

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- 5 Our Community
- 6 Jewish Interest
- 13 Israel & the Jewish World
- 15 Commentary
- 17 From the Bimah
- 21 Community Directory
- 22 Focus on Youth
- 24 Organizations
- 26 Temple News

Working together to create safer communities for all

The following is an op-ed recently submitted to the *News-Press*: One of Florida's greatest strengths: diversity – in race, ethnicity, gender, political philosophy and religion – requires us, public officials and private citizens, to stand up and speak out against Jew hatred and other forms of bigotry. Too many Jewish Americans feel unsafe right now, and we must work together to change that.

The vandalism at The Florida Holocaust Museum in St. Petersburg is a recent, but not the only, anti-Jewish incident in Florida. Last month in Miami Beach, a Jewish family visiting from New Jersey was attacked. Also, in New York, a brick crashed through a window of a kosher pizza restaurant.

In Los Angeles, men shouting antisemitic threats harassed Jewish diners outside a sushi restaurant, and synagogues have been vandalized in Arizona, Illinois and Utah.

What we need in Tallahassee and Washington right now are leaders who will institute targeted policies that reflect bipartisan efforts to condemn antisemitic violence and continue to support funding for security at faith-based institutions.

In our communities we need to continue to educate and speak out against antisemitism and all other forms of bigotry. None of us should live in fear. We are stronger when we work together to create safer communities for all.

A recent town hall meeting organized by the Jewish Federations of Southwest and Central Florida encouraged everyone to speak out against antisemitism. One way to do that is to visit ActAgainstAntisemitism.org, which offers information and resources on ways to act. Please, speak up and share your voice. Don't be a bystander. Take a stand against hate – in all of its forms.

We are all stronger when we act together.

*Barbara Siegel, Co-President
Sherri Zucker, Co-President
Alan Isaacs, Executive Director
Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties ▲*



13

9 firsts you should know about Israel's new government



23

Chabad at FGCU summer update



24

Jewish War Veterans - Victor Paul Tuchman Post 400 update

Jewish Family Services update

By Jodi Cohen, Senior Outreach & Food Pantry Coordinator

Remember reading actual books? And the improvised bookmarks over the years: a torn piece of paper, a receipt, a ribbon, an envelope, a pencil, a napkin, a turned-down corner of a page? Now we are able to 'bookmark' a site online so we can return to it easily. Some sites automatically update the data, while other sites remain static, so that when we return, we come back to the same exact place with the same information. A recent encounter with a client made me realize I had 'bookmarked' my thinking about her and her circumstances.

Her situation had been dire. It was one of the more extreme scenarios I've encountered over the years. The Federation was able to provide resources and support above and beyond what she had asked for or expected. I'd been thinking about her and sent an email, asking her to share a headline if she had a moment to write, or even call. A few

weeks later she wrote back, sharing the positive changes that had taken place in her family, and thanking me again for helping her and her family "during a time of great need."

Ah! I had bookmarked my heart and mind to return to the same exact spot as when I first met her, rehearsing the tsuris, challenges and difficulties of her life at that particular moment in time, never considering that things could or would improve. My spirit did a happy dance after I read her good news and I updated the client's status in my own internal hard drive.

Your ongoing support of the Federation made this good news possible and enables the Federation to provide food and emergency assistance to those in our community who need it most. Your generosity is deeply appreciated. A highlight of my day is choosing which quote about gratitude and tzedakah to include in the 'thank you' notes I send. Not only do Alan and Jackie Cadkin provide gift cards every month from The Cadkin Foundation, but Alan and I manage to laugh uproariously at least once per conversation, which is also a gift. Local congregations con-

tinue their food drives, which indeed help the Federation's small but mighty food pantry. Elisa Grossman, Federation board member and artist extraordinaire, has been sending note cards to seniors saying hello and to let people know the Federation is thinking about them.

I've been doing orientation sessions for new food pantry volunteers, which allows me to experience the pantry from a fresh perspective. While there are constant tweaks in how things get done, the ruach, the spirit of everyone who shows up and works hard remains the same: strong, dedicated and impressive.

In particular, I'd like to thank these Jewish Family Services volunteers: Arnie Obstein, Barbara Betchen, Barbara Gribin, Carolyn Gora, Doreen Kostel, Elisa Grossman, Elise Sewall, Harriet Lipschutz, Karen Whitman, Laurie McConville, Linda Silver, Olivia Jorman, Randi and Payton Wolf, Robert Thomas, Ruth Lefberg, Samantha Guterman, Sue Goldfarb, Suzanne Orkin, Tracey Seigel, Valerie and Michael Franklin. ▲



■ Jodi Cohen

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



9701 Commerce Center Court
Fort Myers, Florida 33908

DELIVER TO CURRENT RESIDENT OR

POSTMASTER: DATED RELIGIOUS NEWS ITEMS. TIME SENSITIVE- PLEASE EXPEDITE!

NONPROFIT ORG U.S. POSTAGE PAID FT MYERS FL PERMIT 521

\$ BUYING: INSTANT CASH \$
\$ HIGHEST PRICES PAID! \$

GIVE BRUCE KODNER GALLERIES THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXCEED YOUR EXPECTATIONS!!

See the ad on page 3 for all the details!

L'CHAYIM

Jewish news published monthly by
Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte Counties
9701 Commerce Center Court, Fort Myers, FL 33908
(239) 481-4449 • Fax: (239) 481-0139
Online at www.JewishFederationLCC.org

July 2021 • Volume 43, Number 11

Co-Presidents: Barbara Siegel & Sherri Zucker
Board: Karen Fine • Shirley Frank • Valerie Franklin
Helene Glocer • Carolyn Gora • Jerry Greenfield
Elisa Grossman • Andi Horowitz • Marsha Kistler
Michele Laboda • Rozzi Osterman • William Reynolds
Sylvia Simko • Brian Simon
Executive Director: Alan Isaacs
Program Director: Debbie Sanford
Executive Assistant: Lori Ramos
Jewish Family Services: Jodi Cohen

Editor/Designer: Ted Epstein (239) 249-0699
Advertising: Lori Ramos (239) 481-4449 x5

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.

The Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte Counties disclaims responsibility or endorsement of the views expressed by the writers and claims by advertisers.

**AUGUST ISSUE
EDITORIAL DEADLINE:
Wednesday, July 7**

**To donate to the Federation's
Annual Campaign,
call 239.481.4449
or visit
JewishFederationLCC.org**

OUR MISSION

To strengthen and enrich the Jewish Community by providing and supporting philanthropic, educational and social service programs locally, in Israel and throughout the world.

OUR VISION

A Jewish Community that is based on Jewish values such as Tzedakah (benevolence), Tikkun Olam (repairing the world) and K'lal Yisrael (taking responsibility for one another).

**Grow your business
with L'CHAYIM.
Reach 4,000 local
Jewish residents
through this paper.
For more information
or to place an ad, contact
Lori at 239.481.4449 x5
or LoriRamos@jfedLCC.org.**

Program notes

By Debbie Sanford, Program Director

I am sure many of you are eager to see in-person programming advertised in upcoming issues of L'CHAYIM. As I work on a new Fall/Winter calendar of events, I am keeping in mind the diverse population of the counties we serve and am sensitive to all as best as I can be. While I am planning and looking forward to an in-person Jewish Film Festival, I am also researching a way to make it a "hybrid" festival, where we can keep some films virtual, so everyone can participate.



■ **Debbie Sanford**

Our Jewish Author Series, which was very popular last year, will again be held in October and November, and will be virtual. But I am planning on bringing two amazing authors to Fort Myers next year.

A primer on the Hebrew calendar

By Brian Simon, Federation Past-President

The Hebrew calendar starts with Tishrei and ends with Elul, but it's a lot more complicated than that. Here's a quick primer.

According to the Torah, Nisan should be the first month of the year, not Tishrei. But, Tishrei is still the "Head of the Year" for reasons that perhaps only God could explain. He's the one who dictated that the first day of the seventh month would be a big holy day. Then again, He didn't call it Rosh Hashanah. The Rabbis did that in the Mishnah.



■ **Brian Simon**

So, Tishrei became the "Birthday of the World," in addition to the month for Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah.

The following month, Cheshvan, has no holidays. Cheshvan can have either 29 or 30 days. The number varies in order to prevent Yom Kippur from falling on a Friday or a Sunday. The Hebrew calendar changes so much it almost seems arbitrary. Regular Hebrew years can have 353, 354 or 355 days. Leap years add an entire month and can have 383, 384 or 385 days. You have to believe that somewhere along the line someone messed up a year with the wrong number of days.

My friend Rabbi Ben Sendrow has a standby line whenever someone asks what day Hanukkah is this year. He says it's the same day every year, the 25th of Kislev.

Hanukkah is slowly (very slowly) migrating later on our Gregorian calendar despite all the adding, subtracting and leaping. According to a calendar expert quoted in *Time* magazine, there is a difference of about six minutes per year between the calendar cycles. A thousand years from now, in the year 3032, the first day of Hanukkah will be January 1. If you go back to the time of the Maccabees and the restoration of the Temple in the Year 164 BCE, the first day of Hanukkah was...November 21!

Since Hanukkah is eight days long, it stretches into the month of Tevet. The 10th of Tevet is a fast day, commemorating the siege of Jerusalem which eventually led to the destruction of the first temple.

Shevat is known for the holiday Tu B'Shevat, the birthday of the trees. The age of trees was important to know for purposes of kashrut and for tithing. The Rabbis in the Mishnah disputed whether to mark the date on the 1st or 15th. They chose the 15th, but left unanswered the question of what to get the trees for their birthday.

Adar is the 12th month of the Torah calendar and sometimes the 13th, too. It has 29 days during regular years and 59 days during leap years. Okay, technically, they split it into two months, Adar I and Adar

II. The first Adar has 30 days in a leap year and the second Adar has 29. Purim falls on the 14th of Adar I, even though according to tradition the events in the Book of Esther occurred in a leap year. Perhaps this makes sense if you follow the requirement to get drunk on Purim.

The Torah calls Nisan, Chodesh ha'Aviv, the first month of spring. Passover falls on the 15th of Nisan.

There's a second Passover on the 14th of Iyar that was set for people who had been unable to celebrate the first Passover due to ritual impurity or because they didn't get their calendar from JTS in time. Iyar is also when we celebrate Lag B'Omer.

Sivan is the month of Shavuot. Tradition teaches that the Israelites arrived at Mount Sinai on the first of the month and received the Torah later that week. Experience suggests at least one of the Israelites complained about having to wait that long.

The Torah also tells us that while Moses was up on the mountain receiving the Torah, the people broke down and demanded Aaron make a golden calf that they would worship. Seeing them violating the second of ten commandments he had just been given, Moses broke the tablets in anger. That episode is one of the five calamities commemorated on the 17th of Tammuz. I love the specificity that ancient rabbinical scholars have come up with for biblical events. One website even provides a specific year: 1313 on the Hebrew calendar (2447 BCE).

Speaking of calamities, the saddest of all Jewish holy days is Tisha B'Av, the 9th of Av. According to tradition, all of the following happened on Tisha B'Av: the spies returned from Canaan with negative reports; both holy temples in Jerusalem were destroyed 493 years apart; the Bar Kochba rebellion ended in defeat; Jews were expelled from England in 1290 CE and from Spain in 1492.

Elul's claim to fame is being the month before Rosh Hashanah, which is like being the president before Abraham Lincoln. No one remembers James Buchanan. Actually, Elul has its own new year, the new year for tithing of domesticated animals. Shevat got trees. Elul got cattle. And Elul has Rosh Hashanah La'Behemot, which has enjoyed a new-age revival as a day to appreciate humans' relationship with animals.

If you want to know how to remember the Jewish months, you can use this little ditty, sung to the tune of *Frere Jacques*:

Tishrei, Cheshvan, Kislev, Tevet
Shevat, Adar (repeat)
Nisan, Iyar, Sivan (repeat)
Tammuz, Av, Elul (repeat) ▲

Brian Simon is former president of the Federation. His views are not necessarily those of the Federation or its board.

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



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.

"Thank you" to the following supporters of L'CHAYIM for their contributions to help underwrite the cost of bringing news of the local, national and international Jewish community to your mailbox every month!

SUBSCRIBERS:

Sharon Berry
Marsha Poster

TRIBUTES

In memory of Shirley Krivisky
from Gary & Robin Correnti

In honor of Phyllis Aronson
from Linda Dravin

In memory of Harvey Cohen
from Marsha & Michael Kistler

Sign up for the Federation's weekly e-blasts. Send an email to debbiesanford@jfedlcc.org.

MAKE A TRIBUTE GIFT

Honoring a special person through a tribute gift to the Jewish Family Services of Lee & Charlotte Counties is a wonderful way to recognize a simcha or remember a loved one. Not only does your gift show your family and friends that you care, it goes to work helping Jews in need and building vibrant communities locally, in Israel and around the world.

Visit our website & Make a Gift
jewishfederationlcc.org/tribute-memorials

A personal 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.



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.



L'CHAYIM delivers!

Introduce your business to a **POWERFUL** demographic and reach **4,000** readers each month for pennies per reader!

For ad rates and deadlines, contact Lori at 239.481.4449 x5 or LoriRamos@jfedLCC.org.

Who is that masked man?

By Keith Grossman

In May, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced it is safe for people who are fully vaccinated to go most places without a mask. But now the question is, “Do I want to go in public without a mask?”



■ Keith Grossman

I know you’re thinking I must be a couple of needles short of being fully vaccinated. But that’s not the case. I am pumped full of Moderna.

So why would I question the CDC recommendations? Why aren’t I excited to be unmasked?

At the height of the pandemic, a friend told me ripping her mask off in the car at the end of a long day is like ripping off your bra when you get home. I can’t offer any knowledgeable insights about ripping off a bra, but I wonder if there will now be a mask-burning “Gloria Steinem”-type protesting next to a blazing “Freedom Trash Can.”

When I first put on the mask, I felt a little silly. People can’t recognize me; they can’t hear me; and my glasses keep fogging. I was like a disoriented pilot trying to navigate the not-so-friendly skies.

Then I realized masks with vibrant colors, patterns and even silly pictures were available. I liked the variety of tie-dye ones. The masks with smiling lips made me chuckle. Some offered pithy commentary that made me think. I actually commissioned a lady to make me a UF Gator mask I designed from an old T-shirt.

Wearing a mask then felt cool. It was altruistic. I wasn’t really protecting myself; I was protecting others. I was spreading good in the world, and I was saving lives. I kind of felt like a superhero. Maybe a stressed and vacant-eyed superhero, but a superhero, nonetheless.

Thankfully, we were never advised to wear capes. I think that would have been a bit much. I imagine they’re not even hygienic – dragging cloth around in crowded public areas, touching benches and wiping up whatever is on the floor. No thanks.

Now I’ve come to appreciate the mask and I’m not sure I want to give up the additional benefits of wearing it. With a baseball cap and piercing eyes, it’s become a comfortable “don’t mess with me” buffer – my version of Captain America’s red, white and blue shield.

Others have no idea I’m not smiling. They can’t see I’m mouthing aspersions upon them (I’ll pay for that during Yom Kippur). And I sometimes wish I could use my mask as a projectile, just like the Captain.

With my mask, I can walk by someone I’ve known for 20 years, avoiding small talk without batting an eye. I can go to Publix without my friends and neighbors knowing whose obscene amount of Ben & Jerry’s they are judging.

Now with the relaxed protocol, I can change up my “mask game” if I want. Maybe I don’t want to just cover my mouth. I can choose whole face coverage, like Spiderman or Iron Man.

It could be fun to cover my eyes only and keep my mouth exposed, like Batman. Of course, that defeats the whole “aspersions” benefit I explained above. It would make for an easier Yom Kippur, though.

The bottom line is I don’t think I’m ready to go back to being just a regular old Superman, with my face fully ex-

posed. And, by the way, I never understood why people couldn’t recognize him as Clark Kent.

Full face exposure would be easier to accept if I was actually more pow-

erful than a locomotive and if I could leap tall buildings in a single bound. Who knows? Maybe the Moderna vaccine will give me those powers someday.▲

Is Your Business Worth More Than You Think?

ALLIANCE FINANCIAL GROUP

Find hidden value in your balance sheet.

The Living Balance Sheet® can help you protect and grow your business making the most of untapped potential. Using this revolutionary financial model, you can:

- See the big picture of your finances, both business and personal
- Adjust your strategies for optimal impact across the board
- Maximize your opportunities and the value of your business

It’s insight you won’t find anywhere else.

For your complimentary business valuation contact Brian Simon at (239) 246-8928 or brian.simon@afgfi.com

Registered Representative of Park Avenue Securities LLC (PAS), OS: 14021 Metropolis, Inc. Fort Myers FL 33912 (389 561 2000). Securities products offered through PAS, member FINRA, SIPC. Financial Representative of The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America (Guardian), New York, NY. PAS is an indirect, wholly-owned subsidiary of Guardian. Alliance Financial Group is not an affiliate or subsidiary of PAS or Guardian. 2019-79040 Exp. 5/21

JFS NEEDS

From time to time Jewish Family Services clients need housing, storage, household items, etc. While the Federation does not have capacity to keep these items on hand, JFS NEEDS, published in LCHAYIM and in our weekly newsletter, will list items as the needs arise in the hope that some in our community have the resources on hand to donate.

