

SUMMER DOUBLE ISSUE

JULY & AUGUST 2020



L'CHAYIM

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Empathy and action

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

■ Alan Isaacs



It is understandable to reflect on the state of affairs as I write this, two weeks after the killing of George Floyd, and when we count more than 110,000 deaths nationally from the Coronavirus, to despair of our current

inability to affect positive change. While I must accept that most of us are powerless to aid the development of a vaccine against COVID-19 – although we should actively

support a “virtuous cycle” of responsibility where safe behavior is concerned – I do not accept that we are unable to positively affect the condition of poverty and inequality in our community. Changing national hearts and minds is beyond our Federation’s reach, but providing material sustenance to those in our community who suffer systemic inequity is not only possible, it is, indeed, our responsibility.

Regular readers of *L'CHAYIM* are familiar with the lengths to which our Jewish Family Services (JFS) goes to identify and assist those in need. Our assistance is based exclusively on need and, these days, is provided primarily to non-Jews – from food to financial assistance, from an empathetic ear to a resource referral, from a call to a landlord on behalf of a client to advocacy with the county.

These responsibilities and experiences draw us closer to what we hear and see on the news. Empathy is important, but action is necessary. And we are taking action. Your support, as volunteers and material contributors, whether you help to operate our food pantry, donate food or write a check, demonstrates that you are taking action at the most fundamental level.

A statement below from the Board of Directors of the Jewish Federation

of Lee and Charlotte Counties addresses the recent tragedy in Minneapolis. While it is important for our Federation to go on record about injustices perpetrated on individuals or groups for any reason, we should remember that the work that our Federation does every day is material evidence of the support we provide to *anyone* who asks – actual, physical and moral sustenance that no statement alone can match. ▲

Statement of the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties on the Death of George Floyd

We are horrified by the violent death of George Floyd in Minneapolis. This incident is a heartbreaking reminder of the work that we, as a nation, still have to do in order to realize a just society for all.

The Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties will continue to be part of the effort to stamp out racism, anti-Semitism and injustice. We are committed to furthering the ideals of

Tzedakah (benevolence), *Tikkun Olam* (repairing the world) and *K'lal Yisrael* (taking responsibility for one another). These tenets are our sacred heritage as a Jewish people and they are at the core of our work as a Jewish Federation.

We support the peaceful protests that have taken place in Lee and Charlotte counties and the right of all Americans to make their voices heard through non-violent demonstration.

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Sarah Hurwitz

Sunday, July 12,
4:00 P.M.

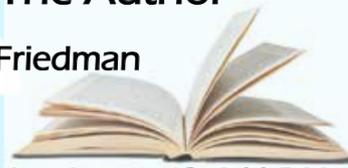


Read The Book; Zoom
The Author

Sharon Friedman

Ashes

Wednesday, August 12, 6:00 P.M.



VIRTUAL EVENTS CALENDAR for JULY & AUGUST

<p>Summer Concert Series 7:30 P.M. - Enjoy a live performance by Brian Gurl & Guests July 22 – Gershwin August 12 – Broadway to Pop *Small Fee</p>	<p>Mondays Israeli Dancing  (all day access)</p>	<p>Tuesdays Hebrew Words with Herb Fried 11:00 A.M.  (LIVE)</p>	<p>Wednesdays Authors at the Table 12:30 P.M.  www.jewishbookcouncil.org (LIVE)</p>	<p>Thursdays Out & About Films-At-Home 1:00 P.M.  (with 72 hour access)</p>	<p>Fridays Erev Shabbat Yoga & Meditation 3:00 P.M.  (LIVE)</p>	<p>Sundays Short Films Sundays  (all day access)</p>
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A Jewish Community that is based on Jewish values such as Tzedakah (benevolence), Tikkun Olam (repairing the world) and K'lal Yisrael (taking responsibility for one another).

L'CHAYIM

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

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

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Thank you, Brian!

By Sherri Zucker, Federation Co-President

A big thank you is due to Brian Simon for serving as our Jewish Federation Board President. Brian's guidance and perspective have been invaluable as we've navigated the past two years.



■ **Sherri Zucker**

Under Brian's leadership we've experienced substantial growth in programming and Jewish Family Services. The Jewish Film Festival is more popular than ever, with 13 films last season. The Senior Lunch Bunch and the food pantry have continued to evolve and expand. A new social program for 25- to 44-year-olds, called TRIBE, was started last year. They've held several events that have been well attended. One of Brian's efforts was to "develop the next generation of leaders" and TRIBE

is a great starting point.

Brian always pushed Federation board members to think critically about what the Federation is doing. He told me last year that he thinks it's always important for us to keep in mind "what we're about." At one board retreat he asked each of us to make a list of the things we were proud of and the challenges facing the Federation. We then discussed each item, giving attention to finding practical solutions to meet the challenges ahead.

What can I say about the President's message that Brian has authored in L'CHAYIM each month? It was something to look forward to and really more akin to a literary essay than a newspaper article. The words he wrote were warm, humorous and personal. His articles were the first thing I read upon receiving the paper.

Brian, for all you've done for the Jewish Federation of Lee and Collier Counties, we thank you! ▲

Program notes

By Debbie Sanford, Program Director

When you read this article, it will officially be my second anniversary at the Jewish Federation. Yes, time sure does fly when you are having fun.

In my two years here, I have been through the good, the bad (not really) and the ugly (this virus). But through all this, I personally have learned something really important. I am not always in control of things and that is ok! We do the best with what we have in the time we have. I am trying to stay in touch with you all, keep you entertained at home so you feel like you are still part of our Jewish community with live and virtual events, some educational, some pure entertainment.



■ **Debbie Sanford**

But nonetheless, I hope you are taking advantage of our programming we have offered and will continue to schedule for at least the next two months. Our film festival committee is screening films and, with any luck, we will be back at Regal for our next film

festival in February. If not, we are prepared to have an alternate idea because there is no way we will miss our 25th anniversary Jewish Film Festival. That is a big deal!

With so many individuals and board members stepping up and leading/chairing programs, the presence we have grown in our community and the support from our sponsors and donors, I am confident we will have a great year of programming, whatever that looks like. Have an idea? Please reach out to me and let me know. Check out the new programming calendar on the front page, if you have not already. There is more information throughout the paper. I hope you find something you like!

When my dad passed at the end of March, I thought to myself, how could I go thru this while in isolation? Well, I really wasn't alone! Besides my family of course, this community showed an outpouring of love and support that I didn't realize I was so lucky to have until this happened. The amount of cards, letters, emails, donations and calls has been so overwhelming and comforting, I want to say thank you.

I look forward to seeing everyone soon. Be well and enjoy your summer. ▲

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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 board and staff of the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties extend condolences to Jodi Cohen on the passing of her father, the beloved Harvey Cohen. We will miss Harvey – his warmth, his generosity and his gusto – and the positive effect he had on everyone he encountered.

The last time I saw Harvey Cohen it was prior to the restrictions that the coronavirus imposed on us. He was delivering a donation to our Food Pantry. I was greeted, as usual, with his always-powerful handshake and the few Yiddish phrases I know. While somewhat bent physically with years, the warmth of his greeting and his temperament were as upright as his character. Everyone whom I know who knew Harvey will miss him deeply. *Arumforn besholem* Harvey.
~ Alan Isaacs

The board and staff of the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties wish Linda Idelson a speedy and full recovery.

In memory of Joel Lovitch
from Rabbi Solomon & Arline Agin
from Roz Shraiar

In memory of Judy Freling
from Marybeth & Robert Mandelkorn

In honor of Judi Davis
from Cynthia, Howard, Jennifer, Myles,
Henry, Hannah, Jodie, Todd, Sam & Jack

In honor of Harvey Cohen
from George & Joyce Rosinger

In honor of the JFLCC staff
from Linda Smith

In honor of Michael Kistler's 75th birthday
from Andrea & Milton Goodman
from Marsha Kistler

In honor of Jeanette Bevilacqua
from Linda Smith

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

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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- Births
- Confirmations
- Loss of a loved one
- New homes

A personalized Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte Counties tribute card will be sent to the honoree or bereaved on your behalf, reflecting a personal message if you wish.

MAKE A TRIBUTE GIFT

visit our website at jewishfederationlcc.org/tribute-memorials



I have to say something

By Brian Simon, Federation Past-President

First, a few disclaimers: 1) My term as president of the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties is over. I speak only for myself. 2) I appreciate the work that the police do. I think their jobs are extraordinarily difficult, and often thankless. 3) I'm writing this on June 11.

There's a scene in *Remember the Titans* that I keep thinking about. If you didn't see the film, it's a Disney movie based on the true story of a high school football team in Alexandria, Virginia, that was forced to integrate in 1970.

After a big victory, Ronnie "Sun-

shine" Bass, the white quarterback who moved from California, wants to take a couple of his African-American teammates, Petey and Louie, into a local diner. His friends explain to him that black people aren't welcome in there. Ronnie insists that kind of prejudice is history, and they go inside. The restaurant owner refuses to seat them. Back out on the street, Petey is embarrassed and angry.

Petey: "What did I tell you man?"

Ronnie: "I didn't know."

Petey: "I told you! What you mean you didn't know?!"

Louie: "He didn't know."

Petey: "He didn't want to know!"

I'm thinking about that scene because it reminds me of where we are with the issue of police violence and the African-American community. The

issue keeps coming up, not just because incidents happen, but because they seem to happen in waves.

2014: Eric Garner, Tamir Rice, Michael Brown

"I didn't know."

2015: Sarah Bland, Eric Harris, Walter Scott

"I told you! What you mean you didn't know?!"

2016: Philando Castille, Terence Crutcher, Colin Kaepernick kneels

"You don't want to know!"

And here we are in 2020: Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd.

No one is debating whether the recent killings were wrong. They were. No one is debating whether riots were an appropriate form of protest. They weren't.

The debate is over whether the killings represent "systemic racism." Some conservatives point to a recent study that found white police officers are no more likely to shoot minorities than non-white officers. They ignore that the authors of that study recently published a correction around their main conclusion, and other research that found blacks are far more likely to be the victims of use of force. And that neither Floyd nor Arbery fit in the category of police shootings. But, hey, we all stop "researching" when we find evidence that supports our position.

Attitudes are changing. Six years ago, 60% of whites believed the incidents in Ferguson, Missouri, (Michael Brown) and New York City (Eric Garner) were isolated incidents. This year, according to an ABC News/Ipsos poll, 70% of whites believe the George Floyd killing represents a systemic rift between law enforcement and black communities.

The rest of the debate is over what to do about it. Defunding the police sounds like a ridiculous idea. Talking about riots is just changing the subject.

We can't fix a problem if we don't agree it exists. African Americans have been telling us for years that their experience with police is different from our experience. The least we can do now is listen and show support.

As Jews, we know about being victims of hate. I think we have an obligation to stand up when we see it. When a hate-filled gunman killed 11 Jews at Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, Americans rallied behind the Jewish community – White Christians, Black Christians, Muslims. Their show of support meant something.

No, it didn't fix the problem. We still had to turn to law enforcement to protect our synagogues and religious schools. And I appreciate that the police are there.

Yes, there are other systemic problems facing black people in America, but police brutality is symbolic – an armed oppressor taking advantage of his position of authority to injure or kill a person who is compromised.

Racism is not exclusively a police problem. They don't teach it at police academies. It's a problem of what's tolerated within a culture. Growing up in Kansas City, we were taught that racism was wrong, but we also tolerated overtly racist attitudes and actions. Standing up to racism when we see it is hard.

A friend of mine recently shared that he thinks of Gentiles in terms of, if he were in Nazi Germany, who would protect him and who would turn him in. All of us would like to say we're not racists. But are we willing to call someone out when they say something objectionable? Not call them out on social media, where we hide behind our computer. Confront them, face to face, respectfully calling attention to a comment, as if to say, "I treat a derogatory comment about blacks (or Hispanics or gay people) the same way I treat a comment about Jews. It's not okay."

I spent three days afraid to write this piece. I have friends across the political spectrum, and I know there are good people who will be disappointed that I chose to write about this because it's a difficult issue and it's politically sensitive and maybe I'll offend someone. I'm sorry, but I have to. I don't have the answers. But I have to say something. I've seen this movie before. ▲



■ Brian Simon



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Jewish Family Services update

By Jodi Cohen, Senior Outreach & Food Pantry Coordinator

For the sake of this story, I'll refer to my client as Shlomo. Shlomo and I spoke at length about his situation when he called to make a food pantry appointment. He was out of work and didn't know when he'd be able to get more work or earn any income. Shlomo showed up on a Wednesday, and besides food and toiletries, I also gave him information about other pantries, free meals and social services available. While he was putting the bags of food in his car, I came back onto the porch and told Shlomo I had two gift cards for him – one for gas and one for groceries. Shlomo looked up at me, sank to his knees in the parking lot, and cried. He said, "When you told me about the other places handing out food today, I didn't know how I was going to get there because I don't have enough gas in my car."

Please don't ever underestimate the reach and power of your support for the Federation. Your generosity makes it possible for us to provide food for families – Jewish and non-Jewish – who are then able to cook dinner, make

lunches, eat dessert and have noshes on hand. The number of food pantry clients has more than doubled since March, with many new clients becoming monthly regulars. Every single thing that you donate makes a difference in the lives of those people in our community who need it most.

There is a vulnerability among people who come to get food since the Coronavirus surfaced, affecting every aspect of our lives. I can see it in people's eyes, even with their masks on. I also experience a sense of gratitude from each person that is thick, dense, palpable. The Federation is an essential lifeline. I have this image of the human heart with saloon-type doors swinging back and forth, letting love in and out. The Federation's embodiment of the Jewish values of *Tzedakah* (benevolence), *Tikkun Olam* (repairing the world) and *K'lal Yisrael* (taking responsibility for one another) are what keep the hinges well-oiled.

The emergency assistance that the Federation provided during the last couple of months has been to help people with their electric, phone, internet and car insurance payments. So many people have either lost their jobs or had their work hours drastically reduced and are unable to cover their basic expenses. Again, every single dollar that

you donate enables us to say "Yes" when someone calls up and asks, "Can you help me?"

Speaking of helping, the Federation is fortunate to have dedicated volunteers who manage the ongoing tasks to keep our small but busy food pantry going. No muss, no fuss. These folks are attentive and hardworking: Mary Beth Mandlekorn, Elise Sewall, Susan Orkin, Karen Whitman, Randi and Payton Wolf, Laurie McConville, Carolyn Gora, Doreen Kostel, Barbara Gribin, Judith Yevick and Robert Thomas.

A heartfelt thank you to Temple Judea, Temple Beth El and Temple Beth Shalom for their food drives and ongoing donations to the Federation food pantry. I must acknowledge Comfort Keepers for holding a food drive from April through June. I have a personal connection to Comfort Keepers

the food drive buzzing throughout the community. Comfort Keepers employees collected and delivered gift cards and many, many pounds of food to the Federation week after week, with good cheer and abundant kindness. The Federation is ever grateful for their swift response and generous support.

Although the popular monthly senior lunches stopped in February, the Federation has worked hard to stay in touch with the "lunchers" as well as the luncheon volunteers. Board Co-President Sherri Zucker and I called everyone in April to check in to see how people were doing, how they were managing, and if they needed any help. In May, board members Karin Fine and Robert Thomas took over for Sherri, along with several Senior Lunch Bunch volunteers.

