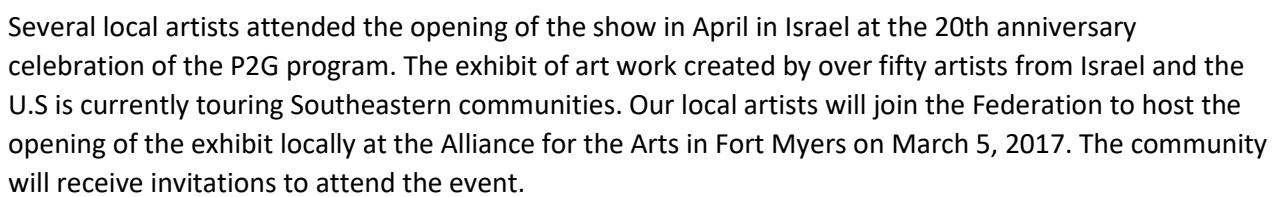


continued on page 2



social service ▶ philanthropy ▶ education

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The mission of the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties is to provide and support philanthropic, educational and social service programs that promote such Jewish values as Tzedakah *benevolence*, Tikun Olam *repairing the world* and K'lal Yisrael *taking responsibility for one another*, in order to strengthen and enrich the Jewish community locally, in Israel and throughout the world.

L'CHAYIM

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 Partisan political opinions will not be published, but opinions on subjects affecting the Jewish community are welcome.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

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

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

**APRIL ISSUE
EDITORIAL DEADLINE:
Monday, March 6**

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Program notes...continued from previous page 1

and continues through Sunday, March 12. Check with local congregations for the times of their Megillah readings and festivities.

And if Purim is coming, then Passover can't be too far behind! We are looking for volunteers to again help distribute over 200 Passover gift bags we send to seniors in independent, assisted living and nursing homes in Lee and Charlotte counties. It's a wonderful mitzvah for all ages. As much as the seniors like getting the gift bags, what they most enjoy is the visits from the volunteers. Let me know if you are able to help.

Please mark your calendars now to attend the Federation's Annual Holocaust Memorial Service, held this year at Temple Beth El at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 23. It is always important, and seems especially important this year, to make sure we "never forget" the horror of the past while working to ensure

a peaceful and hopeful future.

As always, our food pantry is in need of canned and boxed goods. Please remember us when you shop – perhaps buy an extra can or two to donate. Snowbirds, if you are cleaning out your pantries before going back home, please think of us. We do ask that you always check expiration dates before donating as we can't give out food with expired dates.

Also, snowbirds, don't forget to let the Federation know when you are leaving our area. *L'CHAYIM* will not get forwarded to your other address. Let Lori Ramos at our office know when you leave and again when you return, so your current address is in our files and you receive all the necessary mailings.

Have a Happy Purim and best wishes for safe journeys to all those returning to their "summer homes." ▲



Why I support Federation

Moving from a larger Jewish community to Southwest Florida, my challenge was to find Jewish life in my new adopted city. My first thought was to turn to Federation as what I hoped would be a clearinghouse for Jewish involvement. I began volunteering, answering phones and doing some office work. Through these volunteer hours I became acquainted with the community. I found a warm, welcoming Jewish home; a home that even encouraged me to expand our programming to include Israeli folk dancing that now has become a weekly activity at the Federation.

– Marsha Kistler, Federation Treasurer

Senior Outreach Program

By Helene Glocer

The senior lunches returned to Temple Beth Shalom in January after two months on the road. Going back to its original location brought a sense of comfort and a recharging of the batteries. After a brief return, we will set out again to bring the program to Temple Beth El in February, the Alliance for the Arts in March, and the Shalom Life Center in April.

We had an interesting discussion at the January lunch about World War II. Seniors recounted their memories of the war, both at home and abroad. One man described being hidden as a child in Poland by farmers, another about seeing ships off the coast and much, much more. It was interesting, sometimes sad,

sometimes funny, but always personal. We all learned a lot that day.

Temple Judea graciously hosted the lunch in December. Rabbi Marc Sack was very welcoming and shared a couple of thought-provoking stories. Jason's Deli provided box lunches for everyone.

Thanks to all the volunteers who pick up the seniors and set up the lunch, and to the seniors themselves who come regularly and help make this a success. Special thanks to Jason's Deli, Cafe Portofino and Publix, who make the lunches affordable.

If you know any seniors who might enjoy the food and camaraderie once a month, or if you would like to join us, call Micaela Solomon at 239.481.4449.



Rabbi Marc Sack at Temple Judea



Rabbi Devora Buchen at Temple Beth Shalom

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Celebrating the present*

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

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This year please consider making an additional campaign contribution in honor or in 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 our community.



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

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Jewish Family Services
VOLUNTEER BRUNCH
March 30th, 2017

We are expanding Jewish Family Services and we need your help!

Volunteer opportunities

- ♥Telephone calls to seniors
- ♥Personal Mitzvah visits
- ♥Transportation
- ♥Senior Lunches
- ♥Food Pantry Thursdays
- ♥Administrative support

Come for a “nosh” and fill out our **Volunteer Experience and Interest Inventory**. Join us at **11:00 A.M. on March 30th, 2017** at the Jewish Federation 9701 Commerce Center Court Fort Myers, FL 33908

R.S.V.P. to (239) 481-4449 Ext. 6

HOW THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF LEE & CHARLOTTE COUNTIES SERVES



Local Jewish Education and Culture

- ✧ Community-wide Jewish Education and Culture Programs for all ages including the Jewish Film Festival, Jewish Author Events, Israel Celebration, Jewish genealogy, Israeli folk dancing, social groups, etc.
- ✧ **L'CHAYIM** published monthly to keep the Jewish community informed about local, national and international Jewish issues.
- ✧ Community Relations activities include monitoring anti-Semitism and issues of separation of church and state in the community.
- ✧ Israel Advocacy and Initiatives to strengthen local Jewish community ties with Israel. Holocaust Education through the Holocaust Museum of Southwest Florida to middle and high school students in the community.



Overseas

- ✧ Funding to the Jewish Agency for Israel and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) for full spectrum social services to Israel and Jewish communities in 60+ countries around the world.
- ✧ Partnership 2Gether relationship with the Hadera-Eiron Region in Israel.



Local Seniors Services

- ✧ Holiday baskets and teen visits to seniors and senior facilities for Rosh Hashanah, Hanukah and Passover.
- ✧ Seniors & Volunteers Lunch Program.
- ✧ Emerging and pressing needs related to senior housing, health and socialization.



Local Case Management Services

- ✧ Non-sectarian, individual and family outreach, information and referral services.
- ✧ Individual life coaching and support services.



Local Emergency Services

- ✧ Food Pantry.
- ✧ Emergency financial assistance.
- ✧ Education and aid associated with natural disasters.



Local Community Services

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



Jewish Community Foundation

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





Joseph Horowitz Israel Travel Grants Available

The Joseph Horowitz Israel Travel Grant is available through the Community Foundation of the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties. The grant may be used for travel to Israel to participate in programs that are volunteer or educational in nature. Our hope is that these programs will enhance Jewish knowledge and identity in preparation for participation in American Jewish life. This grant is for Jewish residents of either county who are 25 years old or younger and can demonstrate a financial need. Academic standing and community involvement may also be considered. For more information or an application, please visit our website at www.JewishFederationLCC.org or contact the Federation at 239-481-4449, ext. 4 or email loriramos@jfedlcc.org.

Museum exhibit and fundraiser

By Amy Snyder, Executive Director, Holocaust Museum & Education Center of SWFL

Our organization’s mission is to *teach the lessons of the Holocaust to inspire action against bigotry, hatred and violence.*

This positions us perfectly to be a positive influence in our Southwest Florida communities and beyond. Lest we forget, one of the first steps toward the Holocaust was the intentional and progressive devaluing of a person considered as “other.” Unfortunately, we continue to see local and national incidents in which people are targeted because of who they are or what they believe. In a unique country like ours, whose citizenry is made up of many versions of “other,” this trend must be strongly countered, with the incidents promptly addressed and investigated. The need for education programs such as those we offer are always relevant.

Our programs and tours for students and visitors reinforce the importance of self-respect and respect for those in our daily lives. In sharing the stories of those who suffered at the hands of the Nazis, we also share the stories of people who spoke up on behalf of those suffering. These were brave people of all ages, whose consciences wouldn’t let them stand wordlessly by when seeing injustice, directly or indirectly, done to someone else.

We encourage our audiences to be “responsible” human beings, to speak up and step into a situation where some-

one is at risk because they are “other.” Sometimes this timely word or action can prevent a situation from escalating. Think about the number of people involved in the “back office” end of the machinery surrounding the Holocaust. There were literally millions of chances for someone to question their tasks – their work registering people, compiling data banks and the logistics involved in planning of the widespread roundups and transportation of “others” to camps across Europe.

We encourage you to visit the Museum and spend some time at our current exhibit, *The World Knew: Jan Karski’s Mission for Humanity*. It explores the story of someone who did question what was happening, gathered information and acted upon it, and kept bringing it up. Karski, a Polish diplomat, witnessed what was going on in his country to Jews. He was smuggled in and out of the Warsaw Ghetto, and later, when disguised as a guard, was taken to the transit camp Izbica Lubelska, about 200 miles southeast of Warsaw. Here he saw German soldiers assigning Jews to railway boxcars for transport to Belzec and other death camps. He risked his life more than once to gather this information, and yet, when he presented it to the highest authorities of the Allied powers, was met with disbelief and inaction. He spent the rest of his life determined to inform people of what happened.

You can help support our Education programs by attending our annual fundraising event. *Triumph 2017: The Freedom Writers Story* will take place on Wednesday, March 22 at Quail West Golf and Country Club in Naples. This special evening will feature guest

speaker Erin Gruwell. In 1994, Ms. Gruwell was a young English teacher of 150 at-risk students of diverse backgrounds in Long Beach, California. The 2007 film starring Hilary Swank, tells

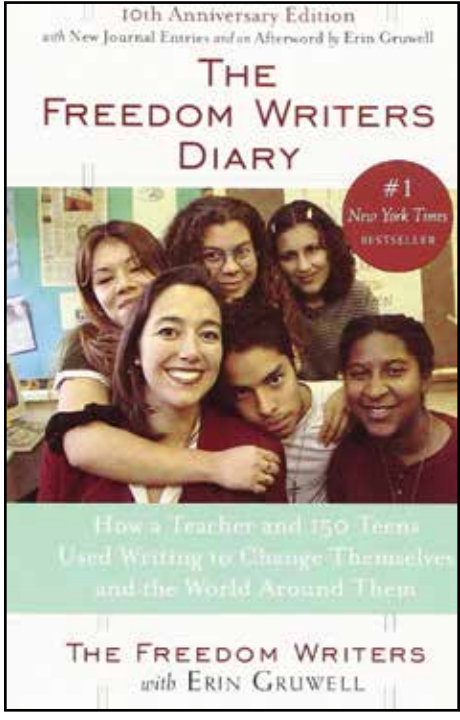


Erin Gruwell (photo above and book cover at right courtesy The Freedom Writers Foundation)

the story of Ms. Gruwell’s teaching method and its life-changing impact on her students. Ms. Gruwell used *The Diary of Anne Frank*, among other books written by teenagers, as a model for her students to learn how to write a journal. As their journal entries about dealing with and overcoming adversity were shared anonymously in class, the students bonded together and became engaged with learning. Ms. Gruwell provided hope to her students by showing they weren’t alone in the troubles they faced and that education was a way to a better life. The result was that all 150 of her at-risk students graduated from high school. Many went on to college. Her student group, known as “The Freedom Writers,” also achieved success a few years later as co-authors of the *New York Times* bestselling book *The Freedom Writers Diary*.

After teaching, Ms. Gruwell went on to found The Freedom Writers Foundation, whose mission is “to provide educators with tools to empower all students to succeed.” The Foundation has an international reach, and hopes to “improve the education of students around the globe.”

We hope you will be able to join us and see proof of what an education can provide to children of all backgrounds. Sponsorships are available. For more information and to purchase tickets,



please contact Tim Morrison, Development Specialist, at Tim@HolocaustMuseumSWFL.org or 239.263.9200.

The Museum is located at 4760 Tamiami Trail North, Suite 7, in Naples. It is open year-round Tuesday through Sunday; closed Monday and major Jewish and U.S. holidays.▲

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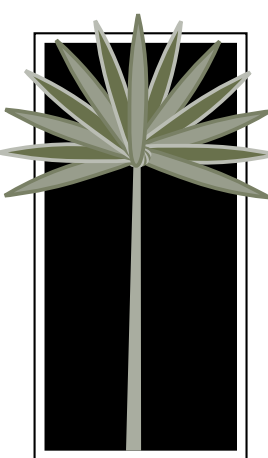
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Call 481.4449 ext. 3 to add your name to the phone list. Each month we will call to confirm the mailing date and you can let us know if you are available to help label L'CHAYIM.

Time: 9:30 A.M.

**Monday, March 27, 2017
Monday, April 24, 2017**

Bob Alper, Rabbi/ Stand-Up Comic (really)

Temple Bat Yam is sponsoring an unusual performer on Sunday, March 5 at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall of the Sanibel Congregational UCC at 2050 Periwinkle Way on Sanibel.

Bob Alper is an ordained rabbi who served congregations for fourteen years until he fell for stand-up comedy. Bob also holds a doctorate from the Princeton Theological Seminary. Bob considers himself to be the world's only practicing clergyman doing stand-up comedy intentionally. How is that combination possible? He is certain that his background has prepared him well for his comedy career with wonderfully unique material presented in a way that's intelligent, sophisticated and 100% clean.

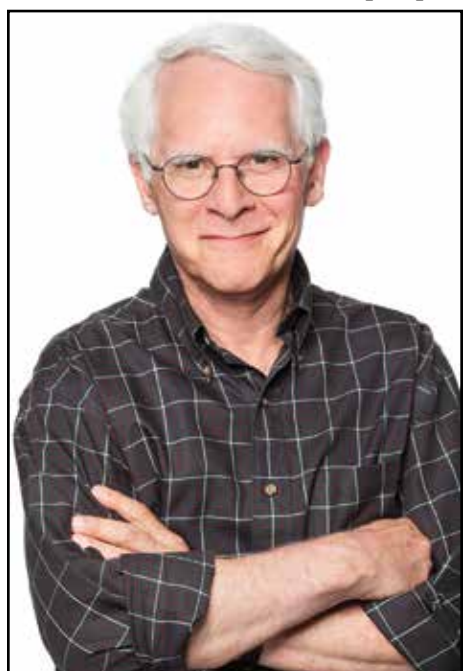
There's a reason why Sirius/XM satellite radio plays Bob's comedy bits several times daily. The *Chicago Tribune* and *New York Times* have warmly reviewed his performance. His fresh, contemporary and totally "unorthodox" style has been delighting audiences from Hollywood to Montreal. His unique brand of humor appeals to everyone – synagogue and church crowds, colleges and theatres.

A native of Providence, Rhode Island, Bob is a graduate of Lehigh University and was ordained at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati. He has served congregations in Buffalo and Philadelphia, where he continues to conduct High Holy Days services.

Bob resides in Vermont with his wife, Sherri, a psychotherapist. Professionally, he makes people laugh, while she helps people cry.

If you wish to enjoy comedic material that is sharp yet suitable for Jews and non-Jews, bring your friends and prepare to laugh.

Advance tickets are \$18 per person.



Bob Alper (credit Sultan Khan)

son. Mail your check, with a note about the number attending Bob Alper's performance, to Bat Yam, P.O. Box 84, Sanibel, FL 33957. Admission at the door will be \$25.

For more information, please contact Rabbi Myra Soifer at myrabbims@gmail.com or 775.721.5508.▲

Community Free Synagogue events open to the public

Israel Pilgrimage

The Community Free Synagogue's June 4-15 Israel Pilgrimage is a "go," with more than enough participants to form the required group! But there are still six more spots available for your experience of a lifetime.

The nine nights the Pilgrimage will spend in Israel will be in 4-Star-Plus hotels and top-rated Kibbutz Guest Houses, while touring on its own Deluxe Wi-Fi equipped coach from the Negev and Dead Sea all the way up to the northernmost points in Israel. The best will be left for last: four days in Jerusalem!

Rabbi Bruce Diamond, D.D., who has led 14 congregational trips to Israel, emphasizes the spiritual and historical throughout the Pilgrimage, greatly enriching the work of the group's premiere Ministry of Tourism guide.

The cost of the Pilgrimage is only \$2,695, excluding airfare. This includes everything in Israel except for some dinners and the occasional falafel!