CURRENTLY:

- Looking for a housemate or sublet situation.
- Does anyone have a car they don’t use or need?

CALL 239-481-4449, X 2 OR EMAIL [JODICOHEN@JFEDLCC.ORG](mailto:jodicohen@jfedlcc.org)

Federation Food Drive

Three easy ways to donate:

Drop off food in the BIG BLUE BIN on the Federation porch Monday - Thursday.

Buy gift cards online or at the store. Drop off or mail to Federation.

Donate online: jewishfederationlcc.org or call 239-481-4449, x2.



Holocaust Museum & Cohen Education Center update

By Susan Suarez, President & CEO

On the 77th anniversary of D-Day last month, we opened a special exhibit in the Estelle and Stuart Price Gallery. "Caught on Film - The Wartime Photography of Ken Regele and the U.S. Signal Corps" features unique images taken during World War II by members of the U.S. Signal Corps. The Corps was charged with documenting all aspects of the war, recording life both on the battlefield and behind the scenes. While soldiers around them were fighting with weapons, the Signal Corps were armed only with cameras while doing their dangerous work.

■ Susan Suarez

How did the Museum come to have these historic images? Through a



"Caught on Film" exhibit

donation from the late Southwest Florida resident and Signal Corps member, Ken Regele. He brought home two rolls of film and put them away for safekeeping. Coming upon them again many years later, he contacted the Mu-

seum to donate them. He wasn't sure if there were any images on the film, but we were welcome to whatever might be there. One roll was blank, but the other contained the rare wartime photos seen in Caught on Film. The exhibit runs through Sunday, October 17, 2021.

Summer programming notes

- ◆ Join us later this month for a new Zoom program about "Caught on Film." Curator Cody Rademacher will host a virtual tour of the exhibit and a Q&A. Learn more about the unique WWII photographs on display from the Ken Regele Collection. It is free of charge with an RSVP required to receive the Zoom link. Check our website or email info@HMCEC.org for more information.

- ◆ During August, before school starts, we are offering specially scheduled "Teachers-Only Museum Tours" for SWFL educators.

All teachers in middle and high school and college/university level are welcome. In addition to the tour, we will provide updates on our Student Education programs available for in-school and/or online instruction as well as Museum Field Trips. For more information on dates and

to RSVP, please contact Director of Operations/Education Specialist Sam Parish at sam@HMCEC.org.

- ◆ Final details are being worked on for a Summer "Discussions with Docents" Zoom program. It will

be free of charge, with an RSVP required to receive the Zoom link. Please visit our website in late July for program details and to register.



Docent with Museum visitors

Looking for a memorable summer experience for your family or friends? Why not start your day with a private tour at the Museum? Private tours are offered for up to 15 people when the Museum is closed to the public, so you can take your time. You have the option of touring with a docent or taking a self-guided tour. For more information, please contact David Nelson at david@HMCEC.org or 239.263.9200 x205.

Coming this fall

I am excited to announce the Museum will celebrate its 20th anniversary in November 2021! We have a wonderful schedule of special programming and events planned during the 2021-22 season to honor this milestone.

The celebration kicks off on Thursday, December 2 with The Luncheon, our annual winter fundraising event. It will be held in person at the new Arthrex One event center in North Naples from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The event's special program will be the premiere performance of the short new play *Remember - The Abe Price Story*. Abe was the Holocaust survivor to whom the students at Golden Gate Middle School dedicated their "Out of the Ashes" classroom project on the Holocaust. That project inspired the creation of our Museum. The short play will be used to introduce middle school students to the subject of the Holocaust, just as *In Flight*, the play about Holocaust survivor Sabine van Dam,

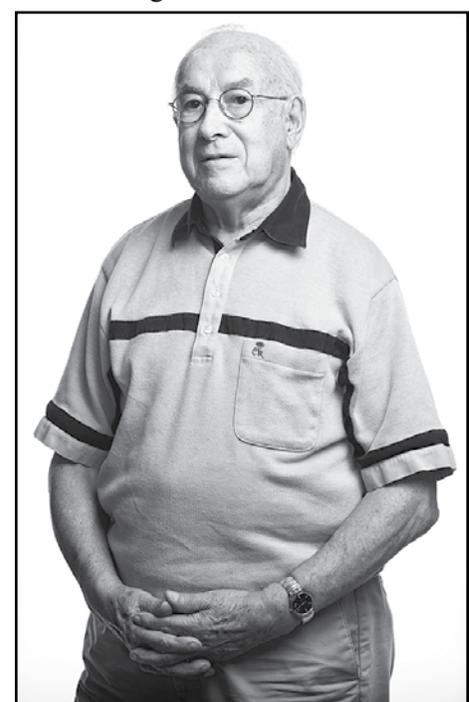
has been. *Remember* was written by Jeffrey Binder, and produced by Gulfshore Playhouse Founding and Producing Artistic Director Kristen Coury and

Managing Director Joel Markus. We will publish additional details about Sponsorship Packages and tickets for The Luncheon later this Summer.

Volunteers needed

As we look at expanding our hours of operation later this summer and fall, we are currently in need of Guest Relations Volunteers for the front desk.

Duties include welcoming and assisting guests as they enter, processing ticket sales and book purchases, and explaining tour options. You'll receive training, and Museum staff is always available to help with your questions. The time commitment is one afternoon per week from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., Tuesdays through Sundays. Our volunteers are important partners in our mission: to teach the lessons of the Holocaust to inspire action against bigotry, hatred and violence. We would love to have you join us! For more information, please contact Tim Morrison at tim@HMCEC.org or 239.263.9200 x207.▲



Abe Price (portrait by Erik Kellar Photography)

Gulf Coast ORTHODONTICS
 Dr. Michèle Laboda
 Dr. Van R. Speas
Let Us Straighten Your... SMILE!
 Fort Myers 239-561-2258 www.drilaboda.com Estero 239-390-0289

This month's advertisers

This publication is brought to you each month thanks to the support of our advertisers. Please be sure to use their products and services, and mention that you found them in L'CHAYIM.

Advanced Pain Management...11	Henderson Franklin.....19
Ajax Paving Industries.....12	Higginson Tax & Accounting...19
Alliance Financial Group.....3	Israel Handyman, Inc.....14
Amavida.....7	Kushner & Kushner.....19
Anago Cleaning Systems.....13	Irving Lewin, Music Lessons...19
Hal Arkin, Realtor®.....15	Michael Shapiro Photography...23
Art of Fashion and Moore.....19	Paragon Pools.....19
Bruce Kodner Galleries.....3	PCC Tile.....19
Calusa Harbour.....9	Seniors Helping Seniors.....19
Harryet Ehrlich.....19	Shemtov Title.....19
Harold Eskin, Attorney.....19	Snyderman's Shoes.....19
FineMark Natl. Bank & Trust...16	Taschner Periodontics.....12
Susan Glasser, Realtor®.....6	Temple Judea.....9
Gordon's Pool & Spa Service...19	The Bagel Factory.....19
Green Schoenfeld & Kyle, LLP.19	Bob Vinikoor, Realtor®.....14
Gulf Coast Orthodontics.....6	Wilkes Weinstein Financial Grp.19
Dr. David Heligman.....15	

Bring Your Highest Expectations

Susan Glasser
 Realtor Associate
 239-281-3105
SusanLGlasser@gmail.com

John R. Wood Properties
 15065 McGregor Blvd
 Ft. Myers 33908

Fort Myers resident for over 28 years

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.

Something Cold for a Hot Summer

The following item was inspired by a recent reader question. It's very timely now. Summer heat is upon us and ice cream is especially good. The question was: What national ice cream companies were founded by Jews? Here's my list. I don't think anyone else has ever compiled one. Baskin-Robbins was founded by **BURT BASKIN** (1913-1967) and **IRV ROBBINS** (1917-2008). Burt was married to Irv's sister. Ben & Jerry's was founded by **BEN COHEN**, 70, and **JERRY GREENFIELD**, also 70. They met in grade school. Häagen-Dazs was founded by **REUBEN MATTUS** (1912-1994) and his wife **ROSE MATTUS** (1916-2006). The map of Denmark that used to appear on the Häagen-Dazs lid was in honor of Denmark saving most of its Jews during WWII. Talenti Gelato was co-founded by **DEAN PHILLIPS**, 52, now a Minnesota Democratic congressman. His grandmother was Iowa native **PAULINE PHILLIPS** (1918-2013), AKA "Dear Abby." His aunt, **JEANNE PHILLIPS**, now 79, took over the "Dear Abby" column.

Sadly, none of these ice cream companies are now owned by their founder(s) or their founders' descendants. Ben and Jerry wanted to hold on to their company, but they were, in effect, forced to sell. Like many companies, Ben & Jerry's went public (sold stock) to raise needed capital. When food giant Unilever, in 2000, offered a price for the public shares much higher than the stock was trading, Ben and Jerry had no choice but to sell. If they didn't, they would have been flooded by lawsuits by angry shareholders, and those lawsuits would probably have been successful.

New Movies

It's still tricky to predict how many theaters will actually show a film set to open in July or August. I have omitted some films I know will not open in many theaters (small budget features and documentaries).

The animated film *The Boss Baby: Family Business* opens on Friday, July 2. The first *Boss Baby* film (2017) got good reviews and made mucho gelt. It was followed by a Netflix series in 2018. The premise is, frankly, bizarre. One of the two Templeton brothers, the star characters, is a baby with the mind, and the speech, of an adult. In *Family Business*, the Templeton brothers have drifted apart, but a new boss

baby brings them together again. **LISA KUDROW**, 57, again is the voice of the Templeton brothers' mother, and **JEFF GOLDBLUM**, 68, is the voice of Dr. Armstrong, a business rival of the Templetons.

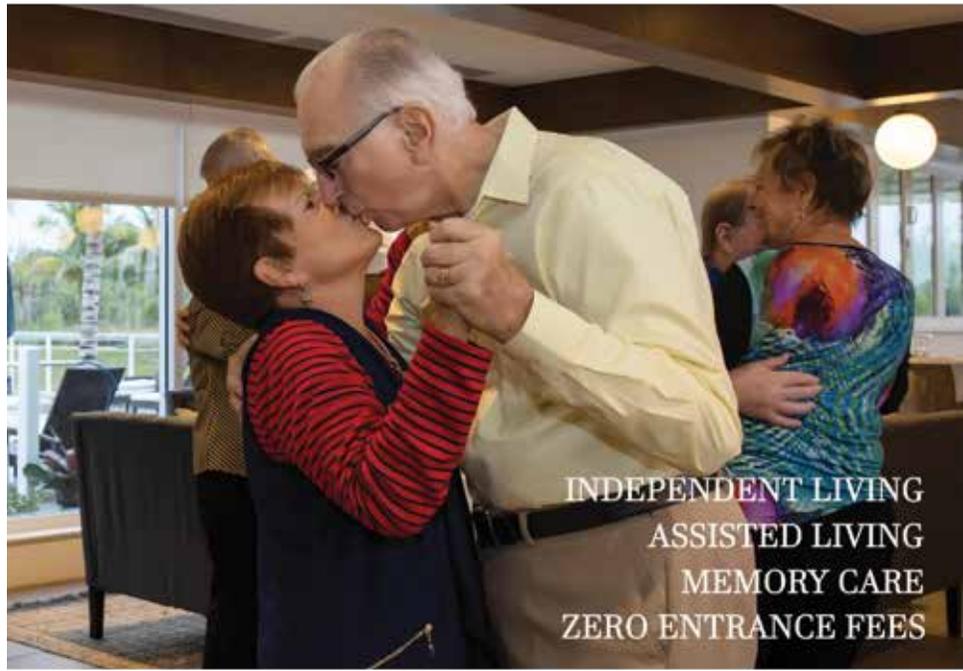
Black Widow opens in theaters on Tuesday, July 13 and starts streaming on Disney+ on the same day. It's another tale about Natasha Romanoff/the Black Widow (BW). Marvel Universe fans know that BW died in *Avengers: End Game* (2019). However, this film is an *End Game* prequel, set between the events depicted in *Civil War* (2016) and *Infinity War* (2018). The new flick finds BW battling a serious conspiracy. Once again, **SCARLETT JOHANSSON**, 36, plays BW. Oscar-winner **RACHEL WEISZ**, 51, co-stars. This is her first role in a comic-book inspired film. She plays Melina Vostokoff, a veteran member of the Black Widow organization, a seasoned spy and a mother-figure to Romanoff.

Hotel Transylvania: Transformia, which opens on Friday, July 23, is the fourth (and supposedly final) film in the *Hotel Transylvania* franchise. The plot is pretty complicated. Suffice it to say that the "Drac Pack is Back" – at least one more time. Dracula is a main character, and **ANDY SAMBERG**, 42, has a star role as the voice of Johnny, Drac's son-in-law. **FRAN DRESCHER**, 63, has a supporting voice role, and **ASHER BLINKOFF**, 12, voices Dennis, Johnny's son. Asher's father, **SAUL BLINKOFF**, an Orthodox Jew, is a Disney voice actor and director. Blinkoff, 48, often talks about his career and faith. In 2018, he lectured at the Jewish Education Center of South Florida (video on YouTube).

New TV Series

Monsters at Work is an animated series that begins streaming on Disney+ on Friday, July 2. It follows up on two hit *Monsters* films. In the first film, monsters powered their city with the screams of frightened kids. In the second film, they discover that making kids laugh powers their city better than fright. The series shows us the monsters' transition to laughter power. **BILLY CRYSTAL**, 73, reprises his star role as the voice of Mike, the partner of the Monster in charge of power. **BEN FELDMAN**, 41 (*Superstore*), has third billing as the voice of Tylor, a power plant technician. **HENRY WINKLER**, 75, voices Fritz Fritz, Tylor's nice boss.▲

date night
Feels like home.



INDEPENDENT LIVING
ASSISTED LIVING
MEMORY CARE
ZERO ENTRANCE FEES



AL License #13261



For a higher quality of life, choose a higher quality of living. That's Amavida. Across 32 gorgeous acres with private access to Lakes Park in Fort Myers, you can choose from contemporary and luxurious cottages, residences, apartments and suites – maintenance free, and best of all, zero entrance fees.

Plus at Amavida, we make living the good life great with resort-inspired dining and lounge venues, entertainment, recreation, fitness, friendships and laughter. And should you need, Amavida offers on-site healthcare, traditional assisted living and memory care.

Amavida. Where living the good life is great.

amavida
a love of life

SCHEDULE YOUR PRIVATE TOUR AND LUNCH NOW

AmavidaLiving.com | 239.673.1928 | Fort Myers

Amavida Living Presents "Sell Your Home Quickly: Tips and Tricks"



CONNECT
with your Jewish Community

www.facebook.com/
JewishFederationLCC



“Hitler’s Philosopher,” Alfred Rosenberg

By Paul R. Bartrop, PhD

Eighty years ago this month, the man dubbed “Hitler’s Philosopher,” Alfred Rosenberg, was appointed to oversee German occupation policies in Eastern Europe. As such, he became one of those most responsible for implementing the Final Solution and the murder of untold numbers of Jews.

He was born on January 12, 1893, in Reval, Russia (today, Tallinn, Estonia). He studied architecture in Riga, and with the approach of German forces in World War I went to Moscow, where he studied engineering. He received his doctorate in 1917. A Tsarist supporter during the Russian Revolution of 1917, he fled to Paris after the Bolshevik victory, moving on to Munich in 1918. He became a German citizen in 1920.

An antisemite, Rosenberg was influenced by Houston Stewart Chamberlain’s ideas on racial theory. Equating Jews with Bolshevism and communist revolution, he was heavily involved in early postwar ultra-nationalist politics in Munich. He joined the German Workers’ Party (the forerunner to the Nazi Party) in January 1919, and began writing for its flagship newspaper, the *Völkischer Beobachter*, becoming the paper’s editor in 1923.

On November 9, 1923, he participated in the failed Munich Beer Hall *putsch*, which resulted in Adolf Hitler’s arrest for treason. With Hitler’s arrest, Rosenberg became interim Nazi Party leader and served in this role until Hitler’s release from prison in 1924.

From 1929, Rosenberg headed the new National Socialist Society for Culture and Learning, and in 1930 was elected to the Reichstag. The same year saw the publication of his book *The Myth of the Twentieth Century*, which became the most popular Nazi work after Hitler’s *Mein Kampf*. A pompous pseudoscientific study, it claimed that the Germans represented a pure Nordic race destined to rule Europe, and argued that the Aryan and Jewish “races” were in conflict. It attacked “international Jewry,” Freemasons, Christianity and the Jesuits, among others.

Rosenberg reshaped Nazi racial policy, upholding dogmas relating to Aryan supremacy, German nationalism and rabid antisemitism. He also viewed homosexuality, particularly lesbianism, as a hindrance to the expansion of

the Nordic population, and argued for a new “religion of the blood,” based on the supposed innate promptings of the Nordic soul to defend its noble character against racial and cultural degeneration.

In 1938, Hitler approved Rosenberg’s proposal for a new, fully Nazi-fied university system that would provide a base for future Party and state elites grounded in racial ideology.

