



FEBRUARY 5 ~ MARCH 2, 2023

# Jewish Film Festival



Sponsored by TILE OUTLETS OF AMERICA

SEE PAGES 18 & 19 FOR FULL DETAILS!

# L'CHAYIM

Published by the Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte Counties

January 2023 / 5783

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

Volume 45, Number 5

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- 8 Community Focus
- 10 Jewish Interest
- 18 Jewish Film Festival



- 20 Israel & the Jewish World
- 22 Commentary
- 24 From the Bimah
- 28 Focus on Youth
- 31 Temple News
- 34 Organizations
- 36 Community Directory



Photos from Federation's Community Breakfast



Bat Yam holds Shabbat services in Federation Community Room

## New year, new resources, new friends

### FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

■ Debbie Sanford



Happy New Year! I can't imagine that we are heading into 2023. I still have a smile on my face as a result of our Community Breakfast a few weeks ago. Gathering together again meant so much to me and your support is invaluable. Thank you to all who attended. It would be remiss of me not to mention that our *L'CHAYIM* editor, Ted Epstein, was the photographer at the breakfast. His photos are beautiful and can be seen in a two-page spread on pages 6-7.

I have previously spoken of the extended support we have received from community members, other Federations and The Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA), our national organization, in response to Hurricane Ian. But I am thrilled to be able to announce this exciting news. Immediately after the hurricane, JFNA sent a representative to do an assessment of our Federation building's damages as well as our community's damages. I invited every Jewish organization to this assessment meeting. It consisted of an in-office gathering one day and a virtual meeting with JFNA, FEMA and a White House representative the second day. I am happy to report that these meetings were very fruitful, and the Jewish Federation has received a

very generous grant.

The funds that make up this grant are from a national campaign and donations from other Jewish Federations. What does this mean for our community? It means that in

addition to having emergency funds to take care of individuals and families in our community, we are able to grant assistance to every local temple with damages to help in their recovery process. We have distributed grants to Temple Beth El, Temple Judea, Bat Yam, Temple Beth Shalom and Temple Shalom.

JFNA also awarded a grant to the National Chabad Organization with Chabad of Cape Coral as the intermediary to assist all Chabads in Lee, Charlotte, Collier and Sarasota counties to be used for damages sustained from the hurricane where there was the greatest need.

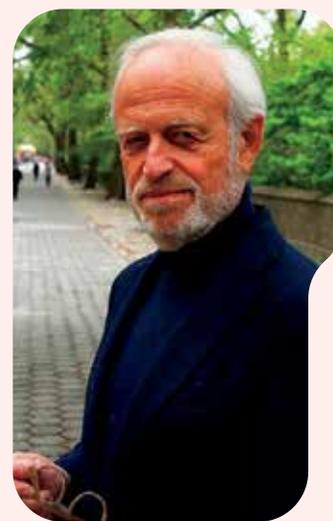
We are also proud to announce that we included other non-profit organizations we work with year round that are also assisting the community at large. Together with our Federation we will all be able to serve many more people than each of us alone could do. We

have granted funds to the Harry Chapin Food Bank, which supports our Cadkin Foundation Food Pantry; the United Way; and Collaboratory's Southwest Florida Hurricane Assistance Fund.

I stand proudly as the leader of this Federation and say, this is what community means. This is what *Tikkun Olam*, *Tzedakah* and *K'Lal Yisrael* look like! It is the beginning of new relationships and the renewal of others. All of us should be proud to be members of this community, not only taking

*continued on next page*

## MAJOR GIFTS 2023



### GUEST SPEAKER

Former Ambassador to Israel, Martin Indyk.

Wednesday, January 11, 2023

Invitation to follow. Minimum donation of \$1,800 to the annual campaign is required to attend.



Jewish Federation OF LEE & CHARLOTTE COUNTIES

Jewish Federation OF LEE & CHARLOTTE COUNTIES  
9701 Commerce Center Court  
Fort Myers, Florida 33908

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

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

VISIT THE FEDERATION ONLINE AT:  
[www.JewishFederationLCC.org](http://www.JewishFederationLCC.org)

Culture Philanthropy Social Service



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

**January 2023 • Volume 45, Number 5**

**President:** Marsha Kistler  
**Board:** Karen Fine • Shirley Frank • Valerie Franklin  
 Helene Glocer • Carolyn Gora • Jerry Greenfield  
 Elisa Grossman • Andi Horowitz • Doreen Kostel  
 Michele Laboda • Rozzi Osterman • William Reynolds  
 Barbara Siegel • Sylvia Simko • Brian Simon • Sherri Zucker  
**Executive Director:** Debbie Sanford  
**Executive Assistant:** Lori Ramos  
**Dir. of Programs & Engagement:** Aimee Levine-Miles  
**Program Assistant:** Ian Sanford  
**Jewish Family Services:** Jodi Cohen  
**Friendly Visitor Program:** Rabbi Michael J. Schorin  
**Holocaust Educator:** Ella Naylor  
**FGCU Student Representative:** Matthew Boggan

**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.

**FEBRUARY ISSUE  
 EDITORIAL DEADLINE:  
 Thursday, January 5**

**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).

**To donate to the Federation's  
 Annual Campaign,  
 call 239.481.4449 x6  
 or visit  
 JewishFederationLCC.org**

**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.**

# From the Director of Programs and Engagement

By Aimee Levine-Miles

The holidays have gone by quickly! I am honored and thrilled to have joined the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties. First and foremost, I would like to introduce myself to this fast-growing community. My name is Aimee Levine-Miles. I joined the Federation in mid-November as the Director of Programs and Engagement.

I moved to Fort Myers from Northern California a year and a half ago with my husband Ian and our two beautiful children. I was looking for employment at an establishment that was heavily involved in our community. I couldn't have picked a better group of people to work with. The Federation has gone above and beyond to offer support, local outreach and assistance for the many who have been affected by Hurricane Ian. This Federation team and its wonderful volunteers have relentlessly served this community with its food pantry, financial assistance grants to families,

and individuals in crisis. Most importantly, we are getting the word out that we are here to build future social and educational programming and support for this community.

My role is to plan and execute events that bring us all together to celebrate and share our common beliefs and traditions in Judaism. We will have many exciting events for you. They are in the works as I write this. And the Jewish Film Festival (sponsored by Tile Outlets of America) is right around the corner.

I had the honor to meet a few of you in my office and at the Community Breakfast, a fantastic event. The speaker, Eleanor Reissa, was outstanding and emotionally engaging. She left everyone excited to get her book and find out more.

It's an honor to join the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties. I look forward to meeting you in person at our future events.

*Debbie Sanford...continued from previous page*

care of the Jewish community, but the community at large.

The funds our Federation were afforded will be used to help individuals rebuild their lives. The loss is so great and will take a lot of money and time. We are helping with utility bills, food, home repairs, car deposits and payments, security deposits and rent, as well as replacing personal belongings, household items and furniture. The list goes on and on.

We are also partnering with the United Way as one of the first organizations to receive a POD full of donated, brand-new furniture, beds and eventually appliances to distribute to the community. If you need

any of these items, please reach out to Jodi Cohen at Jewish Family Services or our new Case Manager, Rosemary Garcia, at 239.481.4449 x1. By the time this issue goes to print, the POD will be in our parking lot. We are organizing appointments to the POD to pick items you need most and get them delivered.

Add in our amazing Jewish Film Festival (sponsored by Tile Outlets of America), a 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration for Israel, speakers, trips and more, and we are very, very busy. Just what I like to see. I hope you have the opportunity to join us at all these events.

From my family to yours, we wish you a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.



## MAHJONG AT THE JEWISH FEDERATION

### Mahjong - Tuesday Afternoons 12pm-3pm

If you are interested in leading either of these groups, or a beginner looking to learn how to play, please contact [aimeemiles@jfedlcc.org](mailto:aimeemiles@jfedlcc.org) or call 239.481.4449 x4

**For more info visit:  
 JewishFederationLCC.org**





LINDA IDELSON CULINARY FUND PRESENTS

**BAGELS,  
SCHMEARS,  
AND A NICE  
PIECE OF FISH**

A Whole Brunch of Recipes to Make at Home



CATHY BARROW

*Brunch*  
with Cathy Barrow



THE IDELSON HOME WILL BE THE VENUE FOR BRUNCH ON JANUARY 5, 2023  
 WOMAN'S MILAN MARY DYER INVITES YOU TO ATTEND BRUNCH &  
 A CELEBRATION WITH AUTHOR CATHY BARROW. SPACE IS LIMITED!  
 ADDRESS PROVIDED AT REGISTRATION.

**SOLO OUT**

\$36 (INCLUDES COOKBOOK)

REGISTER ONLINE [WWW.JEWISHFEDERATIONLCC.ORG/CALENDAR](http://WWW.JEWISHFEDERATIONLCC.ORG/CALENDAR)



Sponsored by

Jewish Film Festival  
of Southwest Florida

TILE OUTLETS  
OF AMERICA

Be a "REEL" Supporter

2023 Individual Sponsorship Opportunities

| Benefits  | Executive<br>Producer<br>\$5,000 | Producer<br>\$1,500  | Director<br>\$1,000  | Screenwriter<br>\$550 | Actor<br>\$360                |
|---|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Naming rights for entire Festival including printed tickets (Only 1 available)                              | ✓                                |                      |                      |                       |                               |
| Choice of one film identified with your name  | ✓                                | ✓                    |                      |                       |                               |
| Concierge ticket service & sponsor lanyard  | ✓                                | ✓                    | ✓                    | ✓                     | ✓                             |
| Recognition as a sponsor on all print and media ads. Including L'CHAYIM, weekly newsletter and social media | ✓                                | ✓                    | ✓                    | ✓                     | ✓                             |
| <b>Tickets</b>  | <b>8</b><br>Reserved             | <b>6</b><br>Reserved | <b>4</b><br>Reserved | <b>2</b><br>Reserved  | <b>2</b><br>General Admission |
| Tickets to special events   | ✓<br>VIP                         | ✓<br>VIP             | ✓<br>VIP             | ✓<br>VIP              | ✓                             |
| Invitation to private Sponsor Reception   | ✓                                | ✓                    | ✓                    | ✓                     | ✓                             |

Want to support the Festival, but don't need the benefits? Become a Festival Friend for just \$100 and have your name listed as a "Reel Supporter".



Sponsored by

Jewish Film Festival  
of Southwest Florida

TILE OUTLETS  
OF AMERICA

I want to be a "REEL" Supporter

Registration form deadline: December 16th, 2022

Name (exactly as you would like it to appear in advertising)

Address

Phone

Email

I would like to be a:

- Executive Producer
- Producer
- Director
- Screenwriter
- Actor

Please mail checks payable to:

Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties  
 9701 Commerce Center Court  
 Fort Myers, FL 33908

Call Debbie Sanford to pay by credit card over the phone. 239.481.4449 x6

Pay online: [www.JewishFederationLCC.org/JFF2023](http://www.JewishFederationLCC.org/JFF2023)

Thank you for your support!

**See pages 18-19 for information on all 11 films in the 2023 Jewish Film Festival of Southwest Florida.**

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.



## TRIBUTES

**In honor of Whitney Keice & Adma Kistler's wedding**  
from Dr. & Mrs. Lawrence Seidenstein

**In honor of Marsha Kistler's significant birthday**  
from Dr. & Mrs. Lawrence Seidenstein

**In memory of Ginger Horton**  
from Rosalyn Shraiar

**In memory of Ruth Lefberg**  
from Rosalyn Shraiar  
from Melissa Kramer

**In honor of Jodi Cohen**  
from Reina Schlager

**In honor of Debbie Sanford**  
from Reina Schlager  
from Laurie Morris

**In memory of Zita Braun**  
from George & Judy Litman

**In celebration of Clive Lubner**  
from Sunny Lubner

**In honor of Robert Rudin**  
from Barry & Jay Solomon

**In honor of Judy Adler**  
from The "Bookie's" Book Club of Shell Point



Jewish Federation  
OF LEE & CHARLOTTE COUNTIES

### HOW THE JEWISH FEDERATION SERVES

#### Local Jewish Education and Culture

- ✧ Community-wide Jewish Education and Cultural Programs for all ages including the Jewish Film Festival, Jewish author events, Out & About Films, Israel celebration, day trips, Israeli folk dancing, PJ Library & TRIBE, a young adult group.
- ✧ L'CHAYIM published monthly to keep the Jewish community informed about local, national and international Jewish issues.
- ✧ New CRC-Community Relations Council to address issues of anti-Semitism and Interfaith Relations.
- ✧ Israel Advocacy and Initiatives to strengthen local Jewish community ties with Israel. Holocaust education for middle and high school students in the community and a college campus Jewish life experience committee.
- ✧ Volunteer opportunities for all ages.



#### 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.

#### Jewish Community Foundation

- ✧ An endowment that ensures future social and educational programming and support for our community.
- ✧ Needs-based college scholarships and study scholarships in Israel.
- ✧ Jewish camp scholarships.
- ✧ Projects and programs aimed at Jewish community enrichment.



Jewish Family Services  
A division of the Jewish Federation  
of Lee & Charlotte Counties

#### Local Seniors Services

- ✧ Lunch Bunch, a monthly gathering with a free lunch for older adults to meet and schmooze.
- ✧ Holiday baskets and teen visits to seniors and senior facilities for Rosh Hashanah, Hanukkah and Passover.
- ✧ Holocaust survivor outreach.

#### Local Social Services

- ✧ Non-sectarian, individual and family outreach, information and referral services.
- ✧ Friendly Visitor Program.

#### Local Emergency Services

- ✧ Food Pantry and gift cards.
- ✧ Emergency financial assistance grants to families and individuals in crisis.
- ✧ Local disaster outreach and assistance.



## 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.



Jewish Federation  
OF LEE & CHARLOTTE COUNTIES

Make a Gift at  
[jewishfederationlcc.org/tribute-memorials](http://jewishfederationlcc.org/tribute-memorials)

## 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**.



# Jewish Family Services update

By Jodi Cohen, Jewish Family Services Coordinator

Every month at the Federation board meeting, I share a couple of stories about what's happening in Jewish Family Services. Someone inevitably says, "You should write these down!"

Aha! These are my recent stories.

A Hispanic elderly man and his two grown daughters came to the Cadkin Foundation Food Pantry, all wearing face masks. I could hear the father's labored breathing. I asked how they were affected by the hurricane and one daughter talked about the mold, the flooding and their ongoing attempts to get assistance. Her father chimed in with an English word here and there.



■ Jodi Cohen

In Spanish I told them that while I don't speak Spanish, I know the poet Antonio Machado. As I recited the lines from his poem, "Traveler, There is No Road," the elderly father joined in:

*Caminante no hay camino/Se hace camino al andar.* Walker there is no path, you make the path while walking.

Oh, what joy! We were so excited to be saying the lines together in concert, our eyes sparkling. It was a small, magical interlude amidst the *tsuris*. The family received food, supplies and help paying some of their bills.

A couple of weeks after the hurricane, an elderly, married couple walked into my office to discuss their housing situation, which was dire. Early into our conversation, I found out that the wife is a Holocaust "fighter," a word that our Community Breakfast speaker, author Eleanor Reissa, prefers to use in place of "survivor." Me too.

A window in my soul opens when I learn that someone is a Holocaust fighter. It is hard to articulate, but there is a shift in how I pay attention. While discussing housing options, the husband said, "As long as we can boil water for tea, we will be fine." The

wife kept putting her hand to her heart, the international gesture for gratitude, when I told them the Federation would help them. Finally, she said, "I don't know how long I can hold the tears." The next week, as the couple settled into their short-term housing, the husband said, "There are no words in English to describe how much your care means to us."

Another woman, let's call her Batya, was told to come to the Federation by the Jewish women she met as clients through her business and had become friends with over the past 20 years. Batya is a third-generation Fort Myers Beach homeowner and lost everything after the hurricane.

In my office, when I handed her gift cards, she began weeping. For the record, I am pro-crying because I believe the more one cries, the less one has to schlep around on the inside. I waited a couple of minutes and told Batya we were going to get food from the pantry, which made her cry even harder. I said, "Honey, bring the tissues. I'll pack and you can keep crying."

The Federation's grocery bags are chock-full to begin with, and as I added more items, Batya nodded while tears streamed down her face. I filled many bags with extra food and supplies while she sobbed.

What's true is that most people cry when talking about what happened to them as a result of the hurricane, the upheaval, the extreme loss. The box of tissues now sits on the edge of my desk, within easy reach. I witnessed a level of anguish that afternoon with Batya that so many people might be feeling, even if they're unable to express it as profoundly.

These are just a couple of stories about the families that Jewish Family Services is able to support as a result of your

generosity. There is a tangible depth of gratitude as people receive groceries, gift cards, money to pay their bills, clothes, pet food and all the other assistance that the Federation can provide. Because of YOU.

Recovery will take a long time. You all should feel proud of the amount and level of resources that JFS is able to extend to the hundreds and hundreds of people who have reached out for help. I extend a thank you as wide as the sky.

The Federation held the first Lunch Bunch post-hurricane at Temple Beth Shalom in Cape Coral. We would like to thank Cantor Barry Butensky and all the Temple Beth Shalom congregants for hosting us. As always, our delicious lunch was provided by our community



partner, Jason's Deli. We ate, we kibbitzed and we sang!

The Lunch Bunch is a fun way to connect with others in the community. Come, come. Meet. Eat. Learn. There is always a place at the table for YOU. RSVP to me at 239.481.4449 x1 or [jodicohen@jfedlcc.org](mailto:jodicohen@jfedlcc.org).

## LUNCH BUNCH 2023

Thurs., Jan. 12  
Temple Beth El  
Fort Myers

Thurs., Feb. 16  
Chabad of  
Southwest  
Florida  
Fort Myers

Thurs., Mar. 16  
Temple Beth  
Shalom  
Cape Coral



Jewish Family Services Coordinator Jodi Cohen (center) presents Stuart and Toni Morgenstein with a "Mitzva Award" for all their support and mitzvot throughout the year

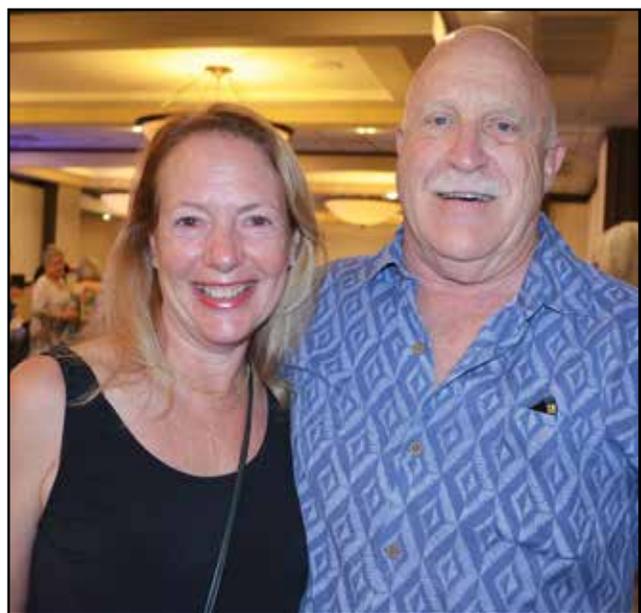
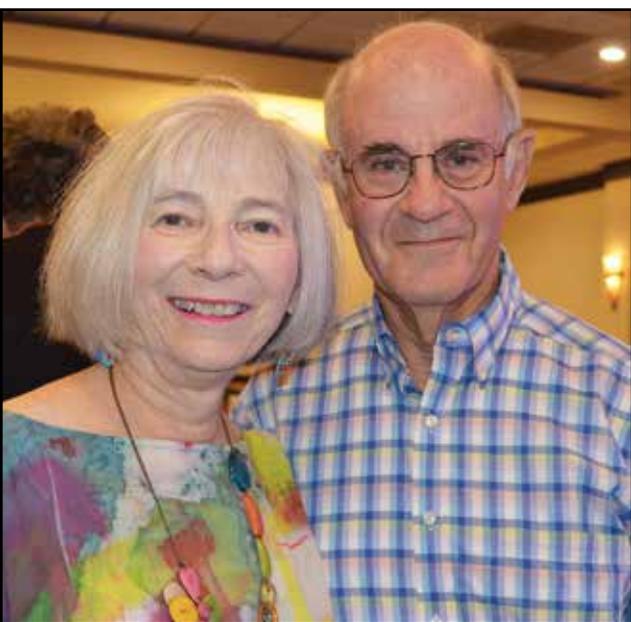


At the Lunch Bunch at Temple Beth Shalom in Cape Coral

# Community Breakfast ~ December 4, 2022

Photos by Ted Epstein ~ To view more photos of this event, visit [facebook.com/jewishfederationlcc/photos/](https://www.facebook.com/jewishfederationlcc/photos/)





# Holocaust Museum & Cohen Education Center update

By Susan Suarez, President & CEO

Happy New Year! I hope you enjoyed the holidays. We are gearing up for a busy season and look forward to having you join us for interesting programs and events. Many thanks to our Sponsors and all who joined us for The Luncheon. Proceeds from our annual winter fundraising event benefited our Education Programs. Held at the Royal Poinciana Golf Club, the program featured excerpts from the award-winning play, *Wiesenthal*, performed by its author and actor,



■ Susan Suarez

Tom Dugan. The play sheds new light on Simon Wiesenthal's life and his post-war efforts to track down Holocaust criminals evading capture to escape justice. We thank Royal Poinciana and Mr. Dugan for a memorable event.