The close-out date for the Pilgrimage is April 15, so act soon if you plan to come along. To find out more and for registration forms, visit the synagogue's website at www.fortmyerssynagogue.com, email Terri at synfree RSVP@gmail.com, or call the 24-hour voice message center at 239.274.7485.

Community Free

Purim Pancake Breakfast

The Community Free Synagogue (10868 Metro Parkway) will serve a free Purim Pancake Breakfast at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 12. After the meal, which will include a wide variety of gourmet breakfast items, participants will listen to the reading of the Megillah of Esther accompanied by the new edition of the synagogue's popular "PowerPoint Purim," featuring photo vignettes of Megillah scenes staged by C.F.S.ers. Noisemakers and costumes provided to those who need them.

After the reading, there will be a social hour featuring home-baked artisan hummentaschen. This event is open to all at no charge. Please email the synagogue at synfreeersvp@gmail.com if you plan to attend.

Brown Bag Movie Night

The next Community Free Synagogue "Brown Bag Movie Night" starts at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 23 in the Community Hall, featuring *Denial*. The film is a riveting drama, starring Rachel Weisz and Tom Wilkinson, about the libel trial of noted historian Deborah E. Lipstadt, who was sued in a British Court by notorious Holocaust denier David Irving. Open to all. Pack your dinner; soft drinks and admission are free.▲

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

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Her year of living Jewishly

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

My Jewish Year: 18 Holidays, One Wondering Jew. By Abigail Pogrebin. Foreword by A.J. Jacobs. Fig Tree Books. 336 pages. Hardcover \$22.99.

What a joy it is to be able to share vicariously this talented and energetic author's journey, a journey self-designed to deepen her Jewish knowledge and identity. At first glance a sure-fire, gimmicky publishing venture, it turns out to be much more than that. It's a kind of Jewish makeover. It has soul and determination and great sensitivity.

As the subtitle makes clear, Pogrebin organizes her book around the calendar of Jewish holidays, including an unexpected number of fast days. Each chapter is part embellished journal entry, part citations of relevant observations – short teachings – by rabbis whom the author interviewed along the way.

Abby Pogrebin as character in her own book is presented as a somewhat rebellious family member who feels her Jewish life has not been as rich as it might have been. She has set out to see

what, if anything, she has missed – and to decide what to do about it.

What new understandings will she turn into changed behavior? This question not only generates suspense, but also deepens our interest in the implicit questions that lie behind it: What new understandings will she gain? How will she react to them? How will her readers react?

Readers are encouraged to let Pogrebin be their guide, to imagine themselves in her place. To measure their reactions against hers. To trust her certainties and her uncertainties.

Pogrebin wrestles with the fact that Judaism provides a range of templates. Her search leads her to encompass more than the Reform Judaism that is her home territory. She questions authorities from other worship traditions within the Jewish family. She visits a variety of temples and synagogues. They contrast not only in worship style, but in many other ways as well: size, prominence, formality, secular setting (major urban center, suburb, etc.). Pogrebin crisscrosses the country to touch as many

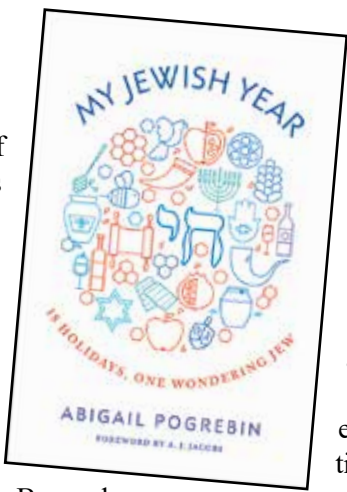
bases as she can, though of necessity the book remains a bit New York centric.

The author's quest brings a payoff that might not have been expected. Yes, she gains insight and appreciation for the individual holy days and rituals, especially the most holy of all – the Sabbath. Beyond this, however, she comes to feel the genius of the sacramental and liturgical Jewish year as an overarching structure both in time and beyond time. There is a rhythm to the changing emotional seasons of grief and joy, defeat and victory, scarcity and plentitude.

During this experimental year, she realizes more strongly than ever that the hold and power of the holidays depends upon one's preparation and intention.

Helping Pogrebin and her readers are quotations from rabbis that she has met or read along her journey. These quotations are selected to underscore key issues connected with the holidays and the ways in which the calendar structures Jewish life. Some of the quotations introduce a theme or a chapter, while others simply arise when they are needed to lend clarity and authority.

Other useful tools are the special



appendices: "A Jewish Year in Bullet Points," a list of rabbis and other authorities interviewed as part of Pogrebin's research, a bibliography, and a glossary.

Throughout her travels, inquiries and meditations, Pogrebin continues to underscore her experiences as a Jewish child and woman, as wife and mother, and as an accomplished professional and unsatisfied seeker. These are parts of the tapestry. Now one of its threads, the thread of her Jewish selfhood and spirituality, is a much more prominent part of the design.

This remarkable book accomplishes its ends with great vitality and generous, inspiring openness.

A note on the author

Abigail Pogrebin worked for Mike Wallace as a producer on *60 Minutes*. Her other books are *Stars of David: Prominent Jews Talk About Being Jewish* and *One and the Same: My Life as an Identical Twin*. Her work appears in such periodicals as *Newsweek*, *New York* magazine, *The Daily Beast*, the *Forward* and *Tablet*.


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



■ Phil Jason



Abigail Pogrebin (Credit Lorin Klaris)




FEDERATION UPCOMING BOOK CLUB MEETINGS

Bring your dinner and join us for book group discussions at the Jewish Federation building

- Wednesday, March 1 at 7:00 p.m.**
Book Club will attend the author event with Victoria Kelly discussing her book *Mrs. Houdini*
- Wednesday, March 22 at 6:00 p.m.**
***Karolina's Twins* by Ronald Balson**

RSVPs for all regular book club meetings a must to lenib sack@jfedlcc.org or 239.481.4449 x3



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ANNUAL PASSOVER VISITS TO SENIORS

Do a *Mitzvah* and help deliver our PESACH gift bags to the Jewish residents in our community living in independent, assisted living and nursing homes in Lee and Charlotte counties. The residents enjoy not only the contents of the gift bags, they love being visited by the members of the community who deliver them.

THIS IS A GREAT WAY FOR STUDENTS TO EARN VOLUNTEER HOURS OR TO DO A MITZVAH PROJECT FOR THEIR BAR/BAT MITZVAHS.



Bags will be delivered on Sunday, April 2.

Volunteers can come to the Federation from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. to pick up the bags to deliver.

(Other pick-up and delivery times can also be arranged, if needed.)

This is an opportunity for all family members to get involved. Seniors love having young children come visit. From babies to bubbles - this is a Mitzvah the whole family can do together.


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Dr. Talbot Spivak Holocaust Memorial Week at Florida SouthWestern State College

Florida SouthWestern State College (FSW) will observe the 21st Annual Dr. Talbot Spivak Holocaust Memorial Week, March 27-31, with a series of events. The mission of the Dr. Talbot Spivak Holocaust Memorial Week at FSW is to educate students and the community about the Holocaust, to honor its victims and survivors, to cultivate tolerance, and to promote awareness of modern-day genocide in support of the world’s promise of “Never Again.”

In partnership with the Holocaust Museum & Education Center of SWFL, the Holocaust Boxcar will be on display for educational tours on all FSW campuses: Charlotte Campus on February 1-15, Collier Campus on February 15 - March 6, Thomas Edison Campus on March 24 - April 10 (Lee Campus, Building O, Parking Lot #5), and Hendry/Glades Campus on April 21 - May 5.

A major feature of Holocaust Memorial Week at FSW continues to be firsthand commentary by Holocaust survivors. Our local community has been blessed to have a number of residents who are Holocaust survivors and are willing to share their personal Holocaust experiences with students and the community. Renee Beddouk, Marcel Faschler, Cesare Frustaci, Steen Metz, Rob Nossen and Irene Skolnick will present their individual Holocaust survivor stories. Steen will also present his heart-rending story to the FSW Collegiate High School students. All of the survivor stories help our students realize how tragic the Holocaust was and to put a face to the victims. Renee Beddouk, Marcel Faschler, Cesare Frustaci, Steen Metz, Rob Nossen and Eva Sands will participate in a Round Table Lunch where they are able to talk to students in a more intimate setting to tell their

stories. This is a unique opportunity to meet and get to know our local Holocaust survivors.

We are honored to offer several sessions with guest speakers. Dr. Paul Bartrop, Professor of History and Director of the Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Genocide Studies, Florida Gulf Coast University, will be discussing his recently published book, *Resisting the Holocaust: Upstanders, Partisans, and Survivors*. Aviva Doery, Honors Student from Penn State University, will present excerpts from her honors thesis, “The Experiences of Lesbians in Nazi Concentration Camps.” Steve Brazina, Program Chair, GenShoah of Southwest Florida, will present a screening of the documentary *49,172*, the story of how Bulgaria saved their Jewish citizens from Nazi Germany. Rob Nossen, Holocaust survivor, will recount his June 2016 visit to Warsaw, Krakow and the

Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp. Other sessions will include presentations by FSW faculty: Dr. Bruno Baltodano (Professor of Political Science), Dr. Sandi Tower (Professor of Hospitality Law) and Professor Ronald Feemster (Professor of Journalism). The FSW Writing Center’s Book Club will hold a book discussion on Elie Wiesel’s *Night* and Art Spiegelman’s *Maus I*.

The FSW Holocaust Memorial Committee would like to thank the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties, the Holocaust Museum & Education Center of Southwest Florida, the Kenneth and Mary Ruth Stegman Endowed Chair, and GenShoah of Southwest Florida for their continued support. Please visit <https://www.FSW.edu/holocaust> for more detailed event information and to access archived videos from our Holocaust survivors.▲

Florida’s Holocaust Survivor Fee Waiver Program

By Jeff Atwater, Chief Financial Officer, State of Florida, January 25, 2017

Dear Fellow Floridians:
Our great State of Florida is home to a large community of Holocaust survivors – a community that lived through one of the deadliest genocidal acts to ever occur. In fact, there are an estimated 12,500 Holocaust survivors and their families who have chosen Florida as their safe-haven. Unfortunately, there isn’t anything in this world that can undo the Nazi-driven nightmare that plagues the memories of the survivors who suffered through unimaginable horrors. However, International Holocaust Day is recognized this Friday, January 27, and offers a time for us to remember, reflect and pray for the millions of innocent victims that were

killed and the countless families that were destroyed under Hitler’s regime.

Not only was this horrific genocide carried out on the innocent, but so much was taken from so many families – art, jewelry, bank accounts, investments, etc. – these items of sentimental value also carry a large monetary value as well. A few years ago, I set out to see what could be done to connect Holocaust survivors and their families with as many financial resources and services as possible to help them move forward from this cruel chapter in history. While on this journey, we found that many of the deadlines have passed for submitting claims to Holocaust compensation programs, but it may be possible to submit a

claim directly with the financial institution or with remaining open restitution funds – that’s where we stepped in.

The Department championed a change in law in 2013 that enabled our Department to educate Holocaust survivors regarding restitution programs still available in Germany, Poland, the Czech Republic, France, Austria and Hungary, and also to provide them with help in filling out the applications. These reforms allow the Department to seek repayment for Nazi-confiscated bank accounts, art and property; provide education about the existence of the restitution program to Holocaust survivors; and to assist survivors in receiving needed home healthcare services.

In addition, the Department has multiple programs and resources geared toward not only helping facilitate and assist survivors with the disbursement of European reparation payments and insurance benefits, but we have also partnered with several financial institutions to establish the Holocaust Survivor Fee Waiver Program. In an effort to keep Holocaust survivors’ money in their own pockets, this program waives the international wire transfer fee on reparation payments for Holocaust survivors

and their families. On average, these fees would amount to a 10 percent tax on each payment the survivor receives.

In 2016, we’ve helped more than 1,700 Holocaust survivors receive nearly \$2.7 million in benefits that were owed. In addition, more than 7,800 survivors were provided with education and outreach efforts regarding financial Holocaust-era restitution, and since the program’s inception in 1998, the Department has helped facilitate the recovery of more than \$26.3 million for Holocaust survivors. It is my hope that these numbers continue to grow. Our resources are plentiful and our specialists are standing by, ready to assist.

If you know a Holocaust survivor or relative who could use our assistance, I encourage you to send them our way. The Department’s Holocaust Assistance Programs are free to all and restricted to none, so please don’t wait to call our toll-free helpline, 800.388.4069, or visit our website at www.MyFloridaCFO.com/Division/Consumers/Holocaust/.

While this chapter in history was a terrible one, it’s one we must never forget and one that we must never stop talking about.▲



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Stars of David

By Nate Bloom, Contributing Columnist

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

I Loved Mary, But...

I loved Mary Tyler Moore. She lit up the TV screen in her signature starring roles in *The Dick Van Dyke Show* and *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*. But I was distressed when I saw a recent tribute piece in the Jewish press that “cast” Moore and Grant Tinker (a producer she was married to from 1962-1981) in roles they never played. This writer credited them with the following: (1) That the *Van Dyke Show* had an explicitly Jewish character in the 1960s, when few other shows did (Buddy, played by the late **MOREY AMSTERDAM**); (2) that *TMTMS* had a major Jewish character, too (Rhoda, played by Valerie Harper, who isn’t Jewish); and (3) that in a memorable episode of *TMTMS*, Mary, the character, stood up to anti-Semitic discrimination directed at Rhoda.

However, Mary Tyler Moore and Grant Tinker never had a big hand in the creation and writing of her shows. Tinker had some role getting *TMTMS* on the air, but he didn’t create or write it. And while *TMTMS* was, in name, a joint enterprise of the couple, Ms. Moore candidly said that Tinker completely handled their business dealings.

“Think Yiddish, Write British,” is an old line among Jewish writers to describe how they take material (comedy or drama) from their Jewish background or sensibility and translate it into material that retains comedy and/or pathos – but is relatable to the overwhelmingly non-Jewish world. **CARL REINER**, now 94, drew from his own experience in writing, with a pack of other Jews, *The Sid Caesar Show* when he created *Van Dyke*. Then he plucked Moore out

of obscurity to co-star. She said they virtually had a father-daughter relationship. Likewise, the brilliant **JAMES L. BROOKS**, now 76, was the main creator and writing overseer of *TMTMS*. Moore’s contribution, which was huge, was to take this “translated material” and be its brilliant vessel – not a dumbed down “All-American girl,” but a smart American woman that every type of American could relate to, and laugh with. Reiner and Brooks knew she had a huge hand in their success and said so in their tributes after her recent death.

Catch-Up Sports Corner

The NHL (National Hockey League) season, of course, has been ongoing since October, but I finally have a chance to clue you in to the Jews on ice. There are four Jews playing in the NHL this year, and two others with some Jewish ancestry who, unlike some journalists, I wouldn’t call Jewish. In the latter group, there’s Washington’s Andre Burakovsky, a left wing, and Jason Demers, a Florida defenseman. In the former group, there’s **MICHAEL CAMMALLERI**, 34, long a star left wing and the co-captain of the New Jersey Devils (his mother is Jewish). Less of a star is **DAVID WARSOFSKY**, 25, a defenseman who has bounced between the NHL and the minors for three seasons. This year, Warsofsky has played six games (so far) for Pittsburgh. Doing much better is **JASON ZUCKER**, 24, a good forward who has solidified his place on the Minnesota team. Last but not least, is **ZACH HYMAN**, 24, a Toronto left winger. He joined the team at the end of last season and is doing fine this season. Plus, he’s a bestselling children’s book author (two out so far)

Interested in Your Family’s History?

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

So here’s the deal:

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

who recently signed a new two-book deal with Penguin.

The super-exciting recent Super Bowl had one, or maybe two, Jewish players. **NATE EBNER**, 28, is a very good New England Patriots special teams’ player who appeared in the 2015 and 2017 Super Bowls. Last summer, he played rugby for the U.S. at the Olympics. And then there’s “amazing Patriots receiver” Julian Edelman, 30. Well, I say, we have to see if he formally converts or just remains a “friend of the tribe.” Out of his eight great-grandparents, only Edelman’s paternal great-grandfather was Jewish. Still, he’s called himself Jewish, he’s visited Israel and, for the last three years, he’s

attended Yom Kippur services.