Founded in October 1940, the Rosenberg Task Force (*Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg* or ERR) was an organization that looted European art treasures by the trainload, confiscating art, furniture, rugs and even appliances from Jewish homes. It was the most successful Nazi body involved in art plunder. By the end of the war, it had shipped almost 1.5 million railcar-loads of artwork and artifacts from German-controlled Europe to the Reich.

In early 1941, Rosenberg crept into Hitler’s inner circle in preparation for the German attack on the Soviet Union. His early life in Russia, together with his anti-Bolshevism, made him the Nazi authority on all things pertaining to that country. On July 17, 1941, following Operation Barbarossa, Hitler appointed Rosenberg as head of the Reich Ministry for the Occupied Eastern Territories, in charge of all Soviet lands falling to Germany stretching from the old Polish border to the Ural Mountains. Rosenberg’s all-consuming ambition for power was undermined by his frequent fights with competitors, his ineptitude in constructing alliances and his reputation as a poor administrator.

In late 1941, as the Wehrmacht stalled before Moscow, his influence lessened, but his office still comprised the Baltic States and parts of Byelorussia (Belarus) and Ukraine. In occupied regions not under military rule, Rosenberg’s ministry installed Reich Commissioners together with an intricate civilian rule down to the level of rural districts.

Rosenberg received daily reports on the effect of German policies aimed at “pacifying” the local population in the occupied territories. A strong believer in the notion of “Judeo-Bolshevism,” he had no difficulty in targeting Soviet elites and Jews for destruction. The areas under his charge were the first to see the Final Solution carried out through the systematic murder of Jewish men, women and children. By the end of 1941, more than half a million Jews had been annihilated, with

Estonia, Rosenberg’s birthplace, the first German-occupied region declared to be “free of Jews.” From November 1941, trains with Jews deported from Germany arrived in the East. SS and police, together with Rosenberg’s officials, made sure that the deportees were either killed immediately on arrival or exploited on forced labor projects in which few were expected to survive.

Rosenberg’s Ministry for the Occupied Eastern Territories had a key role in the development of the Final Solution. It was the only government agency to send two representatives (Alfred Meyer and Georg Leibbrandt) to the Wannsee Conference convened by Reinhard Heydrich on January 20, 1942, in Berlin.

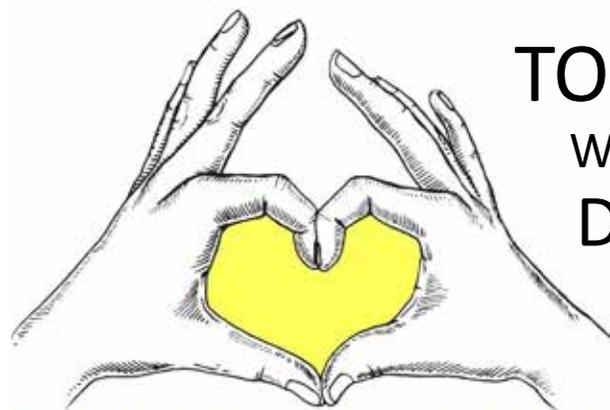
Allied troops captured Rosen-

berg at the end of the war. Tried at the International Military Tribunal in Nuremberg as one of the principal Nazi leaders, he claimed to be ignorant of the Holocaust. He was found guilty on all four counts of the indictment for conspiracy to commit aggressive war, crimes against peace, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. He was sentenced to death and executed on the morning of October 16, 1946. When asked if he had any last words, he said simply, “No.” His body was cremated, and his ashes scattered in the Isar River. ▲

Paul R. Bartrop is Professor Emeritus of History and the former Director of the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Research at Florida Gulf Coast University.



Dr. Paul Bartrop



TOGETHER

We can make a
Difference



INDIGENT FUND PACESETTERS

The Federation expresses special gratitude to our Indigent Fund Pacesetters for the example they set for the rest of us.

Anonymous
Jack Cohen - Marcia Can Help
Naomi Bloom & Ron Wallace
Barbara & Earl Magdovitz
Toni & Stuart Morgenstein

Karin Fine
Sherri & Ira Zucker
Jackie & Alan Cadkin
Shalom Dancers
Mellow Mah Jongg

The Jewish Federation loves our GENEROUS DONORS

INDIGENT FUND / MARCIA CAN HELP

Marty Freling
Paul & Sylvia Simko
Stephen & Esther Wiener
Lynn & Lory Kirby
Gary & Robin Correnti

Brian & Mindi Simon
Barry & Cheryl Fulmer
Chavurat Shalom of SWFL
Stan Zell
Marcia & Michael Kistler

FOOD PANTRY

Temple Beth El
Temple Judea
Shalom Dancers
Rubenstein family
Harry Cotton
Ruth Lefberg
Temple Beth Shalom

Robert Shapiro
Linda Saleski
Elise Sewall
Linda Silver
Victor Gold
Simon family

LINDA F. IDELSON CULINARY DESIGN FUND

Charles Idelson
Carolyn Gora
Anita Freedman

Anne Schwartz
Andy & Debbie Shuping

What do you think?

L'CHAYIM wants to know!

Send your letters & comments to LChayim36@gmail.com

Letters Policy

Letters must include the writer’s full name, full address and daytime phone. Letters should be no longer than 300 words. We reserve the right to edit for length and/or accuracy. Letters do not necessarily reflect the viewpoint of L'CHAYIM nor its advertisers. We cannot acknowledge or publish every letter received.

Aging Jewishly – What our traditions teach us about growing old

Reclaiming Shabbat

By Rabbi Barbara Aiello

For Harvey it was the sweet smell of the challah. “I’d come in the door and, oh, that smell! When I think of Shabbat, it’s my mother’s challah that always comes to mind.”

“It might sound silly, but it was the newspaper on the floor. It meant that Mama had washed the floor for Shabbat,” said Clare, while Carl remembered, “The white shirts. Ironed and hanging on the door. For my brothers and me those fresh pressed white shirts said, “Gut Shabbos!”

The sweet memory of Shabbat has become, for many Jews, their only connection to what our tradition tells us is the most important of all the Jewish holidays and celebrations. And a recent Pew report documents what most of us already know. The Pew study found that U.S. Jews are less likely than the overall U.S. public to say religion is “very important” to them (21% vs. 41%), while slightly more than half of Jews say religion is “not too important” or “not at all important” in their lives.”

In the intervening 20 years since the last U.S. Synagogue Survey, researchers found that “non-Orthodox congregations are closing and merging. The Reform movement has downsized by 180, and the Conservative by over 350. In addition, the study found that just 14% of U.S. Jews are members of Reform congregations while a scant 11% maintain membership in a Conservative shul.

Couple these statistics with the words of cultural Zionist Ahad Ha’am, who said, “More than Jews have kept

Shabbat, Shabbat has kept the Jews,” and we wonder, could this be true?

Incredibly, following the destruction of the second Temple, when animal sacrifices ended, it took some time but we Jews brought the “light of the fire” into our homes. At the family table we continued to renew and refresh ourselves as we observed an at-home family Shabbat.

That was then. Today, when it comes to Shabbat, where do we Jews stand? Harvey, Clare and Carl, who shared Shabbat memories, described their connections to Shabbat today.

Harvey said, “I don’t know. Shabbat got away from me. My wife passed on and I put the candlesticks away. And nowadays there’s always something else to do on Friday night.”

Clare agreed. “There was a time when we had the Blue Laws. Stores were closed on Sundays for the Christian Sabbath. Sunday wasn’t our day but we Jews were reminded that every week has a day of rest.”

Carl chimed in. “What we’ve been through lately, with Covid and all, I needed something to hang on to. So I started lighting candles on Friday night and saying the blessings. My candlesticks were mismatched. They came from the dollar store. I didn’t have challah but I had my rice crackers, so I said HaMotzi with the crackers. I ordered pizza and watched a Jewish film. I shut off the computer and all the craziness on the news and took a walk. At first it felt awkward and strange. But now I look forward to Friday nights. Sometimes I invite my kids or ask a friend over. I turn off the world and get back to basics. It makes me feel good.”

In a recent article by Iranian-American columnist Sohrab Ahmari (“What We’ve Lost in Rejecting the Sabbath,” *The Wall Street Journal*, May 7, 2021),

he writes that “Setting aside one day a week for rest and prayer used to be an American tradition. In an age of constant activity, we need it more than ever.”

Mr. Ahmari also reminds us of the words of one of Judaism’s foremost thinkers, Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, who cautioned Jews to recall that “Shabbat guarantees our ‘inner liberty,’ and that a society without a Sabbath could easily descend into tyranny and barbarism.”

Heschel went on to characterize Shabbat with these words: “It is one of life’s highest rewards, a source of strength and inspiration to endure tribulation, to live nobly... The Sabbath

is the inspirer, the other days the inspired.” (A.J. Heschel, *The Sabbath*, 22)

Could it be that Carl is on to something? As a wise rabbi once said, “When it comes to Shabbat, it is better to do something rather than nothing.”

Notwithstanding mismatched candlesticks, rice crackers and pizza, Shabbat is God’s gift just waiting for us to embrace it, enjoy it and grow. **▲** Rabbi Barbara Aiello served Aviva Senior Living in Sarasota as resident rabbi for 10 years. She now lives and works in Italy where she is rabbi of Italy’s first Reconstructionist synagogue. You may reach her at Rabbi@RabbiBarbara.com.



Rabbi Barbara Aiello

Rabbi Barbara Aiello’s most popular columns are now published in her new book, *Aging Jewishly*, available on Amazon. It makes a great gift!

A FIVE STAR INDEPENDENT, ASSISTED LIVING AND SKILLED NURSING COMMUNITY



There is no substitute for experience.

Located directly on the Caloosahatchee River in Fort Myers, where residents enjoy spectacular views, Calusa Harbour is a full-service, resort-style senior living community offering spacious and comfortable apartments for independent living and assisted living, as well as skilled nursing care, rehabilitation services, outpatient therapy, and respite/short stays for those with more specialized needs.

Our many exceptional senior living services and amenities include restaurant-style dining, social and recreational activities, waterfront lanai and heated swimming pool, fishing dock, game room, fitness center, full-service beauty salon, library, transportation, 24-hour staff, laundry and housekeeping.



- Delicious all-day dining in brand-new facilities
- Large-size apartments ideal for hosting friends
- Only continuing care community in Southwest Florida with no buy-in
- Enjoy activities galore in our soaring atriums
- \$7 million renovation project now complete
- Experienced staff makes your care a priority

CALUSA HARBOUR



Call (239) 309-1969 to schedule a tour

2525 First Street Fort Myers, FL 33901

www.CalusaHarbour.com



J.D. Power 2019 Certified Senior Living Community Program recognition is based on successful completion of an audit, exceeding a customer experience benchmark through a survey of recent claims servicing interactions, and a Financial strength rating. For more information, visit jdpower.com

TEMPLE JUDEA
Conservative Synagogue

14486 A & W Bulb Rd
Fort Myers, FL 3908
239-433-0201
www.tjswfl.org

Introduction to
Judaism

Learn about:

- Beliefs & Prayer
- Shabbat, Holidays and Dietary Laws
- Ethics and Values
- History and Modern Communities

For more information, contact Rabbi Marc Sack
239-433-0201
rabbi@tjswfl.org

Begins:
Monday, August 16, 2021 @ 6:15pm

This course is a prerequisite for people considering conversion.

Why I went to Auschwitz

By Sylvia Simko

As the daughter of European refugees, born three months after WWII, I was immersed in the topic of the Shoah from early on since my parents had lost most of their family members there. I read about the subject in everything I could lay my hands on as a teenager, and from then on during all my adult life. My husband Paul, who barely escaped Vienna by the skin of his teeth in 1939, was also very much affected by the horror he escaped.

But taking a trip to Auschwitz was another matter. We both felt we wanted to honor the victims there, but on the other hand, we dreaded the thought of actually facing the full monstrosity that the place encompassed.

But then, a fortuitous opportunity arose to travel to Cracow and Auschwitz with a Mission of the FIDF (Friends of the Israel Defense Forces) – to go with the Israeli soldiers; march on the tragically famous train tracks with the soldiers in front of us holding the Israeli flag up high; the IDF rabbi carrying the Torah; and the planes of the Israeli Air Force flying in formation above us. That, we found would be the ultimate repayment to the horrors perpetrated there.

And so we did, with the rain pouring down on us – overcast skies the whole time – mirroring the innermost gloomy and somber feelings we all felt.

In the evenings, although we were tired, in order to get back our senses, we all danced Israeli *rikudim* fervently and passionately at the hotel. After four

days, we longed to get out of Poland.

An Israeli Air Force plane flew us out heading for Israel. It wasn't a commercial flight but a real army plane. No frills, no protocol. We hugged the Israeli air force pilots and the radio operator. We landed at an Air Force base in the Negev. There were blue skies and a bright sun. And as we came down the tarmac, we danced to "Hava Nagila" around the plane.

Now came the second difficult assignment, namely Federation Executive Director Alan Isaacs asking me to write about my experiences in Auschwitz for *L'CHAYIM*. I started many times and then discarded my drafts as being too superficial and not worthy of what I had experienced. Nothing can explain the feelings and the thoughts going through my mind.

So I turned to my beloved and much admired Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sachs z"l, and the description of what he felt when he visited Auschwitz. True to form, he ends with an optimistic view. I am in awe of his description, which so mirrors mine. In the chapter on Sifting Hope from Ashes in his book *Celebrating Life*, he says it all. I transcribe it for you here:

Sifting Hope from Ashes

The toughest assignment I ever faced, was my first visit to Auschwitz. I had been asked to go there by the BBC. Each year, just before the Jewish New Year, I make a television program, a kind of Jewish message to the nation. In 1995, 50 years after the end of World War II and the liberation of the

camps, the BBC felt that this should be the subject of the broadcast. I agreed, but with one condition. I had to tell the story the Jewish way – the way we have followed for thousands of years when telling the story of the exodus from Egypt. Ancient Jewish teaching specifies that 'one begins with the bad news and ends with the good.' A Jewish story must end on a note of hope. There are no exceptions.

I went, and it was as bad as I expected; worse. There are no words to describe what it feels like to stand on the spot where more than a million Jews – many of them young children – were gassed, burned and turned to dust. I wept uncontrollably in the hall in Stammlager Auschwitz, preserved as a museum, where there was nothing but the recorded voice of a cantor singing "Kel Malei Rachamim," the traditional Jewish prayer for the dead. A chill shot down my spine as I went from room to room, seeing the piles of objects stripped from the prisoners soon to be dead – the suitcases, clothes, spectacles, artificial limbs, the mountain of shoes. Nothing was too worthless to be saved except one thing – life itself. A million shoes rescued, a million lives thrown away.

It haunted me for months afterwards. It still does from time to time.

It raised many questions in my mind, but the one that was most insistent was the one I never heard anyone ask. What gave the survivors the strength to survive, not then but subsequently? What gave the Jewish people the courage to continue, knowing as each of us does that, but for an accident of history, we would not have been alive today? What is it that gives life the victory over the angel of death?

The Jewish people did survive, and in the past 50 years achieved some of their most monumental creations – the State of Israel, Jerusalem rebuilt, the ingathering of exiles, a series of rescues of threatened Jewries around the world, and a renaissance of Jewish life

throughout the Diaspora. I find these things extraordinary, not least for having lived through some of them.

I have met many survivors of the camps, and others who lost entire families there. They still bear the marks of that trauma. How could they not? In many cases it took them 50 years before they could even talk about their memories. Yet I am struck by their passion for life, by their tenacious hold on it. In small ways, and sometimes large, they have worked to build a different world, a world in which such murderous hatreds are no longer possible. Some kept their faith in God, others lost it, but most keep their faith in life itself. They did not give up, or give in to resentment and bitterness, or lapse into the nightmare of victimhood.

Somehow, they preserved the linements of hope. Nowhere do I find more clearly than in these survivors the difference between optimism and hope. Optimism is the belief that things are going to get better. Hope is the belief that we can make things better. Optimism is a passive virtue, hope is an active one. It takes no courage to be an optimist, but it does need courage to hope.

I made my program the way I wanted to, beginning at Auschwitz but ending in what are for me the two most powerful symbols of Jewish rebirth – Jerusalem and five-year-old children at a new Jewish school, the two homes of the Jewish heart, the places where you see one of the world's most ancient peoples becoming young again.

When Jews speak of life, they do so amidst memories of death. That is why, for me, faith is no simple, naïve, optimistic affirmation. It needs enormous strength, emotional and intellectual, to have faith in the human story.

If anyone wants to make this trip, I would strongly suggest to do it with the FIDF. It's the only way one can gain a modicum of sanity when seeing so much horror. ▲

L'CHAYIM is continuing the practice of publishing your High Holiday greeting to your family and friends. See page 28 to order your greeting for the September 2021 issue of L'CHAYIM.

Thank you to the Federation Food Pantry Volunteers

Arnie Obstein, Barbara Betchen, Barbara Gribin, Carolyn Gora, Doreen Kostel, Elise Sewall, Harriet Lipschutz, Karen Whitman, Linda Silver, Randi & Payton Wolf, Robert Thomas, Ruth Lefberg, Samantha Guterman, Sue Goldfarb, Suzanne Orkin, Tracey Seigel, Valerie Franklin.