**New Exhibit**

We invite you to visit the Estelle and Stuart Price Gallery to view a new exhibit. "Two Regimes" reflects the experiences of a mother and daughter who lived under both the Nazi regime in World War II and under a Communist government post-war. The exhibit will be on display from January through April.

**Lecture Series: "Nazi-Looted Art – Unfinished Business"**

Museum Docent Ellaine Rosen brings back her popular series, "Nazi-Looted

Art – Unfinished Business." The five-part series will be held in the Maureen and Arnold Lerner Classroom at the Museum from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Mondays, January 16, 23 & 30 and February 6 & 13. The lectures are free but a suggested minimum donation of \$18 is greatly appreciated. Advance registration is required at [www.hmcec.org](http://www.hmcec.org).

**International Holocaust Remembrance Day**

The Museum will commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day on January 27 with a special film presentation from 11:00 a.m. to noon. We will also offer complimentary admission from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., with the last guests admitted at 3:00 p.m. An advance reservation is required at [www.hmcec.org](http://www.hmcec.org).



Ellaine Rosen

**Yiddish Group**

Interested in learning or brushing up on Yiddish phrases? You are invited to attend a three-part series to be held at the Museum from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 22, February 12 and March 19. You do not need experience with the language to attend this fun class. The program will be conducted by Sol Awend, Harriet Bernman and Felicia Anchor. Admission is free with advance registration at [www.hmcec.org](http://www.hmcec.org).

**North Wing Update**

The interior demolition of the three adjoining suites owned by the Museum has created a new 3,500 sq. ft. space, which will house a new Auschwitz Gallery, an expanded Classroom and event space, a catering kitchen and offices. The current Special Exhibits Gallery will be enlarged and relocated to the new North Wing, allowing us to renovate the existing space into a new Genocide and Human Rights Gallery in the current Museum. A variety of naming opportunities are available. For more information, please contact me at [susan@hmcec.org](mailto:susan@hmcec.org) or 239.263.9200.

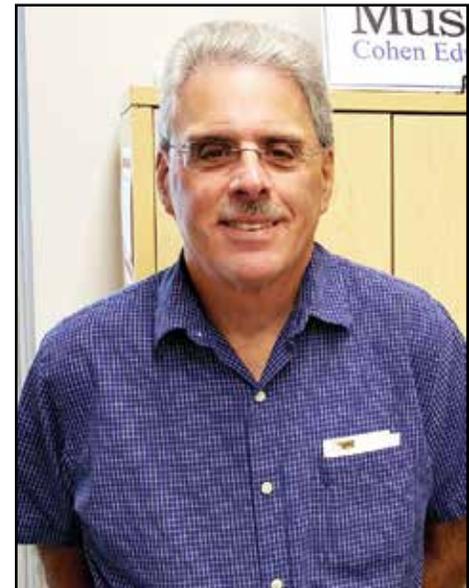
**Upcoming Calendar of Events**

We hope you will "save the date" for these events in February and March:

Wednesday, February 15 at 4:00 p.m.: "Movies That Matter – The Steve Brazina Memorial Series" presents a Zoom Panel Discussion of *APART*. The film explores the impact on families from the incarceration of mothers on drug-related charges. Advance reservations are required; you will receive a private link to view the film the week before the event. Visit [www.hmcec.org](http://www.hmcec.org) to RSVP.

Stuart Mest, M.D. Lecture Series: "Eugenics, Experiments, Ethics: Nazi

Germany, Japan and the United States." This two-part series will be presented twice in the Maureen and Arnold Lerner Classroom at the Museum from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, February 28 and March 7; and repeated on Thursdays, March 23 and 30. Tickets are \$40 for the two-part series. Advance registration is required at [www.hmcec.org](http://www.hmcec.org).



Stuart Mest, M.D.

Wednesday, March 15 from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.: Triumph, the Museum's annual fundraising event, will present guest speaker Michael Abramovitz, CEO of Freedom House. Freedom House's programs support human rights and democracy advocates in their efforts to promote open government, defend human rights, strengthen civil society and facilitate the free flow of information and ideas. Tickets are \$300 and a variety of Sponsorship Packages are available. Proceeds will benefit the Museum's Education Programs.

On behalf of our board and staff, we wish you and your families a healthy, happy and wonderful New Year! 🌍

**PLEASE SUPPORT THE ADVERTISERS WHO HELP MAKE L'CHAYIM POSSIBLE**

## 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.

- Ajax Paving Industries.....9
- Alliance Financial Group.....11
- Anago Cleaning Systems.....23
- Art of Fashion and Moore.....17
- ArtFest Fort Myers.....15,21
- Bat Yam Temple of the Islands...8
- Collier/Lee Hadassah.....20
- Estero Fine Art Show.....11
- FineMark Natl. Bank & Trust...32
- Florida Rep.....10
- Susan Glasser, Realtor®.....15
- Gordon's Pool & Spa Service...17
- Green Schoenfeld & Kyle, LLP.17
- Gulf Coast Orthodontics.....23
- Henderson Franklin.....17
- Higginson Tax & Accounting...17
- Hodges University.....9
- Jason's Deli.....15
- Kushner & Kushner.....17
- Michael Shapiro Photography...30
- PCC Tile.....17
- Senior Housing Solutions.....10
- Shell Point.....13
- Shemtov Title.....17
- Snyderman's Shoes.....17
- Southwest Florida Symphony...10
- Taschner Periodontics.....22
- The Bagel Factory.....17
- Bob Vinikoor, Realtor®.....12
- Wilkes Weinstein Financial Grp.17

Please join Rabbi Stephen Fuchs and our new Cantor, Rabbi Sunny Schnitzer, as we joyously gather in-person to welcome Shabbat at 7 PM on Friday nights at our new temporary home at the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties, 9701 Commerce Center Court, in Fort Myers. All are welcome.

# Estero Fine Art Show on January 7 & 8 at JetBlue Park in Fort Myers

Epoxy artist Michael Ryan is "Making Waves" at this year's Estero Fine Art Show on January 7 & 8 at JetBlue Park in Fort Myers.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, Michael and wife Kira left New York 27 years ago to become Floridians.

Inspired by beach vacations shelling with their children, Michael recreates the movement of the gulf shorelines he experienced with his family while visiting Marco Island, Captiva, Sanibel and Siesta Key.

His process begins with a design outline and then applied layers of transparent epoxy paint, and delicate crystals of sand and shells. It takes Michael about a week to make a large single tabletop or Lazy Susan. His up-cycle furniture pieces are coveted by local art collectors throughout Southwest Florida.

Michael and Kira are just returning to the art show scene after weeks of work restoring their home in Fort

Myers. It was their paradise until Hurricane Ian damaged both the artist's home and his mother's home as well.

The Estero Fine Art Show welcomes Michael Ryan and more than 75 top artists from throughout Florida and across the nation. These nationally recognized artists will present their works on Saturday and Sunday, January 7-8 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily.



Furniture piece by Michael Ryan

Many local artists are just returning to shows in the wake of damage suffered by Hurricane Ian. It's a great time to support these artists and the rebuilding of our cultural community in Fort Myers.

Artists will be presenting their paintings, photography, prints, sculpture, fine woodwork, art jewelry, ceramics and art glass for sale at the show.

If you have an aspiring young artist at home, show producer Patty Narozny invites them to enter the Bud-

ding Art Competition for grades 6-12 or ages 9-19. Young artists are invited to display their works all weekend and compete to win cash and prize ribbons. Please apply at [artsandeducationinc.org/for-kids/](http://artsandeducationinc.org/for-kids/)

The show also features great food and entertainment! There is free admission; a \$5 parking fee supports arts and education, and is good for in-and-out access all weekend!

For more about the show, visit [artsandeducationinc.org/event/estero-fine-art-show-jan-7-8-2023/](http://artsandeducationinc.org/event/estero-fine-art-show-jan-7-8-2023/).



Michael Ryan's booth at a previous art show



**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](mailto:lstrauss@ajaxpaving.com)

**AJAXPAVING.COM**



**VICTIMS & WITNESSES OF ANTISEMITISM**

Please report incidents to the Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte Counties.

Call 239.481.4449 x6

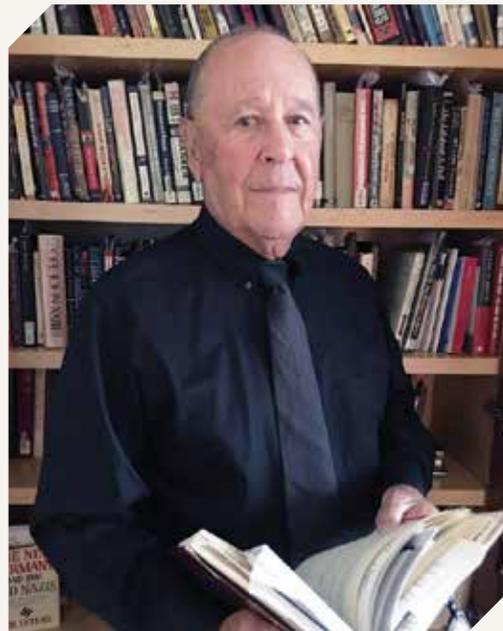
Due to recent incidents, the Jewish Federation is collecting reports for tracking patterns.



## 2023 LECTURE SERIES Elliott Katz

Tickets Available

EDUCATE. INFORM. INSPIRE.



*"Those Who Fail To Learn From History Are Condemned To Repeat It."*

STARTS  
**January 2023**  
10 a.m. to Noon

St. Leo Catholic Church Auditorium  
28350 Beaumont Road  
Bonita Springs

Tickets: \$150  
FOR ALL SEVEN LECTURES

Tickets: \$100  
FOR ANY FOUR LECTURES

Tickets: \$35  
PER LECTURE AT THE DOOR

Ample Parking & Seating

To order your tickets today, visit:  
[www.historyuncompromised.com](http://www.historyuncompromised.com)



Proudly Sponsored by:  
**HODGES UNIVERSITY**  
Stay Near. Go Far.

# Ernest Gold: Composer of *Exodus*

By Arlene Stolnitz

As I have stated before, Jewish composers were generally considered marginal figures in music history, and it was not until the period just prior to WWII that Jewish immigrants had such an enormous effect in music, particularly in the motion picture industry. In this article I will explore the work of Ernest Gold, who is famous for his film score for *Exodus*.



**Arlene Stolnitz**

I dare say the theme song is probably known by everyone.

Ernest Gold (born Ernest Sigmund Goldner) was born on July 13, 1921, in Vienna. He grew up in a secular Jewish family surrounded by musically progressive ideas. His parents, musicians themselves, encouraged his creativity in music. As a child, opera fascinated him. He dreamed of becoming a composer of operas and wrote his first opera before the age of 10. About this time, just as music was entering film in a serious way in the U.S., Gold, still a young boy, expressed his desire to become a film composer. As a teenager he frequently attended movies just to hear the scores being played.

A talented student of piano and violin, Gold attended The State Academy of Music in Vienna until 1938 when he, his widowed father, and sister, fled Europe to the U.S. By the time he

arrived in the U.S., his style of music fell "out of favor" with critics who called his compositions "movie music." It was then, abandoning his career as a concert pianist, that he moved to Hollywood to fulfill his "real" dream as a composer of film music.

Gold's idol during this period was Viennese-Jewish composer Max Steiner, who had emigrated earlier to the U.S. in 1929. Steiner had become an important figure in Hollywood film music. With Steiner as his mentor, Gold became one of the most successful composers in the film industry. Gold became one of the busiest composers in television during the '70s and '80s. As it turned out, Gold was one of the last of the European romantic music figures to make a name for himself in film music.

Gold is most noted for his score for Otto Preminger's *Exodus* (1960), based on Leon Uris' book of the same name, which tells the story of the founding of the State of Israel. Gold received an Oscar for Best Music, Scoring of a Dramatic or Comedy Picture, as well as a Grammy Award the following year (1961) for Best Musical Score.

Gold spent much of his time in Israel during the filming researching the Israeli way of life. This was highly unusual for most film composers. Although the movie is only loosely based on historical fact, it became important because, for the first time, many became aware of the story of the founding of the modern State of Israel.

Despite Gold's secular upbringing,

many of Gold's strongest scores relate to Jewish themes or antisemitism. However, Gold was never completely satisfied with his theme song for *Exodus* and even once omitted it in a special program he presented.

Still, I found a commentary by his son Andrew particularly poignant: "When he was doing the music for *Exodus*, I think he really felt a surge of pride and anguish that had been hidden

when he came to Hollywood. He connected with the joy and pain of being Jewish, the horror of the Holocaust and the pride in setting up Israel as a state." (*The Book of Exodus* by Vivien Goldman)

Arlene Stolnitz, a retired educator, is a regular contributor to Federation newspapers in Southwest Florida. Her interest in all kinds of Judaic music has led to her series of articles.

## THE "MATCHMAKER" OF SENIOR HOUSING

*Let me help you find a match!*



**Bruce Rosenblatt**  
Owner/Senior Housing Advisor  
Certified Dementia Practitioner  
Senior Housing Solutions

With over 30 years of experience, I help eliminate the guesswork in choosing the right senior living community that meets your needs and preferences. I look beyond the fancy décor and evaluate facilities on:

- Quality of care and services
- Resident satisfaction
- Health care violations
- Financial viability
- Overall lifestyle
- Operational stability

Honest and knowledgeable advice about assisted living options...  
**AT NO COST TO YOU!**

**239.595.0207**  
[WWW.SENIORHOUSINGSOLUTIONS.NET](http://WWW.SENIORHOUSINGSOLUTIONS.NET)



**Southwest Florida Symphony**  
WORLD CLASS MUSIC IN PARADISE™

**WELCOMING MAESTRO PAPONIU**

### MASTERWORKS RADU PAPONIU, CONDUCTOR

January 28 | 7:30pm | **Gil Shaham, Violin** Mozart | Coleridge-Taylor | Tchaikovsky  
 March 11 | 7:30pm | **Thomas Mesa, Cello** Montgomery | Dvořák | Elgar  
 April 1 | 7:30pm | **A Night at the Opera** Robert Van Winkle, Narrator  
 April 22 | 7:30pm | **Ying Li, Piano** Higdon | Rachmaninoff | Mussorgsky

### BRAVE NEW POPS

**Remember When Rock Was Young** The Elton John Tribute  
 January 20 | 7pm | Charlotte Performing Arts Center  
 January 21 | 7:30pm | Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall

**Bowie & Glass** A Symphonic Tribute  
 February 10 | 7:30pm | Big Arts Sanibel Island  
 February 11 | 7:30pm | Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall  
 February 12 | 4pm | Charlotte Performing Arts Center

**The Orchestra** Starring Former Members of ELO  
 May 6 | 7:30pm | Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall  
 May 7 | 4pm | Charlotte Performing Arts Center

TICKETS \$25 | [SWFLSO.ORG](http://SWFLSO.ORG) | 239.418.1500

**FLORIDA REP** 2022-2023  
 Greg Longenhagen, Producing Artistic Director • John Martin, Executive Director

LIVE PROFESSIONAL THEATRE IN THE HEART OF THE FORT MYERS RIVER DISTRICT

Silver Jubilee  
 FLORIDA REP  
**25th**  
 ANNIVERSARY SEASON

**FREUD'S LAST SESSION**  
 BY MARK ST. GERMAIN  
 DIRECTED BY MAUREEN HEFFERNAN

A PLAY OF IDEAS

PLAYING THRU JAN 15, 2023 • ARTSTAGE STUDIO THEATRE

**RIPCORD**  
 BY DAVID LINDSAY-ABAIRE  
 DIRECTED BY JASON PARRISH

A HIGH-STAKES COMEDY

Sponsored by JANE & BOB BREISCH • WILLIAM E. CROSS FOUNDATION: ART & HAZEL BRISKER, DONALD & REBECCA LINTON • DENTONS COHEN & GRIGSBY  
 Media Sponsor: FLORIDA WEEKLY

JAN 10-29, 2023 • HISTORIC ARCADE THEATRE

239.332.4488 • 877.787.8053  
[FLORIDAREP.ORG](http://FLORIDAREP.ORG) SINGLE TIX START AT \$63/\$59

# 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.

## Music

*Dionne Warwick: Don't Make Me Over* is a CNN documentary that will air, live, on Sunday, January 1 at 9:00 p.m. It will be available on-demand starting on Monday, January 2. It's about the legendary singer who had a long string of popular hits in the '60s through the '80s. She is still performing.

Many celebrities will appear on the special, including songwriter **BURT BACHARACH**, 94, and **CLIVE DAVIS**, 90, a truly legendary record producer and record company head who is in the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

Three hit songs sung by Warwick are in the Grammy Hall of Fame ("Walk on By," "Alfie" and "Don't Make Me Over"). All three were written by Bacharach (music) and the late **HAL DAVID** (lyrics).

By 1979, Warwick's career had stalled. It was revived when she signed with Arista Records, a new-ish record company founded and run by Davis, who personally guided her career. She quickly had another big hit, "I'll Never Love This Way Again."

## Celebrity roots

*Finding Your Roots*, the PBS celebrity ancestry show, returns for a 10<sup>th</sup> season on Tuesday, January 3. (Check your PBS schedule for the exact time. It also airs on the PBS website/app.) The "big name" guests include Carol Burnett, Julia Roberts, Jeff Daniels and **DAVID DUCHOVNY**, 62 (he's the secular son of a Jewish father and non-Jewish mother). Also profiled is veteran character actor **RICHARD KIND**, 66 (trust me, you know his face).

## Reality series

The Fox series *Special Forces: The Ultimate Test* premieres Wednesday, January 4 at 8:00 p.m. It's another celebrity endurance reality show. This one is truly bizarre. Sixteen B-list celebrities are dropped in the Jordanian desert to train with a Special Forces team in a grueling endurance test. Contestants aren't voted out, but they can quit.

**Dr. DREW PINSKY**, 64, the well-known TV doctor, is a contestant. I wonder if his medical training will give him an edge. He'll need it since some contestants are way younger.

## Other TV series of note

*Poker Face* premieres on the streaming Peacock channel on Thursday, January 26. It is a "case-of-the-week" mystery comedy-drama. **NATASHA LYONNE**, 43, produces the series and stars in it.

An astonishing number of Jewish thespians will star in an episode: **Lyonne**, **JOSEPH GORDON-LEVITT**, 41, **ADRIEN BRODY**, 49, **ELLEN BARKIN**, 68, **SIMON HELBERG**, 41, **JUDITH LIGHT**, 73, and **TIM BLAKE NELSON**, 58. (I have this image of Lyonne telling the casting people: "Hire more Jews, we need to keep my people fully employed!")

