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Bunch update

#LCHAYIM?
editor of

Have an item you’d like to share? Need to reach the editor of L’CHAYIM? Send an email to LChayim36@gmail.com.

Federation’s Senior Lunch Bunch update

Let us know if you will be driving or if you would like a volunteer to pick you up.
RSVP—Jodi Cohen 239-481-4449, ext. 2 or jodicohen@jfedlcc.org

INSIDE THIS ISSUE: books about Israel

I grew up in a golden age for Jews in the U.S. I’m sure anti-Semitism existed when I was a kid, but I didn’t experience much of it. Henry Winkler was the coolest man in America. Most of the top comedians — Buddy Hackett, Robert Klein, Gary Shandling, Howie Mandel — were Jewish. Years later, comedian Adam Sandler (who is only three years older than me) would put our Jewish pride into words by listing 19 pop culture heroes for his Hanukkah song.

As I grew older, I heard the stories of the prejudice that the generations before me faced — being physically attacked by other kids, having rocks thrown at them, being called a “dirty Jew,” — and that was in America, not Nazi Germany. They wore their experiences like badges of honor. But these were people much older than me, my grandparents’ generation. I think about this in the wake of two attacks on synagogues. I’m concerned that my children have a different experience of anti-Semitism than I did at their age. I asked them for their perspectives on being Jewish today.

My son made an interesting point. He saw the attacks in Pittsburgh and San Diego as no different from the attacks on a church in Sri Lanka and a synagogue in Poway. Why didn’t someone see the posting and stop him before he attacked the synagogue in Poway. Why didn’t someone see the posting and stop him before he went to kill Jews?

The common concern for both my kids is that they just can’t understand the hate. How could someone believe they’re justified to kill a group of people based on religion? I don’t have any answers for them.

After Pittsburgh, our synagogue elected to hire armed police officers as guards for every event. Our doors are locked all the time. Someone has to man the door, even during services, to let the right people in and keep the wrong people out. Did we have a choice?

For a long time, even before Pittsburgh, I would sit in services and run through scenarios of how I would react if a gunman came into the sanctuary. Could I hide from the initial attack and survive him from behind? Could I get to the emergency exit? I guess I always knew it was a possibility.

So, this is the new normal for Jews in America. Israelis have lived with security concerns for 70 years. As much as they’ve learned, I don’t know that they have solved the issue. Historian Yuval Noah Harari, an Israeli himself, writes that a terrorist is like a fly trying to destroy a china shop. “The fly is so weak it cannot even budge a single teacup. So it finds a bulb, gets inside its ear and starts buzzing. The bulb goes wild with fear and anger, and destroys the china shop.”

In Harari’s view, terrorism is theater. The attack in Poway killed one person and injured three others. If a car accident resulted in one death and three injuries, it would hardly be considered newsworthy. As a hate crime, it registers 12 million results on Google and its own Wikipedia page. The Poway murderer was motivated (or inspired?) by the attacks in Pittsburgh and Christchurch. He hopes that his attack will motivate others. He is seeking attention as much as anything else.

Here is Harari’s advice: “Above all, if we want to fight terrorism effectively, we must understand that nothing terrorists do can defeat us. We are the only ones who can defeat ourselves, if we overreact in a misguided way to terrorist provocations.”

So we become more vigilant. We hire security guards, and we try to deny the terrorists the terror they seek to create.

I don’t have the answers to my children’s question, but here’s what I know: I can’t explain hatred. I just know it exists. And we deal with it the best we can.

Rabbis Ben Sendrow used to tell this story.

L’CHAYIM
By Jodi Cohen, Senior Outreach & Food Pantry Coordinator

To donate to the Federation’s Annual Campaign, call 239.481.4449 or visit JewishFederationLCC.org

OUR MISSION
To strengthen and enrich the Jewish Community by providing and supporting philanthropic, educational, and social service programs locally, in Israel and throughout the world.

OUR VISION
A Jewish Community that is based on Jewish values, such as Tzedakah (benevolence), Tikun Olam (repairing the world) and K’lal Yisrael (taking responsibility for one another). The Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte Counties, through this paper.

Electronic submissions encouraged. The editor reserves the right to edit for space and content. Printed or typed (not in all-capital letters) and double-spaced.

L’CHAYIM JUNE 2019
Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties

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June 2019 • Volume 41, Number 10

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JULY ISSUE
EDITORIAL DEADLINE: Wednesday, June 5

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Stay in touch throughout the month. Sign up for the Federation’s e-blasts.

Get the latest information on upcoming community events and cultural activities, breaking news items, updates from Israel and lots more.

Send an email to debbiesanford@jfedlcc.org

Program notes

In April, our newest social group, JFED Hits the Road, traveled by luxury charter bus to Miami Beach. We had a great lunch at a kosher deli and sushi restaurant on Lincoln Road on our way to the Florida Jewish Museum. We had a private docent tour of the beautiful museum and spent some time in the gift shop.

On our way home we stopped at Kosher Kingdom – a fitting name for this awesome place as it was indeed a kingdom and everything was kosher. We loaded the bus with some coolers and numerous bags of Israeli food products and kosher for Passover foods to bring home with us. I personally enjoyed the kugel, stuffed cabbage and Passover chocolate lollipops I bought.

Everyone had a great time and we are already planning our next bus trip during the winter months. Join us as we head to the Dali Museum, Acropolis Greek Restaurant and the Chihuly Museum.

JFED Hits the Road are fun and engaging road trips for people who want to see great places and meet new faces. So, join us on our next trip. For more information, please contact me at 239.481.4449 x4 or debbiesanford@jfedlcc.org.

Photos courtesy Jerry Wadro

By Debbie Sanford, Program Director

Brian Simon…continued from previous page

me, “There are no coincidences.” The weird thing is, right before I finished this column, two unrelated experiences occurred just two days apart and reminded me of a very important lesson.

The first was a line from a song by Jewish rap artist Ari Lesser. Concluding a Friday night service at Temple Judea, he sang, “Give thanks for the pain that keeps us strong.” It reminded me that my grandparents’ generation of Jews were tough and became remarkably accomplished. Their success probably led parents’ generation of Jews to think they should be even more resilient ourselves. So too do the majority of women diagnosed with breast cancer… Increases in spirituality, compassion for others, openness, and even, eventually, overall life satisfaction.”

This is not to say that I welcome a new generation of Jewish-betters. And I am more than a little angry at having to hire armed guards for our gatherings. But I can say that we can grow from this crisis. That we must use this as an opportunity to strengthen our relationships with the non-Jewish community and emerge more resilient ourselves.

“Today, we can say for certain, not just anecdotally, that great suffering or trauma can actually lead to a great positive change across a wide range of experiences. After the March 11, 2004, train bombings in Madrid, for example, psychologists found many residents experienced positive psychological growth. So too do the majority of women diagnosed with breast cancer… Increases in spirituality, compassion for others, openness, and even, eventually, overall life satisfaction.”

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By Debbie Sanford, Program Director

Brian Simon…continued from previous page

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Jewish Family Services update

By Jodi Cohen, Senior Outreach & Food Pantry Coordinator

There are several topics to cover in this month’s JFS update, as there is “amazement in every corner,” as a former theatre director of Temple Judea put it.

First, I want to reiterate that the Federation provides food and assistance to those in need in Lee and Charlotte counties regardless of religion or background. Not everyone understands this, so I think it bears repeating. About one-half of the Federation’s regular food pantry clients are Jewish.

The Federation is getting at least two new food pantry clients a month. With new clients, I try to find out a little about their situation to see if I can recommend other resources or information that might be helpful. One family was about to have their electricity cut off, so through the Marcia Can Help Fund, the Federation was able to ensure that the lights and air conditioning stayed on. Two of the new clients are receiving medical treatments near the Federation. One of these clients, let’s call him Shlomo, wasn’t aware of the Federation. One of these clients, let’s call him Shlomo, wasn’t aware of the Federation. One of these clients, let’s call him Shlomo, wasn’t aware of the Federation. One of these clients, let’s call him Shlomo, wasn’t aware of the Federation. One of these clients, let’s call him Shlomo, wasn’t aware of the Federation. One of these clients, let’s call him Shlomo, wasn’t aware of the Federation. One of these clients, let’s call him Shlomo, wasn’t aware of the Federation. One of these clients, let’s call him Shlomo, wasn’t aware of the Federation.

