washington D.C.

It’s another indication that the Trump administration is stepping up the pressure on the Palestinians to come to the negotiating table with the Israelis. The Palestinian authority walked away from talks last December after the United States recognized of Jerusalem as the Israeli capital.

In the last month the U.S. also said it would cut more than \$200 million for humanitarian and development aid in the West Bank and Gaza; halt all funding to the UNRWA, United Nations refugee agency that aids Palestinians; and halt \$25 million in funding to the East Jerusalem Hospital Network, made up of six hospitals.

Israeli security officials reportedly are concerned that the withdrawal of so much aid to the Palestinians could harm Israeli security, in part by fomenting a major humanitarian crisis and collapse in Gaza.

In announcing the shuttering of the PLO office, State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said, “We have permitted the PLO office to conduct operations that support the objective of achieving a lasting, comprehensive peace between Israelis and the Palestinians since the expiration of a previous waiver in November 2017. However, the PLO has not taken steps to advance the start of direct and meaningful negotiations with Israel.”

“To the contrary, PLO leadership has condemned a U.S. peace plan they have not yet seen and refused to engage with the U.S. government with respect to peace efforts and otherwise. As such, and reflecting Congressional concerns, the Administration has decided that the PLO office in Washington will close at this point,” she said.

The announcement also linked the closure to “Palestinian attempts to prompt an investigation of Israel by the International Criminal Court.”

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu praised what he called the “correct de-

cision” by the U.S.

“The Palestinians refuse to enter negotiations with Israel even as they attack Israel with false claims in international forums,” he said. “Israel very much appreciates the Trump administration decision and supports American actions that are designed to make it clear to the Palestinians that the refusal to enter into negotiations with Israel and the unbridled attacks against Israel will not only not advance peace but will certainly not make things better for the Palestinians.”

Ambassador Husam Zomlot, head of the PLO General Delegation to the United States, condemned the decision.

“Such a reckless act confirms that the administration is blindly executing Israel’s ‘wish list,’ which starts with shutting down Palestinian diplomatic representation in the U.S.,” Zomlot said.

He went on to say: “This confirms to us that we are on the right track. We will step up our efforts to hold Israel accountable under international law, continue building international alliances for peace, double our efforts to reach out to the American people as we witness the transformational change in American public opinion in support of the Palestinian cause and our legitimate rights.”

In a speech to the Federalist Society in Washington, White House National Security Adviser John Bolton confirmed the closure of the PLO office and called the International Criminal Court an “illegitimate court.”

Bolton added that “The United States will use any means necessary to protect our citizens and those of our allies from unjust prosecution by this illegitimate court.”

He called the ICC “ineffective, unaccountable, and indeed, outright dangerous.” “While the court welcomes the membership of the so-called state of Palestine, it has threatened Israel, a liberal, democratic nation, with investigation into its actions in the West Bank and Gaza to defend its citizens from terrorist attacks,” Bolton also said, reiterating that the “United States will always stand with our friend and ally Israel.”



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A day at the beach

By **RABBI ED ROSENTHAL**
Executive Director, Hillels
of the Florida Suncoast

Phew! We've dipped apples in honey, heard the Shofar, we've fasted, repented, and heard the Shofar again.

The intensity of the Ten Days of Repentance is past, and hopefully all of us have been inscribed in the Book of Life for a year of health and happiness. Now we can begin to relax a bit and sit in the shade of the Sukkah with the smell of the autumn fruits surrounding us. Sukkot, like the other Pilgrimage festivals of Pesach and Shavuot, connect us to the agricultural cycle of the year. Sukkot is the Harvest Festival in the Land of Israel. Here in Florida, it doesn't feel so much like autumn as, well ... more summer and hurricane season. Sukkot reminds me of the passage in the Book of Psalms 115 "The dry land was given to Man." It was given to humans to till and cultivate, to bring forth the bounty that God provides for the good of all.

During Sukkot you should hear sermons or read articles about Judaism and the environment. I would however, like to draw your attention to another part of the environment that is often overlooked in Judaism and, in Florida, we overlook it at our own peril.

Our holidays intertwine us with nature and teach us to appreciate the natural world yet, when it comes to the marine environment, our tradition has very little to say. Tashlich is about as close as we get to a communal ritual observance involving water and what do we do? We caste our "sins" into it. As if the water is our spiritual dumping ground. At the same time, humanity as a whole has viewed the sea as the ultimate garbage dump. New York City sends huge barges filled with garbage out to sea every day to dump the mountains of trash from the city into the Atlantic Ocean. As if putting it out of sight actually disposes of it.

If, as Psalm 92 says "The Sea is

RABBINICALLY SPEAKING

God's," how much the more so should we treat it with respect? But we do not. Through pollution, overfishing, climate change and more, we are destroying the ocean. According to the most current scientific data, if we don't change our current habits, every major fishery on the planet will collapse by 2048. By 2050 there will be more plastic in the ocean than fish. If we don't change our behavior, the ocean will die; and if the ocean dies ... we die.

I unapologetically believe that when Jews get involved in any issue, substantive change takes place. So, it's time for the Jewish community to step up to save the ocean and the marine environment, especially in Florida. When I look at the donor walls of hospitals, theaters, universities and museums, I see Jewish names everywhere. When I look at the boards of directors of organizations supporting education, medicine, the arts ... Jews are everywhere. Yet when I look at organizations that are working to protect the marine environment, there are almost none.

"The Sea is God's." I dare say that if anyone entered your synagogue and vandalized and desecrated it, we would all be in an uproar, screaming antisemitism and calling on the police to find the culprits. Yet we vandalize and desecrate the sea, the realm of God, with impunity.

This past weekend, the first "Reverse Tashlich" took place in Tampa Bay and in other locations across Florida. I thank the approximately 300 people who came out and instead of casting our sins *into* the water, worked hard to remove "sins" *from* the water. It was dirty work. It was hard work, but everyone made a difference. You can read about it in more detail in this edition of the *Jewish Press*. I hope it will inspire you, as I am inspired, to get involved to protect and save the marine environment.

"The Sea is God's." It's time, as a Jewish community to treat it as such.

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



Congregations

Cong. Beth Am

Refugee resettlement: The Sisterhood will host guest speaker **Nilma Vasquez**, coordinator of Resettlement Services for Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services, on Thursday, Oct. 11 at 7 p.m. at the synagogue. Vasquez will discuss the process refugee families follow from the time they decide to come to the area to if/when they arrive here, and how Gulf Coast and other volunteers assist their resettlement. She will talk about ways to get involved, and the current status of immigration. Opportunities are also available for assisting with tutoring, transportation, providing companionship, and orienting clients to their new communities and American culture.

Sisterhood has partnered with the Refugee Program of Gulf Coast to provide home furnishings for two new families. Bring a donation of a kitchen item for the home of a new refugee family.

Talking God: Rabbi Jason Rosenberg will lead a 4-part discussion series on different ways that Jewish tradition envisions God. "God Talk" will include discussion about the literalist theology found in the Torah to more modern ideas as well as participants' personal beliefs. The classes will be held on Wednesdays, Oct. 3 - 24 at 7:30 p.m. For more information, contact the Beth Am office, (813) 968-8511.

Cong. Schaarai Zedek

Simchat Torah: Celebrate the time when the congregation finishes reading the Torah and begins it all over again on Sunday, Sept. 30 from 10:15-11:15 a.m. This is the time to unroll the Torah and march and sing praises to thank God for giving us the Torah. RSVP online www.zedek.org/RSVP or call the temple.

TorahFest: The TorahFest fall celebration will take place on Sunday, Sept. 30 from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. The event will include a hamburger/hot dog lunch at no charge and feature face painting, balloon art and carnival games for all ages. RSVP online www.zedek.org/RSVP or call the temple.

Yizkor: Remember deceased loved ones by attending the traditional Sukkot Yizkor Service on Monday, Oct. 1 at 10:30 a.m.

ShaBark Shalom: Bring your leashed pets to the courtyard for Shabbat services on Friday, Oct. 12 at 7:30 p.m. In the spirit of the story of Noah, the temple will honor your favorite animals.

Bless the Animals: Bring your leashed pets to the portico on Sunday, Oct. 14 at 8:30 a.m. so **Rabbi Joel Simon, Rabbi Nathan**

Shabbat and Yom Tov Candle Lighting Times

Sept. 28 • 7:02 pm
Sept. 30 • 6:59 pm
Oct. 1 • 7:52 pm
Oct. 5 • 6:45 pm
Oct. 12 • 6:46 pm



Farb and Cantor Deborah Cannizzaro can bless them.

Tot Shabbat: Enjoy an interactive Shabbat experience for families with young children on Friday, Oct. 19 at 5:30 p.m. This is for children up to age 5 and siblings of all ages. Learn Shabbat rituals and prayers, light the candles, sing the Kiddush with grape juice, and bless the challah. After the service, there will be a free Shabbat dinner for the families. This event will include a special PJ Library display courtesy of the Tampa JCCs. Learn how you can receive Jewish books for children from birth to age 8, also at no cost to you. Parents and grandparents are welcome. RSVP by Oct. 18 by calling the temple or going to www.zedek.org/RSVP.

"Nu" Frontiers: This program, led by **Rabbi Emeritus Richard Birnholz**, is a new initiative for those 50 and older looking for social activities. These might include, but are not limited to dinners, movies, bike rides, out of town trips, volunteer opportunities, book reviews, and much more. Let Rabbi Birnholz know if you'd like to be part of the planning. Contact him at (813) 876-2377, ext. 205 or email rbirnholz@zedek.org.

Senior luncheon: Armondo Diaz, an acclaimed Frank Sinatra impersonator, along with preschool student singers will perform at the senior luncheon on Thursday, Oct. 18, beginning at 11:15 a.m. There is no charge but reservations are required. RSVP to the temple at (813) 876-2377 or email office@zedek.org.

Café CSZ: Have a bagel and a cup of coffee at Café CSZ on Sundays from 9-11 a.m. when the religious school is meeting. Join the conversation and meet friends, fellow parents, and other congregants.

Introduction to Judaism: A 10-part Introduction (or re-introduction) to Judaism lecture series on the nature of Judaism, God, Torah, worship, life cycle observances, and holidays will be offered on Wednesdays from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Oct. 3 through Dec. 19. This is for Jews, non-Jews, intermarried couples and

• 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.

Congregations

• CONTINUED from PREVIOUS PAGE

singles and will be taught by Rabbis Simon and Farb. It is required for anyone who is planning to convert.

Call clergy assistant **Ming Brewer** to register at (813) 876-2377, ext. 202.

A taste of Hebrew: Hebrew for Adult Beginners, taught by Cantor Deborah Cannizzaro, will be offered on most Wednesdays from Oct. 10 through March 20 from 6-7 p.m. This 20-lesson course is designed for English-speaking adults who are primarily interested in learning how to read Hebrew prayers and blessings or want a refresher. This class is a prerequisite for an Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

Call **Sherry Stein**, director of membership and programing, at (813-876-2377, ext. 212) to enroll.

Cong. Rodeph Sholom

Shemini Atzeret: Services will be held Monday, Oct. 1 at 9:30 a.m. with a kiddush lunch and learn.

