



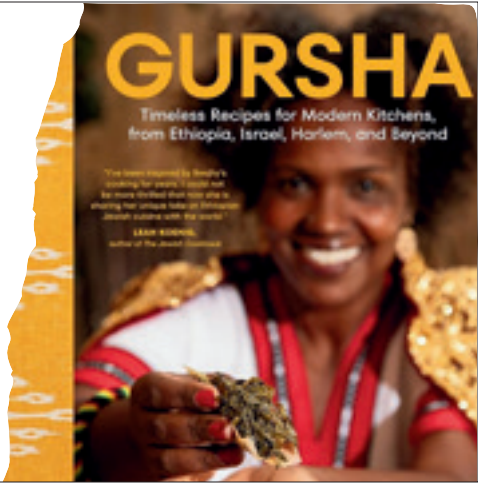
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L'CHAYIM

Published by the Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte Counties

November 2025 / 5786

JewishFederationLCC.org

Volume 48, Number 3

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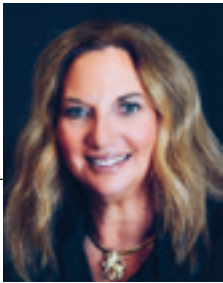
For the most current news and articles on the war in Israel, please visit our website at JewishFederationLCC.org.

Strengthening community, enriching lives

The Federation in action

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

■ Debbie Sanford



As we enter a new year filled with hope, reflection, and commitment to our shared values, it's impossible not to pause and appreciate the profound impact Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte Counties is having on our Jewish community and the community at large.

In addition to an incredible line up of programs and events, the Federation is shaping lives — from the youngest members of our community to those navigating the complexities of aging and everything in between.

Strengthening our future, one child at a time

Thanks to generous grants from the Federation, our preschools and day schools are safer and more secure. These are more than just educational institutions; they are nurturing environments where Jewish identity is planted and begins to flourish.

The funding helps provide armed security at schools throughout Lee and

Charlotte Counties. Through a collaboration with the Tepper Foundation and JFNA, last month we were once again — two years in a row — able to provide grants to Temple Beth El and Temple Judea, and, in the second round of funding, Chabad of Southwest Florida and the Chabad of Charlotte County.

College scholarships funded through the Federation are opening doors for our teens, making higher education more accessible and helping our young adults reach their full potential while remaining connected to their Jewish roots. This past summer, five college scholarships were awarded to students in our area.



Temple Judea Religious School kids

Caring for all ages and stages

Programs like Lunch Bunch, which provides free monthly meals and social opportunities for seniors, reflect our values in action — promoting

community and fighting loneliness with love and laughter.

Through our Jewish Family Services (JFS), we see the power of Federation dollars at work every day. Whether it's food assistance, financial case management, or emergency support, JFS is on the front lines, offering help and hope in times of need. These essential services are often invisible, but they are life-saving to those who rely on them.

None of this happens without you

All of these programs — and so many more — are possible because of the continued support of donors who understand the importance of giving back. Each gift to the Jewish Federation's Annual Campaign ensures that we can continue meeting needs, strengthen Jewish life, and build a vibrant, inclusive community.

As the new year begins, we invite you to make your gift to the Annual Campaign. No amount is too small, and every contribution goes directly toward sustaining the work that touches so many lives. Together, we can ensure that the light of our community shines even brighter in the year ahead.

Let's continue the tradition of giving, growing, and caring — for each other and for the generations to come.

Make your gift today. Make an impact forever. 🌈



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L'CHAYIM Proofreaders:

Victor Gold • Roz Shraiar

Editor: Sharon Hood (239) 591-2709

Design: MarketCrank, Inc.

Advertising: Bryana Garcia
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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.

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**DECEMBER ISSUE
EDITORIAL
DEADLINE:
Monday, November 3**



OUR MISSION

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

OUR VISION

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

Lighting up the community

Our First Annual Menorah Lighting at Bell Tower

By Amy Hallock, Community Events Manager

This December, our community will come together in a brand-new way to celebrate the Festival of Lights! Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte Counties is thrilled to announce our First Annual Menorah Lighting, taking place at Bell Tower Shops on Dec. 18 at 6 p.m.

This exciting partnership between the Federation and Bell Tower represents more than just an event — it's a celebration of unity, tradition, and community spirit. Bell Tower, a long-standing gathering place for families and friends in Southwest Florida, has generously purchased a stunning seven-foot menorah to be displayed as the centerpiece of this celebration. Their enthusiasm and commitment to hosting this event truly reflect the season's message of light and togetherness.

The evening will include a beautiful menorah lighting ceremony, led by local rabbis who will offer words of reflection and a special community prayer for peace and unity. Families and



Amy Hallock

friends of all backgrounds are invited to join in this meaningful moment as we share the story and warmth of Chanukah.

In addition to the lighting, the event will highlight local entrepreneurs and small businesses from across our community. Guests can enjoy holiday shopping,

connect with artisans and vendors, and experience the vibrancy of Jewish life right here in Fort Myers. It's a wonderful opportunity to support small businesses while celebrating a joyous and inclusive holiday season.

As this is our first year hosting the Menorah Lighting at Bell Tower, we are filled with excitement and gratitude. Our hope is that this evening will grow into an annual tradition that brings families together, strengthens connections, and shines a light of hope for years to come.

We warmly invite everyone to join us — bring your family, your friends, and your holiday spirit as we light the menorah and illuminate the night with joy, faith, and community. 🕯️

First Annual Menorah Lighting

Thursday, Dec. 18, 6 p.m.

Bell Tower Shops – 13499 Bell Tower Dr., Fort Myers

For more information, please contact me at
239-481-4449, ext. 2 or events@jfedlcc.org.



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Community generosity shines during Jewish High Holy Days

By Monica Wildonger, JFS Case Manager & Food Pantry Coordinator

As the Jewish New Year and fall holidays arrived this September and October, our community once again showed what it means to care for one another. Despite several days of closure for the holidays, our food pantry was able to serve 249 households during this time.

We are deeply grateful to the congregants of Temple Beth El and Temple Judea for their extraordinary generosity. Their donations of food, Publix gift cards, and monetary contributions helped ensure that families in need had nutritious meals and



■ Monica Wildonger

essential items throughout the holiday season.

The High Holy Days are a time of reflection, renewal, and giving back — and thanks to the compassion of our partners and volunteers, we were able to continue our mission of fighting food insecurity and supporting our neighbors.

To everyone who gave so generously: Thank you for keeping the spirit of *tzedakah* (charitable giving) alive in our community.

To everyone who volunteered and supported our mission: Thank you for being part of this season of giving and gratitude. 🌟



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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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TRIBUTES

Honors & Memorials



With a tribute gift you can mark a milestone, celebrate a special occasion, extend your sympathy or send wishes for a speedy recovery. It is a meaningful way to acknowledge friends or family and strengthen our Jewish community by contributing to the Annual Campaign.

A personalized tribute card will be sent to the honoree or bereaved on your behalf, reflecting a personal message if you wish.

In Memory of Dr. Richard Davis

May his memory be a blessing.

Jennifer & Glen Basner

In Memory of Robert "Willie" Wildonger

May his memory be for a blessing.

The Staff & Board of the Jewish Federation

Debbie Sanford & Lee Strauss & Family

Doreen Kostel & Jack Psiris

Rosalyn Shraiar

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& **informed.**



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HOW

THE JEWISH FEDERATION SERVES

Local Jewish Education and Culture

- Community-wide Jewish Education and Cultural Programs for all ages
- L'CHAYIM published monthly to keep the Jewish community informed about local, national and international Jewish issues.
- CRC-Community Relations Council to address issues of anti-Semitism and Interfaith Relations.
- Israel Advocacy and Initiatives to strengthen local Jewish community ties with Israel. Holocaust education for middle and high school students in the community and a college campus Jewish life experience committee.
- Volunteer opportunities for all ages.

Overseas

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

Jewish Community Foundation

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



Jewish Federation
of Lee & Charlotte Counties

Jewish Family
Services

Local Seniors Services

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

Local Social Services

- Non-sectarian, individual & family outreach, information & referral services.
- South Fort Myers United Way House.

Local Emergency Services

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

Education, Arts & Culture Programs

Israeli Folk Dancing
Jewish Social Club
Mah Jongg
Holiday Senior Visits
PJ Library
Federation Hits the Road-Day Trips

Holocaust Remembrance
Jewish Film Festival
Community Breakfast
Major Gifts-Pacesetters
Jewish Heritage Day

Lion of Judah
Women's Day
TRIBE
Annual Meeting
Men's Division
P2G Partnership Together

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Collier/Lee Hadassah announces fifth annual Inspiring Women honorees

Courtesy of Collier/Lee Chapter of Hadassah

Naples, Florida — Collier/Lee Hadassah announces and celebrates the 2026 Inspiring Women from Collier and Lee Counties. Jane Schiff, Sylvia Simko, and Rabbi Ariel Boxman will be honored on Sunday, March 15, 2026. Hadassah is proud to present each honoree with the Lynn Wilner Award named in recognition of the chapter's late past president who inspired so many to join and become active in Hadassah.

Through its programs, training and work around the globe, Hadassah empowers women to learn and lead in their career, volunteer and community leadership roles. With this emphasis in mind, the Collier/Lee Chapter of Hadassah has created the Inspiring Women event to recognize the importance, value and impact empowered women make in our communities. The honorees have used their leadership skills, dedication, experience, generosity and time to make a difference in their organizations and the quality of our lives. Ultimately, their efforts impact many people in our communities, and Hadassah is proud to honor these Inspiring Women.

"It's exciting to recognize Jane Schiff, Sylvia Simko and Rabbi Ariel Boxman not only for their individual accomplishments and their greater community impact," said Chapter Co-President, Nancy Wiadro. "Attendees and supporters of these Inspiring Women will have an opportunity to celebrate their talents, gifts and their passion for what they do."

Jane Schiff

Jane Schiff grew up in Columbus, Ohio, in a world with parents and grandparents who were financially successful and who taught and trained her that giving back, in concrete ways, financially and with time and energy, was essential to being Jewish. Being born the exact day that Israel was created, Schiff has felt very close to Israel throughout her life. While



Jane Schiff

building businesses in the professional beauty industry, tzedakah and Israel were always part of her DNA. When a family tragedy struck shortly before 9/11, Schiff decided to retire from business and dedicate all of her "work" time to giving back.

Throughout her life, Schiff served on many committees and Boards of various Jewish organizations. She was president of Temple Emanu-El in Dunwoody, Georgia, and she was on the Jewish Council of Public Affairs' Executive Committee. She also held positions on the Boards of the American Jewish Committee in Atlanta, Georgia; the National Board of Governors; the William Breman Jewish Heritage Museum in Atlanta, Georgia; Women's American ORT in Columbus, Ohio; and District 1 in Boston, Massachusetts.

While living in Atlanta from 1994 to 2013, Schiff's activities in the Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta included serving on the Board of Trustees, JCRC chair, partnership chair, and endowment distribution chair. In 1996, Schiff won the Gerald H. Cohen Community Development Award from Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta as the newcomer to Atlanta who made a significant difference. Schiff worked for a few years as a Jewish Federation of North America

solicitation trainer, working with small cities throughout the South.

Moving to Naples, Florida in 2013, Schiff jumped into our Federation in Naples immediately to meet like-minded people in the area and went on to serve as Board chair from 2017 to 2023. During her tenure as Board chair, a demographic study proved the need for a separate building for the Federation. She spearheaded the effort to raise the money and build the Nina Iser Jewish Cultural Center. She is currently the immediate past chair of Jewish Federation of Greater Naples.

Sylvia Simko

Sylvia Simko was born and raised in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where she spent much of her life. A true multitasker, she ran a thriving dental equipment and supplies business while raising two children of her own — and later, embracing three more from her blended family.

Throughout it all, Simko remained deeply involved in Jewish causes. Since its inception in 1972, she was the very first Lion of Judah in Argentina. Alongside her husband, Paul, a Holocaust survivor, she helped establish the Simko Chair in Breast Cancer Research and the Simko Audiovisual Center at Tel Aviv University. Her parents also made a meaningful contribution to the university, donating the Susi Lobstein Cafeteria in memory of their late daughter.

Simko served for over eight years as the president of Friends of Tel Aviv University in Argentina, where she inspired



Sylvia Simko

many local donors to support the university. Thanks to their generosity, several buildings came to life — the Somlarz Auditorium, the Grosskopf Hall, the Gitter-Smolarz Library, the Herceg Main Building, and many more.

After moving to the U.S., Sylvia and Paul settled in Fort Myers, Florida. There, she continued her active role in the Jewish community, serving as president of the local Hadassah chapter until it merged with the Naples branch. Sylvia is a life member of Hadassah as well as a Keeper of the Gate. Paul is also an associate member of Hadassah.

These days, Sylvia keeps busy with her involvement in organizations like the Jewish Federation (where she sits on the Board), FIDE, AIPAC, and CUFI. She has also written her memoirs in a

soon-to-be-published book titled "Le Dor va Dor."

Above all, she cherishes time spent with her five children and their spouses — who live across the globe — and especially with her fourteen beloved grandchildren.