The main purpose of the lunch was



Jodi Cohen



Temple Beth Shalom members at the Federation delivering food and toiletries from their food drive – pictured are Stephanie Levine, Rabbi Devora Buchen, Lori Levine, Robyn and Jerry Razowsky

because my father was a client for six and a half years. They kinda, sorta fell in love with my dad over time and he has a special place in their hearts. As things changed with my father's health and he moved into a senior living facility, I stayed in touch with Development Director Dawn Pudlin. Back in April she wanted to know how my dad was doing as well as how I was holding up. In one of my emails I mentioned how intense things were at work, and how many new people were coming to our food pantry due to the virus. Within minutes of receiving that email, Dawn contacted the always amazing Marketing Director, Lisa Armstrong, about doing a food drive for the Federation. "Buh buh buh," as my mother used to say, suddenly there were posters, emails and announcements about

to provide connection and community for Jewish seniors. Calling everyone on an ongoing basis is a way of honoring the seeds that have been planted over the past four years. It is a privilege and a pleasure to call the people I've come to know and love, and learn about their backgrounds, how they met their beloved, their careers, where they grew up, what their hobbies are, what they like to cook, what they're reading or watching, and if there's anything that the Federation can do for them. Everyone is so appreciative to hear from those of us making the calls. It is a win-win all around and has been a balm for my own heart.

Thank you for all that you do to support the Federation and the spirit in which you do it.▲

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Holocaust Museum & Cohen Education Center update

By Susan Suarez, President & CEO

We hope you and your families are safe and well. Thank you to all those who continue to protect us during this crisis and to the essential businesses that have stayed open.

One of the most important ways to combat racism and hatred is education. Our mission is to teach the lessons of the Holocaust to inspire action against bigotry, hatred and violence. During the COVID-19 crisis, we saw countless acts of kindness, which continue to inspire us. But, in late May, we witnessed the exact opposite behavior exhibited by four Minneapolis police officers. Their action – and non-action – resulted in the murder of a man who wasn't resisting arrest. As one police officer knelt on George Floyd's neck for nearly nine minutes, three of his colleagues stood by and did nothing. Despite hearing his pleas that he couldn't breathe, not one intervened to help Mr. Floyd. Their bigoted thinking and indifference directly caused his death.

The senseless murders of George Floyd and others have prompted nationwide protests. A wide diversity of people participated, acknowledging the consequences of treating others with bigotry, hatred and indifference, and prompting a long overdue national conversation on racism.

Since our founding, the Museum's Education programs have engaged Southwest Florida students in the important conversations about the need for empathy and the dangers of indifference to injustice. We teach students about their power to bring positive change

to themselves, their families and communities. Our Educators show students what happened during the Holocaust as a result of unchallenged hate. This May in their homes, students saw for themselves the modern equivalent of one of the lessons of the Holocaust – George Floyd died because none of the other officers stepped up to help him as a bigoted man made him gasp for air and lapse into unconsciousness.

In the words of Elie Wiesel: "We must take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented. Sometimes we must interfere. When human lives are endangered, when human dignity is in jeopardy, national borders and sensitivities become irrelevant. Wherever men and women are persecuted because of their race, religion or political views, that place must – at that moment – become the center of the universe."

I thank you for your continuing support of our mission and Education programs, especially while we were closed for COVID-19. We were able to transition our programs online and serve as a resource for teachers and parents when schools closed. Our recently completed Matching Gift Challenge raised funds to enable local teachers to participate in a summer study trip to Holocaust sites in Europe. Many thanks to Museum board members Janet G. Cohen, Maureen Lerner and Rob Nossen for creating this Challenge Fund, and to all who made a donation. The inaugural trip, funded by the Museum and GenShoah of SWFL, has been rescheduled for Summer 2021.

We recently re-opened after Governor DeSantis relaxed the restrictions on Museums, nearly three months after closing due to the spreading pandemic. The safety of our guests, volunteers

and staff is of utmost importance, so we have implemented new policies and procedures which comply with CDC and Florida Department of Health regulations. Admission procedures and tours have been restructured as a result. Please visit www.HMCEC.org to learn more, including the important information concerning our new online advance purchase, timed-entry admission procedure, as tickets will no longer be sold at the Museum. You will also find information on pre-visit preparations and other safety measures you need to be aware of before your next visit.

There is a new exhibit in the Estelle and Stuart Price Gallery. "Through Their Eyes: The Liberation of Concentration Camps," commemorates the 75th anniversary of Liberation, highlighting the experiences of local SWFL residents who participated in Liberation. The artifacts, documents and original photographs shown were donated or loaned to the Museum by Liberators, Holocaust Survivors, their families and others.

and staff is of utmost importance, so we have implemented new policies and procedures which comply with CDC and Florida Department of Health regulations. Admission procedures and tours have been restructured as a result. Please visit www.HMCEC.org to learn more, including the important information concerning our new online advance purchase, timed-entry admission procedure, as tickets will no longer be sold at the Museum. You will also find information on pre-visit preparations and other safety measures you need to be aware of before your next visit.

This Fall's "Movies That Matter" series will have a new format. You'll receive a link to view the films, and register to participate in a Zoom presentation featuring an expert panel discussion and audience Q&A. The dates/films are October 14: *Sustainable Nation* (about clean water); October 21: *Bedlam* (about mental health); October 28: *Amy's Story* (about domestic violence).

Please mark your calendars for The Luncheon event on Thursday, December 10. We are working on an alternate method of holding this event, and more information will be coming soon.

For more information or if you have questions about our new procedures, email info@HMCEC.org or call 239.263.9200. We look forward to seeing you at the Museum. ▲



■ Susan Suarez

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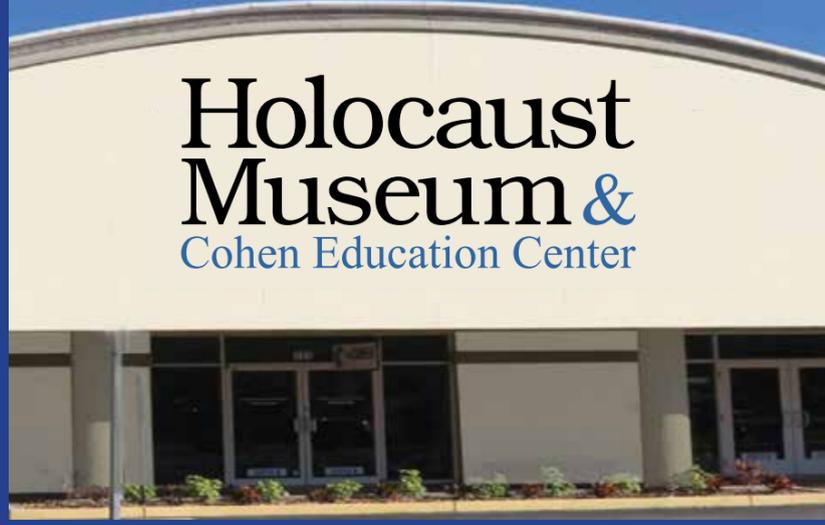
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Aging Jewishly – What our traditions teach us about growing old

When the economy goes south, should we help the kids?

By Rabbi Barbara Aiello

Let's turn off the computer and go to bed." Mel pushed the power button, shook his head and turned to his wife Liddy. Mel's worry was obvious. "I don't like what I hear when I talk to the grandkids. Tyler's new business is suffering and Paula's hair salon is on the brink." Liddy agreed. "The kids work hard but the economy is for nothing. They didn't ask for money, but should we offer to help?"

No one anticipated the profound effect that the Coronavirus health crisis would have had on friends and family, and few predicted the economic devastation that would follow. Nationwide lockdowns, stay-at-home laws, and businesses that when they finally opened, were forced by social distancing requirements to serve fewer customers – all these had dire effects. Savings that took years to accumulate dried up in weeks. Small businesses like those operated by Mel and Liddy's grandchildren took especially hard hits.

Liddy switched off the bedside light. "Let's think about it, Mel. Maybe we should help the kids out. Give them some of our savings." Mel wasn't so sure. "They haven't asked and I don't want to embarrass them," Mel sighed.

Several days later, after Mel and Liddy spoke with close friends about their grandchildren's financial dilemma, Mel had an "Aha" moment. "We've consulted our friends. Now let's see what the Torah has to say."

Mel and Liddy turned to their Jewish traditions, written thousands of years ago, to see if there were guidelines that could apply to their modern-day difficulty. Their first stop was the Psalms, where we read, "It is a blessing to be able to earn our own way in the world and thereby enjoy the fruits of our own labor, You shall eat the fruit of your effort – you shall be happy and it shall be well with you." (128)

Mel and Liddy worked hard all their lives. They had money in the bank. They could help their grandchildren, but should they?

Turning to the Torah, Mel found additional guidance. "Look here, Liddy. What do you think of this? The Torah tells us that it is a positive commandment to give charity and "Open your hand generously and extend to [your needy brother] any credit he needs to take care of his wants." (Deut. 15:8)

Thanks to an explanation by Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan (*The Handbook of Jewish Thought; Vol. 2*), Mel and Liddy examined the Jewish approach to charitable giving. Rabbi Kaplan writes, "A fifth of one's income is considered a generous contribution to charity, and should not be exceeded. It is forbidden to impoverish oneself by distributing all of one's wealth to charity, and one who does so is counted among the foolishly pious..."

"If we give the grandkids money, sounds to me like we shouldn't go overboard," Liddy said. Mel agreed but he still wasn't sure how to approach the grandkids in what was their time of need.

According to Rabbi David Teutsch (Reconstructing Judaism), that's where covenantal caring – the Jewish concept of *Hesed* – comes in. The rabbi explains that "Lovingkindness (*Hesed*) in action

is the caring we bring to members of our communities and families. They deserve caring action when they need it simply because we share the bonds of interpersonal connection. Caring for each other is part of what makes us fully human."

Mel and Liddy agreed that Jewish tradition supports the idea of offering financial help to children or grandchildren, but just how to do it? What approach should they take?

Enter Christina Baltz, financial advisor who was quoted in a recent *New York Times* article, "Thinking about Giving Money to Your Adult Children? Think Again," who tackles the questions of when and how much money should be given to adult children, especially if they are able-bodied and well-educated. How long should any financial help last? And should it be a gift, loan or advance on an inheritance?

Susan Covell Alpert, author of *Later Is Too Late: Hard Conversations That Can't Wait*, offers answers when she recommends that, "Giving a child money for certain milestones, like college graduation, marriage or the birth of children, may seem like a good idea on paper. But it can stoke feelings of anger and resentment in children who don't marry or can't have children."

This got Mel and Liddy thinking. Two of their five grandchildren were suffering economically during the Coronavirus crisis. The other three worked in professions that were untouched by the current economic downturn (news broadcaster, NASA engineer and sanitation supervisor). Should they give to two and not the other three?

Thanks to author Alpert who recommends "...that parents be open and fair when giving money to adult children

(or grandchildren). If money is given to one child, the other children should be informed and promised similar monetary gifts either now or at the time of inheritance."

Mel and Liddy knew what to do. Tyler and Paula, the grandchildren in need, were offered a monetary gift for which they were grateful. The other three grandchildren were pleased with their grandparents' promise to do the same for them come inheritance time.

The work of an esteemed rabbinic sage and halachic expert, Rabbi Joseph Caro, is summarized by Rabbi Shlomo Ganzfried in his book, *Kitzur Shulchan Aruch*. Rabbi Ganzfried's volume, first published in 1864, explains elements of *halakah* in clear and understandable terms, telling us, "If you support your grown children (or grandchildren) whom you are not obligated to support and they need your support, that is *tzedakah*, (because) the poor person in your house takes precedence over the poor person in your city."

"We'd like to help everyone," Liddy said. "But we did what we could for our family." Liddy echoes Rabbi Ganzfried's sentiments precisely, so much so that if those rabbis were here with us, I'm sure they'd offer a "*Kol HaKavod*," Liddy and Mel. Well done!▲

Rabbi Barbara Aiello is the first woman rabbi in Italy. She is spiritual leader of the first active synagogue in southern Italy since Inquisition times, founder of Italy's Pluralistic Jewish movement, and a mentoring rabbi for Darshan Yeshiva's conversion program. She is a vice president of Kulanu, a Jewish organization that supports Jewish diversity worldwide. Contact her at rabbibarbara.com.



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Today's Jewish diaspora communities at once threatened and resilient

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

Exile: Portraits of the Jewish Diaspora, by Annika Hernroth-Rothstein. Edited by Tiffany Gabbay. Bombardier Books. 208 pages. Hardcover \$27.00.

Sometimes a relatively compact book has a lot to offer. It's so unusual to find a book whose author has a fascinating and necessary idea about Jewish culture, digs into the topic and comes up with a result that is dazzling in its factual base, its interpretation of gathered evidence and its engaging voice.

Annika Hernroth-Rothstein, a Jewish journalist from Sweden, set herself a challenging mission and the results are illuminating. The stories she tells are at once consoling and a bit frightening as well. Where is the Jewish diaspora today? It's in places you might not expect.

Come with Annika on her magical mystery tour – a tour that took two years.

After an introduction in which she describes the sources of motivation for her project, the author launches her diaspora guide with a study and reminisce about the Djerba community. Djerba, an island in Tunisia, is a good starting point. She introduces us to guides and community leaders who shape her introduction to this unfamiliar place. She learns about the town of Hara Kbir, almost exclusively Jewish. It has 12 synagogues. As in other Jewish centers within Muslim countries, these people operate discretely and without calling attention to themselves. The town has a full range of Jewish institutions and outlets. They have struggled against persecution and assimilation, and found a way to survive and flourish. The island is home to 1,500 Jews whose commit-

ment assures, to the extent possible, a future sprung from an impenetrable core. These people know that they must "plant their feet firmly in the past."

Modern day Uzbekistan is a place where people have lived since the "Old Stone Age." Annika outlines its remarkable history through the shifting of empires. She reminds us that Uzbeks fought in the Red Army against Nazi Germany and "500,000 of the soldiers were Jewish." This nation gained independence in 1991. A humorous scene involves what Annika calls an "Uzbek Orthodox flirtation." She describes the conflict between the Ashkenazi and Bukharian Sephardi communities. Throughout its history, the Jewish Uzbeks have fought against assimilation, and the community has often "teetered on the brink of extinction." Accusations of dual loyalties posed serious problems. Through all of these, Uzbekistan's Jews have survived. The community continues to maintain its strong presence in "a peaceful, multi-religious melting pot." These Jewish citizens are at once "equal," and yet not "truly free" under the USSR shadow that still darkens today's Russia.

A favorite chapter for many readers is likely to be the one on Morocco. Arriving in fabled Marrakesh the day before Passover, Annika enjoys the synagogue service at Lazama Synagogue, built in 1492 "and now housed inside of a sixteenth century Riad Mellah (ghetto)." She toys with the commonplace, that in Morocco the lives of Muslims and Jews have been intertwined, but she also notes that this is true only in certain restricted areas. Annika moves gracefully from the old, historic places of Jewish community to the more modern ones, noting that Jews

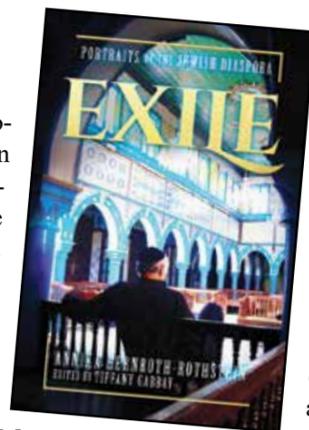
had served in important diplomatic positions. Jewish life in Morocco can seem and, perhaps, be one of subservience to the Muslim community. It is a life adaptation that is not uncommon in the diaspora.

She reminds us that tens of thousands of Jews arrived in Israel between 1948 and 1956, shrinking Morocco's Jewish community.

Can you imagine that such a book would contain a healthy section on Siberia? Well it does.

Annika relates the fact that, perhaps not ironically, Siberia means "The End" in the regional dialect of Ostyak. Siberia is immense. But for many Jewish immigrants it offered a new beginning. It is a place rich in natural resources that demand a labor force to take advantage of them. Millions of people have benefited from the Trans-Siberian Railway, including those who helped build this marvel.

Annika finds the towns she visits somehow familiar. It's like a homecoming to this Jew of partial Russian ancestry. It is no surprise to find a Chabad-Lubavitch presence whose leaders are the "head and heart" of the Irkutsk Jewish community, which is home to at least 5,000 Jews. The synagogue is jammed, assimilation seems under control, and Jewish institutions – educational and otherwise – are active. Strangely, Putin is an ally of Russian Jews, who are deeply patriotic and also open about



their Zionism.