Simchat Torah: A community celebration/Simchat Torah program will be held on Monday, Oct 1 at 5:30 p.m. with a congregational dinner at 6:15 p.m. and erev Simchat Torah service at 7 p.m. Services also will be held Tuesday, Oct. 2 at 9:30 a.m.

Adult B'nai Mitzvah program: A new class begins on Wednesday, Oct. 10 and will continue on Wednesdays from 6:30-8 p.m. A prerequisite for this class is Embracing Judaism with **Rabbi Josh Hearshen** and a Hebrew reading class with **Judy Van Der Stelt**. The cost is \$150 for members and \$250 for non-members. The class is open to the community.

To register, go to www.rsholom.org or call (813) 837-1911.

Jammies and jeans Shabbat: Throw on your jeans and get your kids in their jammies for a fun and casual Shabbat celebration on select Fridays at 5:30 p.m. in the chapel. Open to the community, the next program will be held on Oct. 12.

Save the date: Due to the success of the congregation's Valentine's Day concert, a "Love Concert" is planned for Sunday, Nov. 11 at 3 p.m. featuring opera, Broadway, English, Hebrew, Yiddish, Ladino and Spanish songs. Performers will include **Cantor Andres Kornworcel**, **Cantor Tanya Greenblatt**, **Cantor Beth Schlossberg** and others.

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

Cong. Kol Ami

Sukkah social: Live music by Some Assembly Required will be provided as the social committee welcomes folks to the Kol Ami Sukkah Social on Saturday, Sept. 29 at 8:30 p.m. All are welcome in the Sukkah for drinks and desserts under the stars.

Shemini Atzeret: Services will be on Sunday, Sept. 30 at 6:30 p.m. and Monday, Oct. 1 at 9:30 a.m., which will include a Yizkor memorial service. A kiddush luncheon will follow the Monday morning service.

Simchat Torah: A Torah tour will take place on Monday, Oct. 1 at 6:30 p.m., followed by services. Services will be held Tuesday, Oct. 2 at 9:30 a.m., followed by a kiddush luncheon. A concluding Simchat Torah service will be held at 6:30 p.m.

Pop-Up Shabbat: On Friday, Oct. 5 at 6:30 p.m., Congregation Kol Ami presents Pop-Up Shabbat service and oneg surrounded by nature at Lake Park, 17302 N. Dale Mabry Hwy. All are welcome.

Pizza & PJ Shabbat: Celebrate Shabbat filled with guitar playing, singing, dancing, friendship and delicious food on Friday, Oct. 12 from 6-7 p.m. Enjoy a pizza dinner followed by a child-friendly musical service. PJs not required – just dress comfortably. After dinner, there will be a short musical service led by **Rabbi Howard Siegel** and **David Berger**. Then it's on to an ice cream dessert. Cost is \$5 per person, with a \$25 family maximum. Children 3 and under are free. This program is recommended for families with children ages 15 months through second grade but is open to those of all ages as well. RSVP to frontoffice@kolami.org by Wednesday, Oct. 10.

Parade of pets: Celebrate the Parade of Pets Festival on Sunday, Oct. 14 at noon. This is the 10th annual Parade of Pets and Birkat Behemot (Blessing of the Beasts). It will be held in the north (b)arking lot. Bring your pets. All are welcome.

In conjunction with the pet parade, the Chaverim and Boneem youth groups will hold a party at 12:30 p.m. at the synagogue with kids from Congregation Rodeph Sholom.

Youth activities: The Kadima youth group will meet at Dave & Busters, 10209 Estuary Lakes Drive, Tampa, on Sunday, Sept. 30 from 1-3 p.m. Cost is \$20 and includes lunch. RSVP to Rachel at youth@kolami.org.

The USY group will have an outing to a corn maze on Sunday, Oct. 7 from 1-3 p.m. RSVP to Rachel at youth@kolami.org for location and other details.

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.

L'Chaim: A Sharing Life's Lessons session is held on Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to noon. There is a different topic, readings and different leader for each weekly session. This is a friendly group sharing our life's lessons.

Chabad Chai of South Tampa

Wrestling with Faith: A six-session course from the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) titled Wrestling with Faith will begin on Tuesday, Oct. 23 from 7:30-9 p.m. and run for the next six Wednesdays, excluding Nov. 21. The cost is \$70 with a 10 percent discount for those who sign up before Oct. 2. Fees include classes, materials and recorded lessons (for sessions missed). For more information, call the Chabad center.

Cong. Bais Menacham Chabad

Torah class: Join a weekly Torah class on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. at the University of Tampa. The class explores contemporary issues through a Torah perspective. For more information, contact **Rabbi Levi Rivkin** at (813) 504-

4432 or email bmchabad@gmail.com.

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

Cong. Or Ahavah

Sukkot party: The congregation will hold a Sukkot party on Sunday, Sept. 30 at 1 p.m. at the home of a congregant. Bring a side dairy, veggie or fish dish to share.

For information on the location of the party and to RSVP, email Barry at shalinsky@hotmail.com.

Cong. Beth Israel Sun City Center

Simchat Torah: The temple will hold Shemini Atzeret, Simchat Torah, Yizkor on Monday, Oct. 1 at 7:30 p.m. For guest tickets, contact **Janet Corin** at (401) 524-0847 or **Sandy Zains** at (330) 509-0123.

Beatles bash: The temple invites the public to a Beatlemania concert on Sunday Oct. 7 at 2 p.m. at the South Campus Community Center, 1910 S. Pebble Beach Blvd., Sun City Center. Tickets are \$15 and will be available at the North Campus Community Center kiosk, 1009 N. Pebble Beach Blvd., from 9 a.m. to noon on Sept. 17, 21, 26, 28 and Oct. 3 and 5.

For more information, call **Ilene Unruch** at (973) 876-3531 or **Marlene Hollander** at (813) 331-3888.

Fashion show: The Sisterhood will hold its opening meeting of the season on Tuesday, Oct. 9 at 1 p.m. in the social hall of the temple. The program will feature a fall fashion show with clothing provided by the Nearly New Shop of Sun City Center. A variety of home-baked sweets will complete the afternoon. Jewish women in the community who have an interest in learning more about the Beth Israel Sisterhood are welcome to attend.

Contact **Rochelle Lafer** at Sisterhood@jcscc.org for additional information.

Cong. Beth Shalom Brandon

Monster Mash: The congregation will hold their "Monster Mash" on Saturday, Oct. 27 from 6-7 p.m. This is a costume party featuring an evening of dancing and contests for prizes.

Visit <http://bethshalom-brandon.org> for more information.

Temple Emanuel Lakeland

Shemini Atzeret: Services including Yizkor will be held on Sunday, Sept. 30 at 7 p.m.

Simchat Torah: The temple will hold Simchat Torah services on Monday, Oct. 1 at 7 p.m., followed by an ice cream social.

Presentation on Jews in China set for Nov. 18

Performer, composer, and teacher Joy Katzen-Guthrie will present an illustrated talk on Jews in China on Sunday, Nov. 18, at 3 p.m. at the Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library, 2902 W. Bearss Ave., Tampa.

Jewish communities have existed in the country for at least 13 centuries. The largest and most prosperous was in the ancient Sung capital of Kaifeng. In the 19th century, Sephardic Jews helped develop Shanghai, and after World War I Jews fleeing pogroms in Eastern Europe and the Russian Revolution settled there and in the port cities of Northern China. After 1933, they were joined by refugees from Nazi Germany, who were permitted entry without documentation, their citizenship having been revoked by the German government.

China is one of the few countries

that has never persecuted its Jews. China and Israel enjoy a friendly relationship, and there are flourishing Jewish communities today in Shanghai, Hong Kong, and Guangzhou.

Katzen-Guthrie has led six Jewish heritage tours to China, and her account of these little-known Jewish communities will include a 90-minute presentation. It is sponsored by Cultural Jews of Tampa Bay and is free. All who are interested in the history and culture of the Jewish people are welcome to attend. For more information, visit the group's Meetup.com page or contact Jeff Lipkes at jefflipkes@gmail.com.



Joy Katzen-Guthrie

RAYS

• CONTINUED from FRONT PAGE

"Education provides a pathway to success and this generous commitment will help develop the leaders of tomorrow." Nearly 300 children attend the JCC Preschools at its north and south Tampa sites.

"Our preschools ... teach a love of learning," said Jen Goldberg, executive director of early childhood education and special projects for the preschools.

"We are committed to building

a sense of community with core human values that students will carry with them for a lifetime. We believe quality early learning education should be available to all families, regardless of their socioeconomic background or religious affiliation," she added.

Individuals interested in applying for scholarship assistance or in making a donation in support of the scholarship fund should contact Goldberg at jennifer.goldberg@jewishtampa.com or (813) 769-4738.

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2 Jewish billionaire donors withdraw support from GOP

(JTA)—One of the largest donors to the Republican Party in New England is calling on voters to support Democratic candidates in the upcoming elections — and Seth Klarman put his money where his mouth is.

Klarman, a registered Independent who stresses that “I’m not a Democrat,” told *New York Times* columnist Bari Weiss that he has donated \$4.9 million this year to nearly 150 candidates, most running as Democrats. He said that by Election Day in November he will have spent \$18 million to \$20 million on Democratic candidates.

“We need to turn the House and Senate as a check on Donald Trump and his runaway presidency,” Klarman said.

Speaking of his planned donations to Democratic candidates, he said “I’m stretching far beyond what I usually do.”

Among the Democrats to whom he has donated in this election cycle: Massachusetts Rep. Joe Kennedy III; Texas Senate candidate Rep. Beto O’Rourke; and New York Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, a potential presidential candidate.

Klarman donated more than \$2.9 million to the GOP in the 2016 election cycle, according to the *Times*.

He told Weiss that he “has been alarmed by Republican attempts at voter suppression, and by a president who demonizes immigrants and suggests that Muslims, Hispanics and blacks are second-class citizens.” Klarman also said he feels “betrayed” by “spineless” Republicans who have, with rare exceptions, been “profiles in cowardice.”

The Klarman Family Foundation, which he runs with his wife, has some \$700 million in total assets and gave away approximately \$40 million in 2016 with a focus on pro-democracy initiatives, including supporting organizations that protect journalists, combat bigotry and defend LGBT rights. He is also a major investor in *The Times of Israel* news site.

Meanwhile, billionaire philan-

thropist Leslie Wexner recently announced at a leadership summit in Columbus, OH, that “I’m no longer a Republican” and will no longer support the party.

He is telling his friends in elective office that he is now an Independent, the *Columbus Dispatch* reported.

Wexner made the announcement at an event sponsored by the Columbus Partnership, the group of central Ohio’s most influential busi-

ness leaders that Wexner chairs, and YPO (formerly Young Presidents’ Organization), a group of under-45 business leaders.

Wexner, who donates generously to Jewish causes and according to *Forbes* is the wealthiest man in Ohio, is the CEO of L Brands, which owns Victoria’s Secret and Bath & Body Works.

He made his announcement after former President Barack Obama, a Democrat, visited Columbus before heading to a rally in Cleveland in support of Democratic gubernatorial candidate Richard Corday. “I was struck by the genuineness of the man; his candor, humility and empathy for others,” Wexner said.

Wexner told his employees in a speech last year following the white nationalist and far-right rally in Charlottesville, VA, that left one counter-protester dead that he felt “dirty” and “ashamed” by Trump’s response. He also said he couldn’t sleep because of the incident, telling himself that “I have to do something because the leader of our country is behaving poorly.”