Rabbi Ariel Boxman

Rabbi Ariel Boxman is the rabbi educator at Temple Shalom in Naples, Florida, where she directs and develops all educational programs for the congregation. In addition, she serves as one of



Rabbi Ariel Boxman

the spiritual leaders of the congregation officiating at lifecycle events and leading Shabbat and holiday worship services.

Boxman grew up in the Caribbean and is the daughter of Rabbi Bradd Boxman, a Reform rabbi in Parkland, Florida. Ariel's passion for Israel, Israeli culture, and Hebrew is demonstrated by her numerous trips to Israel, including her participation in two study-abroad programs: Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 2005 and the NIFTY-Eisendrath International Exchange in 2002.

She graduated from American University in Washington, D.C., with a major in International Relations and a minor in Israel Studies. With a passion for Jewish leadership, pastoral care and education, she continued her studies at the Hebrew Union College and was ordained as a rabbi in 2012. Following ordination, she enrolled in a Master's of Jewish Education program and earned her degree as a Jewish Educator. She lived in Dallas, Texas, for six years serving as rabbi educator in the local Temple Shalom. She currently lives in Naples, Florida, with her husband, Asher, and their two boys, Jacob (8) and Matan (6).

Save the Date

Join us to celebrate our honorees' accomplishments and support Hadassah's new Gandel Rehabilitation Center, Mount Scopus, Jerusalem.

You are invited to mark your calendar for the March 15, 2026, event — a Luncheon from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at lovely country club in Naples. Those who register to attend will receive further information and directions.

For information and to receive an invitation, please email clhChapter@gmail.com. Be sure to enter "Inspiring Women 2026" in the subject line. 🌐

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At the Holocaust Museum

By Erin Blankenship, Holocaust Museum & Cohen Education Center President & CEO

It has been a busy time at the Museum this fall. Student Education and Community Outreach Programs are being implemented in 10 counties across Florida. We recently hosted a school field trip for students from North Port High School in Sarasota County. The students were taking a Holocaust History elective class led by teacher Zachary Ward. They were very engaged, both during survivor Rob Nossen’s presentation and during the Museum tour led by Docent Stuart Mest, M.D.

We have worked with Ward for several years, and he is a wonderful advocate for Holocaust education. He participated in last year’s Museum Educator Trip to



■ Erin Blankenship

Washington, D.C. and will attend our upcoming Luncheon event to share the impact of Museum visits on his students over the years.

Upcoming November programs and events

Join us for a Gallery Talk and

wine and cheese reception with artist Bill Farnsworth on Monday, Nov. 3, at 5 p.m. His original paintings — created to illustrate the children’s book, “Irena Sendler and the Children of the Warsaw Ghetto” — are currently on display in the exhibition, “Painting Irena



New PopUp Museum

The annual Kristallnacht Community Commemoration event will take place at Temple Shalom in Naples on Sunday, Nov. 9, 2:30 p.m. The event is sponsored by the Catholic-Jewish Dialogue of Collier County in partnership with JCRC, Jewish Federation of Greater Naples, the Diocese of Venice, Florida, GenShoah of SWFL, and the Museum. RVSP is required at jewishnaples.org

Author Andrew A. Dahl will discuss his book, “Finding Rose: The Search for My Grandmother,” at the Nina Iser Jewish Cultural Center on Monday, Nov. 10, 1 p.m. The book is a powerful exploration of family, memory, and Jewish identity. The program is presented in partnership with Jewish Federation of

Greater Naples, the Men’s Cultural Alliance, the Women’s Cultural Alliance, and the Museum. The program is free, but reservations are required at jewishnaples.org.

Katz Lecture Series

Elliot Katz will present his lecture series on Wednesdays in November and December, at the Nina Iser Jewish Cultural Center. The series is presented by Jewish Federation of Greater Naples and the Museum. The cost is \$25 per lecture, and registration is required to attend. RSVP at jewishnaples.org.

I hope to see you at the Museum, at our November programs, and at The Luncheon in December! 🕊



North Port students listening to Rob Nossen’s presentation

Washington, D.C. and will attend our upcoming Luncheon event to share the impact of Museum visits on his students over the years.

The Luncheon

We hope you’ll join us at The Luncheon winter fundraising event at the Vineyards Country Club on Wednesday, Dec. 3. Filmmaker and photographer Jillian Laub is our guest speaker. She is the creator of the Live2Tell project, a photo archive of more than 200 Holocaust survivor portraits designed to show the humanity behind the numbers of Holocaust victims, survivors, and their families. In February 2025, Gillian and her Live2Tell project were featured on CBS News Sunday Morning in a segment titled “Bearing Witness.”

The Luncheon tickets are \$200, and a variety of sponsorship packages are

Sendler’s Story” in the Estelle and Stuart Price Gallery at the Museum. Tickets are \$9 for the public, and admission is complimentary for Museum members. Reservations are required. To RSVP and purchase tickets, please visit hmcec.org.

The final “Movies That Matter” documentary film and panel discussion in the fall 2025 series will take place at the Museum on Thursday, Nov. 6, 2 p.m. The film, “Facing Fear,” shares the story of Matthew Boger, a gay 13-year-old who was viciously beaten by a group of neo-Nazis in 1980s Los Angeles. Years later, he had a chance meeting with Tim Zaal, a former skinhead. It wasn’t long after meeting that the two men realized that Zaal was involved in Boger’s assault. A panel discussion will follow the film screening. The program is free, but registration is required. Visit hmcec.org to RSVP.



Live2Tell Project Credit: Jillian Laub

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Upcoming GenShoah SWFL programs

By Ida Margolis and Shelley Lieb

Movies That Matter

Watch these three relevant documentaries from The Steve Brazina Memorial Film Series at the Holocaust Museum, followed by an expert panel discussion. All films are selected by the committee with Southwest Florida in mind. The showtime for each date is 2 p.m. and RSVP is required at hmcec.org.

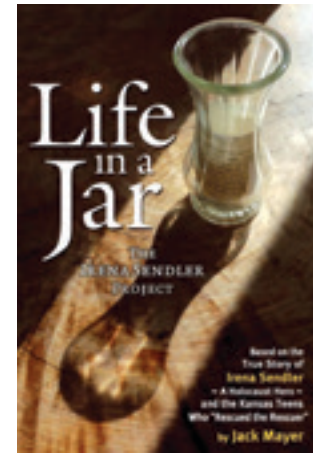
• Oct. 23 – "Free for All: The Public Library"

• Oct. 30 – "Change, Not Charity: The Americans with Disabilities Act"

• Nov. 6 – "Facing Fear," a journey of forgiveness and reconciliation.

GenShoah Readers & Learners

"Life in a Jar" by Jack Mayer is a powerful story of heroism during the Holocaust and its role in the lives of three high school students in Kansas. It is based on the true story of Irena Sendler, a Polish Catholic rescuer of Jewish children from the Warsaw Ghetto. Mayer weaves these



separate but connected stories and provides us with a unique lens into the Holocaust and its meaning and relevance in today's world.

The book discussion will be facilitated by 2G Estelle Kafer in coordination with the Irena Sendler illustrations exhibit at the Holocaust Museum & Cohen Education Center. Join us at the Museum on Wednesday, Nov. 19, 11 a.m. RSVP is required at hmcec.org.

Kristallnacht Commemoration

This solemn program from the Catholic Jewish Dialogue is coordinated to involve the diverse members of our community. A little history of the November pogrom that is considered the beginning of the Holocaust. A symbolic lighting of remembrance candles included. Join us at Temple Shalom on Sunday, Nov. 9, 2:30 p.m. RSVP is requested at jewishnaples.org.

Local Jewish History Film Festival 2025

Continuing in November

By Marina Berkovich, JHSSWF President

A discussion led by a local historian will follow each of the Southwest Florida Jewish Pioneers films. Attendance is free, but registration is required. Visit: jhsswf.org/upcoming-events.

Tuesday, Oct. 28, 5 p.m.

Film One: "Chief Plager" – After serving on the Miami-Dade police for nearly four decades, Richard Plager became the very first Jewish policeman on Sanibel Island and served as chief for a decade, bridging gaps of discord and misunderstanding through wisdom and strength of experience.

Film Two: "When Destiny Called" – Holocaust survivor Elena Rosner came to Marco Island as an investor and convinced its developer to dedicate one of the plots for the first and only Marco Island Jewish temple.

Tuesday, Nov. 4, 5-6 p.m.

"The Labodas of Fort Myers" – Dr. Gerald, his wife Sheila, and their parents and children made Southwest Florida their permanent home and contributed to its culture, development, wellness, governance, arts, including organizing the Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte Counties.

Wednesday, Nov. 12, 5-6 p.m.

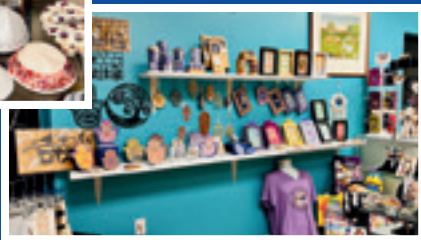
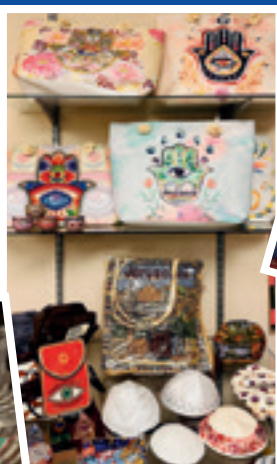
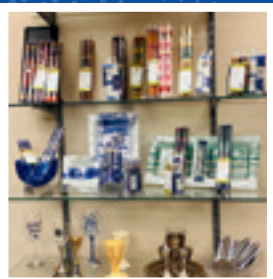
"Engineering the Future" – After doing similar work in South America, WWII veteran Irv Berzon helped plan Collier County's water preservation and other engineering fetes.

Tuesday, Nov. 18, 5-6 p.m.

"Irgang Road" – The premiere of a unique story filmed in an unconventional setting.

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Nar-Anon support meetings

By Joann Goldman

Nar-Anon Family Groups is a 12-step fellowship that offers a recovery program for those affected by someone’s addiction. In the group meetings, these family members and friends share their experiences, strengths and hopes to help each other and themselves.

Addiction is a family disease. It affects the relationships of those close to the addict: parents, spouses, siblings, children, longtime friends and employers. If someone’s addiction is affecting you, you must first help yourself. Just come to a meeting. Nar-Anon is based on a set of spiritual principles

and has no affiliation with any particular religion. You will hear others who are going through similar problems and talk about how they cope and find recovery. There are no dues or fees. The only requirement for membership is a problem of addiction in a relative or friend.

This group has been a part of the Lee County community for over 18 years. Meetings are held at 7 p.m. every Thursday at Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte Counties (9701 Commerce Center Court, Fort Myers). For more information, please contact me at jogo118@gmail.com or 239-470-4827.

Jews By Choice

The last Thursday of each month at 8 p.m. via Zoom

By Dawn Wineinger, Temple Beth El member and volunteer

Jews By Choice meets via Zoom on the last Thursday each month from 8 to 9 p.m. in a relaxed and comfortable format. Discuss the delights and challenges of converting and reconnecting. Recent converts, those exploring conversion, and Jews seeking to reconnect with their roots are encouraged to attend.

If you are considering the process of converting to Judaism, if you are in the conversion process, if you are rediscovering Judaism, if you have questions and/or need to talk with like-minded individuals in a friendly, non-judgmental atmosphere, we invite you to attend Jews By Choice. For more information contact me at d.wineinger@yahoo.com.

A Jewish 12-step recovery group

Every Saturday at 11 a.m. via Zoom

Courtesy of Temple Beth El

Are you looking for a path to recovery? Whether it is alcohol, drugs, and/or other addictions such as food, gambling, sex, shopping, etc., we invite you to experience this Jewish Twelve Steps program and discussion group. We meet Saturdays at 11 a.m. via Zoom, and we use a guidebook authored

by a rabbi and M.D. The guidebook is “Twelve Jewish Steps to Recovery” by Rabbi Kerry Olitzky and Stuart Copans, M.D., second edition. All who might benefit from this group are welcome. Zoom details are available by calling the Temple Beth El office at 239-433-0018.

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What to do when grandkids use bad language

Aging Jewishly — What our traditions teach us about growing old.

By Rabbi Barbara Aiello

"It happens every year." Hannah grimaced and shook her head while her colleague Rex nodded in agreement. Hanna and Rex, both volunteer teachers at their synagogue's afterschool program, lamented what many in their position have come to expect.

"We're in the first book of Torah, so that means we've got to deal with the 'Bereshit' issues," Rex said. "The jokes, the snickering, and the inappropriate use of the word that describes the first of the Five Books of Moses."

Hannah agreed. "But these days it's worse than that. I'm a bubby. I see my grandkids every week, sometimes more, and I'm worried. So many kids, including my own grandkids, curse, swear, and use foul language like we never did. I remember when my own grandmother washed out my brother's mouth with soap after he used that 'S-word.'" Rex



■ Rabbi Barbara Aiello

concurred. "Yeah, back in the day that's what they did. It was totally inappropriate."

Hannah sighed, "But what can we do when our grandkids' language has gone too far?"

