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Thank you, Leni!

FROM THE
**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR**

■ Alan Isaacs



I have been reflecting recently on the past five years during which Leni Sack has served the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties and our community. It is on my mind because Leni will have retired from her program director's position at the

Federation by the time you read this.

Leni has retired in the same way that she has served us: with care for our organization and for the community; with creativity and humor; with a continuing commitment to our Federation and our community; and with consideration concerning a smooth transition.

Leni Sack has shaped our programs into a vital and consistent part of Jewish life in our community. The

programs thrive and expand – reaching audiences who consistently come back for more. She has worked closely with volunteers who are dedicated to the collaboration that Leni has nurtured. And the product has been the best.

I will miss Leni as a partner in our work and for her determination to further our Federation's mission. I can only hope that her successor will inspire in all of us, as Leni did, the commitment and enthusiasm necessary to continue to build our community. ▲

Maimonides' eight levels of charity

By Brian Simon, Federation President

In the 12th century, Maimonides defined a hierarchy of giving charity. He established eight levels:

8. Giving begrudgingly
7. Giving less than one should but doing it cheerfully
6. Giving to the poor after being asked
5. Giving to the poor without being asked
4. Giving when the recipient knows who the donor is, but the donor doesn't know the recipient
3. Giving when the recipient doesn't know the donor, but the donor knows the recipient
2. Giving when both the recipient and the donor are unknown to each other. Communal funds, administered by responsible organizations (like, say, a local Federation) fall in this category.
1. Giving in a dignified manner, so that the person does not become impover-

ished or no longer needs charity

I saw this list recently, and it struck me that all eight of these are still giving. Whether you choose the lowest level or the highest, you're doing an act of good. All of us can discuss with Maimonides at a later date (hopefully *much* later) where we fall on the scale. I'm not going to judge.

If you choose to give to the Federation, we want you to know how your money helps. Earlier this summer, the new board of directors met to discuss our role in the community. We determined three areas where we serve an important role in our community.

1. **Jewish Family Services:** This is becoming a larger part of our commitment. We sponsor a monthly "Lunch Bunch" for seniors. We run a food pantry. We provide direct support for people who need assistance through funds like "Marcia Can Help."
2. **Support and advocacy for Israel:** Our Federation was founded so local parents could send their

teenagers to high school in Israel. Today, Israel is under attack not only from her enemies but also on American college campuses. These are challenging times. Board member Sylvia Simko and Zohar Ben Hamu, the *shlichah* from Temple Judea, are working to prepare a course for local teenagers to better understand Israel's conflicts with its enemies and to prepare the teens for difficult conversations that may occur when they reach college.

3. **Jewish cultural events:** "People like us do things like this." (to steal Seth Godin's phrase) – the Jewish Film Festival, Jewish book events, community meetings over meals, etc.

On behalf of the board, I want to thank you for your support in the past, and I'd like to ask for your continued support at whatever level on Maimonides' scale you choose. ▲

Israel Scouts rock Fort Myers

The Israel Scouts rocked the house at Temple Judea on Monday evening, June 18. The nine exuberant teenagers of Caravan Dekel sang and danced to Israeli and American songs, often including several of the audience members in their performance.

The Scouts spent Monday morning and afternoon with their local host families before departing for Naples on Tuesday morning.

The mission of the Israel Scouts is more than entertainment. They also strengthen relationships between Israel and North American Jewry, especially with American youth.

After their 12-week summer tour across the Eastern and Midwest United States, the Scouts return to Israel and enter their senior year in high school. Following graduation next spring, they begin their mandatory service in the Israel Defense Forces – three years for

the men, and two years for the women.

Several Scouts said they wanted long-term military careers, but most planned on traveling when they completed their military service. Enrollment in Israeli universities begins when the

Scouts return home from their travels.

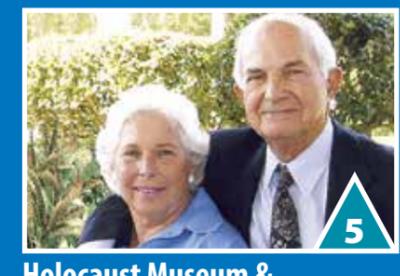
The Scouts' visit to Fort Myers was co-sponsored by The Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties, Temple Judea and Temple Beth El. ▲



See page 8 for additional photos from this event



Federation's Senior Lunch Bunch update



Holocaust Museum & Cohen Education Center update



Yemenite Mastery: Jachnun – recipe by Dalia Hemed



Israeli residents go public with heartfelt aid to Syrians

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

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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).

L'CHAYIM

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L'CHAYIM invites correspondence on subjects of interest to Jewish people. Partisan political opinions will not be published, but opinions on subjects affecting the Jewish community are welcome. All inquiries regarding copy for L'CHAYIM should be directed to the editor. All news material must be very clearly printed or typed (not in all-capital letters) and double-spaced. Electronic submissions encouraged. The editor reserves the right to edit for space and content.

Photographs should be clear, black-and-white or color prints. If you wish a photograph returned, include a stamped, self-addressed envelope of appropriate size.

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**SEPTEMBER ISSUE
EDITORIAL DEADLINE:
Monday, August 6**

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Program notes

This summer, the time came for me to retire. As of July 13, after five years as program director of the Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte Counties, I became a "woman of leisure."

A whole new world has opened up to me. I have worked fulltime all of my adult life and most of that work has been in the Jewish world. Friends and family are asking me what I intend to do with my time. And I am excited to think of all the possibilities.



■ Leni Sack

I have committed to my husband that I will exercise more (in all honesty I should just say, exercise). I have committed to my children and grandchildren that I will visit more. I have committed to my synagogue and the Federation that I will be available to help more.

I also intend to look for opportunities outside of my family and the Jewish institutions that I hold dear, to make a difference in the wider community. There are an amazing number of worthwhile organizations and causes to choose from.

As I write this final column, I am still working. Our columns are due the beginning of each month for inclusion in the L'CHAYIM issue that comes out at the end of the month. It is bittersweet to say this is my last column. As thrilled as I am to not have to worry about what to write in a column each month,

I know I will miss it.

I will also have had a few days to transition with the new program director. I look forward to the new ideas and programs she will bring to our community.

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered at, participated in, attended and supported any of the events I have helped to plan. I thank all of you who took the time to compliment or thank me for the work I have done. I even want to thank those who complained, because it meant you were paying attention and giving feedback to help improve our programs.

I thank the Federation board for giving me this opportunity to serve the Jewish community. I especially want to thank Alan Isaacs for his guidance, support and encouragement for the past five years.

I hope not to miss everyone because I fully expect to stay involved and see you at future Federation events. I will be alongside all of you, looking for those good seats at the Jewish Film Festival!

When you read this, my husband Marc and I will be in Wimberly, Texas. In celebration of several special occasions this year, including my retirement, we have rented a house where we are spending a week together with our four children and five grandchildren from Los Angeles, Ho Chi Minh City, Tel Aviv and Austin.

Getting everyone together from around the world is not easy. But when it happens...life doesn't get much better than that!

L'hitraot. See you soon.▲



Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte Counties

Food Pantry Needs

Following is a list of staples & non-perishable items always in need at the food pantry.

- ✧ Peanut butter and jelly
- ✧ Pasta and Pasta sauce
- ✧ Rice and beans
- ✧ Canned fruits
- ✧ Cereal & oatmeal
- ✧ Canned meats & fish

Gift cards to Publix, Walmart, Target, etc, as well as cash donations, are also appreciated. Jewish Family Services helps seniors, individuals and families with a variety of needs.

Senior Lunch Bunch update

By Jodi Cohen, Senior Outreach & Food Pantry Coordinator

The Palms of Fort Myers, a senior living facility, generously hosted our June Senior Lunch Bunch in its beautiful dining room. The Jewish Federation would like to thank The Palms' Sales Manager Laura Davis and Program Director Steve Lafferty for inviting our group and making all of us feel so welcome. Steve led the group in some brain teasers after lunch, and the winners who answered all of the questions correctly won lottery tickets. Personally speaking my brain hurt a little bit, as some of the questions were



Jodi Cohen

not easy!

Having the luncheons at various senior living facilities supports the Federation's mission to connect people and resources. We are honored to be hosted by The Palms, Brookdale and Grand Villa this year. They not only support the Federation, they also provide an opportunity for luncheon participants to see some of the resources available to seniors in Lee County. Senior Lunch Bunch Volunteer Coordinator Sherri Zucker and I have also created a sponsorship program for businesses and people interested in supporting the Federation luncheon program. Please contact me for more specific sponsorship information.

THE PALMS OF FORT MYERS



NEXT SENIOR LUNCH BUNCH:
Thursday, August 16 at 12:30 p.m.
Brookdale, 8351 College Parkway, Fort Myers
Limited seating – room for 40 people
RSVP by Friday, August 10 to
Jodi Cohen at 239.481.4449 x6 or jodicohen@jfedlcc.org

The free monthly luncheon is a delightful event that has grown in size and spirit over the past year. No matter where you sit at the luncheon you are always at the "popular kids" table, as the Senior Lunch Bunch is the place to be. It's where the action is!

wonderful community partner, Jason's Deli, for providing delicious food. Harvey Cohen is responsible for ordering the food and uses an algorithm he created that calculates the number of people, portion size, kvetching (also known as feedback) and weather conditions so that no one leaves hungry and everyone is happy.

Our post-lunch programs include everything from safety information to discussions about Jewish holidays and values to magic. We are grateful for our

If you are a senior who is looking to make friends, new in town, likes to eat lunch, or would like to get out of your room or your house, come on down! We have volunteers to provide rides for those unable to drive.▲



Client contact: a few questions and answers

By Jodi Cohen, Senior Outreach & Food Pantry Coordinator

The following list is a cross-section of calls I receive. Which ones do you think are real?

1. I had to move out of my apartment. Do you know where I can go?
2. Is there a deli here? A *real* deli?
3. I'm moving. Would the Federation like my *tefillin/kipahs/prayer books/furniture/clothes*?
4. My mother/father needs help and I live in California/Ohio/Massachusetts/New York/New Jersey. What are my options?
5. I no longer drive. Can you take me grocery shopping/to my doctor's appointment?
6. How far is Naples?
7. I need a job.
8. Does Meals on Wheels serve kosher meals?
9. Our Section 8 housing voucher won't be valid until next week.
10. Where can I buy *yahrzeit* candles/*schmaltz/rugalah*/chicken soup/a corned beef sandwich and how high is the sandwich?
11. How do I get from my house to Temple Beth El/Temple Judea/Temple Beth Shalom/The Community Free Synagogue for the senior lunch?
12. Can you recommend an internist/surgeon/neurologist/podiatrist/dermatologist?
13. I have a family of five, just lost my job and we need groceries.
14. Where do the Jewish people in Fort Myers live?
15. My mother would like to say Kaddish for my father.

Family Services does.

Jewish Family Services provides information and referral services to the community including support for individuals with special needs, the elderly and indigent. JFS also operates a food pantry. Based on traditional Jewish values of social responsibility and concern for all members of the community, JFS serves those in need without regard to race, religion, sexual orientation or the ability to pay.

I am a matchmaker, of sorts, responsible for guiding people toward the best resources available. While I don't know everything about every situation, I usually know who or what can be most helpful and what the next steps are regarding outreach. People often contact Jewish Family Services while in crisis and want immediate help with elderly parents, housing, food, paying bills, etc. My role is to be a compassionate listener, let clients know what JFS can do or provide, and educate people as to the options available to them regarding their situation.

Sometimes it's easy to field questions about corned beef sandwiches, directions to a local synagogue, or food pantry hours. Other times it's more complicated and requires a more in-depth conversation to help someone who is reaching out. I was raised in a home where there was a strong sense of *tzedakah* (charitable giving) and *gemilut hasadim* (acts of kindness). I have been on both ends of conversations that I have with clients because over the years I have needed and asked for help in large and small ways.

The needs of our community are growing, and as a result the Federation has to adapt as well. Sherri Zucker is the Federation board representative for Jewish Family Services, and together we are discussing volunteer opportunities to help seniors who are lonely, isolated and need help. Please stay tuned for upcoming announcements in *L'CHAYIM* about ways you can become involved. Your contribution is needed, and not only financially, because in order to share the abundance of resources, we need your time as well as your heart and your soul.▲



Federation welcomes Debbie Sanford as its new program director

I am happy to welcome Debbie Sanford to the Jewish Federation and to Lee and Charlotte counties. By the time you read this, Debbie will already have taken on the responsibility of program director since Leni Sack's retirement. Debbie comes to us with extensive and successful experience in Jewish community service and programming. I encourage you to stop by to meet Debbie, welcome her to our community and share ideas. – Alan Isaacs

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The Jewish Federation Annual Campaign provides the resources to strengthen and enrich our Jewish community locally, in Israel and around the world.



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This year please consider making an additional campaign contribution in honor or memory of a loved one. Because kindness is contagious, we would like to highlight your generosity in L'CHAYIM and notify personally those whom you honor. You may choose how your generosity is noted and how we share your mitzvah with the community.

TRIBUTES

The leadership and staff of the Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte Counties extend condolences to the Schlager family on the passing of Martin Schlager, father of Robert Schlager.

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



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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 groups, etc.
- ✧ 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.
- ✧ Emergency financial assistance.
- ✧ Education and aid associated with natural disasters.



Local Community Services

- ✧ Support families of children with special needs.
- ✧ SAT preparatory classes for high school students.
- ✧ Volunteerism.
- ✧ Organizational Collaboration.
- ✧ 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.

Joseph Horowitz Israel Travel Grants Available

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

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

OUR HOPE is that these programs will enhance Jewish knowledge and identity in preparation for participation in American Jewish life.

THIS GRANT is for Jewish residents of either county who are 25 years old or younger and can demonstrate a financial need. Academic standing and community involvement may also be considered.



For more information or an application, visit our website at JewishFederationLCC.org.

Holocaust Museum & Cohen Education Center update

By Susan Suarez, President & CEO

Design and construction work continues at our new building to ready the space for the Museum's move, scheduled to take place in late 2018. We anticipate holding a grand opening ceremony on International Holocaust Remembrance Day in January 2019. The building purchase was made possible by a lead donor gift of \$1 million from Janet G. Cohen. In honor of her generosity, the new building will be named The Janet G. and Harvey D. Cohen Education Center.

In the meantime, we are still open for business at our present location.



Janet G. and Harvey D. Cohen (courtesy FGCU)

"I Witness," our current exhibit on display through October 31, features striking black and white portraits of local SWFL residents who are Holocaust Survivors, Camp Liberators and Witnesses. All were participants in the Museum's Oral Visual History Project. Several are also Museum Educators. Over the years, they have "made history personal" by sharing their Holocaust experiences with thousands of students and Museum visitors. The portraits, specially commissioned for the Museum's 10th anniversary, were created by photographer Erik Kellar, QR codes, positioned next to the portraits throughout the exhibit, provide the visitor with a unique opportunity to learn more about that person. Scan the code with your mobile phone or tablet to view a three-minute video created from that person's Oral Visual History Project testimony. It is a moving and unforgettable experience as they recount what they and their families went through during the Holocaust.