*Wolf Pack* is a supernatural teen drama series that will begin streaming on Paramount+ on January 26. The star of the series is **SARAH MICHELLE GELLAR**, 45. She is still best known as the star of the hit TV series *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, which ran from 1997-2003.

There is little advance info on the show's plot other than it is a supernatural teen drama. Gellar "passably" played a teen in *Buffy*. But she couldn't pass now. My guess is that her *Wolf Pack* character is an adult "overseeing" a group of actors who can pass for a teenager.

*Shrinking* is a comedy TV series that begins streaming on Apple TV+ on Friday, January 27. It was co-created by **BRETT GOLDSTEIN**, 42, **JASON SEGAL**, 42, and Bill Lawrence. These three guys also wrote the scripts.

Goldstein, a British Jew, was hired to write for *Ted Lasso*, which has become the biggest hit on Apple TV+. Not long after he began writing *Ted Lasso*, he was cast to play aged soccer star Roy Kent. This role made him well known and he has won two successive Emmys for Best Supporting Actor.

Segal not only co-created *Shrinking*, he also co-stars in the series. His top-credited co-star is **HARRISON FORD**, 80. Ford can also be seen in the Paramount+ series *1923*. I suspect that Ford just loves these limited-episode series (10 episodes). He can keep his hand in acting while not being exhausted by the grind of a "traditional" 22-episode TV series. Plus, it must be nice to go to a comedy series after being in a grim Western like *1923*.

Ford is the "always secular" son of a Jewish mother and a non-Jewish father. Check out *The Frisco Kid* (1979), a comedic Western. Ford played a guy who befriends an immigrant rabbi (**GENE WILDER**). Wilder said he had no idea Ford's mother was Jewish when he started to tutor Ford on a Jewish custom. Ford told him, "I know, I know," and explained how he knew.

**Is Your Business Worth More Than You Think?**

**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 A COMPLIMENTARY BUSINESS VALUATION CALL BRIAN SIMON AT (239) 246-8928 OR SEND AN EMAIL.**

**BRIAN SIMON, ChFC, CLU**  
FINANCIAL PROFESSIONAL  
BRIAN.SIMON@AFGL.COM

Registered Representative and Financial Advisor of Park Avenue Securities LLC (PAS). Securities products and advisory services 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. CA Insurance License #9631026. The Living Balance Sheet® and The Living Balance Sheet® Logo are registered service marks of The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America (Guardian), New York, NY. Copyright 2005-2022 Guardian. 2022-140542 Exp 11/24

**Stay connected all month long at [www.JewishFederationLCC.org](http://www.JewishFederationLCC.org)**

HotWorks.org

**Estero Fine Art Show™**

**January 7 & 8**

At JetBlue Park, Fort Myers

David Campbell, Mixed Media

**Professionally Juried Fine Art & Craft Show**

All Art is Original, Personally Handmade & for Sale

Hot Works Art Shows are Voted in the Top 100 Art Shows in America – 18x!

Saturday & Sunday 10am-5pm ~ Great Food & Live Entertainment ~ Free Admission!

Students – Call for Entries! Youth Art Competitions for Ages 9-19!

Save the Date! Naples Fine Art Show, March 25 & 26 at Paradise Coast Sports Complex

**See Art, Love Art, Buy Art!™**

hotworks YOUR ART. OUR PASSION. FOX4 happenings MAGAZINE WGPU PBS WFLA ft-Myers GENESIS FORT MYERS GENESIS BONITA CAPE CORAL GULF&MAIN ISLANDS OF THE TIMES RSWLIVING

**Changing your address? Keep L'CHAYIM coming to your home. Email [loriramos@jfedlcc.org](mailto:loriramos@jfedlcc.org).**

# Aging Jewishly – What our traditions teach us about growing old

## Zachor! Europe's Holocaust Memorial Day recalls "Old Country" memories

By Rabbi Barbara Aiello

January 27, 1945, marks the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp, where one million Jews were murdered by the Nazis. In November 2005, the United Nations General Assembly resolved that January 27 should be observed as a day to honor the memory of Holocaust victims and encourage the development of education programs about Holocaust history to help prevent further acts of genocide.

The calendar pages have turned, and January 2023 marks my 19<sup>th</sup> year serving as a rabbi in Italy. I am back on the continent where my father and grandparents were born. I stand on the blood-soaked land where the consequences of antisemitism were beyond belief. I am here as a representative of the "Old Country" that our parents and grandparents talked about.

My father, Antonio Abramo Aiello (z"l), was a liberator of the Buchenwald death camp. His experiences coupled with my living and working as I do on the "doorstep" of the Shoah,

gave special significance to each January 27. But it was my first Holocaust Memorial Day here in Europe that touched my heart.

It was the morning of January 27, 2006, and Milan was paralyzed with Italy's biggest snowstorm in a quarter century. But that did not deter us. We were eight hearty souls from Synagogue Lev Chadash driving to the prison at San Vittore in a snowstorm to remember the incarceration of Italian Jews and the eventual murder of the Jews of Europe.

As the snow fell, we recalled the horrors of death-camp life. We noted that although the snow was deep and the temperature was below freezing, we Jews were dressed in coats, hats, scarves, gloves and boots – cold-weather gear that the Jews of Auschwitz never had. In front of the prison, we found a park bench where we cleared the snow in order to make a place for our candles. Our ceremony included the lighting of six candles to represent the Six Million and to recall the significance of "Zachor," the Hebrew word which means "to remember."

"Zachor," we said, in voices loud enough for passersby to hear and for some of them to pause and listen. The first candle recalled *Shabbat Zachor*,

which features the story of Amalek, and we remember that Haman was a direct descendant of one of the first men who set out to kill the Jews. The first candle served as a reminder that evil still exists in our world.

"Zachor," we said to candles two and three. Additional definitions of *Zachor* include "to mention" and "to articulate." We remember to speak

the Torah tells us. And no matter what our trials have been or will be, Shabbat brings us peace, hope and joy.

And now 17 years have passed.

In a recent report, "Jewish Survivors of the Holocaust Residing in the United States – Estimates and Projections 2010 – 2030," Drs. Ron Miller, Pearl Beck and Berna Torr tell us that two years ago, in 2020, there were

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

about those we lost and to tell their stories, like our own Becky Behar Ottolenghi, now of blessed memory, a survivor of the Jewish massacre at Meina (near Lake Como), whose tireless efforts at sharing her experiences with school children earned her Honorary Citizenship from cities all over Italy.

*Zachor* also signifies remembering those who are different. Our fourth candle recalled all of those who, along with the Jews, were also killed, including homosexuals, gypsies, disabled persons and political prisoners.

As the candles struggled and hissed in the falling snow, the *Zachor* of candle five recalled the murdered children. We honored the Holocaust survivors who frequented our synagogue and we paused to honor our own child survivor, Fernanda Diaz, who was saved from certain death by a righteous gentile, an Italian *pescatore* who shoved little Fernanda through a trap door in the floor of his fish market. We pondered a horrific statistic: for every Jewish child that lived through the Holocaust, 13 Jewish children were murdered by the Nazis.

The sixth candle is the *Zachor* of Shabbat. We are reminded that the first strand in the braided challah, the bread of the Sabbath, is called *Zachor*. "Remember Shabbat and keep it holy,"

67,000 American Holocaust survivors. In 2030, only seven years from today, the statisticians predict that Holocaust survivors in the U.S. will number about 15,000. Many of these survivors will be in their ninth decade, often too frail or immobile to venture out to schools or submit to interviews to tell their stories.

Could it be that the loss of our eyewitnesses is a contributing factor to the rise of antisemitism worldwide? And if so, what can we do?

For those of us who are advanced in age, we have an advantage. We are the keepers of our family stories. We can share the memories that our parents and grandparents shared with us. Often these memories are bits and pieces of events – some incoherent and confusing, but very important just the same. Some of us were children when our parents escaped from Europe and our fragmented memories include instances of terror and fear. Now is the time to speak about or write about our memories. Now is the time to share what we recall. *Zachor!*

*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

**LUNCH BUNCH**

Thursday, January 12  
Temple Beth El  
16225 Winkler Rd.  
Fort Myers, FL 33908  
12-1:30 PM  
RSVP by Monday, Jan. 9

Thursday, February 16  
Chabad of Southwest Florida  
5620 Winkler Road  
Fort Myers, FL 33919  
12-1:30 PM  
RSVP by Friday, Feb. 10

Thursday, March 16  
Temple Beth Shalom  
702 SE 24th Ave  
Cape Coral, FL 33990  
12-1:30 PM  
RSVP by Monday, Mar. 13

RSVP:  
jodicohen@jfedlcc.org  
239-481-4449 x1  
Let us know if you need a ride.

Jewish Family Services  
A Division of the Jewish Federation  
Lee & Charlotte Counties

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

**BOB VINIKOOR**  
Fort Myers REALTOR

**239-258-1102**  
bob@gosouthnow.com



VIBRANT  
HEALTHY  
ARTFUL LIVING  
FULFILLED  
JOYFUL  
FAITHFUL

**Live Creatively.** At Shell Point®, you'll enjoy a fulfilling lifestyle where you can explore, learn, grow and continue to thrive. And with new additions to our campus, like Tribby Arts Center, a sparkling centerpiece for the arts, and the state-of-the-art Larsen Health Center, you can rest on a firm foundation, knowing that your needs will be taken care of — both now and in the future.

EXPLORE SHELL POINT TODAY!

ATTEND A DISCOVERY SEMINAR & TOUR

**CHOOSE A DATE** for a small-group seminar and tour or schedule a private appointment at [shellpoint.org/seminars](https://shellpoint.org/seminars) or call **(239) 990-2377**.

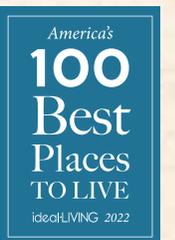
# SHELL POINT

RETIREMENT COMMUNITY®

Visit [SHELLPOINT.ORG](https://SHELLPOINT.ORG) or call 1-800-780-1131.

Shell Point is located in Fort Myers, Florida, just minutes from the islands of Sanibel and Captiva.

Shell Point is a nonprofit ministry of The Christian and Missionary Alliance Foundation, Inc. ©2023 Shell Point. All rights reserved. SLS-4650-23



# Trend Watch: Bread Pudding – recipe by Chef Dalia

Bread pudding is having its moment of glory on restaurant menus these days. Today, bread pudding has been lifted from its original peasant status to gourmet dishes that make use of a variety of ingredients ranging from fruits and nuts to various sweet and savory fillings.

Just the name “bread pudding” brings to mind homey images of gingham checkerboard tablecloths and grandma’s kitchen, or at the very least, an out-of-date recipe. But recently, this somewhat ordinary dessert, traditionally a means for reusing day-old bread, has made its way from the recipe card to the menus of some fine-dining restaurants.

Today, bread pudding is popular throughout the United States. It can be sweet or savory, served at any time of day, including breakfast, as a side or even the main entree. And while any bread pudding can be served plain, most sweet varieties are served with sauces such as vanilla, chocolate crème, banana or berries.

Growing up, my mother made bread pudding a few times a year as an appetizer. She always said, if you can’t eat dessert first on a holiday’s eve, then when? I love that woman.

When we were very young, my sister, brother and I would patiently sit at our little breakfast bar – propped up dangerously on both knees for the best view – watching my mother cut the bread, fill it with creamy chocolate and

sometimes sweet jam or raisins, and then, quite dramatically, put it all into the oven. It was quite a show!

Each year as we grew, our part in helping in the bread pudding process progressed. It took me until I was 14 to bake my very own, but since that day



I’ve made them, just like mom, at least once a year. Ok...maybe more than once! More like 10 times a year!

Bread pudding is one of my absolute favorite desserts. It’s easy to make and is one of those great dishes you can whip up with all that leftover bread hanging out in your freezer. I have fond memories of my mother making

batches of bread pudding with the “ends” of the bread that my brother, sister and I would never eat.

Now, as an adult, I love experimenting with different kinds of breads in my bread pudding, and it should come as no surprise that my favorite kind of bread to use is challah.

Growing up in Israel, I remember eating challah bread every single week. I love bread (any bread) a lot, and I am a big fan of challah bread. My grandma used to make the softest, most delicious challah bread for us. We ate sliced challah bread for breakfast with chocolate milk; we ate it with a jelly spread; we made the dough with cinnamon, chocolate and raisins. My mouth is watering already from just saying these words out loud!

The best moments in life are when you realize you don’t have to choose between two or three things you love, and this challah-chocolate bread pudding is exactly one of those moments.

I made this amazing challah-chocolate bread pudding this past weekend. The dessert is a powerful one. It was honestly a thing of glory.

My husband said that living with a chef has some obvious benefits, some of which include taste-testing and spatula licking. But this here, this was a gift for him. I mean, just from the look at how sweet that bread pudding is. You’ll want to have your camera ready when it arrives.

Bread pudding is also a smart way to use up day-old bread, and when you combine chocolate in the mix – well, it’s a very happy situation. Top it with some whipped cream and white chocolate shavings to give it extra richness or add a scoop of halvah ice cream.

Happy and Sweet New Year!

### Chocolate Bread Pudding

#### Ingredients:

- 4 large eggs
- ¾ cup sugar
- 2 cups half-and-half or milk
- 2 tbsp unsalted butter, melted
- dash of salt
- 1 tbsp vanilla extract
- ½ tsp ground cinnamon



**Personal Chef Dalia Hemed can be reached at [daliahemed@msn.com](mailto:daliahemed@msn.com).**

- ½ cup semi-sweet chocolate chunks
  - 1 loaf challah bread cut into 1-inch cubes
  - powdered sugar, for dusting
  - whipped cream, for garnish
  - white chocolate shavings (optional)
- ▶ In a large bowl, whisk together the eggs and sugar. Add the milk or half-and-half, melted butter, salt, vanilla, cinnamon and chocolate chunks.
  - ▶ Toss challah cubes with the custard, making sure all the cubes are well coated. Transfer the cubes to a 9x13 baking dish, cover it lightly with plastic wrap and allow it to sit for 20 minutes. This will ensure that the bread really soaks up the egg custard mixture!
  - ▶ Meanwhile, preheat the oven to 350. Bake for 45 minutes to 1 hour or until it’s still slightly jiggly but not liquid.
  - ▶ Serve warm; dust powdered sugar on top; and whipped cream and white chocolate shavings for an extra joyful treat.

#### Chef’s notes:

If your bread is still fresh or not dried out, you can cube it into smaller pieces, place on a baking sheet, place in the oven and bake for about 8-10 minutes. You don’t want to completely toast the bread; just dry it out.

I prefer to lightly beat the eggs before mixing them into the wet ingredients. This isn’t necessary but it does help to ensure that the eggs are thoroughly combined.

## 3 easy ways to sign up to volunteer in the food pantry

Email: [jodicohen@jfedlcc.org](mailto:jodicohen@jfedlcc.org) to get the link.

1

2

Call 239-481-4449 x1 to get the link.

Click the SIGNUP GENIUS link in the weekly e-newsletter.

3



## 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](mailto:LoriRamos@jfedLCC.org).

# Wine: it's such a guy thing

By The Wine Whisperer

“Will somebody please explain to me,” my wife Debi asked, “why wine is such a guy thing?”

We’ve sat through some fairly sizeable and lengthy wine tastings in the last few years, and she has always remarked on how many participants were of the masculine persuasion. So I paused, and I reflected.

When we enjoy wine together (which is pretty much on a daily basis), Debi is interested and analytical, and will sample pretty much anything I open, unless it’s one of my cheapo discoveries from East Kishinev or Lower Burundi. Her appreciation is sensational rather than cerebral, and she detects subtleties of flavor and aroma that I sadly miss while I’m reading the back label about how the juice rested for 27 months in new French oak barrels.

My friend Mark has a thousand bottles at home, representing an investment that could buy him two German luxury cars or a villa in Tuscany. His wife doesn’t bother to conceal her extreme disinterest. She’d rather be trapped for a week in the Beijing Museum of Tap Water than sit around talking about wine.

Of all the wine-loving couples we know (the only friends we have left), it’s the husband who buys the wine, makes lists, tracks them on Excel and writes out the tags for the bottles. These joys of wine ownership seem not to call to women. Curious.

Debi says that luck happens when hard work meets opportunity. Ironically, in hunting down wine, killing it and dragging it home, sometimes it’s all luck and no work at all. A man I know

acquired about a thousand bottles of really fine wines, great producers, excellent vintages, sensational selection, from an incipient retiree who owned a mom-and-pop supermarket in some Midwestern city. Pop sold the inventory cheap because all those bottles had been in the basement for so long (under coincidentally excellent storage conditions) and they were so old. He’d never put any of it out on the shelves of his inner-city store because it never would have sold. I have so much faith in the personal integrity of this accidental opportunist, I am confident he offered Pop a fair price even though he had been, for a brief period, a guest of the state.

I think it’s probably just tradition. The world of wine is more conservative than any established religion. The making of wine dates from the time when men hunted and gathered, and women cooked and bred. Today, there are plenty of women involved in the making and selling (and drinking) of wine, and most of them have better taste buds than the men. But when women plunk down \$600+ for a case, they don’t keep it a secret. Too bad, because they never experience the dubious thrill of sneaking it into the house. But I hope you can enjoy our latest selections much more openly. **Mer Soliel Chardonnay Santa Lucia Highlands 2017 (\$32)** – The name means “sea and sun,” which is exactly the type of climate in this important winegrowing area north of Santa Barbara. Fermented and aged in oak for 12-15 months, the wine has a creamy mouthfeel nicely balanced by acidity. There are almond scents and notes of citrus, which follow through as lemon flavors on the palate, supported by toasty oak. WW 89

**Siduri Pinot Noir Anderson Valley 2017 (\$40)** – Winemaker Adam Lee goes way back with this varietal.

Aromas of warm spice are complemented by plush black fruit flavors and tiers of Old World character such as mushroom, nuts and herbs. WW 90-91

**Double Diamond Cabernet Sauvignon Oakville 2017 (\$50)** – A mouthful, with 90% Cabernet and classic Bordeaux varietals comprising the rest of the blend. Concentrated black fruits on the nose and a bit of oak from its 14 months in the barrel. The black fruit pays off on the palate, seriously concentrated with fine tannins and a pleasantly grippy finish. WW 94

**Ask the Wine Whisperer**

Does wine get better with age? Should I age my wine? – Julia N., Venice

Most of us want immediate gratification, and winemakers know that. Experts estimate that only about the top 10% of all red wines and perhaps 5% of all whites have the capability to improve with age. So go ahead – buy it today and enjoy it tomorrow.

Jerry Greenfield is *The Wine Whisperer*, a wine author, educator and consultant. He is an adjunct professor in the wine program at Florida Gulf Coast University. Read his blog at [www.winewhisperer.com](http://www.winewhisperer.com). Jerry’s new book, *He Lost it in the Catskills*, is available on Amazon, or purchase your personally signed copy at [catskillmemories.com](http://catskillmemories.com).



■ Jerry Greenfield

## The Unrivaled Leader in Real Estate



**Susan Glasser**  
Realtor® Associate

**239-281-3105**

[SusanLGlasser@gmail.com](mailto:SusanLGlasser@gmail.com)

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

**FORT MYERS RESIDENT FOR NEARLY 30 YEARS**

**ArtFest**  
FORT MYERS

Southwest Florida's Premier Art Festival



Artist: Gina Muxo Ramos

**FEBRUARY 4 & 5, 2023**  
OPENING NIGHT FEBRUARY 3  
Downtown Fort Myers Riverfront

**FREE**  
**ADMISSION**  
**& EASY**  
**PARKING!**

Enjoy & purchase some of the best artwork exhibited anywhere in Florida!  
200 nationally known artists  
Kid's Activities | Food & Entertainment

Visit [ArtFestFortMyers.com](http://ArtFestFortMyers.com) for more information



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



**Jason's deli**

**Great food** is our tradition.  
Dine-In, To-Go, Curbside Pickup & Delivery

Fort Myers - Reflections Pkwy. @ Cypress Lake  
Gulf Coast Landings - Alico Road and Ben Hill Griffin  
Cape Coral - Santa Barbara near Veterans  
Naples - Immokalee near Airport Pulling

# Ernst Leitz and the Leica Freedom Train

By Paul R. Bartrop, PhD

Ernst Leitz II was the owner of Germany's Leica Camera Company, through which he and his daughter, Elsie Kuhn-Leitz, mounted a remarkable rescue effort known as the Leica Freedom Train, in which hundreds of Jews were smuggled out of Nazi Germany before and during the Holocaust.

