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Religion vs. spirituality

By Brian Simon, Federation President

George Carlin asked, “Have you ever noticed that anybody driving slower than you is an idiot, and anyone driving faster than you is a maniac?”



■ Brian Simon

Does George Carlin’s wisdom apply to religion? Does it seem like anyone who is more observant than you is a fanatic, and anyone who is less observant than you isn’t doing it right?

In the 1950s, sociologist Will Herberg observed that almost all Americans identified themselves as either a Protestant, Catholic or Jew. Back then, there were only three television channels. Today, there are infinite channels, and those three religious classifications have been divided in countless ways.

The traditions and laws of the past do not appear to be as important as whatever makes someone feel “spiritual.” There are now non-denominational churches and synagogues.

I remember when author Michael Wex came to Fort Myers and brought up the Jewish Your Way movement. He said, “We’re all Jewish our way!”

“Jewish” is still an identifier, but the practice of Judaism in the U.S. varies from those who wear black hats and live in their own neighborhoods, to those who enjoy a bagel and lox now and then.

Herberg suggested that the real religion of the U.S. was what he called the American Way of Life. “It is a faith that has its symbols and its rituals, its holidays and its liturgy, its saints and its sancta, and it is a faith that every American, to the degree that he is an American, knows and understands.” Its sacred components were the U.S. Constitution, the free enterprise system of competition and upward mobility, and “a certain kind of idealism.”

The American Way of Life has changed over 60 years. We can’t agree

on what the Constitution says, how the free enterprise system should work, or even what it means to be idealistic.

Voltaire said, “If God didn’t exist, it would be necessary to invent him.” It would be nice to have an authority to settle these arguments, or at least to find some common ground.

The Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties is a cultural organization, not a spiritual one. We sponsor Jewish cultural events, we support the community (both Jewish and non-Jewish) through family services, and we support Israel.

Seth Godin said that culture is “People like us do things like this.” I hope we can agree that the things we do as a Federation are worthy of your continued support.▲



Federation’s Senior Lunch Bunch update



Holocaust Museum & Education Center prepares for move



Start-up strategies unite FGU with Israeli university



JWV Post 400 presents Herb Schwartz Memorial Scholarship

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Marcia Can Help

MARCIA CAN HELP, a fund of the Jewish Federation and Jewish Family Services, provides for emergency nutritional needs through our Food Pantry, gift card distribution, and crisis grants to prevent utility cut-offs, evictions, loss of transportation and other essential services without which none of us can live.



Inspired by the recognition that these needs must be addressed in our community, and as a tribute to Marcia Cohen, a long-time resident of Sanibel and social activist, her husband Jack established the **MARCIA CAN HELP** fund in 2017.



Help us meet these pressing needs by contributing to the **MARCIA CAN HELP** fund. For further information please contact Alan Isaacs at (239) 481-4449 or alanisaacs@jfedlcc.org.

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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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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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
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Monday, August 5

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Program notes

By Debbie Sanford, Program Director

Last month I had the pleasure of joining the Shalom Club at Shell Point for a film and discussion. It was a pleasure to meet so many nice people. If you belong to a group and would like me to come visit and bring a film, discussion or another type of program, please let me know. I love to get out and meet members of our community.



Debbie Sanford

We also had our first TRIBE event. TRIBE is our new social group for adults ages 25-40. It's a great way to meet other Jewish adults. The Federation will plan social events, trips, speakers and other engaging activities throughout the year. If you are interested in joining or would like more information, please contact me at 239.481.4449 x4 or debbiesanford@jfedlcc.org.

Here are some things to keep in mind as we gear up for an exciting season of programming:

- ◆ SAVE THE DATE: Our Community Breakfast is scheduled for Sunday, December 8 at a new location, the Heritage Palms Country Club. This

- beautiful facility is anxious to host us. You won't want to miss this year's guest and topic. Hint...it will be "out of this world!"
 - ◆ Our film festival committee is screening some amazing films for our 24th Annual Jewish Film Festival. It is NEVER TOO EARLY to sign up to be a sponsor!
 - ◆ I am in the process of booking authors for our "Read the Book; Skype the Author" events. If you like to read and want to have some fun interaction with the authors, you will want to sign up. The first book and author will be announced next month. The Bagel Factory will once again be the generous dinner sponsor.
 - ◆ We are in need of some new volunteers to assist the programming department this coming season. In addition to assembling and delivering holiday gift bags, starting with Rosh Hashanah gift bags in early September, our film festival will need some volunteers with daytime availability. Call or email me if you are interested and would like some more information.
- Enjoy your summer, stay cool and I hope to see you soon.▲

Jewish Family Services update

By Jodi Cohen, Senior Outreach & Food Pantry Coordinator

The Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties' food pantry measures 8½ by 9½ feet, with shelves along two of the walls that are almost seven feet high. The pantry is small, but it is mighty. Ten volunteers contribute their time for the weekly tasks of organizing community donations in the storeroom as well as the pantry, unloading the monthly haul from the Midwest Food Bank, packing bags of food for clients, breaking down and recycling boxes, and keeping the pantry running smoothly.



Jodi Cohen

Clients know when they come to pick up their food that the lobby area will be clean, their bags of food will be ready along with whatever paper products and toiletries are available. Clients also know they will be offered any special items in stock.

One client is a baker, another client is going through cancer treatment, while another client gets dialysis every week. Due to your generosity, I've been able to offer flour, sugar and salt to the baker, Ensure to the person receiving radiation, and a gift card for gas to the client who drives to dialysis three times a week. The gratitude on behalf of the clients is enormous. Sometimes it is spoken, other times I can see it in people's eyes or by the way they've started hugging me when they arrive and leave.

In June, the Federation distributed food to 16 households totaling 59 people. Three of those households were new clients. I'd like to thank the food pantry volunteers for their hard work and good cheer: Carolyn Gora, Judith Yevick, Donna Cotler, Karen

Whitman, Suzanne Orkin, Randi and Payton Wolf, Barbara Gribin, Laurie McConville, Larry Epstein and Phyllis Boyar.

Federation Program Director Debbie Sanford wrote and received a grant in May for tote bags to use in the pantry. These bags have changed things dramatically. For one, we are able to put more food in each bag. Besides providing the basics – peanut butter, tuna, pasta, tomato sauce, beans, rice, vegetables, cereal and fruit – there is now more room to easily add food that we receive from the Midwest Food Bank, including crackers, chips, condiments, cereal bars and snacks. The inventory varies each month.

We ask clients to return the bags so we can recycle them, although not everyone comes each month and not everyone remembers to bring the bags. We started to run low on these roomy bags that are easy to pack and fit easily on the shelves. A Federation member asked Fresh Market manager James Ponce if he would be willing to donate Fresh Market tote bags for the pantry. Not only did Mr. Ponce donate an entire box of bags, but he carried them out to the car and put them in the trunk. Trader Joe's in Naples also donated one bundle of 200 paper grocery bags for the pantry. The Federation is grateful to our community partners. It takes a village to feed a village.

I was invited to give a presentation about The Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties at the July Coalition on Aging meeting. Preparing the presentation allowed me the chance to step back and notice how much your generosity enables our Federation to contribute locally, to Israel and to the global community. You make it possible for the annual Jewish Film Festival, assistance to families so they don't

continued on next page



Food Pantry Needs

JEWISH FEDERATION FOOD PANTRY

Following is a list of staples always in need at the food pantry:

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| <i>Peanut butter and jelly</i> | <i>Pasta sauce (pasta, not needed)</i> |
| <i>Rice and beans</i> | <i>Canned vegetables and fruits</i> |
| <i>Cereal</i> | <i>Canned meats</i> |
| <i>Condiments</i> | <i>Toiletries for adults & children</i> |

Gift cards to places like 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

We had almost 60 people at our June luncheon and were warmly greeted by Rabbi Devora Buchen and the fabulous volunteers at Temple Beth Shalom. Since everyone is always in the mood for pizza, we'd like to thank our generous community partners, Jason's Deli and Domino's for their delicious salads, desserts and pizzas.

Ronnie Lamm was our guest speaker and shared her story about becoming a lawyer later in life. Several years ago, someone asked Ronnie about herself. After she talked about her husband, her kids and others, the man interviewing Ronnie asked, "But what about you? What do you want?"

She thought about it and realized she wanted to practice law! Ronnie attended law school, graduated and got a job as the assistant district attorney in Suffolk County, New York. Since moving to Florida, she's decided to become a legal guardian for seniors.

The Federation offers a free monthly lunch for Jewish seniors who want to get out, be social, eat a little something and learn a little something. The lunches are user-friendly and there is always a place at the table for YOU. If you'd like to attend the lunch or are interested in volunteering, please contact me at jodicohen@jfedlcc.org or 239.481.4449 x2.▲

NEXT SENIOR LUNCH BUNCH:
Thursday, August 15 at 12:00 p.m.
Community Free Synagogue (in SW FL Masonic Center)
10868 Metro Pkwy., Fort Myers
RSVP by Friday, August 9 to
Jodi Cohen at 239.481.4449 x2 or jodicohen@jfedlcc.org



JFS update...continued from previous page

lose electricity, performances by the Israel Scouts, and gift cards to people who need to buy clothes for work.

I shared the Federation mission statement, as well as the vision statement of, "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 an-

other)." I was proud to talk about how all of you honor that vision, and how it resonates daily for me as I attend the senior luncheons, distribute food every week, and talk to the people who call almost daily asking for assistance.

"Deeds of kindness weigh as much as all the commandments." ~ Talmud Yerushalmi, Peah 1:1▲

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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 Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties thanks Jewish War Veterans Victor Paul Tuchman Post 400 for its generous donation of a new large-screen television to be mounted in the Federation's community room.

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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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 Debbie Sanford 481.4449 ext. 4 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 26, 2019
Monday, September 23, 2019

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 and Publix food cards.
- ✧ Emergency financial assistance grants.
- ✧ Education and aid associated with natural disasters.



Local Community Services

- ✧ Support families of children with special needs.
- ✧ Addressing pressing community needs related to volunteerism, institutional cooperation and community assessment and planning.

Jewish Community Foundation

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



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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.

My March of the Living experience

By Rebecca Henry

As a Fort Myers native and recent high school graduate, I had the privilege to attend the 31st International March of the Living with BBYO (formerly known as the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization). The trip – or pilgrimage – consisted of spending one week in Poland (April 29 - May 6) and another week in Israel (May 7-13).

My delegation held our opening ceremony at the Krakow Ghetto, where we learned about the Ghetto Heroes Square and the memorial chairs scattered throughout the Ghetto to symbolize the hardships of the Polish Jews. We moved on to explore the town of Oswiecim, but more specifically, the only remaining synagogue (that has since been restored) in the town. From there we moved on to the hallowed grounds of Auschwitz-Birkenau. While touring Birkenau, my delegation (consisting mostly of high school seniors from around the U.S.) made a strong connection with the story behind the Children's Barracks – the barracks that housed teens our age before they were marched to the gas chambers. We visited the site where the Plaszow labor and concentration camp once stood – a place built on top of two Jewish cemeteries. We returned to Auschwitz to join thousands on the three-kilometer march to Birkenau and take part in the official Yom HaShoah ceremony.

As we traveled through Poland's Galicia en route to Lublin, we stopped at the Children's Forest to pay homage to the Jews of Tarnow, including 800 children, who were murdered and buried in mass graves – a site our delegation strongly connected with. The last concentration camp we visited was Majdanek. Personally, this camp had the biggest impact on me and is one of the most profound examples of pure evil. The camp was essentially left

untouched. However, the same cannot be said of Auschwitz-Birkenau, which has been "museumized," made to look pretty, and even has a gift shop! What really struck me about Majdanek was the small crematorium – one room which housed a gas chamber and another room the ovens. Located immediately next to it was a large mausoleum inscribed with words (in English), "Let our fate be a warning to you." This saucer and circular shaped urn, that spanned several feet in diameter, depth and height, contained at least seven tons of ashes and bone fragments of the souls who perished there – only a small representation of those whose demise was met at the camp. From there we traveled to the Treblinka Death Camp and the remains of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. My delegation concluded our time in Poland by holding a closing ceremony at the Rappaport Memorial – the Monument to Ghetto Heroes – before heading off to Israel.

Even though I've been to Israel before, arriving this time felt different –



Rebecca Henry in Israel during her March of the Living trip

and more liberating – as I had a better appreciation of the hardships and persecution that the Jews had faced. We

held our Israeli opening ceremony at a kibbutz along the Mediterranean coast where we met Israeli teens our age and had time for reflection.

During my stay in Israel, I had time for personal exploration throughout the cities of Jerusalem, Tsfat, Tel Aviv and Beit Shean, visiting a variety of places from shops to the Kotel. Different than my previous trips, I had the privilege to observe the holidays of Yom HaZikaron (Memorial Day) and Yom Ha'Atzmaut (Independence Day). The transition between these two days was breathtaking, as I had never seen people be so somber, especially during the national sirens, and then exuberate so much joy for their country's independence. We ended our trip by planting trees to symbolize the growth of Jewish people.

After having time to reflect on this

profound trip, I am so grateful for the opportunity to have been part of the March of the Living. Even though this pilgrimage can be quite intense and emotionally draining, I believe that every Jew should go on a trip of this sort to connect and mourn the mass loss of our people, but also then have a greater appreciation for Israel – as it has done to my friends and me. I got a glimpse into the magnitude of pure evil carried out during the Holocaust, and it broke my heart. However, it only showed me how much the Jewish people need Israel and how crucial it is that we call it our home.▲

Rebecca Henry received a Joseph Horowitz Israel Travel Grant from the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties toward the cost of the March of the Living program.

What do you think?

L'CHAYIM wants to know!
Send your letters and comments to Ted Epstein, L'CHAYIM Editor, at LChayim36@gmail.com.

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Please contact Debbie at
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Holocaust Museum & Cohen Education Center update

By Susan Suarez, President & CEO

Summer greetings from the new home of the Holocaust Museum & Janet G. and Harvey D. Cohen Education Center! Exciting news – we will open to the public this August! Please check our website or call after Thursday, August 8 for the exact opening date. Our new address is 975 Imperial Golf Course Blvd., Suite 108, Naples, FL 34110. We are conveniently located just off U.S. 41 in the Imperial Golf Square shopping center in North Naples. This is just south of Wiggins Pass Road and 1.4 miles north of the intersection of Immokalee Road



■ Susan Suarez

and U.S. 41. Please note that our phone number, email address and website will remain the same: 239.263.9200, info@HolocaustMuseumSWFL.org and www.