The Federation has several food pantry clients who come from Lehigh Acres; many with three generations of family members. Many of these clients have been receiving assistance for years, which makes it easier for them to make adjustments when necessary. The calls for assistance increase each week. While people need information and resources, sometimes they also need an ally. One client said he wasn’t able to stand in the food pantry line near where he lives because he is disabled and the line is too long. I asked him if he had spoken to anyone at the pantry about his situation and he said, “I doubt that it would make a difference.” I then asked him if he might call on his behalf, using my title and the agency name to make the request for assistance. He looked at me with a combination of awe and bewilderment that I would offer to help him. It was a powerful moment. For me it was understanding how something as simple as a phone call could enable this person to get food to eat, and for the client it was relief to realize that someone would be willing to help him.

The Federation Food Pantry Coordinator Jodi Cohen hosted a pizza party at her home in May to thank the food pantry volunteers for their service. “We have a physically small, but active pantry with more and more new clients every month. Each and every volunteer contribution keeps it all running smoothly,” said Cohen. Pictured (L-R): Laurie McConville, Donna Cotler, Phyllis Boyar, Judith Yevick, Carolyn Gor, Randi Wolf, Karen Whitman, Suzanne Orkin, Barbara Grinb.

Temple Judea is seeking passionate and energetic teachers for the 2019-2020 school year. Teaching experience, Jewish commitment and Hebrew skills are a plus. For more details, call Tab at 239.433.0201 or email tjswhedu@gmail.com.

Enjoy the singing and dancing at Temple Beth El as we welcome Friends of Israel ScouTs, Inc. Tzofim.

Federration Food Pantry Coordinator Jodi Cohen hosted a pizza party at her home in May to thank the food pantry volunteers for their service. “We have a physically small, but active pantry with more and more new clients every month. Each and every volunteer contribution keeps it all running smoothly,” said Cohen. Pictured (L-R): Laurie McConville, Donna Cotler, Phyllis Boyar, Judith Yevick, Carolyn Gor, Randi Wolf, Karen Whitman, Suzanne Orkin, Barbara Grinb.

I would like to thank the tireless food pantry volunteers who keep the momentum going: Carolyn Gor, Barbara Grinb, Judith Yevick, Suzanne Orkin, Karen Whitman, Randi and Payton Wolf, Phyllis Boyar, Donna Cotler, Laurie McConville and Larry Epstein.
TRIBUTES

In memory of Dr. Marla Ince, our beloved sister and aunt from Andrew Leon

The board and staff of the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties extend condolences to Tab Scribner, Director of Congregational Learning at Temple Judea, on the death of her husband, Tim, on April 25.

Each month, L’CHAYIM will list your Tributes. Please send them to Lori Ramos at the Federation at loriramos@jfedlcc.org.

For a continuously updated calendar of events, visit www.JewishFederationLCC.org.

THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING SUPPORTERS OF L’CHAYIM FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO HELP UNDERWRITE THE COST OF BRINGING NEWS OF THE LOCAL, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL JEWISH COMMUNITY TO YOUR MAILBOX EVERY MONTH!

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Israel Advocacy and Initiatives to strengthen local Jewish community ties with Israel. Holocaust Education through the Holocaust Museum of Southwest Florida to middle and high school students in the community.

Overseas Funding to the Jewish Agency for Israel and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) for full spectrum social services to Israel and Jewish communities in 60+ countries around the world.

Partnership 2gether relationship with the Hadera-Elron Region in Israel.

Local Seniors Services

Holiday baskets and teen visits to seniors and senior facilities for Rosh Hashanah, Hanukah and Passover.

Seniors & Volunteers Lunch Program.

Emerging and pressing needs related to senior housing, health and socialization.

Local Case Management Services

Non-sectarian, individual and family outreach, information and referral services.

Individual life coaching and support services.

Local Emergency Services

Food Pantry and Public food cards.

Emergency financial assistance grants.

Education and aid associated with natural disasters.

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Senior Lunch Bunch update
By Jodi Cohen, Senior Outreach & Food Pantry Coordinator

The Federation was welcomed back by our generous community partner, The Palms of Fort Myers, for what is becoming an annual spring senior luncheon event. Laura Davis and Diana Hernandez, sales and move-in coordinators respectively, and the entire staff at The Palms could not have been friendlier or kinder to the Federation participants. Chef Steve schmoozed with everyone during the delicious lunch, thus avoiding a group cheer. Many prizes were given out for answers to the trivia questions, and only one person attempted to consult with Siri for some of the answers.

The free monthly senior luncheon program continues to grow because delight and joy are contagious. Our volunteers are dedicated to doing the big and small tasks that make the luncheon run smoothly. The Senior Lunch Bunch provides an opportunity for Jewish seniors to gather together and eat, kibbitz, learn a little something, make friends and strengthen established friendships. It always feels like a simcha and there is always a place at the table for YOU!

If you’d like to volunteer, please be in touch with me. Let us know if you need a volunteer to pick you up.

NEXT SENIOR LUNCH BUNCH:
Thursday, June 13 at noon
Temple Beth Shalom, 702 SE 24th Ave., Cape Coral
RSVP by Friday, June 7 to Jodi Cohen at 239.481.4449 x2 or jodicohen@jfedlcc.org

Photos courtesy Helene Glocer

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For ad rates and deadlines, contact Jim Lewin at 239.634.6923 or jameslewin@jfedlcc.org.
BIRTH

Welcome Lilah Zekanowski, daughter of Carly and Mike Zekanowski, born April 27. Mazel Tov to grandparents Rich and Susan Talbott, and great-great-bubbe Natalie Fulton, coordinator of The Community Free Synagogue.

BAT MITZVAH

Aliza Litvak, eldest daughter of Angela and Stanley Litvak, sibling to Ella and Jacoby, was called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, April 27 at Temple Beth El. Aliza is a seventh-grader at Lexington Middle School, where she is on the dance team and in the National Junior Honor Society. She was born in Fort Lauderdale and spent most of her childhood in Melbourne, and recently moved to Fort Myers. However, Aliza enjoys the cold weather much better! Aliza loves her dog Rocky and claims to love him maybe even more than her parents. Aliza plans to become a veterinarian or medical doctor. Whatever is easiest.

Lily Raider, daughter of Dr. Andrew and Brooke Raider, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, June 15. A seventh-grade honor student at Charlotte Preparatory School, Lily loves traveling, photography, adventures, swimming and hanging out with friends. Lily has earned MVP on her school’s track team for the past two years. Her other interests include performing in school singing ensembles and in summer theatre camp. Lily’s parents commend her on her commitment to her Jewish education. She has traveled from Punt-a-Gorda to Temple Beth El for many years, and most often with a smile on her face. She would like to thank Dale Cohen for being an incredible teacher and source of support and encouragement, as well as Morah Bari and her other Hebrew teachers. Lily is also grateful for Rabbi Luna’s teaching and spiritual support and encouragement, as well as Morah Bari and her other Hebrew teachers. Lily is also grateful for Rabbi Luna’s teaching and spiritual support and encouragement, as well as Morah Bari and her other Hebrew teachers. Lily is also grateful for Rabbi Luna’s teaching and spiritual support and encouragement, as well as Morah Bari and her other Hebrew teachers.

Olivia Paige Sills, daughter of Dana and Michael Sills, and older sister to Emma, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, June 8. Olivia is a seventh-grade honor roll student at Bonita Springs Charter School, where she is a member of National Junior Honor Society and was on the track team. She enjoys gymnastics, art and spending time with her friends and family. Olivia would like to thank Dale Cohen, Rabbi Nicole Luna, her Hebrew School teachers and her parents for all their teachings and guidance on her journey leading up to this milestone. She looks forward to celebrating this joyous occasion with her family and friends.

Samantha Kateri Traiger, daughter of Dean and Tami Traiger, and little sister to Allison, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on May 25. A seventh-grade honor student at Gulf Middle School, Samantha is a member of the National Junior Honor Society, the Builders Club, Middle School Chorus, and plays trombone in Advanced Band. Samantha is a member of the Temple Team and enjoys spending time with her friends and reading. Samantha is thankful to Rabbi Luna and Dale Cohen for their support of her studies. She is honored to have her family and friends join her in celebration of this special day.

Shalom Dancers on the road again

April 14 found the Shalom Dancers at Temple Shalom in Naples participating in the Jewish Federation of Greater Naples’ Celebrate Israel event. The event began with a concert by Jewish rock celebrity Rick Recht. After the concert, the audience filed into the social hall to visit the many booths set up around the room, nosh on Dalia’s falafels and watch some folk dances. We invited the audience to participate and a few brave souls took us up on the challenge!