Thousands of grandparents have asked this question, prompting dozens of websites to answer. In January 2025, professional Susan Hawthorne, the "Philosopher Grandmother,"

tackled the issue with an article on how grandparents can promote civil language.

Hawthorne began by telling on herself. She relates how in years past, when her now older grandchildren were toddlers, she laughed at her little one's "potty mouth" and how she used offensive and foul language to taunt an older sibling. Hawthorne says, "... I won't laugh anymore (OK, I'll try not to laugh anymore), and I will point out consistently that mean words can

hurt." Calling someone a "poopy head" is not cute and can be quite hurtful.

Writing for *The Jewish Chronicle*, columnist Lauren Libbert turned to Jewish ethics for insight into the problem of inappropriate and hurtful language (2017). She didn't have to look far.

Libbert writes that the Jewish perspective on cursing, known in Hebrew



as *Nivul Peh* (disgusting speech or "vulgarity of the mouth") is highlighted in the Gemara where we read that "because of the sin of cursing, great problems came to Israel; [while] another commentary calls it, 'the ultimate source of impurity,' reflecting the *Nefesh Habahamit* — the animalistic aspect of mankind."

What to do? Parenting Coach Amy McCready of the online site Positive Parenting Solutions shares her wisdom and experience via ten tips that parents and grandparents can employ to curb foul language.

It's not overstating the obvious that McCready's first tip admonishes the adults in the child's life to be aware of their own use of expletives, curses, and "dirty words," especially when angry or stressed. If foul language is prohibited in the home, the prohibition applies to everyone. McCready emphasizes that parents are their child's first role model. Grandparents often occupy an important close second.

Subsequent items on McCready's list include the admonition that adults not overreact to bad language, even when the expletives are particularly offensive. Over the top reactions that include

shouting and name-calling will serve to give the inappropriate word much more power than it deserves. Instead McCready advises that parents and grandparents emphasize clear and concise family values.

She writes, "Is your daughter's best friend's cousin allowed to drop an F-bomb whenever she feels like it?"

Be clear and concise with your child (or grandchild) about what kind of language is and is not allowed by setting clear expectations. Explain it to her simply. "I understand that you hear other kids use that word, but in this family, that kind of language is not allowed."

In addition, McCreary encourages proactivity on the part the adults in the child's life. That can

mean monitoring screen time, internet searches, and music — especially where the lyrics to popular songs can contain not only offensive language but negative concepts and attitudes, especially toward women and girls.

Turning to Rabbi Malcolm Herman, Libbert quotes from the rabbi's parenting classic, "Everyday Parenting for Everyday Parents," where he emphasizes that "language in Judaism is critical and is seen as a creative force that can build or destroy."

And to all the grandparents whose relationships with their grandchildren help shape their lives, Rabbi Herman says, "Boundaries create more space for love, and if you believe your child should face a consequence for speaking to you rudely, then by all means, go ahead. You are the life coach, and you know the best way for your child to learn."

Rabbi Barbara Aiello is Italy's first woman rabbi. She serves Sinagoga Ner Tamid del Sud in Calabria. She served the Aviva Campus for Senior Life in Sarasota, Florida as resident rabbi and is the author of "Aging Jewishly," available on Amazon. Contact her at Rabbi@RabbiBarbara.com. 🌐

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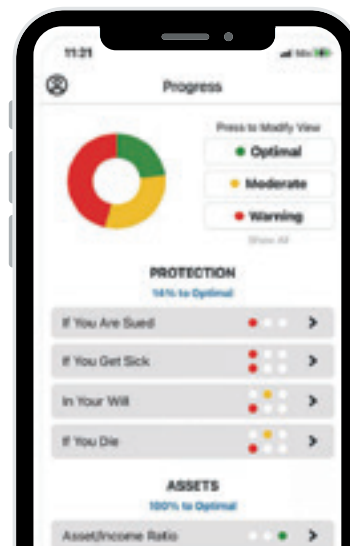
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Why they call it “Sea Smoke”

By Jerry Greenfield, the Wine Whisperer

Of all the wine grapes in the world, the hardest one to grow is pinot noir. It will thrive only in very specific types of soil and a very narrow range of climate conditions. You simply can’t grow it just anywhere. Lucky for the winemakers at Sea Smoke in California’s Sta. Rita Hills, because the fog that creeps in from the nearby Pacific Coast moderates the temperatures and moisture perfectly and provides ideal conditions for cultivating the finest pinot.

We first discovered Sea Smoke while watching the classic cult wine movie “Sideways.” The two couples in the film are having dinner at the Hitching Post restaurant in Buellton, California, which is just a few miles east of the Sea Smoke vineyards. One of the (many) bottles they opened at dinner was Sea Smoke Pinot Noir. It caught our attention, so we found some and have been enjoying it (and the chardonnay) ever since.

Founder Bob Davids acquired the land in the heart of Sta. Rita Hills north-east of Santa Barbara in 1999 because of its soil and what winemakers call a “microclimate.” Like most of California, the area gets tons of sunshine, but what’s special is that the south-facing slopes enjoy the wisps of marine fog that drift up the river canyon from the ocean. The coast is uniquely situated, running east-west instead of north-south. This topography acts as a kind of funnel, directing



■ Jerry Greenfield

the sea “smoke” into the vineyards where it cools the vines and helps the flavors and structural characteristics of the grapes to fully mature.

In addition, the very shallow clay soil reduces the vigor of the vines, causing them to struggle to ripen, making the juice richer and more profound.

The winery produces two pinot noirs, the “Southing,” named for the south-facing vineyards, and “Ten,” which is produced as a blend of ten pinot clones that are cultivated separately.

Winemaker Don Schroeder, who began his career in 2000, is lucky enough to have parents who planted a vineyard and established their own wine brand. He grew up in the vineyard and gained more experience as cellar master for Babcock Vineyards. Later, he moved up through the ranks to his current (and much coveted) position.

“I firmly believe in trusting the vineyard and applying a light touch,” he says. “The goal isn’t to taste what we did to the wine, it’s to show what the vineyard naturally gave us.” He concentrates on what happens after the grapes are harvested. “We focus our efforts during fermentation, allowing the wine to express our vineyard’s unique character with minimal additions beyond grapes, yeast, and high-quality French oak.”

Like most heritage winemakers, Schroeder cherishes the unique land where the grapes grow and come to life. So does the winery’s brand ambassador, Patton Penhallegon.

“The most important thing to understand is that Sea Smoke is truly all about place,” he maintains. “This is our special patch of dirt that produces some of the greatest pinot noir and chardonnay on earth. It is all about being good stewards



of the land through our holistic farming practices to grow the best fruit to make outstanding wine.” The winery is committed to sustainable and biodynamic farming practices.

And they do. To find out more about how to secure these delightful wines, visit seasmoke.com. To give you an idea of the pleasures that await, here are some tasting notes.

Sea Smoke Pinot Noir Southing 2022 (\$90) – In addition to the bright character of the fruit itself, the 16 months the wine spends in French oak barrels imparts clove and spice character to enhance the flavors of strawberry and dried fruit.

Sea Smoke Pinot Noir Ten 2022 (\$90) – This version is a bit more intense than the Southing with firmer tannins and more upfront blueberry and licorice flavors. Quite spicy, too; hazelnut and purple flower aromas. A long, very smooth finish.

Sea Smoke Chardonnay Sta. Rita Hills 2022 (\$85) – Crafted from the cherished Wente and Dijon clones, this is a classic chardonnay, offering peach, white fruit, and creamy lemon flavors. There’s a bit of orange too and slight nutty overtones that complement the rich fruit.

Ask the Wine Whisperer

Q: How many calories are in a glass of wine? – George F., Atlanta

A: In a standard five-ounce glass of wine, there are around 105 calories.

Jerry Greenfield is The Wine Whisperer — a wine author, educator and consultant. Order his books, “Secrets of the Wine Whisperer” and “Ask the Wine Whisperer,” available through his website or on Amazon. Read his other writings at www.winewhisperer.com



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Four new series, a “Wicked” special and “Wicked,” a movie sequel

Stars of David

By Nate Bloom, Stars of David Contributing Columnist

Editor’s Note: Persons in **bold** are deemed by Nate Bloom to be Jewish for the purpose of this column. Persons identified as Jewish have at least one Jewish parent and were not raised in, or identify with, a faith other than Judaism. Converts to Judaism, of course, are also identified as Jewish.

“I Love LA”

This HBO original comedy TV series premieres on Nov. 2. The first season is eight episodes. I venture to say that the five lead characters are supposed to be about 28 years old. As I write this, “they” haven’t released a lot of plot details. Here’s the “official” premise: “A codependent friend group reunites, navigating how the time apart, ambition, and new relationships have changed them.”

Rachel Sennott stars as Maza. Additionally, she created the series and wrote the first season’s scripts. Even though she isn’t Jewish, Sennott got her breakthrough role playing a directionless young bisexual Jewish woman in the well-received 2020 film “Shiva Baby.”

Two “I Love LA” characters are played by Jewish actors. **Odessa A’zion** plays Tallulah. A’zion is the daughter of actress **Pamela Segall Adlon**, 59 (“Better Things” star; and many other credits).

A’zion’s father is not Jewish, and her parents are long divorced. A’zion also has a big role in “Marty Supreme,” a comedy film that will open in December, starring **Timothee Chalamet** and **Gwyneth Paltrow**.

Jordan Firstman, 34, plays Charlie. He’s a comedy writer and actor. He really got noticed for his skits on Instagram called “Impressions” during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. He is openly gay and has worked with LGBTQ organizations. (My guess is that he will play a gay character in “I Love LA.”)

“It’s Her Fault”

On Nov. 6, this eight-episode mystery series will begin streaming on Peacock. The stars are Sarah Snook and Dakota Fanning. Here’s the premise: Marissa Irvine (Snook) arrives at a house to pick up her son, Milo, from a play date, but when she gets there, she can’t find him, sparking a parent’s nightmare.

Minkie Spiro, 54, coproduced the series and directed half of the episodes. She’s a respected British TV director. Her parents, **Robin Spiro** (now deceased) and **Nitza Spiro** (a Hebrew language teacher) founded Spiro Ark, an important adult school in London featuring many types of Jewish education.

“Death by Lightning”

Streaming on Netflix Nov. 6, this historical drama miniseries is based on the short presidency of James Garfield (March–July 1881) and his assassination on July 2. Most viewed Garfield as honest and smart, believing he would make a good president. However, a mentally ill man wanted a high-level government job and killed Garfield because Garfield and other administration officials turned him down.

This series was created by **Mike Makowsky**, 34. He’s best known for writing and directing “Bad Education,” an HBO original movie (2020) that won the Emmy for the best TV movie. It was based on the true story of a school superintendent and aides who stole millions of dollars from their district.

“PLUR1BUS”

This sci-fi drama, set in Albuquerque, begins streaming Nov. 7 on Apple TV+. Rhea Seehorn stars as Carol Sturka, an author who seems to be the only person immune to the effects of a new virus. The infected are perpetually content and optimistic!

Miriam Shor, 54, is described as a star in the series on IMDb, but as of writing this article, there aren’t any other sources about any characters except Carol. Shor’s father was Jewish, and she taught classes in the Detroit Workmen’s Circle (Jewish) School. She

has many theater, film, and TV credits (mostly short-lived series), but I can’t point to a credit most have watched.

“Wicked: for Good”

Opening in theaters on Nov. 21, “Wicked: for Good” is the sequel to the film “Wicked” that came out in 2024 and made \$750 million worldwide — an astonishing amount!

First, I have to tell you that a two-hour “Wicked: For Good” special event will air on NBC Nov. 6 and stream on Peacock the next day. The special event features Ariana Grande and Cynthia Erivo, the stars of the “Wicked” movies, who will host and sing.

The publicity promises that the two stars will be joined by “Wicked” costars and surprise guests.

Here’s the Jewish breakdown of the movie: the screenplay was cowritten by **Winnie Holzman**, 71. She also cowrote the first “Wicked” movie and the original Broadway show. **Stephen Schwartz**, 77, wrote the stage musical songs and cowrote the story of the original theater play; he also wrote new songs for the two films. **Jeff Goldblum**, 72, played the Wizard of Oz in both “Wicked” films; and **Ethan Slater**, 33, played Boq Woodsman in both “Wicked” films. I imagine Slater will be on the TV special as he and Grande have been “partnering” with each other since 2023. 



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Have you hugged your rabbi today?

By Brian Simon

The next time you see your spiritual leader, please give them a hug. The High Holidays have passed. Our sukkahs are down. We've started reading Genesis again. The Jewish year is entering its second month. Or its eight month, depending on your perspective, but that's another column. Anyway, it's been a month of back-to-back-to-back holiday responsibilities for our rabbis and cantors.

Rabbi David Arias of Temple Judea and Cantor Barry Butensky of Temple Beth Shalom both used the analogy of a wedding.

"You prepare for six months getting all the things ready," Cantor Butensky said. The planning part of it is significant, but is the climax Yom Kippur or Simchat Torah?"

"The most important part of a wedding is what happens after the wedding," Rabbi Arias said. "You start building a life together. There is beauty in routine that we sometimes miss because we are trying to achieve those high climaxes, those highlights. We should also see routine itself and life itself as an achievement."