HolocaustMuseumSWFL.org.

As you can imagine, it is an enormous task to dismantle and move an entire museum. Everything from large banners to small artifacts had to be carefully handled and individually wrapped for the move – over 1,000 items in all. We are so grateful to those who generously volunteered multiple hours of their time to help us: Patti Bloom, Rosalee Boggo, Steve Brazina, Becky Cornacchia, Linda Denning, Rachel Hujsa, Brian Kelly, Lucas Kiesel, Rob Nossen, Ellen Rindfleisch, Stanley Ruskin, Jack Sellinger, Miriam and Gerald Span, Ruth Stockinger, Ashley Suarez, Patrick Wuschke, Alex Weiselberg and Judy Wertz. We could not have done it without their hard work and assistance. Kudos to Curator Cody Rademacher for a terrific job organizing and seeing this complex project through from start to finish.

When you visit, you will be amazed at the transformation of the Museum's interior. The expanded space has newly designed galleries, exhibits and displays, some including interactive features.

The larger classroom permits us to seat more visitors and students for talks, films and education programs. The new Reflection Room, named in honor



Lost Childhood section of Museum pre-takedown

of Rissa and late board member Richard Grossman, allows visitors the opportunity to sit and consider what they have learned after their tour. Outside, you will find expanded parking for cars as well as school and tour buses. We also hope to permanently locate the Boxcar Exhibit in our parking lot.



In addition to visiting, we hope

of Rissa and late board member Richard Grossman, allows visitors the opportunity to sit and consider what they have learned after their tour. Outside, you will find expanded parking for cars as well as school and tour buses. We also hope to permanently locate the Boxcar Exhibit in our parking lot.

3:00 to 5:00 p.m. This event is free and open to the public. Activities planned include tours, talks and children's activities.

We appreciate your support of the Museum since its founding in 2001. Thanks to you, our education programs, exhibits and events have now impacted over 250,000 students, teachers and visitors. We look forward to welcoming you to our new Museum building – The Holocaust Museum & Janet G. and Harvey D. Cohen Education Center. Its purchase was made possible by the generous capital campaign gifts of Janet G. Cohen and other generous donors. We will now be able to continue our mission – to teach the lessons of the Holocaust to



Judy Wertz, Ellen Rindfleisch and Cody Rademacher at work

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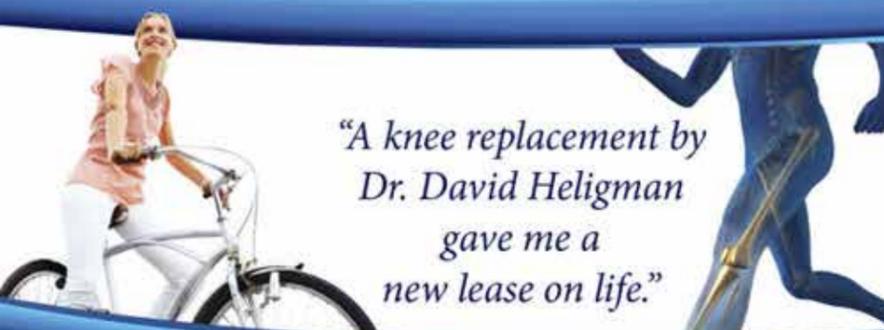


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Cody Rademacher and volunteers unpinning quilt display

Community Free Synagogue to screen *To Dust*

The Community Free Synagogue's Brown Bag Movie Night's August feature is the 2018 seriocomic *To Dust*, starring Matthew Broderick and Géza Röhrig. The screening begins at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday August 15 in the congregation's Community Hall, 10868 Metro Boulevard, Fort Myers. Admission is free and participants are encouraged to pack a dinner. Complementary soft drinks and snacks will be served.

The award-winning film is about

a grieving American Haredi widower plagued by the arcane mythologies of his Old World traditions attempting to get some answers from a Staten Island Community College science instructor. Together, this newest cinematic Odd Couple explore some of humanity's deepest mysteries in endearingly quirky ways.

To Dust garnered top honors at the Tribeca Film Festival, the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival and the Hampsons' International Film Festival.▲

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Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties
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Teenager's diary reveals the world of a promising life cut short

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

Renia's Diary: A Holocaust Journal, by Renia Spiegel, with Elisabeth Bellak and Sarah Durand. Translated from Polish by Anna Blasiak and Marta Dziurosz. Foreword by Deborah E. Lipstadt. St. Martin's Press. 336 pages. Hardcover \$27.99.

This book, a diary never meant for publication, is not what one would expect from something labeled as a Holocaust diary or journal. In it, young Renia gives very little attention to the immediate effects of Nazi aggression on a Jewish community. Most often, she seems barely aware of it. Perhaps it's fairer to say that she is only intermittently aware of the establishment of a ghetto near her grandparents' home, where she has been living since being separated from her parents. She hears rumors that over time solidify.

Most of her impressions of ongoing or expected destruction of Jewish communities seem secondhand, and perhaps they most often were secondhand – until the end.

Readers will wonder why they are not getting the kind of scenes that make up the bulk of first-person Holocaust writings.

Deborah E. Lipstadt's Introduction helps clarify the issue by making the important distinction between diary and memoir. Diary writers are writing

for themselves or for an alter ego. The diary is a companion ("dear diary"). Such journals are about the happenings and concerns of the immediate present.

Memoirs are retrospective. The writer knows the outcome of events initiated in the past and has processed the experiences after the immediate has become the remembered. Memoirs are meant to have an audience and they are written in anticipation of that audience.

Renia spent her time writing her observations, her primary concerns, as a teenage girl in the last years of her well-designed secular schooling. Boys and possible relationships are on her mind, as are her female peers in the school. She writes about her moods, whom she likes, and whom she thinks does and does not understand her.

Foremost here is the student who becomes her committed boyfriend, Zygmunt. Her word portraits of this young man are astonishing, as are her records of their meetings and conversations. Parties, dances and other standard teen activities are on Renia's mind, as is her sense of how she is maturing physically, intellectually and emotionally. Like most diary writers, she is talking to herself, addressing the diary directly as if it were a sympathetic friend – a true and loyal confidante.

The diary also records her concern about her mother's situation, her longing for her mother to visit, and her high esteem for her absent mother. Many entries end with the author's cry for help

from her mother and from God. She needs them both desperately.

Renia's diary is also, perhaps primarily, a collection of her poems, both recent and brand new. Her writerly aspirations drive her to produce more and more poems in which she skillfully employs nature imagery to help explore her emotional life. The poems fall short of greatness, especially in that they are so repetitive of one another, but Renia is clearly a promising poet whose work could have grown in depth and sophistication if her life had not been cut short.

Meanwhile, she was trusted to run her school's student newspaper.

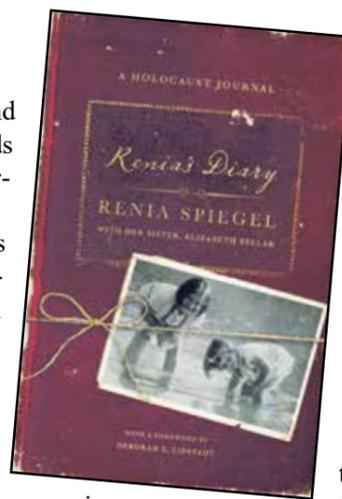
While the last passages that Renia wrote do focus on the conditions of ghetto life, a fuller picture of that period and the family's life before and after can be found in two additional sections of the book prepared by Renia's younger sister. They are not journal material but a mix of memoir and research. Titled "Epilogue" and "Elizabeth's Commentary," these sections provide much-needed context that is otherwise missing from the journal proper. With

these additions, the answers to questions that are not answered in journals or diaries like Renia's are brought fully to light. It is here that readers receive the conditions of Holocaust life in Poland.

Renia Spiegel was born to a Jewish family in Poland in 1924. She began her diary at the start of 1939, right before the invasion of Poland by the German and Soviet armies. In 1942, she was forced to move to a ghetto, but was smuggled out by her boyfriend and went into hiding with his parents. She was discovered by the Gestapo and murdered on July 30, 1942.

Elizabeth Bellak (née Ariana Spiegel), Renia's sister, born in 1930, was a child actress once called "the Polish Shirley Temple." In 1942, she and her mother fled to Warsaw, and then to Austria, finally arriving in New York City, where she lives today.

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



Phil Jason



Renia Spiegel

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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.

At the Movies; Some Starring "Unexpected" Jews

Opening Friday, August 9 is *The Kitchen*, a sort-of-feminist gangster movie that is based on a comic book series. Melissa McCarthy, Elisabeth Moss and **TIFFANY HADDISH**, 39, play the wives of mobsters. The wives take over after their husbands are jailed. They are adept at running the rackets and taking out the competition. The director is **ANDREA BERLOFF**, 44. Haddish's late father was an Eritrean Jew.

Opening Friday, August 16 is *The Informer*. It stars **JOEL KINNAMAN**, 39, as a former special ops soldier caught up in a convoluted stateside mess that starts with him protecting his wife. He eventually has to take on the mob, the NYPD and the FBI. Kinnaman was born and raised in Sweden, the son of a non-Jewish American father and a Swedish Jewish mother (her family moved to Sweden from Ukraine in 1850).

Opening Friday, August 23 are *Good Boys*, *Angel Has Fallen* and *Ready or Not*. *Good Boys* is a teen comedy that opens with 12-year-old Max (Jacob Tremblay) trying to learn how to kiss, and egged on by his buddies, he uses his father's drone to spy on neighbors. The drone crashes and the boys skip school hoping to find some way to replace it. They embark on an odyssey that involves a lot of weird stuff. **MOLLY GORDON**, 23, has a large supporting role. Kiev-born comedy writer **GENE STUPNITSKY**, 41, makes his debut as a director with this film. He and his writing partner, **LEE**

EISENBERG, 42, wrote *Boys*. The pair wrote many episodes of the hit TV show *The Office*.

Angel stars Gerard Butler as a Secret Service agent who is framed for the attempted assassination of the president. He must evade his own agency and the FBI as he tries to uncover the real threat. **TIM BLAKE NELSON**, 55, plays the vice president. *Ready or Not* follows a young bride (Samara Weaving) as she joins her new husband's rich, eccentric family (**ADAM BRODY**, 39, Henry Czerny, Andie MacDowell). The wedding, somehow, turns into a lethal game with everyone fighting for their survival.

Over on Netflix

The Red Sea Diving Project, an original Netflix film, begins streaming on Wednesday, July 31. This dramatic film recounts the true efforts of the Israeli secret service, the Mossad, to rescue thousands of Ethiopian Jews in the 1980s. Many of them were hid in a Sudan resort before being transported to Israel. The film was directed and written by Israeli **GIDEON RAFF**, 46, who shared an Emmy for best writing, dramatic TV show (*Homeland*). Most of the film's characters are Jewish, but only one major cast member is really Jewish (Israeli actress **ALONA TAL**, 35). Chris Evans and Ben Kingsley have starring roles.

Otherhood, also an original Netflix film, begins streaming on Friday, August 9. On Mother's Day, three longtime friends – played by Angela Bassett, **PATRICIA ARQUETTE**, 51, and Felicity Huffman – drive to New York

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.

City to reconnect with their adult sons. Along the way, they realize that their sons are not the only ones whose lives need to change. They start to think hard about how to redefine their relationships with their friends, their children and their spouses.

The film was written by and directed by **CINDY CHUPACK**, 54, the former co-head writer of *Sex and the City*. Oddly enough, like Tim Blake Nelson, above, Chupack was born and raised in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Nelson and Chupack are about the same age and I have to believe that they either knew each other in Tulsa or knew "Jews in common." Oklahoma has a surprisingly vibrant Jewish community, but it isn't large. (Fun fact: the inventor of the shopping cart, **SYLVAN GOLDMAN** [1898-1984], was born and raised in Oklahoma. The cart made its debut in

1937 in an Oklahoma City food store he owned.)

A Nice Note

Something I saw recently on YouTube prompted me to look at an online bio of actor **KIRK DOUGLAS**, 102. I noticed something not noted in most news outlets: Kirk's wife, **ANNE BUYDENS**, turned 100 in April. In May, the couple celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary. Buydens converted to Judaism in 2004 when the couple renewed their wedding vows. I checked a bit and could not find another famous person who was alive and over 100 when their spouse, too, turned 100.

Douglas and Buydens may be unique. Statistically, "two-centenarian" marriages are very rare, period. Imagine the odds against one "100+" spouse being famous. Imagine the odds against them both being Jewish. ▲

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Wine from way down south

By The Wine Whisperer

I've never written a column exclusively about South American wine. That's going to change right now.

Sure, I've reviewed and evaluated many wines from Chile and Argentina, but have completely (and foolishly) neglected to tell the story of how South American wines rose to commercial and critical success – and why they've become so enormously popular on the world market.

They've been making wine down there since Franciscan monks planted grapevines in the 1500s. Viticulture expanded mainly through Chile and Argentina, and sometime around the late 1800s, cuttings of Malbec, Cabernet and other major varietals were brought from France and Spain. However, until just recently, the wines were, let's say, just not up to international standards. They are now, thanks to investment from European and American companies, and skilled winemakers heading down there to apply their art.

While Argentina's Mendoza region is justly famous for Malbec, there's a lot more to discover. Production and export of Torrontes, a floral-scented white wine, has soared, and way down in Patagonia, Pinot Noir is making its mark.

In Chile, grapes are grown in long narrow valleys along the coast which are cooled by air from the snow-capped Andes. This is a perfect climate for world class Cabernet Sauvignon, and wines such as Don Melchor from Concha y Toro, and Clos Apalta from Casa Lapostolle sell for well over \$100 a bottle. They're also producing excellent wines from a red grape called Carmenere, and from Carignan, which is native to southern France.

Even though Chile and Argentina get most of the attention, other countries are emerging with their own varietals and traditions. Some excellent wines are now coming out of Brazil and Uruguay.

Uruguay got into the wine game a little late, but they've made impressive strides in both domestic and international markets. The country's signature wine is Tannat, named for the fact that it contains huge amounts of tannin, so

it's often blended with other reds to add structure and body. However, on a recent trip to Uruguay, we tasted several types of Tannat, and many of them stand up just fine on their own, complementing a wide range of richly flavored and textured foods. The country's industry is also very good at Viognier, another intriguing floral white.

