Democrats’ Ilhan Omar problem isn’t going away

By RON KAMPAS
JTA news service
WASHINGTON — Democrats came to an agreement on a resolution to denounce anti-Semitism and other forms of bias, but few – particularly the House speaker, Nancy Pelosi – seemed especially satisfied.

The controversy over Rep. Ilhan Omar – who has dabbled in anti-Semitism, and who but few – particularly the House speaker, Nancy Pelosi – seemed especially satisfied.

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In 2019, the former Minnesota freshman who closely identified with President Donald Trump – Islamophobia – and taking aim at the white sup

Women to add food for thought to Jewish Film Festival showings

Stories of love, horror, resistance against evil and battles for justice are among the films slated to close out the 23rd annual Tampa Bay Jewish Film Festival, and as added bonuses three women will be on hand for question and answer sessions after the showings of three films close to their hearts.

One of those women is Evelyn Marks, the daughter of Jewish Dutch Holocaust survivors and the subject of the documentary, “Never Again Is Now.” The film will be shown at the Bryan Glazer Family JCC in Tampa on the closing day of the festival, March 24. She will take questions after the 2:30 p.m. showing of the movie.

Marks was born and raised in the Netherlands until 2006 when, like many Jews in Europe, she decided to leave and immigrated with her partner Rosa Zeegers to the United States. Her story and warning to the world is: “Back in 1940 we could have stopped the evil threat but we didn’t. Now we need to stop the evil, while we still can.”

She joins the film festival to confront the hatred that drove her out, and to further her lifelong mission to prevent one of history’s darkest chapters from repeating.

The other speaker, Rachel Harris, is author of “Warriors, Witches, Whores – Women in Israeli Cinema.” which considers the ways social and political power have affected the representation of women in film.

She will participate in a Q&A following the film, “The MeToo era drama, “Working Woman,” screening at the AMC Sundial theater in downtown St. Petersburg on Saturday, March 23, at 8:45 p.m.

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 was a featured speaker during last fall’s Festival of Jewish Books and Conversations, put on by the Tampa JCCs and Federation.

For a synopsis of “Never Again Is Now” and “Working Woman” along with other offerings during the second half of the festival, see Page 6. (The films to be shown March 18-20 were featured in the previous Jewish Press)

Tampa Jewish history documentary to premiere

By BOB FRYER
Jewish Press
Filmmaker Barbara Rosenthal, who’s first interest in film was added bonuses for those who may be struggling. It is their hope that sharing their battles and persecution in Europe, Jewish immigrants came to Tampa, particular

Jews with eating disorders face unique pressures

By RACHEL FREEMAN
Jewish Press
Iris Ruth Pastor of Tampa and Woody R. Levine of Seminole have known

Remains of Jewish serviceman killed in Pearl Harbor bombing identified

WASHINGTON — Top Democrats and Republicans in Congress and Rep. Ted Deutch, a Jewish Democrat whose documentary “Seders & Cigars – A History of Jews in Tampa” will debut as part of the 23rd annual Tampa Bay Jewish Film Festival. A short question and answer session with Rosenthal will follow the film.

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, facing conception and survival. The measure was introduced by Sen. Robert Menendez, D-NJ, to the House, and Senate introduced a bill that would enhance U.S. capabilities to track hostages and named it after Rep. Levinson, Robert. The Robert Levinson Hostage Recovery and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act was introduced two days before the anniversary of the March 9, 2007, abductions of Levinson.

The act would require that the State Department review all cases of Americans held in captivity abroad and determine which ones meet the criteria of being held hostage. It would also require a presidential directive for holding the American hostage and create a position of special envoy for hostages to supervise the work. The new bill was sponsored by Rep. Ted Deutch, D-FL, the chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Middle East subcommittee, and Rep. Joe Wilson, R-SC, its ranking member.

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Rabbi Arnold E. Resnicoff began his military career in the rivers of the Mekong Delta, where a Christian chaplain "deportuated" him as a Jewish lay leader and eventually convinced him to consider studying for the rabbinate. Rabbi Resnicoff served with Naval Intelligence in Europe after Vietnam, then left the Navy to study for the rabbinate.

During that time, Rabbi Resnicoff served with the U.S. European Command, which made him "top chaplain" for more than 100,000 U.S. forces serving in 93 nations, and liaison to those nations for their programs of religious support and accommodation. Congregation Kol Ami will welcome Rabbi Resnicoff as its scholar-in-residence Friday through Sunday, March 29-31.

Among his many accomplishments, Rabbi Resnicoff was one of a small group of Vietnam veterans who worked to create the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and he delivered the prayer at its 1982 dedication. Rabbi Resnicoff was also the driving force behind the military's decision to take part in the annual U.S. Days of Remembrance of the Victims of the Holocaust.