Thank you to our sponsor, the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties, for inviting us to participate and for its kind donation to our Federation’s Indigent Fund on behalf of the Shalom Dancers.


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A tribute is a thoughtful gift honoring a special occasion, including birthdays, anniversaries, promotions, bar/bat mitzvahs, or to express sympathy.

Honoring a special person through a tribute gift to the Jewish Family Services of Lee & Charlotte Counties is a wonderful way to recognize a simcha (happy occasion) or remember a loved one. Not only does your gift show your family and friends that you care, it goes to work helping Jews in need and building vibrant communities locally, in Israel and around the world.

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- Confirmations
- Get well wishes
- Job promotions
- Loss of a loved one
- New homes
- Wedding anniversaries
- and much more

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Shalom Dancers
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We anticipate closing our current location (4760 Tamiami Trail North, Suite 7, Naples) to the public around the second week in June in order to get everything ready for the big move. If you are planning a Museum visit, please check our website for an update on our opening schedule.

The official Dedication Ceremony will take place on Sunday afternoon, November 10. The public is invited, and several local dignitaries will be on hand for the special occasion. Most importantly, we invite all those who have supported our mission over the years with their time, talent and financial support. We could not have gotten to this point without your help, so this will be your celebration, too. We will also remember those no longer with us who were an important part of the Museum’s founding and hope their family members will be able to attend.

More exciting news of a big honor for the Museum! The readers of Gulfshore Life magazine voted our Museum “Best Courtyard – Collier County” in its 2019 Readers’ Choice Annual Awards! It is the second time in the past ten years our Museum has been honored with this designation, and we thank all who voted for us. This award is proof of the continuing growth of public recognition and awareness of the value of our education programs and our contribution to the quality of life in our SWFL community. Pick up a copy of the May “Best of the Gulfshore” issue to see the winners and finalists for a large variety of categories.

Triumph 2019 speaker Christian Picciolini recently visited the Museum to participate in the filming of a documentary about his work as a peace advocate, set to air in June or July 2019. Our current exhibit, “Marching in America,” will be included in the film. The exhibit traces the early 20th century rise in the U.S. of fascist and Nazi movements, and contains personal items loaned by Christian from his years as a member of a Chicago skinhead group. In addition to his speaking engagements around the world, Christian assists people in rebuilding their lives as they escape white supremacist environments.

Part of the documentary will include his work with a young man who is bearing a very heavy burden. He grew up in a white supremacist family led by the man who killed a guard 10 years ago at the site of the L.A. Civil Rights Museum. This young man accompanied Christian to our Museum, where he toured the exhibits prior to addressing a student group here on a field trip. This was to be the first time this young man would speak in public about his life, and it very clearly weighed on him. The men spoke plainly of the mistakes they made and the hurt caused by their living lives of hate and violence. They urged the students to carefully consider the decisions on who their role models should be and always realize the impact that words and actions can have on others.

After they spoke, there was a Q&A session with students and several survivors who were leaders of a Chicago skinhead group. They brought into sharp focus for the students the connection between the hate-driven crimes of the Holocaust and the hate-filled actions in today’s headlines, most recently the synagogue attack only three days before their visit to the Museum.

As we transition to the new Museum, we look back on the memories made in our current home. It was the scene of many firsts – survivors finding the courage to step inside and confront the past, others who finally opened up and decided to share their experiences publicly for the first time with total strangers. We hosted many interesting guest speakers, amazing exhibits, events, films, local and international dignitaries. We have benefitted from countless hours of volunteer time and generous financial support of our mission. Over 200,000 students and visitors from all over the world have been impacted by their participation in our education programs and visits to the Museum. We look forward to the impact our new Museum will have upon future students and visitors. We hope you will join us on the journey.

Susan Suarez
President & CEO
The traumas of our individual and collective pasts do not simply vanish

Book review by Philip K. Jason, Special to L'CHAYIM


Here is one of the most valuable new books for 2019. Though it seems at first that it is aimed at health professionals and religious leaders, particularly of the Jewish faith, it has a much wider application. Someone in your family needs this book to help come to terms with the residual effects of complex trauma transmitted, sometimes within a particular ethnic group from generation to generation.

Others need this book to understand the seemingly strange and often self-destructive behavior of loved ones, close friends, co-workers and other victims of psychological trauma who suffer without even knowing why.

Rabbi Firestone’s book is intellectually challenging, spiritually rich, infinitely patient and filled with healing optimism. It offers understanding, strategies for overcoming trauma, and accessible case histories of a varied group of trauma survivors whose paths and personalities will encourage all who seek a recovery and renewal.

The peculiar history of Jewish populations—a history weighted with pogroms, genocide, exclusion and endless epochs of plain old anti-Semitism—receives startling, illuminating attention. Rabbi Firestone knows of what she speaks. Her discussions include slices of her own family history. Significant here, beyond yet entangled with the family dynamics, is the author’s withdrawal from Jewish life and identity and—some time later—her reconnection. Her discovery of the wisdom in Judaism’s fundamental texts opened channels of learning that eventually led to her studies and work as a psychotherapist and her emergence as an influential rabbi in the Jewish Renewal Movement.

However, the value of this study is not limited to Jewish sufferers or Jewish families and communities. One theme of the book is that we have, or can develop, the insights and tools to make our lives whole again if we were fractured by trauma. Another theme is that “intergenerational trauma” is a genuine, verifiable medical condition, and that it even has a significant physical dimension. Yet another theme is that such a condition must be attended to—it will not cure itself.

Rabbi Firestone’s exploration of this condition includes the introduction of recognizable behaviors (warning signs) and the professional vocabulary that assists in the understanding of trauma-induced or trauma-prolonged behaviors. Other provocative explorations in this book include a productive revisiting of the stigmatizing label that the Jews are a “chosen people.” Similarly reassuring is Rabbi Firestone’s perspective on the troublesome biblical pronouncement about the sins of the fathers being visited upon the children for generations. The understandings she suggests are a fine capstone to her tonic presentation exploring “intergenerational trauma.”

Of immense practical value is her construction of the seven “principles of Jewish cultural healing.”

A lively mind, a caring heart and a love of Judaism’s profound soul make this a must-have contribution to the literature of healing.

About the author. Rabbi Tirzah Firestone, Ph.D., is an author, Jungian psychotherapist and founding rabbi of Congregation Nevi Kodesh in Boulder, Colorado. Ordained by Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi in 1992, she is a leader in the international Jewish Renewal Movement and has served as co-chair of Rabbis for Human Rights, North America, which is now known as Tr’uah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights. She holds a doctorate in depth psychology from the Pacific Graduate Institute in Santa Barbara, California. She has written several other books, including With Roots in Heaven: One Woman’s Passionate Journey into the Heart of Her Faith, by Rabbi Tirzah Firestone, Ph.D., is an author, Jungian psychotherapist and founding rabbi of Congregation Nevi Kodesh in Boulder, Colorado. Ordained by Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi in 1992, she is a leader in the international Jewish Renewal Movement and has served as co-chair of Rabbis for Human Rights, North America, which is now known as Tr’uah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights. She holds a doctorate in depth psychology from the Pacific Graduate Institute in Santa Barbara, California. She has written several other books, including With Roots in Heaven: One Woman’s Passionate Journey into the Heart of Her Faith. Philip K. Jason is Professor Emeritus of English from the United States Naval Academy. He reviews regularly for Florida Weekly, Washington Independent Review of Books, Southern Literary Review, other publications and the Jewish Book Council. Please visit his website at www.philipjason.wordpress.com.

Photos: Rabbi Tirzah Firestone, Ph.D.

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Rabbi Tirzah Firestone, Ph.D.

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The traumas of our individual and collective pasts, Persons in Egyptians and Israelis, swept the musical film for the stage musical version of the hit 57, is nominated for writing the score Skyfall and he directed the James Bond films Oscar for directing and his mother is Jewish. He won an DES Chavkin won best director of a musical of a Greek myth, re-set in the 1930s. of any show this year. It’s a re-telling using “real” children in large stage parts in Napa Valley, but end up re-examining and re-discovering their decades-long friendships. The actresses playing the friends include SNL veterans MAYA RUDOLPH, 46, RACHEL DRATCH, 43, Tina Fey and Amy Poehler (who also directed). Poehler says the film is loosely based on an actual trip that she and some other women took to Napa to celebrate Dratch’s birthday.

