

# CONNECTIONS

2017 GUIDE TO JEWISH LIFE IN LEE & CHARLOTTE COUNTIES



Published by the Jewish Federation  
of Lee and Charlotte Counties  
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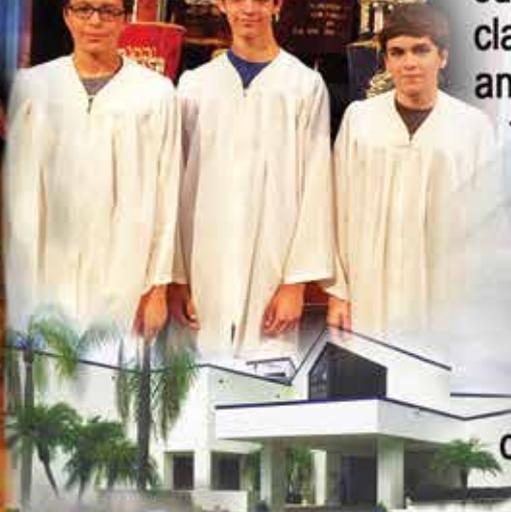
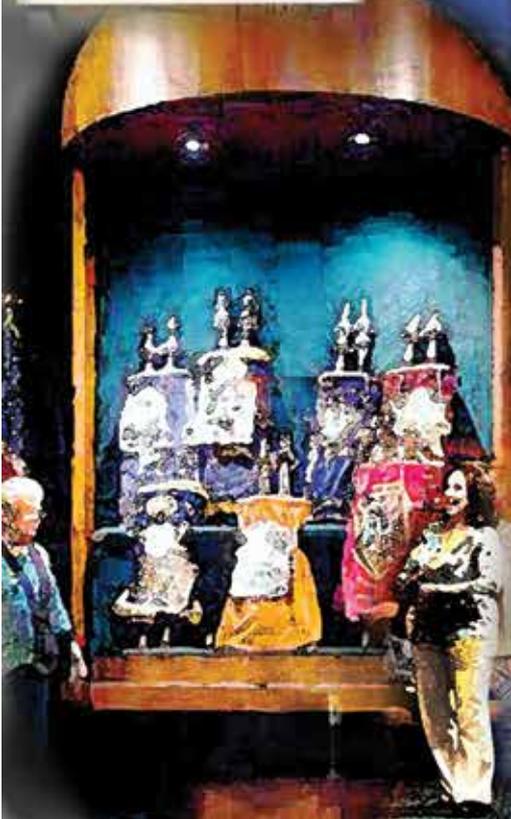
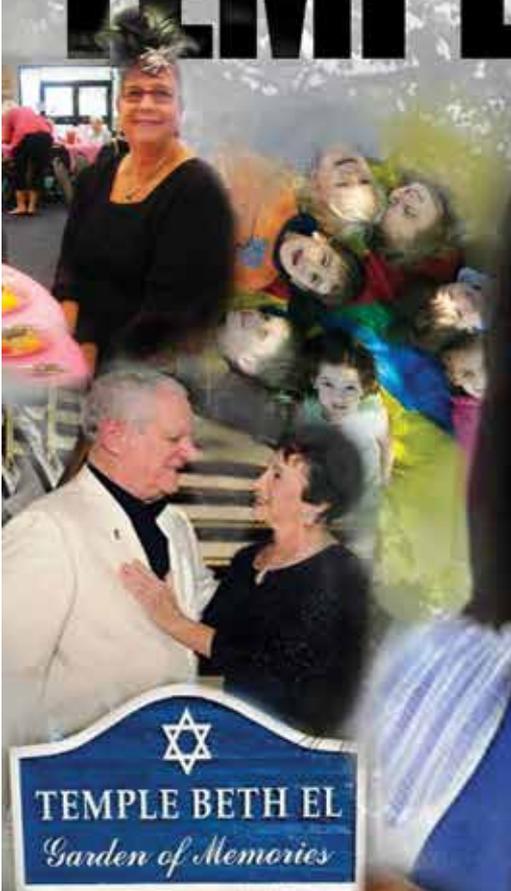
The oldest and largest synagogue in Lee County, Temple Beth El is open and welcoming to all who seek to explore the principles and beliefs of Reform Judaism.

Whether you were born Jewish, chose Judaism, are an interfaith family, or your path has led you to our door, Temple Beth El will serve as your home for spirituality, education, tzedaka and relationships.

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## 2017 GUIDE TO JEWISH LIFE IN LEE & CHARLOTTE COUNTIES

### CONNECTIONS

2017 GUIDE TO JEWISH LIFE IN LEE & CHARLOTTE COUNTIES

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## From the Editor

Welcome to the sixth edition of *Connections*. This is THE publication to turn to for the local Jewish community's activities, programs, services and organizations.

Just as *L'CHAYIM* serves to keep you up-to-date on all things "Jewish" each month, *Connections* serves as your annual resource guide.

When you go through these pages, you will learn a lot about the wealth of opportunities – cultural, educational and spiritual – available to the Jewish community in Lee and Charlotte counties.

Without our valued advertisers, neither *L'CHAYIM* nor *Connections* would be possible. When you visit an entity that advertises with us, please be sure to say, "Thank you for advertising with the publications of the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties."

Everyone involved with *Connections* hopes you will save it and use it as a guide for the coming year. And please share it with others or have them contact the Federation for their own copy.

*Ted Epstein*

Ted Epstein, Editor, *Connections* and *L'CHAYIM*

## Cover art by Carolyn Gora

Carolyn Gora is a local artist and retired art teacher. She is a Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties board member and chair of the Jewish Family Services committee, as well as a super volunteer for numerous organizations in the community.



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# CONNECTIONS

## 2017 GUIDE TO JEWISH LIFE IN LEE & CHARLOTTE COUNTIES

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Erik Kellar Photography

Steen Metz, Holocaust Survivor and Sanibel resident

EVERY FACE TELLS A STORY. Every story, a personal journey. The Holocaust Museum & Education Center of Southwest Florida makes history personal every day. Since 2001, our Education programs have reached over 150,000 students in Southwest Florida. We have hosted thousands of visitors from across the U.S. and more than 35 countries.

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239.263.9200

May - December  
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January - April  
Tuesday to Friday, 12:30 pm - 5:00  
Saturday and Sunday 1:00 - 4:00 pm

# Jewish Federation

## The Jewish Federation in Lee and Charlotte counties

There is no record of the arrival of the first Jew in Lee County. Strangely enough, in 1850, Fort Myers was named for a Jew – Col. Abraham Myers – who had nothing to do with its establishment and (according to most historians) never lived in nor visited the area.

During World War II, a Jewish chaplain was assigned to the U.S. Army Base in Buckingham, and for the first time, the handful of Jews living here could attend services arranged for servicemen on the base. In 1947, a local merchant, Sam Posner, placed an ad in the newspaper stating that his variety store would be closed for the High Holidays. Suddenly, unknown Jews in the area began to contact him. In 1948, ten families gathered for High Holiday services.

In January 1975, Leo Cooper provided an important link for the Jewish families of Lee County when he set up, edited, published and distributed the monthly newspaper *L'CHAYIM*. The newspaper was the impetus for the community to come together to establish a local Jewish Federation (but not part of the Council of Jewish Federations) in 1976, whose primary purpose was to raise funds for the United Jewish Appeal.

The Jewish community began to need services locally and, in 1984, a group of mothers worked tirelessly with then-president Sheila Laboda to begin planning a Federation day

camp. It was named Camp Genesis and opened in 1985. Under Sheila's steady hand and with the involvement of new leaders, the Federation was incorporated and became recognized as a member of the Council of Jewish Federations

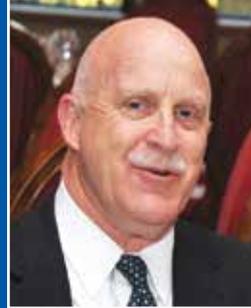
in 1986. The Federation hired its first executive director in 1988 and a program director in 1990.

This was followed by the creation of many educational and arts projects, cultural activities, social services and Holocaust education programs.

As the Lee County Jewish community continued to expand its programming, the Jews in Charlotte County expressed their desire to join this Federation, which in 1995 officially became the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties.

In 2009, the Federation purchased and moved into its Jewish Community Building with a dedicated Jewish Family Services wing. In recent years the Federation has dramatically increased its range of education, arts and culture programming, and has created a comprehensive Jewish Family Services division.

Today, the Jewish community, like the rest of the population in Lee and Charlotte counties, is still growing. Our database comprises over 2,500 households and we estimate there are 6,000 - 7,000 Jews in our service area.



**ALAN ISAACS**  
Executive Director  
Jewish Federation of  
Lee and Charlotte  
Counties

### 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), tikkun olam (repairing the world) and k'lal Yisrael (taking responsibility for one another).**

## Who is “Federation” and what do we do?

The answer is simple: It’s you – and every member of the Jewish community of Lee and Charlotte counties. The Federation is the thread that runs through the fabric of our Jewish community, its organizations and services, connecting us all.

**The mission of the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties** is 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 is a Jewish community that is based on Jewish values such as *tzedakah* (benevolence), *tikkun olam* (repairing the world) and *k’lal Yisrael* (taking responsibility for one another).

Two thousand years ago we vowed to take care of one another like family. Today, thanks to donors like you, that vow still holds. It’s an amazing story. We Jews were exiled from the Land of Israel over 2,000 years ago. And yet, with no home, and no one to rely on but ourselves, we developed one of the largest and most effective social service infrastructures in the world. Our local Jewish Federation is now at the heart of that infrastructure, allocating valuable dollars to family and child services, nursing homes, JCCs, summer camps, and a host of vitally important programs here at home, in Israel and around the world.

Even in times of increased prosperity the infrastructure that supports our community is being tested. Too many Jewish families can’t put food on their tables and are turning to the Federation system for help. Yet, for every story of hardship and despair, there are countless stories of love and hope that donors like you are responsible for every day.

Israel and overseas support is essential to Jews in danger, wherever they may be. Whenever Jews are in harm’s way – from Ukraine to Yemen to Israel – our Federation and our overseas partners have a unique ability to act quickly in emergencies. From wars to acts of terror to natural disasters, there is so much we do to alleviate suffering. Personnel and programs already on the ground in virtually every

part of the world enable us to provide humanitarian assistance. Thousands of people receive help.

More than 400,000 of Israel’s children are still at risk of missing out on the life and learning opportunities they need to become independent members of society. In Israel today, one in every three children lives at or below the poverty line. These astounding figures highlight the cycle of despair and depravity that cripples a disturbingly high portion of Israel’s children, physically and psychologically. They don’t get the programs and activities they need to develop their educational and personal abilities. Their families cannot afford extracurricular programs and, equally if not more relevant, often the parents themselves are incapable of functioning as positive role models.



### SENIOR SOCIAL LUNCH & LEARN

**ARE YOU** interested in giving back to the community?

**DO YOU** want to experience the riches that our local seniors have to offer?

**JOIN US** for our monthly senior lunches!

If you are looking for a volunteer opportunity that is fun and rewarding and will not require a lot of time, please call Micaela at the Federation. We need volunteer drivers to pick up the seniors. We need volunteers to call a senior once a week and pick them up for the luncheon. Volunteers are also needed to greet people as they come in, help set up the food and tables and to help clean up afterwards. We will provide rides for those who need them. We guarantee that you will have as much fun as the people you are assisting.



If you are interested in volunteering for the Senior Outreach Program please contact Micaela Solomon at Jewish Family Services, (239) 481-4449 ext. 6.



## HOW THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF LEE & CHARLOTTE COUNTIES SERVES

### Local Jewish Education and Culture

- ✧ Community-wide Jewish Education and Culture Programs for all ages including the Jewish Film Festival, Jewish Author Events, Israel Celebration, Jewish genealogy, Israeli folk dancing, social and special interest groups.
- ✧ L'CHAYIM published monthly to keep the Jewish community informed about local, national and international Jewish issues.
- ✧ Community Relations activities include monitoring anti-Semitism and issues of separation of church and state in the community.
- ✧ 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-Eiron 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 food cards.
- ✧ Emergency financial assistance grants.
- ✧ Education and aid associated with natural disasters.

### Local Community Services

- ✧ Support families of children with special needs.
- ✧ SAT preparatory classes for high school students.
- ✧ Addresses pressing community needs related to volunteerism, institutional cooperation and community assessment and planning.

### Jewish Community Foundation

- ✧ An endowment that ensures the long-term financial base of charitable, social and educational programs in our community.
- ✧ Needs-based college scholarships and study scholarships in Israel.
- ✧ Projects and programs aimed at Jewish community enrichment.

## PARTNERSHIP2GETHER

**Connecting the global Jewish family, increasing Jewish identity, strengthening Israeli society**

The Jewish Agency for Israel's PARTNERSHIP-2GETHER Peoplehood Platform (previously known as Partnership 2000) has become the paradigm for successfully partnering Jewish communities directly with Israeli communities.

P2G connects 450 Jewish and Israeli communities in 46 city-to-city and region-to-region partnerships, engaging more than 350,000 participants each year in meaningful ongoing connections between Israelis and Jews around the world, through unique programs and one-on-one encounters. P2G creates living bridges to Israel, genuine friendships, and contributes to understanding life in the Jewish state and the rich variety of religious expression and renewal around the world.

At the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties, a member of the Southeast Consortium of communities in



**PARTNERSHIP  
2GETHER**  
HADERA · EIRON  
SOUTHEAST REGION

Artists." Each American artist was partnered with an Israeli artist. Each pair, or havruta, communicated through social media, which allowed individuals the opportunity to get to know their partner, and work together on their artistic creations. They participated in a five-week online course on "The Theology of Psalms." After completing the course, the artist pairs decided on which Psalm, or portion of a Psalm, to use as their artistic inspiration.

Our Federation is represented by eight artists: Carolyn Gora, Shirley Litman, Herb Sklar, Celeste Borah, Janice Heligman, Gale Shablott, Elise Gold Sewall and Juli Bobman. This accounts for the largest contingent of any other member of the Southeast Consortium. These artists enjoyed getting together and discussing their experiences and the course work. Several of them attended the opening of the show in April in Israel at the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the P2G program.

The exhibit is currently touring Southeast Consortium communities and will open at the Alliance for the Arts in Fort Myers on Sunday, March 5.



Local artists at Ilana Aviv's studio in Israel

the U.S., the relationship has included a variety of person-to-person experiences shared with our Hadera Eiron Region in Israel, including a firefighter exchange, and hosting delegations. It continues with "Art Beyond Boundaries," an arts collaboration that began in the fall of 2015 and continues through April 2017.

Led by local artists Carolyn Gora and Shirley Litman, the Southeast Consortium and the Hadera Eiron Region produced a collaboration and an exhibition that was truly a partnership.

Fifty artists from both countries answered "A Call for



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# Arts & Culture

## News and Information

### L'CHAYIM

L'Chayim, a word used in toasts and blessings, literally means "To Life," and we use it to express the vitality of Jewish life in Southwest Florida. L'CHAYIM, the name of our monthly newspaper, keeps thousands of local readers informed about local, national and international Jewish news.

L'CHAYIM has articles submitted by the Jewish clergy and lay leaders in Lee and Charlotte counties. Federation Board members and staff also contribute articles of interest to the readers.

The newspaper was first published 40 years ago, and has gone through several design, paper, size and editorial changes. Typical issues have 28-36 pages.

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 jongg 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 newspaper also features "Israel & the Jewish World" items, commentary pieces and general Jewish interest

articles.

Ted Epstein, the editor/designer of *Connections*, has been the managing editor and designer of L'CHAYIM since October 2009.

L'CHAYIM is mailed free to 2,500 homes and businesses in the area, and is available to everyone at the Federation office.

It can also be found online at [www.JewishFederationLCC.org](http://www.JewishFederationLCC.org). Readers can view the most recent issue as well as an archive of past issues in PDF format.

The mission of L'CHAYIM is to represent Jewish life in the area by providing the voice that reports news, information, programs and events important to the local Jewish community. In accomplishing this mission, the newspaper seeks to:

- Celebrate Jewish life in Lee and Charlotte counties
- Inform, enrich and entertain readers
- Strengthen Jewish identity and facilitate participation in Jewish community life
- Provide an efficient advertising and editorial network to businesses that serve our area
- Assist the Jewish Federation and its beneficiary agencies to achieve community building goals

**For more information about L'CHAYIM, to receive a free subscription, or to advertise:**  
**Call: 239.481.4449 x4**  
**Email: [loriramos@jfedlcc.org](mailto:loriramos@jfedlcc.org)**  
**Website: L'CHAYIM page at [www.JewishFederationLCC.org](http://www.JewishFederationLCC.org)**

**JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL**  
**The Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties Presents the 21st Annual Jewish Film Festival of Southwest Florida**  
 All films will be screened at the Regal Cinemas Bell Tower.  
 Open seating at all films for general admission tickets.  
 Tickets will be mailed up to December 31.  
 Tickets ordered after December 31 will be available after 6:00 p.m. inside the theater on the day of the show.