In October 1983, he happened to be in Beirut when a truck bomb struck a Marine barracks, killing 241 American military. His report, vividly recounting the aftermath, received widespread publicity after President Ronald Reagan read it to participants at a Baptist Fundamentalist Convention organized by Jerry Falwell. Rabbi Resnicoff has been part of several firsts in his military career – the first Jewish chaplain to study at the Naval War College and the first rabbi to teach a course there – "Religion, War, and Peace."

During the visit of the Sixth Fleet flagship to Israel, he led an interfaith, mixed-gender worship service at the Western Wall with special permission of Israel’s Department of Religious Ministries. Also in Israel, he led the first service to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., which was held at the residence of Israel's president.

Rabbi Resnicoff has written widely on prayer in public places, and his article “Prayers That Hurt” has been used in training classes for chaplains serving the military, hospitals, prisons, and police forces. Following retirement from the Navy, his positions have included National Director of Interreligious Affairs for the American Jewish Committee and Special Assistant to the Chief-Of-Staff and Secretary of the Air Force for Values and Vision.

He is currently working on a book with the working title “Between the Commandments: From Decalogue to Dialogue.”

Scholar-in-residence schedule

On Friday, March 29 at 6 p.m. Rabbi Resnicoff will present a D’var Torah “Faith and Foxholes: Religion in the Military.” The service will be followed by a catered kosher dinner. The cost for dinner is $22 for adults, $15 for children 4-12 and free for those 3 and younger. RSVP to the synagogue office.

On Saturday, March 30 at 9:30 a.m. he will present a D’var Torah, “Faith and Force: Religion, War and Peace.” There will be a kiddush lunch followed by services, sponsored by the Brotherhood, Sisterhood and Adult Education Committee.

On Sunday, March 31 he will present “Dreams and Nightmares: A Jewish Way of Remembering” at a brunch at 10 a.m. sponsored by the Sisterhood and Brotherhood.
This points program rewards Birthright alumni for ‘doing Jewish’ once back home

By E.J. KESSLER
JTA news service

Everyone knows about how accumulating credit card points can reap significant awards. Now, select young Jews returning home from Birthright trips to Israel can accumulate a different kind of points toward a unique kind of reward.

Sam Diament, 28, a New Jersey technology consultant, earned points for taking on Jewish ritual observances, like putting on tefillin every day and making Havdalah at the end of the Sabbath.

Alexa Summers, 20, a junior and computer science major at the University of Maryland–Kensington Campus, earned points for signing up for a Top Israel Internship and volunteering as a computer support technician for Jewish Family Service of Greater Washington.

Both Diament and Summers were on Birthright buses selected to participate in Bring Israel Home’s 100-Day Challenge. The program seeks to keep alumni of the five- to 10-day trips to Israel connected to Judaism, Israel and each other by rewarding them for staying involved in Jewish activities.

Bring Israel Home awards points for a range of Jewish activities, including lighting Shabbat candles, advocating for Israel, studying Hebrew texts, volunteering for Jewish organizations, attending a Jewish event or participating in an Israel-themed activity. Participants who reach 100 points are invited to join the Birthright alumni community and are eligible to participate in the program’s alumni.accessToken

Bring Israel Home was launched in 2012 by an odd-couple pairing of Birthright service providers: the Orthodox outreach group Aish Hatorah and the Union for Reform Judaism. It has since been brought under the auspices of the Orthodox Union, the mainstream Orthodox group.

“What we do is, we get on the buses on the last day of the trip and say, ‘What would you do for a reunion with the Israelis you met on this trip six months from now?’” said Pardo, who has worked for some years in informal education, including at Brandeis as part of the Orthodox Union’s Jewish Learning Initiative on Campus.

Bring Israel Home, he noted, is user-driven.

“‘No one tells you what to do,’” he said. “If you’re into advocacy, if you’re into Shabbat, that’s great, we offer that, too. ‘We’re not going to tell you how to channel the inspiration from your Birthright trip. ‘There’s something for everyone.’”

In 2018, about 2,000 individuals joined the Bring Israel Home challenge, according to Pardo. Since the program’s inception, 6,204 individuals have participated and completed 107,855 Jewish activities, including at Brandeis and the local Jewish Family Services housed at its JCC.

The activities have brought participants more connected to each other and to re-create the Birthright experience,” Pardo said. “They’re actually forming their own roadmap of Jewish involvement and community.”

For Summers, a native of Overland Park, KS, who says she “didn’t grow up that Jewish” and didn’t attend synagogue as a child, that has meant a whirl of Sabbath dinners, a Hanukkah feast and time volunteering for the local Jewish Family Services housed at her JCC.

The activities have “brought myself and my friends closer together,” said Summers, who is studying to become a software engineer. “I had wanted to become more involved, but I wasn’t sure how.

“It really encourages you to become more involved. It’s pretty neat, has fun ideas and is user friendly. It’s easy to keep track of your activities and to see what others were posting. I enjoyed it a lot.”