When a wine is “true to type”

By The Wine Whisperer

Let's say you and I were going to go make wine in Tuscany, and let's say that we decide to make Chianti. Before we can sell the wine, we have to undergo a series of checks to make sure we have conformed to the laws and regulations that govern all Italian wine regions and varietals. These restrictions include what grapes we're allowed to use, how long the wine must be aged and a lot of other conditions. Then, we take our wine to a panel of tasting experts in the region who will swirl, sniff and slurp, passing judgment on whether our wine is “true to type.”

But what exactly does that mean? It's called “typicity” or “varietal correctness,” and it's the concept that a wine must embody what we expect from that particular variety – the so-called “typical” flavors of a Syrah, for example, or a Sauvignon Blanc. Think of it like apples. When you bite into a Granny Smith, you expect it to taste a certain way. If it tasted like a peach, you'd be disappointed...and not a little surprised.

The concept of “typicité” is French (no surprise), and it's at the heart of the French system of appellations. The French, in fact, invented this system, which decrees which wines can be

made in which regions, what grapes can be allowed in the blend, all that. And most winemakers subscribe to it. A Zinfandel should taste like a Zinfandel. It's what we expect when we pull the bottle off the shelf. But some winemakers, especially in California, have started to move away from the idea. They select a varietal and make it with the characteristics and flavors they want – not the flavors that we might expect. A Syrah that's not quite as full-bodied, for example, or a Zinfandel that's lighter in color and lower in alcohol.

I'm not so sure about that trend. On the one hand, we love to try new wines and varietals, and support new winemakers. But on the other, I open a bottle with a certain anticipation of the experience, and I like to have that expectation fulfilled. Since we've been through so much dislocation and strangeness in the past year or so, it's nice to have some familiarity when the cork pops.

But, as I said above, one of the greatest pleasures of wine (aside from sharing it with friends) is discovering new varietals, regions and winemakers. I hope you enjoy our latest selections.

Badia a Coltibuono Chianti Classico DOCG 2017 (\$20) – A steal at the price, this true-to-type Chianti is 90% Sangiovese, with touches of Colorino and other traditional grapes. Brilliant ruby in the glass, offering a nose of violets and cherries. The aromas pay off on the palate, with an overlay of to-

bacco and pepper. WW 89-90

Cline Chardonnay Sonoma Coast 2018 (\$20) – The brief aging in oak gives this characteristic Chardonnay a touch of butterscotch and vanilla that enhances the tropical fruit flavors and notes of peach and apricot. Some nice toasty notes on the finish. WW 88

Sosie Roussanne Vivio Vineyard Sonoma County 2015 (\$38) – Ripe apricot and citrus blossom on the nose, with the apricot following through on the palate along with notes of orange peel. A bitter note on the midpalate and a touch of cashew or macadamia on the finish. Rich flavors. WW 87

Siduri Pinot Noir Anderson Valley 2017 (\$40) – Sourced from three vineyards and aged for 15 months in oak, you'll notice the expected overtones of spice – especially cinnamon. Black plum and dark fruit flavors are predominant on the palate, along with bright red raspberry and fine-grained tannins. WW 91

Sea Slopes Fort Ross Chardonnay 2017 (\$30) – Very fruit forward aromas – mostly zippy lemon and

grapefruit. The citrus character follows through on the palate, along with a bit of apricot and a pleasantly lingering finish. WW 89

Ask the Wine Whisperer

What's the difference between Sauvignon Blanc and Sancerre? – Julian K., Fort Myers

Sauvignon Blanc is the name of the grape varietal, while Sancerre is the name of a gorgeous village along the Loire River in France. The area around the village produces mainly (you guessed it) Sauvignon Blanc, in a style much different from those that come from, say, New Zealand. The region also produces a small quantity of Pinot Noir, which can be excellent.▲

Jerry Greenfield is the Wine Whisperer, a wine author, educator and consultant. He is Creative Director of Greenfield Media & Marketing, and an adjunct professor in the wine program at Florida Gulf Coast University. His book, Ask the Wine Whisperer, is available on his website. Read his blog at www.winewhisperer.com.



■ Jerry Greenfield

**Changing your address?
Seasonal resident? Keep
L'CHAYIM coming to your home.
Email loriramos@jfedlcc.org.**

Dr. & Mrs. Jonathan Daitch proudly support L'CHAYIM and the Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte Counties



**Celebrating 20 years of
pain management excellence,
providing uniquely advanced skills
and technology for restored
comfort and mobility.**

**Advanced
Pain Management &
Spine Specialists**

*Resolving The Pain,
Restoring The Person*

**Jonathan S. Daitch, MD
Ivan A. Samcam, MD
Aileen H. Padilla, DO**

8255 College Parkway, South Fort Myers
239-437-8000 • APMSS.net

Rabbi Stephen Fuchs contributes chapter in *The Oxford Handbook of the Minor Prophets*

Rabbi Stephen Fuchs of Bat Yam Temple of the Islands on Sanibel Island was asked to contribute a chapter on "The Minor Prophets in Jewish Life Today." The minor prophets are called minor because their chapters are short compared to the major prophets. Their words are as important as the major prophets. This chapter was included in *The Oxford Handbook of the Minor Prophets* (Julia M. O'Brien, Editor, Oxford University Press), which was published in February 2021.

Since the Jewish year begins with Rosh Hashanah, we look to HOSEA's message on the sabbath that falls be-

tween Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. The name of this sabbath is Shuva, which means both return and repentance. Hosea's message is central to the message of the Days of Awe, the most solemnly sacred of the entire Jewish year of observance. It is a time of self-examination and repentance. Different examples are given to illustrate how even God showed a willingness to take Israel back after some Jews had proved unfaithful by worshipping Baal and other idols.

The prophet JOEL, who also preached repentance, is well known in Jewish Youth Movements. Debbie Friedman was inspired by his words to

write a song, "And the youth shall see visions."

Of the 12 prophets, AMOS is among the best known. He was a champion of social justice, so it is not surprising his words, "Let justice well up like waters and righteousness as a mighty stream," have been quoted by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and are in the minds of many social activists today. He rejected what he saw as insincere or hypocritical worship. (Rabbi Fuchs comments that many Jews today value social justice over ritual fidelity.)

OBADIAH was one of the minor prophets whose influence is in the Haftarah for the Torah portion Va-Yishlach where Jacob wrestles with the angel. He receives the name Israel. It also describes Jacob reconciling with his brother Esau. Obadiah highlights a negative perception of Esau that courses through rabbinic literature. (Rabbi Fuchs challenges the rabbinic tradition of the treatment of Esau, who he feels is an innocent victim.)

JONAH stands out from the other prophets. He has been said to be without insight, without foresight, without compassion, without courage, without energy and without initiative. Yet, within the book of Jonah are the answers to our most important questions: Who am I? Why am I here? What provides meaning to my life? Jonah is read every Yom Kippur afternoon and the readers are aware they are being given a second chance, as was Jonah. If God can forgive the evil people of Nineveh, then surely he can forgive us. This reluctant prophet's story is a key to examining our own shortcomings and recalculating the paths of our lives.

MICAH's words about doing justice, loving kindness and walking humbly with your God is a clarion call to activists seeking social justice. On the morning of Rosh Hashanah, Rabbis support this notion by reading the passage depicting the binding of Isaac. By so doing they illuminate another of Micah's messages which protests and rejects the then common pagan practice of human sacrifice. Micah makes two

original contributions: the hope that one day we shall all sit under our vines and our fig trees with nothing to cause us fear, surely the highest hope of God; and second, the practice of not only tolerance but respect and affirmation for other religions. The Jewish ritual of Tashlich is based on Micah's words addressing a God who pardons sins, a God who does not retain anger forever, who will have compassion upon us... and then Micah concludes, "You (God) will cast (tashlich) all of our sins into the depths of the sea..."

The first armed struggle in history for the cause of religious liberty is celebrated each year at Chanukah, the Festival of the Lights. The prophet ZECHARIAH's vision of a rebuilt temple is closely associated with this festival. The Haftarah for the sabbath during Chanukah speaks of Zechariah. The significance of his vision goes even further. Today it is understood to symbolize the future of Jewish life and stands as a reminder that no outside force has ever destroyed us.

MALACHI appears in two Haftarah readings. In the first he joins Obadiah in vilifying Esau. His second contribution is far more positive. On the sabbath before Passover, we read how Malachi predicts a time when the world will live in peace and harmony, and he says Elijah will be the herald of such a time. Countless generations whose lives were marked by poverty and persecution, have read the dozens of Elijah stories that appear in Midrash. This gave them the incentive to hold on to the hope that new and better times were ahead. Contemporary Jews welcome Elijah's presence at the birth of a child, at the end of Shabbat, in the Passover Seder and at the end of Yom Kippur. We cherish his role at each of these occasions and find inspiration during these rituals, proving that the seed planted by Malachi is still growing.

(Rabbi Fuchs concludes by stating that the minor prophets are not minor at all. They inspire our efforts for social justice, encourage our repentance and fuel hope the world can be better than it is.)▲



**Ajax Paving Industries
of Florida, LLC**

13350 Rickenbacker Pkwy
Fort Myers, FL 33913

**FOR ALL OF YOUR
ASPHALT
PAVING NEEDS**

Lee Strauss
Estimator

Cell: 941.238.8833

lstrauss@ajaxpaving.com

AJAXPAVING.COM



Taschner Periodontics
PERIODONTAL THERAPY & DENTAL IMPLANTS

Ronny S Taschner DDS

Active Member of the American Academy of Periodontology

Jennifer Taschner DDS MMSc

Diplomate of the American Board of Periodontology



1645 Medical Lane, Fort Myers, FL

Phone 239-936-0635

Visit Our Website www.taschnerperio.com

Letter to the Editor

My wife and I participated in the virtual Town Hall on Antisemitism presented by several Jewish Federations and organizations in Florida on June 8.

We thought the speakers were good. However, we as Jews spend a lot of time speaking to the choir. While I agree that speaking out, writing to members of Congress and holding occasional forums is good, it is not sufficient. Also, having government support is also good, but we can't count on the government to make a sustained effort to fight antisemitism. What is needed is nationwide action from the Jewish community. We need a national organization such as Black Lives Matter to get publicity, get out the truth regarding Jews and Israel, and to organize

marches across the country.

As has been reported, antisemitism in this country is now as bad as it was in Nazi Germany prior to WWII. My parents (and I at age 4) escaped from Prague through Poland into England in the spring of 1939. Most members of my family who remained in Europe were murdered by the Nazis. Many members of my wife's maternal family in Hungary were killed in Auschwitz. We do not want our children and grandchildren to ever feel they need to hide their Judaism or fear for their lives.

— George Rosinger

Editor's note: This letter was sent by Mr. Rosinger to AJC (American Jewish Committee). AJC CEO David Harris was a speaker at the event.

9 firsts you should know about Israel's new government

The coalition headed by Naftali Bennett includes a spectrum of lawmakers – Orthodox, Arab, female, gay and even Israel's first deaf Knesset member.

By Abigail Klein Leichman, israel21c.org, June 14, 2021

For the first time in 12 years, Israel's Likud Party and its head, Benjamin Netanyahu, will move from the prime minister's seat to the opposition in the Knesset, Israel's parliament.

The new government, sworn in Sunday night, June 13, brings into power a broad coalition of eight political parties spanning left to right.

Heading Israel's 36th government is Yamina Party leader Naftali Bennett, the 13th Israeli prime minister.

Bennett was sworn in along with Yesh Atid Party leader Yair Lapid, who will serve as alternate prime minister and foreign minister until becoming the country's 14th prime minister in August 2023 for the final two years of the term – if all goes according to plan.

Here are nine notable firsts in this 36th Knesset, formed with the intention of unseating Netanyahu and bringing change to Israel.

1. Bennett, 49, is the first prime minister from the high-tech world, having headed and sold two successful software companies, Cyota and Soluto. He also is the first to wear a kippah, a traditional Jewish skullcap.
2. The ruling coalition includes an

Arab party – the Islamist Ra'am Party – while other parties representing Israel's 21% Arab minority chose to remain in the opposition.

3. Incoming Health Minister Nitzan Horowitz was the first openly gay Knesset member to head a major party (Meretz).
4. The 36th Knesset includes two longtime disabilities activists: Shirley Pinto, Israel's first deaf Knesset member; and Karine Elharrar, a veteran MK who has muscular dystrophy, as Minister of Energy.
5. There are nine female cabinet ministers (out of a total of 27), the highest number in Israel's history: Yifat Shasha-Biton (Education), Ayelet Shaked (Interior), Merav Michaeli (Transportation), Tamar Zandberg (Environmental Protection), Orna Barbivay (Economy), Karine Elharrar (Energy), Pnina Tamano-Shata (Aliyah and Integration) and Orit Farkash Hacohen (Science and Technology).
6. There are two Arab cabinet ministers: Esawi Frej (Regional Cooperation) and Hamed Amar (Finance).
7. Two new Knesset members hail from English-speaking countries: Cape Town-raised Ruth Wasser-

man Lande, and North Carolina native Prof. Alon Tal. Counting Tal. The Knesset has had only eight American-born members in its 73-year history. (Bennett, like Netanyahu, a fluent English speaker, was born in Haifa to American immigrants.)

8. Three former broadcast journalists are in the top echelon: Yair Lapid, Nitzan Horowitz and Merav Michaeli. Lapid's late father, Tommy, was also a TV journalist-turned-politician.
9. Incoming Minister of Public Security Omer Bar-Lev is heading the



The Hebrew word *yachad* (together) displayed in Rabin Square, Tel Aviv, by the Black Flag movement, in celebration of the new government. (photo by Avshalom Sassoni/FLASH90)

same ministry – then called the Police Ministry – that was led by his late father, Haim Bar-Lev, from 1984 to 1990. ▲

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



The newly sworn-in Israeli government poses for a group photo at the President's Residence in Jerusalem, June 14, 2021 (photo by Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)

BIG OR SMALL...



Anago
30 YEARS
CLEANING SYSTEMS

WE CLEAN THEM ALL®

239-206-2520
anagoswfl.com

With more than 30 years in the commercial cleaning franchising industry, Anago has helped pioneer this sector by developing standards and practices that others replicate.

WITH ANAGO YOU GET:

- A partner with a 98% retention rate
- Calendaring system ensures all tasks are completed as scheduled
- Inspection/survey process ensures compliance to your specs
- Microfiber tools to remove more dirt
- EPA registered disinfectants for virus and bacteria removal
- Dedicated client services rep to assist with your needs

Our franchisees provide Scheduled Cleaning, Carpet Cleaning, Ceramic, Tile and Grout Cleaning, Day Porters, Emergency Cleanup, Exposed Surfaces Disinfection, Hard Surface Floor Care, Restrooms, Special Event Cleanup, Spring Cleaning, Window Washing and much more.

WHY ANAGO IS THE SUPERIOR CHOICE FOR COMMERCIAL CLEANING!®

- Ranked #1 in Janitorial
- Available 24/7
- Competitive Pricing
- Two-Hour Response Guarantee
- Consistent & Dependable
- Green Cleaning Experts
- Total Satisfaction Guarantee
- Fully Insured and Bonded

SERVING COLLIER, LEE, CHARLOTTE,
SARASOTA & MANATEE COUNTIES



YOUR CLEANING NINJAS

Our efficient and stealthy cleaning franchisees get the job done without any disruption to the flow of your business.



A VISIBLE DIFFERENCE

Our franchise owners use systematic methods to create a visible difference in the cleanliness of your workspace.



BEST SERVICE AND PRICE

One of our primary goals is to provide clients with the absolute best service in the industry, at a competitive price.



CONSISTENT RESULTS

By paying attention to the details, high touch spots and areas of concern, clients get an exceptional and consistent clean every time.



BRIEFS

MIAMI TO INVEST \$1 MILLION IN ISRAEL BONDS IN GESTURE OF SOLIDARITY

The city of Miami will invest \$1 million in Israel government bonds in a move approved unanimously by city commissioners on Thursday, June 10.

Commissioner Joe Carollo said the investment will serve as a “small token of our support for Israel and our appreciation for the warm friendship and support that we have had from so many Israelis and their contribution to our community.”

Carollo told Maor Elbaz-Starinsky, Israel’s new consul general in Miami, “We want you to bring back to Israel a little bit of gratitude from the city of Miami.”

Elbaz-Starinsky said, “I really don’t have enough words to express my gratitude.... Just three weeks ago I was sitting in a shelter with my five children.”

Carollo responded, “We’re very privileged and blessed that...we don’t have to worry day-to-day that we’re going to be attacked with missiles. The State of Israel recently went through something that we in America cannot even begin to imagine.” (Marie-Rose Sheinerman, *Miami Herald*)

WE ARE ENTERING A NEW PHASE OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST JEWS

We are seeing in the West the beginning of a new phase of discrimination against Jews. Many cannot openly identify as Jews without fear of being assaulted. Much of the animosity is related to the support of Jews for Israel and Zionism, the national liberation movement of the Jewish People in their ancestral homeland.