In the last year, Wexner and his wife, Abby, have donated to initiatives that foster bipartisan civility, as well as contributed \$2.8 million to With Honor, which supports military veterans from both parties who are running for office. In 2012, he gave \$250,000 to a super PAC backing Mitt Romney’s presidential campaign. Four years later, the Wexners donated more than \$2 million to candidates, including a \$500,000 contribution in support of Jeb Bush for president.



Photo by Scott Olson /Getty Images
Seth Klarman



Screenshot from YouTube
Les Wexner



“Judgment at Nuremberg” cast members are, from left, Greg Thompson (Judge Ives), Elizabeth Fendrick (Frau Bertholt), Alexander Mc Greevey (Rudolf Peterson), Marie-Claude Tremblay (Maria Wallner), Jim Wicker (Judge Haywood), Hugh Timoney (Ernst Janning), Derrick Phillips (Oscar Rolfe) and James Rayfield (Dr. Wickert).

Photo by: CineView Studios

Stageworks production tackles Nuremberg trials

Under the motto of Embracing the Past, Changing the Future, Stageworks Theatre in Tampa will open its 2018-19 season on Friday, Sept. 28, with the premiere of *Judgment at Nuremberg*, a deep and hard-hitting look at the wartime trials that shook the world after World War II.

The play is the sequel to the successful 1961 *Judgment at Nuremberg* film, which featured Spencer Tracy, Burt Lancaster and Maximilian Schell. The film’s screenwriter Abby Mann felt the story about the legacy of World War II should be experienced with a live performance.

The storyline is a dramatized version of the proceedings at one of the Nuremberg trials, in which Judge Dan Haywood (Jim Wicker) is overseeing the trials of four German judges—most notably Dr. Ernst Janning (Hugh Timoney) and Emil Hahn (Richard Coppinger)—accused of knowingly sentencing innocent men to death in collusion with the Nazis. Representing the defense is attorney Oscar Rolfe (Derrick Phillips), while prosecuting the accused is U.S. Col. Parker (Ryan Bernier). As the trial goes on, both the visiting Americans and their reluctant German hosts often find themselves facing the legacy of the war, and how both of their nations have been irrevocably changed by it. Issues at the forefront of this trial reverberate through history and challenge humanity to this day.

“In a time when society has gotten more and more divided along party or ideological lines, it is incumbent on us to look at our past in order to make responsible choices now,” said Stageworks’ Producing Artistic Director Karla Hartley, who explained that the lineup this season aims to “give our audience a chance to look closely at the past in order to soar into the unknown ahead.”

This production is also supported by community partners: the Florida Holocaust Museum in St. Petersburg, Tampa JCCs and Federation, Stetson Law and

United Nations Association of Tampa Bay.

The Holocaust museum and the museum’s Lawyers of Conscience organization are sponsoring a special performance on Sunday, Sept. 30 at 3 p.m. with a presentation after the play by Tampa attorney Greg Kehoe, who will hold a talk-back with the play’s actors. Kehoe worked for the U.S. Department of Justice as a prosecutor for more than 20 years with postings in the United States, Europe, Asia, and South America. Among this high profile cases, Kehoe led the team of lawyers and investigators which advised the Iraqi Special Tribunal, an ad hoc court formed to prosecute Saddam Hussein and members of his former regime. Tickets for the Holocaust museum event are \$35 (with \$5 from each ticket sale donated back to the museum). To purchase tickets for this show, RSVP by Sept. 26 to Arthur Sanchez at (727) 820-0100, ext. 251 or asanchez@thefhm.org.

Throughout the play’s run, the theater’s lobby gallery will be showing “Pursuing Justice: Nuremberg’s Legacy,” created and circulated by the Holocaust Museum. This traveling exhibit focuses on the two sets of Nuremberg Trials: the International Military Tribunal (IMT) for the major Nazi war criminals and the 12 subsequent trials conducted at Nuremberg for those not tried at the IMT. The IMT set the standard for subsequent trials as well as hundreds of war criminal trials since 1945.

Judgment at Nuremberg will run from Sept. 28 through Oct. 14 with evening shows at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and matinee performances at 3 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. For ticket information and reservations, visit www.stageworkstheatre.org or call the box office (Tuesdays through Saturdays from 1:30-5:30 p.m.) at (813) 374-2416, ext. 1.

Located in Tampa’s Channelside District at 1120 E. Kennedy Blvd., Stageworks is Tampa’s longest running professional theater company.

DeSantis denounces donor’s remarks, but won’t return money

(JTA) — Florida Republican nominee for governor, Ron DeSantis, condemned racist remarks by Jewish backer Steven Alembik as “disgusting” but his campaign said it would not return money Alembik had donated. Alembik, of Boca Raton, had on Twitter called former President Barack Obama a “F***ING MUSLIM N*****.”

Asked about his use of the pejorative, he told Politico on Sept. 20: “I grew up in New York in the ’50s. We were the kikes. They were the n——. They were the goyim. And those were the spics.”

A campaign statement denounced Alembik’s rhetoric as “disgusting,” and said it would no longer accept money from

him. But the campaign also said it would not return at least \$4,000 he had given the campaign because it had already been spent during the primaries, The Associated Press reported.

DeSantis spoke in February at a pro-Israel event Alembik organized at Mar-a-Lago, the Florida resort owned by President Trump.

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Jewish groups decry U.S. cuts to number of refugees in 2019

(JTA) – The United States will cut the number of refugees that it will accept for 2019 to the lowest level set since the Refugee Act became law in 1980, drawing condemnation from Jewish groups.

On Monday, Sept. 17, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced that up to 30,000 refugees will be resettled in the United States next year under the new refugee ceiling, down from 45,000 this year.

Global humanitarian groups have called the 2018 ceiling of 45,000 too low. Since 1980, the average annual ceiling has been set at 96,229 refugees.

In addition, more than 280,000 asylum seekers will be processed. There are over 800,000 asylum seekers who are already inside the United States and awaiting adjudication of their claims, Pompeo said.

“These expansive figures continue the United States’ longstanding record of the most generous nation in the world when it comes to protection-based immigration and assistance,” he told reporters.

The Jewish refugee aid organization HIAS condemned the proposed refugee resettlement ceiling.

“President Trump has once again betrayed America’s history and global leadership in providing safe haven for innocent human beings fleeing violence and persecution,” HIAS President Mark Hetfield said. “By setting the refugee number this low, this administration is betraying the commitments we made after World War II – followed by decades of bipartisan support – to ensure that the world never again turns its back on innocent people seeking safety. During a period of unprecedented crisis, America has signaled it is a nation in retreat, and as a result the outlook for refugees looks even more bleak.”

Pompeo defended the new refugee ceiling, telling reporters, that it “reflects our commitment, our commitment to protect the most vulnerable around the world while prioritizing the safety and well-being of the American people, as President Trump has directed. We must continue to responsibly vet applicants to prevent the entry of those who might do harm to our country.”

He noted that total U.S. humanitarian assistance worldwide was more than \$8 billion in the previous year, which he said was more than any other country.

“This year’s proposed refugee ceiling must be considered in the context of the many other forms of protection and assistance offered by the United States,” he said.

The Anti-Defamation League’s national director, Jonathan Greenblatt, also condemned the ceiling, calling it “a moral failure and yet another attack by this administration on refugees seeking haven from unimaginable circumstances.”

“These xenophobic immigration policies fly in the face of our values as Americans,” Greenblatt said in a statement. “Now many people fleeing for their lives will not find safety in this country – a country that should be a beacon of hope and freedom for all.”

He added: “The Jewish community knows all too well what can happen when desperate people have nowhere to turn. We must stand up against this heartless attack on refugees and demand that our country not turn its back on people desperately searching for refuge.”



Ian Chernin works on making a shofar during a Shofar Factory event in preparation for the High Holy Days.



Hillel Academy student Madison Allan gets assistance from Rabbi Mendy Dubrowski of Chabad Chai of South Tampa during his Shofar Factory demonstration at the school.

Holiday preparations at Hillel Academy

Hillel Academy’s middle school students prepared for Rosh Hashanah by learning to make shofars, baking challah, making wishes for the new year and enjoying sweet treats of honey and apples.

Rabbi Mendy Dubrowski of Chai Chabad of South Tampa brought his shofar factory to the school a week and a half before the holiday.

At a separate event students celebrated at a “round robin fair”

consisting of stations relevant to Rosh Hashanah. A Shofar table was manned by Rabbi Josh Hershon of Congregation Rodeph Sholom. There was also a baking/challah table and an Apple Wish Tree table where students put hopes for the new year on an “apple” and hung it from a “tree.”

Students also decorated small honey jars and enjoyed apple and honey treats as they learned blessings.



Middle school girls at Hillel Academy in Tampa apply a finishing coat to a shofar they made for use during Rosh Hashanah.

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Senior Moments is a poignant and hilarious view of aging in all its many facets. Growing older is filled with new realities and challenges that can be humorous at times, but difficult at others. An “ageless” musical comedy being produced by the Tampa JCCs, *Senior Moments* explores maturing in a series of vignettes.

For more information, contact Brandy Gold at 813.769.4725 or brandy.gold@jewishtampa.com.



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Ellen Siegman, front, and Renee Fienman, both members of Congregation Beth Shalom in Clearwater, collect trash from a rock berm along the Courtney Campbell Causeway.



Photos by Bob Fryer

Volunteers struggle to remove a huge memory foam mattress from the waters along the Courtney Campbell Causeway during the first Bay area community Reverse Tashlich.

VOLUNTEERS

• CONTINUED from FRONT PAGE

and Temple Ahavat Shalom in Palm Harbor. Others there included the seven members of the Acanda-Medina family, members of Chabad Jewish Discovery Center in Brandon who came all the way from Fishhawk Ranch in southeast Hillsborough County.

Though Joaquin's find dwarfed most of the other debris collected along the causeway, shortly before the event ended a group of volunteers came to the collection center dragging a more traditional looking mattress that had been discarded near the shore.

What a concept

The Reverse Tashlich cleanup

program, sponsored by the Hillels of the Florida Suncoast, drew more than 300 volunteers to waterfront areas throughout Pinellas and Hillsborough counties. Nine Tampa Bay area congregations plus Hillel chapters from Eckerd College, the University of South Florida and University of Tampa, officially signed on to the project.

The concept is the brainchild of the Scubi Jew club at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg.

Tashlich means "casting off" in Hebrew and during the High Holy Days, the Tashlich ritual is for Jews to symbolically cast their sins into the water. "A reverse Tashlich is taking sins from the water," explained Rabbi Ed Rosenthal, who is executive director of the Suncoast

Hillels and leader of local Scubi Jew and Tikkun HaYam (repair the seas) programs. Both programs promote protecting the marine environment.

Volunteers took buckets and trash-picking tools to six sites: the Courtney Campbell Causeway, Maximo Park and the Blackthorn Memorial (both near the Sunshine Skyway), Takomah Trail Park (east of Busch Gardens in Tampa), the University of South Florida's Riverfront Park and a site at the edge of McKay Bay in Tampa.