In Southwest Florida, the end of the High Holidays season happens to coincide with the beginning of "season" season, when our snowbirds begin



■ Brian Simon

returning from up north and more things are happening in the community.

"There's this sense of 'Phew!' but we're a very busy congregation and it doesn't slow down," said Rabbi Nicole Luna of Temple Beth El. "It is still really busy, and then I wonder, 'How did I even do the High Holidays?'"

For spiritual leaders, the High Holidays are about being judged on two levels — personally by God and professionally by congregants. They're aware that many of the congregants may form opinions based on High Holidays services, but, ironically, it's the focus on their congregants that allows them to push past the concern of being judged.

"It's not so much about feeling judged," Rabbi Luna told me. "It's that the whole purpose of my writing and my preaching is what the community needs. What's on the heart of my people? How can I make sure that what I'm preaching on is matching what they need to hear in this particular time and place?"

"There are different kinds of judgments," Rabbi Arias said. "There's that verse in the Torah, 'Do what is right and good in the sight of God ...' The common interpretation is whatever you're doing only God knows what is good or bad, but what is correct and right is in the

eyes of other people. I hope I'm doing the correct thing in the eyes of people and the good thing in the eyes of God."

"I've been an accountant all my life. Every week you close the books," said Cantor Butensky. "It's all about the preparation and what goes into it and the people and the end result. Did you accomplish for that service what you set out to accomplish for that High Holidays season? I'm very tough on myself. I want to make sure it was a meaningful experience for them."

There's an old joke about two Jewish men boasting, and the punchline is, "Our *shul* is so *frum* that we're closed for the

to the congregation. I look forward to that. I don't get as much satisfaction from that as from the *davening*, but it's the whole picture."

Rabbi Arias started singing in his synagogue choir before he had his bar mitzvah. He was leading services as a teenager. "From a very young age, I started doing things for the High Holidays. I've been in different congregations for many years. I really like it."

Rabbi Luna recognizes that her experience of High Holidays has had to change since she became a rabbi.

"I love liturgy. Each piece of liturgy is so powerful. If you just sit with one piece of liturgy and don't listen to the rest of the service, getting lost in yourself, that doesn't bother me. I'm not concerned if they're not turning to page 326 when I say, but I cannot do that. Once I get up there everything is set. I don't have the flexibility to stay and reflect on one word or one prayer. To get lost in the *mahzor*, there's something really beautiful about that."

The month following the High Holidays is called Cheshvan. It has no holidays. Our spiritual leaders can use the break. And a hug. But Rabbi Arias hopes that the community takes one more lesson from the High Holidays about the next eleven months.

"I would love that people would honor and respect that they have another year to live. We sometimes miss the point which is we are being inscribed in the Book of Life and given the opportunity to live one more year. We should be grateful." 

For spiritual leaders, the High Holidays are about being judged on two levels — personally by God and professionally by congregants.

High Holidays." The irony of being a rabbi or cantor is that you (kind of) work on the High Holidays, so it has to be meaningful in a different way.

"For me, Yom Kippur is special," Cantor Butensky said. "Yom Kippur is something that I've always looked forward to — the solemnness, the *nusach*. I'm very traditional in my prayers, in my *davening*. Plus, I'm able to do sermons

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Hadassah happenings

By Nancy Wiadro, Co-President Collier/Lee Chapter of Hadassah

Hadassah’s life changing work has attracted many new members over the summer months. Our membership team will resume new and prospective member gatherings in Naples, Bonita, Estero and Fort Myers. If you are new to any of these communities, kindly email clhchapter@gmail.com so we can personally greet you.



Nancy Wiadro,
President's Council for
Collier/Lee Chapter

Sunday, Dec. 14

Our 36th Annual Major Donor and Keepers of the Gate Recognition Brunch will be held at Schiff Hall, Naples, on Sunday, Dec. 14. Special guest speaker, National President of Hadassah Carol Ann Schwartz, will bring the latest information on Hadassah’s life-affirming work.

Hadassah associates and all members are welcome. Registration for the brunch will appear in our e-blasts to members.

Monday, Nov. 17

The Collier/Lee Chapter of Hadassah welcomes back our seasonal members with the Fall Luncheon Meeting and Election of 2026 officers on Monday, Nov. 17. Courtesy of Israel Bonds, a former Miss Israel will be our special guest speaker. There will be an artisan vendor’s showcase for holiday gift giving as well.

To register for this (or any other programs), email clhchapter@gmail.com and put “Information” in the subject line. **Please note that there will be extra security at all events, and you must register in advance (by Nov. 10) to be admitted.**

Monday, Dec. 15

Join the Jewish Community Hanukah Celebration at Mercado, on Monday, Dec. 25, 5-6 p.m. Be sure to stop by Hadassah’s table for some chocolate gelt!

Thursday, Jan. 8, 2026

The 2026 Installation of Officers and catered luncheon will be held on Thursday, Jan. 8, 2026, at the Nina Iser Jewish Cultural Center. National Hadassah Medical Organization Chair Dr. Judith Mann will be the guest speaker.

Sunday, March 15, 2026

The Chapter will honor three Inspiring



Carol Ann Schwartz

Women at the Audubon Country Club in North Naples on Sunday, March 15, 2026. Rabbi Ariel Boxman, Jane Schiff and Sylvia Simko will be recognized for their outstanding community work, and net proceeds will benefit Hadassah’s Gandel Rehabilitation Center.

Charitable giving

Since Oct. 7, 2024, Hadassah’s resources

have been deployed where tragedy continues to occur. Youth at Risk, teens housed at Youth Aliyah Villages in Israel, were traumatized by the shelling near their villages and receive special counseling programs provided by Hadassah.

In Jerusalem, Hadassah Hospital patients are accommodated deep underground in a new Intensive Care Unit — safe from conventional, biological, and chemical attack. And six new operating theaters at the Round Building must be equipped with the necessary orthopedic high-tech instruments that can best treat victims of modern warfare.

When you are considering your year-end philanthropic giving, please think of Hadassah and how meaningful a gift of any amount will be. Donations may be mailed to:

Hadassah
6017 Pine Ridge Rd., Suite 319
Naples, FL 34119

As we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving, let us pause to give thanks for those who came before us and to express gratitude to those leading us into 2026.

Hadassah: Together we will heal! 



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GENERATIONS OF THE SHOAH SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

genshoah@hmcec.org

Holocaust museums and human rights

By Ida Margolis and Shelley Lieb

There is currently a discussion among interested parties about whether a Holocaust museum should be about the Holocaust only or if it should also be an impetus for increased awareness of human rights. It is important to note that in 1948 the United Nations General Assembly declared — for the first time — that fundamental human rights be universally protected (resolution 217 A). For more information, visit un.org/en/global-issues/human-rights.

Worldwide, there are hundreds of Holocaust museums, memorials, and institutions that vary in size and mission. With a focus on human rights in today's context, here is some information about a few Holocaust museums or memorials, with attention to their mission and possible change over time.



Ida Margolis and Shelley Lieb

"Yad Vashem promotes human rights by linking Holocaust events to universal ethical values, countering ideologies that led to the Holocaust, and educating the public on the importance of human dignity and individual responsibility." (yadvashem.org)

Education Center originated as a middle school Holocaust project and opened as a museum in 2001. It recognizes the Holocaust at its core but connects its lessons to human rights.

"Teach the lessons of the Holocaust to inspire action against hatred and to promote mutual respect." (hmcec.org/about/our-mission/)

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Opened to the public in 1993, the

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum was the result of President Jimmy Carter's Commission on the Holocaust and was chaired by Elie Wiesel. Wiesel's appointment was key to connecting the Holocaust and human rights. Wiesel was driven by his Holocaust experience to combat indifference and oppression worldwide.

For more information, visit encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/elie-wiesel.



United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

largest Holocaust Museum in the U.S. is the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

Its stated mission is, "To advance and disseminate knowledge about this unprecedented tragedy; to preserve the memory of those who suffered; and to encourage its visitors to reflect upon the questions raised by

the events of the Holocaust, as well as their own responsibilities as citizens of a democracy." (ushmm.org/information/about-the-museum/mission-and-history)

Education and awareness for the future

Understanding the history, the background, and the factors at play — and connecting them to human rights before, during, and after the Holocaust — can help us better recognize the likelihood of another Holocaust and, if possible, prevent it from happening again.

For more information about Holocaust museums and other topics, read the November GenShoah newsletter, available to all members or to anyone interested in our mission.

The first section in the mission statement of GenShoah SWFL is "promotion of Holocaust education and human rights."

For information about GenShoah and its programs email genshoahswfl@hmcec.org.



Ghetto Fighters' House

Ghetto Fighters' House

Founded in 1949, the world's first Holocaust museum was Israel's Ghetto Fighters' House, started by survivors of the ghettos and WWII. Its purpose was to document Jewish life before and during the Holocaust, focusing on Jewish resistance.

In 1995, the Center for Humanistic Education was established as part of this museum to provide educational activities to study the Holocaust as a historical crisis that calls for engagement with social and human dilemmas of a universal nature.

Visit humanisticeducation.org.il for more information.

Yad Vashem

Also in Israel, Yad Vashem was established in 1953 by an act of the Knesset. Its purpose was to commemorate the Jewish people who were victims of the Holocaust, honor their heroes, and to collect and disseminate information about this period.

Holocaust Museum LA

Founded in 1961, Holocaust Museum LA is the first Holocaust museum and memorial in the United States established by Holocaust survivors.

"To commemorate those who perished, honor survivors, educate about the Holocaust, and inspire a more humane world." (holocaustmuseumla.org/mission-and-history)

Holocaust Museum & Cohen Education Center

Locally, the Holocaust Museum & Cohen



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



Jewish Federation
of Lee & Charlotte Counties

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

Send an email to
debbiesanford@jfedlcc.org

CHAVURAT SHALOM OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

chavuratshalom@gmail.com

What does November bring?

By Cheryl Fulmer, Ellen Feingold and Marcia Rudin

November is a quiet month for Jewish festivals. Of course, American Jews generally celebrate Thanksgiving, not a uniquely Jewish holiday, even though it may be derived from our holiday of Sukkot. The story of the welcome extended by the native peoples to the invading Europeans is the primary narrative. So, what does November offer Jews?

It offers us the respite from those September and October holidays that took up so much of our time, energy, and focus, allowing us precious moments we can spend on learning Torah. And what wonderful Torah portions we have in November! We find ourselves smack in the middle of the Book of Genesis. November brings us Abraham and Sarah; then, Isaac and Rebecca; followed by Jacob, Leah, Rachel, and their 12 sons. What a feast! What drama! It is all about human relationships and dysfunctional families.

Days to remember

November is also a serious month. Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 4. This year is not a presidential election year, but every election is important for the health and welfare of our communities. It is vital that all eligible individuals exercise the privilege of voting.

Kristallnacht (Night of Broken Glass) remembrance is Sunday, Nov. 9. It is considered a major event that foretold what the Nazis had planned and were capable of implementing. It is important to know what happened to the Jews in Germany in 1938 so that it never happens again.

Veterans Day is Tuesday, Nov. 11. We must remember all the men and women who served the U.S. in the military during all its wars, near and far.

Thursday, Nov. 27 is Thanksgiving — a day to share with family and friends, and a day to acknowledge all things big and small that we appreciate and that make our lives a blessing.

Contributions

Chavurat Shalom members have the opportunity to show their thankfulness by making a donation to the Tzedakah Committee.

If you wish to contribute, send your check payable to:

Chavurat Shalom of SWFL
P.O. Box 722
Sanibel, FL 33957

Please mark “Tzedakah” on the memo line.

The focus of this year’s Tzedakah drive is on the fight against antisemitism, especially on college campuses

and to fight against food insecurity and poverty in our communities, including Israel. In this manner we contribute to “Tikun Olam” as best we can.

Since Chavurat Shalom is a qualified 501(c)(3) organization, please consider the option of using your RMD (required minimum distribution) funds to make a charitable donation.

We thank Tzedakah Committee Chair Dr. Ellen Feingold and her committee members for their efforts and our members for their donations.

Upcoming services and events

November means Chavurat Shalom’s Tuesday programming begins anew.

On the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m., we will enjoy our informal “Schmooze” session hosted by Marcia Rudin. The discussion is far ranging and very social.

On the second Tuesday of the month, Dr. Ellen Feingold will lead “Torah Talk” at 7:30 p.m. where we will study the Parsha of the week together.

The third Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. is “Leonard Minsky Current Events” organized by Dr. Don Bachman. If you are

interested in leading a Jewish Current Events session, please contact Don at dbachmanmd@yahoo.com.

The fourth Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. is set aside for the lecture and discussion series coordinated by Irene Skolnick and Barry Fulmer

Of course, our Friday night Shabbat services continue every week throughout the year at 7:30 p.m. Services are

led by Chavurat Shalom members, with English readings, Hebrew and English singing, and Torah reading with commentary by a thoughtful member. The weekly Shabbat services are coordinated by Drs.

Ellen Feingold and Kathy Zoss and include all volunteer participants.