Born in 1871, he was the second son of Ernst Leitz I, who founded an optics company in the Hessian town of Wetzlar in 1869 and turned it into a company of world renown. A Protestant family, they possessed a social conscience ahead of its time. Ernst I, for example, instituted an eight-hour workday long before it became mandatory in Germany, accompanied by pensions, sick leave and health insurance. When he died in 1920, his son, Ernst II, became head of the company, and remained in charge until his own death in 1956.

The Leitz family supported democratic causes in the interwar years and had no time for Nazism. Ernst II distanced himself as far as possible from the regime after the Nazis took power on January 30, 1933 (80 years ago this month). His canny political sense told him, however, that he should cover himself, so he became a Nazi Party member soon after Hitler came into office.

Within days, Leitz began retraining a group of Jewish apprentices from Wetzlar in preparation for transferring them to New York. Here they would work in the Leica showroom on Fifth Avenue, or with distributors across the United States. In this way, he felt, he could rescue them from what he anticipated would be an otherwise horrible fate. He also learned that some employees were related to Jews by marriage. To these he also held out the hand of affiliation with the company, and worked to ensure that they, too, would be taken care of.

Over time, Leitz established what became known as the "Leica Freedom Train," a secret means of allowing his Jewish workers and colleagues to leave Germany in the guise of Leitz employees being assigned overseas. The initiative would be at its most active during 1938 and early 1939, with groups of Jewish refugees disguised as Leica workers sailing to New York every few weeks. In addition, Leitz moved others to places elsewhere in Europe. He was even known to arrange for his Leica "employees" to be sent to Hong Kong as salespeople or camera technicians. Everyone in Leitz's care would be supplied with a Leica camera which could be exchanged for cash if needed. They were also paid a small allowance until they could find regular work.

Not everyone in this scheme was an employee, nor even involved in the camera industry. Still, many were – whether as designers, repair techni-

cians, salespeople, marketers or writers for the photographic press. Leitz worked to ensure that everyone would be looked after, but this care extended beyond employees to retailers, family members and even friends of family members. To get them out of Germany, Leitz "employed" them and then watched carefully as they were dispersed to various Leica sales offices around the world.

With the onset of war in September 1939, the transports were stopped, but by then, hundreds of German and Austrian Jews had escaped. The number is not known accurately, but if the workers are counted with their families, it would certainly have run to 300 in the United States alone, with hundreds more elsewhere.

To engage in his life-saving work, Leitz ran considerable risks – not only for himself, but also for his family. In saving Jews and taking matters into his own hands rather than waiting to be told what to do, he was openly defying the Nazis. From time to time, this defiance backfired. A senior executive, Alfred Turk, was jailed when caught trying to help Jews, and freed only after Leitz had paid a large bribe. On another occasion, Leitz's daughter Elsie was imprisoned by the Gestapo after she was caught at the Swiss border helping Jewish women cross to safety. Interrogated, she was eventually freed, though not until after the Gestapo had given her the obligatory beating in custody.

A question occurs as to how Ernst Leitz was able to pull off such a remarkable and sustained rescue operation. The answer is straightforward: the Nazis were dependent on the military optics produced at Leitz's factory. The importance of having the Leitz Company maintain production often outweighed the potential value of arresting and removing him from the workplace. Moreover, the Leitz name carried cachet internationally and was an important face in the international marketplace. Executives were convinced that this was enough for the Nazis to leave the company alone, as it also brought in hard currency from the United States, Leitz's single biggest market for optical goods.

After the war, the Leitz family did not seek any publicity for their heroic efforts. Ernst Leitz himself never spoke about what he had done, considering that he was only doing what any decent person would have done in his position. Those he had saved, however, knew, and did not forget. On February 9, 2007, the Anti-Defamation League recognized Leitz posthumously with its Courage to Care Award. The award was accepted by his granddaughter, Cornelia Kuhn-Leitz, at the League's National Executive Committee Meeting in Palm Beach, Florida. *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.*



■ Paul Bartrop

**THANK YOU!**

**JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES VOLUNTEERS**

Cadkin Foundation Food Pantry  
Lunch Bunch  
Friendly Visitors

IF YOU'D LIKE TO VOLUNTEER:  
239-481-4449 EXT. 1 / JODICOHEN@JFEDLCC.ORG

Jewish Federation OF LEE & CHARLOTTE COUNTIES

## Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties Holocaust Education and Programs Department

The Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties is creating a Holocaust Education department in response to growing antisemitism and a need for education and remembrance. The new department will sponsor outreach programs in the schools and community as well as host speaking, author and film events. We are also in the process of creating a remembrance wall that will highlight local loved ones lost in the Shoah. For naming and other donor opportunities, or to share stories, please contact JFED Holocaust Education Director Ella Naylor at 239-281-7874 or via email at [jfedholocaustdirector@gmail.com](mailto:jfedholocaustdirector@gmail.com)



Jewish Federation OF LEE & CHARLOTTE COUNTIES

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



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.

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

For more information, call Lori at 239.481.4449 x5 or send an email to [LoriRamos@jfedLCC.org](mailto:LoriRamos@jfedLCC.org).

**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](mailto:lowellschoenfeld@gskattorneys.com)

[www.gskattorneys.com](http://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**

We Specialize In All Widths  
We Will Ship Anywhere

**FORT MYERS**



**Eric Glocer**

**Tile - Carpet - Mosaics**  
**Luxury Vinyl Tile**

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

916 SE 15th Ave. Cape Coral, FL 33990  
239-772-5815

16165 S. Tamiami TR.  
Fort Myers, FL 33908  
239-267-1445



**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](http://www.artoffashionandmoore.com)



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

Eric Higginson  
Certified Public Accountant

239.900.9743  
[www.higginsontax.com](http://www.higginsontax.com)



**The BAGEL FACTORY**

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](http://www.thebagelfactory.com)

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <p><b>Business &amp; Tax Planning</b></p> <p><b>Guy E. Whitesman</b><br/>Florida Bar Board Certified Tax Attorney</p> | <p><b>Divorce, Marital &amp; Family Law</b></p> <p><b>Jennifer Siegal-Miller</b></p> | <p><b>Wills, Trusts &amp; Estates</b></p> <p><b>Eric Gurgold</b><br/>Florida Bar Board Certified Wills, Trust and Estate Attorney</p> |
|---|--|---|

**Henderson | Franklin**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
[henlaw.com](http://henlaw.com) • 239.344.1100

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

**Paul Weinstein, CFP®, CHFC®, CPFA®**  
Managing Partner, WWFG  
Branch Manager, RJFS

**WEINSTEIN WILKES**  
FINANCIAL GROUP

**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](mailto:paul.weinstein@raymondjames.com)  
[www.weinsteinwilkes.com](http://www.weinsteinwilkes.com)

Securities offered through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc. Member FINRA/SIPC. Weinstein Wilkes Financial Group is not a registered broker/dealer and is independent of Raymond James.

**SHEMTOV TITLE**

Title Insurance, Closing and Settlement Services

(239) 703-7797  
[info@ShemtovTitle.com](mailto:info@ShemtovTitle.com)

The good name in title insurance



**Gordon's**  
Pool & Spa Service

REPAIRS • SUPPLIES • RENOVATIONS • SPAS  
542-3066

BARRIE ROSS, C.S.P. 1520-A SE 46th Lane  
[poolczar@mindspring.com](mailto:poolczar@mindspring.com) Cape Coral, FL 33904

State Cert. Lic. #CPC043145

**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](mailto:law@KushnerandKushner.com)  
[www.KushnerandKushner.com](http://www.KushnerandKushner.com)



FEBRUARY 5 - MARCH 2, 2023

# Jewish Film Festival

of Southwest Florida

Sponsored by



## The Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties Presents the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Jewish Film Festival of Southwest Florida Sunday, February 5 - Thursday, March 2

**Films will be screened at the Regal Belltower!**

**Open seating at all films  
for general admission tickets.**

**The series of 11 films is \$120.  
Individual films are \$12 each.**

**Sunday, February 5 at 3:00 p.m.**

### That Orchestra with the Broken Instruments

A broken string, fractured echo chamber, rusting valves. One hundred musicians meet for four days of rehearsals. They speak different languages. Their instruments are broken. An orchestra of professional and amateur musicians, young and old, set out on a journey against all odds, to a one-time concert. The film traces the creative process from collecting the instruments, to workshops, to three composers and intensive rehearsals, to the night of the performance. Hidden among the cracks, we discover a lyrical and engaging take on the members of the orchestra, on what is broken and whole, and on the determined attempt, if only for a moment, to create harmony in a discordant city.

**Documentary, 1 hour 20 minutes** **Sponsored by Sara & Brian Krivisky**

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

### Rose

Rose is a 78-year-old Parisian who has built a life for herself around two main roles – as a wife and mother (and later, grandmother). When her husband passes away, Rose suddenly finds herself alone, dethroned as the matriarch of a tribe that no longer seems to need her. The protagonist now finds herself in the throes of an emotional crisis with unexpected and cathartic consequences. What is her place within a family which has inevitably lost its glue? How can she impose her presence on a society which places its sole value on youth? The film is a poetic and highly personal

portrait of a woman who decides to take control of her own destiny.

**Drama, 1 hour 42 minutes, French with English subtitles**

**Sponsored by Marsha & Mike Kistler**

**Thursday, February 9 at 7:15 p.m.**

### Bad Nazi, Good Nazi

*Bad Nazi, Good Nazi* is the extraordinary story of German officer Wilm Hosenfeld, immortalized in Roman Polanski's film as the Nazi who saved the life of pianist Władysław Szpilman. Hosenfeld's personal diaries record his chilling, gradual disillusionment with the Nazi war machine he belonged to, and that Szpilman, incredibly, is just one of 60 people he saved. A group of supporters are inspired to have Hosenfeld memorialized at the local school he led before enlisting in Hitler's army, but the villagers struggle to come to terms with the complicated legacy of a man they want to forget – a Nazi officer and a serial rescuer.

**Drama, 60 minutes, Hebrew & German with English subtitles**

**Monday, February 13 at 3:00 p.m.**



### Our Almost Completely True Story

Life in Hollywood has lost its luster for timeless actress Mariette Hartley. Although her reputation precedes her from the peak of her acting career decades prior, meaningful work these days – and a decent date – are hard to find. When she meets Jerry Sroka, a forever-comic who has also been wading through L.A.'s insufferable dating scene, Jerry immediately falls for her stunning elegance and exceptionally dry humor.

As things get serious and unexpected challenges arise, she wonders if it may be too late for love. Written by and starring Hartley and Sroka, the film shares the hilarious, vulnerable realities for aging actors and the search for love as seniors in Hollywood.

**Drama, Comedy, 92 minutes, English**

**Tuesday, February 14 at 7:15 p.m.**



### One More Story

Yarden Gat is a young and brilliant journalist on a mission: to find true love for her best friend and for herself. She convinces him to go out on a daily date, for a month, each evening with a different woman, until he finds the right one. It's like a reality show, but for her newspaper. Who will get there first? This is Guri Alfi's new romantic comedy.

**Drama, Comedy, 91 minutes**  
**Hebrew with English subtitles**

**Sponsored by  
Norman Love  
Chocolates**

**Thursday, February 16 at 7:15 p.m.**



### Here We Are

Aharon has devoted his life to raising his son Uri. They live together in a gentle routine, away from the real world. But Uri is autistic, and now as a young adult it might be time for him to live in a specialized home. While on their way to the institution, Aharon decides to run away with his son and hits the road, knowing that Uri is not ready for this separation. Or is it, in fact, his father who is not ready?

**Drama, 92 minutes, Hebrew with English subtitles**

**Sponsored by Karin Fine**

**Sunday, February 19 at 3:00 p.m.**



### Shepherd: The Story of a Jewish Dog

The timeless, unbreakable bond between a boy and his faithful dog is put to the ultimate test in 1930s Germany, in this heartwarming family drama. When the Nuremberg Laws are passed, forbidding Jews to own pets, Kaleb, a German Shepherd, is separated from his Jewish family and his 10-year-old master, Joshua. We follow Kaleb as he becomes a street dog and then captured and eventually adopted by an SS dog trainer at a Nazi work camp where the dog has now been trained

to help round up and terrorize Jewish prisoners.  
**Narrative Feature, 1 hour 35 min., English**

**Sponsored by  
Andi & Bill Horowitz**

**Tuesday, February 21 at 7:15 p.m.**



**Neighbours**

Set in the 1980s in a small Kurdish village in northeastern Syria, Mano Khalil's masterful film, which was inspired by his personal life story, comes to life through the eyes of its endearing young hero, Sero, a six-year-old whose vivid recollections transport us to a world both sad and beautiful, innocent and full of pain. Determined to eliminate all remnants of Kurdish cultural identity in his students, Sero's new grade-school teacher instills the tenets of Arab Ba'ath Party nationalism. While some of his classmates come to embrace their teacher's enthusiasm for fascist ideology, Sero continues to dream of better ways to spend his time. He would much sooner watch his favorite cartoons or spend time with his uncle helping his Jewish neighbors on the Sabbath. While life at school grows increasingly intolerable for Sero, nothing could prepare him for the pain that was still to come under the new totalitarian leadership.

**Drama, 1 hour 45 minutes, Hebrew, Arabic, Kurdish with English subtitles**

**Tuesday, February 28 at 7:15 p.m.**

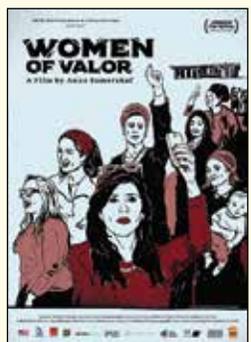


**Greener Pastures**

Dov, a widower who begrudgingly resides in a nursing home, dreams of buying back his old house where he raised his family. Since his pension fell through, Dov's finances are thin, which he entirely blames on the bureaucracy of the state. One day, to his surprise, he finds out that almost all the residents in the nursing home partake of medical marijuana to help with their aches and pains. Inspired by this realization, he gets a wild idea that he thinks will solve all his problems. What if he sells marijuana to the residents himself? Dov finds himself at a crossroads where he must decide whether he is willing to risk everything he has for what really matters most to him. The film is irresistible, funny and full of hilarious moments that will leave you laughing well into the next scene.

**Comedy, 1 hour 30 minutes, Hebrew with English subtitles**

**Thursday, February 23 at 7:15 p.m.**



**Women of Valor**

In the Haredi community, a woman's obligation is to marry and bear children, and serve as primary breadwinner while her husband studies religious texts. Haredi political parties in Israel forbid women to seek public office. Fed up with the status quo, Esty Shushan is fighting to change that. She co-founds a nonprofit calling for representation of Orthodox women in the Knesset, taking their case to the Israeli Supreme Court. To prepare the next generation for leadership roles, her Nivcharot organization establishes a program to mentor young women and get the first female name on the ballot. But change comes with a cost as Esty's activism brings threats, suspicion and online harassment. Ostracized as a "fake Haredi," she must reconcile deep-rooted frustration over ultra-Orthodox life with her efforts to bring the silent voices of women to the center of Israeli discourse.

**Documentary, 77 minutes, Hebrew and English**

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



**Exodus 91**

*Exodus 91* tells the incredible story of Operation Solomon, Israel's airlift of the Ethiopian Jewish community. Using documentary footage and reenactments, this feature-length film follows Asher Naim, the Israeli ambassador to Ethiopia, as he navigates the treacherous world of bureaucracy and politics in a region racked by civil war. Part historical drama, part documentary, the film blurs the lines between past and present to look beyond the euphoric salvation of Ethiopian Jewry. On a more universal level, the film explores challenging questions surrounding cultural identity, the politics of immigration, and the hardships that remain for these immigrants, and the others that followed, to this day.

**Docudrama, 1 hour 30 minutes, Hebrew, Amharic, English**



**2023 Jewish Film Festival of Southwest Florida**

**Sponsored by: Tile Outlets of America**

**Regal Belltower Stadium 20 Theaters  
SERIES OF 11 FILMS: \$120 (discounted rate)  
INDIVIDUAL FILM TICKETS: \$12 each**

***Passes & tickets are available online***

| <u>FILMS</u>  | <u>DATES</u>  |
|---|---|
| <b>That Orchestra with the Broken Instruments – Opening Day</b> | <b>Sunday (Matinee), February 5<br/>3:00 P.M.</b>   |
| <b>Rose</b>   | <b>Tuesday, February 7<br/>7:15 P.M.</b>            |
| <b>Bad Nazi, Good Nazi</b>                                      | <b>Thursday, February 9<br/>7:15 P.M.</b>           |
| <b>Our Almost Completely True Story</b>                         | <b>Monday (Matinee), February 13<br/>3:00 P.M.</b>  |
| <b>One More Story</b>   | <b>Tuesday, February 14<br/>7:15 P.M.</b>           |
| <b>Here We Are</b>  | <b>Thursday, February 16<br/>7:15 P.M.</b>          |
| <b>Shepard: The Story of a Jewish Dog</b>                       | <b>Sunday, (Matinee), February 19<br/>3:00 P.M.</b> |
| <b>Neighbors</b>  | <b>Tuesday, February 21<br/>7:15 P.M.</b>           |
| <b>Women of Valor</b>   | <b>Thursday, February 23<br/>7:15 P.M.</b>          |
| <b>Greener Pastures</b>   | <b>Tuesday, February 28<br/>7:15 P.M.</b>           |
| <b>Exodus 91—Closing Day</b>                                    | <b>Thursday, March 2<br/>7:15 P.M.</b>              |

**To purchase your festival pass and individual tickets visit:**

**[www.JewishFederationlcc.org/JFF2023](http://www.JewishFederationlcc.org/JFF2023)**

For more information please email Aimee Levine-Miles at

[aimeemiles@jfedlcc.org](mailto:aimeemiles@jfedlcc.org) or call 239.481.4449 x4

## BRIEFS

**ISRAEL IS 5TH SAFEST COUNTRY FOR TOURISTS; U.S. IS 30TH**

According to a study by a U.S. insurance comparison website called The Swiftest, Israel is the 5<sup>th</sup> safest among the 50 countries most widely visited by tourists.

Visiting Israel is ranked safer than visiting the U.S. (ranked 30), Canada (21), Australia (18), France (15) and the UK (10).

Only Switzerland, the Netherlands, Denmark and Singapore were considered safer than Israel. (Herb Keinon, *Jerusalem Post*)

**3,000TH PALESTINIAN CHILD HAS HEART OPERATION IN ISRAEL THROUGH SAVE A CHILD'S HEART**

Amir Yichya Mabchuch, a five-year-old boy from Jabaliya, just north of Gaza City, was brought on Sunday, November 20 to the Wolfson Medical Center in Holon, where Israeli doctors performed open-heart surgery to save his life.

He was the 3,000<sup>th</sup> child from the Palestinian territories to undergo such surgery in Israel, brought by Save a Child's Heart, an Israeli NGO that since 1995 has helped more than 6,000 children from 65 countries, mostly in the developing world.

Amir's mother said, "When the doctors told us there was a possibility

for Israeli doctors to carry out the complicated operation Amir needed, we were so happy. Everyone here in Gaza talks about how Israeli doctors are the most professional in the world and that they can be trusted completely."

