



# L'CHAYIM

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November 2022 / 5783

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### HURRICANE IAN EMERGENCY FOOD & SUPPLY DISTRIBUTION

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**DECEMBER ISSUE  
EDITORIAL DEADLINE:  
Monday, November 7**

#### 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).

## Observations of a hurricane recovery

By Marsha Kistler, Federation President

**A**s I sit here writing this a week and a half after Hurricane Ian came roaring through, my first thoughts go out to all the members of our community impacted by the storm. We are aware that many of you suffered severe damage to your property, with some losing homes, cars and boats altogether. We are doing what we can to help with short-term immediate emergency needs. Donations in the way of money, food and supplies are flowing in from Federations all over the country as well as from friends in and around Lee and Charlotte counties. Please visit us and let us know what you need, and we'll do our best to help in any way we can.

Watching the hurricane as it was happening was absolutely terrifying. With winds of 150+ mph, trees were literally horizontal. Many residents were under mandatory evacuation and left in droves Tuesday night before Ian hit the next day – many to the east coast of Florida, many to emergency shelters. As I write this, there were still 500 people remaining in Hertz Arena, one of the emergency evacuation centers, because they had nowhere else to go! Many had lost their homes entirely. For many others, extensive damage to their homes requires major repairs.

We hunkered down and stayed for the storm. Power went out about 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday as Ian was on its way. We were prepared with battery-operated lamps and fans. Unlike Irma, which blew through relatively quickly, Ian was in no hurry to leave us, with about seven hours of constant pounding. The next day, we could survey the damage. Our cow pasture turned into a lake, serving as a water retention pool. But aside from landscape damage, our community was lucky. After a couple of days with no power, no water and no ability to flush toilets, my husband and I left drove to the east coast. Again, we were lucky. Not everyone has friends and family there.

Returning to the west coast a week after Ian hit, we were in for quite a shock. First of all, you don't know to appreciate traffic lights until you don't have them. Where normally it would take about 20 minutes to get to our temple in Fort Myers from Estero, the ride there took close to an hour. However, I'm pleased to report that drivers were being very respectful, taking turns at each intersection. As much of a challenge as it was to drive along these roads and highways during the day, it was that much worse at night.

On Thursday, I headed to the Federation office along a route that I thought would have traffic lights.

Good news, bad news: The power companies were out in full force with their cherry pickers at almost every intersection I encountered fixing the lights, but at the same time, totally blocking the intersections. Minor problem. I arrived at Federation and the first people I met there were the new executive director and the new board president of the Jewish Federation & Foundation of Northeast Florida in Jacksonville. For those of you who don't know, Jacksonville is about six hours by car from Fort Myers. They came to offer assistance. Then, a very large U-Haul arrived packed with all kinds of supplies (portable grills, foodstuffs, diapers, paper products, socks, etc.). The driver of this truck and family had evacuated from Sarasota to Fort Lauderdale just prior to the storm. While there, they rented a U-Haul, called friends and family members, and asked for donations, which they dropped off at Federation on their way back to Sarasota. People are at their best during an emergency like this.

As I walked around the Federation building, I noticed that our beautiful floors were buckling right inside the entrance. That's when I first understood the term "storm surge." We're not terribly close to water, but when the hurricane hit, it lifted the water from the ocean, rivers and canals, carried it for miles and dropped it, causing flooding wherever it landed – in our case, up the stairs and into the building!

While at Federation, I met a couple of Holocaust survivors who lost their home during Ian, moved in with their kids who had just bought a new home, which was lost in the storm, and who needed to leave their old home which they sold.

We know of congregants who have lost homes on Sanibel Island and Fort Myers Beach. Many roofs are covered with blue tarps. Many Mobile Home Parks look like a giant can opener had ripped off the roofs and crushed the homes like a tin can. The devastation one sees as one drives along the highway is astounding. The need is so very great. And that's before people who evacuated before the storm return and learn the extent of the damage to their homes.

If you were lucky enough to have survived this catastrophic event with little or no damage, please consider helping those who weren't so lucky. Monetary donations will go toward helping survivors with their deductibles (in Florida, deductibles for hurricanes are 2% of the entire value of the home), rent cars if their cars were destroyed in the storm, rent temporary housing while their homes are being repaired, and a myriad of other things. For monetary donations, go to [jewishfederationlcc.org](http://jewishfederationlcc.org). We appreciate your generosity! Neighbors helping neighbors. B'Shalom.

## 7-10 Days In Israel

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# We will recover and rebuild

FROM THE  
EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR

■ Debbie Sanford



**A**s I write this, I am home taking the day off to recover and recharge. It is the weekend after Yom Kippur, and I honestly never had a harder fast than this one. I am so thankful that my family is safe and my home was spared, almost feeling guilty, as we only sustained minimal damage to our home and lanai. Witnessing what I saw the day after Ian hit in neighboring communities, I am forever shook!

Immediately, the staff and I worked on a plan to best serve our community. This is what is happening at the Federation right now. We have opened an emergency food and supply distribution center out of our community room. Jodi Cohen is managing this with the assistance of all staff. It is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for as long as needed, probably through Thanksgiving.

Dena Corkhill, Director of Programs & Engagement, is contacting the venues for our upcoming season of programming to determine if we need to postpone or cancel anything. Lori Ramos is trying to manage volunteers, and keeping everything in the office and our deliveries of supplies organized. I am hustling like I have never hustled before to find grants and resources for our community, answer-

phone calls and emails for help, and work in our food pantry so I can screen requests for assistance. I am also setting up a pop-up distribution center in Charlotte County, at the Baer's Furniture store off

Tamiami Trail, with food and supplies provided by our friends at The Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee. In addition to Lee County, Charlotte was also hit very hard.

Reaching out to constituents to check on them, something I heard was, "I won't ask for help, I am ok!" If you are not ok, WHY NOT ask? Please don't be too proud to ask for help! This is what your Jewish Federation is here for!

Thanks to kind and generous donors in our community, as well as in Miami, Tampa, Jacksonville, New York and places all around our country, we have collected funds to financially assist YOU, our Jewish community, as well as the community at large. Don't be too proud to ask for help! These are extraordinary circumstances. Please remember now and always that we are stronger by working together!

There are so many displaced families needing temporary and permanent housing, food, supplies, gift cards, counseling and financial assistance. United Hatzalah reached out to me immediately after the hurricane. Its volunteers were landing in Miami on that Sunday and wanted to know where we needed them most. United Hatzalah is an Israeli, free, volunteer-based emer-

gency medical services organization based in Jerusalem. And its volunteers were coming to Southwest Florida! We asked United Hatzalah to assist us with mental health counseling since that was what we felt would make the most impact while we waited to assess damages and organize recovery.

Rabbi Michael Schorin and our Friendly Visitor Program are also here for you on a permanent long-term basis. If you need an in-person visit or someone to talk to, email friendlyvisitor@jfndlcc.org or call 239.481.4449 x2 and leave a message.

It warms my heart to know we have so many caring and generous community members and such a supportive Jewish community across Florida and the country. Your monetary donations and donations of food and supplies have served over a thousand people up to the point at which I am writing this article, just 10 days after Hurricane Ian. We have provided gas for generators, Uber gift cards, Walmart and gas gift cards, a hotel for a single mom and her daughter, a rental car, replaced a laptop, support to multiple Jewish families who had major water damage,

assistance with an electrician's bill, paid utility bills, assisted multiple individuals looking for new housing options since they lost their homes, volunteers to clean up and, most heartwarming of all, assistance to a local Holocaust couple who lost everything they own when their home and car were totaled by the hurricane. For them, all that remains is the concrete slab their home once sat on. We are working day and night to get them housing, replace their belongings and keep them fed and safe.

My heart is with every one of you. May we all be blessed with a better 5783. It started out rough, but we are stronger together, so we shall stick together through all of this. We will recover and rebuild.

Support of our campaign means more to us right now than ever before. Some of the hardest work we will ever need to do to support our community lies ahead of us. It's going to be a marathon, not a sprint. We are working on short-term as well as long-term goals and together we will rebuild our community. We will restore hope, dignity and a bright future to our entire community.❶



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Dec  
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11 AM

Feb 5-  
March 2

**JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL OF  
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA**

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



This year please consider making an additional campaign contribution in honor or memory of a loved one. Because kindness is contagious, we would like to highlight your generosity in L'CHAYIM and notify personally those whom you honor. You may choose how your generosity is noted and how we share your mitzvah with the community.



## TRIBUTES

**Due to Hurricane Ian, we are postponing our list of tributes and generous donors until the December issue of L'CHAYIM, which will include all donations made in October and November.**

**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, updates from Israel and lots more.

**Send an email to  
[debbiesanford@jfedi.org](mailto:debbiesanford@jfedi.org)**



 **MAKE A TRIBUTE GIFT** 

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



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### HOW THE JEWISH FEDERATION SERVES

#### Local Jewish Education and Culture

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



#### Overseas

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

#### Jewish Community Foundation

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



#### Local Seniors Services

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

#### Local Social Services

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

#### Local Emergency Services

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

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# Jewish Family Services

A division of the Jewish Federation  
of Lee & Charlotte Counties

## Jewish Family Services update

By Jodi Cohen, Jewish Family Services Coordinator

**T**hose of us who live here, those who know people here and those who have any connection to Southwest Florida, have been affected by Hurricane Ian. I would dare say that we, as a community, are experiencing PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder). The damage was extensive,

and the recovery is all consuming and will be ongoing for months and years.

Here are some of the highlights from Jewish Family Services.

Massive donations have poured in and continue to pour in – U-Hauls, five-car caravans, 26-foot trailers all filled to the brim. The donations have been from local folks as well as from Federations and synagogues in Sarasota, Jacksonville, Miami, Washington, D.C., Madison and Philadelphia.

The Federation has received tons of food, baby socks, t-shirts, underwear, garbage bags, batteries, disinfectant wipes, thousands of bottles of water, gift cards, mops and bed linens.

# THANK YOU

Lunch Bunch  
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Cadkin Foundation Pantry  
Volunteers

Barbara Gribin, Carolyn Gora  
Corina Kaufman, Danuta Bunciewicz  
Doreen Kostel, Gail Mishler  
Helene Glocer, Jodi Engelman  
Joyce Rosinger, Judy Litman  
Linat Bahar, Lindy Smith  
Luba Grossman, Marshall Sax  
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Ruth Gomez, Ruthie Belkin  
Sharion Boyd, Sharon Berry  
Shirley Frank, Stephanie Levine  
Susan Benson, Suzanne Orkin.  
Tracey Seigel, Trudy Barch



Jewish Family Services

A division of the Jewish Federation  
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mental and emotional support.

While it is tough hearing about people's suffering and loss as a result of the hurricane, the extreme care and support at every level from people far and wide make it possible to carry on.

The Federation could use volunteers on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. No need to sign up. Come on down! We need help organizing inventory, packing food bags, packing toiletries bags, and checking in the people who show up. If you can shlep, stand or sit,

we need you! Come for a half hour. Come for an hour, or three. This is an "all hands on deck" situation.

Poet William Stafford said it best in his poem, "Thinking for Berk," when he wrote:

Justice will take us millions of intricate moves.

I substitute the word 'recovery' for 'justice' and feel such gratitude for everyone in the Jewish Federation family who is contributing to the rebuilding of the homes and hearts of the people in our corner of the universe. B'Shalom.

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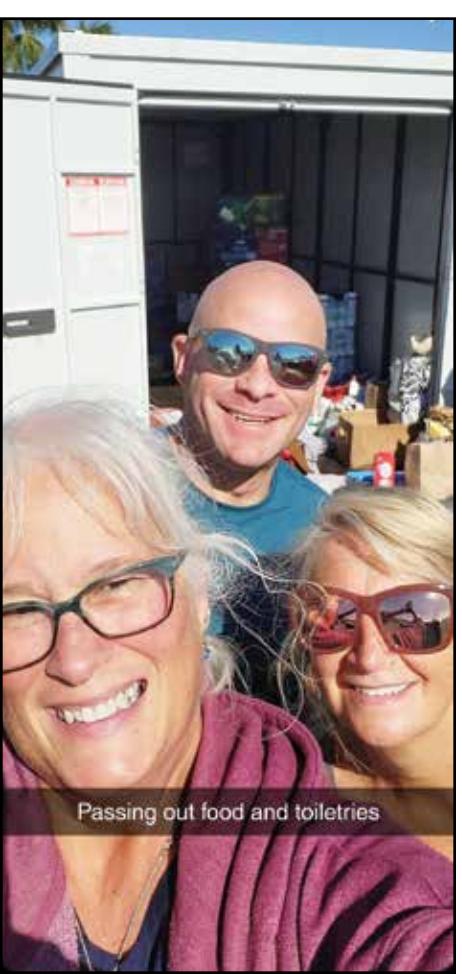
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Jewish Family Services

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# Kehila Means Community



Passing out food and toiletries

# Thoughts on Sukkot

Rabbi Dr. Michael J. Schorin, MAPC, BCC

**T**wo weeks ago today (as I write these words), Hurricane Ian devastated our community. Many of us were thrown out of our homes, lost our electricity and internet,

and suffered horrific water damage. For the Jewish community of Southwest Florida, this Category 5 hurricane upended our High Holiday season. Some Rosh Hashanah services were canceled, and Yom Kippur services

needed to be abbreviated. And, for the holiday of Sukkot, finding a sukkah has become a rare occurrence. Still, despite the physical hardship of observing this holiday, there is much wisdom waiting to be deduced.

For the biblical Israelite, Sukkot was the final harvest of the year, before the winter set in. In a bid to gather the fulness of the harvest as quickly as possible before the rains came, Israelite farmers would build small huts (sukkot) to allow them to sleep in close proximity to the fields, rather than going all the way home. These booths, or huts, also serve to remind us of the generation of the exodus who lived in tents for such a long time.

In *The Meaning of God in Modern Jewish Religion*, Mordecai M. Kaplan suggests there is a two-fold reason why the prophets reminded us so often of these simpler times. They wanted us to be aware of the purity of faith that our ancestors demonstrated. And, on a deeper level, they felt that Sukkot's emphasis on joyous gratitude should remind us that the holiday is not just a protest against the ills of civilization but against the tendency of any civilization to be a destroyer of happiness.

When we leave our permanent

homes and take up residence in a fragile sukkah, we erase the boundaries between the 'haves' and 'have-nots.' Thus, we create a spirit of grateful appreciation and the sense that life is worthwhile. Life is never more worthwhile than when we are secure, content and not worried about the coming winter. But now, just imagine you are on the opposite side of life. For the seniors in our midst, it may be very difficult to have a sense of fulfillment after this devastating hurricane.

For those of us who have merited to reach senior status, for those of us who have been made bereft by the storm and maybe lost their homes or precious documents and pictures, there must be something we can do to alleviate the pain that is being felt. What can we do? We can visit. We can call. We can inquire as to what one of our seniors may need. No matter how important this mitzvah is throughout the year, it is doubly important right now.

Very soon, I will be calling on as many people as I can to step up as volunteers and help us reach out to those who are alone and lonely and in need of a call or visit. You don't need to commit to seven days in the sukkah – just one or two hours each week will brighten someone's day.

As Mordechai Kaplan says, "Hence, they teach that when Israel holds the lulav and etrog, the four species, together in the act of worship, this symbolizes the truth that when men (and women) achieve unity, they bring the Shechinah (G-d's Indwelling Presence) down to earth."