This is only one of the many chapters filled with surprises.

Aside from the four chapters skimmed to give a taste of this valuable study, there are additional chapters detailing the past and present communities of Jews in the following

places: Cuba, Iran, Finland, Sweden, Palermo, Turkey and Venezuela. Annika's adventurous nature, her passion for Jewish culture and history, and her openness regarding her personal experiences exploring these varied communities is a treasure and a joy.

About the author

Annika Hernroth-Rothstein is a former political advisor for the conservative coalition of Sweden, and now a full-time journalist and author. She contributes to such publications as *The Wall Street Journal*, *Israel Hayom*, *National Review*, *The Washington Examiner* and *The Jerusalem Post*. When she is not writing, she travels the world and is a sought-after public speaker on issues of religious freedom, European politics and the Middle East. For even more about the author, go to annikahernroth.com.

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



Annika Hernroth-Rothstein

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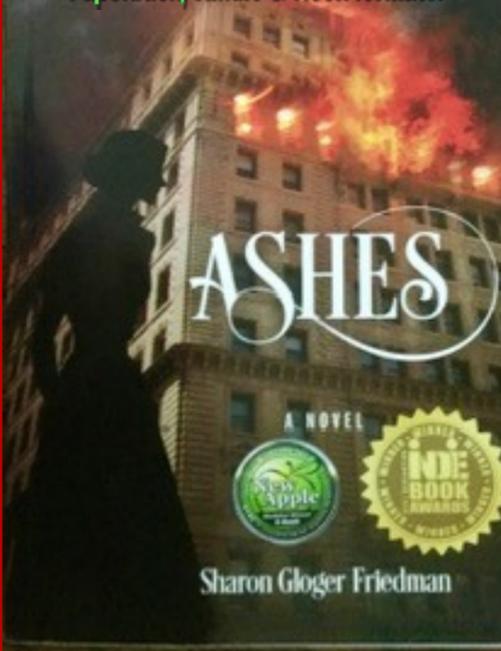
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Award-winning author Sharon Gloger Friedman was born and raised in South Florida and now happily resides in Georgia with her husband. A former teacher, copy editor and freelance writer, her articles and essays have appeared in *The Boston Globe*, *Woman's World Magazine*, *Yahoo News* and *Examiner.com*. Her first novel, *Ashes* is the 2019 winner of the Next Generation Indie Book Award for Historical Fiction, and the 2019 New Apple Summer E-Book Award for Historical Fiction.

Wednesday, August 12 at 6:00 P.M.

Registration is required for the Zoom details. Please email debbiesanford@jfedlcc.org



The Madagascar Plan: Waiting room for the Final Solution

By Paul R. Bartrop, PhD

The Madagascar Plan was an outlandish notion which in July 1940 – 80 years ago this month – nevertheless was taken seriously by Germany's Nazi regime as a possible way to rid Europe of its Jews. The idea was to expel Europe's Jews to the large French colonial island of Madagascar, off the coast of Africa. As a plan, it resonates today as another stepping stone on the way to the "Final Solution" – the extermination of Europe's Jews.

Expelling the Jews from Europe to Madagascar was not a new idea. It was proposed as early as 1885 and continued to be discussed during the early 20th century, though the island was hardly a wholesome location in which to send millions of Jews. Situated in the Indian Ocean about 250 miles from the coast of southeast Africa, it is subject to a six-month rainy season, oppressive heat and cyclones.

The issue had previously been considered briefly by the Nazi leadership. Indeed, senior SS officer Reinhard Heydrich, for instance, ordered and received a report from his Jewish affairs expert, Adolf Eichmann, as early as December 1938. The idea of sending Europe's Jews to Madagascar, however, only became a serious policy pro-

posal after Franz Rademacher, the head of the Jewish Department of the German Foreign Office, wrote a memorandum on July 3, 1940, suggesting this as a solution to the "Jewish Question."

An avowed anti-Semite, Rademacher sought to elevate the role of the Foreign Office in Jewish affairs, particularly in finding a way to remove the Jews from Germany. It was against this background that he suggested that all Jews falling into the German sphere – which, given the conquest of Poland a few months earlier, had increased considerably – be expelled and deported to Madagascar.

Throughout the spring and summer of 1940, Rademacher worked hard to develop his Plan, along the way alienating himself from Eichmann, who was attempting to take control of the project himself.

The idea spread so quickly within the Nazi leadership that it was not long before Hitler made mention of it, and Reinhard Heydrich successfully argued that it fell within his remit.

The Madagascar Plan envisioned that the island be transferred from France to Germany as a Mandated territory. It would become the site of a colony of Jews under the administration of a German Police Governor, in which the Jews would create their own administration, including mayors, police and so on. They would also be responsible for the economic welfare of

the island. Tapping into longstanding anti-Semitic views regarding Jewish wealth, the Plan called for the Jews' "former European financial assets" to be transferred to a European bank that would be specially established for the Madagascar project. This way, the Jews would pay Germany for the value of the land, funded by the sale of their property in Europe.

In addition, given that Madagascar would be a Mandated territory, Jews deported there would not be permitted to acquire German citizenship, while at the same time losing the citizenship of the European countries from which they had been deported. Their new status would be as "residents of the Mandate of Madagascar," as "our German sense of responsibility toward the world forbids us to make the gift of a sovereign state" to the Jews.

Another element of Rademacher's proposal would see that the creation of a colony in Madagascar would prevent the possible establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine, thereby negating "the opportunity for them to exploit for their own purposes the symbolic importance which Jerusalem has for the Christian and Mohammedan parts of the world."

Finally, the conduct of the Jews in Madagascar would act "as a pledge for the future good behavior of the members of their race in America." The Plan considered that it would also be good propaganda, showing "the generosity shown by Germany in permitting cultural, economic, administrative and legal self-administration to the Jews."

Adolf Eichmann eventually took over the project, drafting his own plan for Madagascar on August 15, 1940, in which he proposed that one million Jews would be deported to Madagascar

annually over the next four years.

The feasibility of the Madagascar Plan rested on the outcome of two military events. The first had already been achieved when France surrendered to Germany on June 22, enabling Madagascar to be transferred to German control. The second event was the Battle of Britain between July and October 1940, in which the Germans held that victory over the Royal Air Force would be the first step toward the invasion and surrender of Britain. The outcome of the battle was relevant to the Madagascar Plan, as a German victory would remove Britain's Royal Navy as a factor inhibiting the transport of Jews to Madagascar and would provide the ships needed to carry out such a massive operation.

Germany's loss in the Battle of Britain brought an abrupt end to the Madagascar Plan. That it had been considered very seriously by Nazi leaders, including Hitler, Heydrich and Eichmann, provides an insight into Germany's thinking in 1940 regarding Europe's Jews.

Although it was clear to all that the Madagascar Plan – had it gone forward – would have resulted in the death of hundreds of thousands of Jews trying to survive in a police state in a difficult climate, it was also clear that the decision to exterminate every Jewish man, woman and child in Europe had not, in July 1940, yet been made. Nonetheless, a specific mindset was in train that would see the start of its realization within the next 12 months.▲

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

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The Sarajevo Haggadah: Music of the Book

By Arlene Stolnitz

Geraldine Brooks' *People of the Book* was the inspiration for a creative musical work entitled "The Sarajevo Haggadah: Music of the Book." Created by Bosnian composer and accordion player Merima Kljuco, the work uses accordion, piano and video to trace the unique travels of the Haggadah from medieval Spain to 20th century Bosnia. Hidden and rescued during World War II, the Haggadah was later restored by the National Museum in Sarajevo.



Arlene Stolnitz

Commissioned by The Foundation for Jewish Culture, the music reflects the turmoil of the times. For Kljuco it's not about the violence, it's about the power of culture in the face of violence. The music reflects the turmoil of those times. But for Kljuco,

the story is not so much about the violence that threatened the Haggadah and the Jews through the centuries. It's about people helping one another, and the power of culture in the face of violence. "It's interesting that such a story surprises us," she says, "when it should be completely normal."

As writer of this column, much of what I write about comes to me in very strange and unexpected ways. The result is that often I come upon musical stories that few people know of. Such is the case of this musical composition. Since I am an inveterate reader, an article from the online *Forward* caught my attention recently. The article invited interested viewers to join the *Forward* Book Club on Zoom. The book to be discussed was *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks. I had already read the book but was willing to participate. It has been an amazing experience with readers participating from all over the United States! One of the most interesting discussions involved a museum curator who had worked on the Haggadah itself, which was an early illuminated Haggadah from 14th century Spain.



The Sarajevo Haggadah

However, in doing some research, as I generally do when working on a new topic, I came upon the musical connection that I write of in this article. Merima Kljuco was studying music in Sarajevo when the war in Bosnia broke out. She fled Bosnia in 1993. A few years later a friend gave her a copy of *People of the Book*. After reading it, she started thinking of how she could

make a musical story, telling how the Haggadah ended up in Sarajevo. She brought her project to fruition with a multimedia composition for piano and accordion that includes images from the Sarajevo Haggadah. Many of the scenes, illuminated in copper and gold, depict biblical stories from Creation to the death of Moses.

So just who is Merima Kljuco? Checking her out, I discovered that she is a classically trained accordionist specializing in contemporary music that draws from many traditions including Balkan, Sephardic and Klezmer. She was born in Yugoslavia in 1973, and fled to the Netherlands as a refugee of the Bosnian War where she currently is listed as a Bosnian-Dutch resident. At present she also resides in Los Angeles. She speaks of the Sarajevo Haggadah as "a symbol that inspires respect and tolerance of different cultures and traditions." She remembers a time growing up in Sarajevo in a culture that felt a

bond with Jewish, Christian and Muslim communities. In many ways the Haggadah reminds her of her own life and the Exodus she experienced. All of this led her to this 12-movement composition starting with God's creation of the world in an accordion sequence that mimics the sound of breath.

At our final book club session on *People of the Book*, Geraldine Brooks was the guest speaker. During the question-and-answer session, I offered the information I had recently discovered. She responded by saying that in its Boston area debut in 2014, she had contributed an introduction and participated in a post-performance discussion. She commented on the beauty of the musical piece, which was very gratifying to me. You can find it on YouTube. Enjoy!▲

Arlene Stolnitz, founder of the Sarasota Jewish Chorale, is a member of the Jewish Congregation of Venice. A retired educator from Rochester, New York, she has sung in choral groups for over 25 years and also sings in The Venice Chorale. Her interest in the preservation of Jewish music of all kinds has led to this series of articles on Jewish Folk Music in the Diaspora.



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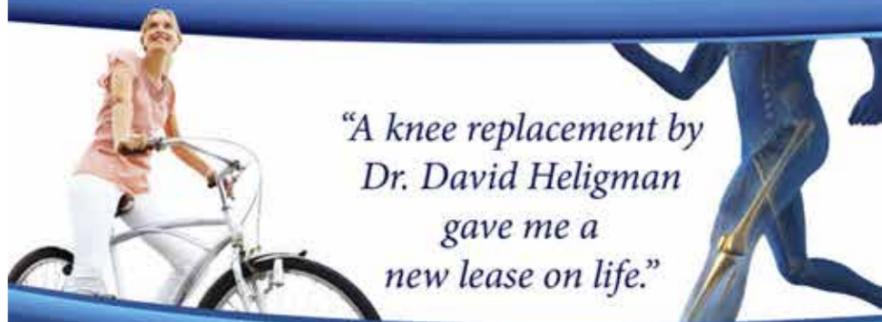
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Chocolate Challah with a sweet twist – recipe by Chef Dalia

If you love making bread at home, then get ready for a tremendous recipe – Chocolate Challah with a sweet twist – where every bite is filled with soft crumbs and the inviting taste of chocolate.

Are you ready for this remarkable chocolate challah recipe? And do you know what's better than chocolate challah? Chocolate challah filled with Hashachar H'aole, Israeli special cocoa spread. And even better than that? Chocolate challah with halva and cocoa nibs.

Born and raised in Israel (I am sure everybody already knows that by now), I remember eating challah bread every Friday night and Saturday morning. I love bread (any bread) a lot and I can't resist challah bread. My grandma Dalia (I was named after her), a talented baker, used to regularly make the softest, most delicious challah bread for us grandkids. We ate sliced challah bread for breakfast with chocolate milk; we ate it with a jelly spread; we made the dough with cinnamon, chocolate and raisins! My mouth is watering already even just saying these words out loud! The aroma, the expectation, the golden crust and all the ways we could use it, challah was a regular and lovely part of my childhood.

It's super easy to make the challah bread dough using eggs, oil and a few other ingredients. People always think that making bread is boring and takes a long time. It's a complete mistake. Making a challah is super easy. It requires 5-10 minutes to make the dough, and the rest is just some time to let the dough rise.

I can't forget the first time I made challah. It was, in all likelihood, one of my first experiences making any sort of yeast bread. I couldn't have been

older than 7 or 8, and I still remember kneading the sticky dough and making a sticky, floury mess all over the kitchen as my sister and I made the challah for Kabbalat Shabbat every Friday morning at school.

I don't remember how our challah tasted, or if it even ended up looking like a challah, but I do remember making it being so much fun.

When my sister Shuli asked me to create a chocolate challah, I decided to be daring. I wanted a challah that smelled delicious even as it was baking, and tasted outstanding from the first bite. The delight of challah is its crust, and this chocolate version is crusty on the outside, crumbly on the inside, and spread with chocolate and halva.

I chose a Hashachar h'aole special cocoa spread to add an Israeli twist, and decorated the glazed braids with extra sesame seeds for an impressive effect before placing the loaves into the oven. I couldn't wait to try the result. It looked beautiful and was simply heavenly.

With this decadent recipe, take your challah to the next level (and the next course) by having it for dessert.

This challah even toasted up well, and would no doubt make great French toast if you manage to keep it around that long. It's beautiful and will be the perfect thing to serve on Friday night Shabbat. It's just delicious. This recipe is a well-kept secret in my family, and I hope it will be in yours! Get your bread baking on. Let's make some challah!

Ingredients (for two loaves):

For the dough:

- 1½ tablespoons dry yeast
- 1 cup lukewarm milk (or water)
- ½ cup granulated sugar
- 3½ cups all-purpose flour, plus more if needed

- ½ tablespoon salt
- 2 large eggs, beaten
- ½ cup unsalted butter, melted
- Canola oil

For the filling:

- ¾ cup chocolate spread
- ½ cup halva
- 1/3 cup cocoa nibs (or 2 tablespoons cocoa powder)

For the topping:

- 1 large egg, beaten
- Sesame seeds

► In a small bowl, sprinkle the yeast over the milk and add the ½ table-spoon sugar. Let sit until a frothy layer develops on top, about 5-10 minutes.

► In a large bowl, whisk together the 3½ cups of flour, ½ cup sugar and salt. Make a well in the center and add the eggs and butter. Mix together with a wooden spoon, pulling in a little flour at a time



from the sides of the bowl. Stir in the yeast mixture. Mix to combine until dough is formed.

► Turn out onto a floured surface and knead well for about 5 minutes. If the dough is very sticky, work in a teaspoon of flour at a time until the dough is smooth and not sticky.

► Lightly oil the inside of a very large bowl. Place dough inside. Cover with plastic wrap in a warm place. Let rise until doubled in size, about 1 hour. Punch down the dough, re-cover and let rise for 1 hour.

► For the filling, place the chocolate spread and halva in a medium bowl. Whisk until smooth. Stir in the cocoa nibs or cocoa powder until incorporated and a spreadable paste



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

is formed.

► On a lightly floured surface, punch down dough and cut in half with a bench scraper. Using a rolling pin, roll each half into a 12x16-inch rectangle.

► Spread the chocolate filling on both rectangles all the way to the edges.

► Starting from the long side, tightly roll each rectangle into a log that's about 20-inches long. Cut each in half lengthwise.