Mabchuch family members said they will return to Gaza with profound gratitude toward the Israelis who went out of their way to help Amir. (Jack Mukand, *Times of Israel*)

**THE IMPACT OF THE WAR IN UKRAINE ON ISRAEL**

◆ The war in Ukraine has led the West to wake up to the sudden reality of military threats. The prospect of a major contract for the sale of Israeli missile defense technology to Germany is one part of a broader pattern: enhancing Israel's position as a significant center of military production and innovation.

◆ This is often accompanied by a growing understanding of Israel's motivations and conduct in a dangerous strategic environment.

◆ Meanwhile, Iran's supply of drones to Russia for attacks on civilian targets in Ukraine makes it easier for Israel to make the case against concessions that would fuel Tehran's ambitions.

◆ Another important gain for Israel is the greatly increased rate of Jewish immigration from both Ukraine and Russia.

◆ The growing affinity between the regime in Iran and Putin's Russia

seems to have led to a Western reassessment of the Iranian issue as a whole. On this point, Israeli messages, both in terms of intelligence information shared with Western partners and its public diplomacy decrying Iran's policies, may have helped move the needle.

◆ With Iran firmly aligning itself with the anti-Western camp forged by the war, the meaning of a nuclear deal changes. It is no longer a statesmanlike achievement for U.S. diplomacy, but a sign of fatal weakness in the face of a scheming, hostile player.

◆ The bottom line is that the global and regional reality created by the war strengthens Israel and enhances its international and regional standing. (Col. (res.) Dr. Eran Lerman, who held senior posts in IDF Military Intelligence for over 20 years, is Vice President of Jerusalem Institute for Strategy and Security)

**SOME OF RUSSIA'S BIGGEST TALENTS FLEE TO ISRAEL, SEEKING FREEDOM**

Some of Russia's biggest artistic talents immigrated to Israel in 2022, finding a safe place to rebuild their careers and voice their conscience about their country's war in Ukraine. More than 28,000 Russian nationals have acquired Israeli citizenship since the war began. They include a pop superstar, a top photojournalist, and many other creatives in art, theater, film, music and dance.

Those with at least one Jewish grandparent can get Israeli citizenship for themselves and their close family. "When the war started, I think, like, everybody literally remembered their Jewish grandma," says Liza Rozovsky, a Russian-born Israeli journalist tracking Russian celebrity arrivals. Israel is already home to one million Russian-speakers who fled the Soviet Union in the 1990s. (Daniel Estrin, NPR)

**CHANGING POPULATION PATTERNS WILL RESHAPE THE MIDDLE EAST**

The UN's Department of Economic and Social Affairs recently released its 2022 World Population Prospects report. The UN forecasts that Turkey and Iran will experience population declines by the year 2100. Iraq is predicted to expand from 44 million to 112 million. Yemen is projected to increase from 34 million to 74 million. Egypt is slated to almost double from 111 million to 205 million. Saudi Arabia is expected to reach 50 million.

The UN forecasts that Israel's population will double from 9.2 million to 18.4 million. The Palestinian population in Gaza and the West Bank will grow from 5.2 million to 12.8 million. Syria will nearly double from 22 million to 43 million. Jordan will grow from 11 million to 18 million. Yet, Lebanon will shrink from 5.5 million to 4.7 million. (Patrick Clawson, Senior Fellow and Director of Research, Washington Institute for Near East Policy)

*continued on next page*



## Collier/Lee Hadassah announces the Inspiring Women 2023 Honorees

HADASSAH  
the power  
of women  
who DO



*Dr. Jaclynn Eaffer*  
Human Services Executive  
Community Leader



*Mia Hyatt*  
Private Wealth Advisor  
Community Leader



*Gail Markham*  
Business Leader  
Philanthropist

Hadassah is proud to recognize and honor women whose leadership skills, dedication, experience, generosity, and time make a difference in their organizations, businesses, our communities and the quality of our lives.

**Join us to celebrate their accomplishments!**

Support Hadassah's world-renowned medical research and expertise through the Hadassah Medical Organization

**Sunday, February 26, 2023, at 11:00AM**

Audubon Country Club  
625 Audubon Blvd., Naples, Florida

For information contact: [collierleehadassah@gmail.com](mailto:collierleehadassah@gmail.com)

# Dale Chihuly uses Israeli tech to make over New York synagogue

**Digital textile printing firm translates famed glass artist's drawings to beautiful fabrics that supplement his installation.**

By Naama Barak, ISRAEL21c, December 14, 2022

The Hampton Synagogue in Westhampton Beach, New York, recently got a techy makeover when renowned glass artist Dale Chihuly utilized the abilities of an Israeli digital textile printing firm in his work on the site.

Visitors to Jack's House, a children's community center connected to the synagogue, will now be able to admire Chihuly's glass decorations, supplemented by the ark curtain, tablecloth and fabric decorations designed

by Chihuly and Israel-based international designer Edward Jacobs and printed by Kornit Digital.

"We managed to bring in one of the greatest living artists of the United States and the world. We were able to get Dale Chihuly, the master, and he did this beautiful glass installation," said Jacobs.

Alongside the glass installations are textile designs imagined by Chihuly and Jacobs, which had to be translated from paper to fabric.

"We needed to find a way to reproduce that art, which he did on paper, to produce that on fabric," Jacobs explained. "When we were first exposed to the technology we were really just blown away."

"The ability that Kornit has to really capture the vibrancy, the subtlety, of colors and of linear delineations on the fabric... you don't see something like that," he said.

"The machines performed on almost everything just flawlessly. Once we chose it, once we had the fabric, once we did the test, they produced everything within a week."

Kornit Digital specializes in sustainable, on-demand manufacturing, which eliminates over-production and helps cut water waste and CO2 emissions. Headquartered in Israel, it has six locations worldwide and over 900 employees.

Kornit Digital Business Development Manager Gil Shavit said, "Technology empowers all artists to bring



The fabric design was initially sketched out by Dale Chihuly and interior designer Edward Jacobs and then printed out and delivered to New York within a week (photo courtesy of Kornit Digital)

their creative vision to life via textile, as it does in this moving project. We're thrilled to play a part in this special, global activity with a distinguished artist like Dale Chihuly, thanks to Edward Jacobs, who brought these two worlds together."

Naama Barak is a writer at ISRAEL21c. A PhD student at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, she loves all things history and politics. Food and fashion come a close second. Prior to joining ISRAEL21c, Naama worked for Israel's leading English-language dailies and cutting-edge startups.



Dale Chihuly's glass installation is accompanied by fabric decorations created using digital textile printing technology (photo courtesy of Kornit Digital)

## BRIEFS

continued from previous page

### CHANGES IN AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL

For decades, the American public has sided with Israel by rather hefty margins. A 2022 survey by the Jewish Institute for Liberal Values of likely voters in the U.S. found that Israel sympathizers outnumber Palestinian sympathizers by almost 2:1 – 39% to 21%. If we focus on those with strong feelings, the pro-Israel advantage in the American public grows to nearly 3:1 (22% for Israel vs. 8% for the Palestinians).

Among Boomers, now age 58-76, Israel sympathizers outnumber Palestinian sympathizers by over 4:1 (52% vs. 12%). But among Millennials, age 26-41, Israel sympathizers and Palestinian sympathizers are almost equal (31% vs 29%). The long-standing widespread support for Israel in the American public is clearly at risk, as pro-Israel attitudes are less frequent among younger likely voters than their parents' generation. (Samuel J. Abrams and David Bernstein, *Los Angeles Jewish Journal*)

### THE ONLY COUNTRY IN THE MIDDLE EAST THAT HAS A GROWING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IS ISRAEL

The Middle East is being cleansed of Christians after two millennia of faithful presence.

The only country in the region that has a growing Christian community is Israel, where the Christian population grew by 1.4% in 2020, and where their religious freedom is guaranteed.

In a December 2021 report by Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics, 84% of Christians surveyed indicated they were satisfied with life in Israel.

In Syria in 2011, there were 1.7 million Christians. Today there are fewer than 450,000. In Aleppo alone, the Christian population has shrunk from 360,000 in 2012 to 25,000 today.

In Iraq in 2003, there were 1.5 million Christians. Today there are under 120,000.

In the past 100 years, the town of Bethlehem saw its Christian percentage fall from 84% to 28% in 2007.

In the West Bank and Gaza, the Christian percentage has plummeted from 11% in 1922 to 1% in 2017. (Andrew Bennett, *National Post* - Canada)

For daily news stories related to Israel & the Jewish world, visit the Federation's website at [www.JewishFederationLCC.org](http://www.JewishFederationLCC.org).



# Experience ArtFest as a VIP

Receive VIP Perks & FREE Parking ALL weekend!

Support the arts in this gathering of art connoisseurs just like you as you enjoy all the benefits of being a VIP.

**VIP Club on Opening Night, Friday, February 3**

Overlooking the downtown waterfront and glorious sunset

- Gourmet hors d'oeuvres from fine restaurants
- Wine and Beer
- 60 fabulous artists

**VIP Club Saturday & Sunday, February 4 & 5**

- Mimosas, coffee & scones to start your day
- Catered specialty lunch / Afternoon Snack Bar
- Wine, beer and more all day
- 200 fabulous artists

VIP Club ticket holders will also have access to VIP seating at

**Symphony on the Sound**  
a free concert performance by



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3 at the Caloosa Sound Amphitheater

**ArtFest**  
FORT MYERS  
Southwest Florida's Premier Art Festival

**February 4&5**  
**OPENING NIGHT**  
**February 3, 6pm**

Caloosa Sound Convention Center  
West entrance / Edwards & Monroe St.  
Downtown Fort Myers

ALL FOR \$125 per person

Sign up for the Federation's weekly e-blasts. Send an email to [AimeeMiles@jfedlcc.org](mailto:AimeeMiles@jfedlcc.org).

Reserve your tickets today! [ArtFestFortMyers.com](http://ArtFestFortMyers.com)



# Football vs. soccer

By Keith Grossman

I didn't know anyone who played soccer until I was 12 years old. That was for people from other countries, and those rubes didn't even call it soccer; it was football. But I'm getting ahead of myself.

One day, the gym teacher tells us we're playing soccer, so there we are out on the field (never "the pitch"). One kid, Greg, is a superstar. He's kicking the ball around with total control. He even bounces it off his knee. I look at Greg like he has no hands...

which is totally fine in soccer, by the way.

A lot has changed since I was 12. At the risk of stumbling over my own feet, I'll explain the growth of this non-American sport.

In 1863, a bunch of English schools decided to standardize rules forcing athletes to use only their feet. They called their game "Association Football," which was later shortened to "soccer" because somehow the Brits decided "soccer" was a slang abbreviation of the word "association." In some related way, they also use the slang word "rugger" for "rugby." Do they really speak English in that country?

Latin Americans saw what was happening in England when British sailors played soccer at the Buenos Aires port while the Argentinians had to load and unload the ships. The Latins stopped what they were doing and said, "Qué bueno."

Brits used the word "soccer" into the 1980s when they suddenly realized they lost the Revolutionary War.

In response, they decided to show us Yanks by no longer saying "soccer." But, as King George sings in *Hamilton*, "They'll be back."

Both the sport and the word "football" spread around the world, except in the United States. We had our own sport called "football," and we won the war, so we could call it whatever we wanted. Soccer didn't find a home in the U.S. because we prefer sports with American history. Therefore, football, baseball and basketball have maintained greater popularity.

The Brits were persistent, though, and now they had other European countries and Latin America playing the same game. They found their way into the heads and feet of the most vulnerable Americans – our youth. They made the rules of the game easy to understand. You don't need any equipment, just a round ball. YMCAs made it a required youth sport. And then an award-winning television program about an American football coach moving to England to coach a soccer team became a huge hit...in America.

Those darn Brits thought of everything. I wouldn't be surprised if they are transmitting subliminal messages to guests at Walt Disney's Epcot Center.

And now we have World Cup fever. The United States hosted the 1994 Men's World Cup and the 1999 Women's World Cup. The women's team has won four World Cups and four Olympic gold medals. The men's team went to the Round of 16 in the 2022 World Cup, and we could watch every game on TV. In 2026, our country is hosting the World Cup again.

Soccer is now the fourth most popular sport in the U.S., after football, basketball and baseball. It has surpassed hockey, and is breathing down

the neck of baseball. Thirty-one percent of Americans call themselves soccer fans, which is an all-time high. It's the second most popular sport among Americans aged 12-24. Attendance at both men's and women's U.S. professional soccer matches is setting records.

The Brits released this juggernaut, so it's now time for the U.S. to own

it and take the credit. That would be uniquely American. We need to flex our American muscle and lead the drive to change the sport's name back to soccer around the world. We are the United States, and we dominate everything! Let's dominate this sport and make the rest of the world call it what we want!



■ Keith Grossman



## 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                    | Karin Fine            |
| Jack Cohen - Marcia Can Help | Sherri & Ira Zucker   |
| Naomi Bloom                  | The Cadkin Foundation |
| Barbara & Earl Magdovitz     | Shalom Dancers        |
| Toni & Stuart Morgenstein    | Taryn Sasser          |

### The Jewish Federation loves our GENEROUS DONORS

#### INDIGENT FUND / MARCIA CAN HELP

|                         |                           |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Marty Freling           | Edward & Beverly Drucker  |
| Paul & Sylvia Simko     | Lynn & Lory Kirby         |
| Temple Judea            | Stephanie Levin           |
| Temple Beth El          | Roberta Parillo           |
| Temple Bat Yam          | Nevin Mindlin             |
| Temple Beth Shalom      | Sidney & Diane Jensen     |
| Shalom Life Center      | Tammy & Michael Rochman   |
| Shalom Dancers          | Stuart & Toni Morgenstein |
| Naomi Bloom             | Barry & Barbara Epstein   |
| Alan & Edina Lessack    | Prosper & Edward Anselm   |
| Shalom Club of DWLWR    | Sunny & Clive Lubner      |
| Julie Smalfelt          | Stephanie Levin           |
| George & Joyce Rosinger | The "Bookie's"            |
| Reina Schlager          | Book Club of Shell Point  |

#### FOOD PANTRY

|                    |                          |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Temple Judea       | Shalom Life Center       |
| Temple Beth El     | Shalom Dancers           |
| Temple Bat Yam     | James & Betty Rubenstein |
| Temple Beth Shalom | Victor Gold              |

#### LINDA F. IDELSON CULINARY DESIGN FUND

|                   |                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Charles Idelson   | Anne Schwartz            |
| Carolyn Gora      | Andy & Debbie Shuping    |
| Anita Freedman    | Hy Tuchman               |
| Claire Goldhagen  | James & Betty Rubenstein |
| Lynn & Lory Kirby |                          |

#### HURRICANE RELIEF FUND

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| Marsha Weiner                                       | Lance & Carol Kann  |
| June E. Swartz Family Fund                          | David Vershel       |
| Marlboro Jewish Center                              | Linda Bogner-Norton |
| Glen & Rita Gardberg                                | Betty Taylor        |
| Irwin Sebelowitz & Gail F. Koppelman                |                     |
| Sisterhood of Olam Tikvah Congregation              |                     |
| Jewish Federation of Western Connecticut            |                     |
| Jeffrey & Carol Philanthropic Fund                  |                     |
| Lewis M. & Josephine A. Schneider Fund              |                     |
| Tzedakah Committee of Chavurat Shalom of SW Florida |                     |



**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](http://www.taschnerperio.com)

# Encouraging signs

By Brian Simon, Federation Past-President

This is a tough time for streaming services. Netflix, Disney and Warner Bros. are all struggling. Programming is expensive, and it's a constant challenge to get people to pay you to use your service.

The dominant model for entertainment over the past 30 years has been the cable bundle, where everyone pays for all the channels whether they watch them or not. If you have cable, you pay for Fox News, CNN and MSNBC no matter which one you prefer to watch.

The Jewish community has been dealing with a similar issue in affiliation. Synagogues and Federations depend on communities to support them through participation and regular financial gifts.

In Pew Research Center's 2020 survey, only 35 percent of Jews said they belong to a synagogue, but that doesn't mean they go. Only 20 percent said they attend services more than once or twice a month. That means the other 80 percent are like the people dropping their cable or streaming subscriptions. Common reasons given for not going to services were, "I'm not religious," "I'm just not interested" and "I express my Jewishness in other ways."

We could hope that one of the ways they express their Jewishness was

through their local Federation. Twenty-five percent of those surveyed said they attended Jewish film festivals.

Since starting our own streaming service for Jewish films seems like a non-starter, part of our challenge at the Federation is to provide meaningful programming that the community is willing to support through volunteering, attending events and annual campaign gifts.

One encouraging sign has been the response to recent calamities. I have been blown away by the amount of giving in time, money and supplies after Hurricane Ian. Your generosity has allowed the Federation to help hundreds of Jews and non-Jews throughout Southwest Florida. The community responded similarly during the Covid pandemic.

It's clear that one of the first things Southwest Florida Jews do in times of trouble is look for ways to help. Additionally, we have received incredible support from Jewish Federations throughout Florida and from The Jewish Federations of North America.

But back to the business of business models. When I wrote these columns as Federation president (back then my columns were on the front page; Keith Grossman and I are like schleppers way back here in the paper), I tried to bring everything back to the core mission of the organization – support the local community as well as the Jewish community in Israel and throughout the world, and produce

Jewish programming. The Federation provides the organization to do those things, but it's all dependent on a local Jewish community that's willing to support the effort.

In the new year, we will gather for an in-person film festival, God willing. We'll meet for meals and celebrate Israel and put on the Jewish cultural programming that we've done for so long. The Federation will also continue with the work of supporting the

hurricane recovery effort.

I am grateful for the incredible work that Debbie Sanford and the entire staff of the Federation (including volunteers) have done over the past few months. And I am grateful that the Jewish community of Southwest Florida has been willing to support it.

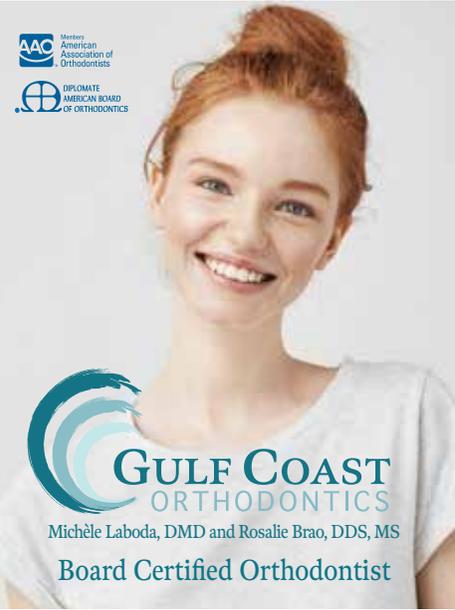
*Brian Simon is a former president of the Federation. His views are not necessarily those of the Federation or its board.*



■ Brian Simon

Read the current and recent issues of L'CHAYIM online at [www.JewishFederationLCC.org](http://www.JewishFederationLCC.org).

## Handcrafting generations of smiles!



Providing orthodontic care for our community for over 25 years!  
Adults | Teens | Children



Braces (Metal or Clear)  
Flexible Financing

Call today for a complimentary consultation!

239-561-2258

[GulfCoastOrtho.com](http://GulfCoastOrtho.com)

Fort Myers | Estero | Naples

## BIG OR SMALL...



## WE CLEAN THEM ALL®

239-206-2520  
[anagoswfl.com](http://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.

**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.

### 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

### 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.



# A big thank you to the Jewish Federation!

Throughout the past 50 years of my rabbinate – in Columbia, MD, Nashville, TN, West Hartford, CT, during my tenure as President of the World Union for Progressive Judaism and now as Rabbi of Bat Yam Temple of the Islands in Sanibel – I have always been a fan and supporter of the local Jewish Federation.



■ Rabbi Stephen Fuchs

I have always been grateful that the umbrella organization for Jewish life in the communities where my wife Vickie and I lived and served was there to improve the quality of Jewish life for Jews wherever they stood along the long spectrum of Jewish religious practice.