*Rabbi Michael J. Schorin serves as the JFS Community Chaplain and Friendly Visitor Program Coordinator for the Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte Counties. This position is made possible by a grant from ARPA (The American Rescue Plan).*



■ **Rabbi Dr.  
Michael J.  
Schorin**

When we leave our permanent

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

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**Please share your gift of language with the needy in our area.**



Send your response to Jodi Cohen at 239.481.4449 x-1 or [jodicohen@jfledlcc.org](mailto:jodicohen@jfledlcc.org)

We will contact you as needed. Thank you.

# Holocaust Museum & Cohen Education Center update

By Susan Suarez, President & CEO

**A**s I write this month's column, our state has just gone through the devastating Hurricane Ian and its devastating effects. Our hearts go out to those who have suffered during the storm. For some, it will be a very long time until they recover, if ever. Our thanks to all the First Responders and those who have come in from all over the country to help us.

We are grateful that the Museum suffered only minor damage and was able to quickly reopen. We are also fortunate that we can continue with our long-planned November calendar of events. We hope, if circumstances permit, you will be able to join us for some or all of the events below.

## Movies That Matter series

The final two documentary films of this year's "Movies That Matter SWFL – The Steve Brazina Memorial Film Series" will be presented this month. Steve Brazina, who passed away earlier this year, was the co-founder of "Movies That Matter."

Both films require advance registration. Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased at [www.HMCEC.org](http://www.HMCEC.org). Films will be shown at 6:00 p.m. at the Paragon Theater in the Pavilion, 833 Vanderbilt Beach Road, Naples. Please arrive by 5:45 p.m. to be seated. The films are:

- ◆ *Apart* – Wednesday, November 2: Since the beginning of the war on drugs, the number of women in U.S. prisons has grown over 800%. The majority of these women are



Company; Habitat for Humanity of Collier County; Patron Sponsors: Barbara Kanter, Jenny and Mel Kaplan, Ida and Jeff Margolis, Marci Margolis, Aly Morande.

"Movies That Matter – The Steve Brazina Memorial Film Series" is presented by GenShoah of SWFL, Holocaust Museum & Janet G. and Harvey D. Cohen Education Center, Jewish Federation of Greater Naples, Jewish Community Relations Council, Naples United Church of Christ, and Temple Shalom.

mothers. *Apart*, filmed over a three and a half year period, follows several women as they begin to reconstruct lives derailed by drugs and prison. A panel discussion/audience Q&A will follow with special guest Tammy Franklin, Associate Director, Academy Programs at Prison Fellowship.

- ◆ *Redlining* – Wednesday, November 9: The film explores the discriminatory real estate practice of "redlining" – marking off certain areas in order to racially segregate neighborhood housing sales. Its use over the years contributed to built-in inequality in the development of U.S. cities and suburbs. The film presents the impact of redlining on several Midwestern families. It also reviews the lasting effects of this federal policy. Panelists to be announced.

Many thanks to the Sponsors of this year's series. As of October 11, they are: Sustainer Sponsor: Porter Wright Morris & Arthur LLP; Supporter Sponsors: Rhonda Brazina; FineMark National Bank & Trust

## Lecture at Artis-Naples Baker Museum

You are invited to attend a special lecture on the new exhibit at the Baker Museum, "Envisioning Evil: The Nazi Drawings" by Mauricio Lasansky. The art lecture will take place at the Baker on Thursday, November 3 at 10:00 a.m. We are honored to be collaborating with the Baker on this event. For more information on tickets, please visit [www.HMCEC.org](http://www.HMCEC.org).



20 Years of Building Mutual Respect

## Annual Community Kristallnacht Commemoration

This year marks the 84<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Kristallnacht, considered to be the beginning of the Holocaust. The annual community commemoration will be Sunday, November 6 at 2:30 p.m. at Temple Shalom in Naples. The event is free and open to the public. RSVP at [www.jewishnaples.org](http://www.jewishnaples.org). The guest speaker is Holocaust historian Dr. Suzanne Brown-Fleming, the Director of International Academic Programs, Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. She will speak on "November 1938: Perspectives from the Vatican Archives."

The program is sponsored by the Catholic-Jewish Dialogue of Collier County, the Jewish Community Relations Council, the Jewish Federation of Greater Naples, the Diocese of Venice in Florida, GenShoah of SWFL and our Museum.

For more information, visit [www.naplestemple.org](http://www.naplestemple.org) or email [CJDialogue@naples.net](mailto:CJDialogue@naples.net).

## David Nelson Lecture Series

Museum Education Specialist David Nelson is presenting a series of three

lectures based on his film series, "Heroes and Heroines of the Holocaust." Admission is free but advance reservations are required at [www.HMCEC.org](http://www.HMCEC.org).

The lectures will take place at the Museum from 11:00 a.m. to noon as follows:

- Tuesday, November 15 - "Carl Lutz - Dangerous Diplomacy"
- Tuesday, November 29 - "Bill Spira - The Story of a Survivor"
- Tuesday, December 13 - "Varian Fry - The Artists' Schindler"

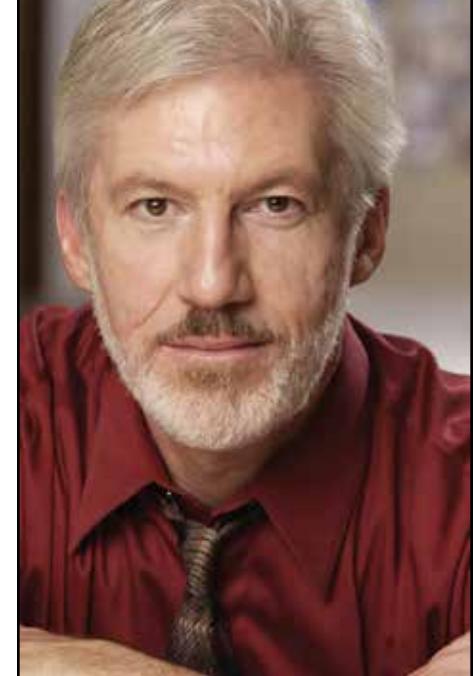
## Coming in December

Please join us for our annual winter fundraiser, The Luncheon. It will take place on Wednesday, December 7 from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at an exclusive private club. The program will include a special presentation by author/actor Tom Dugan. He will perform excerpts from his stirring one-man play, *Wiesenthal*. The play is based on the life of the famous Holocaust survivor, Simon Wiesenthal.

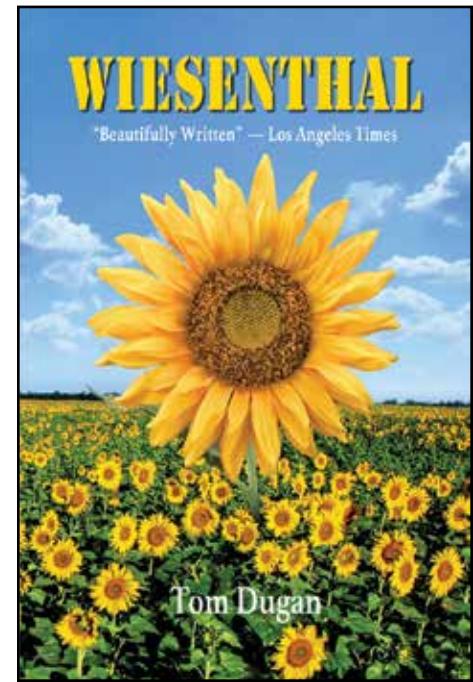
Sponsorships are available. Thank you to our sponsors as of October 11: Remembrance Sponsor: Maureen and Arnold Lerner, Estelle and Stuart Price; Hope Sponsor: Suzanne and Norman Cohn.

For more information and tickets, please visit [www.HMCEC.org](http://www.HMCEC.org).

We wish you and your loved ones a Happy Thanksgiving. We have a lot to be thankful for, especially this year. Please note the Museum will closed for the holiday on Thursday, November 24 and Friday, November 25.



Tom Dugan



KRISTALLNACHT

## The Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte Counties & Shell Point Retirement Community Present

### Kristallnacht: We Remember

Thursday, November 10

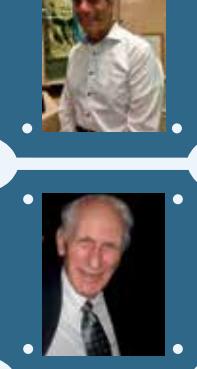
4:00 PM

Connie Brown Hall in the Tribby Art Center, Shell Point  
17281 On Par Boulevard, Fort Myers, FL 33912

The event will feature speakers Rabbi Stephen Fuchs and Dr. Robert Hilliard, a World War II liberator, author & hero.

Rabbi Fuchs, whose late father Leo Fuchs, was arrested in Leipzig, Germany on Kristallnacht, Nov. 9, 1938, was abused and sent to the Dachau Prison Camp. Rabbi Fuchs will share the events surrounding Kristallnacht, the Holocaust and Antisemitism. Rabbi Fuchs speaks regularly in Germany and many other venues to urge peace, reconciliation and the need to stand up for humanity.

Dr. Hilliard a private at the time of WWII along with a fellow private procured food for starving liberated Holocaust survivors. He and his friend started a letter writing campaign that snaked its way through the U.S. until landing on the desk of the President. From then, drastic changes were made regarding the well-being of the liberated Holocaust survivors. Dr. Hilliard at 97 is a social activist and impassioned speaker for humanity.



To Register Visit:

[www.JewishFederationLCC/calendar](http://www.JewishFederationLCC/calendar)

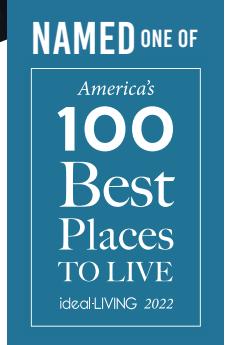
Refreshments will be served.



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## Stars of David

By Nate Bloom, Contributing Columnist

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

### Orthodox police detective

*The Calling*, an eight-episode series, begins streaming on Peacock on Thursday, November 10. It is loosely based on *The Missing File*, a novel (2013) by Israeli **DROR MISHANI**, 47. The central character of *The Calling* is NYPD detective Avraham Avraham. He is a special investigator in Crown Heights, a Brooklyn neighborhood where many Hasidic Jews live.

**JEFF WILBUSCH**, 34, plays Avraham. He told *TV Guide*, "His [Avraham] calling is solving missing persons and homicide cases thorough uncanny observational abilities."

Jeff Wilbusch, born Iftach Wilbuschewitz, was born and raised in Israel in a Hasidic family (he has 13 siblings!). He's best known for playing Moishe Lefkovitch, a lead character in the hit Netflix series *Unorthodox*. **BEN SHENKMAN**, 54, a veteran character actor, has a supporting role as a rabbi.

### "Jewish" sit-com

To be frank, *Reboot*, a Hulu series that premiered on September 20, somehow flew under my radar. But, if I had written about it in my last column, I wouldn't have been able to tell you how "Jewish" this series is. "Jewish stuff" begins to be revealed in the third and fourth episodes.

The eight-episode first season concluded on October 25. Any Hulu subscriber can now watch all eight episodes. The series was created by **STEVE LEVITAN**, 60, who also created *Modern Family*.

The setup: Hannah Korman (**RACHEL BLOOM**, 35) writes a "reboot" script for *Step Right Up*, a hit sit-com about a black stepfather and a white mother that ended about 15 years ago. Hannah pitches it to a streaming channel. The channel likes that Hannah has made *Step Right Up* much more edgy. They approve a first season.

(Spoilers ahead!) The show is in production when Gordon Gelman (**PAUL REISER**, 66) tells the channel that he still owns the rights to *Step Right Up*. Gelman and Korman agree to co-head the reboot. Early on, we learn that Korman is Gelman's daughter. He essentially abandoned Hannah in favor of his "second" family. In the third episode, Gelman makes it very clear he is Jewish (among other things, he mentions his rabbi).

In the same episode, Hannah hires four very diverse and very hip female writers. They don't amuse Gelman, and he announces, "Here comes the Jews," as three aged Jewish sit-com writers Gelman hired come into the writing room. Two of the super-veteran writers are played by Jews: **FRED**

**MELAMED**, 66, and **GEORGE WYNER**, 76.

Watch the series and find out if Hannah and Gelman's writers can "merge" – and if Hannah's edgy approach, which the cast likes, can "survive" Gelman.

### Major mini-series and movie about Jewish families

*Fleishman Is in Trouble* is an eight-episode mini-series that begins on Thursday, November 17 on FX/Hulu. It is based on the novel of the same name by *New York Times* journalist **STEPHANIE "TAFFY" BRODESSER-AKNER**, 46. The novel and the series are about a just-divorced couple. It was a bitter divorce. The couple are **Toby Fleishman**, a medical doctor (**JESSE EISENBERG**, 39), and **Rachel** (Claire Danes), a successful talent agent.

The couple's two best friends (who are Jewish) are quite important characters. The friends are **Seth** (**ADAM BRODY**, 42) and **Libby** (**LIZZY CAPLAN**, 40). **JOSH RADNOR**, 48, plays Libby's Jewish husband.

Early in the novel/series, Rachel disappears, leaving Toby with their two children. We see Toby trying to juggle his kids, new women and his job. In the midst of all this, Toby has a revelation: his wife's disappearance is tied to things that happened in their marriage that he has never honestly faced.

After years of items in the Jewish and general media about **STEVEN SPIELBERG**'s film *The Fabelmans*, it arrives in theaters on Friday, November 11. You'll see so much about this film in every media outlet that I will just give you the bare bones. You'll easily be able to read and see everything about this film all over the place.

The film was directed by Spielberg, and co-written by Spielberg, 75, and **TONY KUSHNER**, 66.

Here's the brief official description: "Growing up in post-WWII era Arizona, from age seven to 18, a [Jewish] young man named Sammy Fabelman [think Spielberg] discovers a shattering family secret and explores how the power of films can help him see the truth."

Non-Jewish actors play Sammy's mother, father and Sammy (respectively, Michelle Williams, Paul Dano and Gabriel LaBelle). Jewish actors with big parts include **SETH ROGEN**, 40, as a close family friend of the Fabelmans who Sammy calls "Uncle Benny;" **JUDD HIRSCH**, 87, as Sammy's great uncle; and **JEANNIE BERLIN**, 71, as Sammy's paternal grandmother. By the way, Berlin's mother, the great **ELAINE MAY**, 90, is still very much alive in every sense. 

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

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

## A drawer full of memories and so much more

By Rabbi Barbara Aiello

I have a question. Have any of us ever been collectors? Stamps? Baseball cards? Crystal? Coins? Recipes? Magnets? Shoes?

During the late 1700s and into the next century there were aristocratic collectors who roamed the world in search of fossils, shells, zoological specimens, rare books and works of art. They kept their collections in special rooms called "cabinets of curiosities" and on occasion they would open their homes to professional colleagues, neighbors and friends, and offer them a private viewing of these unusual collections.

These collectors included many Jewish families who amassed vast collections of paintings and sculptures, and then shared their collections with their fellow citizens. The generosity and the civic minded spirit of these Jewish families led to the formation of the very first museums in Europe.

So if we've ever collected something, we're in good company, especially because many of us have collected a very common Jewish item. Our drawers are filled with them and every year we get a few more to add to our very own kippah or yarmulke collection.

Kippah or yarmulke? Which is correct? Actually, both are. Kippah is a Hebrew word and Yarmulke is a



Rabbi  
Barbara  
Aiello

"Collecting is a way to relieve a basic sense of incompleteness, but collecting is also a passion that allows us to live in another world for a while."