Last March, a 50th anniversary Laugh-In special was filmed live at Los Angeles’ Dolby Theater. The tape of the special premiered on Netflix on May 14. It’s hosted by original Laugh-In cast member Lily Tomlin, who appears as two of her famous Laugh-In characters. Jewish stars appearing include BILLY CRYSTAL, 71, TIFFANY HADDISH, 39, BRAD GARTHET, 59, JON LOVITZ, 61, JEFF ROSS, 53, NATASHA LEGGERO, 45, and MI- CHAEL DOUGLAS, 74. Also appearing on stage was GEORGE SCHLAT- TER, 88, the creator of Laugh-In and a co-producer of the 50th anniversary show

The Tony Awards, for excellence in the Broadway theater, will be presented on Sunday, June 9 at 8:00 p.m. (CBS). The Tony Awards, for excellence in the Broadway theater, will be presented on Sunday, June 9 at 8:00 p.m. (CBS). The Tony Awards, for excellence in the Broadway theater, will be presented on Sunday, June 9 at 8:00 p.m. (CBS). The Tony Awards, for excellence in the Broadway theater, will be presented on Sunday, June 9 at 8:00 p.m. (CBS). The Tony Awards, for excellence in the Broadway theater, will be presented on Sunday, June 9 at 8:00 p.m. (CBS). The Tony Awards, for excellence in the Broadway theater, will be presented on Sunday, June 9 at 8:00 p.m. (CBS). The Tony Awards, for excellence in the Broadway theater, will be presented on Sunday, June 9 at 8:00 p.m. (CBS). The Tony Awards, for excellence in the Broadway theater, will be presented on Sunday, June 9 at 8:00 p.m. (CBS). The Tony Awards, for excellence in the Broadway theater, will be presented on Sunday, June 9 at 8:00 p.m. (CBS).
A traditional Israeli cheesecake enshrined by knafeh – recipe by Chef Dalia

Central European neighbors. The famous New York-style baked cheesecake could be. In this fusion incarnation of the classic Israeli treat, I created my favorite Israeli cheesecake – a traditional Israeli cheesecake enshrined by knafeh (ka-nee-fah) syrup-soaked strands of dough which form the base and topping for this soft, white Shavuot treat. I’ve replaced the crumb base and topping with a baklava-inspired knafeh. Sweet and incredibly delicious, our cheese knafeh is a family favorite from Jerusalem that features shredded phyllo dough and cheese filling to create a fascinating dessert swimming in orange-blossom/lemon syrup and crushed pistachios. I use Gvina Levana, an exceptionally soft and creamy cheese, which ensures a delicate cake. For those unable to find this Israeli treasure, Quark cheese is similar in texture and is readily available in most stores.

Preheat oven to 325°. Line a cookie sheet with parchment paper. Grease the bottom of the greased spring-form pan, then set the rest aside.

Knafeh crust:
• 1 package frozen shredded phyllo dough
• 1 cup melted, unsalted butter
• 3 tbsp vanilla pudding powder

Cheesecake ingredients:
• 3 large egg whites
• 1 tsp vanilla pudding powder
• ¾ cup sugar

Syrup:
• 1 cup water
• Juice of a lemon or quarter of an orange
• 2 tablespoons shelled pistachios and/or hazelnuts

Cheesecake:
1. Working with 6 phyllo sheets at a time, microwave 2 sheets and place in a fine mesh sieve for 10 minutes. Add whipped cream to the bowl and whip until thick. Add pudding powder, mix until combined. Fold white cheese into whipped cream. Gently fold egg whites into the mixture and pour into the prepared knafeh base.
2. Press one-third of the knafeh crust to the bottom of the greased spring-form pan, then set the rest aside.
3. Place the remaining knafeh and crumble it on top of the cheesecake, piling it high in the middle. Return to refrigerator and chill overnight.
4. Refrigerate for one hour until the cheesecake feels firm to the touch.
5. Take the remaining knafeh and crumble it on top of the cheesecake, piling it high in the middle. Return to refrigerator and chill overnight.
6. Before serving, sprinkle crushed nuts on the top of the cake.

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Virginia is for (wine) Loves

By The Wine Whisperer

A few weeks ago, a friend stopped by the house carrying two bottles of Cabernet Franc. He had driven to Southwest Florida from New York, and while pass-
ning through Virginia took a de-
tour to the state’s wine industry. Wait a sec-
ond, you might say, Virginia? It’s not exactly Cali-
foria, Oregon or Washington State, so what’s the sto-
ry? As it happens Virginia is one of America’s original winegrowing re-
gions – perhaps THE original. Think Thomas Jefferson, Ben Franklin and other residents of the area who traveled regularly to France in the late 1700s, bringing back the best the country had to offer. Plus, Washington and Jeff-
erson were eager to get the wine industry going. Being independence-minded, they didn’t want to have to depend on European sources. Although the ini-
tial results were disappointing (to say the least), today they’re doing great things with an astonishing variety of grapes.

I wasn’t all that surprised, because a few years ago I sampled an offer-
ing from Barboursville Vineyards, loc-
ated just north of Charlottesville and I never forgot it. So this past October, I contacted the winery and arranged an interaction with winemaker Luca Paschina, during the most recent Wine Experience.

“Our wines have to be very high quality,” says Paschina, “or they won’t impact the market.” He notes that the region doesn’t have the high profile or consumer awareness of more tradition-
 al regions, so he and other winemakers in Virginia had their work cut out for them.

According to Paschina, “The ter-
 ritoir and climate in the area are com-
 parable to the Piedmont or Maremma in Italy. I’ve been with the winery 29 years and have never seen a consistent weather pattern. So we have a long his-
tory of trial and error.

It has finally paid off. The Barbo-
ursville wines, and those we’ve sam-
pled from other Virginia wineries, can be excellent. In fact, the interest in the area has grown so quickly that tourists are swarming, and many natives are up in arms about the crowds and traffic.

The most surprising and intrig-
 uing part is that Paschina and others are cultivating an enormous range of vari-
etals. There is no characteristic grape, like Cabernet Sauvignon in Napa, or Nebbiolo, French varietals such as Cabernet Franc, and many others. This is partly due to the wide range of soils and climates enjoyed by producers all over the state, although the “sweet spot” is on the eastern slope of the Blue Ridge Mountains, where the vines bask in early morning sun.

“Most Virginia wines are sold lo-
cally,” notes Paschina, “That’s due to the increased wine tourism we just not-
 ed,” he says, “more of our wines are attracting national attention.” He’s right about that. His winery wasn’t the only Virginia producer invited to pour at the Wine Experience; others are at-
tracting well-deserved attention as well.

For starters, we sampled a range of varietals from Barboursville, and they’re reviewed below. As we dove into offerings from other producers, we’ll bring you up to date.

Barboursville, Octagon Virginia 2014 ($55) – A rich blend of Bordeaux varietals, it’s mostly Merlot and Cab-
 ernet Franc – is producing incredible wines like aromas hit you with berries, coffee and chocolate thanks to the 12 months it spends in French oak. There are pro-
nounced flavors of cherries and nuts on the palate. This wine can age for de-
cades.

Barboursville Vermentino Re-
 serve Virginia 2016 ($23) – Even-
 though this grape is native to places like Corsica and Sardinia, Virginia is giving it a new twist. Stainless steel fermentation and aging gives it citrus aromas and bracing acidity. WW 89

Ask the Wine Whisperer I’ve heard people talk about “micro-
 biology” in wines. Does wine actually have bacteria growing in it? – Caro-
lene L., Port St. Lucie

Wine is a product of fermentation, just like cheese and yogurt, so there are all kinds of bacteria that work with yeast as it turns sugar into alcohol. Lactic and acetic acid bacteria are the most characteristic, and very benefi-
cial. In fact, there is some research that indicates live bacteria in wine may be good for you.

Jerry Greenfield is The Wine Whisper-
er. He is Creative Director of Green-
field Media & Marketing, and Wine

Diaspora.

The recent February concerts in Is-
rael featured a program of music that included Antonin Dvorak’s “Symphony
No. 8,” George Gershwin’s “Rhapsody in Blue,” and a selection of popular works with Ester Rada, an Ethiopian-
Israeli jazz singer. (Check out her innova-
tive video, Life Happens, on YouTube.)

Dr. Feldman told me his next gig with the group will be in Houston in August in conjunction with the Texas Medical Center Orchestra.

Arlene Stolnitz, founder of the Saratoga Jewish Chorale, has sung in choral groups for over 25 years. A retired edu-
cator, she is a graduate of the Gulf Coa-
 st Community Leadership Foundation. A member of the Jewish Congregation of Venice, the Venice Chorale and the Saratoga Jewish Chorale, her interest in choral music has led to this series of articles on Jewish Folk Music in the Diaspora.