More than 650 pounds of trash was collected, including many single-use plastic items (water bottles, potato chip bags, straws, plastic forks and food take-out containers). Also collected were glass and aluminum bottles, Sty-

rofoam containers, a garden trellis, a "creepy baby doll" with limbs barely attached, tires, a 5-foot sheet of bubble wrap, a purse, balloons, a tail light and plastic toothbrushes, along with the two mattresses.

Congregation Kol Ami had the most participants in Tampa Bay, with 47 volunteers at Takomah Trail Park. Other Tampa congregations participating included Beth Am, Rodeph Sholom and Schaarai Zedek. In Pinellas, the Skyway sites were tended to by volunteers from Congregations B'nai Israel and Temple Beth-El, both of St. Petersburg.

Keep Pinellas Beautiful and Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful provided cleanup materials and chose locations for the project.

Giving back

While some folks chose other Sunday activities – both the Bucs and Rays had home games – the volunteers overwhelmingly agreed that their sweaty, sometimes messy, efforts were rewarding. "This is a nice, new tradition. It is good to give back," noted Marty Goldberg of Congregation Beth Shalom in Clearwater. He was in on the recovery of both mattresses.

"I am a science teacher," said Ellen Siegman, "The [Reverse Tashlich] idea is just powerful. It hits you this holiday season."

Temple B'nai Israel member Vivian Benci, who described herself as "a longtime environmentalist," said she and fellow volunteer Marcia Miller are part of an effort to end use of disposable items at their temple. Miller's daughter, Samantha, said she joined the effort because it is important to protect marine life.

"I have no doubt that the lessons that my children learned from this day will be lifelong and I am so grateful as a father for the mitzvot

opportunities that you facilitated for my children today ... We truly appreciated the opportunity to change the world in positive ways today," wrote a volunteer from Temple Ahavat Shalom.

Elyse Acanda, the mom whose son found the memory foam mattress, brought five of her seven kids to the event after learning about it through social media. "It is really important for them to understand their role. When we teach them not to litter, here's why," she said, pointing to collections of debris.

Some areas of the causeway were so thoroughly scoured that a few volunteers were not able to collect full buckets of trash. Rachel Biton, a junior at Eckerd and a Scubi Jew member, put it in perspective when she said, "I just want to help the ocean and the planet. All these little steps make a big difference."

Those at other collection sites also stressed the importance of the effort put forth by the volunteers.

Sara Ingber, team leader for Congregation Rodeph Sholom, was overwhelmed by the turnout and said, "In the spirit of Tikkun HaYam we did a great mitzvah as a community and I can't wait to do it again next year."

"It's our responsibility to take care of our oceans for our children and future generations," reflected Sam Wax, a board member of Congregation Schaarai Zedek.

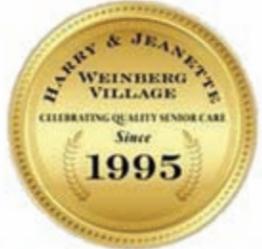
"As red tide is engulfing our community, the necessity to raise awareness in the Jewish community about the multiple threats to the marine environment is paramount," said Rabbi Rosenthal. "The Reverse Tashlich is just the beginning. I'm ecstatic at the reception and participation in our community, and hope it just continues to increase."

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Volunteers from Congregations Beth Am, Rodeph Sholom and Schaarai Zedek, all in Tampa, pulled 188 pounds of debris from mangroves along McKay Bay.

Photo courtesy of Hillels of the Florida Suncoast

Gilda Radner documentary reveals pain and persistence behind the laughs

By MICHAEL FOX

Special to the Jewish Press

The late, great sketch comedian Gilda Radner is a Jewish icon. Off-stage and out of character, however, she wasn't especially Jewish.

"I think you would have to ask Gilda if she considered herself a Jewish comedienne," muses Laraine Newman, her friend and fellow Jewish cast mate for the first five seasons of *Saturday Night Live*.

"I'd love to hear the answer," replies Lisa D'Apolito, director of the deeply affectionate and painfully revealing documentary, *Love, Gilda*, during a conversation shortly before the film was shown at the San Francisco Film Festival in July.

"Honest to God, I don't know," Newman says. "I couldn't characterize her one way or the other. I would think that would have to come from her."

Instead, in *Love, Gilda*, D'Apolito does the next best thing: She wisely channels her subject's voice through a trove of clips, personal audiotapes and diary entries (read by contemporary comics Amy Poehler, Maya Rudolph, Melissa McCarthy and others).

Love, Gilda, which has already screened at numerous Jewish film festivals to rousing applause, opened Friday, Sept. 21 at a variety of theaters nationwide, including locally at the Tampa Theater.

Radner grew up in a well-off Jewish family in Detroit. But her beloved father was diagnosed with a brain tumor when she was 12 and died two years later. Her mother delegated many of the child-raising duties, and the film hints that she was not the most supportive parent.

"Gilda was also raised by her nanny, who happened to be Christian," D'Apolito said. "So Gilda observed all kinds of different religions and what she identified with, I wasn't really sure. I wanted to cover where I thought some of her insecurities came from. Losing her father was really important – and her mother putting her on diet pills."

The nanny, Dibby, was the inspiration for one of Radner's most popular *SNL* characters, Emily Litella. As for the diet pills, Gilda's body image issues as an adolescent led to eating disorders that plagued her into adulthood.

"When I found the audiotapes, it was so different to hear her talking than to see her on an interview or hear people talking about her," D'Apolito recalls. "It was just mesmerizing, because you get a real sense of Gilda. She's sitting in a café talking to somebody, she's ordering things, she's telling stories and she's extremely intelligent and extremely funny. That was really important to me, that an audience have the same experience I had."

D'Apolito was guided in her interview choices – musician Paul Shaffer, actor Martin Short and writer Alan Zweibel, among others – by who Gilda spoke about on the tapes. Alas, Gene Wilder, the love of Radner's life according to D'Apolito and her husband from 1984 until she died in 1989, was too ill to participate. (He died in August 2016.)

"Gene was everything she was looking for, because he was a Jewish guy from the Midwest," D'Apolito says of the Milwaukee



Gilda Radner at work writing, from the documentary "Love Gilda."

native, born Jerome Silberman. "That's what she always wanted, I've been told."

Radner and Wilder met on the set of the 1980s film *Hanky Panky* that originally was going to co-star Richard Pryor and was rewritten for a female lead. Wilder then directed Radner (and himself) in the equally disappointing comedies, *The Woman in Red* and *Haunted Honeymoon*.

The brashness and vitality of Radner's TV and stage work

showed "that she never doubted that she was equal to any man," D'Apolito says. "That's what I take away from Gilda's performances."

Newman laments that Radner's movie career suffered because casting directors and producers lacked the imagination to cast her correctly.

"The specific nature of her talent was she did characters, and she would probably have been better served if she had taken part



Gilda with husband Gene Wilder and giant jack-o-lantern

Photos courtesy of Magnolia Pictures

in writing the things that she did," Newman asserts. "But I don't think it occurred to her. If she and Alan Zweibel had collaborated on a feature, it might have been a whole different thing."

D'Apolito's connection to Radner goes back to the first videos she directed eight years ago for Gilda's Club, a cancer support group founded by Wilder in New York after Radner died from ovarian cancer at age 42.

D'Apolito didn't meet Wilder,

however, until he invited the filmmaker to his house the year before he died. They spent a memorable day talking and hanging out with his dogs.

"Somehow at the end of the day Gene and I just sat in the garden together," D'Apolito recalls. "I could see why Gilda loved him."

Michael Fox is a San Francisco based film critic, journalist, instructor and CinemaLit curator and host, *Mechanics' Institute*.



LILAH TOV

Overnight Camp Scholarship

The Tampa Jewish Federation's Lilah Tov Overnight Camp Scholarship Fund will award camp scholarships to children who would like to attend a non-profit Jewish overnight camp in the summer of 2019.

These are need-based scholarships for Jewish children residing in Hillsborough County.

For eligibility requirements and to download a scholarship application, go to www.jewishtampa.com/lilahtov.

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Questions? Contact Alissa Fischel at (813) 769-4726

TAMPA JEWISH FEDERATION

BOOK FEST

• CONTINUED from FRONT PAGE

“Our festival is all about offering conversations about compelling topics of interest. Every year our Jewish Book Festival Committee, led by Debbie Doliner and Barbara Manners, selects amazing top authors who we present at the festival at entertaining and fascinating events,” said Tampa JCCs Arts and Culture Director Brandy Gold.

She noted that you do not need to be a book lover or avid reader to attend, adding that most attending festival events in the past had not read the book prior to going to the program.

“Come out, enjoy and support our Jewish community, while learning, listening, engaging in stimulating conversations while having lots of fun,” she said.

Opening night

• **DAWN RAFFEL** – The opening night of the festival will be held at the JCC on the Cohn campus on Thursday, Nov. 1 at 7 p.m. and will feature a talk by author Dawn Raffel, along with a light dinner buffet. Tickets are \$18.

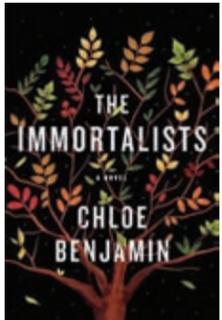
Raffel is author of *The Strange Case of Dr. Couney, How a Mysterious European Showman Saved Thousands of American Babies*. Her book presents an extraordinary tale of how Martin Couney, an immigrant “doctor” became a revolutionary innovator in the early 20th Century, saving thousands of premature babies by placing them in incubators, as part of Coney Island entertainment. Raffel examines the life of Couney and his real identity— whether he is a showman with an interest in medicine, or a doctor with an interest in showmanship. Raffel is the author of a novel, two story collections, a memoir and this biographical book. She helped launch *O, The Oprah Magazine*, where she served as executive articles editor for seven years and has held senior-level positions at *More*, and *Reader’s Digest* magazines. She has taught at Columbia University and at seminars in Montreal and Lithuania.

Day of Champions

Three events at the Glazer JCC on Sunday, Nov. 4, have been dubbed the Sunday Festival Day of Champions:



Chloe Benjamin

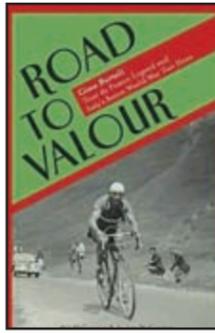


• **CHLOE BENJAMIN** – The author of *The Immortalists*, a novel which spent weeks on the *New York Times* bestseller list, will participate in a Sip & Skype interview at 10:30 a.m. The novel is set in 1969 New York City when the four Gold teenage children sneak out to hear their fortunes told by

a mystic. Each child is told the day they will die. The prophecies inform and shape their next five decades. Benjamin’s previous book, *The Anatomy of Dreams*, was also a *New York Times* bestseller. She is a graduate of Vassar and the University of Wisconsin’s MFA fiction program. Tickets are \$5 and include drinks and a nosh.