Herzinger goes on to say, "The collector is engaged in a kind of worship and often experiences a sensory transcendence that we most closely associate with religion or love. And, like religion or love, maintaining a collection is a kind of security against uncertainty and loss."

Psychologist Werner Muensterberger wrote about the subject in his book titled *Collecting: An Unruly Passion*. Muensterberger says that holding on to a collection is a kind of antidote to those times when we feel vulnerable or lonely. We collect to preserve the past and it is this sense of completion that many of us feel when we open the drawer and see all of our yarmulkes inside. That's because it's not just the item but what that item means to us that's so important.

Like the psychologists say, our yarmulke collection is a tangible way for us to preserve the past – a past that is rich with simcha after simcha after simcha, a past that evokes beautiful memories of the most important people in our lives.

Psychologists and sociologists tell us that it is the sense of completion that is the one thing that compels people to hold on to things like our yarmulkes. And I think they're on to something, especially when we consider the meaning of one of our most important Jewish words, "shalom," and what shalom says about us.

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

Yiddish word that comes from the Hebrew. Kippah means "dome," and it originates from the evolution of the Jewish head covering that morphed into a little circular "dome" that we place on the top of our heads.

The word yarmulke is more complex. It is made up of two Hebrew words, *Yareh Malka*, that translate to "awe of the throne." The *Yareh Malka* originated from the concept that we should wear a head covering to remind us of how important and how special it is to be in the presence of God. From there the word evolved from *Yareh Malka* into the Yiddish, yarmulke!

Whether you say kippah or yarmulke, there is one thing we can agree on. When we get them, it's almost impossible to let them go.

Psychologists offer some insight into why people collect things, and we can apply their findings to why our yarmulkes stay with us for years and years. Kim A. Herzinger, an award-winning author and avid collector, says,

Our rabbis tell us that shalom is commonly translated as peace, and we use it as a greeting and as a farewell. But shalom has another meaning that is even more profound. Yes, shalom means peace but shalom implies more than lack of conflict. Shalom also means completeness, a feeling of calm and comfort, an internal sense of peace within each individual.

Reaching in and touching a kippah, placing it in our hands, reading the inscription, recalling the simcha and maybe, most important of all, reliving a cherished relationship, gives us a sense of what our rabbis were talking about in their New Year sermons. *Teshuvah* means return, and it is not that difficult to start the process. We can do *teshuva* by returning to the sweet times of our lives, the holidays, the simchas and the joys.

Scientists and sociologists seem to be telling us something that we know to be true in our own hearts – that the yarmulkes we hang on to are so much

more than random keepsakes. Our yarmulkes remind us that life – its fruits and its labors – consists of history, family and faith. We can turn isolation and sadness into serenity and gratitude just by opening a drawer.

Rabbi Barbara Aiello served Aviva

Senior Living in Sarasota as resident rabbi for 10 years. She now lives and works in Italy where she is rabbi of Italy's first Reconstructionist synagogue. You may reach her at [Rabbi@RabbiBarbara.com](mailto:Rabbi@RabbiBarbara.com).

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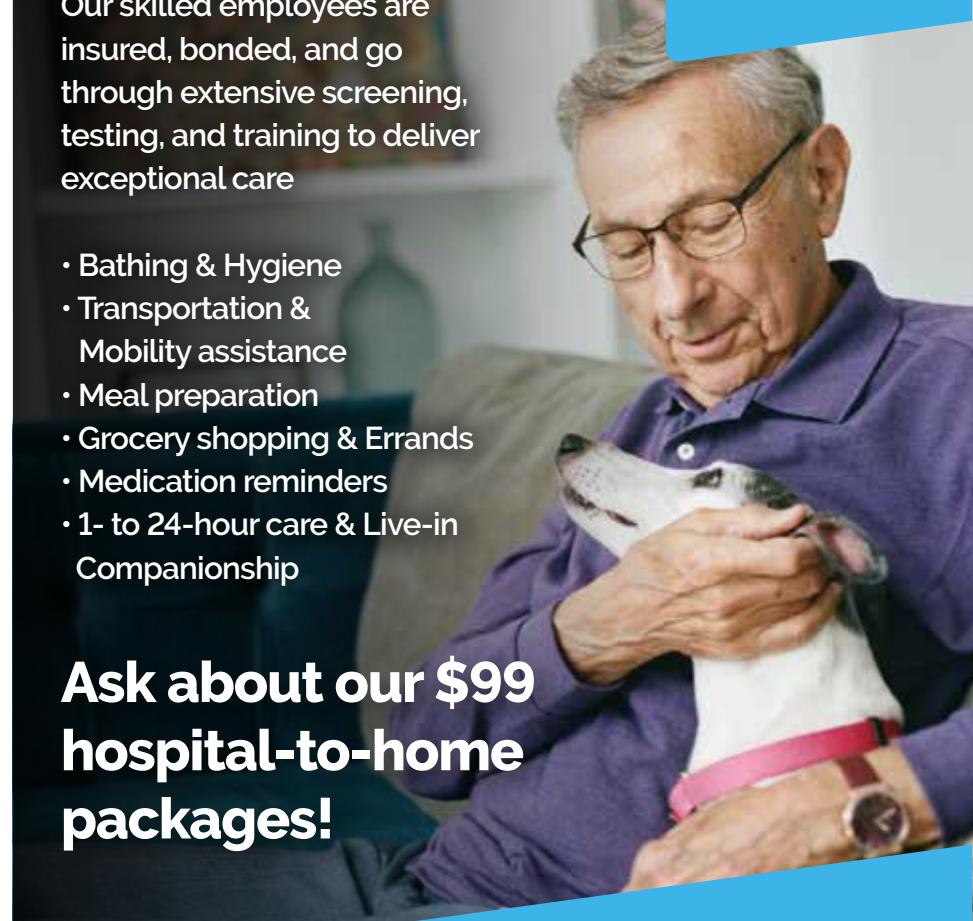
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# Rescuing the children: Oslo, November 1942

By Paul R. Bartrop, PhD

**O**n June 15, 1938, a group of Jewish children from Vienna, Austria, arrived in Oslo, Norway, to spend their summer vacation at a Jewish summer camp. It was at first intended that they would stay until the

beginning of September, but it was a ruse. Plans were made instead for them to be placed in a specially designated Children's Home in Oslo.

The first director of the home was Nina Hasvold. Originally from St. Petersburg, as a child she fled with her family to Berlin. Here, as a young adult, she befriended Norwegian child psychiatrist Carolina (Nic) Waal. At Nic's invitation she went to Oslo in 1936 to study psychology. After some administrative concerns, she managed to stay.

Taking on the role of managing the Jewish Children's Home, she effectively became a surrogate mother for the children in her care.

In Oslo, the Ministry of Justice advised that only 22 Jewish children in total, all to be under 10 years old, could come, but only for three months during the summer. Many people, however, concerned for the children's safety if they returned to Germany, raised money from across Norway to ensure they could remain.

On October 25, 1942, Karl Alfred Marthinsen, the Norwegian SS com-

mander, ordered the arrest of all Jewish men over the age of 15 to take place the next day. Three weeks later, on November 19, 1942, the first group deportation to Germany of 21 Jewish men took place.

On November 25, 1942 – 80 years ago this month – Sigrid Helliesen Lund, working on behalf of Jewish refugees, received a coded telephone call that stated simply, "Yes, there's going to be another party this evening – it's the small parcels they are picking this time." She realized immediately what this meant: Jewish women and children were about to be arrested. She never discovered the identity of the caller but said later she felt the information was from a police informer. Nic Waal received a similar message.

That night, at 9:00 p.m., air raid sirens went off across Oslo warning the population to remain indoors. Nic Waal, as a medical doctor, had been allowed to keep her car and travel outside the curfew, and she now drove immediately to the Children's Home. She and Nina roused the 14 children still at the home and told them that things had become very dangerous. They were told to dress quickly in their finest clothes, and to wear two of everything – underwear, sweaters, blouses and pants. They were divided into two groups according to age.

Carrying their shoes so as not to make any noise, they went down by the back stairs to Nic Waal's waiting car. Nina remained with the older children while Nic, with the younger

children in the back seat, then drove to the home of Gerda Tanberg, a friend living on the west side of Oslo. Gerda had earlier agreed to make her two-room apartment available as a safe house. Returning to collect the older children, Nic found that by now the Germans had set up roadblocks. At one major intersection it appeared she would be stopped – with the children huddled on the back seat under blankets. Upon pointing to the doctor's insignia on her car, however, she was passed through without inspection. She then floored the accelerator and drove away as quickly as she could.

Two hours after the last children had left the now-empty Home, Norwegian police arrived with the intention of removing them to the SS *Donau*, then lying in the harbor ready to deport everyone to Poland. Some 572 Jews were arrested during this single round-up, of which only nine would survive the war. Forty-two of those arrested were children.

Everyone from the Home was now crammed into Gerda Tanberg's apartment. The children were told to lie on the floor and cautioned to be as silent as possible. Considerations such as food and drink – and using the bathroom – rendered the situation critical. During their short stay, two of the girls had their dark hair bleached to make them appear more Nordic.

In the meantime, arrangements had been made with Martin Solvang, a taxi driver involved with the Norwegian resistance, to carry the children to the border area in two trips. It took a week for this to be done. Once there, they were placed into the hands of a second border guide, Ola Breisjøberget, who

took them on foot across the last three kilometers and over the Swedish border.

When the children arrived in Sweden, they first were taken to a military outpost, then a school where they got cookies and cocoa, and lastly to a hospital for a medical examination. As all were now rendered stateless, they were sent to a holding location separated from other Norwegian citizens in Sweden and housed at Alingsås outside Gothenburg.

When peace came in May 1945, a representative of the Norwegian government visited the children in Stockholm. He said that as they were stateless, they could not hope to return to Norway or remain there. The children decided to go back anyway, regardless of whether Norway wanted them. Subsequently, most managed to locate surviving family members and resettled in Norway, Sweden, Argentina, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Of those who participated in the rescue effort, all seven were recognized by Yad Vashem in Jerusalem as Righteous Among the Nations in 2006. They were Nic Waal, Nina Hasvold, Gerda Tanberg, Martin Solvang, Ola Rauken, Ola Breisjøberget and Sigrid Helliesen Lund.

The story of what happened at the Oslo Jewish Children's Home, 80 years ago this month, should be celebrated as an example of what could be done to bring light during the Holocaust, a time of murderous darkness.

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

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# Jewish composers who made it big in Hollywood: Elmer Bernstein

By Arlene Stoltz

**E**lmer Bernstein? Oh, you mean the one related to Leonard? No? Guess I've heard of him, but don't know much about him. Something with Hollywood? Yeah! Just read he wrote film scores for movies and TV.

In fact, the list of pictures Elmer Bernstein worked on numbered well over 200 and included a roll call of film classics: *The Ten Commandments*, *The Age of Innocence*, *The Magnificent Seven*, *Ghostbusters*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Cape Fear*, *True Grit*, *Animal House*, *The Great Escape* and *My Left Foot*, just to name a few that show his great musical versatility.

But we focus on Elmer Bernstein, the man, as we have done in other columns in this series. Born in New York in 1922, his parents were Jewish Eastern European immigrants from Ukraine and the Austro-Hungarian Empire. His father Edward was a teacher who emigrated to this country in 1915. Edward Bernstein settled in New York City where he married Selma, a dancer who immersed her son Elmer in the arts. As a dancer with Isadora Duncan, her influence on the young boy was enormous.

As a child, Bernstein's activities were filled with creativity. He took dance lessons, played the piano and won prizes for some of his paintings. At the age of 12, he started to focus on his piano-playing skills. He won a scholarship, which led him to a teacher at Juilliard who recognized his talent. She eventually introduced him to Aaron Copland, who also saw his talent and arranged for him to study under Israel Citkowitz, a well-known composer and piano teacher of that time.

Later, Bernstein attended NYU, but his studies were interrupted by World War II. He was fortunate to be assigned to a Special Services unit where he was able to use his musical talents. It was here that he received an assignment in arranging music for the ensemble of a young major, whose name became synonymous with the music of the 1940s, Glen Miller. Bernstein was the arranger for The Glen Miller Orchestra until Miller, tragically, was lost over the English Channel during the war. Subsequently, this led to Bernstein's being asked to arrange music for the Armed Forces Radio. He also had the opportunity to compose an original score for the Army Air Corps radio show. By the time he left the service he had composed over 80 such scores. In 1949, he composed a score for the United Nations Radio Service. The music for the program, narrated by

Henry Fonda, was about the UN's role in the Israeli armistice.

An interesting note I found was that Elmer Bernstein was known as "Bernstein West," while Leonard Bernstein was known as "Bernstein East." This was to distinguish him from Leonard Bernstein, the New York Philharmonic conductor, with the same last name. Another interesting anecdote was that Elmer pronounced his name "BernSTEEN," and Leonard preferred the Germanic pronunciation of "Bern-STYNE."

Bernstein called the music he wrote

for *To Kill a Mockingbird* his favorite written score. Its subtlety and nuanced style won a Golden Globe Award and an Oscar nomination. He attributed the style and elegance to his early mentor, Aaron Copland. The music from the movie can be heard on YouTube.

Elmer Bernstein died on August 18, 2004, at the age of 82, still actively composing music for films.

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



■ Arlene Stoltz

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# Do you know the way to Monterey?

By The Wine Whisperer

Even the most casual wine drinker knows the names of at least a few California wine regions. Napa and Sonoma are familiar to all of us because California produces about 80% of all American wine. When we think about wine, Napa comes to mind first, then Sonoma and then...what?



**Jerry Greenfield**

Maybe the Santa Ynez and Santa Maria areas outside Santa Barbara pop into our heads, but there's a lot going on in other areas, too, both north and south of San Francisco.

So just for the heck of it, let's go south, to what's called the Central Coast American Viticultural Area (AVA). It's huge...almost 300 miles north to south, running along the coastline and about 60 miles inland. Within this enormous area are 28 sub-regions, including Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo and, yes, Monterey. The area includes a wide range of extremely diverse landscapes: mountains, valleys and plains that create excellent conditions for wine grape cultivation. The Franciscan monks knew it, and planted vines in this region first, as they worked their way up the coast from Mexico.

What makes this region so wine friendly? A lot of it has to do with those mountains I mentioned above. The spaces between the peaks are called wind gaps: cool wind and fog from the Pacific Ocean blow through them into the inland valleys, moderating the heat of the sun. The mountain elevation and the sloping ground are a help, too, providing early morning sun and drainage. Then the fog burns off, it gets hot, and then cool again in the late afternoon. This roller coaster of climate extremes provides ideal growing conditions, and the grapevines just love it.

The entire area, especially Monterey, offers excellent temperatures and soils for Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, though a wide range of other varietals are also grown. Down in Paso Robles, Tablas Creek winery specializes in Rhône varietals like Grenache, Syrah and Mourvedre. No surprise, since it's owned by Chateau Beaucastel, a heritage winery in France's southern Rhône valley.

The Monterey AVA consists of four regions – Chalone, Santa Lucia Highlands, Arroyo Seco and Carmel Valley. The Pinot Noirs made here definitely have their own style, with flavors of cherry, strawberry and spices. The Chardonnays are very lean, with zippy acidity.