JEWISH INTEREST

Arlene Stolnitz

Symphony of the Heart and World Doctors Orchestra

By Arlene Stolnitz

Recently I had an appointment with my physician, Dr. Robert Felman, a gastroenterologist who practices in Venice.

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The Night of the Long Knives

By Paul R. Bartrop, PhD

Eighty-five years ago this month, a political event became known as the Night of the Long Knives. That event, which took place from June 30 to July 2, 1934, was a turning point in the history of the Third Reich, with devastating consequences for the German political landscape.

Hitler, as the leader of the German National Socialist German Workers’ Party (NSDAP), had come to power in 1933. His rise to power was facilitated by the weakness of the Weimar Republic and the political instability it experienced during the post-World War I period. Hitler saw an opportunity to seize control and consolidate his power.

One of the key figures in Hitler’s rise to power was Ernst Röhm. Röhm was a former World War I soldier who fought on the German side. After the war, he joined the German army and ascended the ranks, becoming a prominent leader in the army’s officer corps. Röhm was a skilled leader and strategist, and he became a key figure in the early NSDAP administration.

During the 1920s and 1930s, street politics were a common feature of German political life. The NSDAP, under Hitler’s leadership, were one of the parties involved in these political struggles. Röhm and the Sturmabteilung (SA), the paramilitary wing of the NSDAP, became a force of awe-inspiring size, with 4 million members by 1933. Hitler and Röhm had been working together to consolidate their power, and Röhm was seen as a crucial figure in this process.

However, as Hitler rose to power, he became increasingly concerned about the possibility of a coup. He saw Röhm and the SA as a threat, and he feared that they might launch a coup against his regime. To address this concern, Hitler took action. On June 30, 1934, he ordered the arrest of Röhm and other SA leaders.

This purge, known as the Night of the Long Knives, was a turning point in the history of the Third Reich. It was a violent and brutal event, with thousands of SA members arrested and many of them more than 2,000 people were killed. The purge also provided a legal ground for Hitler’s regime, as German judges hastened to demonstrate their loyalty to Hitler. The Night of the Long Knives was a turning point for the German government, establishing Hitler as the supreme authority in Germany.

In addition to clearing the way for Hitler’s regime, the purge also provided a legal ground for Hitler’s regime. As German judges hastened to demonstrate their loyalty to Hitler, the Night of the Long Knives became a symbol of the regime’s authority.

The purge also provided a legal ground for Hitler’s regime, as German judges hastened to demonstrate their loyalty to Hitler. The Night of the Long Knives was a turning point for the German government, establishing Hitler as the supreme authority in Germany.

In this digital age, we have access to a wealth of resources to help us understand the history of Israel. Here are some books that you might find useful:

1. *Israel: A Concise History of a Nation* by Daniel Gordis

2. *The Night of the Long Knives* by Paul R. Bartrop


4. *Ingenuity Repairs the World: Thou Shalt Innovate* by Jessica Halfin

5. *The Story of Israel Through Modern Photographs* by Peter Walker

These books offer a comprehensive overview of Israel’s history, from biblical times to the present day. They provide insights into the political, social, and cultural developments that have shaped Israel over the years.

To help you get to grips with this fascinating country, we’ve compiled a list of some must-read books about Israel. These books will provide you with a deeper look into what went on behind the scenes during Israel’s greatest trying times.

**Nonfiction: Israel**

*Nonfiction: Israel* is a fascinating read for anyone interested in the history of the region. The books cover a wide range of topics, from the biblical history of Israel to the modern era.

*Israel: A Concise History of a Nation* by Daniel Gordis

*The Night of the Long Knives* by Paul R. Bartrop

*Thou Shall Innovate: How Israeli Innovation Repairs the World* by Jessica Halfin

*Ingenuity Repairs the World: Thou Shalt Innovate* by Jessica Halfin

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To help you get to grips with this fascinating country, we’ve compiled a list of some must-read books about Israel. These books will provide you with a deeper look into what went on behind the scenes during Israel’s greatest trying times.

**Nonfiction: Israel**

*Nonfiction: Israel* is a fascinating read for anyone interested in the history of the region. The books cover a wide range of topics, from the biblical history of Israel to the modern era.

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understand Israel's history, culture and technology. I put together a reading list of the 14 best books to help you.

14 must-read books

By Seth M. Putnam

Thou Shalt Innovate: How Israeli innovation got us where we are today and how it will shape the world in the future.

Let There Be Water: Israel’s Solution to a Scarcity That Transformed the Middle East. According to a New York Times reporter, nobody should have to live through such terrors, such hardship. It was a family that endured it all, starting in Krakow, once home to more than 60,000 Jews, and tracing the common thread of Jewish life from the Buczyna forest, where the Nazis executed more than 800 children, and then to the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration and extermination camps. Led by FIDF Na
tional Director and CEO Maj. Gen. (Res.) Kifli-Amir, the nine-day “From Holocaust to Independence” mission vividly brings to life, from its darkest moments to its most triumphal, Israeli soldiers and Holocaust survivors will accompany the FIDF supporters on this tour, so that they have a chance to see the land, and to gaze out to the sea as never before.

The Story of the Holy Land: A Visual History. This book was prepared by a team of scholars, historians, and professionals and it presents the fruit bundles at a Tel Aviv juice bar – noisy as it can be. It can be a great place for children, she was only 10 years old when Nazi Germany occupied Lodz, forcing the family into the Lodz ghetto of 68,000 Jews. Both sisters were liber
ted from the Lodz ghetto in 1945, and immigrated to the U.S. in 1949, settling in the Detroit area. The story of their family is a painful one. 

“If I look at the first page of the book, they were already adults and grown-ups and here was this child, that was just a part of that family. It was a part of the world that it meant for me to survive,” Kliman said.

Also joining the mission will be Ho
ternational Director and CEO Maj. Gen. (Res.) Kifli-Amir, the nine-day “From Holocaust to Independence” mission vividly brings to life, from its darkest moments to its most triumphal, Israeli soldiers and Holocaust survivors will accompany the FIDF supporters on this tour, so that they have a chance to see the land, and to gaze out to the sea as never before.

The Story of the Holy Land: A Visual History. This book was prepared by a team of scholars, historians, and professionals and it presents the story of Israel’s land from biblical to modern times. It grows from the ancient times that the land was occupied by the Canaanites, the Romans, the Byzantines, the Crusaders, the Turks, the British, the French, and finally the Israelis. It is a story of war and peace, of struggle and compromise, of expansion and contraction.

The Colors of Israel by Rachel Raz

The Colors of Israel is great book to learn their colors through the vibrant scenes of Israel. There are many sites in this book. From the striking orange of the fruit bundles at a Tel Aviv market, to the red of the Israeli mail van, this book is a fun gift of Israeli culture to give to someone who is interested in Israel. 

Coloring books, coloring pages and calendars

Israel 70 Year Independence Coloring Book by Rachel Mintz

Buy this or any of the many other Israeli-themed coloring books of illust

ISRAEL & THE JEWISH WORLD

ISRAELI’S POPULATION REACHES 9 MILLION

The Central Bureau of Statistics Thursday, May 2, reported that the number of residents in Israel stood at 9,009,000 in March. The number of Jews is 6,738,500, or 74.8% (Zeev Klein, JNS.org)

54% MULTI-ETHNIC OPERATE IN ISRAEL

There are 539 multinational corporations (MNCs) from 35 countries oper
ating in Israel’s tech ecosystem, ac
cording to a report by Tel Aviv University researchers. They recorded nearly 400 cases worldwide, with more than a quarter of the multinational firms and operations taking place in the U.S. In Germany, there was a 70% increase in anti-Semitic violence. “There is a growing number of attacks against Jews in many countries around the world,” said Moshe Kantor, presi
dent of the European Jewish Congress. “It is now clear that anti-Semitism is no longer limited to the far-left, far-right and radical Islamic spectrum. It is also a phenomenon that is often accepted by civil society.” (Aron Heller, AP-Miami Herald)
Suggestion: A Museum of Jewish Accomplishment

By Paul H. Rubin

There are about 70 Holocaust museums and memorials in the United States, located in 26 states. There are six in Florida. While the Holocaust was the major event in recent Jewish history, there is a rich tradition of anti-Semitism throughout the centuries. It is important to remember that, while there are enough examples of anti-Semitism to fill several museums, they are not representative of all Jews.