Diament and Summers were among the Birthright alumni who qualified for the all-expenses-paid reunion weekend in November at a resort hotel in Connecticut. At the reunion, Summers woke up early and made Havdalah to start the weekend.

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RABBINICALLY SPEAKING

By Rabbi Joel Simon

One of the great things about being a rabbi is the one I get to have with students who are semi-secular about their Judaism because they don’t believe that the Torah is true.

I respond honestly that I don’t concern myself with much whether or not the Torah is true, but rather if it helps in the way that I can care for others more concerned with the Truth with a capital “T” that I find in this book that has been passed down to me through generations.

Depending on the venue, I often proceed by ask- ing if the student is familiar with the story of “The Three Little Pigs.” The student story teaches us not to take shortcuts, to be prepared to work hard, with our brothers and sisters, and to be prepared, without being paranoid, for the big, bad wolf.

These Truths can give meaning to our lives or not we’ve ever built a house and even if we don’t believe in talking pigs, it can reveal about their evo- lution – and our own. Addressing the many versions of the story, he proposes that “sto- ried versions of the story, he proposes that “sto-

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Everyone is welcome to book, “The Jewish Way” by Rabbi Rosenberg. Based on the
study reading group is being re-

10 a.m. to noon, come to the temple

for Trifecta 2019, the biggest fundraiser for Tampa Jewish Family Services (TJFS).

Thursday, March 21 from 5:30-8

Lisa See on Monday, March 25 at

876-2377, ext. 249.

Jewish “odd couple” film opens on Tampa on March 15

“Shmuel and Albert may be the

New York who is struggling to

grieving Hasidic cantor in upstate

Röhrig (Academy Award-winning

Jewish Press Online Ticket Contest

To enter:

February 1, 2019

MARCH 8 - 21, 2019

The Jewish Way: An adult

study reading group is being re-

vived on Monday at 1 p.m. with Rabbi Rosenberg. Based on the

book, “The Jewish Way” by Rabbi


March 21 from 5:30-8 p.m. at a

seated buffet will be prepared

with a maximum of $40 per family.

For more information, contact

Victoria at Admin@bethamta.

Chabad Chai of South Tampa

Purim at the Wharf: There will

be a hamantaschen bar, Megillah reading and hot chocolate with toppings for

Chabad Young Professionals and Chabad at USF when they gather at the Biergarten at Spar-

kman’s Wharf to celebrate Purim on Wednesday, March 20 from 8-10 p.m. Come in costume and receive a complimentary bagel and coffee.

RSVP to www.chabadchaitampa.

Chabad of Central Florida, will

cover Chassidic and Kabbal-

itic teachings meets Mondays at

6:15 - 7 p.m. held on Wednesdays, 6:15 - 7 p.m.

Toronto: A quirky, unconv-

ventional drama about an Hasidic
cantor experiencing grief and ac-
cepta, opens in Tampa on Fri-

day, March 15 at ACM Veterans 24.

The film, starring Matthew

Broderick and Geza Röhrig is a

Jewish “odd couple” tale with some

funny as well as poignant

moments.

Winner of the Audience Award for Best New Narrative at the

Tampa Jewish Film Festival, Geza Röhrig (Academy Award-winning

film “Son of Saul”) as Shmuel, a
grieving Hasidic cantor in upstate

New York who is struggling to

make peace with the recent death

of his wife. Breaking his own reli-

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Tot Shabbat: Enjoy an interac-

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lies with young children (infant-5

years) and siblings of all ages) on

at the restaurant.

Shabbat dinner, but an RSVP to

Challah in the hood:

Tampa Jewish Community

Centers & Federation invites the

Tampa Bay community to tee off

at its seventh annual Golf Tourna-

ment on Friday, May 17, at the

Eagles Golf Club. The tournament will start at 8 a.m. registration and a con-

tinental breakfast will be served. There will be

shoutouts start promptly at 8:30 a.m.

Those wishing to participate should register as a single golfer, a four-

some or at a sponsorship level.

The entry fee is $100 per player.

The entry fee includes 18 holes of
golf, a continental breakfast, drinks on the course, lunch, a tournament

shirt and gift bag. There will be

many prizes and raffles including a

getaway package and a chance to

win $30,000 hole-in-one contest.

Golfers can register online at

jewishstampa.com. All RSVPs are

requested by Thursday, May 2.