So...when you're ready to spend

a week or two in wine country, I urge you to seriously consider areas that are a bit off the predictable path. Of course, a ramble through Napa and Sonoma is a must, but think about going south, as well. Monterey and Paso Robles offer dozens of fascinating wines in an atmosphere that's very laid back, casual and not a bit touristy. Well worth a visit. And so are these latest wine discoveries.

#### Siduri Pinot Noir Santa Lucia Highlands 2017 (\$30)

Blended from six vineyards in the region, winemaker Adam Lee has produced a relatively full-bodied Pinot with flavors and aromas of red cherry, raspberry and cranberry supported by firm tannins and well-balanced acidity. A good value. WW 91

#### Opolo Malbec Paso Robles 2016 (\$24)

The winemakers in Paso will experiment with just about any varietal...even Malbec, the grape that put Argentinian wines on the map. This chewy example is full of black plum, cherry and cinnamon flavors, with a bit of rich chocolate and espresso halfway through. A big wine. WW 89

#### McIntyre Chardonnay Santa Lucia Highlands 2017 (\$28)

Wine-maker Steve McIntyre follows a minimalist approach to his winemaking. The grapes were harvested at varying levels of ripeness to contribute brac-

ing acidity, with green apple and pear notes. Later-picked grapes bring lime and other citrus flavors, and hints of rich ripe fruit. WW 91

#### Ryder Cabernet Sauvignon Monterey 2018 (\$15)

Warm days and chilly nights produce powerfully ripe grapes, and Ryder puts them in the bottle. Loads of dark fruit right up front, including black cherry, blueberry and blackberry. Hints of chocolate and mocha sneak in on the finish. WW 90

#### Ask the Wine Whisperer

What is the largest bottle of wine made? – Linda G., Orlando

Bottles bigger than a magnum (1500 ml, or two standard bottles) are named after monarchs of ancient Israel, figures from the Old Testament, kings of Assyria, like that. From smallest to largest, they are Magnum, Jereboam, Rheoboam, Methusaleh, Salmanazar, Balthazar and Nebuchadnezzar, which holds 20 standard-size bottles.

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

 Jewish Film Festival  
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Thank you for your support!

**See pages 16-17 for information on all 11 films  
in the 2023 Jewish Film Festival of Southwest Florida.**

# "We can't sit by when this level of disaster strikes"

**Psychotrauma and crisis-response specialists from United Hatzalah flew to Florida in the wake of Hurricane Ian to give immediate trauma care.**

By Abigail Klein Leichman, ISRAEL21c, October 13, 2022

**W**hen Dr. Sharon Slater spotted "Paul" in a Red Cross shelter in Fort Myers, Florida, the 45-year-old chef was standing between two beds looking very agitated.

She approached him gently, introduced herself as a clinical psychologist from Israel's United Hatzalah Psychotrauma and Crisis Response Unit (PCRU), and asked if she could speak to him.

Paul told Slater that he and his wife had sold everything and moved to Fort Myers from Missouri two weeks prior to the hurricane.

Now, the house in which they'd invested all their money was demolished. A small plastic bag held everything he owned.

"He kept repeating, 'I lost everything, I couldn't save anything.' He had no job, no home, no possessions," Slater tells ISRAEL21c.

This was the kind of intense personal crisis that Slater and her teammates from Israel are trained to alleviate with short but effective interventions.

They flew from Israel on Saturday night, October 1, as soon as it was clear that Hurricane Ian was wreaking extraordinary death and destruction.

"It was touted as a once-in-500-years hurricane that even Americans and Floridians found overwhelming," explains Slater.

"My experience in assisting after the building collapse in Surfside [in June 2021] taught me that even though the Americans are quite capable of handling disasters on their own, our trauma team brings different techniques, some of which were created in Israel on the basis of need, and we have something to add."



On October 1, United Hatzalah sent a psychological and medical first aid team to Florida following Hurricane Ian (photo courtesy of United Hatzalah)

Welcomed once again by the Floridian Red Cross volunteers, Slater and a handful of other Israeli psychologists and social workers on her team combed two shelters looking for people who appeared especially lost, helpless, anxious or isolated.

"We do not do therapy; we do a quick intervention of maybe 15 minutes per person," Slater explained.

The Israeli counselors always ask permission to approach because, she says, "there is so little in their control. This gives them an opportunity to control whether they want to interact with us."

## "Who sleeps in this bed?"

When Paul indicated his assent and repeated his mantra, Slater pointed to one of the beds he was standing between and asked, "Paul, who sleeps in this bed?"

"My wife," he replied, and then repeated, "But I couldn't save anything."

Slater asked again who sleeps in this bed. And then Paul understood: He had indeed saved something — the woman most important to him. With that realization, his tears began to flow.

When he'd composed himself, Slater asked what was overwhelming him and he gave her a list of major concerns. She advised him to choose the most urgent problem to focus on first, to the exclusion of all others.

Paul decided that his priority was finding a home to rent. Slater said, "Just focus on that for now and after that you can worry about finding a job. When those intrusive thoughts come in about a job and possessions, re-focus on one thing instead of 10 things."

Immediately, she saw the tension leave his face and body.

Paul thanked her, and she moved on.

"One of the protocols we use addresses the issue of resilience and helping people to rewrite their narrative to look for points of resilience," Slater explains.

"Paul was very focused on having been ineffective and inefficient in saving what was important to him, and I was looking for what he did succeed at to reframe that for him and give him a different perspective."

This is one of the trauma intervention protocols created in Israel. "We have six or seven protocols depending on the mental state of the person and how soon after the event we arrive," says Slater. "We are also certified in Red Cross Psychological First Aid."

## "God bless Israel"

In one Red Cross shelter, Slater blew bubbles with a three-year-old boy and

*continued on page 18*



Dr. Einat Kauffman and Hadas Rucham talking to evacuees at a shelter in Fort Myers (photo courtesy of United Hatzalah)

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FEBRUARY 5 - MARCH 2, 2023



## Jewish Film Festival of Southwest Florida

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

Films will be screened at the Regal Belltower!

Open seating at all films for general admission tickets.

Festival Passes available on Tuesday, November 1

Individual tickets available on Thursday, December 1

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

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

#### That Orchestra with the Broken Instruments

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

Documentary, 1 hour 20 minutes

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

#### Rose

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

Drama, 1 hour 42 minutes, French with English subtitles

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

#### Bad Nazi, Good Nazi

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

Drama, 60 minutes, Hebrew & German with English subtitles

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

#### Our Almost Completely True Story

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

As things get serious and unexpected challenges arise, she wonders if it may be too late for love. Written by and starring Hartley and Sroka, the film shares the hilarious, vulnerable realities for aging actors and the search for love as seniors in Hollywood. Drama, Comedy, 92 minutes, English

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

#### One More Story

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

Drama, Comedy, 91 minutes  
Hebrew with English subtitles

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

#### Here We Are

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

Drama, 92 minutes, Hebrew with English subtitles

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

#### Shepherd: The Story of a Jewish Dog

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

Narrative Feature, 1 hour 35 minutes, English

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

## Neighbours

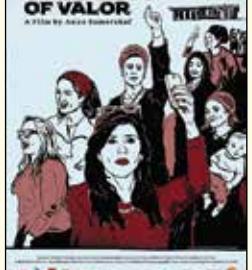


Set in the 1980s in a small Kurdish village in northeastern Syria, Mano Khalil's masterful film, which was inspired by his personal life story, comes to life through the eyes of its endearing young hero, Sero, a six-year-old whose vivid recollections transport us to a world both sad and beautiful, innocent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

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

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

## Women of Valor



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

Documentary, 77 minutes, Hebrew and English

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

## Greener Pastures

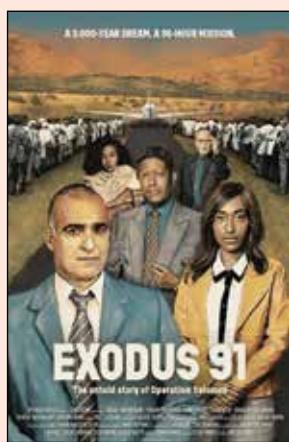


Dov, a widower who begrudgingly resides in a nursing home, dreams of buying back his old house where he raised his family. Since his pension fell through, Dov's finances are thin, which he entirely blames on the bureaucracy of the state. One day, to his surprise, he finds out that almost all the residents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

Comedy, 1 hour 30 minutes, Hebrew with English subtitles

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

## Exodus 91



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

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

## 2023 Jewish Film Festival Ticket Information



FEBRUARY 5 - MARCH 2, 2023

Jewish Film Festival  
of Southwest Florida

### FILMS

### **Regal Belltower Stadium 20 Theaters**

**SERIES OF 11 FILMS: \$120 (discounted rate)**

**INDIVIDUAL FILM TICKETS: \$12 each**

**Passes & tickets are available online**

### DATES

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

To purchase your festival pass and individual tickets visit:

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

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**United Hatzalah...continued from page 15**

soon spotted the child's mother, "Charlene," sitting on an air mattress.

Giving Slater permission to sit and speak with her, Charlene shared that she is a single mom of three small children. She'd recently been released from prison and had suffered two major losses: the grandmother of the three-year-old boy, who'd been caring for him, had died. Her best friend also died. Charlene hadn't had time to find a job before the hurricane took away whatever little she'd managed to get together.

"I asked what helped her negotiate all these challenges. She pointed up and said, 'God.' I asked if she prays, and she told me that she speaks to God every day," Slater recalls.

Slater asked Charlene if she and Dr. Einat Kauffman, clinical director of the PCRU, could pray with her for two minutes. Charlene agreed.

"Afterward, I told her that I had prayed for God to give her resilience to take each day at a time and keep her family together. Charlene said she had prayed for gratitude that she and her



Dr. Einat Kauffman coordinating efforts with a local first responder in Fort Myers (photo courtesy of United Hatzalah)

kids are under one roof, and have their health, and that she's not incarcerated."

Charlene was crying tears of relief when the Israeli women left her, and she called after them, "God bless Israel!"

#### The family that wouldn't leave

One the eve of Yom Kippur, Kauffman and her team were called over by a group of firefighters on Fort Myers Beach to help them with a family that was refusing to leave their condo, which had been deemed unfit for human occupancy due to the storm.

The couple and their three children told the firefighters that they hadn't left their apartment during the Covid pandemic,



Members of the Psychotrauma and Crisis Response Unit coordinating their efforts with a Red Cross worker in Fort Myers (photo courtesy of United Hatzalah)

## WOMEN'S Giving Circle

### WHAT IS A WOMEN'S GIVING CIRCLE?

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



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and they were still too afraid of the virus to leave now – despite having no food, gas, electricity or clean water.

Kauffman approached and helped them weigh the risks of each worst-case scenario: contracting the disease in its current form, which for most is not lethal, or staying in an apartment in an unsafe building that might collapse.

"I told them that members of our very own team had responded to the Surfside collapse and explained to them a bit about what happens when a building collapses. I spoke to the wife and mother, and she understood me and I understood her, and I tried to allay her fears. She said she would discuss the issue with her husband and children," Kauffman says.

"A few hours later, the firefighters who had requested our help sent me a photo of the family after they had exited the building and the firefighters were going to take them to one of the nearby shelters," she says.

"The important part to remember is that in the case of the evacuees, these are all stories of survival. These people went through some of the most trying experiences in life, simply to survive when their world came crashing down. They are still struggling, and I am glad that I was able to be there to help."

#### Home in the nick of time

Hurricanes never hit at convenient times, but Ian was especially challenging for the Israeli professionals because of its proximity to the Jewish holidays of Yom Kippur and Sukkot.

Each of the seven volunteers made the decision to leave their families at a time when families normally gather.

In fact, Slater barely made it home before nightfall on October 9, the eve of Sukkot. Three Arab members of United Hatzalah came to the airport to meet the volunteers and drive

them home just in time.

"I have five grown kids and nine grandchildren, and my husband is incredibly supportive of my going out on these missions," Slater says. "My only concern was leaving my clients vulnerable."

Paramedic Dov Maisel, Vice President of Operations for United Hatzalah of Israel, said the calculus is simple.

"We go because people are in need of help and we can't sit idly by when this level of disaster strikes," Maisel said.

"Over the past six years, the PCRU members have become experts in the field of providing psychological first



Florida Red Cross volunteers (top row) with members of the United Hatzalah Psychotrauma and Crisis Response Unit in Fort Myers (bottom row) Nili Tover Zivan, Dr. Einat Kauffman, Dr. Sharon Slater, Hadas Rucham (photo courtesy of United Hatzalah)

aid and emotional stabilization in the field following any type of disaster, big or small. That is why we keep sending them out when these things take place.... They are a force multiplier of psychological first aid, and that has been proven time and again in large-scale disaster scenarios."

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

## BRIEFS

### ISRAEL'S ECONOMY IS THRIVING

Israel, a nation of nine million, is an economic juggernaut. It has one of the fastest growth rates and one of the lowest rates of inflation (4.3 percent) and joblessness (3.5 percent).

On top of that, the shekel is the only currency among the 31 that trade actively that has strengthened against the dollar in the past decade.

Israel is poised to achieve 5.2 percent gross domestic product growth in 2022, according to more than a dozen forecasts.

Technology has emerged as the No. 1 industry. From auto parts to medical equipment solutions to food, water and climate change, technology made in Israel is transforming the world's biggest industries.

This hub of innovation includes Mobileye Global Inc., the creator of

vision-based driver assistance systems for 50 car makers, or 70 percent of the global market.

There's also Nanox Imaging Ltd., serving governments, hospitals and clinics with cloud-based image analysis, online diagnosis and billing services while developing a 3D medical imaging device. (Matthew A. Winkler, Bloomberg - Washington Post)

### ISRAEL ABSORBS OVER 60,000 NEW IMMIGRANTS IN CURRENT YEAR

Israel expects to see a total of 65,000 new immigrants during the current year, compared to 28,500 in 2021.

Forty-seven percent came from Russia, 25 percent from Ukraine, six percent from the U.S., four percent from France and two percent from Ethiopia. (Zvika Klein, Jerusalem Post)

*continued on next page*

## BRIEFS

continued from previous page

**ISRAEL'S POPULATION REACHES 9,593,000 ON EVE OF JEWISH NEW YEAR**

Israel's population has reached 9,593,000, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported recently. 7,069,000 residents are Jews (74 percent) and 2,026,000 are Arabs (21 percent).

Ninety-two percent of Jewish Israelis reported being satisfied with their lives, as did 70.7 percent of Israeli Arabs. (Yaron Druckman, *Ynet News*)

**ISRAEL AND GERMANY HOLD FIRST STRATEGIC DIALOGUE**

The first-ever Germany-Israel Strategic Dialogue was held in Jerusalem between senior national security officials from Israel and Germany on September 1-2. It was presided over by the national security advisors and directors-general of the foreign ministries of Germany and Israel, the Director-General of the Israeli Ministry of Defense, the Director of the Mossad, the Director of the Israeli Security Agency and their German counterparts.

The participants discussed a wide range of issues related to national security. The Israeli participants presented the danger posed in Israel's view by a return to the nuclear agreement with Iran. (Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

**IS ISRAEL REALLY A SAFE COUNTRY?**

In 2020, Israel had a crime rate of 30.4 per 1,000 citizens, including anything from petty theft to murder. How does that compare to other Western countries?

In England, the crime rate in 2020 was 77.5 crimes per 1,000 citizens, and Germany had 63.8.