A student group also toured "I Witness" recently. After going through the exhibit, the students learned about the tradition of leaving a stone on the grave of a loved one. The group took part in an activity to create a memorial stone to honor someone who died in the Holocaust. Students then saw a brief video of hundreds of people waiting in line to place a stone on a grave. Each person in that line was alive because of the actions of just one man – Oscar Schindler – who stood up to the Nazis to protect his factory workers who were Jewish. The students were told that they, too, have the power to positively affect the lives of many others by their actions, no matter how small. Before leaving the Museum, the students individually placed their memorial stones on a table in our lobby, and took a "Remember" button. When you come to the Museum, please take a moment to look

at the stones and their messages. Education Assistant David Nelson will present a lecture on "Letter from Australia" on Wednesday, August 8 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. The letter, dated November, 1941, was part of our 2015 exhibit "The Faktor Investigation," a compilation of family correspondence in the first half of the 20th century. The letter was written by Kurt Kriszhaber, a Faktor relative imprisoned in an internment camp in Australia, and sent to Sala Faktor in New York City. Kurt was worried about his aunt and uncle still in Europe, and wondered if Sala had heard from them. David's investigation to learn more about Kurt and his family has involved research contacts all over the world. Recently, he had a big breakthrough – a photo of Kurt Kriszhaber was found in the National Archives of Australia. The lecture is open to the public, free of charge. Space is limited. RSVP to info@HolocaustMuseumSWFL.org, or call the Museum at 239.263.9200.

Please mark your calendars for our major fundraisers:

The Luncheon 2018 Series:

- ◆ Wednesday, December 12: An Evening with Dr. James Grymes, author of *Violins of Hope*, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at Temple Shalom in Naples
- ◆ Thursday, December 13: Patron Reception with *Violins of Hope* Project violin maker Avshalom Weinstein and display of restored violins, 11:00 to 11:45 a.m. at The Ritz-Carlton Beach Resort, Naples
- ◆ Thursday, December 13: The Luncheon Event featuring a musical performance with restored violins from the *Violins of Hope* Project, 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at The Ritz-Carlton Beach Resort, Naples

Triumph 2019:

- ◆ Monday, March 4: Triumph 2019 featuring speaker Christian Piccolini, founder of Life After Hate, at Grey Oaks Country Club, Naples

Invitations for The Luncheon Series will be mailed in mid-October. If you would like an invitation, contact Tim Morrison, Development & Membership Specialist, at 239.263.9200 or Tim@HolocaustMuseumSWFL.org. Hope to see you at the Museum soon! ▲



Kurt Kriszhaber

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

Conference for child survivors and their descendants to be held in Florida

The World Federation of Jewish Child Survivors of the Holocaust & Descendants will hold its 30th Annual International Conference of Child Survivors, Second and Third Generations, Spouses and Families in Cooperation with the Kindertransport, and Generations of the Shoah, in West Palm Beach this year. The 2018 conference will be held from Friday, November 9 to Monday, November 12. For conference information and registration, visit www.holocaustchild.org or call Susan at 818.606.0793.

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High Holiday Service Schedule 2018-5779

Selichot

Saturday evening, September 1
8:00pm - Coffee & Dessert
8:30pm - Havdalah and Selichot Service

Rosh Hashanah Services

Sunday, September 9
7:30pm - Services
Monday September 10
10:00am - Services
11:00am - Children's Service
Light luncheon and Taschlich Ceremony following
the morning services at Temple Beth Shalom

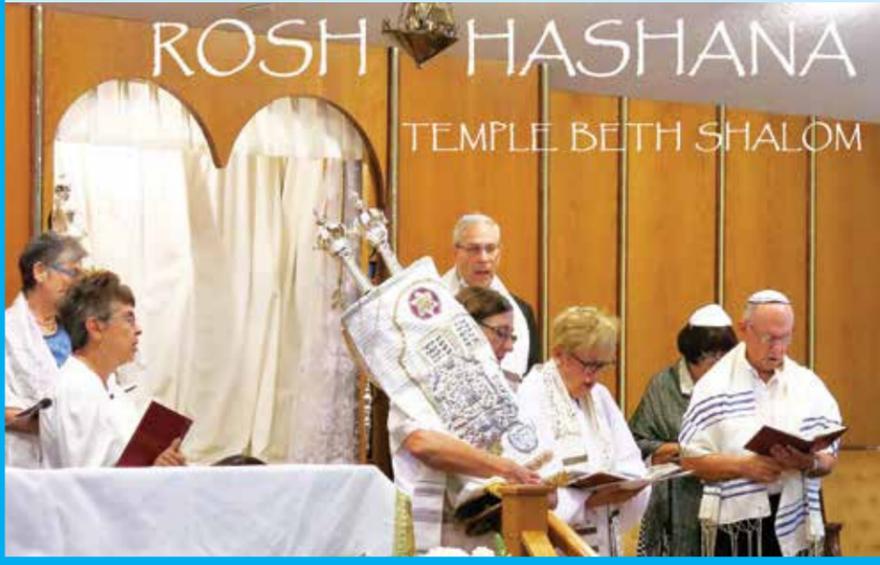
Cemetery Visitation Service

Sunday, September 16
11:00 am - Coral Ridge Cemetery (corner of Chiquita
and Pine Island Road) - We will remember and honor
our dearly departed loved ones – no matter where
they are buried.

Yom Kippur Services

Tuesday September 18
7:30pm - Kol Nidre Service
Wednesday September 19
10:00am - 1:00pm - Morning Service
11:00am - Children's Service
3:30pm - Mincha, followed by Yizkor Memorial and
Neilah Services, Concluding Shofar and Havdalah
Approx. 6:00pm - Break-the-Fast at Sundown
(reservations required)

www.templebethshalomcc.org



Please join us for any of the above services.
Tickets are required for non-members.
Please call the Temple Beth Shalom office
for reservations and pricing at 239-772-4555.

Religion & genocide speaker at FGCU Holocaust center

On Thursday, August 30, the Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Genocide Studies at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) is proud to be hosting Dr. Steven Leonard Jacobs, the Aaron Aronov Endowed Professor of Judaic Studies at the University of Alabama.

Entitled "The Nexus Between Religion and Genocide," the event will take place at the Sugden Welcome Center between 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Dr. Jacobs notes that examining cases of genocide, both historically before and after World War II, and the present moment – Bosnia, Rwanda, Sudan – is always painful, but necessary nonetheless. One neglected area of consideration is the painful relationship between acts of genocide and the religious foundations of the various communities wherein these horrors have occurred. As he argues, if we are to make sense of

what has already transpired and commit ourselves to non-repetition, then this nexus, too, is worth our examination and conversation.

All FGCU students, faculty and staff are welcome to attend this important and timely presentation. Outside guests are especially invited to join with the FGCU community in discussing this central topic for our times. The event is free; no registration or RSVP is necessary. Those coming from outside should obtain a parking permit from the Welcome Kiosk at the University entrance off Ben Hill Griffin Parkway. The Sugden Welcome Center is adjacent to the Welcome Kiosk. FGCU is located at 10501 FGCU Blvd., Fort Myers.

For further details, please contact the Center Director, Dr. Paul Bartrop (pbartrop@fgcu.edu), or the Associate Director, Jessica Evers (jevers@fgcu.edu).▲

BAR MITZVAH

Shayne Fabian Seiser, son of Stacy and Lance Seiser, older brother of Ryan, and grandson of Sherry and Joel Levine, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, August 4 at Temple Beth El. Shayne will be entering eighth grade at The Alva School where he is a member of National Junior Honor Society and plays bass clarinet in advanced band. Shayne enjoys going to the movies, collecting 4K/Blu-rays, performing at the Florida Repertory Theatre, and trying new foods. Shayne is thankful to his family and friends, religious school teachers Dale Cohen and Rabbi Nicole Luna, for their support and encouragement as he prepares for this special milestone. He looks forward to celebrating with his family and friends, and continuing his Jewish education. Mazel tov!



Each month, *L'CHAYIM* will list your Life Cycle events – births, B'nai Mitzvah, engagements, weddings, anniversaries and obituaries. For B'nai Mitzvah, please include up to 150 words about your child. Submit your events to LChayim36@gmail.com. Photos are appreciated; please e-mail as JPGs at 300dpi.

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The Hurricane Task Force of the Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte Counties

In preparation for this hurricane season please remember to:

- Fill out the form below and return it to us. The information will be used only in an emergency to contact you and/or a relative.
- Contact your county emergency operations center using the contact information below to receive guidance on how to prepare for an emergency.

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www.leeecoc.com

Charlotte County Office of Emergency Management
Phone: 941.833.4000 Fax: 941.833.4081
www.charlottecountyfl.com/emergency/index.asp

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Fort Myers, FL 33908
Phone: (239) 481-4449 Fax: (239) 481-0139
Email: loriramos@jfedlcc.org

Welcome Tab Scribner, Temple Judea's new Director of Congregational Learning

By Rabbi Marc Sack

When a student and his or her family walks into the Temple Judea Religious School on Sunday, August 26, they will see the words *b'rukhim haba-im* (welcome) in the entryway to the school building. Also, in the entryway, they will see *m'qom hakipah* (The Kippah Keeper!), a place for every student's personalized *kippah* that they will wear in the synagogue. On the walls of all the classrooms will be the words to *Hatikvah* in Hebrew. And, during religious school instruction, in addition to learning Hebrew, prayers, Israel and Torah, the students will engage in dramatic role-play and text-based debate.

All of this and more is the vision of Tab Scribner, who began her tenure as the Director of Congregational Learning at Temple Judea on July 1. She is creating a program where children are encouraged to "think Jewishly" – to wonder and ask questions. She wants

the students of Temple Judea to have a love of Jewish learning and Jewish living.

Tab comes with a wide range of skills. She is, first and foremost, an educator. She earned her B.M. in Music Education from the University of Northern Iowa where she was awarded a McNair Research Fellowship, and a Master of Music Performance from the University of Louisville where she was an assistant to the Director of Bands. Since 2011, Tab has taught music and biology in the Lee County Schools and earned the distinction of "highly qualified status." Before college, Tab did a stint in the Marine Corps Fleet Band where she played trombone.

In addition to her music and edu-

cation talent, Tab is a creative craftsman. She designed and built a Jewish Monopoly game complete with Jewish locations, tokens, cards and Hebrew money. It's a "Jewish immersion" Monopoly set. She fabricated the tablets of the Ten Commandments out of Styrofoam for a lesson with religious school students.



Tab Scribner

Tab is a Jew By Choice. While her family had no religious tradition, Tab always had questions. She would ask her church-going relatives and friends about their faiths, and they would respond, "Why are you asking? One just has to accept." When researching her family tree some years ago, Tab learned a family story that included a lot of contact with Jews. Tab,

who describes herself as a sponge, read everything she could about Judaism, eventually finding her way to Temple Judea and becoming Jewish. She has a passion for learning and for teaching. She is enrolled in the online Master of Jewish Education program at The Jewish Theological Seminary.

Tab wrote this: "I envision our religious school at Temple Judea as an extension of the Jewish home. It is designed to support our families in cultivating their children's Jewish identity by equipping them with the knowledge and skills to encourage and enable informed Jewish thought. This will allow the next generation to create and maintain an enduring relationship with God, Israel and the Jewish people."

Tab will bring her passion for great Jewish learning to the children and families of Temple Judea.▲

The Community Free Synagogue welcomes High Holiday guest musicians

The Community Free Synagogue (10868 Metro Parkway in Fort Myers) is pleased to announce the return of symphony cellist Julie Cornwall and the addition of concert pianist Peter Fancovic to its High Holiday musical ensemble, joining flutist Laurie McConville and vocalists Traci Pavel, Rabbi Thomas Miess and Richard McConville.

Ms. Cornwall, who is returning for the third time to help C.F.S. celebrate the High Holidays, has been playing cello for 36 years, 27 of which have



Julie Cornwall

been in professional performance with the Florida West Coast Symphony in Sarasota, the Southwest Florida Symphony in Fort Myers, the Naples Phil-

harmonic, and the Venice Symphony in Venice. She holds a Bachelor of Music Degree Magna Cum Laude from the University of Wisconsin and is currently principal cellist of the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra. She has extensive experience in synagogue sacred music.

Mr. Fancovic was born in Slovakia to a musical family. He performed at an early age as a soloist with the Conservatory's Symphonic Orchestra and



Peter Fancovic

Bratislava Chamber Orchestra, winning first prize in the National Conservatory Competition. He received his Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Piano Performance at the Manhattan School of Music in New York City. He has been awarded prizes in

the J.N. Hummel Competition held in Slovakia (the best representative from his country) and, in the Czech Republic, the Marianske Lazne International Chopin Competition and the Hradec International Beethoven Competition, where he received first prize and a special prize as the best interpreter of Beethoven. He was selected to participate in the "New Virtuosi On Tour" concert series in various concert halls in Holland, including the prestigious Concertgebouw in Amsterdam. As the

latest concerto performance, he played Mendelssohn's "Concerto" as a selected winner of the annual concerto competition held at the Manhattan School of Music. He has also contributed his talents to synagogue worship.

High Holiday worship, as well as all events and programs of The Community Free Synagogue, are open to all at no charge. Please consult www.fortmyerssynagogue.com for the schedule of High Holiday worship and related events.▲

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August 26, 2018 (10:00 AM – 12:00 PM)

Community Meet and Greet Open House
August 29, 2018 (7:00 PM – 9:00 PM)

Marc Sack - Rabbi
Tab Scribner - Dir. of Congregational Learning
Zohar Ben Hamu – Sh’lichah

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- Hazak
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Want to learn more, but can't make the open houses?
Please call the office to set up an appointment!

Israel Scouts rock Fort Myers

Photos courtesy
Ted Epstein



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Thursday, September 13th
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RSVP by September 7

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- Bags will be packed on Thursday, August 23 at 11 am
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- Bags will be delivered on Sunday, August 26th.

This is an opportunity for all family members to get involved. Seniors love having young children come visit.

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What better way to start the new year !

Stars of David

By Nate Bloom, Contributing Columnist

Editor's note: Persons in **BOLD CAPS** are deemed by Nate Bloom to be Jewish for the purpose of the column. Persons identified as Jewish have at least one Jewish parent and were not raised in a faith other than Judaism – and don't identify with a faith other than Judaism as an adult. Converts to Judaism, of course, are also identified as Jewish.

If 50 or so People Died at Once, a Jew Could be on the Throne

Now streaming on Amazon is *A Very English Scandal*, a three-episode BBC series. It stars Hugh Grant as Jeremy Thorpe (1929-2014), the British Liberal Party leader from 1970-76. Thorpe was a charismatic, articulate man who was at the cusp of real power several times (via a coalition with another, bigger party). His political career ended when he was accused of being involved in a plot to murder a man he had a same-sex affair with. The series, which got good reviews, was directed by **STEPHEN FREARS**, 77, a two-time Oscar nominee.

Thorpe was married to Marion Stein (1926-2014) from 1973 until her death. Her "Jewish" last name made me look up Stein. Born in Vienna, she fled to the U.K. in 1938, along with her parents. Her Jewish father, **ERWIN STEIN**, was a prominent musician. Obits seem to imply her mother wasn't Jewish, but her maternal grandmother's maiden name was Cohn, so my "research jury" is still out about Marion being Jewish (at least in a *halachic* sense). Stein was a beautiful woman and a talented concert pianist. Her first husband, George Lascelles, the Earl of Harwood, was Queen Elizabeth's first cousin (his mother and her father were siblings). At his birth, Lascelles was 6th in line to the throne. Stein wed the Earl in an Anglican ceremony and I presume she adopted his faith. They had two sons. The elder son, the present Earl, is as close as a "possibly" *halachic* Jew has ever come to the throne.