**ISRAEL & THE JEWISH WORLD**  
**Israel rushes aid to the world's worst earthquakes**  
 Israel is often one of the first countries on the ground to offer humanitarian aid after the world's most devastating earthquakes. This time, it's the 2010 earthquake in Haiti. The Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties is proud to announce that it has provided a \$10,000 grant to the Jewish Community Center of Miami to support their efforts in providing relief to the victims of the earthquake. The grant will be used to purchase supplies such as food, clothing, and shelter for the victims of the earthquake. The Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties is proud to be a part of this effort and to support the Jewish Community Center of Miami in their work to help the victims of the earthquake.

**OUR COMMUNITY**  
 The Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties is proud to announce that it has provided a \$10,000 grant to the Jewish Community Center of Miami to support their efforts in providing relief to the victims of the earthquake. The grant will be used to purchase supplies such as food, clothing, and shelter for the victims of the earthquake. The Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties is proud to be a part of this effort and to support the Jewish Community Center of Miami in their work to help the victims of the earthquake.

**Coming up at the Holocaust Museum**  
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**Anti-Israel media bias and how to fix it**  
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**JEWISH FEDERATION COMMUNITY BREAKFAST**  
 Sunday, December 11  
 10:00 a.m.  
 Guest Speaker: Dr. David Davis  
 Topic: The President of the Jews: From Abraham Lincoln to Barack Obama  
 David S. Davis, an engaged public servant, is the author of the book "The President of the Jews: From Abraham Lincoln to Barack Obama". He has been a member of the Board of Trustees of the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties since 2009. He is also a member of the Board of Trustees of the Jewish Community Center of Miami. He is a frequent speaker at Jewish events and is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties.

## Israeli Folk Dancing

**D**o you want to feel connected, get a workout, express your creativity, use your brain, feel rejuvenated? Then Israeli folk dancing is for you!

All levels of dance expertise are welcome; no previous dance experience required. Each dance session starts out with easy, beginner dances so that even newcomers feel comfortable. The group is warm and congenial and anxious to help anyone with basic steps. New dances are added all the time.

The local growing group of dancers has the pleasure of dancing in the Federation's beautiful new facility. People come from all walks of life, from all levels of experience, range in age from 30-year-olds to 90-year-olds, and from as far away as Naples, to revel in the joy of dancing.

It usually takes about six lessons to become acquainted with all the basic steps and the easier dances. Israeli

folk dancing then builds on these basic steps, incorporating them into all other dances. It's in the repetition of the dances from week to week that real learning takes place until one internalizes the dances. Group leader Marsha Kistler shares her 30 years of Israeli dancing experience and encourages participants to share their favorite dances.

Dancing usually starts at 4:00 p.m. on Sundays at the Jewish Federation building at 9701 Commerce Center Court, Fort Myers. Check out the schedule in the calendar section of *L'CHAYIM* or at [www.JewishFederationLCC.org](http://www.JewishFederationLCC.org).

RSVPs are a must each week to Marsha Kistler at [marshatemple2012@gmail.com](mailto:marshatemple2012@gmail.com) or 239.947.5118.



### Mellow Mah Jongg

Each Tuesday afternoon, an open session of Mah Jongg is held at the Jewish Federation.

Players must be at least advanced beginners, as no lessons are given.

**DAY:** Tuesdays, 12:30 – 3:30 P.M.

**FEE:** \$1 per week

For more information, call Rona Strausberg at 239.949.9003



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## 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Jewish Film Festival of Southwest Florida

The 21<sup>st</sup> annual Jewish Film Festival of Southwest Florida, produced by the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties, will begin January 12 and run through February 7. The local festival captures the flavor of the larger Jewish film festivals that are held each year in cities like New York, Boston, Atlanta and Los Angeles.

This year's films include a wide variety of international and domestic productions that run the gamut of moving you to tears to setting you on the edge of your seats.

Ticket prices for this year's event, which includes nine films, are \$96 for the series or \$12 for individual films. For more details, call the Jewish Federation office at 239.481.4449 x3 or visit [www.jewish-federationlcc.org](http://www.jewish-federationlcc.org).

### Schedule of films:

All films are shown at the Regal Cinema Bell Tower in Fort Myers at 7:15 p.m. except for the 3:00 p.m. matinee on January 22.

- ◆ January 12: Sabena Hijacking
- ◆ January 17: In Search of Israeli Cuisine
- ◆ January 19: Fanny's Journey
- ◆ January 22: Mr. Predictable
- ◆ January 24: Keep Quiet
- ◆ January 26: The Women's Balcony
- ◆ January 31: The Pickle Recipe
- ◆ February 2: Just Another Version of You
- ◆ February 7: Harmonia

The theater is located at 13499 Bell Tower Drive in Fort Myers. The theater **does not sell** Jewish Film Festival tickets.

### Special thanks to:

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**Festival Friend:** Signarama

**Thank you to Regal Cinema for hosting the festival each year.**

A big thank you to the Film Festival Committee: Chair Sara Krivisky, Susie Ferkel, Helene Glocer, Claire Goldhagen, Carolyn Gora, Irwin Kash, Dan Sharff, Lynn Talone and Sid Wilker.



Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte Counties

**To order tickets, use the form at right, download an order form at [www.JewishFederationLCC.org](http://www.JewishFederationLCC.org) or call Leni Sack at 239.481.4449 x3.**

**Thursday, January 12 at 7:15 p.m.**



### SABENA HIJACKING: MY VERSION

This docu-drama is based on previously undiscovered audio recordings of former pilot Captain Reginald Levy. Captain Levy, now deceased, was in command of Sabena Flight 571 from Brussels, Belgium, to Tel Aviv on May 8, 1972, when it was hijacked by four members of Black September, the armed wing of Fatah or PLO. The film finally shares the untold story of what exactly took place on the flight throughout the 30 hours of nerve-racking captivity. It fuses candid interviews with dramatic reenactments. It takes viewers into the aircraft to witness the events firsthand as the hijackers threaten to explode hand grenades unless 300 prisoners were released. The result is a fast-paced film full of suspense, which poses historical and political questions that helped to shape the Israel of today.

**Language:** English/Hebrew/Arabic/French  
**Running Time:** 1 hr. 38 min.

**Tuesday, January 17 at 7:15 p.m.**



### IN SEARCH OF ISRAELI CUISINE

This film is a portrait of the Israeli people told through food. It is drawn from the more than 100 cultures that make up Israel today. Through interviews with chefs, farmers, home cooks, vintners and cheese makers, to visits to farms, markets, restaurants and kitchens, audiences will discover that this hot, multi-cultural cuisine has developed only in the last 30 years. In that short time, Israel went from being one of the poorest countries in the world to one of the most advanced. Its sophistication mirrors the current state of the Israeli people and their food: secular, outward looking and innovative. The chef/guide of the film is Michael Solomonov, the James Beard award-winning chef/owner of Zahav and a number of other restaurants in Philadelphia.

**Language:** English **Running Time:** 1 hr. 34 min.

**Thursday, January 19 at 7:15 p.m.**



### FANNY'S JOURNEY

Fanny's Journey is an incredible tale of bravery, strength and survival – a story of a daring young girl who will stop at nothing and fear no one. In 1943, 13-year-old Fanny and her younger sisters were sent from their home in France to an Italian foster home for Jewish children. When the Nazis arrive in Italy, their caretakers desperately organize the departure of the children to Switzerland. Suddenly left on their own, these eleven children will do the impossible to reach the Swiss border in order to survive.

**Language:** French with English subtitles  
**Running Time:** 1 hr. 34 min.

**Tuesday, January 24 at 7:15 p.m.**



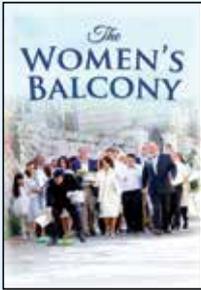
### KEEP QUIET

As Vice President of Jobbik, Hungary's far-right extremist party, Csana Szegedi regularly espoused anti-Semitic rhetoric and Holocaust denials. He was a founder of the Hungarian Guard, a now-banned militia inspired by the Arrow Cross, a pro-Nazi party complicit in the murder of thousands of Jews during WWII. Then came a revelation which transformed his life.

Szegedi's maternal grandparents were revealed to be Jewish and his beloved grandmother an Auschwitz survivor who had hidden her faith fearing further persecution. *Keep Quiet* depicts Szegedi's three-year journey as he is guided by Rabbi Boruch Oberlander to embrace his newfound religion, forced to confront the painful truths of his family's past, his own wrongdoing, and the turbulent history of his country. But is this astonishing transformation a process of genuine reparation and spiritual awakening or is he simply a desperate man with nowhere else to turn?

**Language:** English, Hebrew with English subtitles **Running Time:** 1 hr. 30 min.

**Thursday, January 26 at 7:15 p.m.**



## THE WOMEN'S BALCONY

An incident during a Bar Mitzvah celebration leads to a gendered rift in a devout Orthodox community in Jerusalem in this rousing, good-hearted tale about women speaking truth to patriarchal power. The day of Osher's Bar Mitzvah begins auspiciously, with happy guests in their Sabbath best making their way through Jerusalem's streets. They congregate in the synagogue and the men look up adoringly at the women's balcony where their wives, daughters, sisters, cousins and grandmothers are gathered. Then disaster strikes: the floor under the balcony gives way, leaving several injured. Most everyone regards the collapse as a tragic result of a structure flaw. No one stops to wonder if it might have been a message from God – until Rabbi David comes along.

**Language:** Hebrew with English subtitles  
**Running Time:** 1 hr. 36 min.

**Tuesday, January 31 at 7:15 p.m.**



## THE PICKLE RECIPE

Joey Miller is a single father and deeply in debt. To make matters worse, he's a DJ and his work equipment is destroyed in a freak accident. His daughter Julie's Bat Mitzvah is only four weeks away and she is counting on him to DJ her party. After exhausting all his options, he turns to his shady Uncle Morty, who agrees to give him the money he needs to get back into business, but only under one condition. Joey must steal his grandmother Rose's most prized possession – her famous top-secret dill pickle recipe. It's a recipe she has vowed to take to her grave.

**Language:** English  
**Running Time:** 1 hr. 37 min.

**Thursday, February 2 at 7:15 p.m.**



## JUST ANOTHER VERSION OF YOU

This documentary profiles legendary TV mogul Norman Lear, best known for creating a number of groundbreaking 1970s sitcoms – *All in the Family*, *Sanford and Son*, *The Jeffersons*, *One Day at a Time*, *Maude*, *Good Times* – that mirrored the cultural changes roiling the country. Through his shows, Norman Lear boldly cracked open dialogues and shifted the national consciousness into sociopolitical debates on race, class, creed and feminism. The film uses the recurring motif of a theater filled with television screens as a means to explore Lear's personal life, his work and his impact on American society.

**Language:** English  
**Running Time:** 1 hr. 31 min.

**Tuesday, February 7 at 7:15 p.m.**



## HARMONIA

This film is inspired by the biblical story of Abraham, Sarah and Hagar. Sarah, the harpist of the Jerusalem Philharmonic, is married to Abraham, the conductor. They have no children. When Hagar, a young horn player from East Jerusalem joins the orchestra, Sarah's world changes. The two women develop a unique friendship that is challenged when Hagar offers Sarah to have a baby for her, from Abraham. When the baby is born, Hagar leaves the orchestra and the newborn son, Ben, with Sarah and Abraham. Twelve years pass, Ben is a phenomenal pianist, yet wild and uncontrollable. Something is wrong, he feels it deep inside. At the same time, Sarah gets pregnant in her late forties and gives birth to Isaac. When Isaac is three, Hagar returns to the orchestra and an unexpected series of events lead to the fated ending.

**Language:** German with English subtitles  
**Running Time:** 1 hr. 37 min.

**Sunday, January 22 at 3:00 p.m.**



## MR. PREDICTABLE

When Adi was 5 years old, his father died in the war in Lebanon. Before he left home, his father made Adi swear he would be a good boy, help his mother and be responsible. Adi kept his promise: he helped more than enough at home, at school, in the military, in his marriage – he became the most thoughtful man you can imagine. Or to say it another way – Adi became a "sucker" who was exploited by his mother, his wife, his son, his boss and nearly everyone he ever met. Things change radically on the day Adi meets Natalia – a sweet, young, wild girl who entices him into a life full of emotion, passion and romance. Now Adi has to choose between love and reason, between dreams and reality, between Natalia and his family.

**Language:** Hebrew with English subtitles  
**Running Time:** 1 hr. 43 min.

**Matinee**

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**9701 Commerce Center Court**  
**Fort Myers, FL 33908**

Questions? Call 239.481.4449 x3  
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Tickets will be mailed up to December 31. Tickets ordered after December 31 will be available after 6:00 p.m. inside the theater the day of the show. **No refunds on tickets.**

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\_\_\_\_\_ In Search of Israeli Cuisine....1/17/17  
\_\_\_\_\_ Fanny's Journey.....1/19/17  
\_\_\_\_\_ Keep Quiet.....1/24/17  
\_\_\_\_\_ The Women's Balcony.....1/26/17  
\_\_\_\_\_ The Pickle Recipe.....1/31/17  
\_\_\_\_\_ Just Another Version of You.....2/2/17  
\_\_\_\_\_ Harmonia.....2/7/17

### MATINEE

- \_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Predictable.....1/22/17

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## JFed Stitchers

The JFed Stitchers started as a group taking on a mitzvah project to benefit the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). Knitters and crocheters were recruited to make wool helmet liners and caps for Israeli soldiers during the winter months. The patterns and the yarn were provided by the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties, and the skill and commitment to contribute to the project were provided by the volunteers! It was a great beginning project because the knitting or crocheting could be done at home or in a group.

The group also meets once a month to share progress on the mitzvah project, as well as to share their own knitting or crocheting designs. Once the helmet liners are completed, the group is committed to working on other mitzvah projects to benefit those in need.

The group welcomes anyone who enjoys doing this needlework, as well as the comradery of sharing that skill with others.

If you would like to participate, contact Leni Sack at 239.481.4449 x3 or lenisack@jfedlcc.org.

## 2017 Shared Scholar: Heidi Neumark

The Reverend Heidi Neumark, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church of Manhattan, was selected as the 2017 Shared Scholar. She will present her program at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, January 23 in the Sanctuary of the Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ.

Reverend Neumark's presentation will expand upon the story of her discovery of her Jewish ancestry, which she detailed in her book, *Hidden Inheritance: Family Secret, Memory and Faith*. Her search includes finding that her grandfather died in the Terezin concentration camp. Her journey into her past has had life-changing repercussions for her future. Her book combines personal narrative, social history and theology, interweaving them into a story that portrays the challenges to the author's identity, vocation and theology.

The Shared Scholar program is co-sponsored annually by Temple Bat Yam, the Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ, St Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church, First Church

of Christ Scientist and Captiva Chapel by the Sea. Bat Yam's share is provided by the Leo Rosner Foundation in honor of June Rosner.

For more information, call the temple office at 239.395.2544.

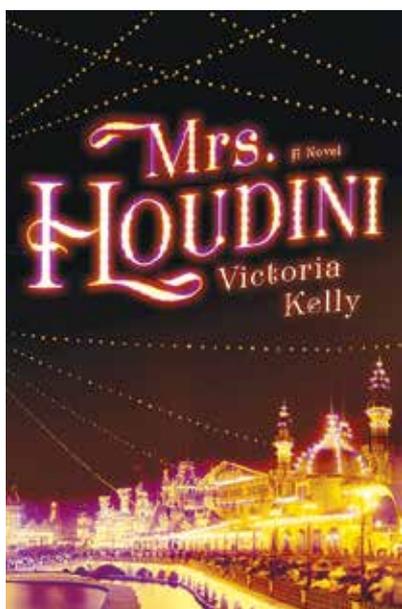
## Federation Book Club

The Jewish Federation book club meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Federation building. Members of the book club bring their dinner and enjoy sitting around the table to discuss the month's selection.