The very word “Jew” comes from the tribe of Judah, which 3,000 years ago became a kingdom with Jerusalem

as its capital, under David and Solomon.

There are ever-mounting efforts underway by people who assert human rights for minorities but single out one country, Israel, and its national movement, Zionism, for vilification as a “settler-colonialist” enterprise. One doesn’t “colonize” one’s native land. One returns home.

The challenge to those social justice warriors is this: How, in the name of justice and human rights, can you deny that Jews are a people with the right to self-determination in their ancestral homeland? What is that refusal other than bigotry and hatred? (Michael Mostyn, CEO of B’nai Brith Canada, *Toronto Star - Canada*)

THE ABRAHAM ACCORDS PASSED THEIR FIRST BIG TEST

Although there was an outpouring of pro-Palestinian sentiment on social media in Abraham Accords countries during the 2021 Gaza War, there were few signs of outrage on the streets. There was one big rally in Qatar, which shelters Hamas, supports the Muslim Brotherhood, and is an ally of Iran and Turkey.

Shmuel Bar, a former Israeli intelligence officer and currently the owner of an Israeli software company that does business with many Arab nations, said his phone has been buzzing with texts from Arab well-wishers since the clashes started. “Nothing has changed,” Bar said. “I haven’t heard anyone say that the recent tensions have had a bearing on business deals. No one has called me to cancel any deal. I have at least 15 WhatsApp texts from contacts from various places in the Arab world who inquired if I was alright and that they hoped no rockets were falling near me.”

Some religious and academic influencers in the Emirates have said that the conflict is between Israelis and Palestinians, not Israelis and Arabs, a sentiment that reflects a tectonic intellectual shift.

Ibrahim al-Assil, a Middle East analyst, said, “The Palestinians are getting much more global sympathy, but in the region itself, this trend is reversed. Many see it through the lens of their own conflicts with Iran and are concerned about how Iran will find a way to co-opt Palestinian grievances.” (Anchal Vohra, *Foreign Policy*) ▲

Israel Handyman Inc.

- Carpet Installation, Cleaning, Stretching and Repair
- Upholstery Cleaning
- House Cleaning
- Handyman Repairs



(239)770-1138

Israel Bajarlia - Bajarlia1974@yahoo.com - Lee County



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

**The Jewish Federation Seeks
Volunteers
with Foreign Language Skills.**

The Jewish Family Services division of the Jewish Federation has found that clients with limited English language skills encounter difficulty accessing social services otherwise available in our community. We would like to help break this language barrier.

If you speak languages besides English, we invite you to serve as an occasional interpreter, by phone or in person, for our clients, when they communicate with various social service agencies.

Do you speak

Spanish, Russian, French, Creole, Haitian, Mandarin, etc.?
Please share your gift of language with the needy in our area.



Send your response to Federation Board member Robert Thomas ritritrit@hotmail.com.

We will contact you as needed. Thank you.

**LET ME HELP YOU
BUY OR SELL
YOUR HOME!**

**BOB
VINIKOOR**
Fort Myers REALTOR



239-258-1102

bob@gosouthnow.com



Please support our advertisers. They help make L'CHAYIM possible.

Opinions and letters printed in L'CHAYIM do not necessarily reflect the views of the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties, its Board of Directors or staff, or its advertisers.

Jews of silence

By Dottie Ruberto

There were many rallies held around the world in support of Israel during the recent wave of worldwide antisemitism. One of the most inspiring speakers at a rally in New York was Elisha Wiesel, son of Holocaust survivor and Nobel Prize-winner Elie Wiesel.

Elisha said, "My father Elie Wiesel, of blessed memory, traveled to the Soviet Union in the '60s to meet Russian Jews who were prohibited from expressing their faith. They were forbidden to hold a Bar Mitzvah, put on tefillin or express support for the State of Israel. The Communist Party rules through lies, and the biggest antisemitic lie was that Jews were exploiters and enemies of the working class. Friends, today we are victims of a big lie as well. It is easy to identify the Communist or the Nazi lie, but the antisemitism of today is based on an equally pernicious lie.

"When my father visited Russia, Jews there asked him: 'How many are marching for us in America?' He was embarrassed to tell them how few there were. He wrote a book about this called *The Jews of Silence*. Many thought he meant the Jews of Russia since they were forced to learn the holy Torah in secret, in silence, but he meant us. When we keep quiet, we are the Jews of silence. To those who are here today, I say: You will be able to tell your children that you came here and stood as proud Jews, even as the largest party in the American Congress was filled with extremists who spread lies. These are the same old and evil lies that you have been told for thousands of years, while all we want is to work, to pray, to live and manage our own state. You will be able to tell your children that you were not Jews of silence."

His thoughts brought me back in time.

The Soviet Jews were my cause. I was obsessed with helping them while I was living in New Jersey.

This is the only cause I can think of that brought together Orthodox, Conservative and Reform Jews without reservation. They all cared about the Soviet Jews.

Every year on Solidarity Sunday we marched down Fifth Avenue in

Manhattan in support of Soviet Jewry carrying signs with pictures of our heroes, Anatoly (Natan) Sharansky, Ida Nudel, Yuli Edelstein and many others.

They were called Refuseniks because they wanted to leave the Soviet Union and go to their Jewish homeland, Israel, but were refused by the Soviet government. The families immediately lost their jobs, and their children were harassed. Some had been doctors, scientists and mathematicians. They had to find menial work, and if they couldn't because they were Jews, they would be called parasites and could be jailed.

They wanted to practice their religion, but were watched by the KGB to make sure that they didn't have a chance to learn Hebrew, study Torah or celebrate any Jewish holidays. That didn't stop them. They held secret Hebrew classes and Torah study in each other's homes, and celebrated holidays together singing and dancing in the woods so that the KGB wouldn't find them.

In my world in New Jersey, each December around Chanukah we participated in a national program called "Women's Plea for Soviet Jewry." We had speakers, sang songs, lit candles in honor of women Refuseniks and signed petitions to the Soviet government to let our people immigrate to Israel.

We started a "twinning" program in our temple with Bar/Bat Mitzvah children sharing their special day with a Soviet child who couldn't have one. They had a symbolic seat empty on the bimah and spoke about the child and the plight of the family, and mailed postcards to them.

We all knew that they probably weren't going to receive the postcards but wanted to let the KGB (who saved the mail) know that we knew and cared about the families and they couldn't just disappear into the Gulag.

Every six months, I went into New York City and ransacked (with their permission) the offices of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry as well as Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry. They gave me names of Refuseniks, bios, postcards in Russian, banners, posters and other handouts.

There were many brave American

Jews who traveled to the Soviet Union with prayer books and ritual objects. They smuggled them in at great risk to themselves.

On March 11, 1985, a Soviet leader named Mikhail Gorbachev arrived on the scene with new ideas. One was called glasnost (openness), a policy reform that started the change of the entire Soviet Union. Some Soviet Jews were permitted to leave under world pressure.

On December 6, 1987, the largest rally for Soviet Jews was held in Washington, D.C., on a very cold day. Over 250,000 people came from all across the country to see and hear our heroes, Natan Sharansky, Ida Nudel and Yuli

Edelstein, speak to us. They thanked us for sending them home. I still remember feeling the tears roll down my face and freezing.

Two years later, the iron door opened and 1.3 million Jews were allowed to emigrate, most going to Israel and the United States. We had won!

What this whole article is about is that we can't be Jews of silence anymore. We must speak out against the rabid antisemitism that is taking over the world. We must all become Jewish activists and speak with a united voice, fight for our religious rights and stand up for our wonderful Jewish homeland. ▲

Be active, again

INSTITUTE FOR
**Orthopaedic Surgery &
Sports Medicine**

- Specializing in outpatient hip and knee replacement
- Joint replacement & reconstruction surgery
- Arthroscopic surgery of the knee & shoulder
- Treatment of sports-related injuries, pains & problems
- Joint pain & arthritis care
- Fracture care
- Minimally invasive technologies

David M. Heligman, M.D.

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
Doctorate of Medicine

Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center
Chicago, IL
Orthopaedic Surgery

Diplomat - American Board of Orthopaedic Surgeons

RE/MAX
COMMERCIAL
RE/MAX REALTY GROUP

Frye Commercial Group
COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE
SALES, INVESTMENT, ACQUISITION & DISPOSITION

HAL ARKIN
(239) 910-5363 cell • harkin@remax.net
Direct (239) 689-2246 • Office (239) 489-0444
7910 Summerlin Lakes Drive, Fort Myers
www.ftmyerscommercial.com

"A knee replacement by
Dr. David Heligman
gave me a
new lease on life."

Riverwalk Orthopaedic Center
8350 Riverwalk Park Blvd, Suite 1 • Ft Myers

Estero Medical Center
10201 Arco Ave, Suite 206 • Estero

www.jointteam.com • 239-482-5399
Accepting New Patients • Call Today for a Consultation!

Opinions and letters printed in L'CHAYIM do not necessarily reflect the views of the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties, its Board of Directors or staff, or its advertisers.

Connecting the dots

Today's question is: Why do we Jews practice circumcision?

There are many opinions as to why it is a necessary and even central mitzvah. Some sages have suggested that it is for our health, some have opined that it is for group bonding and for our distinctiveness as a people. And, of course, there are those who close the discussion by saying, "G-d commanded it." We read, in Genesis 17, that G-d commanded Abraham to circumcise himself. And in Leviticus 12, we read of Moses and the Israelites being told of this commandment, that it will bind the child to the people of Israel forever.

Once upon a time, a Christian

colleague asked me this same question. Without hesitating, I told her that it was to sensitize us to pain. What I believe Judaism is trying to teach us is that life can hurt and we have to be strong enough to not surrender. We Jews have seen floods and plagues, expulsions and blood libels, crusades and pogroms. If we aren't strong, how would we ever be able to face all of these disasters?

Oddly enough, the Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama, begins his first sermon, "The Four Noble Truths," with the statement that "all life is suffering." Whether it is caused by desire (as in Buddhism) or simply by being alive (as in Judaism), there seems to be a strong agreement here.

The Covid-19 pandemic has brought pain and suffering to the fore for everyone. Whether you, or someone you know, became sick, we have

all seen our lives changed. Seniors have often not been able to visit grandchildren, and many of us have felt isolated, restricted from sports events, restaurants and attending shul. Even more, we have seen over 600,000 people in this country alone succumb to the disease! These are horrific numbers. And many of our doctors and nurses have borne the brunt of this pandemic. It is truly a terrifying disease.

But wait, there's more! Since the flare-up of hostilities between Israel and the Palestinians, we American Jews, like our European co-religionists, have seen a significant increase in acts of antisemitism. In London, New York and Los Angeles, we have heard of several acts that are shocking in terms of their depravity. Many of us are in pain and suffering because of these acts and the silence of those we considered to be friends.

If you look at the book of Amos, in Chapter 7, Amos sees G-d readying a plague of locusts and a judgement of fire to come upon the Israelites for their lack of belief. Amos asks, "O Lord G-d, please forgive! How can Jacob stand? He is so small!" Both for the locusts and for the fire, Amos hears G-d relent and say, "This shall not be."

Whether we undergo natural or human-made disasters, we need to be strong. This is exemplified in the mitzvah of circumcision and by adhering to all of the mitzvot. When we reach the end of one of the books of the Torah, we say "chazak, chazak, ve'nitchazek." What it means is, "be strong, be strong and may we be strengthened." **▲**
Rabbi Dr. Michael J. Schorin, MAPC, BCC is a Chaplain in Lee Health's Department of Spiritual Services, and ministers at the Gulf Coast Medical Center.



■ Rabbi Michael J. Schorin



FINEMARK NATIONAL BANK & TRUST IS PROUD TO CONSISTENTLY EARN A **5-STAR RATING** FROM BAUER FINANCIAL, THE NATION'S LEADING INDEPENDENT BANK RATING FIRM*.

We attribute our success to delivering unparalleled service and putting our clients first.



Fort Myers • Bonita Springs • Charleston • Estero • Naples • Palm Beach • Scottsdale
www.finemarkbank.com • 239-461-5900 • Member FDIC • Equal Housing Lender
Trust and investment services are not FDIC insured, are not guaranteed by the bank and may lose value.
*5-Star Financial Rating issued by Bauer Financial, a leading independent bank rating and research firm. Rating is 5 out of 5.



Women's Giving Circle

What is a Women's Giving Circle?

The Women's Giving Circle empowers women as funders, decision makers and agents of change. Members contribute \$360 and have an equal vote where funds are distributed.

- * A chance to make an impact on the lives of women and children in Israel & Overseas
- * Decide collectively where funds will be dispersed
 - * Achieve greater impact as a circle
- * Meet new people & enjoy the company of other like-minded women of all ages in our community

To join and for more information call Debbie Sanford
239.481.4449 x4 or debbiesanford@jfedlcc.org

Opinions and letters printed in L'CHAYIM do not necessarily reflect the views of the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties, its Board of Directors or staff, or its advertisers.

The month of Tammuz stretches before us

June and July span the Hebrew month of Tammuz. The Hebrew months represent everything ranging from pagan gods to cycles of nature and our own human senses. And unlike all the other months, Tammuz is mentioned in the Torah, but as a pagan god. God exiled the Israelites from the land of Israel because they were worshipping foreign gods, including Tammuz. While in exile in Babylonia, around the 6th century BCE, they named the Hebrew months after these pagan gods, incorporating their origin stories into our Hebrew calendar and the meaning behind each Hebrew month.



Rabbi Nicole Luna

The one mention of Tammuz appears in the book of Ezekiel. Ezekiel, a prophet, warns of destruction and exile. He goes to the entrance of the Temple in Jerusalem and observes: "There sat women bewailing Tammuz." Tammuz was a Sumerian god who was condemned to live in the un-

derworld for six months of the year. The Israelites in Babylonia saw this story as representing the cycle of the seasons, every six months. Rabbi Jill Hammer explains that Tammuz is named as a summer month because he represents the grain that was cut down, the harvest that is over, the crops which grow and then wither in the scorching heat, everything that is left behind. Summer is when we put the previous months behind us and embrace the longer days, the promise of travel to new places, and the hope for days of joy and improved well-being ahead. What are you ready to put behind you? The Book of Jubilees also tells us that Adam and Eve left the Garden of Eden on the first of Tammuz for their new life. Tammuz is a month that represents the transition from the past to the future.

So why then were the Israelite women bewailing Tammuz? As much as we are eager to move into the future, with the threat of Covid lessening each day, let us not be so quick as to ignore the toll the past months took on ourselves, our minds and our bodies. For just as the grain is cut down, and the spring blossoms fall, the cycle of the

seasons applies to us as well. We are mortal, and at some point our season will be over. The women bewailing Tammuz understood this truth. We are the grain that will one day be cut.

The awareness of our mortality was with us every day for the past year. It takes sincere reflection to determine how we want the past year to impact our lives today. Again, Tammuz offers us a way forward. One of the earliest books of Jewish mystical lore, Sefer Yetzirah, assigns to Tammuz the human gift of sight. Genesis Rabbah, a midrash, describes this season, saying, "On the first day of the solstice of Tammuz, no creature has a shadow, for it is written, 'Nothing is hidden from the sun's heat.'" (Psalm 19:7)

The light of summer draws us out of our own shadows, allowing the truth to be seen and giving us a clear vision of ourselves. Tammuz promises us a time to reflect without distortion or falsehoods. This is a time of radical honesty.

The month of Tammuz stretches before us. We are eager and hopeful about the future, ready to put the days of isolation, worry and restrictions behind us. We also see the world in a new way. This is a time for discernment, to not allow the days to simply pass over us, but actively create our future with a clear vision in mind. May the month bring all these things and more. Rabbi Nicole Luna serves at Temple Beth El in Fort Myers.



CONNECT

with your Jewish Community

www.facebook.com/JewishFederationLCC



Grow your business with L'CHAYIM!

Each month, 4,000 Jewish residents in Lee and Charlotte counties turn to L'CHAYIM for:

- ▶ Upcoming major events
- ▶ Community Directory
- ▶ Synagogue news
- ▶ Local Organization news
- ▶ Jewish Federation updates
- ▶ Holocaust Museum news
- ▶ Candle Lighting Times
- ▶ Business Directory
- ▶ Rabbinical Reflections
- ▶ Israel updates
- ▶ Photos of recent events
- ▶ and much more

Targeted Distribution

Reach our affluent, informed, health-conscious, and savvy readers who are looking for new and better ways to enrich their lives and those of their loved ones. L'CHAYIM – the monthly newspaper published by the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties – is mailed to 4,000 residents in the area. Additional copies are available at the Jewish Federation office.

Life-Enriching Information

Each month, readers of L'CHAYIM get news and updates on all Jewish-related local events including the Jewish Film Festival, Jewish author programs, holiday celebrations, concerts, food festivals, book study groups, timely lectures, mah jongg and much more. They also get updates from the area's synagogues and numerous local Jewish organizations. It's the place they turn to for community news, candle lighting times and a business directory.