Both owners of the 2017 Super Bowl teams are Jewish (**ROBERT KRAFT**, Patriots, and **ARTHUR BLANK**, Atlanta Falcons). I wondered if Blank, 74, who co-founded Home Depot, was a Republican like his Home Depot co-founder, **BERNARD MARCUS**, 87. I found a year-old *USA Today* article that showed an interesting pattern. While the big majority of NFL owners donate mostly to the GOP, most of the Jewish owners, including Kraft, 75, and Blank, give the majority of their political donations to Democrats. Blank was the biggest Obama giver among NFL owners in 2008 and Kraft the biggest in 2012.▲



Studying family history brings more than just historical knowledge, it builds relationships. Learning the stories behind names and dates teaches a personal history that explains more than just how each person came to be. **EVERYONE WELCOME.**

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Naomi Shemer: Her songs live on forever

By Arlene Stolnitz

Naomi Shemer has often been called the “First Lady of Israeli Song and Poetry.” She is best known for her song “Yerushalayim Shel Zahav” (“Jerusalem of Gold”), considered to be an unofficial second anthem for Israel, after “Hatikvah.” Written in 1967 for a song festival, just a few weeks before the Six-Day War, the idea for the song was based on a Talmudic legend Shemer remembered from her childhood. According to the legend, the noted scholar Rabbi Akiva, living in poverty, promised his wife Rahel that someday he would become wealthy and buy her a “Jerusalem of Gold,” a piece of gold jewelry.

During the Six-Day War, paratroopers who liberated Jerusalem sang the song at the Temple Mount and the Western Wall. After the victory in Jerusalem, Shemer added an additional verse celebrating the reunification of Jerusalem. Today, “Yerushalayim Shel Zahav” has been translated into many languages and has become an international statement on the reunification of Jerusalem.

Born in 1930 on a kibbutz on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, Naomi Shemer was raised by her parents in the kibbutz they had founded. She showed musical talent during her childhood, often leading community singing in the kibbutz. After studying music at the Rubin Academy in Jerusalem, she served in the Israel Defense Forces’ entertainment troupe. Later, she returned to the kibbutz to teach music to the children. During this

period she wrote several children’s songs which appear on the album “Songs from Kinneret” (1958).

Her songs have an appeal and charm that attract listeners worldwide. Her ability to connect her childhood memories from the Kinneret (Galilee) to events in contemporary time have created songs that are beloved to her audience and have made a huge contribution to Israeli music.

Naomi Shemer has written scores of songs in Hebrew which were widely sung from the ’60s to the ’80s. Of the songs she wrote about the Yom Kippur War, “Lu Yehi” (“Let it Be”) first began as a translation of a Beatles song. Eventually, it became an independent hit and is widely sung today by singers and choral groups such as the Sarasota Jewish Chorale.

“Ilan,” written just three weeks before her death, was a tribute to Israeli astronaut Colonel Ilan Ramon (1954-2003) who died in the explosion of the space shuttle Columbia.

Shemer was married twice, first to Gideon Shemer and later to Mordechai Horowitz. She had two children: daughter Halleli from her first marriage, and son Ariel from the second marriage. She died on June 26, 2004, in Tel Aviv from consequences of her long bout with cancer. Buried on the shores of the Kinneret, she requested only that three of her songs be sung at her graveside service.

After her death, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said, “Using marvelous lyrics and melodies, she succeeded in connecting us to our roots, to our origins... Today, as we bid farewell to Naomi Shemer, we bow our heads with sorrow and are grateful for the wonderful gift Naomi gave us.”

If from the dark of night about us
there shines forth a blessed star,
Then may all our prayers come to be.
May peace abide within our land
and strengthen all that’s near and far.
May it come to pass, may it be.
Lu y’hi, Lu y’hi, oh may it be, peace
within our land we’ll yet see.
Lu y’hi, Lu y’hi, we all pray let it be,
All that we desire, may it be.▲

Being content

By Mark Sweitzer

I have always appreciated reading quotes and sayings by people. Over the years, I’ve collected quite a few from many different sources. I suppose that is why I was given the responsibility for putting the “Quote of the Day” on the white board in the dorm I am in.

Recently, I put up one which I would like to share with you and is the basis for this article. It is: “Who is truly rich? One who is content with his lot.” The quote is attributed to one of the Sayings of the Sages.

I can say from experience that following that maxim while being incarcerated has been very difficult at times. After all, who really wants to live a life where most of their rights, freedoms and privileges have been stripped from them? Not many, although I have actually met a few (believe It or not).

Yet, for the vast majority of us, it was our choices that brought us here. For me, the first step in being content is to recognize that fact. My choice, my responsibility.

Viktor Frankl, a Holocaust survivor, once said that “everything can be taken from a man but one thing; the last of human freedoms – to choose one’s attitude in any given set of circumstances; to choose one’s own way.”

Having so many of our freedoms taken away from us, many of us choose to not exercise this one. At times, I, too, have been guilty of this. Collectively, it is claims of having a bad lawyer, somebody snitched me out, my circumstances forced me to commit my crime. On a smaller scale, this lack of contentment is evident on a daily basis.

Arlene Stolnitz, founder of the Sarasota Jewish Chorale, is a member of the Jewish Congregation of Venice. A retired educator from Rochester, New York, she has sung in choral groups for over 25 years and also sings in Venice’s Chorale (formerly Exsultate!). Her interest in choral music has led to this series of articles on Jewish folk music in the Diaspora.

My food portion isn’t big enough, I’m not being called out on time, there’s no hot water, no candles, it is too late to light candles.

Certainly, events occur that are beyond our control. That is a part of life. And, in here there is a process to address issues where we feel we are wronged. Sad, though, is the person who is not happy unless there is something to complain about.

On a personal note, it wasn’t until after I stopped blaming others for my predicament. Do I still get upset sometimes? Sure, I do. But then I try to look at the bigger picture. I am in control. Control of how I let my surroundings affect me. Suddenly, it’s not so bad after all.

I would like to leave you with one final quote. This one is from Richard Nixon. He certainly had his faults, but this quote has resonated with me.

“We think that when we suffer a defeat, that all is ended. Not true. It is only a beginning, always. Only if you have been in the deepest valley can you ever know how magnificent it is to be on the highest mountain. Never be petty. Always remember, others may hate you, but those who hate you don’t win unless you hate them and then you destroy yourself.”▲

The Jewish Federation is grateful to Sharon Rosenberg of Cape Coral for editing and transcribing the monthly articles from Jewish inmates at Charlotte County Correctional Institution.

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Hot Couture: Florida Jews on the Fashion Scene, 1880s to Today

An original exhibition created by the Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU on display through November 5, 2017, at the museum

Jews have played a dominant role in the American fashion industry from the late 1800s, when waves of European immigrants fled persecution and pogroms, often bringing with them only the clothes on their backs and their trades. While these immigrants became known for shaping the New York garment industry, many people will be surprised to learn that Jews who settled in Florida have been involved in clothing-related businesses in our state also since that time.

Floridian Jews have left an indelible footprint on this industry, from the pioneering “mom and pop” retailers and department stores that started more than 100 years ago, to designers who brought the likes of Frank Sinatra and Zsa Zsa Gabor flocking to their stores

in the 1950s, to fashion trends such as the guayabera shirts, influenced by the exodus from Cuban in the 1960s, to today’s entrepreneurs using the most modern technologies and materials to create the latest fashions.

Hot Couture: Florida Jews on the Fashion Scene spans the spectrum from designing and manufacturing to dressing and influencing the local and international scene in all types of clothing from beachwear to ball gowns. The exhibition includes women’s, men’s and children’s clothing, shoes, accessories, jewelry, handbags and notions to ancillary services such as fashion photography, law, advertising and design labs. Featuring everything from iconic brands to unique wearable art, bikinis and belts made out of local snakeskins,

climate-influenced golf shirts and stay-dry fabrics, and even Florida furs, this exhibition explores the inspiration and tradition that has guided the creative forces behind Florida’s fashion industry for generations, and the pride and craftsmanship that defines them.

JMOF-FIU will host a series of fashion-related programs and activities throughout this yearlong exhibition. Check the museum’s website for details: www.jewishmuseum.com.

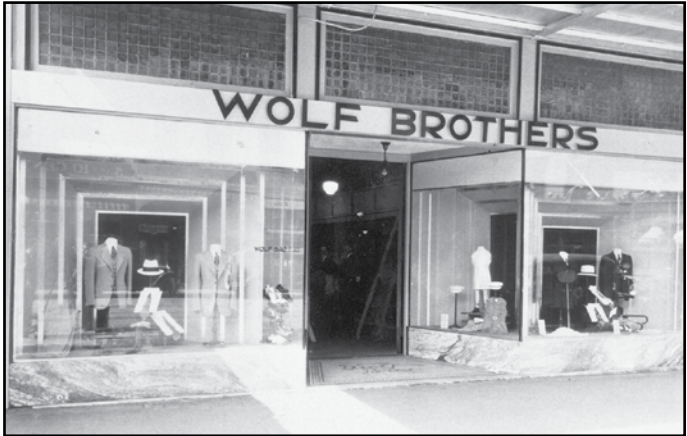
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Model Wearing a Snakeskin Bikini by Louis Rotfort, Miami, 1950s. Born in 1906, Louis Rotfort moved to Florida from Far Rockaway, New York, in the 1920s. In the 1950s, he turned his hobby of hunting snakes in the Everglades into a profitable business, starting the Reptile Leather Co., making bikinis, ties, shoes, bags and belts for sale out of pythons, rattlesnakes and boa constrictors. Rotfort lived to be 100 years old. Gift of Ron Grunhut, Ron for Louis Rotfort, from the Collection of the Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU, originated by Marcia Jo Zerivitz, L.H.D, Founding Executive Director.



Interior of Hyman Lieberman’s Store, The Hat Box, on South Orange Avenue between Central and Pine, Orlando, 1922. Hyman Lieberman was born in Russia in 1895, and when he came to America, his first job was sitting on the rooftop of a building in New York City to watch Panama hats dry. He and his new bride, Esther, also an émigré, who was born in 1894, came to Orlando on their honeymoon and decided to stay. First they bought a store that sold menswear, but after a short time they opened a store selling Panama hats. After many years, they moved to another Orlando location to open The Hat Box. Gift of Bea Lippton, from the collection of the Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU, originated by Marcia Jo Zerivitz, L.H.D, Founding Executive Director.



Wolf Brother’s Storefront, Tampa, 1932. Morris Wolf, a German émigré, came to Tampa in 1895. His sister, Bena, had married Abe Maas, who opened the Maas Brothers Department Store in Tampa in 1886, and Morris went to work for Abe in the store. In 1898, Morris opened his own store in Tampa with his brother, Fred, called Wolf Brothers, where they sold ready-to-wear clothes, in addition to their own tailor-made styles. They eventually grew to having four stores in the Tampa Bay area. In 1992, Wolf Brothers closed their downtown store after 94 years in business. From the collection of the Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU, originated by Marcia Jo Zerivitz, L.H.D, Founding Executive Director.

Isabel Bernfeld Anderson, Saks Fifth Avenue.

About JMOF-FIU

The Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU is the only museum dedicated to telling the story of 250 years of Florida Jewish history, arts and culture. The museum is housed in two adjacent, lovingly restored historic buildings at 301 Washington Avenue on South Beach, that were once synagogues for Miami Beach’s first Jewish congregation. The museum’s permanent exhibition is MOSAIC: Jewish Life in Florida, 1763 to Present. Its temporary history and art exhibitions change periodically. For more information, call 305.672.5044 or visit www.jewishmuseum.com.▲



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Belzec: The heart of darkness

By Paul R. Bartrop, PhD

Located in southeastern Poland, the Nazi death camp at Belzec began operating on March 17, 1942 – exactly 75 years ago this month. While Auschwitz is without doubt the best known of the Nazi killing sites, with



■ Dr. Paul Bartrop

Treblinka perhaps running second in people's minds, the death camp at Belzec saw the murder of upwards of 600,000 people by the time it ceased operations in December 1942. The vast majority of those sent to Belzec were Jews, though Roma and Poles were also victims.

Belzec was the Nazis' first dedicated extermination facility, and overall, so far as can be ascertained, only two Jews are known to have survived their ordeal there.

In early 1940, German officials built a number of forced labor camps along the Bug River in occupied Poland. Just outside the village of Belzec, in Poland's southeast, they erected one such camp which was also intended to serve as a central headquarters for the others in the region.

Administered by the SS, the camp at Belzec began by interning Jews from the Lublin district, where they were compelled to build various military facilities. By the end of 1940 the labor camp was deactivated. Those who had worked to build it were either shot or deported elsewhere. On November 1, 1941, German SS and local police officials began erecting an extermination camp at the site of the old labor camp. Situated less than a quarter of a mile from a major rail line, it was ideally suited for the location of an extermination camp.

Established as part of the overall

plan of "Operation Reinhard" – the Nazi plan for the eradication of all Jews within the *Generalgouvernement* (General Government) of Poland under the administration of Hans Frank – Belzec was one of the earliest locations for testing the mass extermination of Jews. As such, the new camp commenced operations on March 17, 1942, when Jews deported from Lublin, Lvov and Kraków began arriving by rail cars.

The camp itself was divided into three separate areas: administration, a storage area for plundered goods, and the extermination site, which initially contained three gas chambers that grew to six over time. Measuring 886 feet per side, the camp was supervised by up to 30 SS and police officers, depending on workload and camp needs. These were supplemented by an auxiliary police unit of around a hundred men comprised of Ukrainians and Poles, together with former Soviet prisoners of war who had defected to the Nazis.

The Germans had carefully evolved the deportations and killing process: trains of 40 to 60 boxcars, with 80 to 100 people crammed into each car, arrived at the Belzec station. The prisoners were then force-marched to the camp, where they were stripped of their possessions prior to being separated by gender. They were then made to remove their clothes and ordered to walk through a pathway known as the "tube," a narrow alleyway concealed by branches leading to the gas chambers. The unsuspecting prisoners were told they were going to communal showers.

Once the "bathhouse" was full, the doors were sealed and carbon monoxide gas was pumped in from a large machine outside. This process was repeated until all the victims brought in on the train had been murdered.

The policy of concealment did not end with the prisoners at their death, however; the Nazis went to considerable trouble to conceal their activities inside the camp in an effort to keep the local population in the dark as to what was happening there.

The lives of a few – a very few – prisoners were spared at the time of their arrival in the camp. Spared temporarily to work as slave laborers, these prisoners were compelled to work in the killing areas, separating newly-arrived prisoners' possessions, removing bodies from the gas chambers, and burying them in mass graves adjacent to the killing ground.

The speed of the killing process at Belzec was extreme. Between March and December 1942 alone, for example, at least 435,500 Jews, Poles and Roma, most of who had come from southern Poland (though with others from Austria, Germany and Czechoslovakia) were murdered at the site.

The first commandant of Belzec was SS Major Christian Wirth, who ruled over the location from March through June 1942. He was replaced by the camp's second commandant, SS First Lieutenant Gottlieb Hering, who remained at the site until June 1943 and oversaw its dismantling and closure.

In October 1942, fearful that the Nazis' activities might be discovered,

SS chief Heinrich Himmler ordered that the mass graves should be exhumed and the remains should be incinerated in open-air furnaces. The residual bone fragments from the incinerated bodies were then to be pulverized and shipped back to Germany's farmers for fertilizer. By June 1943, slave laborers had completed their task, only to be subsequently shot or deported to other camps.

The camp was then dismantled. Germans and local collaborators bulldozed the entire site, transformed it into a farm for a Ukrainian family, planted crops and trees, and constructed a large homestead there. The intention was that there would be no traces left of what had taken place at Belzec, and indeed, this could have been the case were not the entire region overrun and occupied by Soviet troops in July 1944.

For those who read this column regularly, they will know that I frequently attempt to find something uplifting from the episodes about which I write. Sadly, there can be nothing elevating about the event marked this month – the 75th anniversary of the opening of one of the worst killing fields of the Holocaust. ▲ Dr. Paul Bartrop is Professor of History and the Director of the Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Genocide Studies at Florida Gulf Coast University. He can be reached at pbartrop@fgcu.edu.

Two events in March at FGCU

The community is invited to two events being organized by the Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Genocide Studies, to take place at Florida Gulf Coast University in March.

The first is a lecture delivered by Dr. David Meola, Bert and Fanny Meisler Endowed Professor of Jewish Studies at the University of South Alabama, on Thursday, March 23 at 2:00 p.m. Dr. Meola's presentation is entitled "Citizenship at the End of a Barrel: Anti-Semitism, Masculinity, and a Fight for Honor" – a remarkable account of a scandal that ended in a duel during the early nineteenth century in Germany. The lecture will take place in the Cohen Center, room CC213, and is free and open to the public.