By the way, Queen Mary, the grandmother of George Lascelles and Queen Elizabeth II, initially objected to Stein joining the extended royal family. Lascelles once summed up Mary's objections to Stein in three words: "Jewish. Doesn't hunt."

Casual

The original Hulu series *Casual* begins streaming its 4th and final season on Tuesday, July 31. The series centers on three characters: Valerie (**MICHAELA**

WATKINS, 46), a therapist; her brother, Alex, a high-tech guy; and Valerie's teen daughter, Laura. Valerie's office assistant, Leia (**JULIE BERMAN**, 34) became a pretty important character in the 3rd season. **FRED MELAMED**, 62, who played Alex's father, was a central character in several 2nd season episodes. The series was created by **ZANDER LEHMANN**, 30, and the principal director is **JASON REITMAN**, 40.

This series has received great reviews and is really worth watching. But be warned: it's too exhausting to watch three seasons in one go. Without really spoiling things, just be advised that the characters evolve and you come to realize they all have severe character flaws that kind of make you angry at them because they aren't the uncomplicated "good folks" you think at first (this is especially true of Valerie and Laura). However, despite their flaws, you'll really want to know what happens to them in the final season if you watch the first three.

Sport Shorts

Whatever your opinion about the Russian government, there is no denying that the Russian soccer (football) team played very well at this year's World Cup. Russia had the only Jewish player in the World Cup matches held in Russia. The player is **VLADIMIR GRANAT**, 31, a defenseman who has been a pro since 2004. He's played for the Russian national team since 2011. He also played for Russia in the 2014 World Cup. He was a member of the Russian Maccabi team and played in the 2017 Maccabiah Games in Israel. (Thanks to *Jewish Sports Review* magazine for this tip).

RYAN TURELL, 18, a 2018 graduate of Valley Torah High School in Los Angeles, was the best Jewish school basketball player in the country during his senior year. Turell led his team to a 29-8 league record as he put up great personal offensive numbers. He was heavily recruited by "big-time basketball" Division I colleges and universities (including two service academies).

Interested in Your Family's History?

Nate Bloom (see column at left) has become a family history expert in 10 years of doing his celebrity column, and he has expert friends who can help when called on. Most family history experts charge \$1,000 or more to do a full family-tree search. However, Bloom knows that most people want to start with a limited search of one family line.

So here's the deal:

Write Bloom at nteibloom@aol.com and enclose a phone number. Nate will then contact you about starting a limited search. If that goes well, additional and more extensive searches are possible. The first search fee is no more than \$100. No upfront cost. Also, several of this newspaper's readers have asked Bloom to locate friends and family members from their past, and that's worked out great for them. So contact him about this as well.

Ultimately, however, he decided late this spring that he couldn't go to a college where observing Shabbos would be difficult. He'll be attending Yeshiva University, a Division III school, this fall. **This One You Probably Didn't Know** Actor Tab Hunter, who recently died at age 87, seemed the epitome of the good-looking WASP boy-next-door.

However, he was born Mayo Kelm, the son of a Jewish father and a German Catholic mother. His father was abusive and his mother walked out on him when Tab was a toddler (she renamed him Arthur Gelien). Tab was a practicing Catholic most of his life, but his male life partner of 35 years, who outlived him, is Jewish.▲



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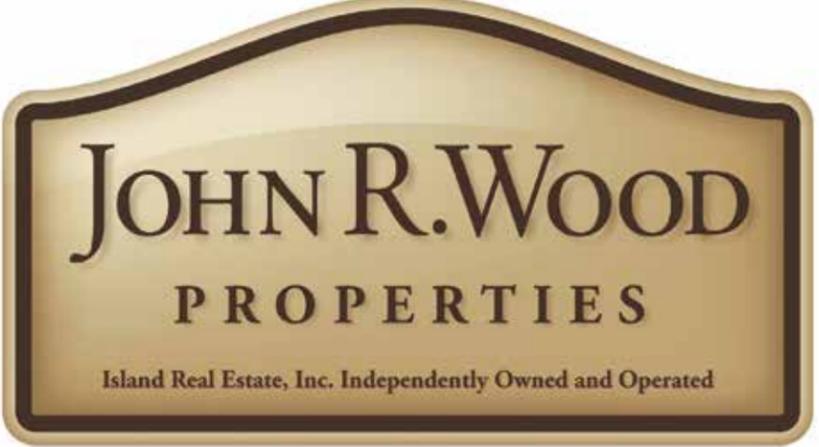
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A Swiss hero

By Paul R. Bartrop, PhD

Exactly eighty years ago, on August 18, 1938, the Swiss government closed its borders to Jewish refugees attempting to flee Nazi Germany. Every movement of Jews crossing into Switzerland was declared by the government to be illegal, and refugees were forced back to Germany or Austria.



■ Dr. Paul Bartrop

One man, however, refused to adopt what he considered to be a heartless policy. The subsequent actions of Paul Grüninger, a Swiss border police commander, would save several thousand Jews who otherwise would have been denied sanctuary.

Born on October 27, 1891, in St. Gallen, the son of a cigar shop owner, Grüninger lived a simple lifestyle not especially involved in matters outside of his home town. During World War I, when Switzerland was neutral, he served in the Swiss army as a lieutenant. After the war he joined the border police, rising to the rank of colonel, and soon became commander of the border police for St. Gallen Canton.

When the Nazis came to power in Germany in 1933, many Jews fled to neighboring Austria. The German annexation of Austria on March 12, 1938, then saw an immediate start to Jewish persecution there, with Austrian Jews now also seeking sanctuary in Switzerland. To act as a deterrent, in October 1938 the Swiss government asked

Germany to stamp the letter "J" on all Jewish passports so Swiss officials might more easily identify (and thus, reject) Jews. In 1939 Switzerland decided not to admit refugees on religious or racial grounds, thereby further denying Jews access.

It was in this context that Paul Grüninger was approached every day by German and Austrian Jews seeking asylum and, as he heard their stories, he could scarcely believe his ears. When faced with choosing between following the law or staying true to his moral code, his sense of compassion made it impossible to turn the Jews away. Grüninger realized he would be putting himself at risk by doing what he thought was humane and right, but believed that saving lives was far more important than preserving his job.

Through following his conscience, he admitted over 3,600 Jews by falsifying their passports and entry papers or turning a blind eye when necessary. He even used his own money to buy winter clothes for refugees who had been forced to leave all their belongings behind.

The new arrivals, treated as legal refugees, would be taken to a camp established at Diepoldsau near the Austrian frontier, where, aided by Jewish organizations, they could await permits for a temporary stay in Switzerland or their final departure elsewhere. On April 3, 1939, however, Grüninger arrived at work to find a young cadet, Corporal Antón Schneider, standing in front of his office door. Blocking Grüninger's way in, Schneider's orders

had come directly from the office of the commander-in-chief. Grüninger knew instinctively why he was being stopped. A friend working at a border post in Bregenz, Austria, had informed him that he was on the Gestapo's blacklist due to having helped a Jewish woman, who he had already assisted to escape from Austria, recover her jewels. She had left them at a hotel in Bregenz, and Grüninger contacted Ernest Prodolliet of the Swiss consulate in Bregenz to collect the jewels for her. Prodolliet and Grüninger had worked together on missions like this before. The woman was so grateful for Grüninger's help that she wrote about his kindness in a letter to some friends; the Gestapo intercepted the letter, imprisoned the hotel owner, confiscated the jewels, and began to keep an eye on Grüninger. Soon after this, the Swiss authorities learned of Grüninger's illegal activities and dismissed him. Placed on trial in proceedings that would last two years, the court found him guilty of a breach of duty. He was imprisoned, had his pension revoked, was forced to pay costs, and fined. Although the court accepted that his actions were honorable, they declared that as a state official he should have followed his orders, refused entrance to Jews, and not falsified official documents. Grüninger was publicly humiliated and lived the rest of his life with a prison record, making it practically impossible to find steady work. He did not seek redress or recognition for his actions, instead focusing on surviving and supporting his family.

In 1954 he claimed, "My personal well-being, measured against the cruel fate of these thousands, was so insignificant and unimportant," that he never even took the consequences of his actions into consideration.

When Paul Grüninger died at the age of 81 on February 22, 1972, his family was still living in near poverty.

In December 1970 the Swiss government sent Grüninger a letter of apology, but at the same time still refused him his pension. Then, a year before his death, Israel's Yad Vashem recognized him as one of the Righteous Among the Nations.

In 1994 the Swiss government published a Declaration of Honor on his behalf, before finally annulling his conviction. In 1998 the Parliament of St. Gallen Canton agreed to compensate Grüninger's descendants, and his family put the money into the Paul Grüninger Foundation, an organization that works to reward outstanding acts of humanity and courage that align with Grüninger's actions.

Although most recognition came after Grüninger's death, his decision to save those in need has served as a model of moral behavior for the world today. Long may his actions be respected and remembered. ▲

Dr. Paul Bartrop is Professor of History and the Director of the Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Genocide Studies at Florida Gulf Coast University. He can be reached at pbartrop@fgcu.edu.

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Selichot

Saturday, September 1st
8:00 pm Dessert Reception
9:00 pm Selichot Service

Rosh Hashanah

Sunday, September 9th
7:30 pm Evening Service

Monday, September 10th
10:00 am Morning Service
10:30 am Jr. Congregation
12:30 pm Tashlich

In Lakes Park - be our guest at lunch
Families welcome

Rosh Hashanah 2nd Day

Tuesday, September 11th
10:00 am Morning Service

Yom Kippur

Tuesday, September 18th
7:30 pm Kol Nidre Eve Service

Wednesday, September 19th
10:00 am Morning Service
10:30 am Jr. Congregation
4:30 pm Musical Meditation
5:30 pm Yizkor
6:00 pm Mincha/Neilah
followed by Break-the-Fast

Sukkot

Monday, September 24th
11:00 am Sukkot Service
followed by lunch in the sukkah

All are welcome regardless of financial ability. For tickets, please call:

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A war orphan's journey from trauma to transcendence, with all the stops along the way

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

A Life Rebuilt: The Remarkable Transformation of a War Orphan, by Sylvia Ruth Gutmann. Epigraph Books. 318 pages. Hardcover \$26.95, trade paperback \$18.95.

This is one of the most heart-wrenching and ultimately uplifting Holocaust narratives. While the Holocaust is mostly in the background of this personal memoir, it is the driving force of the author's life – and of her parents' death and the death of many other relatives. It is the story of living in a vacuum that created self-doubt, depression and poor choices. Sylvia's story is a high complex one that is simply told in an open, friendly manner. It is a story of self-discovery and self-making. It is a story about victory after failures, humiliations and destructive patterns of behavior. It is honest to its core.

Three-year-old Sylvia's parents managed to arrange for the young girl and her two older sisters to reach safety before the parents met their deaths at Auschwitz. She reached the United States at the age of seven, along with her sisters Rita, then fourteen, and Susi, a year or so younger. The series of traumas that brought Sylvia to New York obliterated her memory and left her with emptiness, foreboding and a sense of unworthiness. She is taken in by her uncle Sam, who shows strong affection, and his wife Gerdy, who treats her

terribly, amplifying the child's sense of unworthiness. This couple has two sons, the older of which, Michel, becomes a lifelong friend, but there are periods of hostility between these cousins.

Sylvia has no memories, and she has a struggle to access the English language necessary for her education. Her sense of her younger self comes from conversations with Rita, who serves a maternal role. Rita builds a sense of Sylvia's past that is largely accurate, but many decades later, as an old woman, Sylvia discovers inaccuracies and fills in blanks that were outside of Rita's knowledge.

During her school years, Sylvia gains solace from her sense of non-belonging by over-indulging in sweets, and her weight problem brings humiliation. Addictive behavior of various kinds shows up throughout much of her life, as do periods of self-control and achievement. Her choices in men seem to bode well at first, but too often end up being disasters, plunging her into despair. However, she finds employments that allow her a modest income. The yearning to free herself from poor choices and low self-esteem brings her to successful periods of professional therapy. And Rita is always available, if not in person, then over the phone, to console her.

Over time, Sylvia gains self-knowledge and strength. Her one positive marriage, with Milton, a very wealthy and caring man, helps her gain balance, but after his death, with no continuing sup-

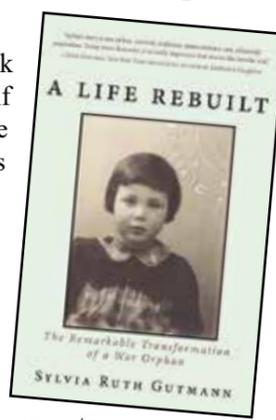
port from his heirs, she is back in a panic situation for herself and her son David, whom she must often support even in his adulthood.

One of her more eccentric relationships is with a young man named Jannek, a Czech student studying in Germany. At sixty-two, Sylvia is about forty years older than her suitor, but she travels to Germany to live with him. It is in the country that still holds the secrets of her early childhood that Sylvia begins telling her story to various groups, people of all ages and backgrounds, and their positive responses create a mission that soon dominates her life. The feedback she gets even ameliorates her hostility to the German people.

While in Germany, she finds the place of her birth and meets individuals who knew her parents – and even knew the toddler Sylvia. Amazingly, she also meets the woman who so many years ago, at the age of nineteen, was entrusted by Sylvia's mother with the fate of her three daughters.

While the historical and personal events, the few satisfying and frequent debilitating relationships, the kaleidoscopic moods, and hard-won insights of *A Life Rebuilt* are enough to draw readers to the book and its amazingly resilient author, it is Sylvia's voice that is extraordinarily compelling. It is a voice like no other: sometimes

frantic, sometimes ecstatic, sometimes fragile, sometimes strong, but always authentic and deeply revelatory. Over the decades, it shifts from being a voice of innocence to a voice of experience. It is a most remarkable and valuable voice. Hear it and you will be moved, enlightened and changed.



About the author

Sylvia Ruth Gutmann immigrated with her two older sisters to the United States in 1946, four years after the murder of her parents in Auschwitz. Sylvia is a former spokesperson on behalf of the United Jewish Appeal Federation of New York City. Every year she shares her story at numerous Holocaust remembrance and Wounded Warrior ceremonies organized by the U.S. Military. She has also spoken extensively throughout Europe and was granted honorary German citizenship in 2002 for her peace activism. Sylvia currently lives in Massachusetts. In addition to having spent several years in Berlin, she has also lived in New York City, San Diego, Miami, Washington, D.C., and Rhinebeck, New York. Over the years her friends learned to use a pencil when adding her home to their address book! See <https://sylviaruthgutmann.com/>.

Philip K. Jason is Professor Emeritus of English from the United States Naval Academy. He reviews regularly for Florida Weekly, Jewish Book World, Southern Literary Review, and other publications. Please visit Phil's website at www.philjason.wordpress.com.



Sylvia Ruth Gutmann

Phil Jason



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Yemenite Mastery: Jachnun – recipe by Dalia Hemed

Today on our journey of “70 Years of History Through Food” to Israel, we are going to expand your Israeli culinary horizons with jachnun. Originally a doughy Yemenite Shabbat breakfast dish, it’s become an Israeli favorite for any time of day.

After your exposure to Israeli cuisine with malabi (milk pudding) and sabiche (Israeli sandwiches), it’s time to branch out. Israel, a land of immigrants, has a cuisine as multicultural as its population, with diverse flavors that span the spectrum.