On my first Yom Kippur in Maryland in 1973, the Yom Kippur War broke out, and the Federation went into action immediately galvanizing the community at a time when the very existence of Israel, which had been caught unprepared for Egypt's invasion, was in doubt.

In every subsequent year, I have had reason to be grateful for the presence and activities of the Federation, but never so much as this year.

As many of you know, Bat Yam's home in the Sanibel Congregational UCC was severely damaged along with our home and the homes of many of our congregants the day after Rosh Hashanah. Graciously, our now retired

Cantor Murray Simon and his wife Toby offered to have us Zoom what turned out to be very meaningful Yom Kippur worship from their home near Sarasota.

But what would we do then? For a few weeks, I broadcast Shabbat messages from our temporary home in Tampa, where we relocated because

*The spiritual energy and talent of our new Cantor, Rabbi Sunny Schnitzer, combined with the aura of the Federation's magnanimous gesture, made for a magical evening.*

Vickie is being treated for Stage III non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma at the Moffitt Cancer Center. Thankfully, her disease is responding well to treatment, and (as I write this article) we have just moved back closer to home in Cape Coral.

Temple Beth El in Fort Myers, led by my wonderful colleague Rabbi Nicole Luna, and Temple Shalom in Naples, led by Rabbi Adam Miller, both reached out to me with gracious offers to host our congregation, and for these kindnesses we are forever grateful.

Still, our board, skillfully and sensitively led by President Alan Lessack, felt strongly that we should do everything possible to maintain the independence and cohesiveness of our small congregation.

As we pondered this formidable

goal, along came Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties' Executive Director Debbie Sanford and President Marsha Kistler with an irresistibly gracious offer. They invited us to resume in-person worship starting on November 18 in the community room of the Federation offices. They even supplied our Oneg Shabbat.

They greeted us at the door that Shabbat Eve, and the room was packed. Debbie and Marsha asked if they could "welcome us" before our service began, and to our incredulous ears, Debbie announced that the Federation had authorized a most generous grant to our synagogue to help us rebound from the devastation of Ian.

The spiritual energy and talent

of our new Cantor, Rabbi Sunny Schnitzer, combined with the aura of the Federation's magnanimous gesture, made for a magical evening.

If that was all the Federation did, my congregation and I would say, *Dayenu!* It is more than enough. But that is just a tiny sliver of the ways the Federation improves life for both the Jewish and non-Jewish communities. It feeds hundreds of people from its Cadkin Foundation Food Pantry every week, and runs an impressive array of community action, educational and social programs.

The Federation's Community Breakfast on December 4, featuring author, actress, singer and daughter of "Holocaust Fighters," Eleanor Reissa, brought out huge numbers from across the Jewish communal spectrum.

For all the reasons I mentioned above, Vickie and I are increasing our Federation pledge this year. We invite you to do the same. 🌍

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

## What do you think?

**L'CHAYIM wants to know!**

Send your letters & comments to [LChayim36@gmail.com](mailto: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.

**SOAR**  
in the  
NEW  
YEAR

## FLY HIGH

### WITH YOUR ESTATE PLANNING

Whether you are traveling far or staying home, your flight and your life are better when you plan. We can help you map out a fulfilling and smooth trip through the new year. It is time to soar. Here is a good place to start on your estate planning this year:

- Write or update your will
- Check with your bank and investment advisor to update your transfer on death forms
- Take inventory of your highly appreciated assets and use them, rather than cash, to transfer gifts to charity

**Partner with us!** YOU WILL SOAR WHEN YOU SEE HOW EASY IT IS TO LOWER YOUR TAXES AND POTENTIALLY INCREASE YOUR INCOME, ALL WHILE HELPING OTHERS.

**TOP Jewish Foundation**

The community foundation for the Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte Counties

Ellen Weiss  
Executive Director  
813.769.4785  
[ellen@topjewishfoundation.org](mailto:ellen@topjewishfoundation.org)

Beth Levin  
Director of Philanthropy  
813.769.4769  
[beth@topjewishfoundation.org](mailto:beth@topjewishfoundation.org)

## Community Relations Council Lee & Charlotte



### CRC Mission Statement:

The mission of the CRC of Lee & Charlotte is to proactively advocate for and ensure the rights, interests, and values of our Jewish community.

**We Advocate. Educate. Act.**

For more information or to join, contact  
Debbie Sanford at 239.481.4449 ext. 6  
[debbiesanford@jfedlcc.org](mailto:debbiesanford@jfedlcc.org)

# Let's show the world what Jewish life can be all about

A reporter from the Associated Press recently interviewed me about antisemitism. It was the same reporter who called me after Hurricane Ian. She ended our conversation saying, "Here's to our next call being not about natural or manmade tragedies but actual good news."

Like all of us, I've been deeply troubled by the prolific antisemitic rhetoric and actions from high-profile figures. Antisemitism is out there in the open. And as much as I'm grateful to the news for raising an alarm, alerting their readers and viewers about

this dangerous and pernicious speech, and interviewing Jewish leaders about it, this is not the message of Judaism that I want spread – of a people perpetually victimized, the object of hatred, struggling to simply survive. We are so much more. Which is why I want to share with you a somewhat surprising but important tactic for combating antisemitism: a television ad for Judaism.

Rabbi Josh Feigelson, President and CEO of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality, wrote about what his organization did, in an article titled, "Going on Offense: Why we ran an ad for Judaism during an NFL game."

One Sunday at the end of the first quarter of the game between the San Francisco 49ers and the Los Angeles Rams, after an ad for Dunkin' Donuts

and a promo for a reality show, viewers saw an ad for Judaism. Not an ad about the presence of antisemitism, but an ad about the depth, power and beauty of Jewish life.

Rabbi Feigelson explained, "So why did we do it? Because our approach to Jewish life can help a lot of people, and because we think many more people need to hear and see what Judaism is and can be for them.... That includes people watching a football game on a Sunday afternoon. More people can feel connected to Jewish life when they know that Jewish living need not be primarily associated with guilt or the weight of history, or the rote performance of a tradition they don't understand. More people can find a home in Judaism when they experience the joy, wisdom and community that the tradition can be all about."

Rabbi Feigelson continued, "So what about Kanye and the broader rise in antisemitism?... As we witness a proliferation of antisemitic statements from politicians, entertainers and athletes, our responses must include not just denunciations and pressure campaigns. They must also include *articulations* of what makes our tradition so beautiful and powerful, and *invitations* to come and learn. To borrow the language of the NFL: We can't win just by playing defense. We have to play offense, too. Let's show the world what Jewish life can be all about."

Antisemites have no problem putting their message in the open for all to hear. What the Institute for Jewish

Spirituality did was combat hate-filled rhetoric with a message of joy, of pride, of positivity. I invite you to speak with your friends about your concerns about antisemitism, to let them know this matters to the Jewish community. But I also invite you to share another message – to let them know that we are

so much more than a minority that is hated. To let them know that our tradition matters not just in history but is alive and vibrant today. It makes a difference in our lives, and we celebrate it proudly.

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



■ Rabbi Nicole Luna

## Learning laughter

A story about a famous clown carries with it a deep message. A British doctor once examined a patient who was very sad and



■ Rabbi Solomon Agin

depressed. After performing a thorough physical and mental examination, the doctor said, "There is nothing wrong with you. Go hear Grumaldi, the great clown, and laugh; then you will be cured."

The patient looked at the doctor, lowered his eyes and said sadly, "But I am Grumaldi." The incident illustrates that joy and laughter are indispensable to emotional and spiritual well-being. To make others laugh is a talent, but to be able to laugh ourselves is as necessary to living as air is to breathing.

Humor, when properly used, is a

means of lessening personal hostility and of dispelling our own self-hatred. Moreover, laughter is often a very effective instrument in expressing the truth. We can often say in jest the things we would not dare to express directly. In situations of emotional tension between people, humor frequently helps those involved to gain the perspective they need in order to look at the situation realistically.

The person who can laugh with life has developed deep roots within the soil of faith. The conviction that one's personal existence has meaning gives one the deep serenity that makes living a real joy. From this joy comes the strength to meet and resolve life's problems.

In laughter the pain of the heart is eased. (Proverbs 14:13)

A joyous New Year to all!  
*Rabbi Solomon Agin serves at Temple Shalom in Port Charlotte.*

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

We Are Here For You

## BEREAVEMENT GROUP

Get support, learn coping methods and hear from others dealing with grief, examine how loss impacts us, and gain strength, hope, and resilience.

# NEW DATES



The meetings will be facilitated by Rabbi Michael J. Schorin, Community Chaplain and Friendly Visitor Coordinator.

Open to everyone. Registration is required.

\$36 for a 6 week session. Sessions will take place at the JFS office,

Community Room. Dates: 1/6, 1/13, 1/20, 1/27, 2/3, 2/10

10:30am - 12:00pm



239.481.4449 x2



FriendlyVisitor@jfedlcc.org



Jewish Family Services

A division of the Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte Counties

# Many New Years – two calendars

There is the secular New Year on January 1, the Jewish New Year in the fall, another New Year in the Torah and two minor Jewish New Years... What?



■ Cantor Barry Butensky

(Gregorian) calendar. I'm always up for a pleasant greeting, but they're just not the same.

The January New Year doesn't feel that new, except when dealing with paperwork that requires the current date. It comes in the middle of winter with shorter days and early sunsets. Rosh Hashanah, on the other hand, comes as you feel the change in season, with subtle shifts in temperature and, of course, the rainy season! You can feel the beginning both spiritually and in concrete terms. The Jewish calendar carries the spiritual weight, with spiritual landmarks along the way. The Gregorian calendar carries more of a Christian or Roman tradition, and so for Jews it simply does not contain the same spiritual significance.

Nevertheless, the beginning of the January New Year presents opportunities for growth and positive change. The secular New Year can serve as an

opportunity for any of us, Jew and non-Jew alike, to reflect on the past year and make some New Year's resolutions for the coming one. But the resolutions differ if they are made on Rosh Hashanah rather than December 31.

Rosh Hashanah is a time when we make our spiritual resolutions for the Jewish New Year. The secular New Year can be a time when we resolve to do better in a more physical sense: better attendance at the gym, more punctual to meetings at work. The topic of diets often comes up in late December or early January, but not so much in the fall. In fact, Rosh Hashanah involves lots of great eating with family and friends. Of course, the secular New Year also involves good food, as well as a certain amount of drinking – usually not Manischewitz – and one seldom hears of anyone drinking champagne on Rosh Hashanah.

Efforts to strike a balance between a particularistic loyalty to Jewish religion and nationhood and a more universalistic commitment to the human community played itself out in the struggle to set a date for the beginning of the Jewish calendar year. The two possibilities were Nisan – the month of Passover – and Tishrei – the month of what is now known as the festival of Rosh Hashanah. In the Torah, the beginning of the year was clearly set as the first of Nisan, in the context of the story of the first Passover. From the book of Exodus: "The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, this month shall mark for you the be-

ginning of the months; it shall be the first of the months of the year for you."

This New Year celebrated the creation of the Jewish nation through the redemption of the Israelites from Egypt. Nisan, as the first of the months, coincided with the beginning of Jewish national history. The Torah's reference to Tishrei describes a holiday primarily characterized by the blowing of the shofar.

We read in the book of Leviticus: "In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall observe complete rest, a sacred occasion commemorated with loud blasts. You shall not work at your occupations, and you shall bring an offering by fire to the Lord." There is no mention of a holiday called "Rosh Hashanah," or any reference to a day of judgment or anniversary of creation, which we now acknowledge in High Holiday liturgy.

Technically, Nisan is considered to be the first month on the Jewish calendar, the date on which the Jews left

Egypt. In Leviticus, God tells Moses and Aaron: "This *chodesh* (new moon or month) shall be to you the head of months," while Rosh Hashanah is referred to in the Torah as "the first day of the seventh month." Confusing, perhaps, or a reason to celebrate New Year's twice, if not three times.

Just to make things more confusing, the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month of Shevat, Tu B'Shevat, is the New Year for trees, originally an agricultural festival marking the emergence of spring. In Leviticus, the first of the month of Elul was considered to be the New Year for the tithing of cattle. Neither involves making resolutions of any kind, although both have been considered in modern times to be an ideal way of celebrating nature and the environment.

Whichever New Year(s) you celebrate, have a great one (or two or three or four or five)! 🌍

*Cantor Barry Butensky serves at Temple Beth Shalom in Cape Coral.*

## Messages of hope

If we look, we can find hidden messages of hope throughout our history. When G-d tells Noah to build the ark, Noah is specifically instructed to "make a window in the ark, that ends one arm's length from the top of the ark. Make an entrance to the ark on its side; and make a bottom, second and third deck."



■ Rabbi Lawrence Dermer

On the surface, this reads like a set of plans and blueprints. But there's always a deeper meaning if we're willing to search for it. It's a given that the ark needs to be built with waterproof materials, and a door to enter. But why a window? During a flood of that magnitude, who would want to look out the window at all those dark clouds throughout a 40-day rainstorm?

So why the window? Maybe the real purpose of the window was to give Noah hope that there would be life after the flood. Hope that no matter how dark it gets, the sun will shine again.

After the storm finally passed, and the waters began to recede, Noah could now open the very same window that served as a sliver of hope during the dark and scary days and nights during the flood. And now Noah sends out a raven, hoping it can locate dry land. But the raven returns with disappointing news: no hope of exiting the ark yet. So next he sends out a dove, but the dove, too, returns.

At this point who could blame Noah for giving up hope? Can you imagine being trapped on that boat with no AC, power, running water or internet with all those animals, and

who's cleaning the cages? He was told that there would be a flood for 40 days, but after 40 days of rain, it was still unsafe to leave the boat. So Noah waited and waited over 10 months in the ark.

If ever there was a time to lose hope, to assume that the world had come to an end, this was it. Still Noah does not lose hope. He waits one more week, and then he sends out the dove once again. This time, the dove returns with an olive branch in her mouth, proof that the waters have receded enough to find a tree; proof that Noah and all the animals will once again set foot on dry land. After all that drama, the world had not ended, and life would go on!

Does this sound familiar? We may have lived through flooding from hurricane Ian, and as terrifying as that was, thank G-d it was not as devastating a flood as Noah experienced. It can still be all too easy for us to lose hope. Natural disasters, political turmoil, war, rising antisemitism and the challenges that each of us faces in our own lives can make it feel sometimes as if the world as we know it might be coming to an end.

Maybe our rich Jewish wellspring of wisdom is a reminder for us to be more like Noah: to build for ourselves windows of hope where the light can shine in even in the darkest of hours, to plan for the future and never give up in our search for signs of hope, never losing faith that G-d will always provide us with a way to move forward. The flood waters will always recede and there will always be light at the end of the darkness! 🌍

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

## 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 & FOR MORE INFORMATION

contact Debbie Sanford at 239.481.4449 ext. 6  
debbiesanford@jfedlcc.org



**Opinions printed in L'CHAYIM do not necessarily reflect those of the Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte Counties, its Board of Directors or staff.**





Jewish Federation  
OF LEE & CHARLOTTE COUNTIES

## JOSEPH HOROWITZ ISRAEL TRAVEL GRANT

is available through TOP Jewish Foundation of Lee & Charlotte Counties and may be used for travel to Israel to participate in programs that are volunteer or educational in nature.

### OUR HOPE

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

### THIS GRANT

2 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.

### TOP JEWISH FOUNDATION

3 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, VISIT  
[JEWISHFEDERATIONLCC.ORG/SCHOLARSHIPS](http://JEWISHFEDERATIONLCC.ORG/SCHOLARSHIPS)

## Chabad at FGCU update

By Rabbi Mendel Gordon

Looking back at the past few weeks at Chabad., all I can say is, "Wow, wow, wow!" We kicked off November with an incredible Shabbaton in New York City. Four-



■ Rabbi  
Mendel  
Gordon

teen FGCU students joined 1,300 other Jewish students from all over the world for a weekend to connect, to learn and to grow. We were hosted by the Crown Heights community. Students had an opportunity to join a big and vibrant Jewish community. For many, this was their first time. It was a true Jewish community with every restaurant being kosher, with every store being closed on shabbat, and with a Shabbat vibe in the air.

Students were really excited to learn about the Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Schneerson, the power behind Chabad. They were inspired when hearing of his total devotion to every Jew on the planet. It was something

special to visit the Ohel, the Rebbe's resting place where Jews come from all over the world to pray.

Coming back to Fort Myers on a high, we continued with Jewish classes and Shabbats. Our most popular class of the month has been "Judaism and the other worldly." Students learned about the spiritual side of things from souls to angels and dreams and everything in between.

Going all out with this year being a Hakhel Year, when we gather and inspire each other, we took our Jewish pride to the streets with menorahs on our cars for a parade around the FGCU campus and Gulf Coast Town Center. More than 50 students joined in the festivities.

We look forward to an incredible spring semester with a Mega Shabbaton on campus, a Jewish Heritage Day and lots more Jewish fun and pride.

Chabad at FGCU services Jewish students at FGCU and nearby schools. For more information, please contact me at 347.452.0489 or [rabbi@chabadfgcu.com](mailto:rabbi@chabadfgcu.com).



Jewish Federation  
OF LEE & CHARLOTTE COUNTIES

# CONNECT

with your Jewish Community

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



## 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.



Jewish Federation  
OF LEE & CHARLOTTE COUNTIES

Help us meet these pressing needs by contributing to the **MARCIA CAN HELP** fund.  
For further information please contact Debbie Sanford at (239) 481-4449 ext. 6 or [debbiesanford@jfedlcc.org](mailto:debbiesanford@jfedlcc.org)

**TEMPLE JUDEA SCHOOLS**  
**Fort Myers**

**Temple Judea Religious School**  
*Tab Scribner,*  
*Director of Congregational Learning*  
No sooner did we reestablish routines post-hurricane, the calendar turned to winter break. Hopefully the spring will be calmer and more predictable, at least with the weather.

It's been a great first half of the school year, despite the storm disruptions. We started our year strong, celebrated being together during the High Holidays, reunited again under new classroom arrangements after the hurricane, and went on to celebrate Chanukah together with our friends and family. In honor of our eight-day holiday, please let me share eight highlights of our school year.

1. We welcomed several new families to our school.
2. We launched our new Hebrew curriculum and it's so much fun!
3. We celebrated the High Holidays together.
4. We danced with our Israeli dancing friends.
5. We transformed our social hall into a giant Sorry! gameboard.
6. We observed Shabbat Noach with our stuffed animal friends.
7. We asked great questions and immersed ourselves in Jewish learning.
8. We adapted in the storm's aftermath and took care of each other as a school and friends.

I am so excited for our spring programming. We will start our year with a family day celebration, then Tu B'Shevat and then it's time for Purim and the annual Purim Carnival. The festivities don't end there, as right after Purim we will turn our attention to Pesach and Yom Ha'Atzmaut.

Our next Tot Shabbat is scheduled for Friday, January 13 at 5:00 p.m. The February Tot Shabbat is scheduled for Friday, February 10 at 5:00 p.m.

For more information about our religious school, Tot Shabbat or other programming, please contact me at 239.433.0201 or tjswfledu@gmail.com.

\*\*\*

**Temple Judea Preschool**  
*Suki Kelly,*  
*Temple Judea Preschool Director*  
The past few months have been quite the adventure for Temple Judea Preschool. Just when we thought we would have a standard school year, we were hit with Hurricane Ian. Thankfully, our school was only closed for one week. Many of our parents and all our staff members worked together during that week off to remove debris and tree branches so that we could open the school for the children as soon as possible.

Although some of our little friends went through traumatic changes in their lives, they have come out the other end of the tunnel being resilient and adaptable. Our Pre-Kindergarten children have adapted well to their new environment of the social hall. After coming back from their unexpected break, they started practicing for our annual Pre-K Thanksgiving play. They

worked hard and learned their parts quickly! They did an excellent job and performed with smiles on

their faces.