In Israel, the murder rate in 2019 was 1.47 per 100,000 civilians. The U.S. had a rate of 5.07 – more than triple. (Roman Meitav, *Jerusalem Post*)

**UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT EARNS FEDERAL PROBE OVER ANTISEMITISM**

A University of Vermont (UVM) teaching assistant wasn't content to merely bully Jewish students who identified with Israel. She boasted about it publicly, chortling on social media about her threats to reduce the grades of Jewish kids for whom Israel has personal meaning.

When an Israeli flag was stolen from an off-campus student house, the teaching assistant heartily praised the vandalism. "Who stole the Israeli

flag," she tweeted, "I just wanna talk and tell you how cool and special and loved you are."

Last year, UVM students organized a group to support victims of sexual harassment. When Hillel, the Jewish student organization, posted a statement of solidarity, the anti-sexual harassment group rejected it, claiming to "follow the same policy with Zionists that we follow with those who troll or harass others: blocked."

After a group of students spent 40 minutes throwing rocks at the windows of the Hillel Jewish students' campus center, the university insisted that there was nothing anti-Jewish about the attack.

In response to a quite detailed complaint filed by the Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law, the U.S. Department of Education has opened a formal investigation into whether UVM has fostered or permitted a hostile environment for Jewish students, in violation of the federal civil rights laws. (Jeff Robbins, former U.S. delegate to the UN Human Rights Commission, *Boston Herald*)

**44 PURE GOLD BYZANTINE COINS DISCOVERED IN GOLAN HEIGHTS**

A haul of 44 solid gold coins, weighing some 170 grams, was recently discovered hidden inside a stone wall at Banias in the Golan Heights, within the Hermon Stream (Banias) Nature Reserve.

Some of the coins were minted by Emperor Phocas (602-610 CE) but most have been identified by Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) numismatic expert Gabriela Bijovsky as minted by Byzantine Emperor Heraclius (610-641 CE). They were hidden during the Muslim conquest of Byzantine Palestine in 635 CE, she said.

"The discovery reflects a specific moment in time, when we can imagine the owner concealing his fortune in the threat of war, hoping to return one day to retrieve his property," said IAA excavation director Yoav Lerer.

He expects the coin hoard to provide information about the Banias economy in the last 40 years of Byzantine rule.

According to Bijovsky, in Heraclius' early years as emperor, only his image appeared on the coins, but with time, his sons joined him.

"One can actually follow his sons growing up – from childhood until their image appears the same size as their father, who is depicted with a long beard."

The excavation, in the northwestern residential quarter of the ancient city of Banias, originally Panias in homage to the Greek god Pan, additionally revealed coins made from

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bronze. Pottery and glass fragments, a pottery kiln and metal artifacts were also uncovered, as well as the remains of buildings, water channels and pipes.

The discoveries range from the end of the Byzantine period (early seventh century CE) until the early Middle Ages (11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> centuries).

IAA director Eli Escusido said that the IAA and the National Parks Authority would work together on exhibiting the treasure to the public. (Marion Fischel, *ISRAEL21c*)

**MOROCCAN MUSLIMS REVIVING JEWISH HERITAGE IN FORMER JEWISH NEIGHBORHOODS**

"Rebuilding Our Homes" is a multi-year USAID-supported initiative of the American Sephardi Federation and Mimouna Association that aims to teach the residents of urban neighborhoods in Moroccan cities that were once thriving Jewish quarters about local history and the rich heritage of the areas.

Today, many of the residents of these neighborhoods make a living from creating Jewish artifacts and selling them to tourists. Mezuzas, Shabbat candlesticks and other traditional pieces of Judaica made by Muslims are filling the shops in the narrow alleys. Some 200,000 Israeli tourists are expected to visit Morocco next year.

El Mehdi Boudra, president of the Morocco-based Mimouna Association, said, "I'm a proud Muslim.... Culturally I'm Moroccan, which means Jewish as well. Morocco was home to the biggest Jewish community in the Muslim world for centuries. Judaism is an integral part of our culture as Moroccans,

and we should take pride in that.... We surveyed what people here thought about Jews before we started the project and discovered 85 percent of the population has a positive opinion about them." (Adi Koplewitz, *Ynet News*)

**PALESTINIAN HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST BLASTS BDS SUPPORTERS AT DUKE UNIVERSITY**

Palestinian human rights activist Bassem Eid told a student group recently that the top priorities for ordinary Palestinians are to survive and to secure education and health care for their children.

"The majority of the Palestinians these days are people who are seeking dignity rather than identity."

Contrary to what the Palestinian leadership thinks, he believes that the Abraham Accords were "very important," with UAE investment in Israel leading to the creation of jobs that will benefit Palestinians.

Asked about the pro-Palestinian organizations that supported Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) or Israel Apartheid Week, he replied, "These people... have no problem from time to time to give a speech on behalf of the Palestinians. [But] they are using us. The BDS movement is people who used to be jobless and they found a job forever. If the Israeli-Palestine conflict [was] solved, all of the BDS members will be jobless.

"What do the Palestinians benefit from BDS? Zero. Several factories in Israel have been closed, thousands of Palestinian workers have been thrown out from their jobs." (Jasper Lu, *Duke University Chronicle*)

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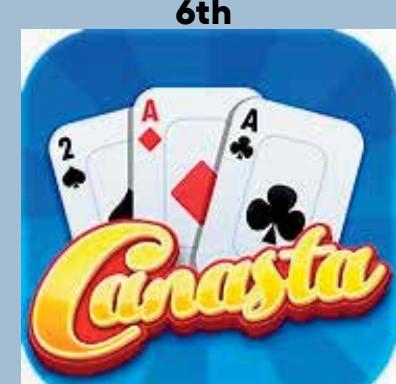
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# Pour some gravy on me

By Keith Grossman

**A**re you ready for a little Thanksgiving humor? What does Shaft eat for Thanksgiving? Jive turkey, baby!

After the devastation of Hurricane



■ Keith Grossman

Ian, we may not be ready for a major holiday, but it's coming in like a Butterball. I've already heard the turkeys wondering why they're being unfriended on Facebook.

They're praying for an early Christmas. They're hiding the breadcrumbs. They're holding signs that say, "Eat more ham."

So let's talk turkey. Those of us who survived the hurricane with our lives have things to be thankful for.

We've gone cold turkey without ice and without warm showers. But in some way, for some period of time, we are sheltered. We've lost food. But somehow, someway, we've been nourished. We've had to boil water. But our bottle of Wild Turkey bourbon didn't disappoint.

It might be helpful now more than ever to make a list of the things for which you are thankful.

"We may not have it all together, but together we have it all." (Anonymous)

In Judaism, we have prayers of thanksgiving: Modeh Ani for waking from sleep (the first prayer traditionally recited upon awakening in the morning), and Modim for God's kindness and salvation (the second of the three standard closing blessings of the Amidah).

It's at the Thanksgiving table where we will find comfort in traditions and make new memories. My mom didn't grow up learning to cook from her mother. Nana Betty was known to be a horrible cook. If she wasn't burning toast, she was burning kitchen draperies. It is said the firefighters frequently visited my mom's childhood kitchen.

When my mom got married, she set out to be the best cook she could possibly be, and she achieved that goal. She passed that passion on to my daughter Maxine. Maxine once recounted a story about my mom teaching her where to set the forks and knives, etc., for

the Thanksgiving meal. Those are the blessings we need to remember.

A *Reader's Digest* article tells the story of Mrs. Klein and her first-grade class. She had them draw a picture of something for which they were thankful. Although many lived in poverty, she knew that most of the class would draw pictures of turkeys or of bountiful Thanksgiving tables. That was what they believed was expected of them.

Douglas's drawing, however, was simply a hand. The rest of the children were captivated by the idea and tried to correctly guess whose hand. Mrs. Klein asked Douglas. He mumbled,

"It's yours, Teacher."

Then Mrs. Klein recalled that she had taken Douglas by the hand from time to time. She often did that with the children. But that it should have meant so much to Douglas...

Perhaps, she reflected, this was her Thanksgiving, and everybody's Thanksgiving – not the material things given unto us, but the small ways that we give something to others.

So, pour some gravy on me. I'm not doing the turkey trot, but I'm ready to count my blessings. And maybe even stuff myself like a turkey. ●

## We will rebuild SWFL

By Brian Simon, Federation Past-President

I'm writing this on October 4, less than a week after Hurricane Ian changed the landscape of Southwest Florida.

We have a mango tree in our backyard. Like many of us, the tree was transplanted to its current location. We had it moved back 20 feet when we bought the house to make room for a patio. It has thrived in its new location. It's not a big tree, but it produces hundreds of small, sweet, yellow mangoes in the early summer.

The mango tree has two trunks. One goes straight up. The other comes out of the ground about 12 inches before forking into two branches, one bending 30 degrees to the southwest and the other toward the northwest.

The straight trunk was sheared off by Ian. The bent trunks survived. I'm curious to see what happens next summer. Will the tree still bear fruit? Will the broken part grow back?

In last month's column, I mentioned kicking an ant hill and seeing

all the ants come running out to repair the damage. It's easy for me to say because we did not lose our home, but the thought of those ants getting right to work rebuilding their hill has always given me comfort that when and if our homes were destroyed, we would get right to work rebuilding.

As soon Hurricane Ian passed, people were looking for ways to help. Our Federation staff and volunteers got right to work. Donations poured in. A disaster recovery team from Israel came to town. Part of our Federation's mission is *Tikun Olam*, repairing the world.

We will rebuild Southwest Florida. It will not be the same as it was before. Change is inevitable, and we will deal with other storms in the future.

The last thing I can offer is a few of the lines from the morning blessings that have given me solace.

"Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe, who provides for all of my needs...who blesses the people Israel with courage...who crowns the people Israel with triumph...who restores vigor to the weary." ●

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



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## Creating safe shelter

Hurricane Ian's devastation has called us to rethink the meaning of shelter in our lives. What was perhaps once seen as an ordinary part of life is now an immense blessing. Whether we are thankful for



friends who have taken us in, a rental we found, or our own safe roofs, we no longer take shelter for granted. God, too, desires shelter, and we are the ones called to provide shelter for the Divine.

God commands the Israelites in Exodus, "Let them build Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them." The biblical architect was a man named Bezalel. *Tzel* means shadow, so the midrash interprets his name as, "I made for [God] shade." Bezalel created shade or a shelter for God. This is physically represented by two figures spreading their wings above the ark of the covenant.

But even before Bezalel, there was Abraham. In the story of Genesis, Abraham sees three men walking by his tent and rushes out to greet them, offering water and bread, and saying, "Do not go on, recline under the tree." It turns out these three men were in

fact angels of God. Rabbi Aviva Richman writes that Abraham was the first person in the God-human relationship to offer shelter to God by inviting the wanderers, God's messengers, to rest under the tree and offering them water and bread.

Elijah de Vidas, a mystical rabbi in Sfat, wrote, "A person must prepare a lovely dwelling place in their heart for God. This means that an individual has to act humbly." In the wake of Hurricane Ian, we are all called to open our hearts and provide shelter in any way we can – donating supplies to the Jewish Federation or providing financial assistance to families in need. The need in our community feels overwhelming.

The midrash explains that when the Israelites were alone in the desert, God spread out seven clouds of glory as sukkot, as shelter and protection. Abraham's initiative leads to mutual shelter between God and Israel. Once Abraham creates a safe and inviting dwelling place for God, through offering food and water to the travelers, God offers the same to Israel.

We pray that we may expand our hearts and help create safe shelter to all those in need, and in doing so, welcome in God as well.

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

■ Rabbi  
Nicole  
Luna

## Finding a way to continue to serve our community

For the past 51 years, preparing for the Days of Awe took all the focus and energy that I could muster. This year, that pressure was compounded with my wife Vickie's diagnosis of stage 3 non-Hodgkin's

lymphoma and Hurricane Ian, which left us synagogue-less and homeless. These were huge challenges not only for me, but also for our wonderful congregation, Bat Yam Temple of the Islands.

And yet, Cantor Murray Simon, the outstanding lay leaders of Bat Yam and I determined that somehow, we would make Yom Kippur possible for our congregation. And we were able to make a spiritually satisfying lemonade out of the bunch of lemons that was dumped on our heads.

Cantor Simon and his pianist wife Toby opened their home in Lakewood Ranch for us to Zoom broadcast our services to our community. We used no prayerbook, but still we managed to successfully convey the mood and meaning of the essential Yom Kippur prayers which Cantor Simon, with Toby accompanying him, chanted so beautifully.

People all over the country and around the world contacted me and other congregational leaders to ask, "What can we do to help?" We were not yet asking for donations (although now we will gratefully accept them), so I responded, "The one thing you can do for us that would mean so much is to join us on Zoom for our Kol Nidre service."

The response was overwhelming. We are a small congregation, especially preseason, yet more than 100 congregants and guests from around the country and other parts of the world (some tuning in at 2:00 a.m. in their

time zone) joined us to show solidarity with us at this very difficult time. We were particularly touched to note that some of our guests were rabbis who did not have their own pulpit responsibilities, and some were non-Jews. Words cannot convey my gratitude and that of Bat Yam to each and every one of our guests. You gave us strength.

The rescue of our Torah scrolls by Melissa and Scot Congress was featured on *Nightly News with Lester Holt*, and our success at providing worship was featured in both *The New York Times* and the local public radio outlet. Never have I been prouder to serve as rabbi of Bat Yam.

Those of us who live on Sanibel felt like refugees who had little time to flee a war zone. Most of us, including Vickie and me, threw a very few essentials into a small suitcase, thinking we surely would be back home and resuming normal life within a few days at most. Little did we know that it might be months before we return home.

As of this writing, we have not been able to return to Sanibel to assess the damage to our home and to our congregation's worship space. The likelihood is the damage to both is extensive. But we will take things one day at a time, and under the wise leadership of temple president Alan Lessack, our officers, board and other amazing volunteers, Bat Yam will find a way to continue to serve our community.

As for Vickie and me, we have temporarily relocated to Tampa, where Vickie can continue her treatment at the renowned Moffitt Cancer Center. Her doctors both here and in Fort Myers think her condition is "treatable and curable." So, I fervently believe, is the condition of Bat Yam Temple of the Islands.

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

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

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# A test and a trial...keep the faith

**V**'ha'elohim nisa et Avraham... God tested Abraham. God called to Abraham, take your son, your favored son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering.

(Genesis 22:1,2)

Our Torah portion Vayera in a few weeks speaks of a test, a trial, an arresting disruption – a test that shifts priorities and perspective. We read in Vayera about Abraham's test.

And these past few weeks, as Cape Coral, a community and a temple family, we faced a trial, a test of our spirit and our will, a trial of our resilience and our faith. We faced, and continue to face, the challenges that accompany the arrival of an unfamiliar reality. It was a week of disorientation and displacement. It was a week of anxiety and uncertainty. Our priorities are forced into high relief, as so many suffered profoundly. We were reminded of what really matters: shelter, food, light and love.

Perhaps you are displaced and disoriented. Perhaps you have taken others into your homes. Perhaps your mind remains noisy with worry about loved ones, friends and neighbors still in the dark. Together, we seek the comfort of ritual, and the support of our community.

We've watched our city and most of the Southwest Florida area get battered and bruised, begin to wake up,

and we are humbled in the face of our trial. We are humbled by the fact that we cannot always be in control. And we are humbled by the fact that we each have the potential to help bring light back to our city.