So if you're ready to enjoy and appreciate wines from way south of the border, here are some new favorites.

Finca Decero The Owl & The Dust Devil Red Blend Mendoza 2015 (\$24) – The reason for the name is extensively detailed on the back label, if you're interested. This blend of Malbec, Cabernet, Petite Verdot and Tannat offers seductive aromas of smoke, tobacco, black fruit and a definite hint of cinnamon. This should be decanted and will age for several years. WW 90-91

Ruca Malen Terroir Series Petit Verdot Lujan de Cuyo 2015 (\$18) – Expressive aromas and flavors of blackberry with soft tannins and a lingering, persistent finish. Aged 12 months in French and American oak, giving it notes of caramel, vanilla and mocha. Worth decanting and waiting a

bit. Great value. WW 91-92

Ruca Malen Terroir Series Petit Verdot Valle de Uco 2015 (\$18) – Bursting with black fruit and overtones of leather, with a mildly-sweet note on the finish and soft tannins throughout. Notes of cherries and violets supported by nicely balanced acidity. WW 86

Ask the Wine Whisperer

What's the difference between Champagne and other sparkling wines?
– Carol G., Fort Myers

For a wine to be called Champagne it must (1) come from the officially designated Champagne region of France and (2) be made in the "traditional method," a complex, multi-step process that involves secondary fermentation in the bottle, among other steps. Other sparkling wines can be made that way and be labeled "methode traditionnelle," or be carbonated using several other methods.▲

Jerry Greenfield is The Wine Whisperer. He is Creative Director of Greenfield Media & Marketing, and Wine Director of the international Direct Cellars wine club. His new book, Ask the Wine Whisperer, has just been published. Read his other writings at www.winewhisperer.com.



■ Jerry Greenfield

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Israeli schnitzel takes over the U.S. — recipe by Chef Dalia Hemed

Nothing says delicious like homemade Israeli schnitzel. Tender on the inside, crunchy on the outside. Although the origins of schnitzel go back to Germany, it is eaten in one form or another in many countries. But not many countries would consider it to be a national dish. Israel does.

The Israeli version of the schnitzel is having a moment. The dish is popping up on menus across the U.S.

The breaded and fried slices of meat — most commonly known as the Viennese version, wiener schnitzel — is made from veal. But it's chicken schnitzel that's been making the most headway on menus across the country.

The chicken version of the Eastern European dish was quickly adapted to European Jews, who were seeking a more affordable, more plentiful and definitely more kosher chicken and,



sometimes, turkey breast meat. German and Austrian Jewish immigrants brought this version to Israel, where it eventually became a staple because it is easy to source and produce. Today, schnitzel is undoubtedly the most common food Israelis of all stripes eat at home and on the road. Families choose chicken schnitzel as their No. 1 choice for a family meal and it has also penetrated the Israeli fast-food scene, being sold alongside falafel and sabiche sandwiches, stuffed into a pita or baguette with hummus and salads.

It was only a matter of time before the Israeli schnitzel reached the U.S., successfully riding the chicken trend that I mentioned earlier this year, and encouraged by the growing popularity of all things flat and deep fried.

The Israeli schnitzel is nostalgic yet cosmopolitan, kosher, fast, convenient and instantly comforting. And now, Americans don't even need to have an Israeli grandma to call it their own.

Schnitzel was something my mom made every Friday for lunch. It was always made with thinly pounded chicken coated in breading and pan-fried, stuffed into a fresh challah bread with matbucha (Spicy Moroccan tomato sauce) and fried eggplant. This was the only form of chicken I ate for almost my entire childhood, and I still prefer it over many other chicken dishes.

Normally, schnitzel is served on a platter with Israeli salad and rice or mashed potatoes. I've taken the basic schnitzel and sandwich, and stuffed it into an everything challah matbucha and eggplant. This is my Israeli take on a fried chicken sandwich. The challah bread is soft enough to allow the crispy texture of the chicken and eggplant to come through, the Matbucha adds spice, and pickles add a great acidity. And, of course, drizzling with tahini sauce.

Every Israeli has his or her own schnitzel recipe they are passionate about. Here's mine. I am sharing my mom's secrets for perfect schnitzel: Dijon mustard in the egg wash plus panko mixed into the breadcrumbs.

Schnitzel

Ingredients:

- 2 skinless boneless chicken breasts
- Salt for seasoning
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 large eggs

- 1 1/2 tbsp Dijon mustard
 - 2/3 cup plain breadcrumbs
 - 2/3 cup panko breadcrumbs
 - 1 tsp sesame seeds
 - 1 tsp salt
 - 1/4 tsp fresh black pepper
 - Canola oil for frying
 - Challah bread cut and sliced open
 - Tahini sauce
- ▶ Slice each chicken breast into two pieces lengthwise as if you were butterflying the breast open, but just cut through. Should be between about 1/2-inch thick. Season both sides with a generous amount of salt.
 - ▶ Prepare the breading station in baking pans or shallow bowls. In the first, place the flour. In the second, whisk together the eggs and mustard. In the third, combine the plain breadcrumbs, panko, sesame seeds, salt and pepper.
 - ▶ Heat a large skillet with 1/3-inch of canola oil over medium heat. Once the oil is hot and rippling, dredge the chicken in the flour, shake off the excess, dip it into the egg wash, let the excess drip off, and then place it into the breadcrumb mixture.
 - ▶ Place the breaded breast straight into the oil. Continue with the rest of the chicken.
 - ▶ Don't bread the chicken until just before you place it in the hot oil to ensure that it won't get soggy. Fry for 3 minutes on each side or until golden brown. Transfer onto a cooling rack. Season with salt immediately.
 - ▶ Construct the sandwiches by smearing a good amount of matbucha on both sides of the challah. Place the schnitzel on the bread, top with the sumac eggplant, drizzling with tahini and pickles. Serve with French fries.

Matbucha

Ingredients:

- 1/4 cup vegetable oil (I use canola)
 - 10 garlic cloves
 - 2 pounds tomatoes
 - 4-5 fresh hot peppers (optional)
 - 1 tbsp paprika (preferably Moroccan or Hungarian)
 - Salt and white pepper
- ▶ Peel the tomatoes and coarsely chop them. Peel and chop the garlic cloves.
 - ▶ Set a medium pot over low heat



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

and warm the oil. Add the garlic, stirring for just a few seconds. Add the tomatoes, stir and cover the pot. Allow to cook, over low heat, for an hour.

- ▶ Add the peppers (if using hot peppers), paprika, salt and pepper to the pot with the tomatoes. Stir, and cook, uncovered, on a low flame for an hour.

Fried Eggplant

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
 - 1/2 tsp salt
 - 3 eggs
 - 3 tbsp water
 - 1 cup fresh breadcrumbs or panko
 - 1 medium eggplant (about 3/4 pound)
 - 1 cup canola oil
- ▶ Combine the flour with the 1/2 teaspoon salt. Place the mixture in a shallow bowl. Beat the eggs with the water and put them in another shallow bowl. Put the breadcrumbs in a third shallow bowl.
 - ▶ Trim the ends from the eggplant and cut it into roughly 3/4-inch slices. Line a plate with paper towels, and put the canola oil in a large skillet over medium heat.
 - ▶ Working in batches of four or five slices, dredge the eggplant first in the flour, patting off any excess; then in the eggs; and finally in the breadcrumbs.
 - ▶ Add the slices to the pan in batches, making sure they're not too crowded. Fry, flipping occasionally, until both sides get crispy and brown.▲

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Child euthanasia in the Third Reich

By Paul R. Bartrop, PhD

In August 1939, 80 years ago this month, the Reich Committee for the Scientific Registration of Serious Hereditary and Congenially Based Diseases was established in Germany. Its object was to remove from German society children and young people who were incurably insane or physically handicapped. The means employed to remove them was to murder them.

On May 23, 1939, a request came from a German family for the mercy killing of their handicapped child, Gerhard Kretschmar, born that same year on February 29. His parents, who lived in Saxony, petitioned Adolf Hitler, asking for Gerhard to be “put to sleep” as he was born blind, mentally retarded, and lacked one leg and part of an arm. Hitler approved the request, and carbon monoxide gas was selected as the means of the baby boy’s death.

This then served as the pretext for the initiation of a much larger “euthanasia” program. The program’s original intention was to kill disabled infants and young children, and Dr. Karl Brandt, a medical doctor and SS officer who served as Adolf Hitler’s personal physician, was placed in charge of the program’s planning and execution along with Philipp Bouhler, head of the Reich Chancellery. They received a rare explicit authorization from Hitler, allowing them to grant “mercy deaths” to “incurable” patients. Before the program relating to children commenced, however, Hitler authorized its expansion to euthanize adults with disabilities as well.

Accordingly, Brandt and Bouhler

organized what became known as Aktion T-4, from the address of the administrative offices in Berlin running the program, Tiergartenstrasse 4. Although starting as a program centering on children in August 1939, Hitler’s preference to euthanize “life unworthy of life” – men, women and children deemed mentally and physically disabled – was initiated to cover all categories in October 1939.

In time, after that first child’s death, others followed quickly, leading ultimately to the organized murder of up to 5,000 children in so-called special children’s wards. Aktion T-4 covered two separate euthanasia programs: one dated back to spring 1939, dealing with infants and small children up to three who had physical deformities; and a second that included mentally disabled older children and adults.

The child euthanasia program usually murdered its victims through lethal overdoses of medication. Adult patients, on the other hand, were removed from their home institutions and transferred to one of six designated killing centers throughout Germany, where they were murdered in specially designed gas chambers.

Planning the program meant that a departmental infrastructure and bureaucratic guidelines had to be established, and this was initiated in a directive from the Reich Minister of the Interior dated August 18, 1939. This specified the groups to be included in the program and was to apply not only to those children who had already been identified as incurably ill or handicapped, but also to newborn babies suspected of a range of “congenital disorders” at birth.

Brandt would later develop another program of enforced abortions for women classed as “genetically defective,”

which likewise included those who were physically or mentally disabled.

On October 6, 1939, Hitler ordered Brandt to “relieve through death” those mentally ill individuals who could not “take any conscious part in life.” He backdated his signature to September 1, 1939, to highlight the order’s connection to the war; his logic was that the life of every dead soldier should be balanced by taking the life of a person “unworthy of life.”

It now became the duty of doctors, nurses and midwives to report to the appropriate health authorities if a child or newborn baby came across their purview with any of the designated conditions, so that further action (that is, their murder) could be undertaken. The registration of potential victims became a crucial determinant of whether a child was to be euthanized, in accordance with a stringent set of conditions.

Three Nazi medical bureaucrats received the relevant registration forms, with comments made by the first two as to the nature of the case to assist the third in making his final determination. Only the reporting form was used in making the decision of life or death; the doctors did not examine the child in person or review previous records. Sometimes a child might not be condemned if the doctors concluded that he or she could grow up and be a productive member of society. These, however, were in a minority.

The forms also included a compulsory clause in which those doing the reporting were required to indicate the

child’s race. This was so that Jewish children could be easily identified, and in these cases death was mandatory.

As precedents were generated, the range of those to be included in the child euthanasia scheme was broadened. What began as an assault against children with psychological and physical handicaps was expanded such that those deemed to be “unfit for society” – those, for example, with behavioral problems – were also listed on registration forms, and many were subsequently assessed negatively and sent to euthanasia centers, where they were gassed.

Some children slated for compulsory euthanasia were even reprieved temporarily so that they could be “studied” as objects of medical or scientific research prior to being sent to their death.

The killing centers that were set up for children as specialized pediatric clinics were a precedent for much larger killing centers catering to physically and mentally disabled adults. Once sent to these clinics, children received lethal injections or were sometimes simply starved to death. It is worth reflecting this month that children – whether Jewish or not – were the first and most vulnerable of Hitler’s victims, as they remained throughout the war years and the Holocaust.▲

Dr. Paul Bartrop is Professor of History and the Dir. 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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Start-up strategies unite FGCU with Israeli university

Schools team up in historic pact to make strides in entrepreneurial studies

By Rick Weber, June 18, 2019, fgcu360.com

As Dr. Sandra Kauanui stood on Israeli ground and gave a two-minute speech in front of Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, a 100-person Florida delegation, dignitaries from Israel and officials from Tel Aviv University, she couldn't help but think that she had come full circle.

The trip to Israel heralded the May 28 announcement that Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) had

signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Tel Aviv University (TAU), Israel's largest public research university, to cooperate on growing both schools' entrepreneurial studies – part of an historic eight MOU signings involving five other Florida universities and one Florida college.

Kauanui, a professor of entrepreneurship and management at FGCU since 2007, had applied her unbridled

passion to become the driving force behind the formation and management of the Institute of Entrepreneurship and the establishment of one of the nation's few interdisciplinary entrepreneurship degree programs.

And there she stood – on the soil of a country that earned the nickname "Start-Up Nation" as the result of a 2009 book by the same name that immortalized the Israelis' dramatic rise to entrepreneurial kingpin, with more high-tech start-up companies and a larger venture capital industry per capita today than any country in the world, according to *The Economist* magazine.

"Our entrepreneurship program at FGCU is a start-up program," she says. "It's something I started and helped build. It felt like it's come full circle. In Israel, I was in a place where they survived and they built and they grew and they created a name for themselves.

"I truly believe that's something we're doing here at FGCU with our entrepreneurship program. We're making a difference in our students' lives and creating a name for ourselves. We have grown rapidly. We're not a big university with a large amount of funding, and yet we've been able to do this."

How did Israel become the "Start-up Nation of the World?" And why are start-up accelerators still swarming to Silicon Wadi (Hebrew for Silicon Valley) on the coastal plain of Israel, with Tel Aviv as the epicenter?

This is a 71-year-old country with just 8.7 million people, virtually no resources amid a topography that is more than 50% desert, a geographical position surrounded by enemies, a history of external and internal conflict, and an inflation rate that hit 400% after the 1973 Yom Kippur War and the 1983 Israel Bank Stock Crisis.

That's part of the fascination for

ship and innovation. Entrepreneurship is seeing the need and solving a problem. And that differentiates you from other people.

"They knew that in order to survive, they had to be a start-up and grow. They created a start-up nation, and they've done it with very little funds. That is the basis for a lean start-up. That's what entrepreneurs do when they start businesses and grow them. They do it with sheer tenacity, determination and passion."