The collage shows several pages from the L'CHAYIM newspaper. One page features the 'Jewish Film Festival' with a '100% Online - NO CHARGE' banner and '48 Hour Access' registration information. Another page has a 'OUR COMMUNITY' section with articles about 'Bat Yam Temple of the Islands to host Nefesh Mountain Bluegrass Band Concert' and 'Sunday in New York with Temple Beth El'. A third page shows 'Program notes' and a 'JFNA statement'. A fourth page displays a 'VIRTUAL EVENTS CALENDAR' for the month of April, listing events like 'Chai & Mitzvah', 'Chai & Mitzvah', 'Chai & Mitzvah', and 'Chai & Mitzvah'. A small advertisement at the bottom right of the collage promotes 'BUYING INSTANT CASH' and 'HIGHEST PRICES PAID'.

For more information or to place an ad in L'CHAYIM:

Call: Lori Ramos at 239.481.4449 x5
 Email: LoriRamos@jfedLCC.org
 Website: Visit the L'CHAYIM page at www.JewishFederationLCC.org

The exclusive way to reach the Jewish Community in Lee and Charlotte counties.

Opinions and letters printed in L'CHAYIM do not necessarily reflect the views of the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties, its Board of Directors or staff, or its advertisers.

Feeling good about ourselves

Often, after our weekly Shabbat morning Torah study, some of us linger for informal conversation. One June morning we wandered into talking about the 1619 Project, a way of teaching a darker perspective on American history emphasizing the role of slavery at its foundations, and racism and bigotry as its continuing underlying mode of operation.

We quickly boiled it down and debated this question: "Is the United States of America a corrupt enterprise?" We quickly agreed that all forms of government devised by and for humans are prone to the corruption that infects too many of us. But we disagreed about whether or not the U.S.A. is the best, or maybe just "the least worst" country the world has ever seen. It was a very typical Jewish speculative shmooz.



■ Rabbi Bruce Diamond

But back to the 1619 Project. For me, the key question is this: Whether or not you agree with its main premise, what is achieved by emphasizing aspects of our past that promote either self-loathing or "victimhood" in young people's developing self-awareness?" The racists and bigots won't be affected by the lessons, only the good and decent people who least deserve to suffer.

It's akin to teaching the horrors of the Holocaust. It causes great pain to survivors and their circle, and shame to people of conscience, but has no effect whatsoever on the perpetrators and their admirers except maybe to inspire.

Sadly, George Santayana wasn't quite right about remembering history. Remembering the horrors of the past does not prevent similar ones in the future, and might even stimulate new ones. I am sure you don't need a list of all the genocidal eruptions in a fully informed world since the Holocaust. And surely remembering the enslave-

ment of Africans in America and their subsequent continued ferocious mistreatment does not cause racism in our country to abate.

Underlying this question is an even more basic one. In our own lives, what's the point of dwelling on our own personal memories that cause us pain, shame or remorse, especially if there's nothing we can do about it? What is to be gained by the anger we keep alive against members of our own family, former friends or associates over things long past whose memories have probably become notoriously inaccurate and are now completely irrelevant. And how awful when we infect our children with those feelings!

Which is to say, we all have 1619s, but what are we to do with them? Is tormenting ourselves some kind of punishment we neurotically think we deserve for things long gone? And what's the point of inflicting our emotional baggage on subsequent generations?

Here's a lesson that I keep on re-

peating to myself and others who are prone to this kind of self-inflicted suffering: For every one of us, the past is just sparks in the brain. It's not real anymore, whatever real means.

(For those of you who enjoy geeky stuff, the electricity jumping around in our brains runs at .07 volts, about 4.5% of the capacity of an AA battery. Imagine allowing so minuscule a force to make us so miserable!)

There's always much we can do about making ourselves better, happier people, and there is certainly much to be done to make ours a better and happier country. But that's only if we feel good about ourselves, believe in ourselves, and let go of the bad judgment about ourselves and others based on a past – real, imagined or somewhere in-between. Right? ▲

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

What really happened on the Ninth of Av

Tisha B'Av (the Ninth of Av), begins Saturday night, July 17 and ends the following night. It's the day we commemorate the destruction of both Temples in Jerusalem and many other tragedies that befell us throughout history. What's the significance of the Ninth of Av in our Torah?

Back in June, our Torah taught of the episode of the spies who were sent out to survey the new land and report back regarding how easy or difficult it would be to conquer. Only two

of the spies return with a positive report encouraging the Israelites to move forward according to G-d's assurances. The other 10 maligned the land of Israel by calling it a land that devours its inhabitants, saying the people who inhabit the land are like giants and we're like grasshoppers.

The spies embarked on their mission on the 29th of Sivan for 40 days ending on the Ninth of Av. Speaking ill of the land of Israel was regarded as so great a sin by G-d that they were condemned to die in the desert with everyone who followed their negative



■ Rabbi Lawrence Dermer

report. Our pessimism and lack of faith in G-d brought about our exile. This is the origin of the Ninth of Av, Tisha B'Av!

Two groups saw the same place with two contrasting perspectives, and it's no different today as we're confronted by largely anti-Israel media coverage on the most recent conflict in Israel. So which report should we believe? The negative majority or positive minority report?

If our ancestors had not discovered the power of positive thinking and maintained their defeatism, we wouldn't be worrying about the current conflicts in Israel. There would be no Israel.

In 1948, when Israel was reborn, we were attacked and outnumbered by five Arab nations. Seeing that physical reality, how many would have said, "Let's surrender, retreat, we can't win, we're doomed to failure." And how many said, "Let's move ahead, we can and will succeed, G-d has been with us in the past and will be with us now!"

Thank G-d the positive outlook ruled the day. The following decades would be an uphill battle, but it's only by the power of optimism that we survived. Achievement is never achievable as long as you believe it's an

impossibility.

With the anti-Israel bias in the media today and an upsurge of antisemitism, should we, and maybe even our young men and women in the IDF, believe that Israel is an apartheid state, that we have no right to our biblical homeland, that we should go back to Europe, that we're an evil and oppressive nation? Should we believe when we're attacked around the world and here in the U.S. just for being Jewish, that we should put our heads down and accept that we have no right to exist, and accept our defeat? G-d help us all if we do.

There will always be negative chatter from non-Jewish and Jewish

voices as well. It's our mission as Holy spies to block out those voices and replace them with voices that encourage our success. How do we know we can? Because hope, faith, positive thinking and sheer willpower have enabled us to do so in the past.

Over the centuries, much of our history has been written by our talent for beating the odds and achieving the unachievable. Theodor Herzl said, "If you will it, it is no dream." As we say in one of our favorite Shalom Life Center songs, "What we believe we will become, what we search for we will find!" ▲

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

Candle lighting times:

July 2: 8:07

July 9: 8:06

July 16: 8:05

July 23: 8:02

July 30: 7:58



Need loans for higher education? Jewish?

JELF

interest-free loans

You may be eligible

for an **interest-free, need-based** loan for your "last dollars" to attend school for your higher education.

Application Dates:
March 1 - April 30
September 1 - 30

For more info: jelf.org

jelf Jewish Educational Loan Fund

Green Schoenfeld & Kyle LLP
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Lowell S. Schoenfeld
Florida Board Certified Wills,
Trusts & Estates Attorney

1380 Royal Palm Square Boulevard
Fort Myers, Florida 33919
239-936-7200
lowellschoenfeld@gskattorneys.com



www.gskattorneys.com



RICK SNYDERMAN
Licensed Pedorthist

1900 Trailwinds Dr.
Fort Myers, FL 33907

Ph: (239) 939-2239
Fax: (239) 939-7792

FIT • SERVICE • QUALITY

FORT MYERS

We Specialize In All Widths
We Will Ship Anywhere



Gordon's
Pool & Spa Service

REPAIRS • SUPPLIES • RENOVATIONS • SPAS
542-3066

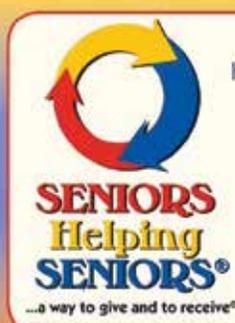
BARRIE ROSS, C.S.P. 1520-A SE 46th Lane
poolczar@mindspring.com Cape Coral, FL 33904

State Cert. Lic. #CPC043145



The Art of Fashion and Moore
(in the Arcade in historic
downtown Ft. Myers)

Teri Moore, Owner (239) 204-9759
2267 1st. St., Suite 12 info@artoffashionandmoore.com
Ft. Myers, FL 33901 www.artoffashionandmoore.com



SENIOR CARE SERVICES
Homemaker/Companions - Nurses - Nurses Aides

Helping Southwest Florida
Phone: (239) 243-8555
Fax: (239) 689-5374

12995 S. Cleveland Ave. Suite #258
Fort Myers, FL 33907

E-mail: helpingseniors@comcast.net
www.seniorcareSouthwestFlorida.com



Eric Glocer

Tile - Carpet - Mosaics
Luxury Vinyl Tile

www.pcctile.com

916 SE 15th Ave. 16165 S. Tamiami TR.
Cape Coral, FL 33990 Fort Myers, FL 33908
239-772-5815 239-267-1445



Higginson Tax & Accounting, LLC
Tax Preparation • Planning • Audit Representation

Eric Higginson
Certified Public Accountant

239.935.6950
www.higginsontax.com

**PLEASE SUPPORT THE
ADVERTISERS WHO SUPPORT
OUR FEDERATION AND HELP
MAKE L'CHAYIM POSSIBLE.**

HAROLD S. ESKIN, P.A.
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW
FLORIDA SUPREME COURT CERTIFIED
FAMILY AND CIVIL LAW MEDIATOR
ARBITRATOR

Mail: PO BOX 07157 FORT MYERS, FL 33919
Appointments: 2180 W. FIRST ST #530 FORT MYERS, FL 33901
Offices of: EnTITLED, LLC

(239) 549-5551; EMAIL - hal@eskinlaw.com



Paul Weinstein, CFP®
Managing Partner, WWFG
Branch Manager, RJFS

RAYMOND JAMES®

13720 Six Mile Cypress Pkwy #1 • Fort Myers, FL 33912
239-768-1490 • 888-768-1490 Toll Free • 239-768-1935 Fax
paul.weinstein@raymondjames.com

Securities offered through
Raymond James Financial Services, Inc. Member FINRA/SIPC

SHEMTOV TITLE

Title Insurance, Closing and Settlement Services

(239) 703-7797
info@ShemtovTitle.com

The good name in title insurance

Jonas H. Kushner
Attorney at Law

KUSHNER & KUSHNER ATTORNEYS

2121 West First Street
Fort Myers, Florida 33901

Phone: 239-337-3600
1-800-261-8787
Fax: 239-337-1428
email: law@KushnerandKushner.com
www.KushnerandKushner.com



27 flavors baked fresh daily
We make 'em, we bake 'em
Right here!
Bagels are boiled and baked the
old-fashioned way

3571 Del Prado Blvd North • North Cape Coral 543-2075
8841 College Parkway • Ft. Myers 433-2245 est.1995

www.thebagelfactory.com

**YOUR AD COULD BE
HERE FOR AS LITTLE
AS \$33 PER MONTH!
CALL 239.481.4449 X5**

Paragon Pools SWF

Serving Charlotte County Since 1974
Repairs • Salt Chlorine Generators • Heat Pumps

Lake Suzy Florida (941) 627-2001



State Cert. Lic. #CPC015315

Music Lessons

Guitar - Bass - Composing - Arranging
All Styles - All Levels - All Ages

Irving Lewin 203-767-1934

Business & Tax Planning
Guy E. Whitesman
Florida Bar Board Certified Tax Attorney

Divorce, Marital & Family Law
Jennifer Siegal-Miller

Wills, Trusts & Estates
Eric Gurgold
Florida Bar Board Certified Wills, Trust and Estate Attorney

Henderson | Franklin
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
henlaw.com • 239.344.1100

HELP WANTED

1- Assistance needed with scheduling daily activities & companionship for a 75 yr. old gentleman with early onset Alzheimer's. Prefer a male between the ages of 55-65. Monday - Friday, 9-11 A.M.

2- Looking for a college student, 2-3 hours in the afternoon, twice per week. Mac experience required.

Located on Fort Myers Beach. Please call Harryet for more information. 973-727-4971.

**PLEASE
SUPPORT THE
ADVERTISERS
WHO SUPPORT
OUR FEDERATION**



The Jewish Federation thanks all our advertisers for their continued support! Without them we would be unable to provide our readers with L'CHAYIM. We invite other businesses in our community to explore this valuable advertising opportunity.

For more information, call Lori at 239.481.4449 x5 or send an email to LoriRamos@jfedLCC.org.

Opinions and letters printed in L'CHAYIM do not necessarily reflect the views of the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties, its Board of Directors or staff, or its advertisers.

Summer reading and summer friendship

I have recently discovered the works of Leon Kass, a Professor Emeritus of Social Thought at the University of Chicago, who has been writing on Jewish subjects for 20 years. This summer I will read his book, *Leading a Worthy Life: Finding Meaning in Modern Times*. I am attracted to those thinkers who write on rebuilding social ties and institutions as one way to overcome division in America, and Kass is one of them. Overcoming division is essential to freedom and security for us Jews and everyone else.

Recently, *Tablet*, an online Jewish journal, published an excerpt from another book by Kass, *Reading Ruth*, which he co-authored

with his granddaughter Hannah Mandelbaum. They write on the famous verse, Ruth 1:16: "For wherever you go, I will go; wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God."

The verse is traditionally understood as a statement of religious commitment, and frequently recited by those choosing to be Jewish. But Kass and Mandelbaum say that the thrust of the verse is less religious and more personal. "...her words bespeak a profound desire – and capacity – for loyal and devoted friendship, that lifelong being-together of souls that, as much as is possible... can overcome the isolation and separation of human beings." The words "you" and "your" are repeated in Ruth's pledge of devotion to Naomi. When Ruth becomes part of the Jewish people, it

is because of her deep love for her mother-in-law.

Over the last 16 months, my wife Leni and I have received and made calls to friends from whom we had drifted apart. We realized how much we missed them and that they were still part of our circle of concern. Those calls lifted our spirits. We spent hours on the phone catching up on our lives and the growth of our families. Now that the world is opening, we must not forget these people.

Deep friendship, the connection of souls that grows out of shared experience, admiration and trust, is both uncommon and a great gift. These are the people with whom we can share fears and failures, as well as joys and triumphs, and know that they will not abandon us. Just the opposite: they can lift us up with their love, understanding and

insight.

This summer, and in future travel, I am going to visit those who called me and work to strengthen our connection. In reaching out to us they were saying, "I still think and care about you. Our relationship of 30 or 40 years ago has not gone away."

Kass and Mandelbaum suggest that it was the power of Ruth's commitment to Naomi that led her to be the great grandmother of King David and, therefore, the progenitor of the messiah. Where does our salvation come from? The Book of Ruth, and perhaps our recent experience of isolation, suggests that salvation comes from the loving devotion of friends and family. That feels right to me. ▲

Rabbi Marc Sack serves at Temple Judea in Fort Myers.

A progressive perspective on Tisha B'Av

The Ninth day of the Hebrew month of Av, Tisha B'Av (which falls this year on Sunday, July 18), is a day when traditional Jews fast in memory of the magnificent Temples of Jerusalem which were destroyed, by the Babylonians in 586 BCE and then by the Romans in 70 CE.

Tisha B'Av also commemorates other historical tragedies associated with that date: the beginning of the first Crusade in 1095, a time of persecution and slaughter of the Jews of Europe; the expulsion of Jews from England in 1290; the expulsion of Jews from Spain in 1492; and the outbreak of World War I in 1914.

I had never heard of Tisha B'Av until I was 12 and participating in the inaugural season of the Camp Institute for Living Judaism (later to be renamed Eisner) in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. Since then, I have struggled with the significance of this day for me as a Reform Jew.

The destruction of the two Temples and the exile of Jews from our sacred land were occasions of death and suffering, so sorrow is appropriate. Certainly, all the other historical tragedies associated with that date are important to remember too.

On the other hand, the destruction of the Temple ended the control over Jewish life of a hereditary priestly class and ended animal sacrifice as our chief way of communicating with God. Only ultra-Orthodox Jews would like to see the Temple, ruling priests and animal sacrifice restored.

Although it was tragic in its day, the destruction of the Temple liberated Judaism to become what we treasure today, a religion based on the study of Torah, of prayer and of acts of kindness and compassion. The vibrancy and strength of the Jewish people attest to the wisdom of what we have become, not what we once were. Now Tisha B'Av, in the age of a renewed Jewish nation in Israel, can signal hope and optimism as well as one of remembrance and sorrow.

How can we reconcile the remembrance of genuine tragedy with the

growth and development of the Judaism that the destruction of the Temple made possible?

I observe a fast on Tisha B'Av until mid-day. During that time, I study the traditional text for the day, the Book of Lamentations. At one o'clock I partake of a mid-day meal grateful for today's Judaism that no longer slaughters animals and sprinkles their blood as a sign of gratitude or as a petition to God. I celebrate the fact that a Judaism without the Temple and its hereditary priestly class has been replaced by a Judaism that through study, prayer and acts of kindness beckons each of us in our own way to make the world a better place.