The second event will take place on Thursday, March 30 at 6:00 p.m. in the Cohen Center, room CC214. This will be the Southwest Florida premiere of a spectacular movie entitled *Persona*

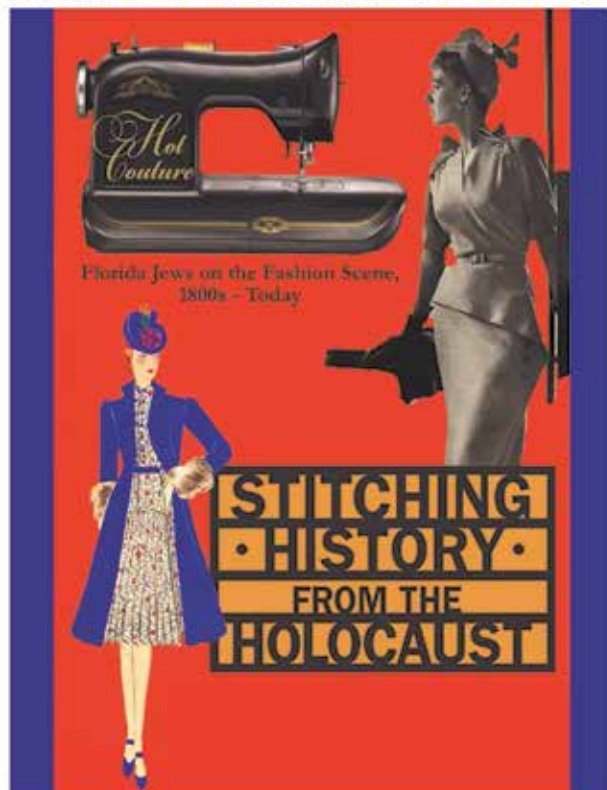
non Grata. It is the story of a Japanese diplomat, Chuine "Sempo" Sugihara, who was honored by Yad Vashem in Jerusalem for his work in helping to save the lives of thousands of Jews during the Holocaust – and who was then promptly disciplined by the Japanese government for his actions. The film runs for approximately 2 hours and 20 minutes.

We are pleased to acknowledge that this event is being sponsored by the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It is anticipated that the event will take place in the presence of the Consul-General of Japan based in Miami.

Due to an expected high attendance, you are asked to RSVP to the Center Assistant, Miss Taylor Neff, at twneff@eagle.fgcu.edu in order to enable us to cater for numbers. This is a free event.

Florida Gulf Coast University is located at 10501 FGCU Boulevard South, Fort Myers.

FASHION at the Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU!



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(On view through November 5, 2017)

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Stitching History From the Holocaust

(On view through March 19, 2017)

An original exhibit created by and on loan from Jewish Museum Milwaukee.

Paul & Hedy Strnad tragically perished in the Holocaust, but their memories live on in letters, sketches and the 8 dresses meticulously created from Hedy's designs, which form the core of this memorable exhibit.

Sponsored by Funding Arts Network, Robert Arthur Segall Foundation, Elliot Stone & Bonnie Sockel Stone, and Kenneth & Barbara Bloom.



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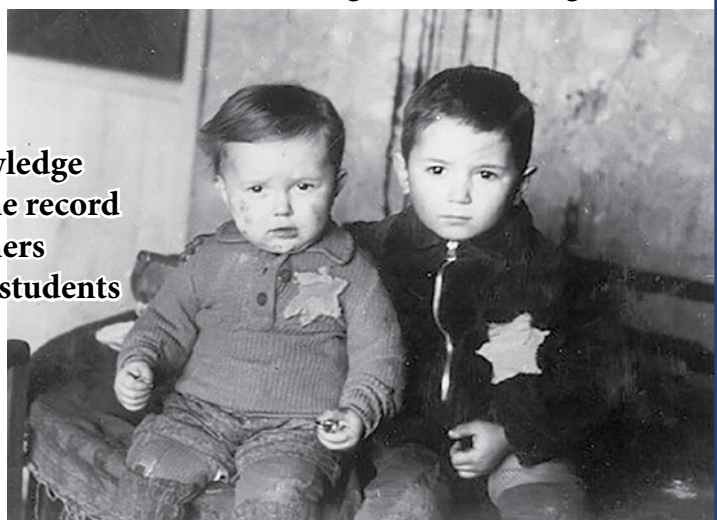
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Can you can wine?

By The Wine Whisperer

I recently received a few samples of wine that comes in a can. Upon reflection, I concluded that wine can reasonably be stored in any kind of non-reactive container, even a can.



■ Jerry Greenfield

In fact, I’ve seen wines that come in cute plastic individual wine tumblers with a stem and everything. So there’s really no good reason, aside from tradition and maybe a bit of snobbishness, that wine can’t be placed in a convenient, airtight can. It works for beer.

The issue, however, is not the preservation of the beverage, but the quality. These days, winemakers are appealing strongly to Millennials by developing cutesy names and packages for all kinds of wine. In a previous column, I noted the new “Loco”

wines from Spain that come wrapped in an adorable little strait jacket. A bit extreme, perhaps, but they do get attention.

The market for canned wine more than doubled in the past year, and amounted to over \$6 million in sales. A drop in the wine bucket compared to the overall industry, but a fivefold increase over 2012. As we know, cans are especially efficient at containing bubbly beverages, so it’s no surprise that most of the increase came from sparkling wines like mini-Champagnes, and easy-drinking casual wines, such as rosé.

Recent consumer surveys stress the desirability of keeping the wine at the proper temperature and being able to take it just about anywhere. So there’s quite a bit to be said for packaging wine this way. You can take it all kinds of places without having to lug heavy bottles or large ice chests. But the big question, of course, is this: Is the stuff any good?

The answer is a qualified yes. Most of us are not going to take a \$200 bottle to the beach or the parking lot outside the stadium, so the quality of most canned wines is in the middle range, which is okay. A few that I received are reviewed below, along with other new recommendations. Sample widely.

Seven Daughters Moscato Veneto NV (\$14.99/4-pack cans) – A slightly fizzy white with a light lemon color and tutti-frutti flavors on the palate. A bit sweet, with a sugar cane flavor on the finish. This would go well with spicy foods. WW 88

Seven Daughters Pinot Noir NV (\$14.99/4-pack cans) – A bit richer-looking than some Pinots, offering flavors of wood, smoke and earth, which is not typical of New World wines. A nice surprise, and tastes a bit more expensive than it is. WW 90

Michael David Freakshow Lodi 2013 (\$20) – Big rich and inky in the glass, aromas of charred oak, bold black fruit flavors and a really interest-

ing label design. WW 90

Côté Mas Blanc Méditerranée Languedoc 2015 (\$11) – Interesting blend of Grenache Blanc, Vermentino, Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc, with flavors and aromas of hyacinth, melon and citrus. This would go well with cream sauce dishes. WW 91.

Edmeades Zinfandel Mendocino 2013 (\$20) – Rich black fruit and hints of cinnamon. Great with barbecue and sweet spicy sauces. WW 89

Château du Taillan Médoc 2012 (\$18) – Traditional blend of Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc, aged 12 months in oak. Red cherry on the nose, with pronounced vanilla on the palate and a slight bit of sweetness. WW 91▲

Jerry Greenfield is The Wine Whisperer. He is Creative Director of Greenfield Advertising Group, as well as a wine consultant, educator, and writer. His book, Secrets of the Wine Whisperer, is now available on Amazon or at www.winewhisperer.com.

Hamantaschen – recipe by Dalia Hemed

Purim is just around the corner. When I think about Purim and food, the only thing that really comes to mind is hamantaschen. In Israel, for weeks, every grocery store and baker is hawking the Purim pastry of hamantaschen. By the time the holiday finally rolls around, everyone has more than had their fill of this poppy-seed and prune-filled delight. They are delicious, fun to make with kids, and you can fill them with almost anything.

Some of us are having trouble making hamantaschen for Purim. Your hamantaschen are spreading or opening when they bake, or maybe they’re losing their shape or the filling is leaking and you’re having trouble folding your cookies into neat triangles. Or maybe you’re just looking for an easy hamantaschen recipe that will get you perfect results every time. Whatever your question, I’m here to help. Hopefully my tips will help obtain a tasty and beautiful result from the very first try!

Make great dough by following these tips:

- ▶ Roll your dough out to 1/8 inch thick (or less).
- ▶ Use a thick filling that won’t run/weep from the cookies while baking.
- ▶ Cut your hamantaschen dough in 3-inch circles (or larger) before filling and folding into triangles.
- ▶ Most fillings can be chilled before using to fill hamantaschen.
- ▶ Do not overfill your hamantaschen. Use 1 teaspoon of filling per hamantaschen cookie.
- ▶ Fold your triangles the right way! Using the proper folding method will help your hamantaschen hold together and create a beautiful shape.

Follow these tips, and you’ll be creating beautiful batches of homemade hamantaschen in no time!

Hamantaschen Dough Ingredients:

- 3/4 cup unsalted butter, room temperature
- 2/3 cup sugar
- 1 egg, room temperature
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1 tsp grated orange zest
- 2 1/4 cups flour
- 1/4 tsp salt

You will also need:

Large mixing bowl, electric mixer, sifter, pastry scraper, rolling pin, 3-inch cookie cutter or drinking glass with 3-inch diameter rim

Directions:

- ▶ Slice room-temperature butter into small chunks and place in a large mixing bowl.
- ▶ Add sugar to the bowl. Use an electric mixer to cream the butter and sugar together for a few minutes till light and fluffy.
- ▶ Add the egg, vanilla and orange zest to the bowl. Beat again till creamy and well mixed.
- ▶ Sift flour and salt into the bowl.
- ▶ Mix with the electric mixer on low speed till a crumbly dough forms.
- ▶ Begin to knead dough with hands till a smooth dough ball forms.
- ▶ Form the dough into a flat disk and wrap in plastic wrap. Place in the refrigerator to chill for 3 hours to overnight.
- ▶ Before you begin to assemble the hamantaschen, choose and make your filling and have it on hand to work with. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Lightly flour a smooth, clean surface. Unwrap the dough disk and place it on the floured surface. The dough will be very firm after chilling.

- ▶ Use a rolling pin to roll the dough out to 1/4-inch thick.
- ▶ When the dough reaches 1/4-inch thickness, scrape the dough up with a pastry scraper, lightly re-flour the surface, and flip the dough over. Continue rolling the dough out very thin (less than 1/8 of an inch thick). The thinner you roll the dough, the more delicate and crisp the cookies will turn out. Just make sure the dough is still thick enough to hold the filling and its shape!
- ▶ Use a 3-inch cookie cutter (not smaller) or the 3-inch rim of a glass to cut circles out of the dough, cutting as many as you can from the dough.
- ▶ Gather the scraps and roll them out again. Cut circles. Repeat process again if needed until you’ve cut as many circles as you can from the dough. You should end up with around 35 circles.
- ▶ Place a teaspoon of filling (whichever filling you choose) into the center of each circle. Do not use more than a teaspoon of filling, or you run the risk of your hamantaschen opening and spilling out during baking.
- ▶ Assemble the hamantaschen in three steps. First, grasp the left side of the circle and fold it toward



the center to make a flap that covers the left third of the circle.

- ▶ Grasp the right side of the circle and fold it

toward the center, overlapping the upper part of the left side flap to create a triangular tip at the top of the circle. A small triangle of filling should still be visible in the center.

- ▶ Grasp the bottom part of the circle and fold it upward to create a third flap and complete the triangle. When you fold this flap up, be sure to tuck the left side of this new flap underneath the left side of the triangle, while letting the right side of



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

this new flap overlap the right side of the triangle. This way, each side of your triangle has a corner that folds over and a corner that folds under – it creates a “pinwheel” effect. This method if folding is not only pretty, it will help keep the cookies from opening while they bake.

- ▶ Pinch each corner of the triangle gently but firmly to secure the shape.
- ▶ Repeat this process for the remaining circles.
- ▶ When all of your hamantaschen have been filled, place them on a lightly greased baking sheet, evenly spaced.
- ▶ Place them in the oven and let them bake at 350 degrees for 20-25 minutes, till the cookies are cooked through and lightly golden.

Filling for Hamantaschen:

You can fill the hamantaschen with poppy seeds filling, apricot jam, prune jam and almost everything you fill like. My favorite is, the easiest filling of all...**Nutella!** Plain, simple Nutella. Just put 1 teaspoon in the middle of the cookie before folding into a triangle. It couldn’t be simpler, and it’s so yummy!▲

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Israeli team named finalist in international race to moon

Only five teams remain in the \$30m Google Lunar XPrize contest to land a robot on the moon, move it 500 meters and transmit images back to Earth.

By Abigail Klein Leichman, ISRAEL21c, www.israel21c.org, January 25, 2017

Israel's SpaceIL was announced yesterday as one of only five finalists remaining in the multi-million-dollar Google Lunar XPrize race to the moon.

The other finalists are teams from India, Japan and the United States, as well as an international team of individuals from about 15 countries.

The competition began 10 years ago with 33 teams vying to be the first to soft-land a privately funded, unmanned robot on the moon, move it 500 meters across the moon's surface and transmit

craft in the next 11 months. While the other teams are reportedly developing a rover to drive their robot 500 meters, SpaceIL's propulsion system will enable its craft to "hop" 500 meters from the initial landing spot.

"We originally thought to build and launch a smaller spacecraft but as we started the engineering work we realized the fuel tanks we were seeking don't exist yet," says Damari. The current iteration weighs about half a ton.

The cost of the robot rose along

it will carry," says Damari.

The SpaceIL craft, featuring an Israeli flag painted on its side, will bring a lunar magnetometer (LMAG) from the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot to study the magnetic fields on the surface of the moon.

"Earth has a rotating core that creates magnetic poles but you don't have that on the moon, so with this instrument we can study how the moon was made and how its magnetic field was created," explains Damari.

SpaceIL and the other four finalists must initiate their launches by December 31, 2017. Depending on the orbit chosen, the journey could last from three weeks to six months. After landing, the craft must transmit images and videos for around a week. It will then remain on the moon.

"I tell kids that it's their job to build a spacecraft that brings ours back to Israel," says Damari with a laugh.

The GoogleX announcement comes just days before the 12th annual Ilan Ramon International Space Conference in Herzliya on January 30-31, sponsored by the Israel Space Agency and the Fisher Institute for Air and Space Strategic Studies.

Named in memory of Israel's first astronaut, who perished on the space shuttle Columbia on February 1, 2003, the conference attracts astronauts, scientists, space engineers, policymakers, space commanders, entrepreneurs and students from several countries for discussions about current technologies and an exhibition of aerospace companies.▲

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



A prototype of SpaceIL's robotic spacecraft being unveiled for Israeli President Reuven Rivlin (third from left)

high-definition video and photos back to Earth.

The top prize is \$20 million, while the second to fulfill the requirements will receive \$5 million. An additional \$5 million in bonus prizes is to be awarded.

Few would have expected a team from young, small Israel to hang in as others dropped out, but Israelis enjoy accomplishing seemingly impossible feats.

"Today, more and more commercial companies, smaller nations and even universities are pursuing deep-space missions. Initiatives like the Google Lunar XPrize encourage this trend, which has great importance for humanity," said SpaceIL CEO Eran Privman.

Kfir Damari, one of the founders of SpaceIL, notes that although his team was the last to register in the competition, at the end of 2010, it was the first to secure the required launch contract.

"The fact that we're one of five teams that achieved this shows what we always knew: We are at the forefront of global technology in Israel, and the space industry here has potential to be a leader globally," Damari tells ISRAEL21c. "This gives us a lot of motivation to shoot for the moon."

The teams are in contact with one another and met several times, most recently in Israel.

About 30 SpaceIL engineers are working in an Israel Aircraft Industries facility in Yehud to complete the space-

craft with its scope. "The project now costs more than the \$20 million prize," Damari says. "But people see that it's not just about the competition and the prize money. They see the impact on the Israeli space industry as more and more civilian companies are involved in building satellites for the future ... of everything we do."

In addition to a \$1 million Diversity Prize to be split among 16 semifinalist teams, SpaceIL has received a "significant donation" from Israeli businessman Sami Sagol, joining existing contributors including Amdocs founder Morris Kahn, the Adelson Family Foundation, the Charles & Lynn Schusterman Foundation, Bezeq, the Israel Space Agency and others.

Israeli singer and songwriter Aviv Geffen plans to highlight the team's success at his upcoming annual "Rock Ball" concert, which marks 20 years since the release of his hit song, "Or Yare'ach (Moonlight)."

Inspiring future scientists

A major part of SpaceIL's mission is to inspire kids to study science, engineering, technology and math (STEM).

In partnership with the Ministry of Education and Israeli nonprofits, SpaceIL has made presentations to more than a quarter of a million schoolchildren of all ages.

"Our goal is to get them excited about the science and technology behind our spacecraft and the scientific mission

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BRIEFS

SURGE IN CHINESE TOURISTS TAKING IN ISRAEL'S RICH HISTORY AND CULTURE

Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics shows 76,400 Chinese tourists went to Israel between January and November last year, a 60% increase from 2015.