Book club members take turns selecting the monthly read, as well as leading the discussion. While most books read are of Jewish content, it is not a requirement in deciding what to read.

As one member pointed out when the book club was newly formed: "Even if the content is not Jewish, our opinions, our ideas and our perspectives are all influenced by our Jewish backgrounds."

For more information, contact Leni Sack at 239.481.4449 x3 or lenisack@jfedlcc.org.



## JOIN US FOR AN AUTHOR EVENT

with **Victoria Kelly**

author of the bestselling novel,

*Mrs. Houdini*

**Wednesday, March 1 at 7:00 p.m.**

Co-sponsored by the Jewish Federation & the Alliance for the Arts

at the Alliance for the Arts, 10091 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers

After Ms. Kelly's talk, enjoy a reception and book signing. Copies of her book will be available for purchase.

Cost: \$10

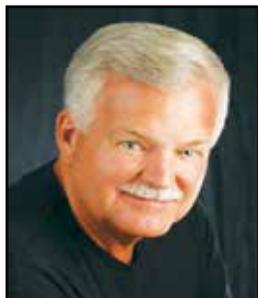
RSVP to [www.artinlee.org](http://www.artinlee.org)

Seating is limited.



## Douglas Renfroe in concert

Residents of Sanibel and surrounding communities can hear Temple Bat Yam's Cantorial Soloist, Doug Renfroe, at several venues this season. Doug's magnificent bass-baritone singing will include selections



from operas, operettas and Broadway. In other events, he sings with and conducts the choral group.

The public is welcome.

There is no fee. A good will offering is appreciated.

For more information, call the temple office at 239.395.2544.

- ◆ **Sunday, January 22 at 3:00 p.m.:**

- ◆ **Doug and Friends, Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ**
- ◆ **Saturday, February 11 at 7:30 p.m.:** Evening of Love Songs, FGCU, Bonita Springs
- ◆ **Sunday, February 12 at 3:00 p.m.:** Voices of Naples, Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ
- ◆ **Sunday, February 26 at 3:00 p.m.:** Voices of Naples, Naples United Church, Naples

## "God As Seen In Broadway Musical Theatre"

Cantorial Soloist Doug Renfroe and Reverend John Danner present "God As Seen In Broadway Musical Theatre" on Wednesdays, February 8 and 15 at 10:00 a.m. and again at 7:30 p.m.

The events are free and take place

at the Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ, 2050 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel.

For more information, visit [www.batyam.org](http://www.batyam.org) or all the Church office at 239.472.0497.

## Psalms Beyond Boundaries

On Wednesday, March 22 at 1:00 p.m. at the Alliance of the Arts, the Sisterhood of Temple Beth El invites you to attend an Israeli Art Exhibit. Carolyn Gora will serve as the docent for this extraordinary exhibit and there is no charge. Refreshments will be provided.

For more information, please call the temple office at 239.433.0018.

**stay connected at**  
[www.JewishFederationLCC.org](http://www.JewishFederationLCC.org)

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Studying family history brings more than just historical knowledge, it builds relationships. Learning the stories behind names and dates teaches a personal history that explains more than just how each person came to be. **EVERYONE WELCOME.**

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**10:00 - 11:30 a.m. at the Federation office**

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YOU HAVE ALREADY STARTED.

There is no cost to attend.

RSVP to Leni at lenibsack@jfedlcc.org or 239.481.4449 x3



## Laugh with Hadassah

What could be more artsy than revisiting the Catskills and going back to the Borscht Belt for some entertainment?

The Collier/Lee Chapter of Hadassah presents “The Kosher Comedy Tour” headlined by Peter Fogel, Stu Moss and Marlyn Sanchez, who will sing, dance, tell jokes and do major shtick!

The event takes place on Thursday, February 2 at Temple Shalom in Naples.

For more information, email Elissa Goldstein at feb22017@gmail.com.

Please come to this delightful event and support the incredible organization that does so much for Israel, the Jewish people, and people all over the United States and the world – Hadassah!

## Brown Bag Movie Nights

One evening a month throughout the year The Community Free Synagogue offers its “Brown Bag Movie Night” in the synagogue’s Community Hall. It’s called that since participants are encouraged to pack brown bag dinners to enjoy during the movies. Admission is always free, and C.F.S. supplies complimentary soft drinks.

Rabbi Bruce Diamond often accepts recommendations for the features that he picks for the movie nights. Past favorites have included *The Frisco Kid*, *Enemies: A Love Story*, *Yoo-Hoo*, *Mrs. Goldberg* and the Sophie Tucker biopic, *The Last of the Red Hot Mammies*, to name just a few.

C.F.S.’s “Brown Bag Movie Nights” are open to all. For a schedule of films, visit [www.fortmyerssynagogue.com](http://www.fortmyerssynagogue.com).

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### Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Genocide Studies

The Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Genocide Studies at Florida Gulf Coast University is a university-focused academic institution, established in 2005 due to the pioneering efforts of several members of the Jewish communities of Southwest Florida.

Conscious of the fact that the past century was the bloodiest in history, the Center has several priorities: to increase knowledge and understanding about the Holocaust and other genocides; to enhance understanding of Jewish life through educational initiatives; and to rescue the history of the vibrant Jewish communities that were lost. Over the years the Center has grown from offering a few events relating to Holocaust and other commemorations, to one which has become a focus in Southwest Florida for all academic matters relating to Jewish civilization, the Holocaust, genocide and remembrance.

In the forthcoming year the Center will continue in its quest to increase knowledge and understanding about the Holocaust and other genocides, as well as to strengthen the democratic institutions that can confront genocide and other threats to human rights, such as intolerance, anti-Semitism, racism and ignorance. The Center seeks to achieve these aims through providing educational opportunities within

the university, the wider community, and in partnership with educational and other organizations throughout the State of Florida, the United States and internationally.

The Center will host a number of events of various types during the course of the year, all with the intention of educating new generations of students.

Where it is possible and feasible, events will be open to the wider community as well as the university community, and these will be advertised widely beforehand. In such circumstances, it is always imperative that outside guests of the university obtain a parking permit from the Welcome Booth upon arriving on campus.

Interested members of the community are invited to refer to the Center website in order to learn of new initiatives and developments.

For information about the Center and its events, as well as giving opportunities to assist in the development of Center programs, please contact:

**Dr. Paul Bartrop, Director**  
239.590.7239 or  
pbartrop@fgcu.edu  
www.fgcu.edu/hc/  
Florida Gulf Coast University  
10501 FGCU Boulevard South  
Fort Myers, FL 33965

### Annual Holocaust Memorial Service

Each year, the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties sponsors a moving educational program to remember the Holocaust and teach about it to the next generation. The service reminds us of what can happen when bigotry, hatred and indifference go unchecked.

The 2017 service will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 23 at Temple Beth El, 16225 Winkler Road, Fort Myers.

### "An Afternoon with Maude Daume"

The community is invited to "An Afternoon with Maude Daume," a Holocaust program presented by the Sisterhood and Men's Club of Temple Beth El. The event will be held at the temple on Sunday, February 19 at 2:00 p.m. and includes a movie about her life followed by a presentation by Maude Daume. There is no charge and refreshments will be served.

For more information, please call the temple office at 239.433.0018.

**For a continuously updated calendar of events, visit**  
[www.JewishFederationLCC.org](http://www.JewishFederationLCC.org)

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# Holocaust Museum & Education Center of SW Florida

The Holocaust Museum & Education Center of Southwest Florida in Naples celebrates its 16<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017. It has hosted thousands of visitors from all over the world.

**Mission**

The Museum's mission is to teach the lessons of the Holocaust to inspire action against bigotry, hatred and violence. Students and visitors alike learn that one person can make a difference by promoting positive change in their

homes and communities.

**Education Programs**

Since 2001, the Museum has helped educators comply with the Florida State mandate on teaching about the Holocaust through semi-annual professional development seminars, providing classroom-ready teaching materials and thoughtful, age-appropriate programming. To date, Museum Educators have taught in six Southwest Florida counties, impacting over 150,000 SWFL students, grades K-through college/university level. In addition, the Boxcar Exhibit, on loan to the Museum from Jack and F.E. Norman and The Boxcar Foundation, has served as the centerpiece of many community-wide events seen by approximately 90,000 people on its travels throughout SWFL.

**Museum Exhibits and Special Events**

The Museum hosts both a permanent collection of artifacts, photographs and documents as well as special temporary exhibits throughout the year. Special events open to the community include film and discussions, lecture series, student activities, guest speaker and Holocaust survivor presentations.

**Location, Hours, Tours**

The Museum is located at 4760 Tamiami Trail North, Suite 7, in Naples. It is open year-round Tuesdays through Sundays, and closed Mondays and major Jewish and U.S. holidays. Hours: January - April: Tuesdays-Fridays 12:30-5:00 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays 1:00-4:00 p.m.; May-December: Tuesdays through Sundays 1:00-4:00 p.m. School groups and private tours available by appointment.

For more information, please visit [www.HolocaustMuseumSWFL.org](http://www.HolocaustMuseumSWFL.org) or call 239.263.9200.



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**Museums**

**Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU**

This is the only museum telling the story of 250 years of Florida Jewish life. Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU on South Beach is housed in two lovingly restored buildings that were formerly synagogues for Miami Beach's first congregation. Both on the National Register of Historic Places, the 1936 Art Deco building features

a copper dome, marble bimah and 80 stained-glass windows.

MOSAIC, the permanent exhibition, shows how Jews maintained their traditions and communities as they contributed to develop the state. Changing temporary exhibits focus on themes of Jewish history, art and culture – each with a Florida connection.



Jewish history time lines, films, Orovitz Museum Store, and a Collections and Research Center complete the experience, in addition to a full schedule of events and educational programs that complement the current exhibits.

Annual programs include Florida Jewish History Month in January and Jewish American Heritage Month in May (both initiated by the Museum), Purim Gala, Judaica competitions and Breaking the Glass Ceiling Awards.

Open 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. every day except Mondays and holidays. For more information:

**Jo Ann Arnowitz, Executive Director & Chief Curator**  
 305.672.5044 x3180  
 or [director@jewishmuseum.com](mailto:director@jewishmuseum.com)  
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# Adult Education

## Early 2017 & Ongoing Classes

### Jewish Learning Institute at Chabad Lubavitch of Southwest Florida

Serving learning centers in over 900 communities online, the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) is the world's preeminent provider of Jewish learning. There's an aha! moment in every lesson.

JLI's mission is to make Jewish learning accessible and personally meaningful to every Jew, regardless of background or affiliation. JLI's insightful curricula utilizes cutting-edge pedagogic techniques, embracing the multiple intelligence model and utilizing multimedia and an array of ap-

proaches to engage, educate and inspire all kinds of minds in a dynamic Jewish learning experience.

#### Upcoming courses:

**"Ethical Conundrums: Modern Dilemmas. Talmudic Debates. Your Solutions"**

Strange as it may seem, this is a course without a topic. Instead, it provides an engaging new approach to Talmud study. Each lesson presents a case study with a seemingly impossible ethical conundrum, and explores original Talmudic texts for solutions. Students study

utilize electronic polling to communicate their answers.

#### "Survival of a Nation: Exploring Israel Through the Lens of the Six-Day War"

The fifty-year anniversary of the Six-Day War provides an historic opportunity to discover what Israel means to us today. More than a history, it is a course about connection; understanding our connection to our land, to our people, and to our heritage through the prism of the events and themes of the Six-Day War.

For more information, please call 239.433.7708 or visit [www.chabadswf.org](http://www.chabadswf.org).

texts in pairs, arriving at their own conclusions, and

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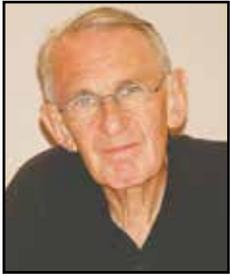
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**Send an email to  
[lenibsack@jfedlcc.org](mailto:lenibsack@jfedlcc.org)**

## Gerald Ziedenberg lectures

Gerald Ziedenberg, historian, lecturer, author and winter resident, is returning to present his popular lecture series at Temple Beth El in Fort Myers.

The community is invited to attend each Monday evening beginning on January 9 through March 27 (excluding February 13 and 27) from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. and learn about history through lectures, discussions and films.



Gerald Ziedenberg

### Topics for the winter series include:

- ◆ The Holocaust: Dr. Janusz Korczak, the heroic doctor of the Warsaw Ghetto who would not leave his 200 orphan children and save himself

- ◆ The Right Wrong Man, the story of John Demjanjuk and the last great Nazi War Crimes Trial
  - ◆ The Russian Jews: Vasily Grossman, one of the greatest figures of Soviet literature and a war correspondent, one of the first to tell the story of the Nazi death camps
  - ◆ Natan Sharansky, who led the fight to free Soviet Jewry and led the immigration that changed the face of Israel
  - ◆ The Scientists: Dr. Jonas Salk, the renowned scientist who saved tens of thousands from the scourge of polio
  - ◆ Albert Einstein, a one-time mathematician, physicist, philosopher, cosmologist, Zionist and a refugee from Nazi Germany
- Classes are free. Please call the temple office for further information at 239.433.0018.

## Adult Education at Temple Beth El

Rabbi Nicole Luna hosts Torah Study on Saturday mornings at 9:00 a.m. Her Liturgy and Learning Class is held each Wednesday afternoon at 1:30 p.m., and a Lunch and Learn at a local restaurant is scheduled at noon on the third Thursday of each month. Winter resident and historian Gerald Ziedenberg holds weekly evening lectures on a variety of subjects throughout the season.

Members hold a weekly Current Events class each Thursday morning at 10:00 a.m. The Media Monitors Roundtable group, which discusses and takes actions regarding examples of current media bias of Israel and events in the Middle East, meets on the fourth Monday of each month in the temple library at 11:00 a.m.

For more information, please call the temple office at 239.433.0018.

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### Adult Education at Bat Yam

**B**at Yam's Saturday morning adult education classes are held from November through April each year and are open to the public.

Beginning at 9:00 a.m., Rabbi Myra Soifer leads a session of Hebrew reading and translation from the Linear Chumash/Devorim.

At 9:30 a.m., Rabbi Soifer shifts from Hebrew to English and to this season's topic, "It's a Mitzvah." Each week she will explore one of the 613 ethical and ritual mitzvot that Jews are expected to follow.

The third segment of the morning is the province of Bat Yam's members. Each week a member speaks about some aspect of Jews in the Diaspora, this season's theme.

On Thursdays at 12:30 p.m., Rabbi Soifer will teach the "off-season" Torah portions.

On Wednesdays, January 11, 18 and 25, at 10:00 a.m. and repeated at 7:30 p.m., Rabbi Soifer, Reverend Danner and Imam Abdul 'Haq Muhammed from Fort Myers will jointly lecture on "The Status of Women," "War and Peace" and "The Messiah."

On Thursday, February 23 at 10:00 a.m., Rabbi Soifer and Reverend Danner will offer a different perspective on those Bible texts often cited as anti-LGBT.

All classes are free and held at Bat Yam's host, the Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ located at 2050 Periwinkle Way on Sanibel.

For more information, go to [www.batyam.org](http://www.batyam.org). For the joint programs, call the Church office at 239.472.0497.

### Jewish Learning Institute at Chabad Jewish Center of Cape Coral

**S**erving learning centers in over 900 communities and online, the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) is the world's preeminent provider of Jewish learning. Chabad Jewish Center of Cape Coral is proud to be an affiliate of JLI.

JLI's mission is to make Jewish learning accessible and personally meaningful to every Jew, regardless of background or affiliation. JLI's insightful curricula utilizes cutting-edge pedagogic techniques, embracing the multiple intelligence model and uti-

lizing multimedia and an array of approaches to engage, educate and inspire all kinds of minds in a dynamic Jewish learning experience.

Upcoming courses include "Talmud Interactive: Ethical Conundrums. Ancient Debates. Your Solutions." and "Survival of a Nation: Exploring Israel Through the Lens of the Six-Day War."

For more information and to register, please call the Chabad office at 239.963.4770 or visit [www.chabadcape.com](http://www.chabadcape.com).

### "Simple Truths" at Chabad of Charlotte County

**T**he Jewish Women's Circle of Chabad of Charlotte County presents a new course:

"Simple Truths – Pivotal Jewish Insights for Centered Living."

Life is tumultuous, like a ship crashing about on the waves of a roaring ocean storm. At times it can seem directionless, with unexpected challenges throwing us about in every which way. However, fortunate for us, buried within our tool chest is an anchor we can cast to restore stability.