The MOU will match a rising entrepreneurship program at a fast-growing Florida university with a developing program in a country that is leading the way in innovation and TAU's newly formed, nationally funded Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation (CEI).

"Israel is known for entrepreneurship and innovation," Kauanui says. "We're unique because we have an interdisciplinary degree at FGCU, and there aren't many in the country that have it. Tel Aviv University probably has a more traditional program. It's more of a business program than an interdisciplinary entrepreneurship program that allows students to incorporate courses from other disciplines in the arts, science, health or engineering. They're just starting to develop their Center for Entrepreneurship, which we could help with.

"Our students are very entrepreneurial. They're out there trying to create new businesses and ideas. I think they have lot of entrepreneurial knowledge, and if we can tie it together, it will be a win-win for both sides. Our students would learn from them and learn from some of their innovative ideas, and they might learn some things from our entrepreneurship programs and our students."

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Florida Governor Ron DeSantis with FGCU Professor Sandra Kauanui

Kauanui and a powerful driver for her belief that this MOU will be life-changing for her students and FGCU as a whole.

"They're a small country, and the potential for being attacked is great, so they came up with a way to protect themselves and shoot down the missiles," she says. "They came up with a way to sap the algae out of the water in lakes. They created the first 3D heart that the scientist can print. Their artificial intelligence is amazing.

"Through the universities and research and all the things they've done, they recognized that if they were going to become economically sustainable, they needed to support entrepreneur-

ship all started when Dr. Paul Snyder, senior associate provost and associate vice president for planning and institutional performance, learned that DeSantis was looking for universities to engage in joint relationships with Israeli universities.

"Governor DeSantis' trade mission to Israel represented an opportunity to significantly increase FGCU's and Florida's international footprint. That is very much in line with the course President Martin has set for FGCU," Snyder says. "Entrepreneurism is one of the five main themes of FGCU's current strategic plan. It is also one of the

continued on next page

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Start-up strategies...continued from previous page

emerging strengths of the university as it cuts across all disciplines. Matching the purpose of the trade mission with Professor Kauanui's efforts just made perfect sense."

Snyder assembled a proposal and Kauanui jumped on the opportunity. FGCU's proposal was accepted by DeSantis, and Enterprise Florida set up the six-day mission in Israel.

The MOU covers five years and calls for the two universities to: cooperate in the exchange of scholarship plans of mutual interest; pursue faculty and student exchange programs; seek exchanges of cultural and artistic activities; and collaborate on cooperative research and hold joint academic seminars.

Points for potential traction include:

- ◆ Veterans (FGCU has helped vets use their skills to become entrepreneurs, and Israel's success has been largely due to the work of Israel Defense Forces veterans)
- ◆ Accessible pools of venture capital (TAU Ventures)
- ◆ Access to each other's markets and intellectual capital
- ◆ International connections (TAU offers connections to East and South Asia, Europe and the Americas)

There will be joint projects and collaboration among students and faculty of FGCU and TAU, establishment of a venture capital pool, "shark-tank" competition and study abroad

opportunities.

"We have some venture capitalists in our community, and they're always looking for future investments," Kauanui says. "I can see, through Naples accelerators, connecting some international businesses to our community. There are also potential investors who might be interested in investing in these businesses."

FGCU wants to establish a relationship between its Institute of Entrepreneurship and TAU's CEI. FGCU transitions to a School of Entrepreneurship on July 1, and aims to expand its footprint internationally as a key component in realizing the Board of Trustees' Strategic Plan goal of eventually creating a College of Entrepreneurship to grow and support a more vibrant and diversified workforce and stimulate economic development for the region and the state. The college will be established "when we get strong enough," Kauanui says.

"I guarantee when they signed that Strategic Plan, they had no idea that we would grow as rapidly as we did," she says. "We started with virtually no funding as a minor in 2014. We were the largest minor after a few years.

Then they approved the major two years ago, and at the end of spring, we had 450 students in our major.

"The institute has been extremely active for the last four years, the minor was started four years ago and the major two years, so we're a start-up. We've grown so large at this point that we really needed to become a school."

These are exciting times for FGCU, and Kauanui believes that the Israeli collaboration won't end with TAU.

"I talked with several other universities when I was over there, and they seem very interested in what we are doing in entrepreneurship," she says, specifically mentioning Ben-Gurion University. "Maybe we could create a future partnership with them.

"It would be a great environment for our students to get involved in. It's a great experience for our students to see that Israel started from nothing and has built what they've built. You think of the entrepreneurial mindset. They've done it. It's a great model for our students to understand. It's not just about starting your own business. It's about learning to problem-solve and evolve." ▲

BRIEFS**2,000-YEAR-OLD PILGRIMAGE ROAD OPENS IN JERUSALEM'S CITY OF DAVID**

Archaeologists in Jerusalem have identified the "Pilgrimage Road," the path millions of Jews took three times a year when performing the commandment to go up to the holy city during Judaism's three key holidays: Passover, Shavuot and Sukkot.

The Pilgrimage Road goes from the Shiloah Pool to the area adjacent to the Western Wall known as Robinson's Arch, where today you can still see remnants of the ancient stairway that led into the Jewish Temple. Josephus, the Roman-Jewish historian, wrote that 2.7 million people used to visit Jerusalem during the Jewish holidays.

The official opening of the Pilgrimage Road has far greater significance for Israel than just the opening of a new, impressive tourist site, said Ze'ev Orenstein, director of international affairs for the City of David. It proves the long and historic Jewish connection to Jerusalem.

U.S. Ambassador David Friedman said, "The City of David brings truth and science to a debate that has been marred for too long by myths and deceptions. Its findings, in most cases by secular archaeologists, bring an end to the baseless efforts to deny the historical fact of Jerusalem's ancient connection to the Jewish people."

Pilgrimage Road, Friedman said, "brings to life the historical truth of the [Second Temple] period in Jewish history. Peace between Israel and the Palestinians must be based upon a foundation of truth. The City of David advances our collective goal of pursuing a truth-based resolution."

Asked if Israel would give up the City of David in a peace deal, he said, "I do not believe that Israel would ever

consider such a thought. The City of David is an essential component of the national heritage of the State of Israel. It would be akin to America returning the Statue of Liberty." (Yaakov Katz, *Jerusalem Post*)

INDIA VOTES IN FAVOR OF ISRAEL AGAINST PALESTINIAN NGO IN UN

In a rare move, India voted in favor of a decision introduced by Israel in the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) that objected to granting consultative status to a Palestinian non-governmental organization that Israel said did not disclose its ties with Hamas. The Council decided to return the NGO's application in a 28 to 15 vote with five abstentions. Countries voting in favor of the decision included Brazil, Canada, Colombia, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Japan, Korea, Ukraine, United Kingdom and the United States.

Israel's Permanent Mission to the UN said the NGO, registered in Lebanon under the name "Witness," ostensibly deals with the rights of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. However, in recent months, Israel's security services have revealed that "Witness" belongs to the Hamas movement and acts on its behalf against Israel as part of a network of institutions and organizations the terrorist organization operates outside the Gaza Strip. "Witness" has been declared a terrorist organization in Israel.

The Deputy Chief of Mission at Israel's Embassy in New Delhi tweeted, "Thank you #India for standing with @IsraelinUN and rejecting the request of terrorist organization "Shahed" to obtain the status of an observer in #UN. Together we will continue to act against terrorist organizations that intend to harm." (*Press Trust of India*)

continued on next page

Wonder Woman

Girls get a positive new role model



Widely praised by critics, Israeli actress Gal Gadot is giving girls all over the world a positive new role model, with her portrayal of Wonder Woman in the Warner Brothers movie *Batman v. Superman*. This model-actress-mom who served in the Israeli army, and started on a law career before turning to Hollywood, creates a superhero that is all about compassion, love, truth, justice and equality. And she's pretty tough, too.

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Concerns about \$50 billion “Peace to Prosperity” plan for Palestinian-Arabs

By Gene Sipe

A recent email blast from the ZOA on this topic was the most detailed and concisely explained reasoning why there is good reason to debate long and hard before implementing this plan. Unfortunately, the entire message was too long to hold the attention of all but the most bookish reader. If you are really interested, the entire text can be found at <https://mailchi.mp/50dfb1286975/zoa-praises-amb-friedman-for-stating-israel-has-right-to-annex-some-of-the-west-bank-judeasamaria-1721305?e=babcf77c80>.

Subsequently, the objective of this, paraphrased, article is to summarize the message as detailed by the ZOA to a digestible read and generate honest debate toward determining if this plan has merit or is simply a continuation of the wishful Oslo mindset.

To start with, the plan does not deal with the real reason there is no peace, which is that the Palestinian Authority and Hamas are dedicated to Israel's destruction. It completely avoids the issue of the hateful Palestinian-Arab culture of incitement to terror, violence and murder. It has been compared to the Marshall Plan. However, the Marshall Plan began only after the Nazis and their ideology were completely defeated and removed from power. The PA and Hamas continue to incite hatred of Jews and Christians; pay terrorists to murder Jews and Americans; teach school children to “martyr” themselves to murder Jews. They employ their media messaging, public square-naming, television specials, government-controlled mosques and all other means of communication to idolize terrorists who murder Jews, and to incite more terror.

The first step toward peace must be overhauling PA textbooks and all other mechanisms used to preach and teach hatred against Israel. Instead, this

plan proposes funding \$500 million for a new Palestinian University. By the time students reach university, they are already primed for recruitment as radicals, terrorists and martyrs. Rather than building a new recruitment center, would not a better option be to direct funding toward providing future students better access to existing universities where both Jewish students and Israeli-Arab students already find a peaceful academic environment?

Money and investments do not transform someone into a lover of peace, willing to live peacefully with Israelis and Jews. Their hateful ideology and Koranic religious teaching is to hate Jews and Christians. Economic power in the wrong hands means more terror. As of May 2018, the U.S. gave \$5 billion of aid to the Palestinian Authority, plus another \$6 billion to Palestinian-Arabs through UNRWA. Yet, the PA and Hamas have continued all their efforts to destroy Israel and attack innocent Israelis, including the PA's over \$400 million per year of “pay to slay” payments. The huge wealth of leading Palestinian Authority, Hamas and al-Qaeda terrorists demonstrates that money and investments are not the answer. One example is that in 2014, the Hamas terror group itself reportedly had a \$1 billion net worth, making it the second-richest terror group in the world. Prior to the recent influx of Iran-deal funds and funding from Qatar, other Middle East terror groups were already known to have significant assets.

The plan includes funding of more than \$12 billion to build a highway and/or rail corridor from Gaza to Judea and Samaria, other transportation infrastructure, and increase the capacity of the Palestinian public sector to manage crossing points, inspect goods and facilitate trade. The “Palestinian public sector” is dominated by terror groups

and is not likely to “manage” crossing points to keep out terrorists and arms. Effectually, Israel would be cut into two and the Israeli-owned land, homes and farms would be usurped and the owners displaced. Such a corridor would enable Hamas terrorists, other terror operatives and their weapons to spread death and destruction. Israel cannot afford to return to the days of the Second Intifada (2000-2005) when the lack of a security barrier, checkpoints and Israeli security control enabled Palestinian terrorists to murder and maim 10,000 innocent Israelis.

Past experience has shown that the Palestinian-Arabs place higher value on destruction of Israel than on improving the status of their infrastructure. When the opportunity avails, they immediately destroyed 300 Jewish, technically advanced greenhouses in Gaza; repeatedly set fire to gas pipes, electricity infrastructure, and a conveyor belt used to transfer fuel and goods from Israel into Gaza; and divert electricity, concrete and other building materials intended for Gaza's reconstruction to instead build dozens of sophisticated terror tunnels.

The plan does not specify which sites will be included within the \$400 million budget for promoting, repairing, restoring and upgrading “cultural, historical and religious sites.” Recall, please, Palestinian-Arabs destroyed or bulldozed important Jewish and Christian religious sites and artifacts, including Joseph's Tomb in Shechem, and the remains of a Byzantine Church in Gaza City. Are these going to be rebuilt? And if so, how will Jews and Christians safely visit them?

Little known of the plan is a \$6.325 billion investment in Hezbollah-dominated Lebanon. While investing in road corridors, airports, railroads and other infrastructure projects in Lebanon may sound good, it is more likely to en-

hance Hezbollah's military capabilities to deploy its 150,000 missiles that are pointed at Israel. Currently, one of Israel's major strategic concerns is that Iran will not allow its investment in this armory to go to waste.

The administration proposing this plan is well intentioned and has made great strides by moving the U.S. Embassy to Israel's eternal capital Jerusalem; merged the U.S. consulate in Jerusalem into the U.S. Embassy; recognized Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights; left the Israel-bashing UN Human Rights Council; closed the PLO/PA office in Washington; stopped funding to the terror-supporting Palestinian Authority and UNRWA; withdrew from the catastrophic Iran deal; made numerous strong statements against anti-Semitism, neo-Nazism and white supremacy; and demanded that the Palestinian Authority must end its incitement of terror and heinous “pay to slay” payments to terrorists to murder Jews and Americans.

In consideration of these factors, the ultimate outcome of this plan is deeply concerning. Added to this is the expressed attitude of some in our community that “since nothing else has worked, it may be worth a try.” Hasn't this approach, however, been tried already? Has the Iran plan made the world a safer place? Have any of the funds-for-peace programs in recent history led to improved relations?

The ZOA's conclusion is that, first and foremost, we need a plan for completely transforming the violent Palestinian-Arab culture, leadership and education. Without that, the investments envisioned by the “Peace to Prosperity” plan will only make Israel's neighborhood even more dangerous than it is today.▲

Gene Sipe lives in Fort Myers.

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BRIEFS

continued from previous page

ISRAEL SECURITY PRIZE RECIPIENTS HONORED FOR INNOVATION AND DARING

President Reuven Rivlin on Tuesday, July 2, awarded Israel's top security prize to those who contributed in the past year to the country's protection.

Recipients included the Mossad agents behind the operation to steal Iran's nuclear archive and the IDF teams that located and destroyed six cross-border attack tunnels dug by Hizbullah from Lebanon into Israel.

An Israel Security Agency team led by a female agent received the award for the development of a big data program that is used to predict and prevent terror attacks.