This tournament is a fundraiser

and all proceeds will benefit the programs and services supported by the Tampa JCCs and Feder-

ation. The tourney is presented by

Financial C.A.P.E For more in-

formation, contact Pam Cotner at

(813) 769-4748 or pam.cotner@
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Jewish “odd couple” film opens on Tampa on March 15

To Dust,” a quirky, unconv-

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Tampa Bay Jewish Film Festival line-up March 21-24

**CONTINUED from FRONT PAGE**

Muhi: Generally Temporary
Thursday, March 21 at 4 p.m. at Carrolwood Villagio Cinemas
Four-year-old Muhi was brought to an Israeli hospital from Gaza as an infant. His illness required amputation of his limbs and he has lived there ever since. Travel restrictions allowed only Muhi’s grandfather to accompany him to Israel, and seven years later Muhi has grown into a brave and spirited boy. With the help of an Israeli who lost his own son due to war, the grandfather steadily fights to create a future for Muhi outside of the hospital.

Morning Trail – Thursday, March 21 at 6:15 p.m. at AMC Classic Centro Ybor
This is the story of Ella, a famous actress who, despite deep grief over her own loss, finds strength to open up again to a new man, Gaby, in the middle of the desert. Gaby, whose wife died during their son’s birth, has been hiking the same desert area where he first met his wife. Gaby, whose wife died during their son’s birth, finds the home of Anselm Rossberg (Michael Degen), a former Auschwitz guard accused of war crimes. Lena feigns being in a car accident and gains access to the house from Rossberg’s daughter, Maria (Elisabeth Degen). Lena’s efforts to extract a confession at gunpoint result in a twisted cat-and-mouse game as the three characters standoff fraught with moral complexities and shocking revelations.

Inside the Mossad – Thursday, March 21 at 8 p.m. at Carrolwood Villagio Cinemas
Mossad, Israel’s intelligence agency, has spawned many myths since its foundation in 1950. The tales behind its top secret operations have been the basis for books and films that, in turn, have fed the imagination of fans of conspiracy theories the world over. For this film, former heads and agents break their silence and talk for the first time about what it is like to work for one of the most enigmatic institutions in the world.

Winter Hunt – Friday, March 22 at 5 p.m. at AMC Classic Ybor
On a mission of vigilante justice, a young woman goes to extremes to seek retribution against a suspected ex-Nazi, in the psychological thriller. Lena (Carolyn Genzkow)

Working Woman – Saturday, March 23 at 6:45 p.m. at AMC Sandial, St. Petersburg
Orna loves her new real estate job and is successful and quickly promoted. However, work becomes unbearable as her boss begins to make inappropriate advances. With her husband struggling to keep his new restaurant afloat, Orna is the main breadwinner for their three children, and must now choose between her job and her sense of self-worth.

Redemption – Saturday, March 23 at 6:45 p.m. at AMC Classic Centro Ybor
A dutiful but deeply unhappy father fights to save his gravely ill daughter and his own dreams of being a rock musician in the post- and probing Israeli drama. Widowed and single, middle-aged Menachem (Moshe Fonkelstein) works as a grocery clerk struggling to cover costly medical treatments for his 6-year-old daughter. Hoping to raise much-needed cash, Menachem tries to persuade his father to reunite. But is a return to singing compatible with the tenets of his faith?

Letter to the Editor

The Jewish Press welcomes Letters to the Editor. Letters are published on a space available basis with the Jewish Press reserving the right to edit or reject letters for clarity, brevity, legibility or taste. Letters must be signed and bear the writer’s address.

Dear Editor:
I read the Feb. 22 issue today and was surprised to see an article about Robert Kraft’s arrest on page 1. Reading the article, I realized that Kraft is Jewish and that must be why the editors decided to run this article. (I’m still puzzled as to what made this front page news.) In any case, why not run a side article about what Jews and Jewish organizations are doing to combat human trafficking? What about efforts to combat human trafficking in the Tampa area? If we are going to show ourselves warts and all, why not also talk about the wart removers?

Elizabeth Corwin
Tampa

Editor’s note: In January, the Jewish Press ran a story (on the front page in the Tampa edition) announcing Kraft as the recipient of the $1 million Genesis Prize, known as the Israeli Nobel. The recipient is supposed to serve “as an inspiration to the next generation of Jews.”

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On the Maureen and Douglas Cohn Jewish Community Center Campus
AHICA LIC. # 88679
Kosher Facility - Diversity Welcome

Who Will Write Our History – Sunday, March 24 at 10:30 a.m. at Bryan Glazer Family JCC

Determined to defeat Nazi lies with pen and paper, an underground movement of Jewish intellectuals carries out an extraordinary form of wartime resistance. Days after being sealed in the Warsaw Ghetto, a clandestine band of journalists, scholars and leaders begin to tirelessly create a record of the Holocaust which would survive even if they did not. Their extraordinary letters, confessional, poems and photographs, buried in milk cans and stored underground, were retrieved after the war and are a window into every aspect of life and death in the Ghetto.