I propose that someone build a museum that shows the accomplishments of the Jewish people, a “Museum of Jewish Accomplishment.” Such a museum would provide a view of Jews as something other than Holocaust survivors. It would make young people proud of young Jews who may not understand what the Jewish people have accomplished. It might lead some non- Jews to try and understand the extent to which modern life depends on Jewish contributions.

Accomplishments

First would be intellectual ac-

complishments based on Nobel Prizes. Twenty-three percent of Nobel Prizes have been awarded to Jews, with at least 30% of the 902 total prizes. Each Prize area could have its own gallery. The gallery would have information on all the Nobel biographies. Then in each gallery there could be a special exhibition of those whose work was in the same area. This is closely related to modern life or most famous. For example, Einstein in physics and Friedman in economics.

Next, there would be accomplishments with entertainment. Obviously candidates are movies, TV, music and theater. The very foundations of the music industry came from Jews: Warner Brothers and MGM, for example. William Paley was an important producer of radio and TV. Of course, winners of Oscars (actors, directors, producers) and other awards have been heavily Jewish. Jews have been responsible for nearly all the musicals had Jewish authors. (Recall the song in Spamalot which says, “You Gotta Have Jews.”) In these galleries, pictures of stars and perhaps clips of songs or movies would be included.

Another set of galleries could deal with Jewish contributions to medicine. The late Helen Taussig’s work would be well known. Also, Jews have been the recipients of the Nobel Prize in Medicine. The late Professor Robert Braverman explains that “There is a prayer for us to recite before we take any medicine or undergo any procedure. In its short form, we say: “Yehi Yirah HaBriyot” (May the fear of the Lord be with us.)" Jews have had a profound impact on medicine. We may not learn them all.

A major gallery could deal with Jewish contributions to politics and public affairs. The NAACP and other civil rights organizations. This could focus both on major donors such as Rosewell and on the current leadership of the NAACP today, Jews, including the famous “little blue box” that many Jews grew up with.

Another set of galleries could deal with business. In retailing, Gimbels, Blue Box and others are Jewish foundations of the movie industry came from Jews: Warner Brothers and MGM, among others, and are all Jewish.

Jews in finance (Rothschilds, Gold-

man Sachs, Lehman Brothers, Janet Yellen, Larry Summers, Alan Greenspan) are also important.

A country in shock – a local organization in mourning

The tragic shooting at the Chabad of Poway, not far from Los Angeles, is both of national and of local interest. Those of us who are members of Collier/Lee Hadassah mourn the loss of Hadasah member Lori Gilbert-Kaye, who was a member of Hadassah San Diego.

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The state of the land before 1948 and what it is like now.

Three important points: First, the museum should have to be very careful not to stress or imply that Jews are in any sense better or more productive than anyone else. Second, absolute contributions of Jews toward our civilization. Second, in many cases, biographers could stress that many suc-

cessful and famous American Jews were first- or second-generation descendants of refugees, so that no one could claim that modern success is due to “privileges.”

Third, the museum should be positive, and should avoid any discussion of anti-Semitism.

I am not rich enough to fund such a museum, and I am not an expert on museums, so this sketch is just a sug-

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Summer reading

Throughout the spring — really the entire High Holiday season — are over — I start looking for new books to read. While I always have a book with me, most of my reading gets done between the end of summer, when things are a little slower in Southern Florida, and the time to read, to get new ideas and understandings that I can teach and discuss in the pulpit. I think that’s a big part of my job. Here is some of my reading for this summer.

David Brooks, New York Times columnist, is probably my favorite general thinker. He is concerned about modern society and what each of us can do to make our lives better, and our personal lives, better. His book in The Second Mind, which I launch in April for Christopher Lehmann Haupt, at the American Jewish University, is a professor of Talmud and Philosophy through the spring — really the entire High Holiday season. I never forgot that lesson. But I think that’s a big part of my job.

Ted Leeson, in his book, Habit of Rivers, I learned that fly fishing is a life lived beyond the office. In the book, Ted Leeson writes, “A life lived reeling or creating or anticipating the moment of the catch and appreciating their value, may not possess the seamless continuity that we expect of ourselves, but it does the feel of some truthlike substance. And I’ll settle for that.” In reading The Habits of Rivers, I learned that fly fishing is more complicated than being Jewish! But Ifell in love with the writing and the thinking. A River Runs Through It by Norman Maclean is a classic and a good way to follow up this escapism to freshwater streams. It’s in my list for this summer.

A recent scholar-in-residence at my congregation reminded me of the book Be Here Now, Be Here Now by Ram Dass, which I love the most. It was the first book that I read about the place of interfaith engagement. I think that’s a big part of my job. I never forgot that lesson. But I think that’s a big part of my job.

Rabbi Marc Sack

What do you think?

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Dr. Paul Bartrop, Director

Local Jews by the numbers

When I arrived here in 1997, the Lee County’s Jewish population was about 386,000. Now it has about doubled to nearly 740,000 year-round residents, with a steady annual growth rate averaging around 2.5%. The Lee County “season” the population can almost double, making it the fastest-growing county in Florida, also containing three of the four largest and most diverse metropolitan areas in the entire United States: Sarasota, Manatee, and Charlotte Counties.

So where are all the Jews? We Jews make up about 1.5% of America’s population. Using that number, we would have over 11,000 Jews in Lee County! Of course, using a really mixed metaphor, Lee county may not be a Mecca for Jews on the move, so let’s lower the number to a conservative 9,000. But it sure doesn’t feel that way when you look at who is participating in Jewish communal activities, be it at our synagogues, Federation activities and relations, or both know that it’s a lot of the same faces wherever you turn!

So it’s easy to blame this on the Millennials who are only really engaged in organized Jewish events, but let me stick my neck out just a bit by saying they are not the problem in our area. While there is a tremendous influx of younger Hispanic families, my educated guess is that most of the Jews who are even more “away” are more nervous to move closer to retirement age and beyond. So where are they, especially so many of the newer arrivals over the last 5 years?

Let’s run some more numbers. Although it’s impossible to know for sure, my informed estimate is that about 4,000 Jewish households that “belong” to Lee synagogues comes to approximately 900. (You can do the research yourself) These roughly 900 affiliated house-
Three different types of fear in Judaism

The Jewish community is still gripped from the attack in Poway, coming on the sixth-month anniversary of the shooting at the Tree of Life synagogue, and just a few days before Yom Kippur. Following any death, whether a personal loss, a death of a precious individual in a synagogue, or the communal loss of six million, we face the question, what do we do now? How do we live? How do we heal? How do we come together and express concern for our safety coming to synagogue and as we live with the daunting and disturbing realization that mass shootings can happen anywhere, what do we live with these feelings of fear and apprehension?

Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalamon, a 21st century leader in Jewish spirituality, explained three different types of fear in Judaism. The first is pachud, which is fear over real danger facing us. The Hebrew pachud can be read po chad, meaning here it is sharp. Unsurprisingly, pachud is often found in real shootings at houses of worship or at schools are. The second is aimah, a deep anxiety, fear of something not immediately apparent. The Hebrew aimah can be read ayeh, where is it, muth, what is it? We don’t know but we’re scared. Scared of risk, possible danger. Indeed, any feeling of disintegration of society, scared for our future. And finally, virah, coming from the Hebrew word rosh, to see. The phrase virah Adonis is translated as the fear of God but is really the surprising and, at times, unsettling feeling when you realize you are not alone, you have been noticed, someone is watching you. You are seen so you act differently, a healthy fear of awareness.

So how do we live with this pachud, aimah and virah? We face the traditional question of two actions, Temple Beth El held two active shooter training programs this past month. We faced the pachud with may, appropriate steps to ensure our security.

But what about our aimah, our general anxiety, sense of unease, our worry over entering our synagogue, our homes, our buildings? A story from the Talmud gives us insight. In our story, Rabbi Akiva continues to teach Torah despite a Roman ban. His colleague asks Akiva, are you not afraid? Akiva responds with this parable: A fox was swimming in a river. The fox fledgling from place to place. The fox said to them, “From what are you fleeing?” All the fish fledgling from the nets that people cast upon us.” The fox then suggests the fish come up to dry land. The fish reply: “If we are cast in the water, our natural habitat which gives us life, then in a habitat that causes our death, all is lost. Why, if we are wise so too, we Jews, if we are afraid as we sit and engage in Torah, how much the more much fish must the birds and animals themselves from that which gives us life.