► Twist the halves together a few times, starting from the middle and pinching the ends together, forming a rope.

► Gently transfer the braids to parchment-lined backing pans coated with cooking spray. Cover with a clean dish towel and allow to rise, about another 45 minutes.

► Preheat oven to 375F.

► Brush all over the challah with beaten egg, making sure to get in the cracks and along the sides of the loaf. Sprinkle with the sesame seeds.



► Bake for about 30-33 minutes until golden.

► Remove from the oven and allow to cool for a few minutes. Slice and enjoy!▲

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Sports 2020: What About the Fans?

Our topic for this edition of **Connection to Innovation** will focus on what it means to be a sports fan in 2020. It is clear that sports are coming back to the fans, but it is still unclear when and how the fans will come back to sports. While social distancing persists, what will the experience look like? What cutting edge innovations will support the "new normal" fan experience? Hear about it directly from the experts.

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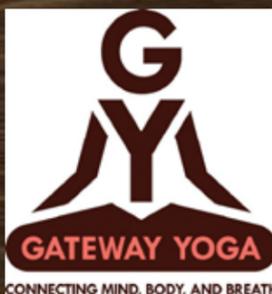
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Stars of David

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.

Diggs is Everywhere Now

Recent events have led the Jewish media to report on the fairly large and growing number of American Jews "of color." A 2019 report by Stanford and the Univ. of San Francisco estimated 12-15% of American Jews are persons of color. Most are children of intermarriage, but a considerable number are converts to Judaism. This past year, two famous Jews "of color" have been very prominent. The first is comedian/actress **TIFFANY HADDISH**, 40, who discovered as an adult that her (now late) father was an Eritrean Jew. She embraced her father's faith and had a "real" bat mitzvah (reading from the Torah, etc.) last December.

The other is **DAVEED DIGGS**, 38. He is the son of an African-American father and a (white) Jewish mother. He was raised, for lack of a better term, "Jewish Light." As I reported in my last column, he has a leading voice role in *Central Park*, an Apple TV+ animated series (started in May), and he co-stars in the big-budget TNT thriller series *Snowpiercer*, which also began in May and concludes on July 19. Also, this coming August, Diggs has an important role in *The Good Lord Bird*, a major Showtime mini-series about the lead-up to the Civil War.

Diggs won a Tony for his performance as the Marquis de Lafayette and Thomas Jefferson in the mega-hit Broadway musical *Hamilton*. The film version of *Hamilton* (co-starring Diggs) will premiere on the Disney Plus channel on Friday, July 3. Three stage productions of *Hamilton* were filmed, and the "best parts" were combined to

make the film. **THOMAS KAIL**, 42, who directed the stage version, also directed the film.

Of course, Lin-Manuel Miranda, 40, stars in the title role and he wrote the musical. Many articles have noted that he really loves everything Jewish. Check out, or revisit, the "Lin Miranda wedding video" on YouTube. Called the best wedding video ever, it features an amazing (spoiler!) version of "To Life" from *Fiddler on the Roof*. I am enraptured and just plain happy every time I see it. Those are feelings we all need now.

Broadcast and Streaming Options

Lenox Hill is a Netflix documentary series about the famous Manhattan hospital (released June 9 to great reviews). Filmed before the pandemic, the series follows four physicians as they balance their personal lives with their professional careers. One is **DR. DAVID LANGER**, 50ish, the hospital's head of neurosurgery. Dr. Langer has often appeared as a medical expert on shows like *Good Morning America*. Sadly, just a couple of months ago, Lenox Hill was a "ground zero" hospital in New York City's battle to stem our modern plague.

The HBO documentary *I'll Be Gone in the Dark* premiered on June 28. It is based on the bestselling book of the same name written by Michelle McNamara (1970-2016) and it chronicles her hunt for the "Golden State Killer" (a suspect was arrested in April 2018). The director is Emmy winner and Oscar nominee **LIZ GARBUS**, 50.

The new Peacock network premieres "for everybody" on Wednesday,

Interested in Your Family's History?

Nate Bloom (see column above) 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.

July 15. "Everybody" comes with qualifiers. Certain cable company customers are already getting it with their subscription. "Everybody" can see some of the shows if they have an internet connection. If you pay \$5 per month, you can see them all.

Peacock series starting on July 15 include *The Capture*, *Brave New World* and *Intelligence*. *Capture* is a six-episode British series that aired in the U.K. last fall and got great reviews. It focuses on a British veteran of the Afghan War who is the suspect in a horrible domestic crime. **RON PERLMAN**, 70, has a supporting role.

Brave New World stars **ALDEN EHRENREICH**, 30. It's based on the famous 1932 dystopian novel by Aldous Huxley. Ehrenreich was discovered by **STEVEN SPIELBERG**, 73, who chanced to see him in a funny bat mitzvah video. He is talented, but he's had the misfortune to star in three big-budget films that flopped (*Beautiful Creatures*,

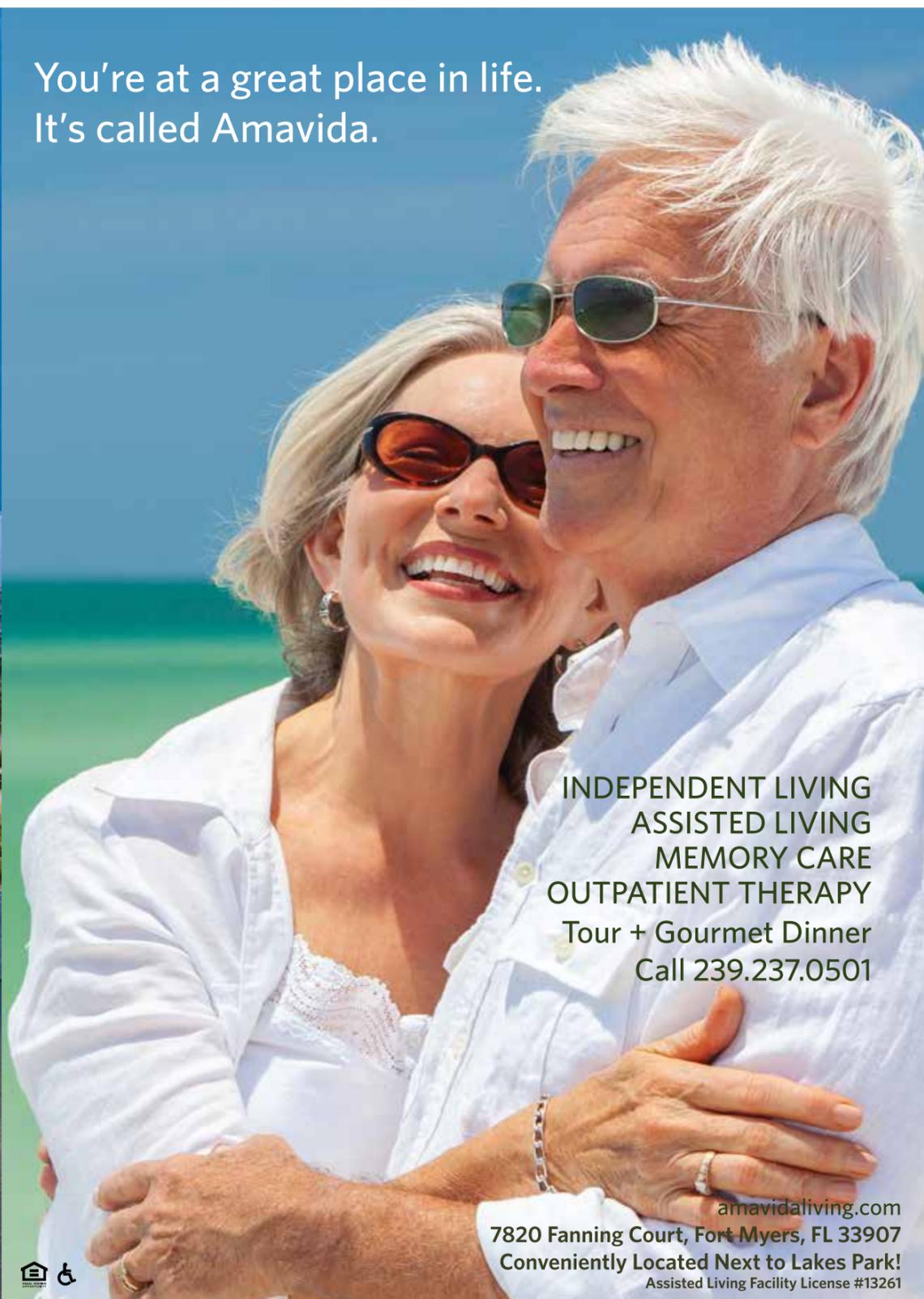
Rules Don't Apply and *Han Solo: A Star Wars Story*). You can see him at his best, I think, in *Hail, Caesar*, a **COEN** brothers film that did fine.

Finally, there's *Intelligence*, a six-episode British sitcom set in the U.K. **DAVID SCHWIMMER**, 53, co-stars as Jerry Bernstein, a National Security Agency agent who is a liaison to a British cybercrimes unit. The first season aired in Britain last February and a second season has been ordered. Schwimmer's ex-wife, **ZOE BUCKMAN**, 35, is a Brit and they have a 9-year-old daughter. ▲

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Nice surprises from obscure regions

By The Wine Whisperer

The winegrowing area the French call the Côtes du Rhône is spread over many, many square hectares in the southern Rhône valley, none of which adjoin each other. There are vineyards over here, over there, on both sides of the river, spotted throughout the region.

Within the general area, several villages produce wine that's considered at least a cut above average. Wines from these specific places (there are 20 of them) will say Côtes du Rhône Villages on the label. When the wines reach a

certain level of quality, the village applies for its own appellation, which is what happened with places like Gigondas and Vacqueyras. They're allowed to put the name of the village on the label.

Meanwhile, there are villages and there are villages. The style and quality of the wines they produce vary widely from one to the other. Some that stand out for me are Rasteau, which I've known about for quite some time, and Cairanne, which is a new discovery.

So far, Cairanne is my new favorite. The village lies near the jagged peaks of the Dentelles de Montmirail mountain range, not far from the town of Orange. Supposedly, the area has been inhabited for over 4,000 years, but serious winemaking dates from the

1400s. They've had plenty of time to get it right. So right, in fact, that the place was elevated to its own appellation and is now allowed to use its name on wine labels and isn't included in the overall Côtes du Rhône Village appellation. There are about 1,900 acres under vine, growing about 20 permitted varieties of red and white grapes. The main grape in the wines from this region must be Grenache, and it has to make up 50% of the blend. Two other grapes are also legally required: Syrah and Mourvèdre, which must be at least 20%. They're very strict about that sort of thing in France.

The wines from this village are generally considered some of the best in the region. I think that's true. Recently, I picked up a bottle of the **Vidal-Fleury Cairanne 2010**, a blend of 80% Grenache, 15% Syrah and 5% Mourvèdre. The family has been making wine there for a few hundred years, and they know what they're doing. This rich red offers spice on the nose, followed by interesting notes of graphite, black tea and dark plum. It begs to accompany grilled meat, and maybe some chocolate for dessert. Not expensive, either. A new addition to our cellar.

And...here are some other new favorites you might like to discover.

Behr Family Oso Libre Bendición Mourvèdre Paso Robles 2014 (\$36) – An interesting California interpretation of this traditional Southern Rhône varietal rewards your swirling and sniffing with purple plum, blackberry, and notes of cinnamon and clove. Lighter bodied, but very well structured and round on the palate. WW 90

Frank Family Pinot Noir Carneros 2016 (\$36) – Rich ruby color

promises a fuller-bodied interpretation of this delicate grape. The flavor profile is right on the money, with dark fruit, strawberry and coffee, all very deep and extracted. Excellent balance of tannins and acidity on the finish. Quite enjoyable. WW 91-92

Frank Family Zinfandel Napa 2015 (\$39) – A bit more tart and reserved than most Zins, with a bright cherry pie nose and palate, enhanced by hints of smoke and mixed red fruits. Very true to type, and nicely balanced. WW 91-92

Sosie Pinot Noir Spring Hill Vineyard Sonoma Coast 2015 (\$43) – A deeper red than many Pinots, this is done in a more Old World style with expressive earth, pepper and black plum aromas right from the start. A bit tight on the palate, it will open up to offer savory black plum, earth and bright black fruit flavors. Needs time. WW 90

Ask the Wine Whisperer

What is the difference between Pinot Noir and Burgundy? – Samantha N., Parkland

All red Burgundy is Pinot Noir, but not all Pinot is Burgundy. "Burgundy" is the name of a very important winegrowing region in France, and the name refers only to the Pinot Noir produced in that legally defined area. Many consumers get confused by the "Hearty Burgundy" jug wine produced by the Gallo company, which, incidentally, is not made from Pinot Noir. ▲

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.



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A conversation with White House speechwriter & author, Sarah Hurwitz



After years as a political speechwriter—serving as head speechwriter for First Lady Michelle Obama, a senior speechwriter for President Barack Obama, and chief speechwriter for Hillary Clinton on her 2008 presidential campaign—Sarah Hurwitz decided to apply her communication skills to writing a book...about Judaism. And no one is more surprised than she is. Hurwitz was the quintessential lapsed Jew—until, at age 36, on a whim, she attended an introduction to Judaism class and was blown away by what she found: beautiful holidays and rituals, high ethical standards, conceptions of God beyond the judgy bearded man in the sky—none of which she had learned in Hebrew school or during the two synagogue services she grudgingly attended each year. That class led to a years-long dive into Jewish study, and at this event, Sarah will talk about her time in the Obama White House and what she learned along the way in her Jewish journey.

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Book review: *The Survival of the Jews in France, 1940-44*

By Rabbi A. James Rudin

In his new book, *The Survival of the Jews in France, 1940-44* (Oxford Press), Jacques Semelin, professor emeritus of history and political science at the Paris Institute of Political Science, focuses on a frequently overlooked statistic: 240,000 of the 320,000 Jews living in France in 1940 survived the war within that nation's borders.

After the French armed forces and national government quickly collapsed when Nazi Germany invaded in May 1940, the conquerors divided France into a German-occupied area in the north and a pro-Nazi Vichy regime, the "Free Zone," in the south. In both regions, French police and gendarmes were zealous in rounding up Jews for deportation "to the East," a euphemism for German death camps.

A horrific example of French collaboration with the Nazis was the July 1942 roundup in Paris of 8,160 Jews. Before being deported, they were incarcerated for five days under appalling conditions at the Velodrome d'Hiver, an indoor sports stadium. The roundup shocked many people because it included women and children; fewer than 100 survived the war.

Semelin, an expert on the Holocaust and civil resistance, focuses on how Jews "survived" the Holocaust by devising strategies and actions, such as fleeing Paris and moving to the sparsely populated countryside in the Free Zone, acquiring false names and identity papers, posing as Catholics, being hidden by non-Jews and "blending in" with the general population.

Semelin describes how Jews became agricultural workers or adopted other occupations during the war: "They helped out in the fields or on farms, while offering their skills as a shoemaker, tailor or seamstress. Such

service...helped considerably to acquaint the two populations – at first worlds apart – with one another."

Even under the occupation, being a French citizen offered Jews some legal protection and security. Stateless or foreign-born Jews residing in France were twice as likely to be deported than Jewish citizens. And, of course, it helped to have enough money for bribes, shelter, food and transportation. Also, because France was a large country, half of which was "governed" by Vichy, Jews could hide more easily than if they lived in Holland or Belgium.

Some French Jews were saved by "righteous gentiles." Under the leadership of Protestant Pastor Andre Trocme, for example, the village of Le Chambon-sur-Lignon became a safe haven for more than 1,000 Jews, including children. The pastor and his wife Magda were designated Righteous Among the Nations by Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust remembrance center.