For the record, the best part of jachnun is not pulling apart the hot, flaky dough and dipping it into spicy schug, nor is it breaking into the slow-roasted eggs that cooked with it all night. It’s trying to pronounce the word “jachnun” with the guttural ‘ch’ sound, and then when the nearest Yemenite or Israeli corrects you, trying to imitate the sounds that just came out of their mouth. Yeah, that’s fun, but if you can master the correct pronunciation of this word, you’ve earned the right to taste it – and it’s quite the treat. It must be the history and the story behind the dish that makes the experience of eating it so meaningful.

As a community with limited resources, Yemenite Jewish immigrants from Aden mastered the art of transforming the simple ingredients of fat, flour and water into a repertoire of glorious baked goods. This resource-

fulness, a mark of great Jewish home cooks across cultures, has resulted in tempting Sabbath breads.

Jachnun is a crepe-like pastry made from dough that gets stretched ultrathin, smeared with clarified butter, then folded and rolled endlessly onto itself. It is baked overnight at very low temperatures and emerges from the oven downy and caramelized.

Jachnun is a show of human ingenuity – simple ingredients turned into a delicacy that can be served hot on Shabbat, given the limitations of poverty and Jewish religious law. It’s also an immigrant success story, but like many immigrants, it succeeded in its



adopted homeland by coming far from its roots – a hearty meal that soared to popularity by transforming itself into a pastry.

I loved waking up on a Saturday morning to the smell of freshly made jachnun. You don’t want to miss this smell. Enjoy!

Generally, jachnun is baked in a

round oven-safe metal pot with a tight-sealing lid, but I’ve also had fine results baking it in a crock-pot.

Ingredients:

- 2 lbs white flour
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 tbsp salt
- 2¾ cup water
- ¼ cup silan (honey date) or honey
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 12 tbsp softened margarine or 4-8 tbsp olive oil
- a few slices of stale bread to line the jachnun pot

Directions:

- ▶ Knead together the water and honey, flour, sugar, baking powder and salt to form a slightly sticky dough. You’ll know you have the right consistency if the dough springs back when you poke it. Let the dough sit for at least two hours or, ideally, overnight (this makes it much easier to stretch).
- ▶ Knead the dough again and divide it into 12 balls.
- ▶ Smear some of your grease of choice onto your work surface: a large countertop or a clean plastic tablecloth, anywhere you have room to stretch the dough into a 40-centimeter (15-inch) square.
- ▶ Take the first ball of dough. Pressing it with your fingertips, stretch it slowly into a large square, greasing the dough if necessary. Slip your fingers under the edges of the dough, lifting and pulling it outward to stretch it further. Try to repair any tears if they form, but don’t get too worried about them. Ultimately, you should have a 15-inch square. You can use a rolling pin, but it’s not recommended as the dough is more likely to tear this way. Smear about 1 tablespoon margarine or 1-2 teaspoons oil across the entire surface of the dough, and then fold the dough into thirds to make a long rectangle. Starting at one of the narrow ends of the rectangle, roll the dough up over itself, pulling slightly as you go to thin it out a bit further so that you have a tube approximately 5-6 inches long. Repeat with the rest of the dough.
- ▶ Arrange the rolled jachnun in your baking pot of choice. Pad the bottom of the pot with some stale bread, this helps absorb excess oil



Personal Chef Dalia Hemed can be reached at daliahemed@msn.com.

and keeps the bottom jachnun from burning. Cover the pot.

- ▶ Start the eggs, too. Either nestle them into the pot with the jachnun (they may distort the shape of the jachnun) or put them in their own oven-proof pot, covered in water. Put the eggs into the oven with the jachnun.
- ▶ Bake at 210-230 degrees Fahrenheit for 10-12 hours, or at the crock-pot’s automatic setting. Use a thermometer to double check



that your oven’s temperature is accurate. This is important for baking in general, but it’s particularly important when the baking time is this long and you’re not going to be next to the stove for the entire process. If you get the temperature right, you can leave the jachnun in the oven for extra time without any adverse effects.

- ▶ Serve jachnun alongside cooked eggs, grated fresh tomato and schug (Sriracha hot sauce or chili garlic sauce will also work).▲

Look for Chef Dalia Hemed’s recipes each month in the pages of L’CHAYIM.

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



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Selichot

Saturday, September 1
9:00pm Reception, and Service

Rosh Hashanah

Sunday, September 9
6:00pm Family Service – Open to community
6:30 pm Congregational Service

Monday, September 10
9:30am Congregational Service and Child Care
10:30am Youth Service
4:30pm Tashlich

Tuesday, September 11
9:30am Congregational Service

Kol Nidre

Tuesday, September 18
6:30pm Family Service – Open to community
7:00 pm Congregational Service

Yom Kippur

Wednesday, September 19
9:30am Congregational Service and Child Care
10:30am Youth Service
4:30pm Afternoon Discussion
5:30 pm Minchah/N’ilah/Havdalah
7:54pm Shofar Blowing

Sukkot

Monday, September 24

9:30am Service

Friday, September 28

6:30pm Shabbat Sukkot
Consecration, Sukkot Dinner

Sunday, September 30

5:30pm Spaghetti Dinner
& Erev Simchat Torah

Monday, October 1

9:30 am Sh’mini Atzeret/Simchat Torah
(includes Yizkor)

All services conducted by Rabbi Marc Sack

The other Cabernet

By The Wine Whisperer

As we all know, Cabernet Sauvignon is one of the world's most favorite and most celebrated wines. It's one of the six "noble varieties," so called because it's capable of making elegant wines that can age and



Jerry Greenfield

develop for decades. It reaches its ultimate expression, according to many, as a major component of the Bordeaux blend, and in many of the highest quality wines from California – especially from Napa Valley.

But hold on a second. There's another Cabernet called Cabernet Franc...and it's worth knowing about – and enjoying. It's one of the world's major black grapes, kind of a twin cousin to Sauvignon, and also makes big, dark, bold reds that pair beautifully with many types of foods, especially those with a higher salt content (think Asian flank steak and other dishes with soy sauce).

The heart of the traditional Cab Franc growing region is just at the middle of the Loire Valley, around the villages of Chinon and Bourgueil, which is, as everyone knows, pronounced "burr-GOOEY." It's southwest of Tours, and not remotely near any other major city. But the countryside is gorgeous, studded with spectacular chateaux...and the food isn't bad, either. Of course, this varietal is grown extensively in Bordeaux, and popular in other winegrowing regions such as Italy, Hungary and the U.S.

Cabernet Franc, as mentioned, is closely related to Cabernet Sauvignon,

but it's not as dark, and has a softer level of intensity. The perfume is a bit richer, with aromas of raspberries, tobacco, cassis and violets. The tannins are more rounded as well, so it tends to have a smoother mouthfeel. A wine like Justin "Justification" is a good example, coming from Paso Robles and containing a healthy percentage of Merlot for a softer mouthfeel and rounder tannins.

The truth is that this grape is used in blends probably more than it's bottled as a single varietal. However, there's a lot of enjoyment to be had. So look for it the next time you go wine shopping.

Now, our latest favorites...

Charles Krug Sauvignon Blanc St. Helena 2016 (\$14) Fermented completely in stainless steel, the wine preserves the varietal's characteristic (and bold) grapefruit and pineapple aromas and flavors. However, it's very round on the palate and not at all acidic. Very true to type, and watch for those lime and passionfruit flavors to kick in on the finish. WW 89.

Grgich Hills Estate Zinfandel Napa Valley 2013 (\$36) This Zinfandel departs from the traditional flavor profile in a delightful way. Not a typical fruit bomb, there are notes of white pepper, spice, leather, blackberry and about 3% Petite Sirah thrown in for complexity and structure. More complex than many Zins, and a refreshing newer style. WW 89-90

Olema Cabernet Sauvignon Sonoma 2014 (\$23) Another favorite of ours, this wine has 3% Petite Sirah blended in for structure. Complex notes of black cherry, smoke, vanilla, tobacco...the layers of flavor just go on and on. WW 92

Ask the Wine Whisperer

I've heard a lot about a wine event called "The Judgment of Paris" held in 1976. What exactly was that all about? – Paula L., Palm Beach

This event was the subject of a book of the same name, and then a movie called *Bottle Shock* with Alan Rickman playing a wine merchant named Steven Spurrier, who had a wine store in Paris and was convinced that American wines could be just as good as the French. This view, of course, was considered heretical. Spurrier traveled to California and brought back a selection of Cabernets and Chardonnays, then put together a panel of French experts to taste and score the American wines and their French counterparts blind...

that is without knowing which wines came from where. Long story short, an American Chardonnay made by Chateau Montelena topped the finest white Burgundies, and several California reds were scored higher than the most expensive and famous wines from Bordeaux and Burgundy. This put American wines "on the map" internationally and was one of the most significant events in the modern history of American wine.▲ Jerry Greenfield is The Wine Whisperer. He is Creative Director of Greenfield Advertising Group, and Wine Director of the international Direct Cellars wine club. His book, Secrets of the Wine Whisperer, is available through his website. Read his other writings at www.winewhisperer.com.

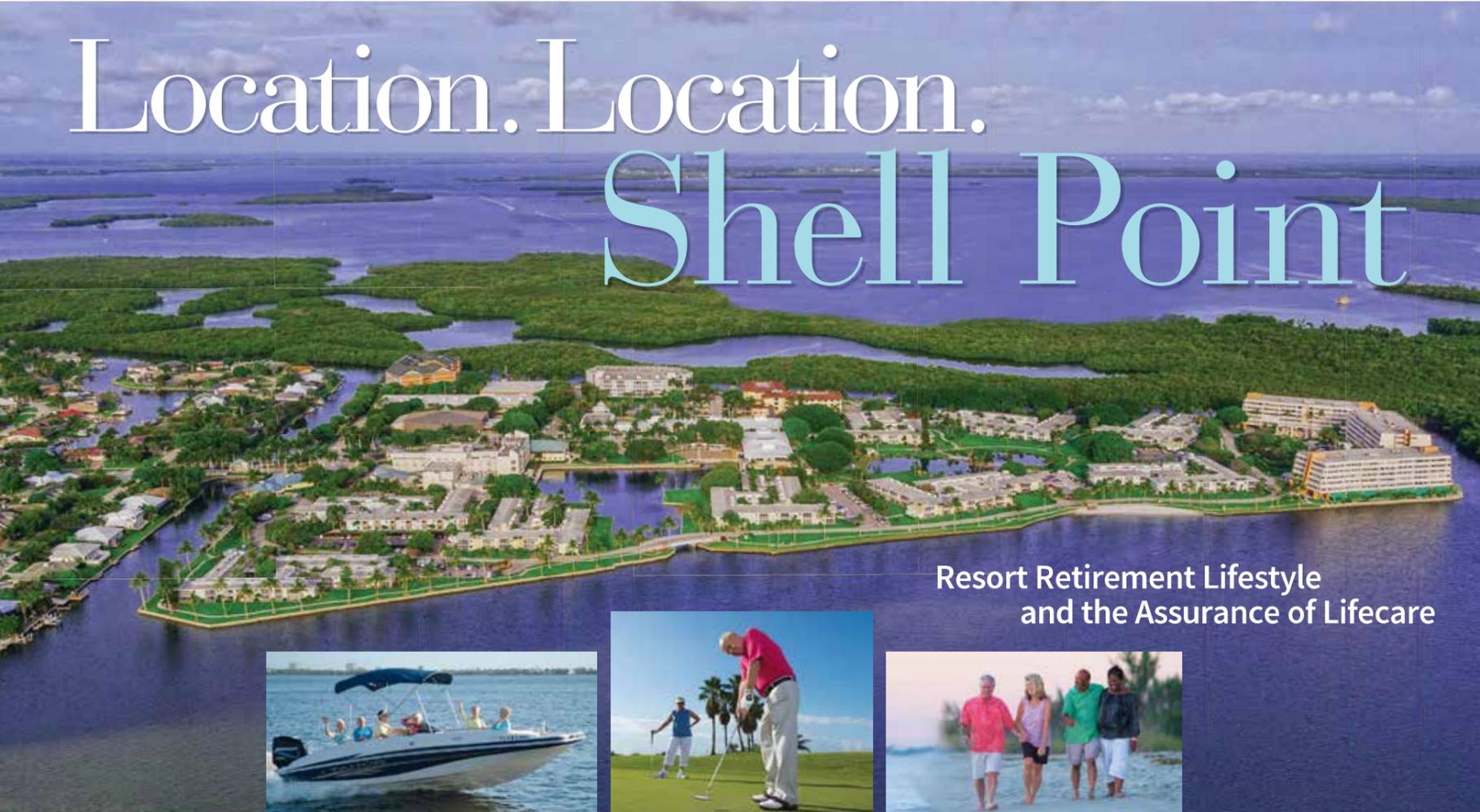
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Israeli residents go public with heartfelt aid to Syrians

"I needed those people to know who we are. I want them to feel a tiny bit of solidarity, to fill their souls as well as their stomachs," says Gal Lusky.

By Abigail Klein Leichman, ISRAEL21c.org, July 3, 2018

"Salam Aleikum" began the letter that hundreds of Syrian refugees found attached to tents they received last week via the Israel Defense Forces' Operation Good Neighbor.

The letter was hastily written in English by Gal Lusky, who has been supplying humanitarian aid to Syrian victims of the civil war since 2011 through her secretive nonprofit, Israeli Flying Aid.

Finally, she wanted to introduce herself. "Although you are considered to be our sworn enemies and although by operating in the field our volunteers were risking their lives, as the descendants of Jews that survived the Holocaust, we, the volunteers of Israeli Flying Aid, proud Jewish citizens of the State of Israel, sanctify life and will not

"I'm so emotional about it," Lusky tells ISRAEL21c. "I needed those people to know who we are. I want them to feel a tiny bit of solidarity, to fill their souls as well as their stomachs."

Israeli Flying Aid secured most of the 300 tents, 13 tons of food, 15 tons of baby formula, three pallets of medical supplies, and 30 tons of clothes and shoes sent overnight by the IDF last week to tens of thousands of Syrian civilians fleeing Bashar Assad's latest offensive against rebel holdouts in the Daraa region of southwest Syria.

"We worked delicately in the beginning and didn't want to embarrass those we are helping," Lusky says, but recently she explained to opposition political leaders in southern Syria that precious time is wasted removing identifying labels from medication and other desperately needed supplies coming from Israel.

"They said, 'Gal, we're risking ourselves anyway and we'll take what we can to help our people.'"

And so she decided to go public with the effort that has been going on for years in cooperation with the IDF – not including Israeli Flying Aid's other covert activities around the world since 2005.

Golan Heights residents pitch in
Lusky's passion to help has been matched by other individual Israelis, especially in the Golan Heights where residents constantly hear shooting, explosions and Iranian missiles flying

over their heads as the conflict rages over the Syrian border.

The Golan Regional Council, encompassing 32 Israeli towns and villages, has made several appeals over the past few years for residents to collect items that the IDF deemed most needed by Syrian refugees – everything from blankets to sunshades.

A message sent out on July 1 has garnered the largest response to date, council spokeswoman Dalia Amos tells ISRAEL21c.

"This time there was a huge response from all over the country, not only our communities. I think what really excited everyone was that we asked for families to make bags for Syrian children containing small toys, coloring pages and sweets. We emailed all the children in the Golan a blessing in Arabic that they can print out or copy over and put in their packages," Amos says.

"My daughter asked me, 'What about the mommies?' I said, 'When a mommy sees her child happy, it's one moment when she will also be happy,'" Amos reports.