Tisha B'Av for me is also the day when I begin preparing for the period

of introspection culminating in the rituals of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Impetus for beginning the process of repentance comes from the middle of the Book of Lamentations. "Let us search and examine our ways and return to the Eternal One!" (Lamentations 3:40)

For Jews today, Tisha B'Av can be both a day of mourning and a day of joy. We mourn for the destruction of the Temple, but we rejoice that we have developed a strong, resilient means of surviving as Jews. Mourning the tragedies of the past, we begin to search and examine our way forward and face the future with hope and courage! ▲

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

The power of a person

One person, by force of his or her personality, can be the pivot of a whole society. Hitler turned a whole nation into an overwhelming force for hate. Gandhi directed a



■ Rabbi Solomon Agin

whole people toward non-violence and peace. In the family as well, often one person can make the difference between harmony and strength on the one hand, or discord and despair on the other.

When we think of the power of one person, we can recall that Frederick the Great once sent this message to one of his generals: "I send you against the enemy with 60,000 men." When the troops were counted, they numbered only 50,000. The general sent a letter of protest and complaint that there must be a mistake. "No," replied Frederick, "there is no mistake, I counted you, my general,

as 10,000 men.

Every person, by virtue of what he or she is, can count for a great deal and, thus, realize the greatest potentialities for good or evil.

Through the various media outlets, we learn of the community, the nation and the world. If we really felt deeply about them, we would probably never get to the second cup of coffee. But if we ourselves do not feel deeply about certain things, how then can we blame others because they did not feel deeply about us and ours?

When we do begin to feel strongly about certain events, we can actually determine their course. That is why advertising agencies, business firms, community organizations, television networks and other outlets constantly survey our attitudes and our desires. Aldous Huxley expressed it all very well in a phrase: "When the individual feels, the community reels." ▲

Rabbi Solomon Agin serves at Temple Shalom in Port Charlotte.

What do you think?

L'CHAYIM wants to know!

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

Letters Policy

Letters must include the writer's full name, full address and daytime phone. Letters should be no longer than 300 words. We reserve the right to edit for length and/or accuracy. Letters do not necessarily reflect the viewpoint of L'CHAYIM nor its advertisers. We cannot acknowledge or publish every letter received.

**BAT YAM TEMPLE OF THE ISLANDS
REFORM**

Meets at Sanibel Congregational Church
2050 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel Island
Rabbi Stephen L. Fuchs
President: Alan Lessack
Phone: 773-251-8862
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

**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 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.

**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.

**SYNAGOGUES &
JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS
IN LEE & CHARLOTTE COUNTIES**

**CHAVURAT SHALOM OF SWFL
CHAVURA**

P.O. Box 722, Sanibel, FL 33957
Chavuratshalom@gmail.com
www.chavuratshalomofsouthwestflorida.org
Leonard E. Minsky, President

**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.

**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.

**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: HankTBEG@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.)

**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*

**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
Beginning Hebrew:
Tuesday 4:15 - 5:15 p.m.
Advanced Hebrew:
Thursday 4:15 - 5:15 p.m.
Organizations: Sisterhood

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

- 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
- Chabad Jewish Student Life at FGCU
Rabbi Mendel Gordon - 347-452-0489
mendelgordon@gmail.com
- Chevra Kadisha: Gene Sipe - 239-841-4615
- Generations of the Shoah SWFL: 263-9200
- Hadassah - Collier/Lee Chapter:
Joyce Toub - 518-330-1559
- 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



TEMPLE JUDEA SCHOOLS Fort Myers

Temple Judea Religious School
Tab Scribner,
Director of Congregational Learning
The summer months are relatively quiet, in the same way ducks appear calm on the water. However, under the surface we (like the ducks) are churning along, working toward what is coming next. We are excitedly preparing for a return to completely in-person religious school this fall.

Our teachers are reviewing materials and assessing the best practices to keep from our year of distance and hybrid learning, and what strategies we can save for (much) later in the event we must return to online instruction. We are working together to develop student-centered lessons that are relevant and engaging for each age group. It is exciting to see ideas evolve. I cannot wait for the students to see what the teachers have come up with.

Additionally, I am eagerly preparing to join this year's Jewish National

Fund (JNF) Educator's Mission in Israel later this month. I am excited at the prospect of working alongside close to 200 other educators exploring historical sites and developing programs that can be brought back to Temple Judea and Fort Myers. I am especially excited that this is occurring in the summer months so that I have time to connect with our teachers before beginning the new school year, and that I will not have to pack heavier clothing or a jack-

et for this trip. My great hope is that my luggage is not left behind again.

We will return to classes on Sunday, August 15 (9:30 a.m.) to kick off the new year. I cannot wait to see everyone in person! Elbow bumps for everyone!

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

Earn CAS Credits

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

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

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



90% of PJ Library families say that they are very likely to recommend PJ Library to their family and friends.

Results of a recent national survey of 25,000 families conducted by PJ Library

91% of PJ Library families say that PJ Library has been a valuable parenting tool.

Parents in Lee and Charlotte counties whose children are enrolled in PJ Library participated in the survey.

95% of PJ Library families read at least one PJ Library book each month.

PJ Library is making a difference in the lives of families raising Jewish children.

PJ LIBRARY RADIO LIVE!



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

Introducing *PJLibraryRadio.com*, an online streaming radio station with more than 2,000 songs from hundreds of artists across the globe.

Music is available 24/7 with special music blocks for Shabbat, Holiday and Bedtime.

- Listen to the music online
- Download the free app on iTunes, Google Play or Tune In Radio



DISCOVER THE FUN!



SHARE the experience of reading with your children as they grow with PJ Library books.

SIGN UP TODAY!

Enrollment is open to Jewish families with children between the **ages of six months to eight years** living in Lee & Charlotte Counties.

RECEIVE THE GIFT OF FREE JEWISH CHILDREN'S BOOKS MAILED TO YOUR HOME EVERY MONTH!

Funded by the Roth Family Foundation

More information, contact Debbie Sanford 239.481.4449 ext. 3 debbiesanford@jfedlcc.org

Families can sign up for PJ Library at pjlibrary.org

Chabad at FGCU update

By Rabbi Mendel Gordon

Did they ever say things close during break? At Chabad, the Rebbe always taught us to continuously grow, strive and do. Although we just concluded another semester at FGCU, Chabad's doors stay open for the students still in the area for the summer.

We are here for the Jewish students wherever they're at and continue to stay in touch. Summer is the time to connect with more personal encounters with the students.

We recently started a new Zoom course that explores Jewish civil law

and ethics and how it compares to U.S. law today. Students enjoy the discussions and thought-provoking class material.

As things are reopening and we are able to meet safely, we have restarted our weekly Jewish senior visitation program, "Loaves of Love." Our friends in American House have been waiting for us for over a year to be able to come back to visit them and we are so glad we now can. It's beautiful to see the students interact with the seniors, bridging generations and connecting the links in the chain.



Sara Logan (left) and Lacy Borkson (right) visit Dolly at American House



FGCU alumni enjoy a get-together

We have also started an alumni group for those grad students who stay in Southwest Florida so that they can have a Jewish community to be a part of and get together proudly as Jews.

In July, as new freshmen will be coming for summer classes, we look forward to greeting them with a full swing of new programs.

We will also have our annual summer raffle in July with an opportunity to win \$10,000 or a trip to Israel. Ensure Jewish life at FGCU and secure the Jewish tomorrow by getting tickets at chabadfgcu.com/raffle.

Chabad at FGCU caters to all Jewish students in Southwest Florida, providing a home away from home. Join us to learn, cele-

brate or just meet Jewish students your age.

For more information, or to get involved, contact me at 347.452.0489 or chabadfgcu@gmail.com, or visit our website at chabadfgcu.com. ▲



Kayla Boxenbaum makes challah with Shternie Gordon

Joseph Horowitz Israel Travel Grant

available through the Community Foundation of the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties.

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

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

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

For more information visit jewishfederationlcc.org



TOP Jewish Foundation

is proud to offer the **Stevan & Marilyn Simon Family Scholarship**.

This scholarship is open to those at least high school age who demonstrate leadership qualities and will be participating in a 2-week or longer program in Israel.

A short essay is required.

For more information, and to access the application, visit the TOP Jewish Foundation website at topjewishfoundation.org

Michael Shapiro

PHOTOGRAPHY

Bar / Bat Mitzvah Specialist

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



Other Services: Weddings / Family Portraits / Events

239.770.6860

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

JEWISH WAR VETERANS

Victor Paul Tuchman Post 400

(239) 246-3151

Eryka Aptaker

It seems that with Covid-19 restrictions being lifted and the vaccine being offered, life as we know it is slowly coming back to normal. Our Post was able to participate in this year's Memorial Day services. Ceremonies included the reading of names of the departed Jewish veterans at each cemetery – Temple Beth El and Memorial Gardens in Fort Myers, and Coral Ridge in Cape Coral. Honor Guard was present and included Isaac Osin, Herb Lutsky, Mike Kashi, Berny Aronson and, of course, Commander Harvey Charter. Volleys were fired to represent a ceremonious 21-gun salute and Commander Charter played Taps to honor deceased comrades. While the occasion was sullen, it was good to see members of our Post being able to gather as a team for a veterans' function.

Since I have not had much to post in the past year, it saddens me that I must announce the passing of three of our members, two of whom were

WWII veterans:

Herb Marks was 97 years old. He served in World War II as a member of the U.S. Army Air Corp earning the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Sid Harris was 98 years old. He served during WWII in the U.S. Army Air Corp as a captain with the 385th Bomber Group, 550th Squadron, Eighth Air Force based in the UK. He flew 32 missions as bomber pilot. His plane was shot down over Holland during one of these missions and he was able to successfully crash land on an RAF fighter strip in the Netherlands. Sid will be remembered by all as a very active member of the Post and an inspiration to everyone who met him.

Howard Weisberg was 87 years old. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. Over the years, Howard was a very active member of our Post.

On a more upbeat note, we were able to provide two Herb Schwartz Memorial Scholarships this year, as we were not able to give one out in 2020. After a meeting of this year's scholarship committee, the recipients

selected were Alexandra Polk and Jalen Goodman. Congratulations to both of them!

As I write this, our Post's first face-to-face meeting since the pandemic began will take place on Sunday, June 27 at 9:30 a.m. Since the Jewish Federation has not yet decided to reopen its office building, we will improvise and have the meeting at the American Legion Post 38, located at 1857 Jackson Street (Downtown Fort Myers). This American Legion Post houses the Nordhausen concentration camp flag which was made by inmates, using their uniforms, once the camp was liberated. During the meeting, we will award the two scholarships to our se-

lected recipients. We will also discuss upcoming events and our schedule for next season. The following meeting will be on Sunday, August 29 at a location to be determined. Come join this wonderful and committed group as we engage in bagels and cream cheese and great conversation.

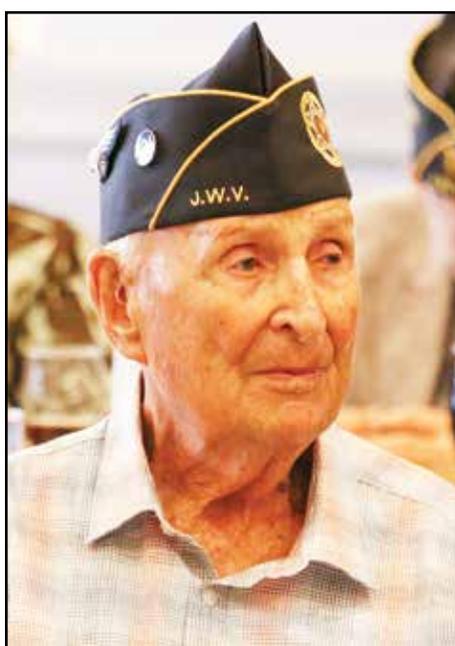
To become a member, or if you have questions, please contact Commander Harvey Charter at hbcharter@aol.com or 239.246.3151.

The Jewish War Veterans, founded in 1896, is the oldest continuing veterans organization in America. We are challenged in the pursuit of new members to keep our organization alive. With the loss of many of our WWII veterans, we are striving to have members of our younger generation(s) join and show support to the JWV.

We have a Patron membership for non-veterans. If your family members were veterans, think about honoring their memory by joining JWV Post 400. I joined in honoring the memory of my father, a Korean War veteran. Best decision I have ever made. This group has been a blessing in my life and some of the members have become like family to me. You would be a part of a very dedicated, committed group of individuals. We hope to see you at our future meetings!



Herb Marks



Sid Harris



Howard Weissberg



Honor Guard standing as Commander Harvey Charter plays Taps



The names of deceased comrades being read

SNOWBIRDS,

newspapers don't fly...

however, your address will!



Going North?

Don't forget to contact us with your change of address to continue receiving L'CHAYIM.

Send address changes to:
loriramos@jfedlcc.org
or call: 239.481.4449 ext-5

Safe Travels



**CHAVURAT SHALOM
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA**

chavuratshalom@gmail.com

*Cheryl Fulmer, Ellen Feingold
and Marcia Rudin*

Summer is upon us no matter where we may be living or traveling in the North American continent. Summer is the time when the Florida snowbirds have flown to their other homes in anticipation of cooler temperatures. Technology to the rescue. Even though Chavurat Shalom participants have had two doses of a Covid vaccine and therefore can gather together again, the snowbirds have disbursed.

Zoom continues to make it possible for lay-led Friday Shabbat services every week at the summer scheduled time of 7:30 p.m. A Zoom link will be issued each week to interested participants. To join and receive the Zoom link, send an email request to chavuratshalom@gmail.com.

Saturday morning Jewish current events and the Thursday morning

speaker programs are on vacation until early September. If you have topic or speaker suggestions, please share them via the email listed above. Our website, www.chavuratshalomofswflorida.org, will be kept updated as activities resume.

On Thursday, July 15 at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom, Dr. Ellen Feingold will give a talk, "Tisha B'Av: What Does it Mean to Us Two Thousand Years Afterwards?" Send an email to join this special program. The fast day recognizes the destruction of the First and Second Temples and more.

To maintain our social and intellectual connections this summer, Rabbi Myra Soifer, broadcasting from Reno, Nevada, will conduct the remainder of the series of classes titled, "Text of the Month Club," via Zoom at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesdays, July 20 and August 17. She will select the texts from the Hebrew Bible, Haftorah, Talmud or other Jewish sources, emailing the study text in advance of each session to class par-

ticipants. Each class stands on its own. To join and receive the Zoom link, send an email request.

The last session of Jewish current events on May 22 took place one day after the cease fire between Israel and Hamas in Gaza ending 11 days of rockets and military action. The discussion also covered the topic of changing attitudes among young Jews in the U.S. The group consensus was that reporting on the latest Israel-Hamas violence was not evenhanded and lacked historical context for the absolute necessity for the creation of the State of Israel. This reporting problem has plagued Israel throughout its history. Having turned the desert into farmland and cities; having become a genius technology start-up generator; and having succeeded in only 70 years is held against Israel by those who wish death to the Jews worldwide out of jealousy and religious intolerance.

Tzedakah is the Hebrew word that means "justice" or "righteousness" rather than "charity." In Judaism, tzedakah is the religious obligation to do

what is right regardless of one's financial status. Thanks to the overwhelming response to the Passover Tzedakah letter, the Tzedakah Committee was able to donate to organizations devoted to relieving hunger in Florida and Israel.

Chavurat Shalom (Fellowship of Peace) is an informal group from every Jewish religious tradition and meets to worship and learn together. People of all faiths and localities are welcome. Chavurat Shalom is not affiliated with any organized movement. The group is community-led. Shabbat services are a blend of English and Hebrew, English readings and poems, Hebrew prayers recited or chanted, and meaningful songs. Presently, worship and programs are via Zoom, but when Covid conditions permit, in-person gathering may also take place on Sanibel or in Fort Myers. Join with us and lend your voice and thoughts for a Shabbat service, or help plan a Thursday program or Saturday Jewish current events session. It is a refreshing opportunity to participate.

**JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA**

(239) 566-1771

When "never again" is "again and now"

Marina Berkovich

Nothing Jewish will ever matter if antisemitism in the U.S. is allowed to fester as it did in Europe over the past two decades, where desperate cries of the Jewish communities in countries that had barely recovered from the 20th century Holocaust, were being ignored and dismissed, as BDS and other anti-Jewish and anti-Israel sentiments were fueled, Jewish citizens terrorized, Jewish businesses vandalized, customers held hostage or killed and, in one very famous case, an elderly Holocaust survivor was raped and tossed off her balcony.

Antisemitism is a mental illness with ancient roots. Why else would the world allow significantly more popu-

lous groups to repeatedly call for the extermination of all Jews, an undisputed minority group that should have earned "most

protected" status from the said world community? This mental illness is one of the oldest and well-institutionalized kind of bullying, and can only be cured one case, one patient, one escalation at a time. There are times, like now, when it's so scary, it turns many Jews away from being Jewish, as if that ever saves Jews. It's so scary, that it seems hopeless to fight, to educate, to build bridges of understanding, acceptance and tolerance with other groups of people. It seems easier, or at least not as scary, to placate, to let them win now, just this time, even if the voice deep inside says, "Don't give up an inch, stand proud, fight back."