As Abraham and his son Isaac walk to the place that God designates for the sacrifice, Isaac calls to his father. "Father," he says. "Yes, my son," Abraham answers. "Here are the firestone and the wood, but where is the sheep for the burnt offering?" Abraham answers, "God will see to the sheep for his burnt offering, my son."

This is an act of faith. In the face of his trial, Abraham maintains his faith. He believes in the potential of what can be. He believes that there must be a way forward, a sheep to take his son's sacrificial spot on the altar. He has faith in that which is yet to come. That he is not alone in his trial. He has faith that perhaps, in his moment of darkness, there can still be light. He has faith that in this hour of uncertainty, hope remains.

In this time of trial, we must have faith. Faith in ourselves that provides us with the strength and the compassion to help others, to give of ourselves to those in need. Faith that when we need help, there will be others ready to do what they can. And the faith to know that light will come again.

In some areas of the Cape it looks like a war zone. It's been wet, windy and dark. And yet, there has been comradeship in our streets. Nurses give breath to babies as they carry them down darkened stairs and the continued

care of our city's healthcare providers as they work to staff crowded hospitals. Engineers and firemen bravely climb toward the sky in high winds to assess the risk of a dangling wire, a pole or even structures falling and crumbling right before our eyes. This is the tireless work of so many in our city and beyond to protect and provide for those who need help. There are so many local workers and support from other states, checking in on neighbors to make sure they have what they need while they are without power, water and life's supplies to live!

As we begin to put the pieces back together, that is where we will find the faith to move forward, to return, to rebuild and to be strong for each other as we slowly find our way. This is our resilient, tough city, illuminated by the warmth of strangers caring for one another.

Psalm 126 concludes with two beautiful verses: "Those who sow with

tears will reap with songs of joy. Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them."

It is not the tears that bring the joy, it is the seeds that we sow. It is the faith that planting new seeds requires. The backbreaking work, of tending and tilling the soil, even while we weep, even as we mourn destruction. That is what will yield the joy.

We are planting seeds, as we do all that we can for one another, planting seeds when we have the faith that tomorrow will be brighter. As we plant the seeds together, we discover the comradeship that abounds in our streets. And we have faith, that after our trial, a time will come again, perhaps not this week or next, when our seeds will grow and bear fruit, and we will reap their harvest, and we will once again sing songs of joy.

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



**Cantor  
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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.



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For further information please contact Debbie Sanford at (239) 481-4449 ext. 6 or [debbiesanford@jfedi.org](mailto:debbiesanford@jfedi.org)

# This is where we find the strength to move forward

*This is an adaption of the sermon I gave for Kol Nidre.*

**M**y wife Leni and I evacuated to a pet-friendly hotel in Fort Lauderdale, a hotel full of evacuees and their dogs. One day, Douglas, the valet attendant, a man in his 60s, struck up a conversation. I was not wearing my kippah, so he did not know my work. Douglas said, "The Lord finds a way to make everything work out okay." I smiled but pushed back a little. "This

storm was devastating. Some people lost everything. The Lord can throw a lot of obstacles in our way." "Yes. That is true," he said. "But I have three children and they've all gone to college," and he listed the schools his children had attended. "Everything will work out okay. Sometimes it just takes a while." Douglas, the valet

attendant, lifted my load.

Our lives were upended. Some of us lost our homes. And if we lost our homes, then we lost not only the roofs over our heads, but also, perhaps, the heirlooms, the things that gave us the sense that we were protecting and carrying on the legacies of our families. Perhaps we lost pictures of weddings, b'nai mitzvah and family trips. Our places of business were damaged. Others, like Leni and me, had more superficial damage: trees down, pool cage destroyed. Everyone experienced the fear of not knowing what our homes would be like when the storm passed.

Like many of the trees still standing, catastrophes like this leave us feeling stripped bare, down to the basics. People with piles of debris in front of their homes have said, "We're so lucky. We're safe; our families are safe. That's all that counts." Hurricane Ian reminded us of what is most important and what is just stuff – stuff that helps us enjoy life but is not essential.

Hurricane Ian reminded us of what

is most important. If you are like me, your phone exploded with messages. "Are you okay?" The family of a bar mitzvah I did 20 years ago reached out to me. A rabbi who I met twice and some colleagues I've never met have reached out: "Marc, what can I do?"

The storm brought out our nice ness. People in the elevator of the hotel asked, "Where are you from? Is your home okay?" A restaurant in Fort Lauderdale handed out free glasses of wine to evacuees.

But I was inspired by two interactions I had before we knew the storm was headed our way. One of my neighbors is a jeweler. He's not Jewish but has strong ties with the Jewish community. Back in March 2021, he got his Covid shots at Temple Judea and asked what he could do for us. He polished all the silver crowns and breastplates for our Torahs. He did it again this year and when I thanked him, he said, "No, this is my service; this is my honor." A violinist with a local symphony who plays chamber music for us before Selichot is a church-going Christian. When I thanked him, he too said that

this was his service. I think they meant that it's their service to God. If they were Jewish, they might have used the word "mitzvah."

On Sukkot, we build flimsy huts with open roofs. In the Hashkiveinu prayer, part of the evening service, we ask God to spread over us a "sukkah of peace." What is that "sukkah of peace?" It is that thick web of friend ship and concern that we felt extended to us, and that we extended to others. When so much else has been stripped bare, this is where we find the strength to move forward, where we find our peace.

"The Lord finds a way to make everything work out okay." We are cleaning up; we are rebuilding. As times move on, we will be left remem bering the love, friendship and concern we were shown. I agree with Douglas, the valet attendant. We can feel that the Lord – whose presence was felt in all that love, friendship and concern – made everything work out okay. That's what I believe. ☼

Rabbi Marc Sack serves at Temple Judea in Fort Myers.

## What do you think?

### L'CHAYIM wants to know!

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

#### Letters Policy

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

### Community Relations Council Lee & Charlotte



#### CRC Mission Statement:

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

We Advocate. Educate. Act.

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

## Gratitude means recognizing the good

**T**he concept of gratitude plays a major role in Jewish thought. We give thanks to G-d for our very soul, the gift of eternal life. We express gratitude to our parents for giving us physical life, for taking care of us, raising, feeding and loving us. Our sacred Torah is teaching us the value of two simple words, thank you.

We're called to bless G-d throughout our day as a constant reminder of the value of gratitude that should be a strong force in our life. Often times, we complain about what we feel is missing and what we don't have rather than look at what we've accomplished and all that we have to be truly thankful for. The choice is ours: the glass can be half full or half empty. When we awake with the appreciation of the Blessing of another day of life, all our gripes and complaints become diminished. In short, the key to happiness is not wanting what you don't have but being happy with what you do have. The Pirke Avot teaches: "Who is rich? The one who is happy with his/her lot."

The term for gratitude in Hebrew is *hakarat ha'tov*, which literally means "recognizing the good." When we're able to "recognize the good" even in little ways, it will allow us to notice the good in other parts of our lives. Gratitude multiplies, and the more we give thanks, the more reasons we will find to be thankful.

Often times, when we are facing a challenging situation, it may be difficult to "recognize the good." Just a few weeks ago, our state and particularly our own Southwest Florida area experienced Hurricane Ian, the worst

and most traumatic disaster in our lifetimes. This storm was devastating. The winds, rain and flooding damaged and destroyed property. In some cases, this storm demolished entire homes and buildings. Lives were lost and we send our love and condolences to the families of all who perished.

Hurricane Ian has had an emotional toll causing a great deal of fear and anxiety. We are all shaken and saddened. Many of us are facing the reality of badly damaged or maybe even uninhabitable homes. But let us remember those who no longer have to worry about their property because they have lost something far more precious, their lives or the lives of loved ones.

Jewish wisdom and thought holds that we are to look for good even in the most difficult and challenging situations. Maybe this situation we find ourselves in, no doubt quite a major obstacle and challenge, is also an opportunity for us to emerge a little stronger and a little wiser. If we are to find the good in a set of circumstances that are not so good, may we do so by placing our focus not on what we have lost but instead on what we have gained: the power of faith in G-d that sustains us through the darkest of times and gratitude for the Blessing of life. We are alive and we are healthy. Can we really ask for anything more?

This year, may we all bring an attitude of gratitude toward everyone in our lives as we give thanks to G-d, who is the source of all our shared ideals and our beloved Torah. May we be determined to partner with G-d to repair the world through acts of generosity, caring and loving kindness.

Happy Thanksgiving! ☼

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

**TEMPLE JUDEA SCHOOLS**  
**Fort Myers**
**Temple Judea Religious School**

Tab Scribner,  
*Director of Congregational Learning*  
 I'm pretty sure none of us anticipated a hurricane upending the High Holidays. As we all try to find our bearings, I wish you all strength and patience, as the real work of recovery is upon us.

Like everyone else, our religious school has had to modify our plans – canceling some classes, rescheduling activities, moving classrooms and just putting some things on hold. While Jewish education is important, taking care of your families and putting life

back together holds the higher priority. We are here when you are ready for us.

Our classes have been moved into the main synagogue building for the time being. It makes for more deliberate planning of activities and space usage, but it allows us to keep moving forward.

Our November Tot Shabbat is scheduled for Friday, November 11 at 5:00 p.m.

For more information about our religious school, Tot Shabbat or other programming, please contact me at 239.433.0201 or [tjswfledu@gmail.com](mailto:tjswfledu@gmail.com).

## Candle lighting times:

**November 4: 6:25**

**November 11: 5:21**

**November 18: 5:19**

**November 25: 5:17**



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## High School Students: Earn CAS Credits!

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

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

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

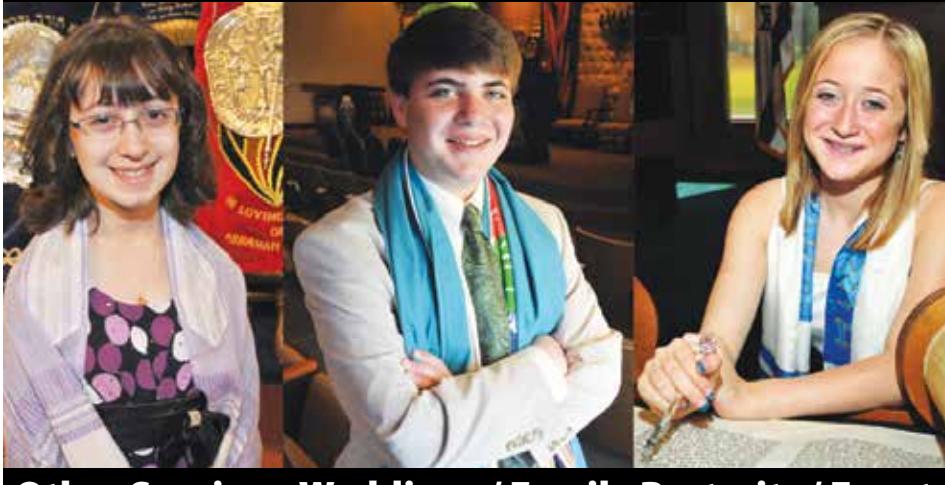


# Michael Shapiro

PHOTOGRAPHY

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**For a continuously updated calendar of events, visit [www.JewishFederationLCC.org](http://www.JewishFederationLCC.org)**



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**More Information, contact Dena Corkhill**

(239) 481-4449 (ext.4)

[denacorkhill@jfedi.org](mailto:denacorkhill@jfedi.org)



## TEMPLE BETH EL SCHOOLS Fort Myers

### Temple Beth El Religious School

*Allison Fego,  
Religious School Coordinator*

Temple Beth El Religious School had a fun and busy month during September. The students, teachers and staff all had a ton of fun preparing and making the homemade applesauce. The kitchen was full of energy, smiles, laughter and hard workers. The students did a great job selling the jars to our congregation at Shabbat services and raised a bunch of money that will help fund some upcoming events at the school.

Our High Holy Days were very busy as the kids learned about Selichot, the meaning of Rosh Hashanah, what the significance of apples and honey are, and the shofar blowing. During our Selichot services, students got to see the changing of the Torah dress-

ings from the normal ones to the white coverings.

Our junior congregation had a ton of fun doing activities, making apple donut treats and, of course, getting to hear the shofar being blown. The kids were very excited and were acting out blowing the shofar.

After services some of our students along with our congregation went to Lakes Park and took part in Tashlich. Rabbi Nicole Luna explained to the kids about throwing the bread into the water and what kind of things you say when you throw your sins away.

In October, students looked forward to celebrating Simchat Torah and Parsha Noach with a Pet Blessing Day.



**Need to reach the editor  
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 Jewish Federation  
OF LEE & CHARLOTTE COUNTIES



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### JOSEPH HOROWITZ ISRAEL TRAVEL GRANT

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

#### OUR HOPE

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

#### THIS GRANT

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

#### TOP JEWISH FOUNDATION

3 is proud to offer the Stevan & Marilyn Simon Family Scholarship. This scholarship is open to those at least high school age who demonstrate leadership qualities and will be participating in a 2-week or longer program in Israel. A short essay is required.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [JEWISHFEDERATIONLCC.ORG/SCHOLARSHIPS](http://JEWISHFEDERATIONLCC.ORG/SCHOLARSHIPS)

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

*Cheryl Fulmer, Ellen Feingold  
and Marcia Rudin*

Chavurat Shalom members, worried about the impact and consequences of Hurricane Ian, feared for the safety of friends in the Southwest Florida area. Many of our members – especially those on Sanibel and in Fort Myers – suffered great personal trauma and material and financial loss. However, we rejoice that all of our members and other friends are safe, and that those who had to leave the area and don't know when they can return are building new lives in other parts of the country.

It is an added blessing that we can keep in touch with each other via Zoom no matter where we are. We caught up with each other's hurricane and post-hurricane experiences through electronic means. Zoom enabled us to gather for a moving memorial ser-

vice – traditionally held between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur – led by Chavurat Shalom President Cheryl Fulmer. Rabbi James and Marcia

Rudin hosted a virtual Break the Fast at the conclusion of Yom Kippur. And we continue to hold Shabbat services via Zoom every Friday at 7:30 p.m., organized by First Vice President Dr. Ellen Feingold and Second Vice President Dr. Kathy Zoss, with readings, singing and Torah commentary provided by other volunteers.

In November, the weekly Len Minsky Current Events discussion, organized by Dr. Don Bachman with other volunteer contributors, will resume on Saturday mornings at 11:00 a.m. While we had planned to hold these discussions once a month on Sanibel, of course that is no longer possible, so they will continue via Zoom.

Chavurat Shalom's Program Committee, headed by Irene Skolnick, is lining up speakers for our weekly

Thursday 11:00 a.m. class and discussion sessions. They will resume in November. On November 3, Kay Sadighi will speak about "Tracking the Elusive Box Turtles of Sanibe." On November 10, Charles Sobczak will discuss "The Great Florida Invasion: From Pepper to Pythons."

On November 17, Dr. Ellen Feingold will begin Torah Talk study sessions, to be held on the third Thursday of each month at 11:00 a.m. Anyone can join these discussions.

To find out more details about these events or about our weekly Shabbat services, email chavuratshalom@gmail.com or visit www.chavuratshalomofswflorida.org. Email the above address to obtain Zoom links for our events.

On Sunday, November 20, at St. Leo University in St. Leo, Florida, north of Tampa, Pope Francis will honor Chavurat Shalom member Rabbi James Rudin as a Knight Commander of the Order of Saint Gregory – a Vatican group founded in 1831 – for his

decades of outstanding global leadership in Catholic-Jewish relations as the American Jewish Committee's Interreligious Affairs Director. The honorary papal knighthood is bestowed upon individuals from all religions who have made significant positive contributions to human society. Cardinal Sean O'Malley, the Archbishop of Boston, is coming to St. Leo University to conduct the ceremony.