Aimah, anxiety, worry and fear may make us retreat, withdraw from others. We are on guard, in a pre- tend cocoon of safety. But that will not sustain us or give us hope. The way to continue to engage in Torah, how much the more the fish, how much the more we, a habitat that causes our death, all is lost. Why, if we are afraid as we sit and engage in Torah, how much the more much fish must the birds and animals themselves from that which gives us life.

The Ten Commandments are very lovely and very lofty, yet they are couched in general terms. But, Judaism in its method and wisdom applied to these basics in specific ways. The Torah portion each week is like a window to the heights of Sinai and brings the moral law down to the valley of daily decision.

Here and now

The evening after Pittsburgh and Poway, we confront our pachud, our fear, our real fears, with real, sensible measures to ensure our safety. We confront our aimah, our worry, by being here this evening by living full Jewish lives, by coming to synagogue, our well of spiritual nourishment and hope. Then may we experience virah, the wondrous awe of being seen, of being part of a community and noticed by others, ultimately, by God.

Rabbi Nicole Luna serves at Temple Beth El in Fort Myers.

Rabbi Stephen Louis Fuchs serves at Temple Beth El in Fort Myers. You can reach Rabbi Stephen Louis Fuchs at RabbiFuchs@BatYamTemple.com.

Three questions that Jews face when death visits them:

1. How do we live with this pachud, aimah and virah?
2. How do we respond when we are not alone, someone is watching us?
3. What about our general anxiety, sense of unease, our worry over entering our synagogue, our homes, our buildings? How do we respond?

Rabbi Solomon Agin

For example, the Bible gives us a detailed analysis of the laws of division. A specific description of what constitutes false testimony and gossip, and even the penalties for this mishap. Synagogue is where we are together in the face of God’s power.

We tend to think that religion be- longs in a synagogue or a church. We can’t just take a day off from work, lose a job, lose a home. Isn’t that what happens to those with a House of God, but isn’t a home where morality is practiced also a House of God? Isn’t a hospital where people are healed and comforted also a House of God? Isn’t a school where we advance knowledge and teach responsibility also a House of God? In both of these places, we very well might ask, isn’t where people dwell in decency also a House of God?

Religion will serve its true function when it enters the experience of our daily lives. We tend to associate religion with things that happen to us when we really should understand that morality belongs to the here and now.

Religion is to have meaning in our time, it must be concerned about all the practical problems people face here and now. So how do we live after Pittsburgh and Poway? We confront our pachud, our real fears, with real, sensible measures to ensure our safety. We confront our aimah, our worry, by being here this evening by living full Jewish lives, by coming to synagogue, our well of spiritual nourishment and hope. Then may we experience virah, the wondrous awe of being seen, of being part of a community and noticed by others, ultimately, by God.

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EWR

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From Miami to Tel Aviv, Pastor John Danner of Sanibel Congregation will share his experiences of living in Israel. Mom and Dad drove me to Newark Airport is also the last airport to Newark was the first airport to marvel at its opulence. It is also a place with vivid memories for me. Where is it, I yearn to hear my father’s voice. And so, when I climb the many stairs to the loft pulpit in the Thomashirke in Leipzig, I yearn to hear my father’s voice, to comfort me, to give me hope. The way we live with these feelings of fear and apprehension, the way we live with this pachud, aimah and virah?

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O
en Saturday, April 20, The
Community Free Synagogue
hosted a wonderful event in
cooperation with the Jewish Federa-
tion of Lee and Charlotte Counties and
PJ Library. The event, open to every-
one and free of charge, featured a de-
lightful Passover puppet show starring
Aaron, a delicious Seder-style lunch
and a goat petting zoo. Everyone in at-
tendance had a great time.
If you or someone you know are inter-
ested in receiving PJ Library books, please visit https://jewishfederationlcc.
org/pj-library.

Joseph Horowitz
Israel Travel Grants
Available

The Joseph Horowitz Israel Travel Grant is available through the Community Foundation of the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties.

The grant may be used for travel to Israel to participate in programs that are volunteer or educational in nature.

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months through 8 years old. Signing
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Puppet show and luncheon

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months through 8 years old. Signing
up is free, easy and takes only minutes.

PJ Library sends free, award-win-
ing books that celebrate Jewish values

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up is free, easy and takes only minutes.
Andrew and Brooke Raider, Neena Kushner, Tami Traiger followed services. A delicious dessert followed by Shabbat services led the Friday Night Service followed by a beautiful Shabbat dinner prepared by Temple Judea volunteers. On Sunday they worked with Lesser on setting Asheret to rhyme before enjoying a final concert. Is there an animal Ari Lesser can’t rap about?

As the calendar turns to June we are anxiously gearing up for another exciting year. We are accepting fall registration for religious school at this time. To learn more about our program, please call me in our office at 239.433.0201 or email tjswfledu@gmail.com. Another exciting year of living Jewishly awaits.

I’m especially excited about rolling out our reorganized post-b’nei mitzvah (middle/high school grades) Gesher programming. If you have a child (or know one) whom you would like to see engaged with Judaism at a personal level, please contact me to start our conversation.

BBYO happenings

By Jessica Zimmerman, Associate Regional Dir., North Florida Region

In April, Ft. Myers BBYO hosted an amazing event at Temple Beth El geared toward students in grades 5-9. Fourteen teens/preteens came together to play games, feast on pizza, and compete for prizes in a Survivor-themed event. We hope to host many more events like this in the future.

This summer, while BBYO teens are away at leadership summer camps or traveling the world with BBYO Passport, we will be on a hiatus in terms of local programming until early August when school is back in session.

If you are interested in being added to our email list to receive information about middle and high school programs, email me at jesszimmerman@bbyo.org. And if you are interested in helping Ft. Myers BBYO flourish in the coming years, consider making a donation this summer at https://bbyo.org/donate/in. Your friends at Ft. Myers BBYO wish you a lovely summer.

Candle lighting times:

June 7: 8:01
June 14: 8:04
June 21: 8:06
June 28: 8:07

Funded by the Roth Family Foundation

More information, contact Debbie Sanford 239.481.4449 ext. 3 debbiesanford@jfedlcc.org

Receive the gift of free Jewish children's books mailed to your home every month!

Graphic: Click on to read the current and recent issues of L'CHAYIM online at www.JewishFederationLCC.org.

Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte Counties

TEMPLE JUDEA SCHOOLS
Fort Myers

Tab Scribner, Director of Congregational Learning

It’s hard to believe the school year is over. It seems we just wrapped up the Purim Carnival and shifted to Passover and then it was over. Where did the time go? What happened to my matzah?

We said “lilitraut” with a Shabbat weekend with special guest Ari Lesser. On Friday, May 3, our students

Parents in Lee and Charlotte counties whose children are enrolled in PJ Library participated in the survey.

95% of PJ Library families read at least one PJ Library book each month.

91% of PJ Library families say that PJ Library has been a valuable parenting tool.

PI Library is making a difference in the lives of families raising Jewish children.

Results of a recent national survey of 25,000 families conducted by PJ Library

90% of PJ Library families say that they are very likely to recommend PJ Library to their family and friends.

Parents in Lee and Charlotte counties whose children are enrolled in PJ Library participated in the survey.

Earn CAS Credits

The Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties is interested in hearing from teenagers in high school who might like to earn CAS credits though various work in the Jewish community.

Families can sign up for PJ Library at pjlibrary.org

The Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties is interested in hearing from teenagers in high school who might like to earn CAS credits through various work in the Jewish community.

If you are interested, please send the following information to debbiesanford@jfedlcc.org: Name Address Phone # Age Grade School Preferred volunteer hours (e.g. 2 - 5PM. Sundays)

SHARE the experience of reading with your children as they grow with PJ Library books.

SIGN UP TODAY!

Enrollment is open to Jewish families with children between the ages of six months to eight years living in Lee & Charlotte Counties.

Families can sign up for PJ Library at pjlibrary.org

Receive the gift of free Jewish children’s books mailed to your home every month!

Funded by the Roth Family Foundation
Time to say thank you for the season and to plan for next year.