The council is getting calls from as far away as Gaza border communities – where Israelis have their own worries daily – wishing to bring care packages to



This drawing was sent by a Syrian child to Gal Lusky of Israeli Flying Aid (photo courtesy of Gal Lusky)

the Golan. "We have factories and stores calling us too," says Amos. "One toy store here is donating wood toys with Arabic lettering on them."

Amos emphasizes that Golan residents have been collecting supplies, clothes and toys all year round to trans-



View of a tent camp of Syrian refugees near the Syrian village of Burayqah as seen from the Israeli side of the border on July 1 (photo by Basel Awidat/Flash90)

stand idly by as women and children are continuously slaughtered," Lusky wrote.

Within 24 hours, she started receiving emails in response – including children's drawings that brought tears to her eyes.



Young residents of Israel's Golan Heights with donations collected for their Syrian neighbors (photo courtesy of Golan Regional Council)

fer to Syrian refugees through the IDF.

Friend Ships

Some of these Israeli donations are channeled through the Louisiana-based Friend Ships Unlimited humanitarian-aid organization, which has volunteers from the U.S. stationed locally.

continued on next page

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ISRAEL21c...continued from previous page

This week, they sent out a flyer of their own, requesting donations of shoes and sandals, boys' and men's clothing, baby bottles, pacifiers, pots, pans, dolls and bottled water for Syrian refugees.

Teri Shields, head of the Friend Ships volunteer effort in Israel, tells ISRAEL21c that the low-profile organization "is committed to working in Israel for four years, or as long as the IDF Good Neighbor project needs us."

Friend Ships operates the medical field clinic Mazor Ladach (also called

help in any way they can.

"The heart of the Israeli people in the Golan is just phenomenal. They're giving to people who would otherwise be considered their enemies. It's amazing to me," says Shields.

More help needed

Thus far, the IDF's Operation Good Neighbor has coordinated the transfer of 1,524 tons of food, 947,520 liters of fuel, 7,933 diaper packages, 54 tons of baby food, 24,900 boxes of medicine and medical equipment, 775 medical equipment units, 250 tons of clothing, 13,920 hygienic products, and more than 300 tents to Syrians since June 2016.

Israeli Flying Aid has sent millions of dollars' worth of medical supplies to 14 hospitals and clinics in Syria. Equipment is donated by Baylor University Medical Center in Texas, while medication is purchased with contributions from American Jewish organizations and Israelis.

"The IDF brings everything in on our behalf. They take all the risk and do amazing work. In the last two and a half years that the fence is open they are spending millions on the manpower and logistics to make this possible, putting their soldiers at tremendous risk even to bring wounded Syrians into Israel," says Lusky.

The IDF-sponsored 20-bed maternity hospital inside Syria also is supplied with Baylor medical equipment and baby formula donated to Israeli Flying Aid by Israeli companies.

"Many of the moms are too stressed to breastfeed, and they cannot afford formula," Lusky explains. "We work



An Israeli soldier cradling a child at the Israeli field hospital near the Syrian border (photo courtesy of IDF Spokesman's Office)

with many Israeli manufacturers and supermarkets that open their hearts and give donations of everything from formula to shoes."

Lusky first allowed her organization's name in the news in 2013 when it delivered 70 tons of winter clothing and bedding for Syrian civil war refugees collected by Israeli youth groups in 14 cities.

This week, Israeli Flying Aid has arranged for another 3,000 tents to be shipped from China to help shelter hundreds of thousands of displaced Syrians, and aims to provide 20,000 tents altogether.

Lusky says supplies sent by the UN reach only Assad's regime, and she hopes direct American aid can be

provided, through Israel, to desperate children and women of the opposition.

"The regime is pushing them toward our border fence. In the last week, five girls were killed by scorpion bites. They need anti-venom and asthma medications. Everything is so hectic and even simple infections can cause death when there are no antibiotics," Lusky says.

For more information, please visit <http://ifaid.com/> or <http://www.friendships.org/>.

Abigail Klein Leichman is a writer and associate editor at ISRAEL21c. Prior to moving to Israel in 2007, she was a specialty writer and copy editor at a daily newspaper in New Jersey and has freelanced for a variety of newspapers and periodicals since 1984.



The "Blessing Room" in the Mazor Ladach field clinic where Syrian patients can choose clothing donated by Israelis (photo courtesy of Friend Ships Unlimited)

Camp Ichay) set up in August 2017 at a former IDF outpost on the Israeli-Syrian border to care for Syrian war victims. A huge playground was built there as well.

"The army got the area ready for the clinic, and we brought in our tents and equipment and personnel because Israelis aren't allowed to work there, even those with dual citizenship," says Shields. "We're 100% volunteer and in desperate need of doctors and nurses. We have 15 staff members running a camp that has treated 6,000 patients and served a total of 8,000 people in the past 11 months."

Shields finds Israelis are eager to

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visionary

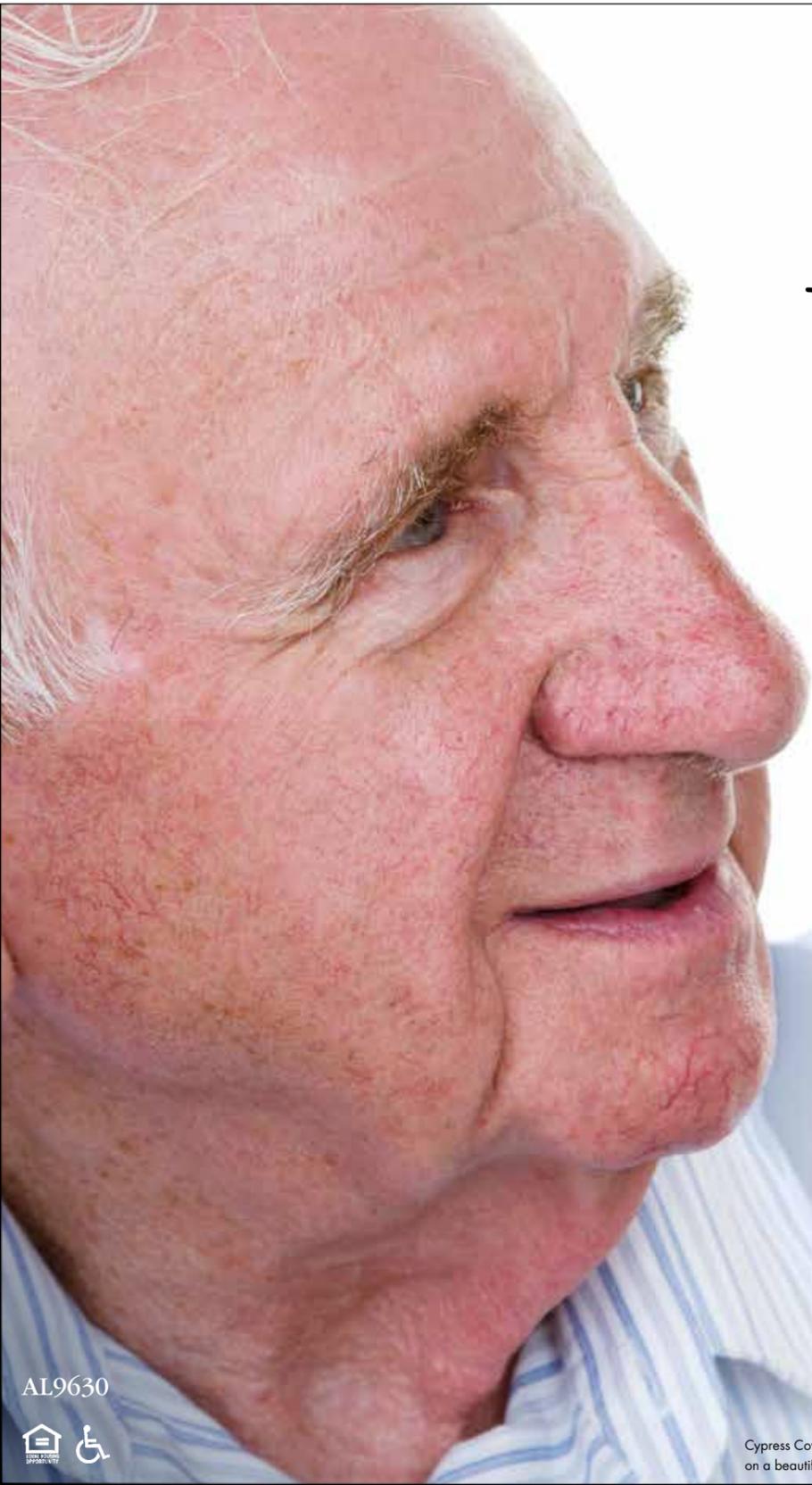
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MK Isaac Herzog elected as Jewish Agency Chairman of the Executive

On June 21, the Leadership Nominating Committee of The Jewish Agency for Israel recommended MK (Member of Knesset) Isaac Herzog to be the next Chairman of the Executive for a term of four years. MK Herzog would assume office no later than August 1, 2018.

The Jewish Agency Leadership Nominating Committee is composed of the top leadership of the Jewish people, including leaders of the Zionist movement, the religious streams, The Jewish Federations of North America, and Jewish communities throughout the world via Keren Hayesod-UIA.

The Nominating Committee has been conducting a thorough and comprehensive search process over the past year to find a successor to Natan Sharansky who will be leaving office

after nine years of service.

The process included meetings with potential candidates, internal deliberations and consultations with the Prime Minister. Having selected the candidate, the Nominating Committee recommended Herzog to The Jewish Agency's Board of Governors at the opening plenary of its meeting on June 24 in Jerusalem.

MK Isaac Herzog, son of former Israeli President Chaim Herzog and grandson of Israel's first Chief Rabbi, Yizhak Isaac Halevi Herzog, was born in Israel in 1960. When his father served as Israel's Ambassador to the UN from 1975-1978, Herzog studied and graduated from The Ramaz Jewish High School in New York and attended Jewish youth camps, Ramah and Massad. He continued his education in the

U.S., studying International Relations, English Literature and Arabic at Cornell and NYU Universities.

Herzog has worked with world Jewry all his life. From 2007-2009, he was the Minister of the Jewish Diaspora, Society and the Fight Against Anti-Semitism, taking a major part in anti-BDS activities following the Second Lebanon War, leading the international Forum against Anti-Semitism and chairing Taglit-Birthright.

As Government Secretary, Herzog laid the foundation for the historic compromise on egalitarian prayer at the Kotel that was adopted for all religious streams. Over the last 20 years, he has been a regular speaker and participant at The Jewish Federations of North America's General Assembly.

An attorney by profession, Herzog

was elected Chairman of the Labor Party in November 2013, making him Leader of the Opposition. In 2014, Herzog led the alliance between the Labour Party and MK Tzipi Livni's Hatnua Party, creating the Zionist Union, Israel's largest central-left political party.

In addition to his Ministry of the Jewish Diaspora, Herzog was the Minister of Housing and Construction (2005) Minister of Tourism (2006-2007) and Minister of Welfare & Social Services (2007-2011). Prior to that he served as Government Secretary (1999-2001). He also served as the Israel Government Coordinator for the provision of humanitarian aid to the population of Gaza in 2008-2009.

He lives in Tel Aviv with his wife Michal, and they have three sons.▲

BRIEFS

RECORD 2.1 MILLION TOURISTS VISIT ISRAEL IN FIRST HALF OF 2018

A record 2.1 million tourists visited Israel in the first half of 2018, an increase of 19% over last year, the Tourism Ministry said Monday, July 9. (Michael Bachner, *Times of Israel*)

SMART FENCE TO PROTECT NEW EILAT AIRPORT

A smart fence capable of stopping Kornet missiles has been completed at Israel's newest civilian airport in Eilat – the Ilan and Assaf Ramon International Airport – set to open in March 2019.

The fence, which extends along the Jordanian border, features detection technology to ensure that planes are protected from all types of threats. (Anna Ahronheim, *Jerusalem Post*)

ISRAEL TO SELL IRON DOME AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM TO ROMANIA

Rafael Advanced Defense Systems announced recently it had signed a cooperation agreement with Romanian company Romaero to transfer the know-how to enable the production of air defense systems in Romania.

The agreement includes the Iron Dome rocket interception system and its naval version, Samson remote controlled weapons stations, and Spike anti-tank missiles.

The radar used in the system, manufactured by Israel Aerospace Industries, has already been sold to a number of countries. (Yuval Azulai, *Globes*)

ISRAELI TECHNOLOGY MAKES IMPACT AT SOCCER WORLD CUP

Israeli fire and smoke detection systems produced by Matal are contributing to the security of hundreds of thousands of World Cup spectators in the huge stadiums in the Russian cities of Volgograd and Nizhny Novograd.

Israel's LiveU has deployed 300 transmission units for use by broadcast crews to enable the transmission of live broadcasts over cellular networks.

LiveU has signed agreements with Russian mobile operators to ensure fast connectivity and smooth and stable transmissions. (*Xinhua* - China)

IRANIANS DEFY REGIME ON TWITTER, EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL

Israel Foreign Ministry Persian digital media manager Sharona Avginsaz said recently, "During this week our Twitter page reached 2.5 million Iranians. There were tens of thousands of tweets with the hashtag #WeStandWithIsrael, each stating their individual positions on why they love Israel."

One Iranian wrote, "Our history is bound together. Our values have the same root. The Hebrew Bible was

compiled in its final form under the patronage of the Persian Achaemenid empire, the Babylonian Talmud under the patronage of the Persian Sassanid empires. We are brothers."

"Iranians are always writing to us that they love Israel, that they don't want their regime to use their money to support Hamas and Hizbullah," Avginsaz said. (*Times of Israel*)

ISRAELI MILITARY OFFICERS HAVE NO REGRETS OVER USE OF LETHAL FORCE AT GAZA PROTESTS

A senior IDF commander supervising a team of Israeli snipers at the Gaza border spoke of their mission to stop Palestinians coming through the thin fence that separates Gaza from Israel. "Was there an option where we could stop them cutting the fence and coming into Israel without using a lethal weapon? The answer is no," he said. "They have a hard and deep hatred of Israel and if they came into Israel I think there is no question of what they are going to do."

Israeli military officers expressed no regrets over their decision to use live bullets. They spoke instead of pride in their troops and in the success of their military mission: no Palestinians made it through the fence and no Israeli soldiers or civilians were killed or injured. They voiced frustration at what they considered knee-jerk criticism of their use of live fire by people who did not understand the situation on the ground.

Major J. described one incident when shots began to ring out as the Palestinian crowd surged in front of the fence. "They started shooting on our positions," he said. Militants opened fire with handguns and Kalashnikov rifles from a Hamas outpost and a rubbish dump directly facing the Israelis, as well as from the middle of the crowd. The gun battle lasted for 25 minutes.

One Druze infantry battalion commander said the men under his command had 20 explosives – grenades, Molotov cocktails, improvised bombs – thrown at them each week of the protests. (Raf Sanchez, *Telegraph* - UK)

MISS IRAQ VISITS JERUSALEM, IS PRAISED FOR HER BRAVERY

Sarah Idan, Iraq's representative at the 2017 Miss Universe pageant – whose Instagram photo last year with her Israeli counterpart forced her family to flee the country – was cheered and hugged by shoppers at Jerusalem's Mahane Yehuda market during her recent visit to Israel.