All Chavurat Shalom activities are held via Zoom, with in-person gatherings planned occasionally. All are welcome to attend our activities.

Check our website chavuratshalomofsouthwestflorida.org or email chavuratshalom@gmail.com to get further information and to obtain the schedules. 



Thanksgiving Day ISLAND WAY



FINE DINING

Celebrate Thanksgiving at JWB Grill with an elevated take on classic holiday dishes, all served in an elegant oceanfront setting.

Reservations Recommended
Visit: qrco.de/thanksjwb



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Relax and enjoy a laid-back Thanksgiving feast, featuring all the traditional favorites with some fun tropical twists.

ADULTS: \$65 | AGES 6-12: \$24
Reservations Required
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JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA (833) 547-7935

Fourth Annual Local Jewish History Film Festival

Sponsored by Rosalee and Jerry Bogo

By Marina Berkovich, JHSSWF President

On Sept. 14, we gave a presentation of Time-lines of Southwest Florida Jewish History to the JCC of the Valencia Bonita community, which drew a crowd of 50 residents. We are always happy to take our presentations on the road and bring them to your community.

Together with Jewish-Russian Cultural Alliance, JHSSWF presented "Antisemitism: From Babi Yar to Our Backyards" on Sept. 29. This event commemorated the anniversary of the Babi Yar Massacre in Kiev, USSR (now Kyiv, Ukraine), that was perpetrated by Nazi occupiers and their Ukrainian collaborators from Sept. 29 to Sept. 30, 1941. There are many significant parallels between that event and all subsequent acts of violent antisemitism that include other mass murders, non-existent or meek media coverage, and absence of worldwide public outrage or condemnation.

Jews are still less than 2% of the planet's humans. Yet, we continue to be the most targeted ethnic and religious group. Antisemitism is an unending story of our people. Rebranding it into anti-Zionism or Jew-hatred to suit the changing times and politicized opinions will not alter its impact on history and safety of our people, or the mental health of our future generations. Yet, educating them differently may.

We know that after the Holocaust, the survivors, en masse, preferred not to discuss their experiences with their children. In Israel, studying the Holocaust was not in the educational curriculum, except as it involved specific acts

of heroism. That may have led to a generation or two of fearless Jews; however, every Holocaust survivor is a hero.

Similarly, every Soviet Jew grew up without any permissible references to anything Jewish in the surrounding culture, resulting in adaptation or resistance to

complete discrimination. The result was ultimate rebellion, immigration to destinations like Israel and the U.S., emancipation through Jewish education, and the return to more traditional and orthodox Judaism.

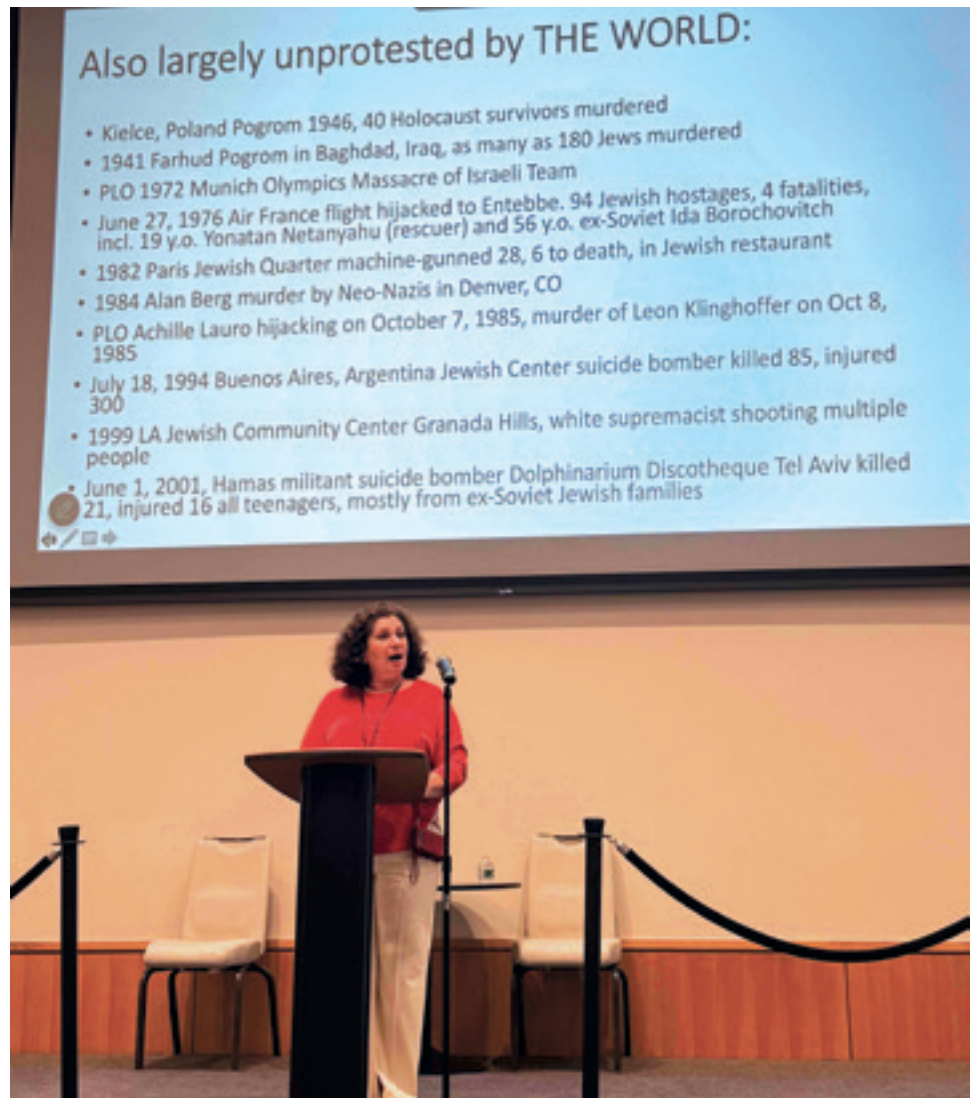
Every survivor of Oct. 7, 2023, is a hero, whether they think themselves so or not. And in a sense, each of us is an Oct. 7 survivor. The worldwide fear of escalating antisemitism is once again pulling the younger generations away from their roots, continuing the ancient pattern of persecution and migration. Is emulating young Israelis and gearing up for a standoff our responsibility? We think, yes. And we think being armed with historical facts is imperative.

We are submitting this article on Oct. 7, 2025 — two full years since the massacre. The fate of living hostages still hangs by a thin thread, and much uncertainty surrounds the current phase of negotiations on this Sukkot. History teaches us that we succeed only through unified strength.

We are proud to partake in establishing the historical base for our present and future Jewish community and to hold an Annual Local Jewish History Film Festival, comprising of documentary films produced by The Jewish Historical



Marina Berkovich



Antisemitism: From Babi Yar to Our Backyards



JHSSWF Alexander Goldstein and Leonid Katsman

Marcia Can Help

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

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

Help us meet these pressing needs by contributing to the **MARCIA CAN HELP** fund.

For further information please contact Debbie Sanford at (239) 481-4449 ext. 6 or debbiesanford@jfedlcc.org

Society of SWFL from the eyewitness interviews we conduct.

To date, there are 26 such films in existence, and each year we bring five or six of them to you during a month-long festival hosted at the Nina Iser Jewish Cultural Center. Each film is a brief encounter with the wonderful, resilient individuals who had the fortitude to come to the Southwest Florida region during a time when the Jewish people were unwelcomed and chased out, Jewish community was but a distant dream, and even most of the practical conveniences, including infrastructure, were at their infancy. They formed small, close-knit communities of like-minded people, hired rabbis or led the services as lay people; they invested in their own and developed outreach to educate the community at large about the Jewish people.

There are three dates during November's Fourth Annual Local Jewish History

Film Festival. Look for all details in the events section. Attendance is free thanks to the generosity of Rosalee and Jerry Bogo, location sponsor at Jewish Federation of Greater Naples.

Please accept our profuse apology for the inadvertent misprint of our telephone number in the past issues of this publication. Our correct telephone number is and always was 833-347-7935 (833-JHS-SWFL).

Direct all correspondence, including contributions and renewals, to:

The Jewish Historical Society of Southwest Florida

PO Box #10075, Naples, FL 34101

Call 833-347-7935 or visit jhsswf.org for additional information.

The Jewish Historical Society of Southwest Florida is a section 501(c) 3 charitable organization. Contributions are deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. ☺

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

Jewish War Veterans

Victor Paul Tuchman Post 400

By Eryka Aptaker

While an article has not been submitted in a while, please know that Jewish War Veterans have been quite active. Listed below are some highlights of what we've been up to.

Vaughn's speech was both educational and heartfelt. He shared that, as a black male, he has experienced a lifetime of judgement and prejudice because of the color of his skin. He was quite empathetic in the struggles and challenges of the

undoubtedly familiar with this man, I feel the need to share a partial biography. Hilliard's accomplishments go far and wide. For starters, he too has attained the age of 100. I feel very blessed to have been invited to his birthday celebration!

Hilliard walked us through part of his journey in WWII, from learning about the end of the war to liberation of a concentration camp and his role in raising awareness in the U.S. in an effort to get the appropriate food and supplies for the survivors. He is such an accomplished man; if more people had his passion and inclination to help other human beings, I think the world would be a better place.



Group dinner outing at KJ's Steakhouse

Dinner outing

We had an outing with the entire group, including spouses, where a wonderful dinner was enjoyed at KJ's Steakhouse in Fort Myers.

Lt. Angelo Vaughn, guest speaker

At our June meeting, Lt. Angelo Vaughn was our guest speaker. Vaughn is a United States Marine Corps veteran and a lieutenant at Lee County Sheriff's Office in the Community Response Unit.



Guest speaker
Lt. Angelo Vaughn

Jewish population. He additionally shared what LCSO continues to do in the community and how they are always willing to be there, in an effort to protect members of the Jewish community.

100th birthday party

Going back several months, we celebrated the 100th birthday of our last living WWII veteran, Hy Tuchman. That's quite a milestone!

Robert Hilliard, guest speaker

Bringing us back to the present, our most recent meeting was held the end of September. It was an honor to have Robert Hilliard as our guest speaker. Commander Harvey Charter made him an honorary member of our JWV post. While many of you are



WWII veteran Hy Tuchman's
100th birthday celebration

Philanthropy in action

I want to revisit our more recent project. For those who are consistent readers of L'Chayim, I previously mentioned that JWV Post 400, in a joint effort with Temple Beth El's Israel Committee, are raising funds for the soldiers currently fighting in the IDF. Also previously mentioned, our commander's son, Motti, is currently serving, and they are in great need of helmets.

Each helmet costs \$500 and, thus far, we have raised enough funds to support some of the soldiers but, sadly, still not enough to reach as many as we would like. Every penny raised in the IDF Helmet Fund goes into the purchase of more helmets. They are also in great need of ceramic vests which need funding as well.

We want to thank our recent sponsors for their generosity. For those who have not sponsored, please consider helping these brave men and women. To contribute, please make your check payable to "Jewish War Veterans Post 400," write "IDF Helmet Fund" on the memo line, and mail to:

Harvey Charter
11024 Lakeland Circle
Fort Myers, FL 33913



Join us

As always in these articles, we ask that you consider joining this amazing and dedicated group. Come join us as we enjoy bagels and cream cheese along with great conversation.

Founded in 1896, Jewish War Veterans is the oldest continuing veterans organization in America. We are challenged in the pursuit of new members to keep our organization alive. With the loss of many of our WWII veterans and older members, we strive to have members of our younger generations join and show support to JWV.

We have a Patron membership for nonveterans. If your family members were veterans, consider honoring them by joining JWV Post 400. I joined to honor the memory of my father, a Korean War veteran. It was the best decision I ever made. This group has been a blessing in my life, and some of the members have become like family to me. You will be a part of a very dedicated, committed, and welcoming group of individuals.

We hope to see you at our future meetings! 🕊️

Candle lighting times:

Nov 7: 5:23 p.m.

Nov 14: 5:19 p.m.

Nov 21: 5:17 p.m.

Nov 28: 5:16 p.m.



WWII veteran Robert Hilliard
as guest speaker

He received his PhD from Columbia University. He fought in WWII — Battle of the Bulge — and received a Purple Heart. He was a concentration camp liberator. He was (and continues to be) an active voice in the community.

TEMPLE BETH EL RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Fort Myers

Allison Fego, Religious School Coordinator

Each week, our students continue their journey of Jewish learning and reflection through a blend of prayer, values, and Hebrew study. Each lesson offers a chance to connect with the High Holiday season, personal growth, and the beauty of the Hebrew language.

Understanding *S'lichah*, the power of forgiveness

As we went through the High Holy Day season, students explored the meaning of *S'lichah*, forgiveness. We discussed how saying “I’m sorry” and forgiving others helps heal relationships and brings peace to our hearts. Through stories and role-playing, students practiced recognizing mistakes, taking responsibility, and making amends.

They learned that forgiveness is not only about others, but also about showing kindness to ourselves when we fall short. Some of our classes focused on the three steps of a good apology: recognizing our mistakes, apologizing, and taking clear steps to make things better. They formed groups of three to come up with and perform skits where we would need to practice apologizing.