This course is about taking to heart life's simple truths, the ones that empower us to overcome our everyday struggles; not by facing the challenges one by one, but by finding our center and aligning with our inner truth.

It is a spiritual search for G-d, but from a cosmopolitan, down-to-earth and plain-spoken approach. It's about training ourselves to see G-d in the

small miracles of everyday life and about gaining perspective when we're in the gym, on the road or in the kitchen.

In "Simple Truths" we grapple with fundamental Jewish viewpoints that profoundly shift our perspective. We train ourselves to see G-d's hand in every situation; and, where G-d is discovered, challenge becomes opportunity, negative becomes positive, setback becomes turning point, and vulnerability and weakness become impetuses for growth and connection.

The course includes seven classes that meet once a month for seven consecutive months. The first class took place in December. The course fee of \$100 includes a course workbook. The fee per class is \$18.

For more information, please call Sheina at 941.258.0188 or visit [chabadofcharlottecounty.com](http://chabadofcharlottecounty.com).

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[www.JewishFederationLCC.org](http://www.JewishFederationLCC.org).**

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# Community Services

## Support Programs & Resources

### Senior Visits

The Jewish Federation's Senior Visits program takes place three times a year – just before Rosh Hashanah, Hanukkah and Passover. These visits mean the world to the senior citizens that the volunteers encounter.

Volunteers fill gift bags with edible kosher treats, prayer guides and gifts, sometimes handmade by children in our community. Then more volunteers stop by the Federation office to pick up pre-filled bags and deliver them to Jewish senior citizens throughout Lee and Charlotte counties.

Many Jewish seniors are isolated from the rest of their families and have limited contact with the world outside of their homes or assisted living facilities. These visits provide this segment of our population with a Jewish connection, which is uniquely important at this life stage.

The Senior Visits for Passover will take place on Sunday, April 2. Gift bags are also given to seniors for Rosh Hashanah and Chanukah.

For more information on how to get involved with this rewarding program, contact Leni Sack at 239.481.4449 x3 or lenisack@jfedlcc.org.

### The Food Pantry

The Jewish Federation Community Food Pantry, a division of Jewish Family Services and affiliated with the Harry Chapin Food Bank, provides sustenance to those in the Lee and Charlotte County area who are in need of the most basic nourishment and support.

The pantry is stocked with non-perishable food items and is open five days a week to the general public. Appointments to pick up items must be made in advance. Call 239.481.4449.

Items may be dropped off at the Jewish Federation Food Pantry, 9701 Commerce Center Court, Fort Myers, Monday thru Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Here is a list of items that are currently needed (in standard-size packages, not family size):

Canned tomato products, pasta sauce, pasta, mac and cheese mixes, canned vegetables, canned fruit, cereals (hot and cold), tuna fish, peanut butter, jelly, crackers, cookies, rice, beans (dry and canned), powdered soups, powdered milk, coffee, tea, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, deodorant,

shampoo.

We accept checks made out to the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties and gift cards from any of the supermarkets in the area.

We cannot accept the following: pork products, outdated items, opened packages, perishable food products.

We thank you in advance for helping those in need in our community!



## FEED THE HUNGRY

**Jewish Family Services,  
located in the Jewish Federation building  
at 9701 Commerce Center Court, Fort Myers,  
can be reached at 239.481.4449 x6.**

## Mikvah

**M**ikvah Bashka (named in memory of Bernice/ Bashka Orkin Kaye) serves Jewish women in an elegant, spa-like facility. Personal instruction is offered prior to the use of the mikvah, in order to familiarize a Jewish woman with the laws and customs associated with Jewish family purity. Private appointments are necessary for use of the mikvah. Please call Chava at 239.898.0079 or Sivan at 646.200.3671.

## Chevra Kadisha

**T**he Chevra Kadisha, or Jewish Burial Society, is an organization of Jewish men and women who see to it that the bodies of Jews are prepared for burial according to Jewish tradition. The two main requirements are the showing of proper respect for the deceased's body, and the ritual cleansing and subsequent dressing for burial.

For further information and guidance, please call Rabbi Yitzchok Minkowicz at Chabad Lubavitch of Southwest Florida at 239.433.7708.

## Garden of Memories Cemetery

**T**emple Beth El owns a small cemetery located within the City of Fort Myers at 3200 Michigan Avenue. This is the oldest Jewish and only temple-owned cemetery in Lee County. It is exclusively for temple members and their immediate family.

Also in the cemetery is a solid granite "Memorial Wall" where names and dates of loved ones buried elsewhere can be engraved.

Each year, two special services are held in the cemetery to honor and remember those buried there and those whose names have been inscribed on the "Wall" – the High Holy Days Cemetery Memorial Service and a Veterans Memorial Day Service.

For more information, please call the temple office at 239.433.0018.

## Funeral Homes & Cemeteries

**Fort Myers Memorial Gardens Funeral Home & Cemetery**  
1589 Colonial Blvd., Fort Myers, 239.936.0555

**Kays Ponger & Uselton Funeral Homes**  
Port Charlotte - 941.625.4113; Punta Gorda - 941.639.1133

**Lee Memorial Park Funeral Home & Cemetery**  
*Garden of David*  
**Hodges Funeral Home at Lee Memorial Park** - 239.334.4880  
**Coral Ridge Funeral Home & Cemetery** - 239.283.0540  
**Hodges - Kiser Funeral Home** - 239.481.4341

## Temple Beth El's Annual Mitzvah Day

**O**ne of the most important dates on Temple Beth El's calendar is its annual Mitzvah Day each spring. From supporting the troops to caring for the environment, from helping sick children to feeding the hungry, there is a project for everyone. Temple members, young and old, participate in the many activities planned. It has always been an opportunity to work together on a variety of projects that help the synagogue, our community and the world.

In past years, volunteers have written letters to soldiers, made and delivered sandwiches for the homeless, collected and created baskets of necessary toiletries for women in shelters, delivered homemade knit shawls to cancer patients in treatment, delivered gift bags to the Children's Hospital, made and sent hundreds of cool ties for troops in the deserts, cleaned up Fort Myers Beach, raised money for Relay for Life and Lighthouse for the Blind, donated items to Dress for Success and the local Humane Society, held successful blood drives, and educated and signed up people to be organ and bone marrow donors.

Over 200 men, women and children participate each year, and Temple Beth El is proud to be continuing this annual event. For more information, please call the temple office at 239.433.0018.



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# Organizations

## Special Interest Groups

### Collier/Lee Chapter of Hadassah

Over 100 years ago, one Jewish woman, Henrietta Szold, had the ability and determination to take action and create change at a time when women were not even permitted to vote, and Hadassah was born. Hadassah is committed to strengthening the unity of the Jewish people.

In Israel, it accomplishes this through progressive healthcare, education, youth institutions and volunteerism. In the United States, Hadassah reaches its goals through Jewish and Zionist education programs, Zionist Youth programs and health awareness programs, as well as by advocating for issues of importance to women and to the American Jewish community.

Nominated for a Nobel Prize in 2005, Hadassah Medical Organization (HMO) treats approximately one million patients a year regardless of religion or nationality. HMO is internationally recognized for decades of leadership in stem cell research, and for immunotherapies that marshal the body's own

resources to fight disease. The stunning results of HMO clinical trials for potential treatments of ALS and other neurodegenerative diseases have riveted the worldwide medical community.

Hadassah receives a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator due to its high percentage of funds that are devoted to the organization's projects. It has a very high ranking for transparency and accountability.



By becoming a Hadassah Associate, men can participate in Hadassah's mission of peace and healing. Working alongside Hadassah women or spearheading initiatives on their own, Associates make a significant contribution to the basic values of the Jewish people: tikkun olam (repairing the world) and tzedakah.

Everyone is welcome to join, so if you would like to become a member, or learn more about the extraordinary work of Hadassah, please contact:

**Gayle Dorio, co-President**  
239.530.8992 or  
gayledorio@gmail.com

**Karen Cohn, co-President**  
239.370.6220  
kcohnrdh@gmail.com  
**Donna Goldblatt, Membership co-Vice President**, 239.597.3441 or mom443@aol.com

### Jewish Young Professionals

Looking for a vibrant Jewish life with other young adults? Looking for engagement in the Jewish community through volunteerism and philanthropy? Looking to do some social and professional networking?

Created for Jewish 25- to 40-year-olds, the Jewish Young Professionals (JYP) group of the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties features social activities that foster long-lasting friendships and professional connections. Events include volunteer opportunities, happy hours, dinners, holiday celebrations and more.

To get connected or for more information:

**Leni Sack**, 239.481.4449 x3 or lenibsack@jfedlcc.org

#### Wills, Estates and Trusts

**Eric Gurgold, Esq.**

Florida Bar Board Certified Wills, Trust and Estate Attorney

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**Guy E. Whitesman, Esq.**

Florida Bar Board Certified Tax Attorney



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www.afgfl.com

## Special Interest Groups

### Hadassah – Sharon Chapter (Charlotte County)

Originally part of the Lee County Chapter of Hadassah, the Sharon Chapter of Port Charlotte got its own charter on January 23, 1979. The primary purpose of the Port Charlotte chapter is to raise funds for two hospitals in Jerusalem: Mount Scopus and Ein Kerem. Hadassah is now proud to announce the opening of the newest hospital, the Sara Westman Davidson Tower in Jerusalem. Hadassah also provides education about health care issues in the United States.

The Sharon Chapter meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Programs vary with health education be-

ing of prime importance. Physicians, nutritionists, health and fitness professionals, and representatives of health service agencies are featured.

The chapter received a Golden Gavel award from the *Sarasota Herald-Tribune* for its Osteoporosis Education & Awareness Program, which was sponsored by the Florida Department of Elder Affairs.

Programs are entertaining as well as educational, and include card parties, fashion shows, book club meetings, and performing “mitzvot” by visiting seniors in nursing homes during the Jewish holidays. The Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties provides Hadassah with the “Goody Bags.”

For more information or to join:

**Odette Port, President**

941.505.1409



### JFed Social Club

The JFed Social Club is a social group to bring Jewish community members together to do a variety of activities. Dining out, having potluck dinners, visiting a museum, going to a play, and celebrating a Jewish holiday together are just some of the activities the group has enjoyed over the past year.

This is a great opportunity for newcomers to the area to meet others and for established members of our community to make new friends. The primary interest in the group has come from couples and singles, who are empty nesters and/or retirees.

For more information:

**Leni Sack**

239.481.4449 x3 or

lenibsack@jfedlcc.org

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## Generations of the Shoah – SWFL

**G**enerations of the Shoah of Southwest Florida (GenShoah) was formed in 2009 through an initiative by the Holocaust Museum & Education Center of Southwest Florida.

This group is not only for children of Holocaust survivors, but for all those who share its fourfold mission of: “Promotion of Holocaust education and human rights, preservation of the history and memories of the Holocaust,



Ida Margolis, GenShoah Chair, and Steve Brazina, Program Director

connection of members of the Second Generation to one another, and support of the Holocaust Museum & Education Center of Southwest Florida.”

GenShoah presents programs from October to April at the Holocaust Museum and other announced venues. Programs include films, local and nationally-known speakers, and book discussions. The public is welcome to attend these presentations.

Any visitors to our community who are Holocaust survivors, children or grandchildren of survivors, or who share GenShoah’s mission are encouraged to attend programs.

GenShoah sends out a monthly newsletter announcing programs and related local events. To receive the newsletter or for more information:

**Ida Margolis**

genshoahswfl@icloud.com or  
239.963.9347

## Shalom Life Center

**S**halom Life Center is a non-denominational Jewish spiritual community founded to meet the changing needs of Southwest Florida. The Center provides a warm, welcoming and inspiring environment for all regardless of age, background and level of observance. Through acts of loving kindness, music and prayer, the Center provides a nonjudgmental spiritually uplifting atmosphere.

Offered are Torah study, choir, a Yiddish Culture Club, Women’s Circle, Men’s Club, BBYO, and individualized Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparation for typical and neurodiverse teens. In addition, there are many special events and concerts throughout the season like Shabbat Rock Café, Cocktails and Kvelling, and the annual Bark Mitzvah, which are open to the entire community.

Spiritual Leader Lawrence Dermer is formerly of the clergy team of one of the largest synagogues in the country, Temple Beth El of Boca Raton. Along with his wife, Robin, they are inspiring and transformational leaders whose vision, enthusiasm and spirituality help people to actualize their highest potential.

The Center’s message is traditional and the worship is contemporary. Join the Shalom Life Center Band every Friday evening at 7:30 p.m. for a joyful, musical and meaningful Shabbat worship experience in the beautiful sanctuary.

The Shalom Life Center is located at 13411 Shire Lane, Fort Myers.

To learn more:

239.218.3433

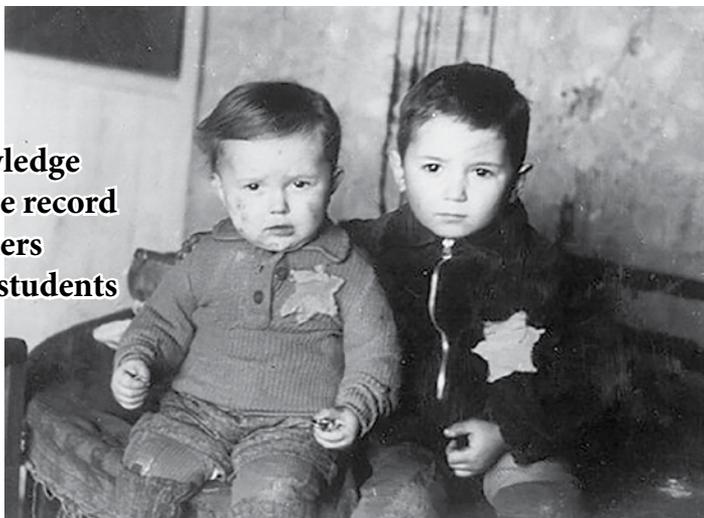
info@shalomlifecenter.org

www.shalomlifecenter.org

## Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Genocide Studies

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**Special Interest Groups**

**Jewish Historical Society of SWFL**

The Jewish Historical Society of Southwest Florida was established in 2010. The Society's mission is to educate, promote and celebrate awareness of Jews in Southwest Florida – from their first arrival to their current makeup here.

JHSSWF activities include preservation and protection of the Jewish history of Southwest Florida by collecting living legacies, testimonies, videos and other items of relevance to early Southwest Florida Jews.

The Society seeks out, collects and preserves written, spoken and photographic records for the purpose of creating archives and keeping historical accuracy of the Jewish presence

in this area. It has created The Virtual Museum of Southwest Florida Jewish History. Now everyone, everywhere may explore, learn and contribute their knowledge, research or resources. Visit the museum at <http://jewishhistorysouthwestflorida.org>.

To celebrate Florida Jewish History Month, in January, JHSSWF presents its original "Southwest Florida Jewish Pioneers" film series. The films are personal accounts by eyewitnesses who helped establish and expand the Jewish presence in Southwest Florida. The

films are repeated throughout the year for those who sign up for the Society's email or mail lists.

The Jewish Historical Society of Southwest Florida is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to preservation of the local Jewish History.

Membership is open to all. For more information:

[office@jhsswf.org](mailto:office@jhsswf.org)  
239.566.1771 (leave a message for Marina Berkovich)  
[www.JHSSWF.org](http://www.JHSSWF.org)



The Virtual Museum of Southwest Florida Jewish History collage



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## HAZAK 55+

Temple Judea's HAZAK 55+ Chapter is for singles or couples of at least 55 years of age. The organization is affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. Temple Judea's HAZAK chapter was formed seven years ago and is a Chartered member. Its purpose is to allow members to meet and socialize with each other while enjoying entertaining, educational and religious programs. And, of course, having lunch or dinner together as a group is always enjoyable.

Two examples of programs planned include HAZAK Shabbat on Saturday, January 14, when Amy Snyder will be the guest speaker. Amy is the Executive Director of the Holocaust Museum & Education Center of Southwest Florida. HAZAK will sponsor the Kiddush lunch.

On Sunday, February 5, local artists Carolyn Gora and Herb Sklar will give a PowerPoint presentation and speak about their recent trip to Israel.

In addition to other programs, a trip to the Holocaust Museum in the spring is also being planned.

Information about HAZAK events appears monthly in the *L'CHAYIM* newspaper and Temple Judea's *Scroll*.

Annual dues are a modest \$5 per person. New members are always welcome. If you are new to Fort Myers, please give the group a try. If you are not new to the area, come and meet new friends.