Another example: In August 1942, the year of the most deportations, Toulouse Archbishop Jules-Géraud Saliège issued a pastoral letter calling anti-Jewish actions "not permissible." Semelin writes, "Notwithstanding the silence of Pope Pius XII, many senior Catholic prelates protested openly when foreign Jews first began to be arrested in 1942."

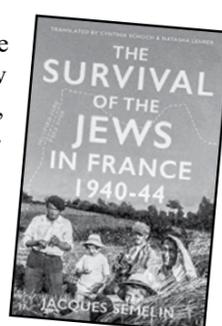
Professor Michael R. Marrus of the University of Toronto, an authority on Vichy France, does not question Semelin's Jewish survival statistics but points out that it was the invasion of Normandy that accounts for the high survival rate of French Jews. He writes:

"Let us assume that the Allies might have failed to establish a beachhead in Normandy in June 1944....If

so, the war might well have continued for another few years. And had it done so, the Germans would almost certainly have finished the Final Solution in France. And in that case, none of Semelin's conditions would have had any effect."

Putting aside Marrus' speculation of what might have happened, individual French Jews lived to tell the tale. One of them was Capt. Charles Tenen, who was a member of my congregation at Itazuke Air Base in Japan, where I served as a USAF Chaplain in the 1960s. His parents immigrated to France from Russia in 1926, where Charles was born six years later. He and seven family members fled Paris in 1940 and spent the next four years successfully hiding in a farmhouse in the French countryside that was owned by a friendly farmer who sheltered the Jewish family.

Beside the constant fear of capture and deportation, Charles told me of a narrow escape from death. While



walking on a country road in 1944, a truck belonging to the local underground group passed him. At that moment, a German plane strafed the area, nearly killing him. Vichy authorities, he said, were not always efficient in carrying out their anti-Jewish policies. Charles' family survived the war and he eventually immigrated to the United States and, "to become fully American," he joined the U.S. Air Force.

Charles' account of his family's survival echoes the stories described in this thought-provoking book, which concludes: "Death was always lurking in the shadows, until the very last moment, until the very last soldier from the occupying forces had left France."▲

Rabbi A. James Rudin is the former head of the American Jewish Committee's Department of Interreligious Affairs and author of seven books, most recently, *Pillar of Fire: A Biography of Stephen S. Wise. He served as a U.S. Air Force chaplain in Japan and Korea.*

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ON INDEPENDENCE DAY, ISRAEL'S POPULATION NEARLY 9.2 MILLION

Israel's population has reached 9.19 million on the eve of Israel's 72nd Independence Day (April 29), the Central Bureau of Statistics reports.

Since last Independence Day, 180,000 babies were born, 32,000 people immigrated to Israel and 44,000 people died.

The Central Bureau of Statistics projects that Israel's population will reach 11 million by 2030, and 15.2 million by 2048, which will be the country's 100th anniversary.

Israel is a young country by Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development standards with 28% of the population below the age of 14, while the OECD average is 18%. Israel's over 65 population comprises 12% of the country compared with the OECD average of 17%. (Amiram Barkat, *Globes*)

CATHOLIC CHURCH IN GERMANY SAYS: "WE WERE COMPLICIT IN NAZI CRIMES"

A new report from the council of Catholic bishops in the German branch of the Catholic Church makes what one prelate described as a "confession of guilt." The document states: "Inasmuch as the bishops did not oppose the war with a clear 'no,' and most of them bolstered the [German nation's] will to endure, they made themselves complicit in the war. The bishops may not have shared the Nazis' justification for the war on the grounds of racial ideology, but their words and their images gave succor both to soldiers and the regime prosecuting the war, as they lent the war an additional sense of purpose."

Weeks after the Nazi party seized power in 1933, it signed a "Reich concordat" with the bishops. The Vatican condemned Hitler's race laws in a 1937 encyclical, but for the most part its bishops enthusiastically endorsed the dictator's foreign policy and headlong path into war. The document notes that hundreds of priests were dispatched to accompany the Wehrmacht on the front

lines, thousands of church and monastic properties were converted into military hospitals, and tens of thousands of nuns fulfilled their "duty to the fatherland" by acting as nurses. The Church denounced the 1946 Nuremberg trials of senior Nazis as an un-Christian act of revenge. (Oliver Moody, *The Times* - UK)

ISRAELI FARMERS DEPLOY POLLINATING DRONES AFTER COVID-19 LABOR SHORTAGE

Date plantation growers in the Jordan Valley and Arava have turned to using drones for aerial pollination to overcome labor shortages caused by the Coronavirus outbreak.

Aerial pollination has become increasingly important due to the declining bee population, as well as recent flooding in the Jordan Valley, which has prevented ground pollination in many areas.

Israeli unmanned system operator Blue White Robotics uses multiple drones flying simultaneously, equipped with innovative pods developed by U.S.-based drone pollinator Dropcopper to dispense pollen.

The solution replaces the inefficient technique of using fans attached to tractors. (Eytan Halon, *Jerusalem Post*)

THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS IS BRINGING ISRAEL'S JEWISH AND ARAB CITIZENS TOGETHER

Israel is facing its first national threat that has nothing to do with the Arab-Israeli conflict. In the Coronavirus, Israel's Arab and Jewish citizens are facing a crisis that is bringing us together. Israeli media regularly feature stories of Arab-Jewish intimacy in the quarantine wards. Israel's *Yediot Aharonot* published a four-page photo essay of Arab and Jewish nurses, featuring Arabs as Israeli heroes.

Israel's healthcare system is fully integrated. Nearly a fifth of Israel's doctors, a quarter of its nurses and almost half its pharmacists are Arabs. Arab doctors head hospital departments and emergency rooms; one heads a hospital

in the Galilee. Jews and Arabs encounter one another in maternity and cancer wards. (Yossi Klein Halevi, *Atlantic*)

UNDER THE RADAR: ARAB STATES AGREE TO ISRAELI SOVEREIGNTY

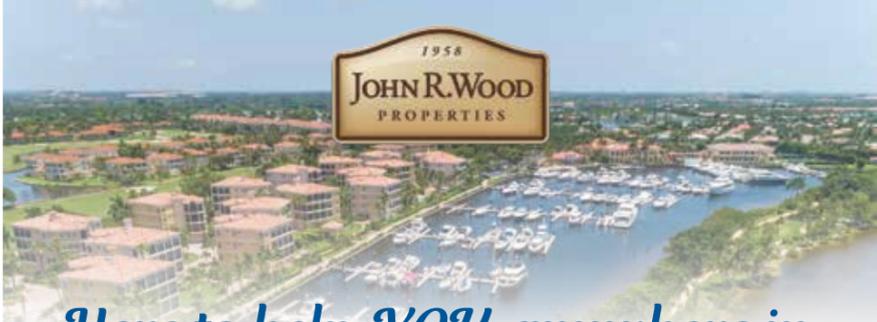
Alongside their public rejection of the Israeli plan to extend sovereignty to the Jordan Valley and Israeli settlements in Judea and Samaria, senior officials in Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States say their leaders have met in recent months with U.S. officials Jared Kushner and Avi Berkowitz

and, in effect, gave them a green light to continue the work of the U.S.-Israel mapping committee to advance the sovereignty plan.

A senior Saudi diplomat close to Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman told *Israel Hayom* that Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the UAE have an unofficial coordinated position in favor of the sovereignty plan.

"With all due respect to the few Palestinians who live in the Jordan Valley, Arab states like Saudi Arabia, Egypt the UAE and Jordan will not

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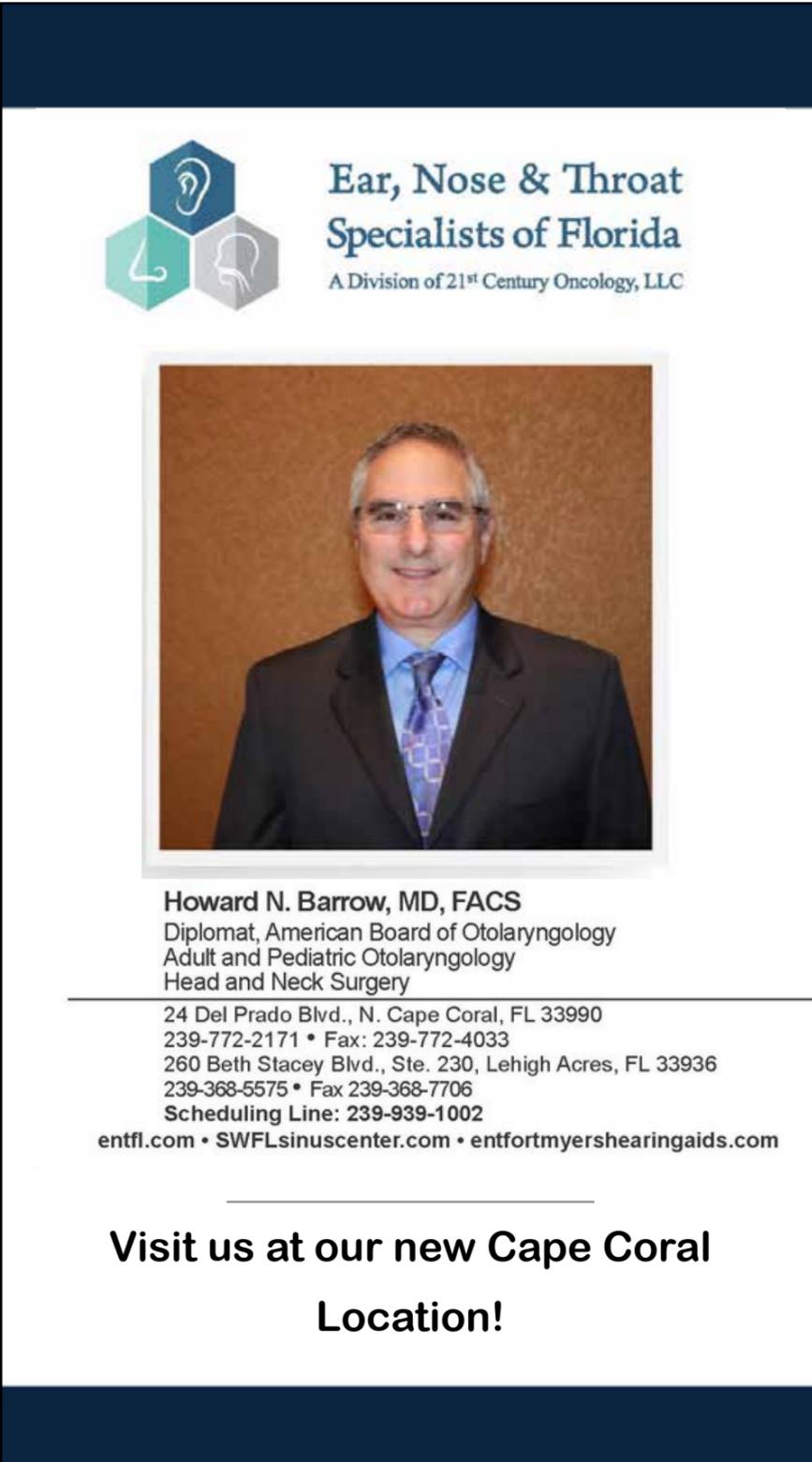
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BRIEFS

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endanger their relations with the Trump administration for them," he said.

"The Palestinians weren't smart enough to take advantage of the supportive Obama government and continued their rejectionism. It is time for Abbas and his veteran leadership to wake up and understand that the interests of the region and the world have changed."

"If they miss yet another opportunity to establish an independent state alongside Israel because of Israeli sovereignty in the Jordan Valley and the settlements, in another 20 years they will be left with nothing."

A senior Egyptian security official added that moderate Arab leaders headed by Egyptian President Sisi "see the struggle to block Shiite Iran's drive for hegemony over Sunni nations in the Middle East as a more important issue than that of the Palestinians." (Daniel Siryoti, *Israel Hayom*)

U.S. AID TO ISRAEL IS A HIGH-YIELD INVESTMENT

- ◆ The U.S. and Israel have a mutually beneficial relationship that provides America with a high return on its annual \$3.8 billion investment. More than \$150 billion was invested by Israeli companies in the U.S. between 2010 and 2015 (\$25.1 billion in 2015 alone).
- ◆ Critical components of leading American high-tech products are invented and designed in Israel, making the American companies that manufacture those products more competitive and profitable. Cisco, Intel, Motorola, Applied Materials and HP are just a few examples.
- ◆ The U.S.-Israeli economic and commercial relationship now encompasses IT, biotech, life sciences, health care solutions, energy, pharmaceuticals, food and beverages, defense industries, cyber-security, aviation, desalination, recycling, conservation, management and irrigation.
- ◆ U.S. firms established 2/3 of the 300 foreign-invested research and development centers in Israel. Israeli firms represent the second-largest source of foreign listings on the NASDAQ after China, and more than Indian, Japanese and South Korean firms combined.
- ◆ Strategically, Israel is an American beachhead in the Middle East and the only stable, reliable, capable, democratic and unconditional regional ally of the U.S., and it is willing to flex its muscles.
- ◆ Both nations gain from a strong strategic partnership, which draws in part upon Israel's capabilities in designing advanced military, homeland security, counterterrorism and cyber-protection technologies that help the U.S. meet its growing security challenges.
- ◆ Israel is a cost-effective, battle-tested laboratory for U.S. defense industries, and it provides the U.S. with more intelligence than all the NATO countries put together. (Dr. Frank Musmar, BESA Center for Strategic Studies - Bar-Ilan University)

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC BRINGS NEW USES FOR AUGMENTED REALITY

Augmented reality superimposes digital content, such as 3-D images or visual instructions, onto a user's view of the real world. This can be done through mobile devices and wearable headsets such as Microsoft's HoloLens. The Coronavirus pandemic has increased interest in remote assistance and training because employees and customers

are less willing to be in close contact.

Since March, Sheba Medical Center in Israel has used five HoloLens 2 headsets to train 60 physicians, biomedical engineers and nurses on how to operate ventilators for COVID-19 patients, said Ravid Segal, Chief Technology Officer of the Israel Center for Medical Simulation located at Sheba. The HoloLens headset uses optical projection to create digital hologram-like objects that users can see and interact with.

Medical workers wearing the headset can see a hologram-like rendering of a ventilator superimposed on their real-world view. The headset includes built-in instructions that guide the worker through the process of operating the ventilator in front of them. The headset can also be used as a way for doctors in other parts of the hospital to give remote assistance without needing to be physically present but still being able to see what is happening in a patient's room. (Sara Castellanos, *Wall Street Journal*)

NEW STUDY: 70 PERCENT OF CORONAVIRUS CASES IN ISRAEL STARTED IN U.S.

More than 70% of Coronavirus patients in Israel were infected by a strain that originated in the U.S., according to a new study published May 18 by Dr. Adi Stern of the School of Molecular Cell Biology and Biotechnology at Tel Aviv University.

The remaining 30% of infections in Israel were imported from Belgium (8%), France (6%), England (5%), Spain (3%) and 2% each from Italy, the Philippines, Australia and Russia.

Stern and his team of researchers mapped the spread of the virus by decoding the genomic sequence of the Coronavirus strain in Israel and comparing it to 4,700 genomic sequences taken from patients around the world. (Maayan Jaffe-Hoffman, *Jerusalem Post*)

POLL: ONLY 7 PERCENT OF ISRAELI ARABS DEFINE THEMSELVES AS "PALESTINIAN"

The proportion of non-Jewish people in Israel who define themselves primarily as "Palestinian" now stands at 7%, down from 18% a year ago, according to a survey conducted by Prof. Camille Fuchs of Tel Aviv University for the Jewish People Policy Institute.

51% self-identify as "Israeli Arab," while 23% define themselves primarily as "Israeli," a sizable increase from 5% last year.

Asked how much they "feel like a real Israeli," 65% of Arabs said they agree completely and 33% somewhat agree. (Idan Zonshine, *Jerusalem Post*)

2,000-YEAR-OLD, 3-ROOM COMPLEX UNCOVERED NEAR WESTERN WALL IN JERUSALEM

A two-millennia-old subterranean system of three rooms was recently uncovered near the Western Wall, chiseled by hand out of bedrock prior to the fall of Jerusalem in 70 CE, the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) announced recently.