Last year, I wrote about one of my favorite books, Words That Hurt, Words That Heal by Isithun, Renex, and T. The 1996 edition with the subtitle How to Choose Words Wisely and Well, through understanding the power of our words to heal or harm in spreading gossip, rumors or secrets; and how unfair anger, excessive criticism or lying undermine communication programs and the book was written over 20 years ago, it is certainly relevant and important, how the words we use can cause or prevent gossip and hurtful language spread through social media. When speaking with Rabbi Telushkin last year, he told me he knew the book should be updated but did not know when he would have the time. Interestingly enough, I just discovered that an updated edition has just been published, with the new subtitle, How the Words You Choose Shape Your Destiny. I am looking forward to reading the new edition, and I am certain Rabbi Telushkin still includes the importance of saying “Thank You.” And as the 2018 program continues, I certainly have many people to thank. Thank you to those who work to help make programs happen, including Susan Suarez, President and CEO of the Holocaust Museum; Steve Brizana, the program chair and “movie Maven” for GenShoah; Joan Hogan of the Holocaust Museum and “movie maven” for GenShoah; and thanks to Ted Versano, Monica Goodmest, Jeff Margolis, Sam Epstein and the Jewish Federation and its Chair, surely, there is some part of what we do that has meaning for you, a connection to a higher purpose. It’s an aspirational call to reach higher, farther and wider than we stand or where we sit. Volunteer your time, your energy and your intellect to create programs and projects that fulfill both personal and the needs we address. Work with our membership committee to introduce others, encourage them to join and become active with us to close with our 900 members. Goal with our education committee to plan interesting and meaningful activities and events. We can learn, enjoy and support HaDassah work all at the same time.

Meet with our fundraising committee to help raise the vital monies needed to carry on HaDassah’s work here and in Israel. Volunteer to assist in a program, project or fundraiser. A brief period of time can bring rewards for you: friendships, a sense of accomplishment for a larger purpose, and the satisfaction of knowing you are making a difference.

HaDassah welcomes you with open arms to join a group of women and men (Thank you HaDassah Associates!) who support the Mission, Vision, Values and Focus of this fine organi-

For those who live in Southwest Florida, if the events don’t stop with the end of the season. If you would like to meet new friends or keep in contact with family and guests, save Sunday, August 18 for HaDassah’s Summer Fun, A Pot Luck Dinner at Autumn Fields. For more information, contact Susan Falkenstein at sweetsusan@msn.com or 203.257.8598.
people of faith are being targeted in the places they gather to find peace, serenity, sanctuary and a sense of holiness. The hatred that drives these perpetrators is universal, and we need to address the acts on churches, mosques and synagogues alike.

The shooter was motivated by the idea that Jews were subhuman, so his problems in the world. Consequently, we must continue to protect ourselves with increased security measures. He also must protect ourselves with words.

Joseph Goebbels, the Nazi’s minister of propaganda, prepared the public mind people to accept outside of the Jews by portraying them in the media as bloodsucking, money lending, danger loving people. His efforts were a precursor to the Nuremberg laws, ghetto, slave labor, gas chambers and crematoriums that were to await us just a few short years later. History is cyclical and we must work to see that this cycle of persecution comes to an end by standing down any and all voices of hate before they turn into action. Especially the voices that come from our own Congress in the form of Tractatus Thib. We have consequences in the real world, and we must take every possible action to stem this tide of rising anti-Semitism before it is too late. We must be the voices of Congress and being very aware of what our elected officials stand for.

Jerrold Sobel...continued from page 14

meet and socialize with each other. Our monthly programs vary in nature. Members of the community are always welcome to attend any of our programs. We look forward to meeting you. For more information, email Joyce or George Rosinger at joyzhark@gmail.com.

Southwest Florida Jewish History. Membership in The Jewish Historical Society of Southwest Florida is open to anyone who is interested in our mission of local Jewish history preservation.

This is how to reach us:
The Jewish Historical Society of Southwest Florida
8805 Tamiami Trail North, Suite #255
Naples, FL 34108
833-547.7935 (343.JHS.WFL)
www.jhswwf.org - office@jhswwf.org
Virtual Museum of SWFL Jewish History http://www.jewishhistorysouthwestflorida.org/
Ah, summer. More heat, less traffic. More rain, less lawn watering. Kids attend TBE’s Learning Tree day camp, or sleep away camp, or visit their grandparents. Many TBE activities wind down temporarily; many continue.

The Current Events discussion group smashed away our bad words when our guest speaker, Joe Bord, presented an interactive talk about the surrounding Beachwood situation. Many complicated topics have been debated during the year, with respect for differing perspectives. We have learned to appreciate and respect what others value disparate points of view. Curriculum Committee has addressed the issues of how to balance the integration of content and historical events.

Current Events will take a summer break, as will Mike Kashi’s thriving Hebrew courses for adults. Mike makes learning fun. During class there’s al shabbat services in May were Ben Yokel, Cantor Murray Simon conducted the on Shabbat services on Friday, May 10 and Sunday, May 12. The other volunteer service leaders for Shabbat services in May were Ben Yokel, Mel Bleiberg, Marcia and Rabbi Jim Rudin, and Beck Renwagen. Rabbi Elie Stone distributed the May 1 Yom Hashoah Haggadah for the community to use.

A Sha'niyet ha'derekh (shortening of the way) to the participants in C.F.S.’s Five groups were highlighted the newly elected Bat Yam TBE’s Learning Tree day camp, or sleep away camp, or visit their grandparents. Many TBE activities wind down temporarily; many continue.

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Fort Myers
(239) 433-0201
www.tjswfl.org

TEMPLE BETH SHALOM
Cape Coral
(239) 772-4555
www.templebethshalomcc.org

This article is being written a week before the Temple Judea trip to Israel begins. Led by Rabbi Sack, the trip is designed for those who have already been to Israel at least once, and for most of the participants, more than once. Instead of seeing the typical “tourist” sights, the trip includes visits to cities, historical sites, restaurants and entertainment venues not typically part of a first-timer’s itinerary. The trip will also include presentations at an Israeli software company and a children’s heart hospital. By the time you read this, the trip will have returned from a filled, exciting two-week Israel experience.

Luckily, the group will be back to attend Shavuot services at Temple Judea on Sunday, June 9 beginning at 9:30 a.m. Temple Judea follows the Israeli calendar for holidays; Yizkor will be said during services on the 9th.

The group will also be back in time to enjoy the singing and dancing of the Israel Scouts on Monday, June 10 at 7:30 p.m. at Temple Beth El and the Jewish Federation, brings Israeli teenagers to our community to entertain us with a spirited and lively musical program. The teens who perform represent the best of Israel, and it is always a great evening. The program is open to all ages and there is no charge to attend.

Temple Judea staff and volunteers have been incredibly busy this past year. Rabbi Sack continues to bring new ideas for enhancing the spiritual life of the congregation. A particular highlight was the interfaith study program that brought together over 200 Jews, Christians and Muslims to discuss faith. Three interfaith sessions were held, one of which was on the topic of the environment. The program was so successful, more programs are planned for next year.

The temple will give the appearance of a Jewish Community Center, for in effect we are inclusive and open. One does not need to be a member to attend our programs.

TEMPLE SHALOM
Charlotte Harbor & the Gulf Islands
(941) 625-2116
www.templeshalomfl.org

The month of June is quiet at Temple Shalom regarding activities and events. However, the planning committee is busy in setting the calendar for another exciting season following the fall cycle and Holy Days.

On the proposed agenda is the return of the Bay Area Cantors Association, a meet the author with lunch included, lunch and learn with the Fort Myers film festival, Southwest Florida Symphony Youth Orchestra, guest speaker Rabbi James Rubin and much more.

This year’s Shavuot services will be held Sunday, June 9 at 11:00 a.m. and a lunch will follow.

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Photos of recent events

Included
• Utilities and Housekeeping
equivalent. Below are the confirmed
delicated for co-writing a best song nomi-
Jewish Interest
16
16
Jewish Film Festival

JANUARY 2019
• Creative Arts Studio

EXPLORE

Targeted Distribution
Reach our affluent, informed, health-conscious, and savvy readers who are looking for new and better ways to enrich their lives and those of their loved ones. L’CHAYIM – the monthly newspaper published by the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties – is mailed to 5,000 residents in the area. Additional copies are available at the Jewish Federation office.

Life-Enriching Information
Each month, readers of L’CHAYIM get news and updates on all Jewish-related local events including the Jewish Film Festival, Jewish author programs, holiday celebrations, concerts, food festivals, book study groups, timely lectures, mah jong and much more. They also get updates from the area’s synagogues and numerous local Jewish organizations. It’s the place they turn to for community news, the community calendar, candle lighting times, and a business directory.

The exclusive way to reach the Jewish Community in Lee and Charlotte counties.

More.
Active Senior Lifestyle

Cypress Cove Living.org

For more information
or to place an ad in L’CHAYIM:
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Email: JamesLevin@jfedlcc.org
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