Idan, who lives in the U.S., said, "I don't think Iraq and Israel are enemies... There are a lot of Iraqi people who don't have a problem with Israel or with the Jewish people. There are a lot of Iraqi people on my side, and I believe they are happy I am here."

One Israeli woman told her, "Thank you for being so brave, you are an inspiration to all the women in the world." (*Times of Israel*)▲



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The resiliency of Jewish tradition

Leni and I are spending a week in Santa Fe this summer, one of our favorite vacation spots. During our stay, we will visit an exhibit on the *converso* Jews who are reputed to be among the early pioneers of New Mexico.

A *converso*, also called a “Crypto-Jew,” is someone whose family was forcibly converted to Christianity but who secretly maintained Jewish practice. Some families lit candles on Friday nights and ate by candlelight. Others only ate flat tortillas – unleavened bread – for a week during the spring. Still others hid ritual items like *menorahs*.

The forcible conversions began in Spain in the late 1300s. In 1478, Isabella and Fernando, the monarchs of Spain, began an Inquisition, putting some Christians suspected of practicing Judaism at home, on trial. Even before the Edict of Expulsion of 1492 (1497 from Portugal), Jews fled Spain, some coming to South and Central America. The Inquisition followed them, pushing some *conversos* to move north into what is now New Mexico.

Since at least the 1980s, there’s been research into the possible Jewish roots of the Spanish founders of New Mexico. Not all of the research has been good: common Native American or Mexican folk imagery has been mis-

interpreted as Jewish. Some assumptions of Jewishness have been based on unsubstantiated family folklore. But in the early 2000s, along came genetic testing and, indeed, some of the early pioneers of the state had Jewish ancestry.

Father William Sanchez, a priest in Albuquerque, always sensed that his Catholic family was different. They did not eat pork and told stories of a distant past in medieval Spain. In 2001, he sent for a DNA kit and discovered his Jewish ancestry. He came from a family of *kohanim*. Sanchez encouraged other family members to be tested as well. Thirty of his 78 relatives had Jewish ancestry. Keith Chaves learned of his Jewish roots when he was thirteen. His grandmother told him that they were “Sepharditos.” Chaves now belongs to an Orthodox congregation in Albuquerque.

In 2016, the exhibit “Fractured Faiths: Spanish Judaism, the Inquisition, and New World Identities” opened at the New Mexico History Museum, with an accompanying companion volume. Leni and I will visit the museum and buy the book.

Leni and I travel to see places with unique and vibrant cultures. Along the way, we find Jewish life alive and well. In New Mexico, we will see evidence that Jewish tradition is resilient. After centuries of persecution, it came back to life. I am always inspired by these stories.▲

Rabbi Marc Sack serves at Temple Judea in Fort Myers.



■ Rabbi Marc Sack

Strength and hope for the future

If you truly want to understand who God is, all you have to do is read the Torah. Throughout the Torah, God describes Godself: “I am Adonai, your God, who brought you out of Egypt to be your God.” There are many ways God could have identified: as the one who created the entire world, who gave us the commandments on Mount Sinai, who will bring us to the Promised Land. But God chooses to say, “I am your God who brought you out of Egypt. I am your God who held you close when you were at the lowest point of your life, who brought you comfort when you had no reason to hope for a future, who heard your cry and guided you out of disaster.” God wants to be known as the one who was with us at our worst in Egypt and who can help us move forward now, as in the past.

When I served as a chaplain intern at NYU Langone Medical Center in New York, I learned about helping people find their own sources of strength and resiliency. Once when I was visiting someone in the hospital and listening to a woman tell her life story, I asked if she had faced challenges before. “Oh yes,” she sighed. “And what got you through it?” I asked. She smiled, looked right at me and said, “Chocolate and a shotgun.” Suddenly,

this frail woman lying in the hospital bed became animated and eagerly told me how she escaped from an abusive relationship and remade her life. Instead of seeing herself as weak and ill in the hospital, she remembered how strong she really was. She remembered she had faced the darkness before, and found the light.

When we tell our stories of perseverance, of our ability to change, of our moments of hope, we reclaim that identity and become once again a person who doesn’t give up, who is flexible, who has faith in the future. God reminds us over and over again in the Torah: I am Adonai who led you out of Egypt. This is the story of our people – a story of resiliency, of hope, of continuing despite the odds.

What challenges have you survived? We are still here, we have overcome and we are continuing. Let us not succumb to despair or panic. Instead, may we tell our stories of triumph and embrace an identity of tenacity. We made it out of Egypt, and God with wisdom makes sure we remember by taking it on as the divine identity: “I am Adonai who led you out of Egypt. I am the God of a people who survive, who persevere.”

As we prepare to enter a new year, let us enter with strength and hope for the future.▲

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



■ Rabbi Nicole Luna

Why I love *The Lone Ranger*...especially as the month of Elul approaches

With my face reddening, I’ll admit it. I love reruns of *The Lone Ranger*.

Why would a 72-year-old, supposedly sophisticated rabbi spend time watching a children’s western show that ran more than 60 years ago?



■ Rabbi Stephen Fuchs

Because of the message! My studies have convinced me that our main purpose as creatures created “*B’tzelem Elohim*, in the image of God,” is to use whatever talents we have to create a more just, caring and compassionate society on earth.

As I have often said in speeches on Sanibel, in Germany and around the world: we will not all cure cancer or make peace between Israel and the Palestinians, but our Covenant with God requires each of us to do what we can to fulfill God’s charge to Abraham to, “Keep the way of the Eternal One, and to fill the world with *tzedakah u’ mishpat*, righteousness and justice.” (Genesis 18.18)

In pursuit of “righteousness and justice, The Lone Ranger and his faithful Indian companion Tonto battle hopeless odds to right wrongs and thwart those who kill, cheat or exploit others. And I love the fact that the good guys always win.

In real life, we know, evil often triumphs, and forces for justice and righteousness do not prevail. But The Lone Ranger is a symbol of a vital Jewish value: hope.

No matter what we have suffered, and no matter how dire things have been, our people have always held on to and pursued the hope that things can be better.

The Lone Ranger and Tonto never seek or accept a reward for doing what is “just and right.” When their work is

done they ride swiftly away in search of their next opportunity to make a positive difference.

Although a world without evil is a glorious ideal that will always elude us, we, like The Lone Ranger and Tonto, can inch the world closer to that glorious hope.

Their example takes on greater urgency as the Hebrew month of Elul, the month before the New Year, approaches, and with it the task of more intensively scrutinizing our conduct to determine how we each might live closer to God’s hope for us.

Our tradition teaches that after shattering the Golden calf, Moses went back up the mountain on the first of Elul to try again. He hewed out new tablets and spent forty days in contemplation on Mt. Sinai before descending with the second set of God’s commandments on Yom Kippur.

I treasure a story I first heard from Rabbi David Saperstein more than forty years ago. A man went every day to the wicked city of Sodom encouraging the people to repent. His friends called him a fool, saying, “Don’t you know those people will never repent. Why do you go down there every day wasting time and energy? Those people will never change and be like you.”

“Perhaps not,” the man answered, “but I must do what I can every day, so that I do not change and become like them.”

The world will never be perfect, but I love watching *The Lone Ranger* because he and Tonto never stop trying to make it better.

On the first of Elul (August 11 this year), Yom Kippur is forty short days away. The Lone Ranger and Tonto give us a wonderful model of how to use those days. No, the good guys will not always win, but each of us can do something to help them win more often.▲

Rabbi Stephen Lewis Fuchs serves at Bat Yam Temple of the Islands on Sanibel Island.

What do you make of my new “thing” with TV?

Since the Good Book says that “There is a time and a season for everything,” I’ve decided this is the right time and season to binge watch all kinds of fantasy TV series and escapist movies when I’m not studying, doing my rabbi stuff or teaching at the university.

I never allowed myself to watch too much TV when I was single since it seemed very anti-social, and who wants to sit alone in the dark every night? But it’s much easier watching more TV now that I’m married to a lovely woman also enjoys it. So TV time has become a lot more social for me, even romantic, and I’m really getting into it!

I’m also discovering that watching a lot more TV, and not just an hour of news in the evening, makes me more fun to be with in social settings like our weekly Sabbath evening synagogue dinners and when we are out with other couples (also something new for me!). Talking about TV shows with my friends makes me a lot more down-to-earth than before, when I tried to discuss all that esoteric trivia that I love getting into when I’m not otherwise engaged. I mean, what would you pre-

fer talking about – the latest translation of *Amherst Papyri 63* or *The Handmaid’s Tale*?

Sure, I try to remain engaged in what’s really going on around me. Melinda and I host fundraiser meet-and-greets for people we like who are running for public office, I remain in contact with government officials about things I care about, and share my opinions in print and online. But, often these things are not as absorbing as they used to be, especially compared with how eagerly I now anticipate the latest installment of my favorite TV shows! It’s as if I’m deliberately trying to make my world smaller than it used to be.

So, is this a normal part of getting older and “running out of gas?” I don’t think that’s it, since I still have plenty of energy for my synagogue, my students at FGCU, for my family, and for all the wonderful things that make up a home and a marriage.

Are the new TV shows better than ever? How would I know?

But all the *hazarai* that I’m watching in my free time sure is a wonderful distraction from the rising tide of *mishigas* outside of the little world I’m trying to create for myself.

Blessed day.▲
Rabbi Bruce Diamond serves at The Community Free Synagogue in Fort Myers.



■ Rabbi Bruce Diamond

What do you think?

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Something we can all do

In a few short weeks, we in the Jewish community will be observing Tisha B'Av, the most mournful day in our calendar. This is the day when both the First and Second Temples were destroyed. Plus, there are many other tragic occurrences that have happened on this day. Howard Thurman, an African-American theologian and writer, once said, "The moving finger of God in human history points ever in the same direction. There must be community." Sadly, as humans and as Jews, we don't always do a good job with this.

Why was the Temple destroyed? Tradition has it, as recorded in Tractate Yoma of the Babylonian Talmud, that it was because of "baseless hatred." The story is told that one person was throwing a party and someone got invited who wasn't supposed to be. When the non-invited guest showed up, he was rudely asked to leave and shown the door. Not wanting to be publicly shamed, he offered to pay for what he ate. He then offered to pay for the whole party but it was to no avail. The host wouldn't accept his money and asked him to leave. And so the non-invited guest left and denounced all of those present who had done nothing to intervene, to the Roman authorities.

Much more recently, a Hasidic rabbi tells of arriving in a neighboring community on the Ninth of Av.

The townspeople informed him there was a bitter quarrel going on between two factions, and they asked him to act as peacemaker. They were afraid, however, that he wouldn't agree to consider the matter on such a day. The rabbi responded by saying, "Quite the contrary. The destruction of the Temple was caused by baseless hatred. What can be more appropriate than to abolish unfounded hatred on this day?"

Most of our problems come on two legs with eyes, noses and mouths. That is to say that most of our problems are with other humans. So whether you fast on this day, or read the Book of Lamentations, there is something else we can all do. Find someone you don't agree with, or even someone you don't like, and make peace. We do not need to convert the other to the way we think or believe, but we do need to allow them the latitude to do it their way.

If you like, you can even take it a step further and simply do an act of *chesed*, a kindness, for someone. Put some money in their parking meter. Stop and help someone who looks lost. Give some food to someone who looks hungry. You might think we are all separate people, but we are all in this together. In the words of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., "In a real sense, all life is interrelated. All people are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny." *Rabbi Dr. Michael J. Schorin, MAPC, BCC is a Chaplain in Lee Health's Department of Spiritual Services, and ministers at the Gulf Coast Medical Center.*



Rabbi Michael J. Schorin

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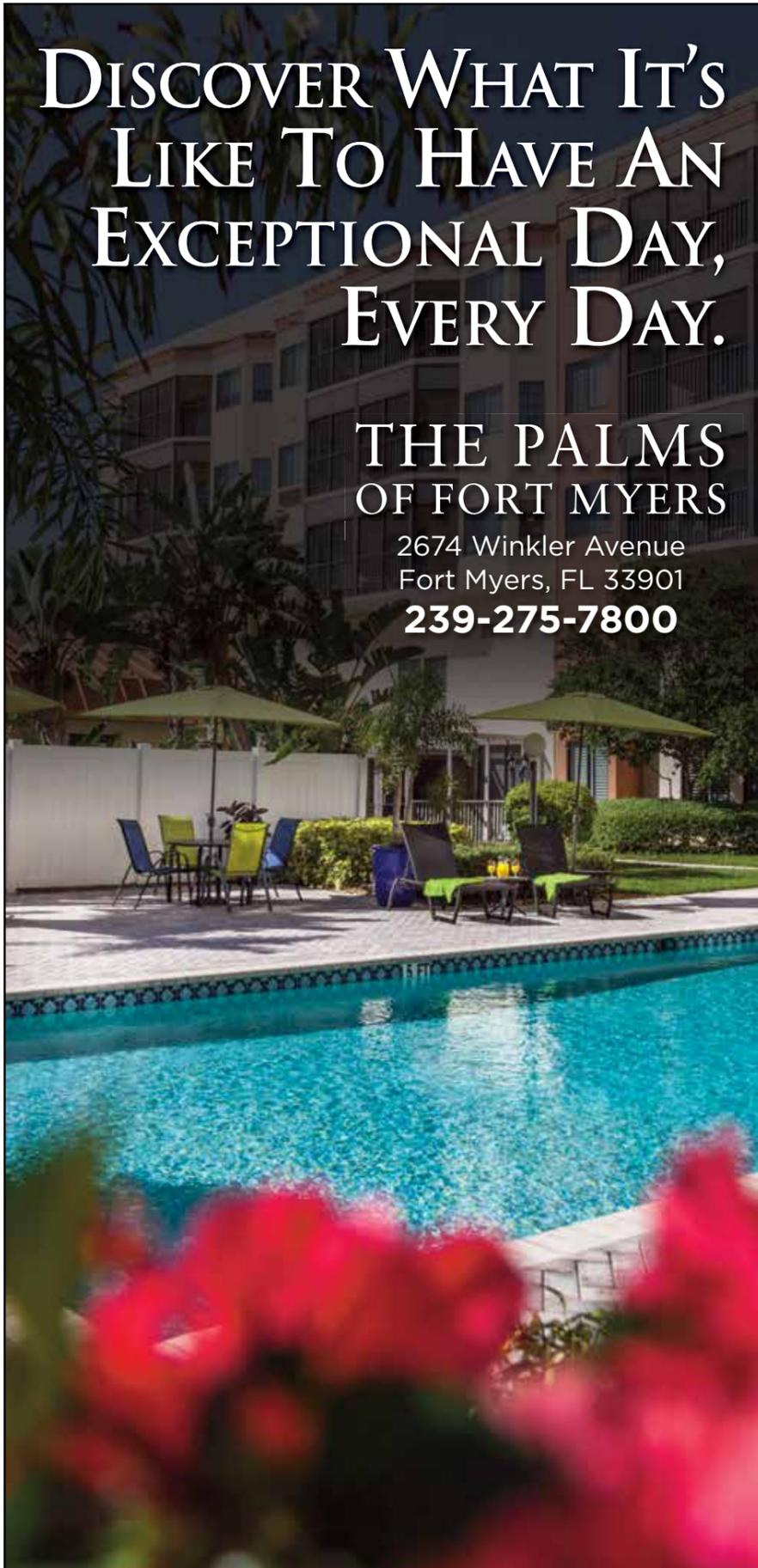
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Dale M. Cohen, R.J.E. - M.A. Ed. Religious School Director of Temple Beth El

Dear Congregants and Parents of the TBE Religious School,

As I reflect back on the previous year, I have learned a great deal about myself and others. I also cannot believe that this will be my twentieth year as Religious School Director of Temple Beth El. What have I learned? My loyalty and commitment to Temple Beth El has been unwavering. I care about each and every child unconditionally. I want to give all of our students the best Jewish education possible. My job is a labor of love. This is the time of year for introspection and to think about what is truly important. My family and I have experienced many hardships over the past year, and have witnessed firsthand many indiscretions. Clearly, life is not fair and it never professes to be. Everyone in life certainly has their trials and tribulations, and everyone's experiences, whether positive or negative, are of great importance to them. One should never minimize what someone else is going through. Instead, be supportive, sensitive and a good listener.