Chavurat Shalom (Fellowship of Peace) is an informal group from every Jewish religious tradition that meets to worship and learn together. People of all faiths and localities are welcome. It is not affiliated with any organized movement and is community-led. Shabbat services are a blend of English and Hebrew, English readings and poems, Hebrew prayers recited or chanted, and songs.

For more information about Chavurat Shalom and its schedule of events, visit www.chavuratshalomofswflorida.org or email chavuratshalom@gmail.com.

# ARTISTS WANTED

## ART SHOW & AUCTION

JAN  
26

5PM -  
7PM

COLLABORATORY,  
FORT MYERS



Jewish Federation  
OF LEE & CHARLOTTE COUNTIES

We are calling on artists to donate a piece of artwork that connects to the theme of Remember Us - for all who have faced persecution, oppression and extermination because of race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation. Pieces can be in any medium that can be exhibited and is saleable. This includes **paintings, sculpture, mixed media, jewelry, fabric and photographic art**. We are also accepting children's art that represents their understanding of people. Artwork can be dropped off at the Jewish Federation office, during the month of December.

**Proceeds from the art auction will benefit the new Holocaust Education Department and will help fund educational programming for students and the community at large.**

For more information, call Ella Naylor at 239-281-7874 or via email at jfedholocaustdirector@gmail.com.

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

Joyce Toub

The most recent *Hadassah Magazine* discusses restoring the bedrock of Hadassah activism. We are talking about our youth. We want them to take a more active role in today's Hadassah. We don't want one generation's strength to eclipse the younger generation's. Our average age of doers has increased steadily along with our lifespan. We need younger members involved in Hadassah to add a new dimension and

restore the age profile because they add a tremendous amount to Hadassah.

"Evolve Hadassah" is a new program seeking to engage and empower our youth. This will ensure Hadassah's future so our programs, projects and advocacy for medical research, women's issues, combating antisemitism, combating all hate and supporting Israel will continue. Engage your daughters, nieces and friends.

Join us on November 15 at the Imperial Golf Club when we will have our Welcome Back Meeting featuring

"The Satisfactions of Creativity" and "The Artistic Vendor Showcase."

On December 4 we will acknowledge our major givers at a special event at Olde Cypress Country Club in Naples. Our keynote speaker is Naomi Adler, the new CEO of National Hadassah. She will relate the latest from Hadassah's 100<sup>th</sup> convention in Jerusalem from mid-November. The event is open to Keepers of the Gate, requiring a minimum annual donation of \$1,000 and those who have made a \$5,000 donation or more.

I encourage you to also delve into your latest *Hadassah Magazine*. Jamie Lee Curtis restores her father's (Tony

Curtis) parents' synagogue in Hungary. Shirley Ruben Schwartz learns how to balance her life. Hannah Horowitz reveals why Jewish women have reached new levels of academic success. Myra Sack shows how we grapple with loss to reach healing. There are articles on aiding Syrian refugees and building a Global Activism Network. Meet our new HMO Director General. Discover updates on research and development. Discover art, pan through book reviews, travels and recipes. This is all at our fingertips.

I look forward to seeing you all in person very soon!

**JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA  
(239) 566-1771**

Marina Berkovich

I was going to use this month's column to tell you about various ghettos I visited in Italy and to draw parallels between various factors affecting the well-being of European Jewry in light of expanding antisemitism, but an event closer to home diverted all my plans. Most likely, yours too.

Its name was Ian.

As I sat in the stairwell of my apartment listening to the howling winds, I reminisced about Hurricane Irma and made involuntary mental comparisons to the Italian ghettos I just visited in Bologna, Ferrara, Padua and Venice, or The Pale of Settlement and the September 29-30, 1941, Babiy Yar Massacre. I compared the manmade sequestration, persecution and extermination of Jews, with the unstoppable force of nature

that was about to descend upon our tranquil little paradise, an act of God over which man has no control whatsoever and in the face of which has only one true resource – faith.

The devastating events unfolded tragically for Southwest Florida, leaving many from Everglades City to Sarasota flooded, homeless and scared. You have heard so many stories and witnessed so much heartbreak, I will not repeat them. In the aftermath, those of us who were dry counted our blessings. Those who sat atop their roofs waiting for the Coast Guard rescue, asked why.

Why is one person spared and another drowned? Why was one family left unscarred, all their property and possessions intact, but another lost their home, everything inside it, cars and businesses? Why? Who gets to choose? Certainly, not man.

Man can decide to restrict or free another man, to rebuild or move away, to cry or laugh in the face of disaster. Man has no say or power to affect hurricanes or most other events of nature.

Man has the power to not start a war with another man, to elect only the most intelligent and capable leaders, to determine how to treat other men. Man chooses if, when and how he will help fellow men.

In the free world, we are not under any obligation to help others, but the hurricanes in SWFL also have a tendency to bring out the best in people. They help each other clean up, share meals, feed first responders, applaud the linemen, and graciously share shelter and supplies with less fortunate neighbors. That is how Americans always impressed me. I have been witnessing the love and respect Americans have for God and the power of his word. Southwest Floridians went to temples and churches Friday, Saturday and Sunday and prayed not only for their own skins but for help to their suffering brethren. There were meals and stories to share, and everyone agreed that GOD is LOVE. The Fort Myers sign still stands to prove this point.

You may now purchase JHSSWF memberships online or mail us a check. Family Membership \$54; Individual Membership \$36, Student Membership \$18, Corporate Sponsorship \$300. The Jewish Historical Society of Southwest Florida 8805 Tamiami Trail North, Suite # 255, Naples FL 34108 833.547.7935 (833.JHS.SWFL) www.jhsswf.org ~ office@jhsswf.org Virtual Museum of SWFL Jewish History http://jewishhistorysouthwestflorida.org/



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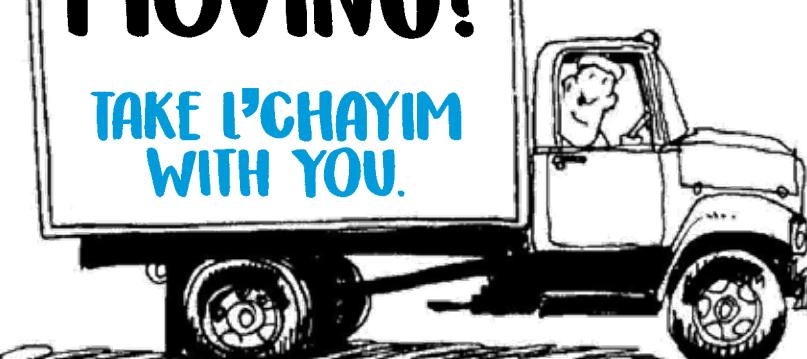
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loriramos@jfedlcc.org

**TEMPLE BETH EL**

Fort Myers

(239) 433-0018

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

The devastation of Hurricane Ian is still upon all of us in Southwest Florida. Temple Beth El's wish is that by this printing, November finds us in much better shape with roads cleared, all the streetlights working and everyone safe, in place, wherever they may be.

For those who may not be aware, Rabbi Nicole Luna was heroic in her efforts to maintain contact and coordinate our temple members during Hurricane Ian and so much more. In fact, special thanks to our Superwomen: Rabbi Luna, Amy Amon, Director of The Learning Tree Preschool; and Karen Kagan, Temple Office Manager. Thanks also to our Superman, Michael Nolan of Building & Grounds. These folks were exemplary in their efforts at a time when their own personal situations needed storm attention. We say,

"Thank You" for your passion, commitment and efforts!

Our temple bimah will be graced with the presence of Hannah Shraier as she becomes Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, November 5 at 10:30 a.m. Congrats, Hannah! Your accomplishments fill us with pride.

For those who can make it, please join our Sisterhood for a total break from the stress of Ian with "Painting with a Twist" on Sunday, November 6 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. All painting supplies will be provided along with wine, cheese, and sweet and savory delights. RSVP to the office at 239.433.0018.

Save the date for Mitzvah Day, a community-wide event on Sunday, January 29, 2023. We come together as a community on Mitzvah Day with activities for all ages.

We are in full operation with recurring Temple Beth El programs:

- ◆ Drive In/Drop Off, Tuesday, November 1 from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. in the parking lot. Donate non-per-

ishable food items and feminine hygiene supplies, critical to those in need right here in our community.

- ◆ Book club: On Wednesday, November 2, *The Jews Should Keep Quiet* by Rafael Medoff will be discussed at 2:45 p.m. on Zoom.
- ◆ Tot Shabbat: On Friday, November 4 with a kid-friendly service at 6:00 p.m. Come for the fellowship, pizza and fun. RSVP to be sure we have enough food at 239.433.0018.
- ◆ Jewish History & Heritage Series: Third Tuesday of every month. November 15 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom.
- ◆ Shabbat Services open to all: Fridays at 7:30 p.m. live in the sanctuary and on Zoom and streaming on Facebook.
- ◆ 12-Step Recovery Group: Every Saturday at 11:00 a.m. on Zoom. This 12-Step Recovery Group is for anyone seeking an understanding of the Twelve Steps from a Jewish perspective, regardless of religious background. It is open to all seeking a path to recovery through Judaic spiritual principles. We are a fellowship of

people who, through shared experience, strength and hope, are recovering from alcohol, drugs and other addictions such as food, gambling, sex, shopping, etc. Our primary purpose is to gain insight and strength from Jewish tradition using the Twelve Steps and to carry this message of recovery to those who still suffer. We are not affiliated with AA, OA, GA, Al-Anon or any other anonymous group. We abide by the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous. The book we use is *Twelve Jewish Steps to Recovery* by Rabbi Kerry Olitzky & Stuart Copans, MD, second edition.

To learn more about Temple Beth El and our special events, Shabbat services and programs, visit [templebethel.com](http://templebethel.com). There's always something happening here: Current Events, Coffee & Chat, Theology & Life, Francophone Group, Hispanophone Group and more. Follow us on Facebook @TempleBethElFortMyers, and on Instagram @templebethelfortmyers. You can always call the office at 239.433.0018. Be well and stay safe.

**SHALOM LIFE CENTER**

Fort Myers

(239) 218-3433

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

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

Shabbat evening services are held every Friday at 7:30 p.m. both in person and on Livestream. SLC welcomes everyone to experience joyful, meaningful and inspiring services, special events, activities and clubs, dinners, concerts and more all year long.

Every Saturday morning at 10:00 a.m. SLC offers an interactive and participatory Torah study led by Rabbi

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

SLC offers individualized Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparation, weekly Torah study, Café Kabbalah, Women's Wisdom and Wellness Group, Book Club, The Shalom Shmoozers Social Club, special events, concerts, dinners and more. If you'd like to learn more, send us an email or give us a call.

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

Let your spirit soar at Shalom Life Center where community is family and prayer is always inspirational, meaningful and musical. For more information, visit [www.shalomlifecenter.org](http://www.shalomlifecenter.org).

We Are Here For You

**BEREAVEMENT GROUP**

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

Open to everyone. Registration is required.

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

1st session will start in December. Dates to follow.

10:30am - 12:00pm



239.481.4449 x2



[FriendlyVisitor@jfndlcc.org](mailto:FriendlyVisitor@jfndlcc.org)



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



Jewish Family Services

A division of the Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte Counties

by Rabbi Sack, will be on Thursday, November 3 at noon on Zoom. All levels of Jewish background are welcome. For login information, please call the office at 239.433.0201.

Temple Judea looks forward to working with the Heights Center for its Thanksgiving pantry feeding over 600 at-risk families in the Harlem Heights area. The one-day pantry ensures families have a turkey and all the fixings.

Hazak will meet for miniature golf on Thursday, November 10 at 4:00 p.m. Contact Joyce Rosinger for details.

Chaverot, our women's group, is meeting in the social hall on Thursday, November 3 at 6:00 p.m. for Book Club. *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus will be discussed. Bring a pareve or dairy dinner; Chaverot will provide drinks and dessert. We are planning many programs and welcome your ideas and support. Please call Lynn Talone at 239.770.3013.

Temple Judea accepts food donations for the Cadkin Foundation Food Pantry at the Federation, and feminine hygiene products for Cycle Forward, which distributes products to women in need. There is a barrel outside for food donations and a basket in the lobby for Cycle Forward. There are collection envelopes near the front door for contactless monetary or gift card contributions. Contributions may be mailed. Please call the office to ensure your contribution has been received.

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

**Regularly scheduled events:**

- Friday Shabbat services at 6:30 p.m.
- Saturday Shabbat Services at 9:30 a.m. A Kiddush luncheon follows.
- Morning minyan every Monday at 9:00 a.m. in person and on Zoom.
- Rabbi Sack's lunchtime Torah study, the first Thursday of each month on Zoom.

**BAT YAM TEMPLE OF THE ISLANDS**  
**Sanibel**  
**(773) 251-8862**  
**www.batyam.org**

Bat Yam Temple of the Islands experienced its most meaningful High Holy Days worship this year. We ushered in Rosh Hashanah from our synagogue in the Sanibel United Church of Christ Fellowship Hall and celebrated Tashlich on the beach followed by a lunch hosted by Elissa and Michael Samet.

Just two days later, on September 28, Hurricane Ian overtook our beloved island with an 8- to 15-foot storm surge that brought massive destruction. Thankfully, all of our members, both on Sanibel and in Fort Myers, survived this historic natural disaster, and we were profoundly grateful. When the warning to evacuate came, congregant Howard Lorsch sacrificed his own personal preparations to make sure that our Torahs – including our precious Czech Holocaust Torah – were wrapped up and safely delivered to the secure vault of Congress Jewelers, whose owners, Melissa and Scot Congress, are members of Bat Yam.

The pricelessness of Bat Yam's Czech Holocaust Torah cannot be overstated. It is one of only 1,564 scrolls which the Westminster Synagogue in London had gathered from the Czech Republic 20 years after the Nazis left

them in piles, with plans to exhibit them and other ceremonial objects as reliques of a dead culture. Bat Yam founding member and first president Mel Bleiberg arranged for Bat

Yam to receive one of these 19<sup>th</sup> century Torahs, which came from a synagogue in Boskovitz, 100 miles south of Prague. Bat Yam's other founding members, Ann and Leonard Arnoff, sent the money to transport the scrolls from London to Miami, and Ann herself designed and needlepointed a special covering for this Torah.

Four days after Hurricane Ian struck, NBC News reporter Jesse Kirsch interviewed Rabbi Stephen Fuchs about how congregants would be celebrating Yom Kippur in the hurricane's aftermath. When Jesse, who is

Jewish, learned that Bat Yam's Torahs were in a vault on Sanibel, the quest to rescue them began. Melissa and Scot Congress contacted Lee County Commissioner Kevin Ruane. With Ruane's assistance, they were able to arrange for a sheriff's boat to take them to Sanibel Island on October 3, where they put their own safety at risk to recover the Torahs from their jewelry store vault. The story of the Congress' daring rescue was the closing feature that very night on *Nightly News with Lester Holt*. You can view the video at [twitter.com/NBCNightlyNews/status/1577081681940566022](https://twitter.com/NBCNightlyNews/status/1577081681940566022). Since this TV story aired, Bat Yam has received an outpouring of support from individuals around the country and the world, along with many donations to [www.batyam.org/donate-on-line](http://www.batyam.org/donate-on-line).