In November, we started our Shabbat program on Fridays. It has been about three years since we were able to get all the classes together to do Shabbat together. The children and parents love participating!



The Pre-K class created a turkey with feathers and added what they are thankful for

Also in the month of November, all of the children at TJP made Veterans Day cards. We took the cards to the Cape Coral VA Hospital and distributed them to the veterans. After such a difficult month of October, the veterans' faces lit up with happiness when they received their cards.

In December, the children celebrated different cultures during Multicultural Week. Parents came in to participate by playing music, reading a book or even bringing a delicious treat for the children. We had many different countries participating this year, including Israel, Japan, the Philippines and the Dominican Republic. We love that our school is so diverse and multicultural. We are grateful to the parents who came in and participated during one of our favorite weeks of the year.

During this exciting month, we also celebrated Hanukkah. During the Hanukkah party, the children exchanged books for the holidays. The Mensch on the Bench came to visit and left the children wondering where he would be every morning for a week. It was a fun-filled month!

January is an exciting month for the Pre-K class. They will celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School by bringing in 100 items to count. The Pre-K children will also start our Fred E. Bear program.

During the last week of January, we will build the City of TJP for the theme of construction and buildings around the world. During this week, the children will work together to construct buildings of all shapes and sizes. At the end, when all the buildings are made, the children will put them together with streets and roads to create the City of TJP.

If any of our alumni or community partners would like to donate funds to help us replace educational materials for our Pre-Kindergarten classroom (4- to 5-year-olds), we would be forever grateful. Please call me at 239.482.1121. Also call to make an appointment if you would like to speak with me in person. I welcome the opportunity to have a conversation regarding the preschool with you.

Happy and Healthy New Year to everyone! We are looking forward to an exciting and fun-filled year.



**RECEIVE THE GIFT OF EDUCATION**  
**WITH FREE JEWISH CHILDREN'S BOOKS**

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

Funded by:

**The Roth Family Foundation**

**Barbara Siegel, Mike & Marsha Kistler,**

**The Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte Counties**



**FAMILIES OF CHILDREN 6 MONTHS TO 8 YEARS QUALIFY!**

**More information contact, Aimee Levine-Miles**

(239) 481- 4449 (ext.4)

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



**THE CADKIN FOUNDATION**  
**FOOD PANTRY**



**FOOD DRIVE**

EVERYTHING THAT YOU DONATE MAKES A DIFFERENCE

**WHAT WE NEED:**

PEANUT BUTTER, JELLY, CEREAL, TUNA, SOUP, VEGETABLES, TOMATO SAUCE, FRUIT, RICE, PASTA, MAC & CHEESE, TOILETRIES

**DONATE: DROP OFF FOOD, GIFT CARDS, CASH, CHECK. MAIL A CHECK. ONLINE.**

9701 COMMERCE CENTER COURT, FORT MYERS, FL 33908  
[WWW.JEWISHFEDERATIONLCC.ORG](http://WWW.JEWISHFEDERATIONLCC.ORG)  
239-481-4449, EXT 1



# 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**

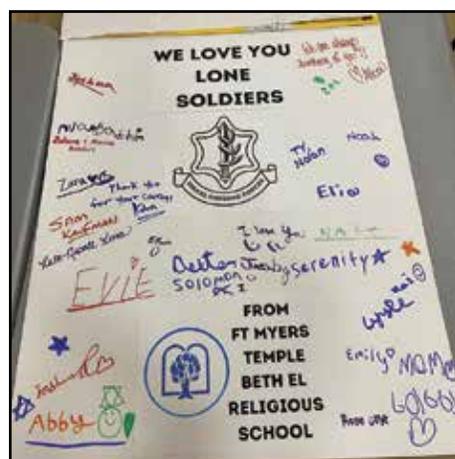
mike@shapiro-photography.com  
www.shapiro-photography.com

## TEMPLE BETH EL SCHOOLS Fort Myers

**Temple Beth El Religious School**  
Allison Fego,  
Religious School Coordinator

As we entered the month of November, our Religious School students were busy finishing up the B'tzelem Elohim and starting on Gevurah. Gevurah helps the children understand that not only does it mean acts of physical strength and bravery, but it also includes spiritual coverage and the willingness to take risks, and incur costs, for the right causes. Gevurah also incorporates the idea that we all can be heroic in our everyday lives by living an exemplary life and doing what is right and just. As we look at the value of Gevurah, we want students to understand that there are many types of strength, including physical and inner strength. We can use these strengths to stand up for others, but also to stand up for ourselves.

Aside from the learning in class, our students all signed a beautiful poster for Jewish Lone Soldiers in Israel.



Students signed a poster that was sent to Jewish Lone Soldiers in Israel

On the first weekend of the month, we celebrated one of our confirmation students becoming a Bat Mitzvah.

Early December has been full of activities and fun for our students. On December 2 we had an energetic children's Shabbat service in conjunction with the Ram Bam Day School students and families who came to join us from Temple Beth Am in Miami. Not only did we sing songs and do our Shabbat prayers, after our service, the Ram Bam Day School sponsored a community Shabbat dinner for our whole congregation. All the children had so much fun being together and sharing Shabbat together.

On Sunday, December 11, our Religious School and PJ Library co-hosted a Hanukkah BBQ. There were many families who came to celebrate the holiday together. We had a bounce house and coloring for the kids. We were entertained by the Jewish Federation Israeli Dancers, who performed a few dances and then taught everyone some other dances. Our kids and families all joined in and it was a ton of fun.

We continued learning about the holiday of Hanukkah and what it means, what we do to celebrate and the story of Judah and the Maccabees. The students created their own menorahs, Stars of David and made paper chains for a Hanukkah menorah craft. We also did a white elephant gift exchange where the kids in each class got to take a Hanukkah gift from another classmate. Our students are extremely excited to share what they have learned about the holiday with their families and friends.



Rabbi Nicole Luna, Ram Bam Day School students, TBE families and Tot Shabbat families sang Shabbat songs and played musical instruments together



Students and families learned the steps and danced to Israeli music

## Candle lighting times:

**January 6: 5:32**

**January 13: 5:37**

**January 20: 5:43**

**January 27: 5:48**



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.

## High School Students: Earn CAS Credits!

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

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

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



**BAT YAM TEMPLE OF THE ISLANDS**  
**Sanibel**

**(773) 251-8862**  
**www.batyam.org**

Bat Yam took bushels and bushels of lemons and turned them into lemonade. As of this writing, prayer books, tallitot and salvageable materials and equipment have been rescued, boxed and moved to a storage facility in Estero, all thanks to our energetic and loyal members and friends.

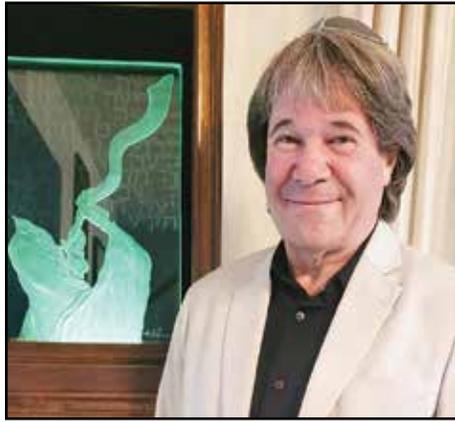
In addition to those mentioned in last month's L'CHAYIM, we were ably helped by a visitor from New York, Andrew Kavesh, who contacted us offering to come to Sanibel to help. Several years ago, Andrew began reaching out to Jewish groups in need. One of his efforts involved helping people to recover from the tsunami in Bangladesh. From there, he traveled anywhere he could be of help. He found us after seeing the piece by Lester Holt on NBC about rescuing our Holocaust Torahs after Hurricane Ian. Meeting and working with Andrew was another example of our "lemonade," and it was delicious. Besides helping to pack, organize and move our materials, he took approximately 1,500 post-Ian pictures of Sanibel, Fort Myers Beach, Matlacha and Pine Island. (As a side note, do not be surprised to find a comprehensive book of Hurricane Ian pictures on your library shelves soon.)

**Our new Cantor/Rabbi**

Space issues in last month's publication prevented me from providing detailed

information about Rabbi Sunny Schnitzer. I am pleased to offer it now. Sunny has an impressive background as a rabbi, cantor, teacher, leader and activist. He comes

to us from Bethesda Jewish Congregation where he served as Rabbi/Cantor. He led religious services, directed the choir and band, and created innovative



Rabbi Sunny Schnitzer

adult education programs and social action projects. Prior to that, he was with Beth El Hebrew Congregation in Alexandria, Virginia, where he designed school curriculums, mentored teachers, led social action and inter-faith activities, and taught B'nai Mitzvah students, older teens and adults.

Since 2010, Rabbi Schnitzer has been president of the Cuba American Jewish Mission. Providing aid to the Jewish Community in Cuba, the mission has supplied Torahs, ritual objects and siddurim, along with training in leading services and chanting Torah. Notable projects include the free Jewish Pharmacy in Havana, a Senior Day-care Center, the Holocaust Museum at

Sinagoga Centro Sevaradi, the Or Chadash synagogue in Santa Clara, repair of the Tifereth Israel Synagogue in Camaguey, and the restoration of Jewish cemeteries in Camaguey and Santa Clara. Sunny also serves on the Steering Committee of the Jewish Islamic Dialogue Society of Greater Washington, D.C.

Rabbi Schnitzer chanted his first service with us on November 18, our first in-person service since the hurricane. With so many dispersed to other areas of Florida and beyond, we were not sure how many would come that evening. It is hard to describe the intangible feelings of joy and sublime happiness we all felt as more and more people crowded into the building. The picture below, taken while people were still arriving, shows Bat Yam at its finest.

As I mentioned last month, the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte

Counties reached out to us and offered the use of its Community Room as long as needed, along with storage for our materials and Torah. Thanks again to Executive Director Debbie Sanford and her team.

Sunny has been warmly welcomed, thanks to his beautiful voice, talented guitar playing, uplifting songs and engaging personality. We also are delighted to welcome Yaffa, Sunny's wife. Our congregation is enjoying both of them immensely. They were able to join us for the Federation's Community Breakfast on December 4 along with Rabbi Stephen Fuchs. God willing, the next event will include Vickie Fuchs, who is doing very well but remaining cautious among crowds.

In closing, as we take a deep breath after surviving Ian and move forward, we wish all of you a happy and healthy winter and look forward to seeing you at Bat Yam soon.



Shabbat services in the Federation Community Room on November 18

# HURRICANE RELIEF ASSISTANCE



Jewish Federation  
 OF LEE & CHARLOTTE COUNTIES



**We now have a case manager and social worker on staff!**

Visit [JewishFederationLCC.org](http://JewishFederationLCC.org) to complete a disaster assistance form.

For assistance, please call 239.481.4449 ext. 1 and leave a message. Your Federation is here to assist with resources, financial assistance, claim paperwork and mental health.

## SHALOM LIFE CENTER Fort Myers

(239) 218-3433

[www.shalomlifecenter.org](http://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 to be a part of a spiritual

community, a warm and welcoming Shalom Life Center family!

Shabbat evening services are held every Friday at 7:30 p.m. in person and on Livestream.

SLC welcomes everyone to experience joyful, meaningful and inspiring services, special events, activities and clubs, dinners, concerts and more all year long.

Every Saturday morning 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.

SLC offers individualized Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparation, weekly Torah study, Café Kabbalah, The Neshama Mamas Women's Wisdom and Wellness Group, Book Club, The Shalom Shmoozers Social Club, special events, concerts, dinners and so much more. 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 [shalomlifecenter.org](http://shalomlifecenter.org).

## COMMUNITY FREE SYNAGOGUE Fort Myers

(239) 247-4556

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

The Community Free Synagogue has accepted a gracious invitation from the Unity Congregation to have its weekly Sabbath Eve dinners and worship in the lakeside chapel on its beautiful campus at 11120 Ranchette Road in Fort Myers starting in February. The times will remain the same: 6:30 p.m. for the Community Free Sabbath Dinners, and 7:30 p.m. for Qabbalat Shab-

bat worship followed by a social hour. The annual Hanukah and Passover meals will remain at the Masonic Center to accommodate the hundreds of participants.

"The Masonic Center on Metro has been our home for over a decade, and we intend maintaining our productive relationship with the good men of Tropical Lodge #56 for years to come," said Natalie Fulton, C.F.S.'s long-serving coordinator.

"But we look forward to the serene airy setting of our new home, especially after having to put up with the

traffic on Metro Parkway that has gotten much heavier and noisier over the years. And besides, Unity is less than five minutes from the Masonic Center, so it's really not much of a geographical change for us," she added.

There will be a tour of the facilities starting at 11:30 a.m. on New Year's Day, followed by a free barbecue picnic lunch co-hosted by both congregations. All are invited to attend.

Sabbath morning Torah Study at the Rabbi's home in The Forest Country Club is from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. A light breakfast is served. It is also Zoomed. For login information, visit [www.fortmyerssynagogue.com](http://www.fortmyerssynagogue.com). Now in its 25<sup>th</sup> year, it is the longest-running Jewish adult study program in Southwest Florida.

Tuesday evening is C.F.S. Adult Education night from 7:00 to 8:15 p.m. It is on Zoom only. A broad range of

ancient and modern Jewish topics are covered, and requires about an hour of reading every week in preparation for each class. To receive information on the topic of the week and the accompanying readings, please email [synfree@comcast.net](mailto:synfree@comcast.net).

As C.F.S. begins its *hai* (18<sup>th</sup>) year under Rabbi Bruce Diamond's leadership, it continues to serve as our area's "open resource" synagogue. It does not sell memberships or tickets, solicit donations or charge for any of its events. Comfortably supported by the spirit of volunteerism of several 100 local households and generosity from throughout the country, C.F.S. remains true to the Jewish mission of study, worship and benevolence with a reverence for God and our traditions, a commitment to lifelong learning and a warm welcome to all!



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](http://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.

## TEMPLE SHALOM Charlotte Harbor & the Gulf Islands

(941) 625-2116

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

The month of December was most exciting for the temple and the community. Members lit a giant menorah on the front lawn of the temple. The outdoor music was led by Dr. David Katz.

A special program followed in the sanctuary with a special music performance by the High School Choral group of North Port High School under the direction of David Sommer. The temple served wonderful latkes and other treats related to Hanukkah. Take-home arts and crafts projects were available to all the children. A beautiful Hanuk-

kah Basket from Zabar's of New York was raffled off to help with repairs to the temple suffered after Hurricane Ian.

On Friday, December 16 we had a program

with David Bernstein, Past President and CEO of the Council of Jewish Public Affairs. The topic was "Antisemitism on the Left and the Right." This program was sponsored by the Carolyn and Robert Bader Memorial Fund.

For more information about Temple Shalom, please call the office at 941.625.2116.

Temple Shalom is a Reform Synagogue affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism serving all of Charlotte County.

Stay in touch throughout the summer. Sign up for the Federation's e-blasts.



Jewish Federation  
OF LEE & CHARLOTTE COUNTIES

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

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

**TEMPLE BETH EL  
Fort Myers**

**(239) 433-0018  
www.templebethel.com**

Happy Secular New Year from all of us at Temple Beth El to our members and the entire Lee and Charlotte counties communities! A year ago, we were still struggling with Mask on/Mask off regulations and our Covid vaccinations and boosters. To top that off, becoming a Federal Disaster Area in October has been catastrophic to many. We hope the worst of that is behind us now, though many remain displaced and are working on recovery. Our community is strong!

January is busy with Sisterhood hosting a Fashion Show on the 18<sup>th</sup>, the Paid-up Luncheon is on the 26<sup>th</sup>, and this is early notice that the Annual Mah Jongg Tournament will be held February 2 at 8:30 a.m. On January 24, Sisterhood will join with the Israel Committee for observance of International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Our guest lecturer is the renowned Dr. Bernice Lerner. Watch for emails or call the office to sign up for these events.

During January, Cantorial Soloist Karen Pincus and Cantor Beth Schlossberg will join Rabbi Nicole Luna on the bimah for different Shabbat services. Guest Cantor Marshall Portnoy will join Rabbi Luna on the bimah on February 3.

Mazel tov to the Zellner family. Vicki Zellner (mom) and Deborah Bauman (daughter) share their b'not mitzvah on January 7. How amazing that mother and daughter will share the bimah for this happy event. To further celebrate, the Zellner family will sponsor the Friday night Oneg and a Kiddush luncheon that weekend.

The long-awaited Mitzvah Day, a community-wide event, will be held on January 29. We come together as a community on Mitzvah Day with activities for all ages. This year's central theme will be helping those still suffering from the impact of Hurricane Ian as recovery and rebuilding continue.

Recurring Temple Beth El programs include:

- ◆ Donations of non-perishable food items and feminine hygiene supplies, critical to those in need right here in our community, can now be dropped off in the temple lobby shopping cart whenever the building is open.
- ◆ All are welcome Saturday mornings at 9:00 a.m. for Torah Study with the Rabbi on Zoom.
- ◆ Book Club: *Woman on Fire* by Lisa Barr, will be discussed on Wednesday, January 4 at 2:45 p.m. on Zoom. February's selection is Herman Wouk's *The Hope*.
- ◆ Tot Shabbat, a kid-friendly service, takes place on Friday, January 6 at 6:00 p.m. Come for the fellowship, the pizza and the fun. To ensure we have enough food, RSVP at 239.433.0018.
- ◆ The Jewish History & Heritage Series is held the third Tuesday of every month. Join us on January 17 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom.
- ◆ Shabbat Services, open to all, are on Fridays at 7:30 p.m. live in the

sanctuary, on Zoom and streaming on Facebook.

- ◆ 12-Step Recovery Group: Join us every Saturday at 11:00 a.m. on Zoom. Experience the Twelve Steps from a Jewish perspective, seeking a path to recovery through Judaic spiritual principles. We are a fellowship of people who are recovering from alcohol, drugs and other addictions such as food, gambling, sex, shopping, etc. The book we use is *Twelve Jewish Steps to Recovery* by Rabbi Kerry Olitzky & Stuart Copans, M.D., second edition.

To learn more about Temple Beth El and our special events, Shabbat services and recurring programs, visit our website at templebethel.com. There's always something happening here: Current Events, Coffee & Chat, Theology & Life, Francophone Group, Hispanophone Group, Environmental Group, Solo Travelers and more. Follow us on Facebook @TempleBethElFortMyers and on Instagram @templebethelfortmyers. You can always contact the office at 239.433.0018.

**TEMPLE JUDEA  
Fort Myers**

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

Tab Scribner, Director of Congregational Learning, continues Temple Judea Religious School with Sunday classes and weekday Hebrew on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Tot Shabbat will return Friday, January 13 at 5:00 p.m. with an interactive program of music, stories and crafts. Family Day activities are on Sunday, January 8 during Religious School hours. Contact Tab at 239.433.0201 for more information.

Check with the office for the continuation of Rabbi Marc Sack's Introduction to Judaism class on Mondays. The class is a must for anyone interested in conversion to Judaism but is open to all who have an interest in learning.

Adult education classes, open to the community, resume Monday, January 23. Tab Scribner teaches connections between *parsha* and *haftarah* portions at 6:15 p.m., and Introduction to Hebrew Decoding at 7:30 p.m. Rabbi Sack teaches the Cultures of Sephardim at 7:30 p.m.

The next lunchtime Torah Study, taught by Rabbi Sack, will be on Thursday, January 5. Classes are held at noon on Zoom. All levels of Jewish background are welcome. For login information, please call the office at 239.433.0201.

Temple Judea looks forward to continuing to support the Heights Center, which serves our neighbors in the Harlem Heights area.

Hazak is planning an outing to Punta Gorda; details to follow.

Chaverot, our women's group, is

offering two sessions, January 16 & 18 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., of pour painting with Reeva Shaffer. Classes are limited to six per session. A \$25 fee covers all materials. Reserve with your check to the office and indicate the date.

On January 11 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., Chaverot presents a Women's Self-Defense class, free of charge, for women only, age 13 and older.