The surge is helped by new direct flights by Hainan Airlines from Beijing

to Tel Aviv. Cathay Pacific is expected to start flying from Hong Kong to Tel Aviv this year.

Travel pundits say uniqueness and authenticity are key selling points. Israel is culturally very interesting, offering a rich and very developed tourism infrastructure to Chinese travelers seeking to explore new and exotic destinations.

Li Jiayang, who spent two weeks in Israel recently, said the journey was

a highlight of her life as it shocked her emotionally.

“I was able to learn and feel the thousands of years of history just passing through me when I was standing in front of the Western Wall, and I could not stop myself from crying out of no reason.” (*China Daily*)

3/4 OF ISRAEL'S ARAB CITIZENS CONSIDER "ISRAELI" A PART OF THEIR IDENTITY

In the past decade, the Israeli government has initiated efforts that have dramatically improved the occupational and educational attainment of its Arab citizens.

Today, Israeli Arabs comprise 21% of the Israeli population and 23% of Israeli doctors. Arabs now comprise 16% of first-year students in higher education, compared to 8% a decade earlier. Arabs now comprise 28% of students at the Technion.

Between 2005 and 2011, inflation-adjusted Arab net family income increased by 7.4%. As a result, the share of Arab families that were “very satisfied” with their economic conditions rose from 40% in 2004-2005 to 60% in 2010-2011.

Three-quarters of Israeli Arabs consider “Israeli” a part of their identity. (Robert Cherry, *RealClearWorld*)

SYRIAN WOMAN GIVES BIRTH IN ISRAELI HOSPITAL, NAMES DAUGHTER SARAH

A Syrian woman gave birth to a healthy girl recently in Ziv Medical Center in Safed, and in gratitude gave the baby a Jewish name – Sarah.

The woman came from a village in a region where every hospital and clinic

had been destroyed, so she went to the Israeli border and was brought to the hospital by the Israel Defense Forces.

“When my husband heard I insisted on going to the border to give birth in a hospital, he asked that if she was born healthy, to give her a Jewish name in gratitude to Israel,” she said.

“I’ll never forget what you did here for my daughter Sarah and for me,” she said. “When Sarah grows up...I’ll tell her where she was born and why...we chose to call her Sarah.” (Danny Brenner, *Israel Hayom*)

ISRAEL HAS BECOME A LABORATORY FOR MILITARIES ACROSS THE GLOBE

Israel is a country of eight million people that is surrounded by enemies who would like to see it wiped off the map: Hizbullah to the north, Hamas to the south, plus Assad's regime, Islamic State and Iran to the east. Yet this tiny nation has also built an air force, anti-missile defense system and intelligence apparatus that is revered around the world – and relied on by the U.S. military. And it's done it with a minuscule fraction of the budget available to larger nations.

Because of its hostile neighborhood, Israel has had the unlucky distinction of being the first target of the newest terrorist innovations – which has forced it to become a kind of laboratory for militaries across the globe. Elite Israeli commando units conducted the first successful airline hostage rescue in 1972, and then again at Entebbe in 1976. America's Delta Force was founded partly in response to what the U.S. learned from the IDF's operation in Uganda. (Dan Senor, *Wall Street Journal*)

continued on page 21

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Whose land is it?

By Jean Campaiola Harris

“What’s in a name?” Shakespeare famously asked. Actually, quite a lot.

Take the description of a town named Efrat in the Gush Etzion Settlement block near Jerusalem. My husband and I have a friend who lives there. Jonathan was born in New Jersey, graduated from Emory University, and now lives in Efrat, a quick 20-minute drive from the Old City. We have visited his home, and were surprised to find that many of his neighbors are “anglos,” meaning native English speakers from the United States and Canada.

Jonathan and his family love living in the biblical heartland of Israel.

This land, west of the Jordan River, was called Judea and Samaria in biblical times. It is where Abraham walked, where Isaac lived, where Jacob had his dream, and where all of our patriarchs and matriarchs are buried.

It is also the area *The New York Times* and the United Nations call “Occupied Palestinian” land.

People should understand that both adjectives – *occupied* and *Palestinian* – are just opinions. They do not have any legal standing, but as we learned from Joseph Goebbels, if you repeat something often enough, many people will believe it to be true. But in fact, until the land was “occupied” by Israel in 1967, it was occupied by Jordan. Before that by the British, before that the Ottomans, and so on, going back to Abraham. And just to be clear about names, before Israel’s founding in 1948, the term “Palestinian” referred to Jews in the land, like my friend Jonathan’s father who settled there years ago.

The truth is the land doesn’t legally belong to anyone right now. The correct term is “disputed.”

Jews have lived in the region for over 3,000 years. Anyone with even a rudimentary knowledge of the Bible knows that. Yet it is a common misconception that all the Jews were forced out after the Second Temple was destroyed in 70 C.E. Though the majority of Jews were forced out into slavery and the diaspora, a remnant of the Jewish people has *always* remained in the land of Israel.

Yet some not only deny this reality, but have the hubris to deny *any* legitimate Jewish claim to or history in this land.

In modern times, Jews purchased land west of the Jordan River in the 1920s and 1930s and built vibrant communities there. During this pre-state period of the British Mandate, they were massacred by their surrounding Arab neighbors. Jews were ultimately driven out of that region by the attacking Jordanian Army in 1948. After Israel recaptured those lands in a *defensive* war, the Six-Day War of 1967, Jews returned to these areas and rebuilt their communities. And this is where my friend Jonathan lives.

The Palestinians have set their sights on this land. Their allies at the United Nations and the former U.S. Secretary of State regard even the Old City of Jerusalem and the Temple Mount as sitting on “Palestinian” land simply because the Palestinians want it for their state and reject any Jewish presence there. (For that matter, Palestinian media regard Tel Aviv as a settlement on Palestinian land too.)

Over the last 100 years, from the 1917 Balfour Declaration to the 1947 UN Partition Plan through the Oslo Process of the 1990s until today, the Palestinians have been offered a state multiple times – six or seven at last count. They have said no each time, and that is why this issue remains unsettled. The land remains in limbo because of Palestinian and broader Arab rejectionism.

So where does this leave us? The Palestinians have their modern-day claim and the Israelis too have their ancient and modern claims to this land. Since the founding of the State of Israel, all prior UN Resolutions (except the last one, of course) stipulated that the status of these areas was to be determined through direct negotiations between the parties, and so the correct term is “disputed.”

So whenever you read or hear the legally incorrect, politically-loaded term “Occupied Palestinian Territory,” know the writer is not stating a fact. The writer is merely spreading an opinion, advancing a political point of view. The news and editorial writers at *The New York Times* and so many other media outlets *feel* that this land should be awarded to the Palestinians and so they write their articles and editorials to advance that cause.

They are entitled to their opinion, but they are not entitled to their own facts. And they most certainly are not entitled to assign the territory to whom-ever they wish.

Calling that land “Palestinian” is part of a wider effort to make the Israeli Jew who lives there into an interloper, a thief, an obstacle to peace. When news media deliberately uses terms that not only obscure, but invert the truth, this is journalistic malpractice. Providing information of a biased or misleading nature to promote a political cause is nothing more than propaganda.

In my opinion, Israeli claims to Judea and Samaria are the most historically, politically and spiritually significant of all the claims in the region. But then that is just an opinion.

Look it up for yourself. Go to mythsandfacts.org or to camera.org or jewishvirtuallibrary.org and research the issue. Find out what the dispute is about and see what approaches have been tried in the past. Form your own opinion, but don’t let others who have little knowledge of history, nor respect for the ties of the Jewish people to that land, name it for you.▲

ACLU of Florida event

The ACLU believes in action. For nearly 100 years, the ACLU has worked to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties guaranteed by the Constitution and laws of the United States. The ACLU has been at the front lines defending freedom in nearly every major civil liberties fight in our country.


The ACLU is growing and building new ways for ACLU supporters to create change. The challenges we face are significant, and Florida is often the frontline for some of the biggest civil liberties battles we face as a country. We are creating a powerful mobilization effort that connects with

the groundswell of grassroots support for the work of the ACLU of Florida. Now more than ever, we are standing together in our communities, leading the effort on the civil liberties issues that impact Floridians. Our time is now. We, the people, dare to create a more perfect union.


Join us on Wednesday, March 22 at 7:00 p.m. to hear about the current challenges and work of the ACLU from the ACLU of Florida’s executive director, Howard Simon, and legal director, Nancy Abudu, at the Sanibel Community House, Great Hall, 2173 Periwinkle Way. Admission is free.

MEET THE
ACLU OF FLORIDA
IN SANIBEL

Wednesday, March 22, 2017
7:00 PM



Nancy Abudu,
Legal Director




Howard Simon
Executive Director

The ACLU works to defend the rights guaranteed in the Constitution. Join us for a discussion about our critical work in Florida and across the country.

Sanibel Community House
Great Hall
2173 Periwinkle Way
Sanibel, FL 33957

This meeting is FREE, no RSVP required.



For more information about the
ACLU of Florida, visit:
www.acluf.org

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



ISRAELI
FOLK DANCING

WEEKLY ISRAELI DANCING

Sundays, March 5, 12, 19, 26

4:00 p.m.

Jewish Federation



All ages (10 to 96) are welcome to join us. All levels of dance experience are welcome. Wear comfortable shoes and bring a water bottle.

BRING A FRIEND!
See you Sundays.
RSVP a must by Fridays at noon to Marsha Kistler
marshatemple2012@gmail.com

Mellow Mah Jongg

Each Tuesday afternoon, an open session of Mah Jongg is held at the Jewish Federation.

Players must be at least advanced beginners, as no lessons are given.

DAY: Tuesdays, 12:30~3:30 P.M.
FEE: \$1 per week



for more information call
Rona Strausberg at 239.949.9003



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A Jewish recipe for joy

When the month of Adar comes, joy is increased. (Babylonian Talmud, Taanit 29a).

We are entering a month of joy and celebration! The holiday of Purim takes place on the 14th of Adar, and the entire month is suffused with its festive spirit. Yet it is not only the nature of the month itself that brings joy. We are expected to increase our own level of happiness. “Be Happy! It’s Adar” is a common motto for this month.

Now, I’m a happy and optimistic person by nature, but yellow smiley face stickers or buttons with “Be Happy” written in bold, black letters bring out the cynical side in me. Simply being told that I should be happy does not suddenly increase my level of appreciation or awareness of life’s gifts. Fortunately, our Jewish tradition goes much deeper than a one-line aphorism. The rituals surrounding Adar give us concrete ways to increase our happiness:

Esther 9:20-22 “Mordecai recorded these events, and sent letters unto all the Jews that were in all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus, both near

and far, charging them to observe the fourteenth and fifteenth days of Adar, every year, the same days on which the Jews enjoyed relief from their enemies, and the month which was transformed for them from one of grief and mourning to one of festive joy. They were to observe them as days of feasting and merrymaking, and as an occasion for sending gifts to one another and presents to the poor.”

How do we increase our joy? We come together in sacred community for feasting and merrymaking. We take time to think about what others would enjoy, send gifts, and take pleasure in receiving gifts. We not only help the poor with their basic needs, but we share presents with them as well. In addition to these three biblical commandments, we also read the Megillah of Esther and thank God for saving the Jewish people.

Rejoicing in community, sending and receiving gifts, taking care of those less fortunate, thanking God for our freedom: a Jewish recipe for increasing joy.

The Jews enjoyed light and gladness, honor and joy. (Esther 8:16)

Kein t’hi lanu, so too may we be blessed.▲

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



■ Rabbi Nicole Luna

Cleaning up a nasty world

It was early Saturday night, in the first week of February, on a New York City subway. Someone had scrawled Nazi imagery all over the ads on that subway car. As passengers entered the car, they were clearly uncomfortable. Until one guy got up and said, “Hand sanitizer gets rid of Sharpie.” He found tissues, took his hand sanitizer, and got to work. Other passengers joined in, with tissues and hand sanitizer of their own. Within minutes, all the graffiti had been cleaned away.

Our national, political world seems daily to grow darker. Xenophobia is enshrined in Executive Order. Bigots are being put forward for some of the most important posts in our land. Women’s

rights and reproductive choice are in peril. Innocent immigrants are sent back to places of terror, as we lock them out from our borders. The weakest and most marginalized among us fear imminent harm. The list goes on. And every day, the news seems just to get worse. And in the midst of all that, hope arises – unrehearsed – on a New York City subway.

And we are all reminded that while often it is complicated and daunting to stand up for our highest Jewish values, sometimes, too, it is incredibly simple. We carry the antidote, to hate and evil, close at hand and heart. It just takes the care and courage to stand up and erase the ugliness wherever we find it.

I’ve always loved the New York subway system. Now it’s the image that propels me forward with new hope and renewed resolve.▲

Rabbi Myra Soifer serves at Bat Yam Temple of the Islands on Sanibel Island.



■ Rabbi Myra Soifer

What do you think?

L'CHAYIM wants to know!

Send your letters & comments to LChayim36@gmail.com.

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.

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

TEMPLE BETH EL REFORM

16225 Winkler Road, Fort Myers, FL 33908
Rabbi Nicole Luna
E-mail: rabbiluna@templebethel.com
Temple educator: Dale Cohen, Ma.Ed., R.J.E
Preschool director: Jesyca Virnig
President: Ellis Rabinowitz
Phone: 433-0018 • Fax: 433-3235
Web site: www.templebethel.com
Shabbat services: 7:30 p.m. Friday; Torah study 9:00 a.m. Saturday; B’nai Mitzah 10:30 a.m. Saturday
Religious School: 9:30 a.m.-noon Sunday
Hebrew School: 5:00-6:30 p.m. Wednesday
Judaica Gift Gallery
Affiliated: Union for Reform Judaism

TEMPLE BETH SHALOM REFORM

702 S.E. 24th Ave., Cape Coral, FL 33990
Rabbi Devora Buchen
President: Arnie Schwartz
Phone: 772-4555 • Fax: 772-4625
E-mail: office@templebethshalomcc.org
Web site: www.templebethshalomcc.org
Services: 7:30 p.m. Friday
Religious School: Thursday 4:00 - 6:30 p.m.
Torah study with Rabbi Buchen: Shabbat 10:30 a.m.
Organizations: Brotherhood, Sisterhood, Family Service (1st Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m.)

BAT YAM TEMPLE OF THE ISLANDS REFORM

Meets at Sanibel Congregational Church
2050 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel Island
Rabbi Myra Soifer
President: Alan Lessack
Phone: (239) 579-0296 (Oct-May)
Email: batyamsanibel@gmail.com
Cantorial Soloist: Douglas Renfroe
Web site: www.batyam.org
Services: 7:30 p.m. Friday (Nov-Apr)
7:00 p.m. Friday (May-Oct)
Adult Education:
Saturday, 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. (Nov-Apr)
Jewish Current Events: Saturday, 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. (Nov-Apr)
Write: P.O. Box 84, Sanibel, FL 33957
Affiliated: Union for Reform Judaism (formerly UAHC)

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: Carol Roark
Phone: (941) 625-2116
E-mail: shalom06@netzero.com
Web site: templeshalomfl.com
Services: 7:30 p.m. Friday
Religious school: Sunday 10 a.m.
Beginning Hebrew: Tuesday 4:15 - 5:15 p.m.
Advanced Hebrew: Thursday 4:15 - 5:15 p.m.
Organizations: Sisterhood
Affiliated: Union for Reform Judaism

SYNAGOGUES & ORGANIZATIONS

IN LEE & CHARLOTTE COUNTIES

COMMUNITY FREE SYNAGOGUE REFORM

10868 Metro Parkway, South Fort Myers
(The Southwest Florida Masonic Center)
P.O. Box 07144, Fort Myers, FL 33919
Rabbi Bruce Diamond
(bdiamond5@comcast.net)
Coordinator: Natalie Fulton
(bubbienat@juno.com)
Music director: David Pincus
Phone: (239) 274-7485
E-mail: comfreesyn@gmail.com
Web site: www.fortmyerssynagogue.com
Community Sabbath eve dinner each Friday at 6:30 p.m.
Sabbath eve worship every Friday at 7:30 p.m.
Light breakfast and Torah study with the rabbi every Saturday morning from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

TEMPLE JUDEA CONSERVATIVE

14486 A&W Bulb Road, Fort Myers, FL 33908
Rabbi Marc Sack
E-mail: rabbi@tjswfl.org
President: Jennifer Manekin
Director of Congregational Learning: Elizabeth Singer
Preschool Director: Joann Goldman
templejudeapreschool@gmail.com
Phone: 433-0201 • Fax: 433-3371
E-mail: tjswfl@gmail.com
Web site: www.tjswfl.org
Services: 6:15 p.m. Friday and 9:30 a.m. Saturday Minyan: 9:00 a.m. Monday
Religious School: Sun. 9:30 a.m.-noon; Wed. 4:30-6 p.m.
Early childhood education:
Preschool, M-F, ages 18 months-5 years;
“Mommy & Me,” 12 months-2 years
Affiliated: United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

CHABAD OF BONITA SPRINGS/ESTERO ORTHODOX

24850 Old 41 Road, Suite 20 (in the Bernwood Centre)
Bonita Springs, FL 34135-7024
Rabbi Mendy Greenberg
Phone: 949-6900
Web site: www.JewishBonita.com
Services: Saturday at 10 a.m., followed by a kiddush

CHABAD OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY ORTHODOX

204 E McKenzie St Unit B, Punta Gorda, FL 33950
Rabbi Simon Jacobson
Phone: (941) 833-3381
E-mail: chabadpg@yahoo.com
Web site: www.chabadofcharlottecounty.com
Services: Saturday at 10 a.m. followed by a kiddush
Torah study: Wednesday at 8 p.m.