The day after the Torahs were



The NBC News reporter and film crew with Melissa and Scot Congress as they carry the Torahs on Sanibel before getting on the boat to get off the island

rescued, Bat Yam proceeded to worship Yom Kippur in the most spiritual of ways, thanks to the leadership of Rabbi Stephen Fuchs, Cantor Murray Simon and his talented pianist wife Toby. With no access to our island or our synagogue, they conducted Kol Nidre, Yom Kippur Morning, Yizkor and Neilah services from the Simons' home in Lakewood Ranch. More than 125 households joined these services via Zoom, including Sanibel congregants in hotels or temporary lodging, and others from around the world who joined us in solidarity for this most sacred worship.

Thanks to Janice Block Chaddock for preparing this article.

\* \* \*

**Welcome to our new cantor,  
**Rabbi Sunny Schnitzer****

When Cantor Murray Simon announced his retirement, president Alan Lessack appointed congregant Judy Adler to form a search committee for the purpose of selecting a new cantor.

With Judy's leadership and the enthusiasm of her committee, we soon found the perfect candidate. Our new cantor is Rabbi Sunny Schnitzer. (Yes, he is also an ordained rabbi.) We will provide detailed information and his bio in the next issue. Thanks to Judy Adler, Melissa Congress, Edina Lessack, Howard Lorsch, Allan Sacks, Sheila Sklar and Riv Swartz for their work in researching, interviewing and evaluating the candidates.

**TEMPLE BETH SHALOM**  
**Cape Coral**  
**(239) 772-4555**  
**www.templebethshalomcc.org**

*Helene Glocer*

Where to even begin an article about what's happening at Temple Beth Shalom? I don't know. I've never done this until today, but my friend texted and asked me if I would do this for her. Her house flooded, her lovely fruit trees destroyed, the outdoor space she cherished demolished, and her busi-

ness severely damaged. She didn't ask for my help with any of those things. She just wanted me to write something for *L'CHAYIM*.

Why in the midst of so much personal loss and heartache would anyone think an article like this mattered? My answer is simple. We are Jews, and community is the foundational feature of Jewish life. Our rituals and traditions bake community into our lives. Literally from birth to death we are enmeshed in community. At the birth of a baby, there is a bris or a baby

naming. You are not alone. At the start of adolescence, there is a bar/bat mitzvah. You are not alone. At your wedding, your children's and grandchildren's milestones, you are not alone. And when faced with sickness, grief, mourning and death, you are not alone.

We need each other to pray, study and learn, to celebrate our holidays and festivals.

Even now, when we are scattered and heartbroken, overwhelmed and afraid, we reach out to each other and do the impossible, the unthinkable. Yom Kippur on Zoom? The sukkah without the children decorating? The synagogue

in the dark? And yet we endure, as a congregation and as a Jewish community. Our engagement in the life of a flourishing community is how we have survived and this is how we will survive.

I'll leave you with a poem that I found in *On the Doorposts of Your House*, a book given to my son for his confirmation in 5759 (the poet is anonymous):

Who are happy?  
 Those who see a blossoming world and give it their blessing.  
 Who are strong?  
 Those who restrain their grief and teach it to smile.

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

The congregation gathers to welcome the Sabbath at 7:00 p.m. each Friday evening in November at the Southwest Florida Masonic Center, 10868 Metro Parkway, Fort Myers. A social hour follows. Worship is only accessible in person.

Rabbi Bruce Diamond offers Sabbath morning Torah Study starting at 9:30 a.m. from his home at 7210 Falcon Crest Court in the Forest Country Club. Participants are invited to attend in person. It is also zoomed from the C.F.S. Zoom room via the synagogue website at [www.fortmyerssynagogue.com](http://www.fortmyerssynagogue.com).

Weekly Adult Education is offered only via Zoom on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. For topics and reading assign-

ments, email [synfree@comcast.net](mailto:synfree@comcast.net).

The congregation is grateful to cantorial soloist Traci Pavel and to pianist vocalist Joseph Brauer for enriching its

Days of Awe worship, and to the Diamonds for opening their home for Yom Kippur observances.

Scott Thomson erected the C.F.S. sukkah, Lee and Traci Pavel gathered the foliage topping with which Steve and Lori Starr helped cover the roof, Melinda Diamond set out the snacks and qiddush wine, and Shayne Brown baked an assortment of festival hallot to enjoy as the congregation welcomed the most joyous of our festivals arriving with sunset on Sunday, October 9.

Rabbi and Mrs. Diamond joined by the entire Diamond family, are eager to express their gratitude for the countless acts of kindness and support offered at the death of the Rabbi's mother of blessed memory, Estelle Diamond,

who died on Yom Kippur eve after spending her final years in Fort Myers. The good people at Fort Myers Memorial Gardens opened its cemetery, otherwise closed to public in the aftermath of the hurricane, to accommodate the

family's needs. Many C.F.S. congregants, despite the challenges, came to honor the Rabbi's mother and stand by the family on a difficult Friday afternoon, and then to form a shivah minyan at the home next evening.

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



Jewish Federation  
 OF LEE & CHARLOTTE COUNTIES

**Get the latest information  
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 breaking news, updates from  
 Israel and lots more.**

**Send an email to  
[debbiesanford@jfedi.org](mailto:debbiesanford@jfedi.org)**

**BAT YAM TEMPLE OF THE ISLANDS**

REFORM

Meets at Sanibel Congregational Church  
2050 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel Island  
Rabbi Stephen L. Fuchs  
President: Alan Lessack  
Phone: 773-251-8862  
Email: batyamsanibel@gmail.com  
Cantor: Murray Simon  
Web site: www.batyam.org  
Services: 7:30 p.m. Friday (Oct-Apr)  
7:00 p.m. Friday (May-Sept)  
Adult Education:  
Saturday, 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. (Nov-Apr)  
Jewish Current Events: Saturday, 11:30 a.m.  
to 12:15 p.m. (Nov-Apr)  
Write: P.O. Box 84, Sanibel, FL 33957  
Affiliated: Union for Reform Judaism

**CHABAD OF BONITA SPRINGS/ESTERO**

ORTHODOX

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

**CHABAD JEWISH CENTER OF CAPE CORAL**

ORTHODOX

1716 Cape Coral Pkwy. W.  
Cape Coral, FL 33914  
Rabbi Yossi Labkowski  
Phone: 239-963-4770  
E-mail: info@chabadcape.com  
Web site: www.chabadcape.com  
Services: Friday Evening 7:30 p.m.  
Saturday morning 9:30 a.m. followed by  
Kiddush luncheon  
Sunday morning 8:00 a.m.  
Monday-Friday morning 7:00 a.m.  
JLI Courses: Monday evening at 7:00 p.m.  
Weekly Torah Study:  
Tuesday evening 7:30 p.m.  
Hebrew School:  
Sunday 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
Jgirls: Tuesday 6:00 -7:00 p.m.

**CHABAD OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY**

ORTHODOX

204 E Mckenzie St Unit B,  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950  
Rabbi Simon Jacobson  
Phone: 941-833-3381  
E-mail: chabadpg@yahoo.com  
Web site:  
www.chabadofcharlottesville.com  
Services: Saturday at 10:00 a.m. followed  
by a kiddush  
Torah study: Wednesday at 8:00 p.m.

**CHABAD LUBAVITCH OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA**

ORTHODOX

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

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

**Jewish Federation**  
OF LEE & CHARLOTTE COUNTIES

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

**COMMUNITY FREE SYNAGOGUE**

CONTEMPORARY TRADITIONAL

10868 Metro Parkway  
(The S.W. Florida Masonic Center)  
Fort Myers, FL 33908  
Rabbi Bruce Diamond  
Phone: 239-466-6671  
E-mail: synfree@comcast.net  
Web site: [www.fortmyerssynagogue.com](http://www.fortmyerssynagogue.com)  
Weekly Torah Study, Sabbath worship and  
Adult Education visit  
[www.fortmyerssynagogue.com](http://www.fortmyerssynagogue.com) for the  
schedule of events and Zoom logon  
Information.  
All events are free and open to all

**SHALOM LIFE CENTER**

TRANS DENOMINATIONAL

19691 Cypress View Drive  
Fort Myers, FL 339067  
Rabbi Lawrence Dermer  
Phone: 239-218-3433  
E-mail: info@shalomlifecenter.org  
Web site: [www.shalomlifecenter.org](http://www.shalomlifecenter.org)  
Shabbat Evening Services  
7:30 p.m. (Oct-Apr)  
7:00 p.m. (May-Sept)  
Saturday Torah & Kabbalah Study  
10:00 a.m.

**TEMPLE BETH EL**

REFORM

16225 Winkler Road, Fort Myers, FL 33908  
Rabbi Nicole Luna  
E-mail: info@templebethel.com  
Learning Tree Preschool Director:  
Amy Amon  
Email: LearningTree15@yahoo.com  
President: Reina Schlager  
Email: reinaschlager@aol.com  
Phone: 239-433-0018 • Fax: 239-433-3235  
Web site: [www.templebethel.com](http://www.templebethel.com)  
Shabbat services: 7:30 p.m. Friday;  
Torah study 9:00 a.m. Saturday; B'nai  
Mitzah 10:30 a.m. Saturday Religious &  
Hebrew School: 9:00 a.m.-12:30 Sunday  
Judaica Gift Gallery  
Affiliated: Union for Reform Judaism

**TEMPLE BETH SHALOM**

REFORM

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

**CHAVURAT SHALOM OF SWFL**

CHAVURA

P.O. Box 722, Sanibel, FL 33957  
Chavuratshalom@gmail.com  
[www.chavuratshalomofsouthwestflorida.org](http://www.chavuratshalomofsouthwestflorida.org)  
Cheryl Fulmer, President  
Shabbat services - 7:30 p.m. Friday  
Jewish current events - 11:00 a.m. Saturday  
Speakers series - 11:00 a.m. Thursday

**TEMPLE JUDEA**

CONSERVATIVE

14486 A&W Bulb Road  
Fort Myers, FL 33908  
Rabbi Marc Sack  
E-mail: rabbi@tjswf.org  
President: Dan Fox  
Director of Congregational Learning:  
Tab Scribner  
Preschool Director: Suki Kelly  
[templejudeapreschool@gmail.com](mailto:templejudeapreschool@gmail.com)  
Phone: 239-433-0201 • Fax: 239-433-3371  
E-mail: tjswf@gmail.com  
Web site: [www.tjswf.org](http://www.tjswf.org)  
Services: 6:15 p.m. Friday and 9:30 a.m.  
Saturday Minyan: 9:00 a.m. Monday  
Religious School: Sun. 9:30 a.m. - noon;  
Wed. 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.  
Early childhood education: Preschool, M-F,  
ages 18 months-5 years;  
"Mommy & Me," 12 months-2 years  
Affiliated: United Synagogue of  
Conservative Judaism

**TEMPLE SHALOM CHARLOTTE HARBOR AND THE GULF ISLANDS**

REFORM

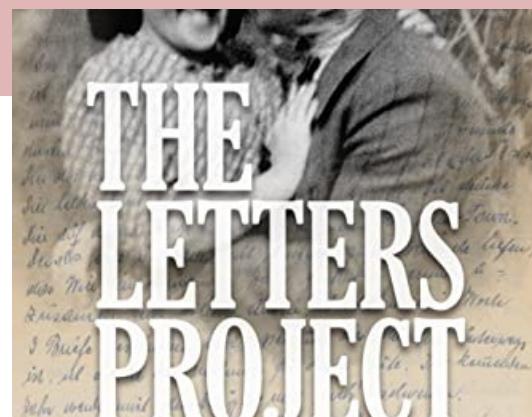
23190 Utica Ave., P.O. Box 494675  
Port Charlotte, FL 33949-4675  
Rabbi Solomon Agin  
President: Judith Migdal  
Phone: 941-625-2116  
E-mail: shalom06@netzero.com  
Web site: [templeshalomfl.org](http://templeshalomfl.org)  
Beginning Hebrew:  
Tuesday 4:15 - 5:15 p.m.  
Advanced Hebrew:  
Thursday 4:15 - 5:15 p.m.  
Organizations: Sisterhood  
Affiliated: Union for Reform Judaism

**COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS**

- AIPAC  
(American Israel Public Affairs Committee):  
Jacki Waksman - 954-653-9053
- AJC (American Jewish Committee):  
Brian Lipton - 941-365-4955
- Anti-Defamation League: 561-988-2900
- B'Nai B'rith International: 941-302-4500
- Chabad Jewish Student Life at FGCU  
Rabbi Mendel Gordon - 347-452-0489  
[mendelgordon@gmail.com](mailto:mendelgordon@gmail.com)
- Chevra Kadisha: Gene Sipe - 239-841-4615
- Generations of the Shoah SWFL: 263-9200
- Hadassah - Collier/Lee Chapter:  
Joyce Toub - 518-330-1559
- Hadassah-Sharon Chapter (Charlotte County):  
Odette Port - 941-505-1409
- Hazak 55+ Chapter:  
Joyce Rosinger - 239-437-1566
- Israel Bonds: Regional Headquarters:  
800-622-8017
- Jewish Community Services:  
239-481-4449
- Jewish National Fund:  
Joshua Mellits, Director, Western Florida  
941-462-1330 ext. 865  
Memorial Tree Planting in Israel  
1-800-542-8733
- Jewish War Veterans:  
Post 400: Commander  
Harvey Charter - 239-246-3151
- Mikvah Bashka of Southwest Florida:  
Nechamie Minkowicz - 239-822-2784



cordially invites you to attend our  
**COMMUNITY BREAKFAST**



**Sunday, Dec. 4th (10am – 12pm)**  
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## ELEANOR REISSA

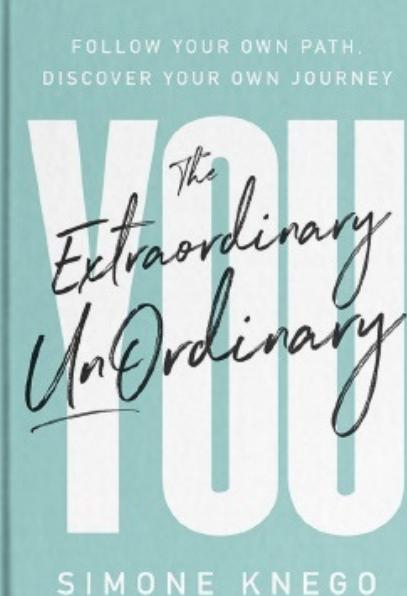
is a storyteller: a Tony nominated director, a Broadway and television actress, a prize-winning playwright and internationally renowned Yiddish singer. She was stunned to discover a stash of 56 letters written in German, hidden inside an old leather purse she never saw before. 30 years later she finally had them translated.

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## SIMONE KNEGO

author of the best-selling book, The Extraordinary Unordinary You, is a keynote speaker, wife, and mother to six multi-cultural children. Simone was the 2018-2019 Co-Chair for the Jewish Federations of North America's National Young Leadership Cabinet and has participated in many philanthropic missions around the world. Her greatest desire is to help others recognize that what they do matters—and it's the little everyday things that can have the largest impact on the world around us.

### Limited Space

Register: [jewishfederationlcc.org/calendar](http://jewishfederationlcc.org/calendar)

\*Requires a \$180 minimum gift to the Annual Campaign.



Jewish Federation  
OF LEE & CHARLOTTE COUNTIES