$59 – Early Bird Special
$69 – General Admission (after March 1)

Saturday - April 20th - The 2nd Passover night
Bryan Glazer Family JCC – 522 N Howard Ave, Tampa, FL 33606
Kosher Style Meal - 21 and over

To purchase tickets go to www.GreaterSeder.com
For more information call Elaine @ 813-968-6010

Proceeds from this event go to TJS Community Food Bank

Welcome to the Tampa Bay Jewish Film Festival. This is the story of Ella, a famous actress who, despite deep grief over her own loss, finds strength to open up again to a new man, Gaby, in the middle of the desert. Gaby, whose wife died during their son’s birth, has been hiking the same desert area where he first met his wife. Gaby, whose wife died during their son’s birth, finds the home of Anselm Rossberg (Michael Degen), a former Auschwitz guard accused of war crimes. Lena feigns being in a car accident and gains access to the house from Rossberg’s daughter, Maria (Elisabeth Degen). Lena’s efforts to extract a confession at gunpoint result in a twisted cat-and-mouse game as the three characters standoff fraught with moral complexities and shocking revelations.

Protesting Evil: The Extraordinary World of Ben Ferencz – Saturday, March 23 at 6:45 p.m. at AMC Sandial 20, St. Petersburg

This documentary paints a fascinating portrait of 89-year-old Ben Ferencz, the last surviving Nuremberg Trial prosecutor, who continues to wage his lifelong crusade in the fight for law and peace. With racism, anti-Semitism and the all-right on the rise, this film poses some tough and incisive questions.

Seders & Cigars – Sunday, March 24 at 2:30 p.m. at Bryan Glazer Family JCC

This documentary investigates the troubling rise of anti-Semitism in Europe in a story told through the eyes of a woman who fled to America in 2006 to escape it. Evelyn Markus was raised in Holand by parents who witnessed the anti-Jewish violence of the 1940s. Her parents survived the Holocaust, but when Allied soldiers liberated them in 1945.

$69 – General Admission (after March 1)

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Tampa
SEDERS & CIGARS

**CONTINUED From FRONT PAGE**

these stories to be shared through the eyes and words of the primary participants and witnesses.

“Seders & Cigars” explores a variety of themes, including overcoming quotas on Jewish immigration, the challenge of maintaining extended family bonds in a competitive economic environment, cultural assimilation, the nexus of anti-Semitism and segregation, and the rise of Jewish women in politics in Tampa and beyond.

Rosenthal points out this is not the history of Jews in Tampa, but a history.

One segment is devoted to Tampa broadcast legend “Salty” Sol Fleischman that includes cameos from 20th century icons Muhammad Ali and Walter Cronkite.

The first Jewish business in Tampa, a clothing/hat store called El Sombrero Illano in Ybor City, was owned by Isidor Kaunitz, an immigrant from Romania. His store dates back to at least by 1894. Others immigrating from Romania found jobs at the store, including Max Argintar, who started at the store at age 18 and by the early 1900s opened his own store in Ybor. Argintar’s store started out as a pawn shop and then evolved into a men’s wear store. (Eventually run by his son, Sammie, the store remained open for 96 years).

Rosenthal’s research led to the Kaunitz’ great-great-grandchildren in New York who shared with her photos and documents about his days here. Rosenthal also met Argintar’s grandson who provided old home movies and other historical information about that family.

Sara Scher, who is co-chair of the Tampa Bay Jewish Film Festival, is a descendant of Jews who came from the same Romanian village as Kaunitz and Argintar. “Seders & Cigars” includes oral histories that Scher’s mother, Roberta Golding, recorded that relate to the early history of Jews in Tampa.

Rosenthal also received home footage and photos from Stephanie Davis, daughter of Helen Gordon Davis, a Jewish political pioneer who became the first woman elected to the state legislature from Hillsborough County. Davis was a tireless advocate for women and civil rights. Rosenthal sent a crew to interview Stephanie Davis in Atlanta.

Rosenthal said Romanian Jewish immigrants were among the founders of Congregation Rodeph Sholom while German Jewish immigrants, such as those in the Maas family who created the Maas Brothers chain of department stores, were among founders of Congregation Schaarai Zedek.

E.J. Salcines, former prosecutor and judge and now oral historian of Tampa, was an invaluable resource, Rosenthal said. Rosenthal works to create training videos for companies, but has also made two other films: "Losing Lois," about a policewoman slain while on duty, and "You Are the One," about sexual assaults on college campuses. Rosenthal is a graduate of Western Carolina University.

“Seders & Cigars” will be shown at the Bryan Glazer Family JCC, 522 N. Howard Ave., in Tampa, beginning at 10:30 a.m. on March 24, the final day of the film festival. Admission is $10. For more information, go to TBJFF.org.

#Gather top golf event

The Tampa JCCs and Federation’s #Gather group went on an outing to Top Golf in Brandon recently, with 25 folks attending. From left are Michael and Tyrette Tebbi, Sam Schnapf, Stacy Malin, David Turchen, Jesse Schein, Ilana Leopold, Jon Sandow, Joseph Markowitz, Alex and Kevin Grintzman and Rebecca Streetman.