Living *B'Tzelem Elohim*, in the image of God

Our value focus was *B'Tzelem Elohim*, the belief that every person is created in the image of G-d. Students reflected on what it means to treat everyone

with respect and dignity, regardless of differences. In small groups, they shared examples of how they can honor this value at school, at home, and in our community — through acts of kindness, inclusion, and empathy.

The discussions reminded us that every person reflects a spark of the Divine. In one of our classes, they discussed



Older students prep for Neilah services in white to conclude Yom Kippur services



Religious School students perform at Rosh Hashanah morning services

what it means to be created in the image of G-d — *B'tzelem Elohim* בְּצֶלֶם אֱלֹהִים. We started with the following questions:

- What types of things can humans do to reflect G-d's image?
- Why do you think G-d created humans in G-d's image?
- Who do you think G-d is referring to when G-d says, “Let us make humans in our image”?

Hebrew spotlight

In Hebrew class, students learned three new letters: *Yod* (י); *Shin* (שׁ); and *Mem* (מ). They practiced recognizing each letter in print and script, saying their sounds, and identifying words that begin with them, such as *Yisrael* (Israel), *Shalom* (peace), and *Mayim* (water). Students enjoyed playing letter-matching games and tracing each shape to strengthen their reading skills. We are building confidence and joy in decoding Hebrew, one letter at a time!

Reflection and connection

Each activity tied together the themes of forgiveness, respect, and learning. Just as we seek *S'lichah* from others and honor the Divine image in each person, our Hebrew studies remind us that every letter — like every person — has meaning and purpose in the greater whole.

Looking back

The High Holidays at Religious School were amazing. Our students worked hard on their songs and performed beautifully during Rosh Hashanah and Neilah services with Cantor Marshall Portnoy.

Things were busy as we also celebrated our new students being consecrated into Religious School formally by receiving their certificates and their own mini-Torahs.

We also celebrated the story of Noah and the Ark by having our Pet Blessing Day. Our congregants and students got to show off their family pets and were given a special blessing by Rabbi Luna.

If you are interested in joining our fabulous school, please contact Religious School Coordinator Allison Fego at religiousschool@templebethel.com. 



Jewish Federation
of Lee & Charlotte Counties

JOSEPH HOROWITZ Israel Travel Grant



Is available

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



Our Hope

is that this program 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



JewishFederationlcc.org/scholarships



Students in white for Neilah

TEMPLE JUDEA RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
Fort Myers
Tehila Cherubino, Director of Education

Our Religious School is growing and blossoming! The holiday season was both busy and joyful. We welcomed many children to our High Holiday programs and had an incredible turnout at our Sukkot celebration, where families built edible sukkot, sang songs, shook the *lulav*, and enjoyed dinner together.



Our *Shabbat B'kef* program — held once a month on Friday evenings — has also been a big success. Each gathering features a story, songs, crafts, and a themed activity that connects to the lesson of the night. It's a wonderful way for families to come together and celebrate Shabbat in a fun and meaningful way. Now that the holidays are behind us, our enthusiastic teachers and students are diving into their studies



— strengthening Hebrew reading skills, learning Torah and prayers, exploring Israel, and discovering what it means to live Jewishly every day.

I am so proud of our students and teachers. I look forward to all the learning, joy, and growth that the months ahead will bring to our Temple Judea community. 

1st Annual Community
Menorah Lighting

Join us
for a family-fun event featuring
shopping, a Menorah lighting,
and community prayer.
All Are Welcome!

December 18, 2025 - 6 P.M.

Bell Tower Shops
13499 Bell Tower Dr. | Fort Myers



More info contact Amy Hallock at 239.481.4449 ext. 2 or Events@jfedlcc.org





TEMPLE JUDEA PRESCHOOL

Fort Myers

Suki Kelly, Preschool Director

October's Trunk or Treat was such a success — thank you to everyone who participated! The children had a wonderful time, and it was a joyful way to celebrate together. Special thank you to the Lee County Sheriff's Office for participating with the beloved Ice Cream Response Unit!

November is an exciting month at Temple Judea Preschool, filled with special events, learning, and celebrations!

We are looking forward to our Annual Auction on Friday, Nov. 8. This event is one of our biggest fundraisers of the year, and we are grateful for the continued

support of our school community. If you would like to sponsor the event, please visit our website at templejudeapreschool.org and click on "Sponsorships." Your generosity makes a lasting impact on our programs and helps us provide the very best for our children.

As we move into the month of November, we will be talking about being thankful and what it means. It's a wonderful way to help the children develop empathy, kindness, and appreciation. We will be doing lots of hands-on projects that connect their daily experiences to being thankful.

We are especially excited about our pre-K Thanksgiving play, where our oldest children will shine on stage. Our play focuses on enhancing the children's listening skills by playing an instrument when the children hear their cue. This way, families do not stress about having to memorize lines or practicing at home. All of the children will also come together for a special Thanksgiving pizza lunch in the social hall and enjoy making fun seasonal crafts throughout the month.

Looking ahead

Our Winter Festival is right around the corner in December! The children are already beginning to practice festive winter and holiday songs to share with their families. We can't wait to celebrate together as a school family.

That same week, we will also host

our Scholastic Book Fair. We are working toward a very special goal this year: purchasing a reading nook for all classrooms using the points we accumulate. We can't wait to give our children an inspiring and cozy new space to foster their love of reading.

Our infant room and transitional rooms are thriving! The "big kids" love to walk past the babies and wave. They've learned to be very quiet when the babies are napping.

Our preschool is filling up with sweet faces of all ages. We only have a couple of spots available for the upcoming months. Please be sure to contact the preschool if you are interested in any of our programs at templejudeapreschool@gmail.com. 📞

What's the next Jewish holiday?

By Rabbi David Arias

The story goes that the second month of the Jewish calendar, Heshvan, is sometimes called Marheshvan, because it is a "Mar" month, a "bitter" month. Why? Because it apparently doesn't have any festivals. "Mar" in Hebrew means "bitter," like the "Maror" bitter herbs we eat on Passover. That's the legend. However, there are two reasons why this is not accurate.

The first point is that the name of the month originated during the Babylonian exile, as are all of the names of the Hebrew calendar. It seems the original name was Warhu-Shamnu (similar to Marheshvan), meaning "the eighth moon." If we count the months starting from Nisan, the month of Passover and the first month of the year according



■ Rabbi David Arias

to the ancient Biblical calendar, Heshvan is the eighth month.

The second point is that there is a festival in this second month of the year. The Ethiopian Jews celebrate the Festival of Sigd, which is observed exactly 50 days after Yom Kippur, on the 29th of Heshvan. The tradition dates back hundreds, or even thousands, of years. Ethiopian Jews would climb to the highest mountain in their towns, and on this day, they would pray for the eternal return to Jerusalem. The Ethiopian Jewish community has always been loyal to Zion, holding a constant longing to return to the ancient land.

When the Jewish community in Ethiopia was discovered during the 21st Century, and as thousands of them were brought back to Israel, we might assume they would stop celebrating the Sigd since they had already arrived in Jerusalem. Ethiopian Jewry was completely

disconnected from the rest of the Jewish world for thousands of years. When the first waves of *olim* (new immigrants) came to Israel from Ethiopia, some of them were very disappointed to learn that the Temple had been destroyed.

The Ethiopian Jewish community has always been loyal to Zion, holding a constant longing to return to the ancient land.

Therefore, they celebrate this festival every year at the promenade in South Jerusalem, still praying for their return, for their way back home.

It is also interesting to note that they could celebrate this festival by going up to the Temple Mount; however, tradition is tradition, and they still mark this special day by looking at Mount Moriah — the Temple Mount — from afar.

Over the last few decades, this festival has become increasingly popular in Israel, symbolizing a renewal of Jewish identity for many people. This also helps to resolve the so-called "bitterness" of Heshvan by adding a new festival to it.

And maybe, just as our fellow Ethiopian Jews, we should pray for our return because, sometimes, being a Jew also means feeling that eternal longing — for a past we know will not come back, for better times that will never return, but that we will never stop waiting for.

Rabbi David Arias serves at Temple Judea in Fort Myers. 📞

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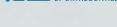
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The meaning of Psalm 23

By Rabbi Nicole Luna

There are words that have accompanied our people for generations, clung to in moment of despair, whispered at gravesides, recited in times of need. Psalm 23 is one of those texts: “God is my shepherd, I shall not want.”

It has become so woven into our communal memory that it almost feels like a companion, accompanying us throughout life. And yet, while we often turn to it in times of loss, Psalm 23 is not only about death. It is about life. It is about what it means to keep walking, even through the valley of shadows, with faith that we are not alone. These words remind us that even in the valley of shadows — our personal grief, our despair over the brokenness of the world — we are not abandoned. Psalm 23 dares us to believe in a God of compassion who walks beside us and in the possibility of goodness and mercy pursuing us into the year ahead.



■ Rabbi Nicole Luna

Psalm 23 begins with God as a humble caretaker of animals — “God is my shepherd.” What a gentle image of the Divine. In the Hebrew translation, there’s an intimacy that’s lost in the English one. The Hebrew translation states, “*Adonai, ro’ee*. God, my shepherd.” There’s no verb, just a person reaching out to God. A king sits on his throne and commands. A warrior fights battles and expects soldiers to obey. But a shepherd shows the path ahead. “God makes me lie down in green pastures, leads me besides still waters.”

The image of God as shepherd does not mean there will never be wolves at night. In fact, calling God our shepherd addresses the reality that we live in an unpredictable, often threatening world, and we are mindful of the bad things that might happen — the wolves circling around us. But as Rabbi Harold Kushner explains, “God is the presence that makes the world seem less frightening. A shepherd cannot prevent and protect every creature from every misfortune,

but God does lovingly invite us to follow in God’s paths and offers to carry us when we are tired.”

We walk through the valley of the shadow of death, but we are not alone.

The image of God as shepherd does not mean there will never be wolves at night.

“I will fear no evil for you are with me.” The Reform *machzor*, *Mishkan HaNefesh*, tells us, “The 23rd Psalm does not make promises that cannot be kept: the end of all evil; the eradication of suffering pain; sunshine instead of shadows. It makes but one promise — only this: you are not alone.”

In life, we will experience the darkness of the valley, the grief of loss, the uncertainty of how to live our life. And

yet, we do not face the darkness alone; we do not face the pain of the world by ourselves. *Ki atah imadi* — for you, God, are with us, comforting us, shepherding us, working through our family and friends to bring light.

Psalm 23 offers us this vision. Days when we follow in God’s path, our shepherd guiding us forward — “God is my shepherd.” Days when we choose wisely how to spend our limited time — “... in the shadow of death.” Days when we face our fear, our exhaustion, our uncertainty with the knowledge that God is with us — “... for You are with me.” Days when we create a beautiful home for God and ourselves to dwell in together — “I shall dwell in the house of God forever.”

Then, when we look on our lives, may we look at days filled with faith and purpose and say with confidence and gratitude, “My cup runneth over.”

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

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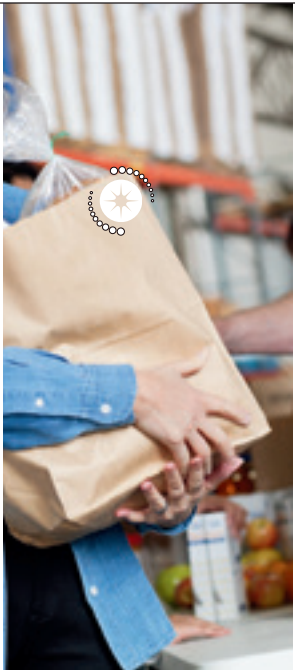


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Feast of gratitude

Thanksgiving and the Jewish perspective

By Cantor Barry Butensky

From the first pilgrims' harvest in 1621 to modern turkey dinners, Thanksgiving anchors American tradition with gratitude at its core.

But for Jewish Americans — whether Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, or Secular — it layers extra meaning, blending national celebration with ancient rituals of thanks. This holiday isn't about conversion or assimilation; it's a chance to weave biblical themes into contemporary life, honoring both identities without conflict.

Start with history. Thanksgiving echoes Sukkot, the Jewish Festival of Booths, which falls around late-September or early-October on the Hebrew calendar. Sukkot commemorates the Israelites' 40-year wanderings after escaping Egypt, dwelling in fragile huts while trusting Divine provision. Like Thanksgiving's focus on abundance, Sukkot demands we eat in temporary shelters, shaking palm fronds in joyful gratitude — *lulav* and *etrog* in hand — reminding us life's fragility amid plenty.

Early American Jews noticed parallels. Some, like Emma Lazarus, saw



■ Cantor Barry Butensky

a call to welcome strangers in both holidays, tying into Thanksgiving's immigrant roots. Fast forward to today. Many Jewish families host hybrid meals, infusing Ashkenazi or Sephardic flavors. Think brisket alongside turkey, kugel as stuffing, or latke-inspired potato pancakes crisped like hash browns. Cranberry sauce? Swap it for homemade applesauce, nodding to Rosh Hashanah's

sweet apples and honey. Wine flows, but kosher — Manischewitz for kids, a dry Cabernet for adults. Grace before eating draws from *Birchat Hamazon*, the traditional after-meal blessings praising God for sustaining the world, far deeper than amen to a quick prayer.