CHABAD LUBAVITCH OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ORTHODOX

5620 Winkler Road
Fort Myers, FL 33919
Rabbi Yitzchok Minkowicz
Phone: 433-7708 • Fax: 481-9109
E-mail: rabbi@chabadswf.org
Web site: www.chabadswf.org
Services: Friday 5:15 p.m.; Saturday Kabbalah class 9 a.m.; Shacharit 10 a.m.; Kiddush at noon
Minyan: Monday & Thursday 7:00 a.m.

CHABAD JEWISH CENTER OF CAPE CORAL ORTHODOX

1716 Cape Coral Pkwy. W., Cape Coral, FL 33914
Rabbi Yossi Labkowsky
Phone: 963-4770
E-mail: info@chabadcape.com
Web site: www.chabadcape.com
Services: Friday Evening 7:30 p.m.
Saturday morning 9:30 a.m. followed by Kiddush luncheon
Sunday morning 8:00 a.m.
Monday-Friday morning 7:00 a.m.
JLI Courses: Monday evening at 7:00 p.m.
Weekly Torah Study: Tuesday evening 7:30 p.m.
Hebrew School: Sunday 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Jgirls: Tuesday 6:00-7:00 p.m.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

- Shalom Life Center
- Lawrence Dermer, Spiritual Leader - 218-3433
- AIPAC (American Israel Public Affairs Committee): Jacki Waksman - (954) 653-9053
- AJC (American Jewish Committee): Brian Lipton - (941) 365-4955
- Anti-Defamation League: (561) 988-2900
- B’Nai B’rith International: (941) 302-4500
- Chevra Kadisha: Gene Sipe - 841-4615
- Generations of the Shoah SWFL: 963-9347
- Hadassah - Collier/Lee Chapter: Lynn Weiner - 598-1009
- Hadassah - Sharon Chapter (Charlotte County): Odette Port - (941) 505-1409
- Hazak 55+ Chapter: Joyce Rosinger - 437-1566
- Humanistic Jewish Havurah: Paula Creed - 495-8484
- Israel Bonds: Regional Headquarters: (800) 622-8017
- Jewish Community Services: 481-4449
- Jewish National Fund: (727) 536-5263
- Memorial Tree Planting in Israel - 1-800-542-8733
- Jewish War Veterans: Post 400: Commander Harvey Charter - 246-3151
- Mikvah Bashka of Southwest Florida: Nechamie Minkowicz - 822-2784
- ORT - Gulf Beaches Chapter: Marina Berkovich - 566-1771

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Time to stop – A Purim message

The ultimate defeat of fear comes about through faith: Faith in ourselves that we can solve our problems and faith in God that God has given us the resources and the hope to solve those problems. Faith is not a magical device, but rather a sure scale against which to measure our fears. If fears are to be resolved, they must be seen in the perspective of a good God, a helpful society and a friendly universe.

When the French tyrant, Napoleon, started to move his powerful armies, all of Europe was in a state of fear and trembling. In Spain an embattled army under the Duke of Wellington was trying to resist his advance. One day a young lieutenant came into the British general's tent with a map clutched in

his trembling hands and declaimed in near hysteria, "Look, General, the enemy is upon us!" "Young man," the General replied, "get larger maps, the enemy won't seem so close."

If we possess the larger map of faith, the great enemy of humankind, called fear, will not appear so close. The world has existed for millions of years and will continue to do so. People have solved their problems and will continue to do so.

Five decades ago, a great American President said, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself."

Three centuries ago, a great New England governor said, "Here we feared a fear where there was no fear." Over two millennia ago, a great Hebrew prophet said: "Fear not, nor be anxious for I am with you, for I am Your God" (Isaiah 41:10).

A joyous Purim to all.▲
Rabbi Solomon Agin serves at Temple Shalom in Port Charlotte.

America's immigration policies go in cycles

Many of our grandparents or great grandparents came to America via Ellis Island at a time when her doors were generally open wide. Back then there were no visas required. What was mostly needed was an American sponsor's affidavit that the immigrant would not be a burden on the public system of "relief." In addition, the immigrant was screened for infectious diseases, which, if identified, would find the immigrant quarantined in the island's hospital. When their processing was completed, the immigrants would be ferried to southern Manhattan, where its Lower East Side become the home for so many arrivals around the turn of the last century.

All this suddenly came to a halt with the 1917 Immigration Act, passed over President Wilson's veto. Also known as the Literacy Act, among other categories it barred the door to "anarchists," "feeble-minded persons," "idiots," "illiterates," "paupers," "persons being mentally or physically defective," "persons with constitutional psychopathic inferiority," "political radicals" and "vagrants." In fact, it mostly restricted Eastern Europeans and Italians. That is when Jewish immigration largely came to a halt.

As American nativism deepened, marked by the ascension of the Ku Klux Klan into the country's political mainstream, Congress passed the Immigration Act and National Origins Act of 1924, setting strict quotas for immigrants depending on their country of origin. The stated intention of this legislation, signed by President Coolidge, was to keep "undesirables" out of America, which included us. The 1921 case of the "anarchists" (what is now called "terrorists") Sacco and Vanzetti was held up as the parade

justification for further tightening immigration from specific countries.

These anti-immigration acts were the law of the land until they were completely revised in 1957. It was these laws that kept out our people fleeing eventual annihilation by the Nazis and their willing henchmen. By far the most notorious example of this was "the voyage of the damned," when, in 1939, America turned away nearly 1,000 German Jewish refugees, sending them back to Europe and, in most cases, to their subsequent murder.

A grotesque footnote to this infamous incident was the fact the Goebbels' Ministry of Propaganda planted the disinformation that Nazi spies and saboteurs were hidden among the Jews fleeing for their lives. That, coupled with the agitation of the "America First" movement, headed by prominent Americans like Charles Lindbergh, managed to label any voices raised to help the Jews as unpatriotic.

Mercifully, America learned her lesson from the horrors of World War II, becoming, by-in-large, a leader in absorbing those fleeing tyranny and genocide. We must recall how, in the 1960s and 1970s, American Jews rallied in large numbers in support of Soviet Jewish immigration to the United States. Ultimately, America opened her arms to nearly 400,000 of our people fleeing the land of our Cold War mortal enemy.

Sadly, but quite predictably, since 9/11, America once again began raising barriers to immigration in the name of "homeland security," a sentiment not unlike the one that swept America immediately after WWI.

Careful students of American history know that America's immigration policies go in cycles. At times, we Jews were a great beneficiary of her policies, other times its main victims.▲
Rabbi Bruce Diamond serves at The Community Free Synagogue in Fort Myers.

A mitzvah with your name written on it

The Conservative Movement, my movement, has a new siddur for Shabbat and holidays. It is a wonderful book. On the far right side of each page are notes explaining the meaning of the prayer, its origins and place in the service. On the far left side of the page are interpretive readings from classical or modern Jewish sources. It is a great book for learning and exploration as well as communal prayer.

But I have a problem with it. After the shooting at the Pulse nightclub last summer, I looked for a reading about our responsibility to the outside world. I wanted something to speak to the idea that we're all in this together. I could not find one. The readings had wonderful expressions about our personal connection to God. I found nothing about our responsibility to the Other. (While I have read through much of the book, I haven't seen all of it. I keep looking for these resources.)

I have been drawn to reading about our loosening ties to community since 1985 when I read *Habits of the Heart*, a book about Americans' decreased involvement in civic organizations, local community groups and organized religion. Back in 1985, the authors were optimistic about how that trend could change, giving examples of people who were motivated to get involved in their community. Since then, I've gravitated to books – *Bowling Alone* is the best – or columnists – David Brooks is my favorite – who write on the theme of responsibility beyond our selves.

In 2006, I found myself next to a very Orthodox woman on a plane to Israel. In our conversation, she told me that she was upset that the head rabbi of the yeshivah her teenage sons attended had forbidden the boys from using the Internet. It surprised me that she was not happy about this ruling. She wanted her sons to know about the outside world.

What is the role of the synagogue? Is it to be a bastion that shelters us from the turmoil of the outside world and gives us comfort? Or should the message of the synagogue motivate us to do something to make the world better? While, in real life, this is not an "either - or" question, I have long felt that most people want the former not the latter. They would tell me that they want to feel good when they walk out of services. They want my message to affirm that how they are living now is good.

My inclination is different. I urge my congregants to pick their corner of the world to improve – to pick "the mitzvah that has their name written on it" – and then go out and act on it. Abraham Joshua Heschel wrote an essay, "No Time For Neutrality." That message is true today. This country has given our people so much freedom and opportunity. I believe it is our responsibility to do communal work as a way of giving back.

I hope the people who come to my congregation get some comfort from the music and warm community. But I also hope they walk out the door feeling that there is a mitzvah in the outside world that has their name written on it.▲
Rabbi Marc Sack serves at Temple Judea in Fort Myers.




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with your Jewish Community

www.facebook.com/JewishFederationLCC



Fall 2017 Educational Scholarships Available




Scholarship applications are now available for Jewish residents of Lee and Charlotte Counties, Florida, wishing to pursue postsecondary education.

Applicants must be under 30 years of age and priority will be given to full-time students. Funding is limited and decisions will be based primarily on financial need.

Completed applications Are due by April 28, 2017

Scholarships are made available from designated funds held by the Jewish Community Foundation.

For guidelines and application process, visit our website at:
www.jewishfederationlcc.org



TEMPLE JUDEA SCHOOLS

Fort Myers

Liz Singer
Director of Congregational Learning
Temple Judea has another month of fun-filled events that focus on celebrating Adar and the happiness that comes with it. The celebration of Purim will take place Saturday, March 11 when students will join in the Megillah reading and hope to engage the rest of the congregation in making the day as joyous as it can be. There will be no Religious School the following day.

Temple Judea eighth-graders will attend the Geshet Convention March 17-19, where they will have an immersive experience and be introduced to USY. They will get a taste of what their youth group involvement might look like throughout their high school years.

The community will come together for a day of Maccabiah games on Sunday, March 26 at Lakes Park Pavilion D1. Temple Judea and Beth El will join their Religious Schools together for a fun day of competition, music and stories. This event is free and we encourage the public to join. To adequately plan for lunch, RSVPs are required by March 13.

On Friday, March 31, students in the 3rd and 4th grade will review what they have spent the year learning. After they do this, they will then become the teachers by educating the congregation in some of the lessons they have learned. This event will be followed by a family-friendly dinner.

As always, our doors are open to all, and we encourage anyone and everyone to participate.

For more information, please contact me at tjswfledu@gmail.com or 239.433.0201.

Joann Goldman,
Temple Judea Preschool Director
Temple Judea Preschool Registration for the 2017-18 Preschool Year
For our preschool program, we are implementing a curriculum that works for all children. It is crucial to offer ongoing learning opportunities. Our program is based on the individual needs of every child. Our curriculum encourages children to make choices and be independent thinkers. Hands-on activities are offered throughout the day.

The children participate in learning centers such as technology, literacy, nature and science, music and movement, math and art.

Our language and literacy programs encourage and enhance talking, describing, scribbling and dictating stories. We offer yoga as an extra activity. Parents are encouraged to participate in our program. We have an open-door policy.

Our low student-to-teacher ratio allows your child to receive more individualized attention from our staff.

If you are interested in learning about any of the programs we offer, please call 239.482.1121 or stop by for a tour. We accept children ages 18 months to 5 years of age. We offer part-time and full-time programs.

We have very limited space available in our program.

Toddler and Me: 12 - 20 months

Toddler Time: 21 - 29 months

We are excited about this coming year and what we will be offering you and your child. A great program begins with well-trained staff that are enthusiastic about the work they are doing. To build a high-quality program, we implement a curriculum that works for all children. A variety of hands-

on activities are offered throughout the morning. The children will have a chance to participate in movement, art, story time, cooking, singing and finger play. We encourage parents to join in and have some fun.

We will offer this program on Tuesday and Wednesday. Classes are designed to be age appropriate. Meet new friends, bring a friend along or reconnect with old friends.

What is happening at Temple Judea Preschool

Dr. Seuss is on the loose at Temple Judea Preschool. We will be celebrating the birthday of Dr. Seuss in March. The children will have a chance to read the classic tales of Dr. Seuss as we make some fun art projects, create some green food and wear some fun hats.

Pre-K will be busy as beavers in March. It's that time of year when we cheer "It's rhyme time!" Parents can look forward to their home filled with the sounds of "Cat, rat and hat. Hey, I made a rhyme!" After we master the art of rhyming, we will celebrate with

a rhyming party. Maybe we will serve a snake cake with a little goose juice. There is overwhelming evidence that early learning of nursery rhymes and rhythmic poems, songs and chants significantly enhances early reading skills and phonemic awareness. Nursery rhymes also teach musical awareness and help with memory.

The children in Pre-K have done a great job with the letter of the week program and have enjoyed sharing their letterbox items with their friends. Way to go Pre-K!

Teaching time began for our Pre-K students last month. Each student will take the spotlight and share their knowledge about a subject of choice with their friends. This confidence-building program continues throughout the month.

Our book fair was a great success. Thanks to all our families and friends who came out and supported our reading program. We can't wait to read all the fabulous books we added to our TJP Library.

TEMPLE BETH EL SCHOOLS

Fort Myers

Temple Beth El Religious School

Dale M. Cohen, R.J.E., MA, Educ.

Religious School Director

Dear Parents of the Religious School:

I wish everyone, especially our Religious School families, a happy and celebratory month of March. We have so many exciting programs planned for this month of Adar!

- ◆ On Wednesdays, March 1 and 8, our students will be making hamantaschen for the happy holiday of Purim. The students will be making traditional flavors as well as chocolate chip, peanut butter chip and many other creative flavors. Be happy, it's Adar!
- ◆ On Friday, March 10, our students in grade 9 who participated in the L'Taken Trip (Religious Action Center) to Washington, D.C., will be making a presentation about their experiences during the Shabbat service. We are so grateful to Rabbi Nicole Luna and Vanessa Sax for taking and leading our students on this most memorable trip.
- ◆ On Sunday, March 12, we will have a "Purim Pancake Breakfast" and our students can invite their grandparents to share in the fun. We will be decorating our pancakes with our favorite Purim characters. Following the breakfast, Morah Hilary's 5th grade class

will be presenting a Purim play which will have you laughing right out of your seats! Following the

play at approximately 11:00 a.m., we will all join Rabbi Luna in the sanctuary as she reads the Megillah and we sound our groggers each time we hear Haman's name! The TBE community is invited to participate in this as well. Following the Megillah reading, we will enjoy the hamantaschen made by our students.

- ◆ On Sunday, March 19, we will not have Religious School, as it is a long weekend for the Lee County Public Schools.
- ◆ On Saturday, March 25, we will have Junior Congregation Services from 9:00 to 10:15 a.m. This is a wonderful way for our pre-Bar/Bat Mitzvah students to become familiar with the Saturday morning liturgy.
- ◆ On Sunday, March 26, we will meet at Lakes Park to participate in the Community Family Picnic. We will meet at Shelter D-1 at 10:00 a.m. to join in with other Jewish families for a day of fun-filled activities including games, arts and crafts, singing and more. Leni Sack, Liz Singer and I have been planning this event for the community to be together, mingle and just have fun! Camaraderie with our peers is an essential part of what we all need in this community.