How do we fight the ugly issue of antisemitism at the Jewish Historical Society of SWFL? Head on. It is important to the Society to enlighten

residents, visitors and onlookers of the SWFL region that Jews are now, and have been for more than a century, in Lee and Charlotte counties, an integral and inseparable part of the overall community. The transformation in attitudes that has happened over such, historically speaking, short time, has been wonderful, as the non-Jewish community made a turnabout from "show me your horns" comments in the mid-20th century to Stand with Israel celebrations in the 2000s.

The Jewish Historical Society of Southwest Florida is proud to have many Christian members who support our mission and continue to spread the word about our work. The Eyewitness Stories in our virtual museum and our SWFL Jewish Pioneers film series educate people, Jewish and non-Jewish, about the difficulties and challenges of the early Jewish residents; the activities the community undertook to establish itself in this, then remote, area of Florida; the accomplishments of the

pioneering families; the pride in the diversity of our Jewish practices; the range of our Jewish values; and our united love for our homeland, Israel.

Join our email list or register directly at JHSSWF.org to attend "Timeline of SWFL Jewish History" on Zoom at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 28 and Tuesday, August 24.

Have you joined our mission yet? Family Membership is \$54; Individual Membership is \$36; Student Membership is \$18. Please join us online by entering the appropriate amount or mail your check 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/>

**HADASSAH
Collier/Lee Chapter**

(732) 539-4011

Joyce Toub

To all of you *Jeopardy* aficionados, on a recent episode, this answer was given in the category "Names that begin with an H:" A "commitment to the land, the people and the future of Israel" is the mission of this organization of Jewish women. None of the contestants responded, but the guest host, Mayim Bialik, broadly smiled and said she knew the correct response, as do you: "What is Hadassah?"

Let us carefully examine each section of the quote.

Commitment to the land: Hadassah ensures the security of Israel by spearheading and participating in numerous initiatives to promote ecological awareness, helping to turn dry and rocky terrain into green forests, parks

and farms, and to reclaim water and maintain reservoirs.

Commitment to the people: Hadassah educates and advocates on

critical issues ranging from antisemitism to fertility to defining Zionism in the 21st century. Hadassah promotes development of our youth through Young Judea and Youth Aliyah programs both here and abroad. Hadassah supports medical care and research at our hospitals to enhance the lives of ALL people, globally.

Commitment to the future of Israel: Hadassah has helped increase average longevity and universal health care, made medical technological advances and is at the forefront of research in many fields. Hadassah and Israel are miraculous!

When you read your *Hadassah* magazine or view the website, you are introduced to a plethora of activities

in which Hadassah is involved. Your pride will be overwhelming. You don't even have to go out of your way. All of this can be found in your Hadassah Happenings bulletin!

Patti Bloom is one very talented Collier/Lee Hadassah guru. When you view Hadassah Happenings each

month, I urge you to peruse the entry that has expanded National Hadassah's website. Patti has simplified negotiating the site and made it very easy for you to do so too. By clicking a link, you can learn about the most recent advances in the U.S., Israel and around the world.

**HAZAK 55+ CHAPTER
at Temple Judea**

(239) 433-0201

Joyce Rosinger

HAZAK will have lunch or dinner get-togethers at local restaurants during the summer months. If you are interested in joining us, please send an email to the address listed below. As more decisions are made, we hope to have additional in-person programs beginning in the fall.

Temple Judea's active HAZAK 55+ Chapter is a chartered member of

the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. HAZAK Chapters are for singles or couples. It's an organization that enables

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

Members of the community are always welcome to join and attend our programs. Dues to join are a moderate \$10 per year.

For more information, please email tjhazak@gmail.com or call Temple Judea at 239.433.0201. Join HAZAK and meet new friends.

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

Hinei Mah Tov – How wonderful it is to be together again!

Things are opening up in the country, and so is Temple Beth El! Please join us in person for our July events and services.

Temple Beth El is now holding in-person Shabbat services on Friday at 7:30 p.m. Services are still available via Zoom and Facebook Live for anyone not yet ready or able to attend in person. Please visit the temple website to register to attend in-person services, and for our guidelines to ensure everyone will feel comfortable and safe.

Join with us as we joyously welcome Shabbat – together.

The TBE Sisterhood Rummage Sale is scheduled for Sunday, August 22. Items to be collected for the sale include clothes, housewares, collect-

ibles, sports equipment, small pieces of furniture, holiday items, jewelry, etc. Remember, your trove may be someone else's treasure. Carts are available at the temple

entrance. Drop off your donations now!

Sisterhood and The Learning Tree are collecting backpacks stuffed with school supplies to be distributed to children for the coming school year. Please bring your filled backpacks to the temple through Friday, July 23 for donations to a needy child in Lee County. Our goal is 100 backpacks.

The Sisterhood is also excited to announce the Sheila Duerden Memorial Mah Jongg Tournament planned for March 30, 2022. Why are we announcing the date so early? Because we want you to save that date. Things can get busy "in season" and we don't want anyone to miss out on the fun.

For more information about all of these Sisterhood initiatives, please visit templebethel.com.

With the High Holidays around

the corner, TBE will again be offering eight-ounce jars of delicious kosher honey. These jars are perfect for your holiday table or as a gift to someone special. An enclosed personalized card expresses wishes for a happy and healthy New Year and acknowledges that a donation has been made to Temple Beth El. Orders must be placed by Wednesday, July 7, and the honey can be shipped anywhere in the U.S. Don't miss this opportunity to delight your family and friends with this thoughtful gift.

The new Israel Committee of Temple Bethel is up and running, with the purpose of fostering a connection with Israel through educational and cultural programs; support of Israeli companies and merchants; combating antisemitism; being a resource for recognition of Israel during religious services, activities and programs; and ensuring an Israel connection as an important aspect of our TBE community. We recently had an important lecture from the former Israeli Consul General about the situation in the Middle East.

The Mitzvah Committee continues with its monthly Drive In Drop Off food and feminine products (Cycle Forward) collections with great success. We have collected hundreds of pounds of donations. We have also started a program of writing cards to children in a hospital, seniors in assisted living, Florida veterans and Israeli soldiers. Our "Pass it Forward" program collects and shares wonderful stories of mitzvahs done and mitzvahs received. Our latest initiative focus is our environment and what we can learn and provide as tangible ways to act. One could say we are inspired to try to help "Tikkun Tevel" (the healing of our planet).

Anyone interested in finding out more about the Israel and Mitzvah Committees should email jerrytbe@gmail.com.

Visit our website and follow us on Facebook (Temple Beth El Fort Myers) and on Instagram (@templebethelfortmyers) for updates, information and more details about our online, and now in-person, community experiences.

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 so happy and so thankful to be together again in our sanctuary

on Friday nights after almost 15 months of being apart! We are now holding in-person Shabbat evening services every Friday at 7:30 p.m.

Everyone is always welcome, and for the time being, we are requiring advance registration. Remember to RSVP in advance at info@shalomlifecenter.org to reserve your seat for our weekly Shabbat experience.

Every Saturday at 10:00 a.m., SLC offers an interactive and participatory

Torah study led by Rabbi Lawrence Dermer with a focus on the relevance of our timeless traditions and bringing the ancient wisdom of Torah into our daily lives.

Individualized Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparation, Torah Study, Women's Circle Ladies Night, Game Night, Café Kabbalah, Health and Wellness Team, Book Club, Green Team, Yiddish Culture Club and Genesis Study Group are taking place 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.

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 or email info@shalomlifecenter.org.

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

Mazel Tov to longtime C.F.S.ers Ashlie Choplien and David Bogner on their June marriage on Captiva! The congregational is thrilled for them!

Deepest sympathies are extended to the family of Muriel Friedman, who died at the end of May. A longtime Fort Myers resident, Muriel was a

determined, cultured and intellectual woman.

Each Friday at 7:00 p.m., cantorial soloists Tracy Pavel and Richard McConville, along with instrumentalist Joseph

Brauer, join Rabbi Bruce Diamond in conducting worship in the sanctuary, followed by a social hour in the dining hall. Worship is also Zoomed. A downloadable copy of the service and logon information can be found at www.fortmyerssynagogue.com.

Torah Study with the Rabbi gathers at 9:30 a.m. every Sabbath at the synagogue, and will continue to be Zoomed. Coffee and sweet rolls are served.

Tuesday night Adult Education starts at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom only. Isaiah will be studied throughout July, followed by Jeremiah and Ezekiel.

The synagogue's home is at The

S.W. Florida Masonic Center, 10868 Metro Parkway, Fort Myers. Now in its 16th year under the Rabbi's leadership, it is open to all free of membership requirements or fundraising. All of its events and programs are open to all at no charge.

For more information on C.F.S., visit www.fortmyerssynagogue.com or email synfree@comcast.net.

TEMPLE SHALOM
Charlotte Harbor & the Gulf Islands**(941) 625-2116**
www.templeshalomfl.com

On Tuesday, May 25, the Temple Shalom Program and Events Committee met to discuss activities for the coming year.

The committee will formally ask the Temple Board of Directors to add the phrase "The Center for Jewish Life" on our letterhead and all publications. The committee feels strongly about the statement since we open our doors to the Greater Jewish Community of Charlotte County.

This year, the committee has designated Tuesdays as our day of learning and programs. This will include a class in Yiddish, book reviews, speakers, lunch & learn,

film festival and more. The spirit and enthusiasm of the committee is wonderful.

There will be a special program to dedicate the two beautiful stained glass windows that are now in our sanctuary. The windows provide a feeling of spirituality that did not previously exist.

For information about Temple Shalom, a synagogue affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism, please call 941.625.2116.

STAY IN TOUCH
Sign up for e-blasts!



GET THE LATEST INFORMATION ON
UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS,
CULTURAL ACTIVITIES,
BREAKING NEWS,
UPDATES FROM ISRAEL & MORE.

Send an email to
debbiesanford@jfedlcc.org

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

Temple Judea has been open for in-person services for almost a month, and members and visitors to the shul are thrilled. Online access to services is also available for those who are not in town or are unable to attend.

Tisha B'Av, commemorating the destruction of the first and second Temples in Jerusalem, begins Saturday evening, July 17. On Tisha B'Av, the Book of Lamentations is read with a special melody. A service will be held that evening beginning at 8:00 p.m.

If it is Tisha B'Av, then the start of the High Holiday season cannot be far behind... and it is not. Selichot, the service of prayers for forgiveness in

preparation of the High Holidays will take place on Saturday evening, August 28. A dessert reception will precede the service.

Rosh Hashanah begins on Monday evening, September 6, the night of Labor Day! Next month's L'CHAYIM will have all the information about holiday services.

Temple Judea is excited to announce that Cantor Matthew Austerklein will be our High Holiday Hazzan this year. Cantor Austerklein is an incredibly talented and energetic musician who will bring both spirit and warmth to our congregation. We look forward to welcoming him.

For more information about any of the upcoming holiday services, please call the synagogue office.

Now is the time to place your order for honey to be delivered to family and

friends throughout the country. This is a Chaverot fundraiser that is sure to delight the recipients of the delicious kosher eight-ounce jar of honey just in time for Rosh Hashanah. Visit www.orthoney.com/TF to order.

The next selection for the Chaverot book club, *The Empathy Diaries* by Sherry Turkle, will be discussed on Tuesday, July 20 at 7:00 p.m. This is the memoir of a Harvard educated Jewish woman drawn to the science of the digital world who became a psychologist and professor at MIT. Join us for an interesting discussion of her book. New members are always welcome to our book group.

Information about becoming a member of Chaverot is available on the temple's website. You can also get more information by calling the office.

Lunchtime Torah study with Rabbi Marc Sack, and Tot Shabbat led by Director of Congregation Learning Tab

Scribner, will resume in the fall.

Temple Judea members continue to donate food to the Jewish Federation Food Pantry and volunteer at the Harry Chapin Food Bank. They also donate menstrual products to be given out at food pantries throughout our community to women in need. We thank all our members for all they do.

"Like" the Temple Judea Facebook page to stream services and events, or call the office for the Zoom link.

Regularly scheduled events:

- 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.
- Tot Shabbat the second Friday night of each month at 5:00 p.m.
- Rabbi Sack's monthly lunchtime Torah study sessions the first Thursday of each month

TEMPLE BETH SHALOM
Cape Coral

(239) 772-4555
www.templebethshalomcc.org

After a year and two months, we were finally able to meet again inside the synagogue. The occasion was Shavuot and the celebration included an ice cream social after services. The excitement of being together inside the building was something we would nev-

er have imagined before the pandemic. We are now acutely aware of the importance of the little things in life that we used to take for granted.

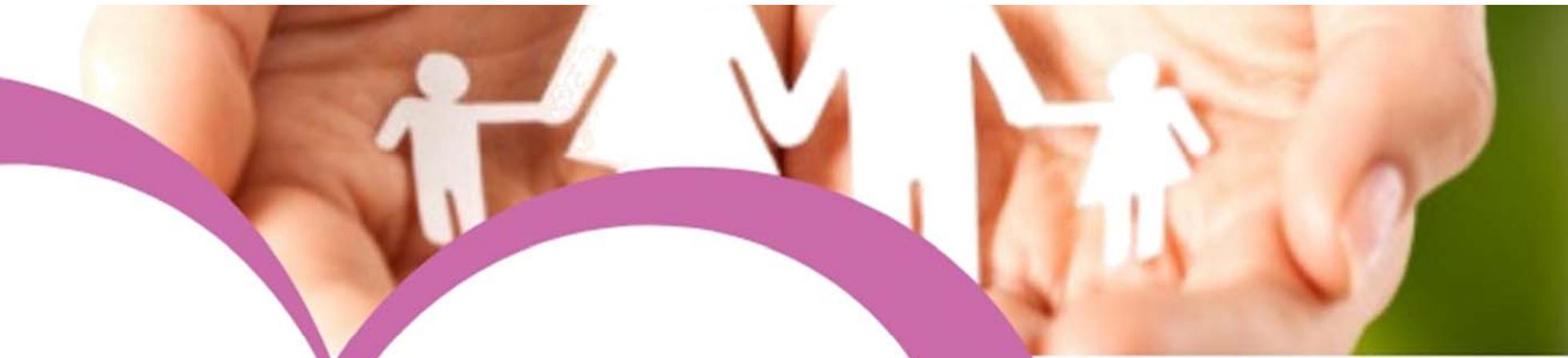
While we were there, everyone got a preview of what the new sanctuary will look like. There is now a ramp going up to the bimah for those who have a problem with steps. The wood paneling that has been on the wall for decades has been replaced with stacked stone. The step up to the

ark that so many have tripped on in the past is gone. The blue walls are now painted a warm cream color. The blue carpet is gone and will be replaced with a wood look Luxury Vinyl Tile.

For the members of Temple Beth Shalom, the new sanctuary signifies a new beginning. We welcomed new members to the Board of Directors, we are planning some new things for the High Holy Days, planning new and different activities for the coming year, and hope to welcome new members to our new and improved facility.

Friday night services, Saturday morning Torah Study, Wednesday night Enrichment and Saturday night at the movies will all continue throughout the summer on Zoom. The Book Club will continue to meet at JayCee Park in Cape Coral.

For a list of activities (including the date and book for the Book Club), membership information and more, visit www.templebethshalomcc.org. If you prefer, you can call us anytime at 239.772.4555.



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 ext. 6 or alanisaacs@jfedlcc.org.

Order your High Holiday Greeting Today!

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 2021 issue of L'CHAYIM.



Sign up now for the September issue of L'CHAYIM for as little as \$18 per greeting. Choose from these sample greetings. Just select your ad, complete & return the form below.

AUGUST 6 DEADLINE



#1A: \$18



#1B: \$18



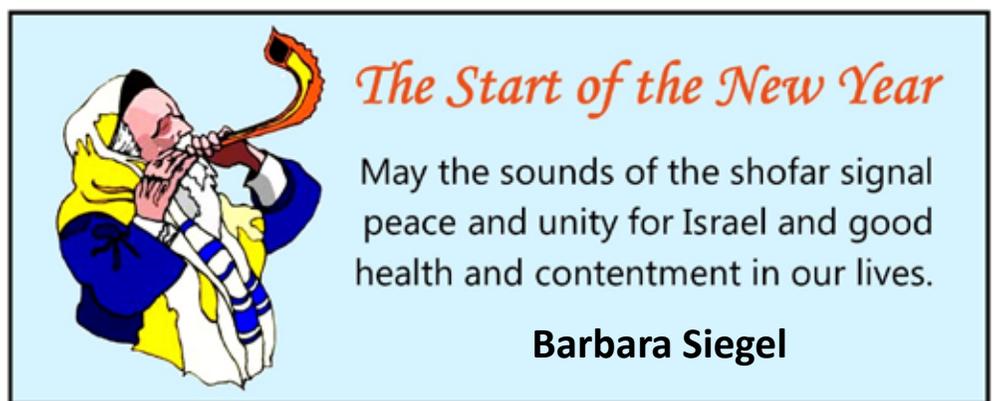
#1C: \$18



#1D: \$18



#2A: \$36



#2B: \$54

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

I want to place the following High Holiday greeting in the September 2021 L'CHAYIM

PRINT your name as you would like it to appear on the line below.

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

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

CHECK YOUR AD CHOICES BELOW:

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

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

FORM & PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 6