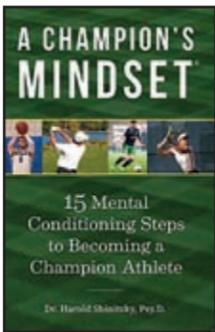
Aili McConnon



• **AILI McCONNON** – This event at 11:30 a.m., titled *Breakfast of Champions*, features the author of *Road to Valor: A True Story of World War II Italy, the Nazis, and the Cyclist Who Inspired A Nation*. McConnon, co-authored with her brother, Andres McConnon, this biography of Gino Bartali, an Italian cycling legend. The story begins with Bartali stunning the world by winning the Tour de France at age 24. Then came Mussolini and World War II when Bartali heroically works to save Italian Jews from the Holocaust. Aili McConnon is a Canadian journalist based in New York. She writes for *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Guardian*, *The New York Times* and other publications. Tickets are \$18 and include a breakfast buffet.



Dr. Harold Shinitzky



• **Dr. HAROLD SHINITZKY** – At 2 p.m., for what is dubbed *Afternoon of Champions*, Shinitzky, a licensed psychologist with offices in Clearwater and St. Petersburg, will talk about his book, *A Champion’s Mindset: 15 Mental Conditioning Steps to Becoming a Champion Athlete*. He specializes in sports psychology and is a highly sought-after motivational speaker. His upbeat and engaging trademarked programs, “The Winning Edge” and “A Champion’s Mindset,” inspire athletes all the way up to Olympians and professional athletes. His new book shares 15 mental conditioning steps that can boost achievement of any goal, physical or other. Shinitzky has won awards for his mental-conditioning programs and also co-authored the book, *Your Mind: An Owner’s Manual for a Better Life*. Tickets are \$5 and include healthy snacks.

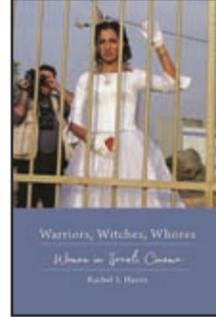
More local authors

Two local authors will be featured on

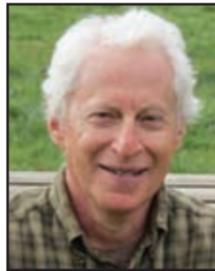
Wednesday, Nov. 7 in the festival bookstore at the Cohn campus and a \$5 ticket is good for both evening programs – the first one at 6:30 p.m. and the second at 7:30 p.m.



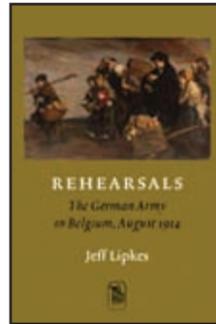
Rachel Harris



• **RACHEL HARRIS** – The 6:30 p.m. program features the author of *Warriors, Witches, Whores – Women in Israeli Cinema*. The book considers the ways social and political power have affected the representation of women in film. Although academic in tone, Harris’ book will appeal to cinephiles and feminists, as well as those interested in the Israeli culture. Plus, it offers an excellent films-to-watch list. Harris is an associate professor of Israeli literature and culture at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and is a resident of Safety Harbor. She has also authored *An Ideological Death: Suicide in Israeli Literature* and was co-editor of *Narratives of Dissent: War in Contemporary Israeli Arts and Culture*.



Jeff Lipkes



• **JEFF LIPKES** – At 7:30 p.m. Lipkes, author of *Rehearsals: The German Army in Belgium, August 1914*, will be on hand to discuss his book. It is a history of the German army’s orchestrated campaign of terror in Belgium in 1914, when the German military was experimenting with methods they hoped would facilitate modern, massive, fast-moving warfare meant to terrorize conquered populations into submission. Belgium was the rehearsal for the Nazi military machine that was to come: nearly 6,000 unarmed people were murdered, and some 25,000 homes and buildings were destroyed. Lipkes holds a Ph.D from Princeton and has taught European history at USF, Eckerd College and Florida Southern.

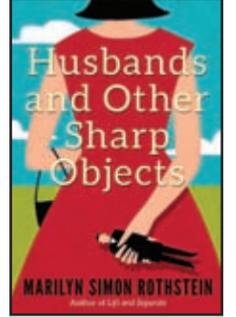
Lunch with Marilyn

Meet author Marilyn Simon Rothstein on Friday, Nov. 9 at 11:30 a.m. at Michael’s Grill, 11720 N. Dale Mabry Highway. Tickets, at \$25, include lunch. Reservations are required by Nov. 1.

• **MARILYN SIMON ROTHSTEIN** – The author of *Husbands and Other Sharp Objects* is a woman who married a man she met in an elevator and began her writing



Marilyn Simon Rothstein



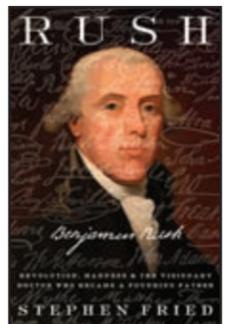
career at *Seventeen* magazine. She owned an ad agency for 25 years. Her funny and heartwarming novel is about the planning of a wedding, set on a rollicking stage of family dynamics. Rothstein is also the author of *Lift and Separate*, winner of the Star Award which was presented by the Women’s Fiction Writers Association. She grew up in New York City.

Veterans’ Day

There will be two programs on Sunday, Nov. 11, at the Brian Glazer JCC, one honoring a Founding Father and another honoring Jewish War veterans.



Stephn Fried



• **STEPHEN FRIED** – At 3 p.m., Stephen Fried will discuss his book *Rush: Revolution, Madness & The Visionary Doctor Who Became A Founding Father*. Fried, an award-winning journalist and bestselling author, has written this remarkable story of Benjamin Rush, a medical pioneer and one of our nation’s most provocative and unsung Founding Fathers. Rush, a 30-year-old doctor, was one of the youngest signatories on the Declaration of Independence. He was also one of the most visionary. Rush was known as the “American Hippocrates” for pioneering national healthcare and revolutionizing treatment of mental illness and addiction. He was a protégé of Benjamin Franklin and served as the editor of *Common Sense*, Washington’s surgeon general. He was also the the broker of peace between Samuel Adams and Thomas Jefferson. Fried’s other books include *The New Rabbi*, *Appetite for America*, *Thing of Beauty* and *A Common Struggle* (with Patrick Kennedy). Fried and his wife live in Philadelphia, blocks from where Dr. Benjamin Rush lived centuries ago.

Tickets are \$10 and include a gourmet coffee bar with pick-me-up snack buffet.

• **DICK BERMAN** – At 5 p.m., Berman will discuss his book, *The Machalniks*. Berman’s novel describes the true story of Jewish American World War II airmen who volunteered to smuggle weapons to the Jews living in pre-state Israel and create the first Israeli Air Force in 1948 when

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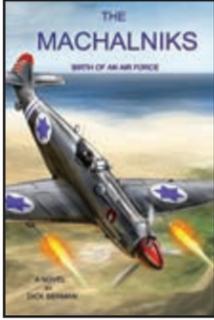
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Dick Berman



Israel is declared a state. Defying enormous odds, these Jewish volunteers, the Machalniks, the Hebrew acronym for “Volunteers from Abroad,” risked their lives to fly combat missions over Israel in Israel’s War of Independence. Afterward, the volunteer airmen are put on trial by the U.S. government, which aimed to punish them for their actions. Berman currently lives in Delray Beach and is working on his next book, featuring Eric Burns, the Israeli Mossad agent from his hit novel, *The Collector*.

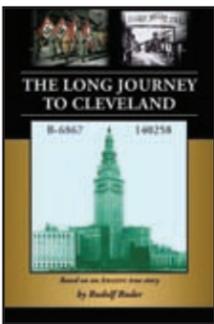
Tickets are \$18 and include a deli dinner.

Love wins out

On Wednesday, Nov. 14 at 6:30 p.m. a South Florida author will discuss the unlikely union of his parents when he greets festivalgoers in the bookstore at the Cohn campus. Admission is \$5.



Rudolph Ruder



• **RUDOLPH RUDER** • Ruder’s book, *The Long Journey to Cleveland*, is his parents’ story. His father was a Polish Jew from Lvov who survived German death camps. His mother was a German Catholic who had been a member of the Hitler Youth. They were happily married for 57 years, living and raising their family in Cleveland. During his many years of a career in business, Ruder aspired to write this book, and finally did. He is a resident of South Florida.

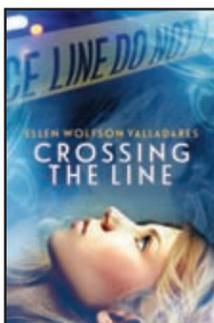
Wrapping it up

To conclude the fall portion of the Books & Conversations festival, there will be two programs on Sunday, Nov. 18 at the Glazer JCC, the first will feature two authors of young adult fiction and the final one will present the author of a non-fiction work related to World War II.

Speaking about their books and the Young Adult genre at the 2 p.m. Novel-Tea will be:



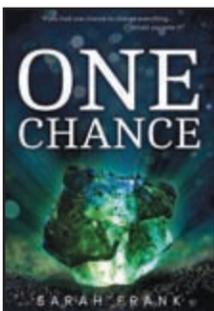
Ellen Wolfson Valladares



• **ELLEN WOLFSON VALLADARES** – A native of St. Petersburg now living in South Florida, Valladares will discuss her Young Adult novel, *Crossing the Line*. Valladares is an award-winning writer/author who began her career as editor of the *Jewish Advocate of South Broward*. Her young adult novel is an intriguing, mystical tale about friendship, fate and the courage to believe. Set in the St. Petersburg area and the beyond, the book features Laura, who died 30 years ago and enlists the help of a high school reporter to investigate the truth about her tragic young death.



Sarah Frank



• **SARAH FRANK** – Also appearing at the 2 p.m. program will be Frank, who is a student at Blake

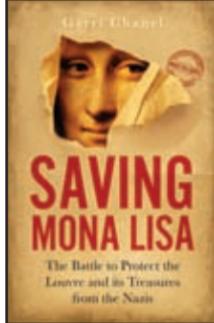
High School in Tampa and already working on her second novel. She will discuss her first book, *One Chance*, which has already won a Florida Authors & Publishers Association medal in the “Fiction: Juvenile Age 7-12” category. In Frank’s book, an orphan girl uses a magic stone to travel back in time to try to find out what happened to her parents and to see if she can change history. Frank plans to write a 10-book series.

The 2 p.m. event will include tea and tickets are \$10.

At 5 p.m. there will be a book discussion with author Gerri Chanel, the showing of the movie, *The Monuments Men* and a light dinner buffet.



Gerri Chanel



• **GERRI CHANEL** – The author of *Saving Mona Lisa, The Battle to Protect The Louvre and Its Treasures During World War II*, will discuss her non-fiction book that chronicles the history of the Louvre staff’s efforts to keep the priceless artwork out of the hands of Hitler and his henchmen. Many risked their lives to protect the world’s artistic treasures and as the Germans neared Paris in 1940, the French raced to move the masterpieces south, then crisscrossed France again and again during the war. The 2014 movie, *The Monuments Men* starring George Clooney, Matt Damon and Cate Blanchett, dealt with the same subject, but according to Chanel, told only a small portion of “the full-length treatment it demands.” The film will be shown as a part of Chanel’s presentation. Chanel is a prize-winning freelance journalist who divides her time between Paris, New York and Toronto.

Tickets are \$18.

* * *

The Gemunder Family Foundation is the Jewish Books & Conversations Presenting Sponsor. Other sponsorships are available and can be obtained by contacting Gold at (813) 769-4725.