My mother has Alzheimer's disease, and along with continuous aides, my dad is the sole caretaker of my mom. It is an extremely difficult situation for all of us, especially my dad. We all love and support him being almost three hours away on the other coast, but we try to drive over there as much as possible. The good news is that this year they have just recently sold their

home, and G-d willing, will be moving here in early September. If you are wondering where

I am on Friday nights, I am with my parents packing up their condo with my husband Nir. We couldn't be more thrilled for this move to happen.

For the New Year ahead, let all of us try to be honest with ourselves and others. Place emphasis on the important aspects of life. Do not sweat the small stuff. Parents, more than ever, we need your support of our Religious School. More importantly, we need you to buy in to all of the programs that we promote to ensure that Judaism continues to flourish into the next century and beyond. Temple Beth El and the Religious School have so much to offer. Embrace it, be a part of it, and be a parent who wants to give their children a quality Jewish education that will be cultivated for years to come.

My new mantra for this year is: "Every day, when I wake up, I do my best to count my blessings and to be thankful for all I have in my life." I have decided not to kvetch about what I cannot change, but to focus on the positive. Some days of performing this ritual are harder than others but I will continue to persevere.

My loving daughter Lanie has her own new canine, Winston the Corgi. Lanie, Nir and I wish our Temple Beth El family a happy and healthy New Year. May this year be one of peace, love, happiness, health and prosperity. May we seek out all of the blessings in our lives and concentrate on the positive. Allow us to have peace within each of our homes, but mostly within our hearts.

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Lawrence & Robin Dermer

With great anticipation and beautiful memories of past High Holy Day celebrations with our Shalom Life Center family, we warmly wish you a 5779 filled with health, happiness, love and a very bright future. We are overjoyed to see our growing community illuminated with the light of Jewish inspiration and are blessed to be part of a very close and caring SLC family. In 5779, may we continue to lift each other up as we continue to grow on our journey together.

We all approach the new year in our own way with different memories, ideas, thoughts and feelings, which allow us to gain new meaning from the words that remain the same from year to year. These words have great and transformative power, but our busy lifestyles often leave little time for

self-reflection. How can we be transformed? The High Holy Days offer a solution by calling on us to pause, take a good

long look in the mirror at our lives and our actions, and to find new ways to see old situations.

The High Holy Days can mean so much more than just a time to revisit and honor our ancient traditions. When our hearts are open to the inspiration of prayer, this call can lead us to action and bring real, measurable and positive change to our lives, our community and the entire world. This year, may the energy of personal and communal prayer cause us to increase our good deeds and acts of kindness. May we increase the joy in our lives and in the lives of our family and friends, and find beauty and meaning even during difficult and challenging times. Let us continue to support each other and be able to see more clearly and listen more deeply, being more emotionally available and present for each other.

When we grow individually our holy community grows.

With limitless enthusiasm, creative programming and experience, SLC has been dedicated to changing the face of our Jewish community and engaging those seeking a new and deeper connection to Judaism. As a sacred community committed to the ideals of welcoming everyone in the "big tent" of trans-denominational Judaism, we are building a bridge to connect each other with the values and principles of our Jewish past, the moral/ethical demands of the present, and the vision and energy to build for a Jewish tomorrow.

In addition to our summer services and clubs, we are in the midst of finalizing our innovative and inspiring programs for next season. We are preparing to ensure an incomparable SWFL Jewish Community 5779 High Holiday Experience and are looking forward to sharing the High Holy Days with our extended family. Our choir will be back along with our amazing symphonic ensemble and world-renowned concert

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While our message is traditional, our worship is contemporary and our services combine meaningful prayers and soaring melodies. Dates and times can be found on our website at www.shalomlifecenter.org. For more information on joining us for the High Holy Days, please call 239.218.3433 or email info@shalomlifecenter.org. Let your spirit soar at Shalom Life Center where prayer is always inspirational, meaningful and musical.

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Joyce Rosinger

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The group will join for dinner after the film at La Grotta Italian Grill, 9520

Marketplace Road, Fort Myers. RSVP to tjhazak@gmail.com by Thursday, August 16 if you plan to have dinner with the group.

Temple Judea's active HAZAK Chapter is a chartered member of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. Membership in the organization is open to the community. Join HAZAK and meet new friends. HAZAK Chapters are for singles or couples. It's an

organization that enables members to meet and socialize with each other. Our monthly programs vary in nature.

Temple Judea's HAZAK has wonderful future programs planned for the 2018-2019 seasons. Members of the community are always welcome to attend our programs. For more information, contact us at the email address noted above or call Temple Judea at 239.433.0201.

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

If you are interested, please send the following information to debbiesanford@jfedlcc.org:

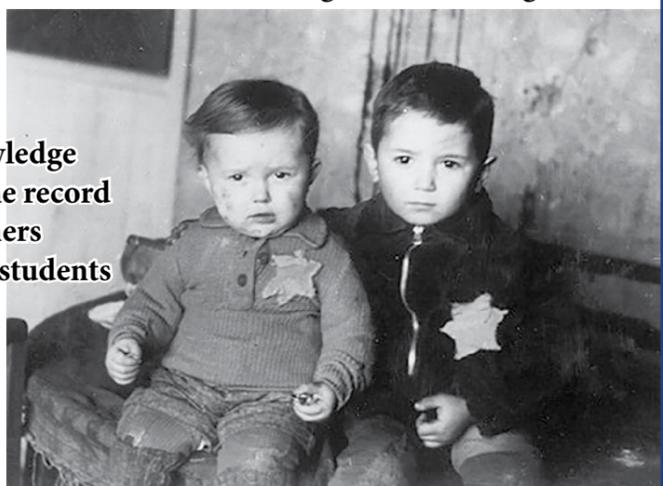
- Name
- Address
- Phone #
- Age
- Grade
- School
- Preferred volunteer hours (e.g. 2 - 5PM. Sundays)



Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Genocide Studies

Dedicated to educating all sectors of society about Jewish civilization, the Holocaust, and genocide through:

- scholarship
- outreach
- inquiry
- sharing knowledge
- preserving the record
- helping teachers
- encouraging students



Visit www.fgcu.edu/hc/
Dr. Paul Bartrop, Director

**Michael Shapiro
PHOTOGRAPHY**

Bar / Bat Mitzvah Specialist

Choosing the right photographer is an important decision. Michael Shapiro has more than 30 years experience in media and journalism. He is able to capture images that are unique, unexpected and spontaneous.



Other Services: Weddings / Family Portraits / Events

239.770.6860
mike@shapiro-photography.com
www.shapiro-photography.com



NEEDED TO LABEL L'CHAYIM

JOIN US for coffee, bagels and the simple satisfaction that comes from meeting and making friends with other volunteers, as we help keep thousands of local readers informed about local, national and international Jewish news.

Call 481.4449 ext. 3 to add your name to the phone list. Each month we will call to confirm the mailing date and you can let us know if you are available to help label L'CHAYIM.

Time: 9:30 A.M.

Monday, August 20, 2018
Friday, September 21, 2018

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

It may still be summer outside the synagogue, but inside, staff and lay leaders are already busy planning for the upcoming High Holy Days and the programming year. The holidays, which are either early or late (and seemingly, never on time!) are early this year.

Temple Judea will hold Selichot services on Saturday evening, September 1. The community is invited to join members at a delicious dessert reception at 9:00 p.m., followed by a musical concert by Cellist Eric Docinger and his accompanist at 9:30 p.m., and then Selichot services starting at 10:15 p.m.

Erev Rosh Hashanah and Rosh Hashanah services are on Sunday evening, September 9 and Monday and Tuesday mornings, September 10 and 11. Tickets are available for nonmembers. Call

the synagogue office for more information.

The religious school's opening day and a Community Open House is planned for Sunday, August 26 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Parents and children will walk into a school with a whole "new vibe" provided by new Director of Congregational Learning Tab Scrivener and her staff.

There will also be another Community Open House on Wednesday, August 29 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

On Sunday, August 19, Temple Judea's 55+ group, HAZAK, will have a program including a movie from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Join Temple Judea's Israel Revisited Trip, scheduled for May 2019. It is a travel experience for those who have been to Israel before and want to participate in its lively music, art and theater, eat in the best restaurants of the country, see the best archaeology, and meet Israelis who make the country the vibrant place it is. (Even if you haven't

yet been to Israel, this will be a great trip!)

Some of the highlights of the trip include: meeting with artists and craftsmen from Tel Aviv, attending a theater performance in Tel Aviv, exploring Mahane Yehuda alongside an Israeli chef, visiting a gourmet spice farm in the Galilee, touring SodaStream's high-tech production facility in the Negev, and so much more!

Rabbi Sack will take the group to out-of-the-way places and explore parts of Israel that aren't usually on the itinerary for first-time sightseers. Information about the trip is now available. Call Rabbi Sack for more information about this new adventure.

Our monthly volunteering at the Salvation Army's Meals with Compassion (formerly Sally's Café) continues. Volunteers are needed for Sundays, July 29, August 5 and 19. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Linda Idelson at lindaidelson8@gmail.com.

Rabbi Sack's Torah Study will not meet in August. Torah study will resume on Thursday, September 6 at the

offices of Myers and Brettholtz and Company. It is an hour of open discussion of Torah and Judaism where all levels of background and all questions are encouraged. Everyone is welcome and there is no cost to attend.

A wine and cheese reception is held every Friday evening from 6:00 to 6:30 p.m. right before Shabbat services. It's a great time for members to enjoy socializing and to greet prospective new members and those visiting the synagogue.

For more information about Temple Judea or upcoming programs, call or email the synagogue office.

Regular scheduled events:

- Friday evening Shabbat services at 6:30 p.m.
- Saturday morning Shabbat services at 9:30 a.m.
- Lunchtime Torah study with Rabbi Sack the first Thursday of each month – next Torah study is on September 6
- Morning minyan every Monday at 9:00 a.m.

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

Recently, a group of members took a trip to Cuba. Before leaving, it occurred to one of them to contact the synagogue

in Havana to see if they needed anything, so she found the number online and called. The woman on the other end of the line was so grateful for the call that she became

very emotional. She said they needed so much she didn't know where to start. Finally, she gave a list including

children's Tylenol, children's cough medicine, vitamins, etc.

Even though this was not a temple activity, the group decided to ask the congregation if they wanted to help. An email was sent and within three days they collected several hundred dollars to help Temple Beth Shalom in Havana.

What Temple Beth Shalom in

Cape Coral lacks in funds, we make up for with heart. You can feel it when you come to services or activities and are greeted warmly by both the rabbi and the members. Please come and see for yourself. Join us for Friday night services, Brown Bag lunches every other Wednesday, Saturday morning Torah Study and more. Call the office at 239.772.4555 for more details.

Send updates and changes to the Directory below to loriramos@jfedlcc.org.

TEMPLE BETH EL**REFORM**

16225 Winkler Road, Fort Myers, FL 33908

Rabbi Nicole Luna

E-mail: rabbiluna@templebethel.com

Temple educator: Dale Cohen, Ma.Ed., R.J.E

Preschool director: Jesyca Virnig

President: Ellis Rabinowitz

Phone: 433-0018 • Fax: 433-3235

Web site: www.templebethel.com

Shabbat services: 7:30 p.m. Friday; Torah study

9:00 a.m. Saturday; B'nai Mitzvah 10:30 a.m. Saturday

Religious School: 9:30 a.m.-noon Sunday

Hebrew School: 5:00-6:30 p.m. Wednesday

Judaica Gift Gallery

Affiliated: Union for Reform Judaism

TEMPLE BETH SHALOM**REFORM**

702 S.E. 24th Ave., Cape Coral, FL 33990

Rabbi Devora Buchen

President: Arnie Schwartz

Phone: 772-4555 • Fax: 772-4625

E-mail: office@templebethshalomcc.org

Web site: www.templebethshalomcc.org

Services: 7:30 p.m. Friday

Religious School: Thursday 4:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Torah study with Rabbi Buchen: Shabbat 10:30 a.m.

Organizations: Brotherhood, Sisterhood,

Family Service (1st Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m.)

BAT YAM TEMPLE OF THE ISLANDS**REFORM**

Meets at Sanibel Congregational Church

2050 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel Island

Rabbi Stephen L. Fuchs

President: Alan Lessack

Phone: 239-579-0296 (Oct-Apr)

773-251-8862 (May-Sept)

Email: batyamsanibel@gmail.com

Cantor: Murray Simon

Web site: www.batyam.org

Services: 7:30 p.m. Friday (Nov-Apr)

7:00 p.m. Friday (May-Oct)

Adult Education:

Saturday, 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. (Nov-Apr)

Jewish Current Events: Saturday, 11:30 a.m.

to 12:15 p.m. (Nov-Apr)

Write: P.O. Box 84, Sanibel, FL 33957

Affiliated: Union for Reform Judaism

TEMPLE SHALOM CHARLOTTE**HARBOR AND THE GULF ISLANDS****REFORM**

23190 Utica Ave., P.O. Box 494675

Port Charlotte, FL 33949-4675

Rabbi Solomon Agin

President: Gary Wein

Phone: (941) 625-2116

E-mail: shalom06@netzero.com

Web site: templeshalomfl.com

Services: 7:30 p.m. Friday

Religious school: Sunday 10 a.m.

Beginning Hebrew: Tuesday 4:15 - 5:15 p.m.

Advanced Hebrew: Thursday 4:15 - 5:15 p.m.

Organizations: Sisterhood

Affiliated: Union for Reform Judaism

SYNAGOGUES & ORGANIZATIONS

IN LEE & CHARLOTTE COUNTIES

COMMUNITY FREE SYNAGOGUE**REFORM**

10868 Metro Parkway, South Fort Myers

(The Southwest Florida Masonic Center)

P.O. Box 07144, Fort Myers, FL 33919

Rabbi Bruce Diamond

(bdiamond5@comcast.net)

Coordinator: Natalie Fulton

Adult Educator: Jessica Evers

Phone: (239) 466-6671

E-mail: comfreesyn@gmail.com

Web site: www.fortmyerssynagogue.com

Community Sabbath eve dinner each Friday

at 6:30 p.m.

Sabbath eve worship every Friday at 7:30 p.m.

Light breakfast and Torah study with the rabbi

every Saturday morning from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

TEMPLE JUDEA**CONSERVATIVE**

14486 A&W Bulb Road, Fort Myers, FL 33908

Rabbi Marc Sack

E-mail: rabbi@tjswfl.org

President: Jennifer Manekin

Director of Congregational Learning:

Elizabeth Singer

Preschool Director: Joann Goldman

templejudeapreschool@gmail.com

Phone: 433-0201 • Fax: 433-3371

E-mail: tjswfl@gmail.com

Web site: www.tjswfl.org

Services: 6:15 p.m. Friday and 9:30 a.m.