The complex was hidden for centuries under a 1,400-year-old Byzantine structure's mosaic floor.

Inside the rooms are what looks to be niches for shelves and storage, as well as doorjambs and lantern niches, chiseled into the bedrock.

"We found clay cooking vessels, cores of oil lamps used for light, a stone mug unique to Second Temple Period Jewish sites and a fragment of a qalal – a large stone basin used to hold water, thought to be linked to Jewish practices of ritual purity," IAA archaeologists said. (Amanda Borschel-Dan, *Times of Israel*)

continued on next page

BRIEFS

continued from previous page

MILLIONS OF DOCUMENTS ON NAZI VICTIMS, SURVIVORS NOW ONLINE

The Arolsen Archives (arolsen-archives.org/en/), formerly known as the International Tracing Service, has added 13 million documents to its online database of documents and information on the victims of Nazi persecution. This follows the upload of 13 million

documents with the launch of the online database in May 2019.

The documents contain information on 21 million people displaced, persecuted and murdered by the Nazi regime. The International Tracing Service was established by the Western Allies in 1944. (Jacob Judah, *Jewish Chronicle* - UK)

JERUSALEM'S RESIDENTS COME TOGETHER DURING CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

As the Coronavirus crisis unfolded in Jerusalem, the civil society organiza-

tions so active in the city changed their priorities, programs and activities with only one aim: to make sure that no Jerusalemite was left alone.

At the Jerusalem Foundation we had to change our direction overnight from major capital projects to supporting the city's most vulnerable populations: children with special needs, at-risk youth, children in women's shelters, people with disabilities, families who found themselves without money to buy food, and the elderly, the population most at risk.

It was amazing to see situations that

we couldn't have anticipated of strict Orthodox volunteers packing food baskets for Arabs so they could break their fast for Ramadan with a proper meal, and Arabs from eastern Jerusalem who volunteered to purchase medication for the elderly, from all sectors, who could not leave their homes. (Shai Doron, President of the Jerusalem Foundation, *Jewish Chronicle* - UK)▲

For daily news stories related to Israel & the Jewish world, visit the Federation's website at www.JewishFederationLCC.org.

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Connecting the dots

What is a chaplain? For most of my career, this question has been easily answered. To listen and respond, to minister, to the patients, families and staff of whatever hospital or nursing home or synagogue I have been affiliated with. For the vast majority of my career, the majority of



■ **Rabbi Michael J. Schorin**

my time has been spent with patients and their families. But now, with COVID-19, the emphasis has switched to the third part of that equation. More and more, I am ministering to the employees of my hospital.

For several months now, that question has been "how are you doing with this pandemic?" Sometimes the discussion is about family members, parents and/or children. At other times, I have asked them about their spouses and partners and their experience of being quarantined. The subject of fear, as you might expect, comes up in many ways.

Recently however, another concern has risen to the fore. With the murder of George Floyd, I am spending more of my time speaking with our African-American staff. My talks with them have helped me to realize so much. When they thank me for asking about their lives, I hear the very Jewish concern of whether we can all be heard for our own voice. And I hear the fear, which we also remember, of being accosted, harassed and even occasionally murdered, simply for being Black.

Whether we like it or not, racism is part and parcel of the American experience. Anti-Semitism is a smaller part of the American experience. We who know hatred so well, must be sensitive to what the African-American community is going through. Back when the

Tree of Life synagogue was shot up almost two years ago, Jews and Christians, Muslims and Hindus, Blacks and whites all came together here in Fort Myers to become a community of solidarity. We shared the pain and the grief, and it was healing.

As Jews, we also carry the message of thousands of years of our history: you shall love the stranger. Out of the depths of the Shoah, Elie Wiesel (z"l) wrote: "There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest." In 1972, Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel (z"l) wrote: "If the prophets Isaiah and Amos were to appear in our midst, would they accept the corruption in high places, the indifferent way in which the sick, the poor and the old are treated? Would not our prophets be standing with those who protest?"

Can there be any doubt about what Jewish Americans need to be doing? Isaiah and Amos, Heschel and Wiesel would all be telling us to reach out, fight racism and support our fellow citizens. These four individuals are deceased, but their words live on. So, support a food bank with groceries. Reach out to a friend or neighbor who is African American, listen to how they are doing and reiterate "Black Lives Matter." Send a check to the NAACP, the ACLU or any fund that pays bail for those arrested while protesting. Be aware of how blessed and privileged we Jews have been in America. But not everyone has had that same experience. May the words of our ancestors reverberate powerfully for us too: "Tzedek, tzedek, tirdof. Justice, justice, shall you pursue." (Deut.16:18) ▲
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.



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A cultural norm of generosity, openness and kindness

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel (z"l), a 20th century theologian, shared this life lesson: "When I was young, I admired clever people.



■ Rabbi Nicole Luna

Now that I am old, I admire kind people." During a time when too many view others through a lens of uncertainty, fear and racism, we reflect on the value of acts of kindness and communal expectations of justice to bring a sense of God's presence into our troubled world.

So how do we make it possible? How do we increase kindness in the

world? How do we make our own primary interactions and our world full of generosity, compassion, understanding and justice?

Our Torah and prophets offer two contrasting ideas. In Jeremiah, the prophet warns the people of the upcoming destruction of Jerusalem. But even as he prophesizes doom, he takes care to purchase land for his family, an act of hope and faith in the ultimate future, if only the people were to change their ways. Alas this does little to convince them. Jeremiah is but one man. So the Torah takes a different approach and embeds generosity into the societal laws and norms for the Israelites. During the sabbatical year, the land is not sowed or pruned by its owner, but

remains open to all so that the needy may partake of its bounty. A communal system of taking care of others leads to acts of kindness. This is true in biblical times and true today.

Jamil Zaki, the director of the Stanford Social Neuroscience Lab, studies what he calls "kindness contagion." We copy other people's behavior, but we can also catch the values the behavior represents – ideally the values of cooperation, generosity, helping others. He writes that through his experiments, "We find that people imitate not only the particulars of positive actions, but also the spirit underlying them. This implies that kindness itself is contagious, and that it can cascade across people, taking on new forms

along the way."

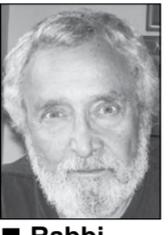
When there is a cultural norm of generosity, openness and kindness, then it becomes easier to compromise, to understand other points of view, and to work together. One person cannot shift behavior, but one person can join with others and together can spread their spirit.

Let us join together and spread that spirit. Let us work to create a community where human interactions and connections are based on understanding and true concern for others' well-being. Then together, may we bring healing, goodness and peace to our troubled world. Amen.▲

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

The total package

Staying at home as the virus spreads in our area has not been that different for me, since I generally have remained in seclusion during my year of mourning since August. I had been venturing out for Sabbath



■ Rabbi Bruce Diamond

eves and mornings and a few Adult Education series at the synagogue, an occasional hospital visit, and officiating at funerals in very special situations, but for a while now, my isolation has been nearly complete. There are so many of my people I miss being with at the synagogue, but, all-in-all, it's been okay. Actually, I find it comforting, and the companionship of my wife Melinda has been more than enough!

Melinda is my hero on so many levels – the perfect wife and companion, an irreplaceable presence in the congregation, an exemplary mother

and a hardworking successful businesswoman. As they say, she is "the total package!" Her strength continues to sustain not only me, but several other people in the congregation who count on her in so many ways. She is a "believer" who thrives on helping others. And, although I was the first Jew she ever met, 10 years ago, she has made me into the rabbi I needed to become.

So why am I telling you all of this personal stuff? Here's why!

With all of the noise and distractions which are trying to envelope us, all the screaming headlines and relentless media assaults, and all the threats, real and imagined, that are used to hammer us and keep us tuned in or clicking, it's too easy to miss the treasures right in front of us.

I could share with you a parable about this by Reb Nahman of Bratslav, but not today, since I'm sure you get my point.▲

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

Born in America – Born of Torah

As we celebrate the 4th of July this year, we are all praying for peace, healing and a return to the values that make us feel proud as free Americans. As Jewish Americans we should recall that this great nation was inspired by our sacred Torah.

On the memorable July 4 when the Second Continental Congress invoked the unalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness to declare independence from King George III, it was clear that Judeo-Christian values would be the roots of the American Founding. Americans, whether knowingly or unknowingly, have looked to Torah values to shape the direction of the nation.

Leading the revolt against George III, the men of the 13 colonies compared themselves to Israelites escaping a contemporary equivalent of Pharaoh. Fast forward several hundred years and we heard Dr. Martin Luther King speak about having been to the mountaintop. All across our country are towns with names that reflect Jewish roots like Zion, Canaan and many more.

This July 4, as we barbecue with family, friends and neighbors, may the fireworks be only a celebration of independence and equality for ALL Americans. We can recall the words of the prophet Micah, who said, "They shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree, and none shall

make them afraid."

Throughout our Torah we learn about the message of independence, searching for freedom from slavery, and a home of our own. Our Torah also repeatedly reminds us to practice kindness, generosity and compassion toward each other be they family members or complete strangers, the poor and the hungry. The Talmud teaches that "everyone is responsible for one another."

Our Exodus from Egypt is the central event of Jewish history. In Egypt or Mitzrayim, which means "a narrow place," we were in physical and spiritual bondage. With the sea in front of us and Pharaoh's army behind us, we must have felt the situation was hopeless. With faith in G-d's miracles, we survived, but we should never forget what it feels like to have no options.

Our Torah tells us that our Jewish Exodus from Egypt included other people as well. With this in mind, we are reminded of our obligation today to help anyone out of a narrow place or hopeless situation regardless of whether they are Jewish or not. Our civic obligations as Americans are tied to our Jewish ideal of *Tikkun Olam* – the healing of the world.

B'tzelem Elokim, we are all made in G-d's image. May we pray and work together toward a common goal of society in which all people can enjoy life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. May this day be upon us soon.▲

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



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In the faith of injustice

The day before he was indicted, I tweeted that Derek Chauvin should be charged with murder in the death of George Floyd.

A friend of 56 years tweeted angrily in reaction: "It is unbecoming for a religious leader to interfere in a matter in the temporal world ... you are not the prosecutor, and you don't know all of the facts...Judaism has absolutely nothing to do with what happened in Minneapolis."

I responded: "Judaism has EVERYTHING to do with what happened in Minneapolis ... and as for the facts: Three cops looked on while one of their number pressed his knee into the neck of a handcuffed man until he died. If Mr. Floyd did anything to mandate an arrest, the manpower was clearly there to do it without killing him. This is murder."

In the days following Mr. Floyd's murder, Jews around the world celebrated the Festival of Shavuot, which marks the anniversary of when God transmitted the Torah to our people on Mt. Sinai. Our tradition teaches that all Jews everywhere and all future generations miraculously were there to take part in that singly important moment in our religious journey.

To stand at Sinai does not mean simply to worship, give charity and to study.

To stand at Sinai means to pledge our utmost to fill the world, as God charged Abraham, "with righteousness and justice." (Genesis 18:19)

To stand at Sinai means among many other things: To worship no other gods, not to swear falsely, not to bear false witness, to treat the stranger with dignity and respect, to care for the widowed and the orphaned and not to follow the crowd to do what is wrong.

To stand at Sinai means to have special consideration for the minorities

and the disadvantaged. On Yom Kippur, our Day of Atonement, one of the sins we ask forgiveness for is "abuse of power." There is no more intimidating symbol of power than a uniformed officer of the law. And there is no group of people abused by that power more frequently in our country than those who are Black.

Unless we protest injustice, especially when perpetrated against minorities and the disadvantaged, then we Jews today deserve the indictment hurled by the prophet Amos at the Jews of Samaria in the name of God almost 3000 years ago: "I hate, I despise your feasts, and I will take no delight in your solemn assemblies." (Amos 5:21)

Unless we raise our voices to protest the murders of people like George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Eric Garner, Trayvon Martin and countless other black men and women murdered for the "crime of being black," then all of our Sabbath, Holy Day and Festival observances are abominations in the sight of God.

Make no mistake. I do not condone violent protests that burn buildings, damage property and inflict bodily harm. But I am violently opposed to the callousness of a system that allows the abuse of minorities to continue unchecked until anger boils over.

Though none of us can bring this scourge to an end singlehandedly, each of us can raise our voices in protest. Each of us can reach out to those we know in the African-American community to acknowledge the pain they feel and express our support.

No, none of us can end oppression by ourselves, but with understanding and compassion we can move the world just a bit closer to another time of which the prophet Amos dreamed, "when justice will well up as waters and righteousness as a mighty stream." (Amos 5:24)▲

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



■ Rabbi Stephen Fuchs

So much is in our hands

We get insight from unexpected places. I got some from an op-ed in *The New York Times* (May 22), "No One Knows What's Going to Happen," by Mark Lilla, a professor of Humanities at Columbia. He wrote, "The best prophet, Thomas Hobbes once wrote, is the best guesser. That would seem to be the last word on our capacity to predict the future: We can't."

After weeks of reading articles about the virus, watching too much news and, yes, running to the store wearing a mask to find toilet paper; and, after weeks of trying to figure out what was best for my congregation, I felt some anxiety slip away. We're not going to know everything about the virus anytime soon. We will have to find our way through this cautiously, prepared to change course at any time.

In addition to our fear of contracting COVID-19, we have been stressed about not being able to plan our lives. Can we take a vacation or visit our family? Can we exercise outside? Can we visit with friends outside? Inside? Can we make any plans for tomorrow? In the synagogue business, we've asked when and under what conditions can we open for services. What will we do for the holidays? (At Temple Judea, these issues are under discussion.) Most of us have had all these questions and more, and we've had to make decisions with the admission to ourselves and others, "We don't know." For those of us who like to think we can control our lives, the uncertainty has been maddening. The virus blew away our illusion of control. For me, Lilla's column made it clear that this is the "new normal." As difficult as it is, we must accept and get used to living with uncertainty. Neither we nor the pundits really know what tomorrow will bring.

For me, acceptance of "not knowing" is not enough.

Moses Maimonides taught in his Laws of Repentance that one should see one's life as a scale evenly balanced between good and bad deeds. Every good deed tips the balance of the scale toward the side of the good; every bad deed tips the scale to the side of bad. Then, Maimonides went on, one should see the whole world as an evenly balanced scale so that every one of our good deeds tips the scale of the world to the side of good, and every bad deed tips the scale of the world to the side of bad. From this I learned, and have taught, that every one of our actions counts.

I think this is true today. Other than the actual biology of the Coronavirus, the rest is in our hands.

I write this column when our country has seen more than 10 days of mass protests after the killing of George Floyd. We don't know what will come of the great anger that has been uncovered. A headline from *The Washington Post* popped up on my phone today: "Will the Protests Roiling America Bring Actual Change?" We don't know, but, as with the virus, a lot is in our hands. What changes will we demand from our public servants? What changes will we demand from the businesses we patronize? Who will we hire? Mostly, is there something in our own hearts that we need to reexamine? So much is in our hands.

Perhaps we know this: This is an opportunity for change. The Coronavirus can move us to look again at the inequities in healthcare. The deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and too many others can move us reexamine racism in our country and make changes to policing, hiring, education, and this list goes on. We cannot predict the future, but there is so much we can do.

What does God want of us today? We cannot know that either. But I believe that God wants us to take this opportunity to work for change.▲

Rabbi Marc Sack serves at Temple Judea in Fort Myers.

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For more information visit jewishfederationlcc.org

Jewish Federation
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**TEMPLE JUDEA SCHOOLS
Fort Myers**

Temple Judea Religious School
Tab Scribner,
Director of Congregational Learning
Despite all of the uncertainty about "returning to normal," or the debate of what normal might actually look like, and when it might happen, there is one thing I can say with certainty: We will operate as safely as the situation allows. It is still a long way from now until August when classes resume, and many things will probably change between now and then. Until then, we will roll with the information we have, and make our best plans for the future.

opment training. It was a delight to see them, as we worked through our agenda. Our focus was on how to adapt the knowledge and skills we have to the needs of today. We focused on strategies and tools that can be used in both live, in-person classes, as well as in online classes.