The JCC on the Cohn campus will feature a festival bookstore throughout the festival in November, where guests can purchase the featured books as well as enjoy festival events.

All events are open to the public. Reservations are encouraged and, for the Nov. 9 luncheon, are required. They can be made with ticket purchases at jewishtampa.com/books, beginning Oct. 1. All events, excluding the Sip & Skype program, will conclude with a book signing by the featured author.

For more information about the authors, books or festival events, contact Gold at brandy.gold@jewishtampa.com.

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Professor doesn't regret refusal to recommend student for study in Israel

(JTA)—A professor at the University of Michigan is under fire for saying he can't write a letter of recommendation for study in Israel because he supports a boycott of the country.

John Cheney-Lippold, a professor of American culture, declined to recommend junior Abigail Ingber for a semester abroad in Israel because he supports the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement against the country, known as BDS.

"As you may know, many University departments have pledged an academic boycott against Israel in support of Palestinians living in Palestine," the professor's email read. "This boycott includes writing letters of recommendation for students planning to study there."

The email was first publicized Sunday, Sept. 16, in a post on the Facebook page of Club Z, a pro-Israel group for young people.

JTA has reached out to Ingber for comment, though she declined to comment on the incident to *The Michigan Daily*, the campus paper.

Cheney-Lippold told JTA that despite any backlash he has not changed his mind. He wrote that boycotts are a tool to fight injustice, and that Israeli universities are complicit in Israeli abuse of Palestinians because of their role in military research. "I do not regret declining to write the letter, precisely because I am boycotting injustice," Cheney-Lippold wrote in an email to JTA. "I would hope anyone who cares about justice, such as Israel's unequal treatment of Palestinians, would make a similar decision ... Israeli universities are complicit institutions — they develop weapons systems and military training. Standing up for freedom, justice, and equality for all is something I'm proud of."

Several academic associations, including the American Studies Association in 2013, have voted for boycotts of Israeli universities.

Cheney-Lippold rejected the idea that his refusal was anti-Semitic, as he is boycotting Israeli institutions, not the Jewish student. He said that the study abroad programs themselves are discriminatory, alleging that they would deny admittance to Palestinian students or those who are pro-Palestinian.

"The issue at hand is how Israel and its institutions discriminate against Palestinians and others, even in terms of the study abroad programs themselves," he wrote. "If a Palestinian student approached me to participate in this study abroad trip, they might be denied because of their ethnic origin. The same may go for students who express support for Palestinian rights."

In a statement to JTA, Club Z's executive director, Masha Merkulova, said the decision is anti-Semitic as it came "solely because her chosen destination is Israel." She accused the professor of holding Ingber to a double standard.

"[W]e fully stand behind Abigail, who should have never been subjected to this double standard," the statement said. "We strongly believe that when such acts of anti-Semitism and bigotry occur at higher institutions, we must hold

professors, administrators, and universities accountable."

The U.S. Department of Education may agree. Its Office of Civil Rights under Kenneth Marcus, the department's new assistant secretary for civil rights, is employing the State Department's definition of anti-Semitism, which includes some types of anti-Israel activity, in investigating claims of discrimination under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. The definition includes "applying double standards by requiring of [Israel] a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation" and holding Jews collectively responsible for Israel's actions.

Marcus recently employed the definition in reopening an investigation into an allegedly anti-Semitic event at Rutgers University in 2011.

Last year, the University of Michigan's Central Student Government called on the university to investigate divestment from companies that violate Palestinian human rights. The university's Board of Regents rejected the call.

"It is disappointing that a faculty member would allow their personal political beliefs to limit the support they are willing to otherwise provide for our students," read a statement on Cheney-Lippold's letter from the university's Public Affairs Department, according to the *Michigan Daily*. "We will engage our faculty colleagues in deep discussions to clarify how the expression of our shared values plays out in support of all students."

The Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel, affiliated with the Palestinian BDS National Committee, urges faculty not to write recommendations for students hoping to pursue studies in Israel.



Photo from Facebook

Abby Ingber asked John Cheney-Lippold, a professor of American culture, for a letter of recommendation to help her study abroad in Israel.

Polish town accused of building sports complex atop old Jewish cemetery

(JTA) — A state-funded sports complex was built on a disused Jewish cemetery in southeastern Poland, several Jewish groups complained.

The complex, comprising a basketball and soccer court, was inaugurated on Sept. 6 in Klimontow, a town located 20 miles northeast of Krakow, according to the municipality's website. It said the project has received more than \$90,000 in government funding.

But according to the Shem Olam Holocaust museum near Hadera in Israel, the complex is located atop the former Jewish cemetery for the town, which before the Holocaust had thousands of Jewish residents.

"This is deeply offensive to the Jewish People," the museum's director, Rabbi Avraham Kriger, wrote to the municipality.

Meir Bulka, an Israeli Holocaust commemoration activist, told JTA that he believes the municipality was aware of the cemetery's location when it built the complex on it. "They laid down piping there. There is no doubt they encountered graves," he said.

Yaakov Haguol, acting director of the World Zionist Organization, said he holds the Polish government responsible for the construction in Klimontow.

Obituaries

LORRAINE "LIBBY" GOLDMAN, 89, of Tampa, died Sept. 13. Born in Youngstown, OH, she attended Rayen High School and Ohio State University before becoming one of the first women in real estate in Youngstown. She moved to Florida in 2001. Known for her singing voice and sense of humor, she enjoyed cooking, theater and reading.

Survivors include her daughters; Marcie Clayman (Wayne), and Saralee Greenfield (Brenda McIntyre); sister Barbara "Bobbie" Goldberg; sister-in-law, Sally Bassoff; three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. The family suggests memorials to LifePath Hospice in Tampa. (Segal Funeral Home, Beth David Chapel)

DANIELLE BETH TASHMAN, 22, of New York, formerly of Tampa, died Sept. 9. Prior to moving to New York, she had moved to Georgia in 1997, before deciding to make Woodstock her home. Her life was filled with uniqueness and adventure, from her accomplishment of being the youngest assistant court clerk in the history of New York, to her goat farming job which she loved. Survivors include her parents Jeffrey and Karen Tashman; siblings Philip Patron, Shayna Micucci (Anthony), Rebecca Tashman; grandmothers Harriet Chesler and Ruth Tashman. (Segal Funeral Home, Beth David Chapel)

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

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Organizations

Genealogical Society

Discovering his heritage: Guest speaker **Yoel Chaim BenHabib** will share his amazing story of discovering that he is Jewish when he speaks at the Tampa Bay Jewish Genealogical Society's next meeting on Sunday, Oct. 14 at 2 p.m. Born in Cuba, he has been interested in his ancestry since childhood. Currently a junior majoring in history at University of South Florida, BenHabib used research, family interviews, family customs, and DNA to seek out his genealogy – all pointing to a Jewish lineage that goes back to the Canary Islands and Spain. He will share his research methodology as well as stories detailing the customs he grew up with that are still being practiced by family members in Cuba, unaware of their Jewish heritage. The society will meet 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. Beginners as well as experienced researchers are welcome. There is no charge to attend this meeting, and guests are welcome. For information, call **Bruce Hadburg** at (727) 796-7981.

Norman Jewish Library

A chaplain's tale: The guest speaker at the monthly Rosh Chodesh festive meal at the Norman Jewish Library on Tuesday Oct. 8 at 7 p.m. will be **Chaplain Asher (Ira) Shlomo Ehrenpreis**, who will discuss his experiences as an Orthodox chaplain in the U.S. Army, having served all over the U.S., Korea, and combat zones in the Middle East. Ehrenpreis will share his adventures, challenges, and humorous anecdotes about how he provides religious support to all faith groups – and leads Jewish services too. The Norman Jewish Library is at 13207 North 52nd St., Tampa. The cost is \$10. Students and military personnel get free admission.

Hadassah

A night in the Catskills: The Tampa Ameet Hadassah Chapter is planning a gala dinner dance with the theme, "Catskills Revisited – A Night to Remember," on Sunday, Nov. 4 at 5 p.m. at the Bryan Glazer Family JCC. The evening will include a silent auction, gourmet dining, a Catskills-style show, music, dancing and more. Entertainers will be the Fred Astaire Dancers, comedian **Francine Wolf**, tummler **David Vogel** and DJ/song writer, **David Morris**. MC for the show will be **Steve "Shlomo" Schwesky**, radio host of WMNF's Sunday Simcha. Sponsorships are available starting at \$500. A sponsors pre-event party will feature **Nathan Hefner**, a pianist/vocalist. Proceeds will be earmarked for breast cancer research at Hadassah's Jerusalem hospitals.

Cost is \$68 for early birds before Oct. 1 and \$75 thereafter. RSVP deadline Oct. 19. For more information, contact event co-chairs: **Michele Norris** (813) 352-8765, michelen.hadassah@gmail.com or **Anita Greenberg** at (813) 254-3454 at anita33558@gmail.com.

Cruise: There are still a few spaces available for the four-night Hanukkah cruise, sponsored by the Tampa Ameet Chapter. The Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines *Brilliance of the Seas* will depart Tampa Dec. 6, sail to Cozumel, Mexico

and return Dec. 10. Everyone is welcome. Cabin rates range from \$512 to \$639. Proceeds will benefit Hadassah's medical research. For additional information, contact **Michele Norris** at (813) 352-8765.

Jewish War Veterans

Volunteers needed: The Jewish War Veterans Post 373 is seeking veterans and non-veterans who would like to help permanent live-in disabled veterans at the Tampa VA hospital. For details regarding the Post and the latest post activities, visit www.jwvtampa.org. Contact **Commander Larry Jasper** at (813) 404-5616 or email lmjasper@aol.com.

Young Adults

Trivia night: Test your trivia knowledge with Team #Gather at 81Bay Brewing. 4465 W. Gandy Blvd., Tampa on Wednesday, Oct. 10. Happy hour begins at 7 p.m. and trivia is at 8 p.m. This is a free event.

Bagel lovers unite: Enjoy your Sunday morning with a bagel brunch spread on Sunday, Oct. 21 from 10-11:30 a.m. This #Gather family event is at Ballast Point Park, 5300 Interbay Blvd., Tampa, which has playground facilities for the kids. Cost is \$5 for members and \$8 for guests. There will be bagels, lox, cream cheese, coffee and juice.

#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.bryanglazerfamilyjcc.com/gather or www.jcccohcampus.com/programs/young-adults or contact **Lisa Robbins** at lisa.robbins@jewishtampa.com or (813) 769-4723.

Active Adults

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

Broadway music: Take in a lecture on Wednesday, Oct. 10 from 1-2 p.m. by **Erin Horan** of the Florida Orchestra on some of the most popular composers of Broadway musicals, including Richard Rodgers, Lerner & Lowe and Andrew Lloyd Webber. The lecture will be held at the Glazer JCC. Follow up with a Florida Orchestra concert and a pre-concert conversation at the Mahaffey Theater, 400 First St. S., St. Petersburg on Thursday, Nov. 1. The conversation is at 10 a.m. and the concert is at 11 a.m. The program includes selections from *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Phantom of the Opera*. Cost is \$28 for members; \$30 for guests and registration is required. A lunch at the Hangar restaurant, 540 First St. S., St. Petersburg, will follow the concert.