“Many dozens of attempted terror attacks were stopped, hundreds of terrorists were arrested and a large number of significant terror attacks were prevented, including suicide bombings, explosive attacks and car bombs that were meant to be carried out against populations within Israel,” the ISA said.

“The system even allowed the ISA to find and stop a number of armed terrorists who were en route to carry out attacks.”

Another recipient was the team that created an advanced version of the SPICE (Smart, Precise Impact, Cost-Effective) air-to-surface bomb.

“The four winning projects suc-

cessfully address significant strategic threats to the State of Israel, and are characterized by their innovative, daring approach and superior operational capabilities,” Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said. (Judah Ari Gross, *Times of Israel*)

ISRAEL'S BLOSSOMING INTERNATIONAL TIES ARE UNPRECEDENTED

Israel today is less isolated than at any other time in its history. Our relationship with Latin America is at an unprecedented high and the prime minister of Israel has visited four countries there. The countries in Africa are standing in line to strengthen their relationships with us. Our relationships with Eastern Europe, the former Soviet bloc countries, are excellent.

We didn't have relationships with China or India 30 years ago. They are our biggest trading partners outside of Europe today. With India, we also have a strategic relationship, an alliance. The Sunni Arab states no longer view us as an enemy state, but as an important ally. These are sea changes.

Israel is perceived in the world today as a power. One international metric had us as the eighth most powerful country in the world. This is a function of the IDF, which is today more than twice as big as the British and French armies combined. Add our ability to project power and to maintain close relationships with the leading powers of the world – whether they be Russia, China or the U.S. – and Israel is uniquely positioned. (Interview with Michael Oren, *Octavian Report*)▲

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“If you prick us, do we not bleed?”

By Michael Golding

The above headline is part of the famous soliloquy delivered by Shylock to his anti-Semitic tormentors in Shakespeare’s play *The Merchant of Venice*, in an attempt to explain that other than religion, he and all Jews are no less human than Gentiles. Written in 1599, Shakespeare’s script reveals much about the hate that existed then, so many years after the death of Christ.

The passage reads: “I am a Jew. Hath not a Jew eyes? Hath not a Jew hands, organs, dimensions, senses, affections, passions; fed with the same food, hurt with the same weapons, subject to the same diseases, heal’d by the same means, warm’d and cool’d by the same winter and summer, as a Christian is? If you prick us, do we not bleed? If you tickle us, do we not laugh? If you poison us, do we not die? And if you wrong us, do we not revenge? If we are like you in the rest, we will resemble you in that.”

I was first “pricked and bled” at the tender age of eight in London. My father was a working-class man, and we lived in a lower-class area of London mainly populated by Gentiles. Boys and girls in 1947 were sent to separate schools, and when somehow the Gentile boys found out I was Jewish, they beat me up regularly, and took turns holding me on the ground and spitting on my face, shouting “Dirty Jew” and “Christ Killer.” I had no knowledge of the New Testament, of course, so I didn’t understand the “Christ Killer” shouts and asked my parents what that meant. They both avoided the question, but of course this stems from various passages in the New Testament.

A poll released recently by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) reports that 26 percent of the American public continues to believe that “Jews were responsible for the death of Jesus. For all of the surprise over the results of the poll, there’s no real mystery about the origins of this idea. The claim that Jews were responsible for Jesus’s death is in the New Testament. The historical legacy of these stories is devastatingly clear. They laid the groundwork for and nurtured over 2,000 of years of anti-Semitism. There is no doubt that stories about the death of Jesus can provoke violence. In the medieval period, when the death of Jesus was publicly performed in passion plays at Easter time, riled-up audience members would spill out onto the streets and attack Jewish members of their communities. And, as the poll reveals, a quarter of Americans still hold Jews “responsible.”

Less than 0.2% of the world population is Jewish, yet 22% of Nobel Prize winners and 41% of Nobel laureates in economics are Jewish, as are 11% of the world’s billionaires, and 20% of the world’s richest 50 people. These statistics obviously don’t prove anything. Being of Jewish descent doesn’t ensure success and, of course, not all Jews are successful. Still, I believe there are several factors at play here that could begin to explain the overrepresentation of Jewish people in high ranking positions: education, community and, most importantly, history.

Jews have been associated with money since medieval times. A lot of Jews had to practice money-lending to survive, and were restricted from owning land or engaging in other trades. Christian doctrine at the time forbade Christians from lending money, so Jews had the industry to themselves. Tensions between lenders – often Jewish – and debtors – often Christian – were often peppered with religious undertones. The profession Jews held was seen as unethical by the Christian community, but Jews couldn’t engage in anything else because of the restrictions they faced. So, in a sense, the demonization of Jews became a self-fulfilling prophecy. It’s a story that begins to explain the image of Jews as greedy, money-lending conspirators seeking global domination.

And Jews have paid the price. We have been expelled from 109 nations since 250 AD. A third of world Jewry was wiped out in the Holocaust. There is a famous video showing a grim-faced General Eisenhower walking around a concentration camp. The video shows the piles of skeletons and bodies. It was reported that a shaken Eisenhower called for photographers to take photos of everything, saying, “In 50 years, some bastard will say this never happened.” How prescient... how right. The internet provides many outlets for hate, with many posts denying the Holocaust.

Are we ignoring the rise of hatred? I think that the news of increased anti-Semitism in Germany, France and Britain are warnings we cannot ignore. The following report in May from a German government official needs to be heeded. This, in my opinion, is an ominous warning, and cannot be disregarded, as anti-Semitism rears its ugly head not only in Europe, but here in the U.S.

Berlin (AP) – The German government’s top official against anti-Semitism says he wouldn’t advise Jews to wear skullcaps in parts of the country.

Felix Klein was quoted in an interview with the Funke newspaper group published Saturday as saying that “my opinion has unfortunately changed compared with what it used to be” on the matter. He said: “I cannot recommend to Jews that they wear the skullcap at all times everywhere in Germany.” He didn’t elaborate on what places and times might be risky.

Germany’s main Jewish leader said last year that he would advise people visiting big cities against wearing Jewish skullcaps. Government statis-

tics released earlier this month showed that the number of anti-Semitic and anti-foreigner incidents rose in Germany last year, despite an overall drop in politically motivated crimes.

Of course, the huge question is how, after 2,019 years, can Jews ever change the in-bred hatred of some Gentiles, all over so many countries, century after century, passed on from generation to generation? Can it or will it ever change? I have no answers!▲
Michael Golding lives in Fort Myers.

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Connecting the dots

Tisha B'Av is the sad holiday for mourning the destruction of the 1st and 2nd Temples (in 586 BCE and in 70 CE). Obviously, 2,000 years is a long time ago. So why do we continue to fast and mourn (this year on Saturday night, August 10 and Sunday, August 11) for something that happened so long ago? With each new year, our memories of the event recede even further away. Like the death of a beloved parent that happened decades ago, the "memories" are no longer as sharp, or powerful, as they used to be. How can we even have memories of something that happened way before we were even born?

In an article entitled "Tisha B'Av: Why We Should Still Care," Rabbi Adin Even-Yisrael Steinsaltz makes a fascinating observation: "The distinction between memory and impact holds true for both public events and for personal ones. The shock, the pain, the suffering, will diminish with time; the results may become much bigger, much more emphatic." Just as the memories of Vietnam and Watergate may fade away, we can still observe how much they have impacted our society. Similarly, the repercussions of the Temples being destroyed still reverberate. As Jews, we have lost our national center, we have gone into exile/diaspora and we have lost our religious center, as well.

Please know that I am not suggesting we should bring back a Third Temple, reintroduce animal sacrifice or re-establish the ancient priesthood. But what we have lost is the sense of an intimate connection with the Holy

One, a place for openness, forgiveness and rectification. As a "goy kadosh," a holy people, we are not as able to serve as a light to the nations as we once did. So, the world suffers with our loss too.

When we look around and see all of the problems of our country and the world, the distrust of strangers (and especially minorities), the lack of compassion for others, the great rigidity of many people's positions, we can see the impact of the loss of the Temple. And when we observe the catastrophic weather patterns and events, we have to wonder as well if our exploitation of nature would have happened similarly if it had not been destroyed.

As Rabbi Steinsaltz has said elsewhere, "The redemption of Jews must also be accompanied by change that affects the entire world."

Of course, the ancient sages realized this point too. As the hours of Tisha B'Av pass along, we are reminded of the ancient midrash that says the "mashiach" (messiah) was born on this day of our destruction. Out of the whirlwind of our destruction comes the hope for a better, more healed and more functional world. Not just for Jews everywhere, but for all people and for the earth, as well. ▲

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

What do you think? Need to reach the editor of L'CHAYIM? Send Letters to the Editor to LChayim36@gmail.com.

COMMENTARY BRIEFS

THE TRUTH ABOUT JERUSALEM'S CITY OF DAVID – THE LIES ABOUT SILWAN

- ◆ The ancient Pilgrimage Road in the City of David is one of the most sensational archaeological discoveries to be made in Jerusalem since Israel's establishment. On this road, remarkably preserved under the ashes of the Roman destruction, many thousands of Jews in Second Temple times, after a ritual bath in the Shiloah Pool, walked about 700 meters up the hill to the Temple Mount.
- ◆ The site was first excavated more than 100 years ago by French, British and American archaeologists, at a time when the State of Israel did not exist and Jerusalem was under Muslim rule.
- ◆ The City of David, which is under archaeological examination, covers about 15 acres – or about six percent of the Arab Silwan neighborhood. The Israeli Supreme Court has rebuffed claims that the digging endangers the homes of Silwan residents and has clarified that it is done under strict engineering supervision and in line with professional standards.
- ◆ Hundreds of Arab residents of Silwan have been employed in the excavations under the houses of the village – so much so that Hamas and the Palestinian Authority threatened them and forced them to leave their jobs.
- ◆ The excavations are being done in the vicinity of the Temple Mount and not under it. That has been true of all the excavations Israel has carried out over the years in other

parts of the Old City and the Temple Mount vicinity.

- ◆ Al-Aqsa is not in danger; what is in danger is the freedom of scientific archaeological research in this area. (Nadav Shragai, Institute for Contemporary Affairs - Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs)

DEFENDING THE FREEDOM OF JERUSALEM

- Amb. Dore Gold told the Christians United for Israel (CUFI) conference in Washington on Monday, July 8:
- ◆ In 1999, when I was Israel's ambassador to the UN, I sought instructions from then-Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon about how to respond to a Palestinian provocation at the UN involving a resolution calling for the internationalization of Jerusalem.
- ◆ Sharon told me to read over the Knesset speech of our first prime minister, David Ben-Gurion, from December 1949, in which he declared that he was moving Israel's capital to Jerusalem. Ben-Gurion reminded the international community that the people of Israel had "faithfully honored for 2,500 years the oath sworn by the first exiles by the rivers of Babylon not to forget Jerusalem."
- ◆ In 2016, UNESCO asserted that the Temple Mount was connected to Islam, but it refused to acknowledge any Jewish connection whatsoever, or, for that matter, any Christian connection. The same year, the UN Security Council adopted a resolution branding Jerusalem as "occupied Palestinian territory," insinuating that the Temple

continued on next page

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The collage shows several pages from the L'CHAYIM newspaper. Key features include:

- Jewish Film Festival:** Announcement for the 23rd Annual Jewish Film Festival of Southwest Florida, held at the Regal Balltower Stadium 20.
- Stars of David:** A section highlighting local Jewish figures and their contributions.
- Interested in Your Family's History?** An advertisement for genealogical research services.
- Senior Lunch Bunch Update:** News about social events for seniors.
- Queen Esther Masquerade Ball:** Announcement for a fundraising event on 03.16.2019.
- Community Calendar:** A list of upcoming events and activities.
- Advertisements:** Various local business and service ads.

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Real rabbis are those who “go all in”

Congratulations to Lawrence Dermer, who successfully completed his course of studies with the Rabbinical Seminary International where he was granted rabbinical *semikhhah* on June 27. Rabbi Dermer serves the Shalom Life Center in Estero. “What I would give that all the Lord’s people were prophets, when the Lord’s spirit will be given to them all!” (Numbers 11:29)

Decades ago, I used to look down my nose at what I used to derisively call “matchbook rabbis.” (Matchbooks used to feature ads from an art school that began, “You too can be an artist...”) Chalk it up to my supercilious, didactic Litvischer (Yiddish: Lithuanian) background which valued rigorous classical Jewish academic literacy above all. Punctilious Hebrew, Talmudic mastery, near-encyclopedic knowledge of the tradition – you know, all that Jewish “left-brained” stuff. I judged other rabbis very superficially, assigning high status to those with the broadest, deepest traditional and technical grasp of the classical Jewish literary sources, while more-or-less

From darkness to light

This month we will commemorate the anniversary of the destruction of both the First and Second Jewish Temples in Jerusalem. Tisha B’Av marks many of the darkest days in Jewish history.

In our Torah, in Parshah Shelach, 12 spies are sent by Moses to scout the land of Canaan. They return from their mission on Tisha B’Av, but only Joshua and Caleb bring a positive report, while the others give a false and negative account that the land would be impossible to conquer. Unfortunately, the majority chose to listen to the slanderous report over the positive one and our people allowed fear and doubt to keep them from entering the Promised Land. As a result of our lack of faith we would wander in the desert for 40 years. According to midrash, G-d announces that going forward, the ninth of Av will be a day of great sadness and tragedy for all generations.

In addition to the destruction of both Temples on the ninth of Av, Jewish tradition marks several other major calamities that fall on the very same date: the Bar Kochba revolt is defeated by Roman Emperor Hadrian, the First Crusade is declared by Pope Urban II resulting in thousands of Jewish deaths and the destruction of Jewish communities in France, expulsion of the Jews from England, the Inquisition in Spain, World War I begins and 120,000 Jewish soldiers perish, deportations from Warsaw Ghetto to Treblinka begin (1942), bombing of the Jewish community center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, kills 86 people and wounds 300 others (1994).

dismissing the rest as posers. I was such a jerk! I look at things a lot differently now.

Real rabbis are those who “go all in,” dedicating their lives completely to God’s people as a whole and one-by-one, nourishing them on their traditions, even if it’s little bits at a time.

A good rabbi has a good heart, as Rabbi Eliezer ben Arakh observed in the 2nd chapter of the Pirke Avot. Good-hearted people give freely of themselves without asking what’s in it for them. They need to give more than others need to receive.