(Senior) Marty Fleischman, Paulyne Leibovitz Fleischman, Sol Fleischman Jr.

Eric Newman being interviewed at the JC Newman Cigar Co., the oldest family-owned cigar maker in America.

His family moved here from Ohio in 1954, buying the old Regensburg cigar factory in Ybor City, nicknamed El Relój.

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Exhibition highlights experiences of local Holocaust survivors

The Florida Holocaust Museum will honor local Holocaust survivors in a new exhibition that opens Friday, March 8.


“Recording and sharing the stories of Holocaust survivors who came to build new lives in Florida is paramount to the fulfillment of the museum’s mission. All of the museum’s activities – from exhibitions to student tours to outreach programs – are based on the real-life experiences of Holocaust survivors and victims. This exhibition is another opportunity to share individual accounts of the people who lived through the Holocaust,” said Erin Blankenship, the museum’s Curator of Exhibitions and Collections.

While each man, woman and child who survived the Holocaust experienced incomprehensible loss and suffering, each account is different.

The museum is still actively recording interviews with survivors and their families, collecting original documents, photographs and objects from the Holocaust and sharing these invaluable resources with students, educators and our visitors.

The Florida Holocaust Museum is located at 55 5th St. S., St. Petersburg. For more information, go to www.flholocaustmuseum.org or call (727) 820-0100.

Gino Bartali racing in 1945 photo courtesy of Alyce Gross

Museum to host book talk about cyclist and Righteous Gentile

The Florida Holocaust Museum is hosting a book talk with author Aili McConnon, co-author of “Road to Valor,” the inspiring, against-the-odds story of cyclist Gino Bartali who made the greatest comeback in Tour de France history and secretly aided the Italian resistance during World War II.

McConnon, who previously appeared last fall at the Festival of Jewish Books and Conversations in Tampa, will speak on Wednesday, March 27, at 6:30 p.m. at the museum. 55 5th St. S., St. Petersburg. The program is free and open to the public.

Bartali is best known as an Italian cycling legend who not only won the Tour de France twice but also holds the record for the longest time span between victories.

In “Road to Valor,” Aili and her brother, Andres McConnon, chronicled Bartali’s journey, from an impoverished childhood in rural Tuscany to his first triumph at the 1936 Tour de France.

As World War II ravaged Europe, Bartali undertook dangerous activities to help those being targeted in Italy, including sheltering a family of Jews and smuggling counterfeit identity documents in the frame of his bicycle. In 2013, he was recognized by Yad Vashem as a Righteous Among the Nations. After the grueling wartime years, the chain-smoking, Chianti-loving, 34-year-old came back to win the 1948 Tour de France, an exhilarating performance that helped unite his fractured homeland.

The program is part of the museum’s 2019 Genocide and Human Rights Awareness Movement series. RSVPs are requested to (727) 820-0100, ext. 301.

Passover Seder luncheon to honor Holocaust survivors

A Passover Seder luncheon honoring Holocaust survivors from Pinellas, Hillsborough and Pasco counties will be held on Thursday, April 4 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Congregation Shaarai Zedek, 3303 W. Swann Ave., Tampa.

The luncheon, for Holocaust survivors only, is sponsored by Gulf Coast Jewish Family & Community Services. Funding for the event is provided by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, Department of Financial Services and private donations.

Holocaust survivors who would like to attend should RSVP by April 2 to Barbara Gitomer at (727) 601-8185 or barbara.gitomer@gcjfs.org. Transportation may be arranged if required.

Dr. Helen N. Fagin with her mother and older sister Wanda in the late 1920s. photo courtesy of Dr. Helen N. Fagin
Active Adults
All programs listed are either at the Mau- reen & Douglas Cohn Jewish Community Center, 13009 Community Campus Drive, or at the Bryan Glazer Family JCC, 522 N. Howard Ave. To RSVP or for more information, please contact the respective center. Contact: Pamina Levermore at (813) 291-2253 or pamina.levermore@jewishtampa.com. All reservations should be completed before events begin.

Discover opera: All active adults are invited to visit the Strazz Center in downtown Tampa on Sunday, April 14 from noon to 4 p.m. for a free interactive feature, Robin Schulman of Opera Tampa, David Dinnan, and Choral Master, production directors and other staff will provide insight into “La Bo- hème.” Participants leave from the opera with a short performance, featuring favorite arias, followed by a champagne reception hosted by Opera Tampa general director and Strazz Center CEO. Lunch will be at Café Gala at the participants’ own expense.

Passover dinner: The active adults club and Club J children will make and sample traditional Passover dishes on Mondays, March 25 and April 1, 8 and 15 from 2:30-3 p.m. at the Cohn campus. The dishes will be served at a mock Seder on April 15.