For more information:

**George or Joyce Rosinger**

239.437.1566

**Temple Judea office**

239.433.0201

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## Humanistic Jewish Havurah

Humanistic Judaism is a voice for Jews who value their Jewish identity and who seek an alternative to conventional Judaism. The movement founded by Rabbi Sherwin Wine in 1963 has grown to be considered a fifth branch of Judaism.

A basic tenet of Humanistic Judaism is that our power resides within each of us. Whether a higher power exists is mostly irrelevant because no matter what we say we believe, it's what we do that counts. (Humanism is compatible with atheism, agnosticism, ignosticism, deism and naturalism.)

Humanistic Jews affirm their identity as members of the Jewish people drawing strength from Jewish history and culture. They see Jewish history as testimony to the continuing struggle for human dignity and, like the history of other peoples, as a product of human decisions and actions.

They demonstrate connection to Jewish culture and history through Humanistic celebrations of Jewish customs and holidays, creating Jewish rituals, services and celebrations in ways that help them express their Humanistic values. They seek to foster a positive Jewish identity that is committed to intellectual integrity and ethical behavior.

The Humanistic Jewish Havurah of Southwest Florida, formed in late spring 2008, soon affiliated with the Society for Humanistic Judaism ([www.shj.org](http://www.shj.org)), the umbrella organization for the nearly 30 other Humanistic Jewish communities throughout North America. Members receive the benefits and publications of SHJ along with having the opportunity to express their Jewish identity with like-minded people here in Southwest Florida.

Members meet one Sunday afternoon each month in the David G. Willens Community Room of the Jewish Federation of Collier County, the

first Friday of every month for Shabbat dinner and discussions, as well as gatherings to observe Rosh Hashanah, commemorate Yom Kippur, celebrate Chanukah and enjoy a wonderful Humanistic Jewish community Seder. Several cultural events take place each season as well.

For more information:

**Dena Sklaroff**, 239.591.0101

[www.hjhsfwfl.org](http://www.hjhsfwfl.org)

## Jewish War Veterans Post 400

Jewish War Veterans "Victor Paul Tuchman" Post 400 (JWV) is the local post of the oldest active veterans organization in America, founded in 1896. Active membership may be granted to "any person of the Jewish faith of good character" who is a U.S. citizen and was an active duty member of the U.S. military (including the National Guard and Reserves) in or during any war, campaign or conflict with honorable military discharge.

"Paul Victor Tuchman" Post 400 supports our Jewish troops serving in the battle zones with gift packages containing appreciated items from home. The Post also supports the Fort Myers VA along with the many homeless and disadvantaged veterans in the area.

Members of the Post are veterans from WWII through the present, including members on active duty presently serving in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Breakfast meetings, which are held at 9:30 a.m. on the last Sunday of each month (with a few exceptions) at the Jewish Federation offices, include bagels/lox/cream cheese, coffee, active discussions and engaging speakers. All veterans are welcome.

For more information:

**Harvey Charter, Post Commander**  
239.561.6535

**Bob Ruberto, Senior  
Vice Commander**, 239.482.2552

**Berny Aronson, Quartermaster**  
239.225.0178

**Israel Connection**

**American Technion Society  
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The Technion-Israel Institute of Technology is a major source of the innovations and brainpower that drives the Israeli economy, and a key to Israel's renown as the world's "Start-Up Nation." Its three Nobel Prize winners exemplify academic excellence.

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For more information:

**Ariane Aronhime**

Regional Director

410.602.0275 or ariane@ats.org

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## Zionist Organization of America

Founded in 1897, the Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) is the world's oldest pro-Israel organization. It was instrumental in the Jewish state becoming a reality by mobilizing the support of the U.S. government, Congress and the American public for the creation of Israel. Under the leadership of such illustrious past presidents as Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis and Rabbi Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, ZOA has been on the front lines of Jewish activism.

Today, with a national membership of over 30,000, and chapters throughout the United States, ZOA works to strengthen U.S.-Israeli relations through educational activities; by working Capitol Hill; and by combating anti-Israel bias in the media and on

college campuses.

The local chapter is proactively involved with all issues concerning Israel and the worldwide Jewish community. Meetings are held monthly at support-



ing synagogues in Naples, and feature noted speakers. To name just a few who have appeared over the years:

- ◆ Bret Stephens: Pulitzer Prize winner and Wall Street Journal columnist
- ◆ Jonathan Tobin: editor of Com-

mentary Magazine and syndicated column, View From America

- ◆ Yoram Ettinger: Former Israeli Ambassador and Publisher of the Ettinger Report

The local chapter maintains a speakers guild available to speak to community organizations about Israel advocacy issues. ZOA is an ecumenical organization open to the public and seeks new membership from all who are interested in supporting the State of Israel.

For more information, to be added to the local mailing list or to arrange to have a ZOA presentation for your organization, contact:

**Jerrold L. Sobel,**  
**Chapter President**  
 jerrysobel@aol.com

## WHAT IS YOUR LEGACY?

### A WORLD FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Creating a legacy is rewarding not only to the giver, but to our community. And perhaps most important is the enduring nature of planned giving -- use the fund to honor or remember a loved one, perpetuating your family name long beyond your lifetime.

### DECIDE HOW YOUR GIFT IS USED

Provide unrestricted funds to help meet community needs now and in the future or provide permanent resources to aid programs or initiatives that are of particular interest to you and your family.



### SHAPE THE JEWISH FUTURE

### The Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties

works to instill in our community a strong sense of Jewish identity and a deep connection to our shared Jewish heritage, to Israel and to Jews around the world. You can ensure that Jewish traditions and values are passed on to the next generations.

### USE A TRUSTED PARTNER

For decades, hundreds of donors and their financial advisors have entrusted The Jewish Federation to be their partner in their thoughtful planning of Jewish philanthropy and management of charitable assets.



Visit [www.JewishFederationLCC.org](http://www.JewishFederationLCC.org) or contact Alan Isaacs at 239.481.4449 x7 or [alanisaacs@jfedlcc.org](mailto:alanisaacs@jfedlcc.org).

## Israel Connection

### American Friends of Magen David Adom

**M**agen David Adom is Israel's ambulance, blood-services and disaster-relief organization, serving as emergency medical first-responders for the state's more than 8.5 million people. MDA is the only organization mandated by the



AMERICAN FRIENDS OF  
MAGEN DAVID ADOM

Israeli government to serve in this role, but it's not a government agency, so it relies on people like you for funding.

Every Israeli knows someone whose life has been changed by MDA, whether as a volunteer or a patient. The



people of Israel count on MDA EMTs and paramedics to rush to the scene of every emergency. In Israel, that can be anything from a terror attack to a heart attack. But they also count on the Americans who feel the urgency of Israeli ambulance sirens from across the

globe and join MDA's rescue efforts with their generous support. When you give to MDA, it's as if you're sitting in the ambulance next to the paramedics sharing in the mitzvah of saving lives.

For more information:

**Tammy Karu**, AFMDA  
Southeast Region Director  
800.626.0046 or  
southeast@afmda.org  
www.afmda.org

### Jewish National Fund

**J**ewish National Fund (JNF) began in 1901 as a dream and vision to reestablish a homeland in Israel for Jewish people everywhere. Jews the world over collected coins in iconic JNF Blue Boxes, purchasing land and planting trees until, ultimately, their dream of a Jewish homeland was a reality. Today, JNF continues to give all generations a unique voice in building and ensuring the prosperity of the land of Israel through their generosity and partnership with the people of Israel.

JNF embodies both heart and action; its work is varied in scope but singular in benefit. It strives to bring an enhanced quality of life to all of Israel's residents, and translate these advancements to the world beyond. JNF is greening the desert with millions of trees, building thousands of parks, creating new communities and cities for generations of Israelis to call home,

bolstering Israel's water supply, helping develop innovative arid-agriculture techniques, and educating both young and old about the founding and importance of Israel and Zionism.

JNF is a registered 501(c)(3) organization and United Nations NGO, which continuously earns top ratings from charity overseers.

The Lee-Charlotte area is served by the Northern Florida Regional office.

For more information:

**Uri Smajovits**  
Northern Florida Director  
usmajovits@jnf.org  
727.536.5263

**Marcy Friedland**  
Western Florida Senior Campaign Executive  
mfriedland@jnf.org  
941.217.7400  
www.jnf.org

### DID WE MISS YOU?

**If you are a non-profit Jewish agency in South Florida and we missed you, and you would like to be listed in the next edition of *Connections*, please call or write:**

**(239) 249-0699**

**LChayim36@gmail.com**

**Display ads are also available.**

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## Media Monitors Roundtable

**M**edia Monitors Roundtable is a non-partisan group dedicated to promoting accurate and balanced coverage of Israel and the Middle East. Additionally, the group monitors and exposes instances of anti-Semitism in the mainstream media. It accomplishes this task by monitoring and analyzing news reports and editorial content. Through analysis, research and fact-checking, the group is able to counter inaccurate and distorted media accounts of events.

This local group is proactive about recognizing and responding to the frequently inaccurate and skewed characterizations of Israel and of events in the Middle East which may further fuel anti-Israel and anti-Jewish prejudice. The group meets the last Monday of each month at 11:00 a.m. in the Temple Beth El library.

For more information:

**Laurie Morris**

laurie2287@gmail.com

**Linda Sweet**

linsweet8@gmail.com

## StandWithUs

**S**tandWithUs (SWU) is a 15-year-old, international, non-profit Israel education organization. It believes that education is the road to peace. Through fellowships, conferences, materials, social media, educational films and missions to Israel, StandWithUs supports people around the world who want to educate their campuses and communities about Israel.

Based in Los Angeles, SWU has chapters throughout the United States including the Southeast, in Israel, Canada, the U.K. and Australia.

StandWithUs/Southeast, based in Boca Raton, opened three years ago and in a short time has markedly increased awareness of the importance of Israel education and advocacy. SWU has ed-

ucated thousands of people through programming in high schools, college campuses and community events. SWU/Southeast offers fellowship programs on college campuses that work to develop pro-Israel leaders; its high school programs empower teens to stand up for Israel now and in the future.

StandWithUS is proud of its partnerships that help reach all these audiences and it looks forward to continuing to collaborate on events relevant to Israel.

For more information:

**Sara Gold Rafel**, Director,

StandWithUs/Southeast

sarar@standwithus.com

or 561.961.0752

www.standwithus.com

www.facebook.com/

standwithussoutheast

## American Israel Public Affairs Committee

**B**orn out of the ashes of the Holocaust when the Jewish community had no political strength, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee empowers pro-Israel activists to advocate on behalf of a strong U.S.-Israel relationship.

As America's leading pro-Israel lobby, AIPAC works with Democrats, Republicans and Independents on Capitol Hill and in all 435 congressional districts. With a staff of just 11 professional lobbyists, AIPAC's strength comes from its 100,000 members nationwide who are politically active and develop relationships with their members of Congress and educate them about the importance of U.S.-Israel ties.

AIPAC believes it is in America's best interests to maintain a strong alliance with Israel, and to exercise our constitutional right to advocate on behalf of that alliance.

The 2017 AIPAC Annual Pol-

icy Conference in Washington, D.C., (www.aipac.org/pc) will be held March 26-28. Join over 13,000 pro-Israel friends from all 50 states as they descend on our nation's capital to hear from leading policy-makers and elected officials.

For more information:

**Elana Rickel**, AIPAC's North & Central Florida Director

954.382.6110

or erickel@aipac.org

www.aipac.org

## Anti-Defamation League

**T**he Anti-Defamation League (ADL) is on the frontline of fighting anti-Semitism, racism and all forms of hatred in America and abroad. Founded in 1913, ADL is one of the nation's leading civil rights agencies, with a mission 'to stop the defamation of the Jewish people and secure justice and fair treatment to all.'

As the 9-1-1 for the Jewish community in Florida, ADL serves as the primary resource for victims of anti-Semitism. ADL also fields discrimination complaints of all kinds.

The ADL Florida office delivers anti-bias education programs to educators and students; trains law enforcement about hate crimes; safeguards civil rights; confronts anti-Semitism in schools and on college campuses; provides security seminars to religious institutions; and advocates for Israel.

A leader in the development of anti-bias curricula, materials, programs and services, ADL builds bridges of communication, understanding and respect among diverse groups. It carries out its mission through a network of offices in the U.S. and abroad, including the Florida regional office.

For more information:

561.988.2900, florida@adl.org, or <http://florida.adl.org>

# Religious Life

## Temple Beth El

**T**emple Beth El, Lee County's first and largest Jewish congregation, was founded over 62 years ago by a small group of people who dreamed of an organized Jewish community. In October 1954, land was purchased for \$1,200 and the first Jewish Community Center building was built.

The congregation quickly outgrew its first sanctuary, and fundraising efforts began for the construction of a larger building. In 1964, land in Cape Coral was donated and a new temple was built.

In 1991, land was donated to build a synagogue on Winkler Road in South Fort Myers. Designed by architect and temple member Bruce Gora, the new building was completed in 1994 and its members continue to worship there today.

The continuing preeminence of Temple Beth El is attributed to its outstanding rabbinic and professional leadership, its dynamic lay leaders, its creative and dedicated membership, and its wide range of activities.

The congregation is open and welcoming to all who seek to explore the principles and beliefs of Reform Judaism. Rabbi Nicole Luna recognizes the power of a welcoming rabbi and congregation, and works to build a sacred community. Among a myriad of educational opportunities, Rabbi Luna leads Saturday Torah Study at 9:00 a.m., a Life and Liturgy Class on Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m., and a monthly Lunch and Learn.

Temple Beth El is especially proud of its Religious School, under the leadership of Director Dale Cohen, and the Learning Tree Preschool, under the direction of Jesyca Virnig. The Learning Tree just received its second "5 Star" rating, the first in Southwest Florida to receive this prestigious designation.

Many activities are offered year-round by the Men's Club, Sisterhood, Machers and Mavens Bookclub, Schmoozers Social Group, Mah Jongg, current events class, adult choir and much more.

The Temple Beth El Gift Gallery displays the area's largest and finest selection of Judaica items and gifts from Israel and around the world.

Temple Beth El welcomes all to attend its services and participate in its many activities.



Rabbi Nicole Luna leads Temple Beth El's Tot Shabbat



Temple Beth El staff

### TEMPLE BETH EL OF FORT MYERS

16225 Winkler Road  
Fort Myers, FL 33908

• **Telephone:** (239) 433-0018

• **Fax:** (239) 433-3235

• **Email:** temple.info@templebethel.com

• **Website:**

www.templebethel.com

• **Rabbi Nicole Luna**

• **Movement/Affiliation:** Reform

• **Services:** Shabbat Eve 7:30 p.m.; Shabbat Torah Study 9:00 a.m.

• **Organizations:** Sisterhood, Men's Club, Garden of Memories Cemetery, Junior Youth Group, BEFTY Senior Youth Group, Social Action Committee, Sharing and Caring, Schmoozers, Machers and Mavens Book Club

• **TBE Gift Gallery**

• **Special Programs/Features:** Adult Education (including Life and Liturgy, Lunch and Learn, Jewish current Events) Mah Jongg Tournaments, Family Shabbat Potluck Dinners, TBE Cruise, Trips to Israel, Religious and Hebrew School, Learning Tree Preschool

## Temple Judea

Temple Judea is a progressive yet traditional egalitarian congregation affiliated with United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. The congregation encourages and supports all people who seek to explore and express Jewish commitment.

Temple Judea opens doors to Jewish learning and growth, prayer and observance, and acts of social responsibility. It offers services and programs on both Friday evenings and Shabbat mornings, as well as a minyan on Monday mornings. Services at Temple Judea, which are largely lay-led, are in Hebrew with English readings. A Com-



Alexandra Polk

panion to Prayer provides a full transliteration of the Shabbat services and a guide to Jewish ritual life. Attendees at Shabbat and holiday morning services enjoy a delicious Kiddush luncheon prepared by members.

Temple Judea is connected to and involved in the greater community. It serves dinners twice monthly at Sally's Café, the Salvation Army soup kitchen. It has also hosted an interfaith luncheon, Bible study, and an interfaith Thanksgiving service. The temple regularly has leaders from the greater community speak at Friday night dinners.

Rabbi Marc Sack is a graduate of the Jewish Theological Seminary and Columbia University. Rabbi Sack also has training in community organizing with the Industrial Areas Foundation.

Rabbi Sack and his wife, Leni, came to Fort Myers from Tampa, where he led a congregation for eighteen years. Leni Sack is the program director for the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties.