I now know that my people don’t really need me to be a great rabbinic sage (although they expect “the straight scoop” when they have questions about the tradition). What they do need is a sincere commitment to them, wherever “they’re at.” (Genesis 21:17) They need a spring of living water, not a Jewish whiz kid!

And so it is wonderful to welcome another selfless person to “the calling.” How blessed we are as a smaller Jewish community to have a number of big-hearted rabbis among us!

Hizqoo v’imtsoo! ▲
Rabbi Bruce Diamond serves at The Community Free Synagogue in Fort Myers.

Many people would simply give up when confronted with problems like these, but Judaism teaches us to believe that life has meaning, even when our situation looks hopeless. Our tradition guides us to always look forward with faith in G-d and a positive outlook.

There are many examples of how we transition from mourning to joy – from the fast of Esther to the joy of Purim, from the fast of the firstborn to the celebration of freedom during Pesach. After commemorating the loss of six million Jewish souls on Yom HaShoah and the observance of Yom HaZikaron, we are brought to a time of great joy as we celebrate Yom Ha’Atzmaut and our return to Eretz Yisrael.

Tisha B’Av follows a similar pattern. Six days after we mourn the destruction of the Temple and many other tragedies throughout our history, we celebrate Tu B’Av, a lover’s holiday which is the equivalent of a Jewish Valentine’s Day.

The attitude of optimism has carried the Jewish people through many dark moments in our history causing us not only to survive but continue to thrive. Our national anthem is The Hope - HaTikvah. We must never lose hope or feel as though our suffering is without meaning or purpose. As Jews, we know ultimately things will be better and we hold hope that our suffering will lead us to better days. Our hope and prayers are that when we have to confront suffering, we will have no fear, but only the strength we need to be able to overcome our problems and emerge even stronger than before. May Tisha B’Av move us from mourning to hope as we look toward the day when suffering is only an unpleasant memory, a day when Israel and the entire world is at peace. ▲

Rabbi Lawrence Dermer serves at Shalom Life Center in Fort Myers.

Sand on synagogue floors

There is sand on the floor of the Portuguese Synagogue in Amsterdam where my wife Leni and I attended services on Shabbat morning. It is one of five synagogues in the world that has this practice. (The others are in the Caribbean: Shaare Shalom in Kingston, Jamaica; the Snoa in Curacao; Zedek ve-Shalom in Suriname; and Beracha VeShalom Vegmilut Hasidim in Saint Thomas; all are Sephardic congregations.)

No one knows an “official” reason for the origins of the practice. We have no rabbinic writings mandating the spreading of sand on the synagogue floor. We do know that churches and taverns in 17th century Netherlands put sand on the floor, perhaps to control mud on the floor. The Amsterdam synagogue, now in the center of the city, was, in 1675 when it was built, on its outskirts where the roads had not yet been cobblestoned.

In the aftermath of the expulsions of the Jews from Spain in 1492 and Portugal in 1497, Amsterdam was more welcoming to Jews and many settled there. (Other cities in the Netherlands were not.) The Jewish community of Amsterdam was established in the late 1500s, early 1600s. An earlier synagogue was built in 1639. Over the entrance to the current structure are the words from Psalm 5:8, “In the abundance of Thy lovingkindness will I come into Your house.”

Other reasons have been offered for the sand on the synagogue floors. Could it be an affirmation of God’s promise to Abraham that the numbers of the Jewish people would be more numerous than the sands of the sea? Could it be reminiscent of the sand of the desert though which our people had to wander on their way to the Promised Land? Each of these explanations would hold meaning for a community of Jewish refugees still fearing persecution and getting established in a new land.

Attendance at the Shabbat service Leni and I attended was modest – about 50 men and 30 women, maybe a third of whom were tourists like ourselves. (The congregation is modern-Orthodox with men sitting downstairs and women in an upstairs balcony.) The average age was in the mid-70s. One man told us that more Jews were living in a different neighborhood and another congregation was established there.

The service was different from ours. The liturgy was Sephardic and we recognized few melodies.

But we were standing in a synagogue that is close to 350 years old, built by Jews who had fled persecution only to build a new, thriving Jewish community.

An elder of the congregation, commenting on the Shabbat morning attendance, said, “As long as I’m around, I’ll work hard to keep this place open.” The resilient Jewish spirit was clearly felt on the Shabbat Leni and I were part of the congregation. ▲
Rabbi Marc Sack serves at Temple Judea in Fort Myers.

BRIEFS

continued from previous page

- Mount and the Western Wall were Palestinian!
- At the July 2000 Camp David Summit, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat told President Bill Clinton that there never was a Jewish Temple in Jerusalem. If there was no Temple, then Israel had no historical claim to Jerusalem. But President Clinton responded that “not only the Jews but I, too, believe that under the surface there are remains of Solomon’s temple.” Denying its history entailed an affront to the Christian faith as well.
- According to Christian and Jewish sources brought forward by Prof. Moshe Gill, in his monumental study, *A History of Palestine*, published by Cambridge University Press: “The Jewish population re-

- siding in the country at the time of the Moslem conquest in the 7th century consisted of the direct descendants of the generations of Jews who had lived there since the days of Joshua bin Nun.”
- In the 1400s, Jewish immigration to the Holy Land had increased to such a scale that the Franciscans petitioned the Pope to issue an edict prohibiting Christian sea captains from carrying Jewish passengers to the Holy Land. By the mid-19th century, the British Consulate in Jerusalem determined that Jews had already restored their majority in the city in 1863.
- Today, across the Middle East, the holy sites of all the great faiths are under a new assault by the forces of jihad. The only force that will protect Jerusalem for all the great faiths is the modern State of Israel. (Amb. Dore Gold, President of the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs) ▲

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A human clock

The scientifically-minded ancient Egyptians had invented the water clock about 3,300 years ago, but the mechanical principle of “escapement” that governs clocks today was the invention of a Chinese monk in about the year 700. On the other hand, a “monk clock” was not a clock at all. In medieval monasteries, one monk was assigned the night-long task of reading a specified number of previously timed pages in his Bible – then he would run to the belfry and ring the bell.

This later clock has something to commend it for it contains a great lesson. It was the personal involvement of a human being that determined the passage of time. It was a person whose life

was filled with study that marked the movements of the clock.

In a similar manner, we human beings set the meaning of the time of our lives. We can fill our lives with the worthwhile or the worthless. We can squander time or render it special. We can live lives of mediocrity or of meaning.

And so it comes down to this: the business of life is not to dwell upon the past or to worry about the future, but to do the best we can with what clearly lies at hand. So take the time to make each moment count. And the next time you have a few free moments, think about God, the world and yourself. Even though it is just a second, that counts, too. For 60 seconds makes one minute, 60 minutes makes one hour, 24 hours make a day, 365 days make a year, and years add up to a lifetime.▲
Rabbi Solomon Agin serves at Temple Shalom in Port Charlotte.

Stand up to wrongdoing

My wife Vickie and I have recently returned from five weeks in Germany where we taught together about the Holocaust to high school students, and where I taught and preached in synagogues, churches and at the Abraham Geiger Rabbinical College in Berlin.

Repeatedly, we would stress the importance of each human being and the choices we make.

The Holocaust did not happen only because very bad people had horrible thoughts and did horrible things. The Holocaust happened because too many ordinary people turned a blind eye to the evil.

So we stress to the students with whom we interact: when you see something wrong – say some kids are bullying another student – you have a choice. You can:

- Join in and be popular.
- Say, “It’s not my problem,” and walk away.
- Have the courage to say, “Stop it. This is wrong.”

Of course, we hope the choice you make, although it is the difficult choice, is c.

The Bible offers us some wonderful examples of “c.”

In the first chapter of Exodus, Pharaoh ordered the Hebrew midwives to kill every Hebrew boy they helped birth as it emerged from the womb. They had the courage to defy Pharaoh’s decree. As I point out in *What’s in It for Me? Finding Ourselves in Biblical Narratives*:

“The example of Shiphrah and Puah stands as a sharp rebuke for those who excuse their ethical misdeeds with the claim they had no choice – they were simply following orders from their superiors. Case in point: During the trial of Nazi war criminals at Nuremberg, Germany, defendant after defendant attempted to justify his action on the basis that he was just following orders. The courage of Shiphrah and Puah is timeless testimony that

‘just following orders’ is no excuse to do evil.”

Moses also chose courage over expedience. When an Egyptian taskmaster was beating a Hebrew slave, Moses, as an Egyptian Prince, could well have decided, “This is not my affair.”

Instead he stood up for the lowly slave and made himself *persona non grata* in Egypt.

Ethical dilemmas are not confined to the ancient world.

- On our southern borders today, the treatment of those seeking to enter our country to escape lives of fear and oppression in Central and South America is inhumane.
- Our world suffers from the wanton disregard by its inhabitants of the dangers of climate change attributable to human actions and human indifference.
- People still suffer discrimination and acts of violence because of their race, religion or sexual orientation. We can:
 - Continue to contribute to these atrocities.
 - Pretend they are not our concern and turn our backs on these realities.
 - Have the courage to stand up against these crimes against nature and humanity.

One of my favorite lines in all of Scripture comes from the Book of Esther. When Esther says she cannot go to the King to try to thwart Haman’s plan to kill the Jews, Mordecai’s message to her is, “Who knows if you have not become Queen for just such a time as this.” (Esther 4:14)

When we look about and see things we know are wrong and hesitate to take action, let us ask ourselves Mordecai’s question: “Who knows if we are not where we are just for the opportunity to act in a way that will make a positive difference in the world or in the life of another person?”

Our future depends on enough of us to follow the examples of Shiphrah, Puah, Moses and Esther and choose “c” to stand up to wrongdoing in whatever ways we can.▲

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

Each man has a name

We are living through a new turmoil in the world. Anti-Semitism is on the rise and we, as a community, are again witnessing an uncertainty that we could not have believed would or could appear in our democracy.

The community is of tremendous importance. The individual who is Jewish is defined by others, even though he or she may quarrel with and dispute them. We, as Jews, are defined by our laws even though we may choose to appeal or even ignore them. Community has been a natural mode of existence since the time of Jacob.

“Ma tovu ohalecha Yaakov.” “How beautiful are your tents oh Jacob?”

“Each Man Has a Name” is a poem by Israeli poet Zelda. It was influenced by a quotation from the midrash Tanhuma. This poem has also been put to music and is a piece that is often performed at Holocaust remembrance services:

Deborah’s story

“A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame, Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name Mother of Exiles.” – from *The New Colossus* by Emma Lazarus

This line from *The New Colossus* undoubtedly brings to mind images of the Statue of Liberty raising her torch to welcome immigrants and refugees. To raise funds for the statue’s pedestal, Emma Lazarus wrote the famous poem, *The New Colossus*, as part of an art and literary action. The pedestal’s cornerstone was placed 135 years ago this August. While we may associate the line “a mighty woman with a torch...Mother of Exiles” with the Statue of Liberty, the woman who gave her that description was Jewish and perhaps inspired by the biblical character of Deborah.

We read Deborah’s story in the book of Judges, which states, “Deborah was the prophetess-woman, Lapidot-woman. She judged Israel at that time. She would sit under ‘Deborah’s Palm Tree’ between Ramah and Beth-El on Mount Ephraim, and the Israelites went up to her for judgement.”

From just these two verses, Deborah appears as a remarkable woman. Unlike most of the women of the Bible who lead private lives, Deborah is a recognized public figure. She is a prophet and a judge. Israelites would seek her out and go to her to determine a case. Deborah is also described as *eshet lapidot*, meaning Lapidot-woman. Many translations assume that this means she was the wife of Lapidot, but biblical scholar Tikva Frymer-Kensky notes that it’s a strange name for a man and isn’t followed by the usual “son of.” So perhaps lapidot is not a name, but a noun. And as a noun, *lapidot* means “torches.” So the text could

Each Man has a name
Given to him by God
And given to him by his father
and mother.

Each man has a name.
Given to him by his height
And the way he smiles.
And given to him by the cloth...
Each man has a name.
Given to him by his sins
And given to him by his longings.
Each man has a name.
Given to him by the sea
And given to him by his death.

Zelda’s poem is not about death. Indeed, it is about life. It touches on an old Jewish individuality in belonging that stamps each person without anyone resembling the other and without anyone being totally alone. We are all given our identities by persons and events that enter our lives during our life journey.

Our young people are beginning their life journeys. Please, dear G-d, help us repair and protect this world for them. *Tikkun Olam.*▲

Rabbi Devora Buchen serves at Temple Beth Shalom in Cape Coral.

also be translated as “Deborah was a prophetess-woman, woman of torches.” Frymer-Kensky calls her, Torch-Lady. Or perhaps, “A mighty woman with a torch.” She guides her people with light.

In her role as prophet, Deborah calls for Barak, a military commander, and encourages him to go to battle. Just as Deborah is associated with the symbol of the torch, Barak’s name in Hebrew means “lightning.” “A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame, Is the imprisoned lightning.”

Deborah herself does not battle. Her role is to determine wisely the proper time for battle, to call forth the troops, and then to declare victory. Her strength lies in her words, and her name is connected to the Hebrew root for speech. She speaks with integrity and truth. Deborah is leading, encouraging, lighting the way for the people to fulfill their purpose.

Just as the State of Liberty is known as Mother of Exiles, Deborah is also called a mother. In the Song of Deborah that follows the narrative, it reads “Deliverance ceased, ceased in Israel, till you arose, O Deborah. Arose, O Mother in Israel.” The term is not used in the biological sense; we don’t know whether Deborah even had children. But rather, she advises the people, she protects the people, and she leads them into their future.

“A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame, Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name Mother of Exiles.” This describes the Statute of Liberty, welcoming refugees and immigrants with the hope and promise of freedom. And it describes the biblical character Deborah, the judge, the prophet, the Mother of Israel, guiding the Israelites with her torch, a “fiery-lady,” a strong leader with wisdom and integrity. And leading us, we pray, into a future of freedom and peace.▲

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

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TEMPLE JUDEA SCHOOLS
Fort Myers

*Tab Scribner,
Director of Congregational Learning*

It was at this time a year ago that I was handed the keys and directed to get the religious school up and running for the fall. Now, a full year later, the goal is still the same. But what does that mean? Plenty of schools are running. Summer comes to a close and the kids rush back to classes all over Lee County, but not all schools work the same way. Even in the public schools, some schools emphasize the sciences, others the arts, and others invest heavily in athletics. What does up and running mean?