Our teachers will be meeting a few more times throughout the summer, finely tuning our focus as we get closer to the start of the school year. With each passing week, the picture becomes increasingly clear as to how to proceed safely with teaching and learning in this new Coronavirus era.

If you have questions or would like more information about Temple Judea Religious School, please contact me at 239.433.0201 or at tjswfledu@gmail.com.

Read the current and recent issues of L'CHAYIM online at www.JewishFederationLCC.org

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High School Students: Earn CAS Credits!

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

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

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

HADASSAH
Collier/Lee Chapter
(732) 539-4011

It's a new world
Diane Schwartz

While we are in the midst of a horrible pandemic and trying to do our best to deal with new rules for living and adjusting to the many changes in our daily lives, we often ask or think, "Where do we go from here?"

What seems to be the most difficult aspect of all of this is that we can't enjoy interacting with our friends and loved ones. Social distancing and communicating with others through Zoom sessions are barely adequate.

Thankfully, many institutions and organizations around the world are working hard to come up with an answer. We include Hadassah Medical Organization (HMO) in this effort, as it is dedicated to this global problem. Using their research skills, HMO hospitals and medical leaders have developed medical protocols for treating and caring for COVID-19 patients, setting the standards for care throughout Israel. Importantly, Hadassah Medical Organization also is part of the search for a vaccine to lead us out of the pandemic.

Hadassah reaches beyond Israel and our shores in many ways: sharing

its work, its research, protocols and methods. Of note, Hadassah's medical research studies and the scientists carrying them out work with more than

50 partner universities and medical institutions around the globe seeking answers to vital and varied medical issues through research and testing.

Have you heard of Hadassah International? It was founded in 1983, has groups in 14 countries representing five continents, including both women and men involved in its work. Members believe that advancement and cooperation in medicine transcends politics, religion and national boundaries. The sole focus of Hadassah International's efforts is to support HMO and the vital work of its two hospitals in Jerusalem.

The Hadassah International Board is global and comprised of members representing groups in Hong Kong, Switzerland, Italy, Mexico, Israel and the U.S. The May/June 2020 issue of Hadassah's award-winning magazine offers the opportunity to read more about Hadassah International's work.

For example, in response to the pandemic, Hadassah International has formed a Global Crisis Response Team comprised of medical personnel including Dr. Yoram Weiss, Director of Hadassah Hospital at Ein Kerem,

Jerusalem. The Team provides contact and updates in Argentina, Mexico and Australia.

Recently, in cooperation with the Australian College for Emergency Medicine, a webinar was organized showcasing HMO hospitals' experience in dealing with COVID-19. More than 300 doctors and medical students from Australia, New Zealand and 15 other countries attended.

Also, locally in our communities, Collier/Lee Hadassah is busy working on women's health issues and domestic violence impacting women and children as well providing educational programming on a variety of interests.

We are also raising funds to con-

tinue the renovation of the Hadassah iconic Round Building – home to the Chagall Windows – at Hadassah Hospital, Ein Kerem in Jerusalem.

Proudly, we joined Hadassah chapters all across the country to advocate to our congressional representatives and senators in support of the Never Again Education Act. Hadassah helped write the bill and led the effort to secure bi-partisan support of this legislation which provides funding through grants to teachers and schools throughout the country to develop programs and activities for Holocaust Education. The Never Again Education Act has recently been signed into law.

Save the Date:

- ▶ **Thursday, October 1:** League of Women Voters – joint program with Temple Shalom Sisterhood; Zoom presentation; Contact Elyse Morande at amorande@aol.com or 239.498.0623
- ▶ **Monday, October 26:** Expanding Horizons Series – The Orchid Whisperer with award-winning orchid grower Gayle Dorio; Zoom presentation; Contact Elyse Morande at amorande@aol.com or 239.498.0623
- ▶ **Monday, November 16:** Fall Meeting; Zoom meeting & presentation; Contact Elyse Morande at amorande@aol.com or 239.498.0623
- ▶ **Tuesday, December 1:** The Hadassah Symposium on Women's Health & Wellness; Note: This program is rescheduled to December 1, 2021
- ▶ **Sunday, December 13:** Keepers of the Gate Brunch; additional information to follow; Contact Ellen Harris at ehjh@comcast.net or 508.395.3600
- ▶ **Wednesday, January 20:** Installation of Officers & Fashion Show by Casual Connection; information to follow; Contact Elyse Morande at amorande@aol.com or 239.498.0623

Candle lighting times:



- July 3: 8:07**
- July 10: 8:06**
- July 17: 8:04**
- July 24: 8:01**
- July 31: 7:57**

Candle lighting times:



- August 7: 7:52**
- August 14: 7:47**
- August 21: 7:40**
- August 28: 7:33**



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.

For advertising info, call Lori at 239.481.4449 x5 or email LoriRamos@jfedLCC.org

**CHAVURAT
SHALOM**

chavuratshalom@gmail.com

When one is faced with the COVID-19 lemon, one must try to make lemonade. No longer able to safely gather together to socialize, to learn, to conduct or attend services, a group of area Jews decided to take advantage of the available technology (Zoom) to forge a path to a new Jewish community. They created Chavurat Shalom, to gather in casual settings to study, learn and celebrate our Jewish cultural heritage and religious traditions. Of course, when

health risks lessen, arrangements will be made to actually meet together in person.

Chavurat Shalom (Fellowship of Peace), welcomes all those from Sanibel and Fort Myers, and other nearby locations – including the snowbirds who traveled north – who seek to share common interests and values in order to enlighten and enrich their Jewish lives.

The Chavurah is not affiliated with any Jewish organized movement. It is community-led. Each person has an equal voice in the affairs of the group and may participate to whatever

extent they wish.

Throughout the summer, Chavurat Shalom will have Friday evening Zoom Shabbat services at 6:00 p.m. led by Barry and Barbara Epstein with others who volunteer to conduct them. Various members sing and read meaningful selections. A participant offers a D'var Torah interpretation with ample opportunity for comment and discussion.

On Saturday mornings at 10:00 a.m., Leonard Minsky moderates Jewish/Israeli current events that include such topics as the possible Israeli annexation, anti-Semitism on college campuses, U.S. Jews' views about

Israel and much more.

On Thursdays at 11:00 a.m., Chavurah members present sessions on various topics including Jews in India, Women in the Bible, Mordecai Kaplan, Spinoza, and How French and Italian Jews Survived the Holocaust.

There is more we would like to do that is creative, vibrant and meaningful to the Chavurat Shalom participants. Please consider sharing your interest and knowledge with a new Jewish community in Southwest Florida by sending a note to chavuratshalom@gmail.com.

**GENERATIONS OF THE SHOAH
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA**

(239) 963-9347

Request for 2gs: We need you to tell your parent's story

Ida Margolis

Earlier this year a number of 2gs (Second Generation, i.e. children of Holocaust survivors) met for an afternoon of "Our Stories," sharing stories about being a child of a Holocaust survivor. "Our Stories" was suggested a number of years ago by Rene Geist and Shirley Besikof, and has been graciously hosted for a number of years by Rene. Each of the stories were so unique, yet everyone there could relate to something that was said. I received so much positive feedback about this program and was asked to not only make sure that another story sharing program would be held next season, but to find a way to record these stories so they could also be preserved and shared more widely.

After speaking with a number of 2gs throughout the U.S. and Canada,

and with Susan Suarez, President/CEO of The Holocaust Museum & Cohen Education Center, all confirmed the importance of preserving these stories.

Many related the numerous ways that survivor stories are being preserved, including interviews, videos, personal memoirs, books of collected stories and even holograms. Many survivor stories, however, have not been recorded, and with so many survivors having passed away, who will be telling their stories?

The Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Keene State College in Keene, New Hampshire, has emphasized the theme of "next generation responsibilities... receiving a legacy from those who go before us and passing on what we have learned and experienced to those that follow."

After seeing the gas chambers during a trip to Birkenau that had been organized by Keene State College, those who were visiting were told that they had the responsibility to "bear witness."

Sandy Lessig from Holocaust Museum Houston, wrote that "As Survivors die, the memory and impact of what happened to the Jews during the rise of Nazism and the ensuing war and Holocaust becomes more distant and less real to generations of people, particularly young people. My role as the daughter of a Survivor and educator of this most Jewish of experiences has been to search for the most meaningful way to teach the lessons of what apathy and hatred can do." Sandy has been a docent at the museum for over 25 years, and she developed "Through Their Eyes," a program for 2gs to effectively tell their parent's story. "Through Their Eyes" is one of many formats that can be used effectively with students.

We would like to have local 2gs meet in person to discuss telling their parent's story to students. Hopefully this can happen in the not too distant future. But in the interim, GenShoah would like to create a book of stories of survivors as told by their children, 2gs who live or spend time in Southwest Florida. I have sent a letter to 2gs with whom I am familiar, asking them

to email me their parent's stories – stories of about 500 words and including a personal highlight and a photograph if possible. The stories I have received are moving, inspirational and so important to preserve. If you are a 2g, please email your parent's story to me to be included in the book of parent survivors of local 2gs. The book will remain at the Holocaust Museum, and we will discuss how we would like to reproduce copies (printed or digital) that can be distributed to each of the 2gs contributing stories.

If you would like to see sample stories or if you have any questions, please email me at genshoahswfl@gmail.com ASAP, and also add if you are interested in telling your parent's story to students.

GenShoah SWFL is in the process of planning programs for the upcoming season. We will be staying in touch with updates as soon as we have information. "Movies That Matter" will be proceeding with its human rights films, although in a different format.

**JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA**

(239) 566-1771

Historical chatter

Marina Berkovich

Five hundred years ago, Southwest Florida was discovered by a possible converso, Ponce de Leon. As much as half of the Jewish population of Spain converted under the threat of imminent death at the hands of the Catholic henchmen. The coerced ones, the converts, aka conversos or marranos, as the Inquisition Era Spaniards called them, played an important though poorly documented role in the discovery of American continents, their exploration and settlements. Ponce first crossed the Atlantic Ocean with Cristobal Colon – Christopher Columbus to the English-speaking world. On that first and the many subsequent voyages, the coerced ones were escaping the European persecution, as others would during the centuries that followed. There are reasons to believe that conversos were among Ponce de Leon's conquistadors. They certainly were under his command on Hispaniola and Puerto Rico.

There is plenty of historical chatter, with layers of sediment covering the facts, but we dared to connect the dots of 'what ifs' by imagining the

early Jewish History of our region through several traceable facts and many speculative tidbits of information from the first 250 years of Florida's history in The Jewish Historical Society's online Masterclass presentation in May, in itself a historic first.

Historical events, even tragedies, are much easier understood if one tries to measure them not against the contemporary standards, as most people attempt, but rather through placing them in the era-appropriate historical context. Every event, every act of human beings involved in those events, needs to be evaluated against the times in which these events take place.

Similarly, we can philosophize that the way humans behave and react to the behaviors of others is inextricable from the times such behaviors occur. Just look at our behavior in the context of our altered needs. Everything is not as it was before this functioning new normality was introduced to our civilization a few weeks ago. COVID-19 fast-forwarded our online outreach, bringing us, on demand, to homes and communities of individuals who in pre-COVID-19 times did not engage with us. In that respect, we are very grateful that we were able to increase our purview.

Sharing experiences and alleviat-

ing concerns of our risks, and quarantine lockdowns are not unlike the miseries that 16th, 17th and 18th centuries that sea travelers endured, many of whom were merchants and their families. What did the Jews traveling to the Americas' coastlines and barrier islands consider normal then? What did other groups consider normal in those days, and how does that help us cope with our current problems?

To me personally, air-conditioned housing and mosquito control are top positives of our era. Others from my top 10 list of "Southwest Florida Jewish Living 2020" are uplifting virtual sermons, relatively good health, electricity, the internet and multitude of inventive ways of combating the challenges that presented themselves during this time – virtual bat and bar mitzvahs, births, deaths, weddings, holidays...life goes on just as it always does. It is up to each of us to find

a historically rewarding and resilient solution.

Please make time in your busy schedule to join us for our online Masterclass presentations (must join email list):

- Sunday, June 28 at 3:00 p.m.
- Monday, July 27 at 2:00 p.m.
- Friday, August 28 at 11:00 a.m.

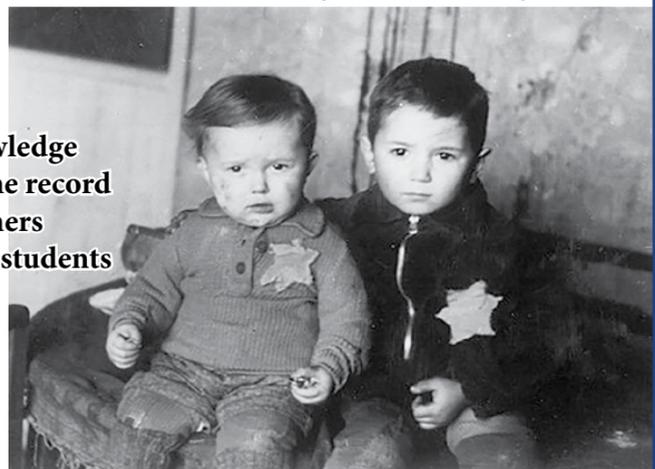
Have you joined our mission yet? Family Membership is \$54; Individual Membership is \$36. Please mail checks to:

The Jewish Historical Society of Southwest Florida
8805 Tamiami Trail North,
Suite # 255, Naples FL 34108
833.547.7935 (833.JHS.SWFL)
www.jhsswf.org
office@jhsswf.org
Virtual Museum of SWFL
Jewish History http://
jewishhistorysouthwestflorida.org/

**Center for Holocaust
and Genocide Research**

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

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



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

Like us on Facebook!



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JewishFederationLCC](http://www.facebook.com/JewishFederationLCC)



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

Introducing the Learning Tree Teacher Support Fund: Jesyca Virnig, Learning Tree Director, announces an \$18,000 fundraising goal. The \$18,000 goal was chosen for the meaningful context behind the number. It is the amount needed to sustain pay for Learning Tree teachers during an up to four-week closure. Monies raised will be placed in a restricted fund to be used only to support teacher pay. The Learning Tree budget has been slashed in order to make it through expected challenges in the fall. While PPP (Paycheck Protection Program) was a saving grace, The Learning Tree wants to be a self-sustaining and responsible employer, supporting teachers having professionally provisioned jobs.

Hurricane pantry items: check. Toilet paper: check. Books: check. According to one measure cited by

cnbc.com, sales of books were up 295% year over year for a period this spring. Good news for you bibliophiles: you have an additional month to enjoy the TBE Book

Club. Beginning in August, rather than September, whether we're still quarantining or not, please join us. If TBE is still virtual in August, it doesn't matter where you are. You can Zoom into the TBE Book Club on the first Wednesday of the month at 2:45 p.m. on your mobile device or your computer.

On August 5, Russ Bogen will lead a discussion of Noah Gordon's *The Rabbi*. This novel follows the life and career of Rabbi Michael Kind as he journeys through America as a Reform rabbi. Rabbi Kind develops resilience, strength of character and courage as he encounters the challenges of congregational life.

On September 2, *The Third Daughter* by Talia Carner will be discussed, with Candace Patton as discussion leader. This novel illuminates a little-known piece of Jewish history:

young Jewish girls were trafficked into prostitution from Russia to Buenos Aires, Argentina, in the late 19th century, where prostitution was legal and deeply embedded in the culture. Fourteen-year-old Batya and her family, fleeing endless pogroms, is forced to marry a wealthy stranger from abroad. She enters a waking nightmare. Batya is one of thousands of women tricked and sold into a brothel.