The religious school provides excellent Hebrew and Judaic education for children in pre-K through 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Children develop a strong Jewish identity in a positive and fun atmosphere. The school program includes both classroom learning and experiential activities. Most importantly, students master the skills of leading Shabbat services and reading Torah so they can participate fully in synagogue life.

Temple Judea also offers many opportunities for adult Jewish learning. Rabbi Sack leads a monthly lunch-and-learn Torah study on the first Thursday of the month, as well as an Introduction to Judaism and Talmud study.

Temple Judea is a social congregation. Its Hazak chapter offers relaxed activities for people ages 55+. Chaverot is the social and service organization for women. Kadima and USY are groups for students in grades 6-12.



Jan and Jed Klein



Karina Lewin and Rabbi Marc Sack

Temple Judea Preschool is an accredited preschool and is considered one of the top programs in the area for children ages 18-months to pre-K.

All people are welcome to participate in and join the Temple Judea community.

### TEMPLE JUDEA

14486 A&W Bulb Road  
Fort Myers, FL 33908

• **Telephone:** (239) 433-0201

• **Fax:** (239) 433-3371

• **Website:** www.tjswfl.org

• **Rabbi Marc Sack**

• **President: Jennifer Manekin**

• **Movement/Affiliation:**

Conservative/United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

• **Services:** 6:15 p.m. Friday and 9:30 a.m. Saturday; minyan: 9:00 a.m. Monday and Thursday

• **Gift shop benefitting Yad LaKashish, Jerusalem**

• **Special Programs/Features:**

Family Holiday events, Religious School, Preschool, Mommy and Me, Adult Education, Women's Rosh Chodesh Group, Junior Congregation, Once a month Shabbat Potluck Dinner, Meditation Circle, Hazak 55+

# Temple Beth Shalom

Since its founding in 1973, Temple Beth Shalom has been home to Reform Judaism in Cape Coral, Pine Island, North Fort Myers and the greater Fort Myers area. All are welcome in the tradition of liberal, charitable open arms that bring many different ages, backgrounds, mixed marriages and lifestyles together in spiritual harmony. The temple building houses the sanctuary, social hall with full kitchen, two classrooms and meeting rooms. Recent renovations have kept the building up to date, mostly through the generous input of temple volunteers.

Rabbi Devora Buchen has been leading the congregation for more than twelve years. She tirelessly directs the choir, Saturday morning Torah Study, and programs such as adult and youth B'nai Mitzvah classes, as well as a Brown Bag Lunch discussion group every other Wednesday. Rabbi Buchen has been a personal inspiration to all the B'nai Mitzvah children in keeping them in the fold of Jewish life and traditions. She leads a spe-

cial Shabbat service for the children on the first Friday of each month, bringing the youth onto the bimah and having them participate in the service.

On the other Friday nights there is a Kabbalat Shabbat service filled with song and joy, and a mingling of old, new and prospective members at the Oneg Shabbat. No one goes away unwelcomed, unattended or unfed from the dessert tables. Birthdays and special occasions are also celebrated as the Sisterhood prepares a beautiful spread. All the major holidays are celebrated with the temple

choir – a group of members who lead the congregation in singing the traditional songs.

Temple Beth Shalom has a forty-year tradition of truly servicing the

congregation and it's because the congregants participate in the many social, cultural and educational opportunities offered. Many dedicated members are involved in planning and leading these activities. A food and supplies drive is held for local charities like schools and food banks. There are special events including bowling, mah jongg, bingo and dance parties. Other events include the annual Samuel Belkin Golf Tournament, which benefits a local charity, monthly Rosh Chodesh meetings, a latke party during Hanukkah, Sukkot dinner under the stars, museum visits, fishing trips and sporting events attended together.

There is truly something for everyone who walks in the door. The temple motto is "Come as a guest, leave as a friend, return as family."



Rabbi Devora Buchen



Cleaning the silver for the High Holy Days



## TEMPLE BETH SHALOM

702 SE 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Cape Coral, FL 33990

• **Telephone:** (239) 772-4555

• **Email:**  
office@templebethshalomcc.org

• **Website:**  
www.templebethshalomcc.org

• **Rabbi Devora Buchen**

• **Movement/Affiliation:** Reform  
• **Services:** Shabbat and Holidays;  
7:30 p.m. every Friday;  
Family Shabbat Service on the  
first Friday of the month  
ALL ARE WELCOME

• **Organizations:** Sisterhood,  
Brotherhood

• **Special Programs/Features:**  
Weekly Friday evening kabbalat  
Shabbat services with oneg,  
Shabbat dinners, Holiday  
programs, Religious School  
(pre-K to grade 6), B'nai Mitzvah  
training, Adult Jewish Education  
and Conversion Classes,  
Saturday morning Torah Study  
with the Rabbi, Rosh Chodesh  
meetings for women, Bowling  
League, Golf Tournaments

## The Community Free Synagogue

Now in its 12<sup>th</sup> year, the Community Free Synagogue's name was chosen to describe its philosophy and function.

The Community Free Synagogue sets right the idea of "belonging" – you don't "belong" to the synagogue and it does not sell memberships. The synagogue spiritually belongs to all those who regard it as an essential part of their Jewish lives. As a vital, thriving community resource, it serves both the needs of those who enjoy the closeness and warmth that comes with regular participation, and also of those who turn to it in times of special need. This is what the "Community" means in its name.

The "Free" in the Community Free Synagogue has two meanings:

The first is that it never charges for anything nor does it ever solicit funds. One of CFS' founding principles is that people are to be treated and respected as adults who can be relied upon to do the right thing when given the chance.

This principle has served the synagogue well, since it has always comfortably supported itself through broad-based volunteerism and the generosity of those who regard the Community Free Synagogue as their spiritual home.

The second meaning of "Free" is the synagogue's "politics-free" environment. While its deeply committed religious leader, Rabbi Bruce Diamond, sets the religious course and high standards of the synagogue, the day-to-day life of the congregation reflects a broad consensus of those who par-

ticipate, since everyone's voice matters and is given equal weight. Tremendous energy and creativity are generated by



Rabbi Bruce Diamond

interested people coming together to achieve their goals without having to get permission from committees and "officers in charge."

CFS freely provides:

- ◆ weekly Sabbath Eve dinners and worship
- ◆ Sabbath morning Torah Study breakfasts
- ◆ quality Adult Education courses on

basic and advanced levels

- ◆ free weekly effective Youth Education culminating in Bar and Bat celebrations
- ◆ a full range of festival observances throughout the year including Seder suppers
- ◆ monthly "Brown Bag" Movie Nights
- ◆ biennial Israel Pilgrimages
- ◆ ample parking and transportation to those in need

While there still remains a place for "brick and mortar" synagogues and the congregations that occupy them, the dynamic changes in America's 21<sup>st</sup> century Jewish population require creative new adaptations in its progressive communal religious life. The Community Free Synagogue is one exciting expression of this.

Feel free to think of The Community Free Synagogue as yours, since it is meant for you!



Simchat Torah celebration



Celebrating Sukkot at the Community Free Synagogue sukkah

### THE COMMUNITY FREE SYNAGOGUE

Meets at the Southwest Florida Masonic Center, 10868 Metro Parkway, South Fort Myers, FL

**Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 07144 Fort Myers, FL 33919

• **Telephone:** (239) 274- SHUL (7485)

• **Email:** synfree@comcast.net

• **Website:**

[www.fortmyerssynagogue.com](http://www.fortmyerssynagogue.com)

• **Rabbi Bruce Diamond, D.D.**

• **Music Director:**  
**Dianne Coffman**

• **Movement/Affiliation:**  
Progressive

• **Shabbat Activities:** Community Sabbath Eve Dinner & Services 6:30 p.m.; Sabbath Morning Torah Study Breakfast 9:30 a.m.

• **Special Programs/Features:** Open-Door High Holiday Worship and Free Community Seders, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, Adult Education, Israel trips

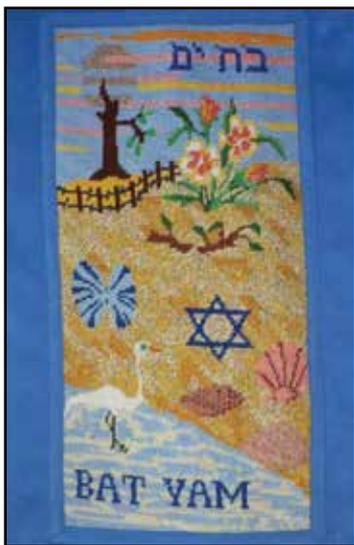
# Bat Yam - Temple of the Islands

In January of 1991, Bat Yam became the first and only Jewish congregation on Sanibel Island to serve residents and guests of Sanibel, Captiva, Fort Myers and surrounding communities. Seventy-five people attended the first meeting of the new Reform Jewish congregation. The group developed a mission statement that remains the same today. Bat Yam is to provide a place of worship in the Reform tradition and create an extended Jewish family.

The Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ agreed to host the new Jewish congregation and permitted Bat Yam to build an ark in Fellowship Hall so that Shabbat services could be held. This close relationship with the Church continues to this day. There is an annual pulpit exchange and classes are co-taught by Rabbi Myra Soifer and the Reverend Dr. John Danner, Senior Pas-

tor of the Church. Bat Yam Cantorial Soloist Douglas Renfroe and Reverend Danner combine their musical talents to co-teach classes and present an annual concert.

The ark holds two Torahs. Becky and Beno Kon donated one Torah. Ann and Len Arnoff, in memory of their daughter, made the arrangements for a Holocaust Torah. The Torah is on permanent loan from the Westminster Holocaust Museum in London. It was flown to Florida and carefully transported to Sanibel. Each Torah has a hand-embroidered distinctive cover.



The temple's hand-embroidered Torah cover

In January 2014, Rabbi Myra Soifer joined the Bat Yam family. Ordained in 1978 by Hebrew Union College/Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, she was one of the first ten women rabbis. Prior to Bat Yam, Rabbi Soifer retired as Rabbi at Temple Sinai in Reno, Nevada, after twenty-five years.

Bat Yam celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anni-

versary with a splendid gala event in January 2016.

It expects to have many more noteworthy milestones.



Rabbi Myra Soifer

**BAT YAM - TEMPLE OF THE ISLANDS**  
**Meets** at Sanibel Congregational Church, 2050 Periwinkle Way Sanibel Island, FL  
**Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 84, Sanibel, FL 33957  
**Email:** batyamsanibel@gmail.com  
**Website:** www.batyam.org  
**Rabbi Myra Soifer**  
**Cantorial Soloist:** Douglas Renfroe  
**President:** Alan Lessack  
**Movement/Affiliation:** Reform/ Union for Reform Judaism  
**Services:** Friday at 7:30 p.m. (Nov-Apr); Friday at 7:00 p.m. (May-Oct);  
**Saturday classes:** 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. (Nov-Apr)

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 [lenibsack@jfedlcc.org](mailto:lenibsack@jfedlcc.org).

# Chabad Lubavitch of Southwest Florida

As the story goes, when Rabbi Yitzchok and Nechamie Minkowicz arrived in Fort Myers 22 years ago, a few local Jews asked them if they “got off on the wrong exit.” But you’d never ask that today, once you see their brand new 11,000 sq. ft. building that houses the headquarters of Chabad of Southwest Florida, Chabad of Fort Myers, Congregation Shmuel Synagogue, Maimonides Hebrew Day School, and a myriad of other Jewish programming, spanning the entire



Rabbi Yitzchok and Nechamie Minkowicz

calendar year, and tailored to meet the needs of Jews of all ages, and all levels of Jewish knowledge and observance.

Rabbi Yitzchok and Nechamie’s vision was to create an environment for everyone to experience Judaism with their heart, mind and soul. In a warm,

family-friendly setting, each visitor can immediately begin to feel at home – hence the phrase “Chabad House,” a special place that taps into the energy of Chabad’s philosophy, that of the uniqueness of every individual on their personal, spiritual mission in the world.

Alongside the new, main building, which houses the synagogue, social hall and elementary school, there is a preschool facility, with its own outdoor play area. Additionally, the grounds include Mikveh Bashka. Use of a mikveh is a cornerstone of Jewish family life. The sanctification of the union of husband and wife, which holds the potential of bringing new lives into the world, adds immeasurably to the sacredness of marriage. New brides and married women of all ages can avail themselves of this special experience. Personal instruction on the laws of family purity are available, which include a private tour of this elegant facility.

The center offers extensive educational and cultural opportunities including:

For children and families: Maimonides Hebrew Day School and Preschool, The Jewish Resource Center and Interactive Play Space, Hebrew School, the Grand Chanukah Celebration, and community Passover seders.

For adults: JLI, the internationally acclaimed Rohr Jewish Learning Institute courses ([www.myjli.com](http://www.myjli.com)),

weekly Kabbalah classes, Torah portion of the week, and “What’s Cooking at Chabad?” – culturally diverse, Jewish holiday-related hands-on cooking (and tasting) for ladies.

All of these classes and more are available for all segments of the Jewish community, regardless of personal level of observance and educational background. At Chabad of Southwest Florida, Jews from all walks of life can come together, learn and celebrate as one!

### CHABAD LUBAVITCH OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

5620 Winkler Road  
Ft. Myers, FL 33919

• **Telephone:** (239) 433-7708

• **Fax:** (239) 481-9109

• **Email:** [info@chabadswf.org](mailto:info@chabadswf.org)

• **Website:** [www.chabadswf.org](http://www.chabadswf.org)

• **Rabbi Yitzchok Minkowicz**

• **Director Nechamie Minkowicz**

• **Movement/Affiliation:** Chabad Lubavitch

• **Services:** Friday night, Shabbos morning and holidays

• **Special Programs/Features:** Maimonides Hebrew Day School, Congregation Bais Shmuel, Mikveh Bashka of Southwest Florida, Grand Chanukah Celebration, Kabbalah Class, JLI Jewish Learning Institute



**For 2017 candle lighting times for the Lee-Charlotte area, please see page 51.**

# Chabad Jewish Center of Cape Coral

**C**habad Jewish Center of Cape Coral is home to hundreds of Jews who are living, working or touring in this great city built on canals. In the true spirit of the worldwide Chabad Lubavitch movement, the Center is a warm and welcoming refuge, attracting Jews of all backgrounds and affiliations since its inception in 2004.

Rabbi Yossi and Rivky Labkowsky are young emissaries of the Lubavitcher Rebbe. They arrived in Cape Coral 12 years ago, eager and ready to build a



Rivky and Rabbi Yossi Labkowsky

Center for Jewish life, offering educational programs, family events and community life to the Jews of the city.

Though the Center serves as a venue for all aspects of Jewish life, its most appealing component is its warm, welcoming and non-judgmental atmosphere. It is a place where educational, financial, religious and ethnic differences melt into the background. It is a place where Jews of all ages immediately feel comfortable. It is a place where a successful lawyer and a young kibbutznik, a middle-aged housewife

and an experienced career woman, a teenager and a retired senior can each find his or her place – it is a home away from home.

Chabad Jewish Center offers synagogue services that are both user-friendly and child-friendly. Shabbos and holiday services are easy to follow, lively and intellectually stimulating. Separate children's services are engaging and fun for all. The center is alive and bustling at holiday times with a variety of Family Holiday Events as well as communal Shabbos dinners.

Jewish Education is offered to all ages and in a variety of formats, from one-on-one Bar/Bas Mitzvah and Hebrew classes to formal Hebrew School and First Taste for younger children. JLI courses and Torah Learning classes, both for beginners and those more advanced, Women's classes and study groups are all available.

Winter and Summer camps offer both learning and enjoyable activities for youngsters, while Teen Club and JGirls for girls 10-13 also contribute positively to the community at large. In addition to building their knowledge of Jewish culture, history and lifestyle, these programs develop Jewish pride and a true love of Judaism.

Chabad Jewish Center of Cape Coral is not only a Center for Jewish life, but a vibrant community, a place of friendship and celebration, where each Jew is encouraged to attend, partake and make Judaism his or her own.