Music of resistance: Attend a special lecture at the Glazer JCC on Thursday, Nov. 8 from 10:30 a.m. to noon when conductor **Daniel Black** leads a conversation about the music of "A Child of Our Time." British composer Michael Tippitt wrote the oratorio "A Child of Our Time" in response to the events of Kristallnacht. Tip-

pitt was a pacifist and conscientious objector and sought to write a piece of music expressing the moral outrages of violence, and oppression. Black will speak not only about the music, but about resistance through the arts. The program is co-sponsored by the JCC, the Florida Orchestra and the USF Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. The cost is \$15.

Ghost tour: Tampa Theater at 711 N. Franklin St., Tampa, has a reputation as one of the most haunted buildings in Tampa and is offering ghost tours to share stories of the spirited former employees and patrons who still make their presence known. Take the tour on Thursday, Oct. 4. There will be an optional lunch at Café Paninoteca, 519 N. Franklin St., at 12:30 p.m. and the tour at 2 p.m. Tour cost is \$5 for guests and \$10 for members. Register at either JCC for this tour.

Men's Club: This group will meet on Tuesdays, Oct. 9 and 23 from 5-6:30 p.m. at the Glazer JCC for card games, ping-pong, billiards and occasional outings.

Bridge lessons: Bridge lessons for players at all levels are offered on Fridays from Oct. 19 through Nov. 30 from 1-2:30 p.m. at the Glazer JCC. Cost is \$50 for JCC members and \$60 for non-members for the six-session series. Pro-rating cost options are available.

World of Books Club: This new club will meet the third Tuesday of each month at the Glazer JCC. The next meeting is on Tuesday, Oct. 16 from 5-6:30 p.m. The first book for discussion is *In the Garden of Beasts* by Eric Larson. If you enjoy reading, and sharing your impressions with other book lovers, then come for a lively discussion, refreshments and comradery. There is no charge.

Plugged-In Workshop: A workshop on "Making Excel Work for You" will be held at the Glazer JCC on Wednesday, Oct. 17 from 4-5:30 p.m. This is a free event and no technical knowledge is required. Laptops are available for those who need them. Registration required.

Lifelong learning: The following USF Osher Lifelong Learning Institute classes will be offered at the Glazer JCC:

- "The History of Insurgency and Counterinsurgency in the 20th and 21st Centuries," Thursdays through Nov. 1 from 10 a.m. to noon. This class is already under way.
- "Watercolor Through New Eyes," Mondays, Oct. 8 through Nov. 19 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- "Geopolitics Today," Tuesdays, Oct. 2 through Nov. 6 from 1-3 p.m.
- "Russia's Regained Global Weight," Thursday, Nov. 29 from

1-3 p.m.

Participants must register for these classes through the USF OLLI program. For more information call (813) 974-8036, or contact Pnina Levermore at the JCCs.

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. There will also be lessons at the Glazer JCC on Sundays from Oct. 21 through Nov. 11 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. The cost is \$65 for members and \$70 for non-members.

At the Cohn campus, there are 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 Renfroe** and explores "hot button" issues of the day. Sessions at the Glazer JCC are on Tuesdays from 7-8:30 p.m. The group at the Cohn campus, meets the second and fourth Friday from 10:30 a.m. to noon. The Friday, Oct. 12, session at the Cohn campus will include a presentation by the League of Women Voters on the Florida Amendments on the November ballot. That same presentation will be given at the Glazer JCC on Tuesday, Oct. 16.

The other four questions: **Rabbi Jason Rosenberg** of Congregation Beth Am will lead lunch and learn classes to explain the background and significance of Jewish holidays and traditions. The class is Wednesday, Oct. 17 at noon at the Cohn campus.

Trivial Pursuit and pizza: Play Trivial Pursuit and nosh on free pizza at the Cohn campus on Thursday, Oct. 11 from noon to 1:30 p.m.

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 Oct. 3 film will be *Music Man*.

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 Oct. 1, the topic will be "Demystifying Behavioral Interviewing." On Oct. 8 the topic is "Why the Most Qualified Candidate Doesn't Always Get the Job." The Oct. 15 topic is "What is Your Non-verbal Communication Saying?"

Job-search aids: Success workshops to aid with job-search skills will be held on Thursdays, Oct. 4 and 18 from 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. On Oct. 4 the topic is "Financial Fundamentals for Now and the Future." On Oct. 18 the topic is "Five Steps to Successfully Negotiate a Job Offer." The workshops are free for Job-Links program participants; \$15 for guests. Reservations required. To RSVP, call (813) 344-0200, email RSVP@TBJL.org.

Switching Gears: A four-part Switching Gears workshop series is taking place from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, Oct. 3, 10, 17, and 24 at the TampaBay-Job-Links center. TBJL's professional career coaches will present interactive content to enhance attendees' job-search skills whether they are just beginning their career, returning to the workforce after an absence, or considering a career change. Topics include conducting self-assessments, developing a brand, enhancing interview skills, managing networking, strengthening résumés and LinkedIn profiles, targeting companies, and more. Participants can attend any or all workshops. The fee to attend is \$15 for individual sessions or \$50 for all four. Dinner is included. Seating is limited. To register call (813) 344-0200 or email rsvp@tbjl.org.

Support groups

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

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TORAH

• CONTINUED from PAGE 2

ink dries out. If Torahs are not read, they're not breathing, they're not living."

The community continued to dwindle, even as the Ottumwa-born philanthropist Ida Rosenman Sands paid to have the scrolls refurbished and sank hundreds of thousands of dollars into a refurbishment of the synagogue, which Ullman's late mother, Bessie, protectively endeavored to have added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2004. She also arranged for the city to take over management and care of Ottumwa's Jewish cemetery.

"She saw the writing on the wall," Ullman said.

* * *

A continent away, a different transition was taking place.

Of Paraguay's nearly 5 million people, approximately 1,000 are Jewish. Many are also the descendants of European immigrants who arrived a century ago, according to the World Jewish Congress. Most of them live in Asuncion, where a traditional Masorti (Conservative) congregation, Union Hebraica, has existed since the 1920s.



Photo courtesy of Sue Weinberg

Congregation B'nai Jacob used to fill up more often, as pictured here during Sue Weinberg's 2006 wedding. The Iowa synagogue closed permanently in May.

At the end of 2017 as a result of synagogue politics, Rabbi Vainstein found himself discharged from the Hebraica pulpit he had served for eight years, only months before his own daughter's bat mitzvah. He announced that he would be leading Shabbat services at home should anyone wish to join his family. He and Alonso prepared for perhaps a dozen people. Nearly 70 arrived for the first service in January. And like that a new minyan, or congregation, was born.

"I told my husband, this is my

house, and here women count for the minyan," Alonso said. "And when the time comes that we have a Torah, women can make an aliyah." Thus the new minyan became Paraguay's first egalitarian Jewish congregation.

Over its first months, the minyan has averaged nearly 40 worshippers on Friday nights, with slightly smaller crowds on Saturdays.

Jones-Avni's young family arrived in Asuncion from Washington, D.C., nearly two years ago when her husband, Dani, a Foreign Service officer, was posted to the U.S. Embassy. They began attending Hebraica, which had become known as Iguaitario Minyan de Asuncion, "feeling like we've found a Jewish home," she said. Hers is the only American family among a mix of mostly Paraguayans and Argentine transplants that includes very few English speakers.

By spring, the minyan's founders realized that its long-term success depended on something more tangible and they asked Jones-Avni for her help. She recalled being told, "We would like to find a Torah. You're from America. There's lots of Torahs there ... maybe you know of one?"

* * *

The last full minyan at B'nai Jacob took place in May, when Weinberg and a delegation of about 40 people from Iowa City, many also with Ottumwa roots, gathered to decommission the synagogue on the Shabbat just before Shavuot. Rabbi Esther Hugenholtz of Agudas Achim Congregation near Iowa City led a special ceremony, and the Torahs were read from the pulpit one last time.

"We are here to fulfill a difficult and heartbreaking mitzvah: to accompany this community to its dignified end, to provide good Jewish homes for its sacred scrolls and other implements, and to cherish and treasure over a century of memories of simchas and tzuris," Rabbi Hugenholtz sermonized.

The Weinbergs' ancestral scroll traveled back to Agudas Achim, and a search began to place the other three.

"We decided we specifically want them to go to egalitarian congregations that really need a Torah," Weinberg said.

Two weeks later, Agudas Achim hosted Rabbi Juan Mejia as its scholar in residence. Born in Bogota, Colombia, and now based in Oklahoma City, Mejia is the Southwest/Latin America regional director for Be'chol Lashon, a San Francisco-based organization that promotes Jewish diversity. He had come to Iowa City through his close friendship with Rabbi Hugenholtz. She introduced him to Weinberg, who shared the story of Ottumwa and its Torahs.

Days later, Mejia was at a wedding in Colombia. So was Rabbi Vainstein, who by now had accepted a new job in Barranquilla. The men met and talked about Paraguay.

"He said, 'There's this new com-

munity and they need a Torah,'" Mejia recounted. "And I said, 'Well, funny you should mention that ...'"

Word traveled north and south, to Weinberg and to Alonso, and then to Jones-Avni, who volunteered to help coordinate the American connection. A native of Colby, KS, who had also studied in Iowa, Jones-Avni realized that if someone could get the Torah to Kansas City, her parents could bring it to Paraguay on a planned visit.

"Hopefully the timing would work out," she said.

It was a relay race against the clock. Jones-Avni tapped an old friend in Chicago, Leah Jones to mine her Midwestern Jewish social network. Within an hour they had found a family – the cousins of the cousins of a friend of a friend – in Fairfield, IA, who happened to be passing through Ottumwa on a visit to Kansas City. Once retrieved from B'nai Jacob, the Torah rested at the Kansas City home of Bruce and Gayle Krigel, before another friend of a friend, Amy Ravis Furey, arranged to have it picked up – wrapped in the tallit of Gayle Krigel's late father. Furey packed it in a hard-sided golf club travel case, which Avni-Jones's brother-in-law collected on a Friday morning and brought home to Randolph, KS, – a 300-mile round trip – so the Torah wouldn't have to travel on Shabbat.

As Jones-Avni came to Judaism in her early 20s, this would be her non-Jewish family's first interaction with a Torah scroll. Educating them on the customs and requirements surrounding the scroll made it more meaningful.

"I am moved by the number of Christians that were deeply involved in this effort," Furey added, including her own husband, who did the actual schlepping.

Jones-Avni's parents stopped to get the scroll – and her sister – on their way through to Kansas City International Airport, where they checked the precious cargo for the three-leg flight to Asuncion.

Only then did word start to spread that a Torah was on the way.

"There was always a little bit of heart in throat," Jones-Avni said. "If it didn't work out, we didn't want people to be disappointed."

* * *

The journey of B'nai Jacob's Torah is dramatic, but may be becoming less uncommon as similar small communities dwindle – and others arise in unexpected places.

"This is what we hope congregations will do," said Noah Levine, senior vice president of the Atlanta-based Jewish Community Legacy Project, an organization that helps synagogues in towns like Ottumwa plan for their eventual dissolution. Last year, his group facilitated the transport of a Torah from Pine Bluff, AK, to an emerging community in Guatemala.

Mejia, whose rabbinate focuses on creating connections between American congregations and the broader Diaspora, sees more opportunity than anxiety.