Saturday Minyan: 9:00 a.m. Monday

Religious School: Sun. 9:30 a.m.-noon;

Wed. 4:30-6 p.m.

Early childhood education:

Preschool, M-F, ages 18 months-5 years;

"Mommy & Me," 12 months-2 years

Affiliated: United Synagogue of Conservative

Judaism

CHABAD OF BONITA SPRINGS/**ESTERO****ORTHODOX**

24850 Old 41 Road, Suite 20 (in the Bernwood

Centre)

Bonita Springs, FL 34135-7024

Rabbi Mendy Greenberg

Phone: 949-6900

Web site: www.JewishBonita.com

Services: Saturday at 10 a.m., followed by

a kiddush

CHABAD OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY**ORTHODOX**

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

Rabbi Simon Jacobson

Phone: (941) 833-3381

E-mail: chabadpg@yahoo.com

Web site: www.chabadofcharlottecounty.com

Services: Saturday at 10 a.m. followed by

a kiddush

Torah study: Wednesday at 8 p.m.

CHABAD LUBAVITCH**OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA****ORTHODOX**

5620 Winkler Road

Fort Myers, FL 33919

Rabbi Yitzchok Minkowicz

Phone: 433-7708 • Fax: 481-9109

E-mail: rabbi@chabadswf.org

Web site: www.chabadswf.org

Services: Friday 5:15 p.m.; Saturday Kabbalah

class 9 a.m.; Shacharit 10 a.m.; Kiddush at noon

Minyan: Monday & Thursday 7:00 a.m.

CHABAD JEWISH CENTER**OF CAPE CORAL****ORTHODOX**

1716 Cape Coral Pkwy. W., Cape Coral, FL 33914

Rabbi Yossi Labkowski

Phone: 963-4770

E-mail: info@chabadcape.com

Web site: www.chabadcape.com

Services: Friday Evening 7:30 p.m.

Saturday morning 9:30 a.m. followed by

Kiddush luncheon

Sunday morning 8:00 a.m.

Monday-Friday morning 7:00 a.m.

JLI Courses: Monday evening at 7:00 p.m.

Weekly Torah Study: Tuesday evening 7:30 p.m.

Hebrew School: Sunday 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Jgirls: Tuesday 6:00-7:00 p.m.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

- Shalom Life Center
- Lawrence Dermer, Spiritual Leader - 218-3433
- AIPAC (American Israel Public Affairs Committee): Jacki Waksman - (954) 653-9053
- AJC (American Jewish Committee): Brian Lipton - (941) 365-4955
- Anti-Defamation League: (561) 988-2900
- B'Nai B'rith International: (941) 302-4500
- Chevra Kadisha: Gene Sipe - 841-4615
- Generations of the Shoah SWFL: 963-9347
- Hadassah - Collier/Lee Chapter: Lynn Weiner - 598-1009
- Hadassah - Sharon Chapter (Charlotte County): Odette Port - (941) 505-1409
- Hazak 55+ Chapter: Joyce Rosinger - 437-1566
- Humanistic Jewish Havurah: Paula Creed - 495-8484
- Israel Bonds: Regional Headquarters: (800) 622-8017
- Jewish Community Services: 481-4449
- Jewish National Fund: (727) 536-5263
- Memorial Tree Planting in Israel - 1-800-542-8733
- Jewish War Veterans: Post 400: Commander Harvey Charter - 246-3151
- Mikvah Bashka of Southwest Florida: Nechamie Minkowicz - 822-2784

BAT YAM TEMPLE OF THE ISLANDS

Sanibel

(773) 251-8862

www.batyam.org

The High Holy Days are soon upon us. There will be a Selichot gathering on Saturday, September 1 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Rabbi Stephen and Vickie Fuchs on Sanibel. Rabbi Fuchs will lead all services together with Cantor Murray Simon.

Rosh Hashanah services begin Sunday, September 9 at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall and continue on Monday, September 10 at 10:00 a.m., followed by Tashlich on the beach. Kol Nidre is Tuesday, September 18 at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The Yom Kippur service is Wednesday, September 19 at 10:00 a.m., ending with a "Break the Fast."

The saga of Bat Yam's Holocaust Torah continues as promised. Ann

Arnoff knew the symbols she wanted represented on the new Torah cover so she designed it and did all the needlepoint work herself. The front panel is divided into three sections: the sky, the sand and the ocean. The name of the congregation, "Bat Yam," Hebrew for "Daughter of the Sea," is written in Hebrew letters against the sky on the upper right side. On the upper left, the barren tree has only one limb with a few leaves on it. The tree is behind a barbed wire fence that stretches across the panel. The tree is the symbol of the Holocaust. The barren limbs represent the millions of lives lost. The living limb gives the Torah new life. Below the fence, yellow hibiscus stand for the flowering tropics. There is a broken tree limb lying on the sand to denote the death of Ann's daughter Janice at a young age. The Star of David on the beach is embroidered with gold thread to make it

sparkle. There are four shells on the beach. The coquina, also called the butterfly shell, for the child who flew away early; the alphabet shell for the learned one, her husband Leonard; the junonia shell for her daughter Susan; and the pink scallop for herself. The great American egret standing at the edge of the ocean denotes man's inhumanity to animals. During the early 1900s, egrets and herons were killed for their feathers for women's hats. Floating in the water, "Bat Yam" is spelled out in English. The panel is set against a Sanibel blue background.

The *yad* for the Holocaust Torah, the pointer used by the Torah reader, was a gift from Ken and Henny Karasin, who purchased it in Tehran, Iran, in 1980. They were told that it was about 100 years old.

According to the Memorial Scrolls Trust website, all the scrolls were gathered together in the Jewish Museum in Prague in 1942, by order of the Nazis, from Jewish communities throughout

the regions of Bohemia and Moravia in then Czechoslovakia. In 1948, the Communists took control of the government and left all the Torah scrolls warehoused until 1964, when 1,564 scrolls were transferred to London.

Bat Yam's Holocaust Torah #405 is believed to be from the Brno-Boskovice area in what is now the Czech Republic. According to the certificate provided by the Memorial Scrolls Trust in London, Torah #405 may be from the 1800s but the details are lost to history. Despite no certainty about the prior life of Torah #405, it is very welcome at Bat Yam – Temple of the Islands on Sanibel, and is lovingly referred to as the Boskovice Holocaust Torah.

Come to Bat Yam on Friday evenings at 7:00 p.m. for a Shabbat service held in Fellowship Hall on the campus of the Sanibel Congregational UCC at 2050 Periwinkle Way on Sanibel. Members of the community, guests and visitors are always welcome to join with congregants.

COMMUNITY FREE SYNAGOGUE

Fort Myers

(239) 466-6671

www.fortmyerssynagogue.com

Weekly Sabbath eve dinners, worship and Sabbath morning Torah Study breakfasts continue throughout the month of August.

Each Friday at 6:30 p.m., The Community Free Synagogue serves a traditional Sabbath dinner. It is free and reservations are never required. At 7:30 p.m. the Sabbath is welcomed with prayer and song. A coffee hour follows worship.

The congregation is exploring the

new Sabbath eve prayerbook, *Ydid Nephesh* ("A Soul's Companion"), composed by Rabbi Diamond, with the assistance of Auxiliary Rabbis Terri Goldberg and Thomas Meiss, along with Laurie McConville.

Free copies of this new siddur can be found on the synagogue's website, www.fortmyerssynagogue.com, along with the Rabbi's free High Holiday prayerbooks, Haggadot, pamphlets of the house of mourning, and beautiful *ketubot*. All of these have been placed in the public domain and are being freely used around the world.

Every Saturday at 9:30 a.m., C.F.S. offers a light breakfast followed by a

lively discussion of the week's Torah portion until 11:30 a.m., when the Mourner's Qaddish is recited.

The schedule for Days of Awe worship and Sukkot observances, including details on the Rabbi and Rebitzen's Rosh Hashanah afternoon Tashlikh open house and the new gala Simhat Bet Hasho'eva celebration on Saturday night September 29 will be posted on the synagogue's website and also appear in next month's edition of *L'CHAYIM*.

Read more about the congregation's talented Days of Awe guest musicians, Julie Cornwall and Peter Francovic, in this edition. They will join our gifted volunteer musicians and vocalists who already enrich the

congregation's worship.

Now in its 13th year, The Community Free Synagogue is a valued community religious resource. All of its events and programs, including youth and adult Jewish education, are open to all and always free. The congregation does not sell memberships or solicit funds, relying solely on the volunteerism and generosity of the several hundred households who consider C.F.S. their home for communal prayer, study and benevolent acts.

The synagogue, led by Rabbi Bruce Diamond who begins his 21st year in Fort Myers, is deeply committed to Jewish morals and values while honoring essential Jewish traditions of prayer, study and kindness.

TEMPLE BETH EL

Fort Myers

(239) 433-0018

www.templebethel.com

Temple Beth El will host a geographically-themed oneg on Friday, July 27. Birthplaces of our congregants will be displayed on a map and this special oneg will feature desserts associated with our birthplaces. Though we are from different cities, states and countries, we are connected through our TBE family and our beautiful spiritual home, our synagogue.

With the holidays coming soon, we are heavily into High Holiday 5779 preparation. This will be Cantor Bessman's first holiday season with TBE. Cantor Bessman and the TBE band are rehearsing and refining their music. We appreciate and look forward to their rich contributions to our services. Rabbi Luna will help us prepare for the holidays with an adult class called the High Holy Day Experience. On Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m. we will learn about High Holy Day rituals, liturgy and wisdom. In this way we will prepare our Jewish souls and spirits for the holidays. This class will temporarily replace our marvelous Talmud for

Everyday Living class, which normally meets at 1:30 p.m. each Wednesday.

As our Wednesday class helps us understand, value and live a more Jewish life, Torah study at 9:00 a.m. each Saturday shines a light on life. All materials are provided and no prior knowledge of Torah learning is necessary, nor is knowledge of Hebrew. Come a few minutes early to schmooze before class. We're a friendly bunch.

Perhaps a little on the lighter side, we enjoy our Lunch & Learn on the third Thursday of every month at Starz Restaurant (8750 Gladiolus Dr., corner of Winkler Rd., a short hop from TBE). Join us at our next Lunch & Learn on August 16 at noon. Each month we discuss a different topic as we enjoy each other's company, learn something, engage in a lively discussion, laugh at each other's jokes, and enjoy a nice meal.

We include the younger generation in the fun and spirituality, too. Our ongoing Tot Shabbat, the first Friday of each month, hosts families with babies, preschoolers and young children to welcome Shabbat and to join for a potluck dinner. The very younger generation has its own occasional Babies

& Bagels gatherings. While the adults enjoy a bagel brunch, the babies play, crawl and babble together. It's so adorable. Stay tuned for more events like this.

Bacon with the rabbi? No, just kidding. It was bakin' with the rabbi. Isaac

time was had by all.

Our recent preneg wine & cheese reception prior to Shabbat services provided a warm, welcoming way for new and longtime congregants to meet and mingle in a casual setting. Rabbi Luna and Cantor Bessman joined the



Talented baker Isaac Osin demonstrates his techniques in the Temple Beth El kitchen

Osin, our wonderfully talented baker, was a great teacher to the enthusiastic carb-inclined crowd who filled up the TBE kitchen recently. Isaac generously donated all the ingredients, as well as his expertise. *Todah rabah* to Isaac for a unique experience. A high-calorie

crowd for fellowship and conversation. We may or may not have indulged in a little Jewish geography. A good time was had by all. Stay tuned for information about upcoming prenegs.

TEMPLE SHALOM

Charlotte Harbor & the Gulf Islands

(941) 625-2116

www.templeshalomfl.com

Temple Shalom will host an Open House for prospective members and their children for Religious School on Sunday, August 19 from 10:00 a.m. to noon. A light dairy breakfast will be

served. Rabbi Agin and several members of the board will be present to answer questions. No one is refused membership because of finances.

This year Selichot Services will be held on Saturday, September 1 at 6:00 p.m. Rabbi Agin and Jane Galler will lead this special program service. There will be a dairy dinner and a mu-

sic program. There is no charge to attend.

In addition to our fall Holy Day and holiday services and events, the temple will have the following programs, made possible by the Lesleigh and Sylvia Hershkowitz Cultural Fund:

- Lunch and Learn with the *Forward*
- Bay Area Cantors Association Concert on November 4
- Book Review and Talk by Rabbi James Rudin for Sisterhood & Ha-

dassah on November 13 Outdoor Hanukkah Program on December 2 at 5:00 p.m.

- Jewish Film Program on December 11 at 7:00 p.m.
- A series of four films

Please call the temple office at 941.625.2116 for a complete listing of our programs for the year.

Temple Shalom is Charlotte County's only affiliated Reform congregation.

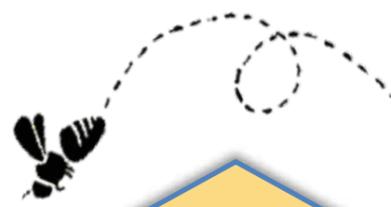
Order Your High Holiday Greeting Today!

This High Holiday season, say "L'Shana Tova" to your friends and family in Southwest Florida!



L'CHAYIM is continuing the practice of publishing your High Holiday greetings to your family and friends wherever they may be. Order your greeting for the September 2018 issue of L'CHAYIM.

L'Shana Tova Tikatevu.



Sign up now for the September issue of L'CHAYIM for as little as \$18 per greeting. Choose from these sample greetings.

It's easy! Just select your ad(s), then complete and return the form below!

AUGUST 3 DEADLINE



1A: \$18



1B: \$18



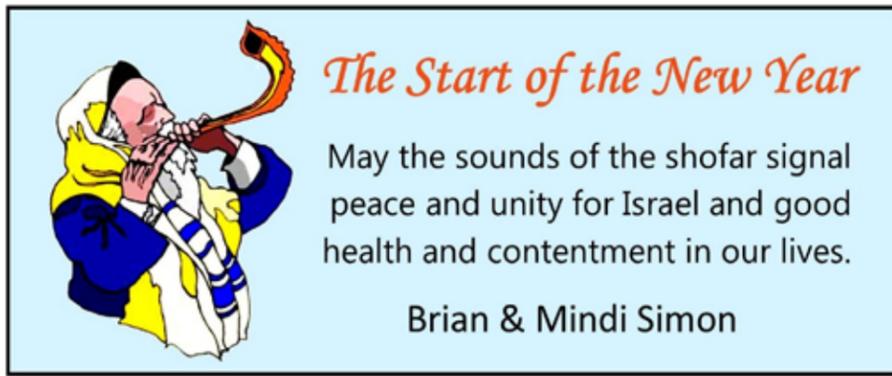
1C: \$18



1D: \$18



2A: \$36



2B: \$54

ORDER FORM

I want to place the following High Holiday greeting(s) in the September 2018 L'CHAYIM.

PRINT your family names(s) on the lines below, in the exact order you would like them to appear:

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ made payable to the Jewish Federation.

Mail to: Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte Counties
9701 Commerce Center Court, Fort Myers, FL 33908

CHECK YOUR AD CHOICES BELOW:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> #1A (\$18) | <input type="checkbox"/> #1D (\$18) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> #1B (\$18) | <input type="checkbox"/> #2A (\$36) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> #1C (\$18) | <input type="checkbox"/> #2B (\$54) |

FORM & PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 3