At TJRS, up and running is more about how we do things than anything else. What I've discovered in the last year is that for us, up and running is about maintaining a flexibility to meet all of our students' needs. Last year, we tried some new things and pushed our limits to new heights. This coming year, we'll be trying additional new things and creating memories. What works in one year may not work as well in the second. Needs change. A year ago, I didn't have a complete picture of what I was planning for. We made the best educated decisions we could and pushed forward. A year later, there is a better understanding of what our kids know and are able to do, and a better understanding of how they learn best. This understanding allows us to run with flexibility, an absolute necessity in 2019.

I love the intimacy of our religious school in that I can listen to our families and adjust as we go. Some adjustments are quick, like moving up a student into a more challenging class or shifting a class schedule because of

conflicting obligations. Others take more time to implement. As our enrollment changes, the needs

change along with it. For example, our kindergarten class has outgrown their classroom, and will be moving to a bigger space this fall.

I am also enjoying the challenge of programming special events for our children and families. In addition to the High Holiday programs built around children-centered activities, we are also bringing in several guests for special presentations. On Wednesday, September 4, we will be joined by Rabbi Gutnik from Boca Raton for a Shofar Factory Workshop. After a presentation on how shofarot are made, our families will get to try their hand at crafting their own to keep. If you would like to join us for this special event, please contact me for more information and to reserve your spot. (This is to make sure we order enough shofarot.)

Our High Holiday programming for children will include programs on Erev Rosh Hashanah, Rosh Hashanah (Day 1 only), Erev Yom Kippur and Yom Kippur. If you would like your child(ren) to join us for the holidays, but they aren't enrolled in our religious school, please call our office so that we can be prepared for your child(ren).

It has been a busy summer already, as we push forward on the adjustments and special programs to keep our school running smoothly. If you are interested in learning more about those adjustments, our curriculum, enrolling your child(ren) in our school or attending our special events, I would love to hear from you. I can be reached at 239.433.0201 or tjswfledu@gmail.com I'd love to start the conversation about how the Temple Judea Religious School can serve your family.

TEMPLE JUDEA RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Jewish Education for grades K and up

FALL CLASSES BEGIN August 25

CONTACT US AT
(239) 433-0201
Attn: Tab Scribner

To schedule a private tour, or ask about our curriculum, schedule or post-B'nei Mitzvah programming, call our office (239) 433-0201 or email us at tjswfledu@gmail.com

ENROLL TODAY!

Candle lighting times:

| | |
|------------|------|
| August 2: | 7:56 |
| August 9: | 7:51 |
| August 16: | 7:45 |
| August 23: | 7:39 |
| August 30: | 7:32 |

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TEMPLE BETH EL SCHOOLS Fort Myers

Temple Beth El Religious School

As we look forward to another year of religious school, we are excited to begin new educational experiences and family activities at Temple Beth El. Over the past few months, we have examined our values and priorities with input from our parents, students and teachers to enable our staff to provide the best Jewish education for our students in partnership with our committed families.

This upcoming school year, we are adopting the CHAI curriculum that was created by the Union for Reform Judaism as a way to standardize education for Reform Jews across the nation. CHAI creates a comprehensive curriculum that emphasizes Jewish learning and living beyond the classroom. We will add Project Based Learning to the Judaic Studies program to further enhance and engage our students with hands-on and deeper learning.

For our Hebrew instruction, we have adopted Mitkadem and Hebrew in Harmony. Mitkadem is an individualized, self-paced Hebrew prayer and ritual program. We will use Hebrew in Harmony in conjunction with our music program, which is an engaging program that utilizes modern songs and digital technology.

We are adding two extended days to our Sunday schedule where the stu-

dents will have the opportunity to experience "Camp Beth El," which will be run by our older students participating in the Confirmation or Hebrew Chai programs. Encouraging leadership opportunities for our older students and creating a fun camp day for our younger ones will be the focus of this program. Both extended days coincide with Jewish holidays to enhance the holiday experience.

Our Confirmation students will participate in service learning and social justice activities as well as many field trips. The 9th grade students will travel to Washington, D.C., in February to attend the L'Taken Social Justice Seminar.

Shabbat dinners and Friday night family services throughout the year have been scheduled, with our first being held on September 13. Dinners and services are a great way for our congregants and families to commune together and enjoy the participation of our students in the Friday night service.

Important upcoming dates:

Our first official day will be on Sunday, August 18. Please join us from 9:00 to 9:20 a.m. for Tefillah in the Sanctuary led by Rabbi Luna and the religious school students. There will be a light family potluck breakfast after service to celebrate the beginning of our new school year. Following breakfast, we will have a parents meeting to explain our updated Hebrew and Judaic studies curriculum.

Saturday, September 7 is our first "Lock-In" Movie Night. All religious school and Conformation students will enjoy dinner, Havdalah service, fun activities and a movie.

Join us on Friday, September 13

for a Shabbat dinner and family services.

Please call the Temple Beth El office at 239.433.0018 or email religiouschooltbe@gmail.com for more information.

PJ LIBRARY RADIO LIVE!



Now PJ library families can listen to Jewish kids music — anytime, anywhere.

Introducing *PJLibraryRadio.com*, an online streaming radio station with more than 2,000 songs from hundreds of artists across the globe. Music is available 24/7 with special music blocks for Shabbat, Holiday and Bedtime.

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Send updates and changes to the Jewish 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
Preschool director: Jesyca Virnig
President: Governance Committee
Email: governancetbe@gmail.com
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 Mitzah 10:30 a.m. Saturday
Religious & Hebrew School: 9:00 a.m.-12:30 Sunday
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: Harvey Wolfson
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: Barry Fulmer
Phone: 732-780-2016
Email: batyamsanibel@gmail.com
Cantor: Murray Simon
Web site: www.batyam.org
Services: 7:30 p.m. Friday (Oct-Apr)
7:00 p.m. Friday (May-Sept)
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: Judith Migdol
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: Dan Fox
Director of Congregational Learning:
Tab Scribner
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
- ORT - Gulf Beaches Chapter Marina Berkovich - 566-1771

**SHALOM LIFE CENTER
Fort Myers
(239) 218-3433**

Lawrence & Robin Dermer

Why is it that before the Torah gives us any laws and commandments it describes the challenges of being part of a family? Adam and Eve, Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca – their lives, like ours, were not simple or straightforward. Children fought, breakups happened, there was lying, deceit and jealousy. The full range of emotions existed, yet through those familial challenges the Jewish people were born.

From our earliest years, our family relationships teach us how to relate to others, to be comfortable with ourselves and others. Most importantly, family is where we first experience loss and sadness while learning about joy and happiness.

Family is the foundation upon which our Torah rests and is at the core of who we are as a Jewish people.

G-d made a promise to Abraham: “Your children shall be as numerous as stars in the sky.” This promise was not in vain, and despite tremendous odds, the power of love and togetherness prevailed and the first families of Judaism birthed the twelve tribes of Israel. The Jewish people as a whole are described as “B’nei Yisrael – The Children of Israel” not descendants of the land, but of our patriarch Jacob, the grandson of Abraham, part of one connected extended family.

In Hebrew we say “mishpacha,” which means a Jewish family or social unit that includes both close and distant relatives. Simply put, we are all mishpacha, we are all family! A sense of family values is so important to us as Jews, and family is the value upon which Shalom Life Center was built.

From Creation in the book of Genesis up to the present, a family, for better or for worse, is forever. Families don’t need contracts, they’re in it for

the long haul. Families were bound by something much deeper, and even though they sometimes disagreed, they stayed together. Like the twelve tribes that are all connected to Abraham, we’re all one big extended family.

Though our backgrounds may differ, we are all part of our Eitz Chayim, our Tree of Life. May we all continue to grow tall and strong. Shared visions can become reality, and as one family there is nothing we can’t accomplish together as we continue building bridges 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 including a BIG celebration/ Rabbinic installation! We are preparing to ensure an incomparable SWFL Jewish Community 5780 High Holy Days 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 accompanist, Bella Gutshtein. Everyone is welcome to join our Shalom Life Center family this High Holy Days season, which will be held at the beautiful Grandezza Country Club. Join us for Rosh Hashanah, Tashlich and Yom Kippur services, our Yom Kippur afternoon healing and meditative concert, followed by afternoon Neilah and Yizkor concluding service and our Fabulous Break the Fast Feast! Our beautiful and traditional 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.

**HAZAK 55+ CHAPTER
at Temple Judea
(239) 433-0201**

Joyce Rosinger

We are getting together for dinners at local restaurants during the summer months. The June dinner was at the Olive Garden, and in July our dinner was at Thai Gardens. We will go to another

restaurant in the Fort Myers area on Sunday, August 25. If you are interested in joining us, please email your response or questions to the email address at the end of this message.

Temple Judea’s active HAZAK 55+ Chapter is a chartered member of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. 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. Membership in the organization is open to the community.

HAZAK’s regular programs will begin again in the fall. At that time, we are also planning to add movie programs in addition to other activities each month. Some programs planned

will be car-pooled day trips.

Members of the community are always welcome to join our group and attend any of our programs. The annual dues are a modest \$10 per person. Join HAZAK and meet new friends. We look forward to meeting all you 55+ people. Try us you’ll like us.

For more information, please contact Joyce or George Rosinger, or Andy Chernow at tjhazak@gmail.com.

**JEWISH WAR VETERANS
Victor Paul Tuchman Post 400
(239) 246-3151**

Eryka Aptaker

After a very busy month of May with Memorial Day activities, our June meeting held a lot of activity as well. Our installation of officers took place and our Chief of Staff and WWII veteran, Bert Kurland, installed out Commander, Harvey Charter. All other officers were installed and we look forward to another year of service from this wonderful Post.

Brandon Levy attended our meeting and was presented with the Herb Schwartz Memorial Scholarship. Brandon is a 2017 graduate of Mariner High School in Cape Coral. He is currently a Sophomore at FSU and maintains a minimum GPA of 3.8 and was named to the Dean’s List. His parents work very hard in supporting the family and have had their share of challenges, financially, as well as health issues. Brandon has made them very proud in

his achievements. He is a second-time recipient of our scholarship and we were proud to award it to him. We all feel he has a very bright future and look forward to seeing his success.

Our member Roger Satin had surgery and we ask that he is kept in your prayers.

It was very touching when one of our beloved WWII veterans, Sid Harris, was asked to speak about his experiences in WWII. He gave us wonderful insight into his time spent in the war. After Sid shared with us, another one of our beloved WWII veterans, Herb Marks, chatted with Sid and also shared his experiences with the group. They were both in the 8th Air Force, stationed in England. It was amazing to hear the men sharing their stories with each other and understanding each other, like only two WWII veterans could do. Herb is a Distinguished Flying Cross recipient. I think that there will never be a more touching, spontaneous moment as the one we experienced listening to these two men. I am very grateful to have been there to experience this.

Our August meeting is canceled, as our Commander will be in Israel and many of our snowbirds are away. The Lee County Spirit of ’45-WWII veterans tribute will take place on Sunday, August 11 at the Sanibel Harbor Marriott. Reservations are required. To RSVP or for more informa-

tion, contact me at eja3090@comcast.net or 917.607.4385.

Our next meeting will be at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, September 22 at the

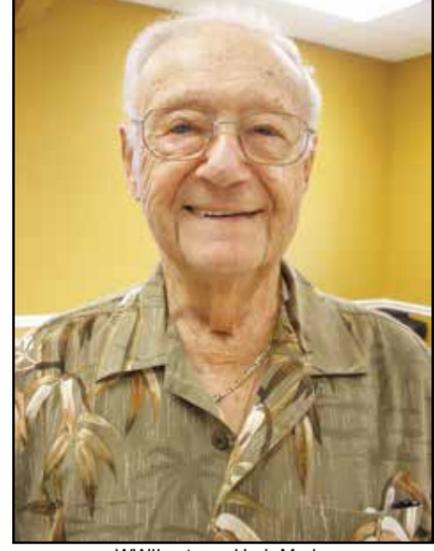


WWII veteran Sid Harris

Jewish Federation office. Come join this wonderful and committed group as we engage in bagels and cream cheese and great conversation. To become a member or if you have questions, please contact Commander Harvey Charter at hbcharter@aol.com or 239.246.3151.

The Jewish War Veterans, founded

in 1896, is the oldest continuing veterans organization in America. We are challenged in the pursuit of new members to keep our organization alive.



WWII veteran Herb Marks

With the loss of many of our WWII veterans, we are striving to have members of our younger generation(s) join and show support to the JWV. We have a Patron membership for non-veterans. If your family members were veterans, think about honoring their memory by joining the JWV Post 400. I joined in honoring the memory of my father, a Korean War veteran. Best decision I have ever made. This group has been a blessing in my life and some of the members have become like family to me. We hope to see you at our next meeting!

**Guidelines
for publication**

DEADLINES:

5 p.m. on the 5th of each month for all articles and photos. If the 5th falls on a weekend or holiday, the deadline is the following business day.

WORD LIMITS:

600 words for temples and organizations providing materials for their respective sections. Those exceeding these limits will be edited to fit.

SUBMISSIONS:

Email: LChayim36@gmail.com
Articles should be sent as text files, Word files, or Rich Text Format files. Receipt will be acknowledged if requested. Photos may be submitted electronically; high-resolution JPG or TIF formats preferred.



Commander Harvey Charter presents the Herb Schwartz Memorial Scholarship to recipient Brandon Levy



WWII veteran Bert Kurland installs Commander Harvey Charter



Eryka Aptaker - Post Adjutant, Bob Ruberto - Sr Vice Commander, Herb Lutsky - Jr Vice Commander, Bert Kurland - Chief of Staff, Benny Aronson - Quartermaster, Hy Tuchman - Jr Vice Commander Emeritus, Isaac Osin - Jr Vice Commander, Marshall Lieberman - Chaplain, Sandy Cohen - Post Physician, Ed Drucker - Officer of the Day, Commander - Harvey Charter

TEMPLE BETH EL
Fort Myers(239) 433-0018
www.templebethel.com

The TBE Mitzvah Committee and TBE Sisterhood have made a donation of gently used shoes to Eva's Closet, thanks to a sizable donation from Snyderman Shoes in Fort Myers and Sisterhood's sneaker collection efforts. Eva's Closet is a non-profit organization located off Alico Road, serving local people in need by providing necessities at no cost. Dozens of pairs of men's, women's and children's used shoes are going to needy families and individuals. Thank you Snyderman Shoes and TBE members for making this mitzvah possible right here in our community. Learn more about Eva's Closet at evas-foundation.org. Learn more about the Mitzvah Committee at templebethel.com.