Trivial Pursuit: Enjoy a friendly game of Trivial Pursuit with a slice of pizza on Thursday, March 28 from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Cohn Campus. There is no charge.

JSetters: The Phylis Boreil JSet- ters, a social group for all ages, meets at the Cohn campus for a program on Thursday, March 28 from 11 a.m. to noon. A $5 donation is suggested to cover the cost of lunch.

Movie matinee: The active adults classic film series will continue with a showing of “La La Land” on Wednesday, April 3 at 1:30-3 p.m. at the Cohn campus. Refreshments will be provided. The $5 admission is suggested to cover the cost of lunch.

Yiddish nostalgia: Join the 20s+30s group at the Glazer JCC on Monday, March 25 at 7:30 p.m. There is limited seating and the cost depends on what you order.

#Job-Links

Interviews are conducted by the Glazer JCC:


#Search aids: The topic for the Success Workshop to aid with job-search skills on Thursday, March 21 from 1-3:30 p.m. is “Writing High-Impact Cover Letters” with guest presenter Patti Breckenridge of People Connections of Florida. The March 28 topic, from 1-3:30 p.m. on Thursday, is “Financial Fundamentals for Now and the Future” with guest presenter Brad Frank of Regions Bank. Success workshops are free for Job-Links program participants. $15 for guests. Reservations required.

For more information on programs at either center, contact: Lisa Robbins at lisa.robbins@jewishtampa.com or (813) 769-4723.

Jeannie Kralik, Florida Times-Union - Travel.

Specials and Offerings

The Glazer Jewish Press only pre-paid classified advertising. The paper accepts no responsibility for services and merchandise advertised, nor screens advertisers. All ads must be submitted in writing. Mail to PO Box 6970, Clearwater, FL 33758; fax (727) 856-3509 or e-mail: jewishpress@att.com Rates: $10 for 15 words, 10¢ each additional word.

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Karen Dawkins, managing editor
PO Box 6970, Clearwater, FL 33758
email: jewishpress@att.com, or call, (727) 535-4400 or (813) 871-2332.
Deutch’s speech articulated many of the arguments that Jewish leaders have made about why anti-Semitism is a big deal and Jews should be the ones who define it. He began by condemning statements by Omar – but also by Republicans such as President Donald Trump and California Rep. Kevin McCarthy, the House minority leader, that were criticized as anti-Semitic. Deutch went on to say that anti-Semitic rhetoric has led to the killing of Jews and talked about how accusations of dual loyalty against Jews are so hurtful.

The ones to define anti-Semitism, he said, should be those who suffer from it: Jews. And he asked why it seems like anti-Semitism is worse against Jews are so hurtful.  

Some of Israel’s most reliable supporters in Congress have condemned anti-Semitism and named Omar. Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-NY, the chairwoman of the House Appropriations Committee. Omar has friends: An Islamicphobic attack on Omar at a West Virginia GOP event that linked her to the 9/11 terrorist act drew plenty of sympathy from colleagues, who may already feel protective of the newcomer and pathbreaker – she’s the first Somali refugee and one of two Muslim women in Congress.

The party’s progressive and black caucuses rallied to her side, saying she was being singled out as a woman of color and a critic of Israel. The House whip, James Clyburn of South Carolina, went so far as to suggest that Omar’s sense of hurt is more “personal” because she is an actual refugee – unlike, say, the descendants of Holocaust survivors or Japanese Americans interned during World War II. That prompted a rebuke from the Anti-Defamation League.

Clyburn walked back his comments, but in his struggle to both support Omar and appease her critics one could see the tough job ahead of him as the party’s consensus builder.

Some of those friends are in high places: Four Democratic presidential candidates, Sens. Kamala Harris of California, Kirsten Gillibrand of New York, Ileana Sanders of Vermont and Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, have issued statements on the controversy. Harris, Sanders and Warren cast Omar as a victim, while only Gillibrand chided her for employing “anti-Semitic tropes.”

Sanders and Warren, additionally said, Omar was being targeted for her tough posture on Israel.

Deutch walked back his comments, saying he was being singled out as a woman of color and a critic of Israel. He went on to say that anti-Semitic policy has led to the killing of Jews and talked about how accusations of dual loyalty against Jews are so hurtful.

Why it seems like anti-Semitism is worse against Jews are so hurtful:

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34th Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

On Tuesday, February 26th, Menorah Manor recognized many devoted volunteers at the 34th Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon.

The event began with a heartfelt welcome from Bob Weisberg, Menorah Manor Chair. Other speakers included Robert Goldstein, chief executive officer; Doris Rosenblatt, Menorah Manor Resident Council president; Barbara Baughman, Menorah Manor Guild president; Bonnie Berman, director of volunteers; Rabbi Aaron Lever, director of spiritual care; and Dr. Steven Warren.