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For more information, contact Leni Sack at lenisack@jfedlcc.org or 239.481.4449 x3

GENERATIONS OF THE SHOAH

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

(239) 963-9347

GenShoah’s variety of programs and events

Ida Margolis
GenShoah SWFL has presented films, book discussions and speakers this season. Just recently:

- ◆ Thirty GenShoah members took a trip to St. Petersburg to get a private tour of the Florida Holocaust Museum led by Bonnie Stein, President of Generations After at the Florida Holocaust Museum.
- ◆ Along with the Holocaust Museum & Education Center of SWFL, GenShoah recently brought the award-winning documentary *No Asylum: The Untold Chapter of*

Anne Frank’s Story to over 250 people in Naples. Jonathan Brent, Executive Director of New York’s YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, where the Otto Frank letters were found, introduced the film. After the screening, a Q&A with the executive producer of the film, Paula Fouce, was held.

- ◆ Many GenShoah members who had gone to a book discussion of the *Nazi Titanic* led by Shelley Lieb, were excited to be able to attend a discussion of that book by the author, Robert Watson, who was a presenter at the Collier County Jewish Book Festival.
- ◆ A presentation by Holocaust survivor Steen Metz, and filmmaker and author Marina Berkovich were

also on the docket.

There are upcoming programs that will surely be of interest to GenShoah members and the public. Dr. William Madges will present a talk and PowerPoint on “Pope John Paul II and the Jewish People.” Sponsored by the Catholic-Jewish Dialogue of Collier County at St. Ann’s Jubilee Center (525 9th Ave. S., Naples) on Sunday, March 5 at 1:30 p.m., Madges, a recipient of the Eternal Light Award presented for “outstanding contribution in the cause of interfaith relations and human rights,” will give a presentation that should prove truly inspirational.

If you have not already looked at the offerings of the Jewish Community Day of Learning to be held on Sunday, March 19 at Temple Shalom, be sure to do so. All of the presentations sound extremely interesting, but be sure to

note those that might be of special interest to students of history. These include Goldie Bertone and her sisters, who will be speak on “Bearing Witness,” and will share the story of their parents who were Holocaust survivors. FGCU professor Dr. Paul Bartrop will discuss “The Munich Games of 1972: In The Shadow of Berlin.” And those with an interest in Yiddish will not want to miss “A Yiddish Vinkl,” which will be presented by Ron Levin. All the presentations seem so good it will be difficult to choose.

The April GenShoah program will be announced next month in this newspaper and in the GenShoah e-newsletter. For more information, or if you would like to receive the newsletter, email me at genshoahswfl@icloud.com.

JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

(239) 566-1771

The red strings of Southwest Florida Jewish history

Marina Berkovich
We thank our Jewish History Month event sponsors and contributors, renewing and new Society members, event attendees and guests for their generous support, beautiful reflections on our work, offers to help, and the desire to make this organization a success on every level.

Everyone and everything is connected somehow if you are around long enough to notice. Yes, we have found the matriarchal connection in our work. Whether your personal set of beliefs allows for that red string or not, whether you credit its power to Rachel and Kabbalah, or call it the Chinese red string of fate, or credit the myth of the Japanese pinky red tie, or just say “I just thought of you, and you called,” every human being experiences the inexplicable connection to others at some or another turn of their lives. And so unravels the story of our Southwest Florida Jewish history.

The Society’s Annual Fundraising Event was the premier of a new film in its Southwest Florida Jewish Pioneers Series – *Stuart Kaye, A Mensch for All Reasons*. Joined by Stuart and Jay Kaye and their sons, the Society celebrated this notable Collier County developer and philanthropist, and welcomed many of the Society’s supporters and members, guest and friends.

Among the guests was Collier County’s Jewish maven and writer, and the Society’s devoted supporter, Carole Greene. Many of us know that Carole has made her home in Southwest Florida for a long time – over approximately thirty years. She is one of several Jewish founders of the Naples Press Club. Fewer people know that. But who knew that along the way Carole was Lee County’s Jewish Federation’s only employee way back when it was first formed, and “manned” that office? Jump if you did. I jumped when Carole revealed that to me as a reflection on the subjects of the next Southwest Florida Jewish Pioneers film about Jerry and Sheila Laboda.

Originally from Philadelphia, the Labodas arrived in Lee County in

1965, bringing the specialty of oral and maxillofacial surgery to Southwest Florida. It was before desegregation, and the Labodas were thrilled to find the name “Goldberg” while flipping through the phone book in a telephone booth – remember those? Several years later, Jerry was one of the physicians who started Fort Myers Community Hospital. He has been on the board of the Fort Myers Downtown Redevelopment Association and Florida Repertory Theatre for three decades.

Sheila Laboda sensed the need for a cohesive Jewish community early in her pioneering days. She later organized and became first president of what is now Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties.

The Labodas raised a large Jewish family in Fort Myers, and are fortunate to have most of their children and grandchildren living in the area.

The premiere of the Southwest Florida Jewish Pioneers film, with a working title of *The Labodas of Fort Myers*, will follow the Federation’s Lion of Judah event on Tuesday, April 4. Before the production of the new film wraps, we hope to interview Carole Greene about her eyewitness experiences and place the red string on

her wrist.

We will be interviewing early Naples Jewish resident Doris Reynolds together with Richard Tooke, nephew of Mamie Tooke, aka The Mother of Naples, in the coming weeks. Please email office@jhsswf.org to submit your questions.

To learn more, visit the Virtual Museum of Southwest Jewish History at www.jewishhistorysouthwestflorida.org.

Our Mission
Collecting, protecting and preserving Jewish history to celebrate the contribution by Jews in Southwest Florida every day of every year is part of our mission.

Become a member of JHSSWF, a sponsor, business associate, volunteer and/or donor. Contact us at:
The Jewish Historical Society of Southwest Florida
899 Vanderbilt Beach Road, Suite 116, Naples FL 34108
239-566-1771
www.jhsswf.org

The Jewish Historical Society of Southwest Florida is a section 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

JEWISH WAR VETERANS

Victor Paul Tuchman Post 400

(239) 246-3151

Our first meeting of 2017 was quite productive. We had a smaller crowd than usual but much participation. Thank you, Herb Lutsky, for filling in as our treasurer for the day.

We currently have three members who have experienced health issues. For the sake of privacy, their names are not listed, but please keep them in your prayers for a speedy recovery. Commander Harvey Charter thanked everyone who had participated in December’s Hearts & Homes for Vets Christmas Party, where gifts were given to children and food was served by our members to the less fortunate. Those volunteers included our Com-

mander Charter and his wife Barbara, Bob & Dottie Ruberto, Isaac & Sue Osin, Herb Lutsky, and Berny & Phyllis Aronson. Thank you! You should all be very proud.

On January 21, the Lee Homeless Coalition’s stand-down took place. Once again, thank yous were provided to volunteers Herb Lutsky, Isaac Osin and Bob Ruberto. One of our members, Hy Tuchman, a WWII veteran, had offered to volunteer but was unable to attend due to health reasons. Kudos to you all. This year, it was done a bit differently. The homeless vets would sit down with one of the volunteers and told what they needed. Items were then transported, locally, from another resource and given to those vets who were actually homeless. There were

not many this year.

On a brighter note, Commander Charter gave a Vietnam commemoration lapel pin/certificate to Michael Goldstein, who is a General. Quite an impressive military background! It was wonderful to have him at our January meeting and we look forward to having him speak at our March meeting.



BRIEFS

continued from page 16

ISRAEL: THE EIGHTH GREAT POWER OF 2017

The U.S. remains the most powerful country on earth, followed by China, Japan, Russia, Germany, India, Iran and Israel – a new name on our list of the Eight Greats. A small country, Israel is a rising power with a growing impact on world affairs. Overall, the Jewish state continues to develop diplomatic, economic and military power and to insert itself into the heart of regional politics.

Large, off-shore discoveries of natural gas and oil are turning Israel into an

energy exporter. Energy self-sufficiency is a boost to Israel’s economy; energy exports boost Israel’s foreign policy clout. Access to Israeli technology (like the technology behind the Iron Dome missile defense system) matters to more and more countries. Israel’s diplomatic outreach to Africa and its deepening relationship with India benefit from Israel’s ability to deliver what people in other countries want.

Another factor is the change in the Middle Eastern balance of power that has transformed Israel from a pariah state to a kingmaker. Syria, one of Israel’s most vociferous enemies and biggest security threats, has now been broken. Egypt hates Hamas, ISIS and Islamic Jihad as much as Israel does; never has Egyptian-Israeli security

cooperation been as close as it is today. Even more consequentially, the rise of Iran and its aspirations to regional hegemony made Israel critical to the survival of the Sunni Arabs, including the Gulf states.

Israel begins 2017 as the keystone of a regional anti-Iran alliance, a most-favored-nation in the White House, and a country that enjoys good relations with all of the world’s major powers bar Iran. (Walter Russell Mead and Sean Keeley, *American Interest*)

ISRAEL’S TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED MILITARY

Today, Israel is a high-tech superpower and one of the world’s top weapons exporters with \$6.5 billion in annual

arms sales.

Since 1985, Israel is the world’s largest exporter of drones, responsible for 60% of the global market, trailed by the U.S., whose market share is 25%.

Israel’s customers include Russia, South Korea, Australia, France, Germany and Brazil.

In 2010, five NATO countries were flying Israeli drones in Afghanistan.

Israel has been in a perpetual state of conflict since its inception. This reality, of having your back up against the wall, sharpens the mind. It forces Israelis to be creative and come up with innovative ways and weapons to survive. (Yaakov Katz, *New York Post*)▲

SHALOM LIFE CENTER

Fort Myers

(239) 218-3433

Our strength is our unity
Lawrence & Robin Dermer

In the story of Purim, Haman says to King Achashverosh: “There is a nation that is *scattered* and *separated* among all the provinces of your kingdom.” Amalek is the evil force which Haman represents. What Haman is really saying to Achashverosh is, “Don’t worry about killing the Jews; they are divided and no one will come to their rescue, they are powerless to defend themselves.”

We can understand Purim on a deeper spiritual level as well. The physical Amalek is something we’ve dealt with throughout our history in the form of Pharaoh and Hitler. Even today we deal with Amalek in the form of nations that swear to our destruction like Iran and terrorist groups like Hamas

and Hezbollah.

The threats we face today are very real and should be taken seriously, but we also battle a spiritual Amalek. This Amalek from within can be understood as our own *sinat chinam*, lack of unity. Wherever we live we must not be divided. Our real strength is the unity we must maintain if we are to survive the threats we still face from within and without.

Imagine a Jewish community where people come together with one purpose and one vision. Our future depends on our connectedness and the actions of our young people. Following in the footsteps of other effective Jewish communities, Shalom Life Center has partnered with BBYO, the pluralistic Jewish youth movement that has been bringing Jewish teens together from all over the world for 90 years. The entire community is invited to join our new BBYO chapter. It was wonderful to see so many tweens and

teens at our first informational meeting and our ice skating social in February. This is just the beginning for our new chapter and we’re looking forward to watching these amazing young people develop relationships with other Jewish teens from all over Florida, the rest of the country and the entire world. The positive experiences, Jewish inspiration and pride being fostered by BBYO is how we will defeat Amalek in both a spiritual and a physical sense!

Soon after we celebrate our victory over Haman during Purim, we will prepare to celebrate our Exodus from bondage at the hands of Pharaoh with the holiday of Pesach. This year our Shalom Life Center Seders will be even more wonderful than 2016. If you attended last year’s amazing Seder on either the first or second night, you know that an SLC Seder is beautiful, traditional, musical, interactive and probably unlike any Seder you’ve ever attended. Please join us for the best

Seder experience of your life, which will be held on Monday and Tuesday, April 10 and 11, at the elegant West Bay Club in Estero. For more information and to RSVP, call 239.218.3433 or email us at info@shalomlifecenter.org. We look forward to seeing you there!

Our sacred Torah is not just for learning, it’s for transforming our lives. Our community is growing and we invite everyone to celebrate with us as we dedicate our Torah later this month. Join us for this milestone event as well as Shabbat services every Friday at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday Torah study at 10:00 a.m. From our Yiddish Culture Club, Book Club, Men’s Group and Sisterhood, to Women’s Circle, Choir and BBYO, there are so many ways to enhance your Jewish life at Shalom Life Center. Visit our website at www.shalomlifecenter.org for more information on our many clubs, programs and special events.

HADASSAH

Collier/Lee Chapter

(239) 370-6220

Karen Cohn

At this time of year everyone is looking at their calendar and scratching their head and wondering how is it we are so busy. Between all the organizations’ activities there seems to be no time for any recreation.

I would like to remind everyone that Hadassah has lectures, luncheons, card games and Mah Jongg, book clubs and social nights. The difference is that we raise money for the great good for

Israel. Our organization builds bridges to peace, leads the way through advancements in AIDS, breast and colon cancer, Crohn’s Disease, diabetes, macular degeneration, MS, ALS, Parkinson’s Disease, and cardiac health. And the research at the Hadassah Medical Center has many different projects going on at the same time.

Other projects of Hadassah help Israel’s natural resources by partnering with the Jewish National Fund for the country’s national forests, harbors, reservoirs and parks programs. There are also programs that help stop do-

mestic violence, and save thousands of disadvantaged and at-risk children by providing safe housing, education and training in Youth Aliyah villages. There are many other projects, and this is just some of where the Hadassah money goes.

Because the actual name of Hadassah is the Women’s Zionist Organization of America, we also have an Associate’s branch for the men who also recognize the noble and life-affirming goals of Hadassah. They are men with a mission – 35,000 of them throughout America raise millions of dollars for stem cell research. The Men’s Health Initiative is raising awareness about prostrate and

lung cancer, and heart disease. These are issues that affect men. In Collier and Lee counties we are trying to have the Associate group be more active. But first, we need to know if there is some interest. If so, please let me know at kcohnrdh@gmail.com.

Upcoming events:

- ◆ March 6 at 11:00 a.m.: Board of Directors Meeting
- ◆ March 7 from 11:15 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.: General Meeting/Luncheon at McCormick and Schmick’s with a speaker
- ◆ March 21: Afternoon matinee at the Broadway Palm Dinner Theater for *Anything Goes*

HUMANISTIC JEWISH HAVURAH

of Southwest Florida

(239) 495-8484

First a visitor, Rabbi Jerris; then a Judaic scholar, Ellaine Rosen
Paula Creed

We are fortunate to have two exciting events on our calendar in March.

On Sunday morning, March 19, Miriam Jerris, Rabbi for the Society for Humanistic Judaism, will participate with a panel of local rabbis discussing “The Future of Judaism” at the Jewish Community Day of Learning sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Collier County’s Community Relations Committee. Call 239.263.4205 for registration details.

Secular Humanistic Judaism, which embraces pluralism, has an important role to play in Jewish continuity. No single belief system or lifestyle can win the allegiance of all Jews. Jewish history is witness to the positive force of diversity. Where diversity and personal freedom exist, there is more Jewish creativity and more opportu-

nity for Jews to find their place within the Jewish people.

A free and open society presents many dilemmas for Jews, but a free and open society breaks down barriers between ethnic and religious groups and mixes people, eliminating old identities and forging new ones. Above all, it creates the “autonomous” individual who refuses to be dictated to by any group. It is apparent most Jews relish this freedom and openness.

As revealed in a recent Pew survey, most Jews do not believe one needs to be “religious” to be Jewish. Younger Jews identify as cultural, and their everyday behavior is strongly secular. The secularization process will continue and expand because it provides personal power, prosperity and options that traditional religious observance cannot create.

Secular Humanistic Judaism serves the Jewish needs of people who want to be Jewish in a fashion meaningful to current times while striving to treat all people with dignity to which they are

entitled. Things change so fast we cannot know what will happen in 10 or 20 years, but we can take the energy we devote to useless anxiety over Jewish survival and turn it into guiding Jews to live productive, ethical and culturally Jewish lives in a free society.

* * *

On Sunday, March 26, the Havurah hosts Judaic scholar Ellaine Rosen, who has chosen the title “Witness to Goodness” for her presentation that afternoon. We gather in the David G. Willens Community Room at the Federation office (2500 Vanderbilt Beach Road, Suite 2201, Naples) at 1:30 p.m. for “coffee and chat” before the meeting begins promptly at 2:00 p.m. Reservations are required and can be made by contacting Dena Sklaroff at 239.591.0101 or denas27@aol.com.

For secular Humanistic Jews, the most reliable power available to resist human cruelty is human power. Rosen’s research has revealed many examples of efforts that would substantiate this conviction.

The Holocaust is not only a story of victims, perpetrators and collabo-

rators; it is also a story of heroes and heroines – both Jews and Gentiles. Some of the heroic exploits and inventive means by which these brave men and women saved tens of thousands of Jewish lives will be discussed.

Both diplomats and ordinary citizens risked their lives and those of their families to save Jews. Some of their stories have been well chronicled but others are not so well known. Movies and books have told some stories of Jewish and Gentile heroes of the Holocaust, but there are many fascinating little-known incidents and miraculous events which our speaker will reveal.