Our Book Club will discuss *The Measure* by Nikki Erlick on January 12 at 6:00 p.m. in the social hall. Bring a pareve or dairy meal; we'll provide drinks and dessert.

Temple Judea continues to accept food donations for the Cadkin Foundation Food Pantry at Jewish Federation, and feminine hygiene products for Cycle Forward, which distributes products to women in need. There is a barrel outside for food donations and a basket in the lobby for Cycle Forward. There are collection envelopes near

the front door for contactless monetary or gift card contributions. Contributions may be mailed. Please call the office to ensure your contribution has been received.

Temple Judea is conducting in-person services with an online Zoom option. Synagogue members can use the Zoom ID and password as published in our weekly *Megillah*. Non-local residents may contact the synagogue for information.

**Regularly scheduled events:**

- Friday Shabbat services at 6:30 p.m.
- Saturday Shabbat Services at 9:30 a.m. Kiddush luncheons will be served every Shabbat. To sponsor, contact JoAnn Lewin.
- Morning minyan every Monday at 9:00 a.m. in person and on Zoom.
- Rabbi Marc Sack's lunchtime Torah Study, the first Thursday of each month on Zoom.

**TEMPLE BETH SHALOM  
Cape Coral**

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

As we approach the end of 2022 and look forward to 2023, Temple Beth Shalom anxiously anticipates an exciting year of varied activities. It is our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of joyous Judaism in Cape Coral.

For 50 years our members have explored each Torah portion in the annual Jewish cycle of Torah reading. There have been generations of members who have asked the same type of questions about the Torah, with hours and hours devoted to the discussion and description of the numerous people who have received plenty of attention – Adam and Eve, Abraham and Sarah, Rachel and Leah just to name a few, as well as those who are less familiar.

The celebration of holidays together in old and new ways leads to our

building and sharing of traditions uniquely our own.

As we commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> year of our existence, we cannot help but consider the everyday

miracles we take for granted. Join us as we pause in a moment of gratitude for the history of our temple that has brought us to where we are today. We are a family at Temple Beth Shalom. We welcome you to our spiritual home and look forward to adding you and your family to our family.

December has been a busy month for the members of Temple Beth Shalom. On December 3 we had a very stimulating Torah Service and Study led by our inspiring spiritual leader, Cantor Barry Butensky. All attendees shared in a lively discussion following the Torah reading, which included presentations of different views of the meaning of Jacob's dream and how the portion relates to today. The discussion continued during our Kiddish.

Many of our members attended the Federation's Community Breakfast on December 4, where a good time was had by all. On December 10, TBS hosted an evening of music, fun and noshes featuring two inspiring cantors, our own talented Cantor Barry Butensky and the highly respected Cantor Victor Geigner. All attendees were encouraged to sing along, adding to the pleasure of the evening.

We enjoyed our monthly Family Shabbat and Pizza Night, and our delightful Hanukkah celebration, which featured homemade latkes, delicious jelly donuts and fun for all. Every Saturday night we enjoy a full-length feature film together, and Wednesday nights are saved for Jewish Enrichment Films, followed by discussions of different topics of Jewish culture.

The first Saturday morning of the month is devoted to a Torah Service and Study. This is followed with a stimulating discussion of topics of interest and a delicious Kiddish. The following Friday evenings we welcome Shabbat in our lovely sanctuary and on Zoom for an inspirational Shabbat of spiritual renewal.

We are planning wonderful events in 2023 to celebrate our anniversary that are not to be missed. There is something for everyone at Temple Beth Shalom! We are a small, warm and welcoming congregation. All are invited to attend our services, programs and activities. Make our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year the one you and your family become members of Temple Beth Shalom.

We are a shul like no other. Come see for yourself!

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

## HADASSAH Collier/Lee Chapter (732) 539-4011

Joyce Toub

Martin Luther King Jr. once said that life's most persistent and urgent question is, "What are you doing for others?" For me the answer has always been to volunteer. Hadassah has always meant healing and hope to me. The workers at Hadassah Hospital, be they doctors, nurses, janitors, secretaries, etc., are of every religion, every color and every economic background. The patients they help are of every color, every religion and every economic background – a true melting pot! If only the world could duplicate this!

In 2022, Hadassah's programs, advocacy and medical breakthroughs have not only impacted Israel and the United States, but the world. Hadassah

advocacy drives policy changes to strengthen relationships between Israel and the U.S., combat antisemitism and advance women's health.

Here are some examples:

Many medical miracles are performed daily at Hadassah Hospital. *Newsweek* continues to rank Hadassah Hospital as one of the 250 best hospitals in the world because its staff makes the most correct and efficient use of the most advanced technologies. Hadassah has a new collaboration with pharmaceutical company Merck to launch an mRNA initiative to fight cancer. This began with the Covid vaccine that showed how powerful messenger RNA can be.

With a dangerous surge in antisemitism, Hadassah urges a united front to fight hate against Jewish people, whether physical acts or inflammatory

rhetoric. #StandUpToJewHate speaks out against antisemitism and anti-Zionist actions from the United Nations to college campuses. For the first time, we now have a U.S. State Department Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism with the rank of Ambassador, thanks in part to Hadassah's political action.

Hadassah's Youth Aliyah Village, Meir Shfeya, has record enrollment and is the only youth village in Israel to be fully staffed. Half the students come from other countries. 98% of the graduates serve in the IDF. 50% give an additional year of community service. 40% go on to pursue higher education degrees.

Hadassah urged the International Olympic Committee to memorialize the Munich massacre victims, the 11 Israeli Olympic team members murdered in the 1972 summer Olympics at Munich. They will now be remem-

bered with a minute of silence at the start of EVERY Olympics Games.

Hadassah advocates that we must NOT restrict reproductive choice; women must make decisions about our own bodies!

I am so proud to be part of this organization and invite you to become a part of it too! Every little bit you do has a great impact. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events:

- ◆ January 29: Installation Luncheon and Fashion Show at Bonita Bay Club
- ◆ February 26: Inspiring Women of 2023 at Audubon Country Club
- ◆ March 3: Hadassah Shabbat at Temple Shalom in Naples
- ◆ March 4: Hadassah Shabbat at Beth Tikvah in Naples

I wish you all a wonderful new 2023!

## CHAVURAT SHALOM OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA chavuratshalom@gmail.com

Cheryl Fulmer, Ellen Feingold  
and Marcia Rudin

Chavurat Shalom members wish everyone a healthy and happy New Year. This past year has been difficult. Let us move from strength to strength to face the challenges ahead, especially for those in the Sanibel/Fort Myers area who are rebuilding their lives after suffering losses due to Hurricane Ian.

Our Friday night Shabbat services led by volunteers every week throughout the year begin at 7:30 p.m. Our Len Minsky Current Events sessions on Saturdays at 11:00 a.m. are also moderated by volunteers, and our Thursday classes/discussions are conducted by Chavurat Shalom members and outside experts. On the third Thursday of every month, we discuss the current *parsha* in our "Torah Talk" at 11:00 a.m.

Our Thursday programs scheduled for January are:

- ◆ January 5: Lonny Wilk, Senior

Associate Regional Director of the Florida Chapter of the Anti-Defamation League – "Trends in Antisemitism and Extremism in Florida and the U.S."

- ◆ January 12: Dr. Eric Milbrandt, Marine Laboratory Director, Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation – "The Work of SCCF on Water Quality Issues Including the Effect of Hurricane Ian on Sanibel's Marine Environment and the Caloosahatchee River Watershed"
  - ◆ January 19: "Torah Talk" (Parshat Shemot), led by Dr. Ellen Feingold
- Our monthly "Schmooze" sessions provide a chance to keep in touch informally with each other and take place on the second Tuesday of every month. The next one will be on January 10 at 7:30 p.m.

To find out more details about Chavurat Shalom's events and weekly Shabbat services, email [chavuratshalom@gmail.com](mailto:chavuratshalom@gmail.com) or visit [www.chavuratshalomsofswflorida.org](http://www.chavuratshalomsofswflorida.org).

To aid local victims of the hurri-

cane, our Tzedakah Committee donated funds to FISH on Sanibel, and Gladiolus Food Pantry and the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties in Fort Myers. If you wish to donate to the Tzedakah Fund, send your check, payable to Chavurat Shalom with Tzedakah Fund in the memo line, to 20031 Sanibel View Circle, Unit 202, Fort Myers, FL 33908.

Many Chavurat Shalom members and other friends watched the livestreamed ceremony as our member, Rabbi James Rudin, became a Knight Commander of the Order of Saint Gregory on November 20 at Saint Leo University north of Tampa. Rabbi Rudin was recognized for his years of work to improve Jewish-Catholic relations.

In his response remarks, Rabbi Rudin said, "The decades since 1945 and the end of the Holocaust have been momentous ones as Jews and Catholics, two ancient religious communities, reached out to one another to reverse centuries of suspicion, hatred and mistrust; to overcome bigotry, prejudice and stereotypes... There have been

more positive interactions between Catholics and Jews since the conclusion of the Second Vatican Council in 1965 than there were in the first 1,900 years of the Church. While there have been great advances, I have no illusions the task is complete. I see myself as a religious explorer, a pioneer who helped set in motion an irrevocable process of ending the alienation among followers of the world's religions."

All Chavurat Shalom's activities are open to anyone with an interest in learning together. Chavurat Shalom (Fellowship of Peace) is an informal group from every Jewish religious tradition that meets to worship and learn together. People of all faiths and localities are welcome. It is not affiliated with any organized movement and is community-led.

For more information about Chavurat Shalom and its schedule of events, please email [chavuratshalom@gmail.com](mailto:chavuratshalom@gmail.com) or visit [chavuratshalomsofswflorida.org](http://chavuratshalomsofswflorida.org). Use this email address to obtain Zoom links for our events.



7-10 Days In Israel

# Meet Me In Jerusalem

Jewish Federation Organized Trip to Israel

APRIL 17-23, 2023  
EXTENDED OPTION, APRIL 23-26  
OVERNIGHTS IN: TEL AVIV, NAHARIYA & JERUSALEM

LAND, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY \$3,750  
\$500 DEPOSIT RESERVES YOUR SPACE, DUE BY 12/31

CELEBRATE  
ISRAEL'S  
75TH  
BIRTHDAY

Book Now

Contact: Debbie Sanford  
[debbiesanford@jfedlcc.org](mailto:debbiesanford@jfedlcc.org) or 239.481.4449 x6

**JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA**

**(239) 566-1771**

**Florida Jewish History Month 2023**

*Marina Berkovich*

Happy and Healthy 2023! Wishing all the best to our members, supporters and followers!

Since 2003, the State of Florida has officially designated January as its Jewish History Month. Old-timers will remember, but newcomers are most likely unaware, that it is particularly imperative to celebrate it in Southwest Florida. Contrary to the popular misinformation that Florida was always Jewish, which northerners frequently repeat, even such Jewish strongholds as Miami had to fight for acceptance, equality and equity.

Here in Southwest Florida, we gained ours most recently, in the 1980s, as our readers likely know. Jewish history in Collier County, the latest to establish a Jewish community on the West Coast of Florida, is not only about the history of Temple Shalom,

its oldest synagogue, but also about those who never joined any worship group, were turned away, could not afford the dues or were hiding their identity, because they were here early enough to face the real discrimination.

The Jewish Historical Society of Southwest Florida (JHSSWF), an all-volunteer organization, is committed to preserving the trail of local Jewish history. Our eyewitnesses share the yesteryear lore to remind us of the positive advances the community-at-large has made in understanding cultural, ethnic and religious differences of its diverse population. There are occasional throwbacks, but overall, Florida's Jewish history, and Southwest Florida's in particular, teach us about the importance of proudly upholding our beliefs at all times.

Since 2010, The Society has been collecting and showcasing stories of individuals who helped shape our local Jewish perspectives and enlighten our non-Jewish neighbors. Our original productions, Southwest Florida Jewish

Pioneers film series, earned a TELLY Award and are exhibited in the ANU Museum in Tel Aviv.

On Thursday, January 19 at 4:00 p.m., we are releasing our next film, *Jack Nortman, Boxcar Education Giant*, at South Regional Library. Register with the library to attend at <https://collierlibrary.evanced.info/signup/calendar>. Originally scheduled as a fundraiser brunch, since we were diverted off course, first by Covid, and then Ian, we are proud to release it to you this month at a free event. Mr. Nortman's unique story is an inspiration model for our entire community. A son of Holocaust survivors, he did not rest until an authentic WWII-era boxcar was found and placed in service locally to educate everyone, particularly students, about the evils of the Holocaust.

The following month's event will take place at Chabad of Naples on Sunday, February 5, and will focus on Mitch Spaiser's story. He is believed to be the first Jewish student of Edison College, now Florida SouthWestern State College, Naples Campus. Mitch tells a fascinating story of 1960s and

1970s Naples life as a young Jewish man from New York during the pre-synagogues and pre-Federation era of Collier County. A true Southwest Florida Jewish Pioneer, Mitch and his parents influenced generations of local Jews though their generosity.

We know you give to a variety of charitable causes and there were too many strains on your resources in 2022, but please do not forget to contribute to JHSSWF and our important educational mission. Your gracious support is very much appreciated.

You may now purchase JHSSWF memberships online or mail us a check. Family Membership \$54; Individual Membership \$36, Student Membership \$18, Corporate Sponsorship \$300. 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](http://www.jhsswf.org) ~ [office@jhsswf.org](mailto:office@jhsswf.org) Virtual Museum of SWFL Jewish History <http://jewishhistorysouthwestflorida.org/>

**GENERATIONS OF THE SHOAH SOUTHWEST FLORIDA**

**(239) 263-9200**

**A "gift" from Ian?**

*Ida Margolis and Shelley Lieb*

One of the "gifts" that the Hurricane Ian experience brought to us is a push to evaluate how we live our lives. Sometimes it takes a disaster to clarify where you are vs. where you really want to be, both physically and emotionally. Though you are alive and reading this message from GenShoah SWFL, it is likely that you know or read about someone who didn't survive. Or someone who lost their home. Or someone who is struggling to rebuild their life again. And for those of us who have experienced turmoil in the past, Hurricane Ian might be a stark reminder that life is precious and we should do all we can to be the helping hand that offers hope, respite, support and remembrance to those in need.

**International Holocaust Remembrance Day, January 27, 2023**

The date of liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau (January 27, 1945) is the United Nations General Assembly designated International Holocaust Remembrance Day. On this date, the "UN urges every member state to honor the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust and millions of other victims of Nazism, and to develop education programs to help prevent future genocides."

Light a candle for the victims of the Holocaust. If you know a Holocaust survivor, reach out with a phone call or visit. Visit your local Holocaust Museum. Donate to the educational programs at your local museum or the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM). Both USHMM and the Holocaust Museum & Cohen Education Center in Naples (HMCEC.org)

have very meaningful testimonies of local Holocaust survivors. There are now excellent books about the Holocaust written for Middle School and High School students. Grandparents and parents may want to read one of these with their grandchildren. A beautiful short film for ages eight and up is *The Number on Great-Grandpa's Arm*.

**Another form of remembrance: Zoog Mir in Yiddish!**

A Yiddish group is being organized by Sol Awend, Felicia Anchor and Harriet Berneman. If you are interested in joining this Chevra, please email Sol at [solawend@gmail.com](mailto:solawend@gmail.com). Sol has a wonderful sense of humor and a contagious, fun-loving attitude when it comes to Yiddish.

**Our stories**

This season, we will be focusing on the writing of the stories of our parents who survived their turmoil in the past – the Holocaust. Even if your own parent provided testimony in the form of an interview or wrote their own story, it comes from a different perspective when a 2G (Second Generation) writes the story.

GenShoah SWFL is planning a story-writing workshop in February to bring together those members who have written their parent's story and those members who are poised to begin. Membership in GenShoah SWFL is easy and requires no fee. GenShoah members are strongly encouraged to become members of the Holocaust Museum & Cohen Education Center. If you are interested in the promotion of Holocaust education and human rights, the preservation of history and memories of the Holocaust, the connection of the Second Generation with one another, and support of the Holocaust Museum & Cohen Educa-

tion Center, send an email to Shelley Lieb at [liebro@gmail.com](mailto:liebro@gmail.com) to get on the GenShoah SWFL email list.

**Remembrance and action to counter antisemitism**

Lest we forget, #ItStartedWithWords is a Holocaust education campaign created by the Claims Conference in which Holocaust survivors from around the world reflect on the moments leading

up to the Holocaust. These short videos "demonstrate how hateful language can evolve into actions with unimaginable outcomes." Viewers are asked to circulate each video. It is a relaunch of a previous campaign "to address the current rise in antisemitism, hate speech and Holocaust denial around the world." Go to #ItStartedWithWords and feel free to share it.

**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 Jodi Cohen at 239.481.4449 x1 or [jodicohen@jfedlcc.org](mailto:jodicohen@jfedlcc.org). She will contact you as needed. Thank you.**

**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**

24611 S. Tamiami Trail  
Bonita Springs, FL 34135-7024  
Rabbi Mendy Greenberg  
Phone: 239-949-6900  
Web site: www.JewishBonita.com  
Services: Saturday at 10:00 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  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday  
6:30 A.M. Kabbalah Class  
7:00 Morning Prayers  
5:30 P.M. Afternoon & Evening Prayers  
Friday Evening Welcome Shabbat Prayers  
5:30 P.M.  
Saturday Kabbalah Class 9:00 A.M. Prayers  
10:00 A.M.  
Kiddush Lunch & Farbrengen 12:15 P.M.  
Afternoon & Evening Prayers 5:30 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 10:00 a.m. followed  
by a kiddush  
Torah study: Wednesday at 8:00 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 9:00 a.m.; Shacharit 10:00 a.m.;  
Kiddush at noon  
Minyan: Monday & Thursday 7:00 a.m.

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

Jewish Federation  
OF LEE & CHARLOTTE COUNTIES

www.JewishFederationLCC.org

**COMMUNITY FREE SYNAGOGUE**

CONTEMPORARY TRADITIONAL  
10868 Metro Parkway  
(The S.W. Florida Masonic Center)  
Fort Myers, FL 33908  
Rabbi Bruce Diamond  
Phone: 239-247-4556  
E-mail: synfree@comcast.net  
Web site: www.fortmyerssynagogue.com  
Free Friday dinner each week at 6:30 PM  
open to all followed by worship at 7:30 PM  
Weekly Torah Study, Sabbath worship and  
Adult Education visit  
www.fortmyerssynagogue.com for the  
schedule of events and Zoom logon  
Information.  
All events are free and open to all

**SHALOM LIFE CENTER**

TRANS DENOMINATIONAL  
19691 Cypress View Drive  
Fort Myers, FL 339067  
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:  
Amy Amon  
Email: LearningTree15@yahoo.com  
President: Reina Schlager  
Email: reinaschlager@aol.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  
Mitzah 10:30 a.m. Saturday Religious &  
Hebrew School: 9:00 a.m.-12:30 Sunday  
Judaica Gift Gallery  
*Affiliated: Union for Reform Judaism*

**TEMPLE BETH SHALOM  
REFORM**

702 S.E. 24th Ave., Cape Coral, FL 33990  
President: Peter Simenauer  
Phone: 239-772-4555 • Fax: 239-772-4625  
Email: templebethshalomcommunications@gmail.com  
Web site: www.templebethshalomcc.org  
Services: 7:30 p.m. Friday  
Enrichment night every Wednesday at 7:00  
p.m. via Zoom  
Shabbat 10:30 a.m.

**CHAVURAT SHALOM OF SWFL  
CHAVURA**

20031 Sanibel View Circle unit 202  
Fort Myers, FL 33908  
Chavuratshalom@gmail.com  
www.chavuratshalomofsouthwestflorida.org  
Cheryl Fulmer, President  
Shabbat services - 7:30 p.m. Friday  
Jewish current events - 11:00 a.m. Saturday  
Speakers series - 11:00 a.m. Thursday

**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: Suki Kelly  
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 - 6:00 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  
*Affiliated: Union for Reform Judaism*

**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