If you've been on the receiving

end of one of Dani Weiner's spectacular greeting cards, you've experienced Dani's way of giving back to TBE: creatively, touching people in memorable ways. A

brightly colored handmade envelope and handmade one-of-a-kind art card is special in this age of technology, and more fun than bills and junk mail. If Dani can put a smile on someone's face, she says, then why not. Please let Dani know if someone needs a card for any occasion – anniversary, birthday, new grandbaby, new house, bat/bar mitzvah, happy, sad or whatever, as these cards are not available in the gift shop. You can often find Dani in the gift shop on Friday nights before services. Bring your unused, unwanted, broken or mismatched jewelry to Dani and she will repurpose it. She also restrings and recreates pieces that need a little TLC. The TBE Gift Gallery, your best local source for Judaica, is under the auspices of TBE Sisterhood.

Friday night services this summer feature Rabbi Luna's enriching and informative sermon series called "Ten Biblical Men and Women: you know their names, now learn their stories." New, too, is the convivial ending for our services, with everyone filing into the Dubin Center for the Kiddush blessing over the wine and the Motzi blessing over the challah. Discover interesting things about challah and about Kiddush at myjewishlearning.org.

A recent Birthright Israel trip inspired Eric Tolep to speak before the congregation on a Friday night to share his insights and experiences. The son of Lisa and Kenneth Tolep, younger brother of Marissa Kushner and Amanda Axiotis, and uncle to Lily Kushner, Eric is an accounting major at the University of Miami. Eric joined Hillel at his school to explore his Jewish identity, to practice Judaism, and to meet other Jewish students (fewer than 20% of the students at his school are Jewish). He attends Shabbat services

most Friday nights at the Hillel building. While Eric has not personally been targeted by anti-Semitism, he's all too aware of anti-Semitism on college campuses and around the world. In 2018, anti-Semitic acts were committed at his school, with swastikas and crude words smeared in dorm areas. Hillel and the whole campus united for a candlelight vigil. Then came the tragedy at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh last October. Pittsburgh was a turning point for Eric, newly inspired to express his Jewish identity more than ever. Eric and his Hillel friends went on a 10-day Birthright trip. In Israel they experienced the powerful feeling of being in a country where Jews are in the majority. Spending time with young soldiers around the same age as the Birthright group allowed for much fellowship and education. For more information about Birthright, visit birthrightisrael.com. For more information about Hillel, visit Hillel.org.

COMMUNITY FREE SYNAGOGUE
Fort Myers(239) 466-6671
www.fortmyerssynagogue.com

We are joined in sorrow to the family of Joan Glaser, 91, who passed away in June. Joan was a longtime active, joyous C.F.S. participant whose willing spirit will be greatly missed. Her son Charlie Glaser sent us this note: "Rabbi Diamond, You and your congregation were a very special part of my mom's life. My family and I will always be grateful for all you did for her."

Mazel to Liz and Arnie Harris, Gina and Joe Turkel, and Kim and Mark McGinn who renewed their marriage vows overlooking Mt. Zion with the Rabbi's help during C.F.S.'s 6th biennial Israel Pilgrimage.

C.F.S. is pleased to once again host a Jewish Federation Senior Luncheon starting at noon on Thursday, August 15. The meal is always free. To make your reservation, call the Jewish Federation office.

The Community Free Synagogue's Brown Bag Movie Night's August feature is the 2018 seriocomedy *To Dust*, starring Matthew Broderick and Géza Röhrig. The screening begins at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday August 15 in the congregation's Community Hall, 10868 Metro Boulevard, Fort Myers. See the article in this issue for details.

High Holiday worship will once again be free and open to all. See the September edition of this paper or visit www.fortmyerssynagogue.com for a detailed schedule.

Friday evening dinners continue

weekly throughout the summer starting at 6:30 p.m. There is no charge. Those who wish to bring a dish, salad or dessert are welcome to do so while avoiding dairy ingredients. Vegetarian dishes are especially welcome. Worship begins at 7:30 p.m., conducted by our remarkable congregational *hazzanim*, gifted musician Joseph Brauer, and with a thought-provoking, educational message from the Rabbi. A social hour follows.

Sabbath morning Torah Study Breakfasts with the Rabbi also carry on throughout the summer from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in our Community Hall. A breakfast nosh is always welcome. Over its 22 years in Fort Myers, Rabbi Diamond's Sabbath morning Torah classes have become a mainstay of adult Jewish education. The weekly Torah and Haftarah are studied, accompanied by lively discussion and

lots of "aha!" moments. It's never too late to start!

The Community Free Synagogue provides free Jewish education, including personalized Hebrew tutoring, to all Jewish young people ages 8 and above in our area. This special educational opportunity is enriched within a positive, wholesome congregation setting that deeply values and welcomes young people and their families. There are no membership requirements. For more information, email synfree@comcast.net or call the synagogue at 239.466.6671.

Now in its 15th year, The Community Free Synagogue is a contemporary alternative to the private membership model, enjoying broad based participation throughout our area as a vital community resource. Every C.F.S. activity and program is free and open to all.

BAT YAM TEMPLE OF THE ISLANDS
Sanibel(732) 780-2016
www.batyam.org

It is that time of year when SWFL is hot and the news is slow. This is the perfect opportunity for Bat Yam to thank all its members and friends who organize and sponsor an Oneg Shabbat; who assist with setting up the Sanctuary or Fel-

lowship Hall for Shabbat services; who organize and volunteer to speak on Saturday morning for Adult Education; who staff the welcome table at services; who organize

Shabbat honors; who accept Shabbat honors; who make possible the Passover Seder, Break-the-Fast, Annual meeting potluck, Tashlich luncheon; who organize and participate in the grief support sessions; who blow the

shofar; who participate in the High Holy Days services; who composes the bulletin; who manage the website; who reach out to those who are ill; who remind us of yahrzeits; who sing the Shabbat service; who organize and/or lead the summer Shabbat services; who coordinate dinner before services; who build the sukkah; who evaluate tzedakah applicants; who dress up and perform the Purim spiel; who serve on the board as officers and trustees; and all who participate in the life of Bat Yam in ways big and small.

In honor of her mother Ann Arnoff, Susan Arnoff Spohr is again coordinating the Rosh Hashanah Honey Jar Project. It is a wonderful way to let your Bat Yam friends know that you are thinking sweet thoughts about them.

Fortunately, at Bat Yam we come together as a congregation and community. Not everyone wants us whether in the U.S., Europe or in Israel. Anti-Jewish incidents keep happening in France, Hungary, Britain and Poland. Recently, Louis Farrakhan, in a speech at a Roman Catholic Church in Chicago, said he can tell "the good Jews from the Satanic Jews." The person accused of the shooting at the Chabad in Poway has also been charged with attempted murder and arson at a mosque in Escondido. The person picked to chair a new federal committee on climate security, William Happer, a known climate change denier, told CNBC in 2014 that "the demonization of carbon dioxide is

just like the demonization of the poor Jews under Hitler."

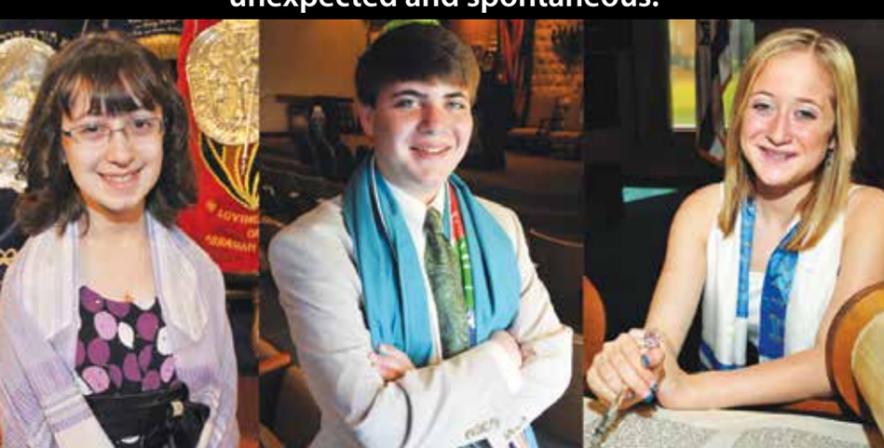
The multi-millennium-long mystery is why so many people focus negative thoughts and actions on Jews, 0.2% of the world population. Author Dara Horn in a *New York Times* editorial on April 30 suggests that anti-Semites don't just hate Jews but are targeting freedom and responsibility for a civic and civil society. The Torah tells us to welcome the stranger, love one's neighbor and much more – concepts difficult to accept and implement for some of us.

The Jewish High Holy Days begin late this year with Erev Rosh Hashanah on Sunday, September 29. Once again, Rabbi Stephen and Vickie Fuchs are opening their home on Saturday, September 21 at 7:30 p.m. for Selichot reflection and discussion. For those who come to Bat Yam for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, there will be new prayer books that provide egalitarian language for the English translations and readings on more current topics, thanks to the effective efforts of Lois Lorsch.

Come to worship at our meeting place located 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. Best wishes to those near and far for a healthy and cool summer!

Michael Shapiro
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**TEMPLE JUDEA
Fort Myers**

**(239) 433-0201
www.tjswfl.org**

The summer isn't over yet, but the staff and lay leaders of Temple Judea are busy planning for the High Holy Days and the upcoming program year.

This is a great time to become a member of our congregation so you won't miss any of the meaningful holiday services and events. There are prospective and new member receptions planned for Monday, August 19 and Tuesday, September 24. Both are wine, cheese and dessert receptions that will begin at 7:00 p.m. It is an opportunity to meet Rabbi Marc Sack and Tab Scribner, Director of Congregational Learning, as well as the current leaders and volunteers who help make our shul so special. Call the synagogue office for more information about attending and about becoming a member.

Religious school begins Sunday, August 25 at 9:30 a.m. with a meet-and-greet for families, introduction of teachers and a variety of fun events for all. Tab has an amazing year planned. One of the beginning events is on Wednesday, September 4 from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m., when students get to participate in the "Shofar Factory." Get ready to blow your shofar!

Rabbi Sack will resume his month-

ly Torah study class on Thursday, September 5 at noon at the offices of Myers & Brettholz. There is no cost to attend and all levels of Jewish background are welcome.

Rabbi Sack will also be teaching an Introduction to Judaism Class beginning Monday evening, September 9. See the ad in this issue for more information or call Rabbi Sack.

The High Holiday season begins on Saturday, September 21 at 9:00 p.m. with Selichot. The evening will start with a dessert reception and program, followed by the Selichot service. The community is invited to attend.

On Erev Rosh Hashana, Sunday, September 29, and Kol Nidre, Tuesday, October 8, there will be a family service open to all in the community. Call Tab Scribner for more information. In next month's issue of L'CHAYIM, there will be a schedule of all the High Holy Day services. We look forward to you joining us.

Regular scheduled events:

- Friday evening Shabbat services at 6:30 p.m., preceded each week with a wine and cheese reception starting at 6:15 p.m.
- Saturday morning Shabbat services at 9:30 a.m. followed by a Kid-dush luncheon
- Morning minyan every Monday at 9:00 a.m.

**TEMPLE BETH SHALOM
Cape Coral**

**(239) 772-4555
www.templebethshalomcc.org**

On the surface, it would seem that July and August are the calm before the storm. Activities have slowed down, snowbirds are away, and others are taking vacations trying to get out of the heat. The calm, however, is really only an illusion. The new board is busy taking care of business, improving security, doing needed maintenance, upgrading facilities and, most of all, planning an exciting year for all of our members.

While as of this writing, the programming has not been finalized, we can be sure that it will include food, pot lucks, progressive dinners, music, theater, movies and, of course, educational speakers and classes. The Facilities group is working hard to improve the phone system so we can get back to everyone who calls. The president has met with the Cape Coral Police to make sure we are doing everything possible to guarantee the safety of everyone attending services or events.

At the end of June, we had the most incredible B'nai Mitzvah when Sam and Max Brucker were called to the Torah. Not only were both boys exquisitely prepared, they

conducted the entire service and had their own creative take on explaining the Torah portion. In the middle of the service, they brought two chairs on the bimah and sat facing each other. They then proceeded to analyze the Torah portion as if they were on CNN. These are two boys who are going places. Their B'nai Mitzvah was an event that will be remembered for years to come and sets a high bar for all who follow.

Other events during this "slow" summer included chair yoga with Aline Simenauer, a yoga instructor from Brazil; a well-attended pot luck dinner; and shorter Kabbalat Shabbat services on Friday nights.

Temple Beth Shalom always welcomes visitors and guests. Please consider joining us for Friday night services or any of our many events. You will find a warm, welcoming congregation and a diverse group of people who will make you feel at home.

6:00 p.m.
• Friday, December 13 – Brief Shabbat Service – Guest Speaker Rabbi James A. Rudin – Topic: "How Christmas is linked to Hanukkah

(Robert Bader Memorial Fund).

- Sunday, January 12, 2020 – Bus to Sarasota Opera House for concert featuring Park Avenue Synagogue Cantor Azi Schwartz – from Bimah to Broadway.

More programs to be confirmed. Please call Temple Shalom at 941.625.2116 for information. All programs are funded by the Lesleigh and Sylvia Hershkowitz Memorial Fund, Sheldon and Mark Friedman Memorial Fund, and Robert "Bob" Bader Speaker's fund. No funding comes from outside sources.

**TEMPLE SHALOM
Charlotte Harbor & the Gulf Islands**

**(941) 625-2116
www.templeshalomfl.com**

The Program Events Committee wishes to inform the greater community of the following confirmed programs for the coming year.:

- Friday, September 6 – Early Shabbat Service with a Shabbat Dinner – Service at 5:30 p.m. Reservation required.
- Sunday, September 15 – Open House for the unaffiliated from 10:00 a.m. to noon.
- Sunday, September 15 – Dedication of New Memorial Boards and Plaques – 3:00 p.m. Refreshments.
- Saturday, September 21 – Selichot Services and light dairy dinner.



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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.

**Stay connected at
www.JewishFederationLCC.org**

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 October 2019 issue of L'CHAYIM.

L'Shana Tova Tikatevu.

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#2A: \$36



#2B: \$54

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