The participation in, or resistance to, the Final Solution by various nations is also a fascinating but poorly understood chapter in the history of the Holocaust. Some nations willingly surrendered their Jews while others stood up to the Nazis.

Overhanging all these stories is the ultimate question: Would you have had the courage to do what these people did?

ZIONIST ORG. of AMERICA

Southwest Florida Chapter

(239) 597-0855

Jerrold L. Sobel

One of greatest threats to the United States, Israel and the Western World since 9/11 is the emergence of the Islamic State (ISIS). For a myriad of reasons, including lax border control and proper vetting, ISIS has been able to insinuate terrorist operatives and lone wolves to attack and kill innocent people both here and abroad. A deadly and adaptive foe, President Trump has ordered his generals and security advisors to deliver him within a month a plan on how to defeat ISIS.

On Wednesday March 15 at 7:30 p.m., Dr. Howard J. Shatz, Senior Economist and Director of Rand-Initiated Research, will be speaking at the

Chabad Jewish Center of Naples, 1789 Mandarin Road. His topic of discussion will be: “The Islamic State: Its History and Recommendations For its Defeat,” an issue he is highly qualified to examine.

Whereas for the past three years we’ve all been exposed to the brutality and deprivations of this barbaric group, few know of their infrastructure: finances, management and organization. As part of his research at the Rand Corp., Dr. Shatz has studied hundreds of documents and will share with us his findings, weaknesses, and recommendations to defeat this odious, terrorist organization.

Refreshments will be served at the presentation.

For more information, go to www.zoaswfl.org or call 914.329.1024.

HAZAK 55+ CHAPTER

at Temple Judea

(239) 433-0201

Temple Judea’s HAZAK 55+ Chapter is for singles and couples. It is an organization formed by the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism to enable members to meet and socialize with each other. Temple Judea’s active HAZAK Chapter is a chartered member of the USCJ. Dues are a modest \$5 per year per person. Membership in the organization is open to the community and we welcome new members.

For additional information, please contact George or Joyce Rosinger at 239.437.1566, Harvey Cohen at 239.768.3677, or Bunny or Matt Lawrence at 239.245.7708.

On Thursday, March 16 at 3:30 p.m., HAZAK will attend the art

exhibit “Art Beyond Boundaries” at the Alliance for the Arts in Fort Myers. This exhibition features twenty-six artists from Israel and twenty-six artists from the Southeastern U.S. The exhibit is sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties. After the tour, the group will have dinner at Nomiki’s Plakka Greek Restaurant, 12901 McGregor Blvd. (across from The Landings). RSVP required to sit with HAZAK members. For additional information, please call Shirley Schiffman at 239.395.0135.

Save the date of Sunday, April 2 at 3:00 p.m. for a screening of *Exodus* and a vegetarian pizza dinner. The film and dinner will be at Temple Judea. Watch for additional details.

COMMUNITY FREE SYNAGOGUE

Fort Myers

(239) 274-7485

www.fortmyerssynagogue.com

Heartfelt thanks to community rabbinical candidates Thomas Miess and Terri Goldberg for conducting the synagogue’s two-month Prayerbook Hebrew Readiness Program. This included two six-hour basic reading immersion sessions in January and three Reading Labs in March. Several of the participants are now preparing Torah readings. The Prayerbook Hebrew Readiness Program was in partial fulfillment of Tom and Terri’s requirement for their May 31 licensure as Community Rabbis.

Once again, The Community Free Synagogue is grateful to our Holocaust scholar, Jessica Evers, for her January

talk on the Third Reich’s use of the German legislative and legal systems to gradually isolate and finally eradicate its Jewish citizens. Jessica also conducted a three-week

“mini-course” in February outlining European and American anti-Semitism before WWII. She is a doctoral candidate in modern European history at FGCU.

The synagogue appreciates the efforts of our Youth Education students who created Tsedaqah boxes that are being distributed in the congregation in support of their Tsedaqah projects.

The community is invited to the synagogue’s Purim Pancake Breakfast at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 12. There will a lot more than pancakes served! After breakfast we will adjourn to the sanctuary and the reading of Megillah of Esther. Come in costume or

we will dress you in one!

Thanks to the many C.F.S.ers who participated in our February photo shoot of staged vignettes from the Megillah. The photos will be used in our 3rd edition of “A PowerPoint Purim,” which accompanies Rabbi Diamond’s reading of the scroll. We are also grateful for the many “holy rollers” who came earlier in the week to prepare the humentashen!

The next Community Free Synagogue “Brown Bag Movie Night” starts at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 23 in the Community Hall, featuring *Denial*. The film is a riveting drama about the libel trial of noted historian Deborah E. Lipstadt, who was sued in a British court by notorious Holocaust denier David Irving. Pack your dinner, soft drinks and admission are free.

Deepest condolences to Aaron (Butch) Stern on the untimely passing of his beloved wife Roz.

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

Every Saturday at 9:30 a.m., C.F.S. offers a light breakfast followed by a lively discussion of the week’s Torah portion until 11:30 a.m.

The purpose of The Community Free Synagogue, led by Rabbi Bruce Diamond, is “Study, Worship and Benevolent Acts” practiced traditionally but with progressive values. The synagogue does not sell memberships or solicit funds. All of its events and programs, including youth and adult Jewish education, are open to all and always free. The synagogue meets at the Southwest Florida Masonic Center, 10868 Metro Parkway in South Fort Myers.

TEMPLE JUDEA

Fort Myers

(239) 433-0201

www.tjswfl.org

Chaverot, Temple Judea’s Sisterhood, will be gathering on Thursday, March 2 for dinner and entertainment at La Grotta. Michael D’Amore will be singing songs of the ’50s, ’60s and ’70s. Chaverot welcomes members of the community; gentlemen are also welcome to join them. Contact Toby Moss for more information at theneedlewoman@gmail.com.

Chaverot will hold a theater party

at the Florida Rep on Sunday afternoon, March 26. Members of the community are welcome to join them for a performance of The 25th Annual Putnam County Spell-

ing Bee. Tickets are \$50 and \$25 for teens aged 13-17. Proceeds will benefit “Keren Chaverot,” the fund that helps support congregation life. Contact Toby.

Jason Hochberg, owner of the Fort Myers Miracle baseball team, will be the guest speaker on Friday evening, March 10 at the dinner following Shabbat services. Call the synagogue office for reservations.

On Thursday, March 16, HAZAK, the 55+ group of Temple Judea, will go to the “Art Beyond Boundaries” exhibit at the Alliance for the Arts and then have dinner together. For more information, call the synagogue office.

Start choosing your costume and plan to come to the Megillah reading on Saturday evening, March 11. Get ready to shake your groggers and enjoy the fun of the annual Purim spiel.

The congregation looks forward to welcoming Dr. Alan Cooper on Sunday, March 19 at 10:00 a.m. Dr. Cooper is the Elaine Ravich Professor of Jewish Studies and Provost of the Jewish Theological Seminary. His topic is “Blank Slates and Little Demons: Two

Jewish Views of Children.” Everyone is welcome to attend at no cost. This program is made possible through the generous support of the Hereld Institute for Jewish Studies at JTS.

Rabbi Marc Sack continues his monthly Lunchtime Torah Study on Thursday, March 2 from noon to 1:00 p.m. at the offices of Myers Brettholtz.

Regular scheduled events:

- Friday Shabbat services at 6:30 p.m.
- Saturday Shabbat services at 9:30 a.m.
- Lunchtime Torah study with Rabbi Sack the first Thursday of each month at noon
- Morning minyan every Monday at 9:00 a.m.

BAT YAM TEMPLE OF THE ISLANDS

Sanibel

(239) 579-0296

www.batyam.org

Come to Bat Yam on Sunday, March 5 at 7:00 p.m. to listen to the stand-up comedy routine of Rabbi Bob Alper. He is an ordained rabbi who served congregations for fourteen years until he fell for stand-up comedy. Bob also holds a doctorate from the Princeton Theological Seminary. If you wish to enjoy sharp, yet gentle (and clean) material suitable for Jews and non-Jews, bring your friends and prepare to laugh. Advance tickets are \$18 per person. Mail a check to Bat Yam, P.O. Box 84, Sanibel, FL 33957. Admission at the door will be \$25.

The Bat Yam community Passover Seder will be on Monday, April 10 at 6:00 p.m. at the newly renovated Sanibel Community House located at 2173 Periwinkle Way. For prices and reservations, please contact Sue Danford at

239.579.0744 or Annette Pacyga at 941.740.1650.

Of note is the milestone birthday, 100 years, of Roselyn Kraus that was celebrated as part of the February 17 Shabbat service.

She has been a thoughtful and cherished member of Bat Yam for many years.

While enjoying the beautiful weather and the myriad of activities and events in Southwest Florida, it is also a time for serious reflection on the conditions in our country and immediate area. To that end, a Bat Yam Social Action Committee was formed with a focus on the Jewish commitment to tikkun olam, making our world a better and more just place. This new committee is in addition to the work of the long established “Tzedakkah” Committee headed by Salessa Berk.

The seminar on January 24 led by Shared Scholar Reverend Heidi Neumark was very instructive for the attendees from the five sponsoring Sanibel and Captiva faith communities. It

was titled “How Faith Communities Engage in Social Action.” Reverend Neumark presented a practical outline of how to craft a coalition.

Bat Yam Social Action Committee Chair Garry Weiss invited representatives from the Fort Myers Haitian community to speak on February 1 about the needs and concerns of the 20,000 Haitians in Southwest Florida. On Monday, February 27, Rabbi Rachel Kahn-Troster, from “T’ruah,” a national Jewish group devoted to protecting the human rights of all persons, will speak about the efforts to improve the working and living conditions of the Immokalee tomato fields workers. The Social Action Committee intends to keep educating the Bat Yam congregation and to take steps to make a difference. If you wish to join the Social Action Committee, please contact Garry Weiss at 410.336.2612 or gsw211@gmail.com.

There is also a revived Literacy Project. Members of Bat Yam and the Sanibel Congregational UCC have been teaching English to some of the

immigrant employees at the Inns of Sanibel. By improving the English speaking and writing skills of its employees, the Inns of Sanibel knows it will provide better service to its customers.

Regular programming at Bat Yam continues through the end of April. Every Friday evening at 7:30 pm., Rabbi Myra Soifer conducts Shabbat services, assisted by Cantorial Soloist Doug Renfroe and pianist Abigail Allison.

Adult Education classes are held Saturday mornings beginning at 9:00 a.m. with Hebrew reading with Rabbi Soifer. At 9:30 a.m., the Rabbi speaks about a different ethical or ritual “mitzvah” each week. From 10:30 to 11:15 a.m., congregants offer researched presentations on various aspects of “Jews in the Diaspora.” Thereafter, a discussion of current events, facilitated by Leonard Minsky, occurs from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Come to worship and learn at our meeting place, the Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ at 2050 Periwinkle Way on Sanibel.

TEMPLE SHALOM

Charlotte Harbor & the Gulf Islands

(941) 625-2116

www.templeshalomfl.com

On Sunday, March 12, we celebrate Purim at Temple Shalom. There will be a

service at 5:00 p.m. with Jane Galler, with a Purim Dinner to follow. The cost for the dinner is \$12. Kindly call the temple office at 941.625.2116 if you would like to attend

the dinner.

The fifth session of “The Meaning

of Prayer” with Dr. Linda Wein will be held on Tuesday, March 14 at 6:45 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

“Lunch & Learn” with the *Forward* continues on Tuesday, March 21 from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. The class is limited to 15 participants.

The film *Walk on Water* will be shown on Sunday, March 26 at 3:00

p.m., with a deli dinner to follow. Dinner is \$12.

For additional information about Temple Shalom, call the office at 941.625.2116. Temple Shalom is Charlotte County’s only reform congregation affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism.

TEMPLE BETH SHALOM

Cape Coral

(239) 772-4555

www.templebethshalomcc.org

There are some exciting events coming up at Temple Beth Shalom in the coming weeks. Gatlin returns on Saturday, March 11. If you love music, Gatlin will be a real treat.. Tickets are \$20 and include snacks, soda and water. Beer and wine will be available for a donation.

The third Progressive Dinner of the year will be held on Saturday, March 25, and promises to be both delicious and fun. It is a great way to get to know people in a

small group.

Also coming up soon is the Samuel S. Belkin Golf Tournament on Sunday, April 2. For more information and tickets for all of events, call the temple office at 239.772.4555.

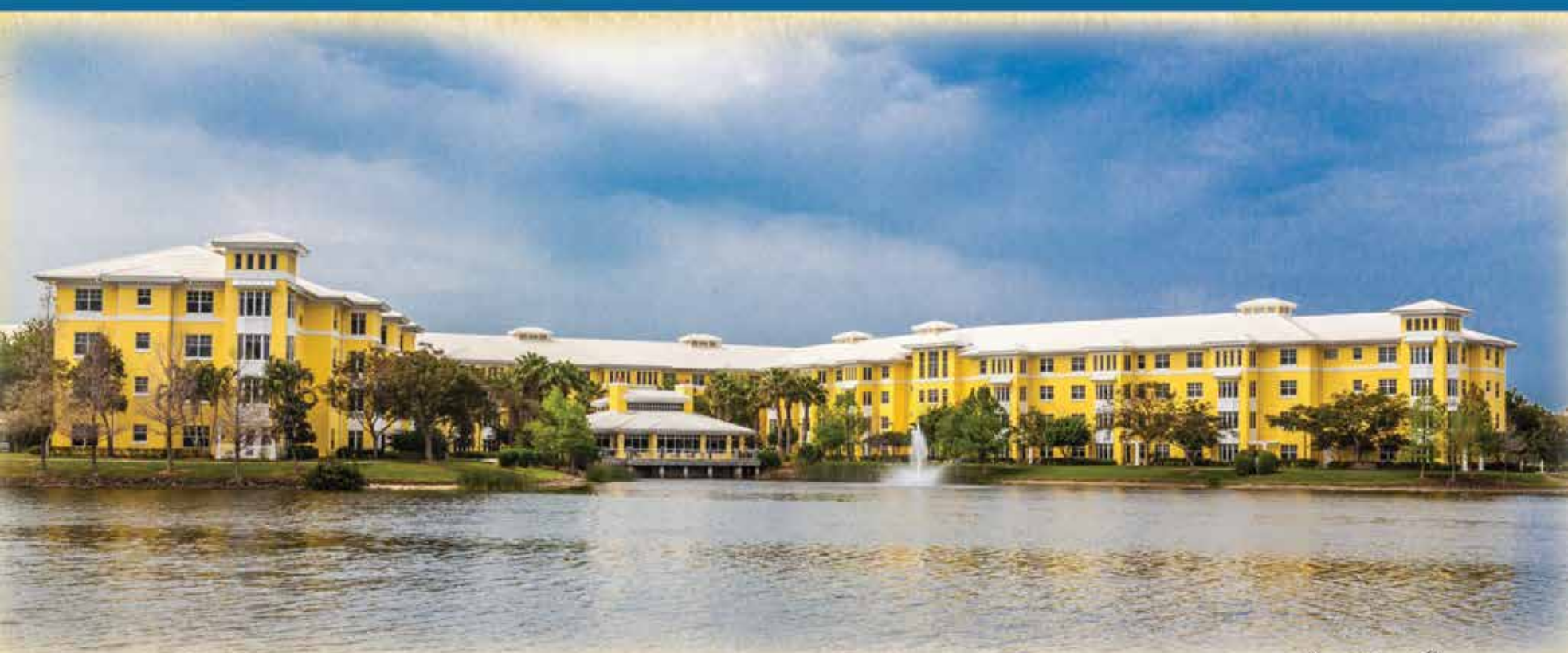
The Brotherhood of Temple Beth Shalom put on its annual Shabbat

service on Friday, January 27. Marc Einstein led the service and chanted from the Torah portion, while directing Brotherhood members who took part. Barry Belkin, Brotherhood President, gave a sermon that recalled the past and pointed to the future.

This well-attended service is just one example of all that the Brotherhood does during the year. Arnie Schwartz, who is finishing his final year as temple president, was also officiating. Stuart Berman had the honor of carrying the Torah, and Dr. Arthur Tanenbaum had the first Aliyah. Other participants

were Rabbi Devora Buchen, Joel Barlow, Erv Doliner, Avi Turner, Harvey Wolfson and Nate Blyveis The Brotherhood sponsored the delicious Oneg Shabbat. Barry Belkin’s wife, Ruthie, is an honorary member of the Brotherhood for all the things she does for them, and so she was given the honor of lighting the Shabbat candles.

Guests are always welcome at Temple Beth Shalom. Come to Friday night services, Saturday Torah study or any of our events, and you will find a very warm, welcoming community.



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