Dr. Steven Warren established the Gail S. Warren Volunteer Education Endowment Fund in 2009 in memory of his late wife, Gail. For many years, Gail was Menorah Manor’s director of volunteers and made an extraordinary impact on the community and the seniors Menorah Manor cares for. Each year in memory of Gail, a volunteer is honored with the Gail S. Warren Volunteer of the Year Award.

This year’s Gail S. Warren Volunteer of the Year award was presented to Adelle Simpson, a Samson Nursing Center volunteer. Adelle works closely with residents during Table Top time each week to help them connect with their creative spirit. She teaches them how to draw and paint, how to create items to wear and gifts to give away, and how to make beautiful works of art. Adelle has volunteered at Menorah Manor for more than five years.

Outstanding Service Awards were presented to Laura Sirota, Carol and Norman “Bert” Bertoluzzi, Leo and Renee Weinshel, and Babe McGarvey for each contributing 1,000 hours of service. Adelle Simpson was recognized for 5,000 hours of volunteer service.

The Menorah Manor Family would like to thank all of our volunteers for their dedication to our residents. Thank you for everything you do!
The journey to wellness hasn’t been easy for Pastor and Levine. The women met in 2005 at a conference for Jewish journalists in Boston. At the time, Pastor worked at the American Israelite in Cincinnati, Ohio, and Levine was a Jewish Press staffer here in the Tampa Bay area.

The two reconnected when Pastor moved to Tampa. They met for dinner and Levine opened up about her battle with anorexia but Pastor was still too ashamed to discuss her own eating disorder, bulimia. The writers ended up at the same treatment center in Pinellas County, where they made progress in managing their respective conditions. They kept in touch and both embarked on writing books about their experience. Pastor, “The Secret Life of a Weight-Obsessed Woman” and Levine, “Butterflies Are Free ... What About Me: One Woman’s Battle with Anorexia Nervosa.”

Pastor and Levine agreed to speak together for the first time at the Hadasah event attended by about 50 people.

Levine endured more than 47 years of battling anorexia nervosa. To this day, she still has some struggles. Her eating disorder had affected her socially, academically and professionally. Levine views eating disorders as addictions and severe mental illnesses.

“We must come to terms with food because we need it to survive,” said Levine. “This is something we deal with every day. There’s no easy way out. You can’t just snap out of it.”

Pastor spent most of her life binging and purging. Her struggle began when she was a transfer student in college who was unsure of her life path. Pastor was away from her family for the first time and didn’t have a solid social support system. The transitional time was extremely difficult and caused her to latch onto the unhealthy habit of binge eating and purging. Destructive patterns of behavior can become very difficult to break, Pastor said.

“I thought I had the magic potion,” she said. “Striving for perfection can really complicate your life.”

It’s crucial to remember that eating disorders don’t just affect young, white women, according to Pastor. Anorexia and bulimia do not discriminate based on gender, race, religion, ethnicity, or age.

According to the National Association of Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders, more than 30 million people, ranging in age, race, ethnicity and gender, battle eating disorders in the United States. Thirteen percent of women 50 and older have disordered eating habits, according to the ANAD website.

Societal values play a role in the way women perceive themselves. Seeing unattainable goals in mainstream media can cause people to feel like they need to be perfect, Pastor said.

“They’re perceived to be more fun, more social, prettier and more outgoing. But just because you’re thin, doesn’t mean you have it all together.”

The authors recommended that anyone battling an eating disorder should seek professional treatment as soon as possible. The sooner someone gets diagnosed and treated, the higher their odds of recovering, according to Levine.

“Respecting your own body leads to others respecting you,” said Levine. “If we look at ourselves with disgust, this can be passed along to our children. L’dor vador.”

Pastor and Levine also advised that anyone struggling should try to identify their triggers. Being more aware of language and word choice is a great way to help people affected by eating disorders. Levine recommended complimenting someone’s hair or shirt instead of mentioning their weight. Pastor mentioned that it can be helpful to learn the difference between emotional and physical hunger.

People experiencing emotional hunger may feel angry, lonely, depressed, or disconnected. Physical hunger, on the other hand, is noticeable by hunger pains, lack of focus, irritability, or nausea.

Pastor was able to start her recovery when she realized that she needed to treat herself as well as she treated others around her. She gradually left behind the feeling that recovery wasn’t possible. Through the professional treatment and hearing advice from others who had been on the same path, Pastor was able to change her life around. Art therapy was a driving force in her recovery. She used Weight Watchers to learn about food portion control and now, she says three things she’s grateful for each day.

Finding constructive ways to fill time and choosing healthy ways to self-soothe is a key part of recovery, according to the authors. Pastor enjoys binge watching television instead of binge eating. She also likes to knit.

“You can’t eat and knit at the same time,” laughed Pastor. “Preserve your bloom. Use your talents and resources to be the best you can be. You’re in control of your own remote.”

Both of the authors’ books are available on Amazon.