Gratitude's the glue. Judaism's daily thanksgivings, like *Modeh Ani* upon waking, mirror Thanksgiving's ethos. Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel called gratitude the heart's memory, urging Jews to see every bite as a miracle. During Sukkot's *Ushpizin*, we symbolically invite biblical heroes into our booths: Abraham for hospitality, Isaac for sacrifice. At Thanksgiving, some add a twist,

welcoming ancestors' spirits or modern refugees, echoing Leviticus: when a stranger sojourns with you, treat them as native-born. It's why synagogues host interfaith dinners, serving matzo ball soup next to green bean casserole and fostering dialogue over pumpkin pie.

Challenges arise, though; work schedules clash. Observant Jews might avoid school “turkey trots” on Shabbat-like rest days. Secular Jews debate participation: does celebrating a Christian-rooted

shine. Post-Holocaust, gratitude feels poignant — survivors' descendants find healing in communal feasts, transforming pain into praise.

Culturally, it's evolving. Younger Jews remix traditions: vegan turkeys from Beyond Meat, infused with *za'atar*. Podcast debates explore Jewish Thanksgiving playlists, featuring klezmer-folk mashups. Social media buzzes with #ThanksGivingThanks, sharing recipes like sweet potato *tzimmes* and honey-glazed carrots, echoing harvest joy.

Philanthropy spikes, too. *Tzedakah* boxes fill faster, tying thanks to giving. One Brooklyn family I recall builds *sukkah*-Turkey hybrids: a tented table with fall leaves, reciting Psalms amid football cheers. Ultimately, this perspective enriches everyone. Thanksgiving isn't zero-sum; it's expansive, like manna that multiplied. For Jews, it's a reminder: gratitude isn't seasonal, it's eternal. As Psalm 100 says, “Enter his gates with thanksgiving.” So, pass the gefilte fish, raise a glass, and let both worlds feast together.

Chag Thanksgiving Sameach!

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

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel called gratitude the heart's memory, urging Jews to see every bite as a miracle.

holiday dilute identity? Yet, most embrace it. The Reform movement views it as civic religion, per scholar Jonathan Sarna, aligning with American pluralism. Orthodox families adapt: no dairy with meat, so *pareve* desserts like fruit salad

"Please take your son"

By Rabbi Yitzchok Minkowicz

The week's Torah portion of Nov. 8, *Parsha Vayeira*, relates the story of the *akeida* — the Binding of Isaac. G-d said to Abraham, "Please take your son ... and offer him there for a burnt offering."

Abraham was tested by G-d 10 times throughout his life. The *akeida* constituted the 10th and final test.

The Talmud explains that G-d's request was an entreaty — "Please take your son" — to express His wish that Abraham withstand the trial. "I have tried you many times, and each time you passed the test," G-d said. "Would that you pass this test as well, that people not say the first ones were without substance."

Why was it so important for Abraham to pass the final test, and how would his failure to do so have invalidated the success of the previous nine? The *akeida* was certainly the most difficult trial, but even had Abraham not withstood it, why would the previous ones have been considered to be in vain?

Another question — was the first test, when Abraham was thrown into the fiery furnace after destroying his father's idols, just as critical as the 10th one?

The answer is sometimes, when a Jew is willing to give up his life for the sake of G-d, it is hard to distinguish if he is doing so solely because G-d wants him to or because he himself understands that an act of self-sacrifice is required.

For example, the argument could be made that because Abraham understood the necessity of spreading awareness of the one G-d throughout the world, he was willing to allow himself to be burned. In other words, self-sacrifice was a logical conclusion, arrived at by Abraham's own intellect.

The trial of the *akeida*, however, was entirely different. Withstanding the trial would not result in the public recognition of G-d's name, as no one else was



■ Rabbi Yitzchok Minkowicz

present except for Abraham and Isaac. On the contrary, G-d's request seemed to defy logic. Abraham wanted his son to continue spreading the belief in G-d after he was gone, yet here G-d was asking him to sacrifice Isaac as a burnt offering! If Isaac were sacrificed, who would be left to continue his path?

Thus, the *akeida* constituted a test of Abraham's willingness for self-sacrifice in

a situation in which his own intellect led him to the opposite conclusion. His ability to withstand the 10th test thereby demonstrated that the first nine were not in vain, as it proved that he had acted out of love of G-d and not merely because his intellect compelled him to obey.

This contains a lesson for each of us, Abraham's descendants, in how to serve G-d. Rabbi Shneur Zalman writes, "It is good to recite the chapter of the *akeida* each day ...

in order to subjugate the [evil] inclination and serve G-d." The power to do so comes to us from Abraham, the first to show us how.

Rabbi Yitzchok Minkowicz serves at Chabad Lubavitch of Southwest Florida. 

"I have tried you many times, and each time you passed the test," G-d said.



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There are no Temple Beth El services on Friday, Oct. 31, but all are welcome to join us Saturday morning, Nov. 1, for services followed by a tasty barbecue luncheon. Please RSVP online so we have an accurate count.

Upcoming events

Sisterhood’s Welcome Back Fashion Show & Luncheon is on Nov. 4 at noon. RSVP online or call the office at 239-433-0018.

We will honor our Jewish War Veterans during Shabbat services on Friday night, Nov. 7, at 7:30 p.m. Please attend and support those who have served and fought for our freedom.

Our annual Kristallnacht program, sponsored by Sisterhood, is Sunday evening, Nov. 9, via Zoom. It’s been 87 years since the Night of Broken Glass; antisemitism is real in the U.S. and abroad. Let us remember and learn together online. Please RSVP to get the Zoom link.

Men’s Club is sponsoring a lecture with FGCU Professor of Music History Dr. Thomas M. Cimarusti — “All About Irving Berlin” — on Sunday, Nov. 16, at 1 p.m. Please RSVP for this entertaining workshop in the Dubin Center through the TBE calendar.

Rabbi Luna has several adult education classes throughout every month: Coffee & Chat via Zoom, a weekly and monthly in-person class at the Temple, and Torah Study classes on Saturday mornings at 9 a.m. via Zoom.

Meet in the Dubin Center on Nov. 12 at 4 p.m. for “Wrestling With Virtue: What Does It Really Mean to Be Good?” to debate and ask, “What might honesty, courage, and justice look like in our own daily lives?”

On Friday night, Nov. 21, we will honor new members, and the Oneg will honor those born in the 1950s. Is that you? All are welcome.

On Nov. 23, in honor of Thanksgiving, please travel to Cypress Lake United Methodist Church and represent Temple Beth El at the annual Community Interfaith Service which will held there at 4 p.m.

Sisterhood will hold its monthly Ladies Who Lunch on Tuesday, Nov. 25, at noon. Food, fun, and fellowship — Sisterhood and Temple membership is not required. Please make your reservation online and enjoy!

Chanukah arrives Dec. 14! Our first Chanukah Gift Shop Bazaar is Nov. 30 at 10 a.m. Get your holiday candles, gelt, and amazing Judaica gifts. Shop early for the greatest selection with holiday specials galore!

Please note

Our Religious School will participate

in our Friday night Shabbat services on Nov. 14 which will begin earlier at 6:30 p.m. Please note the earlier start time.

Save the date!

Do you love the music of the fabulous fifties? Come to our Sock Hop in the Dubin Center on Feb. 14, 2026. Save the date for what’s sure to be a blast!

Recurring programs

Our recurring Temple Beth El programs continue:

- Drop off nonperishable food items in the lobby shopping cart.
- Book Club will be held via Zoom on Nov. 5 at 1:30 p.m. to discuss “The Stolen Life of Colette Marceau” by Kristin Harmel.
- Tot Shabbat, a kid-friendly service featuring fellowship, pizza, and fun, will be held Nov. 7 at 6 p.m. Call 239-433-0018 to RSVP to be sure we have enough food.
- History & Heritage of Our People is the third Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. via Zoom.
- Shabbat services are open to all on Fridays at 7:30 p.m. We are live in the sanctuary, via Zoom, and streaming on Facebook. There are exceptions in November. Please refer to the calendar online.

• 12-Step Recovery Group: Experience the 12-Steps from a Jewish perspective, seeking a path to recovery through Judaic spiritual principals, every Saturday at 11 a.m. via Zoom. We are a fellowship of people who are recovering from alcohol, drugs, and other addictions such as food, gambling, sex, shopping, etc. We use the book, "Twelve Jewish Steps to Recovery" by Rabbi Olitzky and Stuart Copans, M.D., second edition.

• Are you a recent convert, exploring conversion or seeking to reconnect with Jewish roots? "Jews by Choice" meets online the last Thursday of every month from 8 to 9 p.m. Discuss the delights and challenges of converting and reconnecting in a confidential and safe setting. Zoom details are on our calendar.

There’s always something happening here, and our members make it happen: Current Events, Coffee & Chat, Francophone & Hispanophone Groups, Solo Travelers, Caring and Visitations, and more.

Follow us on Facebook @Temple BethElofFortMyers and on Instagram @templebethelformyers. Questions? You can always contact the office at 239-433-0018.

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The Community Free Synagogue congregation gathers each Friday evening at 6 p.m. to share a traditional Sabbath Eve meal. All are welcome. Feel free to bring a dish, side, salad, wine or a dessert for the social hour that follows worship. Please no dairy for the meal.

Qabbalat shabbat, the Sabbath Eve service welcoming the *shabbat*, follows at 7 p.m. Worship leans towards the traditional.

The meal and worship are held at CFS' home on the Unity campus (11120 Ranchette Road).

The weekly Sabbath morning Torah Study with the rabbi is from 9:30 to 11 a.m., only via Zoom. The synagogue

Zoom room is easily accessible via the CFS webpage: fortmyerssynagogue.com.

CFS' "Brown Bag Movie Night" resumes in our chapel building Monday, Nov. 3, 6 p.m., featuring the classic, thought-provoking film adaptation of Jerzy Kosiński's novel "Being There." Starring Peter Sellers — in his final role — this seriocomic masterpiece also features Melvyn Douglas, winner of the Academy

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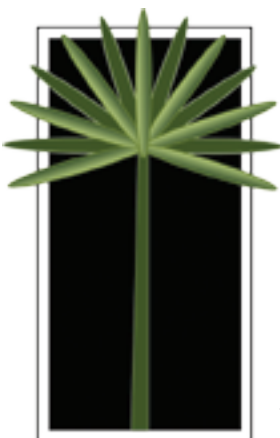
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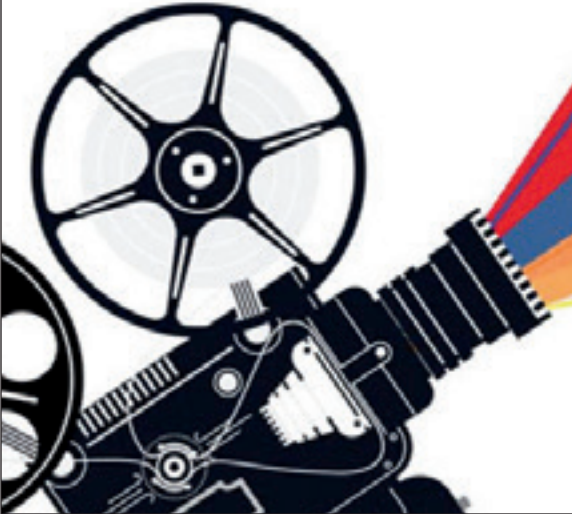
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Rosh Hashanah at Temple Shalom in Port Charlotte was a time for celebration by the sounding of the shofar. Rabbi Marc Kline gave an inspiring sermon about the need to walk in another's shoes. His point was that if we dislike our neighbor because we disagree with that neighbor's views, we deepen the rift in our society and hurt ourselves more than we hurt the other person.

Our packed sanctuary welcomed new members, and we all took part in a sumptuous Rosh Hashanah luncheon, catered by Little Brooklyn restaurant of North Port.

Rabbi returned for our Yom Kippur observances, which began with the evening service on the holiest night of the year, Kol Nidrei. The following day included morning worship, a study group and the concluding service, ending with our annual Break-the-Fast on the evening of Oct. 2.

October at Temple Shalom Port Charlotte also included a special family arts and crafts event for our Sukkot celebration, as well as a Simchat Torah/Shemini

Atzeret gathering to celebrate the completion of the Torah cycle and the starting again with the creation story.

In November, our weekly Friday evening Shabbat services will continue, beginning with our music service on the first Friday of the month, Nov. 7, led by our cantorial soloist, Dr. David Katz.

We are looking forward to Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte Counties' PJ Library presentation of our Chanukah Challah Bake on Nov. 9 for young people in the area. There is a small charge, and reservations are required so we know how many people to prepare for. Children will braid their own challah dough, then take it home to bake. You may contact us via our website at shalompc06@gmail.com.

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Rabbi Marc Kline, Sisterhood President Naomi Alexander reciting the blessing for the wine and Temple Shalom President Judi Migdol

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Member Rea Kirk shared the top 10 reasons why she loves Temple Beth Shalom stating, "For all these, and many, many more reasons, my heart is with TBS and the joyful Judaism it brings."