Tuesday drop-off of food and Cycle Forward supplies continues at the front entryway to our building. The Mitzvah Committee collects and distributes non-perishable food items, as well as feminine hygiene products, via local food pantries. Checks made out to Harry Chapin Food Bank, the Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte Counties or Cycle Forward are also welcome. Call the TBE office at 239.433.0018 if you have questions.

As the academic year ended, Rabbi Nicole Luna had these words of thanks for parents of Religious School students: "Thank you for your flexibility and commitment to your children's Jewish learning, identity and commu-

nity. It has been an incredible year of learning, adapting to a new format and curriculum and, of course, adjusting to online learning."

A major part of the Confirmation Class curriculum is performing acts of *chesed*, loving-kindness. Our TBE Mitzvah Committee has been working hard to develop a list of opportunities for the students to do mitzvot for the congregation. Our ninth grade Confirmation ceremony is postponed. The students prefer to wait until we can worship together in the sanctuary to celebrate their Confirmation.

Given restrictions placed upon us during the pandemic, TBE is exploring using virtual fundraisers. Our first one is happening now on Facebook. TBE members are emailed during their birthday month and are encouraged to set up a Facebook birthday fundraiser benefiting Temple Beth El. This is an ongoing program.

The Temple Beth El community is open and here for you, even if the building is closed.

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

The leadership of the Community Free Synagogue continues to rely on the recommendations of medical professionals within the congregation to determine when and how to resume face-to-face activities. They suggest that a key indicator would be the reopening of our local senior residential facilities.

Please consult the synagogue's website at www.fortmyerssynagogue.com for updates.

We remain hopeful that Days of Awe worship can take place at the synagogue starting Friday, September 18, with worshippers using their best judgment regarding appropriate precautions.

Until the doors of the synagogue reopen, C.F.S. will continue with its very successful Zoom "gatherings," including Sabbath Eve candles, qid-

dush and more at home with the Rabbi and Rebbitzin, Sabbath morning Torah study and qaddish, Tuesday evening Adult Education, Youth Hebrew tutoring and special events. The Zoom log-on link is on the C.F.S. website and is open to all without passwords or prearrangements.

Heartfelt condolences to the family of Celia Atum, who succumbed to complications from the COVID-19 vi-

rus. Deepest sympathies are extended to Jake Katz, who lost his sister Toby Bauer to the epidemic in early May and then his brother Sidney Katz in early June. *Barukh datan emet.*

The stone dedication for the Rabbi's son is at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, July 5 at the Fort Myers Memorial Gardens on Colonial Blvd. All wishing to pay their respects are encouraged to attend.

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: info@templebethel.com
Learning Tree Preschool Director: Jesyca Virnig
Email: LearningTree15@yahoo.com
President: Hank Betchen
Email: HankTBE@gmail.com
Phone: 239-433-0018 • Fax: 239-433-3235
Web site: www.templebethel.com
Shabbat services: 7:30 p.m. Friday; Torah study 9:00 a.m. Saturday; B'nai Mitzvah 10:30 a.m. Saturday
Religious & 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: Peter Simenauer
Phone: 239-772-4555 • Fax: 239-772-4625
E-mail: office@templebethshalomcc.org
Web site: www.templebethshalomcc.org
Services: 7:30 p.m. Friday
Religious School: Wednesday 4:30 - 6:00 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: Michael Hochschild
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
Phone: 239-466-6671
E-mail: synfree@comcast.net
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: 239-433-0201 • Fax: 239-433-3371
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

SHALOM LIFE CENTER TRANS DENOMINATIONAL

19691 Cypress View Drive, Fort Myers, FL 33967
Rabbi Lawrence Dermer
Phone: 239-218-3433
E-mail: info@shalomlifecenter.org
Web site: www.shalomlifecenter.org
Shabbat Evening Services 7:30 p.m. (Oct-Apr)
7:00 p.m. (May-Sept)
Saturday Torah & Kabbalah Study 10:00 a.m.

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: 239-949-6900
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: 239-433-7708 • 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: 239-963-4770
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 - 239-841-4615
- Generations of the Shoah SWFL: 963-9347
- Hadassah - Collier/Lee Chapter: Diane Schwartz - 732-539-4011
- Hadassah - Sharon Chapter (Charlotte County): Odette Port - 941-505-1409
- Hazak 55+ Chapter: Joyce Rosinger - 239-437-1566
- Israel Bonds: Regional Headquarters: 800-622-8017
- Jewish Community Services: 239-481-4449
- Jewish National Fund: Joshua Mellits, Director, Western Florida 941-462-1330 ext. 865
- Memorial Tree Planting in Israel - 1-800-542-8733
- Jewish War Veterans: Post 400: Commander Harvey Charter - 239-246-3151
- Mikvah Bashka of Southwest Florida: Nechamie Minkowicz - 239-822-2784

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

TEMPLE JUDEA
Fort Myers

(239) 433-0201
www.tjswfl.org

The new normal continues, but with a few changes for Temple Judea. For more than three months, all Shabbat and holiday services and programs have been streamed on Facebook, including Torah study and a variety of social programs. Early in this process, the Ritual Committee voted to make streaming of services a permanent feature of Temple Judea. Thanks to generous private donations, a camera has been purchased that will be installed in July. This camera will allow services to be streamed over Facebook and Zoom at the same time. Even when we can safely physically gather again, services will continue to be streamed for those who cannot join us at the synagogue.

The big question being considered now is when and under what conditions Temple Judea could reopen for

worship services: Shabbat, weekday minyans and High Holidays. Synagogue President Dan Fox is sending congregants a survey to get their thoughts. The staff and

leadership are committed to providing an environment in which everyone feels safe – a prerequisite for any experience of communal prayers.

Even during these unsettling times, Temple Judea continues to move forward. We have acquired the new Conservative Movement Shabbat siddur, Lev Shalem. The books are available for dedication (at \$50 apiece) and for personal purchase. The new siddur will be introduced after the fall holidays. Lev Shalem will enhance your experience of prayer, whether at Temple Judea or at home.

Social action programs continue. The members of Temple Judea have been donating food to the Jewish Federation's food pantry. Members of the congregation now volunteer at the Harry Chapin Food Bank, preparing and

handing out bags of food to the many in need.

Tot Shabbat continues through the summer. Friday night, July 10 is the next service for young families. Join Education Director Tab Scribner for an informal, entertaining and musical service geared for preschool-aged children. Just "like" the Temple Judea Facebook page to participate. Tot Shabbat begins at 5:00 p.m.

Temple Judea Preschool started its summer camp program on June 8. Under the guidance of Director Joann Goldman, preschool staff implemented the new guidelines for ensuring children's safety, while providing the nurturing, creative and enriching program for which they are so highly rated.

The Outreach Committee, formed before Passover, continues to call everyone in the congregation on a regular basis, just to check in. Rabbi Marc Sack also calls all the congregants to keep in touch.

Check out the ad in this issue of *L'CHAYIM* for information about Rabbi Sack's Introduction to Judaism

class beginning Monday evening, August 24. The class is a prerequisite for those interested in converting to Judaism, and is also a class for those just interested in learning more.

We wish Mazel Tov to Alyssa Kleinman and her parents, Samantha and Jeff. Alyssa will celebrate her Bat Mitzvah at Temple Judea the weekend of August 14-15. We also wish a Mazel Tov to Simon Schuman, son of Michele and Derek, who will celebrate his Bar Mitzvah at Temple Judea the weekend of August 28-29.

Regularly scheduled events:

"Like" the Temple Judea Facebook page to livestream the services.

- Friday evening Shabbat services at 6:30 p.m.
- Saturday morning Shabbat services at 9:30 a.m.
- Morning minyan every Monday at 9:00 a.m.

Rabbi Sack's monthly lunchtime Torah study sessions will resume in the fall.

SHALOM LIFE CENTER
Fort Myers

(239) 218-3433
www.shalomlifecenter.org

Shalom Life Center is Southwest Florida's warm and welcoming home for contemporary Jewish life with a passionate commitment to community and spiritual growth where everyone is always welcome!

We are looking forward to gathering together in person again very soon. We will be making an announcement in July with regards to returning to our building in the near future. In the meantime, we are a "Shul without walls" and are doing our very best to keep the community connected and engaged through Livestream services

and Zoom meetings during this most difficult and challenging time.

Every Friday night at 7:30 p.m. we experience an uplifting, musical and meaningful Livestream

Shabbat service. To join with us, just visit www.shalomlifecenter.org and click on SLC TV.

Every Saturday night at 7:30 p.m. we invite you to join us for a beautiful, Livestream Havdalah at Home as we welcome the new week together.

Every Saturday morning at 10:00 a.m. SLC offers an interactive and participatory Torah and Kabbalah study led by Rabbi Lawrence Dermer with a focus on the relevance of our timeless traditions and bringing the ancient wisdom of Torah and Kabbalah into our daily lives.

SLC also has a dynamic Women's Circle led by Rebbetzin Robin Dermer with an emphasis on women's spirituality and personal growth.

Torah study, women's circle, book club and Yiddish Culture Club are meeting in our SLC Zoom room for the time being. If you'd like to learn more, please send us an email or give us a call.

SLC also offers many other opportunities to enhance your Jewish life and learning, and further your involvement in community service while making friends in a warm and welcoming community.

We're busy this summer planning to ensure our 5781 High Holy Days experience exceeds every expectation. Everyone's invited to "come home" for the Holy Days and experience our beautiful, traditional, uplifting and

inspiring services infused with meaningful and relevant messages, soaring melodies from our song leaders, choir, world class symphonic ensemble and special musical guests. Join us for Rosh Hashanah, Tashlich and Yom Kippur services as well as our Meditative Healing concerts and Grand Gourmet Break the Fast Feast. Together we will be celebrating a magnificent arrival of 5781 by sounding the call that will be heard from Fort Myers to Jerusalem.

Let your spirit soar at Shalom Life Center where community is family and prayer is always inspirational, meaningful and musical. For more information visit www.shalomlifecenter.org, email us at info@shalomlifecenter.org or call 239.218.3433.

BAT YAM TEMPLE OF THE ISLANDS
Sanibel

(732) 780-2016
www.batyam.org

"More than Israel has kept the Sabbath, the Sabbath has kept Israel."
— Ahad Ha'am

In these days of Coronavirus, when we really cannot distinguish the days of the week from each other, the Sabbath stands as a beacon. It is a constant in an inconstant world, a signpost to hold onto.

A leader from the URJ spoke on a webinar about how we are living, "in a Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambiguous world," a VUCA world, an acronym coined by the American military, when the USSR collapsed in the early 1990s. In such a world, questions and strategies do not always result in

answers. In such a world, our religion is as relevant as it has ever been.

The Fourth Commandment clearly states the Sabbath was to be a day of rest for the Children of Israel, for their servants and for their beasts. This holiday begins at sunset, yet waking up on a Saturday morning feels different from the other mornings of the week. The day is filled with precious hours, an island of special, spacious time. We are meant to stop shopping, driving, working – separating from our familiar activities. This observance reminds us of life under COVID-19. Many of us are using this newfound time to learn, to call friends we have not spoken to in years, to spend time with family, to catch up on reading, to isolate and create a firewall from the rest of the world. We have much time on our hands, we have

questions to which we do not have answers. This pandemic is our first such experience. The questions it provokes are infinitely complicated and largely unanswerable, as yet.

Shabbat at the end of every week is possibly the most important holiday of the entire Jewish year. Especially now, we need its sacred ritual, its constancy, its comfort; we embrace its certainty. Its beacon shines a light throughout the six weekdays, becoming brighter as we approach Wednesday, then Thursday and finally Friday. Shabbat is ushered into the home by lighting and blessing candles, reciting the Kiddush over wine, and the motzi over the braided challah.

These traditions can still be celebrated in our own homes, but added now is the Zoom screen, or Facebook or YouTube, where the congregation gathers to share the service provided by Rabbi Stephen Fuchs and his wife

Vickie, and by Cantor Simon and his wife Toby. We are reassured to see familiar faces in the small square boxes as more and more congregants join the Shabbat service. Nobody is limited by geography and many faces fill the boxes, including "snowbirds" in their northern homes for the summer. This time of rest and worship is its own tranquil reward, and each week as we bid farewell to the Sabbath bride we look forward to next Friday and the Friday after that. The ritual anchors us, even as we experience shifting and disruption from the COVID-19 storm.

In an imperfect world, this "palace in time" as Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel (z"l) calls it, offers a respite, an attempt to be part of a perfect world for a short while, to keep at bay the virus and all its frightening connotations.

TEMPLE BETH SHALOM
Cape Coral

(239) 772-4555
www.templebethshalomcc.org

My mother always told me that if you can't do something one way, do it another way. I feel like I have been practicing that advice my whole life in preparation for this pandemic.

We stopped having services in the synagogue in mid-March. By the end of March, we were having regular Friday night services on Zoom. We couldn't have our regular Passover Seder, so we went virtual. A group of members got tired of the isolation, so they grabbed their chairs and their masks and started

a weekly group social in the parking lot of a local pizzeria. They sit at least six feet apart, eat their lunch and spend a couple of hours catching up on the news. The book

club meets every Tuesday, virtually, of course, and every Saturday night is movie night. We thought we would try a Havdalah service in the parking lot, with social distancing, but the rain did us in.

The children are already accustomed to doing things online so Religious School finished out its year online without even batting an eyelash.

We have no idea when we might get back into the synagogue, but what we have learned is that it will take more

than a pandemic to keep us apart. In fact, some former members who have moved away are now joining us again. After some initial doubt, Rabbi Devora Buchen has embraced the new format and our members have shown remarkable resilience and flexibility.

When this pandemic is over, things will have changed forever. While we are still not sure what form these changes will take, we do know for sure that the spirit of our members and their dedication to each other will survive and thrive.

Temple Beth Shalom is always pleased to welcome guests to our services and activities. If you would like to join us, please call the temple at 239.772.4555.

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.

Order Your High Holiday Greeting Today!

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



L'CHAYIM is continuing the practice of publishing your High Holiday greetings to your family and friends wherever they may be. Order your greeting for the September 2020 issue of L'CHAYIM.

L'Shana Tova Tikatevu.



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

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

AUGUST 5 DEADLINE



#1A: \$18



#1B: \$18



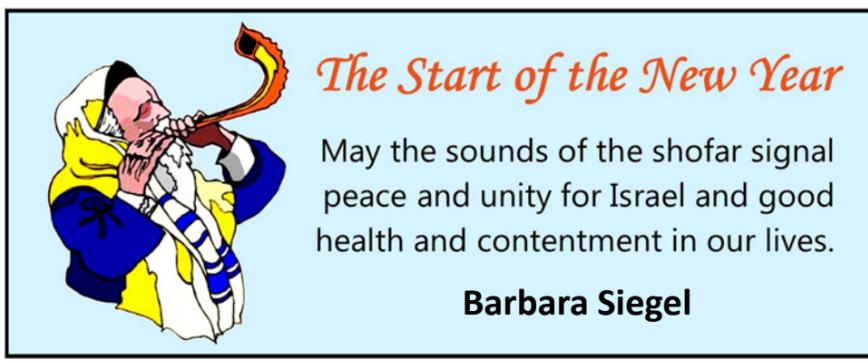
#1C: \$18



#1D: \$18



#2A: \$36



#2B: \$54

ORDER YOUR GREETING ON OUR WEBSITE AT www.jewishfederationlcc.org/high-holiday-greetings OR MAIL IN THE ORDER FORM BELOW

I want to place the following High Holiday greeting(s) in the September 2020 L'CHAYIM

PRINT your family name(s) on the line below how you want them to appear:

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

Credit Card # _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ Exp. _____ / _____

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

FORM & PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5

CHECK YOUR AD CHOICES BELOW:

- _____ #1A (\$18) _____ #1D (\$18)
- _____ #1B (\$18) _____ #2A (\$36)
- _____ #1C (\$18) _____ #2B (\$54)