## CHABAD JEWISH CENTER OF CAPE CORAL

1716 Cape Coral Pkwy W  
Cape Coral, FL 33914

- **Telephone:** (239) 963-4770
- **Email:** info@chabadcape.com
- **Website:** www.chabadcape.com
- **Rabbi Yossi Labkowsky**
- **Movement/Affiliation:** Chabad Lubavitch
- **Services:** Shabbat at 9:30 a.m.; Daily at 7:00 a.m.
- **Hebrew School:** Sunday 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- **JGirls:** Tuesday 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
- **CTeen:** Thursday 7:00 p.m.
- **Judaica Shop**
- **Mikvah Cape Coral:** Contact Rivky at (239) 699-0166
- **Special Programs/Features:** Family Holiday Events, Weekly Shabbat Kiddush Luncheon, Summer & Winter Camp Gan Israel, JLI Courses, Adult Education, Jewish Women's Circle, Bar/Bat Mitzvah Training, Communal Shabbat Dinners, First Taste Program, Chanuka Shop, Hospital & Home Visitations, Family Counseling

**The Jewish Federation Community Food Pantry sustains many individuals and families. Your generosity is a wonderful act of tzedakah. To make a donation of food or funds, please contact the Federation at 239.481.4449 x6.**

# Chabad Jewish Center of Charlotte County

Chabad Jewish Center of Charlotte County is a center of Jewish life for Jews of all backgrounds who want to learn and experience more about their roots. Jewish values are brought to life in a joyous, warm and non-judgmental atmosphere.

Rabbi Simon Jacobson and his wife, Sheina, founded Chabad of Charlotte



Rabbi Simon and Sheina Jacobson

County in 2005, inspired by the teachings of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, who taught that every single Jew is dear and important to G-d.

Shabbat services, held Friday night and Shabbat morning, will leave you feeling enriched, connected and energized whether your background in Jewish prayer is extensive or limited. Bilingual prayer books are used. Children are welcome. Shabbat morning services are followed by a kiddush and discussion on the weekly Torah portion.

Throughout the year, Chabad hosts several Community Shabbat Dinners, which are known for the best kosher food in Charlotte County.

A wide variety of spiritual services and educational programs are offered, including Adult Education, the Jewish Women's Circle, Camp Gan Israel Day Camp, and Bar/Bat Mitzvah classes for children and adults.

There are numerous holiday programs, including High Holiday services, Sukkot and Simchat Torah festivities, a community-wide Chanukah celebration, Purim parties, Passover seder and Shavuot festivities.

Chabad also provides hospital visitation, counseling, home visits to the elderly, and all life cycle events.

A Jewish Art calendar is distributed free to the entire Jewish community of Charlotte County.

All are welcome to participate at any of Chabad's programs.

### CHABAD JEWISH CENTER OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY

204 E Mckenzie St. Unit B  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950

- **Telephone:** (941) 833-3381
- **Email:** info@ChabadofCharlotteCounty.com
- **Website:** www.ChabadofCharlotteCounty.com
- **Rabbi Simon Jacobson**
- **Movement/Affiliation:** Chabad Lubavitch
- **Services:** Weekly Friday night/Saturday morning services and kiddush
- **Special Programs/Features:** Adult Educational Classes, Shabbat Dinners, Holiday programs, Bar/Bat Mitzvah program, Gan Israel Summer Day Camp, Jewish Women's Circle, Hospital/Home Visits



## Chabad of Bonita Springs & Estero

### CHABAD OF BONITA SPRINGS & ESTERO

24850 Old 41 Road, Suite 20 (Bernwood Centre)  
Bonita Springs, FL 34135

- **Telephone:** (239) 949-6900
- **Email:** jewishbonita@gmail.com
- **Website:** www.JewishBonita.com
- **Rabbi Mendy Greenberg**
- **Movement/Affiliation:** Chabad Lubavitch
- **Services:** Shabbat at 10:00 a.m. followed by a kiddush

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THEY HELP MAKE CONNECTIONS AND THE JEWISH NEWS POSSIBLE.

# Temple Shalom of Charlotte Harbor and the Gulf Islands

Temple Shalom has served the Jewish community and residents of Charlotte County and surrounding area for over fifty years. The congregation came together in 1961 when land was made available to group of dedicated Jews who knew a synagogue was needed. Temple Shalom adopted its name after receiving its charter in 1976 from the Union for Reform Judaism.

Since its beginning as the first “official” Jewish presence in Charlotte County, Temple Shalom has provided spiritual support, religious guidance, and leadership to the local Jewish community while promoting understanding with, and participation in, the broader Charlotte County and Southwest Flor-

ida community. Temple Shalom has been described as a caring, friendly congregation. Reaching out to as many Jews as possible, services are in English and Hebrew. Provision is extended to recognize and welcome interfaith marriage.

Temple Shalom has a strong, vigorous, and active religious school program which culminates in joyous B’nai Mitzvot. Weekly adult classes focus on Judaic topics and Hebrew language. The temple has a small but adequate Judaic Library.

Year round Friday night services frequently feature guest soloists. Some services are preceded by family dinners and every service ends with an Oneg. High Holy Days and holidays are celebrated much as you remember.

Sisterhood and Hadassah meet to provide a wide variety of programs. Services and programs sometimes feature outside speakers who come to share events and perceptions of the greater world and community. Temple Shalom is an active, vibrant congregation: maintaining tradition while examining a changing world, preparing for the future.

Temple Shalom generates area-wide annual attention with its comedy night program and Art Auction,



co-sponsored with the American Red Cross. A Boy Scout troop meets weekly in the temple and has done so for over fifty years. Temple Shalom is a good citizen: it supports the local food bank, raises money and resources for local charities and causes, and participates in the events and supports the activities of the Jewish Federation, Charlotte County, and surrounding region.



## TEMPLE SHALOM OF CHARLOTTE HARBOR & THE GULF ISLANDS

23190 Utica Avenue  
Port Charlotte, FL 33949

- **Telephone:** (941) 625-2116
- **Fax:** (941) 625-0842
- **Email:** shalom06@netzero.com
- **Website:** www.templeshalomfl.com
- **Rabbi Solomon Agin, D.D.**
- **Movement/Affiliation:** Reform
- **Services:** Shabbat Eve 7:30 p.m. year round
- **Organizations:** Sisterhood, Brotherhood
- **Judaica Shop**
- **Judaic Library**
- **Special Programs/Features:** Religious School (K-7), Adult Education courses, Guest cantorial soloists, Holiday Celebrations, Community Menorah lighting, Social & Cultural Events

Stay connected at  
[www.JewishFederationLCC.org](http://www.JewishFederationLCC.org)

# Focus on Youth

## Preschools

### Temple Judea Preschool

**T**emple Judea Preschool is an Accredited Professional Preschool Learning Environment providing care for children 18 months to 5 years. Temple Judea Preschool serves families of all faiths and denominations that desire a program which provides varied enriching experiences and activities that contribute to and stimulate the development of the child.

The preschool's philosophy is to recognize each child as a unique individual. Each child is nurtured and cared for in a loving atmosphere, allowing them to progress according to their rate of development. The school fulfills this goal through carefully planned programs developed by a trained, caring staff.

Temple Judea Preschool is the only Conservative Jewish Early Childhood program in Lee County. A safe environment is provided that reinforces a child's natural curiosity and allows each child to experience challenges and successes.

Children are exposed to a variety of age-appropriate learning activities to meet each child's social, intellec-

tual and emotional development. This helps stimulate creative development as well as exploring the world around them.

The school encourages parental involvement in their child's preschool experience. Parents and teachers gain valuable insights and techniques from each other and, at the same time, share their talents and interests to maintain the excellent quality at Temple Judea Preschool.

The full- and part-time programs include Language, Science, Reading Readiness, Math Concepts, Writing Skills, Computers, Music, Cooking, PE, Dramatic Play, Yoga, and Arts and Crafts.

To learn more about these programs, please call 239.482.1121 or stop by the preschool for a tour.



### Temple Judea Toddler Time

**T**he Toddler Time Program is for children from 12 months to 2 years of age. The program is offered on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:00 to 10:15 a.m. The children are placed in the proper class according to their age.

The program is an opportunity to socialize through interactive play. New activities are provided each week. You and your child will have the opportunity to cook, sing, dance, play instruments, participate in art, and have a fun and memorable time. All of the activities are age appropriate.

For more information, please call 239.482.1121.

**The PJ Library™**

JEWISH BEDTIME STORIES & SONGS FOR FAMILIES

This program sends a new age-related book or cd every month!

Sponsored by

Judi Roth for the Roth Family Foundation

Kenneth and Gwenda Asher for The Asher Family Foundation

For more information,  
visit [www.JewishFederationLCC.org](http://www.JewishFederationLCC.org).

### The Learning Tree

**D**istinguished as the first preschool in our four-county area to earn the prestigious “5 star” designation for program excellence, The Learning Tree has been a part of Temple Beth El for over 20 years.

Children ages 18 months to 5 years attend a flexible array of part-time and full-time schedules. An optional hot lunch is offered daily. After-school programming includes cooking classes, yoga, dance, academic enrichment and introductory sports.

The Learning Tree is recognized as a community model of quality and

provides:

- ◆ Low teacher-student ratios
- ◆ Top teacher qualifications
- ◆ Strong family partnerships
- ◆ Spectacular math, literacy and science
- ◆ Newly renovated playground



Enrollment for the 2017-18 school year begins on February 1. Interested families are invited to schedule a tour to see these unique qualities firsthand and learn more about how The Learning Tree will welcome and celebrate their child’s learning journey.

For more information, visit [www.learningtreefortmyers.com](http://www.learningtreefortmyers.com) or call Preschool Director Jesyca Virnig, MAEd at 239.433.5499.

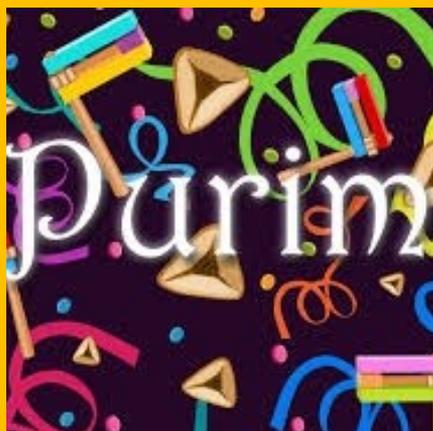
### Little Branches

**T**he Learning Tree at Temple Beth El of Fort Myers offers an exciting option for children up to 3 years old to become familiar with the preschool environment with a trusted caregiver by their side. Parents, nannies and grandparents enjoy the weekly Little Branches class featuring music, art, stories, cooking activities and more.

This is a great way to offer your child a gentle introduction to the preschool environment. Classes are 45-60 minutes each and run in sessions of 4-6 weeks each.

For more details, call 239.433.5499 or visit [www.learningtreefortmyers.com](http://www.learningtreefortmyers.com).

## PARENTS AND CHILDREN ARE INVITED TO A PURIM PJ LIBRARY PROGRAM



**Sunday, March 12**

**9:30 a.m. - noon**

**COSTUMES, GAMES, CRAFTS, SONGS AND STORIES TO CELEBRATE PURIM!**

**This is a free program open to all families in our community!**

If you are already signed up, you know how great PJ Library is. If not, sign up today for your children ages 6 months to 8 years to receive free monthly books and CDs of Jewish content.

Visit [www.pjlibrary.org](http://www.pjlibrary.org).

**At LAKES REGIONAL PARK**

7330 Gladiolus Dr.

Fort Myers, FL 33907

RSVP to Leni at 239.481.4449 x3

or [leniback@jfedlcc.org](mailto:leniback@jfedlcc.org)

PJ Library in Lee & Charlotte Counties is generously sponsored by the Roth Family Foundation and the Asher Family Foundations





## The PJ Library®

**W**e all know the power of reading stories with young children. These nurturing, joyous and beneficial early learning experiences build the emotional and cognitive foundation for each child. The PJ Library (PJ as in pajamas) provides your family with a FREE treasury of Jewish books and music.

Each child, 6 months to 8 years old, enrolled in The PJ Library receives a monthly gift of a high-quality, age-appropriate Jewish book or CD as well as a reading guide to enhance your family's experience. All materials are carefully selected by a team of experts.

Thanks to the generosity of our local funders – Judi Roth for The Roth Family Foundation and Kenneth and Gwenda Asher for The Asher Family Foundation – The PJ Library is available free to children who register in the Lee and Charlotte County area. Along with Harold Grinspoon, the visionary founder of The PJ Library, we are committed to bringing The PJ Library to every family who wants to participate. The Harold Grinspoon Foundation significantly underwrites the cost of this program.

Whether you're a parent, grandparent or friend of someone with young children, please help us share news of this special program with Jewish families throughout the area who have children through age 8.

For more information, please call the Jewish Federation office at 239.481.4449 or visit [www.JewishFederationLCC.org](http://www.JewishFederationLCC.org).

## Maimonides Hebrew Day School - Preschool

**M**aimonides Hebrew Day School (MHDS) is a state-licensed and certified child day care center. It is the only Jewish VPK (voluntary Pre-kindergarten) and Early Readiness Center in Southwest Florida, providing services to families of Lee, Collier and Charlotte counties. Early Readiness is a scholarship program designed to assist families dealing with the financial difficulties of the economy and the need for affordable child care.

The school serves preschool children from 2 months old in the new infant class, to pre-K age 5. Free VPK for 4-year-olds is offered.

“Creative Curriculum for Toddlers” and VPK programming provide an exciting developmental environment. Children ages 2-4 are actively engaged in hands-on learning in a variety of centers including: dramatic play and housekeeping; listening, speaking and

language development; and motor skills for fine and large muscle coordination.

Young students are introduced to music; science and discovery; and the beginnings of reading, writing and mathematics as part of this comprehensive program.

MHDS has a unique dual curriculum which includes all these aspects of a secular education combined with a comprehensive Judaic studies curriculum, including basic instruction in the Hebrew language. The Judaic program is tailored to accommodate each family's level of Jewish observance, and includes instruction and hands-on learning about the Jewish Sabbath and holidays, good character traits, Torah studies on the weekly portion, all in an age- and grade-appropriate format.

For more information or to schedule a tour, please call Lynda Stewart at 239.910.0293 or email [MaimonidesHDaySC@aol.com](mailto:MaimonidesHDaySC@aol.com).

## Temple Beth El Tot Shabbat

**L**ooking for a great way for young Jewish families to get to know each other and for non-Jewish spouses to feel comfortable in the synagogue? Want to share Jewish tradition and joy with your grandchildren? Come to Tot Shabbat at Temple Beth El once a month on Friday evenings at 6:00 p.m.

In addition to singing Shabbat songs and basic prayers, and hearing a Jewish story, the babies, toddlers and young children will meet Sababa the Shabbat dinosaur, a blue dinosaur who

loves to celebrate Shabbat.

All are invited to enjoy a vegetarian pot luck Shabbat dinner and schmoozing following the brief service. Parents and grandparents are welcome.

For dates and more information, call Rabbi Nicole Luna at 239.433.0018.



Rabbi Nicole Luna leads Temple Beth El's Tot Shabbat

**Look for school updates and "Focus on Youth" items each month in L'CHAYIM.**

### Chabad Hebrew School of Cape Coral

The Chabad Hebrew School of Cape Coral is a trendsetter in creative Jewish education. The school makes our 5,000-year-old tradition and ancient history come alive and relevant to the youth of today.

Children ages 3-13, from diverse backgrounds and affiliations, fall in love with Judaism, as they are introduced to mitzvot (Jewish practices), Jewish ethics and Jewish holidays through a multi-sensory approach, using art, music and drama. Mastery of the Hebrew language is accomplished in an

efficient, motivational and fun manner. The experienced teachers imbue the children with Jewish pride, a love of G-d, love of their fellow Jews and love for the land of Israel.

At Chabad Hebrew School, children will gain a “Jewish” perspective on life and involvement beyond the Hebrew School years through a variety of extracurricular activities such as Friday night dinners, family fun days and contests.

Chabad Hebrew School will add an enriching spiritual dimension to

the lives of your entire family which will ultimately perpetuate onto future generations.

For more information, email Rivky Labkowski at [rivky@chabadcape.com](mailto:rivky@chabadcape.com) or visit [www.chabadcape.com](http://www.chabadcape.com).

### Temple Judea Religious School

Temple Judea Religious School provides a nurturing environment that fosters an enduring relationship with Judaism for every young Jew. Each child is treated as an individual. The school specializes in addressing the needs of every learner. Learners from every background are welcome and will experience a place for them to discover the richness of Judaism. The school’s goal is to provide a forum that helps students integrate Judaism and its meaning into their daily lives.

An experiential learning environment is created within the school in which children not only learn about Judaism but live it. Teachers are dedicated to instilling in each student a core set of Jewish values, cultural arts, a love for Torah and God, a proficiency in reading Hebrew, and an independence in leading prayers. B’nai Mitzvah preparation is also included in the Religious School curriculum.

The Religious School holds monthly student-led Shabbat evening services, and a yom ivun (day of learning) centering around each holiday. The structure of the training that Temple Judea provides encourages students to hold leadership roles so that wherever they may later find themselves in college and beyond they will have skills to contribute.