"Yes, some people assimilate and disappear," he said. "But for the people who come out, there are people who come in. For communities that close, there are communities that open."

Hugenholtz stressed that the internet has awakened once-lost ties to Judaism – or, through conversion, new ones – like never before.

"That is, I think, the vision that the prophets had, that without coercion, we are disseminating a very beautiful and ethical and sacred way of life," she said. "And because of technology, people are picking up on it and building these connections that bind them to Torah."

And when a new Torah scroll can cost tens of thousands of dollars,

it is just as important to connect older communities with resources to those whose primary asset is spirit and energy.

"When you bring them together," Mejia said, "they can achieve great things."

* * *

The Jones family's baggage, including the Torah, had been rerouted through Chicago. When they arrived, their own luggage was back with them – but not the Torah.

Yet when the Torah finally touched down shortly after 11 p.m. Paraguay time – 19 hours later than scheduled – nearly a dozen members of the minyan were there to receive it, as the Jews of Ottumwa had done, perhaps more than a century ago.

The exact origins of this Torah are lost to history. Weinberg says that even her mother, Irene – who died last year at 97 – didn't know.

Cynthia Gensheimer, a Denver-based historian who studies Midwestern Jewish communities at the turn of the 20th century, said most likely the community pooled resources to purchase or commission a scroll. At least one and probably more of B'nai Jacob's Torahs predate the synagogue, she said, citing a 1907 report of "one Orthodox congregation" in Ottumwa.

"I'm certain they would not have called themselves a congregation without a Torah," she said.

It's a distinction that resonates with Jones-Avni.

"This is what makes it real," she said, polishing the Torah's ornate breastplate hours before its Shabbat debut. "Now we're not just a group of people who get together. We've been acknowledged as a group of people who are doing something special."

The next morning, every adult member of the community came up for an aliyah before the scroll. It was Jones-Avni's first, and Alonso's first in eight years of "suffering because I couldn't do it."

The next Shabbat, on July 21, marked two more firsts: the Avni family was called up for the naming of its infant daughter, and Alonso and Vainstein's daughter Sofia read from the Torah as she finally became a bat mitzvah.

It was somewhat bittersweet for Alonso's family: A few days after the bat mitzvah, her family was scheduled to make the permanent move to Colombia with Vainstein. The Avnis, too, are set to leave Asuncion in November, to take up another post in Mexico.

But they feel secure about their community's future now that there is a Torah – and perhaps a new building. Plans are in the works for the minyan to move into an old Sephardic synagogue that has been boarded up for 25 years.

Meanwhile, the final chapter of Ottumwa's Jewish story is still being written. With Levine's help, a third B'nai Jacob Torah is destined for Israel to serve an egalitarian minyan that meets at the Western Wall in Jerusalem. What will become of the fourth, as well as the shul's other ritual items, its memorial plaques and the building itself, remains to be seen.

But B'nai Jacob will continue, in a meaningful way. A few days before its Torah arrived, Minyan Iguaitario voted to adopt a new name: B'nei Iacob.

"In honor of this generous gesture ... and this concern for other Jews in another corner of the world that they did not know, we chose to identify with that name and continue with their legacy," Rabbi Vainstein posted, in Spanish, on Facebook.

"It's a great story, right?" Jones-Avni concluded. "Now this Torah is going to have even more stories."



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Israel reinforcing nuclear sites due to threats from Iran, nuclear chief says

(JTA) – Israel is upgrading and reinforcing its nuclear sites in light of “repeated and explicit threats” made by Iran and its proxies to attack them, a nuclear official said.

Zeev Snir, the director-general of Israel’s Atomic Energy Commission, addressed the issue in a speech Sept. 18 at a meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency, or IAEA. The address was provided to the Israeli media.

“These outrageous threats require Israel to take action and continue to protect and defend its nuclear facilities,” Snir said. “These facilities are constantly upgraded and reinforced, in line with IAEA safety guidelines, in order to withstand any attack.”

Israel rarely discusses its nuclear activities publicly.

Snir called for regional cooperation on nuclear security and safety, but noted that while Israel has “repeatedly expressed its will-

ingness to collaborate with all of its neighbors” on nuclear safety and security, the Jewish state is not recognized by several Middle East countries and Iran has openly called for Israel’s destruction.

He called on the IAEA to “conduct a robust verification of Iran’s clandestine nuclear activities,” adding that the covert Iranian nuclear weapons program is “a documented fact.”

“Israel has repeatedly underlined the importance of confronting Iran with its lies and concealment efforts,” he said.

Snir said the new information recently revealed by Israel “conclusively proves that Iranian activities were part of a well-orchestrated plan to continue the development of nuclear weapons.”

He also spoke of Syria’s “undeclared, secretive military nuclear reactor at Dair Alzour,” which Israel bombed more than a decade ago.



Photo Courtesy of Struggle for Ethiopian Aliyah

Ethiopian women in Gondar, Ethiopia, sift wheat in preparation for making matzah for Passover earlier this year. They are among 8,000 Falash Mura Jews waiting to come to Israel.

ETHIOPIAN

• CONTINUED from FRONT PAGE

Ilan Gilon of the left-wing Meretz party called on the country’s attorney general to investigate, saying that “if there is truth to the report, the rabbi acted contrary to his public and moral authority and is not worthy of continuing to serve in his position.”

“It should also be examined whether discrimination has been committed under the Equal Employment Opportunities Law. The words spoken by Rabbi Havlin certainly do not correspond to the values of Judaism that we all know and cherish, and certainly do not correspond to the values and behavior expected of a majority in Israel.”

In 2013, Israel’s Interior Ministry approved the immigration of the remaining Falash Mura, and the Knesset in November 2015 unanimously approved a plan to bring some of them to Israel following a public campaign launched by the nation’s Ethiopian community and volunteer organizations. But the plan did not deal with the finances, which include the long-term costs of acclimating the immigrants.

An agreement to find money in the budget for the aliyah of the Falash Mura was signed in April 2016, and in 2017 some 1,300 Falash Mura arrived in Israel. The 2019 state budget, which was approved by the Knesset in March, does not include funds for Ethiopian immigration.

An organization representing Ethiopian Israelis said that Netan-

yahu’s announcement is a disappointment to the community.

“In 2015, the government passed a unanimous decision to bring the remainder of Ethiopian Jewry to Israel, numbering approximately 8,000 individuals,” Alisa Bodner, spokeswoman of the Struggle for Ethiopian Aliyah, said in a statement. “Today’s decision leaves 7,000 individuals behind and is a harsh deviant from the commitment that the prime minister is yet to fulfill.”

CAROL BURNETT

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Holocaust museum receives donation of 542 works of art

By BOB FRYER
Jewish Press

Toby Fluek lost her father, two sisters and a brother to the Holocaust and survived in a rural Polish village near the border with Russia by hiding in barns, cellars, pigsties and fields and watched in horror as Nazis torched a local hospital where her sister, a patient, died in the flames.

Those details of her life, and the nightmares she had when painting a picture of the burning hospital, were detailed in a 1990 *New York Magazine* about Fluek and a book she had just published titled *Memoirs of My Life in a Polish Village, 1930-1949*. The book, and another one she published in 1994 titled *Passover as I Remember It*, include illustrations of her paintings and drawings, with autobiographical text telling of the peaceful, pastoral life in her small village, Czernica, Poland, until 1939 when Soviets occupied the region, then in 1941 when Nazis invaded, rounding up and killing many Jews.

Fluek survived the war and got married to another survivor in a German displacement camp. The couple eventually made it to New York in 1949, where Fluek was reunited with her mother, who got separated from her as they hid from Germans, but also survived and went to America.

In 2005, the Florida Holocaust Museum in St. Petersburg exhibited some of Fluek's artwork. Erin Blankenship, museum curator of exhibitions and collections, says that exhibition began a relationship that recently resulted in a decision by Fluek's daughter, Lillian Finkler, to donate her late mother's

artwork to the museum.

The donation includes 542 original paintings, drawings, charcoals, and sketches, plus other materials that include historical documents and photographs from her mother's wartime experiences, book manuscripts, and personal papers. In time, the works will be displayed at the museum, though museum officials said it will take some time before the works are ready for display.

Fluek, who was a self-taught artist, lived in the New York/New Jersey area until her death in 2011. According to the *New York Magazine* story, it was at the urging of her mother that Fluek began painting scenes of the peaceful life in her village, as well as horrifying scenes she recalled from Soviet and Nazi occupations.

It took time after Fluek's death for her daughter to select a permanent home for the artwork. Blankenship explains how it wound up here:

"While Toby was too ill to visit while we showed her work [in 2005], a family friend and Holocaust scholar visited the exhibition and from what Lilly [Finkler] has said to me, spoke very highly of our museum and the way we exhibited Toby's work," Blankenship said. "Also, the Florida Holocaust Museum has built a reputation as the only institution that has made it a priority to collect and exhibit art created as response to the Holocaust. For this reason, many artists and artists' families has sought us out as a possible home for art."

"At one point she had narrowed it down between us and another prominent institution and after a visit here to see the museum and

speak to me, she chose us," Blankenship said.

Finkler said the donation was made so that her mother's story would be kept alive. "I am excited that her artwork will be exhibited and shared by the Florida Holocaust Museum in their educational outreach as well as digitally and in museum exhibits. It is important that children, adults, museums and researchers all have access to this unique visual memory of my mother's world. She would have been pleased and honored that her work is being made available to current and future generations."

Fluek was born in 1926 in Czernica, Poland, near Lvov. In her first book she recalls that there were 10 Jewish families in her village before the war. Her paintings of her childhood provide not only a chronology of daily life there, but also how life was disrupted and shattered by World War II.

"My mother had very vivid memories of her life before and during the Holocaust. She painted the happy memories of her village, her farmhouse, and her family before the war – baking challah, cooking, enjoying holidays, and even cleaning. Her work provides a taste of a world that is gone forever. Her artwork about her experiences during the Holocaust give a visual to her struggle to survive and the devastating loss of her family," said Finkler.

Some of her works are of the small farm she lived on, of children walking to school and of an enamel pot surrounded by red potatoes, a staple of her family's meals. She wrote of her family's meager existence and of an uncle who bought



Photos courtesy of The Florida Holocaust Museum

A photo of Toby Fluek's charcoal sketch shows soldiers invading a home as a woman and children cower in a corner of the room. A collection of Fluek's work was recently donated to the Florida Holocaust Museum in St. Petersburg.



The simple, pastoral life in a small Polish village was lost forever when war broke out, Toby Fluek's daughter said. One of her mom's paintings evokes memories of that simple life as a woman sweeps the kitchen in her home.

eggs from peasants and walked through muddy roads to sell them to city merchants. She also tells of how the Nazis rounded up Jews from surrounding areas and put them in a ghetto.

In her memoir, she writes that "During the one-year existence of the Brody Ghetto, about three quarters of the population died from starvation, disease and cold" add-

ing, "Two men and a wagon were a daily sight on the ghetto streets, The Germans ordered the Jews to pick up the corpses. She captures the latter image in a painting that is part of the collection.

The Florida Holocaust Museum is located at 55 Fifth St. S., St. Petersburg. For more information, call (727) 820-0100 or go to www.fholocaustmuseum.org



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