10. Four years ago when I first moved to North Fort Myers, I called every synagogue in the local area of Fort Myers and Cape Coral. When I called Temple Beth Shalom, Stephanie answered the phone and said, "Oh, we should go have lunch." Right away, I was made to feel welcome.

9. Temple Beth Shalom has a book club that meets once per month. I have learned parts of Judaism about which I had no idea. I learned about Yemini Jews. I learned about what it's like to have lived in the deep south in a very rural area during the height of the Civil Rights Movement. I also learned that you could come to book club whether you

read the book or not. It's fun and social as well as educational.

8. On Wednesday nights, Holly shows videos that enrich my understanding of Judaism. One of my favorites was a series of five videos about King David. Sometimes we have biographies of famous Jewish people. We watched the "Brutalist" one week. Holly always asks for suggestions of what we want to see.

7. On Saturday nights, Holly shows a movie, and this night is for purely social reasons. Again, Holly asks what movies we would like to see. I like funny movies and musicals. Rheta prefers a good heist. Sharon is open to anything.

6. Another member of Temple Beth Shalom became my travel partner; Tobi and I went to Costa Rica. Tobi also introduced me to the Salvation Army thrift store in Cape Coral where I bought clothes to take to Costa Rica.

5. Once a month, Temple Beth Shalom has a Brunch and Learn. These are held at various people's homes. We never know what the topic is going to be. It's potluck, and there's always enough food to feed all of Cape Coral. It's always a fascinating discussion where everyone's views are accepted.

4. Our services are both in-person and via Zoom. I personally like to do the Friday night services via Zoom. I love the in-person services for daytime events. I



Rea Kirk

like the fact that this meets the needs of various people, making it truly inclusive.

3. I love the family feeling at TBS. The love and caring is tangible. I love the hugs I get. Marsha gives the best hugs! I love seeing little kids running around and each being part of the service, even if it's opening the ark, they know they are an important part of the TBS family.

2. When my brother-in-law's cancer spread, I flew to California to be by his side. Lea checked on me and prayed for him pretty much daily. Maria, Paula, and Barb took care of my dog for over a month while I was gone, and they never complained.

1. When my granddaughter died at 38 years of age, I flew to North Carolina to be with her mom, my oldest daughter. It was a very chaotic and fractious time. I called Maxine (now co-president of TBS) because I knew her to be empathetic. She suggested I call Cantor Barry. I did so, and he helped me through the five weeks I was there. I don't know what I would have done without his wisdom, guidance, and kindness. When my daughter-in-law died of cancer right after turning 40, Cantor Barry again helped me immensely. He has become my emotional safety net. 🕊

TEMPLE JUDEA
Fort Myers

(239) 433-0201 • www.tjswfl.org

We welcome back our friends from the north with classes and events. We are looking forward to our "snowbirds" return.

Beginning Monday, Nov. 3, the class "Reasonable Faith," based on the book "The Great Partnership" by Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, will meet Mondays at 6 p.m. until mid-December.

On Wednesday, Nov. 5, a class on the Israeli conflict continues during the month of November, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Join us in supporting our Temple Judea Preschool at their annual fundraiser on Nov. 8. It will be a night to remember!

Religious school continues on Tuesday afternoons and Sunday mornings. The Religious School Shabbat will be a special treat on Nov. 14. Tehila Cherubino leads our school to exciting places!

Temple Judea's Women's Chaverot group continues its events through November. For additional information, look for emails or contact Jodi Cohen at jodi@jodi-cohen.com or 608-513-9737.

To participate in Hazak, contact Joyce Rosinger at gjrosinger@gmail.com or 239-437-1566.

Ongoing programs

Temple Judea continues to accept food

donations for the Cadkin Foundation Food Pantry at Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte Counties. There are collection envelopes near the front door for contactless monetary or gift card contributions. Contributions may be mailed. Please call the office to ensure your contribution has been received.

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

Regularly scheduled events

Friday evening Shabbat services at 6:30 p.m.

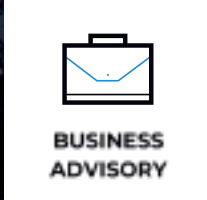
Saturday morning Shabbat services at 9:30 a.m. Kiddush luncheons are served every Shabbat. If you are interested in sponsoring a Kiddush, please contact JoAnn Lewin at jalewin2@aol.com.

Morning Minyan resumed Oct. 20 at 9 a.m.

Co-president Jan Klein's Monday morning meetings will be at Temple Judea, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

We would love to see you in person or via Zoom. 🕊

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(239) 900-9743

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BAT YAM TEMPLE OF THE ISLANDS
REFORM

Friday evening services at 7pm at the Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ,
2050 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel
Spiritual Leader and Cantor:
Rabbi Sunny Schnitzer
President: Janice Block Chaddock
Vice Presidents:
Sandra Teger, Annette Pacyga
Email: batyamsanibel@gmail.com
Website: batyam.org
Services: October through April
For more information on our service times and programs, please write to batyamsanibel@gmail.com or PO Box 84, Sanibel, FL 33957

CHABAD
OF BONITA SPRINGS/ESTERO
ORTHODOX

24611 S. Tamiami Trail
Bonita Springs, FL 34135-7024
Rabbi Mendy Greenberg
Phone: 239-949-6900
Web site: JewishBonita.com
Services: Saturday at 10:00 a.m.
followed by a Kiddush

CHABAD JEWISH CENTER
OF CAPE CORAL
ORTHODOX

1716 Cape Coral Pkwy. W.
Cape Coral, FL 33914
Rabbi Yossi Labkowski
Phone: 239-963-4770
E-mail: info@chabadcape.com
Web site: chabadcape.com
Sunday - Friday 8:00 A.M Shacharit
Friday Evening 5:30 P.M.
Saturday Kabbalah Class 9:00 A.M.
Shabbat Services 9:30 A.M.
Kiddush Luncheon 12:00 P.M.
Hebrew School of the Arts Sunday 10:00 A.M - 12:30 P.M
JLI Classes Monday 7:00 P.M.
Torah Study Tuesday 7:30 P.M.
Women's Weekly Class Wednesday 11:30 A.M.

CHABAD OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY
ORTHODOX

424 W Henry St
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
Rabbi Simon Jacobson
Phone: 941-833-3381
E-mail: chabadpg@yahoo.com
Web site: chabadofcharlottecounty.com
Services: Saturday at 10:00 a.m. followed by a kiddush
Torah study: Wednesday at 8:00 p.m.

CHABAD LUBAVITCH
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
ORTHODOX

5620 Winkler Road
Fort Myers, FL 33919
Rabbi Yitzchok Minkowicz
Phone: 239-433-7708 • Fax: 481-9109
E-mail: rabbi@chabadswf.org
Web site: chabadswf.org
Services: Friday 5:15 p.m.;
Saturday Kabbalah
class 9:00 a.m.; Shacharit 10:00 a.m.;
Kiddush at noon
Minyan: Monday & Thursday 7:00 a.m.

SYNAGOGUES &
JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS
IN LEE & CHARLOTTE COUNTIES



www.JewishFederationLCC.org

COMMUNITY FREE SYNAGOGUE
CONTEMPORARY TRADITIONAL

The Unity Campus 11120 Ranchette Road
Fort Myers, FL 33966
Phone: 239-247-4556
E-mail: synfree@comcast.net
Web site: fortmyerssynagogue.com
Sabbath Eve Dinner every Friday at 6:00 PM
followed by worship at 7:00 PM
Torah Study on Zoom every Sabbath morning
from 9:30-11:00 AM
Meeting Room ID: 527 117 7864
Passcode: 435419
Rabbi Bruce Diamond, D.D.
Cantoral soloist Traci Pavel

CHAVURAT SHALOM OF SWFL
CHAVURA

PO Box 722
Sanibel, FL 33957
Chavuratshalom@gmail.com
Web site:
chavuratshalomofsouthwestflorida.org
Cheryl Fulmer, President
Shabbat services - 7:30 p.m. every Friday
Schmooze - 7:30 p.m. 1st Tuesday
Torah Talk - 7:30 p.m. 2nd Tuesday
Current events - 7:30 p.m. 3rd Tuesday
Speakers - 7:30 p.m. 4th Tuesday

TEMPLE BETH EL
REFORM

16225 Winkler Road, Fort Myers, FL 33908
Rabbi Nicole Luna
E-mail: rabbiluna@templebethel.com
Learning Tree Preschool Director: Ronni Vega
Ronnilearningtree@gmail.com
President: Michael Altman
Email: President@templebethel.com
Phone: 239-433-0018
Office Manager: Karen Kagan
Email: manager@templebethel.com
Web site: templebethel.com
Shabbat services: 7:30 p.m. Friday
Torah study 9:00 a.m. Saturday
Religious School: 9:30 a.m.- Noon Sunday
Mazel Tots (0-5 yrs. old). Sunday 11:00 a.m.
Religious school coordinator: Allison Fego
Religiousschool@templebethel.com
Judaica Gift Gallery
Affiliated: Union for Reform Judaism

TEMPLE BETH SHALOM
REFORM

702 S.E. 24th Ave., Cape Coral, FL 33990
President: Helene Glocer
Phone: 239-772-4555
Spiritual leader: Cantor Barry Butensky
Email: templebethshalomcommunications@gmail.com
Web site: templebethshalomcc.org
Services: 7:30 p.m. Friday
Saturday morning Torah Service/Torah
study twice monthly at 10:00 am
Enrichment night every Wednesday
at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.
Shabbat 10:30 a.m.

TEMPLE JUDEA

CONSERVATIVE
14486 A&W Bulb Road
Fort Myers, FL 33908
Rabbi David Arias
E-mail: rabbi@tjswfl.org
Co-Presidents: Jan Klein & James Mann
E-mail: giaof3@gmail.com
Religious School Coordinator:
Tehila Cherubino
E-mail: tehila@tjswfl.org
Preschool Director: Suki Kelly
templejudeapreschool@gmail.com
Phone: 239-433-0201 • Fax: 239-433-3371
E-mail: tjswfl@gmail.com
Web site: tjswfl.org
Services: 6:15 p.m. Friday and 9:30 a.m.
Saturday Minyan: 9:00 a.m. Monday
Religious School: Sun. 9:30 a.m. - noon;
Wed. 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.
Early childhood education: Preschool, M-F,
ages 18 months-5 years;
"Mommy & Me," 12 months-2 years
Affiliated: United Synagogue of
Conservative Judaism

TEMPLE SHALOM CHARLOTTE
HARBOR AND THE GULF ISLANDS
REFORM

23190 Utica Ave., P.O. Box 494675
Port Charlotte, FL 33949-4675
President: Judith Migdol
Phone: 941-625-2116
E-mail: Shalompc06@gmail.com
Web site: templeshalomfl
Organizations: Sisterhood; Brotherhood
Affiliated: Union for Reform Judaism

SHALOM LIFE CENTER
TRANS DENOMINATIONAL

Rabbi Lawrence Dermer
Phone: 239-218-3433
Email: info@shalomlifecenter.org
Web site: shalomlifecenter.org

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

- AIPAC
(American Israel Public Affairs Committee):
Jacki Waksman - 954-653-9053
- AJC (American Jewish Committee):
Brian Lipton - 941-365-4955
- Anti-Defamation League: 561-988-2900
- B'Nai B'rith International: 941-302-4500
- Chabad Jewish Student Life at FGCU
Rabbi Mendel Gordon - 347-452-0489
mendelgordon@gmail.com
- Chevra Kadisha: Taryn Sasser
- Generations of the Shoah SWFL: 263-9200
- Hadassah - Collier/Lee Chapter:
Joyce Toub - 518-330-1559
- Hazak 55+ Chapter:
Joyce Rosinger - 239-437-1566
- Israel Bonds: Regional Headquarters:
800-622-8017
- Jewish Community Services:
239-481-4449
- Jewish National Fund:
Joshua Mellits, Director, Western Florida
941-462-1330 ext. 865
Memorial Tree Planting in Israel
1-800-542-8733
- Jewish War Veterans:
Post 400: Commander
Harvey Charter - 239-246-3151
- Mikvah Bashka of Southwest Florida:
Nechamie Minkowicz - 239-822-2784



Lights, Camera, Inspiration!

Community *join us* **Breakfast**

Guest Speaker **SAUL BLINKOFF**

Disney & Netflix Filmmaker * Motivational Speaker

Saul Blinkoff is a celebrated film director, producer, and motivational speaker whose career spans work with major studios like Disney and Netflix. Deeply rooted in Jewish culture, Saul often draws upon his heritage to inspire stories of purpose, resilience, and identity. Whether through animation or public speaking, he weaves Jewish values such as perseverance, community, and faith into his work, encouraging audiences of all backgrounds to live with meaning and intentionality.

Sunday, December 7, 2025 * 10AM

Double Tree by Hilton | 13051 Bell Tower Dr. | Fort Myers

Couvert \$36/PP

VIP Meet & Greet \$54/PP

Register: JewishFederationLCC.org/Calendar



Jewish Federation
of Lee & Charlotte Counties