For more information, please contact Liz Singer, Director of Congregational Learning, at 239.433.0201 or [tjswfledu@gmail.com](mailto:tjswfledu@gmail.com).

### Temple Beth El Religious School

Temple Beth El Religious School strives to promote a love and pride of being Jewish. It wants its students to have a positive Jewish identity and a strong understanding and application of Reform Jewish ethics.

Students learn about Jewish history, practices and spirituality, and gain a knowledge and appreciation of the Hebrew language while fostering a kinship with Israel, the motivation to pursue lifelong Jewish learning, and a personal relationship with G-d.

Under the direction of Dale M. Cohen, R.J.E., MA Ed. for the past 19 years, the school offers a curriculum designed to help each child feel great about being Jewish. The majority of the teaching staff has been working together for over 10 years.

Areas of study include Hebrew reading accuracy and fluency, familiarity with prayers, blessings and their meanings. Creative art projects and music are an integral part of the curriculum, and Jewish customs and traditions are taught as cornerstones of religious practice.

Sunday classes meet from 9:30 a.m. to noon for students in kindergarten through grade seven. Confirmation grades (8 and 9) have a separate schedule and meet on Sundays twice monthly. Wednesday Hebrew classes meet from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. and are for students in grades 3-7.

For more information, contact Religious School Director Dale M. Cohen at 239.433.9808 or [daletemplebethel@gmail.com](mailto:daletemplebethel@gmail.com), or visit [www.templebethel.com](http://www.templebethel.com).

### Temple Shalom Religious School

The Religious School of Temple Shalom of Charlotte Harbor and the Gulf Islands is small in size but unique in its ability to educate the students and present a positive attitude towards Judaism.

Under the careful attention of Rabbi Solomon Agin, D.D., Mr. Irv Forsch, Mrs. Brooke Raider and Ms. Nicole Thosath, the students are guided

through the pathways of Jewish Education using the standard method of the text with the added hands-on of meaningful crafts. Every session includes music, which is led by Rabbi Agin, and later incorporated into the Family Friday Evening Shabbat Service with Cantorial Soloist Jane Galler.

For more info, email [shalom06@netzero.com](mailto:shalom06@netzero.com) or call 941.625.2116.

## Maimonides Hebrew Day School

**M**aimonides Hebrew Day School (MHDS) is the only Jewish educational facility that offers a complete full-time (or part-time) learning experience for children (and their families). The school offers a dual curriculum for students in kindergarten through grade 8.

The curriculum individualizes lessons in all aspects of Judaic/Hebrew studies and Secular/English studies, following the “New Generation Florida Sunshine State Standards.”

MHDS’s Judaic studies acknowledges and accommodates the full possible range of Jewish religious observance. The full-day program integrates instruction in English language: speaking, phonics, grammar, reading and writing, which is also mirrored in Hebrew Language instruction. The day also includes the crucial elements of this unique double curriculum: math, science and social studies, coupled with Torah studies, Jewish History and Holidays, and various traditional

modes of Jewish observance. This academic program is complemented with art, music, drama and PE.

The recently completed new facility is equipped with the latest in technology and materials, including a library for students, their families and the community. The low student-teacher ratio enables individualized instruction and the possibility of accelerated learning, or personal, remedial tutoring. There is a strong emphasis on character development, critical thinking and independent learning.

The school annually participates in standardized assessment of all students, from kindergarten thru 6<sup>th</sup> grade, using the Stanford 10. The school’s students perform either on or above their grade-level in these tests.

Maimonides is licensed and certified to accept McKay scholarships for those students already identified as qualifying for special services. This is the only Jewish facility in Southwest



Florida that has this program. MHDS is also able to accept Early Readiness Funding and Step-Up scholarships.

To register your child, tour the facility, or for more information, email [MaimonidesHDaySc@aol.com](mailto:MaimonidesHDaySc@aol.com) or call Lynda Stewart at 239.910.0293.

## Temple Beth Shalom Religious School

**F**ounded in 1973, Temple Beth Shalom in Cape Coral is one of the oldest Reform congregations in Lee County. Building on its diverse, multi-generational resources, the temple offers a true sense of social community with traditional worship of Shabbat and other holidays, education for young and old, and guidance for all.

Rabbi Devora Buchen coordinates both the adult and children’s educational programs. She tutors the B’nai Mitzvah students and presides over the religious school’s holiday activities, which parallel that of the adult congregation.

For love of the children and concern for the future of Judaism, the religious school is tuition-free for all children

of members in good standing. It is believed that without educating the children there is no future.

Barby Barlow has been supervising the school structure and activities for many years. Teacher and Israeli immigrant Aliza Bental works with the class on their Hebrew, the Jewish holidays, the history of the Jewish people and their homeland of Israel.

Students also participate in the an-

nual food drive, in planting trees on Tu B’Shevat, and in Simchas Torah festivities. They perform a skit for the Passover Seder and decorate the sukkah.

If you have children of school age and want them to grow up with an understanding of what it means to be Jewish, and the comfort of knowing how, please call Barby Barlow at 941.639.9273 or the temple office at 239.772.4555, or visit [www.templebethshalomcc.org](http://www.templebethshalomcc.org).



TBS Class of 2016-2017

### Chabad of Charlotte County Hebrew School

- Girls and Boys age 3-12
- Friendly, caring teachers
- Affordable tuition
- Fun, hands-on lessons
- No synagogue membership required
- Scholarships available
- Call for details: 941.833.3381

## Summer Camp at The Learning Tree

The Summer Camp at The Learning Tree offers very flexible scheduling to meet your summer needs. Parents may enroll children for one week or all summer! Full or part days can be chosen and schedules can be 2, 3 or 5 days a week.

The camp is organized into independent weekly adventures designed to delight your child, 2-6 years of age.



Each week includes outdoor water play, ice cream truck, shaded playground, and critical thinking activities. Special activities abound with indoor bounce houses for cool jumping in the Florida heat, pony rides, petting zoo, tea time with popular princess characters, and much more!

For more information, please call Preschool Director Jesyca Virnig, MAEd at 239.433.5499 or visit [www.learningtreefortmyers.com](http://www.learningtreefortmyers.com).

## Temple Judea Summer Camp

There is nothing like the energy of summer camp. The excitement and delight that summer camp offers is an experience that all preschoolers need. The children look forward to the change in routine from preschool to camp.

At Temple Judea Summer Camp, there is a wide variety of indoor and outdoor activities. Campers learn new skills, working cooperatively with oth-

ers, and engage in creative outdoor play. The caring staff ensures individual attention, maximum participation and success for each camper.

Best of all, each day at camp is filled with summer fun. Your child will be inspired to explore, create, play and socialize during the weekly themes. Children participate in fun movement games and musical exploration while learning cooperation and socialization skills with friends.

You can enroll for one week or several weeks. Please call 239.482.1121 to learn more about the camp.

## Camp Gan Israel of Cape Coral

Looking for an exciting Jewish camp experience for your child? Camp Gan Israel of Cape Coral, part of the largest and fastest-growing network of Jewish day camps in the world, offers programs that are fun,

stimulating and bolster Jewish pride in a safe, caring environment.

The camp caters to children ages 3-12 and features Kiddie Camp for three-year-olds. Exciting activities include arts & crafts, swimming, sports, field trips, carnival, dress-up days, Shabbos parties, Challah baking and so much more. Judaic themes come alive through stories, songs, games and contests, which are part of the unique Gan Israel experience.

Parents trust, and children adore, the dedicated and dynamic staff who love and nurture every child.

Camp sessions are held both in the summer and winter. Camp Gan Israel is not just a vacation experience; the memories and lessons learned remain forever. Enroll your child now for an experience that will last a lifetime.

For more information, please contact Rivky Labkowsky at 239.541.1777 or [camp@chabadcape.com](mailto:camp@chabadcape.com), or visit [www.chabadcape.com](http://www.chabadcape.com).

## 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 through various work in the Jewish community.

If you are interested, please send the following information to [lenibsack@jfedlcc.org](mailto:lenibsack@jfedlcc.org):

Name

Address

Phone #

Age

Grade

School

Preferred volunteer hours (e.g. 2-5pm Sundays)



### SAT Preparation Course

The Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties offers a comprehensive SAT preparatory course, complete with instruction provided by high school and college-level educators, a current study guide, materials, snacks and beverages.



There is a maximum of 12 students per session, with two sessions offered per calendar year. Classes are held at the Jewish Federation office twice a week for 2½ hours per class.

Enrollments costs \$375 per session. This is a tremendous value compared to other prep courses, which can cost over \$500 per session for instruction alone.

For more information, contact Leni Sack at 239.481.4449 x3 or lenisack@jfedlcc.org.

### BBYO

All Jewish teens in grades 8-12 are welcome to join BBYO! BBYO is a pluralistic teen organization with a mission of involving more Jewish teens in more meaningful Jewish experiences. BBYO teens plan and lead programs that interest them with guidance from adult advisors and staff. BBYO is a great way to get involved after your Bar/Bat Mitzvah.



BBYO is newly launching in the Fort Myers community with the goal of connecting local teens with a larger network of Jewish teens throughout the State of Florida.

For more information on BBYO, contact Skylar Haas, Associate Regional Director, at shaas@bbyo.org. Check out more online at www.bbyo.org.

### JGirls – Good Friends. Good Deeds. Good Times.

JGirls is the newest club geared to Jewish girls who are up for having a blast, diving into some real Girl Talk, and discovering just how powerful and important they really are.

JGirls features Fun, Social, Art, “Hot Topic” Discussions, Community Outreach and much more. It is open to girls ages 10-13 and meets on Tuesdays from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Chabad Jewish Center in Cape Coral



For more information or to RSVP, email rivky@chabadcape.com or call 239.541.1777.

### Jewish Campus Engagement Associate

The Jewish Federations of Collier County, Lee & Charlotte Counties, and Sarasota-Manatee Counties have worked collectively to hire a Jewish Campus Engagement Associate, Jeremy Dictor.

Jeremy is working with students at Ringling College of Art + Design, New College of Florida, Florida Gulf Coast University, and Florida South Western College to plan Jewish programming, holiday celebrations, internship and leadership opportunities, and Birthright Israel experiences.

It is estimated that there are more than 1,000 Jewish students attending colleges in this area. Given the growth of the Florida university system in Southwest Florida, the leadership felt it was critically important that these schools be serviced with a full-time professional.

The collective has recently been accepted as a Hillel Affiliate, which enables Jeremy and our Federations to work under the auspices of Hillel International, the largest Jewish campus organization in the world.

For more information, please contact Jeremy Dictor at CampusJeremySWFL@gmail.com.

### Temple Beth El Junior Youth Group

Temple Beth El Junior Youth Group is a community of Jewish middle schoolers in Lee County who share friendship, camaraderie and an action-based vision for tikkun olam. Members meet monthly for fun events or celebrations related to the Jewish calendar.

Recent activities have included a KICK Teen Leadership workshop on overcoming anti-Semitism and prejudice, High Holiday gift bag deliveries, an afternoon of Jewish Jeopardy, sandwich making for the homeless, field trips, scavenger hunt and many other fun and fulfilling activities.

All Jewish middle school students are welcome to join. Please email volunteer parent advisor Nadine Goodman at nhglaw@comcast.net for more information.

### BEFTY Youth Group

BEFTY (Beth El Federation of Temple Youth) is the high school youth group at Temple Beth El. Two events are held each month to keep teens involved in the temple and their Judaism, all while being social with other Jewish teens. Events range from bowling to laser tag and from edible sukkahs to brunch.

If you have a teen interested in joining BEFTY, contact the advisor, Elana Beame, at ebeame13@gmail.com.



# Senior Gift Bags & Visits Light up a Face During the Holidays!

**The Jewish Federation's Senior visit program** takes place three times a year—just before Rosh Hashanah, Hanukkah and Passover.

Volunteers fill gift bags with edible kosher treats and gifts, sometimes handmade by children in our community. Then families stop by the Federation office to pick up the pre-filled bags and deliver them to Jewish senior citizens throughout Lee & Charlotte Counties.

Many Jewish seniors are isolated from the rest of their families and have limited contact with the world outside of their homes or assisted living facilities. These visits mean the world to the seniors and help them stay connected to the Jewish community.

Teens who help with the packing or the delivery of the bags can earn Community Service hours.

For more information on how to get involved with this rewarding program, please contact Leni Sack at 239.481.4449 x3 or [lenibsack@jfedlcc.org](mailto:lenibsack@jfedlcc.org).





# 2017 Candle lighting times for the Lee and Charlotte area:



January 6:	5:33 pm
January 13:	5:38 pm
January 20:	5:43 pm
January 27:	5:49 pm
February 3:	5:54 pm
February 10:	5:59 pm
February 17:	6:04 pm
February 24:	6:08 pm
March 3:	6:12 pm
March 10:	6:16 pm
March 17:	7:20 pm
March 24:	7:23 pm
March 31:	7:26 pm
April 7:	7:30 pm
April 10, Eve of First day Passover:	7:31 pm
April 11, Eve of Second day Passover:	after 8:25 pm
April 14:	7:33 pm
April 16, Eve of Seventh day Passover:	7:34 pm
April 17, Eve of Eighth day Passover:	after 8:28 pm
April 21:	7:37 pm
April 28:	7:41 pm
May 5:	7:44 pm
May 12:	7:48 pm
May 19:	7:52 pm
May 26:	7:56 pm
May 30, Eve of First day Shavuot:	7:58 pm
May 31, Eve of Second day Shavuot:	after 8:55 pm
June 2:	7:59 pm
June 9:	8:02 pm
June 16:	8:05 pm
June 23:	8:06 pm
June 30:	8:07 pm
July 7:	8:07 pm

July 14:	8:05 pm
July 21:	8:03 pm
July 28:	7:59 pm
August 4:	7:55 pm
August 11:	7:49 pm
August 18:	7:43 pm
August 25:	7:36 pm
September 1:	7:29 pm
September 8:	7:22 pm
September 15:	7:14 pm
September 20, Eve of First day Rosh Hashanah:	7:08 pm
September 21, Eve of Second day Rosh Hashanah:	after 7:59 pm
September 22:	7:06 pm
September 29, Eve of Yom Kippur:	6:58 pm
October 4, Eve of First day Sukkot:	6:53 pm

October 5, Eve of Second day Sukkot:	after 7:44 pm
October 6:	6:50 pm
October 11, Eve of Shemini Atzeret:	6:45 pm
October 12, Eve of Simchat Torah:	after 7:37 pm
October 13:	6:43 pm
October 20:	6:37 pm
October 27:	6:31 pm
November 3:	6:26 pm
November 10:	5:22 pm
November 17:	5:19 pm
November 24:	5:17 pm
December 1:	5:17 pm
December 8:	5:18 pm
December 15:	5:20 pm
December 22:	5:23 pm
December 29:	5:27 pm

## 2017 (5777/5778) Holidays

*Holidays start at sundown on the evening before the dates listed.*

**Tu B'Shevat:** February 11 (Saturday)

**Purim:** March 12 (Sunday)

**Passover (Pesach):** April 11 (Tuesday)

**Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom HaShoah):** April 24 (Monday)

**Israel Memorial Day (Yom HaZikaron):** May 1 (Monday)

**Israel Independence Day (Yom HaAtzmaut):** May 2 (Tuesday)

**Lag B'Omer:** May 14 (Sunday)

**Jerusalem Day (Yom Yerushalayim):** May 24 (Wednesday)

**Shavuot:** May 31 (Wednesday)

**Tisha B'Av:** August 1 (Tuesday)

**Rosh HaShanah 5778:** September 21 (Thursday)

**Yom Kippur:** September 30 (Saturday)

**Sukkot:** October 5 (Thursday)

**Shemini Atzeret:** October 12 (Thursday)

**Simchat Torah:** October 13 (Friday)

**Hanukkah (Chanukah):** December 13 (Wednesday)

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

**Send an email to  
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# TEMPLE JUDEA

*Conservative Synagogue*



**Rabbi Marc Sack**

Temple Judea is a progressive congregation affiliated with the Conservative Movement. The congregation encourages all people to explore and express Jewish commitment through learning, prayer, observance and acts of social responsibility. Our worship services and education programs reflect the strength of our commitment. Our religious school teaches children to be at home with Hebrew and the history of our people. Our developmental pre-school is renowned for giving children a strong foundation for learning. Our social programs reflect our friendliness and love. We support everyone in their desire for connection to God, Torah and the Jewish people.



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